



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

May-June 2010

## **GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM**

**Friday, May 14 at 7:30 PM**  
**Los Altos Library Community Room**  
**13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos**

**Amphibians in Decline:  
Global Perspectives & Peninsula Mysteries**  
Speaker: **Dr. Carlos Davidson**  
San Francisco State University

At the May General Meeting, we look at the threats to California's biodiversity through the lens of amphibian species and their dependence on native plant habitats. Why is the federally threatened red-legged frog in decline at the Sharp Park Golf Course in Pacifica? Why have western toads and foothill yellow legged frogs disappeared from large parts of the San Francisco Peninsula? What global patterns are influencing this decline in local amphibian populations? What role do native plants play in promoting species diversity? And finally, what can be done to arrest and reverse this worrisome trend?

Conservation biologist Dr. Carlos Davidson is an Associate Professor at San Francisco State University and the Director of its Environmental Studies Program. His research focuses on the causes of amphibian population declines. He is the coauthor of the recently published field guide, *The Frogs and Toads of North America*. He is also interested in the political and economic aspects of society's relationship to the natural world including questions of sustainability and social justice. He has a doctorate in ecology from University of California, Davis, and degrees in economics from University of California, Berkeley.

**Directions: From Foothill Expy:** Take San Antonio Rd. and travel ½ mile north (towards the Bay), cross Hillview and turn right into the Civic Center driveway; library is on the left. **From El Camino Real:** Take San Antonio Rd.

going south (towards the hills), cross Edith and turn left into the Civic Center 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 Kevin Bryant at [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net) or (650) 260-3450.

## **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

### **Native Plant Sale: May 1 at Hidden Villa 10am - 3pm -- Special Workdays**

A wide variety of hard-to-find, easy-to-grow native plants will be available at our Spring Native Plant Sale. Remember that we accept cash or check only - no credit cards please, and bring bags or boxes in which to take home your purchases. To **volunteer** on sale day please contact:

**Horticultural consultation:** Ray Deutsch (650) 365-6136, [henrymarsh@yahoo.com](mailto:henrymarsh@yahoo.com)

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

**Parking director:** Stephen Buckhout (408) 255-6233, [yscottie@pacbell.net](mailto:yscottie@pacbell.net)

**Miscellaneous:** Ann Harding (408) 260-2271, [Ann.Harding@att.net](mailto:Ann.Harding@att.net)

**Special nursery work days** will also be held before the sale to help prepare the nursery and label plants for the sale. We'll work from **10am to 1pm on Wednesday through Friday, April 28-30.**

After the sale, our native plant nursery work sessions take place every **Wednesday**, from **noon to 3pm**. Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, 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.

If you'd like to **donate plants** or other items to the nursery, **please check with Jean or Ray first.** Storage space is limited and we have no garbage pickup, so anything donated that we can't use must be taken to a volunteer's home for disposal. Right now we have plenty of one gallon black pots.

For more information, contact Jean Struthers at (650) 941-2586 or JeanStruthers@att.net (by phone is best); or Ray Deutsch at (650) 365-6136 or henrymarsh@yahoo.com.

**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: Coming Soon to a Library Near You

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes a mix of seasoned native plant gardeners as well as beginners. It offers talks throughout the year which are free and open to all.

In May and June, GWN offers 12 talks on native plant gardening at libraries throughout the Chapter area, including first ever presentations in Atherton, Brisbane, East Palo Alto, Portola Valley, and Woodside. Come to these meetings to deepen your knowledge of native plants in the garden as well as the wild. Come to meet and mingle with like-minded people. Spread the word and bring a friend, neighbor or colleague.

Date/Time	Event	Venue
Thursday May 6, 7:00pm	<b>Central Coast Native Plants: Conservation Through Growing,</b> Brett Hall	Los Altos Youth Center, 1 N San Antonio Rd, Los Altos
Monday May 17, 6:30pm	<b>Native Perennials from Local Plant Communities,</b> Agi Kehoe	East Palo Alto, 2415 University Ave, East Palo Alto
Wednesday May 19, 7:00pm	<b>Native Plant Gardening for Year-round Interest,</b> Sherri Osaka	Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton
Thursday	<b>Waterwise</b>	Portola Valley

May 20, 7:00pm	<b>Gardening Using Native Plants,</b> Deva Luna	Library, 765 Portola Rd, Portola Valley
Tuesday May 25, 6:30pm	<b>Garden Design Using Native Plants,</b> Patricia Evans	Almaden Library, 6455 Camden Ave, San Jose
Wednesday May 26, 7:00pm	<b>Converting a Lawn to a Native Plant Garden,</b> Annaloy Nickum	San Carlos Library, 610 Elm St, San Carlos
Thursday June 3, 7:00pm	<b>Maintaining a Native Garden,</b> Stephanie Curtis	Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga
Monday June 14, 10:00am	<b>Irrigating Native Plant Gardens,</b> Sherri Osaka	Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Rd, Woodside
Wednesday June 16, 7:00pm	<b>Native Plant Gardening for Beginners,</b> Stephanie Morris	Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton
Thursday June 17, 7:00pm	<b>Sustainable Landscaping With Native Plants,</b> Sherri Osaka	Campbell Library, 77 Harrison Ave, Campbell
Saturday June 19, 2:00pm	<b>Landscaping for Wildlife Diversity,</b> Radhika Thekkath	Brisbane Library, 250 Visitacion Ave, Brisbane
Monday June 21, 6:30pm	<b>Sustainable Landscaping With Native Plants,</b> Casey Allen	East Palo Alto, 2415 University Ave, East Palo Alto

These programs are made possible by cosponsoring libraries as well as neighborhood volunteers who are helping organize each program. Volunteers are sought for the following programs: May 17, 25, and 26; June 14, 16, 19 and 21. If you can help at any of these, or if you want to bring such programming to a library near you, please contact arvind.kumar@cnps.org. For more information visit [www.GardeningWithNatives.com](http://www.GardeningWithNatives.com).

## Native Hill Garden at Foothill College

Our Chapter maintains a large California native plant garden, Native Hill, at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. Volunteers plant, weed, mulch and prune the plants on occasional Saturday and Sunday morning workdays.

Presently we are working with Foothill faculty to have a greater campus involvement in the native garden. The garden enhances students' learning about California's

unique flora and indeed fauna, and water conservation using drought tolerant plants. It's also an ideal location to sit down and relax in nature, especially during stressful exam periods.

Several students have attended our workdays and we are planning on having more workdays during the week to accommodate student schedules. Upcoming plans include mulching a large portion of the garden and weeding and removing dead trees.

If you would like to volunteer at the garden or be added to the email list to be notified of upcoming workdays, contact Phil Higgins at phidor@juno.com or (650) 941-4752.

## Learn to Key the Clovers at KWN

Join other native plant enthusiasts in a fun and educational atmosphere, as we hone our skills at plant identification (aka "keying"). Our **April** Keying with Natives (KWN) meeting will have a special time and topic:

**Thursday, April 29 from 7-9pm, Learn to Key the Clovers:** With over 30 different species of *Trifolium* documented in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, clovers can be a challenge to identify. Join Botanist Toni Corelli as she guides us through the clover key. We will learn to recognize key characteristics within the genus. Several different species will be available to examine.

For **May and June** our meetings will be at our usual day and time: **Fridays, May 28 and June 25, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.** All three meetings will be at the PCC in Palo Alto. For details, contact David "Tex" Houston at tex009@sbcglobal.net or Sally Casey at (408) 377-0989.

**Directions to the PCC:** (Peninsula Conservation Center), 3921 E. Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto. From Hwy. 101, take the "San Antonio North" exit, get immediately into the left-hand turn lane, and turn LEFT onto East Bayshore. This will curve around to the left, then right. Turn right on Corporation Way. Then turn into the first driveway on your left, which leads to the PCC parking lot.

## EDUCATION NEWS

### Graduate Student Scholarship Program Update

By Nora Monette, Scholarship Chair

In May 2009 the Chapter awarded three \$1,500 scholarships to graduate students doing research on native plants in Central California. The three scholarship recipients and their research topics are:

- Shannon Dinis: San Jose State University; *Response of Zigadenus fremontii to variation in fire season.*
- Christopher Dolanc, UC Davis: *Understanding of climate-induced shifts in abundance and growth of high-elevation conifers, comparing existing conditions to information from plots originally sampled from 1929-1934.*
- Brynne Lazarus, UC Davis: *Restoration of native vegetation in the New Idria serpentine formation.*

Shannon provided the following thank you to the Chapter earlier this year and a brief summary of her work over the summer:

I would like to give my sincerest thanks to the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society for selecting me for a 2009 Graduate Student Scholarship. This summer I was able to complete a significant amount of my project. I visited Henry W. Coe Park several times to collect data at my field sites. Data collection included measuring leaves and flower stalks of hundreds of *Zigadenus fremontii*, as well as counting flowers in order to obtain regeneration information for the second year of my study.

Along with collecting data, I also collected soil samples to be sent to the lab for nutrient analysis. Knowing how available soil nutrients from wildfire burned and prescribed burned areas may be different from each other and unburned soil will add more evidence to support the regeneration patterns that I have seen in the field. The funds from this scholarship helped to cover the expenses of soil analysis. So far, the prescribed burn sites have had greater re-growth in the second year than the sites burned in the 2007 Lick fire. This is contrary to my hypothesis, but statistical analysis still needs to be completed in order to determine if this difference is significant.

This summer I also collected seeds to begin a germination study which will determine if the *Z. fremontii* seeds respond differently to wildfire, prescribed burn, or unburned soil. The germination study, which began this fall, is the last piece of my project that is yet to be completed before writing my report. I plan on completing statistical analysis of my data and writing my report by April 2010.

The Chapter is offering graduate scholarships again in 2010. This year's scholarships will be awarded at the May Chapter Meeting. This is the 11th year the chapter has

offered graduate scholarships and it is great to see the range of work students are undertaking on California flora.

## CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

### **Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park**

Spring is in full swing, and with all the winter rains the weeds are in full swing too, so it's time to kick our efforts into high gear! Come pitch in and make Edgewood an inspirational showcase of all CNPS stands for... have some fun, get some sun, and learn a ton!

Our **9am Friday** sessions run year round; **5:30pm Wednesday** sessions continue through Daylight Savings Time; and monthly **9am Saturday** sessions are the **3rd Saturday, March thru July**:

Date	Meet 9am At	Event
May 15	West Kiosk	Endangered Species Day
June 19	West Kiosk	Summer Solstice
July 17	West Kiosk	Summer "Saturday Sendoff"

For schedules, meeting places, and other details visit our Weed Warriors website ([edgewood.thinkersrus.net](http://edgewood.thinkersrus.net)), contact Paul Heiple at (650) 854-7125 or [pheiple@gmail.com](mailto:pheiple@gmail.com); or email John Allen at [jcakwa@earthlink.net](mailto:jcakwa@earthlink.net).

## CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

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

**In our region it is very important to be prepared for hiking on rugged & steep terrain, wide temperature ranges and rapidly changing conditions at any time of year. All participants should wear sturdy footwear and carry sufficient water, sun protection, food, 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.**

**Wed May 5 7pm An Evening with the Grasses**  
Come to De Anza College for a two hour class taught by Sally Casey, specializing in identification of members of

*Poaceae*, the grass family. Bring your own flowering grasses that you wish to identify.

**The class will be from 7-9pm.** Space is limited; call Sally Casey (408) 377-0989 (best after dark) for further information **or to sign up**. The class includes a grass walk on **Saturday, May 8.**

**Directions:** The class will be in the Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies, in room 120 on the first floor (KC120). Hint: it's the most westerly room in the building.

The Kirsch Center, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd. in Cupertino, is located near the corner of McClellan and Stelling within the DeAnza College Campus. From Hwy 85 south, exit at Stevens Creek Blvd. and turn left (west) onto Stevens Creek. In 1/2 mile turn right onto Stelling, in 1/2 mile turn right on McClellan, then take your next right (north) onto the campus and the Kirsch Center will be in view straight ahead and a bit to the right, with the parking lot ahead and to your left. Parking costs \$2.

### **Sat May 22 10 am Fountain Thistle -- San Francisco Peninsula Watershed**

Join Don Thomas and Ken Himes to see the rare, federally endangered fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*) in the Crystal Springs Watershed, normally closed to the public. This plant is endemic to the San Francisco Peninsula, and most of the populations occur in the Crystal Springs Watershed.

First we will visit a small, easily accessible fountain thistle population on Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir, and this will include a short work session to remove teasel that is invading its serpentine seep habitat. (Tools will be provided.)

We will then visit a newly re-discovered large population of fountain thistles, comprising approximately 19,000 plants. Unlike most of the other populations, this one occurs in serpentine grassland dominated by hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*).

We will walk about one mile in total. The activities will end in the early afternoon. The trip is limited to 20 participants. **To reserve a spot**, contact Don Thomas at [don\\_e\\_thomas@yahoo.com](mailto:don_e_thomas@yahoo.com) or (408) 828-4044; or contact Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560.

**Sat-Sun May 22-23 The Cedars (Sonoma County)**  
Join Kevin Bryant, Matt Teel, and Roger Raiche for an exploration of Roger's amazing property, The Cedars. The

Cedars, so named by early explorers for its extensive stands of Sargent Cypress, is a roughly 10 square mile area of Sonoma County consisting entirely of serpentine and its parent rock peridotite. Many rare plants, including several disjunct or endemic species, await us for a rare opportunity to visit this remote, privately owned and botanically unique piece of California.

This overnight camping trip is limited to 20 participants. Details and directions will be given to confirmed participants; expect a 3 hour drive from the SF peninsula, leaving early on Saturday and returning late Sunday. High clearance 4WD vehicles are needed to access the property; participants with unsuitable cars may leave their vehicles safely at a neighboring ranch and carpool in. If you have a high clearance 4WD and plan to attend the trip, please let Matt know when reserving a space. Springs and pools are abundant; bring a swimsuit if you like. Participants should be prepared for steep, rugged terrain and mainly single-track trails.

We are offering priority to Santa Clara Valley Chapter members for this trip. Contact Matt at [mat\\_teel@yahoo.com](mailto:mat_teel@yahoo.com) or (650) 851-4691, **to sign up**. If you are not a Santa Clara Valley member and are interested in attending, please email Matt to get on the waiting list. If there is still room 10 days prior to the trip, we will accommodate whomever we can.

### **Sun May 23 10am Pescadero Marsh and Dunes**

Join Toni Corelli and State Park volunteers Avis Boutell and Nancy Frost for a walk on the North Pond Trail at Pescadero Marsh. This is a great place to see coastal scrub, native prairie and wildflowers, along with saltwater marsh wetlands and the birds associated with it.

This will be an easy one-way walk of about 1 mile and we will return along the same trail. After lunch we will go to the Pescadero dunes to see different plants and how they manage to live in this extreme habitat. We'll meet at the North Parking lot of Pescadero Marsh **at 10am**.

**Directions:** From Hwy. 1 park at the north parking lot at Pescadero Marsh. A parking fee is required and there are restrooms at the parking lot. Bring lunch and wear layers. **The tour will go until 3pm.**

For more information contact Toni at (650) 464-1289 or [corelli@coastside.net](mailto:corelli@coastside.net). Or see the map at [www.parks.ca.gov/lat\\_long\\_map/default.asp?lvl\\_id](http://www.parks.ca.gov/lat_long_map/default.asp?lvl_id).

### **Mon-Fri May 24-28 High Desert Trip - Southeastern Sierra**

This trip captures the season just ending in the upper Mojave while just beginning on Sierra slopes. (And it should be good if the abundant flowers in Short Canyon were an indication March 30.)

We will be walking the upper canyons toward the south and bajadas opposite Lone Pine. Haiwee Reservoir marks the uppermost Mojave Desert province. *Calochortus kennedyi* will be present. Later in the trip, the bajadas east of Mt. Whitney offer a unique *Ceanothus cuneatus* / *C. leucodermis* brush community and also late-season desert flowers.

Camping will be primitive sites or motel lodging at your choice (with motels at Lone Pine or Ridgecrest). Dates are event days: we'll hike Monday afternoon and the last overnight stay will be Friday night.

Reservations are required. For more information or to reserve your spot contact one of the trip leaders: Joe Cernac at (408) 292-5465 or [joecernac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joecernac@sbcglobal.net); and Stella Yang at (408) 255-6233 or [yscottie@pacbell.net](mailto:yscottie@pacbell.net).

### **Sat Jun 5 10am Grass Walk at Los Trancos**

Join Sally Casey to explore the native grasses at Los Trancos Open Space Preserve in Los Altos. See many species of grasses in sunny and shady conditions. Bring a hand lens if you have one available, a sack lunch and water.

The hike distance will be about 2 miles with minimal elevation gain. The walk, with a lunch break, should be **completed by 2:00pm**.

The trip is limited to 18 participants. **To reserve a spot**, contact Sally Casey at (408) 377-0989 (best after dark) or email Carolyn Dorsch at [cdorsch1@aol.com](mailto:cdorsch1@aol.com).

### **Sat Jun 12 10am Fountain Thistle Field Trip & Restoration Work Party at Crystal Springs**

Join leaders Ken Himes and Jake Sigg on this event in the Crystal Springs Watershed (San Mateo County), co-sponsored with the Yerba Buena Chapter.

**10am - Noon** will be the **field trip**, followed by lunch, then the **work party** from **1:00 - 3:30pm**.

This field trip is a contribution to the GGNRA 2010 Endangered Species Big Year, a follow-up to the highly successful 2008 Big Year. The primary purpose of the trip for contestants is the opportunity to see the endangered fountain thistle, *Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*, which should be in bloom at this time. The thistle is part of a community bedizened by wildflowers and bunchgrasses,

including an acre or more of yampah (*Perideridia kelloggii*), so non-contestants are very welcome.

The rules of the Big Year call for contestants to take an action to help preserve the species, so after lunch (bring lunch and liquids) we will move to the nearby site where we have been working to eradicate pampas grass that was usurping the serpentine seep necessary for the fountain thistle's existence. This land is owned by Caltrans, which has been very supportive of our work, so much so that it is truly a partnership. Caltrans has sprayed the massive pampas grass infestation three times, and CNPS volunteers have followed up by hand weeding the survivors and seedlings. The results have been immensely gratifying, as the fountain thistle has responded vigorously and is reclaiming its habitat. Our hope is to reintroduce appropriate native species that should be part of this community.

**Please RSVP** to Jake Sigg at [jakesigg@earthlink.net](mailto:jakesigg@earthlink.net), (415) 731-3028 for further information and directions to the sites.

### Sun Jun 20 10am Feelin' Fruity

Fruits... we take 'em for granted... peach, pear, or plum, we know 'em well... but what *are* fruits and where (botanically) do they come from?! And what of plants like asters, orchids, or irises... where do *they* fit on the fruit spectrum? Finding the answers can be surprisingly fun and... well... fruitful!

Join Drew Shell for this frolic through the fruit world at Belmont's Water Dog Lake Open Space. We'll likely see plenty still in bloom, but our main focus will be understanding nature's *fruitful* bounty. To paraphrase an old tune, we'll be slowin' down, not moving too fast, tryin' to make the morning last, kicking down a trail of stones, looking for fun and feelin' fruity!

This special, educational hike is limited to 15 people. CNPS members (with immediate family or one guest) have priority up 'til one week before hike. Approximate distance will be 3 miles and the trip is expected to last 3-4 hours. **To sign up** or get more info, contact Drew Shell at [shell@corp.webtv.net](mailto:shell@corp.webtv.net); or Carolyn Dorsch at (650) 804-6162.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

### Golden Valley Wilderness, March 2010

*Carolyn Dorsch, Field Trip Chair, sends us this report from the recent Chapter field trip to the BLM's wilderness area in the northwest Mojave Desert.*

Meeting on an early Saturday morning last month, 17 of us convened in Johannesburg (15 miles south of Ridgecrest—about 7 hours from the Bay Area). This was a joint service trip between our CNPS Chapter and the Desert Survivors (a desert conservation organization), with Michael Yantos and Carolyn Dorsch serving as trip leaders. After making sure everyone had plenty of water in their bottles and gas in their tanks, we headed out.

This was our Chapter's first visit to this area. Golden Valley Wilderness and nearby Grass Valley Wilderness are 10 and 20 miles southeast of Ridgecrest, on BLM (Bureau of Land Management) federal land in San Bernardino County. Golden Valley is flanked by two 4,500-foot mountain ranges: the Lava Mountains and the Almond Mountains. Creosote brush scrub is the dominant plant community with some Joshua Trees. This is a desert tortoise study area also home to many other animal species, including the Mojave ground squirrel and the desert kit fox.

On Saturday we assisted BLM Wilderness Coordinator Marty Dickes, and BLM Biologist Carrie Woods with their efforts in discouraging off-road vehicle encroachment into the wilderness. There are a few off-road vehicle recreation areas nearby, but adjacent to the wilderness the limited-use areas needed signage and guidance to help identify the proper uses in those areas. One of our activities was to designate and create a large group camping site (the goal is to guide recreational groups to this high impact area rather than having them set up in a more sensitive habitat). Everyone had a task (or two) to do. There was sawing, digging holes for the bollards, composing the signs, lots of rock collecting, outlining of the site, forming fire rings, and so on.

To camouflage some of the illegal trails we learned the technique of "vertical mulching," whereby we gathered dead creosote and rabbitbrush branches, dug a hole, and



*Carolyn Dorsch*  
Michael Yantos and Judy Mason posing with their fake shrub creation

arranged the stems such that it looked like a dead (or very dormant) shrub. Over time, seeds catch in the base of the structure, and become

home to a living plant. By raking out some of the washboard, smoothing out the desert floor, adding rocks, and creating vertical mulching, we could see the transformation beginning.

After a full day of work, we rewarded ourselves with a day of exploration. On Sunday we meandered through Golden Valley, crossing a beautiful yellow and gold wash of Bigelow's coreopsis and goldfields. We headed toward BLM's Black Hills, nestled between the Golden Valley Wilderness and the Grass Valley Wilderness. We stopped at several places around this small group of basalt hills, at one point finding a showy granite outcropping halfway up a hillside. On the way back we confirmed a large population of Barstow wooly sunflower (List 1B), *Eriophyllum mohavense*, that BLM has been monitoring and asked us to check on. In addition, a variety of wildflowers were seen that day, including desert candle, popcorn flower, desert dandelion, snake's head, chia, whispering bells, phacelia, blue dicks and desert spring parsley (*Cymopteris deserticola* -- another 1B plant).

On our last day we finally saw a desert tortoise, right near our primitive campsite, just starting to come out of his burrow. Later we took a short hike up to a petroglyph site,



Desert Tortoise *Andy Butcher*

seeing more wildflowers along the way.

Overall, we were probably a week or two early from a showier

display. With the cool evenings and recent rain there, the season was running a little later than last year. Nevertheless, this remote wilderness did not disappoint.

Special thanks to Marty Dickes and Carrie Woods of the BLM. Marty provided much background to us about the wilderness areas and places to visit. Both she and Carrie shared information with the group about the animal life and the land history and usage. Their knowledge and reverence for these places enhanced our understanding and enjoyment of this untamed wilderness.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*News and Activities from Other Organizations*

**Edgewood Walks Continue Through June 6**

Every weekend through June 6th docents from the Friends of Edgewood lead walks in Edgewood County Park & Preserve. Edgewood's serpentine grasslands are renowned throughout California for their lush wildflower carpets and rich biodiversity. You might see dozens of species of flowers on a single walk! The walks vary according to what's in bloom -- covering about 3 miles, at a moderate pace, with frequent stops.

**Walks start at 10am** from the Old Stage Day Camp entrance about 1 mile west of Highway 280 (from Hwy 280 take Edgewood Road exit in Redwood City). Bring water, a hat, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and a snack if you wish. No reservation is required.

For further info. visit the Friends of Edgewood website, [www.friendsofedgewood.org/docent\\_walks\\_2010.htm](http://www.friendsofedgewood.org/docent_walks_2010.htm). For questions, contact Carolyn Dorsch at [cdorsch1@aol.com](mailto:cdorsch1@aol.com) or (650) 804-6162 (evenings).

**CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2010**

To learn more about volunteering with the Chapter, to ask any other questions or to give suggestions, please contact any of the officers or chairs.

Title	Name	Phone	Email
<b>President</b>	Kevin Bryant	(408) 348-9470	mtngreen17@verizon.net
<b>Vice President</b>	Toni Gregorio-Bunch	(408) 373-4497	tonig@flash.net
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Leighton Nakata	(650) 947-9989	LeightonNakata@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Julie Scherer	(415) 317-4681	julie.scherer@gmail.com
<b>Past President</b>	Judy Fenerty	(408) 655-3493	judy@fenerty.com

To join our Chapter email list please use the signup link at the bottom of our Chapter home page at [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org). On the home page you will also find Contact information for all officers and chairs.

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

**Saturday, June 5, 2010**

**Email: [mattsson@surfpix.net](mailto:mattsson@surfpix.net)**

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

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

(page # in parentheses)

- Apr 28-30 Wed-Fri** Special Nursery Workdays (1)
- Apr 29 Thu** KWN - Keying Clovers (3)
- May 1 Sat** Spring Native Plant Sale (1)
- May 5 Wed** Grass ID Class at De Anza College (4)
- May 6 Thu** GWN - Central Coast Natives (2)
- May 14 Fri** General Meeting - Davidson (1)
- May 15 Sat** Edgewood Saturday Weeding (4)
- May 17, 19 & 20** GWN talks (2)
- May 22 Sat** Fountain Thistle SF Watershed (4)
- May 22-23 Sat-Sun** The Cedars Field Trip (4)
- May 23 Sun** Pescadero Marsh and Dunes Walk (5)
- May 24-28 Mon-Fri** High Desert Field Trip (5)
- May 25, 26** GWN talks (2)

- May 28 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)
- Jun 3 Thu** GWN - Maintaining a Native Garden (2)
- Jun 5 Sat** Grass Walk & Newsletter Deadline (5)
- Jun 10 Thu** Chapter Board meeting
- Jun 12 Sat** Fountain Thistle Crystal Springs (5)
- Jun 14, 16 & 17** GWN talks (2)
- Jun 19 Sat** GWN & Edgewood Weeding (2, 4)
- Jun 20 Sun** Feelin' Fruity Field Trip - Belmont (6)
- Jun 21 Mon** GWN - Sustainable Landscaping (2)
- Jun 25 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)
- Wed afts** Nursery work sessions (2)
- Wed eves & Fri morns** Edgewood Park weeding (3)
- Via Email List** Native Hill work sessions (1)

The next Chapter **Board meeting** will be **Thursday, June 10 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.

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 concerning a new membership, renewal of a current membership, or if you wish to report a **change of address**, please contact the Membership Chairperson, CNPS, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303 or email [henryMarsh@yahoo.com](mailto:henryMarsh@yahoo.com).

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 California Native Plant Society  
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