



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

March-April 2017

SPRING WILDFLOWER SHOW

Saturday April 29 10am - 4pm
West Valley College
14000 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga

Our Chapter will hold its 43rd Wildflower Show on **April 29th from 10am - 4pm**. The show is co-sponsored by West Valley College and will be held in the biology building there. Hundreds of wildflowers and native plants will be on display. There will be talks covering a wide variety of topics, from wildflower family identification to habitat gardening. Tours of the Vasona Creek Restoration project and the native plant gardens at West Valley will also be offered. This family-friendly event will include activities for children. All activities and parking are free. A selection of native plants and native plant-related goods will be available for purchase.



page, or you can contact the volunteer coordinator, Toni Gregorio-Bunch at tonig@flash.net or (408) 373-4497.

More Spring Native Plant Events!

Going Native Garden Tour – April 22-23
(flyer enclosed & call for volunteers page 4)

Edgewood Wildflower Walks – March 4 - June 4
(flyer enclosed & visit friendsofedgewood.org/springtime-wildflower-walks)

Coastal Wildflower Day
Half Moon Bay – April 15 (page 4)

GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

Friday, March 17 at 7:30 PM
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

***Dudleya hendrixii* and Other New
Succulent Liveforevers**
A talk by Stephen McCabe

More information is available on the Chapter website at:
www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/events/wildflower-shows.

If you'd like to volunteer to help with the show, a signup link to SignUpGenius.com will be available on the above

Succulents, a hot topic in gardening circles, have brought new attention to California's dramatic native succulents, the dudleyas. Dudleya, aka liveforevers, are succulents that are widespread throughout coastal California, Baja California and the offshore islands. Many species are naturally rare and others have become endangered through coastal development or by having rabbits released into their island habitats.

Stephen McCabe, Emeritus Director of Research at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, has



Vivian Neou

Visitors examine the live plants and share activities at the kid's table, in a room of the 2016 Wildflower Show at West Valley College

been working on *Dudleya* for 33 years, naming two new species, the Munchkin *Dudleya* and Hendrix's liveforever. Publicity for the recently named Hendrix's liveforever went viral internationally. He will be naming other new, rare species in the next couple of years. His talk will also describe how to grow the native succulents in the home garden.

Stephen McCabe's horticultural career began in the early 1980s, when he studied under Ray Collett, the UCSC Arboretum's founding director. Steve earned his M.S. in Ecology and Systematic Botany at San Francisco State University, and joined the Arboretum's 2.5-person staff. Steve has also written numerous articles for local and national press. His photographs have appeared in several national publications and been included in several widely used textbooks. He has also written for popular periodicals, e.g., *Rock Garden Quarterly*, *Fine Gardening* and *Cactus and Succulent Journal*. He currently has a research position with the Environmental Studies Department at UCSC.

Directions: From Foothill Expy., travel ½ mile on San Antonio Rd. towards the Bay, cross Hillview and turn right into the driveway; library is on the left. From El Camino, travel towards the hills on San Antonio Rd., cross Edith and turn left into the unmarked driveway just before Hillview. The sign on San Antonio Rd.



Gerri Dayharsh

Stephen McCabe on difficult terrain photographing a rare *dudleya*

reads "Civic Center, Library and History Museum." Enter through the lobby of the main entrance.

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Chapter President Madeline Morrow at madelinemorrow@earthlink.net or the Chapter phone (650) 260-3450.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Nursery at Hidden Villa

Come help propagate plants for our plant sales by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions. Workdays are on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11am to 2pm**. Bring garden gloves, sun protection and a jacket. If you like, bring something to drink and eat. Knowledge of plants is not necessary – your willingness to help is all that is required.



Vivian Neou

Chapter members assemble newly purchased benches at the Chapter nursery. The stainless steel benches will keep plants off the ground, to prevent water transmission of the phytophthora pathogen.

Our next Monthly Member **Plant Sales** will be held on **Wednesdays, March 1 and April 5 from 11am - 2pm**. An inventory of available plants is updated the week before each sale. Visit cnps-scv.org go to Events, then Plant Sale.

For more information, contact Vivian Neou at techchair@cnps-scv.org or (650) 260-3450.

Directions: Hidden Villa is located on Moody Road west of Foothill College. From Hwy. 280 in Los Altos Hills, take the Moody Road exit and head west. Two miles west of Foothill College, look for the Hidden Villa sign and driveway on the left. Proceed over the bridge and park in the Dana Center parking lot to your right. Continue walking a short distance on that road and you will see the **Jean and David Struthers Native Plant Nursery** ahead of you, just past the Dana Center building. Parking is free while volunteering or attending a Member Sale.

Gardening with Natives

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes beginning and seasoned native plant gardeners, along with landscape architects and designers. GWN offers over 35 free talks throughout the year at public libraries in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. For more information, visit www.cnps-sev.org/index.php/gardening/gardening-with-natives.

These programs are made possible by co-sponsoring libraries and volunteers who help with program logistics. If you would like to help organize similar programming at a library near you, contact sdosaka@sustainable-landscape.com.

The Fab Four: Buckwheats, Sages, Manzanitas & Ceanothus, a talk by Pete Veilleux

Thursday, March 9, 7-8:30 PM, Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue, Cupertino (408) 446-1677

These four families of California native plants provide a wealth of drought-tolerant variety to your garden. Get to know a few of them and you'll have flower color and habitat all year. Buckwheat and sage species can be annuals, perennials or subshrubs, while Ceanothus and manzanitas are typically groundcovers, shrubs or small trees. Come hear about a few of the speaker's favorite members of these families. It'll be SO hard for him to choose just a few!

Pete Veilleux is a master designer, nurseryman, and photographer. He creates gardens using native plants for long-lasting landscapes and helps people get the maximum use and pleasure from their patch of earth. He is the owner and propagator of East Bay Wilds Native Plant Nursery (www.eastbaywilds.com/) in Oakland and a tireless advocate of native gardening and information.

Install-It-Yourself Native Garden, a talk by Deva Luna

Thursday, Mar 16, 7-8:30 PM, Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View (650) 903-6337

This is the second, yet stand-alone, class following the "Design-It-Yourself" talk in January. The speaker will cover the nuts and bolts of lawn removal, sheet mulching, soil percolation testing, transitioning to drip irrigation, plant acquisition and planting techniques. This lecture provides a lot of material in a short time and is designed for the

layperson who wants some tips on how to install a small native garden.

Deva Luna is a sustainable and Bay Friendly-certified landscape designer who has been teaching and speaking about horticulture for over 20 years. She has a degree in "Plants and Art" from U.C. Davis and works for EarthCare Landscaping (www.earthcareland.com) in Cupertino.

Native Plant All-Stars, a talk by Rebecca Schoenenberger

Wednesday, March 22, 7-8:30 PM, Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (650) 948-7683

Did you know that the horticultural staff of the UC Davis Arboretum have identified 100 tough, reliable plants that are easy to grow, don't need a lot of water, have few problems with pests or diseases, and have outstanding qualities in the garden? Many of them are California native plants and support native birds and insects. Our speaker will discuss these "All-Star" native plants and describe their care and growing conditions.

Owner of the landscape company California Nativescapes, **Rebecca Schoenenberger** has a diverse background in sustainability and natural systems. With an Associate of Science in Park Management and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies, she has an extensive knowledge of native plants, including selecting which plants will thrive in specific locations. Rebecca is also a Santa Clara County Master Gardener.

Pruning Perennials for Maximum Garden Appeal, a talk by Patricia Evans

Monday, April 10, 7-8:30 PM, Milpitas Library, 160 N Main Street, Milpitas (408) 262-1171

Pruning is one of the garden tasks that requires the most skill and timing. Proper pruning affects the health and vigor of plants, and can take a garden from "good" to "great." Learn when and how to prune your perennials, and how to avoid having to cut more than absolutely necessary. See examples of good and bad pruning done right before your eyes.

Patricia Evans, owner of Natural Landscape Design, is a graduate of the Foothill College Ornamental Horticulture program. Previously, she served on the boards of directors of Gamble Garden and the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. She has also taught "Garden Design

for Homeowners” for Palo Alto Adult Education. She specializes in native plants and sustainable landscaping.

Coastal Wildflower Day

Saturday, April 15 from 10am - 4pm

Francis State Beach

95 Kelly Avenue, Half Moon Bay

Celebrate California Native Plant Week at the Coastal Wildflower Day celebration in Half Moon Bay. Enjoy fun activities, live music, guided wildflower and bird walks, games and crafts for families, and native plants for sale. Visit the native plant nursery and go on a wildflower walk to see the dune restoration on site at Half Moon Bay State Beach.

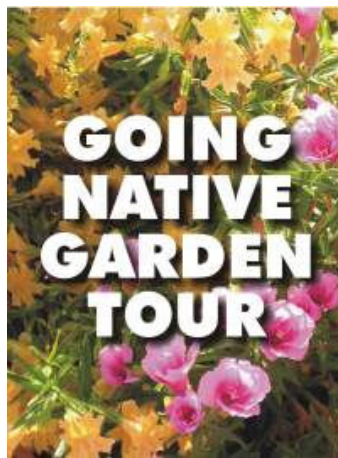


Bike or walk in for free, or parking on site is \$10. Bring family, friends and a picnic lunch, then stay all day. There will also be a food truck on site. For more information visit www.coastalwildflowerday.org or contact Toni Corelli at corelli@coastside.net or (650) 726-0689.

Volunteer for the Going Native Garden Tour

The Going Native Garden Tour is seeking volunteers who are willing to spend a few hours greeting tour participants and answering questions.

This year's Tour features 60 gardens on Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23, from 10am to 4pm each day. Volunteers receive a custom-designed T-shirt and invitations to a private monthly showing of a Tour gardens throughout the year. Plus, you will help educate garden visitors about the pleasures and benefits of gardening with California native plants! Tour Volunteers must:



- Enjoy public education and interaction
- Be able to commit to either the 9:45am-1:15pm shift or the 12:45 pm-4:15 pm shift.

You can be a Greeter or a Docent:

- **Greeters** welcome guests and make sure that they sign in. No knowledge of native plants required.
 - Direct the flow of traffic into the garden.
 - Responsible teens are welcome and can earn volunteer credits for participation.
- **Docents** (after orientation) help answer questions about the homeowner's garden and gardening with natives.

To volunteer please complete the volunteer sign-up form by **April 20** at www.goingnativegardentour.org/volunteerForm.php. Sign up by March 31st to receive your T-shirt at the orientation on April 1st.

Keying with Natives

Join us as we learn and practice methods of identifying the native plants of our region (aka keying). From beginners to more advanced, there are challenges for all. Bring in plant samples if you have some or just come and work with the materials provided. We discuss the various plant books and practice keying with them. Microscopes are also available. The upcoming dates are **Fridays, February 24, March 31 and April 28, from 6:30 - 8:30pm**. We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more information, please contact Joe Cernac at jocernac@sbcglobal.net or (408) 292-5465.

Directions to the PCC: From Hwy. 101 take the San Antonio Rd. exit and head north. Take your next left onto East Bayshore, which will curve left then right. Take your next right onto Corporation Way. Your next left is the entrance to the PCC parking lot. The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

2016-2017 Chapter Scholarship Recipients

The Chapter selected three recipients for \$1,500 graduate student research scholarships in December 2016. We adjusted the application period this year so that it does not fall during the busy spring period for the Chapter. This is the 17th year our Chapter has supported student California native plant research.

The recipients of the 2016-2017 graduate student scholarships are:

Margot Buchbinder, San Francisco State University [Conservation Scholarship]. Margot is studying the effects of planting native California cordgrass (*Spartina foliosa*) in an active salt marsh restoration site. At the Sears Point restoration site in north San Francisco Bay, 500

marsh mounds have been constructed within a 955-acre site. These mounds appear to be experiencing erosion and may disappear before marsh vegetation recovers. Margot's work is designed to determine whether planting native *Spartina* can enhance recovery and reduce observed erosion.

Rebecca Hendricks, San Jose State University

[Conservation Scholarship]. Rebecca's studies focus on the Big Berry Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*). She is studying ecophysiological responses (including water stress and mortality) to seasonal drought across its range using sampling across four degrees of latitude at three locations (Joseph Grant County Park, Los Padres National Forest and Condor's Hope Ranch). The study is designed to offer insight into predictions for individual and range-wide response in Big Berry Manzanita, in light of climate change and drought in California.

Josephine Lesage, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Josephine's work involves the effects of grazing and climate change on native annual forb persistence in California coastal prairies. In her application, she noted that in California grasslands, weather patterns and management practices interact to influence plant community composition and that California's exceptionally diverse plant communities are the result of its unique geologic and climate history. This diversity is affected by the spread of exotic, non-native species. Her work will assess coastal prairie sites from Monterey County through Mendocino County previously quantified by Grey Hayes and K.D. Holl. The study is intended to evaluate whether native annual forbs in coastal prairies are experiencing the same declines due to climate change as those in interior grasslands, and whether grazing management might buffer potential declines of native annual forb species. The scholarship will help support a field assistant.

We look forward to hearing more from the scholarship recipients in the future at our March or May meeting and newsletters. Congratulations to Margot, Rebecca, and Josephine!

CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Committee

Our Chapter's conservation committee meets on the **first Thursday** of the month. The next meetings will be on **Thursdays, March 2 and April 6 at 7pm** at the PCC in Palo Alto. Please join us in our important work! For questions, comments or concerns, please contact Conservation Chair Linda Ruthruff at

ldruff@hotmail.com. For **directions** to the PCC, please see the previous Keying with Natives article.

Mother Earth Needs Your Help! Make Your Voice Heard!

It is very evident that the environment is in for a rough ride with our new Federal administration. We all need to step up our game. What can you do to help contain the damage?

1. Know who your legislators are. The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters website has a system for looking up all your representatives from the U.S. Senate to your water district. Visit **eservices.sccgov.org/Rov/** then the "Look Up Your Districts" tab. Similarly, for San Mateo County, visit **www.shapethefuture.org/elections/electedofficials/**.
2. Communicate with your representatives; letters, emails and phone calls matter. Some hold office hours or community outreach meetings. Sign up for their newsletters.
3. Support environmental organizations with your dollars. Lawsuits are a very important but costly tool.
4. Respond when CNPS sends out an Action Alert.
5. We need volunteers who are willing to occasionally attend government meetings (such as City Council meetings) and speak on behalf of the environment. We will help you craft your comments. Contact Linda Ruthruff if you are willing to help in this very important way.

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Wednesday Edgewood Restoration

Help restore habitat at Edgewood Park, known for fabulous wildflowers and amazing diversity near Redwood City. We pull weeds so native plants have plenty of room to flourish. No experience is required; sturdy gloves are recommended; you might also want to bring sunscreen, water, a hat, layered clothing and wear long sleeves/pants.

With the return of Daylight Savings Time, our **5:30pm Wednesday sessions** resume **March 15**. For schedules and meeting places, please visit **eww.cnps-scv.org** or call Wednesday leader Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560.

Friday Edgewood Restoration

We offer MORE weeding opportunities at Edgewood Park during our year round **Friday 9am** sessions. For more information, including schedules and meeting places visit **eww.cnps-scv.org** or phone Paul Heiple at (650) 854-7125.

Alum Rock Park Volunteers

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.”

We have weeding sessions every **Monday morning** and an **Inspiration Point Walk-and-Weed Day the third Saturday morning** of each month. Please visit the Yahoo Group “Alum Rock Park Volunteers” to check the schedules. The group introduction lists what to bring and gives directions to the meeting places.

For more information, contact project lead Stephen Rosenthal at sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

Lake Cunningham Native Garden

The California Native Garden project in Lake Cunningham Regional Park aims to control invasive plants in a 1.5-acre area and beautify it with California native wildflowers, perennials, shrubs and trees. The project also aims to create a sustainable, low-maintenance landscape, encourage community participation and ownership, and to create habitat for birds and wildlife.

We are focusing on invasive control through mulching and weeding, with the help of volunteers from the neighborhood, local high schools and community groups such as Silicon Valley Volunteers. Workdays are every **Saturday and Sunday, 9am to noon**. If you enjoy physical activity and being outdoors with a view of the lake, the garden and wildlife, please join us!

Volunteers are welcome by appointment. To sign up, visit lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer. The park is located at 2305 S. White Road in San Jose. For **directions**, visit lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/directions.

CHAPTER 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.

Sun Mar 5 1pm - 5pm Uvas Canyon County Park (Morgan Hill)

Join Dee and Ken Himes on a 3-4 mile hike in this mostly shady woodland of mixed evergreens including redwoods, madrones, sycamores, alders, and big-leaf maples. There are also isolated populations of Oregon grape (*Berberis nervosa*) here, which is more commonly found north of the Golden Gate. We expect to see early flowering plants, waterfalls and running creeks.

The hike will be moderate in intensity, with an elevation gain of about 700 feet. We will walk at a fairly leisurely pace, stopping for a snack break about half way. Bring plenty of water and be sure to wear good hiking shoes as the trail may be slippery. A walking stick may be useful.

Parking is limited. To **reserve your spot** or get more information, please email Dee at dee4cnps@gmail.com.

Sat Mar 11 9am - 1pm Lichen Walk at Pedro Point Headlands (Pacifica)

Join Alf Fengler for a leisurely walk though this coastal gem, looking mostly for lichens, these fascinating composite organisms comprising members of two or even three biological kingdoms.

Pack water, lunch, sunscreen and sturdy hiking shoes. Be prepared for windy and cool conditions near the ocean. Bring a hand lens if you have one available, since many important lichen features are quite small. The hike distance will be 2-3 miles with about 400 feet elevation change.

This trip will be limited to 12 CNPS members, as parking is extremely limited at the trailhead. *If you are not currently a member and would like to attend, you can **join online** here: www.cnps.org/cnps/join/.*

We will meet in Pacifica and carpool from there. For more information or to **reserve your spot**, contact Alf Fengler at afengler@acm.org or (650) 345-7045. Moderate or heavy rain cancels.

Sun Mar 19 9am - 12pm Beginner's Bird and Plant ID Walk at Lake Cunningham Park (San Jose)

Join us for a beginner's bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park. The park is a major

destination for waterfowl and migratory birds, and its native garden draws many birds for its habitat value. On this walk, Vicki Silvas-Young will show you how to identify the common birds of our area, as well as the native plants they depend on for food, shelter and nesting places.

The distance will be 4 miles round trip on a level path. Bring a hat, water, your plant and bird list and binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Parking fee is \$6.

Space is limited. Please **RSVP to** arvind.kumar@cnps.org to **reserve your spot** and to receive directions and details. This walk is organized jointly by CNPS, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.

Sun Mar 19 10am - 4pm Mount Madonna County Park (Gilroy)

Join Ken Himes and Judy Fenerty for a field trip to explore the diverse habitats of this park west of Gilroy. Mount Madonna is a 3,688-acre park in southern Santa Clara County that features beautiful redwood forests, oak woodlands, chaparral, and grasslands, as well as four species of manzanita. We will also visit the serpentine area to look for any early bloomers.

The trip will be up to 5 miles in length, and will be arranged as a car shuttle (so will be mostly downhill), although expect some uphill and uneven surfaces. Bring lunch, liquids, appropriate clothing for a mix of weather conditions, hiking poles if you need them, and sturdy footwear.

For more information on where to meet and **to sign up**, contact Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com. Directions will be sent prior to the hike. Information about the park is available here: www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Pages/MtMadonna.aspx.

Sun Mar 19 10am - 3pm Exploratory Walk on San Bruno Mountain (South San Francisco)

Join Loretta Brooks and Chuck Heimstadt to explore the less visited side of San Bruno Mountain, with large bright grassland landscapes critical to our resident endangered butterflies and some plants from the CNPS watchlist, such as Central Coast iris, coast rock cress and San Francisco wallflower. We may also see onion, fritillaria and butterfly host plants (silver bush lupine and johnny jump-up violet), in addition to the always interesting and beautiful fog niebla lichen which occurs only on the Californian coast from Mendocino to Baja. A recent fire, still under investigation, will add interest as well.

Please wear sturdy footwear as we may be off trail and on steep and uneven slopes; also bring liquids and a snack or lunch.

We'll meet behind the Mills Montessori School at 1400 Hillside Blvd., South San Francisco, near the restrooms for the Terrabay ballfield. Heavy rain cancels. For more information contact Loretta or Chuck at ChuckHeimstadt@yahoo.com or (650) 952-6174.

For more about endangered and rare plants on San Bruno Mountain visit www.mountainwatch.org/plants/.

Sat Mar 25 10am - 3pm Pinnacles National Park (San Benito County)

Join Stella Yang and Vivian Neou for a 4.3 mile hike and see wildflowers along the way. The shooting stars will be gone by then but there will be many more flowers to see.

The trail is maintained but part of it is rocky, narrow and steep with an elevation gain of 1,215 feet.

The trip is limited to 15-20 people. **To reserve your spot** and to receive trip details, please contact Stella at yscottie@pacbell.net or (408) 255-6233; or contact Vivian at techchair@cnps-scvc.org. Note that each vehicle entering the park requires a National Park pass or \$15 fee.

Fri Mar 31 - Sun April 2 Spring Wildflowers at Blue Oak Ranch Reserve (Mt. Hamilton)

Come join trip leaders Dee and Ken Himes and Joerg Lohse for an overnight weekend field trip to a place that is relatively close to home. Blue Oak Ranch Reserve (BORR) is a 3,280-acre Biological Field Station and Ecological Reserve, part the UC Natural Reserve system. We will explore BORR's mixed oak woodland (blue, valley, black, coast live...) along with savannah grasslands, riparian habitats and of course, wildflowers.

We'll be staying in BORR's dorm cabins (4 beds each) with mattresses, heating, shared bathroom, and outdoor shower at \$12 per night per person.

Space is limited and this field trip is open to CNPS members only. For more information or to reserve your spot, please email Dee at dee4cnps@gmail.com. After registration, you will receive detailed instructions, travel directions and information about the trip.

If you are not a CNPS member, now is the time to join and to support our conservation efforts and enjoy many benefits, especially our well-attended hikes. A membership form is on the back of this newsletter, or visit cnps.org.

Sun April 9 10am - All Day, Red Hills Area - BLM (Chinese Camp)

Join Ken Himes and Judy Fenerty in exploring the Red Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern – a BLM preserve near Sonora. About two hours from the Bay Area, this special area of serpentine habitat hosts one of the best spring flowering displays in the Sierra foothills. Expect at least 5 miles of hiking on uneven terrain.

You may join us on this hike as a day trip and carpooling is encouraged. We are also considering making a weekend of it, with botanical exploration in the foothills on Saturday, April 8. Camping would be about 10 miles away from the Red Hills entrance.

For more information and to **sign up**, please contact Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com or call Ken at (650) 591-8590.

Sun Apr 16 9:30am - 4pm Serpentine Loop Trail in Calero County Park (San Jose)

Join Sheila Colby and Ken Himes on a walk through Calero County Park, where we will pass a variety of exposures and habitats, including grasslands, mixed deciduous woodlands, chaparral and serpentine barrens. The hike will be 6 miles long with more than 1,500 feet of elevation gain and a lot of up and down hiking.

There is a parking fee of \$6; please bring exact/extra change. Bring lunch, snacks, plenty of water, and hiking poles if you like. Rain cancels.

The hike is limited to 12 hikers. To **reserve your spot** and get directions and meeting details, please RSVP to Sheila at sheilacolby@gmail.com or (669) 224-8298.

Sun Apr 23 10am - 2pm Spring Butterflies on Coyote Ridge (San Jose)

Join us for a walk led by Liam O'Brien, an acclaimed Bay Area lepidopterist known for his San Franciscan conservation projects (The Green Hairstreak Corridor, Mission Blue Restoration and Operation Checkerspot). He will guide us through this wildflower wonderland and

discuss how the plants are used by these intriguing creatures.

We will point out native host plants for female egg-laying along with behaviors like “hill-topping” and “mud-puddling.” Of special interest will be observing which

serpentine endemics are being used as nectar sources. We might even glimpse the threatened Bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*).

Bring a sack lunch, water and a hat. If so inclined, bring your camera or binoculars. Wear comfortable hiking shoes. The trip distance will be 4 miles with 500 feet of ascent. Inclement weather will cause us to switch to our **alternate date of Saturday, May 7**, since butterflies are a no-show on cloudy, overcast days.

Space is limited to 25 people. To **reserve your spot** and to receive directions and details, please RSVP to Arvind Kumar at arvind.kumar@cnps.org. Cosponsored by CNPS and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.



Liam O'Brien

Liam O'Brien in the White Mountain range of California at 10,000 feet, looking for the Sierra Skipper (*Hesperia miriamae*), the highest flying butterfly in the U.S.

Sun Apr 30 9am - 5pm Henry Coe State Park Backcountry Walk (Morgan Hill)

On one spectacular weekend in spring, Henry W. Coe State Park opens the gate at Bell's Station on Highway 152 east of Gilroy for Backcountry Weekend. Since our Wildflower Show will be on Saturday, we are hoping to gather for a long day hike (up to 10 miles) on Sunday to explore areas in the park we rarely get a chance to visit.

Several of us will be applying for a vehicle permit and can take a few riders for the day from the entrance to the start of the hike; others who might be able to drive can find the application here: coepark.net/pineridgeassociation/programs-events/annual-events/backcountry-weekend. If you are interested in joining us as a driver or a rider, please contact Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com.

Upcoming Field Trips - Save the Dates!

Date	Where	Leaders
May 6	Grass Walk at Edgewood Park (Redwood City)	Sally Casey and Alf Fengler
May 7 - 12	Joshua Tree National Park: La Panza Car Camping	Patricia Evans and Joe Cernac

June 25	Beginner's Bird and Plant ID Walk, #2 in the series, at Lake Cunningham Park	Arvind Kumar and Vicki Silvas-Young
July 1 – 4	Ebbett's Pass, Lake Alpine and Calaveras Big Trees	Patricia Evans

This fantastic park is easily accessible from Lick Mill Blvd. on the eastern edge of Santa Clara, bordering on the Guadalupe River and just east of Levis Stadium.

This park has seen incredible growth in the recent past as dozens of new plants, shrubs and trees were planted just in time for our wet winter. And more are being planted in the weeks to come. This comes after a wonderful series of plant donations and new grant funding.

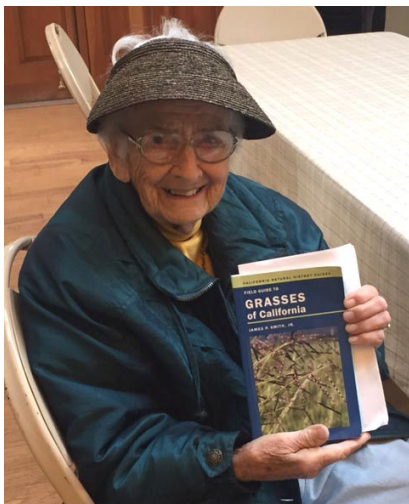
The website is here: www.ulistac.org/. Check it regularly for updates and how to volunteer (weeding, planting, mulching etc.). For example, this year's Wildflower Day is on April 1 – no fooling!

Recommended For Your Next Grass Walk: *Field Guide to Grasses of California* by James P. Smith Jr. Illustrations by Kathy Simpson (2014)

CNPS Fellow Sally Casey, who has studied California native grasses extensively, received a copy of this book from Alf Fengler in 2014. Sally highly recommends the book for anyone interested in becoming a grass specialist. The book is the first field guide to the grasses in California since the Beecher Crampton book *Grasses in California* from 1974! The guide includes the latest taxonomic research, based on a variety of new findings, including DNA research. It is somewhat like an illustrated chapter of *The Jepson Manual*, translated from *Jepson's* terse scientific jargon into clear and accessible English.

The author, James P. Smith, Jr. is Professor of Botany, Emeritus, and Curator of the Herbarium at Humboldt State University, where he taught Agrostology (the study of

grasses) from 1970-2005. He is editor and contributor to the grass family in both editions of *The Jepson Manual*.



Toni Gregorio-Bunch

Grass walk leader Sally Casey recommends the new *Field Guide to Grasses of California*

This field guide includes excellent color photographs and outstanding illustrations of different types of spikelets and florets. **The book is available for \$24 from our Chapter.** Check it out next time you see our book table at a Chapter event!

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2017

Title	Name	Email	Phone
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Past President	Stephen Rosenthal	sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net	(408) 923-6562

To join our Chapter news email list please visit www.cnps-sc.org/index.php/contact-us/sign-up.

Save a Tree!

CNPS members can log in to support.cnps.org and edit their profile to receive this newsletter by email only. Look for "Chapter Newsletter" near the bottom of "My Profile."

Current and past Blazing Star newsletters are always online at the Chapter website's newsletter page: www.cnps-sc.org/index.php/blazing-star-newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

Ulistac Natural Area in Santa Clara

Did you know that Ulistac Natural Area is the only dedicated natural open space in the City of Santa Clara?

<p>DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT <i>BLAZING STAR</i></p> <p>Saturday, April 8, 2017</p> <p>Email: carol.mattsson@gmail.com Phone: (408) 255-3767</p>

Santa Clara Valley Chapter California Native Plant Society
3921 East Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303



Join CNPS Today!

Members receive the *Fremontia*, the *Bulletin*, and the Chapter newsletter, and other benefits listed at www.cnps.org/membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Chapter _____

Membership level (check one):

- \$45 Individual
 \$75 Family
 \$100 Plant Lover
 \$300 Patron
 \$600 Benefactor
 \$1500 Mariposa Lily
 \$25 Student/Limited Income

Areas of interest:

- Advocacy
 Botany
 Conservation
 Education
 Field Trips
 Gardening
 Plant ID

Donations above the membership level are gratefully accepted.

Dues and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail it with this form to:

CNPS Membership, 2707 K Street Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816 • 916-447-2677 • fax 916-447-2727

FIRST-CLASS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

Mar 1 Wed Monthly Member Plant Sale (2)
Mar 2 Thu Conservation Committee meeting (5)
Mar 4 Sat Start of Edgewood Walks (flyer)
Mar 5 Sun Uvas Canyon field trip (6)
Mar 9 Thu GWN – Fab Four - Veilleux (3)
Mar 11 Sat Lichen walk Pedro Point Headlands (6)
Mar 16 Thu GWN – Install-It-Yourself - Luna (3)
Mar 17 Fri **General Meeting – Liveforevers** (1)
Mar 19 Sun Bird & plant walk Lake Cunningham (6)
Mar 19 Sun Mount Madonna park field trip (7)
Mar 19 Sun San Bruno Mountain field trip (7)
Mar 22 Wed GWN – All-Stars - Schoenenberger (3)
Mar 25 Sat Pinnacles field trip (7)
Mar 31 Fri Keying with Natives (4)
Mar 31 – Apr 2 Blue Oak Ranch field trip (7)
Apr 5 Wed Monthly Member Plant Sale (2)

Apr 6 Thu Conservation Committee meeting (5)
Apr 8 Sat **Newsletter submittal deadline** (9)
Apr 9 Sun Red Hills Area field trip (8)
Apr 10 Mon GWN – Pruning Perennials - Evans (3)
Apr 15 Sat Coastal Wildflower Day (4)
Apr 16 Sun Calero County Park field trip (8)
Apr 22-23 Going Native Garden Tour (flyer + p. 4)
Apr 23 Sun Coyote Ridge butterfly field trip (8)
Apr 27 Thu **Newsletter Mailing Party - 10am PCC**
Apr 28 Fri Keying with Natives (4)
Apr 29 Sat Wildflower Show (1)
Apr 30 Sun Henry Coe Backcountry field trip (8)
Mon & 3rd Sat Alum Rock Weeding (6)
Tue & Wed Nursery work sessions (2)
Wed 5:30pm, Fri 9am Edgewood Weed Warriors (5)
Sat & Sun Lake Cunningham workdays (6)

The next Chapter Board meetings will be **Thursdays, March 9** and **April 13 at 7:00pm** at the PCC, 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. Chapter Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests. For more information contact Madeline Morrow at madelinemorrow@earthlink.net.

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 are \$45.00 per year. If you have questions about your newsletter subscription, please contact **membership@cnps-scv.org**. Address changes may be submitted to **cnps@cnps.org**; please put "member address change" in the subject line.

The *Blazing Star* web address: www.cnps-scv.org. Acknowledgement: Anne Warren for the *Blazing Star* logo. Printed on recycled paper.
