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abramsiana*

# THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



Volume 43, Number 1 [cruzcnps.org](http://cruzcnps.org) January - February 2018

## The Natural History and Uncertain Future of College Lake

Speaker: **Jerry Busch**

Chapter General Meeting:

**Monday, January 8, 2018, 7:30 pm**

UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Keying Club: 5:00 pm

You don't have to venture far into the College Lake basin to discover why it is a premier West Coast wintering area for waterfowl: the wetlands are neck-deep in waterfowl food plants. Local naturalist Jerry Busch, with a team of biotic consultants, has been studying College Lake for the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) since 2013, to compile baseline data about the wetland's



Wetland at College Lake in Watsonville.

use by plants and birds. The studies have revealed surprises in the year-to-year distribution of wetland plants, and raised questions about the potential effects of the PVWMA's proposed irrigation impoundment at the lake basin. Jerry will present some of the team's research and peer into the future of this vital South County resource.

Jerry Busch has been working to protect, restore and appreciate the wetlands of the Pajaro Valley since his student days at UCSC forty years ago, where he studied both biology and rabble-raising. In 1982, Jerry conducted a rodent study in the Watsonville Slough System, hoping to discourage the California Department of Fish and Game from allowing peat mining. The mining permit was duly issued, but Jerry went on to co-found the Watsonville Wetlands Watch and help prevent the City of Watsonville from annexing lands west of Highway One. The Wetlands Watch also established a Santa Cruz tarplant reserve in Watsonville, published an award-winning collection of Jerry's essays about the Watsonville Wetlands (*Watching the Watsonville Wetlands*), and established a Wetlands Educational Resource Center on the campus of Pajaro Valley High School. Now the focus is all on College Lake, a 300-acre wetland/lake basin that, with community support, could become a multi-use destination of regional significance.



*Bidens frondosa* - Devil's Bootjack. Photo by Jerry Busch



Jerry Busch. Photo by Jackie Pascoe

## Recent Donations to the Chapter

**In memory of Denise Polk, who led the chapter's plant propagation sessions for many years.**

*by Suzanne Schettler*

Melinda Kralj gave a gift to CNPS in memory of Denise Polk, accompanied by a note that that was so beautiful it brought tears to my eyes when I read it to the chapter board. Unfortunately, the note subsequently disappeared or it would appear here. Melinda is the Curator of Australian Plants at the Arboretum at UCSC and has participated in the chapter's propagation sessions that provide the plants for our two annual plant sales.

More recently, the chapter received a generous gift from Dean and Margaret Lewis of Newark: a portion of the Required Minimum Distribution from their retirement account. They had discovered a litter of kittens in their yard and found them a home with a couple who rent from them in Aptos and, through them, became acquainted with Denise. Being committed conservationists themselves, the Lewises came to know that Denise, who passed away a few months ago, was a kindred soul.

Four years ago, the chapter gave Denise a Volunteer Recognition Award for all her work. When she retired, the remaining propagators said they didn't realize how much she had done for the chapter until they tried to do it themselves. It took five people to manage all the things she had been doing single-handedly for years. She had a natural grace and a smile that would light up the room.

One of Denise's last wishes was for all of us to "please spend some personal time enjoying nature."

We appreciate these kind donations and will use them to support our chapter's conservation expenses. To me, these gifts illustrate how one person's quiet influence can spread to others for the betterment of our planet.

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## Proposed Slate of Nominations for Board Members and Committees to be approved at the January 8th, 2018 Public Meeting

President .....	Linda Brodman .....	redwdrn@pacbell.net.
Vice President .....	Lucy Ferneyhough .....	lferneyhough@gmail.com
Treasurer .....	Suzanne Schettler .....	greeningassoc@cruzio.com.
Chapter Council Delegate.....	Lucy Ferneyhough .....	lferneyhough@gmail.com
Chapter Council Alt. Delegate .....	Brett Hall.....	brett@ucsc.edu.
Secretary .....	Open.....	
Membership.....	Ann Garside .....	anng@calcentral.com.
Book Sales.....	Ken Kellman .....	kkellman@sbcglobal.net.
Newsletter Editor .....	Ruthe Smith .....	ruthejsmith55@gmail.com.
Conservation Chair.....	Debbie Bulger .....	dfbulger@cruzio.com.
Conservation.....	Stephen McCabe .....	swmccabe@gmail.com.
Conservation.....	Suzanne Schettler .....	greeningassoc@cruzio.com.
Publicity .....	Open.....	
Vegetation/Important Plant Areas (IPA)/		
Rare Plant Comm. ....	Brett Hall.....	brett@ucsc.edu.
Public Programs .....	Linda Brodman .....	redwdrn@pacbell.net.
Habitat Restoration Team.....	Linda Brodman .....	redwdrn@pacbell.net.
UCSC Arboretum Liaison .....	Brett Hall.....	brett@ucsc.edu.
Field Trips/		
Rare Plant Communities .....	Deanna Giuliano .....	drosegiuliano@yahoo.com.
Plant Sale Co-Chair .....	Julia Davenport .....	juliad@cruzio.com.
Plant Sale Co-Chair .....	Linda Willis.....	lvwillis@adventurousmind.com.
Plant Propagation.....	Michael Luther.....	mluther@cruzio.com.
Plant Propagation.....	Karen Hildebrand .....	karenhildebrand@cruzio.com.
Digital Video Outreach .....	Fred McPherson.....	fredwood@cruzio.com.
Bryophytes and Lichens .....	Ken Kellman .....	kkellman@sbcglobal.net.
Member-at-Large .....	Mary-Ellen Irons.....	831 426-8410
Hospitality .....	Karen Laing.....	karenlaing@baymoon.com.
Webmaster.....	Bill Malone.....	billmalone@pacbell.net



Photo by Jackie Pascoe

# Save the Dates!

## Santa Cruz County Chapter Field Trip

### Saturday, January 6, 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](mailto:drosegiuliano@yahoo.com) or 831 278-2699.**



## CNPS Conservation Conference

### Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, February 1-3, Los Angeles

Every 3 years, the CNPS Conservation Conference brings together California's conservation community for the largest gathering of its kind. Scientific sessions cover a broad spectrum of topics, and special events provide time for collaboration, networking, and fun.

Pre-conference workshops provide professional skills training, while field trips allow you to get to know local plants with local experts. Three days of scientific sessions and special events provide a forum for collaboration and appreciation of our beautifully diverse flora. You will have opportunities to connect with like-minded people, while learning about current research and trends, and contributing to future plans for California's native plants and natural habitats.

Whether your career involves natural resources or you just love native plants, the CNPS Conservation Conference will have something for you. For more information and to register, go to <https://conference.cnps.org>.

## Habitat Restoration Team

### Monday, January 1, 10:00am to 1:00pm

Quail Hollow Ranch Santa Cruz County Park

### Saturday, January 6, 10:00am to 1:00pm

Quail Hollow Ranch Santa Cruz County Park

### Saturday, January 13, 10:00am to 1:00pm

Quail Hollow Ranch Santa Cruz County Park

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](mailto:redwdrn@pacbell.net)**

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## Santa Clara County Chapter Field Trip

### Saturday, February 17, 10:00am

Join Don Thomas to see the rare List 1B Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*) in the Crystal Springs Watershed, along the Sawyer Camp Trail. This will be an easy, slow-paced walk of about 5 miles round-trip, starting at the trailhead on Hillcrest and Highway 280, with a stop for lunch.

*Dirca* is one of the first plants to bloom each year, revealing its bright yellow hanging flowers from its bare winter branches. We will also walk to the Jepson Laurel which, at one time, was the largest bay tree in California. This tree has been declining for many years and many large branches have died and broken off. Now that the Jepson Laurel has been dethroned as the largest bay, a bay tree in Mendocino County holds that honor. An additional small bonus trip for those interested will be to a section of the Watershed south of the Edgewood Triangle on Canada Road called Swiss Park. This tiny valley has *Dirca* on its north-facing slope and may connect with the *Dirca* population in Edgewood Park.

The trip is limited to 20 participants. To reserve a spot, get directions or more information, contact **Don Thomas at [don\\_e\\_thomas@yahoo.com](mailto:don_e_thomas@yahoo.com)**. Location: San Francisco Peninsula Watershed (San Mateo County).

California Native Plant Society  
Santa Cruz County Chapter  
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Hiking • Propagation • Keying Club • Conservation • Habitat Restoration • Field Trips • Herbarium Work • Talks

## Membership News

The Santa Cruz County CNPS Chapter sends a warm winter welcome to our newest members: **Jennifer Collins, Ornella Bonamassa, Paul Excoffier, Hannah Wallis, and Susan Selix.**

We hope to see you on **Monday, January 8th** at Jerry Busch's talk about the wetlands in the Pajaro Valley. And keep an eye out for Ken Kellman's upcoming renowned Bryophyte talk!

All members who do not have a current email address on file but would like to receive last minute field trip/event blasts, and other late-breaking announcements, please send updated information to Ann Garside at **aegrdwds@calcentral.com.**

Thanks!



## 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](http://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 February 19, 2018. Please send any pictures or stories you would like to be considered for the newsletter to Ruthe at [ruthejsmith55@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 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.