



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

March-April 2015

## **GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM**

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

**Introducing Bryophytes:  
The Other Land Plants**  
A talk by **Ken Kellman**

Bryophytes (mosses, liverworts, and hornworts) represent a completely different solution to the evolutionary problem of living on land. They lack the complex vascular system that has made the so-called "taller plants" so successful, but they have evolved complex solutions that will surprise you. Ken Kellman will show us how to recognize this important group of plants with a short presentation, and then we will spend the rest of the evening looking closely at many common bryophytes from the Central Coast.

Ken Kellman met his first bryophyte in 1995 during a vascular plant survey of Quail Hollow Ranch in Santa Cruz County. It did not take long for him to abandon normal botanizing in pursuit of these tiny plants. He has published *A Catalog of the Mosses of Santa Cruz County* and is now collecting for a similar project in Monterey and San Mateo Counties. His explorations have revealed several species new to science, and many more new to the Central Coast and the state. He is an instructor at the Jepson Herbarium weekend workshops in Bryology.

**Directions:** From Foothill Expy., travel ½ mile on San Antonio Rd. towards the Bay, cross Hillview and turn right into the driveway; library is on the left. From El Camino, travel towards the hills on San Antonio Rd., cross Edith and turn left into the unmarked driveway just before Hillview. The sign on San Antonio Rd. reads "Civic Center, Library and History Museum." Enter through the lobby of the main entrance.

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Chapter President Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net) or the Chapter phone (650) 260-3450.



## **Spring Native Plant Events!**

See the enclosed flyers to learn about our Chapter's events:

**Going Native Garden Tour – April 18 - 19**

**Spring Native Plant Sale &  
Wildflower Show – April 25**

Friends of Edgewood has provided a flyer too:  
**Edgewood Wildflower Walks – March 14 - June 7**

On page 3 learn about: **Coastal Wildflower Day  
Half Moon Bay – April 11**

## **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

### **Native Plant Sale and Wildflower Show April 25 at Hidden Villa 10am - 3pm; Call for Volunteers**

Our Spring Native Plant Sale and Wildflower Show will be held on Saturday, April 25, **from 10am to 3pm** at Hidden Villa. The sale will be at our nursery and the show will be in the Dana Center adjacent to the nursery.

New this year will be a Wildflower Show held at the same time as the Plant Sale. This will be a plant community-oriented display of native plants, showing plants grouped by where they grow most often, such as grassland, chaparral, redwood forest, or mixed woodland. Because the Dana Center is smaller than past display areas, we'll focus on species most often seen in our area.

Before the sale, you may help prepare the nursery at three special nursery workdays, including labeling plants and weeding the garden outside the nursery. We'll work from **noon to 3pm** on **Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, April 22, 23, and 24**. 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**)

We will start **setting up the Wildflower Show at 3pm on Friday, April 24**. We will need people to:

- Collect plants, given a set of locations and a list of species
- Set up tables
- Set plants on tables according to community ("runners")
- Tell runners which plants go in each community

On the **day of the show**, we will need people to:

- Clean up petals and fill water bottles before the show opens (**9am**)
- Greet visitors and tell them about the show
- Answer visitor questions in the display area
- Take down plant displays and tables (**3pm**)

Working at plant sales and wildflower shows is always a lot of fun, and we provide Friday dinner and Saturday lunch to volunteers. To volunteer for the **plant sale**, please contact:

**Horticultural consultation:** Ray Deutsch (650) 365-6136, ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca

**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:** Melanie Cross (650) 847-1350 or Melanie@pcross.com

To volunteer for the **wildflower show**, please contact Toni Gregorio-Bunch, at tonig@flash.net or (408) 373-4497; or

David Chapman, at dchapman@acm.org or (408) 828-6467.

Before the sale, volunteers are welcome to attend our usual nursery workdays, **Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon to 3pm**. After the sale, workdays will switch to summer hours, which are from **10am to 1pm**.

## Phytophthora in our Nursery?

By *Melanie Cross, Chapter Nursery Manager*

An issue that has surfaced in native plant nursery and revegetation circles this year is the appearance of deadly exotic pathogens – *Phytophthora* species, and lots of them. You may know of this algae relative because sudden oak death is caused by an airborne species, *P. ramorum*. The new pathogens that are showing up are water-borne. Susceptible plants at revegetation sites and other landscapes have been devastated by these "plant destroyers." Unfortunately, nurseries offer the right conditions to cultivate and disseminate them. **This is just what we do not want to do.**

We at the Chapter nursery in Hidden Villa are educating ourselves and joining CANN (the California Native Nursery Network) to keep up with new information and recommendations. Unfortunately, I have been told to assume we have the pathogens everywhere; that our job is to keep them out of the plants we produce. This requires a major change in our habits, and in the nursery itself. The mantra I have heard is: "Start clean; keep it clean." **You can help us!**

The first changes we are making have to do with keeping *Phytophthora* from coming into the nursery and getting into our production, among them:

- 1) Clean and sterilize the recycled pots, flats etc. we use, and store all in a clean dry area,
- 2) Make sure that our growing media are not infected when coming in or being stored,
- 3) Clean and sterilize our tools and work surfaces (even things like hose nozzles),
- 4) Clean shoes and other items coming in that have been on the ground and
- 5) All incoming plant material is suspect, and should only be accepted from facilities and individuals who use proper sanitation procedures.

Further recommendations will help keep the pathogens from spreading in the nursery through water movement:

1) Keep plants up off the ground, so water from rain or irrigation does not splash on plants and

2) Avoid standing puddles or moisture movement from potentially infected plants.

Some of these changes are going to be more difficult and expensive for us than others. We are starting with cleaning the gallon pots. First I'm asking that you wonderful people who bring us **plastic gallon pots** use a stiff brush to remove loose or adhered soil **before** you drop them off at the nursery. It is better to keep that material out of the nursery all-together. That also makes washing them a more straightforward, but still time consuming, task.

If you want to help out (no green thumb required!) or just to learn more, contact Melanie Cross at [Melanie@pcross.com](mailto:Melanie@pcross.com) or (650) 847-1350.

There are a number of videos on this topic available on our website: you can watch them on YouTube at [bit.ly/1Mfah3r](http://bit.ly/1Mfah3r) and read a summary of the problem at: [blogs.kqed.org/science/audio/tiny-parasite-threatens-native-plants](http://blogs.kqed.org/science/audio/tiny-parasite-threatens-native-plants).



**Coastal Wildflower Day**  
**Saturday April 11 - 10am – 4pm**  
**Half Moon Bay State Beach**  
**95 Kelly Avenue, Half Moon Bay**

Celebrate the start of California Native Plant Week at the Coastal Wildflower Day in Half Moon Bay (HMB). Enjoy fun activities, wildflower hikes, games and crafts for families and native plants for sale. Visit the native plant

nursery and see the dune restoration on site at HMB State Beach.

Bike or walk in for free, or parking on site is \$10. Bring a picnic lunch and spend the day. For more info. or to **volunteer**, contact Toni Corelli at [corelli@coastside.net](mailto:corelli@coastside.net) or (650) 726-0689; or visit [www.coastsidestateparks.org](http://www.coastsidestateparks.org).

## 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. GWN offers talks throughout the year, which are free and open to all.

This year's themes are *How I Did It* and *Maintaining Your Native Garden*. The monthly speakers will share tips on how they created their native garden or on a specific garden maintenance task. For more information, visit [www.cnps-scw.org/index.php/gardening/gardening-with-natives](http://www.cnps-scw.org/index.php/gardening/gardening-with-natives).

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

### Hellstrip Gardening: California Style, a talk by author Evelyn Hadden

**Thursday, March 19, 6:00-7:30 PM, Palo Alto Library, Mitchell Park Branch, 3700 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto (650) 329-2436**

Your Hellstrip may be located in a parking strip, a narrow bed alongside a driveway, or even a tiny front yard. California's summer-dry climate makes water-wise designs particularly appealing for these semi-public fragments of property, which are too narrow for usable lawns. Yet they can host a myriad of plants which will add beauty and provide ecological services.

**Evelyn Hadden**, author of *Hellstrip Gardening*, lays out strategies for addressing common challenges including street trees, poor soil, laws and covenants, unsightly equipment, pedestrian traffic, and more. With inspiring examples, she showcases creative solutions and highlights curbside-worthy plants.

Take steps to improve this shared environment and your own life – dive in and design a hellstrip garden! **Please note the 6:00pm start time.**

**Winning the War on Weeds,  
a talk by Dee Brown**

**Thursday, April 2, 7:00-8:30 PM, Cupertino  
Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue (408) 446-1677**

The rains bring much needed water to our gardens, but also sprout pesky weed seeds that hide in the soil. Ridding your garden of these weeds is typically a back-breaking, time-consuming endeavor, but there are techniques that can save you lots of time and effort. Join us to learn about sheet mulching and other simple tricks that you can do now, so you can enjoy your garden later. Bring along a sample of one or more of your weeds for Dee to identify.

**Dee Brown** is a Master Gardener and Master Composter in Santa Clara County and a native of the Bay Area. She has been gardening organically for 33 years. As a speaker and trainer, she likes to encourage and motivate the public about their potential to positively impact our local ecosystems by choosing the right plant in the right environment.

**How I Did It: Creating a Native Meadow, a  
talk by author Helen Popper**

**Monday, April 6, 7:00-8:30 PM, Milpitas Library,  
160 N Main Street, Milpitas (408) 262-1171**

Come learn to create and maintain your own native lawn. Native California lawns or meadows bring beauty and life to our gardens. With pockets of flowering annuals and perennials, they support our local birds, butterflies, and insects. And our own natives provide “lawns” that are better than European grasses, as they require less work and less water. Goodbye weed-, pesticide-, and water-filled sod. Hello grasses, sedges, annuals, and perennials. Hello biological diversity. Hello beauty!

Helen Popper is the author of *California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide*, and she designed, installed, and maintains her own native lawn. She is a long-time member of our Chapter of CNPS and one of the first Gardening with Natives group members. She is also an Associate Professor of Economics at Santa Clara University.

**Native Gardens and Plant Restoration on the  
San Mateo Coast,  
a talk by Toni Corelli and Avis Boutell**

**Thursday, April 9, 6:30-7:30 PM, Half Moon Bay  
Library, 620 Correas Street (650) 726-2316 x 227**

Cultivating native plants on the coast is a tradition reaching back through the centuries and is essential to preserving the beautiful scenery we love so well. Come journey with us to explore how Native Americans “gardened” coastside, how this wild land is being preserved in our parks today, and how you can plant a native garden which will add to this diversity. Each native plant and garden we add means more wildlife and native beauty. Join us and learn about all the resources you need to create your own coastside garden.

**Toni Corelli** is a botanist, volunteer and coauthor with Avis Boutell of *The Plants and Plant Communities of the San Mateo Coast*. Her coastal native garden is designed to attract birds, insects and other wildlife that comes in from the nearby wild coastal gardens. She can be reached at corelli@coastside.net.

**Avis Boutell** is a State Park volunteer who works in a nursery propagating native plants and installing them in parks along the coast. Her own garden on the coast is a mixture of native plants, vegetables, fruit trees, and legacy non-natives. She can be reached at boutella@pacbell.net.

**Earth Day! Biodiversity and the Native Plant  
Gardener, a lecture by Arvind Kumar**

**Wednesday, April 22, 7:00-8:30 PM, Los Altos Library,  
13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (650) 948-7683**

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

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

## Keying with Natives

Join us as we learn and practice methods of identifying the native plants of our region (aka keying). From beginners to more advanced, there are challenges for all. Bring in plant samples if you have some or just come and work with the materials provided. We discuss the various plant books and practice keying with them. Microscopes are also available.

The upcoming dates are **Fridays, March 27 and April 24 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](mailto:350co2now@gmail.com) or (650) 303-2777; or Sally Casey at (408) 377-0989.

## Conservation Committee: LIVECoRPs

The next meetings of LIVECoRPs (our Conservation Committee) will be on **Thursdays, March 19 and April 16 at 7pm** at the Peninsula Conservation Center (3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto). Please come join us!

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact LIVECoRPs Chair Linda Ruthruff at [ldruff@hotmail.com](mailto:ldruff@hotmail.com).

## Thanks to CNPS Conference Volunteers

Thanks to everyone who participated in or volunteered for the CNPS Conservation Conference in January in San Jose, which featured over 300 speakers and over 1,000 participants. This was the first CNPS conference to be held in our Chapter area, following conferences in San Diego (2012) and Sacramento (2009). The conference celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of CNPS, and was a huge success! It could not have been done without the participation and support of so many of our Chapter members, the generous sponsorship of a number of local agencies and companies, and many donations to the live and silent auctions from Chapter members and friends.

We really represented our Chapter well with dozens of volunteers, workshop leaders (including the Going Native Garden Tour committee), speakers (including Edgewood Chair Drew Shell), field trip leaders (Karen Cotter, Cindy Roessler, Don Thomas, and Toni Corelli), local university students and professors, art and photo displays by Jean Struthers and Judy Kramer, and our Chapter conservation poster (created by Toni Corelli). Not to mention the videotaping team of Steve Rosenthal, Charley Pow, and Toni Gregorio-Bunch, members of the silent auction committee Madeline Morrow and Don Mayall, and volunteers Alexis Shields, Lars Rosengreen, Emily Chin, Howie Smith, Elise Scripps and Robert Fenerty. There

were many presentations on local topics, including talks given by Justen Whittall (SCU), Stuart Weiss, Christal Niederer, Helen Popper, Janell Hillman (SCVWD), and Dennis Dowling (Ulistac). Too many people to mention (and apologies if we've left you out), but THANK YOU! And stay tuned for the next CNPS Conference, which will be held in 2018, somewhere in our beautiful state.



SCV Chapter co-founder Sally Casey gets a standing ovation at the CNPS Conservation Conference banquet for 47 years of participation in CNPS

YouTube conference videos can be found here: [bit.ly/1uYx5in](http://bit.ly/1uYx5in). More conference highlights can be found here: [cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2015/](http://cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2015/).

## Seeking Tag Writer/Cashier Coordinator Volunteer

*By Georgia Stigall*

After being the tag writer/cashier coordinator for 14 sales, it's time for someone else to have this opportunity! I call it an "opportunity" because this coordination task is both easy to accomplish and also very essential to successful sale logistics. This is also an opportunity for anyone who is curious about taking the lead on a Chapter function, without needing to know horticulture.

Please contact me at 650-941-1068 or email to [georgiastigall@yahoo.com](mailto:georgiastigall@yahoo.com) (please put CNPS in the subject line) for more information.

## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

### **Applications Available: 2015 Graduate and Undergraduate Research Scholarships**

This spring the Chapter will again be granting scholarships for students doing research on native plant or plant community conservation, plant ecology, plant community restoration, plant systematics, or other related botanical studies of native plants that grow in habitats in Central and Northern California.

Academic scholarships of \$1,500 for graduate student research and a \$1,000 scholarship for undergraduate student research are available.

**Applications are due April 3** and scholarships will be awarded at the May 15 Chapter General Meeting in Los Altos. Scholarship information and applications are available at [www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/education/scholarships](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/education/scholarships). Questions regarding the scholarship application can be emailed to [nmonette@aol.com](mailto:nmonette@aol.com).

If you would like to support our Chapter's scholarship program in future years, please visit the scholarships web page at [cnps-scvc.org/index.php/education/scholarships/198-help-fund-scholarships-for-years-to-come](http://cnps-scvc.org/index.php/education/scholarships/198-help-fund-scholarships-for-years-to-come).

## CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

### **Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park**

After 26 seasons at Edgewood Park, our Edgewood Weed Warriors habitat restoration program (aka EWW) has come a long way... something we celebrated in a presentation on EWW at the recent statewide CNPS Conservation Conference. Yet we still have much to do to make Edgewood an inspirational showcase of all CNPS stands for... so come share the beauty of Edgewood with us, learn a ton, and help keep Edgewood native!

Our **Friday 9am** sessions run year round and **Wednesday 5:30pm** sessions **resume March 11** after Daylight Savings Time returns. Monthly **Saturday 9am** sessions take place the **3rd Saturday** March thru September, including:

Date	Meet At	Event Theme
Mar 21	Day Camp Kiosk	Spring "Saturday Kickoff"
Apr 18	Day Camp Kiosk	Earth Day and CA Native Plant Week

For EWW info., schedules, and meeting places you can visit [eww.cnps-scvc.org](http://eww.cnps-scvc.org); email program chair Drew Shell, et al., at [ewwinfo@friendsofedgeswood.org](mailto:ewwinfo@friendsofedgeswood.org); or phone Friday session leader Paul Heiple at (650) 854-7125.

## CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Chapter field trips are free and generally open to the public. They are oriented to conservation, protection and enjoyment of California native plants and wildlife, and we adhere to all rules and guidelines for the lands on which we are visiting.

**In our region it is very important to be prepared for hiking on rugged and steep terrain, wide temperature ranges and rapidly changing conditions at any time of year. All participants should wear sturdy footwear and carry sufficient water, sun protection, food, clothing layers, personal first aid and other supplies you may need. If you have any questions about your ability to participate in a particular field trip, please contact the trip leader in advance.**

### **Sun Mar 1 9am – 1pm Pulgas Ridge Open Space (San Carlos)**

Start the spring wildflower season with a pleasant walk through this easily accessible Open Space Preserve. We can expect to see over 1,000 individual wildflowers in bloom! Join Alf Fengler for a viewing of these early spring flowers nearly two weeks before the official opening of the wildflower season at neighboring Edgewood Park.

As an experienced docent at Edgewood, Alf will be able to point out some flowering plants in Pulgas Ridge that don't occur at Edgewood, such as fetid adder's tongue (*Scolioopus bigelovii*) and coast man-root (*Marah oregonus*). This trip will be an easy 3-mile loop hike through oak woodland, mixed evergreen woodland, chamise chaparral, and coastal scrub, combined with a little bit of riparian woodland.

The trip will include an elevation gain and loss of about 400 feet. For more information contact Alf Fengler at [afengler@acm.org](mailto:afengler@acm.org) or (650) 345-7045.

**Directions:** From I-280, take the Edgewood Rd. exit in San Carlos and head east. Go downhill to the first left, which will be Crestview Dr. Make an immediate left at Edmonds Rd. and proceed to the preserve parking lot on the right. If the lot is full, park on the opposite side of the road in the large unpaved area. We'll meet in the parking lot. Heavy rain cancels.

### Thu Mar 5 10am - 3:30pm Maguire Peaks Loop, Sunol Regional Park

Join Joe Cernac for a mid-week 4 mile hike around Maguire Peaks, a formation largely of calcareous rock. There are some interesting plants about that aren't typically seen in the East Bay such as *Prunus virginiana* and *Lupinus albifrons*. Elevation gain and loss will be about 500 feet, and we'll stay on the trail – no cross country. Bring your lunch, enough water for the day and just in case, a hat and warm layers for those not uncommon high winds.

**Directions:** Take I-680 to Calaveras Rd., (just before junction with Hwy. 84). Head south on Calaveras Rd. then turn left (east) onto Welch Creek Rd. We'll meet (due to limited parking) at Welch Creek Rd. just before the road crosses a bridge to the west side of the valley. See a map at ([google.com/maps/@37.5374733,-121.8509293,15z](https://www.google.com/maps/@37.5374733,-121.8509293,15z).) For more info, contact Joe at (408) 292-5465 or [jocernac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jocernac@sbcglobal.net).

### Sun Mar 8 9am – 1pm Stile Ranch, San Jose

Join Dee Wong, Ken Himes and Stella Yang for a 3-4 mile early spring wildflower hike to Stile Ranch in Santa Teresa County Park, through serpentine grasslands and chaparral. This will be a great trip for those who are interested in plants and flowers that are endemic to the serpentine soil profile and seeps, and also **for those who are new** to field trips and native plants.

This hike is part of a series of three hikes to see different blooming flowers over the course of spring, late spring/early summer, and late summer. With the big rain in February, on this hike we expect to see in bloom California plantain, California gilia, woodland shooting star, California buttercups, a variety of *Lomatiums* and *Sanicles*, and more. We will also see coffeeberry, leather oak and black salvias.

The hike will be moderate in intensity. We are starting earlier in the day to beat the heat as it gets pretty HOT, and there's no overhead shade until we get to the Fortini Trail. Bring extra water, snacks, a bag lunch, a wide brim hat and walking stick(s).

Limited to 25 people due to narrow trails. Reservations are needed. **To reserve your spot** or for more info., contact Dee at [dee4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:dee4cnps@gmail.com) or (650) 670-7797 (eves).

### Mon Mar 9, 7-9pm Field Trip Planning Meeting

PCC, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto

Join our Field Trip Chair, Dee Wong, in a lively planning session of summer trips. We'll discuss great places to

visit, and talk about away/camping trips for the year. The meeting is open to all members; come share your ideas of where you want to go for the rest of 2015. For more information contact Dee at [dee4CNPS@gmail.com](mailto:dee4CNPS@gmail.com) or call (650) 670-7797 (eves).

### Sun Mar 15, 10am - 3:30pm San Bruno Mountain (Brisbane)

Join Ken Himes and Dee Wong for a hike along the Summit Loop Trail to see early flowering plants in the coastal scrub and coastal grassland plant communities, such as *Arabis blepharophylla*, the Coast rock cress; and *Erysimum franciscanum*, the Franciscan wallflower. The hike will be about 3.5-4 miles long with 800 feet of elevation gain/loss. Wear layers as windy conditions could occur. Bring lunch and liquids. For more info., call Ken at (650) 591-8560 or email Dee at [dee4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:dee4cnps@gmail.com).

**Directions:** From Hwy. 101 northbound, take Old Bayshore/Brisbane exit and proceed north on Old Bayshore, past the town of Brisbane. Make a left turn onto Guadalupe Canyon Pkwy., and follow it uphill (west) about a mile and a half to the park entrance. We will meet at the parking lot just beyond the entrance kiosk. There is a \$6.00 day use/parking fee (bring exact change).

### Sat Mar 21 10:30am – 2pm Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley Hills

Join East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden director Bart O'Brien for a walk through the state of California within the garden's 10 acres at Tilden Regional Park in the Berkeley Hills. This mid-March walk will highlight some of the botanic garden's rare and unusual plants, including some of our geophytes (bulbs) that should be in peak bloom at that time.

We expect to see a variety of later *Fritillarias*, *Alliums*, *Ceanothus*, nearly all of California's coniferous trees, and many other beautiful native plants. In mid-March, we are also guaranteed to see the garden's resident California newts.

Meet at the Botanic Garden's Visitor Center at **10:30am**, and the guided tour will **end around 2:00pm**. Rain does not cancel, though we may end up seeing a slide show of the garden in the Visitor Center if weather conditions are particularly challenging.

2015 is the Botanic Garden's 75th Anniversary, and CNPS's 50th Anniversary – so come to the place where CNPS got started! For more information email [bgarden@ebparks.org](mailto:bgarden@ebparks.org) or call (510) 544-3169.

**Mon Mar 23 – Sat Mar 28****Mojave Desert Car Camp**

The Chapter's last trip to the Death Valley area was in 2011; with hopefully more rain this year, it is time to revisit this portion of the Mojave Desert. Join co-leaders Patricia Evans (the whip) and Joe Cernac (the botanist) searching for spring blooms and sightseeing in areas of natural history interest.

After driving to Red Rock State Park on Monday (3/23), the trip will start in Short Canyon/Golden Valley, then move to Panamint Springs/Darwin Falls, hopefully take in Wild Rose Canyon, and end with a visit to the Alabama Hills on the way home on Saturday (3/28). It is approximately a 6-hour drive through Bakersfield to the area from the South Bay. Our plan is to camp at Red Rock State Park for three nights and Panamint Springs for two nights.

For more info. or **to reserve your spot**, contact Patricia at [paevans@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:paevans@stanfordalumni.org), or (650) 949-2801.

**Sat Apr 4 10am - 2pm Coyote Lake (Gilroy)**

This is our annual trip to the serpentine area at the north end of Coyote Lake, in Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park. If we get enough rain we expect to see displays of tidy tips, cream cups, poppies and wild onion.

We will hike 3 miles on the Calaveras, Harvey Bear and Coyote Ridge trails. There will be short sections of trail with moderate incline. Last year near the start of the hike, near the dam, we saw a bald eagle nest with young. This serpentine area is documented in the Chapter website's Coyote Lake photos, here: [bit.ly/1eRGfDX](http://bit.ly/1eRGfDX).

Please contact Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net) or (408) 923-6562 **for reservations and directions** to the trailhead. The group will be limited to 25 people.

**Sun Apr 5 9:30am Edgewood Park, San Carlos**

Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve is one of our Chapter's oldest conservation projects. The battle to save Edgewood from becoming a golf course has long since

been won. The continuing project that our Chapter owns is the restoration weeding.

Join Paul Heiple and Ken Himes to see improved grassland habitat along the western Clarkia Trail. Expanded control



Stephen Rosenthal

Coyote Lake field trip May 2012

of yellow star-thistle has resulted in new colonies of natives such as California mustard (*Caulanthus lasiophylla*) appearing along the trail. As we continue in our easterly direction, we will also see plants of the serpentine chaparral community.

Total distance out and back will be about 2 miles. We expect the walk to **end by early afternoon**. The hike will begin at **9:30am** from the Clarkia Trail. The hike will be limited to 30 people.

**To reserve your spot**, contact Paul at [pheiple@gmail.com](mailto:pheiple@gmail.com) or (650) 854-7125.

**Directions:** The Clarkia trailhead is located on Canada Rd. at the southwest corner of the park. From I-280, turn off at the Edgewood Rd. exit and drive west on Edgewood Rd. until it ends at Canada Rd., then turn left. Continue on Canada Rd. and look for the Clarkia trailhead shortly after passing under I-280.

**Sat Apr 11 1:00pm - 4:30pm Alum Rock Park (East San Jose)**

Join Stephen Rosenthal for a moderately strenuous hike within Alum Rock Park. We expect to see quite a few native plants in bloom, though it's hard to predict which ones will be blooming then. We'll start along Penitencia Creek, walk the South Rim Trail and down the Sycamore Trail switchbacks. We'll travel through mixed woodland and down a chaparral slope.

It may be interesting to see how many plants we see that are not listed on CalFlora. (Hint: there will be quite a few.) NRDB (Natural Resources Database) has a better list but still not complete. (Hint: visit <http://www.nrdp.org> > searches tab > Checklist > Select Preserve: Alum Rock RP.)

The hike will be about 3.5 miles long, including about 600 feet of elevation gain. For more information, contact Stephen at (408) 923-6562 or [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net).



**Directions:** From I-680 northbound, take the Berryessa Rd. exit then turn right onto Berryessa Rd. Turn right onto N. Capitol Ave. Turn left onto Penitencia Creek Rd. Drive into the park. After about 1.5 miles you'll reach the kiosk. Pay an entrance fee: \$6 for adults, a senior/disabled/veteran's rate is \$2. Then go straight as possible and turn left under the bridge when the road ends. We will meet at the YSI near the very end of the parking lot.

### Sun Apr 12 9am - 3pm Calero County Park / Rancho San Vicente (south San Jose)

Join Woody Collins and Judy Fenerty for a four- to six-mile moderately-strenuous hike through the new Rancho San Vicente addition to Calero County Park. Not yet open to the public, Rancho San Vicente has significant serpentine grasslands as well as oak savanna, chaparral and riparian areas and striking views of the Almaden Valley and Calero Reservoir.

Rare species we may see include: Loma Prieta hoita (*Hoita strobilina*), Mount Hamilton thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *campylon*), woodland woollythreads (*Monolopia gracilens*), most beautiful jewelflower (*Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *peramoenus*), serpentine leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon ambiguus*) and Santa Clara Valley dudleya (*Dudleya abramsii* ssp. *setchellii*). The park also has one of the few known occurrences of bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*) in Santa Clara County.

We will be following ranch roads, some of which are rough, rocky and slippery, and we may go off-road to see some species. Elevations range from about 440 to 1,070 feet with some short steep grades (> 10%) and a cumulative elevation gain of around 1,000 feet. Wear sturdy hiking footwear and bring hiking poles if desired. Much of the area has little or no shade – dress in layers and bring plenty of water!



Woody Collins

Calero Reservoir as viewed from the serpentine highland of Rancho San Vicente

Santa Clara County Parks utilizes cattle grazing to control invasive grasses, so be aware that cattle may be present. This is a guided hike in an area that is not yet open for public access. The group must stay together and there are no restrooms or potable water on the property. Logistics do not allow participants to arrive late or leave early.

Because this is a closed area, reservations are required and the group will be limited to 20. **To sign up** and get **directions**, contact Judy Fenerty at [judy@fenerty.com](mailto:judy@fenerty.com) (preferred), or (408) 655-3493.

### Sun Apr 26 9:30am - 2:00pm Sunol Regional Park, East Bay

Join John and Becky Bradley for a spring walk in Sunol Regional Park for some nice wildflower displays including poppies, cream cups, buttercups, milkmaids, blue dicks, and hopefully more if we get more rain before then. The walk will be about a 2 to 4 mile round trip with a moderate elevation gain of around 1,200 ft. The trail passes through

oak woodland interspersed with grasslands.

Bring water, snacks and lunch. The trip is limited to 20 people. For more information and to **reserve your spot**, contact John and Becky at [jandbbradley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jandbbradley@sbcglobal.net) or (510) 744-1062.

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

## DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

**Saturday, April 4, 2015**

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

Santa Clara Valley Chapter California Native Plant Society  
3921 East Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303



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## FIRST-CLASS

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

- Mar 1 Sun** Pulgas Ridge field trip (6)  
**Mar 5 Thu** Maguire Peaks in Sunol field trip (7)  
**Mar 8 Sun** Stile Ranch field trip (7)  
**Mar 9 Mon** Field Trip Planning Meeting (7)  
**Mar 11 Wed** Edgewood evening weeding resumes (6)  
**Mar 13 Fri** General Meeting - Kellman (1)  
**Mar 15 Sun** San Bruno Mountain field trip (7)  
**Mar 19 Thu** GWN – Hellstrip Gardens - Hadden (3)  
**Mar 19 Thu** LIVECoRPs (conservation) meeting (5)  
**Mar 21 Sat** Edgewood Saturday weeding (6)  
**Mar 21 Sat** Tilden Park Botanic Garden tour (7)  
**Mar 23-28 Mon-Sat** Mojave Desert car camp (8)  
**Mar 27 Fri** Keying with Natives (5)  
**Apr 2 Thu** GWN – War on Weeds - Brown (3)  
**Apr 3 Fri** Scholarship applications due (5)  
**Apr 4 Sat** Coyote Lake field trip (8)  
**Apr 4 Sat** Newsletter submittal deadline (9)  
**Apr 5 Sun** Edgewood Park field trip (8)  
**Apr 6 Mon** GWN – Native Meadow - Popper (4)

- Apr 9 Thu** GWN – Coast - Corelli & Boutell (4)  
**Apr 11 Sat** Coastal Wildflower Day (3)  
**Apr 11 Sat** Alum Rock Park field trip (8)  
**Apr 12 Sun** Calero / Rancho San Vicente walk (9)  
**Apr 16 Thu** LIVECoRPs (conservation) meeting (5)  
**Apr 18 Sat** Edgewood Saturday weeding (6)  
**Apr 18 Sat** Going Native Garden Tour (south)  
**Apr 19 Sun** Going Native Garden Tour (north)  
**Apr 22-24 Wed-Fri** Special Nursery Workdays (1)  
**Apr 22 Wed** GWN – Biodiversity - Kumar (4)  
**Apr 23 Thu** Newsletter Mailing Party - 10am PCC  
**Apr 24 Fri** Wildflower Show Setup (2)  
**Apr 24 Fri** Keying with Natives (5)  
**Apr 25 Sat** Spring Native Plant Sale (1)  
**Apr 25 Sat** Wildflower Show (1)  
**Apr 26 Sun** Sunol Regional Park field trip (9)  
**Wed & Thu 12-3 or 10-1** Nursery workdays (2)  
**Wed 5:30pm, Fri 9am** Edgewood Weed Warriors (6)

The next Chapter Board meeting will be **Thursday, April 9 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. More info: [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net).

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working with its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding and to preserve the rich heritage of the native flora for future generations. Membership is open to all. Individual memberships are \$45.00 per year. If you have questions about your newsletter subscription, please contact **membership@cnps-scv.org**. Address changes may be submitted to **cnps@cnps.org** and please put "member address change" in the subject line.

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The *Blazing Star* web address: [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org). Acknowledgement: Anne Warren for the *Blazing Star* logo. Printed on recycled paper.

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