



California Native Plant Society
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

THE BLAZING STAR

September-October 2020

PROGRAM MEETING

Thursday, September 24 at 7:30 PM

**Intrepid CNPS Explorers:
A Botanical Quest in Asia & Europe
A talk by Ken and Dee Himes**

Join Ken and Dee Himes as they highlight their 2019 travels from May to November: a journey to Hong Kong, Borneo, Singapore, Penang, India and parts of Europe, on a botanical quest to compare flora and geological features with those of California.



Dee Himes

Borneo Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) relaxing in protected area along the river in Palanga Raya City, central Borneo.

The main botanical focus of the trip was in Munsyari, the southern side of the Himalaya in the state of Uttarakhand, India. They will share some of their experiences from a once-in-a-lifetime trek in the Himalaya with three other Chapter members: Arvind Kumar, Ashok Jethanandani, and Joe Cernac.

We will see a surprising geological feature in Hong Kong; orangutans in Borneo; amazing flora in the Himalayas; and

other botanical interests in the other countries visited. Of course there will be some interesting insect and bug photos as well.

Ken and Dee Himes have been Chapter members since 1974 (Ken) and 2007 (Dee). In 2006, our Chapter nominated **Ken** as a CNPS Fellow in recognition of his dedication to protecting California flora and his boundless enthusiasm for passing on his knowledge. Over the years, Ken has held nearly every Chapter position, in addition to leading long-term habitat restoration efforts at Edgewood.

Since joining CNPS, **Dee** has been our Chapter treasurer, field trip chair and board member; and has inspired many with her exceptional photography skills. Dee is currently serving as a member of the CNPS State Board. Ken and Dee were married in 2016, and have continued to celebrate by enjoying interesting plants and habitats wherever they travel.

How to attend: This meeting will be held virtually, via Zoom and [YouTube](#). Attendees may check [our Meetup page](#) or [our Facebook page](#) for more information. RSVP on Meetup to receive the Zoom meeting link.

CNPS General Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Chapter President Vivian Neou at president@cnps-scv.org or the Chapter phone at (650) 260-3450.

Turn to the next page to read about:

Fall Plant Sale:

**Order online starting October 10,
after live GNGT virtual nursery tour.
No-contact plant order pickup October 17**

Program Meeting October 21

**General Meeting November 14:
Chapter Elections and Virtual Potluck!**

October Program

We'll have a program meeting in **October** as well. See our [Meetup page](#) for details. The topic will be:

**The CNPS Vegetation Program
– Mapping California, A talk by Julie Evens,
CNPS Vegetation Program Director
Wednesday, October 21 at 7:30pm**

Save the Date!

Our **November General Meeting** will be virtual on Zoom this year and we will be conducting our vote for officers virtually during the meeting. Our potluck will be virtual as well: if you have a **recipe** that you'd like to share, please send it to info@cnps-scv.org, and we'll include a compilation of recipes with the November Blazing Star.

Doug Tallamy will be our speaker this year, and since he will be joining us from the East Coast, we will be starting our meeting earlier than usual. Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 14 at 4:00pm**.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Fall Plant Sale: Order Online by October 15 Virtual Nursery Tour October 10 No-Contact Order Pickup October 17

In May, we moved our nursery sales online with limited delivery-only service. Fall planting season is rapidly approaching, and we want to make it easier for everyone to buy plants. Our nursery is too small for safe in-person shopping, so for our fall sale this year, we'll stay online but will provide scheduled **no-contact order pick-up on October 17**. If our pickup times fill up for October 17, we will open up another pickup day.

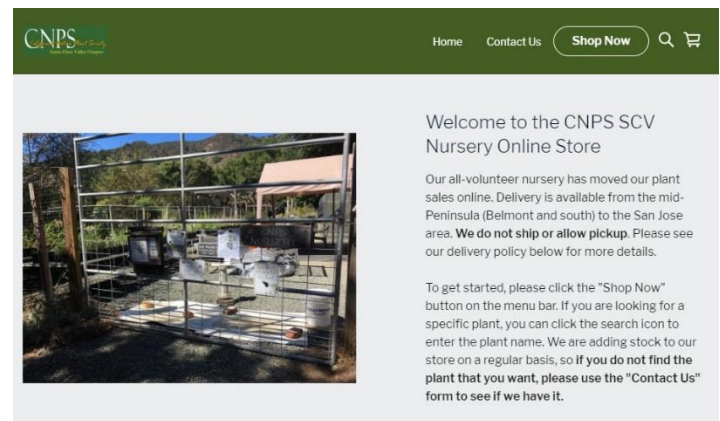
Rather than lining up early on sale day, you'll now be able to browse our selection from the comfort of your home, make your purchases and then choose a time to come by and have plants loaded into your vehicle. We'll be kicking off the online sale at the **live Going Native Garden Tour (GNGT) Session on Saturday, October 10**, where we'll have a tour of the nursery followed by Q & A with nursery staff. Bring those questions you'd ask if you were shopping in the nursery, and we'll do our best to help you!

Since our Fall Sale has always been a tremendous volunteer teamwork effort as well as a resource for socializing and learning about native plants and gardening, please keep these important **differences from previous sales** in mind:

1. Orders must be placed online in advance of pickup. We will not be able to accommodate browsing or pickup day purchases.
2. We will not be able to provide entry to Hidden Villa to anyone who has not pre-ordered **and** scheduled a pickup time. There will be no access to the nursery itself on the pickup day.
3. Customers will **not** be allowed to park or leave their vehicles. You will need to **arrange space in your vehicle** for plants to be loaded into your vehicle before arriving.
4. Please do not bring boxes for your plants. Orders will be boxed ahead of time.

After your order is processed you will receive a message with detailed instructions about the pickup process. CNPS volunteers will be at the ready in the pickup area to load your pre-ordered plants into your vehicle. We want everyone to stay safe, so all volunteers will be socially distancing and wearing masks.

Our online store will be available for delivery sales through the **end of September**. **It will be closed from October 1 to October 9** while we prepare for the sale. The store will be open for orders immediately after the **October 10** GNGT session. Orders for pickup on **October 17 must be placed** by the end of the day on **Thursday, October 15**.



Visit the store here: california-native-plant-society-santa-clara-valley-chapter.square.site

We appreciate everyone's cooperation, patience and patronage as we navigate these challenging times!

GNGT Virtual Visits and Talks

The monthly Going Native Garden Tour (GNGT) live virtual sessions in September and October include:

Tuesday, September 15 at 7:30pm

This session includes one private and one public garden: the Matadero Garden (gngt.org/MataderoOaks GNGT) and the Bol Park Native Garden (gngt.org/BolPark GNGT), which is a public garden located in Palo Alto, Cornelis Bol Park. Each virtual garden tour will be followed by a question & answer session with the garden owners and/or designers.

Saturday, October 10 at 10am

This session will include a demonstration of the mud planting method for native plants by Krzysztof Kozminski and a walk-through of the CNPS SCV Nursery and demo garden with Nursery Manager, Vivian Neou. The session will wrap up with a panel to answer questions about plants available at the nursery.

A handout describing Krzysztof's mud planting method may be found here: www.cnps-scv.org/mud-planting.

The live sessions are available on Zoom and the [CNPS SCV YouTube channel](#). The sessions are recorded on YouTube, so if you cannot attend the broadcast, you will be able to view it on YouTube at your convenience. For more information, please visit gngt.org or the Chapter's [Meetup listings](#).

Volunteers Needed for Fall Plant Sale Order Pickup

We will have a pre-order plant sale with nursery-side pickup on **Saturday, October 17**, with more Saturdays to be added if there is demand. Customers picking up plants will be required to remain in their vehicles to maintain social distancing. We won't need as many volunteers as for our usual sale and the jobs will be different. Our main needs for volunteers will be directing cars to the pickup location and loading plant orders in cars. More complete job descriptions will be available when the link for sign-ups is made available in early September.

Volunteers must sign up in advance, as we will not be able to accommodate drop-ins and must limit the number of volunteers on-site. Sign-up will include agreeing to our State CNPS guidelines about COVID-19. The guidelines require that volunteers wear **masks**, practice **social distancing**, and observe appropriate cleaning and disinfecting protocols. The complete guidelines will be

available to read before signing up. Stay tuned to our [Chapter website](#), CNPS SCV news email list (see page 9 of sign up), and [Facebook page](#) for links to check out the volunteer positions needed, read COVID-19 guidelines and **sign up** if you can help.

Due to restrictions as a result of COVID-19, we are not able to have regular CNPS SCV nursery work sessions or accommodate volunteers at the nursery until further notice. Our Monthly Member Sales at the nursery have been canceled until further notice.

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 periodic meetings, photography outings and an active email list.

The group has an on-going #MyPhotoOfTheWeek activity

on the email list for group members to share their favorite shots with the group on a weekly basis. There is also a monthly virtual meeting on Zoom on **the second Wednesday of each month**, for members to share photos and more – everything from photography tips to organizational ideas to plant hot spots.

You can learn more and join the email group at: www.groups.io/g/cnps-scv-photography.

The next meetings will be **Wednesdays, September 9 and October 14 at 7:00pm**. 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 (join the email list to get the signup link for the next meeting). You don't have to share pictures to attend the meeting. More information is available on [our Meetup page](#) and through the group's email list.

Chapter Leadership and Elections

By Georgia Stigall, Chapter board member

Serving as a Chapter Officer is a very rewarding way to participate in, benefit from, and contribute to our collective



Vivian Neou

An order of plants at the CNPS SCV nursery, ready for delivery.

CNPS effort on behalf of native plant conservation and appreciation.

Officers are helped significantly by other members, thanks to an extremely high level of camaraderie, teamwork and “spreading around” of various tasks and responsibilities in our Chapter. You may have noticed at times that various Officers over the years are involved in many of the Chapter’s activities and issues. This is more often than not, a function of their interest as a Chapter volunteer, rather than as their specific duties as an Officer.

In other words, there is great flexibility in how much time each individual actually spends on their specific officer duties. So if you have any interest at all, for now or the future, please do let us know!

Please contact Stephen Buckhout (stephen@yscottie.com), the chair of the Nominating Committee, if you would like to know more about running for Chapter office or to suggest a nominee. A slate of nominees will be provided in the November-December Blazing Star. Chapter members may also be nominated from the “Zoom floor” at the November General Meeting.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Conservation Committee

Our Chapter’s conservation committee will meet on **Tuesdays, September 8 and October 6**. Both meetings will be via Zoom, 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 for the Zoom meeting link.

For questions, comments or concerns, contact Conservation Committee Chair Carolyn Dorsch at cdorsch@cnps-scv.org or (650) 804-6162.

Vote Yes on Measure T

Ensure that the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (OSA) has the funds to continue their important work of preserving, protecting and making access to nature and recreation available for all to enjoy.

Residents within the Open Space Authority area will be voting on Measure T in their upcoming November ballot. Our Chapter supports this measure, and urges its members

to **vote YES** in November. Below are some details about the measure.

This measure is sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (OSA). OSA is a public agency in Santa Clara County, which was established in 1993 with a mission to preserve open space and natural resources. It currently has four preserves open to the public: Coyote Ridge, Coyote Valley, Rancho Cañada del Oro, and Sierra Vista.



Ashok Jethanandani

OSA’s Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve was the location of this CNPS plant community walk in February of 2018.

OSA has been a leader in protecting green space (over 25,000 acres since the organization’s inception), managing natural areas and restoring water resources. It also provides educational programs for schools and the community. The Santa Clara Valley OSA has a long history of being good stewards of the funds and lands entrusted to them.

Measure T seeks to:

- Renew the agency’s primary source of funding, an annual \$24 parcel tax;
- With no increase;
- Until ended by the taxpayers.

This is the same amount as the current annual parcel tax. The measure will provide approximately \$5 million annually, providing predictable funding for the agency.

Our Chapter’s board and Conservation Committee voted in August to support Measure T. We urge all members residing in the OSA’s area to **Vote Yes on this measure**. To learn more about [Measure T](#), visit [OSA’s website at](#)

www.OpenSpaceAuthority.org. The measure’s ballot language is not available from the County yet: here is [OSA’s PDF containing the proposed language](#).

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Vivian Neou, Chapter President



At the start of the year, I don’t think anyone could have correctly predicted what the Chapter would be doing now. As an organization that is heavily focused on outdoor and in-person activities, we’ve had to completely overhaul our plans for the year. On the bright side, this process has opened new opportunities to stay connected and increase our understanding and appreciation of our California’s rich native flora.

After cancelling all of our in-person activities when COVID-19 restrictions began in March, we came back strong in May with the Virtual Going Native Garden Tour (GNGT) accompanied by a new series of live, virtual GNGT sessions – three in May alone. What a quick pivot for a committee that had never put on a virtual program before! Those sessions reached hundreds of people, and because they’re recorded, we can tell that they continue to educate and inform. The live sessions are continuing on a monthly basis.

In June we held a Photography Group photo sharing meeting, which was so popular that we decided to make it a monthly event. It’s bringing in a steady stream of new members to the Photography Group. The group’s #MyPhotoOfTheWeek activity on their email list provides another venue for group members to highlight their favorite pictures.

We restarted our program meetings on Zoom in June with the program that was originally scheduled in March. It worked out so well that we now have a

speaker lined up each month for the rest of the year. Between all of these activities, the Chapter now holds at least three virtual activities each month. We’ve found that we’re attracting attendees from far beyond our Chapter’s borders, and we’re hearing from Chapter members who are happy to be able to attend talks without sitting in traffic or driving after dark.



Carol Mattsson

Even our Chapter board meetings have gone virtual. August 2020.

As much as we miss seeing each other in person, it’s been gratifying to see that there are some benefits to our virtual events! Another advantage of our virtual world is that it makes it possible for us to host Doug Tallamy as the featured speaker at our November annual meeting.

Some of our restoration activities have opened up again as well; there are opportunities at both Alum Rock and Lake Cunningham. We are also organizing a Fall Plant Sale, although the format will be significantly different than previous years.

It’s been a challenging year, but we’re appreciative of all of the volunteers who’ve made it possible to adapt our activities to the current state of the world. I’m happy that so many of you have participated in our virtual events, and I hope to see you virtually at future events.

– Vivian



Arvind Kumar

At our Chapter’s Lake Cunningham native garden, organizers have observed that stinkwort areas weeded in previous years show significantly fewer weeds this season.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Relationship Between California Pipevine and Western Yellow Jacket

By Dee Himes, Chapter Board Member

It is a mystery to me why I am so interested in the genus *Vespidae*, the family of yellow jackets, hornets and paper, potter, mason and pollen wasps. They are in the order of *Hymenoptera*, which comprises sawflies, wasps, bees and ants (see BugGuide.net/node/view/198/node/view/198). During a May 2015 Chapter field trip to Butano State Park, I was stung five times, yes, **five times**, by (an unknown species of) yellow jackets. I ran for my life, cowering and whimpering trying to find a hiding place. But no place was any good until I ran far enough away from their hive. It was a very painful experience, not ever to be forgotten.



California pipevine in our Belmont, CA garden. This flower is blooming out of season, probably triggered by recent cool weather. In the background, the entire vine is covered with large ripened fruits and leaves.

A few years after that incident, in early September 2018, I noticed in our California native plant garden that our California pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*) was surrounded by Western yellow jackets (*Vespula pensylvanica*). I crouched down three feet in front of the frenzy of activity, mesmerized, watching them. Learn more about [yellow jackets on Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vespula_pensylvanica).)

So over the past few years I've been making observations between the Western yellow jackets and California pipevine in our garden. The California pipevine is a deciduous semi-herbaceous to soft woody stemmed perennial vine. This plant is also the sole host to the caterpillars of the pipevine swallowtail butterfly (*Battus philenor hirsuta*).

Weather is one of the drivers of how animals and plants behave seasonally, affecting their phenology (lifecycle) timing, such as their dormancy period. The length of their flowering and fruiting times varies year to year from a few weeks to about a month or so. My own observation timing also varies from year to year.

From February through March, the pipevine flower buds begin to wake up, slowly growing larger and larger, until by April they are in full bloom. Sometimes fruits might develop as early as February or March. Small fly gnats or Argentine ants may successfully squeeze into the flower buds to pollinate them.

The phenology of this plant is quite interesting in that it forms next year's flower buds right after the current year's flowers have finished blooming, around May or June. Their fruits set at the same time. The plant is leafless during bloom time and as the flowers fade, new leaves begin to emerge for the year and may likely provide photosynthetic energy for the developing fruits and next year's flowers. The fruits themselves are fluorescent yellow-green and this may also help with photosynthesis, maximizing the harnessing of energy to support these hyper activities of new flower buds, fruit development and leaf growth – all at the same time.

The fruits are full and heavy, and can measure from 24 to 64 millimeters in length and can weigh anywhere from 10 to 35 grams. (Yes I measured and weighed them!) They have a hexagonal cross-section comprised of six chambers containing tan- to brown-colored seeds. The seeds have creamy colored appendages that are called **elaiosomes**, a lipid rich in protein. (See reference 2 at the end of this article.)



This female Western yellow jacket discovers an early-ripened fruit capsule in July that I laid on the ground, to bait whatever was interested in the irresistible elaiosome.

By August, the Argentine ants and Western yellow jackets are busily checking out the ripeness of the California pipevine fruits. The Argentine ants will crawl around trying to find a small split at the end of the fruit, so they can enter to consume the elaiosomes and parts of the pith, the white spongy lining inside the fruit capsule. Once the Western yellow jackets discover a small hole, they will swarm this fruit and widen the hole with their powerful mandibles until they can all cram inside it, to eat in a frenzy the fruit and pith. A large fruit can allow as many as five to six yellow jackets to jam inside. When it's fully occupied, other yellow jackets will hover around the fruits, jockeying for position to get inside. Some will rest on the trellis and preen themselves.

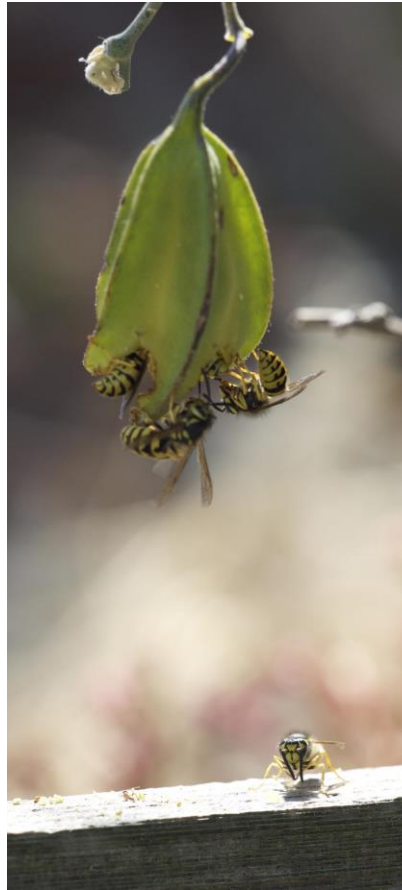
Once inside, they frantically try to dislodge the pipevine seeds by eating enough pith to release the seeds from the capsule. They incessantly nudge and pull, nudge and pull until the seed can be freed from the fruit chamber. Then they fly away with it in a hurry, presumably to the hive to feed the elaiosome to their larvae. (I have not located the hive yet to confirm this is the case but it is an educated assumption that this hard-gotten protein is taken back to the hive to be used as food. I will need to follow them back to their hive to confirm this.)

Occasionally seeds are accidentally dropped during take-off or in flight, falling into the leaf litter. The yellow jackets will madly go after each seed, trying to relocate it and again flying away with it, but are not always successful and this is how some seeds are dispersed.

I wonder after the elaiosomes are consumed, what do the yellow jackets do with the seeds? Do they take them out of their hives and “throw” them away at their local “dumpster,” thereby creating a cluster of seeds for germination? The seed dispersal by wasps is called **vespicochory**.

After the fruit capsule is emptied of its seeds, the yellow jackets soon disappear. When the next fruit ripens and splits, it sends out a scent to call the yellow jackets again,

“Come disperse my seeds.” Then all that frenzy begins anew.



Lower right, this Western yellow jacket waits patiently for her turn to eat while other Western yellow jackets are lining up at the entrance of the fruit capsule to a “full house.”

This year’s observations added a couple of new players: the European paper wasp (*Polistes dominula*) and some sizeable rats that live in our neighborhood, both invasive pests. In my new observations, I ask myself, “What roles do these paper wasps and rats play?” Surely they are freeloaders, yet they must occasionally mislay a seed or two.

For additional photos and videos, visit Dee’s Flickr album entitled, CNPS Blazing Star Article: [Wasps & CA Aristolochia](#).

At the time of this writing (August 15, 2020), we are experiencing a heat wave. Every day there is a new fruit capsule splitting open. The Western yellow jackets, the European paper wasps and the Argentine ants are swarming the fruits to eat as much of the elaiosome as they can. There is absolutely no social distancing here. Everyone for themselves. A sad reminder of the current situation in America.

References

- (1) Western yellow jackets in general: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vespula_pensylvanica
- (2) Seed dispersal by Western yellow jackets: Jules, Erik S. “Yellow Jackets (*Vespula vulgaris*) as a Second Seed Disperser for the Myrmecochorous Plant, *Trillium Ovatum*.” *The American Midland Naturalist*, vol. 135, no. 2, 1996, pp. 367–369. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/2426720. Accessed 16 June 2020.
- (3) Virginia snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*) also provides each of its seeds with a large, creamy-white, fleshy elaiosome. This oily, nutritive appendage is attractive to ants, encouraging them to assist in seed dispersal, the process known as **myrmecochory**. See rufino-osorio.blogspot.com/2010/08/ant-dispersal-in-aristolochia.html?m=1.
- (4) Elaiosome: Ancient Greek élaion = oil; soma = body) From en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elaiosome.

References for “pollenated by fungus gnats” (*Mycetophilidae* family) and some ants:

(5) Bug guide: bugguide.net/node/view/12759

(6) Jepson eManual: ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=14232

All photographs taken by Dee Himes.

– Dee Shea Himes, citizen scientist.
This is my observation. What’s yours?
Dee4CNPS@gmail.com.

CHAPTER SERVICE OUTINGS

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 groups.io/g/AlumRockParkVolunteers to check the schedules or join the email list. You may also visit www.cnps-scv.org/restoration/alum-rock-park to learn what to bring and get directions to the usual meeting places.

We continue to do restoration work. All volunteers must wear masks at all times and social distance (except within families). Second Saturday workdays are sponsored by the City of San Jose and there were two city staff working with 13 other volunteers on August 8 at the Weather Loop, as shown in the next photo.



We have stopped work at the Todd Quick restoration site as there isn’t much to do there. Instead we have started to work at the Weather Loop, which is above the North Rim Trail at the east side of Todd Quick.



We started raking the area, to add the weeds to compost piles, in early August, after weed whacking. We’ve actually used our finished compost as mulch elsewhere in the project. Very few weeds appeared within the mulch. (Credit for both photos goes to Stephen Rosenthal).

We are **accepting new volunteers**, with the above conditions. Recently we had three Santa Clara County staff working with us. One has become a regular volunteer, while another has worked with us a few times on Cape ivy removal in County property along Penitencia Creek.

For more information contact Stephen at sailinsteve@sbcglobal.net or (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.

Stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) removal at Lake Cunningham Park resumed in earnest in July and August, the third year of this drive. Volunteers met weekly to remove this invasive non-native annual from around the native garden and along Inner Lake Path that encircles the lake. Infestations seemed to track traffic flows.

The weeding effort is paying off: areas weeded in previous years show significantly fewer weeds this season. (See before and after photos on page 5.)

Workdays continue **Saturdays 8:00 - 10:00am**. New volunteers are welcome; City-issued guidelines and COVID-19 best practices are followed. For complete details and directions and to RSVP, see our [meetup.com listings](https://www.meetup.com/listings).



Arvind Kumar

Lake Cunningham garden habitat restoration volunteers on an August Saturday workday.

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.

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2020

Title	Name	Email	Phone
President	Vivian Neou	president@cnps-scv.org	(650) 260-3450
Vice President	Johanna Kwan	1calnative@gmail.com	
Recording Secretary	Priya Pharate	secretary@cnps-scv.org	
Treasurer	Janet Hoffmann	janet@cnps-scv.org	(408) 374-0435
Past President	Madeline Morrow	madeline.morrow@earthlink.net	(408) 741-1150

Stay in Touch!

The Chapter has gone virtual with all of our events until further notice. Please visit www.cnps-scv.org/stay-in-

touch for information on how you can continue to receive email to stay informed.

To protect the health of the volunteers who prepare the Blazing Star newsletter for mailing, we are only publishing it online at: www.cnps-scv.org/blazing-star-newsletter.

Printed newsletters are available if you are unable to read the newsletter online. Email us at newsletter@cnps-scv.org or send a letter to our office at the address on the last page of this newsletter to request a printed copy.

Chapter activities will also be announced on our Chapter News list, [our Facebook page](#) and [Meetup](#). Two things you can do to make sure you don’t miss anything are:

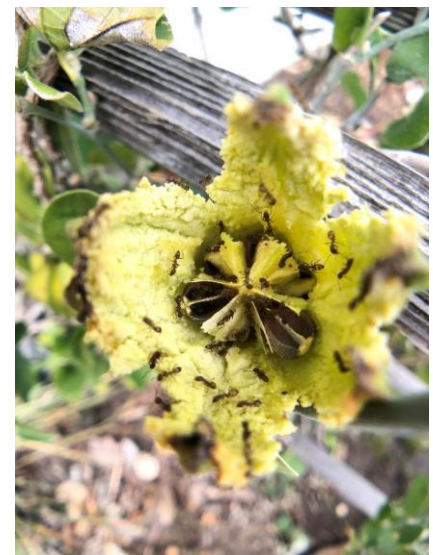
Join the Chapter news list:

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter emails announcements about upcoming events (talks, hikes, sales, wildflower show, garden tour), alerts, last-minute notices and late-breaking news. Events that are scheduled after the *Blazing Star* is published are announced to this list.

To sign up, please send an e-mail to: cnps-scv-news+subscribe@googlegroups.com. This list is open to the general public. **Members are not automatically subscribed to the list, so you need to add yourself if you’re not already on it.**

Make sure that your membership information is correct:

Members should make sure that their contact information is correct by going to [cnps.org](https://www.cnps.org) and clicking on “My Profile” in the upper right-hand corner of the page. Log in if you have an account set up already, or set up an account if you don’t. Check your email address to make sure that it’s correct and make sure that you’ve checked the box to allow CNPS to send you email, as shown in the image below:



Dee Himes

Argentine ants swarm a fully-opened California pipevine fruit capsule and feast on the creamy-colored eliasome attached to the seeds, chamber columns and pith

Read Dee’s full story starting on page 6.

Email Interests

I would like to receive email about the following selected topics:

EXPAND ALL | **COLLAPSE ALL**

Email Interests	Description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CNPS Plant Science Training Workshop Announcements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt Updates
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	California Native Plant Society News (gardening tips, conservation, plant science, and more)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conservation Action Alerts
<input type="checkbox"/>	IPA Workshop Data Gathering & Review (by invitation only)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local Chapter News (garden tours, plant sales, field trips, volunteer opportunities, and more)

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT *BLAZING STAR*
Saturday, October 17
carol.mattsson@gmail.com or (408) 255-3767

Email Preferences

Yes, I would like to receive email from California Native Plant Society.
Deselect to unsubscribe from all CNPS emails.



This box must be checked to receive online Blazing Star notices.

Preferred Format:

SAVE | **RESET**

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 *Fremontia*, the *Bulletin*, and the Chapter newsletter, and other benefits listed at 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 • (916) 447-2677 ext. 200

FIRST-CLASS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (page # in parentheses)

Sep 8 Tue Conservation Committee meeting (4)

Sep 9 Wed Photo Group photo sharing (3)

Sep 15 Tue GNGT 2 gardens tour + Q & A (2)

Sep 24 Thu Program: Asia & Europe – Himes (1)

Oct 1-9 Fri Nursery online store closed for orders (2)

Oct 6 Tue Conservation Committee meeting (4)

Oct 10 Sat GNGT nursery tour, store opens (2)

Oct 14 Wed Photo Group photo sharing (3)

Oct 15 Thu Fall plant order deadline (2)

Oct 17 Sat **Fall plant sale order pickup** (2)

Oct 17 Sat **Newsletter submittal deadline**

Oct 21 Wed Program: TBD – State CNPS (2)

Nov 14 Sat **General Meeting – Tallamy** (2)

Mons, 2nd & 3rd Sats Alum Rock workdays (8)

Saturdays Lake Cunningham workdays (8)

The next Chapter board meetings will be **Thursdays, September 17 and October 22** at **7:00pm** over Zoom.

Social/check-in begins at **6:30pm**. Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and their guests.

For more information contact Vivian Neou at president@cnps-scv.org.

(Reminder: all the events in this calendar are **virtual**, that is, held over live teleconference such as Zoom, except for weeding workdays and the Fall plant sale order pickup on Oct 17.)

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. Address changes may be submitted to cnps@cnps.org; please put "member address change" in the subject line.

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