



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

May-June 2018

SAN JOSE BALLOT MEASURES

CNPS SCV opposes the deceptive Measure B on the June 5th ballot (for the City of San Jose). We urge you to vote:

NO on Measure B: (Evergreen Initiative)

- Allows development **without following California environmental laws.**
- Puts **Coyote Valley at risk** for urban sprawl.
- Will **cost San Jose tax payers** millions of dollars.
- **Fewer very low-income housing units** would be built than required under current San Jose regulations.
- **No guarantee of preference for veterans** in 367 pages of new regulations.
- **No public input** in the planning process.
- See www.NoOnBsj.com for more information.

YES on Measure C:

(San Jose's Urban Sprawl Charter Amendment)

- A competing initiative. If both B and C pass, **Measure C will protect San Jose and the environment** from the negative impacts of Measure B.
- For full text of Measure C (PDF) please visit www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/75643.

For more information please visit www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/conservation or see the enclosed flyer.



Erica Fleniken

Common buckeye on sage at Ulistac Natural Area,
March 2015

GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

Friday, May 18 at 7:30 PM

**Los Altos Library Program Room
13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos**

**Biogeography and Ecology
of California Bryophytes
A talk by Ben Carter
San Jose State University**

Ben will begin with a discussion of the important differences among the four major groups of land plants: mosses, liverworts, hornworts and vascular plants. He will then dive into California bryology from an ecological and biogeographical perspective. Bryophytes have a unique suite of adaptations that allow them to live in many environments that vascular plants cannot. Because they're spore dispersed, they also exhibit biogeographic patterns that are quite different from those commonly seen in the seed plants. He will discuss basic principles of bryophyte ecology and biogeography in the context of the California flora, and also explore ongoing research into ecology and biogeography of California bryophytes.

Ben Carter is Assistant Professor and director of the Sharsmith Herbarium at San Jose State University. He did his undergraduate work at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and earned a PhD from Berkeley studying bryophyte systematics. After graduating, he spent a year living on Santa Catalina Island and studying the Channel Island flora. He then spent several years on the east coast as a postdoctoral scholar at Duke University. His current interests include understanding the influence of microclimates on moss distributions and working with herbarium specimen data to understand broad biogeographic patterns across North America.

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 President Madeline Morrow at madelinemorrow@earthlink.net or the Chapter phone (650) 260-3450.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

CNPS SCV Nursery at Hidden Villa

Come help propagate plants for our plant sales by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions, **Wednesdays from 11am to 2pm**. Please check Meetup (meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter) for the latest schedule. We'll also hold work sessions during Monthly Member Sales.

Bring a sunhat, liquids and your lunch if you like. Tools will be provided at the nursery. Knowledge of plants is not necessary; your willingness to help is all that's required.

The next **Monthly Member Sales** will be **11 am to 2pm** on the following days:
Wednesdays, May 2 and June 6

A reminder, member sales are **credit card only** payment. An inventory of available plants will be updated the week before each sale. Visit www.cnps-scv.org and go to **Events, then Plant Sale**. For more information, contact Vivian Neou at techchair@cnps-scv.org or (650) 260-3450.

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 Dana Center parking lot to your right. Continue walking a short distance on that road and you will see the CNPS SCV Nursery ahead of you, just past the Dana Center building. Parking is free while volunteering or attending a member sale.

Gardening with Natives

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes beginning and seasoned native plant gardeners, along with landscape architects and

designers. GWN offers over 30 free talks throughout the year at public libraries in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. For more info., visit www.cnps-scv.org/gwn.

These programs are made possible by co-sponsoring libraries and volunteers who help with program logistics. If you would like to help organize similar programs at a library near you, email gwn@cnps-scv.org.

Easy-To-Grow Native Plants Two Speakers, Two Locations

Are you looking to start a native plant garden in order to save water, add habitat, and create beauty? Are you new to growing drought-tolerant native plants? Do you want to include them in your garden for beauty, habitat and sustainability, but don't know where to begin?

Come to this talk and learn about the many easy-to-grow native trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals for the home garden. Many of these plants are native to our local area and will thrive with just a little water and care.

We have two locations and two speakers for this talk:

Sunday, May 6, 1-2:30 PM, San Mateo Highlands Recreation Center, 1851 Lexington Ave., San Mateo (650) 341-4251 *Note this is an afternoon talk!*

Anne Risberg is an enthusiastic native plant gardener who is especially interested in the connection between animals, birds and insects and our native California plants. She became hooked on native plants when she moved to the San Mateo Highlands and the 50-year old Toyon tree in her yard became inundated with hungry cedar waxwings who came to feast on its ripe red berries.

Anne is also involved with landscaping during her work managing commercial properties, where the focus is practicality and what plants make a good 20-year investment and which ones just go away after a few years.

Tuesday, June 12, 6-7:30 PM, Los Gatos Library, 100 Villa Ave., Los Gatos (408) 354-6891
Note the earlier start time!

Sherri Osaka is a licensed Landscape Architect and Bay-Friendly Qualified Designer who started her company, Sustainable Landscape Designs, over 20 years ago. She is our Chapter's GWN chair and received the 2018 Water Champion distinction from the Silicon Valley Water Conservation Award Coalition.

**Native Plant Gardening in Pots
a talk by Pete Veilleux**

**Thursday, May 10, 7-8:30 PM, Redwood City Library,
1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (650) 780-7018**

Dress up the smallest of spaces using native plants in containers. Containers allow you to provide exactly the right soil, sun, and drainage conditions for those picky natives that you've always wanted to grow. See how creative you can be recycling pots and combining different textures and colors for an ever-changing garden display.

Pete Veilleux is a master designer, nurseryman and photographer. He creates gardens using native plants for long-lasting landscapes that help people get the maximum use and pleasure from their patch of earth. He is the owner and propagator of East Bay Wilds Native Plant Nursery (www.eastbaywilds.com) in Oakland and a tireless advocate of native gardening.



Erica Fleniken
Bee on sage at Ulistac Natural Area, April 2017

Native Bees, a talk by John Kehoe

**Wednesday, June 6, 7-8:30 PM, Sunnyvale Library,
665 W. Olive Ave, Sunnyvale (408) 730-7300**

We all know about the European honey bee, but what about the native bees that live here in the Santa Clara Valley? These local insects help pollinate our ornamental and edible plants too! Once you know what to look for, you'll see over a dozen bee species that live in our urban setting—especially among locally-growing native plants. Find out how planting even a few select natives can enrich your garden and attract even more native (and honey) bees.

John Kehoe is a longtime member of CNPS as well as The Xerces Society. He is a regular volunteer at Ulistac as well as at various CNPS functions, and is passionate about the natural world. His research interests include studying native bees and their relationships with native plants. He shares these interests by way of his photography on Flickr,

CalPhotos at UC Berkeley and Bumble Bee Watch.

**Using Graywater in your Native Garden
a talk by Justin Burks and Sherri Osaka**

**Tuesday, May 22, 7-8:30 PM, Saratoga Library,
13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga (408) 867-6126**

California is a drought-prone state and it is imperative that we conserve every precious drop of water. Graywater is a great way to reuse water from inside the house for landscape irrigation outside of the house. Come learn how you can install a simple laundry-to-landscape system and which native plants are best suited for this type of irrigation. Did we mention you can also get a rebate from the local water district?

Justin Burks is a water conservation specialist with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, specializing in graywater and landscape water-use management. With a Bachelor of Science in Ecology, Justin has extensive knowledge and experience in protecting endangered or rare native plant species, promoting healthy soils and ecological restoration projects.

See **Sherri Osaka's** bio above.

**Native Plants for Difficult Sites
a panel talk by Ashini Fernando, Deva Luna,
Stephanie Morris, and Sherri Osaka**

**Wednesday, June 27, 7-8:30 PM, Campbell Library,
77 Harrison Ave., Campbell (408) 866-1991**

You know those difficult gardening sites: the ones that are dark all year until mid-summer, the ones under mature trees and in those narrow side yards. Come hear our panel of designers and landscape architects provide suggestions on native plants that can tolerate and thrive in some of your most challenging locations.

Deva Luna works for EarthCare Landscaping and Ashini Fernando, Stephanie Morris and Sherri Osaka have their own design companies. Between them, they have 80 years of gardening experience.

Keying with Natives

Join us as we learn and practice methods of identifying the native plants of our region (aka keying). We use the current edition of *The Jepson Manual*, of which there will be copies to share. Bring your own copy and a hand lens

and plant samples if you have them. Microscopes are also available.

The upcoming meeting dates are **Fridays, May 25 and June 22, from 6:30 - 8:30pm**. We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more information, please contact Joe Cernac at joecernac@sbcglobal.net or (408) 292-5465.

Directions to the PCC:

From Hwy. 101 take the San Antonio Rd. exit and head north. Take your next left onto East Bayshore, which will curve left then right. Take your next right onto Corporation Way. Your next left is the entrance to the PCC parking lot. The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

Conservation

Our Chapter's Conservation

Committee meets on the **Tuesday** following the first Thursday of the month. The next meetings will be on **Tuesdays, May 8th and June 12th at 7:30pm** at the PCC in Palo Alto.

Please join us in our important work! For questions, comments or concerns, please contact Conservation Committee Chair Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch1@aol.com or (650) 804-6162. For **directions** to the PCC, see the previous Keying with Natives article.

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Edgewood Restoration

Help restore habitat at Edgewood Park, known for fabulous wildflowers and amazing diversity near Redwood City. We pull weeds so native plants have plenty of room to flourish. No experience is required. Sturdy gloves are recommended and you might also want to bring sunscreen, water, a hat, layered clothing and wear long sleeves/pants.

Our **5:30pm Wednesday sessions** continue until the end of Daylight Savings Time. We also weed year-round **every Friday at 9am**. For more information, including meeting places, contact Wednesday leader Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560 or Friday leader Paul Heiple at pheiple@gmail.com or (650) 854-7125.

Alum Rock Park Volunteers

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."

We have weeding sessions **every Monday morning** and an **Inspiration Point Walk-and-Weed Day the third Saturday morning** of each month. Please visit the Yahoo

Group "Alum Rock Park Volunteers" to check the schedules. The group introduction lists what to bring and gives directions to the meeting places.

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



UNAREP

Children weeding at Ulistac Natural Area, April 2012

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. The project aims to create a sustainable, low-maintenance landscape, encourage community participation and ownership, and create habitat for birds and wildlife.

Workdays take place every **Saturday, 9am - noon**. Volunteers are welcome by appointment. To sign up, visit lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer. The park is located at 2305 S. White Road in San Jose. For **directions**, visit lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/directions.

Semi-Annual Fountain Thistle Work Party Saturday, June 2, 10am - 12:30pm (San Mateo)

Join leaders Ken Himes and Jake Sigg, of the Santa Clara Valley and Yerba Buena CNPS Chapters respectively, on the return to our ongoing restoration work at this site, the intersection of I-280 and Hwy. 92.

We work to restore the rare, federally endangered fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*), by removing non-native plants. We have vanquished the jubata grass (in the past referred to as pampas grass), but there are other baddies needing our attention, such as yellow star-thistle, wallaby grass (*Rhynchospora caespitosum*) and woody plants trying to convert the area to a shrubland or woodland.

We'll meet at the end of Lessingia Court in San Mateo. For more information, contact Jake at jakesigg@earthlink.net or (415) 731-3028. Optional camaraderie over Greek pizza afterwards.

ULISTAC NATURAL AREA

How Santa Clara's Only Natural Open Space Came to Be

Jeanne-Michele Salander, Chapter member and Ulistac restoration project co-founder, sends us her story of habitat restoration success. While not a project of CNPS, Ulistac Natural Area's 40 acres along the Guadalupe River have become an ecological gem thanks to thousands of volunteer hours. Read on to learn how.

In 1996, members of Santa Clara Valley Audubon's Conservation Committee found out that the last 40 acres of what was once the City of Santa Clara's 150-acre golf course were slated for development. A dozen bird lovers and community activists formed People for Open Space in Santa Clara and made saving the land from development a key issue for an upcoming City Council election. They identified candidates who backed the preservation effort and walked precincts with campaign literature and their own fliers.

Doggedly attending hours of City subcommittee meetings, the members of POSC celebrated in early 1997 when the City finally approved the creation of Ulistac Natural Area, its only natural open space. Named after an Ohlone elder, Ulistac (pronounced OO-li-stak) is now a jewel of an unmanicured city park, attracting birdwatchers, native plant enthusiasts, strolling families with kids and retired folks with happy dogs on leashes.

POSC soon morphed into the Ulistac Natural Area Restoration and Education Project (UNAREP), now a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Three grants of \$30,000, \$100,000 and currently \$200,000 fund the restoration efforts. (Those large numbers include removal of non-native trees by outside contractors.) The City applies for funding from the

Santa Clara Valley Water District, and UNAREP with its many thousands of logged volunteer hours have provided the labor, starting in the summer of 2000. Approximately ten of the forty acres have now been successfully planted with California native plants. An accurate restoration was not possible because the land's essential nature had been so radically altered from being a golf course, and before that, pear orchards. Thus, the City's Master Plan calls for the creation of areas of habitat types: grassland, oak savannah, upland riparian and chaparral.



UNAREP

Early weeding at Ulistac Natural Area

Having volunteered at Ulistac for over 20 years, POSC co-founder Jeanne-Michele Salander has many stories to tell about what worked and what didn't in the restoration effort at UNA (Ulistac Natural Area).

“At first, we put a gallon pot of mulch around each plant and depended on erratic rainfall to support the young

seedlings from our area native plant nurseries. Now we know that we need to mulch with a wheelbarrow of mulch for each plant and provide consistent hand watering until the plants have established their root systems.”

Plastic sheeting under mulch should be avoided. Expensive and bad for the environment, it eventually

decays into shreds, gets exposed and must be painstakingly removed. Now volunteers use purchased rolls of cardboard under four to six inches of mulch.

At Ulistac, “Mulch Rules.” UNAREP has an arrangement with the City of Santa Clara: contractors who do work on City trees bring huge mounds of shredded wood to Ulistac



UNAREP

Mulch Rules! At Ulistac Natural Area

instead of to local landfills. Non-native trees removed as part of the grants are sometimes shredded *in situ* and left for volunteers to use. Often volunteers pre-cardboard and mulch an area for later planting months in advance to suppress weeds and get the process started.

As volunteers painstakingly remove non-natives at Edgewood, Lake Cunningham, Alum Rock Park, and at other CNPS projects, so do the volunteers at UNA. Jeanne-Michele likes to say, "At first, it seems hard to believe that a one hundred foot by one hundred foot square of bristly ox tongue will ever be defeated. Over the years, we let the weeds know who's boss and eventually the weeds give up!"

UNAREP has a protocol of overplanting each area. It helps to suppress weed overgrowth quickly. Eventually, some of the plants take over and others disappear.

UNAREP has found over the years that establishing areas of native wildflowers is costly, labor intensive, and largely unsuccessful. They have had some luck with various *Clarkia* species, penstemons, *Phacelia tanacetifolia* and tidy tips, but volunteers now only spread seed of the California poppy. It is easy to get established and reseeds itself fairly well.

At first, UNAREP volunteers planted all of their valley oaks, coast live oaks, and blue oaks from collected acorns. However, the harsh conditions at UNA (clay soil, strong winds, and winter frosts) make taking care of oak seedlings extremely time consuming during the first few years of growth. Now oak seedlings are purchased in pots, and the current grant allows for the purchase and planting of large oaks that have been grown in wooden boxes. These large oaks are the only plants that are dug in by City of Santa Clara employees. Long time native plant steward Pat Pizzo is the steadfast exception to that rule. He donates acorns he that collects from his neighborhood Los Capitancillos Preserve and UNA volunteers nurture them in tree pots at home, delivering them for planting at UNA when they are big enough to have a good chance of survival.

All the water at UNA is provided through a line the City installed, delivering recycled water from the San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility. Several outlets were put in throughout the 40 acres. Volunteers connect hoses to those outlets, drag lines to areas to be watered, and know that they are providing a service to the Bay ecosystem. The

more fresh water diverted from upsetting the natural salt/fresh balance of the Bay marshlands, the better. UNAREP has tried irrigation systems many times, but they eventually break or are even chopped up by overeager untrained volunteers with their pointed shovels.

"When 50 or 100 volunteers show up on a given day, you just have to limit your expectations and go for overall results," quipped Ms. Salander. "We have become very tolerant of mistakes made by volunteers and try not to chastise them. We want their experience to be a positive one."

There is a romantic story woven into the restoration project at Ulistac Natural Area. Jeanne-Michele and Chris Salander met in 1996 canvassing neighborhoods in the effort to save this land by the Guadalupe River from development. In 1998, they got married. Too old to have children, Jeanne-Michele likes to joke, "I was pregnant with the Ulistac project when we got married, and immediately after, the hundreds of plants and volunteers became a barely manageable family of children." But they both know that this "family" will be a treasure for decades to come.



UNAREP
Young valley oak in protective tube at Ulistac Natural Area

Watch for an article in the next Blazing Star about how certain species at Ulistac Natural Area are now self-seeding, allowing UNAREP volunteers to become "Tenders of the Wild."

CHAPTER 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.

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.

Sat May 5 10am - 3pm Wilder Ranch State Park (Santa Cruz)

Join leaders Sheila Colby and Joe Cernac for a 4.1 mile walk with about 500 feet in elevation gain on the Engelsmans Loop trail through coastal scrub, chaparral and woodlands, with spectacular ocean views. We hope to see some wildflowers along the trail. Bring water and lunch. Dress in layers.

There is a \$10 day parking fee, so bring exact change or use your State Park Pass. Heavy rain cancels. For more info., contact Sheila Colby at sheilamcolby@gmail.com.

Directions: The park entrance is just north of Santa Cruz and just west of Hwy. 1, a mile or so past the Western Drive stoplight. We'll meet in the main parking lot west of Hwy. 1 at **10:00am**.

Sat May 19 9am - 2pm Coastal Walk at McNeen Ranch State Park (San Mateo County)

Join Elan Alford, our Chapter's Rare Plant Chair for San Mateo County, to see the coastal beauty at McNeen Ranch, which is a rare plant hotspot in San Mateo County. McNeen Ranch is on Montara Mountain and offers coastal mountain bluff trails.

We'll start by meeting at 9am at La Costanera Restaurant (8150 Hwy 1, Montara, CA 94037). There, we'll explore nearby coastal prairie to see the rare perennial goldfields (*Lasthenia californica* ssp. *macrantha*).

After exploring, we will drive less than a mile north to Gray Whale Cove Parking lot for the hike. We will explore the Gray Whale Cove trail and see coastal scrub and coastal prairie. We may also see the rare and threatened *Potentilla hickmanii*, a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1B.1 plant. The trail parallels Highway 1 and has extensive Pacific Ocean views. The hike is about 2.5 miles out and back with about 270 feet in elevation gain.

There is poison oak along the trail, which is exposed to the sun and wind, so bring sun protection and a hat. Also bring adequate water and a lunch. We will eat at the picnic tables along the trail.

This is a popular weekend trail and thus we will limit the hike to 12 people. To **reserve your spot**, email Elan at elan.reine@gmail.com.

Sun May 20 10am - 2pm Grass Walk at Los Trancos OSP (Santa Cruz Mountains)

Join Alf Fengler in keeping Sally Casey's tradition of exploring the native grasses at Los Trancos Open Space

Preserve. See many species of grasses in sunny and shady conditions. Bring a hand lens if you have one available, since many important grass features are quite small.

Pack water, lunch, comfortable walking shoes, hiking poles if needed, and an interest in the grasses. The hike distance will be about 2 miles with about 300 feet in elevation gain. We will stop for lunch along the trail.

The trip is limited to 16 participants. To **reserve your spot**, contact Alf at afengler@pacbell.net or (650) 345-7045.

Directions: The preserve's entrance is on Page Mill Rd., 7 mi. west of I-280 and 1.5 miles east of Skyline Blvd. Additional parking and restroom facilities are available at the Monte Bello Open Space Preserve parking area, located directly across Page Mill Rd. Parking is free.

Thu-Tue May 24 - 29 (Memorial Day weekend) Lava Beds National Monument and McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park (NE CA)

Join Ken and Dee Himes on a camping trip to a high desert location that is amazing both ecologically and historically. We will explore this fascinating landscape and interesting flora of Lava Beds National Monument and explore the transitional areas of cismontane/transmontane flora of Burney Falls before heading home.

There are caves to explore and a great view of Mt. Shasta; a WW II internment camp and petroglyphs are nearby. It is also the site of the Modoc wars. There is a native American trail and the fascinating Tule Lake-Butte Valley museum nearby.

We will drive up to Lava Beds on Thursday and spend three nights there, then move to Burney Falls for two nights and return home on Tuesday. Those wanting to see more of the historical attractions at Lava Beds might go a day or two earlier.

For **reservations (CNPS members only)**, contact Patricia Evans at paeans@stanfordalumni.org or (650) 949-2801.

Sun Jun 3 9am - 3pm Redwood Walk at Portola Redwoods State Park (San Mateo County)

Join Elan Alford, Rare Plant Chair for San Mateo County, and Joerg Lohse in the shaded redwoods at Portola Redwoods State Park. The 2,800-acre park features coast redwood, Douglas-fir and understory species such as huckleberry, but our focus will be to find the rare Dudley's lousewort (*Pedicularis dudleyii*) in bloom.

The hike is moderately strenuous and will be approximately 6 miles with an elevation gain of 800 ft. Expect a shaded loop hike, canyon views and an old shingle mill. The hike will follow the park's Coyote Ridge Trail, the Shingle Mill Trail and the Pomponio Trail.

We will meet at 9:00am at the parking area just beyond the ranger station. Bring water, lunch and money for the parking fee of \$10 (exact change). To **reserve your spot**, email Elan at elan.reine@gmail.com

Directions: From Skyline Blvd./Hwy. 35, turn west onto Alpine Rd., go 3 mi., and turn onto Portola State Park Rd. The road dead ends in the park. Use low gear as both these roads are steep and winding.

Sat Jun 9 4:30pm - 10:30pm Night Hike at Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve (San Carlos)

Search for Soap: Soap plants open their flowers in the late afternoon and evening. Join Vivian Neou and Ray Curiel on a search for these lovely blossoms. On this 4.5 mile hike, we'll traverse the Preserve on the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails as we look for soap plant and other plants in bloom. There will be a stop to enjoy our packed meals and take in the views. If we're lucky, we may spot other creatures of the night as we finish the hike.

This is a moderate hike of 4.5 miles round trip with a few hundred feet elevation gain. The preserve does not allow unaccompanied hikers after sunset. You will need to stay with the group until the end of the hike, so please do not sign up if you think you will need to leave early. Additional information about the hike will be provided to attendees before the hike.

Reservations are required. Please see the event description on the CNPS SCV Meetup site for details: www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter.

Sun June 10 10am - 4pm Mount Hamilton Road Trip (San Jose)

Join Stephen Rosenthal for a special road trip up Mount Hamilton Road and then down San Antonio Valley Road. The area has some plants found nowhere else. We will be

stopping along the road at about eight pull-outs to see what's blooming.

The west side, with several elevation changes, explores different plant communities with many wildflowers. The east slope, steep and dry, has its own interesting flora. We expect to see several rare plants such as *Lomatium observatorium*, as well as a nice collection of blazing star, a beautiful flower after which our newsletter is named.



Erica Fleniken
Anna's hummingbird on California fuchsia
(*Epilobium canum*) at Ulistac, September 2015

We expect about 70 miles of driving round trip. Mount Hamilton Road is a steep, narrow, twisting mountain road. We'll form carpools at the meeting spot. Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. Riders will share gasoline costs with drivers. We expect the trip to last until about **4pm** or later.

There will be limited hiking, probably less than 1 mile total. This trip is open to **CNPS members only**. Please RSVP to Steve Rosenthal sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or (408) 923-6562 to **reserve your spot** and get carpooling directions.

Sat Jun 16 9am - 12pm Beginner's Bird and Plant ID Walk Series at Lake Cunningham Park (San Jose) Session #2: First Day of Summer

At the onset of summer, join us for a beginner's bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park. This park is a major destination for waterfowl and migratory birds and its native garden draws many birds due to its habitat value. On this walk, Vicki Silvas-Young will show you how to identify the common birds of our area, as well as the native plants they depend on for food, shelter and nesting places.

The distance will be 4 miles round trip on a level path. Bring a hat, water, your plant and bird lists and binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Parking fee is \$6.

Space is limited. Please **RSVP** through the CNPS SCV Meetup site: www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter. This walk is organized jointly by CNPS, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.

Mount Eddy and Russian Wilderness: Two Backpacking Trips in the Klamath Range

Join leaders Ken Himes and Joe Cernac backpacking 3 miles into Dead Fall Lake to set up camp. Over the next few days we'll explore and botanize meadows and the summit of Mt. Eddy (9,026 ft.) with various elevation changes.

These trips are for **CNPS members only**, limited to 15 people each. Please note the elevation on both trips are well above 8,000 feet. These backpack trips are not suitable for anyone with any health and/or altitude issues.

To **reserve your spot**, contact Dee Himes at dee4cnps@gmail.com or call Ken Himes (650) 591-8560 or Joe Cernac (408) 292-5465 for more information.

Trip #1, July 1-8:

Join us for the first of two backpacking trips to Mt. Eddy and nearby Russian Wilderness, known for its conifer diversity. We expect to see rare Drabas such as Howell's draba and Mt. Eddy draba, both endemic to the Klamath Ranges. Endemic to the Klamath Ranges and 1B.2 CNPS listed, Mt. Eddy sky pilot (*Polemonium eddyense*) should be in good flower.

Trip #2, Aug 4-11:

Join us for a return trip to see seven buckwheats, including the endangered *Eriogonum alpinum* (1B.2 listed) and *E. siskiyouense* (4.3 listed), to name a few at Mt. Eddy; and unusual plants such as Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), and many Ericaceous species, among them Western teaberry (*Gaultheria ovatifolia*, and Sierra laurel (*Leucothoe davisiae*) in Russian Wilderness.

July 20-23 Carson Pass – Sierra Wildflowers off Hwy 88 (Alpine County)

Carson Pass was our Chapter's first away field trip and to commemorate its 30th anniversary, we are having a summer away trip back to the Carson Pass area.

Join Ken Himes, Jean Struthers and Sheila Colby on this Sierra wildflower weekender with two hikes, July 21 and July 22, each starting at 9am and 4-6 miles in length with 1000+ feet of elevation gain, in the Carson Pass area.

This is a **CNPS members only** trip, limited to 15 people. To **reserve your spot** and get camping / lodging details, please email Sheila Colby by May 30, at sheilacolby@gmail.com.

About CNPS Rare Plant Ranks

Throughout the Blazing Star newsletters and other CNPS publications, you'll occasionally see a number next to a plant name, e.g. "Mt. Eddy sky pilot, CNPS List 1B.2." These are CNPS Rare Plant Ranks, classifying a plant species as to rarity and how threatened it is, within California and elsewhere.

These ranks are assigned to plants listed within the CNPS Rare Plants Inventory, here: www.cnps.org/rare-plants/cnps-inventory-of-rare-plants. For example, rank 1B.2 means rare and moderately threatened in California. Rank 4.3 means limited distribution and not very threatened in California. You can learn more about the CNPS Rare Plant Ranks here: www.cnps.org/rare-plants/cnps-rare-plant-ranks.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2018

Title	Name	Email	Phone
President	Madeline Morrow	madeline.morrow@earthlink.net	(408) 741-1150
Vice President	Vivian Neou	techchair@cnps-scw.org	(650) 260-3450
Recording Secretary	Priya Pharate	priyaph@yahoo.com	
Treasurer	Janet Hoffman	janet@cnps-scw.org	(408) 374-0435
Past President	Stephen Rosenthal	sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net	(408) 923-6562

Save a Tree!

CNPS members can log in to support.cnps.org and edit their profile to receive this newsletter by email only. Look for "Chapter Newsletter" near the bottom of "My Profile."

Current and past Blazing Star newsletters are always online at the Chapter website's newsletter page: www.cnps-scw.org/index.php/blazing-star-newsletter.

To join our Chapter news email list please visit www.cnps-scw.org/index.php/contact-us/sign-up.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, June 9, 2018

Email: carol.mattsson@gmail.com

Phone: (408) 255-3767

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

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Membership level (check one):

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 Botany
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 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 • 916-447-2677 • fax 916-447-2727

FIRST-CLASS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

May 2 Wed Monthly member plant sale (2)
May 5 Sat Wilder Ranch field trip (7)
May 6 Sun GWN – Easy-to-Grow – Risberg (2)
May 8 Tue Conservation Committee meeting (4)
May 10 Thu GWN – Gardening in Pots – Veilleux (3)
May 18 Fri **General Meeting – Bryophytes** (1)
May 19 Sat McNee Ranch Coastal field trip (7)
May 20 Sun Grass walk at Los Trancos (7)
May 22 Tue GWN – Greywater – Berks & Osaka (3)
May 24-29 Thu-Tue Lava Beds NM field trip (7)
May 25 Fri Keying with Natives (4)
Jun 2 Sat Fountain thistle workday (4)
Jun 3 Sun Portola Redwoods field trip (7)
Jun 6 Wed Monthly member plant Sale (2)
Jun 6 Wed GWN – Native Bees – Kehoe (3)

Jun 9 Sat Pulgas Ridge night hike (8)
Jun 9 Sat **Newsletter submittal deadline** (9)
Jun 10 Sun Mount Hamilton road trip (8)
Jun 12 Tue GWN – Easy-to-Grow – Osaka (2)
Jun 12 Tue Conservation Committee meeting (4)
Jun 16 Sat Bird and plant ID Lake Cunningham (8)
Jun 22 Fri Keying with Natives (4)
Jun 27 Wed GWN – Difficult Sites – Luna (3)
Jun 28 Thu **Newsletter Mailing Party - 10am PCC**
Jul 1-8 Suns Mt. Eddy & Russian Wild. backpack (9)
Jul 20-23 Fri-Mon Carson Pass away field trip (9)
Aug 4-11 Sats Mt. Eddy & Russian Wild. backpack (9)
Mon & 3rd Sat Alum Rock Weeding (4)
Wed Nursery work sessions (2)
Wed 5:30pm, Fri 9am Edgewood Weeding (4)
Sat Lake Cunningham workdays (4)

The next Chapter board meetings will be **Thursdays, May 10** (special) and **June 14** (general / newsletter) at **7:00pm** at the PCC, 3921 E. Bayshore Road. in Palo Alto. Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests. For more information contact Madeline Morrow at madelinemorrow@earthlink.net.

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 about your newsletter subscription, please contact **membership@cnps-scv.org**. Address changes may be submitted to **cnps@cnps.org**; please put "member address change" in the subject line.

The *Blazing Star* web address: www.cnps-scv.org. Acknowledgement: Anne Warren for the *Blazing Star* logo. Printed on recycled paper.
