



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# THE BLAZING STAR

November-December 2015

## ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

**Saturday, November 7th at 6:00 PM**  
**Shoup Garden House,**  
**400 University Avenue, Los Altos**

**Demystifying Manzanitas:**  
Understanding the dynamics of California's iconic  
shrubby "rock star" (*Arctostaphylos*)  
**A talk by Michael Vasey**  
San Francisco Bay  
National Estuarine Research Reserve

Join us for our favorite get-together of the year: the annual potluck dinner and election meeting, followed by a talk by Michael Vasey, which will be our annual **Brenda Butner Memorial Lecture**. The evening is devoted to native plant appreciation, Chapter business, and delectable victuals. It's the party of the year – don't miss it!

As the centerpiece of his talk, Michael will introduce a new book, *A Field Guide to Manzanitas* (Back Country Press), of which he is a co-author. Using beautiful and informative images by free-lance photographer Jeff Bisbee, figures, range maps, and profiles of each of 104 taxa, this book is intended for anyone with an interest in this fascinating genus. Mike will provide the backstory behind the creation of this book and share his deep knowledge of how and why



Michael Vasey in stand of *Arctostaphylos pajaroensis*, measuring conductance.

*Arctostaphylos* has become such a quintessential "rock star" of the California flora.

Dr. Michael Vasey is a botanist and coastal ecologist with a long-term passion for manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos*). His dissertation focused on the influence of summer marine fog on maritime chaparral where most local manzanita endemics are situated. He, Tom Parker, and Jon Keeley have done recent treatments of *Arctostaphylos* for the *Flora of North America* and *Jepson Manual* (2nd Edition). Michael lectured in Biology at San Francisco State University for over twenty years. He is a former president of the California Botanical Society and currently on the state board of CNPS. Michael is the Director of the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, a conservation program affiliated with San Francisco State.

**The evening begins at 6pm** with our **annual potluck**. Bring your favorite dish, whether it be a salad, main dish, dessert, or beverage; it always works out that we have just the right amount of everything! A label identifying your dish will be helpful. Be sure to bring a plate, drinking glass, and eating utensils for yourself, as well as a bag to take home unwashed dishes.

If you can help with setup, please **arrive at 5pm** to set up chairs and tables. The potluck feast will begin at **6pm**, followed by the **program at 7pm**. We appreciate your help with clean-up at the end of the program.

We will also have a **silent auction** of books and other items which help raise funds for the Chapter. If you have extra books in fair to good condition, or other items to donate, please put your items in a bag labeled "CNPS Auction" and drop them off at our office at the PCC at 3921 E. Bayshore Rd. in Palo Alto **on or before Thursday, November 5** or contact Judy Fenerty at [judy@fenerty.com](mailto:judy@fenerty.com).

CNPS General Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Chapter President Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net) or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

**Directions: From I-280:** take the El Monte exit east. Turn left (north) on University Ave., just before Foothill Expy. The Garden House is 0.6 mile ahead on the left (west) side of the street. **From Hwy. 101:** take the San Antonio exit west/south. Go 3.5 miles. At the 3rd stoplight after crossing El Camino Real (Edith/Main), bear right on to Main St. (not sharp right into Edith). Continue on Main until it crosses Foothill Expy. and turn left immediately on to University Ave. Bear right; the Garden House is 300' ahead on the right.

## Chapter Annual Election

The annual potluck is also the time to elect our Chapter officers for the coming year. All Chapter members may run for office – nominations may also be made from the floor at the potluck. Here is the slate put forth by the Nominating & Leadership Committee:

President	Stephen Rosenthal
Vice President	Madeline Morrow
Treasurer	Carolyn Dorsch
Recording Secretary	Radhika Thekkath

The Chapter Leadership Committee thanks **all** the officers and chairs who served this year. We have several open Board and Committee Chair positions, especially **Plant Sale Coordinator, Symposium Coordinator and Conservation Chair for San Mateo County.** For more information, contact Stephen Buckhout at [yscottie@pacbell.net](mailto:yscottie@pacbell.net) or (408) 255-6233.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### Native Plant Nursery at Hidden Villa

Come help propagate plants for our next plant sale by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions, every **Wednesday and Thursday, from Noon to 3pm** (note winter hours). Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and liquids 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.

The next **Monthly Member Sale** days will be **Wednesdays, November 4 and December 2, noon to 3pm.** For more information, contact Melanie Cross at [melanie@pcross.com](mailto:melanie@pcross.com) or (650) 847-1350; or Ray Deutsch at [ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca](mailto:ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca) or (650) 365-6136.

**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 Dana Center parking lot to your right. The Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the Dana Center.

## Gardening with Natives

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes beginning and seasoned native plant gardeners, along with landscape architects and designers. GWN offers over 30 talks at public libraries throughout the year, which are free and open to all.

This year's themes are *How I Did It* and *Maintaining Your Native Garden*. The monthly speakers will share tips on how they created their native garden or on a specific garden maintenance task. For more information, visit [www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/gardening/gardening-with-natives](http://www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/gardening/gardening-with-natives).

These programs are made possible by the co-sponsoring libraries and our volunteers who help with program logistics. If you would like to help organize similar programming at a library near you, contact [sdosaka@sustainable-landscape.com](mailto:sdosaka@sustainable-landscape.com).

### Rain Gardens for Native Plants, a talk by Madeline Morrow

**Monday, November 2, 7:00-8:30 PM, Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda de Las Pulgas, Belmont (650) 591-8286**

The season's first rains are pouring down, running off your roof, down your driveway and into the streets, storm drains, and ultimately to the bay and ocean. What if you could capture that runoff instead and use it for your garden, with the excess percolating downward to recharge our local aquifers and purifying the water as it passes through the soil? Learn how rain gardens keep water on site and can solve drainage issues. Find out what they are, how to construct them, and which California native plants are best suited for them.

**Madeline Morrow** is the Vice President of our Chapter of CNPS. A former computer programmer, she now volunteers in her community and works extensively on her native garden. Her garden was featured in Bay Nature Magazine in March 2013, and is regularly shown on the Going Native Garden Tour.

### Pruning Your Native Plants, a talk by Jocelyn Cohen

**Thu., Nov. 12, 7:00-8:30 PM, Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St, Mountain View (650) 903-6337**

A native garden looks most pleasing when it has a human touch. Shrubs and trees are at their best with occasional pruning and shaping, and now is the time to do it, before the rains come. During this presentation, you'll learn about the different forms of many native plants and how to bring out their best characteristics – and health – through proper pruning.

**Jocelyn Cohen** has extensive experience with land restoration, tree care, aesthetic pruning, organic gardening, and soil rebuilding. She teaches workshops at the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden. Her business, Poetree Landscapes & Arboriculture, combines tree care and preservation with aesthetic pruning, garden design and landscape restoration.

**How to Propagate Native Plants:  
Seed & Cutting Exchange,  
a demonstration by Stephen Rosenthal**

**Thu., Nov. 19, 7:00-8:30 PM, Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue, Cupertino (408) 446-1677**

One of our most popular events, the Seed and Cutting Exchange arrives just in time to sow seeds and take advantage of the upcoming rains (fingers crossed!). Our speaker will discuss growing annuals, such as desert bluebells, from seed and how to keep our gardens in color all year long. He'll also talk about using a cold frame to get plants started in late fall and keep them growing all winter.

**Steve Rosenthal** is the President of our Chapter of CNPS. He retired from the high tech industry and is now a talented amateur photographer. He coordinates volunteers and restoration work in Alum Rock Park in order to bring back the local native plants and animals.

**Creating a Wreath with California Native  
Plants, a talk by Sherri Osaka  
two dates and locations**

**Wed., Dec. 2, 7:00-8:30 PM, Calabazas Branch Library, 1230 S. Blaney Ave., West San Jose (408) 808-3066****Monday, Dec. 7, 7:00-8:30 PM, Milpitas Library, 160 N Main Street, Milpitas (408) 262-1171**

By selecting a variety of native foliage and berries from your garden, you can create a beautiful holiday wreath and recycle materials that you have on hand. Come watch

while the speaker discusses what types of plants to use, shows how to secure your greenery to a frame, and demonstrates how to tie a big beautiful bow before hanging it up.

**Sherri Osaka** is a licensed Landscape Architect, Bay-Friendly Qualified Designer, and started her company, Sustainable Landscape Designs, over 18 years ago. She is the chair of GWN and enjoys crafting in her spare time, while recycling all manner of materials.

**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, October 30, November 13 and December 11 from 6:30 - 8:30pm**. We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more information, please contact Joe Cernac at [jocernac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jocernac@sbcglobal.net) or (408) 292-5465; or Sally Casey at (408) 377-0989.

**Directions to the PCC:** From Hwy. 101 take the San Antonio Rd. exit and head north. Take your next left onto East Bayshore, which will curve left then right. Take your next right onto Corporation Way. Your next left is the entrance to the PCC parking lot. The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

**CONSERVATION CORNER****Conservation (Formerly LIVECoRPs)**

Our Chapter's conservation committee meets on the **first Thursday** of the month. The next meetings will be on **Thursdays, November 5 and December 3 at 7pm** at the PCC in Palo Alto. Please join us in our important work. For questions, comments or concerns, please contact Conservation Chair Linda Ruthruff at [ldruff@hotmail.com](mailto:ldruff@hotmail.com). For **directions** to the PCC, please see the previous Keying with Natives article.

**Rare Plant Team - Update**

*By Toni Corelli, Rare Plant Chair, San Mateo County*  
After years of service to the Chapter, Don Mayall and Toni Corelli are stepping down as Rare Plant Chairs. Steve Rosenthal and Elan Alford will be the new leaders of the Rare Plant Committee starting January 2016. Our team has

grown over the years, with over ten active members; Don and Toni will continue as members of the team. Our next Rare Plant Committee meeting will be on **Thursday, Oct. 29, from 7pm to 9pm** at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) in Palo Alto. For **directions** to the PCC, please see the Keying with Natives article on page 3.

We will be sharing our accomplishments and fieldwork from the 2015 season. We participated in several Rare Plant Treasure Hunts and documented over 15 rare plant species, some in new locations and others that had not been seen for years. We continue to make progress on our Rare & Endangered Plants page at: [www.cnps-sc.v.org/index.php/conservation/rare-plants](http://www.cnps-sc.v.org/index.php/conservation/rare-plants)

Please let Toni Corelli know if you would like to attend our next meeting, or have other questions. Contact Toni at [corelli@coastside.net](mailto:corelli@coastside.net) or (650) 726-0689.



*Toni Corelli*

Rare Plant Treasure Hunt in San Mateo County, May 2015, documenting Coast yellow leptosiphon, *Leptosiphon croceus*.

## CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

### **Edgewood Weed Warriors**

Our 26-year volunteer restoration program strives to make Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve an inspirational showcase of all CNPS stands for. Come share the beauty of Edgewood with us, learn a ton, and help keep Edgewood native!

Our **9am Friday** sessions run year round; **5:30pm Wednesday** sessions will resume when Daylight Savings Time returns next spring.

For Edgewood Weed Warrior (EWW) information, schedules and meeting places visit [www.cnps-sc.v.org](http://www.cnps-sc.v.org) or phone Friday session leader Paul Heiple at (650) 854-7125.

### **Alum Rock Park Volunteers**

Do you like hiking in Alum Rock Park, one of the natural gems of San Jose? Do you want to give back and make it even better for humans and wildlife alike? With the support of park administration, a volunteer group has formed to pull invasive plants and restore the native habitat at the park.

Since Alum Rock Park has never been used as rangeland, it is still home to many species of native plants that have been lost from other parts of San Jose. Slopes and riparian areas provide many different microclimates and host a wide range of plant species that make this park especially deserving of conservation efforts.

We have weeding sessions **every Monday morning** and an **Inspiration Point Walk-and-Weed Day the third Saturday morning** of each month. You don't have to sign up ahead of time to join us on a weeding session, but we do ask that you visit the Yahoo Group "Alum Rock Park Volunteers" to check the schedules. The group lists what to bring and gives directions to the meeting places.

For more information, contact project lead Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net) or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

## IN MEMORIAM

### **Elly Hess, Founder and First Leader of our Weed Control Efforts at Edgewood**

*By Drew Shell*

Elly Hess received the first official weed abatement permit for Edgewood in July 1989, well before Edgewood was designated a natural preserve, and at a time when the future of Edgewood was still far from certain. As the "Weeder In Chief," her steadfast dedication and leadership over subsequent years resulted in huge progress in controlling a variety of targets – most notably teasels and brooms, but many others as well. Elly's efforts and achievements were recognized in various fashion over the years, including being co-recipient of the first Best Friend of Edgewood award from Friends of Edgewood in 1995, and having an area at the northwest of the park officially designated by Friends of Edgewood in her honor as Elly's Meadow.

But without doubt the greatest embodiment of Elly's efforts at Edgewood is our ongoing Weed Warrior program itself, which continues to carry forward her legacy and her goals of a restored and resplendent Edgewood for all to

appreciate and enjoy. Over 26 years later the effort she started lives on, and continues to do amazing things.

Elly loved three things: her family, her friends and her flowers. You may read her obituary at the bottom of the Edgewood Weed Warrior page of the Chapter website: visit [www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/restoration/edgewood-park/281-elly-hess](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/restoration/edgewood-park/281-elly-hess).



Elly Hess standing in the Carex Meadow at Edgewood Preserve

## CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Chapter field trips are free and generally 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 and 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.**

### **Sun Nov 15 10am - 3:30pm Bryophytes in Pescadero County Park**

Bryologist Ken Kellman will lead us along a relatively easy hike on the Old Haul Road through second growth redwood forest. Along the way we will see and identify mosses and leafy liverworts. Side trails to Pescadero Creek may yield other liverworts. To date, there are 54 species of bryophytes known in the park.

Make sure to bring your hand lens and lunch and water to last the day. Heavy rain cancels. The trip is limited to 20 participants, so signups are required. To **reserve your spot** and receive directions to the meeting place contact Dee Wong at [dee4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:dee4cnps@gmail.com) or (650) 670-7797 (eves).

### **Save the dates!**

On **January 1, 2016**, we'll have our annual **New Year's Day hike** at Año Nuevo State Reserve. On **January 11**,

**2016** we'll have a **field trip planning meeting** at **7pm** at the PCC. See our next newsletter for details.

## CHAPTER COUNCIL IN SAN CARLOS

On the weekend of **December 4-6**, it's our Chapter's turn to host the quarterly CNPS Chapter Council for delegates from around the state. These meetings include opportunities to socialize and attend field trips with like-minded people working to conserve our wild places and native flora. Our Chapter last hosted Chapter Council at Santa Clara University in December 2009. This year we've chosen Casa de Flores in San Carlos as the location. Members of the State Board of Directors and the State CNPS staff will also be in attendance. Host homes and other volunteers are needed! If you can help please contact Judy Fenerty at [judy@fenerty.com](mailto:judy@fenerty.com) or (408) 655-3493 for more information, as a committee is being formed to plan this event. All CNPS members are welcome to attend; let Judy or any Board member know of your interest.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2015

Title	Name	Phone	Email
<b>President</b>	Stephen Rosenthal	(408) 923-6562	<a href="mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net">sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Madeline Morrow	(408) 741-1150	<a href="mailto:madelinemorrow@earthlink.net">madelinemorrow@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Radhika Thekkath	(650) 473-1537	<a href="mailto:rthekkath@yahoo.com">rthekkath@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Carolyn Dorsch	(650) 804-6162	<a href="mailto:cdorsch1@aol.com">cdorsch1@aol.com</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Arvind Kumar	(408) 715-7020	<a href="mailto:arvind.kumar@cnps.org">arvind.kumar@cnps.org</a>

To join our Chapter news email list please visit [www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/contact-us/sign-up](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/contact-us/sign-up).

Current and past Blazing Star newsletters are always online at the Chapter website's newsletter page: [www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/blazing-star-newsletter](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/blazing-star-newsletter)

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

**Saturday, December 5, 2015**

**Email: [newsletter@cnps-scvc.org](mailto:newsletter@cnps-scvc.org)  
Phone: (408) 255-3767**

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



## Join CNPS Today!

Members receive the *Fremontia*, the *Bulletin*, and the Chapter newsletter, and other benefits listed at [www.cnps.org/membership](http://www.cnps.org/membership)

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*Donations above the membership level are gratefully accepted.*

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**FIRST-CLASS**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** (page # in parentheses)

**Oct 29 Thu** Rare Plant Committee Meeting (3)  
**Oct 30 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)  
**Nov 2 Mon** GWN – Rain Gardens – Morrow (2)  
**Nov 4 Wed** Nursery Member Sale (2)  
**Nov 5 Thu** Conservation Committee meeting (3)  
**Nov 7 Sat** **Annual Meet. & Potluck – Vasey** (1)  
**Nov 12 Thu** GWN – Pruning – Cohen (2)  
**Nov 13 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)  
**Nov 15 Sun** Bryophytes field trip – Kellman (5)  
**Nov 19 Thu** GWN – Seed and Cutting Exchange (3)  
**Dec 2 Wed** Nursery Member Sale (2)

**Dec 2 Wed** GWN – Creating a Wreath - Osaka (3)  
**Dec 3 Thu** Conservation Committee meeting (3)  
**Dec 4-6 Fri-Sun** CNPS Chapter Council (5)  
**Dec 5 Sat** **Newsletter submittal deadline** (5)  
**Dec 7 Mon** GWN – Creating a Wreath – Osaka (3)  
**Dec 11 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)  
**Dec 29 Tue** **Newsletter Mailing Party - 10am PCC**  
**Jan 1 Fri** Año Nuevo Field Trip (5)  
**Wed & Thu Noon-3pm** Nursery work sessions (2)  
**Fri 9am** Edgewood Weed Warriors (4)  
**3rd Saturdays** Alum Rock Walk-and-Weed (4)

The next Chapter Board meeting will be **Thu., December 10 at 7:00pm** at the Struthers' home in Los Altos Hills.

It will be our annual budget meeting. Please bring food to share.

Jean recommends bringing a flashlight to aid in driveway navigation.

Chapter Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests.

For more information contact Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net).

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 about your newsletter subscription, please contact [membership@cnps-sc.v.org](mailto:membership@cnps-sc.v.org). Address changes may be submitted to [cnps@cnps.org](mailto:cnps@cnps.org) and put "member address change" in the subject line.

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