

2022-23

Annual Report

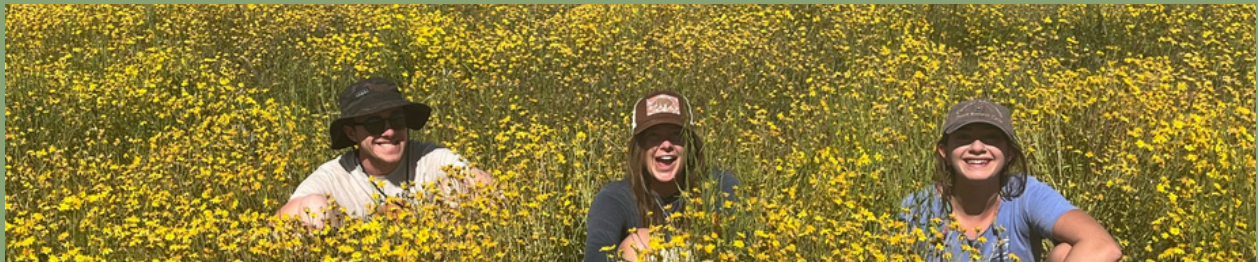


Kenneth S. Norris
Center for Natural History

Nine years and still growing!

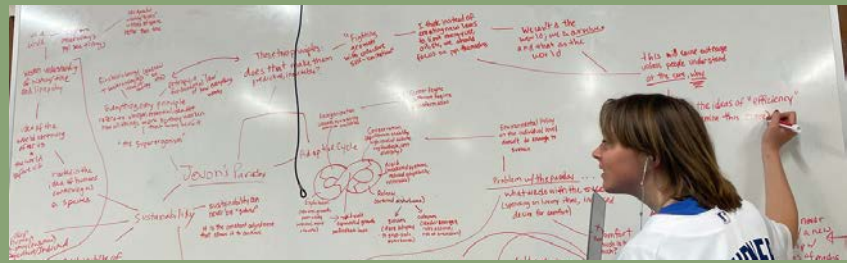
Much like the California wildflowers that bloomed in such abundance during this year of record rainfall, we continued to flourish and branch out in many directions with all of your continued support. Our major accomplishments included:

- Engaging with 1,818 students and 310 community members.
- Supporting 34 classes, 76 quarterly internship positions, and 5 public events, for a total of 8,368 user days!
- Funding 30 paid quarterly positions, 8 class scholarships and 6 project awards.
- Partnering with new groups on campus while holding a variety of events, from a Day of the Dead gathering to a ten-year celebration of the Annais Rittenberg Natural History Field Quarter scholarship program.
- Sponsoring a large diverse set of student-led projects, from new field guides to novel art-science collaborations.
- Improving the longevity and accessibility of our growing natural history collections.
- Sending our paid student curators to the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) annual conference.
- Forming the “Friends of the Norris Center”, a group focused on supporting student, alumni, and community engagement.
- Recruiting two new faculty co-directors to strengthen our commitment to art-science collaborations



2022-2023

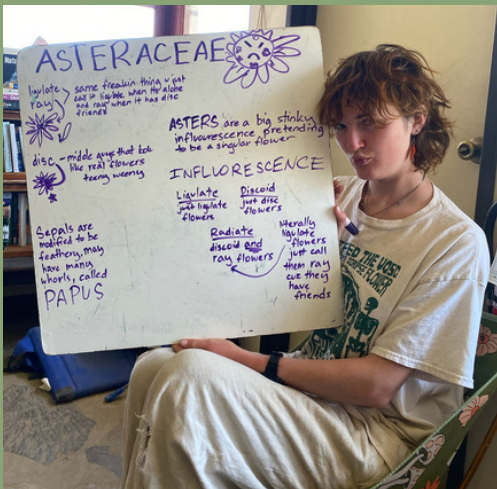
CLASSES



We supported a record number of classes this year, including our core set of natural history and science classes and new ones in Ecology, Art, and Latin American and Latino Studies.

Classes Funded by the Norris Center:

- Natural History of Reptiles and Amphibians (Fall 2022)
- Natural History of Fungi (2 sections, Winter 2023)
- Introduction to Community Science (Spring 2023)
- Natural History Illustration (Winter 2023)
- Natural History Field Quarter (Spring 2023)



New Classes Supported by the Norris Center:

- Magnified Imagination (Spring 2023)
- Nature and Cultures of Latin America (Spring 2023)
- Field Biology in Practice (3 sections, Spring 2023)



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INTERNSHIPS



The Norris Center was as lively as ever with our core internships nearly filled to pre-pandemic levels. These included: work in our herbarium, fungarium, the Randall Morgan Insect Collection, and expanding our bird and mammal collections. We trained a record number of senior undergraduate “Field Inquiry Mentors” to introduce Rachel Carson, Merrill, and Kresge college first-year students to natural history and campus lands. We developed novel outreach events to reach more students, including a Valentine’s Day Natural History Scavenger Hunt. And our students continued working with ENVS faculty Dr. Natalia Ocampo-Peñuela to study bird window collisions across campus.



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COLLECTIONS



Collections manager Dr. Gizelle Hurtado working in our newly organized mammal collections.



With help from our student curators, volunteers, and collectors, our main collections are now all safely moved, organized, and labeled in our new space-saving cabinets!

In addition to databasing and re-packaging most of our fungi specimens, we added new collections from the Channel Islands and new post-fire species discoveries in Santa Cruz County.

We sorted, labeled, and identified hundreds of specimens in the Randall Morgan Pollinator collection and submitted a manuscript (currently in review) from our summer 2021 research project, "Composition but not species richness changes over time in Central California's coastal dune and scrub pollinator community."



Our meticulously organized herbarium now contains 13,000+ specimens, of which 12,000+ have been imaged, most geo-referenced, and all data are accessible on the Consortium of California Herbaria CCH2 data portal. Incoming local collections from Dylan Neubauer and David Styer have greatly expanded our representation of the diverse flora in the Monterey Bay Area and Santa Cruz Mountains.



UCSC Herbarium - Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History, University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC)

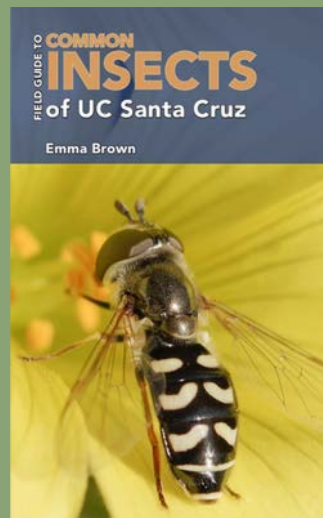
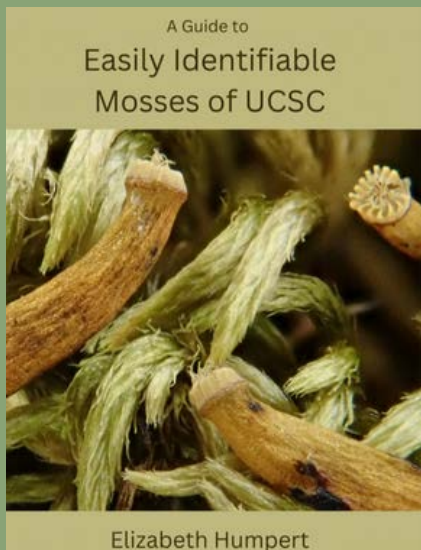
Catalog #: UCSC100012410
Occurrence ID: e4a2255a-690c-4bf1-85c7-76ce9928ad3f
Taxon: *Allophyllum divaricatum* (Nutt.) A.D. Grant & V.E. Grant
Family: Polemoniaceae
Collector: Dylan M. Neubauer
Number: 2145
Date: 2022-05-20
Verbatim Date: 5/20/2022
Locality: United States, California, Santa Cruz, (SnFRB) central Santa Cruz Mountains, Ben Lomond Mountain, San Vicente Redwoods, dirt road adjacent to Big Creek
37.11441 -122.18717 WGS84
Elevation: 445 meters (1460ft)
Habitat: Roadbank in oak-conifer forest
Description: Annual herb
Reproductive Condition: Flowering
Notes: More common in 2021. Area burned in 2020 [CZU Lightning-Complex Fire].

STUDENT PROJECTS

We were so inspired by the creative diverse projects that our students completed this year. These ranged from a new community-building “Ecological Wellbeing” project addressing climate anxiety to our summer CAMINO research team studying the behavior of squirrels on campus, to the completion of a comprehensive new field guide to insects of UCSC.



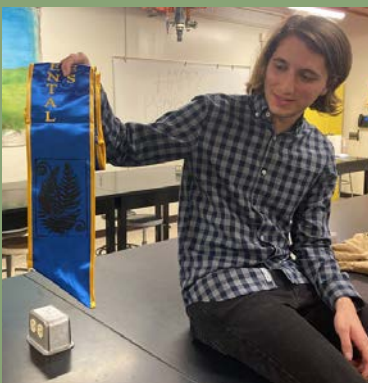
Clockwise from above left: A new resource to support student wellbeing in the age of rapid climate; California ground squirrel study sights on campus; a new guide to mosses; and a long-awaited completion of our biggest campus field guide yet- Common Insects of UC Santa Cruz!



STUDENT CURATORS



This year, we supported a large core group of paid student curators who helped us with all parts of our program, including moving all of our collections into new storage, managing the day-to-day operations of the Norris Center, hosting events, and mentoring other students about natural history. We also sent many of them to a natural history museum conference, which led to many important new opportunities for both our returning seniors and our graduates.



"About two years ago, I wandered into your office asking about a natural history curation class. This got me involved in the Norris Center and set me on a career path I am very excited about."

Julian Birnbach (who will be starting graduate school in Fall 2023 in Museum Studies at San Francisco State University)

2022-2023

ART-SCIENCE PROJECTS



From the work of Introduction to Nature Illustration students (above) to our new Science Illustration summer projects co-sponsored by UCSC's CAMINO program (right), to our Art-Science Residency program (below), we continued to offer many opportunities to creatively combine art and science into impactful projects.



An Adela moth on Owl's clover, part of a new 2024 wall calendar of common local plant/pollinator pairs



"My recent work shares the story of the fire-following flowers and the importance of fire in an ecosystem. The fire following flowers teach us about resiliency, renewal, and the need to care for and celebrate the land, its history, and the Indigenous people who tended to the very soil that we stand on."

Dav Bell, Art-Science Residency project in collaboration with UCSC's Center for Creative Ecologies

EVENTS

We hosted five events spread out over the year that attracted a diversity of students, community members, and alumni.



Our Day of the Dead celebration (above) included a new collaboration with El Centro, UCSC's Chicana/Latina Resource Center. Our fifth natural history symposium (first row below) featured student presentations, a keynote presentation about bat conservation in Rwanda from Dr. Winifred Frick from Bat Conservation International, and a very popular opportunity to make block prints of all species of owls found in California!



We were thrilled to display an art-science collaborative project between UCSC biomolecular engineer Dr. Dave Deamer and artist Shoshanna Dubiner (below). We look forward to hosting similar art projects on our walls in the future!



EVENTS



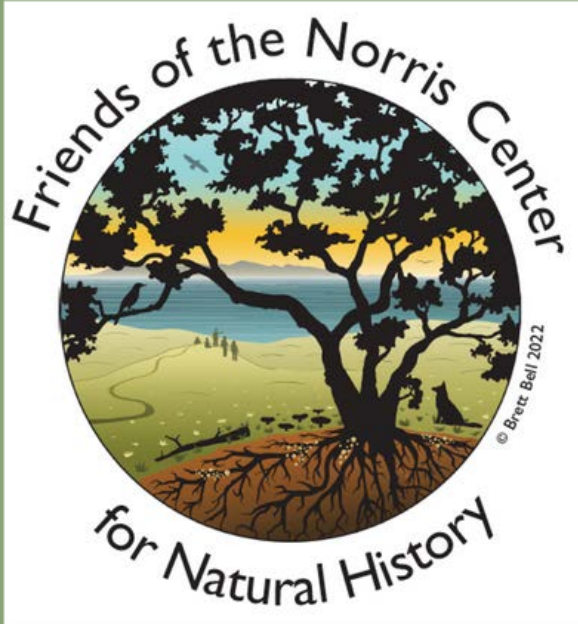
Together with the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, Watsonville Wetlands Watch, and the Watsonville Nature Center, we celebrated the tremendous contributions made by master taxidermist Richard Gurnee to Santa Cruz County.



Many alumni from the 2013 Natural History Field Quarter (NHFQ) class gathered for their 10 year reunion (above) at Año Nuevo Natural Reserve. With over 80 people gathered at Life Lab at the UCSC Farm, we remembered and celebrated Annais Rittenberg (a student from NHFQ 2013) and the success of the Annais Rittenberg Natural History Field Quarter scholarship program (below).



FRIENDS OF THE NORRIS CENTER GROUP NOW OFFICIAL!



After putting out the word at our "50 Years of Wonder" gathering last spring, several alumni and community members stepped up to start a community support group for the Norris Center. We are thrilled to have the help with alumni networking, community events, public outreach, and much more in the future.

Who Are the Friends of the Norris Center?

The Friends of the Norris Center (FNC) is a group of community members and students dedicated to advancing the mission of the Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History. FNC members work to build a community of people who carry their passion for the natural world into all aspects of their lives.

FNC's goals include:

- Advancing natural history training and Norris Center activities
- Providing community/ alumni engagement and professional development networks
- Helping expand Norris Center programming
- Supporting Norris Center research on natural history and field-based education
- Increasing public outreach, advocacy, and financial support for the Norris Center

NEW FACULTY LEADERSHIP BRIDGES ART AND SCIENCE



We are extremely grateful for the tireless service of outgoing faculty director Dr. Rita Mehta (center right above) over the last 3+ years. Under her amazing leadership, we persevered through the pandemic, supported new research and mentoring opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students, hired new staff members, established new diversity equity and inclusion guidelines, completed major renovations to our facility, grew our donor base, and deepened our connection to the broader community. Most of all, Rita laid the groundwork for future collaborations between art and science and an exciting opportunity to expand as a community-wide resource in Santa Cruz.

We are thrilled to welcome our new faculty director team consisting of Dr. Karolina Karlic (left, starting in July 2023) from the Art Department and Dr. Ingrid Parker (right, starting in January 2024) from the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department. We welcome their passion, experience, and enthusiastic desire to work together to see the Norris Center continue to grow as it begins its second decade here at UCSC!



2022-2023

TOGETHER WE TEACH!

Community support is vital to our mission to train and inspire the next generation of environmental leaders. For many of our donors this year, it was an opportunity to become a founding member of our new Friends of the Norris Center support group. All together, we raised over \$130,000! Thank you so much for your continued support!

\$1,000+

Joanna Miller
March Conservation Fund
Mark Rittenberg & Ingrid Gavshon
Robert Stephens
Robert Weiner & Karen Rhodes

\$200 to \$999

Linda Locatelli & Gordon Lion
Linda Wilshusen & Rock Pfothenhauer
Schwab Charitable Fund
Lise Peterson & Donald Peattie
Ingrid Parker & Greg Gilbert
Jane Orbuch
Abigail Faulkner & Hobart Guion
Velia Melrose
Jeannine Koshear
Laurie Kiguchi & Steve Reed
Steve Gliessman & Roberta Jaffe
Brook Gamble
Ted Cranford



Natural History Field Quarter students amidst the superbloom in the Eastern Sierra (above) and marveling at a California kingsnake along the south fork of the Eel River (below).



2022-2023

TOGETHER WE INSPIRE!

Up to \$200

Rebecca Supplee
Jennifer Sandstrom
Sara Nickless
Susan Monheit
Anne Hayes
Nicole Dunn
Jenny Anderson
Jennifer Yost
Tod Wickersham
Dan & Karen Warrick
James & Christina Martin
Brendan Leathem
Neal Kramer
Carry & Ellen Hecht
Larry Ford & Susan Merritt



Natural History of Fungi students sketching a new find (above) and gathering around the campfire at Fort Ord Natural Reserve (below).



Christina Floyd
Shelly Errington
Julia & Steve Davenport
Dennis Brooks & Thien Tran
Balance Hydrologics Inc.
Martha Brown & Breck Tyler
Alisa Fineman
John & Karen Reiss
Gizelle Hurtado
Bartley Fong & Carolyn Kernkamp
Alicia Fennell
Eric Engles & Lisa Frankel
Ginger & Karl Bareis
Rachel Goodman
Tom Ribe & Monique Schoustra
Jesse Weinstock