GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

Friday, July 21 at 7:30 PM
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Tejon Ranch – Land of Botanical Richness and Ongoing Discovery
A talk by Neal Kramer

The Tejon Ranch, straddling the Tehachapi Mountains from the San Joaquin Valley to the Mojave Desert, occupies more than 400 square miles of varied landscapes with elevations ranging from about 500’ along the southern rim of the San Joaquin Valley to more than 6800’ along the Tehachapi crest. For the past seven years Neal has had the privilege of working with the Tejon Ranch Conservancy documenting botanical resources on Tejon Ranch. Neal will discuss some of the elements that make the Tejon Ranch a hotspot of botanical diversity, along with other interesting aspects of the Ranch flora. He will also share photos of some of the more than 40 different special status plant species currently known to occur on the Ranch.

Neal Kramer is an Independent Consulting Botanist with work focusing on rare plant surveys, plant inventories, and vegetation mapping. He received his BA in Botany from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MS in Forest Ecology from the University of Idaho. Neal enjoys plant photography and has contributed more than 16,000 images to the CalPhotos database.

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 Madeline Morrow at madelinemorrow@earthlink.net or the Chapter phone (650) 260-3450.

Save the Dates!

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic: September 30
Fall Plant Sale: October 21 at Hidden Villa

See the next Blazing Star for details

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Nursery at Hidden Villa
Come help propagate plants for our plant sales by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions. Workdays are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11am to 2pm. (We’ll continue these hours throughout the summer.) Bring garden gloves, sun protection and a jacket. If you like, bring something to drink and eat. Knowledge of plants is not necessary – your willingness to help is all that is required.
Our next Monthly Member Plant Sale will be held on **Wednesday, August 30 from 11am – 2pm.** An inventory of available plants will be updated the week before each sale. Visit [cnps-scv.org](http://cnps-scv.org) and go to Events, then Plant Sale.

For more information, contact Vivian Neou at techchair@cnps-scv.org or (650) 260-3450.

**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 Dana Center parking lot to your right. Continue walking a short distance on that road and you will see the Jean and David Struthers Native Plant Nursery ahead of you, just past the Dana Center building. Parking is free while volunteering or attending a Member Sale.

**Gardening with Natives**

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes beginning and seasoned native plant gardeners, along with landscape architects and designers. GWN offers over 35 free talks throughout the year at public libraries in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. For more information, visit [www.cnps-scv.org/gwn](http://www.cnps-scv.org/gwn).

These programs are made possible by co-sponsoring libraries and volunteers who help with program logistics. If you would like to help organize similar programs at a library near you, contact sdosaka@sustainable-landscape.com.

**Design-It-Yourself Native Plant Garden**

*a talk by Deva Luna*

**Wednesday, July 12, 7-8:30 PM, Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos** (650) 948-7683

We have two dates and locations for this talk! You are finally ready to remove your lawn in order to save water, lower your maintenance time, and create habitat. But you want to create the design yourself. Come to this talk and learn the principles of garden design. See an example of a design from start to finish. Learn about free online designs that you can download and modify. And get ready to put pencil to paper!

**Deva Luna** is a sustainable and Bay-Friendly certified landscape designer who has been teaching and speaking about horticulture for over 20 years. She has a degree in “Plants and Art” from U.C. Davis and works for EarthCare Landscaping ([www.earthcareland.com](http://www.earthcareland.com)) in Cupertino.

**Drought-Tolerant Soils for Drought-Tolerant Gardens, a talk by Brian Debasitis**

**Thu., July 20, 7-8:30 PM, Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View** (650) 903-6337

Are you treating your soil right? Do you give it the love and care it needs to support your California native plant garden? Many of us look at our Valley clay with disdain, yet in truth we are lucky. Santa Clara Valley has been highly productive through decades of agriculture and grassland, shrubland and forest ecosystems because of our soil. It is the perfect medium for growing native plants, though sometimes it needs a little help. California native plants have evolved in relationship with soil microorganisms. Learn about the diversity of life in the soil, the relationships between plants and soil life, and how to encourage and grow beneficial microbes in your soil.

**Brian Debasitis** is the owner of Mauby Landscape Service and Mauby All Natural where he has been restoring soil ecosystems without the use of synthetic fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides for the past 14 years. He has been a board member of the Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Gardening Coalition and a trainer in Santa Clara County’s Composting Education Program. Brian will share his experience of turning a typical South Valley lawn into a thriving native garden that uses very little irrigation water.

**Native Gardening Under Mature Trees**

*a talk by Frank Niccoli*

**Thu., July 27, 6:30-8:00 PM, Redwood City Library, 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City** (650) 780-7018

You love your mature tree, but find gardening is difficult below it. Its greedy roots suck up all the water, there is little sun below it and little soil in between its large roots. Plus it sheds leaves, drowning your plants in litter. Learn about strategies to deal with these issues and find out which native plants will grow well below large deciduous and evergreen trees. You can have a native garden in spite of these wonderful giants.
Frank Niccoli has been a gardener for over 50 years and is the past president of the founding chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association. He was voted Member of the Year by his peers in 2001 and 2004. He wrote the curriculum for and teaches numerous horticulture classes at Foothill College. Then she has been building and lecturing on ecological landscapes, including drought-tolerant and edible native gardens. These utilize graywater or rainwater for irrigation systems and pervious paving along with non-toxic and reusable materials.

Easy-to-Grow Native Plants
a talk by Nancy McClenny

Monday, July 31, 7-8:30 PM, Sunnyvale Library, 665 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale (408) 730-7300
Are you new to growing drought-tolerant native plants? Do you want to include them in your garden for beauty, habitat and sustainability, but don’t know where to begin? Come to this talk and learn about the many easy-to-grow native trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals for the home garden. Include these in your garden this fall for low-water use next summer!

Nancy McClenny has exchanged growing bacteria and fungi in Petri dishes for exploring the science, beauty, and survival strategies of California native plants. After taking courses in California native flora from Foothill and Merritt Colleges, and having volunteer experiences with CNPS, Gamble Garden, the East Bay's Regional Parks Botanic Garden and Acterra, Nancy delights in digging in the dirt and sharing her garden experiences with others. Her Palo Alto garden has appeared on the Going Native Garden Tour for three years.

Edible Native Plants and Their Healthful Benefits, a talk by Sherri Osaka

Wed., August 9, 6:30-8:00 PM, Redwood City Library, 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (650) 780-7018
Plants produce compounds called “phyto-nutrients” that help them combat germs, fungi, pests, too much sun and other threats. Many of these plant-based chemicals are good for humans, too, and have been used for thousands of years as medicines. Native plants can provide more of these healthful nutrients than plants which have been bred for sweetness and commercial production. Find out more about this intriguing subject and which native species you can plant and eat.

Sherri Osaka is a licensed Landscape Architect, Bay-Friendly Qualified designer, and member of the Santa Clara Valley Water District’s Landscape Advisory Committee. She started the landscape architecture company, Sustainable Landscape Designs, over 20 years ago. Since then she has been building and lecturing on ecological landscapes, including drought-tolerant and edible native gardens. These utilize graywater or rainwater for irrigation systems and pervious paving along with non-toxic and reusable materials.

Biodiversity and the Native Plant Gardener
a talk by Arvind Kumar

Thu., August 10, 7-8:30 PM, Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue, Cupertino (408) 446-1677
What makes California a world hotspot of biodiversity? 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. A plant list will be provided.

Arvind Kumar has been gardening with native plants for over 14 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.

Native Bees in the Native Garden
a talk by John Kehoe

Monday, August 14, 7-8:30 PM, Milpitas Library, 160 N Main Street, Milpitas (408) 262-1171
We all know about the European honeybee, but what about the native bees that live here in the Santa Clara Valley? These local insects help pollinate our ornamental and edible plants! Once you know what to look for, you’ll see over a dozen bee species that live in our urban setting—especially among locally growing native plants. Find out how planting a few select natives can enrich your garden and attract more native (and honey) bees.

John Kehoe is a longtime member of CNPS and the Xerces Society. He is a regular volunteer at Ulistac as well as at various CNPS functions, and is passionate about the natural world. His research interests include studying native bees and their relationships with native plants. He shares these interests by way of his photography on Flickr, CalPhotos at UC Berkeley, and Bumble Bee Watch.
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, June 30, July 28 and August 25 from 6:30 - 8:30pm. We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more information, please contact Joe Cerac at joecernac@sbcglobal.net or (408) 292-5465.

Directions to the PCC: From Hwy. 101 take the San Antonio Rd. exit and head north. Take your next left onto East Bayshore, which will curve left then right. Take your next right onto Corporation Way. Your next left is the entrance to the PCC parking lot. The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

Volunteer Recognition
Spotlight
Peggy Jacobs was honored at our May 19th General Meeting as an outstanding volunteer. Currently Peggy is our Membership Chair, coordinates the nursery Monthly Members' Sales and the newsletter mailing party AND she is a member of our Chapter board.

Peggy moved the nursery into the digital age: in 2013, she set up our current nursery database and sales reporting system. It was a tremendous amount of work that no one else could or would have done. The database allows us to track the plants that we have in stock and helps us to plan our propagation schedule. After each sale, Peggy produces a report so that we can see what's popular. Peggy continues to update and enhance the database to make sure we have the information we need.

Thanks to Peggy's newsletter mailing party preparations, we have a bi-monthly mailing party for which the "usual suspects" simply need to show up. Peggy picks up the printed newsletters, prints the mailing labels, gives a postage stamp count to another volunteer, and brings to the room the mailing seals, extra stamps and reminder stickers ... and repeats this process every other month!

In other evidence of her generous nature, Peggy loves shopping at Costco and always brings tasty snacks in large containers to share at meetings and events such as the mailing party, even though she's not supposed to eat the treats herself.

President's Message
By Chapter President Madeline Morrow

I really enjoy my native garden in June, when I have more leisure after the whirlwind of preparing the garden for our Going Native Garden Tour, visiting wildflower displays and volunteering for other spring CNPS chapter events. Now I have some time to observe the lizards, dragonflies, butterflies, bees and birds that also enjoy my garden.

I became a native plant gardener twenty-five years ago after reading Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Backyards by Sara Stein. I was electrified by her vision: “To reconnect as many plant and animal species as we can to rebuild intelligent suburban ecosystems.” This book connected my love of wildflowers and the wild with my passion for gardening, giving it a moral purpose.

I lived in upstate New York then, and the first native I planted was a local milkweed, Asclepias incarnata. I was lucky enough to get caterpillars the first spring after putting it in. I was hooked.

I moved to California twenty-two years ago and kept going with native plant gardening, discovering CNPS along the way. I'm always happy to have people tour my garden, hoping to transmit both my love of native plants and my desire to have environmental stewardship start at home. I believe that people who see the beauty of native gardens will also become strong protectors of wild plants and places. For me, conservation and horticulture work together. As your Chapter president, I hope to inspire more members to become involved in Chapter activities, especially in conservation. We'll start informing you about more opportunities to get involved in future newsletters and on social media.
CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Committee
Our Chapter’s conservation committee will be on summer break in July and resume meeting on August 3 at 7pm at the PCC in Palo Alto. Please join us in our important work!

For questions, comments or concerns, please contact Conservation Chair Linda Ruthruff at ldrruff@hotmail.com. For directions to the PCC, please see the previous Keying with Natives article.

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Wednesday Edgewood Restoration
Help restore habitat at Edgewood Park, known for fabulous wildflowers and amazing diversity near Redwood City. We pull weeds so native plants have plenty of room to flourish. No experience is required. Sturdy gloves are recommended; you might also want to bring sunscreen, water, a hat, layered clothing and wear long sleeves/pants.

Our 5:30pm Wednesday sessions continue until the end of Daylight Savings Time. For more information please visit www.cnps-scv.org or call Wednesday leader Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560.

Friday Edgewood Restoration
We offer MORE weeding opportunities at Edgewood Park during our year-round Friday 9am sessions. For more information please visit www.friendsofedgewood.org/habitat-restoration on Wednesday of each week or phone Paul Heiple at (650) 854-7125.

Alum Rock Park Volunteers
Come help us weed out invasive plants at this natural gem of San Jose. Our habitat restoration efforts allow the native plants to “come to light.”

We have weeding sessions every Monday morning and an Inspiration Point Walk-and-Weed Day the third Saturday morning of each month. Please visit the Yahoo Group “Alum Rock Park Volunteers” to check the schedules. The group introduction lists what to bring and gives directions to the meeting places.

For more information, contact Stephen at sailinsteve@ sbeglobal.net or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

Lake Cunningham Native Garden
The California Native Garden project in Lake Cunningham Regional Park controls invasive plants in a 1.5-acre area and beautifies it with California native wildflowers, perennials, shrubs and trees. The project aims to create a sustainable, low-maintenance landscape, encourage community participation and ownership, and create habitat for birds and wildlife.

Workdays are every Saturday, 9am - noon. If you enjoy physical activity and being outdoors with a view of the lake, the garden and wildlife, please join us!

Volunteers are welcome by appointment. To sign up, visit lakecunninghamnative garden.org/volunteer. The park is located at 2305 S. White Road in San Jose. For directions, visit lakecunninghamnative garden.org/directions.

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.

We have no field trips scheduled for July or August. Instead, consider volunteering at one of the habitat restoration projects listed on the last page or volunteer at the Djerassi BioBlitz listed below.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

Djerassi invites CNPS to BioBlitz at their Open House Event July 16, 10am – 5pm

The Djerassi Resident Artists Program, located in the Santa Cruz Mountains and overlooking the San Mateo County Coast, is home to a world-renowned artists’ residency program that has been supporting artists since 1979. On Sunday July 16th, the Djerassi Program is having an Open House and a BioBlitz. This event offers a rare opportunity to visit the property, meet artists in residence, see inside their private studios, witness art performances, and attend the popular self-guided and docent led Sculpture Hikes.

New this year, the Djerassi Program is hosting a BioBlitz using iNaturalist. We’ll hold a BioBlitz training hike as your opportunity to learn from experienced naturalists. CNPS supporters are invited to come participate in the BioBlitz and join the open house.

BioBlitz volunteers are welcome to attend for the entire event, but are asked to be present for check in by 9:45am. Exact timing of the volunteer shift is dependent on art presentations, and will be announced the day before the event.

Djerassi Open House Details:

General Admission, Alumni and Children:
Reservations Required for All
$50 per person. Children: 6-12: $25

Djerassi Alumni and Children under 6: Free
All Tickets are held at the door. Space is limited.
Reserve early at www.djerassi.org/events.html.
No Pets Please!
2325 Bear Gulch Road, Woodside, CA.
For directions visit www.djerassi.org/directions.html.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2017

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<th>Title</th>
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Save a Tree!
CNPS members can log in to support.cnps.org and edit their profile to receive this newsletter by email only. Look for “Chapter Newsletter” near the bottom of “My Profile.”

Current and past Blazing Star newsletters are always online at the Chapter website’s newsletter page: www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/blazing-star-newsletter.

To join our Chapter news email list please visit www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/contact-us/sign-up.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT BLAZING STAR

Saturday, August 5, 2017

Email: carol.mattsson@gmail.com
Phone: (408) 255-3767
ONGOING HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS

Join local volunteers at your favorite parks to help restore habitat for native flora and fauna. Projects include planting California natives, trail maintenance and of course plenty of weed pulling! Contact the listed organizers for details.

**Ulistac Natural Area – City of Santa Clara**
Volunteers remove invasive species and plant California native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers. First Saturdays and third Sundays. Summer hours 9am to noon, winter hours 10am - 1pm. Check website for current times, sign up forms and details. ulistac@gmail.com (408) 416-8907  www.ulistac.org

**Save The Bay**
Wetland restoration: Volunteers plant native seedlings and remove invasive species from key sites along the shoreline and assist in our native plant nurseries. Palo Alto, Redwood City Oakland and Hayward. bayevents@savesfbay.org or (510) 463-6850. www.savesfbay.org/volunteer.

**San Bruno Mountain Watch**
Restore remarkable ecosystems on San Bruno Mountain. Volunteer opportunities multiple days each week. **Stewardship Mountainineers** gather every Saturday from 10am to 1pm to remove invasive vegetation or plant native plants supplied by nursery. Wednesday nursery workdays 10am - 12:30pm. Check events page at website for workday details and directions. (415) 467-6631. www.mountainwatch.org/volunteer.

**Edgewood County Park -- Redwood City**
Invasive species removal Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings. For details see page 5 of eww.cnps-scv.org and www.friendsofedgewood.org/habitat-restoration.

**Alum Rock Park Volunteers, San Jose**
Invasive removal and habitat restoration. Weeding sessions every Monday morning. Inspiration Point Walk-and-Weed third Saturday mornings. For details see page 5 and visit Yahoo Group to check schedules. groups.yahoo.com/group/alumrockparkvolunteers.

**Lake Cunningham Park’s Native Garden**
Tasks include weeding, mulching, watering, propagation and planting. 2305 S. White Road, San Jose. Saturdays 9am - noon. Please RSVP at lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer. www.lakecunninghamnativegarden.org.

**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District**
Projects include invasive plant removal, planting native vegetation, fence repairs and trail maintenance. volunteer@openspace.org or (650) 691-1200. See website for calendar and signup links: www.openspace.org/outdoor-service-projects.

**Magic - Stanford Dish Oak Habitat Stewardship**
Plant oaks and other California natives in winter, weed and mulch in spring, water in summer and early fall (and other times of year if necessary), survey and do other tree care year-round. Saturdays 10am - 1pm. Details and sign up: Robin Bayer robin@ecomagic.org.

**Grassroots Ecology (formerly Acterra)**
Help with planting, weeding, creek monitoring or installing rain gardens and rain barrels. See website for calendar and registration links, or contact volunteer@grassrootsecology.org or 650-419-9880. grassrootsecology.org/volunteer.

**Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority**
Land Steward volunteers remove invasive plants, repair trails and fences and clean up creeks. Second Saturdays 10am - 3pm. Tools, training and lunch are provided! Contact Volunteer Programs Administrator Dana Litwin at volunteer@openspaceauthority.org or (408) 224-7476. www.openspaceauthority.org/volunteer/
Santa Clara Valley Chapter California Native Plant Society
3921 East Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Join CNPS Today!
Members receive the Fremonia, the Bulletin, and the Chapter newsletter, and other benefits listed at www.cnps.org/membership

Name
Address
City State Zip
Telephone
Email
Chapter

Membership level (check one): $45 Individual
$75 Family
$100 Plant Lover
$500 Patron
$600 Benefactor
$1500 Mariposa Lily
$25 Student/Limited Income

Areas of interest: Advocacy
Botany
Conservation
Education
Field Trips
Gardening
Plant ID

Donations above the membership level are gratefully accepted. Dues and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to “CNPS” and mail it with this form to:
CNPS Membership, 2707 K Street Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816 • 916-447-2677 • fax 916-447-2727

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jun 30 Fri  Keying with Natives (4)
Jul 12 Wed GWN – Garden Design – Luna (2)
Jul 16 Sun Djerassi Open House & BioBlitz (6)
Jul 20 Thu GWN – Garden Soil – Debasitis (2)
Jul 21 Fri General Meeting – Tejon Ranch (1)
Jul 27 Thu GWN – Under Trees – Niccoli (2)
Jul 28 Fri Keying with Natives (4)
Jul 31 Mon GWN – Easy-To-Grow – McClenny (3)
Aug 3 Thu Conservation Committee meeting (5)
Aug 5 Sat Newsletter submittal deadline (6)
Aug 9 Wed GWN – Edible Plants – Osaka (3)

Aug 10 Thu GWN – Biodiversity – Kumar (3)
Aug 14 Mon GWN – Native Bees – Kehoe (3)
Aug 21 Mon GWN – Garden Design – Luna (2)
Aug 24 Thu Mailing Party – 10am PCC
Aug 25 Fri Keying with Natives (4)
Aug 30 Wed Monthly Member Plant Sale (2)
Mon & 3rd Sat Alum Rock Weeding (5)
Tue & Wed Nursery work sessions (1)
Wed & Fri Edgewood Weeding (5)
Saturdays Lake Cunningham workdays (5)

The next Chapter Board meetings will be Thursdays, July 13 (special) and August 10 (standard) 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.
For more information contact Madeline Morrow at madelinemorrow@earthlink.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; please put “member address change” in the subject line.