



The Cypress Cone

California Native Plant Society
Santa Cruz County Chapter



Plant lovers visited a flowery mountain meadow on a recent outing in the Randall Morgan Natural History Field Trip series. Several visitors from the East Bay joined local plant lovers. Gold Fields and Lupines were in full bloom along with local rarities.

Photo: Suzanne Schettler

“Dam the Luck!”

How the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Has Led to New Insights into the Ecology, Evolution and Conservation of the Coyote Ceanothus

A talk by Janell Hillman

What: Chapter General Meeting

Where: UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

When: Monday May 13, 2013

Keying Club 5:00 pm

Mystery Plant ID 7:00 pm

Presentation 7:30 pm



Ceanothus ferrisiae

The largest reservoir in Santa Clara County was in danger due to earthquakes! A refit is underway — but it will impact a rare plant, the Coyote Ceanothus. To mitigate the damage, botanists and other specialists are now planning how to establish a

new population of this plant. Janell Hillman, a botanist at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, will tell us more.

Keying Club

Come early to the general meeting. From 5-7pm, you can join the popular Keying Club. Given the topic of the May general meeting, the first hour will focus on ceanothus. The second hour activity depends on what material is to hand. No experience needed — it's a great way to find out what keying is all about, or to practice your skills, aided by the very able Deanna Giuliano. If you have them, bring a hand lens or microscope, and Jepson (2nd Ed) or Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

From 7-7:30 pm anyone can bring in their “Mystery Plants” for the keying group to ID.

Rare Plant Treasure Hunt at Ano Nuevo



Daniel Slakey, Project Coordinator for the CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt, and Deanna Giuliano, our chapter president, led an intrepid band of treasure hunters on a trip to Ano Nuevo on April 6th. They found (possibly) *Plagiobothrys diffusus*; hopefully Dylan can check on the population when it is fruiting to confirm the ID. They also thoroughly documented the population of *Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *chorisianus*, and some volunteers

later also found harlequin lotus, *Hosackia gracilis* — a state rarity that occurs near the *Fritillaria* — as well as more *P. diffusus*, and a rare *Erysimum*!

Some controversy arose about the identification of the *Fritillaria* - was it *F. agrestis* or *F. lilacea*?

Aaron Schusteff had a hunch that the observed population had more in common with *F. lilacea*, seen in Marin and San Mateo counties, especially at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve. Aaron recalls that the Edgewood plants have tepals mainly white inside and out, with green stripes within, but little or no dark brown mottling within. Brian



Brian Keelan at first thought the *Fritillaria* was likely to be *agrestis*, but after further research was less sure. He later commented, "Nectary length, tepal length, and extent of anthocyanic markings on the insides of the tepals appear to me to be better for *agrestis*, whereas minimal if any unpleasant odor favors *lilacea* — but this was hard to evaluate under the cold, windy conditions. It would be good to check on a warm, calm day." Daniel is inquiring into the ID of this interesting *Fritillaria* population with the treatment authors from *The Jepson Manual*.

You can view an album of Aaron's *Fritillaria* photos here: <http://flic.kr/s/aHsjEJu7NT> — enjoy!

Central Coast Rare Plant Treasure Hunt!

Daniel Slakey

The CNPS State Office is happy to announce the start of the Central Coast Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (RPTH)! In this program, CNPS staff and volunteers work in groups to search for new and historical locations of rare plants, document them, and submit the data to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). The data are used to update the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory, helping to ensure the conservation of California's rarest plants. While the RPTH has been going on since 2010, it has never had a focus on the Central Coast until this year. We are also pleased to announce that Deanna Giuliano,



the Santa Cruz Chapter President, will be helping us out this season! Please consider joining us for one or a few of these trips. Whether you prefer an easy to moderate day hike or a strenuous 3-day backpacking trip, there is something for you! If you can make it out to one of our camping trips for just a day or two, let us know; we will likely be able to accommodate you. Join us for one or more of these trips this spring or summer!

Fritillaria agrestis?

Photo above taken in Sonoma by Brian Keelan

Photos to left taken in Ano Nuevo by Aaron Schusteff.

- May 5th — Junipero Serra Peak (Monterey Co.)
- May 11th-13th — Pine Ridge / Tassajara Hot Springs Backpack (Monterey Co.)
- May 16th — Sierra Azul Open Space (Santa Clara / Santa Cruz Co.)
- May 20th – 22nd — Ventana Wilderness Car Camp (Monterey Co.); dates tentative
- May 25th – 27th — Cone Peak Car Camp (Monterey Co.)
- June 5th – 7th — Pine Ridge Trail / Sykes Hot Springs Backpack (Monterey Co.)
- June 8th — Andrew Molera SP (Monterey Co.)
- June 14th — 16th – Alder Creek Bot. Area / South Coast Ridge Car Camp (Monterey Co.)
- June 28th — 30th – Lion's Den Bot. Area / Cruickshank Trail Backpack/Car Camp (Monterey Co.)

For more info go to:

www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/treasurehunt/calendar.php
or contact dslakey@cnps.org.

Spring Plant Sale

We had a glorious day for the plant sale this year and there were lots of happy smiling shoppers snapping up the healthy young plants that our chapter propagated or received from Suncrest Nursery, which also very kindly hosts our propagation group — and its output. There are so many people to thank: truck loaders, truck driver, truck unloaders, and all who helped during the sale, and after it too. And not least Karen Hildebrand and Linda Lewis, who planned the whole shebang!

Gardening with California Flora

April 17 found a sizable group in the Arboretum meeting room curious about gardening with our native flora. Brett Hall fed the interest with a one-man show — Deanna had a date conflict, but Brett ably stood in, using her slides.

Horticulture leads us to an intimate relationship with native plants. We can support wildlife by gardening with beautiful natives that encourage birds and pollinators, and enjoy watching the whole cycle of nature unfolding in our gardens.

If you would like to register an interest in any future chapter events relating to gardening with native flora, please contact Jackie at countrymoosie@gmail.com.

Restoration and Propagation Teams

Our chapter has some active groups you might like to join.



The Propagation Group meets at a nursery on the third Sunday of the month. As well as growing plants for the sale, we learn to grow natives! Contact Mike Luther at 688-3897 for details.

The Habitat Restoration team enjoys camaraderie and healthful work, while eradicating nasty invasives from our beautiful wilderness areas, such as Quail Hollow Ranch County Park. A work day is planned for **May 11, 10 am to 1 pm**, location TBD. Check the web site (cruzcnps.org) for details and other opportunities to weed-whack.

Randy Morgan Field Trips

Randall Morgan Natural History Field Trip Series May - June 2013

Come with legendary local naturalist Randall Morgan, accompanied by renowned weed warrior Ken Moore, to selected hot spots in the Santa Cruz area and learn about some of nature's little known wonders. These walks cover all aspects of natural history including botany, birds, bugs, biogeography, general ecology, conservation, habitat restoration, ethnobotany, wild foods, the native/non-native issue, natural succession, land management/restoration/enhancement, gardening ideas, how to “read” landscapes, and more!

Reservations are not required. Ending times for trips are an estimate; they may run longer. Please wear clothing that won't attract stickers so we don't spread weed seeds.



Gray's clover, Randy (with hat) and group, seep monkey flower

For any questions, contact Randall Morgan at otbmorgan@gmail.com or Ken Moore at ken@wildwork.org.

This series of field trips is being provided at no cost to you. However, donations are needed to continue offering this incomparable opportunity. You can make a cash donation or a check made out to Randall Morgan on the trip. To make a separate contribution for the field trip series by check, make the check payable to CNPS, and specify it is for the “Morgan Field Trip Series”. Request a receipt for a tax deduction, and send the check to:

Suzanne Schettler, Treasurer
California Native Plant Society
P. O. Box 277
Ben Lomond, CA 95005.

Sponsoring Organizations

We thank the following for their generous sponsorship: Wildlands Restoration Team, California Native Plant Society, UCSC Arboretum, Santa Cruz Bird Club, UCSC Natural History Museum, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, Sempervirens Fund

Saturday May 4, 10 am-12 noon, Zayante School Rd

One of the best of the smaller Zayante sand deposits, one that yours truly has not visited for many years. Hoping for some pleasant surprises. Only a bit past peak season for most plants (though still too early for some) and nearly peak for insects. A strange disjunct population of gray pine, a possible last hold-out for the rare *Nemophila humifusa* (cross fingers!), and our only locale for *Festuca "estwoodae"*, among much else. This should be a true "treasure hunt".

Meet in the lower parking area of the Zayante Fire Station on East Zayante Rd., (directly across from the Trout Farm Inn). Easy slow walk.

Sunday May 19 10 am-12 noon, Glenwood Grassland Preserve

A fairly new Land Trust acquisition, the outcome of a decades-long conservation struggle begun in 1989. Still not open to the public. Despite the dry winter, this turned out to be quite a good wildflower year, most of the plants still in early stage of bloom by mid-April. One of the highest flower-diversity sites in Santa Cruz County, at least two rare insects and several rare and locally rare plants. Also a nice pond with more dragonflies than any other place I know of. Interesting topography and geography, part of a disjunct "island" of Santa Cruz mudstone about 8 miles inland. Meet in the parking lot on Vine Hill School Rd., opposite from Siltanen Park in SV. From there a short carpool to trailhead.



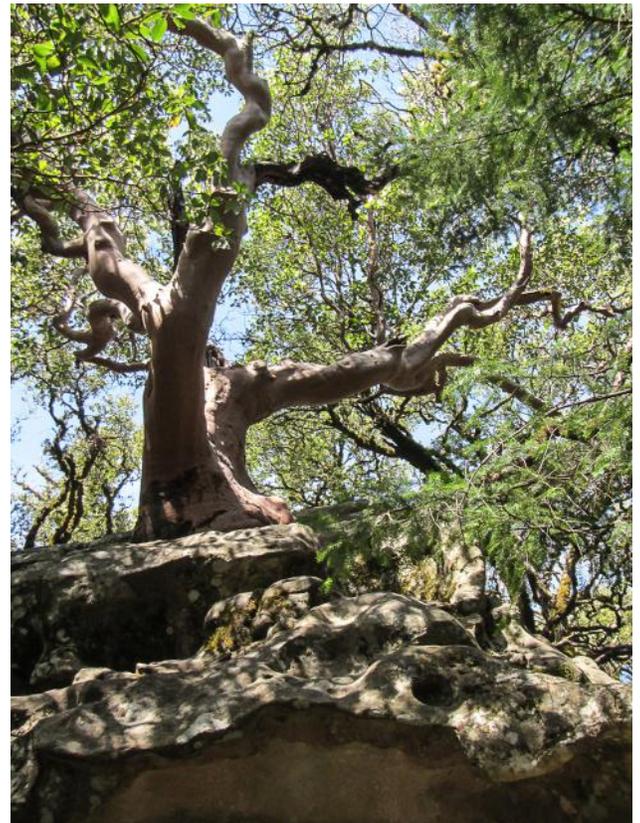
Saturday June 8 10 am -1 pm, Castle Rock State Park

Something of "another world" biologically speaking. As far north and close to as high-elevation as you can get in this county, with a flora and fauna to match. We will traverse several quite different environments, starting with mixed-evergreen woods, then past a waterfall and into a stretch of "northern

mixed chaparral" (quite different and more diverse than local maritime chaparral). Shrubs should be aswarm with pollinator insects. Next, into a black-oak (deciduous) woodland, more like places you will see farther "over the hill", then back. On the way, a couple of the most magnificent Canyon oaks you will ever see. Meet at the Castle Rock State Park parking lot on Hwy. 35. You can park along the shoulder of Hwy. 35 if there is room and you don't want to pay the parking fee. Fairly easy hike, a bit rough in places. Bring water and snacks.

Sunday June 23 10 am-12 noon, Loma Prieta

Our largest and most diverse expanse of "northern mixed chaparral," a community with more shrub species than any other in this area, many in full bloom. Also a completely



different assortment of flowering herbs, some that occur nowhere else in this county. We will stray into Santa Clara County for the best highlights, however, choice items like Stream Orchid, *Clarkia breweri*, a rare Ceanothus, a rare Hoita, etc. This is also a primo area for locally rare birds that like to stick to the high ridges. Should be perfect time of year for just about everything. Mostly easy hike unless you want to continue up to the summit. Meet at the summit of Old San Jose Rd. at the intersection of Hwy. 35. Bring water and layered clothing.

Monterey Chapter Field Trips

Garland Ranch Wildflower Hike

Saturday May 4, 9 am-Noon



Join Garland Ranch docent, Gordon Williams, as he identifies and names about 60 different species in Carmel Valley along the Terrace and Garzas Canyon trails! Meet at the Garzas Canyon trailhead on East Garzas Rd: drive 1.5 miles beyond the main entrance of Garland Ranch, turn right on Boronda Rd and go to the end. Turn left on East Garzas Rd, continue for about 1/4 mile to the trailhead on the right. Bring water and a snack. About 3.5 miles with 800 ft. elevation gain. For questions, please call Gordon at 372-6374.

Garland Ranch Regional Park Spring Wildflowers

Thursday May 9, 9:15 am

Join Michael Mitchell, co-author 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 spring flowers including Coast and Red Larkspurs, Madia, Clarkias, Fairy Lanterns, Gilias and many more. About 3.5 miles with 600 ft. elevation gain. Bring water and a snack if desired; we will be back by lunchtime. Wear shoes or boots with good treads. Meet at 9:15 in the main parking lot (lower lot) of Garland Ranch. Call Lynn for a reservation at 375-7777.



Soberanes Canyon Flower Walk

Sunday, May 19, 9 am to Noon

Join Leader Bob Hale for an easy walk in Soberanes Canyon of Garrapata State Park. A great diversity of riparian plants, coastal scrub and redwood forest should be in flower. The gentle cascading water of the creek and happy birds will enhance our journey. A 2 to 3 mile walk with up to 400 feet elevation gain depending on how far we walk. We depart from Rio Road Park and Ride by 9am. Bring water and a light snack. Call Lynn at 375-7777 for a reservation.

Evening Soap Plant Quest

Thursday, June 13, 4 pm

This 7 mile hike with 600 ft. elevation gain in Toro Park takes us through a forested valley along the Ollason trail then up to oak dotted grasslands. If we are lucky, we will see soap plants blooming—they bloom in the late afternoon and evening. If not, we'll have a nice late day walk in the woods. Bring water & dinner. Arrive early; we depart at 4pm from the dirt parking area outside Toro Park. Call leader, Lynn Bomberger for a reservation at 375-7777.

Young Steelhead Rescue

Saturday, June 15, 9 am to 11 am

Imagine being able to rescue young steelhead trout! Join Brian LeNeve and the Carmel River Steelhead Association on a field trip to do just that. The location will either be Cachagua Creek or the lower Carmel River, depending on river or creek conditions and rescue needs. Every one must wear hip boots and rubber gloves provided by the Steelhead Association. We will be walking on river rocks, so agility is required. We will meet at Baja Catania near the entrance to Quail Lodge at 9:00am. Call Brian for a reservation at 624-8497 or bjleneve@att.net (space is limited). Drinks will be provided, bring a snack.w

Garland Ranch, March flowers: shooting star, dudleya, coastal larkspur.

Join the Native Plant Society

Mail this form or join online at cnps.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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Email: _____

Chapter Affiliation: _____

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

Your contribution is tax deductible, minus \$12 for the quarterly journal, *Fremontia*. Make your check payable to CNPS and send to:

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



Santa Cruz Chapter Contacts

President: Deanna Giuliano, drosegiuliano@yahoo.com

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Video Outreach: Fred McPherson fredwood@cruzio.com

Members at Large: Mary Ellen Irons 426-8410, 207 Archer Dr,
Santa Cruz; Ernie Wasson sluggo@cruzio.com

We welcome newsletter contributions! Deadlines are: June 17, August 19, October 21 December 16.

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*.



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