

Dear friends,

This is our second edition of a periodic newsletter letting you know of significant changes in the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB).

Please feel free to share this email with your staff or others who didn't receive it. If you would prefer to not receive these emails, or have colleagues who would like to, just let us know by emailing [Steve Furness](#) to update our list of receivers of the Newsletter.

**October/November, 2003 NEWS from the CNDDDB:**

*DFG staff only:*

1. RareFind 3 has been released! It has been sent as CD's to all remote DFG staff and will be distributed to all networked staff via Zen. The details are still being worked out with Zen as of Oct 29, 2003. If you need the new CD right away, please contact Information Services at 916-324-3812.
2. Training in RareFind 3 for DFG staff will begin in early December and continue through March 2004. All of the Regional offices and satellites will be visited. Refer to the OTD website for the schedule, which is still being finalized as of this writing.

*For all users:*

1. RareFind 3 includes the new Windows application for querying and reporting on CNDDDB text, a shapefile of the polygon features that go with the text and a README.html file with full instructions on how to use the program. We have removed the points layer from the CD as there has been much confusion over how to use it. The points layer is NOT a good substitute for the polygon layer of the CNDDDB. It is a vague approximation of the centers of each feature and should only be used for very small scale maps such as 1:1,000,000. For normal map making or analyses of any kind, the polygon layer should be used and is included on your CD.
2. RareFind 3 offers a number of improvements over the old RareFind 2. For instance, it now offers a quick, instant query for all listed species (either state or federally listed) with one click. Also the occurrence information, including the sources, appears all on one screen, as opposed to three screens in RareFind 2.
3. RareFind 3 will be sent to non-DFG users as your subscription expires. If you need it prior to that, please contact Information Services at 916-324-3812.
3. The Atlas of Biodiversity has been released! In it are maps and information on all major biological groups in the state for which there was data to display. The rarity maps were all created using CNDDDB data. To order a copy or see details about this exciting new book, see the website: <http://atlas.dfg.ca.gov/>