



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

March-April 2018

## **DEFEAT EVERGREEN INITIATIVE!**

***“Evergreen homes initiative isn’t about housing shortages; it’s about greed.”***

**– San José Mercury News, Oct. 8, 2017**

Wealthy developers have put an initiative on the June 5th ballot (for the City of San José) that they want you to believe is meant to provide affordable housing for seniors and veterans.

CNPS-SCV opposes this deceptive measure because it allows developers to avoid environmental review, public input and all the protections of the standard city planning process. If passed, it will have impact far beyond the City of San José! We need your help!

Learn more on page 2 or for updates visit [cnps-scv.org/index.php/conservation](http://cnps-scv.org/index.php/conservation).

### **Spring Native Plant Events!**

**Going Native Garden Tour** – April 7-8  
(flyer enclosed & call for volunteers page 3)

**Edgewood Wildflower Walks**  
March 10 - June 3  
(flyer enclosed & visit  
[friendsofedgewood.org/springtime-wildflower-walks](http://friendsofedgewood.org/springtime-wildflower-walks))

**Coastal Wildflower Day** – April 14  
Half Moon Bay State Beach (page 9)

## **SPRING WILDFLOWER SHOW**

Our Chapter will hold its 44th Wildflower Show on **April 28th from 9:30am - 4pm**. This year’s theme will be “The Art of Conservation.” The show is co-sponsored by **West Valley College** and will be held in the biology building there.

Hundreds of wildflowers and native plants will be on display. There will be talks covering a wide variety of topics. Tours of the Vasona Creek Restoration project and the native plant gardens at West Valley will also be offered. This family-friendly event will include activities for children. All activities and parking are free. A selection of native plants and native plant art- and other-related goods will be available for purchase.

More information is available on the Chapter website at: [cnps-scv.org/index.php/events/wildflower-shows](http://cnps-scv.org/index.php/events/wildflower-shows).

If you’d like to volunteer to help with the show, see the above page, or contact the volunteer coordinator, Toni Gregorio-Bunch at [tidytip.lp@gmail.com](mailto:tidytip.lp@gmail.com) or (408) 373-4497.



## **GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM**

**Friday, March 16 at 7:30 PM**  
**Los Altos Library Program Room**  
**13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos**

**Loma Fire Recovery and Coyote Valley Conservation –**  
**Project Updates from SCVOSA**  
**A talk by Galli Besson**

Learn about three projects that the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (OSA) is currently working on. The Loma Fire burned more than 4,500 acres in the Santa Cruz Mountains in September 2016, and half of the fire was on OSA lands. In 2017, Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting completed the first year of a three-year study of habitat and vegetation on the burn site, and Galli Besson will share the goals of the study and the results so far.

Coyote Valley is an important wildlife linkage between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range. Learn about the work that the OSA is doing with partners to conserve this landscape. And finally, Galli will give an update on the resource surveys and management of the Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve.

**Galli Basson** is a Resource Management Specialist with the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority where she works on advancing the OSA's natural resource program. She holds a Master's in Environmental Studies from San Jose State University and a Bachelor's in Wildlife Conservation Biology from UC Davis.

We will have a special **field trip** to the Loma Fire burn area on **Saturday, April 14**. Details will be announced as soon as they are available. Please join our email list or Meetup Group (search for "Santa Clara Valley Chapter" at [meetup.com](http://meetup.com)) to be notified.



Jake Schweitzer

Woodland woollythreads (*Monolopia gracilens*), a CNPS List 1b.2 annual, the spring after the Loma Fire in Rancho Cañada del Oro Preserve

**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 Chapter President Madeline Morrow at [madelinemorrow@earthlink.net](mailto:madelinemorrow@earthlink.net) or the Chapter phone (650) 260-3450.

## **DEFEAT EVERGREEN INITIATIVE!**

Wealthy developers have put an initiative on the June 5th ballot (for the City of San José) that they want you to believe is meant to provide affordable housing for seniors and veterans. Why does CNPS-SCV oppose this deceptive measure?

- **The developers exempt themselves from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).** CEQA protections require that the developer engage the public in evaluating how a project will impact the environment and the community. Under CEQA, the developer must mitigate these negative effects.
- **The initiative opens up North Coyote Valley to Urban Sprawl.** This measure impacts all of San José, not just the Evergreen Project. It is 367 pages of changes to the City of San José General Plan. The developers' brochure and website fail to disclose this fact.
- **The developers exempt themselves from paying standard development impact fees** such as compensating the City for the costs of increased traffic from their project.
- **The developers exempt themselves from needing to negotiate with the City or their neighbors.** This measure ties the hands of the City Council to make any changes to the developers' 367 pages of new laws for 10 years. The only way to fix problems is to pass a new initiative.

### **Who opposes the initiative?**

- Our Chapter of CNPS, the Sierra Club, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and the Santa Clara Valley OSA;
- The City of San José's Mayor and entire City Council;
- The San José Mercury News and many more.

### **But I don't live in San José?**

If these developers are successful in avoiding environmental review, public input and all the protections of the standard city planning process, other developers will engage in "Ballot Box City Planning" in your neighborhood and throughout the state. We need your help!

### **What can I do?**

- Post on social media.
- Talk to your friends and neighbors.
- Help with the campaign by distributing literature, phone banking or walking a neighborhood.
- If you live in San Jose, please **vote against this measure.**

For updates, please visit the Conservation page at the Chapter website: [cnps-scv.org/index.php/conservation](http://cnps-scv.org/index.php/conservation).

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### **CNPS SCV Nursery at Hidden Villa**

Come help propagate plants for our plant sales by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions, **Wednesdays, from 11am to 2pm**. Please check Meetup ([meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter](http://meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter)) for the latest schedule. We'll also hold work sessions during **monthly member sales**.

Bring a sunhat, liquids and your lunch if you like. Tools will be provided at the nursery. Knowledge of plants is not necessary; your willingness to help is all that's required.

The next **Monthly Member Sales** will be **11 am to 2pm** on the following days:  
**Wednesdays, March 7 and April 4**

We'll also have two "pop-up" **native plant sales for the public**: At the GNGT on **Saturday April 7** and at the Wildflower Show on **Saturday, April 28**

Starting in March, Member's Sales will be **credit card only** payment. An inventory of available plants will be updated the week before each sale. Visit [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org) and go to Events, then Plant Sale.

For more information, contact Vivian Neou at [techchair@cnps-scv.org](mailto:techchair@cnps-scv.org) or (650) 260-3450.

**Directions:** Hidden Villa is located on Moody Road west of Foothill College. From Hwy. 280 in Los Altos Hills, take the Moody Road exit and head west. Two miles west of Foothill College, look for the Hidden Villa sign and driveway on the left. Proceed over the bridge and park in the Dana Center parking lot to your right. Continue walking a short distance on that road and you will see the CNPS SCV Nursery ahead of you, just past the Dana Center building. Parking is free while volunteering or attending a Member Sale.

### **Volunteer for the Going Native Garden Tour**

The Going Native Garden Tour is seeking volunteers who are willing to spend a few hours greeting tour participants and answering questions.

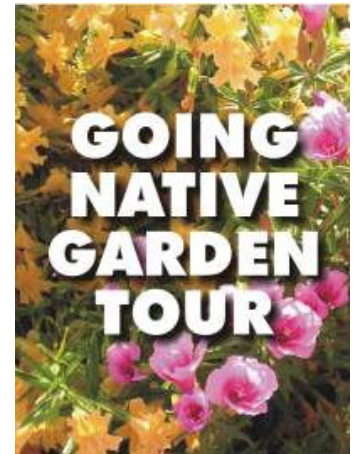
This year's Tour features 50 gardens on Saturday, April 7 (north) and Sunday, April 8 (south), from 10am to 4pm each day. Volunteers receive a custom-designed T-shirt and invitations to visit native gardens throughout the year. Plus, you will help educate garden visitors about the

pleasures and benefits of gardening with California native plants! Tour volunteers must:

- Enjoy public education and interaction
- Be able to commit to either the 9:45am-1:15pm shift or the 12:45 pm-4:15 pm shift.

You can be a Greeter or a Docent:

- **Greeters** welcome guests and make sure that they sign in. They direct the flow of traffic into the garden. They encourage guests to add comments to the sign-in sheet. Responsible teens are welcome and can earn volunteer credits for participation. No knowledge of native plants is required.
- **Docents** (after orientation) help answer questions about the homeowner's garden.



To volunteer please complete the volunteer sign-up form by April 5th at [gngt.org/volunteerForm.php](http://gngt.org/volunteerForm.php). Sign up by March 22nd to receive your T-shirt at the orientation on March 24th.

### **Gardening with Natives**

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes beginning and seasoned native plant gardeners, along with landscape architects and designers. GWN offers over 35 free talks throughout the year at public libraries in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. For more info., visit [www.cnps-scv.org/gwn](http://www.cnps-scv.org/gwn).

These programs are made possible by co-sponsoring libraries and volunteers who help with program logistics. If you would like to help organize similar programs at a library near you, email [gwn@cnps-scv.org](mailto:gwn@cnps-scv.org).

**The Fab Four: Buckwheats, Ceanothus, Manzanitas, & Sages - A talk by Pete Veilleux**

**Tuesday, March 13, 7-8:30 PM, Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (650) 948-7683**

These four genera of California natives provide a wealth of drought-tolerant variety to your landscape, and are the foundation of most Bay Area native gardens. Get to know a few of them and you'll have flower color and habitat all

year. Buckwheat and sage species can be annuals, perennials, or shrubs, while ceanothus and manzanitas are typically groundcovers, shrubs, or small “trees.” Come hear about a few of the speaker’s favorite members of these families. It’ll be SO hard for him to choose just a few!

**Pete Veilleux** is a master designer, nurseryman, and photographer. He creates gardens using native plants for long-lasting landscapes and helps people get the maximum use and pleasure from their patch of earth. He is the owner and propagator of East Bay Wilds Native Plant Nursery ([www.eastbaywilds.com](http://www.eastbaywilds.com)) in Oakland and a tireless advocate of native gardening and information. Pete will bring some plants for sale as well.

**Native Plant All-Stars  
a talk by Rebecca Schoenenberger**

**Wednesday, March 28, 7-8:30 PM, Sunnyvale Library, 665 W. Olive Ave, Sunnyvale (408) 730-7300**

Did you know that the horticultural staff of the UC Davis Arboretum has identified and tested 100 tough, reliable plants? They are easy to grow, don’t need a lot of water, have few problems with pests or diseases, and provide outstanding qualities in the garden. Many of them are California native plants and support native birds and insects. Our speaker will discuss these “All-Star” native plants and describe their care and growing conditions.

**Rebecca Schoenenberger** has a diverse background in sustainability and natural systems. With an Associate of Science degree in Park Management and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies, she has an extensive knowledge of native plants, including selecting which plants will thrive in specific locations. Since 2011, Rebecca has also been a Santa Clara County Master Gardener.

**How to Lose Your Lawn & Live Happily  
Ever After - A talk by Deva Luna**

**Monday, April 2, 7-8:30 PM, Milpitas Library, 160 N Main Street, Milpitas (408) 262-1171**

You stopped watering your lawn because of the drought and because you wanted something new, but now the “lawn” is full of weeds. What do you do? Come to this talk and be inspired to create a beautiful, water-wise garden! See a variety of no-lawn landscaping styles and ideas. Get professional tips on removing that weed-filled patch called a lawn, learn to choose climate-adapted native plants, and find out how you can qualify for landscape

rebates. You’ll find out how to have a lush landscape without water-hogging grass.

**Deva Luna** is a sustainable and Bay Friendly-certified landscape designer who has been teaching and speaking about horticulture for over 20 years. She has a degree in “Plants and Art” from U.C. Davis and works for EarthCare Landscaping ([www.earthcareland.com](http://www.earthcareland.com)) in Cupertino.

**Aesthetic Pruning of Native Trees & Shrubs  
a talk by Jocelyn Cohen**

**Tuesday, April 10, 6:30-8:00 PM, Pacifica Sharp Park Library, 104 Hilton Way, Pacifica (650) 355-5196**

A native garden looks most pleasing when it has a human touch. Shrubs and trees are at their best with occasional pruning and shaping. Although late summer into autumn is the optimal time for pruning many of our natives, you will learn which plants can be pruned out of season and how and why it may be OK.

During this presentation, you’ll learn about the different forms of many native plants and how to bring out their best characteristics – and health – through proper pruning. Please note the earlier start time.

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

**Easy-To-Grow Native Plants  
a talk by Sherri Osaka**

**Thursday, April 19, 7-8:30 PM, Redwood City Library, 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (650) 780-7018**

**Sat., April 28, 1:30-3:00 PM, Los Gatos Adult Rec. Center, 208 S. Main, Los Gatos (408) 354-8700 x 261**

Are you new to growing drought-tolerant native plants? Do you want to include them in your garden for beauty, habitat and sustainability, but don’t know where to begin? Come to this talk and learn about the many easy-to-grow native trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals for the home garden. Many of these plants are native to our local area and will thrive with just a little water and care.

Note we offer this talk in two locations: Peninsula and South Bay.



**Sherri Osaka** is a licensed Landscape Architect, Bay-Friendly Qualified Designer, and started her company, Sustainable Landscape Designs, over 20 years ago. Since then she has been lecturing and implementing ecological landscaping techniques, specializing in native plants, graywater and rainwater irrigation and pervious paving.

**Going Native Garden Virtual Tour  
a talk by Stephen Rosenthal**

**Wednesday, April 25, 7-8:30 PM, Campbell Library, 77 Harrison Ave., Campbell (408) 866-1991**

The Going Native Garden Tour happens just once a year and showcases more than 50 different gardens. Perhaps you really wanted to attend the Tour in early April, but couldn't make it. Or you attended the Tour, but didn't get to see all the gardens you wanted to. This talk will present some of the highlights of the gardens and will include photos from several photographers. Come see what you missed!

**Stephen Rosenthal** is a past president of our Chapter of CNPS. He's a retired high-tech worker and amateur photographer. He volunteers with Alum Rock Park to help restore its native habitat. He got interested in science because the world seemed like the most wonderful puzzle. After he retired, he discovered an even more entrancing puzzle right in his own garden.

### Keying with Natives

The Keying with Natives (KWN) meetings in January and February were classes entitled Morphology Basics and Taxonomy Basics, taught by Dee Himes. Morphology is the study of the form, external structure and development of plants. By knowing these morphological characteristics of plants, a plant's name will become obvious. Once a plant has been identified, it can be placed within categories, a classification system that is part of plant taxonomy.

On **Fridays, March 23 and April 20** we'll return to our regular KWN sessions, where we learn plant keying by practicing on plant samples. Both sessions will be held at the PCC from **6:30 – 8:30pm**.

KWN meets at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more information, please contact Joe Cernac at [joecernac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joecernac@sbcglobal.net) or (408) 292-5465.

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

### Chapter Search Continues for Treasurer and Bookkeeper

To learn more, please visit [cnps-scv.org/index.php/15-about-us/325-help-wanted](http://cnps-scv.org/index.php/15-about-us/325-help-wanted).



*Vivian Neou*

KWN Plant Morphology instructor Dee Himes points out leaf features for class participants to observe on live specimens

### 2017-2018 Chapter Scholarship Recipients

The Chapter selected three recipients for \$1,500 graduate student research scholarships and one recipient for a \$1,000 undergraduate student research scholarship in December 2017. The graduate student scholarships include the newly designated Donald Mayall Conservation Scholarship and the Sally Casey Shooting Stars Scholarship. This is the 18th year our Chapter has supported California native plant research by students.

The recipients of the 2017-2018 graduate student scholarships are:

#### **Alejandro Brambila, University of Oregon [Sally Casey Shooting Stars Graduate Research Scholarship].**

Alejandro is studying the effects of development on historic oak habitat composition and the distribution in the urban West Santa Clara Valley. He will be sampling sites in the peninsular west valley (roughly Palo Alto to Mountain View) and looking at how oaks are distributed throughout the urban landscape in the study area. His work builds on and contributes to work undertaken by the San Francisco Estuary Institute's Resilient Silicon Valley program.

**Alexandria Igwe, University of California Davis [Donald Mayall Conservation Graduate Research Scholarship].** The purpose of Alexandria's research is to understand how native plants adapted to serpentine soil utilize root-associated microorganisms to thrive in the presence of abiotic stress, such as drought and heavy-metal concentrations. It will focus on microbes associated with *Plantago erecta* roots and whether the serpentine substrate influences the microbial community associated with this species. Serpentine soils to be studied will be from the McLaughlin Natural Reserve (a University of California Natural Reserve System reserve) in Napa and Lake Counties.



Judy Fenerty

Chapter field trip participants at Año Nuevo State Reserve on New Year's Day 2018

**Kelly Santos, San Francisco State University [Graduate Research Scholarship].**

Kelly's work involves *Suaeda californica*, a federally endangered low-growing coastal salt marsh shrub. This species has decreased in numbers over the past 50 years. She will evaluate the phenology of this species (e.g., flowering, fruiting, and seed production), sediment grain size and organic matter effects on germination and growth, and the effects of branches inserted into the marsh (arboring) on *Suaeda californica* growth and the related provision of a high tide refuge for birds and animals.

The recipient of the 2017-2018 undergraduate student scholarship is:

**Hannah Kang, University of California, Davis.** The purpose of her research is to understand how soil microbial communities vary depending on plant host with a focus on the effects of invasive annual grasses on native annual forb species. Hannah notes that understanding these plant-microbe interactions will give better insight to conservation methods of the diverse native forb community in grasslands.

We look forward to hearing more from the scholarship recipients in the future at our March or May meeting and newsletters. Congratulations to Alejandro, Alexandria, Kelly and Hannah!

For more information, contact Nora Monette at [nmonette@aol.com](mailto:nmonette@aol.com) or (408) 244-5153.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

Our Chapter's **conservation committee** meets on the **Tuesday** following the first Thursday of the month. The next meetings will be on **Tuesdays, March 6th and April 10th at 7:30pm** at the PCC in Palo Alto.

Please join us in our important work! For questions, comments or concerns, please contact Conservation Committee Chair Carolyn Dorsch at [cdorsch1@aol.com](mailto:cdorsch1@aol.com) or (650) 804-6162. For **directions** to the PCC, see the previous Keying with Natives article.

## CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

### **Edgewood Restoration**

Help restore habitat at Edgewood Park, known for fabulous wildflowers and amazing diversity near Redwood City. We pull weeds so native plants have plenty of room to flourish. No experience is required. Sturdy gloves are recommended and you might also want to bring sunscreen, water, a hat, layered clothing and wear long sleeves/pants.

With the return of Daylight Savings Time, our **5:30pm Wednesday sessions** resume **March 14**. We also weed year-round **every Friday at 9am**. For more information, including meeting places, contact Wednesday leader Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560 or Friday leader Paul Heiple at [pheiple@gmail.com](mailto:pheiple@gmail.com) or (650) 854-7125.

### **Alum Rock Park Volunteers**

Come help us weed out invasive plants at this natural gem of San Jose. Our habitat restoration efforts allow the native plants to "come to light."

We have weeding sessions **every Monday morning** and an **Inspiration Point Walk-and-Weed Day the third Saturday morning** of each month. Please visit the Yahoo Group "Alum Rock Park Volunteers" to check the schedules. The group introduction lists what to bring and gives directions to the meeting places.



For more information, contact Stephen Rosenthal at sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

## Lake Cunningham Native Garden

The California Native Garden project in Lake Cunningham Regional Park controls invasive plants in a 1.5-acre area and beautifies it with California native wildflowers, perennials, shrubs and trees. The project aims to create a sustainable, low-maintenance landscape, encourage community participation and ownership, and create habitat for birds and wildlife.

Workdays take place every **Saturday, 9am - noon**.

Volunteers are welcome by appointment. To sign up, visit [lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer](http://lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer). The park is located at 2305 S. White Road in San Jose. For **directions**, visit [lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/directions](http://lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/directions).

## CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Chapter field trips are free and generally open to the public. They are oriented to conservation, protection and enjoyment of California native plants and wildlife, and we adhere to all rules and guidelines for the lands on which we are visiting.

**In our region it is very important to be prepared for hiking on rugged and steep terrain, wide temperature ranges and rapidly changing conditions at any time of year. All participants should wear sturdy footwear and carry sufficient water, sun protection, food, clothing layers, personal first aid and other supplies you may need. If you have any questions about your ability to participate in a particular field trip, please contact the trip leader in advance.**

### Thu-Mon Mar 1 - 5 Desert Trip

Join trip leader Joe Cernac to visit a drier part of the state, to welcome those wonderful colorful annual flowers and the comradeship of good company. Everything depends on the rainfall or excitement level of those who want to make this trip happen. The group will meet for at least three nights camping at places as far as Anza-Borrego Desert State Park to Red Rock Canyon State Park to Carrizo Plain.

Space is limited and is open to CNPS MEMBERS ONLY. To **reserve your spot** and get continuing details, contact Joe at (408) 292-5465 or joecernac@sbcglobal.net.

### Sat Mar 3 9 am – 1 pm Lichen Walk at Pedro Point Headlands (Pacifica)

Join Alf Fengler for a leisurely walk through this coastal gem, looking mostly for lichens, these fascinating composite organisms comprising members of two or even three biological kingdoms. Pack water, lunch, sunscreen and sturdy hiking shoes. Be prepared for windy and cool conditions near the ocean. Also, bring a hand lens if you have one available, since many important lichen features are quite small.

The hike distance will be 2-3 miles with about 400 feet elevation change.

This trip will be limited to 12 people, as parking is extremely limited at the trail head. We probably will meet in Pacifica and carpool from there. For more information and to **reserve your spot**, contact Alf Fengler at [afengler@acm.org](mailto:afengler@acm.org) or (650) 345-7045.



Carol Mattsson

Shooting stars and Johnny jump-ups along the Bonhoff Trail at Grant Ranch County Park, April 2006

### Sun Mar 11 10am – 2pm Shooting Stars at Grant Ranch (San Jose)

Join Stephen Rosenthal on a walk at Joseph D. Grant County Park in the Mount Hamilton foothills to catch the shooting stars (*Primula* sp.). The exact path will depend on the plants in bloom, but one option would be the east-facing Edwards Trail, which might be less impacted by our less than wet winter. We expect an elevation gain of 800-900 feet.

Reservations are required. Please RSVP to Steve at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net) or (408) 923-6562 to **reserve your spot** and receive instructions on how to get to the trailhead.

### Sun Mar 18 9am – 12pm Beginner's Bird and Plant ID Walk Series at Lake Cunningham Park (San Jose) Session #1: First Day of Spring

At the onset of spring, join us for a beginner's bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park. This park is a major destination for waterfowl and migratory birds and its native garden draws many birds due to its habitat value. On this walk, Vicki Silvas-Young will

show you how to identify the common birds of our area, as well as the native plants they depend on for food, shelter and nesting places.

The distance will be 4 miles round trip on a level path. Bring a hat, water, your plant and bird lists and binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Parking fee is \$6.

Space is limited. Please **RSVP** through **meetup.com** (search for "Santa Clara Valley Chapter") to reserve your spot and to read directions and details. This walk is organized jointly by CNPS, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.

### **Thu Mar 22 10am – 3pm Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve (Cupertino)**

Join Co-leaders Joe Cernac and Kate Gudmundson for an easy hike through foothill oak and shrub. Thanks to this month's added warmth, we expect to see many spring bloomers.

We expect a 4-mile mile round trip with 600 ft elevation climb back to the trailhead. Bring lunch and liquids. For more information, contact Joe at (408) 292-5465 or [joecernac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joecernac@sbcglobal.net).

**Directions:** From I-280, exit Foothill Blvd., proceed south on S. Foothill Blvd. continuing on Stevens Creek Blvd. once the foothills are reached. Turn right onto Montebello Rd., turn at first left into Picchetti Ranch Winery and OSP. The driveway will split, do take the right driveway to OSP parking lot. We will meet at the parking lot at **10am**.

### **Sun Mar 25 1pm – 9pm Field Trip Planning and Brainstorming Potluck & Edgewood Hike and Leader Training (San Mateo County)**

Ken and Dee Himes will be hosting the CNPS Field Trip Planning & Brainstorming Potluck at their home. We'll do a training hike at Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve as part of training new leaders, co-leaders, and sweeps, as well as a refresher for experienced leaders, co-leaders, and sweeps.

Space is limited and is open to CNPS MEMBERS ONLY. To **reserve your spot** and get event details, email Dee Himes at [dee4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:dee4cnps@gmail.com).

### **Sun Apr 1 10am – 4pm San Bruno Mountain State & County Park (Brisbane)**

Join Ken and Dee Himes along the Summit Loop Trail to see early flowering plants in the coastal scrub and coastal grassland plant communities.

The hike will be about 4 miles long with 800 feet in elevation changes. Dress warmly in layers as it can be very windy, and wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots. Hiking poles are recommended. Bring snacks, a sack lunch, and liquids for the day. Heavy rain cancels. For more info. call Ken at (650) 591-8560 or email Dee at [dee4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:dee4cnps@gmail.com).

**Directions:** From Hwy. 101 northbound, take the Old Bayshore/Brisbane exit and proceed north on Old Bayshore, past the town of Brisbane. Make a left turn onto Guadalupe Cyn. Pkwy., and follow it uphill (west) about a mile and a half to the park entrance. We will meet at the parking lot just beyond the entrance kiosk. There is a \$6 day use/parking fee.

### **Sun Apr 8 10am – 4pm Sweeney Ridge (San Bruno)**

Join co-leaders Ken Himes and Elan Alford for a hike in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area along Sweeney Ridge, the ridge from where Gaspar de Portola viewed San Francisco Bay on November 4, 1769. Plants of the coastal scrub community will be featured. It should be interesting to compare the coastal scrub habitat with the habitat on the preceding week's hike at San Bruno Mountain.

There will be a gain/loss of 600 feet during our 6-mile hike along the ridge. Wear layers as windy and cool conditions could occur. Bring lunch and liquids. For more information call Ken at (650) 591-8560, or email Elan at [elan.reine@gmail.com](mailto:elan.reine@gmail.com)

**Directions:** Take I-280 north to Skyline Blvd. (Hwy 35) and proceed north on Hwy 35 to Sneath Lane. Turn left onto Sneath Lane and proceed two miles to the Sneath Lane trailhead parking lot. We will then conduct a car shuttle for a one-way hike along the ridge, and return to the Sneath Lane trailhead.

### **Sun Apr 29 9am-2pm Cañada de los Osos Ecological Reserve (Gilroy)**

Join trip leader Lars Rosengreen, curator of the Carl W. Sharsmith Herbarium at San Jose State University, in a tour of Cañada de los Osos Ecological Reserve. The 5,800-acre reserve has a mix of annual grassland, oak woodland, riparian, and chaparral plant communities with a large number of springs and ponds. Late April is prime wildflower season in the reserve and there should be plenty of flowers to see and enjoy.

CDLOER is managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and is not normally open to the public. We will explore different areas of the reserve both on foot and



by truck (depending on road conditions) and also learn about some of the ongoing restoration and research projects being conducted there.

Space is limited to 15 – 20 people, for CNPS MEMBERS ONLY, and registration is required to attend. For more information and to **reserve your spot**, please email Lars at [lars.rosengreen@sjsu.edu](mailto:lars.rosengreen@sjsu.edu).

**Upcoming Field Trips – Save the Dates!**

Date	Where	Leaders
April 14	Loma Fire burn area	TBD
May 5	Wilder Ranch State Park	Sheila Colby
May 6	Alum Rock Park	Stephen Rosenthal
May 25 – 28	Lava Beds NM	Ken & Dee Himes, Patricia Evans

**CONSERVATION CONFERENCE**

**2018 CNPS Conservation Conference a Resounding Success!**

Every three years, CNPS holds a conference to bring together people who are interested in the conservation of California native plants and habitats. The conference this year in Los Angeles was a resounding success!

The conference included talks, panels, and posters presented by a number of our Chapter members and associates, including Élan Alford, Christal Niederer, Cindy Roessler, Janell Hillman, Don Thomas, Ben Carter, Winslow Briggs, Michelle Geary, and Bruce Homer-Smith. Stuart Weiss was the conference’s Friday night banquet speaker, and gave a wonderful talk on the conservation and ecology of Coyote Ridge and the Bay checkerspot butterfly. Chapter Board members Vivian Neou and Stephen Buckhout presented a poster on our nursery renovation project, and Chapter T-shirts and aprons designed by Jean Struthers were sold in the conference bookstore.

Thanks to everyone involved in organizing this inspiring event!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*News and Activities from Other Organizations*

**Coastal Wildflower Day  
Saturday, April 14 from 10am - 4pm  
Francis State Beach,  
95 Kelly Ave., Half Moon Bay**

Celebrate California Native Plant Week at the Coastal Wildflower Day celebration in Half Moon Bay. Enjoy fun activities, live music, guided native plant and bird walks, games and crafts for families, and native plants for sale.

Visit the native plant nursery and go on a wildflower walk to see the dune restoration on site at Half Moon Bay State Beach.



Bike or walk in for free, or park on site for \$10. Bring family, friends and a picnic lunch, then stay all day. There will also be a food truck on site. For more information visit [coastalwildflowerday.org](http://coastalwildflowerday.org) or contact Toni Corelli at [corelli@coastside.net](mailto:corelli@coastside.net) or (650) 726-0689.

**Save a Tree!**

CNPS members can log in to [support.cnps.org](http://support.cnps.org) and edit their profile to receive this newsletter by email only. Look for “Chapter Newsletter” near the bottom of “My Profile.”

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

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

<p><b>DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT <i>BLAZING STAR</i></b></p> <p><b>Saturday, April 7, 2018</b></p> <p><b>Email: <a href="mailto:carol.mattsson@gmail.com">carol.mattsson@gmail.com</a></b>  <b>Phone: (408) 255-3767</b></p>
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Santa Clara Valley Chapter California Native Plant Society  
3921 East Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303



## Join CNPS Today!

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

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

*Membership level (check one):*

- \$45 Individual  
 \$75 Family  
 \$100 Plant Lover  
 \$300 Patron  
 \$600 Benefactor  
 \$1500 Mariposa Lily  
 \$25 Student/Limited Income

*Areas of interest:*

- Advocacy  
 Botany  
 Conservation  
 Education  
 Field Trips  
 Gardening  
 Plant ID

*Donations above the membership level are gratefully accepted.*

*Dues and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail it with this form to:*

CNPS Membership, 2707 K Street Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816 • 916-447-2677 • fax 916-447-2727

## FIRST-CLASS

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

**Feb 23 Fri** KWN Taxonomy Basics class (5)  
**Mar 1-5** Desert field trip (7)  
**Mar 3 Sat** Lichen walk Pedro Point Headlands (7)  
**Mar 6 Thu** Conservation Committee meeting (6)  
**Mar 7 Wed** Monthly Member Plant Sale (3)  
**Mar 10 Sat** Start of Edgewood Walks (flyer)  
**Mar 11 Sun** Shooting stars Grant Ranch field trip (7)  
**Mar 13 Tue** GWN – Fab Four – Veilleux (3)  
**Mar 16 Fri** **General Meeting – Fire Recovery** (1)  
**Mar 18 Sun** Bird & plant walk Lake Cunningham (7)  
**Mar 22 Thu** Picchetti Ranch field trip (7)  
**Mar 23 Fri** Keying with Natives (5)  
**Mar 25 Sun** Field trip planning & training potluck (8)  
**Mar 28 Wed** GWN – All-Stars – Schoenenberger (4)  
**Apr 1 Sun** San Bruno Mountain field trip (8)  
**Apr 2 Mon** GWN – Lose Your Lawn – Luna (4)  
**Apr 4 Wed** Monthly Member Plant Sale (3)  
**Apr 5 Thu** NGGT volunteer signups due (3)

**Apr 7 Sat** Newsletter submittal deadline (9)  
**Apr 7-8** **Going Native Garden Tour** (flyer + p. 3)  
**Apr 8 Sun** Sweeney Ridge field trip (8)  
**Apr 10 Tue** GWN – Aesthetic Pruning – Cohen (4)  
**Apr 10 Tue** Conservation Committee meeting (6)  
**Apr 14 Sat** **Coastal Wildflower Day** (9)  
**Apr 14 Sat** Loma Fire field trip (2, 9)  
**Apr 19 Thu** GWN – Easy-to-Grow – Osaka (4)  
**Apr 20 Fri** Keying with Natives (5)  
**Apr 25 Wed** GWN – Virtual Tour – Rosenthal (5)  
**Apr 26 Thu** **Newsletter Mailing Party - 10am PCC**  
**Apr 28 Sat** **Wildflower Show** (1)  
**Apr 28 Sat** GWN – Easy-to-Grow – Osaka (4)  
**Apr 29 Sun** Cañada de los Osos field trip (8)  
**Mon & 3rd Sat** Alum Rock Weeding (6)  
**Wed** Nursery work sessions (3)  
**Wed 5:30pm, Fri 9am** Edgewood Weed Warriors (6)  
**Sat** Lake Cunningham workdays (6)

The next Chapter Board meetings will be **Thursdays, March 8** (special) and **April 12** (general / newsletter) **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.  
For more information contact Madeline Morrow at [madelinemorrow@earthlink.net](mailto:madelinemorrow@earthlink.net).

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The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working with its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding and to preserve the rich heritage of the native flora for future generations. Membership is open to all. Individual memberships are \$45.00 per year. If you have questions about your newsletter subscription, please contact **[membership@cnps-scv.org](mailto:membership@cnps-scv.org)**. Address changes may be submitted to **[cnps@cnps.org](mailto:cnps@cnps.org)**; please put "member address change" in the subject line.

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The *Blazing Star* web address: [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org). Acknowledgement: Anne Warren for the *Blazing Star* logo. Printed on recycled paper.

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