



# The Cypress Cone

The newsletter of the California Native Plant Society

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER

Volume 34, No 4

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

July - August 2009

## Chapter General Meeting

**Bryan Largay**

### **Elkhorn Slough Tidal Wetland Project Restoring Ecosystem Resilience in Elkhorn Slough**

**July 13, 2009 7:30 pm**

**• UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building •**

Elkhorn Slough, one of the largest coastal wetland complexes in the state and host to hundreds of species of fish and wildlife, is undergoing a period of rapid ecologic change. For over twenty years, tidal erosion and other hydrological alterations have caused the loss and degradation of hundreds of acres of salt marsh, channel, and tidal creek habitats. The purpose of the Tidal Wetland Project is to conserve, enhance, and restore tidal habitats in the Elkhorn Slough watershed by increasing our collective understanding of the changes occurring in the ecosystem and engaging groups of people from many backgrounds to inform management plans. We are using an ecosystem based management approach to develop a plan that minimizes negative impacts and maximizes positive impacts to both social and natural systems.

To date, planning for restoration management has entailed the collaborative exploration of various engineering concepts and associated costs, and extensive research and analysis in a number of different disciplines (e.g., hydrology, geomorphology, water quality, and relationships between humans and the Elkhorn Slough). Project developments have also been shared with local interest groups, nearby business owners, residents, knowledgeable researchers and volunteers, and their feedback solicited.

Based on the outcomes of this work, the Tidal Wetland Project is now focusing on the optimal restoration project-implementation of a low sill (a tidal barrier similar to an underwater retaining wall) at the entrance to the Parsons Slough Complex, a 450-acre complex of mudflats, which was originally salt marsh. The sill is expected to slow erosion rates in the Parsons Slough Complex and in the main channel, thereby supporting a diverse wetland ecosystem. The final design will need to accommodate many ecologic functions. Our presentation will provide background on the Tidal Wetland Project and its collaborators, and will elaborate on the Parsons Slough Restoration Project. We welcome audience feedback.

Our speaker Bryan Largay, of the Elkhorn Slough Research Reserve, directs the Tidal Wetland Project, on a collaborative effort to address ecosystem changes including the dieback of salt marshes. Bryan joined the Reserve staff in November 2007. He is trained as a hydrologist and has worked on wetlands, water quality and habitat restoration in the Monterey Bay area for 10 years. Much of that work was focused on collaborative water quality protection projects with agricultural landowners and growers. He received a Masters degree in Hydrologic Sciences at the University of California at Davis, and a Bachelor's degree in English Literature at Princeton University.

## Horticultural Happenings

### **Santa Cruz Chapter at The Smart Gardening Faire Sat, June 27 9am-5pm Skypark, Scotts Valley**

Come visit our booth at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Smart Gardening Faire in sunny Scotts Valley. See displays of local chapter activities. Chat with fellow members. Gather information on native plant gardening and invasive exotics control. Ask for a free CNPS sticker. Books, posters and, of course, a nice selection of native plants will be available for sale.

“Focus on Food” is the theme for this year’s Smart Gardening Faire. Attend demonstrations on edible California native plants, Native American cuisine, plant propagation, and tool sharpening. Hear guest speakers talk about keeping chickens in your backyard, encouraging bees, fire safe gardening, nontoxic pest control and much more. Take a walking tour of California native culinary and medicinal herbs. Enjoy delicious food and wonderful music. For a complete schedule of vendors and events go to their website: [www.smartgardening.org](http://www.smartgardening.org). See you at The Faire.

### **Would you like to show your garden? See some? - Fall Native Gardening Tour**

The California Native Garden Foundation, Monterey Bay Master Gardeners, and the Santa Cruz chapter of CNPS are planning to host the first ever Santa Cruz Fall Native Garden Tour to promote the use of California native plants and sustainable gardening.

Ten to twelve gardens in Santa Cruz County will be featured. Each garden will also host a special event, guest speaker or native plant sale. The proposed event date is the weekend of October 24 & 25.

If you would like to have your garden considered for the tour, email Cayce at: [info@cngf.org](mailto:info@cngf.org). The ideal garden would be 60-70% native plants and incorporate some aspect of sustainability such as composting, lawn alternatives, edibles, solar panels, grey water system, etc. Volunteers are needed to help with any aspect of the planning and publicity and to be greeters at these lovely gardens. For more info or to volunteer, contact Cayce at: [info@cngf.org](mailto:info@cngf.org).

Remember: In California, **Fall is the New Spring.**

### **Save the Date for the Fall Plant Sale: October 3, 2009**

This year the joint CNPS - UCSC Arboretum Fall plant sale will take place earlier than usual, on Saturday, October 3. As a CNPS member, you can join the action when the “doors” open at 10:00 am in the Eucalyptus Grove of the Arboretum. Arrive early for the best selection. Most of the offerings will be in their summer dormancy (not their showiest state) but autumnal planting saves water as well as giving them the start they would naturally have in a wild setting.

Have you picked up any gardening or plant selection books at past plant sales, general membership meetings, or bookstores? (Guilty on all counts). Include them in your summer reading to help you visualize what you can achieve around your home, after pots are brought back, planted, and have a wet season or two under their, uhm, barks. Choose an area or two around your home: this spot has half sun, such-and-such drainage, some summer water; over here near these oak trees no irrigation, etc., and consider what kinds of results you’d like to see. Volunteers will be on hand to help match plants to your setting.

### **Great Volunteer Opportunity — Help Get the Words Out!**

If you are reading this newsletter, you realize that writing in support of native plants has the potential to really reach people with interesting and highly useful and important information for the present and the future. And you know that the more people who read a publication, the more that can be reached. So your busy local CNPS board is calling for help from the membership to lend a writing hand.

We’re inviting response from anyone with good communication skills who is interested in researching and writing compelling columns featuring native plants. We’re thinking right now especially of pieces suitable for publication such as in a gardening section of an urban daily paper, or a page in a weekly, but of course other possibilities exist. Call Joel at 706-7225 anytime or write [edgerider2002@yahoo.com](mailto:edgerider2002@yahoo.com) for more on this and other volunteer opportunities.

## Summer 2009 Field Trips

Please check the website periodically for additional trips!  
<http://www.cruzcnps.org/>

### **Ebbetts Pass**

**Friday -Sunday July 3-5**

Contact: Santa Clara Valley Chapter's Kevin Bryant,  
(408) 353-8824

Kevin Bryant and Patricia Evans will lead a trip to Ebbetts Pass in July. For details, check the Santa Clara Chapter website, at [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org).

### **Bear Basin Butte (North Coast)**

**Saturday-Tuesday July 25-28**

Contact: North Coast Chapter's Carol Ralph, (707) 822-2015

Great roadside botanizing, a great day hike trail, and a spectacular overnight spot at 5,300 ft. in Smith River National Recreation Area by the Bear Basin Butte Botanical Area. We have reserved the lookout and cabin for Sunday and Monday nights. The itinerary will develop around that. Tell Carol (707) 822-2015 soon if you are interested. The cabin is about 3 hours from Arcata, 45 min. from Gasquet. Non-campers could join us for the day activities. July (25)26-28, (Saturday), Sunday, Monday

### **Point Lobos Summer Blooms with Rosemary Foster**

**Saturday August 8, 1:00 PM**

Join Monterey Bay Chapter's president, Rosemary Foster, for August flowers at the sea! Meet at Sea Lion Point parking lot for a walk to Bird Island. We'll see the summer blooming coastal bluff plants in this remarkably scenic park. We'll also walk the Bird Island loop trail to see the 8-petaled California poppy growing there. Easy pace, 2+ hours, some up and down, just under 2 miles. Bring water and binoculars (we can always look for marine mammals and sea birds, too!). For more details contact Rosemary Foster [rdonlon4mbcnps@earthlink.net](mailto:rdonlon4mbcnps@earthlink.net); cell phone (277-8081).

### **New Leaf Envirotoken's Contribution**

The chapter recently received a check for \$309.70 from New Leaf's Enviro-Tokens program. Every time a customer reuses his or her own grocery bag at a New Leaf store an Enviro-Token is given to them worth a ten-cent donation, which they deposit in a box for one of six different environmental organizations. At the end of the year, New Leaf converts the tokens to cash and relays the donations to the organizations. This year's donation represents 3,097 shoppers who both used their own bag and supported CNPS. Thank you!  
Suzanne Schettler

## Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve Reopened

The Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve has been reopened to the public. It had been closed to ensure that no human hazards remained following the 552-acre Martin Fire last year. The fire burned approximately 80 percent of the reserve. The closure also allowed DFG scientists to assess the impacts of the fire on sensitive plant species. We will forward the results of those findings once they are made public.

The Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve provides habitat for three state and federal listed plant species: the Santa Cruz cypress, the Santa Cruz wallflower and the Ben Lomond spineflower. It is one of only three sites in the world where Santa Cruz cypress is found. It also encompasses a unique formation of sand hills formed when the ancient seabed was uplifted during tectonic events that occurred millions of years ago.

The Martin Fire exposed geologic features of the reserve that were previously hidden by the forest. Reopening the reserve provides the public the opportunity to see this stunning landscape during the post-fire transition period.

The reserve is only open during daylight hours, and only to foot traffic - no bicycles or motorized vehicles. The "Moon Rocks" formations remain closed due to safety concerns and the protection of sensitive plants.

### **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, [redwdrm@pacbell.net](mailto:redwdrm@pacbell.net)

**July 11, 2009                      10 am to 1 pm**  
**Sunset Beach State Park**

**Call or email Linda Brodman for future events.**

## 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

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**Vice-President:** Deanna Giuliano drosegiuliano@yahoo.com

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**Rare Plant Coordinator:** Randall Morgan 466-0680

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

**Vegetation:** Casey Stewman

**Educational Outreach:** Fred McPherson fredwood@cruzio.com

**Legislation:** open

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

**Publicity/Outreach:** Joel Rider edgerider2002@yahoo.com

**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

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