



California Native Plant Society  
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

# ***THE BLAZING STAR***

November-December 2021

## **ANNUAL MEETING & PROGRAM**

**Saturday, November 6 at 7:00pm**

**Via Zoom and YouTube**

Our Chapter's General Meeting will include our annual election and recognition of volunteers. **After the meeting**, at 7:30pm, Michael Kauffman, our speaker for the **Brenda Butner Lecture**, will take us on a virtual visit to the Bigfoot Trail in the Klamath Mountains.

**Botanizing the Bigfoot Trail  
a talk by Michael Kauffman  
7:30pm to 9:00pm**

Did you know that the Klamath Mountains of northwest California and southwest Oregon are one of the most biodiverse temperate mountain ranges on Earth? In fact, 32 species of conifers and over 3,500 taxa of plants call this area home! The Bigfoot Trail traverses this amazing mountain range and celebrates the region's plant diversity.

Join educator, ecologist, and author Michael Kauffman, who first hiked the Bigfoot Trail in 2009, for a virtual 360-mile hiking tour. (See the map on page 9.) He will highlight the conifer diversity as well as some of the exceptional flowering plants that call this region home, with spectacular pictures and intriguing stories.



**Michael Kauffman** is a kindergarten through college educator in Humboldt County where he lives with his wife and two young boys. He has served as an ecologist with the CNPS Vegetation Program mapping rare conifers including whitebark pine, yellow-cedar, Pacific silver fir, and bigcone Douglas-fir. He is also the author of *Conifer County*, *Conifers of the Pacific Slope*, and *Field Guide to Manzanitas*.

**How to attend:** The Annual Meeting will be live-streamed over **Zoom** only. After the meeting we'll continue livestreaming the program over Zoom. We'll email the Zoom link ahead of time to current CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter members. Be sure to receive the email by keeping your contact information up to date at the State CNPS website.

**At 7:30pm**, like other talks in our Native Plant Lecture Series, Michael's talk will be live-streamed to YouTube. The general public is invited to view the talk via YouTube. Watch it live or later on our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/c/CNPSSantaClaraValley](http://www.youtube.com/c/CNPSSantaClaraValley). For more information, contact Chapter President Vivian Neou at [president@cnps-scv.org](mailto:president@cnps-scv.org) or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

## **Annual Election**

Chapter members elect Chapter officers for the coming year at the annual meeting. All Chapter members may run for office; nominations may also be made from the (virtual) floor at the meeting. Here is the slate put forth by the nominating committee:

**President:** Radhika Thekkath

**Vice President:** Priya Pharate

**Treasurer:** Brett Tucker

**Past President:** Vivian Neou

**Chapter Council Delegate:** Radhika Thekkath

See candidate bios starting at the bottom of page 2.

## NATIVE PLANT LECTURE SERIES

The talks in the CNPS SCV Native Plant Lecture Series cover a broad range of topics with a native plant theme. Whether you're curious about native plants, an experienced or aspiring native plant gardener or a professional botanist, you will find something to interest and educate you in our offerings. From gardening to plant science to conservation to tours of botanical hot spots, if you're interested in California's native plants, there's something here for you.

Most of our lectures take place on **Wednesday evening at 7:30pm** and are live-streamed simultaneously to Zoom and YouTube. View them on our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/c/CNPSSantaClaraValley](http://www.youtube.com/c/CNPSSantaClaraValley) (**no registration needed**) or **join on Zoom** by registering with the Zoom link provided in each lecture's description.

Recordings of past talks may be viewed on our YouTube channel.



Jon Klein

A big-eared woodrat carrying a sprig of live oak leaves, her favorite food, into her house

**California's Oaks and Their Countless Relations, a talk by Kate Marianchild  
Wednesday, November 17 7:30 - 9:00 PM**

**Zoom registration:** [www.cnps-scv.org/npls-20211117](http://www.cnps-scv.org/npls-20211117)

California's magnificent oaks support more life forms than any plant species in the state. In a presentation filled with wildlife – from spiders and lizards to woodpeckers, woodrats, and bears – author and naturalist Kate Marianchild will discuss the vital role oaks play in food webs.

We'll learn about co-evolutionary connections between oaks and caterpillars, jays, and lichens, and we'll marvel at the tiny wasps who bend enormous oaks to their bidding.

As Kate shares stories of oak woodland species, we'll fight with woodpeckers for mating opportunities, crawl through woodrat houses looking for rattlesnakes, and plummet to the ground with squirrels as they use their tails as both parachutes and landing pads.

Before the talk, try to collect an acorn with its cap from at least two kinds of oak. If you can, also spend some time watching birds, lizards, squirrels or other animals in or around oaks. (Please collect your acorns only from places where you have permission to collect.)



This talk is geared especially for middle school and high schoolers!

**Kate Marianchild** is the author of the award-winning bestseller *Secrets of the Oak Woodlands: Plants and Animals among California's Oaks* (Heyday, 2014). With humor, affection, and scientific accuracy, Kate profiles the behaviors, social structures, and interrelationships of twenty-two species found in California's oak woodlands.



Carol Charlton

Kate Marianchild with "Almost," an injured, now recovered, acorn woodpecker

Kate lives in a yurt near Ukiah surrounded by six kinds of oak and abundant wildlife. Go to [www.katemarianchild.com](http://www.katemarianchild.com) to purchase a signed copy of her book, close-focus binoculars, and/or oak identification guides or to learn about restoring insect populations.

Please see [www.cnps-scv.org/activities/native-plant-lecture-series](http://www.cnps-scv.org/activities/native-plant-lecture-series) for additional talks in November and December.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

**Chapter Annual Election November 6 -  
Candidate Biographies**

**Radhika Thekkath**, candidate for President and Chapter Council Delegate, is a retired computer scientist who has been interested in plants and gardening since she was a child. Her introduction to California native plants and the importance of gardening to support the native ecology began 14 years ago. She is passionate about preserving the remaining Bay Area flora and fauna for future generations to enjoy. She has been active on our CNPS Chapter board for many years. Her other interests include building with cob, forestry management, and regenerative living.



There are so many favorite plants, and when forced to choose one, she will pick the Douglas iris ‘Canyon Snow’ because when lit by the moon, it glows back like an ethereal star.



**Priya Pharate**, candidate for Vice President, has been interested in plants and animals since childhood. Her parents had a plant nursery, which provided her ample opportunity to observe plants up-close and learn about them. Her career led her into technology, but her interest in plants grew when she attended lectures and field trips by our CNPS Chapter which was local

to her. Wanting to contribute to the Chapter, she served as the Recording Secretary for three years.

Being involved with CNPS has given her a deeper understanding of the habitat value of plants and the role that insects play in healthy ecosystems. She believes that one does not need a degree in botany to be effective in your local CNPS chapter – all it takes is a desire to help. Her favorite plant is *Lilium pardalinum*, the tiger lily.

**Brett Tucker**, candidate for Treasurer, grew up in New Jersey. He took an early interest in nature and gardening. He was especially inspired by his next door neighbors who not only had the best lawn in the neighborhood, but also had many fruit trees and a huge vegetable garden. They also did all of the planting and maintenance themselves. Brett moved to California to attend college and ended up

staying. He had a career as a microwave engineer and retired to become a full-time dad.

After attending a Growing Natives Garden Tour, he decided to convert his front yard into a drought tolerant and native plant garden. (Of course he couldn’t resist adding a vegetable garden and some fruit trees to the mix.) The need for native plants and information led him to our CNPS Chapter, local to him. In an effort to live more lightly on the earth, Brett went vegan seven years ago. His favorite native plant is a woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) which he has managed to keep alive for more than five years.



**Vivian Neou**, candidate for Past President, became interested in native plants after she retired from the software industry. That led her to the CNPS SCV Nursery, where she became an active volunteer and eventually Nursery Manager. Not wanting to leave her technology background unused, she also took on the role of Technology Coordinator. She’s wrapping up her third year as Chapter President and is looking forward to having more time to support CNPS in other areas.

It’s difficult for her to pick a favorite plant, but if forced to choose, her favorite of the moment is purple mouse ears (*Diplacus douglasii*). If you’ve seen Vivian on Zoom, you may have noticed that her profile picture is one she took of this belly flower\* at Edgewood Park and Preserve. It’s tiny, adorable and gorgeous. No spring is complete without a sighting.

\*A belly flower is a flower you have to get on your belly to see.

Members seeking more info. or wishing to run should contact Leadership Development Committee Chair Stephen Buckhout at [stephen@yscottie.com](mailto:stephen@yscottie.com) or (408) 255-6233.

## Chapter Recording Secretary Needed

Our Chapter is seeking a new Recording Secretary to join the board. This is a great opportunity to get involved and learn more about the Chapter.

The Recording Secretary keeps minutes of all Chapter board meetings. The minutes include board attendance, actions, and votes. After meetings, the Secretary prepares a draft for review by the Board, and revises and distributes the minutes for a vote at the next meeting. The Secretary is

also responsible for archiving minutes and other documents.

Our Chapter board meets monthly, usually on the third Thursday in the evening. As with other members of our board, our Recording Secretary must be a CNPS member in good standing. Members interested in the position please contact Leadership Development Committee Chair Stephen Buckhout at [stephen@yscottie.com](mailto:stephen@yscottie.com) or (408) 255-6233.



*Vivian Neou*

Plant sale volunteer fetching plants from nursery tables, to prepare an order for pickup, October 9

## CNPS SCV Nursery at Hidden Villa

The nursery continues to propagate plants for sale and raise funds for the Chapter through sales from its online store at [california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter.square.site](https://california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter.square.site). The online store is usually open for browsing, but ordering is periodically unavailable while we are updating inventory.

In addition to plants, the nursery's online store includes T-shirts, books, labels and plant signs. Orders can be scheduled for pick-up at the nursery or delivered between Belmont and San Jose.

A core crew of volunteers has cared for the plants at the nursery since the start of the pandemic. These volunteers have been doing a great job of keeping up with demand and getting plants ready for their forever homes. Due to restrictions as a result of COVID-19, the nursery can only accommodate a limited number of volunteers.

Limited work sessions are expected to start toward the end of the year. More information will be available on our web site when the sessions are scheduled.

Proceeds from plant sales are the major source of funding for Chapter activities and scholarships.

**Directions:** Hidden Villa is located at 26870 Moody Road west of Foothill College. From I-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 plant sale.

## Hybrid Fall Native Plant Sale a Success

Once again, we had a new format for our fall native plant sale as we navigated the ever-changing public health orders to keep our volunteers and customers safe. This year, we continued with online plant sales with scheduled pickups. Customers had the opportunity to purchase plants in advance from both our nursery and Grassroots Ecology.

However, rather than a drive-through pickup, customers were able to park and stroll through the outdoor space behind the Dana Center where they could participate in a seed exchange and shop at Coyote Brush Studios, Wild Jules Seed Balls and our Chapter's book and t-shirt booth. Masks and ample outdoor space kept everyone safe and healthy while shopping.



*Vivian Neou*

Plant sale order pickup, October 9

In spite of a water main break that closed Moody Road for a couple hours in the middle of the sale, over 130 customers were able to make it to the Dana Center at their scheduled pickup time. The detour up Page Mill prevented some customers from making it to the sale, but we were able to provide alternate pickup times at the nursery the following week.



Vivian Neou

Customers visiting Coyote Brush Studios booth at Native Plant Sale at Hidden Villa on October 9

Thanks to all who volunteered: parking, cashiering, book sales, plant order fulfillment, setup and cleanup. Special thanks goes out to our organizers: Madeline Morrow, volunteer coordinator; Radhika Thekkath, site and vendor coordination; Robert Fenerty, parking coordination; Judy Fenerty, book and T-shirt sales; Vicki Silvas-Young, food; Vivian Neou, nursery order pulling; Dee Himes, nursery order distribution; and Janet Hoffmann, seed exchange. Volunteers received a lovely water bottle printed with our Chapter's logo.



It was wonderful to see so many people in person!

## Photography Group

Our Photography Group is a great place to meet other native plant enthusiasts while improving your photographic skills and learning more about our native plants. It is open to all. The group has monthly meetings and an active email list.

The group has an ongoing **#MyPhotoOfTheWeek** activity on the email list for group members to share their favorite shots with the group on a weekly basis.

The photo group's meetings take place over Zoom, for members to share photos and more – everything from photography tips to organizational ideas to plant hot spots. The next meeting will be **Friday December 10 at 7:00pm**. (There will be no November meeting.) You can learn more

and join the email group at: [www.groups.io/g/cnps-scw-photography](http://www.groups.io/g/cnps-scw-photography).

Anyone who has pictures of their adventures that they would like to share is welcome to participate. Please sign up for a time slot if you would like to show pictures. You don't have to share pictures to attend the meeting. More information is available on Meetup at [www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter) and through the group's email list.

## California Polypody #MyPhotoOfTheWeek

Frequent Photo Group contributor Charley Pow sends us this appreciative article about one of our local ferns.

I'm a big fan of the California polypody. Watching its seasonal cycle makes California's unique climate more concrete and real.

California has a Mediterranean climate, distinguished by mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers, and California has the hottest and driest of all the Mediterranean climates. Our native plants evolved here: California has more plant species than any other state in the nation and at least one third of California's native plants are found nowhere else in the world.

The vast majority of California's native plants have adapted to our unique climate and are summer-dormant. Most are evergreen, so their dormancy is difficult to see.



Charley Pow

After sleeping through the summer, the California polypody (*Polypodium californicum*) is renewed in the fall, sending up fresh fronds in anticipation of winter rains



Neal Kramer (2013 Calflora)  
California polypody, *Polypodium californicum* fronds fully unfurled  
and are shed as summer starts.

The California polypody is summer-deciduous, so it demonstrates how California native plants have adapted to our hot and dry summers and mild winters. Delicate fronds of the California polypody emerge after the summer, flourish through winter storms

Chapter website ([www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org)) after **Monday, November 15**, when the online application will open.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

### Conservation Committee

Our Chapter's next conservation committee meetings will be held via Zoom on **Tuesdays, November 9 and December 14**, from **7:00 to 9:00pm**.

Please join us in our important work! Meeting details will be sent to committee members. If you are not on the committee but are interested in attending the Zoom meeting, email [cdorsch@cnps-scv.org](mailto:cdorsch@cnps-scv.org) for the meeting link. For questions, comments or concerns, contact Conservation Committee Chair Carolyn Dorsch at [cdorsch@cnps-scv.org](mailto:cdorsch@cnps-scv.org) or (650) 804-6162.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### Research Scholarship Recipient Publishes

By Karen Cotter, Scholarship Chair

In 2018, Hannah Kang, a UC Davis student, was awarded a CNPS-SCV scholarship for her undergraduate research on alterations within soil microbial communities in invasive annual grasses and native forbs. Her work was recently published in *Microbial Ecology*. **Congratulations Hannah!** We hope to hear more about Hannah's research in the future.

Here's the link to Hannah's article:  
[link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00248-021-01853-1](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00248-021-01853-1).

### Research Scholarship Applications Open

Our Chapter offers scholarships to both graduates and undergraduates doing **research** on native plant or plant community conservation; plant ecology; plant systematics; or rare plants that grow 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. **Applications are due Monday, November 22**. Check [www.cnps-scv.org/education](http://www.cnps-scv.org/education) for more information.

### Horticulture Scholarship Opens Nov 15

Breaking news! The Chapter has a new Horticulture Scholarship for local students enrolled in a horticulture program in an accredited college. The scholarship amount is \$750, which can be used to defray scholastic costs like books and tuition. For more information, check our

### Fountain Thistle Restoration November 6

Join us for an **in-person** habitat restoration project on **Saturday, November 6, meeting 10am - noon** in San Mateo.

Join Ken Himes and Don Thomas for our fall habitat restoration project at the Caltrans fountain thistle site. This is the twice-a-year event that we have been conducting for over 10 years in partnership with Jake Sigg and the Yerba Buena Chapter of CNPS, to protect the Federally endangered fountain thistle.

Fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*) is a rare endangered plant that grows in an unusual specialized habitat, serpentine seeps. It is found only in a few places on the San Francisco Peninsula and **only** in San Mateo County.



Toni Corelli  
Federally endangered fountain thistle in bloom May 2007, San Francisco Peninsula Watershed County.

Our work at this site is a restoration success story. Once almost completely displaced by jubatagrass (Andean pampas grass), the fountain thistle has largely recovered, as a result of the work done by CNPS volunteers. However, fountain thistle is still under threat from jubatagrass and other non-native plants. By removing these invasive plants

twice a year, we have succeeded in preserving the habitat of the fountain thistle.

Sturdy gloves are recommended; you might also want to bring sunscreen, water, a hat, layered clothing and wear long sleeves and long pants. If you cannot bring your own tools, tools will be provided. Contact Don at don\_e\_thomas@yahoo.com **to reserve your spot and for directions to the meeting place.**

## **CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS**

### **Alum Rock Park Restoration**

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.”

Our workdays take place every **Monday and Wednesday, from 8:30am to about noon.** Sometimes we have some special extra workdays. For now our workdays are for experienced volunteers only, as we aren't quite ready to open up to new or drop-in volunteers yet.

All volunteers must wear masks at all times and social distance, except within families/households. For more information contact Stephen Rosenthal at sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or (650) 260-3450.



Arvind Kumar

Lake Cunningham September 4 workday weeding

### **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.

Workdays continue on **Saturdays from 8:00 to 10:00am.** New volunteers are welcome; City-issued guidelines and

COVID-19 best practices are followed. The work is mainly weeding and mulching. For complete details and directions and to RSVP, see our Chapter's Meetup page at [www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter).



Arvind Kumar

Two native plant posters were mounted in the display board of the new interpretive sign, built by Eagle Scout Anirudh Ramadural.

The September workdays focused on weeding. Non-native invasive plants targeted included:

- Stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*)
- Tumbleweed (*Salsola tragus*)
- Curly dock (*Rumex crispus*)

The north slope of the amphitheater hill was infested with curly dock and perennial pepperweed. We focused on trimming the dock seed stalks and then removing the top 1-2" of taproot of the plant. After the weeding, a large patch of native alkali heath was discovered near the top of the slope.

We continued to water young native plants and Phase 1/2/3 trees along the Inner Lake Path.

Workdays are sometimes rescheduled or canceled. Always **RSVP to confirm** and check the latest updates Friday

night. If you can't make it, please change your RSVP so we know.

## Edgewood Restoration

Our long-term habitat restoration work at Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve continues in person even during the pandemic. As with our other projects, we follow government guidelines and COVID-19 best practices. For now, the project is not looking for new volunteers; only experienced "regulars" are attending workdays.

Check the project emails for the latest news or contact project leader Paul Heiple at [pheiple@gmail.com](mailto:pheiple@gmail.com) or (650) 854-7125.

## 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. **Please bring a face mask in case wearing one is required for COVID-19 safety.**

**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.**

Cell service is mainly restricted to cities and major highways. To find your way to an outing, please do not rely solely on your phone.

Check our field trips page [www.cnps-scv.org/activities/field-trips](http://www.cnps-scv.org/activities/field-trips) for changes, cancellations, COVID rules and additional field trips.

## Sun Nov 7 10am – 4pm Uvas Canyon County Park (Morgan Hill)

Join Ken and Dee Himes on a 3-4 mile hike in this mostly shady woodland of mixed evergreens, including redwoods, madrones, sycamores, alders and bigleaf maples. We may find isolated populations of Oregon grape (*Berberis nervosa*) here, which is more commonly found north of the Golden Gate. We may also see some fall color changes and remnants of fruits and capsules.

We'll meet in the parking lot. The hike will be moderate in intensity, with an elevation gain of about 700 feet. We will walk at a fairly leisurely pace, stopping for lunch about halfway. Be sure to wear good hiking shoes. A walking stick could be useful. Bring a lunch/snack and water.



Dee Himes

Oak acorns, their caps and a twig. We see tanbark, black and interior live oak, plus a twig of interior live oak. All found in abundance on the ground at Uvas Canyon County Park, October 2012.

Space is limited. No drop-ins. **RSVP is required** on Meetup: [www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter](http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter). Heavy rain cancels. For more information contact Ken at (650) 591-8560 or email Dee Himes at [dee4cnps@gmail.com](mailto:dee4cnps@gmail.com).

### Reservation for vehicle day pass:

There is a \$6 fee per car and prior to arrival, **you must reserve a vehicle day pass** on the Uvas Parking Reservation website, at [www.gooutsideandplay.org/reservations/Product.asp](http://www.gooutsideandplay.org/reservations/Product.asp). Choose your entry time slot for before 10am. If that's full, choose the 10am slot. For more about the park, visit the Uvas Canyon County Park website at [www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Pages/UvasCanyon.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Pages/UvasCanyon.aspx).

**IMPORTANT:** You must have a reservation from Meetup **and** the Vehicle Day Pass. Having one and **not** the other may preclude you from participating.

**Directions:** From Hwy. 101, take the Bailey Ave. exit to head southwest on Bailey 3.2 mi. to McKean Rd. Turn left onto McKean. (McKean becomes Uvas Rd. 2.2 mi. south of Bailey.) From Bailey travel 6 mi. south on McKean/Uvas Rd. and turn right onto Croy Rd. Continue 4.4mi. on Croy, through Sveadal (a private resort), to reach the Park entrance.



## Sat Dec 18 9am - Noon Beginner's Bird and Plant ID Walk at Lake Cunningham Park (San Jose)

As winter sets in, join us for the fourth walk of its kind this year: a beginner's bird and plant identification walk through Lake Cunningham Park. The lake is a major destination for waterfowl and migratory birds, and the park's 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, while Arvind Kumar will identify the native plants they depend on for food, shelter and nesting places.



Arvind Kumar

Lake Cunningham September field trip attendees gather for introductions at the Marina building.

The distance will be 2 miles round-trip on a level path. Bring a hat, water, your bird and plant lists and binoculars. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Parking fee is \$6.

Space is limited. No drop-ins. **RSVP is required** on Meetup: [www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter](https://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Santa-Clara-Valley-Chapter). This walk is organized jointly by CNPS, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.

**Directions:** The park is located at 2305 S. White Road, San Jose. **Meet at the Marina building at 9am.** The Marina is on the western shore of the lake, next to Raging Waters, at the opposite end of the park from the main entrance on White Road. In Google maps, search for "Lake Cunningham Marina" to be directed to the Marina. The parking fee is \$6.

## Field Trip Report: Lake Cunningham September 19, 2021

By Arvind Kumar

About 35 people came from outreach efforts from all three trip sponsoring organizations: CNPS, SCV Audubon, and Open Space Authority. Interest in outdoors nature-based recreational activities remains strong or even stronger than

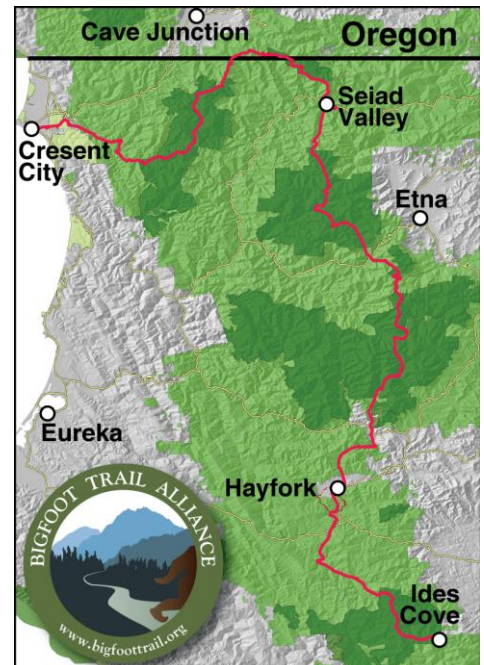
before the pandemic. Participants were masked and socially distanced.

It was a mild fall morning, partly cloudy giving way to sunny, a beautiful day to be outside. It had rained in the wee hours and the air was fresh and clear. The group walked from the Marina to the Native Garden and the Duck Cove and back at a leisurely pace, stopping often to identify birds and plants.

**Birds seen** (partial list): rock pigeon, turkey vulture, California gull, snowy egret, American coot, Canada goose, Muscovy duck, mallard, eared grebe, western grebe, wood duck, Anna's hummingbird, house finch, western scrub jay, yellow warbler. Many songbirds were heard, though not always seen, in the native garden.

### Plant highlights:

*Native:* valley oak, coast live oak, saltbush, white alder, Fremont cottonwood, box elder, Western sycamore, blue elderberry, buckeye, purple sage, coyote bush, Yankee Point ceanothus, California buckwheat, St. Catherine's lace, bladderpod, sticky monkey-flower, narrow-leaved milkweed, salt heliotrope, California fuchsia. *Non-native:* Peruvian pepper, blue gum, London plane tree.



Michael Kauffmann

Join Michael Kauffmann for a virtual 360-mile hiking tour in the **Klamath Mountains**, as he presents our annual Brenda Butner Lecture on **November 6**. See page 1 for details.

## Stay in Touch!

Due to COVID-19, the Chapter remains virtual for **many** of our events. Please visit [www.cnps-scvc.org/stay-in-touch](https://www.cnps-scvc.org/stay-in-touch) for information on how you can continue to receive email to stay informed.

This *Blazing Star* newsletter is published **mostly** online only, at: [www.cnps-scv.org/blazing-star-newsletter](http://www.cnps-scv.org/blazing-star-newsletter).

## **CHAPTER LEADERSHIP FOR 2021**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>President</b>	Vivian Neou	president@cnps-scv.org	(650) 260-3450
<b>Vice President</b>	Priya Pharate	priya@cnps-scv.org	
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Laurie Moody	secretary@cnps-scv.org	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Janet Hoffmann	janet@cnps-scv.org	(408) 374-0435

<b>Past President</b>	Madeline Morrow	pastpresident@cnps-scv.org	(408) 741-1150
<b>Chapter Council Delegate</b>	Vivian Neou	president@cnps-scv.org	(650) 260-3450

To see the full list of Chapter officers and chairs, please visit [www.cnps-scv.org/leadership](http://www.cnps-scv.org/leadership).

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

**Saturday, December 4**

**carol.mattsson@gmail.com or (408) 255-3767**

Santa Clara Valley Chapter California Native Plant Society  
3921 East Bayshore Road, Suite #205  
Palo Alto, CA 94303-4326



## Join CNPS Today!

Members receive the *Artemisia* and *Flora* magazines, the Chapter newsletter and other benefits listed at [www.cnps.org/membership](http://www.cnps.org/membership)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership level (check one):**

- \$50 Individual
- \$120 Plant Lover
- \$500 Supporter
- \$1,000 Patron
- \$2,500 Benefactor
- \$25 Student or Fixed Income
- \$75 Library

**Areas of interest:**

- Advocacy
- Botany
- Conservation
- Education
- Field Trips
- Gardening
- Plant ID

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:

CNPS Membership, 2707 K Street Suite 1, Sacramento, CA  
95816-5130 • [membership@cnps.org](mailto:membership@cnps.org) • (916) 447-2677 ext. 200

## FIRST-CLASS

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

**Nov 6 Sat** Fountain thistle workday (6)  
**Nov 6 Sat** Annual Meeting & Election (1)  
**Nov 6 Sat** Brenda Butner Lecture – Kauffmann (1)  
**Nov 7 Sun** Uvas Canyon field trip (8)  
**Nov 9 Tue** Conservation Committee meeting (6)  
**Nov 15 Mon** Hort. scholarship application opens (6)  
**Nov 17 Wed** Oaks & Relations Talk – Marianchild (2)

**Nov 22 Mon** Research scholarship applications due (6)  
**Dec 4 Sat** **Newsletter submittal deadline**  
**Dec 10 Fri** Photo Group photo sharing (5)  
**Dec 14 Tue** Conservation Committee meeting (6)  
**Dec 18 Sat** L. Cunningham walk – Silvas-Young (9)  
**Mons & Weds** Alum Rock workdays (7)  
**Saturdays** Lake Cunningham workdays (7)

The next Chapter board meeting will be **Thursday, December 16 at 7:00pm** over Zoom.  
(There will be no November board meeting.) Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests.  
For more information contact Vivian Neou at [president@cnps-scv.org](mailto:president@cnps-scv.org).

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 \$50.00 per year. If you have questions about your newsletter subscription, please contact [membership@cnps-scv.org](mailto:membership@cnps-scv.org). Address changes may be submitted to [cnps@cnps.org](mailto:cnps@cnps.org); please put "member address change" in the subject line.

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