



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

July-August 2003

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

Friday, July 18, 2003 at 7:30 pm
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Topic: EXPLORING THE IDRIA SERPENTINE FORMATION – BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Presenter: Julie Anne Delgado

Join us for an evening with Julie Anne Delgado, who will present a program on the Idria Serpentine Formation, also known as the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA), located in southern San Benito and western Fresno County.

Julie Anne's presentation will reveal some of the beauty and fascination of this incredible, yet controversial area that contains many rare plants and interesting forest areas. The presentation will highlight the unique features of this area, as well as discussing the difficulties of managing serpentine endemics and off-highway vehicle use simultaneously, the challenges of vegetation restoration in poor quality (ultramafic) soils, and the presence of naturally occurring asbestos.

Julie Anne serves the public as the BLM Hollister Field Office Area biologist/botanist, covering 300,000 beautiful acres throughout Monterey, San Benito and western Fresno counties. Julie Anne earned her Master's degree from San Francisco State University in Plant Ecology and Conservation and currently assists Bob Hale as Co-President of the CNPS Monterey Chapter.

Directions: From Foothill Expressway, travel 1/2 mile on San Antonio Road towards the Bay, cross Hillview and turn right into driveway; library is on the left. From El Camino, travel towards the hills on San Antonio Road, cross Edith and turn left into unmarked driveway just before Hillview. The sign on San Antonio Road reads "Civic Center, Library & History Museum." Enter through the lobby of the main entrance, which faces a driveway located off San Antonio Road between Hillview and Edith. If the library lot is full, proceed to the adjoining lot for Hillview Community Center.

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For additional information, contact chapter Vice President Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com or (408)378-6272.

Upcoming Program Meetings

September 19 – Location TBD;
November 15 - Annual Potluck at the Shoup Garden House in Los Altos.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

April 2003 Wildflower Show A Success

By Stella Yang & Stephen Buckhout, show coordinators

The Chapter's Annual Wildflower Show was held at Mission College in Santa Clara on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27. The official visitor count was 726, although a sizeable number of guests avoided being counted by entering through the side and rear doors that provided alternate access to the Hospitality Management Building where the show was held.

Stormy weather in the middle of the week delayed collectors and sent some home chilled to the bone, but did not impact the number of species ultimately displayed: 559, the largest number shown in the last 15 years. There were 41 plants never before shown, 38 natives and 3 aliens. John Rawlings put together a special conifer display, Sally Casey displayed a large number of grasses, and Paul Heiple assembled a special display of succulents.

Mission College proved to be a hospitable location, offering free parking for show attendees and faculty, students, and staff who were very accommodating in facilitating our presence on campus. Our official sponsor was the student group, Environmental Awareness Association, who staffed a display table describing the issues they are currently involved with and led tours of the Native Garden that they have created and manage at the College.

Many people worked very hard to make this year's show a success. Ellie Gioumousis made the initial contact that ultimately led to moving this year's show to Mission. Jean Replicon, a faculty member at Mission College, was extremely helpful in making numerous arrangements with the College. David Chapman was responsible for coordinating all the plant collectors, Sally Casey the keyers, Ruth Buneman the greeters, and Ingrid Graeve the book sale staffers. Janet Gomez did an outstanding job of coordinating both setup and takedown, always a difficult task at a new location, and more challenging this year since we had to move all of the tables prior to the show and put them all back into their original locations afterward. Vicki Silvas-Young did an outstanding job of keeping volunteers and vendors well fed during both setup on Friday and the show on Saturday and Sunday. And Arvind Kumar worked wonders with publicity, getting the Show mentioned numerous times in a variety of media during the months leading up to the show.

Thanks to everyone: the planners; the collectors; the keyers; those who set up; those who put out plants; those who brought plants from home; those who stored bottles, signs, and other supplies since the previous show; those who greeted the public, answered visitor questions, led tours of the Native Garden, sold books and posters, helped clean up afterwards, and did countless other things both great and small; our visitors seemed to have a really good time.

And we all had an enjoyable time in the process as well. It is rewarding to see an empty room turned into a flower palace, to see a large group of people carefully looking at the plants that were displayed, and to experience the delight that occurs when someone finally associates a name with a plant that they see all the time, particularly when they go on to discover that the one displayed at the show is from the same location where they have encountered it.

Thank you one and all who helped with this year's show. It would not have happened without the assistance of everyone involved. We enjoyed working with you and hope that you got a great deal of satisfaction from your efforts.

Spring Native Plant Sale Successful Too

By Janet Gomez, sale coordinator

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of many of our Chapter members, we had another very successful plant sale at Hidden Villa on May 10. Thanks to everyone who helped with the sale! Without your help, our plant sales would not be possible (nor would they be nearly as much fun!). Our proceeds from the sale were increased by a very nice

donation from Yerba Buena Nursery, who provided the coupon that was printed in the last issue of the Blazing Star and was also available at both the Wildflower Show and the Plant Sale. Twenty percent of the sales made with the coupon, which was good for two days in May, was returned to our Chapter. Our thanks to Kathy Crane of Yerba Buena Nursery for this generous donation, and to everyone who used the coupon to purchase plants. Another big thank you goes to Sally Casey, who grows plants in her backyard for sale, whose efforts have provided our Chapter with a large percentage of our plant sale goals for the year.

Our **Fall Plant Sale** will be held on **Saturday, October 11**, at Hidden Villa. There are many ways to help, and we encourage everyone to come and join in helping with the sale. Help is always needed on Wednesdays at the nursery (see the article in this issue), and future issues of the Blazing Star will list the many ways you can volunteer to help during the Fall Plant Sale.

Wildflower Show and Plant Sale Review

Please join us at the PCC (library room) on **Wednesday, July 16, at 7pm**, to review our Wildflower Show and Plant Sale. This is your opportunity to tell the Show and Sale coordinators what worked, what didn't, and what can be done better next time. Both events will be discussed during this session. Anyone with thoughts about either event is strongly encouraged to attend. If you are unable to attend, please send written comments to Stella Yang or Stephen Buckhout (the wildflower show) or Janet Gomez (the plant sale). One topic of particular interest will be determining the location for next year's wildflower show.

Janet can be reached at janet@ix.netcom.com or (408)978-2984; Stella and Stephen can be reached at yscottie@pacbell.net or (408)255-6233.

Nursery News

At our Chapter native plant nursery at Hidden Villa, volunteers are always welcome to come help at our weekly work sessions, every **Wednesday from 12noon to 4pm**. Bring garden gloves and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. We are busy propagating new plants for the next Chapter native plant sale. If you are a first time volunteer call Jean or Ray (see contact info below) for information and directions to the nursery.

However, since Hidden Villa will be closed to the public for camp, starting June 21, we won't sell plants from the nursery until that next sale, on October 11.

The nursery appreciates donations of empty pots and live plants, but we ask that only certain types of pots be donated. We can use only black, round, 1 gallon plastic

pots, and black or green, square, 4" pots. No small round pots or pots of other colors, and please try to leave clean pots. If you leave donations of plants make please make sure each one is **labeled**. Any donation that we can't use must be taken away to our home garbage cans.

You can bring your donations to Jean during the time the gates at Hidden Villa are locked. If you have questions about your donation please contact Jean Struthers at (650)941-2586 or JeanStruthers@aol.com, or Ray Deutsch at (650)365-6136 or rdeutsch@stanford.edu.

Also, if you'd like us to propagate a particular plant we will try, providing that we have seed or cutting material. Anyone with a propagation request can contact Jean or Ray, or call Jackie Doda at (650)969-3983.

Gardening With Natives

Our next meeting will be on our regular first **Thursday, July 3 at 7:30pm** at the PCC building in Palo Alto. Chris Todd will present information on soil Mycorrhizae. The word "mycorrhizae" literally means "fungus-roots" and defines the close mutually beneficial relationship between specialized soil fungi (mycorrhizal fungi) and plant roots. A large portion of the world's land plants form the mycorrhizal relationship in their native habitats. Chris will present information she has gathered to the group and we will discuss mycorrhizal relationships among our California native plants.

On **Thursday, August 7 at 7:30pm** we will also meet at the PCC building. The discussion topic will be: Summer blooming California native plants. Just in time for the height of summer, we will discuss as a group what happens in the native plant garden during this time of year, what's blooming, what's dormant, and why. Feel free to bring plant photos (either digital or hardcopy) and plant suggestions to share with the group.

Directions: the PCC is located at 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. From Hwy 101: Take the "San Antonio North" exit, get immediately into the left-hand turn lane, and turn onto East Bayshore. This will curve around to the left, then right. The first street on your right is Corporation Way, turn right. Then turn into the first driveway on your left, which is the PCC parking lot. There is no sign near the lot entrance. A map is available at www.acterra.org/contact/locations.html.

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

Photography Group

Please join us for the monthly meeting of the Photography Group. The next meetings will be **July 14 and August 11, from, 7-9pm** in the Peregrine Room at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC). If you have slides, digital images, or prints you would like to share, please bring them. If you would like to be added to the email or phone lists, contact Jerry Welch at (408)353-8352 or jdwelch@yahoo.com.

Habitat Restoration: Edgewood Park

Join Ken Himes to help remove invasive exotic plants and protect Edgewood's sensitive habitats. **Friday sessions, at 8:30am**, occur year-round. **Wednesday evening sessions begin at 5:30pm**. More information including the schedule of Wednesday work and meeting places is available at edgewood.thinkersrus.net/schedule.html.

Or if you want to contact a real person call Ken at (650)591-8560. For the Friday sessions call Ken or contact John Allen at jcakwa@aol.com.

Edgewood Wednesday Evening Weeding Schedule July-August 2003

Date	Meet at 5:30 at	Work Site
July 2	West Kiosk	Mow site 1
July 9	Old Stage Day Camp Kiosk	Mow site 2
July 16	West Kiosk	Mow site 3
July 23	West Kiosk	Yampah Meadow
July 30	West Kiosk	Yampah Meadow
August 6	Clarkia Trailhead	West Clarkia Trail
August 13	West Kiosk	Mow Site 1
August 20	West Kiosk	Mow Site 3
August 27	West Kiosk	Elly's Meadow

Chapter Office Building Celebration

Please join us on **Sunday, July 13 from 3pm - 5pm** for an open house to celebrate the Peninsula Conservation Center's (PCC) 10 year anniversary. The PCC building is where we have our CNPS Chapter office, and we will be participating in the open house as residents of a special, cooperative community dedicated to our shared conservation goals.

Please RSVP by **July 5** (so we can plan for refreshments) to Georgia Stigall at gstigall@aol.com or (650)941-1068. Chapter volunteers are also welcome to help share information about our CNPS mission, as well as the more practical tasks of setting up and clean-up. Hope to see you there!

Chapter Volunteers Needed

You can help support native plants by serving in one of the volunteer positions currently available in the Chapter:

- Conservation Chair (North)
- Education Chair or Co-Chair
- Donations Committee
- Corresponding Secretary
- Plant Raffle Coordinator

To obtain more information or indicate your interest, contact Georgia Stigall at (650)941-1068 or GStigall@aol.com.

COMMITTEE NEWS & REPORTS

Chapter Scholarships Awarded

By Nora Monette, education chair

We received a large number of qualified applications for the Santa Clara Valley Chapter Research Scholarship this year. All of the applicants were highly qualified and working on valuable research topics. The scholarship committee was impressed by the range of research topics and the number of students studying factors that affect the diversity and reproductive success of native plants in a variety of habitats.

Our Chapter has awarded three scholarships to graduate students doing research related to 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 2003-2004 scholarships are:

- Debra Boelk, University of California, Davis. Debra is studying strategies for controlling perennial pepperweed, an introduced invasive weed in riparian areas. Her study addresses an integrated approach for long-term management of perennial pepperweed and establishing a mixture of native perennial grasses. The ultimate objective of her studies are to demonstrate ecosystem recovery in sensitive habitats invaded by perennial pepperweed.
- Diana Immel, University of California, Davis. Diana is working with showy Indian clover (*Trifolium amoenum*), a species that once was a component of grasslands with marine influence in Marin, Sonoma, Solano, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties. Clovers were among the most important food sources for many California Native American tribes. Until recently, this

species was thought to be extinct. Diana is working on a recovery plan for showy Indian clover with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that will look at management techniques, including fire, used by California tribes.

- Pamela Peterson, San Jose State University. Pamela is studying diversity and richness of serpentine vegetation at seven sites in southern Santa Clara County. Her work will examine the effects of habitat fragmentation and the response of an endemic species, smooth lessingia (*Lessingia micradeniavar.glabrata*). Different grazing regimes will be compared to add to the current knowledge of how grazing can impact diversity and richness in serpentine grassland systems.

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.

Congratulations Debra, Diana, and Pamela!

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, 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.

Jul 4-6, Fri-Sun Ebbetts Pass

Join Phil Darlington for holiday weekend walks along the Sierra Nevada crest from the summit of State Highway 4 northward in the area of Kinney Lake. This area at 8,600 to 9,000 ft. elevation has a variety of habitats on granite and volcanic soils. Plant diversity is good with Sierran and some Great Basin species. The area was in excellent bloom on this date in 2002. Expect great views.

Reservations required due to limited campground space. A \$15 fee will be collected for the campground. Contact Phil to reserve space.

Hikes will be mostly off trail and are moderately difficult. Elevation gain 400 ft, distance 4 miles. Sturdy footwear and hiking skills are required. Bring water and sun and wind protection. Bears frequent the campground area; Forest Service requires use of bear canisters (not provided).

We will meet **July 4**, at Silver Creek Campground, 3 miles NE of the summit, where we will camp. Plant walks will begin at the summit (PCT trailhead) **July 5 and 6**. For information, reservations and directions contact Phil at (650)591-7843, sierraphil@earthlink.net

Jul 10, Thu 7pm Field Trip Planning Meeting

Bring your ideas for trips to this planning meeting, particularly any that you might like to lead or attend.

Everyone is welcome. Anyone interested in leading or assisting with any Chapter field trips is strongly encouraged to attend. Location is the Kestrel room at the PCC, at 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto.

Jul 19, Sat 10am Three Piperia Orchids of Edgewood

Join Paul Heiple and Ken Himes for a walk in Edgewood Park to see these orchids. It was long thought that only one species grew in Edgewood because this genus of Orchids is usually overlooked. Its flowers are small, often green and open in the summer. Last summer it was found that at least three species grow in the park. We hope to show you the three we know, *Piperia elegans*, *P. elongata* and *P. transversa*. It may be a challenge to see *P. transversa* since it is the earliest to flower and is the least common in Edgewood. A visit to nearby Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve may be needed to see this species in flower. Bring water and lunch.

We expect of be looking for Orchids until **3pm**. The hike will involve a moderate climb of a few hundred feet. For more information, call Ken at (650)591-8560 or Paul at (650)854- 7125 or LogH3o@aol.com.

Directions: Meet at the Old Stage Day Camp Parking lot, located off Edgewood Road 1 mile east of its intersection with I-280.

Aug 30, Sat 10am Oak Walk at Monte Bello OSP

Meet your leader Stella Yang in the Monte Bello parking lot for a 5-mile round trip with 600 feet of elevation gain with the chance to see seven species of oak. This will be a casual walk with an opportunity to view different oaks without an overly detailed discussion of their characteristics. Lunch will be at the overnight camp. California fuchsia will be in bloom. The trip is expected to last until **2pm**. For more information contact Stella Yang at (408)255-6233.

Directions: The Monte Bello parking lot is on Page Mill Road 7 miles west of I-280 or 1 mile east of Skyline Blvd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

Calflora is Back

Calflora is, an important web application that combines a database of time and location data with photos of California native plants (www.calflora.org), had been shut down for a time for lack of funding. The good news is, thanks to numerous small donations and dedicated volunteers, it's back-- with a new look, a new plan for supporting operating costs, and a new hosting service.

Calflora will continue to apply for grants to develop new services, but more than ever, the site relies on individual donors. Please consider making a donation to Calflora, by following the instructions at the web site. Calflora is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 organization.

Going Native Garden Tour Big Success

The Going Native Garden Tour on May 18, 2003, attracted over 1,100 registrants and recorded over 3,800 garden visits. Twenty-nine gardens were open for viewing, most of them private home gardens showcasing California native plants. Thanks to all who helped make it such a success. Planning for next year's tour is currently under way. To receive timely notification, to volunteer, or to submit your garden, email info@GoingNativeGardenTour.com, or visit www.GoingNativeGardenTour.com.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, August 9, 2003

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