



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

January-February 2008

MEMBER'S NIGHT AND GENERAL MEETING

Friday, January 25th at 7:30 pm
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Topic: Members' Slide Show – Special Plants, Places and Times of 2007

California has many habitats and many plants, and each of us has a unique interpretation of its scenes. 2007's low rainfall meant the flowers weren't as showy, but nature's beauty is there to be found if we only look for it. Share what you found with your fellow members, by presenting your favorite slides from 2007. Photos of anything, any place, or anyone related to native plants in 2007 are welcome. There will also be space for displaying prints, drawings and other plant-related material.

If you'd like to share photos or other materials, please RSVP to Kevin Bryant by **January 15th** at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824, and let him know how many photos/what type of materials, and approximately how many minutes you'd like. Time allotted per person will depend on how many participants RSVP.

Directions: From Foothill Expy., travel _ mile on San Antonio Road 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 Road, cross Edith and turn left into the unmarked driveway just before Hillview. The sign on San Antonio Road 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 additional information, contact Chapter President Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Nursery

Our regular native plant nursery work sessions take place every **Wednesday**, from **12noon to 3pm**. Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. Knowledge of plants is not necessary: your willingness to help is all that's required.

For more information, contact Jean Struthers at (650)941-2586 or JeanStruthers@att.net; or Ray Deutsch at (650)365-6136 or henrymarsh@yahoo.com.

Directions: Hidden Villa is located on Moody Road west of Foothill College. From Hwy 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 park in the visitor center lot to your right. The Native Plant Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the visitor center.

Gardening with Natives

Gardening with Natives (GWN) is a special interest group within the Chapter which meets on the first **Thursday** of each month, usually at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) in Palo Alto (directions below). The group is open to all, and includes a mix of seasoned native plant gardeners as well as beginners. Newcomers are always welcome.

Thursday, January 10, 7-9pm, at PCC, Palo Alto
Nature's Jewels: Local Parks and the Sierra
Presented by Carol Mattsson, Hosted by Chris Todd

For our January meeting, Chapter member Carol Mattsson has chosen her most inspiring photos to share with us. She will present scenes from both the Sierra and our local parks, showing mountain peaks, moonrises, meadows, and the plants that grow there. The photos show how nature can be both artistic and dramatic.

Let these photos inspire you to visit these parks yourself, or inspire you to create a landscape in your own back yard. Seeing plants in their native habitat helps us design more successful gardens with native plants.

Carol enjoys hiking and bicycling in California wildlands with her camera, and gardening with native California plants in her own Cupertino garden, which was shown on the first Going Native Garden Tour in 2002. You can see more of her photos online, at www.surfpix.net/gallery.

Directions to the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC): 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. From Highway 101, take the "San Antonio North" exit, get immediately into the left-hand turn lane, and turn LEFT onto East Bayshore. This will curve around to the left, then right. Turn right on Corporation Way. Then turn into the first driveway on your left, which leads to the PCC parking lot.

Thursday, February 7, 7-9pm, Milpitas Library Community Room, 40 N. Milpitas Blvd. in Milpitas.

Birds in the Garden

A talk by Toby Goldberg, Programs Coordinator of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. Host: Arvind Kumar

For our February meeting: Is your garden visited by birds you can't identify? Do you want to attract more birds but don't know where to begin? Find out what birds want and how to provide it. Learn about gardening for habitat, environmentally friendly gardening with native plants, and the kinds of birds you can attract. Handouts (bird lists and plant lists) will be available.

Directions: From Hwy 237 heading west from its intersection with I-680, go about 1-1/2 miles to the signal light at Milpitas Blvd. Turn left and the library entrance will be one of the first driveways on your right, just past City Hall. The Community Room is on your right, off the lobby just after you enter the library's main entrance.

For more information on the Gardening with Natives group, visit its website at www.GardeningWithNatives.com. GWN maintains a Yahoo group with over 480 members, a true resource for native plant gardeners in this area. To join the Yahoo group, visit groups.yahoo.com/group/GardeningWithNatives. To contact the GWN Steering Committee, email GardeningWithNatives@yahoo.com or call Arvind Kumar at (408)715-7020.

Native Hill

The planting of perennials has kept us very busy at our Native Hill garden at Foothill College the past few weeks.

So far we have planted 88 plants, replacing old and dying plants, replanting new areas, and changing the emphasis of some plantings. Most of the plants have come from the CNPS local nursery; many others have been provided by Sue Welsh and Betty Cherry; and the remainder have been propagated from cuttings from the garden.

This year it looks like we will be very successful with numerous annuals and perennials that were seeded last spring but did not germinate. This year despite the lack of rains they are finally sprouting. They include *Achillea millefolium*, *Linum* spp., *Lupinus* spp., *Gilia capitata*, *Gilia tricolor*, *Nemophila menziesii* and *Clarkia* spp.

As always, if you would like to volunteer at the garden or be added to the email list to be notified of upcoming workdays, contact Phil Higgins at phidor@juno.com or (650)941-4752.

Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park

Join us as we remove invasive non-native plants and protect Edgewood's sensitive habitats. **Friday weeding sessions, starting at 9am**, occur year-round. Wednesday evening and Saturday morning sessions will resume next spring.

For weeding session details, including the latest schedules and meeting places, see our Weed Warriors website at edgewood.thinkersrus.net. Or contact Paul Heiple, at (650)854-7125 or pheiple@gmail.com, or email John Allen at jcakwa@earthlink.net.

Friends of Foothills Park Volunteers

Jean Olmsted invites Chapter members to come help remove invasive plants in Foothills Park during the Friends of Foothills Park's Sunday morning weeding sessions. The group's major removal goals are yellow star-thistle, French broom, and Italian thistle.

The weeders are now starting to tackle poison hemlock, since it is spreading in the park. They are going to experiment with different removal methods in different areas, including hand pulling and trowels for areas with small non-invasive plants to be protected (such as miner's lettuce), and using mattocks, shovels and such for larger hemlock plants in other areas.

Jean invites everyone to come help with the weeding. The group meets at **9am every Sunday** morning, usually at the Orchard Glen parking area but occasionally at the Page Mill/280 Park and Ride lot. Non-Palo Alto residents enter as the group's guests. For meeting location, please call Jean Olmsted at (650)493-3468 or send an email message to

jwo@svpal.org to get on the notice list. The Friends' website is at: www.FriendsOfFoothillsPark.org.

La Honda Creek OSP Broom Pull

Join Open Space and CNPS volunteers on **Saturday, February 2**, in a joint Preserve Partner/CNPS broom removal project at lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. Volunteers will walk on an old ranch road to locate and pull invasive broom. Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*) should be blooming then too. This is a repeat (annual) visit, so the broom will probably be spread out and small, but it is usually a lovely walk.

For more information and to sign up, visit the MROSD Outdoor Service Projects Calendar, at openspace.org/volunteer/outdoor_service_projects.asp.

Photo Group

Our Chapter Photo Group is a special interest group which meets on the third Monday of most months at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) in Palo Alto. The Group is open to all, and includes both beginning and experienced photographers.

Our next meeting dates are **Mondays, January 21 and February 18**. In addition to the featured program of each meeting, attendees are encouraged to bring recent favorite photos. Up to 20 slides, digital images, or prints per photographer are welcome. Also, interesting off-topic images can be shared. For more information, please contact Patrick Gallagher, at (408)483-9366 or drrust@greenisles.com.

Keying with Natives

Join us on the last **Friday** of every month, from **6:30pm - 8:30pm**, in a fun gathering to meet with other native plant enthusiasts to sharpen your keying skills. The **January meeting date is TBD** but the **February meeting** will be on the **29th**, at the PCC building in Palo Alto. For details, contact David "Tex" Houston at tex009@sbcglobal.net or Sally Casey at (408)377-0989.

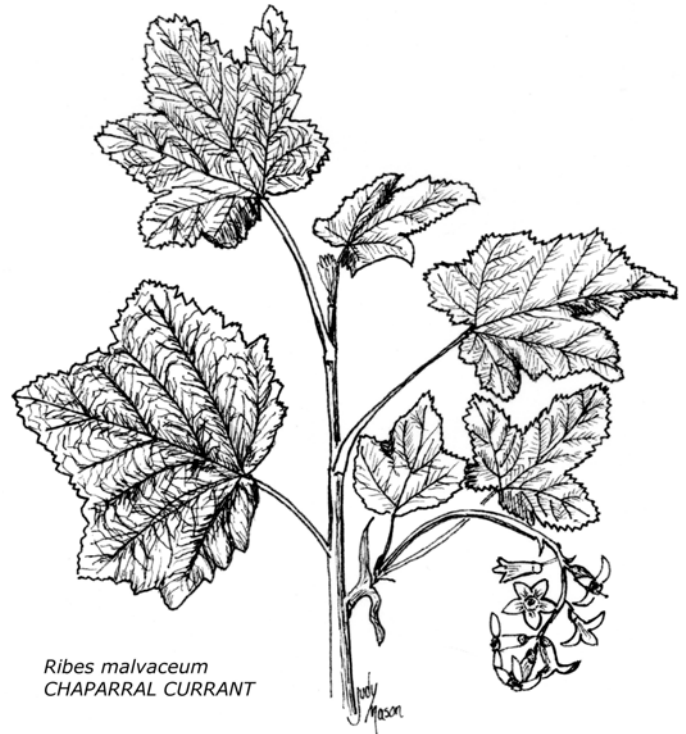
Toni Corelli's Photos Online

Our November potluck featured two stunning programs by Toni & Richard Corelli and Judy & Don Mason. Toni and Richard's photographs are available online at www.flickr.com/photos/tcorelli

Using the categories on the right hand side of the site it's easy to go directly to the field trip-related photos. The set from the potluck program is labeled "State of Jefferson CNPS presentation."

IN MEMORIAM

June Bilisoly of Portola Valley, a long time member of CNPS and an early activist working to save our local flora, died in November. She had remained active in Portola Valley fighting broom until her most recent illness. She will be missed.



Ribes malvaceum
CHAPARRAL CURRANT

©2008 Judy Mason

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.

Jan 5 Sat 9am Mosses of El Corte de Madera

Join bryophytist Jim Shevock as he describes the various non-vascular flora in El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve in San Mateo County. The goal will be to explore along the ridge towards the tafoni sandstone formation. The trail contains groves of *Sequoia* (redwood), *Pseudotsuga* (douglas-fir), *Lithocarpus* (tanoak), *Arbutus* (madrone), and *Umbellularia* (bay).

Jim is responsible for the moss flora compilation entitled, *A Catalogue of the Mosses for the City and County of San Francisco*, published in *Madroño* 48:1-16 (2001). Eight plant species have been named in his honor, including two mosses and the moss genus *Shevockia*.

This trip is co-sponsored with the Yerba Buena Chapter of CNPS. Bring hand-lens, liquids, lunch, and good walking shoes. **In the event of heavy rain**, this trip will be rescheduled for **Saturday, January 26**.

Directions: Take Highway 35 north from its junction with Hwy 84. Drive 3.9 miles north to the Skeggs Point Overlook parking lot. (According to its website, the park is not well marked. Maps may be found at openspace.org.) The trailhead is just north of the parking lot. We will meet at **9am** at the trailhead and return to our cars mid-afternoon.

For more information contact Joe Cernac at JoeCernac@sbcglobal.net or (408)292-5465; or Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824.

Jan 13 Sun 10am Stanford Campus Tree Walk

Join co-leaders John Rawlings and Andy Butcher for a leisurely walk through the Stanford Campus, starting at the Meg Webster California Garden. Installed in November 2002, this garden's landscape rises and falls around two arm-shaped mounds surrounding a central depression.

From the California Garden, we will visit storage ponds, the Arizona Cactus Garden, and stroll into the 'Arboretum,' which is a loose collection of unmarked trees.

This will be a four-hour walk. Before or after the tour, Andy encourages visitors to visit another of Stanford's California native plant gardens, the Frenchman's Garden at Gerona and Mirada, near Hanna House.

John created and maintains the website trees.stanford.edu. This website contains information about the Stanford Campus' horticultural use of native plants and grasses, and landscape and vegetation history. Andy maintains the California Garden and is an ISA certified arborist.

Directions: From I-280 take Alpine or Sandhill or Page Mill to Junipero Serra Boulevard. Take Junipero Serra to Campus Drive West. Turn north on Campus Drive West and follow it to Roth Way, near the Hospital. Turn right (east) on Roth and drive a long block to Lomita Drive, turn right or left on Lomita (or not), and park.

Public parking is free on Sunday. The Meg Webster California Garden is south of Cantor Art Center Rodin Sculpture Garden across Roth Way, next to Keck Science.

There is a plant list for a portion of the walk at trees.stanford.edu/Arboretum1909.htm. And there is background info on the California Garden at nativegarden.blogspot.com; follow the link to a partial list of the original plantings.

Jan 19 Sat 10:30am UC Santa Cruz Arboretum

Join our new field trip chair Joe Cernac for an easy-paced walk through the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum. The Arboretum has a native California plant section as well as a much larger section of global plantings. Their collection of the family *Proteaceae* is especially notable, flowering in this early cool season. The arboretum is favored by its cool coastal location so that its plants don't go dormant in deep winter. Meet at the Arboretum entrance at **10:30am**. The visit is expected to last until **1:30pm**.

Directions: From Hwy 17 south, take Hwy 1 north (towards Half Moon Bay). Turn right on Bay. Turn left at High, which is the UC entrance. The Arboretum is at 1156, just a little further on the right.

A no-host car pool will leave from the Los Gatos Park & Ride at **9:30am**. For more information contact Joe at JoeCernac@sbcglobal.net or (408)292-5465.

Feb 2 Sat 10am Hidden Valley & Waterdog Lake

Join Ken Himes in viewing chaparral and coastal scrub in Hidden Valley Park in Belmont. Chaparral currant (*Ribes malvaceum*) and Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*) should be in flower.

For those wanting to do a longer hike, we will continue via connecting trails to view oak woodland in Waterdog Lake Park. Most of the trails in these parks have been constructed by mountain bike groups and can be rough or slippery. Boots and good hiking skills are required. Expect the trip to last to **3pm**.

Directions: Meet at **10am** in the Hidden Valley parking lot at the south end of Carlmont Drive in Belmont. The park is

located west of Alameda de las Pulgas and south of Ralston Ave. A map of the area may be found in the *Peninsula Trails* guidebook in the Waterdog Lake section. For additional information or directions call Ken at (650)591-8560.

Feb 16 Sat 10am San Pedro Valley County Park and Montara Mountain

Join Toni Corelli for a walk that will feature coastal scrub and maritime chaparral including fetid adder's tongue, Western wood anemone, California hazelnut, Montara Mountain manzanita and the most western population of Western leatherwood.

This will be a slow-paced walk with some gentle slopes; total distance about 4-5 miles. Dress in layers; bring lunch and liquids. The trip is expected to last until **3pm**. For online park info, visit www.eparks.net.

Directions: Take Highway 1 to the City of Pacifica. Turn east onto Linda Mar Boulevard. Follow Linda Mar Boulevard until it ends at Oddstad Boulevard. Turn right on Oddstad. Proceed on Oddstad one block to the park entrance.

There is a day pass fee of \$5.00 per car. **In the event of heavy rain**, this trip **may** be rescheduled for the next day. Contact Toni Corelli (650) 726-0689 or corelli@coastside.net for any questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

Edgewood Docent Training Begins Jan 23

Docent Training for volunteers to lead the spring wildflower walks at Edgewood Natural Preserve will begin **January 23rd** and run through **April 19**.

Topics include Chaparral Plants, Park Geology, How to Lead Hikes, and Basic Families, Flowers & Keys. Each **Wednesday** evening class is followed by a hike covering the same topic on the **Saturday** morning of the same week. The hikes will start from various trailheads in the preserve.

There is a fee of \$20 for materials. Toni Corelli is kindly donating copies of her book, *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve*, to docents-to-be. Because of the recent restoration of bay checkerspot butterflies to the Preserve, we anticipate more visitors than usual this spring and could use your help. Please join us!

For more information or to **sign up**, please contact Docent Training coordinator Mary Wilson at docent-trainer@friendsofedgewood.org or (866)GO EDGEWOOD.

GGNRA Endangered Species Big Year

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area contains more endangered species than any National Park in continental North America: more than Yosemite, Yellowstone, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia National Parks combined.

2008 has been named the GGNRA Endangered Species Big Year. The kick-off event will be on **January 6**. For more info. about the Big Year, visit www.ggnrabiyear.org.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2008

Congratulations to our new officers for 2008, whom we elected at our November General Meeting. And many thanks to Susan Sundberg, our outgoing Recording Secretary, for keeping track of Board votes and other announcements at our Board and General meetings over the past year.

The **Recording Secretary position is now open** and much needed. To learn more about volunteering with the Chapter, or to ask any other questions or give suggestions, please contact one of our officers listed below.

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Kevin Bryant	(408) 353-8824	mtngreen17@verizon.net
Vice President	Drew Shell	(650) 693-1609	Dshell@microsoft.com
Recording Secretary	OPEN		
Treasurer	Paul Heiple	(650) 854-7125	pheiple@gmail.com
Past President	Judy Fenerty	(408) 655-3493	judy@fenerty.com
Officer at Large	Georgia Stigall	(650) 941-1068	georgiastigall@yahoo.com

To join our Chapter email list please send your request to judy@fenerty.com or cnps_scv@yahoo.com.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, February 9, 2008

Email: mattsson@surfpix.net

Phone: (408)255-3767