



THE BLAZING STAR

May June 2002

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

Friday, May 31, 2002 at 7:30 pm
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Program: SAVING EDGEWOOD II
Presenters: Ken Himes and Paul Heiple

Chapter members Ken Himes and Paul Heiple will present a slide show on the progress being made in controlling invasive non-native plants at Edgewood County Park and Preserve. Many of us will recall the original Edgewood conservation effort in the 1980s and early 1990s, to prevent the development of a golf course. As a result, Edgewood was finally declared a natural preserve in 1993.

But are the natural communities and rare plants completely saved? The ongoing battle against non-native invaders has been longer than the original effort, with new enemies and friends emerging all the time. Paul and Ken will report on the progress-- and challenges-- after more than 10 years of effort to control the spread of invasive species.

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.

Chapter Honored by CGF

Our Chapter was honored for its local conservation activities by the Committee for Green Foothills (CGF) this month. CGF is an activist organization dedicated to preserving open space on the hillsides of the San Francisco Peninsula and the Santa Clara Valley. They have opposed poorly planned projects from the Devil's Slide highway in Pacifica to the development of Coyote Valley in south San Jose. They maintain an office at the Acterra building (formerly Peninsula Conservation Foundation Center) in Palo Alto with paid professional staff engaged in advocating environmentally sound land use and open space protection with local public agencies. This year CGF celebrates 40 years of effective activism.

The CGF Board of Directors, in its recognition of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter, cited our work to establish natural preserves on the serpentine habitat at Edgewood County Park and Preserve in San Mateo County and at Coyote Ridge south of San Jose. Also recognized are our education activities including the wildflower show, gardening and photography groups, field trips, and our invasive control and rare plant protection programs. The award was accepted for the chapter on April 6, 2002 by Don Mayall and Carolyn Curtis at the start of a walk to the butterfly trust area on Coyote Ridge. (See photos at <http://lightofmorn.com/html/greenfeats.htm>)

In Memoriam: Connie Gould

Chapter member Connie Gould passed away April 4 at the age of 87. She had been in poor health but died of pneumonia. Connie had been active in our Chapter for many years, including serving as newsletter editor. She loved gardening and growing plants, and was well known for the beautiful garden of interesting plants she kept when she still lived in her house. Even in her later years, when she moved to a smaller retirement apartment, she kept a beautiful container garden on her balcony.

Connie led an active life and loved to travel. She learned to fly in the late 1960's and flew in the Powder Puff Derby in 1977, a trans-continental air race for women pilots. She was an avid backpacker to the Sierra, her favorite place being Yosemite. She took many beautiful landscape photos

on her trips. She even took a trip to Patagonia with her husband after she retired, and still enjoyed visiting Windy Hill and Russian Ridge even when age made it difficult for her to walk. Connie's husband, Cliff Gould, passed away this March.

We all remember Connie fondly for her friendship and contributions to the Chapter and are inspired by her continued joy of life even in old age.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Native Plant Sale Report

Jean Struthers reports from our Chapter's Spring Plant Sale, held April 13-14 at the Chapter nursery at Hidden Villa. We hold two sales a year, and they are our major fund raisers.

In spite of predictions for clouds and wind on Saturday, the day turned sunny and hot. We had customers waiting at the opening and a steady stream of them all day. Sunday there were fewer shoppers and many of the plant species were gone. Unfortunately for the ones who could not get to the sale early the selection was not as good. We did not make quite as much money as in the past when the Wildflower Show drew in more people, but we did quite well. We had a lot of helpers and I think they all enjoyed the beautiful day.

For those of you who missed the sale, come by the nursery on Wednesday afternoons until June and see if there are plants that you just have to have. The plants will be much happier in your garden than in plastic pots during the Summer months and we'll be glad to sell them to you.

If you'd like to try your skills at propagation and have time, we would like to have more help on Wednesdays. Give Ray or me a call or email if you are interested. Jean Struthers at 650-941-2586 or JeanStruthers@aol.com, Ray Deutsch at 650-365-6136 or rdeutsch@stanford.edu.

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.

Thanks for the Nursery Tables

You may have seen some new large, sturdy, wheeled for portability, custom built plant tables if you've visited the Native Plant Nursery recently. Our Chapter wishes to thank **Tony Josselyn** for these two tables he built for his Eagle Project in Scout Troop 87. He did a lot of work in getting materials donated and in constructing the tables. Thanks also to Margery Edgren for steering her grandson to us in the first place.

We are using the tables right now at the nursery. The plants that do not want constant water love the new space. Thanks Tony!

Photography Group

The Chapter photo group will continue its Spring program with a meeting at the Acterra (formerly the Peninsula Conservation Center) building, 3921 E. Bayshore, Palo Alto, on **Monday, May 6, at 7:30 pm**. The June meeting will be on **Monday, June 3**, same time, same place. For more information call Sonja Wilcomer 650-494-0104.

Photo group meetings are a great venue to show your slides from hikes and trips, with the audience calling out the scientific names of the plants as they appear! You can get tips on the best ways to photograph flowers, share photo magazines, and learn about digital photography.

Gardening With Natives

For **May**, there will be no first Thursday meeting.

However, we have planned a garden visit to Agnes and John Kehoe's garden in Sunnyvale on **Sunday, May 5 beginning at 2:00 pm**. We will have a short garden tour of their backyard, followed by refreshments on the patio. A note from Agnes: please excuse the beat-up lawn and the "topped" liquidambar in front of our house. The lawn will hopefully soon be replaced with a meadow and the sweetgums with western hawthornes.

Directions: Agnes & John Kehoe
(Directions removed for privacy)

For **June**, we will have our normal first **Thursday** meeting on **June 6 starting at 7:30 pm**. Location will be the DeAnza ESA.

Directions: The DeAnza ESA is located at the corner of McClellan and Stelling within the DeAnza College Campus. From Highway 85, exit Stevens 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!

Foothill College Native Hill Web Site

No work days are currently scheduled for May or June, but you may want to view the new Web site for Native Hill that George Gioumouis has just created. The URL is <http://home.attbi.com/~native-hill>. There are notes about what plants are in bloom each month, news about the garden, and a list of plants in residence.

For more information, contact Ellie Gioumouis, at ellieg@ispchannel.com or 650-494-6276.

Non-Native Plant Removal: Edgewood Park

Now that daylight savings time has begun, we've added **Wednesday evenings starting at 5:30 pm** to our weeding schedule. We still weed on **Friday mornings all year, 8:30 am**. 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**.

Here is the Wednesday evening schedule with locations.

May 1	South wing Sylvan Loop
May 8	Bush mallow site (meet at Day Camp Kiosk)

May 15	Mow Site #1 (meet at West Kiosk)
May 22	same as May 15
May 29	Mow Site #3 (meet at West Kiosk)
June 5	Mow Site #3 & Edgewood Trail (meet at West Kiosk)
June 12	Sylvan Loop - South Wing (meet at Day Camp Kiosk)
June 19	same as June 12
June 26	Mow Site #1 (meet at West Kiosk)
July 3	same as June 26

Contact Ken Himes at 650-591-8560 for more information about the Wednesday non-native plant removal sessions, and contact John Allen at jcakwa@aol.com or 650-366-4910 for the Friday morning meeting locations and directions.

Non-Native Plant Removal: Foothills Park

Some of our Chapter members are part of a group of dedicated volunteers working to eradicate non-native plants at Foothills Park in Palo Alto. They usually meet at **9:00 am every Sunday** morning in the Orchard Glen parking area in Foothills Park.

We are currently working to pull up the Italian thistle plants before they start blooming. We aren't sure yet of the best way to eradicate the Italian thistle, beyond simply removing the parts we can see, but we have more time to work on those areas because of the success we've had in removing yellow star thistle and French broom. When we revisit an area we've cleared of these two plants, we can see that we've greatly reduced their population. Removal of exotic plants allows the existing native plant populations to grow and multiply.

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

CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

May 3-9, Friday-Thursday Lassic Mountain

The East Mojave Trip to the Kingston Mountains May 3 to May 9, has been postponed for one year due to the extreme drought that Southern California has had this year. Instead, we will head north in the coast range to the Lassic Mountain area on the same dates. Call Paul Heiple at 854-7125 or logh3o@aol.com for more information and to reserve your place.

May 4 Saturday, Almaden Quicksilver County Park

Join your co-leaders Jim Sugai and Dick Gehrler for a hike in Almaden Quicksilver County Park, at the northern entrance on McAbee Road. We will visit serpentine grasslands, woodlands and chaparral, expect to see *Quercus durata*, *Gilia*, *Streptanthus* and maybe a wild turkey or two. Meet at **10:00am**. The hike is expected to finish at around **1:00 pm**.

Directions: Take 85 south exit Camden, go south on Camden for 4 miles, turn right at McAbee (traffic light) and drive to the end of the street. Park on the street and walk a short distance to the Park Entrance. For more information, contact Jim Sugai at 408-356-6003 or Dick Gehrler at 408-268-6922.

May 11 Saturday, Edgewood Grass Walk

Join your leader Sally Casey at **10:00am** to explore the native grasses at Edgewood Park and Preserve. Bring lunch and liquids. The walk is expected to finish at around **1:30pm**.

Directions: Meet at the Park and Ride lot, at the Northeast corner of Hwy 280 and Edgewood Road.

For more information contact Sally Casey at 408-377-0989, or Ellie Gioumousis at 650-494-6276 or ellieg@ispchannel.com.

May 12 Saturday, Mount Hamilton

Enjoy a day on Mt. Hamilton lead by Joanne Geggatt. The West side, with several elevation changes, explores different plant communities with many wildflowers. We may see a new species of *Lomatium* near Lick Observatory (el. 4,209 ft.). The east slope, steep and dry, has its own interesting flora. Expect to see service berry, silk tassel, virgin's bower, gooseberries, lupines, *Penstemon*, *Clarkia*, and many more. We will end at Arnold Ranch, a chance to get off the roadsides and explore the meadows. Space is limited. Contact Joanne Geggatt at 916-939-3394, or wjgeggatt@jps.net for more information and to reserve your spot.

May 25 Saturday, Woods Road/Sierra Azul Open Space

Join Jim Sugai and Dick Gehrler for a beautiful walk with nice views of the valley. Along the way, there will be Oak, Madrone, California nutmeg, *Ceanothus*, *Holodiscus* and many Spring wildflowers. Meet at **10:00am**. The hike is expected to finish at around **2:00 pm**

Directions: From Highway 85 south, exit Almaden Expressway south. Proceed 4 miles, turn right onto Almaden Road (traffic light). Proceed 3 miles, through the town of New Almaden. Pull into Almaden Quicksilver County Park parking lot on right, just after leaving town.

For more information, contact Jim Sugai at 408-356-6003 or Dick Gehrler at 408-268-6922.

Jun 6 Thursday, Field Trip Planning Meeting

Anyone who's interested in helping to plan our Chapter's field trips for the next few months, is welcome to attend our next field trip planning meeting. It will be at Stella Yang's house, at **7:00pm**. Contact Stella for directions, at (408-255-6233 or yscottie@pacbell.net).

Jun 29 Saturday, Kings Meadow

Join your leader Joanne Geggatt for a rare opportunity to see a private mountain meadow (el. 4500 ft.) and sustainable forest. Kings Meadow is located about an hour from Placerville, near Georgetown. This will be an all day trip but will have easy walking. See Sierra sweet bay, lilies, yew, twin flower, azeleas, sneezeweed, sundews (lots) pitcher plants, and much more. Meet members of the Placerville chapter. You will be responsible for your own accommodations. This will be really worth the drive! Contact Joanne Geggatt at 916 939-3394, or wjgeggatt@jps.net for more information and to reserve your spot.

Jul 12-14 Friday – Sunday, Lakes Basin

Ken Himes will lead an outing to this area about 50 miles north of Truckee near the town of Graeagle. The beautiful scenery and great diversity of plants found here are due to the volcanic origin and glaciation of this region. Both camping and indoor accommodations are available for those who go on the trip. Reservations should be made as soon as possible by contacting John Allen at 650-366-4910 or jkakwa@aol.com. For more information contact John Allen or Ken Himes at 650-591-8560.

Chapter field trips are free and open to the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

Greenhouse Donation to Edgewood

The staff of Edgewood Park would like to gratefully acknowledge the generosity of Professor Matt Leddy of the College of San Mateo. In November of 2001 he generously donated two coldframe greenhouses to Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve. His gift will enable us to further our goal of habitat restoration here at Edgewood. These greenhouses are now located at the ranger station and are being used as a nursery to propagate native plants indigenous to Edgewood Park.

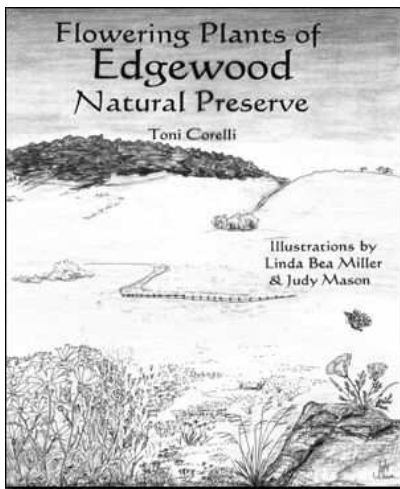
We are growing native plantains (*Plantago erecta*) which are needed by the endangered bay checkerspot butterfly and

other native plants such as sticky monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*) and California blackberries (*Rubus ursinus*) The plantains planted in December are growing and beginning to bloom. We have been busy watering and weeding them, and are preparing to harvest the seeds for distribution in butterfly habitat. The blackberries and monkey flowers will be transplanted to switchbacks and erosion areas to help hold the soil.

We are asking for volunteers to come to Edgewood Park and assist in the maintenance of present and future crops in the nursery. Help is needed with watering, weeding, harvesting seeds, transplanting seeds and plants, and starting the next batch. If you are interested in volunteering with the nursery please contact the Edgewood ranger staff, Ricardo, Shawn or Katie at (650) 368-6283.

Flowering Plants of Edgewood Available

Toni Corelli's new book, Flowering Plants of Edgewood Natural Preserve, is finally available!



This 360 page book catalogs 452 vascular plant species found at Edgewood Park.. Each species is illustrated and described, including identification keys, name derivation, past and present uses, and other information. The book is illustrated by Linda Bea Miller and Judy Mason.

Copies are available for \$25.00 each, including tax and shipping, from Toni Corelli. Order from her by phone or email, at (650)726-0689 or corelli@coastside.net.

Input Needed: Edgewood Nature Center

San Mateo County is currently developing a conceptual plan for a small, low-impact nature center at Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve. Purposes of the center include 1) enhancing the visitor experience through exhibits on the park's unique and interesting features; 2) promoting protection of its fragile natural resources; 3) providing a focal point for school programs and programs for the general public; and 4) providing space for administrative staff and volunteers.

The Conceptual Plan will consist of an interpretive master plan outlining the themes and topics to be addressed through park exhibits and programs, an analysis of potential building sites, and conceptual drawings for a building. "Non-building" interpretive facilities, such as kiosks for the park's various entries, are also under consideration as an alternative or supplement to a stand-alone center.

The planning process was introduced at a public meeting in March, and the public's input is solicited. Project planners are interested in hearing any ideas or concerns that you wish to share; please contact one of the people below. Background materials are available on request.

- Toni Corelli, CNPS board member, 650-726-0689
- Senior Park Planner Sam Herzberg, SHerzberg@co.sanmateo.ca.us, 650-363-1823
- Interpretive Planner Rici Peterson, The Acorn Group, rici@attendingmarvels.com, 505-466-0656

Acterra Library needs Donations

The Acterra Environmental Library helps the public identify plants and animals, provides educational materials on local environmental topics, and helps folks find answers to other questions about recycling and more. They also make their space available to other environmental organizations for evening meetings. See <http://www.acterra.org/library>.

Privately funded libraries like theirs need support in order to provide quality services. Donations may be sent to Acterra Environmental Library, 3921 E. Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto 94303.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Friday, June 14, 2002

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