

*The Twenty-First Annual  
Spring Outing  
Botanical Excursion  
Foray, Retreat, and Escape to the Environment*

**!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! SO BE FREE 21 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



☛ Brought to you by the new Bryophyte Chapter of the California Native Plant Society!

**Friday to Monday, March 18-21, 2016  
North Coast Range near Occidental, California**

*Coordinators: Stephen Rae, David Hutton, Kiamara Ludwig*

*Founded in 1996, SO BE FREE is a series of West Coast forays started by the Bryolab at UC Berkeley, but open to all botanists. The main focus is on bryophytes, but we also encourage experts on other groups to come along and smell the liverworts. We welcome specialists and generalists, professionals and amateurs, master bryologists and rank beginners. SO BE FREE is held each spring, somewhere in the Western US, associated with spring break at universities. Evening slide shows and informal talks are presented as well as keying sessions with microscopes. In addition to seeing interesting wild areas and learning new plants, important goals for SO BE FREE include keeping West Coast bryologists (and friends) in touch with each other and teaching beginners. To see pictures and information from past outings, visit the SO BE FREE website at:*

[http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/bryolab/Field\\_Trips.html](http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/bryolab/Field_Trips.html)

☛ **One important function of this year's SO BE FREE will be to serve as the first annual meeting of the new Bryophyte Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, which was just founded May 30th, 2015. See: <http://bryophyte.cnps.org> for details, and to join!**

*The 2016 SO BE FREE will be held in the North Coast Range approximately 1.5 hour north of San Francisco. Although adjacent Marin County has been the subject of a moss flora, and the Lake County Moss Flora by David Toren will soon be released, Sonoma County has not yet been treated floristically. The county has marine sandstone deposits, volcanics, serpentine, and riparian habitats, supporting a wide range of bryophytes. Participants may see coastal prairie, coast redwood forest, live oak woodland, serpentine chaparral, and chaparral scrub, depending on the field trips chosen.*

*Beginners are very welcome to SO BE FREE, and this year we will have an expanded workshop session for beginners on Friday afternoon at the start of the event (see below for details). Saturday, Sunday, and Monday morning we will have field trips to satisfy all participants from neophyte to nerd! Field trip details are to follow. Access is being sought for private, State, and Federal lands.*

*We will be based at **Catholic Charities CYO Camp**, between Occidental and Freestone, 2136 Bohemian Highway, Occidental, CA 95465. It is about 1 ½ hours north of San Francisco airport. CYO Camp, situated among 216 acres of coastal redwood trees, is an awe-inspiring place located sixty miles north of San Francisco near the historic town of Occidental. Go to <http://www.cyocamp.org/retreatcenter/> to see details about the facility.*

### **Food and Lodging**

Lodging at CYO Camp is mostly bunkhouse style cabins. Each cabin holds up to 12 occupants. There are a limited number of smaller accommodation rooms, some with attached restrooms and kitchen facilities. Otherwise, bathrooms and showers are in separate buildings. Linens are not available. There is limited room for camping on site. If camp accommodations are not acceptable, you can spend the night at motels nearby. Participants not staying at CYO Camp need to arrange their own lodging. State and County campgrounds are located at Bodega Bay which is about 30 minutes away. **Note that due to a minimum imposed by the camp, there is no reduction in fee for staying offsite.** A big part of the magic of SO BE FREE is participants interacting at meals and evening microscope sessions, so we strongly encourage folks to stay and eat onsite with the group.

- Check-in will begin Friday, March 18 at 2:00 PM. Cabin and room assignments will be given at that time. Microscopes can be set up will be in Harriman Hall near the cabins, starting 5:00.
- Meals will begin with Friday dinner, and continue until breakfast on Monday morning. Box lunches will be provided for each day's field trips. Meals are served buffet style. Kitchen refrigerators are available for storage.

### **Meetings and Field Trips**

We will have presentations from students, and other people interested in sharing their work Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings. We will also discuss the various field trip options then. There will be field trips starting in the morning on Saturday and Sunday; afternoons will be devoted to lab identification at camp. Trips on Monday may be organized but will be informal. Lists of the known bryophytes of Sonoma County will be available. Enjoying and identifying the plants collected on the field trips will take up the rest of the time in the afternoons and evenings.

### **Beginners Session**

We will offer a beginners session on Friday afternoon (2-5:30 PM) for those new to bryophytes. The session will include slide shows and discussions on bryophyte biology and natural history, and be augmented by mosses and liverworts on display (and under the microscope). Registration fees for the full weekend include optional attendance at the beginners session, but if you are coming for the beginners session only there is a \$10 charge. Non-beginners should show up onsite by around 5:00 for check-in and dinner at 6:00, as is the normal SO BE FREE practice.

### **Registration**

Registrations will be processed by Edith Summers of Friends of the Jepson Herbarium. Please contact her with any **registration** questions. That will be best accomplished by email at [edithsummers@berkeley.edu](mailto:edithsummers@berkeley.edu). Her office phone is 510-643-7008. However, questions about the **foray itself and room assignments** will be coordinated by Stephen Rae, best contacted at [stephen.rae@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.rae@gmail.com). His phone is 707-287-0248 (before 9 PM Pacific time, please!)

Please fill in the registration form below, print it, and return by snail mail with your check to the address indicated on the form. Please complete a separate registration form and waiver for each participant.

Confirmations will be by email only so please remember to include your email address. **The CYO Camp will not accept direct reservations! Cabin and room reservations will be filled on a first come first served basis, so please register early! Early Registration Deadline is Dec. 15, 2015. Regular registration Deadline is Feb. 19, 2016.**

Weather is a wild card this time of year. The rainy season will be nearly, but not completely, over. Plan on bringing appropriate rain gear as well as sunscreen and hats. Maps and camp information will be sent via email to registrants. Information on motels and campgrounds will be sent on request.

**SOBEFREE 21, MARCH 18-21, 2016  
REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT FORM  
Please complete a separate form for each participant!**

**Early Registration Deadline is Dec. 15, 2015. Regular registration Deadline is Feb. 19, 2016.  
All registrations must be received by February 19, 2016!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

People you would like to room with who are paying separately (otherwise roommates will be assigned) \_\_\_\_\_

Children in Group? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you requesting a single room? \_\_\_\_\_ a double room? \_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if you plan to attend the Friday afternoon 2:00-5:30 Beginners Session:

Meal restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact name/ phone number \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost per person, including 8 meals, 3 nights housing, and meeting room use:**

Early General Registration Fee (before 12/15/15):	\$210 per person
Early Student Registration Fee (before 12/15/15):	\$160 per student
Regular General Registration Fee (12/16/15 - 2/19/16):	\$235 per person
Regular Student Registration Fee (12/16/15 - 2/19/16):	\$185 per student

**Cost per person for the Friday afternoon beginners session only:**

[Note: this is included in the fee above if you stay the weekend]: \$ 10 per person

**Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please check if you will be staying off site:

*NB: Due to a minimum fee required by the CYO Camp, there is no discount for offsite lodging.*

Please make your check payable to **UC Regents**. Please write SoBeFree 2016 in the memo line, and **sign waiver (below) in two places**. Then please mail your check and signed waiver form to:

The Jepson Herbarium  
ATTN: SOBEFREE  
1001 VLSB #2465  
University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley CA 94720-2465

PLEASE REMEMBER TO ATTACH CHECK AND WAIVER FORM  
**SEE YOU THERE!!**

Participant's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

**Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement**

**Waiver:** In consideration of being permitted to participate in any way in SOBEFREE 21, March 18-21, 2016

hereinafter called "The Activity", I, for myself, my heirs, personal representatives or assigns, **do hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue** The Regents of the University of California, its officers, employees, and agents from liability **from any and all claims including the negligence of The Regents of the University of California, its officers, employees and agents**, resulting in personal injury, accidents or illnesses (including death), and property loss arising from, but not limited to, participation in The Activity.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian of Minor      Date      Signature of Participant      Date

**Assumption of Risks:** Participation in The Activity carries with it certain inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injuries. The specific risks vary from one activity to another, but the risks range from 1) minor injuries such as scratches, bruises, and sprains 2) major injuries such as eye injury or loss of sight, joint or back injuries, heart attacks, and concussions to 3) catastrophic injuries including paralysis and death.

**I have read the previous paragraphs and I know, understand, and appreciate these and other risks that are inherent** in The Activity. I hereby **assert that my participation is voluntary and that I knowingly assume all such risks.**

**Indemnification and Hold Harmless:** I also agree to INDEMNIFY AND HOLD The Regents of the University of California HARMLESS from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, including attorney's fees brought as a result of my involvement in The Activity and to reimburse them for any such expenses incurred.

**Severability:** The undersigned further expressly agrees that the foregoing waiver and assumption of risks agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the State of California and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

**Acknowledgment of Understanding:** I have read this waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, fully understand its terms, and **understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue.** I acknowledge that I am signing the agreement freely and voluntarily, and **intend by my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability** to the greatest extent allowed by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian of Minor      Date      Signature of Participant      Date  
Participant's Age (if minor) \_\_\_\_\_  
Vol Waiver 7/01