



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

March-April 2012

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

Friday, March 16, 7:30 PM
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

**Topic: The Evolutionary Ecology of
Three Local Serpentine Endemics**
Speaker: Justen Whittall, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Biology, Santa Clara University

Please join us for a program describing the evolutionary ecology of three local serpentine endemics. Dr. Whittall will share tales of plant evolution including pollinator observations of some local plants such as the serpentine endemic Metcalf Canyon Jewelflower (*Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *albidus*), the serpentine columbine (*Aquilegia eximia*) and the San Benito evening primrose (*Camissonia benitensis*). In this talk, he will share results from parallel studies of these species that combine pollinator observations with ecological studies of soil adaptation and analyses of genetic diversity.

Justen Whittall is an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at Santa Clara University, where he has been teaching since 2007. Justen received his Ph.D. from U.C. Santa Barbara, where his dissertation focused on evolution and speciation in the North American columbines (*Aquilegia* species). His paper "Pollinator shifts drive increasingly long nectar spurs in columbine flowers," coauthored by his advisor Scott Hodges, appeared in the journal *Nature* in 2007. His current research is focused on understanding adaptation and speciation in plants; from the polychromatic mustards of Arctic Alaska to the Torrey Pines of southern California, he is fascinated with plant diversity.

Directions: From Foothill Expy., travel ½ mile on San Antonio Rd. towards the Bay, cross Hillview and turn right into the driveway; the library is on the left. **From El**

Camino Real, 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, leave a message on our Chapter phone at (408) 260-3450 and someone will return your call, or send an email to cnps_scv@yahoo.com.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Sale April 21 at Hidden Villa 10am - 3pm; Call for Volunteers

Our Spring Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, April 21, 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**.

Special nursery workdays will also be held to prepare the nursery, including labeling plants and weeding the garden outside the nursery. We'll work from **noon to 3pm on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday April 18, 19, and 20th**. On the day of the sale, we will need people to:

- Help set up before the sale (**starting at 8am**)
- Help with parking
- Answer customers' questions about the plants and help them decide which plants to purchase
- Write up the sales tags before customers go to the cashiers to pay for their plants
- Work as cashiers
- Help customers take their purchases to their cars and bring back the wagons and carts to the nursery

- 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. To volunteer on sale day please contact:

Horticultural consultation: Ray Deutsch (650) 365-6136, henrymarsh@yahoo.com

Writing sales tags & cashiering: Georgia Stigall (650) 941-1068, georgiastigall@yahoo.com

Parking director: Carolyn Dorsch (650) 804-6162 (evenings) or cdorsch1@aol.com

Miscellaneous: Jean Struthers (650) 941-2586 or JeanStruthers@att.net (by phone is best).

Directions: Hidden Villa is located on Moody Road west of Foothill College. From I-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 drive about ¼ mile to the large parking lot on the right. The Native Plant Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the visitor center. On the day of the plant sale, follow the directions of the parking monitors as to where to park.



Going Native Garden Tour - April 21 - 22 Docent and Greeter Volunteers Needed

Our 10th annual Going Native Garden Tour is a free, self-guided tour of home gardens that are water-wise, low maintenance, low on chemical use, bird and butterfly friendly, and attractive. The only requirement is advance registration. See the enclosed flyer for details, and visit www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org to register to attend or **volunteer** at one of the gardens on tour day.

Spring Wildflower Show - April 28 - 29 Mission College; Call for Volunteers

This year's Spring Wildflower Show will again be held at Mission College's Campus Center, located at 3000 Mission College Blvd. in Santa Clara (see enclosed flyer). Every year dedicated volunteers collect plant samples to be put on display for the public to learn about.

We are looking for volunteers to help set up tables and plant samples on **Friday afternoon, April 27**. We'll also need people to greet visitors on **Saturday and Sunday**, work with kids at the children's table, assist at the book

table, close down the show on **Sunday** afternoon, and lots of other action items. No special skills are necessary.

To volunteer, even for only a couple of hours, please call Toni Gregorio-Bunch at (408) 373-4497 or e-mail tonig@flash.net.

Gardening with Natives

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes a mix of landscape architects, designers, seasoned native plant gardeners and beginners. We offer talks which are free and open to all.

This year's theme is *Designing Your Native Plant Garden*. We have divided the design work into 12 tasks, each covered by one lecture per month. The lectures start with planning and end with maintenance. **Seven talks are scheduled during March and April**, so please spread the word. For more info, visit www.GardeningWithNatives.com.

These programs are made possible by volunteers who help with program logistics and by co-sponsoring libraries. If you would like to help organize similar programming at a library near you, contact arvind.kumar@cnps.org.

Wednesday March 7, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Creating a Conceptual Plan for Your Native Plant Garden, a talk by Deva Luna

This lecture is the third in our 12-part *Designing Your Native Plant Garden* series. You've already learned about creating a wish list for your garden in part one, and about analyzing your site in part two. Now you'll see how to take those pieces and start to create a rough plan for your garden. Learn about different design elements, how to create a base plan, and finally a conceptual plan that will guide your future designs. You'll learn how much you can save by doing it yourself and how to use a consulting designer to help you when needed.

Deva Luna is a sustainable, and Bay Friendly certified, landscape designer who has been teaching and speaking about horticulture for 15 years. She has a degree in "Plants and Art," and she works for EarthCare Landscaping in Cupertino. Her passions include California native plants, greywater, edible landscaping, herbs and quirky yard art.

Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. (650) 948-7683.

**Thursday March 22, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Planning for Wildlife in Your Native
Plant Garden, a talk by Andrea Hurd**

You can easily attract pollinators such as birds, bees, and butterflies to your garden by incorporating native plants. Join us for the fourth part in our 2012 *Designing Your Native Plant Garden* series, where you will learn how to provide food, water and shelter in order to attract wildlife to your garden. Learn about innovative and dynamic native plant combinations which are as effective for creating beauty as they are for attracting wildlife and local pollinators.

Andrea Hurd has been building and maintaining ecologically sustainable gardens using native plants for 20 years in the Bay Area, the Northwest, and the Northeastern US. Her expertise includes native plant, butterfly, songbird, and drought-tolerant gardens, along with permaculture design and dry-stacked stonework. Since 2008, Andrea's company, Mariposa Gardening & Design, has won several awards at the SF Flower & Garden Show. Andrea's gardens are a flurry of activity and a stopping place for a diverse array of local pollinators and songbirds.

Milpitas Library, 160 N Main Street, Milpitas. (408) 262-1171 x3616.

**Wednesday March 28, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Converting a Lawn to a Native Plant Garden,
a talk by Julie Montanari**

Lawns are ubiquitous in California, yet they require more water and consume more chemicals and energy than virtually any other type of residential landscape. New state regulations now limit the use of lawns and some water purveyors are offering rebates to remove them.

Learn about alternatives to lawns, including ground covers, meadows, perennial gardens, and low-maintenance shrubs — all designed using beautiful, water-wise California native plants. You'll also hear about "sheet mulching," the easy, healthy way to convert existing lawns into drought-tolerant gardens. Whether you're looking for a landscape that is more sustainable, colorful, alive, or just more fun, you'll find ideas that will work for you.

Julie Montanari is a landscape designer with a passion for naturalistic designs which incorporate California natives and other low-water plants to create beautiful, healthy, water-wise gardens. As a Master Gardener, she educates home gardeners about the beauty of low-water plants and

the use of sustainable gardening practices. She co-chaired the Master Gardener 2011 Garden Tour of water-wise gardens on the Peninsula. Her home garden has been featured on several garden tours and she has a certificate in Environmental Horticulture from Foothill College.

Millbrae Library, 1 Library Ave., Millbrae. (650) 697-7607.

**Tuesday April 3, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Year-Round Interest with Native Plants,
a talk by Patricia Evans**

Something is happening throughout the year in native plant gardens — not just in the spring! Learn how to select and group plants with varying bloom times so your garden is always in color. Identify beautiful bark-, berry-, and seed-producing species for winter interest and hear tips on maintaining your garden to "keep the green" in summer.

Patricia Evans, owner of Natural Landscape Designs, is a graduate of the Foothill College Ornamental Horticulture program. Previously, she served on the boards of directors of Gamble Garden in Palo Alto and the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. She has also taught "Garden Design for Homeowners" in the Palo Alto Adult Education program. She specializes in native plants and sustainable landscapes.

Brisbane Library, 250 Visitacion Ave., Brisbane. (415) 467-2060.

**Tuesday, April 10, 9:30 – 11:00 am
Easy-to-Grow Native Plants,
a talk by Sherri Osaka**

Are you new to native plant gardening? Do you want to include drought-tolerant, low-maintenance plants in your garden, but don't know where to start? Come to this talk and learn about easy-to-grow native plants: trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals, for the home landscape.

Sherri Osaka is a licensed Landscape Architect and Bay-Friendly Qualified Designer. She started her company Sustainable Landscape Design in 1997. Since then she has been lecturing and implementing ecological landscaping techniques, including drought-tolerant native plants, greywater and rainwater irrigation systems, pervious paving, and reusable materials.

Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Rd, Woodside. (650) 851-0147.

**Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Landscaping on Slopes with California
Native Plants, a talk by Chris Todd**

Are you gardening on a hillside and frustrated with the challenges you face? Come learn the basics of fire safety, planting, irrigating, draining, and controlling critters on slopes. Get tips on how to avoid pitfalls that you wouldn't face on flatlands. Hear some surprising new things about native plants versus non-native plants in fires. Learn the benefits of California native plants over exotic plants on our beautiful California hills.

Chris Todd of Garden Escapes by Chris Todd has been designing sustainable, drought-tolerant, and native gardens since 2000, after earning a degree in horticulture and landscape design from Foothill College Horticulture program. Native plants are a major part of her water-efficient landscapes, as well as client education on managing their environment in a healthier way. Chris has done presentations on California native plants, water-efficient landscape ordinances, and soil for various organizations.

Portola Valley Town Center, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028, (650) 851-1701.

**Wednesday, April 25, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Sustainable Landscaping with Native
Plants, a talk by Sherri Osaka**

Learn how to save time, money, and water by switching to drought-tolerant California native plants. You'll learn about the best plants for the Bay Area, when to plant them, how to irrigate them, and where to buy them. You'll also learn sustainable, time-efficient techniques for dealing with weeds and other maintenance tasks.

Sherri Osaka will also be giving a GWN talk on **April 10**. See her bio earlier in this newsletter.

Millbrae Library, 1 Library Ave., Millbrae. (650) 697-7607.

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, for further examination of the intricate details of the specimens.

The upcoming dates are **Fridays, February 24, March 30 and April 20, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm**. We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more information, please contact Dave "Tex" Houston at 350co2now@gmail.com or (650) 303-2777; or Sally Casey at (408) 377-0989.

Directions to PCC: 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 rooms are on the first floor.

LiveCorps Lives!

"LiveCorps" is an acronym for the Chapter's conservation committee: **L**egislation, **I**nvasive plants, **V**egetation, **C**onservation and **R**are **P**lant**S**. If you are passionate about any aspect of native plant conservation: legislation and political action, eradicating invasive plants, improving and expanding native plant habitat and/or preserving rare and endangered species, **please join us** for the next **LiveCorps meetings on Tuesdays March 20 and April 17, 7pm at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) in Palo Alto.**

LiveCorps will be meeting regularly on the **third Tuesday of the month** at 7pm at the PCC. To join the LiveCorps mailing list, or if you have questions, ideas or concerns, please contact the chair: Linda Ruthruff at ldrruff@hotmail.com.

For **directions** to the PCC, please see the article above.

Rare Plant Surveys 2012 - Training

Our Chapter's Rare Plant committee will have four training sessions in 2012. The purpose of these sessions is to **teach volunteers how document rare plant populations**. Attendees will learn how to fill out a California Native



Species Field Survey Form, map the rare plant to delineate the population boundaries using a GPS, count or estimate the number of individuals, describe the habitat and list the associated species within each population.

For more information about the CNPS Rare Plant Program visit www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/.

Rare Plant Survey Training Dates (Saturdays):	
March 31	San Mateo Coast
May 12	South San Jose
September 22	San Mateo County
October 13	Santa Clara County

To sign up for one of these trainings contact Toni Corelli at corelli@coastside.net or (650) 726-0689.

Only ten people will be at each training session. All training will be from **10am – 2pm**. Location information will be given once you sign up. Approximate locations are given for the dates indicated. Bring lunch and after the training we can walk the trails of the area surveyed.

Chapter Treasurer Needed

Our Chapter is looking for a Treasurer to serve on our Chapter's finance committee. The volunteer position includes writing six reports per year and writing checks to reimburse members for their expenditures to support Chapter activities. Finance committee members will advise and support our new treasurer. To learn more about this important way you can help the Chapter, contact Arvind Kumar at president@cnps-scv.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Our Chapter is again offering scholarships to graduate students doing research on plant systematics, plant ecology, plant physiology, plant community restoration or other related botanical studies of native plants that grow in habitats in Central and Northern California.

Three \$1,500 scholarships are available for the 2012-2013 academic year, with one of the scholarships (SCV Chapter Conservation Scholarship) specifically reserved for studies related to native plant or native habitat conservation. Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate program in an accredited college or university.

Applications are available on the Chapter website (www.cnps-scv.org) and **must be postmarked by April 6**. Scholarships will be awarded at the May 18th Chapter Meeting at the Los Altos Library.

For more information contact Chapter Scholarship Chair Nora Monette at nmonette@aol.com or (408) 244-5153.

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park

Spring is upon us... so the weeds are upon us too and it's time to get busy, with the return of our Wednesday and Saturday sessions. Come pitch in and make Edgewood an inspirational showcase of all CNPS stands for! Have some fun, get some sun, and learn a ton!

Our **9am Friday** sessions run year round; **5:30pm Wednesday** sessions start **March 14** after Daylight Savings Time returns; and monthly **9am Saturday** sessions are the **3rd Saturday March thru July**, plus National Public Lands Day in September:

Date	Meet At	Event Theme
Mar 17	Day Camp Ed. Center	Spring "Saturday Kickoff"
Apr 21	Day Camp Ed. Center	Earth Day and CA Native Plant Week
May 19	West Kiosk	Endangered Species Day and International Day for Biodiversity
Jun 16	West Kiosk	World Environment Day
Jul 21	West Kiosk	CA Weeds Awareness Week
Sep 29	West Kiosk	National Public Lands Day

For schedules, meeting places, and other details visit our Weed Warriors website (edgewood.thinkersrus.net), contact Paul Heiple (650) 854-7125 or pheiple@gmail.com, or email John Allen at jcakwa@earthlink.net.

Santa Clara County Restoration Events

With spring we have native wildflowers blooming, but non-native invasive plants grow too. Help keep them at bay by joining fellow CNPS members at a local park habitat restoration event.

Please let Debra Welch know if you plan to join these events, let her know if you would like help signing up, want to be contacted about opportunities as they arise, or if you have a weeding/restoration project you'd like us to help you get started. Contact her at debrawelch@yahoo.com or (408) 353-8352.

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

www.openspaceauthority.org/volunteer
Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1, 10am – 3pm
Invasive Plant Removal in Sierra Vista OSP.

Santa Clara County Parks

www.parkhere.org/portal/site/parks

Invasive Plant Removal Saturdays 9am – 1pm	
Mar 10	Coyote Lake - Harvey Bear Ranch
Mar 17	Mount Madonna County Park
Mar 24, Apr 14, Apr 28	Coyote Lake - Harvey Bear Ranch

One of the workdays (April 14?) will be a “Walk and Weed” event. We’ll explore Harvey Bear’s serpentine, see the rare *Balsamorhiza macrolepis* and help protect habitat by pulling the competition.

CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Chapter field trips are generally 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.

Sat Mar 10 Stile Ranch (Santa Teresa County Park) 10am - 1pm

Join Stella Yang on a 3-4 mile wildflower hike to Stile Ranch, through serpentine grasslands and chaparral. With the cooperation of the seasons, we expect to see Coast Range montia, serrated onion, linanthus, gilia, goldfields, morning glory, leather oak and black sage. The hike will be moderate in intensity.

For more information contact Stella at (408) 255-6233 or yscottie@pacbell.net or Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com.

Directions: From State highway 85, exit at Almaden Expy. and head south. Proceed to the end and turn right at the traffic light onto Harry Rd. Go one block and turn left at the stop sign onto McKean Rd. Drive south one mile to Fortini Rd; turn left and go to the end. Turn left on San Vicente and proceed 300 feet to the parking lot on the right.

Thu Mar 15 All Day Columbia/Sonora & Red Hills

Join us on a midweek journey to see an easily accessed population of *Erythronium tuolumnense*, a beautiful yellow fawn lily of the lower elevations. Later, we will visit Red Hills, a unique block of serpentine at Chinese Camp, for those early carpets. Possible *Pseudobahia heermannii* and a red phase of *Lithophragma parviflorum*.

This is an all day trip given the distance to travel (~150 miles each way). Bring lunch. We may have dinner in Oakdale or Manteca on the way back. **Call or email leader Joe Cernac** for meet-up location and other details, at (408) 292-5465 or joecernac@sbcglobal.net.

Sun Mar 18 San Bruno Mountain County Park (Brisbane) 10am - 3:30pm

Join Ken Himes for a hike along the Summit Loop Trail to see early flowering plants in the coastal scrub and coastal grassland plant communities. The hike will be about 3.5-4 miles with 800 feet elevation gain/loss. Wear layers as windy conditions could occur. Bring lunch and liquids. For info call Ken at (650) 591-8560.

Directions: Go north on Hwy 101, take Brisbane exit and proceed north on Bayshore Hwy. past Brisbane until making a left turn onto Guadalupe Pkwy. Follow Guadalupe Pkwy. uphill to park entrance. We will meet at the parking lot just beyond the entrance kiosk. There is a **\$6 fee per car** (bring exact change).

Sat Mar 31 Uvas Canyon County Park (Morgan Hill) 10am - 2pm

Andy Butcher and others will lead a 3.25 mile loop hike in this mostly shady woodland of mixed evergreens including redwoods, madrones, sycamores, alders and big-leaf maples. There are also isolated populations of Oregon grape (*Berberis nervosa*) here, which is more commonly found north of the Golden Gate. We expect to see a variety of spring-blooming annuals and perennials.

Meet at the Park entrance. The hike will be moderate in intensity, with an elevation gain of about 700 feet. We will walk at a fairly leisurely pace, stopping for lunch about half way. Be sure to wear good hiking shoes. A walking stick could be useful. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. There is a **\$6 fee per car** (bring exact change). For more information contact Andy Butcher, at spermophilus@gmail.com, or (408) 203-5828.

Directions: From Hwy 101, take Bernal Rd. west. Turn left on Santa Teresa Blvd. Travel south 3 mi. and turn right onto Bailey Ave. Follow Bailey 2.3 mi. to McKean Rd.

Turn left onto McKean. (McKean becomes Uvas Rd. 2.2 miles south of Bailey). From Bailey travel 6 mi. south on McKean/Uvas Rd. and turn right onto Croy Rd. Continue 4.4 mi. on Croy, through Sveadal (a private resort), to reach the Park entrance.

Sun Apr 8 Palassou Ridge OSP (Gilroy)

10am – 3pm

Join us for an exploratory hike to Palassou Ridge Open Space Preserve in Santa Clara County. This preserve, which is owned and managed by the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, covers several thousand acres in the Diablo foothills east of Gilroy, on the ridge between Henry Coe State Park and Harvey Bear/Coyote Ranch County Park. The preserve contains a variety of habitats, including oak woodlands, riparian corridors, chaparral, and wildflower meadows.

The hike may be moderately strenuous, and the trails are not well developed. Space will be limited, as the preserve is not open to the public. This hike is for **CNPS members only** — new or renewing memberships will be accepted at the meeting place. For more information or to sign up, contact Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com, or (408) 655-3493.

Sat Apr 14 New Hagen Meadow (San Jose)

9am - 2pm

Visit and help identify spring wildflowers at this newly acquired serpentine meadow and seep. Join Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District staff Cindy Roessler and Eric Stanton to explore this property off Hicks Road in the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve with its Mt Hamilton thistle, most beautiful jewelflower, leather oak, native grasses and views of Mt. Umunhum.

We will hike 3 miles round trip on country roads and old trails with moderate elevation gain and some off-trail hiking once we reach the meadow. Access to the Mt. Hamilton thistle is down a steep slope, but there are plenty of serpentine wildflowers to enjoy without hiking to the seep. Eric grew up on the property and will share some of its rural history. Public hiking trails and access have not been developed for this new property yet so this **reservation-only** hike will provide a sneak preview of this resource. Bring lunch, sun protection and sturdy shoes.

Directions: We'll meet in San Jose at the Park-and-Ride lot at Hwy. 85 and Camden Ave. and then travel 6 mi. together to the locked pasture where we will park cars. Logistics do not allow participants to arrive late or leave early.

We are offering **priority** to Santa Clara Valley Chapter members for this trip. Space is limited to 20 people and carpooling (no host) is strongly recommended to the trailhead. **RSVP to Cindy** at croessler@openspace.org or (650) 691-1200 to reserve your place and for directions to the trailhead.

Wed April 18 Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve (Cupertino) 10am - 3pm

This neck of the Santa Cruz Mountains should give us a sight of the three spring reds: *Delphinium nudicaule*, wind poppy and red ribbons, along with other interesting bloomers. Bring lunch and liquids. For details visit: www.openspace.org/preserves/pr_picchetti.asp.

Directions: From I-280, go south on Foothill Blvd., which changes name to Stevens Canyon Rd. as it continues up to the reservoir. Once past the dam, turn right on Montebello Rd. Picchetti Ranch will be your first left and we'll meet in the parking lot. For more info. contact **trip leader Joe Cernac** at (408) 292-5465 or jocernac@sbcglobal.net.

Sat – Tues May 5 - 8 Carrizo Plain to Cuyama Valley (San Luis Obispo County)

Join Ken Himes and Kenny Hickman in an exploration of the transition zones from California's Central Coast Range to the San Joaquin Desert, with botanical visits to the La Panza Range, Calientes, Sierra Madres, and Carrizo Plain. We'll sample multiple elevations, including the 5,000' Caliente Peak, and pay a visit to the 30,000 acre Chimineas Ranch, a limited-access preserve managed by the Dept. of Fish & Game, and home to 18 CNPS listed species.

Flora will be season-dependent, but we hope to see a broad variety of annuals & perennials, including several *Calochortus*, such as the 1B.3 *Calochortus simulans*, the tricky near-twin to *C. venustus*, that even the sharp-eyed David Douglas didn't spot.

We'll probably camp in 2-3 different places. The trip is limited to 20 people. **To reserve a spot**, or for more info, contact Kenny Hickman at ken@meer.net or Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, April 7, 2012

Email: mattsson@surfpix.net

Phone: (408) 255-3767

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

- Mar 7 Wed** GWN – Creating Garden Plan – Luna (2)
- Mar 10 Sat** SCC Parks first Mar-Apr workday (6)
- Mar 10 Sat** Stile Ranch hike (6)
- Mar 14 Wed** Edgewood evening weeding returns (5)
- Mar 15 Thu** Columbia/Sonora & Red Hills field trip (6)
- Mar 16 Fri** **General Meeting - Whittall** (1)
- Mar 17 Sat** Edgewood weeding Saturday kickoff (5)
- Mar 18 Sun** San Bruno Mountain hike (6)
- Mar 20 Tue** LiveCorps (conservation) meeting (4)
- Mar 22 Thu** GWN – Planning for Wildlife - Hurd (3)
- Mar 28 Wed** GWN – Converting Lawn - Montanari (3)
- Mar 30 Fri** Keying with Natives (4)
- Mar 31 Sat** Rare plant survey training (4)
- Mar 31 Sat** Uvas Canyon hike (6)
- Mar 31-Apr 1 Sat-Sun** OSA invasives removal (5)
- Apr 3 Tue** GWN – Year-Round Interest - Evans (3)
- Apr 6 Fri** Chapter Scholarships Due (5)
- Apr 7 Sat** **Newsletter Deadline** (7)

- Apr 8 Sun** Palassou Ridge hike (7)
- Apr 10 Tue** GWN – Easy-to-Grow Natives - Osaka (3)
- Apr 12 Thu** **Chapter Board meeting**
- Apr 14 Sat** New Hagen Meadow hike (7)
- Apr 17 Tue** LiveCorps (conservation) meeting (4)
- Apr 18 Wed** GWN – Landscaping on Slopes - Todd (4)
- Apr 18 Wed** Picchetti Ranch walk (7)
- Apr 18-20 Wed-Fri** Special Nursery Workdays (1)
- Apr 20 Fri** Keying with Natives (4)
- Apr 21 Sat** **Native Plant Sale** (1)
- Apr 21 Sat** Edgewood Saturday weeding (5)
- Apr 21-22 Sat-Sun** **Going Native Garden Tour** (2)
- Apr 25 Wed** GWN – Sustainable Landscapes - Osaka (4)
- Apr 27 Fri** Spring Wildflower Show setup (2)
- Apr 28-29 Sat-Sun** **Spring Wildflower Show** (2)
- Wed afts** Nursery work sessions (1)
- Weds eves, Fri morns** Edgewood Park weeding (4)

The next Chapter **Board meeting** will be **Thursday, April 12 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.

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 or email henryMarsh@yahoo.com.

The *Blazing Star* web address: www.cnps-scv.org . Acknowledgement: Anne Warren for the *Blazing Star* logo. Printed on recycled paper.

95816 • 916-447-2677 • fax 916-447-2727

CNPS Membership, 2707 K Street Suite 1, Sacramento, CA

payable to "CNPS" and mail it with this form to:

Dues and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check

Donations above the membership level are gratefully accepted.

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
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