GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

Friday, July 15, 7:30 - 9:30PM
Lucie Stern Community Center Fireside Room
1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Botanical Priority Protection Areas of the East Bay
Speakers: Heath Bartosh & Lech Naumovich

With over 1,000 members, the East Bay Chapter of CNPS is the largest in the state, covering two large and populous counties: Alameda and Contra Costa. The chapter has recently put out a publication called the Botanical Priority Areas of the East Bay to help communicate the value of local botanical resources to decision makers and the general public. This book was the result of a project of the same name to identify and document 15 of the most important landscapes in the East Bay that contain plants of exceptional value and convey a “sense of place.” Many of these areas will have development proposals in the next decade. Come to this talk for an in-depth look at the conservation roadmap for the East Bay Chapter and for ideas and inspiration on how to make this happen within our own chapter.

An active member of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), Heath Bartosh served on the East Bay Chapter Board of Directors for five years and sits on the CNPS Rare Plant Program Committee. A professional botanist for more than 10 years, Heath Bartosh is a founding principal of Nomad Ecology based in Martinez. He has served on Save Mount Diablo’s Land Committee since 2005. He holds a B.S. in Natural Resources Planning from Humboldt State University.

As the East Bay Chapter Conservation Analyst for many years, Lech Naumovich promoted community-driven conservation efforts in the East Bay area. By writing articles, leading tours and providing technical comments, Lech provided reliable scientific information to the general public, public officials and decision makers on plant and natural habitat conservation related issues. Lech serves as a steering committee member for the Upland Habitat Goals Project, a member of the Vegetation group for this project, and a member of the Bay Area Open Space Council’s stewardship committee. Lech has a degree in environmental science from Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

A limited number of copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

Directions: From Hwy. 101 North in Palo Alto, take the Oregon Expy. exit south (away from the Bay). Go about 1.3 miles and turn right onto Middlefield Rd. Go another mile and the Lucie Stern Community Center will be on your right. Coming from 101 south, instead take the Embarcadero Rd. exit towards Middlefield Rd. Go 1.3 miles on Embarcadero, turn right on Middlefield and the Community Center will be on your right in 0.3 mi.

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, leave a message on our Chapter phone at (408) 260-3450 and someone will return your call.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Nursery at Hidden Villa
Come help propagate plants for our Fall Native Plant Sale on October 15 by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions. They take place every Wednesday, from 10am to 1pm (note summer hours). 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.

We need help weeding the demonstration garden bordering the nursery.
For more information, contact Jean Struthers at (650) 941-2586 or JeanStruthers@att.net (by phone is best); or Ray Deutsch at (650) 365-6136 or ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca.

**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, July - August**

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.

A total of four talks are scheduled during July and August. The focus on *gardening by plant community* continues in August when the talk is followed by a weekend walk through the same plant community. We hope this combination inspires gardeners to go on plant exploration hikes, and hikers to plant native plants in their home gardens. For more information, visit [www.GardeningWithNatives.com](http://www.GardeningWithNatives.com).

These programs are made possible by volunteers who help with program logistics and by cosponsoring libraries. If you would like to help organize similar programming at a library near you, contact arvind.kumar@cnps.org.

**Wednesday, July 6, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Irrigating Native Plants - Tips and Tricks, a talk by Lori Palmquist**

Join us for a discussion on how to irrigate native plants in the landscape. We will explore the unique requirements of these plants due to their adaptation to dry California summers. The discussion will include: setting up hydrozones, deciding between drip and spray, determining the water needs of any given plant, and creating watering schedules for different times of the year. Lori Palmquist is a certified landscape irrigation specialist with over 20 years of experience. Over the past three years, she has been leading irrigation training programs and workshops for both landscape professionals and homeowners in the Bay Area and Sacramento, sponsored by cities and water companies. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. (650) 948-7683.

**Tuesday, July 12, 7:00-8:15 p.m.**

**Native Plant Gardening for Clay Soils, a talk by Fran Adams**

Nationally certified landscape designer Fran Adams will share her 20 years of experience with native plants and sustainable gardening. She will talk about choosing the right spot for natives in the garden, managing the basics of gardening with natives -- soil, pruning, fertilizing, and mulching. The Going Native Garden Tour regularly features her garden designs. Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont. (510) 745-1401.

**Thursday, August 4, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Garden Plants from Riparian Woodlands/Coyote Creek Field Trip, a talk by Deanna Giuliano**

The riparian plant community is home to a variety of California natives suitable for moist places in the greater Bay Area. If you have a wet location in your garden or live near a stream, creek, or river, you will be especially interested in the wide range of trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials available, all of which will provide habitat for local birds, insects, and other wildlife. Deanna Giuliano has been a native plant nursery specialist for eight years and has managed the Acterra Restoration Nursery in Palo Alto for the past five years. Milpitas Library, 160 N Main Street, Milpitas. (408) 262-1171 x3616. Made possible by the Friends of Milpitas Library.

(Look under Field Trips, later in this newsletter, for a Riparian plant walk on Sunday, August 7.)

**Monday, August 8, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Reimagining the California Lawn, a talk by David Fross**

Nurseryman, photographer, and author of the new book *Reimagining the California Lawn*, David Fross offers design ideas and practical solutions to help you create a vibrant garden that complements our unique Mediterranean climate. Fross is the founder of Native Sons nursery in Arroyo Grande, California, which is devoted to producing the finest California native plants for landscapers and retail nurseries and has now expanded to include plants from all the Mediterranean climate regions of the world. He lectures at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He is the coauthor of the classic book *California Native Plants for the Garden*, and the author of the definitive work *Ceanothus*. Cupertino Library, 10800 Torre Avenue, Cupertino. (408) 446-1677.
Keying with Natives
Join us as we learn and practice methods of identifying the native plants of our region (aka keying). From beginners to more advanced, there are challenges for all. Bring in plant samples if you have some, or just come and work with the materials provided. We discuss the various plant books, and practice keying with them. Microscopes are also available, for further examination of the intricate details of the specimens.

We usually meet on the last Friday of each month, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm. The upcoming dates are Fridays, July 29 and August 26. We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more information, please contact Dave “Tex” Houston at tex009@sbcglobal.net or (650) 303-2777; or Sally Casey at (408) 377-0989.

Directions to PCC: (Peninsula Conservation Center), 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. From Highway 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. The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

Thank you to Volunteers for Spring Events
Thanks to the efforts of so many energetic volunteers, our Chapter events during the first annual California Native Plant Week were a huge success. We would also like to thank our speakers at the Show and Sale for fascinating talks on gardening and native plants – your enthusiasm is infectious! Although the entire list of people who helped is too long to print here, many, many thanks to everyone who volunteered! We look forward to working with you on all the wonderful events that are being planned for California Native Plant Week 2012.

Newsletter Mailing Coordinator Needed
We need a volunteer to coordinate our newsletter mailing parties. Every two months, we need someone to choose a meeting place and time and organize volunteers to pick up the newsletter from the printers and make sure all the mailing materials get to the right spot for the mailing party. Sometimes tea and cookies are involved.

To find out more, try attending one of our newsletter mailing parties. Contact Carol Mattsson at mattsson@surfpx.net or (408) 255-3767.

Chapter Presentation Videos Online
You know our Chapter has great live presentations every month. Thanks to Chapter website coordinator Steve Rosenthal, now they are available online too.

Visit the Education/Presentations area of the Chapter website (www.cnps-scv.org) to get access to several new videos every month. If you happen to miss a talk, here’s your chance to see it, or show your friends what they missed!

EDUCATION NEWS

Graduate Student Scholarship Program
By Nora Monette, Scholarship Chair

The Chapter has selected three graduate students doing research on native plants to receive $1,500 scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year. The three scholarship recipients and their research topics are:
• Sara Grove, UC Santa Cruz; *Impacts of Scotch Broom Invasion on Native Forest Regeneration after Logging.*

• Suzie Woolhouse (2011-2012 Native Plant Conservation Scholarship recipient), San Jose State University; *Ecology and Reproductive Biology of Rare Plants Found on Serpentine.*

• Jenn Yost, UC Santa Cruz, *Soil Adaptations and Cryptic Diversity in California Goldfields.*

This is the 12th year the chapter has offered graduate scholarships and it is great to see the variety of work students are undertaking on California flora and native plant conservation.

Suzie Woolhouse and Jenn Yost received their scholarships at the May General Meeting and presented overviews of the areas where their research is being conducted. Suzie shared photographs of rare species that are serpentine endemics and discussed the ecological requirements of other species in the Red Hill Botanical Area of Plumas National Forest.

The striking photos of goldfields Jenn showed were of study areas where she is looking at divergent soil conditions that may contribute to speciation of goldfields that look very similar, but are separate species or races. Jenn’s field study areas include Coyote Ridge in Santa Clara County.

Sara Grove was out in the field in May and will receive her scholarship at the June 17th General Meeting.

Congratulations to Sara, Suzie and Jenn!

**Update from Past Scholarship Recipient**


The article is entitled *Species Specific Plant-soil Interactions Influence Plant Distribution on Serpentine Soils.* The study area is the New Idria (California, USA) serpentine mass, which has barren areas, supporting only sparse shrub and tree islands, adjacent to areas of densely-vegetated serpentine chaparral. Brynne writes:

“I am so very grateful to have received this scholarship. Without CNPS funding, it would not have been possible to measure metal concentrations in the pot study plants, and this information turned out to be essential.”

Many thanks,
Brynne Lazarus

**CONSERVATION NEWS**

**Habitat Conservation Moves Forward**

*By Don Mayall, Rare Plants, Santa Clara County*

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS, along with the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, the Committee for Green Foothills, the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, and the Greenbelt Alliance have joined in a campaign to promote the adoption of the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation plan (HCP/NCCP). Past Chapter President Kevin Bryant has been working for the past five years with a committee of environmentalists and other stake holders to insure that our rare and endangered plants and habitats receive the necessary protections they require as development continues in the valley. (See the January/February 2011 issue of the *Blazing Star*, p. 7)
The plan provides a streamlined process for developers to obtain environmental permits in exchange for a program of acquiring and preserving environmentally sensitive lands. It will protect 58,000 acres of open space lands and direct development to the most suitable areas while prioritizing key habitat areas for conservation. Among top areas for preservation are those in the serpentine grasslands of Coyote Ridge, home to 15 plants on the CNPS rare plant inventory, including the Metcalf canyon jewelflower, the coyote ceanothus, the Santa Clara Valley Dudleya, and the Tiburon Indian paintbrush.

Now, the plan has reached a critical point. It must be adopted by the local jurisdictions which approve or engage in development activities in the valley, in this case the County; the Cities of San Jose, Morgan Hill, and Gilroy; the Valley Transportation Agency and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Although there is wide support from environmental organizations and many public officials, there has been some opposition from some developers and landowners. Some elected officials are concerned about some of the costs in this period of reduced public agency income.

You can learn more about the campaign of support and get involved at www.habitatconservationnow.org.

Ithuriel’s Spear, Triteleia laxa
A Springtime Standard - By Toni Gregorio-Bunch

Last June if you went hiking up in the hills or were just driving through parts of the South Bay, you probably would have seen these lovely, light blue-purple flowers standing out amidst the dry grasses. They are common in our area and can be seen even along some highways. I was happy to see them populating a short stretch of Interstate 280, in Los Altos - a welcome distraction when one is sitting in traffic.

Ithuriel's spears (another common name is grass nut) are annual bulbs, and bloom from April through June. Each plant has about 10-12 individual flowers, measuring 1-2 inches long. The flowers together form an umbel, and sit on top of a leafless stem, 1-3 feet tall. Previously, Ithuriel's spears belonged to the Liliaceae family. However, as a result of new research, the new edition of the Jepson Manual (expected to be published later this year) has placed them in the Themidaceae family. They are common in many parts of the state: Northwestern California, Cascade Range, Sierra Nevada, Central Western California, and Transverse Ranges. They grow in grasslands and woodlands, on clay soil, below 5,000 feet.

In the native garden they are easy to grow, tolerating some summer water. They are available at many native nurseries.

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park
Come pitch in and make Edgewood an inspirational showcase of all CNPS stands for... have some fun, get some sun, and learn a ton!

Our 9am Friday sessions run year round; 5:30pm Wednesday sessions continue through Daylight Savings Time. Our next 9am Saturday session will be July 16 -- meet at the West Kiosk.

For schedules, meeting places, and other details visit our Weed Warriors website at edgewood.thinkersrus.net, contact Paul Heiple at (650) 854-7125 or pheiple@gmail.com, or email John Allen at jcakwa@comcast.net.

CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

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

In our region it is very important to be prepared for hiking on rugged & steep terrain, wide temperature ranges and rapidly changing conditions at any time of year. All participants should wear sturdy footwear and carry sufficient water, sun protection, food, clothing layers, personal first aid and other supplies you may need. If you have any questions about your ability to participate in a particular field trip, please contact the trip leader in advance.
Sat Jul 9  Crystal Springs Watershed  
(Mid-peninsula) 10am - 2pm  
Join Don Thomas to see the rare, federally endangered fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*) in the Crystal Springs Watershed, normally closed to the public. This plant is endemic to the San Francisco Peninsula, and most of the populations occur in the Crystal Springs Watershed.

First we will visit a small, easily accessible fountain thistle population on Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir, and this will include a short work session to remove teasel and yellow star-thistle that is invading its serpentine seep habitat. (Tools will be provided.)

We will then visit another smaller newly discovered nearby fountain thistle population called the Dean Kelch site.

We will walk less than two miles in total. The activities will end in the early afternoon. The trip is limited to 20 participants. For more information or to reserve a spot, contact Don Thomas at don_e_thomas@yahoo.com or (408) 828-4044.

Tue July 26, 6:30pm - PCC Palo Alto  
Field Trip Planning Meeting  
We will plan upcoming trips for the rest of the year, hoping to secure some activities that capture the changing seasons. We will also review this year’s spring field trip schedule, and begin strategizing on our plans for what we want our field trip schedule to look like in 2012. Everyone is welcome to attend.

If you can’t make the meeting, but want to provide input, or are interested in leading a hike, please contact the Field Trip Chair, Carolyn Dorsch. We welcome new members to join the ranks of leaders, assistants, sweeps, etc. For further information contact Carolyn at (650) 804-6162 (evenings) or email cdorsch1@aol.com.

Directions to PCC: (Peninsula Conservation Center), 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. See directions at the end of the Keying with Natives article earlier in this newsletter.

Fri-Sun July 29-31  Carson Pass (Sierra)  
Join Jean Struthers as we visit the Carson Pass area (on Hwy 88). We will take a few hikes up near the pass (around 8,000 feet). Expect much variety, beautiful vistas, springtime in the Sierra!

Camping will be in the pass area, where motels and cabins are also available. Trip will be limited to 20. For more information or to reserve a spot, contact Jean Struthers at jeanstruthers@att.net, or (650) 941-2586.

Sun Aug 7  Calero Creek (South San Jose)  
10am - noon  
We will follow up the August 4 GWN Riparian Talk with a short hike along Calero Creek in Calero County Park. (See the Gardening with Natives listing earlier in this newsletter.) We will hike near the park’s boundary, crossing the creek in a few places, seeing meadows, sycamores and upland oak woodlands. With the abundant rainfall this year it will be interesting to see its effect on this diverse area.

The hike will be about 2 miles, with elevation gain of around 200 feet. For more information contact Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com or (650) 804-6162 (eves).

Directions: From Hwy. 101 in south San Jose take Bernal Rd. exit and head west for 1 mile. Turn left at Santa Teresa Blvd. and go 3 miles to Bailey Ave. Turn right, and then at McKean Rd. turn left. We will meet at the parking lot 1/4 mile past the entrance gates of Calero County Park. Note: there is a $6 parking fee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
News and Activities from Other Organizations

Growing Natives Symposium, Sep 17-18 in Lafayette/Berkeley  
GROWING NATIVES: INSPIRING & ENDURING GARDENS is a two-day symposium focusing on designing, installing, and maintaining native plant gardens of lasting value. Talks by leading practitioners, workshops, garden tours and plant sales. Speakers include Carol Bornstein, Michael Craib, David Fross, Luke Hass, and Deva Luna.


DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT BLAZING STAR  
Saturday, August 6  
Email: mattsson@surfpix.net  
Phone: (408) 255-3767
ONGOING HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS

Join local volunteers at your favorite parks to help restore habitat for native flora and fauna. Projects include planting California natives, trail maintenance and of course, plenty of pulling weeds! Contact the listed organizers for details.

CNPS Native Nursery Workdays
Propagating and growing native plants - Hidden Villa
Every Weds. 10am - 1pm summer, noon - 3pm winter
Jean Struthers (650) 941-2586 JeanStruthers@att.net
Ray Deutsch (650) 365-6136 ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca

Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center in Alviso
Upland habitat restoration: remove invasives, plant CA natives. Tuesdays 9:30am - 2pm
Genie_Moore@fws.gov (408) 262-5513 x100

Garden workdays twice a quarter on Saturdays. Visit www.fws.gov/desfbay/Tideline/Activity.htm and click on “Activities.” Debra King (408) 262-5513 ext 102.

Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve
Invasive species removal. Fridays 9am, Wednesdays 5:30pm during DST, summer 3rd Saturdays 9am.
Paul Heiple (650) 854-7125 pheiple@gmail.com or John Allen jcakwa@earthlink.net edgewood.thinkersrus.net

Edgewood Adopt-A-Highway
I-280 at Edgewood Road Park & Ride
1st Saturday of even numbered months 8:30am
1st Sunday of odd numbered months 8:30am
info@friendsOfEdgewood.org (650) 369-2222
friendsofgedwood.org/adopt_highway/adopt-a-.htm

Foothills Park in Palo Alto
Broom and Thistle Eradication - Sundays 9am - noon
Bob Roth BobRoth@lavabit.com (650) 321-7882 www.fofpark.org/volunteer.htm

Lake Cunningham Park's Native Garden
2305 S. White Road, San Jose - Saturday and Wednesday mornings. Arvind Kumar chhaprahiya@yahoo.com (Saturdays) or Susan Sundberg (Wednesdays) (408) 274-5491 sundberg27@yahoo.com groups.yahoo.com/group/lakecunninghamvolunteers

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Projects include fence reconstruction and weeding.
volunteer@openspace.org or (650) 691-1200. See website for signup form and calendar: www.openspace.org/volunteer/outdoor_service_projects.asp

Pearson-Arastradero Preserve in Palo Alto
Invasive species removal, planting, sheet mulching, brush pile creation, plant monitoring. A project nearly every day of the week! See website for listings & email contact, or contact Stewardship Program Director Alexv@acterra.org or 650-962-9876 x315 acterra.org/programs/stewardship/get_involved.html

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
Activities include habitat improvement and land stewardship.
info@openspaceauthority.org (408) 224-7476 www.openspaceauthority.org/volunteer

Santa Clara County Parks
Activities include trail maintenance and invasives removal. Click on “Volunteer Opportunities” at www.sccgov.org/portal/site/parks

Magic - Stanford Dish Oak Habitat Stewardship
Plant oaks and other native plants; mulch and remove invasive species. Saturday mornings 10am, winter and spring; water oaks and other new plantings Thursday evenings 5:30pm, summer and early fall. Various meeting places near the Stanford Dish. Details and sign up: Robin Bayer, Magic. robin@ecomagic.org.

Ulistac Natural Area Restoration Workdays
Watering, weeding, mulching, planting oaks and native plants in Santa Clara. 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday mornings each monthulistac@scu.edu (408) 554-5419 scu.edu/cas/environmentalstudies/ulistac/volunteer
### CALENDAR OF EVENTS
*(page # in parentheses)*

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The next Chapter **Board meeting** will be **Thursday, August 11 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.

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 ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca.