# Obispoensis

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



**June 2023** 

# A Photographic Montage from a Short Growing Season's Superbloom



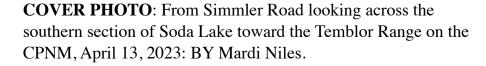




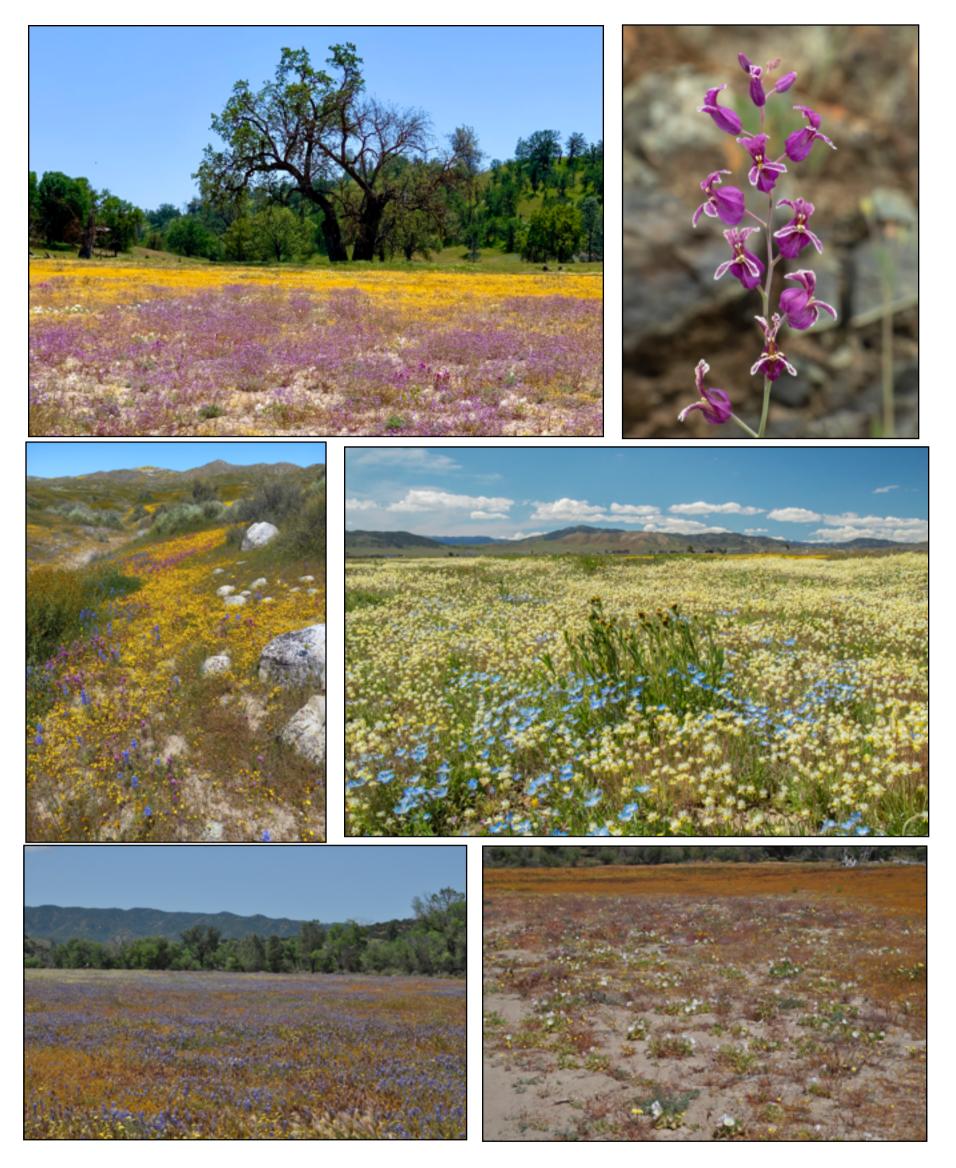




Top Left: Erigeron glaucus & Armeria maritima, North Coast by Marlin Harms; Top Right: Shell Creek color by Mardi Niles; Center Left: Streptanthus inflatus on Caliente Ridge by David Chipping; Center Right: Hurricane Rd. color by David Chipping; Bottom Left: Phacelia and Baby Blue Eyes on Soda Lake Road by David Chipping; Bottom Right: Castilleja exserta & Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia on Coreopsis Hill by Marlin Harms.







Top Left: *Gilia* mass, Shell Creek by Mardi Niles; Top Right: Froom Creek *Streptanthus glandulosa* by Marlin Harms; Center Left: Carrizo Plain by Bill Waycott; Center Right: *Platystemon californicus*, with Baby Blue Eyes by Marlin Harms; Bottom Left: Sky lupine at Shell Creek by David Chipping; Bottom Right: *Oenothera deltoides* at Shell Creek by David Chipping

# Chapter Monthly Program June 1st San Luis Obispo Vets Hall

(corner of Mill St. and Grand Ave)
Social Gathering 7pm, Chapter Business: Program Starts 7:30pm.
Dr. Keil's New Flora Will Be Available For Sale

# Dr. David Keil Introducing the New San Luis Obispo County Flora

Many years in the making, the second edition of *Vascular Plants of San Luis Obispo County, California* builds on the groundbreaking publication in 1970 of Robert F. Hoover's county flora. The much updated second edition features an expanded coverage including many plants not documented in the first edition. Several of these are new to science. Plant names and taxonomy are up-to-date. User-friendly keys, plant descriptions, and photos aid in identification. Dave will discuss the role of the San Luis Obispo CNPS chapter in the development of the flora, the process of assembling the flora, and his ongoing research on the plants of the county.

Dr. David Keil is Professor Emeritus of Biology at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. Dave has had a lifelong interest and enthusiasm for botany. He received his B.S. and M.S. in botany from Arizona State University and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University. At Cal Poly he taught for 39 years, with courses in general botany, plant taxonomy, field botany, evolution, and biogeography. For many years Dave served as Curator of the Robert F. Hoover Herbarium at Cal Poly. He has authored scientific papers, textbooks, and study guides, and has been a major contributor and editor to *The Jepson Manual* and the *Flora of North America*. His research interests include Asteraceae systematics and floristics of Western North America. He edited both editions of the *Wildflowers of San Luis Obispo County, California*. He was elected as CNPS Fellow in 2018. He has served as Editor of *Madroño* and *Systematic Botany Monographs*.



VASCULAR

Dr. Keil Awarded a CNPS Fellowship in 2018

# **Cindy Roessler Honored with Chapter Hoover Award**

A special birthday surprise was awarded to our trusted Secretary at the first in-person monthly meeting we've had in several years. The Chapter's Hoover Award, named after Robert F. Hoover, Cal Poly professor and author of the first edition of the *Vascular Plants of San Luis Obispo County*, is given to a person who contributes in a significant way to the success and well-being of the Chapter, and the 2022 Award was awarded to Cindy Roessler.

Cindy has been Secretary for the Chapter for several years, recording and distributing Minutes for the Board meetings with accuracy and precision. She has been involved in just about every committee of the Board, including Field Trips, Vegetation and Plant Communities, Website, Horticulture, Conservation and Education. She has assisted in leading field trips, participates regularly in vegetation sampling, provides technical expertise at the plant sales, and has coordinated outreach at the Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival, communicating the value of native plants in ecosystems. Cindy has her own native dune garden and has become quite a native bee afficionado. Although now retired, she worked for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in the Bay area and attended New College of Florida.

Cindy has coordinated the Sudden Oak Death (SOD) blitz in our County for at least the last couple of years, working with University of California and SLO County Dept. of Agriculture

Cindy Roessler Received Award
Photo: Marlin Harms

partners to ensure that the effort is successful. This effort trains people to recognize the symptoms of sudden oak death, a fungus-like disease that affects trees in California and other areas.

Let's all congratulate Cindy in receiving this well-deserved honor.

Melissa Mooney

# **Beverly Gingg Honored with SLO Chapter's Community Award**

Beverly Gingg, the Founder/Director of Learning Among the Oaks (LATO) is the 2023 recipient of the CNPS-SLO Community Award. We were finally able to present the award at our May meeting. The CNPS-SLO Community Award is meant to highlight important work conducted outside the CNPS organization. It honors a significant contribution(s) that a local individual, organization, or business has made in promoting native plants or the general natural environment within San Luis Obispo County and Northern Santa Barbara County.

The LATO program is 18 years old! Bev Gingg launched Learning Among the Oaks in 2005 with a grant from the California Wildlife Conservation Board to introduce young children at Santa Margarita School to their local oak woodland community on the Santa Margarita Ranch. In 2010, the Oak Ambassadors Program began, serving as a junior naturalist training program to provide youth leadership experience. Children are recommended by their teachers to be part of the 12 week Oak Ambassador Training Program in which they learn how to serve as a docent and lead hikes in the oak woodland for younger students and their families. The Ambassadors receive comprehensive weekly training from January to April about the oak ecosystem through classroom lectures and field visits, while spending time shadowing older Ambassadors as docents so they are prepared to do the same when they become fifth graders.

The program is currently operating out of four different SLO County public elementary schools ("public partner schools"), each with its own associated oak nature trail for guided hikes, field studies, wildlife cameras and stewardship projects.



Beverly Gingg Receives Award from Bill Waycott
Photo: Marlin Harms

Thousands of people, mostly school kids and their families, participate in LATO hikes and activities. LATO now includes 'spin off projects' of wildlife cameras, puppet shows and skits. Two public school partner sites also have developed nature centers as part of the LATO effort. The LATO program has been associated with Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo since 2012.

The public partner schools currently involved are:

- Atascadero Unified School District: Santa Margarita School, with trails to Santa Margarita Ranch;
- Templeton Unified School District: Vineyard Elementary School, with Vineyard School Nature Trail,
- Lucia Mar Unified School District: Ocean View Elementary School, with Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo at the Pismo Preserve, and Dana Elementary School in Nipomo with access to the Nipomo Regional Park.

There's consideration of possible expansion of the program to Pat Butler Elementary and Virginia Peterson Elementary in Paso Robles, as well as Branch Elementary School in Arroyo Grande.

Volunteers from CNPS-SLO have participated in botany training in recent years:

- 2019 at Ocean View Elementary School, Susi Bernstein, Bill Waycott, Lindsey Roddick
- 2020 at Santa Margarita Elementary School, Cindy Roessler and Bill Waycott
- 2022 at Rancho el Chorro, Cindy Roessler
- 2023 at Ocean View Elementary School, LATO field trainings, and wildlife camera training Cindy Roessler
- It is likely CNPS will continue to be involved going forward

Thank you Bev, for being the spark and the grit that sets these kids, families, and schools on the path to learning and loving our local wild places!

# ... and a Round of Applause and Great Thanks to Melissa Mooney

Melissa Mooney retired this year after serving as Chapter President from 2020 thorough 2022, steering the Chapter through the 'Plague Years' with considerable skill. The Chapter Board will not lose her, but just in case, the Board created a new 'Past President' seat on the Board. Melissa was presented with a "rhank you" plant by Susi Bernstein at the May meeting.



# Field Trips – June 2023

## Bill Waycott





Photos: Bill Waycott

June 4th, 2023, Sunday, 9:00 am, Birds and Blossoms field trip, Elfin Forest Natural Area, Los Osos, CA. The Elfin Forest supports more than 200 species of plants and 110 species of birds. Join naturalist and Audubon guide Jessica Griffiths to learn to identity birds native to this oak woodland and coastal salt marsh region. Jessica's knowledge and experience with these birds enables her to teach participants how to identify birds based on their songs, in addition to their plumage. During the field trip, participants will focus on the songs of individual bird species, enabling a positive ID, even when a visual identification is not possible. During the walk, native plants of the forest will also be discussed. Total distance is 2 miles with a 100 ft. elevation gain, and a duration of roughly 2.5 hours. Bring binoculars, snacks, sturdy shoes, a hat, adequate water, and dress in layers. A note pad and pencil are recommended. Due to the focus on bird songs, this field trip is limited to 25 local CNPS members only. Please RSVP to bill.waycott@gmail.com, mentioning "Audubon" in the subject line to reserve a place.

June 24th, 2023, Saturday, 10:00 am, Manzanita Field Trip #5, Ft. Ord National Monument, Monterey Peninsula. Meet at the corner of Gigling Rd. and 8th Ave. in Ft. Ord. (36.643677, -121.787211). This is a joint field trip with the Monterey Bay CNPS Chapter. This small area of Monterey Co. has many rare and endemic plants. We will hike to what the locals call "Manzanita Heaven", where five different species/ are found: Arctostaphylos hookeri ssp. hookeri, subspecies montereyensis, A. pumila, and at least two subspecies of A. tomentosa: (ssp. bracteosa, ssp. hebeclada, and/or ssp. tomentosa). Later, we will travel to a second location in the Monument to see A. pajaroensis. These combined hikes are roughly 2.5 miles in length, with a gentle terrain. During the hike, we will test our skills using a key to identify these species. If you don't have a copy the Field Guide to Manzanitas, by Kauffann, Parker, and Vasey, copies will be available for sale during the hike. Coming from San Luis Obispo Co., we will meet at 7:45 am, to form carpools at the Templeton Park & Ride, just west of



Photo: Fort Ord by Bill Waycott

Hwy 101 on Las Tablas Rd. (35.553973, -120.713753). Bring adequate water, lunch, snacks, and dress in layers for the weather; a hat and sturdy shoes are advised. There are no bathroom facilities along the hike route. Contact Bill, 805-459-2103.

Two Recent Dr. Keil-led Field Trips into (left) Shell Creek, looking at *Lupinus albifrons*, and (right) the trip to the Land Conservancy's Santa Rita Ranch, looking at serpentinite endemics. Photos D. Chipping





# Nipomo Native Garden Celebrates 30 years!

Cindy Jelinek and Bill Waycott

It all started as an idea among a small group of dedicated citizens and has now blossomed into a delightful, beautiful, and well-used botanical oasis on the Central Coast.



Photo: Planning the site in the late 1990s

In 1992-93 the twelve-acre parcel that is now the Nipomo Native Garden (NNG) was a neglected section of the Nipomo Regional Park, separated by Camino Caballo (which was a dirt road back then). Many thought at the time, it had no future. It was the place where people dumped things, and the County was contemplating selling it off. Knowing that a rather permanent fate of this parcel was not far off, a local group got together and, with the help of David Fross of Native Sons Nursery, a plan was crafted to convert that ground into a native garden, highlighting the plants indigenous to the Nipomo Mesa.

The Nipomo Mesa is a unique area of SLO county, a giant ancient sand dune that stretches from the Hwy 1 corridor on the west, to the Hwy 101 corridor on the east, delimited by the two 200+ foot escarpments on the north and south. This dune formed during the Pleistocene Epoch (think ice ages), when most of North America was frozen. Due to its sandy soil and refuge from the cold, the Nipomo Mesa spawned development of some very special plants that are only found on a few local acres. These plants are rare (CNPS ranking 1B.1 and 1B.2). One such stellar example is *Arctostaphylos rudis*, the sand mesa manzanita. Based on the fossil record, research indicates this species may be one of the original manzanitas, dating back around 13 million years, harbored for millennia by the mild climate and sandy soils of the Mesa.



Photos: Upper Right: Installing the Riparian Domain. Below: The Kiosk installed in the late 1990s, and as it is today





These were the underpinnings of the grassroots effort to create this native garden. Shortly after the garden's birth, Cindy Jelinek and Charlie Gulyash joined the movement and a not-for-profit organization was formed. During the first few years, things moved slowly. In fact, people driving by the parcel could not imagine that anything had been done. But this committed group was laying water lines and planting one-gallon pots of coast live oak and sand mesa manzanita. The plants grew slowly.

Then in 2003, NNG received a grant from the Guadalupe Natural Resources Restoration Trust. This was a big shot in the arm for the garden, providing funds for paths, fencing, kiosks, and a parking lot, as well as the expansion and diversification of local plant communities. And, it wasn't until 2011 that the plan for the garden was fully realized. It finally looked like a place people would want to visit.

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The garden is located just a 10 minute drive off Hwy 101. With the Mesa's major plant communities represented, it is an ideal location for exploration, native plant research, school visits, family fun, as well as other group activities and garden picnics. The strong support of the San Luis Obispo Chapter of CNPS is consistent with this organization's core values and common sense for the future of the Nipomo Native Garden. It is an active organization and a wonderful resource for the South County and the Central Coast. Happy 30th Birthday NNG!

# Conservation Update of the Dana Reserve Project in Nipomo

I asked staff at RRM Design about the status of the Froom Ranch project in San Luis Obispo and the Dana Reserve project in Nipomo, and here is the response:

At Froom Ranch, RRM staff have met with various regulatory agencies to discuss the creek program, wetland mitigation plans, and to begin the processing for the environmental permits needed. Althouse and Meade is the consultant working on those permits.

Infrastructure plans have been reviewed by a third party consultant assisting the City staff, and formal submittal of said plans is expected by the end of May.

At Dana Reserve, RRM staff are working on certain updates to the Dana Reserve Specific Plan document to reflect certain modifications, requirements, conditions, and mitigations requested by County staff. It is hoped that the Final EIR will be released by July. This may depend on County Planning staff levels and other conditions.

Neil Havlik





Photo:Places to rest-a-while in NNG





RED HILL ROAD ON MAY12
The protected area at the junction of Red Hill Rd. and Highway 58 has a a lot of *Calycadenia villosa* (Left) *Hooveria purpurea* var. *reducta* (Right), and both white and yellow *Calochortus simulans* 



# Books Available at our Sales Table - A New Title and Looking Ahead to Summer

The newest book added is Dr. Keil's new *Vascular Plants of San Luis Obispo County, California*. It will be available at the June chapter meeting, and Dr. Keil is the program presenter.

A list of books for sale is provided in this newsletter. If there is a book you wish to purchase, email me and I will bring it to the meeting for you. Most books will not be available at the June meeting. If you are unable to make it to the meeting, but want a book, email me (<a href="mailto:lindachipping@yahoo.com">lindachipping@yahoo.com</a>); there are options for getting it to you.

Look the list over, keeping in mind your summer travel, projects, or other needs. Such as, a trip to the Sierra Nevada with a Law's Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada will make it a richer, rewarding experience. T-shirts will be available at the meeting.

Books Available	<u>Author</u>	<u>Price</u>
California Native Gardening A Mo x Mo Guide	M. Popper	\$30.00
California Native Plants for the Garden	D. Fross et al	\$30.00
California Plants - Guide to Iconic Flora	M. Ritter	\$28.00
California Wildlife Habitat Garden, The	N. Bauer	\$30.00
Coast Redwood, A Natural & Cultural History	M Barbour et al	\$28.00
Discovering Nature's Alphabet	Castella & Boyl	\$16.00
Dune Mother's Wildflower Guide	CNPSSLO	\$13.00
Exploring Montana de Oro	G. Felsman	\$17.00
Gardening with a Wild Heart	J. Lowry	\$22.00
Growing California Native Plants 2nd Ed	M. Schmidt	\$29.00
Last Stand, The	D. Harris	\$20.00
Law's Field Guide to Sierra Nevada	J. Laws	\$25.00
Native Treasures	N. Smith	\$30.00
Plants of Carrizo Plain <b>DVD</b>	G. Butterworth	\$10.00
Plants of Monterey County-An Illus. F Key, The	CNPS	\$40.00
Reimagining California Lawns	D. Fross et al	\$28.00
Seed Propagation of Native California Plants	D. Emery	\$20.00
Sharks, Rays & Chimaeras of California	UC Press	\$20.00
Trees and Shrubs of California	UC Press	\$25.00
Trees in Paradise	J. Farmer	\$25.00
Vascular Plants of San Luis Obispo County, CA	Keil & Hoover	\$55.00
Where On Earth	Conner et al	\$10.00
Wild Lilies, Irises and Grasses	Harlow&Jacob	\$26.00
Wild Suburbia	B. Eisenstein	\$18.00
Wildflowers of Carrizo Plain, 2nd edition	CNPSSLO	\$5.00
Wildflowers of San Luis Obispo, 2nd edition	CNPSSLO	\$15.00
CNPS Posters	22 1/2"x 34"	
Wildflowers of the Redwood Forest	laminated	\$15.00
Wildflowers of the Redwood Forest	unlaminated	\$10.00
Shrubs of the Coast Ranges	unlaminated	\$10.00
Wildflowers of the Sierra Nevada - unlaminated	unlaminated	\$10.00

# Streptanthus anceps (Caulanthus anceps, Guillenia lemmonii), a Cholame Love Story ......and a confusion of names

This is all about the long and confusing history in the naming and reclassification of what Dr. Keil calls 'Purple Haze' or *Streptanthus anceps*. The not-quite original name *Caulanthus anceps*, commonly called "Lemmon's mustard", is named in honor of the married botanist duo John Giles Lemmon and Sara Plummer Lemmon. The originally described specimens were collected by the two together in June 1887 from their ranch in the "Adobe Hills" near Cholame, Ca. The type specimen of *Caulanthus anceps*, retrieved from the CCH2 database, explicitly states it is from "Lemmon's Ranch, Cholame".

The same year and from a site near Cholame, they collected another mustard, (now somewhat confusingly named) *Caulanthus lemmonii*. *Caulanthus lemmonii* (CNPS rare rank 1B.2) is also endemic to the Central California inner coast range. Dr. Keil uses the name *Streptanthus parryi* and the common name Lemmon's jewelflower. He notes that before being named *Caulanthus lemmonii*, it was called *Caulanthus coulteri* var. *lemmonii*, and *Streptanthus lemmonii*. Dr. Al-Shehbaz published *Caulanthus lemmonii* as a distinct taxon, segregated from *Caulanthus coulteri* var. *lemmonii* in the Flora of North America, and also currently online in Jepson II. He also moved "*Guillenia lemmonii*" to *Caulanthus* — which required a nonconflicting epithet for what was known as "Lemmon's Mustard" which is how it became *C. anceps*. The type label for *C. anceps* states it is from "Lemmon's Ranch, Adobe Hills"

And we are not done yet. Taxonomy of the *Streptanthus/Caulanthus/Guillenia/Stanleya* grouping is a mess, and phylogentic trees published since 2013 show the genera in mixed clades.



Photo: Marlin Harms

John Giles Lemmon was a Civil War veteran who had been held in the notorious Confederate prison, Andersonville, where those traitors abused and murdered Union combatants. At the end of the war, he traveled west for peace and solace. A self-taught botanist he made major collections throughout California.



Sara Plummer Lemmon Photo: Wikipedia

Sara Plummer Lemmon had also traveled west for health after serving as a nurse in the Civil War. She settled and ran the first lending library in Santa Barbara. Sara and John Giles met and fell in love in 1876 at a botanical lecture he was giving in Santa Barbara. *Calochortus plummerae*, *Baccharis plummerae* and other species celebrate Sara Plummer's maiden name.

They botanized and traveled together for the rest of their lives, eventually settling in Oakland (where Lemmon's collections formed the core of UC Berkeley Jepson herbarium).

Sara Plummer Lemmon championed the "California Poppy" and is considered responsible for its status and recognition as our State Flower.

The very bright orange "California Poppy" of the inner coast range hills (visible in full bloom on the high peaks of the Temblors) is actually a distinct species from the common taxon. The Inner Coast Range endemic, *Eschscholzia lemmonii*, was also discovered by John Giles and Sara Lemmon in 1887 near "dry lakes" at Cholame, SLO County. Lemmon's Poppy can be distinguished from the "coastal" California Poppy by the intense, even color and the absence of the "receptacle ring" that is prominent on widespread *Eschscholzia california* poppies.

There are some other discoveries/types from the Lemmon Ranch/ Cholame (but with an 1878 date). These include *Hollisteria lanata*, *Cryptantha hispidissima*, and *Eriogonum citharaeforme*. I looked at the old 1915 topo for Cholame but was unable to explicitly identify what would be "Lemmon's Ranch". There is another Lemmon collection which gives "Duncan's Spring" in Cholame as a location, and I was also unable to find that. I believe this would be a different collection site than his ranch anyway. Twisselmann's *Kern Flora* notes the Lemmon collections were not reliably annotated.

JOHN

#### **CHESNUT**

#### LOOKING BACK: WHAT THE OLD JUNE NEWSLETTERS TELL US

Looking back 10 years to May 2013, we were concerned about expansion of the Oster-Las Pilitas quarry and its effect on the Salinas River riparian corridor.

Looking back 15 years to May 2008, we approved new SLO Chapter by-laws, and Neil Havlik gave a talk on the serpentine grasslands around SLO city.

Looking back 25 years to May 1997, John Chesnut addressed the Planning Commission on possible impacts of the expansion of Cabrillo Estates on the listing status of Morro manzanita. The County Tree Ordinance Committee was being diluted by the forced addition of additional ranching interests. We were addressing issues concerning the UNOCAL cleanup of spilled oil diluent in the Nipomo dunes.

Looking back 30 years to 1993, we were opposing the merging of the County Environmental Coordinator's Office with the Planning Department, and fighting anti-Endangered Species Act legislation.

Looking back 35 years to 1988, we were concerned about an expanded Cuesta Ridge Electronic Site. Jack Beigle was organizing anti-pampas grass operations around Oso Flaco Lake.

And in every one of these newsletters, we see drawings by Bonnie Walters illustrating a plant description by Dirk Walters.

# Our Book and T-shirt Sales Table Needs a Manager



Many of you are familiar with our Book and T-Shirt Sales Table that makes items available at our plant sales and a few other events. Its success has been its offering of hard-to-find books about native plant gardening and California-centric natural resources. Our beautiful T-shirt continues to be a best seller.

The chapter is in need of a person(s) to fill the Sale Table Manager position. This is an opportunity to share your love of books with a large receptive group of people. The general responsibilities include selecting and ordering books and T-Shirts, doing some basic bookkeeping, and managing the sales table. There is flexibility with this position and how it moves into the future is dependent on a new manager's decisions. It is also potentially a role filled by two people; one for books, the other for T-Shirts.

Our former sales manager and other volunteers are more than willing to help orient, answer questions, and assist a new Manager(s). Want to experience the sales table in action? Join us for our next chapter meeting at the Vets Hall.

Want to know more? Please contact Linda Chipping (805) 528-0914, (lindachippinATyahooDOTcom) with any questions or interest.

## Lichen of the Month: Parmelia sulcata



The foliose Parmelia sulcata was photographed on a tree on the Coon Creek Trail in Montana de Oro State Park. It has a worldwide distribution. There are many common names, including hammered shield lichen, cracked-shield lichen, powdered crottle, furrowed shield lichen, powdered shield, and waxpaper lichen. It has been used to make a red-brown dye, and some North American native people had medicinal uses that were dependent upon the tree species supporting the lichen.

Photo: D. Chipping

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

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#### WE ALWAYS NEED PEOPLE TO HELP OUT. OUR MISSION IS VITAL AND OUR FLORA IS AT RISK.

Newsletter Editor David Chipping (805) 528-0914 dchippinATcalpolyDOTedu

## Protecting California's Native Flora since 1965

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, *Artemisia*; the quarterly *Flora*, 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 P.O. Box 784 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406



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# Join Today!

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- □ Individual \$50
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- □ Benefactor \$2,500



I wish to affiliate with the San Luis Obispo Chapter

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Websites:

Websites: www.cnps.org (State) & www.cnpsslo.org (Local)

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