

# THE BLAZING STAR

March-April 2000

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## **THIRD ANNUAL BRENDA BUTNER MEMORIAL LECTURE**

**SPEAKER: John Game**

**TOPIC: Plants and Places in the Klamath  
Ranges**

**Friday, March 17, 2000 7:30 P.M.**

Saratoga Library Community Room  
(Saratoga Ave. at Fruitvale)

The Memorial Lecture Series comes from a donation fund made to the chapter in memory of Brenda Butner. President of our chapter ten years ago, Brenda was an enthusiastic participant in many areas including field trips, horticulture, conservation, and public outreach. She started Gardening with Natives and the Edgewood Docent Program, now carried on by the Friends of Edgewood. Income from the memorial fund honors and encourages persons making outstanding contributions to the understanding and protection of California native plants.

Our speaker for this annual event will be John Game. He will show slides from his botanical trips to Cook and Green Pass, the Marble Mountains, Mount Eddy, the Trinity Alps and some other places in or near the Klamath Range botanical area. For those members who have seen John's slides at other events, you already know what a treat is in store.

John Game grew up in England and studied botany at university then moved to California in 1978 and works as a molecular biologist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He pursues an active interest in plants and in botanical photography, especially photographs of Californian plants in the wild. He co-authored the CD-ROM on Bay Area Wildflowers with Glenn Keator and Dianne Fristrom and also co-authored a book on Bear Valley. John is also doing research on Pacific Island ferns and recently returned from a fern trip to Fiji. John's slides may include the fern *Botrychium virginianum* for which John documented the first known occurrence in California in the Salmon Mountains near Etna in 1996. Besides ferns, John's special interests include the family *Liliaceae* and mountain plants of northwest California. John is active with the California Native Plant Society, and is on the Board of the East Bay Chapter.

**Directions to Saratoga library:** Exit highway 85 on Saratoga Avenue. Head southwest, toward the hills, and take the first driveway on the left after Fruitvale, into the library parking lot.

## **SPECIAL EARTHDAY PUBLIC MEETING THREAT OF INVASIVE CORDGRASS IN BAYLANDS**

**SPEAKERS:** Debra Ayres, UC Davis Bodega Marine

Laboratory; Alex Dukes, Senior, Palo Alto High School  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2000**

Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center

**Co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto**

*Spartina alterniflora*, smooth cordgrass, native to the eastern US, was introduced into the south San Francisco Bay 25 years ago for the purpose of stabilizing soils in some intertidal areas. It has done that much too well. This aggressive alien, and its hybrid with the native California cordgrass, spreads to cover intertidal mud with tall, rigid, densely packed stems and thick tufts of roots. Tidal flow is slowed, sediments precipitate elevating the marsh and creating an overgrown meadow resulting in a loss of habitat for clams, worms, crustaceans, and birds. The hybrid has taken over former salt ponds completely excluding the native species, which could become extinct.

At this point experts believe that the threat is controllable. We are fortunate to have two of those experts. Dr. Ayres, will talk to us about her research, and some strategies for control and Alex Dukes, will talk about studying the cordgrass at Baylands.

For more information call Don Mayall at 650-856-7579

You can get some background on this issue on the web at <http://caleppc.org/symposia/95symposium/strong.html> and <http://www-bml.ucdavis.edu/spartina/home.html>

**Driving directions to Baylands Interpretive Center:** Exit 101 to Embarcadero Road East. Drive past the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course and Airport. Turn left at the stop sign and proceed 0.5 mile to the Interpretive Center where parking is on your right.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE : EARTHDAY 2000!**

Every year at this time I start getting calls from producers of Earthday events, asking us to participate in them or list our Earthday programs with them. Each year the productions get larger and broader in scope. One such local celebration includes a 25 foot long electric drag racer, golf lessons, and rhumbas. This is a mighty big tent. And it is a very good sign. It suggests Earthday is becoming one of our biggest secular holidays. This is consistent with the observation that environmental protection and conservation have very wide popular support. A faxed newsletter from the California League of Conservation Voters fluttered out of my machine a short while ago. It revealed that recent polls show Californians are concerned about environmental issues, to a greater degree than many of their elected representatives, based on the League's

voting score card. So, the first thing you can do for the environment this month is vote, and vote wisely on March 7. A sure bet is a **yes on propositions 12 and 13**. There is an article about them elsewhere in this newsletter. If you want to check your legislator's scorecard, look at [www.ecovote.org](http://www.ecovote.org) the League's website.

I used to tell my callers that everyday was Earthday for us in the California Native Plant Society, that conservation and education are ongoing processes. But Earthday is a great chance for us to get our message out and get people involved, at the same point the earth is reminding us of rebirth with its flowery spectacles. So, our annual Earthday event is the **Wildflower Show and Native Plant Sale**, on April 29 and 30, again at Foothill College. And we are having a special Earthday Public Meeting on April 20th at Palo Alto Baylands, **Threat of Invasive Cordgrass at Baylands**. (see write-ups on these events) On Earthday itself, Saturday, April 22, I will be leading a trip to a very special place of Spring wildflowers and rare species, the serpentine grasslands of **Coyote Ridge** (see Field Trips). If you don't know about this place go to the chapter website and click on **Coyote Ridge, Treasure of the Santa Clara Valley**.

I look forward to seeing you at these events--Don Mayall

## Wildflower Show & Native Plant Sale

Our annual Wildflower Show and Native Plant Sale is Saturday April 29 and Sunday April 30, 10-4pm, at Foothill College (as usual). This show is our big outreach event to the public, so it's all hands on deck, and we also have a very good time! So come on down!

Setup is Friday April 28, from 3pm, continuing to 10pm; supper provided for workers. Call or email me to sign up (650-856-2636; [seleve@netcom.com](mailto:seleve@netcom.com)). For setup, you can just show up.

We can also use a few people to help collectors on Thurs & Fri April 27 & 28. If you can put in 2 hours or more during the show itself, we need help here:

**b greeter table:** call Ruth 650-948-2519

**b keying:** if you enjoy keying unknown plants, come Fri or Sat with your Jepson; call Carolyn

**b book sales:** Sonja 650-494-0104

**b plant sales and setup:** Jean Struthers 650-941-2586

**b takedown** Sun April 30, 4 to 5pm: plants, Jean; wildflower show, Carolyn

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### GARDENING WITH NATIVES

Gardening with natives will meet on the first Thursday of the month, March 2nd, 7:30 pm, at the De Anza College Environmental Studies Area in Cupertino. This meeting will be an open discussion. Bring interesting books, plants, experiences, descriptions of places visited, etc. to share with the group. Plants to share are welcome.

There will be a workday at the CNPS Nursery at Hidden Villa on Sunday, March 19th, starting at 10 am. There are lots of things to pot up and various chores to do in preparation for the April sale at the CNPS Wildflower Show. Bring a sack lunch and come help out!

Thursday, April 6th, at 5:00 pm, the group will have a work evening at Native Hill at Foothill College. This will be followed by a general meeting (at approximately 7:30). Other future workdays at Native Hill are scheduled for the following Saturdays: March 18, and April 15. Everyone is welcome to these events. For further information or to subscribe to the group's e-mail or postal mailing list, contact Stephanie Mangels at [stephmangels@hotmail.com](mailto:stephmangels@hotmail.com) or 408-629-8004.

### BROOM REMOVAL IN FOOTHILLS PARK

We are continuing the project of removing broom from Foothills Park begun over three years ago. Six people came to work in the light rain on February 13. We walked through a beautiful landscape with views of misty hills and ridges and dark groves of oak trees. Small glowing flames of yellow flowers lit up the *Dirca* trees and the pink currant flowers glistened with drops of water. At our destination the Indian warriors were blooming bravely among the broom seedlings. We worked to give them room and make space for more flowers to follow. We all agreed this was rewarding work.

Please join us to remove the many broom seedlings. Great progress has been made to remove the larger plants. Meet at the Orchard Glen picnic area at 9 am. Tell the ranger you have come to remove broom. The scheduled dates are Saturday, March 4; Sunday, March 19; and Sunday, April 16. Some weekday walks are possible also. Questions? call Ellie Gioumousis 650-494-6276.

### EXOTIC EFFORTS - EDGEWOOD

Progress is being made to remove invasive weeds. Join Ken Himes on Wednesday evenings, once daylight savings returns. Since last October, we have restricted our work sessions to Friday mornings. Call Ken if you can help out on Friday mornings or Wednesday evenings. (650-591-8560)

#### Evening schedule for April-early May

April 5: Sylvan Loop Trail, south wing

Meet at Day Camp parking lot, 5:30pm

April 12: Sylvan Loop Trail, north wing

Meet at Day Camp parking lot, 5:30pm

April 19: Edgewood Trail, Bush mallow location

Meet at Day Camp parking lot, 5:30pm

April 26: Edgewood Trail, Bush mallow location again

Meet at Day Camp parking lot, 5:30pm

May 3: West Kiosk and vicinity, junction of Edgewood and Serpentine Loop Trail

May 10: No session

Bring work gloves, other tools will be provided. We may plan some special Saturday sessions in May; details in the next *Blazing Star*.

### CAPE IVY REMOVAL AT LOS GATOS CREEK

There are at least three patches of Cape Ivy on the Los Gatos Creek Trail. Come out and help us remove the first one, just below Vasona Dam. Wear a long-sleeved shirt and gloves, as there are plenty of blackberries (and an isolated poison oak). We

must haul all of the weeds ourselves, so if you can safely compost (i.e. kill) Cape Ivy in your garden, it will help greatly.

Directions:from Hwy 17 southbound, exit Lark Avenue and continue ahead onto Garden Hill Drive. It curves left, then right and becomes Garden Hill Way. Proceed 0.2 miles south and park in the residential area as you approach a leftward bend. The locked gate on the right is the entrance to Los Gatos Creek Trail. The Cape Ivy patch is about 40 yards below the dam. From Hwy 17 northbound, take the Lark Avenue exit, turn left onto Lark Avenue and cross the freeway, then turn left at the first light onto Garden Hill Drive and follow the above directions.

We will be working Sundays at 1pm: **March 5, March 19, and April 16.** For details contact:  
David Chapman: 408-296-3587, email dchapman@aimnet.com  
Don Thomas 831-336-3224, email don\_e\_thomas@yahoo.com.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HIDDEN VILLA POTTING SESSION, MARCH 19, 10am.** Please join us at our nursery at Hidden Villa to prep plants for the Wildflower Show and Native Plant Sale. Extra hands are needed and newcomers with an interest are invited. Someone will always be around to show you what needs doing and how to do it. And, it's a great way to learn about native plants. Details call Jean Struthers (650-941-2586) or Ray Deutsch (650-365-6136).

**WILDFLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS.** Join Jo-Ann Ordano, a freelance photographer of multi-talent and expertise. Details and registration call Jo-Ann at 415-221-3171 or email joannordano@yahoo.com.

*Redwood Wildflowers, March 25/26, \$65*  
*Wildflowers of San Francisco, April 14/15, \$50*  
*Wildflower Artistry, June 3, \$65*  
*At Water's Edge, June 19, \$65*

### 2000 SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA - SOUTH BAY RESTORATION WORKSHOP

Canada College and Edgewood Park  
Friday, April 7, 2000 9:30am to 3:30pm  
HOW DO WE MEASURE OUR SUCCESS? How do we set up a program to monitor progress toward our goals? This year's workshop brings together four ways of looking at monitoring: representatives from a government agency, academia, a private consulting firm, and a volunteer group tell us how they chose their methods and standards. Two hands-on afternoon sessions provide a real world experience from setting up plots to counting butterflies.

Presenters include:

Jodi Isaacs, Resources Coordinator at Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Stuart Weiss, Stanford University Center for Conservation Biology

Thomas Reid, Thomas Reid Associates, Palo Alto  
Cynthia Gilbert, Lecturer, SFSU, and volunteer, California Native Plant Society

This second annual restoration workshop invites land managers, site stewards, and restorationists in the Santa Cruz Mountain Bioregion to share, network, and collaborate on the challenges of managing our natural resources. The cost is \$10 with room for a maximum of 50 registrants. Please call or email Don Mayall for a registration form, 650-856-7579 or seleve@netcom.com

### CALIFORNIA LICHEN SOCIETY SPRING SPEAKER SERIES

All events are held at the University Herbarium, 1001 Valley Life Sciences Bldg., UC Berkeley. There is no charge for the evening. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Judy Robertson, 707-584-8099 or JKSR@aol.com if you have questions. Be aware parking on campus is difficult. The meters take \$5 in quarters.

**BRYOPHYTES by MONA BOURELL**  
Wednesday, March 15, 2000 7:00PM

We find many lichens growing on moss. Sometimes, we have to ask the question "Is it lichen or is it moss?" Only close examination gives an answer. Find out about this member of the plant family so often encountered in the field. Mona Bourell, a founding member of CALS, is Senior Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Botany, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. She will present slides of Bryophytes. After this evening we will be able to put some names on those plants that are not lichens.

**ALGAE by Dr. RICHARD MOE**  
Wednesday, April 19, 2000, 7:00PM

Phycologist and CALS Managing Editor Dick Moe will take us into the realm of algae. We will learn about algae associated with fungi in lichens as well as free-living algae.

### WILDFLOWER FAMILIES OF THE BAY AREA

Toni Corelli, botanist/environmental consultant and chapter member-at-large, and Judy Mason, naturalist and illustrator are teaching this course through Stanford's Continuing Studies Program (BIO 12 is the listing). Classes run March 30-May 4 on Thursday evenings with two Saturday field trips planned. No experience needed and enrollment is limited to 20. Registration begins Feb. 28 at 8:30am by calling 650-725-4248 or accessing the website <http://continuingstudies.stanford.edu>.

### TREASURES OF COYOTE RIDGE: BIRD COUNT A SUCCESS

Although Coyote Ridge is best known for special serpentine plants and the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly, we have long felt it had other significant wildlife resources as well. On January 2, 2000, several members of our Chapter met up with birders from the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society to count the birds on Coyote Ridge for the Calero-Morgan Hill Bird Count. This is a new area for Audubon's Annual Christmas Bird Count. A total of 139 species were found within the Count Circle.

At Coyote Ridge, our group found 48 species of birds, including a Mountain Bluebird which was later voted as the "best bird of the day" at the Countdown Dinner hosted by John Mariani and Audubon. Other birds found on Coyote Ridge were 3 golden

eagles, 1 bald eagle, 1 osprey, 1 peregrine falcon, rufous crowned sparrows, rock wrens, bufflehead, and western bluebirds. These birds provide one more reason why the Coyote Ridge area should be preserved from development. Special thanks go to Georgia Stigall and Jean Struthers who brought their 4 wheel drive vehicles to drive us around in comfort on the ridge. Thanks go to John Mariani and Ann Verdi of Audubon who worked to put together this new count circle including the Coyote Ridge area for the Christmas Bird Count. Subsequently, word of this special, and heretofore unknown area spread among the bird experts and a second trip was organized by Mary Simpson, with Georgia Stigall and Bill Prince providing their 4WD.

**Special thanks** also are due to the staff of the Kirby Canyon Landfill and to the Stanford Center for Conservation Biology for providing access to the area. Our chapter is persevering in its plan to inventory and publicize the natural resources of these serpentine areas on the Santa Clara Valley. We need volunteers with expertise in plant identification, vegetation surveying, photography, GIS mapping and other help with planned research. To volunteer call Don Mayall 650-856-7579.  
~Mary Simpson

### **EDGEWOOD DOCENTS GEAR UP FOR 2000 SEASON WALKS**

Our walk schedule is almost complete for this season and will be distributed to the public soon. Watch for AAA's VIA Magazine calendar section for our walks listed in their March/April issue. Our Docent-led walks will be every Saturday and Sunday from 10-1pm beginning March 5th and ending June 25th. All March and June walks begin at the Day Camp Entrance and all April and May walks begin at the Edgewood Park and Ride.

If your group is interested in a Docent-led walk during the week, please call me for reservations at 650-261-1935. Also, watch for our new "Hospitality Table" in the Day Camp parking area for plant lists, Edgewood maps and the sale of Friends of Edgewood Tee Shirts and Colored Wildflower Brochures, or just stop by to say hello to our friendly volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for Edgewood Preserve Hospitality Table, please call me for training details.

The Preserve is already blooming with shooting stars and Indian warriors. Check out our website: [www.friendsofedgeswood.org](http://www.friendsofedgeswood.org) for more information and updates on what's blooming and what's happening. See you all on the trails!!!

Dianne Hunt, Edgewood Preserve Docent Coordinator

### **VOTE YES ON PROPOSITIONS 12 AND 13**

Prop 12, the Safe Neighborhood Parks bond, and Prop 13, the Safe Drinking Water bond, are on the March 7, 2000 ballot. These bond acts received strong bipartisan support in the Legislature, recognizing the tremendous need California has for parks, open space, and recreation as well as clean water for its growing population and natural environment. These bonds will not raise taxes, and all funds will be appropriated through the state budget and subject to careful review and annual public audits.

Prop 12 is a \$2.1 billion bond act that includes much needed funding for state and local parks and other agencies and non-profits that protect open space and recreational resources.

Prop 13 is a \$1.97 billion bond act that addresses water pollution issues and makes our water cleaner by funding watershed

restoration, improving sewage treatment, and reducing "non-point

Supporters of Prop 12 and 13 include: California League of Conservation Voters, Audubon, the League of Women Voters, the Nature Conservancy, and California Chamber of Commerce. Tell your family and friends about these bond acts and how important it is to vote in March. Consider donating funds to the organizing campaign for Prop 12 and 13 (Californians for Safe Neighborhood Parks and Clean Water, 926 J St., Suite 612, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 313-4538). Further information: Audubon-California's website at <http://www.audubon-ca.org/>

### **REPORT ON DIRCA WALK AT RANCHO SAN ANTONIO**

The day of the February 12<sup>th</sup> western leatherwood, *Dirca occidentalis*, walk at Rancho San Antonio dawned somewhat inauspiciously under a gray sky with only occasional patches of sun. Positive omens, however, were soon spotted, a double rainbow sighted on the drive to the trailhead and a healthy-looking coyote seen hunting near the parking lot. Eight intrepid outdoorsmen showed up to search for this popular early spring flower. Mist and mud were minimal as we made our way to the areas where the shrubs are located. Upon arrival, we found that most were in full flower, a pleasant sight and fitting reward for venturing out on what promised to be a dreary day. Along the way, we stopped to look at two trilliums, *Trillium chloropetalum*, several osoberry bushes, *Amelanchiar utahensis*, and both canyon gooseberry, *Ribes menziesii*, and chaparral currant, *R. malvaceum*, in bloom as well as a number of plants only starting to leaf out. Next, we hiked up to the PG&E Trail to make a loop around the ridge tops where we spotted a number of plants that had escaped observation on previous trips to the preserve. We found several more *Dirca* along the uphill side of the PG&E Trail heading toward the Vista Point. Coast silk tassel, *Garrya elliptica*, was abundant along both the PG&E and Upper High Meadow trails. Both male and female plants displayed catkins, with some male plants having exceptionally long ones. We saw a few early season buttercups, *Ranunculus californicus*, and Indian paint brush, *Castilleja* sp., along the way and a large crop of Indian warrior, *Pedicularis densiflora*, at the top of the loop. On the way down from High Meadow we saw miner's lettuce, *Claytonia perfoliata*, in flower and buds for both California saxifrage, *Saxifraga californica*, and shooting star, *Dodecatheon hendersonii*. The day also included several interesting bird, lichen, and mushroom sightings.  
~ Stella Yang

### **CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS CONFERENCE**

May 5-7, California State University, Sacramento  
Website: [www.calwild.org](http://www.calwild.org) Phone: 530-753-0382

### **WILDFLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY: INTRODUCTION TO FIELD TECHNIQUES**

April 14-16, Bodega Bay  
Instructor: Bob Case, UC Berkeley, Jepson Herbarium  
Information: 530-753-0382

### **FIELD TRIPS**

All trips are open to the public but sign-ups are sometimes necessary where we have space or parking limitations. Bring

lunch, water, warm clothing and walking shoes. Heavy rain cancels. Call field trip leader for questions.

**March 11, Sweeny Ridge GGNRA**, Janet Doell leads a 3 mile trip to discover the world of lichens. All experience levels welcomed. Meet **10am**. Bring lunch, hand lens, and light raingear. Janet says this is a go for all but severe weather.

Directions: North on 280, exit State 35. Left turn at College Dr. (Skyline College) Proceed past main buildings to student parking lot # 2 at back end, signed: reserved for GGNRA. Look for white VW bus. Contact Janet to reserve a place or with questions (510-236-0489) or email: doell@slip.net

**March 17, San Mateo Canyon**, Ken Himes leads a new, discovery trip midweek to this spot on the peninsula. Moderately rough terrain. Meet **2pm**. Call Ken for details, 650-591-8560

**March 25, Styles Ranch**, Serpentine grasslands and chaparral bring out one of the best early season displays in the valley for this return trip to a most favorite park. Details call Dick Gehr (408-268-6922) or Jim Sugai (408-356-6003).

**March 26, Almaden Quicksilver Field Trip, 8:00am**

And Now for Something Completely Different! - A joint field trip with the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. Dust off your binoculars and get ready for spring migration. (PLEASE NOTE EARLY START TIME: That's when bird viewing is best) Meet at the New Almaden entrance to Almaden Quicksilver Park off Almaden Rd in the town of New Almaden. We will hike up to Capehorn Pass passing through oak woodland, grassy meadow, and chaparral habitat. Once up at Capehorn Pass, we can hike a short way down Hacienda Trail to reach serpentine habitat. The trip will be jointly led by Ann Verdi, SCVAS and Dick Gehr, CNPS. We will stop to look at birds, plants, and if the rains cooperate, flowers and mushrooms. At the end of this portion of the field trip, there will be an optional trip back to Almaden Reservoir for wood ducks, etc - and maybe earthstars & morels!

Directions to New Almaden entrance: Take Almaden Expressway south to Almaden Road. Exit on Almaden Road and continue through the historic township of New Almaden. At the end of the residential area, turn right into the dirt parking lot for the New Almaden entrance to Quicksilver County Park. Rain will cancel, as the park trails will be closed. Questions, call Dick Gehr at 408-268-6922.

**April 1, Red Hills (Chinese Camp)** Joe Cernac will share his discovery of this delightful area located on BLM land just south of Sonora. About a 2-hour journey from the Bay Area, it hosts one of the best spring flowering shows of the Sierra foothills. Details and signup call Joe 408-292-6003.

**April 2, Almaden-Quicksilver County Park**, Grasslands, oak savannah, serpentine, mixed deciduous forest ecotypes in this Santa Clara county park with a 100 year mining history to boot. Details, Dick Gehr (408-268-6922) or Jim Sugai (408-356-6003).

**April 8, Coyote Ridge**, After the rains this remarkable serpentine grassland often contains sheets of wildflowers as well as the federally listed Bay checkerspot butterfly. This is a research facility, managed by Stanford University, and access to this fragile area is strictly controlled. There is a limit on the number of people and cars. We feel that public awareness of this unique ecological area is essential to its preservation, and will make every effort to accommodate serious visitors willing to help in our conservation effort. You may reserve a space by calling Don Mayall 650-856-7579 after March 3, 2000. Preference will be given to those with four wheel drives that carry passengers. By state CNPS policy we cannot arrange car pooling. We will need your phone number to

re-confirm and provide directions to the meeting place. Rain affects conditions and the trips will not be finalized until the day before.

**Saturday, April 22, Coyote Ridge** - (see info, for April 8)

**April 23, Uvas County Park**, Stella Yang and Ken Himes lead a discovery trip to this deep, east slope, redwood covered canyon west of Morgan Hill. Groundcone, brookfoam, cat's ear and striped coral root are possibilities. The park has several, delightful waterfalls. For meeting and time call Ken, 650-591-8560.

**May 6-12, East Mojave**, Most likely a trip for perennial plants due to the dry year for southern California, the plan will be to go up into mountainous areas we have not visited before. Excursions will be taken into the Clark Mountains, the Mescal Range, the New York Mountains, Providence Mountains and the Granite Mountains. A number of rare plants are found in these areas, some are the only stations in California for common plants of the Great Basin. I am checking the geologic maps for unusual rock types to visit, the rare plants seem to like these locations. We will be staying in the Hole in the Wall Group Campground. The cost will depend on the number of people on the trip and the number of nights they stay. Please call Paul Heiple 650-854-7125 or email loh3o@aol.com to reserve a spot.

**May 7, Mt. Hamilton**- Joanne Geggatt will repeat her renowned trip. Details in the May-June Blazing Star or 916-939-3394.

**May 20, Woods Road-Sierra Azul OSP**, Cool, steep, east-facing slopes make for a long flowering season in the region. Details, Dick Gehr (408-268-6922) or Jim Sugai (408-356-6003).

**July 1-4, Smith River**, John Allen leads adventurers to this wonderful corner of NW California. July 1 & 4 are travel days. July 2 & 3 will be exploration days near Gasquet on State 199. Group camping at USFS campground on Smith River. Hotel accommodations nearby. Details, call John at 650-366-4910.

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Recording Hotline for CNPS Events 415/853-5634

**Deadline for the next newsletter is 14 April 2000.** Cynthia Gilbert, editor, 2216 St. Francis Dr. Palo Alto, CA 94303 Phone 650-320-9225 eMail: [cgilbert@jps.net](mailto:cgilbert@jps.net)