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# *Obispoensis*

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

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**The Incredible Alice Eastwood.**

**December 2020 Electronic Version**

# Alice Eastwood: Botanist Extraordinaire

If you go to the Consortium of California Herbaria website and do a search for collections made by Alice, you find the mind-boggling number of 20,887 herbarium sheets. Within San Luis Obispo County, she collected 1,130 specimens, but the Hoover Herbarium only has two of her collections. One is *Plagiobothrys tenellus*, collected in Adelaida, and the other is a *Limnanthes* from Mariposa County. She published well over 300 scientific articles, authored 395 plant species, and has 17 species named after her.

She came to the California Academy of Sciences from Colorado in 1891, and became joint curator of the herbarium with Mary Brandegee. When Brandegee retired in 1894, she became Head of the Department of Botany, where she remained until her retirement in 1949. One of most famous stories about this part of her life is her saving of the type plant collection following the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906. The plant collection was upstairs, and the stairs to that level had completely collapsed. Alice climbed via broken railings through the rubble, filled her apron with specimens, fashioned a rope and climbed back down. She stayed at the bottom of the rope as her friend Robert Parker climbed up and lowered 1,497 specimens from the sixth floor. Alice stored the plants in her living quarters, but the approaching Great Fire forced her to move several times. She saved the plants, but not her personal possessions, and the specimens that Robert and Alice could not save were all lost in the fire.

The two Hoover Herbarium specimens that showed up in the Consortium search are shown below, *Plagiobothrys tenellus* on the left and *Limnanthes douglasii* subsp. *striata* on the right. The center picture is the fire-gutted Academy building. The photo does not even take in the sixth floor where the herbarium was located. (photo: Cal Academy)



*Eastwoodia elegans*

This shrub, found in the Carrizo Plain and blooming from April to July was named in Alice's honor by Mary Brandegee



David Chipping



Dirk Walters

# WILL SALT MARSH BIRD'S BEAK SURVIVE SEA LEVEL RISE? (THE EDITOR)

*Chloropyron maritimum* subsp. *maritimum* is listed as Federally Endangered, State Endangered, and 1B.2 in California Rare Plant Ranking. The plant is know from Morro Bay, where it is found around the high tide line in a vertical elevation range of about 2 feet. It appears to thrive when there is a thin lens of fresher water lying above the denser salt water in the soil, and appears to really thrive in high rainfall years. There are populations in patchy distribution between Sweet Springs Preserve and the shoreline adjacent to Butte Drive, and in a couple of locations along the inner shore of the Morro Bay sandspit.



Photo: John Chesnut (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0)

The populations on the east side of Morro Bay are on marsh that backs up into slopes of dune sand, and it is anticipated that a rise in sea level would obliterate the relatively flat marsh.

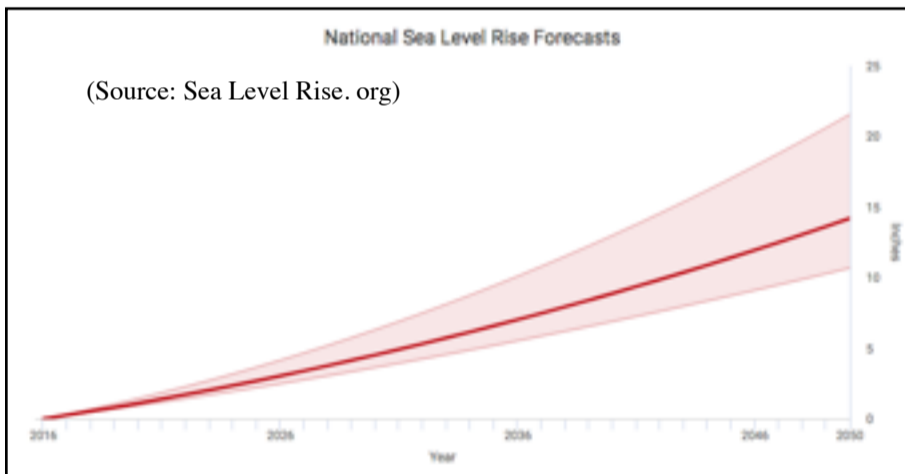
The mid-range estimation of future sea level rise is about 15 inches by 2050 (Source: Sea Level Rise. org)

There is some encouraging news on two fronts. One has been known for some time, and is associated with the slow silting of Morro Bay. Some calculations show that the Chorro Creek delta will build up sediment at the same rate that sea level will rise. The Morro Bay National Estuary Program received an update on sedimentation in 2011 that stated:

*In addition, the rates measured at the other locations are all in the range of 2 to 5 mm/yr, just slightly exceeding current rates of global sea-level rise and giving no indication of large-scale rapid filling of mudflats in the areas where these sampling stations are located.*

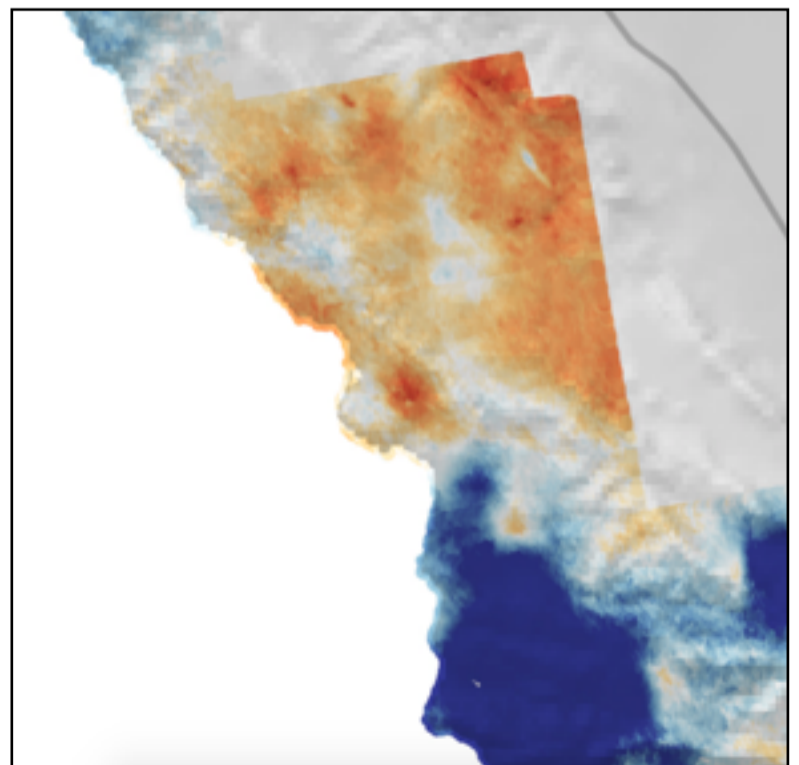
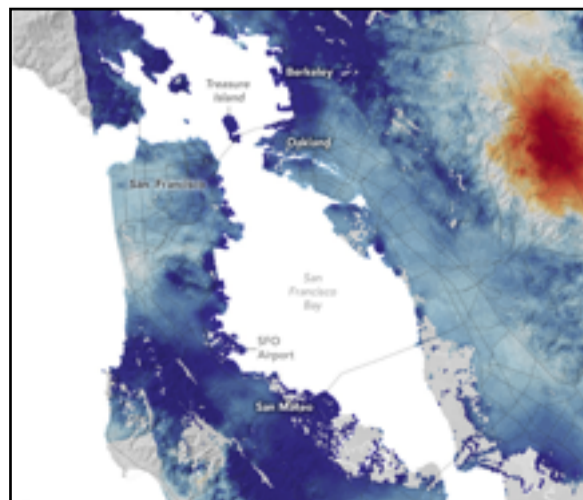
So this is sort of good news, as sedimentation and the redistribution of sediment may maintain the topography required by *Chloropyron*.

However there is some more good news, derived by coastal micro-elevation changes as recorded from space by the Global Navigation Satellite System through the ALOS (Japanese) and Sentinel-A (European) satellites. These reveal that the coastal elevations are both rising and falling, and Morro Bay is rising. On the other hand, all of the coast south of Shell Beach is sinking.



Are there implications that the subsidence of the south coast will have deleterious effects on native plants? The combination of sea level rise and land subsidence should raise the water table around the Dune Lakes such as Black Lake, and under both Oso Flaco Lakes. So the chances are that wetlands will increase in size in size, but that salt water might penetrate further inland under the veneer of fresh water that supplies (or supplied) the wetlands.

But, in ending... just look at San Francisco Bay (below), another area supporting *Chloropyron*.

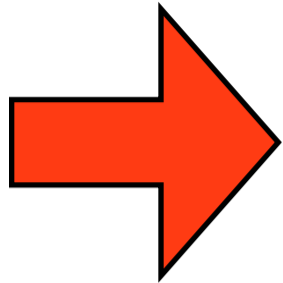


Maps from NASA Earth Observatory

## ... and one more thing on Saltmarsh bird's beak

High genetic diversity within a given population has a distinct advantage over populations sharing identical genetics. Following Tom Lehrer's wonderful cold war song about nuclear war "We will all go together when we go", adverse conditions for the one can mean adverse conditions for the all. I mention this because a recent study by Elizabeth Milano, Margaret Mulligan, Jon P. Rebman and Amy Vandergast in *Conservation Genetics* looked at populations of *Chloropyron maritimum subsp. maritimum* between Morro Bay and the Mexican border, and found genetic diversity increased as one went south, with the Morro Bay population having one of the lowest diversities.

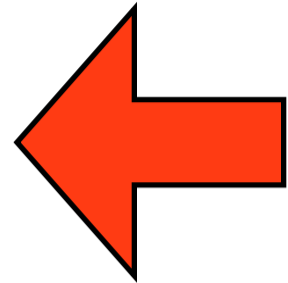
But is this what we have? Dr. Keil has raised questions about the affinities of our populations to other subspecies of the plant. Both Dr. Keil and John Chesnut are active members of a working group formed by staff at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden to try and sort out the real genetic and morphological affinities and possible conservation strategies for the species. Heather Schneider, who gave us our last program, is heading up the group. THE EDITOR



## DECEMBER 3rd MEETING VIA ZOOM

### "From the Ashes: A Journey Through the Post-fire Landscape"

Bryant Baker, Conservation Director at Los Padres ForestWatch



Join us for our December presentation, when we host Bryant Baker, Conservation Director at Los Padres ForestWatch. Bryant will take us on an exploration of post-fire landscapes along the Central Coast and in the Sierra Nevada. Learn about how native plants cope with fire, see how mountain slopes transform over the years after burning, and find out about the latest research on forest and chaparral fire ecology. He will also discuss some of the biggest misconceptions about wildfire, and what we can learn from this year's record-breaking fires from around the state.

Los Padres ForestWatch is a nonprofit conservation organization that works to protect the Los Padres National Forest and other public lands along the Central Coast. For the last several years, Bryant has worked on everything from protecting the Carrizo Plain National

Monument's designation to stopping commercial logging in our local national forest. In addition to his work at ForestWatch, Bryant also conducts research with the California Chaparral Institute, where he focuses on broadening our understanding of native shrublands and the threats they face throughout the state. You can preview some of his amazing photography and follow his educational adventures on Instagram @bryant.the.shrublander.



Bryant's photographs of the natural recovery of forest and chaparral to wildfire. These are from the Cave Fire and the Rim Fire, both in Santa Barbara County

Top left: 1 week to 5 months, Cave Fire

Top right: Fire-follower Poodledog bush

Bottom left: Mixed regrowth from the Rim Fire

Bottom right: Pine regeneration from the Rim Fire



Have a very berry Holiday Season. (Identification on top of next page)



Key to the Berries: Top row: Thimbleberry, Coffeeberry, Strawberry. Second row: Juniper, Honeysuckle, Blackberry. Third row: Baneberry, Elderberry, Twinberry, Bottom row: Snowberry, Manzanita, Toyon. **Several are VERY poisonous**

## On the subject of holiday prickles

The toyon is always trotted out as the most 'seasonal' plant for those wistful for Charles Dickens and all that Hallmark kitsch, and we all know about the Hollywood Hills and toyon. Your editor was sent as a child into the dark woods of Essex, England with a pair of clippers and orders to gather holly for the mantle, and the holly was always a long way away and very prickly. So my memories are less about red berries, and more about the dang prickles. So, being a sentimental sort for the holiday season memories, and seeking a plant that better reminds me of holly leaves rather than holly berries... I present unto you *Mahonia pinnata subsp. pinnata*, which rivals holly in pure prickliness. The plant likes rocky places, and there is a nice population on the ridgeline at the east end of Cerro Cabrillo in Morro Bay State Park. It can be reached by the unofficial 'trail' that has been formed near the 'Tiki Head'. Tiki guards the slope and persons attempting to pick the *Mahonia* (or *Berberis* if you prefer) is turned to a rocky boulder. Note the large number of boulders. EDITOR



## Wreath Masters Competition

Wreath Masters is a friendly competition between botanic gardens, nurseries, CNPS and other partners to create wreaths made with California native plants this winter. With six potential categories and competitors across the state, Wreath Masters is a celebration of the California native plant community and the seasonal beauty of native flora in our daily lives. All entries from our competing partners will be posted on this website. Register for the live competition that will be hosted on Friday, December 18 from 6 pm – 7 pm where celebrity judges will determine the winners and much merriment and frivolity will be had!

Join us for the live competition on Friday, December 18 from 6 pm – 7 pm! Partners will present their nominated wreaths and our panel of celebrity judges will announce the winners for each category. Get started at <https://www.cnps.org/WreathMasters>



Graphic courtesy of fg-a-com

## President's Message from Melissa Mooney

This newsletter gives me the opportunity to give thanks to all those who participated in our key "summer into fall" activities - the online plant sales and the Calflora checklist project. Starting with Judi Young, without whom the online plant sales wouldn't have happened, we had energy bouncing off the keyboard AND the floorboards of Elliot's truck at Clearwater Color. Judi, along with David Krause, made the website come alive with plants. John Doyle made plants available, and most importantly made his landscape yard available to us for each sale, giving us space to move, in light of COVID-19. Bill Waycott donated plants at no charge to CNPS, so all those sales were 100% profit. David Krause managed lists and orders, and Linda Chipping made special signs to organize orders for each individual buyer at the final and biggest sale in early November. Marti Rutherford put her magic to work in packaging and beautifully illustrating native plant seed packets. Kristen Nelson helped with unloading and sales the day of the sale, and I...well, I bought a few bagels to keep people going. Amazingly, looking at the income numbers from all four of the on line sales we held, I understand we were only down 25 percent from last year's plant sale! That is quite impressive given the limitations we were facing. So thanks to those who made this happen, and also to the members and others who purchased plants, seeds, t-shirts, and books!

On another front, we have uploaded all David Keil's checklists to Calflora, and a big thank you goes to David Krause and Cindy Roessler for shepherding this project through. I understand that we inspired another CNPS Chapter to digitize their plant lists and follow our example! David Krause has provided some detail and the links for this in his Officer's write-up later in this newsletter. David Krause was responsible for uploading almost all of the checklists, and Cindy Roessler has been instrumental in providing links to iNat and other observers on social media asking for help with ID to the CNPS SLO webpage that has the illustrated Calflora lists. Thanks, guys!

# Seeds, Windmills, and Tarplants

We hope you did not miss the excellent presentation by Heather Schneider at our last Chapter Zoom Meeting on the subject of the seed conservation program at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. She mentioned collecting seed of Gaviota tarplant (*Deinandra increscens ssp. villosa*) which, she said, is the only tarplant that smells of pickles.

The map of each chapter's coverage shows that the part of northern Santa Barbara County that lies north of the Santa Ynez Mountains is assigned to our chapter, although historically nearly all of our membership and activities are within the geographic bounds of our county. (Kudos to Charlie Blair, from Lompoc, who is running field trips in the Lompoc area.) Unfortunately a giant windmill project near Lompoc called the Strauss Wind Energy Project (SWEP), went below our chapter's radar, especially as it seemed like a good alternative to burning fossil fuels. An earlier project within the SWEP footprint had been approved by the Santa Barbara County but was never built, and SWEP was billed as a somewhat larger version of the original.



Luckily other botanists noted that the <sup>largest population of</sup> ~~largest population of~~ Gaviota tarplant were located in the SWEP footprint, and as it is listed as Federally Endangered, California Endangered, and California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1. Other populations are much smaller, the main ones being on the coastal terrace south of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Naturally CNPS attempted to seek major changes to the projected impacts to the tarplant through the CEQA process, and when that failed, CNPS went to court. The real problem is that the tarplant was largely confined to the crest of ridge, which was exactly where the highest wind speeds and best windmill sites were located.

The case was eventually settled, not completely to our satisfaction. As reported by the CNPS legal team:

*The settlement supports mitigation objectives and project improvements to protect the world's largest population of the federally- and state-endangered Gaviota tarplant (Deinandra increscens ssp. villosa). It also establishes a Plants and Pollinators Fund for public interest initiatives.*

*The project's mitigation objectives include reduction of direct impacts to the tarplant during construction, salvaging the plant's seedbank, onsite and offsite restoration, monitoring and reporting, and onsite requirements specific to the plant's population, invasive species, habitat enhancement, and research. The agreement also establishes two expert tarplant advisory groups to monitor and oversee both onsite and offsite mitigation actions.*

Note the "salvaging the plant's seedbank" which is where Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's expertise comes into play. In view of the extremely small geographic distribution of the plant, restoration from seed banks will be of critical importance.

CONSERVATION CHAIR

## The San Luis Obispo County's *Deinandra increscens subsp. increscens*

Called the 'Grassland tarweed', this relatively common plant varies from the much rarer *subsp. villosa* by being generally taller, having flower heads in panicles rather than pairs or tight groups, and with a peduncle generally longer than the involucre, the inverse of what is seen in *subsp. villosa*.



David Chipping

# MILKWEED, MONARCHS, AND MAGIC DURING A PANDEMIC

Just over a year ago, I began transitioning the generic lawn-and-hedge landscape at my house into a native habitat garden. I know many of you have native habitat gardens of your own and can appreciate the joy I had when I hit the 2019 plant sale with enthusiasm and purpose, carefully selecting the ceanothus, manzanitas, ferns, woolly blue-curls, and beardtongues that would provide diverse color and staggered, year-round blooms in my new garden. As I paid for my haul, a scrappy-looking milkweed in a four-inch pot was slid across the table as a free bonus for my minimum \$50 purchase. I added it to my towering haul, piled it all in the botany-mobile, and headed home.

Many of you likely had the same experience and happily took home your free milkweed from the 2019 plant sale. And most of you likely know well why milkweeds were being gratuitously handed out... it's all about the monarchs!! What a great idea – give away the milkweed! Honestly, in retrospect, I don't know why I didn't purchase some milkweeds in the first place, as part of the initial round of native plantings for my garden... but the free one was all I needed.

Admittedly, I didn't even put that milkweed in the ground until March 2020 (when we had all those late-season rains this year... which I will forgive you for forgetting, on account of all the \*other\* things that happened in March 2020). Through the spring and summer, that scrappy little milkweed grew to an impressive size, bloomed, fed bees, and battled the summer heat with zero irrigation. But the real magic didn't happen until the fall.

While I have long known that monarch caterpillars require milkweed to feed on, I did not anticipate the habitat potential of one... single.... milkweed. Or that the monarchs, stopping by to feed on the bountiful Helianthus in my yard, would find it and deem it suitable for hosting the next generation. Most notably, I did not anticipate that the silver lining of pandemic-induced quarantines would be an opportunity to intimately observe the intricate transformation of caterpillars to butterflies while I worked at home, often outside in my garden. Even things that you know to be true can become newly awe-inspiring when you experience them directly and understand them more deeply.

To know that the iconic redwood is an enormous, impressive tree is nothing compared to standing next to one and feeling the magnitude of it. Such was my experience with the monarchs in my garden this year. I hope you, too, have found new joy during this most unusual year. I, for one, am looking forward to planting more native milkweed in my garden this fall – and I sincerely hope you do too!

More photos and videos (including some time lapse videos of monarch magic) are posted on Instagram @mosaic.habitat.gardens

KRISTEN NELSON



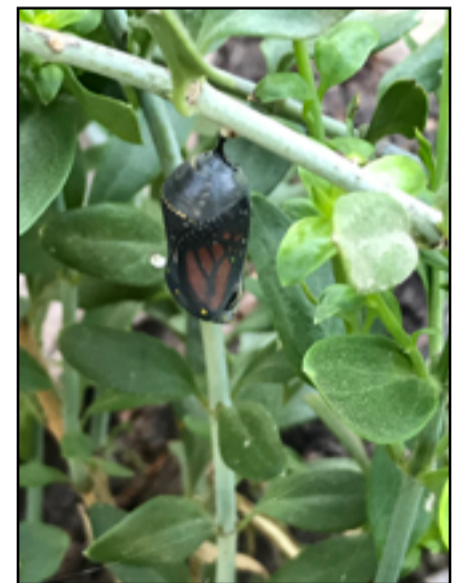
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)

## KRISTEN RECORDS THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

Kristen plants the milkweed, (a) the monarch lays eggs which become (b) caterpillars, which each become a (c) chrysalis in which a (d) butterfly starts forming, to hatch (e) and find a milkweed. The milkweed makes seed to make more milkweed (f)



## PLANTS ON THE GO

During this tumultuous 2020 year, we have learned to adapt - like plants when under stress. We, as a group, have endured and enriched our community in the field and in our own backyards during these “Pandemic“ times. Individually we have ventured out on hikes, engaged in numerous Zoom meetings and occasionally met for organized events. For the first time, we launched on-line plant sales.

In the beginning, we discussed whether we should attempt any organized plant sale, and how such a venture could be accomplished. Members of our energetic chapter (Judi Young, David Krause, Bill Waycott, Linda and David Chipping, Melissa Mooney, Kristin Nelson, John Chestnut, Marti Rutherford, myself and others) worked tirelessly to make plants available to everyone. Of our four on-line plant sales during 2020, we slowly, but methodically, improved species quantities, on-line features such as photos and getting out our events in social media. We also decided to do a mailer for our November sale which was more than successful. With each on-line plant sale, we increased availability of plant species, and with the help of our membership, as well as, the “plant-loving” public, we had positive feedback.

Based on our twenty-six years of plant sales averaging \$2500.00 in net income (thanks to John and Suzette's tireless work), we exceeded that amount a bit over our four plant sales. Most importantly as an organization, we want to get these plants, seeds and the message of the CNPS out into the world. Native plants continue to provide habitat, food, and numerous benefits to our climate and fauna. Thanks again to everyone who helped to make this happen. The CNPS San Luis Obispo chapter on-line plant sales will continue into 2021, so check our website.

JOHN DOYLE



### WORKING THE COVID-SAFE SALE

The trucks arrive from the growers and plants grouped by species. Plants are then segregated into pre-ordered customer selections. Customers are routed for a COVID safe pickup on the prepaid orders. What is not shown is the book and T-shirt table, which enjoyed a very successful sales day. Photos by Kristen Nelson.

### ***THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS***

New Members: Cassandra Foster, Stephen Peterson, Peter Meertens, Jiffi Collins.

Renewing Members: Thomas Becker, Bruce Berlin, Charles Blair, Rosemary Brenton, Emily Coombes, Madeline Fay, Nita Fishburn, George Janeway, Karen Kolba, Vicki & George Marchenko, Kathleen McCollum, Julie Merrill, Kristen Nelson, Cynthia Roessler, Gary Ruggerone, Jeanette Sainz

Dr. Janes Smith, Professor Emeritus at Humboldt State University has made available **California Floras, Manuals, and Checklists: A Bibliography** covers the State and also Federal Lands, Parks, and other categories such as poisonous plants. It is a free download ([https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/botany\\_jps/70](https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/botany_jps/70)). Below is his listing, published in 2019, of publications in San Luis Obispo County. Note that it does not include digital publications such as the many plant lists prepared by Dr. Keil and available at our web site and at CalFlora's web site.

Berry, A. 1984. Vegetational survey and flora of Camp San Luis Shooting Facility and riparian zone density quantification study of Camp San Luis Shooting Facility, San Luis Obispo County, California. Senior Project. California Polytechnic State Univ., San Luis Obispo. 33 pp.

Coffeen, M. 1993. Central coast wildflowers: Monterey, San Luis Obispo, & Santa Barbara counties of California. EZ Nature Books. San Luis Obispo, CA. 160 pp.

Holstein, G. 1973. Some checklists of vascular plants endemic to San Luis Obispo County or reaching their range limits there. Senior Project. California Polytechnic State Univ., San Luis Obispo. 44 pp.

Hoover, R. F. 1966. An annotated list of the pteridophytes of San Luis Obispo County, California. *American Fern J.* 56: 17-26.

Hoover, R. F. 1970. The vascular plants of San Luis Obispo County, California. Univ. California Press. Berkeley. 350 pp.

Hoover, R. F. 1974. Color supplement to the vascular plants of San Luis Obispo County, California. Publ. privately. 40 pp.

Howald, A. & D. Keil. 1984. Plant list for Black Lake Canyon. *Flora Buttensis* 5(1): 56-62.

Jochums, S. 1974. A preliminary survey of the coastal California flora from San Simeon Point to Arroyo de La Cruz, San Luis Obispo County. Senior Project. California Polytechnic State Univ. San Luis Obispo. 45 pp.

Jones, K. G. 1984. A partial list of the plants of the Nipomo Dunes habitat, S. L. O. County, CA. *Flora Buttensis* 5(1): 53-55

Keil, D. J. 1979. Checklist for Field Botany trip to eastern San Luis Obispo County. Dept. Biol. Sci. California Polytechnic State Univ., San Luis Obispo. 16 pp.

Keil, D. J. 1981. Field Botany trip to Morro Bay area. Dept. Biol. Sci. California Polytechnic State Univ., San Luis Obispo. 8 pp.

Keil, D. J. 1983. Field Botany trip to Poly Canyon. Dept. Biol. Sci. California Polytechnic State Univ., San Luis Obispo. 12 pp.

Keil, D. J. 1983. Synonymized checklist of the San Luis Obispo County flora. Dept. Biol. Sci. California Polytechnic State Univ., San Luis Obispo. 46 pp.

Keil, D. J. 1984. Preliminary list of the vascular flora of the Arroyo de la Cruz region, San Luis Obispo County, California. Dept. Biol. Sci. California Polytechnic State Univ., San Luis Obispo. 17 pp.

Keil, D. J. (editor). 2010. Wildflowers of San Luis Obispo, California. City of San Luis Obispo & California Native Plant Society. 86 pp.

Keil, D. J., R. L. Allen, J. H. Nishida, & E. A. Wise. 1985. Addenda to the vascular flora of San Luis Obispo County, California. *Madroño* 32(4): 214-224.

McLeod, M. 1989. Rare plants of San Luis Obispo County. San Luis Obispo Chapter, California Native Plant Soc. Unnumbered pages.

McLeod, M. 2001. Dune mother's wildflower guide: flowers of coastal San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. California Native Plant Society Press. Sacramento. 100 pp.

Nishida, J. H. 1983. Floristic survey of American Canyon, San Luis Obispo County, California. Senior project. California Polytechnic State Univ., San Luis Obispo. 38 pp

Ritter, M. 2006. Plants of San Luis Obispo, their lives and stories. Kendall/Hunt Publ. Dubuque, IA. 159 pp.

Rogers, D. 1991. The Santa Lucia Mountains: diversity, endemism, and austere beauty. *Fremontia* 19(4): 3-11.

Smith, C. F. 1957. Plants of the Dune Lakes area. A checklist. Santa Barbara Mus. Nat. Hist. Santa Barbara, CA. 4 pp.

Turnquist, A. & D. J. Smeltzer. 1983. Vegetational survey and flora of Laguna Lake Park, San Luis Obispo County, California. Senior project. California Polytechnic State Univ., San Luis Obispo. 36 pp.

Twisselmann, E. C. 1956. A flora of the Temblor Range and the neighboring part of the San Joaquin Valley. *Wasmann J. Biol.* 14: 161-300.

Wise, E. A. 1984. A flora of freshwater vascular plants of San Luis Obispo County, California. M. S. thesis. California Polytechnic State Univ., San Luis Obispo. 95 pp.

# CHAPTER BOARD ELECTION: OFFICER'S STATEMENTS

(VOTING TO BE CONDUCTED AT NEXT ZOOM CHAPTER MEETING)

## **President Melissa Mooney:**

It's been my honor to serve as the CNPS-SLO President for this last year, and I'm sure next year will bring both challenges and opportunities. I am lucky to serve with dedicated Officers and an engaged Board of Directors, and to be a part of a very enthusiastic membership. Next year I am hoping to be able to see folks again in person - however we can do this and remain safe. The President's role is all-encompassing - representing the Chapter with various organizations, presiding at meetings, appointing Committee Chairs, participating (ex-officio) in all committees, and preparing the Annual Report of activities to the State organization. I hope to keep an eye on all conservation-related things going on (with the help of our current Conservation Committee Chair, Dr. David Chipping) so that we can conserve our native plants and their habitats. As many of you know, before I was elected President, I helped organize our Chapter's efforts to do vegetation sampling - rare natural community sampling. In between those Presidential duties, I hope to engage our team in this work again this spring, perhaps with new protocols for maintaining physical distance. And hopefully we can even have some rare plant treasure-hunts! Feel free to contact me at [mjmoon@charter.net](mailto:mjmoon@charter.net).

## **Vice President Kristen Nelson:**

This year has certainly been an interesting time to serve as a first-time board member, VP, and organizer of programs... and I enjoyed every bit of it! While we continue to embrace the digital format of monthly chapter meetings for the foreseeable future, I look forward to bringing in speakers from far and wide - people that may have otherwise been difficult to schedule for an in-person presentation. As the newest member of the board, I would also like to find other opportunities to interact with our membership through things like virtual hikes and garden tours. When it is again safe to do so, I plan to extend an invitation to all of our virtual speakers for a local, in-person member hike. I promise not to steal Cindy's thunder, but I am also particularly interested in supporting outdoor education programs. To that end, I am looking forward to participating in the Learning Among the Oaks program, and becoming a CNPS garden ambassador!

I have been inspired this year by the dedicated members of our chapter that have created and continue to sustain such an engaged and active organization. I am so proud to be part of it, and I welcome any feedback or suggestions for ways that you would like to connect and engage with the chapter during this time!

## **Recording Secretary- Cindy Roessler:**

With the chapter, I will be involved in local advocacy in 2021. With Bill Waycott and other CNPS volunteers, I will teach botany to almost 100 SLO County 4th graders through the Learning Among the Oaks program sponsored by the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County. We focus on adaptations of local native plants, flower structure, and pollinators. My favorite part is urging the students to tear apart the sample flowers as they learn. This year the lessons will be conducted via new on-line formats, so that will be a challenge for me to learn how to teach and engage students that way. Our Board members are often advocates for conservation in SLO County. As Recording Secretary, I am responsible for preparing minutes of our fast-paced Board meetings, and when I don't have the background on some of these conservation issues, I often spend time while preparing the minutes to read up on them. I've learned some amazing things from my fellow CNPS members about the natural history and politics of SLO County this way and I look forward to learning from their advocacy in 2021.

## **Chapter Treasurer- David Krause:**

I have been Treasurer for many years and I look forward to serving in this position again next year to expand our chapter's activities as a force for education and preservation of California's native plants.

For example, the new On-Line Plant Sale has caught the interest of many chapter members and non-members as well. The sale of native plants, seeds, books, and tee shirts has brought in almost \$4500 over the four sales we have had since June. This forward thinking has helped bolster our chapter income during these uncertain times. We will have several more on-line sales next year so you will have more opportunities to purchase plants and sales table items. Check our chapter website for plant sale announcements: <https://cnpslo.org>

Another thing I look forward to is participating in the newly formed CNPS-SLO CalFlora Group. We formed this group to house Dr. Keil's and other plant surveys from around the county. Our members can join this group and contribute observations to the existing lists or create surveys of their own to add to the site. Here's a link to the group's data entry site: <https://www.calflora.org/entry/onegroup.html?gid=298>. The plant lists already submitted to CalFlora can also be seen on our web page at <https://cnpslo.org/resources/finding-plants-in-the-wild/>. Email me if you would like to join: [dkincmbria@aol.com](mailto:dkincmbria@aol.com).

I invite you to join me and others helping to geo-reference herbarium specimens from the Cal Poly Hoover Herbarium. This is an interesting process of examining location data from herbarium sheets and assigning latitude/longitude coordinates for where the specimen was collected. This can be done from your home computer! If you are interested, this is a link to the Consortium of California Herbaria: <https://www.cch2.org/portal/index.php> You can contact Katie Pearson [kdpearso@calpoly.edu](mailto:kdpearso@calpoly.edu) for more information.

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

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