



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

July-August 2016

GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

Friday, July 15 at 7:30 PM
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

**One Theory of Effective Restoration and
Redefining Sustainability**
a talk by **Lech Naumovich**
Golden Hour Restoration Institute

All too often, conservation efforts focus on the exclusion of human activities, or the repair of human impacts. All these stories typically place humans in a negative light. This presentation will attempt to highlight cases where the most effective tool for restoration is human effort, particularly in areas where habitat is highly fractured and historic landscape scale processes are defunct. We will look at a heterogeneous disturbance hypothesis, as well as the role of humans in a wild landscape and how these two theories make for a more cohesive and powerful role for humans.

We will discuss how we apply effective management in two cases with rare flora and fauna: 1) Serpentine Prairie, Oakland and 2) Twin Peaks, San Francisco. Through this journey we hope to reconsider success criteria and possibly redefine sustainability for future restoration efforts.

Lech first became fascinated by botany at Fort Ord and has meandered along the winding path of a conservation botanist since 1998. He has worked as the CNPS East Bay

Conservation Analyst, as the Restoration Coordinator for Fort Hunter Liggett, as a private botanical consultant, as an independent conservation photographer, and now as the Director of the Golden Hour Restoration Institute. He is well versed in Bay Area, Central Coast, and California desert botany. He recently co-authored the 2nd Edition of *The Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora* with Barbara Ertter and *A Guidebook to Botanical Priority Protection Areas of the East Bay* with Heath Bartosh and Laura Baker.

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 Vice President Madeline Morrow at MadelineMorrow@earthlink.net or the Chapter phone (650) 260-3450.



Lech Naumovich

Weeders target *Hirschfeldia* (wild mustard) at Twin Peaks, San Francisco at the edge of newly restored Mission Blue butterfly habitat.

Save the Dates!

Fall Symposium: September 17
at Foothill College
Fall Plant Sale: October 15 at Hidden Villa
See the next Blazing Star for details

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Nursery at Hidden Villa

We invite you to join our nursery volunteers at our workdays on **Wednesdays and Thursdays**, summer hours: **10am to 1pm**. Bring garden gloves, sunhat or jacket, clippers, 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 is required.

We're taking a break from sales for the summer, so the next **Monthly Member Sale** day will be held on **Wednesday, September 7, from 10am - 1pm**. For more information, contact Melanie Cross at melanie@pcross.com or (650) 847-1350; or Ray Deutsch at ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca or (650) 365-6136.

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 free talks throughout the year at public libraries in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

This year's themes are *Month-by-Month Pruning* and *Maintaining Your Native Garden*. For more information, visit www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/gardening/gardening-with-natives.

These programs are made possible by the co-sponsoring libraries and our volunteers who help with program logistics. If you would like to help organize similar programming at a library near you, email Sherri Osaka at sdosaka@sustainable-landscape.com.

The Fab Four: Buckwheats, Ceanothus, Manzanitas and Sages, a talk by Pete Veilleux

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

These four families of California native plants can provide a wealth of drought-tolerant variety to your garden. Get to know a few of them and you'll have flower color and habitat all year. Buckwheats and sages can be annuals, perennials, and subshrubs, while ceanothus and manzanita are typically groundcovers, shrubs, and 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 that help 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) in Oakland and a tireless advocate of native gardening.

**Creating a Bee-friendly Garden
a talk by John Kehoe**

Thursday, July 14, 7-8:30PM, Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue, Cupertino (408) 446-1677

Come and learn about the native bees that live here in the Santa Clara Valley. These local insects help pollinate your ornamental and edible plants! You'll see over a dozen bee species that live in our urban setting – especially among locally growing native plants. Find out how planting even a few select natives can enrich your garden and attract even more native (and honey) bees.

John Kehoe is a longtime member of CNPS as well as the Xerces Society. He is a regular volunteer at Ulistac as well as at various CNPS functions and is passionate about the natural world. His research interests include studying native bees and their relationships with native plants. He shares these interests by way of his photography on Flickr, CalPhotos at UC Berkeley, and Bumble Bee Watch.

**Design-It-Yourself: Native Plant Garden
a talk by Sherri Osaka**

Thursday, July 21, 7-8:30 PM, Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St, Mountain View (650) 903-6337

You are finally ready to remove your lawn in order to save water, lower your maintenance time, and create habitat. But you want to create the design yourself. Come to this talk, and learn the principles of garden design. See an example of a design from start to finish. Pick up some handouts of different designs you can use and modify. And get ready to put pencil to paper!

Sherri Osaka is a licensed Landscape Architect, Bay-Friendly Qualified Designer, and a member of the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Landscape Advisory Board. She started her company, Sustainable Landscape Designs, over 19 years ago and lectures on drought-tolerant native plants, graywater and rainwater systems, pervious paving, as well as non-toxic and reusable materials.

**Easy-to-Grow Native Plants
a talk by Nancy McClenny**

Monday, August 1, 7-8:30 PM, Milpitas Library, 160 N Main Street, Milpitas (408) 262-1171

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 gardener. Get tips and tricks on how to keep your new plants healthy over the first summer.

Nancy McClenny has exchanged growing bacteria and fungi in Petri dishes for exploring the science, beauty, and survival strategies of California native plants. After taking courses in California native flora from Foothill and Merritt Colleges, and having volunteer experiences with CNPS, Gamble Garden, East Bay's Regional Parks Botanic Garden, and Acterra, Nancy delights in digging in the dirt and sharing her garden experiences with others. Her Palo Alto garden has appeared on the Going Native Garden Tour for three years.

Want more GWN? Visit www.cnps-scw.org to see videos of past programs (pull down menu "Education," then select "Presentations"), find out about more events, and learn how you can join the Chapter. Please invite your friends and neighbors to the talks using the events section of "NextDoor."

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.

The upcoming dates are **Fridays, June 24, July 29 and August 26 from 6:30 - 8:30pm**. We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more information, please contact Joe Cernac at jocernac@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.

Leadership - Volunteer Recognition

Three more volunteers were honored at our May 20th General Meeting: Toni Corelli, Howie Smith and husband and wife team John and Becky Bradley.

Toni Corelli is a botanist, environmental consultant, and past President of our Chapter. As a volunteer, she has led numerous nature walks and taught classes in plant identification. During her tenure as Rare Plant Chair she wrote *The Rare and Endangered Plants of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties*. She has been involved in cataloging botanical resources throughout our Chapter's public lands, culminating in the book *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, California*. She has been involved in curating two herbaria: Carl W. Sharsmith Herbarium at San Jose State; and the Oakmead Herbarium and Collections at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve.

Howie Smith has helped with many Chapter activities. He has hosted several Gardening with Natives programs and has been a regular member of the plant sale parking staff since 2009. He took on the additional role this year of placing road signs directing people to Hidden Villa. He has helped staff outreach information tables such as the Wildflower Day at Pacheco State Park and has been a regular volunteer at the Spring Wildflower Show for many years.

Howie is a regular weeder for Friends of Edgewood and is on their Board of Directors. He has been a regular volunteer at the San Bruno Mountain Watch-sponsored Mission Blue native plant nursery and has participated in both weeding and habitat restoration efforts on San Bruno Mountain. He has a native plant nursery in his backyard where he grows plants for the demonstration garden surrounding the Edgewood visitor center.

John and Becky Bradley have volunteered together in various Chapter activities for many years. They have helped staff information booths at outreach events like the MROSD Wing Ding Family Festival and the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's Wildlife Education Day. They have volunteered at our annual plant sales directing car traffic and served as greeters and in other positions at the annual Spring Wildflower Show. Both have led and assisted with wildflower hikes, such as at Sunol Regional Park in the East Bay. John has been a regular attendee at the monthly Keying with Natives meetings, sharing his expert knowledge of plants with new students. Both are active birders and travel extensively, searching out birds and other wonders of nature.

Volunteer Group Spotlight: Wildflower Show Collectors

This is the third in a series of Volunteer Spotlights honoring groups of volunteers who perform specific functions that benefit our CNPS Chapter.

Collectors are an essential part of every wildflower show; without them, and the plants they gather, there would be no show. This group of volunteers travels specific routes looking for flowers in bloom, collecting one or two samples of each to display at the show.

These volunteers often work in groups of two or three. They begin early in the day gathering all of the items they will need and loading them into their vehicles: bottles, buckets, clippers, loppers, extra water, newspaper or other material to wrap around collected specimens, a log for tracking the items collected, any required collecting permits, lunch, and clothing appropriate for whatever weather the day might bring. Some days are hot, some are cold, and some are windy and wet, challenging even the hardest collectors. Since flowers are best viewed in the day or two immediately after collection, there is little opportunity to wait for better weather.

Once back at the show location, each specimen is put in a display bottle and handed off to a runner, who will pull the corresponding species card and place the specimen in the appropriate location based on either the correct plant family or, more recently, the relevant plant community. In the absence of runners, some collectors pull their own cards and place their specimens in the correct locations. Any specimens that cannot be identified in the field must be keyed to determine the correct identification, work often done by the same individuals who did the collecting.

Collectors are among the last to leave the show location on the day prior to the event and may never be seen by those who attend the show. In a sense, they are like Santa Claus and his elves, toiling behind the scenes to deliver beautiful gifts to a public they may never meet.

Thank you, Santas!

Stephen Buckhout wrote this Spotlight on behalf of our Chapter Leadership Development Committee.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Committee

Our Chapter's Conservation Committee meets on the **first Thursday** of the month. **Note: we will not be meeting in July.** The next meetings will be on **August 4** and **September 1**, both at **7pm** at the PCC in Palo Alto.

Please join us in our important work! For questions, comments or concerns, please contact Conservation Chair Linda Ruthruff at ldruff@hotmail.com. For **directions** to the PCC, please see the previous Keying with Natives article.



Carol Mattsson

Two wildflower collectors bring their finds to Mission College on the day before the April 2012 Wildflower Show

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Wed/Sat Edgewood Restoration

Our Chapter's involvement at Edgewood Park near Redwood City spans over 40 years, and our Wednesday and Saturday restoration sessions have been big contributors to restoring this botanical gem while

spreading the word about CNPS and native plant conservation. Please join us!

Our **5:30pm Wednesday sessions** continue until the end of Daylight Savings Time. Our next **Monthly Saturday session will be at 9am July 16.** August and September Saturday weeding dates are still TBD:

Date	Meet At	Event Theme
July 16	West Kiosk	California Invasive Weeds Awareness Week

For Wednesday/Saturday info, schedules and meeting places, you can visit www.cnps-scv.org or call Wednesday leader Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560.

Friday Edgewood Restoration

We offer MORE weeding opportunities at Edgewood Park during our year round **Friday 9am** sessions. For more information, including schedules and meeting places visit www.cnps-scvc.org or phone Paul Heiple at (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.”

Work continues at the Todd Quick and Fire Meadow sites with good, visible results. Stephen Rosenthal’s layout and art work for the photo/educational display which will be mounted at the Alum Rock Visitors’ Center has been mostly completed. There will be twelve 20” x 30” posters of text and photographs Stephen has taken in the park. Last October’s broadcast of seeds of Satan’s goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii* var. *diabolica*) has produced several small bushes this year.

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 project lead Stephen Rosenthal at sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

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.

Sat July 16 - 23, Eight Days of Ericaceous Heaven: Duck Lake and Mt. Eddy Backpacking Trip

This will be a backpacking field trip. Participants need to be relatively fit and able to walk on rocky, steep and uneven

trails and also carry all their creature comforts. All meals will be self-prepared.

Join co-leaders Joe Cernac and Ken Himes backpacking to explore the Russian Wilderness Area. We’ll start with Duck Lake as our base camp for two days of exploration in this area, reputed to have the world’s highest concentration of coniferous tree species, with 18 species concentrated within a one square mile area. Day trips to Little Duck Lake will offer a chance to see many Ericaceous plants as well as a lakeside subalpine fir. Another day’s side trip will explore Eaton Lake. (Three miles/2,200 foot elevation gain from trailhead to camp.)

We’ll depart Duck Lake on Wednesday morning (July 20), with a stop in Etna’s brewpub for lunch and resupply before we continue to Mt. Eddy. A late afternoon start will take us to our base camp at Deadfall Lake (four miles/400foot elevation loss and gain).

Day trips to the Mt. Eddy Summit at about 9,000 feet will provide panoramic views of the northwest and Mt. Shasta, and other explorations of this fascinating alpine serpentine region will follow. *Darlingtonia* bogs, foxtail pines and anemones close to lingering snowfields will delight everyone. On Saturday, July 23, we’ll hike out to another possible pub stop before returning to the Bay Area.

Reservations are required, and this trip is **open to CNPS members only**. Please contact Joe Cernac for itinerary and to **sign up**, at jocernac@sbcglobal.net. For further info, contact Joe at (408) 292-5465, or Ken at (650) 591-8560.

ABOUT THE *BLAZING STAR*

Save a Tree!

CNPS members can log in to support.cnps.org and edit their profile to receive this newsletter by email only. Look for “Chapter Newsletter” at the bottom of “My Profile.”

Current and past *Blazing Star* newsletters are always online at the Chapter website’s newsletter page: www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/blazing-star-newsletter. To join our Chapter news email list please visit www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/contact-us/sign-up.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, August 6, 2016

Email: carol.mattsson@gmail.com

Phone: (408) 255-3767

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



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

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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)

Jun 24 Fri Keying with Natives (3)

Jul 13 Wed GWN – Fab Four families - Veilleux (2)

Jul 14 Thu GWN – Bee-friendly - Kehoe (2)

Jul 15 Fri **General Meeting - Naumovich** (1)

Jul 16 Sat Edgewood Saturday weeding (4)

Jul 16-23 Ericaceous Backpack Field Trip (5)

Jul 21 Thu GWN – Garden Design - Osaka (2)

Jul 29 Fri Keying with Natives (3)

Aug 1 Mon GWN – Easy-to-Grow - McClenny (3)

Aug 4 Thu Conservation Committee meeting (4)

Aug 6 Sat **Newsletter submittal deadline** (5)

Aug 25 Thu **Newsletter Mailing Party - 11am PCC**

Aug 26 Fri Keying with Natives (3)

Sep 1 Thu Conservation Committee meeting (4)

Sep 7 Wed Member plant sale at nursery (2)

Mon & 3rd Sats Alum Rock Weeding (5)

Wed & Thu Nursery workdays (2)

Wed & Fri Edgewood Weeding (4)

Next Board meetings: **Thursdays July 14** and **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.

For more information contact Madeline Morrow at MadelineMorrow@earthlink.net or (650) 260-3450.

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

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