



The Cypress Cone

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

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May- June 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that we are in the midst of it, I can certainly say this has been (and continues to be) a spring wildflower season to remember. There are rich displays of colors occurring not only in our county, at places like Quail Hollow County Park, but throughout the state and southern deserts.

Speaking of colorful displays, our chapter's recent plant sale on April 16th was a tremendous success. We had a beautiful day at the UCSC Arboretum grounds and a very positive crowd that enjoyed raiding the assortment of native plants, books, and wildflower posters (including our new native grasses poster collection!). A warm and gracious thanks goes out to all of the members, volunteers and board members that helped coordinate, run and participate in this event. We also signed on more than ten new members to our chapter!

Thanks also to Suncrest Nurseries and Native Revival Nurseries for their continued and very real support of the sale. In other news, our board recently approved a contribution from our chapter of \$2,000 to support the on-the-ground restoration efforts of Watsonville Wetlands Watch at the West Struve Slough. These funds will be used to diversify and increase the volume of native plant seed that is collected at the slough and grown out by local contractors for the upcoming year's revegetation efforts. Botanists from our chapter have also been helping with long-term vegetation monitoring at the slough to document the changes that WWW's restoration efforts are making. Thanks to Janell Hillman for recently writing a description of our chapter's accomplishments for an upcoming Fremontia issue.

Please join us on May 9th for an exciting talk and presentation by Lesley Adams about the important conservation work she and the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildland Center are making to preserve a unique and incredibly diverse roadless area at the northern tip of our state.

I am also excited to say that local San Lorenzo Valley High School Watershed Academy students have been helping to accomplish MCV relevé vegetation sampling in some of our county's rarest plant communities. So far stands have been sampled in Henry Cowell State Park, and Quail Hollow, with the Bonny Doon Ecological Preserve still to come. Hopefully our chapter can continue to help support vegetation mapping around our county in the coming year. I hope you all can get out there and enjoy your spring and summer!

~ Casey Stewman, President

California Native Plant Society
Santa Cruz County Chapter
General Meeting

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

Lesley Adams
**Condrey Mountain: A Living Legacy in the World-
Renowned Klamath-Siskiyou Region**

Condrey Mountain straddles the Oregon-California border on the Siskiyou Crest and is surrounded by a 20,000 acre roadless area. Smack in the middle of this publicly owned roadless area is a 240 acre private parcel owned by a timber company. This roadless area boasts rare and unique biodiversity for which the greater region is globally recognized. The timber company has agreed to sell the parcel, and local agency support for public acquisition is high. However, the timber company is also not willing to wait, and they are moving forward with plans to log the parcel in 2005.

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild), based in Ashland, Oregon filed a lawsuit in late 2004 on the proposed use of adjacent public lands to build a helicopter-landing pad to facilitate the liquidation of this private parcel. KS Wild is simultaneously trying to locate private or public funding to acquire the parcel and protect it for future generations.

Lesley Adams is the Outreach Coordinator for KS Wild, based in Ashland, Oregon. KS Wild monitors public lands throughout the world-renowned Klamath-Siskiyou region of northwest California and southwest Oregon to ensure that federal agencies comply with environmental laws. KS Wild advocates for old-growth forests, roadless areas and at-risk species. Lesley will be showing a short film, stunning slides, and asking that folks write letters on behalf of Condrey. Join us for this special presentation and help build awareness of this living legacy.

CONSERVATION UPDATE

Protecting the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Critical Habitat (CH) Designation

As I write this there are ongoing challenges to the ESA. One of these is an attack by a suit undertaken by the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) - a group I have heard about that often represents property rights extremists. The suit is against the USFWS challenging its designation of Critical Habitat (CH) for five listed California plant species - four of which are found in Santa Cruz county with two of those four also found in Monterey county and the fifth species is found only at one site in Ventura county. On April 15 lawyers have filed paperwork on behalf of CNPS, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Center for Biodiversity that will ask the court if these groups can assist the USFWS in defending their designation of CH for these 5 listed plant species. It is hoped that CNPS et al are granted intervener status - a likely scenario according to the lawyers. This issue is quite important to protecting the listed species in our area. Two are endemic to our county and found only in the north end of Scotts Valley - Scotts Valley spineflower and Scotts Valley polygonum. Both are under extreme threat from lack of management for invasives and from a reintroduced DEIR plan to build houses in the Polo Ranch area (north of Borland). CNPS has in the past retained attorney Bill Parkin to represent our concerns about the Polo Ranch development and its inadequate buffers and incomplete mapping of historic onsite populations. The other two plants - Monterey and robust spineflowers - are found within a much larger geographical area including but not limited to Sunset Beach SP, Aptos High and the general Freedom Blvd. area. There is a population of robust spineflower in a 7-acre field that borders Branciforte Creek near Market St. as it ends at Branciforte Dr. It is under threat from a proposed housing development that also has a neighborhood group quite concerned. The site has been sold several times without any formal proposal being presented and this worries CNPS and the neighbors that environmental as well as other constraints on this site may not be well represented by the city of Santa Cruz to potential developers. Each sale from developer to developer has made the land ever more expensive and thus requires the need to develop even more houses. As you can see this challenge of CH designation and the potential loss of its protection could jeopardize the long-term survival of these listed species. It is important to understand that CH is designed to include areas for recovery of a species and not just protection of the current populations. These CH areas provide habitat for listed plants to grow and expand into and may eventually provide enough recovery that the species can be delisted. And perhaps even equally as important given the more erratic rainfall and temperature variations that are predicted by global warming these CH areas may also provide the difference between survival and extinction for many threatened species.

Another current ESA attack comes from Congress in the form of a bill introduced by Representative Dennis Cardosa- HR 1299 titled the "Critical Habitat Enhancement Act"- that would actually weaken protection

for endangered species and habitat. I'm sure Congressman Farr is doing his best to fight this bill but he may lack adequate support unless some republicans cross party lines.

These kinds of legal and legislative attacks on the ESA and CH can be especially challenging when cloaked under the guise of making things better. It will be essential that groups like CNPS and their members make sure that the truth be clearly communicated about such ESA stealth attacks through writing to our representatives, letters to editor, and supporting those that fight for us in the courts. To this end, though not meant as a substitution for the immediate action needed on the issues I've mentioned above, you will find below a plan by several environmental groups to get local governmental groups like city councils and county supervisors to sign on to a resolution that supports the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This ESA resolution plan was sent to CNPS by Emily Roberson, Ph.D. She is the Director of the Native Plant Conservation Campaign (NPCC), which is a project of the Center for Biological Diversity and CNPS. Our local chapter President Casey Stewman will be the lead on this project in presenting the resolution to our local governments. This resolution is straightforward and its goal is to let the US Congress, the Senate and the President know that the citizens of this nation are supportive of the ESA and its protection of our threatened biotic heritage and the scientific tools it has developed to enable the actual recovery of endangered species such as Critical Habitat Designation. In fact we can thank the ESA for saving our national bird - the American bald eagle among many other threatened species.

~Vince Cheap, Conservation Chair

Endangered Species Act Legacy Pledge

Representative Dingell, an original sponsor of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, has created an Endangered Species Act Legacy pledge, to demonstrate broad public support for endangered species protection. Many conservation organizations, including the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the National Wildlife Federation, the Endangered Species Coalition, Earthjustice, and the Center for Biological Diversity have endorsed the pledge. We expect tens of thousands of concerned citizens and elected officials across the country to sign this pledge and support the Endangered Species Act.

The text of the Endangered Species Act Legacy Pledge:

WHEREAS, the United States has a long and proud tradition of respect for the Earth's wildlife and natural resources, and WHEREAS, we have a responsibility to our children and future generations to be good stewards of our environment and to leave behind a legacy of protecting endangered species and the special places they call home, and WHEREAS, the strength and vitality of the human environment is inextricably linked with the health of all species and the places they live, and WHEREAS, species extinction and habitat destruction are a serious threat to our own welfare. For example, nature is the source for most of our commonly-prescribed medicines

and the loss of species could mean the loss of life-saving drugs, and
 WHEREAS, we have a responsibility to use the best available science to ensure we protect this legacy for future generations, and
 WHEREAS, for over 30 years, the Endangered Species Act has served as the nation's safety net for wildlife, saving hundreds of plants and animals from extinction, putting hundreds more on the path to recovery, and safeguarding the habitats on which they all depend,
 WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, PLEDGE to uphold the Endangered Species Act so it may continue to protect our plants and animals and the special places they live, from the finality of extinction.

.....

PLANT SALE REPORT

The completion of our spring plant sale is a good time to acknowledge some people who make it possible. It all begins at Suncrest Nursery where the friendly folks there provide every thing we need: soil, pots, growing area on benches, water and someone to apply it, and a truck and driver to deliver our plants to the sale. Add to this the labor of our faithful propagation crew and you see the results at the sale. But the plants wouldn't get to the Arboretum if the loading crew didn't postpone their dinner Friday evening to load the truck. And plants at the sale wouldn't accomplish much if Abbie Blair hadn't taken on the task of publicity. Steve McCabe had our site at the Arboretum prepared in spite of the very wet ground, and the experienced unloading and set up crew made sale preparation proceed very smoothly. And last but not least, the whole operation is dependent upon Denise's ability to pull all these plants out of her horticultural hat. Thanks to all this great volunteer effort, the SC Chapter sold \$6,100 worth of plants and \$417 of books and posters. This is a record for the chapter! I want to express a sincere thank you to everyone.

~ Mike Luther



Western azalea
 by Emma Burns

www.emmaillustrations.com

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday May 8, 10am - late afternoon Swanton with Roy Buck

Swanton! The very name evokes images of mysterious bounty to local botanists. A hotspot of ongoing evolution, Swanton hosts an unexplained floral hyperdiversity- over 600 taxa in just a few square miles! Skilled botanist and consummate guide, Roy Buck, has offered to once again lead this extravaganza into the Scott Creek watershed. Meet at the red house at 299 Swanton Rd. past the fire station as you head North from the Southern entrance to Swanton Rd. off Hiway 1. The leisurely but LONG walk starts at 10am and ends when everyone stops asking Roy, "What's that?" Bring life support. Ellen (831) 684-2363

Fri May 13- Sun May 15 Spring Sierra Sojourn, Big Pine, CA

I highly recommend this weekend of fieldtrips, programs, and new friends, hosted by the Bristlecone CNPS Chapter. A very reasonable fee includes meals, dorms, and all the information you can absorb from local botanists. For details see www.bristleconecnps.org, and click on Spring Sojourn.

Saturday, May 14, 11:00 - about 1:00 p.m. Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve Sandhills

Spring is a great time to see the sandhills wildflowers in bloom. Space is limited to 15 people per walk, so please sign up early by calling Val @ 425-1587. Val Haley, Botanist and Docent Coordinator, accompanied by one of the Reserve docents, will lead the majority of the walks. We will be happy to show you rare plants, sandhills specialty plants, and other spring wildflowers in bloom. Information will be provided about sandhills geology, plant ecology, plant adaptations, landscaping with native plants, and some of their medicinal uses. For all of the walks, we will meet at 11:00 am at the Firehouse on Martin Road. The easy to moderately paced walks usually last about 2 to 2.5 hours, depending on the number of questions. A donation for the cost to make copies of the handout packet would be appreciated, since Fish & Game does not fund the docent program. Dress in layers, bring sun protection, water and be prepared to hike in loose sand. This very rare habitat needs more study; opportunities for graduate research abound!

Sat May 14, 8am-afternoon. Optional Campout. Lost Valley Trail, Arroyo Seco Watershed, with Dave Nelson and Bruce Delgado

Comic and naturalist Dave Nelson will be the fearless leader of this excursion along with sidekick botanist Bruce Delgado. Dave has great knowledge of the trails and history of the area. The hike will begin at Escondido campground, 3 miles past Memorial Park campground (the Indians). The road is paved to the Indians and gravel the last 3 miles. Our primary destination is only a 1/2 mile down to an outcrop of ultramafic rock and halfway down to the Arroyo Seco river on the Lost Valley trail. The vegetation on such outcrops is 'different'. It is similar and related to serpentinized soils. Possible plants that may occur here include *Asclepias californica*, variety 'Greenei', *Fritillaria falcata*, and *Fritillaria affinis*. Ultramafics contain high amounts of iron and magnesium and, like serpentine, may be high in minerals toxic to most plants like nickel, chromium, zinc and molybdenum and low in essential nutrients, nitrogen and calcium. Geologist and ultramafic expert Steve Kidder says this spot on the LV trail is one of the biggest in the area.

An overnight camping option is available for Friday night, May 13. Backpacking could potentially extend your explorations into the following day(s). For the start time for the hike, contact Dave at 667-2879 or dirtroad@redshift.com to RSVP and for more info.

**Sat Jun 11, 9:30- 3:30
Roosevelt Canyon Splash with Jon Libby**

This off-trail and in- the- creek hike is not for the weak of ankle, but you'll visit the most Southern coastal range population of *Ledum glandulosum*, AKA Labrador Tea. Our local guide, Jon Libby, likes to ferret out unusual plants around the Indians, and can show us other rareities, such as *Eriogonum butterworthianum*. The difficult 4-5 mile loop will include some boulder scrambling and shallow water wading, while ascending the slot canyon of Roosevelt Creek, a cool oasis of ferns, running through hot chaparral. Participants are limited to only 6, due to the fragile yet rugged nature of the area. Call or e-mail Jon to reserve a spot, and get directions: jon@ventanawild.org, or (831) 459-6780. Be prepared to meet at the Indians Ranger Station by 9:30AM Sat., Jun 11. (You could camp there Fri night.)

Sunday June 26, 8am-late afternoon (June 27-28 optional) Mineral King, Sequoia National Park, with Larry Abers

Mineral King is a "secret Yosemite", a dramatic valley with spectacularly varied geology, and many options for dayhiking up to higher lake basins. Larry Abers has spent years exploring (and photographing) the area, and has offered to show us some of his favorite flowery spots. An all-day, approx. 7 mile hike/botany crawl, starts at 8am Sunday June 26, at the parking lot at the very end of the road (Eagle-Mosquito Parking Area). We are rating the hike as Strenuous due to the elevation gain; the valley floor is 7500', and we expect to climb into the (sub)alpine zone at 10,000' elevation. The full suite of Sierran wildflowers should be blooming, and we may see *Fritillaria pinetorum* and *Allium abramsii*. First come, first serve camping (no reservations) is available near the trailhead: Cold Springs Campground 1 mile away (a bit cramped), and Atwell Mills Campground 4 miles further. Cabins are available at Silver City Resort. If one day of subalpine botany isn't enough for you, Larry will lead the hunt for more botanical gems on Monday and Tuesday, June 27-28! Each day limited to 25 people: please call to reserve your spot - Larry Abers (510) 799-6234. For carpooling from Santa Cruz/Monterey area, call Ellen (831) 684-2363



Participants in the April 24 no-host field trip to Wilder Ranch State Park travelled at a different pace from others on the trail (background). All the pertinent floras were present.
Photo by : Suzanne Schettler

CNPS 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
<http://www.cruzcnps.org>

April 30, 2005 10 am to 1 pm
Sunset Beach State Park

May 7, 2005 10 am to 1 pm
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

May 21, 2005 10 am to 1 pm
Henry Cowell Redwood State Park

June 11, 2005 10 am to 1 pm
Sunset Beach State Park

Santa Cruz Flora Project

Volunteer with the "Santa Cruz Flora Project" by joining our drop-in herbarium work parties. No special training required other than attention to detail and a willingness to handle priceless specimens carefully. We'll provide all the training you need to mount dried plants in beautiful style. We meet every second and fourth Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm at the UCSC Natural History Museum. For more information about the work parties, please contact Linda Brodman at redwdrn@pacbell.net (831-462-4041). For more information about the flora project generally, please contact Pete Holloran at peteh@ucsc.edu (831-459-1774) or Janell Hillman at emerald@cruzio.com.

Pinnacles National Monument

Join our drop-in weed pull fests in a gorgeous location. Refreshments provided. Every 2nd and 3rd Saturday through June; special arrangements for groups of 6 or more. Contact Jenn at 831-389-4485 x274, or jennifer_tiehm@nps.gov for more info.



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

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

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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 Gueron 429-4047, 1900 Smith Grade Road, Santa Cruz, CA

Plant Sales: *VACANT*

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

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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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