



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

January-February 2011

## **MEMBERS' NIGHT AND GENERAL MEETING**

**Friday, February 4th at 7:30 PM  
Los Altos Library Program Room  
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos**

**Topic: Members' Night Slide Show -  
Favorite Native Plant Adventures of 2010**

Did you go on any excellent plant adventures in 2010? Did you take some pictures of scenery, plants, and animals along the way?

Share the interesting and beautiful pictures you took in 2010 with others at this always popular members' night meeting. Photos (or other media) of anything, any place, or anyone related to native plants in 2010 are welcome.

If you'd like to share photos or other materials, please **RSVP by Sunday, January 30** by emailing Kevin Bryant at [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net) or calling (408) 348-9470, and let him know how many photos/what type of materials, and approximately how many minutes you'd like. Time allotted per person will depend on how many participants RSVP. Whether you have photos to share or not, join us for a fun mid-winter celebration of native plants.

**Directions:** From Foothill Expy., travel ½ mile on San Antonio Rd. towards the Bay, cross Hillview and turn right into the driveway; library is on the left. From El Camino, 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, contact Kevin Bryant at [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net) or (408) 348-9470.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*By Arvind Kumar, Chapter President 2011*

Of the 33 chapters that make up the California Native Plant Society, the Santa Clara Valley Chapter is the second largest. Our Chapter encompasses southern San Mateo County and Santa Clara County, including dense urban regions as well as sparsely populated wild areas such as the Santa Cruz Mountains, the rugged San Mateo County coast, and the Mount Hamilton range.

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter is one of the most active chapters in the state. We offer a wide variety of programs and activities throughout the year: wildflower show, garden tour, plant sales, talks, hikes, plant ID sessions, and more. We are successful because of you, our members and our volunteers. You are passionate about California native plants, about protecting them in the wild, about growing them in your gardens. You step up to volunteer your time and talent – for a talk here, a field trip there, a weeding session somewhere else -- it is your energy that allows our Chapter to accomplish so much. Some of you have been around a long time, and are still contributing, still making a difference. Others are new to the Chapter but have jumped in with both feet, willing to help wherever, whenever. This Chapter is lucky to have you all.

Special mention is due our outgoing president and Chapter Council Chair, Kevin Bryant. In the last four years, he has led the Chapter from strength to strength, growing in number of members and activities. We have grown accustomed to Kevin's presence at nearly every activity, encouraging, participating, and leading by example. His good cheer, infectious enthusiasm, can-do attitude, and dedication have inspired all around him. Our sincere thanks to Kevin for his many contributions, and may he continue to blaze new trails at CNPS.

This year, on February 19, we are excited to present our first gardening symposium featuring the best horticulturists and landscape designers in the state, many with deep links to our Chapter. Bart O'Brien is a former president of our

Chapter. David Fross's first CNPS Chapter was ours, as a SJSU student. The symposium is taking place thanks to the enthusiastic support of Foothill College's Environmental Horticulture Department, as well as Chapter volunteers who have stepped forward to do something new, something important for the Chapter and for our audience.

Many more exciting events are coming up in future months. We invite you to get involved in any capacity. We have many different kinds of tasks, of varying skill levels and time commitments, and somewhere out there is a task just right for you. Join us and do what you can to help spread the word about California's extraordinary plants.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### **California Gardens: Beauty & Sustainability with Native Plants**



#### **A one-day symposium on native plant gardening and design**

On February 19, our Chapter will present its first ever symposium on native plant gardening and design at Foothill College's Environmental Horticulture Department, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills, CA. The theme is creating and maintaining attractive and sustainable landscapes using California native plants. Topics range from plant selection to garden design and maintenance to habitat value – all chosen to inform, educate, and inspire landscape professionals, home gardeners, and native plant enthusiasts.

Speakers include some of California's leading horticulturists and designers: **Bart O'Brien** of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, **Bernard Trainor** of Bernard Trainor + Associates, **David Fross** of Native Sons Nursery, **Dr. Glenn Keator** of Merritt College, **Judith Lowry** of Larner Seeds, **Nevin Smith** of Suncrest Nurseries, and **Paul**

**Kephart** of Rana Creek. The program includes refreshments, lunch, and a reception. Plants and books will be available for sale.

The symposium is organized by our Chapter, hosted by Foothill's Horticulture Department, and sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency, with seed funding from the state CNPS Bilisoly grants program. Discounts are available for **early birds before January 15**, CNPS members and students. Space is limited: early registration is recommended. For more information and to register, visit [www.symposium.cnps-scv.org](http://www.symposium.cnps-scv.org).

### **Native Plant Nursery Shade Workday Sunday, January 16**

We grow plants for our spring and fall native plant sales at our nursery in Los Altos Hills. The nursery facility has been neglected while we have been trying to grow everything we can for our sales. The stock area which we built a few years ago has not worked as well as we had hoped. The winter winds whip through there and in summer the sun is fierce. Thus some modification is now needed.

We have been given a roll of shade cloth from Chuck Baccus to help remediate the climate in the new area. We hope to build a new shade structure and add shade cloth around the west fence. We'll get this started at a work party, scheduled for **Sunday, January 16 at 10am**. We need some strong folks on that day to set poles for the structure.

If you think you can help please call or e-mail Jean and David Struthers at (650) 941-2586 or [jeanstruthers@att.net](mailto:jeanstruthers@att.net). **(Rain cancels.)**

Our regular native plant nursery work sessions take place every **Wednesday**, from **noon to 3pm**. Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. Knowledge of plants is not necessary: your willingness to help is all that's required. For more information, contact Jean, or Ray Deutsch at (650) 365-6136 or [henrymarsh@yahoo.com](mailto:henrymarsh@yahoo.com).

**Directions:** Hidden Villa is located on Moody Rd. west of Foothill College. From I-280 in Los Altos Hills, take the Moody Rd. 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.

## Gardening With Natives:

### Gardening by Plant Community

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes a mix of native landscape designers, seasoned native plant gardeners, as well as beginners. It offers talks throughout the year which are free and open to all. For more information, visit [www.GardeningWithNatives.com](http://www.GardeningWithNatives.com).

This year, GWN is presenting a special series of six talks focusing on gardening by plant community, and pairing each talk with a weekend hike through the same plant community. For example, February's focus is on the chaparral plant community: the talk at San Carlos Library on Thu., Feb. 3 is followed by a hike through the chaparral areas of Edgewood County Park on Sat., Feb. 5. We hope this novel combination of a gardening talk and plant walk will inspire gardeners to go on plant exploration hikes, and hikers to plant native plants in their home gardens. So be on the lookout for these special talks/walks. Spread the word, and bring a friend, neighbor or colleague.

These programs are made possible by volunteers who help with program logistics and by cosponsoring libraries. If you would like to help organize similar programming at a library near you, contact [arvind.kumar@cnps.org](mailto:arvind.kumar@cnps.org).

### Tuesday, January 11, 7-8:30 pm:

**A Look at the Calochortuses of California, a talk by Ron Parsons.** Among California's intoxicating array of native bulbs, Mariposa lilies (genus *Calochortus*) are the most beautiful. Brilliant cup-shaped flowers above slender grass-like leaves give the genus its name, which means "beautiful grass" in Greek. At this talk, learn about their incredible diversity and get pointers on cultivation. Ron Parsons is the coauthor of *Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies and Their Relatives* from Timber Press. He has traveled hundreds of thousands of miles throughout the western U.S. to photograph and study Calochortus and other wildflowers. Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga. (408) 867-6126.

### Saturday, January 15, 10 am-noon:

**PCC Native Landscape Maintenance.** Join us for a morning of pruning, mulching, and watering the native plant landscape at the chapter's office in Palo Alto. No experience is necessary, just a desire to learn and help. Bring gloves and pruning shears; meet in parking lot. Peninsula Conservation Center, 3921 East Bayshore Road (corner of Corporation Way), Palo Alto.

### Thursday, February 3, 7-8:30 pm:

**Plants for Sunny Slopes, a talk by Ken Himes.** Do you have a south-facing sunny slope where countless ornamentals have perished? Did you know that nature has created an entire community of plants that thrive in such an exposure? Let Ken Himes show you which plants naturally do well on sunny slopes, using examples from nearby Edgewood County Park. (What's more, join him for a hike through that very same plant community on Sat, Feb 5.) San Carlos Library, 610 Elm Street, San Carlos. (650) 591-0341 x237.

### Wednesday, February 16, 7-8:30 pm:

**Native Plant Gardening for Beginners, a talk by Stephanie Morris.** Are you new to native plant gardening? Unsure which plants are right for your garden? Come to this talk by landscape architect Stephanie Morris and find out how to conserve water and energy, reduce chemical use, create habitat, and introduce beauty to your garden at the same time. Campbell Library, 77 Harrison Ave., Campbell. (408) 866-1991.

### **Spring Native Plant Sale Saturday April 16 Going Native Garden Tour Sunday April 17 Spring Wildflower Show April 23-24**

**Save the dates!** Our Chapter's spring wildflower events will take place at Hidden Villa, Mission College, and in gardens throughout the South Bay and Peninsula. We need help planning the Sale, Show and Tour; and it's not too early to set aside those dates for **volunteering**. For more information, contact Toni Gregorio-Bunch at [tonig@flash.net](mailto:tonig@flash.net) or (408) 373-4497; or contact any of the 2011 Chapter officers listed on the last page of this newsletter.

### **Going Native Garden Tour Seeks Gardens**

Consider showing your garden at the next Going Native Garden Tour, which takes place **Sunday, April 17, 2011, 10am-4pm**. This free, community-based, volunteer-organized tour educates visitors on the value of native plant landscaping -- for water conservation, habitat creation, low maintenance, and beauty.



To apply, fill out the garden submission form at [www.goingnativegardentour.org](http://www.goingnativegardentour.org), by **January 15**.

## 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, for further examination of the intricate details of the specimens.

We usually meet on the last Friday of each month, from **6:30pm - 8:30pm**. The upcoming dates are **Fridays, January 28 and February 25**. We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more information, please contact Dave "Tex" Houston at [tex009@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tex009@sbcglobal.net) or (650) 303-2777; or Sally Casey at (408) 377-0989.

## CAL-IPC SYMPOSIUM REPORT

### Weeding Prioritization and Weed Mapping Tools

*By Don Thomas, Chapter Member*

Last October the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) Symposium was held in Ventura, CA. A major focus of the Symposium was the ecological restoration of the nearby Channel Islands, but a variety of other interesting topics were also covered. One of these was how to approach weed management strategically. There are so many wildland weeds that it is difficult to know how to prioritize them for treatment. For example, is it more important to attack a more aggressive weed in a low value habitat or a less aggressive weed in a more sensitive habitat?

Gina Darin gave a presentation on her master's thesis work on a prioritization scheme called **Weed Heuristics: Invasive Population Prioritization for Eradication Tool** (WHIPPET) now being adopted by the California Department of Fish and Game and by the Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN). (See [www.baedn.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=5&Itemid=4](http://www.baedn.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=5&Itemid=4) and [www.cdfa.ca.gov/PHPPS/ipc/weedmgareas/pdf/10/wma10\\_whippet.pdf](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/PHPPS/ipc/weedmgareas/pdf/10/wma10_whippet.pdf).)

Another interesting topic was a new simple approach to weed mapping using a smart phone. An Android application called **What's Invasive!** uses the internal GPS of the phone to record a weed's location and the phone's camera to capture an image of it. These can then be uploaded to the Calflora online plant database, along with

other information about the weed infestation. (See [www.whatsinvasive.com](http://www.whatsinvasive.com) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=il4QImnkRwg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=il4QImnkRwg).)

## CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

### Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park

Join us as we remove invasive exotic plants and protect Edgewood's sensitive habitats. **Friday weeding sessions, starting at 9am**, occur year-round. Wednesday evening sessions will resume next spring.

For details, including schedules and meeting places, see our Weed Warriors website at [edgewood.thinkersrus.net](http://edgewood.thinkersrus.net), contact Paul Heiple at (650) 854-7125 or [pheiple@gmail.com](mailto:pheiple@gmail.com), or email John Allen at [jcakwa@comcast.net](mailto:jcakwa@comcast.net).

## 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, 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.**

### Sat Jan 1 10am Año Nuevo State Park

Join us as we celebrate a Chapter tradition of welcoming the New Year with a walk and picnic at Año Nuevo State Park on the San Mateo County coast. The park is located south of Pescadero on Hwy. 1, just north of the Santa Cruz County line.

### Meet in the parking lot (day use fee collected) at 10am.

Latecomers will find us on the trail in the coastal prairie. We'll enjoy sea cliff vegetation, raptors, songbirds and maybe marine mammals. Pack a **lunch**: the tide will be heading out, reaching a low point at 2:29pm. We will picnic on the beach in the area in which seal tour reservations are not required.



As a day to have fun at the beach with fellow Chapter members, the **ending time** and depth of botanical discussion will depend on participants. Bring binoculars and layers for variable conditions including wind, sun and fog.

**Heavy rain cancels.** For more information contact Joe Cernac at joecernac@sbcglobal.net, (408) 292-5465.

### Sat Jan 15 10am San Francisco Peninsula Watershed Dirca Hike

Join Don Thomas to see the rare List 1B Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*) in the Crystal Springs Watershed, normally closed to the public. We will walk about 2 miles in total, starting near the dam area at Hwy. 92 and the reservoir. *Dirca* is one of the first shrubs to bloom each year, subtly revealing its hanging flowers from its bare winter branches. The walk may end at the Jepson Laurel. This tree was at one time the largest bay tree in California, but it has been declining for many years, and many large branches have died and broken off the tree. (Thus it has now been dethroned as the largest bay.)

An additional small bonus trip for those interested might be to a section of the Watershed south of the Edgewood Triangle on Cañada Road called Swiss Park. This tiny valley has *Dirca* on its north-facing slope and may connect with the *Dirca* population in Edgewood Park.

The activities **will end in the early afternoon**. The trip is limited to 20 participants. **To reserve a spot**, contact Don Thomas at don\_e\_thomas@yahoo.com, or (408) 828-4044.

### Sun Jan 23 10am Huddart County Park

Join Michael Yantos and Carolyn Dorsch for a mid-winter hike in one of the most accessible parks in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Located mid-peninsula, just east of Redwood City (near Woodside), this nearly 1,000 acre park is renowned for its woodlands of redwood, oak, Douglas-fir, madrone and bay. It also is home to a variety of spring flowering plants. We should see lily family members such as fetid adders-tongue and trillium. We may also find early flowering plants including redwood sorrel and milkmaids.

We'll cover about 5 miles, with an elevation change of about 500 feet. The hike will **end around 2:30pm** including a **lunch** stop. Be sure to wear good walking shoes as trails may be wet or muddy. **Heavy rain will cancel**. For further information, contact Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com, or (650) 804-6162.

**Directions:** From I-280 take Woodside Rd. exit (CA 84) in Redwood City. Drive west about 1.5 miles, and turn right

onto Kings Mountain Rd. Drive about 2 miles to the park entrance on the right side of the road. Once past the entrance kiosk, park at the main parking lot. There is a \$5 fee per car.

### Sat Jan 29 10am San Bruno Mountain, Saddle and Bog Area

Join leader Doug Allshouse on this trip offered by our neighbor CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter. As with all our own Chapter field trips, this trip is free and open to all. The trip is expected to **finish at 1pm**.

Habitat restoration has been a way of life on San Bruno Mountain since the 1982 inception of a Habitat Conservation Plan for three endangered butterflies. The Saddle area, which encompasses the northernmost several hundred acres of the Mountain's parkland, is home to



Toni Corelli  
Endangered San Bruno Mountain  
Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos imbricata*)

several restoration projects and offers vivid examples of success and failure. The Saddle features grasslands, large monoculture stands of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), a eucalyptus forest, and the headwaters of Colma Creek. It holds a surprisingly rich variety of plant species, native as

well as non-native, including many grassland plants that also grow on the Mountain's warmer, southeastern flank.

We'll walk trails that are easy on the legs while looking for *Lupinus albifrons* and *Viola pedunculata*, larval host plants for the mission blue and Callippe silverspot butterflies, respectively.

A short portion of the Bog Trail can turn soggy after a lot of rainfall, so please wear shoes suitable for moisture and mud just in case. For trail conditions or other information contact Doug at dougsr228@comcast.net or (415) 584-5114. If **heavy rain cancels**, the trip will be **postponed to Saturday, February 5**.

**Directions:** From Hwy. 101 north take the Brisbane/Cow Palace exit. The off ramp crosses over the freeway and merges onto Bayshore Blvd. Turn left at the fourth traffic light onto Guadalupe Canyon Pkwy. and proceed approximately 2 miles to the entrance to San Bruno Mountain State & County Park. There is a \$5 entrance fee

and self-registration at the ranger kiosk. Just past the kiosk is the main parking lot where we will meet.

### Sat Feb 5 10am Serpentine Chaparral at Edgewood County Park & Preserve

Join Ken Himes for a leisurely two mile walk along the Clarkia Trail as we examine the serpentine chaparral plant community. Plant adaptations to this dry nutrient-poor environment will be discussed and we should see *Ceanothus cuneatus* (buckbrush) and *Ribes malvaceum* (chaparral currant) in flower at this early date. **The walk will last 2.5-3 hours**, but if there is interest we may also examine the chamise-chaparral plant community on the central ridge.

**Directions:** Exit I-280 at Edgewood Rd. (in Redwood City) and go west (under the freeway if you are coming from the south) to the end of Edgewood Rd. Turn left (south) on Cañada Rd. and continue on Cañada Rd. about ¾ mile, going under the freeway overpass. Go less than ¼ mile and park along the west side of Cañada Rd. (on the right), opposite the Clarkia Trailhead. We will meet on Cañada Rd. near the parking lot.

Only **heavy rain will cancel**. Call Ken at (650) 591-8560 for more information.

### Sat Feb 12 10am Coal Mine Ridge

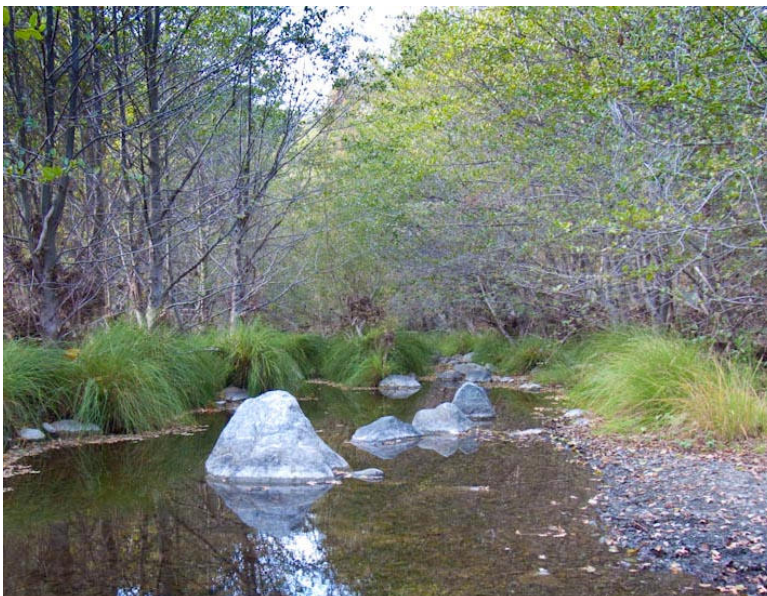
Coal Mine Ridge (in Portola Valley) has a series of trails zigzagging through woodlands and chaparral. Under a canopy of bays and oaks we will ascend to a small meadow. Expect to see many early spring blooms along the way. Bring good walking shoes as the trail may be muddy. The hike will be 4-5 miles, with about 400' of elevation gain. We will stop for **lunch**. Expect to be **back to the cars around 2pm**.

**Meet at 10am** at the small parking area at Alpine Road and Willowbrook Dr. The trailhead is across the street. Parking is limited -- please try to carpool. For more information, contact Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com, (650) 804-6162. **Heavy rain will cancel** the trip.

**Directions:** From I-280 take Alpine Rd. exit in Menlo Park. Drive west (toward the hills) on Alpine Rd. for about 4 miles, going past stop sign at Portola Rd. Park on Alpine Rd., just past the intersection of Willowbrook Dr. and Alpine Rd. Note: Alpine Rd. does NOT go through to Skyline Blvd. (some maps indicate otherwise). To access Alpine Rd. you need to approach from the east.

### Sat Feb 26 10am Sunol Regional Park

*"Calling the Sunol Regional Wilderness' Little Yosemite area a scenic gorge is like calling Yosemite a pretty valley."*  
--Bay Nature



Alameda Creek in Sunol Regional Park  
Stephen Rosenthal

Join Arvind Kumar and Stephen Rosenthal for a mid-winter walk in Sunol Regional Park along Alameda Creek into the Little Yosemite Area. The walk is 4 miles round trip and will follow the creek along hillsides that have in the past had good wildflower displays. The rock formations at Little Yosemite are also quite beautiful. With less than 400 ft. of elevation gain over gentle inclines, this trip is suitable for beginners. We will use Judy Mason's plant family identification guide

to ID wildflowers. The trip is expected to **last until 3pm**.

The trip is limited to 20 people. To **reserve your spot** or for more information, please RSVP to Arvind at arvind.kumar@cnps.org or (408) 715-7020.

### Field Trip Committee Update

Our Chapter would like to expand the number and types of field trips it offers to its members. At the November field trip planning meeting and the annual Board retreat several members got together and brainstormed about how to achieve that objective. We discussed the need for more people to become involved as field trip leaders and assistant leaders, and the obstacles that might be preventing people from getting involved. In the next few months we plan to launch a field trip training program for individuals interested in learning and/or building on their skills to lead or assist a field trip. With guidance and mentoring from experienced leaders, we hope to offer a program that will



produce more leaders, and ultimately more field trips for everyone.

For anyone interested in helping set up this program, or to participate in it, please contact Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com, or (650) 804-6162. No specific skills or knowledge of native plants and wildflowers are necessary to participate, just lots of enthusiasm.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*News and Activities from Other Organizations*

### **NCP/HCCP Meeting Tuesday, February 15**

Join the California Native Plant Society, Sierra Club, Committee for Green Foothills and the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan for a community meeting on the recently released public draft habitat plan on **Tuesday, February 15** from **6:30pm to 8:30pm** at the Peninsula Conservation Center, Raptor Room, 3921 E. Bayshore Rd. in Palo Alto.

This Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) will identify and preserve land that provides important habitat for the tricolored blackbird, Bay checkerspot butterfly, Metcalf Canyon jewelflower and twenty-one other endangered and threatened species. The Plan's goal is to develop and implement a comprehensive conservation strategy to protect native wildlife and vegetation in much of the county's remaining undeveloped areas. Come learn about the Plan and how you can be a part of creating a conservation legacy in the Santa Clara Valley.

For more information, please visit [www.scv-habitatplan.org](http://www.scv-habitatplan.org) or contact Kevin Bryant, our Chapter's representative to the NCP/HCCP Plan group, at [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net) or (408) 348-9470.

### **Edgewood Docent Training Begins Jan 26**

Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve (FOE) will offer docent training in January for their spring Wildflower Walks. Edgewood is a wonderful resource containing several plant communities in addition to the Serpentine



*Carol Mattsson*  
Barry Slater leading Edgewood Walk  
April 2005

grasslands that are the highlight of our Wildflower Walks. Docents are vital to FOE's ability to attract and educate the public about preservation and restoration projects as well as the bright serpentine flowers they see as they drive past on Interstate 280.

FOE's wildflower docent training provides Wednesday evening presentations (in Redwood City) by very knowledgeable speakers, Saturday hikes through Edgewood led by these speakers, and a binder full of facts about the Natural Preserve.

To register or for more information, please email Mary Wilson at [docent-trainer@friendsofedgewood.org](mailto:docent-trainer@friendsofedgewood.org).

## CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2011

At our November General Meeting we elected the following slate of Chapter Officers. A special welcome goes to our newest officer, **Radhika Thekkath**, who accepted a nomination from the floor to become our new Recording Secretary.

To learn more about volunteering with the Chapter, to ask questions or to give suggestions, please contact any of the officers listed below.

Title	Name	Phone	Email
<b>President</b>	Arvind Kumar	(408) 715-7020	<a href="mailto:arvind.kumar@cnps.org">arvind.kumar@cnps.org</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Toni Gregorio-Bunch	(408) 373-4497	<a href="mailto:tonig@flash.net">tonig@flash.net</a>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Radhika Thekkath	(650) 473-1537	<a href="mailto:rthekkath@yahoo.com">rthekkath@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Julie Scherer	(415) 317-4681	<a href="mailto:julie.scherer@gmail.com">julie.scherer@gmail.com</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Kevin Bryant	(408) 348-9470	<a href="mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net">mtngreen17@verizon.net</a>

To join our Chapter email list please use the signup link at the bottom of our Chapter home page at [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org).

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

**Saturday, February 5, 2011**

**Email: [mattsson@surfpix.net](mailto:mattsson@surfpix.net)  
Phone: (408) 255-3767**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

(page # in parentheses)

- Jan 1 Sat** Año Nuevo Field Trip (4)
- Jan 11 Tue** GWN - Calochortuses - Parsons (3)
- Jan 15 Sat** SF Watershed Dirca Hike (5)
- Jan 15 Sat** GWN - PCC Landscaping (3)
- Jan 15 Sat** Deadline for GNGT Submission (3)
- Jan 16 Sun** Nursery Shade Workday (2)
- Jan 23 Sun** Huddart Park Field Trip (5)
- Jan 26 Wed** Edgewood Docent Training Begins (7)
- Jan 28 Fri** Keying with Natives (4)
- Jan 29 Sat** San Bruno Mountain Field Trip (5)
- Jan 30 Sun** Submissions due for Members' Night (1)
- Feb 3 Thu** GWN - Sunny Slopes - Himes (3)

- Feb 4 Fri** **Members' Night** (1)
- Feb 5 Sat** Edgewood Park Field Trip (6)
- Feb 5 Sat** **Newsletter Deadline** (7)
- Feb 10 Thu** **Chapter Board meeting**
- Feb 12 Sat** Coal Mine Ridge Field Trip (6)
- Feb 15 Tue** NCP/HCCP Meeting (7)
- Feb 16 Wed** GWN - Native Gardening - Morris (3)
- Feb 19 Sat** Native Plant Gardening Symposium (2)
- Feb 25 Fri** Keying with Natives (4)
- Feb 26 Sat** Sunol Little Yosemite Field Trip (6)
- Wed afts** Nursery work sessions (2)
- Fri morns** Edgewood Park weeding (4)

The next Chapter **Board meeting** will be **Thursday, February 10 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 [henryMarsh@yahoo.com](mailto:henryMarsh@yahoo.com).

The *Blazing Star* web address: [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org)  
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