



# the BULLETIN

A quarterly publication of the Arboretum Associates

Fall 2009 Vol.33, No.3

## Rallying for the Arboretum

As we work back from a difficult stretch, there have been some positives to report. Many people have stepped in to lend us a hand. How many and, in some cases, who volunteered surprised us.

We were delighted and thankful that so many of our faithful volunteers and our most loyal faculty friends wrote letters of support, gave people hugs, donated money, and continued the generous gifts of their labor after the funding shortfall and layoffs. (See p. 2 for our condolences to our co-workers who were laid off.) The Arboretum community rallied and is promulgating the message that the Arboretum is alive and will continue to be open.

Throughout the history of the University, the Arboretum has amassed many friends who would not want the place to "go gentle into that good night"; And indeed it will not disappear. People hired to short-term positions decades ago are still

working. Volunteers who attended the first Arboretum Associates meeting in 1976 are still volunteering this week.

We were also pleased that some of the newer volunteers and more long-term volunteers gave us new ideas and wrote letters of support. There are far-flung friends also. We don't know all who wrote letters, but they came in from across the country.

Did you know that after being laid off or retiring (or not rehired due to the budget): former employees Elyse, Ron, Stephanie, Dylan, Sara, and Tad have all volunteered time after their last day of work?! Where else in the world do laid-off workers volunteer for their former employees? People laid off by big companies don't come back and volunteer. This dedication, plus all of the examples above show, in part, how much this is a community, a community that cares for the more-than-a-garden Arboretum.

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## Arboretum Accomplishments, Projects, Fund-raisers and other Activities.

There are so many positive things happening, even long time volunteers and Arboretum devotees don't know them all. Most of these successes are possible only through the generous donations of our supporters and valuable donations of time by our volunteers. A partial list follows.

The Visiting Scholar is leading a botany class for grad students and undergrads that fills a niche missing in the UCSC curriculum.

The Jean and Bill Lane Library book check-out system is up and functioning.

We are planting out new proteas and restios in the South African garden.

The Conifer Symposium brought researchers from prestigious academic institutions.

The new website is up – is attractive, accepts donations, and we will periodically update and enhance it.

The "Plant Uses: California" ethnobotany brochure is available both in hard copy and on-line.

Volunteers donated 700-1000 hours per month over the last half year.

UCSC students, faculty and Arboretum staff conducted research on plants.

UCSC students and faculty conducted research on animal behavior in sparrows.

Staff and the Associates Board are instituting a more timely and transparent book keeping system than that available through the university.

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South African and Californian foliage and a Protea flower. Photo by S. McCabe



## Employees Laid Off

We bid a sad farewell to several employees due to our serious budget shortfall, exacerbated by the removal of all University funding. The loss of University funding was due, in large part, to the state's reduction in funding for the UC system. The University still covers the utilities. Elyse Seigle, who worked in the office both as a student and after she graduated, finished her one-year appointment in September and that appointment was not extended. Sara Reid, who progressed from intern to student worker to senior thesis intern and then education assistant, finished her one-year appointment earlier this year and there were not sufficient funds to retain her position.

Executive Director Dan Harder and Development Director Tad Sterling, who worked on fund-raising, were both laid off after nearly a decade of service to the Arboretum.

Stephanie Hudson, who was the Assistant Nursery Manager for the last three years following several years of volunteering, was laid off, effective in December.

Collections Data Recorder and former Bulletin Editor, Dylan Neubauer, was laid off also. She had been working on making our collections entries more uniform, accessioning collections and converting our records to a new program, BGBase.

Ron Arruda retired in July (see previous Bulletin) and his position as Curator of the South African Garden was not filled.

These people and their valuable contributions are sorely missed. They were all dedicated, skilled workers. It is difficult to imagine how we will carry on without them. Volunteers will not be able to make up for all the losses, but can help us during this transition. Please encourage enthusiastic people to start volunteering. Tell them about our optional volunteer training classes that are especially valued by volunteers in public contact positions, such as gift shop workers, librarians, or tour guides. Good volunteers are needed now more than ever.

## Volunteer Training Classes Begin January 6th

The Arboretum's annual Volunteer Training classes start on January 6th from 9:30 to noon and will run every Wednesday through Feb 10th. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Arboretum and its collections. All of the curators participate and give tours of the gardens, collections and growing areas that they care for. Participants can have a behind the scenes peak at greenhouses and other areas not normally open to the public. The classes provide participants with an introduction to horticulture, gardening, plant conservation, propagation and basic botany. They are a great way to meet new people, find out about the many volunteer opportunities at the Arboretum and get involved. The first session on January 6th is an orientation for new members and volunteers. Please come and feel free to invite anyone else you might know who might be interested. This is a great opportunity for both new and continuing volunteers. Volunteers are the heart of the Arboretum!

Arboretum staff honor our volunteers on Feb. 10 at noon for the annual Volunteer Celebration Potluck Lunch. Please call 427-2998 to RSVP by Feb 1, 2010. Staff will provide desserts.



*Stachys chamissonis* - Coastwoodmint. Photo by Pete Vellieux

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## Arboretum Accomplishments... (cont'd - p. 1)

We started a Cooperative Habitat Restoration project with the Amuh Mutsun Tribal Band and the Pinnacles National Monument to restore the condition of botanically and culturally significant vegetation communities in McCabe Canyon and introduce traditional management techniques for native plants that can be used in Native American basketry.

There were new plantings in the South African, Australian, New Zealand, succulent, amphitheater and Californian gardens. Staff and students are moving existing plants out of the nursery into permanent plantings to improve the plantings and reduce the amount of time watering potted plants.

There are new plantings in the Australian Rock Garden.

The Off-Kilter Quilters had a successful quilt show and opening.

Both the Fall Plant Sale and the Dried Flower and Succulent Wreath Sales were successful and profitable.

Donations came in-both large and small and are being processed by staff.

There are many active volunteer groups. Garden clean-ups by Aussie Weeders and other weeding groups continue.

Several weddings have been hosted, boosting revenues.

A California Native Plant Society video on planting for fire safety was filmed at the Arboretum and shown on local community TV, with an introduction by Arboretum staff.

Supporters have been shopping at Norrie's to raise Arboretum funds.

Volunteer led tours for school children continue.

UCSC class labs were held in the Arboretum and other classes toured the gardens.

New benches were donated and installed in the garden.

New table-like "benches" for plants were built with grant funds.

We are able to continue to employ student workers.

Community college class workshops/tours continue.

Endangered species were propagated and protected in all collections.

Plants were propagated for the spring and fall sales for 2010.

Articles were written and submitted to journals, and published in newspapers.

There was a 30 minute radio interview about the Arboretum.

New board members and other volunteers have joined us.

We distributed research materials to other academic institutions.

We introduced new plants including some that were mentioned in the LA Times.

We secured a new habitat conservation/restoration growing contract.

## Coast Wood Mint *Stachys chamissonis* Benth. Lamiaceae

*Stachys chamissonis* is a beautiful herbaceous perennial from the California Central and Northern Coast. It provides nectar for hummingbirds and attracts butterflies and has stunning magenta flowers!!

Viewing the voucher specimen record of *Stachys chamissonis* in the online Jepson interchange reveals a very interesting record of occurrences. In the southern portion of its range are sporadic occurrence records "beginning" in Santa Barbara County, near Lompoc ("...2 mi ne Lompoc behind La Purisima Mission"), and San Antonio Creek on the northwest Vanderberg Air Force Base and north through San Luis Obispo County where it is reported from near Black lake, 2 mi south of Oceana, and at the base of Nipomo Mesa, and again east of Santa Margarita. There are several other San Luis Obispo records as well.

Moving north there is only one herbarium record for Monterey County and it is in Pacific Grove where it was collected by W.L. Jepson in July 1922. Next stop along the *Stachys chamissonis* historic voucher trail is along Rodeo Gulch, in Santa Cruz where it was collected by botanist Randall Morgan in 2006, and two other collections

in the Swanton area of the North Santa Cruz County coast collected by Jim West and Roy Buck in "China Ladder Marsh" in 1982.

There are a few herbarium collections in San Mateo County, one in Lake Merced in San Francisco, many more in Marin County, Pitkin Marsh in Sonoma County and increasingly more and more records as you head north to the Oregon border.

Although Jepson collected it in 1922 in Pacific Grove it no longer seems to occur there or at least it is not listed in the Monterey County Flora. I think it is safe to assume that it still occurs in Santa Barbara County as the collections there of Dr. Breedlove and Holly Forbes are dated 1962 and 1987 respectively and surely the populations from Vandenberg Air Force Base are alive and well. The same should be for the San Luis Obispo occurrences as several were from the 1980s (David Keil) and in this century (G. K. Helmkamp 2003).

The localities and habitats cited on the voucher specimen labels published in the online Jepson provide useful information to translate to horticulture. For example

"...freshwater marsh..."

"Wet drainage ditches at edge of irrigated

fields with willows and stinging nettle in soil related to old sand dunes."

"with *Toxicodendron diversilobum*, *Rubus ursinus*, *Typha latifolia*."

"Along wet roadside."

"Mouth of Gualala River".

"Under shade of coast redwoods, in trailside ditch with salmonberry, thimbleberry, sword fern, 5-fingered fern, *Petasites* sp, *Oxalis* sp, *Ranunculus* sp. and *Tiarella trifoliata*. Some plants being eaten by greenish caterpillar and visited by hover-flies.

"Common perennial in marshy land."

My first introduction to this species was through the friendship of local north coast botanist, Jim West who took several of us out to "China Ladder Marsh" in the old H bar H Ranch and now part of the Cal Poly Swanton Pacific Ranch, located several miles north of Davenport.

"China Ladder Marsh" is set atop a coastal terrace with a siliceous soil matrix and humus, overlaying decomposing Santa Cruz Mudstone.

*Stachys chamissonis* grows in shade and full sun among a willow thicket, *Salix lasiolepis*

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## The Chinquapin

Those of us working in propagation at the arboretum were really excited this year to be able to grow a wonderful crop of *Chrysolepis chrysophylla* var *minor*, the local variety of the Chinquapin. This is a shrub or small tree that can reach 30 feet in height if it is in its ideal growing conditions. In July and August it blooms, displaying catkins containing male flowers. Spiny burs follow enclosing small nuts. Leaves are deep green on top while the underside is a gorgeous golden color. It is in the oak family, the *Fagaceae*.

Seed was collected in Bonny Doon on a trail by propagation volunteer Ginger Fulton Bennett in December of 2007. Apparently mountain bicyclists had run over the burs to crack them open and the nuts were there for the collecting. This saved us from having to handle the prickly fruits and use pliers to extract the nuts. Linda Willis, our volunteer native plant propagation expert stratified (chilled) the nuts for varying periods of time, ranging from 0 to 6 months. The ones that sprouted were planted in pots. And now in

the fall of 2009, we have this beautiful crop ready for planting in the ground. Several will be planted here at the Arboretum. Some were sold at the fall plant sale and the rest are available at for sale at Norries. This California native plant is not commonly available in nurseries.

Chinquapin is best grown in full sun to light shade and requires excellent drainage. It has been suggested to grow it on a slope where the golden leaves will be well displayed. It requires water until it is established but then it is drought tolerant in our local coastal areas. It is best grown near its home range and can be seen in Bonny Doon, Mt Tamalpais and the Chalk Mountain area in Big Basin State Park. Our seed collector Ginger reports that she ate some of the greenish nuts and they tasted like unripe hazelnuts.

– Helen Englesberg



*Chrysolepis chrysophylla*. Photos by Linda Willis

## Rallying... (cont'd - p. 1)

It was gratifying that people we didn't know well and faculty and community members who we didn't know were our allies lent their support. People we didn't know at all came out of the woodwork to write us letters of encouragement and tell us when we got things right. We are not out of the woods yet, however, and can use additional advocates. We humbly ask for your financial and/or volunteer support (see below). More opportunities and events will be coming in 2010. As you have told us, a successful recovery will have several elements: membership renewals, admission fees, sales at Norrie's, plant sales, events, many small gifts, and major planned gifts.

The previous estate gifts and major donations provide us with some strength no matter what the economy, whether or not we have University funding. There will always be at least some funding each year from the permanent endowments to allow the Arboretum core to be cared for. Even though we are going through difficult times now, support us because of what you like about the Arboretum, your favorite spot here or the numerous educational, horticultural, and conservation programs. Support the Arboretum because of the ways the nursery and tourist industries, amateur gardeners, school children, UCSC students, and academic institutions will benefit from a healthy Arboretum. Celebrate the successes we have had and

continue to have – as the accompanying column points out. The board, staff and volunteers can't thank you enough for your appreciation of all of the upbeat reasons to support the Arboretum and for making so much possible.

There were rumors, obviously untrue, that the Arboretum was closed down and bulldozed. Our new and returning devotees are letting people know that the first trees were planted here before

the first students planted themselves at their library desks. With dedication to be widely admired, expressed in a multitude of ways, you reassure the public that we were correct in saying that the trees and Arboretum will be here at least as long as there are students at this University.

– Stephen McCabe and Brett Hall

## Coast Wood Mint... (cont'd - p. 3)

along with a beautiful association of Pacific reed grass, *Calamagrostis nutkaensis*, western dock, *Rumex occidentalis*, Slough Sedge, *Carex obnupta*, Salt Rush *Juncus lesuerii*, among many other other coastal wetland species. It can also grow out in the grassy knolls providing it has its feet wet for much of the year. Generally it gains support by growing over surrounding vegetation and can reach 5 to 8 ft. in height. Often it grows in swaths and patches across marshlands. This is especially the case as you go north where there is an increasing number of full sun wet meadows along the coast. *Stachys chamissonis* is an easy plant in cultivation and can be propagated from seed or cuttings and divisions. It is rhizomatous so count on it suckering and spreading once the wet conditions are met. It will go where the water is and can tolerate

seasonal flooding. Its leaves are fuzzy and semi deciduous although you can keep it growing all year.

Interestingly, there are three additional *Stachys taxa* in the Swanton area and each species has its own distinct fragrance. The other three taxa are *S. ajugoides ssp. rigida*, *S. ajugoides ssp. ajugoides* and *S. bullata*.

There is also one introduced species, *S. arvensis*.

The closest *Stachys* relative to *S. chamissonis* is *Stachys cooleyae* (formerly *S. chamissonis* var. *cooleyae*) which occurs north from Oregon to Alaska in similar wetland conditions.

*Stachys chamissonis* becoming available in nurseries (check the internet!) and progeny from our local China Ladder Marsh population will be available in the future from the Arboretum.

–Brett Hall

## SUPPORT THE EDUCATIONAL, HORTICULTURAL, CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH GOALS OF THE ARBORETUM!

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*Arboretum Associates can enjoy 10% discounts on plants (and sometimes on related merchandise) at the following nurseries:*

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*The **Arboretum** at UC Santa Cruz is a living museum **inspiring** stewardship of the world's biodiversity through research, **education**, and the **conservation** of rare, endangered, and **extraordinary** plants.*

*Moving? Please let us know the address of your next garden... Thanks*

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