



# The Cypress Cone

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

Volume 36, No 5

[www.cruzcnp.org](http://www.cruzcnp.org)

September - October 2011

## General Membership Meeting

### Serpentine Flora of California

**Ryan O'Dell**

**September 12, 2011**

**7:30 pm**

**UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building**

California contains approximately 2,300 square miles of ultramafic rock (dunite, peridotite, and serpentinite), collectively called serpentine. Geologically, serpentine is oceanic crust and mantle which has been tectonically emplaced on land. Serpentine soils are extremely stressful for plant growth due to their adverse chemistry including low nutrient levels (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium) and high heavy metal content (magnesium, nickel, chromium). The complex interaction of serpentine soils, topography, and microclimate in California has resulted in the evolution of unique serpentine tolerant flora and a high diversity of serpentine endemic plant species. Vegetative cover on serpentine varies from moonscape barrens to grassland to chaparral to conifer forest. California has one of the highest proportions of serpentine endemic plant species in the world; 669 plant species are classified as strongly associated with serpentine in California. Of those, 164 species are rated as strict serpentine endemics. This presentation will highlight the fascinating serpentine flora and serpentine endemic plant species from several localities distributed throughout California.

Ryan O'Dell is a Natural Resources Specialist (Botany/Soils/Paleontology) with the Bureau of Land Management in Hollister, California. He has a BS in Plant Biology and an MS in Soils and Biogeochemistry from UC Davis. Ryan has been studying the serpentine ecology of California since 2000. His areas of interest in the field of serpentine ecology are plant tolerance, revegetation, and endangered plant species recovery.

## It's Time to Get Ready for Planting!

### Fall Plant Sale

**Saturday October 8th**

**The Eucalyptus Grove  
at the UCSC Arboretum**

**10 am - 12 noon: members only**

**12 to 4 pm: everyone**

Come to the Fall Plant Sales by the Santa Cruz Chapter of CNPS and the Arboretum at UC Santa Cruz at the Arboretum's lovely Eucalyptus Grove on High Street at Western Dr.

Together, there will be a few thousand colorful native and drought-tolerant plants for sale to help you liven up your garden. The public can attend starting at noon; members may enter as early as 10 am. Memberships will be available at the door.

There will be free plants given away on the hour, each hour from 11 to 3pm. You've got to be present to win.

The CNPS sale will be focusing on Salvias. These hardy plants like sun and good drainage, making them suitable for low maintenance areas including banks. Some salvia species make large mounds of silvery gray foliage that blend well with colorful flowers. The sale will also offer a broad variety of native plants including ones for shady areas in the garden. Knowledgeable members will be on hand to answer questions about plants and also what may be appropriate for particular garden spaces.

## Early Fall Field Trips

Many thanks to the fantastic leaders, who donate their time and skills, and share their “secret spots” and native plant knowledge with us! And many thanks to Lynn Bomberger, field trip organizer extraordinaire! In fact, the Monterey Bay chapter CNPS (i.e., Lynn) is offering all of these trips.

The Santa Cruz chapter field trip organizer needs help, or replacement. If you know of anyone, training is provided, and one gets to meet really fun people! Call or email Ellen 831-750-2365 [ellen@centralcoastwilds.com](mailto:ellen@centralcoastwilds.com) Ditto if you want to lead a Fall trip!

You can find more field trips offered by the Santa Clara Valley chapter at [http://www.cnps-scv.org/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=119](http://www.cnps-scv.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=119)

### Friday, September 16, 6:00pm

#### Slow Paced Community Walk at Fort Ord

With all of the recent interest in the awesomeness of our beautiful Fort Ord public open spaces Mayor Bruce Delgado and Supervisor Jane Parker are inviting the public to come enjoy some outdoor recreation. Bruce will provide some information about the fauna and flora of the area and Jane will talk about her role on the Fort Ord Reuse Authority. We will meet at the East end of Inter-Garrison Road (at the barricades just east of Schoonover Road). The walk will be an easy 1 to 2 miles. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water. Feel free to bring a camera and binoculars. If you'd like to bring a sack dinner, there will be many beautiful spots to take a rest and enjoy your meal. For more information call Lynn at 375-7777.

### .Sunday October 2, 10-11:30AM

#### California Native Gardens at UCSC Arboretum With curator Rick Flores

Before purchasing your new treasures at the Arboretum/CNPS Plant Sale on October 8, come and see how big they get in the garden! Fall is a time to focus on the subtleties of fruit, foliage and form, as most natives flower in the spring. Rick will give an easy walking tour of the garden, and show you how big that *Ceanothus* really wants to be! If questioned, he may note some ethnobotanical uses of the plants as well. Directions:

<http://arboretum.ucsc.edu/visit/directions/>

Contact info: Rick Flores ([rflores@ucsc.edu](mailto:rflores@ucsc.edu))

Admission to the Arboretum is \$5 for adults, \$2 for kids.

### September / October, date to be determined Oaks in the Field - Dr. Rod Myatt

Oak expert and Professor at SJSU, Dr. Rod Myatt, will lead a field trip in the Santa Cruz mountains, hopefully as the acorns are falling. If you have any interest in Oaks, this rare opportunity is not to be missed! As we have not been able to schedule this trip before the newsletter

deadline, please watch our website for further information <http://www.cruzcnps.org/>. You may also email [ellen@centralcoastwilds.com](mailto:ellen@centralcoastwilds.com), and I will let you know when the trip is scheduled.

## Growing Natives:

### Inspiring & Enduring Gardens

### A Symposium on Native Plant Gardening & Design

### Saturday & Sunday, September 17 & 18

Designing, installing, and maintaining native plant gardens of lasting value is the theme of this symposium aimed at professionals, home gardeners, and native plant enthusiasts .

The Saturday program at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St Mary's Road, Lafayette includes presentations on garden design by author Carol Bornstein, formerly of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden; site preparation by landscape professional Deva Luna; sourcing native plants by Michael Craib of Suncrest Nurseries; case study of a 40-year-old native plant garden by landscape professional Luke Hass; maintenance tips by nurseryman and author David Fross; and a panel discussion and Q&A. The Saturday program includes a continental breakfast and lunch. A selection of books will be available for purchase.

The Sunday program at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Wildcat Canyon Road, Berkeley offers five concurrent workshops over two time slots: container gardening by Pete Veilleux, wildlife gardening by Don Mahoney, plants for dry shade by Katherine Greenberg, rockeries in native plant gardens by Stephen Edwards, and aesthetic pruning by Jocelyn Cohen. Participants are invited to bring a picnic lunch, and stay for afternoon plant sales and docented tours at two locations: Regional Parks Botanic Garden as well as Native Here Nursery, 101 Golf Course Road, Berkeley.

The symposium is presented by California Native Plant Society, Friends of Regional Parks Botanic Garden, and Pacific Horticulture. Members and subscribers of the presenting organizations receive a discount on registration fees.

For more information and to register, visit <http://gns.cnps-scv.org>.

## **The CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference Has Something for Everyone!**

The upcoming statewide CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference, in San Diego, Jan 10-14, 2012 is an opportunity for all of us to come together and celebrate everything we do as a leading plant conservation organization in California. Our membership includes top level scientists and decision-makers in agencies, universities, consulting firms, and non-profit environmental organizations as well as the grassroots activists working hard on the front lines. We will all join hands at the conference and share what we know and how we do it. Hundreds of CNPS volunteers from chapters throughout the state have contributed to the planning and execution of this event over the last two and a half years. There are sessions and activities for everyone from career botanists to garden enthusiasts.

The committees have planned 5 days of non-stop workshops, talks, and social and art events. You could learn how to start a plant restoration nursery at a workshop, listen to talks on a particular rare plant or invasive species, or contribute to a conversation about CEQA or desert energy projects. There will be five sessions focusing on regional issues from north to south, including those of Baja California. To nourish your appreciation of our native landscape you may choose to take a drawing workshop with John Muir Laws, read a poem, submit a photograph, admire botanical art, or sing and play music. There will be opportunities to take action on your subject of interest and numerous social events where you will see and meet CNPS members and other experts from all over the state and beyond.

Registration is now open for both the conference events and the hotel. Early registration discounts are available until Oct 31, with additional discounts for CNPS members and students. Special CNPS conference discounts are available at the conference hotel, the Town and Country Resort, until Dec 16 or until all rooms are taken. You may register for the conference and/or the hotel through our website at [www.CNPS.org/2012](http://www.CNPS.org/2012).

There are a million ways that you can participate in this conference from presenting or attending talks to taking tickets at the door. We need scores of volunteers during the days of the conference and we offer registration rebates to all volunteers who work eight hours or more. If you would like to volunteer, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Michelle Cox at [volunteers2012@cnps.org](mailto:volunteers2012@cnps.org).

If you are a student or know students that might want to attend the conference, check out the Student Opportunities and Activities (including registration and/or travel stipend funding) on our conference website, [www.cnps.org/2012](http://www.cnps.org/2012).

Please visit the conference website, [www.cnps.org/2012](http://www.cnps.org/2012), for up to date information on all the events. We hope to see you there!

Josie Crawford, Conference Coordinator

## **The NEW Santa Cruz CNPS Keying Club Monday September 12th from 5-7PM**

at the UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building, just before the General Meeting

Our chapter is proud to announce a new keying session. Once a quarter, 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 this time will be the Asteraceae, which has many members flowering this time of year, specifically the genera *Madia*, *Hemizonia*, *Lessingia* etc. 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.

No experience is necessary. If you have a hand lens, microscope, *Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains*, or *The 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  
[drosegiuliano@yahoo.com](mailto:drosegiuliano@yahoo.com)

## **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. 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.

The exact dates of our next projects have not yet been finalized. Please call the Program Leader, Linda Brodman 831.462.4041, [redwdrn@pacbell.net](mailto:redwdrn@pacbell.net) after September 20 for the when and where of the next restoration events.

As always you can also check out [ww.cruzcnps.org](http://ww.cruzcnps.org).

## 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.

## Santa Cruz Chapter Board of Directors

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Peggy Waters 336-9283; Brett Hall

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**Flora:** Dylan Neubauer, dneubauer1111@gmail.com

**Digital Video Outreach:** Fred McPherson fredwood@cruzio.com

**Legislation:** open

**Programs:** Linda Brodman

**Publicity/Outreach:** Joel Rider edgerider2002@yahoo.com

**Field Trips:** Ellen Holmes 684-2363, ellen@centralcoastwilds.com

**Newsletter:** Charles Koester 335-9466, cnps@koester.com

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Ernie Wasson sluggo@cruzio.com

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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