
Obispoensis

Newsletter of the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the California Native Plant Society



MAY 2008

About the Cover

The drawing on the cover on this issue of the *Obispoensis* is one that Bonnie drew for a banquet program cover back in 1978. This is one of Bonnie's lost drawings. Eight originals of her early drawings were loaned to P.G. and E. for a pamphlet they planned to produce. As far as known, the pamphlet was never produced. Later, when the Chapter asked to have the original drawings back, we were told they were lost. The program cover, along with the program, was "found" while the historian was going through some old chapter records.

Many of you will recognize the plant as the Obispo star tulip or *Calochortus (Cyclobothra) obispoensis*. This is the plant, along with the Obispo manzanita (*Arctostaphylos obispoensis*) that inspired Alice Meyer to name our newsletter, the *Obispoensis*. She wanted a name for our newsletter that uniquely identified our Chapter's location. She asked if it would be proper to use the species epithet, which is often technically an adjective or noun in apposition, for a newsletter name. None of the Board at the time had any problem with it. In addition the flower of the Obispo star tulip was later incorporated into our chapter logo.

Calochortus obispoensis is not one of the most beautiful species in its genus. Its flowers are only moderate in size and produced in relatively small numbers per tall, rangy plant. Its sepals are brownish and the petals, what can be seen of them, are a kind of dirty yellow. The top of the petals is nearly obscured by a myriad of long brown hairs. According to Dr. Robert Hoover in his *Vascular Plants of SLO County*, it ranges from the ridge north west of Cuesta Pass through Reservoir Canyon and across the San Luis valley into the Irish Hills (San Luis Range) and south nearly to Arroyo Grande. In the vicinity of SLO it is found exclusively on serpentine derived soils but migrates to sandstone derived soils in the south. As one might expect of a species with such a restricted range, it is considered very rare.

Calochortus, as now recognized, has at least three other quite distinct flower forms. The form for which that Dr. Hoover kept the genus name and the one that has priority for the name is what we locally give the common name fairy lantern, *Calochortus albus*. This species is locally common and comes in either white or red varieties. Their flowers are drooping and its large petals form a more or less closed chamber. The second type of *Calochortus* produces upright flowers that form an open bowl. This form Dr. Hoover gave the genus name *Mariposa*. Mariposa is also the common name for this type of *Calochortus*.

Locally we have several species of mariposas. The last type of *Calochortus* and the one profiled here has petals that spread out horizontally so that the flower is flat. The petals are widest at the base and pointed at the tips. These resemble a star and are commonly called star tulips. Dr. Hoover put these forms in his genus *Cyclobothra*. The Obispo star tulip is our only local star tulip.
Illustration by Bonnie K. Walters - Text by Dirk R. Walters

Conservation

We have a couple of issues on off-road vehicle damage in Los Padres National Forest, and there is a possibility that we could need some work parties. The first issue was reported at the West Cuesta Ridge Interest Group, convened by Neil Havlik, where we heard that illegal "downhill" bike trails have been cut through the botanic area, and that wooden ramps and other structures have been constructed. The Forest Service was present at the meeting, but I don't yet know if we will play a roll on clean up. The second issue involves dirt bikes making an end run around the pipe fence that protects the Camatta Canyon amole (photo at right) at Red Hill Road, which CNPS helped build. There are now wheel tracks over a considerable area on the east side of the road, where dirt bikes are coming around the southern end of the fence. Forest Service said they would deliver fence, but I am still not sure if they are going to install it. Speaking of amole, we may be helping out on an amole-mapping project at Camp Roberts soon.



We are watching with some concern the mounting opposition to the addition of Smart Growth principles to the General Plan, which would result in less sprawl and better protection of open space and agriculture. Developers, ranchers with an eye of development, and real estate people dominated testimony to the Board of Supervisors.
- David Chipping

Chapter Meeting

Thursday, May 1: David Magney, a noted botanist and conservationist, will discuss and show us the rare plants of Ventura County, and also about how Channel Islands Chapter of CNPS managed to obtain better protection for these plants from county government. Vets Hall, Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, 7 p.m. social half-hour, 7:30 p.m. business meeting.

Field Trips

Saturday, May 3, 8:30 a.m. A Horticulturist's Walk in the Wild: East Cuesta Ridge. Meet at the Vets Hall at 8:30 a.m. to car pool, or meet us at the trailhead at 8:45 a.m. From SLO drive north on Hwy 101 to the top of Cuesta Grade (elevation 1,522 ft.). Just as you reach the top there is a pull out on the right hand side of the road. The trail is a dirt road behind a locked gate. We may walk as far as 4.6 miles to the radio towers at ~2,300 ft. This hike offers a great diversity of plants as well as spectacular views of SLO, the Morros and the south coast. Bring water and snacks. Well socialized dogs on leash welcome. Rated moderately strenuous, 5 hrs. if we go the whole 9 miles. Please confirm with leader Dagmar Collins, 528-7533, dagmar@slonet.org.

Saturday, May 3, 9:30 a.m. LPNF and CNPS Pozo Wildflower Weekend, Pozo Fire Station: As part of its eighth Annual Wildflower Weekends The Santa Lucia District, Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) we'll meet at the Pozo Fire Station on Pozo Road, south of SR 58 at 9:30 a.m.. This will be a "drive & stroll" tour of wildflowers in conjunction with the local California Native Plant Society Chapter along Hi Mountain Road, including some serpentine areas, and the Lookout Station, now a focal point of the Condor Recovery Program. Sturdy shoes, lunch and liquids, and camera and binoculars recommended. Call Helen Tarbet at 925-9538 ext. 246 or Charles Blair 733-3189 for details.

Saturday, May 31, 8:30 am. A Horticulturist's Walk in the Wild: Rinconada Trail. Hike the Santa Lucia Wilderness Mountains on the western edge of the Santa Margarita valley with a gardener's eye on native vegetation along the way. Meet at 8:30 a.m. Vets Hall or 9:00 a.m. Santa Margarita Park-and-Ride on Hwy. 58 (101 N/ Santa Margarita Exit). From there we'll go on to the Rinconada Trailhead which is located on Pozo Road just 2.7 miles past the road to Santa Margarita Lake. We'll hike up grassy slopes with abundant wildflowers, through blue oak woodlands and fragrant chaparral until we reach the

summit after 2 miles. There we'll enjoy spectacular views of surrounding mountains before heading back. It can get warm here, so wear layers, maybe a hat, and definitely sturdy shoes. Bring water and snacks. **Well socialized dogs on leash welcome on this walk.** Rated easy to moderate, 4 hrs. Please confirm with leader Dagmar Collins, 528-7533, dagmar@slonet.org.

Thursday Hikes (all start at 9:30 a.m.)

May 1 San Simeon State Park loop. Meet at beach parking lot opposite San Simeon State Park.

May 22 (tentative- call 528-0914 a day or so before to check) Field Ranch, south end of Montana de Oro State Park. Meet at Coon Creek parking lot.

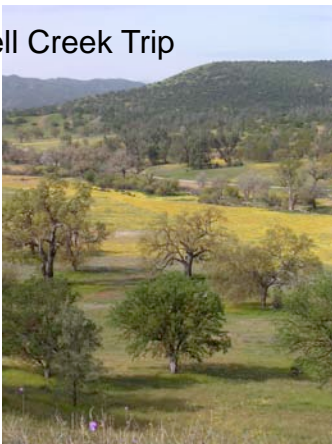
May 29 (tentative- call 528-0914 a day or so before to check) Clarkia hunt. Meet at SLO Vets Hall parking lot.

Special Event

Sunday, May 18 – CNPS and Audubon 3rd Annual Picnic at Santa Margarita Lake. See page 4. Additional information contact Alan Schmierer, aaschmierer@yahoo.com, 772-2026, David Chipping, dchippin@calpoly.edu, 528-0914, or Jan Surbey jansurbey@earthlink.net, 772-7273.



Shell Creek Trip



May Picnic at Santa Margarita Lake

Sunday, May 18

Plan to attend this third collaborative Morro Coast Audubon Society and California Native Plant Society picnic. Enjoy field trips, a day at the lake, good company, and plenty of food. Both members and the general public are welcome! Day use fees will be waived for all picnic participants.

Schedule of Events

RIVER ROAD ACCESS

8:00-11:00 AM BIRDING with Roger Zachary at RIVER ROAD. An easy 3 mile walk along the Salinas River before it flows into the lake. Appropriate for all experience levels.

WHITE OAK PICNIC AREA (handicap accessible)

9:00 AM BIRDING with Mike Stiles and Alan Schmierer

9:00 AM DESTINATION HIKE with Ken Klis

10:00 AM KAYAK / CANOE with Joe Dickerson.
Bring PFDs sunscreen, binoculars.

10:00 AM PLANT & GEOLOGY WALK with David Chipping and other CNPA leaders.

10:30 AM BEGINNER'S WATERFOWL WATCH with Rouvaishyana and Christy Holmes. Kids and beginning birders; learn to use binoculars and field guides (provided).

11:00 AM MOUNTAIN BIKING with Ken Klis. Participants must be at least 10 years of age and wear a helmet.

11:30-1:30 PACIFIC WILDLIFE CARE Enjoy up close encounters with live birds.

NOON PICNIC Join the PICNIC FEAST. Bring your own sandwich (or something to grill) a side dish, snack, or dessert to share and your own reusable place setting and cup. Throw in your picnic tablecloth if possible. Assorted drinks provided by MCAS.

1:00-2:00 PM WATER COLORING WILDFLOWERS with Janine Kirkpatrick. Bring a "sit upon". Materials provided.

ONGOING (throughout the day)

WATERFOWL AND WOODPECKER WATCH: Bird watching around the picnic area

FISHING: Kid's Cove (for kid's only) and shore fishing around picnic area

HIKING: Grey Pine Trailhead located at picnic area

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM: Self-directed activities for school-age children

SELF-DIRECTED LAKE ACTIVITIES

DIRECTIONS to Santa Margarita Lake White Oak Picnic area: Hwy. 101 to Santa Margarita (Highway 58) exit. Drive through Santa Margarita. Turn right on Highway 58. At the junction with Pozo Road (approx. 2 miles), stay on Pozo Road for approximately 7 miles and follow the signs to the Santa Margarita Lake turnoff. Turn left and drive one mile to the park entrance. Turn right after entering the gate and follow the road for one mile to the White Oak Picnic area. Allow 30-40 minutes from SLO.

DIRECTIONS to RIVER ROAD ACCESS: Follow the above directions until the Santa Margarita Lake turnoff. Instead of turning, continue driving straight on Pozo Road for approximately 7.8 miles. Immediately after the bridge, turn left on RIVER ROAD and continue another 2.2 miles to the staging area on the left side of the road. Allow 45-50 minutes from SLO .



FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD

Chapter members. The Chapter Board has revised our bylaws for the first time since 1992, and will present them for a membership vote at the May general meeting. Apart from minor changes, the important changes have removed 'County' from San Luis Obispo County chapter, as our reach incorporates northern Santa Barbara County, we have removed the position of Corresponding Secretary from the Board, and we have expanded the mission of the Horticultural Committee, which now incorporates the Plant Sale Committee, Duties of the President regarding the statewide Chapter Council have been added, the timetable for Nomination Committee reporting has been changed, the Wildflower Weekend Committee is dissolved and we have added an Invasive Plants Committee.

BY - LAWS of the SAN LUIS OBISPO CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Article I: NAME

This organization shall be known as the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

Article II: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

The purpose and objective of this chapter is to help protect California Native Plants through the following efforts:

- 1) Group study classes and guided field trips;
- 2) Work toward establishment of native plant reserves and protected areas;
- 3) Identification of and monitoring of rare and/or endangered plant species and plant communities;
- 4) Identification of and monitoring of plant species and communities threatened with destruction;
- 5) Reduction and control of the spread of invasive non-native plants,
- 6) Cooperation with established native plant gardens and encouraging formation of new ones; and,
- 7) Cooperation with other conservation groups in the county.
- 8) Encourage the use of native plants in horticulture.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Sec. 1 Any person interested in native plants is eligible for membership in the State organization and can choose to be affiliated with this chapter.

Sec. 2 Level of membership for the Chapter shall be the same as those of the state California Native Plant Society.

Sec. 3 All levels of members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of membership in both the local chapter and the state California Native Plant Society.

Article IV: GENERAL MEETINGS

Sec. 1 The chapter shall hold a minimum of six (6) general meetings each year at times and places established by the Executive Board.

Sec. 2 Field trips and gatherings where business is to be conducted shall be so designated in the notice of the meeting.

Sec. 3 Fifteen (15) members shall constitute a quorum for conducting business at a general meeting.

Sec. 4 The Nomination Committee shall be announced at the next-to-last meeting of the year (usually November).

Sec. 5 Election of chapter officers shall be at the last general meeting of the year (usually December).

Article V: OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Sec. 1 The elected officers of the chapter shall be; President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, ~~Corresponding Secretary~~ and Treasurer. The President may appoint a Parliamentarian.

- Sec. 2 President shall: (A) Preside at all regular and special meetings of the chapter and the Executive Board; (B) appoint, with Board approval, Committee Chairs as needed to conduct the work of the chapter; (C) keep a list of committees and their members and file committee reports; (D) prepare an Annual Report of the year's activities and submit a copy to the State Recording Secretary, (E) be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee, and (F) represent the Chapter at the Chapter Council or select an Alternate who is also a member of the Board to be Chapter Representative.
- Sec. 3 Vice President shall: (A) Perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President or at the President's request; (B) Arrange programs for all general meetings; (C) Assist the President in carrying out the duties of the office, and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.
- Sec. 4 Recording Secretary shall: (A) Keep minutes of all proceedings of the Executive Board; and (B) write such correspondence as requested by the Board.
- ~~Sec. 5 Corresponding Secretary shall: (A) conduct correspondence of the chapter; and (B) be a member of the Conservation Committee.~~
- Sec. 5 Treasurer shall: (A) Sign all checks co-signed by the President or other Board designate; (B) pay bills approved by the Board; (C) Submit a report at each Board meeting with a copy to the Recording Secretary; (D) provide the State Treasurer annually a financial report for the calendar year and quarterly with a report on taxable sales; and (E) advise the Board on investments.
- Sec. 6 Term of office shall be for one year or until successor is elected and qualifies.

Article VI: EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Sec. 1 The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers and the Chair of each standing committee.
- Sec. 2 The Executive Board shall consider and set general policy, fill vacancies in any office or chair for the unexpired term, and transact the business of the chapter.
- Sec. 3 Meetings of the Board shall be called by the President with members being notified of the time and place at least five (5) days in advance.
- Sec. 4 Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Board.

Article VII: STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Sec. 1 Committee Chairs shall be filled by the President subject to approval by the elected officers. The Term of office shall be for one year or less, depending on the duration of need.
- Sec. 2 The Chair of each committee is a voting member of the Executive Board.
- Sec. 3 Committees shall keep a written record of their activities and make them available on request from the Executive Board.
- Sec. 4 The chapter shall have the following standing committees:
- A) Field Trips: Organize and direct outings for chapter members and guests
 - B) Conservation: Make recommendations to the Board on issues affecting conservation and preservation of California native plants and their habitats; (2) Keep the President informed of all public correspondence; and (3) submit minutes of meetings to the President and Recording Secretary.
 - C) Horticulture: (1) Conduct annual plant sale ,(2) train members in propagating California native plants, and (3) encourage members to grow them.
 - D) Newsletter: Publish and distribute the chapter newsletter known as *The Obispoensis*.
 - E) Rare Plants: Maintain a list of all rare plants in the county. Assemble information about those rare plants. Do plant searches as necessary. Communicate with State CNPS Botanist and do surveys as requested.
 - F) Plant Communities: Identify and locate all plant communities in SLO county and create a map. Evaluate coverage, status and need for protection.

- G) Education: Communicate to public at large, especially grades K-12, the value of native plants in ecosystems and home gardens. Promote through talks, displays.
- H) Invasive Plants: Track plant pest issues affecting the chapter area of interest and retain relationship with County Weed Management Area and similar organizations..
- I) Membership: Maintain chapter membership list, update as needed with State CNPS.
- J) Publicity: Distribute meeting announcements and field trips to media.
- K) Photography: Maintain a library of images for use by the Chapter.
- L) Historian: Maintain an orderly history of chapter activities and preserve such records and properties as designated by the Board.
- M) Web Site:

Sec. 5 The chapter shall have the following Ad Hoc committees:

- A) Nominations: Select a slate of officers for election
 - B) Hoover Award: The committee shall consist of previous Hoover Award recipients who will meet to select a person to receive this annual award.
- C) Publications

Article VIII: NOMINATION, ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1 The President shall appoint a member to select a group of at least three (3) members. ~~They shall be presented to the general membership as nominees for the purpose of electing them as Nominating Committee at the November meeting.~~

Sec. 2 Suggestions for nominations of officers may be submitted to the Nominating Committee by any chapter member.

Sec. 3 The Nominating Committee shall report its slate of office nominees at the last general meeting of the calendar year, at which time the election will be held.

Sec. 4 The election of any officer shall be by ballot if more than one candidate has been nominated for the office. When there is only one candidate for an office, the election may be by voice vote. A majority vote of members present and voting shall elect.

Sec. 5 Elected officers shall be installed at the regular meeting in January. The retiring President shall be the installing officer or shall have the authority to select an installing officer.

Article IX: CHAPTER STATUS

The State Board of Directors may terminate or suspend the chapter status if the membership drops below fifteen (15) members or if the chapter takes any action inconsistent with the articles of the State Society.

Article X: COMMITMENTS

The San Luis Obispo Chapter shall not enter into any commitments that are binding on the California Native Plant Society without authorization from the latter. In like manner, the California Native Plant Society shall make no commitments that are binding on the chapter without its consent.

Article XI: AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a ~~regular~~ regular meeting provided a copy of the proposed amendment is included in the notice of such meeting.

Article XII: AUTHORITY

"Robert's Rules of Order, Revised" shall be used as a guide to govern parliamentary procedures of the chapter.

Revised May 2008

Dedicated to the Preservation of the California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's plants. The mission of the Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education and conservation. Membership is open to all.

Membership includes the quarterly journal, *Fremontia*, the quarterly *Bulletin*, which gives statewide news and announcements of the Society activities and conservation issues, and the chapter newsletter, *Obispoensis*.



*San Luis Obispo Chapter of the
California Native Plant Society*
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Malcolm McLeod Memorial Field Trip to Shell Creek

*Yes, it was a superb outing; oceans of color, incredible vistas,
warm and informative conversation, and a bunch of people with
their hearts in the right place.*

– Bill Waycot

