

# UC Santa Barbara

## Newsletters

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NCOS News - November 2021

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## UC SANTA BARBARA North Campus Open Space Restoration Project

**NCOS NEWS**

*November 2021*



**Aerial photo of the Devereux Slough taken after the storm on October 25.**

### **UPDATES**

#### ***Planting Opportunities***

We have a ton of opportunities to volunteer this month! We will be leading a volunteer day for Bren School students on Saturday November 6th, our Second Saturday community volunteer day is on November 13th, and we have a Coastal Fund volunteer day on Saturday November 20th. We encourage you to join any of the three volunteer events and meet new people. These volunteer days will run from 9-12 and meet at 6969 Whittier Drive in Goleta. Please RSVP to [ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu) if you're interested in attending. Hope to see you there!



A happy group of Second Saturday volunteers after a successful day of planting.

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

This month's NCOS public tour will be on Saturday, November 20th from 9:30-11:30. In December we will be holding a special winter solstice tour on Tuesday, December 21 from 2-4pm in addition to our normal third Saturday tour on December 18th from 9:30-11:30. All tours will meet at 6969 Whittier Drive, Goleta. If possible please RSVP to [ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu](mailto:ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu).

Nature guides are in the news! North Campus Open Space was featured in an [article in the independent](#) highlighting the project's unique qualities and the opportunity to learn more with the newly trained NCOS Nature Guides.



**Nature Guide Ken Knight explaining the history of NCOS at the Visitor Plaza.**

### ***Rain at NCOS***

The rain storm that came through Goleta on October 25 deposited approximately .92 inches of rain which raised the water level in the slough by 1.64 feet. Because of the designed very shallow slopes at NCOS, even a small rain event can significantly increase the size of the wetland and the available habitat for shorebirds and ducks.



**Devereux Slough on July 19, 2021.**



**Devereux Slough after the storm on October 25, 2021.**



**Devereux Slough from the East bridge looking south on October 25.**



**Phelps Creek on October 25.**



**Whittier Pond on October 25.**



Mallards in the slough on October 25.

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### ***Outdoor Classroom***

Construction on the parking lot and outdoor classroom is expected to begin in mid November.

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### **FEATURE STORY**

**[UCSB's "Introduction to Ecological Restoration Field Skills" Utilizes NCOS](#)**





**CCBER Nursery Manager Wayne Chapman demonstrating plant propagation techniques.**

Environmental Studies 95: Introduction to Ecological Restoration Field Skills (EnvS 95) is one of the few undergraduate courses offered at UCSB where more than 40 students a quarter in small sections can gain hands-on experience and get dirty in the field. Offered Fall, Winter and Spring, EnvS 95 is also one of the only courses to have been continued in-person almost entirely uninterrupted through Covid restrictions! [This feature story is continued on page 15.](#)

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## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



**"Second Saturdays" at NCOS**

**This month: November 13, 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).

## **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!





Sora in Phelps Creek. Photo by Pamela Viale.



**Cassin's Kingbird eating a monarch butterfly on Venoco road. Photo by Susan Cook.**



**Burrowing Owl in the NCOS salt marsh on October 25, 2021. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.**



**Wilson's Snipe in Phelps Creek. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.**

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**For more information on the  
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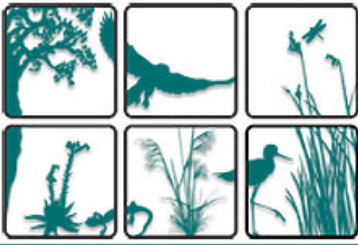
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## UCSB's "INTRODUCTION TO ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION FIELD SKILLS" UTILIZES NCOS

Environmental Studies 95: Introduction to Ecological Restoration Field Skills (EnvS 95) is one of the few undergraduate courses offered at UCSB where more than 40 students a quarter in small sections can gain hands-on experience and get dirty in the field. Offered Fall, Winter and Spring, EnvS 95 is also one of the only courses to have been continued in-person almost entirely uninterrupted through Covid restrictions!



CCBER Nursery Manager Wayne Chapman demonstrating plant propagation techniques.

In this unique class, offered to all levels and majors, small groups of UCSB students are guided by different members of CCBER staff and faculty at various restoration sites on and around campus. The topics covered focus on the key processes of ecological restoration and include research and project design, site preparation, plant identification and propagation, bird identification and wildlife monitoring, site management, and everyone gets to do hands-on restoration work.





**NCOS Project Manager Darwin Richardson and an ENVS 95 section by Whittier Pond.**

Students tour restoration projects at the UCSB lagoon, Manzanita Village, San Joaquin Village, and get to work at the CCBER nursery, but much of the quarter is now spent at NCOS, as it is an ideal outdoor classroom where they can see and participate in restoration in progress. At NCOS, EnvS 95 students are not only taught about the history and processes of returning a golf course to a wetland, they also get to work alongside CCBER staff planting native plants or helping to extirpate weeds.



**Restoration Coordinator Andy Lanes demonstrating the plant press for collecting herbarium specimens.**

For many students, EnvS 95 is an eye-opening experience, and for many an introduction to NCOS as a site for their own future restoration work, research, or just recreation. Participants in the course are invited back to CCBER in subsequent quarters for internships, student worker positions, and volunteer opportunities. Many decide to go into the field for their careers. In fact, many of the NCOS staff started in this course!

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

**Date:**

Wednesday, November 3, 2021 - 13:00

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