

Additional Lichenological Field Trips for IAL 6

As you may know, the initial two field trips for IAL 6 have been fully subscribed for a couple of weeks now. Linda Geiser (trip A below) and Daphne Stone (trip B below) have stepped forward to offer additional opportunities. In addition, Linda proposes a possible trip itinerary (trip C below) for anyone who wants to conduct a trip on their own (e.g. by renting their own vehicle). Please contact the trip leaders directly and as soon as possible if you would like to participate. Once we have details of a bryological trip fully settled, a revised registration form will be available on line to use to pay Bob Egan, as you may have already done for the registration fee). The organizing committee thanks Linda and Daphne for doing this!!

A. Organized Local Trip – one day.

Date: July 13, 2008

Time: Leave from Asilomar facility or local motel at 8:30 AM, return about 4:30 PM.

Objective: Explore Monterrey-Santa Cruz area for lichens in a variety of natural settings.

General:

This is a simple trip for those who'd like to visit some good local lichenizing spots and enjoy some beautiful scenery without a lot of expense or time on the road. Because this is a day trip, costs are low, but participants will need to arrive at Asilomar one day early. Please see the IAL6 circular for transportation directions to Asilomar.

Notes:

- Lunch and refreshments will be provided.
- We'll travel by 12 or 15-passenger van.
- Dress in layers for a climate ranging from foggy and cool to sunny and hot. Wear sturdy shoes and long pants & bring a long sleeve shirt; we may encounter poison oak. Sunglasses, hat & jacket advisable.
- We will visit three collecting locations, returning to Asilomar for IAL6 registration, dinner, and evening open house.

Cost: \$40.00

Trip limit: 15 persons

Trip leader: Linda Geiser, lgeiser@fs.fed.us, 1-541-231-9452

B. Portland to Asilomar – 6 days.

Dates: July 7-13, 2008

Time: Arrive Portland 7 July (see detailed itinerary below)

Objective: A parallel trip to the trip already filled, but with a somewhat different itinerary)

Cost: \$500.00

Trip limit: 20 persons

Trip leaders: Daphne Stone (stone_daphne@hotmail.com) and John Villela

Stone-Villella Field Trip, Portland Airport to Monterey 7 - 13 July 2008

Monday, 7 July

Arrive at Portland Airport, vans will pick you up.

Dinner at Portland Airport or Salem, en route to campground.

Stay in cabins at Fishermen's Bend BLM campground on North Santiam River, in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. This site has diverse Cottonwood and Oregon ash riparian forest habitat.

Tuesday, 8 July

Depart campground early, go east across Cascade Mountains with several stops:

1. Walk in road to Opal Creek Wilderness. This is Oregon's largest old-growth low elevation westside Douglas fir forest with abundant and diverse cyanolichens and good aquatic lichen habitat (not to mention great bryophytes!)
 2. Drive east into Cascade Mountains on Hwy. 22 to Hwy. 126, with 1 stop along the way in high elevation mixed conifer forests or lava beds.
 3. Hwy. 97 south to Crater Lake National Park, stop in dry *Pinus ponderosa* forest on east side of Cascade Mountains.
 4. Drive around part of Crater Lake. The habitat is dry high elevation alpine (no collecting in National Park).
 5. Leave Crater Lake, drive west into mixed conifer/hardwood forest
- Stay at Union Creek Resort - a classic old-fashioned American fishing resort.

Wednesday, 9 July

Depart Union Creek, drive southwest out of the Cascade Mountains.

1. Make several stops in Cascades at mixed conifer forests, oak savannahs, open rocky meadows

2. Hike up Upper Table Rock, a rich lava plateau with shallow-soil grasslands, vernal pools and large rocky cliffs
Stay in Ashland at Southern Oregon University dorms

Thursday, 10 July

Leave Ashland early and head south into Klamath-Siskiyou mountains.

1. Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument: Pilot Rock area- large outcrops at 5,000 ft. elevation, conifer/oak covered ridges and south facing rocky meadows

At Yreka, California, south on Rte 3 Callahan to Weaverville where we will be joined by Caliciales expert Dr. Eric Peterson with several stops:

2. Scott Mtn. Pass - serpentine, old-growth dry forest of pines, incense cedar, firs, also a bog with *Darlingtonia* (insectivorous plant)
3. Short stop at Upper Trinity River to chill feet in water

4. Canyon Creek Trailhead, take short hike of 1/2 mile each way

Drive west on Rte. 299, stay at Del Loma cabins in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Friday, 11 July

Leave Del Loma and drive west on Rte. 299 to coast.

1. Samoa dunes - hypermaritime coastal dune forest with abundant lichens
2. Oak woodlands on Bald Hill Rd (north 35 mi) or closer oak woodlands, possible other stops.

Stay at youth hostel in Redwoods National Park. (again no collecting in National Park).

Saturday, 12 July

Leave Redwoods National Park, drive south on Hwy. 101 along coast and somewhat inland

1. Willits: Sherwood Road oak savannah

South on Hwy 101 to Pepperwood Ranch near Santa Rosa with possible stops.

2. Collect at Pepperwood: grey slate boulders in oak savannah

13 July

Leave Santa Rosa, drive west to Rte 1

1. Coastal rocky shore stops

Drive south on Rte 1, pass Pt Reyes, cross Golden Gate Bridge

South to Monterey, arrive Asilomar around 4:00 PM in time for dinner.

C. Self-guided Loop Trip south to San Luis Obispo County (rent a vehicle on your own)

Dates: Self-selected, before or after IAL6.

Time: Give yourself two or three days.

Objective: See more of the central California coast lichens, scenery, natural & cultural history.

Features:

Travel at your own pace by yourself or in a small group.

Define your own itinerary to best match your own interests following suggestions below.

Cost: About \$500 including hotels, restaurant meals and vehicle rental—much less if camping, preparing own foods, and driving a personal vehicle. Gas costs about \$3.60 per gallon; hotels average \$75-\$250 per night; vehicle rental is about \$35/day; plan \$8-\$25 per meal in restaurants, camping costs about \$25-\$34 per night for up to 8 people.

Trip Coordinator: Contact Linda Geiser, lgeiser@fs.fed.us, for help making arrangements, getting information, or to get in touch with others who may choose this option.

Preparation: Make car and hotel or camping reservations in advance (see suggestions for places to stay in paragraphs below). I advise doing this as soon as possible. Obtain a state highway map (also available at many gas stations) and a map of Los Padres National Forest (order in advance on-line at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/maps/>).

Transportation: Fly into Monterrey or a San Francisco area airport (SFO, OAK, SJC). Because it is considerably less expensive to return a car to the pick-up location, consider flying into Monterrey Airport if you don't need your car all week.

Day 1 (Big Sur Coastline to San Simeon)

Drive south along Highway 1, spending the day exploring the many state parks and trails along the spectacular and rugged coastline between Monterrey and San Simeon. Note: this drive is not for someone with an extraordinary fear of heights—and for safety, please drive slowly! Botanical diversity is very high and includes the southernmost stands of the majestic Coast Redwood. All of the state parks are worth a look because of their beauty, wildness, and their extraordinary vascular plant diversity. In particular, you may wish to visit Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park (http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=578). Lichens are not abundant along much of the coastline north of San Simeon; the species you will see on trees, for the most part, are similar to the flora of the wet Pacific Northwest and coastal northern California forests. To learn more about the state parks and beaches enroute (Point Lobos State Reserve, Garrapata State Park, Point Sur State Historic Park, Andrew Molera State Park, Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, Limekiln State Park) see <http://www.parks.ca.gov/parkindex/>.

Although collection of plants is prohibited in state parks; it is allowed in national forests if done discretely and away from trails and roads. Trails of the Los Padres NF along this day's drive begin where the National Forest boundary joins the coastline south of Lopez Point and, from north to south, include:

- Nacimiento Road—Follow this road up to the ridgeline where maritime lichens are sporadically abundant on oaks on the ocean-side of the coast range. Turn around at the intersection with other forest roads at the crest (or before) and return to Highway 1.

Continue south and you will see the following trailheads—any of which offer collecting opportunities (lichen cover is low but there is a fair diversity, especially on woody substrates):

- Kirk Creek and Mill Creek
- Pewitt Loop Trail
- Cruickshank Trail
- Soda Springs Trail
- Salmon Creek Trail—if it is a hot day, this trail is particularly enjoyable because it follows the crystal clear Salmon Creek with many pools and waterfalls offering a refreshing dip.

See the Los Padres National Forest website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/about/>) for photos, trails, habitat descriptions (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/about/resources/botanical/>) and to pre-order a hiking map (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/maps/>). You will be in the Monterey Ranger District.

For a memorable view and excellent comfort, stay at the Ragged Point Inn just south after leaving Los Padres NF (<http://www.raggedpointinn.com/>).

If you are on a tight budget, or enjoy camping, camp at San Simeon State Beach (http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=590) or stay at one of the more economical hotels in Cambria (<http://www.cambriachamber.org/lodging.php>). Make arrangements in advance, because summer is a popular season for tourism.

Day 2 (San Luis Obispo Coast)

Drive to W.B. Hearst Memorial State Beach (click on the photo on the left-hand side bar to see the hiking peninsula at http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=589). View abundant lichens draping the Monterey Cypress. There is a rare pine growing here, Monterey Pine, conspicuous because it does not shed its large cones until after a fire, which also sports an abundant lichen cover. Follow trails around the peninsula on top of the bluffs to the north from the parking lot. Collecting is not permitted here.

If you've never seen elephant seals, check out one of their major beach habitats just a few miles south at the elephant seal overlook, 5 miles north of the town <http://www.pelicannetwork.net/sansimeon.html> . You'll see people gathered, a parking lot and (hopefully) a small sign.

Continue driving south along the coast to Morro Bay State Park http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=594 —you can drive and park very close to Morro Rock (this huge rock is obvious from at least 10 miles in either direction). Also south along Morro Bay in the Park is a free Natural History Museum. The open-grown Monterey Pine around the museum and nearby trails to the marsh next to the marina host a high cover of hyper-maritime lichens including various species of *Niebla*. Again, collecting is not permitted in any of the State Parks.

If you are really feeling like stretching your legs, continue south to Montaña de Oro State Park where miles of hiking trails take you up several local peaks.

For lichen collecting, return to Morro Bay and follow Highway 41 up to the crest and into the Los Padres National Forest, Santa Lucia Ranger District. Follow the signs to the Cerro Alto campground or drive or hike along the ridge road. Just as a note, this area is very brushy and in summer is hot with many flies and other annoying, biting insects.

At this point, if you have a fly-proof tent, you can camp at Cerro Alto, or you can plan to camp at either Morro Bay or Montaña de Oro State Parks (personally I recommend the beach parks). Another choice is to drive on to Atascadero and then north to Paso Robles to stay in an air-conditioned hotel (<http://www.prcity.com/>). If you have an interest in wine making or wine tasting, check out www.pasowine.com, because you may need to make a few extra stops either in the evening or the next morning. It is also possible to enjoy wine and cheese tasting in many shops of downtown Paso Robles.

(If you're in a hurry, its about a 2.5 hour drive from Atascadero to Asilomar via routes 101 and 68.)

Day 3 (Inland valley oaklands)

Check out lichens on oaks in Paso Robles at the river bottom or drive up Peachy Canyon stopping at turnouts. *Ramalina menziesii* is the dominant epiphytic lichen, along with other non-maritime, Mediterranean-climate, valley lichens.

Continue north on Highway 101 to Hunter Liggett Military Reservation. You will need to show a passport or US drivers license, evidence of vehicle insurance, and possibly the vehicle registration form to pass through the entrance gate. The primary reason to visit the reservation is to see the old San Antonio de Padua Mission <http://www.missionsanantonio.net/> . From the 1600s to 1800s Spanish missionaries created a series of outposts from south to north along the California coast range, each is one to several days' ride from the next. This mission is in good repair and offers some fascinating historical insights. The setting is nearly undisturbed and gives one a sense of California 200 or 300 years ago.

You can collect in the Reservation, though the climate is very hot and dry and epiphytic lichens are not abundant. The colorful orange lichens on limestone rock outcroppings along the road are visible from hundreds of meters distance. The rock is smooth and without fracture lines, but offers excellent photo opportunities. For better collecting, drive a little ways west off the Reservation back to Nacimiento Rd of the Los Padres National Forest; lichens are plentiful on oaks and hardwood shrubs on the edge of the valley floor and the foot hills before the road climbs up to the coastal ridgeline.

Turn around and go back through the reservation and head north on interstate 101 to Salinas. Follow 68 to Monterey and Asilomar. From King City, this is about a 1 hour drive.