



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

May-June 2023

Reminder: Wildflower Show

Saturday, April 22, 10 AM – 4 PM
West Valley College, Saratoga

**Wildflower displays, talks, live music,
workshops, shopping and more**

**For more info. see March-April Blazing
Star, your CNPS SCV NEWS email, or**
www.cnps-scv.org/wildflower-show

*To spray, or not to spray, that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous insects,
Or to take arms against a sea of aphids
And by spraying, end them.*

The bard asks the same questions we ponder regarding pesticide use. Did you know that there is a method of pest control that is much safer for you and the environment? Join Frank Niccoli for two tantalizing hours to learn about Integrated Pest Management.

Frank Niccoli has been a gardener for over 55 years. He has written the curriculum and teaches numerous classes at Foothill College. His classes include: Ground Cover and Vines, Shrubs, California Natives, Landscape Lighting, Integrated Pest Management, Sustainable Integrated Pest Management and Veggie Gardens.

Frank is the past president of the founding chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association. He teaches from the perspective of a contractor who has been in the business for 32 years and with a passion for sustainability and environmental stewardship.



Vivian Neou

Plants on display at 2018 Wildflower Show

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Talks

Join us for native plant talks, at our newly resumed in-person talks at local libraries and online via our Native Plant Lecture Series. First – **At the libraries:**

Integrated Pest Management
A Talk by Frank Niccoli

**Friday, May 5, 7-8:30 PM, Los Altos Library, Orchard
Room, 13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos**



Glinda Addington

Butterfly eggs on *Salvia apiana* with ladybugs in all stages of development. Glinda adds,
"Left the aphids alone and look at all the life!"

Directions to the Los Altos Library, for both talks: 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.

The Power of Native Plants A Talk by Juanita Salisbury

Wednesday, June 14, 7-8:30 PM, Los Altos Library, Orchard Room, 13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Let’s discuss how planting locally appropriate native plants can save water and provide abundant biological resources for the environment. We’ll cover key design elements and best practices for maximizing environmental resiliency. Most importantly, we’ll cover just how simple, accessible and fun it is to set nature in motion.

Juanita Salisbury is a landscape architect. She addresses all aspects of the landscape design: from grading and drainage issues, coordinating with engineers and architects, lighting design, and designing custom elements. Additionally, her native plant expertise allows her to design ecologically friendly, drought-tolerant plantings. Her native plant palettes create beautiful, productive and abundant habitats that enhance biodiversity.



Juanita Salisbury

Primrose Way Pollinator Garden in Palo Alto, designed by Juanita Salisbury. Learn more at gnqt.org/GNGT/Garden.php?year=2020&gid=primpoll

Native Plant Lecture Series

The talks in our CNPS SCV Native Plant Lecture Series (NPLS) 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/videos (no registration needed) or join on Zoom by registering at the Zoom link provided in each lecture’s description. Two of our upcoming talks are listed below.

We occasionally schedule additional talks. For the current list of upcoming talks please see cnps-scv.org/native-plant-lecture-series or join our Chapter’s News email group for a weekly update on upcoming activities. (See cnps-scv.org/stay-in-touch for how to join the email group.)

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.

CNPS SCV 2022-2023 Research Scholarship Projects

**San Francisco Wallflowers, Yuba River’s
Cottonwoods, Henry Coe Park’s Bryophytes
and Blue Carbon Eelgrass:
Four talks from our Scholarship Recipients**

Thursday, May 11 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Zoom registration: www.cnps-scv.org/npls-20230511

Since 1999, our Chapter has sponsored a scholarship program for students doing research on native plant topics. Krti Tallam, John McLaughlin, Sierra Phillips and Andy

Frank, recipients of scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year, will present their projects during this talk. To learn more about the four student research projects, turn to the Scholarships section of this newsletter, on page 4.

Pollinator Restaurants & Building Community, a talk by Jennifer Dirking

Creating a Bee, Butterfly & Bird Restaurant and Building Community Along the Way

Thursday, June 8, 7:30 - 9:00pm

Zoom registration: www.cnps-scv.org/npls-20230608

Is your garden a ‘bar’ that only offers nectar to adult butterflies but no food for their offspring? Do the birds and bees visiting your garden have everything they need to raise the next generation? Learn how you can create a “Bee, Butterfly and Bird Restaurant” by growing the ‘keystone plants’ that feed your local ecosystem. In the process, you can:

- Attract more bees, butterflies and birds to your garden
- Boost your fruit and vegetable yields
- Help save local species that are in decline
- Engage with neighbors to build back habitat throughout your community

Join us for this lively discussion as we explore opportunities to boost biodiversity in our own gardens and simple ways we can educate and engage others.

Jennifer Dirking has been an organic gardener for over 40 years, but only recently transformed her garden from a food desert to a habitat oasis in her suburban San Carlos neighborhood. Inspired by Doug Tallamy’s book *Nature’s Best Hope*, she has reached beyond her garden fence to develop partnerships and inspire hundreds of others throughout the Bay Area to begin their own native gardening journey. Her simple tactics involving free wildflower seeds and promotion via social media provide a model for other individuals and organizations that want to reach further into their communities as well. Jennifer is our Wildflower Ambassador Program Chair.

CNPS SCV Nursery at Hidden Villa

The nursery continues to raise funds for the Chapter through sales from its online store at california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter.square.site.

The online store is usually open for browsing, but is only open for **ordering** during our periodic pop-up sales. Current Chapter members are notified by email before each pop-up sale starts. Each pop-up sale lasts only until all of our pickup slots are filled (typically just two or three days), so make sure that your membership is up-to-date if you would like to receive a notice before each sale.

In addition to plants, the nursery’s online store includes Growing Natives Garden Tour and Chapter T-shirts, books, labels and plant signs. Orders can be scheduled for pick-up at the nursery or delivered between Belmont and San Jose. Proceeds from plant sales are the major source of funding for Chapter activities and scholarships.

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 on **Fridays, April 28, May 26 and June 23 at 7:00pm**. You can learn more and join the email group at: www.groups.io/g/cnps-scv-photography.



Bill Lundgren

Gypsum spring beauty (*Claytonia gypsophiloides*),
late March 2023

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. Photo Group Chair Bill Lundgren sent us the above #MyPhotoOfTheWeek of gypsum spring beauty flowers that he took in Santa Teresa County Park, along the Joice and Bernal Hill Trails.

SCHOLARSHIPS

2022-2023 Scholarship Recipient Projects

San Francisco Wallflowers, Yuba River's Cottonwoods, Henry Coe Park's Bryophytes and Blue Carbon Eelgrass

This year our Chapter awarded four \$2000 scholarships to support California native plant research by college students. Meet these students and read about their unique and far-ranging projects below.

Four talks from our Scholarship Recipients Thursday, May 11 7:00 to 8:30 PM

And tune into the **May 11th Zoom talk** (see page 2 for details) to learn how these California plants contribute to the understanding of the health of our planet.



Andy Frank at a population of *Erysimum franciscanum* found near Crystal Springs Reservoir

Andy Frank, San Jose State University, Biology-Ecology and Evolution

(Donald Mayall
Conservation Research Scholarship Winner)

Erysimum franciscanum –Locally Adapted Populations and Morphological Effects Based on Water Availability

Andy is currently researching *Erysimum franciscanum*, a wallflower species endemic to the northern California coast. Its habitat consists primarily of serpentine

outcrops, coastal scrub and sand dunes, and granitic hillsides. It is morphologically similar to *E. concinnum* and *E. capitatum*. Within the range for *E. franciscanum*, there is an interannual precipitation variance of up to 20 inches, which begs the question of how this species and its populations are adapted to water availability. To further explore this relationship, Andy will be conducting a greenhouse experiment to see the direct effects that precise amounts of water have on this species as a whole.



Andy at a population of *Erysimum franciscanum* on San Bruno Mountain



Left: *Erysimum franciscanum* found near Crystal Springs Reservoir. Right: *E. franciscanum* found in the Presidio of San Francisco. DNA analysis is being done to determine if this white-flowered *franciscanum* is a subspecies.

Seeds will be collected from several different populations of *Erysimum franciscanum* throughout its range and then grown in the San Jose State University greenhouse under several watering treatments to see if significant morphological and fitness trends arise. Results will hopefully indicate optimal water availability ranges for each population, and help provide insight into possible future precipitation scenarios that could influence the population dynamics of the species.

All photos credit Andy Frank.

Krti Tallam, Stanford University

(Sally Casey Shooting Stars
Graduate Research Scholarship Winner)

Coastal California Seagrasses are Global Blue Carbon Habitats for Climate Change Mitigation

Although our understanding of the ocean as a major carbon sink is known, the fate of organic carbon (C_{org}) fluxes in coastal environments remains uncertain. Seagrasses are a major constituent of ocean flora found along global temperate and tropical coastlines. They provide habitat for other organisms, filter sediments, store carbon, attenuate wave energy, and filter the water column of pathogens. This study examines the ability of *Zostera marina* (eelgrass), a type of seagrass, to act as a blue carbon habitat. That is a habitat that stores more carbon per unit area than terrestrial forests.



Krti Tallam

Krti collecting seagrass samples along the coastline of one of her field sites, Spring 2021

Krti Tallam has developed a novel machine learning image classification algorithm using remote sensing data to analyze total eelgrass acreage per site and estuary as a function of total C_{org} , and to analyze patterns of estuary-specific proximity to other vegetated habitats that are contributing to C_{org} storage.

This project is a unique broadscale examination of meadows across distinct estuaries of a single species, serving as a vital step in elucidating the multi-faceted relationship of eelgrass and their sedimentary compositions in the face of ongoing climate change.

Krti's team sampled three key NERRS (see editor's note below) estuaries: Drakes Estero, Elkhorn Slough and Morro Bay; over four sub-transects, during three seasons, for disease prevalence and native eelgrass shoot density via percentage cover in quadrats, which they also termed the "greenness index."



Subhash V.

Krti collecting water samples to study the chemical makeup of the water samples in her field sites.



Justin P.

Krti collecting diseased seagrass samples in Central California in Fall 2022

These ecosystems store carbon mainly through sedimentation. In fact, seagrasses will reduce the energy of ocean waves, slowing down the flow of water and causing sediments to accumulate. These sediments trap organic

matter and other sources of carbon, keeping it from re-entering the atmosphere. While seagrass meadows act to stabilize sediments, we are beginning to discover that areas without vegetation are more likely to release stored carbon when disturbed. This is the next step in Krti's work.

Editor's note: NERRS stands for Natural Estuarine Research Reserve System, a network of 30 US coastal sites designated to protect and study estuarine systems. Estuaries are places where freshwater from the land mixes with saltwater from the sea.

**Sierra Phillips, UC Davis,
Hydrologic Sciences Graduate Group**

(Graduate Research Scholarship Winner)

**Cottonwood Seedling Recruitment:
Development, Evaluation and Application
of a Mechanistic Model**

Sierra is partnering with the Yuba Water Agency to develop a mechanistic model that predicts natural cottonwood seedling recruitment to guide river management and restoration designs. The Riparian Seedling Recruitment model is available for use through the open-source River Architect software (riverarchitect.github.io/RA_wiki/RSR).



Sierra Phillips

Naturally recruited Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) seedling growing on a sandy bar in the lower Yuba River, Summer 2022

Sierra assisted her lab mate, Rachel Wright, to survey over 3,000 young Fremont cottonwoods on the lower Yuba River in northern California. The observations now provide the data needed for model calibration. Sierra is currently conducting a sensitivity analysis to assist with the calibration and validation of the model for application. Sierra will apply the model to investigate the important hydrological processes and the role they play in limiting seedling recruitment.



Rachel Wright

Sierra assisting with surveying young cottonwoods with an RTK GPS below Daguerre Point Dam, Summer 2022. (RTK is short for real-time kinematic positioning, a highly accurate GPS)



Rachel Wright

Sierra walking towards a cohort of mature Fremont cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*) to take a break in the shade, Summer 2022

Editor's notes: In biology, **recruitment** means the process by which a species replaces itself generation after generation. Source: www.indefenseofplants.com/blog/2019/6/6/lets-talk-about-recruitment, as of April 13, 2023. Sierra tells us that **seedling recruitment** is an increasingly important means of regeneration for plants in the face of rapid climate change and habitat destruction. Species that are unable to colonize new sites or adapt to changing environmental conditions will eventually become extinct.

A **mechanistic model** is a replica of a real system that outlines its behavior based on established laws of natural sciences. Source: www.verisimlife.com/publications-blog/mechanistic-models-in-theory-and-in-practice, as of April 13, 2023.

John McLaughlin, San Jose State University, Biological Sciences

(Graduate Research Scholarship Winner)

The Bryophyte Flora of Henry W. Coe State Park

John McLaughlin has been collecting bryophytes from Henry W. Coe State Park (HWCSP) since March 2021 to better understand the distribution, ecology and diversity of these organisms in the Diablo Range and California as a whole. The objectives of John's research are to create a comprehensive inventory of the HWCSP with a focus on maximizing spatial coverage of the Park, accounting for ecological variation within species, and surveying well known locations within the Park such as Rooster Comb and Wilson Peak as well as backcountry locations.



Charlotte Miranda

John McLaughlin in the field collecting bryophytes along the back side of Blue Ridge, Henry W. Coe State Park. John packages the bryophyte samples in paper packets that are then placed in the plastic bin shown in the photo, to prevent them from getting squashed. Hat Rock Peak is in the distance.

Bryophytes consist of three main groups: mosses, liverworts, and hornworts, and are evolutionarily significant, being the ancestors to all land plants. Still, there are many areas of California for which we lack a basic understanding of bryophyte diversity. The Diablo Range is one of these understudied regions, and despite being the second largest state park in California, HWCSP has received little attention in terms of floristic research since Helen Sharsmith's work in 1945.



John McLaughlin

Didymodon brachyphyllus, a native California moss growing on soil at Henry W. Coe State Park. Mechanical pencil for scale.

So far, John has contributed nearly 1300 herbarium vouchers to the Carl W. Sharsmith Herbarium at San Jose State University, with duplicate specimens being sent to the California Academy of Sciences Bryophyte Herbarium. These collections have added approximately 91 county records from Stanislaus and Santa Clara counties, and have raised the species count of the state park from 90, when John's study began, to 177. These 177 species account for 22% of California's bryophyte diversity, including rare and listed species, making it the richest region for bryophytes on the Diablo Range.



John McLaughlin

An isolated stand of *Pinus ponderosa* on a foggy morning near Mt. Sizer, Henry W. Coe State Park

CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Committee

Our Chapter's next Conservation Committee meetings will be held via Zoom on **Tuesdays, May 9 and June 13**, from **7:00 to 8:30pm**. This committee covers many issues affecting native plants: conservation, advocacy, legislation, habitat restoration and rare plants. The committee meets once a month to provide information and support for all of these conservation issues and efforts. Members of our committee work on projects throughout the Chapter area, coordinating with our state CNPS program staff and other conservation organizations.

Please join us in our important work! For questions, comments or concerns, contact Committee Chair Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch@cnps-scvc.org or (650) 804-6162, or Conservation Chair Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com. If you are interested in joining our committee meetings on Zoom, please email Carolyn for the link.

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 special extra workdays.

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.

Note: Alum Rock Park **remains closed** indefinitely due to the damages caused by the January storms. For now we are holding workdays outside the park along Penitencia Creek.

Forms and **reservations** are required to volunteer. For more information, including meeting location, 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 2-acre area and beautifies it with California native wildflowers, perennials, shrubs and trees.

Workdays continue on **Saturdays from 8am - 10am**. New volunteers are welcome; City-issued guidelines are followed. In winter 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

Help restore habitat at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, known for fabulous wildflowers and amazing diversity near Redwood City.

Sturdy gloves are recommended; you might also want to bring sunscreen, water, a hat, layered clothing and wear long sleeves/pants.

Mariposa County Field Trip Report

Early last April, Ann McMullan joined other CNPS members on a three-day "away" field trip led by Radhika Thekkath. Ann shared this "field trip report" in the form of **two field sketches** she created from the trip's hike along the Merced River on the Hite Cove Trail. Here's her first sketch. Enjoy!



© 2023 Ann McMullan
Field sketch. Please pardon any mistakes.

Our **5:30pm Wednesday sessions** continue until the end of Daylight Savings Time. We also weed year-round **every Friday at 9am**. For an overview, visit www.cnps-scv.org/restoration/edgewood-park. **New volunteers** please contact Paul Heiple at pheiple@gmail.com or (650) 854-7125.

Please check the mailing list for each weeding session's meeting place. Contact Paul to join the mailing list.

FIELD TRIPS

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

In our region it is very important to be prepared for hiking on rugged and steep terrain, wide temperature ranges and rapidly changing conditions at any time of year. All participants should wear sturdy footwear and carry sufficient water, sun protection, food, clothing layers, personal first aid and other supplies you may need. If you have any questions about your ability to participate in a particular field trip, please contact the trip leader in advance.

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

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

For field trips listed here that require **reservations**, please make them at our Chapter's **Meetup page**, here: www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/. Find your event within the page and tap/click the "Attend" button to reserve your spot.

Mariposa County Field Trip Sketch #2

Here's Ann McMillan's second sketch of two, from April's field trip.



Sun May 7 10am - 3pm Sierra Azul Open Space (San Jose) With an Option for a Shorter Hike Ending at 12:30pm

*Woods Trail Through a Gardener's Eye:
Locally Native Plants for Bay Area Gardens*

California's plant diversity is among the greatest in the world and many of our native plants are suitable for landscaping. It is easy to see why: locally native plants have evolved in local soils and microclimates and fit perfectly in Bay Area gardens.

Join Arvind Kumar, Ashok Jethanandani, Stephanie Morris and Vicki Silvas-Young on this walk along Woods Trail to learn about the native plants local to our area. Arvind and Ashok are home gardeners in San Jose with a special interest in local natives. Stephanie is a landscape architect and past Gardening with Natives Committee chair. Vicki

leads many field trips for the Chapter, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Open Space Authority.

This hike is particularly focused on native plants on the trail that work well in gardens (and are generally available at native plant nurseries). It is not a detailed plant taxonomy trip. Observing the microclimates, companions and mature sizes of locally native plants can be a fantastic way to learn more about native plant gardening.



Arvind Kumar

Woods Trail is a scenic and biodiverse trail in the Sierra Azul mountains

This contour trail of the Sierra Azul range has gradual ascents/descents, and the north-facing aspect keeps it cool even on warm days. The plants are flourishing after this season's extended rainfall, and many may still be blooming. Plan future additions to your garden armed with the knowledge of the many attractive shrubs, subshrubs, perennials, and annuals that grow naturally here.

The full-length walk is 5.6 miles (out and back), with 330 ft of elevation gain/loss. Dress in layers, appropriately for the weather. Bring a sack lunch and plenty of fluids.

For those wishing to take a shorter hike, we will also leave with the main group at 10am but we will turn back earlier and skip the lunch break, returning to the parking lot by about 12:30pm. The shorter trip is about 2.5 miles and is also perfect for families! Bring water and bring snacks if desired.

Directions: Take Hwy. 85 to San Jose. Take the Camden Ave. exit and go south. In 1.8 mi, turn right on Hicks Rd. After 6.3 miles, turn right on Mt Umunhum Rd. The parking lot is immediately on the right. In Google maps drive to pin "**Sierra Azul Parking Lot at Jacques Ridge.**"

We will meet in the lot at 10am and plan to return by 3 pm. (If the lot is full, find parking on the opposite side of Hicks Rd. in Almaden Quicksilver Park's Wood Road lot and walk back.)

Sun Jun 25 9am - 12noon Bird and Plant ID Walk at Lake Cunningham Park (San Jose)

At the onset of Summer, join us for a **beginner's** bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park. This lake is a major destination for waterfowl and migratory birds and its native garden draws many birds due to its habitat value. On this walk, Vicki Silvas-Young will show you how to identify the common birds of our area,

while Arvind Kumar will identify the native plants that they depend on for food and shelter.

The distance is 2 miles round trip on a level path. Bring a hat, water, your bird and plant lists, and binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Space is limited. No drop-ins please. **To complete the required RSVP**, please visit our [Chapter's Meetup page](#). Driving directions and parking tips are provided on the Meetup page. We'll meet at the Marina parking lot at **9am**. Cosponsored by CNPS, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.



Ashok Jethanandani

Early spring plant ID walk at Lake Cunningham. Purple sage *Salvia leucophylla* 'Pt Sal' in the foreground.

March 2023

NEWSLETTER ETC.

Stay in Touch!

Some late-breaking events don't make it into the newsletter and are announced electronically. Stay informed by making sure that your contact information is correct. Please visit www.cnps-scvc.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-scvc.org/blazing-star-newsletter. Our next online **and** paper version will be the 2024 March-April issue.

Mailing Party Coordinator Priya Pharate

It's official! The board voted in March to approve Priya Pharate, who is also our Chapter Vice President, as our new Mailing Party Coordinator. We thank outgoing coordinator, Peggy Jacobs, for the many years she took the lead on organizing the mailing party.

We only publish our newsletter on paper about once a year since the pandemic. However, since we send that issue out to all members, the task of preparing the newsletter for mailing has become large enough that it continues to need a formal coordinator.

We want to be sure we have enough volunteers signed up for the various tasks ahead of time: get the newsletters picked up from the printer's, get the mailing labels printed, stamps purchased, snacks prepared, room reserved, etc. Plus, we need enough volunteers for the main event: the mailing party itself.

Thanks to Priya's organizational skills, our February 23 mailing party at the PCC went off smoothly and enthusiastically. We all enjoyed sharing stories as we sealed, stickered, stacked, snacked and finished up in about 2.5 hours. **All in person!**

Correction

This year's annual Wildflower Show, taking place on April 22, will be our 47th, not our 48th, as announced in the March-April newsletter. This is because in 2022 we held a smaller event instead, a Wildflower Festival at Hidden Villa.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP FOR 2023-2024

Chapter Election Results

The polls closed on March 15 for the Chapter's online officer election. This was the first time the election of officers occurred other than at the traditional November Members' Meeting. The election marked not only a change in the timing of the vote but also a change in the term of office for those elected. Going forward, newly elected officers will serve from June 1 through May 31 of the following year. It is anticipated that future elections will continue to be conducted electronically.

All votes cast were for the individuals proposed by the Leadership Development Committee. The officers elected for the next term, June 2023 through May 2024, are:

Title	Name	Email
President	Radhika Thekkath	cnpsradhika@gmail.com
Vice President	Priya Pharate	priya4cnps@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Patricia Lang	secretary@cnps-scv.org
Treasurer	Brett Tucker	treasurer@cnps-scv.org
Past President	Vivian Neou	pastpresident@cnps-scv.org
Chapter Council Delegate	Radhika Thekkath	cnpsradhika@gmail.com


The officers shown are continuing in their positions from the 2022-2023 term.

The Leadership Development Committee thanks all Chapter members who participated in the recent election and would like to encourage those who did not vote this year to consider doing so in the future.

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

<p>DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT <i>BLAZING STAR</i></p> <p>Saturday, June 17</p> <p>carol.mattsson@gmail.com or (408) 255-3767</p>
--

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



Join CNPS Today!

Members receive the Artemisia and Flora magazines, the Chapter newsletter and other benefits listed at www.cnps.org/membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Chapter _____

Membership level (check one):	Areas of interest:
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy
<input type="checkbox"/> \$120 Plant Lover	<input type="checkbox"/> Botany
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Supporter	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> Education
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Student or Fixed Income	<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening
<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Library	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant ID

*Donations above the membership level are gratefully accepted. Dues and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail it with this form to:
CNPS Membership, 2707 K Street Suite 1, Sacramento, CA
95816-5130 • membership@cnps.org • (916) 447-2677 ext. 200*

FIRST-CLASS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Apr 22 Sat Wildflower Show (1)</p> <p>Apr 28 Fri Photo Group photo sharing (3)</p> <p>May 5 Fri Integrated Pest Mgt. talk – Niccoli (1)</p> <p>May 7 Sun Sierra Azul Woods Trail walk (9)</p> <p>May 9 Tue Conservation Committee meeting (8)</p> <p>May 11 Thu Research Scholarship Projects NPLS (2)</p> <p>May 26 Fri Photo Group photo sharing (3)</p> <p>Jun 8 Thu Pollinator Gardens NPLS – Dirking (3)</p> | <p>Jun 13 Tue Conservation Committee meeting (8)</p> <p>Jun 14 Wed Native Plant Power talk – Salisbury (2)</p> <p>Jun 17 Sat Newsletter submittal deadline</p> <p>Jun 23 Fri Photo Group photo sharing (3)</p> <p>Jun 25 Sun Lake Cunningham bird & plant ID (10)</p> <p>Mons & Weds Alum Rock workdays (8)</p> <p>Saturdays Lake Cunningham workdays (8)</p> <p>Weds & Fris Edgewood workdays (8)</p> |
|--|--|

The next Chapter board meetings will be **Thursdays, May 18 and June 22** at **7:00pm** over Zoom.

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

For more information contact Radhika Thekkath at cnpsradhika@gmail.com.

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-sc.v.org**. Address changes may be submitted to **membership@cnps.org**. Please put "address change" in the subject line.

The *Blazing Star* web address: www.cnps-sc.v.org. Acknowledgement: Anne Warren for the *Blazing Star* logo. Please print on recycled paper.
