
Obispoensis

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



October 2016

California Goldenrod (*Solidago velutina* ssp. *californica* or *S. californica*)

The photo by Dr. David Chipping that accompanies this note are of the California goldenrod (*Solidago velutina* ssp. *californica* or *Solidago californica*). According to Dr. Hoover in his Vascular Plants of San Luis Obispo County, California goldenrod is found primarily in sandy soils in the western portion of our county.. It prefers open grasslands or edges of wood and shrub lands. It never seems to me to be overly abundant. The currently recognized species (*S. velutina*) can be found throughout the Western North America from Mexico into southern Canada. As might be expected of a species with this wide a range, it has been subdivided in a number of sub-specific units. And this is certainly the case. Only two of the subspecies are likely to be encountered in California (*S. v. ssp. californica* and *S. v. ssp. sparsiflora*). Subspecies *sparsifolia* need not concern us here as it is found primarily in Eastern California and adjacent states. . Subspecies *californica* is found throughout California (except the S.E. Deserts) but is especially common in the California Floristic Province which includes essentially all of California west of the Cascade, Sierra Nevada, and Peninsular Range axis. In the Morro Bay area I've seen it in the grasslands around Shark Inlet.

In Dr. Hoover's Flora this plant is recognized as *S. californica*. In the most recent Jepson Manual, *S. californica* has been reduced to a subspecies of *S. velutina*. How can this happen? Is it just the whim of the experts? According to the internet, relatively recent numerical taxonomic work on a number of similar, but separately described species of goldenrod indicated that they were more closely related than previously thought. That they were separately described as species should be expected. Until recent advances in communication, taxonomists tended to do plant identification studies primarily on the plants of their immediate area. They would have had little opportunity to travel and visit reference collections far from home. They would encounter forms of plants that were readily distinguishable from other plants in their area. So why not describe them as a new species. Now, of course, taxonomists have many more tools to help them find characters unknowable to earlier workers. Mass transit and communication help modern taxonomists to know what others have done or are doing. Equally important they have computers to help analyze all this data. So why not expect lots of changes.

In my limited search of the literature and internet, I found three common names. These are velvety goldenrod in

Jepson and California goldenrod or 3-nerve goldenrod everywhere else. The name goldenrod I think refers to my observation that most of them produce clusters on unbranched stems (= "rods") topped with clusters of bright golden flowers (i.e. 'gold bearing rods'). Most of the plants answering to the California goldenrod subspecies have densely fuzzy or velvet leaves. 3-nerved golden rod refers to the fact that a 'few' of the larger plants produce leaves with 3 major veins running from base to tip. I suggest this is not the best common name as it is misleading as only a few of the largest plants produce 3-veined leaves. California goldenrod is the best as this subspecies is essentially restricted to our state.

California goldenrod is highly recommended for the native plant garden. It prefers moist soils but is relatively tolerant of drier soils from sandy to light clay. It's going to do best in sunny locations. It is attractive to a number of different classes of pollinators so it is great for those who would like to encourage beautiful, beneficial insects to visit their garden. Lastly, one internet site showed pictures of yarn dyed a beautiful yellow color using extracts from California goldenrod..

One last thing about goldenrods in general. Where I grew up, in the Midwest, there were a large number of species of goldenrods and they were exceptionally widespread and numerous. Many species could even be said to be 'weedy'. Like a lot of members of the sunflower family, they tended to bloom in the late summer into fall. This is also when another member of the sunflower family bloomed-rag weed (*Ambrosia trifida* among others). Rag weeds are unusual composites in that they produce tiny, wind pollinated flowers. Rag weeds were nearly as or more common than goldenrods but because of their tiny flowers many didn't even recognize they were blooming. However they were blooming and they produced exceedingly huge amount of wind-borne pollen. This made rag weed pollen a major component in allergy forecasts. Unfortunately, announcers would say, "the rag weed and goldenrod pollen counts were high". I had a botany professor who told the class that goldenrod were included in the forecasts only because it was common and conspicuous. Goldenrods are insect pollinated and therefore would produce little pollen and that wouldn't have been released into the air. In fact, it would be sticky so it could stick to the pollinator's bodies.

Dr. Dirk Walters

Obispoensis is published October through June except January. Items for submittal to *Obispoensis* should be sent to dchippin@calpoly.edu. The deadline is the 10th of each month. Botanical articles, news items, illustrations, photos, events and tidbits are welcome!

Visit the websites www.cnps.org and www.cnpslo.org

President's Input

Diana and I made our annual pilgrimage to the Sierra Nevada Mts. in mid-August this year. We chose to backpack to the lakes and peaks accessible from the Lake Sabrina trailhead, west of Bishop, CA. I thought it would be a good idea to present some photos of our trek, since many of our chapter members may not have been as fortunate as we in reaching the higher elevations of the Sierras. During our six-days on the trail, we were treated to a visit to 12 lakes in the basin, many being snow fed and having that blue color one never cannot forget once seen. It was magical!

The photos presented here are of species that are found at timberline, roughly 11,500 ft. above sea level. These plants were all in full bloom at the time of our visit, meaning “spring” had finally reached these high elevations by mid-August.



Lupinus breweri Brewer's lupine



Epilobium obcordatum Willowweed, Rockfringe



Salix petrophila
Alpine willow



Aquilegia pubescens
Sierra columbine



Primula fragrans
Scented shooting star



Erigeron compositus
Cutleaf daisy



Calyptridium umbellatum Pussy paws



Pinus albicaulis Whitebark pine

Editor's Note: Readers of the paper version of *Obispoensis* will miss the beautiful colors of Bill's photos that you can see in our web site version. You will see a treasure house of members' and guests' pictures at our NEXT MEETING!. See Next Page

CHAPTER MEETING

Oct 6, 2016 - Thursday - 7pm

(Seed Exchange 6:00-7:15 see below)

Dessert Potluck and Members' Slide Show

Bring a dessert to share and your 15 best digital photos (please bring them on a flash drive and number/letter titles consecutively if you wish to show them in a particular order). Meet at the Veterans Hall, 801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo.

SEED EXCHANGE BEFORE OCTOBER MEETING

A seed exchange is planned for the time slot from 6:00 to 7:15 before the October meeting. If you have been hard at work collecting this spring and summer, the time is almost here to part with those seeds. If you are interested in growing from seed, here is your chance to obtain free seed to try your hand at propagation.

Just a cautionary note: Plants grown from seed may not come true. Many of our natives hybridize so that the seed of the *Mimulus aurantiacus* growing near the *Mimulus puniceus* may produce some interesting flower colors. The result may not be what you expect. It might be delightful or it might not. These garden produced seeds will generally not be appropriate for use in restoration projects. If you are willing to devote your time and effort and take a chance on garden grown seed then this is the before-the-meeting event you want to attend.

The plan is that we will set up tables and anyone who brings seed can place it on those tables. The seed from one collector will all be kept in the same area so if you have a box or a tray to contain your seeds that might prove helpful. You may stay with your seed to educate those interested or you may go 'shopping' to see what is available. It would be best if seed was parceled out into quantities that a person could walk away with and the packets labeled with genus and species. You should be able to supply the information of the date of collection and location of collection. But if you don't want to go to that effort bulk seed will be acceptable. Please have it cleaned to the best of your ability. Also please supply as many envelopes as possible.

Those who are 'shopping' may need to bring their own envelopes. Most of us get plenty of envelopes in junk mailings. Let's repurpose those into seed envelopes. You may also need a writing implement to label those envelopes. Seeds will not be sold. This is a free exchange.

Tables will need to be put away before the actual meeting begins so this will be a rather quick event. Hopefully we will all enjoy it and we will want to try it again next year. Left over seed will be accepted for possible packaging for the plant sale in November. Seeds appropriate for the propagation group experiments might be sequestered for those members.

See you there. Marti Rutherford

Invasive Species of the Month- *Erigeron bonariensis*

Hairy Fleabane or Flax Leaved Horseweed

Family: Asteraceae, Place of Origin: South America



Hairy fleabane is aptly named: it is strigose (set with stiff bristles or hairs) throughout the plant - stems, leaves, flowers. Hairy fleabane is an low annual, (about 8" to 3') and thrives in disturbed areas. I've seen it emerge in cracks in pavement and in areas formerly occupied by European beachgrass in the Dunes. Often, it is present with *Erigeron canadensis* - Horseweed, which is native to North America. Horseweed, along with another native composite, *Heterotheca grandiflora* - Telegraph weed are the most unattractive weedy natives in California. Hairy fleabane produces many urn or barrel shaped flowers, the fluffy seeds are sandy colored and distributed by the breeze. In the Dunes it is competing with other composites such as Dunedelions and Cudweeds and should be removed.
Mark Skinner

NIPOMO NATIVE GARDEN FALL PLANT SALE

Saturday, October 1, 9 AM to 1 PM

Nipomo Native Garden Parking Lot on Osage Tefft to Pomeroy, left on Camino Caballo. Right on Osage

Wide Variety of Landscaping Plants, Many Drought Tolerant Grasses
Shrubs, Trees

NNG Tee Shirts & Caps, Information, Advice
Great Plants - Great Prices Support our all volunteer local
Botanical Garden For more information 929---3589

A BIG THANK YOU

Even though CNPS took the summer off, we're certainly glad that you didn't forget about us. We are so grateful to all of our new and renewing members for your support in the coming year. We hope to see you at upcoming chapter meetings, field trips and our annual plant sale this fall.

Warren Arnold
Jesse Arnold
Jay Bonestell
Jean Burns Slater
Dagmar Collins
Woodrow Eggers
Connie Geiger
John & Esther Gowan
Susan Grimaud
Don Gruenewald
Robert Klay

Michael Keeshen
Kevin Merk
Robin Mize
Marilyn Miller
Judy Neuhauser & John Chesnut
Elliott Paulson
Bryan Potter
Natalie & Michael Schaefer
Simon Timms
Amy Sinsheimer & Rodney Thurman
James Smith

PLANT SALE ANNOUNCEMENT

Suzette and I would like to invite any and all members, new or old to please volunteer to help at this year's annual plant sale; Saturday, November 5th. There are many jobs to be done and I can always match you to something that fits best for you. Some jobs are setting up chairs and tables, unloading plants, directing traffic, assisting with plant sales, and answering plant related questions. It's a great way to meet new people, talk to old friends, learn plant names, and get some exercise. We will have books, posters, T-shirts, ... ooh did I forget to say volunteers get first pick on plants before the sale starts.

As always the plant sale is our biggest fundraiser for the year. The money we earn goes towards meeting room rental, web page maintenance and upgrades, and Obispoensis newsletter printing and mailing.

So if you can please fill out the slip at the end of this newsletter and snail mail (P.O. Box 6401, Los Osos CA 93412) or e-mail at me @ grityls@gmail.com or call @ 805/674-2034 with any questions. Just indicate hours that you can help. You can also hand the slip to Suzette or I at our October 6th or November 3 meetings. Until then Happy Gardening, John and Suzette.

ARROYO GRANDE VALLEY HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Sept. 24th from 10:00 to 5:00 CNPS-SLO will have a booth as part of the Agriculture Pavilion during the 79th Arroyo Grande Valley Harvest Festival. This booth will be informational and educational in nature. It will a good opportunity to promote the appreciation of our native flora as well to promote the use of California native plants in gardens throughout the south county. We will also be able to encourage people to attend our CNPS Plant Sale on Sat. Nov. 5th at Pacific Beach High School in SLO. If you will be at the Harvest Festival please come by and say hello. If you have a few hours and would like to help out in the booth that would be greatly appreciated. If so, please email Mardi Niles at: mlniles@sbcglobal.net.

Plant Name Corrections for "Wildflowers of San Luis Obispo, California"

For those of you that have copies of the Wildflowers of San Luis Obispo, California Dr. David Keil has provided the following plant name corrections. This information will also be made available on our web site. In the index the clover on p.86 should be changed, but the *Nemophila* entry on p. 85 is correct.

<u>Page</u>	<u>Name in Book</u>	<u>Correct Nomenclature</u>
67	White-tip Clover <i>Trifolium variegatum</i>	Tomcat Clover <i>Trifolium willdenovii</i>
72	<i>Nemophila pedunculata</i>	<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>

Conservation: Justin Winery and the Draft Native Tree Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance

As most of you know, Justin Winery, part of Estate Vineyards LLC (a division of the Resnik family's Wonderful Corporation agricultural conglomerate), destroyed 100 acres of dense oak woodland. Neighbors in the Adelaida were enraged, and the County halted further work. Sadly, the removal of a couple of thousand oaks was NOT against county rules, but the illegal grading was, as was the construction of a large agricultural pond that was to be filled from local groundwater supplies. CNPS went to the initial hearing at the Board of Supervisors calling for adoption of an Urgency Oak Protection Ordinance that had been quickly written by county staff. The Board approved it on a 4 to 1 vote. The ordinance was just for 45 days, and CNPS conservation committee members worked very hard to make sure it would be renewed in August. We needed 4 of the 5 supervisors for an urgency ordinance and made personal contact with supervisors and rallied speakers to come to the second hearing. The Urgency Ordinance has been extended a further 9 months, with county staff tasked with crafting a permanent ordinance. CNPS is currently making a list of things we need to see in a permanent ordinance. In doing this we must address the concern of landowners that a poorly written ordinance could interfere with ranch operations requiring minor oak removals, as we would prefer the 'carrot' over the 'stick'. I think most county residents think Justin should get the 'log' rather than the 'stick', but until this moment there is little to protect trees on private lands. CNPS tried hard for an ordinance in the 1990s, but were stymied by opposition. At this time the Board of Supervisors is balanced between environmental sensitivity and property rights concerns, but this election might bring a change in balance that could put a permanent ordinance in jeopardy. *David Chipping*

Conservation: Management of Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has been developing a management plan for the wildlife refuge, and CNPS conservation committee gave input. To put it very simply, they presented three alternatives (A) keep on doing what they have been doing (B) Do more (C) Do less. They opted for (A), while CNPS wanted (B). USFWS tacked on a few items from the (B) list, including wild pig control and predator management to aid snowy plover and least tern, but seem to be cutting back on some critical things. They "would reduce invasive vegetation control to when staffing resources or partnerships allow. We would annually monitor for the listed La Graciosa thistle and marsh sandwort" As invasive veldt grass is the greatest threat to the entire dune system, any reduction of control will, in the end, result in loss of the dune ecosystem. All this is, alas, budget driven.. *David Chipping*



Saturday, October 22, 9:00 am, a driving tour of Santa Rita Road, Templeton to Cayucos. This field trip will visit one of the more beautiful areas of San Luis Obispo County. The road follows a gentle, winding canyon that drains towards the Salinas River, leading to the ridge top, and then continues through another coastal drainage leading to Whale Rock Reservoir at Cayucos. There should be a profusion of fall color along the way. For carpooling, meet at Santa Rosa Park in San Luis Obispo at 8:30 am. The tour starts a 9:00 am from the Trader Joe's parking lot in Templeton, at Hwy 101 and Vineyard Drive. The tour will last about 3 hours. Call Bill at (805) 459-2103 for more information

Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve on the Rocks (or sand)

When CNPS Conservation team members John Chesnut and David Chipping joined with Marla Morrissey to form the Morro Estuary Greenbelt Alliance, the non-profit brought government agencies together to secure funds to protect rare dune habitat surrounding Los Osos. As a result of that effort, the Powell Properties north and east of the Los Osos Middle School, and the Butte property at the end of Butte Drive near Shark Inlet were brought into the State Parks system, as well as the 'Bayview Property' which is now called the Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve and under the management of California Dept. Fish and Wildlife. Unfortunately the funding to manage these parcels has either been sparse or non existent.

A CNPS conservation team has been cleaning out abandoned homeless camps within a literal stones throw of one of the two stands of Indian Knob mountain balm, and directly within a stand of Morro manzanita. There was evidence of fires and other scary things. The photos below show cleanout of one of the several piles of crud ata one site. A greater threat comes from thoughtless actions by the equestrian community that is cutting new trails in the fragile sand, cutting manzanita to allow horse access, and not yet responding to CNPS requests for dialog. CDFW attempts to manage trails consisted of a sheet of paper stapled to a pole 'closing' a trail and which vanished in days, and lately a bit of paper not much larger than a fortune cookie that was pinned to the post with partly penetrating thumb tacks. There have been no efforts to control veldt grass, which is taking over habitat of the rare lichen *Cladonia firma*.

In North America *Cladonia firma* is known from only four populations in California on the southeast side of Morro Bay, in Los Osos and at Montana d'Oro State Park in San Luis Obispo County. Interestingly, the species responds to fog. The picture on the right below show *Cladonia firma* green after a foggy night in early September.





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OCTOBER 6TH MEETING

**We will have some
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variety of colors and
sizes**



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



*San Luis Obispo Chapter of the
California Native Plant Society*
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CNPS Native Plant Sale Volunteer Sign Up

Pacific Beach High School, 11950 Los Osos Valley Road, San Luis Obispo Saturday, November 5, 2016

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Please mark the hours you can help

☐ 7-8a.m. ☐ 8-9a.m. ☐ 9-10a.m. ☐ 10-11a.m. ☐ 11-12p.m. ☐ 12-1p.m. ☐ 1-2p.m.

- Help as needed • Unload & set up plants • Set up tables • Sit at sales table • Hang Signs • Sell plants • Sell seeds • Load customers' plants • Cashier • Sell books & posters

Please complete this form and bring it to the October meeting for John Nowak or mail it to him at ?