



The Cypress Cone

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

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July- August 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the longest days of the year are upon us, our chapter is bustling with activity. Through local conservation issues, State CNPS Board meetings, restoration projects and wildflower hikes, our local board members continue to put their efforts where their hearts are for our county's native plants and plant communities.

I want to extend an apology to our membership for the late newsletter in the Spring. Look further into this issue for a summary of Laurel Sutherlind's presentation.

Our chapter could really use some volunteers from our membership on the local board. Currently open (and important) board positions include Poster Sales, Plant Sales, Legislation and Vice-President. These positions are essential to the smooth functioning of our chapter and no formal training is required. I encourage all folks with some enthusiasm for native plants and a little time to get involved. Please contact myself or a local board member to express your interest.

July's speaker Gene Thomas will enlighten us on the fascinating family of the Milkweeds. Please join us to find out about this highly evolved group and how their destiny's are tied to the insect world.

Hope all you folks enjoy your summer!

~ Casey Stewman, President

California Native Plant Society Santa Cruz County Chapter General Meeting

Monday, July 11, 7:30 PM
Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
1305 E. Cliff Drive

Gene Thomas
California's Milkweeds

The Asclepiadaceae, recently subsumed under the Apocynaceae, are world wide in distribution. Most of the 2,000 plus species are tropical vines, such as Hoya, but others are stem succulents, such as Stapelia of South Africa. A few of California's milkweeds come as vines— Matelea, Sarcostemma, and Cynanchum, but the majority in the genus Asclepias, are mostly herbaceous perennials.

Gene Thomas has driven about 10,000 miles in the last three years to find all of California's native milkweeds. He has photographed all of them in their native habitats except one, which he photographed in his garden. Moving to California ten years ago, Gene rekindled his love of botany in general (after a graduate career in plant breeding/genetics and plant pathology), and his devotion to milkweeds in particular. Gene is an avid gardener and propagator, and would like to see milkweeds in every garden. He teaches biology at Solano Community College.

Join us for this wonderful summertime talk!



Milkweed beetles

Condrey Mountain Conservation and KS-Wild

Our May speaker, Laurel Sutherlind, gave an enthusiastic and well-informed presentation on the natural history and complexity of the geology, flora and fauna of the Klamath-Siskiyou region of southern Oregon and northern California. Laurel discussed the efforts of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands center to protect and conserve the diverse and often endemic inhabitants of these scenic landscapes.

Specifically, Laurel encouraged our chapter and members to get involved through phone calls or letter writing to representatives such as Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein to protect the Condrey Mountain Roadless Area. A company called Fruit Grower's Supply owns a 240 acre private holding in the heart of this 20,000 acre roadless area and plans to log it. The land is centered on Black Mountain and is currently old growth incense cedar, Brewer's spruce and Pacific silver fir forest as well as being chock full of rare Siskiyou endemics, such as Siskiyou mariposa lily (*Calochortus persistens*), Yreka phlox (*Phlox hirsuta*) and the Siskiyou mountain salamander (*Plethodon stormii*). The area also has serpentine outcrops. Please join our chapter in encouraging your representatives to help purchase and protect this property to protect this spectacular area from road-building and the destruction of rare and unique habitats.

For more information please contact kswild.org

~ Casey Stewman

The Endangered Species Act Needs Your Help!

Don't look now, but some of our most prized environmental accomplishments are under attack from property rights extremists and corporate interests. An attack on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has begun in Congress. Claiming that the ESA is broken and problematic, Representative Dennis Cardosa has submitted HR 1299, entitled the "Critical Habitat Enhancement Act," which would actually weaken protection for endangered species and habitat.

Legal and legislative stealth attacks on the ESA and critical habitat can be especially challenging when they are cloaked under the guise of improving environmental regulations. It is essential that groups like CNPS and our members make sure that the truth is clearly communicated about such ESA stealth attacks.

We can all help by writing to our representatives, submitting letters to the editor, and supporting those that fight for us in the courts. To this end, 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 a Pledge to support the ESA. The previous issue of Cypress Cone contained the text of an ESA Pledge that was developed by Representative Dingell, an original sponsor of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. We expect tens of thousands of concerned citizens and elected officials across the country to sign this pledge and support the Endangered Species Act.

Make sure your voice is heard. Sign or circulate our Petition to the President and the US Congress. Please sign the enclosed Petition, (you can have your family and friends sign, too), and return it to:

CNPS Santa Cruz Chapter
PO Box 1622
Santa Cruz, 95061

ESA FACTS

- ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS TO PROTECT SPECIES IS TO PROTECT THE PLACES WHERE THEY LIVE. THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT PROTECTS THE CRITICAL HABITAT THAT IS NEEDED TO PREVENT THE EXTINCTION OF ENDANGERED FISH, PLANTS AND WILDLIFE.
- ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT HAS SAVED HUNDREDS OF SPECIES FROM EXTINCTION.
- ACCORDING TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT HAS SAVED 99.3% OF ITS LISTED SPECIES FROM EXTINCTION.
- NEARLY ALL VOTERS (90%) RECOGNIZE AS IMPORTANT THAT THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT PROVIDES A SAFETY NET FOR WILDLIFE, PLANTS, AND FISH THAT ARE ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION.
- RECREATION IN HEALTHY WILDLAND ECOSYSTEMS, INCLUDING HUNTING, FISHING AND WILDLIFE WATCHING PRODUCES \$108 BILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUES, EQUIVALENT TO THE 7TH LARGEST CORPORATION IN AMERICA. HUNTING, FISHING AND WILDLIFE WATCHING EMPLOYS NEARLY AS MANY PEOPLE—2.6 MILLION—AS IN THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES.
- 56% OF THE TOP 150 MOST POPULAR PRESCRIBED DRUGS ARE LINKED TO DISCOVERIES OF NATURAL COMPOUNDS IN THE WILD, WITH AN ANNUAL ECONOMIC VALUE OF \$80 BILLION. THIS COULD BE THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG—LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF ALL TROPICAL PLANT SPECIES HAVE BEEN SCREENED FOR POTENTIAL PHARMACEUTICAL APPLICATIONS. AT THE CURRENT EXTINCTION RATE, EXPERTS ESTIMATE THAT THE EARTH IS LOSING ONE MAJOR DRUG EVERY TWO YEARS. A CURE FOR CANCER OR AIDS MAY LIE IN A PLANT OR ANIMAL WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED.
- THE PACIFIC YEW, A SLOW-GROWING TREE FOUND IN THE ANCIENT FORESTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST WAS HISTORICALLY CONSIDERED A "TRASH" TREE THAT WAS BURNED AFTER CLEAR-CUTTING FORESTS. WE NOW KNOW THAT A SUBSTANCE IN ITS BARK—NOW MARKETED AS TAXOL®—WAS IDENTIFIED AND APPROVED AS TREATMENT OF OVARIAN, BREAST, AND LUNG CANCER.
- DIGITALIS, A DRUG DERIVED FROM THE PURPLE FOXGLOVE PLANT, EXTENDS THE LIFE SPAN OF AN ESTIMATED 3 MILLION AMERICANS WHO SUFFER FROM HEART DISEASE.
- AND AMERICANS GET ALL THE BENEFITS OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT FOR LESS THAN 50 CENTS PER PERSON PER YEAR!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SARAH MATSUMOTO, ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION, (510) 486-0567 OR [SMATSUMOTO@STOEXTINCTION.ORG](mailto:smatsumoto@stoextinction.org)

WANTED!!! Plant Sale Coordinator and Plant Sale Volunteers

The coordinator of our plant sales has retired and we NEED someone or several someones to fill her shoes. You would be in charge of setting up and running our twice-yearly sales event. Basic duties include working with the volunteers to unload the nursery truck and arrange the plants for sale; put out the signage; schedule and train the volunteers; assist the public with their plant purchases; and work with members of the UCSC Arboretum.

You would be assisted in your duties by the CNPS treasurer, publicity chair, plant propagation co-chairs, Arboretum liason, and many, many, many wonderful volunteers. Come join us for training during our fall sale.

If this sounds like a lot of fun to you (and it is!), please contact Denise Polk, propagation co-chair @ (831)685-3235 or e-mail @ dmpolk@cruzio.com for more info.

And welcome aboard!

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Dr. Patrick Elvander Memorial Scholarship Spring 2005 Recipient

The Patrick Elvander Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that Kristofer Orre, a UCSC student, is our spring 2005 award recipient. The Committee felt that Kristofer's project, "The Effects of Grazing on Native and Exotic Seed Banks at Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve", is an interesting and valuable contribution towards conservation of our coastal terrace prairie grasslands, and awarded Kristofer \$300. Kristofer's project will evaluate how the presence or absence of historic grazing practices at Elkhorn Slough might have affected the grassland seed bank in these areas and will apply this information to guide restoration activities at the reserve.

The Dr. Patrick Elvander Memorial Scholarship Fund was created in the memory of gifted, articulate and well-loved Patrick Elvander, professor of plant systematics at UCSC. Its purpose is to promote the appreciation, understanding, education, and research of native plants and habitats in the Santa Cruz bioregion, and to encourage students in the field of organismal and macro biology.

Look for Kristofer to present his research this fall at one of our general meetings! Thanks to all of you who have contributed to our scholarship fund over the years, and congratulations Kristofer.

If you would like to donate to this fund, checks may be sent to:

CNPS Santa Cruz Chapter, P.O. Box 277,
Ben Lomond, CA 95005.

Please reference the Elvander Scholarship Fund in the memo section of your check. For more info, contact Janell Hillman (emerald@cruzio.com or 460.1113).



Silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albitrions*)

FIELD TRIPS

With all the rain this year, it's been quite a Spring! I hope you have all had time to get out and enjoy the natural wonders around us. A big round of "Thank you" to all the fieldtrip leaders for helping us appreciate the beauty of the botanical realms. And with scarcely a chance to draw a deep breath, we segue into the flowers of summer (Have you seen the Brodiaeas in the Pognip?!). Don't forget to keep checking the website (www.cruzcnp.org) for additional fieldtrips; frequently plans are made that don't fit into the newsletter schedule.

JULY 10 (Sun) 9am-3pm: CHEWS RIDGE w/ Corky Matthews

At 4880 feet, it's still Spring on Chews Ridge, the highest public road in Monterey County, bordering the Ventana Wilderness. Corky Matthews, author of *An Illustrated Field Key to the Flowering Plants of Monterey County*, will lead the trip. Flowers we can expect to see are *Trichostema* (woolly blue curls), *Hypericum* (St. Johns Wort), *Penstemon*, *Calochortus*, *Monardella*, *Clarkia*, *Mimulus*, *Calycadenia*, etc. including species not seen at lower elevations. Meet in Garland Ranch parking lot (not along Carmel Valley Road) at 9 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Carpooling in SUVs is recommended, as the road is steep and unpaved from Jamesburg on. Return by 3 p.m. Leader, Corky Matthews, (831) 659-2528. Call Ellen for possible carpool from Santa Cruz: (831)-684-2363

**July 17 (Sun) 1-3 pm: POINT LOBOS,
Monterey w/Rosemary Foster**

If you haven't visited Pt. Lobos for awhile, you owe this trip to yourself! You'll get world famous scenery combined with Rosemary Foster's intimate knowledge of the local native plant communities. Meet inside Point Lobos at the Bird Island parking lot to explore the coastal bluffs and enjoy the mid-summer bloom. Walking the trails will be easy. Leader, Rosemary Foster, 625-3083.

July 24 (Sun) 10am-3pm: CHCF PICNIC:

Join us at the Second Annual Chuck Haugen Conservation Fund Picnic in celebration of the year's conservation successes at this gathering of conservation volunteers, professionals, family and friends!

Free admission, gourmet BBQ, music, silent auction, guided hikes, children's activities, conservation awards and grants, and special guest speaker, Peter Douglas, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission.

Proceed from the silent auction and snack sales will benefit CHCF and its mission to appreciate and inspire volunteers and professionals who participate in the conservation of Monterey Bay's ecosystems.

Follow the event signs from the Fort Ord Main Entrance or from Reservation Road. Please bring your own silverware and plates. To RSVP or for more information call 384-1376 or jshriner@mbay.net

Aug 27 (Sat) 9:30-2:30 Butterflies' Favorite Ft. Ord Flowers w/David Styer

Would you like to become more familiar with the summer flowers that are favored by butterflies? Join David Styer, Ft. Ord aficionado and naturalist extraordinaire, on a backcountry tour of BLM's Ft. Ord wildlands. *Heliotropium curassavicum's* purple flowers are one of the veritable butterfly magnets that should be in bloom around Mudhen Lake. Butterfly activity is very weather dependent, but we have the option of focusing on the flowers if they aren't flying in abundance. (David could also digress into bird identification, if participants are interested.) Meet at the Thrift store on the right, inside the Ft. Ord Main Entrance at 9:30 AM. Bring water, sun/wind protection, and lunch. Short, easy walks from the cars. David Styer (831) 633-2590

VOLUNTEER

**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>

**July 9, 2005 10 am to 1 pm
Henry Cowell Redwood State Park**

**California Invasive Weeds Awareness Week
July 18-24, 2005**

To all you weed wackers out there...
The second annual California Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (CIWAW) allows local groups that control invasive plants a chance to show off their hard work while educating local citizens and policymakers. Weeds Week is a project of the California Invasive Weeds Awareness Coalition (CALIWAC), with local activities organized by Weed Management Areas and other interested groups.

Our CNPS chapter will do it's share by having a work project on:

**July 23, 2005 10 am to 1 pm
Sunset Beach State Park**

We will continue our work on removal of invasive, non-native, *Ammophila arenaria* (European beachgrass), and help restore habitat for native plants and wildlife.

Information for local weed groups to help organize, and get the word out during California Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (CIWAW) can be found at the web site of the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) at www.cal-ipc.org.

**August 13, 2005 10 am to 1 pm
Sunset Beach State 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/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

President Casey Stewman 338-4796, cjs4@humboldt.edu

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

Vice-President: *VACANT*

Secretary: Kris Houser 462-6672, kris.houser@hp.com

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

Membership: Tim Hyland 464-9141

Newsletter: Noelle Antolin 426-7108, lupine76@yahoo.com

Conservation: Vince Cheap 477-1660, vince@sasquatch.com, Kathe Hart 427-

0237, kathehart@hotmail.com & Kim Hayes 728-8050, hayes@elkhornslough.org,

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

Poster Sales: *VACANT*

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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Santa Cruz, CA 95061

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