



# THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



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## Mapping California's Important Plant Areas

Speaker: **Sam Young**, CNPS IPA Program Manager

Chapter General Meeting: **Monday, July 8, 7:30 pm**

UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Keying Session: **5:30 pm**

California is a globally significant biodiversity hotspot. With roughly 6,500 native plant taxa, the Golden State boasts similar botanical diversity to Japan and New Zealand. It's mild climates and rugged landscapes have also made California a highly desirable place to live, with a population close to 40 million people and growing. Demands for housing, resources, and a changing climate are placing increasing pressure on California's unique flora. Region-wide planning efforts are being developed to meet the demands of an increasing population.



*Tejon Ranch Oaks. Photo by Nancy Buck*

It is essential that botanical data and conservation value be well represented in these efforts. The CNPS Important Plant Area (IPA) Program seeks to identify the most important areas for preserving California's botanical biodiversity heritage. Identification and protection of IPAs have been called out as essential components for biodiversity conservation both at home through the California Biodiversity Initiative and on the world stage through the Global Plant Conservation Strategy. Join Sam Young, CNPS Important Plant Areas Program Manager, for a discussion on California's plant biodiversity, IPA methods, and strategies for realizing IPA conservation goals.

Sam is spearheading the development of the Important Plant Areas Program with the Conservation Program staff for statewide implementation. Following previous pilot workshops, Sam is now developing methods and strategies for delineating those areas which are most critical to the conservation of California's flora. Sam holds a master's degree in Environmental Science and Management, specializing in Conservation Planning, from the Bren School at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

## Santa Cruz County CNPS Chapter announces the Fred McPherson Memorial Grant

Fred McPherson had a long record of educating local residents about the natural history of the area, and was instrumental in forming and supporting the Advanced Placement Environmental Monitoring program at San Lorenzo Valley High School (SLVHS). The Santa Cruz County CNPS chapter recently voted to honor his memory by establishing the Fred McPherson Memorial Grant, which will contribute \$3,000 each year for three years to help continue and expand the students' monitoring efforts.

This spring, all five student monitoring teams from SLVHS competed in the County Science and Engineering Fair and were selected to go on to the State Fair in Los Angeles. One of the five teams was then selected to compete at the international level in Phoenix, Arizona last May. This program gives students experience in creating a project, working with partners, consulting with scientists and other professionals, and presenting results to diverse audiences.



*California sycamore, one of Fred's favorite trees. Photo by Linda Brodman*

# Introducing: Denise Polk Propagation Scholar, Gina Trabucco

—Jackie Pascoe



All of us who knew and loved Denise Polk (1957-2017) were happy when the Denise Polk Propagation Scholarship was established last year, co-funded by the UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden and the Santa Cruz County Chapter of CNPS. The current scholar, Gina Trabucco, is working with poached dudleyas and establishing a new rock garden in the Arboretum's Conservation Garden.

Gina was inspired to work with dudleyas while participating in the Arboretum Interactive Ecology Internship program (spring 2018), led by Brett Hall. She participated in a trip with Stephen McCabe to replant dudleyas confiscated from poachers in Big Sur. The rock garden is also her Senior Project—Gina has just completed a degree in Environmental Studies at UCSC.

The rock garden provides a home for many of the rescued dudleya plants that can't be returned to the wild, due to exposure to nursery conditions and possible pathogens. Most of the dudleyas in the rock garden are either *Dudleya farinosa* (bluff lettuce) or *Dudleya caespitosa* (coast dudleya). Both are highly sought after by poachers due to the recent craze for dudleyas as house plants in parts of Asia.

Gina with her favorite dudleya. "It must be more than a hundred years old!" Photo by Jackie Pascoe

Gina has also been propagating and planting about thirty other coastal species. While the rock garden doesn't represent a specific plant community, all of its plants are native from Northern San Luis Obispo to Southern Mendocino and within fifteen miles of the coast. They include *Acemison* spp., *Armeria maritima*, *Clarkia* spp., *Erigeron glaucus*, *Eriogonum parvifolium*, *Lupinus nanus*, *L. arboreus*, *Pellaea andromedifolia*, *Phacelia* spp., and *Selaginella bigelovii*. Framing the rock garden will be larger plantings, including *Ceanothus* spp. and *Artemisia pycnocephala*.

Gina told me about her favorite plant in the rock garden, a *Dudleya farinosa*. "It was so heavy and droopy with its own weight, I had to be careful. I just planted it last week. This is something they poached—something this big! For this to be one cluster, it must be more than a hundred years old! They're slow growers and it takes them a long time to get going."

Signage planned for the rock garden will highlight conservation efforts to protect dudleyas, as well as the risk of invasive non-native plants to native coastal ecosystems—which we can easily see right along West Cliff Drive as well as the coastal bluffs north of Santa Cruz.

If you visit the Arboretum this summer, you might find Gina there. She'll be working to complete the rock garden plantings before going on to a career in restoration ecology.



Newly planted dudleya in UCSC Arboretum rock garden. Photos by Jackie Pascoe.



Denise was a professional propagator, working initially for Barbara Coe at Saratoga Horticultural foundation and later for UCSC. Denise also led our chapter's propagation group from 1992 to 2014. In her quiet and cheerful way, she taught us much and we all miss her still. Denise was also active in many community outreach efforts and received a California Native Plant Society Volunteer Recognition Award in 2014.

## Denise Marie Polk

Shared native plant propagation techniques with great joy and encouragement with Santa Cruz CNPS from 1986-2017.

Your friend, Barbara Coe

Commemorative Plaque

## Upcoming Field Trips

### De Laveaga Park with Andy Werner. Tuesday, July 9, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

We'll explore the wonderful diversity of this park, which Andy has been going to since the 1960s.

Space is limited to 10 people, so be sure to sign up early. **To reserve your spot, email Andy at [apwerner44@gmail.com](mailto:apwerner44@gmail.com).** We will meet at 9:30 am at the restroom/baseball field parking area. Bring lunch and water.

### Loch Lomond Recreation Area with Andy Werner. Saturday, August 3, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

The route will vary depending on what people want to see. One interesting area has had substantial Glyphosate use to control French broom. We'll see and discuss the ongoing recovery of the native vegetation.

The hike is about 6 miles long with a 600-700 foot elevation gain. Most of the hiking route is shady but there are some sunny warm areas. There are some steep and slippery hills, so a walking stick might be useful.

Space is limited to 10 people, so be sure to sign up early. **To reserve your spot, email Andy at [apwerner44@gmail.com](mailto:apwerner44@gmail.com).** Meet at 9:00 am at the Felton Faire parking lot (Safeway) and we'll carpool to Loch Lomond. At the lake, we'll park in the Glen Corrie lot. Bring lunch and water.

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## Habitat Restoration Team

Summer time is here, and volunteer restoration work slows down. I will try to have a couple of projects during the summer months, but have not set any further dates. I will post dates on our web site, so check on it now and then, or give me a call or email. Have a wonderful summer.

Contact: **Program Leader, Linda Brodman**  
**831.462.4041, [redwdrn@pacbell.net](mailto:redwdrn@pacbell.net)**



*Part of the habitat restoration team at Baldwin Bluffs restoration site. Photo by Ann Garside*

## Save the Date!

### CNPS Chapter Council Meeting. September 6-9 at the UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden

The next Chapter Council meeting will be hosted by our chapter at the UCSC Arboretum! The chapter council is comprised of 35 delegates, each representing one of CNPS's chapters. Chapter council delegates meet four times a year during Quarterly Meeting weekends, where they engage in conversations and decision-making processes surrounding CNPS policies on behalf of their local membership, share successes and lessons learned with other delegates, and vote in CNPS elections. Each meeting is hosted by a different CNPS chapter in their local area, giving attendees the opportunity to get to know a new part of California, and giving local chapter members the opportunity to engage in the broader dialog of the organization. During the quarterly meeting weekend, typical activities include:

- Quarterly CNPS chapter council session
- Field trips to local botanical hot-spots
- Special speakers and presentations
- CNPS board of directors meeting
- Breakout sessions on topics such as member recruitment, chapter admin, conservation, and more
- A Saturday evening happy hour, banquet, and program speaker, and
- Presentations from the Executive Director and other CNPS staff

The upcoming meeting will be the annual Conservation Symposium where attendees can learn about a particular conservation issue. **Chapter council meetings are open to all CNPS members and friends.** A tentative schedule is below. More details about this year's conservation theme and field trips are forthcoming! Keep an eye on our website for more information.

#### Friday

- 2 – 6 Board of Directors meeting (or possible field trip)
- 6:30 Meet-and-Eat dinner

#### Saturday

- 8 – 8:30 Welcome and light breakfast
- 8:30 – 12 Conservation Symposium
- 12 – 1 Catered lunch
- 1 – 5:15 Conservation Symposium
- 5:15 – 6:30 Happy hour – beer, wine, hors d'oeuvres
- 6:30 Catered banquet dinner
- Program speaker following dinner

#### Sunday

- 8 – 8:30 Welcome and light breakfast
- 8:30 – 12 Chapter Council session
- Field trip



Hiking • Propagation • Keying Club • Conservation • Habitat Restoration • Field Trips • Herbarium Work • Talks

## Membership News

Summer Solstice greetings to everyone and welcome to our newest Santa Cruz County Chapter members

Carol Achabal	Sean Reilly
Diana Magor	Cassandra Windju
Lewis Blackstone	April Vollmer
Thamby Kumaran	Rachel McKay
Ryan Salladay	Emma Lewis
Joan Zimmerman	Camilla Sulak
Daniel Antonaccio	Rashmi Khatri
Annie Zell	Sophie Noda
Kathleen Howlett	Julie Howell
Kelly McDonald	



Bodie Hills, Mono County. Photo by Robert Wick.

Have a beautiful and productive summer!

**Note:** Any member who would prefer to receive the Cypress Cone digitally, drop Ann Garside a line at [anng@calcentral.com](mailto:anng@calcentral.com) to make the switch. Thanks!

## Join the California Native Plant Society

Your membership includes *Fremontia* (2x per year), a journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; *Flora* (4x per year) CNPS's newest magazine presenting a statewide report of activities and schedules; and our Chapter newsletter *The Cypress Cone* (6x per year). Fill out the form below, or go to [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) and join or renew your membership online.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Student/Fixed Income \$25

Individual \$50

Plant Lover \$120 (2 members)

Supporter \$500 (2 members)

Patron \$1,000 (2 members, plus Special Updates)

Benefactor \$2,500 (2 members, plus Special Updates)

Steward \$5,000 (2 members, plus Special Updates)

Guardian \$10,000 (2 members, plus Special Updates)

Make your check payable to CNPS and send to:

California Native Plant Society, Attn: Membership  
2707 K Street, Suite 1,  
Sacramento, CA 95816-5130

### Like us on Facebook

Contribute to our group! Search for "Santa Cruz County Chapter - California Native Plant Society." Ask a question about native plants or post your own photos of native plants in your yard or on your hikes.

### Opt for email

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email only, please contact Ann at [anng@calcentral.com](mailto:anng@calcentral.com) and let her know your preference.

### CNPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of California native flora.

CNPS has 34 chapters throughout the state and membership is open to all persons—professional and amateur—with an interest in California's native plants and other activities such as natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking, and gardening.

**Donations are tax-deductible** and support special projects such as publication of the county Checklist, and conservation activities that preserve important habitats and species in our area. You may earmark gifts for specific areas. (Your membership is also tax deductible, minus \$8 for the journal *Fremontia*, two issues per year.) Make checks payable to CNPS and send to: Santa Cruz County Chapter CNPS, P.O. Box 1622, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.