

*The Twenty-Fourth Annual
Spring Outing
Botanical Excursion
Foray, Retreat, and Escape to the Environment*

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! SO BE FREE 24 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



☛ Brought to you by the Bryophyte Chapter of the California Native Plant Society!

***Friday to Monday, 29 March to 1 April 2019
Rancho El Chorro in San Luis Obispo***

Coordinators: Ken Kellman, Ben Carter

Founded in 1996, SO BE FREE is a series of West Coast forays started by the Bryolab at UC Berkeley, but open to all botanists. The main focus is on bryophytes, but we also encourage experts on other groups to come along and smell the liverworts. We welcome specialists and generalists, professionals and amateurs, master bryologists and rank beginners. SO BE FREE is held each spring, somewhere in the Western US, associated with spring break at universities. Evening slide shows and informal talks are presented as well as keying sessions with microscopes. In addition to seeing interesting wild areas and learning new plants, important goals for SO BE FREE include keeping West Coast bryologists (and friends) in touch with each other and teaching beginners. To see pictures and information from past outings, visit the SO BE FREE website at: <https://bryophyte.cnps.org/index.php/so-be-free>

☛ One important function of this year's SO BE FREE will be to serve as the annual meeting of the Bryophyte Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. See: <https://bryophyte.cnps.org/> for details, and to join!

The 2019 SO BE FREE will be held in San Luis Obispo County, one of the botanical gems within California. Midway along the coast between San Francisco and Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo offers strong moisture gradients, a tremendous diversity of geological substrates and abundant open spaces that have been only lightly explored bryologically. Vegetation types range from moisture-loving closed cone coniferous forests near the coast to arid desert scrub in interior regions, with a diversity of chaparral and woodlands in between. The region is known floristically as a zone of transition, with representation of northern species in mesic areas, southern species in the drier coastal regions and even Mojave desert species in the eastern part of the county. Foray destinations will include Los Padres National Forest, many of the open spaces surrounding the city of San Luis Obispo, a private ranch in the interior and some of the best wildflower destinations in the state, all of which promise to be very rich in ephemerals, Bryaceae and Pottiaceae.

Beginners are very welcome to SO BE FREE, and this year we will again have a workshop session for beginners at the start of the event. Saturday, Sunday, and Monday morning we will have field trips to satisfy all participants from neophyte to nerd! Field trip details are to follow. Access is being sought for private, State, and Federal lands.

Food and Lodging

We will be based at Rancho El Chorro in San Luis Obispo: <http://www.ranchoelchorro.org/index.htm>. It is located just west of the main part of San Luis Obispo at [2450 Pennington Creek Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA](#). The closest airport is San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport; it is 3.5 hours driving from LAX airport, 3.8 hours from SFO airport.

Lodging at Rancho El Chorro is in bunkhouse style cabins. We have five cabins reserved and each cabin holds up to 8 occupants. We will need to fill these to meet the budget, so no private rooms are available this year. Participants staying on site need to bring their own bedding and towels. If onsite accommodations are not acceptable, you can spend the night at motels nearby in San Luis Obispo (but need to arrange your own lodging). Or, tents are permitted on the grounds. But everyone will pay a share of the use fees imposed by the venue. Food will be provided by an excellent local caterer. A big part of the magic of SO BE FREE is participants interacting at meals and evening microscope sessions, so we strongly encourage folks to eat onsite with the group, whether staying onsite or off, so the food charge is included in registration.

Meals will begin with Friday dinner, and continue until breakfast on Monday morning. Box lunches will be provided for each day's field trips. Meals are served buffet style. Kitchen refrigerators are available for storage.

Meetings and Field Trips

We will have microscope identification sessions along with presentations from students and other people interested in sharing their work Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings. We will also discuss the various field trip options then. There will be field trips morning and afternoon on Saturday and Sunday. Trips on Monday morning will be organized but will be informal.

Beginners session. We are reaching out local students and botanists to introduce them to bryophytes, so we have made it possible for locals to attend only the Saturday morning beginners session (9:00-12:00; March 30), with no meals or housing included, for \$20. The beginners session is included at no extra cost for anyone registering for the full foray. We do encourage folks to go the full immersion route and stay for the full foray, but if your time is limited you will get a lot out of the Saturday morning session.

Registration

Registrations will be processed by Kiamara Ludwig (chapter treasurer). Please email kiamara@juno.com with registration questions only. We can accept credit cards through Pay Pal and Xoom.

Questions about the foray itself and room assignments will be coordinated by Ken Kellman kkellman@sbcglobal.net.

Please fill in the registration form below, print it, and return by snail mail with your check to the address indicated on the form. Please complete a separate registration form and waiver for each participant.

Confirmations will be by email only so please remember to include your email address. Rancho El Chorro will not accept direct reservations! Room reservations will be filled on a first-come first-served basis, so please register early! **The Registration Deadline is 26 Feb 2019.**

There is a \$25 discount for members of the Bryophyte Chapter of the California Native Plant Society -- to join see: <http://bryophyte.cnps.org>.

Weather is a wild card this time of year. The rainy season will be nearly, but not completely, over. Plan on bringing appropriate rain gear as well as sunscreen and hats. Maps, camp information, and logistical details will be sent via email to registrants. Information on campgrounds will be sent on request.

SOBEFREE 24 -- 29 March to 1 April 2019

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT FORM

Please complete a separate form & waiver for each participant!
Please make your check payable to CNPS . Please write "Bryophyte Chapter SO BE FREE 24" in the memo line, and fill out the waiver form. Then please mail your check and signed waiver form to:

Kiamara Ludwig
3729 Woodruff Ave
Oakland, Calif 94602

We prefer checks but if you wish to use Paypal or Xoom, please email kiamara@juno.com and Kia and Kiamara will send the link directly to you. You still need to mail her your waiver form.

All registrations must be received by February 26, 2019!

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone No: _____ Email: _____

People you would like to share a bunkhouse with who are paying separately (otherwise roommates will be assigned) _____

Children in Group? _____

Gender _____

Please check if you will be staying off site:

Meal restrictions _____

Emergency contact name/ phone number _____

Costs are per person, and include 8 meals, 3 nights housing if staying onsite, and facility use:

General Registration Fee; staying **onsite** in a cabin: \$338 per person \$_____

Student Registration Fee; staying **onsite** in a cabin: \$213 per student \$_____

General Registration Fee; staying **offsite** or tenting: \$282 per person \$_____

Student Registration Fee; staying **offsite** or tenting: \$157 per student \$_____

CNPS bryophyte chapter member subtract \$25

Donation to help offset student subsidy \$_____

Total \$_____

Registration fee for locals for only the Saturday morning beginners session (includes no housing or meals); this session is included for no extra charge for those registering in one of the above categories): \$20 per person \$_____

I will pay via Paypal: (email kiamara@juno.com to set this up, but return this registration form and waiver also]

PLEASE REMEMBER TO ATTACH CHECK AND WAIVER FORM

SEE YOU THERE!!

Bryophyte Chapter of California Native Plant Society

Waiver for SO BE FREE 24 based at Rancho El Chorro in San Luis Obispo,
29 March to 1 April 2019

Understanding of Risks: This CNPS field trip carries with it various risks. Some, but not all of these, include risk of personal injury or death, and damage to, loss of or theft of property. The set of field trips involves exploring rough terrain with many opportunities to clamber around on rocks and in ravines where surfaces may be slippery. Individuals are urged to use caution and to not press to the limit of their abilities.

Waiver and Release. In consideration for being allowed to participate in this set of trips, the undersigned participant voluntarily assumes all risks associated with participating in these trips — from any cause whatsoever — even if caused by the negligence or other misconduct of CNPS, its trip leaders, any other participant on the trip, or any third parties or other causes. Further, the participant releases CNPS, its trip leaders, and all others acting on its behalf, from any claim for damages of any kind, whether injury, death, or damage to, or loss or theft of, property caused by, or resulting from participating in this trip. Similarly, the undersigned participant releases Rancho El Chorro from any claim for damages of any kind, whether injury, death, or damage to, or loss or theft of, property caused by, or resulting from participating in SO BE FREE 24.

Name (Print) _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Email _____

Emergency Name _____ Emergency Phone _____

If the above person is a minor: The form must also be signed by a parent or other legal guardian

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____