ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

Saturday, November 9 at 6:00 PM
Shoup Garden House
400 University Avenue, Los Altos

Everything’s Changing So Fast: An Update
A talk by Dan Gluesenkamp
Executive Director, CNPS

These are exciting times, and there’s a lot going on. Pollinators are plummeting in numbers but gardeners are responding by planting thousands of native plants. “New normal” fire regimes are combining with forestry management issues. CNPS and others are taking on more conservation issues, at more scales, in more places than ever before. All of this is of course occurring amidst a backdrop of demographic and cultural change, rapid advancement of scientific and technical abilities and increasingly volatile (both good and bad) politics.

Dan will talk about the urgency and opportunity for real action that can bring rapid and enduring improvements. Topics will include updates on the ambitious new California Biodiversity Initiative and the “Habitat Revolution” now underway. Most of all, Dan will talk about his role as CNPS Executive Director and give thanks for all who make it possible: partners and supporters, legacy donors and of course the volunteers who are accomplishing miracles large and small.

Dan Gluesenkamp is the Executive Director of CNPS; previously he was E.D. of Calflora and Director of Habitat Protection and Restoration for Audubon Canyon Ranch’s thirty preserves. A co-founder of the California Invasive Plant Council and of the Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN), in 2009 Dan discovered a presumed-extinct Franciscan manzanita (Arctostaphylos franciscana) growing on a traffic island at the Golden Gate Bridge.

The evening begins at 6pm with our annual potluck. Bring your favorite dish, whether it be a salad, main dish, dessert or beverage; it always works out that we have just the right amount of everything! A label identifying your dish will be helpful. Be sure to bring a plate, drinking glass, and eating utensils for yourself, as well as a bag in which to take home unwashed dishes.

If you can help with setup, please arrive at 5pm to set up chairs and tables. The potluck feast will begin at 6pm, followed by the program at 7pm. We appreciate your help with cleanup at the end of the program.

We will have a selection of used books for sale which have been donated by our long-time Chapter members. We will also have a silent auction of high-quality books and other items which will help raise funds for the Chapter. To donate books or other items, drop off boxes labeled “CNPS Auction” at the mailboxes in the PCC at 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto during business hours on or before Wednesday, November 6, or contact Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com.

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact us at info@cnps-scv.org or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

Directions: From I-280: take the El Monte exit east. Turn left (north) on University Ave., just before Foothill Expwy. The Garden House is 0.6 mile ahead on the left (west) side of the street. From Hwy. 101: take the San Antonio exit west/south. Go 3.5 miles. At the 3rd stoplight after crossing El Camino Real (Edith/Main), bear right on to Main St. (not sharp right into Edith). Continue on Main until it crosses Foothill Expwy. and turn left immediately onto University Ave. Bear right; the Garden House is 300 feet ahead on the right.
Chapter Annual Election
The annual potluck is also the time to elect our Chapter officers for the coming year. All Chapter members may run for office; nominations may also be made from the floor at the meeting. Here is the slate put forth by the nominating committee:

*President:* Vivian Neou  
*Vice President:* Johanna Kwan  
*Treasurer:* Janet Hoffmann  
*Chapter Council Delegate:* Vivian Neou  
*Elected Board Directors (2):*  
Stephen Buckhout, Vicki Silvas-Young

Members seeking more information or wishing to run should contact Leadership Development Chair Stephen Buckhout, at stephen@yscottie.com or (408) 255-6233.

Chapter Guidelines Vote
Our Chapter guidelines are like our constitution: the basic rules for how we are organized and how we perform our activities. Our Board has approved a draft set of revisions to address issues found since our 2016 major update. The changes include provisions to deal with open positions and also bring the guidelines in line with actual practice. The changes update:

- The definition of the Executive Committee to include provisions for open positions.
- The composition of the Board to consist of the Executive Committee and at least ten (10) appointed directors.
- The requirement for a quorum at the general meeting in November.

The General Membership will vote on these revisions at our annual potluck meeting.

You can download the revised guidelines from our Chapter website, [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org). You may also leave a message at our Chapter phone, (650) 260-3450, to request a paper copy of the guidelines. For more information please contact Vivian Neou at president@cnps-scv.org.

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

CNPS SCV Nursery at Hidden Villa
Come help propagate plants for our future plant sales by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions, every *Wednesday, from 11am to 2pm*. We’ll also hold work sessions during the *member sale days* listed below.

Bring garden gloves, sunhat, liquids and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. Knowledge of plants is not necessary; your willingness to help is all that’s required.

| The next Monthly Member Sales will be held on Saturdays, Nov. 16 and Dec. 14, 11am to 2pm. |

An inventory of available plants will be updated before each sale. Visit [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org) and go to Events, then Plant Sale.

**Directions:** Hidden Villa is located at 26870 Moody Road west of Foothill College. From I-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.

**Seed and Cutting Exchange**
*a talk by Our City Forest*

**Wednesday, November 6, 7-8:30 PM, Campbell Library, 77 Harrison Ave., Campbell (408) 866-1991**

The fall rains are starting and this is the time when native seeds sprout and native plants start growing underground. It’s also the perfect time to plant your seeds, divide the Douglas irises and take hardened cuttings of monkeyflowers. Come hear about different methods of propagating native plants just in time to prepare for spring bloom and planting season.
After the program, we’ll swap plant material. Bring any seeds or cuttings that you’d like to share with others and containers to carry what you want to bring home.

**Our City Forest’s Community Nursery & Training Center** in San Jose is the home to hundreds of species of native and non-native trees, shrubs and grasses. All trees and plants are available on a tax-deductible donation basis and visitors can attend expert-led workshops on planting, plant care and propagation. Visit [www.ourcityforest.org/nursery](http://www.ourcityforest.org/nursery) for more information.

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### Best Native Plants for Pollinator Gardens

**a talk by Juanita Salisbury**

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

Native plants are integral to an effective pollinator garden design. The speaker will explore the interrelationships between plants, pollinators, other insects and animals. The goal is to allow you to design pollinator gardens, thereby leveraging California’s wealth of biodiversity into more resilient and beautiful landscapes.

**Juanita Salisbury** has a Ph.D. in Biopsychology as well as a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture. In 2009 she established Juanita Salisbury Landscape Architecture after working for commercial and residential design firms.

Juanita has recently turned her focus to California native plant pollinator habitats and in 2016 established the Primrose Way Pollinator Garden, the first of four pollinator habitat gardens in Palo Alto. Her focus is to research and relay information on these habitats, as well as to explore opportunities to install more of them.

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### Making a Native Holiday Wreath

**a talk by Sherri Osaka**

**Thursday, December 5, 7-8:30 PM, Mitchell Park Branch, 3700 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto** (650) 329-2436

**Wednesday, December 11, 6-7:30 PM, Los Gatos Library, 100 Villa Ave., Los Gatos** (408) 354-6891

By selecting a variety of native foliage and berries from your garden, you can create a beautiful fall wreath and recycle materials that you have on hand. We have three talks at three different locations for your convenience.

Come watch while the speaker discusses what types of native plants to use, shows how to secure your greenery to a frame, and then demonstrates how to tie a big beautiful bow before hanging it up.

**Note the earlier start time for the Los Gatos Library.**

**Sherri Osaka** is a licensed Landscape Architect, Bay-Friendly Qualified Designer and a former member of the Santa Clara Valley Water District’s Landscape Board. She is a chairperson for our Chapter of CNPS and started her company, Sustainable Landscape Designs, over 20 years ago. In 2018 she received the Water Champion distinction from the Silicon Valley Water Conservation Award Coalition.

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### Start Your Native Spring Garden NOW!

**a talk by Patricia Evans**

**Thursday, Nov. 21, 7-8:30 PM, Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View** (650) 903-6337

You are probably not thinking about spring flowers when our weather is getting cold, dark and rainy. But in California’s Mediterranean climate, this is exactly the time you need to start seeds, put plants in the ground and divide bulbs. Learn what is unique about our climate and what to do now for glorious spring and summer bloom next year and beyond.

**Patricia Evans**, owner of Natural Landscape Design, is a graduate of the Foothill College Ornamental Horticulture program. Previously, she served on the boards of directors of Gamble Garden and the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. She has also taught “Garden Design for Homeowners” for Palo Alto Adult Education. She specializes in native plants and sustainable landscaping.

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### Making a Native Holiday Wreath

**a talk by Deva Luna**

**Thursday, Dec. 19, 7-8:30 PM, Redwood City Library, 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City** (650) 780-7018

Vivian Neou Small Heliothodes moth (Heliothodes diminutiva) on buttercup at Edgewood April 2019
Deva Luna is a sustainable and Bay-Friendly Qualified 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) in Cupertino.

Keying with Natives
Join us as we learn and practice methods of identifying the native plants of our region (aka keying). For our November 22 meeting the topic will be Native Oaks of the Bay Area. There are seven common oaks in our San Francisco Bay Area. We’ll examine extensive plant samples and material as well as graphics, so everyone will learn how to key these iconic features of California.

KWN generally meets on the last Friday of the month, from 6:30 to 8:30pm. The other upcoming meeting date is Friday, December 27. 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.

Newsletter Mailing Party Needs Volunteers
For Chapter members who’ve not yet switched to electronic delivery of their newsletters, every issue of this newsletter gets prepared for mailing by a Chapter mailing party. We invite you to drop in and join us for part or all of the party. Check any newsletter’s calendar page for the date, or for more info. contact newsletter editor Carol Mattsson at carol.mattsson@gmail.com or (408) 255-3767.

GOING NATIVE GARDEN TOUR
Tracking Seasonal Changes
By Cynthia Gingerich, GNGT volunteer

Recently I’ve heard several people lament the state of their native gardens in fall. Everything’s gone to seed, or there’s no color anymore (as if green, gold, red, yellow, brown, rust, and grey are not colors), or their plants are just not looking as good as they did four or five months ago. Some laments came from strangers I overheard at the native plant sale at Hidden Villa in late September, but one was a friend whose garden looked spectacular in May and is still great in a different way in October.

As a newbie to native gardening, I love to tour others’ gardens for inspiration and ideas for plants to try in my own. I have favorite places to visit with native plants on a grand scale, like Point Lobos State Reserve in February when the ceanothus are all in bloom and Pinnacles National Park in April when hillsides are covered in shooting stars and there are carpets of goldfields.

On a smaller scale, I discovered Edith Morley Park in Campbell on my first Going Native Garden Tour (GNGT) in 2008. This public space may be visited any time to track the seasonal transitions of its native plants. On the most recent GNGT in May 2019, I discovered another new favorite public space – the prettiest, buzziest parking strip I’ve ever seen – the pollinator garden at Primrose Way in Palo Alto.
May 2019 was my first time volunteering on the GNGT and I quickly discovered there are significant perks to participating. Aside from the lovely T-shirt that volunteers receive, we also may attend garden previews, touring a different garden every month.

What a reward! Since I had visited the same Saratoga garden on May 4, June 1 and September 28, I observed firsthand how one garden changes over a few seasons. Following are two pairs of photos from this garden, comparing appearance and colors in spring vs. early fall.

Showy milkweed in spring
Pollinators were very active in the showy milkweed in June. This garden has both *asclepias fasciculais* and *asclepias speciosa* in it.

The same milkweed plants in fall
The homeowner not only provided a wonderful preview of her front and back gardens and meadow in September, she also packaged milkweed seeds for whoever wanted them.

To learn more about this Saratoga garden, visit gngt.org/MorrowRum_GNGT.

GNGT welcomes volunteers, homeowners and garden visitors. More information is at gngt.org, including links to sign up to be a volunteer or visitor for the 2020 Tour on May 2 and 3. There year round, you’ll find photos and plant lists for 50+ Tour gardens and an application to submit your own garden for the 2020 tour. The application deadline has been extended to Friday, November 15.

Front yard in spring
Spring colors in May and June were white, pink, coral, yellow, orange, purple and blue. The garden plant list shows seven types of Clarkias, irises, and heucheras.

Front yard in fall
Fall colors in this garden are predominantly red, grey, rust, gold, yellow, green, brown and black. Long-blooming, vibrant epilobium flowers attract birds and insects.

SCHOLARSHIP

Student Research Scholarships Available
Our Chapter sponsors scholarships for students researching topics related to California native plant and native habitat conservation.

Academic scholarships of $1,500 for graduate student research and a $1,000 scholarship for undergraduate student research are available. We encourage students to apply. More information and applications are available at www.cnps-scv.org/education/scholarships. Applications must be postmarked by Friday, November 22.
CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Committee
Our Chapter’s conservation committee will be meeting on Tuesdays, November 12 and December 10 at 7:30pm at the PCC Library in Palo Alto.

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

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Edgewood Restoration
Help restore habitat at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, 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.

We weed year-round every Friday at 9am. Wednesday evening sessions will resume next spring. For more information including meeting places, visit www.cnps-scv.org/restoration/edgewood-park, 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.

Our Chapter applied for and has been awarded a $1500 grant by BeautifySJ to plant 30 more native trees at the park. This will be Phase 3 of a 3-year planting project to create shade and habitat at this sunny park.

The tree planting workday will be on Nov 9. Volunteers are invited to sign up for any workday, Saturdays 9am -noon. Sign up at lakecunninghamnativemagnificentgarden.org/volunteer. The park is located at 2305 S. White Road in San Jose. For more information, contact Arvind Kumar at chhaprahiya@yahoo.com.

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.

In our region it is very important to be prepared for hiking on rugged and 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.

Cell service is mainly restricted to cities and major highways. To find your way to an outing do not rely solely on your phone.

Check our field trips page www.cnps-scv.org/activities/field-trips for changes and additional field trips.

Sun Nov 17 10am-3pm Beginner’s Plant ID Walk Rancho Cañada del Oro (Morgan Hill)
Are you confounded/stymied/intimidated by botanic names? Why say “Heteromeles arbutifolia” when “toyoon” will do? What do they mean? What is the correct pronunciation?

Join Arvind Kumar and Ashok Jethanandani for a walk through this beautiful preserve as we identify the plants around us. We intend to tackle botanic names head on – with roots in Greek or Latin, each botanic name tells its own story. Toyon’s botanic name translates as “different apple with madrone-like leaves,” a reference to its red berries and serrated-edge foliage. We may even learn how to say it right (secret tip: with confidence!).
We will go up the Mayfair Ranch Trail and return via the Longwall Canyon Trail. The distance covered will be 4.3 miles with 500’ of elevation gain. We will walk through a variety of habitats: grassland, oak woodland, scrub, chaparral and riparian. We expect to see oaks, bay laurel, madrone, bigberry manzanita, toyon, coffeeberry, buckeye, holly-leaved cherry and snowberry.


**Wed Nov 20 10am-2pm Uvas Canyon County Park (Morgan Hill)**

Join Joe Cernac for an easy three mile hike, where identification characteristics of late season trees and shrubs will be the theme. Unusual plants we expect to see include barberry (*Berberis nervosa*) and inside-out flower (*Vancouveria planipetala)*.

We’ll meet at the first parking lot at 10am. Parking fee is $5. Park info is at: www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Pages/UvasCanyon.aspx. For more information contact trip leader Joe Cernac at 408 292 5465.

**Sat Dec 7 10am-2pm Moss Hike in Almaden Quicksilver County Park (San Jose)**

Join Ben Carter, botany professor at SJSU, for a 2.5 mile walk to learn about bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) of the Bay Area. This is an entry-level walk that will emphasize seeing different bryophyte species in nature and learning about their morphology, ecology and natural history.

There will be a moderate uphill climb, but the path is well-shaded and we’ll be moving very slowly. Bring a hand lens if you have one. Bring lunch, snacks and liquids. We’ll head out in any conditions except for heavy rain.

We will meet at the Hacienda Entrance parking lot, which is at the southern tip of the park along Almaden Road. For more information, contact Ben Carter at benjamin.carter@sjsu.edu or (805) 704-0616.

**Sun Dec 22 9am to Noon Bird and Plant ID Walk at Lake Cunningham Park (San Jose)**


**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*News and Activities from Other Organizations*

**Become an Edgewood Docent**

Friends of Edgewood docents lead interpretive nature walks at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, near Redwood City, throughout the year but especially during our famous spring wildflower season. No previous training is required to become a docent—only a love of nature and a desire to share.

Each January through April, a series of eight Wednesday evening classes, held at the preserve’s education center, are paired with Saturday morning hikes in the preserve. The course covers Edgewood’s geology, plants and wildlife, along with its history, preservation and on-going restoration. Along the way, you’ll develop the interpretive skills that make for a great walk experience. A $40 course fee covers the cost of materials.

Please consider joining us! For more information or to register for the training, contact Sandy Bernhard at docent-trainer@friendsofedgewood.org.

**Save a Tree!**

Blazing Star newsletters are always online at the Chapter website’s newsletter page: www.cnps-scv.org/blazing-star-newsletter. Please contact membership@cnps-scv.org if you would like to receive this newsletter by email only.

To join our Chapter news email list please visit www.cnps-scv.org/about-us/contact-us.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT BLAZING STAR**

**Saturday, November 30**

carol.mattsson@gmail.com or (408) 255-3767
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 6</td>
<td>Wed  GWN – Seed and Cutting Exchange (2)</td>
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<td>Nov 6</td>
<td>Wed  Silent Auction Book Donations Due (1)</td>
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<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>Sat  Lake Cunningham tree planting (6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>Sat  Annual meeting and potluck (1)</td>
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<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Tue  Conservation Committee meeting (6)</td>
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<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Tue  GWN – Pollinators – Salisbury (3)</td>
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<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>Fri  GNST garden application deadline (5)</td>
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<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>Sat  Monthly Member Plant Sale (2)</td>
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<td>Nov 17</td>
<td>Sun  Rancho Cañada del Oro field trip (6)</td>
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<td>Nov 20</td>
<td>Wed  Uvas Canyon field trip (7)</td>
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<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Thu  GWN – Spring Gardens – Evans (3)</td>
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<td>Nov 22</td>
<td>Fri  Scholarship application deadline (5)</td>
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<td>Nov 22</td>
<td>Fri  Keying with Natives (4)</td>
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<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>Sat  Newsletter submittal deadline (7)</td>
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<td>Dec  5</td>
<td>Thu  GWN – Holiday wreath – Osaka (3)</td>
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<td>Dec  7</td>
<td>Sat  Almaden Quicksilver moss field trip (7)</td>
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<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>Tue  Conservation Committee meeting (6)</td>
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<td>Dec 11</td>
<td>Wed  GWN – Holiday wreath – Osaka (3)</td>
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<td>Dec 14</td>
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<td>Dec 19</td>
<td>Thu  Newsletter Mailing Party – 10am PCC</td>
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<td>Dec 19</td>
<td>Thu  GWN – Holiday wreath – Luna (3)</td>
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<td>Dec 22</td>
<td>Sun  Lake Cunningham Bird &amp; Plant walk (7)</td>
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<td>Dec 27</td>
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<td>Mon &amp; 3</td>
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<td>Fri 9</td>
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<td>Sat 9</td>
<td>am  Lake Cunningham workdays (6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>20  Edgewood Docent Training Starts (7)</td>
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The next Chapter board meeting will be Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00pm at the Struthers home in Los Altos. It will be our annual budget meeting. Please bring food to share. (No November board meeting.) Chapter board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests. For more information contact Vivian Neou at president@cnps-scv.org.

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 $50.00 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.