

# UC Santa Barbara

## Newsletters

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NCOS News - September 2021

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## UC SANTA BARBARA North Campus Open Space Restoration Project

**NCOS NEWS**

*September 2021*



Great Egret assisting with invasive crayfish removal at Whittier Pond.

### **UPDATES**

#### ***Phelps Creek Dredging***

As part of regular Flood Control maintenance activities, County Public Works division removes sediment, blocking branches and vegetation from creek channels every few years. This year they cleared Phelps Creek on August 18th to allow for increased storm flows.



**CAT excavator removing sediment from Phelps Creek.**



**Vegetation was building up within the Phelps Creek channel before dredging took place.**



Phelps creek post-dredging.

### ***Tarplant Hybridization***

Southern Tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*) is restricted to California's south coast, which extends from Point Conception to Baja California. At the North Campus Open Space, Southern Tarplant integrates with another closely related species: Slender Tarplant (*Deinandra fasciculata*). This intersection of species has been known to create sterile hybrids and recent observations on the NCOS Mesa suggest that hybridization is occurring, although more research is needed to confirm this interesting botanical discovery.



**Southern Tarplant (*Centromadia parry ssp australis*).**



**Slender tarplant (*Deinandra fasciculata*).**



**Possible Hybrid between Southern Tarplant and Slender Tarplant.**





**Southern Tarplant leaves are stiff and spine tipped.**



**Slender Tarplant has fascicled, or clumped, leaves.**



**The leaves of this possible hybrid exhibit characteristics from both parents -they are fascicled like the Slender Tarplant but also resemble the stiff and spiky Southern Tarplant.**

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### ***Ethnobotany Tour***

We will be offering an Ethnobotany focused tour of NCOS as part of Creek week on Wednesday, September 22nd. We will meet at the intersection of Phelps Creek and Phelps Road at 5:15 pm for a 1.5 hour walk along the creek and NCOS restoration site. Come learn about how CCBER and the NCOS project is bringing back plants of importance to Native Americans and how traditional management practices support a healthy ecosystem. RSVP to [ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu), space is limited.



### ***Nature Guide Tours***

Public Tours for NCOS will be on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:30 am and the first NCOS Nature Guide Public tour will meet at the Whittier Entrance at 9:30 on October 17th. Please RSVP to [ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu).



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***Kids In Nature***

Kids in Nature K-12 visits to NCOS are BACK! Please contact [ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu) if you are interested in setting up a visit!



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**FEATURE STORY**

***NCOS Education Resumes with Pre-k Field Trips!***



This young entomologist came prepared and was teaching us about the butterfly life cycle when we got a surprise visit from a freshly emerged monarch. Photo by Andy Lanes

We are excited to resume educational visits this summer after over a year of restrictions that prevented organized field trips to North Campus Open Space. Currently ongoing is a collaboration with Orfaea Family Children's Center (OFCC) funded by UCSB's Coastal Fund. NCOS's proximity to OFCC makes it an ideal destination for these 2- to 5-year-olds to explore, learn, and connect with nature.

[This feature story is continued on page 23.](#)

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



### **"Second Saturdays" at NCOS**

**This month: September 11, 9-12**

Please RSVP to [ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu)

**Help us restore and create NCOS with plants and more! Meet at 6969 Whittier Drive at 9am. Bring water, sunscreen, and wear a hat, clothes and shoes that are suitable for outdoor work.**



### **Thursdays - CCBER Greenhouse Associates**

**Come help transplant seedlings of native plants with the CCBER team from 9:00 - 12:00. To join, please send an email to [ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu).**

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## **COMMUNITY FORUM & PHOTOS**

We are interested in any observations of wildlife activity on NCOS, as well as plants and landscapes. Please send your observations, with or without photos, to [ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu). Thank you!





**Red-necked Phalarope seen at Venoco Bridge. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.**



**Juvenile Cooper's Hawk hunting on the Mesa. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.**



**Loggerhead Shrike. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.**



**An American Kestrel and American Crow share a perch in the southwest of NCOS. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.**



**Western Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) sunning on hibernacula. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.**



**Baby Western Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*). Photo by Jeremiah Bender.**

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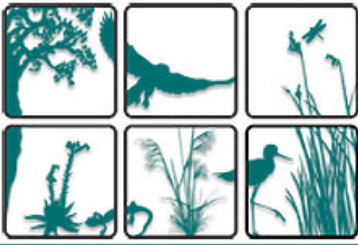
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## NCOS EDUCATION RESUMES WITH PRE-K FIELD TRIPS!



**Left: CCBER Interns Mia Chamberlin and Natalie Nguyen sharing insects.**



**Right: So focused on finding bugs! Photos by Andy Lanes**

We are excited to resume educational visits this summer after over a year of restrictions that prevented organized field trips to North Campus Open Space. Currently ongoing is a collaboration with Orfaea Family Children's Center (OFCC) funded by UCSB's Coastal Fund. NCOS's proximity to OFCC makes it an ideal destination for these 2- to 5-year-olds to explore, learn, and connect with nature. For some of the students, NCOS is like their backyard. For others it is a new experience, but all are just as excited as they trek from school to the wetland. A few of the older students even remember back to 2019 when they got to plant wetland plants with CCBER staff that are still thriving on the estuary edge.





**Getting a different perspective of the wetland from off trail. Photo by Malia Cashel.**

Led by CCBER staff member Andy Lanes and CCBER interns Malia Cashel, Natalie Nguyen, and Mia Chamberlin, pre-k classrooms from OFCC are taking walking trips from their school to the wetland as well as doing some related in-class activities. The themed walks focus on plants, bugs, birds, and wetland ecology while the kids are getting hands-on making leaf collections, observing insects, and looking and listening for birds and other wildlife. Utilizing specimens from CCBER's teaching collection allows them to get an up-close look at some of the animals they might find at NCOS along the way. By the end of this summer, 10 classrooms will have gone on 4 trips each for a total of 40 unique experiences. Highlights so far have been butterflies, hummingbirds, baby lizards, and even a mid-morning coyote sighting from the Venoco Bridge!



**Left: This young entomologist came prepared and was teaching us about the butterfly life cycle when we got a surprise visit from a freshly emerged monarch.**



**Right: How else can you get this close to a California scrub jay? Photos by Andy Lanes.**

*This article was written by CCBER Restoration Coordinator Andy Lanes and edited and formatted for the web by Jeremiah Bender. Photographs are by Andy Lanes and Malia Cashel.*

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Monday, August 30, 2021 - 15:45

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