

UC Santa Barbara

Newsletters

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UCSB Restoration Register - March 2023

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Cheadle Center for Biodiversity
& Ecological Restoration

Restoration Register

March 2023



North Campus Open Space aerial photo taken on 2/19/23 by Bill Dewey.

This is the first of our bi-monthly Restoration newsletter that will include updates from other areas that the Cheadle Center manages. We hope you will explore some of these other restoration projects. [You can find the locations of these spaces here.](#)

UPDATES

Vernal Pools

More rain means more full vernal pools! Vernal pools are some of the most ecologically important and distinctive habitats in California and harbor unique plants and animals. Lemmon's Canarygrass (*Phalaris lemmonii*), Dwarf Woolly Heads (*Psilocarphus brevissimus*) and Coast Popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys undulatus*) are just some of the many native plant species present. Vernal pools can be found at the North Campus Open Space, North Parcel, South Parcel, and Manzanita Village restoration sites.



North Campus Open Space vernal pools.



Manzanita Village restoration site vernal pools.



Manzanita Village restoration site vernal pools.

Wildflowers

Years of restoration work are paying off at Campus Lagoon and Henley Gate where visitors are already being treated to a beautiful display of native wildflowers! Wildflowers are also beginning to flower along the Mesa trail at the North Campus Open Space where small patches have been planted to diversify the native grassland. We incorporate more than 10 species of native wildflowers into our restoration sites including Poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*), Miniature Lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), Bush Lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*), Red maids (*Calandrinia menziesii*), Miniature Suncups (*Camissoniopsis micrantha*), Blue Toadflax (*Nuttallanthus texana*), snapdragon (*Antirrhinum nuttallianum*), Phacelia (*Phacelia distans*), Popcorn Flower (*Cryptantha clevelandii*), Blue Dicks (*Dichelostema capitatum*), and Goldenstar (*Bloomeria crocea*).



Red maids (*Calandrinia menziesii*) bloom in front of Henley Gate. Photo by Susan Cook.



Red maids (*Calandrinia menziesii*) at the Campus Lagoon 2022 burn plot. Photo by Susan Cook.



Blue Toadflax (*Nuttallanthus texana*) and Red maids (*Calandrinia menziesii*) at the Campus Lagoon 2022 burn plot. Photo by Susan Cook.



Phacelia (*Phacelia distans*) at the Campus Lagoon 2022 burn plot.



California Buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus*) on the NCOS Mesa Slopes.



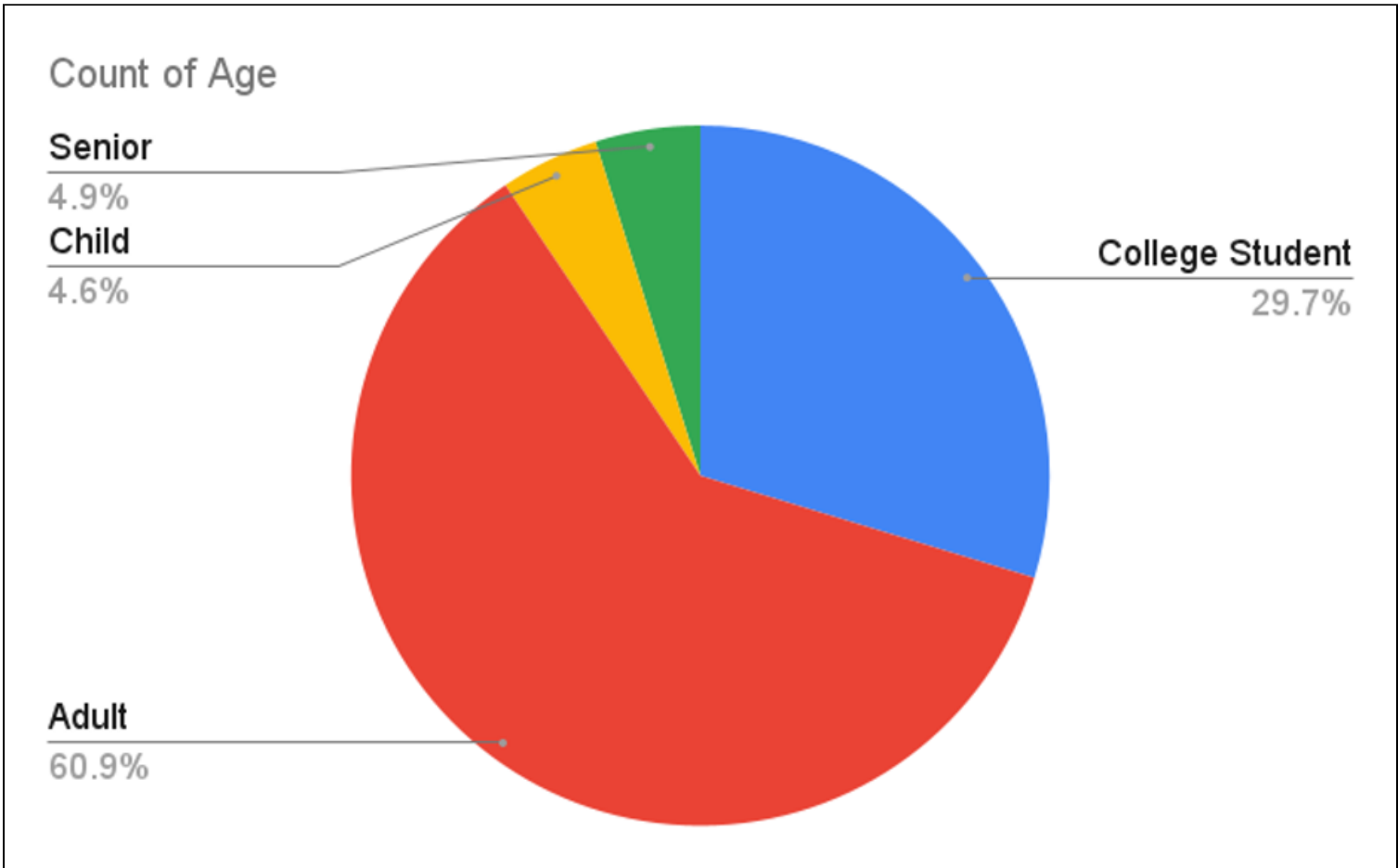
Bush Lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*) growing on the edge of the NCOS Mesa Trail.



Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) in the NCOS Mesa grassland.

Human Use Survey

UCSB undergraduate Jackson Weill has been conducting a human use survey at NCOS over the past few months. His findings show that NCOS is averaging 32 users per hour and that dog leash compliance is at 96.4%! Users like you who speak up when people let their dogs disturb wildlife have helped us create a safe place for people and wildlife where people understand the importance of keeping their dogs under control so we can all enjoy the wildlife.



FEATURE STORY

Weed Warriors at the North Campus Open Space



Our NCOS weed warriors have been working hard! These community volunteers have been spending their time weeding and planting at the NCOS Visitor Plaza and North Parcel Restoration site. [Read more \(feature story continued on page 28\)](#) to meet some our enthusiastic volunteers.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



"Second Saturdays" at NCOS

March 11th, 9:00 - 12

Please RSVP to 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.



Nature Guide Tour

March 18th, 9:30 - 11

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

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. Thank you!



Pied-billed Grebe at the North Campus Open Space. Photo By Karen Lunsford.



Allen's Hummingbird at NCOS. Photo by Karen Lunsford.



American Bittern at NCOS. Photo by Ron Swick.



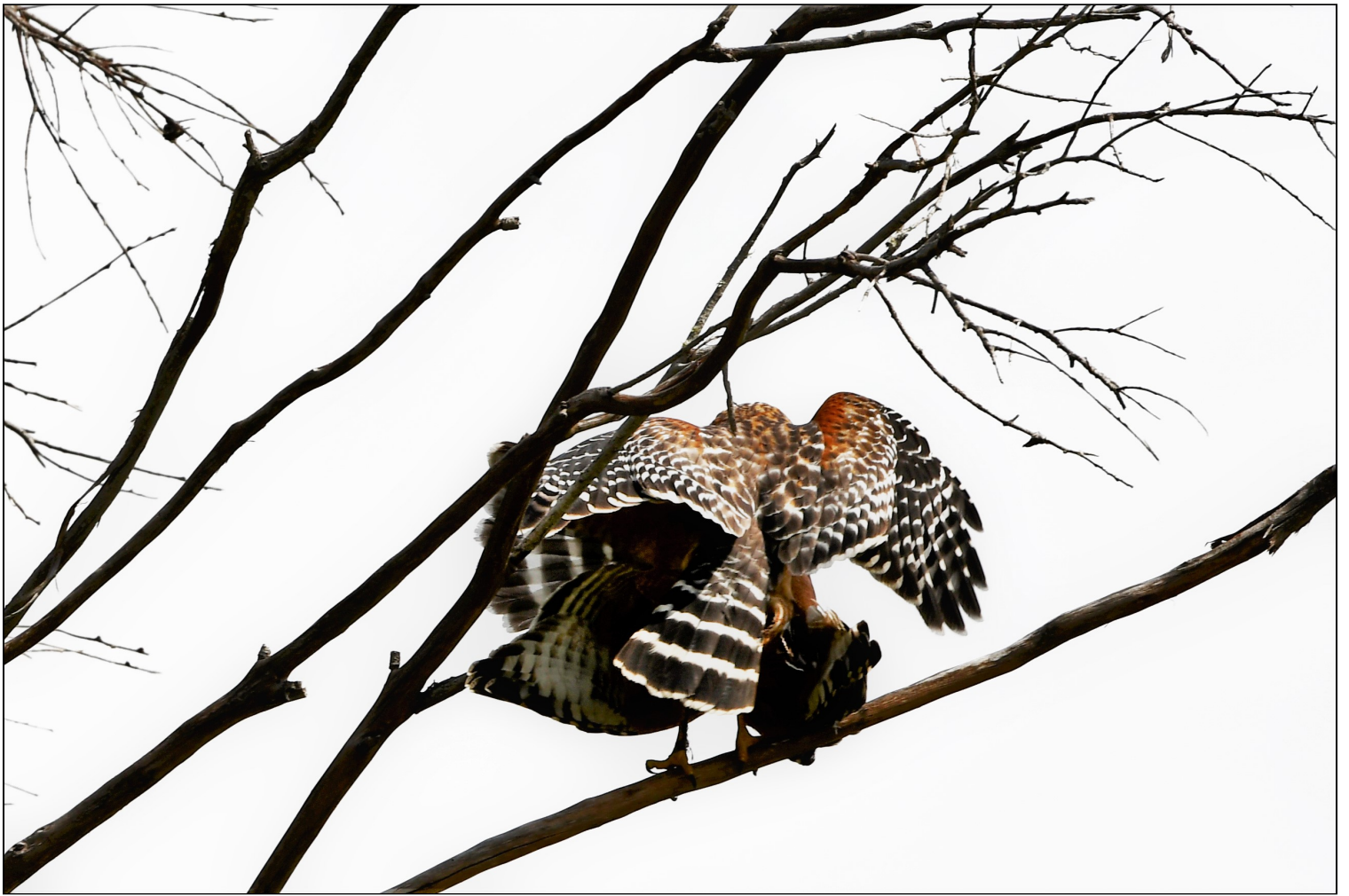
Northern Flicker at NCOS. Photo by Lynn Scarlett.



Sora at NCOS. Photo by Lynn Scarlett.



Osprey resting in the Devereux Slough. Photo by Adrien O'Loghlen.



Mating Red-shouldered hawks at South Parcel. Keep an eye out for more nesting and breeding behaviours! Photo by Daniel Forseth.





Cackling geese (foreground) and Canada geese forage on the NCOS grassland. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.



A turkey vulture warms itself in the sun at the North Campus Open Space. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.



Hooded merganser in Phelps Creek at NCOS. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.



Least sandpiper in the upper vernal pool on the NCOS Mesa. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.



Brown pelican at the UCSB Campus Lagoon. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.



Long-billed Dowitcher at the UCSB Campus Lagoon. 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**



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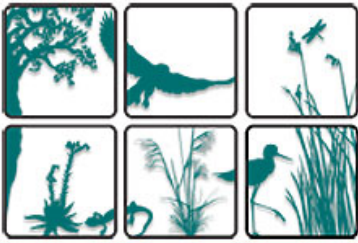
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WEED WARRIORS AT THE NORTH CAMPUS OPEN SPACE

Our NCOS weed warriors have been working hard! These community volunteers have been spending their time weeding and planting at the NCOS Visitor Plaza and North Parcel restoration site. Read on to meet some of our enthusiastic volunteers.



Lee Ann began volunteering after she noticed there were less people weeding and planting at NCOS as we moved out of our most active restoration phase. She frequently goes birding at NCOS and has marveled at the transformation of the site from a golf course to functional wetland over the past several years. Although she doesn't have a favorite plant or animal, she appreciates the Monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*) and Western Bluebirds that frequent the Visitor Plaza area. She is hoping to get more involved in the greenhouse side of restoration in the future but for now she has her hands full taking care of the Visitor Plaza.



Rick has been visiting our restoration sites since his time as a teacher when he would bring his elementary school students out to learn about ecological restoration. The photo to the left shows Rick with his class at the Campus Lagoon in 2005! He is also one of our longest running volunteers and started transplanting at the Cheadle Center Greenhouse and Nursery over 5 years ago. He took a hiatus due to the coronavirus

pandemic but was back out as soon as possible and transitioned over from transplanting in the greenhouse to the North Parcel restoration project a few months ago. Rick's favorite activity is planting as he feels that contributes something permanent to the landscape of native plants.



Jan moved from New York to the Santa Barbara area in 2020 and found herself missing home. When her sister in law brought her for a hike at the North Campus Open Space she was reminded of the wetlands she used to explore during summers on Cape Cod and felt right at home. After learning that the site was actually a restoration project that used to be



a golf course she became interested in contributing to the project and heard about the weed warrior program via the newsletter. Jan has been tackling the invasive plants at the Visitor Plaza and learning to identify the many native and non-native species that can be found just in that small area. Her favorite animals to watch at NCOS are the egrets, herons, and black-necked stilts.

Many thanks to all our weed warriors for the hard work they're doing! Community volunteers can get involved by working alongside our staff members at various restoration sites, targeting a specific invasive plant throughout NCOS, or adopting a specific area of NCOS to look after. If you're interested in joining the program please email ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu.



California poppies, Purple Needlegrass, and Blue-eyed Grass are all thriving at the NCOS Visitor Plaza.



Hummingbird sage at the NCOS Visitor Plaza.

Date:

Monday, March 6, 2023 - 11:15

[Contact Us](#)

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