



# The Cypress Cone

The newsletter of the California Native Plant Society,  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER

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January - February 2007

## Changes on the Chapter Board

Most of the 2006 Board of Directors are candidates for re-election. A notable exception is that Vince Cheap will be stepping down from his position as Conservation Chair. He has been doing a phenomenal solo job for several years. The Board is delighted that he has agreed to complete the Arana Gulch lawsuit and that he will support the fledgling, partially-staffed conservation committee. His guidance will be invaluable as the committee grows and learns the ins and outs of Environmental Impact Reports, the California Environmental Quality Act, public comments, and the processes which can help protect rare plants.

This election is a great opportunity to increase your participation in CNPS. Vice-president and conservation chairs are open; committee positions are also available. Additional nominations for the Board may be made at the meeting.

## Conservation News

If any of these projects are new to you just check our website for background.

### Arana Gulch

Our day in court is March 13, 2007. Several days to some weeks after that day there will be a decision. This could be appealed by the losing party, so the lawsuit may well continue for some time. I will not let any reasonable legal opportunity to protect Arana's tarplant go untried. I will especially not let any flawed EIR go unchallenged, which could set a bad precedent for future development. There will be a Coastal Commission hearing, which should be attended by a chapter member; our attorney may submit a letter on our behalf.

### Soda Lake Facility Expansion:

We are hoping to interest a group (e.g. a land trust) in buying the conservation easement for this expansion, and to compensate Graniterock for any increased expenses in shipping the particulate "fines" to somewhere which does not impact the Soda Lake Valley. The county and Graniterock have neither reissued a new Draft EIR as we have requested nor have they issued a Final EIR disregarding our concerns.

### Polo Ranch:

A housing development proposed for the north east end of Scotts Valley has been quiet for some time after CNPS retained Bill Parkin to comment on a very flawed Draft EIR. This site contains the listed Scotts Valley polygonum and an undescribed "*Minuartia californica*" spp., probably our most

## General Meeting & Election

January 8, 2007

7:30 pm

Cabrillo College Environmental Horticultural Center \*  
6500 Soquel Drive Building 5000, Aptos

Dr. Grey Hayes

### It's Up to Us: The Future of the Santa Cruz Sunflower (tarplant) and Coastal Prairie

Dr. Grey Hayes will introduce a truly Santa Cruzan plant: a sticky, sweet-smelling sunflower which is on the brink of extinction and mainly grows only in Santa Cruz County. He will guide you through the many heroic endeavors to save the species and the ongoing threats that challenge citizens, policy makers, and land managers. Because the species is only one of 25 species of endangered coastal prairie wildflowers, Grey will especially focus on the need for coastal prairie conservation and management. By the end of the presentation, attendees will better understand the distribution, threats, and conservation needs of the Santa Cruz tarplant and coastal prairie.

For the past 18 years, Dr. Grey Hayes has focused on agroecology and natural systems ecology of California's central coast. His project experience includes work with the Ohlone tiger beetle (*Cicindela ohlone*) and red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), as well as restoration and management of coastal prairie, coastal scrub, riparian, and maritime chaparral ecosystems. He has coauthored numerous management plans for protected natural areas and published work in numerous scientific and popular journals. His research experience focuses on restoration ecology of California's coastal prairie, with an emphasis on rare annual wildflowers. Dr. Hayes is currently coordinator of the Coastal Training Program at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. This program focuses on bridging the gaps between regulators, land managers, and researchers by creating educational programs that foster dialogue, help build community, and increase ecological understanding.

\* Please note, this is a new venue. Take Soquel Drive to the main Cabrillo College campus. Turn uphill onto West Perimeter Drive and climb beyond the upper campus to the top of the hill. We will have parking permits for your vehicles. Please carpool. See you there!

(continued on page 2)

## Conservation News *(continued)*

endangered endemic plants. This grassland is similar to the existing 150 acre Glenwood open space on the other side of Highway 17, and could conceivably be managed together. The site will not be easy to develop due to the 2 listed species (Scotts Valley spineflower being the other) and the riparian area (east fork of Carbonera Creek) and steep slopes. CNPS comments on 2 slightly different projects during their DEIR phases over the years has caused the project to be withdrawn.

### **Branciforte Creek Residential Development:**

The Draft EIR on the Santa Cruz city website is flawed. It recommends mitigations that are totally inadequate to protect its small population of robust spineflower. It would create the kind of preserve that is all too common: not enough money for management, no real oversight and only public activism by groups like CNPS would keep the population alive over time. We hope to get a preserve with adequate buffers, non-wasting funding and effective oversight with penalties for noncompliance.

### **To the Chapter:**

I wish that I could continue to be the one to handle all conservation issues. It is something I truly believe in. Yet I cannot give it all the time it needs – and indeed time it takes.

My goal is to complete my current projects, but to no longer carry the full responsibility for every new threatening project that comes up. The Conservation Committee and I need others to help: writing letters, tracking new projects, and especially submitting oral comments at public hearings and meeting CEQA deadlines. One person need not take over everything: even being responsible for a single facet of a single project helps.

I will be there to help whenever it is needed. I will see the Arana Gulch lawsuit through to the end. I will try to alert the Board about new threats, though I probably will not challenge them myself.

I thank you all for the support, time, and excellent review and critique you have given the conservation issues I have brought before you. You have all been quite gracious and generous.

Sincerely – Vince Cheap, Conservation Chair

## Education & Outreach

### **Santa Cruz City Museum Slideshow**

The Museum is converting its natural history presentation about our bioregion to a digital “slideshow” to be used for education. Shauna Casey, Education Coordinator, is leading this project. Will you help with any of these activities?

presentation or booklet design	image collection
creating a teaching guide	bibliography
dvd or booklet production	narration
filtering requests	

Contact her at 420-6113 or [shauna@santacruz museums.org](mailto:shauna@santacruz museums.org)

### **Rare Plant Fact Sheets**

Do you remember the Santa Cruz Tarplant fact sheet which was inserted into the Sept-Oct issue? The Board is supporting the production of these flyers for 20 more of our rarer local plants. The existing descriptions are available at [www.elkhornsloughctp.org](http://www.elkhornsloughctp.org) via the “Fact Sheet” button.

## And now, a little Jeopardy...

**Answer:** A subscription to another chapter’s newsletter

**Question:** What is a little-known membership benefit?

Is there another region of California which interests you? Sign up to receive another chapter’s newsletter and stay informed about that bioregion’s flora and activities. Just send a note to Christina Neifer (State Membership Coordinator) at [cneifer@cnps.org](mailto:cneifer@cnps.org) or 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. You can also make the request on your renewal form: e.g. “I’d also like the newsletter for ...” Check out <http://cnps.org/chapters> for a list of names and of newsletters now available online.

## Thank You for Being a Member

As the year draws to a close, the Board of Directors would like to acknowledge each chapter member — without you the chapter wouldn’t exist. We are grateful to new members for joining our ranks and to our ongoing members for their continued support. You make our programs possible.

Here are this year’s new members. If you find any omissions or errors, please let us know! Corrections may be given to Anne Hayes at 479-9405 or [hayesanne@mindspring.com](mailto:hayesanne@mindspring.com).

Becky Mary Allen	Marsha Bassett
Charles Baughman	Bonnie Bladen
Claudia Boulton	Cecily Cahill
Nancy Caldwell	Carol Carson
Susan Coale	Jay & Kat DeDontney
Cindy Ferguson	Lucy Flanigan
Steve Gerow	Todd & Daniella Irish-Allen
Ann Lopez	Steve Maurer
Lisa McAndrews	George McMenamin
Louise Minton	Nancy Mott
Berdell Spellman	Andrea Steiner
Susan Szemeredi	Kim Tobak
Junco Uno-Raymond	Terry Winston

## Field Trips

Any additional field trips that could not be finalized for this newsletter will be posted on the chapter website <http://www.cruzcnp.org>

### **Sunday, February 11, 10am – 2pm Cave Gulch and Environs with Tonya Haff and Aaron Schusteff**

Come experience and enjoy two early season delights: Slinkpods (aka Fetid-Adders Tongue) and Manzanitas. Slinkpod (*Scoliopus bigelovii*) is an inconspicuous but richly interesting member of the Lily family, with beautiful flowers, an intriguing scent, and many fascinating growth and ecological aspects... some of which were discussed during Tonya's recent talk last November at our CNPS chapter meeting. Manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), with their lovely bark and flowers, are well known to many, and are major evergreen components of many cismontane plant communities (e.g. chaparral). California is the epicenter of this speciose genus of about 80 taxa. We'll look at some of the key characters and interesting aspects of these plants, whose taxonomy is often regarded as challenging! During the outing we'll be hiking through some of the rich and wild environs around UCSC and will likely find other treasures to enjoy and discuss as well. In particular, we'll be looking for interesting invertebrates (arthropods, slugs, etc.) and exploring some of the natural history of plant-invertebrate interactions. For the most part the hike is not anticipated to be strenuous, but participants should be prepared for some possibly challenging trail segments (i.e. brushy, muddy, steep). Long sleeves and pants are recommended for those who may be allergic to Poison Oak. Bringing a hand-lens is always encouraged!

Meet at 10am at the "West Remote Parking Lot" at UCSC. To get to West Remote from the Main Entrance to UCSC (at the corner of High Street and Bay) follow High Street west for 1.2 miles to Heller Dr (aka the "West Entrance" to UCSC). Turn right on Heller, and then take the next right (about 500 ft) to enter the driveway for West Remote. Local folk wisdom and UCSC Police Dept online parking info indicate that parking permits are not necessary for parking at West Remote on Saturdays. But, as with all things in life, you are responsible for the consequences of your actions, neither CNPS nor the trip leaders can be held responsible for any parking citations which may arise. For more info contact Aaron Schusteff (831) 566-9565 or Tonya Haff at (831) 459-4763.

### **Saturday, February 24, 9am – 1pm Birds and Plants of Maritime Chaparral with Laird Henkel and Grey Hayes**

Field trip leaders Laird Henkel and Grey Hayes will interpret the birds and plants, respectively, of the areas' unique and rare maritime chaparral. Maritime chaparral

includes many beautiful shrub species, especially manzanitas and ceanothus, which with luck will be in blossom for the trip. The habitat also hosts interesting bird species including the California Thrasher and Wrentit. The field trip leaders will lead you on an exploration in the interactions between wildlife and plants and the factors that influence their lives. The trip is by registration only and is limited to the first 30 people to sign up. The meeting place will be announced upon registration. Hiking will be moderately strenuous, and probably less than 2 miles long. Email Grey Hayes at [coastalprairie@aol.com](mailto:coastalprairie@aol.com) or call 831-728-8050 to sign up.

## Native Plant Propagation

Looking for an opportunity to make a difference, and to learn about growing native plants? The Plant Propagation group needs you now! Enjoy the company of a small group of friendly, native plant lovers learning and helping to propagate a wide variety of native plants, many of which will be sold at the twice-yearly CNPS plant sales, or auctioned off to benefit the SC Native Plant Society. This is a wonderful opportunity to have fun, meet a few great new people, and learn a lot about native plants, or contributing gardening skills you already have. No experience required. Meet usually on the third Sunday of each month at 9am at Suncrest Nursery, east of Watsonville. For info and directions, contact Mike Luther at 831-688-3897; or Denise Polk at 831-685-3235.

## Habitat Restoration Team Events

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](mailto:redwdrn@pacbell.net)

**January 6, 2007      10 am to 1 pm  
Sunset Beach State Park**

**January 27, 2007      10 am to 1 pm  
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park**

**February 10, 2007      10 am to 1 pm  
Natural Bridges State Park**

**February 24, 2007      10 am to 1pm  
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park**

## 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.



## Board of Directors

**President** Brett Hall brett@ucsc.edu

**Past President:** Casey Stewman gentiana43@sbcglobal.net

**Vice-President:** open

**Secretary:** Kris Houser 462-6672, KrisHouser@sbcglobal.net

**Treasurer:** Suzanne Schettler 336-1745, greening@cruzio.com

**Membership:** Anne Hayes hayesanne@mindspring.com

**Conservation:** chair open; Vince Cheap 477-1660,

vince@sasquatch.com, Kathe Hart 427-0237,

kathehart@hotmail.com, Stephen McCabe 336-2141,

smccabe@ucsc.edu

**Rare Plant Coordinator:** Randall Morgan 465-6640

**Invasive Exotics:** Linda Brodman 462-4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net

& Fred McPherson fredwood@cruzio.com

**Vegetation:** Casey Stewman

**Educational Outreach:** Fred McPherson fredwood@cruzio.com

**Legislation:** open

**Programs:** Linda Brodman 462-4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net

**Publicity/Outreach:** Abbie Blair 722-4065, arblair@cruzio.com

**Field Trips:** Ellen Holmes 684-2363, ellen@centralcoastwilds.com

**Newsletter:** Charles Koester 335-9466, cnps@koester.com

**Hospitality:** Angel Guerzon 429-4047, 1900 Smith Grade Road, Santa Cruz

**Plant Sales:** Karen Hildebrand 426-1172, Linda Willis 479-1535

**Plant Propagation:** Michael Luther 688-3897, 406 Semple Ave, Aptos, CA 95003 & Denise Polk 685-3235, dmpolk@cruzio.com

**Poster Sales:** Peggy Waters 336-9283

**Book Sales:** Ernie Wasson 688-6386, sluggo@cruzio.com

**Special Projects:** Janell Hillman emerald@cruzio.com &

Stephen McCabe

**Webmaster:** Bill Malone billmalone@pacbell.net

**Members at Large:** Mary Ellen Irons 426-8410, 207 Archer Dr,

Santa Cruz; Kim Hayes hayes@elkhornslough.org

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

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