



The Cypress Cone

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

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May - June 2009

Chapter General Meeting

May 11, 2009
7:30 pm

UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Gordon W. Frankie, Ph.D.

California State-wide Survey of Bees and their Plants in Urban California

The University of California at Berkeley and Davis have been conducting a statewide survey of urban bees on selected target plants (especially ornamentals) since 2005. Nine sites throughout the state are visited monthly during the growing season to record bee diversity and abundance on both native and non-native plant species. Results indicate that each plant type attracts predictable taxonomic groups of bees. These findings are being used to design, plan, and implement new pollinator friendly gardens.

Dr. Frankie is a faculty member in the College of Natural Resource, at the University of California at Berkeley, where he has been teaching and doing research since 1976. His speciality is behavioral ecology of solitary bees. He works in California and Costa Rica pursuing this focus. During the past ten years his attention has been on native bees in urban areas and wildlands on conspecific plant species.

The recent magazine issue of Bay Nature features an article, *In the Key of Bee*, highlighting Gordon's passion and expertise on native bees.

Come on out and find out what the buzz is all about!

Dr. Elvander Scholarships Awarded

The Dr. Patrick Elvander Memorial Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the students selected to receive a 2009 Elvander Scholarship Award. We had great response and a wonderful, diverse range of research projects submitted for funding.

We selected four students to receive the Elvander Award: two graduate students and two undergraduate students. Selected for funding were Adelia Barber (graduate student, UCSC) for her work on *A Proposed Revision of the Trifolium fucatum Complex*; Blair McLaughlin (graduate student, UCSC) for the project *Range-wide Patterns of Valley Oak Recruitment Failure*; Teri Barry (undergraduate, SJSU) for the project *Proposal to Study the Combined Effects of Water and Soil Solutes (Osmotic Potential) As An Agent of Natural Selection in Lasthenia californica*; and Katharine Rondthaler (undergraduate, UCSC) for the project *Research the Interaction of Native Bees and CA Native Plants at UCSC Arboretum*.

All students who applied for the Elvander Award received a complementary subscription to CNPS. A total of \$3,000 was awarded this year for the scholarships. When the research projects are completed, each student will make either an oral presentation or present a poster at a CNPS general meeting. If you would like to donate to next year's Elvander Memorial Scholarship Fund Award, we would greatly appreciate it. Please send donations to CNPS Santa Cruz Chapter, P.O. Box 1622, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. Be sure to mention the Elvander Scholarship Fund in the memo line. Thanks for all your support, and helping us help students study and conserve California's native flora in our area, in memory of Patrick!! For questions, contact Janell Hillman at emerald@cruzio.com.

News From The Chapter Council Meeting

Karen Hildebrand

Kris Houser and I spent a very full day at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden participating in the quarterly meeting of the CNPS Chapter Council. So much goes on: the staff and committee chairs share by giving summaries of their work, problems and challenges for the organization are raised, and representatives contribute by sharing ideas of “how things are done in our chapter”. What follows is a look at just some of what went on at the March 14 meeting.

The Conservation Conference in January was a great success. Membership went up 4.8% this year – greatly aided by the conference. A Post Conference Action Committee is using the participants’ evaluations to help build the organization. The proceedings will be published. Chapters are encouraged to suggest topics for research with the goal of increasing involvement by students and young professionals. Training in areas of botany, horticulture, and the environment might be sponsored by companies.

Chairs of several of the committees gave reports: The Development Committee report emphasized strengthening our Chapters, and the crux here is learning about (and using) ideas from around the State. The Education Committee has planned and scheduled 10 workshops. Programs are planned for K – 12 grades, and incentives for students are part of the strategy. The Horticulture Committee shared many ideas, including developing native gardens at schools, holding classes about native plant gardening, and regularly offering classes about native plants for Master Gardeners.

After a discussion led by Nick Jensen, referring to the Bulletin editorial about the solar development proposed for the California desert, the Council was asked to consider whether CNPS wants to take an official position on solar and wind development in the desert. A decision will be made after further consideration.

We learned in the Bulletin that CNPS has received a bequest from June Bilosoly, and it now totals over \$850,000. Possible uses were discussed at the Council. These include the purchase of a building in Sacramento that could provide a permanent office, classroom space, a store and a demonstration garden; a software package is needed for the organization. All proposals take into account that there will be a shortfall this year due to the financial downturn.

Spring 2009 Field Trips

May June 2009 Field Trips

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

As always, feel free to call me if you would like to lead a trip, find a carpool (allow a week), or provide feedback afterwards! Ellen Holmes 831-684-2363

Saturday May 2, 10am-12pm (or later?)

Mima Mounds w/ Deanna Giuliano

Join Deanna Giuliano at one of our local wonderlands, a coastal wet prairie with mima mounds. You will see an amazing display of our local native bunch grasses, sedges, and rushes along with a kaleidoscope of annuals and bulbs. A few highlights we hope to see in bloom are *Calochortus uniflorus* and *Brodiaea terrestris*. The trip will be from 10 to noon, but we can linger longer if we find more interesting flora. Bring water, sunscreen, hat and a lunch. The trip will be in two adjacent meadows, with easy access and a leisurely walk. Meet at the meadow: there are turnouts by the bus stop on Empire grade, Santa Cruz, about ½ mile north of the twin gates of Marshall Field. Parking is located on the right and left hand side of the road. Carpooling is encouraged. Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or call 831-278-2699.

Saturday May 2, 1:00 PM

Point Lobos Wildflower Walk w/Rosemary Foster

Meet at the Sea Lion {Point parking lot at 1:00. We will walk the Cypress Grove Trail, then take the South Shore Trail to Bird Island, walk the Bird Island Trail and end at the Bird Island parking lot. Spring flowers will be blooming, come see Point Lobos at its spring best. Approximately 2-3 hours, 3 miles easy pace, some up and down. Bring water and a snack, if you wish. Contact Rosemary Foster at 625-3083 or rdonlon4mbcnps@earthlink.net.

Sunday May 3, 9:00am to 12:00pm (or later)

Año Nuevo State Reserve w/ Tim Hyland

There is so much to see at Año Nuevo it is hard to choose, but this trip will take us through some of the best first terrace coastal prairie in all of California. We'll have a chance to see *Clarkia davyi* and *Fritillaria agrestis* among sheets of blue-eyed (and white-eyed!) grass. Don't count on the trip leader to know all of the dazzling array of plants (editor's note- he will know a majority of them), but he will be able to tell you what has been going on to manage this gem of coastal California for the last dozen years or so. California Oat grass makes for lumpy walking, so bring shoes with good ankle support. The

Spring 2009 Field Trips (continued)

terrain is flat and we will cover about 2 miles. Meet just under two miles north of the Año Nuevo entrance at a pullout on the seaward side of Highway 1. The pullout has a yellow gate and an interpretive sign. If you get to the driveway for the Coastanoa resort you have gone too far. Please RSVP 831-359-3722

Tim.hyland@sbcglobal.net. No host carpool may meet at Denny's on Ocean&Felker St., Santa Cruz at 8:10AM and is not CNPS sponsored/insured.

Saturday May 9, 11am-1:30pm Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve Nature Walk Series A Look at Post Burn Ecology with Val Haley

The Santa Cruz Sandhills support some of the most rare natural communities in the world, and here it will be very interesting to see the vegetative response to last summer's fire. Who better to show you these changes than Val Haley, who has dedicated much of her life to their exploration and restoration? On this moderate two mile hike, Val (or docents) will discuss the ecology and geology of the area, as well as pointing out such rarities such as *Chorizanthe pungens* var. *hartwegiana*, *Arctostaphylos species andersonii* and *silvicola*, the lovely curly-leaved monardellas and Ben Lomond wallflowers. When was the last time you saw Western Burning Bush or Labrador Tea? (which tells you she may wander off the sandhills towards the creek). Hike is limited to 15 people to protect sensitive resources. You must contact Val to reserve a spot: 831-425-0687 or vegnet@cruzio.com. Bring hiking shoes, sun protection, water, snack, etc. Meet at the Martin Road Firehouse in Bonny Doon.

**Saturday May 9
Morning Coastal Canyon Wildflowers w/ Bob Hale**
San Jose Creek, (Monterey County) sports a wide variety of wildflowers in a short easy 3 mile walk. This hike is pending permission, with an alternate trip in the equally spectacular Soberanes Canyon. Please call the week before to confirm hike and time and meeting place. Leader Bob Hale, hale@nps.edu or 647-8821.

**Sunday May 10, 10AM-5PM, (or as long as you want to trade ideas)
Scotts Valley Wildergarten w/ Mark Vande Pol**
Owner and landsman, Mark Vande Pol, invites CNPS members to a day of discovery and discussion in the Wildergarten, where a restoration process has been under way for nearly 20 years. The focus for this visit is the challenge of eliminating and maintaining control of 110

exotics, having been a settled and traveled area for 145 years. Process discussion will be in depth.

There are currently 220 local native species on 14 acres with 114 exotics. In summer, the upper part of the property has an inland climate, and the lower marine. Soils vary from sand to clay (no granite or shale). We'll visit five major plant communities in one small space with very sharp transitions. We'll see redwood, oak woodland, both developing and decadent chaparral, Santa Cruz sand hill (dominantly California filago, three Navarettias, lupine, and clover), and several types of meadows, two of which are dominantly native annuals consisting of clovers (7), lotuses (4), cudweed (6), various bulbs, and 29 species of native grass, rush, and sedge.

By the end of the weed season, non-natives are virtually non-existent, although we are under increasing attack. The focuses here are development of restoration process methods and tactics, learning how purely native systems function, building a new reserve of native seed, integrating people with native landscapes, and learning how much one person can handle.

The Wildergarten is steep. 70% is walkable, but the rest requires stuff-of-goat. So, it depends upon the group as to what we'll do. It won't be over three miles of trudging. Notifying us of any special needs would help us serve you. Wear boots, long sleeves, and pants.

BOOTS MUST BE CLEAN (or we will embarrass you by engaging in the ancient Middle Eastern rite of hospitality by washing your feet). Bringing a weed bag and fork wins special approbation. If you want water, bring a bottle; the well water here is good.

It will take most of a day to cover the place starting at 10:00 and going until we stop. Most folks will leave by 5:00, but stay as long as you like if you want to trade ideas.

Limited to 20 people/20 cars. Please email or call to reserve a space and get directions: Mark Vande Pol contact@wildergarten.com (831)-438-5338. **All information is to remain confidential between Mark Vande Pol and CNPS participants. No cameras.** We will provide coffee, tea, some munchies, and juice on a rather sparse patio, and treat you as an honored guest. BYOB for lunch would be appreciated.

**Sunday May 10, 9:00am – 11:00am
Garland Ranch, Carmel Valley**
Take a Walk on the Wildflower Side; Hosted by MPRPD, not CNPS. Taking Mom to brunch is "so last year". Instead, celebrate Mother's Day with a 2- hour stroll on some of the most popular trails in the park. And just wait until she sees all the wildflowers in bloom - Priceless!

Spring 2009 Field Trips

Elevation gain: 300-600 feet. Distance: 3 miles. Bring water. Meet at the Garland Visitor Center at 9 a.m. Call 659-6065 for more information.

Saturday May 16 9:00am - 5:00pm

Laguna Mountain Summit with Ryan O'Dell

Please join Hollister-BLM's Natural Resource Specialist Ryan O'Dell for a 2 mile round trip hike up 880 feet to the summit of Laguna Mountain in southern San Benito County. This fairly steep ascent will quickly reward us with excellent views of the Clear Creek Management Area and New Idria serpentine mass to the east as well as the Coast Range to the west! Laguna Mountain serpentine mass is bordered by marine shales and sandstone among which we will witness the California flannelbush, golden eardrops, bitter root, San Benito Fritillary, Congdon silk tassel trees and much more!

From Monterey/Santa Cruz: take highway 101 south, exit at Broadway St. in King City, follow Broadway St. east to N. 1st St., turn left onto N. 1st St., follow N. 1st St. north to Bitterwater Road (G13), follow Bitterwater Road (G13) to HWY 25, turn left onto HWY 25, follow HWY 25 two miles north to Coalinga Road, turn right onto Coalinga Rd., follow Coalinga Rd. thirteen miles east to the BLM Laguna Mountain Access (signed). Vehicles not having adequate undercarriage clearance (at least 12 inches) should park at the Laguna Mountain access. Vehicles having adequate undercarriage clearance (4WD also recommended) can navigate the dirt road 2.5 miles up to the trail start point. Driving the road is at your own risk. Coordinates for the Laguna Mountain access are: Lat. 36.368622, Lon. -120.831205. Please RSVP with Ryan O'Dell: 831-630-5028; Ryan_O'Dell@ca.blm.gov.

Saturday May 23, 11am-1:30pm And

Saturday Jun 6, 11am-1:30pm (with Mike Vasey)

Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve Nature Walk Series A Look at Post Burn Ecology w/Val Haley take 2&3

Were you unavailable for the May 9 trip? Here are two more chances. See the May 9 listing for the description.

You must contact Val to reserve a spot: 831-425-0687 or vegnet@cruzio.com. Bring hiking shoes, sun protection, water, snack, etc. Meet at the Martin Rd Firehouse in Bonny Doon.

Senses In The Field

Charles Koester

Often wildflowers trips are intended as visual explorations: to see all kinds of new blooms, their colors and structural details, the insects that are pollinating or otherwise inhabiting them, and occasionally a nice vista. Even when there are no blatantly charismatic flowers nearby, it is beneficial to look around. Look at those long stalks of grass gracefully draping into the trail! I wonder what species that is? Hmm, those florets are rather large and dark, time for a closer look. Wait! They're moving! Ticks. Oh well; just another instance of *Elymus glaucus* var *tick-infestus*.

On a recent spring wildflower hike I was surprised by a feature of Buck brush (*Ceanothus cuneatus* var. *cuneatus*): its flowers' scent. Foliage scent is frequently mentioned, less often is that of the blooms. Somehow I hadn't noticed it before, but that day the *Ceanothus* blossoms' smelled intensely of honey. Over several miles we passed in and out of clusters of up to perhaps a dozen large specimens, and each time we were treated to another delightful aromatic experience. Time to look for *Ceanothus* honey on the next produce trip?

Habitat Restoration Team

We are a volunteer group working to restore native habitat in the 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

May 2, 2009 10 am to 1 pm
Sunset Beach State Park

May 16, 2009 10 am to 1 pm
Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park

June 6, 2009 10 am to 1 pm
Twin Lakes State Park



Plant Science Training Program Workshops

These new workshops for botanists, ecologists, land managers and others teach the skills and provide the tools for conducting sound scientific surveys to protect California native plants and their habitats. Workshops are focused on improving survey skills and identification of rare plants, wetland plants, invasive exotics plants, and vegetation.

CNPS may reduce or waive registration fees, in exchange for work, for CNPS members who earn less than \$30,000/year and are interested in improving their plant science skills. Students, minorities, and those entering a botanic or natural resource field are encouraged to apply.

For further information about the Plant Science Training Program or to register go to <http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php> or contact Josie Crawford at jrcrawford@cnps.org or (916) 447-2677 ext 205.

May 5-6 Measuring and Monitoring

John Willoughby, former State Botanist for the BLM Fort Ord, Monterey

Using classroom and field exercises, the workshop will focus on the role of plant population monitoring for adaptive management. Participants will learn how to develop good management objectives. Topics cover principles of sampling and several sampling designs, field techniques for measuring vegetation, analyzing monitoring data and presenting results. Participants will receive a copy of the BLM-published book, *Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations* by Caryl Elzinga, Dan Salzer, and John Willoughby.

Cost: Members \$290, Non-members \$315

May 29-31, Rare Plants of San Luis Obispo County

**David Keil PhD, Deb Hillyard, Kevin Merk
San Luis Obispo and coastal locations**

The distinct combination of climate, soils and topography of coastal San Luis Obispo County are the foundation of the unique array of natural communities, which in turn support a wide variety of endemic, rare and endangered plant species. This workshop will utilize both classroom and field exploration of various local coastal communities, such as serpentine seep, grassland and chaparral; coastal dunes; coast live oak woodlands, including the local “elfin forest”; estuarine marsh; maritime chaparral; and coastal prairie. Learn to recognize these communities and their associated species, and which laws and regulations apply to their conservation. The workshop is geared toward

agency planners, professional and amateur botanists, as well as local land-use advocates, to help participants identify these local treasures and understand their importance; and to be able to select and utilize the various tools available to assess and conserve these resources.

Cost: Members \$310, Non-members \$335

June 10-12 Introduction to the second edition of A Manual of California Vegetation

Todd Keeler Wolf, John O. Sawyer, Julie Evens

This will be a 3-day transect across the central Sierra Nevada, from the foothills to the eastern Sierra. We will begin at Calaveras Big Trees and end at Grover Hot Springs Valley, near Markleeville. See <http://www.scenic4.org/map.html>

The authors will debut the greatly expanded second edition of *A Manual of California Vegetation*. They will provide an overview of additions and changes to the manual, including new vegetation types recognized or redefined across many habitats. You will learn how to use the new manual, in the field as we traverse a variety of vegetation types in the Sierra Nevada, as well as its uses for conservation and management.

Cost: Members \$445; non-members \$470

June 23-26 Great Rivers of California: the American River; Robert Holland and Virginia Dains Headwaters, mid-elevation and valley sections of the American River.

Azonal vegetation is shaped by processes other than regional biota and climate. Riparian vegetation is shaped by flowing water, both during high flows (when the habitat is sculpted) and during low flows (providing late summer irrigation). This class will focus on how stream dynamics and sediment transport structure riparian habitats. The first day we will float from Fair Oaks to Goethe Park on the lower American River, observing how the current affects our boats, the river’s substrate, and the vegetation along a low-gradient valley stream. The second day we will repeat the process upstream, floating the South Fork American from Coloma to Lotus, a steepland stream with all together different riparian vegetation. Licensed, professional guides will captain our rafts both days. For an optional over-night third leg we will goat pack into the American’s headwaters in Desolation Valley, where riparian vegetation manifests the additional complication of persistent winter snowpack. The emphasis throughout the class will be more on the processes that shape the vegetation and less on binomial nomenclature.

Join the California Native Plant Society!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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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*
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- Benefactor \$600*
- Mariposa Lily \$1500*

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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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