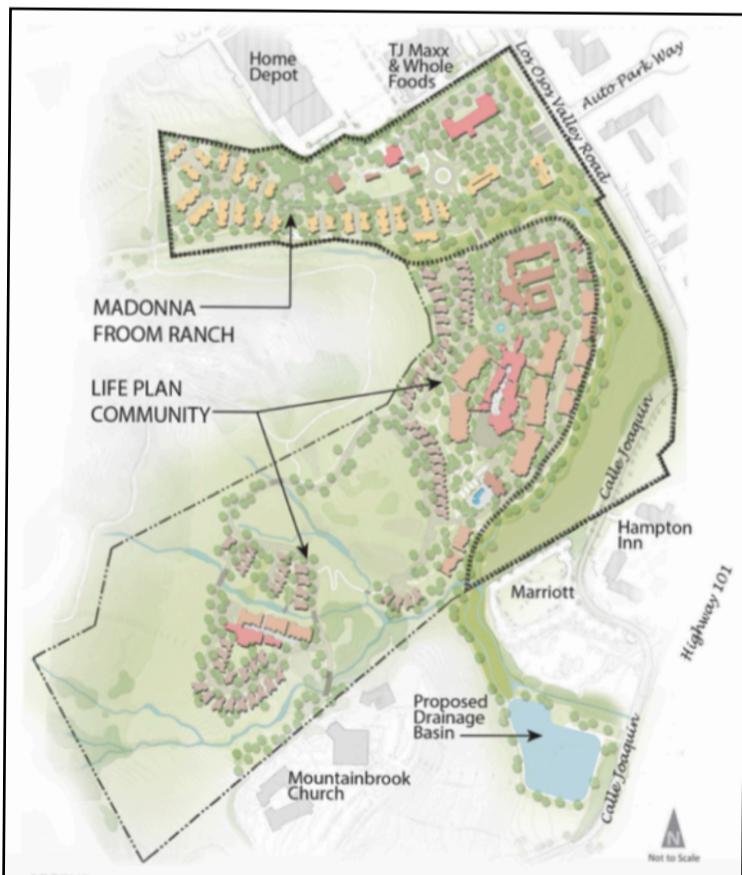


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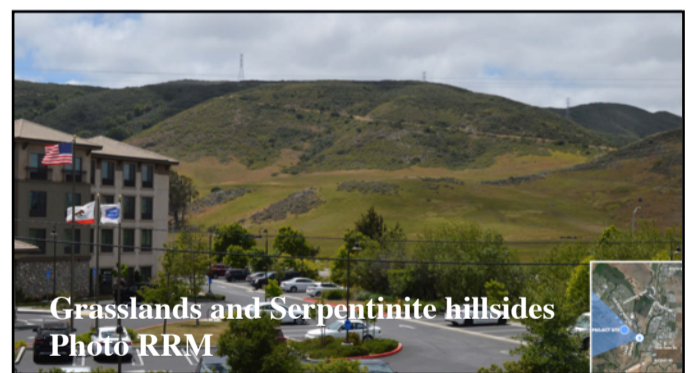
Newsletter of the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the California Native Plant Society



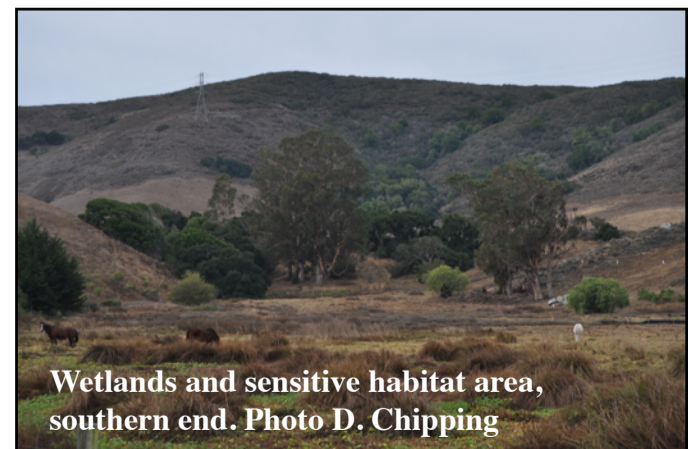
Photo Google Earth Screen Shot



The Froom Ranch Specific Plan



Grasslands and Serpentine hillsides
Photo RRM



Wetlands and sensitive habitat area,
southern end. Photo D. Chipping

CNPS-SLO fights for a better Froom Ranch Specific Plan:

Beginning in 2015, an LA-based investment group, in partnership with a prominent local landowner and local planning firm, began the process of seeking to develop a large residential project in the City of San Luis Obispo at the corner of Los Osos Valley Road and Calle Joaquin. The project, known as the Froom Ranch Specific Plan (FRSP), proposes to develop some 404 units of senior housing, including so-called “memory care”, plus a more standard development of 130 apartments and associated commercial development as a separate but related project on the 110 acre Froom Ranch property. CNPS-SLO has not opposed the FRSP per se, but we have strong reservations about the severe environmental impacts the project would impose on the community in general and the Irish Hills in particular.

An Environmental Impact Report on the project was undertaken beginning in mid-2017. That report was finally released in November 2019, and described many impacts from the project. It recommended numerous changes to the project to reduce or eliminate those impacts, and recommended many more “mitigations” to offset those that could not be eliminated.

CNPS-SLO has followed this process closely, as we have long been advocates of the City’s environmental policies, and we have been quite vocal about them. **Among the most important impacts we have objected to are:**

1. Allowing development above the 150 foot elevation along the base of the Irish Hills, including a sensitive and natural serpentine bunchgrass community; 2. Placing an isolated part of the development in a site surrounded by sensitive woodland; 3. Placing two Chorro Creek bog thistle populations at risk; 4. Rerouting Froom Creek around the project site; 5. Exposing downstream areas to increased flood potential; 6. Potentially damaging the Calle Joaquin wetland and other sensitive wetland habitats; and 7. Eliminating part of an existing conservation easement to accommodate the development.

With release of the EIR, the project sponsors themselves saw the severity of one of the most significant impacts and publicly announced that they would drop most of the project above the 150 foot elevation in order to avoid those impacts. They also approached CNPS-SLO to discuss other issues of the project in an attempt to blunt our opposition to other aspects of the project or to modify them if possible. That is where we are today. We are calling for changes to those parts of the project which compromise the integrity of Irish Hills Natural Reserve, or which degrade the environment of Froom Creek or the Calle Joaquin wetland. **Specifically we seek the following changes:**

1. Preservation of all lands above 150 foot elevation; dedication to the City of SLO, with conservation easement held by the Land Conservancy; 2. Preservation of the wooded “cove” area, and its inclusion in the dedication described above; 3. Establishment of a park at the former quarry area, with trailhead, historic buildings, and enhancement project on Froom Creek’s north bank and adjacent flood plain (see #7 below); (Note: All of the above items are recommended in the Froom Ranch EIR}

4. Presentation of 1, 2, and 3 above, together with adjusted agricultural conservation easement, as a package to justify said adjustment of conservation easement; 5. Reasonable proof that rerouting of Froom Creek will: result in establishment of healthy native riparian gallery forest plantings, include use of appropriate native upland species on any elevated surfaces, result in restoration of ecological functions lost due to destruction of existing detention basins in proposed new basin; 6. Reasonable proof that rerouting of Froom Creek will not: interrupt groundwater flow, exacerbate flooding or drying of Calle Joaquin wetland, or damage the wetland; 7. Mitigation for losses of native bunch grass habitat to include enhancement on the flood plain of Froom Creek at the mouth of Froom Creek Canyon where an excellent opportunity exists in an area now dominated by the non-native fountain grass (*Pennisetum*); 8. Mutual agreement on boundaries of the development and the nature of the required buffer areas between the new development and lands that will remain in open space uses.

CNPS-SLO will continue to press for these changes right through the approval process, which is expected to take at least a year. As nearly all the listed plants (listed here on p.6) lie above the 150 ft. contour, this is most important issue facing CNPS.

Neil Havlik: CNPS _SLO Conservation Committee

The URL below will give you access to the project description and EIR
<https://www.slocity.org/government/departments-directory/community-development/planning-zoning/specific-area-plans/froom-ranch>

Ethnobotany Notes: Try Eating The Weeds

by Cathy Chambers

Great, now you have planted your native plants, and maybe some vegetables. There are also some wonderful edibles that will come up as soon as it rains which you did not intentionally plant. Planting natives in your garden which you can use is ideal, but then there are also the weeds, which can also be very tasty and nutritious. There are many online and print resources available about eating non- native weeds. There are on-line forums and YouTube videos on how to prepare them.

Dirk Walters wrote about New Zealand spinach as a cooked vegetable used by early explorers. I have occasionally given it to my chickens as an addition to their boring store bought feed. Now I know that I should probably be cooking it first because of the oxalates. (They are happy to eat most weeds that I throw their way.) It can also be grown easily in our area as a planted vegetable.

Every spring, my Mom would ask that I let her pick the Dandelion greens before I mowed the lawn at my house up north in the mountains. I also remember drinking Dandelion wine while visiting friends up in Alaska. Dandelions thrive in cold climates, but will also grow here in places that are watered. Dandelion greens are a great addition to any vegetable stir-fry. The flowers are wonderful in salads and both are packed full of vitamins and minerals.

Purslane is another great vegetable, which can be sautéed alone or with others. I've always pulled it out of my gardens, and was surprised to see it being sold at a farmers market one day. Fennel flower buds are very pungent and can be added to many dishes, or just nibble on it for a quick breath freshener. Wild young mustard greens and flowers are also a nice cruciferous addition to savory vegetable dishes, used in place of kale. Chickweed (*Stellaria*) is great cooked or fresh in a salad and seems to be becoming more widespread. Eating the weeds is a great way to reduce those plants, which you do not want in your garden, without over-foraging in wild areas. Always be sure however that your chosen weeds have not been sprayed with an herbicide previously.



Photo Credits
(L) *Stellaria media*
© 2006 Dr. Amadej Trnkocz (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0)

(R) Purslane by Keir Morse
©2008 Keir Morse (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0)



The Garden Corner

The New Year always comes with the promise of happy times and lots of good luck. Well, for the garden, good luck means rain. And that great stuff helps our native plants grow. Unfortunately, rain also brings unwanted company to the garden in the form of weeds. A very smart person once told me, "John, a weed can be any plant growing in the wrong place"..... for example, California poppies.

I had a client whose yard was overtaken by California poppies. She said she had been told it was against the law to remove the poppies. I assured her that the 'poppy police' would not fine us and so we waited for the plants to set seed. I then removed the plants and collected lots of seeds, giving the seeds away. Needless to say the next Winter her yard was full of poppies again and is still to this day!

January is by far the best time for weed control in the garden. Nights are cool and the seedling weeds are small and easy to hoe under. Here are a couple of tips for weeding: First, wait two or three days after a rain event to weed, as wet soil is hard to hoe or hand pull weeds from. The soil will fall off pulled weeds easier when the soil is drier; Second, go after the largest weeds first, as these are usually the grasses which set seeds first. Compost weeds that are green and can really get your compost going. Third, do not use Round-Up unless it is absolutely necessary, and if so, follow the instructions closely.

Lastly, when weeding, use a knee pad as kneeling is safer for your back than a bent over position that is hard on the lower back and will cause you harm. Start out slow and don't over do it the first day. Finally, mulch after weeding, if you mulch too early it will cause you headaches when you try to hoe or hand pull weeds.

Well that's a lot to comprehend. This weeding stuff requires a sharp mind and a weeding tool, as well. Until next time, happy gardening. If you have any questions about sowing your wildflower garden, please contact me at: gritlys@gmail.com.

John Nowak

2019 COMMUNITY AWARD RECIPIENT: ALPS

We are pleased to honor the Atascadero Land Preservation Society (ALPS) with our CNPS-SLO Community Award. President Mike Orvis and Vice President John Goers accepted the award at our 2020 Banquet. This award highlights the significant contribution that has been made by an entity, outside of CNPS, to promote native plants or the natural environment in our local community. Since 1989, ALPS has had an outstanding record of protecting native plants and habitats in Atascadero, in addition to inspiring appreciation of native plants. As a land trust, ALPS has been successful in purchasing and preserving important parcels of land in the City, planting natives to enhance disturbed portions of the properties, and sharing the land with the public. In addition, ALPS makes a concerted effort to incorporate an educational component for the public on the properties they acquire. Their properties include the 103-acre Three Bridges Oak Preserve with trails that wind up to a summit with a terrific view of Atascadero. The sycamores, oaks, and madrones are welcoming all year round, but you should definitely walk the trail in Spring to see the diversity of blooms. The interpretive signs on this trail are excellent, as is the ALPS website.

Another property of ALPS is Stadium Lane which connects Atascadero Creek to the entrance of the historic Stadium Park. The Bill Shepard Native Garden located here is a great place to get a sense of which native plants appeal to you and which can handle Atascadero's climate, and there's even a sign with information about growing native plants.

An annual interpretive program is conducted at the Adobe Springs Reserve, an ALPS property that supports a natural artesian spring. The field-day introduces local youngsters to the historical significance and natural resources associated with the spring. CNPS has participated in this program, teaching kids about the local plants, and the importance of having open space available for kids to learn about nature, in nature, is clear. To complement the Adobe Springs Interpretive Program, ALPS has led the development of a third-grade curriculum for the Atascadero Unified School District.

In addition to the acquisitions and stewardship, ALPS conducts native planting projects on other properties, awards annual college scholarships to students interested in environmental science or conservation, and has a long history of providing outreach and education about Atascadero's native trees through their Native Tree Committee. Thank you ALPS for all you've done to protect native plants and habitat in Atascadero.



John Goers (L) & Mike Orvis receive community award

photos : Marlin Harms

John Doyle (L) receives Hoover Award from outgoing President Bill Waycott



2019 HOOVER AWARD RECIPIENT: JOHN DOYLE

The Hoover Award is given to members who have made an exceptional contribution to the local chapter, and is selected by a committee of past awardees. Our 2019 recipient is John Doyle.

John has been spreading native plant enthusiasm and assisting CNPS since 2011, making significant contributions to the chapter's horticultural program. He has chaired the chapter's horticultural committee since 2016. John contributed to our chapter's initial seed collection and packaging effort with Marti Rutherford in 2013, while also encouraging others in the chapter to collect and distribute seed for the subsequent seed exchange program. He participated in the short-lived CNPS propagation group, and then went on to be an important voice in our chapter for promoting the use of natives. John has made presentations to the UC Master Gardeners of SLO County. He also participated in public radio station KCBX "Issues and Ideas" program, entitled "Fall Landscaping and Gardening Tips from a Central Coast Panel of Experts" *. He gave advice in the production of our "Landscaping with Natives" brochure, organized and facilitated the "CNPS-SLO Landscape with Natives" workshop in October 2019 with Mindy Trask, and is working on more of the same. For several years he presented an annual talk at SLO's Farm Supply Co. regarding planting natives, and has also sat behind the CNPS information table at several events. John has contributed to our annual plant sale by bringing Growing Grounds Farm offerings to improve our selection, in addition to his own stash of collected native seed and plants, and regularly assists customers with his practical knowledge of using natives in landscapes. When Chimineas Ecological Reserve requested that CNPS help install a native plant garden, John volunteered. He has worked with Bill Waycott on the restoration of native vegetation along the creek banks at the SLO Mission and at the Rodriguez Adobe. John has also co-led a couple of field trips and has been a participant in many chapter activities". We thank John for his great contributions.

* <<https://www.kcbx.org/post/fall-landscaping-and-gardening-tips-central-coast-panel-experts#stream/0>>

**CHAPTER MEETING Feb 6th 2020 - Thursday - 7pm
social, 7:30pm program**

**Discovering Mono County Plants
Ann Howald**



Ann is a retired botanist who attended UC Santa Barbara, and was a teacher, consultant, and agency botanist during her working life. Her retirement project is to complete an annotated checklist of the plants of Mono County, where she now lives in the summer in her Airstream trailer, a used model refurbished as her botany lab. Her winter work takes her to herbaria all over the state, where she studies plant collections from Mono County made by others. She also is a fieldtrip leader and weed puller for the Milo Baker and Bristlecone chapters of CNPS.

CNPS-SLO “Botanist Development” Workshops in 2020

April 18: Rare Plant Communities in Coastal San Luis Obispo County

May 16: Plant Identification in the Field

Fall (Date TBA): Ethnobotany of SLO County

Registration will open about 2 months before each Workshop and will be announced to CNPS-SLO Members via the Newsletter, E-mail and Facebook

Volunteers Needed for the Planning Committee (Free Registration!)

Contact Mindy by Feb. 15, mindysincalifnow@gmail.com

Membership Corner

Welcome New and Renewing Members: Thank you.. For membership-related issues, contact
LynneDee@althouseandmeade.com

Anneliese Ayers; Karon Barber; Thomas Becker; David Bonnheim; Gloria Brown; Milly Bruno; Mark Brunswiler; Peggy Burhenn; Marcia Carter; Catherine Chambers; Elizabeth Curren; Mark Edwards; Melinda Elster; Nancy Farrell; Madeline Fay; Rachel Felts; Nita Fishburn; Liz Gaspar; Cynthia Gaulin; Bo Gould; Amanda Gowdy; Neil Havlik; Brian Horrocks; Robert Hotaling; George Janeway; Elizabeth Johnson; Peter Kinkade; Penny Koines; Karen Kolba; Patricia Krosse; Mara Ladewig; Richard Long; Scott Loosley; Wallace McCray; Julie Merrill; Nancy Mosunich; John Nowak; Chloe Plant; Katherine Rindlaub; Linda Robertson; Grace Romero; John Schmitz; Amy Smart; Monica Stillman; Russ Taylor; Paul Townsend; Cate Uccel

WANT COLOR? The latest edition of our monthly newsletter *Obispoensis* is available for download as a PDF file from the link below. Find out about upcoming events, field trips, local issues impacting native plants, invasives to be on the watch for, horticulture tips for growing natives, contact info and more in each issue: <http://cnpslo.org>

Having trouble opening the file? You need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your device. It can be downloaded here: <https://get.adobe.com/reader>

Moving? No Newsletter? Please Let Us Know Your New Address. Contact [<dchippin@calpoly.edu>](mailto:dchippin@calpoly.edu) or write us at P.O. Box 784, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

The Passing of the Presidential Torch

Our chapter owes a great deal of gratitude to Bill Waycott for his excellent leadership, and to Diana, his wonderful wife, for her contributions as well. Bill will be staying on the Board as Field Trips Chair, and therefore we will not lose his wisdom. The torch now passes to Melissa Mooney, who, as Vice-President, has been responsible for our excellent speaker program during the last year. We also welcome our new Vice-President, Kristen Nelson, who will welcome any suggestions and contacts regarding our 2020 speaker program. Kristen is the discoverer and describer of *Chorizanthe aphanantha*, a new species of spineflower, at the head of Froom Creek canyon.

Bill and Melissa at the Passing of the Torch at our annual banquet
photo : Marlin Harms



FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, Feb. 1st, 8:30 am, Rinconada, Big Falls, Little Falls loop. This is a strenuous hike of 16 miles and 2,500 ft. elevation gain and will likely take most of the day. Carpool in front of the Pacific Beverage Co. in Santa Margarita at 8:00 am or meet at the Rinconada trailhead at 8:30 am. The Rinconada trailhead is located on Pozo Road, 2.5 miles southeast of the Santa Margarita Lake Road intersection and is well marked with signage just ahead of a righthand turn. Be sure to bring adequate water and food, a hat, sturdy shoes, and dress in layers for the weather. There will be a couple of stream crossings, so please bring either waterproof shoes, or flipflops/sandals. Also, there will be poison oak. Dogs are welcome on a leash. Contact Bill, 805-459-2103. Rain or the threat of rain cancels.

Saturday, Feb. 22nd 9:00 am, Audubon and CA Native Plant Walk, Santa Margarita Lake. Join us on a bird and plant walk. For those wanting to focus mainly on birds (freshwater fowl), you will walk along the south lakeshore for a distance of roughly two miles. The bird hike will be limited to 20 people; please email Chuck to reserve a spot at woodard@live.com. For those wanting to focus on both birds and plants, you will hike the Grey Pine Trail, returning along the lakeshore. The Grey Pine Trail hugs the north-facing hills on the lake's south edge. This walk is roughly 3.5 miles with 300 feet elevation gain. Santa Margarita County Park is located off of West Pozo Rd., 10 miles southeast of Santa Margarita, CA. At mile-9 along Pozo Rd., bear left onto Santa Margarita Lake Rd. When you arrive at the park entrance, tell the ranger you are part of the bird and plant group, then proceed to the adjacent parking lot on the right, just inside the park. Bring water and snacks and binoculars, and dress in layers for changing weather. A hat, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes are recommended. No dogs please. Contact Bill, 805-459-2103. Rain or the threat of rain cancels.

Thank You to All Banquet Volunteers

Once again Lauren Brown and Linda Chipping did preliminary organizing for the banquet, and Lauren was the master coordinator for the evening. This means securing a location, getting insurance, making sure the kitchen equipment and supplies are in place and updates out to the volunteers. We thank the quick and efficient banquet table set up crew, Mardi Niles and the flower arrangers and Dirk Walters for the table programs. David Krause as usual handled registration and the bar. CalPoly students Molly Vanderlip, Kieran Althaus and Charlie Gibbons assisted with setup and cleanup. The food was delicious and abundant, so a big thanks to all of you who made this a successful evening.



Lauren Brown telling us "The Food Is Ready" photo : Marlin Harms

Listed Plants Observed on Froom Ranch above the 150 ft. elevation (from EIR)

Perideridia pringlei (adobe yampah); *Chorizanthe ssp. breweri* (Brewer's spineflower); *Dudleya blochmaniae* (Blochman's dudleya); *Calystegia subacaulis ssp. episcopalis* (Cambria morning glory); *Senecio aphanactis* (Chaparral (rayless) ragwort); *Cirsium fontinale var. obispoense* (Chorro Creek bog thistle); *Calochortus clavatus ssp. clavatus* (Club hair mariposa lily); *Centromadia parryi ssp. congdonii* (Congdon's tarplant); *Delphinium parryi ssp. eastwoodiae* (Eastwood's larkspur); *Layia jonesii* (Jones' layia); *Streptanthus albidus ssp. peramoenus* (Most Beautiful Jewel-flower); *Chorizanthe palmeri* (Palmer's spineflower); *Calochortus obispoensis* (San Luis mariposa lily); *Castilleja densiflora ssp. obispoensis* (San Luis Obispo owl's-clover)

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Welcome to the new year! As your new President, I look forward to an active and fun-filled year working towards our mission of increasing our understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them in their native habitats. As you know, we are part of a statewide effort to accomplish this, and we have a large and dedicated group. This time of year, it might be nice to revisit CNPS's statewide strategic plan goals, which, in a nutshell, are: (1) Know; (2) Save; (3) Enhance and Restore; and (4) Engage and Energize.

We work to understand the flora, map and inventory the flora, and assess and prioritize. We act to conserve and share quality information. We build expertise and help restore native landscapes. We strengthen CNPS, appreciate what we have, champion and promote the good work of partners and professionals, and engage people of diverse backgrounds. All of our actions fall under these broad strategies and goals.

Here in SLO County in the coming year we are promoting workshops to understand the flora and our communities, and we will be actively involved in fighting the good fight for the Oceano Dunes and Osos Flaco Lake and other areas in the county that need conservation. We have an excellent team of experts that brings resources to every meeting we have. Perhaps we will even see that long-awaited Flora popping up this year (we hope; we hope!)

And lastly, this winter we have had a good set of storms, and hopefully this will promote extensive blooms and field trips galore now that our past president Bill Waycott has more time to give to setting up field trips!

Melissa Mooney

EDITOR NEEDS YOUR INPUT ON MAKING OBISPOENSIS ELECTRONIC-ONLY

A lot of chapters are moving to electronic only. and I would like to do the same. Here are reasons for your consideration:

- 1) Content is not limited to, or controlled by page numbering in multiples of 4.....any size can be sent;
- 2) Color, not B&W;
- 3) Obispoensis will be searchable;
- 4) **It saves trees and energy, and also our costs;**
- 5) Room for special editions on focused issues with no additional costs or overhead;
- 6) People can print their own hard copy if needed.

You would receive an e-mail giving you a link for downloading the latest edition. In the event that a person had absolutely no way to shift away from a paper version, a special printing could be made and mailed to that person.

PLEASE EMAIL <dchippin@calpoly.edu> IF YOU ARE OPPOSED TO 'GOING ELECTRONIC', AND PLEASE GIVE REASONS. THE EDITOR WILL SHARE ANY OBJECTIONS WITH OUR BOARD, SO THAT AN INFORMED DECISION CAN BE MADE.

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

President Melissa Mooney mjmoon@charter.net	Chapter Council Rep. Melissa Mooney mjmoon@charter.net	Field Trips Bill Waycott (805) 459-2103 bill.waycott@gmail.com	Rare Plant Coordinator John Chesnut (805) 528-0833 jchesnut@slonet.org	Horticulture & Plant Sales John Nowak (805) 674-2034 gritlys@gmail.com
Vice President Kristen Nelson kristenkmn@gmail.com	Chapter Wholesale Contact Linda Chipping (805) 528-0914 lindachipping@yahoo.com	Retail Sales Manager June Krystoff-Jones (805) 471-5353 junemkj@gmail.com	Legislation David Chipping (805) 528-0914 dchippin@calpoly.edu	Suzette Girouard (805) 801-4806 suzette.girouard@gmail.com
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				Chapter Publications Matt Ritter mritter@calpoly.edu

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

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, *Fremontia*; 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
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I wish to affiliate with the San Luis Obispo Chapter

Inquiries:

Phone: (916) 447-2677 Fax: (916) 447-2727 (State)

e-mail: cnps@cnps.org (State)

Websites:

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

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