



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Dear Friends,

Since 1999, the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has given scholarships to graduate students whose research is likely to make a positive impact on the local botany and ecology. CNPS uses these scholarships to encourage students to choose thesis topics that relate to our local flora. These scholarships help foster a new generation of scientists interested in preserving what is left of Santa Clara and San Mateo County's plants, butterflies, and birds.



The sad reality today is that only a small percentage of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties retain their native vegetation. If our grandchildren are to ever know these ancient lands, we have to work fast to preserve what is left and educate ourselves quickly as more species of plants, butterflies, moths, bees, and beetles vanish due to invasive plants and development.

Since 1965, CNPS, a 501(c)3 organization, has worked to protect California's native plant heritage. For example, local CNPS efforts have helped to save two areas: Edgewood Preserve in San Mateo County and Coyote Ridge Preserve in Santa Clara County. These two areas have unique serpentine soils and the plants that have evolved here are found nowhere else on Earth. The Bay Checkerspot Butterfly that depends on Serpentine plants was consequently saved as well. An understanding of our unique diversity is only possible by educating a new generation of scientists in the local ecology.

Our fundraising goal is \$75,000, which will fund three scholarships for the next 12-14 years. We deeply appreciate all donations. The native plants of California are unlike any other in the world; we hope you will consider funding this scholarship program.

A check written to "CNPS", with a notation to "SCV Ed. Scholarship" may be mailed directly to the address below. Company matching programs are welcome. Thank you for your support!

I can be reached at radhika@thekkath.org or (650) 996-0224 (Cell).

Sincerely,

Radhika Thekkath

Executive Board Member, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, CNPS

Protecting California's native flora since 1965

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