

THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



Volume 50, Number 4

chapters.cnps.org/santacruz/

Fall 2025

Ecological Highlights from Plumas and Sierra Counties

Chapter Public Meeting

Monday Oct. 20, 2025

Speaker Brett Hall

UCSC Arboretum

Plant ID Session 5:30 pm

Presentation 7 pm

Brett Hall will share his observations and insights from excursions in the northern Sierra Nevada. He will touch on montane forests and meadows, species growing in rock outcrops, rare plants, pre- and post-fire conditions and more.

Brett is director of the California Native Plant Program at the UCSC Arboretum and longtime CNPS member. He received his B.A. from UC Santa Cruz in natural history and biology. Before arriving for the fall quarter at UCSC he visited campus to find a gardening job and quickly learned about the new Arboretum and had the good fortune to meet and begin working with its founding director, Ray Collett, in 1975. Since then, Brett has enjoyed an interesting and diverse career developing the Arboretum, working with staff, students, volunteers and many friends in the botanical community spread far and wide.

Since joining CNPS in the 1970s, Brett served on the boards of both the Santa Cruz and the Tahoe and Sierra Valley Chapters and multiple terms on the statewide CNPS



Sulphur-flowered buckwheat
(*Eriogonum umbellatum*)
Photo: Brett Hall



Brett Hall
Photo: Lucy Ferneyhough

board. He has been a key contributor to conservation efforts with the Center for Plant Conservation, California Plant Rescue, and many other agencies and nonprofit organizations. He has been an inspiring and motivating influence encouraging UCSC students to pursue their own special interests in plant-related science and stewardship.

Fall Plant Sale October 11

Location: Cabrillo Horticulture

October 11, 9 am to 1 pm

Come early, favorites go fast

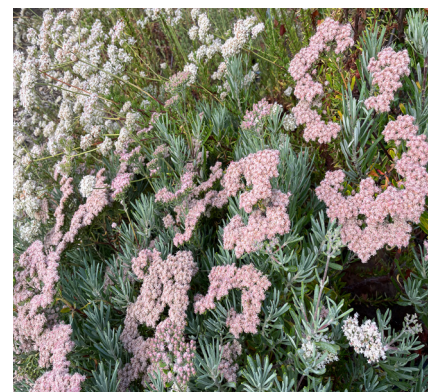
Mark your calendars! Our much-anticipated Fall Plant Sale is on Saturday, October 11, from 9 am to 1 pm, and this year promises to be better than ever.

We are thrilled to continue the successful collaboration with Cabrillo College Horticulture Department, which will be having their sale at the same time and location. Their expertise, energy, and beautiful facilities make this event possible. We welcome Mercy Olmstead, Ph.D., the new Horticulture Center Coordinator at Cabrillo. With her extensive experience in horticulture and education, Mercy brings exciting perspectives and fresh ideas to our joint efforts.

The list of available plants will be posted on our chapter website a few days before the sale. Chapter members, watch your mailbox for a special postcard with a "\$5 off \$25" coupon, our way of saying thank you for supporting native plants.

Featured in the upcoming sale are many *Salvias*, a great selection of monkeyflowers of many colors, and LOTS of *Achillea millefolium* varieties, including Sonoma coast, pink island form, and creamy white plants grown from a local source. Also locally sourced are *Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *foliolosum*, leafy California buckwheat. Our chapter is growing ever more plants from locally sourced seed, both to benefit nature and to enjoy local natives in our gardens.

Join us October 11 to browse, learn, and connect with fellow native plant enthusiasts. Every purchase supports local habitat restoration, education, and advocacy for California's extraordinary plant diversity.



California buckwheat (*Eriogonum arborescens*). Photo: Jackie Pascoe

Bountiful Buckwheats

—Jackie Pascoe

**Fall Plant Sale, October 11, 9 am to 1 pm
Cabrillo Horticulture Center**

Everyone who attended the chapter's August public meeting had a chance to see the large variety and quantity of vibrant plants in the CNPS propagation area.



Seaside buckwheat (*Eriogonum latifolium*) at Wilder Ranch State Park. Photo: Jackie Pascoe

This year, I'm happy to say, the plant sale will also feature an abundance of California buckwheats, the *Eriogonum* genus, including some species grown from local seed.

Buckwheats are superstars in my dry, inland garden. They cheerfully bloom from spring into fall, without supplemental water. Their leaves vary from narrow to spoon shaped or rounded, and they can be fuzzy or smooth but are all generally thick, to withstand dry environments. Most buckwheats produce masses of pom-pom shaped flowers that slowly dry to attractive shades of cinnamon or rich brown, often intermingling with fresh blooms. Others have tiny flowers massed in large, often flat, inflorescences. Buckwheats are deer resistant, and great for pollinators and other wildlife. Some species can spread a bit too enthusiastically—but you can always share new plants with friends. That's how I acquired my wonderful Santa Cruz Island buckwheats.

The plant sale will likely have at least 10 gallon-size containers of each of the following (maybe more species):

Eriogonum arborescens, Santa Cruz Island buckwheat

Eriogonum fasciculatum var. *foliolosum*, leafy California buckwheat

Eriogonum giganteum, St. Catherine's lace

Eriogonum grande var. *rubescens*, red-flowered buckwheat

Eriogonum latifolium, coast buckwheat (local seed)

Eriogonum nudum, naked buckwheat

Eriogonum parvifolium, sea cliff buckwheat (local seed)

Four of these species have been thriving in my property's sunny areas without irrigation, once established. I did try *Eriogonum latifolium*, but it's a coastal species, and didn't thrive on my hot dry slopes.

Eriogonum arborescens, Santa Cruz Island buckwheat, is probably my favorite, with its attractive pale green, narrow leaves, and abundant flattish clusters of dusty-pink

flowers. In my garden this shrub averages three or four feet high and up to six feet wide. The twisting, hard woody stems are generally hidden but can be attractive when exposed by pruning.

Eriogonum fasciculatum, California buckwheat, is a shrubby plant I grew from seed. I have several shrubs each with masses of small creamy-white pom-poms topping the arching stems. *E. fasciculatum* var. *foliolosum*, has attractive broader leaves—maybe I'll buy some at the sale!



Red-flowered buckwheat (*Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) near West Cliff Drive. Photo: Jackie Pascoe

I purchased my *Eriogonum giganteum* plants at a CNPS plant sale several years ago and they grew to several shrubs with twisty pale woody stems that are now about eight feet tall and wide. They have felty-green foliage and an almost continuous coverage of creamy-white inflorescences as big as dinner plates. Perhaps they stay smaller in different environments—or if pruned occasionally.



Naked buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum*). Photo: Jackie Pascoe

Several years ago, a neighbor let me gather seeds of *Eriogonum nudum*, naked buckwheat, where it was growing wild on their property. The descendants live happily on mine. They reseed but haven't ventured beyond one garden area. This *Eriogonum* has broad basal leaves from which the smooth delicate stems rise, topped by little white pompoms that seem to float about three feet above the ground.

Every day I walk out into my sunny garden and enjoy the beauty of California buckwheats, and all the interesting insects that relish their flowers. There's bound to be a buckwheat or two in the sale that would suit your garden too.

Join us on October 11! Also available will be chapter T-shirts featuring flowers of the coastal prairies, CNPS posters, and chapter stickers. Be sure to check out Cabrillo Horticulture's sale at the same time.

2025 Cal-IPC Symposium Ventura and Online, Nov. 12-15

Our chapter is a sponsor and supporter of the CA Invasive Plant Council. Sessions will explore land stewardship approaches that go beyond the approach of working to eradicate invasive plants by promoting ecological resistance to invasion, resilience to changing conditions, and recovery from major events. Sessions highlight strategies for strengthening habitat health while addressing the human dimensions of adaptability in conservation. For more information: www.cal-ipc.org

Field Trips

Want to learn the names of those flowers you walk by and how to identify them? The chapter offers field trips to learn and appreciate our local flora and natural areas. Trips are open to all, from beginners to experts, youthful to young-at-heart, with a slow pace to appreciate the plants. Be on the lookout for possible new field trip notifications via email and the website. Join us!

Please read the CNPS waiver (see "Events" tab on chapters. cnp.org/santacruz) ahead of time so you are prepared to sign in person at the event. This is required to participate.

CNPS has created guides to help minimize weed seed dispersal and plant diseases during hikes and field trips. See <https://bit.ly/4irmpCj> for details.

Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025

10 am - noon

Come explore fall blooms at Elkhorn Slough, a National Estuarine Research Reserve, and one of California's largest coastal salt marshes.



Elkhorn Slough, Monterey County.
Photo: Emma Yockman

We'll meander through oak woodlands, tidal creeks, and open grasslands as we learn to identify salt marsh plants, how they manage to live in a salty environment, and how they interact.

Leader: Emma Yockman, UCSC Ph.D. student and coastal plant ecologist. Email Emma Yockman at eyockman@ucsc.edu to sign up and receive directions and carpooling information. Space is limited.

Pescadero River Mouth Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025

9 am - 12:30 pm

Come explore where the river meets the sea at a special area just north of the county line. Discover the plants that grow there and bloom in the fall and learn about ongoing restoration efforts led by California State Parks. Birders: bring your binoculars!



Silky beach pea (*Lathyrus littoralis*)
Photo courtesy of Groundswell

Leaders: Bill Henry, Ph.D., Founding Director of Groundswell Coastal Ecology and Ryan Diller, Environmental Scientist, Santa Cruz District of California State Parks. Contact: santacruzcounty@cnp.org to sign up and receive directions and carpooling information.

Save the Date!

Monday, December 8, 2025

Seascapes: A Search for Seasonal Secrets of Seaweeds Public Program

Speaker: Judith Connor, Ph.D.

Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

1305 E. Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz

Plant ID session 5:30 pm

Meeting and presentation 7 pm

From endemic plants of the sandhills and redwood forests to the seaweed drifting down the submarine canyon offshore, our region has strange and wonderful plants adapted to our seasonal changes. Judith Connor has explored the world ocean on expeditions off the coasts of all the continents, even working from an underwater habitat. She will share images and stories on the seasonal growth and reproduction of beautiful seaweeds, here and abroad.



Judith Connor
Photo courtesy of MBARI

Research at the Smithsonian Institution launched Connor's underwater career. She earned her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, with dissertation research on seasonal changes in reefs off the coast of Panama, and went on to teach marine botany there and other institutions. Connor retired from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute after 26 years of leading a team responsible for intellectual property, education, communications, and data archives.

Habitat Restoration

We are restoring native habitats in parks and protected lands of Santa Cruz County. Since January 2025, we have had a total of 19 projects with over 300 volunteer hours!

Location sites to be determined; call or email for information. All sessions run from 10 am to 1 pm.

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Saturday, October 25, 2025

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 event.

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: Restoration Program Leader Linda Brodman (831) 334-3858, or redwdrn@pacbell.net

Chapter Happenings

Lots of happenings happened since the last newsletter in June! Here's a quick summary—check out the chapter website for details and more photos.

The summer began with the June speaker program by Jodi McGraw on Santa Cruz cypress (*Hesperocyparis abramsiana* var. *abramsiana*) and Butano cypress (*H. a.* var. *butanoensis*) along with the chapter's 50th anniversary celebration at the UCSC Arboretum. Lucy Ferneyhough and Grace Brieger led the plant ID session focused on grasses (!) and we were welcomed by the Arboretum's new Executive Director Rick Flores. A big crowd, cakes, displays on the chapter history, a *Dudleya* display (thank you, Stephen McCabe), and free plants for all (thank you, Monterey Bay Nursery and Central Coast Wilds) made for a festive and fun gathering.



Plants for 50th anniversary donated by Monterey Bay Nursery and Central Coast Wilds. Photo: Kari Olsen



R. Morgan display at CNPS 50th Anniversary. Photo: Kari Olsen

Throughout the summer, chapter activities included habitat restoration, field trips, propagation, and conservation as well as several community collaborations. Highlights included the chapter celebrating Cabrillo Horticulture's 50th Anniversary where Kari Olsen and Jill Baldwinson showcased our partnership, the 120th anniversary of the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, and a new collaboration with the Advocates of Nisene Marks State Park in

their effort to landscape the new sign at the entrance of the park road.

Summer ended with a standing-room-only turnout for our chapter meeting at the Cabrillo Horticulture Center, a more convenient location for South County folk. Early-comers identified composite (Asteraceae) flowers with Grace Brieger and Lucy Ferneyhough before Nicky Hughes (instructor at Cabrillo) led us in a "Sip 'n Stroll" through the horticulture facilities, aided by new Cabrillo Horticulture Center Coordinator Mercy Olmstead. We

were happy to learn that the ongoing redesign of the native plant garden (on the right as you enter the Center) will reflect our local native plant communities.



Tour of CNPS growing area at Cabrillo Horticulture at August Sip n' Stroll. Photo: Jeremy Silberman

Happy winners of the door prize drawing went away with lovely specimens of coast buckwheat (*Eriogonum latifolium*, grown from local seed) and Santa Cruz Island buckwheat (*E. arborescens*).

That set the scene for our next event coming up right around the corner, the highly anticipated Fall Plant Sale! Following on its heels is the October speaker program about the northern Sierra, field trips exploring two different wetland habitats, and a December speaker program about seaweeds. We strive to offer a variety of programs and experiences for our members, and welcome your ideas!

—Laurie Kiguchi

Flora: Saving What Matters Most and Artemisia: Milestones

Check out the summer edition of CNPS's *Flora* magazine which kicks off the new three-year campaign: Saving What Matters Most. For inspiration, check out the new edition of *Artemisia* which showcases highlights of the past 60 years. Take special note of the illustrations that grace the contents page and accompany the article "Our Native Annuals." The scientifically accurate illustrations are not only beautiful but highlight the talent and botanical sensibility of our own Santa Cruz artist Brooke Andrews!

—Laurie Kiguchi

CNPS Webinars

When you garden with native plants, you cultivate California's wild beauty, provide invaluable habitat for wildlife, conserve precious resources, and forgo fertilizer or pesticides. You have the power to make a difference in your garden, yard, balcony, patio, windowsill, and beyond. Ready to get growing?

Join the CNPS live free quarterly webinars for deep dives into topics like choosing the right native plants for your area, designing your garden, maintenance throughout the seasons, and much more. Webinars are hosted by CNPS and feature expert gardeners. Go to <https://www.cnps.org/gardening/webinars> to learn more.



Jill Baldwinson (l.) and Kari Olsen at Cabrillo Horticulture's 50th Anniversary. Photo: Lisa Olsen

Opportunities and Scholarship Support for 2026 Conference

2026 CNPS Conference February 5-7, 2026 Riverside

The CNPS Conference: Growing the Movement Together for Native Plants will be held in February, bringing together botanists, gardeners and landscapers, land use planners, conservation advocates, teachers, and more, to learn about native plants. The Santa Cruz County Chapter is a sponsor of the conference and the statewide scholarship program and encourages all members to attend.

Local college students and recent graduates! The chapter is offering scholarships (registration and support toward travel and lodging) to local college students and recent graduates. Thanks to Jeremy Silberman and Aggie Morrow who have been working on this effort. See the chapter website and social media for full announcement. Email santacruzcounty@cnps.org for questions. —Laurie Kiguchi



50 Stories for Our 50th Anniversary

In his introduction to the cover story in the Winter issue of *Flora* magazine, Stu VanAirdale, CNPS Publications Editor, wrote: “A new year brings with it new beginnings and new opportunities for experiencing native plants in California. It also gives us a chance to explore new ways of thinking about that experience—how to expand the presence of native plants in our communities, for instance, or how to sustainably build visibility for plants, partners and our respective projects across the state.”

In that spirit, *Flora* asked CNPS chapter members and staffers about their resolutions and intentions for native plants in the year ahead. Check <https://www.cnps.org/flora-magazine/california-native-plant-2025-resolutions-41591> to read their 50 inspiring ways to find hope, take action, and keep growing in 2025.

Our chapter also plans to celebrate its 50th anniversary with 50 stories on our website about 50 years (1975 to 2025). Our posts and news stories will cover interesting native plants and places in Santa Cruz County, as well as people who have made a difference in our community. Check out this link to the Santa Cruz County Chapter’s 2025 website: <https://chapters.cnps.org/santacruz/>. You can find information about local events such as talks, field trips, and plant sales.

—J. Connor, Chapter Webmaster

You Could Have Been There

I definitely wished I had been there when I saw the photograph of the lovely western azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*) taken by field trip hiker Linda Brodman on the Quail Hollow Ranch County Park field trip Andy Werner led in June. Blooming from late spring to early summer, the flowers lure you in with their fragrance as well as their striking beauty. While June can be hot in the mountains and may discourage thoughts of spring blooms, this along with the pink carpets of the federally endangered Ben Lomond spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *hartwegiana*) shows that there are always treasures to be found.



Western azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*) observed at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park, June field trip. Photo: Linda Brodman

Late-spring field trips yielded other delights. Andy Werner’s May field trip to Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve gave visitors a chance to contrast conditions with the field trip in late winter—showcasing summer scents, seeds, and Ben Lomond spineflowers rather than the bells of manzanita flowers and budding annuals. Lucy Ferneyhough’s visit to the special prairie in the Santa Cruz Mountains drew lots of interest from curious botanists - some of whom guessed the identity of this special wildflower meadow. This was the first visit after a hiatus of several years but it’s back on our radar to plan for a repeat foray in early spring. —Laurie Kiguchi

Chapter Board of Directors 2025-26

We welcome involvement from the membership, whether in a formal or informal role. There are opportunities for Board positions as well as committee participation. If you are interested in becoming more involved, please email the chapter at santacruzcounty@cnps.org.

President	Laurie Kiguchi
Vice President	Open
Treasurer	Linda Brodman
Corresponding Secretary	Steve McCabe, Mona McCabe
Chapter Council Delegate	Lucy Ferneyhough
Conservation/Rare Plants	Mark Bibbo
Event Support/Hospitality	Jeremy Silberman
Field Trips	Grace Brieger
Leadership Development	Linda Brodman, Julia Davenport, Laurie Kiguchi
Newsletter	Julia Davenport
Plant Sales	Laura Parker
Propagation	Kari Olsen
Publicity	Mona McCabe, Steve McCabe
Habitat Restoration	Linda Brodman
Website	Judith Connor
Members at Large	Suzanne Schettler, Nicky Hughes

California Native Plant Society
Santa Cruz County Chapter
P.O. Box 1622
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Address Service Requested



Hiking • Propagation • Plant Keying • Conservation • Habitat Restoration • Field Trips • Herbarium Work • Talks

Save the Date!

Monday, Feb. 9, 2026

SC Museum of Natural
History (tentative)

Public Program:

Up and Down California, A

Botanist's Life in the Field

Speaker: Alex Hubner, field

botanist, horticulturist, and

Garden Steward, UCSC

Arboretum



Hills of California.
Photo: Alex Hubner

Check winter newsletter and
website for details.

Join the California Native Plant Society!

Your membership includes: *Artemisia* scientific journal filled with articles on all aspects of native plants, *Flora* magazine presenting statewide activities and schedules, and *The Cypress Cone* Santa Cruz County Chapter newsletter (paper and/or digital).

Already a member? Update your profile at cnps.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter affiliation: Santa Cruz County Chapter

Secondary chapter _____

Individual Membership (suggested amounts):

____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$120
____ \$500 ____ \$1000 ____ New ____ Renewal

Organizational Membership Levels

____ Intl. or Library \$75
____ Blue Oak \$150 (up to three employees)
____ Gray Pine \$500 (up to six employees)
____ White Fir \$1000 (up to ten employees)

Join online for credit card payment at cnps.org/
membership or use this form, 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.

Newsletter Preference

When you update your online profile or renew your membership at cnps.org **the default choice is digital newsletter**. If you prefer a paper newsletter, be sure to check the right box! If you would like to receive the paper newsletter, contact membership@cnps.org to change your preference.

CNPS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

CNPS has 36 chapters throughout the state. 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 to the chapter are tax-deductible and support locally special projects such as outreach, education, and conservation activities that preserve important habitats and rare species in our area. You may earmark gifts for specific areas. Please make donation checks payable to CNPS and send to: Santa Cruz County Chapter CNPS, P.O. Box 1622, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

Visit our new Website: chapters.cnps.org/santacruz/
For inquiries email: info@cnps.org