



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

July-August 2020

Virtual Events

Our Chapter of CNPS has limited or gone virtual with all of our events for the indefinite future. For more information, see the article on **page 2**, entitled **Stay in Touch!**

This newsletter issue will be published online-only at the usual spot: www.cnps-scvc.org/blazing-star-newsletter. It provides news, events and activities you can continue to enjoy even during the pandemic. For example, Going Native Garden Tour has gone virtual in a big way. See page 3 for the article.

Receive updates by joining our Chapter News list.
Subscribe by sending an e-mail to: cnps-scvc-news+subscribe@googlegroups.com

PROGRAM MEETING

Thursday, August 27 at 7:30 PM
Virtual Meeting

Plant ID for the Curious
A talk by Bruce Homer-Smith

Join us for our August Program Meeting over Zoom teleconference! We'll hear the latest Chapter announcements, then enjoy a talk by Chapter member Bruce Homer-Smith.

PlantID.net is a website for people who see a plant in the wild and wonder about it. You enter what you know about your plant (where you are, plant type, color, leaf arrangement, deciduous, has berries, etc.) to get a short illustrated list of possibilities. Then you dive down into photos and captions to learn about your plant.

Bruce is a retired database developer. He loves to learn about plants in the wild because it helps him notice more when he's out. Since 2012 he's spent about half of his time programming and adding content to PlantID.net – a labor of love. He works with a large community of plant enthusiasts, adding ID tips and stories to make PlantID.net an extraordinary place to learn about California plants.

Turn to page 9 to get to know summer lupine, a plant described in PlantID.net, that Bruce has highlighted especially for us.



Bruce Homer-Smith

How to attend: This meeting will be held virtually, via Zoom and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com). Attendees may check [our Meetup Page](#) or [our Facebook page](#) for more information. RSVP on Meetup to receive the Zoom meeting link.

CNPS General Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Chapter President Vivian Neou at president@cnps-scvc.org or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

More Talks in July and August

We're taking advantage of providing our program meetings virtually, by adding some extra talks. In July we'll have:

Death Valley – Botanizing High and Low
A talk by Matt Berger
Thursday, July 16 at 7:30pm

We're still working on adding more talks in July and August. Read on to learn how to stay in touch!

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Stay in Touch!

We are working on scheduling more virtual activities. Activities will be announced on our Chapter News list, [our Facebook page](#) and [Meetup](#). Two things you can do to make sure you don't miss anything are:

Join the Chapter news list:

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter emails announcements about upcoming events (talks, hikes, sales, wildflower show, garden tour), alerts, last-minute notices and late-breaking news. Events that are scheduled after the *Blazing Star* is published are announced to this list.

To sign up, please send an e-mail to: cnps-scv-news+subscribe@googlegroups.com. This list is open to the general public. **Members are not automatically subscribed to the list, so you need to add yourself if you're not already on it.**

Make sure that your membership information is correct:

Members should make sure that contact information is correct by going to cnps.org and clicking on "My Profile" in the upper right-hand corner of the page. Log in if you have an account set up already, or set an account up if you don't. Check your email address to make sure that it's correct and make sure that you've checked the box to allow CNPS to send you email, as shown in the image below:

Email Interests

I would like to receive email about the following selected topics:

EXPAND ALL COLLAPSE ALL

Email Interests	Description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CNPS Plant Science Training Workshop Announcements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt Updates
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	California Native Plant Society News (gardening tips, conservation, plant science, and more)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conservation Action Alerts
<input type="checkbox"/>	IPA Workshop Data Gathering & Review (by invitation only)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local Chapter News (garden tours, plant sales, field trips, volunteer opportunities, and more)

Email Preferences

Yes, I would like to receive email from California Native Plant Society. Deselect to unsubscribe from all CNPS emails.

Preferred Format:

SAVE RESET

This box must be checked to receive online Blazing Star notices.

CNPS SCV Nursery at Hidden Villa

Our nursery sales have moved online. If you live between Belmont and San Jose, you can shop from home and we'll deliver your order to you. We are unable to accommodate pick-up sales at our nursery at this time. You can also purchase Going Native Garden Tour t-shirts and more with your plants.

Visit the store here: california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter.square.site/.

Due to restrictions as a result of COVID-19, we are not able to have regular work sessions or accommodate volunteers at the nursery until further notice. Our Monthly Member Sales at the nursery have been canceled until further notice.



Charley Pow

Preparing for its summer dormancy, the Ithuriel's spear (*Triteleia laxa*) blossoms above its wilted, yellowed leaves. The Ithuriel's spear corms came from our Chapter nursery. They were planted only this winter! Charley Pow's #MyPhotoOfTheWeek, taken in his Los Altos home garden. June 11, 2020

Photography Group

Our Photography Group is a great place to meet other native plant enthusiasts while improving your photographic skills and learning more about our native plants. It is open to all. The group has periodic meetings, photography outings and an active email list.

The group has an on-going #MyPhotoOfTheWeek activity on the email list for group members to share their favorite shots with the group on a weekly basis. There is also a monthly virtual meeting on Zoom on **the second Wednesday of each month**, for members to share photos and more – everything from photography tips to organizational ideas to plant hot spots.

You can learn more and join the email group at:
www.groups.io/g/CNPS-SCV-Photography.

The next meetings will be **Wednesdays, July 8 and August 12 at 7:00pm**. Anyone who has pictures of their adventures that they would like to share is welcome to participate. Please sign up for a time slot if you would like to show pictures (join the email list to get the signup link for the next meeting). You don't have to share pictures to attend the meeting. More information is available on [our Meetup page](#) and through the email list.



Going Native Garden Tour
 Published by Cynthia Gingerich [?] · Just now · 🌐

Happy May Day! This is the final sneak peek at our virtual tours before GNGT goes live tomorrow at 10 am! Today's tour is in the town of Campbell, California and features a low water cottage garden. The garden designer/installer talks about growing and maintaining native plants and wildflowers, and she also explains waterwise techniques such as pervious concrete driveways and woodchip mulch.

<https://www.gngt.org/GNGT/GardenHTV.php...>

2020 Going Native Garden Tour Goes Virtual then Live then Serial

Our Chapter's Going Native Garden Tour (GNGT) began in May 2003 as an annual event on a Saturday in spring. As the number of garden owners who wanted to participate increased and the number of visitors on tour days grew, GNGT was expanded to two days, starting in 2012 when each garden opened for one weekend day, with gardens in the north alternating with gardens in the south on Saturday or Sunday the following year. The first tour in May 2003 had 29 gardens open for visitors on one day and by 2019 there were 53 gardens over two days. Due to generous financial help from our sponsors and supporters, the tour has always been free to visitors.

Penny Pollock, GNGT Steering Committee Coordinator, notes that although some logistics, personnel and other details have changed over time, from the beginning GNGT has had the goal of encouraging people to grow California native plants in their yards and gardens in order to conserve water and encourage habitat for wildlife. Originally, 30 percent of a GNGT garden's plants had to be native; by May 2019 the minimum had increased to 70 percent.

In 2006, CNPS became the official organizer of GNGT and eventually the UC Master Gardener Program of Santa Clara County began to partner with the tour, becoming a major supplier of volunteers. In 2019 we had almost 200 volunteers working as greeters or docents on tour days. Perks of volunteering include a GNGT t-shirt, invitations to monthly garden previews and a post-tour potluck lunch.

Plans for the 2020 tour on May 2 and 3 had been proceeding as usual since June 2019, but required significant changes in March 2020 when CNPS canceled all in-person chapter events due to COVID-19. The GNGT steering committee pivoted to planning a "virtual tour," first defining what that means.

In March, our plan was to increase the online presence of each garden with more photographs and brand-new videos



Going Native Garden Tour
 Published by Cynthia Gingerich [?] · Yesterday at 3:22 PM · 🌐

GOING NATIVE GARDEN TOUR GOES VIRTUAL
 Join us this Saturday, May 2 for our virtual tour of 60+ native gardens at gngt.org

For today's sneak peek, we're in San Jose where the homeowner discusses seasonality in his garden. He chose native plants that would provide blooms, pollen, nectar, and seeds in every season. Manzanitas bloom in late winter, ceanothus and poppies in spring, and California fuchsias bloom in summer and fall.

<https://www.gngt.org/GNGT/GardenHTV.php...>

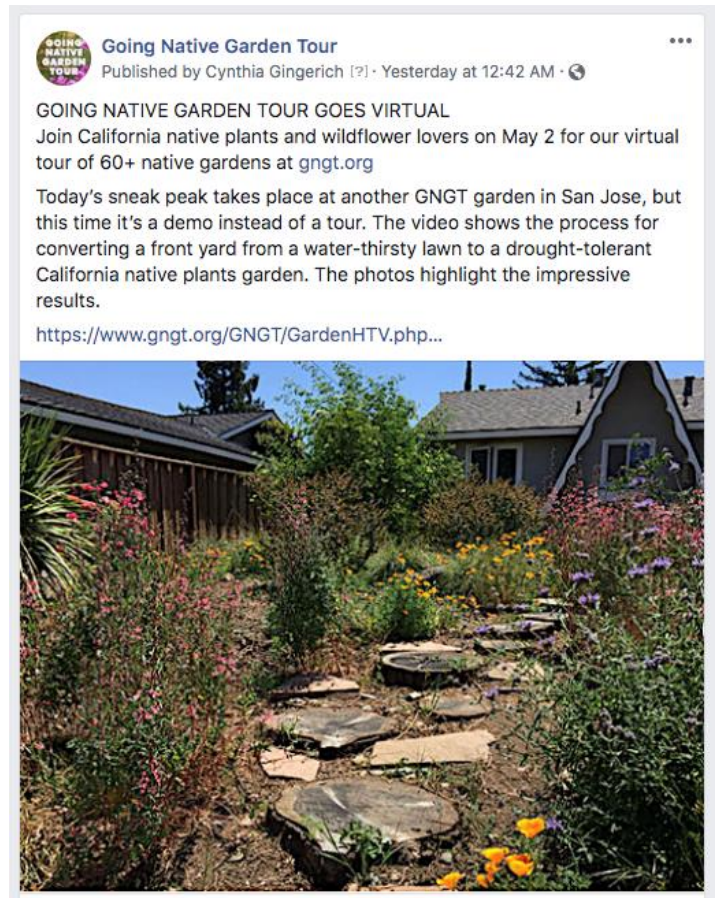
at the tour's website, gngt.org. Tour Webmaster Kris Kozminski had already developed a webpage for each garden on the 2020 tour with photo slideshows, text descriptions and native plant lists. In the seven weeks between mid-March and the launch of our virtual tour on May 2, he worked tirelessly to update the website with more photos and new videos, all while he and other members of the steering committee were dealing with many challenges that sheltering in place introduced to our personal and professional lives.

In April, GNGT garden owners started creating videos of their gardens. Most people recorded tours; some created demos. Some garden owners were in front of the camera; most were behind it. Some garden owners produced one long video, while others created several videos on different topics (such as shade or low-water plants) or in different locations (such as their front yard or park strip). Most virtual tours were raw unedited videos taken on smart phones, while one video was created from drone footage and one was a time-lapse movie created from photos taken from the same place daily for 500 days.

Some videos were less than a minute long; a few were over 10 minutes and one was 32 minutes long. Most were recorded by the garden owner; others were recorded by the garden designer. Most videos were tours of private residential gardens; a few were in public parks. Of the 68 gardens on the 2020 GNGT, 34 gardens had at least one video. In total, 71 videos were created with over seven hours of footage. These online virtual "anytime" tours are a boon to a much larger audience of people who can't attend an actual in-person tour for various reasons, because they can now "visit" GNGT gardens online anytime.

After the success of Theodore Payne Foundation's two-day virtual tour at the end of March, there was a new impetus to develop a live streaming component to GNGT on YouTube and Zoom. Bringing Back the Natives tour, based in the East Bay, ran for three Sundays in a row. This series led to the idea of creating a series of live events over a number of weeks.

The GNGT 2020 Virtual Series grew into a combination of tours, demos, presentations and discussion panels. There were sessions on YouTube and Zoom for three Saturday mornings in May and one Saturday evening session in June. Live sessions meant that participants could ask questions and interact with the presenters. Now the tour is planning to continue monthly live sessions.



You can view garden photos and videos on gngt.org at any time. You may register there for notifications of upcoming live webcasts and news of the 2021 tour.

The website has been updated with hundreds of photographs and dozens of videos. We encourage you to visit the gardens online at gngt.org/GNGT/Gardens.php?year=2020. The gardens with videos are all indicated with a camera icon. To tempt you to visit, here are direct links to four garden videos from this year's GNGT (video lengths are given in minutes and seconds):

Drone's eye view of a hillside garden in San Mateo (3:03)
www.gngt.org/GNGT/GardenHTV.php?year=2020&gid=salinger&vtour=1

Meadow replaces suburban lawn in Portola Valley (0:22)
www.gngt.org/GNGT/GardenHTV.php?year=2020&gid=creekpark&vtour=2

Time lapse of a native garden throughout the seasons in Palo Alto (2:46)
www.gngt.org/GNGT/GardenHTV.php?year=2020&gid=mtldr&vtour=1

Master gardener creates habitat garden in San Jose (32:20)
www.gngt.org/GNGT/GardenHTV.php?year=2020&gid=pavilion&vtour=1

For Going Native Garden Tour, the rapid evolution – from in-person to online, from anytime to live and from one event to many – is a beautiful silver lining to the dark cloud of 2020.

GNGT Virtual Visits and Talks

The Going Native Garden Tour (GNGT) live virtual sessions continue with a series of virtual garden visits accompanied by a talk by the garden's owner and/or designer. One or two gardens will be featured at each session. It's a great opportunity to see fabulous native plant gardens from the comfort of your own home while finding ideas and inspiration for your garden. Each talk will be followed by a Q&A session, so attendees will be able to receive advice from experienced gardeners and designers.

GNGT Virtual Garden Visits and Talks
Wednesday, July 22 at 7:30pm
Thursday, August 20 at 7:30pm

The live sessions are available on Zoom and YouTube. The links to both sessions will be posted on the GNGT home page at gngt.org shortly before each meeting. The sessions are recorded, so if you cannot attend the broadcast, you will be able to view it on YouTube at your convenience.

Volunteers Needed: Help with our Virtual Activities

Volunteering for CNPS is a great way to express your support for preserving California's incredibly rich plant life. Our virtual events have opened up a variety of new volunteer needs. Here for your consideration are some opportunities to get involved, work with great people and start making a difference right away:

Q&A Moderator: Assist the programs team with Zoom and YouTube (potentially Facebook Live) in monitoring and queuing up incoming chat questions to be posed back to the presenter(s). Our current programs have an average of 50-100+ attendees (and growing!). Various programs and shifts available.

Zoom Co-host: The co-host team for each of our virtual events on Zoom is responsible for monitoring the waiting room, chat and other behind-the-scenes issues. Experience with Zoom is desired but not required. Various programs and shifts available.

YouTube Video Editing: Trim and split video files on our YouTube channel down into sections and add descriptions for easier viewing post live event. There are about four one- to two-hour videos to be edited each month. A short (48 hour) turnaround time is preferred but can be flexible.

If you are interested in helping out or have questions, please contact Johanna Kwan (1calnative@gmail.com), Madeline Morrow (madelinemorrow@earthlink.net) or Stephen Buckhout (stephen@yscottie.com).

CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Committee

Our Chapter's conservation committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, August 11 at 7:00pm**, virtually via Zoom teleconference. (There will be no July meeting.)

Please join us in our important work! Meeting details will be sent to committee members. If you are not on the committee but are interested in attending the Zoom meeting, email cdorsch@cnps-scv.org for the Zoom meeting link.

For questions, comments or concerns, contact Conservation Committee Chair Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch@cnps-scv.org or (650) 804-6162.

RECOGNITION

Jean Struthers: Newest CNPS Fellow

We are pleased to announce that Chapter member Jean Struthers, who founded and ran our Chapter's native plant nursery for many years, was made a CNPS Fellow at the Chapter Council on June 6. This is CNPS' highest award and is well-deserved by Jean.



CNPS-SCV 2018
 CNPS Fellow Jean Struthers

Jean has been an essential member of our Chapter since she joined in 1985. She became interested in native plants after attending our Chapter Wildflower Show at Foothill College in Los Altos in 1985. Shortly after that, she started working at Yerba Buena Nursery where she worked with

Chapter President Brenda Butner and future CNPS Fellows Gerda Isenberg and Bart O'Brien. Jean went on to co-chair the Wildflower Show with Brenda, starting in 1989. Under their leadership, the show found great financial and floristic success.

Jean founded the Chapter's nursery in 1995 and managed it for almost twenty years. She not only found the location for the nursery, but along with her husband David, led the construction of the facility. Jean's knowledge and talent as a native plant propagator was instrumental in making the nursery a success.

In addition to starting many of the plants sold at the nursery, her extensive knowledge regarding the propagation of native plants made it possible for the nursery to offer plants not found elsewhere. Even after she stepped down as manager, she continued to lead and train the propagation group and volunteer at sales.

Jean has been active in the Chapter's many conservation efforts, including the fight to preserve and restore Edgewood Park, for which she created a bumper sticker featuring the campaign logo, *Clarkia rubicunda*. She was also active on the Quarry Hills project in Los Altos. She was a Parks and Recreation Commission member in Los Altos and a member of the Environmental Design Committee. Jean continues to participate in the Chapter's Conservation Committee and on the Los Altos Hills Open Space Committee.

Jean generously shares her artistic talent with the Chapter by providing the artwork for many of the Chapter's Plant Sales and Wildflower Shows. Her attention to detail and botanical accuracy make the Chapter's event posters both beautiful and educational, which has led to the use of her images in other publications as well. Her work has been exhibited in local galleries and in the Los Altos Library.

Jean has been active in even more areas of the Chapter, including Chapter President, Gardening with Natives, field trips, programs and newsletter mailing parties. Her tireless support and enthusiasm for CNPS has helped many people to appreciate and value native plants and has been a significant factor in the success of our Chapter.

The Chapter presented the award to Jean at the start of the Conservation Committee meeting on June 9. With David Struthers' assistance, we successfully surprised her! The celebration started with a video of the portion of the Chapter Council meeting where she was approved as a CNPS Fellow, and is followed by speeches from our Chapter's other CNPS Fellows, Ken Himes and Bart O'Brien. Carolyn Curtis and Georgia Stigall wrapped up the speeches. As a testament to Jean's length of service to our Chapter, there's quite a bit of Chapter history woven into the stories in the videos.

Congratulations Jean!! Thanks for all you do!

HOW TO LEARN PLANTS DURING A PANDEMIC

Our field trips and other opportunities to learn from experienced Chapter members have been suspended since March. We still encounter plants as we walk with members of our own household in parks and open spaces. But with social distancing there is often no one around who is knowledgeable enough to identify these plants for us.

Two Chapter members have written articles to help us learn about California native plants (and more) from an app and from an online resource. Enjoy!

***Seek* by iNaturalist**

By Chapter Field Trip Chair Joerg Lohse

The App

An app for our smart phone that identifies plants, animals, fungi and other lifeforms can come to our rescue during this pandemic. I have been using *Seek by iNaturalist* (www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app) during the past months while sheltering in place. *Seek* is a free app for iPhone and Android that looks like my phone's camera app. In addition to taking photos, *Seek* identifies the plants that I point my phone at: See Figure 1.

Even without cell service, *Seek* identifies a plant and provides the scientific and, if available, common name. It thus works in remote areas like the Sierra and the deserts as well as in areas with internet service. When internet service is available, *Seek* provides more information on the plant, like a paragraph from Wikipedia and the taxonomy, including species, genus, family, order, class, phylum, and kingdom. The screenshots in this article show the default setting with common names. In its settings menu, *Seek* can be switched to show scientific names instead.

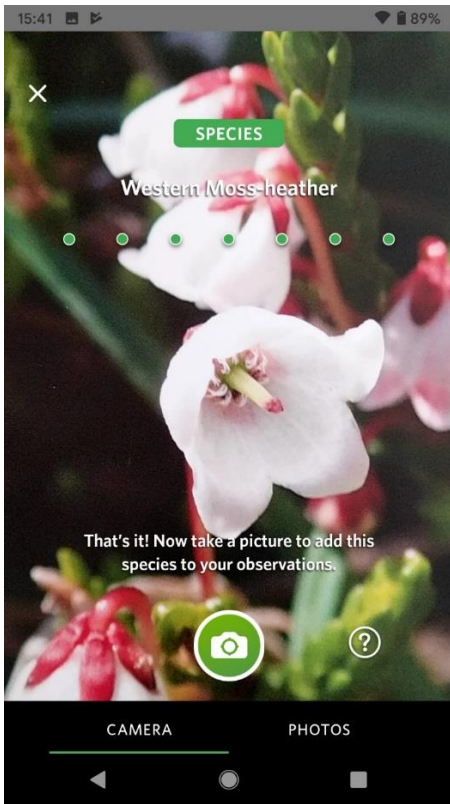


Figure 1: Seek identifies the plants I point my phone at

When a picture has been taken, the screen changes and more information is offered: See Figure 2.

The picture on the left is the one I took; the one on the right is a reference photo from iNaturalist. A click on “View Species” provides more information. One needs to scroll down to see it all. See Figures 3, 4 and 5.

Is Seek Safe for Children?

Seek has clearly been developed with children in mind. The app is easy to use, and it does not serve ads or steal private information. Upon the first start, click “Continue Without Signing In” and Seek will not upload the photos to iNaturalist servers. If desired, however, an iNaturalist account can be connected with Seek. In that case observations will be uploaded to iNaturalist. Only children 13 or older may sign up for iNaturalist. So far, I have only used Seek without signing in. (See Figure 6.)

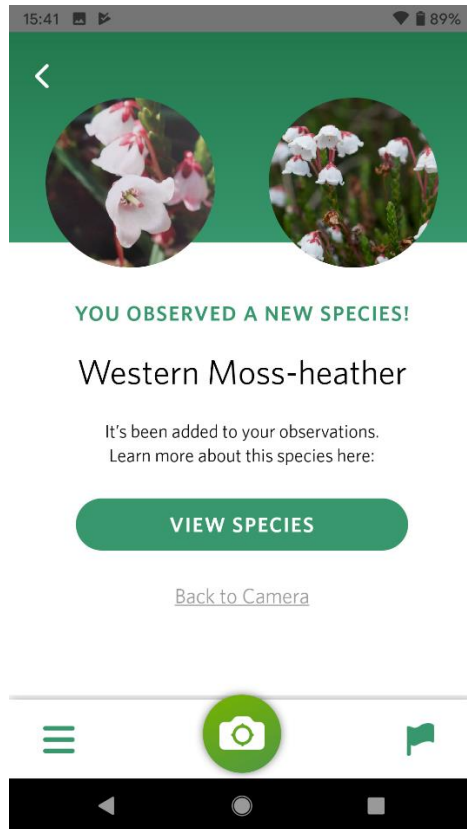


Figure 2: Seek offers more information after a picture has been taken

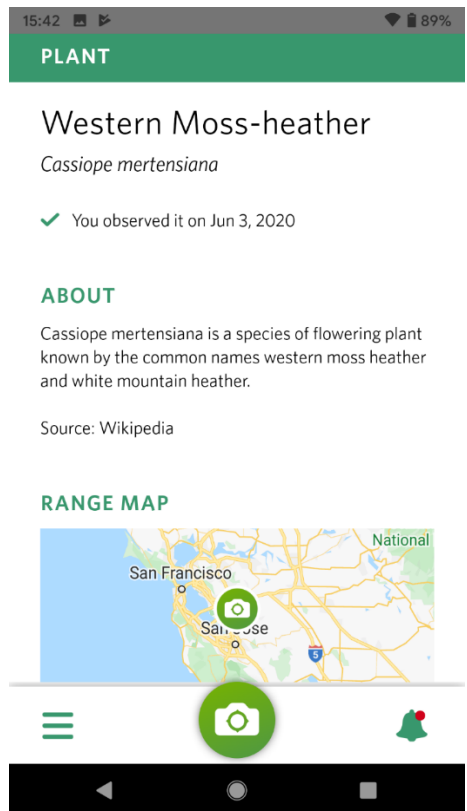


Figure 3: View Species: About: top of the scroll



Figure 4: View Species: middle of the scroll: Range Map

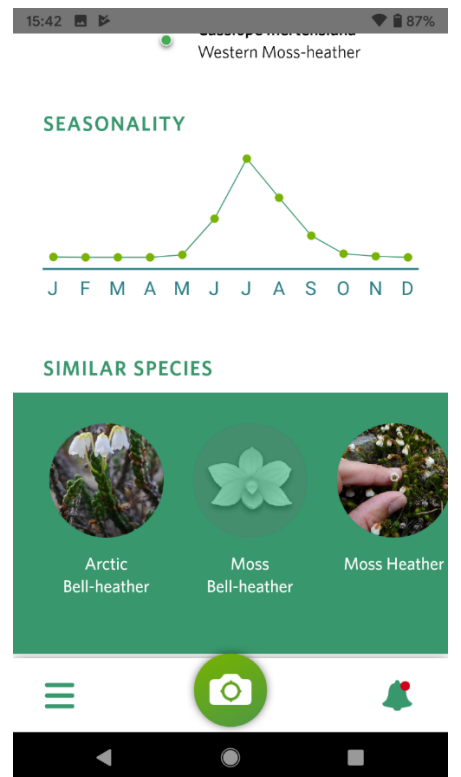


Figure 5: View Species: Seasonality, Similar Species: bottom of the scroll

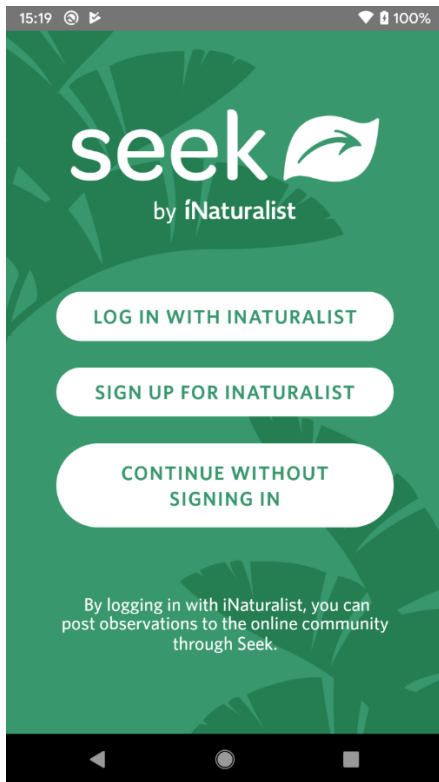


Figure 6: Seek login choices

Seek engages children and adults by offering challenges and awarding badges. There are challenges such as identifying five plants in your backyard. There are different levels of challenges and bronze, silver and gold badges. New challenges are rolled out monthly to keep users engaged.

Practical Experiences

I have been using this app for over a month (as of June 2020). *Seek* has been improving during this time. An update in May increased the number of species it knows by a third. Although it is an app meant to be used worldwide, *Seek* identifies several of our Bay Area endemic plants such as Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*) and Tiburon mariposa lily (*Calochortus tiburonensis*) with ease. When *Seek* does not know a plant, it still identifies it to a higher taxonomic level than species:

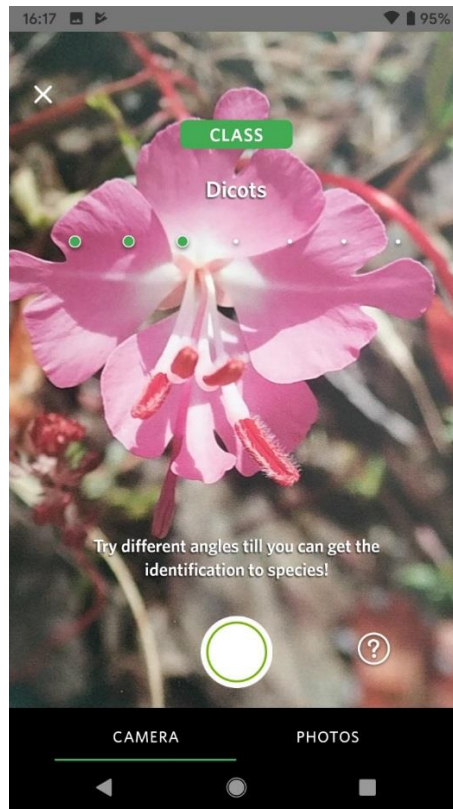


Figure 7: *Seek* identifies a plant to another taxonomic level than species

This identification of Brewer's clarkia (*Clarkia breweri*) as a dicot is correct, but not very specific or helpful. Note that the camera shutter button is white. It is only green when an identification to species level is achieved. The taxonomic ranks of each identification are indicated by green and white dots. The three green dots stand for kingdom, phylum and class which are known. The four white dots represent the unknown order, family, genus and species. *Seek* represents taxonomy only down to species level; it does not identify subspecies or varieties.

Seek apparently prefers animals over plants. In this instance it identified a butterfly that had just landed on the flower that I was about to identify. Once the checkerspot had left, *Seek* identified these narrow-leaved mule ears (*Wyethia angustifolia*) as expected.

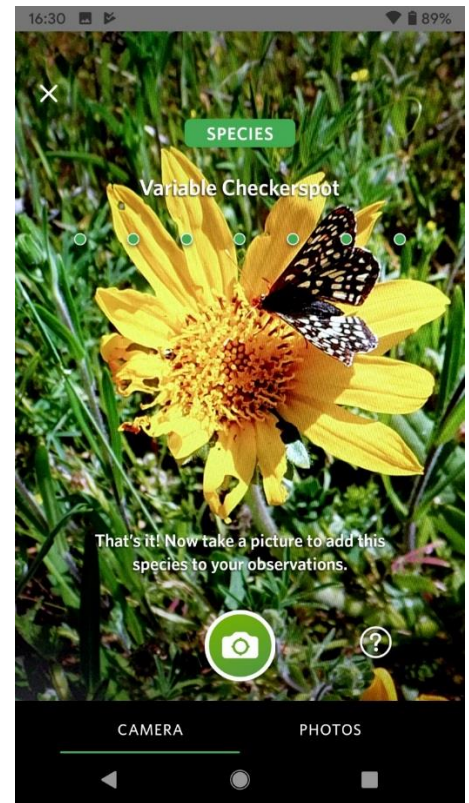


Figure 8: Will *Seek* choose to identify the butterfly or the flower?

How *Seek* Works

Seek is based on machine learning, a branch of artificial intelligence. *Seek* contains a model that has been trained by the iNaturalist team with photos and identifications from the iNaturalist database. We may remember iNaturalist with its observations and photos, since Ken-ichi Ueda gave a talk on iNaturalist to our Chapter at the Wildflower Show in April 2019. *Seek* mainly differs from the iNaturalist app and website in that *Seek* computes the identification on the phone, while iNaturalist sends the photo over the internet to iNaturalist servers. iNaturalist also considers the location and date when it suggests a species. *Seek* does not and its database is limited to less than 25,000 species.

For More Information

iNaturalist is mainly funded by the California Academy of Sciences and National Geographic. If you have questions about *Seek* that aren't

answered by this article, you may find the *Seek* user guide to be helpful, here: static.inaturalist.org/wiki_page_attachments/SeekUserGuide2020.pdf.

**PlantID.net Highlight:
Summer Lupine**

By Chapter member Bruce Homer-Smith

Another way to learn plants during the pandemic is to look through **PlantID.net**, a website to help you identify native plants of the San Francisco Bay Area, including illustrations and photo essays.

Summer lupine blooms well into the summer, growing in open, dry clay soils in valleys and on slopes.



Doreen Smith

Summer lupine (*Lupinus formosus* var. *formosus*)

It's easy to spot, with a column of purple and white flowers up to a foot tall. The stem is covered in fine silky hairs. Although it sometimes starts out sideways, the end of the stem generally points straight up.

The leaves are palmate, like the fingers on your hand. Each leaflet is long

(generally over 2"), sharply folded along its midrib and ending in a point. Silky hairs make them slippery to the touch.

A closer look at the pea flowers shows that they're loosely grouped along the stem. Sometimes they show a white banner spot that acts like a target for pollinators. As the flower ages, the banner spot turns maroon, no longer acting as a beacon.



© Neal Kramer

Pea-shaped flowers of summer lupine

This beautiful lupine has important relationships with animals. It is highly toxic to cattle, causing skeletal damage. Ranchers work hard to eradicate it from their fields. On the other hand, summer lupine is an important larval food plant for the endangered Mission Blue Butterfly and is a host to 54 other butterfly species. It attracts birds and bumblebees, making it a popular garden plant.



Patrick Kobernus

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wikimedia
Mission Blue larva on lupine

Learn more:

Summer lupine Photo Essay (PDF)
PlantID.net/?TaxonRpt=Lupinus+formosus+var.+formosus

SF Peninsula Lupine Guide:
PlantID.net/?PlantList=SF+Peninsula+Lupines

PlantID.net is produced by Bruce Homer-Smith. See page 1 to learn more about Bruce and his upcoming presentation to our Chapter at our **August 27 General Meeting**.

Lupine Bloom Periods				
	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct
Shrubs				
Varied Lupine (<i>varicolor</i>)				
Douglas Silver Lupine (<i>collinus</i>)				
Silver Bush Lupine (<i>albifrons</i>)				
Coastal Bush Lupine (<i>arboreus</i>)				
Dune Bush Lupine (<i>chamissonis</i>)				
Flowers				
Miniature Lupine (<i>bicolor</i>)				
Sky Lupine (<i>nanus</i>)				
Summer Lupine (<i>formosus</i>)				
Chick Lupine (<i>densiflorus</i>)				
Chick Lupine (<i>microcarpus</i>)				
Arroyo Lupine (<i>succulentus</i>)				
Stinging Lupine (<i>hirsutissimus</i>)				
Broad Leaf Lupine (<i>latifolius</i>)				
Giant Marsh Lupine (<i>polyphyllus</i>)				

This bloom chart of the 14 San Francisco Peninsula lupines shows how much later summer lupine blooms than others

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2020

Title	Name	Email	Phone
President	Vivian Neou	president@cnps-scv.org	(650) 260-3450
Vice President	Johanna Kwan	lcalnative@gmail.com	
Recording Secretary	Priya Pharate	secretary@cnps-scv.org	
Treasurer	Janet Hoffmann	janet@cnps-scv.org	(408) 374-0435
Past President	Madeline Morrow	madeline.morrow@earthlink.net	(408) 741-1150

Save a Tree!

Blazing Star newsletters are always online at the Chapter website's newsletter page: www.cnps-scv.org/blazing-star-newsletter. Please contact membership@cnps-scv.org if you would like to receive this newsletter by email only.

Note that this July-August 2020 issue is available only as an online PDF – no paper copy this time. If you're an email subscriber, you'll get your usual notification that the newsletter's been posted.

Our Chapter emails announcements about upcoming events (talks, hikes, sales, wildflower show, garden tour), alerts, last-minute notices and late-breaking news. To subscribe to this list, please send an e-mail to: cnps-scv-news+subscribe@googlegroups.com.



Charley Pow

The white sage (*Salvia apiana*) has 5-foot-tall stalks, and the sage is rightfully named for bees (Latin *apianus*). This white sage is being visited by a yellow-faced bumblebee (*Bombus vosnesenskii*). May 6, 2020.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, August 15

carol.mattsson@gmail.com or (408) 255-3767

Santa Clara Valley Chapter California Native Plant Society
3921 East Bayshore Road, Suite #205
Palo Alto, CA 94303-4326



Join CNPS Today!

Members receive the *Fremontia*, the *Bulletin*, and the Chapter newsletter, and other benefits listed at www.cnps.org/membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Chapter _____

Membership level (check one):

- \$50 Individual
- \$120 Plant Lover
- \$500 Supporter
- \$1,000 Patron
- \$2,500 Benefactor
- \$25 Student or Fixed Income
- \$75 International or Library

Areas of interest:

- Advocacy
- Botany
- Conservation
- Education
- Field Trips
- Gardening
- Plant ID

Donations above the membership level are gratefully accepted.

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FIRST-CLASS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

Jul 8 Wed Photo Group photo sharing (2)
Jul 16 Thu Program: Death Valley – Berger (1)
Jul 22 Wed GNGT virtual visit & talk (5)
Aug 11 Tue Conservation Committee meeting (5)

Aug 12 Wed Photo Group photo sharing (2)
Aug 15 Sat Newsletter submittal deadline
Aug 20 Thu GNGT virtual visit & talk (5)
Aug 27 Thu General Meeting – Homer-Smith (1)

The next Chapter board meetings will be **Thursday, July 9** and **Wednesday, August 19** at **7:00pm** over Zoom.
(Reminder: all the events in this calendar are virtual, that is, held over live teleconference such as Zoom.)

Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests.
For more information contact Vivian Neou at president@cnps-scv.org.

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 \$50.00 per year. If you have questions about your newsletter subscription, please contact membership@cnps-scv.org. Address changes may be submitted to cnps@cnps.org; please put "member address change" in the subject line.

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