



The Cypress Cone

The newsletter of the California Native Plant Society
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER

Volume 37, No 3

www.cruzcnps.org

May - June 2012

General Membership Meeting

Plants and Plant Communities of the San Mateo Coast Toni Corelli

May 14, 2012

Speaker 7:30 pm

UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Plant Keying Session 5:00 pm

Mystery Plant ID 7:00 pm

The San Mateo coast runs along the Pacific Ocean for over sixty miles, with acres of public land and over twenty-five parks and state beaches. Until now, much of the flora has not been documented. But for the past four years, botanist Toni Corelli, along with other volunteers, has surveyed these public lands and identified over 700 plant species.

Toni's presentation will highlight the plants and plant communities "west of Highway 1" and also show how volunteers in collaboration with State Parks are helping to restore native habitat on the San Mateo coast. Join us, and learn about the diverse plants and plant communities that occupy this slender stretch of land along the Pacific Ocean.

Toni Corelli is a botanist, author, and longtime member of the California Native Plant Society, and has lived and botanized the local flora of San Mateo County for over twenty-five years. To see her photographs, visit:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/tcorelli/>

The Santa Cruz CNPS Keying Club

We will be having another keying club session starting two hours before our general meeting to key native plants. Bring any unknown plants that have been bothering you or we will provide plants. Any plants of interest are welcomed. This is a great way to learn the flora and an exciting opportunity to start learning the 2nd edition of *The Jepson Manual*.

From 7-7:30 will be an open for mystery plants to be brought in and identified to the best of our ability.

No experience is necessary. If you have a hand lens, microscope, *Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains*, or a *Jepson Manual*, please bring them with you. Bring a friend too! RSVP is not necessary but recommended for us to plan accordingly. Contact: Deanna Giuliano 831-335-4902 or drosegiuliano@yahoo.com

Vince Steps Down; Conservation Chair Now Open

Vince Cheap has retired from his duties as Chair of the Conservation Committee. He led our legal efforts to protect native plants and habitats for more than 10 years. He has tracked down nearly-hidden announcements of development projects, attended meetings, read legal documents, written letters, and contacted public officials, all in an effort to defend the tax that cannot speak for themselves.

Many of our conservation actions do not show up in these pages, because it could impair the negotiations in progress or place pending litigation in jeopardy. Even when a situation seems settled, it can be difficult to know when the outcome can be disclosed, without consulting with attorneys - whose time could be spent on the next conservation project.

Vince's efforts have directly led to significant wins for native plants and the environment. The Board and other members who know his work are tremendously appreciative of and grateful for him.

It now is time for another volunteer to join Steve, Peggy, and Debbie on the Conservation Committee. Please talk with one of them to see how you can help.



Ribes at the Plant Sale

Spring Plant Sale Fun

It was a beautiful day for the plant sale, and volunteers arrived early to unload the truck under the shade of the Eucalyptus trees. Other enthusiastic volunteers had loaded it up the night before, at Suncrest Nurseries in Watsonville, whom we thank for supporting our efforts. Suncrest gives our propagation group space to grow plants, and takes care of them between propagation group visits. We thank Karen Hildebrand and Linda Willis for heading up the plant sale effort. Thanks also to Mike Luther and Denise Polk for heading the propagation group that provides most of the plants. Thanks go also to the Arboretum for providing the space and logistical support - and of course - big thanks to all the plant sale and propagation group volunteers without whom we could not put on the event

It's such fun to unload the truck – treasure after treasure emerges from its depths. It's educational too. Sorting the bounty into different species and varieties, and then finding the right labels for each one, is like a game of Concentration! It's satisfying to see how year over year, one knows a little more, recognizes a few more plants than before. We were also very happy to welcome new volunteers this year, who helped out greatly and had an enjoyable time.

We were ready before 10 am. That's when Steve McCabe, having explained to the folks behind the rope line how to shop at the sales, lifts the rope - and the rush is on. Because these folk know what great plants and bargains are to be had at both sales.

For two hours we were totally busy with the early rush of members-only shopping, and the ranks of plants we had so carefully laid out were thinning by the minute. Sales were steady after that – we don't have figures yet. But the non-monetary payoff was tremendous. To get together with other native plant lovers and gardeners just getting started, and chat about what plants to put in different garden situations, is a pleasure that non-gardeners can only wonder about!



The calm before the sale

May – June Field Trips

The Natural History Field Trip series continues! Come with legendary local naturalist Randall Morgan assisted by renowned weed warrior Ken Moore to selected hot spots in the Santa Cruz area and learn about some of nature's little known wonders. These walks will cover all aspects of natural history including botany, birds, bugs, biogeography, general ecology, conservation, habitat restoration, ethnobotany, wild foods, the native/non-native issue, natural succession, land management/restoration/enhancement (plus common mistakes and misconceptions), gardening ideas, how to "read" landscapes, and more!

This series of field trips is being provided to you at no cost. However, your donations are needed to continue offering this incomparable opportunity. This series may be expanded and extended if sufficient support is obtained.

For more about Randall Morgan: <http://scicom.ucsc.edu/publications/essays-profiles-pages/profile-rozendal.html>

If there are special places you'd like to share, or you'd enjoy encourage others to explore our region, please consider joining the Field Trips committee.

Sat May 5 (Fri May 4 - Sun May 6 optional) Santa Lucia backcountry flora Dave Nelson and Boon Hughey RSVP required

The Wagon Caves/Indians area in south Monterey County has a diverse flora as well as striking scenery with rock formations and extensive oak savannah. Frequent denizens Boon Hughey, Dave Nelson, and friends, with experience totaling many decades of Ventana backcountry botanizing, will lead a trip there May 5 (optional May 4 eve – May 6). We'll meet at 10AM Saturday at the Santa Lucia trailhead for a potentially-strenuous several



And they're off! Let the sale begin

May – June Field Trips

(continued)

hour, moderate elevation gain, sometimes off-trail day hike of 3 – 5 miles where we may well see the seldom-seen Arroyo Seco Bush mallow, *Allium lacunosum var. lacunosum*, *Isoetes nuttallii*, and narrow endemic *Eriogonum butterworthinaum*. Those wishing for more, can car camp at the Memorial Park campground Saturday night for another hike Sunday on the Wagon Cave plains. Ticks, snakes, poison oak and other characters may make appearances.

Contact nelsoid@gmail.com to RSVP and get details. Lots of info here too <http://www.ventanawild.org>

Sat May 12, 11am-1:30 (2pm)

Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve with Val Haley RSVP required

Come see plant succession in action, three years after the Martin Fire. There is abundant regrowth and a diversity of fire followers. The walks will highlight unique Santa Cruz Sandhills geology, rare plants, plant communities, and fire ecology. Both walks will be led by botanist and sandhills specialist, Val Haley.

It will be a moderate hike about 2.5 miles, so wear hiking shoes, sun protection, and bring food and water. We will meet at the Reserve Parking lot next to the old firehouse on Martin Road. The main cross streets are Ice Cream Grade to the north and Bonny Doon Rd to the south. The walks are limited to 15 people per walk, so reserve your spot, and pick a date. Please RSVP to Val by phone or email if you would like to attend 425-1587 or vegnet@cruzio.com.

Saturday May 19 11:00 - 3:00

Zayante Sandhills with Randy Morgan

This is one of the better but seldom visited tracts of sandhills parkland and sand chaparral. Many of the sandhills annuals should be near the peak of their flowering season. If we are lucky, we may find some interesting insects as well. We will also see and discuss early successional recovery following phased removal of nearly 30 acres of acacia. The trip will be climaxed with an easy climb to a hilltop with a great view which includes many other important sandhills sites. Meet at 11:00 at the Zayante Fire Station on East Zayante Rd, right across from the Trout Farm Inn. Limit 15 people. Spaces will be reserved in the order received. RSVP to Ken Moore, kenmm23@gmail.com. You will receive an email notification of your status. Please check to make sure you are free of any weed seeds before coming.

Sunday May 20 1:00 - 3:00

Lucille's Court with Randy Morgan

A special wildflower connoisseurs trip to the best wildflower meadow left in our county. A very rich but also very fragile place, with high diversity and density of

annual wild flowers, some extremely rare. This one is for serious botanists. Meet at 1:00 in the parking lot by Johnnie's Market in Boulder Creek. Limit 15 people. Spaces will be reserved in the order received. RSVP to Ken Moore, kenmm23@gmail.com. You will receive an email notification of your status. Please check to make sure you are free of any weed seeds before coming.

Sat May 26, 11am-1:30 (2pm)

Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve with Val Haley RSVP required

Come see plant succession in action, three years after the Martin Fire. There is abundant regrowth and a diversity of fire followers. The walks will highlight unique Santa Cruz Sandhills geology, rare plants, plant communities, and fire ecology. Both walks will be led by botanist and sandhills specialist, Val Haley.

It will be a moderate hike about 2.5 miles, so wear hiking shoes, sun protection, and bring food and water. We will meet at the Reserve Parking lot next to the old firehouse on Martin Road. The main cross streets are Ice Cream Grade to the north and Bonny Doon Rd to the south. The walks are limited to 15 people per walk, so reserve your spot, and pick a date. Please RSVP to Val by phone or email if you would like to attend 425-1587 or vegnet@cruzio.com.

Saturday May 26 12:00 - 2:00

Loma Prieta Ridge with Randy Morgan

We will see a type of chaparral with much higher shrub and herb diversity than occurs in chaparral growing at lower elevations, as well as some birds which are not found at lower elevations. This should be the peak session for both songbirds and flowering shrubs. Meet at 12:00 at the summit of Old San Jose Rd, at the intersection with Hwy 35. Limit 20 people. Spaces will be reserved in the order received. RSVP to Ken Moore, kenmm23@gmail.com. You will receive an email notification of your status. Please check to make sure you are free of any weed seeds before coming.

Saturday June 2 10:00 - 1:00

Laguna Creek with Randy Morgan

This creek mouth and beach has a lot to recommend it. A massive 5,000 year old shell pit, a flowery bluff where we might see a possibly extinct form of clarkia, nesting snowy plovers, and more. Meet at the parking lot on the inland side of Hwy 1, on the corner of Hwy 1 and Laguna road/ Coast rd. Limit 15 people. Spaces will be reserved in the order received. RSVP to Ken Moore, kenmm23@gmail.com. You will receive an email notification of your status. Please check to make sure you are free of any weed seeds before coming.

May – June Field Trips (continued)

Saturday June 9 1:00 - 4:00

Little Basin with Randy Morgan

Come help us explore this recently acquired addition to Big Basin State Park. We will see mountain meadows, rich grasslands and a spring fed marsh which is the headwaters for Scott Creek. Some steep terrain. Meet at the Sempervirens Fund Outdoor School site on the corner of Hwy. 236 and Little Basin Rd. Limit 15 people. Spaces will be reserved in the order received. RSVP to Ken Moore, kenmm23@gmail.com. You will receive an email notification of your status. Please check to make sure you are free of any weed seeds before coming.

Saturday June 16 10:00 - 1:00

Mountain Charlie Road with Randy Morgan

Check out a rare example of habitat restoration. An owner's ingenuity and perseverance have restored a long abused and weedy tract of woodland back to a rich and diverse native understory – all by weed control alone – no planting. Meet at 25150 Mountain Charlie Road, which is 1.7 miles from Glenwood Drive. Limit 15 people. Spaces will be reserved in the order received. RSVP to Ken Moore, kenmm23@gmail.com. You will receive an email notification of your status. Please check to make sure you are free of any weed seeds before coming.

(Belated) Introductions for the Publicity New Co-Chairs

Two Chapter members who bring a broad range of background - as well as great enthusiasm - are stepping up to share the publicity chair. They've been on the (volunteer) job since the beginning of the year.

Abbie Blair graduated in ornamental horticulture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and spent 25 years working in production horticulture. During ten of those years she had her own nursery. As a native Californian, she fights the invasives in her garden under the redwoods on Mt. Madonna. Abbie has been part of the propagation team for years, and she has also helped with publicity in the past.

Jackie Pascoe, who was born in Scotland and spent most of her growing up years there, joined our propagation team several years ago. She is very happy to be retiring from the hi-tech world at the end of May, and she brings many skills in writing and media production. Jackie gardens on three acres at the top of a ridge in the Santa Cruz mountains where she grows many of her own native plants from seeds and cuttings.

Conservation Conference Report

Dylan Neubauer received one of the partial grants our chapter offered to this year's Conservation Conference. She wrote this a few months ago, but there wasn't room to include it in the last newsletter. Now, here it is.

I was lucky enough to attend the January CNPS Conservation Conference in San Diego, and I have to say that even a month later, my head is still spinning! Approximately 800 native-plant-lovers were there, and the crowd included horticulturists, professional botanists, professors, graduate students, taxonomists, restorationists, Native Americans, and interested amateurs.

One of the highlights for me was the publication party for the new, and long-awaited, second edition of *The Jepson Manual*, published by the University of California Press. (You can purchase it online at <http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520253124>). *The Jepson Manual*, for those of you who don't know, is the bible for California botanists, as it contains keys and descriptions for the vascular flora of the state. The editors of the volume and many of the authors of the treatments were on hand for book-signing, and so many of us plant junkies ran around the room trying to gather as many signatures as we could.

For about a year, I have been working on updating the nomenclature for the 2005 *Santa Cruz County Checklist of Vascular Plants* for our Chapter, using the online draft version of the new Manual, but it's great to actually have the book in hand—and a heavy book it is (6 or 7 pounds)! Luckily it is not too much thicker than the first edition, so it will still fit in the same book cover. Still, I'm not looking forward to carrying the beast out in the field. For all of you with eReaders, you might want to look into the eBook version of the Manual when it comes out.

Since the first Jepson Manual was published in 1993, much progress has been made in the understanding of evolutionary relationships and classification of plants. These developments are reflected in the many modifications and additions to the book. Hearing about the numerous changes to the scientific names of families, genera, and species (including subspecies and varieties) elicited many groans of horror from the crowd. These nomenclatural revisions include some of our most beloved, common local plants. For example California coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*) is now known as *Frangula californica*. Wax myrtle (*Myrica californica*) is now *Morella californica*. Deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*) is now *Acmispon glaber var. glaber*, and—for a real mouthful—California aster (formerly the pleasant-sounding *Aster chilensis*) is now *Symphotrichum chilense*!

One-hundred and fifty species, subspecies, and varieties have been described since 1993. Many of these new species have been hiding in herbaria, unnoticed, for decades. Now research on these species has been able to proceed apace with the placement of various collections of plant specimens online, making them easily accessible. Other changes in the Manual include how the plant families are grouped. Some of the divisions remain the same: Ferns, Gymnosperms, and Monocots. However, you will no longer find Dicots in the Manual—these are now called Eudicots. The other new groups are Lycophytes, Nymphaeales, Magnoliids, and Ceratophyllales. In order to help you understand the current understanding of these evolutionary relationships between and within groups, a fascinating new addition to the Manual is a visual representation of them (cladogram) placed at the back of the book for easy reference. All in all, this is heady stuff, but it sounds as if these changes in what we thought we knew are only the beginning, as our tools to delve into the genetic makeup of plants keep improving.

For more information on the Jepson Flora Project, see http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepson_flora_project.html. Here you will find the online version of the Manual—the Jepson eFlora, which will be updated yearly, reflecting new developments and eliminating any errors in the printed version. Full keys and descriptions are also available, so you can use this version out in the field on your iPhone or iPad. The online version contains more information than the “hard copy,” including expanded Notes, information on taxa considered to be waifs (non-native plants that don’t persist in the wild), and agricultural weeds. It also has links to the Consortium for California Herbaria (<http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/>), which is the “gateway to information from California vascular plant specimens that are housed in herbaria throughout the state.” This is just a fraction of what useful information you can access through this site. . . . you might want to check it out sometime!

During the conference, it was sometimes difficult to select from the 4–5 simultaneous 15-minute, back-to-back talks that went on for three days. However, since I am most interested in local floras and rare plants, I tried to focus on talks that covered those topics. I learned about new plant ID software such as the interactive key for California, where you can key a plant using any available characteristics instead of the ones specified in the more traditional dichotomous keys (like those in The Jepson Manual). This is available at <http://flora-id-northwest.com/> and will soon be updated to the latest nomenclature.

All in all it was a fantastic experience, and I’m so grateful to the Chapter for providing me with funds to help me attend. — Dylan Neubauer

Time to Vote! – Reusable Shopping Bag Programs Raise Funds For CNPS

One local market can give a donation to CNPS when you bring your own shopping bag. Other stores once did, and can again, with your votes.

First we’d like to thank Staff of Life for selecting CNPS as an option in their reusable shopping bag program. As you check out, you are given a token for each reused bag. You can deposit each token to direct a small donation to be given to various nonprofit organizations, including CNPS.

In the past, we were able to extend similar thanks to some New Leaf Community Markets locations, due to the substantial donation we once received from this program. However, last May CNPS did not get enough votes to be included in the Envirotoken program of any of their stores. We’d like to fix that this year, and we can with your help. New Leaf decides which non-profits to include based on an election by the public. That election is now done online instead of at the stores. We need you to login and vote for us. Just go to newleaf.com during the month of May. There should be a big box that says Vote Now. Click it and follow directions. The voting is constrained to one vote per computer. So if there is more than one person in your household that would like to vote, each vote needs to be done from a different computer.

If you have any questions please call Peggy at 336-9283. We appreciate your support.

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 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.

Linda Brodman 831.462.4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net

As always you can also check out ww.cruzcnps.org

April 28, 2012 10 am to 1 pm
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

May 5, 2012 10 am to 1 pm
Sand Hill Bluff
Coast Dairies State Park

Join the California Native Plant Society!

New members receive a free bag or backpack.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter (County) Affiliation: _____

Please make your check payable to CNPS and send to: Membership Chair, CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816

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

All dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible.

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CNPS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of California native flora. CNPS has 31 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*.



California Native Plant Society Santa Cruz County Chapter

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