



# THE BLAZING STAR

July-August 2024

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## Chapter Election Results

Thanks to all who voted in our recent Chapter election. Newly elected officers and leaders began serving their terms on June 1 and will continue to serve through May 31 of next year:

**Co-President - Priya Pharate**

**Co-President - Vivian Neou**

**Vice President - Toni Gregorio-Bunch**

**Recording Secretary - Sudarshan Srinivasan**

**Treasurer - Brett Tucker**

**Past President - Radhika Thekkath**

**Chapter Council Delegate - Vivian Neou**

The Leadership Development Committee thanks and *appreciates* all officers and leaders who served for 2023-2024 and those who will be serving in 2024-2025. Our Chapter continues to show itself as vibrant and resilient, due to the hard and intelligent work of so many since our inception.

To see the full list of Chapter officers and chairs, please visit [www.cnps-scv.org/leadership](http://www.cnps-scv.org/leadership).

Georgia Stigall, a Chapter member and past Chapter President sends us this fond memory: "Being at the annual potluck in the late 1990s, sitting at a table with Carolyn Curtis, Jean Struthers and Don Mayall. We were musing about potential nominees (having just voted in the next

year's officers) and one of them – pretty sure it was Jean – made a very powerful statement that really resonated with me. Her words were very close to, 'We agreed that if we all take a turn, the roles will always be filled.'"

She took Jean's statement very much to heart.

## Volunteer Spotlight Award:

### Bill McCormack

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS is pleased to present its Volunteer Spotlight Award to Bill McCormack.



Bill has volunteered at our Chapter's events for well over a decade and has served as the sole moderator of the Chapter's Gardening with Natives email group since 2019. With over 1,400 members, the group messages are moderated and require constant attention. Bill stays on top of the activity and keeps the list running smoothly. He's always polite and pleasant in his interactions with people and adeptly resolves challenging issues. Additionally, he posts our Chapter's activities on the list, which has been a great help with publicity.

We are all beneficiaries of Bill's volunteer efforts. Thank you, Bill!

## Save the Dates!

Our Chapter's Fall **Potluck** will be held at Shoup Garden House in Los Altos on **Saturday, November 2**.

Our Chapter's Fall **Native Plant Sale** will be held at Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills on **Saturday, October 19**.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

**Cutting and Seed Exchange + Plant Sale  
Pickup Sunday, July 14**

Come share cuttings and seeds of California native plants with other native plant gardeners and pick up new plant material for yourself. Join us on **Sunday, July 14 from 1:00 to 3:00pm** at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto.

This free event provides an opportunity to share and receive both cuttings and seeds of native plants. Browse the diverse offerings, ranging from easy-to-grow to hard-to-find, and go home with cuttings and seeds of new native plants! We will provide coin envelopes for seeds but bring containers in which to carry cuttings home.



Vivian Neou

Attendees at May 2024 Cutting and Seed Exchange browse the plant materials offered

If you have native plant material from your own garden to share, we encourage you to bring it. Label your cuttings to make them easy to browse – some gardeners attach helpful hints about growing; others display photos of plants in bloom. You may find it convenient to use [www.calscape.org](http://www.calscape.org) for this – there is a link on each plant's information page to make a printable sign for most native species and cultivars.

If you bring cuttings, keep them cool and moist in a bucket of water. Don't have native plant material to share? No problem, as there is usually enough for all.

Several popular gardening books will be available for sale during the event, including *Seed Propagation of Native California Plants* (2021 ed.), by Dara E. Emery; *California Native Plants for the Garden* by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien; and *California Native Gardening, A Month-by-Month Guide*, by Helen Popper.

Our Wildflower Ambassadors will be giving out free seed packets and information as well.

## Online Plant Sales

Hidden Villa, where the CNPS SCV Nursery is located, is closed to the public for summer camp. However, our online nursery store ([california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter.square.site/](http://california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter.square.site/)) is open for sales. Due to limited volunteer availability, **our store is only open for delivery orders between Belmont and San Jose with a minimum order size of \$250.** We have a wide variety of plants available, and if you are planning a landscaping project, this is an excellent opportunity to source plants for your project. We list all available plants in the store, so if it isn't there, we do not have it in stock.

Starting on **Sunday, July 7**, we will provide an opportunity to buy smaller quantities of plants from our online store. These orders will only be available for pickup before and during our Cutting and Seed Exchange at the Peninsula Conservation Center on **Sunday, July 14.** **Sales made during this time will not have nursery pickup or delivery, and there will be a minimum order of \$40.** The store will switch back to delivery-only sales after our pickup slots are filled.

In addition to plants, the nursery's online store includes Chapter T-shirts, books, labels and plant signs.

## Call for Volunteers

We need help with setup, answering questions and cleanup. The tasks don't require expert knowledge of plants, and the shifts are set up to spend time at the event in addition to volunteering. You can sign up here: [www.cnps-scv.org/seed-cutting-help](http://www.cnps-scv.org/seed-cutting-help).

**Directions to the PCC:** (3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto) 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 first right onto Corporation Way, and an immediate left into the PCC parking lot. The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

## Native Plant Talks

Join us for our native plant talks, in-person at local libraries and online via Zoom and YouTube. Whether you're curious about native plants, an experienced or aspiring native plant gardener, a professional botanist or beginning naturalist, you will find something to interest and educate you in our offerings. From gardening to plant science to climate change to tours of botanical hot spots, there's something here for you.

Our virtual talks are livestreamed simultaneously to Zoom and YouTube. View talks on our YouTube channel at

[www.youtube.com/@CNPSSantaClaraValley](https://www.youtube.com/@CNPSSantaClaraValley) (no registration needed) or join on Zoom by registering at the Zoom link provided in each lecture's description. Most of our upcoming talks are listed below. Recordings of our virtual talks and some of our library talks may be viewed on our YouTube channel.

We occasionally schedule additional talks; for the current list of upcoming talks please see our website ([cnps-scv.org](http://cnps-scv.org)) or join our Chapter News email group for a weekly update on upcoming activities.

The organizing committee has periodic meetings on Zoom and welcomes new volunteers. If you have ideas for future talks or are interested in helping set up upcoming talks, please send a message to Priya Pharate at [priya4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:priya4cnps@gmail.com) to receive notifications of upcoming meetings.



*Erica Fleniken*

Monarch butterfly on narrow-leaf milkweed at Ulistac Natural Area.

### Gardening for Monarch Butterflies, a talk by Shelkie Tao

**Thursday, July 25 7:00 - 8:30 PM, Cupertino Library Community Room (2nd Floor), 10800 Torre Ave., Cupertino**

Since the 1980s, the Western monarch butterfly population has declined by more than 90%. In this talk, we will take a look at the Western monarch butterfly, why its population has declined, and most importantly – how we can help them right now – by gardening using the right native plants.

**Shelkie Tao** is a landscape designer and founder of [www.WaterEfficientGardens.com](http://www.WaterEfficientGardens.com), an online landscape design business that excels in low water and native garden designs. She is the Landscape Committee chair of Valley Water.



Prior to Water Efficient Gardens, Shelkie worked over 10 years in the high-tech industry in Silicon Valley. She received her Certificate of Achievement in Environmental Horticulture and Design from Foothill College and an MBA from the Anderson School at UCLA.



*Kathy Kleinsteinber*

Three stages of monarch butterfly development photographed at Kirk Park Pollinator Garden: female butterfly, caterpillar and chrysalis. The chrysalis is attached to the stem of a red-flowered buckwheat planted next to the milkweed.

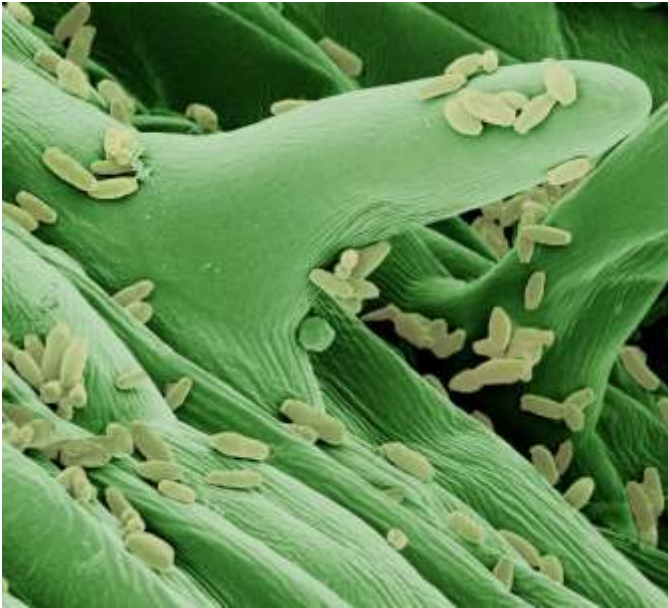
### Flowers as Islands, a talk by Tadashi Fukami

**Wednesday, July 31 7:00 - 8:30 PM, Los Altos Library Orchard Room, 13 S. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos**

Whether native or introduced, almost all species of plants whose flowers contain nectar host microorganisms like bacteria and yeasts in the nectar. Initially free of microbes,



flower nectar gets its microbial inhabitants from bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other flower-visiting animals as they come to sip nectar from flowers.



Tadashi Fukami

Scanning electron microscopic image of the nectar yeast (*Metschnikowia reukaufii*) in the nectar of the sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*)

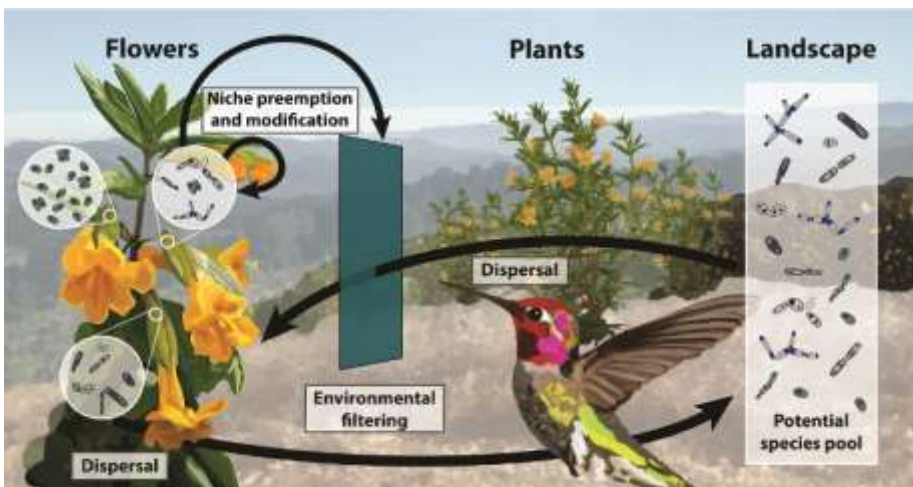
In this talk, Dr. Fukami will share a story of “flowers as islands,” where the microbial community that is formed in flower nectar, with the help of hummingbirds, can subsequently change nectar chemistry to alter how attractive the flowers are to hummingbirds and therefore how successful the flowers will be in producing seeds. This research has mostly been conducted at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve – ‘Ootchamin ‘Ooyakma in Woodside, but also on the Dish hill of Stanford University, other sites in and around the San Francisco Peninsula and outward to Bodega Bay to Big Sur.



Tadashi Fukami

Dr. Tadashi Fukami and sticky monkeyflower, *Diplacus aurantiacus*, by Searsville Dam in Jasper Ridge

Dr. Fukami’s research team at Stanford University has been studying the nectar-inhabiting microorganisms over the past 15 years, focusing on the sticky monkeyflower, *Diplacus aurantiacus*, the common hummingbird-pollinated shrub native to the Bay Area and elsewhere in California.



Callie Chappell and Tadashi Fukami

Diagram showing ecological relationships among the sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), Anna’s hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), and the nectar-inhabiting microorganisms

**Dr. Tadashi Fukami** is Professor of Biology and Earth System Science and Faculty Director of Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, ‘Ootchamin ‘Ooyakma, at Stanford University. He earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Tokyo, Japan, and a PhD from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He was a postdoctoral fellow at Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research in New Zealand and then Assistant Professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa before joining the Stanford faculty in 2008.



## A Few Native California Oak Mysteries! A talk by Al Keuter

**Thursday, August 8 7:00 - 8:30 PM, Los Altos Library  
Orchard Room, 13 S. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos**



Of the approximately 600 species of oaks worldwide, roughly 21 are native to California, organized into three groups: the red oaks (sometimes called black oaks), the golden oaks (or intermediate oaks), and the white oaks. This talk will focus on understanding the recent historical identities of

the surviving Santa Clara County oaks.

Besides learning about the oaks that surround us, Al will also talk about these and other oak mysteries:

- Where does the blue oak group fit into the red/golden/white oak scheme? (So chromatically confusing!!)
- Are native California oaks super-closely related to oaks anywhere else in the world, or are they something special?
- Is it tricky to apply a specific scientific name to a California oak tree? (Spoiler alert: can be!)



*Al Keuter*

Showy male oak flowers – where are the ladies?

Please join Al as he shares parts of his journey examining the many mysteries of California oaks.

**Al Keuter's** sleuthing into oak mysteries began in 2013. Since then, he's ventured ever deeper into the science of leaf and fruit measurements, joining with DNA scientists in publishing three scientific papers exploring California red oak evolution and development.



*Al Keuter*

What is it really? Coast live oak? ... with spineless leaves?

While volunteering as a curator at the Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History at the University of California, Santa Cruz, he has generated 40,000+ images, and made 900 collections of fruit and leaves from more than 500 oak trees in 38 California counties. He has also accumulated a personal oak reference library of 700+ books and manuscripts dating back to the 1600s.



*Al Keuter*

Looks a lot like California black oak but ...

## Photography 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. It is open to all. The group has monthly meetings and an active email list.



Nathan Davis

Clay mariposa lily flower color variations. Left photo taken mid-May at Rancho Cañada del Oro, right photo taken during last week of May at Rancho San Antonio County Park.

The group has an ongoing **#MyPhotoOfTheWeek** activity on the email list for group members to share their favorite shots with the group on a weekly basis. Photo Group member Nathan Davis sent us two **#MyPhotoOfTheWeek** clay mariposa lilies (*Calochortus argillosus*), showing the color variation between lilies observed at two different locations.

The photo group's meetings take place over Zoom, for members to share photos and more – everything from photography tips to organizational ideas to plant hot spots.

The next meetings will be on **Fridays, July 26 and August 23 at 7:00pm**. You can learn more and join the email group at: [www.groups.io/g/cnps-scv-photography](http://www.groups.io/g/cnps-scv-photography).

## Native Plant ID

Our Native Plant ID group meets once a month to work together to learn plant identification using botanical keys and other resources. Join us as we look at plant samples collected from local gardens and practice methods of identifying the native plants of our region. Bring in plant samples if you have some (from property where you have permission to collect) or just come and work with the materials provided.

We will use a variety of plant books and online resources as we endeavor to improve our understanding of botanical terms used in plant identification. The Chapter has 10x hand lenses and dissecting microscopes that we can use to look at small plant parts or bring your own lens. Bring along your favorite plant ID reference books.

Native Plant ID meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Peninsula Conservation Center, 3921 E Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. (See page 2 for directions to the PCC.) Our next meetings will be on **Tuesdays, July 23 and August 27, at 7:00pm**. For details, contact Janet Hoffmann at [janet@cnps-scv.org](mailto:janet@cnps-scv.org).

During the summer through fall months when there are fewer wildflowers in bloom, we will focus on learning characteristics of some of the major plant groups. We also are recruiting some guest speakers about plant nomenclature and plant ID apps. Subscribe to our Plant ID Google group by emailing [janet@cnps-scv.org](mailto:janet@cnps-scv.org) or subscribe to the Chapter E-news (see the "Stay in Touch" article on page 11) for updates.



Vivian Neou

Examining plants at last March's Native Plant ID meeting

## Growing Natives Garden Tour 2024 Flourishes with Rain!

The annual Growing Natives Garden Tour featured 47 native gardens on April 13 and 14, from San Carlos to Gilroy. Northern gardens were open on Saturday, the remainder on Sunday. Despite cold, rainy weather on Saturday and cold weather on Sunday, 3,427 registrants made 4,438 garden visits. We would like to thank our brave and determined garden owners and volunteers who



dressed warmly to have all those conversations about the importance of native plants in the landscape.



*Krzysztof Kozminski*

**Our tour in 2025 will be Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13**, the beginning of California Native Plant Week. If you have a native plant garden or want to volunteer for next year's tour you can sign up now at [GNGT.org](https://www.gngt.org). Our committee is also looking for more assistance with publicity, both in print and online. To learn more, contact GNGT coordinator Madeline Morrow at [Madeline.morrow@rumrow.net](mailto:Madeline.morrow@rumrow.net).

## Plant Grants Report

Wildflower Ambassador AJ Bowden is a parent at the Village School in Campbell. AJ often brings her daughter to help at the Wildflower Ambassador (WFA) seed packing parties. AJ thanks our Chapter's plant grants program and WFA for providing both plants and seeds to the newly created habitat garden at the school. She also thanks Vivian Neou and Jennifer Dirking (WFA chair) for supporting her to lead this garden project at the school.

AJ says she just finished the last round of planting with the students on May 17. The students really seemed to enjoy learning about our native bees, butterflies, insects and birds, and they are so proud of their new garden.

The children have the opportunity to water and explore the garden every Wednesday during lunch recess time. And it's been so exciting to spot the lizards, birds and bees hanging out in their garden space.



*AJ Bowden*

Above: Village School habitat garden area **before** installing the garden. Campbell, November 8, 2023.

Below: Habitat garden area **after** installation. Some plants were provided by our Chapter's "Plant Grants" program. May 17, 2024.



*AJ Bowden*

On behalf of the students, parents and teachers at Village School, AJ thanks our Chapter very much.

Note the Chapter's plant grants program is in a semi-hiatus, as our CNPS SCV nursery is short on volunteer time to run the program.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

### **Conservation Committee**

Our Chapter's next Conservation Committee meeting will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday August 13**, from **7:00 to 8:30pm**. (There will be no meeting in July.)

This committee covers many issues affecting native plants: conservation, advocacy, legislation, habitat restoration and rare plants. The committee meets once a month to provide information and support for these conservation issues and efforts. Members of our committee work on projects throughout the Chapter area, coordinating with our state CNPS program staff and other conservation organizations.

Please join us in our important work! For questions, comments or concerns, contact Committee Chair Carolyn Dorsch at [cdorsch@cnps-scv.org](mailto:cdorsch@cnps-scv.org) or (650) 804-6162, or Conservation Chair Judy Fenerty at [judy@fenerty.com](mailto:judy@fenerty.com). If you are interested in joining our committee meetings on Zoom, please email Carolyn for the link.

## CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

### **Alum Rock Park Restoration**

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."

Our workdays take place one **Saturday morning** per month. No experience is necessary. All tools and instruction will be provided. Please bring a filled water bottle and snacks; wear closed toe shoes and long pants.

Forms and **reservations** are required to volunteer. Start by visiting the City's volunteer opportunities page at [www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/parks-recreation-neighborhood-services/get-involved/volunteer-with-us](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/parks-recreation-neighborhood-services/get-involved/volunteer-with-us). You will see Alum Rock Park Trail Crew as one of the options. The next workday will be on **Saturday, July 13, 8:45am to 12:00pm**. For more information, contact Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 2-acre area and beautifies it with California native wildflowers, perennials, shrubs and trees.

Workdays take place on **Saturdays from 8:00 to 10:00am**. New volunteers are welcome; City-issued guidelines are followed. The work depends on the season, mainly weeding and mulching year-round, but some planting in winter. For **details, directions and to RSVP**, see our Chapter's Meetup group at [www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter).

### **Edgewood Restoration**

Help restore habitat at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, known for fabulous wildflowers and amazing diversity near Redwood City. Weeders see far more than weeds: we get to be up close to the native plants, some of which are seen **only** by weeders.

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 9:00am** and **Wednesdays during Daylight Savings Time at 5:30pm**. For an overview, please visit [www.cnps-scv.org/restoration/edgewood-park](http://www.cnps-scv.org/restoration/edgewood-park).

**To participate**, join the email list and sign the electronic volunteer agreement, by sending an email to [weed-warriors-coord@friendsofedgewood.org](mailto:weed-warriors-coord@friendsofedgewood.org).

Please check the email list for each weeding session's meeting place. If you still have questions about Wednesday sessions, contact Alf Fengler at [afengler@pacbell.net](mailto:afengler@pacbell.net). Or for questions about Friday sessions, contact Paul Heiple at [pheiple@gmail.com](mailto:pheiple@gmail.com) or (650) 854-7125.

### **Kirk Park Pollinator Garden**

Community volunteers regularly care for this native plant garden at Kirk Park in San Jose. We are always happy to have help at the garden! **We meet regularly on Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00am**, weather permitting, for light maintenance such as weeding, watering; and occasionally we have plants or seeds to plant.

The park is open every day, so please come visit! The garden is located along the north edge of the park. If you would like to help out, please let us know by sending email to [KirkParkGardens@gmail.com](mailto:KirkParkGardens@gmail.com). If we know you are coming, we can be sure to have tools available for you to use. We can also notify you if, for some reason, we will not be meeting. New volunteers will need to fill out a form for the City.



## 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, please do not rely solely on your phone.

Check our field trips page [www.cnps-scv.org/activities/field-trips](http://www.cnps-scv.org/activities/field-trips) for changes and cancellations, as well as information about newly added field trips.

For field trips listed here that require **reservations**, please visit our Chapter's **Meetup group**, here: [www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/). **We open the RSVPs one week before the event.** Find your event within the group and tap/click the "Attend" button to reserve your spot.

### **Thu - Mon Jul 4 – 8 Ebbett's Pass, Alpine Lake and Calaveras Big Trees – Cabin in Arnold**

Join Chapter members Fred and Patricia Evans at their cabin in Arnold, CA (Calaveras County) for three days of wildflower hikes over the July 4 weekend. Arrive July 4, hike July 5-7 and travel home on July 7 afternoon or July 8 morning. Cost is \$15/person to cover housecleaning.

Attendees will explore Calaveras Big Trees State Park, Elephant Rock and the Pacific Crest Trail at Ebbett's Pass (three elevations from 4000' to 8736'). It will be spring at Ebbett's Pass and the wildflowers will be amazing! This itinerary is subject to change, depending on weather and conditions.

The cabin sleeps 13 in beds (with 7 in a dorm) and there are two futons, room for tents on the porch or in the yard and two small RVs or vans can hook to electricity in the driveway. Dinners will be potluck and popcorn is provided.

**This trip is open to CNPS members only.** For more information or to **reserve your spot**, contact Patricia at [patriciaaevans28@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaaevans28@gmail.com) or call (650) 949-2801.

### **Sun Jul 14 10:00am – 2:00pm Sanborn County Park Hike (Saratoga)**

Enjoy the pristine trails of Sanborn Park on July 14 with Tom Lee. We will hike through a lushly wooded park with redwood and tanbark oak trees. This hike will be about 2 miles long with an elevation gain of 250 feet. The trail starts with an easy climb and continues until we reach Welch House. Then we'll retrace our steps back to the trailhead. The historic Welch-Hurst house was built in 1892 as a gentleman's working ranch and family retreat. In later years it became a hostel until its closure in 2010.



Tom Lee  
Ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*) in Sanborn County Park August 2022.

Some plants seen in past years during this season include ocean spray, toyon and wood rose; we may also see red-winged blackbirds.

We'll meet at the park entrance off of Sanborn Road. **Hike start time is 10:00am.** There is a park entrance fee of \$6 per vehicle. Please bring sturdy shoes, appropriate layering, a hat and lunch.

To reach Sanborn Park proceed 2 miles west of Saratoga on Hwy. 9 to Sanborn Rd. Turn left on Sanborn Rd., then travel another mile to the park entrance.

RSVP is required to join the hike. RSVPs will open up one week before the event. No drop-ins please and space is limited. See the instructions at the beginning of this Field Trips section to **RSVP on Meetup**.



Tom Lee

Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) in Sanborn County Park  
October 2022.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*News and Activities from Other Organizations*

### **California Native Plants Available from Civic Garden Club Nursery in San Carlos**

Civic Garden Club of San Carlos volunteers propagate native plants and hold sales most **Saturdays, 10:00am to 1:00pm**. Their focus is on providing a good variety of California native plants, unique plants and hard to find plants not available in local markets.

During sales, native plants are shown with a plant sign and a QR code taking you to the relevant information on the [Calscape website](#). Other CA native plants are shown with their native location in California and other pertinent information.

The Civic Garden Club of San Carlos is a California non-profit corporation founded in 1937. They are located at **737 Walnut Street in San Carlos**. Their physical site, the Casa de Flores, was built in 1929 as the original Saint Charles church. In 2020 they began selling plants to provide another source of funding when they experienced a loss of rental income due to the COVID-19 outbreak. With LED grow lights and seedling heat mats, the kitchen has been converted into a seed and cutting propagation area.

The Garden Club propagates and grows both onsite and at members' facilities. They try innovative approaches to

plant reproduction and plan to publicize their successful findings to the plant community. They sell only healthy plants in excellent condition. Their volunteers work tirelessly to improve their plant supply and to make plant purchasing a pleasant experience.



Cathrin Callas

Plants on display for sale

Please follow the Garden Club on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/CivicGardenClub/](http://www.facebook.com/CivicGardenClub/)) for updates on their scheduled sales and lists of inventories and on Nextdoor posted by members. Both cash and credit cards are accepted. Join them on Saturdays to see their plants and growing area! They are open to the public most **Saturdays from 10:00am to 1:00pm** (holidays and heavy rain excepted).



Propagation display

Cathrin Callas



**NEWSLETTER, ETC.**

**Stay in Touch!**

Some late-breaking events don't make it into the newsletter and are announced electronically. Stay informed by making sure that your contact information is correct. Please visit [www.cnps-scv.org/stay-in-touch](http://www.cnps-scv.org/stay-in-touch) for information on how you can continue to receive email to stay informed.

This *Blazing Star* newsletter is published **mostly** online only, at: [www.cnps-scv.org/blazing-star-newsletter](http://www.cnps-scv.org/blazing-star-newsletter). Our next paper version will be the 2025 May-June issue.

**Did You Know?**

**... That you can grow native plants from seeds?**  
 Our Chapter website lists places where you can buy native seeds locally and online here [www.cnps-scv.org/gardening/gardening-resources/26-gardening/424-where-to-buy-native-plant-seeds](http://www.cnps-scv.org/gardening/gardening-resources/26-gardening/424-where-to-buy-native-plant-seeds). Learn how to collect your own seeds here: [www.cnps.org/gardening/california-native-plant-propagation-4014](http://www.cnps.org/gardening/california-native-plant-propagation-4014). Learn how to grow plants from seeds using Dara E. Emery's book *Seed Propagation of California Native Plants*, which can be purchased from [our online store](#).



**CHAPTER LEADERSHIP FOR 2024-2025**

Title	Name	Email
<b>Co-President</b>	Priya Pharate	priya4cnps@gmail.com
<b>Co-President</b>	Vivian Neou	techchair@cnps-scv.org
<b>Vice President</b>	Toni Gregorio-Bunch	tidytip.lp@gmail.com
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Sudarshan Srinivasan	secretary@cnps-scv.org
<b>Treasurer</b>	Brett Tucker	treasurer@cnps-scv.org
<b>Chapter Council Delegate</b>	Vivian Neou	techchair@cnps-scv.org
<b>Past President</b>	Radhika Thekkath	cnpsradhika@gmail.com

To see the full list of Chapter officers and chairs, please visit [www.cnps-scv.org/leadership](http://www.cnps-scv.org/leadership).

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

**Saturday, August 10**

**carol.mattsson@gmail.com or (408) 309-8314**

## **ONGOING HABITAT RESTORATION AND NATIVE PLANT GARDEN PROJECTS**

Join volunteers at your favorite parks to help restore habitat for native flora and fauna. Or help create or maintain a public native plant garden. Projects include planting California natives, trail maintenance and of course, plenty of weed pulling! Contact the listed organizations for details.

### **Alum Rock Park – San Jose**

Monthly Saturday mornings. See article on page 8 for details or contact Stephen Rosenthal at sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or (650) 260-3450.

### **Cataldi Park Native Garden (CNPS SCV-managed public garden) – San Jose**

Workdays are on pause. See future issues of the *Blazing Star* newsletter for updates.

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

Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings. See article on page 8 for details or contact Paul Heiple at pheiple@gmail.com or (650) 854-7125.

### **Grassroots Ecology**

Volunteer with us to improve local ecosystems at our habitat restoration projects in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. Visit

[www.grassrootsecology.org/volunteer](http://www.grassrootsecology.org/volunteer) to choose an event from the calendar then register to volunteer. volunteer@grassrootsecology.org or (650) 419-9880.

### **Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful – San Jose**

Help restore Coyote Creek by joining us to remove trash and non-native plants, plant native plants and advocate for a healthy Coyote Creek. Choose an event from [www.KeepCoyoteCreekBeautiful.org/events1](http://www.KeepCoyoteCreekBeautiful.org/events1). Deb Kramer, deb@keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org or (408) 372-7053

**Kirk Park Native Pollinator Garden (CNPS SCV-managed public garden) – San Jose**  
Saturday mornings. See article on page 8 for details or contact KirkParkGardens@gmail.com.

**Lake Cunningham Park Native Garden (CNPS SCV-managed public garden) – San Jose**  
Saturday mornings. See article on page 8 for details.

### **Magic – Planting for the Second Hundred Years**

Plant and care for oaks and other California natives in local open space and at Magic's Palo Alto facility. Saturday mornings. For details and to sign up, contact oaks@ecomagic.org. [www.ecomagic.org/projects](http://www.ecomagic.org/projects)



*Magic, Inc.*

Magic volunteers weed an experimental patch of monkey flowers (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), on the Dish hill of Stanford University, May 2023. Learn more by attending Dr. Tadashi Fukami's talk described on page 3.

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

Activities include invasive plant removal, planting native vegetation, trail maintenance and fence repairs. Visit Midpen's Land Steward page at [volunteer.openspace.org/agency/detail/?agency\\_id=121115](http://volunteer.openspace.org/agency/detail/?agency_id=121115) to learn more, choose an event and register for it. Ellen Gartside at egartside@openspace.org or (650) 772-3724.

### **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 and to sign up: [www.mountainwatch.org/upcomingevents](http://www.mountainwatch.org/upcomingevents) info@mountainwatch.org (415) 467-6631

### **Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority**

Land Steward volunteers assist Authority staff with trail maintenance, habitat restoration, fencing and cleanup projects. Learn more at [openspaceauthority.galaxydigital.com/agency/detail/?agency\\_id=149856](http://openspaceauthority.galaxydigital.com/agency/detail/?agency_id=149856) or contact Kat Hill at khill@openspaceauthority.org or (408) 754-4518.

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

Workdays are on pause. Organizers wanted. For updates see [www.ulistac.org](http://www.ulistac.org) or Facebook [Ulistac Natural Area](https://www.facebook.com/UlistacNaturalArea). ulistac@gmail.com



Santa Clara Valley Chapter California Native Plant Society  
 3921 East Bayshore Road, Suite #205  
 Palo Alto, CA 94303-4326

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 Members receive the *Artemisia* and *Flora* magazines, the Chapter newsletter and other benefits listed at [www.cnps.org/membership](http://www.cnps.org/membership).  
 I wish to affiliate with the Santa Clara Valley Chapter

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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Suggested Membership Amounts*  
 \$50  \$75  \$120  \$500  \$1,000  Other (\$25 min.)

Send Membership Application to:  
**California Native Plant Society**  
**Attn: Membership**  
**2702 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5130**

For memberships for organizations or to become a Perennial monthly sustainer, contact [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org).

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Jul 4-8 Thu-Mon</b> Ebbett’s Pass cabin field trip (9) | <b>Aug 10 Sat</b> Newsletter submittal deadline      |
| <b>Jul 7 Sun</b> Plant Sale online store opens (2)        | <b>Aug 13 Tue</b> Conservation Committee meeting (8) |
| <b>Jul 14 Sun</b> Sanborn County Park hike (9)            | <b>Aug 23 Fri</b> Photo Group photo sharing (6)      |
| <b>Jul 14 Sun</b> Cutting and Seed Exchange + pickup (1)  | <b>Aug 27 Tue</b> Native Plant ID meeting (6)        |
| <b>Jul 23 Tue</b> Native Plant ID meeting (6)             | <b>Mon &amp; Wed</b> Alum Rock workdays (8)          |
| <b>Jul 25 Thu</b> Monarch butterfly talk – Tao (3)        | <b>Wed &amp; Fri</b> Edgewood workdays (8)           |
| <b>Jul 26 Fri</b> Photo Group photo sharing (6)           | <b>Saturdays</b> Lake Cunningham workdays (8)        |
| <b>Jul 31 Wed</b> Flowers as Islands talk – Fukami (3)    | <b>Saturdays</b> Kirk Pollinator Garden workdays (8) |
| <b>Aug 8 Thu</b> Oak Mysteries talk – Keuter (5)          |  |

The next Chapter board meetings will be **Thursdays, July 18 and August 15 at 7:00pm** over Zoom.

Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests.

For more information contact Priya Pharate at [priya4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:priya4cnps@gmail.com) or Vivian Neou at [techchair@cnps-scv.org](mailto:techchair@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 start at \$50.00 per year. If you have questions about your newsletter subscription, please contact [info@cnps-scv.org](mailto:info@cnps-scv.org). Address changes may be submitted to [membership@cnps.org](mailto:membership@cnps.org). Please put “address change” in the subject line.

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