



Santa Clara Valley Chapter

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# THE BLAZING STAR

November-December 1995

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with Zoe Chandik of the Chapter's Rare Plant Committee. She has led numerous field trips to areas she has studied including Calero County Park, Lexington Reservoir and more recently to Montara Mountain and the coastal bluffs near her home in Half Moon Bay. During the past year she has offered plant [keying classes](#) to the community using the new *Jepson Manual*. She is a docent at both Edgewood County Preserve and Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve.

Toni studied with Carl Sharsmith and has a masters degree in Botany. Her thesis topic involved work with the nickel concentrations in certain plants growing in serpentine soils in Henry Coe County Park. She heads her own business as an environmental consultant.

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## GENERAL MEETING

**Program:** Toni Corelli will give a talk and slide show previewing the new book she has co-authored with Zoe Chandik, *The Rare Plants of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties*.

Toni is a 20-year CNPS member, past-president of our chapter and current co-chair

**Potluck Dinner:** Note the earlier starting time of 5 pm. Bring a main dish, salad or dessert to serve six, and your own dinnerware and cup/glass, and a bottle of wine if you wish. We will supply extra plates and utensils and coffee. We will have our book table and the raffle. Please consider giving CNPS memberships, books, tee-shirts or posters as gifts this holiday

season. [Directions to The Garden House.](#)



## REMEMBERING BRENDA

*by Jean Struthers*

Brenda was the first CNPS member whom I met. I volunteered to sell books and posters and took over that job from her. She assured me that it wasn't too difficult, but what she did not tell me was that it would lead to total commitment to CNPS. Brenda's commitment was very contagious and inspiring.

From that small involvement and from my eagerness to grow native plants came the opportunity to work at Yerba Buena Nursery with Brenda. There she was instructive and patient with my learning. She even taught me to say "no" sometimes. She knew her own limits and how to manage her time. Together we chaired the Wildflower Show to a great financial and floristic success, largely due to Brenda's organizational ability.

Brenda became Chapter President and drew many new people to the Board. She followed that position with Field Trip Chair. I will always remember our first trip to the desert and how well it was organized. She keyed many plants that were new to the group, helped with the camping and photography efforts, and above all, insured the enjoyment of every participant. She was particularly good about finding and making available information about our destinations. Brenda instituted the informal Friday plant walks in local parks and open space lands.

She joined me on a Los Altos Hills town committee for Environmental Protection.

She wrote guidelines for using native plants in town landscaping, and wrote the town's first Heritage Tree Protection Ordinance. She was as frustrated as I was in the destruction of habitat in our rural area and tried to do something about it. We planted a *Quercus lobata* for Arbor Day, and buckeye seeds on road edges.

Brenda was a docent at both the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve and Edgewood Park Preserve. She worked three days a week at Yerba Buena Nursery. She became particularly skilled at propagation techniques, and was responsible for the manzanita cuttings. She started the Chapter's Gardening with Natives group, a very successful gathering which met once a month.

When Brenda got cancer she did not stop her numerous activities unless her treatments really disabled her. She still put in time at Yerba Buena Nursery, attended meetings, and took as many field trips as she had strength for. She organized the botanists for our 1995 Wildflower Show and spent hours helping identify our specimens.

Brenda was so very considerate of all the people around her. She kept us all informed and enthusiastic, and always thanked all the people who helped her. Did we ever thank her enough? I really miss her.

Editor's note: In the interests of being complete in listing the numerous accomplishments of Brenda Butner we asked the Chapter Historian, Jean Sorenson, to go back through our records to make a list of her activities. She filled a page, just getting to the point where Brenda became President. And so we have decided to leave out the details of the many ways she helped our chapter. Suffice it to say she touched many

of our lives, and we all have very personal memories.

Her husband Al, also a Chapter Board member, has set up a Memorial Fund for our Chapter. We will keep members posted through *The Blazing Star* on how the interest from this fund is spent. Contributions may be made to the Brenda Butner Memorial Fund, California Native Plant Society, c/o Treasurer Stephen Buckhout, 1289

Heckman Way, San Jose, CA 95129.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

- **HIDDEN VILLA UPDATE:**  
What's going on with our Nursery?  
A 14-x 20-foot greenhouse was purchased and moved to the nursery. CNPS member Gerry Ellis took it apart, kept mental note of the construction details, and has it nearly all put back together again at Hidden Villa. Bob Berka rented a truck, and Dave and Jean Struthers helped Gerry move it. As of this writing the plastic panels need cleaning and the benches need to go in. But, hooray!, it looks like a real nursery and will soon become one.

A small garden shed has been donated to CNPS by the Duhring family. It, too, has been moved to Hidden Villa and thanks to Dave Struthers will begin a new life as our supply and tool shed. Thank you volunteers Ken Himes, Vicky Silvas-Young, Marcie Fein, and Dave and Jean Struthers.

We are scheduling the next work day, Sunday, November 5, at 10 am. Bring lunch. We will clean panels, ready space for the shed, and build

soil bins. Call Jean Struthers for details, 415 941-2586.

- **GARDENING WITH NATIVES,** Thursday, 7:30 pm, November 2. Jean Struthers' home, 13690 Robleda Road, Los Altos Hills. 415 941-2586. Where do we go from here? Shall we teach others or continue as a working group, or both? Please come and share your ideas.
- **PLANT KEYING CLASS:** How to use the Jepson Manual, with Botanist Toni Corelli. Due to popular demand this class will be offered again in 1996. Learn how to use the Jepson Manual, terminology associated with plant identification, the revised names, and plant family characteristics. Materials necessary: the Jepson Manual, and a 10 and 15 to 20 power hand lenses. This is a 5 week workshop and to benefit you should plan to attend each class. Classes will be in Palo Alto and we will meet on one weekday evening for 5 weeks from 7-9 pm. Class size is limited to 15 and reservations are necessary. There is a \$30 per workshop charge. Call Toni at (415) 726- 0689 for further information.
- California Exotic Pest Plant Council: **CalEPPC SYMPOSIUM REPORT**, by Don Thomas, Escaped Exotics co-chair. On October 6 and 7 several members of our chapter attended the 1995 CalEPPC symposium at Asilo-mar. Speakers and exhibitors at the conference covered control strategies for a number of exotic pest plants of interest to our chapter, including yellow star thistle, French and other brooms, *Arundo donax*, alien cordgrass (*Spartina*), and German ivy. Among the control methods

discussed were manual control, the use of controlled burning, biological control, and the use of herbicides.

On Sunday we were led on a field trip to see examples of invasive exotics and successful habitat restoration projects. At Marina State Beach we saw dunes that had been covered by ice plant and European beach grass which are now restored to native dune species, including some endemic to the Monterey Bay area.

At the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve we saw restored mud flat and marsh habitat that had previously been diked and used for dairy pasture. However we also saw how persistent some exotic plants such as poison hemlock can be once established. We are hoping to apply some of the lessons we learned at the conference to control exotics at Edgewood Park and elsewhere locally.

Editor's note: There will be a published proceedings of the conference available early next year. We will let readers know how to order it when ready.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Non CNPS-sponsored field trip: **A TRIP TO MONTARA MT.** on November 4. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Montara State Beach parking lot. We will hike over the mountain and then be shuttled back by car to Montara. Bring lunch, water and be

prepared for all weather. This hike is sponsored by Save Our Shores but two of our members, Toni Corelli and Paul Heiple, will co-lead with Barbara VanderWerf, a historian.

- **THE WAYNE RODERICK LECTURE SERIES** at the East Bay Regional Park District's Botanic Garden, Saturdays, 10:30 am, at the Garden's Visitor Center. If a guest lecturer is not indicated, the speaker will be Garden Director Steve Edwards. Most presentations emphasize ecology and biogeography of native plants in the field. This is a good chance to hear a good talk, see great slides, and visit northern California's only native plant botanical garden.
  - Nov. 4, Horticultural lessons from the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, with emphasis on everything.
  - Nov. 18, Wildflower hunting in New England and the West/Bob Case
  - Nov. 25, From central coast to desert in a single fabulous county: San Luis Obispo
  - Dec. 2, Climbing Mt. Eddy, highest peak in the Klamath Mountains province
  - Dec. 9, Plants of the Trinity and Marble mountains/John Game
  - Dec. 16, Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve: geology and plants; volcanic history of the East Bay, with botanical digressions
  - Dec. 30, The Fort Bragg coast of Mendocino County
  - Jan. 6, Wildflowers of the Sierran foothills
  - Jan. 13, What is Shasta Snow Wreath doing in California,

and why wasn't it found earlier?/Barbara Ertter

- **Be an Earth Hero:** participate in **EARTH SHARE OF CALIFORNIA** or your company's matching gift program. Many area employers offer payroll- deduction programs that allow employees to contribute to various non-profit organizations. The best known plan is United Way but now there is one, Earth Share of California (ESC), for support of environmental groups. The California Native Plant Society is a member of ESC, an alliance of organizations which work in various ways to protect our natural resources. Depending on the wishes of the individual, contributions made to ESC are split among the various member groups or can be directed to a specific group, including CNPS.

If your employer offers participation in ESC, please consider taking part. Enrollment in the various payroll-deduction programs often takes place late in the calendar year; it may be occurring soon at your workplace. Even small contributions quickly add up when made by a large number of individuals; they add up even faster when a person indicates that the entire amount of his donation go to CNPS.

Certain employers offer matching-gift programs in which the company will match some portion of a gift made to a non-profit institution such as CNPS. The employee portion is generally tax-deductible. Although not connected to ESC, these programs offer another way of directing funds to CNPS.

Contact your company's Employee Benefits department for additional information about ESC or a matching-gift program. If your company does not offer ESC and you would like to help bring it to your workplace or you would like to support the ESC campaign in some way other than financially, please contact Stephen Buckhout at 408 255- 6233.

- **CREEK RESTORATION WORKSHOP**, Saturday Nov. 18, 1995, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Palo Alto City Council Chambers, 250 Hamilton Ave. For info: Bay Area Action 415-321-1994.



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