



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

September-October 2021

Native Plant Sale at CNPS SCV Nursery Saturday October 9 – Reserve Your Tickets

We will hold an in-person plant sale this fall – the best planting time for native plants – on **Saturday October 9**. Due to COVID-19, this sale will be run quite differently from previous sales. Read on so you don't miss out on this chance to reconnect with other like-minded native plant enthusiasts.

The event will be held outdoors at the Dana Center in Hidden Villa. The sale will include Grassroots Ecology Nursery and other vendors plus a **member-collected seed exchange** table. All attendees will need to wear masks; entry will be timed and ticketed to limit the number of people present at any one time and keep the event safe for everyone.

As our nursery area is too small to allow for social distancing while browsing, all plant purchases from our nursery and Grassroots Ecology must be made **online in advance**. You will select your entry time when you make your purchases. Your plant order will be prepared by volunteers and be ready for pickup at your entry time on October 9.

When you arrive to pick up your plants, you will have the opportunity to purchase books, posters, t-shirts and other items from some of your favorite vendors, who will be onsite.

For the first time ever, this year's event will also include a member-collected seed exchange. See Page 4 for details on contributing native plant seeds from your garden and **directions** to the nursery in Los Altos Hills.

For the latest information about the sale and to **sign up for a ticket** when they become available, please visit our website at www.cnps-scv.org or subscribe to our Chapter News email list. See our **Stay in Touch** article at the end of this newsletter for subscription directions.

Save the Date! Saturday, November 6

We'll hold our **Chapter Annual Business Meeting over Zoom at 7pm**. Topics include a vote for Chapter Officers for 2022. See the proposed slate in the Chapter Officers article on page 5.

At **7:30pm**, we'll have our annual Brenda Butner **Memorial Lecture** over Zoom and YouTube: Michael Kauffmann, "Botanizing the Bigfoot Trail." See the next Blazing Star for details.

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. From gardening to plant science to conservation to tours of botanical hot spots, if you're interested in California's native plants, there's something here for you.



Vivian Neou
Plant sale volunteers preparing plants for customer pickup, October 2020

Most of our lectures take place on **Wednesday**

evening at 7:30pm and are livestreamed simultaneously to Zoom and YouTube. View them on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/c/CNPSSantaClaraValley (**no registration needed**) or **join on Zoom** by registering with the Zoom link provided in each lecture's description.

How to Attract Wild Birds to your Garden
a talk by Lisa Myers
Wednesday, September 1 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Zoom registration: bit.ly/cnpsc-20210901



Birds have evolved to live in specific habitats and eat specific food items, from seeds and nectar to bugs and mammals. We will talk about what people can do to attract more birds to their gardens and how to provide the ideal environment for their wild birds to thrive. A native plant garden is exactly what native birds would prefer. Lisa will talk about the different bird species that are most commonly found in our neighborhoods, the time of year we can expect them and what resources are available to help you identify your birds.

Lisa Myers took her passion for bird watching and created her business “[Let’s Go Birding](#),” where for decades she has led bird tours and taught birding classes throughout the Bay Area and beyond. She also owns the Los Gatos Birdwatcher where she and her staff answer customer questions about the birds in their gardens and how best to attract them.

**San Mateo Habitat Garden with Rainwater Collection and Storage
a Talk by Elaine Salinger**
Wednesday, September 8 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Zoom registration: bit.ly/cnpsc-20210908

Elaine Salinger’s yard has been transformed from ivy and non-natives to an almost 100% native habitat garden over the last twenty years. She will illustrate how she and her husband have done this while incorporating the following principle: **what happens in the garden, stays in the garden**. She’ll cover how to use everything you prune as mulch and how to use larger tree branches to build paths and trails; how to collect rainwater and groundwater, store it, and use it in the garden; and the benefits of using rock mulch and garden trimmings as mulch, rather than purchasing bark mulch. Elaine will highlight some of her favorite plants on the upper, landscaped yard including fifteen of the manzanitas, the frog pond and the riparian area surrounding the pond.

The property adjoins serpentine open space, and Elaine will show the transformation of the lower hillside, where she has removed the non-native invasive plants, allowing the

local natives to propagate. Elaine and her husband are also dog lovers, and Elaine will briefly offer tips about how to have a dog friendly native yard.

Elaine Salinger is a retired veterinarian who lives in San Mateo. She is passionate about native plants, animals, climate change action, political engagement and making the most of every day. The quote that best describes her comes from E.B. White, “I get up every morning determined to both change the world and have one hell of a good time. Sometimes this makes planning my day difficult.”



Elaine Salinger

Elaine Salinger’s front yard garden

The Distinctive Landscape of Blue Oak Ranch Reserve, a talk by Zac Harlow
Wednesday, September 15 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Zoom registration: bit.ly/cnpsc-20210915a

UC Berkeley’s Blue Oak Ranch Reserve is a nature reserve and biological field station located in one of California’s iconic landscapes: the oak savannah and woodlands of the Diablo Range. In this talk, Zac Harlow will discuss some of the flora and natural history that makes this region special; the interesting research, field courses and groups that utilize the reserve; and some of the challenges of managing for biodiversity in a changing climate. About half of the 3,280



acres of the reserve were burned in the 2020 SCU Lightning Complex fire and Zac will discuss these impacts as well as the surprising resiliency of this special landscape.

Zac Harlow is committed to the idea that field stations can bring communities and nature together in meaningful and important ways. He is the resident director of Blue Oak Ranch Reserve and has worked to grow and diversify the user base over the last five years. His love of field stations runs deep. He lived on a station in Grand Teton National Park for many summers during his teens and twenties and is familiar with many more. Since moving to California in 2007, he has worked for the San Diego Zoo's Wildlife Alliance, received his Ph.D. from UCLA and taught classes at Cal State LA and Cal State East Bay.



Zac Harlow

Blue Oak Ranch Reserve in April 2021, following the SCU Lightning Complex fire

Maintaining Your Late Summer / Fall Native Plant Garden, a Panel Talk Wednesday, October 6 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Zoom registration: bit.ly/cnpscv-20211006

Late summer and fall are a time of rest for most native plant gardens. As we hope for rain, it is the time to tidy the garden and prune in preparation for cooler temperatures. Stephanie Morris, Lior Dahan, Patricia Evans and Madeline Morrow will share their garden maintenance routines. Bring your questions and any ideas you may want to share with others during a group discussion.

Stephanie Morris is a landscape architect with a focus on native plant designs that respond to aesthetics, functionality and ecology. **Lior Dahan** has a degree in environmental

horticulture and owns Rhythmic Gardening, an ecological garden maintenance company with a focus on working with nature to heal soil, grow healthy plants and appreciate the wildlife in our gardens. **Patricia Evans**, owner of Natural Landscape Design, specializes in native plants and sustainable landscaping. **Madeline Morrow** is a past President of our CNPS Chapter and current board member. Her garden was featured in *Bay Nature* magazine in March 2013 and has been on the Growing Natives Garden Tour for many years.

Water Resilience in the Garden a talk by Radhika Thekkath Wednesday, October 13 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Zoom registration: bit.ly/cnpscv-20211013

As the climate swings unpredictably year to year, causing early spring floods and summer drought in the Western United States, it makes sense to understand and implement established ways to manage the rainfall on our properties. Whether we live on a small suburban lot or run a small farm on multiple acres, these techniques allow us to be resilient in the face of uncertain rainfall. We can thus begin a process of building predictability into our summer gardens, regardless of whether we have a native pollinator garden, grow fruits and vegetables, or do both. This talk will focus on techniques such as rainwater collection systems, as well as ways to slow and stop the flow of water on our ground so that our soil is better saturated when it does rain. It is possible to actively compensate for a lower rainfall in the winter so that it has a smaller impact on our summer gardens.



Radhika Thekkath is a retired computer scientist and active member of our Chapter who has been gardening with native plants for over ten years. She recently returned to California after a three-year stay in Washington state. Her more recent work includes active forestry management and stewardship as well as sustainable building with cob and straw bale. She is a certified permaculture designer.

Please see www.cnps-scv.org/native-plant-lecture-series for additional talks in September and October.

Recordings of past talks are available on our Chapter's YouTube channel.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

CNPS SCV Nursery at Hidden Villa

The nursery continues to propagate plants for sale and raise funds for the Chapter through sales from its online store at california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter.square.site. The online store is usually open for browsing, but ordering is periodically unavailable while we are updating inventory. **The store will be closed from September 10 through October 2 to prepare for the Fall Plant Sale on October 9.**

In addition to plants, the nursery's online store includes Growing Natives Garden Tour T-shirts, books, labels and plant signs. Orders can be scheduled for pick up at the nursery or delivered between Belmont and San Jose. Proceeds from plant sales are the major source of funding for Chapter activities and scholarships.

A core crew of volunteers has cared for the plants at the nursery since the start of the pandemic. These volunteers have been doing a great job of keeping up with demand and getting plants ready for their forever homes. Due to restrictions as a result of COVID-19, the nursery can only accommodate a limited number of volunteers and does not have open work sessions.

Seed Exchange at Native Plant Sale

For the first time ever, this year's **native plant sale on Saturday, October 9** will include a member-collected seed exchange. See page 1 for more about the plant sale.



We welcome and greatly appreciate any seeds collected from native plants or cultivars of natives in your garden. **Please collect only from your own property or garden; do not trespass on private land and do not collect from plants in the wild or public places.**

If you would like to contribute seeds to the seed exchange, separate the seeds from other plant material as much as possible. Seeds should be placed in sealed paper envelopes with the botanical and common names for the plants clearly printed on the outside. You can *optionally* add your name/contact information so the person taking your seeds may thank you or ask you questions about growing the plant. Whether you are able to donate seeds or not, be sure to check out the seed exchange table at the festival for interesting plants to add to your garden.

Once the seeds are prepared, there are several ways to submit your seeds:

- Bring them to the sale and drop them off at the seed exchange table
- Mail them to CNPS SCV, 3921 E. Bayshore Road #205, Palo Alto, CA 94303-4326
- Put them together in an envelope with "CNPS SCV" printed on the outside and drop them in the mail slot near the back door of the Peninsula Conservation Center, 3921 E Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA.

Email Janet Hoffmann if you have any questions about the seed exchange: janet@cnps-scv.org.

Directions: Hidden Villa is located at 26870 Moody Road west of Foothill College. From I-280 in Los Altos Hills, take the Moody Road exit and head west. Two miles west of Foothill College, look for the Hidden Villa sign and driveway on the left. Proceed over the bridge and park in the Dana Center parking lot to your right. Continue walking a short distance on that road and you will see the CNPS SCV Nursery ahead of you, just past the Dana Center building. Parking is free while volunteering or attending a plant sale.

Chapter Officers and Election Slate

By Stephen Buckhout, Leadership Development Committee Chair

Serving as a Chapter officer is a rewarding way to participate in, benefit from, and contribute to our collective CNPS effort on behalf of native plant conservation and appreciation. Officers are helped significantly by other members, thanks to an extremely high level of camaraderie, teamwork and "spreading around" of various tasks and responsibilities in our Chapter. You may have noticed at times that various officers are involved in many of the Chapter's activities and issues. This is often a function of their interest as a Chapter volunteer rather than the specific requirements of their officer roles. In other words, there is great flexibility in how much time each individual actually spends on their specific officer duties.

The Chapter Leadership Development Committee (LDC) thanks all Chapter board members, committee chairs, committee members and individual contributors who are serving this year. As an all-volunteer organization, none of our numerous and varied accomplishments would be possible without the help and support provided by these individuals. 2020 and 2021 have been particularly

challenging years, requiring numerous adaptations and significant creativity in accomplishing the Chapter's work. The committee is always looking for additional people who can contribute toward the realization of various Chapter goals. The Chapter currently has multiple open positions for volunteers, several of which are posted on the Chapter website, www.cnps-scv.org.

For more information about any open positions or to offer help of any sort, please contact Stephen Buckhout, Chair of the LDC, whose email address and phone number appear below.

Chapter officers serve one-year terms and are elected by the Chapter members at the annual business meeting. This year it will be held via Zoom on **Saturday, November 6**.

All Chapter members are eligible to run for office. Prior to the meeting members may nominate themselves or be nominated by another member with prior approval from the person to be nominated. Members seeking more information or wishing to run should contact LDC Chair Stephen Buckhout at stephen@yscottie.com or (408) 255-6233. Nominations will also be taken from the floor during the elections segment of the meeting.

One of the Leadership Development Committee's responsibilities is acting as the Nominating Committee for Chapter elections, developing a slate of officers to run in each annual election. The LDC proposes the following slate for 2022:

President: Radhika Thekkath

Vice President: Priya Pharate

Treasurer: Brett Tucker

Chapter Council Delegate: Radhika Thekkath

Past President: Vivian Neou

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.

The photo group's meetings take place over Zoom on **the fourth Friday of each month**, for members to share photos and more – everything from photography tips to organizational ideas to plant hot spots. The next meetings

will be **Fridays, August 27, September 24 and October 22 at 7:00pm**. You can learn more and join the email group at: www.groups.io/g/cnps-scv-photography.

Anyone who has pictures of their adventures that they would like to share is welcome to participate. Please sign up for a time slot if you would like to show pictures. You don't have to share pictures to attend the meeting. More information is available on Meetup at www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter and through the group's email list.



S.E. Hinton

#MyPhotoOfTheWeek: Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis*) and sticky monkey flower (*Diplacus aurantiacus* var. *pubescens*) found along the Brooks Creek to Montara Mountain Trail in San Pedro Valley County Park, July 2021

Growing Natives Garden Tour

Attentive readers will notice that our annual native garden tour has a new name: **Growing Natives Garden Tour**.

We are making this change to be more in harmony with what the tour is all about: to showcase native gardens, to share native plant gardening knowledge and best practices, and to encourage everyone to grow more native plants – for beauty, for habitat, for water conservation and for the environment. Low maintenance and reduced costs are a bonus. Our vision is for native plant gardens to become ubiquitous and commonplace. We believe that native plant gardening is for everyone, and we invite you to participate in the tour, see for yourself and introduce native plants to your garden today.

Next year's tour is planned for the weekend of **April 2-3, 2022**. If you have a native plant garden, consider submitting it for the 2022 tour via the following link: www.gngt.org/GNGT/Garden_Submission.php

We accept gardens of all sizes, types, and ages. The core requirement is that it be primarily native (70% or more). Just as important as the garden is the gardener: we treasure your energy and your enthusiasm in showing your garden to others. The human touch motivates and inspires others. So please share your garden, knowledge and passion with the community through the tour.

The garden submission deadline is **Sunday, October 31**. For more information, see the enclosed flyer or visit www.gngt.org.

Santa Clara Valley Chapter Adopts Land Acknowledgement

When European colonizers arrived in the “New World,” it was not new to the hundreds of tribes and the many thousands who lived on these lands. Coast-to-coast, the North American continent was occupied by aboriginal peoples who managed their lands for ecological health and sustainable harvesting of food and materials that met their needs. The brutal colonization, genocide and oppression of these indigenous peoples cannot be easily undone, nor can they easily heal from this generational trauma. Despite this, native communities are resilient and live today to fight for protection of the land and the preservation of their diverse identities. As a science-based organization whose mission is to protect and preserve the flora and its many habitats, the California Native Plant Society supports local tribes in this effort.

It has long been a custom of the indigenous people to begin ceremonies with an acknowledgement that honors their ancestors, the land and the living. This acknowledgement fosters deep respect for the elders and the land and conveys to listeners, young and old, the degree of importance attached to these by the tribal elders. This perpetuates a cycle of respect that ensures that future generations will take on the responsibility of caring for their elders and the land.

In the same spirit, our Chapter of CNPS is adopting a land acknowledgement with which to start all our public events and meetings. In doing this we honor those whose lands we

now occupy, acknowledge the injustices that they faced and continue to face, show respect for the lands we seek to protect and conserve, as well as look for ways to support the local tribes and stewardship of their land.

The Chapter board approved the following land acknowledgement at the June 17, 2021 board meeting:



Public Domain
Ohlone dancer by L. Massard from
Otto von Kotzebue's "Voyage Autour
du Monde," circa 1830

“Before we begin, we acknowledge that work done by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS lies in the homeland of the Muwekma (mah-wek-mah) Ohlone (oh-low-nee), the Amah (ah-mah) Mutsun (moot-sun) Tribal Band, the Tamien (tahm-yen) Nation, and the Ramaytush (rah-my-toosh) Ohlone. This land that was theirs for thousands of years was taken forcibly from them. Despite two centuries of oppression and genocide, they still live and thrive in this area today. We acknowledge and respect them for their land stewardship, culture, language, and humanity. The Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS hopes to learn from them and support their work to restore traditional practices and heal from historical trauma.”

On field trips outside our Chapter area, we will use an additional acknowledgment:

“We also acknowledge that this field trip is taking place in the homeland of the <name of people> who are still living here. So, we walk on their homeland today with respect and care for the land and for them.”

When hearing this acknowledgement at our next public event, we hope you will think about the reasons behind the words, and feel a sense of respect for the local indigenous people and their land. To all indigenous people who are reading this, we welcome you and support you in your efforts towards land stewardship and justice.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Committee

Our Chapter’s next conservation committee meetings will be held via Zoom on **Tuesdays, September 14 and October 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-scv.org for the meeting link. For questions, comments or concerns, contact Conservation Committee Chair Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch@cnps-scv.org or (650) 804-6162.

Rare Plant Committee Beach Trip Report

By Rare Plant Co-Chair Karen Cotter

On June 18, members of our Chapter's Rare Plant Committee and friends made a field trip to visit six California State Beaches along the San Mateo Coast in search of 11 rare plants. We began at Año Nuevo where Amy Patten of the CNPS state office met us. (Amy is the CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt Manager.) We couldn't visit the locations of the rare plants due to elephant seals and COVID-19 restrictions, but we decided to check out the non-rare plants in the park anyway. Amy also had us keep an eye out for the San Francisco garter snake, another rarity at Año Nuevo, as we checked out the usual coastal suspects of coyote brush, blackberry, ceanothus and Pacific aster.

Next we headed north to Pigeon Point lighthouse, where we broke for lunch and then did a quick survey among lots of non-native grasses and invasive ice plant. Then we stopped at the northern end of Bean Hollow State Beach, by far the loveliest beach we saw that day. We took a hike along the Arroyo de los Frijoles Trail to find lots of native flowers and beautiful views.

The team did find a rare plant, *Castilleja ambigua* ssp. *ambigua*, paintbrush owl's clover, at the same location noted by Toni Corelli in 2007. The iNaturalist record is here: www.inaturalist.org/observations/83675472

Our last stop, at Pescadero State Beach, gave up its rare plant, *Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *pycnostachyus* (coastal milk-vetch) right at the parking lot. A member of the *Fabaceae* family, it was easily identified with its pinnately compound leaves and cream colored pea shaped flowers.

Here is a list of the plants and the State Beaches you might find them on between the months of April to July. If you find a rare plant, please send GPS Coordinates and any photos to Apatten@CNPS.org.

Año Nuevo State Park, Pigeon Point Lighthouse, Bean Hollow State Beach, Pescadero State Beach and Marsh, Pomponio State Beach, and San Gregorio State Beach:

Agrostis blasdalei (Blasdale's bent grass)
Astragalus pycnostachyus var. *pycnostachyus* (coastal milk-vetch)
Cirsium andrewsii (Franciscan thistle)
Erysimum ammophilum (sand loving wallflower)
Fritillaria agrestis (stink bells)
Fritillaria liliacea (fragrant fritillary)
Lasthenia californica ssp. *macrantha* (perennial goldfields)
Leptosiphon rosaceus (rose leptosiphon)
Microseris paludosa (marsh microseris)
Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. *chorisianus* (Choris' popcornflower)
Stuckenia filiformis ssp. *alpina* (slender-leaved pondweed).

Next spring we hope to visit the beaches and trails we missed, as our quest to document and monitor the rare plants of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties continues.



Toni Corelli

Lizard tail, also known as seaside wooly sunflower (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*) at Pescadero Marsh North Pond, within Pescadero State Beach and Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve.

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.

Learn more about our Chapter's Alum Rock Park restoration activities by attending Steve Rosenthal's restoration field trip described on page 9.



Arvind Kumar

Lake Cunningham July 31 workday watering

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.



Arvind Kumar

Many thanks to Eagle Scout Anirudh Ramadurai and his team for replacing the old reader board/interpretive sign with a new one

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 and directions and to RSVP, see our meetup page at www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/.

Weeding season has arrived, within and beyond the native garden. After three years of consistent pulling, the stinkwort is almost gone. Now we are focusing on other invasives, like curly dock, tumbleweed and thistles. We continue to water newly planted plants and Phase 1/2/3 trees along the Inner Lake Path.

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.



Arvind Kumar

New reader board, ready for informational posters and Blazing Star newsletters

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 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 for changes, cancellations, COVID rules and additional field trips.

Sun Sep 19 9am - Noon Beginner's Bird and Plant ID Walk at Lake Cunningham Park (San Jose)

As fall begins, join us as we resume our First Day of the Season beginner's bird and plant identification walks through Lake Cunningham Park. The lake is a major destination for waterfowl and migratory birds, and the park's native garden draws many birds for 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 will be 4 miles round-trip on a level path. Bring a hat, water, your plant and bird lists and binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Parking fee is \$6.

Space is limited. No drop-ins. **RSVP is required** on Meetup: www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter. This walk is organized jointly by CNPS, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.

Directions to the trailhead are on the Meetup page.

Sun Oct 3 10am – Noon Stevens Creek Trail From Blackberry Farm to Linda Vista Park (Cupertino)

Join Ron Horii and Judy Fenerty for an easy 2.6-mile hike along the Stevens Creek Trail in Cupertino. We'll follow the trail south through Blackberry Farm Park, McClellan Ranch Preserve, and Linda Vista Park. We can see native plant restorations and native riparian vegetation along Stevens Creek.



Ronald Horii

Stevens Creek Trail south in Blackberry Farm Park, running between the Blackberry Farm Golf Course and Stevens Creek

The trail is flat except for a short climb on the newly-opened trail segment to Linda Vista Park. There are paved and unpaved sections. Restrooms, water, and a snack bar are available. Other things to see include 4-H animals, a new community garden, historic buildings, heritage orchards, and an environmental education center (if it's open).

The route is mostly shady, but bring a hat for the sunny sections. There are multiple places for picnicking, if you want to bring a picnic lunch. For families, there are swimming pools, a playground and playing fields.

Space is limited. No drop-ins. **RSVP is required** on Meetup: www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter. Families are welcome.

For more information, email Ron at rhorii@prodigy.net. Or see his well-captioned Facebook album of the Cupertino Stevens Creek Trail hike route at tinyurl.com/yw87ju8.

Directions to the trailhead, at McClellan Ranch Preserve, are on the Meetup page.

Sun Oct 10 Time TBD Alum Rock Park Restoration Tour (San Jose)

Join habitat restoration lead Stephen Rosenthal for a walk to learn about habitat restoration work done by our CNPS Chapter at Alum Rock Park in San Jose.

We'll view several restoration sites that we've worked on in the last few years, including the Todd Quick Trail area work, that has been in progress for over seven years, and a new frog habitat created at a seep on the west side of the Todd Quick Trail. We'll also discuss plant propagation, fire mitigation strategies and the tools that we use.

Parts of the walk are on hilly trails, so wear sturdy hiking shoes. Bring a sunhat, water and a bag lunch.

Space is limited. No drop-ins. **RSVP is required** on Meetup: www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/. **Directions** to the meeting point are on the Meetup page.

Sat Oct 16 10am – Noon Martial Cottle Park Master Gardeners' Tour (San Jose)

Join Ron Horii for a tour of the UC Master Gardeners' Martial Cottle Park Demonstration Gardens and Community Education Center. The 4-acre parcel within the 287-acre park contains native plant, pollinator and drought-tolerant gardens.

Volunteers will be available to answer questions and will give us a tour of their native plant garden. Learn about gardening techniques, plant species, composting, water-wise irrigation and more. Afterwards, we can see the 900-foot long native plant hedgerow planted along the edge of the park.

Later options are to see Our City Forest's parcel with its native plant garden, see the park's visitor center with its historic and nature displays or have a picnic in the park. For those who want to get some exercise, the park has 3 miles of paved, flat trails.

Bring a hat, as there's not much shade. Water and restrooms are available within walking distance.

Space is limited. No drop-ins. **RSVP is required** on Meetup: www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/. Families are welcome.

For more information, email Ron at rhorii@prodigy.net. Or see his photos of the Master Gardeners' parcel taken on October 15, 2019 during the park's Fall Festival: tinyurl.com/y6som7we. For a look at the same garden in the spring of 2019, see tinyurl.com/y28gdttx.

Directions to the trailhead, at the Master Gardeners' entrance to the park off Chynoweth Ave., are on the Meetup page.



Ronald Horii

Master Gardeners' Native Plant Garden in Martial Cottle Park, spring 2019

Save the Date!

We've already confirmed a **Uvas Canyon County Park** field trip for **Sunday, November 7**, to be led by Ken and Dee Himes.

See the next issue of the *Blazing Star* or check our Meetup web page for details and other Chapter events: www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/

We also post field trip updates at our Chapter website. Find the field trips page under Activities > Field Trips or visit www.cnps-scv.org/activities/field-trips.

Field Trip Report: Regional Parks Botanic Garden August 7, 2021

By Vivian Neou, Chapter President

Dee and Ken Himes organized a wonderful members-only field trip to the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Regional Park on August 7. The tour was led by Bart O'Brien, Director of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden and CNPS Fellow.

Dee and Bart started the tour in front of the visitor center, where Bart provided an amazing introduction to the garden. Did you know that all the trees in the garden were planted? That it used to be EBMUD land? That the residents of Alameda and Contra Costa counties voted to raise their taxes during the depression to form the East Bay Regional Park District to acquire the land rather than allow it to be developed? I think my head was overflowing even before we started looking at plants!



Bart O'Brien describing plants

Bart then took us around the garden starting with the Baja California section next to the visitor's center. I think he has a story about every plant in the garden – truly amazing. One of the people who signed up for the tour was Michael Uhler, a staff gardener at the park. When Bart had to step away for a short time, Michael stepped in. We were lucky

to have Michael along; his wealth of knowledge, experience and passion about plants was a delightful addition to the field trip.

Little monardella,
Monardella nana, RPBG

that came from a plant he collected in Baja California. From the greenhouse, we made our way over to the new alpine exhibit, which is one of Michael's projects. After sterilizing our shoes with alcohol (strict best management practices are being observed to keep the plants healthy), we were allowed to walk around the exhibit with Michael and Bart while they told us about its design, buildout, plant collection and maintenance.

So many plants. So many stories. Such wonderful company. What a wonderful day.

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 for information on how you can continue to receive email to stay informed.

This Blazing Star newsletter will continue to be published **mostly** online only, at: www.cnps-scv.org/blazing-star-newsletter.

This newsletter issue, **September-October 2021**, is being distributed in print form as well. It is our first post-pandemic **annual printed version** and has been mailed to all Chapter members.



Alpine Garden at Regional Parks Botanic Garden

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2021

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President	Vivian Neou	president@cnps-scv.org	(650) 260-3450
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Past President	Madeline Morrow	pastpresident@cnps-scv.org	(408) 741-1150
Chapter Council Delegate	Vivian Neou	president@cnps-scv.org	(650) 260-3450

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT **BLAZING STAR**

Saturday, October 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



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FIRST-CLASS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

Aug 27 Fri Photo Group photo sharing (5)
Sep 1 Wed Attracting Wild Birds talk – Myers (1)
Sep 8 Wed Habitat & Rainwater talk – Salinger (2)
Sep 14 Tue Conservation Committee meeting (6)
Sep 15 Wed Blue Oak Ranch Resv. talk – Harlow (2)
Sep 19 Sun L. Cunningham walk – Silvas-Young (9)
Sep 24 Fri Photo Group photo sharing (5)
Oct 3 Sun Stevens Creek Trail walk – Horii (9)
Oct 6 Wed Garden Maintenance talk – Panel (3)
Oct 9 Sat CNPS SCV Native Plant Sale (1)

Oct 9 Sat Seed Exchange at Native Plant Sale (4)
Oct 10 Sun Alum Rock walk – Rosenthal (9)
Oct 12 Tue Conservation Committee meeting (6)
Oct 13 Wed Water Resilience talk – Thekkath (3)
Oct 16 Sat Martial Cottle Park walk – Horii (10)
Oct 16 Sat Newsletter submittal deadline
Oct 22 Fri Photo Group photo sharing (5)
Oct 31 Sun GNGT garden submittal deadline (5)
Mons & Weds Alum Rock workdays (7)
Saturdays Lake Cunningham workdays (8)

The next Chapter board meetings will be **Thursdays, September 16 and October 21 at 7:00pm** over Zoom.

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

For more information contact Vivian Neou at president@cnps-scv.org.

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working with its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding and to preserve the rich heritage of the native flora for future generations. Membership is open to all. Individual memberships are \$50.00 per year. If you have questions about your newsletter subscription, please contact membership@cnps-scv.org. Address changes may be submitted to cnps@cnps.org; please put "member address change" in the subject line.

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