



The Cypress Cone

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

Volume 35, No 2

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March - April 2010

Potluck and General Meeting

**Co-sponsored by CNPS and
the UCSC Arboretum
All are Welcome!**

March 8, 2010

6:30 pm potluck; 7:30 pm lecture
UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

**Randy Morgan and Chris Lay:
Meet the Pollinators of
Santa Cruz County Plants**

An astonishing diversity of beautiful pollinator fauna exists in our county — from workhorse polylectic species (those that pollinate many plant species) such as bumble bees (*Bombus spp.*) to oligolectic species (those that pollinate a small number of species) such as a small gold-colored andrenid bee that may only pollinate Fremont's star lily (*Zigadenus fremontii var. minor*). In this presentation, local naturalist Randy Morgan and UCSC Museum of Natural History curator Chris Lay will introduce some of our most charismatic, field-identifiable, and uniquely evolved local pollinators from *Hymenoptera* (bees), *Diptera* (flies), *Lepidoptera* (butterflies and moths), and other groups. Morgan and Lay will relate insect diversity to our county's rich botanical diversity with Morgan's pictures from many of our locally rare plant communities. In addition, many specimens from both Morgan's insect and plant collections will be available to examine more closely.

Renowned local naturalist and CNPS fellow Randy Morgan spent ten years amassing an exhaustive collection of local pollinators and other insects of Santa Cruz county. From 1989 to 1999, Morgan collected approximately 80,000 insects from thirty-nine different county locations including coastal prairie, coastal dune, riparian, maritime chaparral, and sandhill chaparral. Morgan meticulously sampled each collection site once every three weeks for an entire year and in some cases visited a site over multiple years. At each site, he visited representatives of every plant



species known to occur there, and collected every insect that he found on or near each plant. For each collected specimen, he recorded which plant species each insect was collected from, and at each site kept detailed notes on plant phenology throughout the year.

Morgan's insect collection is an immense resource for future plant and pollinator conservation, scientific research, and public education. In 1993, Morgan published a description of a new species of tiger beetle (*Cicindela ohlone*) known only to occur in several small patches of coastal grassland in Santa Cruz county. His efforts led to the eventual recognition of the Ohlone tiger beetle as a federally endangered species. Fortunately, with the help of many community members and organizations, publishing additional important discoveries from his collection is on the near horizon.

Morgan's collection now resides at the University of California, Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History Collections (MNHC). Together, Morgan and Lay have been working to begin analyzing some of the data associated with the collection. With the help of the CNPS local Santa Cruz chapter, many insect taxonomists from around the world, UCSC graduate and undergraduate students, and community volunteers, Morgan and Lay aim to gain a much more sophisticated and detailed understanding of the important pollinators of our county's wild native plants.

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The Pollinators of Santa Cruz County *(continued)*

A field trip to the MNHC to see Morgan's entire collection and other collections will happen on Saturday, March 13 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Sign-ups for this trip will happen after the presentation. Anyone not attending the presentation is also welcome to attend the field trip.

Contact: Chris Lay, 459-4763

Location: The MNHC is located on Science Hill in room 239 of the Natural Sciences 2 Building at UCSC. The nearest available parking is the Core West Parking Structure (about a 5 minute walk from MNHC). UCSC parking maps can be found at: <http://maps.ucsc.edu/cdcommon.html>

Would you like to join the volunteers working on the collection?

The MHNC welcomes anyone wishing to support continued work on this important local collection. Whether you see the collection on the above trip or not, you can join the researchers, students, and other volunteers at the next regularly scheduled MHNC Herbarium work party:

April 6, 2010 7 pm – 9 pm at the MHNC.

Contact Linda at 462-4042 or redwdrn@pacbell.net

Making the Most of The New “Manual of California Vegetation”

Todd Keeler-Wolf

Friday, March 5, 7 pm UCSC Arboretum

Pot Luck at 6pm ... bring a dish to share

Todd Keeler-Wolf is Senior Vegetation Ecologist, for the California Department of Fish and Game and Chair of The CNPS Vegetation Committee. He is co-author with John Sawyer and Julie Evens of the 2nd Edition of the *Manual of California Vegetation*.

Todd has written and co-authored several books on California plant life and is highly regarded for his extensive experience, knowledge and understanding of the topic. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear Todd Keeler-Wolf speak with precision and eloquence to describe the ecological drivers behind patterns of vegetation and how you can use this magnificent new book to open a new frontier for yourself.

Copies of the *Manual of California Vegetation* will be on sale before and after the talk and Todd will be signing.

Todd and his wife Virginia Keeler-Wolf received Bachelor degrees from UCSC in the mid 1970s and were the first Natural History majors to graduate at UCSC.

Spring Plant Sale

Arboretum Eucalyptus Grove Saturday April 17

10:00 - 12:00 CNPS & Arboretum members

12:00 - 4:00 pm Public

Chats about Annuals: 11:00 am & 1:00 pm

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.

This year there we're including an informal 15 minute chat about native annuals around 11:00 am and 1:00 pm

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.

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

March 20, 2010 10 am to 1 pm
Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve

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

Call or email Linda Brodman, or check cruzcnps.org for late-breaking events.

The Santa Cruz Tarplant and The California Coastal Commission in March

What would you do?

by Debbie Bulger

Here's a choice for you. What if you could reduce motor vehicle traffic and resultant greenhouse gas emissions, but in the process seriously harm an endangered species? Would you do it? Could you still call yourself an environmentalist if you did? You may have guessed that I am talking about the proposed paved bikeway through Arana Gulch. You may also be aware that in this case, we don't have to choose between saving an endangered plant and having a better bicycle connection. There are other options.

One option that would have added a mere 1 1/2 minutes to a bike trip was through Frederick Street Park. This option would completely avoid sensitive habitat. Would you spend an extra 90 seconds to save an endangered species? Another option, the widening of the Murray Street Bridge bike lanes, is scheduled to be constructed next year. The best option would be to put the bikeway on the railroad right of way. The County of Santa Cruz is in the process of buying the railroad right of way with the intention of building a bicycle-pedestrian trail the entire length of the county. The future rail trail is only one quarter mile south of the proposed route.

What are the facts? The proposed bikeway would go right through the middle of rare coastal prairie habitat and habitat for the endangered Santa Cruz Tarplant. The EIR for the bicycle project stated that the proposed bikeway would cause "significant and unavoidable impact" to the endangered Santa Cruz Tarplant. Building on ESHA (Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area) must be resource dependent, not for transportation purposes. (That's why the City calls it an "interpretive trail.") The City has stated that the path will provide access for disabled persons. No one is saying that there should not be accessible paths on Arana Gulch. To the contrary, such access can be accommodated onsite without destroying an endangered species. It is the bike path's alignment that is the problem, not access for people with disabilities.

The California Native Plant Society opposes this destruction of habitat which is home to the endangered Santa Cruz Tarplant. The Center for Biological Diversity opposes this destruction of habitat which is home to the endangered Santa Cruz Tarplant. The Sierra Club opposes this destruction of habitat which is home to the endangered Santa Cruz Tarplant. There are nearby non-destructive alternatives. The City is linking management of this fragile habitat to approval of the destructive bikeway. In fact the City must manage this critical habitat whether or not the bikeway is built. Some have suggested

the proposed bikeway would destroy only 2% of the habitat in Arana Gulch. Doesn't sound like much. Well, if Arana Gulch were a person and that 2% were the heart, it would be fatal. Bisecting habitat is about the worst thing one can do and could indeed prove fatal to the tarplant. In the past the Department of Fish & Game and expert biologists have all said that bisecting the habitat with the path would be destructive. While the revised bicycle project is improved from what was first proposed by eliminating lighting at night and eliminating access to motorized vehicles, the fact remains that it will damage ESHA for a non-coastal-dependent use (transportation).

With better alternatives available, it is senseless harm of an endangered species. It is easy for someone in Santa Cruz to fight to save a rainforest in Brazil or Thailand. Do we have the courage to fight to save an endangered species in our own back yard? Write the Coastal Commission and ask that they approve the Arana Gulch Master Plan WITHOUT the paved Broadway-Brommer bike trail. Explain that the bikeway can be located on the already degraded railroad right of way instead of on ESHA (Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area). Address your letters to Dan Carl, District Director, California Coastal Commission, 725 Front Street, Suite 300, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. You do not have to be a Santa Cruz resident to write.

Do it today. The Coastal Commission meeting will most likely be in Santa Cruz, March 10-12. Come to the meeting if you are able and speak up for the Santa Cruz Tarplant. Call the Coastal Commission 427-4863 to see the exact date, time, and location for the Arana Gulch hearing.

Newsletter: Paper or PDF?

The Chapter would like to send electronic versions of this newsletter to those who would prefer a PDF document instead of a paper copy. If you are interested please send your email address to Membership Chair Jenn Yost jennyost@gmail.com. The Chapter will not share your email address with anyone. Thank you!

Upcoming General Meetings

Chapter general meetings are held on the second Monday of every other month, starting in January. The next meetings are scheduled for May 10, July 12, September 13, and November 8.

Early Spring 2010 Field Trips

I hope you can take some time to get out and enjoy the exuberance and delicate beauty of spring! Be sure to periodically check our Santa Cruz chapter website for additional offerings, as trips may be added after the newsletter is printed: [cruzcnps.org](http://www.montereybaycnps.org/). For additional field trips and other events, check the websites of our neighboring chapters:

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

<http://www.cnps-scv.org/>

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

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

<http://www.abdnha.org/pages/03flora/reports/current.htm>

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

<http://calphoto.com/wflower.htm>

– Ellen

Saturday March 13, 10am-12pm

UCSC Museum of Natural History Collections w/ Chris Lay

We will see Randal Morgan's entire collection (and other collections). See details in the write up of the March public talk.

Saturday March 20, 9am-2pm

Marks Ranch with Gordon Williams

Welcome Spring with a hike into Marks Ranch with Gordon Williams. Meet at the gate located 300 yards down the frontage road from the Toro Park Entrance off of Hwy 68 on Portola Drive exit. Gate will be unlocked at 9:00 and relocked after the last car has gone through. This will be a 4 to 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 where a few hardy plants are blooming; from there we will climb a ridge where we will see most of the Spring flowers and then hike into Toro Park for about a mile and then back into Marks Ranch for a lunch stop before returning along a second ridge. We will also talk about some of the history of this large chicken ranch. We will take a fairly slow walk and talk to and about the flowers we see. Expect to see at least 50 different species! Gordon Williams, 372-6374.

Monday March 29, TBA

Weekday UCSC Campus field trips series w/ Jenn Yost Tentatively set for Monday March 29, and Fridays: April 9th, April 23rd, May 7th.

The times will be announced by email as the time approaches.

Join trip leader Jenn Yost on a series of campus hikes where we will explore the common plants of the UCSC campus. Easy hikes will depart from various locations around campus and will not last longer than 2 hours. We

will also use the walks to voucher campus species that haven't been accessioned into the herbarium yet. If interested please RSVP to Jenn Yost at jennyost@gmail.com and we will send you more specific information.

Friday April 9, TBA

Weekday UCSC Campus field trips series w/ Jenn Yost

See the Monday March 29 description. Please RSVP to Jenn Yost at jennyost@gmail.com.

Sunday April 11, 10am -2pm

Fort Ord Public Lands with Bruce Delgado and David Styer

Join us on a driving and hiking tour of Fort Ord at the peak of wildflower season: always floriferous and fascinating! Volunteer David Styer (633-2590 or david.styer@sbcglobal.net) and BLM botanist Bruce Delgado (394-8314 or bdelgado@blm.gov) will lead this driving tour with moderate to easy hiking stops. Stops will include a shepherd and his 2000 sheep, hopefully-stunning vernal pools and wet meadows, your typical Fort Ord maritime chaparral extravaganza of rare and beautiful wildflowers, and great vistas. Total hiking 3-5 miles, mostly very gentle climbs or flat. Meet at 10am and carpool from Fort Ord's Thrift Shop (formerly the Visitor Center) just inside (first parking lot on the right) Fort Ord's main gate on Lightfighter Drive.

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

Annual Wildflower Show at Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

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!

Friday April 23, TBA

Weekday UCSC Campus field trips series w/ Jenn Yost

See the Monday March 29 description. Please RSVP to Jenn Yost at jennyost@gmail.com.

Saturday April 24, 10am-3pm

Quail Hollow Ranch w/Deanna Giuliano

Have you ever seen the pygmy redwoods that grow at the top of Quail Hollow? Join Deanna Giuliano on a hike in Quail Hollow Ranch. We will see a variety of habitats, marshy meadows, woodland, chaparral and our own unique sand hills. Some species we could see are *Lupinus*

Early Spring 2010 Field Trips *(continued)*

latifolius, *Rhododendron occidentale*, *Muilla maritima*, and *Fritillaria affinis* to name a few. We will also enjoy spectacular views. About 5 to 6 miles round trip depending on the trails we take.

The trip will be from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Bring water, layers, sunscreen, hat and a lunch. Meet at Quail Hollow Ranch county park main parking lot. Carpooling is encouraged, but not CNPS sponsored. Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or call 831 278-2699.

Late April or Early May Pollinators of DeLaveaga County Park with Justen Whittal

Explore part of DeLaveaga Park and you might see some of the pollinators covered in the March 8 meeting. For the the date and details contact Justen at jwhittal@scu.edu.

May 1, 9 am – 12 pm

Año Nuevo State Reserve w/ Tim Hyland

This walk passes through an open portion of Año Nuevo State Reserve. It is a flat 3 mile walk through a variety of coastal plant communities. Depending on the enthusiasm of the group we will see coastal scrub, coastal terrace prairie, willow thickets, dune mat, and bluff scrub vegetation. Although we aren't likely to see anything rare, the views of the coastline are world class, and we may be able to get up to see the largest European Dune Grass removal project on the central coast. Who knows, we might even get to see what most people go to Año Nuevo for: elephant seals.

Meet at the parking lot just north of Whitehouse Creek: Take Highway 1 north to Año Nuevo go just under a mile past the main entrance and about 100 yards past Whitehouse Canyon Road. The parking lot is on your left and is a little hard to see. If you get to the Gazos Creek parking lot you have gone about a mile too far. Contact Tim Hyland at 359-3722 or Tim.hyland@sbcglobal.net. People wanting to carpool may meet in front of New Leaf Westside, 1101 Fair Ave at Ingalls St at 8:30 am. Carpools are no-host, and are neither sponsored nor insured by CNPS.

Sunday May 2, 8:45am-3pm

Upper Garzas Creek Hike/BBQ Potluck, Carmel Valley w/Al Washburn

Join local resident and trip leader Al Washburn (awashburn8@comcast.net or 373- 4873) and his sidekick botanist Bruce Delgado on a visit to Al's private cabin in the woods along Upper Garzas Creek at 2000' elevation. Your choice of gentle walks along the creek or more strenuous hikes up steep surrounding hills. There will be quite beautiful waterfalls and riparian habitat, a good variety of lush ferns, tiger lilies, and perhaps peak of season wildflowers. Assemble behind Brinton's Hardware

store in Carmel to carpool where we'll be leaving 8:45 am sharp and will return at 3:00 pm or later as arranged. Or meet at 9:00 am sharp at the entrance to Rancho San Carlos Road off Carmel Valley Road. 4WD vehicles needed for access across several creek crossings. Parking limited so carpooling is a must. CNPS members and guests only. Bring potluck lunch items to share around a cooking fire to eat near the tumbling creek.

Friday May 7 TBA

Weekday UCSC Campus field trips series w/ Jenn Yost

See the Monday March 29 description. Please RSVP to Jenn Yost at jennyst@gmail.com.

Saturday May 8, 11am-1pm

Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve w/ Val Haley

The Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve will be having three walks this spring on May 8, May 22, and June 5th. All of the walks are on Saturdays and will start at 11:00 am and last about 2.5 to 3 hours. It will be a moderate hike about 2.5 miles, so wear hiking shoes, sun protection, and bring food and water.

Come see plant succession in action, two years after the Martin Fire. There is abundant regrowth and a diversity of fire followers. Last spring was amazing. The walks will highlight unique Santa Cruz Sandhills geology, rare plants, plant communities, and fire ecology. The first two walks will be led by botanist and sandhills specialist, Val Haley. The last walk on June 5 might be co-led by Val and manzanita specialist, Mike Vasey, who has been doing maritime chaparral research at the Reserve. We will meet at the Reserve Parking lot next to the old firehouse on Martin Road. The main cross streets are Ice Cream Grade to the north and Bonny Doon Rd to the south. Please RSVP to Val by phone or email if you would like to attend (425-0687 or vegnet@cruzio.com). The walks are limited to 15 people per walk, so reserve your spot, and pick a date

Renew Online

You can renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, set it up to renew automatically. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces renewal mailing costs.

Go to www.cnps.org and click on Join/Renew.

New Members Welcome!

We are glad to greet our newest members!

Justen Whittal
Julie Dryden-Brown
Andrea Doonan

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
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- Plant Lover \$100
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- Benefactor \$600
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All dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible.



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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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