



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

March-April 2010

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

Friday, March 19 at 7:30 PM
San Carlos Library Community Room
610 Elm Street, San Carlos

**Climate Change and the
Future of the California Native Flora**
Speaker: **David Ackerly**

The flora of California, a global biodiversity hotspot, includes 2,387 endemic plant species. With climate change anticipated, up to 66% of these species are projected to experience substantial reductions in range size within a century. These changes depend on the magnitude of future greenhouse gas emissions and on the ability of species to disperse from their current locations. California's varied terrain could cause species to move in very different directions, breaking up present-day floras. Protecting these potential future refugia and facilitating species dispersal will be essential to maintaining biodiversity in the face of climate change.

David Ackerly is an Associate Professor in the Department of Integrative Biology, and the Curator of Ecology for the UC and Jepson Herbaria, at the University of California Berkeley. Professor Ackerly and his research group study the ecology and evolution of plant traits - characteristics such as leaf size and thickness, flowering time, and seed size - that reflect the ecological diversity of terrestrial plants. Current projects in his lab are examining vernal pools of the Central Valley, evergreen shrubs in California and Australia, tropical forests in Ecuador, woody plants in the Sierra Nevada, and potential impacts of climate change on the endemic flora of the California Floristic Province. More information on his work can be found at: ib.berkeley.edu/labs/ackerly.

Directions to San Carlos Library: From Hwy 101 (traveling North or South): Take the Holly St. West exit.

Drive across El Camino Real and turn left at Elm St. Cross San Carlos Ave. and almost at the end of the block, you will see a sign "Civic Center" on the right hand side of the road. Turn right into the parking lot and the library is straight ahead.

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Chapter President Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408) 348-9470.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Going Native Garden Tour - April 18 **Call for Volunteers**

Our 8th 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 24-25 **URGENT REQUEST for VOLUNTEERS!**

Our Chapter's annual Spring Wildflower Show will be held on April 24-25 at Mission College in Santa Clara, in a series of classrooms next to the main building on campus. See the enclosed flyer for details.

Because of the change in venue, **we need more volunteers** this year to serve as coordinators for different functions, volunteers to move desks out of classrooms, greet visitors, close down the event on Sunday, and many other tasks. Show times are **10am-4pm Saturday and Sunday**. Setup day is **Friday, April 23**. To volunteer, contact Toni Gregorio-Bunch at (408) 373-4497 or tonig@flash.net.

Native Plant Sale May 1 at Hidden Villa **10am - 3pm -- Call for Volunteers**

A wide variety of hard-to-find, easy-to-grow native plants will be available at our Spring Native Plant Sale. For details, see the enclosed flyer. **Directions** to Hidden Villa are listed below. Remember that we accept cash or check only - no credit cards please, and bring bags or boxes in which to take home your purchases.

To **volunteer** on sale day please contact:

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

Miscellaneous: Ann Harding (408) 260-2271, Ann.Harding@att.net

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

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

Native Plant Nursery

To grow plants for our spring and fall sales, our native plant nursery work sessions take place every **Wednesday**, from **noon to 3pm**. Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. Knowledge of plants is not necessary: your willingness to help is all that's required.

For more information, contact Jean Struthers at (650) 941-2586 or JeanStruthers@att.net; or Ray Deutsch at (650) 365-6136 or henrymarsh@yahoo.com.

Directions: Hidden Villa is located on Moody Road west of Foothill College. From Hwy 280 in Los Altos Hills, take the Moody Road exit and head west. Two miles west of Foothill College, look for the Hidden Villa sign and driveway on the left. Proceed over the bridge, and park in the visitor center parking lot to your right. The Native Plant Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the visitor center.

CNPS at SF Flower and Garden Show

CNPS will have a booth at this year's San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, **March 24 – 28**, at the San Mateo Event Center. For show info visit www.sfgardenshow.com. To **volunteer**, contact Ellen Edelson, at e.edelson@sbcglobal.net or (415) 531-2140.

Gardening with Natives:

Coming Soon to a Library Near You

Gardening with Natives (GWN) is a special interest group within the Chapter, and includes a mix of seasoned native plant gardeners as well as beginners. The group is open to

all, and newcomers are always welcome. For more information visit www.GardeningWithNatives.com. GWN plans the following talks for March and April:

Date/Time	Event	Location
Thu Mar 11, 7:00pm	Japanese Garden Design Using California Native Plants - Mark Bourne	Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga
Mon Mar 15, 7:00pm	Spring Wildflowers at Edgewood - Ken Himes	San Carlos Library, 610 Elm St.
Wed Mar 17 7:00pm	Water-wise Gardening Using Native Plants - Deva Luna	Fremont Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont
Tue Mar 23 6:30pm	Pollinators & Native Plant Gardens - Rebecca Schoenenberger	Almaden Library, 6455 Camden Ave., San Jose
Thu Apr 1 7:00pm	Landscaping Lessons from the Fleming Garden - Luke Hass	San Carlos Library, 610 Elm St.
Mon Apr 12 7:00pm	California Native Plants for Bay Area Gardens - Chris Todd	Cupertino Library, 10800 Torre Ave.
Mon Apr 19 7:00pm	Native Perennials for the Garden - Matt Teel	Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas
Mon Apr 26 10:00am	Native Plant Gardening for Beginners - Stephanie Morris	Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Rd., Woodside
Wed Apr 28 7:00pm	Sustainable Landscaping with Native Plants - Peigi Duvall	Millbrae Library, 1 Library Ave., Millbrae

These programs are made possible by cosponsoring libraries as well as neighborhood volunteers who have stepped up to host each program. We can still use additional **volunteers** for the following programs: March 23 at Almaden, April 19 at Belmont, and April 28 at Millbrae. If you can help with any of these, please contact Arvind Kumar chhprahiya@yahoo.com.

Keying with Natives

Join other native plant enthusiasts in a fun and educational atmosphere, as we hone our skills at plant identification (aka "keying"). For details, contact David "Tex" Houston at tex009@sbcglobal.net or Sally Casey at (408) 377-0989.

Upcoming meetings will be at the PCC in Palo Alto. Our March meeting will be **Friday, March 26, 6:30 to 8:30pm**. Our **April** meeting will have a special time and topic:

Thursday, April 29 from 7-9pm, Learn to Key the Clovers: With over 30 different species of *Trifolium* documented in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, clovers can be a challenge to identify. Join Botanist Toni Corelli as she guides us through the clover key. We will learn to recognize key characteristics within the genus. Several different species will be available to examine.

Directions to the PCC: (Peninsula Conservation Center), 3921 E. Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto. From Hwy. 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.

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Rare Plant Hunt at Santa Teresa County Park

By Don Mayall, Rare Plants Chair, Santa Clara County

Here is an opportunity to have some outdoor fun and help restore a bit of native habitat in Santa Clara County. Santa Teresa County Park was once home to the Bay checkerspot butterfly. Listed as threatened by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the butterfly's last remaining habitat is currently Coyote Ridge on the other side of the valley. The habitat was lost at Santa Teresa as non-native grasses choked out the butterfly's host plant, the native plantain. But the County wants to restore the butterfly habitat at Santa Teresa. One step in this process will be the re-introduction of managed cattle grazing. Such grazing is what allows the butterfly habitat and the fields of spring wildflowers to prosper on Coyote Ridge.

Before the restoration begins, the county wants to have baseline data on rare plants found at Santa Teresa Park. Now, here is where you come in. On one or more days in late April, teams will spread out and map the locations of found plants. Each team will be provided a GPS unit, and there will be experts present to help you identify the plants accurately, so no plant keying skills are needed. All that is required is a desire to help and the fitness to walk a mile or so in somewhat hilly terrain. The data collected will be submitted to the California Natural Diversity Data Base, a joint project of CNPS and the California Department of Fish & Game.

For more information and to sign up contact Karen Cotter, Natural Resources Technician for Santa Clara County Parks, at (408) 224-3971.

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** weeding 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 17** after Daylight Savings Time returns; and monthly **9am Saturday** sessions are the **3rd Saturday, March thru July**:

Date	Meet 9am At	Event
March 20	Day Camp Kiosk	Spring "Saturday Kickoff"
April 17	Day Camp Kiosk	40 th Earth Day
May 15	West Kiosk	Endangered Species Day
June 19	West Kiosk	Summer Solstice
July 17	West Kiosk	Summer "Saturday Sendoff"

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

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.

Sun Mar 7 10am Rise of the Sporophytes!

Join Drew Shell for a walk at Edgewood County Park -- see the full writeup at the Chapter website's field trips page.

To sign up or get more info, contact Drew Shell at shell@corp.webtv.net or Carolyn Dorsch (650) 804-6162.

Sun Mar 14 10am San Bruno Mountain

Join Ken Himes for a hike on the Summit Loop Trail in San Bruno Mountain County Park. We'll see plants of the coastal scrub and coastal prairie plant communities, including San Bruno Mountain manzanita (*Arctostaphylos imbricata*), San Francisco wallflower (*Erysimum franciscanum*) and Coast rock-cress (*Arabis blepharophylla*).

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

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

Sat-Mon Mar 27-29

Golden Valley and Grass Valley Wilderness

The Golden Valley Wilderness and the Grass Valley Wilderness are undiscovered desert wildflower areas. They are 10 and 20 miles southeast of Ridgecrest, in northwest San Bernardino County. Much closer than other Southern California locations, they offer the potential of great displays with shorter long-distance travel and easy dirt road access. There are a variety of elevation gradients and aspects, making this a rich and interesting botanical area.

Join us for a discovery of these small wilderness areas and an opportunity to work for the good of wilderness protection. One of the days may involve **service work** for the BLM. The other days we will explore the desert flora. We will **rough carcamp** (no services-no water). This will be a joint trip with Desert Survivors.

CNPS attendance is limited to 12 members. Contact the leaders to **reserve a spot** and for a full trip description: Michael Yantos: (650) 743-2807 or yantosarchitect@att.net Carolyn Dorsch: (650) 804-6162 or cdorsch1@aol.com

Sat Apr 3 10am Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch

Join Stella Yang and Dick Gehrer for a visit to the serpentine area of this Santa Clara County park. The floral

display was spectacular the last two years and we are hoping for a repeat performance this year. It will be about 4 miles round trip with 500 ft of elevation gain and some cross county scrambling.

Directions: From Highway 101 in Gilroy, take the Leavesley Rd. exit. Proceed east on Leavesley Rd 2 miles to New Ave. Go north (left) on New Ave. 0.5 miles to Roop Rd. Proceed east (right) on Roop Rd. 3.5 miles. There are two entrances to the park on this road: **Ignore** the Mendoza entrance. Turn left into the Coyote Lake entrance and proceed one mile north (left) to the entrance station and visitor center. We'll meet there at **10 am**. There is a \$6.00 park entrance fee.

A no-host car pool will **leave at 9 am** from Camden Avenue Park & Ride off Highway 85. We should be done at the park around **3pm** and back to the Park & Ride at **4pm**. For more information contact Stella at (408) 255-6233 or Dick at (408) 268-6922.

Sun Apr 4 10am Warm Springs Vernal Pools

Come see the flower rings around some of the last intact vernal pools in the East Bay! (**Newark**) Newcomers will enjoy learning about the unique features of a vernal pool grassland, and visitors from past years can observe the pools in what will likely be a good rain year. Participants will see endangered Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjugens*), as well as *Downingia pulchella*, several *Plagiobothrys*, and other native vernal pool and upland species.

Refuge Deputy Project Leader John Bradley will lead a tour of the Warm Springs Unit of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR. The walking tour will last about **1.5 - 2 hours**. Total walking distance will not exceed 1 mile, but terrain is uneven. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress according to the weather. Heavy rain will cancel.

Contact Ivette Loreda at (510) 792-4275 x 134 or ivette_loredo@fws.gov to **reserve your spot**. Tours are limited to approximately 20 people due to the sensitivity of the vernal pool ecosystem.

Directions: We will meet off Cushing Blvd. in Fremont. Take I-880 to the Fremont Blvd. / Cushing Pkwy Exit. Exit 13B toward Cushing. Turn left on Fremont (if you are coming from the north, turn right on Fremont) and right on Cushing Parkway. Pass the light at Northport Loop. On the left side, immediately after the LAM business park, there will be a blue pipe gate across a gravel road. We will meet there.

Sat Apr 10 10am Coyote Ridge

Beginning in late March and extending into April every year, the Bay checkerspot butterfly emerges and large expanses of wildflowers appear on Coyote Ridge. Join trip leader Kevin Bryant for a hike to take in this incredible area, focusing on serpentine plants and their ecology on the ridge. Come to enjoy the beauty, hear the story of Coyote Ridge, and learn how CNPS and other organizations are involved in helping to preserve these lands in perpetuity.

Our hike will be about 3-4 miles round trip, with 800 foot elevation gain, and is expected to last **3 to 4 hours**. The meeting place is about a 20 minute drive south from the downtown San Jose area. An RSVP is necessary, since access to this fragile area is controlled. Trips are limited to 20 attendees. You may **reserve a space** and receive directions to our meeting place by contacting Kevin at (408) 348-9470 or mtngreen17@verizon.net.

Sun Apr 11 10am San Mateo Coast

Join Toni Corelli for a hike at Rockaway Headlands in Pacifica. This is one of the best places to see coastal prairie and coastal wildflowers and to enjoy the scenic views of the Pacifica area along the San Mateo County Coast. Some of the highlights will be brownie thistle, seaside daisy, coastal gumplant, coast tarweed, coast onion, and also the San Francisco Wallflower.

This will be an easy walk of about 1 mile. **After lunch**, we will go to another nearby location based on the group's wishes. Wear layers and bring lunch and liquids. For more information contact Toni Corelli at (650) 464-1289 or corelli@coastside.net.

Directions: From Hwy. 1 turn west onto Rockaway Beach Ave. and then make the first left onto Old Country Road. Proceed to the end of this road into a large free parking area. There are restrooms here as well.

Sat Apr 17 10am Rancho Cañada del Oro

This fairly new Open Space Authority Preserve has a remarkably diverse flora of oak woodlands, riparian habitat, and grasslands with serpentine barrens where good wildflower spreads are expected. A *Dicentra chrysantha* (golden eardrops) was seen not far from the parking lot last year. *Fraxinus latifolia* (Oregon ash) is present in the woodland.

We will walk the Mayfair Ranch and Longwall Canyon Trails, returning through Calero Park on the Serpentine Loop Trail. We will hike 4.3 miles altogether with 500 feet of elevation gain. We expect **five hours** to complete the hike. Bring lunch and liquids.

Space is limited. For more information and to **reserve your spot**, contact Joe Cernac at (408) 292-5465 or visit www.openspaceauthority.org/trails/rancho.html.

Directions: From Hwy 101, turn west onto Bailey Ave. At the intersection with McKean Rd. turn left. Where McKean Rd. becomes Uvas Rd. turn right onto Casa Loma Rd. Rancho Cañada del Oro OSP is at the end of the public access portion of the road.

Thu Apr 29 10am Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve and Stevens Creek County Park

Join Ken Himes and Stella Yang on this 3.8 mile mid-week walk on the Zinfandel Trail to Stevens Creek County Park. We'll begin this trail in the winery parking lot and contour down to the county park. Woodland and chaparral provide habitat for such plants as Wind poppy (*Stylomecon heterophylla*), Red Larkspur (*Delphinium nudicaule*) and Red ribbons (*Clarkia concinna*) and other interesting plants. Bring plenty of liquids and lunch.

Meet at the parking lot of Picchetti Ranch Preserve. We expect to be **back by 2pm**. For more information, call Ken at (650) 591-8560 or contact Stella at yscottie@pacbell.net.

Directions to Picchetti Ranch parking: From the intersection of I-280 and Foothill Expy., go 3.5 mi. southwest (toward the mountains) on Foothill Blvd. / Stevens Canyon Rd. Turn right on Montebello Rd. Parking is 0.5 miles up Montebello Rd. on the left.

Save the Dates!

For details on the following upcoming field trips, check the next issue of this newsletter or the "Field Trips" link on the Chapter website at www.cnps-scv.org.

Date	Leader	Location
Sat-Sun May 22-23	Matt Teel	The Cedars - Serpentine in Western Sonoma County - early registration preference goes to Chapter members
Sun-Fri May 23-28	Joe Cernac & Stella Yang	High Desert Trip - Tehachapi and Southern Sierra Bajadas

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, April 3, 2010

Email: mattsson@surfpix.net

Phone: (408) 255-3767

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(page # in parentheses)

- Mar 7 Sun** Edgewood Evolution Walk (3)
- Mar 11 Thu** GWN - Japanese Garden Design (2)
- Mar 14 Sun** San Bruno Mountain Walk (5)
- Mar 15 Mon** GWN - Wildflowers at Edgewood (2)
- Mar 17 Wed** GWN - Water-wise Gardening (2)
- Mar 19 Fri General Meeting - Ackerly** (1)
- Mar 20 Sat** Edgewood Saturday Weeding (3)
- Mar 23 Tue** GWN - Pollinators - Schoenenberger (2)
- Mar 26 Fri** Keying with Natives (2)
- Mar 27-29 Sat-Mon** Golden Valley Wilderness (4)
- Apr 1 Thu** GWN - Fleming Garden Lessons (2)
- Apr 3 Sat** Coyote Lake (4) & Newsletter Deadline
- Apr 4 Sun** Warm Springs Vernal Pools Walk (4)
- Apr 8 Thu** Chapter Board meeting

- Apr 10 Sat** Coyote Ridge Walk (5)
- Apr 11 Sun** San Mateo Coast Walk (5)
- Apr 12 Mon** GWN - Plants for Bay Area Gardens (2)
- Apr 17 Sat** Rancho Cañada del Oro Walk (5)
- Apr 17 Sat** Edgewood Saturday Weeding (3)
- Apr 18 Sun** **Going Native Garden Tour** (1)
- Apr 19 Mon** GWN - Native Perennials (2)
- Apr 24-25 Sat-Sun** **Spring Wildflower Show** (1)
- Apr 26 Mon** GWN - Gardening for Beginners (2)
- Apr 28 Wed** GWN - Sustainable Landscaping (2)
- Apr 29 Thu** Picchetti Ranch Walk (5) & KWN (2)
- May 1 Sat** **Spring Native Plant Sale** (1)
- Wed afts** Nursery work sessions (2)
- Wed eves & Fri morns** Edgewood Park weeding (3)

The next Chapter **Board meeting** will be **Thursday, April 8 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.

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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
- Education
- Field Trips
- Gardening
- Plant ID

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Join CNPS Today!

Members receive the Fremontia, the Bulletin, and the Chapter newsletter, and other benefits listed at www.cnps.org/membership



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