



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

May-June 2016

GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

Friday, May 20 at 7:00 PM

Please note early start time!

**Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos**

**Monkeyflowers in Flux:
A talk by Steve Schoenig,
California Native Plant Society**

Monkeyflowers (the genus *Mimulus*) are favorites of botanists, amateur naturalists, and native gardeners alike. They include annuals, perennials and sub-shrubs, many of which are very showy and beautiful. California is the center of *Mimulus* biodiversity in the world, since more than 90 of the 150 worldwide species occur here. Members of the genus exhibit adaptations, endemism and distributions that reflect the most interesting themes of California botany, such as fire-following, serpentine and other geological endemism, vernal pools, pollination, hybridization and large within-species variability. A small part of this talk will discuss new name changes that will be replacing the genus *Mimulus* with the two genera *Diplacus* and *Erythranthe*. Also the new treatment of monkeyflowers in the upcoming Jepson eFlora will be including 25 new (or resurrected) species names for California (yikes and hooray!).

Steve Schoenig is currently the CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt Botanist. He has a 30 year long interest in native California plants with a special focus on the monkeyflower genus *Mimulus* and endemic plants of the three California deserts. He recently retired as Branch Chief for California's natural heritage program (CNDDDB & VegCAMP), with a goal to spend more time outdoors and away from a desk. Before that he headed up the weed eradication program at CA Department of Food and Agriculture. During that time he served on the board of the CA Invasive Plant Council,

including two years as President. He obtained an undergraduate degree in entomology from UC Berkeley and two Master's degrees from UC Davis in entomology and biostatistics.

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

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.

The next **Monthly Member Sale** day will be **Wednesday, June 1, noon to 3pm**. For more info., contact Melanie Cross at melanie@pcross.com or (650) 847-1350; or Ray Deutsch at ray.deutsch@yahoo.ca or (650) 365-6136.

Please Help with Special Nursery Tasks

The Nursery is inviting all Chapter members to think about how they might be able to help with a variety of tasks. Some are occasional and some don't even require getting to the nursery. If you can help, contact Melanie Cross (see above). Here are examples of ways you can help:

PUT THINGS TOGETHER: Whether you are already skilled or want to learn, we need help assembling new benches to get our plants up off the ground in May or June.

POT CLEANING: We have several different size plastic pots that are used over and over in the nursery to get plants to sale size. In between uses they need to have soil cleaned off, then bleached, dried and returned clean to the nursery. If you can do one part of this big job we will coordinate your efforts with others.

Please note: Because the nursery has more **reused plastic 1 gallon pots** at the moment than we can process, we suggest that members with extra pots donate them to another group.

TASK WRITE UP AND DOCUMENTATION: We need clear instructions of different nursery tasks written up to help train nursery volunteers and a documentation process to easily keep track of how we fulfill new but ongoing **phytosanitary** procedures.

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 Dana Center parking lot to your right. Continue walking a short distance on that road and you will see the Nursery ahead of you, just past the Dana Center building.

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.

**Creating a Bee-Friendly Garden
a talk by Christopher Jadallah**

**Thursday, May 5, 7-8:30 PM, Redwood City Library
1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (650) 780-7018**
Come to this talk to hear about the abundant benefits of native bee habitat gardening! Learn about the biology and ecology of bees, and their important role in our ecosystems. See some of the most common bees found in urban areas and learn how gardeners can use California native plants to attract these valuable pollinators to their own gardens.

Chris Jadallah is an Undergraduate Researcher at the UC Berkeley Urban Bee Lab. The Lab's mission is to protect and restore native bees by furthering the understanding of the relationships between bees, flowers, and people. Chris works on several of the Lab's research projects in urban and agricultural sites around the state, along with participating in outreach. He is pursuing a B.S. in Conservation and Resource Studies. Also look for the Lab's book, *California Bees & Blooms: A Guide for Gardeners and Naturalists*, available in your local library.

**Creating a Maintenance Schedule for Your
Native Garden, a talk by Helen Popper**

**Wed., May 11, 7-8:30 PM, Mountain View Library,
585 Franklin St., Mountain View (650) 903-6337**
California native plants have a rhythm which differs from that of typical northern European species. In the book, *California Native Gardening: A Month by Month Guide*, you'll learn that our "spring" typically begins in October, when much of California leaves the dry season behind. Learn about each season's or month's gardening tasks and see different planting and design ideas. Hear about the core gardening techniques you'll need to master, such as pruning, mulching, and propagating as they pertain to our unique native plants.

The author of the book, **Helen Popper**, will provide calendar-based information for both beginning and experienced native gardeners. She is a long-time Chapter member and one of the first Gardening with Natives committee members.

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

**Monday, May 16, 7-8:30 PM, Morgan Hill Library,
660 West Main Avenue, Morgan Hill (408) 779-3196**
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.

Soil Health to Drought-Proof Your California Native Garden, a talk by Terry Lyngso

Tuesday, May 24, 7-8:30 PM, Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga (408) 867-6126

Plants that grow in healthy living soil are more able to cope with stress, including droughts. California native plants have evolved in relationship with life in the soil. Learn about the diversity of life in the soil, the relationships between the plants and the soil life, and how to encourage and grow life in your soil. Theresa will share her experience of turning an annual weed patch into a thriving native garden that uses very little irrigation water.

Theresa Lyngso is President of Lyngso Garden Materials, Inc., a 60-year-old family business. Theresa is a Master Composter and Master Gardener. She and her husband Joe grow California natives, roses, apples, pears, herbs and annual vegetables in their garden in Loma Mar.

Easy-to-Grow California Native Plants a talk by Ken & Sally Coverdell

Wed., June 8, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, Pacifica Sanchez Library, 1111 Terra Nova Boulevard, Pacifica (650) 359-3397

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. Please note the **earlier start time** for this lecture.

Ken and Sally Coverdell are part of Blue Sky Designs, Inc. **Ken** has been a licensed Landscape Contractor since 1978 and also holds a landscape architect's license and a general contractors license. Recently he became a Bay Friendly Qualified Landscaper. **Sally** is trained in ornamental horticulture with a degree in plant science from UC Davis. Sally has worked in all aspects of horticulture

and has over 18 years of experience in propagation and nursery management at Nurseryman's Exchange.

Easy-to-Grow Native Plants: A Viable Alternative to Lawns, by Radhika Thekkath

Wed., June 15, 7-8:30 PM, Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda de Las Pulgas, Belmont (650) 591-8286

Ready to lose your lawn, but don't know where to begin? Come to this talk and be inspired to create a beautiful, water-wise garden! See a variety of no-lawn landscaping styles and ideas, and get professional landscaping tips on removing a lawn, choosing the appropriate plants, and watering more efficiently. Get all this – *without* sacrificing the look of a lush landscape.

Radhika Thekkath has been a passionate gardener since childhood and was a native plant designer for a few years when she took a break from her tech career in the Valley. She is a strong advocate for using native plants in the home garden. She is on the Executive Board of our Chapter and on the steering committee for Gardening with Natives.

Native "Trees" for Native Gardens a talk by Frank Niccoli

Wednesday, June 22, 7-8:30 PM, Campbell Library, 77 Harrison Ave., Campbell (408) 866-1991

While some of our native trees such as redwoods are too large (and use too much water) to fit into a typical home landscape, other trees such as Catalina ironwood cohabitate and enhance residential gardens extremely well. Learn about a variety of local native trees and large shrubs, so you can select the best choice for your garden conditions.

Frank Niccoli has been a gardener for over 50 years and is the past president of the founding chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association. He was voted Member of the Year by his peers in 2001 and 2004. He has developed the curriculum and teaches numerous classes at Foothill College.

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, May 27 and June 24, 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 joecernac@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 March 25th General Meeting: Dave Struthers, Joe Cernac and David Chapman.

Dave Struthers has been doing all kinds of behind the scenes, essential tasks for our Chapter. In 1995 Dave and Jean Struthers purchased a used greenhouse for the nursery site, and he was a key volunteer in getting it up and running. He also took a donated garden shed and rebuilt it to become our nursery office and tool shed.

Since then, Dave has spent many hours doing maintenance on the nursery whenever repairs or upgrades were needed, including working with other volunteers to build shade structures and tables for the nursery. Dave has been a regular parking volunteer at the plant sales, and has supported Chapter leader Jean Struthers in her many native plant pursuits.

Joe Cernac has been and is a knowledgeable, supportive field trip leader and botanist. He has led many field trips and camping trips, including the desert camping field trip this March. He prepares plant lists for the trips and looks out for participants' safety (staying on top of weather forecasts, etc.). Joe is very approachable when one has questions, welcoming input from all field trip participants.

In addition, Joe has been a key volunteer at our plant sales: serving as a tag writer, contributing horticultural expertise and helping with set up and take down. Joe has volunteered at many Wildflower Shows and of course is currently the Keying with Natives Chair!

David Chapman is another volunteer who steps in where needed, working long hours at essential but unsung tasks. David has been excellent at keeping us on track in Board meetings over many years with his experience and proficiency with our meeting guidelines. He's put in countless hours installing and upgrading our web server – including some all-nighters when there were problems.

David has also served as Wildflower Show Chair and Publicity Chair. David has led many field trips, including trips to Coyote Ridge and Rancho Canada del Oro, has managed our Wildflower Show collector's database for years, served on the Finance Committee, recorded minutes at meetings and programs, volunteered as a parking attendant at Plant Sales, proofread the newsletter, and prepared press releases – just to mention a few of his contributions!

Three more Chapter volunteers will be honored at our May 20th General Meeting.

Volunteer Group Spotlight: Habitat Restorationists aka Weeders

This is the second in a series of Volunteer Spotlights that highlight volunteer activities in our Chapter.

For many years our Chapter has significantly contributed to the restoration and preservation of California biodiversity in the form of habitat restoration volunteers, aka “the weeders.” This is an essential activity involving the removal of specifically-targeted invasive non-native plants. We have projects throughout the Chapter area, guided by volunteer crew leaders who stay current with the scientific literature that guides our methods. On occasion we also contribute volunteer time to work with professional biologists who work for various agencies in our region (and beyond).

Along with the joy and satisfaction of doing science-based field work, weeders are treated to the presence of birds, insects, reptiles and other wildlife that are going about their daily lives in these habitats. We are grateful to the numerous habitat restoration volunteers in our Chapter!

If you have an interest in this activity, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved: check with the Invasive Plants co-chairs or any other Board or Committee Chair shown on our website. Habitat Restoration projects are also regularly featured in this newsletter – see “Chapter Service Outings” below. No prior botanical knowledge is required to participate. The physical requirements for this activity vary according to the project sites; the leaders can help you choose the right one for you!

Georgia Stigall 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. The next meetings will be on **May 5 and June 2 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.

Rare Plant Treasure Hunt 2015 Awards

Our Chapter received two awards from the State CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt program (RPTH). We received first place for the most rare plant occurrences documented. We thank the leadership of Rare Plants Co-Chairs Toni Corelli and Don Mayall, as well as many dedicated volunteers in the group that either adopted certain plants or certain parts of our Chapter region. Both Don and Toni retired as Rare Plants Co-chairs this year and Steve Rosenthal and Elan Alford are now the new chairs of our Rare Plants team.

Toni Corelli received third place for the most rare plant occurrences and was a huge asset to the RPTH in 2015. She helped spearhead our Chapter's rare plant survey efforts and gathered lots of rare plant data from the San Mateo Coast. Perhaps her single most noteworthy contribution from last year was bringing coast yellow leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon croceus*) to the attention of the CNPS Rare Plant Program, by leading a RPTH to document the last surviving population of this plant.

To get involved in rare plant work, feel free to email Elan Alford, our new Rare Plants Co-Chair introduced in the next article, at elan.reine@gmail.com.

Introducing Elan Alford, new Rare Plants Chair, San Mateo County

By Vicki Silvas-Young, Hospitality & All-round Support

Elan Alford has had a respect for plants all her life. Perhaps it has to do with the sense of joy and solitude that one can slip into so easily amongst a field of green? Perhaps it has to do with helping tend her father's mountainside garden in Pennsylvania?

In college, Elan studied ecology with a specialty in plant biology. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Ecology & Evolution, and then worked in a laboratory at the university, where she learned about molecular biology and microbiology. Most importantly, she started working on **legumes**. Elan was intrigued by their unique symbiotic interactions with rhizobia and the fact that it all happens in a hidden realm underground.

After being in the lab a while, Elan attended graduate school at Colorado State University to further study ecology. For her M.S., she studied invasive knapweeds, and during her field work she stumbled across a most interesting plant: two-grooved milkvetch (*Astragalus bisulcatus*). This plant led her to pursue a Ph.D. so she could continue to work on legumes, focusing on soil flora

and how they influence selenium hyperaccumulation in *Astragalus*.

Elan started working for HT Harvey in the Bay Area in 2012, just when help was needed with coyote ceanothus and Congdon's tarplant. She joined our Chapter of CNPS to learn about our California natives. Toni Corelli and Don Mayall helped fill her "infinite spare time" by signing her onto the Rare Plant committee and giving her stuff to do!



Toni Corelli

Rare plant Coast yellow leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon croceus*) on the San Mateo Coast

At HT Harvey, Elan is involved with habitat assessments, rare plant surveys, CEQA environmental reviews, wetland delineations, and regulatory permitting to comply with the Clean Water Act. But she continues to be most interested in plant roots, legumes, trace elements, and unique soils. And, we got 'em!

In her real spare time, Elan continues to learn more about our native plants and is now a new rare plants chair. She loves American roots music, is a student of the fiddle, and loves to play the banjo. She is also a homebrewer and beer judge. You can drop her a line at elan.reine@gmail.com

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. **Monthly Saturday sessions** are at **9am on the 3rd Saturdays** of the month through September, including:

Date	Meet At	Event Theme
May 21	West Kiosk	Endangered Species Day & National Biodiversity Day
June 18	Ed Center Kiosk	Ken Himes Day!!

For Wednesday/Saturday info, schedules and meeting places, you can visit www.cnps-sc.v.org, email Saturday leader Drew Shell at nature@dshell.oddotter.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-sc.v.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.”

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.

Fountain Thistle Work Party June 4

Join leaders Ken Himes and Jake Sigg, of the Santa Clara Valley and Yerba Buena Chapters respectively, on the return to our ongoing restoration work at this site, the intersection of I-280 and Hwy. 92.

We work to restore the rare, federally endangered fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*) by removing brush and trees that would like to take over this herbaceous community. Looking for pampas grass seedlings (we still find a few previously missed) feels like an Easter egg hunt!

The next workday will be **Saturday, June 4, 10am to noon**. We meet at the end of Lessingia Court in San Mateo. If you can't locate it on Google or Mapquest, email jakesigg@earthlink.net, or call him at (415) 731-3028. Optional camaraderie over Greek pizza afterwards.

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 May 14 10am - 4pm

Mount Hamilton Road Trip (San Jose)

Join Stephen Rosenthal for a special road trip up Mount Hamilton Road and then down into the San Antonio Valley Road. The area has some plants found nowhere else. We will be stopping along the road at about eight pull-outs to see what's blooming.

The west side, with several elevation changes, explores different plant communities with many wildflowers. The east slope, steep and dry, has its own interesting flora. We expect to see several rare plants such as *Lomatium observatorium*, as well as a nice collection of blazing star, the beautiful flower our newsletter is named after.

We expect about 60 miles of driving round trip. Mount Hamilton Road is a steep, narrow, twisting mountain road. We'll form carpools at the meeting spot. Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. Riders will share gasoline costs with drivers. We expect the trip to last until about 4pm or later. There will be limited hiking, probably less than 1 mile total. Limited to 3 or (at most) 4 cars with maximum of 15 people total.

Reservations are required, and this trip is open to CNPS members only. Please RSVP to Steve Rosenthal sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or (408) 923-6562 to **reserve your spot** and get carpooling directions.

Sat May 14 10am - 2:30pm**Grass Walk at Los Trancos OSP**

Join botanist Sally Casey and co-leader Alf Fengler to explore the native grasses at Los Trancos Open Space Preserve. See many species of grasses in sunny and shady conditions. Bring a hand lens if you have one available, since many important grass features are quite small.

Pack water, lunch, comfortable walking shoes and an interest in grasses. The hike distance will be about 2 miles with minimal elevation gain. We will stop for lunch along the trail.

The trip is limited to 18 participants. To **reserve your spot** and receive directions, please email to Alf Fengler at afengler@pacbell.net or call him at (650) 345-7045.

Sun May 15 10am - 4pm Butano State Park, Pescadero (San Mateo County)

Join Ken Himes as we venture along the Butano Fire Road to see an isolated colony of California rhododendron, *Rhododendron macrophyllum*. We will also see Chinquapin, *Chrysolepis chrysophylla* var. *minor* and bush poppy, *Dendromecon rigida* as we walk along the northern rim of Butano State Park.

This hike will cover more distance than most CNPS hikes – about 7.5 miles out and back. Meet at **10am** in the parking lot at the park entrance kiosk. Bring snacks, lunch and liquids.

Directions: Butano State Park is about 5 miles south of the town of Pescadero. Take Cloverdale Rd. to the park. For more information, call Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560.

Sat May 21 10am – 4pm Windy Hill Open Space Preserve (Portola Valley)

Just announced! Led by Peggy Jacobs and Paul Heiple. Windy Hill Loop Trail 8.5 mi. Woody plants. RSVP required. **Please see Chapter website for details.**

Sun May 22 9am - 3pm Geology and Plant Walk at Alum Rock Park (San Jose)

At the junction of the Hayward fault and the Calaveras fault, Alum Rock Park in San Jose is a geologist's paradise: its 20 mineral springs come down through Claremont chert; the Briones formation is full of fossils; Berryessa formation conglomerate greets you at the park entrance and elsewhere. Not surprisingly, the park is home to a wide diversity of plants, including native oaks, bay laurel, gray pine, holly-leaved cherry, buckeye, coffeeberry, holly-leaved redberry, blue elderberry, toyon, hillside gooseberry, sticky monkeyflower and blue witch.

Join geologist and botanist Paul Heiple to explore the relationship between plants and the rocks they grow on. The soil derived from the rocks can be very different from one rock type to another. The plants are not able to move, so they live or die based on what they can get from the soil where the seed fell. This forces the plants to develop adaptations for these differences, which can lead to species that only grow in certain conditions. Come explore this relationship and learn how to read the land for plants you will find, the rocks that might be below, the locations of landslides, and the locations of mineral springs.

Beginners interested in basic rock and plant identification are welcome. The hike distance is 2 miles with 600' of elevation gain. Bring water and a bag lunch.

Space is limited. **RSVP** to arvind.kumar@cnps.org for directions to the meeting place. The walk is jointly sponsored our Chapter and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.

Sun Jun 12 9am – Noon Beginner's Bird and Plant Identification Walk at Lake Cunningham Park (San Jose)

Second in a series: First Day (Almost) of Summer

Join us for a beginner's bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park. Lake Cunningham is a major destination for waterfowl and migratory birds, and its native garden is home for many resident birds for its habitat value. On this walk, Vicki Silvas-Young will show you how to identify the common birds of our area, as well as the native plants they depend on for food, shelter, and nesting places.

The distance will be 4 miles round trip on a level path. Bring a hat, water, your bird and plant list, and binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Parking fee is \$6. Cosponsored by our Chapter of CNPS, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.

Space is limited. **Please RSVP** to arvind.kumar@cnps.org to reserve your spot and to receive directions and details.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, June 4, 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



Join CNPS Today!

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

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- \$45 Individual
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 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)

May 5 Thu GWN – Bee-Friendly - Jadallah (2)
May 5 Thu Conservation Committee meeting (4)
May 11 Wed GWN – Maintenance - Popper (2)
May 14 Sat Mount Hamilton road trip (6)
May 14 Sat Los Trancos grass walk (7)
May 15 Sun Butano State Park hike (7)
May 16 Mon GWN – Garden Design - Osaka (2)
May 20 Fri **General Meeting – Schoenig, *Mimulus*** (1)
May 21 Sat Edgewood Saturday weeding (6)
May 21 Sat Windy Hill field trip (this just in!)
May 22 Sun Alum Rock geology & plant walk (7)
May 24 Tue GWN – Soil Health - Lyngso (3)
May 27 Fri Keying with Natives (3)
Jun 1 Wed Member plant sale at nursery (1)

Jun 2 Thu Conservation Committee meeting (4)
Jun 4 Sat Fountain thistle weeding (6)
Jun 4 Sat **Newsletter submittal deadline** (7)
Jun 8 Wed GWN – Easy-to-Grow - Coverdell (3)
Jun 12 Sun Bird & Plant ID Lake Cunningham (7)
Jun 15 Wed GWN – Lawn Alt. - Thekkath (3)
Jun 18 Sat Edgewood Saturday weeding (6)
Jun 22 Wed GWN – Native Trees - Niccoli (3)
Jun 23 Thu **Newsletter Mailing Party - 11am PCC**
Jun 24 Fri Keying with Natives (3)
Mon & 3rd Sats Alum Rock Weeding (6)
Wed & Thu Nursery workdays (1)
Wed & Fri Edgewood Weeding (5)

Next Board meetings: **Thursdays May 12 and June 9 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 Stephen Rosenthal at 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**. Address changes may be submitted to **cnps@cnps.org** and please put "member address change" in the subject line.

The *Blazing Star* web address: www.cnps-scv.org. Acknowledgement: Anne Warren for the *Blazing Star* logo. Printed on recycled paper.
