

We are pleased to announce that George Butterworth is the recipient of our Chapter's annual Hoover Award.

Chief among George Butterworth's distinguished contributions is his work describing the flora of the Carrizo and the nearby Chimeneas Ranch Reserve. The precision and care with which he has surveyed has earned him the respect of botanists and land managers statewide. He has created an herbarium for Chimeneas and the Carrizo that has the admiration of all those making reference to its collections. He has set a high benchmark; and his manner inspires many to follow his example.

The professionalism of his effort has greatly benefited our local flora by attracting statewide interest and cooperation. The substantial state and CNPS plant association mapping effort for valley grassland has focused on George's territory in Eastern San Luis Obispo in substantial part because of the expertise he offers. George has a profound appreciation for the diversity and complexity of our local associations. His ability to lead crews to the exact and unique local expression of these plant communities has encouraged the mapping effort to proceed with greater detail and precision.

For several years, he has organized delightful field trips for our Chapter into the Chimeneas, Carrizo and Elkhorn Plains. Chapter members attending his tours have earned a glimpse of "his" little-seen land. Universally, field trip participants praise his planning effort and his annotated checklists. Again, he has set a high benchmark for others to emulate.

Quite unexpectedly, George presented the chapter with a local butterfly and plant associate checklist. The Butterfly checklist represents a popular, educational and important part of our Chapter's outreach to the community. It is evidence that George's scope of study is expanding; we look forward more surprises from him.

The Carrizo has been the setting for much unfortunate drama and conflict. We feel the professionalism, modesty and attention George lavishes on the flora of the Plains serves to heal and protect the land. George possesses the drier wit and that remarkable humor makes him a character to fit the landscape.

The Hoover award was presented at the Chapter's January banquet in recognition of George Butterworth's distinguished and unstinting contributions to our county's flora. I encourage everyone to be certain to sign up for one of George's field trips in what promises to be an exceptional spring, and congratulate him yourself for his accomplishments and this honor.



