



The Cypress Cone

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

Volume 33, No 4

www.cruzcnp.org

July – August 2008

Wildfires In California

Over one thousand wildfires have started in the California this fire season. Santa Cruz County has already seen three significant fires in forests and the wildland-urban interface, causing the loss of homes, pets, and livestock.

As we mourn these losses, please pause to consider: since future fires are a certainty, take another look at the fire safety your own residence and neighborhood, especially if you live near a naturally wooded, shrubby, or grassy area.

The local Resource Conservation District has several publications written specifically for Santa Cruz county, including a recent tip sheet “*Post Summit Fire Restoration: Do's and Don'ts About Post Fire Restoration*” as well as the brochure “*Living with Fire in Santa Cruz County*.” The other sources below also contain useful information from a wider perspective.

www.rcdsantacruz.org
<http://firecenter.berkeley.edu/toolkit>
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=15655340>
<http://firewise.org>

Ecological Reserve Temporarily Closed

The Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve has been closed by the Department of Fish & Game for 90 days. This closure will permit DFG to study the effects of the fire on its rare and listed plants (Santa Cruz cypress, the Santa Cruz wallflower and the Ben Lomond spineflower) and ensure that any potential debris hazards from the fire are addressed.

Special Newsletter Coming Soon

The Chapter Board will soon be issuing a more in-depth publication addressing the response to the recent fires as well as how to better prepare for the inevitable next ones.

Chapter General Meeting

July 14, 2008
7:30 pm

• UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building •

Larry Ford, Ph.D.
Rangeland Vegetation Ecologist and
Certified Rangeland Manager

Rangeland Coalitions in California: Stewardship Monitoring and Working Rangeland Conservation

The Central Coast Rangeland Coalition (CCRC) includes members in nine coastal California counties encompassing four sub-regions (from south to north): Morro Bay, Monterey Bay, East San Francisco Bay, and Bodega Bay. It was formed in 2002 by a group of ranchers, public rangeland managers, agency personnel, conservationists, and scientists to develop consensus on rangeland health and sustainability. It recognizes that both science and practical knowledge are necessary to discover a common definition of rangeland health, means to measure it, and practices appropriate to different circumstances. The purposes of the CCRC are to support stewardship of both public and private rangelands by focusing attention on environmental benefits, providing technical assistance to monitor sustainability and health, and recognition of participants who are committed to these common goals.

The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition (CRCC) is a partnership between about 85 environmental, agriculture, and government agencies and organizations (as of May 2008). The Coalition began in 2004 when the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) recognized a growing common interest in preserving and protecting private rangelands as essential to wildlife and the continued viability of California's ranching industry. The CRCC works collaboratively to protect and

(continued inside)

Speaker: Larry Ford, PhD. (from front page)

enhance the grassland and oak woodland landscape that encircles California's Central Valley, including the Sierra Nevada foothills and the interior Coast Ranges. The USFWS, CCA, and Defenders of Wildlife have jointly funded two staff positions. Eight committees promote its agenda of stewardship demonstrations and awards, internal communications and outreach, a legislative strategy, mapping of focus regions, agency and permit coordination, identification of research gaps and facilitation of priority research, and funding for related wildlife and rangeland projects. CNPS is a member, and is represented on the Steering Committee by Carol Witham.

Dr. Ford specializes in management of conservation lands, particularly about grazing management planning, monitoring, and adaptive management for habitat of special-status species and natural communities, and controlling fire hazards and pest plants. He earned his Ph.D. in Wildland Resource Science (Vegetation Ecology) from UC Berkeley in 1991, an M.S. in Range Management from UC Berkeley in 1986, and a B.A. in Biology and Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz in 1978. He is licensed as a Certified Rangeland Manager (California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection), and certified as a Senior Ecologist (Ecological Society of America), and Certified Professional in Rangeland Management and Range Management Consultant (Society for Range Management). Prior to developing his consulting practice, he was a Science Advisor to the U.S. Agency for International Development (AAAS Science and Diplomacy Fellow 1991-94) and Manager of the Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve, University of California Natural Reserve System (1978-84). Dr. Ford holds the title of Research Associate at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Environmental Studies. He co-authored the chapter on *Northern Coastal Scrub and Coastal Prairie* in the 3d Edition of *Terrestrial Vegetation of California* with Dr. Grey Hayes.

New Leaf Envirotokens Support CNPS

New Leaf Community Markets were among the earliest retailers to support re-use of shopping bags with a directed donation program. Every spring, New Leaf shoppers select six different community organizations to benefit from Envirotokens. Customers who bring their own grocery bag receive an Envirotoken to support the organization of their choice; the market donates five cents to the organization for each token received. The Felton and Boulder Creek New Leaf markets recently gave our chapter a donation of \$131.13. That's over 2,622 gestures of support for CNPS in six months! A big "thank you" to New Leaf, which is now increasing the donation to ten cents per bag. We also thank those who carry their own bag when shopping.

Spring Plant Sale Recognitions

Our chapter has continued its run of successful plant sales again with the spring sale this April. Sometimes when good cooperative ventures and generous contributions go on for years, we forget to say Thank You. So the plant sale chairs would like to say how much we appreciate the support and sharing given to us by the UCSC Arboretum. (It may be a one-of-a-kind event when two organizations hold plant sales side by side.) The "generous contributions" refers to support by Suncrest Nursery. Our chapter's Propagation team has space for plants in a shade shelter and in green houses, and we go away each month knowing that our stock will be watered regularly by workers at the nursery. Certainly not least, Suncrest provides one of the big trucks and a driver to transport our plants to both the fall and spring sales. So, once again, many thanks to both the UCSC Arboretum and to Suncrest Nursery.

SC Chapter Represented at Blue Circle

On February 28th, Kris Houser and Karen Hildebrand participated in the Blue Circle, a county-wide networking event for environmental groups. Most groups and agencies that are represented have water and watershed topics as their main concern - hence the name Blue Circle - "People Having Fun with Watersheds". It is an annual gathering for both information-sharing and for socializing. We had a wonderful opportunity to put faces to names that we had heard of in the past, such as Jen Stern of the Resource Conservation District, and to learn more about the focus and activities of each organization that participated.

This year Blue Circle decided to present some awards, and we enjoyed hearing that Jim Marshall, who manages Suncrest Nursery (our host for propagation), was singled out for his years of designing and implementing water conservation at the nursery.

To furnish our table we borrowed materials including a photo board and an assortment of brochures from Linda Brodman, the Habitat Restoration chair, who often sets up a CNPS table at events. The booth came together using a few flowering native plants from our propagation stock to add some color.



Willows of the Sierra Nevada Workshop

Friday July 25 - Tuesday July 29, 2008

John Bair

Sponsored by the Arboretum in collaboration w/CNPS

Come join us for a rare look at high elevation willow species while exploring the Sierra high country. The class will begin Friday evening with a brief introduction to the willow family, anatomy, distribution and ecology. Fresh material of cottonwoods and willows will be available to illustrate the vegetative and flowering characteristics used in *The Jepson Manual* keys. You are encouraged to bring your own problem willows and “stump the chump” – we’ll work through identifying it together. The instructor will also provide corrections and updates to *The Jepson Manual* key. On Saturday the group will explore Sagehen Creek (see <http://sagehen.ucnrs.org>) with an afternoon trip to a nearby lake and/or meadows. We will spend Sunday in the field visiting locations throughout the Sierra Valley. Monday we’ll push to the highest elevations of the weekend; the Sierra Buttes! Tuesday morning we will say our good-byes; interested folks may join John in his visit to the Spanish Creek Botanical area on Hwy 70.

The goal of the workshop is to instill confidence about the floral and vegetative characteristics used in identifying high elevation willows in *The Jepson Manual* and to put an ecological context on their distribution and life styles. Limited to 25 people total. There will be a few assistants along to help with identification and interpretation. It would be helpful (but not essential) to bring a hand lens, dissection equipment including extra-fine forceps, and a copy of *The Jepson Manual*. We will attempt to carpool wherever it makes the most sense. Lodging will be taken care of under the cost of the workshop. Food costs are the responsibility of participants. We plan to potluck dinners.

Register with the UCSC Arboretum by calling (831) 427-2998 or e-mailing arboretum@ucsc.edu with you name, mailing address, phone, and e-mail address.

Payment will be accepted by credit card by phone, or checks (payable to UC Regents) may be mailed to:

Arboretum at UCSC
Attn: Willow Class
1156 High St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

The cost is \$175 for Current UCSC Arboretum or CNPS members, \$300 for non members - so your membership really helps!

Please contact Brett Hall brett@ucsc.edu and Ellen Holmes ellen@centralcoastwilds.com for more information.

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

June 28, 2008 10 am to 1 pm
Natural Bridges State Park

July 12, 2008 10 am to 1 pm
Special Project!
Big Basin State Park at Rancho del Oso

August 2, 2008 10 am to 1 pm
Natural Bridges State Park

August 23, 2008 4 pm to 6 pm
Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park
Volunteer Recognition Celebration

Relaxing after a Broom Bash at
Quail Hollow County Park



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/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.



Board of Directors

President Brett Hall brett@ucsc.edu

Vice-President: *open*

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

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

Membership: Casey Stewman gentiana43@sbcglobal.net

Conservation: Vince Cheap 477-1660, vince@sasquatch.com; Stephen McCabe 336-2141, smccabe@ucsc.edu; Peggy Edwards pegedwards@sierranatureprints.com 566-8471

Rare Plant Coordinator: Randall Morgan 466-0680

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

Vegetation: Casey Stewman

Educational Outreach: Fred McPherson fredwood@cruzio.com

Legislation: *open*

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

Publicity/Outreach: *open*

Field Trips: Ellen Holmes 684-2363, ellen@centralcoastwilds.com

Newsletter: Charles Koester 335-9466, cnps@koester.com

Hospitality: Angel Guerzon 212-8359, 140 Belmont St. #1, Santa Cruz CA 95060

Plant Sales: Karen Hildebrand 426-1172, 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: Peggy Waters 336-9283

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

Special Projects: Janell Hillman emerald@cruzio.com; Stephen McCabe

Webmaster: Bill Malone billmalone@pacbell.net

Members at Large: Mary Ellen Irons 426-8410, 207 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz; Kim Hayes hayes@elkhornslough.org

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

P.O. Box 1622

Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Address Service Requested

First Class
U.S. Postage PAID
Santa Cruz CA
Permit # 161

First Class