



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

March-April 2016

## **GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM**

**Friday, March 25 at 7:30 PM**  
**Los Altos Library Program Room**  
**13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos**

**Sudden Oak Death in the Santa Cruz Mountains, a talk by Cindy Roessler, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District**

Sudden Oak Death (SOD), a plant disease caused by the fungus-like pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, is responsible for killing millions of oaks and tanoaks throughout California's forests. Since 2005, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) has worked to address SOD on its preserves with best management practices, education, by treating specimen oak trees with preventative measures and funding research on potentially resistant tanoak trees.

SOD research indicates that removing bay trees from the vicinity of oak trees may protect them from SOD, if undertaken early enough. New root diseases were discovered in California's native plant nurseries last year, and how these diseases may affect wildland areas is currently being evaluated. This talk will describe past and future SOD research and management actions in Midpen preserves and opportunities to participate in SOD Blitzes.

Cindy Roessler is an ecologist with over thirty years of experience in managing natural resources for governmental agencies and consulting firms. She has been a Senior Resource Management Specialist with Midpen since 2002. Cindy has given talks at the Chapter's Wildflower Show on the best places to see wildflowers in the area, and hosts a popular blog on the natural history of the Santa Cruz Mountains of California, [www.dipperanch.blogspot.com](http://www.dipperanch.blogspot.com).

For more on Midpen SOD work, visit: [www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/20160210\\_R-16-06.pdf](http://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/20160210_R-16-06.pdf).

For more on the SOD Blitz visit:

[www.nature.berkeley.edu/garbelottowp/?page\\_id=2495](http://www.nature.berkeley.edu/garbelottowp/?page_id=2495)

**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 Chapter President Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net) or the Chapter phone (650) 260-3450.



## **Spring Native Plant Events!**

See the enclosed flyers to learn about our Chapter's events:  
**Going Native Garden Tour** – April 9 - 10  
**Spring Native Plant Sale** – April 30

Friends of Edgewood has provided a flyer too:  
**Edgewood Wildflower Walks** – March 12 - June 5

On page 3 learn about: **Coastal Wildflower Day**  
**Half Moon Bay** – April 16

NEW this year – stay tuned: **Wildflower Show** at  
**West Valley College** – April 23

## **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

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

The next **Monthly Member Sale** day will be **Wednesday March 2, noon to 3pm**. The nursery maintains a plant inventory (updated the week before each sale) on the

Chapter website ([www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org)) so you can check what is available. Bring a box to take your plants home.

### **Native Plant Sale - Call for Volunteers**

Our Spring Native Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday, April 30**, from **10am to 3pm** at our Hidden Villa nursery in Los Altos Hills. Once again we're asking everyone who can to come and 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 may help prepare the nursery at three special **nursery workdays**, including labeling plants and weeding the garden outside the nursery. We'll work from **10am - 1pm on Wednesday - Friday, April 27 - 29**. On the day of the sale, we will need people to:

- Help set up before the sale (**starting at 8am**)
- Help with parking
- Answer customers' questions about the plants and help them decide which plants to purchase
- Write up the sales tags before customers go to the cashiers to pay for their plants
- Help customers take their purchases to their cars and bring back the wagons and carts to the nursery
- Help clean up after the sale (**3 - 4pm**)

The plant sales are always lots of fun to work at, and we provide **lunch** to volunteers. To volunteer on sale day please contact:

**Horticultural consultation:** Ray Deutsch (650) 365-6136, [ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca](mailto:ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca)

**Writing sales tags:** Georgia Stigall (650) 941-1068, [georgiastigall@yahoo.com](mailto:georgiastigall@yahoo.com)

**Parking director:** Carolyn Dorsch (650) 804-6162 (evenings) or [cdorsch1@aol.com](mailto:cdorsch1@aol.com)

**Miscellaneous:** Melanie Cross (650) 847-1350 or [Melanie@pcross.com](mailto:Melanie@pcross.com)

Before the sale, volunteers are welcome to attend our usual nursery workdays, **Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon to 3pm**. After the sale, workdays will switch to summer hours, which are from **10am to 1pm**.

### **Chapter Nursery Receives Challenge Grant**

Our nursery, the source of a significant portion of Chapter income and many of the California native plants members and others enjoy in their home gardens, is in the midst of a major renovation. We plan to finish the renovation before our Sale in April 2017 and we estimate it will cost \$40,000.

This is the first significant work done at the nursery since it opened in its current location in 1995. The greenhouse will be replaced, the irrigation system upgraded, and the entire space reorganized to create a more efficient work area and a larger, more customer friendly sales area. Our existing plant benches will be augmented with clean and portable metal benches in order to move all plants off the ground to safeguard against the possible spread of pathogens. A copy of the plan will soon be available on the Chapter website.

An anonymous donor has generously offered to **match the first \$15,000** contributed to help finance this project on a dollar for dollar basis. To make a qualifying gift, send a check payable to the CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter (CNPS-SCV) to CNPS, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto CA 94303. Please indicate on your check that it is for the nursery renovation project.

Alternately, donations can be made electronically using [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org). Click on the "donate" link in the left column. Choose "Chapter Donation" in the "Designation" field and then indicate in the Comments section that your gift is for the renovation of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter nursery. All donations are tax deductible and must be received by December 31, 2016 to qualify for matching.

Thank you for helping the Chapter maintain its long history of providing healthy, attractive, drought-tolerant California native plants.

**Native Plant Sale – Saturday April 30**  
**10am – 3pm**

### **Free Talk 1 - 2 pm: Success with Spring Native Planting, a talk by Kevin Bryant**

Fall is the best time to plant native plants, but you can succeed with planting native plants in spring by following the best practices of native plant gardening. Come to this talk to learn how to avoid the 'gotchas' of spring planting and how to nurture the plants through their first summer.

The talk will be followed by a tour of the landscaping around Dana Center 2-2:30pm. Kevin Bryant is a past president of the Chapter, and is a landscape designer whose work has been featured on the Going Native Garden Tour.

### **GWN Table, 10am – 3pm**

#### **Individual Garden Design Consulting**

Bring an accurate scaled drawing of your garden or a screen shot from Google Earth, along with printed pictures, and your garden's sun exposure and views. We'll give you free

suggestions on which plants would do best in your garden. Many of these plants will be available for sale that day.

We'll also have sample garden plans gathered from various sources that you can use as a template for your own garden design. Let us know about other factors, such as whether you have deer, gophers, extremely heavy clay or rocky soil, how much you want to water, and any creatures you'd like to attract.

**Directions:** Hidden Villa is located on 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 drive about ¼ mile to the large parking lot on the right. The Native Plant Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the Dana Center. On the day of the plant sale, parking volunteers will direct you where to park.

## Coastal Wildflower Day

**Saturday April 16 from 10 am - 4 pm**

**Half Moon Bay State Beach**

**95 Kelly Avenue, Half Moon Bay**

Celebrate California Native Plant Week at the Coastal Wildflower Day and Earth Day celebration in Half Moon Bay. Enjoy fun activities, live music, guided wildflower walks, games and crafts for families and native plants for sale. Visit the native plant nursery and go on a wildflower walk to see the dune restoration on site at Half Moon Bay State Beach.



Bike or walk in for free, or park on site for \$10. Bring family and friends, a picnic lunch and stay all day. There will also be a food truck on site and a morning bistro area serving coffee and pastries. For more information visit [www.coastalwildflowerday.org](http://www.coastalwildflowerday.org) or contact Toni Corelli at [corelli@coastside.net](mailto:corelli@coastside.net) or (650) 726-0689.

## Gardening with Natives

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes beginning and seasoned native plant gardeners, along with landscape architects and designers. GWN offers over 35 free talks throughout the year at public libraries in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

This year's themes are *Month-by-Month Pruning* and *Maintaining Your Native Garden*. For more information,

visit [www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/gardening/gardening-with-natives](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/gardening/gardening-with-natives).

These programs are made possible by the co-sponsoring libraries and our volunteers who help with program logistics. If you would like to help organize similar programming at a library near you, email Sherri Osaka at [sdosaka@sustainable-landscape.com](mailto:sdosaka@sustainable-landscape.com).

### Pruning Perennials for Maximum Garden Appeal, a talk by Patricia Evans

**Wednesday, March 2, 7-8:30 pm, Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (650) 948-7683**

Like any garden, a native one looks most pleasing when it is properly pruned to improve the vigor and appearance of plants. Learn when and how to prune your perennials, and how to avoid having to cut more than absolutely necessary. See examples of good and bad pruning done right before your eyes.

**Patricia Evans**, owner of Natural Landscape Design, is a graduate of the Foothill College Ornamental Horticulture program. Previously, she served on the boards of directors of Gamble Garden and the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. She has also taught "Garden Design for Homeowners" for Palo Alto Adult Education. She specializes in native plants and sustainable landscaping.

### Winning the War on Weeds, a talk by Rebecca Schoenenberger

**Thursday, Mar 17, 7-8:30 PM, Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View (650) 903-6337**

The rains are bringing much needed water to our gardens, but also sprout pesky weed seeds that hide in the soil. Ridding your garden of these weeds is typically a back-breaking, time-consuming endeavor, but there are techniques that can save you lots of time and effort. Join us to learn about sheet mulching and other simple tricks that you can do now, so you can enjoy your garden later. Bring along a sample of one or more of your weeds for the speaker to identify.

Owner, designer and builder **Rebecca Schoenenberger** has a diverse background in sustainability and natural systems. With an Associate of Science in Park Management and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies, she has an extensive knowledge of native plants, including selecting which plants will thrive in specific locations. Since 2011, Rebecca has also been a volunteer Santa Clara County Master Gardener.

### Design Your Own Lawn Replacement Garden, a talk by Sherri Osaka

**Wednesday, March 23, 7-8:30 PM, Campbell Branch Library, 77 Harrison Ave., Campbell (408) 866-1991**

You are finally ready to remove your lawn in order to save water, lower your maintenance time, and create habitat. But you want to create the design yourself. Come to this talk, and learn the principles of garden design. See an example of a design from start to finish. Pick up some handouts of different designs you can use and modify. And get ready to put pencil to paper!

**Sherri Osaka** is a licensed Landscape Architect, Bay-Friendly Qualified Designer, and a member of the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Landscape Advisory Board. She started her company, Sustainable Landscape Designs, over 19 years ago and lectures on drought-tolerant native plants, graywater and rainwater systems, pervious paving, as well as non-toxic and reusable materials.

### Creating a Butterfly Garden a talk by Dennis Dowling

**Tuesday, April 5, 7-8:30 PM, Milpitas Library, 160 N Main Street, Milpitas (408) 262-1171**

Butterflies are often called the "winged jewels of the garden," and they do indeed add sparkle to our yards. California has almost 70 different species of butterflies that you can attract to your garden by growing a variety of native plants which will provide nectar and habitat. Come hear how the Ulistac Natural Area in Santa Clara created a butterfly garden for monarchs and other winged jewels, and how you can apply these techniques and plants in your own garden.

**Dennis Dowling** is the CEO of the Ulistac Natural Area Restoration and Education Project. Passionate and knowledgeable about the preservation of California's natural history, he is a great teacher and storyteller.

### Biodiversity and the Native Plant Gardener, a talk by Arvind Kumar

**Thursday, April 14, 7-8:30 PM, Redwood City Library, 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (650) 780-7018**

What makes California a world hotspot of biodiversity? Why should a home gardener care? Learn about the critical role native plants play in a healthy environment, how human pressures are driving them to the brink of extinction, and what you as a home gardener can do to save and celebrate them. Learn how to provide habitat for wildlife,

conserve natural resources, save effort and money, and give your garden a sense of place – by using native plants. A plant list will be provided.

**Arvind Kumar** has been gardening with native plants for over 15 years and is a past President of our Chapter of CNPS. A true advocate of the environment, he helped start the Going Native Garden Tour in 2003, has worked on native plant restoration projects at Lake Cunningham in San Jose, and received the Water Champion award from the Silicon Valley Water Conservation Coalition in 2013.

### Wildflowers of Half Moon Bay, a talk by Toni Corelli & Avis Boutell

**Thursday, April 7, 6-8 PM, Half Moon Bay Library, 620 Correas St., Half Moon Bay (650) 726-2316 x 227**

Half Moon Bay is a great place to see native plant diversity. Many visitors come to the beach and discover our beautiful dune and bluff-top array of hardy plants and wildflowers that can also be grown in their gardens. Learn to recognize the native plants that grow here and bring the wild garden into your own garden. Yerba Buena Nursery also has a home in Half Moon Bay selling native plants.



Paul Heiple

Western bluebird on toyon last January. Toyon berries are a favorite winter food for many birds.

Plan to also attend "Coastal Wildflower Day" on Saturday, April 16 in Half Moon Bay where we will be celebrating California Native Plant Week. See page 3 for details.

**Toni Corelli** is a botanist, volunteer and coauthor with Avis Boutell of *The Plants and Plant Communities of the San Mateo Coast*.

Her coastal native garden is designed to attract birds, insects and other wildlife that comes in from the nearby wild coastal gardens. She can be reached at [corelli@coastside.net](mailto:corelli@coastside.net).

**Avis Boutell** is a State Park volunteer who works in a nursery propagating native plants and installing them in parks along the coast. Her own coastal garden is a mixture of native plants, vegetables, fruit trees, and legacy non-natives. She can be reached at [boutella@pacbell.net](mailto:boutella@pacbell.net).

### Creating a Butterfly Garden, a talk by Jeff Caldwell

#### **Monday, April 18, 6-7:30PM, Pacifica Sanchez Library, 1111 Terra Nova Boulevard, Pacifica (650) 359-3397**

You can attract butterflies to your garden by growing a variety of native plants which will provide nectar and habitat. Come hear how you can create habitat for monarchs and other winged jewels in your own garden.

**Jeffrey Caldwell**, B.A., Biology, has nearly 50 years of horticultural experience and has been interested in butterflies his whole life. For the last seven years he has been compiling information about California plants as resources for butterflies and moths to help those who wish to foster *Lepidoptera* in the landscape.

#### **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.

The upcoming dates are **Fridays, March 18 and April 29, from 6:30 - 8:30pm**. We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more information, please contact Joe Cernac at [joecernac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joecernac@sbcglobal.net) or (408) 292-5465.

**Directions to the PCC:** From Hwy. 101 take the San Antonio Rd. exit and head north. Take your next left onto East Bayshore, which will curve left then right. Take your next right onto Corporation Way. Your next left is the entrance to the PCC parking lot. The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

#### **Alternate Month Board Meetings**

Our Chapter Board meets in the even-numbered months of the year. Lately our Board meetings have included so many topics that we don't have time to discuss them thoroughly. Our committees research topics, propose Chapter actions, and present them for a Board vote when necessary. The Board prepares for discussions ahead of its meetings via other communications, but sometimes that is not enough. Thus our Board will try adding "alternate month" Board Meetings starting this March.

The first such meeting will take place on **March 10, at 7pm at the PCC**. For more information contact Chapter Vice President Madeline Morrow at [vicepresident@cnps-scw.org](mailto:vicepresident@cnps-scw.org)

[cnps-scw.org](http://cnps-scw.org) or (408) 741-1150. For directions to the PCC see the KWN article earlier in this newsletter.

#### **Leadership - Volunteer Recognition**

Our new volunteer awards program continued with three new outstanding honorees at Members' Night on January 29: Vicki Silvas-Young, Melanie Cross and Charley Pow.

**Vicki Silvas-Young** has been one of the Chapter's pillars: quiet, strong, and providing support when you need it, whether it is general meetings, sales, wildflower shows, or symposia. She can feed an army of volunteers with tasty healthful food. Her extraordinary ethic of service includes helping CNPS Fellow Sally Casey get to and from many events, as well as assisting with her nursery and other personal matters. In addition, her knowledge of both plants and animals is incredible, especially birds.

**Melanie Cross** was one of the earliest supporters of the Going Native Garden Tour. In addition, she opened her yard for the tour potlucks that were so enjoyable for garden owners and volunteers alike. She puts in countless hours keeping our nursery humming. From bleaching and scrubbing pots to organizing sales, from digging gravel to figuring out how to deal with phytophthora, from organizing members' sales to keeping volunteers happy – Melanie Cross does it all with style, kindness and grace.

**Charley Pow** has been with the Chapter a shorter time, but he has made his presence known very quickly with help on our website and many other Chapter events like our symposia and plant sales where his good logistical sense helps everything run more smoothly. He has a calm and steady demeanor which makes him pleasure to work with. Thanks to him, event-publishing and other egroup functions have continued without a glitch. His attention to detail and process focus is helping the Chapter serve more members better.

#### **Help Wanted**

We are actively seeking volunteers to perform the important jobs described below. If you would like more information or to volunteer, please contact the Leadership Development Committee Chair Stephen Buckhout at [yscottie@pacbell.net](mailto:yscottie@pacbell.net) or (408) 255-6233.

**Fund Raiser:** The Chapter needs someone to develop sources and solicit donations for the restoration and upgrade of the Chapter Nursery. We are particularly concerned with meeting the challenge grant recently made by an anonymous donor. We hope to create a regular donor program to supplement the Chapter budget in support of our wide-ranging conservation and education activities.

Previous experience is preferred but enthusiasm and creativity will also be considered. We would like this person to start as soon as possible.

**Grant Writer:** The Chapter is also looking for someone to seek out and apply for grants that will help fund Chapter activities, initially the renovation of the Chapter Nursery but eventually any of the activities involving conservation and education. Previous experience is preferred but enthusiasm and creativity will also be considered. **We have an immediate need** for someone to prepare and submit a proposal for an already identified grant by June 30, which could be completed as a special one-time project.

**Corresponding Secretary:** The Chapter is seeking a person to acknowledge all monetary and other gifts made to the Chapter. The Chapter will provide stationery and postage. Acknowledgements can either be hand-written or computer-generated. No previous experience is required.

## 2016 Scholarship Applications

Later this year the Chapter will again be granting scholarships for students doing research on native plants and plant communities. The applications will be made available **later this spring with an early fall due date**. Academic scholarships of \$1,500 for graduate student research and a \$1,000 scholarship for undergraduate student research will be available.

For more information, watch future issues of this newsletter and visit [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org) under Education. Questions regarding the 2016 scholarship application and program may be e-mailed to [nmonette@aol.com](mailto:nmonette@aol.com).

## Conservation Committee

Our Chapter's conservation committee meets on the **first Thursday** of the month. The next meetings will be on **Thursdays, March 3 and April 7 at 7pm** at the PCC in Palo Alto. Please join us in our important work! For questions, comments or concerns, please contact Conservation Chair Linda Ruthruff at [ldruff@hotmail.com](mailto:ldruff@hotmail.com). For **directions** to the PCC, please see the previous Keying with Natives article.

## CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

### Wed/Sat Edgewood Restoration

Our Chapter's involvement at Edgewood Park near Redwood City spans over 40 years, and our Wednesday and Saturday restoration sessions have been big contributors to

restoring this botanical gem while spreading the word about CNPS and native plant conservation. We hope you'll join us sometime... you'll learn a ton, and help make Edgewood an inspirational showcase of all CNPS stands for!

With the return of Daylight Savings Time, our **5:30pm Wed sessions** resume **March 16**. **Monthly Saturday sessions** are at **9am on the 3rd Saturdays** of March through September, including:

Date	Meet At	Event Theme
Mar 19	Day Camp Kiosk	Spring "Saturday Kickoff"
Apr 16	Day Camp Kiosk	Earth Day and CA Native Plant Week

For Wed/Sat info, schedules, and meeting places you can visit [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org), email Saturday leader Drew Shell at [nature@dshell.oddotter.org](mailto:nature@dshell.oddotter.org), or call Wednesday leader Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560.

### Friday Edgewood Restoration

We offer MORE weeding opportunities at Edgewood Park during our year round **Friday 9am** sessions. For more information, including schedules and meeting places visit [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org) or phone Paul Heiple at (650) 854-7125.

### Alum Rock Park Volunteers

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."

We have weeding sessions **every Monday morning** and an **Inspiration Point Walk-and-Weed Day the third Saturday morning** of each month. Please visit the Yahoo Group "Alum Rock Park Volunteers" to check the schedules. The group introduction lists what to bring and gives directions to the meeting places.

For more information, contact project lead Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinstitute@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinstitute@sbcglobal.net) or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

## CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Chapter field trips are free and generally open to the public. They are oriented to conservation, protection and enjoyment of California native plants and wildlife, and we adhere to all rules and guidelines for the lands on which we are visiting.

**In our region it is very important to be prepared for hiking on rugged and steep terrain, wide temperature ranges and rapidly changing conditions at any time of year. All participants should wear sturdy footwear and carry sufficient water, sun protection, food, clothing layers, personal first aid and other supplies you may need. If you have any questions about your ability to participate in a particular field trip, please contact the trip leader in advance.**

Note: This printed edition of the Blazing Star includes **abbreviated versions** of the field trip descriptions. For the full descriptions, please see the Field Trip Schedule page on our Chapter website: visit [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org), go to the **Field Trips** tab, then to **Field Trip Schedule**.

### **Sun Mar 6 10am - 1pm San Bruno Mountain Watch Hike (South San Francisco)**

Join Chuck and Loretta Heimstadt from San Bruno Mountain Watch to see the undiscovered side of San Bruno Mountain. See early spring flowers of yellow lomatium, brilliant fuschia-colored hummingbird sage and the Mission Blue butterfly's host plant, silver bush lupine and more. Wear sturdy shoes and bring hiking poles, if desired, for the sometimes steep hills and valleys. Bring water, snacks and camera as it will be truly gorgeous up there.

**Directions:** We will meet near the restrooms for the Terrabay Field behind the Montessori School at 1400 Hillside Blvd., South San Francisco. Heavy rain on the 6th moves this to the following Sunday, March 13th.

For info and questions, please contact Chuck or Loretta at [chuckheimstadt@yahoo.com](mailto:chuckheimstadt@yahoo.com) or call (650) 952 6174.

### **Sun Mar 13 10am - 3pm Coyote Lake, Gilroy**

Join Stephen Rosenthal on this spring hike, featuring a beautiful serpentine area bordered by mature big berry manzanita. It will be a leisurely 4 mile hike, with about 500 ft. of elevation gain. This area is prized for its beautiful expanse of wildflowers in the spring.

Space is limited. For more information, directions and to **reserve your spot**, please email Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net).

### **Sun Mar 20 9am - 11am First Day of Spring Beginner's Bird and Plant Identification Walk at Lake Cunningham Park (San Jose)**

Join us for a beginner's bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park. Lake Cunningham is a major destination for waterfowl and migratory birds, and its 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 1.2 miles round trip on a level path. Bring a hat, water, and binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Meet in the Marina parking lot at 9am. Parking fee is \$6. Cosponsored by Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and CNPS.

Space is limited. Please RSVP to [arvind.kumar@cnps.org](mailto:arvind.kumar@cnps.org) for directions and details.

### **Sun Mar 20 10am - 4pm San Bruno Mountain**

Join Ken Himes and Dee Wong for a hike along the Summit Loop Trail to see early flowering plants in the coastal scrub and coastal grassland plant communities, such as coast rock cress and Franciscan wallflower. The hike will be about 3.5 to 4 miles long with 800 feet elevation gain/loss. Wear layers as windy conditions could occur. Bring lunch and liquids. For more info, call Ken at (650) 591-8560.

**Directions:** From Hwy. 101 northbound, take Old Bayshore/Brisbane exit and proceed north on Old Bayshore, past the town of Brisbane. Make a left turn onto Guadalupe Canyon Pkwy., and follow it uphill (west) about a mile and a half to the park entrance. We will meet at the parking lot just beyond the entrance kiosk. There is a \$6 day use/parking fee.

### **Thu Mar 24 11am - 3pm Walk, Talk and Shop Hike at Hidden Villa (Los Altos Hills)**

Join Vivian Neou and Tara Lee on this 3-4 mile hike for native plant gardeners. What better way to figure out a plant's needs than by seeing it in its home? On this hike, we will be observing a variety of plants while sharing our own gardening experiences. The hike will be on trails close to the CNPS nursery at Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills. We'll finish up with a private Members' sale at the CNPS nursery. Bring water, a snack, your questions, your stories and observational skills!

This trip is limited to CNPS members only and registration is required. To **register** and receive trip details and directions, email Vivian Neou at [techchair@cnps-scv.org](mailto:techchair@cnps-scv.org). Limited to seven participants.

### **Sat Mar 26 10am - 4pm Mt. Tamalpais North Side Loop Hike**

Join Ken Himes and Dee Wong for a fairly long and rough loop hike through Douglas-fir woodland with calypso

orchids, and through serpentine substrates with Sargent cypress and the endemic Mt. Tamalpais manzanita.

Wear sturdy hiking boots with ankle support for rough trails, about 4 miles in length, with gradual elevation gain/loss of 500 feet. Bring snacks, lunch, and water.

**Directions:** Take Hwy. 101 north to the Hwy. 1/Stinson Beach turn-off and follow the signs to Mt Tamalpais. 1.4 miles past Pantoll Campground, take the right branching road on to Pantoll Rd. until you intersect Ridgecrest Dr. Cross Ridgecrest into the Rock Springs Parking Area. We'll **meet at 10am sharp** at Rock Springs trailhead.

Travel time/distance to the parking area is about 30 min./10 mi. from the Hwy. 1/Stinson Beach turn-off onto Hwy. 1. Allow addition travel time through San Francisco. For more information, email [dee4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:dee4cnps@gmail.com).

### **Sun Mar 27 11am – 4pm Coyote Ridge (South San Jose)**

The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority has recently acquired a large new property on Coyote Ridge, north of the area we have visited in the past. Join us on an extended exploration to see this unique serpentine grassland, a spectacular wildflower area.

This will be a strenuous, entirely off-trail hike with uneven footing throughout. The 6.5-mile round trip hike will gain 900 feet in elevation to the top of the ridge for amazing views and many rare endemic native plants. We may see the rare Bay checkerspot butterfly, possibly burrowing owls, and other wildlife.

Space is limited to 20 participants. For more information and to **register**, contact Judy Fenerty at [judy@fenerty.com](mailto:judy@fenerty.com).

### **Sat Apr 2 Vernal Pool at Jepson Prairie (Solano County) and Sun Apr 3 extended trip to North Table Mountain Reserve (Butte County)**

Join Carol Witham and Jepson Prairie docents on this very special tour arranged for our Chapter members on Saturday, April 2nd for a four and half hour tour in this premier preserve!

The tour will start with a fairy shrimp / aquatic invertebrate show and tell. From there we will explore the vernal pool landscape with a focus on seeing as many rare plants and unusual vernal pool endemics as possible.

After our Vernal Pool trip, we will drive towards North Table Mountain Reserve north of Oroville for a day and a half of exploring and hiking the reserve, crossing streams, climbing hills and ravines, and uneven rocky surfaces. We'll stay over Saturday night, with options to camp nearby or stay in local motels.

Space is limited and this trip is limited to CNPS members only. Please email Dee Wong at [dee4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:dee4cnps@gmail.com) to **register** and get directions and trip details.

### **Sat – Thu Apr 9 – 14 Eastern Mojave Desert: Members Only Car Camping Trip**

With the El Niño rains, a second desert trip beckons us to the Eastern Mojave Desert. Join co-leaders Patricia Evans



*Dee Wong*

After an arduous 4 mile hike uphill to Mt. Elijah, participants of the Chapter's Siskiyou away field trip in July 2015 take a long lunch break at the peak. With an impending thunderstorm coming in, Ken Himes (in blue sweatshirt) looking immediately to the south explains the grand view and geography.

(the whip) and Joe Cernac (the botanist) on a trip to the Mojave National Preserve near the Arizona border.

There will be three days of hiking to places such as Mitchell Caverns, Kelso Dunes, and Granite Pass and Mountain. For the rest of the trip, we will drive on to visit and botanize Golden Valley and/or Short Canyon, Hole in the Wall, and Red Rock State Park. We will be car camping in selected locations.

Space is limited to 20 Chapter members. For more information or to **reserve your spot**, contact Patricia Evans at [paevans@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:paevans@stanfordalumni.org) or (650) 949-2801.

### Sun Apr 10 9:30am - 4pm Rancho San Vicente (South San Jose)

Join Woody Collins and Judy Fenerty for a four- to six-mile moderately strenuous hike through the new Rancho San Vicente addition to Calero County Park. Not yet open to the public, Rancho San Vicente has significant serpentine grasslands as well as oak savanna, chaparral and riparian areas and striking views of the Almaden Valley and Calero Reservoir.

We will be following ranch roads, some of which are rough, rocky and slippery, and we may go off-road to see some species. Elevations range from about 440 to 1,070 feet with some short steep grades and a cumulative elevation gain of around 1,000 ft. Wear sturdy hiking footwear. Much of the area has little or no shade. Dress in layers and bring plenty of water!

Santa Clara County Parks utilizes cattle grazing to control invasive grasses, so be aware that cattle may be present. The group must stay together and there are no restrooms or potable water on the property.

Because this is a closed area, reservations are required and the group will be limited to 20. **To sign up** and get directions, contact Judy Fenerty at [judy@fenerty.com](mailto:judy@fenerty.com) (preferred), or (408) 655-3493.

### Sat Apr 16 9:30am - 4pm Calero County Park, Serpentine Loop Trail

Join leaders Sheila Colby and Joe Cernac through Calero County Park, passing a variety of exposures and habitats, grasslands, mixed deciduous woodlands, chaparral and serpentine barrens. This is a fast-paced, 6-mile hike with more than 1,500 feet of elevation gain/loss with a lot of ups and downs. Your reasonably good physical fitness is expected. Hiking poles may be helpful.

We'll meet in the parking lot, near the visitor center, at the main entrance on McKean Rd. Please bring hat, sunscreen, lunch and plenty of water. Rain cancels.

**Directions:** Take 101 South to Bailey Ave. (Exit 373). Turn right on Bailey Ave., go 3 mi. Turn left on McKean Rd., drive 0.7 mi. and turn right into the park to the main parking lot. For more information, contact Sheila Colby at [sheilacolby@gmail.com](mailto:sheilacolby@gmail.com) or (669) 224-8298.

### Save the dates!

We have an **April** field trip still in the planning stages as we go to press – see the **Chapter Field Trip Schedule** on

**our website** for details (on this or any field trip). And we have two field trips already planned for May:

Date	Where	Leaders
Sunday, April 17	Stevens Creek restoration project walk	Deborah Jamison, Jeffrey Caldwell, Jana Sokale
Saturday, May 14	Mt. Hamilton / Lick Observatory	Stephen Rosenthal
Sunday, May 15	Butano State Park	Ken Himes and Dee Wong

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*News and Activities from Other Organizations*

### Partnering to Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful



There's a new organization in the South Bay: Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, which works towards restoring the creek through cleanups and plantings, recreation and cultural activities, and educational partnerships. Our Chapter and this new organization

are looking for ways to work together. Chapter members may be interested in attending one of their events, such as:

- A monthly creek cleanup event – get to know the areas of the creek, with an eye towards restoration opportunities. Next dates are March 19 and April 23.
- The Coyote Creek Watershed Tour on March 12.
- The Coyote Howl conference for South Bay Creeks, a half-day event (visit [www.CoyoteHowl.org](http://www.CoyoteHowl.org) for details).
- A backpack trip to the Coyote Creek headwaters in Henry Coe State Park on April 15-17.

Visit their website at [www.keeptoyotecreekbeautiful.org](http://www.keeptoyotecreekbeautiful.org). For more information, to suggest ideas on co-hosting a talk with CNPS, to provide ideas on partnering, or to volunteer in some other way, please contact Deb Kramer, Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful Program Manager, at [deb@keeptoyotecreekbeautiful.org](mailto:deb@keeptoyotecreekbeautiful.org) or (408) 372-7053.

## DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

**Saturday, April 9, 2016**

**Email: [newsletter@cnps-scv.org](mailto:newsletter@cnps-scv.org)**

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

Santa Clara Valley Chapter California Native Plant Society  
3921 East Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303



## Join CNPS Today!

Members receive the *Fremontia*, the *Bulletin*, and the Chapter newsletter, and other benefits listed at [www.cnps.org/membership](http://www.cnps.org/membership)

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 Conservation  
 Education  
 Field Trips  
 Gardening  
 Plant ID

*Donations above the membership level are gratefully accepted.*

*Dues and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail it with this form to:*

CNPS Membership, 2707 K Street Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816 • 916-447-2677 • fax 916-447-2727

## FIRST-CLASS

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

- Mar 2 Wed** Nursery Member Sale (1)  
**Mar 2 Wed** GWN – Pruning - Evans (3)  
**Mar 3 Thu** Conservation Committee meeting (6)  
**Mar 6 Sun** San Bruno Mountain Watch field trip (7)  
**Mar 13 Sun** Coyote Lake field trip (7)  
**Mar 16 Wed** Edgewood evening weeding resumes (6)  
**Mar 17 Thu** GWN – Weeds - Schoenenberger (3)  
**Mar 18 Fri** Keying with Natives (5)  
**Mar 19 Sat** Edgewood Saturday weeding (6)  
**Mar 20 Sun** Bird & Plant ID Lake Cunningham (7)  
**Mar 20 Sun** San Bruno Mountain field trip (7)  
**Mar 23 Wed** GWN – Garden Design - Osaka (4)  
**Mar 24 Thu** Walk, Talk, Shop hike Hidden Villa (7)  
**Mar 25 Fri** **General Meeting - Roessler** (1)  
**Mar 26 Sat** Mt. Tamalpais hike (7)  
**Mar 27 Sun** Coyote Ridge field trip (8)  
**Apr 2-3 Sat-Sun** Jepson Prairie & Table Mt. trip (8)  
**Apr 5 Tue** GWN – Butterfly Garden - Dowling (4)  
**Apr 7 Thu** GWN – Coast - Corelli & Boutell (4)  
**Apr 7 Thu** Conservation Committee meeting (6)  
**Apr 9 Sat** **Newsletter submittal deadline** (9)  
**Apr 9-14 Sat-Thu** Mojave Desert car camp (8)  
**Apr 9 Sat** **Going Native Garden Tour** (north)  
**Apr 10 Sun** **Going Native Garden Tour** (south)  
**Apr 10 Sun** Calero / Rancho San Vicente walk (9)  
**Apr 14 Thu** GWN – Biodiversity - Kumar (4)  
**Apr 16 Sat** Edgewood Saturday weeding (6)  
**Apr 16 Sat** **Coastal Wildflower Day** (3)  
**Apr 16 Sat** Calero County Park field trip (9)  
**Apr 17 Sun** Stevens Creek Restoration field trip (9)  
**Apr 18 Mon** GWN – Butterfly Garden - Caldwell (5)  
**Apr 23 Sat** **West Valley College Wildflower Show**  
**Apr 27-29 Wed-Fri** Special Nursery Workdays (2)  
**Apr 28 Thu** **Newsletter Mailing Party - 10am PCC**  
**Apr 29 Fri** Keying with Natives (5)  
**Apr 30 Sat** **Spring Native Plant Sale** (2)  
**Apr 30 Sat** At Sale: Talk 1pm, Design Consult all day  
**Mon & 3rd Sats** Alum Rock Weeding (6)  
**Wed & Thu** Nursery workdays (2)  
**Wed & Fri** Edgewood Weeding (6)

Next Board meetings: **Thursdays March 10** and **April 14 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. More info: [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net).

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 \$45.00 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** and please put "member address change" in the subject line.

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