

# UC Santa Barbara

## Newsletters

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NCOS News - February 2020

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# UC SANTA BARBARA

## North Campus Open Space Restoration Project

NCOS NEWS

*February 2020*



This aerial image by Bill Dewey on January 22, 2020 captures a nice view of the 21 acres of open water in NCOS and up to 44 acres in the lower Devereux Slough! This is the maximum wetland extent supported by the beach sand bar in the restored, intermittently open estuary. The whole system is currently holding approximately 350 acre feet of water and is attracting a rich diversity of birds.

### UPDATES & EVENTS

#### ***Second Saturday Planting - February 8***

Come join us this Saturday, February 8th 9:30-12:30 for a sunny winter morning out planting on the NCOS Mesa while taking in the views of the wetland. Meet at the parking lot at 6969 Whittier Drive and please RSVP to [ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu).



A group of volunteers at a recent Second Saturday planting event at NCOS.

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### ***Visitor Plaza Construction***

We are excited to announce that the construction of the NCOS Visitor Plaza and Discovery Trail, and the installation of overlook benches will begin in late February and will be completed in June! The construction plan drawings below provide a preview of what to expect. When out on the trail in the coming months, take caution and be aware of construction vehicles and equipment on site, particularly near the Whittier Drive entrance.



system.



A Solinst Levellogger was a temporary home for a tiny crab that washed into NCOS when the slough was tidal last year.

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***UCSB Current Article on Ventura marsh milk-vetch***

You might remember [we posted an update a few months ago](#) about the planting of Ventura marsh-milk-vetch at NCOS. You can learn more about this rare, endangered plant and how CCBER is helping to bring it back "from beyond the brink" in a [story by Harrison Tasoff published in the UCSB Current last month](#).



A Ventura marsh milk-vetch seedlings await planting at the CCBER Nursery. Photo courtesy of Harrison Tasoff.

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## FEATURE STORY

*NCOS Thanks You*



What a year it has been! Looking back on 2019, the overwhelming support of the community is what we remember most. As we look forward to the construction of several North Campus Open Space public amenities such as the visitors' plaza, discovery trail and overlooks, we would like to take this opportunity to honor the many donors that have provided foundational support. [Read more](#) about some of the many people who have helped make NCOS possible and are ensuring the project and site will persist long into the future.

[This feature story is continued on page 13.](#)

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## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



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

**This month: February 8, 9:30-12:30**

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 9:30 am. Bring water, sunscreen, and wear a hat, clothes, and shoes suitable for garden work.**

### **Saturday Tree Plantings**

**You can help Your Children's Trees plant and care for oaks and other saplings at NCOS! Please contact [Your Children's Trees](#) for more information and to RSVP.**



## 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).

## Group Volunteer Opportunities

We gladly welcome local business, non-profit, school and other community groups to come out to NCOS to help with planting and other activities. For more information, 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. Please send your observations, with or without photos, to [ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu). Thanks!

Here is a short video of a red fox, and a few pics of birds from community members and CCBER staff.





**Red Fox on the NCOS Mesa.**



**Sora. Photo by Karen Lunsford.**



Say's Phoebe. Photo by Karen Lunsford.



**Pair of Red-shouldered Hawks. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.**



Northern Shoveler pair. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.

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For more information on the  
North Campus Open Space Restoration Project, [Click here](#), or email [ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu)

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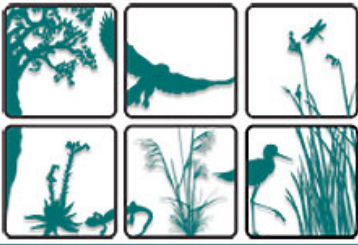
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## NCOS THANKS YOU



What a year it has been! Looking back on 2019, the overwhelming support of the community is what we remember most. As we look forward to the construction of several North Campus Open Space public amenities such as the visitors' plaza, discovery trail and overlooks, we would like to take this opportunity to honor the many donors that have provided foundational support. While the following is not a complete list, we thank everyone from donors to advocates to volunteers that have made NCOS possible. Donations continue to make a huge difference, and now with the establishment of an endowment, will continue to make a difference far into the future. Thank you!

We would like to give a special thanks to Jack and Judy Stapelmann, the late Jean Schuyler, and Carol Geer whose early support was the catalyst that made the trail system and grand opening a reality. NCOS owes much appreciation to Duncan and Suzanne (nee Carlton) Mellichamp, whose generosity of leadership and resources has been a driving force behind NCOS from the beginning, and after their sister [Muriel Carlton](#) joined them in the effort, helped establish the soon-to-be-constructed Carlton-Duncan Visitors Plaza.

Many members from the Audubon Society, led by Darlene Chirman and in partnership with Julie and Marc Kummel, joined together to name the Santa Barbara Audubon Overlook. They were soon followed by Bill and Mary Cheadle, who named the Cheadle Family Overlook in recognition of their family's great connection to both nature and UCSB.



Significant contributions from UCSB Trustees [Betty Wells](#) and Alec and Claudia Webster created a strong foundation for the NCOS Endowment, respectively establishing the Wells-Elings Trail and naming of the 200 foot bridge. Thanks to their support and others, the NCOS Endowment will provide ongoing resources for continued restoration, research and educational programming, while assuring the site's distinction in perpetuity.

Jim Frank's generosity and commitment to conservation have been greatly appreciated, as have the contributions and dedication of Victor Schaff and S&S Seeds, whose generosity has literally enabled NCOS to grow. [Laura and James Putnam](#) ('71), who met at UCSB and were



**Trustee Betty Elings Wells H'10 and family**

motivated by the 1969 oil spill that sparked the modern environmental movement, created the James and Laura Putnam Scenic Overlook through their support.



**Laura and Jim Putnam**

**Date:**  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 - 13:15

Inspired by the many students engaged in the effort, Sharon Metsch's gifts helped launch NCOS's Research and Monitoring Mentorship Program, or RAMMP, which is providing data curation support and student mentorship in a wide variety of studies and monitoring initiatives. RAMMP saw great growth in support thanks to John Deily, board member of the Coastal Ranches Conservancy, who will also name an overlook in appreciation of his significant and timely contribution.

These are not the only stories of support and commitment. North Campus Open Space has been a tremendous community effort, and we thank all those that have made it possible. Naming opportunities are still available, and we look forward to a growing community of donors. Thank you for your part in this landmark achievement in conservation and restoration.

[Contact Us](#)

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