Please write a letter to save Santa Cruz tarplant

Your letter to the California Coastal Commission could play a big role in saving *Holocarpha macradenia*, or, as Grey Hayes has called it, the Santa Cruz Sunflower.

As you know, CNPS and Friends of Arana Gulch sued the City of Santa Cruz to stop its plan to build a paved bikeway bisecting Arana Gulch destroying tarplant habitat, changing hydrology, fragmenting historic subpopulations, and making the best management option — grazing — much more difficult to do and less effective.

Well, we lost as you may have heard. The only way to stop the destruction now is to make our concerns known to the Coastal Commission. Some in favor of the bikeway have characterized the opposition as NIMBYs. Our letters will show that much of the opposition is because the entire Arana Gulch greenbelt was designated as Critical Habitat for the tarplant by the USFWS in 2002. Critical Habitat plays a legally mandated role in the Endangered Species Act by providing areas for expansion which could lead to future recovery of a species. It also protects essential features such as hydrology and the habitat for species essential to pollination or seed dispersal.

Your letters are needed to present the science and to show the Commissioners that many in our community do not agree with tarplant destruction. Please send a letter right away to the California Coastal Commission, 725 Front Street, Suite 300, Santa Cruz, CA, 95060. State that your comments are RE: Arana Gulch Master Plan. If you have credentials such as a degree in botany or related discipline or experience, mention that in your letter.

The EIR for the project stated that the bikeway will cause "significant and unavoidable impact" to the tarplant that violates ESHA protection. The impacts will not be mitigatable to a less than significant level. The EIR failed to adequately address potential adverse impacts from hydrologic changes from the paved bikeway. The tarplant is dependent on a specific hydrologic regime, and paving could result in either dewatering or overwatering of

In This Issue:

An example letter to the Coastal Commission Presentation: Pulling Together, by Casey Stewman Plus Field Trips, Restoration and more

adjacent tarplant habitat. Further, the EIR inadequately addresses the effects of fragmenting the four historic tarplant subpopulations. Fragmentation could prevent successful restoration.

The Coastal Commission meeting on this subject will likely occur early in 2010.

We need to make our CNPS voices heard. After you have written to the Coastal Commission, consider writing a letter to the editor of a local paper. Many local County advisory bodies such as the County Bike Committee have endorsed the plan. Some local "environmental" groups such as Save Our Shores and the Arana Watershed Council have also endorsed the plan that would include a bikeway directly through the middle of ESHA.

Arana Gulch was acquired by the City of Santa Cruz in 1994. During the 1990s, CNPS members assisted the City in various disturbance regimes. Since 1999, however, the City has failed to implement any significant management actions for the tarplant. Resulting thatch buildup has become a significant threat to the long-term viability of this tarplant population. The City is now tying management of the tarplant habitat to approval of the destructive bikeway. This destruction of ESHA is even more tragic given the likely possibility that the County of Santa Cruz will soon purchase the railroad right of way which could be the site of a County-wide bikeway just one quarter mile from the proposed bikeway through tarplant habitat.

For more information contact Vince Cheap, vince@sasquatch.com, 477-1660.

Write the Coastal Commission today. Thank you.

A Letter to the Coastal Commission

Also see the Friends of Arana Gulch at http://members.cruzio.com/~arana

Dan Carl, District Director California Coastal Commission 725 Front Street, Suite 300 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Coastal Commission Staff and Commissioners:

Please include the following comments in your staff report for the Arana Gulch Master Plan. I also ask that the Commissioners take serious the threats posed by the paving sections of this Plan not only to the long term survival of the federally and state listed Santa Cruz tarplant but also to the equally serious threat this poses to weakening the Coastal Act's ability to provide protection to all of its Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA).

- 1. The proposed Broadway-Brommer Bike project (now called an "interpretive trail") will cause "significant and unavoidable impact" to habitat of the endangered and threatened Santa Cruz tarplant (Holocarpha macradenia). These impacts include changes in hydrology, destruction of habitat and seedbank, fragmentation of the historic subpopulations, inadequate measures to protect the species from the huge increase in human/bicycle access, and greatly complicating and decreasing the effectiveness of the best practices for long term methods of managing the threats posed by thatch and weeds.
- 2. The B-B Bike project ("interpretive trail") will violate an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) as defined in the CA Coastal Act (Policy 30240). The City of Santa Cruz has failed to demonstrate that this proposed project is "resource-dependent," as specified by the Act.
- 3. The tarplant population in Arana Gulch has declined precipitously due to lack of management. In the Draft Master Plan document, the City ties management of tarplant habitat to the B-B Bike project, but the City has no funding mechanism to ensure long-term management of the Santa Cruz tarplant.

I urge that the CCC only approve the Arana Gulch Master Plan contingent on the removal of the Broadway-Brommer Bicycle Path Connection project (as found in six Public Use objectives on page 30 of the Draft Master Plan, as well as portions of Sec. 3.4).

Finally, I ask that the CCC instruct the City to consider alternatives outside of Arana Gulch for any proposed east-west bike connection.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Vince Cheap

The New Manual of California Vegetation

The long-awaited second edition of the Manual of California Vegetation, written by John O. Sawyer, Todd Keeler-Wolf, and Julie Evens, has just been released. This book replaces the original manual which was published in 1995. Vegetation classification has come a long way since 1995 and this second edition has been widely expanded and advanced. This reference book is of interest to any native plant enthusiast and is an absolute must-have for botanists, consultants, and land use planners.

The Manual contains descriptions of over 480 vegetation types. The description for each vegetation type is one to

several pages long and contains details about habitat, life history traits, fire characteristics, regional status, and management considerations. There are also maps that show the distribution of each vegetation type across the state. The Manual also contains an excellent introduction that discusses what vegetation is, the history of classification, and the CNPS approach to classification.

- Erin McDermott, East Bay Chapter, CNPS

The Chapter has several copies of the new edition. Pick up one of your own at the next public meeting, January 11.

Chapter General Meeting Featuring

Casey Stewman

Pulling Together:

An Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program

January 11, 2010 7:30 pm
• UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building •

Casey Stewman and a team of ecologists from URS Corporation have worked with the County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works (DPW) to develop and gain approval for an Integrated Vegetation Management Program (IVMP) for the County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works. The program is targeted at road maintenance personnel to develop and demonstrate new approaches to vegetation management and target weed control on county-maintained roads within 150 feet of perennial waters.

The goals of the project were to significantly reduce the amount of herbicide and sediment reaching stream, wetland and riparian habitats from maintained roadsides through development of an integrated pest management approach. The project included *A Manual of California Vegetation* (MCV) vegetation-type mapping along 60 miles of road easements, as well as mapping target pest plants by species and infestation level, and roadside management needs. URS produced GIS layers, maps, and a final Integrated Vegetation Management Plan for the program area, as well as a system for prioritizing potential IVMP projects based on a specific set of criteria. URS provided oversight for local Community Action Board and DPW road crews in implementing seven herbicide reduction projects and three sediment reduction projects in 2008-2009. Mr. Stewman will present a recent DPW documentary video *Pulling Together: Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management* and updated results from the projects.

Casey Stewman is a plant ecologist, rare plant botanist and vegetation management specialist with more than 13 years of experience in field biology, environmental consulting and research. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Humboldt State University and has extensive experience conducting botanical surveys, vegetation sampling, plant community mapping, wetland delineations, restoration projects and forestry research throughout the state of California.

His projects include CEQA environmental documents, revegetation plans, biological assessments, plant community reports, wetland delineations, vegetation management plans and watershed-level vegetation maps and databases. He led non-native and native vegetation mapping field efforts for the entire San Bruno Mountain HCP Area and developed ArcGIS layers and databases to assist with vegetation management efforts.

Recently, Casey assisted the California Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy in conducting native and non-native vegetation mapping efforts aimed at purchasing, restoring and preserving a natural river corridor along 20 miles of the lower Santa Clara River in Ventura County. He was also a member of the Mojave Vegetation Mapping Initiative that completed more than 1100 vegetation sampling plots in twelve million acres of desert lands.

Winter Field Trips

In between storms (or for more excitement, during them) come out and see what's growing! While winter is often Nature's time to rest, around here it feels like spring. Zillions of optimistic sprouts are popping up all over the place, turning the golden hills of California green once again. Manzanitas are already in honey-scented bloom, a few hardy poppies are flowering, and buds are swelling on the Ceanothus. There is no need to wait for spring to enjoy the beauty of our native plants! For more opportunities, check our website http://www.cruzcnps.org/ and those of our neighboring chapters: Monterey: http://www.montereybaycnps.org/Newsletter.pdf; Santa Clara Valley: http://www.cnps-scv.org/.

Sat Jan 16, 9:30-2:30 Santa Clara Valley Chapter invites Santa Cruz Picchetti Ranch and Stevens Creek County Park

Join Stella Yang and Kevin Bryant on a hike to see western leatherwood, *Dirca occidentalis*, at its southern most known location. The hike is around 8 miles; the distance is greater than most chapter field trips.

Meet at 9:30 am at the parking lot of Picchetti Ranch Preserve. We expect to be back by 2:30 pm. For more info, contact Stella at <u>yscottie@pacbell.net</u> or (408) 255-6233; or Kevin at <u>mtngreen17@verizon.net</u> or (408) 348-9470.

Directions to Picchetti Ranch parking: From the intersection of I-280 and Foothill Expressway, go 3.5 miles southwest (toward the mountains) on Foothill Blvd/Stevens Canyon Road. Turn right on Montebello Road. The Preserve parking is 0.5 miles up Montebello Road on the left.

Sunday Jan 17, 1-3pm How to make cordage from native plants UCSC Arboretum

Join Ellen Holmes at this introductory workshop (playshop?) to learn how to make rope, twine, cord, string, or thread from an assortment of California native plants. The basic technique is easily learned in few minutes, and is surprisingly fun to do. The hard part is preparing the fibers to twist together- often removing them from the stem or leaves of the plant, and then cleaning the outer "bark" off as well. We will start with something simple like Cat-tail leaves, which can be used whole. Inspired people can then try one or more of the following: Iris (*Iris*), Dogbane (*Apocynum*), Indian Hemp (*Hoita*) or Milkweed (*Asclepias*). If you have any cordage

material, feel free to bring it. You might also want to bring a decorative piece of yarn, ribbon, beads, or other objects to combine with your earth-toned native creations. (I like to keep a piece tied around my water bottle.) Children accompanied by adults are very welcome! RSVP appreciated, so we know how much material to bring. Limit 25 people. ellen@centralcoastwilds.com or 831-684-2363.

Saturday Jan 23, 10am-3pm Hike to Chalk Mountain 1609' with Deanna Giuliano

Come follow Deanna Giuliano's lead, and enjoy spectacular panoramic views and amazing redwoods on the steep trail up to see flowering endemic Manzanitas at the top. Strenuous elevation gain of about 1500', 4 miles round trip.

Trip will be from 10-3, bring water, layers, sunscreen, hat and a lunch. Meet at Westside New Leaf parking lot at 9:30am. Limited to 15 people. Carpooling is encouraged, but not CNPS sponsored. Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or call 831 278-2699. Heavy rain cancels

Sat Feb 6, 11am Santa Clara Valley Chapter invites Santa Cruz Los Gatos Canyon: Plant ID-ing for Beginners

Join trip leader Kevin Bryant on a hike up Los Gatos Creek Canyon to meet some of the interesting plants that call the area home. Meet big berry manzanita, Indian warrior, and maidenhair fern, just to name a few, and hear tips on easy ways to ID (identify) some of the plants that occur here (Kevin promises not to use scientific names unless asked).

This easy hike will be less than 3 miles (some slow steady climbing will be involved), and will last approximately 2 to 3 hours. Trip size is limited and an RSVP is required to receive directions to the trailhead, which will be somewhere in the Town of Los Gatos. Contact Kevin at mtmgreen17@verizon.net, or at (408) 348-9470 to make your reservation.

Sunday Feb 7, 10am-2pm Ferns of Fall Creek w/ Deanna Giuliano

Come frolic in the forest of Fall Creek on a fern foray. Join Deanna Giuliano on a fern hunt: we will try and locate most of the 15 species of ferns that grow in the park. The hike will be leisurely; about 2.5 miles. Trip is from 10-2 bring water, layers, and a lunch. Meet at

Winter Field Trips (continued)

the State Park parking lot on Felton Empire Road in Felton. The first 10 people to show up get a key to the native ferns of Santa Cruz County!
Carpooling is encouraged, but not CNPS sponsored.
Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or call 831 278-2699. Heavy rain cancels.

Sat Feb 20, 10am Santa Clara Valley Chapter invites Santa Cruz Montara Mt/ San Pedro Valley County Park

Join Co-leaders Toni Corelli and Alf Fengler on an early spring outing at San Pedro Valley County Park. We will explore the Hazelnut Trail and return along the Middle Fork of San Pedro Creek on the Weiler Ranch Trail.

You can expect some early blooms: Montara Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos montaraensis*), Pink-flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum glutinosum*), Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis*), and others.

The trip will be an easy 5 mile loop hike through coastal scrub and chaparral plus some riparian woodland. It will include an elevation gain and loss of about 600 feet and is expected to last until 02:00 pm.

For more information contact Alf Fengler at <u>afengler@acm.org</u>, or (650) 345-7045.

Directions:

The park is located at 600 Oddstad Boulevard in Pacifica. From the South Bay, take I-280 North them merge onto Skyline Boulevard/CA-35 via exit 14 toward Pacifica. After 3.5 miles turn left onto Sharp Park Road down towards the coast. Follow the signs for Cabrillo Hwy/CA-1 South toward Santa Cruz. Go for 2.5 miles then turn left at Linda Mar Boulevard, go for 2 more miles were the road ends at Oddstad. Turn right and then immediately left into the park.

County Park Day Use Fee is \$5 per vehicle.

Meet at 10:00 am in front of the Visitor Center. Bring water and a lunch. Heavy rain cancels.

Saturday Feb 27, 10am-2pm Treasures of Henry Cowell SP w/ Deanna Giuliano

Join Deanna Giuliano to visit one of our local treasures: Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. We will see our local endemic *Arctostaphylos silvicola* in its special habitat of the sandhills, then meander through some of the controlled burn area to discover what is sprouting, on our way to the observation deck for a stunning view of Santa Cruz and the Monterey Bay. Our loop back will take us up Eagle creek where we will see some special plants. Hike is moderately strenuous (deep sand!) and about 4.5 to 5 miles round trip.

Trip is from 10-2 bring water, layers, sunscreen, hat and a lunch. Meet at Juvenile Hall parking lot off Graham Hill Rd. Carpooling is encouraged, but not CNPS sponsored. Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or call 831 278-2699. Heavy rain cancels.

Habitat Restoration Team

This volunteer group is 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

January 9, 2010 10 am to 1 pm Año Nuevo Reserve and Cascade Creek

January 16, 2010 10 am to 1 pm Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

January 18, 2010 10 am to 1 pm Quail Hollow Ranch County Park Martin Luther King Day Celebration

January 30, 2010 10 am to 1 pm Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

February 6, 2010 10 am to 1 pm Younger Lagoon, UCSC Natural Reserve

February 20, 2010 10 am to 1 pm Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

March 6, 2010 10 am to 1 pm Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

	Board of Directors
Join the California Native Plant Society!	D 11 4D WY N L WO
Name:	President Brett Hall brett@ucsc.edu Vice-President: Deanna Giuliano drosegiuliano@yahoo.com
	Secretary: Kris Houser 462-6672, KrisHouser@sbcglobal.net
Address:i	Treasurer: Suzanne Schettler 336-1745, greening@cruzio.com
l	Membership: Jenn Yost jennyost@gmail.com
City: State: Zip:	Conservation: Vince Cheap 477-1660, vince@sasquatch.com;
! Phone:	Stephen McCabe 336-2141, smccabe@ucsc.edu; Peggy Edwards
I FIIOIC.	pegedwards@sierranatureprints.com 566-8471 Rare Plant Coordinator: Randall Morgan 466-0680
Email:	Invasive Exotics: Linda Brodman 462-4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net
	Vegetation: Casey Stewman
Chapter (County) Affiliation:	Educational Outreach: Fred McPherson fredwood@cruzio.com
	Legislation: open
Please make your check payable to CNPS and	Programs: Linda Brodman 462-4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net
send to: Membership Chair, CNPS, 2707 K	Publicity/Outreach: Joel Rider edgerider2002@yahoo.com Field Trips: Ellen Holmes 684-2363, ellen@centralcoastwilds.com
Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816	Newsletter: Charles Koester 335-9466, cnps@koester.com,
 	Julia Bell 402-3818 ladyscapes@gmail.com
☐ Student/Limited Income \$25	Hospitality: Angel Guerzon 212-8359, 140 Belmont St. #1, Santa
□ Individual \$45	Cruz CA 95060
☐ Family, Group or Library \$75	Plant Sales: Karen Hildebrand 426-1172, Linda Willis 479-1535
☐ Plant Lover \$100	Plant Propagation: Michael Luther 688-3897, 406 Semple Ave, Aptos, CA 95003; Denise Polk 685-3235, dmpolk@cruzio.com
☐ Patron \$300	Poster Sales: Peggy Waters 336-9283
☐ Benefactor \$600	Book Sales: Ernie Wasson 688-6386, sluggo@cruzio.com
☐ Mariposa Lily \$1500	Special Projects: Janell Hillman emerald@cruzio.com;
L Manposa Eny 91000	Stephen McCabe
I All dues and with to CNIDC are toy doductible	Webmaster: Bill Malone billmalone@pacbell.net
All dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible.	Members at Large: Mary Ellen Irons 426-8410, 207 Archer Dr, San Cruz; Kim Hayes monkeyflowerkim@aol.com
\	Cruz, Kim riayes monkeynowerkimeaoi.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 P.O. Box 1622 Santa Cruz, CA 95061 Address Service Requested

First Class
U.S. Postage PAID
Santa Cruz CA
Permit # 161

First Class