

# UC Santa Barbara

## Newsletters

### Title

NCOS News - August 2019

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5v848062>

### Authors

Clark, Ryan  
Stratton, Lisa

### Publication Date

2019-08-01

[We recommend viewing this email in your browser](#)

# UC SANTA BARBARA

## North Campus Open Space Restoration Project

NCOS NEWS

August 2019



A surreal image of fog blanketing the channel and coast, appearing to creep towards NCOS, taken by Bill Dewey on July 11, 2019.

### UPDATES & EVENTS

#### ***Sign up for the 2019 United Way Day of Caring***

For the second year in a row, United Way Day of Caring features NCOS as a volunteer opportunity. [Sign up here](#) or click on the flyer below and come out to help us plant the mesa slope on September 14!



28TH ANNUAL UNITED WAY

# DAY OF CARING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2019 | 9 AM - 12 PM

North Campus Open Space  
Restoration Project

**PITCH IN | GIVE BACK | JOIN US**  
volunteer registration is now open  
**WWW.IA.UCSB.EDU/UW**

Day of Caring is a community-focused project where more than 1,200 volunteers work at local organizations. Join the UC Santa Barbara Team today!

**UC SANTA BARBARA**

---

***Celebrate estuaries and creeks next month at NCOS:***



September 14-21 is [National Estuaries Week](#), a nationwide celebration of our bays and estuaries and the many benefits they provide to local communities. Come learn about these benefits right here at your local estuary - NCOS (creek week tour info below), and get involved by volunteering on September 14 or any day of the week.

***Creek Week Is Back! - September 27th***

As part of Santa Barbara County's 20th annual [Creek Week](#), we will be hosting a tour of NCOS on Friday, September 27, at 5:15 pm. The tour is open to the public. Meet at the parking lot on 6969 Whittier Drive. For more information or to RSVP, please email [ncos@cber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@cber.ucsb.edu)





### ***Bat Box Installation***

In an effort to support resident and migratory bats at NCOS, we're installing two bat boxes hand-built and donated by a local enthusiast. The first of these was installed last week close to Whittier pond, which provides a year-round source of food (in the form of flying insects) and freshwater. These boxes will hopefully provide refuge for some of the [11 bat species previously detected on the site](#). We will be using a mobile detector to help monitor the presence of any bats, and we'll keep you posted on what we find - stay tuned!



**A bat box installed near Whittier Pond at NCOS.**

### ***Lepidoptera Sightings***

Staff and community members have taken notice of a recent abundance and diversity of moths, butterflies, and their larvae at NCOS. CCBER is starting up a pilot study/survey of lepidoptera at NCOS to assess how the restored habitats are performing in terms of providing habitat and resources to this important and highly visible branch of biodiversity.







A breeding pair of *Smerinthus ophthalmica*, a common and widespread moth in the Pacific Northwest. Photo by Wayne Chapman.



Green and black morphs of White-lined Sphinx moth (*Hyles lineata*) larvae. Photos by Jeremiah Bender.



Western Pygmy Blue Butterfly (*Brephidium exilis*) - photo by Mark Bright.





Marine Blue Butterfly (*Leptotes marina*) - photo by Mark Bright.

---

## **FEATURE STORY**

### **[Planting the NCOS Mesa Slopes with a Diverse Palette](#)**





After several months of full-time weed control, CCBER Restoration staff and students are excited to be back to planting! [Read more](#) about the restoration design for the slopes of the NCOS Mesa, where up to 40 different species are being planted in 9 plant community "zones". [This feature story continues on page 12.](#)

---

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



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

**This month: August 10, 9:30 - 12:30**

Please RSVP to [ncos@cber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@cber.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**

**See in you in the Fall!**

**You can help Your Children's Trees plant 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@ccbber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@ccbber.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@ccbber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@ccbber.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@ccbber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@ccbber.ucsb.edu). Thanks!









**Green Heron with a successful catch at the Phelps Creek connection. Photos by Jeremiah Bender.**

---

Received this email from a friend? [Click here](#) to subscribe to our mailing list.



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

---

*Copyright © 2019 Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CBER), All rights reserved.*



Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

---

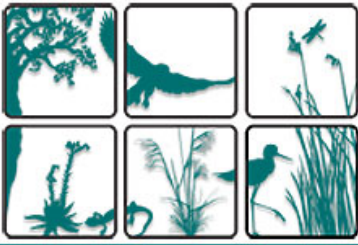
This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) · Bldg 578 Harder South · UCSB, MC 9615 · Santa Barbara, CA 93106 · USA





[Home](#)[News](#) ▾[About](#) ▾[UCSB Natural History Collections](#) ▾[Ecological Restoration](#) ▾[Data & Research](#) ▾[Education](#) ▾[Home](#) » [Blogs](#) » [Ryan Clark's blog](#)

## PLANTING THE NCOS MESA SLOPES WITH A DIVERSE PALETTE



A young Sticky monkey-flower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*) recently planted on the mesa slopes at NCOS.

After several months of full-time weed control, CCBER Restoration staff and students are excited to be back to planting, working towards our goal of finishing the planting phase of the NCOS project by the end of the year. This will entail planting nearly 200,000 plants on the 20 acres along the slopes of the mesa. As we've done throughout the project, reusable irrigation lines have been moved from areas where plantings have become established to the mesa to keep the young plants thriving through the dry summer and fall months.





Thousands of native sprouts from locally sourced seeds await transfer to their new home on the NCOS Mesa Slopes.

The restoration vision for these primarily north facing slopes is to complement the grasslands and vernal wetlands with a mix of coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, chaparral, and grassland-wildflower plant communities. This restoration design takes into consideration factors such as soils, drainage/hydrology, aspect and exposure as well as aesthetics and the preservation of views from overlooks and the trail. We looked at adjacent sites such as Coal Oil Point Reserve, Ellwood Mesa, and Goleta Slough to gain insight as to what the vegetation community on the mesa may have been like historically. Up to 40 different species are being planted in 9 different combinations or plant community "zones" based on these design factors (see map below), which will create a diverse mosaic that will enhance habitat value throughout the site and provide long term stabilization to the area. Some of the key species being planted include *Artemisa californica*, *Encelia californica*, *Epilobium canum*, *Diplacus aurantiacus*, and *Stipa pulchra*. 86 coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) saplings have already been planted in a few patches on the slopes earlier this year by [Your Children's Trees](#). The remaining higher elevation marsh area below the mesa slopes will also be planted this fall and will provide a gradual transition from the upland communities and freshwater drainages to the western arm of the NCOS salt marsh.





Map of the Mesa Slopes planting zones at NCOS. The green points represent oak trees. Come help us plant to learn more about the different zones!

Date:  
Monday, August 5, 2019 - 09:45

[Contact Us](#)

Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration • Earth Research Institute

Copyright © 2007-11 The Regents of the University of California, All Rights Reserved.

UC Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara CA 93106 • [Terms of Use](#)

[UCSB website](#)

