



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

November-December 2024

What's Inside this Issue? Highlights:

Annual Chapter Potluck – Page 1

Chapter Service Outings – Page 6

Field Trips – Page 7

Doug Tallamy Talk – Page 10

A listing of all events, including date and page number, appears on the Calendar on the last page

**Chapter Annual Potluck
Saturday, November 2 at 6:00PM
Shoup Garden House
400 University Ave., Los Altos**

Jun Bando, CNPS Executive Director

**Brenda Butner Lecture: Dee Himes
Calochortus Treasure Hunt**

Join us for our annual potluck on Saturday, November 2. It's the perfect opportunity to reconnect with old friends and forge new ones over a delicious dinner and dessert. The evening's program will kick off with the presentation of the Outstanding Volunteer Award. We'll then hear about some of the year's highlights from our Executive Director, Jun Bando, followed by the Brenda Butner Memorial Lecture. Dee Himes will share her multi-year *Calochortus* Treasure Hunt, aiming to find and photograph all of the mariposa lilies in California and beyond. This video trailer provides a fantastic preview of her talk: www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRpi261ywgQ.

One of the favorite parts of our potluck are all the wonderful main dishes, appetizers, dessert and drinks that members bring to share. Consider bringing a card listing ingredients for people with food allergies and other preferences like vegan and vegetarian. Help reduce waste

by bringing your own reusable plate, cup and eating utensils.

The evening will also feature a silent auction, an opportunity drawing and book sales. We invite you to be part of the celebration of all that we've accomplished throughout the year in the realm of native plants.

RSVP is not required to attend, but it will help us to plan if you do. If you have time to help with setup or cleanup, please sign up here: www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F49A9A729AAFD0-51133630-cnps#

If you can help with setup, please **arrive at 5:00pm** to set up chairs and tables. The potluck **feast will begin at 6:00pm, followed by the program at 7:00pm**. We appreciate your help with cleanup at the end of the program.



Vivian Neou

Finishing the food and anticipating the speakers,
at the 2023 Chapter Potluck in Los Altos

Book and Silent Auction Donations Welcome!

Is it time to clean out your library? Although we are ordering fewer new books for our Chapter sales, we welcome your used books to sell at our potluck and other events. We're looking for native plant field guides, floras, gardening books, hiking guides and books about California natural history. For the potluck silent auction, we also welcome art, textiles and other nice items. Contact Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com to arrange pick-up/drop-off.

We'll be holding the event at The Garden House, Shoup Park, [400 University Ave., Los Altos](#). If you have any questions about volunteering, food, the opportunity drawing or silent auction, please e-mail Toni Gregorio-Bunch at (tidytip.lp@gmail.com) or call (408) 373-4497.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Seed and Cutting Exchange + Plant Sale

Online Plant Sale: December 8-10
(subject to pickup slot availability)

Plant Sale Pickup: Sat., December 14
(CNPS SCV Nursery)
and Sunday, December 15
(Peninsula Conservation Center)

Seed and Cutting Exchange: Sunday,
December 15 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM
at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC),
3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto.

We're in the fall planting season, so it's time to get your seeds ready to plant and finish your planting plans. 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 do bring containers in which to carry cuttings home.

If you have native plant material from your own garden to share, please bring some. Label it to make it 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 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. **You don't have to bring anything if you don't have any native material to share** – there is usually plenty for all.

Several popular gardening books will be available for sale during the event, including the new *Wildflowers of California* from CNPS, *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 Sale

We will have a terrific selection of manzanitas and an excellent variety of other plants available for the sale. You can shop at california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter.square.site, **starting Sunday, December 8**. The store will close when we reach our pickup capacity.



Vivian Neou

Attendees browse the seeds and cuttings on display at September's Seed and Cutting Exchange at the Peninsula Conservation Center in Palo Alto

In addition to plants, the nursery's online store includes Chapter T-shirts, books, labels and plant signs. **There is a minimum order of \$40.**

Pick your plants up with a *scheduled* pickup at the CNPS SCV Nursery on **Saturday, December 14** or the Exchange at the Peninsula Conservation Center on **Sunday, December 15**. No drop-in pickups or sales.

The Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) is located at [3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto](#). The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

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.

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 (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 (www.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 to receive notifications of upcoming meetings.

Ten Easy Steps to Creating a Bird-Friendly Garden, a Talk by Jennifer Dirking

Thursday, December 5 7:00 - 8:30 PM, Cupertino Library Community Room (2nd Floor), 10800 Torre Ave., Cupertino

There are few things more rewarding than drawing birds to your garden and providing all the elements they need to survive and raise their young. For many gardeners, just a few simple changes can make all the difference. In this talk, we'll take a look at gardening from a bird's perspective and then delve into the ten elements that can transform your garden into a bird paradise. Attendees will receive a free packet of California native wildflowers that benefit birds that they can try out in their own gardens.

Jennifer Dirking has been an organic gardener for over 40 years, but only recently transformed her garden from a food

desert to a habitat oasis in her suburban San Carlos neighborhood. Inspired by Doug Tallamy's book *Nature's Best Hope*, she has reached beyond her garden fence to develop partnerships and inspire hundreds of others throughout the Bay Area to begin their own native gardening journey. She is currently the Chair of the Wildflower Ambassador program at our CNPS Chapter. Jennifer is also co-admin for the Native Plant Resource Teams, a program of the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.



Wreath-Making with Native Plants, a Talk and Demonstration by Jill Sowards

Wednesday, December 11 7:00 - 8:30 PM, Los Altos Library Orchard Room, 13 S. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos

In this talk, Jill will demonstrate how to make a seasonal dried flower wreath using sustainable materials, with a focus on native California plants. She'll share techniques for drying flowers and creating the wreath, demonstrate how to start and finish your creation and identify some useful garden flowers you can start in the ground now to enjoy next year. These dried arrangements are made to be enjoyed for years or can be composted in their entirety when the season is over.



Jill Sowards
Wreath section made using native *Agastache urticifolia* (licorice mint), *Extriplex californica* (orach), and *Pseudognaphalium californicum* (California everlasting)

Please note that Jill will only demonstrate how to make a California native plant wreath; there will be no audience participation.



Jill Sowards gathers native plants to dry and make into a Holiday wreath.

Jill Sowards is a gardener and owner of Violetear Studio. She teaches classes and workshops on a range of gardening and design topics throughout the Bay Area and online. No matter the subject, her foundation is always on ecological gardening, waterwise practices and how to incorporate native plants. Originally trained as a public interest lawyer, Jill believes that all people can benefit from building a nurturing connection with the joy of the garden.

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. Photo Group leader William Lundgren sent the colorful photo on the upper right.

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, November 22 and December 27 at 7:00pm**. You can learn more and join the email group at: www.groups.io/g/cnps-scv-photography.



William Lundgren

A California fuchsia peeking through native sunflowers in Bill Lundgren's backyard native garden in Blossom Valley, South San Jose, September.

Native Plant ID

Native Plant ID (formerly Keying with Natives) meets once a month to learn plant identification together, 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.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, November 19 at 7:00pm** at the Peninsula Conservation Center. The PCC is located at [3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto](http://3921.E.Bayshore.Road.in.Palo.Alto). The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

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.

At the November meeting we will be looking at fruits and other seed containing structures. There will be no

December meeting. For details, contact Janet Hoffmann at janet@cnps-scv.org.



Janet Hoffmann

Berries on madrone, December 2002

Growing Natives Garden Tour Coming April 12 and 13, 2025!

The Growing Natives Garden Tour (GNGT) is a free, self-guided tour of gardens within our Chapter area that feature California native plants. Learn more about about touring the gardens or volunteering as a docent or greeter at gngt.org.

The tour will be held Saturday, April 12 (southern gardens) and Sunday, April 13 (northern gardens). The tour hours are **10:00am - 4:00pm** 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 in March, with more details to be provided to registered volunteers. **To volunteer for the 2025 tour** please complete the volunteer sign-up form at: gngt.org/volunteerForm.php.

GNGT Help Wanted

The tour is organized by a committee which is always open to adding new members. Right now we are specifically looking for help in two areas: **scheduling garden previews** as well as **scheduling visits to review gardens** that have applied for the tour. Currently, long-time volunteer Barbara Hunt does both jobs, but they are not connected. We are looking for at least two people to work with Barbara with the goal of taking on the jobs in the future. You do not need to be knowledgeable about native plants to do either job.



GNGT

Cobweb thistle (*Cirsium occidentale*) in a garden on the Growing Natives Garden Tour, photographed May 2022

Fall Native Plant Sale Success

Thanks to all the **volunteers, customers and vendors** who made our October 19 native plant sale at Hidden Villa a success! Our plant sales are a major source of funding for the Chapter. Our nursery sold over 1,300 plants. We couldn't have done it without you!

CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Committee

Our Chapter's next Conservation Committee meetings will be held via Zoom on **Mondays, November 4** and **December 2**, from **7:00 to 8:30pm**. *Note new meeting day: first Monday of the month.*

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 or (650) 804-6162, or Conservation Chair Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com.

If you are interested in joining our committee meetings on Zoom, please email Carolyn for the link.

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Fountain Thistle Work Party November 10

Join Don Thomas of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter and members of the Yerba Buena Chapter for our fall fountain thistle habitat restoration work party **near the intersection of I-280 and Hwy. 92**. We'll meet on **Sunday, November 10 and work from 10am to noon**.

Fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*) is a federally endangered plant species that grows in an unusual specialized habitat, serpentine seeps, and is only found at our work location and in a few other nearby locations on the Peninsula.

Fountain thistle's recovery here is a restoration success story. Once almost completely displaced by jubatagrass (Andean pampas grass), it has largely recovered here, as a result of the work done by CNPS volunteers. The CNPS

project is a cooperative of our Santa Clara Valley and Yerba Buena Chapters. However, fountain thistle is still under threat from invasion by new jubatagrass seedlings and by other non-native plants such as bristly ox-tongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*). It's also threatened by native woody plants such as coyote brush, which threaten to convert the area to shrubland or woodland.



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Invasive, non-native bristly ox-tongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*)

During our work, we expect to see some end-of-season wildflowers, such as Western goldenrod (*Euthamia occidentalis*).

Sturdy gloves are recommended; you might also want to wear long sleeves/pants and bring sunscreen, water, a hat and layered clothing. If you have them, bring tools, such as trowels, spades and shovels. Some tools will also be provided.

We'll meet at the end of Lessingia Court in San Mateo. For more information, contact Don at donethomasd@gmail.com.

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. You will see Alum Rock Park Trail Crew as one of the options. The next workdays will be on **Saturdays, November 9 and December 14, 8:45am - 12:00noon**. 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 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: in fall now, the work is mainly weeding and mulching. For **details, directions, a waiver for first-timers and to RSVP**, see our Chapter's Meetup group at 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**. Our **5:30pm Wednesday sessions** will resume in March of 2025, after Daylight Savings Time resumes. For an overview, please visit

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.

Please check the email list for each weeding session's meeting place. For questions about Friday sessions, contact Paul Heiple at pheiple@gmail.com or (650) 854-7125.



Alex Wentworth

Edgewood Docent training class in Edgewood Park, April 2024. Learn more about becoming an Edgewood Docent on page 9.

Cataldi Park Native Garden

Join us to restore habitat in San Jose's Cataldi Park. We mulch, plant, weed, water and otherwise care for the native plants we've planted in this newly created native garden. Wear a hat and garden shoes and bring water to stay hydrated. Work gloves will be provided.

Workdays are usually held at **9:00am on Saturdays**. If you're interested in volunteering, check the dates and sign up at our Chapter's Meetup group, at www.meetup.com/california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter/.

First-timers: Please bring a signed waiver form available at lakecunninghamnativegarden.files.wordpress.com/2022/01/2021-volunteer-service-agreement-adoptapark-version.pdf.

Workdays are sometimes rescheduled or canceled. Always RSVP to confirm and check the latest updates Friday night. If you can't make it, please change your RSVP so we know and wait-listers get a chance.

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 sign up on our Chapter's Meetup Page, here: www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/. 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.

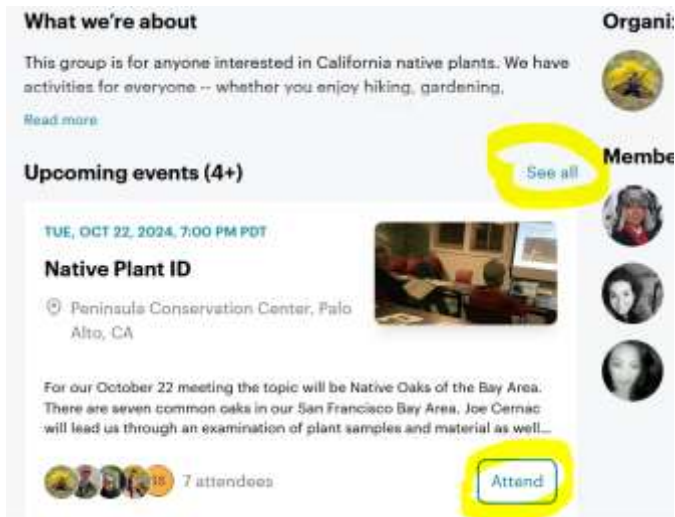
Cell service is mainly restricted to cities and major highways. To find your way to an outing, please do not rely solely on your phone.

Check our field trips page www.cnps-scv.org/activities/field-trips 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/

[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.

Note: By default Meetup shows only the first four CNPS SCV events. If you don't see an event you are interested in, reveal a longer list by tapping “See all” at the top of the “Upcoming events (4+)” list.



Arvind Kumar
Co-leader Vicki Silvas-Young (left center) and other participants bird-spotting at the September Lake Cunningham Bird and Plant ID walk

Wed Jan 1 10:00am – 2:00pm New Year's walk to Franklin Point, part of Año Nuevo State Park (Hwy 1 coast, southern San Mateo County)

Join co-leaders Judy Fenerty, Vivian Neou and Ray Curiel as we celebrate a Chapter tradition of welcoming the New Year with a walk to and BYO picnic at Franklin Point, which is part of the Año Nuevo State Park on the San Mateo County coast.

Sun Dec 22 9:00am - 12:00noon Bird and Plant ID Walk at Lake Cunningham Park (San Jose)

With the onset of fall, join us for a beginner's bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park. This lake 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, while Arvind Kumar will identify the native plants that they depend on for food and shelter.

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.

RSVP is required to join the hike. No drop-ins please and space is limited. See the instructions at the beginning of this Field Trips section to **RSVP on Meetup**.

Driving directions and parking tips are provided on [our Chapter's Meetup group](#). This event is cosponsored by CNPS, Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.

We will be exploring our surroundings as we casually walk towards Franklin Point, which is the most botanically interesting area of the park. We will be starting from the **North Whitehouse Creek Trailhead**, which is located south of Pescadero on Highway 1, just north of the Santa Cruz County line. We'll enjoy ocean views, California native plants and raptors, songbirds and maybe marine mammals.

Coastal prairie flora we expect to see includes silver bur ragweed (*Ambrosia chamissonis*), California goldenbush (*Ericameria ericoides*), coastal sagewort (*Artemisia pycnocephala*) and Argentina anserina (*Potentilla anserina*).

Expected dune flora includes yellow sand verbena (*Abronia latifolia*), pink sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata*), sea side heliotrope (*Heliotropium curassavicum*) and American dunegrass (*Elymus mollis*). We also expect to see sea cliff lettuce (*Dudleya farinosa*) and fleshy jaumea (*Jaumea carnosa*).

As this is a day to have fun sharing nature at the beach with fellow Chapter members, the end time and depth of botanical or fauna discussion may depend on participants' preferences.



Nabeel Al-Shamma

Participants on the 2024 Año Nuevo field trip.

At the end of the trip, Vicki continued onto the Lake Socayre area of Lake Cunningham in search of the solitary sandpiper along with the greater yellowlegs that it liked to hang out with. She did not find the two aforementioned birds; however, American pipits and Wilson's snipe were found, along with a couple more green herons and yellow warblers. Here is that list: ebird.org/checklist/S196158838.

Get out and go birding,
Vicki, co-leader

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

Bring binoculars and layers of clothing for variable coastal conditions including wind, sun, precipitation and fog. We will be walking on sand dunes. Bring a lunch or snacks and fluids. Extreme weather cancels.

Space is limited so please reserve your spot by going to our Chapter's **Meetup page** to sign up. Driving directions and parking tips are provided on the Meetup page.

Before signing up, please read the Año Nuevo State Park restrictions at www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=523.

Note that there are no bathrooms at Franklin Point. Flush toilets are located at the main entrance of Año Nuevo State Park, which may require payment to enter. For more information, contact Nabeel Al-Shamma at nabeel4cnps@gmail.com.

Lake Cunningham September 22 Field Trip Report

By Vicki Silvas Young, Board Member, Hospitality Chair and frequent bird-oriented field trip co-leader

On the very first day of fall, about ten curious attendees met Arvind, Ashok, Dan B. and Vicki at the Marina parking lot and viewed many wondrous birds and native plants. Thirty-two species of birds were enjoyed/encountered. A pair of red-tailed hawks and a pair of red-shouldered hawks were vying for airspace. No talons were down, but they were being pretty frisky with each other. At one time one of the red-tailed hawks harassed a great blue heron sitting at 12 o'clock in a tree. The great blue heron flew off, but was protesting loudly. Plenty (four) of green herons were seen, but it certainly was a yellow warbler day! And to usher in the season, an adult white-crowned sparrow showed up. Thank you, Dan, for keeping the ebird list. Here is the list for the trip: ebird.org/checklist/S196157893.

Friends of Edgewood Docent Training

Each year, in early January, just as the green tips of hound's tongues and reddish bracts of warrior's plumes reappear, another class of wildflower docents begins training at Edgewood Preserve. Wildflower docents are Friends of Edgewood volunteers who introduce visitors to Edgewood's extraordinary biodiversity and the work being done to preserve and restore its ecosystems. We need a diverse pool of wildflower docents to do this important and fun job!



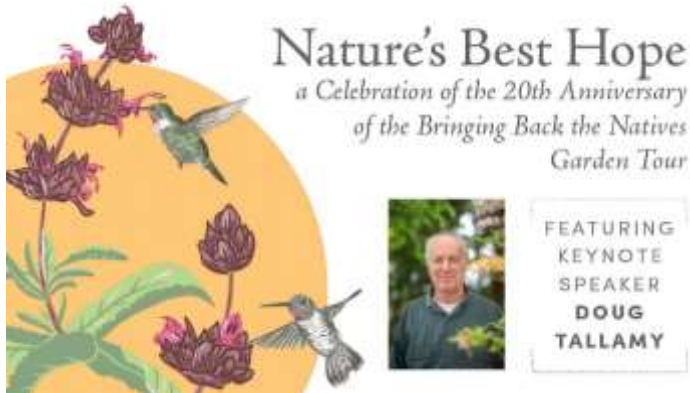
Sandy Bernhard

Edgewood Docent training class in garden near Edgewood Visitor Center, February 2024

To learn more about what it takes to become a wildflower docent, visit friendsofedgewood.org/become-a-docent. To inquire about enrolling in docent-training, contact Sandy, the Docent Training Coordinator, at docent-training-coord@friendsofedgewood.org. The course begins in **early January, 2025**. To keep track of what is blooming at Edgewood each week, visit friendsofedgewood.org/edgewood-wildflower-survey.

Nature's Best Hope Conference with Doug Tallamy, Sunday, November 17

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is hosting a conference featuring Doug Tallamy: **Sunday, November 17, 1:00 - 5:00pm**, at the Mayer Theatre, Santa Clara University; tickets are \$50.

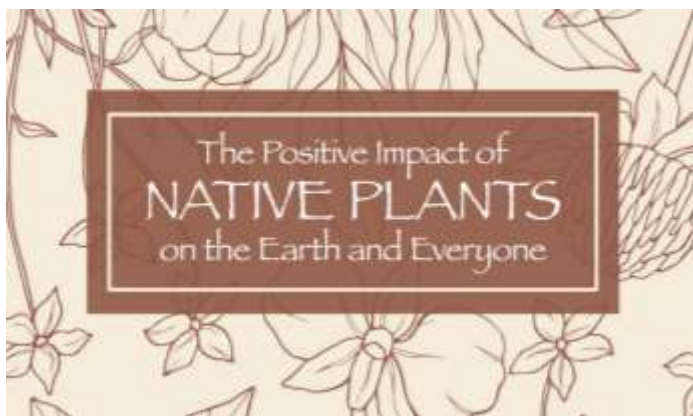


Purchase tickets at bringingbackthenatives.net/20th-anniversary-conferences-agenda-registration.

This is a rare chance to see Doug Tallamy in person while connecting with experienced native plant enthusiasts and newbies alike. For more information including the event schedule, visit [the event's page on CNPS-SCV Meetup](#).

Our Chapter is cosponsoring the conference, along with the Golden Gate Bird Alliance.

The Positive Impact of Native Plants on the Earth and Everyone



Native plants have a positive health impact on all of us, on top of the generally well-understood phenomenon that increasing greenery within our city and suburban environments is better for us all. Our Chapter past-

president **Radhika Thekkath** has written an article that dives deeper into the health benefits that native plants bring us when we are surrounded by them. This article appears in the Fall issue of the Santa Clara Valley Medical Association's bulletin on health of the environment. Read the full article here:

issuu.com/18621/docs/scema_bulletin_q3_2024_web/22. If you have suggestions or comments on this topic, please email Radhika at cnpsradhika@gmail.com.

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 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. Our next paper version will be the 2025 May-June issue.

Did You Know?

...That wildfires have become a concern in California whether you live in an oak savanna, a wildfire zone or even inside a town? Find resources that will teach you how to mitigate the risk to your home and property here: www.cnps.org/wildfire. This web page has guides on how to create fire-resilient landscaping, as well as information on what causes wildfires and scientific information if you choose to do a deeper dive. Late fall is the best time to plan and start implementing your home's fire-resilient strategies.



CNPS

Learn to create a fire-resilient landscape for your home

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP FOR 2024-2025

Title	Name	Email
Co-President	Priya Pharate	priya4cnps@gmail.com
Co-President	Vivian Neou	techchair@cnps-scv.org
Vice President	Toni Gregorio- Bunch	tidytip.lp@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Janet Hoffmann	janet@cnps-scv.org
Treasurer	Brett Tucker	treasurer@cnps-scv.org
Chapter Council Delegate	Vivian Neou	techchair@cnps-scv.org
Past President	Radhika Thekkath	cnpsradhika@gmail.com

Alert readers will notice that Janet Hoffmann is now listed as Recording Secretary. Chapter membership voted in Sudarshan Srinivasan as our new Recording Secretary last May and he was doing an excellent job. But then his family had to move out of the area due to a job change, so Janet volunteered to take on the role. The board approved this change. Thank you to both Suda and Janet!

To see the full list of Chapter officers and chairs, please visit www.cnps-scv.org/leadership.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, December 7

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

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.

I wish to affiliate with the Santa Clara Valley Chapter

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Suggested Membership Amounts

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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.

First-Class Mail

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

Nov 2 Sat	Annual Potluck (1)	Dec 14 Sat	Alum Rock Park workday (6)
Nov 4 Mon	Conservation Committee meeting (5)	Dec 14 Sat	Plant Sale pickup at nursery (2)
Nov 9 Sat	Alum Rock Park workday (6)	Dec 15 Sun	Cutting and Seed Exchange + pickup (2)
Nov 10 Sun	Fountain thistle work party (6)	Dec 22 Sun	Lake Cunningham bird & plant walk (8)
Nov 17 Sun	Tallamy talk at Conference (10)	Dec 27 Fri	Photo Group photo sharing (4)
Nov 19 Tue	Native Plant ID meeting (4)	Jan 1 Wed	Año Nuevo State Park walk (8)
Nov 22 Fri	Photo Group photo sharing (4)	Early Jan.	Edgewood Docent training begins (9)
Dec 2 Mon	Conservation Committee meeting (5)	Fridays	Edgewood restoration workdays (6)
Dec 5 Thu	Bird-Friendly gardens talk – Dirking (3)	Saturdays	Lake Cunningham Garden workdays (6)
Dec 7 Sat	Newsletter submittal deadline (11)	Saturdays	Cataldi Park Garden workdays (7)
Dec 8 Sun	Plant Sale online store opens (2)	Saturdays	Kirk Pollinator Garden workdays (7)
Dec 11 Wed	Wreath-Making talk – Sowards (3)		

The next Chapter board meeting will be **Thursday, December 12 at 7:00pm** over Zoom.

There will be no board meeting in November.

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

For more information contact Priya Pharate at priya4cnps@gmail.com or Vivian Neou at 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. Address changes may be submitted to membership@cnps.org. Please put "address change" in the subject line.

The *Blazing Star* web address: www.cnps-scv.org. Please print on recycled paper.
