



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

March-April 2005

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

**Friday, March 25th at 7:00pm note earlier time !!
Saratoga Library Community Room
13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga**

**NRDB, A NATURAL RESOURCES DATABASE
Speakers: Dennis H. Smith and Bill Korbholz**

**PLANT LIFE OF CLEAR CREEK: EXPLORING
THE IDRIA SERPENTINE FORMATION
Speaker: Julie Anne Delgado**

Join us for an evening with two presentations. Please note that we are **starting 30 minutes earlier** than usual.

First, we will hear from the individuals responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Natural Resource Database (NRDB), Chapter members Dennis H. Smith and Bill Korbholz. The Natural Resources Database (www.nrdb.org) is a web-accessible compilation of flora and fauna observed at parks, open space and nature preserves in the greater Bay Area. It currently reflects over 44,000 sightings of nearly 3,600 different species across 150 preserves.

Dennis and Bill will demonstrate how the NRDB can be used for several applications, including making species checklists and exploring rare and endangered species.

After a brief intermission, Julie Anne Delgado will bring the Clear Creek Management Area to us. Our Chapter will have a field trip to this area on May 7th. Julie Anne's presentation will reveal some of the beauty and fascination of this incredible yet controversial area of southeastern San Benito County and western Fresno County. A land of serpentine barrens, unique forests, and rare plants, it is also an area heavily used by off-highway vehicle (OHV) enthusiasts. Julie Anne will discuss the difficulties of managing serpentine endemics and OHV use

simultaneously in an area with naturally occurring asbestos in the soil.

Julie Anne serves the public as the BLM Hollister Field Office Area biologist/botanist. Julie Anne earned her Master's degree from San Francisco State University in Plant Ecology and Conservation.

Directions: From Highway 85 take the Saratoga Exit (NOT Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road) and travel southwest towards the Village of Saratoga. Stay in the right lane of Saratoga Avenue. About ½ mile from the highway exit, there will be a two-lane left turn for West Valley College at Fruitvale Avenue. Proceed through this intersection in the right lane, and take the next left turn into the library parking lot. The community room is at the front right of the library building.

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For more info., contact Chapter Vice President Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Spring Wildflower Show April 23 and 24

The annual Chapter Wildflower Show will be held **Saturday and Sunday April 23 and 24** at Mission College in Santa Clara. This year's show is co-sponsored by the Mission College Biology Department. Show hours are **10am to 4pm** daily in the Hospitality Management Building. Parking is free in Lot C, immediately next to the show location. In addition to a large display of wildflowers collected specifically for the show or grown by Chapter members, there will be a number of plant-related displays and vendors offering a variety of wildflower-themed items. We hope to present several short educational sessions on basic wildflower identification and butterfly gardening.

Directions: To reach the Mission College campus take 101 to Great America Pkwy/Bowers in Santa Clara. Go north toward Great America. Turn left onto Mission College

Boulevard and then right at the first traffic light and follow the road around the campus perimeter to Parking Lot C. Drive to the far end of the lot, which faces the Hospitality Management Building. **Parking is free ONLY in Lot C.**

Note that the **Spring Plant Sale** is a separate event that will be held on **Saturday, May 14th**. Look for details below in this issue of the Blazing Star.

Wildflower Show Call for Volunteers

It takes between 75 and 100 volunteers to make the annual Wildflower Show a successful event. You need not make a major time commitment to help; **even an hour or two** will be a major contribution to the Show's success.

We need assistance in all areas before, during, and after the show, including many tasks that require no or only minimal plant identification skills. Help is needed with distributing posters advertising the show, collecting plant specimens, assisting those collecting specimens, setting up the exhibition area, keying plant specimens, placing plants and name cards on the display tables, greeting and surveying visitors, serving refreshments for all the volunteers, staffing the Chapter sales table and displays, providing plants grown in pots, taking down the exhibition area, and preparing post-show reports of plants displayed.

To volunteer please contact the Wildflower Show Co-Chairpersons, Stella Yang & Stephen Buckhout at (408)255-6233 or yscottie@pacbell.net.

Spring Native Plant Sale and Call for Volunteers

Our Spring Native Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday, May 14, from 10am to 4pm** at our Hidden Villa nursery. Please save the date and tell all your friends and neighbors.

Once again we're asking everyone who can to come and help with the sale. There are many ways to help that don't require a great deal of knowledge about our native plants.

If you can donate boxes for customers to carry home their purchases, please bring them to the nursery during the week before the sale.

There are also lots of ways to volunteer your time to help with the sale. Most of the jobs listed below don't require expert knowledge of plants, and you can choose to work one or two hours or all day.

Before the sale, you can help during our **Wednesday** work sessions at the nursery from **12noon to 4pm** (see the article

later in this issue). **Special work days** will also be held before the sale to help prepare the nursery and the plants for sale. These work days will be from **10am to 4pm** on the following days:

Saturday, May 7

Monday, May 9

Tuesday, May 10

Friday, May 13

On the day of the sale, we will need:

- People to help set up before the sale (starting at **8am**)
- People to help with parking
- People who will answer customers' questions about the plants and help them decide which plants to purchase
- People who will write up the sales tags before customers go to the cashiers to pay for their plants
- Cashiers
- People who will help customers take their purchases to their cars and bring back the wagons and carts to the nursery
- People to survey customers on how they heard about the sale
- People to help clean up after the sale (**4-5pm**)

The plant sales are always lots of fun to work at, and we hope you'll come and help! Lunch will be provided to volunteers, too. You do not need to sign up in advance – just come to the nursery at the time you'd like to work.

Contact information for the coordinators: Janet Gomez, plant sale co-coordinator, (408)978-2984, janet.gomez@gmail.com; Kevin Bryant, plant sale co-coordinator, (408)639-0493, mtngreen17@verizon.net

Native Plant Nursery

A **big thanks** goes to Gerry Ellis, Ingrid Graeve, Leighton Nakata, and Dave Struthers for spreading gravel at the nursery on our January nursery floor work day!

Our regular native nursery work sessions continue throughout the winter, every **Wednesday** from **12noon to 4pm**.

Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. We may need help weeding, cleaning the nursery, making signs, rearranging the pots and generally getting the place ready

for the sale. 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@aol.com, or Ray Deutsch at (650)365-6136 or henrymarsh@yahoo.com (note Ray's new email address.)

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 meets monthly and includes a mix of seasoned native plant gardeners as well as beginners. Newcomers are always welcome.

This year will mark a turning point for the group. After five years of chairing the GWN Group, it is time for Stephanie to step down and hand over the leadership responsibilities. At our January meeting, we discussed as a group how the tasks of leadership might be divided among several individuals. Our consensus at this time is that we should form a GWN 'Steering Committee' of 3-5 individuals in addition to a Chairperson/Vice Chairperson. If you are interested in playing a role in the future of the GWN group, contact Stephanie for more information.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, March 3 at 7:30pm** at the PCC Building. We will have a GWN 'Steering Committee' before the meeting from **7:00pm to 7:30pm** to organize future topics, speakers, etc. Anyone is welcome to join the steering committee meeting, and we are actively seeking new volunteers.

Our **March** meeting will feature a speaker, Alrie Middlebrook, local native plant designer and owner of Middlebrook Gardens. Alrie will discuss her new non-profit California Native Garden Foundation with our group. The foundation's mission is to demonstrate the beauty, garden worthiness and ecological appropriateness of California Native Gardens, and to advance the knowledge of native plants and increase their availability.

Directions to the March meeting: The PCC (Peninsula Conservation Center) is located at 3921 E. Bayshore Road. From Highway 101 north, Take the "San Antonio North" exit, get immediately into the left-hand turn lane, and turn

onto East Bayshore. This will curve around to the left, then right. The first street on your right is Corporation Way. Turn right. Then turn into the first driveway on your left, which is the PCC parking lot. We will meet in the Peregrine suite at the back of the building (door opens up to the parking lot).

On **Thursday, April 7**, we are hoping to have a garden visit at a member's home. Information will be sent out via the group's email list as to location/time for the garden visit. Contact Stephanie Morris at StephLMorris@hotmail.com or (408)371-9376 to be added to the GWN newsletter email list, provide input, or receive more information.

Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park

Join us as we strive to protect sensitive habitats at Edgewood and enjoy spring and early summer wildflowers.

The restoration team will offer special Saturday workdays in 2005. Beginning in March, we will conduct work sessions on the **3rd Saturday of the month**. The dates are:

March 19

April 16

May 21

June 18

July 16

We will meet at the day camp kiosk at **9am**. The day camp is located about 3/4 of a mile east of I 280 on Edgewood Road. If late, look for a map and directions to the work site posted on the kiosk.

In addition, we will begin our **Wednesday evening** sessions with the return of daylight savings time. The first session is April 6th, and all Wednesday sessions begin at **5:30pm**. **Friday** sessions continue throughout the year, weather permitting. These start at **8:30am**. Bring gloves, sunscreen and liquids.

For more information, including **locations**, call Ken Himes at 650-591-8560 or contact John Allen at jcakwa@earthlink.net or visit the weed warriors website, **edgewood.thinkersrus.net**.

CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Chapter field trips are 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, 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.

Mar. 12 Sat, 10am Butano State Park

Join Ken Himes and Steve Smith to see Calypso orchid, *Calypso bulbosa*, and other early wildflowers at Butano State Park. Steve Smith, a Butano trail maintenance volunteer, would like to show us three separate colonies of calypso orchids during our 5 mile walk.

The hike is expected to last until **3pm**. Elevation gain and loss will be about 600 feet. Bring lunch and liquids. For more information contact Ken Himes at (650)591-8560 or Steve Smith at (650)345-4595 or stevensmith3@rcn.com.

Directions: Take Hwy 92 to Half Moon Bay then L on Hwy 1 about 14 miles to Pescadero turnoff on the left, or take Hwy 84 (Woodside) and L on Hwy 1 and L at Pescadero turnoff. Go past Pescadero about a half a mile and turn R on to Cloverdale. Continue for about 4 miles to the entrance road on the left. Park by the entrance or picnic area and meet at the picnic area just past the entrance.

Mar 13-18 Sun-Fri, Desert Trip to Anza-Borrego

Early reports from the southern California deserts are very encouraging to those interested in spectacular and widespread wildflower displays (check out www.desertusa.com/wildflo/ca.html for details/photos). The early onset of the wet season and copious southern California rains have allowed the desert to awaken just in time for our Chapter field trip. Join experienced desert flower hunters familiar with this area, as together we explore this extraordinary but temporary floristic wonderland.

Group campgrounds have been reserved at the Borrego Palm Canyon campground at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park near Borrego Springs. For those not wishing to camp with the group (RVs are not allowed at the group campsites) other sites at the campground are available, as well as hotel/motel accommodations in Borrego Springs.

To **reserve your spot**, please RSVP to Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824 before March

6th. We will collect a non-refundable \$25 per person camping fee. Further details will be sent prior to departure.

Mar 20 Sun, 11am Sunset State Beach

Head to the beach for the first day of spring to see a nice collection of plants inhabiting the near shore sand dunes of southern Santa Cruz County. Join Kevin Bryant on an easy hike around the dune trails to see an area where restoration efforts are underway, focusing on the removal of the aggressively invasive *Ammophila arenaria* (European beach grass). Native plants flourish here, and we expect to see plants in bloom such as *Lupinus chamissonis*, *Cammissonia micrantha*, *C. cheiranthifolia*, *Erysimum* and *Eschscholzia* and hopefully many others. The beach is good place for birding too, so bring binoculars. The hike will be less than 3 miles with very little elevation change. It's expected to last until **2pm**. Bring a lunch or snack and adequate liquids.

Directions: Take Hwy. 17 to Hwy. 1 South, to the San Andreas Rd. exit. Go right toward Monterey Bay on San Andreas Rd. and follow the road (past Manresa SB) to the main entrance for Sunset SB. A parking fee will be collected by the ranger. We will meet in the parking lot past the ranger station and drive down to the beach together from there. For more information contact Kevin at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824.

Mar 26 and Apr 2 Saturdays, Coyote Ridge

That's right, this year we'll have two Chapter field trips to this magnificent area of serpentine habitat, with carpets of wildflowers, rare plants, and a very rare butterfly. Every spring, the Bay checkerspot emerges as the wildflowers it depends on for life are coming into bloom, and we are privileged to marvel at this rare and fragile balance. Join Don Mayall and other experienced chapter members as we take in this year's rendition of the Coyote Ridge wildflower mosaic.

The walks will start at **10am** and last about three hours. It will be about 3 miles round trip, with 600 foot elevation gain. The meeting place is in Kirby Canyon, just off Hwy. 101 between San Jose and Morgan Hill.

An **RSVP is necessary**, since access to this fragile area is strictly controlled. There is a limit on the number of people we can take on each trip. The walk will not be suitable for children under 12. Bring water, and a lunch or snack if you like. You may reserve a space and get driving directions by contacting Don Mayall at (650)856-7579 or seleve@ix.netcom.com. We will need your phone number or email to re-confirm. Rain affects conditions and the trip will not be finalized until the Friday before it is scheduled.

Apr 17 Sun, 10am Jasper Ridge

Join Toni Corelli for a walk in Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve in San Mateo County. The Preserve encompasses remarkable geologic, topographic, and biotic diversity and is a refuge to native plants and animals within approximately 1,200 acres. It is only open to the public through docent-led hikes. Visit the JRBP web page at: jasper1.stanford.edu/home/ for more information.

This hike will cover most of the plant communities and be about 3 miles long with some hilly terrain. The hike is expected to last until **1pm**. **Reservations are required** and there is a \$5.00/person fee (benefits JRBP). This field trip is limited to 20 people and children under 14 are not permitted. To make your reservation and get directions contact Toni Corelli at (650)726-0689 or corelli@coastside.net.

May 1 Sun, 10am Madeiros Unit, Santa Clara Co. Open Space Authority

Tom Cochran and Don Mayall will lead a spring walk to a remarkable habitat in the Santa Cruz Mountains south of Calero County Park. Not normally open to the public, this park contains serpentine endemics such as the most beautiful jewelflower, and presents sweeping views.

Total distance will be 3-4 miles, with an elevation gain of 500-600 feet. The walk is expected to last until **2pm**. There is a limit of 25 people. For **reservations** and directions, contact Don by April 25 at (650)856-7579 or seleve@ix.netcom.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

Regional Parks Native Plant Sale April 16

The Regional Parks Botanic Garden is having their annual California Native Plant Sale on **Saturday, April 16**.

The sale is from **10am to 3pm**, in the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, in Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley. Admission is free. All proceeds benefit the Regional Parks Botanic Garden.

It will be a fun day for all who love California native plants. The garden staff and docents will be ready to enlighten all visitors. For more information, call (510)841-8732 or visit www.nativeplants.org.

Please bring cardboard boxes, if possible, to carry your purchases, and an umbrella if it rains. Refreshments will be available.

Going Native Garden Tour Sunday April 17

Gardens that are water-wise and low maintenance, aesthetically pleasing as well as attractive to birds and butterflies: growing numbers of Bay Area homeowners are incorporating native plants into their gardens, and you can see many of them firsthand on the Bay Area's third annual tour of home gardens landscaped with California native plants. The Going Native Garden Tour will take place **Sunday, April 17, 2005, from 10am to 4pm**.

Once again, a variety of gardens will be open for viewing: from townhome lots to 1-acre plots, from newly planted gardens to established ones. You won't have to go far to see one: these gardens are located all over the Santa Clara Valley. Visit as many as you like: for pictures, for ideas, for inspiration.

The tour is open to all. Admission is free; **registration** is required at www.GoingNativeGardenTour.com before April 16, 11am, or until the tour reaches capacity, whichever comes first. Last year's tour attracted over 1,800 registrants. Since space is limited, register early to ensure a place. For more information, email info@GoingNativeGardenTour.com.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2005

To learn more about our Chapter or give suggestions, please contact one of our officers listed below.

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Judy Fenerty	(408) 378-6272	judy@fenerty.com
Vice President	Kevin Bryant	(408) 353-8824	mtngreen17@verizon.net
Recording Secretary	Vicki Silvas-Young	(408) 293-7124	mrnngwrblr@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Paul Heiple	(650) 854-7125	LogH3o@aol.com

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, April 9, 2005

**Email: mattsson@sbcglobal.net
Phone: (408)255-3767**