
Obispoensis

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



April 2023

Common Monolopia, Hillside Daisy, Common False Turtleback

Monolopia lanceolata with a nod to *Monolopia congdonii*

Dr. Keil's cover photo and Bonnie's drawing on the right are of *Monolopia lanceolata*. It is one of our wildflowers that may make an appearance in the eastern portion of our Chapter area. It is extremely common on the Carrizo Plain where it can turn hillsides a bright yellow in good years. A site on the internet reported that 2005 and 2011 were particularly good years. It can also be found on the tops of small rises and mounds. I have not seen the plant at Shell Creek, but I know it to be present in road cuts just a few miles to the East. The species is mostly restricted to Southern California's interior coastal ranges and Mohave Desert. It is listed as inhabiting grasslands and openings in Foothill Woodland and Chaparral. In our area it prefers to grow where vegetation is sparse. This is probably why it is particularly showy on south and west facing slopes in the Temblors.

Monolopia lanceolata is one of our many yellow-flowered members of the sunflower family or Asteraceae. I've always called the plant by the common name, hillside daisy, but it appears that there are two new common names spreading through the literature. These are 'common monolopia' and 'common false turtleback'. The 'common' name alludes to the fact it is very widespread and tends to form huge colonies where it does grow. The problem with a plant like hillside daisy is that, although it is very common, there is hardly anything written about it other than barebones taxonomic and ecological data. This makes writing anything about it rather difficult.

Now, enter a third common name, 'common false turtleback'. This one is totally new to me. The true turtlebacks are in the genus *Psathyrotes* in the sunflower family. According to the literature, the two species in the genus *Psathyrotes* are found throughout much of the desert southwest. One species, *P. ramosissima*, is clearly the model for the turtleback name. It is a low shrub that forms a gray mound which, in the drawings and

photos, clearly resembles the back of gray turtle. The problem, at first glance, resides in the flowers. The largish yellow flowers of the hillside daisy just don't resemble the smallish, inconspicuous flowers of the true turtlebacks. Turtleback ray flowers lack the showy flat ligules found in most species of *Monolopia*. Back in 1993, The Jepson Manual had four species in the genus *Monolopia*. The current Jepson Manual has five due to the transfer of a species from the genus *Lembertia*. The new addition is a rare plant known as San Joaquin woolly threads or Congdon's woolly threads and is a federally listed rare plant, *Monolopia (Lembertia) congdonii*. This species is found in a very few scattered locations on the Carrizo Plains and has been displaced from the rest of its historical range. It has very small inconspicuous heads that superficially resemble the heads of the true turtlebacks. Non-flowering *Monolopias* and the turtlebacks are similar. Both have gray stems and foliage. Both produce heads surrounded with prominent gray bracts. A photo of *M. congdonii* is on the next page.



DIRK WALTERS



Monolopia congdonii

To say that this plant is “unassuming” would be to making an overstatement. However it is rare, of limited distribution, and listed under the Endangered Species Act as Endangered. It has not been listed under the California Endangered Species Act, but fits the criteria for listing, as it has a California Rare Plant Rank of 1B (Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere). It can be found sparingly in the lower foothills of the Carrizo Plain and Cuyama Valley in sandy soils

Joseph Whipple Congdon

Joseph Whipple Congdon (April 13, 1834 – April 5, 1910) was a lawyer by trade who contributed significantly to early botanical exploration in California, particularly in the Yosemite region, where he resided in Mariposa from 1882 until 1905. Congdon discovered over 30 new species of plants, many of which are rare and endemic to the Yosemite region, including *Lewisia congdonii*, *Eriophyllum congdonii*, *Garrya congdonii*, *Lomatium congdonii*, *Monolopia congdonii*, and others. (Source Wikipedia)



Congdon’s name also is found on two other plants within the county. *Centromadia parryi* subsp. *congdonii* (Congdon’s tarplant) can be seen in the wetlands bordering Tank Farm Rd. and Foothill Blvd. and in Laguna Lake Park. The spiky plant (left-above) can create large patches of color that last well into the summer. The latter location carries an interesting story. There used to be large populations now occupied by the Home Depot, Costco and other stores along Los Osos Valley Road, and at the time the City of SLO had a policy of protecting all plants listed by CNPS from Ranks 1-4. This was going to be a problem for the shopping centers, and so the City changed policy and removed List 3 and 4 plants from protected status. However, as compensatory mitigation, Neil Havlik created mitigation by creating artificial vernal wetlands in Laguna Park (one shown left-below) that have been very successful habitats for the plant.



The other plant with Congdon’s name is *Diplacus congdonii* (Congdon’s monkeyflower) which was collected on a burned chaparral slope along Las Pilitas Road east of the junction with Pozo Road. This is the one and only collection from the county. The other specimen in the Hoover Herbarium was collected in the Sierra Nevada.

Photo Keir Morse (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0)



Field Trips and other Events

Saturday, March 25th, 2023, 9:00 am, Coreopsis Hill in the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. Please arrive between 8:45 am and 9:00 am. This is a casual walk through the dunes to the top of Coreopsis Hill. Total distance is 3 miles with an elevation gain of 300 ft., lasting three hours. The last portion of this hike is walking on sand dunes. Have your "Dune Mother's Wildflower Guide" (copies will be available for sale at the trailhead). The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes-Point Sal Coastal Area contains the largest, relatively undisturbed coastal dune tract in California and was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1974. Five major plant communities are represented here including a) the pioneer/foredunes; b) the coastal dune scrub; c) the riparian woodland; d) the coastal dune freshwater marshes, ponds, and swales; and e) the active interior dunes. The flora includes many endemic plant species including numerous rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals. The hike is sponsored by CNPS, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and The Dunes Center. Bring adequate water, snacks, and dress in layers for the weather; a hat and sturdy shoes are advised. Directions: Highway 1 to Oso Flaco Lake Rd, then west on Oso Flaco Lake Road 2.5 miles to Beigle Rd. Look on the left side of the road for a 6 ft. tall wire mesh fence and steel gate. The gate will be open at 8:30. Do not park on Oso Flaco Lake Rd. Restrooms are available at Oso Flaco Lake State Park, ¾ miles further west on Oso Flaco Lake Rd. for use before and after the hike. Note: pets are not allowed. Contact Lauren, 805-460-6329 or Bill, 805-459-2103. Rain or threat of rain cancels **April 1st, 2023, Saturday, 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Plant Sale at Pacific Beach High School** (see information above)

April 2nd, 2023. Sunday, 8:30 am. A tour along Hwy 58. Meet at the Santa Margarita Park & Ride (35.383284 -120.628717). Dirk Walters is your guide. David Chipping will assist with geological information. Visit wildflower stops along Hwy 58, with Shell Creek as your final destination. Bring adequate water, lunch, and dress in layers for the weather; a hat and sturdy shoes is advised. Contact: Dirk for questions or information (drwaltersATcharter.net). Rain or threat of rain cancels.

Saturday evening, April 8th, 2023, Cal Poly Conservatory, open house and book release - Plants of San Luis Obispo County 2nd Edition. All are welcome. Please make a reservation via this link: <https://forms.gle/fvPPCLJsZHwwFwLr7>

Saturdays, April 15th and 22nd, 2023, 8:30 am. Back roads of the Carrizo Plain and eastern San Luis Obispo Co. Meet at the Santa Margarita Park & Ride (35.383284, -120.628717). Destinations for be determined based on weather and road conditions. Email updates to be circulated closer to the field trips. Bring adequate water, lunch, and dress in layers for the weather; a hat and sturdy shoes is advised. Contact: Bill, 805-459-2103 for questions or information. Rain or threat of rain cancels.

April 29th, 2023, Saturday, Junge Ranch. Join David Chipping on a field trip along the ocean bluffs of the Junge Ranch addition to San Simeon State Parks. This is the same day as the wonderful Cambria Wildflower Show that supports the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve. Carpools can start from the Spencers Grocery Store Parking Lot at 8.30 (35.38966,-120.85817), or assemble at Junge Ranch. Meet at 9.15 at the ocean end of Vista Del Mar Ave, at the southern end of the San Simeon Commercial District (35.60959,-121.14376). After the field trip consider visiting the wonderful wildflower show, where CNPS will also have a well-stocked sales table. Rain or threat of rain cancels. Contact David Chipping (805) 528-0914 dchippinATcalpoly.edu

Why We Cancelled the March 19 Picnic

It was with regret that we had to cancel the planned picnic and social get-together we were planning for March 19, and those that sent in checks will be fully refunded, The picnic site was expected to be soggy after more rain was forecast for the previous days, and there was a chance for the day itself. We were going to have some field trips associated with the event, but decided to cancel due to rain (and how!) closing trails. After the COVID lockdowns and now the bad weather, a lot of us were looking forward to the social event. You will read this after the planned date has passed, so we will see if we made the right call, but remember there are a lot of field trips planned and these are also social events. Bill Waycott has a full schedule for your enjoyment, and some will not be demanding for those for whom walking is a challenge.

David Chipping Acting President

15th Annual Cambria Wildflower Show Saturday, April 29, 12:00-5:00 Sunday, April 30, 10:00-4:00

Hundreds of bouquets of local wildflowers will return to the Cambria Veteran's Building after a 3 year break caused by the Covid pandemic. Bouquets are arranged by family and labeled with their Common and botanical names. Until 2020 Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve and volunteers put on a bigger and better show than the years before, in the past drawing over 500 visitors and showing over 600 specimens. The Wildflower Café will be open with snacks and goodies to enjoy. CNPS will be there with a wonderful assortment of wildflower and plant literature, other merchandise and plant expertise.

For more information contact ranch@ffrpcambria.org.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this show - collecting or identifying, plant display or show set-up, please contact Jo Ellen at joellen927@gmail.com.

Spring Plant Sale is Happening Soon!

Beginning Thursday, March 16, 2023



**PRE-ORDER YOUR NATIVE PLANTS
FROM A HUGE SELECTION OF OFFERINGS
ON OUR CNPS-SLO WEBSITE
<https://cnpslo.org/shop>
(ONLINE ORDERING ENDS 3/30)**

**PICK-UP PARTY AND ADDITIONAL PLANTS FOR SALE
SATURDAY April 1, 10:00 – 2:00
Pacific Beach School Parking Lot
11950 Los Osos Valley Road, SLO**

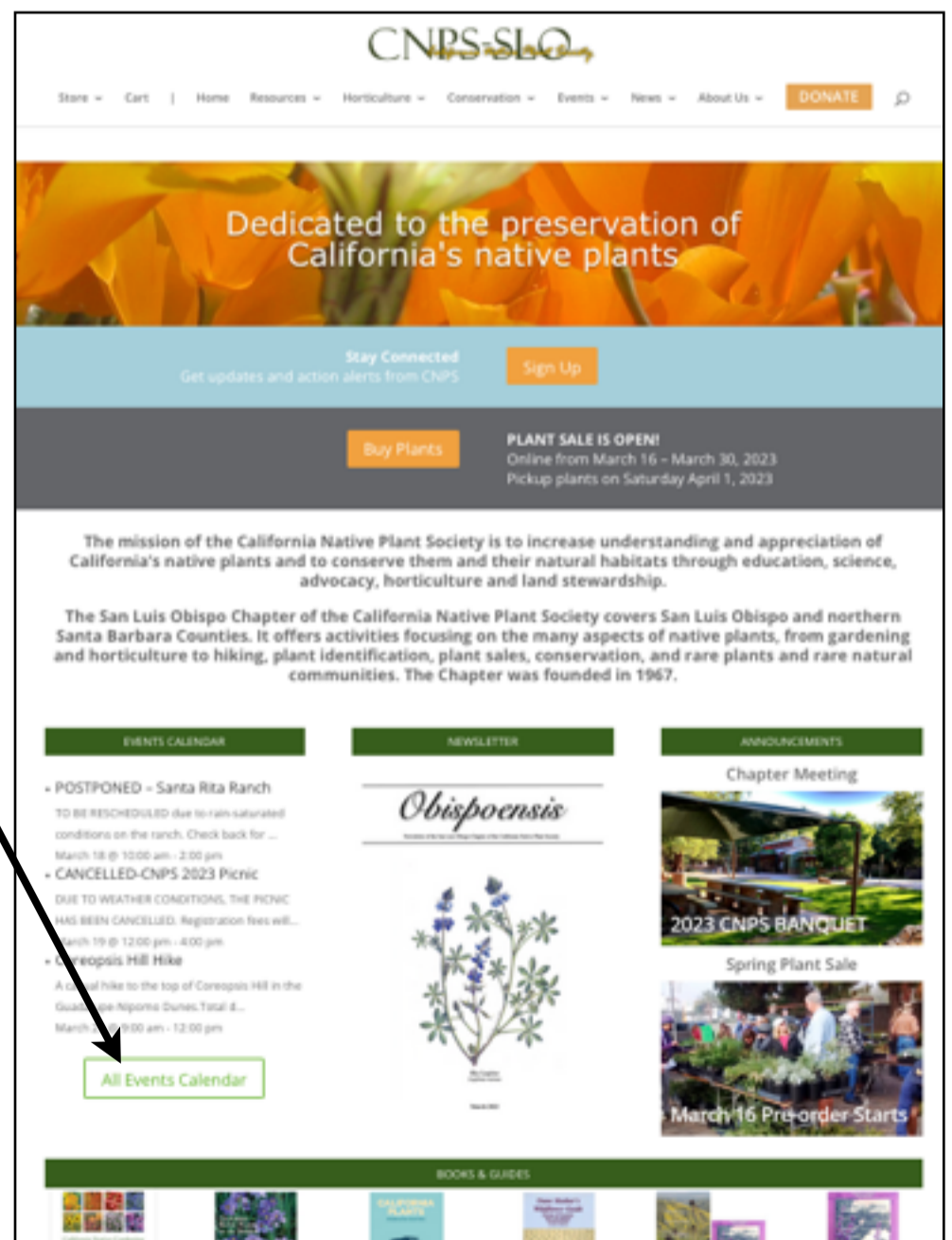


We have a new Event Calendar on our website

Find out about upcoming field trips, bike rides, workshops, membership meetings (and coming soon annual picnic and book signing). See the quick summary of events on the top left-hand side of the homepage at <https://cnpslo.org>, then click the All Events Calendar button to get a longer list of events and details for each event. The Event Calendar allows for new features like quick links to maps of the starting location, RSVPs, searches, and contact information for the event organizer, and the info can be viewed on a cell phone.



<https://cnpslo.org/events/>



Plant Identification

In the Field

* Presented by CNPS-SLO

* Improve your plant keying skills

May 20, 2023

8:30 am – 1:00 pm

Laguna Lake Park

www.cnpslo.org for more information and registration (opens in April)



Save the Date: May 20, 2023: CNPS-SLO Field Plant ID Workshop

Local botanists Kristen Nelson and Dena Grossenbacher will lead a field workshop aimed at helping biologists improve their plant keying skills. Participants will key plants in the field to family, genus and species using either the Jepson Manual or the new edition of the *Vascular Plants of San Luis Obispo County, California* by Dr. David Keil. This is an intermediate-level workshop aimed at biologists who have experience and/or training in plant taxonomy and keying. Class size will be limited and advance registration required. Go to cnpslo.org to register and for more information.

Photo: *Chorizanthe palmeri* Kristen Nelson



Link to Videos from the 2023 Invasive Plant Council Conference

Brendan Wilce, Conservation Program Coordinator, CNPS State Office

The first session has a talk on replacing non-native grasses with herbaceous native plants to reduce ignition potential of fuel breaks and roadsides. There is a case study on mulching and seeding for post-fire recovery and how the different treatments effect cover, This is a case study, not a research study, and the results could be viewed as positive or negative, depending on the goals of reseeding. There is also a panel discussion on fuels management in the wildland urban interface.

<https://www.cal-ipc.org/2022-symposium-video/>

Conservation Update

At press we are STILL waiting for the release of the Dana Reserve EIR, so nothing new to add on this issue. In the continuing saga of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, the State approved the Sustainability Plan, which seems to us to be all good intentions but very little in the way of actually stopping the over-pumping in the near term.

We have had no reports of damage to significant plant populations from flooding, erosion and landslides, but we ask you to check out areas with which you are familiar to ensure that no harm has been done.

David Chipping

LOOKING BACK. WHAT THE OLD FEBRUARY NEWSLETTERS TELL US

Looking Back 10 years to April 2013, we were working with the state on big problems with Cal Fire's Draft Programmatic EIR on fire management. We currently are living with the final version of the Fire Plan, which is being put into operation in Cambria's native forest.

Looking back 15 years to April 2008, we joined Audubon in a successful request to the Board of Supervisors to deny an appeal that would have allowed development of coastal wetland adjacent to Sweet Springs Preserve in Los Osos. We were concerned with an attempt to allow farmer/developers to override NRC Prime Soil Classification to allow more cluster housing.

Looking back 20 years to April 2003, we were complaining about State Park's failure to regulate damage from horses in the Shark Inlet area of Montana de Oro State Parks. I am unhappy to report that they have done absolutely nothing and that damage continues to happen.

Looking back 25 years to April 1998, we were annoyed by misuse of the Transfer of Development Credit Program to allow development near Black Lake Canyon without protecting the canyon floor.

Looking back 30 years to 1993, we were working on access and docent issues with The Nature Conservancy in the Oso Flaco Dunes.

Looking back 35 years to 1988, we were working on attacks being mounted on wetland protection.

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 a few hours at the sales booth at the annual April 1st Plant Sale at Pacific Beach High School in San Luis Obispo.

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

Lichen of the Month: *Ramalina farinacea*



Bushy shaped (fruticose) *Ramalina farinacea* was photographed on tree branches near Cerro Alto campground. It has long, narrow branches (less than 2 to 3 millimeters wide) and clearly defined marginal soralia. It has been collected around the world in areas with Mediterranean, subtropical, or temperate climates. Two different photobiont species of the *Trebouxia* genus of green algae have been found to coexist in the lichen, and can survive in a large range of temperature and light environments. It is thought this demonstrates an ability of the lichen with two simultaneous green algae partners to proliferate in a wider range of habitats and geographic areas.

Photos: D. Chipping

The Carrizo Conservancy's Wildflower Alert #3

What a difference a couple of weeks makes. After a great start to the rainy season in Carrizo Plain, we experienced a mid-winter drought, with less than an inch falling between about mid-January and late February. This caused some of the early flowering plants to “bolt”—that is, to go into flowering—earlier than usual. As a result, a lot of the early flowering wildflowers are in or are approaching their full bloom periods while being smaller than they would be if the rains in this mid-winter drought had been more than they were. So, wildflowers such as the hillside daisies are in full or near full bloom right now, when two weeks ago there was practically nothing to be seen. That is true of other early bloomers such as shooting stars, phacelias, and baby blue eyes.

This phenomenon is most pronounced on the drier and warmer south and west facing slopes. On the flat areas such as the Carrizo Plain floor and on the shadier north facing slopes the soil moisture held and the recent rains (and snows: the Carrizo was completely covered in snow in the late February storms) have rebuilt soil moisture, so it looks to this observer that the later blooming plants—goldfields especially—will be blooming at their “regular” time. Our Carrizo correspondent Pat reported the southern portion of the Carrizo Plain was looking pretty good, with a lot of goldfields coming into bloom, and nice stands of hillside daisies and phacelias. This should continue as the bloom moves north into the main portion of the Plain, which stayed a little wetter.

So all in all, it looks like a good wildflower season is before us. The perennial species such as delphiniums, mariposa lilies, and the flowering shrubs (I am thinking especially of the narrow leaf goldenbush) will have a pretty good display this year, beginning soon and running into early April. The signs look good. Stay tuned for our next update. Thanks!

Neil Havlik, President
Carrizo Plain Conservancy

PS. A note of caution. Remember that many roads in the Carrizo Plain National Monument and surrounding areas are unpaved and can be muddy, slippery, and maybe not even drivable in wet weather. The rain impacts this year have been widespread and so it will take longer for Monument staff and County road staff to get the roads back into shape. There are no facilities in the Carrizo, so make sure you have a full tank of gas. If you come to a stretch of road that looks wet and muddy, be safe, not sorry; there is no towing service either. Don't take chances.

Invasive Species Report- *Lepidium chalepense* Lens-podded Hoary Cress

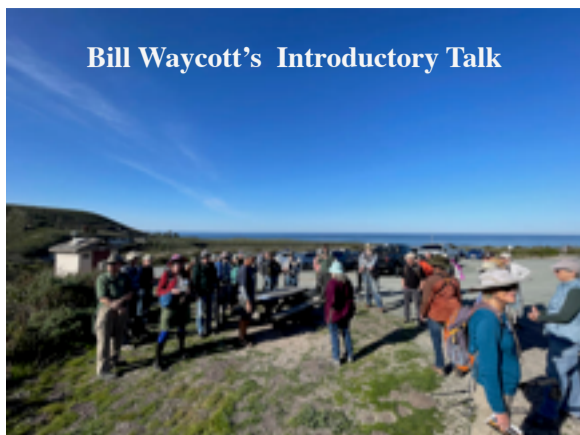


Lepidium chalepense is in the Brassicaceae or Cruciferae (mustard) family. Brassica is from Latin referring to cabbage. The older name, Cruciferae, means “cross-bearing” referring to the four-petaled flower. The genus name *Lepidium* is from Greek meaning “small scale.” Hoary refers to “white with age” (of hair), from Old English *har*. Cress is a common name for a plant of the mustard family from Old English *cresse*, originally *cærese*. Native to central Asia, *Lepidium chalepense* is a perennial that is infrequent in California, growing in interior regions as well as the coast. It is present in disturbed areas including agricultural fields, ditch banks, roadsides, wetlands and riparian areas. It is a prodigious spreader that is difficult to control, whose mats exclude most other herbaceous vegetation. It is 2 ft tall, the stems are erect and covered with short hairs. The leaves are alternate and gray-green. Numerous small, white, fragrant flowers appear in spring to summer. They produce tiny pods that are heart-shaped to ovate. One plant can produce from 1,200 to 4,800 seeds. The seedbank is short-lived. It spreads primarily by reproducing vegetatively, developing new shoots from an extensive root system that penetrates deep into the soil. Getting rid of this invasive plant is very difficult. Grazing with sheep and goats may be effective. The most practical control is to spray Telar (chlorsulfuron), which is highly effective.

Mark Skinner

Photos: Mark Skinner, Hoover Herbarium

Coon Creek Field Trip Report February 18th



Bill Waycott's Introductory Talk



CNPS to Pecho manzanita 'we have you surrounded'



Pecho manzanita



Bryophyte Hunt



Bush poppy



False Solomon's seal



Brittle-leaved manzanita

(Top left) A large crowd came out for this field trip led by Bill Waycott as part of his continuing manzanita-themed field trip program. (Top right) Going first to the hillside where Wilderness Campsite #2 is located, north of the Coon Creek parking lot, we saw Pecho manzanita (Center left) growing on the remnants of an ancient marine terrace of substrate of almost rock-like ancient dune sand. (Center right) Looking for bryophytes on a shaded part of the Rattlesnake Flats Trail, and Bush poppy (bottom right) on a sunny part. False Solomon's seal (Bottom center), *Trillium*, and Brittle-leaved manzanita on the Coon Creek Trail



Trillium angustipetalum

In the Spirit of April 1st,
from Cambria's Jesse Arnold
from deep in the archives of Mark Brunschwiler

S O W League

The Original Conservation Organization
Save Our Weeds

A great battle is being fought all across our nation. It is a titanic struggle pitting all the destructive forces man can muster against the rampant onslaughts of plants which man calls weeds.

Until recently the weeds were in no danger of losing the battle. But some agriculturists in high places have gone so far as to predict the total eradication of weeds by the year 2000. And man, with his poisonous sprays, may have the arsenal to do it.

Can you imagine a world without Dandelion blossoms, when '...each blossom is worth more than a gold coin'?

What would give color, texture, life and mystery to areas now populated by weeds?

At this critical juncture Save Our Weeds has come to the fore so that generations yet unborn will be able to enjoy the many benefits of weeds.

Save Our Weeds will fight back. Won't you join with us to stop defoliation and Save Our Weeds?

SOW is a non-profit educational organization. Contributions are deductible for income tax purposes

SOW SEED

1. Are you threatened with creeping blacktop and crawling crawling concrete? Fight back with a packet of our Pavement Buster weed seeds. A choice blend of Bermuda Grass, Bind Weed, and Curley Dock.
2. Smog getting you down? Take a few of those smog producers out of action with a packet of Puncture Vine seed. The seed pods of this weed are actually sharp enough to puncture tires.
3. As a special inducement to young people to join SOW we offer at half price our jumbo packet of Wild Oats. (Sorry, this packet cannot be sent to anyone over 21.)
4. Hemp seed. (Sorry, cannot be sold to anyone over 30.)
5. If you live in suburbia we know you'll want to try our new strain of Crab Grass. It has been proven in our field trials to be resistant to every chemical weed killer now on the market. Be the first on your block to have some in your lawn!
6. Would you like a touch of the Old West around your neighborhood? Try a packet of our Tumbleweed seed.
7. After years of testing we can now offer you our new, improved Oxalis. Highly resistant to 2,4-D. Try some today.
8. Would you like to keep the neighbor's bratty kids out of your yard? A packet of our Mammoth Milk Thistle seed should do the trick. Features dangerous spines and beautiful variegated leaves.
9. Are you the adventuresome type? Why not try our surprise package of weed seed? Our surprise mixture varies from time to time, but is guaranteed to contain seeds of at least two primary noxious weeds. Also the seeds in this mixture are adapted to a wide range of growing conditions so that you need have no fear of failure.

For further information about Save Our Weeds write to our headquarters in Weedpatch, California, or to our Northern California office in Weed.



Continued Request for Photographs for the Chapter Photo Collection

Ending our Asteraceae 'ask' in the April issue: *Senecio aronicoides*, *Senecio astephanus*, *Senecio glomeratus*, *Senecio minimus*, *Senecio sylvaticus*, *Stebbinsoseris heterocarpa*, *Stylocline masonii*, *Symphyotrichum defoliatum*, *Symphyotrichum subulatum*, *Tanacetum parthenium*, *Tanacetum vulgare*, *Tragopogon dubius*, *Wyethia angustifolia*

Where to Purchase a *Wildflowers of San Luis Obispo* book



Have you heard the buzz among plant people that all the rain may lead to a great wildflower season? Are you tempted to take a friend or relative on a walk to see what all the fuss is about? Want to gift them a remembrance of the occasion? Want to encourage them to do it again? Consider a gift that will keep the flowers blooming, our *Wildflowers of San Luis Obispo* book.

It is available in a number of stores in the county. In the City of San Luis Obispo, The Mountain Air, Crushed Grape, Lincoln Market & Deli, History Center of SLO, Growing Grounds Downtown, and the SLO General Store; in Morro Bay, at the Coalesce Book Store and MB Natural History Museum; in Los Osos, Volumes of Pleasure Bookshoppe; in Cambria, the Garden Shed; in north county, Paso Robles General Store; in south county, at Monarch Books in Arroyo Grande and the Dana Adobe Cultural Center in Nipomo. Or, order it from our web site book store (<https://cnpsslo.org/product-category/books>) and we'll mail it to the address of your choice – a great surprise! LC



Wildflowers of the Carrizo Plain Reprinted

At the urging of Carrizo Plain National Monument, we have reprinted the revised version of this little booklet. The 16-page booklet shows the most common wildflowers on the plain, and has 72 species arranged by color. It is not as comprehensive as our digital book which can be downloaded from our website. It will be available for purchase at the book table during the plant sale.

Surfgrass *Phyllospadix scouleri* is Uniquely Different

How about a flowering plant that flowers underwater in the ocean and which attaches to rocks by a holdfast rather than by roots? After a big storm you can find this plant washed up on the beaches. The Flora of North America has the following to say about the plant...

Plants of Phyllospadix grow attached to rocks, many of which are exposed at low tide. The ecology and importance of Phyllospadix is not known nearly as well as that of Zostera. In summary Phyllospadix vegetation protects the rocky substrate from erosion, and by accumulating sand in and between the tussocks, transforms the rocky substrate into sandy beaches or sublittoral sand flats. Rejuvenation of the Phyllospadix vegetation, however, is then no longer possible on the sand-covered rocks. The plants eventually die, exposing the sand-covered rocks to wave action, which results in erosion of the sand, again exposing the rocks (C. den Hartog 1970).

David Chipping



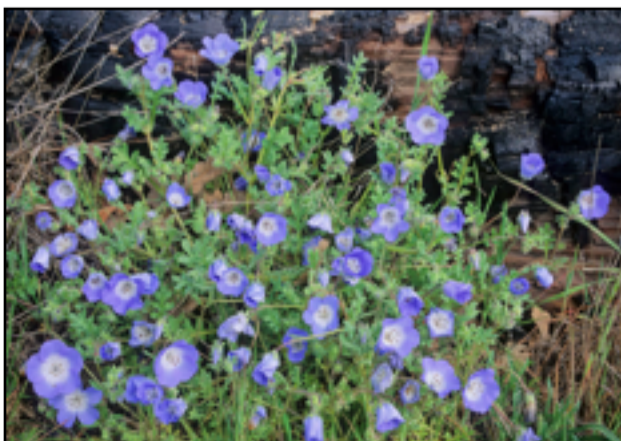
Photo © 2010 Avis Boutell CC BY-NC 4.0

Know More *Nemophila*

I guess baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) are one of the most favorite of plants. It can create extensive displays at the start of the flowering season. The flower is very pretty, and can be found as seed for gardens. The *menziesii* name seems to have been given to the plant in honor of Archibald Menzies (1754-1842), a surgeon, botanist, and naturalist who probably collected the plant when on the Vancouver Expedition (1791-1795). The plant was named in his honor by Sir William Jackson Hooker (1785-1865), the first director of Kew Gardens. The plant was named in a publication called the *Botany of Captain Beechey's Voyage*, coauthored by William Jackson Hooker and George Walker Arnott.

Dr. Keil notes two other *Nemophila* species within SLO County. *Nemophila pedunculata*, dark-seeded nemophila, has a small 1-2 mm white corolla that may have blue veins or dots, and has leaves with 7-9 lobes. It is common but generally unnoticed throughout the county. *Nemophila pulchella* var. *fremontii*, Fremont's nemophila, lacks veins or dots on the white flower, and has leaves with 5 lobes, and is found in our drier inner mountain ranges

David Chipping



(Left) *Nemophila menziesii* (photo:Marlin Harms). (Center) *Nemophila pedunculata* (photo: David Chipping).
(Right) *Nemophila pulchella* var. *fremontii* (photo: Jean Pawek (CC BY-3.0))



A Happy End-Note

In a trip to Shell Creek and Carrizo Plain National Monument, Dirk Walters and David Chipping are happy to report some impressive wildflower displays of baby blue eyes and vast number of goldfields starting to flower. Color seems to be absent west of the Highway 58/La Panza Rd. junction, but east from there the hillsides are starting to color with hillside daisy. Shell Creek has large patches of flowers, especially further down Shell Creek Road (which was closed further north of the flower fields). Although filaree is non-native, there are some massive displays along the road. BLM staff are expecting an excellent flower display, even though there is very little to see at the moment. Everything is soaking wet, and Shell Creek is a torrent. The shooting stars at Red Hill Road are tiny, possibly because the soil profile is completely saturated. Our guess is that things will start to get spectacular in two weeks or so. Photos David 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

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