



Cal-IPC News

*Protecting California's Natural Areas
from Wildland Weeds*

Vol. 12, Nos. 3/4, Fall/Winter 2004

Newsletter of the California Invasive Plant Council

Amber waves of... *Phalaris aquatica*?

Harding grass is one of sixty-three invasive plant species identified for mapping and control by the Catalina Island Conservancy. Photo by John Knapp of the Conservancy, winner in the "Landscape" category of our first photo contest. Other contest winners on pages 10-11.

Inside:

A tale of two invaders: The dynamic history of pampas grass and jubata grass in California ..	4
Waipuna™ not? Steaming your weeds ..	6
One man's fight against broom ..	12
2004 Symposium in photos ..	8



California Invasive Plant Council

1442-A Walnut Street, #462
Berkeley, CA 94709
(510) 843-3902
fax (510) 217-3500
www.cal-ipc.org

A California 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

Our Mission

To protect California's natural areas from wildland weeds through research, restoration, and education.

Staff

Doug Johnson, Executive Director
dwjohnson@cal-ipc.org

Elizabeth Brusati, Project Manager
edbrusati@cal-ipc.org

Board of Directors

Steve Schoenig, President (2005)
California Dept. of Food & Agriculture

Alison Stanton, Vice-President (2005)
BMP Ecosciences

Carri Piroso, Secretary (2005)
California Dept. of Food & Agriculture

Jennifer Erskine-Ogden, Treasurer (2005)
U.C. Davis

Joe DiTomaso, Past-President (2004)
U.C. Davis Weed Science Program

Jon Fox (2005)
California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo

Mark Newhouser (2005)
Sonoma Ecology Center

Dan Gluesenkamp (2005)
Audubon Canyon Ranch

Bobbi Simpson (2005)
National Park Service - Exotic Plant Management Team

Jason Giessow (2005)
Santa Margarita/San Luis Rey Weed Management Area

Wendy West (2005)
El Dorado County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

David Chang (2006)
Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Joanna Clines (2006)
Sierra National Forest

Christy Brigham (2006)
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

Bob Case (2006)
California Native Plant Society

Affiliations for identification purposes only.
Last year of term noted.

Cal-IPC News

Fall/Winter 2004 - Volume 12, Numbers 3 & 4

Editor: Doug Johnson, dwjohnson@cal-ipc.org

Cal-IPC News is published quarterly by the California Invasive Plant Council. Articles may be reprinted with permission from the editor. Submissions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit all work.

From the Director's Desk

Transitions

As we move into the rainy season of the new year, we have a new line-up here in the Cal-IPC office. **Brianna Richardson**, after a year of outstanding work as our first Project Manager, is now Project Director at the 609-acre Arastadero Preserve in Palo Alto. Despite all her new duties, Bree continues to contribute to Cal-IPC efforts.

In December, Cal-IPC hired **Elizabeth Brusati** as our new Project Manager. Elizabeth recently received her PhD in Ecology from UC Davis, and her dissertation focused on the impacts of invasive *Spartina* species in San Francisco Bay. Elizabeth's background in weed impacts will be valuable in her primary task of organizing our weed list revision process.

In addition to these staff transitions, I recently made the transition to fatherhood. Born August 27, **Leo** made last year's Symposium even more adventurous than usual!

Taken together, these transitions put a hitch in our publication schedule, and thus you have in your hands a double issue of *Cal-IPC News*. It's a good issue, with articles ranging from the biogeographical (**John Lambrinos** on *Cortaderia* distribution) and the practical (**Mandy Tu** on the Waipuna hot foam treatment system) to inspirational (**Jim Johnson's** Symposium address) and the personal (Brianna Richardson on **Bob Connick's** committed work on broom in the East Bay Hills). Not to



Elizabeth taking samples on San Francisco Bay mudflats.

mention photos from the Symposium and the first annual photo contest!

Cal-IPC also welcomes four new members to the Board of Directors: **David Chang**, of the Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner's office; **Joanna Clines**, of the Sierra National Forest; **Christy Brigham**, of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area; and **Bob Case** of the California Native Plant Society, recently retired from the Contra Costa County Agricultural Commissioner's office. Thank you to leaving members **Deanne DiPietro**, **Scott Steinmaus**, **Bill Winans**, and **Peter Warner** for your service on the board.

Here's to a great 2005!



Brianna on the Arastadero Preserve in Palo Alto.

Wildland Weed NewsNewsNewsNewsNews

S 144, the Noxious Weed Control Act passed the US House and Senate and has been signed by President Bush. Annual expenditures authorized were reduced to \$15 million from the \$100 million originally proposed. Nevertheless, those who worked so hard to get this bill passed see this as a great success. The next step is to get funding appropriated,

2005 Membership

Please check the mailing label on your newsletter to make sure that you have renewed your membership for 2005. If you need to renew, please use the form on the back of this newsletter, or give us a call at 510/843-3902. Thanks!

which will be a major focus at this year's **National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW)** in Washington, Feb 28-Mar. 3. <www.nawma.org>

Gov. Schwarzenegger signed **AB 2690** August 27, making it legal for restoration projects to utilize volunteers without paying "prevailing wages" (see *Cal-IPC News* Spring 2004). The bill was authored by Assembly Member Loni Hancock, and was unanimously approved by both the House and Senate. <www.leginfo.ca.gov>

In a study at Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Preserve that mimicked the natural order of species loss in a grassland ecosystem, researchers found that declining biodiversity greatly reduced **resistance to invasive species** and that the presence of even small numbers of rare species had profound functional effects. <currents.ucsc.edu/04-05/11-15/biodiversity.asp>

USDA-APHIS has published its Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for revising its **regulations governing importation** of plants. Comment period ends March 19. <www.archives.gov/federal_register/public_inspection/public_inspection_list.html>

Steve Young's final research findings on **natural-based herbicidal alternatives** for CalTrans (see article in *Cal-IPC News* 10(4) Winter 2002) has been published in *Weed Technology* 18:580-587.

Gov. Schwarzenegger vetoed AB 2631, which would have created a **California Invasive Species Council**, saying that it would create "an additional costly layer of bureaucracy, including unfunded mandates, at a time when we are promoting government efficiency." Schwarzenegger has requested from CDFA and the Resources Agency a review of existing invasive species prevention and eradication efforts. <www.leginfo.ca.gov>

The USDA-APHIS solicited comments on a proposal aimed at *Caulerpa taxifolia*, the Mediterranean "killer algae" that was already treated once in Southern California. Cal-IPC joined other organizations in recommending a ban on the entire genus, since the different species are difficult to distinguish. This is seen as the best strategy for eliminating its use in the aquarium trade, the prime pathway for introduction. <www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/weeds/caulerpal>

The U.S. Coast Guard has published regulations establishing a **national mandatory ballast water management program** for all vessels equipped with ballast water tanks that enter or operate within U.S. waters. These regulations increase the Coast Guard's ability to prevent the introduction of nonindigenous species via ballast water as required by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act and the National Invasive Species Act. <www.uscg.mil>

The **Peace Corps**, working with the National Invasive Species Council (NISC), recently issued guidance to Peace Corps volunteers worldwide on preventing and mitigating the spread of potentially harmful invasive species. <www.peacecorps.gov>

Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced **\$16 million in grants** to help conserve 150 threatened and endangered wildlife species in 42 states. About \$2.4 million will support private efforts to control invasive species that are a threat to ecosystems and wildlife. <www.doi.gov>

2nd Annual Invasive Weed Awareness Day at the Capitol

March 9, 2005

An opportunity for weed workers attend from around the state to discuss their work with agency managers and elected officials. Voice your opinions and help Sacramento make weeds a top priority.

For info, visit link at <www.cal-ipc.org>

Since the portion of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service responsible for **border inspection** was shifted to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) eighteen months ago, there has been a growing shortage of

continued p.19...

Got It Yet?



The 120-page *Weed Workers' Handbook* is designed for on-the-ground weed workers and those who organize removal projects. Especially valuable for volunteer training.

\$13.00 includes S/H. Order from www.cal-ipc.org or call 510.843.3902

A tale of two invaders

The dynamic history of pampas grass and jubata grass in California

By John G. Lambrinos, Department of Environmental Science and Policy, UC Davis

One of the more vexing aspects of plant invasions is their inconstancy. Our ability to predict important traits like how fast an introduced plant will spread or what kind of impact it will have on native vegetation is complicated by the fact that basic characteristics of invasions can change. Malleable ecological and evolutionary forces continually shape the interaction between an introduced plant and native ecosystems. Far from being static events, plant invasions are convoluted processes with often murky pasts and equally opaque futures.

Nearly thirty years ago in *Fremontia* Bruce Cowan (1976) and Martha Costas-Lippmann (1977) alerted us to the invasive threat posed by two species of South American tussock grass in the genus *Cortaderia*. Costas-Lippmann identified the two species as *C. jubata* and *C. selloana*. Both she and Cowan reported that *C. jubata* was highly invasive along the central coast, but that *C. selloana* displayed few weedy characteristics and was only rarely encountered outside of cultivation. In the years immediately following these reports, many management and control activities were based upon the view that only *C. jubata* posed an immediate and serious invasive threat.

I certainly held the same view when I began a study in 1995 comparing the invasive ecology of the two species on Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbara Co. As part of this study I surveyed *Cortaderia* populations throughout the state. To my surprise, nearly all the invasive populations I found in southern California were of the supposedly non-aggressive *C. selloana*. Now, thanks largely to the educational efforts of Dr. Joe DiTomaso, Alison Stanton, and Cal-IPC, both *C. jubata* and *C. selloana* are more widely recognized as serious threats to native plant communities.

The abrupt change in the perceived invasiveness of the two *Cortaderia* species

prompted me to look more closely at their history in California. Was this a change in perception only, or did *C. selloana* actually become more aggressive? If so, why? Could we have acted sooner if we had been more vigilant in our monitoring? As is often the case in the study of human history, this botanical history provides few cut-and-dried answers. However, it does provide important clues about the critical processes shaping the still ongoing invasion by both species. It also highlights the importance of taking into account the inherent dynamism of invasions when developing management plans.

A Muddle of Names

Early botanical accounts of *Cortaderia* in California are confusing. Descriptions in early California floras and herbarium records use at least six separate names. The confusion partly stemmed from a general taxonomic uncertainty over the genus. Since South American specimens were first collected in the 19th century, 17 distinct scientific names have

been applied to material of what we would now call *C. jubata* and *C. selloana*. H.E. Connor and Elizabeth Edgar rectified this confused nomenclature in 1974. Working in New Zealand, which has four native species of *Cortaderia* in addition to introductions of both *C. jubata* and *C. selloana*, they produced a standardized list of valid names for all the members of the genus. Yet it was still unclear exactly which of these taxa had become naturalized in California until Costas-Lippmann clearly identified *C. jubata* and *C. selloana* as the culprits.

Even after Costas-Lippmann's work, however, confusion still lingered. The two species are rather difficult to distinguish, particularly when plants are young or when only vegetative parts are available for study. In addition, because of the perception that *C. jubata* was the more aggressive species, invasive populations of *Cortaderia* were often simply assumed to be *C. jubata*. Finally, the single common name "pampas grass" was applied equally to both species, which only



Cortaderia jubata invading *Baccharis* scrub on Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbara County. Although a severe problem in central and north coast plant communities, *C. jubata* is rare elsewhere in California. Photograph by the author.

muddled things further. Dr. DiTomaso and Cal-IPC's *Cortaderia* working group have done much to set matters straight by (1) publishing an informational pamphlet which includes a key to identification (DiTomaso et al. 1999), (2) listing both species on the Cal-IPC list of pest plants of greatest ecological concern, and (3) establishing distinct common names for the two species ("jubata grass" for *C. jubata* and "pampas grass" for *C. selloana*).

A Not-So-Passing Fad

Cortaderia selloana is native to the lowlands of southern Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina. Despite the image its common name connotes, *C. selloana* is not a major constituent of the formerly vast Pampas grasslands. In its native land it is most commonly found in riparian and other wet habitats such as poorly drained depressions.

There are indirect indications that *C. selloana* was available in the exotic nursery markets of San Francisco as early as the 1850's, but by far the single most salient date in the history of *C. selloana* in California is 1872. It was in this year that Joseph Sexton, a pioneering nurseryman in Santa Barbara, received either seeds or a clump of *C. selloana* at his Goleta ranch. Starting with this shipment, Joseph Sexton launched a briefly flourishing commercial industry for pampas grass plumes. He marketed the plumes to east coast and European markets and launched a craze for the dried plumes. For several decades the plumes adorned everything from fashionable ladies' hats to parade floats. Walker Tompkins (1964) reports that at the height of the industry Sexton had nearly 5,000 plants under cultivation and exported nearly 500,000 plumes a year.

Following this brief fanfare, however, *C. selloana* slipped into obscurity. In 1958, Phillip Munz and David Keck reported populations of what they identified as *C. selloana* naturalized from Ventura to Monterey Counties, and ten years later Munz (1968) expanded this range northward to Humboldt County. Based on their description and the geographic distribution, however, it is likely that most of their reported material was in fact *C. jubata*.

Discounting Munz and Keck's probably erroneous report, it is not until 1988 that *C. selloana* is reported again in Mitchel Beauchamp's flora of San Diego County. This lack of documentation probably partly reflects the taxonomic confusion, however, because

naturalized populations of *C. selloana* are recorded in herbarium records. The first naturalized record of *C. selloana* was collected in 1929 beside a pond in Mandeville Canyon, Los Angeles. After 1940, the number of herbarium records of naturalized *C. selloana* expanded dramatically. In the past 60 years the spatial expansion of *C. selloana* as estimated by these herbarium records has been twice as fast as that of *C. jubata*.

The majority of this expansion has occurred in

southern California, but infestations are common in the San Francisco Bay Area as well. *C. selloana* can be found invading a diverse range of habitats, from riparian corridors and the margins of coastal wetlands to dry hillsides of coastal sage scrub. It has even been documented on serpentine soils. Both coastal and inland populations exist, but only coastal populations appear to be seriously invasive.

Interestingly, the invasiveness of *C. selloana* in California seems to have evolved gradually. The first herbarium records are either clearly ornamentals or plants that have strayed only a few feet from human pampering. Over the past 80 years, however, collections have increasingly been of plants found invading native vegetation or found in large self-sustaining populations. This is in contrast to collections of *C. jubata* that have always been predominately from self-sustaining naturalized populations.

Additionally, populations of *C. selloana* have changed morphologically over this period. During the commercial pampas plume industry, Joseph Sexton purposely selected plants with full, platinum white plumes, which presented a striking appearance when dried. When the plume industry ended, so did Joseph Sexton's intensive selection, and ever since the plumes of naturalized *C.*

selloana have gotten darker and less full.

From Darkest Peru

Cortaderia jubata is native to the western slopes of the Andes bisecting Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru. Here it inhabits an impressive altitudinal range from sea level to nearly 14,000 feet in the shadow of snow-capped volcanic peaks. We have few details of its arrival in California, but it probably was imported sometime in the late 1800's as an



Pampas grass plumes adorned nearly everything at the end of the 19th century. This is a First Prize winner in the Flower Carnival parade, Colorado Springs, Colorado sometime during the 1890's. *Photo courtesy of the Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library.*

ornamental plant. Although there is no direct evidence, it seems likely that at least one importer was Joseph Sexton, who imported a number of *Cortaderia* varieties in an effort to improve his plume industry.

It is difficult to be certain, however, because for a considerable time, *C. jubata* was nearly invisible in the California landscape. Compared to *C. selloana*, its use as an ornamental plant was minimal. In 1924 L.H. Bailey described *C. selloana* as widely planted in California, while *C. jubata* was only sometimes cultivated in California. Following Bailey's description, there are no other published accounts of the presence of *C. jubata* in California (either as an ornamental or as a naturalized species) until Munz and Keck's probable report in the late 1950's. The first herbarium record documenting a naturalized population is not encountered

continued page 15...

Waipuna™ not? Hot foam good for more than lattes

Review by Mandy Tu

Reprinted with permission from The Nature Conservancy's Wildland Invasive Species Team website, www.tncweeds.org.

Out of a New Zealand company named Waipuna comes this hot foam system for steam-killing vegetation. This system employs hot foam to deliver and trap superheated steam onto foliage to kill weeds. Waipuna states that the surfactant foam is a biodegradable mixture of corn and coconut sugar extracts, and that the foam is an "organic," naturally-occurring compound. As such, it is not regulated (or labeled) as a herbicide product by the U.S. EPA.

The Device and How it Works

The Waipuna™ Hot Foam system is comprised primarily of a diesel-powered boiler and foam generator, which deliver hot water with a foam surfactant to target weeds via a supply hose and a treatment wand. The superheated hot foam is applied to the targeted vegetation at a precise temperature (93 degrees C, 200 degrees F) and pressure; the foam traps the steam, giving it time to "cook" the vegetation. This causes a cellular collapse of the aboveground vegetation. Waipuna claims that the hot foam can kill both annual and perennial weeds by starving their root systems (for some perennials, repeat treatments may be necessary).

In addition to the boiler/burner-foam generator system, applicator hose and wand, the Waipuna system also includes an internal computer that monitors the flow and pressure of all functions. To make the system fully



A nozzle is used to spread hot foam generated by the truck-based burner system.

operational, however, you will have to provide the following additional equipment:

1. A truck to transport the system (a 2-ton flatbed truck works well)
2. A large water tank - a 1,140 liter (300-gallon) baffled tank is recommended
3. Foam concentrate solution - purchased by the barrel (100 liter/55 gal) from Waipuna
4. Insulated hoses - 60 meters (200 ft) in length

There are two types of foam systems currently available: a single- and a double-burner version. Both are designed mostly for municipal use. The single-burner model is for use by a sole operator (comes with one applicator wand), and can be mounted on the back of a trailer or truck. The double-burner model is to be operated by two people (comes with two applicator wands), and requires a minivan or large truck to transport. Waipuna states that the double-burner model is the most cost-effective method. A mechanical boom can also be used with the double-burner model. Waipuna plans to have smaller garden-use machines available soon.

Field Demonstration

To see how well the Waipuna system works in the field, I tested a double-burner model on the perennial rhizomatous grass, *Brachypodium sylvaticum* (false brome). After all tanks were filled and the hoses unrolled, the Waipuna system was turned on and heated up. The foam was ready to be deployed!

The system is noisy (about as loud as a deep-toned snowmobile), but was very easy to use once everything had been set-up. To release the hot foam, you depress a small trigger on the application wand. This releases a constant stream of hot foam/steam (which came out much faster than I expected!). You simply draw the nozzle over any target vegetation to achieve good coverage of foliage with the foam. The hot foam achieves full kill on annuals immediately after contact. Some perennials can also be killed after only one treatment, but perennials with extensive root and rhizome systems may need to be treated several times for full kill.



Genista monspessulana (French broom) seedlings before (above) and after (below) treatment with Waipuna.



Costs to Use the System

As of this writing (March 2004), the Waipuna system is not available for individual purchase. To obtain a system, you must lease it from the company for about \$700 per month (minimum lease period is 2 years).

Chuck Fairchild (BLM-Oregon) notes that the foam concentrate costs about the same as RoundUp® herbicide. A 100-liter (55-gallon) drum of the foam concentrate costs about \$900. Because of the equipment lease and cost of foam, Chuck estimates that the overall cost of using the Waipuna system is approximately three times that of using herbicide. He judges that treatments of open areas can take 20 to 25% longer than treating the same area using herbicide because of application equipment differences and equipment maintenance (filling water tanks, etc.). Although using this system is more expensive, Chuck adds that a big advantage of the hot foam over herbicide is that the foam can be applied in variable weather conditions. Hot sunny weather is ideal for treatment, but windy, cool, moist (light rain) weather will

also work. Further, depending on state pesticide regulations, an application permit is likely not needed when using this system.

- Waipuna machine lease (Waipuna machine, foam generator, wands) - \$700/month
- Foam concentrate - \$900 per 100 liter (55 gallon) barrel. If you were to use a 1,140 liter (300 gallon) water tank, you would add 4 liters of foam concentrate. A barrel of concentrate should last through one year of near-continuous use.
- 1,140 liter (300 gallon) water tank - allows two applicators to run the machine for about one hour before it must be refilled with water (it goes through water fast!). A 1,140 liter tank can cover about 0.4 mile long swath on each side of road (about 5 to 10 ft deep), with solid weed infestations. If the roadside infestation is patchy, you may be able to cover about 4 miles of road per day.
- Diesel gas for Waipuna machine - 5 gallon tank (can last three days of treatment).
- Gas for generator.
- Gas for transportation.

Caution

Protective clothing and gloves are recommended when using the Waipuna system. The foam can cause eye irritation. The foam should also not be applied to surface water, as concentrations of foam at 3 mg/liter can be toxic to fish. When applied to soil, the foam is generally applied at concentrations of 0.0004 mg/liter and it is degraded by soil microorganisms within 28 days, so the foam is likely to be benign to soil organisms. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation has determined that the Waipuna hot foam surfactant is not a pesticide, so it does not require registration as a pesticide product.

Advantages of the Waipuna Hot Foam system

- No chemically-produced herbicides are used, so depending upon your location there may be no need for permits.
- It can be used in windy or moist/light rain conditions (heavy rain may breakdown foam quickly and lower temperatures).

Taxonomy Notes

Rubus armeniacus

by Brianna Richardson

A blackberry by any other name will still ruin a good pair of jeans. Nevertheless, the true name for Himalayan blackberry is *Rubus armeniacus*. For many years, this weed has been known in California as *Rubus discolor* or *Rubus procerus*. The *Rubus* genus is so complicated that another Latin phrase has also been applied to it: *Rubus crux botanicorum*, or "*Rubus* is the botanists' cross." In fact, botanists who study the *Rubus* genus have earned their own special name: batologists (bramble botanists).

Rubus procerus is not a legitimate name for Himalayan blackberry, since it is a taxonomic synonym for *R. praecox*, which is not a weedy

- It can be very specific—as long as the target plants are spatially separated from the surrounding vegetation, the system can be applied to a single plant or to a small population of plants, with little to no disturbance to the surrounding vegetation.
- Seedlings or annual herbs are instantaneously killed. Some perennials may be killed after one application.
- Results are instantaneous - the user can see wilted, cooked vegetation and the areas where the foam was applied.

Disadvantages of the Waipuna Hot Foam System

- The system has a large start-up cost: Machinery lease, foam solution, 2-ton truck, water tank, hoses, gas for diesel generator, gas for transport, etc. Depending on how often it is used, it can be expensive to operate.
- It may not thoroughly kill deep-rooted plants or those with extensive rhizomes with one application; perennial plants with deep roots may require several treatments for full kill.
- Depending on how intermixed the weeds are with desirable vegetation, it may be difficult or impossible to provide target-specific control.
- The system uses water very quickly - a water source must be nearby for continual use.
- Because of the 60 m (200 foot) hose, it can only be used in sites easily accessible and navigable by truck.
- It is relatively noisy, may not be applicable in areas with sensitive animal populations.
- The effects of the "organic" foam on the environment, while probably benign, have not been extensively studied.

More Information:

For information on leasing and advantages of the Waipuna™ Hot Foam system, see their website: www.waipuna.com. For personal accounts on using the Waipuna system in natural areas, contact Chuck Fairchild, Bureau of Land Management, Eugene, Oregon 541-683-6207, chuck_fairchild@or.blm.gov, or Janet Klein, Marin Municipal Water District, California 415-945-1192, jklein@marinwater.org.

species. *Rubus discolor*, similarly, is a synonym for *R. ulmifolius*. So even though calling Himalayan blackberry *Rubus armeniacus* won't make it any easier to get rid of, it's still the right thing to do. Now we just need the taxonomists to figure out why a blackberry from Armenia is called Himalayan.

Taxonomic explanation from Ceska, Adolf: 1999. "Rubus armeniacus-A correct name for Himalayan blackberries." Botanical Electronic News. No.230. <www.ou.edu>



© 2003 Penn Martin II

2004 Symposium, Ventura



A record 320 attendees participated in a full agenda featuring 44 presentations and 14 working groups, plus posters and exhibitors.



Thursday night's mixer/poster session/auction at the Masonic Temple.



Working group session Ventura-style (Dunes WG, of course).



Joe DiTomaso and Carri Pirsoko auction off a pair of handmade quilts donated by Dianne Nygaard. Other hot items included vintage wine, a weekend cabin, a weedy wall clock, and a Jepson Herbarium course.



2004 Award winners, from left: **Ken Moore** of the Wildlands Restoration Team in Santa Cruz, won the Golden Weed Wrench Award for Weed Manager of the Year (pictured with Doug Johnson, Cal-IPC); **Wendy West** of the El Dorado County Agriculture Department won the Catalyst Award for coordinating the first annual Invasive Weeds Awareness Day at the Capitol (pictured with Steve Schoenig, Cal-IPC Board President, and Bobbi Simpson of the National Park Service with the Weed Godzilla Award for NPS Resource Manager of the Year, which went to **Christy Brigham** of the Santa Monica Mountains NRA); **Mike Kelly** of Friends of Los Peñasquitos Reserve in San Diego and a founder of Cal-IPC, won the Jake Sigg Award for Service and Vision; and **Nicholas Staddon** of Monrovia Nursery won the Progressive Policy Award for collaboration on development of landscaping alternatives.



Super-volunteer Gina Skurka and Board Member Mark Newhouser show just how crazy a raffle can get.



On top of the world on the Santa Cruz Island field trip.



Who needs a fork? Board Secretary/Auction Diva Carri Pirosko.

See you in Chico for the 2005 Symposium, October 6-8!



So who saw *The Perfect Storm*? 120 participants head to Santa Cruz Island for the day.



Marching into *Arundo* on the Santa Clara & Ventura Rivers field trip.



Field trippers discuss the complexities the Park Service faces on Santa Cruz Island, with rare endemics, challenging access, and historic features.



Jo Kitz of the Mountains Restoration Trust describes work on a bluffs restoration site along the coast.

1st Annual Cal-IPC Photo Contest

Weed Warriors



1st Place
Dune restoration volunteers
Aquatic Adventures, San Diego



2nd Place
Tiny with iceplant
Aquatic Adventures, San Diego



3rd Place
Four-legged spray rigs
Kristin Cooper-Carter, Chico

Specimen Weed



1st Place
Cirsium vulgare in seed
John Knapp, Catalina Island Conservancy

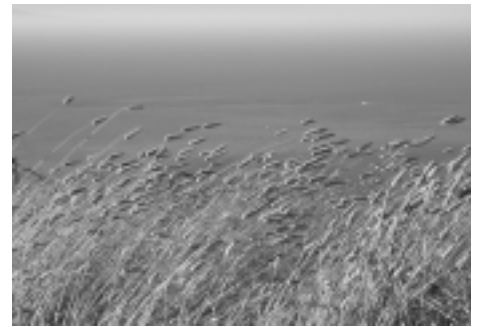


2nd Place
Cirsium vulgare
Douglas Burgess, Martinez



3rd Place
Cirsium vulgare seed snow
John Knapp, Catalina Island Conservancy

Landscapes



1st Place
Phalaris aquatica
John Knapp, Catalina Island Conservancy



2nd Place
Oxalis pes-caprae
Brianna Richardson, Acterra, Mt. View



3rd Place
Mustard
Phillip Roullard, San Diego
www.philliproullardphotography.com

Funny Weeds

Weed Impacts



1st Place

Carduus pycnocephalus over deer trail
John Knapp, Catalina Island Conservancy



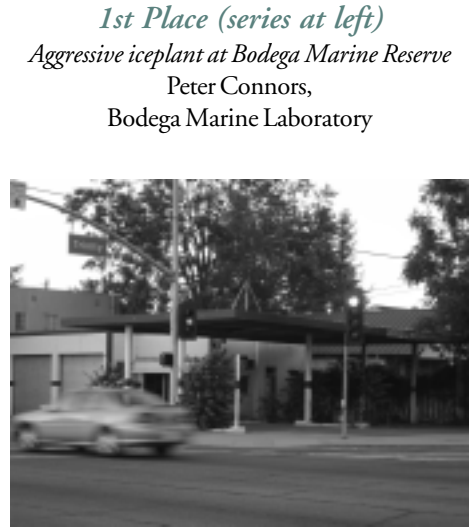
2nd Place

Coastal scrub smothered by annual grasses
John Knapp, Catalina Island Conservancy



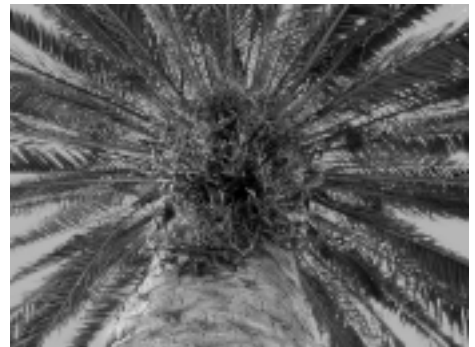
3rd Place

Island endemic St. Catherine's Lace competing with *Genista linifolia*
John Knapp, Catalina Island Conservancy



2nd Place

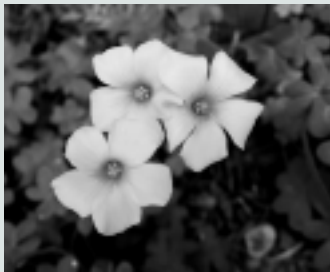
Ailanthus at the gas station
Mark Newhouser, Sonoma Ecology Center



3rd Place

Iceplant in palm tree
John Hyde, Carlsbad

Critic's Choice Awards



Oxalis pes-caprae
Kim Munyer, Sacramento



Onopordum acanthium
Josh Huntsinger, Placer County Dept. of Ag.
Wetland Avengers
Aquatic Adventures, San Diego

An Army of One

One man's fight against broom in Tilden Park

Interview by Brianna Richardson

Throughout California, there are individuals who take it upon themselves to sustain one-person battles against invasive plants in their communities. Robert Connick is one of these people. Robert retired from a career teaching chemistry at UC Berkeley, and now spends his free time pulling broom in Tilden Park in the East Bay hills. I met with Robert in September to tour his personal battleground and talk about his one-man stewardship of public land.

We arrived at a trail stretching along the ridgeline, the place that got Robert started pulling broom. When he began, the trail was entirely overgrown with Scotch broom. His original goal was just to make the trail passable, but once that was done, he just kept going.

Robert began pulling broom over 30 years ago on family property in Humboldt County. They had a portion of the property logged to help pay taxes and broom came in on the trucks, sprouting up along all the roads the trucks used. Robert pulled it regularly, but eventually the family moved, and he says it's still a big mess up there.

The area he's clearing now is just downslope from the ridgeline, where large, mature broom plants share space with poison oak, Himalayan blackberry, and coyote bush. "As you can see," he says, "this is pretty messy to take out." He's right. The broom is entirely enmeshed in blackberry. I ask if he ever uses a weed wrench along with his trusty clippers, hand saw and small digging tool, and he says no, it would be "a pain to carry." I see what he means. The narrow track we follow leads steeply downhill through the brush. Descending requires the use of all four limbs.

We reach a small spot, clear of brush and overtopped by oaks. This area had been entirely covered in broom before Robert cleared it. He will continue uphill until he reaches the ridgeline—a year's work he figures.

A tall mound of dead broom occupies the clearing where Robert has neatly piled the plants he's pulled. It's hard to distinguish from the wood rat's nest a few feet away. Robert has seen areas where the tops of broom seedlings have been nipped off, and he suspects the wood rats. He doesn't know if the rats eat them or build with them, but he says he's seen small plants kept under control this way.

As we start pulling the numerous small seedlings that dot the clearing, I ask Robert about his motivations for what he's doing.

BR: *When you clear an area of large plants, and come back in the spring to find an infinite number of seedlings, what keeps you going through what must be sheer frustration?*

RC: The knowledge that it's always worst in the beginning. You gain that by seeing it in action. Pulling repeatedly, you see a steady decline in what comes back. I remember one spot where the trail was covered in plants 3 and 4 inches in diameter. Once I cleared them, the ground was covered in leaf litter, and when the seedlings came up they lifted the litter layer into the air. It was frightening. But it's not hard to keep going when you know you've made a dent.

BR: *East Bay Regional Parks doesn't know you're out here. No one is expecting you to do this work. You long ago achieved your initial goal of making the trails passable, what impels you to keep going—do you feel a sense of responsibility to keep clearing the broom?*

RC: Well I started to just clear the trails, but I knew it was a weed. I knew it's good to get rid of it. You don't have to hate the plant. It's really a beautiful plant, and an interesting plant, all the ways it can adapt to our climate. But I know if I don't pull it it will take over. It's really a pest, but all the invasive exotics are pests. It's a pest in the sense that it's a threat, a real threat to what humans value.

BR: *Not everyone is moved to care for the natural landscape around them. Did you have any naturalist influences that you credit for your desire to do so?*

RC: When I was young, each summer we'd go camping for a month or more on our family property in Humboldt County. The property was the tail end of a sheep ranch. When the ranch was sold, the family kept 120 acres that stretched to the south fork of the Eel River. Being out in nature so much growing up created an appreciation in me. And my mother and father grew up in the country, they had an appreciation.

BR: *What's more fun—pulling lots of little seedlings or a few big plants?*

RC: Big plants are much more fun. If you get out enough of the root to know it's not coming back, you can feel you've really accomplished

something. But the art or skill of clearing an area of broom is one of perseverance. People who want to get rid of the plant need to understand the commitment it requires, over several years. It's not a one-time job.

On the walk back to his house, Robert expressed concern about what would happen in the area when he could no longer get out there to pull the broom. There's nobody poised to take over when he stops, and he's afraid the broom will come right back if allowed. He may be right, but then again, there may be another lone weed warrior out there, just looking for their spot to pitch in.



Robert Connick stands in front of a dead broom pile.

New and Contributing Members

Thank you for your generous support! This list reflects donors and new members since the last newsletter.

New Life Members

Dawn Cope (Monterey)

Jean Conner (Friends of Glen Canyon Park, San Francisco)

Generous Donations

Mario A. Abreu (Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Albion)

Doug Allshouse (Friends of San Bruno Mountain, Daly City)

Linda Brodman (CNPS, Santa Cruz)

Zelda Bronstein (Berkeley)

Lysa Carmody (Tahoe WMA, Kings Beach)

Darlene Chirman (Chirman Biological Consulting, Santa Barbara)

John B. Copeland (Chico)

Elizabeth Crispin (Mount Shasta)

Sheila Daar (Daar/IPM Consulting, Berkeley)

Tom Dodson & Associates (San Bernardino)

Dudek & Associates (Encinitas)

Joshua Fodor (Ecological Concerns, Inc., Santa Cruz)

James & Nancy Harris (CNPS, Huntington Beach)

Christie & John Hastings (Lafayette)

Virginia Havel (CNPS Marin Chapter, Greenbrae)

Ken Himes (CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter, Belmont)

Vanessa Johnson (The Land Trust of Napa County, Napa)

Kenneth C. Johnson (Santa Clara)

Larry M Jones (SPAWNERS, Richmond)

Jane and Tom Kelly (Friends of Strawberry Creek, Berkeley)

Betty Kipp (CNPS, Berkeley)

Jo Kitz (Mountains Restoration Trust, Woodland Hills)

G. Fred Kramer (San Diego)

Julie Kummel (Santa Barbara)

Dean W. Lloyd (Grass Valley)

Tamia Marg (Claremont Canyon Conservancy, Berkeley)

Fritz Maytag (San Francisco)

Cheryl Miller (Amphion, Oakland)

T. Charles Moore (Sunnyvale)

David Hrovich & Daniel Muñoz (Los Angeles)

Katy Pye (Woodland)

Craig Schriefer (Sacramento)

Jim Sharp (Berkeley)

Susan Schwartz (Friends of Five Creeks, Berkeley)

Jean Starkweather (Marin Conservation League, San Rafael)

Rick Theis & Carolyn Johnson (Sebastopol)

Robin Thompson (El Dorado Hills)

Jennifer E. Tillman (La Jolla)

Therese Tuttle (Tuttle & Van Konynenburg, L.L.P., Modesto)

Samuel Valdez (San Francisco)

Jane Valerius (Sebastopol)

Jean Vandevort (Felton)

Jessie Walker (AMEC Earth & Environmental, Encinitas)

Washburn Grove Management (Hemet)

Annette Wheeler, (Los Altos Hills)

Andrea Woolfolk (Elkhorn Slough NERR, Watsonville)

Matthew & JoAnn Zlatunich (San Francisco)

New Members

Lucie Adams (Roseville), **Lisa Acree** (Yosemite NP, El Portal), **Timothy Adelsperger** (H.E. Julien & Associates, Inc., Oxnard), **Courtney Albrecht** (CDFA, Sacramento), **Bruce April** (CalTrans District 11, San Diego), **Amanda Armington** (The Nature Conservancy, Irvine), **Erik Aschehoug** (The Nature Conservancy, Ventura), **Rebecca R. Atilas** (Merkel & Assoc., San Diego), **Richard Atmore, Jr.** (RA Atmore & Sons, Inc., Ventura), **Keli Baló** (Helix Environmental Planning, Inc., La Mesa), **Karen Bane** (Coastal Conservancy, Oakland), **Dianne Bangle** (Lake Mead NRA, Boulder City, NV), **Katie Barrows** (La Quinta), **Tanya Baxter** (GGNRA, Sausalito), **Joseph A. Betzler** (Las Vegas, NV), **Tammy Beyerl** (EDAW, Sacramento), **Jonathan Boow** (NPS, Ventura), **Carol Bornstein** (Santa Barbara Botanic Garden), **Robin Breckenridge** (CDFA, Brooks), **Cara Brents** (PAPA, Salinas), **Casey Brierly** (Target Specialty Products, Pleasanton), **Cyndi Brinkhurst** (Grass Valley), **Angelika Brinkmann Busi** (San Pedro), **Melissa Brosnan** (Berkeley), **Cynthia Brown** (Colorado State University, Ft. Collins), **Michelle Brown** (USFS, South Lake Tahoe), **Ramona J. Butz** (EDAW, Davis), **Jeffrey Caldwell** (Cupertino), **Jon Campo** (Natural Areas Program, San Francisco), **Jim Canaday** (San Bernardino County Regional Parks), **Janet Canterbury** (Santa Cruz Island Restoration Project, Los Angeles), **Tony Charness** (Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Malibu), **Bernardo Chavez** (BLM, Santa Fe, NM), **Cara Clark** (Moss Landing Marine Lab, Santa Cruz), **Jennifer Codianne** (SCVWD, Aptos), **Keven Ann Colgate** (Entrix, Inc., Ventura), **Christina Crooker** (NPS, San Francisco), **Holly Crossen** (UC Davis), **Sheila Daar** (Daar/IPM Consulting, Berkeley), **Wendy Dabrowski** (Los Padres National Forest, Ojai), **Sally Davis** (Glenn Lukos Associates, Lake Forest), **Daula Dawson** (Mill Valley), **Bruce Delgado** (BLM, Marina), **Eli Dickerson** (Santa Monica Mountains NRA, Thousand Oaks), **John DiGregoria** (CNGA, Oceanside), **Lisa Dillon** (GGNRA, San Francisco), **Roger Ditrick** (Helix Environmental Planning, Inc., La Mesa), **Philippa Drennan** (Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles), **Chris Dye** (NPS, Daly City), **Lila Erickson** (GGNPC Site Stewardship, San Francisco), **Tish Espinosa** (Cali Consulting Service, Inc., Herald), **Krista Farey** (San Francisco), **Margaret Fillius** (San Diego), **Ed Finley** (CDFA, Redding), **Julie B. and Arnie Fishman** (Los Angeles), **James Fitzgerald** (Lake Mead NRA, Boulder City, NV), **Erin A Fleming** (GGNPC Site Stewardship, San Francisco), **Mike Forbert** (West Coast Wildlands, Pacifica), **Susan Forbes**

continued next page...

New Members, cont'd

(Stanislaus NF, Sonora), **Karen Fortus** (Angeles NF, Glendora), **Norman Frank** (Berkeley), **Julie Garren** (USDA-ARS, Davis), **Mike Gerel** (Sustainable Conservation, San Francisco), **Sibdas Ghosh** (Dominican University of California, San Rafael), **Henry Gonzalez** (Monterey County Ag. Dept., Salinas), **Suzanne Goode** (State Parks, Calabasas), **Dan Grant** (San Luis Obispo), **Allison Green** (San Jose State University), **Fred Greenlaw** (Pacific Coast Seed, Rocklin), **Brenda Grewell** (USDA-ARS, Davis), **Sara Grove** (Yosemite NP, El Portal), **Danny J. Hamon** (USDA-APHIS, Sacramento), **Nancy Hanson** (Angeles NF, Saugus), **Stan Harpole** (University of Minnesota, St. Paul), **Kara Heckert** (Sotoyome RCD, Santa Rosa), **Brad Henderson** (Aspen Environmental Group, Lawndale), **Josh Hoines** (Lake Mead NRA, Boulder City, NV), **Allan D. Hollander** (Information Center for the Environment, Davis), **Katherine Holmes** (UC Davis), **Valerie Kay Hubbartt** (Los Padres NF, Santa Barbara), **David T. Hughes** (Bonterra Consulting, Pasadena), **Kristin Hulvey** (UC Santa Cruz), **Jonathan Humphrey** (Sequoia-Kings Canyon NPs, Three Rivers), **Lesley Hunt** (Walnut Creek), **Alissa Ing** (Wildomar), **Kyle L. Ince** (Merkel & Assoc., San Diego), **Ellen James** (NRCS, Somis), **Jay Jamison** (Western Sierra Landscapes, Moorpark), **Brent Johnson** (Yosemite NP, Midpines), **Russell Jones** (NPS, Sebastapol), **Steve Junak** (Santa Barbara Botanic Garden), **Laura Kadlecik** (Humboldt Water Resources, Arcata), **Dennis Kanthack** (Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Ventura), **Joanne Karlton** (State Parks, Gustine), **Annie Kearns** (Mojave National Preserve, Barstow), **Keep the Sespe Wild** (Ojai), **Nathan Keller** (GGNRA, San Francisco), **Elizabeth Kellogg** (Tierra Data, Inc., Escondido), **Jane and Tom Kelly** (Friends of Strawberry Creek, Berkeley), **Dian Kennedy** (Dian Kennedy Designs, Inc., Tarzana), **Josh Knox** (Earth Care, Mill Valley), **Mietek Kolipinski** (NPS, Oakland), **Sally Kotnik** (San Diego), **Kenneth Krueger** (Los Padres NF, Santa Barbara), **John Lambrinos** (UC Davis), **Donald Lee** (Antelope), **Dean Lehman** (Los Angeles DPW), **John Leonard** (Yosemite NP, Mariposa), **Laura Lee Lienk** (Watershed Institute, Seaside), **David Syck and Angela Lopopolo** (Target Specialty Products, Santa Fe Springs), **Angela Lortie** (State Parks, Santa Barbara), **Christopher Lortie** (University of Nevada, Reno), **Jeremy Lougee** (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo), **Karen Lowerison** (San Luis Obispo Ag. Dept., Paso Robles), **David Lundby** (Campbell Timberland Management LLC, Fort Bragg), **Ellen Mackey** (LA/SG Rivers Watershed Council, Los Angeles), **Jennifer A. Malcolm** (CalTrans, Sacramento), **Blane Manchester** (Alameda County Ag. Dept., Hayward), **Julie Simonsen Marchant** (AMEC Earth & Environmental, San Diego), **Erik Martin** (GGNPC Site Stewardship, San Francisco), **Halli Mason** (CNPS, Tarzana), **Michelle Mattson** (Aspen Environmental Group, Oceanside), **Ken McDonald** (Westminster), **Melissa McDowell** (Gold Beach, OR), **Mary McFaden** (CIPM, Bozeman, MT), **Milt McGiffen** (UC Riverside), **Jodi McGraw** (Boulder Creek), **Brent Melbourne** (UC Davis), **Kyle Merriam** (USGS-BRD, Three Rivers), **Cecilia Meyer Lovell** (EDAW, San Diego), **Pat Minogue** (Alligare, LLC, Redding), **Judith Mitchell** (Mission RCD, Fallbrook), **Tom Moorhouse** (Clean Lakes, Inc., Westlake Village), **Adam Morrill** (Boating & Waterways, Sacramento), **Adrianna Muir** (UC Davis), **Carrie Nazarchyk** (Lake Mead NRA, Boulder City, NV), **Peter Nelson** (Moss Landing Marine Lab, Marina), **Janet Nickerman** (USFS, La Crescenta), **Kathleen Nolan** (Nolan, Walmsley & Assoc., Inc., Ojai), **Cully Nordby** (UC Berkeley, Pasadena), **John Nowak** (CalTrans, Buena Park), **Diane Nygaard** (Preserve Calavera, Oceanside), **Christopher Oelsch** (Dudek & Assoc., Encinitas), **Meredith Osborn** (Fish & Game, San Diego), **Julie Owen** (Boating & Waterways, Sacramento), **Ken Owen** (Channel Islands Restoration, Santa Barbara), **Ron Paolini** (Marin County Parks & Open Space, San Rafael), **Steven Perkins** (NRCS, Victorville), **Mike Perlmutter** (GGNRA, San Francisco), **Wendy Poinot** (Point Reyes NS), **Mike Powers** (Mendocino Redwood Company, Fort Bragg), **Katy Pye** (Woodland), **Richard Quinn** (The C.R.E.W., Ojai), **Patricia A. Raggio** (State Parks, Arnold), **Johanna Rahman** (GGNRA, San Francisco), **Adrienne Ratner** (Menlo Park), **Heather Reading** (USFS, Ramona), **Drew Ready** (LA/SG Rivers Watershed Council, Los Angeles), **Yvette Redler** (USDA-APHIS, Sacramento), **Lewis Reed** (Livermore Area Recreation & Parks, San Jose), **Sabine Reynaud** (GGNPC Site Stewardship, San Francisco), **Sally Reynolds** (San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Newark), **Kate Reza** (Circuit Rider, Windsor), **Greg Reza** (Marin County Open Space District, San Rafael), **Danny Richards** (Pacific Restoration Group, Corona), **James Roberts** (Student Conservation Association, Apple Valley), **Jim Robertson** (CNPS, Santa Monica), **Becca Robertson** (Student Conservation Association, Oakland), **Jim Roberstson** (CNPS, Los Angeles), **Paul Robins** (Yolo County RCD, Woodland), **Chris Rogers** (Environmental Science Assoc., Oakland), **Cheri Rohrer** (USFS, Vallejo), **Kelly Rose** (Friends of Ballona Wetlands, Playa del Rey), **Loretta Rose** (George F. Canyon Nature Center, Torrance), **Peggy Rose** (Ventura County Arundo Task Force, Somis), **Brad Roth** (Carlsbad Watershed Network, Cardiff), **Rick Roush** (UC IPM, Davis), **Les Rowntree** (San Jose State University, Berkeley), **Barbara and Alfred Sattler** (CNPS, Rancho Palos Verdes), **Susan Scatolini** (CalTrans District 11, San Diego), **Kurt Schasker** (Lakeview Terrace), **Paul Schlitt** (City of San Diego), **Anna Schrenk** (Oceanside), **Megan Schwartz** (AMEC Earth & Environmental, Santa Barbara), **Anna Sears** (Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, Santa Rosa), **Gina Skurka** (CDFA, Sacramento), **Christina Sloop** (UC Davis), **Philomene C. Smith** (Sacramento), **Sue Smith** (Circle Bar Ranch, Sonoma), **Robert Snyder** (City of Davis, Davis), **David Spencer** (USDA-ARS, Davis), **Jon B. Stafford** (Habitat West, Inc., Escondido), **Melanie Stalder** (UC Riverside, Monrovia), **Barbara Stauss** (Richmond), **Kenneth Stella** (Point Reyes Station), **David Strickland** (CalTrans District 11, San Diego), **Lew Stringer** (GGNRA, San Francisco), **Adrian Stroganoff** (CNPS, Pacifica), **Katharine Suding** (UC Irvine), **Mathew Sutton** (Santa Catalina Island Conservancy, Avalon), **Mark Swearingen** (Marko Enterprises, Santa Barbara), **Kirra Swenerton** (San Anselmo), **Hannah Swimmer** (Channel Islands NP, Ventura), **Judi Tamasi** (Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Malibu), **Robert Taylor** (NPS Coast Mediterranean Network, Thousand Oaks), **Pat Tennant** (Orange County Water District, Corona), **Jeff Thomas** (EDAW, San Francisco), **Rob Thompson** (Santa Lucia Conservancy, Carmel), **Diane Thomson** (Keck Science Center, The Claremont Colleges, Claremont), **Heather Todd** (Yosemite NP, El Portal), **Peter J. Tomsovic** (RECON Environmental Consultants, San Diego), **Noreen A. Trombley** (Yosemite NP, El Portal), **Sherrie Althouse and Phil Van Soelen** (California Flora Nursery, Fulton), **Elizabeth Van Wyhe** (GGNRA, Sausalito), **Jorge Vargas** (Contra Costa County Ag. Dept., Concord), **Karen Vaughn** (Yosemite NP, El Portal), **Manjunath Venkat** (AMEC Earth & Environmental, Santa Barbara), **John Warner** (NRCS, Hollister), **B. Lynn Watson** (Santa Barbara), **Ralph Waycott, Jr.** (Malibu), **Chris White** (El Cerrito), **Steve Williams** (Santa Monica Mountains RCD, Topanga), **Joe Williams** (NRCS, Visalia), **Greg Wolford** (CNPS, East Bay Chapter, Berkeley), **Susan J. Woolam** (Dept. of Water Resources, Glendale)

Tale of two invaders, cont'd from page 5...

until 1946 when an individual growing along San Antonio Creek in Ventura County was collected.

Following these first signs of trouble, *C. jubata* caused increasing concern as it continued to expand along coastal California. In an interesting contrast to its diverse native range and to the more diverse habitat range of *C. selloana* in California, *C. jubata* in California is restricted to a narrow coastal band. While it is currently naturalized from Humboldt to San Diego counties, its distribution is centered in northern California. Ninety-one percent of all documented naturalized populations are located north of Point Conception. Also, in contrast to *C. selloana*, both the invasiveness and morphology of *C. jubata* has changed little over the last 100 years.

The impact of this spread on central and north coast plant communities has been severe: thousands of acres of logged redwood forest in Humboldt County have been invaded; Bureau of Land Management personnel have fought a continuing battle to keep *C. jubata* out of *Baccharis* and northern coastal scrub communities on the former Fort Ord Military Reservation; and on Vandenberg Air Force Base the highly restricted and unique Burton Mesa Chaparral is under direct assault from *C. jubata* invasion. Outside of these communities, however, in most instances *C. jubata* seems to require high levels of disturbance in order to become established. Over 83% of the *C. jubata* populations that have been documented come from ruderal habitats such as roadsides, vacant lots, and cleared areas.

Some Revisionist History

In retrospect, we can understand some of the forces that have shaped the contrasting history of the two *Cortaderia* species in California. The more rapid spread of *C. selloana* was undoubtedly aided by its extensive horticultural use. Ever since the enterprise of Joseph Sexton, the *Cortaderia* species sold in nurseries and used in landscaping has been almost exclusively *C. selloana*. Every new use in a back yard garden or in roadside landscaping has therefore created potential new foci of infestation.

That is not the entire story, however. The more rapid spread of *C. selloana* relative to *C. jubata* was also a consequence of *C. selloana*'s greater habitat breadth. It seems that Califor-

nia populations of *C. jubata* represent only one of the probably many ecotypes that exist in its native range. In addition, *C. jubata* populations are entirely asexual, with extremely low levels of genetic variation, and consequently scant ability to adapt through natural selection to different conditions. In contrast *C. selloana* has naturalized in a number of different habitats, and this ability seems to have gradually developed over the last 130 years. Populations of *C. selloana* in California are exclusively out-crossing. The genetic variation that this out-crossing promotes might have afforded *C. selloana* greater evolutionary flexibility in adjusting to California's diverse habitats.

Finally, the impact that both species have had on native vegetation has also changed over time with the tumultuous changes in human land use that have swept through California. The native vegetation along California's coast is increasingly fragmented, isolated, and disturbed. In southern California, in particular, the native patches of shrublands and wetlands now sit amidst a vast matrix of urban sprawl. The increasing ability of *C. selloana* to invade native vegetation is probably related as much to these landscape changes as it is to any evolutionary adjustments. Along the central coast, as well, the damage that *C. jubata* has inflicted on native shrublands has increased dramatically in the last 50 years, hand-in-hand with the dramatic human-induced loss and degradation of these habitats.

Lessons from History

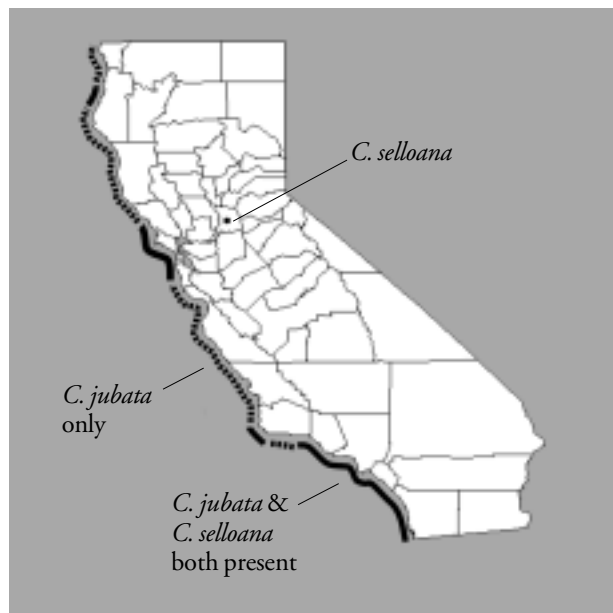
The tale of these two species in California illustrates the critical importance of comprehensively monitoring plant invasions. The ecological and evolutionary forces that shape invasions are by their very nature fluid. Management strategies that are not equally dynamic will be doomed to failure.

In her 1976 dissertation, Martha Costas-Lippmann described a population of *C. selloana* in Orange County that seemed to be escaping from a roadside planting into coastal sage scrub. She warned that, although *C. selloana* was generally not considered aggressive, the progress of this

population should be monitored. Unfortunately, little monitoring seems to have been done. Perhaps more importantly, at the time, there was no central clearing house for concerned people to share information about invasive plants. If there had been, it might have been realized that there were other similarly aggressive populations in southern California.

Today the situation is much better. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has shifted away from its historically exclusive focus on monitoring agricultural pests to also monitor wildland noxious weeds, although the department's noxious weed programs have been severely cut during the state's latest fiscal crisis. In addition, Cal-IPC has emerged as a critical resource for wildland weed monitoring in the state. Currently, Cal-IPC is working on a revision to its list of wildland weeds that will include references to documentation detailing the rationale for each species' listing. The database supporting the list will be continually adjusted with new and up-to-date information.

Without clear, verifiable, and contemporary documentation such as this, perceptions can be hard to change. Although both species of *Cortaderia* are now on the Cal-IPC list, only *C. jubata* is currently listed on the CDFA noxious weed list. As a consequence, *C. selloana* can legally be sold and transported throughout the state. Government agencies such as CalTrans have stopped using



Distribution of *Cortaderia jubata* and *C. selloana* in California. From University of California Weed Research and Information Center.

Symposium Sponsors

We thank the record number of sponsors for the 2004 Symposium. Your support is invaluable to Cal-IPC's work.

GOLD SPONSOR

Monsanto Company

SILVER SPONSORS

Agri Chemical & Supply
All Seasons Weed Control
Cal-Native Plants, LLC
California Native Plant Society
Habitat West, Inc.
Mission RCD & SM/SLR WMA
The Nature Conservancy
Natures Image, Inc.
RECON Environmental, Inc.
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
Santa Ana Watershed Association
UC IPM

BRONZE SPONSORS

Alligare, LLC • BASF Corporation • Caprine Restoration Services • Center for Invasive Plant Management • Center for Natural Lands Management
DeAngelo Brothers, Inc. • Dendra, Inc. • Dow Agrosocieties • Ecosystems Restoration Associates • Environmental Science Associates • ESRI
Hedgerow Farms • Intelli-Spray • National Park Service, EPMT • Sierra Consulting & IPM • Stockton USFWS • Stover Seed Company • Target Specialty Products • UAP Timberland, LLC • USFWS, Pacific Region
Ventura County Arundo Task Force

GREEN SPONSORS

Anteon • California Landscape Technologies • California Native Grass Association • EDAW, Inc. • Forevergreen EcoWeeders • Go Native Nursery, LLC • Rana Creek Habitat Restoration • Regional Council of Rural Counties • SF Estuary Invasive Spartina Project • Shelterbelt Builders, Inc. The Student Conservation Association • Sycamore Associates, LLC
Wilbur-Ellis Co./John Taylor Fertilizers

Tale of two invaders, cont'd...

Cortaderia for landscaping and erosion control, but the nursery trade continues to be a source of *C. selloana*. The horticulture industry often reiterates the still lingering perception that *C. selloana* is not aggressive. Moreover, some claim that only female plants are sold, thus limiting the potential of sexual propagation. However, juveniles of *C. selloana* propagated from seed are impossible to sex using the naked eye, and consequently many ornamental populations of mixed gender have probably been established from stock sold at nurseries. In addition, at this point, selling only female plants does little to hinder spread, since large mixed-gender populations are already established throughout the state, and during the flowering season of late summer and early autumn there is an ample supply of pollen for all but the most isolated female plants. On the bright side, many new horticultural varieties of *Cortaderia* are sterile, and these could provide a minimally disruptive alternative for the industry.

In 2003, a Cal-IPC member in the San Diego area successfully lobbied Wal-Mart to stop selling *C. selloana* in its California stores. Currently, Cal-IPC is working collaboratively

with nurseries to reduce the sale of invasive plants. Understandably, the horticulture industry has been generally reluctant to take action voluntarily without clear evidence of a problem. This is even more so in cases such as *C. selloana* where the status of a species changes.

Finally, the monitoring of invasive plants should go beyond the basics of range distributions and habitat associations, and attempt to document quantitatively the impact that species have on native ecosystems. The damage caused by an introduced plant can vary between regions and also change over time. Tracking these differences and changes is vitally important for steering policy and allocating management resources.

Invasions are inherently historical processes, whose dynamics can and often do change with time. As the awareness of the threats posed by invasive plants grows, a concerted emphasis should be placed on continued and comprehensive monitoring of the status of invasive plants across the state. In the absence of monitoring, invasive threats can quietly develop into major problems before anyone notices.

References

- Bailey, L.H. 1924. *Manual of cultivated plants most commonly grown in the continental United States and Canada*. Macmillan. New York.
- Beauchamp, M.R. 1986. *A Flora of San Diego County, California*. Sweetwater River Press. National City, CA.
- Connor, H.E. and Edgar, E. 1974. Names and types in *Cortaderia* Stapf (Gramineae). *Taxon*, 23, 595-605.
- Costas-Lippmann, M. 1976. Ecology and reproductive biology of the genus *Cortaderia* in California. Ph.D. thesis. University of California, Berkeley.
- Costas-Lippmann, M. 1977. More on the weedy "pampas grass" in California. *Fremontia* 4(4):25-27.
- Cowan, B.D. 1976. The Menace of Pampas Grass. *Fremontia* 4(2):14-16.
- DiTomaso, J.M., E.H. Healy, C.E. Bell, J.D. Drewitz, and A. Tschohl. 1999. Pampas grass and jubata grass threaten California coastal habitats. California Exotic Pest Plant Council leaflet #99-1.
- Munz, P.A. 1968. *Supplement to a California Flora*. University of California Press. Berkeley, CA.
- Munz, P.A. and D.D. Keck. 1958. *A California Flora*. University of California Press. Berkeley, CA.
- Tompkins, W.A. 1964. *Fourteen at the table: an informal history of the life and good times of the Sexton family of old Goleta*. Privately Printed, Santa Barbara, CA.

Welcome to the Homogocene: The Environmental Threat of Non-Native Invasive Species



By Jim Johnson

[Jim Johnson is Streamkeeper for San Francisquito Creek Watershed in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. This the text of his address at the Cal-IPC Symposium in Ventura, October 7, 2004.]

From earliest days, watching luminous, disembodied animal eyes staring at us from just outside the circle of campfire light, we humans have had a relentless drive to understand, to render safe and to control for our comfort the inexorable forces of nature. Only an eye-blink ago in geologic time our surging brain began to plant wheat, forge metal, chant magic names. And then came science, a tool so powerful that we can now destroy what we fear at the touch of a button from half a world away. Now we are everywhere, multiplying and transforming natural resources to serve us, moving restlessly about the globe and transporting immense quantities of goods, including plants, animals and microbes between the continents.

About 240 million years ago, the giant landmass Pangaea began to break apart, sending the rudiments of the present continents and their cargo of life forms on separate and divergent evolutionary journeys. Along the way intricate, balanced and interdependent webs of life slowly developed, separated by vast oceans into the diffusion of life forms. Only occasionally did continents collide or landbridges form.

But today, we think nothing of jetting in a day from Sydney to San Francisco or from New York to New Delhi. Inadvertently or purposefully, all manner of biological entities are transported between ecosystems which have been separately evolving for a quarter of a billion years. The interactions of these reunited life streams can be surprising and devastating.

So great is this mixing of life forms today, that it has been suggested, only half-facetiously, by Dr. Gordon Orians the eminent University of Washington ecologist, that the present geologic period be henceforth known as the Homogocene. Indeed our ongoing change of the global climate due to the accumulation of anthropogenic greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the massive alteration or destruction of marine and terrestrial habitats, the rapid extinction of species, the human race's sheer dominance of most areas of the globe and our incipient alteration of space and other planets, would seem to require a new designation for this geologic time period.

Even more surprising, we are now mixing the genomes of biological kingdoms, never mind different species, inserting, for example, cold resistance genes from deep ocean fish into strawberries to improve their frost tolerance. Thus the very concept of species, previously inviolate, is thrown into question. How about inserting plant chloroplast DNA into our own, so we can walk about naked, green and proud, fixing the sun's energy as we go. Now *there's* a 21st century energy independence platform for a truly Green Party presidential candidate.

Perhaps the great question, answerable only in retrospect, is: Are we entering merely a new period, or a new epoch, age or eon? What, truly, is the impact of the evolution of consciousness on the history of Earth?

Welcome to the Homogocene!

But seriously, the problems caused by non-native invasive species of all taxa is great, is global and is not going away. Dr. Hal Mooney of Stanford, one of the world's leading authorities on the subject, states, "Invasive species are one of the most serious environmental threats of the 21st century."

The threat to agricultural systems from plant, animal, fungal and microbial pests has been known and fought vigorously for millennia. But the problems invasive species cause to the broader environment has been seriously studied only since 1958 when an ecologist, Dr. Charles Elton, brought the subject to the attention of the scientific community in his landmark book, *The Ecology of Invasions by Animals and Plants*.

Twenty-five years ago he wrote, "We must make no mistake; we are seeing one of the great historical convolutions of the world's fauna and flora." Since then, the problems he heralded, from killer bees to cheat grass to AIDS, have become evident to multitudes around the globe.

In 1992 world leaders met in Rio de Janeiro for the first Earth Summit where they agreed upon the value of biodiversity, "a combination of life forms and their interactions with each other and with the rest of the environment that has made Earth a uniquely habitable place for humans." They agreed upon a comprehensive strategy for "sustainable development." One of the key documents to come out of this summit was the Convention on Biological Diversity which "sets out commitments for sustaining the world's ecological underpinnings as we go about the business of economic development." Almost 100 nations have signed this convention. The United States is not among them.

Even the World Bank, recognizing the serious threats to biodiversity and world-wide economic stability, established GISP, the Global Invasive Species Program. Since then international, national, state and regional entities, as well as private organizations such as Cal-IPC have begun to grapple seriously with the threats caused by what have been called "biological pollution."

No remote spot on the globe is free from the changes we have set in motion. We have treated this planet which has given us everything, even life itself, thoughtlessly and shamefully and therefore owe a sacred debt to Earth and to future generations. The whole planet is, by our interference, a managed landscape and we must therefore work tirelessly to heal the rift we have created in the fabric of life. And then pass the torch to those who come after us.

Fortunately, there are many willing hands, and governments are coming to the table to help. We are becoming smarter about what we do and are enlisting environmentally safe chemical and well-tested biological helpers where appropriate.

Tonight we honor some of the fingers in the leaky dike with the hope that the townspeople awaken and spring to action before the breach debouches.

Readings & Resources

Updated List: The Oregon Invasive Species Council has reissued its list of the Top 100 most dangerous invasive species, which includes nine aquatic plants and 21 terrestrial plants, none of which are horticulturally significant. <www.oda.state.or.us/plant/Inv_spp/>

New Book: *Biological Control of Invasive Plants in the United States* was published by Oregon State University in October 2004. It includes information on 39 target plants, 94 biocontrol agents, and features over 300 color photographs. <oregonstate.edu/dept/press/a-b/BioControl.html>

Seed Law: The 2004 edition of the publication, *States Noxious Weed Seed Requirements Recognized in the Administration of the Federal Seed Act* has been released. <www.ams.usda.gov>

Special Issue: The August 2004 issue of the journal *Risk Analysis* focuses on invasive species. <www.blackwell-synergy.com/>

ID DVD: The *Interactive Encyclopedia of North American Weeds*, a new software program to aid in identification of almost 500 weeds in the US and Canada, is available as a DVD-ROM with 2,400 photographs, an illustrated glossary of 565 botanical terms, professionally-narrated lessons that provide interactive instruction on the basics of plant taxonomy, distribution maps, a habitat key, weed history articles, and the unique visual weed and crop identification key. <www.thundersnow.com/weedid>

Handbook: The US Forest Service Northeast Area has released the *Invasive and Exotic Plant Species Playbook*, listing info sources and contact numbers. <www.na.fs.fed.us>

New Book: In *Alien Species and Evolution* (Island Press, 2004), biologist George W. Cox reviews and synthesizes emerging information on the evolutionary changes that occur in species when they colonize new geographical areas, and on the evolutionary responses of native species with which alien species interact. <www.islandpress.org/books/>



Sargasso Sea of iceplant As the tide of holiday season rolls in, it's always good to remember fearless weed warriors of times past, including the many poor privateers who went to Davy Jones locker in gales of surging *Carpobrotus*. (*Halloween display in Pacifica*)

Website: The National Wildlife Federation and eNature have launched a website for gardeners giving state-by-state information on invasive plants to avoid and native plants that work well in the garden setting. <enature.com/native_invasive/natives.asp>

Clearinghouse: The *Western Weed Resources Catalog*, from the Center for Invasive Plant Management, is a compilation of more than 1,000 brochures, booklets, videos, and other educational materials. The searchable database is available. <www.weedcenter.org>

Website: Member Lynn Watson helped prepare a detailed webpage on Santa Barbara-area invasives for the More Mesa Preservation Coalition. <www.moremesa.org/mesa_weed_int.htm>

Photos: The Mid-Atlantic EPPC has compiled an image library of invasive plant photos. <www.invasive.org/maweeds.cfm>



Grass and Grass-like Weeds of California Identification CD-ROM, by Dr. Joe DiTomaso of UC Davis and the Weed Research & Information Center, is now available from Cal-IPC. This CD allows you to identify 200 weedy grasses using only plant parts visible to the naked eye. The intuitive keys offer a great way of self-tutoring on grass identification.

\$32.00 + \$3.00 s/h
Call Cal-IPC at 510.843.3902

The WILDLAND WEED CALENDAR

California Native Grasslands Association

April 14-16, 2005
Woodland

15th Anniversary Annual Conference,
“Successes, Failures, and Lessons Learned: 15
Years of Native Grassland Restoration in
California” <www.cnga.org>

Invasive Weed Day at the Capitol

March 9, 2005
Sacramento

The 2nd annual education and advocacy
event organized for weed workers to meet
with agency managers and elected officials to
discuss weed work in the state.
<www.cal-ipc.org>

National Invasive Weed Awareness Week

February 27-March 4, 2005
Washington D.C.

Your chance to talk directly to legislators
about invasive plants and their impact.
Californians will join delegations from other
states to discuss weed policy with legislators
and federal agency managers.
<www.nawma.org>

*Know of an event that be posted here?
Please contact dwjohanson@cal-ipc.org.*

American Society for Testing and Materials: Symposium on Invasive Species

April 19-20, 2005
Reno, Nevada

“Invasive Species: Their ecological impacts and
alternatives for control” is the title of this
Symposium hosted by one of the largest
voluntary standards development organiza-
tions in the world.
<www.astm.org>

Invasive Plants in the Mediterranean Type Regions of the World

May 25-27, 2005
Montpelier, France

An international workshop organized by the
The World Conservation Union (IUCN),
Center for Mediterranean Cooperation,
Mediterranean Botanic Conservatory, the
Council of Europe and the European and
Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization.
<www.ame-lr.org/workshop>

Weed News, cont'd from p.3...

agricultural experts qualified to detect
introductions of dangerous pests at US
borders. According to the DHS, 375 of the
1,800 positions at 145 ports of entry are
currently unfilled. However, the National
Association of Agriculture Employees, a labor
union representing government workers,
calculates the shortage at more than 500.
<www.stltoday.com>

U.C. Berkeley is wrapping up a fire preven-
tion project that will **remove almost 6,000
eucalyptus trees** from the hills surrounding
the campus. <www.berkeley.edu>

A new study conducted by the EPA has
found pollen from genetically modified,
Roundup-resistant bentgrass developed by
Monsanto and Scotts can reach and pollinate
bentgrass plants up to 13 miles away (see
story *Cal-IPC News* 12(1) Spring 2004). The
study will be published in the Proceedings of
the National Academy of Sciences.
<www.nytimes.com>

USDA-ARS scientists working on revegeta-
tion of western rangelands are experimen-
ting with planting small **native grasses “islands”**
to serve as seed sources. <[www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/
archive/nov04/plants1104.htm](http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/nov04/plants1104.htm)>

Quotable:

“Alaska is our 50th chance to get it right. We have screwed it up 49 other
times, and the economic and environmental losses are in the billions [of
dollars].”

*Jamie Snyder, coordinator for the University of Alaska Fairbanks
Cooperative Extension Service, speaking about the incipient invasion
of non-native, invasive plants on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska.*

“We have all heard the breathless tales of the dangers of “invasive alien
species,” but what does science say about them? Did you know that studies
show that purple loosestrife does not affect species richness of native plants?
That saltcedar supports native birds and insects in high numbers and at
high levels of diversity, including endangered species? That the “invasive
alien” hydrilla supports the highest bird species diversity in Florida, and it
supports higher fish species density and many times the fish biomass than
natives? That the zebra mussel increased the catch of yellow perch five-fold,
and that it improves water quality? That in all cases, including even oceanic
islands, introduced species have increased biodiversity?”

*David I. Theodoropoulos, from
Invasion Biology: Critique of a Pseudoscience*

Steve “Letterman” Schoenig’s Top 10 Definitions of a Weed:

[as read at the 2004 Symposium Banquet]

10. Landscaping for the Global Village.
9. Nature’s weapons of mass destruction.
8. Nature’s way of telling you something’s wrong.
7. The Starbucks of the plant world.
6. Alien exotic non-native non-indigenous, not-necessarily-noxious invasive opportunistic pest plants out-of-place.
5. Those pretty plants you see weird people killing when you’re out walking the dog.
4. This is your landscape on drugs.
3. The only thing ranchers and environmentalists agree on.
2. Plants in need of a little TLC: Totally Lethal Control
1. Job security!

Cal-IPC Membership Form

We're working to protect California's wildlands from invasive plants—join us!

Cal-IPC's effectiveness comes from a strong membership, including scientists, land managers, policy makers, and concerned citizens. Please photocopy the form below, complete, and mail with your payment. Additional donations are always welcome to support our projects; we are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and donations beyond regular membership rates are tax deductible.

Individual

- Regular \$35
- Family \$60
- Contributing \$75
- Life \$1,000
- Joint Cal-IPC/SERCAL \$55
- Joint Cal-IPC/CNGA \$70
- Cal-IPC/SERCAL/CNGA \$95
- Student/Volunteer \$15

Institutional

- Regular \$150
- Contributing \$300
- Patron \$600
- Sustaining \$1,000
- Small company or Nonprofit \$100

Name

Affiliation

Address

City, State & Zip

Work Phone

Home Phone

Fax

E-mail

Credit Card No.

Exp. Date

Ways to join:

Mail: send this form with check (made out to "Cal-IPC") or credit card info to Cal-IPC, 1442-A Walnut Street #462, Berkeley, CA 94709

Fax: fax form with credit card info to 510/217-3500

Email: send contact and credit card info to dwjohanson@cal-ipc.org

Phone: call us at 510/843-3902 and provide contact and credit card info



**California
Invasive Plant
Council**

1442-A Walnut Street, #462
Berkeley, CA 94709

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Berkeley, CA
Permit No. 1435

*Please check the
label to make sure your
membership is current.
Thank You!*