



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

July-August 2004

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

Friday, July 16, 2004 at 7:30 pm
Saratoga Library Community Room
13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga

Topic: FLOWERS OF MOUNT DIABLO
Speaker: Yulan Tong, Ph.D

Mt. Diablo State Park is an area rich in biodiversity, containing more than 1,000 species of plants. The mountain ranges in elevation between 300 and 3,849 feet, and supports numerous habitats and six endemic plant species. Mt. Diablo is a wonderful place to be in springtime, with a variety of flowers and plant communities spread across its summit, slopes and canyons. Join us for a photographic tour of the park and its flowers in bloom.

Yulan Tong was born in China and has a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Illinois. She became interested in wildflowers and photography after moving to California, and has been a long-time docent at Mt. Diablo State Park. In 2001, Dr. Tong published her wildflower book *Lilies of the Field*, with many photographs taken in the Diablo area.

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

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Chapter Vice President Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com or (408)378-6272.

Save the Dates: Next Meetings

The next program meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, September 17, and our Annual Potluck will be Saturday, November 13.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

April 2004 Wildflower Show A Success

Thanks to the efforts of more than 50 energetic volunteers, the Chapter's Annual Wildflower Show, held Saturday and Sunday April 24 and 25 at Mission College in Santa Clara, was a great success. This was the second year that the show was held in the Hospitality Management Building on the Mission campus. The total visitor count was 908, up significantly over the previous year's total.

Thanks are due to Jean Replicon and others at Mission College for publicizing this year's show. Their efforts had a direct impact on total attendance.

There were 533 species displayed. 36 plants were new to the show, 33 natives and 3 aliens. As in other recent years, a significant number of the plants appearing at the show came from members' gardens. Sally Casey displayed a large number of grasses, Paul Heiple and Phil Darlington created a special display of succulents, and John Rawlings provided a special display of conifer cones.

Our official campus sponsor was the student group Environmental Awareness Association, who staffed a display table describing the issues they are currently involved with and led hourly tours of the burrowing owl habitat on campus as well as the Native Garden that they have created and manage at the College.

This year's show included several displays focused on activities that involve significant numbers of Chapter members. Included were a display featuring Chapter activities, another by the Gardening with Natives group, and one on weeding at Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve.

Putting it all together was a somewhat magical process. At a certain pre-appointed time on Friday afternoon, people started showing up to turn a classroom into an indoor flower garden and then on Saturday and Sunday the crowds arrived as soon as the doors were opened. By dusk on Sunday, everything had been taken down and no one would

ever have guessed at the wonderful memories that had been created only hours before.

Thanks to all of the magicians who made this year's wildflower show the special experience that it was. Know that without you it would not have happened but with your efforts it was a truly extraordinary event.

Spring Plant Sale Update

After a week of weather reports that threatened some rain, our Spring Native Plant Sale took place on a beautiful partly cloudy day at our nursery at Hidden Villa on May 8. Hundreds of plants went to new homes, including all 25 of our featured plant, *Phacelia bolanderi* (Bolander's Phacelia).

We were very pleased to have chapter members Sonya Wilcomer and Lottie Jenvey selling their beautiful photographs on notecards. Everyone also enjoyed the Good Bugs display from Rosemary Lombard and the Regional Water Quality Control Plant in Palo Alto, Louise Lacey's Growing Native newsletters, and Larner Seeds. Sue Welch's beautiful new information cards really helped to sell our several varieties of pacific coast hybrid Douglas iris.

We give a special thanks to Vicki Silvas-Young, who always provides wonderful snacks, drinks and a delicious lunch to all of our volunteers and vendors. We also thank Yerba Buena Nursery, who once again provided a coupon that donated 20% of the sales back to our chapter, as well as a raffle prize of a \$50 gift certificate.

Congratulations to **Pat Lisin**, the winner of the Yerba Buena Nursery Gift Certificate!

Although the entire list of people who helped is too long to print here, many, many thanks to everyone who helped at the sale, and to everyone who helped out at the nursery to prepare for the sale!

Our **Fall Plant Sale** will be held on **Saturday, October 9, 2004**, at Hidden Villa. As you can see there are many ways to help, and we encourage everyone to come and join in. Help is always needed on Wednesdays at the nursery (see the next article).

Where There's a Willow There's a Way

Here's a scene witnessed and sketched by your editor of an 8 foot willow tree being loaded at the plant sale.



Native Plant Nursery

Jean says if your garden is producing extra plants or you have fresh cutting material that we can use for propagation call either her or Ray so we can get them before they wilt.

The best method for doing the cutting is to select growth that is not real lush new growth, but is still green. Cut pieces about 6 inches long, wrap them in a wet paper towel, put in a plastic bag and keep cool until we get them (she uses the refrigerator and is careful not to let them escape into the salad).

You can also collect seed. The rule of thumb is not to take all the seed of any plant in the wild, but just a few. Permits are required for collecting at any park, road, or other public land and you must have permission from the owner to collect on private land.

Our regular native plant nursery work sessions take place every **Wed.** from **12noon to 4pm**. 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.

Through early August, call Jean or Ray before you come to the nursery because the gate at Hidden Villa may be locked for summer camp.

For more information, contact Jean Struthers at (650)941-2586 or JeanStruthers@aol.com, or Ray Deutsch at (650)365-6136 or henrymarsh@yahoo.com.

Native Gardening Database Project

Our Chapter is launching an exciting new project to create a Native Gardening Database. Its purpose is twofold:

- It will allow us to produce attractive signs for all the plants we sell at our Native Plant Sales. Each sign will have color photos of the plant as well as gardening requirements. We know that such signs greatly improve the sales for each plant.

- This database will also be made accessible over the Internet, so gardening information on California native plants will be available to one and all.

We need your help to get this project off the ground. We need gardening information for each plant grown at the nursery. We also need good quality pictures of these native plants.

Detailed information on which plants, what kind of information, and what type of photos is available at janet.gomez.net/GWN/HorticultureDB or by contacting Janet Gomez by email at jgomez51@sbcglobal.net or at (408)978-2984.

Gardening With Natives

Gardening with Natives meets the first **Thursday** of every month at the PCC Building in Palo Alto. The group includes a mix of seasoned native plant gardeners as well as beginners. Our next meetings will be **July 1 and August 5, starting at 7:30pm**. Newcomers are always welcome.

GWN now has a small steering committee working to put together some exciting speakers and meeting topics. Topics for the July and August meetings are currently being developed and will be announced via the GWN email list. The steering committee meets from **7:00pm to 7:30pm**, right before each monthly GWN meeting.

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

Directions to the PCC: The PCC (Peninsula Conservation Center) is located at 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. From Highway 101, 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. Turn right on Corporation Way. Then turn into the first driveway on your left, which leads to the PCC parking lot.

Habitat Restoration: Edgewood Park

Join Ken Himes to help remove invasive exotic plants and protect Edgewood's sensitive habitats. **Friday sessions, at 8:30 am**, occur year-round. **Wednesday evening sessions begin at 5:30 pm**. More information including the schedule of Wednesday work and meeting places is available at edgewood.thinkersrus.net/schedule.html.

Or you may call Ken at (650)591-8560. For the Friday sessions call Ken or contact John Allen at jcakwa@earthlink.net.

Weeding at Yampah Meadow July 17

Join Ken Himes for a special weeding session at Edgewood Park **Saturday, July 17, from 9am to 12noon**. We will be removing bristly ox-tongue from the Yampah Meadow, located near the West Kiosk.

Meet at **9am** at the West Edgewood Trailhead parking lot at the junction of Canada and Edgewood Roads. If late, proceed east on the Edgewood Trail 6/10 of a mile to the West Kiosk. The Yampah Meadow is nearby and Kellogg's yampah, *Perideridia kelloggii*, should be in full flower.

Bring sunscreen, gloves and liquids. Call Ken for information (650)591-8560.

Chapter Website Redesign

Our chapter is considering a redesign of our chapter website, www.cnps-scv.org. We are looking for ideas and participants. The first meeting will be held **July 10 at 10am** at Georgia Stigall's home near Skyline Blvd.

To RSVP and for directions, contact Georgia at gstigall@aol.com or (650)941-1068. To give input ahead of time or in lieu of attending, contact Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com or (408)378-6272.

COMMITTEE NEWS & REPORTS

Rare Plant Program Update

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has just developed a way to access an important database over the web. The CNPS Rare Plant program is actually a partnership between CNPS and DFG. The DFG maintains a database of occurrences of rare species of both plants and animals, called the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). This data is the underpinning of the rare plant program, providing both documentation of the existence of species and a guide for planners who must protect these species.

Using the DFG's new Quad Viewer tool, you can learn online what species have been reported within a topographic quadrangle. Go to www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab and click on the left link "Quad Viewer." Follow the instructions that come up when you first launch the program or click the Help tab once the viewer is open. There are separate buttons for the data already processed in the CNDDDB and for data still to be processed. In addition, there are tools that generate lists from a nine-quad area (the quad you pick plus the eight surrounding quads) for CNDDDB data and the backlog, respectively.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND HONORS

New State Horticulture Program Chair

Our Chapter congratulates Chapter member Peigi Duvall, for her appointment to the volunteer position of Horticulture Program Chair for state-wide CNPS.

Four years ago, when Peigi began designing gardens with California natives, she turned to CNPS as a key resource. As these things often go, she first became involved through an entirely different avenue (on the State CNPS Finance Committee) and began to realize the horticultural potential due to the many very knowledgeable people in CNPS.

Peigi is currently finishing up the two-year Foothill College Horticultural Program, and has both enthusiasm and expertise to bring to her new role. She may be reached at indigdesign@comcast.net or (650)704-3926.

Scholarships Awarded

The Chapter has awarded two \$1,500 scholarships to graduate students doing research related to plant systematics, plant ecology, plant physiology, and other related botanical studies of plants that grow in habitats in Central and Northern California.

The recipients of the 2004-2005 scholarships are:

Laura Garrison, San Francisco State University. Laura is studying the phylogeny (evolutionary relationships) of the *Phacelia crenulatae* group in the Hydrophyllaceae (Waterleaf) Family. This subgroup of species includes two annual species (*Phacelia crenulata* and *P. tanacetifolia*) that are found in the South San Francisco Bay Area. This work will likely be a component of a larger study of all California phacelias, which aims to answer questions about adaptive radiation and species formation.

Rebecca Hufft, University of California, Santa Cruz. Rebecca is working on grassland restoration strategies at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. Her research will focus on the success of different planting techniques, the effects of grazing, soil substrates, and pollination and self-seeding.

The research scholarships recognize the research plans of these graduate students and the potential of their research to further the understanding of plant ecology, restoration, and plant systematics. We hope to hear more about their research in upcoming newsletter articles or at a General Meeting.

Congratulations Laura and Rebecca.

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.

July 2-5 Smith River, Del Norte County

Celebrate the holiday with a floral display to rival any fireworks show, as we explore the rich flora of northwestern California. Our chapter visited this area 4 years ago, and everyone involved gave rave reviews. There are four Botanical Areas within this part of Six Rivers National Forest, and our campground is right next to the Middle Fork Smith River. Motel accommodations are available in nearby Crescent City if desired.

A few highlights include: three species of *Lilium*, some in large numbers; the carnivorous plant *Darlingtonia californica*; and over a dozen different species of conifers. We will head out to hunt for plant habitats as a group on Saturday and Sunday, with Friday and Monday as travel days. Contact Kevin Bryant at (408)353-8824, or mtngreen17@verizon.net for details on this trip to the Pacific Northwest portion of California.

Jul 11 Sun. 10am Bean Hollow State Beach

Join Carolyn Dorsch in an exploration of the summer blooms along the beautiful California coastline at Bean Hollow State Beach.

Enjoy beautiful vistas of the coastal bluffs, while expecting to see seaside daisies, coast angelica, sand verbena, rein orchids, ladies' tresses, goldenrod, gum-plant, lizard tail, and many more botanical beauties on this 2 mile up-and-back trail. We may see sea lions, seals, and many bird species, so bring binoculars.

The hike is expected to last until **12Noon**. Bring sunscreen, sunhat, windbreaker, drinking water and a snack. Restrooms are available.

Bring your picnic basket for an optional picnic afterward on the beach. There are nice tidepools to explore at this beach (low tide will be around 12:30 pm).

Directions: Bean Hollow State Beach is 3 miles south of Pescadero on Hwy 1. There is limited parking at the beach, with overflow parking along the western side of Hwy 1. Entrance to State Beach is free.

From Half Moon Bay (Hwy 1): Go South on Hwy 1 for 17.5 miles; From Pescadero (Hwy 1): Go South on Hwy 1 for 3 miles; From Santa Cruz (Hwy 1): Go North on Hwy 1 for 31 miles. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. Riders will share gasoline charges with drivers. Meet at Park & Ride at Page Mill Road (Palo Alto) and Hwy 280 at **8:30am**.

For additional information email Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com, or call (650) 804-6162.

Jul 18 Sun. 10am San Bruno Mountain

Join Ken Himes for a hike along the Summit Loop Trail in San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. We expect to see lizard's tail and pearly everlasting, and other summer flowers on this 3.5 mile loop.

Bring lunch and liquids. Expect an elevation gain/loss of about 800 feet. Dress in layers to allow for variable weather conditions. The hike is expected to last until **3:30pm**. For more information, contact Ken at (650)591-8560.

Directions: Go North on Highway 101, take the Brisbane exit, and proceed North on Old Bayshore Highway past the small town of Brisbane. At the crest of a small hill, turn left onto Guadalupe Parkway. Follow Guadalupe uphill to the park entrance. We'll meet at the entrance parking lot. There is a \$5 parking fee.

Aug 8 Sun. 10:30am Henry Cowell Redwoods Take a summer stroll through the cool forest with Kevin Bryant, within Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. We will view several species of ferns, including *Blechnum spicant*, an uncommon fern in the Santa Cruz Mountains. We will also see a few other plants uncommonly observed in our area, including *Rhododendron occidentaleis*, *Arctostaphylos nummularia*, and *Gaultheria shallon*.

We will meet at the Pipeline Road trailhead off Graham Hill Rd. (not the main entrance) at 10:30am. The trip is expected to last until **2pm**, and will traverse about 3 fairly easy miles. Contact Kevin at (408)353-8824 or mtngreen17@verizon.net for more details.

Directions: From Santa Clara County, take Hwy. 17 south past Scotts Valley to Sims Road/La Madrona exit. This is a very short off ramp, so be aware. Take an immediate left, following the signs to Sims Rd. Turn right onto Sims Rd. until it ends at Graham Hill Rd. Turn right onto Graham Hill. After passing a store on the right hand side of the road (less than 1/2 mile from Sims Rd.), look for a driveway and small parking lot on the left side of the road. Pull in and park. Those wishing to caravan to the parking lot may wish to meet at Kevin's house, which is on the way off Summit Rd.

Aug 15 Sun. 9:30am Stile Ranch

Join Kevin Bryant on a hike around the Stile Ranch and Fortini Trails area in and adjacent to Santa Teresa County Park to view several uncommon summer blooming serpentine species. We expect to see Bolander's sunflower *Helianthus bolanderi*, summer columbine *Aquilegia eximia*, Mt. Hamilton thistle *Cirsium fontinale* var. *campylon*, and serpentine lessingia *Lessingia micradenia* var. *glabrata*.

This will be a moderate 3 mile hike, but it can get hot here, so be sure to dress accordingly and bring plenty of water. The trip is expected to last until **1:30pm**.

Directions: From Hwy. 85 in San Jose, exit at Almaden Expy south. Go 5 miles to the end of the expressway, then turn right onto Harry Rd. Take the next left about 0.1 miles from Almaden Expy, onto McKean Rd. Follow McKean Rd. 1.3 miles to Fortini Rd., and turn left onto Fortini. At the end of Fortini, turn left on San Vicente and find the parking lot right there on the right.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2004

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Georgia Stigall	(650) 941-1068	gstigall@aol.com
Vice President	Judy Fenerty	(408) 378-6272	judy@fenerty.com
Recording Secretary	David Chapman	(408) 323-1913	dcchapman@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Paul Heiple	(650) 854-7125	LogH3O@aol.com

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, Aug 7, 2004

Email: mattsson@sbcglobal.net

Phone: (408)255-3767