



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

January-February 2020

MEMBERS' NIGHT AND GENERAL MEETING

Friday, January 24 at 7:30 PM
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Topic: Members' Night Slide Show
Native Plants and Places in 2019

In this annual tradition, Chapter members share photos of notable plants and places they have visited in 2019. Abundant rain and mountain snow created a superbloom this spring that some say was the best ever. Whether you captured a spring wildflower display or photographed native plants in your favorite spots later on in the year, please consider showing your images and/or stories with others at this fun event. Even if you don't have any photos to share, join us for a midwinter celebration of the beauty and tenacity of native plants and their habitats.



Cynthia Gingerich

Bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*) photographed at the GNGT June 2019 volunteer Garden Preview (#CedarMeadow_GNGT). Learn more on page 5.

If you'd like to display your photos, please **RSVP by Sunday, January 19** by emailing Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@gmail.com or calling (408) 348-9470; and let him know about the materials you'd like to share from

2019. Time allotted per person will depend on how many participants RSVP.

CNPS General Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Chapter President Vivian Neou at president@cnps-scv.org or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

Directions: From Foothill Expy., travel ½ mile on San Antonio Rd. towards the Bay, cross Hillview and turn right into the driveway; the 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Vivian Neou, Chapter President for 2020

My first year as Chapter president has gone by quickly. We have an outstanding Chapter and it's been a challenge to keep up with all of our activities. The Native Plant Horticultural Symposium in September was one of the year's highlights. Thanks to an anonymous donor, Doug Tallamy, the author of *Bringing Nature Home*, was the symposium's keynote speaker. The symposium was sold out weeks in advance with attendees from all over the state. It was an inspiring event.

We also had our first Gardening with Natives Potluck Social, which provided an opportunity for beginning and experienced native plant gardeners to share great food along with their experiences and advice.

Field trips: There were over 25 field trips including several backpacking and overnight trips. The Beginner's Bird and Plant Identification Walk series continued to introduce many new people to native plants, and our away trips provided wonderful native plant immersion experiences for beginners and experts alike.

Conservation: The big win this year was the purchase of approximately 1,000 acres of Northern Coyote Valley by the City of San Jose and the Peninsula Open Space Trust. We're proud to have been part of the multi-decade effort that made this possible. We also had a rare plant treasure hunt training and continued to have weekly workdays at three restoration sites.

Wildflower Show: Our fabulous show continues to grow and improve. Our wonderful partnership with West Valley College is a big part of the show's success. From the gorgeous flower displays to the live music to the great vendors and the wonderful lectures, the show had something for everyone.

Gardening With Natives (GWN): Almost 40 talks were held at libraries across two counties. Over 800 people attended the talks with around a quarter of the audience new to CNPS.

Going Native Garden Tour: The tour was held over the first weekend in May in conjunction with Master Gardeners. As usual, it was a popular activity with over 5,400 visits across the 53 gardens on the tour.

Scholarship program: Three scholarships were granted to excellent candidates.

Nursery: The nursery is the primary source of funds for our Chapter. It was another busy year for the nursery, which grew almost 3,000 plants for twelve sales.

Photography Group: This group had several outings to practice macro photography with mobile phones. They also share their photos of the week in their online forum.

I'm looking forward to another great year along with our new Vice President, Johanna Kwan. Please don't hesitate to contact either of us with your ideas and questions: president@cnps-scv.org and 1calnative@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERING

Recognizing Outstanding Volunteers

The CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter is fortunate to have many outstanding volunteers who contribute to the success and vibrancy of our Chapter. Indeed, this has been a hallmark of our Chapter since its inception. Therefore, we are pleased to announce that the Outstanding Volunteer Award was established this year, to be given on an annual basis at the November Members' Potluck.

This award is intended to recognize a volunteer who has gone above and beyond in their contributions to the Chapter, and who has volunteered for at least one Chapter event in the current calendar year. Further, we think that the Chapter members most qualified to recognize such effort in their fellow members, are all of us! To accomplish this, we invite you to submit candidates for this award at any time of the year.

You may submit your nominations at forms.gle/LqLxYR9kxEZgLeoq7. You may also connect to this link via our Chapter website at www.cnps-scv.org/.

Have questions or need help with the nomination process? Contact any Chapter board member or send email to president@cnps-scv.org.

2019 Outstanding Volunteer Award

If you've attended one or more of our Chapter's larger annual events over the past 10 years, you can join us in thanking **Toni Gregorio-Bunch** for coordinating and managing almost everything: Vice President for three terms, volunteer recruiter and coordinator too many times to count, Outreach Coordinator and Social Media Chair. For the past two years she has been the co-coordinator of our Chapter's Wildflower Show and most recently, managed the Fall Plant Sale.

Even when she is not coordinating an event, she shows up to help: from tabling at many local outreach events, staffing plant sales and the Symposium, and showing off her buckwheat (and more) garden on the Going Native Garden Tour – she's 'been there' for us. And this year, with our phenomenally successful Wildflower Show and Fall Plant Sale, we're delighted to announce Toni as the inaugural recipient of our Outstanding Volunteer Award. Congratulations Toni!

We also thank Emily Chin for the beautiful artwork she created for Toni's award certificate.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

CNPS SCV Nursery at Hidden Villa

Come help propagate plants for our future plant sales by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions, **every Wednesday from 11am to 2pm**. We'll also hold work sessions during the **member sale days** listed below.

Bring garden gloves, sunhat, liquids 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.

The next **Monthly Member Sales** will be held on **Sun., Jan. 12 and Sat., Feb. 8, from 11am to 2pm.**

An inventory of available plants will be updated before each sale. Visit www.cnps-scv.org and go to Events, then Plant Sale.

Directions: Hidden Villa is located at 26870 Moody Road west of Foothill College. From I-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.

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 information about the talk listed below and additional January and February GWN talks, please see the listings on Meetup and in the GWN discussion forum. You can see the Chapter's Meetup events, including field trips, by visiting www.cnps-scv.org/ and clicking "CNPS-SCV Meetup" from the main menu. You may sign up to receive GWN forum emails using the form on the GWN page, www.cnps-scv.org/gwn.

Container Gardening with California Native Plants

Wednesday, January 29, 7-8:30 PM, Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga (408) 867-6126

Dress up the smallest of spaces using native plants in containers. Containers allow you to provide exactly the

right soil, sun, and drainage conditions for those natives that you've always wanted to grow. See how creative you can be recycling pots and combining different textures and color for an ever-changing garden display.

GWN programs are made possible by co-sponsoring libraries and volunteers who help with program logistics. If you would like to help with a program at a library near you, please email gwn@cnps-scv.org.

Keying with Natives

Join us as we learn and practice methods of identifying the native plants of our region (aka keying). We use the current edition of *The Jepson Manual* as well as other plant guides, of which we have copies to share. Bring your own favorite guide, a hand lens and samples of plants that you want to ID. Microscopes will also be available.

The upcoming meeting dates are **Fridays, December 27, January 17 and February 28, from 6:30 - 8:30pm.** Due to the paucity of flowers in winter, we are planning on looking at berries and other winter color for our December meeting. In January we will have a reprise of our "Oaks of the Bay Area" session and in February we will look at "Conifers of the Bay Area."

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

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

Photography Group

Our Photography Group is a great place to meet other native plant enthusiasts while improving your photographic skills and learning more about our native plants. We announce activities to our online discussion group (groups.io/g/CNPS-SCV-Photography), so if you'd like to receive updates, please join via the web interface or by email. Learn more by visiting the Photo Group page at our website: www.cnps-scv.org/field-trips/336-photography.



Cynthia Gingerich
Floral arrangement of native plants from the garden include November bloomers goldenrod, fuschia, and toyon berries. Learn more on page 4.

GOING NATIVE GARDEN TOUR

Native Plants for the Vase

By Richard Hayden, Garden Director at the Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden, Palo Alto

To say that CNPS members are passionate about native plants would be an understatement, so it comes as no surprise that there is a growing interest in bringing native plants indoors from the garden through fabulous floral and foliage arrangements. Almost any native can be cut and made into an arrangement. Here are a few of my favorites that have some staying power and beautiful foliage, flowers, seed heads or fruits.

For flowers you can't beat the *Clarkias*, elegant clarkia (*C. unguiculata*), which adds a great vertical interest, and farewell-to-spring (*C. amoena*) are two of my favorites; but any clarkia will make a long-lasting burst of color. Other favorite flowers include bush and annual lupines (*Lupinus* spp.), common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*), penstemons (*Penstemon* spp.), California fuchsia (*Epilobium* spp.) and coral bells and island alumroot (*Heuchera* spp.).

A great shrub for both flowers and foliage, island pitcher sage (*Lepechinia fragrans 'El Tigre'*) has large lavender bell-shaped flowers appearing at the ends of stems clothed with large, fuzzy, grey-green leaves.

Monkeyflowers (*Erythranthe* spp. and *Diplacus* spp.) come in a variety of colors and have considerable lasting power in arrangements. Both of these shrubs can require some pruning to keep them compact and playing well with others in the garden, so by cutting them for arrangements you're tackling a garden task at the same time as bringing a little beauty indoors!

For fantastic foliage you can't beat sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*), with glossy leaves and interesting flower buds as well. Coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) lends a finer and brighter green texture to arrangements, and our native oaks, especially Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) will make for

great foliage interest. Ferns are a great addition for vertical interest and a lush look, especially giant chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*) and I'm especially fond of grasses in arrangements and canyon prince wild rye (*Elymus condensatus* 'Canyon Prince') is hands down my favorite with striking blue-green foliage and chartreuse-tinged inflorescences that age to tan.

For interesting berries look no further than toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), which lends a winter seasonal aspect with red berries and rich green foliage, but pick them early in the season so that they are more apt to stay attached. For interesting seed heads try matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*). Although the large white flowers are striking, they can be short-lived in the vase.

So get creative, plant natives for cutting in your garden and bring a little native nature indoors!



Cynthia Gingerich
Native plants arranged into an October bouquet include monkeyflower blossoms and bee's bliss sage leaves.

Garden Previews: GNGT Volunteer's Best Reward

By Cynthia Gingerich, GNGT volunteer

May 2019 was my first time volunteering on our Chapter's Going Native Garden Tour. I learned that volunteers are invited to tour a different garden about every month. These garden previews offer volunteers and host gardeners an opportunity to see native plant gardens at different times of the year in a relaxed, intimate setting. It's a reward for volunteering your time and/or garden.

I attended five of the nine garden previews offered. The gardens ranged in age from 20 to three years old. Whether we attend a preview to learn about plants, garden design, or habitat, it's impossible not to be inspired by the beauty of the plants themselves.

The small group attending the preview tour, led by the homeowner (and sometimes the designer), for about an hour, provides more opportunities to ask questions than within the larger group of visitors on tour day.

Many homeowners on the GNGT leave plant identification labels in their gardens year round, educating passersby and neighbors alike. During a preview, some homeowners also display photos, slideshows and blueprints showing the

before, during and after of their native plants installation so we can see the progression of both the design and the growth of the plants over seasons and years.



Cynthia Gingerich

GNGT Volunteers enjoy a garden preview in San Jose, June 2019 (#CedarMeadow_GNGT).

The Going Native Garden Tour is organized and operated by community volunteers who work a 3-hour shift at one of the gardens on tour day either as a docent or as a greeter. Other volunteers work on the steering committee that plans and coordinates tour activities.

More information may be found at gngt.org, including photos and plants lists for 50+ tour gardens and an application to volunteer on the **next tour days, May 2 and 3, 2020**. Sign up to be a volunteer soon and you'll be able to attend previews that showcase winter and early spring plants.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Committee

Our Chapter's conservation committee will be meeting on **Tuesdays, January 7 and February 11 at 7:30pm** at the PCC Library in Palo Alto.

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

Rare Plant Committee Meeting January 21

We invite you to join the rare plant committee on **Tuesday, January 21 at 7pm** as we plan our spring activities. Amy

Patten, CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt Manager, will join us to provide guidance and help our Chapter coordinate with state CNPS rare plant program and goals. We'll talk about scouting for seed collecting and visiting historical rare plant occurrences that have not been updated in 20 years or more. Finding the historical occurrences may involve some sleuthing, such as checking out other areas with suitable habitat nearby.

Everyone is invited – no rare plant expertise is required – just bring your enthusiasm! We'll provide the pizza and salad. We'll meet at the at the Peninsula Conservation Center in Palo Alto. For **directions** to the PCC, see the previous Keying with Natives article on page 3.

Conservation Committee Activities for 2019

Our Chapter's Conservation Committee members offer this report on the last year's local conservation activities, wins and losses. The author's name and role are provided at the point where they take up the story, writing about the conservation activities they know best.

We start with Conservation Chair **Linda Ruthruff's** report, covering Coyote Valley and Valley Water.

Coyote Valley

Our most significant environmental win this year (or arguably this decade) was the purchase of approximately 1,000 acres of Northern Coyote Valley by the City of San Jose and the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). This was accomplished by decades of work by environmentalists and community groups. Our recent involvement included helping to defeat San Jose Proposition B and helping to pass San Jose Proposition C in 2018 which helped halt development in Northern Coyote Valley. In 2019 we helped to pass San Jose Proposition T which among other infrastructure benefits allocated \$50,000 for the purchase of land in Coyote Valley for preservation and green infrastructure.

How did we do this?

- Speaking at San Jose City Council meetings and meeting individually with Council members.
- Collaborating with other environmental groups on letters to the City Council.
- Multiple communications with our members by Action Alerts and articles in *The Blazing Star*.
- Handing out flyers at community events, walking precincts and phone banking.
- Attending (with members) rallies and press conferences for Saving Coyote Valley.

Valley Water Creek Encroachments

This has been a multi-year engagement as Valley Water (formerly Santa Clara Valley Water District) sought to develop a plan for resolving individual property owners' encroachments on Valley Water property with fences, structures and storage of hazardous materials. Some property owners thought they should be allowed to continue their long-term use of this public property. Our Chapter attended multiple public meetings over many years, encouraging Valley Water Directors to develop a plan of returning the property to public use for creek habitat preservation and restoration. In November 2019 the Board of Directors finally approved such a plan.

There were many additional local issues that we followed and commented on during the year. They included park land in Burlingame, Stanford's General Use Permit changes, environmental stewardship in Morgan Hill, a proposed San Jose Light Tower, habitat creation near Diridon Station and the proposed Canyon View project in Cupertino.



Stephen Rosenthal

Native plants making a comeback on restored lands at Alum Rock Park.

Conservation Committee Chair **Carolyn Dorsch** reports next, on other conservation-related activities in the Chapter, where all of the work is done outdoors!

Restoration Work at Alum Rock Park

Stephen Rosenthal (Invasive Plants – Santa Clara County chair) continued to organize weekly restoration work at Alum Rock Park. In addition to leading the regular corps of weekly volunteers, he has led several work sessions for corporate groups (Corning, Dell Computer, eBay, SAP, etc.). Steve is carrying out restoration activities at several sites in the Park, as well as at some adjacent Open Space Authority land.

Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve Restoration Activities

Paul Heiple (Invasive Plants – San Mateo County chair) leads the year-round Friday morning weed warriors, and Alf Fengler leads the Wednesday late afternoon weeders (during daylight savings time). The summer of 2019 saw a big effort to keep the twenty-year plus nemesis, yellow star-thistle (YST), from regaining a foothold in the preserve.

It had become an uncommon sighting in the park due to the decades of mowing and hand-pulling.

In June, Paul discovered YST coming up in several places throughout the park. Recognizing that he would need even more “warriors,” he notified Friends of Edgewood and the San Mateo County Parks department. More volunteers came forward to help, and the Parks department quickly came in and mowed some of the sites. This surge of extra activity was able to stop the YST from flowering and dropping seed. As Paul says, “Next year, we will see how well we blunted the invasion.”

Rare Plants and Restoration Work

Don Thomas (Rare Plants co-chair) led two restoration work parties on SFPUC lands, helping to protect the federally endangered fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*).

Don Thomas and Elan Alford (Rare Plants co-chair) also led a Rare Plant Monitoring kickoff meeting at the beginning of the year and followed up with several outings tracking rare plant populations.

2019 California Invasive Plant Council Symposium Recap

By Don Thomas (Rare Plants co-chair)

This year's California Invasive Plant Council Symposium was held in Riverside in October. The theme was *Evolving Management Perspectives in a Changing World*.

The participants and presenters were largely from Southern California. However, many of the presentations were relevant to Northern California. Stuart Weiss described the progress members of our Chapter are making to restore plant communities and conserve biodiversity at Edgewood Park. A student of Ingrid Parker of UC Santa Cruz described how stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) is undergoing evolution as it spreads northward, adjusting its flowering time to adapt to the shorter growing season. Michael Uhler of Tilden Botanic Garden related the challenge of growing rare plants in the presence of several

species of phytophthora. There was a discussion group on equity, diversity and inclusion within the conservation community.

There were several field trips to observe invasive plant management projects. Along the Santa Ana River in Riverside we learned that there is a socioeconomic dimension to invasive plant management. Working around the homeless encampments there is as much a challenge as the actual weed work. At the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, famous for its vernal pools, the Tenaja Fire burned about a third of the preserve the week before the Symposium and scorched many of the endemic Engelmann oaks. So, the field trip turned into an opportunity to discuss post-fire ecology.



Alf Fengler
Volunteers removing Italian thistle
at Edgewood May 2006

For more information contact Stephen Rosenthal at sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or (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.

On November 9th, 32 volunteers from CNPS and Silicon Valley Volunteers planted 30 more native trees at the park. Their tasks included planting, watering, staking, and caging. The area around each tree will be mulched in a follow-up session.

This event completes a three-year project begun in 2017 to line a 1/2 mile stretch of the sunny Inner Lake Path from the Marina to the Native Garden with shade-giving, habitat-friendly native trees.

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Edgewood Restoration

Help restore habitat at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, known for fabulous wildflowers and amazing diversity near Redwood City. Sturdy gloves are recommended; you might also want to bring sunscreen, water, a hat, layered clothing and wear long sleeves/pants.

We weed year-round **every Friday at 9am**. Wednesday evening sessions will resume next spring. For more information including meeting places, visit www.cnps-scvc.org/restoration/edgewood-park, contact Wednesday leader Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560 or Friday leader Paul Heiple at 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.

The project was funded by City of San Jose Parks & Rec and by BeautifySJ (2018 & 2019). This is the site of the First Day of the Season Bird and Plant ID Walks at the park led by Vicki Silvas-Young since 2016.

The tree planting project was conceived by native garden volunteer Tilak, a Tree Amigo with Our City Forest. Park Supervisor Steve Ryan approved the project as a three-year phased effort with ongoing monitoring and feedback. Bubbler irrigation at each tree, a key factor in sapling survival, has been installed and will be maintained by staff. Volunteers are responsible for weekly watering, weeding, and monitoring. The sapling survival rate is approximately 90% and most plants have doubled or tripled in size in one to two years.

Trees planted near the lake shore include riparian species such as Fremont cottonwood, white alder, box elder, and Western sycamore. Trees in upland portions of the path include valley oak and black walnut. All are winter deciduous, providing shade during the hot summer months, allowing for sunshine during winter. Native trees are adapted to the local soil and climate, and are expected to thrive on their own once the root system is established. Native trees provide unmatched habitat value to wildlife, including insects and songbirds. Cottonwoods and walnuts will also add fall color to the park.

Silicon Valley Volunteers is a local organization with 4,300 members on meetup.com. They are a key partner in the Native Garden and are the primary volunteer source for the tree planting project.

Lake Cunningham Native Garden workdays take place **every Saturday, 9am - noon**. Volunteers are invited to sign up at **lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer**. The park is located at 2305 S. White Road in San Jose. For more information, contact Arvind Kumar at **chhprahiya@yahoo.com**.

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.

Cell service is mainly restricted to cities and major highways. To find your way to an outing do not rely solely on your phone.

Check our field trips page www.cnps-scvc.org/activities/field-trips for changes and additional field trips.

Wed Jan 1 10am-1pm Año Nuevo State Preserve New Year Hike (San Mateo County)

Join us as we celebrate a Chapter tradition of welcoming the New Year with a walk and picnic at Año Nuevo State Preserve on the San Mateo County coast. Trevlyn Williams, a docent at this preserve, will lead the hike together with Chapter field trip chair Joerg Lohse.

The preserve is located south of Pescadero on Highway 1, just north of the Santa Cruz County line. This year, we will meet at **10am** in the North Whitehouse Creek Trail dirt parking lot north of the main area of Año Nuevo State Park.

We will be exploring Franklin Point which is the botanically most interesting area of the Park. We'll enjoy ocean views, **coastal prairie** including silver bur ragweed (*Ambrosia chamissonis*), California goldenbush

(*Ericameria ericoides*), coastal sagewort (*Artemisia pycnocephala*), and Argentina anserina (*Potentilla anserina*); **dune** including yellow sand verbena (*Abronia latifolia*), pink sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata*), seaside heliotrope (*Heliotropium curassavicum*) and American dunegrass (*Elymus mollis*); **sea cliff** bluff lettuce, (*Dudleya farinosa*), fleshy jaumea (*Jaumea carnosa*), raptors, songbirds and maybe marine mammals.

As this is a day to have fun at the beach with fellow Chapter members, the ending time and depth of botanical discussion may be extended depending on participants.



Arvind Kumar

Two volunteers pause to pose behind their newly planted tree at Lake Cunningham

Bring binoculars and layers of clothing for variable conditions including wind, sun and fog. Extreme weather cancels. For more information, contact Joerg at joerg4cnps@gmail.com.

Directions: NOTE NEW MEETING PLACE: We are meeting at the North Whitehouse Creek Trailhead which is across from Rossi Rd, the Costanoa Lodge turnoff. This is 3.7 miles south of Pigeon Point Rd (the lighthouse). Parking is free here. Note that there are no bathrooms at Franklin Point. Flush toilets are located at the main entrance of Año Nuevo State Park. Trevlyn will let the kiosk staff know that we are coming and there will be no charge for parking if we just use the restrooms.

Wed Jan 8 7-8:30pm Field Trip Planning Meeting at the PCC (Palo Alto)

We will be scheduling the remainder of the spring and summer field trips, plus any field trips we may want to have for the rest of the year. With more knowledge of the winter weather patterns, we may make plans for away trips. All are welcome to join in the discussion.

For **directions** to the PCC, please see the KWN article on page 3. We will be meeting in the PCC Library.

Sat Feb 15 10am–3pm Dirca Walk at Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve (Cupertino)

Join Don Thomas to see the endemic western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*) at Rancho San Antonio on the Wildcat Canyon Trail. It has been many years since we visited this, the second southernmost population of dirca. (We have *recently* seen the southernmost population at Stevens Creek County Park.)

We will also see some early emerging woodland plants in flower. There will be some moderate but slow-paced hill climbing, with a stop for lunch. As an exercise in rare plant documentation, we will fill out a CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt form. Bring lunch, water and warm clothes.

Directions: Because the parking lots at Rancho San Antonio can be expected to be full, we will meet at the Montclair Elementary School at 1160 St Joseph Ave. in Los Altos and walk the few blocks to the St. Joseph entrance of Rancho San Antonio and then walk past Deer Hollow Farm to the Wildcat Canyon Trail. For more information, please contact Don Thomas at donethomas@gmail.com or (408) 828-4044.

Sun Feb 23 10am-4pm Hazelnut Trail, Montara Mountain, San Pedro Valley County Park (Pacifica)

Join co-leaders Ken and Dee Himes on an early spring outing at San Pedro Valley County Park. We expect to see some early blooms: Montara manzanita (*Arctostaphylos montaraensis*), pink-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinsum*), fetid adder's tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii*), Oregon windflower (*Anemone oregana*) and others.

The trip will be a moderate 4- to 5-mile loop hike through coastal scrub and chaparral plus some riparian woodland. It will include an elevation gain and loss of about 600 feet and is expected to last until **4pm**. For more information contact at Dee at dee4CNPS@gmail.com or Ken at (650) 591-8560.

Directions: The Park is located at 600 Oddstad Blvd. in Pacifica. From the South Bay, take I-280 North then merge onto Skyline Blvd./CA-35 via exit 41 toward Pacifica. After 3.5 mi. turn left onto Sharp Park Rd. down towards the coast. Follow the signs for Cabrillo Hwy./CA-1 South toward Santa Cruz. Go for 2.5 mi. then turn left at Linda Mar Blvd., go for 2 more miles to where the road ends at Oddstad. Turn right and then immediately left into the park. The County Park day use fee is \$6 per vehicle, bring exact change.

We'll meet at **10am** in front of the Visitor Center. Bring water, snacks and a lunch. Very heavy rain cancels.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

Volunteer with Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

This local non-profit works to reclaim, restore and beautify Coyote Creek in San Jose with clean water, abundant wildlife, and natural beauty that everyone can enjoy. CNPS members may be interested in volunteering at the BioBlitz in Alum Rock Park on **Sunday, January 12 at 9am**. Or choose another event by visiting

www.keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org, including Habitat Stewardship events where volunteers remove invasive plants and support the natives along creek areas the organization has adopted.

Each event listing includes an event description, meeting location and a link to sign up. Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful also encourages us to volunteer as docents at their events, to provide volunteers with a rich learning experience.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2020

Title	Name	Email	Phone
President	Vivian Neou	president@cnps-scv.org	(650) 260-3450
Vice President	Johanna Kwan	1calnative@gmail.com	
Recording Secretary	Priya Pharate	secretary@cnps-scv.org	
Treasurer	Janet Hoffmann	janet@cnps-scv.org	(408) 374-0435
Past President	Madeline Morrow	madeline.morrow@earthlink.net	(408) 741-1150

Save a Tree!

Blazing Star newsletters are always online at the Chapter website's newsletter page: **www.cnps-scv.org/blazing-star-newsletter**. Please contact membership@cnps-scv.org if you would like to receive this newsletter by email only.

To join our Chapter news email list please visit **www.cnps-scv.org/about-us/contact-us**.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, February 8

carol.mattsson@gmail.com or (408) 255-3767

Santa Clara Valley Chapter California Native Plant Society
3921 East Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303-4326



Join CNPS Today!

Members receive the *Fremontia*, the *Bulletin*, and the Chapter newsletter, and other benefits listed at www.cnps.org/membership

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Membership level (check one):

- \$50 Individual
- \$120 Plant Lover
- \$500 Supporter
- \$1,000 Patron
- \$2,500 Benefactor
- \$25 Student or Fixed Income
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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 95816-5130 • membership@cnps.org • (916) 447-2677 ext. 200

FIRST-CLASS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| Dec 27 Fri | Keying with Natives - Berries (3) | Feb 11 Tue | Conservation Committee meeting (5) |
| Jan 1 Wed | Año Nuevo field trip (8) | Feb 15 Sat | Dirca field trip (9) |
| Jan 7 Tue | Conservation Committee meeting (5) | Feb 23 Sun | Montara Mountain field trip (9) |
| Jan 8 Wed | Field trip planning meeting (8) | Feb 27 Thu | Newsletter mailing party - 10am PCC |
| Jan 12 Sun | Monthly Member Plant Sale (2) | Feb 28 Fri | Keying with Natives - Conifers (3) |
| Jan 17 Fri | Keying with Natives - Oaks (3) | Mon & 3rd Sat | Alum Rock weeding (7) |
| Jan 21 Tue | Rare Plant Committee meeting (5) | Wed | Nursery work sessions (2) |
| Jan 24 Fri | General Meeting – Members' Night (1) | Fri | Edgewood weeding (7) |
| Jan 29 Wed | GWN – Container Gardening (3) | Sat | Lake Cunningham workdays (7) |
| Feb 8 Sat | Monthly Member Plant Sale (2) | Various | More GWN talks listed on Meetup |
| Feb 8 Sat | Newsletter submittal deadline | | |

The next Chapter board meetings will be **Thursdays, January 9 and February 13 at 7:00pm** at the PCC, 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto.

Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests.
For more information contact Vivian Neou at president@cnps-scv.org.

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. Address changes may be submitted to cnps@cnps.org; please put "member address change" in the subject line.

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