



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

March-April 2022

**Growing Natives Garden Tour  
Saturday April 2 and Sunday April 3  
10am to 4pm both days**

Growing Natives Garden Tour (GNGT) is a free, self-guided tour of gardens within our Chapter area that feature California native plants. Sign up to tour the gardens or volunteer as a docent or greeter! Read more on page 6.



*Cynthia Gingerich*

Cobb Mountain lupines and Island bush monkeyflowers bloom in April and May in this Los Gatos garden new to GNGT in 2022. Chamise in the background blooms later in the summer; coast live oaks keep their green leaves all year round and provide a habitat haven for birds, butterflies and native bees.

## **NATIVE PLANT LECTURE SERIES**

The talks in the CNPS SCV Native Plant Lecture Series cover a broad range of topics with a native plant theme. Whether you're curious about native plants, an experienced or aspiring native plant gardener or a professional botanist, you will find something to interest and educate you in our offerings.

See the schedule of upcoming talks at [www.cnps-scv.org/activities/native-plant-lecture-series](http://www.cnps-scv.org/activities/native-plant-lecture-series).

Most of our lectures take place on **Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm** and are live-streamed simultaneously to Zoom and YouTube. View talks on our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/c/CNPSSantaClaraValley](http://www.youtube.com/c/CNPSSantaClaraValley) (**no registration needed**) or **join on Zoom** by registering with the Zoom link provided in each lecture's description.

## **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

### **Wildflower Show April 23**

Please join us at **West Valley College** on Saturday, April 23rd, 2022 for our 46th Annual Wildflower Show. The show will feature hundreds of species of wildflowers and native plants from Santa Clara, San Mateo and surrounding counties. In addition to local plants, we will have a section featuring flowers from native plant gardens in our Chapter area.

More information will be available on [www.cnps-scv.org/events/wildflower-shows](http://www.cnps-scv.org/events/wildflower-shows) and on our Chapter's Meetup page at [www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter).



*Vivian Neou*

Visitors enjoying wildflower specimens on display at the Chapter's 2017 Wildflower Show at West Valley College

## CNPS SCV Nursery at Hidden Villa

Nursery volunteers continue to propagate plants, raising funds for the Chapter through sales from its online store at [california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter.square.site](http://california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter.square.site). Note that the store is open for sales only during the first two weeks of each month; the rest of the month, you can browse the store see what's available, but can't purchase anything.

In addition to plants, the nursery's online store includes T-shirts, books, labels and plant signs. Orders can be scheduled for pick-up at the nursery in Los Altos or delivered between Belmont and San Jose.

Proceeds from plant sales are the major source of funding for Chapter activities and scholarships.

## 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.

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. Here is a recent **#MyPhotoOfTheWeek** from group member Susan Hinton:



Susan Hinton

Toyon berries along Saratoga Creek in Homeridge Park in Santa Clara. The leaf patterning may be caused by a fungus, perhaps entomosporium leaf spot? January 2022

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 **Fridays, February 25, March 25 and April 29 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).

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### 2021-2022 Scholarship Recipients

By Karen Cotter, Scholarship Committee Chair

The Chapter received so many great applications this year that it was hard to choose only **four**, so our Chapter board allocated additional funds to award one more graduate and one more undergraduate scholarship this year, for a total of **six** scholarships. This is the 22nd year our Chapter has supported California native plant research by students. Two scholarships are in honor of Chapter Fellows: the Sally Casey Shooting Stars Scholarship and the Don Mayall Conservation Scholarship.

The recipients of the 2021-2022 student scholarships and their projects follow. Later in the year each student will give us a short talk about their project. We'll describe the first two student projects in greater detail in this issue of the *Blazing Star*. In future newsletters we'll describe the remaining projects.

#### Sally Casey Scholarship Winner \$1500

**Annalise Taylor**, UC Berkeley

“Good Fire”: Impacts of Controlled and Cultural Burning on Diversity and Abundance of Amah Mutsun Food and Medicinal Plants in Central California

#### General Graduate Scholarship Winner \$1500

**Lauren Hamm**, UC Berkeley

Evolutionary Dynamics of Climate Stress – Responsive Mobile Elements in Yellow Monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*, aka *Erythranthe guttata*)

#### Undergraduate Scholarship Winner \$1000

**Michael Hahn**, UC Santa Cruz

Santa Lucia Fir – Post Fire Stand Survivorship and Regeneration

#### Undergraduate Scholarship Winning Team \$1000

**Alyssa Anzalone and Nicholas Mazzotti**, UC Santa Cruz  
Does Seeding and Planting Plus Nitrogen Addition Result in Differentiated Seed Bank Composition in Restored California Coastal Grasslands?

#### General Graduate Scholarship Winner \$1500

**Reed Kenny**, UC Davis

Systematics of the Genus *Juncus* Using DNA Analysis of Various Gene Regions



Don Mayall Scholarship Winner \$1500

**Raphaella Floreani Buzbee**, UC Berkeley  
 Coastal Plant Community Composition Shifts in Response to Tule Elk Herbivory

goals, which include the restoration of coastal grassland plant communities and relationships with cultural plants.

**Annalise Taylor, UC Berkeley**  
**“Good Fire”: Impacts of Controlled and Cultural Burning on Diversity and Abundance of Amah Mutsun Food and Medicinal Plants in Central California.**

Annie is partnering with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to study the impact of long-term cultural burning on the abundance and diversity of culturally important plants at Año Nuevo State Park. Amah Mutsun foodways and culture depend on reciprocal relationships with California’s coastal grasslands, which are increasingly endangered due in part to a disruption of cultural burning. Annie will survey priority species identified by the Tribe at three adjacent grassland sites: one that has been burned using prescribed fires every two years since the 1980s, one that recently burned in the CZU Wildfire, and one that has not burned in approximately 100 years.



*Alexii Sigona*

Two months after the most recent cultural burn at her study site, Annie’s collaborator Alexii Sigona captured this view of the burn line.



*Annalise Taylor*

Annie investigating a coastal dune ecosystem near Bodega Bay.



*Alexii Sigona*

Annie and a collaborator identifying plants at Año Nuevo State Park

**Lauren Hamm, UC Berkeley**  
**Evolutionary Dynamics of Climate Stress – Responsive Mobile Elements in Yellow Monkeyflower**

This study is a collaboration with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and State Parks to investigate the impacts of these varying fire histories on ethnobotanical diversity and invasive species. Her findings will inform current efforts to restore cultural burning led by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band’s Land Trust ([www.amahmutsunlandtrust.org](http://www.amahmutsunlandtrust.org)).

Over the past few years, Lauren has been collecting annual yellow monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*, aka *Erythranthe guttata*) from across its entire Californian native range. From coastal bluffs along the Pacific Ocean to seepy meadows and rock walls at high elevation in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountain ranges, yellow monkeyflower can be found surviving anywhere water is available. However, the steadily increasing temperatures

Annie’s graduate research broadly aims to directly support the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band’s ecological stewardship

and hyper-variability in climate across California may affect the survival of these populations as water becomes scarcer.



*Lauren Hamm*  
Lauren posing with annual yellow monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*) grown from field collections across its California range, January 2021

Lauren will be using these collections to investigate how climate change affects the movement of transposable elements, also affectionately known as “jumping genes” because of their ability to replicate and move around the genome. These jumping genes may help native plants more effectively adapt to rapidly shifting heat and drought conditions. Through the search for evidence of natural selection on these jumping genes combined with direct studies of how

induced stress affects downstream gene expression, Lauren hopes to describe this potential evolutionary mechanism for the first time in outcrossing native plant populations.

Additionally, all of these samples will be added to the California Conservation Genomics Project database so that they are available for future studies.



*Lauren Hamm*  
Wild annual yellow monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*) growing among the serpentine soil near Mt Tamalpais, Fall 2021



*Allison Gaudinier PhD*  
Scholarship winner Lauren Hamm collecting young yellow monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*) seedlings from a seasonal seep atop Mt Tamalpais, Fall 2021

## **CONSERVATION CORNER**

### **Conservation Committee**

Our Chapter’s next conservation committee meetings will be held via Zoom on **Tuesdays, March 8 and April 12, from 7:00 to 9:00pm.**

Please join us in our important work! Meeting details will be sent to committee members. If you are not on the committee but are interested in attending the Zoom meeting, email [cdorsch@cnps-sc.v.org](mailto:cdorsch@cnps-sc.v.org) for the meeting link. For questions, comments or concerns, contact Conservation Committee Chair Carolyn Dorsch at [cdorsch@cnps-sc.v.org](mailto:cdorsch@cnps-sc.v.org) or (650) 804-6162.

### **Rare Plant Treasure Hunt Training**

On January 19 our CNPS Chapter was offered a very interesting presentation by Amy Patten on rare plant botanizing after the 2020 CZU and SCU Fires (which can be viewed online at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDqu553uAng/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDqu553uAng/)). Amy is the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt Manager for State CNPS. The Rare Plant Treasure Hunt program is a community science project being conducted by CNPS in which volunteers can help scientists gather up-to-date information on rare plants. (See: [www.cnps.org/education/rare-plant-treasure-hunt/](http://www.cnps.org/education/rare-plant-treasure-hunt/).)





Radhika Thekkath

Group in training for Rare Plant Treasure Hunt led by Amy Patten. February 5, 2022 at Coyote Ridge

On Saturday Feb 5, members of our Chapter received an informative training by Amy at the Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve on how to conduct a Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (RPTH) in the field. This is a rare plant survey in which specific information is collected for a rare plant, including precise GPS location, habitat and abundance data. (For an online copy of the data collection form, visit: [www.cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/cnps\\_rpth\\_survey.pdf](http://www.cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/cnps_rpth_survey.pdf)). This information can be critical for protecting a rare plant from threats, such as from



Radhika Thekkath  
Mt. Hamilton Thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *campylon*) California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2. February 5, 2022 at Coyote Ridge

commercial development. Once the information is collected and processed, it can be submitted for inclusion in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This is the legally recognized reference source for environmental impact studies.

As a practice for the training, we

collected information on the rare endemic Mount Hamilton thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *campylon*), which has a California Rare Plant Rank of 1B.2 (rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere). This native thistle is restricted to an unusual habitat: serpentine seeps and wetlands in the Mt. Hamilton Range. We counted over 400 plants in the study area. In addition to the Mt. Hamilton thistle, we were also able to observe some early blooming individuals of the rare Franciscan wallflower (*Erysimum franciscanum*). The wallflower has a California Rare Plant Rank of 4.2 (limited distribution).



Radhika Thekkath

San Francisco wallflower (*Erysimum franciscanum*) California Rare Plant Rank 4.2. February 5, 2022 at Coyote Ridge

The Mt. Hamilton thistle is a close relative of the fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*), which is a federally endangered plant species occurring only in San Mateo County. Our Chapter, in partnership with the Yerba Buena Chapter and Caltrans, conducts a twice-a-year restoration project for fountain thistle near the intersection of Hwy 92 and I-280. (See future issues of the *Blazing Star* for announcements of fountain thistle workdays.)

Now that we have had the RPTH training, we are planning field trips in which we can employ the rare plant survey techniques to gather critical information on other rare plants.

## GROWING NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

### 20th Annual GNGT Saturday April 2 and Sunday April 3 10am - 4pm

Growing Natives Garden Tour (GNGT) is a free, self-guided tour of gardens within our Chapter area that feature California native plants. These gardens are attractive, water-wise and low maintenance. They also use a minimum of chemicals and provide habitat havens for birds, butterflies and pollinators. California's native plant gardens increase wildlife corridors in fragmented habitats, preserve our natural ecosystem, and promote biodiversity in our built environments. They help restore nature, one garden at a time! Native plant tours provide inspiration and information for native gardeners, designers, and growers.

Over forty of our local private home and public gardens landscaped with California native plants will be open to the public for in-person tours on **Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3, from 10 am to 4 pm.** On Saturday, registered visitors may tour the gardens in these **northern Chapter locations:** Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Redwood City, San Mateo, and Sunnyvale. On Sunday registered visitors may tour the gardens in these **southern Chapter locations:** Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Gatos, Morgan Hill, San Jose, and Santa Clara.



*Cynthia Gingerich*

Seedheads and foliage from Cleveland sage provide a silvery green backdrop for blooming Concha ceanothus and bush sunflowers in the mature native garden at Edith Morley Park in Campbell, which has been on GNGT's annual tour multiple times since 2008.

If you can't attend in person on tour days, you can visit online anytime at [gngt.org](http://gngt.org), which has a page for each garden including descriptions, photos, videos and plant lists.

Admission to participate in GNGT is free, but registration is required at [gngt.org](http://gngt.org) to obtain tour maps with garden addresses. Register for the tour early to ensure access to late breaking information. Only one person per group needs to register.

**Help spread the word!** Print or post the **GNGT flyer** from here: [www.cnps-scv.org/images/flyers/growing-natives-garden-tour2022.pdf](http://www.cnps-scv.org/images/flyers/growing-natives-garden-tour2022.pdf).

The tour takes place entirely outdoors and masks may be required in some gardens, depending on current COVID state and local requirements on tour days.



### Call for GNGT Volunteers on April 2 & 3

The 2022 Growing Natives Garden Tour is seeking volunteers for our 20th anniversary tour, which will take place on **Saturday, April 2** (Northern Gardens) and **Sunday, April 3** (Southern Gardens). The tour hours are **10am to 4pm each day.**

As a volunteer you will help to educate garden visitors about the pleasures and benefits of gardening with California native plants. Volunteers also receive a custom designed T-shirt featuring a California native plant and are invited to attend GNGT garden previews throughout the year. We ask volunteers to select a minimum of one half-day shift. Knowledge of native plants is not required as we have shifts for both greeters and docents.

There will be a virtual, **pretour orientation on Tuesday, March 15 at 7pm**, with more details to be provided to registered volunteers. There will be about 40 gardens to select from. To volunteer for the 2022 tour please complete the Volunteer sign-up form at: [www.gngt.org/volunteerForm.php](http://www.gngt.org/volunteerForm.php).

**Help spread the word!** Print or post the **GNGT call for volunteers flyer** from here: [www.cnps-scv.org/images/flyers/gngt-call-for-volunteers2022.pdf](http://www.cnps-scv.org/images/flyers/gngt-call-for-volunteers2022.pdf).

The tour takes place entirely outdoors and masks may be required in some gardens, depending on current COVID state and local requirements on tour days.





Cynthia Gingerich

Native perennials and annuals were in full bloom in this San Jose garden near Saratoga during the May 2019 GNGT. The variety and number of species ensures that at least a few plants are blooming in every season, including buckwheats, ceanothus, fuchsias, mallows, manzanitas, penstemons, salvias, and verbenas.

## 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 every **Monday and Wednesday, from 8:30am to about noon**. Sometimes we have some special extra workdays. For now our workdays are for experienced volunteers only, as we aren't quite ready to open up to new or drop-in volunteers yet.

All volunteers must wear masks at all times and social distance, except within families/households. 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.

Workdays continue on **Saturdays from 8:00 to 10:00am**. New volunteers are welcome; City-issued guidelines and COVID-19 best practices are followed. The work is mainly weeding and mulching. For complete **details, directions and to RSVP**, see our Chapter's Meetup page 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**

Our long-term habitat restoration work at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve continues in person even during the pandemic. As with our other projects, we follow government guidelines and COVID-19 best practices. For now, the project is not looking for new volunteers; only experienced “regulars” are attending workdays. Check the project emails for the latest news or contact project leader Paul Heiple at [pheiple@gmail.com](mailto:pheiple@gmail.com) or (650) 854-7125.

## 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. **Please bring a face mask in case wearing one is required for COVID-19 safety.**

**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, cancellations, COVID rules and additional field trips.

### **Tues Mar 8 9am - 1pm Serpentine Chaparral & Grasslands at Edgewood Park Walk #1 (San Mateo County)**

Join Paul Heiple and Ken Himes on an early spring walk along the Clarkia Trail in Edgewood County Park and Preserve. Plants of the serpentine chaparral and serpentine grasslands will be featured. In addition, Paul will comment about the improvements to the grasslands along the western Clarkia Trail as habitat restoration efforts continue to reduce the yellow star-thistle population. For example, plants such as narrow-leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) have increased dramatically.

**RSVP** is required to join us for the walk. Space is limited. No drop-ins please. We have arranged for two walks: this one in March and a second one on **April 19** (see page 9). Please register for only one walk to allow others to attend. To register, please visit the walk's Meetup page, at [www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/284005806](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/284005806). Walk details and **driving directions** are provided on Meetup. We'll be meeting at the Cañada Road entrance to the park.



Nick Ward

As of mid-January, Nick Ward of our Photography Group reports that pitcher sage, *Lepechinia calycina*, is starting to bloom in Foothills Nature Preserve, as pictured here along the preserve's Madrone fire road

### Sat Mar 19 10am - 4pm Butano State Park (Pescadero)

Join Dee and Ken Himes for an advanced spring botanical hike at Butano State Park through iconic redwood forests, wetlands and ridge tops. We will hike along trails that have been reopened after the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire.

We will see understory wildflowers such as redwood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*), red-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) and varied-leaved collomia (*Collomia heterophylla*). We will also be walking through some post burn landscapes and observe the fire's effects on the local plant ecology.

The hiking distance will be about 5 miles round trip on uneven, steep, and potentially muddy dirt trails. Bring sun protection, water, snacks, lunch and hiking poles if you like them. A hand lens and binoculars will come in handy. Dress in layers and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Heavy rain cancels.

**RSVP** is required to join us for the hike. Space is limited. No drop-ins please. To register, please visit the hike's Meetup page, at [www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/284083133](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/284083133). Hike details and **driving directions** are provided on Meetup.

For park information please visit [www.parks.ca.gov/pages/536/files/ButanoSPFinalWebLayout2017r1.pdf](http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/536/files/ButanoSPFinalWebLayout2017r1.pdf)

For plant ID a list is here: [PlantID.net/PlantList.aspx?PlantList=Butano SP \(NRDB.org\)](http://PlantID.net/PlantList.aspx?PlantList=Butano%20SP%20(NRDB.org))

For more information contact trip co-leader Dee Himes at [dee4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:dee4cnps@gmail.com).

### Sun Mar 20 9am - 12noon Bird and Plant ID Walk at Lake Cunningham Park (San Jose)

At the onset of Spring, join us for a **beginner's** bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park. This park is a major destination for waterfowl and migratory birds and its native garden draws many birds due to its habitat value. On this walk, Vicki Silvas-Young will show you how to identify the common birds of our area, as well as the native plants they depend on for food, shelter and nesting places.

The distance is 2 miles round-trip on a level path. Bring a hat, water, your bird and plant lists, and binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

**Directions:** Meet at the Marina building at **9am**. The Marina is on the western shore of the lake, next to Raging Waters, at the opposite end of the park from the main entrance on White Road. Parking fee is \$6. In Google Maps, search for "Lake Cunningham Marina" to be directed to the Marina.

**RSVP** is required to join us for the walk. Space is limited. No drop-ins please. To register, please visit the walk's Meetup page at [www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/284083183/](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/284083183/). Cosponsored by CNPS, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.

### Mon Mar 21 7 - 9pm Field Trip Planning Meeting (Zoom)

Field trip enthusiasts and leaders, please join us to help schedule field trips for the remainder of the year. All are welcome to join in the discussion. For further information email Dee Himes at [dee4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:dee4cnps@gmail.com).



To RSVP, visit the meeting's Zoom signup page at [www.cnps-scv.org/meeting-20220321](http://www.cnps-scv.org/meeting-20220321).

### **Fri April 1 10am - 2pm Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch County Park (Gilroy)**

Join Judy Fenerty and sweep Stella Yang for a moderately paced hike on the Mendoza, Mummy Mountain and Coyote Ridge trails in the Mendoza Ranch section of Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park.

This 4-mile, 400+ foot elevation gain hike will take us through valley grasslands and up an oak-studded ridgeline with spectacular views of the south Santa Clara Valley, Coyote Lake and Palassou Ridge. This varied habitat supports a wide range of native plants including several stands of big-scale balsamroot, *Balsamorhiza macrolepis* var. *macrolepis*, a CNPS 1B.2 rare plant. If there's time and interest, we can add an optional foray to check out the serpentine area on the Calaveras Trail.

**RSVP** is required to join us for the walk. Space is limited. No drop-ins please. To register, please visit the hike's Meetup page at [www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/284084862](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/284084862).

**Driving directions** are provided on Meetup.

For more information contact Judy Fenerty at [judy@fenerty.com](mailto:judy@fenerty.com).

### **Mon - Wed April 4 - 6 Hite Cove Trail and Mariposa Overnight Field Trip (Mariposa County)**

Radhika Thekkath, our new Chapter president, invites you to join her for three days at her family's vacation log house and cabin in Mariposa to explore wildflowers on the 15-acre private property. The property is near a 3000-acre protected preserve as a conservation easement managed by the Sierra Foothill Conservancy.

We will also take a moderate hike of 6.5-miles round trip on the longer Hite Cove trail. It has been four years since the Ferguson fire came through here. Botanical leaders will include Ken Himes, Joe Cernac and Doug Krajnovich, Past-President of the Sierra Foothills Chapter of CNPS.

**This trip is for CNPS members only** (please ensure your membership is up to date [or join](#)). Space is limited. **To reserve your spot** and for additional trip information, please contact Radhika at [radhika@cnps-scv.org](mailto:radhika@cnps-scv.org). Detailed trip information will be emailed to registered participants closer to the trip date.



Radhika Thekkath  
View of lupines and oaks from the Thekkath vacation property in Mariposa County, April 2019

### **Sat Apr 16 9am - 12noon Little Uvas Open Space Preserve (Morgan Hill)**

Join us at Little Uvas Open Space Preserve (LUOSP) for a couple of hours of botanical exploration in a preserve normally closed to the public. Special access for this hike has been granted by the Open Space Authority. Located in the Southern Santa Cruz Mountains, LUOSP consists primarily of serpentine hardwoods and grasslands. It includes grey pine and oak woodlands among five small spring-fed ponds. We expect to find chia (*Salvia columbariae*), broomrape (*Aphyllon* sp.), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), serpentine leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon ambiguus*), owl's clover (*Castilleja* sp.), Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*) and many more spring wildflowers.

Bring binoculars, hand lens, snacks, lunch, and water. Wear sturdy boots and sun protection as we will be on open rocky fire roads of very gradual ascents in intermittent shade.

**RSVP** is required to join us for the walk. Space is limited. No drop-ins please. To register, please visit our Chapter's Meetup page at [www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/284135945](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/284135945).

**Driving directions** are provided on the Meetup page.

### **Tues Apr 19 9am - 1pm Serpentine Chaparral & Grasslands at Edgewood Park Walk #2 (San Mateo County)**

Join Paul Heiple and Ken Himes on a mid-spring walk along the Clarkia Trail in Edgewood County Park and

Preserve. This will be the second chance to explore this trail. To learn more, see the **March 8** walk #1's description on page 7. **To register**, please visit walk #2's Meetup page, at [www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/284086927](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/284086927).

### **Wed Apr 27 9am - 4pm McLaughlin Natural Reserve (Napa and Lake Counties)**

Join Reserve staff for a tour of the Donald and Sylvia McLaughlin Natural Reserve, a unit in the UC Natural Reserve System located near Lower Lake in Napa and Lake Counties. The reserve protects about 7,000 acres of unusual habitats, including serpentine soils as well as riparian woodland, blue oak woodland and savannah, grassland, and chaparral.

Late April is prime wildflower season and there should be a variety of flowers to see and enjoy. The iNaturalist list for the reserve includes 468 plant taxa. We will explore different areas of the reserve on foot and by vehicle. The visit will be led by reserve staff and will last most of the day. The group will need to arrive punctually and leave all at the same time.

The McLaughlin Reserve is managed by UC Davis and is not generally open to the public. It is located about a 3-hour drive from our CNPS SCV Chapter office in Palo Alto.

**This trip is for CNPS members only** (please ensure your membership is up to date [or join](#)). Space is limited. No drop-ins please. To register and for more information please contact trip organizer Sue Kelso directly at [skelso.sk8r@gmail.com](mailto:skelso.sk8r@gmail.com). Detailed trip information will be emailed to registered participants closer to the trip date.

### **Fri - Mon Apr 29 - May 1 Blue Oak Ranch Reserve (Mt. Hamilton)**

Join us at Blue Oak Ranch Reserve where we will explore the SCU Lightning Complex burn area and look for rare plants. Blue Oak Ranch Reserve sprawls across the steep slopes of Mount Hamilton just east of urban San Jose.

Plant communities include blue oak woodland, valley oak woodland, black oak woodland, coast live oak woodland, riparian forest, chamise chaparral, Diablan sage scrub, nonnative annual grassland, wildflower field and native perennial grassland. Blue and valley oak woodlands have become quite rare in California, and few are as protected from overgrazing and the encroachment of suburban development as those at Blue Oak Ranch.

We will explore the burn area and look for rare plants such as Santa Clara red ribbons, serpentine leptosiphon, and the fire follower Brewer's calandrinia. We will also make natural history observations in iNaturalist for the 2022 City Nature Challenge, so we'll be on the hunt for insects, reptiles, and other cool creatures as well.

**This trip is for CNPS members only** (please ensure your membership is up to date [or join](#)). Space is limited. No drop-ins please. **RSVP** is required to join us for the trip. To register, please visit Eventbrite [www.eventbrite.com/e/blue-oak-ranch-reserve-rare-plant-treasure-hunt-tickets-265650105617](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/blue-oak-ranch-reserve-rare-plant-treasure-hunt-tickets-265650105617) to get your ticket.. Detailed trip information will be emailed to registered participants closer to the trip date.

### **EARLY AWAY TRIP REGISTRATION**

### **Fri - Mon May 13 - 16 Eastern Sierra Nevada, Owens Valley (Inyo County)**

Join Joe Cernac and Ken Himes on our away trip to the east side of the Sierra Nevada and Owens Valley Desert. We hope to catch the wildflowers as we go up to higher elevations. Owens Valley starts at 3,000 feet in elevation so the spring starts late here. We will be car-camping throughout the trip, but local lodging can be found as well.

**This trip is for CNPS members only** (please ensure your membership is up to date [or join](#)). Space is limited. No drop-ins please. For further trip information and email registration contact Joe Cernac at [joecernac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joecernac@sbcglobal.net). Detailed trip information will be emailed to registered participants closer to the time.

### **Field Trip Save the Date**

#### **June 1: Ring Mountain Preserve and Old St. Hilary's Preserve (Marin County)**

Field trip to see Tiburon mariposa lily and Tiburon jewelflower

*See the next Blazing Star for details*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Member Celebration September 17**

Save the date of **Saturday, September 17**, for an outdoor Chapter social get-together for all Chapter members and their guests. See a future *Blazing Star* for details.

### **CNPS Conservation Conference - San Jose October 20 - 22 – Call for Presenters**

We're looking forward to being the **host chapter** for the next CNPS Conservation Conference, which will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in San Jose from October 20-22, 2022. Field trips and workshops will take place October 18-19.

The conference is accepting proposals for sessions, oral presentations, posters and lightning talks. Do you love, research, save, grow or celebrate native plants? We invite speakers from across disciplines and perspectives to share their experience, knowledge, and passion at the biggest conference devoted to native plants.

**Abstract submissions will be open until Thursday, March 31.** To learn more about the conference, visit [conference.cnps.org/](http://conference.cnps.org/). To submit an abstract, visit the "CALL FOR PRESENTERS" link at the top of the page. Financial support opportunities are available to assist presenters with attendance and accommodations.

### **Stay in Touch!**

Due to COVID-19, the Chapter remains virtual for **many** of our events. 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 online **and** paper version will be the September-October issue.

## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP FOR 2022

Title	Name	Email
<b>President</b>	Radhika Thekkath	president@cnps-scv.org
<b>Vice President</b>	Priya Pharate	priya@cnps-scv.org
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Patricia Lang	secretary@cnps-scv.org
<b>Treasurer</b>	Brett Tucker	treasurer@cnps-scv.org
<b>Past President</b>	Vivian Neou	pastpresident@cnps-scv.org
<b>Chapter Council Delegate</b>	Radhika Thekkath	radhika@cnps-scv.org
<b>5th ExComm Member</b>	Dee Himes	dee4cnps@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, April 16**

**carol.mattsson@gmail.com or (408) 255-3767**

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



## Join CNPS Today!

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

<p><i>Membership level (check one):</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Individual</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$120 Plant Lover</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Supporter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Patron</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 Benefactor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Student or Fixed Income</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Library</p>	<p><i>Areas of interest:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Botany</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gardening</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Plant ID</p>
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*Donations above the membership level are gratefully accepted. Dues and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail it with this form to:  
CNPS Membership, 2707 K Street Suite 1, Sacramento, CA  
95816-5130 • [membership@cnps.org](mailto:membership@cnps.org) • (916) 447-2677 ext. 200*

### FIRST-CLASS

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Feb 25 Fri</b> Photo Group photo sharing (2)</p> <p><b>Mar 8 Tue</b> Edgewood serpentine walk #1 (7)</p> <p><b>Mar 8 Tue</b> Conservation Committee meeting (4)</p> <p><b>Mar 15 Tue</b> GNGT volunteer orientation (6)</p> <p><b>Mar 19 Sat</b> Butano State Park field trip (8)</p> <p><b>Mar 20 Sun</b> Lake Cunningham Bird &amp; Plant ID (8)</p> <p><b>Mar 21 Mon</b> Field trip planning meeting (8)</p> <p><b>Mar 25 Fri</b> Photo Group photo sharing (2)</p> <p><b>Mar 31 Thu</b> Conference presentations due (11)</p> <p><b>Apr 1 Fri</b> Coyote Harvey Bear Park field trip (9)</p> <p><b>Apr 2 Sat</b> GNGT (northern gardens) (6)</p> <p><b>Apr 3 Sun</b> GNGT (southern gardens) (6)</p> | <p><b>Apr 4 - 6</b> Hite Cove Mariposa County field trip (9)</p> <p><b>Apr 12 Tue</b> Conservation Committee meeting (4)</p> <p><b>Apr 16 Sat</b> Little Uvas OSP field trip (9)</p> <p><b>Apr 16 Sat</b> <b>Newsletter submittal deadline</b></p> <p><b>Apr 19 Tue</b> Edgewood serpentine walk #2 (9)</p> <p><b>Apr 23 Sat</b> Wildflower Show (1)</p> <p><b>Apr 27 Wed</b> McLaughlin Reserve field trip (10)</p> <p><b>Apr 29 - May 1</b> Blue Oak Ranch field trip (10)</p> <p><b>Apr 29 Fri</b> Photo Group photo sharing (2)</p> <p><b>Mons &amp; Weds</b> Alum Rock workdays (7)</p> <p><b>Saturdays</b> Lake Cunningham workdays (7)</p> |
|--|---|

The next Chapter board meetings will be **Thursdays, March 17 and April 21 at 7:00pm** over Zoom. Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests. For more info. contact Radhika Thekkath at [president@cnps-scvc.org](mailto:president@cnps-scvc.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-scvc.org](mailto:membership@cnps-scvc.org). Address changes may be submitted to [membership@cnps.org](mailto:membership@cnps.org). Please put "address change" in the subject line.

The *Blazing Star* web address: [www.cnps-scvc.org](http://www.cnps-scvc.org). Acknowledgement: Anne Warren for the *Blazing Star* logo. Please print on recycled paper.