



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

September-October 2002

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

Friday, September 20, 2002 at 7:30 pm
Los Altos Library Program Room
13 So. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Program: COASTAL PLANTS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

Presenter: Toni Corelli.

Join us for a presentation by chapter member Toni Corelli on some of our favorite locals, the coastal plants of San Mateo County. Toni Corelli is a Botanist and Curator at the Carl Sharsmith Herbarium at San Jose State University and the Teaching Herbarium at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. She is the author of *Flowering Plants of Edgewood Preserve* and coauthor of *Rare and Endangered Plants of San Mateo and Santa Clara County*. Her specialty is the native flora of San Mateo County.

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.

To receive occasional email messages about Chapter activities and events, please send a message with a subject line of "add to CNPS chapter" to Georgia Stigall at gstigall@aol.com. The email addresses are suppressed and the list is not shared with other organizations.

BOOKS WANTED - ANNUAL POTLUCK

Books & Other Items Wanted For Saturday, November 16

On Saturday, November 16 (note the Saturday date, a change from previous years) we will have our annual Brenda Butner Memorial Potluck in Los Altos.

This year we will have a silent auction (as has been done in some previous years). Please plan to bring plant and other natural history books, photographs or other items you may have to donate for the auction. Details will be in the November/December Blazing Star.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mary Simpson

Our CNPS Chapter just opened its office at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) building in Palo Alto. Ours is one of the few CNPS chapters to open its own office.

Our Chapter's current plan is to use this office as a base for expanding our conservation activities. Our neighbors in the building include environmental activist organizations such as the Committee for Green Foothills, Acterra, and the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, as well as educational groups such as Environmental Volunteers and the Business Environmental Network. CNPS, as a science based organization, should bring an exciting synergy to this mix.

This is an exciting step for our Chapter, but it is also a major financial commitment. Our Chapter has committed to rent the space for a one year period. This is having a major impact on our budget, but our Board was convinced that the conservation work we will be able to undertake once we have established our own office will more than compensate for any risk. We will need interns and volunteers among our Chapter to help us set up and staff an office, organize records, and do research and development work. If you want to help, please contact Don Mayall, who

has graciously agreed to coordinate volunteers. You can reach Don at 650-856-7579 or seleve@ix.netcom.com.

The Acterra Building address is 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto CA 94303-4303. It's near 101 and San Antonio Road. See <http://www.acterra.org/contact/locations.html> for a map.

Jim Sugai Wins Distinctive Senior Citizen Award

You may know Chapter member Jim Sugai from field trips he's led or weeding sessions he's assisted in. However, his volunteer activities extend far beyond the CNPS, as indicated by this article about him from the Los Gatos Weekly Times.

Excerpts are from the June 5, 2002 issue by permission. Author Shari Kaplan.

Longtime Los Gatan and perennial local volunteer Jim Sugai earned the title *Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Senior of Distinction* on May 29 during the 2002 Seniors of Distinction Awards ceremony held at The Terraces of Los Gatos.

...
Sugai worked as a town of Los Gatos employee for 22 years; he retired from the parks department in 1983 as the superintendent. After that, he began serving the town as a volunteer. He maintains the Bill Mason Carousel in Oak Meadow Park, and serves on the Los Gatos Trails and Bikeways Committee.

His interest in Japanese culture is also underscored by the volunteer gardening work he does at Hakone Gardens in Saratoga. Among his most far-reaching projects is his dedication to the Los Gatos Creek Trail. For many years, he helped improve and maintain the trail and created a footpath approximately one mile long near the town bridge.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Fall Plant Sale Saturday, October 19

Our Chapter's Fall Plant Sale will be held at the Chapter nursery at Hidden Villa on **Saturday, October 19**, from **9am to 3pm**.

Fall is the best time to plant native plants. The days are getting shorter and cooler and the rain is not too far off. Come see what our volunteers are growing for you. We try to vary the selection each year so that you will have something new for your garden. To help out, consider

volunteering at the sale or preparing plants at the nursery: see the next two articles.

For more information, see the enclosed poster. Please feel free to post your copy at your workplace etc. to help get the word out. Directions to the nursery are below.

Call for Plant Sale Volunteers

If you don't garden but still want to help, we will need volunteers at the sale to help sell plants and books, cashier, and perform other tasks. The fall and spring plant sales are a very important source of income for the Chapter, so please come out and help. Again, the plant sale is **Saturday, October 19**, from **9am to 3pm**.

To volunteer, please contact Jean Struthers at 650-941-2586 or JeanStruthers@aol.com, or Ray Deutsch at 650-365-6136 or rdeutsch@stanford.edu.

Nursery Work Day

To prepare for the sale, we will have a special nursery work day on **Saturday, September 7**, from **10am to 3pm**. Come help groom plants for sale, move oversized plants to larger pots, and tidy up the nursery for customer viewing. (Helpers can even get a sneak preview of plants to be sold!) Bring a sack lunch and garden gloves if you have them. Other tools will be provided at the nursery.

If you can't help at the nursery then, you can join other volunteers any **Wednesday** for our regular nursery work sessions, from **12noon to 4pm**. Bring your lunch if you like. 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.

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 visitor center parking lot to your right. The Native Plant Nursery is at the greenhouse just beyond the visitor center.

Photography Group

The Chapter photo group is looking for a leader. Duties include organizing programs for the monthly photo group meetings and reserving the room. If you are interested in helping others present photos and share camera techniques, please call Sonia Wilcomer at 650-494-0104.

Gardening With Natives

Gardening with Natives is an exciting, forward-thinking group of people inspired to plant and tend California Natives! We will have our regular first **Thursday** meeting on **September 5th** from **7:30pm to 9:30pm** at the DeAnza ESA. Our October meeting is TBA. We are currently looking for a permanent location to host our meetings (usually about 30 people), so please send any ideas to Stephanie at the info below.

Directions: The De Anza 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 if there's room. The ESA building is the small wood building by the pond.

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 **Sunday, September 15** and **Sunday, September 29** 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 pruning and dead-heading.

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 Gioumousis, at elliegms@attbi.com or 650-494-6276.

Non-Native Plant Removal: Edgewood Park

Chapter volunteers get together to pull weeds at Edgewood Park Friday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Bring gloves, long sleeves, sunscreen, water and a snack.

Wednesday evening sessions start at **5:30pm** and will last through **October 23**. We will target Bristly Ox Tongue and work in the meadows near the west kiosk. Park along Edgewood Road (east of its intersection with Hwy 280) and meet at the west kiosk. Contact Paul Heiple at 650-854-7125 or LogH30@aol.com, or Ken Himes at 650-591-8560 for more information

The **Friday morning** sessions start at **8:30am**. Contact John Allen at jcakwa@aol.com or 650-366-4910, or Ken Himes at 650-591-8560 for information and meeting place.

COMMITTEE NEWS & REPORTS

Santa Clara County Rare Plant Report

by Don Mayall

A number of new occurrences of species on the *CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants* have been documented in Santa Clara County this spring by alert Chapter members and dedicated professionals in several public and private agencies.

A new population of *Castilleja affinis* ssp. *neglecta* (Tiburon Indian paintbrush) was spotted on Coyote Ridge by Tom Cochrane, Carolyn Dorsch, and Sau San, a state CNPS botanist leading vegetation surveys in this area. This beautiful serpentine endemic is CNPS list 1B, federally listed as endangered, state listed as threatened. There is one other documented population on the ridge. These are the only known occurrences south of Ring Mountain Preserve in Marin County.

It was feared that *Centromadia parryi* ssp. *congdonii*, (Congdon's tarplant) CNPS 1B, might have disappeared from Santa Clara County as a consequence of development in Alviso. But Park Supervisor Julie Oliver at Sunnyvale Baylands Park believed it was occurring there and contacted us. Paul Heiple, Judy Fenerty, Pam Peterson and I joined Julie and found 8000 plants flourishing on park property.

Hoita strobilina, (Loma Prieta psoralea) CNPS list 1B, has not been documented in Santa Clara County since 1940. Paul and Tom found it in Santa Teresa County Park and Chris Clifford, a state CNPS botanist, sighted it on private property while conducting a vegetation survey on Coyote Ridge.

Legenere limosa, a yellowish bell-flower, CNPS list 1B, never before documented in Santa Clara county, was observed on Palassou Ridge, a new Santa Clara County Open Space acquisition, by Janell Hillman. She is a Santa

Cruz County chapter member and botanist for the Santa Clara Valley Water District, whose job includes finding rare plants in our county. This plant has been reported historically in San Mateo County.

Malacothamnus arcuatus, a CNPS list 1B plant, was known in the past in Palo Alto's Arastradero Preserve, but it disappeared about eight years ago. Karen Cotter, who manages the Arastradero Preserve Stewardship project for Acterra, found and reported the malacothamnus at a new location in the preserve. It is right along a trail that is being widened. We hope that the city of Palo Alto will follow state law and act to protect this rare plant. Another possible sighting was made near Metcalf Canyon by Chris Clifford.

Piperia michaelii, Michael's rein orchid, CNPS list 4, has been seen by Paul Heiple at Almaden-Quicksilver County Park. The most recent documented sighting was in Los Gatos in 1921. Carol Zabel and Toni Corelli also saw it this spring at Stanford's Jasper Ridge in San Mateo County.

Ben Hammett and I found a new population of *Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *albidus* (metcalf canyon jewelflower) CNPS 1B, and on the federally endangered list, at Santa Clara County's Motorcycle Park, with the help of Park operations manager Ramon Castillo and assistant Jacob Foley. The Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation is taking steps to protect rare and endangered species at this heavily used recreational facility, which includes some prime serpentine habitat. This rare white streptanthus is to be expected in Metcalf Canyon, its type locale. But a few days later we found a single individual, in a large stand of the more wide-spread purple *Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *peramoenus*, CNPS 1B, several miles south of Metcalf Canyon on the access road to the Butterfly Trust Area above Kirby Canyon. On vegetation surveys on lands between Kirby Canyon and Metcalf Canyon we found small but increasing numbers of the white streptanthus as we got closer to Metcalf Canyon. The biggest find was made by Patrick Congdon, resource manager for the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, who, with Ben Hammett, found a stand containing hundreds of these plants along the north side of Metcalf Road.

The Coyote Ridge vegetation survey, a project of state CNPS, being conducted with help from Chapter volunteers is uncovering new populations of such rarities as *Cirsium fontinale* var. *campylon*, *Dudleya setchellii*, and *Lessingia micradenia* var. *glabrata* and greatly expanding our knowledge of the ecology of these serpentine rarities.

The continued survival of most rare plant populations in highly urbanized areas requires careful monitoring. The

alertness of CNPS members and plant friends in public and private agencies is our best resource for accomplishing this.

Editor's note: The meanings behind the various rare plant designations have legal significance. But for the amateur botanist I present the following summary:

The CNPS has created five "lists" in an effort to categorize degrees of concern for our state's rare, threatened, and endangered plants. They are described as follows:

- List 1A: Plants Presumed Extinct in California
- List 1B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
- List 2: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere
- List 3: Plants About Which We Need More Information - A Review List
- List 4: Plants of Limited Distribution - A Watch List

Nearly all of the plants in Don's article are listed as CNPS 1B, which means they are rare throughout their range. Many of the plants of List 1B have declined significantly over the last century. All plants on the CNPS lists must be fully considered during preparation of environmental documents relating to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The above list of terms was excerpted from <http://www.cnps.org/rareplants/inventory/names.htm>.

The *CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California* is available on line: you may go to the state CNPS Web site at <http://www.cnps.org>, and click on "Online Inventory" on the left sidebar.

The California Department of Fish and Game maintains a Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). For a look at their plant designations go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab/spplant.pdf> and page down to page iv.

New Book Sales Chair

Our Chapter welcomes Ingrid Graeve as our new book sales chair! Our book list remains online at <http://community-2.webtv.net/trailtraveller/santaclaravalley/>). For more information, contact Ingrid at 650 964-5585 or ingridg@bonair.stanford.edu.

Education

Are you interested in education activities? The Chapter needs assistance with education programs, either as

Education Chair or Co-Chair. In the past, educational activities have ranged from being a resource for schools and administering our scholarship program for graduate students to getting the word out about native plants at environmental and science fairs in the fall and spring. In addition to these programs, there are many opportunities for new activities. If you would like to serve as Education Chair or assist with education activities, please contact Nora Monette, at 408-244-5153 or nmonette@aol.com, or Georgia Stigall at 650-941-1068 or gstigall@aol.com

CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Sep 21-22 Saturday-Sunday, Pygmy Forest in Mendocino

There's the possibility that Matt Teel of Yerba Buena Nursery will lead this overnight trip. For details, check the Chapter web site at <http://www.stanford.edu/~rawlings/blazcon.htm> or call Matt at 650-851-4691.

Oct. 12, Saturday, 10am Oaks of Edgewood Walk
Ken Himes and Paul Heiple will lead a tour of the Oaks of Edgewood County Park, an area rich in oak species and hybrids due to its varied geology and topography. The walk will include a recently confirmed unusual hybrid which is not even mentioned in the Jepson Manual.

We will meet at the I 280 park and ride lot at **10am**. Bring water and a lunch and be prepared for about three miles of hiking. For more information contact Ken at 650-591-8560 or Paul at 650-854-7125 or LogH30@aol.com.

Directions: The Edgewood Park & Ride lot is located at the north corner of Edgewood Road and Hwy 280.

Oct 27, Sunday, 10am Weed Walk in Edgewood Park
Join Ken Himes and Paul Heiple of weed ecology fame for a weed management and mapping walk in Edgewood Park and Preserve. They will demonstrate some of the techniques used in the war on weeds.

Meet at the Clarkia Trailhead on Cañada Road at **10am**, and bring a lunch and liquids. We will go through detection, mapping and removal strategies in an area of Edgewood that has not been in the forefront of the war. We will demonstrate the use of a GPS for mapping and reporting weeds. Later, we will go to where the battle has been waged for several years, so you can compare the before and after effects of weed management.

For more information contact Ken at 650-591-8560 or Paul at 650-854-7125 or LogH30@aol.com.

Directions: From Hwy 280, take the Edgewood Road exit and head southwest (under the freeway). Turn left on Cañada Road, head southeast for about a mile and the trail will be on your left, parking lot on your right. For a map see <http://www.eparks.net/Parks/Edgewood/edgewoodmap.htm>.

Nov 17, Sunday, Castle Rock State Park
Ken Himes will lead this hike. See the next issue for details.

Chapter field trips are free and open to the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

CNPS Funding Partnerships Conference

The CNPS is presenting a conference on Creating Funding Partnerships for Native Plant Projects, **Sunday-Monday October 20-21**. The conference takes place in Oakland, and includes a field trip to see the restored Sausal Creek on Sunday. For more information call 510-236-9558 between 9am and 9pm, or email Kathy@KKramerConsulting.net.

CalEPPC Conference October 11-13

The California Exotic Pest Plant Council (CalEPPC) is dedicated to finding solutions to problems caused by non-native pest plant invasions of the state's natural areas.

They plan to hold their annual symposium in Sacramento from **October 11 to 13**. Check their calendar for details, at <http://www.caleppc.org/calendar.html>.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Friday, October 11, 2002

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