



*Hesperocyparis
abramsiana*

THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



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Citizen Scientists, Conservation Gardening, Healing Community: Magic and Meaning in the Fight to Save Our Flowers

Speaker: **Dan Gluesenkamp**

Chapter General Meeting:

Monday, July 9, 2018, 7:30 pm

UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Keying Session: 5:30 pm



For over 50 years, the California Native Plant Society has protected our native plants and celebrated California's wild gardens. During those decades, the human population has doubled and conservation in California has been dramatically transformed. Against all odds, a dedicated community of plant lovers, using a growing diversity of conservation tools, has somehow managed to save most of the plants and places that make California special. As we look to the future, we see continued population growth, as well as new threats, and wonder how to save California for the future. Dan Gluesenkamp will speak about plants, places, projects, and engage in a discussion of how to learn and work together to make a real and lasting difference.

Dan Gluesenkamp is Executive Director of CNPS and works to celebrate and save California's flora. Dan earned his Ph.D. at UC Berkeley studying native and invasive thistles. He previously worked as E.D. of Calflora and as Director of Habitat Protection and Restoration for Audubon Canyon Ranch's thirty preserves. A co-founder of the California Invasive Plant Council and of the Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN), in 2009 Dan discovered a presumed-extinct Franciscan manzanita (*Arctostaphylos franciscana*) plant growing on a traffic island at the Golden Gate Bridge.

Dudleya Poachers in Humboldt County Convicted

Text and photo from www.cnps.org

Those of us who've been following the recent *Dudleya* poaching were happy to see this week's news that three poachers have been convicted in Humboldt County. The convictions follow the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's recent efforts to catch thieves working along coastal Mendocino and Humboldt counties.

CDFW has been working with the CNPS North Coast Chapter and Redwood National and State Parks to alert the community to the poaching and organize replanting parties. Watch for the upcoming issue of **CNPS Flora** magazine for a special photo essay on this important collaboration.

If you witness any unlawful poaching or pollution activity, you are encouraged to anonymously report it to **CalTIP at 888-334-2258** or send a text to tip411 (847411).



*Dudleya
farinosa*

Bonny Doon Ecological Preserve Field Trip

Text by Ruthe Smith, Photos by Jackie Pascoe

A larger-than-expected diverse crowd of about a dozen people enjoyed the perfect mix of sun, clouds, breezes, plants, and a stark but beautiful fire-scarred landscape. We were there to learn more about the plants and ecology of the Bonny Doon Ecological Preserve. Deanna Giuliano led the group but early on we realized that having one leader at the front of the pack was not going to work. The trails are narrow and people at the back of the pack could not hear what was being discussed at the front of the pack. Andy Werner stepped up and volunteered to help out. He and Deanna split up the large group so we all could benefit from their knowledge and experience.

The preserve was awash with colorful blooms. Sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), California yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*), silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons* var. *albifrons*), chaparral pea (*Pickeringia montana* var. *montana*), curly-leaved monardella (*Monardella sinuata* var. *nigrescens*), and even the tiniest of spineflowers (*Chorizanthe* sp.) diverted our attention and demanded we stop to admire them. The Ben Lomond spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *hartwegiana*) is endemic to the sandhills of Santa Cruz County and listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

There are four species of manzanita in the preserve and we were fortunate to see them all: Anderson's (*Arctostaphylos andersonii*), sensitive (*A. sensitiva*), brittle-leaved (*A. crustacea crustacea*), and Bonny Doon (*A. silvicola*); the latter found almost exclusively in Santa Cruz County sandhills (one specimen was found in San Luis Obispo County in 2010; CalFlora).

The preserve is littered with trails, some evident, some not so much. Much of the area is sand chaparral, but as we approached the east side of the preserve and Laguna Creek, we walked through areas where the fire either hadn't gotten to, or hadn't been so hot as to burn everything. The canopy of interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*), Shreve oak (*Quercus parvula* var. *shrevei*), tan oak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*), golden chinquapin (*Chrysolepis chrysophylla*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and a few redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) began to close. Young Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) seemed to be everywhere. At times we found ourselves walking through tunnels of manzanita and warty-leaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus papillosus*)—the tallest among us having to crouch a bit to get through—and crawling over, or sometimes under, fallen snags, and dodging poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) tendrils.



False Lupine

Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) snags riddled with woodpecker cavities and acorn stashes stand as sentinels watching over the scrub as the ecosystem regrows into something different than it was before the fire. Knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*) cones typically open only after a fire and their recruitment was evident almost everywhere. To date, few if any ponderosa pine seedlings are present.

After walking four miles in five hours we had obviously seen, photographed, and generally oohed and aaahed over a lot of plants, many of them completely new to several of us. A complete list of plants from the trip would take up too much room here, but I can't resist mentioning one more. Nearly at the end of the trip and walking up out of a riparian area, we were treated to a showy California azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*). A fitting end to a wonderful field trip.



Hikers and fallen snag



Chaparral Pea



California Azalea



A Cool Adventure

Text by Debbie Bulger, Photos by Richard Stover

California's first poet laureate, Ina Coolbrith, loved California wildflowers. It was over a year ago when her biographer, Aleta George, spoke to our chapter about this poet who treasured the California landscape. I was lucky enough to have Aleta stay in my home while she and her husband Dave were in Santa Cruz. It was then that we conceived the plan to climb Mount Ina Coolbrith, an 8,059-foot peak in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest near Highway 70 in Sierra County.

Ina Coolbrith emigrated to California over Beckwourth Pass near the mountain that bears her name in 1852 when she was eleven years old, in a wagon train guided by Jim Beckwourth himself.

The climb was not easy for the four humans and a dog and comprised eight trail-less miles with 2,600 feet of elevation gain. Local Conservation Chair Debbie Bulger, Richard Stover, Dave and Aleta George, and fox terrier Wade started hiking at 10:30 a.m. after spending several hours investigating approaches amid a maze of locked gates and No Trespassing signs. We returned by headlamp on a moonless night reaching our vehicles at 12:30 a.m.

On the way we waded through sagebrush scrub, enjoyed Jeffrey pines, and observed wildflowers including *Clarkia purpurea*, *Phacelia hastate*, a yellow paintbrush (possibly Thompson's), sego lily, and western peony.

The steady wind made photography difficult. The wild landscape was similar to that seen by Ina Coolbrith over 160 years ago. Below is an excerpt from Ina Coolbrith's poem, "Copa de Oro," about the California poppy:

*Not all proud Sheba's queenly offerings,
Could match the golden marvel of thy blooms.*



Debbie Bulger (foreground) and Aleta George climbing Mt. Ina Coolbrith



Yellow Paintbrush



Western Peony

Habitat Restoration Team

Saturday, June 30, 10:00am to 1:00pm

Baldwin Creek, Wilder Ranch State Park.

**Saturday, July 7, and Saturday, July 21,
10:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Venues to be determined.

Summer is here and we will have projects on and off through the season as needed. Please check our webpage at cruzcnps.org for updated information.

We are a volunteer group working to restore native habitat in the parks and protected lands in Santa Cruz County. Our program provides an opportunity for people to learn about the natural systems that surround them while helping to restore special and wild places. No prior work experience is necessary,

just show up at the park. We welcome individual volunteers from 8 to 80 years, as well as special group projects. Wear comfortable layered clothing, bring something to drink, and lots of enthusiasm! We work rain or shine, but if things get particularly unpleasant, we call it a day. Tools provided; bring gloves.

Contact: **Program Leader, Linda Brodman**
831.462.4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net

Please Note: There are no field trips scheduled at this time for July and August, but keep checking cruzcnps.org for updates. Carpooling is encouraged but not sponsored by CNPS.

**California Native Plant Society
Santa Cruz County Chapter**

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Santa Cruz, CA 95061

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Membership News

The Santa Cruz County Chapter sends a big summertime welcome to our newest California Native Plant Society members:

**Jacqueline Brenton,
Natalie McNear,
Kristoph von Hahn,
Erica Marquez, and
Barb Pesavento.**

We'd love to see you at one of our upcoming meetings, out on the trail, or perhaps at one of the Habitat Restoration Team's invasive plant removal days!

Note: If you would prefer to receive a digital copy of the Cypress Cone rather than a hard copy, drop Ann Garside a line at anng@calcentral.com to make the switch.



Helianthemum scoparium. Photo by Jackie Pascoe

Join the California Native Plant Society

Your membership includes *Fremontia*, a journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; *Flora*, CNPS's new magazine presenting a statewide report of activities and schedules; and *The Cypress Cone*.

Fill out the form below, or go to www.cnps.org and join or renew your membership online.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter Affiliation: _____

Student/Limited Income \$25

Individual \$45

Family or Library \$75

Plant Lover \$100

Patron \$300

Benefactor \$600

Mariposa Lily \$1500

Make your check payable to CNPS and send to:

**Membership Chair, CNPS,
2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento, CA 95816**

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 and let her know your preference.

CNPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of California native flora.

CNPS has 34 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. (Your membership is also tax deductible, minus \$12 for the journal *Fremontia*, three issues per year.) Make checks payable to CNPS and send to: CNPS, P.O. Box 1622, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.