General Meeting

Alexandra Von Feldt

From Lawns to Meadows

May 10, 2010
7:30 pm lecture
UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Learn how to change your lawn into a more sustainable and diverse native meadow. Alexandra Von Feldt will discuss and present a Power Point slide show of different techniques for removing an existing lawn, and demonstrate examples of native meadows. She will discuss what plant combinations work best for different situations.

Alexandra Von Feldt is a professional native landscape gardener and designer. She has been gardening with native plants for seven years emphasizing the use of local and site specific native plants. Her garden is one of many showcased at the web site, Going Native Garden Tour, at www.gngt.org/GNGT/Home.html. Alexandra has experiences with restoration work, and as co-chair of the Portola Valley Friends of Sausal Creek, worked on rehabilitation efforts of Sausal Creek at the Portola Valley Town Center.

What can one plant in lieu of a lawn? All sorts of wonderful native ground covers, bunch forming grasses, and perennial wildflowers are suitable choices. Spring time is a perfect time for a lawn conversion, so come on out and learn how to get started.

Inside this issue:
• Second Coastal Commission Hearing about Arana Gulch and the Santa Cruz Tarplant
• Sprint Plant Sale Roundup
• Spring Field Trips
• Volunteer events, indoor and outside

Santa Cruz CNPS at The Garden Faire

Sat, June 26, 9am-4pm
Skypark, Scotts Valley

Come visit the CNPS booth at this summer’s Garden Faire in sunny Scotts Valley. See displays of our chapter’s activities. Chat with fellow members. Gather information on native plant gardening and invasive exotics control. Be sure to ask for a free CNPS sticker. Books, posters, maybe even T-shirts and, of course, a wonderful selection of native plants will be available for sale.

The Garden Faire is an admission free educational event held on a grassy field under a circle of canopies that symbolizes the gathering of the garden community. The theme of this year’s faire, “Rediscovering Our Roots,” addresses the gardener’s traditional commitment to conserving water and to the environment, and honors gardening that nourishes the body with healthful fruits and vegetables and raises the spirit with ornamental plants. Listen to nationally recognized speakers and attend expert demonstrations on sustainable gardening practices. Shop for garden plants and garden-related goods and services. Enjoy delicious, healthful food and wonderful music.

For a complete schedule of vendors and events go to the website: http://thegardenfaire.org.
If you would like to help with the CNPS booth, please contact Denise at (831) 685-3235 or dmpolk@cruzio.com. See you at The Faire.
SPRING PLANT SALE IN REVIEW

The beautiful spring day on April 17\textsuperscript{th} surely helped to make the spring plant sale a pleasure for all. Besides the plants and a well-stocked book table, two new features widened our offerings at this sale. Local member Peggy Edwards donated T-shirts with her wildflower designs from her company Sierra Nature Prints. (We will continue to sell shirts at future meetings.) To showcase the annuals that we grow from seed, Deanna Giuliano offered chats about annuals during the members only and the general hours of the sale. A table covered with annuals in full bloom helped to inspire people about how these plants can enrich the summer garden.

Fifteen volunteers helped during the spring sale, and the behind-the-scenes propagation crews provided most of the plants grown at the monthly work sessions, not to forget their loading the plants into the nursery truck on the day before the sale. The sale was a great success in all regards, and as always, the volunteers deserve great thanks.

Karen Hildebrand

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! Tools provided; bring gloves.

May 8, 2010 10 am to 1 pm
Twin Lakes State Park

May 15, 2010 10 am to 1 pm
Sunset Beach State Park

Call or email Linda Brodman 831.462.4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net, or check cruzcnps.org for late-breaking events.

Volunteer Herbarium Work Parties
Sponsored by the UCSC Museum of Natural History Collections and Santa Cruz County CNPS.

May 4, 2010 7 pm – 9 pm, at the UCSC MNHC

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

Chapter member Video Showing at the Santa Cruz Film Festival
Some of you may remember seeing the short video *Eye of the Flycatcher* that was shown by long-time member Fred McPherson as part of his presentation entitled *Using Digital Video for Natural History, Conservation and Education Projects* which was given at our March 2009 public meeting. The film has been accepted into the Santa Cruz Film Festival and will be shown on May 9th (Mother’s Day) at the River Front Twin Theaters at noon. Set amid native plants and animals, it’s an enjoyable and entertaining experience for every member of the family and nature lovers of all ages. If you enjoyed it, or missed it, here is your chance to see it on the big screen.

Beginners in the field of digital Natural History, Fred and his wife, Roberta, feel that local Natural History should be an important category for consideration in the film festival. According to Fred, “Sometimes natural history topics are just taken for granted and not considered to be culturally relevant, exciting, or ideologically challenging. As it becomes clearer and clearer that the very existence and survival of our human culture and species is dependent on our awareness and understanding of the nature and our planet’s life support ecosystems it is very important, in our opinion, that natural history videography be appreciated and considered relevant.” We hope that even more people will contribute local Natural History topics to this local film festival in the future.

New Members Hello
We are glad to greet our newest members!

Golden Love
Kit Birskovich

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 meetings for the second half of the year are scheduled for July 12, September 13, and November 8.
The Santa Cruz Tarplant Returns To The California Coastal Commission in May

Vince Cheap, Conservation Committee

This is an update on CNPS’ efforts to protect the Arana Gulch Greenbelt population of the Santa Cruz tarplant (a state and federally listed plant) from the City of Santa Cruz’s project to construct a paved east-west bike connection as part of a transportation network directly through the tarplant’s environmentally sensitive coastal prairie habitat. The resulting fragmentation of this population and the destruction of the species’ sensitive prairie habitat, including negative changes to hydrology, are unacceptable threats to the restoration and long term viability of this genetically unique population.

On March 11, 2010 the City’s project came up for review by the California Coastal Commission (CCC). At that public meeting, CNPS presented to the Commissioners an alternative route on the Arana Gulch Greenbelt that would go around the tarplant and its habitat instead of through it. Several Commissioners were not satisfied that the City’s proposed plan was even allowable/legal under the Coastal Act which excludes transportation projects in Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) like the tarplant habitat. Several other Commissioners asked that the City review and analyze the CNPS alternative route and other alternatives that would offer better protection to the tarplant. It is unclear at this time when the City will present their findings as directed by the Commission. CNPS has gathered together a group of our experts who are currently working to fully characterize our southern alternative route and will present our findings at a future time as well.

For your information – below is a copy of the letter that I submitted on March 3 to the Commissioners on behalf of CNPS for the Match 11 hearing. Much more extensive comments (nearly 10 minutes) were submitted orally at the same hearing by our attorney William Parkin and our consulting expert Dr. Grey Hayes, including a power point presentation.

Dear Commissioners:

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) supports the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access to Arana Gulch AND an east-west bike link. ADA access is not an issue because wheelchair paths can easily be built around the Santa Cruz tarplant habitat and Arana can be enjoyed by persons in wheelchairs. The east-west bike link has a number of alternatives, even off site, which could be just as quick and effective as the one through the middle of sensitive habitat at Arana Gulch. All we ask is that the path goes around the habitat instead of through the middle of it. Throughout the Arana negotiations, CNPS has proposed alternatives that would not bisect the Santa Cruz tarplant population both off site and on site. According to bicycle proponents, one alternative (see attached map), which would simply take the road to the south of its current proposed location, would add approximately 14 seconds to the commute for a normal bicycle rider. This would also create a less steep grade for wheelchair access while simultaneously producing a superior ‘coastal’ experience, with views from the ocean to the mountains. The currently proposed alignment has a grade too steep for many who use wheelchairs and does not have good areas for viewing the coast.

Most people involved in this issue agree that the area in question is an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) and the City’s own EIR admits that there is a significant impact to the habitat. Clearly, because of this and the fact that the California Coastal Act gives paramount protection to ESHA preventing ANY non-resource dependent development that would impact the habitat, the current Broadway Brommer project within the Arana Gulch Master Plan cannot be squared with the Coastal Act. The City has created a false choice between bicycle transportation and preserving an endangered species.

Please see the attached map that shows the CNPS southern alternative alignment highlighted in blue.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Vince Cheap, CNPS Conservation Committee
Spring 2010 Field Trips

Saturday May 1, 9am – 12pm
Ano Nuevo State Reserve w/ Tim Hyland
This walk passes through an open portion of Ano 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 Ano Nuevo for; elephant seals.

Meet at the parking lot just north of Whitehouse Creek:
Take Highway 1 north to Ano Nuevo go just under a mile past the main entrance and about 100 yards past whitehouse canyon rd. 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.
Tim Hyland Cell 359-3722 Tim.hyland@sbcglobal.net
People wanting to carpool may meet in front of New Leaf Westside, 1101 Fair Ave at Ingalls St at 8:30am.
Carpools are no-host, and not CNPS sponsored/insured.

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 hike 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 may meet in front of New Leaf Westside, 1101 Fair Ave at Ingalls St at 8:30am. Carpools are no-host, and not CNPS sponsored/insured.

Friday May 7 Time & Site  TBA
Weekday UCSC Campus field trips series w/ Jenn Yost
Details to 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.

Wednesday May 5, 7pm-9pm
An Evening with the Grasses with Sally Casey
Come to De Anza College for a two hour class taught by Sally Casey, specializing in identification of members of Poaceae, the grass family. Bring your own flowering grasses that you wish to identify.

The class will be from 7-9pm. Space is limited; call Sally Casey (408) 377-0989 (best after dark) for further information or to sign up. The class includes a grass walk on Saturday, May 8. (See below for a public grass walk to be held June 5.)

Directions: The class will be in the Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies, in room 120 on the first floor (KC120). Hint: it’s the most westerly room in the building.

The Kirsch Center, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd. in Cupertino, is located near the corner of McClellan and Stelling within the DeAnza College Campus. From Hwy 85 south, exit at Stevens Creek Blvd. and turn left (west) onto Stevens Creek. In 1/2 mile turn right onto Stelling, in 1/2 mile turn right on McClellan, then take your next right (north) onto the campus and the Kirsch Center will be in view straight ahead and a bit to the right, with the parking lot ahead and to your left. Take the next left onto the De Anza College Pkwy. and the next right into the parking lot. Day parking costs $2 and you can purchase your permit from the machine in the lot.

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
Spring 2010 Field Trips (continued)

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.

Saturday, May 15, 3pm-5pm
Flowers and Pollinators of DeLaveaga Park w/ Justen Whittall

The focus of this field trip will be on flower colors in the forest (Whittall’s specialty) and the primary pollinators in these communities. The hike will highlight understory plants of the Redwood Forest & Mixed Evergreen Forest. The out and back walk to the “Top of the World” is approximately 3 miles total distance with less than 200 feet elevation gain (Easy-Moderate hiking). Bring water and a snack. You might sneak a peek at his website, to whet your appetite for knowledge on the evolution of flower colors! http://www.jbwhittall.com/

Meet at the DeLaveaga Park Main Entrance. Branciforte Dr. approximately 1 mile north of intersection with Goss Ave., Isbel Dr. & Market St. Meet in the parking lot next to the children’s playground, near park entrance. Car pools (always) recommended.

No reservations necessary; open to the public.

Justen Whittall (Department of Biology, Santa Clara Univ.), jwhittall@scu.edu, (831) 332-3389 (cell)

Saturday May 22, 11am-1pm
Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve w/ Val Haley

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. This walk will be led by botanist and sandhills specialist, Val Haley. Walk 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.

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

Close up with the endangered Ben Lomond Spineflower (Chorizanthe pungens var. hartwegiana) at Geyer Quarry. Photo by Peg Edwards.
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.

**Sat May 22 10 am**  
**Fountain Thistle — San Francisco Peninsula Watershed**  
Join Don Thomas and Ken Himes to see the rare, federally endangered fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*) in the Crystal Springs Watershed, normally closed to the public. This plant is endemic to the San Francisco Peninsula, and most of the populations occur in the Crystal Springs Watershed.

First we will visit a small, easily accessible fountain thistle population on Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir, and this will include a short work session to remove teasel that is invading its serpentine seep habitat. (Tools will be provided.)

We will then visit a newly rediscovered large population of fountain thistles, comprising approximately 19,000 plants. Unlike most of the other populations, this one occurs in serpentine grassland dominated by hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*).

We will walk about one mile in total. The activities will end in the early afternoon. The trip is limited to 20 participants. To reserve a spot, contact Don Thomas at don_e_thomas@yahoo.com or (408) 828-4044; or contact Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560.

**Sat-Sun May 22-23**  
**The Cedars (Sonoma County)**  
Join Kevin Bryant, Matt Teel, and Roger Raiche for an exploration of Roger’s amazing property, The Cedars. The Cedars, so named by early explorers for its extensive stands of Sargent Cypress, is a roughly 10 square mile area of Sonoma County consisting entirely of serpentine and its parent rock peridotite. Many rare plants, including several disjunct or endemic species, await us for a rare opportunity to visit this remote, privately owned and botanically unique piece of California.

This overnight camping trip is limited to 20 participants. Details and directions will be given to confirmed participants; expect a 3 hour drive from the SF peninsula, leaving early on Saturday and returning late Sunday. High clearance 4wd vehicles are needed to access the property; participants with unsuitable cars may leave their vehicles safely at a neighboring ranch and carpool in. If you have a high clearance 4wd and plan to attend the trip, please let Matt know when reserving a space. Springs and pools are abundant; bring a swimsuit if you like. Participants should be prepared for steep, rugged terrain and mainly single-track trails.

We are offering priority to Santa Clara Valley Chapter members for this trip. Contact Matt at mat_teel@yahoo.com or (650) 851-4691, to sign up. If you are not a Santa Clara Valley member and are interested in attending, please email Matt to get on the waiting list. If there is still room 10 days prior to the trip, we will accommodate whomever we can.

**Sun May 23 10am**  
**Pescadero Marsh and Dunes**  
Join Toni Corelli and State Park volunteers Avis Boutell and Nancy Frost for a walk on the North Pond Trail at Pescadero Marsh. This is a great place to see coastal scrub, native prairie and wildflowers, along with saltwater marsh wetlands and the birds associated with it.

This will be an easy one-way walk of about 1 mile and we will return along the same trail. After lunch we will go to the Pescadero dunes to see different plants and how they manage to live in this extreme habitat. We’ll meet at the North Parking lot of Pescadero Marsh at 10am.

Directions: From Hwy. 1 park at the north parking lot at Pescadero Marsh. A parking fee is required and there are restrooms at the parking lot. Bring lunch and wear layers. The tour will go until 3pm.

For more information contact Toni at (650) 464-1289 or corelli@coastside.net. Or see the map at www.parks.ca.gov/lat_long_map/default.asp?lvl_id.

**Mon-Fri May 24-28**  
**High Desert Trip - Southeastern Sierra**  
This trip captures the season just ending in the upper Mojave while just beginning on Sierra slopes. (And it should be good if the abundant flowers in Short Canyon were an indication March 30.)

We will be walking the upper canyons toward the south and bajadas opposite Lone Pine. Haiwee Reservoir marks the uppermost Mojave Desert province. *Calochortus kennedyi* will be present. Later in the trip, the bajadas east of Mt. Whitney offer a unique *Ceanothus cuneatus* / *C. leucodermis* brush community and also late-season desert flowers.
Camping will be primitive sites or motel lodging at your choice (with motels at Lone Pine or Ridgecrest). Dates are event days: we’ll hike Monday afternoon and the last overnight stay will be Friday night.

Reservations are required. For more information or to reserve your spot contact one of the trip leaders: Joe Cernac at (408) 292-5465 or joecernac@sbcglobal.net; and Stella Yang at (408) 255-6233 or yscottie@pacbell.net.

Saturday June 5, 11am-1pm
Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve w/ Val Haley and Mike Vasey

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 walk will highlight unique Santa Cruz Sandhills geology, rare plants, plant communities, and fire ecology. Botanist and sandhills specialist, Val Haley will be joined by manzanita specialist, Mike Vasey, who has been doing maritime chaparral research at the Reserve. Walk 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.

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).

Limited to 15 people, so reserve your spot!

Sat & Sun June 5-6
Grass Walk at Los Trancos

Join Sally Casey to explore the native grasses at Los Trancos Open Space Preserve in Los Altos. See many species of grasses in sunny and shady conditions. Bring a hand lens if you have one available, a sack lunch and water.

The hike distance will be about 2 miles with minimal elevation gain. The walk, with a lunch break, should be completed by 2:00pm.

The trip is limited to 18 participants. Reservations are required. To reserve a spot, contact Sally Casey at (408) 377-0989 (best after dark) or email Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com.

Sat & Sun June 11-12
11th Annual Early Summer Wildflower Show at Garland Park, Carmel Valley

Wildflowers, Field Sketching Workshop and Watercolor Art Demo, Hikes, Lectures, and more. More information to be announced please go to: www.mprpd.org. For questions contact Debbie Wyatt (wyatt@mprrd.org or (831) 659-6065).

Sun Jun 20 10am
Feelin’ Fruity @ Water Dog Lake in Belmont

Fruits… we take ‘em for granted… peach, pear, or plum, we know ‘em well… but what are fruits and where (botanically) do they come from?! And what of plants like asters, orchids, or irises… where do they fit on the fruit spectrum? Finding the answers can be surprisingly fun and… well… fruitful!

Join Drew Shell for this frolic through the fruit world at Belmont’s Water Dog Lake Open Space. We’ll likely see plenty still in bloom, but our main focus will be understanding nature’s fruitful bounty. To paraphrase an old tune, we’ll be slowin’ down, not moving too fast, tryin’ to make the morning last, kicking down a trail of stones, looking for fun and feelin’ fruity!

This special, educational hike is limited to 15 people. CNPS members (with immediate family or one guest) have priority up ‘til one week before hike. Approximate distance will be 3 miles and the trip is expected to last 3-4 hours. To sign up or get more info, contact Drew Shell at shell@corp.webtv.net; or Carolyn Dorsch at (650) 804-6162.
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.

California Native Plant Society
Santa Cruz County Chapter
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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.

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