



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

September-October 2003

## GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

**Friday, September 19, 2003 at 7:30 pm**  
**Saratoga Library Community Room**  
**13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga**

**Topic: NEW PROJECTS AND CHANGES AT THE JEPSON**

**Presenter: Staci Markos**

Since the publication of The Jepson Manual (1993), progress in plant systematics and California floristics has been phenomenal. Researchers have refined their understanding of biodiversity in the State and that has led to the description of 54 new taxa and the inclusion of 436 plants that are new to California. At the familial level, it is estimated that 57% of the families in the 1993 edition of The Jepson Manual will undergo substantial revision. In January 2004, the Jepson Herbarium will begin a five year project to produce a scientifically revised edition of the manual.

This month's lecture will include a discussion of some of the current projects underway at the Jepson Herbarium. Additionally, some of the recent taxonomic changes in major California plant groups will be discussed.

Staci Markos is Project Manager and Development Coordinator for the Jepson Herbarium. She completed her undergraduate work at UC Davis and graduate work at San Francisco State (M.A., systematics of the *Arctostaphylos hookeri* complex) and UC Berkeley (Ph.D., evolutionary patterns in *Lessingia*).

**Directions:** From Highway 85 take the Saratoga Exit (NOT Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road) and travel south towards the Village of Saratoga. Stay in the right lane of Saratoga Avenue. About ½ mile from the highway exit, there will be a two-lane left turn for West Valley College at Fruitvale Avenue. Proceed through this intersection in the right lane, and take the next left turn into the library parking lot. The community room is at the front right of the library building. For directions also see [www.santaclaracountylib.org](http://www.santaclaracountylib.org).

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

Our Annual Potluck will be **Saturday, November 15**, at the Shoup Garden House in Los Altos.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### **Fall Native Plant Sale and Call for Volunteers**

Our Fall Native Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday, October 11, from 10am to 4pm** at our Hidden Villa nursery. Please save the date and tell all your friends and neighbors.

It takes a great deal of work to put on a successful sale, and we are very fortunate to have so many people who volunteer so much of their time and expertise to make our sales the successes that they are. Two of those people who will be helping us in very important ways are Kevin Bryant, who has volunteered to help as co-coordinator, and Stephen Buckhout, who will be coordinating volunteers for parking control at Hidden Villa during the sale. Thank you, Kevin and Stephen!

Contact information for the coordinators:

**Janet Gomez**, plant sale co-coordinator, (408)978-2984, [janetg@ix.netcom.com](mailto:janetg@ix.netcom.com)

**Kevin Bryant**, plant sale co-coordinator, (408)639-0493, [mtngreen17@verizon.net](mailto:mtngreen17@verizon.net)

**Stephen Buckhout**, parking control coordinator, (408)255-6233, [yscottie@pacbell.net](mailto:yscottie@pacbell.net)

We encourage everyone to come and help with the sale, and there are many ways to help that don't require a great deal of knowledge about our native plants.

We need the following items:

- Boxes for customers to carry home their purchases. Please save these and bring them to the nursery during the week before the sale.

- Wagons on the day of the sale to help customers cart their purchases to their cars.

If you can loan us a wagon, please contact Janet Gomez or Kevin Bryant (see contact information above).

There are also lots of ways to volunteer your time to help with the sale. Most of the jobs listed below don't require expert knowledge of plants, and you can choose to work one or two hours or all day.

Before the sale, you can help at the nursery during our regular Wednesday afternoon work sessions or special sessions the week before the sale. See the next article for details.

On the day of the sale, we will need:

- People to help set up before the sale (starting at 8:30)
- People to help with parking (contact Stephen Buckhout; see contact information above)
- People to help clean up after the sale (4:00 to 5:00)
- People who will greet customers at the entrance and ask them where they heard about the sale
- Cashiers
- People who will write up the sales tags before customers go to the cashiers to pay for their plants
- People who will help customers take their purchases to their cars and bring back the wagons and carts to the nursery
- People who will answer customers' questions about the plants and help them decide which plants to purchase

The plant sales are always lots of fun to work at, and we hope you'll come and help! Lunch will be provided to volunteers, too. If you would like to help with the sale, please contact Janet Gomez (see contact information above) and specify what you would like to do and the times that you'd like to work.

## Special Nursery Work Sessions

In preparation for our fall plant sale on October 11th, the CNPS Nursery at Hidden Villa invites volunteers to help out with general cleanup and organizing on **Saturday, September 27 from 10am to 3pm**. Please come and help out for all or part of the workday to show your support for Jean, Ray, and the others who work hard year round propagating and tending the plants. No horticultural knowledge is necessary, as there will be a wide variety of tasks to be done. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, and lunch. Clippers, gloves, trowels, and maybe a stool, are also a plus. Contact Jean Struthers for more information at (650)941-2586 or JeanStruthers@aol.com.

During the week before the sale, we will be working **Tuesday-Friday Oct 7-10, 10am-3pm**.

If you can't help at the nursery those times, 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.

## Keying With Natives

Our Chapter is starting a new group, Keying with Natives. KWN is a self-help keying workshop where members help one another to identify plants. To each meeting please bring:

1. A plant or two you want to key out;
2. A hand lens;
3. Jepson, Munz, and other books you may have;
4. A microscope, if you have one and don't mind sharing it;
5. Forceps, blades and other things needed for dissection.

This group is open to new participants. The September meeting will take place on **Friday, September 26, from 6:30 to 8:30pm**, at the Peninsula Conservation Center at 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. We will meet in the Raptor Suite. For more information, please contact Kuni Kitajima at kita\_k@yahoo.com or (408)941-5359 (evenings and nights only please, leave voice mail).

## Gardening With Natives

Gardening with Natives is a special interest group of our Chapter. We generally meet on the first **Thursday** of every month. Meetings are free and new participants are always welcome!

On **Thursday, September 4 at 7:30pm** we will meet at the PCC building in Palo Alto. The discussion topic for the meeting will be: Native California Grasses. Photos (digital or hardcopy), plant samples, gardening ideas, and questions are all welcome for this group discussion.

**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. There is no sign near the lot entrance. A map is available at [www.acterra.org/contact/locations.html](http://www.acterra.org/contact/locations.html).

On **Thursday, October 2 at 7:30pm** we will have our annual seed, cutting, and plant exchange. This is your opportunity to trade with others in the group for items to fill in those bare spots in your garden! Bring seeds, cuttings, small potted plants, etc. to share. It is always a good idea to bring an extra plastic bag or jar for transporting cuttings. A supply of soil, pots, wooden labels, seed envelopes, and rooting hormone will be available for those who would like to plant seeds and cuttings during the evening. Meeting location and directions will be sent out in September to those on the group email list.

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

## Photography Group

Please join us for the monthly meeting of the Photography Group. The next meetings will be **Mondays, September 8 and October 20, from 7-9pm** in the Kestrel Room at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC).

We've seen several new faces in the last two months, and at the August meeting they treated us to a slideshow on the Bristlecone Pines, and prints of native plants from Missouri (thanks Brad & Allena). Beginning in September we will be setting aside time for a critique session to help us improve our craft.

If you have slides, digital images, or prints you would like to share, please bring them. If you would like to be added to the email or phone lists, contact Jerry Welch at (408)353-8352 or [jdwelch@yahoo.com](mailto:jdwelch@yahoo.com).

## Invasive Plant Removal at Edgewood

This summer has seen the further reduction of the area infested by yellow star-thistle in Edgewood Park. Three quarters of the planned removal area has been completed by mid August, before much seed dropped. This is thanks to the biocontrol agents which are now common throughout the park. Four species of biocontrol agents are now easy to find. If the number of volunteer hours remains at the current rate, all the planned removal will be completed by the end of August, allowing the weeders to either clear

more acreage of YST or move on to ox tongue and maybe even be ahead on broom removal.

Help Edgewood become weed free, come out and help remove weeds and help make this year be the one that makes the weeds retreat. Join Ken Himes for weeding sessions twice a week: **Friday sessions, at 8:30am**, occur year-round. **Wednesday evening sessions begin at 5:30pm**. Meet at the West Kiosk, and park at the southwest corner of the intersection of I-280 and Edgewood Road.

We will no longer meet on Wednesdays after daylight savings time ends. The **last Wednesday evening session** will be **October 22**.

For more information, call Ken at (650)591-8560. For the Friday sessions call Ken or contact John Allen at [jkakwa@aol.com](mailto:jkakwa@aol.com).

## Edgewood Weeding Special

Join Ken Himes and Paul Heiple for a special Edgewood weeding session on **Saturday, October 25, 9am to 12noon**. Come to the park to help with the big push on weeds. We will be after ox tongue in the meadows. Meet at the intersection of Canada Road and Edgewood Road. We will see one of Edgewood's rarely seen rare plants on route to the weeding site, *Lessingia hololeuca*. If you are late, proceed to the West Kiosk to find the weeders. Bring water. Call Ken (650)591-8560 or Paul at (650)854-7125 or email Paul at [LogH3o@aol.com](mailto:LogH3o@aol.com) for more information.

## Foothills Park Meadow Restoration Update

*By Jean Olmsted, leader of broom and thistle eradicators*

A small group of loyal volunteers meets **every Sunday at 9am** to remove weeds from Foothills Park on the Peninsula near Palo Alto. Contact info for Jean Olmsted, the group leader, is at the end of this article. Jean would like to see more volunteers added to this group, perhaps to remove some French broom after the rains begin. After all, French broom removal work in Foothills Park was started by Native Plant Society people in 1996. She invites any of them to come back this winter to see what has been accomplished. Jean sends this report:

First, some background. We are now completing our yellow star-thistle (YST) removal for this year (though we will work on stragglers now and then during the rest of the year). We try to keep clear the YST areas we have cleared before and add a little cleared area each year. We have cleared about five acres now. We pick places with good native plants, places that are accessible, places that have natural boundaries. The yellow star-thistle has been decreasing nicely in the areas we have cleared. (And we

think it is decreasing a little in the areas we have not worked. Weather? Weevils? Competition? We would like to know more about that.)

The bad news is that we are seeing more Italian thistle and more tocalote. Also we are finding teasel and purple star-thistle appearing in places in the park where they have not been before. It looks as though trucks that work in the park bring them in.

The next work project will be the French broom season. Broom comes out best when the soil is wet. We will go back to the areas we have cleared in previous years and work on the new generation plants. There is quite a lot of that work to do.

In early spring we start work on Italian thistle as soon as it can be identified. Italian thistle seems to be spreading. We have cleared only one trail where it seems to be decreasing each year. We hope it will decrease on some of the other trails where we have been working, but we won't know that until next year.

And then the next star-thistle season begins.

We meet at **9am every Sunday** morning in the Orchard Glen parking area of Foothills Park. That is the parking area at the head of the main picnic and grass area of the park. Non-Palo-Alto-residents enter as our guests. Call Jean Olmsted (650)493-3468 or send an email message to [jwo@svpal.org](mailto:jwo@svpal.org) to get on the notice list.

### **Course: Native Shrubs, Trees and Vines of the Santa Cruz Mountains**

Chapter member Toni Corelli will be teaching this course, in which students will learn to identify the native woody plants around us. There are over 160 native shrubs, trees and vines in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Using slides, plant specimens and plant keys you will learn the characteristics necessary to recognize the different species of woody plants. You will be able to continue with your own identification throughout California with the information provided in this class. Emphasis will be on the natural communities in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and the woody plants that occur in them will also be studied.

The class is limited to 20 students and you must be able to attend the first class.

Class Dates: **Fridays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, from 7-9pm**  
Field Dates: **Saturdays, October 18 and October 25 from 9am-12noon**

Cost: \$50, includes materials except the book

The class will be held in Palo Alto. Location details and other information will be provided at the time of registration. Register with Toni Corelli; e-mail: [corelli@coastside.net](mailto:corelli@coastside.net) or leave a message for her at (650)726-0689. You will receive notification of enrollment in early September.

### **Chapter Volunteers Needed**

You can help support native plants by serving in one of the volunteer positions currently available in the Chapter:

- Conservation Chair (North)
- Education Chair or Co-Chair
- Donations Committee
- Corresponding Secretary

To obtain more information or indicate your interest, contact Georgia Stigall at (650)941-1068 or [GStigall@aol.com](mailto: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.

#### **Sep 20, Sat 10am Fall Creek**

Join us for a walk within the Fall Creek unit of Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. This is going to be a botanically leaderless exploratory trip along the creek. We may not see many flowers in bloom but there are ferns, silver-leaved manzanita and burning bush. Distance will be around 4 miles with moderate elevation gain. Meet at the dirt parking lot at **10am** and the trip will end at about **2pm**. Bring lunch and liquid. For additional information please contact Stella Yang at (408)255-6233 or [yscottie@pacbell.net](mailto:yscottie@pacbell.net).

**Directions:** The Fall Creek unit is near the town of Felton. Take Hwy 17 towards Santa Cruz. Exit right on Mt.

Hermon Road, and drive through Scotts Valley. Turn right briefly to approach the signal light at Hwy 9 in Felton. Continue straight from the signal up Felton-Empire Road about 2 miles. Park in the dirt lot on the right, just beyond the cemetery. For more information people can call Stella at (408)255-6233.

### **Oct 19, Sun 10am Stanford Tree Walk**

Join Andy Butcher for a four hour whirlwind tour of trees at Stanford University, where he is a horticulturist and Certified Arborist. Andy will present a little historical information, and participants will discover some interesting trees in the arboretum. The walk will begin at the new native plant garden, the Meg Webster Garden east of Keck Science. We will see the Rodin Sculpture at Cantor Museum, the Andy Goldsworthy Sculpture East of Cantor Museum and we will tour part of the Arboretum.

People who do not walk at a quick pace are encouraged to bring fat-tired bicycles for paved stretches between stops. For more information, contact Andy at andyb@stanford.edu or (408)245-1991.

**Directions:** The Meg Webster Garden is located at the corner of Roth Way and Lomita Drive on the Stanford Campus, just north of the Quadrangle.

**Parking** ...on weekends is relatively easy to find and free. There is parking on Lomita off Campus Drive, across from the Cantor Museum. Also there's parking on Museum Way, and nearby such parking lots.

### **Nov 1, Sat Castle Rock State Park**

This trip will be another chance to see fall colors on black oaks and big leaf maples along with wonderful views of the Santa Cruz mountains. The hike is expected to last five-six hours. Wear sturdy shoes, bring lunch and liquids.

Meet trip leader Paul Heiple at **10am** in the main parking lot off Skyline Blvd. (2.6 miles south of Skyline's intersection with Hwy. 9). For more information, contact Paul at LogH3o@aol.com or (650)591-8560.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*News and Activities from Other Organizations*

### **San Pedro Valley Lichen Walk**

The California Lichen Society (CALs) is offering a field trip to San Pedro Valley County Park in Pacifica. The walk will provide basic information about lichens and exploring the park for common species. The trip takes place **September 6** and starts at **10am**.

For additional information, contact Judy Robertson of CALs, at jskrr@aol.com or (707)584-8099.

### **Gardening with Native Plants**

Learn about the unique rewards and challenges of growing water-wise California native plants in the garden. Join Stephanie Morris for a slideshow and lecture covering appropriate California native plants for hot dry gardens, oak tree understory, clay soils, and wildlife habitat. Lawn replacement options will also be discussed. Stephanie is a local landscape architect who designs sustainable gardens using ecologically sound materials, local artwork, California native plants, edibles, and herbs.

The presentation will be on **Saturday, October 18, from 10:30-12noon**, at the Common Ground Education Center. Cost is \$17. Please register and prepay in advance by mail or in person.

For more information contact Stephanie Morris at StephLMorris@hotmail.com or Patricia Becker, manager of Common Ground Organic Garden Supply and Education Center, at (650)493-6072. Common Ground is located at 559 College Avenue, Palo Alto, CA and can be found on the web at [www.commongroundinpaloalto.org](http://www.commongroundinpaloalto.org).

### **Going Native through the Four Seasons**

Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden presents this symposium on **Saturday, September 13 and Sunday, September 14** at Tilden Park in Berkeley. It will focus on outstanding native plants for Bay Area gardens for spring, summer, fall, and winter. For prices and more information, see [www.nativeplants.org/Symposium\\_2003\\_web.pdf](http://www.nativeplants.org/Symposium_2003_web.pdf) or contact Glenn Keator at (510)527-9802. **Registration deadline is September 1.**

## **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR***

**Saturday, October 4, 2003**

**Email: [mattsson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mattsson@sbcglobal.net)  
Phone: (408)255-3767**