



# THE BLAZING STAR

November-December 2001

## ANNUAL MEETING, POTLUCK AND MEMORIAL PROGRAM

**Sunday, November 18 at 6:00pm**  
**Shoup Garden House in Los Altos**

**SPEAKER: Toni Corelli**  
**TOPIC: Book Presentation: A Field Guide to the Vascular Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve**

Please join us on **November 18** for our chapter's fifth annual Brenda Butner Memorial Lecture. This is also our annual potluck.

In recognition of Brenda's love for and dedication to Edgewood Preserve, Toni Corelli will present the draft of her book, *A Field Guide to the Vascular Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve*. This program will "show and tell" how this project came about. The book, due for publication in December 2001, contains over 500 plants from Edgewood Natural Preserve.

Toni Corelli is a Botanist and Curator at the Carl Sharsmith Herbarium at San Jose State University and the Teaching Herbarium at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. She coauthored the book *Rare and Endangered Plants of San Mateo and Santa Clara County*. Her specialty is the native plants of San Mateo County.

This is also our annual potluck. Bring your favorite dish, whether it be dessert, salad, main dish, it always works out that we have just the right amount of everything!

Also, be sure to bring plates, drinking glasses, and silverware for yourself, as well as a bag to take unwashed dishes home. There will be book sales and a plant raffle, in addition to our featured speaker.

Please arrive at **5pm** to help set up. We will begin eating at **6pm** and the program should start at **7pm**. Clean up around **9pm**.

**Directions:** From Highway 280 take the El Monte exit east. Turn left (north) on University Ave. The Garden House is

about a quarter mile ahead on the west side of the street. From Highway 101, take the San Antonio exit west to Main in Los Altos. Cross Foothill Expressway to University Ave. The Garden House is a short distance ahead on the right.

Our general meetings are free and open to the public. These meetings provide an opportunity to meet other members, check out the book table, and become familiar with various issues.

For additional information, contact chapter Vice President Georgia Stigall at [gstigall@aol.com](mailto:gstigall@aol.com) or 650-941-1068.

## **Chapter Annual Election**

The annual potluck is also the time to elect constitutional officers for the coming year. Following is the slate put forth by the nominating committee:

President	Mary Simpson
Vice-President	Georgia Stigall
Treasurer	Paul Heiple
Recording Secretary	David Chapman
Corresponding Secretary	Stephen Buckhout

Nominations may also be made from the floor.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*by Mary Simpson*

I want to thank everyone who assisted with the work necessary to have the State CNPS conservation conference at Stanford and the Saturday dinner. Without the hard work of many chapter volunteers, this meeting could not have happened.

Special thanks go to Sara Timby who provided maps and other information relating to the meeting site, arranged for coffee, lunches and snacks at the meeting, and to Georgia Stigall and Bill Prince, Stephen Buckhout, Tom Cochrane, and Carolyn Dorsch who assisted with all of the endless details necessary to having the meeting run smoothly and with making the dinner a great success.

For the dinner, I want to thank those people who contributed their culinary talents and assisted with the difficult task of catering a major dinner party. Those of you who attended the dinner were treated to culinary delights courtesy of Vickie Silvas Young, Nora and Larry Monette, Jean and David Struthers, and many others. My special thanks go to Don Mayall who provided significant guidance and support. Also thanks to Vickie, and Nora for special salad dishes, Carolyn Curtis for beautiful native plant arrangements, and Melanie Cross for many answers to guest questions.

I have named only a few of the people whose hard work contributed to the State Conservation meeting. Thank you for demonstrating all of the reasons we have such a great chapter.

### **Award for Edgewood Heroes**

Susan Sommers and the Friends of Edgewood were chosen to receive this year's **San Mateo County Sustainability Award**. This award honors individuals and groups whose actions demonstrate such principles as sustainability and healthy ecosystems. Chapter member, and Board Member-at-Large, Susan Sommers was first to call attention to, and document the threatened habitat of plants and animals at Edgewood. Friends of Edgewood is the stewardship organization which evolved from our chapter's efforts to convince the County of San Mateo to take steps to preserve this treasure. Our original reception was not entirely friendly, because other interests favored development of this most fragile area. But we persisted. It is most gratifying to see these prophets now honored in their home county.

## **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

### **Photography Group**

The chapter photo group will continue its Fall program with a meeting in the library of the Peninsula Conservation Center building, 3921 E. Bayshore, Palo Alto, on **Monday, November 5th, at 7:30 pm**. The December meeting will be a potluck, tentatively scheduled for **Sunday afternoon, December 9**. For info call Sonja Wilcomer 650-494-0104.

### **Gardening With Natives**

Our next meeting will be held at the De Anza ESA on **Thursday, November 1 at 7:30 pm**. Ken Himes will give a talk about controlling invasive exotics in California's natural communities.

Ken will present slides showing ten years of work at Edgewood County Park and Preserve. Some of the exotics included in the talk will be Yellow Star Thistle and Italian Thistle in grasslands, Cape Ivy and Himalayan Berry in riparian communities, and Cotoneaster and Broom in oak woodlands. Ken's presentation will include some of the biological controls for invasive plants and the monitoring activities at Edgewood. Included in the evening's discussion will be several rare and horticulturally significant plants of Edgewood park that Ken would like to introduce to us.

**Directions:** The De Anza ESA is located at the corner of McClellan and Stelling within the DeAnza College Campus. From Highway 85, exit Steven's Creek Boulevard. Enter the DeAnza campus to the right off Steven's Creek. Follow the perimeter campus road past the parking lots on your right hand side. You will pass a grassy baseball field on your right. After the field you will see a chain link gate on your right up a short gravel/asphalt road. Drive through the gate and park for free in the dirt area between the ESA and the baseball field if there's room. The ESA building will be behind you (a small brown building, the only building nearby with lights on).

**Parking Note:** If the dirt parking lot inside the chain link fence is full, you may park in the paved parking lot beside the tennis courts nearby. Bring eight quarters for parking.

For more info contact Stephanie Morris at StephLMorris@hotmail.com or 408-629-8004.

### **Native Hill Work Day: Foothill College**

We will have a day of gardening at Native Hill (on the Foothill College Campus) on Sunday, **November 4** from **9:30 am to 12:30 pm**.

Everyone is welcome and experience is not necessary. Park for free beside the garden. Bring gloves, small tools (pruning shears, weeder), liquids, and a sack lunch if you would like to stay and picnic as a group. We will be continuing with projects such as pruning, dead-heading, weeding, and mulching.

**Directions:** Native Hill is located on the Foothill College Campus. Take the El Monte/Moody exit off of Highway 280, and follow signs to the campus. Follow the one-way perimeter road all the way around to the horticulture unit. You will notice the native plantings on your left hand side. Turn into the first lot after the Native Hill area.

If you have any questions, contact Ellie Gioumousis, at ellieg@ispchannel.com or 650-494-6276.

## Nursery Has Plenty of Pots

The chapter's native plant nursery at Hidden Villa doesn't need any more pots donated at this time. Some of these black plastic pots now have a #2 recycle label on them. If so, you can put them in your recycling bin for your local trash pickup. Thanks to members and friends for all the pots you have already donated. For more information, contact Jean Struthers at 650-941-2586 or JeanStruthers@aol.com, or Ray Deutsch at 650-321-9918 or rdeutsch@stanford.edu.

## Non Native Plant Removal: Edgewood Park

**Friday mornings all year, 8:30am.** Contact Ken Himes at 650-591-8560 or John Allen at jcakwa@aol.com for meeting place.

## Cape Ivy Removal: Roberts Rd. Los Gatos

We are continuing to work on the second patch of Cape Ivy along Los Gatos Creek, just upstream from Vasona Park. We are trying to reduce the biomass before the rains begin, so lots of help is necessary. As always, bring gloves, a long-sleeved shirt (there is some poison oak), and water.

All sessions are on Saturdays, from **10am to Noon: Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Dec. 15.** For more information, contact David Chapman, at 408-296-3587 or dchapman@aimnet.com.

**Directions** to the new site: From State Highway 17, take the Highway 9 exit west (towards Monte Sereno and Saratoga). Turn right at the first signal light - University Avenue. Proceed north one half mile to the second stop sign - Roberts Road - and turn right. Drive 0.2 mile east, until the road begins to descend to the creek. Park in the residential district and walk across the bridge. Roberts Road curves to your left; there is a gate to Los Gatos Creek Trail just after the bend. The colony is right at the gate, stretching downstream.

## Weed Management Area Activities

The Weed Management Areas (WMA) are a state program for coordinating public and private efforts for controlling invasive weeds. Our chapter is a participant in these programs in both San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. State funding through this program has provided assistance, though the Friends of Edgewood, for weed control at Edgewood Park, and for mapping and weed control at Coyote Ridge. Both counties have produced brochures on invasive weeds, showing pictures of the major threat species and information on what to do if you come in contact with invasive species. Chapter member John Beall produced the brochure for San Mateo county. He also was the principal on a project in Santa Clara county to identify and remove *Dittrichia graveolens*, a new exotic, which

threatens both wetlands and uplands. Good work, John. You can get copies of brochures and more info from 650-363-4700 (San Mateo county) or 408-779-0681 (Santa Clara county).

## Ulistac Natural Area Restoration

Planting has begun at the Ulistac Natural Area in Santa Clara. Planting will continue through the Fall, usually on Saturday, from **10am to 2pm.** Check the web site (see below) for a more detailed schedule.

We need CNPS members to supervise high school student volunteers, many of whom have never dug a hole in their lives. This year we are adding new plant types to the original set of 15, including Garrya, Verbena, and new species of Eriogonum.

We are also preparing to plant some native grasses. If you are looking for an opportunity to work with native grasses, please contact us.

There is now funding and official interest to plan a pilot program of planting native species on the Hetch Hetchy aqueduct right-of-way. If you would like to contribute to the plan, please contact us. Although the pilot program may only cover the modest strip of aqueduct land in the Ulistac Natural Area, this project could eventually affect the condition of 200 miles of property, extending through three counties.

Ulistac Natural Area is on Lick Mill Blvd., between Montague Expwy. and Tasman Dr. For more information and a location map, see the UNA Web site, at <http://www.scu.edu/envs/Ulistac>, or call Chris and Jeanne Salander at 408-428-4038.

## COMMITTEE NEWS & REPORTS

### California Exotic Pest Plant Council Symposium

The California Exotic Pest Plant Council Symposium, held on October 5 and 6 in San Diego, was very informative. This year it was held jointly with the U.S. Geological Survey, and the focus was on invasive plants of the Southwest. Among some of the more interesting items:

- Cape ivy has been found to produce a certain percentage of viable seeds throughout its range in California. Because flowers and seeds are mostly formed on climbing stems, in control efforts it may be necessary to concentrate first on removal of these by pulling them out of trees and shrubs before tackling low-growing stems.

- There are promising prospects for biological control agents of cape ivy. However, funding is still needed for the work being carried out in South Africa on insects that control cape ivy.
- A report was presented on eradication efforts for the invasive non-native alga *Caulerpa taxifolia* near San Diego. This has been sold as an aquarium plant, and this is probably the source of the infestation. In the Mediterranean this plant has had devastating ecological and economic effects. There is some evidence that this plant might be able to live in Northern California.

For more information, contact Don Thomas at don\_e\_thomas@yahoo.com.

## CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

### **November 17 Saturday, Castle Rock State Park**

Another chance to see fall colors on black oaks and big leaf maples along with wonderful views of the Santa Cruz mountains. The hike is expected to last five-six hours. Wear sturdy shoes, bring lunch and liquids.

Meet Ken Himes at **10am** in the main parking lot off Skyline Blvd. (2.6 miles south of Skyline's intersection with Hwy. 9). For more information, call Ken at 650-591-8560.

### **Dec. 1 Saturday, Weed Ecology and Biology at Edgewood Natural Preserve**

Join your leaders Ken Himes and Paul Heiple, who will describe the ecology and biology of invasive exotics at this reasonably accessible park. Bring lunch and liquids. The hike should last until about **3pm**. Meet at the Park & Ride at **10am**, at the intersection of Hwy 280 and Edgewood Road. For more information, contact Ken Himes at 650-591-8560 or Paul Heiple at 650-854-7125 or LogH30@aol.com.

### **Jan. 1 Tuesday, Fourth Annual Ano Nuevo Picnic**

Meet us in the parking lot at Ano Nuevo State Park at **11am** on New Year's Day for a picnic and short walk. The park hosts guided trips to see the elephant seals that require a reservation, but no reservation is needed to picnic there. We will see coastal prairie plants, sea cliff vegetation and get a view of marine mammals. For more information call Don Mayall, at 650-856-7579.

### **Jan. 26 Saturday, Carl Sharsmith Herbarium**

Visit the Carl Sharsmith Herbarium at San Jose State to see the wonderful collection that Dr. Sharsmith has compiled. Each specimen is a work of art, beautifully mounted and available for further study at the Herbarium. Meet in front

of Duncan Hall on San Salvador Street at **10am**. The tour is expected to last until **1pm**.

**Directions:** Take the 7th Street exit from Hwy. 280, go north on 7th Street to San Salvador, turn left on San Salvador, Duncan Hall is the large building half way up the block on your right before you get to 4th Street. There should be parking on the street. Call Toni Corelli (650) 726-0689 for further information.

### **Feb. 2 Saturday, Dirca walk at Anthony Chabot Regional Park**

Details to be provided in the January newsletter.

### **Feb. 10 Sunday, Pulgas Ridge**

Join Mary Simpson at **10am** for a 4 mile hike, climbing through oak woodland to chaparral looking for early Spring bloomers. We will see fetid adder's tongue, hopefully in flower. The park is near Edgewood, but with a very different flora. Bring lunch and water.

**Directions:** From 280 exit at Edgewood Road. Proceed NE about 3/4 of a mile, then turn left onto Crestview Dr. Then make another left turn on Edmonds, go about 100 yards, to the parking lot on your left. For more info, email marysimpson@earthlink.net or call 408-370-2177.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### [Wayne Roderick Lectures](#)

A calendar for upcoming botanical presentations at Tilden Park appears on the next page. These are given in honor of Wayne Roderick, a well-known horticulturist and former Director of the East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden. He gave the first Brenda Butner Memorial Lecture to our chapter in 1997.

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

**Friday, December 7, 2001**

**Email: mattsson@concentric.net**