



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

*May-June 2005*

## **GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM**

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

**Topic: WOODY PLANTS OF THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS**  
**Speaker: Toni Corelli**

Please join us for our chapter's eighth annual Brenda Butner Memorial Lecture. Chapter member Toni Corelli will give us a presentation about the amazing diversity of woody plants of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

This area consists of 1,386 square miles bordered by San Bruno Mountain, the Pajaro River, the Pacific Ocean, and the Santa Clara Valley. Over 1,800 taxa (different species) have been documented in the Santa Cruz Mts. within its various plant communities. The woody plants include trees, shrubs, ground covers, and woody vines and represent over 200 taxa or 11% of the total flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Using John Hunter Thomas' Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains of California, Toni has been working for three years on her new book, the Illustrated Guide to the Woody Plants of the Santa Cruz Mountains, updating the scientific names, and adding new plants found since that flora. The book will include easy to use keys based on vegetative structures, give descriptions and interpretive information about the plants, and be fully illustrated. Toni is the co-author of The Rare and Endangered Plants of San Mateo and Santa Clara County and the author of the Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve.

**Directions:** From Foothill Expy., travel ½ mile on San Antonio Road 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 Road, cross Edith and turn left into the unmarked driveway just

before Hillview. The sign on San Antonio Road reads "Civic Center, Library and History Museum." Enter through the lobby of the main entrance. If the library lot is full, proceed to the adjoining lot for Hillview Community Center.

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

## **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

### **Spring Native Plant Sale May 14**

Our Spring Native Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday, May 14** at our nursery at Hidden Villa. Sale hours are **10am to 4pm**. Parking is free for the sale, but is limited, so we encourage everyone to carpool. Books, seeds, bulbs, and note cards will also be offered for sale. Please come, and tell your friends and neighbors about it, too!

**Directions:** Hidden Villa is located on Moody Road west of Foothill College. From Hwy 280 in Los Altos Hills, take the El Monte Rd/Moody Rd exit. Go west on Moody Road for 2 miles then look for the Hidden Villa sign and driveway on the left. Proceed over the bridge and follow instructions from the parking volunteers.

### **Help Needed for Spring Native Plant Sale**

Our plant sales are always lots of fun to work at, and we hope you'll come and help! You can choose to work one or two hours or all day. 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.

To help prepare the plants and nursery for the sale, we'll have special work sessions at the nursery from **10am to 4pm** on the following days:

**Saturday, May 7**

**Monday, May 9**

**Tuesday, May 10**

**Friday, May 13**

Or if you'd like to help out another time, our regular native plant **nursery work sessions** take place every **Wed.** from **11am to 3pm** (note new summer hours).

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 please contact the plant sale co-coordinators: Janet Gomez at (408)978-2984 or [jgomez51@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jgomez51@sbcglobal.net); and Kevin Bryant at (408)639-0493 or [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net).

**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 enthusiasts as well as beginners. Newcomers are always welcome. Our next meetings will be **Thursdays, May 5 and June 2**. The meetings start at **7:30pm**.

In **May**, we will meet at the PCC and share and show favorite native plant books. Bring the old standbys that you go to time and time again and also some of your more specialized books on grasses, bulbs, plants that grow in certain areas, plants for specific communities, etc. Each person will get an opportunity to briefly describe what they brought and why they like it. This meeting will be a great way for people to find new sources of information. Chris Todd will be our facilitator.

In **June**, we will meet at Arvind Kumar's house for a tour of his native garden in the Evergreen area of San Jose. Arvind has been gardening with natives for the past four years and this is an opportunity to see a native garden at the end of spring. The location is 2927 Glen Craig Court, San Jose. **Please RSVP**, by calling (408)274-6965.

Contact Stephanie Morris at [StephLMorris@hotmail.com](mailto:StephLMorris@hotmail.com) or (408)371-9376 to be added to the GWN newsletter email list, provide input, or receive more information.

**Directions:** 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).

## Photography Group

The Chapter Photo Group meets on the 3rd Monday of each month (next meetings will be **May 16th** and **June 20th**), in the Kestrel Room from **7-9pm**.

For **May** our theme will be the amazing desert wildflower season we've had. If you have images from trips to Death Valley, Anza-Borrego Park, the Mojave Desert, etc. that you would like to show, please notify Jerry Welch ([jdwelch@yahoo.com](mailto:jdwelch@yahoo.com)). In **June** we'll be having Gear Night: bring your cameras, tripods, etc. There will be a quick presentation on new stuff out there, and a chance for everyone to ask questions and take a look at each others' gear.

As always you are welcome to bring digital images (either on CD or your laptop), slides, or prints. If you would like to be added to the email or phone lists, contact Jerry Welch at (408)353-8352 or [jdwelch@yahoo.com](mailto:jdwelch@yahoo.com).

## Native Hill News

Ellie Gioumoussis has resigned as Native Hill Chair, to be replaced by Philip Higgins as interim chair. Please join us in thanking Ellie for all her hard work and dedication to CNPS and Native Hill.

Ellie has been a tireless Native Hill leader for many years, and a beautiful, mature native garden is the result. She has also introduced many people over time to gardening through her devotion to the site, and has inspired all with her tireless weed-pulling. The garden is now blooming with flannel bush, clarkia, penstemon, and many other native plants, and it's a very pleasant place to be.

Ellie thanks everyone for all the help and support we have given to the native garden for many years. She says she will still be coming to many workdays but will no longer be in charge.

Phil Higgins is a graduate student at San Jose State and is the spokesperson for the Burrowing Owls at the Wildflower Show at Mission College and he also leads the tours to see the owls. He is a very keen gardener, having helped design the native garden at Mission College and he has grown many of his own plants.

We are looking for a second person to be co-chair, or members to form a steering committee, so the work can be shared, and there will be alternate persons to lead the workdays. Please let Phil know if you might be interested in doing this. Contact Phil at (650)941-4752 or phidor@juno.com.

### Keying with Natives

Join us on the last **Friday** of every month, from **6:30pm - 8:30pm**, to learn about keying out local plants. We meet at the PCC building in Palo Alto. The next meetings will be **April 29th, May 27th, and June 24th**.

Please bring a locally collected plant with flower or fruit if available, and an interest in learning how to key out or identify local plants. Often we are joined by local experts such as Sally Casey! Microscopes, lamps and keying books are supplied but if you have your own you're encouraged to bring them.

Contact David "Tex" Houston for more details, (650)962-9876 x347 or tex@acterra.org.

### Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park

Join us as we strive to protect sensitive habitats at Edgewood and enjoy spring and summer wildflowers. We meet on Saturdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. For all work sessions, bring gloves, sunscreen and liquids.

Our new Saturday work sessions take place on the **3rd Saturdays** of the month, meeting at **9am** and continuing until **12noon**. The next one is scheduled for **May 21**, meeting at the **Day Camp**. The Day Camp is located about 3/4 of a mile east of Hwy. 280 on Edgewood Road. At the work site we expect to see a variety of flowers in the genus *Brodiaea*, including several related genera (relatives).

On **June 18** we will meet at the **West Kiosk** and hope to see the clay mariposa lily *Calochortus argillosus* in flower. On **July 16** we will again meet at the **West Kiosk** and hope to see several species in the genus *Piperia*, the Rein Orchids.

We've begun our **Wednesday evening** sessions with the return of daylight savings time. These Wednesday sessions begin at **5:30pm**. For more information, including

**locations**, call Ken Himes at (650)591-8560, or visit the weed warriors website, **edgewood.thinkersrus.net**.

**Friday** sessions continue throughout the year, weather permitting. These start at **8:30am**. For information on the Friday sessions contact John Allen at jcakwa@earthlink.net.

### Native Plant Handouts at Website

Handouts on plants for hummingbirds, native grasses in our region and wildlife planting tips are available on our website (**www.cnps-scv.org**) in PDF format. They are located on the front page and near the top, very easy to find!

### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRESS REPORT

*By Debra A. Boelk, U.C. Davis Dept. of Plant Sciences*

In 2003 your Chapter graciously awarded me monies to help defray the costs of my thesis work on perennial pepperweed. A number of interesting observations and some recommendations on the control of this invasive have resulted from this work.

We combined mechanical and chemical controls to find the best combination for reducing spread. Robustness of the pepperweed population had a major effect on what combinations worked best. The best method for control in robust populations was spring mowing followed by an application of either glyphosate, chlorsulfuron or 2,4-D when the plant had re-grown and was in flower bud. In weaker, sparser populations the only effective treatments were spring burning, mowing or grazing followed by an application of chlorsulfuron upon re-growth of the plant.

In all of these scenarios the important factor was application of the chemical at flower bud. Flower bud is the time when a perennial plant has developed the capacity to manufacture photosynthates and is actively moving those back down into perennating structures. In this way the chemical is transported with the carbohydrates and can affect the perennating structure along with the above soil portion of the plant. One other factor to consider is that this is an iterative process. One must expect to apply these treatments at least several years in a row in order to control the spread of pepperweed.

*Debra adds:* I start my new job as a Scientific Research Assistant with the University of California Cooperative Extension in Stockton May 1st!! I hope that position will lead into land management of some sort. Thanks for all your Chapter has done to help make that possible.

## 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.**

### **May 7 Sat 8:30am New Idria and San Benito Mountain**

Join trip leader Bart O'Brien on a whirlwind visit to view the floral charm and serpentine barrens of this high point in the inner south coast range. The area has a unique mix of ultramafic soils, geography, and climate, and contains a strange arrangement of species, some common elsewhere in California but disjunct in distribution, and others whose existence is limited to this biological island.

This will be an all day trip, with a good deal of driving. Grueling hikes will not be on the agenda, but bring good footwear for walking on rocks. It can get quite hot here in May. Bring food and water, and don't forget your botanizing flashlight! Carpooling is strongly encouraged, and high clearance vehicles are recommended, but will probably not be essential.

Contact Kevin Bryant at [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net) or (408)353-8824 to **reserve your spot**. Further details will be sent to those who register.

### **May 8 Sun 8:30am Mt. Hamilton and Mines Road**

We will make our annual traverse of the mighty Hamilton Range at its high point, enjoying a few stops on the western slopes before heading to walk around and explore the flora at a few locations on the other side of Mt. Hamilton. The flowers should be phenomenal this year. Come and meet (or say hello once again) to the diverse and dazzling flora of the Hamilton Range.

This will be an all day trip. Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water.

**Directions:** We will meet at **8:30am** at Orchard Supply Hardware at 3000 Alum Rock Road, and from there we will caravan to a place where we can park and carpool as needed. No fuel is available after leaving San Jose.

Space is limited; please contact Kevin Bryant at [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net) or (408) 353-8824 to **reserve your spot**.

### **May 16-20 Mon-Fri Smith River**

You've been hearing about it, and now it's finally here! Ken Himes and Kevin Bryant will lead us on a journey to the far northwestern corner of our state, where we will explore the incredible and diverse flora of this high rainfall region. The presence of a large block of ultramafic soils adds complexity to floristic picture, as these areas support unique plants like the carnivorous plants *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Darlingtonia californica*, and *Drosera rotundifolia*. We expect to see up to a dozen different conifers on this trip, and many other floristic gems in bloom, such as *Erythronium* and *Rhododendron* species.

The field trip events will be held **May 17-19**, with the **16th** and **20th** as travel days. Trips will involve mostly driving, with some easy hiking. We will be camping at Panther Flat Campground near Gasquet, but there are motel accommodations available nearby. There is a \$20 per person charge to cover camping costs.

**To reserve your spot**, or for further details on the trip, please contact Kevin Bryant at [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net) or Ken Himes at (650)591-8560. Space limited to 25.

### **May 15 Sun, 10am Pescadero Marsh**

Join Toni Corelli for a walk at Pescadero Marsh and Bean Hollow on the San Mateo coast.

Pescadero Marsh is the largest saltwater marsh on the San Mateo Coast and is noted for its diverse flora and bird species. Bean Hollow is one of the most diverse coastal bluff scrub plant communities along the San Mateo Coast. The walk is expected to last until about **3pm**. For more information, contact Toni at [corelli@coastside.net](mailto:corelli@coastside.net) or (650)726-0689.

**Directions:** Meet at the parking lot just south of the bridge along Hwy. 1 at Pescadero Marsh. It will be on the west side of the road. Bring lunch, water, and layers. We will walk Pescadero Marsh first; have lunch and then drive to Bean Hollow for the afternoon walk.

**May 22 Sun, 10am Montara Mountain**

Join Toni Corelli for an "over the hill hike" on Montara Mountain. We will hike from Pacifica to Montara State Beach. This will be a full day field trip and will not be expected to end until **5pm**.

Learn about the unusual maritime flora of Montara Mountain and experience spring all over again, since many of the plants on the coast bloom later in the season. There is an elevation gain of about 1,500 feet and approximately 6 miles of hike. Bring lunch, water, and layers. For more information, contact Toni at [corelli@coastside.net](mailto:corelli@coastside.net) or (650)726-0689.

**Directions:** Meet at the Montara State Beach parking lot in Montara on Hwy. 1. It is on the west side of Hwy. 1 just north of the Outrigger Restaurant. We will have a carpool shuttle to Pacifica.

**May 28 Sun, 10am Grass Walk at Los Trancos**

Join Sally Casey to explore the native grasses at Los Trancos Open Space Preserve. Bring a hand lens if you have one available, a sack lunch and water. Meet at **10am** in the Preserve parking lot on Page Mill Road, or meet to carpool at **9:30am** at the Park and Ride Lot at the intersection of Page Mill Road and Hwy. 280.

The hike distance will be about 2 miles with minimal elevation gain. The walk should be completed by **2pm**. For more information, contact Sally at (408)377-0989.

**Directions:** Take Page Mill Road west from Hwy. 280. The parking lot is 7 miles west of Hwy. 280 on the right side, just past the entrance to the Monte Bello Open Space Preserve.

**Jun 25 Sat, 10am Coastal Woodlands of San Mateo County**

Explore the moist environs of these coastal woodlands with co-leaders Ken Himes and Kevin Bryant. This area has affinities with the flora of the Pacific Northwest, and this is the southern limit of at least two elements from that area, salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) and red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*). We will also visit an area with nice populations of giant stream orchid (*Epipactis gigantea*) and Western azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*).

This will be easy hiking, with possibly a few short, steep slopes to negotiate, but with less than 2 miles total distance walking. We will meet at the pull-out at the intersection of Gazos Creek Rd. and Hwy.1 at **10am**, and carpool/caravan from there. The trip is expected to last until **3pm**.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*News and Activities from Other Organizations*

**Pinnacles Saturday Weed Pull Fests**

Preserve our native plant communities: do important work and get great exercise in a gorgeous Pinnacles National Monument location, refreshments provided. **Every 2nd and 3rd Saturday through June**; special arrangements for groups of 6 or more. Contact Jenn at (831)389-4485 x274, or [jennifer\\_tiehm@nps.gov](mailto:jennifer_tiehm@nps.gov) for more info.

**SF Bay Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Plant Sale**

The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge will be selling plants at its native plant nursery in Alviso. The sale will be on **Sunday May 14, from 11am-4pm**, at the Environmental Education Center, 1751 Grand Blvd.

The sale is part of their family festival on International Migratory Bird Day. Come take a nature walk, dig into salt marsh mud, make a memorable photo and frame to take home, visit many environmental organizations at our street fair, watch a live bird presentation and be amazed by the Magic of Water show. Event admission is free.

For more information and other refuge activities, see the website at [desfbay.fws.gov/Tideline/Activity.htm](http://desfbay.fws.gov/Tideline/Activity.htm).

**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
<b>President</b>	Judy Fenerty	(408) 378-6272	<a href="mailto:judy@fenerty.com">judy@fenerty.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Kevin Bryant	(408) 353-8824	<a href="mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net">mtngreen17@verizon.net</a>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Vicki Silvas-Young	(408) 293-7124	<a href="mailto:mrnngwrblr@yahoo.com">mrnngwrblr@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Paul Heiple	(650) 854-7125	<a href="mailto:LogH3o@aol.com">LogH3o@aol.com</a>

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR***

**Saturday, June 4, 2005**

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