



THE BLAZING STAR

September-October 2001

GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

Friday, September 28, 2001 at 7:30PM
Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center

SPEAKER: Dr. Roy Woodward
TOPIC: CNPS Rare Plant Program

Roy Woodward will discuss the State CNPS Rare Plant Program, including new projects and ideas about how our chapter can assist with data collection and in the monitoring of rare plant populations. Roy recently volunteered to serve as chairperson for the State CNPS Rare Plant Scientific Advisory Committee.

Roy Woodward was born and raised in Fort Bragg, California and received a Ph.D. in botany with Professor Michael Barbour at UC Davis in 1986. He has held various resource positions in state and federal government, including that of program manager of the endangered bird and mammal program at California Department of Fish & Game. From 1993 to 2000 he was a senior science specialist for Bechtel Corporation in San Francisco. In 2000, he became manager of the newly created Natural Resources Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment Program (IMAP) for the California Department of Parks and Recreation in Sacramento.

Our general meetings are free and open to the public. These meetings provide an opportunity to meet other members, check out the book table, and become familiar with various issues. Our chapter is involved with a wide variety of activities. By attending our meetings you can learn about these activities and how you can become involved.

DIRECTIONS: From the Bayshore freeway (Hwy 101) take the Embarcadero Road East exit. Drive on Embarcadero Road past the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course and the airport. At the stop sign. Turn left. The Baylands Interpretive Center is one half mile further, on the left. The parking lot is on the right. A flashlight will help you find your car after the meeting. If you need additional information or help with directions, please contact Georgia Stigall at gstigall@aol.com or 650-941-1068.

ANNUAL POTLUCK MEETING

Sunday, November 18, 2001 at 6PM
Shoup Park Garden House
Save the date!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mary Simpson

Our September State CNPS Board meeting will be held at Stanford on September 8-9. This is the annual meeting where State CNPS focuses attention on conservation issues. If you are interested in listening or contributing to this meeting, you are encouraged to attend. If you want more information, call or email. If you are interested in learning about what your state organization does, this will be an enlightening experience.

In connection with this meeting, my special thanks go to Sara Timby, who has taken the lead in assisting with arrangements at Stanford, to Don Mayall, who is assisting with the logistics, and to Melanie Cross, who has agreed to match our out-of-town guests with members who can host them overnight.

The speakers at the September 8 dinner will be Dr. Alan Launer and Dr. Sean Anderson, both with Stanford's Center for Conservation Biology, and Craig Breon, Executive Director of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. The Saturday night dinner and talk is a good opportunity to hear from three of the leading conservationists in our area. The entire event is a good opportunity to meet with other CNPS members throughout the state. Dinner will be at Shoup House in Los Altos. The cost for the dinner is \$19 per person and includes a choice of entrée: rotisserie chicken, beef tri tip, or ravioli stuffed with butternut squash. The buffet dinner will include assorted appetizers, salads, and desserts. There will be interesting people, good food and a great program. Advance reservations are required for the dinner. If you plan to attend the dinner, I must have your money in hand no later than September 3.

That said, I am making a final call for more volunteers to help out with this meeting and the Saturday night dinner. I have had very few responses from members, and I still need volunteers to help with the meeting. I also need more members who can put up one or two people at their house or apartment. Those needing a place to stay include CNPS State Board Members and Presidents from other CNPS chapters. Please call me at 408-370-2177 or email me at marysimpson@earthlink.net or if you can help. If you have a place for an out of town guest on Friday or Saturday night, please contact Melanie Cross at 650-947-1325 or email her at melaniejc@aol.com

In Memoriam: Kay Walker

Chapter member Kathryn (Kay) Walker passed away June 6, 2001 at the age of 91. Kay had been active in the local chapter for many years. She was perhaps best known for the spectacular desserts she made every year for members' night. Each year she collected plants for the wildflower show, sharing her collecting responsibilities with Jean Sorenson and later Stella Yang, travelling the back roads of Loma Prieta and out to Corralitos in search of plants that seemed to grow only in those locations.

Less well known was Kay's role as a founding member of the Wild Women's Hiking and Flower Society, additional evidence of her intense love of the out-of-doors.

Her family has requested that memorial gifts be sent to Peninsula Open Space Trust, 3000 Sand Hill Road 4-135, Menlo Park, CA 94025; Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 2350 Leigh Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124-1033; or the Barnes County Historical Society, P. O. Box 661, Valley City, ND 58072 for the T.J. Walker Historical District.

Harry Sanders Honored

Harry Sanders, volunteer manager of the Native Plant Nursery at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Fremont, has been named **National Volunteer of the Year**, the highest honor for a wildlife refuge volunteer. Harry has been a participant in the Santa Clara Valley Chapter's Gardening With Natives Group and has provided plants for a number of our Native Plant Sales. Congratulations, Harry!

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Photography Group

The chapter photo group will begin its fall program with a meeting at the Peninsula Conservation Center building, 3921 E. Bayshore, Palo Alto, on Monday October 1, at 7:30. The November meeting will be on Monday, November 5th. For info call Sonja Wilcomer 650-494-0104.

Gardening With Natives (GWN)

Our monthly meetings are open to all who are interested! We have expanded our annual seed/cutting/plant exchange into two meetings this year. So, please bring any items you wish to exchange with the group to the September and October meetings. Also, it's a good idea to bring plastic bags (for plants and cuttings) as well as any seed envelopes you may have. We're also continuing the potlucks, so enjoy!

September 6: Our September meeting will be held at Debra Welch's house on Thursday, September 6, starting at 6PM. We will have a tour of the yard and appetizers, followed by a potluck dinner at 7:00 and then our plant material exchange. This will allow for an earlier evening than normal to take advantage of the daylight hours. There will probably be some traffic on the way up Highway 17, so if possible, carpool for conversation while driving!

Directions: Take highway 17 South from Highway 85 ~ 7 miles. Exit right at Redwood Estates. If you get to Summit Rd or the Summit you've gone too far. Turn right, up the hill (This is Madrone Rd., but there is no sign at this point that tells you that.) Stay on Madrone, the main road for about half a mile. You'll pass the fire station and the community center. Just before you get to the Redwood Estates store on your left and Nonno's pizza and Italian restaurant, veer right onto a poorly paved road that looks sort of like a pull out until you're on it. This is Madrone Road. The main road going up the hill changes name at this point. Follow Madrone to the end. Turn left on Lee Drive. Pass Rose Court on your right. Ours is the dark green house past Rose Court on the right. Park in the single space at the top of the driveway or past our driveway on the right side of the road. Parking is difficult here, but everybody's in the same boat and understands. We can fit up to six cars in the driveway, but only attempt this with my guidance. (We have a black hole.) We are in a beautiful spot in a mixed evergreen/deciduous forest. September is a beautiful time of year. Hope you can make it. It's worth the drive!

October 6: Our October meeting will be held Saturday, October 6 at Andy Butcher's property in Sunnyvale. The meeting will start at 1PM, followed by a potluck dinner. We will start with a tour of the property. After the tour, we will have our seed/plant material exchange. This exchange is for all members of the group. (In addition, if you would like to bring a cutting or some seeds for Andy's future garden he would be interested in any native plants that are from the Santa Clara Valley/Santa Cruz Mountain habitats.)

During the afternoon, we will have a creative design session. We will use the plans we created as a group earlier this spring to stake possible plant locations, looking at the future garden design in further detail. It will be a great way to bounce ideas off each other and learn more about the planning of a native habitat. No heavy labor will be involved, just fun planning! It's also a great opportunity to get rid of a few of your old pots to plant the cuttings in as well. Andy will have soil available for those who would like to plant cuttings.

At approximately 5PM, we will have a potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share, as well as your own plate, cup, silverware, etc. if possible. If you wish to barbecue, contact Andy and he will arrange to have a grill available, phone 408-245-1991 and email: lightart@telis.org. Hope to see you there!

Directions from Highway 280: take the Wolfe Road Exit north toward Sunnyvale. Go past Homestead, then take a left onto Fremont. Go past the medical center, then take a right when you see a pepper tree and a gravel driveway. There are orchards on either side of the driveway. Drive back on the gravel road to the garage. One request: PLEASE STAY ON THE GRAVEL DRIVEWAY, as there are sensitive oak roots outside this area.

Directions from Highway 85: exit on Fremont and travel east about 3-1/2 miles toward Sunnyvale. When you see the 7/11, dog leg left at the center divider. This should take you into the gravel driveway at the pepper tree. As mentioned above, stay on the gravel driveway and park back toward the garage.

Directions from Highway 101: exit Fair Oaks. Veer left onto Wolfe. After El Camino, turn right on Fremont. At the pepper tree, turn right into the gravel driveway and follow the above directions.

Contact Stephanie Morris at StephLMorris@hotmail.com or 408-629-8004 to be added to the GWN newsletter mailing list, provide input, or receive more information. New members are always welcome!

[Editor's Note: Stephanie Morris is the former Miss Stephanie Mangels. Congratulations, Steph.]

Fall Plant Sale: Hidden Villa Ranch

Saturday, October 20, 9AM-3PM

(note changed hours)

This year's sale is on Saturday, October 20 but it will start an hour earlier than usual. It will be at our nursery at Hidden Villa Ranch on Moody Road, 2 miles west of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. Hidden Villa holds a Halloween party for little people at 5:00 and needs us to be out of there before they have to set up. So, we will start the sale at 9AM and end at 3PM.

Volunteers: sales people who know a bit about growing natives, those who can take money and make change, or people who will bring lunch things for the other workers are needed. Paul and Tom may need help selling books and Sally will need a helper with her bulbs. So, lets make it a project for the whole chapter and volunteer to help. You will meet new people and help earn the money to run the chapter for the rest of the year. Phone Jean Struthers at 650-941-2586 or Ray Deutsch at 650-365-6136 and we'll sign you up.

Sunday, September 23, is a nursery work day.

The last few weeks before the sale Jean, Ray, and Jackie need extra help: weed pulling, label making, pricing, and general tidying up of the whole place to get ready for the throngs of buyers. Come around 10AM and bring lunch, hat gloves, and sunscreen. We will have lemonade for you. This way you can preview what you might buy at the sale. All you gardeners come, we need you. Phone Jean Struthers 650-941-2586 or e-mail jeanstruthers@aol.com or just come.

Non Native Plant Removal: Edgewood Park

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

Wednesday evenings through 10/24/01, 5:30 PM - call Ken or see www.friendsofedgeswood.org for meeting place. Bring sturdy gloves, water, snacks, sun protection and layers.

Cape Ivy Removal: Roberts Rd. Los Gatos

We are continuing to work on the second patch of Cape Ivy along Los Gatos Creek, just upstream from Vasona Park. We are trying to reduce the biomass first, so lots of help is necessary. As always, bring gloves, a long-sleeved shirt (there is some poison oak), and water. The site is shaded but will probably still be warm.

Directions to the new site: From State Highway 17, take the Highway 9 exit west (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. There may also be parking across from the gate, along Ohlone Court in a newer housing development.

All sessions are on Saturdays, from 10AM to noon: September 8, September 29, October 13, October 27.

Ulistac Natural Area Restoration

Work continues at the bird and butterfly habitat garden (.75 acre) and the oak woodlands (5 acres) at the Ulistac Natural Area in Santa Clara. Frequent waterings, mulching, and level correcting, under the expert guidance of Jeff Caldwell, are producing healthy-looking plantings of 15 California native shrub, 4 tree, and 5 oak species. Birds and butterflies are starting to make use of the plants. CNPS members are needed to identify new, unplanned plants and to advise on plant care. Come to the Thursday evening watering sessions (6-8PM), or check the Saturday schedule and map to the site at www.scu.edu/envs/Ulistac, or call Chris and Jeanne Salander at 650-948-8611. The second round of planting will start in October.

Meadow Restoration: Foothills Park

Over the summer volunteers from our chapter and others have been removing yellow starthistle from Vista Hill, a wildflower meadow in Foothills Park. This fall we will return to work on control of French broom. To be on the email list send a message to jwo@sypal.org.

Native Hill Garden: Foothill College

For information on fall activities, contact Ellie Gioumousis at 650-494-6276 or email ellieg@ispchannel.com

COMMITTEE NEWS & REPORTS

Field Trip Planning Ten chapter members met in July at PCC and produced an outstanding list of trips for the coming season, some of which are listed below. Another meeting is planned for October 5th, 7:15PM at PCC. For info call Stella Yang, 408-255-6233 or email yscottie@pacbell.net.

Vegetation Surveys Training in Relevé and Rapid Assessment methods of vegetation surveying were conducted in July and August by State Vegetation Ecologist Julie Evens and survey work has begun on Coyote Ridge. We plan to conduct surveys at least twice a month in the fall and spring. We could use additional help. If interested please contact Don Mayall, 650-856-7579 or seleve@ix.netcom.com

CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

September 29, 12Noon, Hidden Villa

Fall scenery and early plant uses. Riparian, chaparral, and mixed woodland communities. Approx. 4 miles, 600ft. elev. gain, moderate pace. Directions: Hidden Villa is 2 miles west of hwy. 280 on Moody rd., Los Altos Hills. Parking is \$5. Meet in the visitors center parking lot. Tom Cochrane 650-969-3181 trailtraveller@webtv.net

October 13, 10AM, Fall Colors on the Guadalupe

Joe Cernac will lead us to see members of the sunflower family and other sources of yellow such the turning leaves of walnuts and cottonwoods along the Guadalupe River as it passes through San Jose. Walk starts at 10AM, is about four miles long and ends by 2PM. Meet in the parking lot at the southeast corner of Guadalupe River and Montague Expressway near the levee. If you are not sure, consult a city map or call Joe at 408-252-5465.

October 28, 9:30AM, Stanford University Plants

(note: we are back on Standard Time on the 28th)

This six mile tour of the Stanford University grounds will begin at the recently restored, Arizona Cactus Garden. We will be given a brief introduction to this "new" garden by its curator, Christy Smith. The many native plants used on the Stanford campus will be the focus of our tour. However, we will see many other Mediteranean plants used horticulturally on this whirlwind tour which will include an ascent of the "Dish" overlooking the Campus. Bring sturdy walking shoes or well-fitting running shoes. For advance information, you will enjoy visiting the web site at: www.stanford.edu Search: Cactus Garden also visit and explore: grounds also visit the searchable map by searching: campus map

Directions: General Location: Quarry Road @ Welch Road Parking lot is east of the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford Arizona Cactus Garden is South of the Mausoleum. From Palm Drive go west to next major intersection which is Quarry Road. Turn right, drive to Welch Road (stop light) and turn right into parking lot and Park. OR: From Stanford Shopping Center, drive South on Quarry Road to Welch Road, and Turn left into parking lot. From the parking lot find the paved road into the Arboretum and walk to the Arizona Cactus Garden a hundred yards into the Arboretum, south of the Mausoleum. Parking is free on weekends. Tour starts promptly at 9:30, but arrive early to look around, and to allow for finding your way. Because of the many points to stop along the way, and the length of the tour, we will keep up a brisk pace, and not wait for people to catch up. leader: Andy Butcher, Horticulture Technician, Stanford University, e-mail: lightart@telis.org or call: (408) 245-1991

November 10, Castle Rock State Park Another chance to see fall colors on black oaks and big leaf maples along with wonderful views of the Santa Cruz mountains. Meet Ken Himes at 10am in the main parking lot off Skyline Blvd, (Hwy 9).

November 17, Shoreline Walk with Jean Struthers

Details to be announced.

December 1, Weed Ecology & Biology, Edgewood Park
With Ken Himes and Paul Heiple. Details to be announced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Exhibition of Jean Struthers Paintings

Jean's wonderful California landscape paintings will be on display at the Los Altos Hills Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Sept. 9-Oct 26. Don't miss it!

Friends of Edgewood Docent Training Class

The Docent Training Program for Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve, started by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, will be starting up again this October. If you are interested in joining, please call or e-mail Dianne Hunt, Docent Coordinator, at (650) 261-1935 or Dianne.Hunt@mvla.net.

Bat House Workshop Sep 23, Redwood City. For a small fee (for supplies), build your own bat house at the workshop. For info, email (preferred) or call : Vicki Pelton, vpelton@vertical-edge.com or 650-368-2510.

California Lichen Society Fall Programs

The California Lichen Society (CALs) will host two workshops and a lecture this fall at locations accessible to members of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter. CALs Fall Workshops will run from 10AM to 4PM on two fall Saturdays. Prior registration is not needed. Bring a lunch. Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided.

September 22: 'Hands On' Lichen Basics San Jose State University, Duncan Hall, 10AM to 4PM. CALs Founding member Barbara Lachelt will present this Saturday workshop, 'Hands-On' Lichen Basics. Barbara has developed a 'teaching set' of lichens she uses to illustrate lichen morphology. We will spend the morning inspecting these samples to become more familiar with the unique morphology of lichens. In the afternoon, we will use keys to identify unknown specimens. Help to identify your own lichen specimens will be available by CALs mentors during this time. Duncan Hall is on San Salvador Street at South 5th Street. It is easily reached by taking the 7th street freeway exit from Hwy 280. See the campus map at www.sjsu.edu/campusmap/map.html. Contact Judy Robertson at jksrr@aol.com or 707-584-8099 for info.

October 20: Introduction to Lichens UC Berkeley, University Herbarium Conference Room, 1001 Valley Life Sciences Bldg., 10AM to 4PM. Janet Doell, co-author of the *CALs Mini guide to Common California Lichens*, CALs founding member and first President will guide us through an Introduction to lichens. Learn lichen groups, common lichen genera, and basic morphological features. We will also talk about lichen collection techniques, preservation, and preparation for herbarium quality specimens. Please contact Janet at doell4@home.com or 510-236-0489 if you have questions.

CalEPPC Symposium October 5, 6, & 7

Handlery Hotel, San Diego

Achievements & Challenges in Wildland Weed Management Early registration \$80, \$95 after September 15. For info contact Mike Kelly 858-566-6489 or email mkellysd@aol.com. For hotel reservations call the Handlery Hotel at 800-676-6567.

Dune Symposium October 20

Cal State Fullerton

Southern California Botanists Association and CNPS Present: **SHIFTING SANDS – Conservation and Biology of California's Dune Habitats**

Early registration \$35 due by October 15, \$45 at the door. For info contact Susan Hobbs, 949-597-1581 or email slhobbs@home.com

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Friday, October 12, 2001
Email: seleve@ix.netcom.com

