



*Cupressus  
abramsiana*

# The Cypress Cone

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

Volume 34, No 2

[www.cruzcnp.org](http://www.cruzcnp.org)

March - April 2009

## Chapter General Meeting

Co-sponsored by CNPS and the UCSC Arboretum  
All members welcomed! Join the Potluck!

**Fred McPherson**

### Digital Video for Natural History, Conservation and Education

**March 9, 2009**

**6:30 pm potluck; 7:30 pm lecture**

• **UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building** •

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 plants and their habitats. We hope to gather more people and build our membership organizations.

Biologist, educator and past California Native Plant Society Chapter President, Fred McPherson, has spent a lifetime finding ways to engender excitement and enthusiasm in his students and the public about biology and natural history. Recently, Fred has combined his love of nature with digital video technology to document and communicate educational knowledge with life experiences, while promoting conservation awareness.

Fred will share some of his natural history and conservation projects which range from simple-to-produce cinematographic slide shows to more elaborate digital video documentaries. The educational challenges and opportunities for using digital video for public presentations, classrooms and field situations will be considered and discussed.

The evening will end with a viewing of Fred's latest digital video, *The Eye of the Flycatcher*, which includes a variety of local natural history themes.

Join us for a relaxing and informative evening out!

## Spring Plant Sale

### Arboretum Eucalyptus Grove Saturday April 18

**10:00 - 12:00 CNPS & Arboretum  
members**

**12:00 - 4:00 pm Public**

Once again our chapter will be joining the UCSC Arboretum in our Spring Plant Sale. You can turn your garden into a spring flower display by selecting from an array of annuals in a rainbow of colors. Choose your favorites - whether they are native or hybrid irises, manzanitas, ceanothus, shrubs, ferns, and more. Wondering what to plant and how to care for it? Experts will be on hand to answer all your questions. While you're there check out the books and posters too. Come out to the sale to buy, learn, meet other CNPS members, and find out what programs the chapter has to offer. If you would like to participate in the behind-the-scenes activities, (e.g. helping to transport plants or being a cashier) call Karen Hildebrand at 426-1172.



Pacific-Slope Flycatcher

## Conservation Conference

The 2009 CNPS Conservation Conference held in January was a great success. Over 800 people attended the event over the Martin Luther King Day weekend. Many Santa Cruz chapter members took the trip to Sacramento to be a part of the only CNPS conservation conference to be held in decades.

Brett Hall, Dylan Neubauer, and others presented a paper on the plant species and communities in the Scotts Creek watershed, which still has a diverse assortment of native plants in spite of having been heavily impacted for 130 years.

Linda Brodman created our Chapter's contribution to the Poster Presentation section of the conference. This display showcased our volunteers' successes in conserving local native plants in various venues, including habitat restoration efforts, plant sales, interagency cooperation, and education.

Dylan Neubauer won third place in the photo contest for her image of a Meadow foam with a visitor: "*Limnanthes douglasii* & syrphid fly", as well as recognition for her photo of a Mountain dandelion (*Agoseris grandiflora*).

By the end of the conference, there was a call going out to have follow-up conferences on a more frequent basis, perhaps even every three years. Check out [cnps.org](http://cnps.org) for others' messages of assessment and appreciation. The conference proceedings should be available later this year.

## Changes on the Board

In January we welcomed several new faces to the local Chapter Board of Directors, congratulated one who is staying around and moving upstairs at the same time, and gave thanks to those who have stepped down.

We'd like to welcome Deanna Giuliano as our new Vice President! If you don't meet her at the general membership meeting, you'll have a chance by attending the field trip she will lead on May 2. A major role of VP is to represent the Chapter in situations when the President cannot. Why should she step in for Brett? He's still the Santa Cruz Chapter President. He may be busier than ever, because starting this year he also is President of the Statewide CNPS Board of Directors. Congratulations Brett!

We have filled the Publicity and Outreach Chair with Joel Rider; Shirley Tudor is stepping in for Casey Stewman in Membership.

We will definitely be missing Vince's efforts on the Conservation Committee. He has been volunteering diligently for several years towards saving rare and listed species from a variety of threats, with diligence that has been inspiring.

Peggy Edwards has left to work on preservation projects in Scotland; Dylan has also stepped down.

The committee structure allows different members to focus on different activities, according to their skills and inclinations: one might monitor announcements from city or country agencies, while others attend hearings, meet with other advocacy groups, or write letters.

We need new volunteers. Or rather, the native plants do. Will you stand up and join the Conservation committee? Talk to a Board member for further details.

## Spring 2009 Field Trips

Please check the website periodically for additional trips!

<http://www.cruzcnp.org/>

As I write this in mid February, we are all wondering what surprises Mother Nature has in store for us this year. After a very dry midwinter it has started to rain, and it's still unclear whether the weather pattern will help or hinder the wildflower displays yet to come. We are grateful for the talented field trip leaders who are offering to lead hikes now, not knowing what kind of spring will arrive. In their experienced hands, our precious wildlands will come to life for you, even if you are not immediately dazzled by the flowers. Sometimes a small floral detail, or an ecological footnote will be the thing that shines out at the end of the day, providing a new window into the easily overlooked complexity of our home on planet Earth.

For farther-flung floriferous adventures check out the primarily Southern Californian and desert flowering hotspots on these websites:

<http://www.theodorepayne.org/hotline.html>

<http://www.desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html>

As always, feel free to call me if you would like to lead a trip, find a carpool, or provide feedback afterwards!  
Ellen Holmes 831-684-2363

## Spring 2009 Field Trips (continued)

### **Desert Wildflower Trip with Kevin Bryant Mar 15-19, Sun-Thu**

The southern California deserts received good germinating rains late in 2008, and thanks to recent storms in southern California, there's a good chance the desert will be alive with color for a mid-March field trip. Join trip leader Kevin Bryant as we hunt down the best flower displays and a diversity of desert species. Locations still to be determined, but likely will involve Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and perhaps one other destination. We will meet up Sunday afternoon, and the trip will end Thursday morning. Stay for the whole trip or just a part. CNPS will reserve campgrounds where needed, and attendees will share the cost of camping fees. Motel accommodations will be available nearby. Contact Kevin Bryant at (408) 348-9470 or [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net) to further details or to reserve your spot.

### **Marks Ranch with Gordon Williams Sunday Mar 22, 9 sharp - 2pm**

Meet at the gate located about 300 yards down the frontage road from the Toro Park Entrance off of Highway 68 on Portola Drive exit. I will unlock the gate at 9:00 and re-lock after the last car has gone through. This will be a 4-5 hour hike of about 5.5 miles with about a 600 ft total elevation gain. We will start out on a flat cattle-grazed plain with a few hardy plants blooming, then leave the plain and climb a ridge where we will see most of the Spring flowers. Next we'll turn into Toro Park for about mile, then back onto Marks Ranch for a lunch stop, finally returning by a second ridge. We will also talk about some of the history of this large chicken ranch. We will take a fairly slow walk, talking to, and about the flowers we see. I expect to see at least 50 different species. Gordon Williams, 831-372-6374

### **Del Monte Forest w/ Bob Hale and Kevin Bryant Saturday March 28, 1pm-5pm**

Huckleberry Hill is famous for its unique mixture of rare and locally uncommon plants. It's the only place where Bishop and Monterey pines naturally co-mingle, and out-of-place redwood flora and maritime chaparral grow, all nourished by the wet summer fogs. Several rare plants such as Yadon's rein orchid and a rich stand of rare Gowen cypress thrive in the forest, in some places forming very dense stands in ancient podzolized soils, reminiscent of the pygmy forest of Mendocino County. Botanists Bob Hale and Kevin Bryant will show us the highlights of this area, including beargrass (*Xerophyllum tenax*) at its southern limit of distribution. Come join us for this rare opportunity to see the Del Monte forest up

close and personal. Up to 3 miles with moderate elevation gain and some muddy areas if the rains keep up. Meet at Forest Hill Safeway Parking Lot (follow Hwy 68 exit to Pacific grove from Hwy 1) to carpool to the Reserve. The hike will be over by 5pm. To reserve a spot (limit 25 people) or for more information contact Kevin at [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net) or 408-348-9470, or Bob at 647-8821 (message) or [hale@nps.edu](mailto:hale@nps.edu).

### **Coyote Ridge (south San Jose), w/ Kevin Bryant Sun Mar 29, 1pm**

In spring, after the rains stop, the Bay checkerspot butterfly emerges and the sheets of wildflowers appear on Coyote Ridge. Join trip leader Kevin Bryant for a hike to take in this incredible area, focusing on serpentine plants and ecology on the ridge. There are opportunities for bird watching here as well, as the wide open spaces provide habitat for some less frequently encountered species. Tule elk are often spotted as one gazes upon the vast expanse of the Mt. Hamilton Range. So come to enjoy the beauty, hear the story of Coyote Ridge, and learn how CNPS and other organizations (including governments) are involved in helping to preserve these lands in perpetuity.

The hikes will be about 3-4 miles round trip, with an 800 foot elevation gain, and should last 3 to 4 hours. The meeting place is about a 50 minute drive from the downtown Santa Cruz area (if Hwy. 17 behaves). An RSVP is necessary, since access to this fragile area is controlled. Trips are limited to 20 attendees. For further information, or to reserve a space and receive directions to our meeting place, contact Kevin at (408) 348-9470 or [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net).

### **West Pinnacles with Corky Matthews Sunday April 5, 10:30am-1:30pm**

Join the author of *An Illustrated Field Key to the Flowering Plants of Monterey County* on an easy hike at West Pinnacles (less than 2 miles) on Sunday, April 5. This should be the height of the wildflower season, in a National Monument known for its spectacular displays. We will meet at 10:30 at Chaparral Picnic Area, and hike up Juniper Canyon, returning for a (BYO) picnic lunch at the picnic area, and driving home in mid-afternoon. RSVP is appreciated: [mmatthews2@comcast.net](mailto:mmatthews2@comcast.net). There is a park entrance fee for those without Golden Eagle or Golden Age National Park Service passes. (Park info at 408-389-4485.) Allow up to 2 hours drive from Santa Cruz, exiting Hwy 101 at Soledad and taking the signed left turn to Pinnacles in the middle of town.

## Spring 2009 Field Trips (continued)

### **Fire Followers at Big Creek Reserve w/ Dave Nelson Saturday April 11**

Part of the UCSC Natural Reserve System, Big Creek covers 4400 acres adjacent to the Ventana wilderness. Most of the 14000 acre Big Creek watershed burned in the 1999 Kirk Fire and it was stopped on the Dolan Ridge firebreak, which divides Big Creek from coastal slopes, Rat, Dolan and Lime Creeks. The Basin fire of 2008 was stopped on the same firebreak. On this hike we will examine burned landscapes both 10 years after AND 8 months after by hiking up part of the firebreak after ascending though the unburned Interpretive Trail. We'll also see the impacts of 'fire suppression' and inventory post-fire endemics and non-native invasive taxa for the reserve manager. Once on the firebreak there are stunning views of the north and south coasts. The firebreak ascends to over 4000 feet in the Ventana wilderness but this area is currently closed. The firebreak is so steep I know I'll not get above 2000 feet but this should take us into acres of coastal grasslands, coastal scrub, mixed hardwoods and chaparral.

Expect a moderate to strenuous (steep) roundtrip of 8+ miles, with a shorter less strenuous option if requested in advance. Please wear real hiking boots, and bring plenty of water, snacks, layers, and sun protection. RSVP required. Call Dave Nelson 831- 667-2879

### **Coyote Ridge (south San Jose), w/ Kevin Bryant Sat April 11, 10am**

In spring, after the rains stop, the Bay checkerspot butterfly emerges and the sheets of wildflowers appear on Coyote Ridge. Join trip leader Kevin Bryant for a hike to take in this incredible area, focusing on serpentine plants and ecology on the ridge. There are opportunities for bird watching here as well, as the wide open spaces provide habitat for some less frequently encountered species. Tule elk are often spotted as one gazes upon the vast expanse of the Mt. Hamilton Range. So come to enjoy the beauty, hear the story of Coyote Ridge, and learn how CNPS and other organizations (including governments) are involved in helping to preserve these lands in perpetuity.

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### **Annual Wildflower Show at Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History**

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday April 17-19, 10am-5pm**

Don't miss this outrageous display 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 over 600 species of flowers, labeled and organized by family. This is one of the largest wildflower shows in the world. Go Friday for freshest scents!

### **Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve Nature Walk Series A Look at Post Burn Ecology with Val Haley Saturday Apr 25, 11am-1:30pm**

The Santa Cruz Sandhills support some of the most rare natural communities in the world, and here it will be very interesting to see the vegetative response to last summer's fire. Who better to show you these changes than Val Haley, who has dedicated much of her life to their exploration and restoration? On this moderate 2-mile hike, Val (or docents) will discuss the ecology and geology of the area, as well as pointing out such rarities such as *Chorizanthe pungens* var. *hartwegiana*, *Arctostaphylos* species *andersonii* and *silvicola*, the lovely curly-leaved monardellas and Ben Lomond wallflowers. When was the last time you saw Western Burning Bush or Labrador Tea? (which tells you she may wander off the sandhills towards the creek). Hike is limited to 15 people to protect sensitive resources. You must contact Val to reserve a spot: 831-425-0687 or vegnet@cruzio.com. Bring hiking shoes, sun protection, water, snack, etc. Meet at the Martin Rd Firehouse in Bonny Doon.

### **Upper Garzas Creek Hike and BBQ Potluck with Al Washburn Saturday April 25, 8:45am-3:30pm**

Join local resident and trip leader Al Washburn and his sidekick botanist Bruce Delgado on a visit to Al's private cabin in the woods along Garzas Creek at 2000' elevation. Your choice of gentle walks along the creek or a more strenuous hike up steep surrounding hills. There will be quite beautiful waterfalls and riparian habitat, a good variety of lush ferns, and perhaps peak-of-season wildflowers! Assemble behind Brinton's Hardware in Carmel to carpool where we'll be leaving at 8:45 am sharp and will return at 3:30 pm (or later as arranged). Or meet at 9 am sharp at the gated entrance to Santa Lucia Preserve on Rancho San Carlos Road off Carmel Valley Road, just past the tennis club. 4WD useful, but not required. Parking is limited so carpooling is a must.

## Spring 2009 Field Trips (that's all, folks)

Limited to 15 people; RSVP with Al and let him know whether you can offer a ride to others (carpools are not CNPS sponsored). awashburn8@comcast.net or 831-373-4873 Bring potluck lunch items to share around a cooking fire where we'll eat near the tumbling creek.

### **Mima Mounds w/ Deanna Giuliano Saturday May 2, 10am-12pm (or later?)**

Join Deanna Giuliano at 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. A few highlights we hope to see in bloom are *Calochortus uniflorus* and *Brodiaea terrestris*. The trip will be from 10 to noon, but we can linger longer if we find more interesting flora. Bring water, sunscreen, hat and a lunch. The trip will be in two adjacent meadows, with easy access and a leisurely walk. Meet 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. Parking is located on the right and left hand side of the road. Carpooling is encouraged. Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or call 831-278-2699.

### **Año Nuevo State Reserve w/ Tim Hyland Sunday May 3, 9:00am to 12:00pm (or later)**

There is so much to see at Año Nuevo it is hard to choose, but this trip will take us through some of the best first terrace coastal prairie in all of California. We'll have a chance to see *Clarkia davyi* and *Fritillaria agrestis* among sheets of blue-eyed (and white-eyed!) grass. Don't count on the trip leader to know all of the dazzling array of plants (editor's note- he will know a majority of them), but he will be able to tell you what has been going on to manage this gem of coastal California for the last dozen years or so. California Oat grass makes for lumpy walking, so bring shoes with good ankle support. The terrain is flat and we will cover about 2 miles. Meet just under two miles north of the Año Nuevo entrance at a pullout on the seaward side of Highway 1. The pullout has a yellow gate and an interpretive sign. If you get to the driveway for the Coastanoa resort you have gone too far. Please RSVP 831-359-3722  
Tim.hyland@sbcglobal.net. No host carpool may meet at Denny's on Ocean/Felker St, Santa Cruz at 8:10AM and is not CNPS sponsored or insured.

### **Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve Nature Walk Series A Look at Post Burn Ecology with Val Haley Saturdays May 9, May 23, and Jun 6, 11am-1:30pm**

The Santa Cruz Sandhills support some of the most rare natural communities in the world, and here it will be very interesting to see the vegetative response to last summer's fire. Who better to show you these changes than Val Haley, who has dedicated much of her life to their exploration and restoration? On this moderate 2-mile hike, Val (or docents) will discuss the ecology and geology of the area, as well as pointing out such rarities such as *Chorizanthe pungens* var. *hartwegiana*, *Arctostaphylos* species *andersonii* and *silvicola*, the lovely curly-leaved monardellas and Ben Lomond wallflowers. When was the last time you saw Western Burning Bush or Labrador Tea? (which tells you she may wander off the sandhills towards the creek). Hike is limited to 15 people to protect sensitive resources. You must contact Val to reserve a spot: 831-425-0687 or vegnet@cruzio.com. Bring hiking shoes, sun protection, water, snack, etc. Meet at the Martin Rd Firehouse in Bonny Doon.

### **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

**March 7, 2009 10 am to 1 pm  
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park**

**March 14, 2009 10 am to 1 pm  
Sunset Beach State Park**

**March 21, 2009 10 am to 1 pm  
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park**

**April 4, 2009 10 am to 1 pm  
Twin Lakes State Park**

**April 18, 2009 10 am to 1 pm  
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

**Vice-President:** Deanna Giuliano drosegiuliano@yahoo.com

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

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

**Membership:** Shirley Tudor shirltudor@yahoo.com

**Conservation:** Stephen McCabe 336-2141, smccabe@ucsc.edu;

**Rare Plant Coordinator:** Randall Morgan 466-0680

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

**Vegetation:** Casey Stewman

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

**Legislation:** open

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

**Publicity/Outreach:** Joel Rider edgerider2002@yahoo.com

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

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

**Hospitality:** Angel Guerzon 212-8359, 140 Belmont St. #1, Santa Cruz CA 95060

**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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