Obispoensis

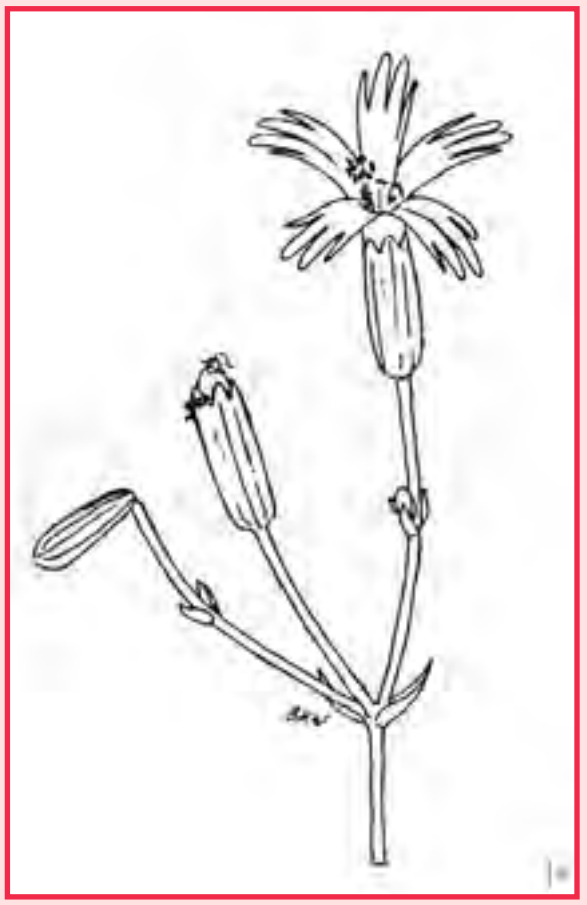
Newsletter of the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

February 2022

Silene laciniata Indian Pink

DIRK WALTERS

The west side of the Santa Lucia Mountains has had a couple of significant rains. This means that there will be a few native flowers to be seen on our scheduled walks, but it's still much too early for masses of flowers. However, if one stays aware one might see a bright red flower which around here is most often called Indian pink. Indian pink is also the name found in RF Hoover's, Vascular Plants of SLO County. But I found a better common name on the internet: cardinal catchfly. Either way it's *Silene laciniata*. Since it has very weak stems it has the habit of using other plants for support. So, look for it sticking out above surrounding shorter plants. It's usually hidden paired leaves are broadly joined at their base and appear, at first glance, to be quite grass-like. But no grass has opposite leaves, and a further close examination of the leaf blades will show a single larger mid-rib. Our Chapter area is near the northern extent of this species' range, but look for it in our coastal dunes and serpentine outcrops further inland.



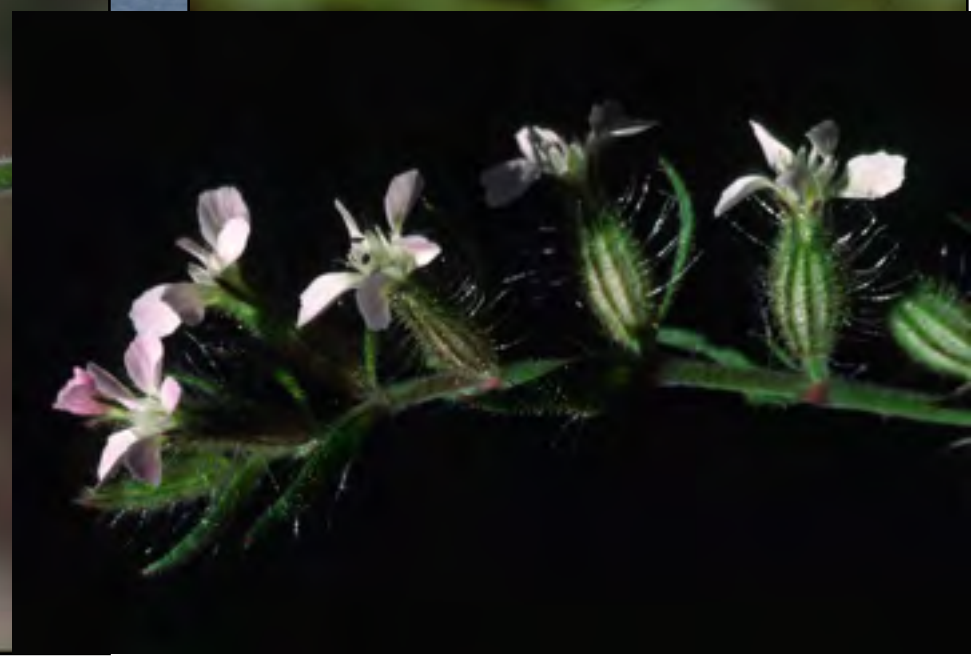
An examination of Bonnie's drawing will show what appear to be the five fused petals at the end of long tube. The tube is formed by the fused sepals (calyx). The petals are actually separate. If one were to slit down the side of the calyx tube, the five separate petals would simple fall away from each other. Each petal consists of two quite distinct regions. The showy part is bright red and is called by botanists the blade. Each thin basal portion is called the claw, and is the length of the tube. They are basally attached separately to the receptacle below the ovary. The sepals and stamens also attach to the receptacle. So, despite casual appearance, the ovary is superior.

The local common name, Indian pink, I believe to be the less desirable today because of the use of 'Indian'. The name, Indian, often indicates that the plant in question was used in some way by the native North American peoples. I didn't find any reference to their use of this species either on-line or in my library. I'm guessing that the use of the word, 'Indian,' here simply refers to it being native to California. The second name, pink, refers to a common trait in its family, Caryophyllaceae, or pink family. Pink, in this case, does not refer to the flower's color, which is bright red, but to the fringed petals. That is, it refers to a practice used by tailors to cut the edge of unsown fabric with special shears that leave the edge saw-toothed. The scissors are called pinking shears and their purpose is to prevent the edge from unraveling. Cardinal catchfly is a much better name. First the flowers are bright red like the plumage of a cardinal. The term, catchfly, refers to a common trait found in many flowers which produce lots of special trichomes (hairs) on their sepals. These individual trichomes resemble colored pins often used to stick into maps to indicate a location of interest. These trichomes have short shafts and large round distal heads. When mature, these 'heads' break down into an acrid, terrible tasting glob that is sticky enough to ensnare small insects such as flies and bees. Why would this be an advantage to the flower? Many flower visiting insects, when prevented from entering the flower the correct way, will attempt to steal nectar by biting a hole through the base of the flower or calyx. This is pure thievery as the insect gets the costly nectar without pollinating the flower. But the sticky, fowl tasting glandular hairs discourage this thievery.

How might a cardinal catchfly be pollinated? First thing we need to do is note that the only possible (legal) entrance to the deep, relatively narrow floral tube (where the nectar is produced at its base) is via a very tiny hole through which the style and stamen filaments emerge. So, a pollinator would have to either be small enough to enter the hole (not likely) or have a very, long, thin proboscis or tongue. That eliminates essentially all flies, bees and beetles which have short chewing mouth parts. That leaves three common long-proboscis pollinators – butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds. Butterflies usually require flowers that provide a landing platform. The Cardinal catchfly is oriented so that the showy parts (blades) of the petals are vertical, which does not provide a landing platform for butterflies. Cardinal catchflies bloom during the day so that should eliminate most moths. Further, I haven't noticed any pronounced floral odors produced by this flower. A day-flying pollinator that hovers in front of flower, possesses a long, thin beak (and even longer tongue), and with keen eyesight in the red portion of the spectrum would be a humming bird. In addition, birds tend to have little sense of smell. It's a conclusion that could have been easily gotten from the internet, but not nearly as fun.

COVER: *Silene laciniata*. subsp. *laciniata* (photo; David Chipping)

A few more *Silenes* for your viewing pleasure



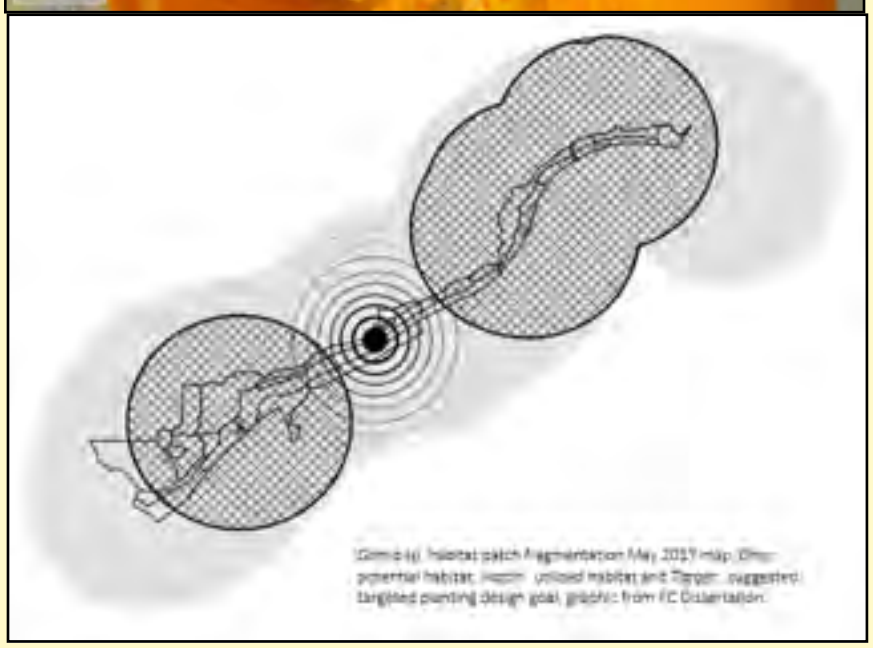
Dr. Keil notes two subspecies of *Silene laciniata* in SLO County, the common *S. laciniata* subsp. *laciniata* on the cover, and the much less common (within this county) S. *laciniata* subsp. *californica,* which is lower-growing and has a frilly look with unequally divided petals (upper left photo). On the lower left is *Silene multinerva*, named the 'fire-following campion' and was last seen by myself on West Cuesta Ridge following the Highway 41 Fire. On the upper right is *Silene lemmonii*. Lemmon's campion, which can be seen on rocky places in the Santa Lucia Mountains north of Santa Rita Creek. and the bottom right is the non-native *Silene gallica,* Windmill pink, which is widespread from the La Panza Range to the coast. All of these photos come from the Craig Cunningham collection of photos that he gifted to CNPS.

CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

Did you know that our chapter supports student research through an annual scholarship program? The Malcolm McLeod scholarship fund is one way in which our chapter supports young botanists and ecologists by providing direct funds to students for research projects. Each June, our annual scholarship recipients present their work as part of regular speaker series. In 2022, our Chapter is going to revise and update the scholarship guidelines for the Malcolm McLeod scholarship, with a primary emphasis on ensuring access to more diverse projects and students at our local university and community colleges. If you are interested in participating in committee discussions that will inform these revisions to our scholarship guidelines, please email Kristen Nelson **kmnelson.nativeplants@gmail.com**.

February Speaker: Kim Chacon

Landscape Design for Native Bees

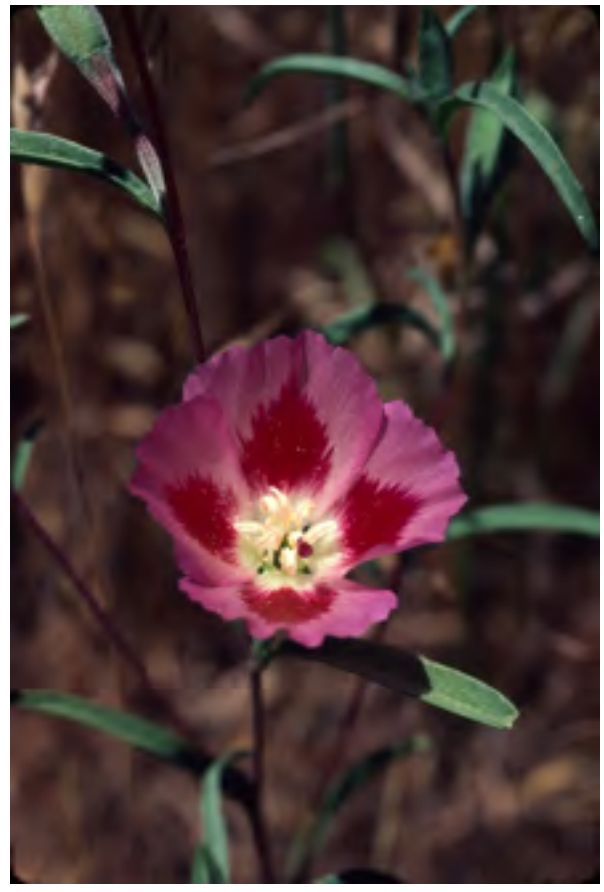


Help us kick off our 2022 speaker series with Dr. Kim Chacon, lecturer in the Landscape Architecture Department at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Landscape ecology is an extraordinary subject which has become evermore important in today's changing world. In 2022, the climate is changing, more people live in urban areas than ever before and habitat for wildlife suffers from habitat fragmentation and destruction. As gardeners and landscape designers, we have the power to help solve habitat issues with plantings for both people and wildlife. Systematic habitat studies and modifications can accommodate animal species if we choose to help. California boasts a fantastic variety of indigenous bees, with around 2,000 species! Habitat fragmentation is a widely cited problem for native bee populations, but we have the power to help them through informed landscape design. In this talk, we will explore the habitat needs of native bees and take a look at what Cal Poly's Landscape Architecture students have been developing over the last year. Students have been challenged to complete a series of landscape designs to ecologically encourage bees at different scales. In addition to designing excellent habitat landscapes, student designs were also challenged to educate and engage people. Sustainably resilient landscapes necessitate pollinators and the ecosystem services they provide. As designers we have the knowledge to support indispensable micro-fauna.

Registration to this meeting and the Zoom URL will be posted at our web site https://cnpsslo.org/

ILLEGAL GRADING DESTROYS PISMO CLARKIA HABITAT AT SITE OF PROPOSED LOS ROBLES DEL MAR SUBDIVISION ON THE PISMO BEACH FRINGE

Photo Credit: Santa Lucia Chapter of Sierra Club



Pismo clarkia: *Clarkia speciosa* ssp. *immaculata*
Photo Credit: Craig Cunningham

A couple of months ago I got a phone call from someone who said he had witnessed illegal grading on land set aside for the conservation of Pismo clarkia and oaks on the proposed Los Robles Del Mar subdivision. I asked the person to contact the Ventura office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and to get back to me. He did not, and I did not hear anything more. The next I heard of this was in this month's edition of the *Santa Lucian*, the newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, and from which we attained much of the information given here. My caller had contacted both the USFWS and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). In November CDFW visited the site, which was next to a planned vineyard, and found severe damage and 'unlawful take' under the Native Plant Protection Act, Fish and Game Code section 1908. This Act preceded the California Endangered Species Act. On Dec. 22, the US Fish and Wildlife Service also informed Central Coast Development that it had greatly exceeding the scope of its permit for grading and ground clearance at the expense of the federally endangered Pismo clarkia, "which is an annual plant species facing a high risk of extinction. The disturbance activities may have resulted in the destruction or degradation of some or all of the Pismo clarkia population and/or its habitat previously documented onsite."

The site has a long and messy history. Our chapter has followed this project as far back as 2012. The land was proposed for the Los Robles Del Mar subdivision, and the City of Pismo Beach voted to bring the property into the city's Zone Of Influence, and to seek annexation through the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). To do this the developer was required to do CEQA analysis, and in this and other studies the areas with Pismo clarkia were clearly identified and allocated an 'open space' protective designation. LAFCO failed to approve the annexation based on failure to prove there was sufficient water, and litigation in regard to water continues today. In the meantime the land is still zoned as agricultural by SLO County, and hence the vineyard development. Agricultural conversion of conservation lands,is sometimes allowed due to agricultural exemptions allowed under CEQA, but it is also a common tool used to eliminate rare plant habitat and therefore remove it from consideration for a later urban use conversion and CEQA analysis.

The Sierra Club notes that CDFW issued a 'Cease and Desist' order on further work, in order to quantify the existing damage and any proposed existing 'take' of Pismo clarkia. They may or may not issue an 'Incidental Take Permit' but note that they may not authorize such a permit issuance. USFWS has also told the developer to stop work and meet with their staff, but the USFWS cannot easily implement the Endangered Species Act for plants on private land, relying instead on ties to California laws as a source of authority.

David Chipping: Conservation Chair

MISSED THE MEETING? YOU CAN VIEW SOME CHAPTER'S PAST PRESENTATIONS ON YOUTUBE

YouTube Videos of some past ZOOM presentations of our chapter's monthly meetings are available. I would suggest input of 'CNPSSLO', 'CNPS SLO' AND 'CNPS-SLO' as different programs show up on each search letter combination. You can also see the videos by clicking on the YouTube icon on the main page of our chapter website. It takes you directly to the selection of presentations that have been recorded.

A COUPLE OF EARLY FLOWERING PLANTS

Dobiepod
Tropidocarpum gracile

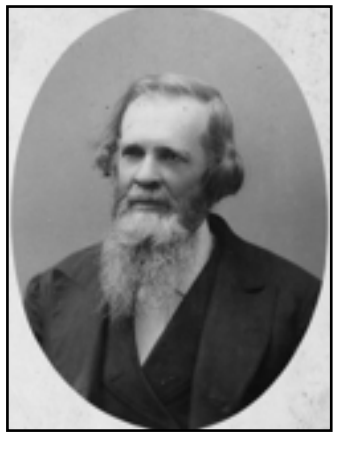
This member of the mustard family is a native California plant, and has also been described from Baja California. It has also been reported from New England, but seems to be associated with mill sites where wool was carded, and thus was imported from the west. In the Carrizo Plain it can show up in February along with filaree (*Erodium sp*.) as a short carpet of scattered flowers, with locations near KCL Campground and the Goodwin Education Center. The species range in California was most likely expanded by sheep, and could have been introduced to the Carrizo Plain and Shell Creek by livestock.

The name comes from the Greek *Tropis* for keel and *Karpos* for fruit, but the common name is a bit of a mystery. The Latin name was assigned by Sir William Jackson Hooker (1785-1865) in *Icones Plantarum; or Figures, with Brief Descriptive Characters and Remarks of New or Rare Plants*. London and the plant was collected from Monterey County by David Douglas (1799-1834), a Scottish botanist. In a search for 'dobie' there are few clues. It has been used in connection to clay, as in a shortening of 'adobe', but the plants tend to be on sandy or loamy soils and are not associated with clay. Doobie has other meanings from the happy days of Peace and Love, and there is no evidence that Douglas was that happy.

Giant coreopsis *Leptosyne gigantea*

This shrub of the Sunflower family is common in the sand dunes south of, and just north of, Oso Flaco Lake, which are the most northerly natural populations. It has been planted in Los Osos dunes adjacent to Los Osos Middle School. The plant is found in coastal sands southward to the Mexican border. Flowering is from January to May. The plant has a fleshy stem, and each year the stem's branches sprout a new crop of leaves and flowers. At the end of flowering, leaves and flowers, shrivel, turn brown, and hang sadly down the stem, giving the plant the appearance of a character from a Dr. Suess book.

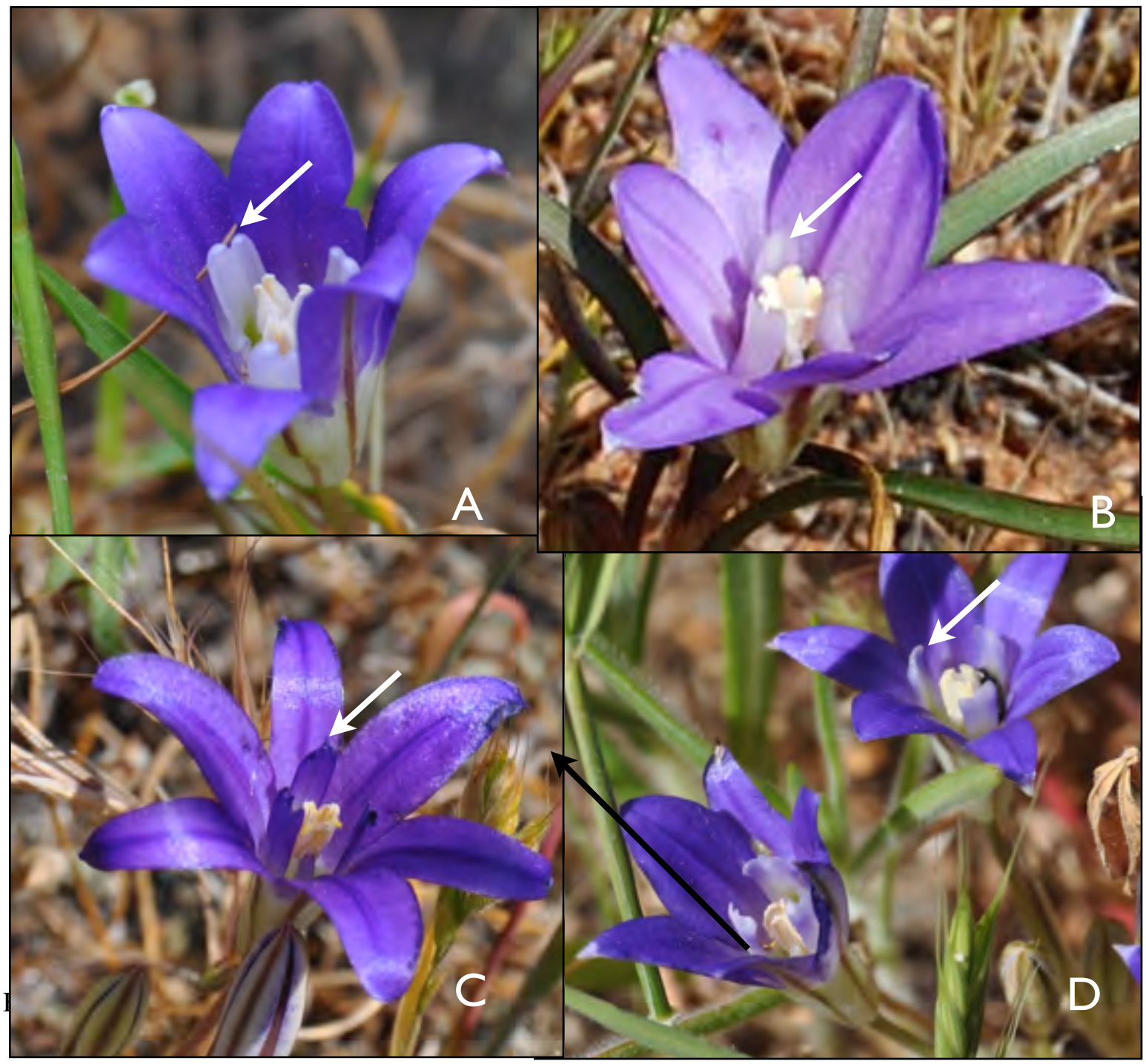
The plant was named by Albert Kellogg (1813-1887) who is known as the first resident botanist in California, and was a founding member of the California Academy of Sciences. His name appears in a large number of our native species, but many of them were applied by other botanists in his honor. For example, Kellogg Oak, found in the northwest corner of our county on the higher ridges of the Santa Lucia Mts and the Adelaida area, was named by John Strong Newberry (1822-1892) but illustrated by Kellogg himself.



Albert Kellogg (left) and John Strong Newberry (center). Photo at right shows Kellogg oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) near Rocky Butte. Drawing of Kellogg Oak by Kellogg.

SAN LUIS OBISPO'S THREE *BRODIAEAS*

Dr. Keil lists three very similar-looking *Brodiaeas* in the county. These are *B. terrestris* subsp. *terrestris* (Dwarf Brodiaea), *B. terrestris* subsp. *kernensis* (Kern Brodiaea) and *B. jolonensis* (Mesa Brodiaea). Pictures A and B below are of *B. terrestris* subsp. *terrestris* (from San Simeon State Park and from Red Hill Road). This species usually has white staminodes on the coast but blue-purple inland. Picture C is *B. terrestris* subsp. *kernensis* from the Rinconada Mine Trail, with staminodes blue-purple and incurved at the tips. Picture D is *B. jolonensis*, which has notched stiminodes with hooded tips; the photograph from the Rocky Butte area near San Simeon. Staminodes are sterile stamens.



SOME CLOSELY RELATED SPECIES THAT GROW FROM CORMS

(Left) *Bloomeria humilis* from the San Simeon coast Photo:Steve Schubert; (Center) *Brodiaea ixioides* subsp. *cookii* from the crest of the Santa Lucia Range north of Cypress Mountain Photo: David Chipping; (Right) *Muilla maritima* from the Carrizo Plain Photo: Craig Cunnigham

THE DIMINISHED WORLD OF A DUNE ECOSYSTEM

The bottom photo comes from the U.S.G.S. Historical Photo Archive, showing the view toward Morro Bay in 1904; the photo is taken from the top of the hills near the northern end of the Bloody Nose Trail in Montana de Oro State Park. The top photo has been taken from Google Earth in which I tried to reconstruct the same field of view. It shows the once-rich manzanita-oak habitat of 1904 replaced by eucalyptus. The 1904 road appears to be the current horse trail along the cable route, and the modern road is along the foreground ridge line . Note also the presence of two buildings at Shark Inlet in 1904, (see blowup photo), the greater southward extent of Shark Inlet, the much greater vegetation cover on the sandspit... but... if you look at the blowup photo closely, you see no significant shrub cover as the areas was probably farmed or grazed. The coastal sage scrub came in later, and is now being replaced by veldt grass. And so the Great Mandala turns and turns. (apologies to Peter, Paul and Mary). Some of the vegetation removal on the sandspit and Shark Inlet took place during WWII when the area was used for military training, and vegetation was recovering until the advent of the dune buggy. Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use was severe enough that the issue got tangled into the current disputes about OHV use in the Oceano Dunes, as part of the bargaining for OHV use in Oceano was coupled with the banning of OHV use on the Morro Bay sandspit.

David Chipping

Regarding the two buildings at Shark Inlet on the last page: that is also one of the few sites where *Cucurbita foetidissima* (Calabazilla or Stinking Gourd) can be found. The area is also a Chumash shell midden, and has high freshwater accessibility, and so was occupied by Chumash and then the occupants of the two buildings. So the chances are extremely high that the plant was introduced to the site by humans. Herbarium and Calflora county locations for Calabazilla also include one in the Carrizo Plain, one near Shandon and one on the Nipomo Mesa.

Photo: David Chipping

CNPS Yard Signs (by Susi Bernstein)

The across-the-street neighbors once remarked that our front yard "…looks like [*long, reflective pause*] nature." No expression of like or dislike followed, but we have worn that comment like a badge of honor ever since. On New Year's Day, we made our declaration of native plant love official by installing a CNPS aluminum yard sign for all to see. The signs are available from CNPS.org in English or Spanish, large or small in size, and are meant to let passers-by identify you as part of a growing community of ecologically advanced gardeners. It's also a way for the general public to view native plants in a garden setting, even for those gardens like ours that cater to birds more than humans. Do you have a CNPS yard sign too? Please write and tell us about it.

Photos of Susi Bernstein's sign (left) and Mardi Niles's sogn (right). Plant sign pictures from the CNPS web site.

LOS OSOS AND OTHER DUNE DWELLERS-ALERT

The rain has brought on a monster crop of the highly invasive *Brassica tournefortii* (Sahara mustard). It is common on roadsides. If you see it, pull it. It has tiny pale yellow flowers coming from a basal rosette of leaves

Show no mercy,

(photographs by David Chipping)

President's Message January 2022
The Year's Accomplishments

It's the time of year when we look backward then move forward. As native plant enthusiasts, what did we do in 2021? What will we do in 2022?

Informing Our Members. The Chapter held eight general meetings via Zoom where nine excellent speakers showed us New Zealand cushion plants, California black walnut trees that can reach 3 feet in diameter, endangered SLO County plants, rock-growing lichens, and much more. All these presentations were recorded and now are available for anyone to view at anytime in the future on our YouTube Channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNjrsrrwy14IzB3-tMn_7nw].

Conserving the Land. The Conservation Committee reviewed and commented on proposed projects last year including these four which, depending on their final design and approvals, could permanently protect or destroy sensitive native flora of SLO County: (1) We continue to track the Froom Ranch housing project as it is subsequently reviewed by various agencies, and in a letter regarding the annexation of the project into the City of SLO, we opposed a new proposal to credit previously required rare plant conservation measures (such as protecting the rare Chorro Creek bog thistle) as mitigation also for unrelated impacts to prime agricultural soils. (2) We submitted comments and attended a contentious 12-hour virtual public hearing on Oceano Dunes State Park where after 40 years the Coastal Commission banned off-road vehicle use starting in March 2024 and required additional near term protection of rare plants and animals, and air and water resources. (3) During the early scoping process for the Dana "Reserve" development in Nipomo, we began a concerted review of almost 1200 proposed residential units with some commercial buildings which could displace rare plants of the unique Nipomo Mesa. (4) With the Cambria Fire Safe Council and State CNPS, we are reviewing local fuel management projects, new statewide defensible space policies, and CAL FIRE's California Vegetation Treatment Program. The Conservation Committee not only improves protective measures on specific projects but also defends the precedence that rare plants in the County be protected.

Growing the Native Plant Community. We held three plant sales this calendar year. In March and May, customers submitted their orders beforehand on our updated website and then efficiently picked up their orders on a specified date. In November, we held a hybrid sale that included both preorders and in-person shopping -- outdoors and masked. It took 47 volunteers and over 300 hours to prepare the plant information and sales coding for the website, negotiate with the nurseries, and run the sales events. Although these extraordinary efforts to safely provide native plants for sale were created in response to Covid restrictions, some of these convenient changes may be adopted for future plant sales. With over 1200 plants sold, think of all those mycorrhizae now at work in our recently rain-soaked soils.

Collaborating with Others. We continue to hold monthly conservation calls with our State representatives, conduct Board meetings, attend Statewide Chapter Council Meetings (this year we revised and updated the State Strategic Plan), and cooperate with the University of California on the Sudden Oak Death Blitz. In early December, we gathered to help our partners at the Nipomo Native Garden.

Looking forward, we foresee community outreach will be important in 2022. We will monitor the Dana Reserve proposal to encourage protection of the plants of the Nipomo Mesa. With the Land Conservancy of SLO County, we expect to participate in weed removal parties at remote sections of Black Lake Canyon to protect rare plants. We are gearing up for a full season of field trips, and the vegetation team is happily skipping back out into the field to sample sensitive natural communities. And like the mycorrhizal threads that invisibly collaborate and support other organisms, we are reviewing how our internet technology (website, social media, email notifications, electronic sales, virtual meetings, and surveys) can support our chapter in the future. Although your Board and volunteers have bent and adapted to the unexpected rigors of a COVID society, we are in dire need of technology help. If you are skilled in management of websites or social media, especially WordPress and/or WooCommerce, please contact me (**mjmoon@charter.net)** –

WE NEED YOU! Happy New Year – Melissa Mooney

The Bayous of ~~Louisiana~~ Los Osos

One of the most significant local organizations involved, among other things, in the conservation of native habitat is the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District. They have retired marginal agricultural land and re-established riparian forest in both Chorro Creek and at the junction of Los Osos and Warden Creeks south of Turri Road. This photo was taken after heavy rains in December 2021, showing the ponding of flood waters in the newly established willow woodland. The woodland also allows floodwater to spread out, causing fine sediment to drop out before entering Morro Bay. The aerial photos below, taken from Google Earth, show the farmland of 1989 replaced by the woodland of 2021. Turri Road is at the top right corner, and the 'bayou' picture was taken from the location with the arrow.
Photo: David Chipping

Aerial photos (Google Earth), show the farmland of 1989 (left) replaced by the woodland of 2021 (right). Turri Road is at the top right corner of each photo. The top photo is sign on the entry gate, but please do not enter without gaining permission from the RCD as this is still private land.

MORE ON WETLAND ENGINEERING

You may have heard of beavers building dams and developing extensive wetlands and groundwater recharge sites on the Salinas River. One of the smaller dams (photo top left), and the extensive wetland behind it (photo bottom left) can be seen in these photos, taken in January 2022.

You can see the beaver dams on Google Earth. Enter the coordinates 35.482580-120.636114 in the Google Earth search box for the latest 2/2021 image.

Contact The Beaver Brigade at http://www.slobeaverbrigade.com/ if you want to learn more about our beavers

THE GARDEN CORNER

We ride on the crest of a recent weather event, when copious amounts of rainfall drenched the central coast in December 2021. Many cold nights have followed this wet weather. Cold nights are important for our native California plants. These cold periods put them into a dormant state which is important to their life cycle. Native plants do not do well without normal seasonal events. It is important, as homeowners, that we pay attention to the weather conditions and how they affect our gardens.

Considering the cost of water, I want to encourage you to collect rainwater. During the last rainy period, I was able to collect 250 gallons of rainwater. I use plastic trash cans and when full, I put lid on top to keep the mosquitos out. Insects are waiting out there in your yard. We are in a cold period; therefore, the bugs are in a dormant state. However, it is possible we will have an explosion of insects this spring due to weather conditions. As discussed in previous articles, I like to suggest using a stiff spray of water at the first sign of an infestation. Most soft body insects, mites, aphids and loopers cannot handle being blasted to the ground and will die. Do this in morning hours once every seven days. If you do this you will have lizards, birds and frogs in the garden. Using pesticides is always our last resort. Hire a professional to treat serious pest infestations.

It's not too late to plant California native plants in your garden; January, February and March are suitable months. Suzette and I are looking forward to future plant sales. These plant sales help to support our group's effort to provide outreach and encourage the use of California native plants in the garden. We want to encourage you to collect rainwater, provide habitat for the bees and birds, and to use pesticides sparingly in the garden.

Until next time, happy gardening.

John and Suzette

Invasive Species Report by Mark Skinner
Oxalis pes-caprae Buttercup oxalis, Sour grass

Buttercup oxalis is in the Oxalidaceae, or wood sorrel family. It is a low growing perennial with clover-like leaves and yellow flowers. They grow from bulbs and form a loose basal rosette of leaves. Vivid green leaf stalks are 5 inches long with a trifoliate leaf that folds downward towards the evening. Small brown bulblets develop on the stem in the soil and new bulbs form along the rhizome. Each plant forms about a dozen small bulbs per year. The flowers are bright yellow, ¾ of an inch wide and are on top of a leafless stalk about 12 inches tall. They do not produce seed. The foliage dies and the bulbs become dormant in summer. *Oxalis* spreads from digging and soil movement.

Oxalis pes-caprae. (David Chipping)

Oxalis is native to South Africa and was brought here as an ornamental plant. It is found in coastal dunes, gardens, oak woodlands and agricultural fields. Plants contain soluble oxalates and are toxic to livestock.

Controls: Hand pulling, provided that all parts including the rhizome and bulbs are removed. Herbicide is effective, but *Oxalis* usually crowds and covers over desirable plants makes spraying a risky venture.

Oxalis pes-caprae invading Estero Bluffs State Park (David Chipping)

Lichen of the Month: *Caloplaca ignea* / *Polycaulina ignea*

This beautiful red-orange lichen has a crustose form, usually appearing as a crust on rocks. It is appropriately called the 'Fire-red lichen'. This specimen was photographed at Cayucos Cemetery on a granite headstone. The species has a broad California distribution. It is very similar to the 'Elegant Sunburst Lichen', *Xanthoria elegans*, which also occurs locally. *Xanthoria* lobes can be gently peeled off the rock, but *Caloplaca* is more strongly attached and will break apart, according to lichen expert Stephen Sharnoff.

(photo by. D. Chipping)

The Nipomo Dana Reserve development - Volunteers needed in support of a media campaign.

This year the SLO Co. Board of Supervisors will be asked to approve a new housing development in Nipomo. This project is to be situated west of Hwy 101 between Willow and Tefft Streets, encompassing perhaps the largest remaining stands of oak woodland on the Nipomo Mesa, with more than 3,000 mature coast live oaks slated for destruction. The current push to construct more housing in California statewide enables projects such as the Dana Reserve to use temporary statutes to move more quickly through the review process, and avoid many of the environmental assessments put in place to protect against what is likely to occur in this project.

As this project moves through the review process, CNPS will mount a public awareness campaign (print and radio/television/social media) to educate the public on what the Dana Reserve development would mean for native plants, the local environment, the area's falling water table, and the South County communities in general. There are several hurdles that await this project (EIR review, proof of ground and surface water supply, reconciliation with the SLO Co. Oak Ordinance, various mitigation requirements, etc.). We feel it is time to start an information drive, so that the residents of SLO County are fully aware of the project's implications and have time to voice their opinions. If you would like to assist in this campaign, please contact Bill Waycott **bill.waycott@gmail.com**

Nipomo Native Garden – Volunteers needed

This is a reminder of the monthly Nipomo Native Garden workday, the first Saturday of each month, from 9:00 am to 12 noon. Please arrive in work clothes, with sturdy shoes and gloves. Also, if you have them, bring clippers, loppers, and/or hand saws. For more information, contact **participate@nipomonativegarden.org**

THE GOOD PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE CHAPTER 'HAPPEN' AND HOW TO FIND THEM

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