



THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



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Winter 2021

Native Plants at Lighthouse Field

—Bill Henry, Groundswell Coastal Ecology

Lighthouse Field State Park on the Santa Cruz West Side overlooks the world class Steamer Lane surf break, hosts a critically important monarch butterfly overwintering site, and is home to public visitor serving facilities. This popular and picturesque location brings people from all walks of life together, making for an exceptional opportunity to engage the public in the natural world including native plants, coastal ecosystems, and in enhancing our sense of ecological awareness.

Lighthouse Field is dominated by invasive non-native species including iceplant (*Carpobrotus* spp.), annual Mediterranean grasses, and others. In 2013, local nonprofit Groundswell Coastal Ecology began removing iceplant and restoring with native northern coastal scrub, coastal prairie, and wetlands species at West Cliff Drive and Pelton Ave. Working to make this site better for nature and people, they have since engaged state and federal agencies, businesses, non-profits, community members, and local students in grassroots ecological restoration.

Next phase included developing the Lighthouse Field Monarch Butterfly Overwintering Site Management Plan which has laid the foundations to restore additional habitat in Lighthouse Field. Groundswell is also part of a team developing the West Cliff Adaptation and Management Plan of the City of Santa Cruz's Resilient Coast Initiative. This planning is being integrated into the City's Local Coastal Program Update and will shape future buildout of the Santa Cruz coast including coastal native plant communities.

The Lighthouse Field Project along with living shorelines projects at Seabright Beach, Natural Bridges, West Cliff Drive, and others have joined the new Monterey Bay Living Shorelines Program. The Program has many partners including California State Parks, Central Coast Wetlands Group, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties and will help incorporate natural and nature-based features into our future shorelines.

Over the years the CNPS Santa Cruz County Habitat Restoration Team and Groundswell have worked together. Support from the chapter builds on this collaboration to improve additional habitat in Lighthouse Field. For additional information or questions please contact Bill Henry, bill.henry@groundswellecology.org (831) 566-270.



Diplacus aurantiacus blooming in Lighthouse Field. Photo: Groundswell Coastal Ecology.

Prez Sez

—Linda Brodman

Recently, while hiking in our local green spaces, I ruminated on how fortunate we are to still have some lovely places to roam, to contemplate our lives, and to take in the beauty that nature offers us everyday. A grateful feeling warmed me, a peacefulness, and a resolve to continue stewardship of our lands, native habitats, and my personal self.

Winter is a time for renewal and restoration for many species including us. The last issue of *Fremontia* brought home an overview of ecological restoration from the past through the present, and onward. And, a sense of what we humans need to do to fully engage the public with our conservation work. Please see page 5 for an update on our Chapter restoration activities.

Our chapter has also supported other like-minded organizations by sponsoring their activities and events.

Continued on page 5



Arbutus menziesii, Pacific madrone, sprouting after fire. Photo: Linda Brodman



Big things can come in small packages. Ken Kellman, bryophyte expert, getting an up-close look at a "belly plant" on a past CNPS field trip. Photo: Jackie Pascoe

Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County Update to be Online

—Dylan Neubauer

In 2013, the CNPS Santa Cruz County Chapter published the *Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County, California*, Second Edition, by Dylan Neubauer—a book that the journal *Madroño* called “an exceptional resource.” The Second Edition greatly expanded upon the content included in the First Edition by Randall Morgan, et al., published in 2005.

With its front matter, maps, extensive annotations, and eight appendices, the Second Edition is currently the only compendium of information on the diverse flora of Santa Cruz County, and it includes much of the late Randy Morgan’s vast and irreplaceable knowledge. However, only 300 copies were printed, so the information contained within this resource is in danger of being lost. In addition, due to ever-evolving taxonomic concepts, the nomenclature has changed for many County taxa and requires renewed attention. Also, many new data sources have come “on line” since the checklist was published, and this new information needs to be reviewed and incorporated as well.

Therefore, with an eye towards the past and one to the future, the Chapter is currently funding an effort to preserve and update the Checklist in the form of an online spreadsheet and accompanying PDF. These documents will be available to the public on the Chapter’s website (<https://www.cruzcnp.org>) at some future date. In this format, the information will be searchable and the spreadsheet can be tailored to individual needs.

Completion of this important project will serve to enhance the legacy of the Chapter’s ongoing work to document and conserve our County’s diverse and fascinating flora.

An anonymous donor will match donations up to a total of \$2,000 in support of this continued effort by our chapter. If you are interested in donating to this exciting project, please contact us at info@cruzcnp.org or send a check to: California Native Plant Society, Santa Cruz County Chapter, P. O. Box 1622, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. Please indicate Annotated Checklist Donation. Donations to CNPS are tax-deductible.

Plant Sale Update

Many thanks to members who purchased irises at our October pop-up online plant sale. This sale was an experiment to see if the locations (both virtual purchase and actual pickup) worked. Despite a few glitches, it went extremely well and plants were sold out in a few hours! We are fine-tuning the sale website and our Spring Plant Sale in April will be bigger and better. Once again, many thanks to the UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden for providing space for our masked and socially distanced plant pick-up.

Our plants are always much in demand, but especially now when so many are spending more time at home gardening and incorporating drought-tolerant natives into their landscaping. The stalwart propagation group is busy tending plants at Suncrest Nursery (while masked and keeping six-feet apart) so we will have a wide selection of your favorite natives for spring planting.

Members will be able to shop before the public is admitted to the sale site, and will receive a ten percent discount. A plant list will be posted on our website one week before the sale. A postcard announcing the sale date will be sent out to members before the sale.

—Julia Davenport

Look, Act, Inspire: Sustaining and Expanding the Community of Naturalists opens Jan. 31st

The Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History at UC Santa Cruz is opening an online and in-person exhibit featuring the diverse naturalist community in Santa Cruz County. *Look, Act, Inspire* highlights contributions of over 100 naturalists spanning more than 50 years in Santa Cruz County, including a diverse cohort of up-and-coming naturalists. A special part of the exhibit celebrates the contributions of Fred McPherson to the natural history and conservation of the San Lorenzo Valley.

Join a virtual opening on Sunday January 31st from 4-5 pm. You can sign up to attend the opening (<https://www.norriscenter.ucsc.edu>) and receive the Zoom link. As soon as possible after January 31st, depending on COVID-restrictions, small pods of people will be able to reserve time to see the physical exhibit in the new San Lorenzo Valley Museum building in Felton.





Ribes sanguineum
var. *glutinosum*
(pink-flowered
currant) in bloom
currently.
Photo:
Jackie Pascoe

Weeds and Wonders in the WUI

—Jackie Pascoe

We live on a ridge-top, six bird-miles inland from Santa Cruz, which puts us in the WUI—wildland urban interface—like so many residents of our county. And what an explosion of growth we’ve been having this January. Sunny, mild weather interspersed with some rain seems to have stimulated every possible seed, good and bad, to germinate, while above them shrubs are blooming, some out of season, to the delight of hummingbirds and bees.

For example, our local wild manzanita, *Arctostaphylos crustacea* ssp. *crinita* (crinite manzanita), is showing off its clusters of pink, urn-shaped flowers. Shrubs I’ve added to the garden are joining in, too. *Ribes malvaceum* (chaparral current) has been covered in delicate pink blooms for weeks. In a shadier spot, a *Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum* (pink flowered currant) has gorgeous long flower clusters of a deep raspberry pink. *Salvia clevelandii* (Cleveland sage), which generally blooms in summer, has decided to give us sprays of intense blue flowers now, and two species of summer-flowering buckwheat are putting on a second show: *Eriogonum arborescens* (Santa Cruz Island buckwheat) and *Eriogonum fasciculatum* (California buckwheat). Neither of these hybridize with the locally wild buckwheat, *E. nudum*, whose cabbage-y seedlings will bloom by early summer. I try to be careful not to introduce plants that will mess with mother nature.

Yes, it’s fantastic having spring in January! Except for the weeds. Weeding is such a desperate race against time, especially when the weeds and natives are mixed up together—spidery rosettes of *Calandrinia ciliata* seedlings (native red maids) are meshing with pretty round-leaf rosettes of *Cardamine hirsuta* (non-native hairy bittercress, or pop-weed) and *Euphorbia peplus* seedlings (petty euphorbia) nestling up to *Eriogonum nudum* (naked buckwheat).

And worst of all is sourgrass, *Oxalis pes-caprae*. If you don’t pull each plant when young, root and all, before the little bulblets appear—you’re sunk.

If I had a solid carpet of sourgrass, it would almost be easier. I’d pull and pull in early spring, then solarize with clear plastic sheeting for about four weeks in early summer then put down thick mulch, maybe with cardboard underneath or lots of wet leaves—this is proven to really knock it back. But of course—my sourgrass is sneaking in and around natives.

Later in spring, there will be more and different weeds, but I don’t want to think of those yet. Instead I’ll end by sharing some of the many wonderful local native plants that are sprouting on our ridge right now, such as: *Lupinus nanus* (sky lupine); *Lupinus bicolor* (miniature lupine); *Lupinus arboreus* (lavender bush lupine); *Madia elegans* (elegant madia); *Clarkia rubicunda* (ruby chalice clarkia); *Claytonia parviflora* (miner’s lettuce); *Aquilegia formosa* (columbine); and *Stachys ajugoides* (western wood mint). To say nothing of bulbs, the ferns and fungi! And trees!



Natives and weeds:
Calandrinia menziesii
(red maids) and
Cardamine hirsuta
(pop-weed).

Photo: Jackie Pascoe

Overwhelmed by *Oxalis* and its Pals?

Feeling overwhelmed by weeds, I recently put out a call to the state-wide CNPS Facebook group. Here are some tips sent my way. Some may not work for my situation but could help you.

Mulch! But leave some areas free of mulch for the insects and birds. Add a layer of cardboard below the mulch, or leaves. Several recommended free mulch from tree trimmers, but a few thought it introduced weeds. Another said to give up on seedlings and grow from containers only.

Or scuff up the top layer of soil to disturb seedlings.

Use the Bradley method of weeding. First weed around areas rich in native plants. Minimize soil disturbance. Match the rate of weeding to the rate of native plant growth

Or focus on one or two weeds at a time.

Or start from your door and work outward. The farther from your home, the more you will triage, targeting only the worst weeds, so they don’t go to seed.

—Jackie Pascoe

A Superbloom of Native Plant Talks and Programs

—Kari Olsen

As we all shelter in place, it's hard not to long for the Chapter-led field trips, volunteer opportunities, and the friendly meetings and talks which would normally be taking place throughout the year. While Zoom and YouTube are never going to substitute for a hike, they have provided us with a way to keep learning during this time, and have given us a silver lining—an explosion of video content available online.

Though I miss attending talks and events in person, it has been an extremely educational year for me, filled with opportunities I never would have been able to take advantage of in a “normal” year, and most of them were free! Even better, because these virtual events are recorded, most of them are still available.

But how to find these gems? Here are some suggestions.

CNPS Statewide Calendar

When many CNPS Chapters started moving their educational programs into the virtual world, the statewide CNPS website began listing them on their own calendar, as well as archiving past events according to topic. It's a gold mine of talks hosted by CNPS Chapters, the statewide CNPS, and a sprinkling of other California native plant-related organizations. Upcoming events are listed by date, past recorded events are archived by category.

<https://www.cnps.org/event/virtual-native-plant-events>

The California Botanic Garden (formerly Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden)

The California Botanic Garden has worked hard to connect people and plants during this physically distanced time. Online classes, virtual tours and lectures, podcasts – all their digital content is posted on this page for free after

the event, even classes that originally charged a fee to attend. Their excellent class on pruning California natives will be on the website by press time.

<https://www.calbg.org/visit/blog>

The Jepson Videos: Visual Guides to the Plants of California

This is a series of short plant identification videos produced by the Jepson Herbarium. New videos are posted nearly weekly.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/JepsonHerbarium/videos>

Theodore Payne Foundation's Poppy Hour

The TPF describes its “Poppy Hour” as “our California native plant internet mashup. Part interviews, part garden tour, part happy hour, we explore the amazing diversity of people and ideas that connect to Southern California plants and landscapes.” When you click the link you can choose “Click here to sign up” to see an upcoming live Poppy Hour, or you can click the bold green words “YouTube Channel” to go to YouTube and play the recorded (archived) episodes.

<https://theodorepayne.org/poppy-hour/>



These resources are just a jumping off point; in the course of writing this short article I've found more to look forward to attending. For instance, **Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden** is planning to host an abbreviated 2021 season of Wayne Roderick Lectures, likely starting in February, which is expected to be held for free online. So stay tuned: <https://nativeplants.org/events-and-classes/online-wayne-roderick-lectures/>

Whether you attend virtual events live or watch the recordings, you'll find plenty of native plant content to dive into until we can safely meet and mingle once again.

Board of Directors 2021 Slate—Vote Now!

In normal times, the January General Meeting is when as a group we vote for incoming board members and thank the outgoing members. This year, with no general meetings, we will rely on members to make their votes by mail (not unlike the general election!). Voting is optional.

Many thanks to outgoing board members Debbie Bulger, Ken Kellman, Karen Hildebrand, Bill Malone, and Linda Willis. Their contributions over the years have been immense, and they will be sorely missed. We have some open positions and ask members to step up and nominate themselves for a position. Board Secretary is open, a position that plays an essential role in our Chapter.

Please cut on the dotted line above and mail your ballot to: CNPS, P.O. Box 1622, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. Or cast your vote on our website (<https://www.cruzcnp.org>).

- ☐ Linda Brodman President, Chapter Council Delegate, Habitat Restoration Team/Stewardship
- ☐ Lucy Ferneyhough Vice President, Chapter Council Delegate
- ☐ Suzanne Schettler Treasurer, Conservation
- ☐ Secretary open—YOUR NAME HERE! _____
- ☐ Ann Garside Membership
- ☐ Public Programs open—YOUR NAME HERE! _____
- ☐ Julia Davenport Plant Sales, Newsletter (interim)
- ☐ Kari Olsen Plant Propagation
- ☐ Stephen McCabe Conservation
- ☐ Sylvie Childress Conservation
- ☐ Brett Hall Important Plant Areas/Rare Natural Communities, UCSC Arboretum Liaison
- ☐ Deanna Giuliano Field Trips, Important Plant Areas/Rare Natural Communities
- ☐ Joe Bonanno Webmaster
- ☐ Karen Laing Hospitality
- ☐ Eva Marie Bonanno Member-at-Large
- ☐ Mary-Ellen Irons Member-at-Large

Restoration Update

Our long-term restoration work continued last year with a very small group of dedicated volunteers at our county's jewel, Quail Hollow Ranch (QHR) County Park. We worked many French broom locations, while observing COVID precautions put in place by government, public health guidelines, and best practices. In 2020, a total of 445 hours of broom removal were recorded at QHR. And yes, we will be returning to QHR very soon! Presently, we are continuing with our beach area projects near Baldwin Creek, removing Cape ivy from a fairly pristine bluff of coastal scrub and strand species.

For now, our restoration projects are not taking on new volunteers. Our core group of dedicated weeders is ousting the nasties, to give the natives a little room to grow and a competitive head start. I remain optimistic that 2021 will bring the ability to engage others back into our restoration workdays.

—Linda Brodman



Lighthouse Field restoration efforts led by Bill Henry and Groundswell Coastal Ecology in January were supported by CNPS funding and elbow grease—just in time to take advantage of the winter rains. Be sure to go by and check the progress, and then watch for spring blooms near Steamer Lane Supply. Photo: Jackie Pascoe

Prez Sez (continued from p. 1)

Check out the articles on the *Lighthouse Field Native Plant Project* headed up by Groundswell Coastal Ecology, and the UCSC Norris Center exhibit *Look. Act. Inspire.* coming January 31st at the San Lorenzo Valley Museum in Felton. Read about what is happening with the updated work on the *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County*, and how you can donate towards this effort. And, our dedicated propagators, led by Kari Olsen, continue to cultivate natives for our Chapter's plant sales (update on page 2) .

Chapter annual elections are happening in January and results announced in February; take a look at our officer slate for 2021 on page 4 and vote, if so inclined. All Chapter members may run for office and be involved on the leadership team to accomplish the goals of the Chapter for tasks such as conservation, field trips, membership, and programs. There are many ways to contribute, such as helping out with tasks involving outreach, publicity, and technical expertise. You don't need to be a board member to make a big difference.

Special thanks goes out to the following retiring Board members for their hard work over the years:

Debbie Bulger – Conservation
Karen Hildebrand – Propagation
Ken Kellman – Book Sales
Bill Malone – Webmaster
Linda Willis – Plant Sale

Chapter achievements are the result of the work of volunteers. This includes our chairs, coordinators, committees, and anyone who volunteers. People's lives change and we rely on members to take a leadership role. We are an easy and fun group to work with, and inspiration is contagious! Will you help? Please contact me via email (redwdrn@pacbell.net) or email info@cruzcnp.org.



Outgoing board member Ken Kellman (left) at the fall 2019 plant sale, our last one before the pandemic. Ken ran the sales table, sold a lot of books, and kept us up to date with the latest publications. Thank you, Ken, we will miss you! Photo: Jackie Pascoe



There are no CNPS-sponsored field trips until it is safe to gather. Meanwhile, get out there on your own and botanize in your favorite places, or find a new one! Photo: Jackie Pascoe

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Welcome New Members!

The Santa Cruz County Chapter of the California Native Plant Society extends a very warm welcome to our more recently joined members:

Colleen Brady	William Holt
Allison Bridges	David Jacobs
Connie Dowler	Frans Lanting
Lydia Engelund	Andrea London
Ryan French	Jen Nogaki
Nancy Harper	Casey Palowitch
Adrienne Harrold	Johnny and Zoe Reinsch
Tom Hearn	Gabriela Trigueiro
Lori Helman	Laura Wolf

We hope this year will allow members to once again gather together at leisure and enjoy each other's companionship while pursuing the goals of our Society, to protect native plant species today and to preserve the biodiversity of California for tomorrow.

Join the California Native Plant Society!

Your membership includes *Fremontia* journal (twice yearly) filled with articles on all aspects of native plants; *Flora* magazine (quarterly) presenting statewide activities and schedules; and Chapter newsletter *The Cypress Cone* (quarterly).

Fill out the form below or visit the state CNPS website (<https://www.cnps.org>) to join or renew your membership online. Be sure to state your chapter affiliation as the Santa Cruz County Chapter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter affiliation: _____

Choose One:

Student/Fixed Income \$25

Individual \$50

Plant Lover \$120 (two members)

Supporter \$500 (two members)

Patron \$1,000 (two members, plus Special Updates)

Benefactor \$2,500 (two members, plus Special Updates)

Steward \$5,000 (two members, plus Special Updates)

Guardian \$10,000 (two members, plus Special Updates)

Please make your check payable to CNPS and send to:
California Native Plant Society, Attn: Membership,
2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5130

Like us on Facebook

Contribute to our group! Search for "Santa Cruz County Chapter - California Native Plant Society." Ask a question about native plants or post your own photos of native plants in your yard or on your hikes.

Opt for Email

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email only, please contact Ann at anng@calcentral.com.

CNPS is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Organization dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

CNPS has thirty-four chapters throughout the state and membership is open to all persons, professional and amateur, with an interest in California's native plants and other activities such as natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking, and gardening.

Donations are tax-deductible and support special projects such as publication of the County Checklist and conservation activities that preserve important habitats and species in our area. You may earmark gifts for specific areas. Membership is tax deductible, minus \$8 for the journal *Fremontia*, published two times per year. Make checks payable to CNPS and send to: Santa Cruz County Chapter CNPS, P.O. Box 1622, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. <https://www.cruzcnps.org>