



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

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*November-December 2006*

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## **ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK**

**Saturday, November 11, 2006 at 6:00 pm**  
**Shoup Garden House, Los Altos**

**Human Connections to the Survival of Species:  
The Return of the Bay Checkerspot to Edgewood**  
Speaker: **Dr. Stuart B. Weiss**

Please join us for our chapter's ninth annual Brenda Butner Memorial Lecture.

As the Bay checkerspot butterfly populations on the San Francisco Peninsula collapsed and vanished over the course of the last two decades, a group of Stanford research scientists were paying very close attention. An incredible amount of knowledge was gained while studying these local population extinctions, revealing not only a detailed picture of an endangered butterfly species ecology, but also a complex and profound set of relationships between the plant kingdom and modern human activity.

Dr. Stuart Weiss, a former member of the Stanford research group and strong advocate for the conservation of Bay checkerspot butterfly habitat, will speak to us about the research path that he has taken towards the upcoming re-introduction of the Bay checkerspot butterfly to Edgewood County Park and Preserve in the spring of 2007.

Chapter member Stu Weiss is a freelance conservation biologist who has been studying checkerspot butterflies and serpentine ecology since 1979. He received his Ph.D. from Stanford in 1996, and has authored more than 25 scientific publications. He has been a driving force in conserving the delicately balanced serpentine plant communities found on Coyote Ridge, an area southeast of San Jose key to the survival of the federally endangered Bay checkerspot.

This is our annual potluck dinner and election meeting. Bring your favorite dish, whether it be a dessert, salad, main dish, or beverage; it always works out that we have

just the right amount of everything! Also, be sure to bring plates, drinking glasses, and eating utensils for yourself, as well as a bag in which to take home unwashed dishes.

We will also have a silent auction of books and other items of interest to members. If you have extra books in fair to good condition, or other items to donate to the auction, please contact Kevin Bryant at (408)353-8824 or [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net), or drop off the books at our office at the PCC at 3921 E. Bayshore Rd. in Palo Alto (label them CNPS).

Please arrive at around **5pm** to help set up. We will begin eating at **6pm** and the program should start at **7pm**. We will also need help with clean-up at the end of the evening.

**Directions:** From Highway 280 take the El Monte exit east. Turn left (north) on University Ave. The Garden House is about a quarter mile ahead on the left (west) side of the street. From Highway 101, take the San Antonio exit west/south. Then turn right on Main St. in Los Altos (3rd stoplight after crossing El Camino Real). Cross Foothill Expressway and turn left immediately onto University Ave. The Garden House is a short distance ahead on the right.

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For more info. contact Chapter Vice President Kevin Bryant at [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net) or (408)353-8824.

## **Chapter Annual Election**

The annual potluck is also the time to elect constitutional officers for the coming year. Following is the slate put forth by the nominating committee:

President	Kevin Bryant
Vice-President	To Be Announced
Treasurer	Paul Heiple
Recording Secretary	Susan Sundberg

All Chapter members may run for office-- nominations may also be made from the floor at the potluck. Thanks to outgoing recording secretary Vicki Silvas-Young and the

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other officers who served in 2006, and also thanks to our Nominating Committee: Judy Fenerty, Kevin Bryant, Georgia Stigall, Stephen Buckhout, and Paul Heiple.

### **Arvind Kumar Elected to State Board**

We are delighted to report that Arvind Kumar, Publicity Chair and Gardening With Natives Steering Committee member, has been elected as a Director of the State CNPS Board. Arvind's enthusiasm, energy, and vision for CNPS will be a great asset to the state organization. We have not had a CNPS Board member from our Chapter for several years, and we look forward to greater participation in state programs and initiatives. Congratulations Arvind!

## **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

### **Native Plant Nursery**

Our regular native plant nursery work sessions take place every **Wednesday**, from **12noon to 3pm**. Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. Knowledge of plants is not necessary: your willingness to help is all that's required.

If you missed out on our chapter's fall sale, plants can still be purchased at the nursery on Wednesdays **until Dec. 6** (checks only please). For more information, contact Jean Struthers at (650)941-2586 or JeanStruthers@aol.com; or Ray Deutsch at (650)365-6136 or henrymarsh@yahoo.com.

**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 visitor center parking lot to your right. The Native Plant Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the visitor center.

### **Gardening with Natives**

Gardening with Natives (GWN) is a special interest group within the Chapter which meets on the first **Thursday** of each month, usually at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) in Palo Alto (directions below). The group is open to all, and includes a mix of seasoned native plant gardeners as well as beginners. Newcomers are always welcome.

**Thursday, November 2, 7-9pm**, at PCC, Palo Alto  
**Chaparral Native Plants for the Garden**,  
a talk and slide show by Patrick Pizzo

San Jose resident Patrick Pizzo has adopted a ½-mile stretch of a residential street, Capitancillos Drive, and transformed it into an attractive showcase of garden-worthy native plants. In this talk and slide show, Patrick will share his successes and lessons learned over the last four years. Plant lists will be available. This project is a good example of native plant streetscaping that is both natural and attractive. If you want to see what is possible, and perhaps pick up some tips for your own street or neighborhood, come to this talk and learn from someone who's "been there, done that."

There will be no GWN meeting in **December**. The GWN Steering Committee wishes everyone happy holidays!

**Thursday, January 4, 7-9pm**, at PCC, Palo Alto  
**Discussion Topic: Success With Native Plants**

Do you remember the time you killed three ceanothus in a row? Or why the poppy transplants died? Share your stories of trials and triumphs with native plant gardening, and help others learn what works and what is sure to fail. This free format discussion is open to all, and will be of particular interest to folks just getting started with native plant gardening. Bring photos or cuttings to illustrate your experience. Host: Chris Todd.

**Directions to the PCC:** PCC (Peninsula Conservation Center), 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. From Highway 101, take the "San Antonio North" exit, get immediately into the left-hand turn lane, and turn **LEFT** onto East Bayshore. This will curve around to the left, then right. Turn right on Corporation Way. Then turn into the first driveway on your left, which leads to the PCC parking lot. The meeting is in the Raptor Suite on the first floor, accessible from the parking lot.

For more information on the Gardening with Natives group, visit its website at **www.GardeningWithNatives.com**. GWN maintains a Yahoo group with over 350 members, a true resource for native plant gardeners in this area. To join the Yahoo group, visit **groups.yahoo.com/group/GardeningWithNatives**. To contact the GWN Steering Committee, email GardeningWithNatives@yahoo.com or call Arvind Kumar at (408)715-7020.

### **Native Hill**

Our gardening activities at the native plant garden at Foothill College have resumed, now that the paving of the parking lot at Foothill was completed in October. Some damage occurred to the garden during paving and construction activities over the summer.

We are in the process of purchasing more plants from the CNPS nursery and will replant and return the garden to its former glory just in time for the spring blooming period.

As always, if you would like to volunteer at the garden or be added to the email list to be notified of upcoming workdays, contact Phil Higgins at phidor@juno.com or (650)941-4752.

### Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park

Join us as we remove invasive exotic plants and protect Edgewood's sensitive habitats. **Friday weeding sessions, at 8:30 am**, occur year-round. Wednesday evening sessions will resume in spring after daylight savings time returns.

For details including meeting places, please see the schedule at the Edgewood Weed Warriors website, at [edgewood.thinkersrus.net](http://edgewood.thinkersrus.net), or call Ken Himes at (650)591-8560, or email John Allen at [jcakwa@earthlink.net](mailto:jcakwa@earthlink.net).

### Photo Group

Our Chapter Photo Group is a special interest group of members which meets on the third Monday of most months at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) in Palo Alto. The Group is open to all, and includes both beginning and experienced photographers. CNPS member newcomers to the Group, and nonmember guests are always welcome.

Photographers are invited to look at new links on the Chapter website, listed under NATIVE PLANTS PHOTOGRAPHS on the links page ([www.cnps-scv.org/web.htm](http://www.cnps-scv.org/web.htm)).

Our next meetings will be **Mondays, November 20 and December 18, from 7-9 pm** at the PCC. Specific topics for the meetings will be announced later. Bring photos to share: up to twenty slides, digital images, or prints per photographer are welcome. We will also discuss the Group's possible future meetings and activities. Please bring your ideas!

Topics suggested so far include digital image optimization, video editing to produce digital video for CNPS activities, systematic photographic recording of species found in the field, classification and storage of botanical images, photo-centered field trips, and production of a Chapter native plant photo calendar.

For more information, please contact Patrick Gallagher, at (408)483-9366 or [drrust@greenisles.com](mailto:drrust@greenisles.com).

### Keying with Natives

Join us on the last **Friday** of every month, from **6:30pm - 8:30pm**, in a fun gathering to meet with other native plant enthusiasts to sharpen your keying skills. We meet at the PCC building in Palo Alto. The next meetings will be **Fridays, November 17 and December 15**. Contact David "Tex" Houston for more details, at (650)303-2777 or [tex009@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tex009@sbcglobal.net).

### Legislation, Invasives, Conservation, and Rare Plant (LIVeCoRP) Committee

Our small but active LIVeCoRP Committee is seeking people who wish to get involved with preserving, protecting, and understanding native species and plant communities throughout our chapter's area. No experience is necessary, only a desire to help retain what remains of our natural heritage.

If you would like to get involved, our next meeting will be **Thursday, November 9 at 6pm** at the PCC. We'll supply the pizza! For more information, contact Kevin Bryant at [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net) or (408)353-8824.

### Fall Plant Sale Update

Thanks to everyone who pitched in at our Fall Native Plant Sale, it was another great event! Special thanks to outgoing Plant Sale Chairs Janet Gomez and Kevin Bryant, as well as Jean Struthers and Ray Deutsch who work all year in our nursery. And thanks to the rest of you tireless workers in the hospitality, parking, books, posters, GWN table, cashiers, publicity, and nursery departments-- thanks very much for a great day!

Our Spring Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday, April 7, 2007**, at Hidden Villa. See the article above for the Wednesday work sessions helping at the nursery to grow the plants we sell, and watch future issues of the *Blazing Star* for the many ways that you can volunteer to help at the Spring Plant Sale.

### CALIFORNIANS VOTE NOVEMBER 7

Several ballot measures that appear on the November ballot are of importance to Chapter members. Our Chapter is supporting both San Mateo County and Santa Clara County's measures A, and Diana Hickson from State CNPS sends us information on Propositions 90 and 84.

### Chapter Endorses San Mateo County Parks & Open Space - Measure A

By Georgia Stigall

At our August board meeting, our Chapter voted to endorse the San Mateo County "Parks for the Future" Measure A in the November 2006 election. San Mateo County is one of two counties in the San Francisco Bay Area that does not have dedicated funding for parks. Years of effort on the part of many people to secure this funding has culminated in the two-year intensive effort that led to Measure A.

Full details regarding this Measure are available at [www.ParksFortheFuture.org](http://www.ParksFortheFuture.org).

Parks for the Future is a citizen effort to secure dedicated funding to support the parks and recreation programs in every community in San Mateo County. It's a 1/8 of one cent increase in San Mateo County's sales tax rate, and needs two-thirds voter approval in order to pass.

Measure A will raise approximately \$16 million every year, to be used for San Mateo County Parks Department, every City in San Mateo County, the Ladera and Highlands Recreation Districts, and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Our Chapter has a long history of field trips in and restoration & protection of parks and open space in San Mateo County. Indeed, one of the pivotal conservation issues in our Chapter's history was our involvement in having Edgewood County Park & Preserve so established.

Many of our members from San Mateo County and beyond, benefit from time spent hiking, botanizing, birding and relaxing in San Mateo County's various parks and preserves, as well as enjoying neighborhood parks in our cities and towns.

I write this article as someone who has been fortunate to enjoy San Mateo County parks (both rural and municipal) and open space virtually all of my life, since 1955. From personal experience I well know, and deeply appreciate, what having these special places for hiking, camping, learning and "just wandering" has done for my life and for my life choices to volunteer and advocate on behalf of the nature-based values shared by CNPS members.

Please join CNPS--and me--in supporting the "Parks for the Future" Measure A in November. For additional information, contact Georgia Stigall at 650-941-1068 or [georgiastigall@yahoo.com](mailto:georgiastigall@yahoo.com). Readers are also welcome to contact Julia Bott of the San Mateo County Parks & Recreation Foundation (650-321-5812; [info@supportparks.org](mailto:info@supportparks.org); [www.supportparks.org](http://www.supportparks.org)).

## **Santa Clara County Land Conservation Initiative - Measure A**

At our February Board meeting, our chapter voted to support the Santa Clara County Land Conservation Initiative, also known as Measure A. Measure A will:

- Protect the rural hillsides, watersheds, and wildlife habitat
- Prevent urban sprawl
- Protect ridgelines and scenic views
- Safeguard water and air quality
- Prevent the five supervisors from changing this plan without a vote of the people

For more information, please visit

[www.OpenSpace2006.org](http://www.OpenSpace2006.org), or contact Brooke Anderson at (408)947-PLAN or [Brooke@OpenSpace2006.org](mailto:Brooke@OpenSpace2006.org).

## **Prop. 90 Threatens California's Environment**

This initiative is part of a nationwide strategy to prevent public entities from acting to protect the environment, families, workers, and consumers-- the very essence of our communities.

Already dozens of groups representing a broad range of constituencies are on record opposing Prop. 90. Proponents claim it deals with eminent domain. However, under Prop. 90 anytime a new law, regulation, or ordinance is passed, any landowner or business may file a claim to recover loss of property value. The California League of Conservation Voters notes that Prop. 90 "would severely restrict the ability of voters and local and state agencies to enact and enforce basic laws that protect our coastline, preserve open spaces and farmland, protect air and water quality, and protect environmentally sensitive areas." Public entities would either need to compensate for lost value or exempt the owner from the desired protections.

A large coalition has formed to inform the public regarding Prop. 90. It could use more support. For more information go to: [www.noprop90.com](http://www.noprop90.com) or [www.ecovote.org](http://www.ecovote.org).

## **Prop. 84 Provides Funding for Vital Resource Conservation**

Prop. 84 authorizes the sale of \$5.4 billion in bonds to fund important state and local natural resource projects, including \$928 million for improvements to rivers, lakes and streams and their bank habitats; \$450 million for wildlife habitat and forest conservation; and more. Periodically the public votes to approve bond funds to carry out these programs. Most recently Prop. 40 and 50, in 2002, authorized bond funds for natural resources, parks

and water related projects. Those funds will be nearly expended by July 1, 2007. If Prop. 84 does not pass, funding for many critical projects will not be available and conservation efforts to protect native wildlife and plant resources will not be continued.

For more information regarding Prop. 84, visit website [www.cleanwater2006.com](http://www.cleanwater2006.com).

Diana Hickson invites members with questions about Propositions 90 or 84 to contact her at (916)362-8022, or [DianaHickson@comcast.net](mailto:DianaHickson@comcast.net).

## CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

**Chapter field trips** are free and 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 & 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.**

### **Nov 18 Sat 10am Big Basin Redwoods State Park**

Ken Himes and Kevin Bryant will lead this exploratory hike from China Grade downhill to Park Headquarters. Ken knows where flannelbush, *Fremontodendron californicum*, is found on this route, a large shrub well known to horticulturalists but rare in our area. We will also see stands of knobcone pine that have resulted from past burns, and pass through several plant communities, including a beautiful old-growth redwood forest.

We'll meet at the Park Headquarters at **10am**, and will shuttle up to China Grade in as few vehicles as possible. This is an approximately 4 mile long hike, and it's mostly downhill. We will take our time and explore, and expect to return no later than **4pm**.

Bring lunch, water, and sturdy hiking shoes. The State Park Day Use fee is \$6.00 per vehicle. For more information, call Ken at (650)591-8560, or contact Kevin at (408)353-8824 or [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net).

**Directions:** From San Jose (allow 75 to 90 minutes): Take Hwy. 9 South (can be reached from DeAnza Blvd. exit off Hwy. 85, head south; or Hwy. 9 exit off Hwy. 17 in Los Gatos) over the summit at Hwy. 35, into Santa Cruz County to Hwy. 236. Take Hwy. 236 to the park main headquarters.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*News and Activities from Other Organizations*

### **Gardens Sought for Native Garden Tour**

Gardens are being sought to participate in the Sunday, April 29, 2007 **Going Native Garden Tour**, which will showcase bird- and butterfly-friendly, pesticide-free, water conserving gardens. Gardens must be located in Santa Clara County or San Mateo County, and contain 50% or more California native plants. To submit your garden, visit [www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org](http://www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org). The deadline is **December 1**. For more information, email [info@GoingNativeGardenTour.org](mailto:info@GoingNativeGardenTour.org).

## CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2006

To learn more about our Chapter or give suggestions, please contact one of our officers listed below.

Title	Name	Phone	Email
<b>President</b>	Judy Fenerty	(408) 378-6272	<a href="mailto:judy@fenerty.com">judy@fenerty.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Kevin Bryant	(408) 353-8824	<a href="mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net">mtngreen17@verizon.net</a>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Vicki Silvas-Young	(408) 293-7124	<a href="mailto:mrnngwrblr@yahoo.com">mrnngwrblr@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paul Heiple	(650) 854-7125	<a href="mailto:pheiple@gmail.com">pheiple@gmail.com</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Georgia Stigall	(650) 941-1068	<a href="mailto:GeorgiaStigall@yahoo.com">GeorgiaStigall@yahoo.com</a>

To join our Chapter email list please send your request to [judy@fenerty.com](mailto:judy@fenerty.com) or [cnps\\_scv@yahoo.com](mailto:cnps_scv@yahoo.com).

## **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR***

**Saturday, December 2, 2006**

**Email: [mattsson@surfpix.net](mailto:mattsson@surfpix.net)**

**Phone: (408)255-3767**