General Membership Meeting

Audience Participation Night –
Come and Share your Photos!
Co-sponsored by CNPS and
the UCSC Arboretum
Everyone welcome!

March 12, 2012
Plant Keying Session 5:00 pm
Potluck 6:30 pm
Slideshow 7:30 pm
UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Come to our annual photo sharing and potluck meeting, co-sponsored by the Arboretum. This fun and casual event is devoted to enjoying YOUR pictures of native plants, critters, landscapes, and gardens. Bring your shots from far or near! As ever, the meeting is open to anyone interested in native plants – you don’t have to be a member.

To join in, just bring a thumb drive with your digital photos. We'll project them, and you'll tell us a bit about them. If you don’t have digital, you can bring printed photos to pass around. Anything from that one special photo you’d just love others to see, up to maybe 12 or so per person, depending on how many photos people bring and how much there is to say about each one.

Please RSVP by March 8 if you’d like to bring some photos to share. Email Linda Brodman at redwdrn@pacbell.net or call 831 462-4041 so we have an idea how many folk will be sharing.

You'll never have a more appreciative audience for your favorite native plant photos!

The Santa Cruz CNPS Keying Club
Our chapter is proud to announce a new keying session. Due to the popularity we will be having another keying club session; we will meet two hours before our general meeting and key native plants. Bring any unknown plants that have been bothering you or we will provide plants. Our focus for the first hour will be our local Ceanothus. Any other plants of interest are welcomed. This is a great way to learn the flora and an exciting opportunity to start learning the 2nd edition of The Jepson Manual.

From 7-7:30 will be an open for mystery plants to be brought in and identified to the best of our ability.

No experience is necessary. If you have a hand lens, microscope, Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains, or a Jepson Manual, please bring them with you. Bring a friend too! RSVP is not necessary but recommended for us to plan accordingly. Contact: Deanna Giuliano 831-335-4902 or droseguiuliano@yahoo.com

Spring Plant Sale – Saturday April 21
The Eucalyptus Grove at the Arboretum at UCSC
10 am – 12 noon: members only
12 noon – 4 pm: everyone

Come to the spring plant sales of the Santa Cruz Chapter of CNPS and the Arboretum at UCSC at the Arboretum’s lovely Eucalyptus Grove on High Street at Western Drive.

Together there will be several thousand colorful native and drought tolerant plants for sale. The spring sale is an ideal time to see the plants in bloom and with new growth. CNPS will be featuring a selection of Ribes, the genus of currants and gooseberries, and one of the best of California’s spring bloomers for gardens.

The sale offers a wide variety of native plants including ones for shady areas and some local selections. Knowledgeable members will be on hand to help you select the ideal plant for your location.

The public can attend starting at noon. Memberships will be available at the sale

Books and posters will also be for sale.
Ribes - Featured Genus for the Spring Plant Sale

This spring, our chapter's plant sale features Ribes, a genus that comprises the currents and gooseberries. I grow many of the Ribes you'll see in the sale, and love them all.

Pink flowering currant.
Many cultivars, such as 'Barrie Coate', have longer clusters.
The early pendulous pink clusters of blossoms of pink-flowering currant, *Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum*, and the delicate unfolding apple-green leaves on its graceful vase-shaped form, lift my spirits on dull February days. Showiest of all the ribes, I find it prefers light or partial shade and likes a little more water than some. Actually, the best specimens I’ve seen were in a park in London—it’s popular in the U.K.

Chaparral currant, tough and pretty
Under some coast live oaks, *R. malvaceum*, the chaparral currant, grows without any attention at all, tough and drought resistant, shorter and perhaps less elegant than pink-flowering currant, but also radiantly pretty with soft pink clusters.

White-flowered currant, grows large and wide, with interesting bark
Earliest of all in my garden is a large *Ribes indecorum*, white-flowered currant, whose lovely full and open form lights up with creamy white clusters in late January, lasting through February. It likes sun and is very drought tolerant.

Golden currant – prune, or let it grow tall and lanky as an understory plant.
*Ribes aureum*, the golden currant, also has a loose branching habit. It can get very tall and can thicket to fill a large area. It’s the only Ribes on my property that the deer have eaten—and they have not touched it for several years. Deer can munch on any young juicy plant though, so it’s a good idea to cage any young plant or spray with a deer repellant.

Fuchsia-flowered gooseberry—A beauty, but watch out for those spiny branches!
*Ribes speciosum*, fuchsia-flowered gooseberry, stuns me year after year with its small jewel-like pendulous flowers, vivid scarlet, running in rows all along its bristy stems, startling against the smooth green leaves. I keep it on the edge of a bank where I don’t have to pass by, or prune it much! It doesn’t like summer water, but you have to get it established before you can totally ignore it in summer—it’s a balancing act, the first year, then it is indestructible.

Catalina currant, lovely foliage, sprawling over a wall.
Likes shady locations
On the same bank, I enjoy the only evergreen member of the genus (in California that is), *Ribes viburnifolium*, catalina currant (also known as catalina perfume), endemic to Santa Catalina Island. Grown for its fragrant foliage, its nickel-sized glossy round leaves are quite atypical of the genus as a whole, whose leaves are typically three- or five-lobed, sometimes velvety, resinous, and aromatic. Catalina currant has a branching habit and roots where the tips touch the soil, which I enjoy—but you can also prune it as more of a ground cover. Surprisingly drought tolerant for such a glossy plant, it’s also good under oaks.

These lovely currants and gooseberries are suitable for our coastal environments from shoreline to ridge top, as well as for Bay Area gardens. All are easy-going, fairly pest free, tolerant of many different soils, and require little water. They are tolerant of pruning—but remember that blossoms grow on last season’s stems—and they are easy to grow from cuttings. All provide berries that are relished by cedar waxwings and other local birds.

At the spring plant sale, you’ll find many showy cultivars and selections of the species I’ve mentioned (depending on availability at the time of the sale). In fact, I purchased most of them at prior sales—and as you can guess, I have never regretted it.

Jackie Pascoe
New Addition to Field Trips: The Randall Morgan Nature Walk Series

Come with legendary local naturalist Randall Morgan assisted by renowned weed warrior Ken Moore to selected hot spots in the Santa Cruz area and learn about some of nature's little known wonders. These walks will cover all aspects of natural history, including botany, birds, bugs, biogeography, general ecology, conservation, ethnobotany, wild foods, the native/non-native issue, natural succession, land management/restoration/enhancement (plus common mistakes and misconceptions), gardening ideas, how to “read” landscapes, etc.

Attendance will be limited according to the site. Spaces will be reserved in the order received. RSVP to Ken Moore, kenmm23@gmail.com. You will receive an email notification of your status.

No fee will be charged. However, your donations are needed to continue providing this incomparable opportunity. This series may be expanded and extended if sufficient support is obtained.

For more about Randall Morgan: http://scicom.ucsc.edu/publications/essays-profiles-pages/profile-rozendal.html

Look for these walks along with events in the Field Trips listings.

March – May Field Trips

Spring has arrived early this year, so come on out and enjoy the changes of the season as well as the topics beyond botany to be covered in the Random Morgan Nature Walk Series. If you feel like spending a few days out there’s even a backpacking trip in the Santa Lucias.

Saturday March 10, 1:00 - 3:00
Ocean Street Extension with Randy Morgan
RSVP required
Take a nice leisurely level stroll through a river bottom paradise with bucolic scenery, beautiful orchards and truck farms, roadside natives and wild veggies. Meet at 1:00 in the cemetery parking lot at the beginning of Ocean Street Extension, where it splits off from Graham hill Road. Maximum 20 people. Spaces will be reserved in the order received. RSVP required: Ken Moore, kenmm23@gmail.com. You will receive an email notification of your status.

Sunday March 11, 1:00 - 3:00
Marshall field with Randy Morgan
RSVP required
This is the best place and time to see the Ohlone tiger beetle, and in a diverse meadow and forest setting. Our best, richest and highest elevation coastal-terrace grassland. Easy level walk. Meet at 1:00 in the UCSC arboretum lower parking lot on Empire Grade Rd. Maximum 20 people. Spaces will be reserved in the order received. RSVP required: Ken Moore, kenmm23@gmail.com. You will receive an email notification of your status.

Sunday March 18, 9:00am
Sensational Spring Flowers at Marks Ranch
Welcome Spring with a hike into Marks Ranch with Gordon Williams. Our morning begins with a walk over a cattle grazed plain where a few hardy plants will be blooming. For lunch, we will climb a ridge where there should be a nice display of early spring flowers. The remainder of our field trip will be determined by wherever the wildflowers are; we hope to see at least 50 different species! Bring water and lunch. Meet at the gate located 300 yards down the frontage road from the Toro Park Entrance off of Hwy. 68 on Portola Drive exit. The Marks Ranch gate will be unlocked at 9:00 and relocked after the last car has gone through. If you plan to leave early, park your car outside the gate and expect to climb the gate when you leave. About 4-5 hours, 5.5 miles and 600 feet total elevation gain. Leader, Gordon Williams 372-6374

Ribes speciosum
March – May Field Trips (continued)

Saturday Mar 24, 10:00 am – 1:00pm
Bean Creek Estates Sandhills Preserve with Lynn Overtree
RSVP required
The Land Trust accepted this property because it is highly ranked for Zayante sandhills and sand parkland habitat by Jodi McGraw. We should see some of the rare annuals as well as manzanitas, buckwheat, ceanothus, etc. The property is closed to the public; be one of the first to visit our newest preserve! Help discover the plants that live here.
We’ll wander around the new 18-acre preserve. Hardly any distance, but it is on a steep hillside so we’ll be walking up and down hill. Wear sturdy, layered clothing. Dress according to weather. Bring a lunch for a picnic. Meet at House of Bagels, 216 Mt. Hermon Road, Scotts Valley. We’ll follow each other from there to the new property on Bean Creek Road.
RSVP required lynn.overtree@landtrustsantacruz.org 831-224-5059 (cell) Limited to 10 people to protect this rare habitat.

Sunday March 25, 9:30am
Kahn Ranch Spring Wildflower Walk
RSVP required
Michael Mitchell & Dr. Rod Yeager, co-authors of Wildflowers of Garland Ranch—a field guide, will take us into the Kahn Ranch. It is a lesser known part of Garland Ranch that it is a special place to see not only beautiful vistas but a wide variety of spring wild flowers. The outing begins with a short walk to a waterfall then with a climb into a different habitat where we will be surrounded by flowers along the way. 3.7 miles/1,100 ft. elevation gain. Bring lunch, water & hiking boots. Meet by 9:30 in the main parking lot (lower lot) of Garland Ranch. Call Lynn for a reservation at 375-7777.

Saturday March 31, 2012 10am-3pm
Calypso Orchid of Butano with Deanna Giuliano
Join Deanna Giuliano to see the beautiful purple Calypso orchids, along with Western wake robin, Skunk cabbage, and an array of flowering native berry species. Its roughly 5 miles round trip, of moderate elevation gain, to see the orchids. An optional additional hike up a steeper fire road will allow those who want to continue on, to see Rhododendron macrophyllum and other wonders. Trip is from 10-3 bring water, layers, hat and lunch. Meet at the entrance of Butano State Park. Carpooling is encouraged but not CNPS sponsored. If interested in carpooling meet at the Westside New Leaf parking lot on Fair Avenue at 9:15. Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or call 831 335-4902

Sat April 14, 1:00 – 4:00pm
Byrne-Milliron Forest Preserve with Lynn Overtree
This is a working redwood forest. It is periodically harvested under sustainable harvesting practices. Come see what an intentionally-managed forest looks like. From AJ’s Point of View you can see all Watsonville and south to the Ventana Wilderness. Plants you may see include: Giant wake robin (Trillium chloropetalum), giant chain fern (Woodwardia fimbriata) and Clintonia (Clintonia andrewsiana) – common but fun redwood understory species. Habitats that we’ll walk through include: redwood forest, coast live oak woodland, maritime chaparral, and narrow riparian areas associated with small streams. There is a volunteer workday in the morning from 9:00am to noon. Join us for both! Or come at noon and join us for lunch before exploring for plants. We’ll walk approximately 3-4 miles on well-maintained roads and trails. The landscape is steep and some trails are very narrow. Wear sturdy, layered clothing. Dress according to weather. Meet at 809 Browns Valley Road, Corralitos. From Freedom Boulevard, take Corralitos Road towards town. When at the intersection, turn right on Browns Valley Road. Go about ½ mile and turn left at the T. Go approximately 2 miles and turn left in the driveway for Roses of Yesterday and Today. The preserve parking is one mile up the driveway. Please RSVP so that we have an idea of how many are coming: lynn.overtree@landtrustsantacruz.org 831-224-5059 (cell)

Sunday April 15 1:00 - 3:00
Lucille's Court with Randy Morgan
RSVP required
A special wildflower connoisseurs trip to the best wildflower meadow left in our county. A very rich but also very fragile place, with high diversity and density of annual wild flowers, some extremely rare. This one is for serious botanists. Meet at 1:00 in the parking lot by Johnnie's Market in Boulder Creek. Maximum 15 people. Spaces will be reserved in the order received. RSVP required: Ken Moore, kenmm23@gmail.com. You will receive an email notification of your status.

Saturday April 21 10:00 - 1:00
Glenwood Open Space Preserve with Randy Morgan and Lynn Overtree
RSVP required
We will look for the Mt. Diablo Cottonweed (micropus amphibolus), Scotts Valley Spineflower (Chorizanthe robusta var. hartwegii) and Gray's clover (Trifolium grayi). Glenwood Preserve has riparian, oak woodland, grassland, perennial pond, wet meadow and a little patch
March – May Field Trips (continued)

of redwood habitat. The preserve is still closed to public while the Long-term Management Plan is being written. This is a special opportunity to visit this jewel. It is also home to a population of emerald Ohlone Tiger Beetle. We will probably walk about 2-3 miles total on horse trails. The terrain is rolling hills. Wear sturdy layered clothing. Dress according to weather. Bring a lunch. Meet at end of Mountain View Dr off Glenwood Drive. From Hwy 17N (from Santa Cruz): take Exit Granite Creek Road toward Scotts Valley Dr. Turn right onto Granite Creek Rd, go over freeway. Turn right onto Scotts Valley Dr. and immediately left on Glenwood Drive. Travel for .8 mile. Turn right on Mountain Valley Dr. The entrance to the preserve is straight ahead. From Hwy 17S (from San Jose): Exit Granite Creek Rd. Go straight through intersection across Scotts Valley Dr. and you are on Glenwood Drive. Travel for 0.8 mile. Turn right on Mountain Valley Dr. The entrance to the preserve is straight ahead. The property is closed to public. Spaces will be reserved in the order received. RSVP required: Ken Moore, kenmm23@gmail.com. You will receive an email notification of your status.

Sunday April 22 11:00 - 3:00
Zayante Sandhills with Randy Morgan and Ken Moore
RSVP required
This is one of the better but seldom visited tracts of sandhills parkland and sand chaparral. Many of the sandhills annuals should be near the peak of their flowering season. If we are lucky, we may find some interesting insects as well. We will also see and discuss early successional recovery following phased removal of nearly 30 acres of acacia. The trip will be climaxed with an easy climb to a hilltop with a great view, which includes many other important sandhills sites. Meet at 11:00 at the Zayante Fire Station on East Zayante Rd, right across from the Trout Farm Inn. Maximum 15 people. Spaces will be reserved in the order received. RSVP required: Ken Moore, kenmm23@gmail.com. You will receive an email notification of your status.

Sat May 5 (Fri May 4 - Sun May 6 optional)
Santa Lucia backcountry flora
Dave Nelson and Boon Hughey
RSVP required
The Wagon Caves/Indians area in south Monterey County has a diverse flora as well as striking scenery with rock formations and extensive oak savannah. Frequent denizens Boon Hughey, Dave Nelson, and friends, with experience totaling many decades of Ventana backcountry botanizing, will lead a trip there May 5 (optional May 4 eve – May 6). We'll meet at 10AM Saturday at the Santa Lucia trailhead for a potentially-strenuous several hour, moderate elevation gain, sometimes off-trail day hike of 3 – 5 miles where we may well see the seldom-seen Arroyo Seco Bush mallow, Allium lacunosum var: lacunosum, Isoetes nuttallii, and narrow endemic Eriogonum butterworthianaum. Those wishing for more, can car camp at the Memorial Park campground Saturday night for another hike Sunday on the Wagon Cave plains. Ticks, snakes, poison oak and other characters may make appearances. Contact nelsoid@gmail to RSVP and get details. Lots of info here too http://www.ventanawild.org
Our Chapter offered partial grants to this year’s Conservation Conference. The grants included a requirement to provide a written report (or a presentation at a General Meeting) of the attendee’s experience. Here are a couple of them.

Report by Suzanne Schettler

The Conservation Conference last month in San Diego was well worthwhile. It was frustrating that there were not just three but four concurrent sessions, which meant participants had to miss interesting topics. And the 15-minute presentation format also frustrated many speakers. But there was much to be learned.

Four topics of local interest are related here.

1. Point Reyes Spineflower (Chorizanthe valida) is a close relative of our local Ben Lomond Spineflower (C. pungens var. hartwegiana). Both are sand-loving species, and there is only one known population of C. valida. There have been experimental reintroductions over the last two decades with varying success, but they lacked data as to what contributed to the success or failure of each reintroduction.

   During 2010, Amelia Ryan of the Pt. Reyes National Seashore conducted reintroductions at thirteen potential sites, focusing on 5 mapped soil types and potentially suitable subsites.

   Not surprisingly, the failed sites had higher clay content and lower sand content. But interestingly, higher fall rainfall led to smaller population counts, while higher spring rainfall increased the population numbers.

   Our local Ben Lomond Spineflower germinates with the first few millimeters of rainfall. The population dynamics may be different here, since the first fall rains tend to peter out north of the Golden Gate and not reach here.

2. Connie Rutherford of the US Fish and Wildlife Service related recent research on the Santa Cruz Cypress (Hesperocyparis abramsiana, formerly Cupressus abramsiana). The species is listed as Endangered by both the California Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It is under review for downlisting.

   The 2008 Martin Fire produced copious numbers of seedlings of Santa Cruz Cypress, a closed-cone conifer. To a limited extent, physical/mechanical disturbance can mimic the natural recruitment process. It would be
interesting to follow a particular cohort of post-fire Cypress seedlings and evaluate survival of individuals over time. An abundance of Santa Cruz Cypress seedlings germinated the year after the Martin Fire.

3. Karen Holl’s Restoration Ecology class at UCSC compared various methods to reduce exotic cover and restore native coastal prairie grasses at Younger Lagoon. The methods included tarping once, tarping twice, topsoil removal (scraping), herbiciding, mulching, and no treatment (control). Herbiciding was the most effective treatment for reducing exotic cover in plots that were not mulched. Scraping was ineffective at reducing exotic cover. The two most effective methods for reducing exotic cover were tarping once in the fall following the first rains, and mulching.

4. Landscape contractor Greg Rubin debunked many practices commonly used in landscaping with native plants. He is strongly against the use of organic soil amendments or drip irrigation, except when planting marsh plants or plants of the northern forests, because these cause problems after one or two years. He prefers overhead irrigation using the MP 1000 Rotator because it puts out .4” of water per hour, which resembles a gentle rainstorm. He recommends against using fertilizer because natives are adapted to pull nutrients out of lean soils. He believes plants should be grouped by their natural community rather than by their appearance, and that at least five species per community are needed for stability.

I am grateful to the chapter for a scholarship that covered some of the expenses to participate in the conference.

Report by Emily Cobar, UCSC

The California Native Plant Society conference in San Diego was quite of an experience for me. I am very glad that I was given the privilege to attend because I feel like I was opened up to many potential job opportunities for my future and opened up to people who love their jobs and are always excited when working or talking about native California plants. I was inspired by many of the events I attended during the conference, some of which prompted me to think of potentially leading a project of my own to present to a future conference. For example, one of my favorite talks was the Maritime Succulent Scrub Community Restoration project because it reminded me of a project I worked on in high school as an intern about the Prickly Pear in the Coastal Sage Scrub Community in Los Angeles. It also presented ideas for different methods to grow the succulents such as planting large cuttings rather than small as a colleague did at the Baldwin Hills State Park. One of my other favorite talks was about exotic grass control which I feel that all methods and treatments used is important to learn about when planning on future restoration projects of your own. As I still don’t know what type of research I would do, one of my goals this year is to volunteer with a graduate student or any other field researchers working on a project on habitat restoration within my university, UCSC. In addition to the talks, all the other CNPS members and students inspired me to learn more about plants. I felt like a beginner in plant knowledge because I was and I’m still unfamiliar with all the native plants. One of the speakers asked everyone to discuss their favorite native plant with the person sitting next to them and when it was my turn to speak, I hesitated because I didn’t know many species names but I’m eager to learn about the natives and prepare myself to name my favorite for the following years. One job opportunity that caught my eye during the conference registration was the “Entry level Biologist” for HELIX Environmental Planning. Although I am only a college sophomore, I want to be able to fulfill the requirements by the time I graduate. My major is combined Environmental Studies and Biology, which is required for the job and other job qualifications are: “excellent writing, communication, cooperation skills, as well as knowledge of Southern California flora and fauna”. I still have two or three more years to earn my bachelor’s degree but during my stay at my university, I plan to use all the resources available, gain knowledge and experience in the plant world, and improve my writing and communication skills. I am currently doing working-study at the UCSC Arboretum and I know this is a beneficial experience because I am taking small steps to becoming one of the next California native plant experts.

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.

Linda Brodman 831.462.4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net

As always you can also check out www.cruznps.org

March 10, 2012             10 am to 1 pm
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

March 24, 2012             10 am to 1 pm
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park
Join the California Native Plant Society!

New members receive a free bag or backpack.

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.

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.

Santa Cruz Chapter Board of Directors

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