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THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



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Chapter General Meeting and Keying Club

Natural History Video Documentation in the Study of Local Native Plants
Speaker: Fred McPherson

Monday July 10, 2017; General Meeting: 7:30 pm, Keying Club: 5:00pm
UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Join local videographer **Fred McPherson** as he shares his insightful and entertaining documentary, “**Getting to Know Our Watershed: Fall Creek**”, co-authored by his wife, Roberta McPherson, and funded by an educational grant from the San Lorenzo Valley Water District. Fred will also be sharing Roberta’s mystery short feature presented for the first time anywhere, called “**A Decade of Seasons in the San Lorenzo Valley.**”

Biologist Fred McPherson has been actively working on conservation efforts of the San Lorenzo River and its watershed for over forty years. Throughout this time, he has taught numerous classes at UCSC and in the San Lorenzo Valley about the ecology and natural history of the Santa Cruz Mountains as well as the San Lorenzo River and its watershed. Fred has expanded his passion for teaching about the fascinating worlds of biology, geology, and natural history to making video documentaries in order to share his extensive knowledge with a broader audience. Fred received his PhD in 1976 focusing on the differences between how people perceived and used the upper San Lorenzo River compared with the lower river. He has served as President for the Santa Cruz County Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. As a writer and editor, Roberta McPherson loves weaving together the many fantastic video images Fred shoots to tell an engaging story.

Together, Fred and Roberta have produced numerous videos including the following:

- A Fish Tale for Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park Visitor Center
- The Wonders of Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park
- Introduction to the Merced National Wildlife Refuge
- Eye of the Flycatcher

Their videos have been shown in the Santa Cruz Film Festival, the Henry Cowell Natural History Film Festival, and to the docents at Henry Cowell and Natural Bridges State Parks, at public meetings of the California Native Plant Society, and the Watershed Conference of the Valley Women’s Club.

More of Fred and Roberta’s videos are available at their Santa Cruz Mountains Natural History Youtube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/slvbackyard>.



Fall Creek
Photo courtesy of Jackie Pascoe

Randall Morgan's Life and Legacy

Compiled and excerpted by Jackie Pascoe

Remembering Randy Morgan

The entire naturalist community of Santa Cruz County has been deeply saddened by the recent death of Randall Morgan, legendary naturalist and fierce fighter for our county's most special wild places. This article stitches together some excerpts from, and recollections of, those who knew Randy.

Jackie Pascoe, from 2012 article: A fourth-generation native of Soquel, Randy grew up on a small farm with parents who supported his eccentricities—for example, by stopping for road kills and helping with taxidermy lessons, so he could preserve birds to study them more closely. Taxidermy supported him through a degree in linguistics at UC Santa Cruz. Randy never formally studied natural history, but was entirely self-taught and self-directed. He made enormous contributions to ornithology, entomology, and botany, focusing on Santa Cruz County.

Janell Hillman: “Randy was a sweet and gentle soul. Truly one of a kind and always so encouraging of others and their ideas, a very unassuming man.” From Janell’s essay nominating Randy as a CNPS Fellow: “What I love about Randy is his passionate ability to see everything as if for the first time. His enthusiasm is contagious; his excitement over even the most common of plants and animals, where he will find something different, is really enjoyable to witness. He never assumes that he knows more than anyone else, or that any question is too silly or trivial.”

Chris Lay, Administrative Director of the Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History at UC Santa Cruz: “When I look at plants I’ll be very satisfied if I can just tell you the species name. But Randy—he recognizes the diversity within the construct of what we call a species. He’ll be walking in the grassland and he’ll pull out one individual plant and say, ‘You know what, the hairs on these leaves and the length of the petioles (etc.) don’t quite match up with the way we describe this species.’ He’ll just sit there and ponder: ‘I wonder what’s going on here.’ His specimens are like that. He’ll collect all the oddities—and he’ll FIND them. He’ll find the one specimen that doesn’t look like all the rest. He sees this other dimension that most of us don’t. He’s constantly looking for diversity. And what he’s seen in his lifetime ... is that, okay maybe not many species have gone extinct or been extirpated from these landscapes around here, but the diversity within what we call a species everywhere in the county has diminished significantly.”

“His collection gives us a picture of the entire community of plants and their pollinators over an entire year—in some cases, on four successive years. We have a record of what plants were there, when they bloomed, what pollinators went to which plants, relative abundances of all that. If we find the resources we can construct a relatively complete picture of an entire little ecosystem. Randy was probably going out 4-5 days a week for 11 years, 2-6 hours a day—coming home and pinning out the insects, and writing them in his catalog. It’s staggering how much work he put into it. Plus he kept track of the phenology of the succession of bloom times of all the different plants that were there.”

Randy was also known for his mentorship of many people, one of whom is Dylan Neubauer, author of the *Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County*, second edition, in collaboration with Randy and others. Chris Lay: “Randy helped form Dylan into a botanical force of nature. Every time I see her she knows more than last time I saw her.”



Randy Morgan leading a hike along Ocean Street Extension.

Photo courtesy of Jackie Pascoe

Janell Hillman recollects a story from the days of the **Santa Cruz Flora Project (leading to the first edition of the Checklist in 2005)**: “For years we would meet weekly at Tim Hyland’s house [to work on the check list]. Tim would cook us a wonderful dinner. [One week,] as we finished a dessert of ice cream with almonds and berries on top, Randy sat back, sighed and said, “Isn’t the rose family wonderful?” That endearing comment has always remained with me.” (For those who, like me, are not familiar with the Rosaceae family—it includes almonds and many fruits such as apples, pears, quinces, apricots, plums, cherries, peaches, raspberries, blackberries, loquats, and strawberries!)

From Janell Hillman’s nomination essay: “[Randy] was Chapter President from 1991 through 1993. He has been Rare Plant Coordinator from the Chapter’s inception (mid 1970s). Randy has led numerous field trips, given lectures, testified at public meetings, and developed plant lists and maps for most sensitive areas of the County that have proved indispensable to the local chapter’s conservation efforts. In just one example, his research in the Sandhills of Ben Lomond and Felton was instrumental in conveying to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors the importance of this rare habitat that is found nowhere else in the world...The flora and fauna of the county would surely not have the protection they do and we in Santa Cruz might not have the open space and greenbelt land that we do, if Randy had not dedicated his life to highlighting these sensitive areas and the organisms that inhabit them.”

Laurie Kiguchi: Randy’s findings were key to the ultimate protection (often after protracted CNPS efforts) of the Martin Road sandhills property (threatened by vineyards), Quail Hollow Ranch Park (eyed for mining), Arana Gulch (slated to be car dealerships), Westside Greenbelt, Glenwood (slated for housing), and other areas in the county—in addition to species and habitat protection imposed on developers such as the sand quarries, Polo Ranch, individual landowners, etc. I can attest to this personally after years of consulting in resource management of sensitive plants and habitats, often with Randy’s input. Randy’s fingerprints are probably on virtually every significant habitat protection, preservation, and resource management effort in the county over the past 40 years.”

For more recollections of Randy, his 2012 resumé, and his “Nine Little Known Facts Very Important to Randy”—go to our chapter web site, cruzcnp.org. If you have a recollection to share, please email Jackie Pascoe at countrymoosie@gmail.com.



*Randy with Dylan Neubauer.
Photo courtesy of Jackie Pascoe*



*Randy leading a hike at Lucille’s Court flower field.
Photo courtesy of Jackie Pascoe*

A Sprinkling of Randy Morgan's Major Achievements (in his own words)

Publication of *An Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County* (2005).

Fellow of the California Native Plant Society; founding member and past president of Santa Cruz County chapter.

Research associate, Santa Cruz City Museum of Natural History (SCCMNH) (and employed as taxidermist for SCCMNH ca. 1962-1970).

Discovered many previously unknown or unrecognized plant and insect species, nearly all in California (e.g. Ohlone tiger beetle, Sandhills robberfly, Lockheed manzanita, Scotts Valley polygonum, several rein-orchids, and many clover species). Also re-discovered several species thought to be extinct (Antioch flowerwasp, glabrous popcorn-flower, Scotts Valley spineflower).

Documented the insect fauna of Santa Cruz County with a systematic collection of about 80,000 specimens, 1989-1999 (currently housed at UCSC Museum of Natural History Collections).

Documented the native flora of Santa Cruz County with a collection of 5,000-plus herbarium voucher specimens, along with plant lists for several hundred local sites.

Specialist in *Trifolium* (clover) systematics. Principal world authority on the subject essentially by default.

Active in conservation efforts since at least 1980, including advocacy for local endangered species and ecosystems. Worked for public and scientific recognition for a number of important and highly threatened local centers of endemism (i.e. biological “hotspots”) which had been all but unknown at the time, in particular the Zayante sandhills, Scotts Valley grasslands, and Soda Lake. Instrumental in public acquisition of several parks and preserves including South Ridge, Quail Hollow Park, Westside Greenbelt, Glenwood Grasslands, etc. Education regarding invasive species. Advocacy for observation-based rather than dogma-based ecological practices.



*Top of the world in a UCSC greenhouse - March 2009.
Photo courtesy of Al Keuter*



*Randy examining tiny marvels of a flower field.
Photo courtesy of Jackie Pascoe*

Continuing Randy's Legacy: Santa Cruz Natural History Initiative

Laurie Kiguchi: "A small group of us (including Randy) has been working together to develop an initiative to support Randy's wishes on how his work and vision can be continued into the future. Administrative Director Chris Lay, and Faculty Director Karen Holl have been key players in this effort, coordinating the countless hours of work that students and many [others] have volunteered. Support from the UCSC Greenhouse (Jim Velzy) and Arboretum (Brett Hall and Steve McCabe) have been invaluable as well. In honor to him, R preferred that people donate to this effort."

The outcome is the **Randall Morgan Collections and Santa Cruz Natural History Initiative**. Its aim is to provide ongoing stewardship of Randy's collections, and to provide "opportunities for UCSC students to develop similar observational and taxonomic skills at environmentally sensitive sites in our county." As noted on the initiative web page, "his voucher collection of over 10,000 plants and plant surveys from over 500 locations spanning the last 35 years forms the basis of our understanding of the current botanical diversity within the Santa Cruz Mountains and Central California. Morgan's insect collection includes over 70,000 specimens collected over an 11-year period from 39 sites in Santa Cruz County."

"Randy was truly a special person," Laurie Kiguchi said. "While he would be the first to admit his life was not always how he would want it to be, he was true to himself and was a steadfast and loyal friend. His interests, dedication, and commitment were paramount through his final hours, and live on in his work and all those he has inspired. I hope they will continue to do so for years and generations to come. That will be his gift to us and our gift to him."

To contribute online: Go to the Norris Center web site at <https://norriscenter.ucsc.edu> and click the link in the Randall Morgan section of the home page. You'll find a link to the online donation form, prefilled with the designation "Morgan Insect Collection."

To contribute by check: Make your check out to **UCSC Foundation** and in the memo section add **Randall Morgan Initiative**. Send the check to:

Ken Norris Center for Natural History
UCSC ENVS 1156 High St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95064



*Urban hike along
Ocean Street Extension.
Photo courtesy of Jackie Pascoe*

In recognition of Randy, the CNPS Santa Cruz County Chapter Board has voted to contribute \$1,000 to this initiative. We encourage CNPS members to donate, and match our contribution.

Habitat Restoration Team

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.

Work days in July and August are **Saturdays July 8, July 29, and August 5**. We start at 10:00 am and are done by 1:00 pm. The locations are still to be determined. Please check our website for more details, or contact our **Program Leader, Linda Brodman**, at 831-462-4041 or redwdrn@pacbell.net

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

Welcome New Members

Our Santa Cruz County Chapter would like to send a lovely, summer welcome to all of our newer members:

Patricia Indries	Eva Echenique
Stephen Miller	Lise Groleau
Dean Dubbe	Christian Schwarz
Amy Patten	Sharon McCorkell
Cleopatra Tuday	Kim Borick
Susan Procter	Iris Wallace
Patricia Matejcek	

Please accept apologies for slowed recognition of your membership; the office at CNPS headquarters in Sacramento is revamping its software. Be assured, if you haven't yet been recognized by them, it will come through!

Happy Solstice to All
Ann Garside, Membership Coordinator

Regular Chapter Events

Please check our web site (cruzcnp.org) for upcoming events, restoration work sites, and field trips.

For field trips and activities with the nearby Monterey CNPS chapter, see montereybay.cnp.org, and for Santa Clara CNPS see cnp.org.

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.cnp.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 August 15, 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 aegrtdws@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.