



# The Cypress Cone

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

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[www.cruzcnps.org](http://www.cruzcnps.org)

January- February 2006

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As a new year is beginning for our chapter, there are some changes in the works. After serving on the board the last two years as Vice-President and President, I am stepping down and leaving room for another volunteer to step up and lead our chapter.

We are encouraged to report that a local SLV member, Peggy Waters, has stepped forward to fill the vacant Poster Sales position. In other exciting news our Chapters' Flora Committee, led by Rare Plant Chair Randall Morgan, has completed the substantial seven year work of publishing *An Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County, California*. This is the most comprehensive catalog of our County's diverse and highly endemic flora yet released. The checklist contains a wealth of information, including a floristic region map of the county and distribution codes for each species. The checklists are available at numerous local bookstores, online at our website and at our meetings for the modest price of \$10.

I want to warmly and wholeheartedly thank Noelle Antolin for so generously giving her time and energy to produce beautiful newsletters for our chapter for the last few years. Noelle is stepping down from this position to pursue other important paths, and we are sorry to see her go. In addition long-time Conservation Co-chair and past President Kim Hayes has also stepped down from her position on the board. Tim Hyland has also stepped down as our Membership Chair, but he is replaced by Ann Hayes.

Not surprisingly, during the coming year our chapter will need to fill several key positions on the board, including Newsletter Editor, Conservation Co-Chair, Vice-President, and President among others. These responsibilities will be temporarily split between other board members in order to keep the chapter functioning. I want to strongly encourage new member participation within our chapter. We have an urgent need for local members to step forward to help  
*(continued on page 2)*

## California Native Plant Society Santa Cruz County Chapter General Meeting

Monday, January 9, 7:30 pm  
Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, 1305 E. Cliff Drive

Geoffrey Coffey  
The Rare Native Plants of Bonny Doon

Few explorers would expect to find a beach hidden in the middle of a redwood grove. Yet such incongruities lurk in the mountains above Santa Cruz, where ancient seabeds upthrust millions of years ago by tectonic turmoil gave rise to stark hills of sand now tucked among lush evergreen forests more than five miles from the sea. Fossilized sand dollars and shark teeth in the ground testify to the marine origin of these Santa Cruz sandhills, whose so-called Zayante soils support a rare and unusual community of native plants found no place else on Earth.

The Bonny Doon Ecological Preserve is the largest and most accessible of these unique habitats, with 550 acres and a network of trails open to the public during daylight hours. Walking these paths of heavy sand, one expects to hear the roar of the surf around every corner — yet the ear meets nothing but the sound of a mountain breeze whispering through the surrounding woods.

These few words are excerpts from Geoffrey Coffey's article about Bonny Doon, which ran in the San Francisco Chronicle on December 3. Want to hear more about the rare community of plants in Bonny Doon? Join us for an intriguing talk about this special place found right here in Santa Cruz County!

Geoffrey Coffey is the director of Madroño, a landscape design studio in San Francisco with a specialty in California native plants. Reporting from the field, Coffey writes about local native plant communities for the San Francisco Chronicle and has appeared recently in Bay Nature and Planet magazines. He is also a principal of Bay Natives nursery.

### See more about Geoffrey Coffey online at:

[www.geoffreycoffey.com](http://www.geoffreycoffey.com)  
[www.madrono.org](http://www.madrono.org)  
[www.baynatives.com](http://www.baynatives.com)

*(Continued from page 1)*

accomplish essential tasks for the chapter to continue to function smoothly. Our dedicated Conservation Chair, Vince Cheap, would be happy to have another volunteer (or three) to assist in attending public meetings, writing letters and keeping up with local conservation issues.

I represented our chapter at the recent State Board Meeting in Berkeley this December, and there are many new developments within the organization. After finishing the interview process, CNPS is in the midst of hiring a new Executive Director and the chapter council has just elected Orange County's Brad Jenkins as the new State President. The council has also approved a new vision statement for the society and there are new changes and projects in both the Rare Plant Inventory and Vegetation programs. Please check out the State web page or upcoming bulletins to get more details.

Please join us in January in welcoming Geoffrey Coffey who will be giving a presentation that will explore and celebrate the spectacular sandhills communities of our own county and the many rare species that call them home.

It has been my pleasure to serve as President for the past year and I wish you all a wonderful 2006!

~ Casey Stewman, President

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**LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE**

At a recent meeting the CNPS Chapter Council approved the vision statement for the new CNPS strategic plan. After much discussion, the Council decided on a variation of an option that was presented in May 2005. The approved vision statement is as follows:

**CNPS envisions a future where:**

**Californians value native plants and plant communities. They feel a personal connection to California's varied and unique natural environments. They understand that native plants, plant communities and healthy ecosystems are essential to the well-being of all living things.**

**This understanding influences personal**

**ethics and actions, as well as public policy.**

**Californians look to CNPS as the leader for reliable native plant information and conservation needs. They actively support the Society's numerous opportunities in conserving, learning about, researching and enjoying native plants, plant communities and ecosystems.**

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**FIELD TRIPS**

Hello CNPS folks, I've focused these winter outings on ethnobotany, partly because the workshops can be held in any kind of weather. This seems especially appropriate as I'm writing this in Maine, where the lovely new snow is now being attacked by freezing rain. The wild rosehips sticking up through the snow are beautiful, and numerous dried flower "has beens" present some great forensic botanical material. Which is to say, even in freezing rain, you may continue to expand your knowledge of the local plant communities, if you just get outside and get started! Back in California the manzanitas have already started blooming, and I'm hoping for a little more rain to encourage a good Spring willflower season. If you have fieldtrip ideas or requests, please let me know (This means you!): Ellen (831) 684-2363, ellen@centralcoastwilds.com

**A Do-it-yourself Field Trip  
Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve**

For a beautiful winter hike with a botanical bent, I highly recommend a trip to Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve. This property is part of the UC Natural Reserve System, administered by the Davis campus, and unlike many of the UC Reserves, is open to the public. On November 11th, and presumably into January, the Toyon were putting on a show of red, orange and yellow berries, which even from a distance were colorful on their glossy green background of leaves. The tawny grasses, (which will soon green up) offset the blueish Gray Pines nicely, and the riparian trees and Poison Oak showed their fall colors. Eriogonums dasyanthemum and nudum were in bloom, and the Manzanitas were starting to think about it. In several very leisurely hours you can walk a loop trail up the creek, then climb the stairs (literally) to the ridgetop to enjoy the 360 degree views. Amble along the ridge through chaparral, then descend steeply through assorted plant communities, including patches of grassland and oak woodland, until you get back to the creek. Here is a link for a plant list: <http://nrs.ucdavis.edu/stebbins/species/popweb1.htm>, lots of things you don't get to see in Santa Cruz. It's about a 2 hour drive to Winters on Berryessa dam, park in the dirt lot on the right, and cross the road to the trailhead. Enjoy! 505, off Hiway 80. Then take Hiway 128 to the hairpin turn just below the Lake

**Sunday March 5, 10am-noon**  
**Natural Cordage Workshop w/ Cliff Hodges**  
**Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History**

If you have ever made twine from natural fibers, you know how fun and easy it is! If you haven't, you'll want to come try it out at this introductory workshop. You'll learn the basic mechanics of making cordage (string, rope, thread, etc.), and will soon appreciate the functional beauty of your creations. As the CEO of Adventure Out and board member of the non-profit Elemental Awareness, Cliff Hodges is an experienced leader of numerous outdoor activities, including teaching wilderness skills. He will provide plant materials for us to work on, both native and exotic, but if you have access to more, feel free to bring them along. Some potential plants would be Dogbane (Apocynum), Iris, Milkweed (Asclepias), Indian Hemp (Hoita), or even Cat-tails (Typha). Meet at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, 1305 E. Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz. Limited to 15 people: call (831) 420-6115 to reserve your spot. Please bring \$2.50 for admission to the Museum.

**Saturday February 25, 10am-noon**  
**Sinew Backed Bows and Arrows w/ Lane Bennett**  
**Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History**

Would you like to see a Baywood bow and Dogwood arrows? This demonstration will be an introduction to some of the processes and plants involved in making indigenous style bows and arrows. Lane's interest in native plants eventually led him to making bows in the old style, and rediscovering a set of skills that would have been commonplace in non-technical societies. You will have access to piles of resources, from raw materials to finished pieces, and several steps in between. Lane will also bring books and articles, and is enthusiastic about sharing his knowledge. You won't take home a bow, but your appreciation for "primitive" peoples' complex interactions with the natural world is sure to be enhanced! Meet at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, 1305 E. Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz. Limited to 15 people: call (831) 420-6115 to reserve your spot. Please bring \$2.50 for admission to the Museum.

**Ethnobotany at the UCSC Arboretum**  
**Deanna Giuliano and Rick Flores**  
**Sunday January 22, 10-12 pm**

Join Rick Flores, Curator of the California Native Garden at the UCSC Arboretum, and plant ecologist Deanna Giuliano for a morning of ethnobotanical delights! You may know that grass seeds of many species were used to make flour, but how about anzanitas and ceanothus? What plants would you use to make rope? To soothe a headache? To fill an empty stomach? This outing is guaranteed to strengthen your appreciation for our indigenous

plants. A booklet of Native American uses of local plants may be available for a donation. Park in the lower lot and meet at Norries Gift shop at 10pm. Walking will be easy and short- distance. For more information call 427-2998 x122. Heavy rain will cancel. Look for a reschedule in the March newsletter. .

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**My Brushpiles**

Last fall I had occasion to do some drastic pruning of a large blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) and a coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) which had been planted for backyard wildlife habitat over twenty years ago. I didn't have any handy means of carting away such a large volume of prunings, so it became a good opportunity for me to personally test the wildlife value of properly constructed brushpiles. I made a few large brushpiles in a weedy area of the yard which is only mowed occasionally. They were built on foundations of the largest logs and branches, with some attention to arrange them to create lots of hiding places. At each successive level, branches which were progressively smaller in diameter were used, and they were topped with leafy twigs. Over the winter I was pleased to note flocks of small birds flying in or out of the piles, which provided good cover and a good place for them to find insects and spiders. In spring the piles were moved to a wildlife study area. At least five southern alligator lizards and more than twenty California slender salamanders were found under the piles, along with many worms, insects, isopods, millipedes, etc. Not bad for a suburban backyard! If native vegetation must be pruned or cleared it can still provide great habitat value in the form of brush piles. Note that properly constructed piles are built exactly the opposite of the way one would build a bonfire; they should not present a fire hazard.

~Jeff Caldwell (CNPS Santa Clara Chapter)

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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### California Native Plant Society Santa Cruz County Chapter 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.

Contact: Program Leader, Linda Brodman  
831.462.4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net  
www.cruzcnp.org

January 14, 2006            10 am to 1 pm  
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

January 28, 2006           10 am to 1 pm  
Sunset Beach State Park

February 11, 2006        10 am to 1 pm  
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

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### Restoration Days with Watsonville Wetlands Watch

Join the team of dedicated wildlife champions in rejuvenating the rich habitats of the Watsonville Sloughs.

**Volunteer Days:** The second and fourth Saturday of every month (except Thanksgiving and Christmas), from 9-12, then an hour for walking, talking and observing wildlife.

**Meet:** At the corner of Harkins Slough Road and Lee Road across from the new Pajaro Valley High School.

**Bring:** Water, layered work clothes, sturdy shoes and a sun hat. We provide tools, gloves and inspiration.

**Contact:** John Pritchard at 831-728-4106 for details. Special restoration projects can be organized for your school or community group.

## WANTED: NEWSLETTER EDITOR!

Dear CNPS members,

It is with great sadness that I step down from my position as newsletter editor for the CNPS, Santa Cruz Chapter. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last two and a half years that I have served on the Board and have looked forward to informing you all about the wonderful things our chapter has been up to. It's now time to pass the baton!

If you are interested in taking a more active role in your membership, have creative flare and about 10 hours/ month to spare, then this might just be for you!

We are looking to fill the position in time for the March- April newsletter. Please contact me at lupine76@yahoo.com or (831)426-7108 if you would like more details. Thank you and happy new year.

~ Noelle Antolin





Now Available!

## An Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County, California

Written and produced by Randall Morgan & the Santa Cruz Flora Committee



THIS EASY-TO-USE CHECKLIST is the most thorough inventory of the vascular flora of Santa Cruz County. Organized alphabetically by family, each listing includes scientific name, common name, nativity, legal status, and an indication whether the plant is among the county's rarest and most vulnerable species.

An introduction and detailed taxonomic notes by local botanist Randy Morgan are included, as well as appendices identifying invasive plants, listed species, and county endemics. Also featured are maps of the county's floristic regions, public lands, and sandhills habitat. The checklist is 76 pages long and has an index by genus.



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The checklist is also available at independent bookstores in the Santa Cruz area and at general meetings and plant sales of the Santa Cruz Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

## Join the California Native Plant Society!

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/Retired/Limited Income \$20*
- Individual or Library \$35*
- Family or Group \$45*
- Supporting \$75*
- Plant Lover \$100*
- Patron \$250*
- Benefactor \$500*
- Life \$1,000*

All dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible.

## Board Members 2005

**Outgoing President** Casey Stewman 338-4796, cjs4@humboldt.edu

**Past President:** Fred McPherson 338-2097, fredwood@cruzio.com

**Vice-President:** *VACANT*

**Secretary:** Kris Houser 462-6672, KrisHouser@sbcglobal.net

**Treasurer:** Suzanne Schettler 336-1745, greening@cruzio.com

**Membership (outgoing):** Tim Hyland 464-9141

**Newsletter (outgoing):** Noelle Antolin 426-7108, lupine76@yahoo.com

**Conservation:** Vince Cheap 477-1660, vince@sasquatch.com, Kathe Hart 427-

0237, kathehart@hotmail.com, Stephan McCabe 336-2141, smccabe@ucsc.edu

**Rare Plant Coordinator:** Randall Morgan 465-6640

**Invasive Exotics:** Linda Brodman 462-4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net  
& Fred McPherson

**Educational Outreach:** Fred McPherson (see above)

**Legislation:** *VACANT*

**Programs:** Linda Brodman 462-4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net

**Publicity/Outreach:** Abbie Blair 722-4065, arblair@cruzio.com

**Field Trips:** Ellen Holmes 684-2363, arbonius@sbcglobal.net

**Hospitality:** Angel Guerzon 429-4047, 1900 Smith Grade Road, Santa Cruz, CA

**Plant Sales:** Karen Hildebrand 426-1172 and Linda Willis 479-1535

**Plant Propagation:** Michael Luther 688-3897, 406 Semple Ave, Aptos, CA 95003  
& Denise Polk 685-3235, dmpolk@cruzio.com

**Poster Sales:** *VACANT*

**Book Sales:** Ernie Wasson 688-6386, sluggo@cruzio.com

**Special Projects:** Janell Hillman emerald@cruzio.com & Stephan Mc Cabe

**Webmaster:** Bill Malone- billmalone@pacbell.net

**Members at Large:** Mary Ellen Irons 426-8410, 207 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz, CA  
& Shirley Tudor- yamori@compuserve.com

**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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