Channel Islands Chapter of the California Native Plant Society
Serving Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties

# Matilija Copy

Volume 25, Issue 1 Editor: Natalie Rossington Summer 2017

***In this Issue***



## Upcoming Events

### *Chapter Meetings*

***XXXXXXX***
***When:*** Tuesday July 18, 2017 at 7pm
***Where:*** Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Library
1212 Mission Canyon Rd, Santa Barbara

***The Ecology and Flora of Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge***
***Speaker:*** Jason Storlie
***When:*** Tuesday August 15, 2017 at 7pm
***Where:*** Foster Library
651 East Main St., Ventura
This presentation will focus upon the historical and current ecology of the region encompassing Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge, with perspectives on management and conservation efforts to benefit native flora.

***SEPTEMBER MEETING?***
***Speaker:***
***When:***
***Where:*** Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Library
1212 Mission Canyon Rd, Santa Barbara

# Upcoming Events

## *Hikes*

***Coal Oil Point***
***When:*** Sunday July 23, 2017 at 9am
***Leader:*** Kipp Callahan, Land Steward at Coal Oil Point
***Description:*** Kipp will lead a hike along the beach and pond trail at Coal Oil Point Reserve, one of the research preserves managed by UCSB. We will have the opportunity to see examples of several vegetation communities including Beach and Dune communities, Southern Coastal Scrub, and Valley Grassland. Kipp will also talk about the ongoing efforts to manage invasive species at the reserve and past and future native plant restoration projects.

We will meet at the Coal Oil Point Reserve parking lot which is through the yellow gate at the end of Slough Rd in Goleta. After passing through the gate the parking area will be in a gap in the hedges on the right side of the road after the pavement ends. Please RSVP to Kipp Callahan at ***copr.steward@lifesci.ucsb.edu***. The parking area is located behind a gate so you must RSVP in order to receive a gate code to allow you entrance.

## *Volunteer Opportunities*

***Weeding at Carpinteria Salt Marsh***
***When:*** Saturday August 5th, 10am-12pm
***Leader:*** Andrea Adams-Morden
***Descripton:*** Come help keep the Carpinteria Salt Marsh pristine and weed-free! Contact Andrea for more information - ***805-886-4382***

*Parasitic salt marsh dodder's (*Cuscuta salina*) orange strands wrapped around pickleweed (*Salicornia pacifica*). Photo by N. Rossington*

*Marsh Jaumea (*Jaumea carnosa*) blooming at the salt marsh. Photo by N. Rossington*

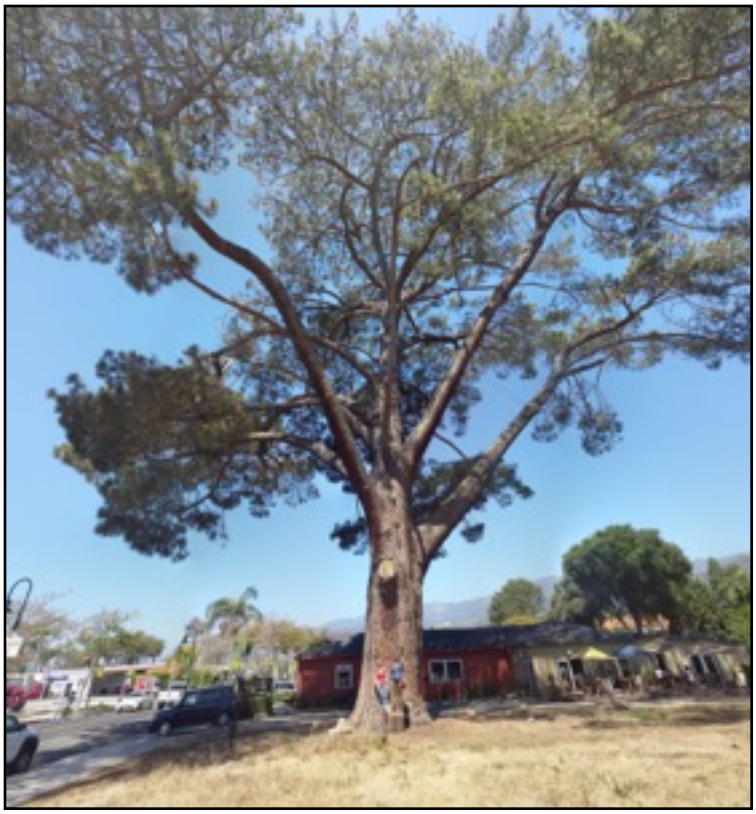
# Local Plant Spotlight: Carpinteria's Champion Torrey Pine

Natalie Rossington

Torrey pines (*Pinus torreyana*) are native to only two places on earth: Del Mar in southern San Diego county and Santa Rosa Island. In their native range along coastal bluffs, salty winds whip through their grey-green foliage, pruning the trees into short and gnarled specimens. Early horticulturalists began growing Torrey pines outside of their natural coastal habitat and when moved away from the harsh saline wind, the trees flourished into grand pines. You can find these trees growing throughout California, including many nice specimens at UCSB, as street trees in downtown Santa Barbara, and at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, where you can see the island subspecies (subspecies *insularis*).

Arguably the most famous Torrey pine is the Wardholme Torrey Pine in Carpinteria, which is the champion Torrey pine – the largest of its species and listed on the California Big Tree Registry. Protected from the salty coastal wind and nourished by the fertile Carpinteria soil, the Wardholme Torrey pine has grown to 126ft tall with a 6.5ft trunk diameter. Judge W. Thomas Ward proudly planted the rare tree in front of his Carpinteria home in 1888, and in 1968, the tree became Carpinteria's 1st historical landmark. I encourage everyone to visit the tree - you can find it on Carpinteria Ave. between Maple Ave. and Walnut Ave. Take a friend and enjoy some coffee or tea on the patio at Lucky Llama, conveniently located in the cool, expansive shade of the Wardholme Torrey Pine.

For more information about the California Big Tree Registry and all of California's Champion Trees, please visit *http://californiabigtrees.calpoly.edu*

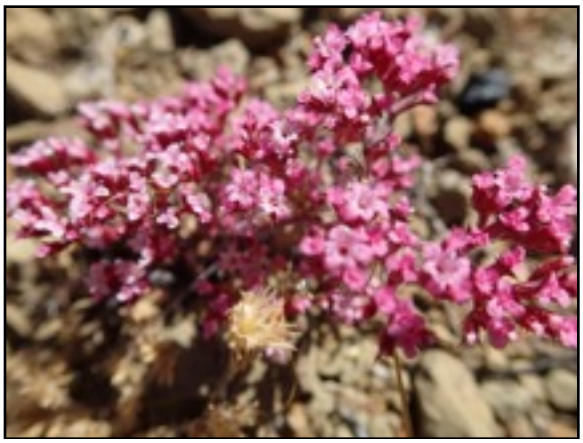


*The Wardholme Torrey pine extends an impressive 126ft toward the sky. Photo by N. Rossington*

# ***Rose Valley Hike Review***

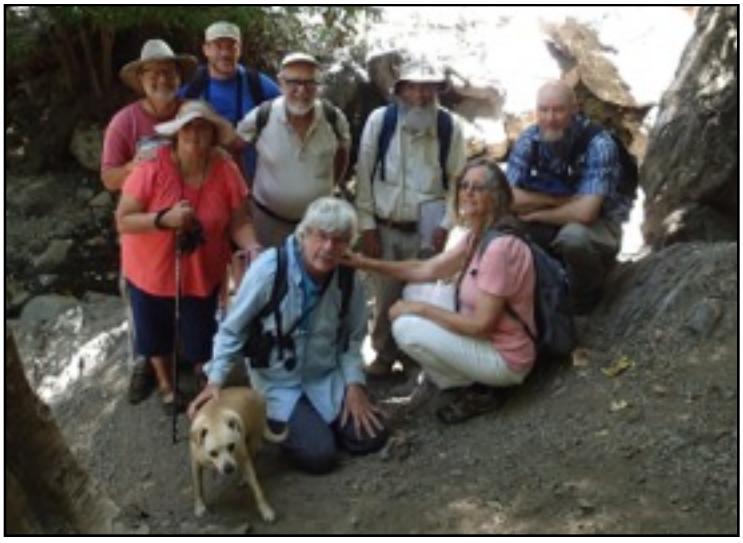
Rick Burgess

Ventura County is fortunate to have a number of habitats which because of unusual soils and water regimes support assemblages of unusual plants. Rose Valley, due to its deep clay soils and elevation of +3300 ft is just such a place. The deposition of soils from the slopes in the area have created flat dry pebble plains and vernal meadows in wet swales and drainages.



Chorizanthe clevelandii *was blooming nicely at Rose Valley. Photo by Connie Rutherford*

On Sunday, June 4 a group of CNPS members set out to explore this area with trip leader Rick Burgess. We were not disappointed. As we walked across the dry pebble plains we encountered such oddities as Cleveland's spine flower (*Chorizanthe clevelandii*), large swaths of Nuttall's nemacladus (*Nemacladus ramosissimus*), rigiopappus (*Rigiopappus leptocladus*), round-nut pectocarya *(Pectocarya setosa*) and short-podded lotus (*Acmispon brachycarpus)*. Most of these species do not compete well with other plants and consequently are often found in more hostile environments where other species do not thrive.



*CNPS members on the Rose Valley Hike. Photo by Connie Rutherford*

The vernal meadows which form along small drainages retain water longer than surrounding areas due to their clay soils. In this area we found valley tassels (*Castilleja attenuata),* Baja navarretia (*Navarretia peninsularis*) and gray-leaved skullcap (*Scutellaria siphocampyloides*) as well as abundant clovers (*Trifolium spp.)*. Several geophytes such as Kern

*Continued on page 5*

# ***Rose Valley Hike Review Cont.***

Rick Burgess

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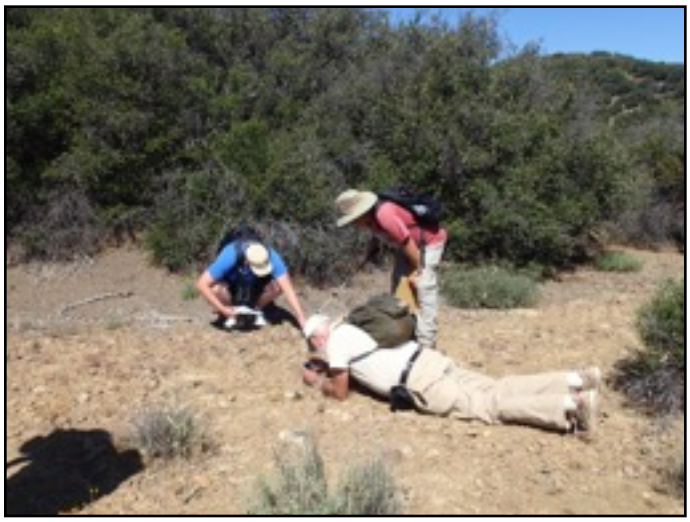
brodiaea (*Brodiaea terrestris* ssp. *kernensis*), fringed onion (*Allium fimbriatum*) butterfly mariposa lily (*Calochortus venustus)* and California breadroot (*Pediomelum californicum*) were also encountered. Geophytes are those plants which weather inhospitable conditions as underground structures and grow only when conditions are more favorable.



*CNPS members practice "belly botany" to get a close look at the small plants. Photo by Connie Rutherford*

*Showy purple flowers of Scutellaria siphocampyloides. Photo by Connie Rutherford*

After we had thoroughly explored these areas, we hiked the short, shady trail to Rose Valley Falls for lunch. The falls are still running well and we enjoyed such stunning species as Western boykinia (*Boykinia occidentalis*), alumroot (*Heuchera caespitosa*), Western crimson columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*) and Southern maidenhair fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris).*

All in all, we had a wonderful time. The weather was perfect, the company was great and the plants were intriguing. Who could ask for more!

# ***Statewide CNPS Workshops***

***Wetland/Riparian Plant Identification***
***When:*** August 28-30
***Where:*** Sacramento Valley Conservancy's Camp Pollock, Sacramento, CA
***Instructor:*** David Magney
***Cost:*** $375 for CNPS members, $395 for non-members
This is an intensive intermediate plant identification course with an emphasis on riparian and wetland plant recognition and ecology. Emphasis will be given to northern California species and habitats; however, information learned in this class will be readily applicable throughout California and elsewhere. Common and rare species will be covered. This workshop will include classroom presentations and exercises, and field excursions, primarily around the American River. We will spend at least half the time in the field.

***Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Relevé***
***When:*** October 3-5
***Where:*** UC Davis Bodega Marine Lab & Reserve, Bodega Bay , CA
***Instructors:*** Jennifer Buck-Diaz and Anne Klein
***Cost:*** $375 for CNPS members, $395 for non-members
This course will be a combination of lecture and field exercises in vegetation sampling with a focus on collecting data using the CNPS-CDFW combined vegetation rapid assessment/ relevé method. We will discuss applications of fine-scale vegetation sampling, classification and mapping, how to document rare natural communities, and how vegetation information fits into planning documents.

***CEQA Impact Assessment***
***When:*** October 24-25
***Where:*** Sacramento Valley Conservancy's Camp Pollock, Sacramento, CA
***Instructor:*** David Mangey
***Cost:*** $335 for CNPS members, $365 for non-members
This workshop will focus on how to read and analyze the biological resources section of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) prepared to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Land use decisions that affect native plants and natural vegetation are generally assessed through the CEQA review process, yet CEQA is enforced ONLY by the public. Knowing how to read an EIR's biological resources section and what is required, or not required, will help the reviewer, and the preparer, do a better job of assessing the impact of a project. This workshop will provide basic guidance on what is required to be included in a biological assessment pursuant to CEQA, how to read the documents, and how to submit critical, scientifically-based comments.

Please visit *www.cnps.org/worshops* for more details!