

The Cypress Cone

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

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May - June 2011

General Membership Meeting

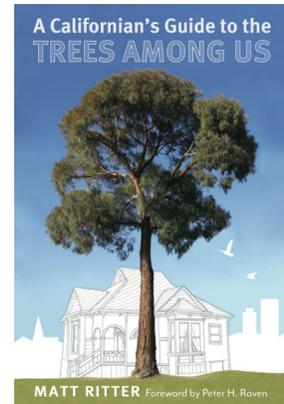
Matt Ritter, Ph.D.

A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us

May 9, 2011

7:30 pm

UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building



Dr. Ritter's presentation will be a photographic exposé of the lives and stories of some of the fascinating trees featured in his new book, *A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us* — a new natural history and identification guide to urban and suburban trees in California. Those who live in California need not travel to exotic places to see an eclectic mix of trees from all corners of the earth; one only need stroll down a local street and look up. The state's agreeable Mediterranean climate and rich horticultural history have converged to populate our towns and cities with thousands of different species of native and ornamental trees. Matt will use his photographs, insight, and humor to share stories, cultivation and identification tips, and natural history of California's common and exotic trees.

Matt Ritter studies cultivated trees and trees that escape cultivation. He has a bachelor's degree in microbiology and a Ph.D. in plant developmental biology. He is currently a botany professor in the Biological Sciences Department at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and director of the plant conservatory there. He has authored numerous scientific papers about plants and contributed to botanical references including the upcoming second edition of the *Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California* and the Flora of North America Project. He holds a Kenan Fellowship at the National Tropical Botanical Gardens, is the Ray Collett Visiting Scholar at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, teaches for the Organization of Tropical Studies in Costa Rica, and is the chair of the City of San Luis Obispo Tree Committee.

More information can be found at <http://www.heydaybooks.com/guides-and-reference/a-californians-guide-to-the-tr.html>.

Changes In Store for May's Envirotoken Elections

One source of donations for the Chapter is NewLeaf Community Market's "Envirotoken" program. Customers receive tokens worth 10¢ apiece to give to one of six local nonprofit environmental organizations for each grocery bag they reuse.

The election process for the potential donation recipients is changing. In past years customers could vote with a

paper ballot each time they visited a store; each store had a different list of environmental charities. While the complete details are not yet known, it seems that the election this year will take place online, rather than in-store. Please ask at a store, or stop by www.newleaf.com, or check our website after the beginning of May, in order to help ensure that CNPS continues to be an option for Envirotoken donations.

First Annual Santa Cruz Native Garden Tour Sunday, June 12

Are you interested in creating an attractive drought tolerant and wildlife friendly garden? Celebrate California's natural beauty by going on Santa Cruz County's 1st Annual California Native Garden Tour Sunday, June 12th 2011. This is a free, self-guided tour of public and private gardens that feature stunning native and drought tolerant plants.

The tour will feature a variety of gardens, from backyard habitats to two acre rural landscapes. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about plant selection and care with the goal of lowering water bills and creating environmentally friendly gardens. You won't have to travel far, as all gardens are located within Santa Cruz County. Visit as many or few gardens as you like. There will be native plant sales and informative talks on gardening native plants at select locations.

Admission is free, though space is limited, so register at www.californianativegardentour.org prior to June 10th.

New Members' Welcome

We are pleased to introduce our newest members:

Diane Ritch	Myma Cozen
Paia Levine	Lupe Allen

Students and Researchers - CNPS Grant Applications Now Open for 2011

Each year the State CNPS Educational Grants program receives funding to help support field research related to California's native plants. Students, CNPS members, or post-doctoral botanists are eligible, in that order, for grants that are generally not more than \$1,000. Proposals should involve taxa or plant communities that are of concern due to direct or indirect potential impacts. The grants need to be relevant to our conservation mission. Certain small endowed funds are available specifically for graduate students planning research involving rare plants or evolutionary botany.

If you are interested in obtaining support from CNPS for your work, request a copy of the guidelines (for drafting and submitting a proposal) from the state CNPS office. Requests for this or other information can be directed to: Chair, Educational Grants Committee, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. Completed proposals must be received in the CNPS office no later than September 30.
—Joan Stewart, Chair, Educational Grants Committee

Santa Cruz CNPS at The Garden Faire Saturday, June 25, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm 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. Books, posters and a wonderful selection of native plants will be available for sale. Be sure to ask for a free CNPS sticker. New members signing up at the sale may even receive a free gift. 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. This year's theme, "Celebrating Abundance," acknowledges how fortunate we are to be gardeners in a place and time that abounds with healthful fruits and vegetables, and refreshes our spirits with beauty in the garden. New this year are a free gardener's plant exchange and educational ecology modules featuring native plants, beneficial insects, graywater and more all located in the center of the circle of tents. Listen to expert speakers and attend 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 or in the native plant ecology module, please contact Denise at dmpolk@cruzio.com or at (831) 685-3235. See you at The Faire.

Sprint Plant Sale Recap

It was a lovely day to hold a plant sale – free of the mud and rain which occasionally barge in on the spring event. There were 20 volunteers working the sale itself. In addition, if not for the earlier efforts of the plant propagation team, and those who loaded the truck, there would not have been anything to sell. We gratefully thank them all.

Flora Checklist Fund Drive – Halfway There!

As mentioned in the last issue, we are updating *An Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County*, so that it will correspond to the nomenclature of the second edition of the *Jepson Manual*. The Chapter has already committed \$4,000 to this project, and is seeking \$4,000 in donations to complete it. We have received \$1,825 to date. To participate, please send a check payable to CNPS to our treasurer: Suzanne Schettler, P.O. Box 277, Ben Lomond CA 95005. Include a "checklist" note on the memo line.

Butano Field Trip Report

The April 3rd field trip to Butano State Park was a great success. Eleven people were present with 4 chapters represented, from San Francisco to Monterey. We did get to see the Calypso Orchid (*Calypso bulbosa*) in its full glory. Populations were seen along several trails along the hike. We hiked up the Butano fire trail to see some *Rhododendron macrophyllum*, which was only in bud and grows along with *Arctostaphylos crustacea* var. *crinita* – a very interesting pairing.

Deanna Giulio



Email and CNPS

Here are a couple of ways by which you can use your email address with CNPS.

- We on the board would like to gather member emails for a limited purpose: so that we can notify you of special things not in the newsletter, but of definite importance to the cause. If you haven't received an email from Jenn, our membership chair, we might not have your email address.
- You can receive the electronic version of this newsletter instead of this printed one. The paper versions of *Fremontia* and *Bulletin* from will continue to be mailed.

Santa Cruz Chapter Board of Directors

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If you approve of enhanced email communication for either or both of these purposes, please email Jenn at jennyost@gmail.com. We promise not to share your email address with anyone else, and of course you can opt out at any time. Thanks in advance!

Late Spring 2011 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 will be added after the newsletter is printed: cruzcnp.org. In particular, we hope to offer the long-awaited Woodland Graminoids Walk-Grasses and Sedges and Reeds, Oh My! For other additional field trips and other events, check the websites of our neighboring chapters:

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

<http://www.cnp-sc.org/>

– Ellen

Sunday May 1, 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, such as Viola, Oxalis, and Clintonia. 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.

Carpools (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 7, 10am-1pm

Coastal Prairie Mima Mounds with Deanna Giuliano

Join Deanna Giuliano on a trip to 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. Among the highlights we hope to see in bloom are *Calochortus uniflorus* and *Brodiaea terrestris*.

Trip is from 10 am - 1 pm, or longer if we find more interesting flora. Bring water, sunscreen, hat and a lunch. We'll hike to two adjacent meadows, with easy access and a leisurely walk. To meet us 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 (UCSC Natural Reserve). Parking is located on the right and left hand sides of the road. Carpooling is

encouraged, but not CNPS-sponsored. The Barn Theatre at the entrance to UCSC campus (High St and Bay St) is a good meeting place at 9:40. Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or call 831 335-4902

Mother's Day Sunday May 8, 1:30pm

Garland Ranch, River Trail

What could be nicer? An afternoon wildflower walk will be the perfect way to enjoy Mother's Day. Plan on about a two hour easy walk on the River Trail where we will find at least a couple dozen different wildflowers. Some of the flowers in this area are rare in other parts of Garland Ranch. Bring water. Meet at the 'small open meadow' or 'first trail-head' on East Garzas Rd. For more information, call Gordon Williams at 372-6374.

Saturday May 14, 11:00am - 1:30 or 2pm

Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve w/ Val Haley

Reservation required

Come on up to Bonny Doon. You will be amazed at the vibrant come back of our precious Santa Cruz Sandhills vegetation, three years after the Martin Fire in 2008.

The Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve will be another three guided nature walk this spring on May 28 so this is a rare opportunity to watch the succession of spring flowers, under the guidance of a long-term steward of the land. All of the walks will be lead by botanist and sandhills specialist, Val Haley, with perhaps a guest appearance by another local botanist. Topics along the trail will include vegetation management, rare and endemic plants, manzanita recovery, wildflowers in bloom, geology and erosion control.

All of the walks start at 11:00 am, and will last about 2.5 to 3 hours. Please bring food and water, sun protection, and good hiking shoes. There will be a few moderate hills and numerous stops in the approximate 3 mile walk. 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 pick a date and reserve your spot.

Saturday May 14, 9:15am

Garland ranch Regional Park Spring Wildflowers

Rained out in March, we'll try again. Join Dr. Rod Yeager and Michael Mitchell, co-authors of *Wildflowers of Garland Ranch – a field guide*, on a wildflower walk along the Terrace Trail and Garzas Creek. Expect to see gorgeous displays of spring flowers including baby blue

eyes, larkspur, Chinese houses, fairy lanterns, star flowers, Douglas' sand wort and others. The hike is about 3.5 miles with 600 ft. elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:15 in the Main parking lot (lower lot) of Garland Ranch. Call Lynn for a reservation at 375-7777.

Sunday, May 15, 9:00am to 4:00pm

Dorrance Ranch Wildflower Hike

Dr. Rod Yeager will lead this wildflower exploration hike into the 4,300 acre Dorrance Ranch on Mt. Toro's northern ridge. We will see some beautiful flowers that are not abundant in the immediate Monterey area such as butter and eggs, blow wives, silver puffs and others. The ranch is a working cattle ranch and also a "Permanent Conservation Easement" property. Read more by entering "Dorrance Family Story" into your favorite search engine. Meet before 9:00am at the Laureles Grade Park & Ride just off Hwy 68. We will hike about 4 miles with 900 ft. elevation gain. Carpooling will be necessary and participants must plan on all day (no early departures). Bring water and lunch. CNPS membership required. Call Lynn for a reservation at 375-7777.

Saturday, May 21, 8:45am

Wildflower Hike at Marks Ranch

Gordon Williams and Rod Yeager will lead this Big Sur Land Trust wildflower hike at the Marks Ranch. We will take 4-5 hours to hike 5 ½ miles with 600 feet elevation gain. There will be several different terrains with a large variety of delightful wildflowers. Bring water and lunch. Contact Amber at 625-5523, ext 103 for a reservation - BSLT membership required. Meet at the BSLT office, 509 Hartnell Street, Monterey.

Saturday May 28, 11:00am-1:30 or 2pm

Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve w/ Val Haley

Reservation required

Come on up to Bonny Doon. You will be amazed at the vibrant come back of our precious Santa Cruz Sandhills vegetation, three years after the Martin Fire in 2008. This is the last of three guided nature walks this spring at the Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve and your last chance to see this amazing plant community under the guidance of a long-term steward of the land. All of the walks will be lead by botanist and sandhills specialist, Val Haley, with perhaps a guest appearance by another local botanist. Topics along the trail will include vegetation management, rare and endemic plants, manzanita recovery, wildflowers in bloom, geology and erosion control.

The walks start at 11:00 am, and will last about 2.5 to 3 hours. Please bring food and water, sun protection, and good hiking shoes. There will be a few moderate hills and numerous stops in the approximate 3-mile walk.

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 walk is limited to 15 people per walk, so reserve your spot.

Saturday, May 28, 9:30am

Del Monte Forest Exploration

The Del Monte Forest is famous for its unique mixture of uncommon plants. It is the only place where Bishop and Monterey pines naturally commingle and out of place redwood flora and maritime chaparral grow; all that are nourished by the wet summer fogs. Several rare plants such as Yadon's rein-orchid and a rich stand of rare pygmy Gowen cypress thrive in the forest. We hope to see various asters, roses and lotuses in bloom. Join leader Bob Hale for this opportunity to see the Del Monte forest up close and personal. Up to 3 miles with about 300 feet elevation gain. Bring water and snack. Meet at the Safeway parking lot on Hwy 68 in PG at 9:30am (near the recycle shed). Call Lynn at 375-7777 for a reservation.

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

Future Projects: Stay tuned!

May 7 10 am to 1 pm
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

May 14 10 am to 1 pm
Younger Lagoon
UCSC Natural Reserve

Call or email Linda Brodman for future events.

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.

What's Inside May - June, 2011

May 9 – General Meeting: Matt Ritter:
*A Californian's Guide to the Trees
Among Us*

June 12 – First Annual Santa Cruz
Native Garden Tour

June 25 – The Garden Faire @ Skypark,
Scotts Valley

New Envirotoken Selection

CNPS Educational Grants Now Open for
Applications

Late Spring Field Trips

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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