

# The Cypress Cone

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

Volume 31, No 5

www.cruzcnps.org

September - October 2006

## **CNPS and Friends of Arana Gulch File Lawsuit Against the City of Santa Cruz**

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and Friends of Arana Gulch (FOAG) filed a lawsuit on Thursday August 11, 2006 against the City of Santa Cruz challenging the Arana Gulch Master Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR). At issue is the project's potential to adversely affect a genetically unique population of Santa Cruz tarplant. The tarplant (*Holocarpha macradenia*) is listed as "endangered" by the State of California, and "threatened" by the federal government.

## **UNITED STATES FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE: CRITICAL HABITAT**

The entire Arana Gulch area was designated as Critical Habitat for the tarplant (Unit D Arana Gulch) by USFWS on October 16, 2002. Critical Habitat plays a legally mandated role in the Endangered Species Act by providing areas for expansion which could lead to future recovery of a species. It also protects essential habitat features such as hydrology and the habitat for species essential to pollination or seed dispersal.

The project would build a 340-foot long bridge over Hagemann Gulch, a ramp (bridge?) spanning Arana Creek, and two 8 to 11 foot wide paved bicycle routes – one traveling east-west and the other north-south. Both routes pave over Critical Habitat.

## **COASTAL COMMISSION: ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE HABITAT AREAS**

All tarplant areas in Arana Gulch (as well as most of the site's riparian wetlands and wetlands) are within the coastal zone and have been designated as environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA) by the California Coastal Commission (under the Coastal Act Section 30240). Such designation provides that "ESHA shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values..." (Sec. 30240). The City admits that the project will create a "significant and unavoidable impact" to the tarplant that violates ESHA protection, yet approved the project despite these impacts.

## **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

The EIR states that these unavoidable impacts will result from paving over tarplant seedbank and habitat as well as from the unknown impacts from increased human activity in the

## **Santa Cruz County Chapter General Meeting**

Monday September 11, 2006 @ 7:30 pm  
Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History,  
1305 E. Cliff Drive

Cecilia Garcia and James D. Adams

## **Native Medicinal Plants and Chumash Healing**

Join Cecilia Garcia, Chumash Healer and Spiritual Leader, along with Jim Adams, Associate Professor of Pharmacology at USC School of Pharmacology, for a lively workshop style presentation on healing with native plants. Discover the secrets of how Native Americans used plants in the healing process for thousands of years along with the scientist findings supporting their effectiveness. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about the rich Chumash culture, take home plant material, and purchase their newly published book, *Healing with Medicinal Plants of the West*.

Cecilia was trained in Chumash healing by both her maternal and paternal grandparents who were Chumash Healers. She has been practicing Chumash healing her entire life and is now sharing her knowledge of how to use healing techniques in our own health care. Jim has had a long time interest in native plants and science. While studying drugs to help stroke victims recover more quickly he became interested in the possibility of using medicinal native plants. He became acquainted with Cecilia and formed a partnership resulting in the publication of *Healing with Medicinal Plants of the West*.

Each of their presentations is uniquely designed to meet the needs of the local community. Often the presentations include Chumash songs and insights into Chumash culture along with an abundance of plant material and a slide presentation.

This will be an exciting and one-of-a-kind event. We hope to see you there!

(continued on next page)

## **Arana Gulch Lawsuit** (from front page)

surrounding area. These impacts will not be mitigable to a less than significant level. The EIR also failed to adequately address potential adverse impacts from hydrologic changes brought about by these paved routes. Tarplant habitat is dependent on a specific hydrologic regime, and paving can result in either dewatering or overwatering of adjacent tarplant habitat. Further, the EIR inadequately addresses the effects of fragmenting the 4 historic tarplant subpopulations. Fragmenting these 4 populations prevents successful restoration to historic population numbers and complicates the successful implementation of grazing or similar disturbance regimes – like mowing or prescribed burns – to control and remove thatch.

The City's EIR failed to consider alternative bike routes that do not cross the ESHA of Arana Gulch Greenbelt. This failure to consider viable alternatives that would reduce or eliminate significant environmental impacts is a clear violation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is part of our lawsuit. There are many bicyclists who do not support the paved bike route across Arana Gulch Greenbelt because of the project's impacts on endangered species. Bicyclist Don Fong, a westside resident and project opponent said, "It's a sad day for bicyclists when the City uses bicycling as an excuse to pave over the critical habitat of an endangered species. I'm proud to stand with the growing number of bicyclists who are saying, 'Not in our name!'"

### **HISTORY**

The Arana Gulch Greenbelt is a 67.7-acre parcel of land located near the Yacht Harbor, approximately 1.5 miles east of downtown Santa Cruz. It was acquired by the City of Santa Cruz in 1994 after voters passed Measures O and I, which called for the preservation of greenbelt land. The City created an Interim Management Plan for the tarplant in 1997 and CNPS volunteers assisted the City in implementing various disturbance regimes in the 1990s. Since 1999 the City has failed to implement any significant management actions for the tarplant and the resulting thatch buildup has become a significant threat to the long-term viability of this tarplant population.

The City Council approved the Arana Gulch Master Plan EIR on July 11, 2006, despite the fact that the majority of people commenting at that hearing were opposed to building a bike route through Arana Gulch Greenbelt. For over 10 years, members of the community have spoken against this project. Over that same time all the regulatory agencies charged with protecting listed species have also opposed this project.

### **CURRENT PROTECTION EFFORTS**

CNPS and FOAG are standing up to protect critical habitat for endangered species and prevent violation of ESHA

along the California Coast. FOAG is a community group working for the preservation and restoration of Arana Gulch. Their resourcefulness and tremendous energy at fund-raising has proved to be a perfect partnership with CNPS's plant conservation expertise (from chapter to State level) and our dedication to preserve California native flora. We have been able to retain Bill Parkin as our attorney through a successful fund-raising drive. We have reached our first goal allowing us to file the lawsuit within the allotted 30-day time frame. We are continuing to ask for contributions. If you are able to contribute please make your check out to the California Native Plant Society, with a notation for Arana Gulch and mail it to our chapter treasurer, Suzanne Schettler, P.O. Box 277, Ben Lomond, CA 95005. All contributions will go straight to our legal expenses and allow us to fully prepare for the trial phase of this lawsuit challenging the City's decision.

Thanks to you all for your time and consideration.  
Vince Cheap  
Conservation Chair, Litigation Sponsor  
CNPS, Santa Cruz Chapter  
(831) 477-1660, e-mail: vince@sasquatch.com

## **Santa Cruz Tarplant Fact Sheet**

This issue includes a version of the *Holocarpha macradenia* fact sheet created by the Elkhorn Slough Foundation. As part of its Coastal Training Program, the program web site has descriptions of local threatened and endangered native plants.

A full-color version is available at  
[www.elkhornsloughctp.org/factsheet/factsheet.php?SPECIES\\_ID=22](http://www.elkhornsloughctp.org/factsheet/factsheet.php?SPECIES_ID=22).

---

## **FALL PLANT SALE** **Saturday, October 14** **Eucalyptus Grove, UCSC Arboretum** **10:00 am – 11:00 am member preview** **11:00 am – 3:00 pm general public**

On Saturday, October 14 the Santa Cruz Chapter of CNPS and the USCS Arboretum will again hold their Fall Plant Sale. While it is unlikely that any *Holocarpha macradenia* will be available, there will be a wide variety of natives as well as other selections suited to our climate. Autumn is an excellent time to set plants out, as winter rains give many species the jump start they need for next spring. Remember – CNPS and Arboretum members can arrive early for the best selection!

# HOLOCARPHA MACRADENIA

*Endangered*

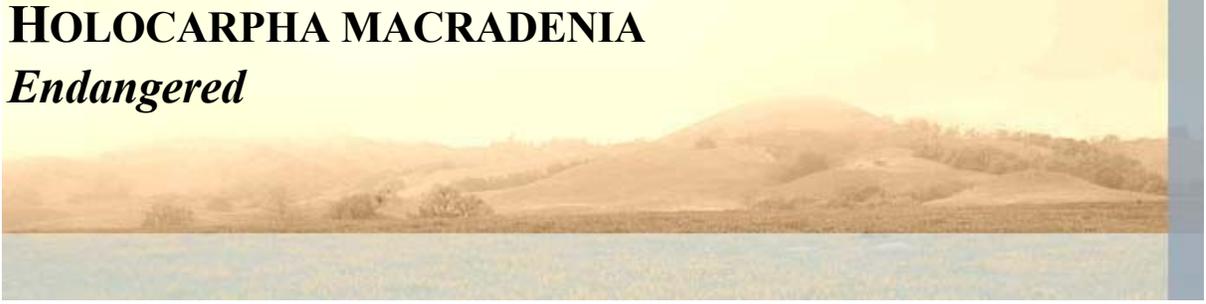


Illustration from Abrams (1960)



Photo by Dean W. Taylor

**COMMON NAME - SANTA CRUZ TARPLANT**  
**FAMILY - ASTERACEAE (SUNFLOWER)**  
**STATE STATUS - STATE ENDANGERED**  
**(SEPTEMBER 1979)**  
**FEDERAL STATUS - FEDERAL**  
**THREATENED (MARCH 2000)**

## Habitat

Coastal prairie on marine terraces flanking the northern Monterey Bay (and, formerly, around the outer San Francisco Bay)

## Key Characteristics

Annual herb from a basal rosette of leaves, rosette and basal leaves withered at flowering, rosette and lower cauline leaves with small marginal teeth, 2-10 cm long and approximately 8 mm wide across the blade; the leaves on the stems progressively become linear and bract-like; plants strongly scented and densely glandular, with axillary leaf clusters tipped by tack-shaped yellow glands exuding “tar”-like compounds. Larger plants branched; flower heads clustered and spherical, 10–14 mm diameter, with 5–8 mm long phyllaries; 8–16 ray flowers with 4–6 mm long ligules; many more (40–90) disk flowers, which have black anthers. Superficially similar to much more common coast tarweed (*Deinandra corymbosa* ssp. *corymbosa*), which has deeply lobed leaves and is more frequently seen in the same coastal prairie habitat.

## Flowering Period

June to November

## Reference Populations

City of Santa Cruz Arana Gulch Greenbelt; Elkhorn Slough Foundation’s Porter Ranch



Photo by Kevin Merk



This fact sheet was prepared by Grey F. Hayes and Dean W. Taylor under award NA04N0S4200074 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC). The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NOAA or the DOC.

© Copyright 2006, Elkhorn Slough Coastal Training Program. Reprinted in Sept-Oct 2006 CNPS Santa Cruz newsletter with permission.

## Global Distribution

Extant only in central California in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. Extirpated from Alameda, Marin, and Sonoma Counties; found in Contra Costa County only in introduced populations on East Bay Regional Parks property.

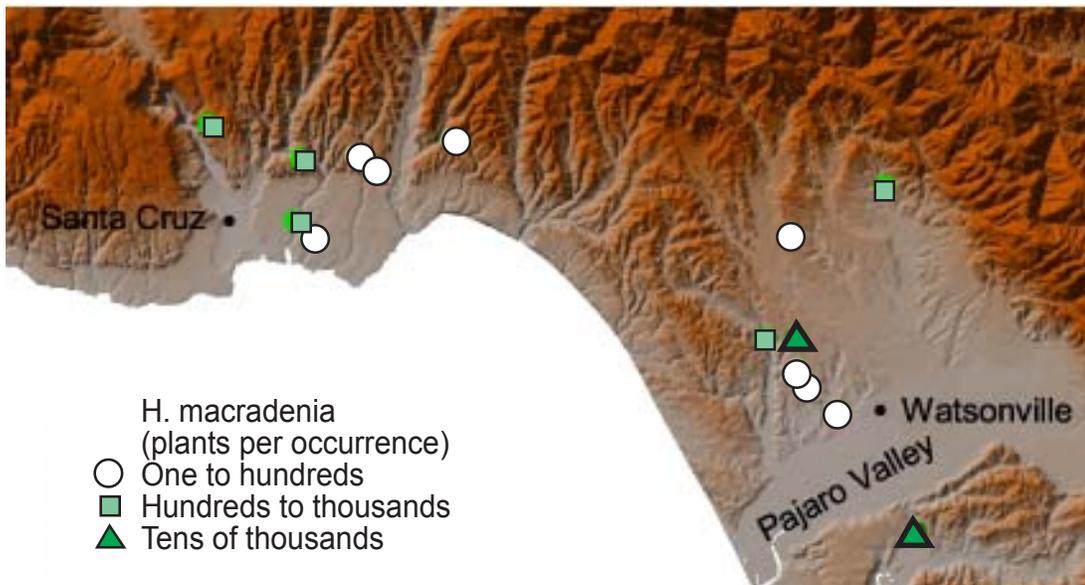
## Conservation

Remaining natural populations in the San Francisco Bay area were extirpated in 1990s and persist there only as the cessation of grazing. A population at the Watsonville Airport, with a mowing regime that simulates grazing, has supported between 400,000 to as many as 27 million plants, fluctuating in relation to rainfall; the site is vulnerable to development.

## References

- Abrams, L. 1960. *Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States*. Stanford University Press, Palo Alto, CA.
- Havlik, N. The Santa Cruz tarplant relocation project, pp. 421–425 in T. S. Elias, ed., *Conservation and Management of Rare and Endangered Plants*. California Native Plant Society Press, Sacramento, CA.
- Hayes, G. and K. D. Holl. 2002. Cattle grazing impacts on annual forbs and vegetation composition of mesic grasslands in California. *Conservation Biology* 17(6):1694–1702.
- Palmer, R. 1987. Evolutionary relationships of *Holocarpha macradenia*, pp. 425–431 in T. S. Elias, ed., *Conservation and Management of Rare and Endangered Plants*, California Native Plant Society Press, Sacramento, CA.

*Holocarpha macradenia* range map with population counts



## **Book Review – *Ceanothus*** by David Fross and Dieter Wilken

The new book on *Ceanothus* by David Fross and Dieter Wilken is an excellent addition to the library of any native plant *aficionado* or horticulturist.

The photographs alone are delicious. We have heard accounts of English uses of California native plants, especially as espaliers on south-facing walls where they are protected from the cold British winters. Starting with the back jacket, readers can see *Ceanothus* in English gardens for themselves without crossing the pond. There are equally good color illustrations of *Ceanothus* in California gardens and in wild settings, along with close-up line drawings. We discover the myriad aspects of the genus, from groundcovers to shrubs of various heights to small trees, and with flower color ranging from white, to pink, to multiple shades of blues, and nearly purple.

The book is organized into two major sections. Part I, by David Fross, addresses *Ceanothus* in the Garden and Landscape. The introductory essays cover natural distribution, history of cultivation, and cultural practices for the genus as a whole. The bulk of Part I is an encyclopedia of all the recognized species and cultivars. For each, the natural habitat is identified; although California is the center of the genus' distribution, a surprising number of lesser-known species occur throughout North America. The growth habit and color and season of bloom are described, followed by suggestions for garden use, cold tolerance, and cultural tips. Particularly valuable for the gardener is a selection guide for various traits and garden uses – including shade. Part I is the juicy half of the book, and it may start you on a search for a *Ceanothus* that will fit a particular situation in your garden.

Part II, by Dieter Wilken, covers *Ceanothus* in the Wild. Compared to Part I it is drier and more technical, describing the species and their distributions in greater detail and covering taxonomic features. Of interest to Monterey Bay area readers, *C. soledadensis* (now considered a variety of *C. oliganthus*) is a large shrub or oak-like small tree with flowers that can be a deep blue. It may be a parent of the cultivar 'Blue Buttons', but the species itself seems worthy of horticultural selection. Unfortunately, the keys are buried in the middle of the book and are not mentioned in the Contents or the Index. The description of the unusual fruits and their manner of dehiscence would have benefited from a line drawing or two. Nonetheless, this section may inspire you to carry the book with you when exploring *Ceanothus* in their natural settings.

The mission of the book was to update the classic 1942 horticultural and botanical treatment of *Ceanothus* by Maunsell Van Rensselaer and Howard McMinn. In this goal it thoroughly succeeds, and it makes a wealth of new knowledge available. Lovers of blue flowers will be especially grateful.

Suzanne Schettler

### **CNPS Habitat Restoration Team Events**

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

**September 2, 2006**  
**10 am to 1 pm**  
**Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park**

**September 30, 2006**  
**10 am to 1 pm**  
**Sunset Beach State Park**

**October 28, 2006**  
**10 am to 1 pm**  
**Sunset Beach State Park**

### **Genetically Engineered Grass Spreads Beyond Planting Area**

The New York Times reported on August 16 that an unapproved variety of a genetically engineered creeping bentgrass has been found growing in the wild. Environmental Protection Agency scientists recently found several of the herbicide-resistant plants up to 2.4 miles from the site of tests conducted in 2004. The escaped varieties came both from seed scattered from the test plots as well as genetically engineered pollen hybridizing with native bentgrass species.

## 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 Members 2006

**President** Brett Hall brett@ucsc.edu

**Past President:** Casey Stewman gentiana43@sbcglobal.net

**Vice-President:** vacant

**Secretary:** Kris Houser 462-6672, KrisHouser@sbcglobal.net

**Treasurer:** Suzanne Schettler 336-1745, greening@cruzio.com

**Membership:** Anne Hayes hayesanne@mindspring.com

**Conservation:** Vince Cheap 477-1660, vince@sasquatch.com, Kathe Hart 427-0237, kathehart@hotmail.com, Stephen McCabe 336-2141, smccabe@ucsc.edu

**Rare Plant Coordinator:** Randall Morgan 465-6640

**Invasive Exotics:** Linda Brodman 462-4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net & Fred McPherson fredwood@cruzio.com

**Vegetation:** Casey Stewman

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

**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, ellen@centralcoastwilds.com

**Newsletter:** Charles Koester 335-9466, cnps@koester.com

**Hospitality:** Angel Guerzon 429-4047, 1900 Smith Grade Road, Santa Cruz

**Plant Sales:** Karen Hildebrand 426-1172 and 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

P.O. Box 1622

Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Address Service Requested

First Class  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Santa Cruz CA  
Permit # 161

First Class