



The Cypress Cone

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

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May – June 2008

Field Trips

We have quite a selection of field trips, both near and far. Please visit the Chapter website for the latest updates.

Saturday May 3, 11am-1:30pm

Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve with Val Haley

The Santa Cruz Sandhills support some of the rarest natural communities in the world. And who better to show you their splendors than Val Haley, who has dedicated much of her life to their exploration and restoration! On this moderate 2-mile hike, Val will discuss the ecology and geology of the area, as well as pointing out such rarities such as *Chorizanthe pungens* var. *hartwegiana*, *Arctostaphylos andersonii*, and *A. silvicola*, and 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. Contact Val to reserve a spot: 831-425-0687 or vegnet@cruzio.com. Bring sun protection, water, snack, etc., to the fire station on Martin Rd. in Bonny Doon.

Saturday, May 3. All Day

Botanical Excursion to Clear Creek/San Benito Mountain with BLM Botanist Ryan O'Dell.

One of the most bizarre and impressive serpentine areas in the world is 90 miles southeast of Monterey Bay. Join Ryan O'Dell of BLM for this guided tour of serpentine riparian, barrens, grasslands, and chaparral for splendid flowers such as rare fritillary lilies, sunflowers, and serpentine grassland fire-followers from a prescribed burn of 2007. Meet at the Hollister BLM Office at 8am for carpooling or at the Clear Creek Rd./Coalinga Rd. jct. at 10am. Contact Ryan at 831.630.5028 or ryan_o'dell@blm.gov to RSVP.

Sunday May 4 10am-12pm

Coastal Prairie Mima Mounds with Deanna Giuliano and Brett Hall

Join Brett Hall and Deanna Giuliano on a trip to one of our local wonderlands, a coastal wet prairie with mima mounds. You'll see an amazing display of our native bunch grasses, sedges, and rushes, along with a kaleidoscope of annuals and bulbs. Among the highlights we hope to see in bloom are

(continued inside)

Chapter General Meeting

May 12, 2008

7:30 pm

• **UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building** •

**Manzanitas, Maritime Chaparral, and Land Use Dilemmas:
Where does Maritime Chaparral End and Interior Chaparral Begin?**

Mike Vasey

California's central coast has long been recognized as a hotspot of flowering plant endemism. One particularly rich natural community, maritime chaparral, has been designated for legal protection under CEQA and the California Coastal Act. Inland from the coast, interior chaparral is a relatively common natural community, which invites the legally contentious question: where does maritime end and interior begin?

Mike will discuss this question with *Arctostaphylos* (manzanitas) as an ecological and evolutionary case study, and share the results of recent research that investigates the influence of summer fog as a driver of maritime chaparral distribution and diversity. Can summer fog patterns and plant ecophysiology help to define and potentially delineate maritime chaparral? Stay tuned!

Michael Vasey has been a faculty lecturer in conservation biology and environmental studies at San Francisco State University since 1990. He studies (*Arctostaphylos*) and co-authored the treatment for this genus in the upcoming second edition of the *Jepson Manual and the Flora of North America*. At present, Mike is a Ph.D. candidate in the Environmental Studies Department at UC Santa Cruz where he is researching the influence of summer fog on maritime chaparral (focusing on manzanitas, of course) and how this information might be useful in defining and delineating maritime chaparral.

He will also be leading a field trip on May 17 – come join us.

Spring Field Trips (continued)

Calochortus uniflorus and *Brodiaea terrestris*.

This trip will be from 10 am -12 pm, or longer if we find more interesting flora. Bring water, sunscreen, hat and a lunch. We'll hike to two adjacent meadows, with easy access and a leisurely walk. To meet us 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 (UCSC Natural Reserve). Parking is located on the right and left hand sides of the road.

Carpooling is encouraged, but not CNPS-sponsored. The Barn Theatre at the entrance to UCSC campus (High St and Bay St) is a good meeting place. Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or call 831 278-2699.

Mothers Day Sunday, May 11, 10am-3pm

Fort Ord Vernal Pool Flora and Fauna with Bruce Delgado and Suzanne Worcester.

We'll focus during several short hikes on rare wetland flowers such as the endangered Contra Costa goldfields and the always beautiful Johnny Nip (*Castilleja ambigua* ssp. *insalutata*, a wetland relative to the Indian paintbrushes), brownie thistle, and ladies tresses. We'll also enjoy flowers between the pools such as early rein orchids and other late spring wildflowers such as the beautiful virgate *Eriastrum* and what will likely be many surprises. Meet 10am at the Thrift Store parking lot inside the Lightfighter Dr./Fort Ord main entrance exit off Hwy. 1. When was the last time you cavorted around mima mounds? Bring water, weather protection, lunch, and wear good walking shoes. Call Bruce at 394-8314 or 277-7690 or email him at bdelgado@blm.gov or bdelgado@mbay.net.

Saturday May 17, 9:00 am

**Fog, Rare Manzanitas and Maritime Chaparral
Michael Vasey UC Santa Cruz**

Mid-May is a great time to get a sense of the relationship between summer fog and maritime chaparral. We will examine rare manzanitas, their many native plant associates, and talk about the relationship between maritime chaparral and summer fog. Plans are to visit three sites along a fog-no fog gradient:

- (1) UC Fort Ord Natural Reserve in Marina;
- (2) Sala Property (Elkhorn Slough Foundation) in the Pajaro Hills; and
- (3) Reeves Ranch Nature Conservancy preserve near Fremont Peak in the Gabilan Range.

In all, we will see four local endemic Manzanita species including the recently described *A. gabilanensis*. Each of these different sites represents different dimensions of maritime chaparral and our goal will be to observe and discuss both their similarities and their differences.

Michael will also talk about land use history for each site and demonstrate his experimental setup in each locality. With luck, we'll have some FOG! Start: Meet at 9:00 am at parking lot on the left hand side at the end of Neeson

Road in Marina, Monterey Co. (directions; from Highway 1, take Reservation Rd. exit east, bear right and stay on Reservation Rd. until you reach Imjin Rd., make a left on Imjin Rd. and follow to Neeson Rd. (near airport), turn left on Neeson Rd. and go west until you come to a signed parking area on left). From the parking area, we will hike into the UC Natural Reserve. Directions and a schedule for the rest of the day will be handed out then.

Saturday May 17, 11am-1:30pm

Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve with Val Haley

This is another opportunity to take this trip; please refer to the May 3 listing for the full outing description. Hike is limited to 15 people. Contact Val to reserve a spot: 831-425-0687 or vegnet@cruzio.com. Bring sun protection, water, snack, etc. Meet at the fire station on Martin Rd. in Bonny Doon.

Sunday May 18, 10 am-1pm.

A Wildflower Stroll into Malpas Canyon.

Corky Matthews

CNPS MEMBERS ONLY

Join Monterey County flora author Mary Ann (Corky) Matthews for an easy 2-mile walk to view the wonderfully diverse wildflowers of Malpas Canyon. This trip is restricted to CNPS members only because of the need to arrange for special access across private land. Access thanks to member Bonni Weinstein, who will accompany us. Corky says Malpas Canyon is one of her all-time favorite flower walks, with an ever-changing palette of flowers from spring through summer. Plant lists will be available. Meet at 10 am behind Brinton's at the mouth of Carmel Valley off Carmel Rancho Blvd. or 10:30 am at the end of Malpas Rd. Contact Corky (mmatthews2@comcast.net) for more details.

Saturday May 24 10AM-Noon

**Edible and Medicinal Native Plants of Henry Cowell
Helena Hope Roberts and L. Roxanne Evans**

Come learn how to spice up your life on this native plant walk through the majestic redwoods! Helena Hope is a third generation herbalist and certified classical homeopath, who will identify plants as natives or exotics, and discuss their edible, medicinal, homeopathic, and Native American uses. L. Roxanne Evans is an ecological landscape designer and consultant. As a former organic farmer and wildcrafter, she calls herself a wild edibles enthusiast. If you wish to tame some of the plants you learn about on the walk, she can help you learn how to bring them into your garden. They have published a booklet entitled, "*I Bet You Didn't Know This About The Plants of Henry Cowell*" with plant info, drawings and appendices, which will be available for \$12.00. Hiking will be less than 2 miles and consists of easy strolling. Meet in front of the Henry Cowell Interpretive Center, near Felton. There is a \$6.00 park entrance fee. Free parking is available outside the park. RSVPs appreciated

but not required. Thanks! For more info/RSVP: 831-768-1382 or 831-421-2843; tasteofthebay@gmail.com.

Sat May 31, 11am-12:30 (or longer)
Evolutionary Sleuthing in the Genus Trifolium
With Randy Morgan

Meet at the UCSC Barn Theatre at High and Bay Streets, Santa Cruz. From there we will proceed to a rooftop garden on the ISB on campus (with elevator access). We will see nearly a thousand pots of Trifolium, approximately 150 species, as Randy is growing out all of the major taxonomic groups worldwide. A subset of the collection includes nearly all of the California native clovers, with many variations of each. After Randy introduces a plethora of taxonomic puzzles, you may simply enjoy the flowers, or join in the research and preservation efforts, and stay late after class! Possible follow-up dates may be scheduled to observe more species as they come into flower. If you can't make this date, but want to be notified of future opportunities, call Randy 831-466-0680, or email Ellen ellen@centralcoastwilds.com. If you have any mysterious clovers in need of identification, feel free to bring them!

Sunday, June 8, 1:00 PM
Point Lobos Perimeter Hike
Rosemary Foster

Explore the plant communities of Point Lobos. We'll meet at the entrance on Highway 1 (Park along the highway) at 1:00 for a 4-5 hour, 6 mile walk around Point Lobos. We'll see meadows, Monterey Pine forest, Monterey cypress, coastal scrub and coastal bluff wildflowers. We'll also be viewing birds and marine mammals as well as the plants, so bring binoculars as well as water and a snack, if you wish. Slow pace - we will be braking for wildflowers, sea otters, nesting herons, etc.

This is a joint trip for both the Yerba Buena and Santa Cruz chapters. Contact Rosemary Foster (831)625-3083 or rdonlon4mbcnps@earthlink.net for more info. Please call (831) 277-8081 the day of the hike.

Friday July 25 - Tuesday July 29, 2008
Willows of the Sierra Nevada Workshop
John Bair
Sponsored by the Arboretum in collaboration with 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. Further details will be available June 15 - July 1.

Register with the UCSC Arboretum by calling (831) 427-2998 or e-mailing arboretum@ucsc.edu: Name, mailing address, phone, 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 be sure to join! 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

May 10, 2008 10 am to 1 pm
Natural Bridges State Park

May 24, 2008 10 am to 1 pm
Quail Hollow Ranch 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.



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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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