



THE BLAZING STAR

March-April 2024

Celebrate California Native Plant Week April 13 - 20 with CNPS:

Growing Natives Garden Tour
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Chapter Photo Group Meets
Friday April 19 Page 8

Also in April: Wildflower Show
Saturday, April 27 Page 3



Vivian Neou

Attendees looking over seeds and cuttings at the January seed & cutting exchange event at the PCC. Turn to the next page to read about the upcoming March 17 event.

Chapter Elections – Vote in May

May is Chapter elections month. In May our Chapter members will vote for Chapter officers. **Members will**

receive an email on or about **May 8** containing information on how to vote online. **Please vote by May 15.** Read on for how to make sure your membership's email address is up to date, how to request a paper ballot if that's your preference, learn about the candidates and other voting details.

Candidates identified by the Chapter Leadership Development Committee (LDC) for elected positions will be placed on the ballot without needing to self-nominate. Current members who wish to run for office can self-nominate by filling out the appropriate form at www.cnps-scv.org/self-nomination by **April 15**. People who know Chapter members who would make good candidates should encourage them to follow the process for self-nomination. Each candidate will be required to provide a brief statement for members to consider when voting.

The LDC is particularly interested in identifying candidates for the position of Vice President. The role consists largely of responsibility for any Chapter-related tasks the incumbent chooses to work on. Given the variety of Chapter activities, there will always be several areas of interest to choose from. The VP learns more about what is going on in the Chapter and becomes better acquainted with members who make the Chapter effective. The VP assumes the President's duties when necessary, primarily chairing an occasional monthly meeting of the Chapter board.

The May-June issue of the *Blazing Star* will contain information about the candidates.

On or about **May 8** each Chapter membership will receive a notice sent to the email address shown in the membership portal on www.cnps.org at secure2.convio.net/cnps/site/UserLogin with information about how to vote. Please log in and **check your email address before May 1** to be sure you receive voting instructions.

To vote, members should use the link contained in the voting announcement email, which will take them to a site listing all candidates for each office along with their statements. Vote for only one candidate for each position.

Polls will open on May 8 and close on May 15. Election results will be announced during the last week of May.

Memberships lacking email can request a paper ballot by contacting the LDC Chair. **Paper ballots** should be returned to the Chapter office, postmarked no later than May 15, and received no later than May 24.

Questions concerning the online voting procedure or the self-nomination process should be directed to Stephen Buckhout, Chair of the Leadership Development Committee, stephen@yscottie.com or (408) 255-6233.

**Seed & Cutting Exchange
+ Plant Sale Pickup
Sunday, March 17**

Seed and Cutting Exchange

Propagation of native plants is a year-round activity, and our Wildflower Ambassadors are working to offer Seed and Cutting Exchanges more frequently. Our next one will be on **Sunday, March 17 from 1:00 to 3:00pm at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto.** This free event provides an opportunity to share and receive both seeds and cuttings of native plants. Browse the diverse offerings, ranging from easy-to-grow to hard-to-find, and go home with seeds and cuttings of new native plants! We will provide coin envelopes for seeds but bring containers to carry cuttings home.

If you have native plant material from your own garden to share, please bring some. Label your cuttings to make them easy to browse – some gardeners attach helpful hints about growing; others display photos of plants in bloom. You may find it convenient to use calscape.org for this – there is a link on each plant's information page to make a printable sign for most native species and cultivars.

If you bring cuttings, keep them cool and moist in a bucket of water. Don't have native plant material to share? No problem, as there is usually enough for all.

Several popular gardening books will be available for sale during the event, including *Seed Propagation of Native California Plants* (2021 ed.), by Dara E. Emery; *California Native Plants for the Garden* by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien; and *California Native Gardening, A Month-by-Month Guide* by Helen Popper.

Our Wildflower Ambassadors will be giving out free seed packets and information as well.

Limited Online Plant Sale

There will be an online plant sale at california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter.square.site, **starting at 9:00am on Sunday, March 10.** We will be offering plants that do well under oaks – irises, honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*), strawberries (*Fragaria*) and more. The store will close when we reach our pickup capacity. In addition to plants, the nursery's online store includes Chapter T-shirts, books, labels and plant signs.

Orders from this sale will only be available for pickup before and during our Seed Exchange at the Peninsula Conservation Center on Sunday, March 17. **We will not have nursery pickup or delivery, and there is a minimum order of \$40.**



Vivian Neou

Native plant cuttings in water and labeled, at our January Seed and Cutting Exchange, ready for attendees to select and take home for their own gardens

Call for Volunteers

We need help with setup, answering questions and cleanup for the seed and cutting exchange and plant sale pickup.

The tasks don't require expert knowledge of plants, and the shifts are set up to spend time at the event in addition to volunteering. You can sign up here: www.cnps-scvc.org/seed-cutting-help.

Directions to the PCC: (3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto) From Hwy. 101 take the San Antonio Rd. exit and head north. Take the next left onto East Bayshore, which will curve left then right. Take the first right onto

Corporation Way, and an immediate left into the PCC parking lot. The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

Wildflower Show Saturday, April 27

Our Chapter will hold its 49th annual Wildflower Show on Saturday, April 27th from **9:30am to 4:00pm** at **West Valley College in Saratoga**. The show's theme is *Bringing Biodiversity Home*. This family-friendly event features hundreds of native wildflowers and plants on display as well as a variety of activities for all ages. The event and parking are all free to the public.

A wealth of talks will be offered during the show. Our keynote speaker is Bart O'Brien, Director of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden (RPBG) and one of the authors of *California Native Plants for the Garden*. Other talks and workshops will offer the opportunity to learn about gardening for bees and birds, bioblitzes, wildflower arrangements, macrophotography and more.

Attendees will also be able to take tours of the Vasona Creek Restoration Project and the Biology Department's Moon Garden. A selection of native plants and native plant art, T-shirts, books and other related goods will be available for purchase. A SOD (Sudden Oak Death) Blitz Station will be available at the show for people who would like to participate in the 2024 SOD Blitz. This is your opportunity to participate in this important citizen science effort to understand and control this deadly disease that threatens our oak trees. More information is available at nature.berkeley.edu/matteolab/?page_id=148.



Vivian Neou

Attendees examining native plant specimens at one of the plant tables at the Chapter's 2023 Wildflower Show

West Valley College is located at 14000 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga, CA. For more information see the schedule at www.cnps-scv.org/wfs.



Vivian Neou

Volunteers preparing tables of plant specimens for the 2023 Wildflower Show at West Valley College

Volunteers Needed for Wildflower Show

Our show depends on volunteers. We are looking for help on Friday before the show and Saturday on show day:

- Show set-up
- Transport of items to and from our PCC office
- Plant runner
- Table tidy-up
- Greeter
- Assist with book sales
- Show take-down

If you'd like to help, please sign up at www.cnps-scv.org/volunteer-wfs or contact Toni Gregorio-Bunch at tidytip.lp@gmail.com or (408) 373-4497.

We are happy to accept your **used books** to sell at the show. Contact Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com by **Monday, April 22** if you have books to donate.

Volunteer Spotlight Award:

Lars Rosengreen

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter is pleased to present its Volunteer Spotlight Award to Lars Rosengreen.

Lars Rosengreen is the Greenhouse Manager and Curator of the Sharsmith Herbarium at San Jose State University's Biological Sciences Department. He contributes to the Chapter nursery in a consistent and critically important manner. He has been sterilizing pots for the nursery since 2018. He has saved thousands of dollars in new pot

purchases and allowed the reuse of pots that would otherwise have ended up in landfill.

“He found out how much we were struggling to sterilize pots and offered to do it for us,” recalls Nursery Manager Vivian Neou. “All we have to do is let him know when we have a batch of pots that need to be sterilized, and he stops by to pick them up ... and then returns them to the nursery. ... It's like magic, since he takes care of the drop off and pickup – all we have to do is send email.”

Lars has made a significant contribution by taking up one simple task and doing it consistently and reliably over a period of time. It is simple tasks like these performed by our many volunteers that keep the chapter functioning and operating for the benefit of the wider community. Thank you, Lars!



Priya Pharate

Lars Rosengreen receiving the Chapter's Volunteer Spotlight Award from Chapter Co-President Vivian Neou at our January Native Plant Talk

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Talks

Join us for our native plant talks, in-person at local libraries and online via Zoom and YouTube. Whether you're curious about native plants, an experienced or aspiring native plant gardener, a professional botanist or beginning naturalist, you will find something to interest and educate you in our offerings. From gardening to plant science to climate change to tours of botanical hot spots, there's something here for you. If you have a favorite speaker or a

topic that you would like to see as part of our series, please send your suggestion to info@cnps-scv.org.

Our virtual talks are livestreamed simultaneously to Zoom and YouTube. View talks on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@CNPSSantaClaraValley (no registration needed) or join on Zoom by registering at the Zoom link provided in each lecture's description. Most of our upcoming talks are listed below. We occasionally schedule additional talks – for the current list of upcoming talks please see our website (cnps-scv.org) or join our Chapter's News email group for a weekly update on upcoming activities.

Recordings of our virtual talks and some of our library talks may be viewed on our YouTube channel.

The organizing committee has periodic meetings on Zoom and welcomes new volunteers. If you have ideas for future talks or are interested in helping set up upcoming talks, please send a message to Priya Pharate at priya4cnps@gmail.com to receive notifications of upcoming meetings.

Ten Easy Steps to Creating a Bird-Friendly Garden, a talk by Brian Dirking

Tuesday, March 5 6:00 - 7:30 PM, Pacifica Library, Sharp Park, 104 Hilton Way, Pacifica

There are few things more rewarding than drawing birds to your garden and providing all the elements they need to survive and raise their young. For many gardeners, just a few simple changes can make all the difference. In this talk, we'll take a look at gardening from a bird's perspective and then delve into the ten elements that can transform your garden into a bird paradise. Attendees will receive a free packet of California native wildflowers that benefit birds that they can try out in their own gardens.

Brian Dirking has loved gardening from an early age, helping his grandmother in her backyard and nurturing her prizewinning African violets. For much of his adult life he dedicated his leisure time to fruit and vegetable gardening, and maintaining a healthy lawn.



But in 2020 he realized that he could save time, money and the planet by converting most of his yard to a native habitat garden. Inspired by Doug Tallamy's *Nature's Best Hope*, he has planted hundreds of California native plants in his small San Carlos garden to create a lush and vibrant oasis that feeds bees, butterflies, birds and more! Now that he is freed from the tyranny of lawn maintenance and expense, you can find him lounging in a hammock listening to birdsong and admiring year-round blooms and berries in his garden.

You can visit Brian's garden on the Growing Natives Garden Tour on Saturday, April 13, 2024. Register for the tour at nggt.org.

**Create a Pollinator Paradise
in Your Garden,
a talk by Jennifer Dirking**

Wednesday, March 6 6:00 - 7:30 PM, Foster City Library, 1000 E. Hillsdale Blvd., Foster City

Pollinators are essential for a thriving garden ecosystem, but often cannot access all of the elements they need to flourish and raise the next generation. Learn how you can create a beautiful low water "paradise" for bees, butterflies and other pollinators in your garden, and boost your fruit and vegetable yields in the process. Attendees will receive a free packet of California native wildflowers for pollinators to try out in their own gardens.



Jennifer Dirking has been an organic gardener for over 40 years, but only recently transformed her garden from a food desert to a habitat oasis in her suburban San Carlos neighborhood. Inspired by Doug Tallamy's book *Nature's Best Hope*, she has reached beyond her garden fence to develop

partnerships and inspire hundreds of others throughout the Bay Area to begin their own native gardening journey. Her simple tactics involving free wildflower seeds and promotion via social media provide a model for other individuals and organizations that want to reach further into their communities as well. She is currently the Chair of the Wildflower Ambassador program at our CNPS Chapter.

Jennifer also manages the Native Plant Resource Teams' Pollinator Pathways Group, a program of the Bringing

Back the Natives Garden Tour. You can visit Jennifer's garden on the Growing Natives Garden Tour on Saturday, April 13. Register for the tour at nggt.org.



Jennifer Dirking
California pyrausta moth on sulfur buckwheat at a Danville, CA garden, May 2023

**Bring Your Garden to Life
with California Native Plants,
a talk by Vivian Neou**

Thursday, March 7 6:00 - 7:30 PM, Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton

Presented again by Jennifer Dirking:

Monday, March 11 6:00 - 7:30 PM, San Carlos Library, 610 Elm St., San Carlos

Presented again by Vivian Neou:

Monday, March 18 6:00 - 7:30 PM, Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Rd., Woodside

Is your garden a "bar" that only offers nectar to adult butterflies but no food for their offspring? Do the birds and bees visiting your garden have everything they need to raise the next generation? By growing California native plants that feed your local ecosystem, you can:

- Attract more bees, butterflies, birds and other wildlife to your garden
- Help save local species that are in decline
- Enjoy a lush, low water landscape
- Engage with neighbors to build back habitat throughout your community

Join us for this lively discussion as we explore the best California native plants for boosting biodiversity in our gardens and beyond. Attendees will receive a free packet of California native wildflowers to try out in their own gardens.

Vivian Neou is the Board President of the California Native Plant Society. She is a retired software executive. She became interested in native plants after she retired and became a docent with the Midpeninsula Open Space District. She's the Co-President of our Chapter of CNPS and manages the Chapter's nursery. Vivian enjoys leading hikes for



Midpeninsula Open Space District, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve and Edgewood Park & Natural Preserve.

**Easy to Grow Native Plants
for the Home Garden,
a talk by Patricia Evans**

**Thursday, March 14 7:00 – 8:30 PM, Cupertino
Library Community Room (2nd Floor), 10800 Torre
Ave., Cupertino**

Have you been told that native plants are dry and brown, hard to find, hard to grow, fire-prone or expensive? In this talk, landscape designer Patricia Evans will bust these myths and more. She will explain the many benefits of growing native plants and show pictures of the best native annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees suited for a home garden. She will also explain how to plant and water to ensure success. There will be a free opportunity drawing for door prizes of native plants.

Patricia Evans is a retired garden designer who specialized in native plants and sustainable landscapes. She graduated from the Foothill College Ornamental Horticulture program and served on the boards of directors of Gamble Garden and the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. She also taught "Garden Design for Homeowners" for Palo Alto Adult Education.



**Ten Easy Steps to Creating a Bird-Friendly Garden,
a talk by Brian Dirking**

**Wednesday, March 20 6:00 - 7:30 PM, Belmont
Library, 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont**

Presented again by Jennifer Dirking:

**Thursday, March 21 6:00 - 7:30 PM, Millbrae Library,
1 Library Ave., Millbrae**

See the earlier talks for description and speaker bio.

**Where to Find Wildflowers
in the Bay Area
a talk by Judy Fenerty**

Thursday, March 21 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Zoom registration: www.cnps-scvc.org/npls-20240321

Join us for an informal discussion about our favorite places to see wildflowers in the chapter area and around the Bay. Bring your suggestions and questions, let's share ideas for the best trails and parks to appreciate our local floral diversity!



Judy Fenerty

Enjoying photography at Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch
County Park Chapter field trip, April 2022

Judy Fenerty is a past president of our CNPS Chapter and a member of our Chapter's field trip committee.

**Create a Pollinator Paradise
in Your Garden,
a talk by Brian Dirking**

**Tuesday, March 26 6:00 - 7:30 PM, Brisbane Library,
163 Visitacion Ave., Brisbane**

See the earlier talks for description and speaker bio.



Arvind Kumar

Hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*), a magnet for pollinators such as bees, butterflies and – hummingbirds – in a San Jose garden, April 2009

**Ten Easy Steps to Creating a Bird-Friendly Garden,
a talk by Vivian Neou**

**Thursday, March 28 6:00 - 7:30 PM, East Palo Alto Library,
2415 University Ave., East Palo Alto**

See the earlier talks for description and speaker bio.

**Ten Easy Steps to Creating a Bird-Friendly Garden,
a talk by Jennifer Dirking**

**Tuesday, April 2 6:00 - 7:00 PM, Half Moon Bay Library,
620 Correas St., Half Moon Bay**

See the earlier talks for description and speaker bio.

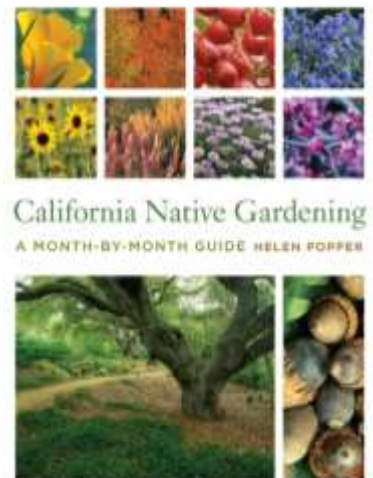
**California Native Gardening
Month by Month,
a talk by Helen Popper**

**Thursday, April 4 6:00 - 7:30 PM, Portola Valley Library,
765 Portola Rd., Portola Valley**

California native gardening follows its own seasonal rhythm, which starts in the fall with the arrival of the rainy season. By learning to capitalize on this free irrigation and understanding the times when various native plants bloom, fruit and go to seed, savvy gardeners can boost biodiversity, save water, and enjoy a lush native garden year round. Attendees will receive a free packet of California native wildflowers with a long bloom season to try out in their own gardens.

Helen Popper is the author of *California Native Gardening, A Month-by-Month Guide*.

Combining delightful prose and beautiful photography, she has collected the insights of dedicated professional and amateur native gardeners into this treasured guide for native gardeners throughout the state. This publication has earned her the honor of being selected as one of the ten best garden authors of California by Live Outside.



**The Beauty and Complexity of Evolution:
Manzanitas as the Example,
a talk by Tom Parker**

**Tuesday, April 16 7:00 – 8:30 PM, Los Altos Library Orchard Room,
13 S. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos**

Manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos*, Ericaceae family) have proliferated in California's Mediterranean climate in multiple ways. Tom will introduce you to the diversity of this group, and then focus on two stories. The first story is where manzanitas come from, so we will examine the history of a small subfamily, the *Arbutoideae*, of the blueberry/rhododendron/heath family (Ericaceae). Most of the genera in this subfamily occur in California, but only

two are in northern California. This history leads into the second story, how manzanitas have captured mutualists, rodents such as chipmunks and chaparral mice, that bury fruits that help them survive our fires.



Tom Parker

Young leaves on hoary manzanita (*Arctostaphylos canescens*) in bloom, April 2022

Tom Parker, Professor of Biology Emeritus, taught at San Francisco State University for 40 years before retiring from teaching. He was educated at the University of Texas (B.A.) and the University of California, Santa Barbara (M.A., Ph.D.). He is principally an evolutionary ecologist who works mainly in tidal wetlands and chaparral. He is the principal author of the treatment for *Arctostaphylos* in *Flora of North America* and *The Jepson Manual*, 2nd Ed.

Photography Group

Our Photography Group is a great place to meet other native plant enthusiasts while improving your photographic skills and learning more about our native plants. It is open to all. The group has monthly meetings and an active email list.

The group has an ongoing **#MyPhotoOfTheWeek** activity on the email list for group members to share their favorite shots with the group on a weekly basis. Photo Group member Charley Pow sent us the above (upper right) **#MyPhotoOfTheWeek** taken at his home garden in Los

Altos. He found butterflies feasting on his manzanita flowers after heavy rains in early February.

He adds: Manzanitas have evolved to bloom and pollinate during our wet winter -- their flowers have an inverted bell to protect the pollen from rain. Manzanitas provide winter food for pollinators and are pollinated before the competition of the more attractive spring flowers.



Charley Pow

Red admiral butterfly (*Vanessa atalanta*) on a Dr. Hurd manzanita

The photo group's meetings take place over Zoom, for members to share photos and more – everything from photography tips to organizational ideas to plant hot spots.

The next meetings will be on **Fridays, March 22 and April 19 at 7:00pm**. (Note the **April meeting is one week earlier** than usual, to accommodate those who will help set up on April 26 for the Chapter's Wildflower Show.) You can learn more and join the email group at: www.groups.io/g/cnps-scv-photography.

Native Plant ID

Keying with Natives is being revived as **Native Plant ID**. We will meet once a month to work together to learn plant identification using botanical keys and other resources. Join us as we look at plant samples collected from local gardens and practice methods of identifying the native plants of our region. Bring in plant samples if you have some (from property where you have permission to collect) or just come and work with the materials provided.

We will use a variety of plant books and online resources as we endeavor to improve our understanding of botanical terms used in plant identification. The Chapter has 10x hand lenses and dissecting microscopes that we can use to look at small plant parts or bring your own lens. Also bring any of the following reference books that you have:

The Jepson Manual, 2nd Edition, Willis Linn Jepson, available in hardcover or digital version

Pacific States Wildflowers, Theodore F. Niehaus and Charles L. Rippe

A Sierra Nevada Flora, Norman F. Weeden

Spring Wildflowers of the San Francisco Bay Region and Flora of the Mount Hamilton Range, Helen K. Sharsmith

Wildflowers of the West, Mabel Crittenden and Dorothy Telfer

Plant Identification Terminology, An Illustrated Glossary, by James G. Harris and Melinda Woolf Harris, 2nd Edition

Native Plant ID meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Peninsula Conservation Center, 3921 E Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. Our next meetings will **start at 7:00pm, on March 26 and April 23**. For details, contact Janet Hoffmann at janet@cnps-scv.org.

Wildflower Ambassadors

The Wildflower Ambassador (WFA) program is going strong and is expanding. It has grown to 43 members and has distributed 4,107 wildflower seed packets to date. This past fall, members Lucy Tompkin and Cathy Cakebread hosted tables at the Jewish Sustainability Faire in Los Altos and at our Chapter's Fall Plant Sale. Both events were heavily attended and WFAs gave out 775 seed packets and handouts in just two days!

Wildflower Ambassadors have also tabled at all of the library talks and at last January's Seed and Cutting exchange at the Peninsula Conservation Center. The WFAs will take the lead in organizing future Seed and Cutting Exchanges, with the next one scheduled on **March 17** (learn more on page 9).

In addition to distributing seeds and information at events, Wildflower Ambassadors really enjoy the conversations they have with attendees, many of them new to native gardening.

Group members also have the opportunity to participate in field trips, where they enjoy learning more about native plants by visiting gardens and hearing from those who were instrumental in creating the gardens. The WFAs visited the native plant garden at Bol Park in Palo Alto for a tour and seed gathering activity with Melanie Cross, one of the garden's founders, and many stayed for a seed packing party afterwards.



Jennifer Dirking

Wildflower Ambassadors Deb Hiraki, Cathy Cakebread, and Amy Wong answer questions at the WFA table at last January's Seed and Cutting Exchange

Want to become a Wildflower Ambassador? Everyone is welcome and you can learn more about it here:

www.cnps-scv.org/WFA. Then sign up at cnps-scv-groups.groups.io/g/WFA.

Blazing Star Mailing Party April 23

The Chapter's newsletter, the *Blazing Star*, is sent electronically to all its members every two months. These days, the Chapter does not usually send out paper copies. But when we do, we need all the help we can get to prepare them for mailing.

Our next paper copy is going to be the May-June 2024 newsletter. The mailing party for this event will be held on **Tuesday, April 23**. We'll work together, with setup starting at **9:00am and we'll finish by 2:30pm**. We need help to label and stamp the copies, as well as to set up and clean up the room. Please **sign up for a task** by using the SignUpGenius link below. Snacks, drinks and tales of our own CNPS adventures will be provided.

www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F49A9A729AAF0D-46821178-blazing

The mailing party will be held in the Raptor suite meeting room downstairs at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), located at 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For driving directions see them at the bottom of page 9.

Editor's note: This event is a postponement of the February 29 mailing party described in the previous issue of this newsletter. Our January-February issue was published as a PDF, here: www.cnps-scv.org/about-us/blazing-star-newsletter.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Recipients 2023-2024

By Patricia Lang, Scholarship Committee Chair

For the second year in a row, the CNPS SCV Board increased its investment in deserving graduate and undergraduate students working on California's native plants and ecosystems, giving out a total of \$15,000 distributed across eight individual scholarships.

These scholarships are funded from members' donations, nursery sales and targeted donations to support the Sally Casey Shooting Stars Scholarship and the Don Mayall Conservation Scholarship.

The recipients of the 2023-2024 student scholarships and their exciting projects follow. See future issues of the *Blazing Star* for more information on their research and dates for the scholarship winners to give short presentations.

Donald Mayall Conservation Research Scholarship Winner - \$3,000 **Matthew Yamamoto**, Claremont Graduate University, in partnership with the California Botanic Garden "A Flora of the McGee Creek Watershed, Mono County, California"

Sally Casey Shooting Stars Graduate Research Scholarship Winner - \$3,000 **Rebecca Wynd**, UC Davis "Assessing the Impact of Grazing and Fire Disturbances on Native Forb Diversity and Abundance in a California Grassland"

Graduate Research Scholarship Winner - \$1,500 **Bradley Speno**, San Jose State University "Alameda Song Sparrow Habitat Use as an Indicator of Salt Pond Restoration"

Graduate Research Scholarship Winner - \$1,500 **David Mitchell**, UC Davis "Improving Restoration Success and *Phytophthora* Disease Protection for Native Trees and Shrubs in Historically-Grazed Riparian Zones"

Graduate Research Scholarship Winner - \$1,500 **Mojgan Mahdizadeh**, San Jose State University "Post-fire Response of Redwood Forest in the Santa Cruz Mountain Subregion"

Graduate Research Scholarship Winner - \$1,500 **Cecilia Girvin**, UC Santa Cruz "The Role of Sexual Conflict in Hermaphroditic Floral Evolution"

Undergraduate Research Scholarship Winner - \$1,500 **Chrysanthe Frangos**, Stanford University "Long-Term Impacts of Nurse Plants on Sapling Performance in California Oak Savannas"

Undergraduate Research Scholarship Winner - \$1,500 **Joseph Cusenza**, UC Santa Cruz "The Role of Plasticity and Pollinators on the Expression and Evolution of Floral Longevity"

GROWING NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

22nd Annual GNGT Saturday April 13 and Sunday April 14 10am - 4pm Each Day

The Growing Natives Garden Tour (GNGT) is a free, self-guided tour of gardens within our Chapter area that feature a minimum of 70% California native plants. All are welcome to attend but advance registration is required in order to receive garden addresses. These tour gardens are attractive, water-wise and low maintenance. They also use a minimum of chemicals and provide habitat havens for birds, butterflies and pollinators. California's native plant gardens increase wildlife corridors in fragmented habitats, preserve our natural ecosystem and promote biodiversity in our built environments. They help restore nature, one garden at a time! Native plant tours provide inspiration and information for native gardeners, designers and growers.



Nearly 50 of our home and public gardens landscaped with California native plants will be open to the public for in-person tours on **Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14, from 10:00am to 4:00pm**. On Saturday, registered visitors may tour the gardens in these northern Chapter locations: Los Altos, Mountain View, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Mateo, San Carlos and

Sunnyvale. On Sunday, registered visitors may tour the gardens in these southern Chapter locations: Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Gatos, Morgan Hill, San Jose, Santa Clara and Saratoga.

If you can't attend in person on tour days, you can visit online anytime at gngt.org, which has a page for each garden including descriptions, photos, videos and plant lists.

Admission to participate in GNGT is free, but registration is required at gngt.org to obtain tour maps with garden addresses. Register for the tour early to ensure access to late breaking information. Only one person per group needs to register.

Help spread the word! Print or post the GNGT flyer from here: gngt.org/GNGT/Pressroom.php.



Madeline Morrow

GNGT volunteers pre-tour the native Moon Garden at West Valley College. This garden is an outdoor classroom designed to showcase nocturnal native plants. The flowers are predominantly white and yellow.
January 2024.

Call for Volunteers on April 13 and 14

The 2024 Growing Natives Garden Tour is seeking volunteers for our 22nd tour, which will take place on Saturday, April 13 (Northern Gardens) and Sunday, April 14 (Southern Gardens). The tour hours are **10:00am to 4:00pm** each day.

As a volunteer you will help to educate garden visitors about the pleasures and benefits of gardening with California native plants. Volunteers also receive a custom designed T-shirt featuring a California native plant and are invited to attend GNGT garden previews throughout the year. We ask volunteers to select a minimum of one half-day shift. Knowledge of native plants is not required, as we have shifts for both greeters and docents.

There will be a virtual, pre-tour orientation on **Thursday, March 28 at 7:00pm**, with more details to be provided to registered volunteers. There will be about 50 gardens to select from. To volunteer for the 2024 tour please complete the volunteer sign-up form at gngt.org/volunteerForm.php.

Help spread the word! Print or post the GNGT call for volunteers flyer from here: www.cnps-scv.org/images/flyers/gngt-call-for-volunteers2024.pdf. The tour takes place entirely outdoors.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Committee

Our Chapter's next Conservation Committee meetings will be held via Zoom on **Tuesdays, March 12 and April 9, from 7:00 to 8:30pm**.

This committee covers many issues affecting native plants: conservation, advocacy, legislation, habitat restoration and rare plants. The committee meets once a month to provide information and support for these conservation issues and efforts. Members of our committee work on projects throughout the Chapter area, coordinating with our state CNPS program staff and other conservation organizations.

Please join us in our important work! For questions, comments or concerns, contact Committee Chair Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch@cnps-scv.org or (650) 804-6162, or Conservation Chair Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com. If you are interested in joining our committee meetings on Zoom, please email Carolyn for the link.

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Alum Rock Park Restoration

Come help us weed out invasive plants at this natural gem of San Jose. Our habitat restoration efforts allow the native plants to "come to light."

Our workdays take place every **Monday and Wednesday, from 8:30am to about noon**. Sometimes we have special extra workdays.

No experience is necessary. All tools and instruction will be provided. Please bring a filled water bottle and snacks; wear closed toe shoes and long pants. Note that Alum Rock Park is now open for public use, though parking is limited and several trails are still closed.

Forms and **reservations** are required to volunteer. For more information, including meeting location, contact Stephen Rosenthal at sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or (650) 260-3450.

Lake Cunningham Native Garden

The California Native Garden project in Lake Cunningham Regional Park controls invasive plants in a 2-acre area and beautifies it with California native wildflowers, perennials, shrubs and trees.

Workdays take place on **Saturdays from 8:00 to 10:00am**. New volunteers are welcome; City-issued guidelines are followed. The work depends on the season, mainly weeding and mulching year-round, but some planting in winter. For **details, directions and to RSVP**, see our Chapter's Meetup page at www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter.

Edgewood Restoration

Help restore habitat at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, known for fabulous wildflowers and amazing diversity near Redwood City. Weeders see far more than weeds: we get to be up close to the native plants, some of which are seen **only** by weeders.

Sturdy gloves are recommended; you might also want to bring sunscreen, water, a hat, layered clothing and wear long sleeves/pants.

We weed year-round **every Friday at 9:00am**. With the return of Daylight Savings Time, our **5:30pm Wednesday sessions will resume on March 13**. For an overview, please visit www.cnps-scv.org/restoration/edgewood-park.

To participate, join the email list and sign the electronic volunteer

agreement, by sending an email to weed-warriors-coord@friendsofedgewood.org.

Please check the email list for each weeding session's meeting place. If you still have questions about Wednesday sessions, contact Alf Fengler at afengler@pacbell.net. Or for questions about Friday sessions, contact Paul Heiple at pheiple@gmail.com or (650) 854-7125.

Cataldi Park Native Garden

Join us to restore habitat in San Jose's Cataldi Park. We mulch, plant, weed, water and otherwise care for the native plants we've planted in this newly created native garden. Wear a hat and garden shoes and bring water to stay hydrated. Work gloves will be provided.

First-timers: Please bring a signed waiver form available at lakecunninghamnativegarden.files.wordpress.com/2022/01/2021-volunteer-service-agreement-adoptapark-version.pdf.

Workdays are usually held at **9:00am on Saturdays**. If you're interested in volunteering, check the dates and sign



Two Garden Kits



One Grassland Kit



CA Phacelia in Tree Band



Tray of Plant Plugs in Grassland Kit



CA Phacelia from Plug Tray

FREE Xerces Pollinator and Habitat Kits, used to help start Cataldi and Kirk Park native gardens. See next page to learn more.

Kathy Kleinstiber

up at our Chapter’s Meetup page, at www.meetup.com/california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter/.

Workdays are sometimes rescheduled or canceled. Always RSVP to confirm and check the latest updates Friday night. If you can’t make it, please change your RSVP so we know and wait-listers get a chance.

Kirk Park Pollinator Garden

Community volunteers regularly care for this native plant garden at Kirk Park in San Jose. We are always happy to have help at the garden! **We meet regularly on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00am**, weather permitting, for light maintenance such as weeding and watering. We are also continuing to remove invasive weeds near the garden.

If you would like to help out, please let us know by sending email to KirkParkGardens@gmail.com. Occasionally, a workday is canceled, so please be sure to email before coming by.

Birds and Blossoms at Kirk Park
February 5, 2024



American Crow



Julia Phelps Ceanothus



Cedar Waxwing



Sentinel Manzanita



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Valley Violet Ceanothus

FREE Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Kits

Would you like to start or expand a pollinator garden at a school or public park? Would you like to plant pollinator plants on working lands, tribal lands or lands recovering from wildfires? Are you budget challenged? Are you unsure of what to plant? A Xerces Habitat Kit may be just what you need!

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation aims to help our struggling native bees and butterflies by providing high quality native California pollinator plants for qualifying projects. You provide the land and the labor, they provide the plants. Please note that the habitat kits are not available for use in home gardens.

To learn more about Xerces Habitat Kits, including types of kits and what is in them, who may apply for a kit, and timing and tips for writing a proposal, read the article here: www.cnps-scv.org/images/BlazingStar/xerces-pollinator-habitat-kits.pdf. **The deadline to apply this year is April 5.** The article’s author is Kathy Kleinsteiber, who gained first-hand knowledge about these kits as she established the Kirk Park Native Plant Pollinator Garden in San Jose.

FIELD TRIPS

Chapter field trips are free and generally open to the public. They are oriented to conservation, protection and

enjoyment of California native plants and wildlife, and we adhere to all rules and guidelines for the lands on which we are visiting.

In our region it is very important to be prepared for hiking on rugged and steep terrain, wide temperature ranges and rapidly changing conditions at any time of year. All participants should wear sturdy footwear and carry sufficient water, sun protection, food, clothing layers, personal first aid and other supplies you may need. If you have any questions about your ability to participate in a particular field trip, please contact the trip leader in advance.

Cell service is mainly restricted to cities and major highways. To find your way to an outing, please do not rely solely on your phone.

Check our field trips page www.cnps-scv.org/activities/field-trips for changes and cancellations, as well as information about newly added field trips.

For field trips listed here that require **reservations**, please visit our Chapter's **Meetup page**, here: www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/. We open the RSVPs one week before the event. Find your event within the page and tap/click the "Attend" button to reserve your spot.

Sun March 3 10:00am – 3:00pm Bug & Plant Identification Walk at Sierra Azul OSP

Plants and insects are at the very bottom of the food chain – many higher forms of life depend on them for survival. An intact native plant habitat supports a diverse insect population, which in turn feeds amphibians, reptiles, birds, small mammals and other animals. Learn to identify the common native plants and insects of our area with California naturalists Karan Gathani and Arvind Kumar on a guided walk through Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, the largest and southernmost preserve in the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Note: The February 4 version of this trip was postponed due to rain.

We will hike the Woods Trail with spectacular views of Mt. Hamilton and the valley floor. Expect to see coast live oak, madrone, California bay, bigleaf maple, buckeye, big berry manzanita, toyon, coffeeberry, cream bush, chamise, mountain mahogany, and sticky monkeyflower. We may encounter butterflies, bees, beetles, grasshoppers, flies, spiders and ants.

The elevation gain is 600 ft; the distance covered is 5.4 miles round trip.

All interested in plant and insect identification are welcome; prior knowledge of botany or entomology is helpful but not required.

Wear good walking/hiking shoes. Bring a sack lunch and plenty of fluids. Drinking water is not available in the preserve. We also suggest bringing a hat, sunscreen; and optionally, a hand lens and smartphone camera. We expect to return to the parking lot by **3:00pm**.

Space is limited. No drop-ins please. **To complete the required RSVP**, please visit our [Chapter's Meetup page](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/). Driving directions and parking tips are provided on the Meetup page. We'll meet at the Woods Trail trailhead at **10:00am** – search for Google pin: "Sierra Azul Parking Lot at Jacques Ridge."

Sun Mar 10 9:00am – 1:00pm Stile Ranch Trail (South San Jose)

Join Dee and Ken Himes for a 3 to 4-mile early spring wildflower hike to Stile Ranch, on the south side of Santa Teresa County Park, through serpentine grasslands and chaparral. This will be a great trip for those who are interested in plants and flowers that are endemic to the serpentine soil profile and seeps and also for those who are new to field trips and native plants.

On this hike we expect to see in bloom California plantain, California gilia, woodland shooting star, California buttercups, a variety of lomatiums and sanicles and maybe more, given the additional precipitation we had in February. We will also see leather oak and black salvias.



Dee Shea Himes

Chapter field trip participants on Fortini Trail in Stile Ranch, April 2019

The hike will be moderate in intensity. We are starting earlier in the day to beat the heat as it gets pretty HOT, and there's no overhead shade until we get to the Fortini Trail. Bring extra water, snacks and a bag lunch; we also recommend wearing a wide brim hat and bringing walking stick(s).

This trip is limited to 20 people, due to narrow trails. No drop-ins please. **To complete the required RSVP**, please visit our [Chapter's Meetup page](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/). Driving directions and parking tips are provided on the Meetup page.

Sun Mar 17 9:00am – 12:00pm Bird and Plant ID Walk at Lake Cunningham Park (San Jose)

With the onset of spring, join us for a beginner's bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park. This lake is a major destination for waterfowl and migratory birds and its native garden draws many birds due

to its habitat value. On this walk, Vicki Silvas-Young will show you how to identify the common birds of our area, while Arvind Kumar will identify the native plants that they depend on for food and shelter.

The distance is 2 miles round-trip on a level path. Bring a hat, water, your bird and plant lists, and binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes. The parking fee is \$6.

Space is limited. No drop-ins please. **To complete the required RSVP**, please visit our [Chapter's Meetup page](#). Driving directions and parking tips are provided on the Meetup page. We'll meet at the Marina parking lot at **9:00am**. The parking fee is \$6.

This event is cosponsored by CNPS, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.



Nabeel Al-Shamma

A swath of birds-eye gilia found at Rancho Cañada del Oro, April 2019

Sat Mar 23 10:00am - 2:00pm Rancho Cañada del Oro OSP (Morgan Hill)

Explore the early spring wildflowers at Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve with Nabeel Al-Shamma and Divya Shenoy. We'll stroll a couple of miles along and up the Longwall Canyon Trail. On the way we'll see poppies, popcorn flowers, lomatium, purple sanicle, fiddleneck and more.

The hike will be about 4 miles long with 1000 ft. elevation change.

Wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots. Hiking poles are recommended. Bring snacks, a sack lunch, and liquids for the day. Dress in layers. Heavy rain cancels.

Space is limited. No drop-ins please. **To complete the required RSVP**, please visit our [Chapter's Meetup page](#). Driving directions and parking tips are provided on the Meetup page. For more information contact Nabeel Al-Shamma at nabeel4cnps@gmail.com.

Directions: We'll meet at the main parking lot, 4289 Casa Loma Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037. If full, there is overflow walking just up the road and it is a short walk back to the main lot.

Wed Apr 10 9:30am – 3:00pm Pinnacles National Park (Paicines)

Pinnacles National Park protects beautiful rock formations, cliffs and canyons and hosts a profusion of wildflowers. Join Nabeel Al-Shamma and Vicki Silvas-Young. We hope to see black sage, goldenstar, paintbrush, golden yarrow, dudleya, fringed onion, cobwebby thistle and maybe even bitterroot.

We'll head out from the Bear Gulch Parking Area and head up the High Peaks Trail. We'll take our time going up the steep part. At the top we'll have lunch and enjoy the views. Afterwards we'll return to the start.

This is a long and strenuous day. The hike will be 4 miles but with 1,500 ft of elevation change. Plus, it can take a good two hours or more to drive there from our Chapter area.



Nabeel Al-Shamma

Goldenstar (*Bloomeria crocea*) at Pinnacles NP, May 2023

Wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots. Hiking poles are recommended. Bring snacks, a sack lunch and liquids for

the day. Dress in layers. Consider binoculars for condor sightings. Heavy rain cancels. There may be an optional non-CNPS hike afterwards that will be focused on adding a few miles vs. observing.

Directions: We'll meet at the Pinnacles Park Store at the east side of the park. We'll drive together from there to the trailhead, as parking is limited. Note that phones will not work at the trailhead.

This hike is for CNPS members only. Please carpool, as parking is tight, even at the meeting spot. The National Park Entrance Fee is \$30 per car (or bring your pass if you have one).

To RSVP or for more information contact Nabeel Al-Shamma at nabeel4cnps@gmail.com.

Coming Soon

Discover the Vernal Pools in Your Own Backyard

A Series of Wildflower Tours in Fremont



Chuck Savadelis

A docent shows tour participants the Contra Costa goldfields edging a vernal pool, located within the Warm Springs Unit of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

The California Native Plant Society and the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge are pleased to present a **Discover the Vernal Pools in Your Own Backyard** series of wildflower tours at the Warm Springs Unit in Fremont. The series includes three tours occurring during the spring and early summer that'll highlight the many unique plants of the South Bay's largest vernal pool grasslands.



Richard Mooi

Flatface calicoflower (*Downingia pulchella*) blossoms frequent spring vernal pool floral displays at the Warm Springs Unit near Fremont, May 2019

Early spring blooms tour: This tour is for clover lovers and early season rare plant enthusiasts. The Warm Springs uplands harbor an abundance of *Trifolium* species. We'll seek out the more common species, such as white-tipped clover (*T. variegatum*), as well as the rare or unusual ones: saline clover (*T. hydrophilum*), bearded clover (*T. barbigerum*) and more. In addition, we'll target other rarities including American pillwort (*Pilularia americana*), alkali milkvetch (*Astragalus tener*) and alkali desertparsley (*Lomatium caruifolium*). Mousetail (*Myosurus* sp.) may also treat us to their peak season blooms.

Vernal pool blooms tour: View expansive rings of colorful blooms and pools filled with a tapestry of floral textures. We'll see species endemic to vernal pools such as the federally-endangered Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjugens*) and its *Downingia* partner at Warm Springs, flatface calicoflower (*D. pulchella*). Other botanical beauties include stalked popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys stipitatus*), the rare vernal pincushion plant (*Navarretia prostrata*), California eryngo (*Eryngium aristulatum*) and many more.

Late spring / early summer native plant community tour: At this time of year, the dry pools are dotted with saline tolerant, warm-season perennials such as alkali heliotrope (*Heliotropium curassavicum*) and alkali weed (*Cressa truxillensis*). Super bloomers like common spikeweed (*Centromadia pungens*) and alkali heath (*Frankenia salina*) display masses of flowers, providing important sources of nectar to pollinators. During this tour, we'll closely observe native plant community dynamics and learn about their value in diverse food chains. We'll also

seek out rare or unusual plants including Congdon's tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *congdonii*), San Joaquin spearscale (*Extriplex joaquinana*) and *Atriplex* species.

This is the first time this series of three tours is being offered. The tours provide an exclusive opportunity for CNPS members to experience the many floristic wonders of a site with limited public access. Members can sign-up for one or more tours, although space on each tour is limited, given the sensitivity of this habitat.

These walking tours will be led by Aidona Kakouros, USFWS botanist.

Tour dates will be announced around mid-March. Look for the dates, info on how to sign-up and any other pertinent details in a weekly Santa Clara Valley Chapter News list email. If not already receiving the list, subscribe by sending an email to: cnps-scv-news+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

Spring Wildflower Hikes at Edgewood

The Friends of Edgewood will kick off the 2024 spring wildflower season with a series of docent-led hikes starting on **Friday, March 1**. The hikes will be offered weekly on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through the end of May. FoE's expert docents share insights about Edgewood's extraordinary biodiversity and help visitors spot some of the dozens of different species that bloom throughout the season. Each week there is something new to discover!

The hikes typically cover about 3 miles and last about three hours, so there is plenty of time to stop and examine what you find along the trail. There will be options for starting from either the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center or the Clarkia Trailhead.

These hikes are best for adults and older children interested in learning more about the plants and animals that call Edgewood home. For families with young children, shorter, kid-friendly hikes will be offered on select Saturdays and Sundays.

The hikes are free, but you must register in advance on Eventbrite, at friendsofedgeswood.eventbrite.com. New hikes are typically added two weeks in advance, so check back throughout the season or follow Friends of Edgewood on Eventbrite to be notified when hikes are added. If you

have questions about the hikes, please email info@friendsofedgeswood.org.



Friends of Edgewood
Friends of Edgewood docents examine warrior's plume (*Pedicularis densiflora*) on a spring wildflower hike, April 2022

New Video About the Saving of Edgewood Park in 1993

Chapter member Carolyn Curtis was recently videotaped as she told the story of the fight to save Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve from development in 1991 to 1993. Carolyn is the founding president of Friends of Edgewood and the spokesperson and organizer of the Save Edgewood Park Coalition. She does a great job telling the story of how the Coalition saved Edgewood from development into a golf course and she even brought some of the original photos and other artifacts she saved from that time.



Friends of Edgewood invites us to watch the 23-minute video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1WTSLrhIs8.

Editor's note: Carolyn's tactical examples and techniques for informing and involving the public are inspiring. The saving Edgewood story can inform any political fight to improve the environment for everyone.

NEWSLETTER, ETC.

Stay in Touch!

Some late-breaking events don't make it into the newsletter and are announced electronically. Stay informed by making sure that your contact information is correct.

Please visit www.cnps-scv.org/stay-in-touch for information on how you can continue to receive email to stay informed.

This *Blazing Star* newsletter is published **mostly** online only, at: www.cnps-scv.org/blazing-star-newsletter. Our next online **and** paper version will be the 2024 May-June issue.

Please help us to mail out that issue by attending our **mailing party on Tuesday, April 23 at 9:00am**. For details, see the mailing party article on page 9.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP FOR 2023-2024

Title	Name	Email
Co-President	Radhika Thekkath	cnpsradhika@gmail.com
Co-President	Vivian Neou	techchair@cnps-scv.org
Vice President	Priya Pharate	priya4cnps@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Patricia Lang	secretary@cnps-scv.org
Treasurer	Brett Tucker	treasurer@cnps-scv.org
Chapter Council Delegate	Vivian Neou	techchair@cnps-scv.org

To see the full list of Chapter officers and chairs, please visit www.cnps-scv.org/leadership.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, April 6

carol.mattsson@gmail.com or (408) 309-8314

Santa Clara Valley Chapter California Native Plant Society
 3921 East Bayshore Road, Suite #205
 Palo Alto, CA 94303-4326



Join CNPS Today!

Members receive the *Artemisia* and *Flora* magazines, the Chapter newsletter and other benefits listed at www.cnps.org/membership.

I wish to affiliate with the Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Name _____

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Suggested Membership Amounts

\$50 \$75 \$120 \$500 \$1,000 Other (\$25 min.)

Send Membership Application to:
California Native Plant Society
Attn: Membership
2702 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5130

For memberships for organizations or to become a Perennial monthly sustainer, contact www.cnps.org.

FIRST-CLASS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Mar 1 Fri Edgewood Wildflower Walks begin (17)</p> <p>Mar 3 Sun Bug & Plant ID walk Sierra Azul OSP (14)</p> <p>Mar 5 Tue Bird-Friendly Gardens – B. Dirking (4)</p> <p>Mar 6 Wed Pollinator Paradise – J. Dirking (5)</p> <p>Mar 7 Thu Bring Your Garden to Life – Neou (5)</p> <p>Mar 10 Sun Plant Sale online store opens (2)</p> <p>Mar 10 Sun Stile Ranch hike (14)</p> <p>Mar 11 Mon Bring Your Garden to Life – J. Dirking (5)</p> <p>Mar 12 Tue Conservation Committee meeting (11)</p> <p>Mar 14 Thu Easy to Grow Native Plants – Evans (6)</p> <p>Mar 17 Sun Seed & Cutting Exch. + Plant Sale (2)</p> <p>Mar 17 Sun Bug & Plant ID walk Lake Cunningham (14)</p> <p>Mar 18 Mon Bring Your Garden to Life – Neou (5)</p> <p>Mar 20 Wed Bird-Friendly Gardens – B. Dirking (6)</p> <p>Mar 21 Thu Bird-Friendly Gardens – J. Dirking (6)</p> <p>Mar 21 Thu Where to Find Wildflowers – Fenerty (6)</p> <p>Mar 22 Fri Photo Group photo sharing (8)</p> <p>Mar 23 Sat Rancho Cañada del Oro hike (15)</p> <p>Mar 26 Tue Pollinator Paradise – B. Dirking (7)</p> <p>Mar 26 Tue Native Plant ID (8)</p> | <p>Mar 28 Thu Bird-Friendly Gardens – Neou (7)</p> <p>Apr 2 Tue Bird-Friendly Gardens – J. Dirking (7)</p> <p>Apr 4 Thu Native Gardening Monthly – Popper (7)</p> <p>Apr 6 Sat Newsletter submittal deadline</p> <p>Apr 9 Tue Conservation Committee meeting (11)</p> <p>Apr 10 Wed Pinnacles NP hike (15)</p> <p>Apr 13 Sat GNGT northern gardens (10)</p> <p>Apr 14 Sun GNGT southern gardens (10)</p> <p>Apr 15 Mon Election self-nomination deadline (1)</p> <p>Apr 16 Tue Evolution of Manzanitas – Parker (7)</p> <p>Apr 19 Fri Photo Group photo sharing (8)</p> <p>Apr 23 Tue Blazing Star newsletter mailing party (9)</p> <p>Apr 23 Tue Native Plant ID (8)</p> <p>Apr 27 Sat Wildflower Show (3)</p> <p>May 15 Wed Chapter Election voting deadline (1)</p> <p>Mon & Wed Alum Rock workdays (11)</p> <p>Wed & Fri Edgewood workdays (12)</p> <p>Saturdays Lake Cunningham workdays (12)</p> <p>Saturdays Cataldi Native Garden workdays (12)</p> <p>Wed & Sat Kirk Pollinator Garden workdays (13)</p> |
|--|---|

The next Chapter board meetings will be **Sunday, March 24 at 3:00pm** (in-person budget meeting at PCC) and **Thursday, April 11 at 7:00pm** over Zoom. Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests.

For more information contact Radhika Thekkath at cnpsradhika@gmail.com.

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California’s native plants. The Society, working with its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding and to preserve the rich heritage of the native flora for future generations. Membership is open to all. Individual memberships start at \$50.00 per year. If you have questions about your newsletter subscription, please contact info@cnps-scv.org. Address changes may be submitted to membership@cnps.org. Please put “address change” in the subject line.

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