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# Nemophila

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## Newsletter of the California Botanical Society

Josephine C. Lesage, Editor

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### Announcements

#### *Student memberships are now only \$20!*

Thanks to sustaining members and donations to the society, we are able to subsidize student memberships and event attendance costs. If you are interesting in donating to our education fund, grants, or scholarships, you can do so online:

[calbotsoc.org/membership/#donate](https://calbotsoc.org/membership/#donate)

#### **Benefits of student membership:**

- Subscription to our journal *Madroño*, and our digital newsletter *Nemophila*
- Eligibility to apply for Paul Silva Student Research Grant and the Annetta Carter Memorial Fund Grant

- Five page credits for publishing your peer-reviewed work in *Madroño*
- Eligibility to apply for travel support for our [Graduate Student Symposium](https://calbotsoc.org/graduate-student-symposium)
- Membership in our Botany Ambassador program (Learn more at [calbotsoc.org/outreach](https://calbotsoc.org/outreach))
- Free access to *Madroño* though the BioOne portal
- Opportunity to submit announcements and articles to *Nemophila*

For more details, please visit <https://calbotsoc.org/>, or email Rachael at [membership@calbotsoc.org](mailto:membership@calbotsoc.org)

### *Seeking grants to add to the CalBotSoc Grant Database*

A central focus for the Society is its support of young botanists. Besides our two major grants programs, we also provide a resource for where students may easily find other grants at <https://calbotsoc.org/grants/#sources>. If you know of additional grants that aren't listed there, please contact our Membership Chair ([membership@calbotsoc.org](mailto:membership@calbotsoc.org)) with information about the grant, so we can add it to the database.

### *Apply for the Paul Silva Student Research Grant (Deadline May 15)*

Applications for the Paul Silva Student Research Grant are due **May 15<sup>th</sup>**. The California Botanical Society will be awarding one or several research grants of up to \$600 to qualified students working on projects that will help achieve the Society's goal of "advancing Western American botany".

This award is named after Paul Silva (1922-2014), a phycologist and Curator of Algae at the University Herbarium, UC Berkeley, whose bequest to the Society has made this award possible. Students from any college or university doing botanical research within western North America and who are members of the Society are eligible for this award. Collaborative applications are welcome. Undergraduates are encouraged to apply.

For more information and application details, visit: <https://calbotsoc.org/grants/>

### *Webmaster & Social Media Chair search*

The California Botanical Society is looking for a Webmaster & Social Media Chair. This board member position entails keeping our website up to date, periodically posting new content, and making announcements via social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). If you are interested in this volunteer position, please email Rachael at [membership@calbotsoc.org](mailto:membership@calbotsoc.org).

### *Contribute to Nemophila*

*Nemophila* is a quarterly newsletter compiling and disseminating information and announcements for the members of the California Botanical Society, as well as highlighting and sharing member news and stories.

We are seeking short articles, letters to the editor, photos, and other items of interest to the members of the California Botanical Society.

Do your kids love to draw plants or of botanists? Submit those too!

Please email your submissions to Josie at: [membership@calbotsoc.org](mailto:membership@calbotsoc.org)



### **2019 County Science Fair Winners**

From time to time, the California Botanical Society is able to award prizes to elementary, middle and high school student scientists for botanical projects presented at recognized California science fairs. The program was initiated in 2018 and is aimed to encourage our next generation to continue asking questions about plants, and to kick-start the next generation of botanists.

If you are interested in helping to spread the reach of the Society's science fair awards by volunteering to judge botanical projects at your local their county's science fair, please contact Justen Whittall ([jwhittall@scu.edu](mailto:jwhittall@scu.edu)).

This year, we awarded prizes at both the Santa Clara and Santa Cruz County Science Fairs to more than a dozen bright plant scientists. Prizes were given for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the high school and middle school categories.

### 2019 Synopsis Challenge (Santa Clara Valley Science and Engineering Fair) winners

At the middle school level, first place was awarded to Brian Chen for his project titled "Validating novel algorithm generated crop rotations." The 2<sup>nd</sup> place middle school award went to the team of Vishnavi Katta and Ruhi Batchu, who won for their project about "Watering efficiently."



From left to right: Vishnavi Katta, Justen Whittall (Madroño editor), and Brian Chen; winners in the Santa Clara Valley middle school category.



From left to right: Charlotte Lara, Justen Whittall (Madroño editor), and Royal Huey III; winners in the Santa Clara Valley high school category.

At the high school level, Royal Huey III won 1<sup>st</sup> place for his study on the "Effects of simulated microgravity through perpetual falling on *Raphanus raphanistrum* root network development." The 2<sup>nd</sup> place award went to Charlotte Lara, for her project entitled, "Allelopathic effects of California native trees on a California native grass, *Festuca californica*".

### Santa Cruz County Science and Engineering Fair winners

In the high school category, Katherine McCormick, Helen Leslie Schafer-Dews, and Ruby Howard were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place, for their project on "Water Percolation in Relation to the Quantity of French Broom in the San Lorenzo Valley Watershed". 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to Trevor Cambron and Natalie Owens for their project on "Trails, Soil, and SOD (Sudden Oak Death)".



From left to right: Katherine McCormick, Helen Leslie Scafer-Dews, Justen Whittall, and Ruby Howard.

In the middle school category, 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Ruby Evans for her project, which asked, "Do Plants Absorb Microplastics?" Eva Ramirez-Truse won 2<sup>nd</sup> place for her project, titled "Which Trees Take the Longest to Burn?"

A special elementary level award was also given to Jonica Wilson for her project about "The Effects of Wildfire on Seed Germination of Native and Invasive Plants of California's Monterey Pine Forests".



From left to right: Justen Whittall (*Madroño* editor), Jonica Wilson, Ruby Evans, Eva Ramirez-Truse, Natalie Owens, Trevor Cambron, Katherine McCormick, Helen Leslie Scafer-Dews, Ruby Howard, and Josie Lesage (*Nemophila* editor); winners in the Santa Cruz County Science Fair.

Congratulations to all the winners!

## 2019 Annual Banquet and 27<sup>th</sup> Graduate Student Symposium

The 2019 Annual California Botanical Society Banquet was held on April 6<sup>th</sup>, after the 27<sup>th</sup> Graduate Student Symposium in San Luis Obispo.

The symposium consisted of excellent talks, a poster session, and two great field trips – plus, plenty of great botanical networking!



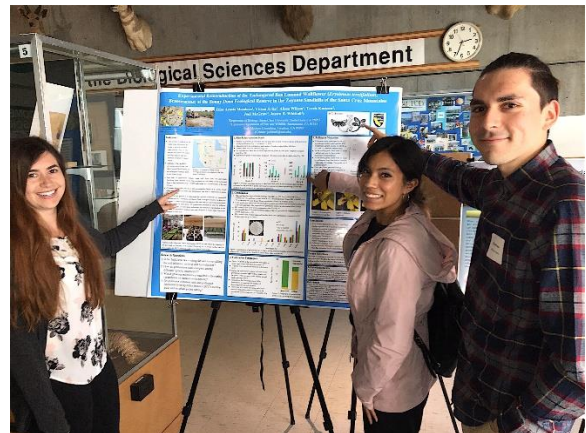
Dean Wendt, Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at Cal Poly SLO, addresses symposium attendees.

*Photo: Jenn Yost*



California Botanical Society President, Susan Mazer, presenting at the Annual Meeting and Banquet.

*Photo: Jenn Yost*



Postbaccalaureate Alissa Wilson (left) and undergraduates Vivian Avila and Elias Acosta-Mendoza presented their research describing an experimental reintroduction of the endangered Ben Lomond Wallflower (*Erysimum teretifolium*) from the sandhills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. They received an Honorable Mention in the poster category.

*Photo: Justen Whittall*

*Prize-winning talks and posters***Best Overall Presentation:**

Natalie Love, University of California, Santa Barbara

*A new quantitative phenological metric for use in pheno-climatic models: a case study using herbarium specimens of Streptanthus tortuosus*

**Best Talk:**

Emily Cox, University of California, Berkeley  
*Lasthenia gracilis and water stress: A glimpse into the future of California grasslands*

**Honorable Mention Talks:**

Ryan Buck, San Diego State University  
*Interspecific Hybridization in Pinyon Pines*

Andy Siekkinen, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden / Claremont Graduate University  
*Systematics of Hechtia (Hechtioideae): Insights in phylogenetics and plastome evolution in a non-model organism with Next Generation Sequencing*

Dena Paolilli, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo  
*Assessing alpine vegetation community shifts in the Sierra Nevada of California*

**Best Posters:**

Erin Coltharp and Chloe Knowd, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo  
*Oak (Quercus agrifolia) leaf domatia-mite mutualism*

Nancy Conejo, San Francisco State University  
*Biogeography of the whorled wattles (Acacia section Lycopodiifoliae) in the Australian Monsoon Tropics*

**Honorable Mention Poster:**

Drew Gilberti, California State University, Chico  
*Natural history of Disholcaspis eldoradensis, a galling wasp of Valley Oak (Quercus lobata): distribution, nectar, and interactions with ants*

Vivian Avila and Elias Acosta-Mendoza, Santa Clara University  
*Reintroducing a Self-Incompatible Endangered Species - An Experimental Approach*



Symposium attendees gather for a tour through Poly Canyon, led by Matt Ritter.

*Photo: Margriet Wetherwax*



Symposium attendees gathered during the Serpentine Irish Hills field trip.

*Photo: Nishi Rajakaruna*



Symposium attendees visiting a flowery hilltop during the Serpentine Irish Hills field trip.

*Photo: Nishi Rajakaruna*



Symposium attendees pose for a photo during the Serpentine Irish Hills field trip.

*Photo: Nishi Rajakaruna*

## Botany Ambassador Program

The goals of the Botany Ambassador Program are to give our early-career botanist and student members experience in science communication and professional development opportunities, as well as to increase the reach and readership of *Madroño*.

As part of this program, the California Botanical Society is publishing general summaries of *Madroño* research articles in the *Nemophila* newsletter and on our website. Participants may volunteer to write lay translations of *Madroño* articles that they select; these translations will be edited and then posted on-line and in *Nemophila*.

To participate in this opportunity, please choose a recent *Madroño* article that you are interested in ([www.calbotsoc.org/madrono](http://www.calbotsoc.org/madrono)), and refer to this sheet to make sure other Ambassadors have not chosen the same article (<https://tinyurl.com/yb39udo9>).

Additionally, volunteers should contact our **Outreach Coordinator, Dani Black** ([danielleblack@ucsb.edu](mailto:danielleblack@ucsb.edu)), to set this process in motion. *If you are fluent in another language, we would love to have your summary translated into any other languages that you speak!*

In addition, graduate student and postdocs may hone their editorial skills by volunteering to review submitted *Madroño* articles at the discretion of our editor. To participate in this activity, please fill out the google form: <https://goo.gl/forms/PpAQf6r3WfVvpzv1>

We have also been busy assembling K-12 botanical lesson plans, which are freely available for anyone to use when volunteering in local classrooms, outdoor education programs, or botanical gardens. These can be found at: <https://calbotsoc.org/outreach/>

