



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

March-April 2006

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

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

Topic: A Species Close-up: *Dirca occidentalis*
Speaker: William R. Graves, Ph.D.

Dirca occidentalis is a fascinating and endearing species endemic to specialized niches from Stevens Creek Canyon in Santa Clara County, up the Peninsula, to the East Bay, and ranging as far north as near Bodega in Sonoma County. Commonly called Western leatherwood, shrubs of this species form beautiful flowers during the winter. Dr. Graves will present his most recent research findings on the reproduction, survival, propagation, and genetic diversity of this rare and somewhat secretive species. This presentation will enhance your appreciation of a unique member of California's flora through a synthesis of data collected in a host of ways, ranging from digging holes in soil to DNA analysis in a laboratory.

Bill Graves was raised in the Chicago area and received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Iowa State University and a Ph.D. from Purdue University. Now a Professor in the Department of Horticulture, Bill teaches and conducts research on ecologically threatened trees and shrubs. He's particularly interested in rare taxa with desirable horticultural traits and in the role that horticulture can play in conserving threatened species. His most recent work focuses on *Dirca* spp. (leatherwoods), including our local *Dirca occidentalis*.

Directions: From Foothill Expy., travel ½ mile on San Antonio Road 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 Road, cross Edith and turn left into the unmarked driveway just before Hillview. The sign on San Antonio Road 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 info., contact Chapter Vice President Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Spring Wildflower Show April 22 and 23

The annual Chapter Wildflower Show will be held **Saturday and Sunday April 22 and 23** at Mission College in Santa Clara. This year's show is co-sponsored by the Mission College Biology Department. Show hours are **10am to 4pm** daily in the Hospitality Management Building. Parking is free in Lot C, immediately next to the show location.

In addition to a large display of wildflowers collected specifically for the show or grown by Chapter members, there will be a number of plant-related displays and vendors offering a variety of wildflower-themed items. Once again, short classes on wildflower identification and native plant gardening will be offered. The classes will be free and open to all on a first-come-first-served basis.

Directions: To reach the Mission College campus take 101 to Great America Pkwy/Bowers in Santa Clara. Go north toward Great America. Turn left onto Mission College Boulevard and then right at the first traffic light and follow the road around the campus perimeter to Parking Lot C. Drive to the far end of the lot, which faces the Hospitality Management Building. **Parking is free ONLY in Lot C.**

Wildflower Show Call for Volunteers

It takes between 75 and 100 volunteers to make the annual Wildflower Show a successful event. You need not make a major time commitment to help; **even an hour or two** will be a major contribution to the Show's success.

We need assistance in all areas before, during, and after the show, including many tasks that require no or only minimal plant identification skills. Help is needed with distributing posters advertising the show, collecting plant specimens, assisting those collecting specimens, setting up the exhibition area, keying plant specimens, placing plants and name cards on the display tables, greeting and surveying visitors, serving refreshments for all the volunteers, staffing the Chapter sales table and displays, providing plants grown in pots, taking down the exhibition area, and preparing post-show reports of plants displayed.

To volunteer please contact the Wildflower Show Chair, David Chapman at (408)323-1913 or dcchapman@earthlink.net.

Spring Native Plant Sale and Call for Volunteers

Our Spring Native Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday, May 6, from 10am to 3pm (please note our new closing time)** at our Hidden Villa nursery. Once again we're asking everyone who can to come and help with the sale.

If you can donate boxes in which customers may carry home their purchases, please bring them to the nursery during the week before the sale.

There are also lots of ways to **volunteer your time** to help with the sale. Most of the jobs listed below don't require expert knowledge of plants, and you can choose to work one or two hours or all day.

Before the sale, you can help during our **Wednesday** work sessions at the nursery from **12noon to 3pm** (see the article later in this issue). **Special work days** will also be held before the sale to help prepare the nursery and the plants for sale. These work days will be from **10am to 3pm** on the following days:

Saturday, April 29
Monday, May 1
Friday, May 5

On the day of the sale, we will need:

- People to help set up before the sale (starting at **8am**)
- People to help with parking
- People who will answer customers' questions about the plants and help them decide which plants to purchase
- People who will write up the sales tags before customers go to the cashiers to pay for their plants

- Cashiers
- People who will help customers take their purchases to their cars and bring back the wagons and carts to the nursery
- People to help clean up after the sale (**3-4pm**)

The plant sales are always lots of fun to work at, and we hope you'll come and help! Lunch will be provided to volunteers, too. You do not need to sign up in advance – just come to the nursery at the time you'd like to work.

Contact information for the coordinators:

Janet Gomez (408)978-2984, janet.gomez@gmail.com
 Kevin Bryant (408)639-0493, mtngreen17@verizon.net

Native Plant Nursery

Thanks to many volunteers, we have completed the expansion of the nursery. It did not involve very much hard labor since we used a plastic 7-1/2 foot deer fence.

Gerry Ellis helped with fence posts and clearing. He and Dave Struthers mixed cement for the corner posts and Ken Himes and Paul Heiple helped fasten the fencing. We covered the soil with compost chips supplied by Hidden Villa and water lines were put in by David Chapman and Dave Struthers. Dave also built a nice gate in the existing fence and landscaping is ongoing by Petra Foerster and Sue Welch. The new area is for the plants we do not sell (which are the stock for the ones we do sell). This expansion will free another aisle in the sale area for buyers of our plants.

Volunteer gardeners are wanted. Come by on a **Wednesday afternoon (12noon to 3pm)** and help us get ready for the Spring sale on May 6. A lot of tiny things need to go to bigger pots.

Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. We may need help weeding, cleaning the nursery, making signs, rearranging the pots and generally getting the place ready for the sale. Knowledge of plants is not necessary: your willingness to help is all that's required.

The nursery is in need of the black, one gallon pots. To make a donation, please leave the pots at the nursery gate.

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, March 2, 7-9pm., at the PCC in Palo Alto: **Spring Seed & Cutting Exchange.** By popular demand, we are introducing this event in spring as well. Bring seeds and cuttings of your favorite plants to share; label your offerings to make them easier to browse and select; wow others by attaching photos of plants in bloom. Bring coin envelopes, plastic bags/paper towels to carry seeds and cuttings home. Free and open to all! What a deal. Host: Stephanie Morris.

Saturday, March 11, 2-4pm., at Environmental Education Center, 1731 Grand Blvd, Alviso (San Jose) **EEC Garden Tour:** Join tour guide June Smith, propagator at the Don Edwards Refuge Native Plant Nursery, for a tour of the landscape at EEC in Alviso. The garden contains mature specimens of ceanothus, coffeeberry, fuchsia-flowered gooseberry, buckwheats, toyons, black sage, buckeye, and more. The area is maintained largely with volunteer help. Learn more about this remarkable resource by the bay.

Thursday, April 6, 7-9pm., at the PCC in Palo Alto: **Native Plant Clinic.** Are your native plants languishing, tired, or sick? Are they yellowing or dropping leaves? Bring them in to see Native Plant Doctors Jeff Caldwell, Jean Struthers, and Sally Casey for an on-the-spot diagnosis, perhaps even cure. Bring cuttings or pots or photos. Host: Arvind Kumar.

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.**

Directions to the EEC: Environmental Education Center, 1731 Grand Blvd, Alviso (San Jose). From 101, take 237 East; from 880/680, take 273 West. Exit Zanker Road and go north on Zanker (towards the Bay) for approximately 1.5-2 miles, passing water pollution control plant, waste management plant, and railroad tracks. Watch for brown sign on right reading "Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge". Immediately after this sign, make sharp RIGHT turn on to Grand Blvd. The road is not well marked. This road goes straight to the EEC's parking lot. If you see houses on your right, you have missed the Grand Blvd. turnoff.

For more information on the Gardening with Natives group, visit its website at www.GardeningWithNatives.com. GWN maintains a Yahoo group with over 290 members, which is a true resource for native plant gardeners in our 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 at (408)274-6965.

Native Hill News

The native grassland at Foothill College is coming along very well. Sue Welch provided numerous bunch grasses that she grew herself and we have planted these on a slope in the garden along with yarrow, blue-eyed grass, California poppies, California fuschia, buttercups and hummingbird sage. At present the following plants are in bloom providing a beautiful spring bouquet: maritime ceanothus, snow flurry ceanothus, woolly blue curls, pitcher sage and numerous manzanitas. We have been working closely with the CNPS nursery, taking cuttings from the garden for propagation and receiving guidance and plants in exchange from Jean and Ray.

We've observed the following birds feasting on a wealth of seeds provided by Saint Catherine's lace and other bird friendly plant species: California quail, hummingbirds, white-crowned sparrows, juncos and mourning doves.

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who responded to Judy Fenerty's call to move the gigantic pile of mulch that was mistakenly dumped on the parking lot next to Native Hill just after New Year's day.

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.

Photo Group

Join us for the next meetings of the Chapter Photography Group, on **Mondays, March 20 and April 17** in the

Peregrine room at the PCC, from **7-9pm**. You are welcome to bring digital images (either on CD or your laptop), slides, or prints to share. For more information contact Jerry Welch at (408)353-8352 or jdwelch@yahoo.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. The next meetings will be **March 31** and **April 28** at the PCC building in Palo Alto. Contact David "Tex" Houston for more details, (650)962-9876 x347 or davidh@acterra.org.

Edgewood Habitat Restoration: 2005 in Review - By Ken Himes

Volunteers contributed 2762 hours towards controlling invasive plants at Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve in 2005. This amount surpasses our previous high of 2549 hours in 2004. But are we making progress? The answer varies depending on which species are considered.

Abundant rainfall, well spaced and occurring over a long season made for ideal growing conditions for native and non-native species in 2005. Although, it was one of the better wildflower viewing seasons, Italian and yellow star-thistle plants rebounded with densities not seen in several years.

We definitely lost ground to Italian thistle, *Carduus pycnocephalus*, as we didn't cover all four of our treatment sites in spring 2005. Canceled sessions due to late spring rains were one factor. In addition, Italian thistle continues to increase in densities. It is also shade tolerant and occurs in woodland areas and at Edgewood is becoming more widespread than yellow star-thistle.

We work on yellow star-thistle, *Centaurea solstitialis*, in summer and made a modest advance this year. We covered 27 acres of continuing treatment sites and removed most plants. One site, which had no plants in 2004, had one plant in 2005. Sharp-eyed Paul Heiple removed it before it could produce seed.

In addition to 27 acres we advanced into a new treatment area approved for our 2005-7 permit. Dense stands of yellow star-thistle (YST) made for slow going but good attendance allowed us to advance and remove plants in another two acres. Another positive was our late season sweeps for YST plants that were missed in our earlier site visits. We probably archived near zero densities on most sites with these additional sweeps.

In the fall, we work in the complex of seasonally moist meadows near the west kiosk. This year, bristly ox-tongue, *Picris echioides*, and bull thistle, *Cirsium vulgare*, continue to have reduced densities. There are now vigorous stands of California oatgrass, visible from the Edgewood Trail near the west kiosk.

The verdict is still out regarding our efforts to control French broom, *Genista monspessulana*. Five to ten years after removing adult plants at sites in Edgewood, germinated seedlings are still coming up like corn in an Iowa field. I have heard that seeds can remain viable for up to 70 years. Although we have cleared a total of five and one-half acres of broom plants, these sites are by no means restored. We do hope to continue these efforts at Edgewood for years to come. This is critical if we are to be successful in our eventual control of French broom.

I want to thank all those volunteers who helped out at Edgewood Preserve in 2005 and look forward to working with you in 2006. See you at Edgewood.

Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park

Join Ken Himes to help remove non-native species from Edgewood Park. Weeding sessions take place **Friday mornings all year, 8:30am**. Once daylight savings time begins on April 2, our work sessions will also take place on **Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm**.

Our **Saturday** weeding sessions will begin on **April 15**, when we will meet on the Clarkia trail entrance at **9am**. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen and gloves if you have them; tools will be supplied. Expect good wildflower views along the serpentine block. Other Saturday sessions will be held on **May 20, June 17, July 15 and July 29**. Check future Blazing Star newsletters for details.

For more information, including locations for the weeding sessions, call Ken at (650)591-8560. For the Friday sessions call Ken or contact John Allen at jcakwa@earthlink.net. Or visit the Edgewood Weed Warriors website, at edgewood.thinkersrus.net.

An Evening with the Grasses - April 26

Come to De Anza College for a two hour class taught by Sally Casey, specializing in the grass family. Bring your own flowering grasses you wish to identify.

The class will be on Wednesday, April 26, from **7:30pm to 9:30pm**. **Space is limited**; call Sally Casey (408)377-0989 for further information or to **sign up**.

A follow-up grass walk is planned. Date and location will be announced at the class and in the next issue of the Blazing Star.

Directions: The class will be at the De Anza College Environmental Studies Area. Carpooling is encouraged. \$2 parking fee, parking is off McClellan Road, at the south entrance to De Anza College. We'll meet at the new building (where the tennis courts were) within walking distance of the parking area.

Open Chapter Positions

Our spring newsletter is always packed with fun volunteer activities, but there are even more great ways to participate. We are currently looking for a Poster Chair to sell posters at meetings and events, and to purchase and manage our poster stores. You don't need to be an expert botanist to do this job, and it's a great way to meet people. We are also looking for Chairs for Corresponding Secretary, Plant Lists, and Historian. We also have many special projects, and most of our on-going chairs would like to train an understudy or assistant. Please contact Judy Fenerty for more information on any of these positions, at (408)378-6272, or judy@fenerty.com.

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, 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.

Sat Mar 11 10am Stile Ranch

Sally Casey and Dick Gerher will co-lead a 3-4 mile (with less than 600' of elevation gain) wildflower hike to Stile Ranch, a serpentine-rich portion of Santa Teresa County Park. With the cooperation of the seasons, expect to see *Claytonia gysophiloides*, *Allium*, *Linanthus*, *Gilia*, goldfields, morning glory, leather oak and black sage. The trip is expected to last until **2pm**.

Directions: From Highway 85 south, exit Almaden Expressway south. Proceed to end, turn right onto Harry Road (traffic light). Left on McKean Road, continue about 1 mile. Left on Fortini. Go to end, turn left on San Vicente. Parking lot on right about 300 feet. For more information, contact Sally at (408)377-0989.

Sun Mar 12 10am Sweeney Ridge

Join Ken Himes for a hike in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, along Sweeney Ridge, the ridge from where Gaspar de Portola viewed San Francisco Bay on November 4, 1769. Plants of the coastal scrub community will be featured. On a clear day, wonderful views are possible. There will be a gain/loss of 600 feet during our six mile hike along the ridge. Wear layers as windy, cool conditions could occur. Bring lunch and water as we expect to finish at **3:30pm**.

Directions: Take I 280 north to Skyline Blvd. (Highway 35) and proceed north on Highway 35 to Sneath Lane. Turn left onto Sneath Lane and proceed two miles to the Sneath Lane trailhead parking. We will then conduct a car shuttle to Skyline College at the north end of Sweeney ridge for a one way hike along the ridge and return to the trailhead. For more info., call Ken at (650)591-8560.

Sat Mar 18 10am Jasper Ridge

Join Dr. Bill Graves (see program description at beginning of this newsletter) as he takes us to view *Dirca occidentalis* after bloom (hopefully in fruit). We will also walk through some of the many different habitats at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. The trip is expected to last until **2pm**.

There's a limit of 15 people, so an **RSVP is required**. A \$5 per person donation to Jasper Ridge is suggested. To reserve your spot, or for more information including **directions**, contact Kevin Bryant at (408)353-8824 or mtngreen17@verizon.net.

Sat-Sun Mar 25-26 Pinnacles National Monument Habitat Restoration & Camping Trip

Join us on a multi-chapter event as we visit this incredible national treasure south of Hollister. On **Saturday**, we will have fun helping to keep this park beautiful by joining in the effort to remove invasive non-native plants.

There will be a potluck dinner Saturday night at the campground. Our chapter will cover camping and entrance fees as a thank-you to those who come to help with the weed pulling. **Sunday** will feature hiking and botanizing in the beautiful landscapes that make The Pinnacles such a wonderful place (especially in spring).

Come for part of the weekend, or stay the whole time.

Please note that participants **must RSVP by March 15** to participate in this event. To RSVP by email please write to PinnaclesRSVP@gmail.com. To RSVP by phone please call Georgia Stigall at (650)941-1068; leave voicemail if no answer and she'll return your call.

A complete information packet will be sent (via email to those who have it or via postal mail to those who RSVP by phone) to those who have registered describing the details of the trip, what you should bring and so forth. For more information on Pinnacles National Monument, visit www.nps.gov/pinn.

Sat Apr 1 10am Mt. Diablo State Park

Join us as we explore the northern flank of this East Bay landmark peak and botanical hotspot. Expect to see the rare and beautiful *Calochortus pulchellus*, the Mt. Diablo fairy lantern, in bloom, as well as a wide assortment of wildflowers in large, sweeping displays.

This will be a moderate to difficult hike, 7 to 9 miles, with approx. 2,400 ft elevation gain. Please contact Kevin Bryant to register and receive directions, at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824.

Sat Apr 8 10am Coyote Ridge

In spring, after the rains stop, the Bay checkerspot butterfly emerges and the sheets of wildflowers appear on Coyote Ridge. Join Kevin Bryant and Judy Fenerty for our annual hike to take in this incredible preserve, focusing on serpentine plants and ecology on the ridge.

The hike will be about 3 miles round trip, with 600 foot elevation gain, and should last **3 to 4 hours**. The meeting place is about a 25 minute drive south from the downtown San Jose area.

An RSVP is necessary, since access to this fragile area is strictly controlled. Trip limit is 20. Note that it can be cold and windy on the ridge, and that it can heat up quickly as well, so dress in layers. Bring water, and a lunch or snack if you like. You may reserve a space and receive **directions** to our meeting place by contacting Kevin at (408)353-8824, or mtngreen17@verizon.net.

Sun Apr 9 11am Bonny Doon Ecological Preserve

Join trip leader Kevin Bryant as we explore this magnificent jewel of the Central Coast. This area of ancient marine terraces and sandstone outcrops holds numerous botanical treasures such as the federally

endangered Santa Cruz cypress (*Cupressus abramsiana*), Ben Lomond spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *hartwegiana*), and Santa Cruz wallflower (*Erysimum teretifolium*). Aside from all of the endangered species, there are several species that are uncommon in our area, such as bear grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*), Western Labrador tea (*Ledum glandulosum*), and deer fern (*Blechnum spicant*). The trip is expected to last until **4pm**.

Although we will be a little ahead of peak bloom time, we expect to see all of the above and more on a 5 mile trek lasting until about **4pm**, with about 300 ft. elevation gain. Trip limit is 15. To **RSVP** and receive **directions** to our meeting place, please contact Kevin at (408)353-8824 or mtngreen17@verizon.net.

Sat Apr 15 10am Sunol Regional Wilderness

Join Stella Yang and Dick Gehrler for a beautiful hike into the East Bay hills. We'll visit a creekside community of alders, willows and sycamores. Coast live oaks abound along with valley and blue oak, elderberry, madrone and grey pine. Spring wildflowers include California poppies, mustards, goldfields, and lupines, which carpet vast areas in yellow, orange, purple and blue.

This will be a moderate hike with the elevation gain/loss in the 400–600 foot range. Bring your lunch and let's enjoy the surroundings. The trip is expected to last until **3pm**.

Directions: In the East Bay, take Hwy 680 North, at the Hwy 84 interchange turn RT on to Calaveras Rd. Heading south follow park sign. After several miles, take Geary Rd as it forks LF into the park. Meet near visitor center. Note there is a \$5 per vehicle entrance fee. For more information contact Dick at (408)268-6922 or mrge@jps.net.

Sun Apr 16 10am San Bruno Mountain

Join Ken Himes for a hike on the Summit Loop Trail in San Bruno Mountain County Park to see plants of the coastal scrub and coastal prairie plant communities.

The Summit Loop Trail is 3.1 miles long with an elevation gain/loss of 725 feet. This walk is expected to last until **4pm**. Wear layers as windy and cold conditions could occur. Bring lunch and water.

Directions: From 101 northbound, take Old Bayshore/Brisbane exit and proceed north on Old Bayshore, past the town of Brisbane, until reaching a crest of a hill. Turn left onto Guadalupe Canyon Parkway and proceed uphill to the park entrance. There is a \$5.00 parking fee. The hike begins at the entrance station parking lot. For more information, call Ken at (650)591-8560.

Wed Apr 26 9:30am Bear Creek Redwoods

Stella Yang and Dick Gehrer will co-lead a wildflower hike to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space's Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve, through redwood forests and grasslands. This preserve has had many owners, so we will see a variety of native flora and many planted flora.

This will be a moderate hike with the elevation gain/loss in the 400 – 600 feet range. Bring your lunch and let's enjoy the surroundings. You will also hear about the history of the preserve. The trip is expected to last until **2pm**.

Directions: We will meet at the Los Gatos Parking area. From Highway 17, exit Los Gatos/Rt 9. After passing the first stop turn right into the Los Gatos Parking area. From here we will proceed to the Bear Creek Preserve. **Please RSVP** to Dick at (408)268-6922 or mrge@jps.net, or Stella at (408)255-6233 or yscottie@pacbell.net.

Sat Apr 29 10am Garrapata State Park

This smallish state park on the Big Sur coast in Monterey County offers some great views of the Pacific, and incredible and profuse displays of wildflowers. We will make the strenuous climb up the ridge slowly, making an approximately 1,800 ft. elevation gain on a 4.5 mile loop, and explore the flora that we encounter along the way. Bring binoculars as the nearby bluffs hold whale watching opportunities. The trip is expected to last until **5pm**.

We will meet at **10am** on Hwy. 1, about two hours from San Jose. No-host carpooling is encouraged. For details

and exact meeting location, please contact Kevin Bryant at (408)353-8824 or mtngreen17@verizon.net.

Upcoming CNPS Field Trips - Save the Dates

May 20-21st	Walker Ridge/Bear Valley w/Carolyn Dorsch and Ken Himes
June 23-25th	Snow Mountain Backpack w/Ken Himes
July 21-23rd	Sugar Lake/Russian Peak Wilderness Backpack w/Joe Cernac and Ken Himes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

**CNPS Fundraiser at Yerba Buena Nursery
April 22 and 23**

Present the **coupon below** with any plant purchase at Yerba Buena Nursery on these dates, and have 20% of your purchase price rebated to our Chapter in the form of a check!

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, April 6, 2006

**Email: mattsson@sbcglobal.net
Phone: (408)255-3767**

**Yerba Buena Nursery
CNPS Fundraiser Coupon**

Present this coupon at Yerba Buena Nursery on **Saturday, April 22 or Sunday, April 23, 2006** to have 20% of your plant purchases made on those days donated back to the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

Open Tue-Sun 9am-5pm (650)851-1668. The nursery is located at 19500 Skyline Blvd., Woodside, CA 94062. For map and directions, see **www.yerbabuenanursery.com**.

Get the plants you want for your garden and help raise money for a great cause. Meet the Yerba Buena Nursery staff, visit the Tea Terrace, lunch at our picnic tables and enjoy the day.

Many specimens in the Gerda Isenberg Demonstration Garden should be in bloom and this would be a delightful time of year to get reacquainted with this special native plant garden of over 500 species and cultivars.

As an added attraction, our propagation houses, normally closed to the public, will be open for self-guided tours on these two days only.

For Staff Use Only: Invoice # _____