

California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

July-August 2012

GENERAL MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

Besides our usual Chapter General Meeting in July, we present a second General Meeting in August. Read on for details.

Friday, July 20, 7:30 PM Los Altos Library Program Room 13 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Topic: Early Detection Networks: Protecting California from Harmful Invasive Plants Speaker: Daniel Gluesenkamp Executive Director, Calflora Steering Committee Member, Bay Area Early Detection Network

Since 2006, the Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN) has coordinated and organized early detection and rapid response (EDRR) to plant invasions across the nine counties bordering San Francisco Bay. BAEDN partners have developed an operating framework, obtained grant support, and pulled together critical EDRR infrastructure. BAEDN staff predict which species will be most harmful, coordinate detection of infestations, and prioritize the most harmful outbreaks for eradication. BAEDN then works with agencies and citizens to proactively deal with the highest priority outbreaks before they grow into large and costly threats. This "stitch-intime" approach minimizes the environmental and economic damage caused by these invaders, educates citizens, and dramatically reduces the need for planning and resources required to control large, established invasive plant populations.

This talk will cover efforts underway to build EDRR networks throughout the state using the BAEDN template. It will focus on the infrastructure and systems now available to build multi-county regional early detection networks, including an integrated mapping platform using mobile phone mapping systems and cloud-based occurrence mapping tools. The talk will present plans for outreach to Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) and other key partners — the expertise and wisdom of RCDs is essential to success of building CaliforniaEDN, a coordinated network of networks protecting the entire state from harmful new invasions.

A plant ecologist by training, Dr Daniel Gluesenkamp is the Executive Director of Calflora Database. He is a founder and past President of the California Invasive Plant Council. He is the founder of BAEDN and he directed the Habitat Program at Audubon Canyon Ranch from 2001 to 2011.

Friday, August 17, 7:30 PM Los Altos Library Program Room 13 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos

> Topic: Why Plants Have Colors: Beauty, Purpose, and Science Speaker: Jim Bishop Secretary, CNPS Mount Lassen Chapter Former Chair, CNPS Chapter Council



Catie Bishop The beautiful color of this Desert Mariposa Lily is more intense than that of its non-desert relatives From our gardens to the wilds, plants offer endless, engaging beauty in their many colors. There are the blooms of spring in the foothills, lovely desert and mountain wildflowers, the glorious leaves of autumn, and even the beauty of the universal greens of leaves before they turn. There are interesting stories in all of that.

Come to the August General Meeting not only to enjoy the beauty of the rich and varied colors displayed by plants (flowers, fruits, leaves, and stems; from deserts to mountaintops, from shrublands to fall color in forests and woodlands), but also to learn about the science behind plant colors: How do plant colors arise? How do conditions such as acidity change pigment colors? What purpose do they serve in the plant? The interesting questions are endless (and not all of the answers are known). You'll gain some background that will enrich your understanding and appreciation of plant colors, and you'll form new questions of your own.

Jim Bishop's education includes degrees in physics and earth science, with additional studies in biochemistry, plant physiology, and atmospheric science, plus a lot of reading and study of the science of plant color. He has taken hundreds of plant-color photographs for both beauty and as illustrational examples.

After early years in geophysics, Jim spent most of his career with Cal Fire, and after retiring worked seasonally with his botanist wife Catie for the Plumas National Forest. He and Catie have been members of the Mount Lassen Chapter of CNPS for about 20 years.

Directions: From Foothill Expy., travel ½ mile on San Antonio Rd. towards the Bay, cross Hillview and turn right into the driveway; the library is on the left. **From El Camino Real**, 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, send an email to cnps_scv@yahoo.com, or leave a message on our Chapter phone at (408) 260-3450 and your call will be returned.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Nursery at Hidden Villa

Come help propagate plants for our **Fall Native Plant Sale on October 20** by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions. They take place every **Wednesday and Thursday,** from **10am to 1pm (note summer hours)**. Thanks to Melanie Cross for offering to lead our **new** **Thursday workdays!** Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and liquids and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery, and there's a table in the shade. Knowledge of plants is not necessary; your willingness to help is all that's required.

For more information, contact Jean Struthers at (650) 941-2586 or JeanStruthers@att.net; or Ray Deutsch at (650) 365-6136 or ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca.

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 Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the visitor center.

Gardening with Natives

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

This year's theme is *Designing Your Native Plant Garden*. We have divided the design work into twelve tasks, each covered by one lecture per month. The lectures start with planning and end with maintenance. We also present talks which cover other aspects of native plant gardening. **Seven talks are scheduled during July and August**, so please spread the word. For more information, visit **www.GardeningWithNatives.com**.

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

Tuesday, July 10 7:00 PM, Fremont

Locally Native Plants for Bay Area Gardens A talk by Arvind Kumar

As a world hotspot of biodiversity, California has nearly as many species of native plants as the rest of the country and Canada combined! Many of these plants are suitable for home gardens, and have been grown in Europe for over a century. Come to this talk to learn about plants native to the Bay Area that are easy to grow as well as beautiful. Give your garden a sense of place and a sense of California by using local native plants. Plant lists will be available. Arvind Kumar has been gardening with native plants for over 10 years and is the president of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont, (510) 745-1401.

Wednesday, July 11 7:00 PM, Los Altos

Creating Year-Round Interest: Form, Foliage, Berries and Bark A lecture by Radhika Thekkath

This lecture is the seventh in our 12-part Designing Your Native Plant Garden series. You've selected trees, shrubs, and perennials; now you'll want to tweak your design to ensure that something is happening throughout the year not just in the spring! Learn how to select and group plants with varying bloom times so your garden is never without color. See how to choose different plant forms and include beautiful bark, berry, and seed producing species for maximum interest all year long.

Radhika Thekkath has been a passionate gardener since childhood and is a native plant designer and a strong advocate for using native plants in the home garden. She is the Recording Secretary of the California Native Plant Society (Santa Clara Valley Chapter) and on the steering committee for the Gardening with Natives special interest group.

Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos, (650) 948-7683.

Wednesday, July 18 6:30 PM, San Jose, Rose Garden Wednesday, July 25 6:30 PM, San Jose, West Valley Tuesday, August 7 6:30 PM, San Jose, Cambrian

California Native Gardening: A Month by Month Guide A lecture (and book) by Helen Popper

In late July and early August, we have three lectures based on the latest book about maintaining your native plant garden. The book begins with October, when much of California leaves the dry season behind and prepares for its own green "spring." Helen Popper provides detailed, calendar-based information for both beginning and experienced native gardeners.

Hear about each month's gardening tasks, including ongoing tasks and those specific to each season. See

different planting and design ideas, and learn about core gardening techniques, such as pruning, mulching, and propagating. An essential year-round companion, this beautifully written and illustrated book nurtures the twin delights of seeing wild plants in the garden and garden plants in the wild.

July 18: San Jose Rose Garden Branch Library, 1580 Naglee Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126, (408) 808-3070.

July 25: San Jose West Valley Branch Library, 1243 San Tomas Aquino Road, San Jose, CA 95117, (408) 244-4766.

August 7: San Jose Cambrian Library, 1780 Hillsdale Avenue, San Jose, (408) 808-3080.

Wednesday, Aug. 1 7:00 PM, Milpitas

Removing Your Lawn to Make Room for Native Plants A lecture by Deva Luna

Tired of your lawn, but don't know what to put in instead? Come to this talk and be inspired to create a beautiful garden — without mowing or fertilizing! This lecture is the eighth in our 12-part Designing Your Native Plant Garden series. See a variety of no-lawn landscaping styles and ideas, get professional landscaping tips on removing a lawn, using native lawn alternatives, and sheet mulching to prevent weeds in your new garden, all while having fun.

Deva Luna is a sustainable and Bay Friendly-certified landscape designer who has been teaching and speaking about horticulture for 15 years. She has a degree in "Plants and Art" and works for EarthCare Landscaping in Cupertino. Her passions include California native plants, greywater, edible landscaping, herbs, and "quirky yard art."

Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main Street, Milpitas, (408) 262-1171 x3616.

Thursday, Aug 9 7:00 PM, Cupertino

Songbird Gardening with Native Plants A talk by Toby Goldberg

Birds make a garden come alive. They are a source of endless entertainment: dashing, fluttering, feeding, jumping, scratching, drinking, bathing, and flying. These foraging creatures are independent spirits, but if you provide what they need — food, water, shelter, and nesting spaces — they will return to your urban garden again and again.

Toby Goldberg is the programs coordinator for the Santa Clara Valley chapter of The National Audubon Society. She'll describe which species of birds you can expect to see in the Bay Area, and the specific, easy-to-grow native plants that will attract them to your garden.

Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue, Cupertino, (408) 446-1677.

Keying with Natives

Join us as we learn and practice methods of identifying the native plants of our region (aka keying). From beginners to more advanced, there are challenges for all. Bring in plant samples if you have some, or just come and work with the materials provided. We discuss the various plant books,

and practice keying with them. Microscopes are also available.

The upcoming dates are **Fridays**, **June 29**, **July 27**, **and August 31**, **from 6:30pm - 8:30pm**. We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more information, please contact Dave "Tex" Houston at 350co2now@gmail.com or (650) 303-2777; or Sally Casey at (408) 377-0989.

Directions to PCC: From Highway 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. The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

LiveCorps Needs You!

LiveCorps, our Chapter conservation committee, needs people who are interested in helping to monitor rare and endangered plants and in monitoring the government agencies whose decisions impact every aspect of these plants' habitat and survival. We need people willing to write emails and/or speak at public meetings. We also need people to join us as we put on our work gloves and restore habitat by pulling weeds and planting natives. We are a passionate group and we bring cookies. We meet on the **third Tuesday of the month** at **7pm** at the PCC. Our next meetings will be **July 17th and August 21st**. Please join our energetic and involved group of volunteers!

To join the LiveCorps mailing list, or if you have questions, ideas or concerns, please contact the chair: Linda Ruthruff at ldrruff@hotmail.com. For **directions** to the PCC, please see the previous article.

Commendations for our Chapter's 40th Anniversary

Our Chapter is celebrating our 40th Anniversary this year and we should be very proud of this important milestone in our history. In recognition of our dedication and conservation work, our Chapter was honored with three commendations to commemorate our 40th Anniversary.



San Jose City Hall

San Jose Mayor Check Reed, left, commends our Chapter on its 40th anniversary. Standing to the right of Mayor Reed are Rose Rockwood, Toni Gregorio-Bunch, Sally Casey, Vicki Silvas-Young, and San Jose Councilman Sam Liccardo, on April 24 at the City Council Meeting at the San Jose City Hall.

We received our first commendation from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors meeting on March 13. Supervisor Ken Yeager presented us with a beautiful plaque and Don Mayall made the acceptance speech. The presentation was also attended by Arvind Kumar, Toni Gregorio Bunch, Linda Ruthruff and Rose Rockwood. Don Mayall coordinated this event.

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Our second commendation came from the City of San Jose and was presented on April 24. Councilman Sam Liccardo made the introductions and the plaque was presented to us by Mayor Chuck Reed. Councilman Liccardo made a very gracious introduction by acknowledging the importance of our contribution to the protection and preservation of our state's native plants and introduced all of our members in attendance, including a tribute to Sally Casey as one of our founding members. He even gave a plug for our Wildflower Show. Rose Rockwood gave the acceptance speech.

Our third commendation was presented on June 5 by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, at the Redwood City Hall of Justice and Records. Drew Shell was instrumental in coordinating this presentation with San Mateo Supervisor Don Horsley. Toni Gregorio-Bunch gave the acceptance speech; Drew Shell and Julie Scherer also attended the ceremony.

Thanks go out to Don, Drew, and Rose for their efforts in coordinating these events with their city and county officials and also to the Chapter members who attended to show their support.

EDUCATION NEWS

2012-2013 Graduate Scholarship Recipients

By Nora Monette, Scholarship Chair

The Chapter awarded three \$1,500 graduate student scholarships at the May General Meeting in Los Altos. All three students receiving the awards were able to attend and make short presentations regarding their research related to plant ecology, plant physiology, and conservation of native plants that grow in habitats in Central and Northern California.

The recipients of the 2012-2013 scholarships are:

Allison Kidder, University of California, Berkeley.

Allison is working in the area of plant community ecology and ecophysiology. Her doctoral studies involve water relations and the success of coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) in central coast grasslands; specifically studying effects of predicted increases in temperature and decreases in precipitation and fog on plant populations. Allison previously completed the Master's degree program at San Jose State University, working with most beautiful jewelflower, *Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *peramoenus* (new Jepson name: *Streptanthus glandulosus* ssp. *glandulosus*). Brett Smith, University of California, Santa Cruz.
Brett's studies are focused on conservation and ecological studies with a genetic perspective. His work involves work on rare serpentine species (*Monardella stebbinsii* and *Monardella folletti* in the mint family) in the Plumas National Forest and the role of hybridization and isolation in maintaining populations. His work will take advantage of new-high throughput DNA sequencing techniques to provide information on genetic relatedness and structure among populations. The conservation implications of his research include the use of genetic and ecological data to provide insight on the factors that may reduce the risk of extinction of these rare species.

Juliet Oshiro, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Juliet is studying the effects of climate change on plant communities in Santa Cruz County by resurveying transects established by naturalist Randall Morgan in the 1990s. Her work focuses on sensitive sandhill and coastal prairie habitats, which support several federally and CNPS listed threatened or rare plants. The presence of exotic and native species, flowering times, and pollinator associations will be examined. Her research will be made broadly available on ecological websites such as Calbug (**calbug.berkeley.edu**) and Calflora (**www.calflora.org**).

Several members and the Brenda Butner Memorial speaker, Richard Halsey, spoke with the students after the meeting and shared information on their work. It was a great opportunity to hear about current research efforts and the benefits of the research our Chapter is supporting.

This is the Chapter's 13th year of providing graduate scholarships. The Scholarship Committee is impressed with the range and quality of research being undertaken by students working with native plants in Central California. We look forward to hearing more from the scholarship recipients in the fall newsletters. Congratulations to Allison, Brett, and Juliet!

RARE PLANT NEWS

Calero County Park Rare Plant Survey

By Don Mayall, Rare Plants Chair, Santa Clara County

CNPS participated in a plant survey in Calero County Park in Santa Clara County in late April. The event was arranged by Karen Cotter, Resources Technician for the Santa Clara County Department of Parks, who is a strong advocate for rare plant conservation. Chapter members

July-August 2012

Debra Welch, Woody Collins, and Stacie Wolny took part along with me. They all had taken our first rare plant survey workshop with Toni Corelli in March. Other participants were park staff and volunteers, for a total of 13 on the survey. Corelli and me. Two more are planned for this year, on **Saturdays, September 22nd** and **October 13th**. **To sign up** for one of these sessions contact Toni Corelli at corelli@coastside.net or (650) 726-0689.



<u>CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS</u>

Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park

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. Our next **9am Saturday** session will be **July 21** — meet at the West Kiosk.

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

Surveyors spread tape along transect line for rare plant survey in Calero County Park April 2012

The park is primarily oak woodlands with a ridge of serpentine outcroppings in the center. The serpentine rarities on the ridge include the Santa Clara Valley Dudleya, the most beautiful jewelflower, smooth lessingia and serpentine linanthus. The existence of these species has been documented over the years, but the last survey of the ridge rarities dates to 2000. An update was definitely in order. The survey took place over three separate days.

Karen defined transect lines up the ridge and observations were recorded for ten circles each with a radius of 25 feet. We counted 366 Santa Clara Valley Dudleya, 482 of the most beautiful jewelflower, and 145 serpentine linanthus. Smooth lessingia has been reported on the ridge in past years. It blooms in late summer, but we estimated there 10,000 non-flowering new stalks. Karen and County Parks are to be commended for their interest in and concern for the botanical treasures of this area and their willingness to undertake these surveys.

Chapter members interested in taking part in **rare plant surveys** should check the Chapter website (**www.cnpsscv.org.**) Future surveys will be announced there. **Workshops in survey techniques** are being given by Toni

CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Chapter field trips are generally 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.

Field Trip Planning Meeting Mon Jul 30 6:30-8:30 pm at the PCC

Let's get together to discuss the field trips and hikes for the fall season. We'll also review the trips led earlier in the year, and start thinking about our goals for the next season.

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All Chapter members interested in field trip activities are invited to join in the discussion. New ideas are most welcome!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact Carolyn Dorsch, Field Trip Chair, at (650) 804-6162 eves., or cdorsch1@aol.com. **Directions to the PCC** in Palo Alto are given on page 4.

Sat Jul 21 Crystal Springs Watershed (Midpeninsula) 10am - 2pm

Join Don Thomas 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 and yellow star-thistle that is invading its serpentine seep habitat. (Tools will be provided.) We will then visit another nearby fountain thistle population growing in a serpentine seep and possibly see *Lilium pardalinum* in bloom.

We will walk less than two miles in total. The activities will end in the early afternoon. The trip is limited to 20 participants. For more information or **to reserve a spot**, contact Don Thomas at don_e_thomas@yahoo.com or (408) 828-4044.

Sun Aug 5 Bean Hollow State Beach (Hwy 1) 10am - Noon

Join Carolyn Dorsch and Michael Yantos for a day at

the beach. We will explore the summer season atop the coastal bluffs. This will be an easy and relaxed stroll on a level trail. Total distance is less than 2 miles. In addition to the botanical beauties, we probably will see other marine life, so bring binoculars. Bring lunch if you want to stay afterward joining others for a picnic on the beach (high tide will be around 1:30pm).

The trip is limited to 20 people. **To reserve a spot** or for additional information, contact Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com or (650) 804-6162 (eves).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

Help Create a Waterway at Ulistac

This summer and fall, the Ulistac Natural Area Restoration and Education Project is creating a 250 foot waterway and small pond using recycled water along the north edge of the 12 year old one-acre Bird and Butterfly Habitat Garden at Ulistac Natural Area (UNA) in Santa Clara. This project is funded by the Santa Clara Valley Water District and has been designed by a professional landscape architect.

As a result of the many California native riparian and aquatic plants that will be placed along and in the waterway bed, wildlife diversity and butterfly populations at UNC should greatly increase.

A two-page color article on the restoration at Ulistac was featured in the Home and Garden Section of the Mercury News on Saturday June 9th. See **www.mercurynews.com/ home-garden/ci_20797198/native-californian.**

Any CNPS members with experience installing irrigation systems, pumps, mechanical, and having general handyperson skills who would like to offer some help on

> this worthy project, please contact Dennis Dowling, Project Manager, at ddowling@scusd.net or ulistac@gmail.com

Save a Tree!

CNPS members can log in to **support.cnps.org** and edit their profile to receive this newsletter by email only. Look for "Chapter Newsletter" at the bottom of "My Profile."

Dai Sugano, Mercury News Staff A butterfly visits California buckeye at Ulistac Natural Area on May 30, 2012

The latest Blazing Star newsletter is always online at **cnps-scv.org/phocadownload/current-newsletter.pdf.** To view other issues, visit the Chapter website's newsletter page.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT **BLAZING** STAR

Saturday, August 4, 2012

Email: mattsson@surfpix.net Phone: (408) 255-3767



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

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Donations above the membership level are gratefully accepted. Dues and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail it with this form to: CNPS Membership, 2707 K Street Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816 • 916-447-2677 • fax 916-447-2727			

<u>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</u> (page # in parentheses)

The next Chapter **Board meeting** will be **Thursday, August 9 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 **ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca**.

The Blazing Star web address: www.cnps-scv.org . Acknowledgement: Anne Warren for the Blazing Star logo. Printed on recycled paper.

FIRST-CLASS