



Nemophila

Winter 2017-2.2
V. T. Parker, Editor

Newsletter of the California Botanical Society

In Brief

As the West Coast is pounded with rain, mud slides and flooding prevail, secretly botanists are polishing their hand lenses and camping gear because this spring should be an amazing bloom. Signs of a record year in the desert are beginning and should be peaking in the upcoming weeks. I've already got a trip planned!

Spring is time for the annual banquet, this year at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Please show up! Plus, field trips to Santa Cruz Island Figueroa Mountain.



Anacapa Island: photo stolen from the SBBG website. See Announcements for why.

Announcements:

The 26th **Graduate Student Meeting** will be sponsored by the California Botanical Society on Saturday, April 8, 2017. Requests for abstracts are out. Check the website for more information. The meeting will be held at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

Annual Banquet: The annual meeting and banquet of the Society will be held in conjunction with the Graduate Student meeting at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. The speaker this year will be Steve Junak. He will focus on the botanical history of the California Channel Islands. He has led field trips to the islands for more than 25 years, and has co-authored several books on the Channel Islands including *A Flora of San Nicolas Island and Flora of Santa Cruz Island*. I was lucky enough to be on some of his trips. This will be a memorable talk. See you there! Put April 8, 2017 in your calendar now. There is a FIELD TRIP to Santa Cruz Island on Friday, 7 April, that will be held in conjunction with the Banquet and Graduate Student Meeting. See the website for the banquet and meeting at calbotsoc.org.



Spring in the desert is coming fast! Should be a good year.

2017 Annual Banquet and Graduate Student Symposium

Please join us for the California Botanical Society Annual Banquet, on the evening of **April 8, 2017** at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (SBBG). Following dinner, Steve Junak will be giving a keynote address on the botanical history of southern California's Channel Islands. Before his recent retirement, Steve was the Herbarium Curator at the SBBG and has co-authored several books on the Channel Islands. More information, including a registration form is available on our website <http://calbotsoc.org/events/>

We are also still accepting student abstracts via our website for the 26th Graduate Student Symposium, held at SBBG prior to the banquet on **April 8**. Students of all levels engaged in a project relating to any aspect of plant science in or relevant to western North America are encouraged to apply, including undergraduates. Topics may include bioinformatics, conservation, ecology, floristics, genetics, morphology, physiology, or systematics.

Abstracts for completed, in-progress, or proposed research will be accepted, and presentations may take the form of talks or posters. The Society will be sponsoring a **group campsite** available **free for students** at Carpinteria State Beach on 4/7. Information about other lodging options, student travel grants, and registration is available on our website. Specific questions can be directed to:

Adam Schneider (acschneider@berkeley.edu)

or

Danielle Black (danielle.black@lifesci.ucsb.edu), symposium co-chairs.

Field trips!

In conjunction with the Graduate Student Symposium and the annual banquet, the Society is sponsoring two field trips in the Santa Barbara area. On Friday, April 7, Steve Junak and Matt Guilliams will be leading a trip to **Santa Cruz Island** (weather permitting), departing at 9:00am from Ventura Harbor. Space is limited to 20 guests, and there will be a \$65 fee to cover transportation to the island. On Sunday, April 9, Larry Ballard and Matt Guilliams will be leading a trip to **Figueroa Mountain** that is free and open to all.

More information, including registration, is available on the California Botanical Society website, <http://calbotsoc.org/events/>. Any other questions can be directed to Matt Guilliams at mguilliams@sbbg.org

We are hopeful that the floral displays this year will be stunning, since California is experiencing its first wet winter in a number of years!

**The *Jack and Marion Schieffelin Charitable Fund*
donates \$10,000 to the
California Botanical Society**

Last November, the California Botanical Society received a letter from the Schwab Charitable Fund indicating that we were the recipients of a grant from the Jack and Marion Schieffelin Charitable Fund. This was not an expected event! We were quite excited as you might imagine.

The Council met to decide what to use the grant for and voted to apply all of it to an education fund. This fund is aimed at providing research and travel grants to students.

Given this boost, we *now* expect all members of the Society to break out their checkbooks in an equivalent manner! Thanks!



Transitions

Melanie Link-Pérez: Oregon State University

Dr. Melanie Link-Pérez is the new curator of the Oregon State University Herbarium. Melanie received her Ph.D. in 2010 from Miami University, where she studied the systematics of the neotropical fern genus *Adiantopsis*. She has taught at SUNY Oneonta, University of Oklahoma, and most recently Armstrong State University in Savannah, Georgia. In her new position, Melanie will be responsible for curation of the Oregon State University Herbarium, teaching in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, and serving as Head Advisor for undergraduate Botany majors. She also will continue her *Adiantopsis* research. Melanie is excited about her move to the Pacific Northwest, and she is eager to begin exploring Oregon and its flora. To this end, she will be contributing the treatments of *Medicago* and *Ribes* to the Oregon Flora, volumes 2 and 3, respectively.





Transitions

Dena Grossenbacher: Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

I am an Assistant Professor of Botany at CalPoly as of January 2017. I am broadly interested in how plant-environment interactions generate and maintain plant diversity, and the processes underlying the origin and extinction of species. I use the California flora to address these questions because of its astonishing variation both among and within species. In particular, I focus on the members of Phrymaceae which display a wide variety of flower types, mating systems, range sizes and habitat specializations making them ideal for investigating evolutionary and ecological processes that generate diversity. I received my Bachelor's degree in Botany in 1999 from University of Washington where I had my first research experience mentored by Doug Schemske and Toby Bradshaw. I was lucky to work as a field botanist in the Pacific Northwest and the Yosemite region from 2000-2008 and received my Ph.D. in Population Biology from UC Davis in 2013 with Maureen Stanton. I did postdocs studying mating system evolution at University of Minnesota with [Yaniv Brandvain](#) and at [Washington State University](#) with [Jeremiah Busch](#).



Justen Whittall: New editor for *Madroño*

Matt Ritter (Cal Poly SLO) has served as the editor of *Madroño* since 2012, transitioning into that position as Rich Whitkus (Sonoma State University) and Tim Lowrey (University of New Mexico) stepped down. Thank you Matt Ritter for a job well done!

Now **Justen Whittall** (Santa Clara University) is transitioning into the editorship as Matt changes focus. Welcome Justen!



Justen was born in Santa Clara when it was still the Blossom Valley. While completing his Bachelor's of Science in Biology, at Santa Clara University he was formally introduced to the California Flora by John Mooring (emeritus). After volunteering at the UC/JEPS Herbarium helping to catalogue the flora of Montara Mountain, he moved to Corvallis, Oregon to pursue a Master's Degree in Plant Systematics with Aaron Liston & Bob Meinke. After completing his master's thesis on the relationships and conservation status of the *Mimulus moschatus* alliance, he returned to California to pursue a Ph.D. with Scott Hodges (UC Santa Barbara) examining the role of pollinator shifts and flower color evolution during the North American columbine adaptive radiation (*Aquilegia*). After a brief postdoc at UC Davis (Sanderson, Stanton & Strauss), he started a faculty position at his alma mater, Santa Clara University. Since arriving, he has been investigating plant evolution, ecology & conservation questions in local plants (*Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *albidus* & *Erysimum teretifolium*) and afar (*Parrya nudicaulis* from the North Slope of Alaska & *Silene littorea* from Mediterranean Spain). Currently, his research focuses on flower color, pollination biology, serpentine endemism, phylogenomics, conservation genetics and restoration ecology of a diversity of California native plants.



Arctostaphylos glauca

We are seeking short articles, letters to the editor or items of interest to the members of the California Botanical Society concerning the Western North America region.

Otherwise you'll just keep getting more and more about Arctostaphylos.

Please contact Tom Parker, parker@sfsu.edu.



California Botanical Society Officers 2016-2017

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