

THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



Volume 51, Number 4

chapters.cnps.org/santacruz

Fall 2026

Chapter Public Program

Uses of California Native Plants

Monday, October 12, 2026

Speaker: Rick Flores, UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden Director and Steward of the Amah Mutsun Relearning Program

UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Plant ID Session 5:30 p.m. Meeting/Presentation 7 p.m.

Native plant raffle!

Please come to our bi-monthly chapter meeting on October 12 to hear UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden Director Rick Flores speak about the many human uses of California's abundant flora. Come early and learn how to use a botanical key to identify plants.

Rick will explore seasonal harvest, edible greens, nuts, and berries, and craft materials, and speak to how to integrate native plants into our daily lives and home gardens to help foster a deeper, interactive relationship with our native flora.



Rick Flores, UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden Director and Steward of the Amah Mutsun Relearning Program. Photo courtesy of UCSC Arboretum.

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cabrillo College Horticulture Center

Come early, favorites go fast! This year's annual Fall Plant Sale will again be held at the Cabrillo College Horticulture Center at the top of Sanders Ave. We will be there to help you select just the right plant for your garden. Sale is on Saturday, October 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in conjunction with the Cabrillo Horticulture Plant Sale and Pumpkin Patch.



Wartleaf ceanothus
(*Ceanothus papillosus*),
Photo: Linda Brodman

Each fall we remind gardeners "fall is the best time for planting native plants." This sale we have the widest selection of California lilac (*Ceanothus*) and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*) taxa and cultivars we have offered, as well as a variety of favorite water-wise native perennials, shrubs, grasses, and ferns. Many are locally sourced.

We are forever grateful to Cabrillo College for their ongoing support and propagation greenhouse space. It's a productive partnership for both organizations, and local gardeners and plant lovers benefit from being able to shop two plant sales with a broader array of plants. The plant list will be available on our website the week before the sale. Check the website for late-breaking details (chapters.cnps.org/santacruz).

Randall Morgan Plaque Installed At UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden

A plaque commemorating Randy Morgan, designed and donated by his late brother Wayne Morgan, has been installed at the California Conservation Garden of the UCSC Arboretum.



The chapter shared the cost of installation with the Friends of the UCSC Norris Center for Natural History. Many thanks to the Friends, Wayne Morgan, and Brett Hall and Rick Flores of the Arboretum. What a beautiful setting for the plaque. Take a stroll and check out the growing California Conservation Garden!



A look into the sweet side of native plant gathering: making manzanita blossom jelly! This process turns early winter blooms into a delicious preserve. Photos: Rick Flores.

Chapter Happenings

—Laurie Kiguchi, Chapter President

Like our native plants adapt to changing seasons, our CNPS chapter adapted as well. Focus shifted to warm weather—appreciating the sunshine, conserving water, late-season blooms, and looking toward the fall.

In June, Frédérique Lavoipierre inspired the full house at our public program with insights about the insects, spiders, birds, and mammals that contribute to a healthy garden. Attendee brains were activated by the plant ID session focusing on grasses, led by Max Parsons and Maia Perry.



Getting an upclose look at psammophytes on Waddell State Beach field trip.
Photo: Daniel Antonaccio

Field trips to Bean Hollow State Beach, Fall Creek in Henry Cowell State Park (with leopard lily, *Lilium pardalinum*), Ft. Ord National Monument (with hooded lady's tresses orchids, *Spiranthes romanzoffiana*), and Waddell State Beach and Rancho del Oso (with psammophytes, aka sand-loving plants) took advantage of summer floristic

highlights. Many thanks to Dan Antonaccio, Andy Werner, and helpers for leading.

Keeping the focus on summer locales, Linda Brodman led habitat restoration volunteers at Baldwin Creek in Wilder Ranch State Park. The propagation team was busy also, with Kari Olsen shepherding volunteers and plants along with an eye toward the Fall Plant Sale. Somehow Kari also found time for a seed-cleaning demonstration at the UC Master Gardeners Native Plant Bootcamp, where CNPS had an information table.

The August public program was a fantastic kickoff to the fall planting season, with an inspirational (albeit much longer than usual!) presentation by Bart O'Brien, Director of Tilden Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Berkeley, on gardening with California natives. Over 100 attendees were educated, amused, and wowed by the captivating photos, stories, and insights Bart shared, made even more relevant by connections to our local region. Before the program, many learned about the aster family (Asteraceae) in the plant ID session led by Lucy Ferneyhough. The Cabrillo College Horticulture Center made for a beautiful and welcoming setting. Big thanks to Sarah Patiño Hulick, Mercy Olmstead, and Nicky Hughes for their support along with the help from Cabrillo students Ell Stone, Kelly Larsen, Chelsea Lee, Jeff Jernberg, Claire Ackland, and Jill Isaacs.



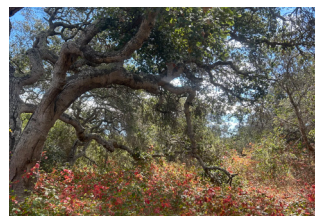
Bart O'Brien captivating the crowd. Photo: Laurie Kiguchi



Kari Olsen cleaning seeds.
Photo: Laurie Kiguchi

Save the Date!

Founding Director of Groundswell Coastal Ecology Bill Henry will present "Building Living Shorelines on the Central California Coast" December 14 at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History. Plant ID session at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 7:00 p.m. Check website for more details.



Colors of early fall on California's central coast. Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) with poison oak (*Toxicodendron*)

Habitat Restoration

Restoration projects are being planned for the fall. Check our website for updates. We are a volunteer group working to restore native habitat in the parks and protected lands in Santa Cruz County. No prior work experience necessary;

just show up at the event, rain or shine. Contact Restoration Program Leader Linda Brodman at (831) 334-3858 or redwdrn@pacbell.net.



Removing New Zealand spinach with a burrito roll, Baldwin Bluff.
Photo: Linda Brodman

Come and Get Them!

Need some CNPS chapter swag? We have t-shirts and sweatshirts in a number of colors, and lovely dark green aprons, featuring artwork by Liza Ferneyhough. Purchase posters of native plants at programs and plant sales, where you can also get a copy of *California Plants: A Guide to Our Iconic Flora*, by Dr. Matt Ritter, at a discounted price.

Chapter Board of Directors 2026-2027

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! Your name could be here!
Treasurer	Linda Brodman
Corresponding Secretary	Steve McCabe, Mona McCabe
Chapter Council Delegate	Lucy Ferneyhough
Conservation/Rare Plants	Mark Bibbo
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Field Trips	Daniel Antonaccio
Leadership Development	Linda Brodman, Julia Davenport, Laurie Kiguchi, Julia Davenport
Newsletter	Kari Olsen
Propagation	Mona McCabe, Steve McCabe
Publicity	Linda Brodman
Habitat Restoration	Judith Connor
Website	Suzanne Schettler, Nicky Hughes
Members-at-Large	Max Parsons, Maia Perry
Plant ID Committee	Chelsea Lee
Plant Sale Committee	

Field Trips

—Daniel Antonaccio

Note: Field trips are being planned for fall and winter. Please check our website for upcoming trips.

A Hike in Mind: Summer at East Glenwood

The coastal fog hugs the hills as you arrive at the East Glenwood Open Space Preserve just off Highway 17 in Scotts Valley. Walk north on Glenwood Drive from the parking area, turn right down the Shugart Park Walkway, cross two bridges, then turn left and head up the hill towards the main entrance.

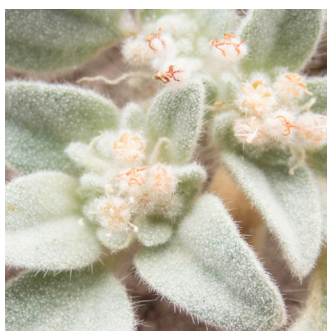


Vinegarweed (*Trichostema lanceolatum*)
Photo: Daniel Antonaccio

A California thrasher greets the foggy morning with his song as you pass through a thicket of willow (*Salix* sp.) and coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*). Just past the cattle gate cows graze near the Ohlone tiger beetle pasture. Teaser alert! To continue this virtual hike, visit our chapter website where Dan takes you for a three-mile armchair botanical stroll. You can hear, smell, and see the beauty of Glenwood on a mid-summer's day.

About Glenwood Preserve

Glenwood Open Space Preserve is a special place for California plant lovers. The 170-acre preserve, located in the city of Scotts Valley, protects a diverse assemblage



Turkey mullein (*Croton setiger*)
Photo: Daniel Antonaccio

of life. Over 200 species of plants make their homes there, including the federally endangered Scotts Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe robusta* var. *hartwegii*) found only in the preserve and adjacent land. Two rare insects are also found at Glenwood: the federally endangered Ohlone tiger beetle (*Cicindela ohlone*), which needs open grassland and bare earth to thrive, and Opler's fairy moth (*Adela opierella*), an obligate feeder on the resident creamcups (*Platystemon californicus*) uncommon in the county.

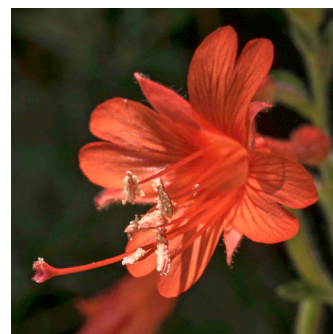
On the east side the hills are of Santa Cruz mudstone, and on the west, Santa Cruz mudstone and the overlying Purisima formation sandstones and siltstones. The preserve hosts a diverse array of ecosystems for such a small area of land, including grasslands, oak woodlands, a seasonally wet meadow, and a few old-growth redwoods. Spring grasslands offer stunning blooms of sky lupine, owl's clover, and California poppies.

Long a cherished place to botanize, Glenwood's path to conservation began with Randy Morgan's 1990 discovery of populations of endangered Scotts Valley spineflower, last seen in 1882. A draft environmental impact report did not include them. Randy presented a plant slideshow at the Scotts Valley City Council meeting, but at the time the federally listed endangered plant was seen as an obstacle to the development of a 276 home subdivision and 18-hole golfcourse on the 271 acres. In 1993, Randy and other CNPS members joined a group of concerned citizens to form the Friends of Glenwood to ensure the land would remain undeveloped. The City of Scotts Valley, with funding from the California Wildlife Conservation Board, protected the land in 2003. The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County partnered with SC Mountains Trail Stewardship on a 7.3-mile trail system. Today, the Land Trust acts as Preserve Manager. Trails opened to the public in 2019. <https://landtrustsantacruz.org/protected-areas/glenwood-open-space-preserve/>

Epilobiums: From Showy Flowers to Gentle Weeds

—Suzanne Schettler

California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*) is a subshrub that produces scarlet flowers in late summer through fall when little else is blooming. Its older name is *Zauschneria californica*.



California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*) at Glenwood Open Space Preserve. Photo: Daniel Antonaccio

It occurs in sizes and colors suited to a variety of garden situations. Many forms grow two to three feet tall and as much as four feet wide. Others are smaller, making them suitable for small spaces and rock gardens. The flower color can range from the typical scarlet to salmon to pink or even to white. The foliage may be green or grey in different selections. It is attractive to hummingbirds and deer-resistant.

'Everett's Choice' is a selection that flowers profusely. It grows 6 to 12 inches tall by 2 to 3 feet wide. 'Marin Pink' grows 1 to 2 feet tall and 3 to 4 feet wide. A white form, 'Summer Snow,' spreads to a foot tall and makes a clean white contrast to salvias and penstemons.

California fuchsia grows best on lean, well-drained soils. While drought tolerant, it occurs in nature mostly near streambanks, and can tolerate occasional watering. Some growers recommend cutting back the plant after it blooms to encourage fresh new growth.

In our area the other *Epilobiums* are herbaceous plants that produce dainty long-tubed pink flowers known as fireweeds because they grow on disturbed ground, especially on mineral soil uncovered by fire. Farther north, a different group of fireweeds produce showy clusters of pink flowers. They act as early succession plants and provide a good supply of nectar for pollinators.

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

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

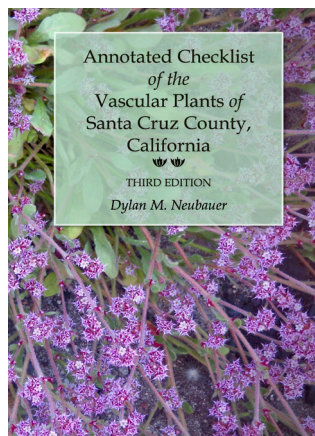
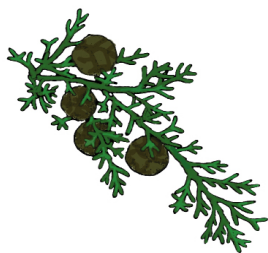
New! R. Morgan Scholarship

The chapter is pleased to announce a new scholarship program in honor of botanist extraordinaire Randall “R” Morgan. Although R has gone on to the wildflower meadow in the sky, the chapter has created a new scholarship to honor his legacy by encouraging exploration of all kinds—observing, exploring, wandering, and research.

The goal is to support independent learning and investigation like R joyfully pursued when young and continued to pursue his entire lifetime. Full information will be available on October 1 on the chapter website, with applications due December 1.

Newsletter Note

Beginning with this fall issue, the chapter newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis. Watch your emails and check the website for the latest updates on news and upcoming events. Check out Suzanne Schettler’s delightful description of local buckwheats on our blog post.



Checklist Update

The third edition of the *Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County* is in preparation, targeted to be published in 2027! Please consider a donation to the chapter for the checklist grant. More details are available on our website (chapters.cnps.org/santacruz).

The chapter would like to express our sincere appreciation

to the generous donors who have contributed to support the preparation of the third edition of this valuable resource. These donations represent a substantial contribution to the progress of this important and extensive compilation and analysis of our local flora. A full list of donors will be presented at the time of the checklist publication.

CNPS Membership Benefits

Benefits included are the *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).

Individual and organizational membership levels are available. Join online at the state website (cnps.org/membership). Select Santa Cruz County Chapter as your affiliated chapter.

Find Us on Facebook

Contribute to our group! Search for “Santa Cruz County Chapter-California Native Plant Society.” Ask questions about natives or post native plant photos from your yard or from your hikes.

Newsletter Preference

When you update your online CNPS 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! You may also contact the state office (membership@cnps.org), or call them at 916-447-2677 to change your preference.

Members who choose the paper newsletter will still receive other chapter announcements (reminders and new events) via email. If members opt out of email communications altogether, they will not receive announcements of new events not included in the newsletter.

California Native Flora Preservation

CNPS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with 35 chapters throughout the state. Chapter donations are tax-deductible and may be earmarked for specific areas. Please make donation checks payable to CNPS. Send to: Santa Cruz County Chapter CNPS, P.O. Box 1622, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.