VOL 42 / NO 3 JULY–SEPTEMBER 2012

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

BULLETIN

A Growing Library of California Wild Plant Information

New Calflora tools help you collect, preserve, and use observation-based plant data

By Daniel Gluesenkamp

California is blessed with a dazzling diversity of plants and places. Five million Aprils have bloomed while mountains lifted, rivers shifted, and plant populations split and differentiated. A dozen generations of *Baccharis* have sprouted and finally set seed while Europeans explored the resulting array of variation, first with handmade plant presses and later with digital cameras and smartphones.

All of us are a part of this story, and most of us have sought out special plants and collected unique information about these flowers and floristics. Botanists have collected specimens, agencies have mapped rare or weedy plants, and spring-struck photographers have annotated photos and compiled checklists. While herbaria and floras have preserved a wealth of information, far more has languished in data sheets, filing cabinets, slide carousels, and personal remembrance.

Today we are coming to see new value in the ephemeral observation-based plant information that was once taken for granted. This reappraisal is driven by tremendous change, both in need and opportunity. First, reappraisal is driven by the urgent need for the information that can help preserve California's wild plants against the accelerating impacts of habitat loss, biological invasions, and the

(continued on page 6)



Photo courtesy of the Geoff Burleigh Archives (www.lacnps.org).

Geoffrey Burleigh was a persistent photographer and CNPS field trip leader. In 2006 he left his notebooks and slide collection to the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter. Chapter leaders are digitizing slides and transcribing notebooks in order to rescue this important information and make it widely available via Calflora.

CNPS Educational Grant Proposals Due September 30

The CNPS Educational Grants Program has for many years supported students in graduate programs whose field research is in some way consistent with the mission of CNPS and related to California vegetation. The CNPS Education Program views our support of university students as a major priority, since they will comprise the upcoming generation of concerned botanists in California.

Last year we received 21 requests for support, primarily from graduate students in California. Topics involved studies of individual genera, systems, or associations, and included proposals to investigate coastal dunes, serpentine soils, invasive grasses, and the relationship of oaks with fire. Most involved some field work. We granted between $200 and $800 to each student as partial financial support and encouragement.

Proposals are evaluated by reviewers who include active academic botanists, experienced botanical consultants, agency representatives, and Chapter conservation chairs.

Each student who receives a CNPS grant is asked to submit a brief article to *Fremontia* when the research is completed. We suggest that each grant recipient contact the editor before beginning writing. Having a report published in the widely circulated CNPS journal could constitute a young botanist's first published citation.

The proposal guidelines can be downloaded at *http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/grants.php*. Completed proposals must be received in the CNPS office no later than September 30, 2012. Response letters will be mailed in early November.

Joan Stewart, Chair
CNPS Education Grants Committee



Brett Hall

From the Board of Directors

Part of conservation is growing: The special case of island barberry

In the wild, *Berberis pinnata* ssp. *insularis* is known only from a few individuals on Santa Cruz Island. It once occurred on Anacapa and Santa Rosa Islands. Island barberry is a listed federally endangered species and is sponsored by the National Center for Plant Conservation and assigned to the keen stewardship of Dieter Wilken, conservation director at SBBG. Several other California botanical gardens are growing and propagating a few different clones, and one clone in particular is becoming widely available in horticulture—'*Shnilemoon*'—which reportedly translates from Chumash as the super natural coyote of the upper world.

'Shnilemoon' was collected from a few tip cuttings in June 1979 along a ridge in the middle of Santa Cruz Island by Ray Collett, founding director of the UCSC Arboretum, along with myself and Tim Ledwith of mainland Santa Cruz. Evidently this individual is no longer alive in the wild, although it lives on, not only in the hearts and minds of its fanciers but in gardens throughout the West Coast. You can even buy it on the Internet!

Island barberry is self-fertile and dependent upon insect visitation. It would be fascinating to understand its pollination ecology. Honeybees visit the flowers but seed set is difficult to achieve. Perhaps native bees or some other insect vector are the answer. Work is being done to establish a population of this species in one place, safely away from the mainland subspecies or other potential Berberis mates, in order to increase genetic variation. Maybe more is better.

And in case you are wondering, Island barberry is a handsome, vibrant, shiny green-leaved, multi-stemmed, bright yellow flowering shrub that grows to 6.5 feet tall. It is virtually free of prickles, after evolving on an island with no native browsing mammals. Introduced sheep, however, almost did it in. It is indeed reassuring to know that conservation can sometimes be achieved through effective horticulture.

Brett Hall, President
CNPS Board of Directors

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Levee Vegetation Research Symposium

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the U.S. Army Corps began reviewing its levee standards with the goal of improving public safety. They clarified national policy on maintenance procedures by requiring the removal of all woody vegetation over two inches in diameter from levee systems throughout the country, even though it was not shown that vegetation caused any of the numerous levee and floodwall failures in New Orleans.

To share knowledge on the risk that woody vegetation poses to levees, the Levee Vegetation Research Symposium 2012 is being held August 28–30, 2012 in Sacramento, California. Researchers and stakeholders will present the latest scientific findings regarding the effects of vegetation on levees. Symposium organizers hope this information will contribute to a more science-based national policy on levee vegetation, and in doing so, better protect California's remaining riparian plant habitat and endangered species.

For more information about the symposium, go to: *www.safca.org/symposium2012.htm*.

Cassandra Nguyen Musto,
Manager, California Levee
Vegetation Research Program



AECOM

Riparian vegetation on a levee in an agricultural area about six miles northwest of Sacramento. The vegetation provides protective cover for wildlife and shaded cover for fish.

Supporting Student Research for Plant Conservation

Two new education projects underway

By Josie Crawford

The CNPS Education Program intends to expand the ways we support student research on subjects important to plant conservation. Currently and for the past three decades, the CNPS Educational Grants program has helped fund student research (see article on page 1 of this issue), and our tri-annual conferences encourage and fund student participation. However, over the next few years we plan to increase support for student research with two new projects: 1) student-produced conservation management plans for California Rare Plant Rank 1B plants, and 2) student research on plant/animal interactions with rare plants.

Claremont Graduate University (CGU) and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSABG) offer a course in which students collect species information, conduct threat analyses, and develop conservation recommendations for landowners and regulatory agencies on non-listed rare species *before* they become endangered.

Lucinda Mc Dade, director of research at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSABG) and professor at Claremont Graduate University (CGU), with assistance from Gary Wallace, research associate with CGU and botanist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will teach the two-semester course next fall. Students will develop real-world job skills and publish an article, while providing agencies and land managers information to protect California Rare Plant Rank 1B plants. (Agencies and land managers have no time or budgets to conduct these types of studies.)

The conservation plans that students develop are then peer reviewed and published by RSABG. The idea for the course came out of a project at the New England Wildflower Society that Gary Wallace thought would benefit both agencies and students.

Naomi Fraga, Ph.D. candidate at CGU, is one of the students who has taken the course. She completed a management plan for *Mimulus shevockii* in 2007, and found that seven of the eight extant populations were threatened by cattle grazing, off-highway-vehicle use, residential development, and/or road maintenance. Before her study, little was known about the threats, life history, or distribution of the plant.



Naomi Fraga

Student Conservation plans can make a difference. Naomi Fraga identified cattle grazing as a threat to *Mimulus shevockii* habitat. Grazing has since been adjusted to protect the species.

CNPS hopes to promote this project statewide through partnerships with other universities, and to raise funds for travel supplies and to assist with publishing. If you or someone you know would be interested in participating in the expanded project as a student, professor, agency, or funder/donor, please contact Josie Crawford at *jcrawford@cnps.org*. We will post information on the Education pages of the state website at *www.cnps.org* as the program develops.

The second student research project we are planning is a plant/animal interaction project. Agencies have no time or funding to study plant pollinator, predation, and dispersal systems of rare plants. Yet without that knowledge, conservation efforts may be ineffectual.

This spring and summer we are enlisting at least two students to conduct pollination studies on California Rare Plant Rank 1B plants as an adjunct to the desert CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt. This is a pilot project that we expect will become a much larger effort to collect plant/animal interaction data and to develop a database to house the information. Dr. Trey Hudgins, a very dedicated volunteer, is heading up this effort at the state CNPS office. If you are interested in participating or funding this project, please contact him at *studentprojects@cnps.org*.

These two projects hold great potential to gather and disseminate information useful for plant conservation, while simultaneously helping students advance their career objectives. To fund them, we will look to foundation and corporate grants, major donors, agencies, and a new Car Donation Program. We hope to involve many students in these projects, and would welcome assistance from interested CNPS members.

Josie Crawford is CNPS Education Program Director.

CHAPTER NEWS

MILO BAKER CHAPTER:
Packed meeting honors newest CNPS Fellow

The November 2011 general meeting of the Milo Baker Chapter was as much a celebration as a meeting. An overflowing crowd gathered to honor the speaker, chapter member and extraordinary plantsman Roger Raiche of Planet Horticulture Design, who had just been named a CNPS Fellow, the highest honor accorded members of the Society. In attendance were friends and colleagues of Roger from Berkeley, Davis, and Marin County, as well as from Sonoma County.

In addition to the CNPS award, the County of Sonoma issued a proclamation to honor Roger and his stewardship of The Cedars, a sensitive serpentine area in Sonoma County. An aide to County Supervisor Efren Carrillo read the proclamation at the meeting.



Gary Hundt

The Milo Baker Chapter now has three CNPS Fellows, and all three attended a meeting honoring its newest Fellow, Roger Raiche. From left to right: Liz Parsons, longtime plant sale chair, vice president, and chapter delegate; Roger Raiche; and Betty Guggolz, chapter founder and current rare plant chair.

Roger was the gardener in charge of the California natives section at the U.C. Botanical Garden in Berkeley for 23 years, during which time he introduced over 40 cultivars to the horticultural industry. He and long-time business partner David McCrory were instrumental in securing permanent conservation protection for over 500 acres of sensitive serpentine habitat at The Cedars. An article on pages 53–55 in the most current issue of *Fremontia* provides more details.

MARIN CHAPTER:
Restoring the habitat for a listed subspecies

Tiburon jewelflower (*Streptanthus glandulosus* ssp. *niger*) is an endemic subspecies found in shallow, rocky soil derived from serpentinite in two locations on the Tiburon Peninsula in Marin County. Both occurrences, consisting of several subpopulations, are within preserved open space parcels (Marin County and the Town of Tiburon), and both are threatened by non-native grasses and impacts from recreational use.



Eva Buxton Inset photo by Neal Kramer.

Habitat of Tiburon jewelflower *(Streptanthus glandulosus* ssp. *niger)* invaded by wild oats.

I have monitored this federally- and state-listed subspecies for the USFWS and CDFG since the mid-1980s, and have become aware of the increasing invasion of wild oats (*Avena* sp.) into its habitat. In addition, the Tiburon parcel is heavily used by professional dog walkers (several hundred dogs per week), and a local leash law is not enforced. Unfortunately, the town has no interest in saving the plant, and there is no mention of it in the General Plan.

For the past few years, I have weeded some sections on the Tiburon parcel. Last year, the Marin Chapter allocated money for the project, and it became possible to hire a "weeder" who began work on the Tiburon parcel this past February and will continue into the spring. I strongly believe that this restoration effort will positively affect the Tiburon jewelflower's chances for survival.

Eva Buxton, Chapter Conservation Chair and Tiburon Resident

El Toro Conservation Area Threatened

Nine hundred acres of rare, low-elevation coastal sage scrub lie in the northeasterly corner of the City of Irvine. This land—the El Toro Conservation Area—was planned to be included in Orange County's Central-Coastal Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) which was established in 1995. The area, which also includes vernal pools and native grassland, was cited as critical habitat for Coastal California Gnatcatchers and Cactus Wrens, and designated a critical element for habitat connectivity. CNPS's Orange County Chapter (OCCNPS) has supported the NCCP/HCP since its inception, as have all environmental organizations in the county.

The site, long part of the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, was transferred from the Department of Defense to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in 2001. The site is now the subject of an Environmental Assessment (EA), as part of the process to transfer title from the FAA to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which has long used a small part of the site for training.



Bob Allen

The El Toro Conservation Area contains a population of Allen's daisy *(Pentachaeta aurea* ssp. *allenii),* California Rare Plant Rank 1.B.1 and an Orange County endemic.

The EA states that the transfer will not change the site's land uses, and that the FBI will comply with all applicable environmental laws. However, the environmental community has noted the following problems:

- Contrary to agreements authorizing limited uses on only 20 acres, FBI training operations now encompass 200 acres.
- Fencing planned or installed around major rifle range expansions violates core principles of reserve design and habitat connectivity.
- The EA barely mentions the site's importance to connectivity—a specific objective of the NCCP/HCP.

In March many environmental groups, OCCNPS among them, submitted extensive comments on the legal inadequacy of the EA and requested a full Environmental Impact Study. The City of Irvine also commented and, very importantly, called for a Memorandum of Understanding with the FBI to establish use areas compatible with the NCCP/HCP and for the area to be cooperatively managed.

As of this writing, the FBI has rejected this constructive initiative. The environmental community fully supports the City in its efforts to protect the NCCP and to reach an accommodation with the FBI.

Celia Kutcher
Chapter Conservation Chair

In Appreciation: A Salute to Planned Givers

CNPS would like to recognize members of the Legacy Circle. These are people who have told CNPS that they intend to make a gift to the Society through their will or from their estate. Planned giving is a great way to support CNPS, and everyone making gifts through planned giving deserves our thanks. Here are two recent additions to the Legacy Circle:

Dr. Kristina Schierenbeck is a professor of biology at California State University at Chico. She teaches evolution and plant systematics. She was inspired to return to botany by Wilma Follette and Phyllis Faber—two long-time, well-known CNPS members in Marin County—and has made plant biology her life's work.



Carol Eunmi Lee

Dr. Kristina Schierenbeck

Betty and Curt Matyas joined CNPS in 1965 and were founding members of the Sacramento Valley Chapter. Betty was active for many years in chapter conservation efforts, believing that "native plant communities should be preserved and not given to the developers." She recalls spending one year doing a "transect" of the state as the bloom progressed, starting at the coast and ending in the Sierra Nevada.

Planned gifts, like those made by Dr. Schierenbeck and the Matyases are extremely important to CNPS and to the preservation of our native flora. Many thanks to these generous supporters and to all planned givers!

Sandy McCoy
CNPS Development Consultant

California Wild Plant Information *(from page 1)*

direct and multiplicative effects of rapid climate change. Second, technological changes are providing simple and accessible systems to rescue observation-based information that would otherwise be lost, and are giving scientists and managers advanced tools that vastly increase the effectiveness of conservation planning and action.

While vouchered herbarium specimens remain the gold standard, carefully curated observation information can help identify locally significant plant populations, detect or prioritize invasive plant infestations, and improve models that predict the effect of climate change on plant distributions. As our individual knowledge puts more dots on the map, we can connect the dots to perceive the larger picture.

The Calflora Database is one effort to bring together and share the wealth of California wild plant information that hides in plain sight. Working with partners, Calflora presents this collected knowledge in a database of two million occurrences and thousands of checklists contributed by herbaria, agencies, biologists, and citizens. Links to the comprehensive CalPhotos library brighten up facts with flowers. Integrated Web-based tools let you make use of this plant information, whether you're preparing a plant list for your next weekend hike or prioritizing conservation action for your watershed. Most importantly, easy-to-use tools at *www.calflora.org* give you the ability to contribute your unique knowledge to the shared library, by uploading checklists, adding photos and locations, or using your smartphone to quickly send a plant occurrence report.



The *Calflora Observer* app (available for iPhone, iPad, and Android devices) maps plants anywhere in California, without requiring a phone signal or even a phone plan. More information is available at *http://Calflora.org/phone*.

Many of us have used Calflora over the years and so may think we know all that it has to offer. However, there have been changes that warrant a second look. In recent years partners such as the Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN), California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and others have invested in developing exciting new features and contributing plant occurrence information. In addition to tools for conservation professionals, there are also new tools that make it easier and give us more reasons to get outside and explore our flora. For example, you can:

- Use *What Grows Here* or *Places to View Native Plants* to find a list of plants for any location, and to print an illustrated field guide for your weekend field trip.
- Use the *Groups Definition* tool to easily build your own home page to support a hiking group, a weed management area, or a team of friends. You can use the group to share plant observations, plant lists, and comments.
- Download the *Calflora Observer* app to your iPhone, iPad, or Android device and map any plant in California.
- Use *Best Plants, Best Practices* to create a customized planting palette based on bloom times and pollinator associations you designate, and then check plant availability in local nurseries.
- Upload plant location information to share (whether site checklists or GIS shapefiles), or download it for your use (whether for a field guide or a Google Earth exploration).

We all have plant photos, checklists, or notes that remind us of wonderful times spent in the field, and we all have regretted the ephemeral, relatively short-lived nature of these treasured memories. For each of us this small sense of personal loss is dwarfed by a greater grief in thinking that, in too many cases, our photos and field notes may actually outlast the original plant populations and landscapes. Much of California's wild history, including many of the plants we love, are imperiled. It is reassuring to think that by sharing and preserving our own plant records we can contribute information that helps to save the plants and habitats that they celebrate. What have we done to deserve such an opportunity? What will we do to make the most of it?

Dan Gluesenkamp, Ph.D., is executive director of The Calflora Database. Dan has directed restoration for a system of 30 preserves, cofounded the Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN), was president of the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), and in 2009 discovered a Franciscan manzanita, thought extinct, growing near the Golden Gate Bridge (*Fremontia* 37(4)/38(1): 3–17)

Why Have a Chapter Newsletter?

By Barbara Wolf

Perhaps you've sent or received a "holiday newsletter" from family or friends. It usually takes the form of a slightly guilt-tinged update on the past year: grandkids, graduations, grand vacations; accomplishments, transitions, and health; a tacit explanation of why "I've-been-so-busy-I-couldn't-write-individual letters."

Why do we send those, and why do we like receiving them? Perhaps it is because we want to stay connected with those we care about, and whom we believe care about us. That is to say, we are nurturing our relationships.

Organizational newsletters serve a similar purpose. When you joined CNPS, you established a relationship with a geographically dispersed group that shares at least one of your values. Chapter membership provides an opportunity for direct participation and face-to-face relationships. So consider the following from nonprofit marketing consultant and blogger Nancy Schwartz (*http://gettingattention.org/*): "Marketing is the way your organization builds and strengthens your relationships with the people whose help you need to move your mission forward…Communications is just one component of marketing."

Chapter newsletters are a way to strengthen our relationship with members. By sharing activities and successes, we inspire current members and, we hope, attract new ones. New members are valuable to statewide efforts but especially crucial to chapters, which count on hands-on member energy and local fundraising to implement projects.

It's our local chapters, with our public meetings, plant sales, native plant nurseries, advocacy and conservation work, and so many other activities, that provide the opportunities for personal engagement to members and nonmembers alike. Produced entirely by local volunteers for their peers, chapter newsletters share all that and bring the CNPS mission home.

Newsletters inform us of chapter meetings and educational opportunities like field trips or workshops. Some feature botanical or scientific articles, or bring relevant environmental news to our attention. Most display inspiring images of CNPS's "beneficiaries"—the native plants and habitats we treasure. A newsletter's appearance and tone convey our group's personality. Newsletter content communicates what's important to us. A quality newsletter establishes credibility with members and the public. Credibility builds trust. Trust leads to commitment. Commitment is what we seek.

Chapter newsletter editors have a demanding task—or ten. A recent posting


California Native Plant Society
Sacramento Valley Chapter Newsletter
Hibiscus
MARCH 2011
MARCH MEETING:
MARCH PRESENTATION:
Meet the Mimulus
(Monkey Flowers)
by Steve Shoenig,
Biologist, California Dept.
of Fish & Game

for a new Yerba Buena Chapter newsletter editor exemplifies what we ask of them: Not much, just everything!

> Establish and publicize clear timelines for each edition; remind people about upcoming and/or missed deadlines for articles. Solicit and select good current interest pieces; decide what material goes where in each edition. Edit the newsletter content. Ensure that both proofreading and mailing go as planned. Make certain that there are backups in place for all jobs. Oversee the whole publication process and deal with whatever might come up. Be able to attend board meetings…The newsletter Editor-in-Chief must be computer literate, a good team player, a highly motivated individual, and a good manager.

We are lucky when committed members with the requisite graphic design, writing, and editing skills step up. Lavish your newsletter editors and helpers with appreciation and praise. You can make their job easier by writing something for the newsletter: perhaps something that conveys why you care about our native plants, and what moves you to act on their behalf.

Thanks for taking the time to read *this* newsletter. I hope you respond to your chapter newsletter with equal interest and enthusiasm.

Barbara Wolf designed and edited the Sacramento Valley Chapter newsletter, *Hibiscus*, for five years, and is currently chapter vice-president.

Useful Links for Newsletter Ideas and Advice

CNPS chapter newsletters: *http://cnps.org/cnps/chapters/list.php*. Click on the Newsletter link for each chapter.

Creative ideas for newsletter content: *http://www.stepbystepfundraising.com/ideas-non-profit-newsletter/*

Kivi's Nonprofit Communications Blog: *http://www.nonprofitmarketingguide.com/blog/*. Click on "Blog Archive," then under "Blogging" look for article titled, "15 Places to Find Article Ideas for Your Nonprofit Newsletter." Under "E-Newsletters" look for article, "Carnival 30: Tips on Nonprofit Newsletters."

Nonprofit marketing blog: *http://gettingattention.org*

http://gettingattention.org/2010/10/how-to-connect-with-nonprofit-audiences/

Chapters That Have Grown in Membership

In early 2011, the CNPS Board of Directors passed a proposal to provide a membership growth incentive for chapters. These incentives are determined by chapter net growth during each calendar year, using total active membership counts from 12/31/10 as a baseline.

At the June 2012 Chapter Council meeting, the following chapters were rewarded for achieving positive membership growth in 2011: Mojave Desert, Monterey Bay, Mount Lassen, North Coast, Orange County, Riverside/San Bernardino, San Diego, San Gabriel Mountains, South Coast, Tahoe, and Willis Linn Jepson.

Stacey Flowerdew, Membership and Development Coordinator

Volunteer Recognition Awards

CNPS regularly recognizes members for outstanding contributions to the preservation and appreciation of California's native flora through its Volunteer Recognition Award. CNPS is grateful for all these volunteers have done.

Since 1995, **Gabi McLean** and **Cliff McLean's** contributions to programs, teaching, fieldtrips, plant sales, and local advocacy have increased membership and active participation in the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter. Gabi served as chapter president from 2005 to 2012, and Cliff as chapter vice-president and membership chair during that time. By their active support of the March Chapter Council meetings and welcoming attitude, and their participation in many statewide activities, they have materially benefited CNPS. Both are life members of the Society.

Charles Blair, Chair
Volunteer Recognition Committee

JOIN THE PHOTOGRAPHER POOL!

CNPS is compiling a list of photographers willing to be contacted when the *CNPS Bulletin* or *Fremontia* is in need of a specific photo of a native plant or plant community. Photo files should be high-resolution—at least 1500 x 1125 pixels, and will be credited. If interested, send an email with your name and phone to: *bhass@cnps.org.* If you previously responded to this request, then you are already on the list.

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