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THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



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Mount Umunhum - A Botanically Significant Summit: Now Open After 60 Years

Speaker: **Ken Hickman, Local Naturalist and Wildlife Researcher**

Chapter General Meeting:
Monday, November 13, 2017, 7:30 pm
UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building
Keying Club: 5:00 pm

At 3,486 feet, Mount Umunhum is one of the highest peaks of the Santa Cruz Mountains, and also one of the most mysterious. Overlooking the Santa Clara Valley, with views of Monterey Bay, Mount Tamalpais, Mount Diablo, Mount Hamilton, and even the Sierras on a clear day, the summit is the former site of the Almaden Air Force Station, one of forty-four North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) radar posts built in the 1950s to protect the west during the Cold War.



Rocky hillside and NORAD building on Mt Umunhum. Photo by Ken Hickman

But in September 2017, after sixty years and extensive restoration by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) and the US Army Corps of Engineers, this iconic “hummingbird rest,” and its amazing ophiolitic outcrops, scree slopes, and serpentine-influenced plant communities, opened to the public and formally took up the mantle as a must-see destination, and the highest peak on the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

This talk and photo tour will detail the flora and fauna that researcher Ken Hickman and botanist John Rawlings have documented in-person, and with camera traps around Umunhum’s summit, canyons, and new trails, over the last three seasons of restoration.

Ken is a naturalist and wildlife researcher with a specialty in camera trapping, and a CNPSer with a love of botany. He’s been building high-quality camera traps, and assisting and conducting wildlife surveys in California for over seven years, including projects in the the Santa Cruz Mountains, Tehachapis, Carrizo Plain and Mono County, with MROSD, San Mateo County Parks, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the US Forest Service.



Clarkia breweri. Photo by Ken Hickman



Lewisia rediviva. Photo by Ken Hickman



Dudleya cymosa. Photo by Deanna Giuliano

Deanna Giuliano's Native Plant Restoration Work on Mt Umunhum

Our very own Deanna Giuliano was, and still is, intimately involved in the native plant restoration effort on Mt Umunhum. The Acterra Native Plant Nursery was contracted by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) in 2014 to collect and grow the unique native plants (and their seeds) that inhabit the site. The mountaintop is a "sky island," similar to Mt. Hamilton and Mt. Diablo. The combination of high altitude and serpentine soils create a challenging setting in which to restore plants, even native ones adapted to that environment.

The Acterra Native Plant Nursery is now called the Grassroots Ecology Native Plant Nursery, and Deanna has been working for them for the past 14 years. She, along with the Golden Hour Restoration Institute and volunteers, planted approximately 1,500 plants during the second weekend of September. Seeding will take place this fall and winter. As time goes by, MROSD will monitor the plants to make sure they are surviving and reproducing on their own.

Under Deanna's guidance, Grassroots Ecology has been implementing new protocols to minimize the spread of plant pathogens, especially *Phytophthora*, in nursery stock. She has been the president of the Santa Cruz County chapter of the CNPS for about six years and also leads field trips. Deanna received an Associate of Science degree in Horticulture from Cabrillo College and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies/Biology with an emphasis in Plant Ecology from UC Santa Cruz.

If you would like more information about the Mt. Umunhum Vegetation Restoration Plan and a photo guide to rare and unusual plants at the summit, please go to: <http://www.goldenhour.org> and search for the Mt. Umunhum Restoration Packet.



Allium falcifolium. Photo by Deanna Giuliano

Fall Native Plant Sale is a Huge Success - Thank You to All Volunteers



Volunteers and Plants for sale at the Fall Native Plant Sale. Photos by Jackie Pascoe

Our Chapter's Fall Native Plant Sale was a huge success and blessed with warmth, sunshine, customers, volunteers, and plenty of wheelbarrows to help get purchased plants to cars. It was a treat to help customers by answering questions and talking to them about their planting projects. Some came just to pick up a plant or two, and others were ready to embark on ambitious restoration projects on their own property.

We would like to thank the plant propagating team: Mike Luther, Mary Ellen Irons, Marie Beckham, Karen Hildebrand, Jackie Pascoe, Ann Garside, Todd Luchette, Jamie Rackley-Schiff, Kari Olsen, Paul Chesler, and Karen Laing. Special recognition goes to Don Peattie and Lise Peterson for their many years of faithful service not only with the propagating team, but also for help loading the truck. Ann Garside and Linda Brodman also helped with loading.

At the Arboretum, volunteers unloaded plants, organized the plants to be sold, sold plants, signed up new members, gave advice to customers, helped customers get their plants to cars, cleaned up, and in general shared the fun and spirit of the joys of gardening with natives. Many thanks also to the Arboretum folks for sharing their space (and tables and shade shelter) to make it all possible.

Volunteers during the plant sale included: Julia Davenport (Plant Sale Coordinator and Volunteer Wrangler), Fred McPherson, Mary Ellen Irons, Ken Kellman, Debbie Bulger, Janet Schwind, Pat Duffy, Ann Garside, Angel Guerzon, Kris Hauser, Meg Henschel, Karen Hildebrand, Laurie Kiguchi, Karen Laing, Todd Luchette, Mike Luther, Patricia Matachek, Kari Olsen, Jackie Pascoe, Ruthe Smith, Richard Stover, Linda Willis, and Agnes Zalicka.

Save the Dates!

Santa Cruz County Chapter Field Trips

Saturday, November 11, 9:30am to 2:30pm

Hike to Maple Falls in The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park with Deanna Giuliano and enjoy fall colors and creekside flora, and maybe some early mushrooms on this 8-mile round trip hike of about 700 feet elevation gain. Some agility required.

Bring water, layers, sunscreen, hat, and a lunch. Meet at the George's Picnic Area parking lot inside the park. Heavy rain cancels. There is a fee for the park.

Carpooling is encouraged. If you have questions about the trip, contact **Deanna Giuliano at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or 831 278-2699.**



Saturday, December 9, 9:30am to 2:30pm

Hike to Chalk Mountain at 1,609 feet above sea level with Deanna Giuliano and enjoy spectacular panoramic views and amazing redwoods on the way up to a coastal scrub habitat. This 4-mile round trip hike has a strenuous elevation gain of about 1,500 feet.

Bring water, layers, sunscreen, hat, and a lunch. Meet at the Westside New Leaf parking lot. This hike is limited to 15 people. Heavy rain cancels.

Carpooling is encouraged. If you have questions about the trip, contact **Deanna Giuliano at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or 831 278-2699.**



Habitat Restoration Team

Saturday, November 18, 10:00am to 1:00pm

Location TBD: We only have one work day on the calendar for now, but more may be scheduled, so please check our website for details, or contact our **Program Leader, Linda Brodman, at 831-462-4041 or redwdrn@pacbell.net.**

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 groups. 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 are provided, but please bring your own gloves.



Monterey Bay Chapter Field Trips

Monday, December 18, 10:00am

We'll zig-zag through the serene pine forest of Del Monte Forest searching for the beautiful, hallucinogenic and/or deadly Fly Agaric mushrooms (red with white polka dots). The hike is 5 miles with a 750 feet of elevation gain.

Bring water; lunch gives us the option of purchasing a Poppy Hills sandwich.

Call for reservations as space is limited to 8 people. Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777

California Native Plant Society
Santa Cruz County Chapter
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Membership News

Please welcome our newest CNPS members,
Verna Knapp and **Gabrielle Brick**.
We hope you'll join us at the November meeting, or on a field trip or restoration day!

All members who would like to receive an occasional message regarding important or updated Chapter News, including email blasts on last-minute field trips/events, please send a current email address to **Ann Garside** at **aegrdwds@calcentral.com**, and I will update your information. **Please note:** If you did not receive an email message about last month's Fall Native Plant Sale, or a more recent email "blast" announcing the last-minute College Lake field trip, that means I have no current/correct email address on file for you. Thanks!

Have a wonderful Fall Season.
Ann Garside, Membership Coordinator



Join the California Native Plant Society

Your membership includes *Fremontia*, a journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; the *Bulletin*, 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

Newsletter contributions welcomed!

The next deadline is December 18, 2017. Please send any pictures or stories you would like to be considered for the newsletter to Ruthe at ruthejsmith55@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook

Contribute to our group! Search for "Santa Cruz County Chapter - California Native Plant Society"

Opt for email

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