



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# THE BLAZING STAR

November-December 2014

## ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

**Saturday, November 8th at 6:00 PM**  
**Shoup Garden House,**  
**400 University Avenue, Los Altos**

**The Flora of Guadalupe Island**  
A talk by **Bart O'Brien**  
**Regional Parks Botanic Garden**

Join us for our favorite get-together of the year: the annual potluck dinner and election meeting, followed by a talk by Bart O'Brien, Manager of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Park. Bart's talk will be our annual **Brenda Butner Memorial Lecture**. The evening is devoted to native plant appreciation, Chapter business, and delectable victuals. It's the party of the year – don't miss it!

Volcanic Guadalupe Island, off the coast of Baja California, is the furthest outpost of the California floristic province. The focus of Bart's talk will be on the island's rare, unusual and endemic plants. The flora is making a remarkable recovery after over 100 years of severe predation by thousands of goats. Since many of these plants are spectacular additions to California gardens, Bart will also discuss how to grow them. Some are familiar: Guadalupe Island cypress, palm and rock daisy, while others are lesser known: Palmer's poppy, snow lupine and Guadalupe Island triteleia. Bart's presentation will feature these and many more of the island's flora.



Bart O'Brien

Bart O'Brien is the Director of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, located in Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley. Previously, Bart was the Director of Special Projects for the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSABG) in Claremont, California, where he held several positions during his

tenure from 1990-2013. In the field of conservation, Bart participated in planning, restoration, and landscape projects for the Los Angeles and San Gabriel rivers and watersheds in Southern California. He has held many leadership roles in CNPS; currently he is state archivist for CNPS a member of the editorial board of CNPS's journal, *Fremontia*, and he is a past president of our Chapter of CNPS.

Among his accomplishments in education, Bart O'Brien has authored numerous articles, presented lectures and symposia, and developed and managed a new native plant horticulture education and outreach program for RSABG. Bart holds a Master's degree in landscape architecture from Harvard University. He has co-authored the books *Reimagining the California Lawn* and *California Native Plants for the Garden*.

**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! A label identifying your dish will be helpful. Be sure to bring a plate, drinking glass, and eating utensils for yourself, as well as a bag in which to take home unwashed dishes.

If you can help with setup, please **arrive at 5pm** to set up chairs and tables. The potluck feast will begin at **6pm**, followed by the **program at 7pm**. We appreciate your help with clean-up at the end of the program.

We will also have a **silent auction** of books and other items which help raise funds for the Chapter. 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 **on or before November 3** or contact Judy Fenerty at [judy@fenerty.com](mailto:judy@fenerty.com).

CNPS General Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Chapter President Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net) or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

**Directions: From I-280:** take the El Monte exit east. Turn left (north) on University Ave. (just before Foothill Expy.). The Garden House is 0.6 mile ahead on the left (west) side of the street. **From Hwy. 101:** take the San Antonio exit west/south. Go 3.5 miles. At the 3rd stoplight after crossing El Camino Real (Edith/Main), bear right on to Main St. (not sharp right into Edith). Continue on Main until it crosses Foothill Expy. and turn left immediately on to University Ave. Bear right; the Garden House is 300' ahead on the right.

## Chapter Annual Election

The annual potluck is also the time to elect our Chapter officers for the coming year. All Chapter members may run for office – nominations may also be made from the floor at the potluck. Here is the slate put forth by the Nominating & Leadership Committee:

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| President           | Stephen Rosenthal |
| Vice President      | Madeline Morrow   |
| Treasurer           | Carolyn Dorsch    |
| Recording Secretary | Radhika Thekkath  |

The Chapter Leadership Committee thanks **all** the officers and chairs who served this year. We have several open Board and Committee Chair positions, especially **Assistant Recording Secretary and Gardening with Natives Coordinator**. For more information, contact Madeline Morrow at [vicepresident@cnps-scv.org](mailto:vicepresident@cnps-scv.org) or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### Native Plant Nursery at Hidden Villa

Come help propagate plants for our next plant sale by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions, every **Wednesday and Thursday, from Noon to 3pm** (note winter hours). Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and 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.

**Plants may be purchased** at the Wednesday workdays through the end of November. Please plan to pay by check. For more information, contact Melanie Cross at (650) 947-1325 or [melanie@pcross.com](mailto:melanie@pcross.com); or Ray Deutsch at (650) 365-6136 or [ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca](mailto: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 Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the visitor center.



*Sula Vanderplank*

Bart O'Brien botanizing on Guadalupe Island, Mexico

## Gardening with Natives

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes a mix of landscape architects, designers, seasoned native plant gardeners and beginners. GWN offers talks throughout the year, which are free and open to all.

This year's themes are *Maintaining Your Native Garden* and *Native All-Stars*. The monthly speakers will share tips on specific garden tasks or on native plant families and how to care for them. For more information, visit [www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/gardening/gardening-with-natives](http://www.cnps-scv.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, contact [arvind.kumar@cnps.org](mailto:arvind.kumar@cnps.org).

### Native Succulents, a Talk by Paul Heiple

**Wed., November 5, 7:00-8:30 PM, Los Altos Library,  
13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (650) 948-7683**

California native succulents should have a place in every garden. They are drought tolerant, have strong forms, and produce beautiful flowers beloved by hummingbirds and other pollinators. They work well in rock gardens, pots, living walls, and even green wreaths. Come learn more

about these weird and wonderful plants and how to add them to your garden.

**Paul Heiple** is a naturalist, interested in all aspects of science in the natural world. He currently has a collection of succulents, carnivorous plants, and a hillside restored to California natives. He provided *Dudleya* displays for our annual Wildflower Show and is the chair of the Invasive Plants Committee, San Mateo County, for our Chapter of CNPS.

### Propagating Native Plants and Seed Exchange, Member Demonstrations

**Thu., Nov 20, 7:00-8:30 PM, Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Ave., Cupertino (408) 446-1677**

One of our most popular events, the seed and cutting exchange arrives just in time to sow seeds and take advantage of the upcoming rains (fingers crossed). This year a few of our Gardening with Native group members will demonstrate their favorite propagation method.

**Patrick Pizzo** will demonstrate his “one-gallon greenhouse” method of propagation. Pat is a retired SJSU professor and a founder of the Capitancillos Drive native plant streetscape in San Jose.

**Stephen Rosenthal** will discuss growing annuals, such as desert bluebells, from seed and how to keep the color all summer long. He’ll also talk about using a cold frame to get plants started early. Steve is president of our Chapter of CNPS and volunteers with Alum Rock Park to help restore its native habitat.

**Sherri Osaka** will demonstrate a simple way to prune and propagate Alum roots (*Heucheras*). She is a licensed landscape architect and Bay Friendly certified designer.

### Harvesting your Native Plants for Many Uses, a talk by John Kipping

**Monday, December 1, 7:00-8:30 PM, Milpitas Library, 160 N Main Street, Milpitas (408) 262-1171**

Join us for a talk explaining the relationship of California native plants to indigenous peoples and how these plants can be used today. John Kipping will tell us how native plants can be used for food, medicine, and material sources, especially for basketry. Mr. Kipping will demonstrate Pomo style coiled weaving. His talk will include a display of specimens, books and artifacts. He will also show us how to make manzanita cider.

**John Kipping** is a naturalist with a keen interest in sharing his passion and knowledge of the biosphere with the community. His background includes a 30-year career in teaching at the University of California Extension Natural Environmental Studies Program. For more than 20 years he worked in Natural History education at the Randall Junior Museum, San Francisco Botanical Gardens, and the Audubon Canyon Ranch. John is a certified arborist. He is a ship naturalist for Dolphin Charters during the summer in southeast Alaska and British Columbia.

### 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, November 14th and December 12th, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.** (Note Holiday schedule.) We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more information, please contact Dave “Tex” Houston at 350co2now@gmail.com or (650) 303-2777; or Sally Casey at (408) 377-0989.

**Directions to 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 and immediately left into the PCC parking lot. The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

### LIVECoRPs

Our conservation committee, LIVECoRPs, meets the 3rd **Thursday** of the month at the PCC. Our next meeting will be **November 20th at 7pm.** There *will not* be a December meeting.

Please join us! For questions, comments or concerns, please contact LIVECoRPs Chair Linda Ruthruff at ldrruff@hotmail.com. For **directions** to the PCC, please see the previous Keying with Natives article.

### Bioblitz in Memorial Park

Our Chapter of CNPS took part in a bioblitz in Memorial County Park in Loma Mar on September 27th. It’s the first bioblitz ever by San Mateo County Parks, and the first official bioblitz participation by our Chapter.

A bioblitz surveys all organisms of an area over a brief period (usually a day or less), understanding that it won’t be exhaustive. Instead the goals balance biodiversity



documentation with education, and emphasize uniting scientists and volunteers to have fun and increase public awareness of natural resources and their value. Conceived of by the US National Park Service in 1996, there have been hundreds, if not thousands, of bioblitzes worldwide.

The Memorial Park bioblitz was organized by San Mateo County Parks, including new Natural Resource Manager, Ramona Arechiga. Chapter Edgewood Chair Drew Shell learned of the event and got the chapter involved, with Drew, Toni Corelli and Don Mayall participating in pre-blitz surveys and serving as blitz group co-leaders. Other partners included: California Academy of Sciences, Sequoia Audubon Society, Mycological Society of San Francisco, Save the Redwoods League, and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Some 50 people registered for the bioblitz, including many families with children. We met at 9 am on a misty



Toni Corelli

Species found in Memorial Park on bioblitz day, clockwise from upper right: *Lonicera hispidula* (hairy honeysuckle), *Pentagramma triangularis* ssp. *triangularis* (goldback fern), *Notholithocarpus densiflorus* var. *densiflorus* (tan oak), *Alnus rubra* (red alder), *Peltigera membranacea* (lichen). To see more photos visit [bit.ly/1v1mhxm](http://bit.ly/1v1mhxm).

Saturday morning in Memorial's redwoods, split into four groups with cameras and radios, and set out to survey different park zones. For lunch we gathered down the road at the Pescadero Country Store picnic area to discuss our observations. Combined pre-blitz and blitz results show 200 species were reported and 160 independently confirmed so far, including 130 vascular plant species reported and 121 independently confirmed!

Bioblitz data can be found online at [www.inaturalist.org/places/memorial-county-park-ca-us](http://www.inaturalist.org/places/memorial-county-park-ca-us).

## CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

### Edgewood Weed Warriors

Our 26-year volunteer restoration program strives to make Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve an inspirational showcase of all CNPS stands for. Come share the beauty of Edgewood with us, learn a ton, and help keep Edgewood native! Our **9am Friday** sessions run year round; **5:30pm Wednesday** sessions will resume when Daylight Savings Time returns next spring.

For Edgewood Weed Warrior (EWW) schedules, meeting places, and other details visit [eww.cnps-scv.org](http://eww.cnps-scv.org); contact Paul Heiple (650) 854-7125, [pheiple@gmail.com](mailto:pheiple@gmail.com) or John Allen ([jcakwa@earthlink.net](mailto:jcakwa@earthlink.net)) for Friday info; or contact EWW program chair Drew Shell ([nature@dshell.oddotter.org](mailto:nature@dshell.oddotter.org)) for Wednesday/Saturday info.

## 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.

### **Thu Jan 1 10am – 2pm Año Nuevo State Park (Hwy 1 coast-southern San Mateo County)**

Join us as we celebrate a Chapter tradition of welcoming the New Year with an easy walk and picnic at Año Nuevo State Park on the San Mateo County coast. The park is located south of Pescadero on Highway 1, just north of the Santa Cruz County line. The trail loop is 2 miles, and is flat.

Meet in the parking lot (\$10 day use fee) at **10am**. Latecomers will find us on the trail in the coastal prairie. We will stroll leisurely along the bluff trail, enjoying the diversity in the coastal scrub and beach plant communities, keeping our eyes and ears open for raptors and songbirds. Low tide is at 2:04pm, so we should be in good shape to enjoy lunch on the beach for the first time in a couple of years!

This is a day to have fun at the beach with fellow Chapter members – a great way to start off the New Year. The ending time and depth of botanical discussion may be extended depending on participants. We will finish our walk at the visitor center. Bring binoculars and layers for variable conditions including wind, sun and fog.

Heavy rain cancels. For more information contact Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com, or 650-804-6162 (eves).

See our Chapter website's Field Trip Reports page for descriptions of recent field trips, here: [www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/field-trips/field-trip-reports](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/field-trips/field-trip-reports).

## **GOING NATIVE GARDEN TOUR**

### **Submit your Garden by Oct. 31 for April Tour**

Our Chapter's annual Going Native Garden Tour showcases local gardens to demonstrate reduced water use, reduced chemical and pesticide use, improved habitat, and the unique aesthetic appeal of gardens designed with California native plants.

The tour is looking for gardens to showcase on the tour. Selection Committee visits start in **November**. The tour dates are **April 18th** (southern gardens) and **19th** (northern gardens). To submit YOUR garden for consideration:

1. Go to [www.gngt.org](http://www.gngt.org).

2. Read "Frequently Asked Questions -> How Do I Submit My Garden..."; or visit the link directly: [www.gngt.org/GNGT/Garden\\_Submission.php](http://www.gngt.org/GNGT/Garden_Submission.php).

We look forward to seeing your beautiful garden! Have no garden but want to be in on the fun? Sign up to volunteer for four hours on a Garden Tour Day and receive a custom T-Shirt!

## **CNPS CONSERVATION CONFERENCE**

The CNPS Conservation Conference, January 15-17 in San Jose, needs lots of local volunteers, and registration discounts will be available. Visit [www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2015/volunteer.php](http://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2015/volunteer.php).

## **CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2014**

| Title                      | Name              | Phone          | Email                        |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>           | Stephen Rosenthal | (408) 923-6562 | sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net    |
| <b>Vice President</b>      | Madeline Morrow   | (408) 741-1150 | madelinemorrow@earthlink.net |
| <b>Recording Secretary</b> | Radhika Thekkath  | (650) 473-1537 | rthekkath@yahoo.com          |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Dee Wong          | (650) 670-7797 | dee@thevillagegardener.com   |
| <b>Past President</b>      | Arvind Kumar      | (408) 715-7020 | arvind.kumar@cnps.org        |

To join our Chapter news email list please visit [www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/contact-us/sign-up](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/contact-us/sign-up).

### **Save a Tree!**

CNPS members can log in to [support.cnps.org](http://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](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/blazing-star-newsletter).

## **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR***

**Saturday, December 6, 2014**

**Email: [mattsson@surfpix.net](mailto:mattsson@surfpix.net)**

**Phone: (408) 255-3767**

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



## 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)

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*Membership level (check one):*

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*Areas of interest:*

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 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:*

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**FIRST-CLASS**

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** (page # in parentheses)

**Oct 31 Fri** GNGT – garden submissions due (5)

**Nov 5 Wed** GWN – Native Succulents – Heiple (2)

**Nov 8 Sat** **Annual Meet. & Potluck** – O'Brien (1)

**Nov 14 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)

**Nov 20 Thu** GWN – Seed and Cutting Exchange (3)

**Nov 20 Thu** LIVECoRPs (conservation) meeting (3)

**Dec 1 Mon** GWN – Native Plant Uses – Kipping (3)

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

**Dec 12 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)

**Dec 30 Tue** **Newsletter Mailing Party - 10am PCC**

**Jan 1 Thu** Año Nuevo Field Trip (5)

**Wed & Thu Noon-3pm** Nursery work sessions (2)

**Fri 9am** Edgewood Weed Warriors (4)

The next Chapter Board meeting will be **Thu., December 11 at 7:00pm** location TBD.

It will be our annual budget meeting. Please bring food to share.

Chapter Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests.

For more information contact Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net).

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](mailto:membership@cnps-scv.org). Address changes may be submitted to [cnps@cnps.org](mailto:cnps@cnps.org) and please put "member address change" in the subject line.

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