



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

March-April 2019

SPRING WILDFLOWER SHOW

Our Chapter will hold its 45th annual Wildflower Show on Saturday, **April 27th from 9:30am - 4pm** at West Valley College in Saratoga. This year's theme is **Citizen Science**. A variety of free lectures will be offered, including a training session by **Matteo Garbelotto** from the UC Berkeley Forest Pathology and Mycology Laboratory for the Saratoga Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Blitz, and a talk and demonstration by **Ken-ichi Ueda**, the co-founder of iNaturalist.

This family-friendly event features hundreds of native wildflowers and plants on display and a variety of tours, including a tour of the Vasona Creek Restoration Project. A selection of native plants and native plant art, t-shirts, books and other related goods will be available for purchase. The event and parking are all free to the public. A full schedule and more information is available at: www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/events/wildflower-shows.

The show depends on **volunteers**. We are looking for help with:

- Show Set Up
- Transport items to and from our PCC office.
- Plant Runner
- Table Tidy-Up
- Greeter
- Assistant Book Sales
- Show Close Down

If you'd like to help, please sign up with SignUpGenius at www.bit.ly/WFS-vol.



Vivian Neou

Visitors examining live plant specimens at the 2018 Wildflower Show

Or contact one of our Wildflower Show organizers:

Toni Gregorio-Bunch:

tidytip.lp@gmail.com (408) 373-4497

Barbara Hunt: barbarahunt@yahoo.com (408) 921-6495

Vivian Neou: president@cnps-scv.org

More Spring Native Plant Events!

Going Native Garden Tour – May 4 - 5
(flyer enclosed & details page 2)

Edgewood Wildflower Walks
March 16 - June 2 (flyer enclosed & visit friendsofedgewood.org/springtime-wildflower-walks)

Coastal Wildflower Day – Saturday April 13
Visit www.coastalwildflowerday.org

GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

Friday, March 22 at 7:30 PM

**Los Altos Library Program Room
13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos**

**Preserving Redwoods During
Climate Change:
Survival of Coast Redwoods
in Reduced Fog
A talk by Dr. Michelle Geary**

California climate models predict future high temperatures that reduce fog and threaten redwoods in hotter, drier parts of their range. Most tree models for climate change rely on models that focus on rainfall. Since redwoods use fog for water, rainfall-based models don't work for them. Dr. Michelle Geary and Jennifer Mo started a project in 2015 to study the survival of coast

redwood seedlings in reduced fog. Dr. Geary will share what they've found and the next steps in their study.



Robert Ashworth

Fog, such as seen in this photo taken near Crescent City, is more important than rain for nourishing coast redwood trees.

Michelle Geary has a PhD in Plant Biology from UC Davis. Her research focused on photosynthetic physiology of the evergreen tree tan-oak, studying function across years and seasons, across the species range. She's fascinated by how plants deal with stress, especially stresses that change across time. Dr. Geary's been teaching plant biology at West Valley College since 2003. She started the redwood project with Jennifer Mo, one of her students, in 2015. In 2017-2018, she took a research sabbatical to expand the project and refine a plan to integrate more research into undergrad education in and out of the classroom. She doesn't sleep enough, but loves her students and her work.

There's more about the project in this article: westvalley.edu/offices/marketing/stories/geary.html.

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 Madeline Morrow at past-president@cnps-scv.org or the Chapter phone (650) 260-3450.



Agi Kehoe

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

CNPS SCV Nursery at Hidden Villa

Come help propagate plants for our future plant sales by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions, every **Wednesday from 11am to 2pm**. Also, we'll hold a work session during each **member sale day** that takes place at the nursery, listed below.

Bring garden gloves, sunhat, liquids and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. Knowledge of plants is not necessary; your willingness to help is all that's required.

The next **Monthly Member Sales** will be **11am to 2pm on Wednesdays, March 6 and April 3**.

An inventory of available plants will be updated the week before each sale. Visit www.cnps-scv.org and go to Events, then Plant Sale.

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 Dana Center parking lot to your right. Continue walking a short distance on that road and you will see the CNPS SCV Nursery ahead of you, just past the Dana Center building. Parking is free while volunteering or attending a Member Sale.

Going Native Garden Tour

Saturday May 4 & Sunday May 5, 10am-4pm

There is a new understanding of the importance of native plants in our environment, and the extraordinary role ordinary home gardens can play in "*creating wildlife corridors that sustain populations of insects, birds and animals*" – *The Importance of Native Plants, Fine Gardening*, Julie Moir Messervy.

Visiting native plant gardens and bringing others along to witness their beauty and habitat value may be one of the most powerful individual efforts we each can make to entice and persuade our neighbors, colleagues, family, and even ourselves, to add more native plants to our gardens.

"...most native insects cannot, or will not, eat alien plants. When native plant species disappear or are replaced by alien exotics, the insects disappear, thus impoverishing the

food source of birds and other animals.” – Prof. Doug Tallamy in his book *Bringing Nature Home*.

The Going Native Garden Tour (GNGT) is your opportunity to visit gardens featuring California Native plants, most of them private home gardens. Please come on the **free** tour and bring others with you! Visitor registration is open at www.gngt.org. Registering ensures that you will receive a few timely reminders and the ability to download the maps. The 50+ gardens are located throughout the Santa Clara Valley (Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties).

GNGT Volunteer Opportunities

We are always seeking garden volunteer greeters and docents. Being a GNGT volunteer is fun and only a few hours' time commitment. The benefits are enormous – a unique t-shirt with a native plant design to wear on tour day, an invitation to the exclusive volunteer party a few weeks after the event and monthly private garden previews from January to October. To find out more about volunteering, please visit www.gngt.org.

Your Garden Flowers Needed for California Native Flower Arranging Demo

Saturday April 13, 11AM – 12PM

Gamble Garden in Palo Alto

Flower arranging is a new way for our Chapter to introduce local residents to the beauty of native plants. Gamble Garden's experts will demonstrate their floral magic with flowers and cuttings from California native plants. This **free** event requires registration. **To sign up** visit www.gamblegarden.org/events.

We need your help! Our contribution is to provide the plant materials for the event: flowers, foliage, seed heads, bark, grasses, etc. We will fetch the foliage from your garden on **Friday April 12** during work hours or you can deliver them yourself to Gamble Garden. Buckets can be provided. Email Cynthia Typaldos at socialmedia@gngt.org if you are willing to share your garden's bounty. Everyone who provides materials is guaranteed a spot at the event if desired.

This event is co-organized by our Chapter's Going Native Garden Tour committee and Gamble Garden in Palo Alto, a leading local garden-oriented non-profit organization.

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. For more info., visit www.cnps-scv.org/gwn.

These programs are made possible by co-sponsoring libraries and volunteers who help with program logistics. If you would like to help organize similar programs at a library near you, please email gwn@cnps-scv.org.

Design-It-Yourself Native Garden a talk by Sherri Osaka

**Thursday, March 7, 7-8:30 PM, San Carlos Library,
610 Elm St., San Carlos (650) 591-0341**

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. Learn about free online designs that you can download 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 Board. She is GWN co-chair for our Chapter and started her company, Sustainable Landscape Designs, over 20 years ago. In 2018, she received the Water Champion distinction from the Silicon Valley Water Conservation Award Coalition.

Native Plant All-Stars a talk by Rebecca Schoenenberger

**Thursday, March 14, 7-8:30 PM, Cupertino Library,
10800 Torre Ave., Cupertino (408) 446-1677**

Did you know that the horticultural staff of the UC Davis Arboretum have identified 100 tough, reliable plants that have been tested in the Arboretum? They are easy to grow, don't need a lot of water, have few problems with pests or diseases, and provide outstanding qualities in the garden. Many of them are California native plants and support native birds and insects. Our speaker will discuss these "All-Star" native plants and describe their care and growing conditions.

Owner and designer **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.

**Native Plant Pollinator Gardens
a talk by Juanita Salisbury**

**Thu., March 21, 7-8:30 PM, Mountain View Library,
585 Franklin St., Mountain View (650) 903-6337**

Native plants are integral to an effective pollinator garden design. Based on functions within the ecosystem, the speaker will explore the interrelationships between plants, pollinators, other insects and animals. The goal is to allow you to design pollinator gardens, thereby leveraging California's wealth of biodiversity into more resilient – and beautiful – landscapes.

Juanita Salisbury has a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from West Virginia University (2000). In 2009 she established Juanita Salisbury Landscape Architecture after working for commercial and residential design firms. She has recently turned her focus to California native plant pollinator habitats, and in 2016 established the Primrose Way Pollinator Garden, the first of four pollinator habitat gardens in Palo Alto. Her focus is to research and relay information on these habitats, as well as to explore opportunities to install more of them.

**Maintaining Your Native Garden
a talk by Dee Shea Himes**

**Tuesday, March 26, 7-8:30 PM, Los Altos Library,
13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (650) 948-7683**

Learn how to maintain your water-conserving garden and spend less time doing it! Topics will include the proper planting and care of California native and other low-water plants. Information about pruning techniques and drip irrigation systems will also be discussed. Hear why healthy soil is so important and learn how sheet mulching can reduce the time you spend weeding.

Dee Shea Himes recently retired from the landscape maintenance industry and is now an Adjunct Instructor of horticulture at Foothill College, in their Environmental Horticulture and Design program. She graduated from this program with an A.S. degree in 2006. She is an active member of our Chapter, formerly field trip chair and treasurer. She is also an active "Weed Warrior" in one of CNPS' restoration programs at Edgewood County Park and Preserve in Redwood City.

**Winning the War on Weeds
a talk by Rebecca Schoenenberger**

**Wednesday, April 3, 6-7:30 PM, Los Gatos Library,
100 Villa Ave, Los Gatos (408) 354-6891**

The rains are bringing much needed water to our gardens, but they 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. *Please note the earlier start time.*

For Rebecca's bio, see her talk on March 14 listed above.

**Easy-to-Grow Native Plants
a talk by Sally and Ken Coverdell**

**Thursday, April 11 7-8:30 PM, San Carlos Library,
610 Elm Street, San Carlos (650) 591-0341**

Are you new to growing drought-tolerant native plants? Do you want to include them in your garden for beauty, habitat and sustainability, but don't know where to begin? Come to this talk and learn about the many easy-to-grow native trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals for the home garden. Many of these plants are native to our local area and will thrive with just a little water and care.

Ken and Sally Coverdell are part of Blue Sky Designs, Inc. Ken has been a licensed Landscape Contractor since 1978 and also holds Landscape Architecture and General Contractors licenses. He has been Bay Friendly-certified and is focusing on xerophytic landscapes incorporating California native plants. Sally has a degree in plant science from UC Davis and has been in the nursery business for over 35 years, first at Nurseryman's Exchange and subsequently growing plants for Blue Sky Designs.

**Graywater for Native Plant Gardens
a talk by Deva Luna**

**Wednesday, April 17 6-7:30 PM, Los Gatos Library,
100 Villa Avenue, Los Gatos (408) 354-6891**

California is a drought-prone state and it is imperative that we conserve every precious drop of water. Graywater is a great way to reuse water from inside the house for landscape irrigation outside of the house. Come learn how

you can install a simple laundry-to-landscape system and which native plants are best suited for this type of irrigation. Did we mention you can also get a rebate from the local water district? **Please note the earlier start time.**

Deva Luna is a sustainable and Bay Friendly-Qualified designer who has been teaching and speaking about horticulture for over 20 years. She has a degree in “Plants and Art” from U.C. Davis and works for EarthCare Landscaping (www.earthcareland.com) in Cupertino.

**Creating a Bee-Friendly Native Garden
a talk by John Kehoe**

**Wed., April 24, 7-8:30 PM, Redwood City Library,
1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (650) 780-7018**

We all know about the European honeybee, but what about the native bees that live here in the Santa Clara Valley? These local insects help pollinate your ornamental and edible plants, too! Once you know what to look for, you’ll learn to recognize over a dozen bee species that live in our urban setting – especially among locally-growing native plants. Find out how planting even a few select natives can enrich your garden and attract even more bees.

John Kehoe is a longtime member of CNPS as well as The Xerces Society. He is passionate about the natural world and is a regular volunteer at Ulistac Natural Area, as well as at various CNPS functions. His research interests include studying native bees and their relationships with native plants. He shares these interests by way of his photography on Flickr, CalPhotos and Bumble Bee Watch.

**Native Lawn Replacements
a talk by Jodie Sheffield**

**Wednesday, April 24, 7-8:30 PM, Campbell Library, 77
Harrison Ave., Campbell (408) 866-1991**

Learn about the variety of native lawns that are available and which can save you water. See photos of many installations that illustrate how these meadow-like sods create beautiful and natural spaces. Hear how to manage these water-wise plants and establish your native sod to give it the best start possible. Understand the best management options for mowing and caring for these sturdy native grasses.

Jodie Sheffield is a Seed Specialist in charge of Research and Development for Delta Bluegrass Company located in Stockton. With over 25 years of experience in the turf-

grass Industry, Jodie has worked with plant breeders, seed producers and research facilities throughout California and the Pacific Northwest developing premium, quality turf-grass sod.

2018-2019 Chapter Scholarship Recipients

Our Chapter awarded three \$1,500 graduate student research scholarships and a \$1,000 undergraduate student research scholarship in December 2018. This is the 19th year our Chapter has supported California native plant research by students. Scholarships include the Sally Casey Shooting Stars and Donald Mayall Conservation Scholarships in recognition of the contributions of two of our Chapter’s CNPS Fellows who were very supportive of education, research and conservation activities.

The recipients of the 2018-2019 graduate student scholarships are:

Livia Braga, San José State University.[Graduate Research Scholarship] Livia will be working with four species of the moss genus *Scleropodium* whose ranges overlap (sympatric species). She is studying the niche differences that may affect species diversity and composition in these non-vascular plants.

Alyssa Hanover, San José State University [Sally Casey Shooting Stars Graduate Research Scholarship]. Alyssa is working in second growth coast redwood forest in Redwood National Park in the research area of assessing effective restoration of forest health. She notes that when using active management techniques to restore an ecosystem, it is critical to fully understand the potential benefits as well as impacts associated with implementation. The specific objective of her study is to determine how understory species composition varies between restorative treatments – including stands treated with and without mechanical thinning.

Keir Morse, Claremont Graduate University [Donald Mayall Conservation Graduate Research Scholarship]. Keir’s work addresses the taxonomy and conservation of the genus *Malocothamnus*. This genus includes fire-following shrubs in the mallow family (*Malvaceae*) that are taxonomically challenging. As a part of this work he plans to provide resources such as morphology assessments, extensive field work documentation and DNA analyses, to assist with resolving the taxonomy of the genus, including taxa that are on the CNPS rare plant list.

The recipient of the 2018-2019 undergraduate student scholarship is:

Nate Blackmore, University of California, Santa Cruz. Nate's research topic for his senior thesis is serpentine endemics and the tradeoff between serpentine adaption and competitive ability. He will be assessing water use efficiency: competitive ability in greenhouse trials using nine native genera (species) and one non-native annual grass. Nate plans to share the results of his research at an undergraduate research poster symposium and with the Edgewood Weed Warriors.

We look forward to hearing more from the scholarship recipients in the future at our March or May meeting and newsletters. Congratulations to Livia, Alyssa, Keir, and Nate!

Keying with Natives

Join us as we learn and practice methods of identifying the native plants of our region (aka keying). We use the current edition of *The Jepson Manual*, of which there will be copies to share. Bring your own copy and a hand lens, plus plant samples if you have them. Microscopes are also available.

The upcoming meeting dates are **Fridays, March 29 and April 19**, 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 jocernac@sbcglobal.net or (408) 292-5465.

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

Photography Group

Our Photography Group is a great place to meet other native plant enthusiasts while improving your photographic skills and learning more about our native plants. We announce activities to our online discussion group (groups.io/g/CNPS-SCV-Photography), so if you'd like to receive updates, please join via the web interface or by email. Learn more by visiting the Photography Group page at our website: www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/field-trips/336-photography.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Committee

Our Chapter's conservation committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, March 12** and **Tuesday, April 9** at **7:30pm** at the PCC in Palo Alto.

Please join us in our important work! For questions, comments or concerns, contact Conservation Committee Chair Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com or (650) 804-6162. For directions to the PCC, see the previous Keying with Natives article.

New Rare Plant Co-Chair Don Thomas

Don is our newest Rare Plant co-chair. He has been an active member of our Chapter since its early years, going back to the 1970s. Don's roles over the years include Escaped Exotics chair (now called Invasives) and Santa Clara County Fair co-chair. Don has led numerous field trips, and for many years has been leading an annual *Dirca occidentalis* (Western leatherwood) walk. He has even grown dirca for our Chapter's nursery sales (not an easy plant to start from seed and keep alive for several years!). He also volunteers at the nursery, does weeding at Edgewood, and helps at our annual Wildflower Show.

Don retired last year after working 10 years for the SFPUC (San Francisco Public Utility Commission) as an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Specialist. During his tenure with the SFPUC, he led many Chapter restoration field trips on San Francisco watershed property, providing a unique opportunity for Chapter members to see several federally endangered plants while helping to protect their habitat.

We are thrilled Don will continue to share his first-hand knowledge of rare plants and the threats to rare plants in his new role as Rare Plant Co-Chair.

Did You Miss the 2019 Northern California Botanists Symposium?

Stephen Rosenthal recorded 25 of the symposium seminars and you can find them on YouTube! Most run only about 20 minutes, and there is quite a variety of topics, all CA related. Check it out by visiting: www.bit.ly/NorCalBot.

Note: Stephen has recorded so much for us over the years: this symposium (and last year's), the CNPS-2015 Conservation Conference, GWN talks, etc. See the **CNPS-SCV channel on YouTube** for all 290 videos that he has recorded for CNPS and other organizations.

Good Turnout at "Protect Coyote Valley Rally"

Over 200 people from different environmental organizations attended the rally in January to show support for Coyote Valley. We appreciate our Chapter members who joined the ranks with other environmental supporters. Please watch for other Action Alerts as we monitor this important process. Your emails and participation make a difference!

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Edgewood Restoration

Help restore habitat at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, known for fabulous wildflowers and amazing diversity near Redwood City. Sturdy gloves are recommended; you might also want to bring sunscreen, water, a hat, layered clothing and wear long sleeves/pants.

We weed year-round **every Friday at 9am**. With the return of Daylight Savings Time, our **5:30pm Wednesday sessions will resume on March 13**. For more information including meeting places, visit friendsofedgewood.org/habitat-restoration, contact Wednesday leader Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560 or Friday leader Paul Heiple at pheiple@gmail.com or (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 Stephen Rosenthal at sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or (650) 260-3450.

Lake Cunningham Native Garden

The California Native Garden project in Lake Cunningham Regional Park controls invasive plants in a 1.5-acre area and beautifies it with California native wildflowers, perennials, shrubs and trees.

Workdays take place every **Saturday, 9am - noon**. Volunteers are welcome by appointment. To sign up, visit lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer. The park is located at 2305 S. White Road in San Jose. For **directions**, visit lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/directions. For more information, contact Arvind Kumar at chhaprahiya@gmail.com or (408) 715-7020.

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.

Cell service is mainly restricted to cities and major highways. To find your way to an outing do not rely solely on your phone.

Check our field trips page www.cnps-scv.org/activities/field-trips for changes, cancellations and additional field trips.

Sun Mar 17 10am - 4pm San Bruno Mountain State & County Park (Brisbane)

Join Ken and Dee Himes for a hike along the Summit Loop Trail to see early flowering plants in the coastal scrub and coastal grassland plant communities. We expect to see footsteps of spring (*Sanicula arctopoides*), Franciscan wallflower (*Erysimum franciscanum*) and the endemic San Bruno Mountain manzanita (*Arctostaphylos imbricata*). The hike will be 3.5 to 4 miles in length with 800 feet in elevation changes.

Dress warmly in layers as it can be very windy, and wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots. Hiking poles are recommended as some areas are very steep. Bring snacks, a sack lunch and liquids for the day. Heavy rain cancels. For more information call Ken at (650) 591-8560 or email Dee at dee4cnps@gmail.com.

Directions: From Hwy. 101 northbound, take the Old Bayshore/Brisbane exit and proceed north on Old Bayshore, past the town of Brisbane. Make a left turn onto Guadalupe Cyn. 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 at pay station; bring exact change or credit card.

Mar 23 - 24 Sugarloaf Ridge SP (Sonoma County)

Join trip leader Patricia Evans and a biologist from the Sonoma Ecology Center to tour an area in Sonoma County that severely burned in 2017. We'll leave home early Saturday and **meet at 10am** at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, then camp overnight at the park after hiking. On Sunday, we may go north to Healdsburg to join the Milo Baker Chapter at Fitch Mountain or visit the vernal pools in Sonoma Valley Regional Park near Glen Ellen before heading for home.

The cost is about \$20/person for camping and the biologist. Sugarloaf Ridge is south of Calistoga, between Santa Rosa and St. Helena, so you may want to start your trip a day early to do other things in the area.

Because of tight limits on the numbers of people, vehicles, and people sleeping in vehicles, **please reserve your spot ASAP** with Patricia Evans by calling 650-949-2801. If you email her at paevans@stanfordalumni.org, you are not guaranteed a spot until she calls you back, so please include a phone number.

Sun Mar 24 9am - 12pm Bird and Plant ID Walk at Lake Cunningham Park (San Jose)

As spring begins, join us for a **beginner's** bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park. This park is a major destination for waterfowl and migratory birds and its native garden draws many birds due to 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 is 4 miles round-trip on a level path. Bring a hat, water, your bird and plant list, and binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Directions: Meet at the Marina building at **9:00 am**. The Marina is on the western shore of the lake, next to Raging Waters, at the opposite end of the park from the main entrance on White Road. Parking fee is \$6. In Google Maps, search for "Lake Cunningham Marina" to be directed to the Marina.

Space is limited. Please **RSVP** via **meetup.com** (search for "California Native Plant Society - Santa Clara Valley Chapter") to **reserve your spot**. Cosponsored by CNPS, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.

Wed - Thu Apr 3 - 4 North Table Mountain and Feather Falls (Butte County)

Join co-leaders Judy Fenerty and Joerg Lohse to explore the approximately 3,300-acre North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve near Oroville. We'll meet at the reserve at **11 am on Wednesday** and wander across the basalt mesa, crossing streams and enjoying the spectacular wildflowers that occur in this unique environment.

After our day exploring Table Mountain, we'll hike Feather Falls on Thursday. Feather Falls is a moderately strenuous,

8-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of ~1,700 feet. We'll stay over Wednesday night, with options to camp near Feather Falls or stay in motels in the Oroville area.

Space is limited and this trip is limited to **CNPS members** only. Please email Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com to **register** and get directions and trip details. (To become a CNPS member visit www.cnps.org/membership.)

Sun Apr 7 10am - 4pm Uvas Canyon County Park (Morgan Hill)

Join Ken and Dee Himes on a 3.5-4 mile hike in this mostly shady woodland of mixed evergreens including redwoods, madrones, sycamores, alders and big leaf maples. There are also isolated populations of Oregon grape (*Berberis nervosa*) here, which is more commonly found north of the Golden Gate. We also expect to see such plants as canyon liveforever (*Dudleya cymosa*) and inside-out-flower (*Vancouveria planipetala*), to name a few.

Pre-paid parking alert: There is a \$6 fee per car and you must make your own pre-paid parking reservation as soon as possible due to high traffic volume for viewing waterfalls. Go to gooutsideandplay.org/reservations/product.asp to make your own reservation.

We'll meet in the parking lot at **10am** sharp. The hike will be moderate in intensity, with an elevation gain of about 700 feet. We will walk at a fairly leisurely pace, stopping for lunch about halfway. Be sure to wear good hiking shoes, dress in layers; a walking stick could be useful. Bring snack or lunch and plenty of water. Heavy rain cancels. For more info. contact Ken at (650) 591-8560.



Joerg Lohse
Downingia pulchella at
Fremont Warm Springs Unit

Directions: From Hwy. 101, take the Bailey Ave. exit to head southwest on Bailey 3.2 mi. to McKean Rd. Turn left onto McKean. (McKean becomes Uvas Rd. 2.2 mi. south of Bailey.) From Bailey travel 6 mi. south on McKean / Uvas Rd. and turn right onto

Croy Rd. Continue 4.4 mi. on Croy, through Sveadal (a private resort), to reach the Park entrance. For more info. visit the park website www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Pages/UvasCanyon.aspx.

Sat Apr 13 10am - 12pm Vernal Pool Wildflower Walk (Fremont)

Join leaders John and Becky Bradley to see the wildflower blooms around some of the last intact vernal pools in the East Bay, at the Warm Springs Unit of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Fremont.

We'll learn about the unique features of a vernal pool grassland and about the endangered species supported by this habitat: in particular the beautiful endangered Contra Costa goldfield. There are several other vernal pool and grassland plants and wildlife to see at this time of year.

This unit of the Wildlife Refuge is normally closed to the public. There are no restroom facilities at this site so please plan accordingly. Heavy rain will cancel. Please wear sturdy shoes; bring water and sunscreen or a hat. Participants must be able to walk through uneven terrain throughout the tour and be able to climb over a fence ladder (like a step ladder).

Directions to the meeting place will be emailed to those who **register**, at warmsprings_cnps2019.eventbrite.com. Call (510) 565-0908 if you have questions.

Sun Apr 14 10am - 2pm Beginners' Wildflower ID Walk at Stile Ranch (Santa Teresa CP, San Jose)

The serpentine hills of Stile Ranch are home to a rich diversity of native annual and perennial wildflowers and the display this year is expected to be particularly exuberant. Join Arvind Kumar and Ashok Jethanandani on this walk to learn to identify the common wildflowers of our area. We will also examine the foliage and fruit of each species, to get a leg up on recognizing them out of bloom.

On this loop hike, we will go up the Stile Ranch Trail and return via the Fortini Trail. The distance covered will be 2.6 miles with 450' of elevation gain/loss. Bring a hat, water, lunch, and your favorite trail accessories (camera/smartphone/hand lens/binoculars/field guide/none). Dress in layers and appropriately for the weather.

RSVP via meetup.com (search for "California Native Plant Society - Santa Clara Valley Chapter") to **reserve a spot**.

Directions: Meet at the Stile Ranch TH parking lot on **San Vicente Ave.** just west of the T-junction with Fortini Rd. (In Google Maps, search for "Stile Ranch Trailhead.") Parking is limited so carpooling is recommended.

Thu Apr 18 10am - 3pm Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve (Cupertino)

Join co-leaders Joe Cernac and Kate Gudmundson for an easy hike through foothill oak and shrub. Thanks to this month's added warmth, we expect to see many spring bloomers. We expect a 4-mile mile round trip with 600 ft elevation climb back to the trailhead. Bring lunch and liquids. For more information, contact Joe at (408) 292-5465 or jocernac@sbcglobal.net.

Directions: From I-280, exit at Foothill Blvd., proceed south on S. Foothill Blvd. continuing on Stevens Cyn. Rd. once the foothills are reached. Turn right onto Montebello Rd., take first left into Picchetti Ranch Winery and OSP. The driveway will split; take the right driveway to the OSP parking lot. We will meet at the parking lot **at 10am**.

Sat May 11 - Wed May 15 Lost Coast Backpacking (Humboldt County) See www.cnps-scvc.org/activities/field-trips for details.

IN MEMORIAM – SALLY H. CASEY

Our beloved Chapter co-founder, CNPS Fellow and grass expert, Sally Casey passed away peacefully on February 5 at the age of 97 in Henderson, Nevada.



Judy Fenerty

Sally H. Casey in 2016

Sally was one of a kind – active and sharp to the very end! She will be remembered for her teaching skills, for leading grass ID field trips at Edgewood and for her backyard nursery where she patiently raised annuals and shooting stars to support CNPS. Members describe Sally as an inspiration who knew how to enjoy life, simply, her teachings giving us a totally different perspective when we see a wildflower display in nature.

Remembrances and photos of Sally, to be shared with her family, may be sent to Georgia Stigall at georgiastigall@yahoo.com. Sally will be missed by many, many people.

Save a Tree!

Blazing Star newsletters are always online at the Chapter website's newsletter page: www.cnps-scvc.org/blazing-star-newsletter. Please contact membership@cnps-scvc.org if you would like to receive this newsletter by email only. To join our Chapter news email list please visit www.cnps-scvc.org/about-us/contact-us.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Email: carol.mattsson@gmail.com

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

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Membership level (check one):

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 \$75 Family
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 Botany
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 Field Trips
 Gardening
 Plant ID

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FIRST-CLASS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Mar 6 Wed | Monthly Member Plant Sale (2) | Apr 11 Thu | GWN – Easy to Grow – Coverdell (4) |
| Mar 7 Thu | GWN – Garden Design – Osaka (3) | Apr 12 Fri | Contribute plant material for demo (3) |
| Mar 12 Tue | Conservation Committee meeting (6) | Apr 13 Sat | Vernal pool wildflower walk (8) |
| Mar 14 Thu | GWN – All-Stars – Schoenenberger (3) | Apr 13 Sat | Coastal Wildflower Day (1) |
| Mar 16 Sat | Start of Edgewood Walks (flyer) | Apr 14 Sun | Wildflower ID walk Stile Ranch (9) |
| Mar 17 Sun | San Bruno Mountain field trip (7) | Apr 17 Wed | GWN – Graywater – Luna (4) |
| Mar 21 Thu | GWN – Pollinator Garden – Salisbury (4) | Apr 18 Thu | Pichetti Ranch field trip (8) |
| Mar 22 Fri | General Meeting – Redwoods & Fog (1) | Apr 19 Fri | Keying with Natives (6) |
| Mar 23-24 | Sugarloaf Ridge field trip (7) | Apr 24 Wed | GWN – Bee-Friendly – Kehoe (5) |
| Mar 24 Sun | Bird & plant ID walk Lake Cunningham (8) | Apr 24 Wed | GWN – Native Lawn – Sheffield (5) |
| Mar 26 Tue | GWN – Garden Maintenance – Himes (4) | Apr 25 Thu | Newsletter Mailing Party - 10am PCC |
| Mar 29 Fri | Keying with Natives (6) | Apr 27 Sat | Wildflower Show (1) |
| Apr 3-4 | North Table Mountain field trip (8) | May 4-5 | Going Native Garden Tour (flyer + p. 2) |
| Apr 3 Wed | Monthly Member Plant Sale (2) | May 11-15 | Lost Coast backpack field trip (9) |
| Apr 3 Wed | GWN – Weeds – Schoenenberger (4) | Mon & 3rd Sat | Alum Rock Weeding (7) |
| Apr 6 Sat | Newsletter submittal deadline (9) | Wed | Nursery work sessions (2) |
| Apr 7 Sun | Uvas Canyon field trip (8) | Wed 5:30pm & Fri 9am | Edgewood Weed Warriors (7) |
| Apr 9 Tue | Conservation Committee meeting (6) | Sat | Lake Cunningham workdays (7) |

The next Chapter Board meetings will be **Thursdays, March 14** (special) and **April 11** (general / newsletter) 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. For more information contact Vivien Neou at president@cnps-sev.org.

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working with its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding and to preserve the rich heritage of the native flora for future generations. Membership is open to all. Individual memberships are \$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**; please put "member address change" in the subject line.

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