



THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



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If You Want to Save the World, Start with Plants

Speaker: **Liv O’Keefe**,
CNPS Senior Director of Communications and Engagement

Chapter General Meeting: **Monday, Sept. 9, 7:30 pm**
UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Keying Session: **5:30 - 7:00 pm**

The extinction crisis, wildfire, and insect apocalypse are big, discouraging headlines, but CNPS has another story to tell. From wildfire recovery and habitat gardening to the California Biodiversity Initiative, CNPS is having a positive impact on some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time! Join CNPS Senior Director of Communications and Engagement Liv O’Keefe for a look at how CNPS is responding to today’s news with relevant, hopeful messages of our own. Learn about current and upcoming campaigns and new resources available for volunteers who want to help amplify the native plant mission and activate their communities.



Liv O’Keefe. Photo courtesy of CNPS

Liv O’Keefe is the Senior Director of Communications and Engagement for the California Native Plant Society, where she and her team are working to help Californians of all kinds connect with the native plant mission. She became a CNPS member 17 years ago so she could learn about native plant gardening and teach her daughters about wildflowers. Today, she’s a passionate believer in conservation and the potential for nature to heal the modern soul. Prior to working for CNPS, Liv served as the Director of Digital Marketing for Sutter Health, a 50,000+ employee organization.

Upcoming CNPS Chapter Council Meeting and Conservation Symposium September 6-8 at the UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden

All CNPS members are welcome to attend. There is no charge to attend the meeting, but there is a charge for lunch and dinner on Saturday, and lunch on Sunday. Light breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday are free.

Pre-registration is required.

Check the symposium registration website: <https://sites.google.com/site/cnpschaptercouncilsept2019/> for more details about the full schedule of events including Saturday’s symposium speaker schedule and field trips.

Annual Fall Native Plant Sale Saturday, October 12, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Join us again for our ever-popular Fall Native Plant Sale at the UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden. More details and our plant list will be on our website at cruzcnp.org and on our Facebook group in early October.



Iris at plant sale. Photo by Jacki Pascoe

CNPS Fire Recovery Guide Now Available

CNPS announced the release of its statewide Fire Recovery Guide. The 92-page booklet is available for download at cnps.org/fire-recovery, and in print through participating community partners. The wildfire guide is a collaboration between the California Native Plant Society, dozens of scientific and topical experts, and more than 30 state and local organizations.

The new resource includes:

- **Frequently asked questions about wildfire in California**
- **A decision-flow diagram for post-fire conditions**
- **Tips for tree care and landscaping after fire**
- **An overview of California's most fire-prone habitats**
- **A post-fire checklist for property owners**
- **Erosion control recommendations**
- **Defensible space updates**

California is still recovering from the 2018 wildfire season, the most severe and deadliest on record. As communities rebuild, CNPS and partners want to help Californians steward the post-fire environment and avoid further damage.

“When we look at a burned landscape, our impulse may be to clean it up and replant it right away,” said Liv O’Keeffe, senior director of communications and engagement for CNPS. “But we’ve got to be patient when it comes to natural and healthy land recovery. In fact, we can unknowingly do more harm than good without the right information.”

Experts worry about factors like erosion, landslides, habitat degradation, and invasive weeds, all of which can destroy the integrity of local ecosystems and make an area more susceptible to future fire. Common mistakes CNPS sees people make after wildfire include:

- **Using seed mixes and mulches** that include noxious weeds like French broom, cheat grass, and thistles. (These weeds can choke out local plants and quickly grow into what’s known as “flashy fuels” for wildfire.)
- **Assuming a burned or charred tree is dead.** (Large, hardwood trees like oaks can often survive fire as long as their inner tissue is intact.)
- **Ripping out vegetation and clearing debris** too soon. (Many native plants will resprout from their base or underground structures, or re-seed themselves. Removing them can destabilize property, contribute to erosion, and destroy habitat and food sources for nearby wildlife.)
- **“Clear-cutting” property** or other extreme landscaping measures in the hopes of protecting homes. (In fact, experts instead advise an emphasis on home-hardening practices like using fire-proof building materials and a 5-foot no fuel zone around all structures.)
- **Seeding areas with California poppy mixes.** (Seeding is rarely recommended in burn areas, and even native seeds must be carefully vetted for fragile landscapes.)

“Now more than ever we need sound, fact-based information to inform our actions as we adapt to California’s new wildfire realities,” said CNPS Conservation Program Director Greg Suba. Suba is working with state agencies, elected officials, and stakeholder groups to help California address forestry and other vegetation concerns related to wildfire policy. “Our approach must be thoughtful and timely,” he added. “We created this new guide as part of our efforts to build that understanding in a calm, science-based way.”

CNPS began work on the guide following California’s 2018 wildfire season. The booklet is an expanded and updated edition of the organization’s original Fire Recovery Guide for Wine Country, published after the 2017 wildfire season. The Wine Country edition was so popular that CNPS ran out of printed copies, tracked thousands of digital downloads, and received hundreds of requests for information on other areas of the state.

“Trustworthy, helpful information is a healing balm at a time when our communities are trying to put our lives back together and stay safe,” said Butte Fire Safe Council Executive Director Calli-Jane DeAnda. Butte County’s North Valley Community Foundation helped fund the statewide guide along with the Giles W. And Elise G. Mead Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marin and Mount Lassen chapters of CNPS, and individual CNPS donors.

“We’re incredibly grateful to the authors, scientists, and funders who gave us the chance to do something helpful for our friends and neighbors in California,” CNPS Executive Director Dan Gluesenkamp said. “Thanks to them, we’ve been able to provide something of great value that should never have a price tag.”



Tiarella trifoliata var. *unifoliata* in Fall Creek.
Photo by Jackie Pascoe

Upcoming Field Trips and Events

Pogonip Park with Andy Werner Saturday, October 5, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

This hike is an easy six-mile loop off the beaten track with a beautiful and amazing diversity of native plants. We'll ID trees, shrubs, grasses, and notable exotics. We'll also see the Koi pond, cat temple, kilns, haunted meadow, and old clubhouse.

Meet in Harvey West Park in the parking lot near the clubhouse and pool. Parking is free and should be plentiful. Bring water and lunch. Registration is required as hike is limited to 10 participants. **Contact Andy at apwerner44@gmail.com to register.**



California hazelnut found during field trip to Loch Lomond. Photo by Richard Stover

Native Horticultural Symposium: Gardening for Biodiversity in a Climate Crisis Saturday, September 21, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**“Garden as if life depended on it.”
-- Doug Tallamy**

The insect Armageddon, the collapse of the western Monarch butterfly, The Sixth Extinction—we are losing species at an alarming rate. Contributors to this crisis include invasive species, the ubiquitous European lawn, non-native landscapes and the loss of wild areas. Landscape professionals and home gardeners can act to turn this trend around. This one-day symposium shows you how to be part of the solution.

Speakers:

- Douglas Tallamy**, Professor of Entomology University of Delaware and author of *Bringing Nature Home*
- Angela Laws**, The Xerces Society, Monarch and Pollinator Ecologist
- Liam O'Brien**, Lepidopterist, The Green Hair Streak Project
- Kimberly Chacon**, Landscape Design, PhD student UC Davis, Bee Habitat Analysis and Design
- Bart O'Brien**, Director of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden and the co-author of *Reimagining the California Lawn*

For more information go to the Santa Clara Valley Chapter's website at <http://www.cnps-scv.org>.

Habitat Restoration Team Saturday, September 14 and 21, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

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! Tools are provided; bring gloves.

Location to be determined. Check cruzcnps.org for details

Contact: **Program Leader, Linda Brodman**
831.462.4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net

20th Annual Central Coast Invasive Weed Symposium Thursday, November 14

The Central Coast Invasive Weed Symposium (CCIWS) is an annual event designed to encourage active engagement in the conservation of California wildlands. First held at California State University, Monterey Bay in 1999, this symposium provides an opportunity to share information about invasive weed control, native plant restoration, and stewardship for Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties.

We get to meet and network with other like-minded people working (both paid and unpaid) to stop the spread of non-native invasive plants, visit project sites where weed control efforts are in full swing, hear success stories, and earn continuing education units.

This year CCIWS will focus on the latest and best proven methods in the remediation and prevention of invasive weeds. We are developing an exciting list of speakers and presentations that will provide you with the tools to help protect California lands from non-native invasive plants.

There will be lots of opportunity to meet dedicated, like-minded individuals, to share experience and knowledge and to network. Expect a day filled with compelling morning presenters, afternoon field trips to local project sites, some California Department of Pesticide Regulation continuing education units (including laws and regulations), a hearty lunch and great people!

For more information and to register go to cciw.org.



Hiking • Propagation • Keying Club • Conservation • Habitat Restoration • Field Trips • Herbarium Work • Talks

Membership News

The Chapter sends a warm welcome to our newest Santa Cruz County Chapter members

Susanne Altermann

Sarah Beaver

Shan Brooks

Katherine Hyde

Margaret Landon

Stephanie Ruhl

Lisa Ryner

Sherri Tafel



Red Clintonia, Santa Cruz County. Photo by Ruthe Smith

Come on out for the upcoming October plant sale and meet other CNPS members, or jump in with both feet by registering and attending the CNPS Chapter Council and Conservation Symposium in September, or signing up for a field trip or two.

Note: Any member who would prefer to receive the Cypress Cone digitally, drop Ann Garside a line at anng@calcentral.com to make the switch. Thanks!

Join the California Native Plant Society

Your membership includes *Fremontia* (2x per year), a journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; *Flora* (4x per year) CNPS's newest magazine presenting a statewide report of activities and schedules; and our Chapter newsletter *The Cypress Cone* (6x per year). Fill out the form below, or go to www.cnps.org and join or renew your membership online.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter Affiliation: _____

Student/Fixed Income \$25

Individual \$50

Plant Lover \$120 (2 members)

Supporter \$500 (2 members)

Patron \$1,000 (2 members, plus Special Updates)

Benefactor \$2,500 (2 members, plus Special Updates)

Steward \$5,000 (2 members, plus Special Updates)

Guardian \$10,000 (2 members, plus Special Updates)

Make your check payable to CNPS and send to:

California Native Plant Society, Attn: Membership
2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento, CA 95816-5130

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 anng@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 \$8 for the journal *Fremontia*, two issues per year.) Make checks payable to CNPS and send to: Santa Cruz County Chapter CNPS, P.O. Box 1622, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.