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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

BULLETIN

Sign of the Times

New faces in the Rare Plant Program.

There are many new staff members for the CNPS Rare Plant Program this year. David Magney, well known to CNPS members from his decades of volunteer service, has been selected to lead the Rare Plant Program and is relocating from Ojai in Ventura County to Nevada City. David has been a champion of the concept of "locally-rare" plants and sparked the creation of the Botanical Certification Program. He will be supervising the Rare Plant Program staff and will bring a host of new ideas.

Steve Schoenig has been organizing the state-led Rare Plant Treasure Hunts (RPTH) this year part time following his retirement from the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. Highlights from the spring's early RPTHs are the rediscovery of a newly described sand parsley *(Spermolepis infernensis)* in Anza Borrego State Park and the rediscovery of a newly described monkey flower *(Erythranthe percaulis)* on a serpentine seep in the Feather River canyon near Quincy. RPTH veteran Deanna Giuliano has returned to help lead trips this year. Coming up are trips in the Sierra, Klamath, and White mountains and a botanical skills workshop followed by rare plant hunting in the Bodie Hills. (email treasurehunt@cnps.org to be on notification email list)

Lastly, Aaron Sims brought on Kaitlyn Green to assist in the scientific data gathering and evaluation that are the foundation of rare plant status evaluations and can result in changing the California Rare Plant Ranks assigned to all the rare plants on the CNPS list. Kaitlyn will now split her time between the rare plant program and the California Natural Diversity DataBase.

— Steve Schoenig





Steve Schoenig

Erythranthe percaulis was found along Hwy 70 in Plumas County on serpentine seeps as part of the rare plant treasure hunt program. The plants were spread out sporadically along the road over about a mile.

Local Efforts to Protect California's Iconic Native Oak Species



The California Native Plant Society and the forest advocacy group Forests Forever (Fo Fo) have joined a coalition working to secure protections for the state's 10 million acres of oak woodlands and oak-forested lands. The California Wildlife Foundation's California Oaks program is engaging with conservation leaders to build this vital coalition to advance oak protections in the 48 counties where oaks play a critical habitat role and are essential in sustaining healthy watersheds. For more information on the Oaks Coalition, visit: californiaoaks.org

Forests Forever is focusing its activism on two local oak protection efforts. Fo Fo has teamed

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From the Executive Director

Getting Hooked on Plants

My kid is obsessed with *Downingia pusilla,* and it is wonderful. After years of enduring field trips with two botanist parents, we feared the kid had no interest in following in our botanical footsteps; our efforts to teach were increasingly met with a rebellious yawn or a scornful "I know." Until recently, when we were fortunate to participate in the first "Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day Rare Plant Treasure Hunt," organized by CNPS Rare Plant Botanist Aaron Sims. We joined together to learn about the absurdly tiny dwarf downingia, and then the gang spread out across a flower-filled vernal pool complex in the splendor of spring-summer transition to search for these special little blooms. No dwarf downingia were found, and one might think that the disappointment would discourage. Instead, my daughter now obsessively seeks downingia everywhere we go. It is a beautiful thing!

It is also an important thing. As you know, right now CNPS is engaged in a strategic planning process that will guide CNPS in making an even greater difference in the years ahead. Leadership has completed an exciting Strategic Plan (available at cnps.org) and now we are identifying the actions that will most effectively help us to KNOW the flora, SAVE our plants and restore our wild places, and ENGAGE partners in the shared effort. As we look forward to what can be done to save California, it is critical that we look back at how CNPS has accomplished so much thus far. When we do that it is clear that engaging Californians in the effort to celebrate and save our native plants is one of the key ways CNPS has advanced California conservation and made a remarkable difference in saving a wonderful flora.

I got hooked on native plants a couple decades ago, at a CNPS wildflower show, and you likely have a similar story. Some little bit of information put forward by a chapter volunteer caught my attention, opened my eyes, and showed me a way of looking at the world that has changed and enriched my life. In so many ways, CNPS engages: with your help CNPS brings record numbers of students to the conference, hosts talks by fascinating speakers, provides inspiration to lawn-killing gardeners, shares information among grass roots conservation activists, and coordinates volunteer parabotanists in discovering new rare plant populations. Our work in the years to come will be guided by the ideas developed in the next few months—I hope that you will please consider and share your unique vision for how CNPS can better support partners and more fully engage Californians in this wonderful, essential, effort!

Dan Gluesenkamp
CNPS Executive Director



Photograph courtesy of Dan Gluesenkamp

Rare Plant Treasure Hunting.

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Discussing Drought Effects and the Use of Water Saving Plants

The opportunity to talk about gardening and the use of water-saving plants during an extreme drought year came up in 2015 (remember how desperate things were last summer?) at our local public radio station, KCBX. CNPS member, Lauren Brown, who heads the SOD (Sudden Oak Death) Blitz campaign in San Luis Obispo (SLO) county, was approached by the radio station's news director, Randol White, to organize a series of on-air presentations. Their discussion began with preparing some information about the upcoming SOD Blitz and ended with the additional idea of doing a listener call-in show on the drought.

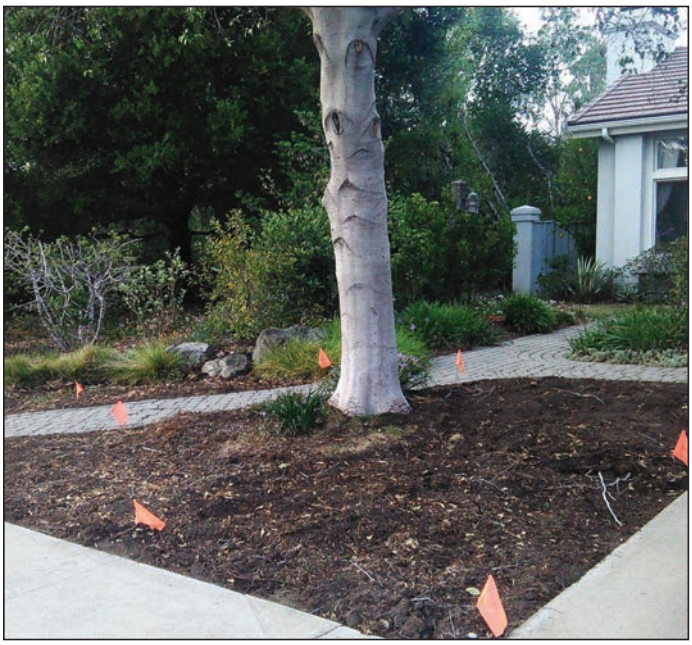
In following up on the request, the SLO Chapter put together two radio presentations in April and September 2015. The programs were live, listener call-in hours aimed at increasing awareness on the more practical uses of California native plants in existing gardens, starting a water-saving garden from scratch, as well as sharing information about the "replace-your-lawn" initiatives that have been popular in California lately. We wanted to coach the listeners on what exactly a "water-saving" plant was, how and where to obtain such plants, and the benefits of using California native plants whenever and wherever possible.

As is typical of listener call-in programs, the topics tended to be guided by questions specific to individual interests, yet as the hour progressed, broader ideas and concepts appropriate for most garden settings were presented. A listener called about the use of mulch, another about compost and worm bins, then a third on pruning and grapes, and a fourth about planting under eucalyptus trees.

Yet, throughout the conversation, we were able to discuss topics such as natives and irrigation, natives in clay soils and the need for drainage, fast growing native perennials, appropriate turf replacements with natives (while debunking artificial lawn substitutes), the importance of planting native trees for future generations, gopher and deer-proof natives in the garden, and the innate abilities of natives to adapt to a changing world. During the show, we encouraged the listeners to visit the local SLO Botanical Garden and Cal Poly Arboretum and to drop in on the upcoming native plant sales.

As an interesting sideline to the radio interviews, I was in the midst of removing the small lawn under an alder *(Alnus incana)* in front of our house in San Luis Obispo and replacing it with California natives and other Mediterranean-type climate adapted plants. Most of these plants I had propagated myself from seeds collected in the nearby hills the year before. I began the removal at the end of the brief rainy season in 2015, then waited with a bare-soil garden throughout the summer to transplant the natives once rains began in October (see photos). Now, when I meet people walking by the house, many compliment the new landscape and see the real value of a water-saving native plant garden in an increasingly water-starved state.

Bill Waycott,
CNPS San Luis Obispo Chapter





Photographs courtesy of Bill Waycott

On the left Waycott home May 2015; on the right Waycott home May 2016

NATIVE OAK SPECIES *continued from page 1*



Photograph courtesy of Jim Wilson

up with local activists in Napa County to qualify and pass a county-wide measure for the November ballot aimed at protecting fast-disappearing oak woodlands in Napa County. The initiative will expand on current protections in the county which limit land use to open space and agriculture on close to 40,000 acres of Agricultural Preserve. According to campaign leaders, Jim Wilson and Mike Hackett, "Decades ago, County leaders and residents came together to establish important protections to safeguard the county's Agricultural Preserve for future generations. This initiative is intended to complement the legacy of those visionaries and establish important protections for the county's agricultural watershed."

The "Water, Forest, and Oak Woodland Protection Initiative" will establish water quality buffer zones along streams and wetlands in the Agricultural Watershed zoning district where forests and tree canopy are protected. The initiative will also create an oak tree removal permit program for removing larger oaks from agricultural watershed lands 5 acres or more in size. On June 6th Napa County Registrar of Voters John Tuteur formally certified that the ballot measure had qualified. Proponents had submitted 6298 signatures; only 3791 valid signatures were required. But just days later Tuteur reversed his decision, citing advice by the County Counsel's office that the initiative presented to signers had failed to meet a technical "full text" requirement. Measure proponents have filed a lawsuit in Napa Superior Court and hired San Francisco law firm Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, which brings extensive experience in mounting and defending successful voter initiative campaigns in California. A hearing date was set for July 15. More information on the initiative can be found at: protectnapawatersheds.org.

Forest Forever also supported local activists in Mendocino County to pass an initiative titled Measure V on the June 7, 2016 ballot that declares it a public nuisance to leave a dead standing tree and makes the person or persons responsible liable for the hazard.

Yes on Measure V passed on election day with a 20 point lead!

Measure V will help curb the method of forestry called 'hack and squirt" used by Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) and its sister company Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC) to poison native trees such as tanoak. This procedure uses a non-selective broad-spectrum herbicide called Imazapyr—applied by cutting around the base of a tree and spraying into the open wound. MRC and HRC have applied herbicides to over 100,000 acres in their ownerships since 1999, or roughly one fourth of their total holdings. Since 2012 alone, MRC has killed over 5 million trees on 24,000 acres.

Although tanoaks play an important ecological role in forest succession and recovery, the companies are using hack-and-squirt because it is the cheapest way to get rid of less-marketable tree species that may compete with the more-profitable redwood or Douglas fir.

But research indicates increased fire intensity is one result of leaving standing dead trees on the landscape. The dead trees thereby pose a risk to firefighters and nearby residents and communities.

David Shew, Staff Chief, Planning and Risk Analysis, for the California Department of Forestry (CAL FIRE), recently wrote, "From my education and experience, a forest with dead standing timber can pose additional and different risks versus a healthy forest."

According to Will Russell, Assistant

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'Mother of Redwood National Park' remembered

Lucille Bartlett Vinyard died in her home above Moonstone Beach in Humboldt County on December 30th at the age of 97. Her many conservation efforts included cofounding the Sierra Club's Redwood Chapter in 1964 and being a founding member of the Northcoast Environmental Center and the Redwood Natural History Association. Vinyard worked for passage of the California Coastal Zone Protection Act, designation of the Wild and Scenic Smith River, and passage of the California Wilderness Act for the designation of the Trinity Alps, Marble Mountains, and Russian Wildernesses.



Family Photo

Lucille Bartlett Vinyard

— Michael Kauffmann

Native Plant Gardens of CNPS Members

When Kim Malone Scott and her family moved into her new home in 2007, she worried about soil erosion. The previous owners had graded the steep hill for use as a vineyard, and Kim saw the potential for a rain event which could erode the hill. She thus began a journey researching native plant solutions which has led to a growing community of neighbors dedicated to bringing back the natives.

Once Kim determined to go native and found sources for seeds and expertise, she reached out to her neighbor Raj Reddy to see if he would be interested in sharing the project. Raj and Kim's yards were both overgrown with weedy grasses, requiring annual mowing to address fire risk. Raj politely declined the offer that first year –but once he saw the beautiful spring bloom that resulted, he was convinced. They teamed up to prepare the site, spread seeds, and now their shared yards are blessed with a diverse and colorful meadow. What's more, Raj is working with city government to change weed abatement rules to promote wildflowers and encourage others to plant their own meadows!





Before photo, left: weed abatement in Raj's front yard. After photo, right: pollinator's love their new garden!

CNPS Gardening Program

The mission of the CNPS Gardening Program is to promote, support and encourage the appropriate use of California native plants in public and private gardens and landscapes. One of the goals of the Gardening Program is to provide technical information and resources to homeowners, landscape designers, and nursery owners on the care and maintenance of native plants so that natives are routinely incorporated into public and private landscape designs.

To learn more about the CNPS Gardening Program and the benefits of native plants in your yard visit the CNPS website: cnps.org/cnps/grownative

NATIVE OAK SPECIES *continued from page 4*



Photograph courtesy of Kim Bancroft

Bulldozer hauling destroyed oaks by Hwy 101

Professor of Environmental Studies at San Jose State University, "Tanoak (as the most common and dominant hardwood) is a highly important component of the redwood forest. Its acorns make up a significant portion of the diet of birds and mammals in the North Coast region. It is thought that the mycorrhizae [fungal network in soil] associated with tanoak play an important ecological function in the redwood forest."

More information on Measure V can be found at: forestsforever.org and citizensforfiresafeforests.com.

— Christian Bucknell,
Outreach Coordinator, Forests Forever

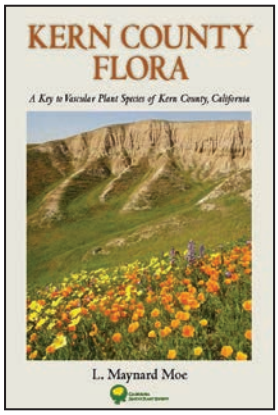
CNPS Goes to the Library

March 2016 marked the launch of CNPS Press' most recent release, *Kern County Flora: a Key to Vascular Plant Species of Kern County, California* written by L. Maynard Moe and published with help from The Bakersfield Californian Foundation, The Wildlands Conservancy, and Kern CNPS. A veteran professor of Botany at CSU Bakersfield, Dr. Moe has expanded on his work in *A Key to Vascular Plant Species of Kern County* (1995) and included identification keys as well as updated taxa and nomenclature, making the book a fantastic new asset to amateur botanists and experienced scholars alike!



Courtesy of CSU Bakersfield

L. Maynard Moe



CNPS "CARE PACKAGE" CAMPAIGN

Not only is there a great new addition to the CNPS canon to celebrate, but thanks to funding from The Wildlands Conservancy, CNPS is undertaking a unique new project: assembling "care packages" (to include this newest publication along with other key titles, and CNPS posters) for donation to the Kern County Library. This exciting pilot will ensure that Kern County Flora is available to all of the county's students, scientists, and enthusiasts.

After such a positive response in Kern County, and with the help of a generous private contribution, CNPS is preparing to donate care packages in Nevada and Placer counties, as well. With titles specific to the Redbud Chapter region, CNPS is eager to donate books and posters to more than 40 high school, college, and public libraries in the area. This is an incredible opportunity to put the vision and mission of CNPS in front of new audiences; to make CNPS a salient presence in local communities; and to inspire the next generation of botanists, conservationists, and native plant lovers.

COUNTY BY COUNTY ROLL OUT

CNPS hopes to roll out care package campaigns across California, county by county, to make sure the valuable information CNPS makes available is easily accessible to students and Californians in every part of the state. Those interested in supporting similar endeavors in their regions are invited to contact Membership & Development Coordinator Stacey Flowerdew, in the Sacramento office.

Kern County Flora is now available for sale at cnps.org

BIGDoG2016

After a rousing success on the BIG Day of Giving last year, CNPS was ready and eager to participate in BIGDoG 2016. As a part of the national campaign, "Give Local America," CNPS joined more than 500 non-profit organizations in the greater Sacramento area, as well as groups from more than 50 regional communities nationwide for a day of focused fundraising.

Unfortunately, on May 3 the national giving platform experienced outages as the event began and throughout the day, leading contributors instead to give directly through CNPS.org and even by phone. The glitches took longer to remedy than expected, so organizers announced that the 24-hour timeframe would be increased to 39 hours, extending the event to 3pm on May 4, 2016.

Despite the technical difficulties, the Sacramento community rallied to exceed the region's $6 million collective goal. CNPS supporters, in particular, came through in a big way; 143 donors made eligible contributions totaling $11,808, easily exceeding the individual CNPS goal of $10,000! It's no secret that the CNPS community is actively committed to conserving California native plants and their natural habitats, and the BIG Day of Giving 2016 proved that point, once again, incredibly clearly. Thank you!



— Stacey Flowerdew

Flower Power



Both photos: Mary Ellen Hannibal

Rear of the gallery display.

Like many activists who speak on behalf of the natural world, photographers Rob Badger and Nita Winter have grappled with what Badger calls "environmental disaster burnout." Having photographed negative human impacts from water exploitation in the Owens Valley, to the fallout from mining, oil spill, and logging activities on public lands, Badger says his photography "around these issues was convincing me there was little hope to save this planet."

Like many of his friends he wondered what he could do, beyond recycling, to help redress the situation. Luckily, Badger and Winter came up with a beautiful idea: cultivate a connection to the planet by offering an aesthetic effusion of wildflowers. With sponsorship from Blue Earth Alliance, the photographers created an installation called "Beauty and the Beast: Wildflowers and Climate Change." The project will eventually include a series of fine art coffee table books containing images from their extensive and growing collection of wildflower images from public lands along with essays addressing conservation, climate change and other important topics.

One hundred project images, with maps and essays, comprise the exhibit "Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change," which debuted at the Jewett Gallery in the San Francisco Main Public Library. The gallery photographs focus on landscapes and portraits of wildflowers mostly taken on California's public lands.

Badger and White have crafted spectacular images ranging from individual flowers to carpets of them. Badger states "Rather than show depressing images of what is happening on our planet, we show beautiful images of what still remains of the natural world to motivate people to protect it."

Giving more than a spoonful of sugar to their captivated audience, Winter and Badger provide some medicine too; information about practical steps to ensure the beauty we see today will continue into the future. They counsel preserving species and habitats and remind us that habitat can mean your own backyard if you remove invasive plants and replace them with natives. Other messages include promoting land conservation and protection of public lands, reducing carbon emissions, and attaining a sustainable human population.

Winter and Badger's images also provide a nuanced lesson in geographical and climatic influences on plant distributions in California. "We have travelled to just about every part of the state, from the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area in the extreme southeast of the state to the Siskiyou Mountains in the north," Badger told me. Timing their trips to when wildflowers are blooming, they pursued the greatest variety of species on view in particular locations. California is 900 miles long with a uniquely heterogeneous topography—it is possible to find something in peak bloom from late February to early September!

Among the beauties they have known, Winter and Badger call out a few favorites: the Western Azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*), with its large white and pink blossoms and sweet perfume; mariposa lilies (*Calochortus* sp.), showing off an array of colors and complex patterns; and columbines (*Aquilegia* sp.), for their graceful shapes. These species and many more are living testament to Earth's precious life forms and the heady intoxication of their beauties.



Front of the gallery display.

For more information about their wildflower project, visit Rob Badger and Nita Winter's website: winterbadger.com/wildflower-project.

Mary Ellen Hannibal

Is an award-winning journalist and author. Her new book, *Citizen Scientist: Searching for Heroes and Hope in an Age of Extinction*, will be published in early September.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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The California Native Plant Society is a statewide, nonprofit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in learning about and preserving California's native plants and plant communities. Membership is open to all. Visit cnps.org

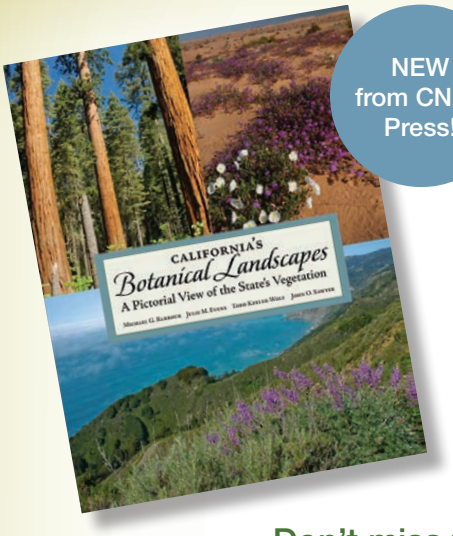
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California's Botanical Landscapes: A Pictorial View of the State's Vegetation

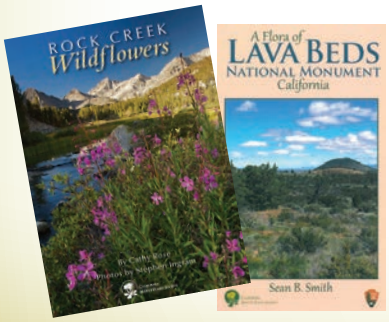
Michael G. Barbour, Julie M. Evens, Todd Keeler-Wolf, John O. Sawyer

California's Botanical Landscapes provides a vivid exploration of the Golden State's native vegetation. Each chapter focuses on one of 14 ecoregions, illuminating their unique plant species and communities through a phenomenal array of photographs and interpretive descriptions from California's top plant ecologists.

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NEW!

Rock Creek Wildflowers

AND

A Flora of Lava Beds National Monument, California



Get ready for an El Niño spring! ***The Best Spring Ever: Why El Niño Makes the Desert Bloom.***

And coming soon…

Kern County Flora: A Key to Vascular Plant Species of Kern County, California