



THE BLAZING STAR

January-February 2002

MEMBER'S NIGHT AND GENERAL MEETING

Friday, January 25, 2002 at 7:30pm
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

TOPIC: Member's slide show – special plants, places and times of 2001

This is the time to bring your favorite slides of the last year, including special plants, special places and special times. Anyone with one or more slides is welcome. We do have to limit everyone to five minutes so all can participate, so please plan your slides accordingly. If you're bringing slides please arrive early. If you have a carousel slide tray, bring it loaded. Otherwise, bring your slides sorted in order and we'll provide tray space.

There will also be space for displaying prints, drawings and other plant-related material. If you plan to participate in displaying slides or other displays, please "RSVP" to Georgia Stigall at gstigall@aol.com or 650-941-1068 by January 20, so we can organize the logistics in advance.

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

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For additional information, contact chapter Vice President Georgia Stigall at gstigall@aol.com or 650-941-1068.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mary Simpson

Happy New Year!

As I reflect back on the last year, the frustrations of the day to day tasks I faced as President of our Chapter and as a member of the Board of Directors for the State CNPS have frequently taken on an exaggerated importance. It was sometimes easy to lose sight of the wonder and amazement in learning about the natural world which led me to join CNPS. At the end of the year, it is not the problems and conservation issues our chapter has struggled to deal with nor the seemingly endless string of meetings which seems important. What I remember most clearly are the field trips I have taken to strange and wonderful places. Some of these places are scattered across the state. Other places, such as Coyote Ridge in South San Jose, are only minutes away-- unless you get caught in commuter traffic. I wonder why I did not find more time for these trips which are so important to me.

In reflecting on the last year, I am greatly impressed by the experiences made available to our chapter members, such as the wildflower show, field trips, great talks by leading botanists and conservationists, visits to our members' native plant gardens, the opportunity to become involved in projects with some of the top botanists in the state and much more. It was the field trips which first got me involved in CNPS programs. These trips remain as the core reason for my involvement in CNPS. Yes, we need to protect and conserve these areas, but I need to go to these amazing places to remember all the reasons these wild places must be preserved.

Stella Yang, our new field trip chair has brought great energy and ideas to our field trip program. For those of you who regularly go on our field trips, you already know why our trips are such a great experience. I have frequently participated in field trips offered not only by our chapter, but also those offered by other botanical and conservation groups. Our own chapter's field trips are some of the finest trips offered. (And our chapter's trips are always a bargain— these other organizations regularly charge hundreds of dollars for the same experience our chapter offers for free.) The leaders for our field trips are often

highly knowledgeable field botanists, well acquainted with the area we are visiting. Other times, the trips are simply an exploratory adventure, where each of the participants shares their knowledge.

Our chapter trips also offer the opportunity for great friendships. I have met many of my closest friends while on some of these field trips. It is always a delight to find other people who appreciate and enjoy the natural world.

There is a New Year beckoning to us all. I hope to see all of you in the field soon.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Photography Group

The chapter photo group will start its Winter program with a meeting at the Peninsula Conservation Center (now Acterra) building, 3921 E. Bayshore, Palo Alto, on **Monday, January 7th, at 7:30pm**. The February meeting will be on **Monday, February 4**, same time, same place. For info call Sonja Wilcomer 650-494-0104.

Gardening With Natives

We will have our regular first **Thursday** meeting on **January 3, 2002 at 7:30pm**. Location for the meetings is the DeAnza ESA. This January meeting will include a discussion of the preliminary schedule for the year and organization of a native plant slide show. Our February meeting, **Thursday, February 7th at 7:30pm**, will most likely be a garden visit, location to be announced.

Directions: The DeAnza ESA is located at the corner of McClellan and Stelling within the DeAnza College Campus. From Highway 85, exit Steven's Creek Boulevard.

Enter the DeAnza campus to the right off Steven's Creek. (or, alternatively, go down to Stelling Road, turn right, and enter the Campus to the right off of Stelling.) Follow the perimeter campus road past the parking lots on your right hand side. You will pass a grassy baseball field on your right. After the field you will see a chain link gate on your right up a short gravel/asphalt road. Drive through the gate and park for free in the dirt area between the ESA and the baseball field if there's room. The ESA building will be behind you (the only building nearby with lights on). If you happen to miss the ESA and drive around the corner, you will see the tennis courts on your right and McClellan road on your left. Parking is also available by the tennis courts for 8 quarters if the ESA lot is full. This is a short walk away from the ESA building. If you need a map, see

<http://www.deanza.fhda.edu>.

Contact Stephanie Morris at StephLMorris@hotmail.com or 408.629.8004 to be added to the newsletter mailing list, provide input, or receive more information. New members are always welcome!

Native Hill Work Day: Foothill College

We have organized two days of gardening at Native Hill (on the Foothill College Campus) on **Saturday, December 29** and **Saturday, January 12 from 9:30am to 12:30pm**. Everyone is welcome and experience is not necessary. Park for free beside the garden. Bring gloves, small tools if you have them (pruning shears, weeding tool), liquids, and a sack lunch if you would like to stay and picnic as a group. We will be continuing with projects such as pruning, dead-heading, weeding, and mulching.

Directions: Native Hill is located on the Foothill College Campus. Take the El Monte/Moody exit off of Highway 280, and follow signs to the campus. Follow the one-way perimeter road all the way around to the horticulture unit. You will notice the native plantings on your left hand side. Turn into the first lot after the Native Hill area.

If you have any questions, contact Ellie Gioumouisis, at ellieg@ispchannel.com or 650-494-6276.

Plant Care: Native Plant Nursery

The chapter's native plant nursery at Hidden Villa invites anyone who likes to play with plants to come on up to the nursery on **Wednesday afternoons** to help out, **Noon to 3pm**. Bring your lunch if you like. If the weather is good we stay until the sun goes over the hill and the temp drops about a million degrees!

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. About ½ mile before Page Mill Road, look for the Hidden Villa sign and driveway on the left. Proceed over the bridge, and park in the visitor center parking lot to your right. The Native Plant Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the visitor center.

For more information, contact Jean Struthers at 650-941-2586 or JeanStruthers@aol.com, or Ray Deutsch at 650-365-6136 or rdeutsch@stanford.edu.

Non-Native Plant Removal: Edgewood Park

Friday mornings all year, 8:30am. Contact Ken Himes at 650-591-8560 or John Allen at jcakwa@aol.com for meeting place.

Cape Ivy Removal: Roberts Rd. Los Gatos

We are nearly done with a first pass through our current Los Gatos Creek project, just upstream from Vasona Park, so we are switching to once-a-month sessions to complete the first pass and then to check for resprouts. As usual, rain on the morning of a session cancels it. You'll need gloves and a long-sleeved shirt to guard against the poison oak.

The next weeding sessions will be two **Saturdays**, from **10:00 am to Noon on January 19 and February 16**. For more information, contact David Chapman, at 408-296-3587 or dchapman@aimnet.com.

Directions: From State Highway 17, take the Highway 9 exit west (towards Monte Sereno and Saratoga). Turn right at the first signal light - University Avenue. Proceed north one half mile to the second stop sign-- Roberts Road-- and turn right. Drive 0.2 mile east, until the road begins to descend to the creek. Park in the residential district and walk across the bridge. Roberts Road curves to your left; there is a gate to Los Gatos Creek Trail just after the bend. The colony is right at the gate, stretching downstream. There is also some parking across from the gate, along Ohlone Court in a newer housing development.

Meadow Restoration: Foothills Park

We are making progress! Volunteers from our chapter and others are now working on French broom removal. In the Spring we will work on Italian thistle and then yellow star thistle. Our first goal is just to keep the areas cleared that we have cleared in previous years. When we can do more than that, we will increase the area we clear or add other invasive plants to our work list.

We usually meet at **9am every Sunday** morning in the Orchard Glen parking area in Foothills Park.

We are always happy to have new members join us. To find out more or be on the email notice list or the telephone list, contact Jean Olmsted at 650-493-3468 or jwo@svpal.org.

CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Jan. 1 Tuesday, Fourth Annual Año Nuevo Picnic

Meet us in the parking lot at Año Nuevo State Park at **11am** on New Year's Day for a picnic and short walk. The park hosts guided trips to see the elephant seals that require a reservation, but no reservation is needed to picnic there. We will see coastal prairie plants, sea cliff vegetation and get a view of marine mammals. For more information call Don Mayall, at 650-856-7579.

Jan. 26 Saturday, Carl Sharsmith Herbarium

Visit the Carl Sharsmith Herbarium at San Jose State to see the wonderful collection that Dr. Sharsmith has compiled. Each specimen is a work of art, beautifully mounted and available for further study at the Herbarium. Meet in front of Duncan Hall on San Salvador Street at **10am**. The tour is expected to last until **1pm**.

Directions: Take the 7th Street exit from Hwy. 280, go north on 7th Street to San Salvador, turn left on San Salvador, Duncan Hall is the large building half way up the block on your right before you get to 4th Street. There should be parking on the street. Call Toni Corelli (650) 726-0689 for further information.

Jan. 27 Sunday, Weed Ecology and Biology at Edgewood Natural Preserve

Join your leaders Ken Himes and Paul Heiple, who will describe the ecology and biology of invasive exotics at this reasonably accessible park. Bring lunch and liquids. The hike should last until about **3pm**. Meet at the Park & Ride at **10am**, at the intersection of Hwy 280 and Edgewood Road. For more information, contact Ken Himes at 650-591-8560 or Paul Heiple at 650-854-7125 or LogH30@aol.com.

Feb. 2 Saturday, Dirca walk at Anthony Chabot and Tilden Regional Parks

It may be too early to see Dirca in bloom but at least we'll get to see plants. The trail in Anthony Chabot is short so afterwards we will visit Tilden to see specimens near the Botanic Garden rumored to have been planted by Jim Roof, former director of the Garden. Afterwards we will visit the Garden. Trip leaders are Tony Alexander and Stella Yang. Carpool from the Edgewood Road Park & Ride at **9:30am**. Those not carpooling should contact Tony at 650-961-7881 or Stella at 408-255-6233 for directions. Bring lunch and dress warmly. We expect to be back to the meeting spot by mid-afternoon, perhaps **3:30pm**.

Feb. 10 Sunday, Pulgas Ridge

Join Mary Simpson at **10am** for a 4 mile hike, climbing through oak woodland to chaparral looking for early Spring bloomers. We will see fetid adder's tongue, hopefully in flower. The park is near Edgewood, but with a very different flora. Bring lunch and water.

Directions: From 280 exit at Edgewood Road. Proceed NE about 3/4 of a mile, then turn left onto Crestview Dr. Then make another left turn on Edmonds, go about 100 yards, to the parking lot on your left. For more info, email marysimpson@earthlink.net or call 408-370-2177.

Feb. 23 Saturday, Dirca walk in Belmont

Visit a small nameless park in the canyons of Belmont with a significant population of *Dirca occidentalis*. This easily overlooked open space also has some large specimens of *Ribes malvaceum* blooming at this time. We will follow mountain bike trails up a canyon bottom and hillside and return by a trail maintained by the City.

Meet at **10am** in the parking lot at the west end of Carlmont Drive in Belmont. It is located West of Alameda de las Pulgas and South of Ralston Ave.

Directions: From Hwy 280 west of Belmont, exit onto Hwy 92 East. Exit 92 at Ralston and turn LEFT at traffic light onto Ralston. Proceed 1.4 mi. East to 5th traffic light and turn RIGHT onto Cipriani/Continental. Immediately turn LEFT onto Continental Wy. Turn LEFT onto Lyall Wy. At stop turn RIGHT onto Lake Dr. At stop turn RIGHT onto Carlmont Dr. Proceed to end of road. For more info, call Phil Darlington 650-591-7843 or email him at sierraphil@earthlink.net.

Chapter field trips are free and open to the public. For March the following field trips are planned. See the upcoming March Blazing Star for descriptions.

March 10, Sunday	Coal Mine Ridge with Tom Cochrane
March 16, Saturday	San Bruno Mountain with Ken Himes
March 23, Saturday	Stile Ranch with Dick Gehrler
March 31, Sunday	San Pedro to Montara Mt. with Tom Cochrane
April 13, Saturday	Calero Co. Park with Dick Gehrler
Date TBD	Pinnacles with botanist Tom Leatherman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jepson Herbarium Public Programs

The Jepson Herbarium at UC Berkeley offers informative classes to the public. These programs, supported by The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium, are designed to provide members of the systematics, ecological, and conservation communities with access to specialists in their field of study. The classes are designed to accommodate botanical enthusiasts from beginners to specialists.

The schedule for the first half of 2002 appears below.

January 25 - 27 Arctostaphylos

Tom Parker and Mike Vasey
UC Hastings Reserve, Carmel Valley

February 22 - 24 Bryophytes and Lichens

Charis Bratt and Dan Norris
Santa Barbara and surrounding areas

March 2 - 3 Molecular Systematics

Bruce Baldwin and Brent Mishler
Valley Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley

March 9 - 10 Basic Illustration

March 16 - 17 Basic Botany: Plant Morphology

April 5 - 7 Vernal Pools

University of California Faculty and Staff
Eastern Merced County

April 6 - 7 & 13 - 14 Basic Botany: Fifty Families

Dick and Linda Beidleman, Bay Area

April 11 - 14 Anza-Borrego

Jon Rebman
Co-sponsored with the Anza-Borrego Institute
Location: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

April 18 - 21 Desert Painting

April 25 - 28 White Mountains

Jim Morefield
White Mountain Research Station, Bishop

May 4 - 5 Poaceae

Travis Columbus
Valley Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley

May 4 - 5 Fire Ecology

Jon Keeley
Valley Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley & local field trip

May 9 - 12 Sedgwick Reserve

Michael Williams
Sedgwick Reserve, Santa Barbara County

May 17 - 19 Coastal Dunes

Andrea Pickart
Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes, San Luis Obispo County

May 31 - June 2 Pollination Ecology

Gordon Frankie and Robbin Thorp
Co-sponsored with the Essig Museum of Entomology
Location: UC Hastings Reserve, Carmel Valley

June 15 - 16 Thistles: The good, the bad, the ugly

Dean Kelch
Field regions in the greater Bay Area

June 20 - 23 Sweetwater Mountains

Matt Lavin and Martin Wojciechowski
Northern Mono County

July 11 - 14 July 2002 Lupinus

Teresa Sholars
White Mountain Research Station, Crooked Creek

July 19 - 21 Salix

George Argus
Sierra Nevada Field Campus, Yuba Pass

July 25 - 28 Steens Mountain

Barbara Ertter
Harney County, Southeastern Oregon

To register, or for further information including prices and detailed course descriptions, contact Staci Markos at 510-643-7008 or markos@socrates.berkeley.edu, or visit <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepwkshp.html>.

Coastal San Mateo Stewardship Conference

Save the dates! **April 26-27**, Half Moon Bay. Friday afternoon the 26th for field trips, Saturday the 27th for speakers and discussion. This conference seeks a land stewardship strategy for the San Mateo coast by sharing the experience of land managers, restoration ecologists, community leaders and other interested citizens.

Further details will appear in the next Blazing Star, or contact the conference coordinator, Marilyn Hope Smulyan at 415-648-4062 or mhsbike@aol.com

CHAPTER CONTACTS

Have an idea for a chapter activity? See some favorite habitat disappearing and wondering if anyone is doing anything about it? Think there are too many thistles growing in your favorite park? Want to help mail out this newsletter? Just want to know more? Our chapter is composed of volunteers at all levels of commitment. Some of the more dedicated ones are listed below. Contact one of them for more information.

Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs (partial list)		
President	Mary Simpson	408/370-2177 marysimpson@earthlink.net
Vice President	Georgia Stigall	650 941-1068 gstigall@aol.com

Conservation (North)	Sara Timby	650/593-3287 stimby@stanford.edu
Conservation (South)	Elizabeth Lucas	650/948-3552 JLucas1099@aol.com
Field Trips	Stella Yang	408-255-6233 yscottie@pacbell.net
Gardening With Natives	Stephanie Morris	408/629-8004 StephLMorris@hotmail.com
Invasive Exotics (north)	Ken Himes	650/591-8560
Invasive Exotics (south)	Don Thomas	408/867-1515
Membership, Plant Propagation	Ray Deutsch	650/365-6136 rdeutsch@stanford.edu
Native Hill Foothill College	Ellie Gioumouis	650/494-6276 ellieg@ispchannel.com
Past President, Rare Plants (South)	Don Mayall	650/856-7579 seleve@netcom.com
Member-at-Large, Rare Plants (North)	Toni Corelli	650/726-0689 corelli@coastside.net
Plant Propagation, Nursery Manager	Jean Struthers	650/941-2586 JeanStruthers@aol.com
Member-at-Large, Newsletter Mailing	Mary Alice Bethel	650/968-6817 mabethel1@msn.com
Fellow	Sally Casey	408/377-0989

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Friday, February 15, 2002

Email: mattsson@concentric.net
Phone: 408-255-3767