



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

March-April 2011

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

Friday, April 1st at 7:30 PM
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Plant Demographics
in San Mateo and Santa Clara County
A talk by **Toni Corelli**, Botanist, Member-at-Large & Rare Plants Chair (San Mateo County)

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society covers San Mateo and Santa Clara County, including most of the Santa Cruz Mountains, the Santa Clara Valley, and the southern Diablo Range, east of Hwy. 101 in Santa Clara County. The Chapter area includes many unique local floristic communities, including serpentine, coastal strand, maritime chaparral, coniferous forests, and saltwater marshes (both coastal and baylands), just to name a few.

This talk will focus on the floristic regions within the Chapter area, and the plants associated with them, including which plants are the most common, the most locally rare, the most invasive non-natives, and so on. The talk will also identify local botanical hotspots on public lands rich in species diversity.

For the past five years, Toni Corelli has been at work on a new booklet entitled the *Annotated Checklist of Plants for San Mateo and Santa Clara County*, using data from the Chapter's archived plant lists, recent lists updated by the Natural Resources Database (www.nrdp.org), and herbarium consortium records. This checklist is a "floristic snapshot" of the plants known to occur within the Chapter region in the past as well as the present. This can be used as a "lifelong plant checklist" for this region, and Chapter members and others will be able to contribute information to verify and update this list. The booklet will include the latest scientific name changes from the upcoming 2nd

edition of *The Jepson Manual*. This booklet is the only one of its kind covering the entire Chapter area. It will make its debut at this talk, and copies will be available.

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 Past President Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408) 348-9470.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Sale April 16 at Hidden Villa **10am - 3pm - Call for Volunteers**

Our Spring Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, April 16, from **10am to 3pm** at our Hidden Villa nursery. Once again we're asking everyone who can to come and help with the sale. Most of the jobs listed below don't require expert knowledge of plants, and **you can choose to work one or two hours** or all day.

Before the sale, you can help during our **Wednesday** work sessions at the nursery from **noon to 3pm**.

Special nursery workdays will also be held to prepare the nursery, including labeling plants and weeding the garden outside the nursery. We'll work from **noon to 3pm on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday April 13, 14, and 15th**. On the day of the sale, we will need people to:

- Help set up before the sale (starting at 8am)
- Help with parking

- Answer customers' questions about the plants and help them decide which plants to purchase
- Write up the sales tags before customers go to the cashiers to pay for their plants
- Work as cashiers
- Help customers take their purchases to their cars and bring back the wagons and carts to the nursery
- Help clean up after the sale (3-4pm)

The plant sales are always lots of fun to work at, and we provide **lunch** to volunteers. To volunteer on sale day please contact:

Horticultural consultation: Ray Deutsch (650) 365-6136, henrymarsh@yahoo.com

Miscellaneous: Ann Harding (408) 260-2271, Ann.Harding@att.net

Writing sales tags & cashiering: Georgia Stigall (650) 941-1068, georgiastigall@yahoo.com

Parking director: Stephen Buckhout (408) 255-6233, yscottie@pacbell.net

Directions: Hidden Villa is located on Moody Road west of Foothill College. From I-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 drive about ¼ mile to the large parking lot on the right. The Native Plant Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the visitor center. On the day of the plant sale, follow the directions of the parking monitors as to where to park.

Going Native Garden Tour - April 17 Docent and Greeter Volunteers Needed

Our 9th annual Going Native Garden Tour is a free, self-guided tour of home gardens that are water-wise, low maintenance, low on chemical use, bird and butterfly friendly, and attractive. The only requirement is advance registration. See the enclosed flyer for details, and visit www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org to register to attend or **volunteer** at one of the gardens on tour day.

Spring Wildflower Show - April 23-24 Mission College - Call for Volunteers

This year's Spring Wildflower Show will again be held at Mission College's Campus Center, located at 3000 Mission College Blvd. in Santa Clara (see enclosed flyer). Every year dedicated volunteers go out to collect plant samples to be put on display for the public to view and learn about. Other **Volunteers** set up the display Friday afternoon and voila -- we have The Wildflower Show!

We are looking for volunteers to help set up tables and plant samples on **Friday afternoon, April 22**. We'll also need people to greet visitors on **Saturday and Sunday**, work with kids at the children's table, assist at the book table, close down the show on **Sunday** afternoon, and lots of other action items. No special skills are necessary.

This is a great opportunity to meet other Chapter members, become involved in the organization, and help put on a great annual springtime event. To volunteer, even for only a couple of hours, please call Toni Gregorio-Bunch at (408) 373-4497 or e-mail tonig@flash.net.

California Native Plant Week April 17-23

Sandwiched between our Chapter's Native Plant Sale and Going Native Garden Tour is the new California Native Plant Week. Our State Legislature recently approved



resolution ACR 173, proclaiming the 3rd week of April each year, as California Native Plant Week. The measure encourages community groups, schools, and citizens to undertake

appropriate activities to promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of California's native plants.

Native Nursery News

Thanks to Shade Workday Volunteers

By Jean Struthers, Nursery Propagation Chair

On January 16th the sun came out at around 10am just as we were about to get to work on the new shade structure for our stock area. David Struthers had spent 3 or 4 days shopping for materials and tying them onto our ancient Volvo roof to get ready for this big day. He had carefully measured the area and installed concrete footings for the posts and had all the materials ready. The shade cloth was donated by Chuck Baccus and had been measured out for the top. At 10am Pat Pizzo and Gerry Ellis arrived ready to help. Under Dave's instruction they put up posts, climbed ladders, leveled rafters, and pounded nails until it was all built. Then the shade cloth went up and was tacked down and battens were put over to keep the wind from tearing it off.

Meanwhile Peggy Jacobs, Ken Himes, Nancy Neff, Ray Deutsch and I worked on getting the vines off the fence so the shade cloth could be put on the sunny west side of both the new and old shade structures. I think that debris filled six garbage cans. We will miss the grape, but not the work

it took to keep it in control. We all worked until around 3pm and ended with a lemonade drink and satisfaction that the sturdy new structure was done. Many many thanks to all those good helpers!

Gardening With Natives, March-April 2011 Gardening by Plant Community

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes a mix of native landscape designers, seasoned native plant gardeners, as well as beginners. It offers talks throughout the year which are free and open to all. For more information, visit www.GardeningWithNatives.com.

A total of nine talks are scheduled during March and April throughout the chapter area – from Cupertino, Los Altos, and Woodside to Milpitas and Fremont to San Carlos, Belmont, and Half Moon Bay! Please spread the word. The focus on **gardening by plant community** continues with one talk each month followed by a weekend walk through the same plant community.

These programs are made possible by volunteers who help with program logistics and by cosponsoring libraries. If you would like to help organize similar programming at a library near you, contact arvind.kumar@cnps.org.

Wednesday, March 2, 7:00-8:30 pm: Garden Plants From Valley & Foothill Woodlands: Kevin Bryant. The hills around the Bay Area contain extensive stands of foothill woodland, a plant community that is rich in species that also do well in human-made landscapes. This talk will focus on garden-worthy plants for a woodland garden. Kevin Bryant is the past president of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter and a native landscape designer. (Look under Field Trips for a plant walk on March 5.) Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. (650) 948-7683.

Tuesday, March 8, 7:00-8:30 pm: Gardening for Wildlife Diversity: Radhika Thekkath. Who says a garden can't be beautiful and support wildlife at the same time? Learn how to attract birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects to the garden and still retain color, texture, and curb appeal. Landscape designer **Radhika Thekkath** specializes in California native plants. Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont. (510) 745-1401.

Tuesday, March 15, 9:30-11:00 am: Gardening Under Oaks: Alexandra Von Feldt. California native oaks are a keystone species for our local habitat. Learn how to care for oaks in your garden by selecting the appropriate native understory plants, properly maintaining them, and understanding common galls and diseases. Alexandra Von Feldt is the Stewardship Program Director at Acterra. A tour of the native garden at the library follows with Tina Dreyer who manages the gardens.

Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Rd., Woodside. (650) 851-0147.

Thursday, April 7, 7:00-8:30 pm: Garden Plants From Valley Grasslands: David Amme. Grasses and meadows are popular additions to today's landscapes. Learn which types of California native grasses work best in residential gardens and how you can grow them, individually or in meadows. David Amme is the Wildland Vegetation Program Manager for the East Bay Regional Park District in Oakland and past-president of the California Native Grass Association. (Look under Field Trips for a plant walk on April 9.) Milpitas Library, 160 N Main Street, Milpitas (408) 262-1171 x3616.

Monday, April 11, 7:00-8:30 pm: Healthy Native Gardens, Healthy Creeks: Joshua Fodor. How do our gardening practices affect the environment? Learn how to make your garden beautiful and environmentally friendly at the same time by using native plants. Josh Fodor has 20 years experience in native plant horticulture, habitat restoration, and ecological landscape design & implementation. He is the owner of Central Coast Wilds, an ecological landscape contractor, habitat restoration consultant and native plant nursery located in Santa Cruz. He teaches Principles of Restoration Landscaping at Cabrillo College & lectures for the Sustainable Building Advisors in San Francisco. Cupertino Library, 10800 Torre Avenue, Cupertino. (408) 446-1677.

Friday, April 15, 6:30-8:00 pm: Year-round Interest in a Native Plant Garden: Sally Coverdell. Something is happening throughout the year in native plant gardens—not just in spring! Learn how to select and group plants with varying bloom times so your garden is never without color. See how to choose different plant forms to add interest and how to appreciate bark, berries, seeds, etc. Sally Coverdell is the owner of Blue Sky Farms Nursery and has over 18 years' experience in propagation and nursery management. Half Moon Bay Library, 620 Correas Street, Half Moon Bay. (650) 726-2316 x227.

Saturday, April 16, 1:00-2:00 pm: Success With Native Plants: A Beginner's Journey: Dee Wong. Native plants are drought resistant, so I don't need to water much, do I? Why did my young native plants die? For answers to these and other questions, come to this talk and learn the right way to care for young native plants planted in spring. (Hint: All plants really do need water to establish.) The talk is followed by a tour of the Visitor Center landscaping. Dee Wong has a degree in environmental horticulture and design from Foothill College and is a horticulturist at The Village Gardener. Hidden Villa Ranch Visitor Center, Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. (650) 260-3450.

Monday, April 18, 7:00-8:30 pm: Caring for Oaks and Native Trees: Barrie Coate. Do you have native oaks on your property? Do you want to incorporate other native trees into your garden? Learn how to plant and care for oak and other native trees in the home landscape. Of particular interest are small to medium trees that are 'garden scale' and trees that may be appropriate for parking strips. Renowned arborist Barrie Coate spent 11 years at the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation.

He has received numerous awards from the Western Chapter of International Society of Arboriculture. He is the Arboricultural Consultant for the J. Paul Getty Museum. Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont. (650) 591-8286.

Thursday, April 28, 7:00-8:30 pm: Native Plant

Gardening for Beginners: Fran Adams. It is easy to incorporate native plants in your existing garden – for beauty, for habitat, for low maintenance, for saving energy and money, and for a sense of place. Fran Adams is a landscape designer based in Palo Alto with 20 years of experience. She offers classes in garden design at Palo Alto USD Adult School and at Foothill College. Her gardens have been featured on the Going Native Garden Tour. San Carlos Library, 610 Elm Street, San Carlos. (650) 591-0341 x237.

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, for further examination of the intricate details of the specimens.

We usually meet on the last Friday of each month, from **6:30pm - 8:30pm**. The upcoming dates are **Fridays, March 25 and April 29**. We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more information, please contact Dave “Tex” Houston at tex009@sbcglobal.net or (650) 303-2777; or Sally Casey at (408) 377-0989.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Our Chapter is again offering scholarships to graduate students doing research on plant systematics, plant ecology, plant physiology, plant community restoration or other related botanical studies of native plants that grow in habitats in Central and Northern California.

Three \$1,500 scholarships are available for the 2011-2012 academic year, with one of the scholarships (SCV Chapter Conservation Scholarship) specifically reserved for studies related to native plant or native habitat conservation. Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate program in an accredited college or university.

Applications are available on the Chapter website (www.cnps-scv.org) and **must be postmarked by April 8**. Scholarships will be awarded in late May 2011. For more

information contact Chapter Scholarship Chair Nora Monette at nmonette@aol.com or (408) 244-5153.

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Weed Warrior Brainstorming Saturday April 2

Debra Welch, our Chapter’s new Santa Clara County Invasive Plants Chair, will be hosting an initial brainstorming session about how our Chapter can best facilitate volunteer efforts and support other local organizations’ “weed warrior” projects.

If you have input into how efforts might best be coordinated, what needs should be met, or if you just want to get involved pulling weeds in Santa Clara County, please bring your thinking caps to Debra’s house in Redwood Estates near Los Gatos.

We’ll have a potluck. Bring snacks and drinks if you like. **Saturday, April 2, from 4- 6pm** (right after the Coyote Ridge field trip). **RSVP** for address, directions, and to submit agenda items to debrawelch@yahoo.com or (408) 353-8352.

Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park

Spring is upon us... so the *weeds* are upon us too and it’s time to get busy, with the return of our Wednesday and Saturday sessions. Come pitch in and make Edgewood an inspirational showcase of all CNPS stands for!

Our **9am Friday** sessions run year round, **5:30pm Wednesday** sessions start **March 16** after Daylight Savings Time returns, and monthly **9am Saturday** sessions are the **3rd Saturday March thru July**:

Date	Meet At	Event
March 19	Day Camp Ed. Center	Spring “Saturday kickoff”
April 16	Day Camp Ed. Center	CA Native Plant Week!
May 21	West Kiosk	Endangered Species Day
June 18	West Kiosk	Summer solstice
July 16	West Kiosk	CA Weeds Awareness Week!

For schedules, meeting places, and other details visit our Weed Warriors website at edgewood.thinkersrus.net, contact Paul Heiple at (650) 854-7125 or pheiple@gmail.com, or email John Allen at jcakwa@comcast.net.

CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Chapter field trips are free and 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 & 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 Mar 5 Hidden Villa (Los Altos) 10am - 12:30pm

Join Carolyn Dorsch and Peggy Jacobs on this early spring walk along the shaded Adobe Creek and then up into the sunnier slopes above. Following up from Kevin Bryant's GWN talk on March 2nd, we'll look for plants in their natural woodland habitat and discuss their suitability for urban gardens. Expect to see a variety of plants as we will visit several different plant communities on this short hike.

The pace on this 2.5 mile hike will be moderate. There is about a 550 feet elevation change, one part a little steep, but we'll go slowly. Bring water and a snack and good hiking shoes. We recommend bringing a walking stick. Bring lunch for an optional picnic afterward. For more information contact Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com or (650) 804-6162 (eves).

Directions: Follow the directions to Hidden Villa at the end of the plant sale article on page 2. There is a \$5 entrance fee per vehicle. We'll meet at the Information Kiosk next to the parking lot.

Sat Mar 12 Pulgas Ridge Open Space (Redwood City) 9am - 12:30pm

Start the spring wildflower season with a pleasant walk through this easily accessible Open Space Preserve. Join Alf Fengler for a viewing of early spring flowers five days before the official opening of the wildflower season at neighboring Edgewood Park.

A docent at Edgewood, Alf will be able to point out some hard-to-find flowering plants, such as the fetid adder's tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii*) and coast man-root (*Marah oreganus*). This trip will be an easy 3-mile loop hike through oak woodland, mixed evergreen woodland,

chamise chaparral, and coastal scrub, combined with a little bit of riparian woodland.

The trip will include an elevation gain and loss of about 400 feet. For more information contact Alf Fengler at afengler@acm.org or (650) 345-7045.

Directions: From I-280, take the Edgewood Rd. exit in San Carlos and head east. Go downhill to the first left, which will be Crestview Dr. Then make an immediate left at Edmonds Rd., just following the sign for Cordilleras Center. The new preserve parking lot is on the right, just past the Redwood Center. If the lot is full, park on the opposite side of the road in the large unpaved area. We'll meet in the parking lot. Heavy rain cancels.

Sun Mar 13 Stile Ranch (Santa Teresa County Park) 10am - 1pm

Dee Wong and Stella Yang will co-lead a 3-4 mile wildflower hike to Stile Ranch, through serpentine grasslands and chaparral. This will be a great trip for those new to field trips and native plants, including emphasis on both common names and botanical names of the plants. With the cooperation of the seasons, we expect to see Coast Range montia, serrated onion, linanthus, gilia, goldfields, morning glory, leather oak and black sage. The hike will be moderate in intensity.

For more information contact Dee at (650) 670-7797 or dswong88@yahoo.com; or Stella at (408) 255-6233 or yscottie@pacbell.net.

Directions: From Hwy. 85 south, exit to Almaden Expy. south. Proceed to the end, turn right onto Harry Rd (at a traffic light). Turn left on McKean Road, continue about 1 mile. Turn left on Fortini, go to the end, turn left on San Vicente. We'll meet at the parking lot, which is on your right in about 300 feet.

Sun Mar 20 – Sun Mar 27 Death Valley Car Camp

Our Chapter's annual desert field trip will take us down south to the Death Valley area. With the Chapter's last trip to DV in 1998, it seemed like it was time to re-visit this portion of the Mojave Desert.

Join co-leaders Joe Cernac, Ken Himes, Michael Yantos and Carolyn Dorsch as we spend seven days in the area, visiting a variety of places. This will be an exploratory trip. Botanically we'll search for spring blooms, and will include sightseeing of other areas of natural history interest. We will start the trip in Death Valley with the four leaders, and Joe and Ken will extend the trip possibly to other areas for

the rest of the week. There is an opportunity to do all or part of the trip, including joining the group mid-week.

See our Chapter website (www.cnps-scvc.org) for the proposed itinerary. For more information or to **reserve a spot**, contact Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com, 650-804-6162 (eves), or Joe Cernac, joecernac@sbcglobal.net, (408) 292-5465.

Sun Mar 27 Coyote Ridge (San Jose) 10am - 2pm

Sat Apr 2 Coyote Ridge (San Jose) 11am - 3pm

Here are two opportunities to join Kevin Bryant for breathtaking vistas and wildflower viewing on these lands that are usually closed to the public, situated high above the Coyote Valley in southeast San Jose. The endemic plant community on Coyote Ridge supports the largest remaining population of the threatened Bay checkerspot butterfly, as well as many rare and endangered plant species.

These interpretive hikes will include discussions on the effects of air pollution on terrestrial environments, cattle grazing as a management tool and the connection between this land and the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan.

The round trip distance will be 3 miles, with 700 feet of elevation gain. Sturdy walking shoes, layered attire and binoculars are recommended. Bring a snack and water. trip sizes are limited. **To reserve a spot**, contact Kevin at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408) 348-9470.

Tue Mar 29 Field Trip Planning Meeting 7pm PCC Palo Alto

Thanks to our members stepping forward to volunteer or lead or assist on a hike or trip, we have an abundance of field trips listed in this newsletter. Come to this next field trip planning meeting, or contact us with your ideas, so we can line up activities for the rest of the spring and summer months. Everyone is welcome to attend. We offer training and other resources to help anyone who wants to get involved with these activities.

For further information contact Carolyn Dorsch, Field Trip Chair. Phone (650) 804-6162 (evenings) or email cdorsch1@aol.com.

Sun Apr 3 Coyote Lake (Gilroy) 10am - 3pm

Join Stephen Rosenthal and Arvind Kumar on this spring hike, featuring a beautiful serpentine area bordered by mature big berry manzanita. It will be a leisurely 4 miles, with about 500 ft of elevation gain. This area is prized for its beautiful expanse of wildflowers in the spring. Bring plenty of water as temperatures could be warm, and snacks/lunch.

Reservations are required and directions will be emailed to those who have RSVPed. Contact Stephen Rosenthal at sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or (408) 923-6562.



Stephen Rosenthal

Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park

Sat Apr 9 Joseph Grant Park 10am - 3pm

Join Stephen Rosenthal in a leisurely walk in Joseph Grant County Park in the hills above east San Jose. The park often has very nice wildflower displays (depending on the rainfall in the spring), sometimes even in the middle of the trail. The walk may be as long as 3 miles with up to 500 ft of elevation change. Bring plenty of water as temperatures could be warm, and snacks/lunch.

Please contact Stephen Rosenthal at sailinsteve@hotmail.com or (408) 923-6562 **for a reservation** and directions to meeting place. The group will be limited to about 25 people.

Sun Apr 10 San Bruno Mountain 10am - 4pm

Join Ken Himes for a hike on the Summit Loop Trail in San Bruno Mountain County Park to see plants of the coastal scrub and coastal prairie plant communities. Expect to see in flower hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*), Wright's paintbrush (*Castilleja wrightii*), Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*) and many additional great plants. This visit to the park, over the Summit Loop Trail, is 3.1 miles long with an elevation gain/loss of 750 feet. Wear

layers as windy and cool conditions could occur. Bring lunch and water.

Directions: From Hwy. 101 northbound, take Old Bayshore/Brisbane exit and proceed north on Old Bayshore, past the town of Brisbane, until reaching a crest of a hill. Turn left onto Guadalupe Canyon Pkwy. and proceed uphill (west) about a mile and a half to the park entrance. There is a \$5.00 day use/parking fee. The hike begins near the entrance station parking lot. For more information, call Ken at (650) 591-8560.

Sat Apr 16 San Bruno Mountain: Ridge Trail 10am - 3pm

Join Doug Allshouse and Liam O'Brien on this trip offered by the CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter. For more information see www.cnps-yerbabuena.org or contact Doug at dougsr228@comcast.net or (415) 584-5114.

Sat Apr 30 South Valley Reserve 8am - 5pm

Only 30 miles east of San Jose but a world away, the 3,000 acre California Department of Fish & Game South Valley Reserve is in the large expanse of wild lands on the sparsely populated side of Mt. Hamilton.

Don Mayall and Kevin Bryant will take us on a day long adventure to explore the grasslands, oak woodlands, and chaparral that make up this reserve. Hopefully we will have a good bloom and catch the carpets of wildflowers that can occur here. A large herd of tule elk is known to roam these lands, and several rare and endangered plant species occur here as well, including Santa Clara thornmint (*Acanthomintha lanceolata*), chaparral harebell (*Campanula exigua*), Michael's rein orchid (*Piperia michaelii*), spring lessingia (*Lessingia tenuis*), and serpentine linanthus (*Leptosiphon ambiguus*) to name a few. The area is known for being a hot spot of rare and endangered plants, so we'll need to be on the look out for other rare treasures as well.

This trip involves driving 1.5 hours to get to the reserve, exploring and hiking around for 4-5 hours, and another 1.5 hour drive to return to the populated side of Mt. Hamilton. The trip will be limited to 20 attendees. Members of our Chapter get first preference. **To reserve your spot**, contact Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408) 348-9470. Details will be sent to registered attendees.

Sun May 1 McNee Ranch State Park 10am - 3pm

Join Toni Corelli on a May Day hike to McNee Ranch, now a part of Montara State Beach. We'll walk along the Gray Whale Cove Trail with a detour to the new open space area Rancho Corral de Tierra, managed by Golden Gate

National Recreation Area (GGNRA) to see the rare Hickman's cinquefoil (*Potentilla hickmanii*).

We will be visiting maritime plant communities including coastal scrub, maritime chaparral and coastal prairie. Bring lunch and water, wear layers. We'll have an elevation gain of 200-300 feet. For more information, contact Toni Corelli (650) 464-1289 or corelli@coastside.net.

Directions: Park at the Montara State Beach parking lot on the west side of Hwy. 1 approximately 1/3 mile past the La Costanera restaurant. See Google maps "Montara State Beach" for the exact location.

Save the Date!

Upcoming field trips include:

Date	Event	Contact
May 7	Blue Oak Ranch	Judy Fenerty judy@fenerty.com or (408) 655-3493

Field Trip Training Begins Tuesday May 31

The Field Trip Committee will offer a Field Trip Training Program at the end of May. This program is being created in response to the need to expand our volunteer leaders and assistants. Our goal for this year is to offer a short program that covers topics sufficient for a new leader to be able to lead a beginner's nature hike. Chapter members interested in learning to lead beginner field trips, or others wanting to brush up their leadership skills are invited to sign up. No previous experience is necessary.

The program will be conducted over two evenings, **Tuesday May 31st and Monday, June 6th** at the PCC (Peninsula Conservation Center) in Palo Alto. There will also be one **Saturday morning hike** following up the evening meetings, to reinforce and expand on the topics discussed at the earlier sessions. Several experienced field trip leaders from our Chapter will be the instructors for the evening or field sessions.

If you are interested in signing up for this program, or have any further questions, please contact Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com, or (650) 804-6162 (eves).

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, April 9, 2011

**Email: mattsson@surfpix.net
Phone: (408) 255-3767**

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

- Mar 2 Wed** GWN - Woodland Natives - Bryant (3)
Mar 5 Sat Hidden Villa hike (5)
Mar 8 Tue GWN - Wildlife - Thekkath (3)
Mar 12 Sat Pulgas Ridge hike (5)
Mar 13 Sun Stile Ranch hike (5)
Mar 15 Tue GWN - Under Oaks - Von Feldt (3)
Mar 16 Wed Edgewood evening weeding returns (4)
Mar 19 Sat Edgewood weeding Saturday kickoff (4)
Mar 20-27 Sun-Sun Death Valley field trip (5)
Mar 25 Fri Keying with Natives (4)
Mar 27 Sun Coyote Ridge Field Trip (6)
Mar 29 Tue Field Trip Planning Meeting (6)
Apr 1 Fri **General Meeting - Corelli** (1)
Apr 2 Sat Another Coyote Ridge Field Trip (6)
Apr 2 Sat Weed Warrior Brainstorming meeting (4)
Apr 3 Sun Coyote Lake hike (6)
Apr 7 Thu GWN - Valley Grasslands - Amme (3)
Apr 8 Fri Chapter Scholarships Due (4)
Apr 9 Sat Grant Park field trip (6)
Apr 9 Sat **Newsletter Deadline** (7)
- Apr 10 Sun** San Bruno Mountain hike (6)
Apr 11 Mon GWN - Healthy Creeks - Fodor (3)
Apr 13-15 Wed-Fri Special Nursery Workdays (1)
Apr 14 Thu **Chapter Board meeting**
Apr 15 Fri GWN - Year-round Interest - Coverdell (3)
Apr 16 Sat **Native Plant Sale** (1)
Apr 16 Sat Edgewood Saturday weeding (4)
Apr 16 Sat San Bruno Mountain field trip (7)
Apr 16 Sat GWN - Young Natives Care - Wong (3)
Apr 17 Sun **Going Native Garden Tour** (2)
Apr 18 Mon GWN - Caring for Trees - Coate (3)
Apr 22 Fri Spring Wildflower Show setup (2)
Apr 23-24 Sat-Sun **Spring Wildflower Show** (2)
Apr 28 Thu GWN - For Beginners - Adams (4)
Apr 29 Fri Keying with Natives (4)
Apr 30 Sat South Valley Reserve field trip (7)
May 1 Sun McNee Ranch walk (7)
May 31 Tue Field trip training program begins (7)
Wed afts Nursery work sessions (1)
Weds eves, Fri morns Edgewood Park weeding (4)

The next Chapter **Board meeting** will be **Thursday, April 14 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.

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 concerning a new membership, renewal of a current membership, or if you wish to report a **change of address**, please contact the Membership Chairperson, CNPS, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303 or email henryMarsh@yahoo.com.

The *Blazing Star* web address: www.cnps-scv.org

Acknowledgement: Anne Warren for the *Blazing Star* logo. Printed on recycled paper.

FIRST-CLASS

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Chapter _____

Membership level (check one):

- \$45 Individual
- \$75 Family
- \$100 Plant Lover
- \$300 Patron
- \$600 Benefactor
- \$1500 Mariposa Lily
- \$25 Student/Limited Income

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 • 916-447-2677 • Fax 916-447-2727