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# THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



Volume 44, Number 1 [cruzcnps.org](http://cruzcnps.org) January - February 2019

## Patrick Matthew's Redwoods — The Race to Send the First Sierra Redwood Seeds to Britain

Speaker: **Peggy Edwards**

Chapter General Meeting:

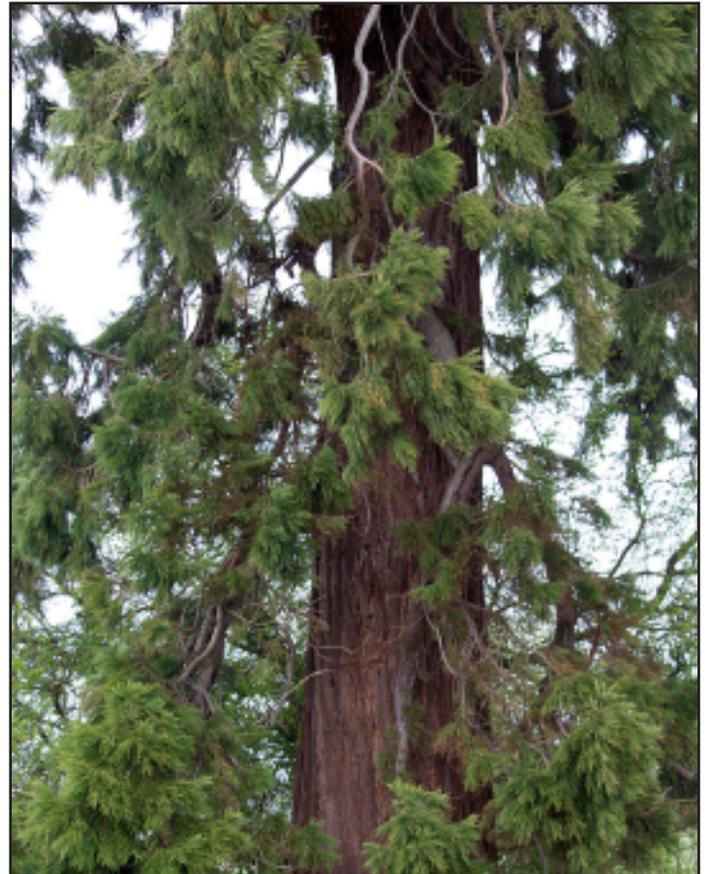
**Monday, January 21, 7:30 pm**

UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Keying Session: **5:30 pm**

In 1853, in the tradition of the great plant hunters, the race to send the first *Sequoiadendron giganteum* seeds to the United Kingdom was on. The first seeds from the Calaveras Grove to arrive in Scotland were shipped to Patrick Matthew of Errol whose acquisition was eclipsed four months later by William Lobb's delivery of seeds to Exeter. One hundred sixty five years later, Matthew is finally receiving the credit he deserves while the original redwoods (confirmed by genetic analysis) thrive, towering above all other woodland trees on the great estates of the Victorian era.

Peggy Edwards, UC Berkeley and UCSC teacher, natural science illustrator, and former field botanist and naturalist with the US Forest Service, is a frequent visitor to Scotland helping with botanical projects for Save Gillies Hill, the Scottish Redwood Trust, and Trees for Life. Peggy was a founding member of the Sierra Foothills Chapter of CNPS, is a lifelong resident of the central coast, and is currently living on land purchased by her grandparents in 1920, and which adjoins the Morgan Preserve.



*Sequoiadendron giganteum* at Gillies Hill, near Stirling, Scotland.  
Photo by Peggy Edwards



Dale Kruse and Wellingtonia *Sequoiadendron giganteum* at Gillies Hill, near Stirling, Scotland. Photo by Peggy Edwards



*Sequoiadendron giganteum* at Inchtute, Scotland. Photo by Peggy Edwards

# In Memoriam: Fred McPherson

## Environmental Educator Hopelessly in Love with Nature



Fred McPherson playing in Bear Creek near his home.

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Literally and figuratively, Fred McPherson was a force of, and for, nature in the San Lorenzo Valley as well as the Santa Cruz Mountains bioregion. He was a friend, teacher, advisor, and mentor to so many people of all ages. Fred was at home in a high school or college classroom, boardroom, on the radio or in a video, behind a camera, and most of all outside. He recorded his observations in an extensive collection of natural history journals and passed that skill on to anyone who asked. His early passion for learning turned into a passion to educate others and to advocate for the conservation of our natural areas. Willingness to share his knowledge and experience, while enthusiastically listening to people of all ages and backgrounds was one of his most endearing qualities.

Fred played a prominent role in shaping the future of the San Lorenzo Valley in the late 1960s and early 1970s by helping to defeat a plan to build an expressway through the valley on the east side of the river. Along with that new road, planners wanted to dam the creeks and river, increase housing density, and reproduce the “Berkeley experience.”

He and his cohorts not only defeated the original plan, they worked diligently to create a better plan that helped to preserve the watershed and the way of life many residents loved and respected. “We were thinking about what we wanted to make the valley more livable,” he remarked during an interview with Bruce Damer of Levity Zone in July 2018. This philosophy, of working to make something better, was a theme that resonated throughout the rest of his life; and the tool of his trade was education.



Fred McPherson working with environmental monitoring students at San Lorenzo Valley High School. Photo by Jane Orbuch

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When several teachers at San Lorenzo Valley High School (SLVHS) explored the possibility of starting a Watershed Academy (which included an aquaculture center and environmental monitoring program), Fred was in on the ground floor during the planning and implementation of the endeavor. After the academy was formed, Fred worked with high school students by conducting native plant field trips, participating in yearly science fair poster review sessions, and attending SLVHS science symposiums. He also encouraged parents and others to become involved in the students’ education and was a strong advocate for teachers.

**“Habitat is just  
the address.  
Ecosystem is  
where they live.”**

Over the years, Fred served many roles in the Santa Cruz County Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (chapter president for several years, board member in the roles of education and outreach, volunteer at the membership table during native plant sales, and more). He and his wife, Roberta, produced several educational videos that documented the natural history of the San Lorenzo Valley watershed and other areas of California. You can subscribe to their Youtube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/slvbackyard/videos>. He was also a founding member of the Santa Cruz Mountains Bioregional Council (<http://www.scmcb.org/>).

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**To learn more about Fred’s contributions to the natural history and conservation of the Santa Cruz Mountains and San Lorenzo Valley, please visit our website at [cruzcnps.org](http://cruzcnps.org) where you will find links to several more resources.**

## Tributes to Fred:

*He loved this Valley and worked hard to protect and preserve it. Look around you and share your love and work for peace... Fred would like that.*—Nancy Macy

*We all lost a good friend today. It did not matter to Fred whether he just met you, or had known you for years, he was interested in what was in your mind and heart. He was the epitome of a curious mind. We honor his memory by continuing to explore, observe and learn about the world around us, and most importantly, to teach others what we have learned so that they understand its intrinsic value and beauty.*—Ken Kellman

*Fred led such a rich life devoted to conservation and natural history and he really was a marvelous teacher. He also had strong convictions. I recall when CNPS, at the State level, would revisit our Mission and Vision, Fred was always adamant that we use “ecosystem” where we use “habitat.”*—Brett Hall

*I think the most important gift I received from Fred was a “sense of place”; being local, and therefore knowing, observing, and understanding your local environment—this is the best way to be a steward of your environment.*—Jane Orbuch

*Fred was outgoing in a gentle way. He could connect with just about anyone.*—Suzanne Schettler

*Fred was a visionary, not only on what to teach, but how to teach it. He was one of the first to harness the power of video. When I think of him I smile.*—Steve Hartman

*Even those of us who didn't know Fred well will miss him. When Fred talked with someone, that person had Fred's complete and loving attention.*—Jackie Pascoe

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### Santa Cruz County Chapter Field Trips

#### **Manzanita Hike in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park with Deanna Giuliano** **Saturday, February 23, 9:30 am to 2:00 pm**

Hike in the sandhills of Henry Cowell to see manzanita and other treasures that grow there.

Bring water, layers, sunscreen, hat, and a lunch. Meet at the Juvenile Hall parking lot on Graham Hill Road. Heavy rain cancels.

Contact **Deanna Giuliano** for any questions about either field trip at [drosegiuliano@yahoo.com](mailto:drosegiuliano@yahoo.com) or call **831.278.2699**.



Fred McPherson and Kris Hauser sharing a laugh at a recent plant sale. Photo by Jackie Pascoe

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*One of Fred's many ongoing jobs was running the welcome table at CNPS plant sales for many, many years. This last fall he was there as usual, greeting old members and welcoming new ones. He said how much he enjoyed working that table—how good it was to see all the old CNPS friends. We will truly miss Fred, and his smile and positive attitude towards life.*—Julia Davenport

*I will miss him terribly, as he was a dear friend who so brilliantly shared his love of natural history and California native plants.*—Kris Hauser

*Our interview with Fred was one of my favorites. He invited us to his home and we were able to experience his positive energy and love of nature in person. He said he was “hopelessly in love” with nature and life. His love is infectious and he will be greatly missed. I know he lives on in all of the students he has mentored in the 50-plus years in education. If you have not listened to his story yet, please do, it is a good one and an inspiring one. Rest in Peace Fred.*—Grey Hayes

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### Habitat Restoration Team

**Saturday, January 5 and January 12**  
**10:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Venues to be determined - check [cruzcnps.org](http://cruzcnps.org)

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 are provided; bring gloves.

Contact: **Program Leader, Linda Brodman**  
**831.462.4041, [redwdrn@pacbell.net](mailto:redwdrn@pacbell.net)**

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**Keep up with additions to field trips and restoration dates by checking our website at [www.cruzcnps.org](http://www.cruzcnps.org).**

**Please Note:** Carpooling is encouraged but not sponsored by CNPS.

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Santa Cruz County Chapter  
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Hiking • Propagation • Keying Club • Conservation • Habitat Restoration • Field Trips • Herbarium Work • Talks

## Membership News

Happy New Year to all!

Welcome to our new  
California Native Plant Society members:

Aaron Fitch  
Jeannie Hobbs  
Syam Pannala  
Jonathan Robbins  
Megan Maloney  
Guillermo Ramirez  
Juliana Ivey  
Nathan Blackmore  
Jack Conner  
Christopher Angelos

**Note:** Any member who would prefer to receive the *Cypress Cone* digitally, drop Ann Garside a line at [annng@calcentral.com](mailto:annng@calcentral.com) to make the switch. Thanks!

SAVE THE DATE  
SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE  
SATURDAY APRIL 13, 2019!

## Join the California Native Plant Society

Your membership includes *Fremontia*, a journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; *Flora*, CNPS's new magazine presenting a statewide report of activities and schedules; and *The Cypress Cone*.

Fill out the form below, or go to [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) and join or renew your membership online.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

- Student/Limited Income \$25
- Individual \$45
- Family or Library \$75
- Plant Lover \$100
- Patron \$300
- Benefactor \$600
- Mariposa Lily \$1500

Make your check payable to CNPS and send to:

Membership Chair, CNPS,  
2707 K Street, Suite 1,  
Sacramento, CA 95816

## Like us on Facebook

Contribute to our group! Search for "Santa Cruz County Chapter - California Native Plant Society." Ask a question about native plants or post your own photos of native plants in your yard or on your hikes.

## Opt for email

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email only, please contact Ann at [annng@calcentral.com](mailto:annng@calcentral.com) and let her know your preference.

## CNPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of California native flora.

CNPS has 34 chapters throughout the state and membership is open to all persons – professional and amateur – with an interest in California's native plants and other activities such as natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking, and gardening.

**Donations are tax-deductible** and support special projects such as publication of the county Checklist, and conservation activities that preserve important habitats and species in our area. You may earmark gifts for specific areas. (Your membership is also tax deductible, minus \$12 for the journal *Fremontia*, three issues per year.) Make checks payable to CNPS and send to: CNPS, P.O. Box 1622, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.