



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# THE BLAZING STAR

November-December 2017

## ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

**Saturday, November 4th at 6:00 PM**  
**Shoup Garden House**  
**400 University Avenue, Los Altos**

### **Rare Plants in Our Chapter – Special Double Program**

**The Plight of the Coast Yellow Leptosiphon, and  
Digging into Our Data: Rare Plant Hotspots**

**By Toni Corelli and Élan Alford**

Join us for our favorite get-together of the year: the annual potluck dinner and election meeting, followed by our rare plant program, which will be our annual **Brenda Butner Memorial Lecture**. The evening is devoted to native plant appreciation, Chapter business, and delicious food. It's the party of the year – don't miss it!

This year we'll have two programs on rare plants, by our past and current San Mateo County Rare Plant Chairs, Toni Corelli and Élan Alford.

### **The Plight of the Coast Yellow Leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon croceus*) from the 19th century to the 21st century, by Toni Corelli**

Coast yellow leptosiphon (CYL) was discovered by botanist Alice Eastwood in 1901. She named this new species *Linanthus croceus*. At that time, Alice was a curator at the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. She and other botanical explorers traveled the rugged Old Stage Road from the Academy to the San Mateo coast to discover a unique flora. On the Pacific coast bluff top grew a bright and beautiful yellow flower that “covered the ground for several acres” – never seen

anywhere else before. No other populations have been found since, so this is and was the only population in the world.

The coast yellow leptosiphon population size and number of plants have been impacted by the loss of coastal prairie habitat, and CYL is now a candidate for listing as an endangered species by the State of California. We will talk more about the petition process and what we can do to save this species, along with other threatened and endangered plants and habitats within our geographical reach. CYL occurs in a “botanical hot spot,” associated with four other rare species.

### **Digging Into Our Data: Rare Plant Hotspots of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter, by Élan Alford**

Where are the rare plant hotspots in our Chapter? This mapping effort was inspired by the statewide organization's Important Plant Areas (IPAs) initiative, conversations with the late Don Mayall and a review of the East Bay Chapter's *Guidebook to Botanical Priority Protection Areas*. Armed with an array of data and the free QGIS software

application, now more than ever we can generate map data to help inform us where conservation efforts can be focused. This work is an initial analysis to help raise interest in rare plants and it can help support state CNPS conservation goals.

To make the maps, Élan conducted a density analysis of California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) plant point records in our two Chapter counties, San Mateo and Santa Clara. A total of 41 hotspots were identified, with 17 in San Mateo County and 24 in Santa Clara County. In this talk

Élan will review the methods and provide some caveats and critiques of the data and the resulting maps. Brief summaries of the hotspots will be provided and related to land conservation status as assessed by the Bay Area Greenbelt Alliance.



*Avis Boutell*

Coast yellow leptosiphon, *Leptosiphon croceus*, endemic to the San Mateo Coast

**The evening begins at 6pm** with our **annual potluck**. Bring your favorite dish, whether it be a salad, main dish, dessert, or beverage; it always works out that we have just the right amount of everything! A label identifying your dish will be helpful. Be sure to bring a plate, drinking glass, and eating utensils for yourself, as well as a bag in which to take home unwashed dishes.

If you can help with setup, please **arrive at 5pm** to set up chairs and tables. The potluck feast will begin at **6pm**, followed by the **program at 7pm**. We appreciate your help with cleanup at the end of the program.

We will also have a **silent auction** of books and other items which will help raise funds for the Chapter. We will only be offering our best donated books for the silent auction, but we would love any other books you would like to donate, which we will sell at our book table. If you have books or other items to donate, please put them in a bag labeled "CNPS Auction" and drop them off at our (unstaffed) office at the PCC at 3921 E. Bayshore Rd. in Palo Alto on or before **Wednesday, October 25th**, or contact Judy Fenerty at [judy@fenerty.com](mailto:judy@fenerty.com).

CNPS general meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Chapter President Madeline Morrow at [madelinemorrow@earthlink.net](mailto:madelinemorrow@earthlink.net) or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

**Directions: From I-280:** take the El Monte exit east. Turn left (north) on University Ave., just before Foothill Expy. The Garden House is 0.6 mile ahead on the left (west) side of the street. **From Hwy. 101:** take the San Antonio exit west/south. Go 3.5 miles. At the 3rd stoplight after crossing El Camino Real (Edith/Main), bear right on to Main St. (not sharp right into Edith). Continue on Main until it crosses Foothill Expy. and turn left immediately on to University Ave. Bear right; the Garden House is 300 feet ahead on the right.

## Chapter Annual Election

The annual potluck is also the time to elect our Chapter officers for the coming year. All Chapter members may

run for office – nominations may also be made from the floor at the potluck. Here is the slate put forth by the Nominating Committee:

**President:** Madeline Morrow

**Vice President:** Vivian Neou

**Treasurer:** Carolyn Dorsch

**Recording Secretary:** Priya Pharate

Under the Chapter Guidelines adopted at the 2016 Annual Meeting, members may now run for at-large Board Director positions. Members seeking more information or wishing to run should contact the LDC Chair Stephen Buckhout using the information that appears below. Prior to the meeting members may nominate themselves or be nominated by another member with prior approval from the person to be nominated. Nominations will also be taken from the floor during Chapter elections at the meeting.

As of this newsletter's press time, Toni Gregorio-Bunch and Georgia Stigall have indicated they intend to run as at-large Board Directors for 2018.

The Chapter Leadership Development Committee (LDC) thanks all Directors who served this year. The committee is actively looking for candidates for a **Bookkeeper** and a **Treasurer** who can take on those roles beginning in March 2018.

We also have other open volunteer positions, including one or more **Outreach Coordinators**. For more information about any open positions or to offer help of any sort, please contact LDC Chair Stephen Buckhout at [yscottie@pacbell.net](mailto:yscottie@pacbell.net) or (408) 255-6233.



Sherrri Osaka

Carrie Parker (left) and Nancy McClenny (right) setting up for Nancy's GWN talk on "Easy-to-Grow Native Plants" at the Campbell Library, June 2017

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### CNPS SCV Nursery at Hidden Villa

We have renamed our native plant nursery the "CNPS SCV Nursery – Founded by Jean & David Struthers." Come help propagate plants for our plant sales by volunteering at one of our nursery work sessions, every **Tuesday and**

**Wednesday, from 11am to 2pm.** Also, we'll hold work sessions during the **member sale days** listed below.

Bring garden gloves, sunhat, clippers, liquids and your lunch if you like. Other tools will be provided at the nursery. Knowledge of plants is not necessary; your willingness to help is all that's required.

The next **Monthly Member Sale** days will be  
**11 am to 2pm** on the following days:  
 Sunday, November 5      Saturday, December 9  
    Saturday, January 6

An inventory of available plants will be updated the week before each sale. Visit [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org) and go to Events, then Plant Sale.

**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 Dana Center parking lot to your right. Continue walking a short distance on that road and you will see the CNPS SCV Nursery ahead of you, just past the Dana Center building. Parking is free while volunteering or attending a Member Sale.

## Gardening with Natives

Gardening with Natives (GWN), a special interest group within the Chapter, includes beginning and seasoned native plant gardeners, along with landscape architects and designers. GWN offers over 35 free talks throughout the year at public libraries in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. For more info., visit [www.cnps-scv.org/gwn](http://www.cnps-scv.org/gwn).

These programs are made possible by co-sponsoring libraries and volunteers who help with program logistics. If you would like to help organize similar programs at a library near you, contact [gwn@cnps-scv.org](mailto:gwn@cnps-scv.org).

**Butterflies and the Native Plants They Love**  
 a talk by Jeffrey Caldwell

**Thursday, Nov. 9, 7-8:30 PM, Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue, Cupertino (408) 446-1677**

Butterflies are often called the "winged jewels of the garden" and they do indeed add sparkle to our outside spaces. California has almost 70 different species of butterflies that you can attract to your garden by growing a

variety of native plants which will provide nectar and habitat. Come hear how you can create garden for Monarchs and other winged jewels. Plant now for butterflies in the spring and summer.

**Jeffrey Caldwell**, B.A., Biology, has nearly 50 years of horticultural experience, including working with California native plants. He has been interested in butterflies his whole life and gave his first butterfly gardening public lecture in 1975. For the last seven years he has been compiling information about California plants as resources for butterflies and moths to help those who wish to foster *Lepidoptera* in the landscape.

**Native Gardening in Containers**  
 a talk by Pete Veilleux

**Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7-8:30 PM, Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (650) 948-7683**

Dress up the smallest of spaces using native plants in containers. Containers allow you to provide exactly the right soil, sun, and drainage conditions for those picky natives that you've always wanted to grow. See how creative you can be recycling pots and combining different textures and color for an ever-changing garden display. The speaker will bring some plants and containers to sell.

**Pete Veilleux** is a master designer, nurseryman, and photographer. He creates gardens using native plants for long-lasting landscapes that help people get the maximum use and pleasure from their patch of earth. He is the owner and propagator of East Bay Wilds Native Plant Nursery ([www.eastbaywilds.com](http://www.eastbaywilds.com)) in Oakland, and a tireless advocate of native gardening.

**Creating a Native Rain Garden**  
 a talk by Alan Hackler

**Monday, December 4, 7-8:30 PM, Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main Street, Milpitas (408) 262-1171**

Most people think about collecting rainwater in a tank or barrel, but healthy soil is a great reservoir for water. Don't let rain run off your roof, down your driveway and into the streets, storm drains, and creeks where it may cause flooding. Instead direct it into your garden, allowing you to delay starting up your irrigation system, recharging our local aquifers and purifying the water as it passes through the soil. Learn how rain gardens keep water on site yet



away from buildings; how to construct them; and which California native plants are best suited for them.

**Alan Hackler** is the owner of Bay Maples, a design-build firm and native plant nursery in the South Bay. His own rain garden has been on the Going Native Garden Tour and he has built many rain gardens for clients. Alan studied permaculture and environmental studies, and is a Build-It Green member with LEED and Graywater accreditations.

**Making a California Native Holiday Wreath  
a talk by Sherri Osaka**

**Wednesday, Dec. 6, 6:30-8:00 PM, Pacifica Library,  
1111 Terra Nova Blvd., Pacifica (650) 359-3397**

By selecting a variety of native foliage and berries from your garden, you can create a beautiful holiday wreath and recycle materials that you have on hand. Come watch while the speaker discusses what types of native plants to use, shows how to secure your greenery to a frame, and then demonstrates how to tie a big beautiful bow before hanging it up. We have two dates, locations, and speakers for this timely talk!

**Sherri Osaka** is a licensed Landscape Architect, Bay-Friendly Qualified Designer, and started her company, Sustainable Landscape Designs, over 20 years ago. She is the chair of GWN and enjoys crafting in her spare time, while recycling all manner of materials.

**Making a California Native Holiday Wreath  
a talk by Deva Luna**

**Monday, December 18, 7-8:30 PM, Sunnyvale Public  
Library, 665 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale (408) 730-7300**

**Deva Luna** has been making holiday wreaths for 25 years and each year has a large wreath making party for her family and neighbors. She is a sustainable and Bay-Friendly certified landscape designer who has been teaching and speaking about horticulture for over 20 years. She has a degree in "Plants and Art" from U.C. Davis and works for EarthCare Landscaping ([www.earthcareland.com](http://www.earthcareland.com)) in Cupertino.

## Plant Collectors Needed Next Spring

We are in need of more collectors for our **Spring Wildflower Show**, which will be held on **Saturday, April 28, 2018**. Our Wildflower Show is one of the Chapter's most popular outreach activities, but it would not be possible without the work of collectors. These volunteers are responsible for the plants displayed at the show: in the days before the show, they travel through assigned, permitted areas where they search for specific plants. They then collect a few samples of each plant for display. They work in groups of two or three, with new volunteers paired with an experienced collector.

No prior experience is required, but basic plant identification skills are helpful. There will be at least one training session for new volunteers before the collection sessions. Since many wildflowers wilt within a couple days of collection, volunteers must be available to collect one or two days prior to the show.

If you are interested in collecting for the show, please contact Vivian Neou at [techchair@cnps-scv.org](mailto:techchair@cnps-scv.org) or Stella Yang at [yscottie@pacbell.net](mailto:yscottie@pacbell.net).



*Vivian Neou*

Results of wildflower show plant collection, ready to deliver to the show on setup day

## Keying with Natives

Join us as we learn and practice methods of identifying the native plants of our region (aka keying). From beginners to more advanced, there are challenges for all. Bring in plant samples if you have some or just come and work with the materials provided. We discuss the various plant books and practice keying with them. Microscopes are also available.

The upcoming dates are **Fridays, October 27, November 17 and December 15, from 6:30 - 8:30pm**. We meet at the Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), 3921 E. Bayshore Road in Palo Alto. For more info., please contact Joe Cernac at [joecernac@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joecernac@sbcglobal.net) or (408) 292-5465.

**Directions to the PCC:** From Hwy. 101 take the San Antonio Rd. exit and head north. Take your next left onto East Bayshore, which will curve left then right. Take your next right onto Corporation Way. Your next left is the entrance to the PCC parking lot. The meeting rooms are on the first floor.

## Applications Available: 2017-2018 Graduate and Undergraduate Research Scholarships

This year the Chapter will again be granting scholarships for students doing research on native plant or plant community conservation, plant ecology, plant community restoration, plant systematics or other related botanical studies of native plants that grow in habitats in Central and Northern California. Students researching topics related to native plant and native habitat conservation in the San Francisco Bay Area are encouraged to apply.

Academic scholarships of \$1,500 for graduate student research and a \$1,000 scholarship for undergraduate student research are available.

**Applications are due November 23** and scholarships will be awarded by December 31. Recipients are requested to share the results of their study or make a brief presentation on their research by attending a Santa Clara Valley Chapter General Meeting in January or March 2018.

Scholarship information and applications are available at: [www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/education/scholarships](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/education/scholarships). Questions regarding the scholarship application can be e-mailed to [nmonette@aol.com](mailto:nmonette@aol.com).

If you would like to **support our Chapter's scholarship program** in future years and contribute to the scholarship fund, a check written to "CNPS," with a notation to "SCV Ed. Scholarship" may be mailed to:

CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter  
3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Company matching programs are welcome.

## Volunteer Recognition

At our Volunteer Picnic on September 30, we honored three volunteers who have helped the Chapter in many ways: Paul Heiple, Penny Pollock and Linda Ruthruff.

**Paul Heiple** joined CNPS upon moving to California in 1994 and quickly became a multi-faceted volunteer. He became active in the restoration of Edgewood County Park and now leads the Friday weeding group in a successful volunteer program that has been active for over 25 years. He is the Chapter Invasives chair for San Mateo County, and has spoken at the Cal-IPC Symposium about techniques for control of invasive plants.

Paul learned about California flora and filled his yard with native plants, becoming a native succulent enthusiast. He has brought his extensive succulent collection to many of our wildflower shows. He also speaks to audiences around the Bay Area, volunteering for the state CNPS Speakers Bureau. He lectures about control of invasive plants and restoration of Dudleyas and other native succulents. Paul worked for many years as a geologist and has given popular talks on the plant-rock connection.

Paul jumped in to help the Chapter in other ways as well, serving as Chapter Treasurer from 2002 to 2009, books chair, scholarship committee member, and field trips organizer. Paul has been a field trip leader many times. He also advises our native plant nursery about Dudleyas and has donated mother plants to build stock. He shows up to help at many events: plant sales, wildflower shows, tabling at Alum Rock YSI Wildlife Festival and more. Thanks to Paul for all the ways he has helped to build our Chapter!



*Vivian Neou*

Penny Pollock receiving a volunteer recognition award from Chapter President Madeline Morrow on September 30 at the Chapter picnic in Stevens Creek County Park

**Penny Pollock** is one of those quiet members who just keeps on doing important jobs – so we want to bring her into the spotlight. She joined the Going Native Garden Tour in August 2012 and immediately started using her organization and management skills to help the committee stay on course. After she took on managing expenses in 2014 she agreed that she might as well be listed as chair! She helps the Chapter in many other ways: working as an Alum Rock Park restoration volunteer, representing CNPS at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, being a tag writer for plant sales, and showing up to help out at many other events. Penny is a knowledgeable and inspiring contributor to our Gardening With Natives email group, thus amplifying her positive impact.



Penny has also started helping out regularly at the nursery this year. She's always willing to tackle anything whether it be potting, painting or working on the demonstration garden. She's even willing to do away with the thistles that occasionally crop up there. It's a long drive for her to get to the nursery, so we doubly appreciate her efforts!

When **Linda Ruthruff** joined CNPS, she already had an infectious passion for birding and natural habitats. She joined the Gardening With Natives committee and hosted many library talks and actively participated in planning future programs. When the Chapter had a vacancy in the Conservation Committee, Linda stepped up, holding regular meetings and reinvigorating the committee. She ably represented CNPS in the many conservation stakeholder groups in the Valley. Her involvement in the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society brought these sister environmental organizations closer. Her efforts brought renewed focus to native habitat conservation and restoration in the Chapter area.

Linda has worked with several major corporations, advising them on creating habitat with native plants on their corporate campuses. She recently liaised with one such company to establish a pollinator garden and in the restoration of a wetland area. She made a lasting difference in the design elements on these campuses, and very importantly, she helped the corporate stakeholders understand the environmental sensitivities of the land they are managing. She has a passion for building nature spaces and corridors in our increasingly crowded urban area, in order to protect plant and animal species and to provide places for people to relax, recharge and experience the natural world around us.

## **CONSERVATION CORNER**

### **Conservation Committee**

Our Chapter's conservation committee meets on the **first Thursday** of the month. The next meetings will be on **Thursdays, November 2 and December 14 at 7:30pm** at the PCC in Palo Alto. (Note **new start time!**)

Please join us in our important work! For questions, comments or concerns, please contact Conservation Chair Linda Ruthruff at [ldruff@hotmail.com](mailto:ldruff@hotmail.com). For **directions** to the PCC, please see the previous Keying with Natives article.



Élan Alford  
Bright golden flowers of Satan's Goldenbush

### **Rare Plant Monitoring Training Report**

On Saturday, October 7, a group of five volunteers ventured out for a late-season rare plant training session in Alum Rock park near San Jose. Our goal was to practice techniques to survey and assess the status of known rare plant occurrences. With the information gathered we can submit updates to the state's CNDDDB rare plant database.

Our target plant was Satan's goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii* var. *diabolica*), rank 4.2 in the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory, occurring in the San Jose and Milpitas

foothills.

At the end of the outing Stephen Rosenthal took the folks who could stay late up to see his restoration site in the park. The site has several goldenbush plants growing up that were planted from seed. Stephen's crew was lucky to get help and put a few more seeds in the ground this year too.



Élan Alford  
Vivian Neou counting plants.  
Satan's goldenbush in the foreground.

## **CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS**

### **Wednesday Edgewood Restoration**

Help restore habitat at Edgewood Park, known for fabulous wildflowers and amazing diversity near Redwood City. We pull weeds so native plants have plenty of room to flourish. No experience is required. Sturdy gloves are

recommended; you might also want to bring sunscreen, water, a hat, layered clothing and wear long sleeves/pants.

Our last **5:30pm Wednesday** weeding session will take place **November 1**. Wednesday evening sessions will return after Daylight Savings Time resumes next spring. For schedules and meeting places, please visit [www.cnps-scvc.org](http://www.cnps-scvc.org) or call Wednesday leader Ken Himes at (650) 591-8560.

### Friday Edgewood Restoration

We offer MORE weeding opportunities at Edgewood Park during our year-round **Friday 9am** sessions. For more info, please visit [www.friendsofedgeswood.org/habitat-restoration](http://www.friendsofedgeswood.org/habitat-restoration) or phone Paul Heiple at (650) 854-7125.

### Alum Rock Park Volunteers

Come help us weed out invasive plants at this natural gem of San Jose. Our habitat restoration efforts allow the native plants to “come to light.”

We have weeding sessions **every Monday morning** and an **Inspiration Point Walk-and-Weed Day the third Saturday morning** of each month. Please visit the Yahoo Group “Alum Rock Park Volunteers” to check the schedules. The group introduction lists what to bring and gives directions to the meeting places.

For more information, contact Stephen Rosenthal at [sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net) or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

### Lake Cunningham Native Garden

The California Native Garden project in Lake Cunningham Regional Park controls invasive plants in a 1.5-acre area and beautifies it with California native wildflowers, perennials, shrubs and trees. The project aims to create a sustainable, low-maintenance landscape, encourage community participation and ownership, and create habitat for birds and wildlife.

Workdays are every **Saturday, 9am - noon**. If you enjoy physical activity and being outdoors with a view of the lake, the garden and wildlife, please join us!

Volunteers are welcome by appointment. To sign up, visit [lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer](http://lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/volunteer). The park is located at 2305 S. White Road in San Jose. For **directions**, visit [lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/directions](http://lakecunninghamnativegarden.org/directions).

### CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Chapter field trips are free and generally 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 and 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.**

### Sun Nov 19 9am – 3pm Trees and Shrubs of Santa Clara Valley (Rancho Cañada del Oro in Morgan Hill)



Élan Alford

Élan Alford, co-speaker for our November 4 General Meeting, amidst a field of *Phacelia ciliata*, Carrizo Plain National Monument, April 2017

“You know a place is home when you can name the native trees and shrubs around you.” Join Arvind Kumar and Stephen Rosenthal for a beginner’s plant ID walk at Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve. We will take the Mayfair Ranch Trail and return via the Longwall Canyon Trail. The distance covered will be 4.3 miles with 500’ of elevation gain.

We will walk through a variety of native habitats: grassland, oak woodland, sage-chaparral scrub, and riparian. We expect to see fruiting plants such as a variety of oaks, bay laurel, madrone, bigberry manzanita, toyon, coffeeberry, buckeye, holly-leaved cherry and snowberry. Trail vista points will offer spectacular views of the Diablo Range and Mt. Hamilton.

Beginners interested in plant identification are welcome; prior knowledge of native plants or botany is not required. Bring a hat, water and a bag lunch. Dress in layers, and appropriately for late fall weather. Heavy rain cancels.



Space is limited. Please **RSVP** through **meetup.com** (search for “Santa Clara Valley Chapter”) to reserve your spot and to read directions and details.

### Sat Dec 16 9am - 12pm Beginner’s Bird and Plant ID Walk at Lake Cunningham Park (San Jose)

At the onset of winter, join us for a beginner’s bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park. Lake Cunningham is a major destination for waterfowl and migratory birds and its native garden draws many birds for its habitat value. On this walk, Vicki Silvas-Young will show you how to identify the common birds of our area, as well as the native plants they depend on for food, shelter and nesting places.

The distance will be 4 miles round trip on a level path. Bring a hat, water, your plant and bird lists and binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Parking fee is \$6.

Space is limited. Please **RSVP** through **meetup.com** (search for “Santa Clara Valley Chapter”) to reserve your spot and to read directions and details. This walk is organized jointly by CNPS, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.

### Join a special CNPS overnight trip at Costanoa Lodge to celebrate New Year’s Eve!

On **December 31**, Ken Himes and Sheila Colby will lead a hike at Butano State Park, and on **January 1** we will have our traditional Año Nuevo State Preserve field trip.

In conjunction with these two trips, we’re planning an overnight stay at Costanoa Lodge in Pescadero to celebrate the New Year. See below for the field trip descriptions.

You do not need to stay or dine at Costanoa to join us on either of the hikes, and you don’t have to hike to join us for dinner at Costanoa! The deadline for signing up for the Costanoa celebration was October 7 but you may contact Sheila Colby at [sheilacolby@gmail.com](mailto:sheilacolby@gmail.com) **before November 7** to see if any spots are open.

### Sun Dec 31 10am – 4pm Butano State Park Pescadero (San Mateo County)

Join Ken Himes and Sheila Colby as they lead a hike along trails through redwood forests and their understory,

marveling at their diversity. The specific trail will be determined on the day of the hike, depending upon weather and trail conditions.

**Meet at 10am** at the parking lot at the park entrance kiosk. The park entrance fee is \$10. Dress in layers according to the weather. Bring snacks, lunch and liquids; and hiking sticks if you need them on potentially slippery trails.

**Directions:** Butano State Park is about 5 miles south of the town of Pescadero. Take Cloverdale Rd. to Butano State Park. For more information contact Ken at (650) 591-8560 or Sheila at [sheilacolby@gmail.com](mailto:sheilacolby@gmail.com).

### Mon Jan 1 10am - 1pm Año Nuevo State Preserve New Year Hike (San Mateo County)

Join us as we celebrate a Chapter tradition of welcoming the New Year with a walk and picnic at Año Nuevo State Preserve on the San Mateo County coast. Trevlyn Williams, Chapter member and a docent at this preserve, will lead the hike, highlighting its marine ecology and history. The preserve is located south of Pescadero on Highway 1, just north of the Santa Cruz County line.

We’ll meet in the parking lot (\$10 day use fee) at **10am**. Latecomers will find us on the trail in the coastal prairie. We’ll enjoy ocean views, sea cliff vegetation, raptors, songbirds and maybe marine mammals.

We will face an outgoing tide that morning and will see whether we can picnic on the beach (in the area in which seal tour reservations are not required).

As this is a day to have fun at the beach with fellow Chapter members, the ending time and depth of botanical discussion may be extended depending on participants. We will finish at the visitor center. Bring binoculars and layers of clothing for variable conditions including wind, sun and fog. Extreme weather cancels. For more info., contact Dee Himes at [dee4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:dee4cnps@gmail.com) or call 650-951-8560.



Carol Mattsson  
Carolyn Dorsch and Ken Himes  
identifying a bulrush, *Scirpus* genus,  
at Año Nuevo State Preserve, on the  
Chapter’s 2017 New Year’s Day Hike

**Save the Date!**  
**Field Trip Planning Meeting**  
**Monday, January 8, 7:00 PM**





Vivian Neou

Chapter volunteers relax at the Volunteer Appreciation picnic, on a warm day under the shade provided by the giant oak trees of Stevens Creek County Park

## **President's Message**

*By Chapter President Madeline Morrow*

On September 30th I had a wonderful time at our first Volunteer Recognition Picnic in Stevens Creek County Park. Of course I worked on organizing and setup, but I also really enjoyed socializing with about 45 other CNPS members on a lovely day. A lot of other people told me that they enjoyed it as well.

It was simple: people showed up, made name tags that showed all their volunteer activities, ate great food, had a presentation honoring volunteers, entered the opportunity drawing for three gift baskets, ate some more and talked and hung out. Judy Fenerty led an after-lunch walk to digest and enjoy the park. We wanted to make it easy and fun for people to talk to each other, and it worked.

Our cast of organizers included Toni Gregorio-Bunch, Judy Fenerty, Carolyn Dorsch, Stephen Buckhout and Vicki Silvas-Young. Robert Fenerty and Bill Bunch were our fantastic menu planners and cooks.

I hope I've convinced all of you wonderful, indispensable volunteers to come to our next Volunteer Recognition Picnic!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*News and Activities from Other Organizations*

### **Become an Edgewood Docent**

Friends of Edgewood docents lead interpretive nature walks at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, near Redwood City, throughout the year, but especially during our famous spring wildflower season. No previous training is required

to become a docent – only a love of nature and a desire to share. We will help you gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to lead walks and interpret the preserve's natural resources.

Each January through April, a series of eight Wednesday evening classes are paired with Saturday morning field hikes. The course covers Edgewood's geology, plants, and wildlife, along with its history, preservation and ongoing restoration. Along the way, you'll develop the interpretive strategies and skills that make for a great walk experience. A \$40 course fee covers the cost of materials.

Please consider joining us! For more information or to register for the training, contact the Docent Training Coordinator, Sandy Bernhard, at (650) 342-8848 or [docent-trainer@friendsofedgeswood.org](mailto:docent-trainer@friendsofedgeswood.org).

## **CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2017**

Title	Name	Email	Phone
<b>President</b>	Madeline Morrow	<a href="mailto:madelinemorrow@earthlink.net">madelinemorrow@earthlink.net</a>	(408) 741-1150
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Carolyn Dorsch	<a href="mailto:cdorsch1@aol.com">cdorsch1@aol.com</a>	(650) 804-6162
<b>Past President</b>	Stephen Rosenthal	<a href="mailto:sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net">sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net</a>	(408) 923-6562

### **Save a Tree!**

CNPS members can log in to [support.cnps.org](http://support.cnps.org) and edit their profile to receive this newsletter by email only. Look for "Chapter Newsletter" near the bottom of "My Profile."

Current and past Blazing Star newsletters are always online at the Chapter website's newsletter page: [www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/blazing-star-newsletter](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/blazing-star-newsletter).

To join our Chapter news email list please visit [www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/contact-us/sign-up](http://www.cnps-scvc.org/index.php/contact-us/sign-up).

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

**Saturday, December 2, 2017**

**Email: [carol.mattsson@gmail.com](mailto:carol.mattsson@gmail.com)**

**Phone: (408) 255-3767**

Santa Clara Valley Chapter California Native Plant Society  
3921 East Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303



## Join CNPS Today!

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*Donations above the membership level are gratefully accepted.*

*Dues and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to "CNPS" and mail it with this form to:*

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**FIRST-CLASS**

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** (page # in parentheses)

**Oct 27 Fri** Keying with Natives (4)

**Nov 2 Thu** Conservation Committee meeting (6)

**Nov 4 Sat** **Annual Meeting & Potluck** (1)

**Nov 5 Sun** Monthly Member Plant Sale (3)

**Nov 9 Thu** GWN – Butterflies – Caldwell (3)

**Nov 17 Fri** Keying with Natives (4)

**Nov 19 Sun** Rancho Cañada del Oro field trip (7)

**Nov 23 Thu** Scholarship applications due (5)

**Nov 29 Wed** GWN – Containers – Veilleux (3)

**Dec 2 Sat** **Newsletter submittal deadline** (9)

**Dec 4 Mon** GWN – Rain Gardens – Hackler (3)

**Dec 6 Wed** GWN – Holiday Wreath – Osaka (4)

**Dec 9 Sat** Monthly Member Plant Sale (3)

**Dec 14 Thu** Conservation Committee meeting (6)

**Dec 15 Fri** Keying with Natives (4)

**Dec 16 Sat** Bird & plant ID Lake Cunningham (8)

**Dec 18 Mon** GWN – Holiday Wreath – Luna (4)

**Dec 21 Thu** **Mailing Party – 10am PCC**

**Dec 31 Sun** Butano State Park field trip (8)

**Dec 31 Sun** Costanoa Lodge overnight (8)

**Jan 1 Mon** Año Nuevo State Preserve field trip (8)

**Mon & 3rd Sat** Alum Rock Weeding (7)

**Tue & Wed** Nursery work sessions (2)

**Wed & Fri** Edgewood Weeding (7)

**Saturdays** Lake Cunningham workdays (7)

The next Chapter board meeting will be **Thursday, December 7**. (There will be no **November** board meeting)

It will be our **budget** meeting, at the Struthers' home in Los Altos Hills. Please bring food to share.

We'll start the **potluck at 6:00pm** and the **meeting at 7:00pm**.

Chapter Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests.

For more information contact Madeline Morrow at [MadelineMorrow@earthlink.net](mailto:MadelineMorrow@earthlink.net) or (650) 260-3450.

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 about your newsletter subscription, please contact **membership@cnps-scv.org**. Address changes may be submitted to **cnps@cnps.org**; please put “member address change” in the subject line.

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