



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

May-June 2019

GOING NATIVE GARDEN TOUR

Help Spread the Word

Our annual Going Native Garden Tour (GNGT), a free tour of native gardens in the Santa Clara Valley and Peninsula, takes place **May 4 and 5, 10am to 4pm**.

Help us spread the word! Tell your friends, post to your favorite social media venues, and please come on the tour and bring others with you! Visitor registration remains open at www.gngt.org until May 5 at 3pm. You can register to **volunteer** at the tour from that page as well.

Visit GNGT's Pressroom page at gngt.org/flyer to find a press release and colorful flyers to share. You may include @GoingNativeGT or #GoingNativeGT in your post/tweet.

GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

Friday, May 17 at 7:30 PM
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Life on the Rocks: Plants on Serpentine and Other "Harsh" Rock Outcrop Plant Communities - A talk by Dr. Nishi Rajakaruna Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Serpentine and other rock outcrops are home to many rare and endemic species of plants here in California and around the world. These rock outcrops have provided model settings for botanical explorations and the study of plant biology. Study topics range from diversity and ecology to physiology and evolution as well as the development of green technologies such as phytoremediation and agromining.

Join us at this talk, which will highlight plant-soil relations of rock outcrops both locally and globally and note

important discoveries in ecology, physiology, genetics and biotechnology from the study of rock outcrop plants. The threats faced by these geobotanical wonders and the urgent need for their conservation will also be discussed.



Dr. Bob Boyd

Nishi Rajakaruna holding a serpentine endemic pitcher plant *Nepenthes villosa* on Mount Kinabalu in Borneo, Malaysia.

Nishi Rajakaruna fell in love with plants at a young age during a visit to Sinharaja Rainforest, a lowland tropical rainforest in Sri Lanka. He received a BA in human ecology from College of the Atlantic (Maine) and conducted his

post-undergraduate practical training in plant ecophysiology at Harvard University. His research on the evolutionary ecology of the *Lasthenia californica* complex earned him a MS and a PhD in botany from the University of British Columbia, Canada.

Nishi conducted post-doctoral research in plant ecology at Stanford University. His research examines how plant diversity, ecology, and evolution are influenced by serpentine and other "unusual" soils, including those with heavy metals. He taught botany at College of the Atlantic and San José State University for 12 years and spent a year as a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Sri Lanka and India. He is currently an associate professor in plant biology at California Polytechnic State University where he teaches general botany, biogeography and ethnobotany.

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 Madeline Morrow at past-president@cnps-scv.org or the Chapter phone (650) 260-3450.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

CNPS SCV Nursery at Hidden Villa

Come help propagate plants for our future plant sales by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions, every **Wednesday from 11am to 2pm**. Also, we'll hold a work session during each **member sale day** that takes place at the nursery, listed below.

Bring garden gloves, sunhat, liquids 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.

The next **Monthly Member Sales** will be **11am to 2pm** on **Wednesdays, May 8 and June 5**.

An inventory of available plants will be updated the week of each sale. Visit www.cnps-scv.org and go to Events, then Plant Sale.

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

For May and June, GWN talks will be announced on **Meetup** and to the GWN discussion forum. See all of our Chapter's Meetup events, including field trips, by visiting www.cnps-scv.org and clicking “**CNPS-SCV Meetup**” from the main menu. You may sign up to receive GWN forum emails using the form on the GWN page.

GWN 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, please email gwn@cnps-scv.org.

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*. Bring your own copy and a hand lens, plus plant samples if you have them. Microscopes are also available.

The upcoming meeting dates are **Fridays, May 24 and June 21**, 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 jocernac@sbcglobal.net or (408) 292-5465.

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

Photography Group

Our Photography Group is a great place to meet other native plant enthusiasts while improving your photographic skills and learning more about our native plants. We announce activities to our online discussion group (groups.io/g/CNPS-SCV-Photography), so if you'd like to receive updates, please join via the web interface or by email. Learn more by visiting the Photography Group page at our website: www.cnps-scv.org/field-trips/336-photography.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Committee

Our Chapter's conservation committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, May 7** and **Tuesday, June 11** at **7:30pm** at the PCC Library in Palo Alto.

Please join us in our important work! For questions, comments or concerns, 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.

Responding to an Action Alert

Our elected officials are constantly making decisions that impact the quality of our environment. From the construction projects they approve to the policies they create, their choices determine whether the environment is protected, enhanced or harmed.

Our Chapter's Conservation Chair and Conservation Committee work with other environmental organizations to speak for the environment. We write letters, speak at public meetings and meet with our elected representatives. However on some important issues we need to demonstrate that the members we say we represent, really care deeply about an issue. When this occurs, we send out an Action Alert to our Chapter's notification list.

Asking members to respond with emails or to attend a public meeting or event is very simply a numbers game. Having only a few respond makes it look like our members aren't paying attention or are not interested in the environmental issues. When representatives find their inboxes full, it makes a difference.

So please, let your voice be heard when we send out an Action Alert. We always provide the public officials' addresses and offer suggestions for wording. If you can, put your message in your own words. A few sentences are all that is needed. It is the number of emails that counts, not perfect prose.

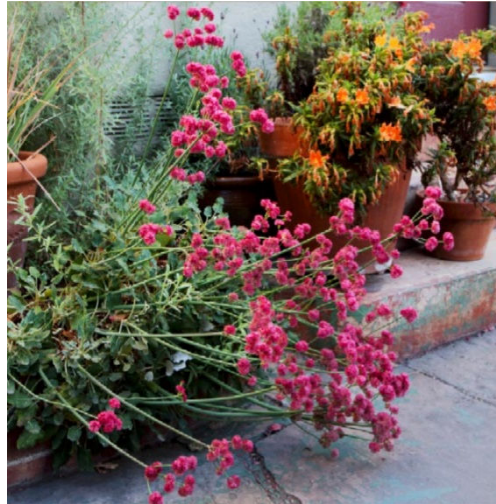
We have to have your email to put you on the notification list. If you have never received an Action Alert please send your email address to ConservationChair@CNPS-SCV.org and we will add you to the list. Thank you for joining in our important work as environmental stewards.

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

Edgewood Restoration

Help restore habitat at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, known for fabulous wildflowers and amazing

diversity near Redwood City. Sturdy gloves are recommended; you might also want to bring sunscreen, water, a hat, layered clothing and wear long sleeves/pants.



John Kehoe

The Going Native Garden Tour takes place May 4-5. You can visit all types of gardens, even one that fits on a balcony or patio. Learn more at www.gngt.org.

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, visit www.cnps-scv.org/restoration/edgewood-park, 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 (650) 260-3450.

Lake Cunningham Native Garden

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

Workdays 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. For more information, contact Arvind Kumar at chhaprahiya@gmail.com or **(408) 715-7020**.

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.

Cell service is mainly restricted to cities and major highways. To find your way to an outing do not rely solely on your phone.

Check our field trips page www.cnps-scvc.org/activities/field-trips for changes, cancellations and additional field trips.

Wed May 8 10am – 3pm Mount Umunhum (Los Gatos)

Join Ken Hickman and Kate Gudmundson for a hike along the Mount Umunhum trail in Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve. The trail passes through a variety of habitats and we expect to see an array of different plants in bloom. After spending some time exploring the summit area, we'll hike 3.7 miles to the Bald Mountain parking area, descending 1,100'. Bring lunch and liquids.

Reservations are required. For more info. or to **reserve your spot**, contact Kate at kgudmundson@gmail.com.



Ken Hickman
Mount Umunhum, March 2016

We'll meet at the Bald Mountain parking area at **10am**. We will form carpools to drive to the Summit parking area

and our hike will take us back to the Bald Mountain parking area. Detailed **directions** will be provided to those who sign up. Parking is free.

Sun May 19 10am - 3pm Beginner's Plant ID Walk at Alum Rock Park (San Jose)

Join Arvind Kumar and Ashok Jethanandani for a Beginner's Plant Identification walk along Alum Rock Park's South Rim Trail. This year's steady and long precipitation patterns have produced an extended and floriferous wildflower season. We expect to see clarkia, dudleya, soap lily, sticky monkeyflower, blue witch, hillside gooseberry, blue elderberry, buckeye and holly-leaved cherry in bloom. We will also encounter coffeeberry, holly-leaved redberry, toyon, bay laurel, gray pine and majestic native oaks.

We'll cover 2 miles distance with 600' of elevation gain/loss. Wear good walking/hiking shoes. Bring a sack lunch and plenty of fluids. We will return to the parking lot by **3pm**.

Reservations are required. Please **RSVP** at www.meetup.com ("California Native Plant Society – Santa Clara Valley Chapter") or through the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (OSA) Events page www.openspaceauthority.org/visitors/events.html. This plant walk is jointly organized by CNPS and OSA.

Alum Rock Park is located at 15350 Penitencia Creek Road in San Jose. We'll meet outside the Youth Science Institute building at **9:45am**. See **directions** at the Meetup or OSA listing. Parking is \$6.

Sun Jun 23 9am - 12pm Beginner's Bird and Plant ID Walk at Lake Cunningham (San Jose)

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.

Reservations are required. Please **RSVP** at www.meetup.com ("California Native Plant Society – Santa Clara Valley Chapter") or through the Santa Clara

Valley Open Space Authority (OSA) Events page www.openspaceauthority.org/visitors/events.html. This plant walk is jointly organized by CNPS, OSA and Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

Lake Cunningham Park is located at 2305 S. White Road, San Jose. We'll meet at the Marina building at **9am**. See **directions** at the Meetup or OSA listing.

Jul 4 - 7 Wed - Sun Ebbetts Pass, Alpine Lake and Calaveras Big Trees State Park (Arnold)

Fred and Patricia Evans invite you to join them at their cabin in Arnold for three days of wildflower hikes over the July 4 weekend.

We will explore Inspiration Point at Alpine Lake, Calaveras Big Trees State Park and the Pacific Crest Trail at Ebbetts Pass. It will be spring at the 8,736' pass and the wildflowers will be amazing! This itinerary is subject to change, depending on weather and conditions.



Joerg Lohse

High spirits at Ebbetts Pass Field Trip, July 2017

The cabin sleeps 17 (dorm style). There is room for tents in the yard, and two small RVs or vans can hook to electricity in the driveway. Dinners will be potluck and popcorn will be provided.

This trip is open to **CNPS members only**. For more information or to **reserve your spot**, contact Patricia at paevans@stanfordalumni.org or (650) 949-2801.

SALLY CASEY: CELEBRATE LIFE

Our beloved Chapter co-founder Sally Casey passed away on February 5. We will be gathering to celebrate her life and share memories in San Jose. Learn the date, get event details and sign up at www.eventbrite.com/e/sally-casey-celebration-of-life-tickets-60365734537.



Stella Yang

Sally Casey in 2007

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2019

Title	Name	Email	Phone
President	Vivian Neou	president@cnps-sc.v.org	(650) 260-3450
Vice President	OPEN		
Recording Secretary	Priya Pharate	secretary@cnps-sc.v.org	
Treasurer	Janet Hoffmann	janet@cnps-sc.v.org	(408) 374-0435
Past President	Madeline Morrow	past-president@cnps-sc.v.org	(408) 741-1150

Save a Tree!

Blazing Star newsletters are always online at the Chapter website's newsletter page: www.cnps-sc.v.org/blazing-star-newsletter. Please contact membership@cnps-sc.v.org if you would like to receive this newsletter by email only. To join our Chapter news email list please visit www.cnps-sc.v.org/about-us/contact-us.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, June 8, 2019

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

Santa Clara Valley Chapter California Native Plant Society
3921 East Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303-4326



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):

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

Areas of interest:

- Advocacy
 Botany
 Conservation
 Education
 Field Trips
 Gardening
 Plant ID

Donations above the membership level are gratefully accepted.

Dues and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail it with this form to:

CNPS Membership, 2707 K Street Suite 1, Sacramento, CA
95816-5130 • membership@cnps.org • (916) 447-2677 ext. 200

FIRST-CLASS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

May 4-5 **Going Native Garden Tour** (1)
May 7 Tue Conservation Committee meeting (2)
May 8 Wed Mount Umunhum field trip (4)
May 8 Wed Monthly Member Plant Sale (2)
May 17 Fri **General Meeting – Serpentine** (1)
May 19 Sun Beginner's plant ID Alum Rock Park (4)
May 24 Fri Keying with Natives (2)
Jun 5 Wed Monthly Member Plant Sale (2)
Jun 8 Sat **Newsletter submittal deadline** (5)
Jun 11 Tue Conservation Committee meeting (2)

Jun 21 Fri Keying with Natives (2)
Jun 23 Sun Bird & plant ID Lake Cunningham (4)
Jun 27 Thu **Newsletter Mailing Party - 10am PCC**
Jul 4-7 Ebbetts Pass away field trip (5)
Various Gardening with Natives (2)
Mon & 3rd Sat Alum Rock Weeding (3)
Wed Nursery work sessions (2)
Wed 5:30pm & Fri 9am Edgewood Weed Warriors (3)
Sat Lake Cunningham workdays (3)

The next Chapter Board meetings will be **Thursdays, May 9** (special) and **June 13** (general / newsletter) **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. For more information contact Vivien Neou at president@cnps-scv.org.

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