



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

*November-December 2010*

## **ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK**

**Saturday, November 13th at 6:00 PM**  
**Shoup Garden House,**  
**400 University Avenue, Los Altos**

**Topic: Invasive Species Control –  
Lessons Learned in the Field**  
**Speaker: Rick Austin**

Join us for one of our favorite get-togethers of the year: our annual potluck dinner and election meeting, followed by a talk on invasive species control.

We will hear from Rick Austin, Vegetation Programs Specialist with the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Mr. Austin's background is in revegetation, invasive species control, and regulatory issues surrounding vegetation management. He has been designing and implementing weed control programs for many years and will share his experience in both what to do and what not to do.

We need to develop realistic expectations for invasive species control projects. The best control strategies look at sites holistically rather than as single-species control efforts. Mr. Austin will show us how to assess revegetation potential and create "low tech" revegetation strategies geared for success. Successful strategies include partnering with other entities (including Mother Nature), and planning for long term management of control sites.

Mr. Austin brings 17 years of experience at the Santa Clara Valley Water District. He is also a CA licensed Pest Control Advisor, and has a B.S. in Plant Science from CSU Fresno. Whether you're an occasional weeder or advising on habitat restoration, his talk is sure to inspire!

**The evening begins at 6pm with our annual potluck.** Bring your favorite dish, whether it be a salad, main dish, dessert, or beverage; it always works out that we have just

the right amount of everything! Also, be sure to bring plates, drinking glasses, and eating utensils for yourself, as well as a bag in which to take home unwashed dishes.

We will also have a **silent auction** of books and other items. If you have extra books in fair to good condition, or other items to donate, please put your items in a bag labeled "CNPS Auction" and drop them off at our office at the PCC at 3921 E. Bayshore Rd. in Palo Alto **before November 12**. We need lead time for volunteers to properly label and price the items to be sold.

If you can help with setup, please arrive at around **5pm** to set up chairs and tables. We will begin eating at **6pm** and the program will start at **7pm**. We will also need help with clean-up at the end of the evening.

**Directions:** From **I-280** take the El Monte exit east. Turn left (north) on University Ave. The Garden House is about a quarter mile ahead on the left (west) side of the street. From **Hwy. 101**, take the San Antonio exit west/south. Then turn right on Main St. in Los Altos (3rd stoplight after crossing El Camino Real). Cross Foothill Expressway and turn left immediately on to University Ave. The Garden House is a short distance ahead on the right.

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Chapter President Kevin Bryant at [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net) or (408) 353-8824.

## **Chapter Annual Election**

The annual potluck is also the time to elect our Chapter officers for the coming year. Following is the slate put forth by the nominating committee:

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| President           | Arvind Kumar        |
| Vice President      | Toni Gregorio-Bunch |
| Treasurer           | Julie Scherer       |
| Recording Secretary | OPEN                |
| Past President      | Kevin Bryant        |

All Chapter members may run for office -- nominations may also be made from the floor at the potluck.

Many thanks go to outgoing President **Kevin Bryant**, who has served the Chapter so well in the position for four years, following two years as Vice President. During the last two years Kevin has also held the elected state position of Chapter Council Chair, as well as participating in just about all of our Chapter committees and activities. Kevin will continue on the Chapter's Executive Committee as Past President, and as the Chapter representative to the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan Stakeholder Group. We also look forward to joining Kevin on future field trips, gardening talks, weeding parties, and other adventures!

Thanks to outgoing Recording Secretary **Leighton Nakata** for his excellent work over the past two years in a very demanding job. We also very much appreciate Leighton's help with the creation and update of the Chapter's Facebook page!

The Nomination & Leadership Committee also thanks all the officers and chairs who served this year. We look forward to recruiting more of our members to participate in committees and on the Board. Currently, we are looking for interested people for new committees being formed for **school gardens, publicity, and next year's Wildflower Show**. For more information, contact Arvind Kumar at [arvind.kumar@cnps.org](mailto:arvind.kumar@cnps.org).

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### **CNPS-SCV Has a New Website!**

We're pleased to announce that the chapter has a new website, which you can see now at [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org). The website committee, including Stephen Rosenthal, Diana Stanley, and Arvind Kumar, has been working for some time on transferring the content from our old site and adding updates and new features. The site will be

maintained by the committee and Chapter chairs, who will have the ability to add content and updates.

We want to extend many, many thanks to our outgoing Webmaster, **John Rawlings**, who has been diligently keeping the website updated since 1998! John also created the original website, following several years of service to the chapter as editor of the Blazing Star. We are also grateful for the web hosting service that Stanford University has provided for the past 12 years. Thanks John!

### **Fall Native Plant Sale a Success**

Our fall native plant sale at Hidden Villa October 16 turned out to be a lovely day, thanks to our customers, volunteers,

and the warm weather. Many buyers got just the plants they wanted, though as usual the woolly blue-curly sold out in the first 10 minutes. Besides our Chapter selling plants from our nursery, Acterra displayed plants for sale, arranged by habitat. The day was wonderfully cool after a week of high 80's for our special nursery workdays the week before the sale.



Visitors check out plants for sale at Chapter nursery October 16, 2010

*Stephen Rosenthal*

There are still some great plants left. If you missed out on the sale please visit the nursery to purchase plants during any of our **Wednesday workdays (noon-3pm) through the end of November**. Please pay by check. Thanks to all who volunteered -- parking, tag writing, cashiering, plant advising, and especially to Vicki Silvas-Young and her helpers who provided an outstanding lunch for the volunteers.

Help us prepare for next spring's plant sale: 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 Struthers at (650) 941-2586 or [JeanStruthers@att.net](mailto:JeanStruthers@att.net); or Ray Deutsch at (650) 365-6136 or [henrymarsh@yahoo.com](mailto: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 parking lot to your right. The Native Plant Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the visitor center.

## Gardening with Natives:

### Busy Year Ends With Three Programs

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes a mix of native landscape designers and 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).

So far in 2010, GWN offered nearly 40 free talks at over 15 different public libraries, from Brisbane to Almaden, Fremont to Half Moon Bay, and everywhere in between. The year concludes with three special programs in Palo Alto, Fremont, and San Carlos. Attend these talks to expand and deepen your knowledge of native plants in the garden, and their role in a healthy ecosystem. Come early to meet and exchange notes with like-minded people. 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. To volunteer to bring similar programming to a library near you, contact [arvind.kumar@cnps.org](mailto:arvind.kumar@cnps.org).

**Thursday, November 4, 7-9pm: Seed & Cutting Exchange, followed by a talk: Propagation Methods by Pete Veilleux**

Bring native plant seeds and cuttings from your garden to show and tell and share, and take something new home. The offerings range from easy-to-grow to hard-to-find. Don't have any to share? No problem – there is usually enough for all, and then some.

The exchange is followed by a talk by **Pete Veilleux** of East Bay Wilds. What is the best time of year to propagate from cuttings? Does rooting hormone really make a difference? Come and find out at the year's most fun and informal meeting. **Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC).**

**Directions to the PCC:** (3921 E. Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto.) From Hwy. 101, take the San Antonio North exit, get

immediately into the left-hand turn lane, and turn LEFT onto East Bayshore. This will curve around to the left, then right. Turn right on Corporation Way. Then turn into the first driveway on your left, which leads to the PCC parking lot.

**Monday, November 8, 7-8:30pm  
Garden Design Using Native Plants  
A talk by Peigi Duvall**

How does one go about creating an aesthetically pleasing native plant garden? How does one select the right plant for the right space? How does one place plants around existing paths, patios, decks, birdbaths, and water features?

Learn tips and techniques from landscape designer **Peigi Duvall** who teaches at Stanford Continuing Studies and who led the CNPS Horticulture Program for five years. Her gardens have been featured on the Going Native Garden Tour. **Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd, Fremont. (510) 745-1401.**

**Thursday, December 2, 7-8:30pm  
A Thriving Ecosystem in Your Garden  
A talk by Jim Howard**

Convert your yard into beautiful native wildlife habitat and watch how quickly the critters make it their favorite spot! It's easy and inexpensive to provide food, water, and shelter for native insects and birds. This presentation shows great photos of a local backyard restoration project, and shares some important lessons for the beginning habitat gardener.

**Jim Howard** is the District Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in San Mateo County. He has degrees in Environmental Management and Forest Management. **San Carlos Library, 610 Elm Street, San Carlos. (650) 591-0341x237.**

### Native Hill - Pruning Workshop a Success

Sherri Osaka, a member of the Gardening with Natives Steering Committee, sends us this report from Native Hill, a California native plant garden in Los Altos:

Just a quick note about the wonderfully successful GWN Pruning Workshop October 9 at Foothill College's Native Hill. About 30 people showed up, including the five instructors. The "students" said they really learned a lot and got to practice under the watchful eyes of experienced maintenance professionals. Below is a comment from one of the attendees.



*We filled an entire dumpster with green waste and then some, and the garden looked much improved after we left.*

This event would not have been as successful without our wonderful "instructors," so a big THANK YOU goes out to:

Agi Kehoe -- Agi Kehoe Landscaping  
Dee Wong -- The Village Gardener  
Sergio Mendoza -- The Village Gardener  
Stephanie Curtis -- Curtis Horticulture  
Julia Powers -- Julia Powers Landscape Services



Sherrri Osaka

Foothill College biology instructor Gillian Schultz next to dumpster full of prunings from GWN pruning workshop

I also want to thank Gillian Schultz, biology instructor at Foothill College, for helping to organize this event, providing sodas, and getting the all important dumpster. She spent the morning with us and is one of the main reasons this event was so successful. She also works regularly with some of her students to tend the garden and will be mulching it soon.

There is still more to learn and more to do, so we will be setting up more workdays. The next **workday** will be **Friday, November 19, from 9am to 1pm**, for planting and mulching.

If you would like to receive notification of upcoming workshops and workdays please email Patrick Pizzo, at [ppizzo@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:ppizzo@email.sjsu.edu). For more information, please contact Sherrri Osaka at [sdosaka@sustainable-landscape.com](mailto:sdosaka@sustainable-landscape.com) or (408) 264-7427; or Gillian Schultz at

[schultzgillian@foothill.edu](mailto:schultzgillian@foothill.edu) or (650) 949-7292; or Lisa Schultheis at [schultheislisa@foothill.edu](mailto:schultheislisa@foothill.edu) or (650) 949-7780.

## Keying with Natives

Join other native plant enthusiasts in a fun and educational atmosphere, as we hone our skills at plant identification (aka "keying"). We meet **6:30pm-8:30pm**, usually on the last Friday of each month. For November and December we meet on the 2nd Friday of the month.

Upcoming meetings are **Fridays, November 12 and December 10** at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) in Palo Alto. For details, contact David "Tex" Houston at [tex009@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tex009@sbcglobal.net) or Sally Casey at (408) 377-0989.

## Gardens Sought for Going Native Garden Tour

The Going Native Garden Tour scheduled for Sunday, April 17, 2011, is looking for gardens. Participating gardens provide habitat for wildlife, are water conserving, and are free of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers. Gardens must be located in Santa Clara County or San Mateo County, and contain 50% or more California native plants. To submit your garden, visit [www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org](http://www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org). The **submittal deadline is January 15**. For more info., email [gardens@goingnativegardentour.org](mailto:gardens@goingnativegardentour.org).

## 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 and special Saturday morning sessions will resume next spring. Our last **Wednesday evening weeding session** will be at **5:30pm on November 3**.

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).

## 2010 FIELD TRIP PLANNING MEETING

### **Tue Nov 16 6:30pm - PCC Palo Alto**

We don't have any field trips scheduled for the rest of the year, so let's start lining up the spring trips for 2011! Please bring ideas of places to visit to our planning meeting. Everyone is welcome: field trip participants, leaders, future leaders and leader assistants.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to offer some suggestions or have questions, please feel free to contact Carolyn Dorsch, Field Trip Chair. Phone (650) 322-0955 (eves.) or email [cdorsch1@aol.com](mailto:cdorsch1@aol.com).

### **Save the Date! Saturday, February 19, 2011 California Native Plant Symposium**

Our Chapter is organizing a symposium entitled **California Gardens: Beauty & Sustainability with Native Plants**. Speakers will include:

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Bart O'Brien | Bernard Trainor  |
| David Fross  | Dr. Glenn Keator |
| Judith Lowry | Nevin Smith      |
| Paul Kephart |                  |

The symposium will be hosted by the Foothill College Environmental Horticulture Department. For more information or to volunteer, visit [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org) or contact [symposium@cnps-scv.org](mailto:symposium@cnps-scv.org) or (650) 260-3450.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*News and Activities from Other Organizations*

### **Wayne Roderick Lecture Series**

The Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Berkeley invites everyone to attend lectures this winter in the popular Wayne Roderick Lecture series.

The lectures are free to the public, and are held Saturday mornings at 10:30. Come early, as seating is limited. Here are the talks scheduled for November and December:

| <b>Nov-Dec 2010 Wayne Roderick Lectures</b> |   |
|---|---|
| Nov. 6                                      | Plant hunting on the Trinity ultramafic sheet of Mt. Eddy, Siskiyou County: the hits just keep comin' – Steve Edwards |
| Nov. 13                                     | A taste of the old Southwest, spring 2010 in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas – Bob Case                                |
| Nov. 20                                     | Cloud forests of Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico – Ted Kipping   |

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Nov. 27 | Ecology of ice age megafauna and the first Americans, including new developments – Steve Edwards |
| Dec. 4  | Flora of the New Mexico Rockies – Dick O'Donnell   |
| Dec. 11 | California Indian baskets – new findings in anthropology and botany – Ralph Shanks               |
| Dec. 18 | Images from the flora of the arid lands east of the Sierran crest – Aaron Schusteff              |

The talks continue through February 2011. The garden is at the intersection of Wildcat Canyon Rd. & South Park Dr., Berkeley, CA 94701.

For more information, please visit [www.ebparks.org/parks/vc/botanic\\_garden](http://www.ebparks.org/parks/vc/botanic_garden) or [www.nativeplants.org](http://www.nativeplants.org), or call (510) 544-3169 or email [bgarden@ebparks.org](mailto:bgarden@ebparks.org).

## CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2010

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

| <b>Title</b>               | <b>Name</b>         | <b>Phone</b>   | <b>Email</b>   |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>President</b>           | Kevin Bryant        | (408) 348-9470 | <a href="mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net">mtngreen17@verizon.net</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> | Leighton Nakata     | (650) 947-9989 | <a href="mailto:LeightonNakata@yahoo.com">LeightonNakata@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>      | Judy Fenerty        | (408) 655-3493 | <a href="mailto:judy@fenerty.com">judy@fenerty.com</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, December 4, 2010**

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

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

(page # in parentheses)

- Nov 4 Thu GWN - seed exchange + Veilleux (3)
- Nov 8 Mon GWN - Garden Design - Duvall (3)
- Nov 12 Fri Keying with Natives (4)
- Nov 12 Fri Book donation deadline (1)
- Nov 13 Sat Annual meeting and potluck (1)
- Nov 16 Tue Field trip planning meeting (5)
- Nov 19 Fri Native Hill workday (4)

- Dec 2 Thu GWN - Garden Ecosystem - Howard (3)
- Dec 4 Sat Newsletter deadline (5)
- Dec 9 Thu Chapter Board meeting
- Dec 10 Fri Keying with Natives (4)
- Wed afts Nursery work sessions (2)
- Fri morns Edgewood Park weeding (5)

The next Chapter Board meeting will be **Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 pm at Jean Struthers' house.**  
It will be our annual budget meeting.

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)  
Acknowledgement: Anne Warren for the *Blazing Star* logo. Printed on recycled paper.

**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)*



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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*

Santa Clara Valley Chapter  
California Native Plant Society  
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