



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

July-August 2009

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

**Henry Coe Park: Plant Recovery
Following the 2007 Lick Fire**
A presentation by
Dr. Winslow Briggs, Stanford University

Thursday, July 16th 7-9pm

Note Thursday day and early start time!

**Morgan Hill Library Community Room
660 West Main Avenue, Morgan Hill**

The Lick Fire of 2007 burned over 47,000 acres in Henry Coe State Park and required eight days to contain fully. It was a reminder of the powerful natural factors that continue to shape California's environment. It may appear that fire is inimical to natural resources and environmental health, but in reality fire has been a part of the inner Coast Range since before the arrival of humans. Today, nearly two years after the Lick Fire, the park's native plants are well on the road to recovery. Some native seeds require a heat shock in order to germinate. Others respond to chemicals in the smoke. Fire clears woody debris and returns essential minerals to depleted soils.

Dr. Winslow Briggs is Director Emeritus at Carnegie Institution for Science's Department of Plant Biology at Stanford University, and has published over 200 papers in scientific journals—largely in plant physiology, biochemistry, and molecular biology. However, he has had an interest in plant taxonomy and ecology since his teen years and has been a Coe Park volunteer for over 30 years.

Dr. Briggs saw the Lick fire as an unprecedented opportunity to monitor plant recovery in the park's many different kinds of plant communities. He is the author of *The Trails of Henry Coe Park*, as much a nature guidebook as a trail guide. He is a passionate advocate for the natural ecosystems of Henry Coe Park. His license plate? "HIKE COE"!

The location, **Morgan Hill Library**, has been chosen for its proximity to Coe Park and for outreach to the southern portions of our Chapter. Most Chapter general meetings are held at our traditional Los Altos and Saratoga venues. Our May program in Half Moon Bay enjoyed a strong turnout, proving that interest in CNPS extends outside the most densely populated portions of our Chapter area. We will do our best to serve members in all parts of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Friends of Morgan Hill Library.

Due to the **earlier than usual start time of 7pm**, there will be **no plant ID clinic** before this meeting.

Directions: Take Hwy. 101 to Morgan Hill (south of San Jose). Take the East Dunne Ave. exit in Morgan Hill. Turn right (west) onto Dunne. Cross Monterey Rd, turn right on Peak Ave. (first stop sign after Monterey Rd). Turn left on Main (first stop sign), turn left into the Library parking lot.

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

Save the dates!

Our **Fall Native Plant Sale** will be held at Hidden Villa on **Saturday, October 17**, and our **annual potluck dinner** will be held **Saturday, November 14**.

Thank you Outreach Volunteers!

By Toni Gregorio-Bunch, Chapter Outreach Coordinator

This spring our Chapter participated in ten public outreach events around the San Francisco Bay Area, and many thanks go out to all the volunteers for staffing our information tables. By volunteering at these Earth Day celebrations and environmental fairs you are spreading the word about who CNPS is and what we do. You are helping make the public aware of the important role natives serve in

our ecosystems, and providing information about growing natives in our gardens.

Thanks go out to Sherrie Wren and North San Joaquin Valley Chapter members James Brugger and Suzanne Guthrie who volunteered at Pacheco State Park's Wildflower Day; Ellie Gioumousis and Susan Welch for staffing at Palo Alto's Earth Day; Kammy Rose for



*Rose Rockwood and Agi Kehoe Volunteering at CNPS Booth
Photo by Toni Gregorio-Bunch*

volunteering at the Full Circle Farm Earth Day celebration; Jane Kos, Carolyn Curtis and Susan Peterson for participating at SLAC's National Accelerator Laboratory Earth Day event; Suzie Woolhouse for helping out at San Jose State's Earth Day celebration; Milovan Milutin and Ken Himes for staffing our table at Mission College's Earth Day celebration; Jean Struthers and Sue Welch for working at Los Altos Hills' Earth Day Celebration at Westwind Barn; Ann Harding and Libby Lucas for working the Sierra Club's Wetlands Celebration; and Rose Rockwood, Agi Kehoe and Georgia Stigall for staffing our table at Redwood City's World Environment Day Fiesta.

If we've left anyone out we apologize, and please let us know so we can include you in the next newsletter.

Volunteering at these outreach events is an important part of this organization. There are more outreach opportunities coming up in the fall, and I hope other members are inspired to become involved. For more information you can contact me at tonig@flash.net, or call (408) 373-4497.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Nursery

Volunteers are invited to continue to care for and propagate native plants throughout the summer at our Nursery at Hidden Villa. Our nursery work sessions take place every **Wednesday, from 10am to 2pm**. 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.

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 lot to your right. The Native Plant Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the visitor center.

Gardening with Natives

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.

The Plants and People of Native California

By Marianne Schonfisch

Thursday, July 2, 7-8:30pm

Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga

Cosponsored by Saratoga Library

Native Californians lived a sustainable lifestyle for thousands of years. At this talk, you will learn how they used their traditional plant knowledge and management techniques to provide food, medicine, shelter, clothing, tools, and trade goods. Many of the plants they used still survive here in the Bay Area. The talk is illustrated with pictures, examples, and handouts.

Marianne Schonfisch is the coordinator of the Native Plants/Native Ways school program at the Filoli estate in

Woodside. She has a background in environmental education and has studied with elders and other teachers of traditional skills throughout California.

Directions to the Saratoga Library: From Hwy. 85 (North & South): Take the Saratoga Avenue exit. At the light, turn on Saratoga Avenue (northbound travelers turn left on Saratoga Ave.; southbound travelers turn right on Saratoga Ave.). Go past the light at Fruitvale. The library will be on your left.

The Evolution of a Native Plant Garden

By Katherine Greenberg

Thursday, August 6, 7-8:30pm

San Carlos Library, 610 Elm St, San Carlos

Cosponsored by San Carlos Library

Native perennials, shrubs, and trees are long-lived. How does a native plant garden grow and change over time? How do its maintenance needs change? Find out from a designer whose 30-year old garden in Lafayette has been featured in many books and magazines.

Katherine Greenberg is the Former President, Pacific Horticulture Foundation; Founding President, Friends of Regional Parks Botanic Garden; and Former President, Mediterranean Garden Society.

Directions to the San Carlos Library: From Hwy. 101 (traveling north or south): Take the Holly St. West exit. Drive across El Camino Real and at Elm Street, turn left. Cross San Carlos 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.

For more information on the Gardening with Natives group, visit its website at www.GardeningWithNatives.com.

GWN maintains a Yahoo group with over 700 members, a true resource for native plant gardeners in our 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.

Santa Clara Valley Chapter to Host December Chapter Council

On the weekend of **December 4-6**, we will host the quarterly Chapter Council for delegates from around the state. Our chapter last had the opportunity to host in September 2001 when the meeting was held at Stanford University. We're looking forward hosting this year,

particularly since Chapter President Kevin Bryant is also currently Chapter Council Chair. Members of the state Board of Directors (including Chapter VP Arvind Kumar) and the state CNPS staff will also be in attendance.

There will be many chances to volunteer with this special event, and it's a great opportunity to learn more about our state CNPS organization and to meet people who are working to conserve our wild places and our native flora.

We are forming a committee to plan the weekend, which will include a banquet, presentation, and field trips in addition to the meetings. If you're interested in helping, please contact Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com, or (408) 655-3493 or any of the Chapter officers.

Other Chapter Groups and Activities

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

| Activity | Dates | Contact |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Native Hill at Foothill College | Saturdays and Sundays at 9am - see Phil's email list for dates | Phil Higgins phidor@juno.com or (650)941-4752. |
| Keying with Natives | Fridays 6:30pm, June 26, July 31, and August 28 at PCC | David "Tex" Houston tex009@sbcglobal.net or Sally Casey at (408)377-0989 |
| Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park | Fridays 9am, Wednesdays 5:30pm. See edgewoodthinkersrus.net for Saturday sessions. | Paul Heiple at (650) 854-7125 or pheiple@gmail.com , or John Allen at jcakwa@earthlink.net . |

San Carlos Library and CNPS Present a Summer Series on Water-wise Landscaping

Our Chapter is co-sponsoring the following new series of free classes with the San Carlos Library. The classes are on **alternate Mondays from 7-8:30pm**. Feel free to attend one or all!

| Date | Topic | Speaker |
|---------|--|--------------|
| June 29 | Sustainable Landscaping with Native Plants | Sherri Osaka |
| July 13 | Native Perennials for the Garden | Agi Kehoe |
| July 27 | Native Wildflowers for the Garden | Arvind Kumar |

| | | |
|--------|--|------------------|
| Aug 10 | Year-round Interest in a Native Plant Garden | Sherri Osaka |
| Aug 31 | Native Garden Maintenance | Stephanie Curtis |

Location:
San Carlos Library
610 Elm Street, San Carlos
See travel directions above
(650) 591-0341 - smcl.org/libraries/scl

ULISTAC NATURAL AREA UPDATE

By Jeanne-Michele Salander

Editor's note: **Jeanne-Michele Salander** from Ulistac has kindly written this article for us, about the Ulistac Natural Area in northern Santa Clara. Ulistac is a volunteer-driven native garden project at which many of our members have volunteered over the years. Jeanne says the 3/4 acre garden has never looked better and always has something blooming. Jeanne herself has volunteered about 400 days in the last 13 years toward the creation of Ulistac Natural Area and its Bird and Butterfly Habitat Garden.

Over 120 people braved 100+ degree heat to visit Ulistac Natural Area, marking Ulistac's debut on the Going Native Garden Tour April 14. Several hundred mature native shrubs and trees now fill the nine-year-old 3/4 acre garden.



Lupine at Ulistac Natural Area
Photo by Ealasaid Haas

The area between the west end of the garden and Lick Mill Boulevard, about 1/4 of an acre, is in the early stages of planting, with the new Don Callejon School taking stewardship of part of the new plot, and the Granada

Muslim School of Santa Clara claiming the rest. Leadership for the new project is provided by the intrepid Dennis Dowling of Wilcox High and his Montebello Ridge Environmental Institute students.

Santa Clara University is funding the purchase of two new large storage containers for the site, one for the restoration effort and one for the education program.

This successful native plant garden, probably the largest in the South Bay created entirely by volunteers on municipal land, is a remarkable nexus of community and school involvement, with Wilcox High of Santa Clara and Santa Clara University and 6 other schools providing hundreds of hours of volunteer labor since the summer of 2000, when our site resembled an adobe soil moonscape.

That summer, Ruth Troetschler took one sad look and said, "First you need about 50 tons of mulch..." Now we benefit greatly by the provision of free high quality wood chip mulch donated by the City of Santa Clara's Streets and Boulevards Department. Cardboard/wood chip 2-layer mulching is proving to be an excellent deterrent to non-native invasives on the site.

WORK SESSIONS are normally the **first Saturday and third Sunday** of each month. Wear long pants and hat, sturdy shoes, bring water and a snack.

Ulistac Natural Area is located on Lick Mill Boulevard, between Hope Dr. and Tasman Dr. in Santa Clara.

Summer workday hours are **9am to 1pm**. Note that summer workdays dates will be variable because of leadership vacation schedules. For the latest schedule please visit www.scu.edu/envs/ulistac. For more about Ulistac visit santaclaraca.gov/park_recreation/pr_ulistac.html. Jeanne may be reached at jeanne-michele@sbcglobal.net or (408) 482-6394.

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.

Fri-Sun Jul 3-5 Ebbett's Pass & Calaveras County

What happened to spring? Every year, the time from March to June seems to pass so quickly around here. Luckily, we live a few hours drive from alpine meadows, where spring is in full swing near the 4th of July.

Join us as we explore Ebbett's Pass at the top of Hwy. 4 in the Sierra Nevada. We'll hike out onto the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and celebrate our nation's birth by taking in dazzling displays of blooming spring flowers and beautiful alpine scenery. We'll also explore some lower elevation sites near the town of Arnold and Calaveras Big Trees.

We are very lucky to have friends in high places, as we have been invited to stay at a house owned by a chapter member in the town of Arnold. There is space indoors for about 15 people dormitory style, and space to camp outdoors or park two RVs with electrical hookups as well.

Friday will be a travel day, with botanizing in the vicinity of the house in the afternoon, and a potluck dinner and celebration that evening. On **Saturday**, we'll head up to 9,000ft + elevation and take in the show, hiking a few miles (at botanist pace) on and around the PCT. We will also have a potluck on Saturday night. On **Sunday**, we'll explore the lower elevations of Hwy. 4 below 5,000 ft and botanize our way back home to summer.

Please contact Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408) 348-9470 to **reserve your space**, and to receive all the trip details.

Thu July 9 7pm Field Trip Planning Meeting

Our Chapter has a rich history of exploring California's incredible flora through the first hand experience of field trips. Be a part of this tradition by contributing ideas for future field trip locations. Do you have a favorite place that you'd like to take the Chapter to see? Or maybe there's a hike where there are a few mystery plants you'd like identified?

We will meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center, located at 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. You don't need to be a field trip leader to contribute: simply bring your ideas and a sense of adventure. Or, if you are unable to attend, email Kevin Bryant (mtngreen17@verizon.net) with your comments prior to the meeting.

JOIN CNPS AND SAVE

Did you know that CNPS membership benefits include... 10% off plants at:

- Almaden Valley Nursery, San Jose
- Blue Sky Farms Nursery, Half Moon Bay
- Berkeley Horticultural Nursery, Berkeley
- Native Revival Nursery, Aptos

Further benefits include:

- \$3 off classes at Yerba Buena Nursery, Woodside
- \$4 off a Bay Nature magazine subscription

Join online at www.cnps.org. Or print a membership form at www.cnps.org/cnps/join, fill it out and mail it in with your dues. Soon you'll receive a member card in the mail that you can show to get your discounts. Visit www.cnps.org/membership for a complete list of supporting organizations.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2009

To learn more about volunteering with the Chapter, to ask any other questions or to 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 | Arvind Kumar | (408) 715-7020 | chhaprahiya@yahoo.com |
| Recording Secretary | Leighton Nakata | (650) 947-9989 | LeightonNakata@yahoo.com |
| Treasurer | Paul Heiple | (650) 854-7125 | pheiple@gmail.com |
| Past President | Judy Fenerty | (408) 655-3493 | judy@fenerty.com |

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

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, August 8, 2009

Email: mattsson@surfpix.net

Phone: (408) 255-3767

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**(page # in parentheses)****Jun 29 Mon** Sustainable Landscapes - water-wise (3)**Jul 2 Thu** GWN - Native People - Saratoga (2)**Jul 3-5 Fri-Sun** Ebbett's Pass trip (5)**Jul 9 Thu** Field Trip Planning Meeting (5)**Jul 13 Mon** Native Perennials - water-wise (3)**Jul 16 Thu** **General Meeting** - Morgan Hill (1)**Jul 27 Mon** Native Wildflowers - water-wise (3)**Jul 31 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)**Aug 6 Thu** GWN - Garden Evolves - San Carlos (3)**Aug 8 Sat** **Newsletter Deadline** (5)**Aug 10 Mon** Year-round Interest - water-wise (3)**Aug 13 Thu** **Chapter Board meeting****Aug 28 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)**Aug 31 Mon** Garden Maintenance - water-wise (3)**Wed afts** Nursery work sessions (2)**Wed & Fri** Edgewood Park weeding (3)**Via Email List** Native Hill work sessions (3)

The next Chapter Board meeting will be **Thursday, August 13 at 7:00pm** at the Peninsula Conservation Center, 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

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