General Membership Meeting

Gardening with Natives, Month by Month

Helen Popper

November 12, 2012
Speaker 7:30 pm
UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Keying session from 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Mystery Plant ID 7:00 pm

Helen Popper will be speaking about her new book—the first month-by-month guide to gardening with native plants in a state that follows a unique, nontraditional seasonal rhythm. Beginning in October, when much of California leaves the dry season behind and prepares for its own green “spring,” Helen provides detailed, calendar-based information for both beginning and experienced native gardeners. Each month’s chapter lists gardening tasks, including repeated tasks and those specific to each season.

Her book offers planting and design ideas, and explains core gardening techniques such as pruning, mulching, and propagating. Helen tells how to use native plants in traditional garden styles, including Japanese, herb, and formal gardens, and recommends places for viewing natives. An essential year-round companion, this beautifully written and illustrated book nurtures the twin delights of seeing wild plants in the garden and garden plants in the wild.

Gardening with Natives, Month by Month reflects the lifetimes of experience of Californian Native Plant Society members who contributed their knowledge in years of ongoing meetings where Helen took notes and promised to write them up someday. She finally did!

The book, Gardening with Natives, Month by Month will be available for purchase at the talk.

Keying session: Ferns & more

We will be having another one of our popular keying club sessions just before the general meeting at the UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building. We meet at 5:00 pm to key native plants. Bring any unknown specimens that have been bothering you; we will also provide plants to key. Our focus this time will be some of our native ferns that occur in the county. 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 7:00-7:30 will be 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
droseguliano@yahoo.com
**Restoration of West Cliff Drive Bluffs**

Jackie Pascoe

We have become so used to the “highway iceplant” (*Carpobrotus edulis*) that grows – and appears in prints and postcards – all along the bluffs at West Cliff Drive that we may forget: that ain’t how Mother Nature painted it. We also may not know that the thick, continuous layer of iceplant harbors black rats, who breed there and even rappel down cliff face on the long succulent stems to steal seabird eggs and babies. In its native South Africa, this ice plant is munched on and controlled by local wildlife, such as tortoises. But here the iceplant rampages over everything – opposed only by fearless restoration volunteers!

A patch was cleared away from the cliff edge early this year and the Brandt’s cormorants immediately nested and raised their young. Next year look for activity at this nesting area, just below the short-term parking at Natural Bridges. You can get a good view from the overlook at the end of West Cliff Drive. Which is also where the demonstration native plant restoration plot is now thriving! By spring, you should begin seeing the beautiful yellow, silver, pink, lavender, green, and gray colors, and the varying shapes and textures, of the native plants now growing there.

Bill Henry and Josh Adams, marine biologists, instigated the restoration effort this spring. It is a joint project led by Oikonos, USGS, the City of Santa Cruz, and CNPS. Seeds of several coastal species, gathered locally, were grown out at UCSC. UCSC’s Natural Reserve System and Greenhouse, California State Parks, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Natural Bridges School, Pacific Collegiate School and many other volunteers helped with the initial clearing and planting. Gateway School, which is just off of West Cliff, has been propagating plants, and the Alternative Family Education school is preparing their greenhouse to prepare plants for the next areas.

This restoration project has the potential to scale up and make a transformative change for the better along West Cliff Drive. Already it has received funding from an anonymous donor to enable the efforts to continue.

We’d like to get more schools involved, and others in the local community. We are developing curriculum so teachers can integrate this activity into their educational goals. If you want to support this effort in any way, or know of schools who might like to get involved, please contact me (Jackie Pascoe) at countrymoosie@gmail.com.

Not to toot my own horn, but you can read more details about the project, the school involvement, and the plants in three articles I wrote for the Santa Cruz Sentinel. Go to www.santacruzsentinel.com and search for “West Cliff restoration.”

**Plant Sale Review**

Twenty-one Santa Cruz Chapter members turned out to volunteer at the fall plant sale on October 13th sharing the beautiful day with many members who came to buy plants. Members seemed to out-number non-members, but that impression may come from members' enthusiasm for the plants.

We extend thanks to the UCSC Arboretum for sharing the event with us. Suncrest Nursery continued to support us with space for propagation and growing plants as well as providing a truck and driver to bring the plants to the sale.

We donated a variety of hardy natives to the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History for use in their on-going project to surround the museum with California native plants.

**New Member Welcome!**

We are delighted to introduce our newest members:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allison Cox</th>
<th>Jessica Hammond</th>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Reed</td>
<td>Hilary Walecka</td>
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<td>Carol Fuller</td>
<td>Kevin Keedy</td>
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<td>Michelle Lovett</td>
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<td>Helen Ratico</td>
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<td>Paul Geise</td>
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Reminder: 14th Annual Central CA Invasive Weed Symposium

Thursday, November 8, 2012
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Felton Community Hall, Felton, CA

Join the Weed Management Areas of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties in the beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains for the 14th Annual Central California Invasive Weed Symposium

Speakers, topics, and registration information and details are available at http://cciws2012.eventbrite.com

This conference will provide ample information on weed control and management through exciting speakers and interactive field expeditions. It will also provide network opportunities, Continuing Education Units, and lots of delicious food.

For more information: Contact Hannah Wallis
Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office,
(831)724-5025, wallisha@co.monterey.ca.us
http://ag.co.monterey.ca.us/pages/14th-annual-central-california-invasive-weeds-symp

“Field Trips”, of a Sort

There are no Santa Cruz Chapter field trips for November and December, nor are any Randall Morgan Natural History outings scheduled. However the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History has a new exhibition “Keen Eyes and Curious Minds: Local Naturalists in the Spotlight” that explores the lives of our own Daniel Miller and Randall Morgan.

The exhibit features the lifelong journey of these two local legends through artifacts, images, and hands-on exploration labs, making the admiration and study of natural history approachable and available to people of all ages. “Visitors will learn how everything from an Ohlone Tiger Beetle to a great white shark can open our eyes, ears, and minds to a greater stewardship of nature,” explains Daniel Harder Ph.D., Executive Director of the Museum. Keen Eyes and Curious Minds was created in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and the UCSC Natural History Museum Collections.

October 20, 2012-February 23, 2013
Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm
1305 East Cliff Drive
Admission:
$4/Adults, $2/Seniors
Free to SCMNH Members and youth under 18

More information can be found at santacruzmuseums.org.

Join the Chapter Board?

There are a few openings on the Chapter’s Board of Directors. At this time we are missing the Chairs for Conservation and Field Trips. Activity in these areas would be greatly improved if we had a new volunteer to fill in there.

The Conservation Chair leads our efforts to protect sensitive local habitats, and to help ensure that past promises to protect them are kept, or to sound the alarm if (when, all too often) they are broken.

The Field Trips leader doesn’t go on each trip – unless they want to! – but does find people and trips, and organizes the calendar for them.

Your newsletter editor will also be stepping down soon. Every couple of months I spend some time collecting items to publish, editing them a little, fiddling with photos when applicable, and assembling them into a .pdf to email to our printer. There’s no need to lick any stamps!

The election for new Board members won’t take place until the January 14, 2013 General Membership meeting. You can find out about any interesting positions by asking Deanna or myself for more details.

– Charles Koester

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.cruzcnps.org

November 10, 2012  10 am to 1 pm
Younger Lagoon, UCSC Natural Reserve

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

December 15, 2012  10 am to 1 pm
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park
Join the California Native Plant Society!
New members receive a free 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 or Library $75
☐ Plant Lover $100
☐ Patron $300
☐ Benefactor $600
☐ Mariposa Lily $1500

Dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible, minus $12 for journal \textit{Fremontia}.

\textbf{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 \textit{Fremontia}, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; the \textit{Bulletin}, a statewide report of activities and schedules; and the \textit{Cypress Cone}.

\textbf{California Native Plant Society}
\textbf{Santa Cruz County Chapter}
P.O. Box 1622
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