



THE BLAZING STAR

July-August 2022

NATIVE PLANT LECTURE SERIES

The talks in the CNPS SCV Native Plant Lecture Series cover a broad range of topics with a native plant theme. Whether you're curious about native plants, an experienced or aspiring native plant gardener or a professional botanist, you will find something to interest and educate you in our offerings. From gardening to plant science to conservation to tours of botanical hot spots, if you're interested in California's native plants, there's something here for you.

If you have a favorite speaker or a topic that you would like to see as part of our series, please send your suggestion to info@cnps-scv.org.

Our talks are livestreamed simultaneously to Zoom and

YouTube. View talks on our **YouTube** channel at www.youtube.com/c/CNPSSantaClaraValley (no registration needed) or join on Zoom by registering at the Zoom link provided in each lecture's description. Some of our upcoming talks are listed below. For the current list of upcoming talks please see www.cnps-scv.org/native-plant-lecture-series or join our Chapter's News email group (see page 8) for a weekly update on upcoming activities.



Dave Muffly

Oak tree at Stanford Dish in Palo Alto

Recordings of past talks may be viewed on our YouTube channel.

The NPLS organizational committee has periodic meetings on Zoom and welcomes new volunteers. If you have ideas for future talks or are interested in helping set up upcoming talks, please send a message to Vivian Neou at techchair@cnps-scv.org to receive notifications of upcoming meetings.

California Native Trees: Climate Change and Adaptation, a talk by Dave Muffly Wednesday, July 13 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Zoom registration: www.cnps-scv.org/npls-20220713

As the reality of climate change comes into focus, questions arise regarding the fate of our native trees. From the seashore to the mountain top, our trees face unprecedented pressure, and we are only just beginning to discern patterns of adaptation. In this talk, Dave will focus on the native trees that provide the greatest support to native



biodiversity in the coastal zones. He will look at scientific range projections for key species and review 40 years of local oak tree performance in local reforestation plantings.

Dave will also cover some of the rare oaks from Southern California which are beginning to be planted in the urbanized Bay Area, and consider ways in which the developed urban matrix may be utilized to provide surprising support for migrating biodiversity. Because oaks are genetically fascinating and frustrating, he will discuss historical patterns of oak evolution during previous rapid climate change events, to gain an understanding of how those patterns may be applied to our current circumstances to minimize biodiversity collapse. He will take a peek at

the super diverse madro-tertiary geoflora and ponder what California may look like in a substantially warmed world.

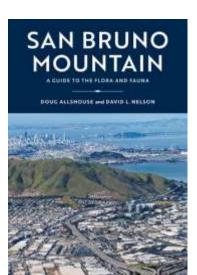
Dave Muffly has been planting and caring for trees in the Bay Area for 33 years. Dave earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Stanford University, then branched into native oak plantings at Stanford, urban tree plantings and fruit trees with the local service organization Magic. In 2007, Dave became an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist and designed the thousand tree 101 freeway soundwall planting, between San Antonio Ave. and Willow Rd., led by the non-profit Canopy. The soundwall plantings became the proof of concept for the even more radically diverse plantings at Apple Park in Cupertino, where Dave spent seven years as Apple's senior arborist.

Amah Mutsun Relearning Program, a talk by Rick Flores Wednesday, August 10 6:30 - 8:00 PM (note earlier start time)

Zoom registration: www.cnps-scv.org/npls-20220810

The Amah Mutsun Relearning Program (AMRP) at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden is a collaborative effort between the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band (AMTB) and the Garden to assist the Tribe in their efforts at cultural revitalization, recuperation and relearning of dormant cultural knowledge, and environmental justice.

Rick Flores, the steward of the AMRP, is also the curator of the Arboretum's California Native Plant Collection and Associate of the Amah Mutsun Land Trust.



New San Bruno Mountain Book Available

You may remember Doug Allshouse and David L. Nelson from their wonderful program last year on San Bruno Mountain. Now, their new book San Bruno Mountain: A Guide to the Flora and Fauna, is moving closer to publication and will be available for preorder this

summer. For more information, visit: www.heydaybooks.com/catalog/san-bruno-mountain/

Save the Date Chapter's 50th Anniversary Celebration – Saturday, September 17

To honor this special year, we are throwing a Golden

anniversary party at the Dana Center at Hidden Villa. Please plan to join us – as volunteers, members and guests.

To start the celebration, we've posted a scan of the March 1974 newsletter — the earlist we've found so far — on the Chapter website's newsletter archive page, here: www.cnps-scv.org/about-us/blazing-star-newsletter (at the bottom)

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CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

CNPS SCV Nursery at Hidden Villa

Nursery volunteers continue to propagate plants, raising funds for the Chapter through sales from its online store at <u>california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter.square.site</u>. The online nursery store is closed for the summer. Chapter members will be notified by email before the store reopens.

Proceeds from plant sales are the major source of funding for Chapter activities and scholarships.

Update: Wildflower Ambassador Program

In the previous issue of the *Blazing Star*, we announced the launch of the Wildflower Ambassador Program, a new approach to getting more people to grow native plants. As you may recall, the program focuses on native plants that host butterflies and moths, feed native bees and other pollinators and as a result, provide food for birds as well. By leveraging the power of local social media through Nextdoor, facilitating seasonal free seed giveaways, and promoting dialogue about building habitat in our gardens, the program is poised to expand the use of native plants throughout our Chapter area.

The program is already off to a strong start. The Wildflower Ambassadors met on June 21 for an online training session hosted by our Chapter President Radhika

Thekkath, Past President Vivian Neou and Jennifer Dirking, the volunteer who initiated the program. Now the Ambassadors are receiving their seed distribution kits (pictured below), and creating new Nextdoor groups across our area.



Jennifer Dirking Wildflower Ambassador Program display kit

Watch for a Nextdoor group in your area with the name "Bring Back Bees, Butterflies and Birds" and join the conversation! The ambassadors will use their sites to spark local conversations about growing native wildflowers and other plants that feed ecosystems, and will give out free seeds sponsored by our Chapter. The first seed giveaways will be narrow-leaf milkweed, a perennial that can be started now. Later in the season they will start giving away a variety of wildflower mixes that will benefit from the fall and winter rains. Details and resources can be found at the Chapter website's Wildflower Seed Planting page, here: www.cnps-scv.org/wildflower-seeds. Stay tuned for an update in the next issue of the *Blazing Star*!

If you are interested in joining us to help out as a Wildflower Ambassador in any capacity, from stuffing seed packets, to helping another local ambassador in your area, or taking on a primary role, please contact us at wildflowers@cnps-scv.org.

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. It is open to all. The group has monthly meetings and an active email list.

The photo group's meetings take place over Zoom, for members to share photos and more – everything from

photography tips to organizational ideas to plant hot spots. The next meetings will be **Fridays**, **July 22 and August 26 at 7:00pm**. You can learn more and join the email group at: www.groups.io/g/cnps-scv-photography.



Charley Pow

Under a coast live oak, the summer-dormant California polypody (*Polypodium californicum*) gives way to a coastal wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*). Creeping snowberry (*Symphoricarpos mollis*) and Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*) complete this dry-shade medley.

The group has an ongoing #MyPhotoOfTheWeek activity on the email list for group members to share their favorite shots with the group on a weekly basis. Charley Pow contributed the above #MyPhotoOfTheWeek taken midJune in his Los Altos home garden. About his photo Charley adds:

Adapted to California's climate, the coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) should be watered no more than once a month (and never around the trunk) during our long, dry summers, because the oak is prone to the potentially fatal oak root fungus (*Armillaria mellea*) that is normally dormant during the summer. Nature takes care of this until we plant under an oak and water those plants. Plants under a coast live oak need to survive with little water during the hot summer, and they won't get much sunlight under the dense, evergreen canopy of the coast live oak. Few plants do both well.

The four plants pictured are in the "Under Oak Trees" plant list of *California Native Plants for the Garden*, by Bornstein, Fross and O'Brien.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Committee

Our Chapter's next Conservation Committee meeting will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday**, **August 9**, from **7:00 to 8:30pm**. There will be no July meeting, as we will take a summer break then.

Please join us in our important work! Meeting details will be sent to committee members. If you are not on the committee but are interested in attending the Zoom meeting, email cdorsch@cnps-scv.org for the meeting link. For questions, comments or concerns, contact Conservation Committee Chair Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch@cnps-scv.org or (650) 804-6162.

GROWING NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

GNGT 2023 - Gardens Wanted

Do you live in Santa Clara or San Mateo County? Is your garden 70% (or more) California native plants?

We invite you to submit your garden for inclusion in the Growing Natives Garden Tour 2023.



The submittal deadline is October 31. For all the details please visit:

www.gngt.org/GNGT/Garden Submission.php

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Alum Rock Park Restoration

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."

Our workdays take place every **Monday and Wednesday**, **from 8:30am to about noon**. Sometimes we have some special extra workdays.

For new volunteers, we suggest trying us out on a **second Saturday workday**. You can sign up on the city's Eventbrite site at www.eventbrite.com/e/alum-rock-trail-crew-tickets-227808700957. The site lists current vaccination and masking requirements. Volunteer Service Agreement forms must be filled out and are available at the link. All persons under 17 must have a parent signature.

No experience is necessary. All tools and instruction will be provided. Please bring a filled water bottle and snacks; wear closed toe shoes and long pants.

If you're ready to volunteer on a more regular basis, or want to **volunteer on a Monday or Wednesday**, there's a one-time form to complete with the City of San Jose, here: www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/82740/637819206850000000. All volunteers need to be fully vaccinated (subject to change per government guidelines).

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.

Workdays continue on **Saturdays from 8 - 10am**. New volunteers are welcome; City-issued guidelines and COVID-19 best practices are followed. In summer now, the work is mainly weeding and mulching. For complete **details, directions and to RSVP**, see our Chapter's Meetup page at www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter.

Edgewood Restoration

Our long-term habitat restoration work at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve continues in person even during the pandemic. As with our other projects, we follow government guidelines and COVID-19 best practices.

For now, the project is not looking for new volunteers; only experienced "regulars" are attending workdays. Check the project emails for the latest news or contact project leader Paul Heiple at pheiple@gmail.com or (650) 854-7125.

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.

We currently have no upcoming field trips to list. Check our next *Blazing Star* newsletter and our field trips page www.cnps-scv.org/activities/field-trips for updates.



Ben Spencer-Cooke Field trip campsite in Owens Valley, May 2022

Owens Valley Field Trip Report From Owens Valley and the Eastern Sierra Nevada, May 13-16, 2022

By Joe Cernac, field trip leader

If only because of the stupendous scale of the mountains on each side of us – Sierras on the west, Inyo on the east – the Owens Valley rates at the top of excitement. With lingering snow fields from Mt. Whitney, gathering more volume as we go north, we can also see the White Mountains far to the north covered with late spring whiteness. With altitudes above 3,500 feet along with the cold Great Basin keeping plants from sucking up soil moisture, the bloom is there. April and May are the times to visit.

This year was pumped by that December storm of note. It provided enough wetness to get the annuals going on the Valley floor where we caught the peak of its bloom. However, you had to stop the car and walk. Local Steve Matson, of CalPhotos note, showed us some most tiny nemacladas, along with knowledge to identify *Gilia* and *Linanthus*. *Lupinus odoratus* with deep blue purple flowers thrilled us.

Ken Himes showed us a spur off of the Onion Valley road, where electric pink *Gilia cana* was blooming along with *Lupinus magnificus*. We traveled to two marble canyons in the Inyo Mountains, the first showing many *Phacelia perityloides*, a limestone endemic growing in the cracks of shaded walls. Prince's plume (*Stanleya elata*) was looking good in these Inyo canyons, as well as *Cryptantha confertifolia* and *Symphoricarpos longifolia*. Perennials desert almond and peach (*Prunus fasciculata* and *P. andersonii*), ninebark (*Physocarpus alternans*) and rock spirea (*Petrophyton caespitosum*) were a delight.



Ben Spencer-Cooke

Flowers of desert peach (*Prunus andersonii*) as photographed on the Owens Valley field trip. This peach grows as a bush, stunted by the dry environment. Its spines reduce predation and its small fruits are a good food source for rodents.

As a side mention to those not wanting to go off paved roads, Big Pine City has a great native garden – five stars. There were ten of us all together either at the campfire in the evening or local hotels.

Bonny Doon Field Trip Report

From Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve (Santa Cruz County) May 25, 2022

By Joe Cernac, field trip leader

May 25 was not too late to see wonderful flowering in the Santa Cruz Mountains, as our twenty or so troopers delighted in this perfect day. After being swept by wildfires in 2008 and 2020, Bonny Doon is a prime example of renewal. Knobcone pines (*Pinus attenuata*) will eventually be the dominant feature it seems, but right now it is showing much bare sandy ground where the action occurs. Perhaps the most unusual was an area of yellow broomrape (*Orobanche fasiculata*), with rock rose (*Helianthemum scoparium*) coming in second. Other areas were swales of silverleaf lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*) and bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*). Bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*) punctuated all areas with bright yellow dots.



Ben Spencer-Cooke

Burned pines and vigorous new yerba santa growth at Bonny Doon, May 2022. Knobcone pines need fire to open their cones. As a result of the 2008 Martin fire, field trip attendees observed many 8-10 foot tall knobcone pines here.

Near the park entrance, an endemic red spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *harwegiana*) covered the sand with an attending mixture of small sun cups (*Camissonia* sp.) of three types to attract one's interest. And of course

there were the four manzanita species to dwell on, with endemic *Arctostaphylos silvicola* being singular on the sand. Local Santa Cruz enthusiasts pointed out two different Navarretias. A five foot tall white-flowered hawkweed (*Hieracium albiflorum*) was growing at the forest edge. California milkwort (*Rhinotropsis californica*) showed itself profusely along a stretch of trails.

Mark your calendars for the following years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

Looking for ways you can help out the environment? Consider volunteering at one of the habitat restoration projects on page 9, including Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, based in San Jose.

The organization's vision is a vibrant Coyote Creek: clean waters, abundant wildlife and natural beauty that everyone can enjoy. You can help with creek cleanup and native plantings. Their latest events are listed on their website's events page, at



<u>www.keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org/events1</u>. Besides habitat restoration, their events include BioBlitzes, bike rides and creek walks.

One of the best ways to connect with native plants is through KCCB's BioBlitz events, where naturalists join citizen scientists to document all living things over a two-hour period in a park along Coyote Creek. You can be one of the naturalists sharing your expertise or join as a nature lover to learn from our experts. The organization contributes the BioBlitz observations to iNaturalist's global database, giving anyone who cares about species a window into the life of a specific region.

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful's founder, Deb Kramer, has worked since 2015 to expand the mission of the organization beyond cleaning up trash in Coyote Creek. As a community organizer, she was the catalyst for the Coyote Meadows Coalition to create an urban open space park in the heart of San Jose. The project seeks advocates who can encourage the City of San Jose to create a chain of parks from William St. Park through Kelley Park along the contiguous Coyote Creek Trail.



Participants look under a log at the Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful BioBlitz, March 2022

You can read more about the Coyote Meadows Project at www.CoyoteMeadowsSJ.org. You can reach Deb at deb@keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org or 408-372-7053.

Ulistac Natural Area Seeks Board Member By Chris Salander, Chapter Member and President of UNA

The Ulistac Natural Area Restoration and Education Project (UNA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, seeks a CNPS member to join their board.



Ulistac Natural Area
Ulistac Natural Area in Santa Clara

Ulistac is seeking a new board member with knowledge about planting and maintaining California native trees, shrubs and grasses in **Santa Clara's** 40-acre Ulistac Natural Area – the city's only natural open space. We currently tend over 500 volunteer-planted trees and over a

thousand volunteer-planted shrubs and other forbs. Planting at UNA started in 1999 and continues to the present time. We are thinking a local CNPS member would be an excellent candidate.

Physical work is not expected: service on the board includes attending and participating in a monthly board meeting (over Zoom) and voting on issues as they arise. The board member will be a valued resource when biological questions need discussion and resolution.

We are building a team which will have a diversity of skills and interests, plus experience with California native plant restoration and habitat enhancement.

Computer skills are a plus if the board member wants to help with maintaining and updating our media presence, including website, online newsletter, and social media, but are not required.

Interested? Want to learn more? Consider getting to know the project by volunteering on one of our first Saturday workdays, as described in the Habitat Restoration listing on page 9, or contact Chris Salander at ulistac@gmail.com.

Fire Recovery: Big Sur Pfeiffer Falls Trail Reopens

Chapter Photo Group member Susan Hinton sends us this photo from Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park.



Susan Hinton

In July 2008 the 162,818 acre Basin Complex fire caused the closing of campgrounds and trails near Pfeiffer Falls. Winter brought rain and mudslides, but the extensively reworked Pfeiffer Falls trail was reopened in June 2021. Today (May 2022), except for one or two burned stumps and burn marks rising up to 10 feet on trunks of some larger redwoods, a person might be forgiven for not knowing the extent of the earlier fire.

Stay in Touch!

Due to COVID-19, the Chapter remains virtual for many of our events. Please visit www.cnps-scv.org/stay-in-touch for information on how you can continue to receive email to stay informed.

This *Blazing Star* newsletter is published **mostly** online only, at: www.cnps-scv.org/blazing-star-newsletter. Our next issue, for September-October, will be published online and on paper. A paper copy will be mailed to all Chapter members. The **mailing party is planned for Thursday**, **August 25.** Details to come via the Chapter news email list.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP FOR 2022

Title	Name	Email	
President	Radhika	president@cnps-scv.org	
	Thekkath		
Vice President	Priya	priya@cnps-scv.org	
	Pharate		
Recording	Patricia	secretary@cnps-scv.org	
Secretary	Lang		
Treasurer	Brett	treasurer@cnps-scv.org	
	Tucker		
Past President	Vivian	pastpresident@cnps-	
	Neou	scv.org	
Chapter	Radhika	radhika@cnps-scv.org	
Council	Thekkath		
Delegate			
5th ExComm	Dee	dee4cnps@gmail.com	
Member	Himes		

To see the full list of Chapter officers and chairs, please visit www.cnps-scv.org/leadership.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT BLAZING STAR Saturday, August 6

carol.mattsson@gmail.com or (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 weed pulling! Contact the listed organizations for details.

Alum Rock Park Volunteers - San Jose

Invasive plant removal and habitat restoration. Weeding sessions every Monday and Wednesday mornings, plus second Saturdays. City of San Jose forms required. For details see page 4 or contact Stephen Rosenthal at sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or (650) 260-3450.

Edgewood County Park - Redwood City

Invasive plant removal Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings. For details see page 4 or contact Paul Heiple at pheiple@gmail.com or (650) 854-7125. www.cnps-

scv.org/restoration/
edgewood-park

Grassroots Ecology

Improve local ecosystems at our habitat restoration projects in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. We offer opportunities for people of all ages and background; everyone is welcome. Register to volunteer at www.grassrootsecology.org/volunteer

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful – San Jose

Help restore Coyote Creek by joining us to remove

trash and non-native plants, plant native plants and advocate for a healthy Coyote Creek. Choose an event from www.KeepCoyoteCreekBeautiful.org/events1. Deb Kramer, deb@keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org, (408) 372-7053. www.facebook.com/CoyoteCreekSJ

Lake Cunningham Park's Native Garden

Tasks vary by season and include weeding, mulching, pruning, watering, propagation and planting. 2305 S. White Road, San Jose. Saturdays 8 - 10am. For details see page 4. RSVP required at www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter.

Magic – Planting for the Second Hundred Years

Plant oaks and other California natives in winter, weed and mulch in spring, water in summer and early fall (and other times of year if necessary), survey and do other tree care year-round. Saturdays 7:30 - 11am (May-September), 8:30 - noon (October-April). Mostly at the Stanford Dish. Sign up: oaks@ecomagic.org.

www.ecomagic.org/projects

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Projects include invasive plant removal, planting native vegetation, fence repairs and trail maintenance. Contact Ellen Gartside at egartside@openspace.org for details. See website for calendar and signup links:

www.openspace.org/ where-to-go/eventsactivities

San Bruno Mountain Watch

Restore remarkable ecosystems on San Bruno Mountain and nearby. Weeding, planting and nursery workdays. Check volunteer events web page for workday details:



Arvind Kumar

At Lake Cunningham in San Jose, volunteers water young plants through the first few summers only; once established, the plants get no supplemental water.

www.mountainwatch.org/upcomingevents. Contact Ariel Cherbowsky Corkidi at ariel@mountainwatch.org for details. (415) 467-6631.

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Land Steward volunteers assist Authority staff with trail maintenance, habitat restoration, fencing and cleanup projects. Third Saturdays 10am - 3pm. Tools, training, lunch and water are provided! Use the GET INVOLVED link to sign up, at www.openspaceauthority.org/volunteers or contact volunteer@openspaceauthority.org or (408) 224-7476.

Ulistac Natural Area – Santa Clara

Volunteers remove invasive plants and plant California native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers. First Saturdays 10am - 1pm. Contact ulistac@gmail.comwww.ulistac.org.

Santa Clara Valley Chapter California Native Plant Society 3921 East Bayshore Road, Suite #205 Palo Alto, CA 94303-4326

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FIRST-CLASS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

Jul 13 Wed	Native Trees talk – Muffly (1)	Aug 25 Thu	Newsletter mailing party (8)	
Jul 22 Fri	Photo Group photo sharing (3)	Aug 26 Fri	Photo Group photo sharing (3)	
Aug 6 Sat	Newsletter submittal deadline	Mons, Weds	& 2nd Sats Alum Rock workdays (4)	
Aug 9 Tue	ug 9 Tue Conservation Committee meeting (4)		Lake Cunningham workdays (4)	
Aug 10 Wed	Amah Mutsun talk - Flores (2)		•	

The next Chapter board meeting will be **Thursday**, **August 11** at **7:00pm** over Zoom.

(There will be no July board meeting.)

Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests. For more information contact Radhika Thekkath 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 \$50.00 per year. If you have questions about your newsletter subscription, please contact **membership@cnps-scv.org**. Address changes may be submitted to **membership@cnps.org**. Please put "address change" in the subject line.

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