



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

March-April 2009

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

Friday, March 27th at 7:30 pm
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Native Plants, Native People: Ohlone Land Management and Uses of Native Plants **A talk by Beverly Ortiz**

The Ohlone people of the Bay Area had an intimate connection to the land, living with it rather than on it. They consciously and conscientiously reshaped it through the use of horticultural techniques such as burning, pruning, and digging, enhancing many species while suppressing others. These methods resulted in a world well suited to plants and animals upon which people relied for food and objects that blended utility and beauty. They are the reason that, in 1792, British naval captain George Vancouver could describe some 20 miles of countryside on the peninsula north of Mission Santa Clara as being comparable “to a park, which had originally been closely planted with the true old English oak. The underwood...had the appearance of having been cleared away...”

In this lecture Dr. Beverly Ortiz will summarize Ohlone land management practices. She will also discuss what is known about Ohlone uses of plants past to present for food, medicine, basketry, houses, clothing, cordage, boats and more. Throughout her talk, Dr. Ortiz will dispel some common misperceptions and assumptions about these uses. Foods and objects made from plants will be shared, and plant processing methods demonstrated.

Beverly Ortiz is a Naturalist at Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont. She has a doctorate in Cultural Anthropology from UC Berkeley and a B.S. in Environmental Interpretation from UC Davis. Dr. Ortiz has served as an Ethnographic Consultant since 1994 and as a Lecturer in the Anthropology Department at CSU East Bay since 1999.

She has published one book, several book chapters and more than 100 articles about native Californians, many featuring plant uses, and is in the process of publishing a book with Karuk herbalist Josephine Peters about Josephine’s ethnobotanical knowledge.

Note: Seating is limited to 100, first come, first served.

Directions: From Foothill Expy., travel ½ mile on San Antonio Road 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 Road, cross Edith and turn left into the unmarked driveway just before Hillview. The sign on San Antonio Road 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 additional information, visit www.cnps-scv.org, or contact Chapter President Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408) 353-8824.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Spring Native Plant Sale April 4

Our **Spring Native Plant Sale** will be held at the Hidden Villa Nursery in Los Altos **Saturday, April 4th**, from **10am to 3pm**. See the enclosed poster for details.

Wildflower Show April 25 & 26

Our annual **Wildflower Show** will be held at Mission College in Santa Clara **Saturday and Sunday, April 25th and 26th, from 10am to 4pm**. See the enclosed poster for details.

Chapter Volunteer Opportunities

Our Native Plant Sale, Wildflower Show and other events are possible because of many volunteers contributing their individual talents. Read on to find out ways you can help.

Volunteer Opportunities at Chapter Events

Native Plant Sale, Hidden Villa Ranch Saturday April 4, 10am - 3pm, Los Altos Hills

Our Native Plant Sale at Hidden Villa is a great opportunity to help the Chapter raise money through our sale of plants that we grow at the nursery. It's a busy, fun day to work with the public, and of course there's great food for hungry volunteers!

We need volunteers to help get plants ready for the sale, put up plant signs, direct traffic and help with parking, answer customers' questions about the plants and CNPS, write up sales tags, cashier, help customers take their purchases to their cars, and help clean up after the sale. Contact Toni Gregorio-Bunch at (408) 373-4497 or tonig@flash.net if you would like to volunteer for this event.

To volunteer to assist with parking, contact Stephen Buckhout at (408) 255-6233 or yscottie@pacbell.net

Wildflower Show, Mission College in Santa Clara Sat - Sun, April 25 - 26, 10am - 4pm

To make our annual Wildflower Show a success, we need lots of volunteers to give a great presentation to the public, and to make sure it runs smoothly. We are looking for about 100 volunteers to help with a wide variety of activities. You do not need to make a major time commitment, or need to know about plants.

Help is needed with distributing posters advertising the show, working the kids table, assisting the specimen collectors, setting up the exhibition area, keying plant specimens, placing plants and name cards on display tables, welcoming visitors, staffing the book sales table, signing up new CNPS members, creating name tags for volunteers, providing information to the public, taking down the exhibition area, and preparing post-show reports of plants displayed.

To volunteer please contact Wildflower Show Chair David Chapman, at (408) 323-1913 or dchapman@earthlink.net; or Outreach Coordinator Toni Gregorio-Bunch at (408) 373-4497 or tonig@flash.net.

Volunteer Opportunities at Outside Events

Our Chapter has been invited to represent CNPS at several environmental shows this spring. We need just a couple of volunteers to work at information tables for each event. These are fun and easy opportunities to show CNPS to the public. To ask questions or sign up, please contact Toni Gregorio-Bunch at tonig@flash.net or (408) 373-4497.

Arbor Day, Mountain View

Saturday, March 14, 11am - 1pm

www.mountainview.gov/city_hall/public_works/garbage_and_recycling/events

Earth Day, SLAC National Accelerator Lab.

Wednesday, April 22, 10am - 2pm, Menlo Park

Eco-Fair/ Earth Day, Mission College

Wednesday, April 22, 11am - 4pm, Santa Clara

Going Native Garden Tour, SF Bay Area

Sunday, April 19, 10am - 4pm

www.goingnativegardentour.org

Contact Arvind Kumar at chhprahiya@yahoo.com

Native Plant Gardening for Beginners Class

At our Spring Native Plant Sale on **April 4** (see enclosed Plant Sale poster), Stephanie Morris will teach a class on native plant gardening from **1-2pm** at the Visitor Center.

Attendees will learn about the basics of growing native plants, tips and tricks as well as gotchas, and about easy-to-grow, attractive native plants. Prior knowledge of gardening or native plants is not required. The cost is free. Seating is limited, first come first served.

Native Plant Nursery

Help prepare our nursery and plants for the Spring Sale by attending one of our native plant nursery work sessions. They take place every **Wednesday**, from **12noon 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 Struthers at (650) 941-2586 or JeanStruthers@att.net; 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 lot to your right. The Native Plant Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the visitor center.

Gardening with Natives

Gardening with Natives (GWN) is a special interest group within the Chapter which usually meets on the first Thursday or Friday of each month. The group is open to all, and includes a mix of seasoned native plant gardeners as well as beginners. Newcomers are always welcome.

Meetings are held at local libraries (Los Altos, Milpitas, San Carlos, and Saratoga) as well as at the PCC in Palo Alto.

Native Plant Gardening for Year-round Interest

A talk by Elizabeth Parsons

Thursday, March 5, 7pm to 8:30 pm

Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga

How can you include native plants into the garden so it looks appealing throughout the year? Learn about easy-to-grow plants that have seasonal interest (particularly fall and spring), are naturally adapted to California soils and climates, and are high in habitat value. Elizabeth Parsons is a Fellow of the California Native Plant Society, and led the plant sale at the Milo Baker Chapter for 30 years.

Directions: From Hwy 85 (North & South): Take the Saratoga Avenue exit. At the light, turn on Saratoga Avenue (northbound travelers turn left on Saratoga Ave; southbound travelers turn right on Saratoga Ave.) Go past Fruitvale and take the first driveway on the left.

Native Salvias for the Garden

A talk by Betsy Clebsch

Thursday, April 2, 7pm to 9pm

San Carlos Library, 610 Elm Street, San Carlos

California is home to a variety of native sages, some shrubby, some perennial, and some annual. They are all aromatic and easy to grow. Learn about them from a local expert, Betsy Clebsch, the author of *The New Book of Salvias*. She has participated in plant explorations and regularly exchanges seed and rare plants with many botanical gardens.

Directions: From Hwy 101: Take the Holly St. West exit. Drive across El Camino Real and turn left at Elm Street. Cross San Carlos and almost at the end of the block, turn right into the parking lot at the "Civic Center" sign. The library is straight ahead. Above ground parking is available off Elm Street. Underground parking off Cherry or Chestnut Streets allows library access.

For more information on the Gardening with Natives group, visit its website at www.GardeningWithNatives.com. GWN maintains a Yahoo group with over 500 members, a true resource for native plant gardeners in this area. To join the Yahoo group, visit groups.yahoo.com/group/GardeningWithNatives. To contact the GWN Steering Committee, email GardeningWithNatives@yahoo.com or call Arvind Kumar at (408) 715-7020.

Other Chapter Groups and Activities

The upcoming dates and contact information for some of our other regular Chapter activities are as follows:

Activity	Dates	Contact
Native Hill at Foothill College	Saturdays and Sundays at 9am - see Phil's email list for dates	Phil Higgins phidor@juno.com or (650)941-4752.
Keying with Natives	Fri. 6:30pm, Mar. 27 and Apr 24 at PCC	David "Tex" Houston tex009@sbcglobal.net or Sally Casey at (408)377- 0989
Habitat Restoration at Edge- wood Park	Fridays 9am, Wednesdays 5:30pm starting March 11	edgewood.thinkersrus.net , Paul Heiple at (650) 854-7125 or pheiple@gmail.com , John Allen at jcakwa@earthlink.net .

SJSU BOTANY GARDEN

Garden Workday Sunday March 1

The SJSU Botany Garden is being restored and you can help! The next activity will be **Weeding & Planting**, on Sunday **March 1st from 9:30am-12:30pm**.

Directions: The Garden is located between Duncan Hall and A. S. House on the San Jose State University campus in San Jose. (See map and directions at www.sjsu.edu/about_sjsu/visiting/campus_maps). Parking is available at the SJSU Garage at Seventh and San Salvador streets. For more about the garden, read on...

The SJSU Botany Garden Makeover

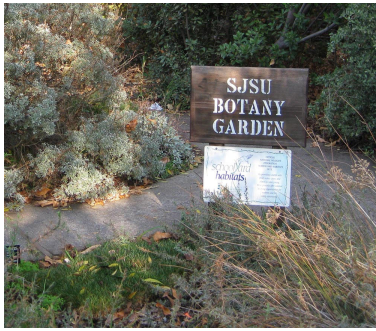
Volunteers gather to help restore a native plant garden

By Chapter members Suzie Woolhouse and Nishanta Rajakaruna

The SJSU Botany Garden is one of a handful of green spaces in the city of San José dedicated to California's native plants. The Garden had its origins in the mid 1980s when a 4000-square-foot area outside SJSU's Duncan Hall was cleared and converted to a home for native plants and a habitat for wildlife. Over the years the Garden has been cared for by students, staff, and faculty of the Department of Biological Sciences and the now disbanded SJSU Botany Club. The Garden has served as a natural laboratory for a number of courses, including Plant Biology, Plant Taxonomy, Plant Morphology, and Plant Communities of California. Whether learning the basics of plant biology or

studying the reproductive biology of native species, the Garden—located outside the Department of Biological Sciences—provides easy access for students.

Over the years the Garden has become somewhat overgrown (see picture below), providing habitat for wildlife in the middle of the city as well as a quiet, secluded place for studying between classes. However, it has also



provided a haven for unsavory activities ranging from drug use to vandalism. Because the Garden serves as an outdoor laboratory for teaching and a model display of California's native plants, it was important to restore the

Garden and come up with a plan to maintain it over the coming years. With help from Dr. Pat Pizzo, former Professor of Engineering at SJSU, and Kevin Bryant of CNPS, we began planning how best to restore the Garden.

During December 19-20, nearly 60 volunteers came together to help clean-up the Garden. The effort began with a pruning workshop offered by Christian Bonner from Our City Forest (www.ourcityforest.org). Over the course of the two days, volunteers participated in pruning, raking, weeding, and lugging piles of debris to compost bins (see picture below). This volunteer effort brought together past and present faculty and staff of the Department of



Biological Sciences, students from Biology, Environmental Studies, and Geology, members of the co-ed service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, members of CNPS and Our City Forest, and a few master gardeners from the Bay Area (see picture right). Everyone had fun, learned something new, and most importantly, made important personal and professional connections within the SJSU community and with botanically inclined citizens of the Bay Area.

It was wonderful to see so many students, staff, faculty, and community members sharing and learning from each other. The effort also provided an important occasion for students with interests in botany to make rewarding connections with members of CNPS. Suzie Woolhouse, senior in Environmental Studies and co-organizer of this collaborative clean-up effort, was offered a position on the board of CNPS; Suzie will be the first board member for



CNPS serving in the capacity of student liaison. Both Suzie and Mike Fong, an incoming graduate student in Plant Biology, were also recipients of CNPS scholarships to attend the CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference: Strategies and Solutions (www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2009)

Over the Spring Semester, Suzie and Brittany White, an undergraduate from Plant Biology, will intern with Dr. Nishi Rajakaruna to help make the Garden a better tool for education. Their tasks will include bringing in 20 California native species to the Garden through propagating and transplanting, creating and updating interpretive signs for the Garden, working on a website and pamphlet about the species in the Garden, organizing monthly weeding sessions to maintain the Garden, working on lesson plans or docent programs that can be incorporated into Garden tours and other outreach activities, and finding ways to establish better links between students of botany and the outside botanical community. They will also look into raising funds to install an iron fence to replace the dilapidated, white plastic fence currently separating the Garden from the adjoining soccer field.

The SJSU Botany Garden will be shown at the Going Native Garden Tour, which takes place Sunday April 19. See www.gngt.org for more information.

If you are interested in getting involved in the upcoming activities of the SJSU Botany Garden, please contact Dr. Nishi Rajakaruna (Nishanta.Rajakaruna@sjsu.edu) or Suzie Woolhouse (szwoolhouse@yahoo.com).

STUDENT OUTREACH

Chapter Offers Graduate Research Scholarships

By Nora Monette, *Scholarships*

This is our Chapter's 10th year offering scholarships to graduate students doing research on native plants and plant communities in Central and Northern California.

Three \$1,500 scholarships are available this year. Past recipients have studied a wide range of topics and plant communities including pollinators and seed production, seedling survival in riparian sites, effects of fire regimes in various habitats, serpentine plant communities, factors affecting eel grass beds, and mycorrhizal diversity in grasslands. A number of past scholarship recipients attended or made presentations at the CNPS Conservation Conference in Sacramento in January.

Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate program in an accredited College or University and undertaking botanical research related to plants or native plant communities. Applications are due on **March 27**. Applications and scholarship application requirements are available on-line at www.cnps-scv.org. Scholarships will be awarded at the Chapter's May General Meeting.

CNPS Conservation Conference – Student Perspective

By Suzie Woolhouse, *Chapter Student Liaison*

The CNPS Conservation Conference really opened my eyes to what is going on in regards to botany, ecology and conservation of native plants throughout the state. Not only was it one of my first experiences with CNPS but it was also the first conference I have ever attended. Graduating in May, I will soon be looking into jobs and graduate programs. The conference provided an excellent networking opportunity as well as a way to broaden my knowledge in regards to native plants.

I am very grateful to Kevin Bryant and the Santa Clara Valley Chapter for their financial support in my conference attendance. Not only did I learn a great deal that will be of help in my academic career, but I had a lot of fun as well!

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 Mar 7 9am Pulgas Ridge Open Space

Get a jump on the spring wildflower season this year with a pleasant walk through this easily accessible open space preserve. Join Chapter members Alf Fengler and Georgia Stigall for a viewing of early spring flowers including fetid adder's tongue (*Scolioopus bigelovii*) and coast man-root (*Marah oreganus*).

This trip will be an easy 3-mile loop hike through oak woodland, mixed evergreen woodland, chemise chaparral, and coastal scrub with a little bit of riparian woodland thrown in for good measure.

The trip will include an elevation gain and loss of about 400 feet and is expected to last until **12:30pm**. For more information contact Alf Fengler at afengler@acm.org or (650) 345-7045.

Directions: From I-280, take the Edgewood Road exit in San Carlos and head east. Go downhill to the first left, which will be Crestview Drive. Then make an immediate left at Edmonds Road, following the sign for Cordilleras Center. The new preserve parking lot is on the right, just past the Redwood Center. If the lot is full, park on the opposite side of the road in the large unpaved area. We'll meet at **9:00am** in the new parking lot. Heavy rain cancels.

Sun Mar 8 9:30am Mt. Tamalpais

Join Chris Prendergast and Leighton Nakata for an early spring exploration of the Rock Springs area of Mt. Tam. We will be on the lookout for early Calypso orchids in the Douglas-fir understory. On the way we will pass Sargent cypress.

Expect a 4-5 mile loop with 800-1000 foot elevation gain. Sections of the trail are over steep and loose rock. Bring lunch and liquids, and dress in layers to prepare for variable weather conditions. Rain may shorten the hike. We expect the hike to last until **at least 3:30pm**.

For more information contact Chris at (408) 926-8067 or chrispp@earthlink.net; or Leighton at (650) 947-9989 or leightonnakata@yahoo.com.

Directions: Go North on US 101, take Mill Valley/Stinson Beach Hwy 1 exit. After 0.8 miles take a left at the Arco station, continue 2.6 miles; make a right at sign posted to Mt. Tam. After 0.8 miles continue through four way intersection again following sign to Mt. Tam. Continue on road to junction at Pantoll ranger station. Bear right and continue to Rock Spring parking area which is located at the next intersection.

Sat Mar 14 10am Stile Ranch Hike

Dick Gehrler and Lee Gallagher will co-lead a 3-4 mile wildflower hike to Stile Ranch, through serpentine grasslands and chaparral. This will be a great trip for those new to field trips and native plants, including emphasis on both common names and botanical names of the plants.

With the cooperation of the seasons, we expect to see Coast Range montia, serrated onion, linanthus, gilia, goldfields, morning glory, leather oak and black sage. The hike will be moderate in intensity, and is expected to last until **1pm**.

Directions: From Highway 85 south, exit Almaden Expressway south. Proceed to end, turn right onto Harry Road (traffic light). Left on McKean Road, continue about 1 mile. Left on Fortini. Go to end, turn left on San Vicente. Parking lot on right about 300 feet.

For more information contact Lee at (650) 851-8961 or flowerhiker@gmail.com; or Dick at (408) 268-6922 or mrge@jps.net.

Sun-Thu Mar 15-19 Desert Wildflower Trip

The southern California deserts received good germinating rains late in 2008, and thanks to recent storms in southern California, there's a good chance the desert will be alive with color for a mid-March field trip.

Join trip leader Kevin Bryant as we hunt down the best flower displays and a diversity of desert species. Locations are still TBD, but likely will involve Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and perhaps one other destination.

We will meet up Sunday afternoon, and the trip will end Thursday morning. Stay for the whole trip or just a part. CNPS will reserve campgrounds where needed, and attendees will share the cost of camping fees. Motel accommodations will be available nearby. Contact Kevin Bryant at (408) 348-9470 or mtngreen17@verizon.net for further details or to **reserve your spot**.

Fri-Sun Mar 20-22 Carrizo Plain National Monument (eastern San Luis Obispo County)

Join Carolyn Dorsch and Michael Yantos for a spring exploration of old time Central Valley California. For the third year we will once again join the Desert Survivors conservation group to discover flora, fauna and interesting land formations.

This will be an easy trip with car stops and short hikes. Explore several plant communities, from alkali flats and grasslands to riparian zones and arid ridges. See the San Andreas Fault up close, new canyons, pronghorn antelope and other wildlife surprises.

We will be camping Friday and Saturday. Contact Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com or (650) 804-6162; or Michael Yantos at yantosarchitect@att.net or (650) 743-2807 for more detailed trip information or to **sign up**.

Sat Mar 28 1pm Del Monte Forest, Monterey

Truly one of the botanical gems of California, the Del Monte Forest on the Monterey Peninsula is a study in species diversity and plant evolution. Here we find the largest native Monterey pine forest, and the only place in the world where Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) and Bishop pine (*P. muricata*) grow together. Within the forest, the rare Gowen cypress (*Callitropsis goveniana*) also finds a home, in some places forming very dense stands in ancient podzolized soils, reminiscent of the pygmy forest of Mendocino County.

And those are just the trees! This rich and unique forest contains many treasures, including ceanothus and manzanita species, and beargrass (*Xerophyllum tenax*) at its southern limit of distribution.

Join leaders Bob Hale and Kevin Bryant on this multi-chapter CNPS trip. Space is limited to 25, please contact Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net, or (408) 348-9470 to **reserve your spot** and receive further details.

Sun Mar 29 1pm & Sat Apr 11 10am Coyote Ridge

In spring, after the rains stop, the Bay checkerspot butterfly emerges and the sheets of wildflowers appear on Coyote Ridge. Join trip leader Kevin Bryant for a hike to take in this incredible area, focusing on serpentine plants and ecology on the ridge.

There are opportunities for bird watching here as well, as the wide open spaces provide habitat for some less frequently encountered species. Tule elk are often spotted

as one gazes upon the vast expanse of the Mt. Hamilton Range. So come to enjoy the beauty, hear the story of Coyote Ridge, and learn how CNPS and other organizations are involved in helping to preserve these lands in perpetuity.

Both hikes will be about 3-4 miles round trip, with 800 foot elevation gain, and are expected to **last 3 to 4 hours**. The meeting place is about a 20 minute drive south from the downtown San Jose area. **An RSVP is necessary**, since access to this fragile area is controlled. Trips are limited to 20 attendees. You may reserve a space and receive directions to our meeting place by contacting Kevin at (408) 348-9470 or mtngreen17@verizon.net.

Sun Apr 5 10am Grant Ranch

Discover San Jose's wild backyard with Toni Gregorio-Bunch and Stella Yang at Joseph D. Grant County Park. We'll explore a bit of what used to be known as Hall's Valley in this easy 3 hour beginner's wildflower hike, looking for lupines, California poppies, blue dicks, butter & eggs, yarrow and other common wildflowers. Meet in the main parking lot by the ranger house and we'll head out from there.

Directions: To get to the park take Alum Rock Ave. in San Jose. Exit off 680, and head east to Mount Hamilton Road. Turn on to Mount Hamilton Road and drive about 5 miles to the Grant Ranch Park. Contact Toni Gregorio-Bunch for more information, at (408) 373-4497 or tonig@flash.net.

Sat Apr 18 9:30am Woods Trail in Sierra Azul

Join co-leaders Joe Cernac and Kevin Bryant in Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve to view a good variety of the Santa Cruz Mountains flora, from oak woodland to deeper shadowed slopes of tanbark oak and California bay to drier chaparral ridges. Unusual flora listed for this area include California nutmeg (*Torreya californica*) and flannelbush (*Fremontodendron californicum*), as well as woodland flowers not seen at lower elevations. There is a wall of the small succulent stonecrop (*Sedum* spp.) along the route.

The hike will be about 3 miles round trip. A well graded road makes the 800 foot elevation gain easy to handle. An **optional loop** will involve continuing up to Mt. Umunhum Rd. along the base of the landmark mountain where the gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) lives, and return via asphalt to the trailhead, a combined total of about 8 miles.

The trip is expected to last until about **2:30pm**. Add about **three hours** if you plan to take the optional loop as well. We'll meet at the Jacques Ridge parking lot at Hicks Rd and Mt. Umunhum Rd. Trailhead parking is somewhat

limited. A no-host carpool will leave the Los Gatos Park & Ride on Highway 9 at **8:45am**.

Directions: Exit Highway 85 at Camden Ave. (From southbound 85 turn left on Camden Ave. From northbound 85 turn left on Branham Avenue and then turn left on Camden Ave.) Travel on Camden Ave. about 1.6 miles. Turn right on Hicks Road. Travel on Hicks Road about 6.3 miles. Turn right on Mt. Umunhum Road. The Preserve parking lot will be on the right. The trailhead is adjacent to the parking area. For further information, contact Joe at (408) 292-5465, or Kevin at mtngreen17@verizon.net.

Sat-Sun May 2-3 The Cedars (Sonoma County)

Join Kevin Bryant, Matt Teel, and Roger Raiche for an exploration of Roger's amazing property, the Cedars. The Cedars, so named by early explorers for its extensive stands of Sargent Cypress, is a roughly 10 square mile area of Sonoma County consisting entirely of serpentine and its parent rock peridotite. Many rare plants, including several disjunct or endemic species, await us for this rare opportunity to visit this remote, privately owned and botanically unique piece of California.

To allow ample time for exploration on Sunday, we will be camping on site Saturday evening. The trip is limited to 15 participants. Exact directions will be given to confirmed participants; expect a 3 hour (max) drive from the SF peninsula, leaving **midday on Saturday and returning late Sunday**.

High clearance and 4wd is needed to access the property; participants with unsuitable cars may leave their cars safely at a neighboring ranch and carpool in. If you have a high clearance 4wd and plan to attend the trip, please let Matt know when reserving a space. Springs and pools are abundant; bring a swimsuit if you like.

Participants should be prepared for steep, rugged terrain and mainly single-track trails. Step carefully - medical help is a long time coming in this remote area!

This one will fill up! Contact Matt Teel at mat_teel@yahoo.com to **reserve your space**.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, April 4, 2009

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

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

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| Mar 1 Sun SJSU Botany Garden Workday (3) | Apr 2 Thu Gardening with Natives (3) |
| Mar 5 Thu Gardening with Natives (3) | Apr 4 Sat Spring Native Plant Sale (1) |
| Mar 7 Sat Pulgas Ridge hike (5) | Apr 4 Sat May-Jun Newsletter Deadline (7) |
| Mar 8 Sun Mt. Tamalpais hike (5) | Apr 5 Sun Grant Ranch hike (7) |
| Mar 14 Sat Stile Ranch Beginner hike (6) | Apr 9 Thu Chapter Board meeting |
| Mar 15-19 Sun-Thu Desert Wildflower trip (6) | Apr 11 Sat Coyote Ridge hike (6) |
| Mar 20-22 Fri-Sun Carrizo Plain trip (6) | Apr 18 Sat Sierra Azul hike (7) |
| Mar 27 Fri Keying with Natives (3) | Apr 24 Fri Keying with Natives (3) |
| Mar 27 Fri General Meeting (1) | May 2-3 Sat-Sun The Cedars trip (7) |
| Mar 28 Sat Del Monte Forest hike (6) | Wed afts Nursery work sessions (2) |
| Mar 29 Sun Coyote Ridge hike (6) | Wed & Fri Edgewood Park weeding (3) |
| Apr 25-26 Sat-Sun Spring Wildflower Show (1) | Via Email List Native Hill work sessions (3) |

The next Chapter Board meeting will be **Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 pm**
at the Peninsula Conservation Center, 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.

The *Blazing Star* web address: www.cnps-scv.org

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FIRST CLASS

Santa Clara Valley Chapter
California Native Plant Society
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