

# UC Santa Barbara

## Newsletters

### Title

NCOS News - September 2022

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## UC SANTA BARBARA North Campus Open Space Restoration Project

**NCOS NEWS**

*September 2022*



September sunrise over NCOS on 9/08/22.

### **UPDATES**

#### ***Research and Monitoring Mentorship Program (RAMMP) gets a HUGE Boost!***

The Cheadle Center is very pleased to announce that this summer the Steinmetz Family Foundation made a significant contribution to the North Campus Open Space endowment that will help support a Research and Monitoring Mentor (staff or a visiting fellow) who will help us realize the vision of providing meaningful ecological science experiences for university students at North Campus Open Space.

We thank the Steinmetz Family Foundation for setting a cornerstone to this program and welcome your participation in supporting the NCOS Living Laboratory!



**This recent contribution will help provide a diversity of opportunities for students to engage in the NCOS Living Laboratory and support on-going research in hydrology, water quality, aquatic invertebrates, terrestrial invertebrates, and wildflower establishment.**

### ***NCOS Entering the next Phase***

2022 marks the 5th and final year of restoration grant funding for the North Campus Open Space. The vision for the restoration project in terms of wetland and upland habitats and wildlife support have been met, but the site is still alive with both opportunities and obligations to support people, wildlife and native plant communities. From weed control and doggie poop bags to introducing rare plants and protecting wildlife there is much work to do on site. And from tours, signs, kids-in-nature programs and newsletters to monitoring and research projects, there are many opportunities to build on what has been created. The Cheadle Center is currently seeking donors who wish to support these programs and the community's enjoyment of the area through contributions to our operations or endowment.

With the transition to this new phase, several staff members who were vital to the success of the project have moved on to share their knowledge and skills with other projects. We wish to honor and acknowledge the valuable contributions of Beau Tindall who restored more than 36 acres of diverse habitats: creating vernal pools and rare perennial grasslands, vanquishing pampas grass, mustard and fennel and establishing diverse and flourishing coastal sage scrub. Beau's commitment is evident in the vitality of these landscapes. Beau also had a keen and observant eye for wildlife and kept the irrigation running across NCOS for all 5 years of the project! Thank you Beau and good luck in your new position in



**Beau Tindall**

We have also lost Steven Ortega to San Nicolas island. Steven led the student field team through more than 5 years of planting and weeding across the site and never lost his sense of wry humor! He created community among the team through his enthusiasm for people and knack for leadership.



**Steven Ortega**

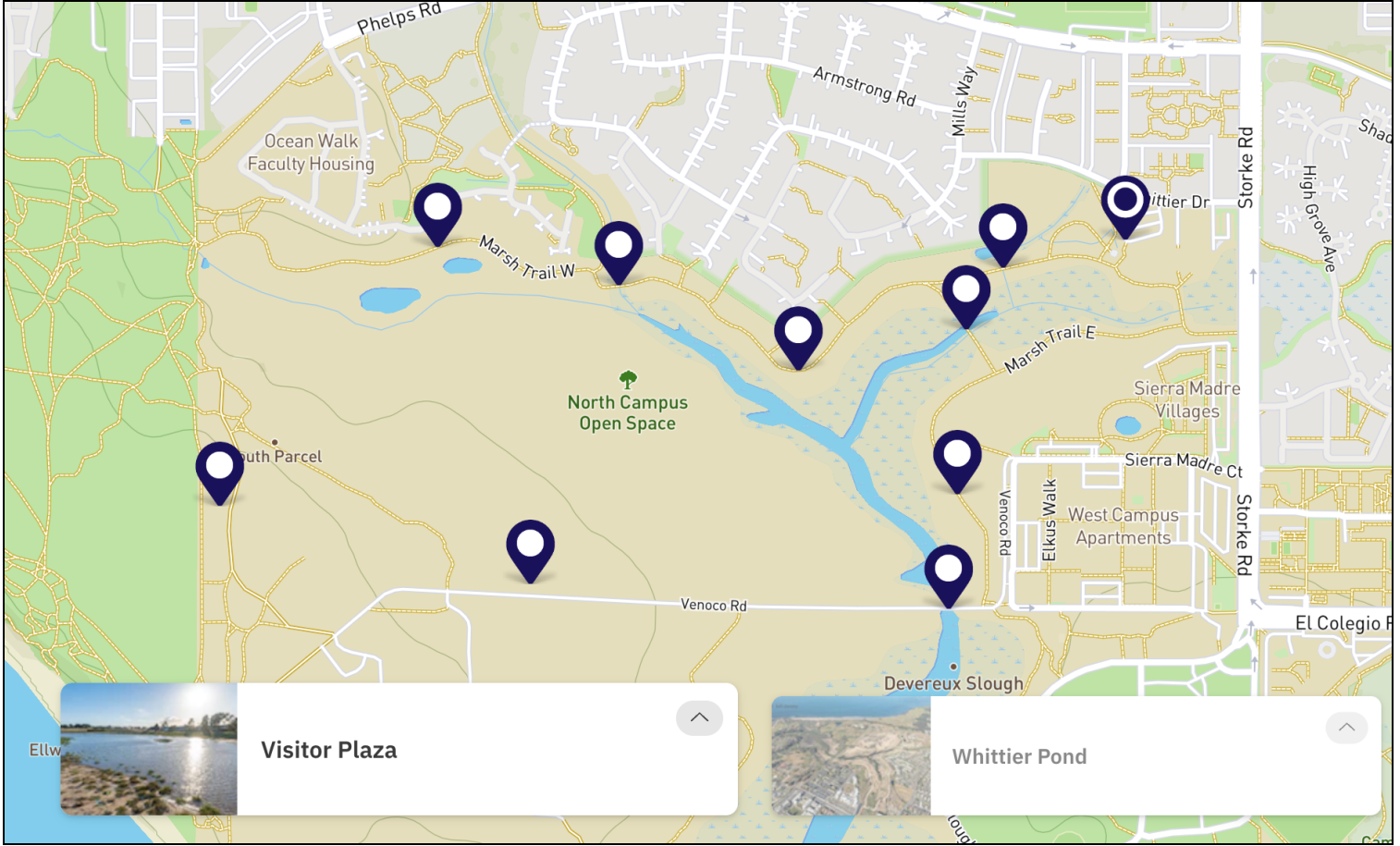
Finally Oliver Fahrner is taking his great people skills and restoration talent to work with the people of the Dominican Republic through the Peace Corps.



Oliver Fahrner

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***Goleta Self-Guided Audio Walking Tours***



The City of Goleta in partnership with the Cheadle Center at University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB), the Ritz-Carlton Bacara, and Tima Link and the many Chumash Communities has published a free application called “Goleta Tours” that helps residents enjoy self-guided audio walking tours highlighting natural resources, wildlife, plants, and cultural history. The North Campus Open Space is included in the Ellwood/Devereux tour available via the web at <https://cityofgoleta.stqry.app/tour/15149>

***Irrigation Removal***



We are beginning to gradually remove the infrastructure that has been part of the ongoing restoration process at NCOS. This includes the removal of all irrigation on site as we move towards the long term management phase of the project as a natural area.

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### ***Late summer flowers***

The variety of native habitats restored at NCOS have seasonal flowering periods that support pollinators and other wildlife late into the summer. The following photos showcase these pollinator interactions.





Gray Hairstreak butterfly on Ventura Marsh Milk vetch (*Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *lanosissimus*)



Alkali heath (*Frankenia salina*) with a sweat bee visitor.



**Sandhill skipper on western sea purslane (*Sesuvium verrucosum*).**



**Diadasia bee visiting southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*).**



A tiny hoverfly approaches annual willowherb (*Epilobium brachycarpum*).



Skipper butterfly on coastal goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*).

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***Tidewater Goby Fish Survey***



Our annual tidewater goby survey was conducted on September 9, 2022. Although no tidewater gobies were found, long jaw mudsuckers, killifish and mosquito fish dominate in Phelps creek and top smelt are present closer to the ocean. A few dead fish were observed in Devereux slough, reflecting the stressful end of summer water conditions throughout the system.

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### ***Whittier Pond Wildlife Camera***

Whittier pond is one of the last freshwater sources on site and has been a popular stop for a variety of wildlife. Over the past three weeks, a wildlife camera stationed at Whittier Bridge has captured footage of skunks, possums, raccoons, and two grey foxes! The following videos showing two grey foxes were taken on August 26, 2022, at approximately 1 am. Click on the image to access the video.





## FEATURE STORY

### [Herbarium Collection on NCOS](#)



**Alkali mallow (*Malvella leprosa*) that has been pressed and dried.**

Herbaria are collections of plant specimens preserved for future research; effectively a museum for plants. Cheadle Center is home to several collections, including the vascular plant herbarium founded in 1945 which includes over 100,000 taxa to-date. Over the past six months, staff and interns have collected over 140 specimens from NCOS in an effort to catalog the wide range of plant diversity on the project; everything from invasive non-natives such as bristly oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*) to our rare or endangered natives such as Ventura marsh milk vetch (*Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *lanosissimus*).

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

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## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**"Second Saturdays" at NCOS**

**Cancelled this month due to heat  
and potential rain!**

**See you next month!**



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### 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).



### Nature Guide Tour

This month: September 17, 9:30 -11

Come take a walk around NCOS and learn about native plants and animals with a trained Nature Guide.

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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!



**Wilson's warbler at Phelps Creek. These small warblers breed across Canada and the western United States in willow, alder and shrubby thickets near streams up to about 11,500 feet. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.**



**Orange-crowned warblers eat mainly invertebrate prey including ants, beetles, spiders, flies, and caterpillars. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.**



**Black phoebes eat mainly insects but have been known to snatch small fish from ponds. 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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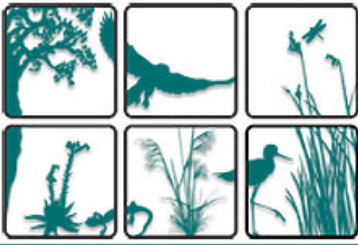
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## HERBARIUM COLLECTION ON NCOS



Herbarium specimens are stored within these sliding cabinets located beneath the stands of Harder Stadium.

Herbaria are collections of plant specimens preserved for future research; effectively a museum for plants. Cheadle Center is home to several collections, including the vascular plant herbarium founded in 1945 which includes over 100,000 taxa to-date. Over the past six months, staff and interns have collected over 140 plant specimens from NCOS in an effort to catalog the wide range of plant diversity on the project; everything from invasive non-natives such as bristly oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*) to our rare or endangered natives such as Ventura marsh milk vetch (*Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *lanosissimus*).



Alkali mallow (*Malvella leprosa*)





Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)

This collection will serve as a historical snapshot of what plants were present during the restoration process. The collection also preserves the DNA of rare species and provides educational and research opportunities for botanists and taxonomists. Specimens are chosen for their diagnostic characteristics, especially flowers and fruits. When collected, they are placed in a plant press to flatten them. The plants are then dried and glued onto sheets, labeled with a brief description and the location and date of collection, and added to the herbarium.



Pressure is applied to plant specimens by tightening the straps.



The plant specimens are sandwiched between two sheets of paper and then separated from each other by a piece of cardboard.




Plant specimens in the drying oven.

An engaging part of the project is the inclusion of an iNaturalist observation of each plant before it is collected. Researchers using the herbarium will be able to find pictures of the exact specimen they are studying as it was growing in the wild by cross-referencing the barcode number in the iNat observation notes. [Click here to see](#) the corresponding iNaturalist project and help confirm identifications.



**UCSB Cheadle Center NCOS Herbarium Collection**

## About

Members 

A survey of the plant diversity of UC Santa Barbara's North Campus Open Space, managed by the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration. iNaturalist observations will be paired with a physical collection added to the herbarium.

[Read More >](#)

PROJECT MEMBERS ONLY

[Project Journal](#)

**222**  
OBSERVATIONS


**155**  
SPECIES

**38**  
IDENTIFIERS


**2**  
OBSERVERS

[Stats](#)


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**Bittercresses**  
Genus *Cardamine*  
11 days ago



**White Bladderflower**  
*Araujia sericifera*  
14 days ago



**Hairy Beggarticks**  
*Bidens pilosa*  
25 days ago



**Cook Pine**  
*Araucaria columnaris*  
25 days ago

**Date:**  
Wednesday, September 7, 2022 - 11:30

[Contact Us](#)

Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration • [Earth Research Institute](#)

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