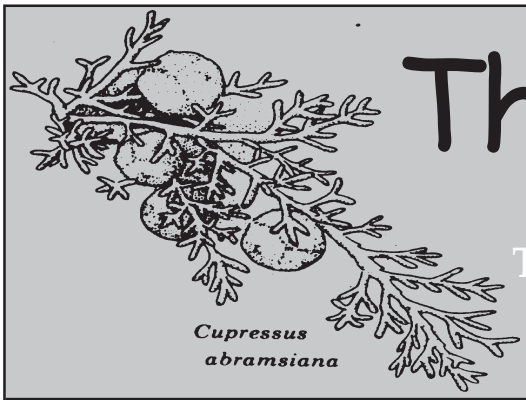

The Cypress Cone

The newsletter of the California Native Plant Society

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER

Volume 36, No 2 www.cruzcnps.org *March - April 2011*

Santa Cruz County Chapter
Members' Night and Public Meeting

Get Ready For Spring!
Membership Potluck and Your Pictures in a Slideshow

6:30 pm Potluck
7:30 pm Slideshow
March 14, 2011
UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Everyone Is Welcome!

Every March, we co-sponsor with UCSC Arboretum a special membership meeting for like minds, and folks interested in getting involved and informed about the delightful lives of native plants and their habitats. We hope to gather more people and build our membership organizations.

Did you travel somewhere, locally or afar, and have some photographs of California natives and diverse habitats? Did you take some beautiful pictures of scenery, plants, or animals along the way? We have decided to make our March membership meeting a slideshow preview for what will be forthcoming this spring. A few folks have signed up to participate, and there is room for more. We hope to make Members' Night a fun sharing and a (yearly) popular evening.

Cardamine californica - Milkmaids

We are planning on folks presenting a maximum of twelve of their finest photographs. Digital photographs will be the easiest in terms of technical set up. If you'd like to share your photographs, please **RSVP by Sunday, March 6** by emailing Linda Brodman at redwdrn@pacbell.net or call 831 462-4041. Time allotted per person will depend on how many participants RSVP. Whether you have images to share or not, join us for a fun potluck celebrating native plants.

Spring Plant Sale: Saturday, April 16

Our Santa Cruz Chapter plant sale for spring comes rolling around on Saturday, April 16th. Once again it will be in the Eucalyptus grove at UCSC alongside the Arboretum sale. Hours will be 10 – 12 members only and 12 – 4 for members and the public. Memberships will be available at the gate if you have a friend who wants to come in early for the best selection.

The special focus of the sale will be on Ribes. The propagation group has expanded the selections and grown extras of these varied and beautiful shrubs. Among the Ribes you'll find malvaseum, speciosum, aureum (the showy yellow one), viburnifolium, and sanguineum in a range of colors from white through light and dark pink. A few surprises will round out the group.

Of course the usual array of spring favorites will be there, too. We'll have to wait and see what blooms at the right moment, but cross your fingers for the *Iris douglasiana*.

The Checklist of Santa Cruz County Vascular Plants Is Being Updated

In 2005, the Chapter published *An Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County* by Randall Morgan, et al. The product of years of research, the *Checklist* has proved to be an invaluable resource to both laypeople and professionals who want to know what plants are found in our area.

Hundreds of new taxonomic classifications and changes in plant nomenclature have resulted in the Chapter's decision to publish an updated version of the *Checklist* so that the information in it will correspond to that in the 2nd edition of the *Jepson Manual* due out later this year. Dylan Neubauer is leading this project with consultation from Randall Morgan and others. The update will include a larger format with the latest information on rarity, invasive species, and key characters for identifying difficult species.

The Chapter has committed $4000 to this project, and is seeking an estimated additional $4000 in matching funds needed to complete this project prior to publication. A generous donation of $1000 from a local Chapter member leaves only $3000 remaining to be raised. If you wish to contribute to this project, please send a check to our treasurer, Suzanne Schettler, P.O. Box 277,Ben Lomond 95005. Please write "checklist" in the memo line of your check.

Extra! Extra!

The plant sale needs you! We have a dedicated group who work on the sale days, but let's make the event even better. We need several posters to promote CNPS and to explain a special bonus at this sale (a free plant for those who join on sale day). And we would love to have a little music to draw people in and keep them browsing around. There are 307 members in our Santa Cruz chapter, and we hope to get to know more of you and enlist your enthusiasm and help. Remember that the plant sales fund all our local efforts. To pitch in, please phone Karen Hildebrand, plant sale chair, at 426-1172.

The First California Native Plant Week April 17-23, 2011 http://cnpweek.org

Last summer the California State Assembly and Senate approved Resolution ACR 173 (Evans) establishing California Native Plant Week. This measure proclaims the 3rd week of April, each year, (April 17-23, 2011) as California Native Plant Week and encourages community groups, schools, and citizens to undertake appropriate activities to promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of California's native plants.

ACR 173 recognizes the vital historical, artistic, and economic contributions California's native plants have made to our State, and points out that California native plant gardening and landscaping have tremendous positive impacts to our watersheds, to habitat recovery, and to curbing catastrophic wildfires. In particular, the resolution recognizes that home landscaping and gardening with native plants can cut residential water use from 60 to 90% over conventional gardening.

Our plant sale on April 16th is our warm-up for the week. The new website, www.cnpweek.org, will be a good source of information specific to Native Plant Week. See our Chapter website at www.cruzcnps.org and get out on some spring field trips!

The UCSC Arboretum is putting on a special event to highlight the week. It will be held on Tuesday,April 12th at 7pm at the Education building at the Arboretum. Carol Bernstein (formerly with the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden) will introduce a new book on native plants which she has co-authored. Everyone is also welcome to attend a potluck at 6pm preceding the talk.

Arana Gulch Update: Silence from the City

At the October, 2010 meeting of the California Coastal Commission the City of Santa Cruz's Arana Gulch Master Plan to pave bikeways through the middle of the genetically significant Arana Gulch population of the endangered Santa Cruz sunflower/tarplant was voted down by the Commissioners in a 5-5 vote. The Commission directed the City to revise its plan before reapplying for approval. In early November of 2010 CNPS was informed by an intermediary that the City wanted to know if CNPS would attend another meeting with the City. We replied that we are always open to meeting again. Since it has been well over 2 months with no response from the City CNPS has sent a formal letter with a copy also going to the California Coastal Commission. That letter is reprinted below.

February 2, 2011
City of Santa Cruz,
Planning and Community Development
Attn: Juliana Rebagliati, Director

Dear Ms. Rebagliati:
The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) remains committed to working with the City to develop an alternative route in the Arana Gulch Greenbelt that will satisfy the California Coastal Commissioners, preserve ESHA, and provide ample and long term protection for Arana's population of Santa Cruz sunflower/tarplant, *Holocarpha macradenia*, (Federally listed as Threatened and State-listed as Endangered), its population of artist's popcorn-flower, *Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus* (CRPR 1B), coastal prairie, and ephemeral wetlands. CNPS recognizes the need for ample time for this negotiation to take place and we are concerned about the impending end of the City's waiver-extension. The CNPS approval process requires adequate time for review and approval by our local chapter board and our state Board of Directors as well, consultation with many experts. Therefore, we are concerned that CNPS is not being consulted early enough for anything fruitful to take place. ... Please let the CNPS know if the City is rescinding its November 2010 offer and request for such a meeting.
Thanks for your time and consideration and we look forward to hearing form you as soon as possible to schedule a meeting. When we discussed this during the November Coastal Commission hearing in Santa Monica, you expressed genuine interest in meeting with us.
Sincerely,
Brett Hall
CNPS State Board President
Arboretum UCSC

Santa Cruz Chapter Board of Directors

President: Deanna Giuliano drosegiuliano@yahoo.com
Vice-President: Brett Hall brett@ucsc.edu
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Field Trips: Ellen Holmes 684-2363, ellen@centralcoastwilds.com
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Linda Willis 479-1535
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Court Ruling Provides Relief in Western Mojave

While we are still awaiting the final outcome of our legal efforts to protect the Santa Cruz Tarplant, other challenges to native flora have had good success in the courts. There was welcome news earlier this year about legal protections for endangered plants and crtical habitat. CNPS, Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), Sierra Club and other organizations received a long-awaited decision offering relief in the remedy phase of the Western Mojave Off-Highway Vehicle (WEMO) case. The January 31st ruling is a follow-up to a 2009 decision in which Judge Illston (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California) held that U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) did not adhere to its own regulations and violated the National Environmental Policy Act and Federal Land Policy and Management Act in its 2006 Plan, which allows Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use on thousands of miles of trails within the West Mojave planning area. To correct BLM's incomplete and inadequate environmental analysis in the 2006 WEMO management plan, the Court remanded the WEMO in its order dated September 28, 2009, and ordered BLM to complete a new designation of OHV routes and conduct a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and management plan. The remedy order established a date (March 31, 2014) by which BLM must comply with the 2009 decision, and ordered BLM to comply with additional remedies sought by CNPS and other plaintiffs to protect biological resources in the WEMO area between now and the 2014 deadline.

These remedies were sought out by plaintiffs as injunctive relief to BLM's failure to implement proper signing, monitoring, and enforcement conditions they should have completed already. This relief appropriately addresses BLM's defense that OHV damage to unusual plant assemblages, air quality, cultural resources, and riparian resources results from individuals' illegal OHV use. Key interim provisions include the following:

1. BLM must submit a detailed implementation plan for signing all open routes within 60 days, and must actually complete the signing with 180 days.
2. BLM was ordered to update all maps to include accurate and updated route information, so the public is made aware of legal and illegal OHV routes within 210 days.
3. BLM shall provide a monitoring and enforcement plan for all routes within 90 days.

The California desert supports many susceptible native plant communities in need of specific protection from OHV use. Impacts to unusual plant communities, special status plants, riparian areas, and other resources on public lands must be taken into account when federal agencies designate roads and trails for vehicle use. Tom Egan, Mojave Chapter Conservation Chair has had an active role in route designation in the Mojave Desert for over twenty years, and has worked closely with coalition partners in designing the relief granted by the Court.

Greg Suba, the state CNPS Conservation Program Director had this to say about the ruling, "CNPS looks forward to working with BLM to conserve the unusual plant assemblages and the proper functioning condition of iparian areas within the WEMO." "This order provides immediate vital, protections for the resources of the California deserts from expanded off-road vehicle use" said Lisa Belenky, a senior attorney with CBD. "The BLM has been ordered back to the drawing board on off-road vehicle route designations in the West Mojave to take into account the significant damage these vehicles cause to our public lands and the wildlife that depend on those lands to survive." Reports indicating the BLM's progress in implementing these provisions will be provided to the Court on a quarterly basis and the Court is retaining jurisdiction in the event BLM fails to comply. CNPS is pleased with the Court's original and follow up rulings that hold BLM accountable for completing an environmental analysis that is consistent with State and Federal laws. We will be closely monitoring BLM's response to the Court's order. With a new environmental analysis, management plan, and set of protective measures in place, we expect to see OHV impacts on desert plant communities reduced.

Greg Suba, Conservation Program Director:
(916) 447-2677x206 gsuba@cnps.org
Tom Egan, Conservation Contact, Mojave Chapter
(760) 952-3678 streamnut@aol.com

Spring 2011 Field Trips

I hope you can take some time to get out and enjoy the exuberance and delicate beauty of spring! Be sure to periodically check our Santa Cruz chapter website for additional offerings, as trips may be added after the newsletter is printed: cruzcnps.org. Please note that many trips require an RSVP. We recommend doing this sooner than later, to be assured of reserving a spot. However, if you find yourself wishing to go on short notice, you may still attempt to reach the trip organizer. Conversely, if you need to cancel a reservation, please let the leader know, so that someone else may attend. For additional field trips and other events, check the websites of our neighboring chapters:
http://www.montereybaycnps.org/
http://www.cnps-scv.org/

For farther-flung floriferous adventures check out the primarily Southern California and desert flowering hotspots on these websites:
http://www.theodorepayne.org/hotline.html
http://www.abdnha.org/pages/03flora/reports/current.htm
http://www.desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html

Saturday, March 12, 10am to 2pm
Wildflower Stroll at Toro Park

Let's meander up and back the Ollasen Trail at Toro Park, with lots of beautiful meadow and oak woodland flowers along the way. Corky Matthews and Mary Gale will lead this 2 mile mosey, with lots of time to stop and smell the johnny-jump-ups, baby blue eyes, and others. Slight grade but never steep! Bring water and snack or lunch, and meet at 10am outside the park entrance, just off Highway 68 at Portola Drive, between Salinas and Laureles Grade Road. We'll carpool in to our trailhead. Rain cancels. For more information, call Mary Gale at 626-3565.

March 13, 10am-2pm
Early Spring Wildflower Tour at Fort Ord Public Lands
Reservation required

BLM Botanist Bruce Delgado and volunteer David Styer will lead this driving/hiking tour of early spring wildflowers. Total hiking will cover one to three miles, mostly very gentle climbs or flat. The tour will view vernal pools, oak woodland, and a maritime chaparral prescribed fire area. There will be radically different, but all very special, wildflowers and vistas, rare plants and other native beauties.

Co-sponsored by BLM & CNPS. Contact Lynn, 375-7777 for meeting location & reservations.

Sunday March 20, 9:30am
Kahn Ranch Spring Wildflower Walk
Reservation required

Michael Mitchell & Dr. Rod Yeager, co-authors of Wildflowers of Garland Ranch - a field guide, will take us into the Kahn Ranch (a lesser known part of Garland Ranch) which is a special place to see not only beautiful vistas but a wide variety of spring wild flowers. The outing begins with a short walk to a waterfall then with a climb into a different habitat where we will be surrounded by flowers along the way. 3.7 miles with1,100 ft. elevation gain. Bring lunch, water & hiking boots. Meet by 9:30 in the main parking lot (lower lot) of Garland Ranch. Call Lynn for a reservation at 375-7777.

Saturday March 26, 9:15am
Garland Ranch Regional Park Spring Wildflowers
Reservation required

Join Dr. Rod Yeager and Michael Mitchell, co-authors of Wildflowers of Garland Ranch - a field guide, on a wildflower walk along the Terrace Trail and Garzas Creek. Expect to see gorgeous displays of early spring flowers including Giant Trillium, Indian Warrior, Chia, Coast Larkspur, Meconella and possibly Checker Lilies. About 3.5 miles with 600 ft. elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:15 in the main parking lot (lower lot) of Garland Ranch. Call Lynn for a reservation at 375-7777.

Sunday, March 27, 9am-noon
Sunset State Beach with Tim Hyland

The beaches of Santa Cruz once contained a remarkable array of plants especially adapted for life at the exposed edge of the continent. Much habitat has been lost to development, agriculture, and invasive weeds. Tim will show us one of the sites where State Parks has been burning invasive dunegrass and watching the natives spring back to life. Our 2-mile mosey will include foredunes, wetland, and the reardune, home to the only rare sand gilia in Santa Cruz County. We'll visit the hopefully extirpated veldtgrass site, and see the largest population of Chorizanthe robusta robusta in the world. Birds abound, so bring your binoculars as well as hand lens and lunch! . I'll bet you can't find a flowering plant onsite which Tim won't be able to identify!
At the beach entrance, let the kiosk operator know you're there for “the CNPS field trip”, then head down to the south end of the lower day use parking area. Tim, 831-359-3722

Sunday April 3, 10am-3pm

Calypso Orchids of Butano with Paul Heiple and Deanna Giuliano

Join geologist and naturalist extraordinaire, Paul Heiple, along with Deanna Giuliano, to see the beautiful purple Calypso orchids. We will also look for skunk cabbage, Western wake robin, and an array of flowering native berry species. It's roughly 5 miles round trip, of moderate elevation gain, to see the orchids. An optional additional hike up a steeper fire road will allow those who want to continue on, to see Rhododendron macrophyllum and other wonders.

Trip is from 10-3 bring water, layers, hat and lunch. Meet at the entrance of Butano State Park. Carpooling is encouraged but not CNPS sponsored. If interested in carpooling meet at the Westside New Leaf parking lot on Fair avenue at 9:15. Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or call 831 335-4902

Friday, Saturday & Sunday April 15-17, 10am-5pm

50th Annual Wildflower Show at Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

Don't miss this Golden Anniversary featuring the wildflowers of the California central coast as well as basket weaving demonstrations, wildflower sketching classes, lectures, and a children's room with 'hands on' crafts and activities. This outrageous display occurs at the Museum, corner of Forest and Central (831-648-3116) in Pacific Grove. Countless volunteer hours will provide you with a sensual and intellectual overload, as you realize there are 600-700 species of wildflowers, labeled and organized by family. This is one of the largest wildflower shows in the world. Go Friday for freshest scents!

Saturday April 23, 10am-3pm

Quail Hollow Ranch Wonders with Deanna Giuliano

Have you ever seen the pygmy redwoods that grow at the top of Quail Hollow? Join Deanna Giuliano on a hike in Quail Hollow Ranch. We will see a variety of habitats, marshy meadows, woodland, chaparral and our own unique sand hills. Some species we could see are Arctostaphylos silvicola, Lupinus latifolius, and Fritillaria affinis. We will also enjoy spectacular views. About 5-6 miles round trip, with some steep climbing, depending on the trails we take.

Trip will be from 10-3, bring water, layers, sunscreen, hat and lunch. Meet at Quail Hollow Ranch county park main parking lot. Carpooling is encouraged but not CNPS sponsored. Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or call 831 335-4902.

Saturday-Sunday April 23-24, 10am-4pm

39th Annual Wildflower Show Santa Clara Valley CNPS

Celebrate California Native Plant Week at the 39th Annual Wildflower show featuring over 400 species of wildflowers and native plants of Santa Clara, San Mateo, and surrounding counties. Sponsored by the California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter. Free classes at 11am, 1pm, 2:30pm on native plant identification, wildflower viewing, native plant gardening, and children's activities. Plants, books, and wildflower items for sale. Mission College Center. Free admission; free parking in Lot C only. See http://www.cnps-scv.org/ for more information

Saturday April 30, 11:00am-1:30 or 2pm

Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve w/ Val Haley Reservation required

Come on up to Bonny Doon. You will be amazed at the vibrant come back of our precious Santa Cruz Sandhills vegetation, three years after the Martin Fire in 2008. The Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve will be having three guided nature walks this spring on April 30, May 14, and May 28 so this is a rare opportunity to watch the succession of spring flowers, under the guidance of a long-term steward of the land. All of the walks will be lead by botanist and sandhills specialist, Val Haley, with perhaps a guest appearance by another local botanist. Topics along the trail will include vegetation management, rare and endemic plants, manzanita recovery, wildflowers in bloom, geology and erosion control.

All of the walks start at 11:00 am, and will last about 2.5 to 3 hours. Please bring food and water, sun protection, and good hiking shoes. There will be a few moderate hills and numerous stops in the approximate 3-mile walk. Meet at the Reserve Parking lot next to the old firehouse on Martin Road. The main cross streets are Ice Cream Grade to the north and Bonny Doon Rd to the south. Please RSVP to Val by phone or email if you would like to attend (425-0687 or vegnet@cruzio.com). The walks are limited to 15 people per walk, so pick a date and reserve your spot.

Sunday May 1, 3pm-5pm

Flowers and Pollinators of DeLaveaga Park w/ Justen Whittall

The focus of this field trip will be on flower colors in the forest (Whittall's specialty) and the primary pollinators in these communities. The hike will highlight understory plants of the Redwood Forest & Mixed Evergreen Forest, such as Viola, Oxalis, and Clintonia. The out and back walk to the “Top of the World” is approximately 3 miles

total distance with less than 200 feet elevation gain (Easy-Moderate hiking). Bring water and a snack. You might sneak a peek at his website, to whet your appetite for knowledge on the evolution of flower colors! http://www.jbwhittall.com/

Meet at the DeLaveaga Park Main Entrance. Branciforte Dr. approximately 1 mile north of intersection with Goss Ave., Isbel Dr. & Market St. Meet in the parking lot next to the children's playground, near park entrance. Carpools (always) recommended. No reservations necessary; open to the public.
Justen Whittall (Department of Biology, Santa Clara Univ.), jwhittall@scu.edu, (831) 332-3389 (cell)

Sunday May 7 10am-1pm
Coastal Prairie Mima Mounds with Deanna Giuliano
Join Deanna Giuliano on a trip to one of our local wonderlands, a coastal wet prairie with mima mounds. You will see an amazing display of our local native bunch grasses, sedges, and rushes, along with a kaleidoscope of annuals and bulbs. Among the highlights we hope to see in bloom are Calochortus uniflorus and Brodiaea terrestris.
Trip is from 10 am to1 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 at 9:40. Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or call 831 335-4902

Saturday May 14, 11:00am-1:30 or 2pm
Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve w/ Val Haley Reservation required
Come on up to Bonny Doon. You will be amazed at the vibrant come back of our precious Santa Cruz Sandhills vegetation, three years after the Martin Fire in 2008. The Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve will be another three guided nature walk this spring on May 28 so this is a rare opportunity to watch the succession of spring flowers, under the guidance of a long-term steward of the land. All of the walks will be lead by botanist and sandhills specialist, Val Haley, with perhaps a guest appearance by another local botanist. Topics along the trail will include vegetation management, rare and endemic plants, manzanita recovery, wildflowers in bloom, geology and erosion control.

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Plant Propagation

Would you like some hands-on experience with propagating the plants provided at our sale? The friendly Plant Propagation group usually meets on the third Sunday of each month at 9:00 am at Suncrest Nursery in Watsonville. Contact Mike Luther at 688-3897 or Denise Polk at 685-3235 if you are interested.

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

Future Projects: Stay tuned!

March 5, 2011 10 am to 1 pm
Younger Lagoon, UCSC Natural Reserve

March 12, 2011 10 am to 1 pm
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

March 26, 2011 10 am to 1 pm
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

Call or email Linda Brodman for future events.

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.

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*.

Got Pictures? Include Them in the March Slideshow!

Calochortus albus

California Native Plant Society
Santa Cruz County Chapter
P.O. Box 1622
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