



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

May-June 2007

GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

Friday, May 18th at 7:00 pm
Saratoga Library Community Room
13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga

Note Earlier Start Time! **Book signing 6:30 pm**

Talk and Book Release: **Creating Native Gardens Based on Your** **Local Site**

Speaker: Dr. Glenn Keator

Creating beautiful native gardens based on your own local site is not only appropriate ecologically, it also helps to ensure the success of your gardening efforts. Each site has its own unique characteristics determined by soil, climate, and exposure. Glenn Keator will focus on some of the South Bay's local plant communities and ornamental natives that adapt well to those conditions. Come and learn about gardening under oaks, along creeks, and on hot, exposed slopes.

Glenn Keator holds a doctorate in botany from U.C. Berkeley. Dr. Keator teaches in the Landscape Horticulture Department at Merritt College, where his main focus is on learning about, growing, and identifying native plants. He also teaches, leads field trips, and provides docent instruction in botany for the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. In his spare time, he continually experiments with natives in his own Berkeley garden.

Dr. Keator has written numerous books on native plants: *Complete Garden Guide to the Native Perennials of California* and *Complete Garden Guide to the Native Shrubs of California* are two often used by gardeners and designers. His newest book, *Designing California Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens*, a collaboration with **Alrie Middlebrook**, will provide inspiration for his talk.

We are very pleased to have both authors available to sign books, which will be available for purchase prior to and after the program. The book signing starts at 6:30pm before the meeting, and will continue after the program.

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

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

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Nursery

Thanks to our many volunteers, our April Native Plant Sale was fabulous and we almost sold out of plants!

Help us to make our fall sale turn out just as well, by volunteering at one of our weekly native plant nursery work sessions. The sessions take place every **Wednesday, from 10am to 3pm** (note our earlier summer start times, starting in June). Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and your lunch. Other tools will be provided at the nursery.

Knowledge of plants is not necessary: your willingness to help is all that's required.

Also, we are looking for **seed donations** of good garden plants, with species name please. For more information, contact Jean Struthers at (650)941-2586 or JeanStruthers@aol.com; or Ray Deutsch at (650)365-6136 or henrymarsh@yahoo.com.

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

Wildflower Show & Sale Debrief May 3

The next event related to our Spring Native Plant Sale and Wildflower Show will be a debrief meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend and provide comments, reminders of what worked well, and suggestions on what we can improve upon.

The meeting will be on **Thursday, May 3, at 7pm** at the PCC in Palo Alto. For more information, or to provide input if you are unable to attend, contact Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824.

Directions to the PCC: (Peninsula Conservation Center), 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. From Highway 101, take the "San Antonio North" exit, get immediately into the left-hand turn lane, and turn LEFT onto East Bayshore. This will curve around to the left, then right. Turn right on Corporation Way. Then turn into the first driveway on your left, which leads to the PCC parking lot.

Gardening with Natives

Gardening with Natives (GWN) is a special interest group within the Chapter which meets on the first Thursday of each month, usually at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) in Palo Alto (directions below). The group is open to all, and includes a mix of seasoned native plant gardeners as well as beginners. Newcomers are always welcome.

Our May meeting will be combined with the Chapter General meeting on May 18, and the program will be a talk by Dr. Glenn Keator, "Creating Native Gardens Based on Your Local Site." See the first page of this newsletter for details.

Thursday, June 7, 5:45pm DeAnza ESA Tour of DeAnza Environmental Studies Area Host: Annie Presler

Annie Presler, curator, will lead our group on a guided tour of the new Kirsch Center, a LEED-certified green building, and the Cheeseman Environmental Study Area at De Anza College. The Cheeseman ESA is home to a mature, 100% native garden, designed by Doug Cheeseman that is used as an outdoor classroom for the students at De Anza College.

The garden is arranged in naturalistic communities with interpretive exhibits and features plants from 12 different native plant communities of California. This well established garden, also featuring a manmade waterfall and a riparian area with a pond, provides habitat for over 40 species of birds, many butterflies, blue belly and alligator lizards, California slender salamander and numerous insects. The property is located on 1.5 acres.

We will meet Annie at 5:45pm in the lobby of the Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies. The tour starts promptly at **6pm**.

Directions: The street address is 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd in Cupertino. From Hwy 85 take Steven's Creek Blvd. heading east. Turn right on Stelling Road. Turn right on McClellan. Turn right into the south entrance of campus. Take an immediate left and an immediate right into parking lot D.

Parking passes for \$2 are located in the yellow dispenser on the left (south) side of the parking lot. The Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies and the Cheeseman Environmental Study Area are due east of the parking lot.

Carpooling is recommended, and all cars are required to have a valid parking pass, so bring \$2 in quarters.

For more information on the Gardening with Natives group, visit its website at www.GardeningWithNatives.com. GWN maintains a Yahoo group with over 400 members, a true resource for native plant gardeners in this area. To join the Yahoo group, visit groups.yahoo.com/group/GardeningWithNatives. To contact the GWN Steering Committee, email GardeningWithNatives@yahoo.com or call Arvind Kumar at (408)715-7020.

Native Hill - Pleasant Surprises

This spring has brought a few surprises to our Native Plant Garden on the Foothill College Campus, with annual lupines and Clarkia abounding despite few if any last year. The site is presently a profusion of golds, yellows, blues and purples as flannel bush, ceanothus, poppies and sages are all in bloom with baby blue eyes and blue flax flowering for the first time at the garden.

Native bees and butterflies abound along with hummingbirds and a pair of red winged hawks that have taken up residence adjacent to the garden. Finally, our pink flowering California buckeye, our pride and joy, is beginning to show signs of its brilliant hue as it approaches its peak with a shower of solemn pink clusters.

As always, if you would like to volunteer at the garden or be added to the email list to be notified of upcoming workdays, contact Phil Higgins at phidor@juno.com or (650)941-4752.

If you would like to get involved, our next meeting will be **Tuesday, May 15 at 6pm** at the PCC. We'll supply the pizza! For more information, contact Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824.

Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park

Join us as we restore sensitive habitats at Edgewood Park and enjoy spring and summer wildflowers. Weeding sessions take place at the following times:

- **Friday mornings** throughout the year, starting at **9am**
- **Wednesday evenings** during daylight savings time (mid March to early November), starting at **5:30pm**
- Occasional **Saturday mornings** (Spring-Fall).

Weeders should meet at the designated meeting place at the appointed time, after which the group will proceed to the work site for that outing. Late comers are welcome, and should simply proceed to the designated work site on their own (when possible, a map to the work site will be posted at the meeting place).

Outings are held on a "weather permitting" basis. Generally, if the weather is no wetter than light/intermittent sprinkles, we'll proceed as scheduled. In the event of heavy or steady rain, we'll cancel.

The remaining **Saturday morning** work outings, from **9am to noon**, are as follows:

Date	Meeting Place	Work Site
May 19	Old Stage Day Camp Kiosk	Sylvan Loop Trail, South wing
June 16	West Kiosk	Mow site 1
July 21	West Kiosk	TBD
August 4	West Kiosk	TBD

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

Legislation, Invasives, Conservation, and Rare Plant Committee

Our small but active Livecorps Committee is seeking people who wish to get involved with preserving, protecting, and understanding native species and plant communities throughout our chapter's area. No experience is necessary, only a desire to help retain what remains of our natural heritage.



California Flannelbush ©2005 Ann Miller
(*Fremontodendron californicum*)

Transform a dry slope, in sun or part shade, by the floriferous display of this lovely shrub. In spring, the branches of flannelbush are covered with large golden five-petaled flowers. This shrub is found in sandy washes and slopes in all parts of California except its deserts. Most varieties grow up to 15' tall and look their best when given sufficient space. *F.c. decumbens* is a smaller plant, to 4'. Plant it in well-draining soil and do not water established plants in summer. Combines well with blue-flowered ceanothus.—*Arvind Kumar*

Photo Group

Our Chapter Photo Group is a special interest group of members which meets on the third Monday of most months at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) in Palo Alto. The Group is open to all, and includes both beginning and experienced photographers.

Our next meeting will be **Monday, May 21, from 7-9 pm** at the PCC. The program will be "Photographs of Genus *Calochortus*," and all are invited to bring images of these beautiful plants.

The group will not meet again until September. For more information, contact Patrick Gallagher, at (408)483-9366 or drrust@greenisles.com.

Keying with Natives

Join us on the last **Friday** of every month, from **6:30pm - 8:30pm**, in a fun gathering to meet with other native plant enthusiasts to sharpen your keying skills. The next meetings will be **May 25** and **June 29** at the PCC building in Palo Alto. Contact David "Tex" Houston or Sally Casey for details. Contact David at tex009@sbcglobal.net, and Sally at (408)377-0989.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Marsh Ecology Short Course Repeat

Since we had some dozen more applicants than could fit into our first Marsh Ecology short Course held in March, our Chapter is offering a second session. Thus, once again we are co-hosting the Marsh Ecology Short Course at the PCC, **Mon-Wed, May 14-16, 9:30am - 4:30pm**.

Dr. Peter Baye will provide an overview of tidal marsh plants and communities, historic and modern, of the San Francisco Bay Estuary, in slide lecture and field trips to representative marshes and wetlands.

Dr. Howard Shellhammer will discuss the historical depth and character of South San Francisco Bay and the effects of sea level rise on salt pond restoration and levee design. Monday's class will include a short field trip to the Palo Alto Baylands Marsh.

Clyde Morris will present an overview of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration.

Course and materials fee is \$75. For further information, contact Libby Lucas at JLucas1099@aol.com or (650)948-3552. Co-sponsored with Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge. **To sign up**, make checks payable to CCCR and mail along with address, phone number, email, and affiliation, to 453 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

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.

May 5-6 Sat-Sun Morro Bay (SLO County)

Join members Ken Himes, Carolyn Dorsch and Michael Yantos for a spring exploration of central California's coastal region, Morro Bay, Montana del Oro and Los Osos. Easy car stops and short hikes. Search for many endemics to area, and several outerlaying species. Camping or nearby motels.

Contact Carolyn Dorsch at (650)804-6162 or cdorsch1@aol.com, or Ken Himes at (650)591-8560 to receive further information or to **reserve your spot**.

May 12 Sat 10am Mills Canyon - Burlingame

Join CNPS leader Ken Himes and members of Friends of Mills Canyon for a 2.5 mile loop walk. The canyon has a surprisingly diverse flora, including bigleaf maple, *Acer macrophyllum*, along shady Mills Creek and open sunny slopes in the upper northwestern portion of the nature area.

Directions: from I-280, exit Trousdale Drive, on east side of I-280. Turn right onto Skyline Blvd, proceed south about 3/4 mile and turn left onto Hillside Drive. Proceed northeast (toward bay) on Hillside for about 3/4 mile to Adeline Drive. Turn left onto Adeline Drive and proceed a short distance to the trailhead.

From 101, take Broadway exit and proceed in westerly direction on Broadway to El Camino Real. Turn right onto El Camino and proceed in northerly direction for three blocks and turn left onto Hillside Drive. It is about 2 miles up Hillside to Adeline Drive. Turn right onto Adeline Drive and proceed a short distance to the trailhead.

The hike will last about three hours. Bring lunch, water, and sturdy hiking shoes. The trail is not very steep, and has no particular hazards. Call Ken (650)591-8560 for additional details. A plant list will be provided.

May 13 Sun 9am Mt. Hamilton Driving Tour

We will make our annual traverse of mighty Mt. Hamilton at its high point, enjoying stops on the western slopes and at the top of the Bay Area before heading to walk around and

explore the flora at a few locations on the east side of the summit. Come and meet (or say hello once again) to the diverse and dazzling flora of the Hamilton Range.

This will be an **all day trip**, mostly driving with short hikes at some of the stops. Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water.

Space is limited; please contact Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408) 353-8824 for directions and to **reserve your spot**.

May 19 Sun 10am Pescadero Marsh

Join Toni Corelli for a walk at Pescadero Marsh and Bean Hollow on the San Mateo coast.

Pescadero Marsh is the largest saltwater marsh on the San Mateo Coast and is noted for its diverse flora and bird species. Bean Hollow is one of the most diverse coastal bluff scrub plant communities along the San Mateo Coast. The walk is expected to last until about **3pm**. For more information, contact Toni at corelli@coastside.net or (650)726-0689.

Directions: Meet at 10am at the parking lot just south of the bridge along Hwy. 1 at Pescadero Marsh. It will be on the west side of the road. Bring lunch, water, and layers. We will walk Pescadero Marsh first; have lunch and then drive to Bean Hollow for the afternoon walk. Level trails, about 2 miles total distance.

Sat-Fri June 30-July 6th Botanizing in the State of Jefferson

Do you know about our 51st state? Well, the mountainous northern part of California, extending into the southern third of Oregon, has been a state (mostly, of mind) since the patriotic rebellion of 1941. This rugged area of geologic mayhem contains the Klamath Range and the southern part of the Cascade Range, and is home to an incredible and diverse array of plants, many of which have made their appearance in our gardens.

We will make our way around Yreka, the capital of Jefferson, botanizing from the western edge of the southern Cascades into the Klamaths, spending some time around the legendary Cook and Green Pass area. Come be a kid in a candy store as we explore this botanically wealthy area of the OR-CA border. The tour through Jefferson will bring us to see several rare and endemic plants, including two highly restricted Calochortus species. And we'll certainly keep our eyes open for creatures of all kinds during our trip -- Hey, you never know, this is Bigfoot country after all!

Joining us in Jefferson is easy. There are camping options, including a reserved group camp, and we will also be near enough to motel accommodations for those not camping to join the group after spending the night indoors. Come for the whole time, or join us when you can and leave if you really still want to. Contact trip leaders Ken Himes at (650)591-8560, Paul Heiple at (650)854-7125 or Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net for full details, and to **reserve your spot** on the trip.

CORRECTION & APPRECIATION

The March-April Blazing Star described the creation of a native plant garden at Seven Trees Elementary School in San Jose. The article thanked teacher Larry Volpe and landscaper Agi Kehoe, but forgot to mention the invaluable contributions of **Nikola Konecna**, who spent several hours transforming Agi's hand-sketched design into a professional one, using Vectorworks on her computer.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2007

To learn more about our Chapter or give suggestions, please contact one of our officers listed below.

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Kevin Bryant	(408) 353-8824	mtngreen17@ verizon.net
Vice President	OPEN		
Recording Secretary	Susan Sundberg	(408) 274-5491	sundberg27@ yahoo.com
Treasurer	Paul Heiple	(650) 854-7125	pheiple@gmail. com
Past President	Judy Fenerty	(408) 655-3493	judy@ fenerty.com
Officer at Large	Georgia Stigall	(650) 941-1068	GeorgiaStigall@ yahoo.com

To join our Chapter email list, please send your request to judy@fenerty.com or cnps_scv@yahoo.com.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, June 9, 2007

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