

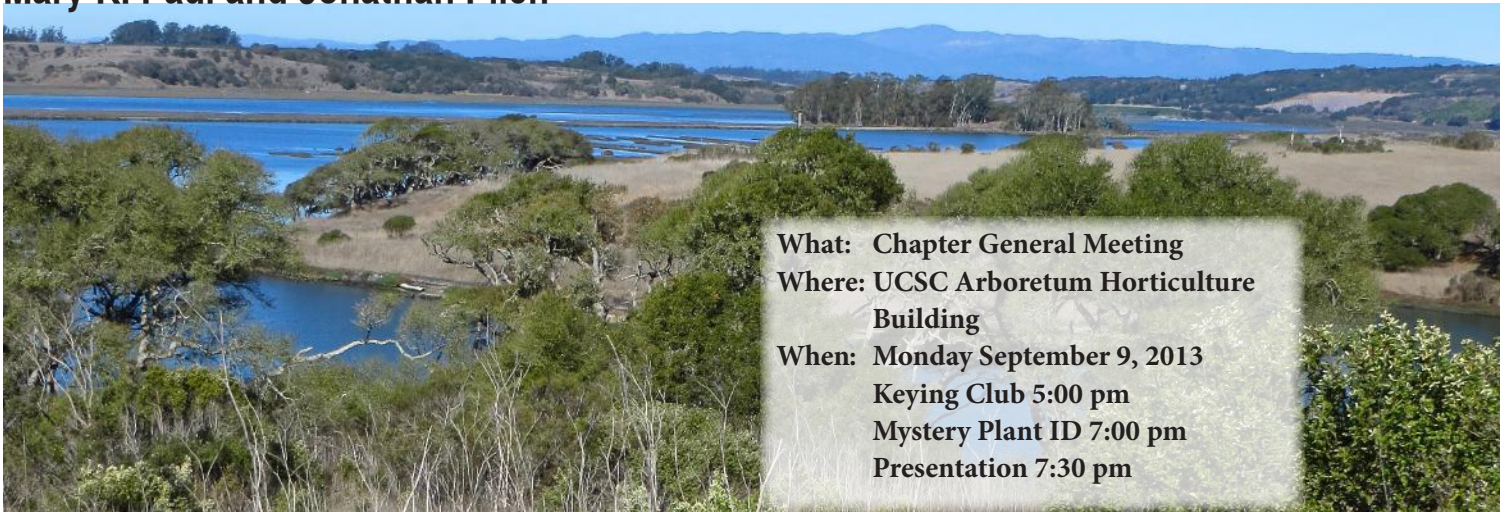


# The Cypress Cone

California Native Plant Society  
Santa Cruz County Chapter



## Native Seed Production and Grassland Restoration for the Watsonville Slough System Mary K. Paul and Jonathan Pilch



**What:** Chapter General Meeting  
**Where:** UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building  
**When:** Monday September 9, 2013  
 Keying Club 5:00 pm  
 Mystery Plant ID 7:00 pm  
 Presentation 7:30 pm

Watsonville Wetlands Watch has been helping to restore the wetlands and adjoining uplands of the Watsonville slough system for the past twenty years. As part of the restoration program, they have established a one and a quarter acre native grassland and wildflower farm for the production of native seed to be used on various restoration sites in the slough system. Mary and Jonathan will talk with us about the

methods and process involved in the establishment, maintenance, harvesting, and processing of the seed from the seed farm, as well as the process and methodology used in the seeding and establishment of native grassland habitat on restoration project sites. Mary Paul works as a Restoration Specialist, and Jonathan Pilch is Watsonville Wetlands Watch's Restoration Director.

## Good News—Proposal to Downlist Santa Cruz Cypress—Hey! That's Our Cone!

Kirstina Barry, Fish and Wildlife Biologist



In 1987, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Santa Cruz cypress (*Hesperocyparis abramsiana*) as an endangered species. At the time, it was threatened with destruction by imminent residential development, agricultural conversion, and logging.

However since listing, much of the land that was proposed for development has been preserved in perpetuity, including the Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve, and expanded sections of

Wilder Ranch State Park and Big Basin Redwoods State Park. In addition, demographic surveys of three of the populations revealed vastly more individuals than previously thought. Because the species is largely on protected land, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to downlist the Santa Cruz cypress from an endangered species to a threatened species.

Santa Cruz cypress is still  
*Continued page 2*



Kirstina Barry

Kirstina Barry

## Cypress—Continued

threatened by the alteration of the natural frequency of fire. For Santa Cruz cypress to regenerate effectively, the species requires large-scale disturbance from fire. Fire promotes Santa Cruz cypress seedling establishment by: (1) Killing adult cypress trees, thus triggering the serotinous cones to open and release seed; (2) increasing light availability by removing the canopy of adult trees; and (3) removing accumulated leaf litter on the soil surface to create an open site for seedling establishment.

Santa Cruz cypress is currently recognized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as an endangered species. If you would like to find out more about the proposed downlisting, or provide comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, please visit the Federal Register online ([www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov)) or contact the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office ([www.fws.gov/ventura](http://www.fws.gov/ventura) or 805-644-1766).

## Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to these new chapter members:

**Austin Robey, Gillian Greensite, Bronwen Stanford, Andrew Wall, Ryan Carle, Julia Fields, and Hannah Nevins**

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events.

## Welcome New Board Members

**Thanks**, Julia and Cindy, for stepping up – we hope you have fun in your new roles! **Jenn Yost**, who held both these board positions for 4 years, is heading south to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo where she will take over as Director of the Hoover Herbarium and teach botany courses. Congratulations, Jenn!

**Julia Fields, Membership Chair** I work at Central Coast Wilds as a seed collector and plant propagator. I studied biology and art at Westmont College in Santa Barbara to pursue my interests in native plants and ecology. I moved to Santa Cruz after completing a community-based restoration and native



plant nursery internship with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy in which I worked with volunteers to protect coastal scrub habitats for special status species. I love learning about the incredible diversity of California native plants while hiking the beautiful hills of Santa Cruz County and beyond. I am very excited to be involved with the chapter.

**Cindy Hudson, Books Chair** As a 35 year resident of the Truckee–Lake Tahoe area, I have spent most of my life enjoying the local back country through hiking, biking, skiing and paddling. Studying the native flora has always been at the heart of my outdoor activities. I began my botanical career working with nurseries in the Tahoe Basin and upon relocating to Santa Cruz in 2005, I managed Far West Nursery until 2011. I am currently the nursery manager at Central Coast Wilds and am very excited to be involved in growing watershed specific native plants for habitat restoration. I am a long time member of the CNPS, both Tahoe and Santa Cruz County chapters, and look forward to my new position on the board!



## Gardening with Native Flora



Brett and Deanna are working on a great lineup of speakers for our second “Getting Started” talk about gardening with native flora. Rick Flores, curator of the native plant garden at the Arboretum, has agreed to participate. Rick has also been working with the Amah Mutsun and the Relearning Garden—native edibles in the garden, anyone?

Gardening with natives is good for pollinators and birds and other wildlife and brings a sense of place into your garden. California such has an amazingly beautiful flora, admired the world over, so let’s make good use of it here. Gardening with what grows right here is so much simpler than gardening with exotics that need special care, and many native plants need little or no water.

Tentative date: October 8th. Look for final details on our web site, [cruzcnp.org](http://cruzcnp.org). Tell a friend or three!

## A Few Lovely Plants for your Garden

Deanna Giuliano

Looking for some hearty habitat-enriching local native plants for your garden? A few great ones come to mind, read on to find out more.

**Shrub: Coffeeberry** *Frangula californica* (was *Rhamnus californica*). This evergreen grows between 6'-8', can take full sun or part shade, is drought tolerant, and flowers February-April. In early spring these flowers are a-buzz with native fauna. It's a rich nectary plant for many of our native bee species. In late summer, the berries, changing from a rich reddish-brown to black and are loved by birds. Year round the leaves are a good backdrop for lower plantings. You can find cultivars to suit your garden needs, like the lower growing 'Mound San Bruno.'

**Perennial: Buckwheat** With its masses of small pom-pom flowers, buckwheats such as our local coast buckwheat, *Eriogonum latifolium* (left), and red coast buckwheat, *Eriogonum latifolium grande rubescens* (below), from the Channel Islands, are stunners in the sunny dry garden. You



might also like the bright yellow *Eriogonum umbellatum* 'Shasta Sulfur'. Later bloomers, our native buckwheats are amazing to watch on a warm summer day. The small, delicate flowers attract many species of native bees. They're also a larval host for many butterflies, and seeds are eaten by many birds and small mammals.



**Buckwheat Companions** Buckwheats look great with the-drought tolerant sun-lovers they grow with in the wild. Inland, you'll see buckwheats growing with coyote mints (*Monardella* spp.) and *Penstemon* spp. Along the coast here, you'll see them with plants like yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), lizard tail, (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*), coastal sagewort, (*Artemisia pycnocephala*), bush lupine, (*Lupinus arboreus*), seaside daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*) and coast dudleya, (*Dudleya caespitosa*) (above left). Enjoy putting your garden together—and enjoying the wildlife these plants will attract.



## Fall Plant Sale October 12!



It's almost the perfect time for planting, when the soil is moist and California comes alive! In the Eucalyptus Grove at the Arboretum, you'll find two great sales—ours, and the Arboretum's. Starts at 10 am for members—Save the date!

**Volunteers** are always more than welcome to help on sale day. Contact **Karen Hildebrand** at [karenhildebrand@cruzio.com](mailto:karenhildebrand@cruzio.com).

## CNPS at the Museum of Natural History

CNPS was invited to join other groups at "Families in Nature" day, August 10.

Karen Hildebrand (right, back to camera) talked with the grown-ups about the California Native Plant Society, while children pounded *Clarkia rubicunda* plants to harvest seeds, with Jackie Pascoe (below) There was lots of interest in native plants—among young and not-so-young.



**PG&E Volunteers Clear Pilkington Creek** On August 15, a crew of 30 or so folk from an environmental workgroup within PG&E spent the day clearing weeds from the creek that runs beside the Museum of Natural History. Nancy Lenz, who heads up a neighborhood group committed to restoring the creek, supervised. Leslie Keedy, city forester also lent a hand.

## Cuttings “Master Class”



*Karen Hildebrand and Abbie Blair listen to Leonel Morales*

**Leonel Morales** is head of vegetative propagation at Suncrest Nurseries, which hosts our propagation group. He gave the propagation group a real masterclass on taking cuttings at the July session.



*Clockwise from top left: heel, tip, second, and two hammer cuttings*

We gained a new appreciation for hygiene, for example, the importance of spraying tools with alcohol to prevent cross-infection; and attention to detail, such as using scissors to cut off lower leaves instead of stripping them with fingers. We also learned how Suncrest staff takes care of our cuttings between our sessions.

Jackie Pascoe has made a start on a propagation handbook for the group. Look for the first installment on the web site sometime in September. BIG thanks to Leonel for giving us his Sunday morning!

## Upcoming Events and Field Trips

### Regular Chapter Events

**Keying Club** Before the general meeting, 5-7 pm. Learn plant keying skills. No experience needed. Led by Deanna Giuliano.

**Mystery Plant ID** Before each general meeting, 7-7:30 pm. Bring your “Mystery Plants” for the keying group to ID.

**Native Plant Propagation** Meets at a nursery on the third Sunday of the month to grow (and learn to grow) native plants. Contact **Mike Luther** at 688-3897.

**Habitat Restoration** Restoring native habitat in the parks and

protected lands in Santa Cruz County, one (pulled) weed at a time! See [cruzcnps.org](http://cruzcnps.org) for more about this group, and some cool pics. Contact **Linda Brodman** at 831.462.4041, or [redwdrn@pacbell.net](mailto:redwdrn@pacbell.net). One event, **September 14, 2013 from 10 am to 1 pm** scheduled at this time, Location TBD at time of printing—check [cruzcnps.org](http://cruzcnps.org) for updates.

**Volunteer at the Herbarium** Join Chris Lay, Randy Morgan, and Al Keuter in the UCSC Herbarium at the UCSC Natural History Museum on **Thursday mornings from 9:30 am till noon**. We are processing new collections, mounting, annotating, and accessioning Santa Cruz County plant collections. No experience is necessary. Help preserve collections for future scientific research and learn about our flora in the process. A carpool is set up. RSVP to **Al Keuter** at [akeuter@gmail.com](mailto:akeuter@gmail.com)

### Randy Morgan Field Trips



*Randy Morgan enjoying the Ocean Street Extension Walk*

Urban nature walks are great for summer when wildlands are resting. You’ll learn more than you ever thought possible, wandering some interesting neighborhoods with legendary local naturalist Randall Morgan, accompanied by renowned weed warrior Ken Moore. All aspects of natural history are covered—and more! Trips tend to last two or three hours.

These trips are free, but donations are very welcome and help support Randy to do this work. You can make a cash donation or a check made out to Randall Morgan on the trip. For details on sponsoring or making a tax-deductible donation, see the chapter web site, [cruzcnps.org](http://cruzcnps.org).

For information, contact **Randall Morgan** at [otbmorgan@gmail.com](mailto:otbmorgan@gmail.com) or **Ken Moore** at [ken@wildwork.org](mailto:ken@wildwork.org).

**Saturday, Sept. 21, Ocean Street Extension, 10 am.** A leisurely one mile stroll, this popular walk takes you along a bucolic agricultural and residential area close to downtown (see pho-

to). You'll also see natives on the road banks towards the end, where the San Lorenzo River debouches from the redwoods. Park along road shoulder adjacent to the Santa Cruz Memorial Park cemetery.

**Sunday, October 20, Morrissey Neighborhood, 10 am.** Ken's 'Hood. Yard-watching like you've never experienced before, in the west-of-Morrissey neighborhood. Check out the hundreds of things that people have done with their own little plots of coastal prairie. This area was once part of the great midcounty coastal plain, virtually treeless not so long ago. Now not a trace is left of the original vegetation, but it's still interesting in a completely different way and, ironically, is far higher in overall diversity than ever before. Promise at least a few cool surprises, maybe some fall color too. Lots to talk about in any case. Meet at 315 Poplar Ave, (Branciforte Middle School).

### Central California Invasive Weeds Symposium, Nov. 7

Save the date! The 15th annual Central California Invasive Weed Symposium will be at Paicines Ranch, Paicines, California. The theme is "**Connections: Weeding with Cooperative Management**" and the keynote speaker is our very own **Ken Moore**, Wildlands Restoration Team founder. In addition to powerful talks there will be field trips to choose from.

Registration is \$50, \$25 for students, plus volunteer-to-pay options. Contact **Linda Brodman at 831.462.4041**, or **redwdrn@pacbell.net**. For event details see:

<http://ag.co.monterey.ca.us/pages/invasive-weeds-symposium>

### Sierra Foothills Chapter Symposium Sept 14

The Sierra Foothills chapter of CNPS is hosting a symposium focused on growing native plants in the home landscape in the Mother Lode community of Sonora. The keynote speaker will be seed producer and author Judith Larner Lowry. Other speakers include Julie Serences, an expert on pollinators, Mary Anderson, retired nursery owner and consultant, and author Helen Popper.

You can find an informative brochure here: <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/pdf/symposium-sierrafoothills-2013.pdf>

September 14, 9 am -3:30 pm, Mother Lode Fairgrounds, Sonora, CA 95370. Contact: **Patricia Hohne 209.352.4312 or phohne@gmail.com**

## Monterey Chapter and Monterey County Events

For full details on all events relayed here via Monterey Chapter listings, go to **montereybay.cnps.org**.

### Serpentine: Ecology and Evolution on a Strange Soil

This talk will take place Saturday, October 19 at 3 pm at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, admission \$5.

Serpentine soils have long fascinated biologists for the specialized floras they support and the challenges they pose to plant survival and growth. This talk by Dr. Susan Harrison (Professor at U.C. Davis) will focus on how serpentine soils offer a window to understanding the evolution and ecology of stressful environments. Find out about new ecological research and discover fresh insights into the plant species and communities that have evolved in serpentine habitats.

### Chuck Haugen Conservation Fund Picnic

Chuck Haugen Conservation Fund (CHCF) started in 2004 two years after Chuck died "on the job" volunteering at the Fort Ord National Monument due to allergic reactions to yellow jacket stings. Chuck inspired those around him while volunteering for several local conservation organizations. CHCF throws out the red carpet once a year and brings together volunteers and staff who work for the conservation of our local ecosystems. Please join us for this year's picnic at Toro Park, Sunday, September 15, 10am to 2pm, at the Buckeye Picnic Area, 501 Monterey-Salinas Hwy, Salinas. We will provide two main dishes including one vegetarian option, plates and utensils. Please bring a side dish. Please **RSVP at picnic@chuck-haugen.org or call (831)275-0395**

### Restoration Events

For information on Monterey restoration events, contact **Bruce Delgado at 277-7690 or bdelgdo62@gmail.com**.

- Saturday, September 7, 1 pm to 4 pm, Broom Bash, East Side of Point Lobos State Reserve.
- Sunday, October 20, 11 am to 2 pm, Soberanes Creek Cape Ivy Bash.

### Field Trips

- Sunday, October 13, 10 am to noon, Mission Trail Nature Preserve Saunter. Contact the leader, **Joyce Stevens, at 624-3149**.
- Wednesday, October 23, 9:30 am, Maple Falls, Forest of Nisene Marks (8 mile hike). Contact **Lynn at 375-7777**.

We welcome newsletter contributions! Deadlines are: October 21 December 16.

CNPS is a 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. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking, and gardening. Your membership includes Fremontia, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; the Bulletin, a statewide report of activities and schedules; and the Cypress Cone.



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**Santa Cruz County Chapter**  
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Mail this form or join online at [cnps.org](http://cnps.org)

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- Student/Limited Income \$25
- Individual \$45
- Family or Library \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$300
- Benefactor \$600
- Mariposa Lily \$1500

Your contribution is tax deductible, minus \$12 for the quarterly journal, Fremontia. Make your check payable to CNPS and send to:  
Membership Chair, CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,  
Sacramento, CA 95816



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