



The Cypress Cone

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

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November - December 2009

Chapter General Meeting

Adelia Barber

A Natural History of California's Long-Lived and Long-Dead Charismatic Megafauna: The Bristlecone Pines of the White Mountains



Pinus longaeva

November 9, 2009 7:30 pm
• **UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building** •

Adelia Barber will present her research work on the ancient bristlecone pines, one of California's great natural treasures. Stands of *Pinus longaeva* in the White Mountain Range are not only the longest-living species on record, but deceased individuals and relict wood can remain intact for millennia after death due to the cold and dry high elevation environment. Adelia's research focuses on understanding the population dynamics and life-history of this unique species.

She has conducted surveys and experiments on seedling germination and survival, cone production, and used tree-ring analyses to understand when and why some trees die while others survive. For this talk, Adelia will discuss the natural history and important life-stages of this ancient species and provide some insights about how bristlecone pines are responding to climate change.

Adelia Barber is a PhD candidate at the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She grew up in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and developed an early love for the native plants of this region. While completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Brown University, she worked on wildlife biology issues in Tanzania and studied seed biology in the endangered Santa Cruz tarplant. She was thrilled for the opportunity to return to her native Santa Cruz Mountains for graduate school and is currently working under Professors Daniel Doak and Ingrid Parker.

In addition to her dissertation research on bristlecone pines, she has been involved with conservation efforts in both the Los Gatos watershed, and the Bohemian Grove on the Russian River. Adelia is also assisting Randy Morgan, Jim Velzy, and a host of undergraduates with the genus *Trifolium* systematics project in the UCSC greenhouses.

Challenges at the UCSC Arboretum

Our readers have probably heard news that the UCSC Arboretum is threatened by budget cuts. Fortunately, it remains open for all to enjoy. The extensive living collections of native California flora and notable exotics are an important resource for our horticultural community. There are many ways you can help. Visit the beautiful gardens at 1156 High Street, open 9 am to 5 pm. Consider becoming a member, making a donation, or buying a gift at Norrie's.

There also are opportunities to become involved as a volunteer, from caring for the collections to helping raise funds. Call (831) 427-2998 to sign up.

For more detail on how you can help visit the UCSC Arboretum website <http://www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum>

Plant Sale Success

Let's recognize our loyal plant sale volunteers. They came out once again to unload the truck, set up the sale, greet the members at the gate, and give expert advice about the plants. And of course they made sales! Those participating this fall were Deanna Giuliano, Mary Ellen Irons, Susan Krivin, Jackie Pasco, Linda Willis, Pat Dufy, Kris Houser, Darien Rice, Mike Luther, Denise Polk, Fred McPherson, Suzanne Schettler, and Karen Hildebrand.

The Weed Management Areas of Monterey & Santa Cruz Counties welcome you to the



11th Annual Central California Invasive Weed Symposium

(Formerly "War On Weeds")

Friday, November 13, 2009
Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds,
2601 E. Lake Avenue, Watsonville

"Fire, Water, Action!"

Featuring Keynote Speaker Jon E. Keeley
Research Scientist for USGS Western Ecological Research Center
Balancing Fire Hazard & Alien Plant Invasions in an Era of Megafires

- Exciting Speakers
 - Live "Tool Tailgate" Demonstrations
 - Lunch & Snacks Provided
 - Saturday Field Trip
 - Networking Opportunities
- Continuing Education Credits are available.

For agenda, updates, and further details, visit: http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/ag/Weed_Symposium_2009.htm or contact Nora Carlton at (831) 759-7372, CarltonN@co.monterey.ca.us

Register Today at <http://cciws2009.eventbrite.com>

CNPS is a co-sponsor of this event.

The Native Garden

CA Natives in your Landscape

Fall is the perfect time to plant native plants! With the recent rains, local gardeners have an opportunity to install plants without a lot of water investment. New plantings in spring often need regular water to establish before the long, hot days of summer. Natives planted in fall will need less water to establish for several reasons. Of course there is more water from precipitation. The shorter days lead to slower photosynthesis and thus less water loss from evaporation. Also, the plants will have a chance to develop deep root systems over this season, and even some in winter, so by next spring they will be more drought-tolerant. For a great start, visit the CNPS website section on growing natives. There is a useful questionnaire to help with plant choice considerations: <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/>

Many of our local nurseries are also helpful resources to recommend the best species for your area. There may even be specials or discount plants as they lighten their inventory for winter! Please note that in some of our more extreme local zones that newer plants may be more frost-sensitive, so choose carefully for your garden location, and keep an eye out for the chilly nights.

- Julia Bell

Santa Cruz Chapter needs a Membership Volunteer:

The Chapter's Membership Position is now OPEN to a new volunteer.

This involves maintaining the current member database and help doing outreach for new membership.

Call Shirley at 831-427-9860 for more information.

Newsletter volunteer joins

You may have noticed some changes and a new name in this issue. I'm pleased to announce that Julia Bell has joined the newsletter team, and look forward to more of her artwork and articles.

Welcome Julia!

- Charles Koester

January Board Elections are not far away

Santa Cruz Chapter elections are held at the beginning of the January Board meeting. If you've been interested in getting more involved with some aspect of CNPS, contact one of the current board members (info on the back page) to find out what you can do that would suit you.



Julia Bell

Mimulus aurantiacus

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

November 7, 2009 10 am to 1 pm
Younger Lagoon, UCSC Natural Reserve

November 21, 2009 10 am to 1 pm
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

December 5, 2009 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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