



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

November-December 2004

ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

Saturday, November 13, 2004 at 6:00 pm
Shoup Garden House, Los Altos

SPRING AND SUMMER AT SMITH RIVER **Ken Himes and Kevin Bryant**

Field trip leaders Ken Himes and Kevin Bryant will present photos and commentary on the Smith River area of Del Norte County, a fascinating botanical area. The chapter has taken a number of field trips to this area over the years, and another trip is planned for May of 2005. Ken and Kevin will show slides of flowers that may be in bloom then, including fawn lilies, rhododendrons and the brook wakerobin (*Trillium rivale*). We'll also see slides of other interesting plants seen on previous trips; including the uncommon carnivorous plants horned butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris* ssp. *macroceras*) and California pitcher plant (*Darlingtonia californica*). Kevin will also show highlights of the Chapter field trip last July 4th, which featured a great diversity of lilies and other flowers.

Again this year we will also have a **silent auction** of books and other items of interest to members. If you have extra books that you would like to donate to the auction, please call Judy Fenerty (judy@fenerty.com) at (408)378-6272, or drop off the books at our office mailbox at the PCC, 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. Please make sure the books are clearly labeled "CNPS." There will also be new books and posters for sale as at other general meetings.

This is our annual potluck dinner and meeting. Bring your favorite dish, whether it be dessert, salad, main dish, it always works out that we have just the right amount of everything!

Also, be sure to bring plates, drinking glasses, and eating utensils for yourself, as well as a bag in which to take home unwashed dishes.

Please arrive at **5pm** to help set up. We will begin eating at **6pm** and the program should start at **7pm**. We will also need help with clean-up at the end of the evening.

Directions: From Highway 280 take the El Monte exit east. Turn left (north) on University Ave. The Garden House is about a quarter mile ahead on the left (west) side of the street. From Highway 101, take the San Antonio exit west to Main in Los Altos. Cross Foothill Expressway to University Ave. The Garden House is a short distance ahead on the right.

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 Date!

Start gathering your slides and digital photos— Member's Night is scheduled for January 21, 2005 at the Los Altos Library.

Chapter Annual Election

The annual potluck is also the time to elect constitutional officers for the coming year. Following is the slate put forth by the nominating committee:

President	Judy Fenerty
Vice-President	Kevin Bryant
Treasurer	Paul Heiple
Recording Secretary	Open

Nominations may also be made from the floor.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Fall Plant Sale Update

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of many of our Chapter members, we had another very successful plant sale at Hidden Villa on October 9. **Thanks to everyone who helped at the sale, and to everyone who helped out at the nursery!** Without your help, our plant sales would not be possible (nor would they be nearly as much fun!). This sale featured a beautiful display of native grasses that was created by Chapter member Sue Welch and drew many positive comments. Thank you, Sue!

Our Spring Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday, May 14, 2005**, at Hidden Villa. 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 article in this issue), and future issues of the *Blazing Star* will list the many ways you can volunteer to help during the Spring Plant Sale.

Thanks again to everyone for helping to make our Fall Plant Sale another success!

Native Plant Nursery

Come help Chapter volunteers grow plants at Hidden Villa for the spring sale and beyond. Our regular native plant nursery work sessions take place every **Wednesday** from **noon to 4pm**.

If you missed out on the sale, plants can still be purchased at the nursery on Wednesdays until December 1.

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.

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.

Native Gardening Database Project

Our native gardening database project is well underway. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help gather the information that we need!

This project will allow us to produce attractive signs that will include color photographs and gardening requirements, which will help us improve our sales and provide needed information to our plant sale customers. The information will also be available on the Internet, helping us to educate the public about gardening with native plants.

Your help is needed, too! We are gathering information about growing the plants that we sell, and we need good digital photographs. Those who are growing native plants in their gardens can help by letting us take pictures of the plants they grow.

Details about the information and photographs we need are available at janet.gomez.net/GWN/HorticulturalDB or by

contacting Janet Gomez at (408)978-2984 or jgomez51@sbcglobal.net.

Gardening With Natives

Gardening with Natives meets monthly and includes a mix of seasoned native plant gardeners as well as beginners. Newcomers are always welcome.

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday November 3 at 7:30 pm**. The topic will be Butterfly Gardening, a talk and slide show by **John Steiner**. We'll meet in the Prusch Park Meeting Room, 647 S. King Road, in San Jose. **Note the changed date and location.**

How can you attract butterflies to your California garden? What are some sure-fire plants for these magnificent creatures? Find out at this talk and slide show by lepidopterist John Steiner, author of "Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay Region", and the leader of the South Bay butterfly count. He teaches Native Plant Identification at Cañada College and Biology at College of Alameda, and has worked at the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge.

The December meeting is TBD. Check the GWN email list for details.

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 Prusch Park:

From 280: Take 280S to San Jose until it becomes 680N (just after the 101 interchange). Take King Road exit. Turn right on King. Take the first driveway on the right into Prusch Park.

From 101: Take 101S to San Jose. Take Story Rd. East exit (NOT West). Go east on Story. Turn left on King. Turn left into Prusch Park just before road goes under the 680 freeway.

Keying with Natives

Join us on the last **Friday** evening 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 meeting will be on **November 26**. We will skip the December meeting.

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.

Photography Group

Please join us for the monthly meeting of the Chapter Photography Group. The next meeting will be **Monday, November 8, from 7-9pm** in the Peregrine Room at the PCC in Palo Alto. Carol Hankermeyer will present a slide show featuring the family Pyrolaceae. We will skip the December meeting, and resume in January.

If you have slides, digital images, or prints you would like to share, please bring them. If you would like to be added to the email or phone lists, contact Jerry Welch at (408)353-8352 or jdwelch@yahoo.com.

Native Hill News

Fall is planting and pruning season for gardens in the Bay Area, and the garden maintained by our Chapter at Foothill College is no exception. We have a lot of each to do. There are also some weeds but lots fewer than in former years. The heat and low rainfall plus loss of the automatic drip system caused many casualties over the summer but we are ready to renew and revive the garden.

We are also in need of some special help with various projects: putting together more board and log benches, putting in an irrigation system on the shady side of the hill for the moisture requiring plants, digging a trench to retain and funnel the water that currently runs into the parking lot for a semi-riparian area in the south part of the garden, work on the smaller vernal pond, and also more drip irrigation in various areas. If any of these interest you please call or write Ellie for more information (see contact info below).

Volunteers are always welcome to help with projects and maintenance. The next workdays at Native Hill are:

Sunday, November 7
Sunday, November 14
Saturday, November 20
Saturday, December 4
Sunday, December 12

All workdays take place from **9am to noon**. You may bring hand tools (labeled) and a lunch if you wish. The weather should be pleasant and cool for working. Ellie hopes to see both new and old friends.

Call Ellie Gioumouis if you have questions or need directions, at (650)494-6276 or elliegms@uf.znet.com.

Habitat Restoration at 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 will resume in spring after daylight savings time begins.

Join Ken Himes and crew for a **special weeding session** at Edgewood on **Saturday, November 6 from 9am to Noon**. We will be working on the bristly ox-tongue and Harding grass from the meadows near the West Kiosk.

Meet at the west Edgewood trailhead parking lot, at the intersection of Edgewood Road and Canada Road. If you are late, proceed east on the Edgewood trail 6/10 of a mile to the West Kiosk. Workers will be seen nearby. Bring sunscreen, gloves and liquids.

For more information, including locations for the Friday morning weeding sessions, call Ken at (650)591-8560 or contact John Allen at jcakwa@earthlink.net.

Fremontia Articles by Chapter Members

Our Chapter members have been publishing in the CNPS Journal *Fremontia*. Recent articles include:

Kathleen Dickey, "Intertidal Monitoring of California Seaweeds," Vol. 32, No. 1 (January, 2004)

Guenther K. Machol, "From Spore to Sporeling: The Birth of a Fern," Vol. 32, No. 2 (April, 2004)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Georgia Stigall

This will be my last President's Message for our Chapter, as my term ends this calendar year. I want to thank everyone for all of the support, encouragement and help that I have received from our fellow chapter members. Volunteer effort and camaraderie comes in an endless variety of shapes and sizes, all of tremendous value. Often, the "giver" has no idea how one sincere suggestion, or a well-placed question or friendly challenge, can make a huge difference in encouraging and guiding our collective efforts on behalf of native plants. I have been honored to serve in this capacity, and I hope many more of you will avail yourself of this opportunity. You won't regret it!

Speaking of volunteers, there are so many dedicated and contributing members in our Chapter it would be impossible to list or honor them all. I would, however, like to highlight a particular individual at this time, without whom you might not be holding this newsletter.

Chapter Director-At-Large **Mary Alice Bethel** has been coordinating and hosting the *Blazing Star* mailing parties at her home for many years (in addition to other ways of contributing). This entails logistics planning including pick-up of the newsletter from the printer, gathering her band of dedicated helpers, acquiring labels and postage in time for the mailing party and ensuring that our newsletter is delivered to the post office in a timely manner. Volunteering with Mary Alice is always both an educational and fun opportunity, and an additional bonus is that she provides refreshments.

Thanks very much to Mary Alice for everything she has contributed to our Chapter all these years!

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.

Nov. 21 Sun, 9am Berry Creek Falls Loop

Join co-leaders Ken Himes and Kevin Bryant on this scenic 10.5 mile hike through Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The emphasis of this hike will be to examine the changes in plant communities in this area dominated by redwood forest, and to view the stunningly beautiful waterfalls along Berry Creek.

We'll make a loop on the Sunset and Skyline-to-the-sea Trails, and we may experience some good fall color, especially the big leaf maples.

This moderately strenuous hike has an elevation loss and gain of approx. 500 ft. The hike is expected to last until **4:30pm** and will be at a quicker pace than normal CNPS field trips due to the short day and long distances. Be prepared for weather changes, and wear sturdy shoes good for walking on rocks (near the falls). Dress in layers and bring lunch and liquids.

Meet at the Big Basin Park Headquarters parking lot at **9am**. For more information, call Ken at (650)591-8560, or contact Kevin at (408)353-8824, or mtngreen17@verizon.net.

Directions: From San Jose (allow about 90 minutes): Take Hwy. 9 South (can be reached from DeAnza Blvd. exit of Hwy. 85, head south; or Hwy. 9 exit off Hwy. 17 in Los Gatos) over the summit at Hwy. 35, into Santa Cruz County to Hwy. 236. Take Hwy. 236 to the park main headquarters. There is a \$5.00 per vehicle Day Use fee, which is paid at the headquarters building.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

New Edition of Edgewood Book Available

The second edition of *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Preserve* by Toni Corelli has been published and will be available at our November potluck and future events.

Jepson Herbarium Weekend Workshops

The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium are pleased to present a broad range of topics for this year's weekend workshop series. For more information on the workshops, or to register, please consult ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepwkshp.html or phone Cynthia Perrine, Public Programs Coordinator at the Jepson Herbarium, (510)643-7008.

Here's a list of upcoming workshops. See the website for detailed descriptions and prices.

Date	Title
Nov 13-14	Introduction to Medicinal Fungi and Herbs
Dec 4-5	Plant Evolution and Diversity
Dec 11, 2004	Reconstructing the Tree of Life
Jan 29-30	Photoshop for Botanical Photographers
Feb 5	Diversity and Ecology in the Archaea
Feb 26	What Happened to "Plants"?
Mar 12-13	Introduction to Morphology and ID of Flowering Plants
Mar 19-20	Basics of Botanical Illustration
Mar 26-27	Introduction to Digital Photography
April 2-3 and April 9-11	Fifty Plant Families in the Field
April 23	Ferns and Flowering Plants

CHAPTER CONTACTS

To learn more about our Chapter or give suggestions, please contact one of our officers or committee chairs listed below.

Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs		
President	Georgia Stigall	650/941-1068 gstigall@aol.com
Vice President and Programs	Judy Fenerty	408/378-6272 judy@fenerty.com
Treasurer	Paul Heiple	650/854-7125 LogH3O@aol.com
Recording Secretary	David Chapman	408/323-1913 dchapman@earthlink.net
Corresponding Secretary	open	
Books	Ingrid Graeve	ingridg210@yahoo.com
Conservation (North)	open	
Conservation (South)	Libby Lucas	650/948-3552 JLucas1099@aol.com
Education	open	
Field Trips, Plant Sale Coordination co-chair	Kevin Bryant	408/353-8824 mtngreen17@verizon.net
Gardening With Natives	Stephanie Morris	408/629-8004 StephLMorris@hotmail.com
Historian	open	
Hospitality	Vicki Silvas-Young	408/807-6993 mrnngwrblr@yahoo.com
Invasive Plants (North)	Ken Himes	650/591-8560
Invasive Plants (South)	Don Thomas	408/867-1515
Keying with Natives	David "Tex" Houston	650/962-9876 x 347 tex@acterra.org
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Plant Lists	open	
Plant Propagation; Nursery Manager	Jean Struthers	650/941-2586 JeanStruthers@aol.com
Plant Sale Coordination co-chair	Janet Gomez	408/978-2984 jgomez51@sbcglobal.net
Poster Sales	Wanda Alexander	408/354-7058 WBroadieal@aol.com
Publicity	Arvind Kumar	408/274-6965 (h), 408/859-1874 (c) chhaprahiya@yahoo.com
Rare Plants (South)	Don Mayall	650/856-7579 seleve@ix.netcom.com
Member-at-Large; Rare Plants (North)	Toni Corelli	650/726-0689 corelli@coastside.net
Santa Clara Co. Trails	Jim Sugai	408/356-6003
San Mateo Co. Trails Advisory Committee	John Allen	650/366-4910 jcakwa@aol.com
Vegetation	Gail Rankin	408/265-2607 ext. 2729
Wildflower Show	open	
Member-at-Large; Newsletter Mailing	Mary Alice Bethel	650/968-6817 mabethel2@msn.com
Member-at-Large/Fellow	Sally Casey	408/377-0989
Member-at-Large	Susan Somers	huguenot@pacbell.net
Member-at-Large	Bob Will	408/377-8403
Member-at-Large	Olive Zappacosta	408/356-9537

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, Dec 4, 2004

Email: mattsson@sbcglobal.net

Phone: (408)255-3767