



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

January-February 2012

## **MEMBERS' NIGHT AND GENERAL MEETING**

**Friday, January 27th at 7:30 PM  
Los Altos Library Program Room  
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos**

**Topic: Members' Night Slide Show -  
Favorite Native Plant Adventures of 2011**

Did you go on any excellent plant adventures in 2011? If so, perhaps you took a few pictures of scenery, plants, and maybe a few animals?

Share the interesting and beautiful pictures you took in 2011 with others at this always popular Members' Night meeting. Photos (or other media) of anything, any place, or anyone related to native plants in 2011 are welcome.

If you'd like to share photos or other materials, please **RSVP by Sunday, January 22** by emailing Kevin Bryant at [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net) or calling (408) 348-9470, and let him know how many photos/what type of materials, and approximately how many minutes you'd like. Time allotted per person will depend on how many participants RSVP. Whether you have photos to share or not, join us for a fun mid-winter celebration of native plants.

**Directions:** From Foothill Expy., travel ½ mile on San Antonio Rd. towards the Bay, cross Hillview and turn right into the driveway; library is on the left. From El Camino, travel towards the hills on San Antonio Rd., cross Edith and turn left into the unmarked driveway just before Hillview. The sign on San Antonio Rd. reads "Civic Center, Library and History Museum." Enter through the lobby of the main entrance.

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Kevin Bryant at [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net) or (408) 348-9470.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*By Arvind Kumar, Chapter President*



### **Our Chapter Turns 40!**

2012 marks a major milestone for the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society: it is turning 40 years old!

For a nonprofit volunteer organization to survive and thrive for so long means that it is doing something right: it is serving a deeply felt need in the community, and it is attracting successive generations of volunteers to its cause.

Back in 1972, the year of our founding, the Chapter's first field trip (to Yerba Buena Nursery, led by Gerda Isenberg) was attended by 15 members. Forty years later, the Chapter has 800 members. Over 500 people join us on our many plant walks each year. Our talks on gardening at local libraries are attended by over 1,000 people annually. The Going Native Garden Tour is now in its 10th year and records over 10,000 garden visits each year. In these 40 years, you could say we have grown a bit.

The crown jewels of our Chapter's advocacy are Edgewood County Park in Redwood City, saved from development and restored to a prime wildflower habitat; and the serpentine grasslands of Coyote Ridge in San Jose, which have been brought to public attention but require ongoing effort for full protection.

We continue to reach out to our members and the general public through our many ongoing projects. Our volunteers propagate and offer native plants to the public; the proceeds fund vital Chapter activities. The annual Wildflower Show educates the wider community about the botanical wonders of our area. At restoration workdays, volunteers remove invasive plants and restore habitats in open space areas. Chapter leaders comment on environmental impact reports,

attend public hearings, and promote the area's Habitat Conservation Plan.

To all of you who love nature, who work for a healthy and vibrant environment, who recognize the critical role of native plants in a healthy environment, we extend our deep appreciation. Please join us as we celebrate the Santa Clara Valley Chapter's 40th Anniversary throughout 2012.

This is also the time to ask ourselves: how will the Chapter fare in the next 40 years? What will tomorrow's conservation challenges be, and how can we prepare? What must we do now in order to be successful tomorrow? We talk about this throughout the year at our board meetings, committee meetings, and annual retreats. I encourage you to join us in this important conversation and help the Chapter prioritize, plan, and grow.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### **Native Plant Nursery at Hidden Villa**

Come help propagate plants for next spring's Native Plant sale by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions. They take place every **Wednesday, from noon to 3pm** (note winter hours). Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. Knowledge of plants is not necessary; your willingness to help is all that's required.

For more information, contact Jean Struthers at (650) 941-2586 or JeanStruthers@att.net (by phone is best); or Ray Deutsch at (650) 365-6136 or ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca.

**Directions:** Hidden Villa is located on Moody Road west of Foothill College. From Hwy. 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 visitor center parking lot to your right. The Native Plant Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the visitor center.

### **Gardening with Natives**

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes a mix of landscape architects, designers, seasoned native plant gardeners and beginners. It offers talks throughout the year which are free and open to all.

The theme for 2012 is "Design Your Own Native Plant Garden". We have divided your design work into 12 tasks,

each covered by one lecture per month. The lectures start with planning and end with maintenance. These 12 talks, as well as 12 other lectures, will be held throughout the Chapter area – from San Bruno and Millbrae, Cupertino and Los Altos, to Milpitas and Fremont.

Three talks are scheduled during January and February. Please spread the word far and wide to your friends, neighbors, and loved ones. For more information, visit [www.GardeningWithNatives.com](http://www.GardeningWithNatives.com).

These programs are made possible by volunteers who help with program logistics and by co-sponsoring libraries. If you would like to help organize similar programming at a library near you, contact [arvind.kumar@cnps.org](mailto:arvind.kumar@cnps.org).

**Tuesday, January 3, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**  
**What Do You Want To Do In Your Native Garden? – Creating a Program for Your Design**

Everyone loves beautiful gardens, and with our California climate we are fortunate to be able to enjoy them year round. But how do we make our own gardens delightful in every way? With this opening presentation in the Gardening with Natives 2012 series, *Designing Your Native Plant Garden*, we will walk through the first stage of the design process – creating a program. By exploring your wishes, recognizing important needs, and pushing all barriers to discovery, we will help you define the pathway to the garden of your dreams.

**Peigi Duvall** grew up in Monterey, California, and has been playing with California's natural beauty ever since. She designs sustainable landscapes and consults throughout the state, with a primary focus on the San Francisco and Monterey Bay Areas. She is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy, a certified member of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, a Bay-Friendly Qualified Landscape Professional, certified in Environmental Horticulture and Design from Foothill College, and a member of the California Landscape Contractors Association.

**Saratoga Library**, 13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga. (408) 867-6126.

**Thursday, February 2, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**  
**Soil, Sights and Sun**  
**in Your California Native Garden**

A good landscape design starts with a thorough site analysis. Opportunities and constraints, as well as how

they fit into the greater ecology, can drive your garden design. Join us for the second part in our 2012 *Designing Your Native Plant Garden* series, where you will learn how to analyze your garden site. Topics such as soil type, drainage, existing plants, and microclimates will be discussed. You'll also learn how to identify which plant communities and related native plants might be appropriate for your soil and sun exposure. The nuts and bolts of creating a high-quality site analysis will allow you to gather the information you need to inspire your conceptual design.

**Dave Phelps** graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo with degrees in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Architecture. He is a licensed landscape architect and contractor, a certified arborist and landscape technician, a Qualified Bay-Friendly designer, and Water-Efficient landscaper, as well as a Master Gardener. He is the sustainability manager at Cagwin & Dorward, a landscape contracting company that operates in 18 counties in California.

**San Carlos Library**, 610 Elm Street, San Carlos. (650) 591-0341 x237.

**Wednesday, February 29 7:00 - 8:30 pm**  
**Ferns and Other Native Plants**  
**for Shady Gardens**

Ferns are beautiful and fascinating plants. Come learn how to create a lovely shade garden using native ferns and other beautiful companion plants that thrive in both damp and dry conditions.

This talk will be presented by **Pete Villeux**, master designer, nurseryman and photographer. Pete designs and builds hardscape for use with native plants. The resulting long-lasting, self-sustaining landscapes help people get the maximum use and pleasure from their patch of earth. He is the owner and propagator of East Bay Wilds Native Plant Nursery in Oakland.

**Campbell Library**, 77 Harrison Ave., Campbell. (408) 866-1991.

### Keying with Natives

Join us as we learn and practice methods of identifying the native plants of our region (aka keying). From beginners to more advanced, there are challenges for all. Bring in plant samples if you have

some, or just come and work with the materials provided. We discuss the various plant books, and practice keying with them. Microscopes are also available, for further examination of the intricate details of the specimens.

The upcoming dates are **Fridays, January 20 and February 24, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm**. (Note our Chapter "Member's Night" will be on the last Friday in January – see page 1 for details.) We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more information, please contact Dave "Tex" Houston at 350co2now@gmail.com or (650) 303-2777; or Sally Casey at (408) 377-0989.

**Directions to PCC:** From Highway 101, take the "San Antonio North" exit, get immediately into the left-hand turn lane, and turn LEFT onto East Bayshore. This will curve around to the left, then right. Turn right on Corporation Way. Then turn into the first driveway on your left, which leads to the PCC parking lot. The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

### Don Mayall Recognized as CNPS Fellow

We are very happy to announce that Don Mayall, currently Rare Plant Chair for Santa Clara County, was named a Fellow of the California Native Plant Society at the Chapter Council meeting in Carmel on December 3rd. Don has been a mainstay of our Chapter for the past 20 years, and in addition to being Rare Plant Chair for most of this time, has

also held many chapter positions, including President from 1999-2000. Don has worked for many years towards the preservation and appreciation of rare plants and habitats at Coyote Ridge and throughout our Chapter area, and has also been a constant presence in the fight against invasive species, both locally and at the state level.



Mary Frances Kelly Poh

Don Mayall, left, receives award as CNPS Fellow. He is joined by Chapter members left to right Kevin Bryant, Judy Fenerty, and Arvind Kumar.

Don joins our other Chapter Fellows, Sally Casey and Ken Himes in this recognition. Please join us in congratulating Don on this well-deserved award!

## Jim Sugai Wins Local Hero Award

*Los Gatos Patch, November 2, 2011*

Chapter member Jim Sugai was among 14 Asian American organizations and individuals recognized November 1 by Santa Clara County Supervisor Liz Kniss for their service to the community.

Sugai, 92, was honored for his commitment in the arts through his years of work in several venues, including more than 25 years at Hakone Gardens and our Chapter of CNPS.

“In truth, whenever we visit Hakone or walk on the trails in our community, we have Jim to thank. For over 30 years he has nurtured the art of landscape, the art of bonsai and the art of enjoying the outdoors in our community,” Kniss said during the luncheon at Fatima restaurant in Cupertino.

Kniss said despite Sugai’s advancing age, he continues to actively contribute to many efforts, her favorite being his creation and donation of walking sticks to help others continue to be active and enjoy the outdoors.

Karen Hironaga co-nominated Jim for the award. She thanks members of our Chapter of CNPS: “Your members came through and promptly shared their experiences with Jim within your organization and in other areas. This timely response was key in my ability to submit the application on such short notice. Thank you very much.”

For more information visit [www.losgatos.patch.com/articles/los-gatos-resident-jim-sugai-is-local-hero](http://www.losgatos.patch.com/articles/los-gatos-resident-jim-sugai-is-local-hero).

## NEW BOOK BENEFITS CHAPTER

The *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, California* is now available, documenting over 2,000 species occurring in our two counties. The checklist includes the scientific and common names that will be used in the soon-to-be-published 2nd edition of *The Jepson Manual*. Each species entry also lists the local preserves the plant occurs in, and other information about our local plants.

The *Checklist* can be purchased at our Chapter meetings for \$10 or by mail for \$13. For mail purchase please send an email to Toni Corelli at [corelli@coastside.net](mailto:corelli@coastside.net).

Editor’s Note: Proceeds from sales of the book go to benefit our Chapter of CNPS. We donated funds towards the cost of publishing this book, and author Toni Corelli has donated all of the time necessary to compile, create, and publish this book. Thank You Toni!

## CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

### Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park

Join us as we restore sensitive habitats at Edgewood Park and enjoy golden winter sunshine. Weeding sessions take place at the following times:

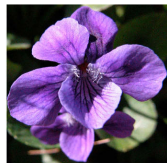
- **Friday mornings** throughout the year, **starting at 9am**
- Wednesday evening weedings will return in spring with the return of Daylight Savings Time.

For details, contact Paul Heiple at (650) 854-7125 or [pheiple@gmail.com](mailto:pheiple@gmail.com), or email John Allen at [jcakwa@comcast.net](mailto:jcakwa@comcast.net).

### Restoration Volunteering, Santa Clara County

Santa Clara County Invasive Plants Chair Debra Welch went to a couple of restoration events in November and December. She reports a great time breathing the fresh air, uncovering native vegetation (weeding non-native invasive plants), and chatting with like-minded volunteers.

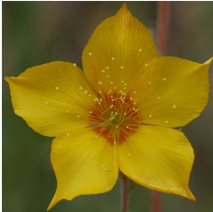
### Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, California



*Viola adunca* ssp. *adunca*  
WESTERN DOG VIOLET



*Hosackia gracilis*  
HARLEQUIN LOTUS



*Mentzelia lindleyi*  
LINDLEY'S BLAZING STAR



*Castilleja densiflora* ssp. *densiflora*  
OWL'S CLOVER



*Lilium pardalinum* ssp. *pardalinum*  
LEOPARD LILY

by Toni Corelli  
for the Santa Clara Valley Chapter  
of the California Native Plant Society

January and February restoration events are not yet posted, but you can find them listed with Santa Clara County Open Space Authority at [www.openspaceauthority.org/volunteer](http://www.openspaceauthority.org/volunteer); Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District at [openspace.org/volunteer/outdoor\\_service\\_projects.asp](http://openspace.org/volunteer/outdoor_service_projects.asp); and Santa Clara County Parks at [www.parkhere.org/portal/site/parks](http://www.parkhere.org/portal/site/parks).

We'll have other exciting opportunities in March, including a project at Harvey Bear Ranch/Coyote Lake in serpentine habitat. We may see big-scale balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza macrolepis*) while working on this southern continuation of Coyote Ridge. Project details will be announced to the CNPS News email list.

If you would like to be contacted about opportunities as they arise, or if you have a weeding/restoration project you'd like to start, contact Debra at (408) 353-8352 or [DebraWelch@yahoo.com](mailto:DebraWelch@yahoo.com).

## **CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS**

Chapter field trips are generally free and 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 & 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.**

### **Sun Jan 1 10am – 2pm Año Nuevo State Park (Hwy 1 coast-southern San Mateo County)**

Join us as we celebrate a Chapter tradition of welcoming the New Year with a walk and picnic at Año Nuevo State Park on the San Mateo County coast. The park is located south of Pescadero on Highway 1, just north of the Santa Cruz County line.

Meet in the parking lot (\$10 day use fee) at **10am**. Latecomers will find us on the trail in the coastal prairie. We'll enjoy sea cliff vegetation, raptors, songbirds and maybe marine mammals. Pack a lunch: the tide will be at its lowest at 11:04am. We will picnic on the beach in the area in which seal tour reservations are not required.

This is a day to have fun at the beach with fellow Chapter members, so the ending time and depth of botanical discussion may be extended depending on participants. Bring binoculars and layers for variable conditions including wind, sun and fog.

Heavy rain cancels. For more information contact Carolyn Dorsch at [cdorsch1@aol.com](mailto:cdorsch1@aol.com), or 650-804-6162 (eves).

### **Sun Jan 22 9am – 2 pm Sierra Azul (Los Gatos) Plant Identification Walk for CNPS Members**

You made a New Year's resolution to hike more and walk more. Honor it this month by joining Arvind Kumar for a guided plant identification walk through Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, the largest and southernmost preserve in the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. We will hike the mostly level portion of the Woods Trail with spectacular views of Mt Hamilton and the valley floor.

We will encounter a variety of plant communities: grassland, oak woodland, chaparral, and riparian, crossing the headwaters of Guadalupe Creek. We expect to see coast live oak, madrone, California bay, bigleaf maple, buckeye, bigberry manzanita, toyon, coffeeberry, creambush, chamise, mountain mahogany, and sticky monkeyflower. Annual wildflowers will not be in bloom, but we will attempt to identify them through their foliage. The elevation gain is approximately 600 ft; the round trip distance covered will be 5.4 miles.

Beginners interested in plant identification are welcome; prior knowledge of native plants or botany is not required. Seasoned plant lovers will enjoy the wide variety of habitats and plants. Bring water and a bag lunch. Dress in layers, and appropriately for winter weather. Heavy rain cancels.

Space is limited. RSVP to [arvind.kumar@cnps.org](mailto:arvind.kumar@cnps.org) or 408-715-7020 to reserve your place and for directions to the meeting place. This is a **CNPS members-only walk**; memberships are accepted at the trailhead.

<p><b>Field Trip Planning Meeting</b>  <b>Tuesday, January 24th, 7:00-9:00 pm</b>  <b>Peninsula Conservation Center</b>  <b>3921 East Bayshore Rd, Palo Alto</b></p>
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We will be filling up the spring and early summer calendar with hikes and field trips. Please join us to plan the upcoming season's hikes and field trips so that they serve our members' interests. We want to have more beginner

hikes, maybe some urban walks, visit new places, re-visit some of our favorites and plan at least one summer away trip. All are welcome to join in on the discussion.

For more information, contact Carolyn Dorsch, Field Trip Chair, at [cdorsch1@aol.com](mailto:cdorsch1@aol.com) or (650) 804-6162 (evenings).

### Sat Jan 28 10am - 3pm Quail Hollow Ranch (Santa Cruz)

The Santa Cruz Sandhills are a unique community of plants and animals found only on outcrops of Zayante sand soil in the central portion of Santa Cruz County. Join Andy Butcher for an easy tour of these Sandhills as presented in Quail Hollow Ranch County Park.

We will follow the Sunset Trail to Sunset Vista Point. Along the way we expect to see ponderosa pine and several manzanitas, including *Arctostaphylos crustacea* ssp. *crinita*, *Arctostaphylos sensitiva* and *Arctostaphylos silvicola*. We will also see many annual plants.

The round trip distance covered will be about 2.5 miles with a 5% grade in places. Elevation gain is only a few hundred feet. Parts of the trail are very sandy. Bring lunch and liquids.

To learn more about the Santa Cruz Sandhills visit [www.santacruzsandhills.com/overview.html](http://www.santacruzsandhills.com/overview.html). For more information, contact Andy Butcher, at [spermophilus@gmail.com](mailto:spermophilus@gmail.com) or (408) 245-1991.

**Directions:** From San Jose, take Hwy. 17 south to the Scotts Valley exit and take Scotts Valley Rd. south to Mt. Hermon Rd. in Scotts Valley. Turn right and take Mt. Hermon Rd. until it dead-ends on Graham Hill Rd. Turn left on Graham Hill toward Santa Cruz. At the first light, which is E. Zayante Rd., turn left. Go approx. 2 mi. and make a left onto Quail Hollow Rd. Travel approximately ½ mi. The park entrance is on the right.

We will **meet in the main parking lot at 10am**. For maps and further directions, visit [www.scparks.com/quail\\_hollow\\_directions.html](http://www.scparks.com/quail_hollow_directions.html).

### Sat Feb 4 10am – 2:30pm San Pedro Valley County Park (Pacifica)

Join Alf Fengler on an early spring outing at San Pedro Valley County Park. We will explore the Hazelnut Trail and return along the Middle Fork of San Pedro Creek on the Weiler Ranch Trail. We expect some early blooms: Montara manzanita (*Arctostaphylos montaraensis*), pink-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinsum*),

Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis*), and quite a few others.

The trip will be an easy 5-mile loop hike through coastal scrub and chaparral plus some riparian woodland. It will include an elevation gain and loss of about 900 feet. For more information contact Alf Fengler at [afengler@acm.org](mailto:afengler@acm.org) or (650) 345-7045.

**Directions:** The Park is located at 600 Oddstad Boulevard in Pacifica. From the South Bay, take I-280 north then merge onto Skyline Blvd./CA-35 via exit 41 toward Pacifica. After 3.5 miles turn left onto Sharp Park Rd. down towards the coast. Follow the signs for Cabrillo Hwy/CA-1 South toward Santa Cruz. Go for 2.5 miles then turn left at Linda Mar Boulevard, go for 2 more miles where the road ends at Oddstad. Turn right and then immediately left into the park.

Note: County Park Day Use Fee is \$6 per vehicle (bring exact amount). We'll **meet at 10am** in front of the Visitor Center. Bring water and a lunch. Heavy rain cancels.

### Sat Feb 18 10am – 4pm Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve (Redwood City)

Join Ken Himes for a wide-ranging hike to see early season flowering plants. This 5-mile loop will also showcase ongoing efforts to control invasive plants at Edgewood. Bring lunch and liquids. We'll have lunch at the Day Camp picnic area and restrooms are available there.

Expect 600 feet elevation gain/loss and moderate grades. Dress in layers, but only heavy rains will cancel the walk. For more information call Ken at (650) 591-8560.

**Directions:** From I-280 in Redwood City take Edgewood Rd. exit and head west on Edgewood Rd. to Cañada Rd.. Turn left (south) on to Cañada Rd. and proceed about a mile to reach the Clarkia trailhead. Park on the west side of Cañada Rd. next to the fence. We will meet at the parking area.

### Field Trip Training Begins Wed. Feb. 22 Two Indoor Sessions at PCC & a Saturday Walk

The Field Trip Committee will offer its Field Trip Training Program just before the spring season begins. We offer a short program that covers topics sufficient for a new leader to be able to lead a beginner's nature hike. Chapter members interested in learning to lead beginner field trips,

or others wanting to brush up their leadership skills, are invited to sign up. No previous experience is necessary.

The program will be **conducted over two evenings, Wednesday Feb. 22nd and Wednesday Feb 29th**, at the PCC (Peninsula Conservation Center) in Palo Alto. There will also be **one Saturday morning hike** following the evening meetings, to reinforce and expand on the topics discussed at the earlier sessions. Several experienced field trip leaders from our Chapter will be the instructors for the evening or field sessions.

If you are interested in signing up for this program, or have any further questions, please contact Carolyn Dorsch at [cdorsch1@aol.com](mailto:cdorsch1@aol.com), or (650) 804-6162 (eves).

### Sat Feb 25 10am – 3pm Stevens Creek County Park

Join Don Thomas for a four-mile walk to see the southernmost population of the endemic Western leatherwood, *Dirca occidentalis*. We also expect to see early emerging woodland plants. There will be some moderate hill climbing, with a stop for lunch. Space is limited; reservations are required.

Contact Don at [don\\_e\\_thomas@yahoo.com](mailto:don_e_thomas@yahoo.com) or (408) 828-4044 to **reserve your spot** or for more information.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*News and Activities from Other Organizations*

### Edgewood Docent Training Begins Jan. 25

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve (FOE) will offer docent training in January for their spring Wildflower Walks. Edgewood is a wonderful resource containing several plant communities in addition to the Serpentine grasslands that are the highlight of our Wildflower Walks. Docents are vital to FOE's ability to attract and educate the public about preservation and restoration projects as well as the bright serpentine flowers they see as they drive past on Interstate 280.

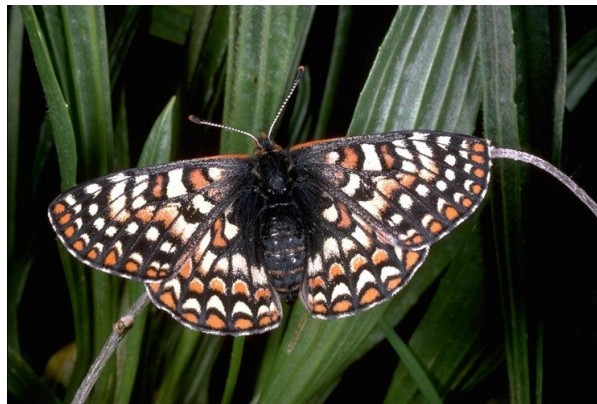
FOE's wildflower docent training provides Wednesday evening presentations (in Redwood City) by very knowledgeable speakers; Saturday hikes through Edgewood led by these speakers; and a binder full of facts

about the Natural Preserve. There is a \$25 fee for training materials.

To register or for more information, please email Mary Wilson at [docent-trainer@FriendsOfEdgewood.org](mailto:docent-trainer@FriendsOfEdgewood.org) or visit [www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org](http://www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org).

### Bay Checkerspot Butterfly Re-introduction Habitat, Climate, Persistence Needed at Edgewood

For the past two years, Friends of Edgewood and other organizations have been practicing some grassland management techniques on Edgewood's serpentine grasslands to reduce non-native grasses. We're hoping to see an increase in native forbs at the expense of the non-native grasses. We've had such good results in the Bay Checkerspot habitat adjacent to Interstate 280 that a five-year program to re-introduce the Bay Checkerspot has begun.



T. W. Davies © California Academy of Sciences  
Bay Checkerspot - *Euphydryas editha bayensis* - butterfly being re-introduced at Edgewood Park

The first attempt (2007) to re-introduce the Bay Checkerspots failed. They were introduced in the 3rd year of a drought and there just wasn't a long enough wet season for their favorite plants.

A new permit from the California Department of Fish and Game was issued in time for caterpillars to be set out last winter. Thanks to the rain and long-lasting early spring plants,

these caterpillars survived, pupated and hatched out as butterflies. These butterflies might be enough to establish a stable population but the new permit allows collecting and re-introducing caterpillars for 5 years. If each year is as successful as last winter and spring, then the likelihood of a self-sustaining population at Edgewood is much higher. It's a lot trickier than we had realized.

For more information, please contact Mary Wilson, President of Friends of Edgewood, at [info@FriendsOfEdgewood.org](mailto:info@FriendsOfEdgewood.org).

## DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

**Saturday, February 4, 2012**

**Email: [mattsson@surfpix.net](mailto:mattsson@surfpix.net)**

**Phone: (408) 255-3767**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

(page # in parentheses)

- Jan 1 Sun** Año Nuevo walk & picnic (5)
- Jan 3 Tue** GWN – Garden Design - Duvall (2)
- Jan 20 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)
- Jan 22 Sun** Sierra Azul plant ID for members (5)
- Jan 22 Sun** Member’s night media deadline (1)
- Jan 24 Tue** Field trip planning meeting (5)
- Jan 25 Wed** Edgewood docent training begins (7)
- Jan 27 Fri** **Member’s Night** (1)
- Jan 28 Sat** Quail Hollow Ranch field trip (6)
- Feb 2 Thu** GWN – Soil, Sights & Sun - Phelps (2)
- Feb 4 Sat** San Pedro Valley County Park walk (6)


- Feb 4 Sat** **Newsletter submittal deadline** (7)
- Feb 9 Thu** **Chapter Board meeting**
- Feb 18 Sat** Edgewood hike (6)
- Feb 22 Wed** Field trip leader training begins (6)
- Feb 24 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)
- Feb 25 Sat** Stevens Creek Dirca walk (7)
- Feb 29 Wed** GWN – Plants for Shade - Veilleux (3)
- Feb 29 Wed** Field trip leader training, 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting (6)
- Wed afts** Nursery work sessions (2)
- Fri morns** Edgewood Park weeding (4)
- Various** Restoration Volunteering (4)

The next Chapter **Board meeting** will be **Thursday, February 9 at 7:00pm** at the PCC,  
 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto.  
 Chapter Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests.

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit §501(c)(3) 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 \$45.00 per year. If you have questions concerning a new membership, renewal of a current membership, or if you wish to report a **change of address**, please contact the Membership Chair, CNPS, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303 or email [ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca](mailto:ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca).

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

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