



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

*July-August 2018*

## **Summer Break – No July General Meeting**

There will be no Chapter General Meeting in July. However we offer many other native plant-related activities. Please read on!

### **Save the Dates!**

**Volunteer Appreciation Picnic:** September 15  
**General Meeting:** September 21 in Los Altos  
**Native Plant Gardening Symposium:**  
September 29 at Foothill College  
**Fall Plant Sale:** October 20 at Hidden Villa

*See the next Blazing Star for details*

## **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

### **CNPS SCV Nursery at Hidden Villa**

Come help propagate plants for our plant sales by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions, **Wednesdays from 11am to 2pm**. Bring a sunhat, liquids and your lunch if you like. Tools will be provided at the nursery. Knowledge of plants is not necessary; your willingness to help is all that's required.



*Vivian Neou*

Member Sale at CNPS-SCV native plant nursery at Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills, November 2017

Hidden Villa will be closed for summer camp June 18 to August 20, but our nursery workdays will continue as usual over this time. Please check Meetup ([meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter](http://meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter)) for the latest schedule.

The next **Monthly Member Sale** will be **11 am to 2pm** on Wednesday, **August 29**.

As a reminder, member sales are **credit card only** payment. An inventory of available plants will be updated the week before each sale. Visit [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org) and go to Events, then Plant Sale. For more information, contact Vivian Neou at [techchair@cnps-scv.org](mailto: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 CNPS SCV 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, please email [gwn@cnps-scv.org](mailto:gwn@cnps-scv.org).

**Creating a Habitat Garden  
a talk by Jeffrey Caldwell**

**Wednesday, July 18, 7-8:30 PM, Los Altos Library,  
13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (650) 948-7683**

Convert your yard into a beautiful native wildlife habitat and watch how quickly the creatures make it their favorite spot! It's easy and inexpensive to create food, water, and shelter for native insects and birds. This presentation shows great photos of a local backyard restoration project, and shares some important lessons for the beginning habitat gardener.

**Jeffrey Caldwell**, B.A., Biology, has nearly 50 years of horticultural experience, working especially with California native plants. He has been habitat gardening most of his life, beginning with an outdoor terrarium for reptiles, amphibians, and fish in about 1960. He is passionate about helping home gardeners and other land managers who want to create landscapes friendly to bees, butterflies, songbirds and other creatures.

**Native Bees and the Native Garden  
a talk by John Kehoe**

**Wednesday, July 25, 7-8:30 PM, Campbell Library, 77  
Harrison Ave., Campbell (408) 866-1991**

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 too! 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 even a few select natives can enrich your garden and attract even more native (and honey) bees.

**John Kehoe** is a longtime member of CNPS as well as 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.

**Simple Water Features for the Native Garden  
a talk by Deva Luna**

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

Water features add interest to the garden, supply needed water to wildlife, and mask ambient noise. They can be as

simple as a bird bath and complex as a recirculating waterfall. Come to this talk and get some ideas for a water feature in your garden. And don't worry, these simple features are very water efficient.

**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.

**Using Graywater in Your Native Garden  
a talk by Sherri Osaka**

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

California is a drought-prone state and it is imperative that we conserve every precious drop of water. Graywater is a great way to reuse water from inside the house for landscape irrigation outside of the house. Come learn how you can install a simple laundry-to-landscape system and which native plants are best suited for this type of irrigation. Did we mention you can also get a rebate from the local water district?

**Sherri Osaka** is a licensed Landscape Architect and Bay-Friendly Qualified Designer who started her company, Sustainable Landscape Designs, over 20 years ago. She is our Chapter's GWN chair and received the 2018 Water Champion distinction from the Silicon Valley Water Conservation Award Coalition.

**Native Plant Gardening in Pots  
a talk by Pete Veilleux**

**Wed., August 22, 7-8:30 PM, Redwood City Library,  
1044 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City (650) 780-7018**

Dress up the smallest of spaces using native plants in containers. Containers allow you to provide exactly the right soil, sun, and drainage conditions for those picky natives that you've always wanted to grow. See how creative you can be recycling pots and combining different textures and colors for an ever-changing garden display.

**Note:** This talk was rescheduled from May 10.

**Pete Veilleux** is a master designer, nurseryman and photographer. He creates gardens using native plants for long-lasting landscapes that help people get the maximum use and pleasure from their patch of earth. He is the owner and propagator of East Bay Wilds Native Plant Nursery ([www.eastbaywilds.com](http://www.eastbaywilds.com)) in Oakland and a tireless advocate of native gardening.

## Keying with Natives

Join us as we learn and practice methods of identifying the native plants of our region (aka keying). We use the current edition of *The Jepson Manual*, of which there will be copies to share. Bring your own copy and a hand lens and plant samples if you have them. Microscopes are also available.

The upcoming meeting dates are **Fridays, July 27 and August 24, 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 Cernac 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 the next left onto East Bayshore, which will curve left then right. Take the next right onto Corporation Way. The entrance to the PCC parking lot is the first driveway on the left. The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

## New Chapter Photo Group

Our Photography Group is a great place to meet other native plant enthusiasts while improving your photographic skills and learning more about our native plants. The group has monthly meetings, photography outings and an active online discussion group.



*Coleen Uchida-Tammy*

CNPS 2018 Photo Contest recipient of Honorable Mention: Love of Nature

We announce activities to our online discussion group ([groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/cnps-scv-photo-group](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/cnps-scv-photo-group)), so if you'd like to receive updates, please join via the **web interface** or **by email**. Learn more by visiting the Photography Group page at our website: [www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/field-trips/336-photography](http://www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/field-trips/336-photography).

## Welcome New Bookkeeper and Treasurer

Our Chapter welcomes our new Bookkeeper, **Chhavi Sharma**. At the same time, we bid a fond farewell with a big THANK YOU to our outgoing Chapter Treasurer **Carolyn Dorsch**. Carolyn has been our Treasurer for the last three and a half years, and over that time has increased the transparency and understandability of our finances even as the number of Chapter activities has increased over that time.

Carolyn has stayed on long enough to help our new Chapter Treasurer **Janet Hoffmann** take over the big responsibility of making sure our Chapter funds and donations are wisely managed and well spent. Carolyn will continue to serve as our Chapter's Conservation Committee Chair.

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Our Chapter's **Conservation Committee** meets on the **Tuesday** following the first Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, August 7 at 7:30pm** at the PCC in Palo Alto. (Note there will be no Conservation meeting in July.)

Please join us in our important work! For questions, comments or concerns, please contact Conservation Committee Chair Carolyn Dorsch at [cdorsch1@aol.com](mailto:cdorsch1@aol.com) or (650) 804-6162. For **directions** to the PCC, see the previous Keying with Natives article.

## June Ballot Results:

### Environment-2, Developers-0

San Jose's Measure B, the Evergreen Developers' Initiative, lost by a landslide; Measure C initiated by the Mayor and City Council to protect our greenbelt from similar assaults also won by a landslide. What lessons can we learn from this campaign?

- **Follow the money:** Knowing who is financing the initiative tells you who hopes to gain from it. In this case: two very experienced developers spent \$6,000,000 trying to influence voters with mailers, TV ads and paid precinct walkers.
- **Who opposes the initiative?** Here it was both political parties, all of the San Jose City Council members, the environmental community, AARP (so much for the assertion that it would help seniors), The League of Women Voters and so many more!
- **Be wary of mailers that play on your emotions** but are short on facts. "Keeping families together" with

pictures of seniors and children and “Broken Promises” with pictures of veterans are just two examples from their campaign.

- **Watch for qualifiers.** “As allowed by law” followed many of their “promises” to give veterans preference for affordable housing.

The local environmental community, including our Chapter of CNPS, was crucial in winning this fight. It was truly a grassroots campaign going up against professionals with a huge budget. They spent money; we talked to our City Council representatives, made phone calls, walked precincts and wrote editorials and letters to the editor. One Sierra Club volunteer walked 27 precincts! They put on TV ads; we informed our membership, handed out flyers, made posters and emailed our friends. We won the old fashioned way: with passion, commitment and the truth. Money can't buy everything!

Stay tuned: we expect more of these developer initiatives to be on the November ballot in other Bay Area cities.

## **CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS**

### **Edgewood Restoration**

Help restore habitat at Edgewood Park, known for fabulous wildflowers and amazing diversity near Redwood City. 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 DST. We also weed year-round **every Friday at 9am**. For more info. including meeting places, contact Wednesday leader Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560 or Friday leader Paul Heiple at pheiple@gmail.com or (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 Rosenthal at sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or (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 take place every **Saturday, 9am - noon**.

Volunteers are welcome by appointment. To sign up, visit [lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer](http://lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer). The park is located at 2305 S. White Road in San Jose. For **directions**, visit [www.lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/directions](http://www.lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/directions).

## **CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS**

We have no new field trips to announce in this issue. See the May-June Blazing Star or website (**Field Trip Schedule** page) for descriptions for the following field trips:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Leaders</b>
July 1-8	Mount Eddy and Russian Wilderness: backpacking and botanizing in the Klamath Range (two trips to the same place)	Dee and Ken Himes, Joe Cernac
Aug 4-11		

## **Save a Tree!**

CNPS members can log in to [support.cnps.org](http://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-scvc.org/index.php/blazing-star-newsletter](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/blazing-star-newsletter).

To join our Chapter news email list please visit [www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/contact-us/sign-up](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/contact-us/sign-up).

## **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR***

**Saturday, August 4, 2018**

**Email: [carol.mattsson@gmail.com](mailto: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 organizations for details.

### **Alum Rock Park Volunteers**

Invasive plant removal and habitat restoration. Weeding sessions every Monday at 9am, 8:30am during the summer. Inspiration Point Walk-and-Weed third Saturdays at 9am. For details see page 4; visit Yahoo Group to check schedules. [groups.yahoo.com/group/alumrockparkvolunteers](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alumrockparkvolunteers).

### **Edgewood County Park – Redwood City**

Invasive plant removal Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings. For details see page 4 or [www.friendsofedgewood.org/habitat-restoration](http://www.friendsofedgewood.org/habitat-restoration).

### **Grassroots Ecology**

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](mailto:volunteer@grassrootsecology.org) or (650) 419-9880. [grassrootsecology.org/volunteer](http://grassrootsecology.org/volunteer).

### **Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful**

Restore Coyote Creek to its full beauty and function. Volunteers remove trash and non-native plants, plant native plants and advocate for a healthy creek. Choose an event from [KCCB.eventbrite.com](http://KCCB.eventbrite.com). Deb Kramer [deb@keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org](mailto:deb@keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org) (408) 372-7053. [www.facebook.com/CoyoteCreekSJ](http://www.facebook.com/CoyoteCreekSJ).

### **Lake Cunningham Park's Native Garden**

Tasks include weeding, mulching, watering, propagation and planting. 2305 S. White Road, San Jose. Saturdays 9am to noon. For details see page 4. Please RSVP from [www.lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer](http://www.lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer). [www.lakecunninghamnativegarden.org](http://www.lakecunninghamnativegarden.org).

### **EcoMagic – 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 9:30am – noon. Details and sign up: Robin Bayer [robin@ecomagic.org](mailto:robin@ecomagic.org).

### **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District**

Projects include invasive plant removal, planting native vegetation, fence repairs and trail maintenance. [volunteer@openspace.org](mailto:volunteer@openspace.org) or (650) 691-1200. See website for calendar and signup links: [www.openspace.org/outdoor-service-projects](http://www.openspace.org/outdoor-service-projects).

### **San Bruno Mountain Watch**

Restore remarkable ecosystems on San Bruno Mountain and nearby. Weeding, planting, nursery workdays: Check volunteer events web page for workday details: [www.mountainwatch.org/upcomingevents](http://www.mountainwatch.org/upcomingevents). Ariel Cherbowsky [Corkidi ariel@mountainwatch.org](mailto:Corkidi@mountainwatch.org). (415) 467-6631.



*Grassroots Ecology*

Grassroots Ecology volunteers help remove invasive species at Arastradero Preserve in Palo Alto, April 2018.

### **Santa Clara County Open Space Authority**

Land Steward volunteers remove invasive plants, repair trails and fences and clean up creeks. Third Saturdays 10am - 3pm. Tools, training and lunch are provided! Contact Volunteer Programs Administrator Dana Litwin at [volunteer@openspaceauthority.org](mailto:volunteer@openspaceauthority.org) or (408) 224-7476. [www.openspaceauthority.org/volunteer](http://www.openspaceauthority.org/volunteer).

### **Ulistac Natural Area – Santa Clara**

Volunteers remove invasive plants and plant California native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers. First Saturdays and third Sundays 9am – noon. Check website for sign up forms and details. [ulistac@gmail.com](mailto:ulistac@gmail.com) (408) 416-8907. [facebook.com/UlistacNaturalArea](http://facebook.com/UlistacNaturalArea) [www.ulistac.org](http://www.ulistac.org).

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



## Join CNPS Today!

Members receive the *Fremontia*, the *Bulletin*, and the Chapter newsletter, and other benefits listed at [www.cnps.org/membership](http://www.cnps.org/membership)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

*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

*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

**FIRST-CLASS**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

**Jul 1-8 Sun-Sun** Mt. Eddy backpack trip #1 (4)  
**Jul 18 Wed** GWN – Habitat Garden – Caldwell (2)  
**Jul 20-23 Fri-Mon** Carson Pass away field trip (full)  
**Jul 25 Wed** GWN – Native Bees – Kehoe (2)  
**Jul 27 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)  
**Aug 2 Thu** GWN – Water Features – Luna (2)  
**Aug 4 Sat** Newsletter submittal deadline (9)  
**Aug 4-11 Sat-Sat** Mt. Eddy backpack trip #2 (4)  
**Aug 6 Mon** GWN – Graywater – Osaka (2)

**Aug 7 Tue** Conservation Committee meeting (3)  
**Aug 22 Wed** GWN – Containers – Veilleux (2)  
**Aug 23 Thu** Newsletter Mailing Party - 10am PCC  
**Aug 24 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)  
**Aug 29 Wed** Monthly member plant Sale (1)  
**Mon & 3rd Sat** Alum Rock weeding (4)  
**Wed** Nursery work sessions (1)  
**Wed & Fri** Edgewood weeding (4)  
**Sat** Lake Cunningham workdays (4)

The next Chapter board meetings will be **Thursdays, August 9** (general / newsletter) and **September 13** (special) at **7:00pm** at the PCC, 3921 E. Bayshore Road. in Palo Alto. (There will be no July board meeting.)

Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests.  
 For more information contact Madeline Morrow at [madelinemorrow@earthlink.net](mailto: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](mailto:membership@cnps-scv.org). Address changes may be submitted to [cnps@cnps.org](mailto:cnps@cnps.org); please put "member address change" in the subject line.

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.