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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

Poet Ina Coolbrith's Love of California Wildflowers

Monday, May 8, 2017
General Meeting: 7:30 pm
Keying Club: 5:00 pm

UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Speaker: Aleta George



The California poppy was still ten years away from being named California's official state flower when poet Ina Coolbrith wrote *Copa de Oro* in 1893. Coolbrith was older than the state when she came to California at age 11, and for the rest of her life never stopped believing in California as muse.

Aleta George, author of an award-winning biography, *Ina Coolbrith: The Bittersweet Song of California's First Poet Laureate*, will speak about Coolbrith and the poet's love of California wildflowers. She will also touch on the relationship between Coolbrith and Josephine Clifford McCrackin, a Santa Cruz treasure.

Signed books will be available for purchase. George writes about nature and culture in California, and has written for Smithsonian, Bay Nature, and the San Francisco Chronicle.

Plant Sale a Success

By Julia Davenport

Despite the last-minute relocation, and a rainy and windy start to the day, the annual spring native plant sale was a success!

Thank you to all the hardworking volunteers who helped to deliver and set up the plants in the morning, answer customers' questions, sell plants and books, and at the end of the day, to take everything down in an orderly fashion.

Ken Kellman did a fantastic job of choosing the books for sale (and keeping them dry), as well as running credit card sales and working the cashier table all day.

Hats off to Mike Luther and the propagation team, without whose hard work none of this would have been possible. Linda Willis did a wonderful job of organizing and displaying the plants and information so that people bought lots of plants; Linda was also available to customers for expert advice throughout the day.

Linda Willis, Ken Kellman, Ann Garside, Suzanne Krivin, Todd Luchette, Karen Laing, and a new volunteer, Jennifer Fisher, worked hard all day.

Additional volunteers included Karen Hildebrand, Jackie Pascoe, Suzanne Schettler, Mary Ellen Irons, Richard Stover, Debbie Bulger, Pat Duffy, and Angel Guerzon. Mike Luther and Meg Henshel drove up from Watsonville to pick up plants left at the end of the day and return them to Suncrest Nurseries.



Cows help restore Arana Gulch native plants

by Debbie Bulger

After three years of adaptive management, there has been some progress on restoration for the coastal prairie and riparian areas located at the Arana Gulch Greenbelt owned by the City of Santa Cruz. As readers may know, a Habitat Management Plan for the property was required by the Coastal Commission when they granted the permit for development of the bikeways through the parkland.

Cattle grazing continued at Arana Gulch from January to June 2016. Scratching posts were installed to encourage the cows to frequent certain areas to create bare spots for the endangered Santa Cruz tarplant (*Holocarpha macradenia*). Grazing has resulted in significant reduction in wild radish (*Raphanus sativa*) from 58% to 13% and filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*) from 20% to 12%.



The short-term goal of the Habitat Management Plan is to reach the 348 Santa Cruz tarplants observed in 2006 at Arana Gulch. In 2016 a total of 25 Santa Cruz tarplants were found as opposed to 0 in 2015 and four plants in 2014. The long-term goal is to expand the distribution of this endangered species to areas of the coastal prairie where it used to grow but hasn't been seen in years.

Seeds will be collected in the future when tarplant populations reach 50 plants. A baseline seed bank study was conducted in 2014-2015 for use in future analyses.

Control of invasive weeds has continued with removal of cotoneaster, Himalayan blackberry, English ivy and thistles. Small trees which were encroaching on the coastal prairie were also removed. Revegetation of the riparian area of Arana Creek included the planting of native willows.

In addition to grazing cattle, the city mowed grassland areas outside the cattle enclosures and improved drainage along the paved bikeway to more nearly mimic the natural hydrology.

For those of you interested in management details, the full 2016 Management Report is posted on the Santa Cruz Chapter's CNPS website at <http://www.cruzcnp.org/>.

Grey Hayes and Suzanne Schettler represent CNPS's interests on the Adaptive Management Working Group which meets twice a year to advise the City on restoration of the greenbelt property. Other participants in the Adaptive Management Working Group include representatives from the Coastal Commission, US Fish & Wildlife, and CA Department of Fish & Wildlife as well as city staff and consulting biologists with input from the Santa Cruz Bird Club, the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, and the Resource Conservation District.



“Getting to Know our Watershed: Fall Creek” video by CNPS members Fred and Roberta McPherson

The “Getting to Know Our Watershed: Fall Creek” video is now posted on the Santa Cruz Mountains Natural History YouTube Channel.

This is a fascinating story about the Fall Creek Watershed that includes interesting plant and animal natural history in the area, details of where water for the San Lorenzo Valley Water District comes from, and how it is treated and distributed for the community of Felton. Fall Creek is a sub-watershed of the San Lorenzo River Watershed, located in the Santa Cruz Mountains of California.

You can see the video here (<https://youtu.be/IPbsDq-uWLk>), or go to the Santa Cruz Mountains Natural History YouTube Channel to find all of Fred and Roberta's videos.



Upcoming Events and Field Trips

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.

Saturday April 29

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

Saturday May 13

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

Contact: Program Leader, Linda Brodman 831-462-4041 or redwdrn@pacbell.net

Welcome New Members

The Santa Cruz Chapter wishes a beautiful springtime welcome to our newest members:

**Patti Jazanoski
Iris Wallace
Eva Echenique
Jessica Vaughan
Carol Zeidman
Genevieve Jordan
Bryce Stauble
Kathleen Goldfein
Peter Brown
Joseph Phan
Dina Saalisi**

Come on out to some of the Chapter's upcoming events or work parties; a more pleasant/educational way to meet like-minded folks is hard to find!

Regular Chapter Events

Please check our web site (cruzcnps.org) for upcoming events and field trips.

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

CNPS goes BIG on May 4 !

On Thursday, May 4, CNPS will participate with over 600 nonprofits on the **BIG Day of Giving!** Starting at the stroke of midnight and continuing for 24 hours, donors are encouraged to give where their heart lives! With your help, CNPS raised \$12k last year. We hope this year you will help us double it with our goal of \$24k!

Every donation to California Native Plant Society on May 4th will make CNPS eligible for additional prizes that can increase the impact of your contribution. A minimum gift of just \$15 can help CNPS win a \$1000 boost! Wow!

Please go to www.bigdayofgiving.org/CNPS to find out more and donate online.



Happy native plant sale customer with *Solanum xanti* "Mountain Pride" and a *Heuchera*.

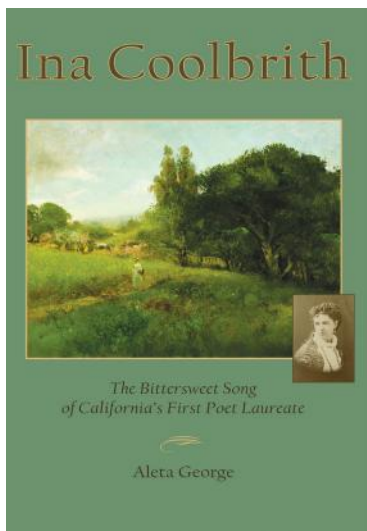
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Hiking • Propagation • Keying Club • Conservation • Habitat Restoration • Field Trips • Herbarium Work • Talks



Remember: You can purchase a copy of ***Ina Coolbrith: The Bittersweet Song of California's First Poet Laureate*** signed by author, Aleta George, at our upcoming general meeting on May 8 at 7:30 pm

Join the California Native Plant Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter Affiliation: _____

To join or renew online, go to cnps.org and click JOIN.

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

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*.



Newsletter contributions welcomed!

Next deadline: June 19, 2017.

Contact Ruthe at ruthejsmith55@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook and contribute to our group! Search for "Santa Cruz County Chapter - California Native Plant Society"

Opt for email: Contact Ann at aegrwds@calcentral.com.

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.