

UC Santa Barbara

Newsletters

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Authors

Clark, Ryan
Stratton, Lisa

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UC SANTA BARBARA

North Campus Open Space Restoration Project

NCOS NEWS

January 2020



Devereux Slough is filled to the brim in this aerial photo taken on December 31st by Bill Dewey.

UPDATES & EVENTS

The Slough is full!

The rain that fell during the week of Christmas has brought the water surface of Devereux Slough up to an elevation of about 9.6 feet, which may be the highest we've seen it since the NCOS project began. When the water level reaches this height, the slough mouth normally breaches the beach berm and empties into the ocean. It could happen at any time, so now is the perfect time to take a walk on the Marsh Trail and take in the views of all the open water.



View looking west, down the eastern arm of the upper slough, from the Marsh Trail in the northeast corner of NCOS.



View of the Main Channel, looking southeast from near the Phelps Creek trail bridge.

Mosquito Control

Some of you may be wondering if all this open water will lead to more mosquitos. The [Mosquito and Vector Management District of Santa Barbara County](#) is already on the job - just this week they launched their boat into the slough to deploy VectoBac, a bacterial larvicide that controls mosquito populations.



Mosquito and Vector Management District of Santa Barbara County staff deploying VectoBac in the upper Devereux slough.

Volunteer Planting Day - Saturday January 11

Come join us for this month's volunteer planting day on Saturday January 11th 9:30-12:30. Meet at the parking lot at 6969 Whittier Drive and please RSVP to ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu.

Wildflowers on the Mesa

As Purple Needle grass continues to grow and fill in the grassland habitat on the Mesa, we're turning our focus to increasing plant diversity in this area by spreading seeds of native flowering herbs and forbs. In order to benefit future projects, we're taking the opportunity to conduct several experiments with different wildflower species. For seven longer lived species, including California Buttercups (*Ranunculus californicus*) and Cobweb Thistle (*Cirsium occidentale*), we will compare the success of planted seedlings to seeds spread in both caged and uncaged plots. The experiment for Miniature Lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*) and Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) involves comparing the success of seeds that are pre-treated by scarification or soaking in warm water in order to "wake" them from dormancy versus seeds that are not treated, as well as comparing caged and uncaged plots to test for effects from herbivory.



CCBER staff building cages for wildflower experiments on the NCOS Mesa.

In addition to replicated experimental plots for the species listed above, CCBER also spread the seed of several species more broadly, including Silverpuffs (*Stebbinsoseris hetercarpa*), Redmaids (*Calandrinia ciliata*), California miniature plantain (*Plantago erecta*), and two colorful species of southern tarplant (*Deinandra fasciculata* and *Centromadia parryi* var *australis*). Look for these little bright spots this spring and summer.



Miniature Lupine



California Buttercup



Redmaids

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



"Second Saturdays" at NCOS

This month: January 11, 9:30-12:30

Please RSVP to 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.

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.

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. Thanks!



California Poppy. Photo by Linda Duttenhaver.



Redhead feeding in the slough. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.



American Wigeon. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.



American Coot. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.



Great Blue Heron. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.

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**For more information on the
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