



THE BLAZING STAR

May-June 2003

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

Friday, May 16, 2003 at 7:30 pm
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Topic: CHAPARRAL: THE OPEN FOREST
Presenter: Ron Russo

Chaparral is an incredibly diverse biological environment. This program will look at the ecological advantages of chaparral habitat design features that allow these plants to survive in harsh conditions.

Ron is the Chief Naturalist for the East Bay Regional Park District where he has worked for 37 years. Ron has published over 30 papers and articles in journals and magazines, in addition to six field guides including Plant Galls of the California Region, Pacific Coast Fish, Pacific Coast Mammals, Pacific Intertidal Life, Mountain State Mammals, and Hawaiian Reefs. He has been an instructor for the California Academy of Sciences, University of California Berkeley Extension, and the California State Park Training Academy. In addition, Ron has conducted training seminars throughout the United States for several state park, county, and federal park and land management agencies. Ron's specialties include nudibranchs, sharks, mushrooms, galls, mammals, and humpback whales.

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.

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For additional information, contact chapter Vice President Judy Fenerty at judy@fenerty.com or (408)378-6272.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Spring Wildflower Show April 26 and 27

As last minute reminder, our Chapter Wildflower Show will be held **Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27**, at **Mission College in Santa Clara**. Show hours are **10am to 4pm** both days, in the Hospitality Management Building. In addition to a display of wildflowers collected specifically for the show or grown by Chapter members, there will be a number of plant-related displays and vendors offering a variety of plant-related items. For the latest information, please see the Chapter web site, at www.cnps-sev.org.

Directions: To reach the Mission College campus take 101 to Great America Pkwy/Bowers in Santa Clara. Go north towards Great America. Turn left onto Mission College Boulevard and then right at the first traffic light and follow the road around the campus perimeter to Parking Lot C. Drive to the far end of the lot, which faces the Hospitality Management Building.

Spring Native Plant Sale May 10

Our Spring Native Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday, May 10** at our nursery in Hidden Villa. Sale hours are **10am to 4pm.** Parking is free for the sale, but is limited, so we encourage everyone to **carpool**. In addition to great plants for your garden from our nursery, Yerba Buena Nursery is providing coupons that can be used on May 10 or May 17, with a percentage of the proceeds going to our chapter. (See page 5 in this newsletter for a coupon for CNPS members.) We will also have "good bug tubs"--demonstration containers of native plants that attract beneficial insects to the garden. Books, seeds and bulbs will also be offered for sale. Please come, and tell your friends and neighbors about it, too!

Directions: From 280, take the El Monte Rd/Moody Rd exit. Go west on Moody Road for 2 miles then look for the Hidden Villa sign and driveway on the left. Proceed over the bridge and turn right just past the kiosk into the parking lot.

Help Needed for Spring Native Plant Sale

Thanks to all who have volunteered to help with the plant sale! We still need people to **help with parking control**, so if you can volunteer a few hours of your time to help with parking or if you want to help in some other way, please contact the Plant Sale Coordinator, Janet Gomez, at (408) 978-2984 or janetg@ix.netcom.com. We still also need to borrow some **wagons** for the day of the show, and we can arrange to pick them up and return them if needed. **Boxes and gallon-sized pots** are also needed-- these can be dropped off inside the fence at the nursery anytime that Hidden Villa is open, or contact Janet to arrange for pickup.

Nursery Work Sessions

To help prepare the plants and nursery for the sale, on **Monday through Friday** before the sale (**May 5-9**), we'll have **work sessions at the nursery from 10am to 3pm**. Or if you'd like to help out another time, our regular native plant nursery work sessions take place every **Weds.** from **12noon to 4pm**.

Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. We may need help weeding, cleaning the nursery, making signs, rearranging the pots and generally getting the place ready for the sale. Knowledge of plants is not necessary, your willingness to help is all that's required.

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.

Gardening With Natives

Our next meeting will be on our regular first **Thursday, May 1 at 7:30pm** at the PCC building in Palo Alto. Our meeting topic (by request) will be: Native Plants that grow in Serpentine Soils. Local areas such as Coyote Ridge and Edgewood Park have wonderful examples of serpentine grassland/meadow. We'll discuss these places as well as some of the plants that are part of the serpentine ecosystem.

We will meet in the Peregrine suite at the back of the building (door opens up to the parking lot).

In June, we will **not** have our normal first Thursday meeting due to a scheduling conflict. However, Stephanie is hoping to invite everyone to a one-day event that is being organized by several local landscape designers. The event will focus on sustainable landscaping with California native plants and environmentally responsible materials. Information will be sent out to all members on the GWN email group once details are firmed up. We will meet in the Raptor suite.

Directions: the PCC is located at 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. From Hwy 101: Take the "San Antonio North" exit, get immediately into the left-hand turn lane, and turn onto East Bayshore. This will curve around to the left, then right. The first street on your right is Corporation Way, turn right. Then turn into the first driveway on your left, which is the PCC parking lot. A map is available at www.acterra.org/contact/locations.html.

Contact Stephanie Morris at StephLMorris@hotmail.com or (408)629-8004 to be added to the newsletter email list, provide input, or receive more information. New members are always welcome!

Habitat Restoration: Edgewood Park

Join Ken Himes to help remove invasive exotic plants and protect Edgewood's sensitive habitats. **Friday sessions, at 8:30 am**, occur year-round. **Wednesday evening sessions begin at 5:30 pm**. More information including the schedule of Wednesday work and meeting places is available at edgewood.thinkersrus.net/schedule.html.

Or you may call Ken at (650)591-8560. For the Friday sessions call Ken or contact John Allen at jcakwa@aol.com.

Date	Meet @ 5:30 @	Work Site
May 7	West Kiosk	Mow site 3
May 14	Day Camp Kiosk	South wing of Sylvan Loop Trail
May 21	Clarkia Trailhead	West Clarkia Trail
May 28	Day Camp Kiosk	Bush Mallow site
June 4	West Kiosk	Mow site 1
June 11	West Kiosk	Mule Ears Meadow
June 18	West Kiosk	Mule Ears Meadow
June 25	Day Camp Kiosk	South wing of Sylvan Loop Trail

New Web Address for Chapter Web Site

Our Chapter's web site has a new web address: www.cnps-scv.org. Same content, just an easier to remember address. There you can find recent announcements, plant lists, a photo gallery of native plants, information for new members, links to other organizations, issues of this Blazing Star newsletter (which includes field trip descriptions), and much more. The site exists thanks to the efforts of our webmaster, John Rawlings, working quietly behind the scenes, and our web host Stanford University.

Chapter Volunteers Needed

Our Chapter is looking for volunteers to serve as corresponding secretary and education chair. To obtain more information or indicate your interest, contact Georgia

Stigall at Georgia Stigall at (650)941-1068 or gstigall@aol.com.

CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Chapter field trips are free and 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 & 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, 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.

May 2, Fri 7:30pm An evening with the grasses

Come to De Anza College for a two hour class taught by Sally Casey, specializing in the grass family. Bring your own flowering grasses you wish to identify.

The class will be from **7:30pm to 9:30pm**. Space is limited; call Sally Casey (408)377-0989 for further information or to sign up.

A grass walk follows on June 7—see below.

Directions: The class will be at the De Anza College Environmental Studies Area (ESA, formerly used for GWN meetings.) The ESA is located at the corner of McClellan and Stelling within the DeAnza College Campus. From Highway 85, exit at Stevens Creek Boulevard. Enter the DeAnza campus to the right off Stevens Creek. 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.

May 3, Sat 10am, Calero County Park

Join Dick Gehrler and Stella Yang for a beautiful wildflower hike at Calero County 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 6 miles. The hike is expected to last until **1pm**.

Directions: From Highway 85 south, exit Almaden Expressway south. Proceed to end, turn right onto Harry Road (traffic light). Left on McKean Road, Continue about 3 miles pass Calero reservoir to the CP parking area on the right. For more info contact Dick at (408)268-6922.

May 3&4 9am Sat & Sun Mount Hamilton

Enjoy a day of roadside botanizing on Mount Hamilton led by Lee Ellis and Sally Casey. 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 (elev. 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'll end at Arnold Ranch, with a chance to get off the roadsides and explore the meadows.

The trip will last all day, with approximately 65 driving miles round trip. No gas is available along the route; so come with a full tank. The Mount Hamilton Road is a steep, narrow, twisting mountain road. Meet in the OSH parking lot at 3000 Alum Rock Ave. at **9am**.

Space is limited to 20; reservations are required. To reserve a space contact Lee Ellis at l.p.ellis@att.net or call (510)793-7383 between 9:30am and 11:30pm. On May 3 **only** contact Lee or Rick Ellis at (510)676-7283, -7281. Radios will use Channel 13.

Carpooling is strongly encouraged. Riders will share gasoline costs with drivers. Bring liquids, lunch, CUP, PLATE, and FORK for special dessert to celebrate Fanny Arnold's 80-something birthday, sun protection, and two-way radios (FRS) if you have them. Everyone will be expected to **contribute \$1** toward cake and punch to celebrate Fanny's birthday.

Extended Trip: Participants are invited to continue about 26 miles north to dry camp with Lee & Rick Ellis at Tarraville Creek (18.64 ALA Co) on **Saturday night** or join up on **Sunday morning, May 4, at 9:30am** for continued botanizing and a joint field trip with the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). **NO FACILITIES!** There will be a campfire for cooking and socializing. Rain or snow cancels.

May 4 Sun, 10am San Bruno Mountain County Park

Join Ken Himes and Tom Cochrane for a hike on the Summit Loop trail to see plants in the coastal scrub and coastal prairie plant communities. Indian paintbrush, (*Castilleja wightii*), can be spectacular at this time of year. We also expect to see hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*)

The Summit Loop Trail is 3.1 miles long, and is moderately steep with elevation gain/loss of 725 feet. The walk is expected to last until about **4pm**. Wear layers, as windy and cool temperatures are typical. Bring lunch and water, and wear sturdy footwear.

Directions: From 101 northbound, take the Old Bayshore/Brisbane exit and proceed north on Old Bayshore, past the town of Brisbane, until reaching the crest of a hill. Turn left onto Guadalupe Cyn Parkway and proceed uphill to the San Bruno Mountain County Park entrance station on the right.

From 280 northbound, take the Mission Street exit and at the first stop sign, turn left onto Junipero Serra Blvd, then turn right on San Pedro road. Cross Mission Street and continue east to Guadalupe Canyon Parkway and proceed uphill to the park entrance station.

There is a \$4.00 entrance fee. Please be prompt. The hike begins at **10am** at the entrance station parking lot. For more info call Ken at (650)591-8560.

May 18, Sun 10am Pescadero Marsh and Bean Hollow
PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE

Join Toni Corelli for a walk at Pescadero Marsh and Bean Hollow on the San Mateo coast.

The walk is expected to last until about **3pm**.

Directions: Meet at **10am** at the parking lot just south of the bridge along Hwy. 1 at Pescadero Marsh. It will be on the west side of the road. Bring lunch, water, layers. We will walk Pescadero Marsh first, have lunch and then drive to Bean Hollow for the afternoon walk. For more info, contact Toni Corelli at (650)726-0689 or corelli@coastside.net.

May 31, Sat 9am Henry Coe State Park

We will meet at the Hunting Hollow parking lot. This hike will take us up Hunting Hollow along a branch of Coyote creek, for about 2 miles. We will visit a yellow starthistle site that was burned two years ago to see the results as they are now. The dirt road we follow is fairly level with a couple creek crossings. We will return to the parking lot at

about **2pm**. Then there will then be an optional trip to the Coyote creek entrance.

We will drive about 2 miles up Gilroy Hot Springs road to the Coyote creek entrance. On this part of the trip, we hope to have the right timing to see the rare *Clarkia brewerii* and the rare *Campanula exigua*. We may go about 4 miles out and back on this part of the trip. The dirt road follows the main branch of Coyote creek and is fairly level.

Returning time should be about **5pm**. Bring lunch and liquids. Be prepared for possible hot weather. For more information contact trip leader Tom Cochrane at (650)969-3181 or trailtraveller@webtv.net

Directions: Take Highway 101 to Gilroy. Take the Leavesley Road exit (County Road G9) and head east. After about 1.8 miles, turn left (north) on New Avenue; go a little over half a mile and then turn right (east) on Roop Road. About 3.3 miles up Roop Road, you'll pass the Coyote Reservoir Road on the left. The name of the road then becomes Gilroy Hot Springs road. The Hunting Hollow entrance is about 3.3 miles past the Coyote Reservoir Road turnoff. There is a \$2 parking fee per vehicle at the Hunting Hollow parking lot.

The distance from 101 to the Hunting Hollow entrance is about 9 miles. For a road map see community.webtv.net/trailtraveller/map/

Jun 7, Sat 10am Grass Walk Los Trancos OSP

Join Sally Casey to explore the native grasses at Los Trancos Open Space Preserve. Bring a hand lens if you have one available, a sack lunch and water. Meet at **10am** in the Preserve parking lot on Page Mill Road, or meet to carpool at **9:30am** at the Park and Ride Lot at the intersection of Page Mill Road and Hwy 280.

The hike distance will be about 2 miles with minimal elevation gain. The walk should be completed by **2pm**.

Directions: Take Page Mill Road west from I-280. The parking lot is 7 miles west of I-280 on the right side, just past the entrance to the Monte Bello Open Space Preserve.

Jun 14, Sat 9am Purisima Creek Redwoods OSP

Join Stella Yang and Stephen Buckhout for a cool stroll in the redwood forest. We expect to see at least six kinds of ferns, western burning bush (*Euonymus occidentalis*), red alder, red elderberry, and possibly a lily. We will be walking 4 miles on an old road that rises gently in elevation. Bring lunch, water, and be prepared for variable weather.

For more information, contact Stella Yang at yscottie@pacbell.net or call (408)255-6233.

Directions: Meet at the Park and Ride at I-280 and Edgewood Road at **9am**. We should be back at Edgewood by **3pm**.

Jun 21, Sat 10am Weed Ecology at Edgewood Park

Learn how and why weeds grow so well. Then learn how we use that knowledge to get rid of them. It will be high season for Yellow Starthistle and Italian Thistle. See the biocontrol in action, methods used and results from previous years' work to control the weeds in Edgewood and make room for the native plants.

For more information, contact your leaders Ken Himes at (650)591-8560, or Paul Heiple at (650)854-7125 or LogH3o@aol.com.

Jul 4-6, Fri-Sun Ebbetts Pass

Join Phil Darlington for holiday weekend walks along the Sierra Nevada crest from the summit of State Highway 4 northward in the area of Kinney Lake. This area at 8600 to 9000 ft. elevation has a variety of habitats on granite and volcanic soils. Plant diversity is good with Sierran and some Great Basin species. The area was in excellent bloom on this date in 2002. Expect great views.

Reservations are required due to limited campground space. A \$15 fee will be collected for the campground.

Hikes will be mostly off trail and are moderately difficult. Elevation gain 400 ft, distance 4 miles. Sturdy footwear and hiking skills are required. Bring water and sun and wind protection. Bears frequent the campground area; Forest Service requires use of bear canisters (not provided).

We will meet **July 4**, at Silver Creek Campground, 3 miles NE of the summit, where we will camp. Plant walks will begin at the summit (PCT trailhead) **July 5 and 6**. For information, reservations and directions contact Phil at (650)591-7843, or sierraphil@earthlink.net.

Directions: From the Bay Area take I580 E over Altamont pass, I205 through Tracy, I5 N to Stockton. Take Hwy 4 E through Stockton (be mindful of the half mile jog on 99). Continue on Hwy 4 through Angels Camp and Bear Valley. You will pass Lake Alpine, Mosquito Lake, Pacific Grade Summit and Hermit Valley. The highway is very narrow and winding after Lake Alpine. Silver Creek Campground is 3 mi. NE over Ebbetts pass.

See the Jul-Aug Blazing Star for descriptions of these upcoming field trips:

Jul 10 Thu	Field Trip Planning Meeting
Jul 19 Sat	Edgewood Park, Three piperias with Paul Heiple and Ken Himes
Aug 30 Sat	Monte Bello OSP, Oak Walk

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, June 7, 2003

Email: mattsson@sbcglobal.net

Phone: (408)255-3767

Yerba Buena Nursery

Come to the wildflower show or plant sale to pick up a CNPS fundraiser coupon. Use it at Yerba Buena Nursery on **Saturday, May 10 or Saturday, May 17, 2003** to have 20% of your plant purchases made on those days donated back to the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

The nursery is located at 19500 Skyline Blvd., Woodside, CA 94062.

Open Tue-Sun 9am-5pm (650)851-1668.
www.yerbabuenanursery.com

Get the plants you want for your garden and help raise money for a great cause. Meet the Yerba Buena Nursery staff, visit the Tea Terrace, lunch at our picnic tables and enjoy the day.

Many specimens in the Gerda Isenberg Demonstration Garden should be in bloom and this would be a delightful time of year to get reacquainted with this special native plant garden of over 500 species and cultivars.

As an added attraction, our propagation houses, normally closed to the public, will be open for self-guided tours on these two Saturdays only.

Not a Coupon