



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# THE BLAZING STAR

July-August 2019

## GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

**Friday, July 19 at 7:30 PM**  
**Los Altos Library Program Room**  
**13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos**

**Solar Development Impacts on Annual Plants  
in California's Desert Communities**  
**A talk by Karen Tanner**  
**University of California, Santa Cruz**

California's desert region supports hundreds of rare and unique plants, and is also the location of a renewable energy development boom. Even where vegetation communities are left intact or restored inside facilities, ground-mounted infrastructure may have negative impacts on desert-adapted plants because it creates novel rainfall runoff and shade conditions.

Join us for this talk to learn how Karen is using experimental solar arrays in the Mojave Desert to test how these altered conditions affect plant performance. She is studying the response of the annual community overall, and focusing on populations of two sunflowers in greater detail: the rare *Eriophyllum mohavense* (CRPR 1B.2) and the closely related common *E. wallacei*. She will discuss how panels alter local microhabitats, how annual species respond and how insights gained may help reduce negative impacts of energy development.

**Karen Tanner** is a PhD candidate at University of California, Santa Cruz, where she also studies strategies to improve salt marsh restoration outcomes at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (Monterey County). Learn more about her salt



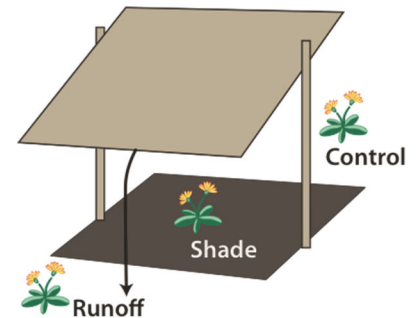
marsh restoration studies at  
[www.karenetanner.com/index.php/saltmarsh](http://www.karenetanner.com/index.php/saltmarsh).

Karen served as our Chapter's Invasive Plant Chair for Santa Clara County in 2014. Before training as a plant ecologist, she worked in the computer software industry for 15 years and prior to that she earned a degree in fine art.

**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](mailto:past-president@cnps-scv.org) or the Chapter phone (650) 260-3450.



Karen Tanner

Panel of experimental solar array to test effect on plant performance

## **Horticulture Symposium September 21: Gardening for Biodiversity in a Climate Crisis**

Join us at our Chapter's next symposium, to be held at Foothill College on **Saturday, September 21, 9am to 5pm.**

The insect Armageddon, the collapse of the western Monarch butterfly, the "Sixth Extinction" – we are losing species at an alarming rate. Contributors to this crisis include invasive species, the ubiquitous European lawn, non-native landscapes and the loss of wild areas. Landscape professionals and home gardeners can act to turn this trend around. This one-day symposium will show you how to be part of the solution.

The symposium will feature keynote speaker Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, and Bart O'Brien, Director of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden and the co-author of *Reimagining the California Lawn*.

See the enclosed flyer or [www.cnps-scv.org/symposium](http://www.cnps-scv.org/symposium) for more information and to register.

## **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**.

During Hidden Villa's annual summer closure from June 17th - August 19th, we request that only experienced nursery volunteers attend our workdays. No new drop-in volunteers during this period please!

Bring garden gloves, sunhat, liquids and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery.

The next **Monthly Member Sale** will be **11am to 2pm on Wednesday, August 28th**.

An inventory of available plants will be updated the week of each sale. Visit [www.cnps-scv.org](http://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 information, visit [www.cnps-scv.org/gwn](http://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, please email [gwn@cnps-scv.org](mailto:gwn@cnps-scv.org).

### **Creating Native Pollinator Gardens a talk by Juanita Salisbury**

**Thursday, July 11, 7-8:30 PM, Cupertino Library,  
10800 Torre Avenue, Cupertino (408) 446-1677**

Native plants are integral to an effective pollinator garden design. Based on functions within the ecosystem, the speaker will explore the interrelationships between plants, pollinators, other insects and animals. The goal is to allow you to design pollinator gardens, thereby leveraging California's wealth of biodiversity into more resilient and beautiful landscapes.

**Juanita Salisbury** has a Ph.D. in Biopsychology from the University of Florida (1988) as well as a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from West Virginia University (2000). In 2009 she established Juanita Salisbury Landscape Architecture after working for commercial and residential design firms. She has recently turned her focus to California native plant pollinator habitats, and in 2016 established the Primrose Way Pollinator Garden, the first of four pollinator habitat gardens in Palo Alto.

### **Aesthetic Pruning in the Dry Season a talk by Frank Niccoli**

**Thursday, July 18, 7-8:30 PM, Mountain View Library,  
585 Franklin Street, Mountain View (650) 903-6337**

A native garden looks most pleasing when it has a human touch: shrubs and trees are at their best with occasional pruning and shaping. And some of our California native plants prefer summer pruning when they are dormant and less likely to contract water-borne diseases. During this presentation, you'll learn about the different types of pruning cuts and how to bring out the best characteristics and health of your plants.

**Frank Niccoli** has been a gardener for over 50 years and is the past president of the founding chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association. He was voted Member of the Year by his peers in 2001 and 2004. He has written the curriculum and teaches numerous classes at Foothill College.

### Simple Graywater Systems for Native Plants a talk by Deva Luna

**Thu., July 25, 7-8:30 PM, Palo Alto Library Mitchell Park, 3700 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto (650) 329-2436**

California is a drought-prone state and it is imperative that we conserve every precious drop of water. Gray water is a great way to re-use 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. You'll also hear about the rebates available for these systems from the water district.

**Deva Luna** is a sustainable and Bay Friendly-certified landscape designer who has been teaching and speaking about horticulture for over 20 years. She has a degree in Plants and Art from UC Davis and works for EarthCare Landscaping ([www.earthcareland.com](http://www.earthcareland.com)) in Cupertino.

### Creating a Bee-Friendly Native Garden a talk by John Kehoe

**Wednesday, July 31, 7-8:30 PM,  
San Carlos Library, 610 Elm  
Street, San Carlos  
(650) 591-0341**

We all know about the European honeybee, but what about the native bees that live here in the Santa Clara Valley? These local insects help pollinate your 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 passionate about the natural world and is a regular volunteer at Ulistac Natural Area, as well as at various CNPS functions. His research interests include studying native bees and their relationships with native plants. He shares these interests by way of his photography



*Stephen Rosenthal*  
Native monarch butterfly on narrow leaf milkweed, *Asclepias fascicularis*. Spotted at Lake Cunningham Park habitat restoration area. Learn more about habitat restoration on page 7

on Flickr, CalPhotos at UC Berkeley and Bumble Bee Watch.

### Firesafe Native Gardens a talk by Eugenia Rendler & Patty Ciesla

**Wednesday, August 21, 7-8:30 PM, Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (650) 948-7683**

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) will be presenting concepts for wildfire risk reduction around your home and structures in conjunction with fire-safe landscaping. The presentation will begin by reviewing defensible space and ember intrusion principles. These underlying ideas are critical to reducing fire risk when planning landscape plantings and installations. Once the audience has a good understanding of the zones of home ignition, we will proceed to an in-depth discussion of spacing, placement and species choices. Discussion will also touch on maintenance for continued participation in wildfire risk reduction principles. Please bring your questions and ideas to the talk!

**Patty Ciesla** is the executive director of the SCCFSC, and has been working on wildfire preparedness since 2014. Patty's prior work focused on parks, trails, physical activity, and recreation in the great outdoors.

**Eugenia Rendler** has been the Education Coordinator for the SCCFSC since 2011. In that time the SCCFSC outreach program has grown from a small booth and simple Smokey Bear story times to an SCCFSC branded booth and workshops which engage thousands of people at over 30 countywide festivals and events each year.

### Native Plants for Clay Soils a talk by Patricia Evans

**Wednesday, August 28, 7-8:30 PM, Campbell Library, 77 Harrison Avenue, Campbell (408) 866-1991**

Most parts of the Bay Area have clay soil, but some of our most drought-tolerant native plants prefer a fast draining soil, which clay is not. What's a gardener to do? Find out

how to check how much clay you really have, which native plants tolerate clay soils, and how to adapt your garden for that finicky plant that you just have to have.

**Patricia Evans**, owner of Natural Landscape Design, is a graduate of the Foothill College Ornamental Horticulture program. Previously, she served on the boards of directors of Gamble Garden and the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. She has also taught Garden Design for Homeowners for Palo Alto Adult Education. She specializes in native plants and sustainable landscaping.

### 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, July 26 and August 23, from 6:30 to 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](mailto:joecernac@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](http://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](http://www.cnps-scv.org/field-trips/336-photography).

## JOIN THE CNPS TEAM!

Volunteering for CNPS is a great way to express your support for preserving California's incredibly rich plant life. Here for your consideration are some great opportunities to get involved, work with great people and start making a difference right away:

### Vice President

If you are reasonably organized, you can make a major contribution to CNPS! We need a Chapter board to keep all our myriad activities on track and we need board members of all types. Right now, we **really** need a Vice President.

The Vice President is a backup to the President, and assists the President, Treasurer and Past President on the Executive Committee, as well as helping with other projects to learn how

our Chapter works. It's a training position for being President.

Take a breath – you can do this! There are monthly board meetings, possibly a board retreat and email discussions with occasional ad-hoc meetings, which can be electronic.

Contact Vivian Neou ([president@cnps-scv.org](mailto:president@cnps-scv.org)), Madeline Morrow ([madelinemorrow@earthlink.net](mailto:madelinemorrow@earthlink.net)) or Stephen Buckhout ([stephen@yscottie.com](mailto:stephen@yscottie.com)) to discuss this position.

### Scholarship Committee

Scholarship grants to college students are a major part of our Chapter's investment in the future of native plant science. The Scholarship Committee is looking for people who are familiar with the academic process and current science to assist them. There are several components to the work:

- Getting the word out to schools, putting articles in the newsletter and notices for the website, then communicating with students and our treasurer (*two to five hours about four times per year*);
- Sorting and sharing applications for evaluation (*about four hours*); and



Karen Tanner

July program speaker Karen Tanner will use experimental solar arrays to test how conditions altered by desert solar will affect plant *Eriopyllum wallacei* and the rare *E. mohavense* (CRPR 1B.2), pictured here.

## ONGOING HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS

Join local volunteers at your favorite parks to help restore habitat for native flora and fauna. Projects include planting California natives, trail maintenance and of course, plenty of weed pulling! Contact the listed organizations for details.

### **Alum Rock Park Volunteers**

Invasive plant removal and habitat restoration. Weeding sessions every Monday morning. Inspiration Point Walk-and-Weed third Saturdays at 9am. For details see page 7 and visit Yahoo Group to check schedules. [groups.yahoo.com/group/alumrockparkvolunteers](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alumrockparkvolunteers).

### **Edgewood County Park – Redwood City**

Invasive plant removal Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings. For details see page 7 or [www.friendsofedgewood.org/habitat-restoration](http://www.friendsofedgewood.org/habitat-restoration).

### **Grassroots Ecology**

Help with planting, weeding, creek monitoring or installing rain gardens and rain barrels. See website for calendar and registration links; or contact [volunteer@grassrootsecology.org](mailto:volunteer@grassrootsecology.org) or (650) 419-9880. [grassrootsecology.org/volunteer](http://grassrootsecology.org/volunteer).

### **Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful**

Restore Coyote Creek to its full beauty and function. Volunteers remove trash and non-native plants, plant native plants and advocate for a healthy creek. Choose an event from [KCCB.eventbrite.com](http://KCCB.eventbrite.com). Deb Kramer [deb@keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org](mailto:deb@keepcoyotecreekbeautiful.org) (408) 372-7053. [www.facebook.com/CoyoteCreekSJ](http://www.facebook.com/CoyoteCreekSJ).

### **Lake Cunningham Park's Native Garden**

Tasks include weeding, mulching, watering, propagation and planting. 2305 S. White Road, San Jose. Saturdays 9am to noon. For details see page 7. Please RSVP at [lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer](http://lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer). [www.lakecunninghamnativegarden.org](http://www.lakecunninghamnativegarden.org).

### **Magic – Planting for the Second Hundred Years**

Plant oaks and other California natives in winter, weed and mulch in spring, water in summer and early fall (and

other times of year if necessary), survey and do other tree care year-round. Saturdays 9:30am – noon. Details and sign up: Robin Bayer [robin@ecomagic.org](mailto:robin@ecomagic.org).

### **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District**

Projects include invasive plant removal, planting native vegetation, fence repairs and trail maintenance. [volunteer@openspace.org](mailto:volunteer@openspace.org) or (650) 691-1200. See website for calendar and signup links: [www.openspace.org/outdoor-service-projects](http://www.openspace.org/outdoor-service-projects).

### **San Bruno Mountain Watch**

Restore remarkable ecosystems on San Bruno Mountain and nearby. Weeding, planting, nursery workdays: Check volunteer events web page for workday details: [www.mountainwatch.org/upcomingevents](http://www.mountainwatch.org/upcomingevents). Ariel Cherbowsky Corkidi [ariel@mountainwatch.org](mailto:ariel@mountainwatch.org). (415) 467-6631.



*Chris Dembia*

Magic volunteers removing a barbed wire fence in the Deer Creek Conservation Easement on Stanford lands.

### **Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority**

Land Steward volunteers remove invasive plants, repair trails and fences and clean up creeks. Third Saturdays 10am - 3pm.

Tools, training and lunch are provided! Contact Volunteer Programs Administrator Gavin Comstock at [volunteer@openspaceauthority.org](mailto:volunteer@openspaceauthority.org) or (408) 224-7476. [www.openspaceauthority.org/volunteers/](http://www.openspaceauthority.org/volunteers/).

### **Ulistac Natural Area – Santa Clara**

Volunteers remove invasive plants and plant California native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers. First Saturdays and third Sundays 9am – noon. Check website for sign up forms and details. [ulistac@gmail.com](mailto:ulistac@gmail.com) (408) 416-8907. [facebook.com/UlistacNaturalArea](http://facebook.com/UlistacNaturalArea) [www.ulistac.org](http://www.ulistac.org).

- Evaluating the applications, transcripts, and recommendation letters and coordinating to select the scholarship recipients. (*One to two evenings of reading, followed by a 1-2 hour meeting to finalize.*)

Committee members should ideally hold a Master's Degree in a related subject.

Contact Nora Monette (nmonette@aol.com) or Stephen Buckhout (stephen@yscottie.com) for more information.



Toni Gregorio-Bunch

Visitors examine live plant specimens during April's Wildflower Show at West Valley College

## Wildflower Show Assistant Coordinator(s)

Learn the ropes of putting on our Chapter's annual Wildflower Show. The Show is a fun day-long event offering many ways the public can learn about and enjoy our local native plants. We are looking for a second coordinator.

Coordinators work closely with West Valley College where the Show is held. They recruit volunteers from our Chapter to help with the Show, work with plant collectors, find guest speakers and vendors, organize set-up the day before the show, etc. We have been putting this show on for more than 40 years, and many of our same members help run the show year after year.

For more information about this position please contact Toni Gregorio-Bunch at tidytip.lp@gmail.com or (408) 373-4497; or Vivian Neou at techchair@cnps-scv.org.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

### Conservation Committee

Our Chapter's Conservation Committee will be meeting on **Tuesday, August 6 at 7:30pm** at the PCC Library in Palo Alto. (There will be no July meeting.)

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.

### June 1st Fountain Thistle Work Party Report

by Rare Plant Co-Chair, Don Thomas

The Caltrans fountain thistle site near the intersection of Highways 92 and 280 is one of the few serpentine seep habitats for the federally endangered fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*). We join in with the Yerba Buena Chapter to restore habitat at this 2-3 acre site under the leadership of CNPS Fellow Jake Sigg. Jake notes that our Chapter has contributed the bulk of volunteers in the 23 work parties in this twice-yearly event.

The habitat had been invaded and taken over by jubata grass (*Cortaderia jubata*, also known as pampas grass). The fountain thistle population at one time had almost been extirpated, reduced to fewer than 100 plants. Its recovery is a habitat restoration success story. Through twice-a-year work sessions, the jubata grass has been brought under control and the fountain thistle population has increased to over 6,000 plants. (We only found and removed five small jubata grass plants this time – the jubata seedbank persists for less than a year.) This has now allowed us to work on secondary weeds, such as sow thistle in the seep habitat and yellow star-thistle in the surrounding dry serpentine habitat.



Carolyn Dorsch

In our work party on June 1st we had a dozen volunteers, including our CNPS Executive Director Dan Gluesenkamp, his wife, Asha Setty and his daughter, Lalima Gluesenkamp. There will be a fall work party – see the next Blazing Star for more details.

## 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.

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-scw.org/restoration/edgewood-park](http://www.cnps-scw.org/restoration/edgewood-park), contact Wednesday leader Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560 or Friday leader Paul Heiple at [pheiple@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### **Alum Rock Restoration Spring Report**

*By Stephen Rosenthal, Project Lead. All photos by Stephen Rosenthal*

This spring we are thankful to one-time volunteer groups from ProTrails, Dell Computer and Keller Williams who have joined our crew of five regulars.



Last year we planted about 30 blue oak acorns; 16 came up and were put into tree tubes by January. The seedlings all continue to grow well. Similarly, we have put a few coast live oak seedlings into tree tubes. Their acorns come from the two sizable coast live oaks on the restoration. Some of the seedlings have grown to over one foot tall, some as tall as two feet.

The trail between our Inspiration Point restoration site and the Fire Meadow (which we maintain) looked very nice this spring with a few flowers persisting into June.



On June 3rd, we worked the area by the springs which is not in any of our restorations, but where stinkwort was found last year. We only found a few stinkworts, but lots of thistle – 17 bags worth!

We counted about 40 narrow leaf milkweed plants this year on the east side of the Todd Quick trail and we spotted our first monarch butterfly on June 9.

Join us to promote these marvels of nature. We welcome new volunteers. For more information contact Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](http://lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer). The park is located at 2305 S. White Road in San Jose. For **directions**, visit [lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/directions](http://lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/directions). For more information, contact Arvind Kumar at [chhprahiya@gmail.com](mailto:chhprahiya@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.



Stephen Rosenthal

Monarch caterpillar on narrow leaf milkweed, Alum Rock Park restoration, August 2015

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-sev.org/activities/field-trips](http://www.cnps-sev.org/activities/field-trips) for changes, cancellations and additional field trips.

### Sat Jun 29 9am - 2pm Bug & Plant ID Walk at Sierra Azul OSP (Los Gatos)

Plants then insects are at the very bottom of the food chain; all higher forms of life depend on them for survival. An intact native plant habitat supports a diverse insect population, which in turn feeds birds, reptiles, small mammals, and other animals. Learn to identify the common native plants and insects of our area with California naturalists Karan Gathani and Arvind Kumar on a guided walk through Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, the largest and southernmost preserve in the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

We will hike the Woods Trail with spectacular views of Mt. Hamilton and the Valley floor. Expect to see coast live oak, madrone, California bay, bigleaf maple, buckeye, bigberry manzanita, toyon, coffeeberry, cream bush, mountain mahogany and sticky monkeyflower. We may encounter butterflies, bees, beetles, grasshoppers, flies and spiders. Prepare to be edified, educated and entertained!

The elevation gain will be 600 ft.; the distance covered will be 5.4 miles roundtrip. Wear good walking/hiking shoes. Bring a sack lunch and plenty of fluids. Drinking water is not available in the preserve. Bring a hat and sunscreen; optionally, a hand lens and smartphone camera. We expect to return to the parking lot by 2pm.

Please RSVP via [meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/262085471](https://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter/events/262085471). Directions to the trailhead are on the meetup page.

### Jul 4 - 7 Thu - 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.

For details, see the trip listing in the May/June Blazing Star newsletter. This trip is open to **CNPS members only**. For more information or to **reserve your spot**, contact Patricia at [paevans@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:paevans@stanfordalumni.org) or (650) 949-2801.

### North Coast Travel Log

By Joe Cernac

*Editor's Note: Joe describes his experience backpacking on California's Lost Coast during our May 2019 field trip.*

*Photos taken by field trip chair Joerg Lohse*

Three nights on the Lost Coast. Northern California west of Garberville.

We number five: Joerg, Trevlyn, Mac and Frauke. The start is the Mattole River campground/trailhead on Sunday. A wide beach and higher terrace are to our left as we walk along the sand but the mountains after a short half mile become ever more quickly rising. Soon it's all beach. A trudge over loose sand, loose cobbles often wet. The flat hard ground is always sought but it wouldn't be an experience if it weren't for *obstacles* in our way. The flotsam of wind tossed logs as well as larger cobbles, some up to twelve inches across flung high also at places, their rounded nature an indication that they have been worn away in the surf for many a year. Giant boulders detached from the adjacent mountain blocking the narrow beach. An eye to the surf needed to go around with dry feet intact. At the surf/beach line, scallops of ridges and abrasion from the constant pounding of the surf, surprisingly steep at times.





Other times the back beach terrace also abruptly falls at the surf line, making for some advance planning so as not to backtrack.

This late spring the grass is just barely holding on to its green-ness. Flowers are abundant, especially the California poppy that color many a terrace as well as landslides where it was a significant survivor. Yellow sand verbena just above the tide line along with other beach adaptables. Douglas-fir in the beginning a couple hundred feet up slope but halfway thru coming close to the beach.



Elephant seals beached in crowded colonies or basking during low tides on offshore rocks, their constant barking while in the water a reminder that the ocean is near. A river otter on two occasions where streams meet the sea. Others noted that at high tide, it went foraging as the surf overtopped the gravel bar at its mouth. A fox one evening viewed from the warmth of a beach campfire twenty feet high on the slope, behind, merely sixty foot distant. Bear prints on wet sand.

Beach combing on remote shores. Not picked over! Near intact sea urchins, interesting snails and periwinkles, clams, six inch mussels. As well as the first for me a gumboot chiton, or sea slug, so assures me Trevlyn of those white links of cartridge that compose the mantle “shell.”

Many small streams come off these mountains, larger ones also necessitating a search for the best ford. Dry feet are always a pleasure on such trips. Springs abound but there is a pattern: only sections with downslope strata support. Upslope strata are dry.

We were graced with good weather, no strong tailwind to hurry us along as we walked south, foggy mornings but sunny warmth in the afternoons.

The last evening, from our campfire on the upper beach, it was coming to an end, the mellowness and wonder of being nearly alone in this coastal wilderness, far from succor and modern cellular communications. The lights of Shelter Cove four miles distant, reminding me that my escape was only temporary.

This truly wild place is different from the others by its lack of silence. Noises of gentle waves or at other times the surf pounding against a steep rocky beach make it different. Nature can be quiet as well as loud.



### **CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2019**

Title	Name	Email	Phone
<b>President</b>	Vivian Neou	president@cnps-scv.org	(650) 260-3450
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>OPEN – see article on page 4</b>		
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Priya Pharate	secretary@cnps-scv.org	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Janet Hoffmann	janet@cnps-scv.org	(408) 374-0435
<b>Past President</b>	Madeline Morrow	past-president@cnps-scv.org	(408) 741-1150

### **Save a Tree!**

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

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR***

**Saturday, August 3**

**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



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## FIRST-CLASS

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

**Jun 29 Sat** Sierra Azul – Bug & Plant field trip (8)  
**Jul 4-7** Ebbetts Pass away field trip (8)  
**Jul 11 Thu** GWN – Pollinator – Salisbury (2)  
**Jul 18 Thu** GWN – Aesthetic Pruning – Niccoli (2)  
**Jul 19 Fri** **General Meeting – Desert Solar** (1)  
**Jul 25 Thu** GWN – Graywater – Luna (3)  
**Jul 26 Fri** Keying with Natives (4)  
**Jul 31 Wed** GWN – Bee-Friendly – Kehoe (3)  
**Aug 3 Sat** **Newsletter submittal deadline** (9)  
**Aug 6 Tue** Conservation Committee meeting (6)

**Aug 21 Wed** GWN – Firesafe – Ciesla/Rendler (3)  
**Aug 22 Thu** **Newsletter Mailing Party – 10am PCC**  
**Aug 23 Fri** Keying with Natives (4)  
**Aug 28 Wed** Monthly Member Plant Sale (2)  
**Aug 28 Wed** GWN – Clay Soils – Evans (3)  
**Sep 21 Sat** **Hort. Symposium – Biodiversity** (1)  
**Mon & 3rd Sat** Alum Rock Weeding (7)  
**Wed 11am** Nursery work sessions (2)  
**Wed 5:30pm & Fri 9am** Edgewood Weeding (7)  
**Sat 9am** Lake Cunningham workdays (7)

The next Chapter board meeting will be **Thursday, August 8** (general / newsletter) at **7:00pm** at the PCC, 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. (There will be no July board meeting.) Chapter board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests. For more information contact Vivian Neou at [president@cnps-scvc.org](mailto:president@cnps-scvc.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-scvc.org](mailto:membership@cnps-scvc.org). Address changes may be submitted to [cnps@cnps.org](mailto:cnps@cnps.org); please put "member address change" in the subject line.