



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# THE BLAZING STAR

January-February 2016

## MEMBERS' NIGHT AND GENERAL MEETING

**Friday, January 29th at 7:30 PM**  
**Los Altos Library Program Room**  
**13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos**

**Topic: Members' Night Slide Show -  
Native Plants and Places in 2015**

Even though 2015 was yet another very dry year, plenty of our native plant species are well adapted to thrive in these tough conditions, often out-competing the non-native species. Did you find and photograph any examples of native plants doing well in 2015? Or perhaps you took a few nice pictures of scenery, places, or interesting animals.

Share your favorite moments that you captured in 2015 with others at the always popular Members' Night meeting. Photos (or other media) of anything, any place, or anyone related to native plants in 2015 are welcome (please note we are looking for photos from 2015 only).

If you'd like to share your photos or other materials, please **RSVP by Sunday, January 24th** by emailing Kevin Bryant at [mtngreen17@gmail.com](mailto:mtngreen17@gmail.com) or calling (408) 348-9470, and let him know about the materials you'd like to share from 2015. Time allotted per person will depend on how many participants RSVP. Whether you have photos to share or not, join us for a fun midwinter celebration of the beauty and tenacity of native plants and their habitats.

**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. 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 Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net) or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### **Native Plant Nursery at Hidden Villa**

The next **Monthly Member Sale** days will be

**Wednesdays, January 6 and February 3, noon to 3pm.**

The nursery maintains a current inventory of sale plants on the Chapter website ([www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org)) so you can check what is available (updated the week before the sale). Bring a box to take your plants home.

For more information, contact Melanie Cross at [melanie@pcross.com](mailto:melanie@pcross.com) or (650) 847-1350.

### **Manpower Needed: Help Us to Battle Phytophthora Jan 8 - 10!**

In January we will be adding two inches of gravel to the floor of our native plant nursery.

Although our nursery at Hidden Villa is small, this is a big job and we need some strong backs to accomplish it. We will have the gravel delivered on **Friday, January 8** and will start moving the gravel that day, continuing the work **Saturday and Sunday, January**



Carol Mattsson

Chapter nursery during April 2015 Native Plant Sale

**9 and 10** in morning and afternoon shifts so no one overdoes it!

If you (or someone you know) can help, please contact our nursery manager at [Melanie@pcross.com](mailto:Melanie@pcross.com), or (650) 847-1350. If you can help at another time please let her know.

### Next Steps for the Nursery

Our nursery, so well designed and built nearly 20 years ago, provides most of our Chapter's funds through our plant sales, and also offers local native plant lovers a diverse choice of plants to put in their gardens. Nursery volunteers propagate and grow thousands of plants every year, some available nowhere else. It is noteworthy how little manpower and money we have had to invest in our nursery over the years.

A year ago we became aware of some devastating pathogens which nurseries, native and exotic, large and small, can easily spread. All California nurseries, including ours, have been asked by the California Dept. of Food and Agriculture (and other agencies) to comply with suggested practices to ensure we do not spread these pathogens into gardens and wildland areas. For more information, you can search online for "**phytophthora**" or go to "presentations" at [www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/education/presentations](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/education/presentations).

Last January we took on the first phytophthora-fighting task of disinfecting pots before we reuse them and we are instituting cleanliness rules. We are inspecting plants, spot testing, discarding any with symptoms... but that is not enough to ensure that the pathogens do not get into our plants.

Besides changing our procedures we need to upgrade our facility to comply with nursery best management practices. One of the first steps is keeping the ground as clean and dry as possible. Over the years dirt and organic material have built up in the nursery gravel, which we are cleaning up and augmenting with your help. The next step will be to cover the entire space with landscape cloth to help keep it clean. Above ground we need to design and build a pot washing station, a pot drying rack system, and waterproof storage and we continue to institute more cleanliness rules.

If you have nursery design, woodworking or irrigation skills and would like to help, please contact Melanie Cross at [melanie@pcross.com](mailto:melanie@pcross.com) or (650) 847-1350.

### Regular Nursery Workdays

You can learn about the many native plants we grow by joining the group of nursery volunteers at our workdays on

**Wednesdays and Thursdays**, winter hours: **noon to 3pm**. Bring garden gloves, sunhat or jacket, clippers, liquids 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 is required.

For more information, contact Melanie Cross at [melanie@pcross.com](mailto:melanie@pcross.com) or (650) 847-1350; or Ray Deutsch at [ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca](mailto:ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca) or (650) 365-6136

**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 Nursery ahead of you, just past the Dana Center building.

### Gardening with Natives

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes beginning and seasoned native plant gardeners, along with landscape professionals. GWN offers over 30 free talks throughout the year at public libraries in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

This year's themes are *Month-by-Month Pruning* and *Maintaining Your Native Garden*. For more information, visit [www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/gardening/gardening-with-natives](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/gardening/gardening-with-natives).

These programs are made possible by the co-sponsoring libraries and our 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](mailto:sdosaka@sustainable-landscape.com).

### Planning a Native Rain Garden, a talk by Alan Hackler

**Thu., Jan. 14, 7:00-8:30 PM, Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St, Mountain View (650) 903-6337**

This is an El Niño year, meaning that a lot of rain is predicted to fall. Don't let that water run off your roof, down your driveway and into the streets, storm drains, and creeks where it could cause flooding. Instead direct that rainwater into your garden, allowing it to percolate downward to recharge our local aquifers and purify the water as it passes through the soil. Learn how rain gardens keep water on site (yet away from buildings), how to construct them, and which California native plants are best suited for them.

**Alan Hackler** is the owner of Bay Maples, a design-build firm and native plant nursery in the South Bay. His own rain garden was on the Going Native Garden Tour and he has built many rain gardens for clients. Alan studied permaculture and environmental studies, and is a Build-It Green member with LEED and Graywater accreditations.

**Creating a Bird-Friendly Garden with Native Plants, a talk by Toby Goldberg**

**Wed., January 20, 7:00-8:30 PM, Morgan Hill Library, 660 West Main Avenue, Morgan Hill (408) 779-3196**

Birds make a garden come alive. They are a source of endless entertainment: dashing, fluttering, feeding, jumping, scratching, drinking, bathing, and flying. These foraging creatures are independent spirits, but if you provide what they need – food, water, shelter, and nesting spaces – they will return to your urban garden again and again in an ever-widening variety.

**Toby Goldberg** is the Education and Outreach Director for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. She'll describe what species of birds you can expect to see in the Bay Area, and the specific, easy-to-grow native plants that will attract them to your garden.

**Biodiversity and the Native Plant Gardener, a talk by Arvind Kumar**

**Tuesday, January 26, 7-8:30 PM, Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga (408) 867-6126**

What makes California a world hotspot of biodiversity? Why should a home gardener care? Learn about the critical role native plants play in a healthy environment, how human pressures are driving them to the brink of extinction, and what you as a home gardener can do to save and celebrate them. Learn how to provide habitat for wildlife, conserve natural resources, save effort and money, and give your garden a sense of place – by using native plants. A plant list will be provided.

**Arvind Kumar** has been gardening with native plants for over 13 years and is a past President of our Chapter of CNPS. A true advocate of the environment, he helped start the Going Native Garden Tour in 2003, has worked on native plant restoration projects at Lake Cunningham in San Jose, and received the Water Champion award from the Silicon Valley Water Conservation Coalition in 2013.

**Container Gardens for Native Plants, a talk by Pete Veilleux**

**Thu., Feb. 25, 7:00-8:30 PM, Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Ave., Cupertino (408) 446-1677**

Dress up the smallest of spaces using native plants in containers. Containers allow you to provide exactly the right soil, sun, and drainage conditions for those picky natives that you've always wanted to grow. See how creative you can be by recycling pots and combining different textures and color for an ever-changing garden display.

**Pete Veilleux** is a master designer, nurseryman, and photographer. He creates gardens using native plants for long-lasting landscapes that help 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](http://www.eastbaywilds.com)) in Oakland, and a tireless advocate of native gardening.

### **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, January 22** (a week early) and **February 26, from 6:30 - 8:30pm**. We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more info., please contact Joe Cernac at [joecernac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joecernac@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.

## **LEADERSHIP**

### **Leadership Committee Undertakes Volunteer Recognition Efforts**

*By Stephen Buckhout, Leadership Committee Chair*

We restructured our temporary Nomination Committee to become the Chapter Leadership Committee, following its work in developing a slate of officers for the Chapter elections held at the annual Membership Meeting and Potluck last November.

With no paid staff, all Chapter accomplishments are the result of the work of volunteers. The Leadership Committee believes it is appropriate to regularly recognize and express our appreciation for the efforts of those volunteers. Acknowledging that it would not be possible to honor all of our volunteers at once, the committee has chosen to recognize volunteers in two different ways. One will be to celebrate three individual volunteers at each of our general meetings, most often one long-term volunteer, another who has been volunteering for several years, and one who has recently begun volunteering.

We also plan to honor entire groups of volunteers in the newsletter by describing specific functions performed by such groups in support of Chapter activities. This recognition will illustrate what those individuals do and how it contributes to Chapter success. Although no individuals will be mentioned in those articles, our intent is to honor everyone who performs those tasks for their efforts on behalf of the Chapter and the benefits that their work provides.

The committee welcomes recommendations for volunteers to be recognized. If there is a volunteer or a volunteer function you consider worthy of recognition, please send those recommendations to Stephen Buckhout at [yscottie@pacbell.net](mailto:yscottie@pacbell.net) or (408) 255-6233.

### Three Outstanding Volunteers Honored

We kicked off our new volunteer recognition at our November Potluck. Our three honorees were Jean Struthers, Carol Mattsson and Sherri Osaka.

**Jean Struthers** is a long-time member who has done almost everything in the Chapter, including serving as President. She helped start our native plant nursery and worked on the campaign to save Edgewood Preserve. She managed our nursery for many years, and currently is in charge of plant propagation there. On top of all her Chapter activities she is an accomplished artist, and her artwork makes our twice-yearly sale flyers very collectible.

**Carol Mattsson** has been our Blazing Star newsletter editor since 2001. She rounds up articles and pictures from a variety of contributors (you know who you are – thank you!!), a process much like herding cats, and then assembles it all into a coherent and lively newsletter. Her contribution to our Chapter communication is vital. On top of this she volunteers at many Chapter events, riding her bike to them whenever possible.

**Sherri Osaka**, a landscape designer and chair of Gardening with Natives, has created an incredible series of talks about gardening with native plants – 35 talks last year. She has recruited volunteers to introduce speakers at libraries from Belmont to Morgan Hill. She finds speakers on a wide variety of topics for beginning to experienced native plant gardeners. Sherri is enthusiastic and organized and has introduced hundreds of people to CNPS while spreading knowledge about gardening.

### Volunteer Spotlight: Plant Sale Tag Writers

*By Georgia Stigall. This is the first in a series of Volunteer Spotlights that we will feature in most newsletters to highlight volunteer activities in our Chapter.*

If you have shopped or volunteered at a CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter Native Plant Sale in the last several years, you have benefited from the activities of the Plant Sale Tag Writers. These are the volunteers who mill about in the yard area between the nursery and the cashiers wearing sun hats and carrying small clipboards. They watch the customers as they leave the nursery area, and swoop in at just the right moment, both to streamline the process for customers and to spare the cashier table from being filled with plants and moist soil.

The process of placing a colored tag in each plant designating the price was developed years ago, and has been working great since. The Sale Tag Writers pull the colored tags from each plant and mark the sale tag (with plant quantities only). They then direct the customers to where they should place their plants, and to proceed to the cashiers for tallying and payment. This is a very essential volunteer component of our plant sales, without which the logistics would be extremely bogged down.

Please join me as you have the opportunity to thank our Sale Tag Writer Volunteers (too many to list here by name!). Being a Sale Tag Writer Volunteer is also a great opportunity to significantly contribute to the success of our sales without having horticultural or gardening expertise. Volunteers for this activity need to be able to stand and reach, to congenially approach and communicate with our customers and to direct horticultural and gardening discussion to the Nursery volunteers. Please watch future newsletters for contact information to volunteer for this valuable Chapter activity. Thank you!

*Georgia Stigall is a long-time Chapter Board member, past Chapter President, and plant sale volunteer. You may reach her at [georgiastigall@yahoo.com](mailto:georgiastigall@yahoo.com) or (650) 941-1068.*

## CONSERVATION CORNER

### Conservation Committee

Our Chapter's conservation committee meets on the **first Thursday** of the month. The next meetings will be on **Thursdays, January 7 and February 4 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](mailto:ldruff@hotmail.com). For **directions** to the PCC, please see the previous Keying with Natives article.

### Cal-IPC Conference Report

The annual Symposium of the California Invasive Plant Council, held this year in October in San Diego, covered a variety of topics related to native plants, including the threat of invasive plants to biodiversity. Here are a few highlights:

- San Diego County and adjoining Baja California (also part of the California Floristic Province) is a biodiversity hotspot. There are more plant species in San Diego County, the most bio-diverse county in the country, than in all of the northeastern U.S.
- There was a concurrent conference on the Habitat Conservation Planning (HCP) process, and there were discussions about how to leverage this process for region-wide invasive plant management.
- The federal government and other organizations are experimenting with the use of drones for conservation purposes, such as remote sensing and even weed treatment (see [uas.usgs.gov](http://uas.usgs.gov)).
- A leaf-mining moth shows promise in limiting the spread of the invasive Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) and is about to be released.

For more information on these topics and more, see the Symposium abstracts at [www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/pdf/Cal-IPC2015Abstracts.pdf](http://www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/pdf/Cal-IPC2015Abstracts.pdf) and symposium presentations at [www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/archive/2015\\_presentations.php](http://www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/archive/2015_presentations.php).

## CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

### Edgewood Weed Warriors

Our 26-year volunteer restoration program strives to make Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve an inspirational showcase of all CNPS stands for. Come share the beauty of Edgewood with us and help keep Edgewood native!

Our **9am Friday** sessions run year round; **5:30pm Wednesday** sessions will resume when Daylight Savings Time returns next spring.

For Edgewood Weed Warrior (EWW) information, schedules and meeting places visit [www.cnps-scvc.org](http://www.cnps-scvc.org) or phone Friday session leader 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.”



Dee Wong

Volunteer John Rawlings found pampas grass hiding in plain sight, at the fountain thistle restoration site during the October 2015 workday.

Recently, the City of San Jose has provided us with many locally native plants, propagated by HT Harvey & Associates per our request. The City will also be providing funding for plant cages. We look forward to planting these new plants and protecting vulnerable new trees and shrubs from deer browse by installing the plant cages.

We have weeding sessions **every Monday morning** and an **Inspiration Point Walk-and-Weed Day the third Saturday morning** of each month. You don't have to sign up ahead of time to join us on a weeding session, but we do ask that you 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](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net) or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

### Fountain Thistle Restoration Project in San Mateo County: Workday Report Posted

Our Chapter joins with Caltrans and the CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter to restore the rare, federally endangered fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*). The

restoration site is at the intersection of I-280 and Hwy. 92. Last October, after years of corresponding with Jake Sigg to announce project workdays in this newsletter, your editor Carol Mattsson finally attended a workday. There she met Jake in person, learned to identify and pull some exotic weeds, and saw actual fountain thistle recovering in a hillside seep. You'll find a link to her report on the Chapter website's Restoration page, at [www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/restoration](http://www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/restoration).

## **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.**

### **Fri Jan 1 10am - 2pm Año Nuevo State Preserve (Hwy 1 coast-southern San Mateo County)**

Join us as we celebrate a Chapter tradition of welcoming the New Year with a walk and picnic at Año Nuevo State Preserve on the San Mateo County coast. The preserve is located south of Pescadero on Highway 1, just north of the Santa Cruz County line.

Meet in the parking lot (\$10 day use fee) at **10am**. Latecomers will find us on the trail in the coastal prairie. We'll enjoy sea cliff vegetation, raptors, songbirds and maybe marine mammals. We will face a moderate low tide at noon, but should be able to picnic on the beach (in the area in which seal tour reservations are not required).

As this is a day to have fun at the beach with fellow Chapter members, the ending time and depth of botanical discussion may be extended depending on participants. We will finish at the visitor center. Bring binoculars and layers for variable conditions including wind, sun and fog.

Heavy rain cancels. For more information contact Trevlyn Williams at [trevlynwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:trevlynwilliams@gmail.com) or (650) 823-3227.

### **Sun Jan 10 10am - 1pm Know Your Willows: Guadalupe River Mitigation Area**

Joe Cernac will lead an urban hike along the Guadalupe R. in San Jose with emphasis on winter plant recognition skills. There are three common Bay Area willows along this stretch, plus two cottonwoods, a box elder and other riparian trees. One of the willows is easily recognized by its winter buds, while others hold their leaves during winter, making them comparable to those of summer.

**Directions:** We'll meet at **10am sharp** at an undesignated dirt parking lot at the end of Irene St., which is off of West Taylor St. in San Jose. For a map to the meeting place, search Google Maps for "Irene St., San Jose, CA" and it will bring you to the street. Use Street View to see details of the street and parking lot.

After the walk, those willing may join Joe to continue the walk downtown to partake of ale and lunch. For more info, contact Joe at [joecernac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joecernac@sbcglobal.net) or (408) 292-5465.

### **Mon Jan 11 7:00-8:30pm Field Trip Planning Meeting - PCC Palo Alto**

We will be scheduling the remainder of the spring and summer field trips, plus any field trips we may want to have for the rest of the year. With more knowledge of the winter weather patterns we may make plans for the Desert Trip and other away mountain trips. All are welcome to join in the discussion.

For further information contact Dee Wong, Field Trip Chair, at [dee4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:dee4cnps@gmail.com). For **directions** to the PCC (Peninsula Conservation Center), see directions following the Keying with Natives article, earlier in this newsletter.

### **Sat Feb 6 10am - 3pm Dirca - Stevens Creek County Park, Cupertino**

Join Don Thomas for a four mile walk to see the southernmost population of the endemic western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*). We will also see some early emerging woodland plants in flower. There will be some moderate but slow-paced hill climbing, with a stop for lunch. This will be a repeat of the field trip for the 2015 CNPS Conservation Conference, but we will try to obtain a more accurate population count.

**Directions:** We will meet at the park parking lot near the intersection of Stevens Canyon Road and Mt. Eden Road. For more information, please contact Don Thomas at [don\\_e\\_thomas@yahoo.com](mailto:don_e_thomas@yahoo.com) or (408) 828-4044.

Please bring lunch, snacks and liquid. Heavy rain cancels.

## Sun Feb 21 10am - 4pm Montara Mountain San Pedro Valley County Park (Pacifica)

Join co-leaders Ken Himes and Dee Wong on an early spring outing to San Pedro Valley County Park. We expect to see some early blooms: Montara manzanita (*Arctostaphylos montaraensis*), pink-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinsum*), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis*), and others.

The trip will be a moderate 4-5-mile loop hike through coastal scrub and chaparral plus some riparian woodland. It will include an elevation gain and loss of about 600 feet and is expected to last until **4pm**. For more information contact at Dee Wong at [dee4CNPS@gmail.com](mailto:dee4CNPS@gmail.com) or Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560.

**Directions:** The Park is located at 600 Oddstad Blvd. in Pacifica. From the South Bay, take I-280 North then merge onto Skyline Blvd./CA-35 via exit 41 towards Pacifica. After 3.5 mi. turn left onto Sharp Park Rd. down towards the coast. Follow the signs for Cabrillo Hwy./CA-1 South towards Santa Cruz. Go for 2.5 mi. then turn left at Linda Mar Blvd.; go for two more miles to where the road ends at Oddstad. Turn right and then immediately left into the park. The County Park day use fee is \$6 per vehicle.

We'll meet at **10am** in front of the Visitor Center. Bring water and a lunch or snacks. Heavy rain cancels.

## Field Trip Reports Posted – Stile Ranch



Dee Wong  
Bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*) seen  
March 2015 at Stile Ranch

Visit our website's field trip reports page to see two new field trip reports by Dee Wong.

Attendees to Stile Ranch hike #1 in March and #2 in May saw how the progression of drought affected Stile Ranch. On the March trip participants saw

many flowers in bloom. In May the grasslands had already started drying out and the native grasses had begun to set seed.

To see the full reports please visit [www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/field-trips/field-trip-reports](http://www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/field-trips/field-trip-reports).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*News and Activities from Other Organizations*

### Edgewood Docent Training Begins Jan. 20

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve (FoE) will offer docent training in January for their spring Wildflower Walks. Edgewood's soils provide displays of grassland wildflowers like those once seen all over California's landscape. Docents lead free, three-hour walks on spring weekend mornings to educate the public about the many interesting facts and beauties of Edgewood.

FoE's training provides eight pairs of bi-weekly meetings: Wednesday evening talks in Redwood City followed by Saturday morning hikes that build on the Wednesday topic. Trainees also observe at least two Wildflower Walks and go on a one-on-one walk with an experienced docent. There is a \$30 fee for training materials.

Please note that **registration closes January 14th**. To register or for more information, please email Mary Wilson at [docent-trainer@FriendsOfEdgewood.org](mailto:docent-trainer@FriendsOfEdgewood.org) or visit [www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org/docent-training](http://www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org/docent-training).

## CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2016

Title	Name	Phone	Email
<b>President</b>	Stephen Rosenthal	(408) 923-6562	<a href="mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net">sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Madeline Morrow	(408) 741-1150	<a href="mailto:madelinemorrow@earthlink.net">madelinemorrow@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Radhika Thekkath	(650) 473-1537	<a href="mailto:rthekath@yahoo.com">rthekath@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Carolyn Dorsch	(650) 804-6162	<a href="mailto:cdorsch1@aol.com">cdorsch1@aol.com</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Arvind Kumar	(408) 715-7020	<a href="mailto:arvind.kumar@cnps.org">arvind.kumar@cnps.org</a>

To join our Chapter news email list please visit [www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/contact-us/sign-up](http://www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/contact-us/sign-up).

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

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

**Saturday, February 6, 2016**

**Email: [newsletter@cnps-scv.org](mailto:newsletter@cnps-scv.org)  
Phone: (408) 255-3767**

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](http://www.cnps.org/membership)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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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)

**Jan 1 Fri** Año Nuevo field trip (6)  
**Jan 6 Wed** Nursery Member Sale (1)  
**Jan 7 Thu** Conservation Committee meeting (5)  
**Jan 8-10** Nursery gravel installation (1)  
**Jan 10 Sun** Guadalupe willows field trip (6)  
**Jan 11 Mon** Field trip planning meeting (6)  
**Jan 14 Thu** GWN – Rain garden – Hackler (2)  
**Jan 20 Wed** GWN – Bird-friendly – Goldberg (3)  
**Jan 22 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)  
**Jan 26 Tue** GWN – Biodiversity – Kumar (3)  
**Jan 29 Fri** **Member's Night** (1)

**Feb 3 Wed** Nursery Member Sale (1)  
**Feb 4 Thu** Conservation Committee meeting (5)  
**Feb 6 Sat** Stevens Creek dirca field trip (6)  
**Feb 6 Sat** **Newsletter submittal deadline** (7)  
Feb 21 Sun Montara / San Pedro Valley field trip (7)  
**Feb 25 Thu** **Newsletter Mailing Party - 10am PCC**  
**Feb 25 Thu** GWN – Container garden – Veilleux (3)  
**Feb 26 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)  
**Wed & Thu Noon-3pm** Nursery work sessions (2)  
**Fri 9am** Edgewood Weed Warriors (5)  
**Mon & 3rd Saturdays** Alum Rock Walk-and-Weed (5)

The next Chapter Board meeting will be **Thursday, February 11 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 Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.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-scw.org](mailto:membership@cnps-scw.org). Address changes may be submitted to [cnps@cnps.org](mailto:cnps@cnps.org); please put "member address change" in the subject line.

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