



## California Native Plant Society Monterey Bay Chapter



[www.montereybaycnps.org](http://www.montereybaycnps.org)

**MARCH 2010**

**ANNUAL POTLUCK! COME ONE, COME ALL!**

**Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm**

**Hilton Bialek Habitat, Carmel Middle School**

**One mile out Carmel Valley Road at the Middle School stoplight.**

**Follow the CNPS signs to the classroom.**

**With Presenter Pat Stadille**

It's that time again. Bring a dish to share, plus your plates, cutlery and drink cup. Bring your dish ready to serve - there will be hot trays to keep things warm. Punch is provided. Sorry no alcohol is permitted in the classroom, but perhaps a glass of wine in the garden before?

We will meet at 5:30 to greet and share hors d'oeuvres, then our speaker, At 6:00 Pat Stadille will take us on a walk and talk of the places he teaches nature study activities at the Hilton Bialek Habitat. The Bee Garden, Project Feeder Watch, and the Bob Fault will be highlights. After our potluck dinner, Pat will give a slideshow on "CMS Wildlife-Cool bugs, spiders, birds, and even a few plants" or aka "This digital camera sure is fun."

Pat Stadille is a naturalist and Giants fan who teaches science and drama at Carmel Middle School. His interest in Natural History started back as a kid in the 1970's when he was catching snakes and frogs at his beloved pond in Ft. Ord behind Serra Village. A graduate of Salinas High School, he got his BA in Zoology at UC Berkeley in 1986. He has expanded his knowledge of wildlife through many summer classes at Sierra Nevada Field Campus. Last summer he wrote his first book, "The Bugs of Buckwheat." He plans to retire and devote himself to yard sales after his book becomes a best seller. Pat has been teaching for 24 years and can easily be bribed by cake from Rosine's restaurant.



### **WILDFLOWER SHOW**

It is hard to believe but this year's wildflower is just over a month away. The show this year is April 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and will be, as usual, held at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History. We have had good rain so hopefully this will be another great show. Mark your calendar for the third weekend in April and come to the Museum to see the wonders of Monterey County.

Brian LeNeve, Wildflower  
Show Chair.

## CONSERVATION REPORT

**EL SUR RANCH RAISES WATER ISSUES:** El Sur Ranch has riparian rights for some 15 acres that are in the watershed of the Big Sur River, but the wells from which current pumping is taking place are nearby on Andrew Molera State Park Land. The 7000-acre ranch is seeking an appropriative right to pump an average of 1200 acre-feet per year for 20 years for its proposed hotel and restaurant development located at the north end of the irrigated pasture west of Highway 1. Opponents, including the Center for Biological Diversity, the Ventana Wilderness Alliance and Los Padres Forest Watch, maintain that the Environmental Impact Report is woefully deficient in analyzing impacts on the threatened steelhead run and other habitat issues, and assert that legal action may be taken if the State Water Resources Control Board does not act promptly to stop the excessive diversions, which have been going on for over 25 years. Our chapter commented on the inadequacy of the EIR in dealing with plant issues, and, as noted in last month's newsletter, all of the groups urged not only denial of the application, but issuance of a Cease & Desist Order limiting pumping to existing riparian rights until the critical water rights issues are resolved.

**HOLMAN RANCH EXPANSION CRITIQUED:** Responding to the 392-acre ranch's Mitigated Negative Declaration for a Use Permit for a 3,330 sq. ft. Agricultural Processing Plant for a winery producing up to 5000 cases per year, a 3,050 sq. ft. storage cave, a 240 sq. ft. equipment storage building, removal of nine oak trees, and a variance for development on slopes over 30%, opponents questioned the claim that water use would actually be reduced from current usage by conservation measures when the wine production would be almost 17 times the current rate. The chapter objected to the removal of nine protected oaks, four of which are landmark trees (over 24" diameter), in order to excavate a "wine storage cave." The chapter believes that there is no legal justification for a variance to excavate on slopes over 30% or to remove the protected oaks.

**PANOCH VALLEY SOLAR PROJECT QUESTIONED:** A proposal to turn remote Panoche Valley in San Benito Co. into a 4700-acre forest of photovoltaic solar panels has alarmed both ranchers and habitat protectors. The issue was covered in depth in the Feb. 25 *Monterey County Weekly*. The chapter was recently urged by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society to get involved in this issue, as there are ten RTE (rare, threatened, or endangered) plants in this area according to the proponent's own study. Brian LeNeve has agreed to represent the chapter at a meeting to discuss the impacts of this project in

Panoche Valley at 10 am on Mar. 6. For the most part these plants have coexisted with grazing for many years, and therefore the chapter has real concerns about the loss of this much habitat.

**FERRINI RANCH SUBDIVISION PROPOSED:** Public criticism erupted late last year over secret negotiations between the Board of Supervisors and the developers for access through Toro Park for this 212-lot project on 866 acres adjoining the park. The chapter is deeply concerned about the proposal to cut down 921 coast live oak as well as the violation of supposedly protected parkland. There are also serious concerns about the lack of adequate water in this area and the impact of the increased traffic on Highway 68.

**VILLAS DE CARMEL:** Responses to the Draft Environmental Impact Report for this 46-unit condo development on the 3.68-acre old Carmel Convalescent Hospital property at Highway 1 and Valley Way were so forceful that last year's EIR has been revised for recirculation this spring. Opponents deplore the density of the project, inconsistency with the neighborhood of single family homes, impacts on water and traffic, and the large number of native oaks and pines that would be removed. The area is outside the Carmel boundaries, so decisions will be made by the county supervisors. Reportedly the local resident-owners who were promoting the project have dropped out, leaving it in the hands of NY developer Widewaters Group.

**CLEAR CREEK:** Clear Creek is a 70,000 acre piece of public lands managed by BLM. Of the 70,000 acres, 35,000 acres are an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) because of very high concentrations of naturally occurring asbestos. This ACEC is also a major Off Highway Vehicle recreation area. Everyone who visited Clear Creek knew of the asbestos and decided if they wanted to travel through the area or not.

After studying the area and the asbestos for awhile, the EPA issued a controversial report on the asbestos and the possible affects on humans. While there was nothing new in the report, the severity of the possible affects of asbestos was clarified. The result of the EPA report was BLM closing Clear Creek to everyone two years ago this May. Now there is a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) out asking for comments on the DEIS and the seven alternatives BLM has proposed. As the person who has represented CNPS on matters regarding Clear Creek, I have been studying the DEIS and will write a comment letter for the chapter. Brian LeNeve

## ***FIELD TRIPS***

### **Ferns and Flowers East Garzas Trailhead Saturday, March 6, 2010 9:00am-12:00pm**

Experience tranquility surrounded by verdant foliage on this 2-3 hour hike along Garzas Creek and back across the Terrace Trail. This area is known for its diversity of

wildflowers and lush fern growth. Elevation change: approx. 530 ft. Distance: approx. 3.3 miles. From Highway 1, go east on Carmel Valley Rd. for 10.2 miles, turn right on Boronda Rd., go .5 miles, turn left on E. Garzas Rd., go .2 miles to trailhead on right hand side. Heavy rain generally cancels any hike or activity. Please call to confirm. Wear sunscreen and boots or sturdy walking shoes. Dress in layers to be prepared for rain, fog, wind or sun. Carry water to drink with you and snacks or lunch. Restrooms may not be available, please plan accordingly. Dogs are not allowed unless by special arrangement. Call 831-659-6065 for questions or for group registration.

### **Sensational Spring Flowers at Marks Ranch**

**Saturday March 20; 9:00am**

Welcome Spring with a hike into Marks Ranch with Gordon Williams. Meet at the gate located 300 yards down the frontage road from the Toro Park Entrance off of Hwy 68 on Portola Drive exit. Gate will be unlocked at 9:00 and relocked after the last car has gone through. This will be a 4-5 hour hike of about 5.5 miles with about a 600 ft total elevation gain. We will start out on a flat cattle grazed plain where a few hardy plants are blooming; from there we will climb a ridge where we will see most of the Spring flowers and then hike into Toro Park for about a mile and then back into Marks Ranch for a lunch stop before returning along a second ridge. We will also talk about some of the history of this large chicken ranch. We will take a fairly slow walk and talk to and about the flowers we see. Expect to see at least 50 different species! Gordon Williams, 372-6374.

### **Beginners Wildflower Hike at Fort Ord**

**Sunday April 4, 10:00am – 1:00pm**

Larkspur, baby blue-eyes, cream cups, fiesta flower, Indian warrior – during our easy walk we will have the chance to see many species of native California wildflowers. We will mostly use common names and talk about how to identify wildflowers including common plant families. Meet at the Creekside parking lot on Fort Ord Public Lands. Directions: From Highway 68 between Monterey and Salinas take the River Road/Reservation Road exit and take Reservation Road towards Marina. After a very short distance turn left onto Portola Drive and follow the BLM signs to the parking lot. For more information contact Sue Hubbard at shubbard@redshift.com or 831-444-8645.

### **Peak of Season Wildflower Tour Fort Ord**

**Public Lands**

**Sunday April 11, 10am -2pm.**

Join us on a driving/hiking tour of Fort Ord. Always floriferous and fascinating in peak wildflower season.

Volunteer David Styer (633-2590 or [david.styer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:david.styer@sbcglobal.net)) and BLM botanist Bruce

Delgado (394-8314 or [bdelgado@blm.gov](mailto:bdelgado@blm.gov)) will lead this driving tour with moderate to easy hiking stops (including one stop with a shepherd and his 2000 sheep), hopefully stunning vernal pools and wet meadows, your typical Fort Ord maritime chaparral extravaganza of rare and beautiful wildflowers, and great vistas. Total hiking 3-5 miles, mostly very gentle climbs or flat. Meet at 10am and carpool from Fort Ord's Thrift Shop (formerly the Visitor Center) just inside (first parking lot on the right) Fort Ord's main gate on Lightfighter Drive.

## ***STEWARDSHIP DAYS***

Contact Jan at 236.0905 or [jshriner@mbay.net](mailto:jshriner@mbay.net) for more info on any of the following CNPS events

### Third Sunday Soberanes Creek Cape Ivy Bash.

March 21<sup>st</sup> 11am-2pm

Here Soberanes Creek falls into the ocean and needs our help continuing to remove various invasive weeds, primarily cape ivy. Meet at 1pm in Carmel on Rio Rd. in the Park n' Ride in front of the Black Bear Diner (across from the Chevron Gas Station) to carpool. All supplies provided. Bring a friend, water, and a snack.

### 2nd Sunday Carmel River State Beach

April 11<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm

Come join other volunteers and State Parks staff to restore world-class beautiful meadows and beach bluffs to native wild flowers and healthy ecosystems. All supplies provided. You just bring water and a smile. Wear gardening type clothes and sturdy shoes. We meet at the Ribera Rd. trail head south of the Carmel River and east of Hwy 1.

### First Saturday Broom Bash on

East Side of Point Lobos State Reserve

March 6<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1-4pm

Join us on these 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month visits to the beautiful Monterey pine forest on the east side of Point Lobos. We'll use several techniques to remove French broom and help restore this area that wants to thrive with native plants. Meet at 1pm in Carmel on Rio Rd. in the Park n' Ride in front of the Black Bear Diner (across from the Chevron Gas Station). All supplies provided. Bring a friend, water, and a snack.

### State Parks Staff and CNPS Volunteer Cape Ivy Weed Bash at Soberanes Ck.

Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup> 9 am- 2 pm

Join other volunteers and State Parks staff and help to reverse the spread of sticky eupatorium and Cape ivy in the wonderful Soberanes Creek watershed. One "migrating" Friday each month we'll continue to spend a wondrous day in paradise. RSVP with Bruce at [bdelgado@mbay.net](mailto:bdelgado@mbay.net) or 831.277.7690 for logistical details.. All supplies provided. Bring a friend, water, and a snack.

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Monterey Bay Chapter  
California Native Plant Society  
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Carmel, CA 93922

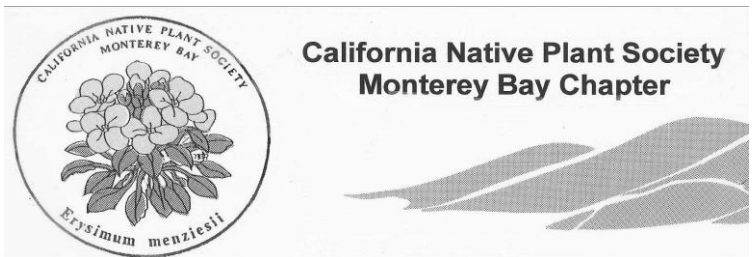
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**Return Service Requested**

**SAVE THE DATE  
OUR ANNUAL WILDFLOWER  
SHOW WILL BE  
APRIL 16, 17, 18**

**\*\*OFFICERS and BOARD of DIRECTORS**

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**WILDFLOWER SHOW:** Brian LeNeve, (See Vice President)



**California Native Plant Society  
Monterey Bay Chapter**

**Join CNPS Today!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to affiliate with

\_\_\_\_\_ chapter

**Membership categories:**

\_\_\_ Limited income.....\$25

\_\_\_ Plant Lover.....\$100

\_\_\_ Individual.....\$45

\_\_\_ Patron.....\$300

\_\_\_ Family/Group.....\$75

\_\_\_ Benefactor.....\$600

\_\_\_ Mariposa Lily.....\$1000

Please make check payable to "CNPS" and send to: CNPS,  
2707 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95816. To pay by credit  
card or more info call 916-447-2677

Dedicated to the Preservation of  
California Native Flora in its Habitat