



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

January-February 2023

## **Get ready to vote online in March New Chapter Election Process**

As a result of changes to Chapter Guidelines approved in October, election of Chapter officers will now occur in March, with newly elected officers beginning their terms June 1 and serving for one year. New procedures are required since elections will no longer occur during member meetings as they did in the past.

The current and all future Chapter elections will be conducted online. Candidates identified by the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) for elected positions will be placed on the ballot without needing to self-nominate. Current Chapter members who wish to run for office can **self-nominate by** filling out the form at [forms.gle/JbpAbf435VHPtdvk7](https://forms.gle/JbpAbf435VHPtdvk7) prior to **February 15**. People who know Chapter members who would make good candidates should encourage them to follow the process for self-nomination. Each candidate will be required to provide a brief statement for members to consider when voting.

On or about **March 1 each Chapter membership will receive a notice** sent to the email address shown in the membership portal on [cnps.org](https://cnps.org) at [secure2.convio.net/cnps/site/UserLogin](https://secure2.convio.net/cnps/site/UserLogin). Please log in and check your email address before March 1 to be sure that you receive a ballot. To vote, members should use the link contained in the email announcing the commencement of voting, which will take them to a site listing all candidates for each office along with their statements. Vote for only one candidate for each position: President, Vice President, Past President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Chapter Council Delegate. **Polls will close on March 15.**

Election results will appear in the May-June issue of the Chapter newsletter, the *Blazing Star*.

Memberships lacking a valid email address can request a **paper ballot** by contacting the LDC Chair. Paper ballots

should be returned to the Chapter office and received **no later than March 15**.

Questions concerning the new voting procedure or the self-nomination process should be directed to Stephen Buckhout, Chair of the Leadership Development Committee, [stephen@yscottie.com](mailto:stephen@yscottie.com) or (408)255-6233.

## **Outstanding Volunteer Award: Georgia Stigall**

Our Chapter of CNPS is pleased to announce that Georgia Stigall is the recipient of the 2022 Outstanding Volunteer Award. This award is given by the Chapter to a member who has made a significant and sustained contribution to the conservation of native plants and to promoting the Chapter's mission. It is the highest recognition given by the Chapter.



Georgia Stigall volunteering at our native plant nursery fall plant sale, October 2009

Georgia grew up in San Carlos in a family that loved nature and the outdoors. She was naturally drawn to science-

based conservation, including habitat restoration volunteer projects, and joined the Chapter in the late 1980s.

Georgia's first volunteer project for CNPS started in 1996 at Edgewood Preserve, with the weed warriors under the leadership of Ken Himes. She was a National Park Service habitat restoration volunteer and crew leader in Yosemite National Park during the summers and volunteered at Edgewood during the other seasons. Georgia was recruited by CNPS Chapter leadership in the late 1990s to serve as Recording Secretary; and went on to serve as Vice President, President (which included being Chapter Council Delegate), Officer at Large and New Member Outreach. She spent over 23 years as a Chapter Board Member, 10 of those as a Chapter Officer. She remains a committee chair to this day, in her role as New Member Outreach.

Georgia has been a regular presence at plant sales, wildflower shows and other Chapter events since the late 1990s. Her professional background guided her in facilitating process changes for our Chapter that significantly streamlined management of these events. She also delighted in volunteering for the Going Native Garden Tour for several years with the late Sally Casey (one of the founders of our Chapter).

In 1996 Georgia fulfilled a lifelong goal of buying acreage in the Santa Cruz Mountains to manage as a nature preserve. Along with her partner, she manages this land to provide for native plants and animals, and to welcome friends of like mind. To this end, she has hosted numerous CNPS board retreats and potlucks.

For many years, Georgia has promoted awareness of habitat relationships between native flora and fauna by teaching, "Native critters need native plants!" As a member of Sequoia Audubon Society, she has fostered communication between our sister organizations.

Anyone who works with Georgia comes away impressed with her attention to detail and process. This skill makes every task go smoothly and it has made the Chapter an effective and efficient organization. Georgia's people skills made her the go-to person for consultation, communication, conflict resolution and problem solving. She exudes warmth and hospitality, and is usually the first to say hello to a new face at meetings.

The Chapter has thrived and grown due to Georgia's efforts. She has recruited many members to the society, who continue to be inspired by her commitment to the environment.

## President's Year-End Message

*By Chapter President Radhika Thekkath*

As we approach the end of 2022, the 50th anniversary year for the Chapter, I am so grateful for literally the hundreds of volunteers who came together this year for this Chapter's events, activities and nursery work. All together you make us look so good. Vivian (Neou) and I had the privilege of presenting a summary of our Chapter's 2022 activities at the Chapter Council meeting on December 3. This list blew the socks off most other Chapter delegates. You should feel pride in your contributions, for being a part of CNPS' mission to save native plants and for participating in our Chapter's activities.



If you are hearing the words **Chapter Council** for the first time, let me explain. CNPS comprises 35 chapters across the State as well as one in Baja California, and we are the Santa Clara Valley Chapter, as you know. The Chapter Council is a committee that includes a delegate from each chapter, and includes a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, as well as a representative to the CNPS State Board of Directors. The Chapter Council meets once a quarter, and is responsible for electing the State CNPS Board of Directors, among other duties.

I am the delegate for our Chapter and Judy Fenerty, a past Chapter President and current Board member, has been the Chapter Council Chair for the past four years. The December 3 Chapter Council meeting was Judy's last as Chair. I send a warm thank you to Judy for doing that important work for CNPS and for being such a great ambassador for our Chapter to the State organization.

I would like to wish you all safe and wonderful holidays and I look forward to meeting many of you in 2023. I hope that in 2023 we will begin a slow return to more in-person events where we have the opportunity again to socialize, mingle and have great fun together as we work for the mission to educate, conserve and garden with native plants! Cheers to you all! – Radhika Thekkath

## NATIVE PLANT LECTURE SERIES

The talks in the 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.

**Santa Clara Valley Chapter Field Trips:  
People, Places and Plants (1982–2002)  
a talk by Ken Himes  
Friday, February 17 7:30 - 9:00 PM**

**Zoom registration:** [www.cnps-scvc.org/npls-20230217](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/npls-20230217)

Our Chapter of CNPS has a rich history of field trips throughout our state to learn, understand and appreciate our native flora. This presentation is a slightly expanded version of the one Ken Himes gave on October 8 at our Chapter's 50th year anniversary celebration.



*Dee Shea Himes*

Ken Himes leading a field trip at Castle Rock State Park, October 2014

In considering what to discuss on October 8, Ken wanted to answer the question of what Chapter activities drew him in as a new member in 1980s. The answer was field trips!

Ken will highlight some trips to the Arnold Ranch with Dr. Carl Sharsmith, to Mount Hamilton; San Benito Mountains / Clear Creek Serpentes with Bart O'Brien; a Death Valley trip in 1993 arranged by Brenda Butner; and some of our first field trips to Edgewood County Park and Preserve.

Before Ken's talk, we'll also recognize Georgia Stigall as our 2022 Volunteer of the Year! The meeting will be hybrid. The **physical location** is: Los Altos Library, Orchard Room, 13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

**Directions:** From Foothill Expy., travel 1/2 mile on San Antonio Rd. towards the Bay, cross Hillview and turn right into the driveway; the 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.

For more about our Native Plant Lecture Series, please visit the Chapter website's Native Plant Lecture Series page, at [www.cnps-scvc.org/events/native-plant-lecture-series](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/events/native-plant-lecture-series).

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### **Explore the Wildflower Ambassador Program – A Zoom Conversation Wednesday January 25, 7 - 8pm**

Join us for a brief presentation about the Wildflower Ambassadors (WFA) program and then explore ways you can participate. Wildflower Ambassadors hand out free native seeds and information at events and library talks, join and assist with tours of local native gardens, enjoy seed packing parties together, pitch in at pollinator gardens and restoration projects and promote native gardening on social media. Members are encouraged to participate in the activities that are most meaningful for them.

Above all, they have a good time while inspiring people to start their own native gardens and create habitat for our native bees, butterflies, birds and more. We hope you can join us! See the Zoom registration link on the next page.



*Jennifer Dirking*

Wildflower Ambassador Linda Allen hosts a Wildflower Seed Giveaway at Congregation Shir Hadash in Saratoga, November 2022.



To register, please visit [www.cnps-scv.org/wfa-20230125](http://www.cnps-scv.org/wfa-20230125).

For more information, visit the Wildflower Ambassadors web page at [www.cnps-scv.org/activities/wildflower-ambassadors](http://www.cnps-scv.org/activities/wildflower-ambassadors) or contact WFA program Chair Jennifer Dirking, at [wildflowers@cnps-scv.org](mailto:wildflowers@cnps-scv.org).

## 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](http://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.

You can verify the status of your membership on the CNPS member portal, which is available from [the "My Profile" link on www.cnps.org](#).



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, January 27 and**

**February 24 at 7:00pm.** You can learn more and join the email group at: [www.groups.io/g/cnps-scv-photography](http://www.groups.io/g/cnps-scv-photography).

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. In honor of the recent rainstorms in December, Charley sent us this **#MyPhotoOfTheWeek** of raindrops on Toyon from his Los Altos home garden.



Charley Pow

After a storm, raindrops on toyon sparkle in the morning sun

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### Horticulture Scholarship Applications

Our Chapter continues its new annual Horticulture Scholarship for local students enrolled in a horticulture program in an accredited college. The scholarship amount is \$750, which can be used to defray scholastic costs like books and tuition. For more information, check our Horticulture Scholarship webpage at [www.cnps-scv.org/hort-scholarship](http://www.cnps-scv.org/hort-scholarship) on or after **Monday January 2**, when the online application will open.



## GROWING NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

### Garden Volunteers needed

The 2023 Growing Natives Garden Tour is seeking volunteers who are willing to spend a few hours greeting

tour participants and answering questions. This year, our twenty-first, the tour will take place on **Saturday, April 1 and Sunday, April 2**. The tour hours are **10am to 4pm** each day.

As a volunteer you will help to educate garden visitors about the pleasures and benefits of gardening with California native plants. Volunteers also receive a custom designed T-shirt featuring a California native plant. This year's shirt features native oaks. You will also receive monthly invitations for preview visits to a native garden with a tour from the garden owner in a small group setting.



*Cynthia Gingerich*

We ask volunteers to select a minimum of one half day shift at a tour garden, for either 9:45am to 1:15pm or 12:45 to 4:15pm. Knowledge of native plants is not required as we have shifts for both **Greeters** and **Docents**. Greeters welcome visitors to the garden, have them sign in and direct them to various handouts. There will be a pre-tour Orientation in late March with more details. We anticipate about 50 gardens to select from.

To volunteer for the 2023 GNGT Tour please complete the Volunteer Sign-up form at [www.gngt.org](http://www.gngt.org).

## **CONSERVATION CORNER**

### **Conservation Committee**

Our Chapter's next Conservation Committee meetings will be held via Zoom on **Tuesdays, January 10 and February 14**, from **7:00 to 8:30pm**.

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

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for **outgoing Conservation Chair, Linda Ruthruff**.

Linda first accepted the position in November 2011 and has steadfastly represented the Chapter since that time. Linda served as our Chapter conservation advocate – attending innumerable meetings, speaking at public hearings, working with our partners in local environmental organizations and writing or signing on to hundreds of comment letters on public and private projects. CNPS and our Chapter have benefitted greatly from Linda's work, which enhanced our profile throughout the area.

Initially Linda connected with CNPS through the Gardening with Natives Steering Committee. Through it all, Linda has never wavered from her interest in creating pollinator habitat in gardens. We wish Linda the best as she transitions from the Conservation Chair position, but we know she will continue to share her enthusiasm for native plants (and butterflies!) with us.

## **CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS**

### **Alum Rock Park Restoration**

Come help us weed out invasive plants at this natural gem of San Jose. Our habitat restoration efforts allow the native plants to "come to light."

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

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

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

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

For more information contact Stephen Rosenthal at sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or (650) 260-3450.

## Lake Cunningham Native Garden

The California Native Garden project in Lake Cunningham Regional Park controls invasive plants in a 1.5-acre area and beautifies it with California native wildflowers, perennials, shrubs and trees.

Workdays continue on **Saturdays from 8 - 10am**. New volunteers are welcome; City-issued guidelines and COVID-19 best practices are followed. In fall 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](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter).

## Edgewood Restoration

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

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

## FIELD TRIPS

### Chapter Welcomes New Field Trip Chair

Please welcome Nabeel Al-Shamma, our Chapter's new field trip chair!

Nabeel grew up in the greater Bay Area, much of it north of the Golden Gate Bridge. From an early age he was drawn to the outdoors, hiking in the hills, backpacking in the mountains and cycling along the back roads. He has always been fascinated by trees, wildflowers, bees, butterflies, moths and all wildlife. While he considered a number of outdoor vocations, he ended up working in tech. Much of this time was spent in Santa Clara Valley, where he explores the wilds out our back doors. He will be retiring from his day job in 2023, which will allow him to spend even more time in the wild.



Nabeel also volunteers with POST (Peninsula Open Space Trust) doing invasive plant removal, easement monitoring and assisting on the occasional hike. He has also been a Sierra Club hike leader and local activist.

If you have any questions about field trips, please contact Nabeel at nabeel4cnps@gmail.com.

We thank **Dee Himes, our outgoing, and most recently, interim field trip chair**, for organizing field trips, leading field trip planning meetings, wrangling writeups from trip leaders, for her great field trip photos and made-on-the-phone nature movies, and her cheerful enthusiasm and curiosity about the natural features we see on our field trips. We look forward to continuing to join Dee on the trails.

## 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. **Please bring a face mask in case wearing one is required for COVID-19 safety.**

**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](http://www.cnps-scv.org/activities/field-trips) for changes, cancellations, COVID rules 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/](http://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.



**Sun Jan 1 10am - 2pm New Year's walk to Franklin Point, part of Año Nuevo State Preserve (Hwy 1 coast – southern San Mateo County)**

Join other CNPS members as we celebrate a Chapter tradition of welcoming the New Year with a walk to and BYO picnic at Franklin Point, which is part of the Año Nuevo State Preserve on the San Mateo County coast. We will be exploring our surroundings as we casually walk towards Franklin Point, which is the most botanically interesting area of the park.

We will be starting from the North Whitehouse Creek Trailhead which is located south of Pescadero on Highway 1, just north of the Santa Cruz County line.

We'll enjoy ocean views, California native plants and raptors, songbirds and maybe marine mammals. Coastal prairie flora we expect to see includes silver bur ragweed (*Ambrosia chamissonis*), California goldenbush (*Ericameria ericoides*), coastal sagewort (*Artemisia pycnocephala*) and Argentina anserina (*Potentilla anserina*).

Expected dune flora includes yellow sand verbena (*Abronia latifolia*), pink sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata*), seaside heliotrope (*Heliotropium curassavicum*) and American dunegrass (*Elymus mollis*). We also expect to see sea cliff lettuce (*Dudleya farinosa*) and fleshy jaumea (*Jaumea carnosa*).

As this is a day to have fun sharing nature at the beach with fellow Chapter members, the end time and depth of botanical or fauna discussion may depend on participants preferences.

Bring binoculars and layers of clothing for variable coastal conditions including wind, sun, precipitation and fog. We will be walking on sand dunes. Bring a lunch or snacks and water or drinks. Extreme bad weather cancels.

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. Before signing up, please read the Año Nuevo State Park restrictions at [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=523](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=523).

Note that there are no bathrooms at Franklin Point. Flush toilets are located at the main entrance of Año Nuevo State Park, which may require payment to enter. For more information or questions, contact Dee Himes at [dee4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:dee4cnps@gmail.com).

**Thu Jan 5 7:00pm - 8:30 Field Trip Planning Meeting (Zoom)**

Field trip enthusiasts and leaders, please join us to help schedule the remainder of our spring and summer field trips, plus any field trips we may want to have for the rest of the year. With more knowledge of the winter weather patterns, we may also make plans for away trips.

All are welcome to join in the discussion. For further information email Nabeel Al-Shamma at [nabeel4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:nabeel4cnps@gmail.com).

To RSVP visit our Zoom sign-up page at [www.cnps-scvc.org/field-trip-20230105](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/field-trip-20230105).

**Sat Feb 11 10am - 1pm Dirca Walk at Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve (San Mateo County)**

Join Don Thomas for a 3 to 4 mile hike with 500+ feet in elevation change, to search for the elusive Western leatherwood at Pulgas Ridge OSP near Edgewood Road. Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*) is a rare paleoendemic plant native only to the San Francisco Bay Area, ranked by CNPS as 1B.2. (Read more about CNPS rare plant ranks at [www.cnps.org/rare-plants/california-rare-plant-ranks](http://www.cnps.org/rare-plants/california-rare-plant-ranks).)



Dee Shea Himes  
Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*) found in San Mateo County, January 2021

*Dirca* is one of our earliest flowering native plants, blooming in mid-to-late winter before most other natives begin blooming in the spring. We will look for late-flowering *Dirca* along the Dusky Woodrat Trail. We may be able to observe other early-blooming plants, such as manzanitas and gooseberries.

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. Before signing up, please read about Pulgas Ridge OSP at [www.openspace.org/preserves/pulgas-ridge](http://www.openspace.org/preserves/pulgas-ridge).

Contact Don at donethomasd@gmail.com for more information. Trails are narrow at most parts and may be slippery and steep in some. Wear hiking shoes and we recommend bringing hiking poles. Bring water and snacks for an optional lunch in the picnic area following the walk. Heavy rain cancels.

### Sun Feb 26 10am - 4pm Montara Mountain San Pedro Valley Park (Pacifica)

Join co-leaders Ken and Dee Himes on an early spring outing to San Pedro Valley Park. We expect to see some early blooms: Montara manzanita (*Arctostaphylos montaraensis*), pink-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinsum*), fetid adder's tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii*) and possibly others.

The trip will be a moderate 4- to 5-mile loop hike on the Hazelnut Trail, through coastal scrub and chaparral plus some riparian woodland. Our elevation gain and loss will be about 600 feet and the trip is expected to **last until 4pm**.



Dee Shea Himes

Ken Himes on the Hazelnut Trail, discussing *Arctostaphylos* ssp. on our Chapter's February 2018 field trip

**We'll meet at 10am sharp** in front of the park's Visitor Center. Bring warm and wet weather layers for coastal conditions. Trails may be slippery, so hiking poles are recommended. Bring water and a lunch or snacks, and fluids. Heavy rain cancels. For more information contact Dee Himes at dee4CNPS@gmail.com.

Space is limited. No drop-ins please. **To complete the required RSVP**, please visit our [Chapter's Meetup page](#).

Before registering for a spot, please go to SPVP Webpage at [www.smcgov.org/parks/san-pedro-valley-park](http://www.smcgov.org/parks/san-pedro-valley-park) to review park rules.

The park is located at 600 Oddstad Blvd. in Pacifica. There is a parking fee of \$6 per vehicle. Driving directions are provided on the Meetup page.

### Stay in Touch!

Due to COVID-19, the Chapter remains virtual for many of our events. Please visit [www.cnps-sc.v.org/stay-in-touch](http://www.cnps-sc.v.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-sc.v.org/blazing-star-newsletter](http://www.cnps-sc.v.org/blazing-star-newsletter). Our next online **and** paper version will be the March-April issue.

### CHAPTER LEADERSHIP FOR 2022-2023

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

To see the full list of Chapter officers and chairs, please visit [www.cnps-sc.v.org/leadership](http://www.cnps-sc.v.org/leadership).

### DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

**Saturday, February 4**

**carol.mattsson@gmail.com or (408) 255-3767**



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](http://www.cnps.org/membership)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership level (check one):**

- \$50 Individual  
 \$120 Plant Lover  
 \$500 Supporter  
 \$1,000 Patron  
 \$2,500 Benefactor  
 \$25 Student or Fixed Income  
 \$75 Library

**Areas of interest:**

- Advocacy  
 Botany  
 Conservation  
 Education  
 Field Trips  
 Gardening  
 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](mailto:membership@cnps.org) • (916) 447-2677 ext. 200

**FIRST-CLASS**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

**Jan 1 Sun** Año Nuevo field trip (7)  
**Jan 2 Mon** Hort Scholarship Application opens (4)  
**Jan 5 Thu** Field trip planning meeting (7)  
**Jan 10 Tue** Conservation Committee meeting (5)  
**Jan 25 Wed** Explore Wildflower Ambassadors (3)  
**Jan 27 Fri** Photo Group photo sharing (4)  
**Feb 4 Sat** **Newsletter submittal deadline**  
**Feb 11 Sat** *Dirca* walk at Pulgas Ridge (7)

**Feb 14 Tue** Conservation Committee meeting (5)  
**Feb 15 Wed** Election Self-Nomination Forms Due (1)  
**Feb 17 Fri** Field Trips History Talk – Himes (3)  
**Feb 23 Thu** **Paper newsletter mailing party**  
**Feb 24 Fri** Photo Group photo sharing (4)  
**Feb 26 Sun** Montara Mountain field trip (8)  
**Mons, Weds & 2nd Sats** Alum Rock workdays (5)  
**Saturdays** Lake Cunningham workdays (6)

The next Chapter board meetings will be **Thursdays, January 19 and February 9 at 7:00pm** over Zoom.

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

For more information contact Radhika Thekkath at [president@cnps-scv.org](mailto:president@cnps-scv.org).

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working with its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding and to preserve the rich heritage of the native flora for future generations. Membership is open to all. Individual memberships are \$50.00 per year. If you have questions about your newsletter subscription, please contact [membership@cnps-scv.org](mailto:membership@cnps-scv.org). Address changes may be submitted to [membership@cnps.org](mailto:membership@cnps.org). Please put "address change" in the subject line.

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