

# Chorro Creek Bog Thistle

PHOTO & STORY BY **FREDDY OTTE**, CITY of SAN LUIS OBISPO BIOLOGIST

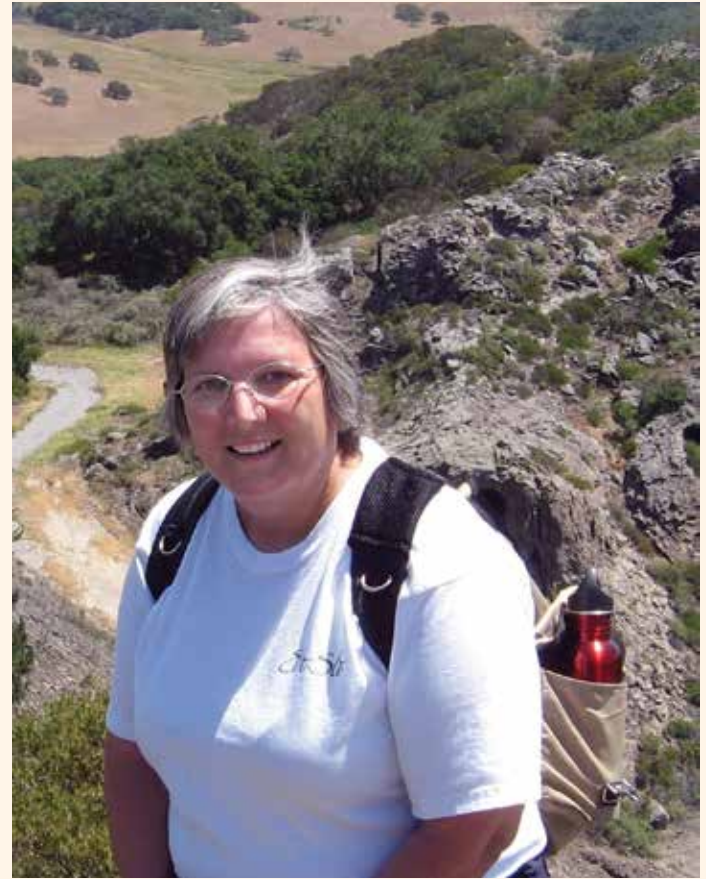
■ The Federally endangered **Chorro Creek bog thistle** (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *obispoense*) is endemic to the San Luis Obispo area and exists nowhere else on Earth. Several populations are located on City Open Space property, and are the subject of discussions and collaboration to ensure the protection of this species.

The City is looking at acquiring additional properties and working with neighbors who have bog thistle on their properties to further ensure resiliency and survival for the species. We are also looking to develop on-going monitoring programs to expand the amount of understanding for how these plants have dealt with challenging environmental conditions.



## ECOSLO BOARDMEMBER and SLO STEWARDS DOCENT CAROLYN HUDDLESTON

■ **Carolyn Huddleston** has served as an ECOSLO Board Member and as a SLO Stewards Docent for the past three years. She has lived in San Luis Obispo County for more than 30 years, and her day job is managing Templeton Gardens Senior Apartments. Carolyn also helps the Morro Bay National Estuary Program monitor the water quality in the Morro Bay watershed. This January, Carolyn trained our newest generation of SLO Stewards Docents. She is committed to work with ECOSLO and has a passion for connecting people to their environment.



SLO Stewards docent **CAROLYN HUDDLESTON** at Guidetti Ranch, in an area where the beautiful and rare native plant called Indian Knob Mountain Balm blooms.

## Partnerships: Key to Survival



■ The City of San Luis Obispo's Natural Resources Program was recognized for the protection of the Federally endangered Chorro Creek bog thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *obispoense*) through our partnership with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. (L-R) **Chris Kofron**, USFWS, San Luis Obispo Mayor **Jan Marx**, and former Natural Resources Manager **Neil Havlik**.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION US POSTAGE PAID SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93401 PERMIT #40

**Slo STEWARDS**  
Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo  
Post Office Box 1014  
246 South Higuera Street  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Come out and hike the new Ocean View Trail!*

*The mountains are calling me and I must go.*  
— John Muir

## CONSERVATION PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: Bureau of Land Management

BY **BOB HILL**, CITY of SAN LUIS OBISPO NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

■ When the City first acquired the Froom Ranch it didn't take us long to set our sights a little further – in this case to the top of the ridge along Mine Hill. Adjacent to the City's property is a 78-acre parcel owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Like the City's property, the BLM parcel features outstanding natural resources values including a unique assemblage of rare plants and vegetation. It also represents the crown jewel of this landscape, as it is from the top of the ridge on the BLM parcel where one can enjoy an outstanding panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean extending all the way out to Point Sal. The City of San Luis Obispo would like to extend a hearty **THANK YOU** to the BLM Bakersfield Field Office, especially Field Manager **Gabe Garcia** and his wonderful staff that assisted us with the recently completed Ocean View Trail: **Harrison Friedman, Denis Kearns, Amy Kuritsubo, and Tamara Whitley.**



TRAILHEAD DIRECTIONS BOTTOM RIGHT



## SLO STEWARDS DOCENT-LED HIKES

[ECOSLO.ORG](http://ECOSLO.ORG)

### RESERVOIR CANYON

FEB 13 Sat 9am-12pm Seth

### BOWDEN RANCH (to the top)

FEB 25 Thu 10am-1pm Jan

### BISHOP PEAK

MAR 6 Sun 9am-12pm Seth

### SOUTH HILLS

MAR 13 Sat 10am-1pm Jan

### ISLAY HILL

MAR 26 Fri 1-3pm Carolyn

### JOHNSON RANCH

APR 2 Sat 9am-12pm Seth

### FELSMAN LOOP

APR 10 Sun 9am-12pm Jan

### IRISH HILLS (Madonna)

MAY 1 Sun 9am-12pm Seth

### STENNER SPRINGS

MAY 22 Sun 8-11am Jan

## SLO City Parks RANGER-LED HIKES

### STENNER SPRINGS

FEB 21 Sun 1pm

### BISHOP PEAK

MAR 6 Sun 1pm

### JOHNSON RANCH

APR 3 Sun 1pm

### SOUTH HILLS

MAY 15 Sun 1pm

### CERRO SAN LUIS

JUN 19 Sun 1pm

## Volunteer TRAILBUILDING

### ISLAY HILLS

FEB 20 Sat 9am-12pm

### JOHNSON RANCH

MAR 5 Sat 9am-12pm

### IRISH HILLS (Prefumo)

MAR 19 Sat 9am-12pm

### CERRO SAN LUIS

APR 2 Sat 9am-12pm

### STENNER SPRINGS

APR 16 Sat 9am-12pm

### BOWDEN RANCH

MAY 14 Sat 9am-12pm

### RESERVOIR CANYON

JUN 18 Sat 9am-12pm

INFO Rain cancels hikes and trail work. Go to <http://bit.ly/SLOhike> for info on trail closures.

HIKES Please wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Hike length varies with group.

TRAILBUILDING Please wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Tools, water and snacks provided.

## ABOUT

NAME Ocean View Trail

DISTANCE 2.5 mi

TYPE Multi-use  
single-track, dirt road

ELEVATION CHANGE 900 ft loss/gain

OPEN TO Hikers, bikers

FEATURES Steep sections with lots of sun exposure; bring lots of water.

ADDRESS Best access is from the Madonna Road trailhead use King trail to Froom Creek to Ocean View Trail.

BY  
**DOUG CARSCADEN**  
LEAD RANGER  
PARKS & RECREATION  
CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO



# Ocean View Trail

## Irish Hills Natural Reserve

...This trail has everything from easy walking alongside Froom Creek, to steep parts overlooking Edna Valley, to beautiful Pacific Ocean views from the top.

■ Ocean View Trail is one of the most diverse trails that we have in the Irish Hills Natural Reserve. It has everything from flat mellow sections that parallel Froom Creek, to steep sections on a maintenance access road with views out the Edna Valley, to wild and beautiful ocean views looking south towards Point Sal and the Pacific Ocean.

You can also expect a lot of chaparral brush country with

single-track trail weaving through, with great views of town.

Ocean View Trail has been built in sections, with the first trail section getting under way in 2012, so needless to say it's taken three years of trail building to actually get an ocean view.

A huge thanks to all the volunteers who have given their time to make this awesome trail happen.



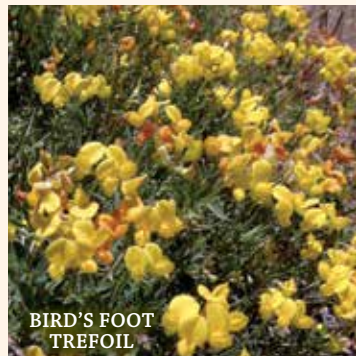
## SAFETY

- Stay on designated trails
- Dogs must be on a leash
- Pick-up after your dog
- Pack it in, pack it out
- Camping and fires prohibited
- Smoking prohibited
- Do not remove flowers, rocks or other natural features
- Open from dawn to dusk

INFO PARK RANGER (805) 781-7302



PHOTOS BY ROB DeGRAFF, BOB HILL and TERRE DUNIVANT



## TRAILHEAD DIRECTIONS

City of San Luis Obispo Open Spaces

### BISHOP PEAK @ PATRICIA

To reach the trailhead, take Foothill Blvd west and make a right turn at Patricia Drive. Continue north on Patricia Drive. Trailhead is on the left just past Patricia Court.

### BOWDEN RANCH

Take Johnson Ave south, then left on Lizzie Street (opposite French Hospital). Lizzie ends at a split rail fence that marks the beginning of the trail.

### CERRO SAN LUIS

From Higuera Street, take the Marsh Street onramp to 101S, but turn right onto Fernandez Road just before entering the freeway.

### FELSMAN LOOP

Meet at Patricia Drive trailhead. From Foothill, turn north onto Patricia Drive. Trailhead is on the left, just past Patricia Court.

### FROOM RANCH @ Madonna

Take Higuera Street south, then a right on Madonna Road and follow it to the end. Trailhead is at the far side of the roundabout, up the walkway.

### IRISH HILLS

#### @ MADONNA ROAD

To reach the Madonna trailhead from Hwy 101, take Los Osos Valley Road north towards Los Osos. Turn left on Madonna Road and follow it to the end. Find parking on the street, then walk up the dirt road to the trailhead.

### IRISH HILLS

#### @ PREFUMO CANYON

Take Los Osos Valley Road north. Turn left on Prefumo Canyon Road. Follow for 1 mile. Trailhead is on the left after the bridge crossing.

### ISLAY HILL

Take Broad Street south, turn left on Tank Farm Road. Make a right onto Wavertree Street. Turn left on Spanish Oaks Drive, then right onto Sweetbay Lane. Trailhead is at the end of Sweetbay Lane.

### JOHNSON RANCH

Take Higuera Street until it turns into South Higuera Street. Park at turnout located at the intersection of South Higuera Street and Ontario Road. Trailhead is on the right, just off the freeway.

### BARN SWALLOW



"I used to live in San Luis Obispo (but have) been living in Florida almost 20 years. I miss these mountains!"  
- John Michael Mahnke -

### LEMONT GROVE LOOP TRAIL

From Higuera Street, take the Marsh Street onramp to 101S, but turn right onto Fernandez Road just before entering the freeway. Lemon Grove Loop is on the Cerro San Luis Natural Reserve.

### RAILROAD RECREATION TRAIL ALL ACCESS

Meet at the SLO Railroad Station at the south end of Santa Rosa Street (Amtrak station).

### RESERVOIR CANYON

Take Highway 101 North from San Luis Obispo. About a mile past city limits, turn right on Reservoir Canyon Road. Trailhead is at the end of Reservoir Canyon Road. Park to the left.

### SOUTH HILLS @ EXPOSITION DRIVE

From US 101, exit Madonna Road and go east. Take a left on Higuera Street and a quick right onto South Street. Turn right onto Exposition Drive and look for the South Hills Open Space sign on the right hand side of Exposition Drive, at Corrida.



CITY OF  
SAN LUIS OBISPO  
OPEN SPACE TRAIL  
TOPO  
MAPS

Miles of mountain biking and hiking trails traverse the City's 3,500 acres of open space and parkland, making outdoor adventures a wonderful part of everyday life on the Central Coast.

Download pdf TOPO MAPS showing trails, elevations, and features such as creeks and roads by aiming your smart phone at the QR code above. Or go to <http://bit.ly/SLOspaces>

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