



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

September-October 2007

GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

Friday, September 21 at 7:30 pm

Book Signing at 7:00 pm

**Saratoga Library Community Room
13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga**

**The Landscaping Ideas of Jays
Speaker: Judith Larner Lowry**

Please join us for our Chapter's tenth annual Brenda Butner Memorial Lecture.

We are very pleased to have nature writer and native plant aficionado Judith Larner Lowry join us for an evening celebrating the arrival of autumn and the 2007 release of her book, *The Landscaping Ideas of Jays: A Natural History of the Backyard Restoration Garden*. As with her previous book, *Gardening with a Wild Heart* (2000), in this new release Judith weaves valuable information about the natural world gathered from decades of observation with heartfelt inspiration for the naturalist in all of us.

For the past twenty-eight years, Judith Larner Lowry has been the proprietor of Larner Seeds in Marin County. In addition to her two books, Judith has had essays appear in publications such as *Bay Nature* and *Orion*, and in the 2006 expanded edition of Lester Rowntree's classic *Hardy Californians*. Judith is part of the "dream team" of native plant experts and environmentalists who worked at Yerba Buena Nursery under the eye of Gerda Isenberg.

Both of Judith Larner Lowry's books will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Directions: From Highway 85 take the Saratoga Exit (NOT Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road) and travel southwest 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.

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Chapter President Kevin Bryant at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824.

Save the Date! Chapter Potluck Nov 17

Our November Chapter General Meeting will include our **annual potluck dinner and Chapter elections**. It will be held on **Saturday, November 17** at the Shoup Garden House in Los Altos.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

**Fall Native Plant Sale Saturday October 13
Call for Volunteers**

Fall is the perfect time to plant in our area, and our Native Plant Sales are the best place to start filling your garden with some of our beautiful native plants! **Our Fall Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, October 13, from 10am to 3pm at our nursery at Hidden Villa.**

Help is always needed for the sale, and there are lots of ways to help (and most of them don't require a great deal of knowledge about our native plants). If you can donate boxes for customers to carry home their purchases, please bring them to the nursery during the week before the sale.

There are also many 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 during our usual **Wednesday work sessions** at the nursery from **12noon to 3pm** (see next page).

Special nursery workdays will be held from **10am to 3pm** on **Saturday, October 6** and **Friday, October 12**.

On these days we will prepare the nursery and the plants for the sale. If you'd like to come and help, bring your hat, sunscreen and water, and your lunch if you'd like.

Help Needed on the Day of the Sale

On the day of the sale, we will need:

- People to help set up before the sale (starting at **8am**)
- People to help with parking
- People to answer customers' questions about the plants and help them decide which plants to purchase
- People to write sales tags before customers go to the cashiers to pay for their plants
- Cashiers
- People who will help customers take their purchases to their cars and bring back the wagons and carts to the nursery
- People to help clean up after the sale (**3-4pm**)

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. You do not need to sign up in advance – just come to the nursery at the time you'd like to work.

For more information about volunteering or the plant sale, please contact one of the coordinators with the time you'd like to work and the job you'd like to do (if you have a preference).

Contact information for the coordinators:

Jean Struthers (650)941-2586, JeanStruthers@aol.com
Ray Deutsch (650)365-6136, henrymarsh@yahoo.com

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.

Native Plant Nursery

Almost all the plants for sale at the spring and fall sales are raised by Chapter volunteers during our weekly native plant nursery work sessions. The sessions take place every **Wednesday, from 12noon to 3pm**. Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, and your lunch. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. 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 henrymarsh@yahoo.com.

Gardening with Natives

Gardening with Natives (GWN) is a special interest group within the Chapter, which meets on the first **Thursday** of each month, usually at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC) in Palo Alto (directions below). The group is open to all, and includes a mix of seasoned native plant gardeners as well as beginners. Newcomers are always welcome.

Thursday, September 6, 7-9pm, at the PCC, Palo Alto
Invasive Plants in the Garden, a talk by Angel Guerzon.

Angel Guerzon is the Program Chair of California Horticultural Invasive Prevention Partnership (Cal-HIP) and a partner in the Silver Tree Landscape Design firm in Santa Cruz. He has been a member of the CNPS Santa Cruz Chapter for 10 years, worked at the Santa Cruz Arboretum for 8 years, and has been in the horticultural business for 35 years-- in both the retail and wholesale arenas.

While gaining a B.A. in Fine Arts, Angel Guerzon developed a passion for plants. After graduating he found a temporary job in a nursery as he looked for work in his field of art. After twenty years in the nursery business, Angel finally realized that he should have majored in botany. He has fulfilled his artistic urges through the form of landscape design.

Angel is one of Santa Cruz's foremost plant experts and is well regarded for his knowledge. With his extensive plant palette and artistic eye, his plant designs unfold into a beautiful living art form.

Thursday, October 4, 7-9pm, at the PCC, Palo Alto
Fall Seed and Cutting Exchange

Want native plants for your garden without spending an arm and a leg? Are you the kind who likes sharing the bounty of your native garden with fellow gardeners? Well then, GWN's annual seed and cutting exchange is just for you. Come and browse the diverse offerings, ranging from easy-to-grow to hard-to-find. Go home with seeds and cuttings of new native plants – for free! Bring coin envelopes and plastic bags/paper towels to carry seeds and cuttings home.

If you can, bring native plant seeds and cuttings from your own garden to share. If you are so inspired, label them to

make them easy to browse; attach helpful hints about growing them; and display photos of plants in bloom. Keep cuttings cool and moist in a bucket or container. Don't have native seeds/cuttings to share? No problem; there is usually enough material for all.

After introductions and announcements, you will have a chance to show and tell what you brought. Then the exchange will begin. Free and open to all! What a deal.

Directions to the PCC: (Peninsula Conservation Center), 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. From Highway 101, take the "San Antonio North" exit, get immediately into the left-hand turn lane, and turn LEFT onto East Bayshore. This will curve around to the left, then right. Turn right on Corporation Way. Then turn into the first driveway on your left, which leads to the PCC parking lot.

For more information on the Gardening with Natives group, visit its website at www.GardeningWithNatives.com. GWN maintains a Yahoo group with over 450 members, a true resource for native plant gardeners in this area. To join the Yahoo group, visit groups.yahoo.com/group/GardeningWithNatives. To contact the GWN Steering Committee, email GardeningWithNatives@yahoo.com or call Arvind Kumar at (408)715-7020.

Native Hill - Gophers and Quail

Our work at Native Hill is presently concentrating on mulching and pruning, and we are preparing several areas for poppies and Clarkia in anticipation of the coming rains.

We're also selecting plants to replace several bare patches where several plants have been lost to senescence and also to gophers. The gophers have recently taken up residence in the garden, and seem to be particularly fond of buckwheats and asters. The garden is also presently a favored spot for a covey of about 22 quail that especially like the seeds of Saint Catherine's lace and are regularly found concentrated in and around this plant.

As always, if you would like to volunteer at the garden or be added to the email list to be notified of upcoming workdays, contact Phil Higgins at phidor@juno.com or (650)941-4752.

Habitat Restoration at Edgewood Park

Join us as we restore sensitive habitats at Edgewood Park and enjoy late season wildflowers. Lately we've been making good progress eradicating yellow star-thistle. Weeding sessions take place at the following times:

- **Friday mornings** throughout the year, starting at **9am**

- **Wednesday evenings** during daylight savings time starting at **5:30pm**

Our last Wednesday evening weeding session will take place **October 31**, since DST ends November 4 this year. Our **Saturday morning** work outings will resume next spring.

For weeding session details, including the latest schedules and meeting places, see our Weed Warriors website at edgewood.thinkersrus.net. Or contact Paul Heiple, at (650)854-7125 or pheiple@gmail.com, or email John Allen at jcakwa@earthlink.net.

Keying with Natives

Join us on the last **Friday** of every month, from **6:30pm - 8:30pm**, in a fun gathering to meet with other native plant enthusiasts to sharpen your keying skills. The next meetings will be **August 31, September 28, and October 26** at the PCC building in Palo Alto. Contact David "Tex" Houston or Sally Casey for details. Contact David at tex009@sbcglobal.net, and Sally at (408)377-0989.

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, clothing 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.

Oct 20 Sat 10am Sanborn-Skyline County Park

Join leader Kevin Bryant on this exploration of the summit area of this beautiful park above Saratoga. We'll hike amongst old growth Douglas-fir, examine oak species and look for color in the California black oaks, see sandstone outcrops of the type found at nearby Castle Rock State Park, and all the while take in commanding views of the Bay Area.

We'll meet at the parking lot at Saratoga Gap, at the intersection of Hwy. 9 and Hwy. 35, and caravan from there to set up an easy car shuttle and then on to our

trailhead. Total distance will be less than 6 miles, with an elevation loss/gain of less than 1,000 ft. Be sure to bring lunch or a snack and plenty of water.

The trip is expected to **last until approximately 4pm**. For more information, contact Kevin at mtngreen17@verizon.net or (408)353-8824.

Post-Hike Potluck Dinner 4pm October 20

After the Sanborn park hike listed above, participants are invited to Chapter members' Georgia and Bill's home near Skyline Blvd in southern San Mateo County for a potluck.

To attend the potluck (separate from the field trip) you **must** RSVP to Georgia ((650)941-1068 or georgiaStigall@yahoo.com) with number & names of attendees, to receive directions and what items to bring. Chapter members who cannot make the field trip but wish to attend the potluck are welcome to contact Georgia to RSVP and for more information.

Bring food to share (including grillable items if you wish), your favorite beverages, and both layers & sun protection (October can be warm or chilly at this 2400' location).

Please also bring your own table service (plates, utensils, cups, etc.) and a bag to take home dirty dishes. Our hosts will provide a gas grill, beverages, dishes as needed, views and wildlife.

State of Jefferson Field Trip Report

By Trip Co-Leader and Chapter President Kevin Bryant

On June 30th, nearly 30 CNPS members made a seven hour voyage to the area of far northern California that many consider to be the heart of the State of Jefferson. What follows is a summary of where we went and what we saw; the full story is available on our Chapter website at www.cnps-scv.org under Field Trips, Reports.

Situated right on the wild and scenic Klamath River, Sarah Totten campground was all ours, and offered a wonderful place for us to call Home Sweet Temporary Home. On Sunday July 1st, we caravanned to Cook & Green Pass via Saeid Creek Rd., making several stops on our way up. At our first stop, sharp eyes spotted an interesting saprophytic plant growing in the forest duff: *Monotropa hypopythis* or pinesap, and this was a first time sighting for most in the group. As we continued uphill, we found many other interesting and showy plants, including some that were being dug up by poachers! At the top, we explored the Pacific Crest Trail as it heads east of Cook & Green, and

got a taste of the rich flora of the region and its relationship to the geology.

Monday was *Calochortus* day, and we traveled to three very different locations finding all three species we were seeking in nice bloom: *C. persistens* high up on Gunsight Ridge just west of Yreka; *C. greenii* just over the border into Oregon; and *C. macrocarpus* in a wide valley north of Mt. Shasta.

Day three saw a return to Cook & Green, this time on the PCT west of the pass towards Red Buttes. We encountered many species not seen on the other side of the pass, including a seep with *Cypripedium californicum*, the California lady-slipper orchid. The top of our journey to Bee Camp opened up to an area of stunning vistas and a different flora, as the local botany closely follows the local geology and microclimate.

The next day was a trip to Alex Hole, a northeast-facing cirque situated at the shoulder of Coudry Mountain. We found a stunning array of species to occur in and around this glacially-carved bowl, including choice plants from genera *Lewisia*, *Erythronium*, and *Polemonium*, along with several orchid species. This is also the only place we encountered melting snow. I think...

We moved camp south for the rest of the trip, to yet another paradise situated on the summit of Scott Mountain Pass, south of Etna on Hwy. 3. This campground adjacent to large meadows with seeps and fens surrounded by rich woodlands provided ample opportunity for the botanically inclined to lose themselves in the identification and appreciation of such a diversity of species.

Jefferson, we shall return.

NRDB for Easy Plant Lists

Anyone may obtain a plant list for many of our field trips by visiting the online Natural Resources Database (NRDB):

- Go to **www.nrdp.org**;
- Click on "checklist search";
- Fill in the fields. For example, Flora; select preserve by name → S → Sanborn CP; sort by Scientific Name;
- Click the "Search" button;
- Print out the resulting list to take with you on the hike.

If you have sightings/info you'd like to add to the NRDB list, submit your additions via the NRDB website's Sightings tab, or to Toni Corelli at (650)726-0689 or corelli@coastside.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Activities from Other Organizations

Green Ways Day Sept. 30 in Los Gatos

Presentation Retreat & Conference Center invites CNPS members to visit them for a Green Ways Day, an event to highlight organic gardening, beekeeping, and native plants. Our Chapter will host a table and present informal information, handouts, and discussion. We'll also be selling books.

The center includes a 10,000 sq. ft. eco-building with straw bale construction and a green roof. The facility has a wonderful organic veggie herb garden and the green roof contains yarrow and a few native bunchgrasses. On Green Ways Day, guided tours will be given of the LEED Gold Certified building, and there will also be a nature walk with a Youth Science Institute guide.

This family-oriented event is free and will take place from **1pm to 4pm on Sunday, September 30**. The Center is located at 19480 Bear Creek Road in Los Gatos. For more information contact Cindy Blain at cblain@presentationcenter.org or (408)354-2346 x205. See their website at **www.PresentationCenter.org** for a map and directions.

YSI Wildlife Festival Sunday October 7

As just described for the Presentation Center event, our Chapter sponsors tables at many events throughout the year. We set up a display, offer brochures, and discuss habitat and native plant concerns with visitors. Here is another event at which members are invited to attend and/or volunteer.

YSI (Youth Science Institute) will hold their 2007 Wildlife Festival on **Sunday, October 7** in Alum Rock Park (East San Jose) from **11am to 4pm**. Our Chapter has sponsored a table at this event for more than ten years. The message that all these cool wild animals would be gone if the native plants are gone is an important one to give to the youth. Perhaps we can get them to plant some natives and produce more habitat for wild animals and start and trend for the future. Members who would like to help can contact Paul Heiple at pheiple@gmail.com or call (650)854-7125.

State of the Estuary Conference A Greener Shade of Blue

**October 16, 17 and 18, Scottish Rite Center
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland**

This important environmental conference provides a forum for scientists, resource managers, environmentalists, elected

officials, stakeholders, and members of the public to assess the ecological health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary.

The conference sessions will address topics that include global change impacts, pollution and emerging contaminants, land use challenges, wetlands restoration, status of fish and wildlife, invasive species and Bay-Delta linkages.

The conference is sponsored by the San Francisco Estuary Project, CALFED Science Program and dozens of federal, state and local government agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses and others.

Registration fee for the entire conference is \$270 if paid by September 28, 2007 and includes three lunches and two poster session receptions. Special rates apply for students and groups. For more details, please check the conference Web site: <http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/soe> or contact Joan Patton of the San Francisco Estuary Project at (510)622-2406.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2007

To learn more about our Chapter or give suggestions, please contact one of our officers listed below.

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Kevin Bryant	(408) 353-8824	mtngreen17@ verizon.net
Vice President	OPEN		
Recording Secretary	Susan Sundberg	(408) 274-5491	sundberg27@ yahoo.com
Treasurer	Paul Heiple	(650) 854-7125	pheiple@gmail. com
Past President	Judy Fenerty	(408) 655-3493	judy@ fenerty.com
Officer at Large	Georgia Stigall	(650) 941-1068	GeorgiaStigall@ yahoo.com

To join our Chapter email list, please send your request to judy@fenerty.com or cnps_scv@yahoo.com.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*

Saturday, October 6, 2007

**Email: mattsson@surfpix.net
Phone: (408)255-3767**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(page # in parentheses)

Sep 6 Thu Gardening with Natives (2)**Sep 8 Sat** Chapter Council, Santa Cruz**Sep 21 Fri** **General Meeting** (1)**Sep 28 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)**Oct 4 Thu** Gardening with Natives (2)**Oct 6 Sat** Special Nursery Workday (1)**Oct 6 Sat** Newsletter Submittal Deadline (5)**Oct 11 Thu** **Chapter Board meeting****Oct 12 Fri** Special Nursery Workday (1)**Oct 13 Sat** **Fall Native Plant Sale** (1)**Oct 20 Sat** Sanborn-Skyline Park Hike (3)**Oct 20 Sat** Post-Hike Potluck (4)**Oct 26 Fri** Keying with Natives (3)**Wed afts** Nursery work sessions (2)**Wed, Fri** Edgewood Park weeding (3)**Via Email List** Native Hill work sessions (3)

The next Chapter Board meeting will be **Thursday, October 11 at 7pm**
at the PCC, 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto
Chapter board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests.

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working with its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding and to preserve the rich heritage of the native flora for future generations. Membership is open to all. Individual memberships are \$45.00 per year. If you have questions concerning a new membership, renewal of a current membership, or if you wish to report a change of address, please contact the Membership Chairperson, CNPS, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

The *Blazing Star* web address: www.cnps-scv.org
Acknowledgement: Anne Warren for the *Blazing Star* logo
