

Hibiscus

SUMMER 2008

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

JUNE MEETING:

Wed., 6/11 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.*
Wildflower seeds and Sacramento
Valley Chapter t-shirts are available
for purchase at meetings.
Refreshments provided!

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

This is the last
Hibiscus and the last
chapter meeting
of the season.
Both will be back
in September!
Look for updates at
www.SacValleyCNPS.org

JUNE PRESENTATION:

River-Friendly Landscaping

by Dave Roberts



*Preserving the Sacramento River
Watershed... Starting In Your Own
Back Yard!*

River Friendly Landscaping can help us address many looming problems such as drought and pollution of our creeks and rivers. Dave Roberts will help us understand how conventional landscapes are creating problems and how River Friendly Landscaping can be a part of the solution for more than just water savings. Dave's presentation will walk us through the seven principles of River Friendly Landscaping and give us tips on how our gardens can help save water, save energy, lessen pollution and create habitat. Are California native plants part of the future urban landscape? Come find out how your garden can be River Friendly.

Dave Roberts is President of Ecolandscape California and owner of Roberts Landscape in Sacramento.



Who's this little guy?
Hint: Our native
plant nursery has a
new mascot... and a
new name!

See page 2

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.

In late April, an e-mail message went out to the chapter board: Name the nursery! Nursery chair Chris Lewis wanted it to have a unique identifier that related to the flora of the American River Parkway. After a flurry of e-mails, consensus was reached:

Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery

Why Elderberry Farms? Board members offered a number of persuasive arguments: The elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*; Blue Elderberry) is iconic to the Parkway and the American River, as well as many other California watersheds. It ties in well with one of our missions in CNPS: to preserve plants in order to preserve habitats and ecosystems; the elderberry's associated (and federally threatened) Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB)* is a case in point. It also ties in with the edible gardening movement—can you envision samples of elderberry jam and pies on special occasions at the nursery? So thank you to those who gave their thoughtful input to come up with our lovely name.

With the name settled, Slow got to work on a nursery logo. He didn't forget to include the threatened VELB. Here is the nursery's new logo, to remind us what we are working for every time we see it!

Hey Chris, how about another contest: Name the beetle?

**To learn more about the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, visit <<http://essig.berkeley.edu/endins/desmocer.htm>>*



THANK YOU

We want to thank the following people, organizations, and businesses for their support of our Nursery:
Our LAND: **Soil Born Farms**; Our FUNDING: **Sacramento Valley CNPS, River City Run, Sustainable Sacramento/ Sierra Club, Jones & Stokes**; DONATIONS & MATERIALS: **Mary & Joe Maret, Sac County Parks, SWW/ARPF, Peaceful Valley Farms, Teichert... and more to come!**

For information about
Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery,
contact Chris Lewis,
lewisc916@yahoo.com or call (916)
812-2876.

Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery Summer Workday Schedule



Nursery Wednesdays!

Each and every Wednesday spend a pleasant morning at Elderberry Farms from 9:00 – 12:00.* We'll be potting up or otherwise tending plants, creating gardens, or collecting seeds and cuttings, depending on the need. If you would like to join us, come to the Nursery but contact me in advance in case we go seed collecting on the Parkway that day! Please bring water, hat and gloves. We'll have snacks for our hard-working volunteers. Contact Chris at lewisc916@yahoo.com. *Even if you can only come for part of the time we're there, you're still welcome!

Seed collecting Mondays!

If Monday mornings works for you, join us out on the Parkway collecting seeds and taking cuttings. There are several locations we'll be collecting from, so if you would like to come along, contact me for the time and location. If you know of an area that would be a particularly good collection spot, please let me know! Bring water, hat, and pruning shears. I'll have collection envelopes.

2nd Saturday Workdays this Summer!

June 14, July 12, Aug 9, 9:00-12:00 (Since Sacramento summers can sizzle, we're cutting our summer workday hours a bit.) This spring we potted up lots of plants and built workbenches, an entire growing area fenced with a graveled floor, and put up 2 shade shelters. Now we have plans to build a storage shed (with a Living Roof), and soil bin! That means: more infrastructure to put into place. If you know your way around hammer or are willing to learn, we need your help!



Where in the World is Elderberry Farms?

**Within Soil Born Farms at
American River Ranch
2140 Chase Dr, Ranch Cordova**

Driving Directions from Sacramento:

- 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

The Nursery address is 2140 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.

Bicycling directions on the American River Parkway

Elderberry Farms is just 1 mile upstream from the bicycle bridge that connects William B Pond and Goethe Park (now named River Bend Park). If coming from Sunrise, you can bike in at Hagen Park. Then just after the Kiosk, take the driveway to your right.

Light Rail/Bus directions

If riding Light Rail, get off at Mather Field/Mills Station. This is about 1½ miles from the Nursery – an easy bike ride east (continue using driving directions). The Nursery is on Bus line 21, which has a stop at Cordova High School which is at the other end of Chase Drive.

*An Elderberry Farms volunteer crew at
Sailor Bar
Photo: Christina Lewis*



Summer 2008 Calendar of Events

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

JUNE

Evening Beaver Walks

Tues. 6/3

Fri. 6/20

Mon. 6/30

Times to be arranged.

Meet up with Jack and search for nature's nocturnal engineer, the beaver. Limited to eight people, best suited for adults and children over 7 years old. Call Jack at 967-0777 for time and to make a reservation.

Sun., 6/8

8:00 a.m.

Habitat Improvement

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack and help improve the Nature Area. Call Jack at 967-0777 if you can help with this project.

Nature Nearby for Tots!

Thurs. mornings, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

• June 19 – Upper Sunrise in Gold River/American River Prkwy

• July 17 – Effie Yeaw Nature Trail/American River Prkwy

• August 12 – Arboretum at CSUS

Introduce your pre-schooler to nature with us on these short outings. The goal on these Thursday morning trips will be to take your little one on a plant walk and share your enthusiasm for nature. The walks will be from 9:00-11:00. Baby backpacks or jogging strollers will be appropriate as we'll be on dirt trails. We won't be walking great distances but you may want to bring your own snacks. When and where will we explore?

Contact Tony Loftin at hikingtony@earthlink.com or 916/995-4600 to RSVP and for meeting locations.



Photo: Barbara F. Wolf

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

Mondays, 6/9, 7/14, 8/11

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.

Elderberry Farms Native Plant

Nursery/Demo Garden Workdays

2nd Saturday of every month

Monday and Wednesday work too!

See page 3

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.

Jan. 17-19, 2009

CNPS Statewide

Conservation

Conference:

Strategies and Solutions

Photo Contest

Sponsored by CNPS and LowePro

1st Prize - \$750, LowePro Primus AW recycled material backpack, photo published in *Fremontia*, & 2 complimentary tickets to Conservation Conference banquet.

2nd Prize - \$500, and all the rest

3rd Prize - \$250, and all the rest.

Runners-up (3) - LowePro Fastpack 250, and photo published in *Fremontia*.

“Conference Choice”- The cover of the CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference: Strategies & Solutions Proceedings to be published in 2009.



Kelso Dunes Primrose by Ree Slocum

Entry fees: \$20 per entry or \$10 per entry for conference attendees.

Additional information:

Visit the CNPS Conference web site at www.cnps.org. Questions?

E-mail Stacey Flowerdew at sflowerdew@cnps.org!

Other Events

Effie Yeaw Nature Center - June 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 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 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

Sunday Safari

Grab your binoculars to get a closer look at the animals and plants that make up the unique woodland habitat along the American River.

Sunday the 1st at 1:30 p.m.

Summertime Stories

Come to the Nature Center to hear some sunny stories told by the Sacramento Story Teller Guild.

Saturday the 7th at 1:30 p.m.

Summer Fun Days –

June 9th – August 15th

Crafts, activities and walks with a nature theme amuse and educate youngsters in grades K-5 in these age-grouped one-week and two-week camp programs from 9 AM – 12 Noon. For more information and to register, call 916-489-4918.

California's Black-tailed Deer

Take a guided walk to gaze at these gentle woodland animals and learn more about their world with hands on items like pelts, skulls, and antlers.

Sunday the 8th at 1:30 p.m.

Wading Into Wetlands

From the ground up, a wetland is an incredible place! It's where water meets land, and it's chock full of life! Join a naturalist and explore the muck, bugs, plants and critters that make this environment so fascinating.

Saturday the 14th at 1:30 p.m.

Father Time Nature Hike

How has Father Time changed the Nature Area? Take this Father's Day walk with someone special and discover how flooding or a fallen tree can have a big effect on the local ecology.

Sunday the 15th at 1:30 p.m.

Oak Tree Hospitality

What do woodpeckers, deer, beetles, lichen, tiny gall wasps and people have in common? They all need oak trees! Join us for a guided walk to learn more.

Saturday the 21st at 1:30 p.m.

Searching for Snakes

Learn to identify the distinct and unique features of snakes common to this area. Take a walk near the river to explore their habitat and possibly catch a glimpse of one of these scaly creatures.

Sunday the 22nd at 1:30 p.m.

Evening Astronomy Program

Join Sacramento City College professor Liam McDaid for this presentation on our closest star, then take a look at the evening sky through telescopes provided by the Sacramento Valley Astronomical Society. Recommended for ages 10 and older.

Friday the 27th at 7:00 p.m.

Local Wildlife Hike

Join a naturalist for a guided walk to look for animals that roam the Nature Area and the plants that make up the unique habitats along the American River.

Saturday the 28th at 1:30 p.m.

Nature's Mechanics

Why don't birds have gills or fish have wings? What are some of the "built-in" tools animals have? Find out how adaptations help animals survive in their environment.

Sunday the 29th at 1:30 p.m.

Workshops by Friends of the Herbarium at Chico State

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



Triphysaria eriantha
© 2008 Robert Boyer

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.

**College of the Woods
Presents
Lichen, Mushrooms
& Mosses for
Tree-huggers**

June 21, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

**1311 Myrtle St
Calistoga, Ca 94515**

*A one day seminar open to
the general public.*

**For reservations or
more information, contact:
<college@offthewoods.com>
707-942-0818**

In cooperation with CAA & Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (WCISA) member Joseph Schneider (Pacific Tree Care) and SFSU Mycologist Stephanie Jarvis will teach this workshop to identify Fungi, Moss & Lichen. The class is hosted by Paul Dubois (Of The Woods Tree Care - WCISA & CAA member) at his College of the Woods facility in Calistoga, CA.

Held in an intimate setting located in the heart of the world famous Napa Valley, participants will discover the amazing world of fungi, lichen and moss through the eyes of a tree care professional and a mycologist.

This class is structured to teach identification of pathogenic, saprotrophic and mycorrhizal fungi as well as healthy tree ecosystems by understanding the roles of moss and lichen in an easily conceived and recognizable nature.

The opportunities that this exciting program provides to arborists, gardeners and anyone who loves trees are limitless. By being able to identify fungi, lichen and moss on your trees, you will be able to take better care of your trees and identify hazards that come along with pathogenic fungi.

Each session is limited to 30 seats and includes a continental breakfast, BBQ lunch and a wine/beer discussion hour at the end of the seminar.

CEU and DPR credits to industry people through the WCISA are available.

City Breaks Promise to Protect Del Paso Park Nature Area

*Parks Department Decides "In Perpetuity" Just Meant 23 Years
by Arcade Creek Restoration Project*

In August 2007, the City of Sacramento began building an 18-station Disc Golf Course within a nature sanctuary along Arcade Creek within Del Paso Regional Park. The course would attract 57,000 player annually as a major venue for Disk Golf tournaments. Intensive recreation, however, was explicitly excluded from the sanctuary when it was first established by the City Council, and the course poses a significant threat to the Park's natural resources. Course construction was suspended in November 2007. Your help is needed to convince the City to downsize the course from 18 to 9 stations, and to build it within the nearby day-use recreation area previously approved by the Council.

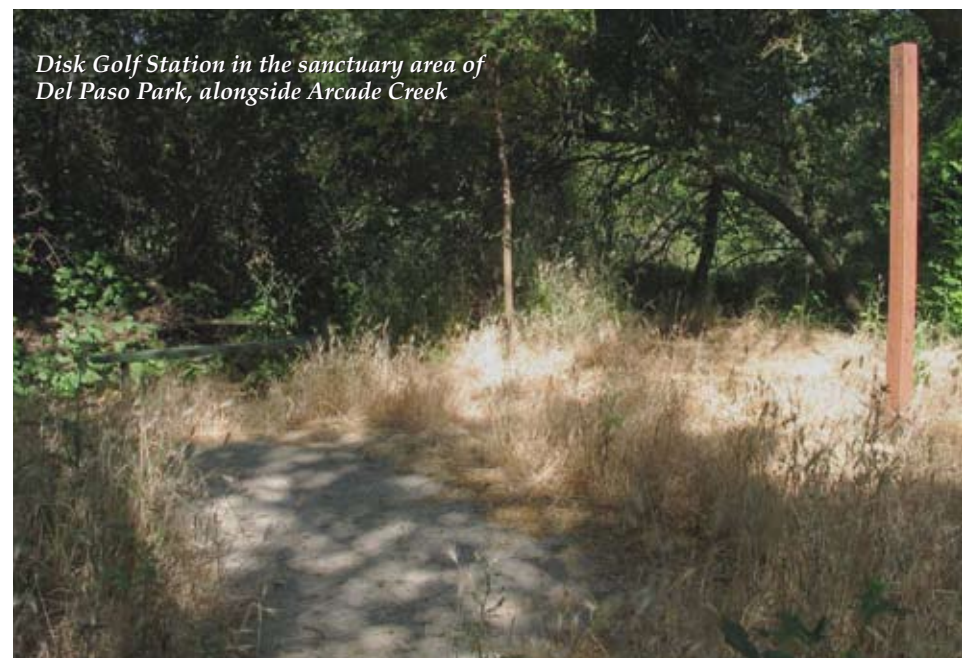
What you can do:

- If you live within the City limits, write an e-mail or a letter to your council member. (City Hall, 915 I St, 5th Fl., Sacramento, CA 95814)
- If you live elsewhere, write an e-mail or letter to Mayor Fargo (hfargo@cityofsacramento.org)
- Urge them to order the Parks Department to remove the partially constructed Disc Golf Course from the designated "Natural Habitat Area."
- Ask them to direct the Parks Department to downsize the course from 18 to 9 stations, and to build it in the approved "Day Use Recreation Area."
- Please send a copy of your message or letter to the Arcade Creek Restoration Project

The Arcade Creek Restoration Project was established in 1980 as a loose coalition of people in the Sacramento Valley dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural areas along Arcade Creek, with a special focus on Del Paso Regional Park.

Dist. 1: Ray Tretheway	rthretheway@cityofsacramento.org
Dist. 2: Sandy Sheedy	ssheedy@cityofsacramento.org
Dist. 3: Steve Cohn	scohn@cityofsacramento.org
Dist. 4: Robert King Fong	rkfong@cityofsacramento.org
Dist. 5: Lauren Hammond	lhammond@cityofsacramento.org
Dist. 6: Kevin McCarty	KMcCarty@cityofsacramento.org
Dist. 7: Robbie Waters	rwaters@cityofsacramento.org
Dist. 8: Bonnie Pannell	bpannell@cityofsacramento.org

**Arcade Creek
Restoration Project
Rancho del Paso
Legal Defense Fund
824 Grosvenor Place
Oakland, CA 94610-2509
tvendlinski@sbcglobal.net
(510) 444-4807**



*Disk Golf Station in the sanctuary area of
Del Paso Park, alongside Arcade Creek*

Photo: Barbara F. Wolf



Sacramento Splash Nature in the Neighborhood Family Events!

It's a Hoot! Owls of the Sacramento Region

Saturday, June 14th, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Learn about the amazing owls that live in the Sacramento area, dissect an own pellet, and get up-close-and-personal with a live owl!

Nature Detectives – Find the Wildlife Signs Left Behind

Saturday, July 12, 2008, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Hone your skills as a nature detective and learn how to identify the area's wild-life residents by the signs they leave behind. We'll search for tracks, scat, pellets, trails, diggings, feathers, hair, and more. Then we'll piece together the clues to tell a story about how the critters spent their day.

For Goodness Snakes! – Get to Know Your Local Snakes

Saturday, August 16, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Come to Splash and learn about the snakes in our area and their unique survival strategies. See a slide show, meet some rescued snakes, and then go into field to find some wild ones!



Where:

Splash Education Center
4426 Excelsior Road
Mather, CA 95655

Prices:

\$10/adult, \$5/child (5-18), Free/under 5
Reservations strongly recommended for all events.

Please visit www.sacsplash.org or call (916) 364-2437



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(area code 916 unless otherwise noted)

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CNPS Newsletter
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Are you being served?

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.

June/Summer 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

Thanks for Your Support!

Hazel Gordon, Chapter Membership Coordinator

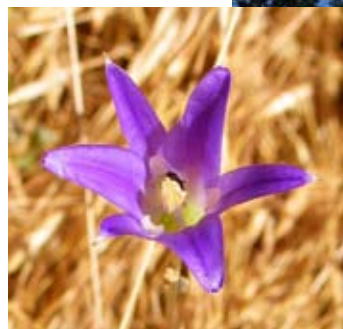
We welcome our new chapter members who joined in recent months and hope you enjoy our activities. We would love to hear from you about our programs and events:

A. Bauers, L. Blount, K. Calton, D. Carney, R. Conn, K. Cortright, J. Cox, G. Darin, M. Davia, J.E. Denton, C. Field, L. Hamamoto, R. Hutchinson, J. Jennings, B. Lazarus, T. Loftin, S. Mair, J. McCluskey, G. Messich, K. O'Rourke, A. Rice, P. Rodgers, R. Tassej, E. Valvodinos, J. Vinton

We also very much appreciate our renewing members (too numerous to list) whose loyalty keeps us going and going and ...

Please don't forget to send a change of address notification to 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816-5113 if you happen to move and want to keep the CNPS publications coming to you.

Since this is the last Hibiscus until September, enjoy the summer!



Photos (2): © 2008
 Barbara F. Wolf

Del Paso Park is home to mighty oaks and delicate Brodiaea. Now, that habitat is threatened by plans for a disk golf course! See story, page 6.