



THE BLAZING STAR

March-April 2002

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

Friday, March 29, 2002 at 7:30 pm
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Program: SUDDEN OAK DEATH
Presenter: Kim Keirnan

Please join us for an informative presentation on a topic of great concern and interest to all of us.

Kim Keirnan is the Sudden Oak Death Regional Coordinator for Marin County UC Cooperative Extension. She is also Co-chair of the Education Committee of the California Oak Mortality Task Force. Kim has experience as a naturalist and a Park Ranger and she is currently working on completing a Master's Thesis in Forest Biology. Kim will give an overview of Sudden Oak Death including history, biology and management of this disease.

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. They are a great time to meet others with a shared interest in native plants, peruse our books and learn of the many activities and issues in which our chapter is involved. For more information, contact chapter Vice President Georgia Stigall at gstigall@aol.com or 650-941-1068.

Who's Watching the Plants?

by Don Mayall

I was privileged to attend an unusual event in Arcata earlier this month. It was a three-day **Rare Plant Symposium**. There were some 170 people in attendance and about thirty papers were presented, which covered topics ranging from ecology to restoration and protection of rare plants. The examples were drawn from North Coast endemics, but the applications to our area were clear. I was impressed by the number of well-trained, dedicated people from public agencies, colleges, and private consulting companies that are engaged in studying and/or monitoring rare plants in that area. It looked to me like more plants are being watched in the North Coast, than here, on a *per capita* or on a per plant basis. It was also impressive to reflect that this entire event had been planned, organized, and carried out by a CNPS chapter, the North Coast Chapter, based in Arcata. Hats off to them!

One of the additional benefits from attending was meeting and talking with people in CNPS who are concerned with plant watching. Pete Holloran of the Yerba Buena chapter now chairs a committee concerned with local flora. We talked about methodology for developing local plant lists by county using *CalFlora* and local surveys and lists. We have begun such a listing for Santa Clara County and similar activities have been done by the Santa Cruz and East Bay Chapters. Such lists are valuable in a variety of ways, from generating local field trip lists to monitoring local rare plant populations.

Some chapters have formal schedules for monitoring rare plants and Santa Clara Valley Chapter has done so in the past. Currently, we have a long list of plants to watch and a short list of watchers. I would urge chapter members to get involved in monitoring. When going on a field trip where you think you might see a rarity, take a GPS unit and get the coordinates so you can make a report to the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB). You can find instructions on how to do this and download a copy of the form on the state CNPS Website. Go to <http://www.cnps.org> then click on Rare Plants, then click on Rare Plant Inventory, then click on Data Forms. (Or just go to <http://www.cnps.org/rareplants/inventory/submit.htm>.) If you do not have a GPS unit, they can be borrowed. If you have questions about GPS, the forms or

plants in Santa Clara County contact Don Mayall at 650-856-7579, or seleve@ix.netcom.com or contact Toni Corelli at 650-726-0689 or corelli@coastside.net for San Mateo County plants. Please send us a copy of what you submit to CNDDDB.

A new program has gotten underway at the state level, the **Native Plant Conservation Campaign**. This campaign is a joint effort by CNPS and the Center for Biodiversity to expand the protection of native plants through education and by revising laws to insure that endangered plant species receive as much protection as animal species. You can learn more about this campaign at <http://www.cnps.org/npsc.htm> or go to the State Website and click on Native Plant Conservation Campaign.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Plant Sales: Changes in 2002

This year the chapter is experimenting with separating the Plant Sale from the Wildflower Show. The main reason is that the same few people do most of the work every time and we'd like to try dividing the work into two separate weekends. Also the moving of our nursery plants is difficult for helpers and hard on the plants. The Fall sale at Hidden Villa made just as much money as sales at other locations and everyone seems to enjoy being at the nursery.

So, the chapter plant sale will be **April 13-14 at Hidden Villa** and the show as usual will be at **Foothill College the next weekend, April 20-21**. That is, both **Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**.

Yerba Buena and Native Revival Nurseries-- both owners are chapter members-- will be selling their plants at the Wildflower Show. This will allow attendees to buy plants at both events. We hope it works out well.

Remember to bring the usual eight quarters for parking at Foothill College. Parking is free at Hidden Villa for our sale. For more information see the enclosed flyer. See you both weekends: April 13-14 and April 20-21.

Plant Sale and Wildflower Show: Call for Volunteers

We will need volunteers to help out at both the chapter and wildflower show plant sales. At the chapter sale, we'll need sales people (who know plants) and cashiers (who don't necessarily know plants). At the wildflower show we'll need volunteers to help with plant keying, greeting, book sales, cashiering, and cleaning up. To volunteer, choose a two to three hour shift at a time that suits you, any of the

four days (see above article), between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm, and call Jean or Ray to sign up.

Jean Struthers may be reached at 650-941-2586 or JeanStruthers@aol.com, and Ray Deutsch may be reached at 650-365-6136 or rdeutsch@stanford.edu.

Plant Sale Prep: Native Plant Nursery

In preparation for the chapter's native plant sale (see above), the nursery invites volunteers to help out on **Saturday, March 30**. Come help groom plants for sale, label them and insert price markers, and generally tidy up the nursery for the sale. We'll be working from **10:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Bring lunch and liquids.

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.

Photography Group

The chapter photo group will continue its Winter program with a meeting at the Peninsula Conservation Center (now Acterra) building, 3921 E. Bayshore, Palo Alto, on **Monday, March 4, at 7:30 pm**. The April meeting will be on **Monday, April 1**, same time, same place. For info call Sonja Wilcomer 650-494-0104.

Gardening With Natives

For **April**, we have our normal first **Thursday** meeting on **April 4 starting at 7:30 pm**. Location will be the DeAnza ESA (directions below).

We will have a dual garden visit on **Sunday, April 14th**. Beginning at **10:00 am** we will visit Bracey and Richard Tiede's garden, a combination of native and Mediterranean plants that they are in the process of reclaiming from lawn and traditional shrubs. Then, at **12:00 Noon** we will visit the newly planted garden of Arvind and Ashok, a six month old garden that was planted mostly from one gallon cans. According to Arvind, all the plants are well labeled and they have a special interest in local natives and have tried to grow those as much as possible. Along with the garden visit a vegetarian lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Arvind/Ashok at chhaprahiya@yahoo.com or 408-274-

6965 so that they may know how much lunch to prepare. They would like to keep the lunch to 10-15 people.

For **May**, we have planned a garden visit on **Sunday, May 5** to Agnes and John Kehoe's garden in Sunnyvale. The final time and details of the garden visit are to be announced, but we will most likely have a potluck lunch following a short garden tour. Other events for the month of May will be announced in the GWN mailing.

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 Days: Foothill College

Our next days of gardening at Native Hill (on the Foothill College Campus) will be **Saturday, March 9; Sunday, March 24; and Saturday, April 6**; all from **9:30 am to 12:30 pm**.

Everyone is welcome and experience is not necessary. Park for free beside the garden. Bring gloves, small tools (pruning shears, weeder), 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.

Non-Native Plant Removal: Edgewood Park
Friday mornings all year, 8:30 am. Once daylight savings time begins, our efforts will also take place on Wednesday evenings. Contact Ken Himes at 650-591-8560 or John Allen at jcakwa@aol.com for information and meeting place. Call Ken in mid-March for the Wednesday evening schedule, which will begin **Wednesday April 3**.

Cape Ivy Removal: Roberts Rd. Los Gatos

We have just about completed this project of Cape Ivy weeding in Los Gatos. David will send email to his faithful colleagues once conditions look favorable for the final weeding parties. Congratulations for a job well done David!

If you're wondering what such a project involves, David reports removing about **sixty-five** large garbage bags of Cape Ivy from the site just below Vasona Dam two years ago, and removing about **twenty** large bags of Cape Ivy from the Roberts Road site over the past year. Just last week they removed two bags of Cape Ivy from the Main Street site. The Vasona Dam site has been traversed four times and has only scattered resprouts. David and team will be returning to the area about three times this year to monitor and remove resprouts.

Special assistance has come from: Ken Himes, Paul Heiple, Georgia Stigall, and Jim Sugai, both for pulling weeds and for disposing of them. Don Thomas, Dave Olson, Barbara Holden and Joe Cernac and many others have also helped pull weeds. We couldn't have finished this project without them.

For more information, contact David Chapman, at 408-296-3587 or dcchapman@earthlink.net.

COMMITTEE NEWS & REPORTS

Student Applicants Invited for Scholarships

Our chapter is making available two \$1,500 scholarships for graduate students. This would be for the academic year 2002-2003, for students doing research on plant systematics, plant ecology, plant physiology, plant community restoration, or other related botanical studies of plants that grow in habitats in Central and Northern California..

Applicants should be enrolled in a graduate program in an accredited college or university and undertaking botanical research related to plants or native plant communities in Central or Northern California.

An electronic version of the scholarship application is available upon request. Send your request to nmonette@aol.com or call Nora Monette at 408-244-5153. Applications must be postmarked by **March 30, 2002**.

Chapter Book Inventory

Chapter Book Chair Tom Cochrane has prepared an inventory of books available from our chapter. This will facilitate both members and non-members being able to purchase books when they need them, by contacting Tom via phone or email to make arrangements for pickup, without having to wait for the next chapter event.

This inventory is available at <http://community.webtv.net/trailtraveller/santaclaravalley>.

CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Mar. 10 Sunday, Coal Mine Ridge, Portola Valley

Join your Leader Tom Cochrane at **10:00 am** for about a 5 mile hike round trip, with a gradual 500 foot elevation gain, through mixed woodland, chaparral, and oak savanna. Along with the usual early Spring flowering plants, we will be seeing the rare-for-this-area coast sanicle (*Sanicula laciniata*), which is found in the chaparral areas of the ridge. There will be a lunch stop at the top of the ridge. After returning to the parking lot, there will be an optional side trip to see some rare-for-this-area straggly gooseberry (*Ribes divaricatum*). The hike is expected to finish at around **4:00 pm**.

Directions: From Hwy. 280 take Alpine Road west 3.9 miles to its intersection with Willowbrook Drive. The park entrance is on the south side of Alpine Road. Parking is across the road from the entrance and on the west side of

Willowbrook Drive. For more information, contact Tom Cochrane at 650-969-3181 or trailtraveller@webtv.net.

Mar. 16 Saturday, San Bruno Mountain Park

Join your leader Ken Himes and see plants of the northern coastal scrub and coastal terrace prairie plant communities, plus the San Bruno Mountain endemic, *Arctostaphylos imbricata*, the San Bruno Mountain manzanita. Meet at **10:00 am** in the parking lot near the entrance kiosk, just off Guadalupe Parkway. The hike is expected to last three hours (**until 3:30 or 4:00 pm**), but a longer one will be considered, weather permitting. Call Ken Himes at 650-591-8560 for more information or further directions.

Mar. 23 Saturday, Stile Ranch

Meet your co-leaders Jim Sugai and Dick Gehrler at **10:00 am** to join them for a wildflower hike to Stile Ranch, through serpentine grasslands and chaparral. With the cooperation of the seasons, expect to see *Claytonia gysophiloides*, *Allium*, *Linanthus*, *Gilia*, goldfields, morning glory, leather oak and black sage. The hike is expected to last until **2:00 pm**.

Directions: From Highway 85 south, exit Almaden Expressway south. Proceed to end, turn right onto Harry Road (traffic light). Turn left on McKean Road, continue about 1 mile. Turn left on Fortini. Go to end, turn left on San Vicente. Turn into the parking lot on the right after about 300 feet. For more information, contact Jim Sugai at 408-356-6003 or Dick Gehrler at 408-268-6922.

Mar. 31 Sunday, Montara Mountain-San Pedro Valley

Join your leader Tom Cochrane at **10:00 am** for a 4-5 mile hike, round trip, with a 1200' elevation gain. We will be hiking up the Montara Mt. trail, from San Pedro Valley, to see a nice display of western bleeding hearts (*Dicentra formosa*). Along the way, we will be looking at plants of the coastal variety. We will have a lunch stop. The hike is expected to finish at around **4:00 pm**.

Plants of Montara Mt. (a Website by Chuck Kosak) can be found at <http://www.montara.com>, then click on "Plants an amazing catalog of plants!" You can see a trail map and other info at [http://www.eparks.net/Parks/San Pedro/index.htm](http://www.eparks.net/Parks/SanPedro/index.htm).

Directions: Take Hwy. 280 to Hwy. 1. Take Highway 1 south to the City of Pacifica. Turn east onto Linda Mar Boulevard. Follow Linda Mar Boulevard until it ends at Oddstad Boulevard. Turn right on Oddstad Boulevard. Proceed on Oddstad Boulevard one block to the park entrance. Parking is \$4. For more information, contact Tom Cochrane at 650-969-3181 or trailtraveller@webtv.net.

Apr. 7 Sunday, Preparation of Plant Specimens, Carl Sharsmith Herbarium

Join your instructor Sally Casey from **10:30 am to 12:30 pm** to observe pressing techniques and data requirements for the preparation of plant specimens. Bring a plant press (if you have one), scissors, a dozen double sheets of black and white newsprint, a pocket size notebook (not loose-leaf), and a pencil and paper for note taking. Meet in front of Duncan Hall, San Jose State University, at **10:30 am**.

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 halfway up the block on your right before you get to 4th Street. There should be parking on the street. Call Sally Casey 408-377-0989 for further information.

Apr. 13 Saturday, Calero Park

Join Jim Sugai and Dick Gehrler at **10:00 am** for a beautiful wildflower hike at Calero Park. We will visit serpentine grasslands, regular grassland, woodlands and chaparral. With the cooperation of the seasons, expect to see a good display of serpentine wildflowers which should include evening snow, *Allium*, *Linanthus*, *Gilia*, goldfields, morning glory, leather oak and black sage. In order to get to the serpentine areas we will have to hike up hilly areas with an overall distance of approximately 5 + miles. The hike is expected to last until **2:00 pm**.

Directions: From Highway 85 south, exit Almaden Expressway south. Proceed to the end, turn right onto Harry Road (traffic light). Left on McKean Road, continue about 3 miles, pass Calero reservoir to the Calero Park parking area on the right. For more information, contact Jim Sugai at 408-356-6003 or Dick Gehrler at 408-268-6922.

Apr. 26 Friday evening, Grass Workshop

Join your instructors Sally Casey and Ellie Gioumouis from **7:30 pm to 9:30 pm** to learn the major characteristics of the dominant tribes of our local grasses. Bring grass specimens for identification. Location TBA. There will be a follow-up grass field trip on **Sat. May 11, 10:00 am** at Edgewood Natural Preserve. Call Ellie Gioumouis at 650-494-6276 or Sally Casey at 408-377-0989 to sign up.

May 3-9, Friday-Thursday North Mojave Desert Trip

This exploratory trip to the Kingston mountains will be lead by Paul Heiple. Come find new things. Dry camp, primitive conditions expected. Call Paul 650-854-7125 for more information and to reserve your place.

Chapter field trips are free and open to the public. For May the following field trips are planned. See the upcoming May/June newsletter for descriptions

May 4, Saturday	Almaden Quicksilver County Park
May 11, Saturday	Grass Walk, Edgewood Park with Ellie Gioumouis and Sally Casey
May 12, Sunday	Mount Hamilton
May 25, Saturday	Woods Road, Sierra Azul with Jim Sugai and Dick Gehrler
July 12-14, Fri-Sun	Lakes Basin with Ken Himes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

Expressions of Edgewood: Call for Photos

Bay Area amateur photographers are invited to submit photos taken at Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve for exhibition at the San Mateo County History Museum in Redwood City this Fall. Judges will select sixteen entries for prominent display and for sale to the public. All photos must have been taken since July 1, 2001 and must be **postmarked between June 1 and June 30, 2002**. Entry rules and forms are available at <http://www.friendsofedgewood.org> or 866-GO-EDGEWOOD.

The event is sponsored by the Friends of Edgewood and the San Mateo County Historical Association. Proceeds will be donated to the San Mateo County Parks & Recreation Foundation.

Plant Sale: Regional Parks Botanic Garden

The annual Spring sale of California native plants at the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden will take place on **Saturday, April 20, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**. The garden is located on Wildcat Canyon Road at the foot of South Park Drive in Tilden Regional Park, in the hills above Berkeley. Please bring cardboard boxes, if possible, to carry your purchases, and an umbrella if it rains. Refreshments will also be sold by our volunteers. Admission is free. For more information call 510-841-8732 or visit <http://www.nativeplants.org>.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Friday, April 12, 2002

**Email: mattsson@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 408-255-3767**