



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

*March-April 2008*

## **GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM**

**Friday, March 28th at 7:30pm**  
**Saratoga Library Community Room**  
**13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga**

**Rare Plants of Marin, Focusing on Pt. Reyes**  
**SPEAKER: Doreen Smith**

Marin County has a rich and diverse flora with many species marked by extremely localized occurrences or restricted ranges. Pt. Reyes in particular provides a wide variety of environments for plants to grow in. Marin is relatively close to our area in physical distance yet offers numerous opportunities to see plants not found in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. Despite its nearby location and repeated botanic forays in the area, the discovery of previously unreported plants continues to the present day. Point Reyes National Seashore is home to nearly 18% of the species found in California, including 38 threatened and endangered species.

Join us to get acquainted with some of the less common Marin plants with a botanist who has spent a great deal of time tracking them down.

Doreen Smith is the Rare Plants Chair of the Marin Chapter of CNPS. She was introduced to plants at an early age by her father, a gardener for the British aristocracy. Educated in the United Kingdom, she holds a BS in Botany from Bristol and a teacher's credential from the University of London Institute of Education. She worked briefly as a taxonomic botanist for the Herbarium Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, on the Flora of Tropical East Africa (*Linaceae*).

Doreen has taught "Plant Families of Marin" at the College of Marin and currently provides volunteer botanical services for the Marin Municipal Water District, the Marin County Open Space District and Point Reyes National Seashore. She has led numerous field trips for the Marin

Chapter, co-authored the Plant Checklist for Point Reyes National Seashore, and helped with the fieldwork for the recently updated *Flora of Marin*.

**Keying Native Plants:** Our Keying with Natives Group is now offering an introduction to keying at **6:30pm**, an hour before every General Meeting.

**Directions:** From Highway 85 take the Saratoga Exit (NOT Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road) and travel southwest towards the Village of Saratoga. Stay in the right lane of Saratoga Avenue. About ½ mile from the highway exit, there will be a two-lane left turn for West Valley College at Fruitvale Avenue. Proceed through this intersection in the right lane, and take the next left turn into the library parking lot. The community room is at the front right of the library building.

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

## **Spring Wildflower Shows**

CNPS is sponsoring a booth at the **San Francisco Flower and Garden Show March 16-18**. Contact Peigi Duvall to volunteer, at (650)704-3926 or [peigidv@comcast.net](mailto:peigidv@comcast.net).

Our annual **Spring Wildflower Show** will be held **Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27**, at Mission College in Santa Clara. See page 2 for details.

## **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

### **Spring Native Plant Sale April 12** **Call for Volunteers**

Our Spring Native Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday, April 12, from 10am to 3pm** at our Hidden Villa nursery. Once again we're asking everyone who can to come and 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 **noon to 3pm** (see the article later in this issue). Special nursery work days will also be held before the sale to help prepare the nursery and label plants for the sale. We'll work from **noon to 3pm** on **Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, April 9, 10, and 11.**

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 to answer customers' questions about the plants and help them decide which plants to purchase
- People to write up the sales tags before customers go to the cashiers to pay for their plants
- Cashiers
- People to 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 provide lunch to volunteers.

We also really appreciate volunteer sign ups ahead of time so we can be better prepared on the day of the Sale (drop-in volunteers are welcome as always if you don't know your schedule ahead of time). Please sign up with the following coordinator(s) depending on your volunteering interest:

**Horticultural consultation and miscellaneous:**

Jean Struthers (650)941-2586, JeanStruthers@att.net  
Ray Deutsch (650)365-6136, henrymarsh@yahoo.com

**Writing sales tags and/or cashiering:**

Georgia Stigall (650)941-1068, GeorgiaStigall@yahoo.com

**Parking (directing customers in the lot):**

Stephen Buckhout (408)255-6233, yscottie@pacbell.net

**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. Follow the directions of the parking volunteers on sale day, or proceed over the bridge and park in the visitor center parking lot to your right. The Nursery greenhouse is just beyond the visitor (Dana) center.

**Spring Wildflower Show April 26 and 27**

Our 36th Annual Chapter Wildflower Show will be held at Mission College in Santa Clara. Show hours are **10am to 4pm** daily in the Hospitality Management Building, 3000

Mission College Boulevard. **Admission is free, and parking is free in Lot C only**, immediately next to the show location. See the enclosed poster for more info.

**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. 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 Wildflower Show Chair David Chapman, at (408)323-1913 or dcchapman@earthlink.net.

**Native Plant Nursery**

Our regular nursery work sessions take place every Wednesday, from **12noon to 3pm**. Besides caring for plants grown for Chapter sales, currently we're putting in weed cloth and gravel over the soil floor of the stock area. Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and your lunch. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. Knowledge of plants is not necessary: your willingness to help is all that's required.

The nursery is in need of one gallon cans, the very same reusable black plastic containers you see at our plant sales. You may drop off your donations at the Nursery gate, to the right near the soil bin. 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.

**What is Hidden Villa?**

**How did we get the Nursery?**

*By Jean Struthers, Nursery/Propagation Chair*

Hidden Villa was the home of Josephine and Frank Duveneck. They purchased the 2,000 acre ranch in the early 1920's and moved there with their four children. They built the "big house" up the valley and farmed on the valley floor. Some of the oldest buildings at the upper end of the farm date back to the days of stage coach travel. The

old white house was a stage stop on the road from San Francisco to Santa Cruz.

The Duvenecks were extremely generous with the use of their land. There were summer camps for children and housing for some who were displaced from foreign lands. When the Japanese were sent away from their homes during their WWII internment the Duvenecks and Gerda Isenberg helped them keep their property and get to safe places in the east. The first California youth hostel was built on the property, Josephine helped to start a Girl Scout troop and the first Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club meetings were held at this ranch. Each year the Friends Committee on Legislation held the Harvest Festival to raise money for that organization. When the Mid-Peninsula Open Space District was formed, the Duvenecks gave the 400 acres of Windmill Pasture to them.

After Josephine and Frank died the land became The Trust for Hidden Villa and a trail easement over the land was sold to the District. Liz Dana, the oldest Duveneck sibling, and her husband Dan designed and built the “Dana Center.” Formerly a visitor center, it was intended to be a meeting place for school tours and square dances.

I got to know Liz when she and Brenda Butner and I served together on a Town Environmental committee. We talked about working at Yerba Buena Nursery for Gerda. But, since Gerda had always donated the plants for our sales and she was then in her 90s, we knew that soon we would need to grow our own plants. We had tried to do this with Barbara Coe at Saratoga Horticulture Foundation, but that did not last after Barbara left. Liz suggested to me that we use her father’s old greenhouse at Hidden Villa. But it was too shady and too close to the big house, so the site near the Dana Center was selected by the staff. The 40x70 foot area was chosen and with that offer I wrote to the Packard Foundation in Los Altos to ask if we might apply to them for money to start a nursery. David Packard immediately wrote a check for \$10,000 and we began.

The spot is ideal for its sunny location and proximity to facilities, phone, and utilities. We spent almost all the money on the greenhouse, shade structure and gravel. The greenhouse was dismantled and reassembled by Gerry Ellis and moved by Bob Berka’s truck. The office shed was dismantled in Palo Alto and reassembled by David Struthers and volunteers. The shade structure was built by volunteers including Ken Himes, Jim Sugai, Dave Struthers, Ray Deutsch, Don Mayall, and others. Gerry made the soil bin and the sign and info box on the fence. The fence itself was donated by John Allen’s Kiwanis club. David Chapman installed the watering system, digging all the ditches and plumbing the automatic controls. Recently

a new deer gate was donated by Steve Hartman after he saw our old rickety one.

The nursery was ready to start on December 11, 1996 when the greenhouse was finally ready. That night we had a terrific wind and 4 or 5 panels blew away. We had to find them around the ranch and replace a few. We then strapped the roof down and have had only minor problems since. Last year we got a small addition (20’x40’) for the stock plants and are still working to make that area useable. We will be putting weed barrier and gravel on the “floor” soon.

We love having the nursery at Hidden Villa and the butterflies and birds love our plants.



PITCHER SAGE  
*Lepechinia calycina*

© 2002 Judy Mason

**Found in chaparral and woodland habitats in the Bay Area, pitcher sage is a woody shrub notable for its soft fuzzy leaves and intense aroma. It blooms in late spring with pendant lavender blossoms, and attracts native bees as well as hummingbirds. With the onset of summer, the large green leaves give way to smaller gray ones that last through fall. In the garden it prefers full sun, lean soil, and no summer water. With its open habit, it is a good choice for a mixed border, rubbing shoulders with other shrubs and perennials.—Arvind Kumar**

## 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.

## Deva Luna: Alternatives to Lawns

**Thursday, March 6, 2008, 7 to 9pm** Evergreen Library

**Tired of your lawn, but don't know what to put in instead?** Come to this talk and be inspired to create a beautiful yard — without mowing or fertilizing! See a variety of no-lawn landscaping styles and ideas, get professional landscaping tips, and have fun. Sustainable landscape designer **Deva Luna** works for EarthCare Landscaping, and has been teaching gardening for 11 years. She is an ardent plant lover — of California native plants, herbs, edibles, Mediterraneans, and so many more. This program is supported by the Evergreen Library and the Evergreen Valley Garden Club.

**Directions:** Evergreen Library, 2635 Aborn Road (at Kettman), San Jose: Take 101 South to San Jose. Take Capitol Expressway East exit. Turn right on Aborn. Turn left on Kettman into library parking lot.

## Geoffrey Coffey: Horticultural Natives of Local Parks

**Thursday, April 3, 7 to 9pm** at the PCC

Writer, landscape designer, and nurseryman Geoffrey Coffey has hiked many Bay Area parks and open spaces, including the South Bay's Coyote Ridge, documenting the diversity of garden-worthy native plants that exist in our own backyard. For many years, he shared his findings through his San Francisco Chronicle column, "Locals Only." He is the founder of Bay Natives Nursery in San Francisco; Madroño, a landscape design studio; and Native Spaces, a non-profit organization which promotes the use of California native plants in the built landscape.

[www.geoffreycoffey.com](http://www.geoffreycoffey.com)

**Directions to 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](http://www.GardeningWithNatives.com). GWN maintains a Yahoo group with over 500 members, a true resource for native plant gardeners in this area. To join the Yahoo group, visit [groups.yahoo.com/group/GardeningWithNatives](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GardeningWithNatives). To contact the GWN Steering Committee, email [info@gardeningwithnatives.com](mailto:info@gardeningwithnatives.com) or call Arvind Kumar at (408)715-7020.

## Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park

Come enjoy the spring and early summer wildflowers, while protecting sensitive habitats at Edgewood Park. **Friday morning** habitat restoration sessions occur year-round, and start at **9am**. Our **Wednesday evening** sessions, starting at **5:30pm, resume March 12**, with the advent of Daylight Savings Time.

We will again be having **Saturday sessions starting at 9am** on the **3rd Saturday of the month** from March thru July, including an **Earth Day session in April**:

Date	Meeting Place
March 15	West Kiosk
April 19	West Kiosk
May 17	West Kiosk
June 21	West Kiosk
July 19	Day Camp

The big news for this Spring, though, is the kickoff of our new **zero-non-native** effort, to start creating patches of grassland that are ENTIRELY weed free! Stay tuned for more details in the future, or come on out to one of our restorations sessions to learn more and get involved.

For details, including schedules and meeting places, see our Weed Warriors website at [edgewood.thinkersrus.net](http://edgewood.thinkersrus.net), contact Paul Heiple at (650)854-7125 or [pheiple@gmail.com](mailto:pheiple@gmail.com), or email John Allen at [jcakwa@earthlink.net](mailto:jcakwa@earthlink.net).

## Other Chapter Groups and Activities

The upcoming dates and contact information for some of our other regular Chapter activities are as follows:

Activity	Dates	Contact
<b>Native Hill</b> at Foothill College	<b>Saturdays and Sundays at 9am</b> - see Phil's email list for dates	Phil Higgins <a href="mailto:phidor@juno.com">phidor@juno.com</a> or (650)941-4752.
<b>Photo</b>	<b>Mondays 7-9pm,</b>	Patrick Gallagher

<b>Group at PCC</b>	<b>March 17 and April 21</b>	(408)483-9366 or drrust@greenisles.com
<b>Keying with Natives</b>	<b>Fri. 6:30pm, Feb. 29 PCC, Mar. 28 Saratoga Lib.; Apr 25 Wildflower Show</b>	David "Tex" Houston tex009@sbcglobal.net or Sally Casey at (408)377-0989

and from there we will car botanize Box Canyon as we head south to explore and live in beautiful, expansive Anza-Borrego Desert State Park for a few days. Camping and/or motel accommodations will be available at both parks; CNPS will reserve campgrounds where appropriate.

Please **register as soon as possible** so we can plan accordingly. Contact Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net, or at (408)348-9470 for more info.

## 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.**

### **Mar 2 Sun 9am Pulgas Ridge Open Space**

Join members Carolyn Dorsch and Michael Yantos for a leisurely 3-5 mile hike in one of the Peninsula's tucked away parks. Distinctive plant communities will be observed in this 366 acre park, e.g., blue oaks, chaparral, and coastal shrub. There should be quite a variety of spring flowers in bloom.

The trip is expected to last until **1pm**. For more information contact Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com, (650)804-6162 or Michael Yantos at yantosArchitect@att.net or (650)593-7488.

**Directions:** From Highway 280, take the Edgewood Road exit in San Carlos, and head east. Go about a mile, then turn left at Crestview. Make an immediate left at Edmunds Road (Cordilleras Center). The parking lot is ¼ mile on right. Meet at **9am** in the parking lot.

### **Mar 9-14 Sun-Fri Southern California Desert**

The southern deserts of our state have received several soaking rains this year, and while a spectacular display is not a sure thing as of this writing, there are reliable reports of lots of green plants in the desert, and some are starting to bloom (see [www.desertusa.com/wildflo/ca.html](http://www.desertusa.com/wildflo/ca.html) for bloom reports).

Desert conservationist and CNPS Fellow Steve Hartman will lead us (along with some CNPS state staff members) to botanize Joshua Tree NP and environs from March 9-11,

### **Mar 15 Sat 10am San Bruno Mountain**

Join Ken Himes and Aaron Schusteff for a hike along the Summit Loop Trail in San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. We can expect to see manzanitas, coast rock cress, Franciscan wallflower and other early flowering plants on this 3-½ mile loop trail.

Bring lunch and liquids, and dress in layers to prepare for variable weather conditions. The elevation gain and loss is about 800 feet. We expect the hike to last until **3:30pm**. For more information call Ken at (650)591-8560 or email Aaron at arbonius2@sbcglobal.net

**Directions:** Go north on 101, take the Brisbane exit and proceed north on Bayshore Highway past Brisbane until making a left turn onto Guadalupe Parkway. Follow Guadalupe Parkway uphill to the park entrance. We will meet at the parking lot just beyond the entrance kiosk at **10am**. There is a \$5.00 entrance fee.

### **Mar 28-30 Fri-Sun Carrizo Plain**

Join members Carolyn Dorsch and Michael Yantos for a spring exploration of central California (eastern San Luis Obispo County). This is a joint trip with the Desert Survivors conservation group in an exploration of flora and fauna.

This will be an easy trip with car stops and short hikes. You can explore grasslands, see spring blooms and the Soda Lake playa, evidence of the San Andreas Fault, and possibly Painted Rock and Caliente Ridge. We will camp Friday and Saturday..

For a trip information sheet or to **sign up**, contact Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com or (650)804-6162; or Michael Yantos at yantosArchitect@att.net or (650)593-7488.

### **Apr 13 Sun 10am Warm Springs Vernal Pools**

Discover the wonders of vernal pool plants and wildlife on this easy walking tour of the Warm Springs Unit of Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge in Fremont. Enjoy the chance to see one of the Bay Area's remaining vernal pool grasslands that is usually closed to the public.

The vernal pool areas at Warm Springs are home to populations of rare and threatened flora such as the federally endangered Contra Costa goldfields, and CNPS List 1B species including prostrate navarretia, Hoover's button celery, alkali milk vetch and Congdon's tarplant.

In addition, the areas have one of the few remaining natural populations of tiger salamander and vernal pool shrimp, two federally-protected animal species.

Total walking distance will be approximately 1 mile, but the terrain is uneven. Please wear sturdy shoes (preferably waterproof) and dress according to the weather. Heavy rain will cancel. The trip is expected to last until **1pm**.

We will meet at the open space immediately adjacent to 4650 Cushing Parkway (Lam Research Bldg.) in Fremont.

**Directions:** Get to Cushing Parkway via Fremont Blvd Exit off I-880. Drive west on Cushing Parkway. Immediately past the Lam Research buildings on south side (approx 100 yards past the Northport Loop West), turn left onto gravel road with blue barricade gate. We will park along this road and walk into the grasslands. Nearest restroom facilities are in the McDonalds restaurant near Fremont Blvd/Cushing Pkwy intersection.

For more information, contact trip coordinator John Bradley (510)744-1062 or jandbradley@sbcglobal.net.

### **Apr 19 Sat 9:30am Edgewood Walk**

Join leader Paul Heiple to visit Edgewood Park, one of our Chapter's great successes and a major project to this day. A local park with an incredible display of native plants and one of the best grasslands in the Bay Area, it is worth a look if you have not been there lately or have never been there. Our visit should be at the peak of the wildflower season: the Bay checkerspot butterfly should be flying and wildlife will be in spring mode.

Come see the land our Chapter preserved and is now restoring to its former glory. The trip will leave from the Clarkia trail on Cañada Road at **9:30am**. This will be a leisurely paced walk with the occasional gentle climb. Bring lunch and liquids. We expect to return at **12:30pm**.

**Directions:** Take the Edgewood exit on I-280, head west to Cañada Road. Turn left and proceed under I-280. Park along the road after the north on-ramp to I-280. For more information contact Paul at (650)854-7125 or pheiple@gmail.com.

### **Spring Wildflower Tours on Coyote Ridge**

The Silicon Valley Land Conservancy, along with CNPS and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, is celebrating one of the most spectacular wildflower blooms in the Bay Area by offering docent led tours to view this incredible serpentine grassland.

The associated endemic plant community on Coyote Ridge supports the largest remaining population of the threatened Bay checkerspot butterfly, as well as many rare and uncommon plant species. The interpretive hikes will include discussions on endemic plant communities, the effects of air pollution on terrestrial environments, cattle grazing as a management tool and conservation through mitigation. Breathtaking views and natural history discussions will be plentiful.

**Hikes begin promptly at 8am** and will conclude no later than **Noon**. Sturdy walking shoes, layered attire and binoculars are recommended. Don't forget your lunch or snacks for the picnic on the ridge!

Hikes will take place primarily on **weekends and Wednesdays in April**, with trips possibly extending into late March or early May depending on bloom time.

**To sign up** for any of the hikes, including the CNPS hike below, fill out the form at [www.siliconvalleylc.org](http://www.siliconvalleylc.org). For more information, contact Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824.

### **Apr 5 Sat 1pm Coyote Ridge Wildflower Tour**

The Silicon Valley Land Conservancy has arranged a special Wildflower Tour, emphasizing the flora of the area, for our Chapter. Our own Kevin Bryant will lead the trip, which will last from **1pm to 5pm**. See the above trip description for signup instructions.

### **Apr 6 Sun 10am Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch**

Join Dick Gehrer and Stella Yang to explore the serpentine area of this recently expanded, infrequently visited Santa Clara County Park. If we are lucky we might see the locally rare *Balsamorhiza macrolepis* (California balsamroot) in bloom.

The walk will be about 4 miles round trip and 500 ft elevation gain with some cross-county scrambling. Depending on the flower display, we should expect to finish no later than **3pm** at the park.

**Directions:** From Highway 101 in Gilroy, take the Leavesley Road exit. Proceed east on Leavesley Rd. 2

miles to New Avenue. Proceed north (left) on New Ave. 0.5 mile to Roop Road. Proceed east (right) on Roop Rd. 3.5 miles into the foothills. Turn left into the park, and proceed one mile north to the entrance station and visitor center. There will be an entrance fee for vehicles.

**A no-host car pool** will leave at **9am** from Camden Avenue Park & Ride off Highway 85. For more information contact Stella at (408)255-6233 or Dick at (408)268-6922.

**Save the Dates:**

We have many field trips coming up, to be further described in the next issue of the *Blazing Star*:

Date	Trip	Leader
May 3	Rancho Cañada del Oro	Judy Fenerty
May 3-4	Alamere Falls at Point Reyes	Matt Teel
May 10	Mt. Hamilton	Joe Cernac
May 11	Henry Coe Park	Kevin Bryant
May 17	Edgewood Park	Sally Casey
May 23-26	Scott Mtn Summit	Ken Himes
June 1	San Mateo Coast	Toni Corelli
July 4	Carson Pass	Jean Struthers

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*News and Activities from Other Organizations*

CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter is pleased to support the

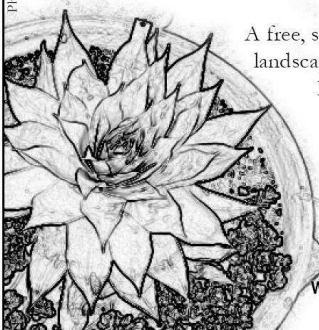
## Sixth Annual Going Native Garden Tour

Sunday, April 20, 2008  
10 am-4 pm  
Locations throughout  
Santa Clara Valley & Peninsula



A free, self-guided tour of over 40 gardens landscaped with California native plants • Many private home gardens, some public native gardens • Visit as many as you like — for ideas, for photos, for inspiration.

Free admission  
Registration required at  
[www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org](http://www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org)



**Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour  
Sunday May 4**

Registration is now open for this free, award-winning tour featuring 60 pesticide-free gardens located throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties that conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 50% or more native plants.

For more information and to register, visit **www.bringingBackTheNatives.net** or contact Tour Coordinator Kathy Kramer at (510)236-9558 **between 9am and 9pm.**

**Send Observations to Project BudBurst**

Project BudBurst is a National Phenology Network Field Campaign. The project encourages citizen scientists to join in collecting important climate change data on the timing of leafing and flowering in their local area through Project BudBurst. For more info., visit **www.BudBurst.org**.

**CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2008**

To learn more about volunteering with the Chapter, or to ask any other questions or give suggestions, please contact one of our officers listed below.

Title	Name	Phone	Email
<b>President</b>	Kevin Bryant	(408) 353-8824	mtngreen17@verizon.net
<b>Vice President</b>	Drew Shell		Dshell@microsoft.com
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	OPEN		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paul Heiple	(650) 854-7125	pheiple@gmail.com
<b>Past President</b>	Judy Fenerty	(408) 655-3493	judy@fenerty.com
<b>Officer at Large</b>	Georgia Stigall	(650) 941-1068	georgiastigall@yahoo.com

To join our Chapter email list please send your request to [judy@fenerty.com](mailto:judy@fenerty.com).

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

**Saturday, April 5, 2008**

**Email: [mattsson@surfpix.net](mailto:mattsson@surfpix.net)  
Phone: (408)255-3767**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
(page # in parentheses)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Mar 2 Sun</b> Pulgas Ridge Hike (5)              | <b>Apr 9-11 Wed-Fri</b> Special Nursery Work Days (2) |
| <b>Mar 6 Thu</b> Gardening with Natives (4)         | <b>Apr 10 Thu</b> Chapter Board meeting               |
| <b>Mar 9-14 Sun-Fri</b> Southern CA Desert Trip (5) | <b>Apr 12 Sat</b> Spring Native Plant Sale (1)        |
| <b>Mar 15 Sat</b> Edgewood Saturday Weeding (4)     | <b>Apr 13 Sun</b> Warm Springs Vernal Pools Walk (5)  |
| <b>Mar 15 Sat</b> San Bruno Mountain Hike (5)       | <b>Apr 19 Sat</b> Edgewood Saturday Weeding (4)       |
| <b>Mar 17 Mon</b> Photo Group (5)                   | <b>Apr 19 Sat</b> Edgewood Walk (6)                   |
| <b>Mar 28 Fri</b> General Meeting (1)               | <b>Apr 21 Mon</b> Photo Group (5)                     |
| <b>Mar 28-30 Fri-Sun</b> Carrizo Plain Trip (5)     | <b>Apr 25 Fri</b> Keying with Natives (5)             |
| <b>Apr 3 Thu</b> Gardening with Natives (4)         | <b>Apr 26-27 Sat-Sun</b> Spring Wildflower Show (2)   |
| <b>Apr 5 Sat</b> Coyote Ridge Wildflower Hike (6)   | <b>Wed afts</b> Nursery work sessions (2)             |
| <b>Apr 5 Sat</b> Newsletter Submittal Deadline (7)  | <b>Via Email List</b> Native Hill work sessions (4)   |
| <b>Apr 6 Sun</b> Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Walk (6)   |   |

The next Chapter Board meeting will be **Thursday, April 10 at 7pm**  
at the PCC, 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto  
Chapter Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests.

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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 concerning a new membership, renewal of a current membership, or if you wish to report a change of address, please contact the Membership Chairperson, CNPS, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

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The *Blazing Star* web address: [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org)  
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