



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

September-October 2006

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

Friday, September 15 at 7:30 pm
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

**TOPIC: Cook and Green Pass in the
Central Siskiyou Mountains**

SPEAKER: Ted Kipping

Summer brings stunning floral displays to the area around Cook and Green Pass. It is situated about midway along the East-West axis of the geologically complex Siskiyou Mountains bordering California and Oregon. This alignment allows both rain and fog to reach far inland in the summer, manifesting in an incredible floral diversity. Besides the many endemics to be encountered here and nowhere else, one can experience the meeting place of a great many range limit extensions here as well. Beyond the ecological intrigue is the sheer number of species which are just simply beautiful to the sensibilities of non-pollinators: namely we humans!

Wayne Roderick and James Roof both fought for the preservation of this unique area, promoting it as a hotspot of diversity. Come see for yourselves as Ted takes us on a photographic tour.

Ted Kipping studied Natural History at Columbia University, New York and has been involved in horticulture for thirty-five years. After completing his studies, Ted went to work at Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park, His interest grew toward trees and shrubs, and in 1976 he started his own tree-trimming enterprise, and is a consultant and lecturer on numerous topics.

Directions: From Foothill Expy., travel ½ mile on San Antonio Road 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 Road, cross Edith and turn left into the unmarked driveway just before Hillview. The sign on San Antonio Road 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 info., contact Chapter Vice President Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824.

Save the Date! Chapter Potluck Nov 11

Our November Chapter General Meeting will include our annual potluck dinner and Chapter elections. It will be held on **Saturday, November 11** at the Shoup Garden House in Los Altos.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Sale and Call for Volunteers

Fall is the perfect time to plant in our area, and our Native Plant Sales are the best place to start filling your garden with some of our beautiful native plants! **Our Fall Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, October 14, from 10am to 3pm at our nursery at Hidden Villa.**

Help is always needed for the sale, and there are lots of ways to help (and most of them don't require a great deal of knowledge about our native plants). If you can donate boxes for customers to carry home their purchases, please bring them to the nursery during the week before the sale.

There are also lots of ways to **volunteer your time** to help with the sale. Most of the jobs listed below don't require expert knowledge of plants, and you can choose to work one or two hours or all day. Before the sale, you can help during our **Wednesday work sessions** at the nursery from **12noon to 3pm** (see below).

Special workdays will be held from **10am to 3pm** on **Saturday, October 7** and **Friday, October 13.**

On these days we will prepare the nursery and the plants for the sale. If you'd like to come and help, bring your hat, sunscreen and water, and your lunch if you'd like.

Help Needed on the Day of the Sale

On the day of the sale, we need:

- People to help set up before the sale (starting at 8:30am)
- People to help with parking
- People to help clean up after the sale (3-4pm)
- Cashiers
- People who will write up the sales tags before customers go to the cashiers to pay for their plants
- People who will help customers take their purchases to their cars and bring back the wagons and carts to the nursery
- People who will answer customers' questions about the plants and help them decide which plants to purchase
- People to conduct a survey of sale visitors

The plant sales are always lots of fun to work at, and we hope you'll come and help! Just come to the nursery at the time you'd like to work. Lunch will be provided to volunteers on the day of the sale, too.

For more information about volunteering or the plant sale, please contact one of the coordinators with the time you'd like to work and the job you'd like to do (if you have a preference).

Contact information for the coordinators:

Janet Gomez, plant sale co-coordinator, (408)978-2984, janet.gomez@gmail.com
Kevin Bryant, plant sale co-coordinator, (408)639-0493, mtngreen17@verizon.net

Directions: Hidden Villa is located at 26870 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.

Native Plant Nursery

Our regular native plant nursery work sessions take place every **Weds. from 12noon to 3pm**. On very hot days, we may have a **10am** start time, so it's best to call before coming. 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.

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.

Thursday, September 7, 7-9pm, at PCC, Palo Alto
Natives in Containers, a talk by Fran Adams.

Did you know that California native plants can be grown successfully in containers? Extend your garden to the porch or the balcony with the right native plants. Learn the basics of container gardening, including the art of creating effective combinations of plants, from Fran Adams, a nationally certified landscape designer who especially likes to create gardens that encourage their owners to spend time relaxing outside and reconnect with nature. See www.senseofplace.us.

Thursday, October 5, 7-9pm, at PCC, Palo Alto
Fall Seed and Cutting Exchange, hosted by Chris Todd.

Want to introduce new plants to your garden without spending an arm and a leg? Come to GWN's delightful annual seed and cutting exchange. Browse the diverse offerings, which range from easy-to-grow to hard-to-find, and take home seeds and cuttings of new native plants – for free! Bring coin envelopes, plastic bags/paper towels to carry seeds and cuttings home. Blank labels and pencils will be provided.

Bring native plant seeds and cuttings from your own garden to share. Label them to make them easy to browse. Attach helpful hints about growing them. Wow everyone by displaying photos of plants in bloom. Keep cuttings cool and moist in a bucket or container.

After introductions and announcements, each attendee will have a chance to show and tell what they brought. Then the exchange will begin.

Directions to the PCC: 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. The meeting is in the Raptor Suite on the first floor, accessible from the parking lot.

For more information on the Gardening with Natives group, visit our website at www.GardeningWithNatives.com. GWN maintains a Yahoo group with over 325 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)274-6965.

Native Hill

Our gardening activities at the native plant garden at Foothill College are at a temporary lull until September, while the College repaves the parking lot adjacent to the garden. When the paving finishes, we will resume our volunteer workdays, to continue removing non-natives and start planting new perennials. The previous plantings over the past several months have survived very well and several species, including gumplant and rosy buckwheat, are now in full bloom.

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.

Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park

Join us as we remove invasive exotic plants and protect Edgewood's sensitive habitats. Weeding sessions take place **Friday mornings at 8:30am**, and **Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm**. We will no longer meet on Wednesdays after daylight savings time ends. The **last Wednesday evening session will be October 25**.

For details including meeting places, please see the schedule at the Edgewood Weed Warriors website, at edgewood.thinkersrus.net, or call Ken Himes at (650)591-8560. For the Friday sessions call Ken or contact John Allen at jcakwa@earthlink.net.

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. CNPS member newcomers to the Group, and nonmember guests are always welcome.

On **Monday, September 18, from 7-9pm** at the PCC, our topic will be **Favorite Photos of the Summer**. This will be the first Photo Group meeting in several months. We welcome Patrick Gallagher as our new Chair. Attendees are encouraged to bring favorite summer photos, from this

year if available, or earlier years if not. Up to twenty slides, digital images, or prints per photographer are welcome. As always, you may also bring interesting off-topic images to share.

In addition to sharing photos at this meeting, we will discuss the Group's future organization and plans. Ideas for organization include shared planning of meetings and events, and leadership backup. Advance program planning will allow Blazing Star notices that should increase group participation. As in the past, we expect to present a mix of botanical subjects and photography, including a range of photographic subjects related to native plants. Other activities may be undertaken by the Group – bring your ideas!

On **Monday, October 16, from 7-9pm** at the PCC, our topic will be **Pollinators**. Bring your favorite photos of pollinators in action.

For more information or to provide ideas for Group activities, please contact Patrick Gallagher, at (408)483-9366 or drust@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. We meet at the PCC building in Palo Alto. The next meetings will be Fridays, **September 29** and **October 27**. Contact David "Tex" Houston for more details, (650)303-2777 or tex009@sbcglobal.net.

Chapter Donates Books to Public Libraries

In December 2005, the Chapter hosted a reading by Bart O'Brien in Palo Alto for the new book, *California Native Plants for the Garden*, written with Carol Bornstein and David Fross. This beautiful book is a vital reference for anyone interested in native plant gardening, and many in our Chapter were inspired to donate copies to their local libraries. As the Chapter Board had already voted in December to allocate funds for native plant book donations, a request was made to Chapter members for someone to organize the project, and Susan Sundberg volunteered her time.

In all, Susan arranged for 51 copies of the book to be donated to city and county libraries throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara County. We have received many appreciative notes from the libraries, and great publicity for native plant gardening and CNPS. Many thanks to Susan and the other volunteers who assisted with the project!

Volunteers Needed!

Summer is nearly over, and it's a great time to jump into a new volunteer project. We're looking for a new Poster Chair for the Chapter. Not only do posters bring in revenue for CNPS, but they can also be a great teaching and outreach tool. We're also looking for some one to set up a Chapter display for outreach events, and volunteers who would be interested in staffing booths for fall festivals. Please contact Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com or (408)655-3493 for more information.

CHAPTER CONTACTS

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

Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs		
President	Judy Fenerty	(408)378-6272 judy@fenerty.com
Vice President	Kevin Bryant	(408) 353-8824 mtngreen17@verizon.net
Treasurer	Paul Heiple	(650)854-7125 Log H3O@aol.com
Recording Secretary	Vicki Silvas-Young	(408)807-6993 mrnngwrblr@yahoo.com
Corresponding Secretary	OPEN	
Books	Ingrid Graeve	ingridg210@yahoo.com
Conservation (North)	Drew Shell	shell@corp.webtv.net
Conservation (South)	Elizabeth Lucas	(650)948-3552 JLucas1099@aol.com
Education	Nora Monette	(408)244-5153 nmonette@aol.com
Field Trips	Kevin Bryant	(408)353-8824 mtngreen17@verizon.net
Gardening With Natives	Sherri Osaka	gardeningwithnatives@yahoo.com
Historian	OPEN	
Hospitality	Vicki Silvas-Young	(408)807-6993
Invasive Plants (north)	Ken Himes	(650)591-8560
Invasive Plants (south)	Don Thomas	(408)867-1515

Keying With Natives	Tex (David) Houston	tex009@sbcglobal.net (650)303-2777
Legislation	Bob Berka	(650)323-2678
Membership	Ray Deutsch	(650)365-6136 henrymarsh@yahoo.com
Native Hill Foothill College	Phil Higgins	650-941-4752 phidor@juno.com
Newsletter Editor	Carol Mattsson	mattsson@surfpix.net (408)255-3767
Past President	Georgia Stigall	(650)941-1068 GeorgiaStigall@yahoo.com
Photo Group	Patrick Gallagher	(408)483-9366 drrust@greenisles.com
Plant Propagation	Jean Struthers	(650)941-2586 JeanStruthers@aol.com
Plant Sale Coordination co-chair	Janet Gomez	408-978-2984 janet.gomez@gmail.com
Plant Sale Coordination co-chair	Kevin Bryant	(408) 353-8824 mtngreen17@verizon.net
Poster Sales	OPEN	
Publicity	Arvind Kumar	(408)274-6965 (h), (408)859-1874 (cell) chhprahiya@yahoo.com
Rare Plants, North	Toni Corelli	(650)726-0689 corelli@coastside.net
Rare Plants, South	Don Mayall	(650)856-7579 seleve@ix.netcom.com
Santa Clara Co. Trails	Jim Sugai	(408)356-6003
San Mateo Co. Trails	John Allen	(650)366-4910
Vegetation	OPEN	
Wildflower Show Coordinator	David Chapman	408-323-1913 dcchapman@earthlink.net
Member-at-Large	Mary Alice Bethel	(650)968-6817 mabethel2@msn.com
Member-at-Large/Fellow	Sally Casey	(408)377-0989
Member-at-Large	Susan Somers	huguenot@pacbell.net
Member-at-Large	Olive Zappacosta	(408)356-9537

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

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.

Sep 20 Tue 7pm Field Trip Planning Meeting

Looking for a fun and easy way to contribute to an important chapter activity? Join us at our next field trip planning meeting, where we will be brainstorming to come up with exciting places for our Chapter to explore. Also, pizza will be involved.

The meeting will be held at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) in Palo Alto, 3921 E. Bayshore Road. Contact Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824, for details, or if you have input but can't attend.

Oct 7 Sat 10am Oaks of Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Monte Bello is an excellent place to enjoy a nice hike and sharpen *Quercus* identification skills: seven native oak species are known to reside there. We will look at clues for differentiating our oaks, and talk about oak hybridization. We'll expect to see some late summer and autumn blooming plant species as well.

This is an approx. 5 to 6 mile hike with a 600-800 ft. gain in elevation. Bring water, lunch, and sturdy hiking footwear. We plan to return to our vehicles by **3pm**.

Directions: Meet at the Monte Bello Open Space parking lot, on Page Mill Rd. 7 miles west of I-280, or 1 mile east of Skyline Blvd. Contact Kevin Bryant at (408)353-8824 or mtngreen17@verizon.net for details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

Land Conservation Initiative Qualifies for November Ballot

On November 7 voters in Santa Clara County will have the opportunity to help protect more than 400,000 acres of open space by voting yes on the Santa Clara County Land Conservation Initiative.

Coordinated by People for Land and Nature (PLAN) – a coalition including the Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Greenbelt Alliance and Committee for Green Foothills – the Initiative will amend the County General Plan to help protect hillsides, ranchlands and farms by reducing the number of developable parcels permitted in rural areas. It places additional safeguards on scenic views, streamside corridors and sensitive wildlife habitat.

The California Native Plant Society has endorsed this initiative because reduced rural development with watershed and habitat protections will benefit native plants and soils. The Initiative has also received widespread support – including endorsements – from conservation groups, transportation advocates, labor unions, the Democratic Party, the Santa Clara County Medical Association, and more than 90 elected officials. Polling shows that more than 70% of likely voters approve of the measure.

PLAN is looking for volunteers to help with campaigning and outreach activities. To learn more about the Initiative and to contribute, please visit www.OpenSpace2006.org. Volunteers and supporters should contact Brooke Anderson at (408)947-PLAN or Brooke@OpenSpace2006.org, for more information on ways to help out.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, October 7, 2006

Email: mattsson@surfpix.net

Phone: (408)255-3767