



[Santa Clara Valley Chapter](#)

THE BLAZING STAR

November-December 2000

General Meeting and Annual Potluck

SPEAKER: Bob Fry

TOPIC: Uses of Plants of the Western Sierra Foothills

Sunday, November 19, 2000 Shoup Park Garden House, 400 University Avenue, Los Altos

Socializing and Set Up -5:00pm / Program -7:30 P.M.

Bob Fry will share his knowledge of Western Sierra foothill plants and their uses, focusing on the traditional Miwok uses of plants for fibers, baskets, weapons, and food. He will also talk about the types of acorns used for food and may even bring an acorn dish for us to taste. Bob has worked with the National Park Service in Yosemite for forty-one years, thirty-one of them as a seasonal employee. He has been a full time employee in Yosemite for the past ten years. From 1960 until Carl Sharsmith's death in 1994, Bob hiked Yosemite with Carl who mentored Bob on the Sierra vegetation. Bob has a Master's Degree from UC Berkeley in Botany and teaches botany. He will bring some examples of Miwok uses of plants for us to look at, most of which he made himself. Be prepared for a very special evening. This meeting is also our POTLUCK. Bring your favorite appetizer, salad, main dish or desert. **ALSO REMEMBER TO BRING A PLATE, TABLEWARE AND A GLASS OR MUG** so you can share in this annual treat.

DIRECTIONS: The Garden House is on University off the Foothill Expressway between El Monte and Main in Los Altos. Come at 5pm and help the board members set up. We start eating between 6 and 6:30 PM. The program begins at about 7pm. We will clean up by 9 PM, and can use your help.

The annual potluck is also the time to elect constitutional officers for the coming year. Following is the slate put forth by the nominating committee chosen at the September membership meeting:

President Mary Simpson

Vice-President Georgia Stigall

Treasurer Paul Heiple Recording

Secretary David Chapman

Corresponding Secretary Stephen Buckhout

Nominations may also be made from the floor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There has been much news, both happy and sad, in the past few weeks. We returned from England to find at the top of our mail stack the news of the tragic accidental death of Betsy Crowder. She was a former board member of our chapter, a director of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, an outstanding environmentalist and a dear friend. She will be greatly missed.

As an organization we completed our first comprehensive strategic plan, this October, under the able guidance of Stephen Buckhout. This plan will guide us in the coming years. We are about to release a full color brochure and begin a series of public presentations on the rare and endangered plants and animals in the serpentine areas of Coyote Ridge south of San Jose. The nominating committee has provided us with a full slate of officers for the coming year. At its October meeting the chapter board voted a donation of \$500 to Peninsula Open Space Trust, in memory of Betsy Crowder. They also approved donations to the Greenbelt Alliance to support the Greenline ballot measure (see article) to the Committee for Green Foothills, to the Stanford Open Space Alliance, and to the Citizen's Committee to Complete the Refuge. This past Saturday, we held our second fall plant sale at Hidden Villa. Record crowds came with boxes and carts, did some serious shopping in this beautiful setting and we surpassed last year's total sales.

On Sunday, another stunning fall day, we attended the Friends of Edgewood annual meeting and picnic and I was surprised, and delighted, to be called forward by Ranger Ricardo Trejo to accept, on behalf of the chapter, an award from the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Department. It read "Recognizing California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter for their volunteer contribution to the exotic weed management program and grant donation for the Bay area checkerspot butterfly assessment program."

Don Mayall

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

GARDENING WITH NATIVES

We will have a meeting on Thursday, November 9 at 7:30 PM at the DeAnza ESA (see directions below). The agenda will be as follows: Part 1: Jeanne Salander, project coordinator of the Ulistac Natural Area Community Habitat Restoration, will lead a discussion on this important local area that is adjacent to the Guadeloupe River in northern Santa Clara. We will examine a number of unique aspects of the project, such as how this project has woven in community volunteers, the value it provides as a bird migration corridor, the high water table and how it influences planning, and the influence of the historical Ohlone village site located on the property. This site is Santa Clara's only dedicated wildlife open space preserve. Part 2: I thought we might all enjoy bringing in photos and other tidbits from our gardens to share with the group. This would be a good opportunity to share successes and failures as well as general plant knowledge. Also, bring any questions you may want to pose to the group about particular plants, gardening methods, mulches, etc. Directions: The De Anza ESA is next to the tennis courts on the back (McClellan Road) side of the De Anza campus located near highways 85 and 280 in Cupertino. Park for free in the gated driveway between the ESA and the baseball field if there's room, or bring 8 quarters for the tennis court parking lot. If you need a map, see <http://www.deanza.fhda.edu/campusmap/campusmap.html> or call Stephanie Mangels (408.629.8004 or stephmangels@hotmail.com). You might consider bringing a flashlight for the trip from either parking area, especially if the tennis court lights are not lit. New members are always welcome! Contact Stephanie Mangels at stephmangels@hotmail.com or 408.629.8004 to be added to the newsletter mailing list, provide input, or receive more information!

CAPE IVY REMOVAL: LOS GATOS TRAIL

Saturday, November 4, 10 A.M. We have nearly completed removing the Cape Ivy patch from the Los Gatos Creek Trail, just below Vasona Dam. We will hold one final work party on Saturday, November 4 at 10 A.M., and then will switch to informal sessions to pull up resprouts. The remainder of the patch is among poison oak, so wear a long-sleeved shirt and gloves. Directions: from Hwy 17 southbound, take the Lark Avenue

exit. Proceed straight through the intersection onto Garden Hill Drive. Follow it as it curves left, then right. Proceed 0.2 miles south, then park in the residential area as you approach a leftward bend. The locked gate on the right is the entrance to Los Gatos Creek Trail; head down and follow the trail to the right. The Cape Ivy patch is about 100 yards below the dam. From Hwy 17 northbound, take the Lark Avenue exit, turn left onto Lark Avenue and cross the freeway, then turn left at the first light onto Garden Hill Drive and follow the above directions. For details, or to help with resprout removal later, call David Chapman at (408) 296-3587, email dchapman@aimnet.com or Don Thomas at (831) 336-3224, email don_e_thomas@yahoo.com. There are other patches of Cape Ivy along the creek and we may work on them as well next year.

RESTORATION DAYS IN Foothills Park

Cooler weather should bring some rain and make it easier to remove the Broom that is regenerating. The Blue oaks look much better when freed of their intrusive invaders and there are now a few seedling oaks for the next generation. Call Ellie Gioumouis at 650 494-6276 for more information. We will meet at 9 am in the Orchard Glen picnic area on: Saturday, November 18 Sunday, November 26 Saturday, December 2 Sunday, December 10

ULISTAC NATURAL AREA COMMUNITY HABITAT RESTORATION

Fall Planting Days: 10AM to 2PM (all weather except heavy rain) Saturday, November 11 Saturday, November 18 Saturday, December 2 Saturday, December 9 Join Jeanne and Chris Salander in working on a California native plant restoration. Tasks include wildlife surveys, site preparation, watering, and planting. Dress for the weather, hat and sunscreen, lunch and liquid. To reach Ulistac from 101 take the Montague Expressway north past the agnews site to Lick Mill Blvd. Turn left on Lick Mill; go past the stop sign at Hope St. Ulistac is on your right; enter through the metal gate. You can also get there on the light rail line. Info 408.293.6885

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Our next meeting will be Monday, November 6 at 7:30PM at the Peninsula Conservation Center. In December, we will meet on the 4th for a potluck. To get more details or to join the group please call Sonja Wilcomer at 650.494.0104.

CHAPTER FIELD TRIP PLANNING MEETING

Interested in providing ideas or sponsoring upcoming field trips? Join others on November 14 at 7pm at 256 E. Hamilton Avenue, Suite B, Campbell. Details call Mary Simpson 408.370.2177.

SECOND ANNUAL AÑO NUEVO PICNIC

On January 1, 2001 consider a hike and picnic at Año Nuevo State Park with fellow CNPS members. Last year everyone enjoyed the coastal prairie and sea cliff vegetation and a few views of marine mammals. For meetings time and more information contact Georgia Stigall 650-941-1068.

SANTA CRUZ CYPRUS FIELD TRIP

Meet at Portola Park Headquarters on November 12 at 9am. Bring a lunch and water and come to hike. Limit of 15 people. Details call Paul Heiple 650.854.7125.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2001 WILDFLOWER SHOW

For the next Wildflower show April 28-29, 2001, we need more of a team effort than One Person In Charge Of Everything. We're halfway there:

Ellie Gioumouis has graciously volunteered to take care of all dealings with Foothill College, including show setup and takedown. oDavid Chapman has equally graciously volunteered to be the plant collector

captain. We still need the following; each of these can be done by one person or by a team:

Postermeister: Starting this month: tap an artist in the chapter who hasn't already done a poster to create one for the 2001 show (list, examples, & instructions provided); make sure the poster materials get to the printer by early February (instructions provided, such as quantities needed); distribute posters & flyers at March general meeting

Keyer Captain: call former & prospective keyers (list provided) to schedule them; on setup Friday, arrange the keying room (instructions provided); during show, make sure keyers have what they need & room stays organized; supervise or help during takedown

Greeter Table Chair: Ruth Buneman has been doing a wonderful job in this capacity for several years now. Would she be willing to do this again? Would she like an apprentice? It would also be nice to have someone willing to be the nominal in-charge person; this could be half-day stints (e.g., Sat 9-12, 12-4; Sun 10-1, 1-4), just a point person to answer questions for visitors & volunteers. For more details on any of these above, call the former wildflower show chair, Carolyn Curtis, 650-856-2636 (ccurtis@netcom.com). These are all discrete, finite, time-limited tasks that are essential to the smooth functioning of our number one outreach event!

YES ON MEASURE K

Protect The San Jose Hills The Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS voted to endorse Measure K on the November ballot of residents of the City of San Jose. Voting Yes on K will lock in San Jose's existing greenline, which prevents sprawl in the hillsides, farmlands and Baylands. This is an essential ingredient in our strategy of preserving the rare and endangered serpentine endemic species on Coyote Ridge and elsewhere above Coyote Valley. Measure K is necessary to strengthen the Greenline, and guarantee that it is not gutted by a pro-development City Council; The Council faces tremendous political pressure from development interests, who want to overturn the Greenline.

Measure K will ensure that **ONLY A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE** can change the Greenline policy.

Measure K is also endorsed by: Sierra Club-Loma Prieta Chapter, Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group, Affordable Housing Network, Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters, & Homebuilders Association of Northern California, Assemblyman Mike Honda, Senator Byron Sher, Greenbelt Alliance, Committee for Green Foothills, SEIU Local 715, Bay Area Action, and many others.

You can also get more information about Measure K by visiting the website at <http://www.sanjosegreenline.net> To get involved, contact Autumn Bernstein, Campaign Coordinator at (408) 983-0539 or abernstein@greenbelt.org

VOLUNTEER TO RESTORE LOS ALAMITOS CREEK

On November 18 the Friends of Los Alamitos Creek will gather high school students and members to install 75 native plants as part of a streambank restoration project. If you want to help guide a small group in the planting effort please contact Lilah Freitas at 408-997-6383.

REPORT ON SUDDEN OAK DEATH MEETING

Within the past five years, large numbers of live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*), tanoak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*) and black oak (*Q. kelloggii*) have been dying in coastal areas of Central and Northern California. David Rizzo of UC Davis has recently identified the disease as a previously unknown species of the fungus Phytophthora, in the same genus as the fungus that caused the Irish potato famine. If the disease, now referred to as "Sudden Oak Death", continues to spread, it could potentially devastate forest ecology and ecosystems in California. To address these issues, a statewide meeting on "Sudden Oak Death" was held in Felton (Santa Cruz County) on August 10th 2000. Attending were representatives from the California Forest Pest Council, the California Department of Forestry, the Marin County Fire Department, the National Park Service, and researchers from UC Davis, UC Berkeley, and Marin County Cooperative Extension. Kim Hayes and Annie Murphy from CNPS also attended. Susan Frankel, a plant pathologist with the Forest

Service chaired the meeting. Concern about "Sudden Oak Death" varied by group. For example, a resolution from the California Pest Council, stated that the loss of oaks decreased watershed and aesthetic values, created hazards in recreation areas, and decreased property values, but also suggested that "oaks and tanoaks are recognized as weed species and need to be managed in conifer timber production areas". Representatives from the California Dept. of Forestry expressed concerns about increased fire risk. Pavel Svihra and Nicole Palkovsky of the UC Cooperative Extension discussed educating homeowners and arborists about how to properly manage dead and diseased trees on their own property. Several UC researchers outlined what is known about the disease, and what the priorities are for future research. Pavel Svihra first discovered the disease symptoms in Mill Valley in Marin County in 1995. Presence of the disease has been confirmed in Marin, Monterey, Napa, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma counties, in areas within 20 miles from the coast. Dave Rizzo of UC Davis is currently researching basic questions about the biology of the fungus. Is the fungus airborne, or spread by splashing water or through the soil? Can bark beetles or ambrosia beetles spread the disease? Does the fungus survive in dead wood, in the soil, or in leaf litter? Is the fungus an exotic species that recently arrived in the area, or is it a native species that has become active due to changing environmental conditions? CNPS was the only specifically conservation -oriented organization represented. Kim Hayes of CNPS brought up several concerns related to the ecology of the oaks and recommended that a representative from a conservation organization be included on the board of the committee.

A future meeting of the task force was scheduled for October 18 to form specific committees to address the issues of monitoring, management, fire prevention and protection, research, and education. Given the lack of other conservation organizations at the first meeting, CNPS could play a vital role in keeping issues of oak ecology and preservation as primary issues for the task force. For updated information on Sudden Oak Death and the task force, check the website: <http://www.suddenoakdeath.org/>

Annie Murphy (Annie is a graduate student in environmental studies at San Jose State University and has been a chapter intern this past summer, assisting the Coyote Ridge committee and reviewing local CEQA notifications).

SUPPORT EDGEWOOD INTERPRETIVE CENTER

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS has a strong history of supporting Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve. Members were the first to recognize the rich and diverse flora of the park's serpentine grassland and they led the charge to protect the site from being developed as a golf course. The chapter was also a leader in the effort to permanently protect the park as a "natural preserve."

CNPS volunteers have also spent many hours in the park, leading wildflower hikes and helping eradicate invasive non-native plants. Now members have another way to continue this commitment to preserve and support good stewardship in the park. You can send a donation to the effort to provide a new facility to support the interpretive, volunteer and research efforts in the park.

The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, a organization formed in 1998 to raise money for the County Parks, recently launched their campaign to fund a new interpretive center for the Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve. The first phase of this campaign is a community-based planning process. The goal is to design a center that fits the character of the park, educates visitors about the sensitive resources and how to preserve them, and meets the needs of park volunteers and staff.

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter is one of three local groups -- Friends of Edgewood and the Emerald Lakes Homeowners Association are the other two -- who are sponsoring a matching grant program for this effort. The Chapter will match up to \$1,250.00 in donations from its members to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation for this effort. The campaign will run from mid-October through December.

Donations can be sent to San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, 215 Bay Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025. For more information, please call Julia Bott at 650-321-5812 or email her at julia@supportparks.org.

THE WAYNE RODERICK LECTURES WINTER 2000 - 2001

Saturday Mornings 10:30 - noon

Visitor Center for the Botanical Gardens at Tilden Park

Free to the Public

(These lectures usually fill to capacity, so come early)

November:

- 4 - East Bay Natural History at First European (Steve Edwards)
- 11 - Seed Collecting and Processing (Wayne Roderick)
- 18 - Botany of Mount Diablo (Steve Edwards)

December:

- 2 - Yet More Plants and Places in and near the Klamath Mountains (John Game)
- 9 - Oroville Table Mountain and Feather Falls (Glenn Keator)
- 16 - Plant-hunting in Rock Creek Basin and the Mammoth Lakes Area (Bob Case)

RESEARCH UPDATE ON ELEVATED CO₂ EFFECTS ON CALIFORNIA GRASSLAND PLANTS

Since the start of the Industrial Revolution, humans have increased atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) by approximately one-third. This global atmospheric change could have profound effects on the Earth's climate system because of carbon dioxide's greenhouse gas properties. Increased CO₂ might also affect plant life, since plants use carbon dioxide as "food". I conducted an experiment at Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve to study how increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) affect California's grassland ecosystems. My work benefited greatly from a research scholarship I received from the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

Like scientists before me, I found that a plant community containing *Hemizonia congesta* (a native California plant commonly called tarweed) and a widespread exotic grass, *Avena barbata*, had wetter soil under elevated CO₂. This result is usually explained by "water use efficiency"; plants use water more efficiently when there is more carbon, so more water gets left in the soil. Perhaps because of the increased soil moisture, plants growing in high levels of carbon dioxide were also doing better by the end of my experiment. *Avena* plants were larger and more tarweeds survived into the summer.

One surprising result, however, was that tarweeds growing alone (without *Avena* grasses around them) actually had less water available in the soil under increased CO₂. Clearly *Avena* and tarweed are responding very differently to an increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide. I am now turning my attention to understanding why these plants behave so differently. My experiment is an important part of our effort to understand how native species interact with global changes and exotic species. Like many projects, it has also raised new questions. I am grateful that the California Native Plant Society has taken an interest in these important studies. Thank you very much for your help.

Lisa Moore (Lisa is a graduate student in the Department of Biological Sciences at Stanford University and a recipient of one of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter Research Scholarship Awards this year)

JEPSON HERBARIUM BOTANICAL WORKSHOPS

Many useful and enjoyable weekend workshops are offered through the Jepson Herbarium. For more information contact Staci Markos or Betsy Ringrose at (510) 643-7008 or visit the website: <http://ucjeps.herb.berkeley.edu/active.html>

Workshops through May listed below:

- **Mushrooms** December 8 - 10, 2000 Teresa Sholars Location: Albion Biological Field Station, Albion

- **Basics of Botanical Illustration** March 10 - 11, 2001 Linda Ann Vorobik Location: Life Science Building and Botanic Garden, UC Berkeley
- **Bryophytes** March 17 - 18, 2001 Brent D. Mishler Location: Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley
- **Fifty Plant Families in the Field** March 31 - April 1 and April 7 - 8, 2001 Linda and Richard Beidleman Location: Field Regions in the greater Bay Area
- **Flora of San Diego County** April 5 - 8, 2001 Michael G. Simpson Location: Localities in San Diego County
- **Medicinal Plants of the World** April 21 - 22, 2001 Thomas J. Carlson Location: Life Sciences Building and Botanic Garden, UC Berkeley and Tilden Regional Park
- **Plants and Plant Communities of Point Reyes** April 21 - 22, 2001 Robert Ornduff and Bruce G. Baldwin
- **Flora of Camp Roberts** April 27 - 29, 2001 Elizabeth Painter and Margriet Wetherwax Location: Camp Roberts
- **Poaceae** May 5 - 6, 2001 Travis Columbus and Gordon Leppig Location: Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley
- **Hidden Botanical Treasures of the East Bay** May 19 - 20, 2001 Brad Olson Location: Alameda and Contra Costa counties
- **Pollination Ecology of Spring Wildflowers** June 1 - 3, 2001 Gordon Frankie and Robbin Thorp Co-sponsored with the Essig Museum of Entomology Location: UC Hastings Reserve, Carmel Valley
- **Plants of Modoc County** June 8 - 10, 2001 Gary D. Schoolcraft and Michael P. Dolan Location: Modoc County
- **Flora of the Southern Sierra** June 14 - 17, 2001 Jim Shevock Location: Southern Sierra Nevada

VOTE BY MAIL FOR STATE CNPS DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Very soon, State CNPS will be holding its annual election for three Directors-at-Large. These three Directors will serve a two-year term on the Executive Council for CNPS. There are many changes going on at the state level of CNPS. As one result of the changes, this year will mark the first contested election for the Director-at-Large position in many years. Directors-at-Large are the only members of the Executive Council elected by the membership and they represent the voice of the members on the Council. There are five candidates. Review your most recent State Bulletin, read the statements of the candidates carefully and mail in your vote promptly. This is an exciting time for CNPS and the individuals elected may have the chance to make a real difference!

Deadline for the next *Blazing Star*: Saturday, December 16, 2000. Cynthia Gilbert, Newsletter Editor, 650-320-9225 or cgilbert@jps.net

Recording Hotline for CNPS Events 415/853-5634
