NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL

Dispatch



Inventory updates 4
Celebrating Jake Sigg 6
IPM for Master Gardeners 8
2026 Symposium 9
Stinknet on the move 10
Climate match tool 11
Where are they now? 12
Remembering stalwarts 13
Career panel 14

VOLUME 34 NUMBER 2 SUMMER 2026

CAL-IPC
CALIFORNIA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL

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

Protecting California's environment and economy from invasive plants

STAFF
Jutta Burger, Executive Director
and Science Program Director
Kimberly Crispin, Conservation Specialist
Tara Kermani, Finance and Human Resources Assistant
Agustín Luna, Director of Finance,
Operations & Administration
Amanda Swanson, Grants & Contracts Manager
Manisha Tamrakar, Finance & Operations Specialist
Constance Taylor, Conservation Specialist
Nikki Valentine, Conservation Specialist
Alex Zalanis, Operations Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President: Alys Arenas, California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Vice President: Jason Giessow, Dendra, Inc.
Secretary: Michael Kwong, California Dept. of Water Resources
Treasurer: Matt Major, Orange County Parks
Peter Brastow, San Francisco Environment Department
Michelle Daneri, National Forest Foundation
Sarah Godfrey, Map the Point Consulting
Alan Kaufmann, Laguna Canyon Foundation
Drew Kerr, San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project
Metha Klock, Pepperwood Preserve
Tanya Meyer, Yolo County Resource Conservation District
LeeAnne Mila, El Dorado County Dept. of Agriculture
Lana Nguyen, California State Parks
Scott Oneto, UC Cooperative Extension
Isaac Ostmann, Irvine Ranch Conservancy
Stephanie Ponce, California State Parks,
Division of Boating and Waterways
Lauren Quon, Cleveland National Forest
Justin Valliere, UC Davis
Hannah Wallis, Resource Conservation District of
Monterey County

STUDENT/EMERGING PROFESSIONALS LIAISONS
Anthony Dant, University of Arizona
Allison Titus, Stillwater Sciences and CSU Sacramento
Sean Lee

Affiliations for identification purposes only.

Cal-IPC Dispatch
Summer 2026 – Vol. 34, No. 2
Editor: Constance Taylor
Associate Editors: Jutta Burger, Doug Johnson
Designed by Melanie Haage

Published by the California Invasive Plant Council. Articles may be reprinted with permission. Previous issues are archived at cal-ipc.org. Mention of commercial products does not imply endorsement by Cal-IPC. Submissions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit content.

Follow us:

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Transitions

By Executive Director Jutta Burger

It has been quite a year to date. Policy, funding, and personnel changes at the federal level have created choppy seas for stewardship. At Cal-IPC, Doug Johnson, our founding executive director, retired in late April and our Board elected me to take on the position. Within California's land management and weed science community, we have had to bid farewell to icons and local heroes who have passed: Jake Sigg, Sandy DeSimone, Larry Klaasen, and Jodie Holt (to be memorialized in our next issue). And yet, what I see in all this change is a tremendous resilience and ability to regenerate and shape-shift as we need to to continue fighting to protect all that we hold dear: nature, biodiversity, and community. I look back at Doug's eloquent editorial about "Weaving Community" from last year's Spring/Summer *Dispatch*. We are an amazing community that knows where we're going, makes space for everyone, and celebrates those that have helped to form us.

Our program team, administrative staff, and Board of Directors have quickly adapted and stepped in and up (you'll see great new staff additions highlighted in this edition). Doug is providing sage advice and leading advocacy in a voluntary capacity as emeritus director. We have been able to add staff to earthquake-proof the organization, and we have been blessed with recent legacy donations to provide us with more financial resilience. Our programs are going strong, and we continue to provide tools, resources, training, and workforce development to a very appreciative land management community. We are excited about our fall Symposium and just as excited about our current push for ongoing Weed Management Area funding and a grant opportunity finally available this summer through the state directly for invasive species management, under Climate Bond Funding from Prop 4.

I would not be here if I didn't love what I do and feel tremendously lucky to be working with skilled professionals and dedicated volunteers to help protect natural lands both on a statewide scale and locally. In early June, I had a chance to visit volunteers Chuck and Loretta Heimstadt of South San Francisco and hear about all of their work stewarding one of their favorite haunts, San Bruno Mountain, where a recent invasion of prickly goldenfleece (*Urospermum picroides*) is threatening native habitat. These grassroots' stewardship stories and the work that you all do across the state – whether it's behind a computer to make things happen or on-the-ground – are an inspiration and give me fuel for the future.

ON THE COVER



Jake Sigg admiring native goldfields while touring the backcountry of the Crystal Springs Reservoir watershed near San Bruno in San Mateo County. Memorial on page 6. Photo: Christopher Campbell

Wildland Weed News

CAL-IPC UPDATES

Symposium – October 20-22, online! See page 9.

Leadership – Doug Johnson, Cal-IPC's executive director since 2002, retired due to health challenges after 24 years of leading the organization. The board of directors appointed Science Program Director Jutta Burger as the new executive director. Stay tuned for a retrospective from Doug in a future issue.

New staff – Cal-IPC hired on new staff this spring and summer. Find out more about them in this and our next issue!

Fire Risk – Cal-IPC has begun scoring Inventory species for fire risk, with grant funds from the US Forest Service through Cal Fire.

New "timeline tool" – Cal-IPC has built an online "timeline tool" that allows users to track regional management progress over time. See page 11.

New trainings – Cal-IPC will be holding trainings on targeted treatment approaches of spot spraying and mechanized weed trimming, supported by a grant from the California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation. The grant will also fund updates to the WeedCUT webtool.

Outdoor leadership – With Oakland Civicorps, Cal-IPC helped develop a Corpsmember Outdoor Leadership and Adventure (COLA) program, through which Corpsmembers learn project management skills by planning recreational outdoor trips and ecological education for their peers.



Presentation of a "Stewardship in Action" award to Cal-IPC at the annual award ceremony of the California Association of Local Conservation Corps in Sacramento in April. From left: Cal-IPC board member Stephanie Ponce, board alumnus Gina Darin, Cal-IPC Conservation Specialist Constance Taylor (who leads Cal-IPC's work with Conservation Corps), and CALCC board member Dan Knapp. Photo courtesy CALCC.

Conservation Corps award – Cal-IPC received a "Stewardship in Action" award from the California Association of Local Conservation Corps for advancing science-based ecological restoration and providing hands-on learning opportunities for Corpsmembers.

Communication award – Cal-IPC and University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources won an award from the Association of Communication Excellence for its instructional video "Calibration of Herbicide Applications for Non-Agricultural Areas," a self-paced online course available through the UC ANR website.

Publications – Cal-IPC co-authored the article "Integrated management of fire-adapted invasive plants that change wildfire regimes" for the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST). Cal-IPC also co-authored "Building an effective and inclusive stewardship workforce" in Conservation Science and Practice.



Illustration by Ryan Jones

OTHER NEWS

WMA funding – The California Dept. of Food & Agriculture has completed contracts with Weed Management Area lead organizations in most counties across the state. CDFA is working to form a WMA Oversight Committee that will help guide the program and invest additional support funds. Current WMA contracts provide funding through June of 2028 and Cal-IPC is working in coalition with partner groups to advocate for continued funding.

CISAC – The California Invasive Species Action Committee (CISAC) organized several all-day field tours in different parts of the state while also planning an Invasive Species Summit for Oct. 1 and 2.

C3PA – University of California researchers and others have released their Comprehensive Pest Prevention Program Analysis, reporting that California's pest prevention system is being outpaced by increasing invasive pest threats and needs sustainable funding.

(Continued on page 14)

YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for keeping your membership current. Note that your expiration date is shown on the mailing label of this newsletter. Cal-IPC's success in meeting its mission depends on your vital support.

New Employee spotlight
Kimberly Crispin: Conservation Specialist



Kimberly has a dynamic background in restoration, conservation, grant management, and invasive plant management. She began her professional hands-on land management work with San Francisco Recreation and Parks, and partnered with Cal-IPC while working at East Bay Regional Park District and CA Department of Pesticide Regulation. She's excited to work at Cal-IPC because of our emphasis on collaboration, and "bringing different entities together to have a realistic chance of combating invasive plants".

New additions and updates to Cal-IPC Inventory

Jutta Burger, Cal-IPC

We know that the landscape of invasive plant challenges is dynamic. Exotic species are being introduced into California on an ongoing basis (thankfully, only a small proportion become invasive). Established exotics have changing roles in natural communities, sometimes becoming invasive with time and other times not fulfilling expectations of their presumed impact. Cal-IPC's Inventory, the go-to reference for invasive and high-risk exotic plants in natural areas, must therefore be updated regularly to track these changes. This year, we evaluated a total of eleven species, five of which were added to our Inventory, a database that now includes 333 species. One species that was already in the Inventory (*Schinus molle*) was reassessed.



Clockwise from top left: Schinus molle *(R. Vanderhoff),* Caulerpa prolifera *(Brian Owens),* Pistia stratiotes *(R. Vanderhoff),* Vicia villosa *(Jennifer Mo),* Bacopa monnieri *(Ron Vanderhoff),* Aristea ecklonii *(Ron Vanderhoff).*

Of the species evaluated, six were added to the Cal-IPC Inventory and are profiled below. Three were added as "WATCH" species based on scoring as high risk using the Plant Risk Evaluator (PRE) tool. Three other species were evaluated using our Plant Assessment Form (PAF) and determined to be invasive. As a reminder, species that are not yet broadly established or clearly impactful are evaluated using the PRE tool, while species known to have impact in California are evaluated using the PAF. Plants scoring as a high risk on the PRE are added to the Inventory with a "WATCH" rating. Species determined to be invasive using the PAF are rated as either "HIGH," "MODERATE," or "LIMITED" based on the evaluation score.

Aristea ecklonii (blue corn lily; Iridaceae; PRE score: 19; rating: WATCH) is a rhizomatous perennial herb that is native to central and southern Africa and has naturalized across Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, and now, southern California. It can be easily identified by its stature (<50cm), sword-shaped, conspicuously veined leaves, and showy blue flowers. Introduced as an ornamental, blue corn lily has been known to escape cultivation and spread to form dense, long-lived stands that can smother other vegetation, crowd out native species, and threaten local biodiversity, especially in grassland habitat. The species is recognized in some other countries as an environmental threat, though these countries do not share the climate of California. New Zealand has declared it an "unwanted organism," and Sri Lanka classifies it as a dominant invasive species. Blue corn lily has naturalized in other regions, such as Melbourne, Australia, that share California's climate. It is highly resilient to disturbance, due to woody rhizomes that survive fire and herbivory and can be dispersed through soil movement or water flow. In addition to displacing endemic flora, blue corn lily has been reported to impact grazing systems for wildlife. Blue corn lily was a Cal-IPC Weed Alert in 2024 and is currently not listed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

Bacopa monnieri (herb-of-grace; Plantaginaceae; PRE score: 17; rating: WATCH) is a low-growing, mat-forming perennial that is native to tropical and subtropical regions across the globe, including the southeastern U.S. It is sold as an ornamental ground cover and has established in California, primarily in wetland habitat in southern California. Herb-of-grace has naturalized beyond its native range and is listed as invasive in various countries, including Spain, Portugal, Japan, Singapore, and the Cayman Islands, where it is reported to aggressively compete with and displace native vegetation. Leaves are oppositely arranged, sessile, succulent, and small. Stems are also succulent and root at nodes. Flowers are white to light purple and formed singly in leaf axils on long pedicels. Stamens are in two pairs of different lengths. Plants are generally hairless. Herb-of-grace does not appear to have proliferated in many places outside of California that match its climate, and to-date appears limited to

edges of waterways, ponds, and lakes in southern California. It is currently not listed by CDFA.

Schinus molle (Peruvian peppertree; Anacardiaceae; PRE score: 17; status: WATCH) is an upright, aromatic, evergreen shrub or tree) that is native to South America and has naturalized in some parts of southern California, Australia, and southern Africa since it was first introduced as an ornamental in the early 1800s. It continues to be a widely planted and sold ornamental and landscape tree in California, where it is often called "California peppertree". The tree is evergreen and grows up to and over 50 ft tall and wide, with drooping branches and a dioecious reproductive system, where individual trees are either male or female. Leaves are compound, with narrow, smooth leaflets. Flowers are small and white, arranged in drooping branched clusters. Fruits are small and red, turn to bluish-pink as they mature and dry, are consumed and dispersed by birds and mammals, and are sometimes used as a spice. This tree can establish in desert washes and other dry habitats in California. It was previously listed as having "LIMITED" invasive rating by Cal-IPC but has now been re-assessed and down weighted to a risk status due to a lack of evidence of its impact where it has naturalized.

Caulerpa prolifera (leafy Caulerpa; Caulerpaceae; status: LIMITED) is a popular alga in the aquarium trade that is native to the Mediterranean, north African coast, Caribbean, and eastern seaboard of the Americas. It was first found in California marine waters in Newport Bay in 2021 and, in 2023, off the coast of San Diego. This species is bright green with many small blades connected by runners and attached to substrates via rhizoids. It is similar to *C. taxifolia*, which was previously eradicated from San Diego Bay, though can be distinguished by not having frilly blades. Local dispersal appears to be by fragments dislodging and moving with boats, equipment, or by currents. This species is unpalatable to many fish, outcompetes marine eelgrass, and may inhibit other species phytochemically. As of 2024, California Fish and Game code has banned the sale, transport, and possession of all Caulerpa species. *Caulerpa prolifera* was a Weed Alert in the year of its discovery, 2021.

Pistia stratiotes (water lettuce; Araceae; status: MODERATE) is a perennial aquatic floating plant sold in the aquarium and water garden trade. It is widely distributed across tropical and subtropical regions worldwide and is considered native to Africa, South America, and possibly the southeastern U.S.A. In California, an exotic biotype has established and expanded in several pond and freshwater habitats in coastal southern California. Plants are easily distinguished by their lettuce-like appearance and size, and have long, feathery roots and inconspicuous flowers. Water lettuce impacts aquatic habitats by covering water surfaces completely, blocking light. This species was a Cal-IPC Weed Alert in 2019 and is listed by CDFA as a "B" rated noxious weed.

Stay on the lookout for non-native plant species that are spreading quickly or posing a threat in your area.

Vicia villosa (winter vetch or hairy vetch; Fabaceae; status: MODERATE) is an annual or short-lived perennial forb that is native to parts of Europe and western Asia. It is widely established across California, where it was probably first introduced as a cover crop. Plants have a sprawling habit, pinnately compound leaves with 2-3 branched, terminal tendrils, a hairy appearance, and 10-20 blue flowers clustered on linear inflorescences. Seeds are borne in dark, flattened pods. Winter vetch is considered toxic to livestock and poultry and may disrupt plant-pollinator networks in some areas. Because winter vetch fixes high amounts of nitrogen, it can change soil conditions in otherwise nitrogen-poor systems in California. Plants can form spreading, tangled mats and climb over surrounding vegetation and other structures, outcompeting other species for light. This species appears to be especially problematic in grassland systems and is considered invasive in Washington and Oregon. It is not currently listed by CDFA.

Three species did not score highly enough to be considered as "WATCH" species for the Inventory. They are: *Centaurea nigrescens* (PRE=15: moderate risk), *Oenothera hispida* (PRE=15: moderate risk), and *Sparaxis tricolor* (PRE=14: moderate risk).

This year, as in other recent years, species evaluations were partially funded by the Western Integrated Pest Management Center (WIPM) as well as by member donations and the in-kind efforts of affiliated specialists. WIPM has supported Cal-IPC's work leading an interstate partnership to conduct and share evaluations across Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, and Arizona. Evaluations for California are conducted by botanical specialists affiliated with Cal-IPC and reviewed by our Inventory Committee, comprised of Cal-IPC Board Members and other invasive plant experts.

Please stay on the lookout for the species listed in this article and any other plant species that are spreading quickly or posing a threat in your area. Contact us if you have new or unusual finds, and submit specimens of novel finds to your local agricultural commissioner. Document where you find them on Calflora or iNaturalist — thanks to both online platforms, which serve as invaluable resources for location records of species. Thanks also to the many plant observers who record their observations on these platforms, to WIPM, and to our Inventory Committee for support in maintaining our Inventory!

In Memory of Jake Sigg, California Conservationist

Peter Brastow, San Francisco Environment Department and
Doug Johnson, Cal-IPC Executive Director Emeritus

Jake Sigg, one of California's best-known advocates for protecting native biodiversity, died on June 10, one week after his 99th birthday, in his longtime Sunset District home in San Francisco. He grew public appreciation of native plant communities and ecological restoration in California and inspired and mentored scores of professionals in the field. His legacy includes playing a vital role in forming San Francisco's network of protected natural areas and supporting the work of the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).



Jake leading a field trip on Mt. Davidson in San Francisco. Photo: Greg Gaar

Jake grew up on a ranch in rural Montana without running water or electricity for much of his childhood. Visiting San Francisco as a Navy recruit after high school in 1945, he was enchanted by its many cultural offerings, including theater, ballet, the symphony. When he finished college in Montana, he moved to San Francisco in 1950. In 1959, after having worked at many different jobs, Jake found his true passion as a gardener for the City.

Jake worked several park beats over his three decades with the City. His years as a lead gardener of the California Native Plant section of Strybing Arboretum (now called the San Francisco Botanical Garden) brought him satisfaction and influence. While working at Crocker Amazon Park and McLaren Park in the 1980s, Jake witnessed still extant native grasslands threatened by the spread of fennel and other invasive plants. He began to realize how special San Francisco's remaining natural areas were, and how unique their biodiversity was. This laid the foundation for his life's work: preserving and stewarding native plant and wildlife communities.

His conservation work involved many different activities. He founded and participated in regular weekly work parties to remove invasive plants. He shared his botanical knowledge with others. He spoke to decision-makers at City Hall, at the State Capitol in Sacramento, and in Washington, DC. He served in leadership roles for CNPS and helped form the organization that is now Cal-IPC.

After Jake retired in 1990, he devoted himself to ecological conservation. With his top partner, local environmental activist Greg Gaar, he served on the City's Open Space Committee where he advocated for the city to acquire many of the natural areas that were still in private hands. Jake made plant lists for each of these native habitat remnants throughout the city, creating a foundation of knowledge for the CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter as well as the City's Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) and other agencies. Jake ultimately convinced the RPD to create the Natural Areas Program (now called the Natural Resources Division) to lead community volunteers in stewarding the coastal scrub, grassland, wetland, and oak woodland habitats throughout the park system.

Though Jake was a shy person, he was able to speak knowledgably and passionately when testifying at public meetings or describing native plants in the field. By default, he became a lead advocate and a lead organizer – not his most comfortable role – in the local conservation movement. This put him in the line of fire when conservation of native plants ran into competing issues, like the desire of some dog owners and professional dog walkers to use natural areas in San Francisco to exercise pets.

Around the time the "dog wars" exploded, Jake started his popular email newsletter, Nature News. Over the next twenty years, it became a valued source of information on ecologically relevant topics (as well as a smorgasbord of poetry, politics, history, and astronomy) with alerts about issues that needed attention from conservationists. Jake enjoyed writing and the discussions that ensued when readers would write responses to his views in the newsletter

In 1998, CNPS published a special issue of their journal *Fremontia* (now called *Artemisia*) on the topic of invasive plants. In it was an article by Jake titled "The Role of Herbicides in Protecting Biodiversity," expressing his view, based on years of experience, that herbicides are sometimes essential for controlling

invasive plants and protecting native plants. Given that environmentalists often fight against pesticide use, the idea of incorporating them into the land steward's integrated pest management (IPM) toolbox runs counter to common assumptions held by some of the general public about how we protect the environment. CNPS's recently updated herbicide policy aligns well with the viewpoint Jake so cogently presented.

Though Jake never served on the board of directors for Cal-IPC, he was a key player in the organization's formation in the early 1990s, and he attended board meetings for a decade. Together with Don Mayall of Palo Alto and Bob Case of Concord, he led the CNPS Invasive Exotics Committee. As CNPS local chapters initiated stewardship work parties to address invasive plants, these three represented CNPS in advocacy efforts to strengthen stewardship policy at the state and federal levels. They attended Cal-IPC's annual Day at the Capitol events in Sacramento to educate legislators about the impacts of invasive plants and to support state funding for local Weed Management Area (WMA) partnerships.

Jake had a special interest in biological control agents as an effective landscape-level management strategy for widespread weed species. He was a regular advocate at the USDA Agricultural Research Service lab in Albany CA, encouraging development of biocontrol agents for various high-priority plants (Agencies even flew Jake to Washington, DC to testify on the need for biological control agents that protect native habitats) He led fundraising efforts that supported USDA's work in South Africa finding potential biocontrol agents for Cape-ivy, a scourge of coastal watersheds in northern California that has spread rapidly over the last 50 years. After years of host specificity research and regulatory permitting, one agent – the Cape-ivy shoot tip-galling fly – has been successfully released and has established in California, while a second potential agent, a leaf- and stem-mining moth, is still being researched.



Jake working with a weed wrench. He attended work parties every week for more than three decades. Photo: Greg Gaar

Jake's knowledge, passion, and eloquence made him a beloved conservation leader, though he had no aspiration to be revered. He had a talent for combining thoughtful, well-grounded arguments with passionate exhortations. He encouraged us not to be "indifferent to the rending of nature's fabric…," but to dedicate ourselves to protecting "the miraculous diversity of life we have inherited." The work of stewarding California's native biodiversity will be carried on by the many people Jake has inspired, building on the foundation he and others have built.

Peter Brastow is Senior Biodiversity Specialist for the San Francisco Environment Department, where he coordinates interagency biodiversity planning within the city while also working with other municipalities around the world. In 2005 he founded the nonprofit Nature in the City to catalyze ecological restoration and stewardship in San Francisco. Peter has been a friend and colleague of Jake's for three decades.

Doug Johnson is Executive Director Emeritus at the California Invasive Plant Council, having served in the Executive Director role from 2002 to 2026. Cal-IPC presents the Jake Sigg Award for Vision and Dedicated Service each year to an exceptional land steward. Doug's interest in protecting California's native habitats was catalyzed in large part by meeting Jake as a neighbor in San Francisco in the 1990s.

Jake's memoir, Notes on a Long Life, can be ordered at www.blurb.com/b/12846190-notes-on-a-long-life.

Recipients of Cal-IPC's Jake Sigg Award for Vision and Dedicated Service

2025: John Knapp, Catalina Island Conservancy
2024: Lincoln Smith, USDA, Agricultural Research Service
2023: John Malpas, The Calflora Database
2022: Cheryl Wilen, UC Cooperative Extension
2019: David Bakke, USDA Forest Service, State & Private Forestry
2018: Mike Pitcairn, California Dept. of Food and Agriculture
2017: Edith Allen, UC Riverside
2016: Jay Goldsmith, National Park Service
2015: Cindy Burrascano, CNPS- San Diego Chapter
2014: John Anderson, Hedgerow Farms
2013: Jason Giessow, Dendra, Inc.
2012: Ann Howald, Garcia and Associates
2011: Joseph DiTomaso, UC Davis
2010: David Chang, Santa Barbara County Agriculture Commissioner's Office
2009: Steve Schoenig, California Dept. of Fish & Game
2008: John Randall, The Nature Conservancy
2007: Nelroy Jackson
2006: Greg Archbald
2005: Carla Bossard, St. Mary's College of California
2004: Mike Kelly, Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon
2003: Jake Sigg, California Native Plant Society

Invasive Weed Management 101: Creating an IPM Strategy for Master Gardeners

Constance Taylor, Cal-IPC Conservation Specialist

For those newer to invasive plant management, whether as a home gardener, volunteer, or early-career land steward, knowing how to best tackle an invasive weed issue can be a challenge. Where do you even start?

Many will begin by contacting their local Master Gardener group. Master Gardener volunteers, who provide a link between universities and local communities, are no strangers to these types of questions from the public, and answering invasive plant questions provides its own challenges given ever-present nuances and varied situations.

To tackle this issue, Cal-IPC and partners developed a framework to help Master Gardeners answer invasive plant management questions using an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) lens. In February 2026, Master Gardener volunteers from California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, and Nevada gathered for two online trainings hosted by Cal-IPC and Master Gardener state coordinators to introduce the framework in a workbook titled Master Gardener Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Response Framework: Answering Invasive Plant Questions from the Public.

The framework and workbook are ready-made resources for Master Gardener volunteers to use when responding to email queries from clients who are looking to prevent or manage invasive plants. The workbook walks through a suggested (not prescriptive) process of identifying the problem, gathering information, and responding to clients.

The framework consists of six steps, which create the acronym SPACES. In brief, the steps are as follows:

S - Situation and objectives. Based on the information given in the client's email, clearly identify the question you're responding to. Consider things like who is doing the asking, what type of property it is, if the client has already tried approaches to solving their problem, and what the person's goal is.

P - Pest identification and knowledge building. Make sure the plant is properly identified because this is what you will be giving advice based upon. Be clear in your response that the plant must be identified correctly before any techniques you suggest are used.

A - Action. Suggest one or more approaches for solving the problem in the short term, long term, or both.

C - Considerations and caveats. To ensure that their action has the best possible outcome, mention things the client should consider before going ahead with the suggested treatment.

E - Evaluation. How or when can the client evaluate the results of the strategy used?

S - Supplemental information. Link to a few top sources of further information, such as the natural history and characteristics of the plant, best practices for the techniques you're suggesting, or local experts who might provide more advice.

Each step is broken into more detail within the workbook. The user follows a process to come up with a plan based on the unique characteristics of the site and the plants they're trying to control. The workbook includes lists of useful general resources, as well as state-specific resources provided by Master Gardener coordinators from each state.

A full curriculum was built around the framework, including a training recording, slides, and interactive Zoom whiteboard template. Master Gardener coordinators were enthusiastic about using these training materials during the orientation period for new cohorts of volunteers. While this framework is written specifically for Master Gardener volunteers, the information is useful for anyone looking to put together a basic IPM strategy for an invasive weed management situation. We are currently tweaking this framework and associated curriculum to be more relevant to an early-career audience and will be presenting the new iteration at the 2026 Cal-IPC Symposium.

A link to the workbook is available on the Cal-IPC Volunteer Resources page: www.cal-ipc.org/resources/volunteers. We welcome your feedback and comments! E-mail ctaylor@cal-ipc.org.

We are grateful to our partners on this project: University of California's Integrated Pest Management Program and Master Gardener Program, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program, Nevada Extension Master Gardener Program, Oregon State University Master Gardener Program, and Washington State University Extension Master Gardener Program.



Photos: Marvin Josephson, Fiscalini Ranch Preserve; NASA, Wikipedia, Creative Commons

Share information and connect with colleagues!

Join us for the 35th annual Cal-IPC Symposium! This year's event will be held entirely online. Join interactive chats and discussion boards to share knowledge, ask questions, and connect with colleagues from across the state and beyond.

Our theme this year is "Think Globally, Weed Locally!" with special sessions highlighting how our local work connects to the global challenge of invasive species. Invasive species are a shared issue worldwide. Explore how local weed management work connects with efforts taking place across the globe.

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

- 2026 Statewide Weed Management Area Meeting
- Herbicide Laws & Regulations session for DPR credit
- Student and Emerging Professional Career Panel
- Discussion Groups
- Lightning Talks and Posters
- **Workshops**
  - Planning and Implementing an Effective Monitoring Program
  - IPM 101 – Building an Action Plan for Weed Management
  - Tracking Regional EDRR Progress
  - Restoring Lands Post-Fire: From Calamity to Opportunity
- **Sessions**
  - Biological control of weeds
  - The cost of doing nothing: When weeds go unmanaged
  - Local management and engagement actions that work
  - Global movement of aquatic and wetland weeds
  - Management strategies for habitats with ubiquitous weeds
  - Tools and techniques for weed management
  - Geospatial technologies and approaches
  - Protecting biodiversity through weed management
  - Preventing horticultural invasives
- Annual Photo Contest: Submit your photos by Sept. 15!
- Awards and more!

DPR CREDITS

We are applying for continuing education units from the California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation, including units fulfilling Laws & Regulations requirements. Attendees can typically earn at least 12 units.

SPONSORSHIP

Your organization can sponsor the Symposium! Help us keep registration affordable and support our work. Benefits for sponsoring organizations include free admissions, exhibitor space, recognition on Symposium materials, and Cal-IPC membership.

REGISTRATION

Regular rates through Oct. 1. Late registration runs through close of registration Oct. 16, 5 pm PST.

See our special discounted rates for members, presenters, students, and those with limited income.

Limited Income and Student rates are available for individuals who find registration costs prohibitive. We encourage field techs, conservation corps members, and other front-line staff to use this rate.

Congratulations to Symposium attendees who have been awarded **John H. Anderson Scholarships**! We offer a limited number of scholarships to early career professionals or students in conservation and land management fields to attend the Symposium and offset their cost.

All the latest Symposium information is online. Register to attend, sign up as a sponsor, enter the Photo Contest, and more on our website

cal-ipc.org/symposium.

Stinknet on the move!

Leah Gardner, California State Parks

Stinknet (*Oncosiphon pilulifer*), an herbaceous annual plant native to South Africa, has been expanding its range across southern California since it was first recorded in 1981 in Perris, Riverside County. With Lake Perris State Recreation Area close to ground zero, State Parks Natural Resources staff have been trying to manage this highly invasive weed ever since - with hand pulling, herbicide treatments, and prescribed fire. Lake Perris' infestation is estimated at covering over 700 acres and posing a threat to the federally endangered Stephen's kangaroo rat. But while it has long been a subject of concern locally and in our San Diego District parks, it is still new to many of our parks.

As our statewide botanist, I alerted several additional park districts to be on the lookout for stinknet as part of their Early Detection-Rapid Response (EDRR) programs in early 2023. Within a few weeks, I heard back from our District office in Borrego Springs that they had found some plants nearby and they have continued to show up every year since.

But this spring marked the first time stinknet was found and treated in three new parks: Salton Sea State Recreation Area (SRA), Red Rock Canyon State Park, and Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA). These locations show a range expansion to the east into Imperial County and north into Kern County.

While I was doing rare plant surveys at the Salton Sea in March, we stopped at Salt Creek Beach for lunch. My co-worker Blake Hefner had noticed an observation of stinknet posted on iNaturalist and we were able to use the app to navigate right to it not far from our picnic table. We recorded the data and pulled between 50-100 plants, some of which were hidden within the desert shrubs.

At Red Rock Canyon State Park, I had noted an iNaturalist observation in the campground from 2024 and told staff to be on the lookout. This year in early May, staff surveyed the entire campground and pulled and bagged a few dozen stinknet plants. They've already marked the calendar to survey for it a little earlier next year.



Environmental Scientists Blake Hefner and Madison Collier pulling and bagging stinknet plants at Salton Sea SRA. Photo: Leah Gardner.



Bagged up stinknet plants collected from Red Rock Canyon's Ricardo Campground. Photo: Luis De Vera.

Hungry Valley is a large park (~19,000 acres) near Tejon Pass encompassing a variety of habitats at elevations ranging from 3-4,000 feet, so we didn't consider it to be as vulnerable to invasion by stinknet as other lower elevation parks.



Stinknet pulled from near the south entrance kiosk at Hungry Valley SVRA. Photo: Chris Hon.

However, the first week of June I received an email containing photos for me to verify the identity of. Sure enough, they were stinknet plants! After a return search, staff found and pulled a total of 9 plants – a true early detection – near the south entrance kiosk.

As the locations of these infestations illustrate, stinknet is easily transported via seeds by vehicles, equipment, and various human activities. With State Parks' high visitation from travelers from both near and far, it is vital for us to practice good prevention BMPs as well as to be on the alert for new weed arrivals through annual EDRR surveys. This year's detections and treatments of stinknet were success stories, but we will need to follow up every year to stop this invader from becoming established and spreading in our beautiful state parks.

For more information about stinknet, see the following links:

- www.cal-ipc.org/plants/profile/oncosiphon-piluliferum-profile/
- ipm.ucanr.edu/natural-area-pests/stinknet/#MANAGEMENT_52_1
- www.fws.gov/story/2020-06/pretty-looks-can-be-deceiving

New climate match analysis for weed risk assessment

Doug Johnson, Cal-IPC Executive Director Emeritus

Where in the world has this plant become invasive? And what implications does that have for it becoming invasive in my area? Cal-IPC's new Climate Match Tool answers this question for weed risk assessment for land stewards in California (and anywhere else in North America).



Green shading shows regions where climate matches California. Volutaria tubuliflora *presence is represented by yellow to red polygons.*

Prioritizing which invasive plants to control requires background information regarding their impacts and likelihood to spread. The Cal-IPC Inventory was developed to provide this information, helping land stewards make decisions regarding which plants to focus on in their area.

The Inventory is built on a structured evaluation process which includes a range of factors. Some factors capture information on known impacts. Other factors are more predictive in nature. For instance, it's instructive to assess a plant species' likelihood to spread in a given area. One important way of doing this is to evaluate whether the species grows in other regions with a similar climate to the area of concern. These other regions include the home range of the species or regions where the species has become invasive.

The resources to assess this factor have grown stronger in recent years. For instance, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) online database now captures plant distribution data from around the world. Not long ago, this information was only available through separate resources for different countries or regions, and often in the form of books. Also, global climate layers have become much more accessible.

To better support our ability to anticipate which plant species could become invasive in a given area, the Plant Risk Evaluator (PRE) tool was developed. The tool was initially built by Sustainable Conservation for the PlantRight partnership and is now maintained by Cal-IPC and partners. Cal-IPC uses PRE to designate as "Watch" species those plants which are scored as high risk using PRE.

Several key questions in the PRE algorithm relate to how the plant species behaves in other regions of the world with a similar climate. To help answer these questions, Cal-IPC developed the Climate Match Tool. We borrowed the general methodology used by the USDA's weed risk assessment unit, which combines three factors to define the climate in any given location: global ecozone, plant hardiness zone, and annual precipitation. These three factors provide a signature for 1 kilometer grid cells across the globe.

Working with Cal-IPC and funding from the US Forest Service, environmental mapping experts at GreenInfo Network constructed a tool that allows a user to select a region of interest in North America. This can be one or more states or ecoregions in the US, Mexico, or Canada. The tool will then show the user which other parts of the world have climatic parameters matching the parameters in at least part of the region of interest.

The tool also connects to the GBIF database so that the user can select a plant of interest and superimpose its known worldwide distribution over the map that shows which areas have climates matching the climate in the area of interest (or, at least, parts of the area of interest, since the many grid cells in a given state or ecoregion of interest encompass a range of combinations of the three climatic factors).

The primary utility of the tool is for anyone conducting weed risk assessment anywhere in North America, to help answer questions in weed risk algorithms about the plant species' known behavior in other parts of the world with a similar climate. We are sharing the tool with sister groups across the US, Mexico, and Canada. Assessing and listing invasive plants is a core function for groups like Cal-IPC.

Another useful function of the tool is to project where a new weed might spread based on where it's been found so far. For instance, Cal-IPC and partners are tracking desert knapweed, *Volutaria tubuliflora*, in the Borrego Springs area of eastern San Diego County. Together with a few smaller satellite populations, this is the only known infestation in North America. By selecting the regions in which it is currently found in southern California, we can generate a map showing which other areas of California and beyond are similar in climate to the areas already invaded. This provides a good sense for where the new weed may be likely to spread in the future if it is not contained.

Thanks to the US Forest Service for supporting this effort with a grant, to Tony Koop at the USDA for sharing how their weed assessment system evaluates climate match, to the SAFARIS climate data team at Virginia Tech University and USDA, and to GreenInfo Network for their creativity and skill in building informative web tools. Find a link to the Climate Match Tool on our website under "Resources".

Where are they now? Catching up with Sara Jo Dickens

Amanda Swanson, Cal-IPC Grants and Contracts Manager

In the 2000s, Sara Jo Dickens helped start Cal-IPC's Student Chapter, now the Student and Emerging Professionals Section (SEPS). She is now owner and principal ecologist at Ecology Bridge Consulting in Park City, Utah. She holds a BA in Biology from the University of Colorado, Boulder and a PhD in Plant Biology from UC Riverside.



Sara Jo Dickens at Cal-IPC's first student contest, 2008.

Did experiences as a kid lead you to studying biology?

I grew up in Ely, Minnesota, and the outdoors was my backyard. When I was in 4th grade, my mom took a botany course at the community college, and I followed her around collecting and identifying plants. That time with her in the forest, and being around natural resource staff from agencies, inspired the idea that working with plants was a viable career.

What college experiences directed your career path?

I pursued a degree in English before realizing it wasn't the right fit. Working in a Native American resource offices in Wisconsin brought out my ability to build networks and relationships, which along with a desire to help others drew me to victim advocacy, but burnout eventually made that path unsustainable for me. Trips to the forests of Minnesota kept me connected to the outdoors, and a resurfacing passion for plants led me to the biology program at CU Boulder.

Who were your mentors and how did they shape your path?

In undergrad, I did biological control work in Timothy Seastedt's lab and vernal pool research in Sharon Collinge's lab. With Sharon and her graduate student Fitz Gerhardt's support, I conducted independent invasive species research in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota, which resulted in my first publication. As I considered graduate school, William Bowman helped me move past the notion that becoming a professor was the only measure of success in science, recognizing and affirming my passion for applied work. My growing concern over invasive species impacts ultimately led me to UC Riverside to work with Edie Allen.

What motivated you to start the Cal-IPC Student Chapter?

While at UC Riverside, I saw how researchers often failed to share valuable findings with land managers, which was frustrating. My lab mate Heather Schneider and I recognized that many graduate students lacked awareness of non-academic career paths and how to pursue them. Bridging this divide between academia and on-the-ground land management became a founding mission of the Student Chapter. I later pursued formal research on this divide under Katharine Suding at UC Berkeley, aiming to broaden awareness of the issue within the academic community.


Sara Jo Dickens, 2026

What are the pros and cons of different levels of academic degrees?

It comes down to your goals and circumstances. I've seen ranchers successfully improve the landscape without formal education, and highly effective natural resource managers hit promotion ceilings without a master's degree. Conversely, some employers can't justify the cost of hiring a PhD. While the skills I learned in graduate school have enabled me to bridge the gap between academics and land management in the work I do, and having "PhD" on my business card has carried weight, the value of experience-based knowledge earned from years of working on the ground has equal value. Most of my staff are in their twenties, and I typically recommend pursuing a master's degree with broad ecology training. Unless you have a specific need for a PhD, it may not be necessary. From my experience as a business owner, a graduate degree lends credibility and professional legitimacy in this field.

What advice do you have for those navigating the early years of their professions?

Communication skills are key, especially the capacity to write, from professional emails to grant proposal writing and reporting. It's also important to be able to be able to communicate one-on-one and to groups of people. Also, being able to think critically on different time scales to achieve a goal, to be able to think through all the pieces of a problem so that you can try to solve it, removes what can initially appear to be impassible barriers.

Any last thoughts?

I've always been collaborative rather than competitive, which helped me establish relationships. My ability to build networks combined with the skills I gained in academia resulted in me starting Ecology Bridge Consulting. I consider all my clients to be partners, and I most enjoy seeing how the work I'm doing is contributing to the land and community in a positive way.

Remembering Larry Klaasen

Mike Kelly, Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

Larry Klaasen, San Diego weed warrior extraordinaire, passed away early this year. Larry first entered the weed world decades ago when he started a Sierra Club group to help restore scarce water sources at Anza Borrego by removing tamarisk (*Tamarix ramossisima*).

Larry's excursions were part of a longer local history of treating tamarisk that began with Bill Neill in the 1980's. Bill had permission to work on tamarisk on BLM properties in the desert and organized volunteers for weekend work parties. These consisted of camping Friday night, cut-stump treating tamarisk on Saturday, and 4-wheeling in the beautiful desert on Sunday and became a very effective model for us and for many others. Cindy Burrascano (CNPS, SD Chapter) and I met Larry after starting our own work group using this formula.

When he first got involved with tamarisk, Larry was still working full-time as a civilian chemical engineer for the Navy. During the Gulf War, he was called on to solve a problem with jet plane tires that were exploding upon landing on carriers. Even while solving that problem, he still reserved his weekends for leading volunteer trips in the desert.

In 2005, after he retired, Larry started weekly volunteer work in Tecolote Canyon and with Lakeside River Park Conservancy, where he continued to work until shortly before his passing. Never one to shy from adventure, he and his wife Pat also incorporated arduous 11-mile backpack trips and car campouts with BLM in the Argos Range to remove tamarisk well into their retirement.

As a passionate environmentalist and lifetime Sierra Club member, Larry was its



Larry Klaasen. Photo: Pat Klaasen

local finance lead, field trip lead, and Chapter Chair for a time. He was also a long-time Cal-IPC member and became a generous legacy donor. He was a regular at San Diego WMA meetings and Cal-IPC symposia. Larry's other hobbies were diverse, including genealogy, geocaching, skiing, rock-climbing, sailing, bridge, traditional Irish and Scottish music, birdwatching, and most recently, beekeeping. His dedication, easy-going style, and sense of humor have been an inspiration to so many. We miss you, Larry.

Remembering Sandy DeSimone

Justin Valliere, UC Davis

The Cal-IPC community lost a dedicated restoration practitioner with the passing of Dr. Sandy DeSimone in March 2026. Throughout her career, Sandy made important contributions to invasive plant management, habitat restoration, and education, centered at Audubon's Starr Ranch Sanctuary, the 4000-acre reserve in southern Orange County she co-managed with her husband, Pete.

Sandy was known for her thoughtful and practical approach to restoration. She recognized that successful restoration often requires more than simply removing invasive plants without strategy. Core to her approach was balancing passive recovery along habitat edges with active revegetation where needed.

Sandy was a strong advocate for nonchemical invasive plant management, developing and sharing techniques that emphasized repeated mechanical control, persistence, and long-term stewardship. This philosophy shaped restoration efforts at Starr Ranch, where she stewarded and restored coastal sage scrub, grasslands, and oak woodlands, addressing some of Southern California's most challenging invasive plants.

Her contributions were recognized by Cal-IPC in 2010 when she received the Golden Weed Wrench Award. She also contributed to the broader weed management community by developing training materials on nonchemical control methods, which helped land managers and volunteers expand their restoration toolkits (see her entry on bladed hand tools in the online WeedCUT tool).

Although Sandy rarely sought the spotlight, she remained engaged with the Cal-IPC community through symposia, workshops, and field tours. She always



Sandy DeSimone. Photo: Pete DeSimone

enjoyed discussing restoration challenges with colleagues, sharing what had worked at Starr Ranch, and just as importantly, talking openly about what had not.

Sandy's work advanced restoration practices in California and demonstrated the value of experimentation, adaptive management, patience, and perseverance. Her legacy lives on in the work of the many people (including me) that she trained, mentored, and inspired over her decades of stewardship at Starr Ranch. Her influence will continue to be felt far beyond the boundaries of her 4000-acre reserve.

"Growing Professionals" online career panel

Allison Titus, SEPS Secretary

Every professional's path into land management, ecology, and conservation looks a little different. When you're early in your career, charting your own course can be difficult or confusing given the wide variation in this field. Should you gain research experience or try out field work? What are the pros and cons of different types of industries like government agencies and nonprofits?

Hosting discussions between early career conservationists and seasoned professionals is one way to shed light on the career choices that face students and recent graduates. This is one of the primary goals of Cal-IPC's Students and Emerging Professionals Section (SEPS), facilitated in part via the career panel at the Cal-IPC Symposium every fall.

On March 31, 2026, SEPS expanded our career education offerings beyond the Symposium and hosted the first "Growing Professionals" event, a virtual career panel open to the public that highlights a diversity of professional experience with an invasive plant management focus. Three panelists participated in the inaugural event. Dr. Robert Fitch, a postdoctoral researcher at UC Santa Barbara, Dr. Justin Valliere, Assistant Professor of Cooperative Extension at UC Davis, and Siena Watson, Project Lead at the non-profit Grassroots Ecology, shared 15-minute presentations on their career stories and then took live questions from the audience.

The career variety in the panel was noted as a highlight. "It was surprising to see how Dr. Fitch went straight into research and Siena went into field work almost immediately," said Umaina Khan, SEPS leadership member. "And Justin went to different universities before settling in Davis. It's nice to see a varied background in these ecology fields."



SEPS career panel at the 2025 Cal-IPC Symposium. Photo: Constance Taylor

Thoughtful comments and questions came through the chat throughout the presentation. A participant noted that it felt easy to chime in to the discussion and that the panelists felt more like peers, indicating enthusiasm for the opportunity to ask professional ecologists direct questions on conservation career journeys. Questions ranged from asking opinions on the value of different skills such as GIS to how to make connections with mentors.

SEPS is planning the next career event for late 2026 after the success and interest in the March panel. If you're a student or early career professional, consider getting involved with SEPS! We are always looking for new members to contribute to our section activities and leadership, including planning our "Growing Professionals" seminar series. For more information, see our page on the Cal-IPC website under "Resources," reach out by email to SEPS@cal-ipc.org, or follow @cal_ipc, and stay tuned for our next seminar.

Wildland Weed News

(Continued from page 3)

Online plant sales – Legislation in Sacramento, AB-2143 authored by Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin, would restrict online marketplaces from selling in California any plants listed by the state as a noxious weed.

Ignition reduction – Recommendations from Cal-IPC's Durable Ignition Reduction Toolbox are being implemented by the US Forest Service along highways in the San Bernadino National Forest, with plans to expand throughout national forests in Southern California.

Garlic mustard – The Inland Empire Resource Conservation District was awarded a contract from the National Forest Foundation to control of garlic mustard, a recent Cal-IPC Weed Alert species, along Deep Creek in San Bernardino County, one of the handful of infestations in California.

Individual Membership

Stewardship Circle	*$1000*
Champion	*$ 500*
Partner	*$ 250*
Professional	*$ 100*
Friend	*$ 50*
Student/Early Career	*$ 25*

Members receive Dispatch *and discount on Symposium registration!*

Organizational Membership

Benefactor	*$2000*	*Pro membership for 8*	*Quarter-page in newsletter*
Patron	*$1000*	*Pro membership for 6*	*Eighth-page in newsletter*
Sustainer	*$ 500*	*Pro membership for 4*	*Logo in newsletter*
Supporter	*$ 250*	*Pro membership for 3*	*Name in newsletter*

Organizations receive Professional membership for their staff and newsletter recognition for 12 months!

See cal-ipc.org for full membership details

Thank You for Supporting Our Work

Organizational Supporters

American River Parkway Foundation
Aulaire Design Studio, LLC
California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC)
California State Parks, Orange Coast District
Catalina Island Conservancy
Chambers Group, Inc.
City of Brisbane
CNPS - Dorothy King Young Chapter
CNPS - East Bay Chapter
CNPS - El Dorado Chapter
CNPS - Marin Chapter
CNPS - North Coast Chapter
CNPS - Riverside-San Bernardino Chapter
CNPS - Sacramento Valley Chapter
CNPS - San Luis Obispo Chapter
CNPS - Santa Cruz County Chapter
CNPS - Shasta Chapter
CNPS - South Coast Chapter
CNPS - Yerba Buena Chapter
Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
Council for Watershed Health
County of Monterey Agricultural Commissioner
Dendra Inc.
Endangered Habitats League
F.M. Roberts Publications
H.T. Harvey & Associates
Irvine Ranch Conservancy
Irvine Ranch Water District
Laguna Canyon Foundation
Marin County Parks
Marin Water
Orange County Parks
Orange County Water District
Pangea Biological
Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
San Mateo County Dept. of Agriculture
Santa Barbara County Agriculture Commissioner's Office
Santa Clara River Conservancy
Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture
Solano Resource Conservation District
Triangle Properties

Individual Supporters

Thank you for supporting our 2026 Spring Campaign!

Stewardship Circle

Paul Aigner & Cathy Koehler, Lower Lake
Anonymous
Edith Allen, Lenox, MA
Bill Brastow, Palo Alto
Peter Brastow, San Anselmo
In memory of Hugo Burger
Bob Case, Concord
Melanie Fontana Chiappone, Vista
James Dougherty, San Francisco
Judith Fenerty, San Jose
Jason Giessow, Encinitas
Steve & Leslie Hartman
Chuck Heimstadt & Loretta Brooks, South San Francisco
Davis Hershey, Redwood City
Drew Kerr, Pinole
Larry B. Klaasen, San Diego
Denise Louie, San Francisco
Elizabeth Mather, San Diego
Stasia McGehee, Redwood City
Jan Merryweather, Palo Alto
Karen Paulsell, Oakland
James Pea, San Diego
Stephen Rosenthal, San Jose
Jake Sigg, San Francisco
Tomodachi Memorial Fund, Crescent City
Jeff & Elizabeth Wallace, Trabuco Canyon

Champion

Anonymous (2)
Carol Bach, Oakland
Jack Bartley, Gilbert, AZ
Sharon Clairemont, Redding
Gary Giessow, St. Louis, MO
Larry Lutz
Zachary Peckler & Avinash Peckler-Shenoy, Oroville
Bob Rutemoeller, Gualala
Peter Schuyler, Santa Barbara

Partner

Pamela Andrews, Longview, TX
Jim Belsher, Palo Cedro
Charles Bouril, Yountville
Mark Bowler, Trabuco Canyon
David Chang & Mary Giaimo, Santa Barbara
Henry DiRocco, Orange
Alisa Flint, Irvine
Jennifer Funk, Davis
Sarah Godfrey, Barrington, RI
Catherine Lewis, San Francisco
Karen Myers, Staunton, VA
Ingrid Parker, Santa Cruz
Stephanie & Kevin Ponce, Orangevale
David Pryor, Huntington Beach
Suzanne Francoeur Taunt, Santa Barbara
Arnold Thompson, San Francisco
Skye Thompson, Ketchum, ID
Bill Winans, San Diego
Emily Zefferman, Marina

CAL-IPC
CALIFORNIA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oakland, CA
Permit No. 8435

2026 WILDLAND WEED CALENDAR

Coastal & Estuarine Summit
September 22–25, San Francisco
estuaries.org

Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species
September 23-25, Sacramento
westernregionalpanel.org

30x30 Partnership 2026 Summit
September 29, San Francisco
californianature.ca.gov

California Invasive Species Summit
October 1-2, Sacramento | www.iscc.ca.gov

UC Environmental Stewards Conference
October 9-11, Santa Barbara
na.eventscloud.com/website/91075/home/

North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) Conference
October 19-22, Alexandria, VA | naisma.org

California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) Symposium
October 20-22, online | cal-ipc.org/symposium

California Landscape Stewardship Network
October 20-22, Tahoe City
calandscapestewardshipnetwork.org

Resilient California Summit
October 20–22, Sacramento
resilientcaliforniasummit.org

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Conference
November 17-19, Sacramento | carcd.org



Thank you to our Legacy Circle Donors

Recognizing individuals who have included Cal-IPC in their estate plans:

Dr. Edith B. Allen
Anonymous (3)
Jessica Bailey
Linda S. Brodman
Michelle Cooper
Gina Darin
Laura Michelle Gharrison
Chuck Heimstadt & Loretta Brooks
Doug Johnson
Mike Kelly
Larry Klaasen
Bill Korbholz
Denise Louie
Susan Mason
Tanya J. Meyer
Karen Paulsell
Jake Sigg

"Programs that rely heavily on emergency funding or short-term appropriations will be increasingly challenged to maintain readiness... This is especially evident in the invasive plant domain, where inconsistent funding has undermined statewide coordination for over a decade."

— California Pest Prevention Program Analysis: An Analysis of Statewide Programs, page 352. Report by C3PA Research Team, April 2026.