MAY 2008

Hibiscus

The Newsletter for the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

Serving the Sacramento, Yolo, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, lower Placer and northern San Joaquin County areas

MAY PRESENTATION:

Pine Hill Preserve

Graciela Hinshaw, Preserve Manager

Jo-Ann Ordano © 2005 California Academy of Sciences

Pine Hill Flannelbush, Fremontodendron decumbens

MAY MEETING:

Wed., 5/14 7:00 p.m.
Shepard Garden & Arts Center
McKinley Park
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento 95816
Mary Maret, President
(916) 961-4057

Our chapter meetings are free and open to the public. Books, wildflower seeds, and Sacramento Valley Chapter t-shirts are usually available for purchase at meetings. Refreshments provided!

Welcome our new chapter V.P.! page 7

See pp. 4&5 for our CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

The Pine Hill Preserve (Preserve) was established to protect rare native plants that occur on gabbro soils in western El Dorado County, California. More than 700 plant species have been recorded at the Preserve and the adjacent area, representing almost 10% of the total plant species known in California. The list of plants growing on Preserve lands includes 8 species that are rare, 5 of which are federally listed and 4 that are endemic. The Preserve encompasses about 4,200 acres within five non-contigous units, and 3,154 of these acres are within an area designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the recovery and conservation of the rare plants.

Graciela Hinshaw, Preserve Manager, received a Bachelor's degree in Biology at the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Mexico after conducting research on *Gramineae* of Nayarit. For her Master's degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of Nevada-Reno, Hinshaw conducted research to evaluate interactions of red brome with native species after fire. She has a particular interest in imperiled species and has worked as a biologist and botanist in semi-arid and tropical lands with the Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agricolas y Pecuarias, in Mexico. In California, she worked as a botanist and wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as a preserve manager for the Center for Natural Lands Management, and, in Colorado, as a Land Steward for The Nature Conservancy. Currently, Hinshaw works for the Bureau of Land Management, in Folsom.

The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them and their natural habitats through science, education, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship.

Wildflower Weekend *Thank you!*

was a huge success.

Weather was fabulous, and we had record crowds both days. Presentations were well attended. First thank yous go to Mary Maret, Barbara Wolf, Betsy Weiland, and Jen Stock who were often inspirational in planning, organizing and publicizing Wildflower Weekend. We also thank our generous sponsors: EDAW, for their financial support; Linnea **Fronce,** for her beautiful art work; Barbara Wolf, for her beautiful graphic design; and **Master Color Printing** in Roseville. I need to mention here that **Byron Love**'s enthusiastic offer to include native bees in this year's exhibit ignited an energy that spread throughout 2008's Wildflower Weekend. Thank you Byron!

Thanks to our dedicated Exhibitors: **Jennifer Hogan** and Discovery Zone aides **Nicole Hogan, Cierra Gardner, Kaylene Moffitt,** and **Annie Jenkins; Dr. Glen Holstein;** Sacramento Valley Conservancy's **Tammy Mebane and Aimee Rutledge; Dr. Debra Ayres and Melanie Gogol-Prokurat; Dr. John Hunter** and **Mark Bibbo; Dr. Ellen Dean, Mary Maret** and **Bonnie Ross; Eva Butler;** Sacramento Audubon's **Julie Serences, Mary Beth Metcalf, Jan and Tom Tankersley,** and **Maureen Geiger; Byron Love, Frank Wallace** and **Ken Myatt.** And thank you to **Julie Evens, Kristie Scarazzo,** and **Michelle Stevens** for giving the exhibitors a break!

Jen Stock stepped up and helped with everything the entire three days– if I looked sane on Sunday afternoon, it was because of her support. And thank you to our book sellers, **Olga Myslivec** and Barbara Wolf, to **Mary Schiedt** for our food (constantly tempting us with brownies!), to **Amanda and Sofia Jorgenson** and **Hazel Gordon** for greeting everyone with enthusiasm, to my all-day go-to people: **Kristina Webber** on Saturday and **Ryan Snyder** on Sunday! To other indoor aides **Bill Patterson, Rich Blackmarr,** and **Dana Kuksza.** And thank you to **Sabrina Okamura Johnson** for the beautiful bouquets that decorated the entire exhibit, collected at the City Cemetery Demonstration Garden.

The presentations were terrific! Thank you **Jennifer Hogan** for Gardening with Natives (twice!); **Tony Loftin** for Hiking in the Sacramento Region; **Byron Love** for The Secret Lives of Native Bees; **Carol Witham** for Endemics of Vernal Pools; our Plant ID Workshop hosts **Melissa Holster, Debra Sykes, and Erin Gottschalk Fisher**; and **Betsy Weiland** and **Matt Baker** for their inspiring presentation on the California Heartland.

So besides this list of hard workers, who else helped put this together? CSUS Professors **Dr. Mike Baad** and **Dr. Michelle Stevens** gave their students credit for helping and boy did they! I'm pretty sure I'll miss a name or two so all of you should know how much you helped!!! Among the outstanding Exhibit helpers were **Ryan Synder, Mia Bellante, Harmit Cheema, Selina D. Cole, Sarah Cumming, Deniz Kuzio, Gina Disney, Lizzy Haupt, Christina Havens, Taylor Madison, Mike Maher, Stephanie Pastor, James Rosauer, Chai Saephan, Kristopher Say, Sasha Silvestrini, Ali Summers, Stephanie Zweifel, Megan Hammill, Aurora Rylander, Sangeeta Hegde, Kristin Eisner, Kris Fay, Lindsay Haupt, Nathan Fry, Cassie Kovarik, Jamie LeFeme, and Tami Wallace.**

For security help, thank you **Richard Rivas** and **Gina Disney!** Thanks for plant sale help to **Bill Patterson, Rich Blackmarr, Victoria Harris, Susan Fregien, Rick Bettis, Paul Barth, Taylor Madison, Rachel Ilagan, Lauren Fety, Chris LaFleur, Jim Alford, Sherry A Payne, Casey Rutherford, William Hamilton, Fran Clarke.**

Table help by **Mary Maret, Deborah Stout,** and **Linnea Fronce**—we needed and appreciate them all!

And to my personal helpers: thank you **Andy Anderson** and **Jeff Shaffer** for setting up and packing up our four huge tents!

— *Chris Lewis*

And Thank You to Chris Lewis, for your indefatigable energy and hard work making Wildflower Weekend a huge success for four years in a row!

Some Scenes from WW08

Photos by Bonnie Ross

Above: *Jennifer Hogan presented "Gardening with Natives"— twice!*

Below: *Betsy Weiland (left), spring plant sale coordinator, and Chris Lewis (right), Wilflower Weekend Chair Extraordinaire, share a moment with their green friends!*

Above: *Byron Love fascinated us with his presentation about native bees and their relatives.*

Below: *Tony Loftin, our chapter's new Field Trips Chair, shared some of his favorite local hikes and hiking advice with an adventurous crowd.*

May 2008 Calendar of Events

See our calendar online at www.sacvalleycnps.org for more, updated events and happenings!

MAY

Tue., 5/6, Sailor Bar Area
8 a.m .- noon
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777
Named after a sailor who jumped ship and established a gold claim, Sailor Bar's 375 acres are rich in cultural and natural history. Meet Jack at the end of Emperor Street to explore the plants, birds and animals of this riparian corridor along the American River Parkway. From Winding Way, turn south on Kenneth, then east on Emperor Street to the end.

Sun., 5/18
Habitat Improvement Work Day
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777
Help Jack restore native vegetation along the American River Parkway. Tasks vary from month to month, so call Jack for details and meeting time, usually early morning.

Sat., 5/10
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
American River Native Plant Nursery/Demo Garden Workday
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova
Rain or shine, there is lots of work to be done. Consider riding your bike out! For information, contact Chris Lewis, lewisc916@yahoo.com or call (916) 812-2876.

CNPS Plant Science Training Program Workshops

For more information visit CNPS state website at http://cnps.org/cnps/education/ or call / email Josie Crawford at (916) 447-2677 jcrawford@cnps.org

May 4-5: Weed Identification, Ecology, and Invasions
Primary Instructors: Joe Di Tomaso, et al, location tba

May 20-22: Wetland Plants of the Lower Sacramento Valley
Primary Instructors: Virginia Dains, Bob Holland, and Captain Tule

ONGOING

Native Plant Demo-Garden
Saturdays and Sundays
10 a.m. until noon (Rain cancels)
Wear a hat, long shirt and boots (or sturdy tennis shoes). Also bring gloves, gardening tools and knee pads if you have them. RSVP by Sunday at 5 p.m. to confirm 929-7896. For more info, Sabrina soj@surewest.net

Chapter Meeting & Guest Speaker
2nd Wed. of month, 7:00 p.m.
(Jan-June; Sept.-Nov)
Shepard Garden & Arts Center, McKinley Park, Sacramento.
Meetings are free and open to the public. Books, Wildflower Seeds, and our SacValley t-shirt always available for purchase. Refreshments.

Habitat 2020 Conservation
Mon., 5/12
7:00 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Arden-Dimick Library,
891 Watt Avenue at the corner of Watt Ave. and Northrup
For information, contact Chris Lewis, lewisc916@yahoo.com / (916) 812-2876.

American River Native Plant Nursery/Demo Garden Workdays
2nd Saturday of every month
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova
Rain or shine, there is lots of work to be done. Consider riding your bike out! For information, contact Chris Lewis, lewisc916@yahoo.com or call (916) 812-2876.

Chapter Board Meetings
4th Wed. of month 7:00 p.m.
(Jan-June; Sept.-Nov) Arden-Dimick Public Library, 891 Watt Ave. at Northrup, Sacramento 95864.
Call Mary Maret for more information (916) 961-4057.

Save the date: Jan. 17-19, 2009

CNPS Statewide Conservation Conference: Strategies and Solutions

Seep Spring Monekyflower
Mimulus guttatus by Robert Boyer

Other Events

Sunday, May 4
Bringing Back the Natives
U. of California
Botanical Garden at Berkeley
200 Centennial Drive
Berkeley, CA 94720
510-643-2755

12:30 p.m. ***Family tour: California Natives: Plants and People***
3:00 p.m. ***Getting Started with California Natives: Plant Selection and Site Preparation***
Led by Ken Bates, Horticulturalist for the California Area
Programs are free with Garden admission. Space is limited. Reservations are required. For more info visit <http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu>

Other Events

Effie Yeaw Nature Center - May 2008

Located in Ancil Hoffman County Park,
2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, CA
All programs are FREE unless stated otherwise.
Park entrance fee: $5.00 per car or FREE to ARNHA members.
Open 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. daily.
For more information about the Center or events, contact: <www.effieyeaw.org> or (916) 489-4918

Interactive Exhibit: Endangered Species of California's Central Valley

Saturday 5/3, 1:30 p.m.
Log Lovers
Why do we leave all the fallen trees and branches around the Nature Area? They create habitat for many critters. Find out who loves these logs and take a hike to look for them.

Sunday 5/4, 1:30 p.m.
Natural History Hike
Enjoy the majesty of 200-year old oak trees and the fragrant, colorful wildflowers so attractive to pollinators. Take this guided walk to discover how the plants and animals in the Nature Area each have a place in this environment.

Saturday 5/10, 1:30 p.m.
Avian Antics
Birds are some of the most observable wildlife. Get a close up look at what makes them unique. With the use of artifacts and live examples you will learn all about these special animals.

Sunday 5/11, 1:30 p.m.
Mother Nature Stroll
Celebrate the beauty of spring's revival with someone special on a delightful guided walk through the Nature Area on Mother's Day.

Saturday 5/17, 1:30 p.m.
Hooray for Herpetology!
Meet our resident reptiles and amphibians and learn about their natural history and ecology. You will learn about their life cycles, predators and prey, habitats, locomotion and defenses.

Sunday 5/18 1:30 p.m.
Signs of Life
Animals are all around us, even if we do not see them. Come learn to read the subtle signs of animal life through a special Animal Signs Bingo game! Then go look for them on the trails.

Thursday 5/22 at 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon
Paradise Beach Nature Hike
A popular beach since the 1800's, Paradise Beach was one of the first parcels of land purchased for the American River Parkway in 1950. To see how it has changed, meet Jack at Glen Hall Park near the end of Carlson Drive in the River Park neighborhood.

Saturday 5/24, 1:30 p.m.
Six-Legged Sensations
Join a naturalist for a close look at insects commonly found in and around the Nature Area. Then take a creature safari and observe insects in their natural habitat.

Sunday 5/25, 1:30 p.m.
Fly By Butterfly
Can you tell a pipevine swallowtail from a painted lady, a red admiral from a monarch? Find out as you explore the life cycle of the butterfly and take a walk to investigate their world.

Saturday 5/31, at 1:30 p.m.
Maidu Abalone Pendants
Learn the skill of making abalone necklaces the way the native Maidu have for centuries, then take your craft home to show family and friends.

Workshops by Friends of the Herbarium at Chico State

May 10, 2008 Introduction to Keying the Fabaceae by John Dittes and Josephine Guardino

May 17, 2008 Botanical Illustration by Judy McCrary

June 14, 2008 Introduction to the Willows of California by John Bair

For the details about these workshops and how to register, please go to: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html

Sierra Nevada Lecture Series

Presented by the Sierra College Natural History Museum, the Sierra College Center for Sierra Nevada Studies – Free & Open to the Public

May 1 The Present and Future of the Sierra Nevada
A Panel Discussion of Experts, featuring Jim Branham, Executive Officer of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy; Catherine Stifter, two-time Peabody award-winning journalist, and jesikah maria ross, prize-winning documentarian, of Saving the Sierra: Voices of Conservation in Action; and others.

May 8 New Adventures on the John Muir Trail
Joe Medeiros, Professor of Biological Sciences, Sierra College
Lynn Medeiros, Professor of History, Sierra College

Thursday nights, 6 – 9 p.m.
Sierra College - Rocklin Campus
Room LRC 107
Learning Resources/ Library Bldg.
visit <www.sierracollege.edu>

For more information: 916-789-2725 / jmedeiros@sierracollege.edu
916-781-7184 / gnoy@sierracollege.edu

Plant I.D. Workshops with "Ceanothus" (See, I know this!)

Meets weekly rotating between Auburn, Rocklin, Sacramento, and Davis. Bring some live plant material and practice keying out, using the Jepson Manual. <**www.ceanothusfieldbotanist.blogspot.com**> for more information or send an e-mail to ceanothusfieldbot@gmail.com to get on the e-mail list.

The Davis Botanical Society Presents

Dr. Art Shapiro: Butterflies, Native Plants, Invasive Weeds and You

Thursday, May 15, 2008, 7:00-8:00 pm
Blanchard Room,
Davis Public Library
315 E. 14th Street, Davis

Dr. Art Shapiro will discuss the interactions of butterfly populations with native and non-native plants. Learn about the implications these interactions have for conservation land management and the backyard butterfly gardener! Learn some surprising facts about which plants are most heavily relied on by the butterflies. What is in store for plant and the butterfly populations in the future? Dr. Shapiro will also discuss the origins of our lowland California butterfly species and their fate in the landscapes people have created.

Dr. Shapiro is a professor in the Department of Evolution and Ecology at UC Davis.

Stay and enjoy good company and our fine refreshments after the talk. Parking at the Davis Public Library is free! For more information, please contact Ellen Dean/Jean Shepard at the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity (530) 752-1091.

Jimson weed
Photo: Betty Cooper

RARE PLANT BRIEF *by Kristie Scarazzo, Rare Plant Chair*

Bogg's Lake Hedge-hyssop

(Gratiola heterosepala)

Family: Scrophulariaceae
Federal Status: None
State Status: Endangered
CNPS Status: 1B (Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere)
Bloom Period: April-August
Threatened By: Agriculture, development, over-grazing, invasive plant species, and off-road vehicles

Photo: © 2004 Carol Witham

Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop is a tiny herbaceous annual that occurs in aquatic habitats. It was first described in 1954 from Bogg's Lake, located in Lake County, California. This species may be found in marshes, swamps, and other shallow bodies of water including vernal pools, edges of stock ponds, and swales. It occurs at elevations ranging from 10 to 2,375 meters above mean sea level. The known range of Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop includes Fresno, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Merced, Modoc, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Siskiyou, San Joaquin, Solano, and Tehama counties; there has been a single documented occurrence of this species in Oregon.

Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop has brownish-red fleshy stems and is typically less than 10 centimeters (cm) long. It occurs in small clumps or as solitary individuals. The leaves of this species are generally less than 20 millimeters (mm) in length, are not clasping, and are oblong and truncate (squared at the end, as if cut off). Its calyx is subequally fused at the base. A good distinguishing characteristic is its predominantly yellow corolla, with its lower three white lobes and the other two yellow. Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop is often confused with its more common relative, bractless hedge-hyssop (*G. ebracteata*). Bractless hedge-hyssop tends to be much larger in size, has longer leaves with acute tips, sepals that are not fused, and corollas that have yellow throats with all of the lobes white.

This species has a very ephemeral nature and population numbers vary from year to year according to the amount of rainfall received and how quickly seasonally inundated features dry out. Carol Witham, (CNPS member, botanist, vernal pool expert and activist) believes this species may not be as rare as we think it is and that it is likely other populations exist. But, because Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop is so small and inconspicuous, the survey window for this species is variable and fleeting, and its bloom window is associated with inherent variability of the hydrologic cycle, it may often go undetected and/or reported.

Sac Valley Chapter's new Vice-President: Jennifer Stock

by Barbara Wolf

What happens to new volunteers who jump into chapter activities with energy and enthusiasm? They get invited to join the board, that's what! When Russ Huddleston, our most recent vice president, announced his plans to move to the Bay area, the search was on for a replacement. Now, please join your SacValley chapter board in welcoming Jennifer Stock as our new vice-president. Last September, Jen gave a presentation on landscaping with California natives at our chapter meeting, and she has been with us ever since.

With a Bachelor's of Landscape Architecture from Pennsylvania State University and nine years on the job with ICF Jones & Stokes, Jennifer could not be better suited for this role. At work, she performs visual analysis for environmental documents (EIRs and EISs), and works on restoration projects. Her firm donated her services to design the native plant demonstration garden outside the new Streng Volunteer Center in William Pond Park on the American River Parkway. And you may have seen Jen at Wildflower Weekend, providing crucial support wherever she was needed before, during and after the event.

"I'm really excited to take on the job of vice president," Jennifer says. "I want to get to know more of the members, learn from them, and hear about what they would like to see happening in our chapter."

Jen, get ready to hear an earful!

Join Jen and do your part for our chapter!

We are still recruiting for:
Hospitality Chair - Juice-and-Cookie Master! Bask in the appreciation!

Our thanks and "yummies" to Janet Penney and Marietta Pellicano for filling in temporarily!

Book Chair - A bibliophile's dream job. Order and sell books at chapter meetings and events. Lots of helpers!

Program Chair - we'll let you (actually, the guests you invite) entertain us.

Current chair persons and other board members will help you ease into the position. Some positions lend themselves to teaming up--get a partner and share the experience. For information or to volunteer, Call Mary M. at (916) 961-4057

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CNPS Newsletter
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Subscribe to the chapter listserv by sending a blank email to: CNPS_SacramentoValley-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Contact Harry Spanglet (spanglet@water.ca.gov) for more info.

Be sure your membership is current! See your address label for your renewal date.

May 2008 Hibiscus

www.SacValleyCNPS.org
The Sacramento Valley chapter newsletter, Hibiscus, is published monthly, except for July, August, and December. Subscriptions are $10 per year. To subscribe solely to this newsletter, send your $10 check to: CNPS Sac Valley Membership, 2707 K St., Ste. 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. Deadline for Hibiscus contributions is midnight of the Friday after the monthly meeting for possible inclusion in the next month's newsletter. Email to bwolf@surewest.net

American River Ranch Native Plant Nursery

Next Workday: May 10, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The goal of the nursery is to create a non-profit Nursery that will supply organically grown native plants for the American River Parkway and other community parks and schools as well as promote awareness of the benefits of native plants, encourage community involvement, and provide a source of locally native plants for restoration projects as well as home gardeners.

Driving Directions from Sacramento:
The Nursery address is 2140 Chase Dr.
- Highway 50 East
- Mather Field/Rancho Cordova Exit
- Left on Mather Field
- Right on Folsom Blvd
  (after crossing light rail)
- Left on Coloma Rd (Raley's on your left)
- Left onto Chase Dr

Take the gravel road on your left directly before Hagen Park kiosk. Follow drive through gate (to open simply lift chain). Where the drive splits go up toward the left and park where you see other cars, near the farm stand.

Biking directions: American River Ranch is just 1 mile upstream from the bicycle bridge that connects William B. Pond and Goethe Park. (For contact info, see p. 3)

Top right: *Carol is our watering wonder woman!*

Above: *A well-worked nursery crew*

Right: *Our first baby buckeye!*

Photos: Chris Lewis