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## **THE BLAZING STAR**

July-August 2001

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### **GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM**

**Friday, July 27, 2001 at 7:30pm**  
**Los Altos Library Program Room**  
**13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos**

**SPEAKER: Jodi Isaacs**

**TOPIC: Resource Management at  
Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve**

Join us for this informative presentation about a very special local preserve! Jodi Isaacs will speak about the different grassland management techniques conducted by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) over the past three years at Russian Ridge and what we have learned from the results. One of her goals is to bring awareness to the many management challenges faced when trying to preserve grassland habitats.

Jodi has been with MROSD for five years as their Resource Management Specialist. Her job is extremely diverse, as she deals with various aspects of natural resources including habitat restoration, special species protection and wild pig control in a wide variety of habitats. Her undergraduate degree is in Wildlife Biology and her Masters is in Landscape Ecology.

Our general meetings are free and open to the public. They are an opportunity to meet other members, peruse our books and become familiar with various issues. Our chapter is involved with a wide variety of activities, as you can see in this issue of the *Blazing Star*.

**DIRECTIONS:** (For a map to the Los Altos Library, see the May/June *Blazing Star*.) From Foothill Expressway, travel 1/2 mile towards the Bay, cross Hillview and turn right into the driveway; library is on the left. From El Camino, travel towards the hills, cross Edith and turn left into the unmarked driveway just before Hillview. If you need additional information or help with

the directions, please contact Georgia Stigall at [gstigall@aol.com](mailto:gstigall@aol.com) or 650-941-1068.

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*by Mary Simpson*

Spring is almost over for our region. The best of the wildflower displays have dried up and it is now time to move to higher elevations to find the best blooms. As I write this, I have just returned from an amazing Jepson Herbarium field trip to the Modoc Plateau. After the field trip ended, Stephen Buckhout (our tireless driver for the trip), Jackie Doda and I went in search of a *Calochortus* not yet described in the Jepson Manual. We took what was supposed to be a short break on the long drive home to search for this "life plant." After a long hunt through blue oak woodland covered with an abundant display of *Brodiaea*, I gave up hope and was returning to the car when Jackie found the object of the hunt. Stephen and I came running to find a single fresh *Calochortus*, with petals pink on top, yellow below, and a bright orange gland. It's an odd color combination, but for this plant it works. It was a magical moment and the equivalent of finding a needle in a haystack. Obviously, this particular plant had not heard about the commonly known fact that newly discovered plants always grow near major roads. We had to travel miles of unpaved road and then tramp through the forest. There are still new botanical discoveries to be made. Go out there and find them!

Ah, but so much for botanical wanderings. Now, to business. State CNPS is in the final stages of a reorganization process. Read your CNPS June *Bulletin* carefully. You will be asked to vote on the proposed new Bylaws for our State organization. While reading such information may seem a dreary prospect, this is **your organization**. State CNPS is small enough that individual voices have a significant impact. If you have an opinion, it is important that you monitor these proceedings so you can voice your opinion in how things are run at the State level. As some of us recently were astonished to learn, a few votes can have a determinative impact even in a nationwide race. Ours is a small group. A few votes may well change the result in our voting process. Read the information in your June *Bulletin* and please cast your vote!

### ***In Memoriam: Donald Hughes***

Chapter member and native Californian Donald Hughes passed away earlier this year, on February 17. In the late 1960s he helped design a custom adobe home in Almaden Valley. While the house was being built, Mr. Hughes raised more than 200 native plants that were used to landscape the property. Thanks to the generosity of his family, who designated the Native Plant Society as a recipient of

memorial gifts, his memory lives on and will help further Chapter efforts on behalf of California's native plants.

## **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

**Fall Plant Sale:** Mark your calendars for our Fall Plant Sale at our chapter nursery at Hidden Villa: Saturday, October 20, 9AM to 3PM (note new times!). Contact Jean Struthers if you would like to help.

### **Photography Group**

Please note that there will be no meeting of the Photo Group until Fall. Enjoy your Summer, and please watch the *Blazing Star* for announcements of future meetings and activities.

### **Gardening With Natives (GWN)**

#### **July GWN Meeting:**

Our next meeting will be held at Vicki Pelton's house on Thursday, July 5 starting at 7:30PM. There will be a potluck on the backyard lawn and general discussion with no formal meeting, as Stephanie cannot be at this event. Vicki has a terrific yard with a native garden, a small pond, a bog area, 45 small fruit trees, and carnivorous plants! Bring a sweater just in case the weather is cool like last year! Items to bring: Main dishes, snacks/appetizer, salad/side dish, bread, dessert, soda/wine, hot beverages, etc. Vicki will provide plates, silverware, napkins, and cups. (650) 368-2510.

#### **August GWN Meeting:**

Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Stephanie's house from 7:30PM to 9:30PM. The native garden will probably be looking a bit dry and dormant, but we can have a relaxing meeting in the backyard with some refreshments.  
Location: 5319 Garrison Circle, San Jose; 408-629-8004.

Directions: From Hwy 85 South, take the Blossom Hill Road exit LEFT over the overpass. Travel on Blossom Hill past Snell, Judith, and Eagles. At the next stop signal (right after Oak Grove High School), take a LEFT on Lean. Take the first right on Hayes and travel several blocks. Take a LEFT onto Garrison Circle (it is a circle, so you will have two chances to find the sign). Our house is 5319, at the far end of the circle. It is the one of the few houses on the block with no front lawn.

Contact Stephanie Mangels at [stephmangels@hotmail.com](mailto:stephmangels@hotmail.com) or 408-629-8004 to be added to the newsletter mailing list, provide input, or receive more information. New members are always welcome!

### **Edgewood Non Native Plant Removal**

Friday mornings all year, 8:30AM. Contact Ken Himes at 650-591-8560 or John Allen at [jcakwa@aol.com](mailto:jcakwa@aol.com) for meeting place.

Saturday mornings through 8/25/01 - meet at 9:00AM at Edgewood Road under I-280 overpass.

Wednesday evenings through 10/24/01, 5:30 PM - call Ken or see [www.friendsofedgewood.org](http://www.friendsofedgewood.org) for meeting place.

Bring sturdy gloves, water, snacks, sun protection and layers.

### **Cape Ivy Removal – Los Gatos (New Site)**

Our first cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) weeding project along Los Gatos Creek is very nearly done. Only scattered resprouts remain, so it is time to move on to the next project. This year we are working just upstream from Vasona Park on another large colony. In these first few sessions we will be trying to reduce the biomass, so much help is needed. As always, bring gloves, a long-sleeved shirt (there is some poison oak), snacks and drinking water. The site is shaded but will probably still be warm.  
Directions to the new site: From Hwy 17, take the Hwy 9 exit towards the hills (towards Monte Sereno and Saratoga). Turn right at the first signal light, University Avenue. Proceed north one-half mile to the second stop sign, Roberts Road, and turn right. Drive 0.2 mile east, until the road begins to descend to the creek. Park in the residential district and walk across the bridge. Roberts Road curves to your left; there is a gate to Los Gatos Creek Trail just after the bend. The colony is right at the gate, stretching downstream.

Schedule (all sessions are on Saturdays, from 10AM to noon): July 14, July 28, August 11, August 25.

### **Ulistac Habitat Restoration**

Restoration efforts are ongoing, and volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks at this special location in Santa Clara. Dress for the weather; bring hat, sunscreen, lunch, and water. Contact Chris and Jeanne Salander at (408) 293-6885 or [salander@batnet.com](mailto:salander@batnet.com) for more details. Directions: From Hwy 101 take the Montague Expressway north past the Agnews site to Lick Mill Blvd. Turn left on Lick Mill; go past the stop sign at Hope St. Ulistac is on your right; enter through the metal gate. You can also get there on the light rail line.

### **Meadow Restoration – Foothills Park**

When: Every Sunday at 9:00AM – noon throughout the Summer.

The results from last year's weeding are already evident on Vista Hill. There were many more lupines earlier and now there are many more *Calochortus*, yarrow and *Clarkia* in bloom. We have managed thus far this season to clear two small plots plus the area on the steep slope on the Panorama trail where we have worked before. There are MANY FEWER yellow starthistle (YST) – our efforts are really producing results! This is the best time for restoration work with yellow starthistle, as the plants are large enough to be seen, but they have not yet bloomed and formed seeds.

Volunteers are a wonderful and scarce resource. We have more YST than we have YST removers, so every one of you is important!

Directions: Foothills Park is on Page Mill Road a few miles west of Hwy 280. Inform the ranger that you are there for volunteer restoration work. Follow the road past the lake and down a hill to the Orchard Glen Picnic Area parking area next to the rest rooms. Bring water, snacks or lunch and sun protection including a hat. We usually work until lunchtime. For more information: jwo@svpal.org or ellieg@ispchannel.com.

## **Native Hill Work Evenings**

Every Monday, 5:00PM through Summer: Work evenings to weed, mulch, water, and do some pruning. There are many flowers still in bloom: Matillja Poppies, Woolly Blue Curls, Spice Bush, and lots of *Clarkia*.

Directions: Go to Foothill College at the El Monte exit of Hwy 280 and follow the one-way loop road around the campus. Proceed under a pedestrian overpass and up a hill. The native plant garden is on the left side of the road next to faculty parking lot number 2. It is just past the large "Horticulture" sign. You will not need to pay to park in this lot for the work sessions.

For more information: ellieg@ispchannel.com

## **COMMITTEE NEWS & REPORTS**

### **Field Trip Planning**

Please join us Friday, July 13 at 7:15PM at Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) to help plan field trips. This is your opportunity to both share your ideas and learn of new locations from others. We welcome your ideas!

### **Wildflower Show/Native Plant Sale**

People were lined up or milling around the plant sale area ready to snatch their favorite plants at 10AM Saturday when we opened for business. As usual we attracted the most knowledgeable, environmentally aware, "with it" gardeners in the region. They wanted plants for pollinators, hummingbirds, butterflies, and plants to deer-proof their

gardens. Erin O'Doherty of Native Revival Nursery brought many pretty flowers along with some more unusual plants. We were also joined by a small restoration nursery, "California Wild," who brought many unique plants that they grow for restoration. Our income from this sale was almost the same as last year, around \$7,758. This was probably because we were selling many smaller plants. We hope they all thrive at their new homes!

According to Ruth Buneman who runs the hospitality/greeter table, our attendance totaled 536 on Saturday and 367 on Sunday. This was in comparison to last year's attendance of 561 and 282 respectively. We displayed 82 plant families including 451 species. Of these, 384 were native and 22 were new species we have not previously shown.

The grand total of our income including plant sales, book sales and donations from both outside vendors and the public was over \$14,000. This money is used to fund the *Blazing Star*, scholarships, donations to other groups, and our own conservation projects such as Coyote Ridge and Edgewood Preserve.

This show is our biggest event of the year. It requires incredible effort on the part of the collectors, keyers, movers, cashiers, propagators, sellers (of books, art, seeds, etc.) and more. **Many people make it happen each year and we thank you all!** This year we did it without a chairperson to coordinate everything. It all happened anyway, but it did not go as smoothly as it has in the past. We would like to make some changes in order to lighten the burden on the few members who have done the show forever and need helpers. If you can help in the future, please let a board member know of your willingness. The reward will be that you will learn a lot about native plants in the process and will meet some very nice people!

### **Trip Report - Rare Plants of the Serpentine**

About thirty chapter members gathered at the appointed starting spot on a chillier than expected Saturday in March to participate in Toni Corelli's special "Rare Plants of the Serpentine" walk on San Francisco Watershed land. Thirty was, I believe, above our quota. And since the starting time and location were given out only to those who had reserved, it is a bit of a mystery as to why there were extra participants. Actually it is not a mystery, as our chapter has its share of adventure seekers.

But conservation biology is mostly hard work and Toni made sure that we worked. Her permit to enter the watershed was predicated on completing surveys of threatened or endangered species. After we verified that the only known population of *Fritillaria biflora* var. *ineziana* was present and in flower, the entire group formed a cordon and moved across the population counting more than 200 flowering plants. We also documented the associated plant

species. Toni clicked on her Global Positioning System (GPS) finder to determine the latitude and longitude of the spot. She then completed a Rare Plant form documenting the existence of the species to the California Natural Diversity Database, a component of the Nature Conservancy's worldwide biodiversity monitoring program, maintained jointly in California by CNPS and the California Department of Fish and Game.

At a second spot above Hwy 280, we found quite a bit of the rare *Fritillaria lileacea* in a grassland that included *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Collinsia sparsiflora*, Cream cups, and Brownie thistle. There was also *Plantago erecta*, indicating that this area remains Bay Checkerspot butterfly habitat.

The third stop was a rare treat indeed, a chance to visit the "triangle," the area adjacent to Edgewood Park on the west side of Hwy 280. The triangle is under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Water Department and is not open to the public. The substrate is all serpentine and it is a sort of miniature Edgewood, with both grassland and chaparral areas. The rare *Pentachaeta bellidiflora* was one of the major serpentine grassland annuals. We also found skeletons of the rare *Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*, although not quite where we expected it. Interestingly, unlike Edgewood, there were not a lot of invasive species such as yellow starthistle, except along the right of way of an old roadbed adjacent to Hwy 280.

We salute Toni for arranging this trip and the San Francisco Water Department for giving us access. The Water Department is clearly committed to preserving endangered species. And finally, we make a shameless appeal for help to the thrill seekers and others on this trip. To be preserved, rare plant populations must be monitored and counted regularly. This is what the CNPS chapter rare plant committees do; they are the front line of rare plant protection. Join us. Get involved. For info call Don Mayall 650-856-7579.

### **State CNPS Assists with Vegetation Survey on Coyote Ridge**

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter is one of three in the state chosen by the state CNPS vegetation program for assistance in conducting plant surveys. The other chapters are San Diego and Lake Tahoe. The serpentine habitats of Coyote Ridge will be the focus of surveys conducted here. Newly appointed state Vegetation Ecologist Julie Evens is training chapter volunteers in two techniques of evaluating and characterizing vegetation, the RelevÉ method and the Rapid Assessment method. She will also assist us in planning the survey and analyzing the data.

The serpentine soils of Coyote Ridge contain several plant communities in addition to the familiar grassland. These include wetlands where the Mt. Hamilton Thistle is found, several chaparrals, including the diverse Paintbrush Hill with its federal and state endangered *Castilleja affinis* ssp. *neglecta* (Tiburon Indian Paintbrush), and the foothill pine woodland where the endangered Coyote Ceanothus is found. Several of these do not match any currently described vegetation type and it is likely new types will be identified. We will also have data for producing precise, scientifically defensible descriptions of the vegetation of the serpentine soils on Coyote Ridge. These should be very useful to organizations engaged in habitat conservation in this area. We are very pleased to have been chosen for this assistance by the state vegetation committee. Thanks are also due to the chapter members who have volunteered to assist on the surveys - Gale Rankin, Cynthia Gilbert, Paul Heiple, Ken Himes, Ben Hammett, Lee Prouty, Gloria Heller, Karen Converse, Judy Fenerty, Don Mayall and Mary Simpson.

### **Public and Private Agencies Work to Control Weeds**

CNPS members have long understood the threat posed by invasive non-native weeds. They can crowd out rare native plants and take over entire ecosystems, depriving other species of habitat. They are also a threat to agriculture, destroying grazing land, field crops, choking waterways, and posing fire danger. Public agencies, open space authorities, water and flood control districts, parks and recreation departments, and agricultural agencies have all become concerned with the threat of weeds.

For the past year and a half public agencies have been working with environmental groups like CNPS to do something about weeds in a coordinated way. The umbrellas that bring all these groups together are the Weed Management Areas (WMA). Authorized by California law, the WMAs provide for coordination among agencies, integrated weed management planning, and funding for a variety of local projects including education, weed mapping and removal projects.

In the area of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter, there are two WMAs: Santa Clara County and San Mateo County. Chapter members Don Mayall, John Beall, Georgia Stigall, and Peter Ingram have been active in the formation of these groups, and CNPS is a signatory to their Memoranda of Understanding (MOU).

In Santa Clara County weed mapping and removal of pampas grass and some yellow starthistle have begun on private land at Coyote Ridge, a project proposed by Don Mayall and John Beall. The weed warrior who is doing this work is Doug Johnson. Participants of the Coastal

Restoration Workshop in April will remember Doug for his presentation on restoration at Ajo Nuevo State Reserve.

The weed control project at Edgewood Park (begun by Ken Himes with volunteers from CNPS and Friends of Edgewood, and the County Parks and Recreation Department staff) has been granted funds from the San Mateo County WMA for an integrated approach to yellow starthistle control. Peter Ingram and Bill Korbholz of Friends of Edgewood proposed this project.

### “Musical (Botanical!) Chairs”

We’ve had some great progress recently on filling some of our volunteer positions. Please join us in expressing our hearty thanks & welcome to the following people for shifting into new responsibilities (and to those “behind the scenes” folks who helped recruit)!

**Tom Cochrane** is now our **Books Chair**. He replaces Paul Heiple, our current Treasurer.

**Ray Deutsch** is our new **Membership Chair**, replacing Stella Yang.

**Stella Yang** is our new **Field Trips Chair**.

We still have openings for a *Blazing Star* editor (see the details on page 7) and a Plant Sale Chair (or co-chair). In general, if there are any topics in which you are interested contact any chair or board member for more information.

### Scholarships Awarded

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS awards scholarships to graduate students doing research on plant systematics, plant ecology, plant physiology, and other related botanical studies of plants that grow in habitats in Central and Northern California. The recipients of the 2001-2002 scholarships (\$1,250 each) are:

**Debie Kinsey, San Jose State University.** *Debie is studying restoration of native grasslands at Long Ridge Open Space Reserve. Her study addresses the effect of feral pig rooting on native plants and methods of slowing down or preventing invasive thistles from colonizing disturbed areas.*

**John Rusmore, University of California at Davis.** *John is studying the connection between nitrogen emissions from vehicles and the spread of exotic plants along roadways. He will analyze various nitrogen sources and study their influence on selected native and non-native species.*

The research scholarships recognize the academic accomplishments and research plans of these graduate students and the potential of their research to further the

understanding of plant ecology and plant communities in Central California.

Research support in the form of \$600 grants was also awarded to two additional scholarship applicants: **Lisa A DiGirolamo, University of California, Santa Cruz**, and **Susan O’Neil, San Francisco State University**. Lisa’s research focuses on the post-invasion effects of the Argentine ant on grassland community composition in California and Susan is studying the response of *Adenostoma fasciculatum* (chamise) and *Ceanothus* species following a fire on both serpentine and non-serpentine soils.

Congratulations Debie, John, Lisa and Susan!

### CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

#### **June 24, 10 AM – Pescadero Creek County Park.**

*Clintonia*, California harebell, and a few old growth redwoods are the featured flora for this hike. We will be hiking on the Tarwater Loop Trail. It will be a moderately paced hike of about 6 miles, with a 600 ft. elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, and layers. Directions: from 280 take Page Mill Rd. 8.5 miles to Skyline Blvd. Page Mill becomes Alpine Rd. west of Skyline. Go 3.5 miles on Alpine and turn left onto the entrance road where the sign says “Men’s Correctional Facility – Pescadero Creek County Park.” Go 0.9 miles to the dirt parking lot. Travel time from Hwy 280 and Page Mill is 30 minutes. For more information, Tom Cochrane, trailtraveller@webtv.net or phone 650-969-3181

**July 1-4 – Mt. Ashland, OR:** This trip is fully booked. If you wish to be wait-listed, contact Mary Simpson at marysimpson@earthlink.net or 408-370-3177.

**July 28, 9 AM Eagle Rock, Santa Cruz Co.** This hike will have a few summer-flowering plants including Golden Fleece (*Ericamera arborescens*), Rock Daisy (*Erigeron petrophilus*), and California Fuschia (*Epilobium canum*). There is also the endangered Santa Cruz Cypress (*Cupressus abramsiana*) here. The trail is about 4 miles round trip, with 1000 ft. elevation gain. Parts of the trail are rocky and there are tree obstacles. Directions: from downtown Saratoga take Hwy 9 for 22 miles to downtown Boulder Creek, turn right on Hwy 236 and go 6.4 miles to Little Basin Road. Turn left and head west for 1.2 miles. The trailhead is at the end of the road next to the H-P Camp gate. Parking will be on the sides of the road. Travel time from Saratoga is 55 minutes. Bring water and lunch. Be prepared for the heat. It can get hot at the top. Tom Cochrane; trailtraveller@webtv.net or phone 650-969-3181

**Aug 1-6 Wed thru Sun: Backpack trip to Molybdenite Canyon.** Located NE of Tower Peak of Yosemite NP, this region is a high plateau of the eastern Sierra that features interesting habitats of both Sierran and Great Basin design as we ascend from pine/sagebrush at lower elevations, through lush meadows and dark forests, up to colorful alpine fell fields. We start at Molybdenite Canyon trailhead at 8,000 feet, gradually attaining the 2,000 feet that puts us at the headwall where we proceed up an easy 600 hundred feet to Burt Creek watershed. From this high ridge, we can do an ascent of nearby Walker Peak, 12,563 feet, or walk distant alpine meadows and fell fields, take in the flowers, or enjoy other relaxing of our choice. Return is via Burt Creek. Camps will be evenly dispersed over our 4 days. Total miles are about 17 with about 2,600 ft. elevation gain. Leaders are Joe Cernac and Ken Himes. For more information, call Joe at 408-292-5465.

**August 5, 10:00 AM Woods Road, Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve.** Stella Yang and Paul Heiple will be searching for a possible hybrid oak and taking a closer look at the sedums and dudleyas along this trail. The distance to be covered is about 5 miles. For additional information, contact Stella at 408-255-6233. Meet at the Park and Ride lot at the southeast corner of Camden and Highway 85 at 9:45 AM to make car pooling arrangements since trailhead parking is limited.

**August 25, 8:30AM Stile Ranch Trail, Santa Teresa Co. Park:** See late summer flowers including some rarities. For the birders, we may see Rock Wren and Golden Eagle. Three miles of hiking with about 500 ft. elevation gain. Very little shade, so prepare for the sun. Directions: From Hwy 85 exit Almaden Expwy South. Go 4.9 miles then turn right onto Harry Road, go 0.1 miles then turn left on McKeen Road, go 1.3 miles then turn left on Fortini Road. At end turn left on San Vicente Road. Parking lot is on the right about 300 ft. down. Tom Cochrane; trailtraveller@webtv.net or phone 650-969-3181

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Professor Emeritus Lincoln Constance**

Our chapter received the following from Brent D. Mishler, Professor, Department of Integrative Biology and Director, University and Jepson Herbaria; UC Berkeley.

*"It is my sad duty to report that after a battle with pneumonia, Professor Emeritus Lincoln Constance passed away June 11, 2001, at the age of 92.*

*Lincoln was the patriarch of Botany at Berkeley and foremost expert on Umbelliferae/Apiaceae systematics. He was immensely influential in shaping the modern history of the University and of systematic botany on a worldwide level. Lincoln's long and distinguished career began as a graduate student with Willis Linn Jepson in the 30's. He was Curator of Seed Plants in the University Herbarium beginning in the 40's, Chair of the Department of Botany in the early 50's, Dean of the College of Letters and Science from the mid-50's to early 60's, Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs from the early to mid 60's, Director of the U.C. Herbarium from the early 60's to mid 70's and Trustee of the Jepson Herbarium from 1960 until his death. In addition to his numerous professional accomplishments, Lincoln was a true gentleman and an exceptionally generous colleague, mentor, and friend. We will truly miss him. A memorial service will be held in September. We will send more information when it becomes available."*

### **September Host Homes Needed**

As was covered in the May-June *Blazing Star*, our chapter will host the September 8-9, 2001 CNPS State Conservation meeting, being held at Stanford University. All CNPS members are welcome, and any with a particular interest in conservation are strongly encouraged to attend.

Volunteers are needed for several tasks. Be sure to contact us us know if you are interested in helping. This will be a great opportunity to meet other conservation-minded members!

Also, host homes are needed for some participants. Please contact Mary Simpson if you are able to provide a host home for this meeting.

### **Yosemite Flora Update**

The Yosemite Association (YA) has announced a pre-publication offer for the much-anticipated *Illustrated Flora of Yosemite National Park*, which is nearing completion. This will be an exquisite publication by Stephen J. Botti. The flora, in development since 1981, covers 1,338 native species and 127 non-native species. Illustrations are by Walter Sydoriak with line drawings by Leslie Randall and Katherine Hocker. Foreword is by Peter H. Raven, Ph.D and technical editing by Linda Ann Vorobik, Ph.D. Pre-

publication orders are now being accepted for the volume, which is offered at a significant discount. **Pre-publication orders must be placed by July 15, 2001. For pricing and additional information, contact YA at 209-379-2648 or write to them at PO Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318.**

Members may recall that our chapter donated to Yosemite Association for the publication of this flora, in memory of Dr. Carl W. Sharsmith.

## **San Mateo County Parks Vegetation Assessment**

The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation funded the development of a Vegetation Management Plan for the County Park System. The first phase, assessment, has just begun.

Rana Creek Habitat Restoration has been hired to do the assessment. Geographical Information System (GIS) maps with vegetation quadrangles have been made using aerial photographs. Volunteers are now needed to provide basic information about the type of plant community, condition of vegetation, and range of invasive species for these quadrangles.

Many volunteers are already covering Edgewood and San Bruno Mountain parks. While volunteers are welcome to help with any of the County Parks, volunteers are most needed for Pescadero Creek County Park.

For more info, please contact Dave Moore at [dmoore@co.sanmateo.ca.us](mailto:dmoore@co.sanmateo.ca.us) or 650-363-1906, or Julia Bott at [julia@supportparks.org](mailto:julia@supportparks.org) or (W)650-321-5812 or (H)343-8950.

## **CHAPTER NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

Our *Blazing Star* needs an editor!

Acting editor for the March/April, May/June and July/August issues was Georgia Stigall. Acting editor for the September/October issue will be Don Mayall.

In general, this volunteer task entails soliciting input from committee chairs and other members in time for the submissions deadline (one week before each board meeting), reviewing the list of topics with the board in order to ensure completeness, compiling and editing the material to create a final format, reviewing with another member as needed and submitting to the printer within the week following the board meeting.

The current (and several past) issues are in Microsoft Word format and a template including the logo and banner is available from Georgia Stigall ([gstigall@aol.com](mailto:gstigall@aol.com)) or Bill Prince ([bill\\_prince@yahoo.com](mailto:bill_prince@yahoo.com)).

Other software programs may be used assuming compatibility with our printing service. Various sources exist for obtaining botanical and related artwork.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Mary Simpson or Don Mayall.

*Thanks to Mary Alice Bethel and her faithful band of co-volunteers for the reliable and timely mailing of the Blazing Star every month!*

*Thanks also to Stephen Buckhout and Ann Whitesell for editorial reviews, and to Cynthia Gilbert and Bill Prince for preparation of the template.*

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR***  
**Friday, August 10, 2001**  
**Don Mayall, Acting Editor for September/October 2001**  
**Home: 650-856-7579**  
**Email: [seleve@ix.netcom.com](mailto:seleve@ix.netcom.com)**

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