

Hibiscus

OCTOBER 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

OCT. MEETING:

Wed., 10/8 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!

Calendar of Events p.4-5

Climate change threatens

California native plants. p.2

Status of California Hibiscus . . p.3



Phacelia imbricata
Photo: © 2008 Christina Lewis

OCTOBER PRESENTATION:

Exploring the Flora of Northern California with Volunteer Plant Collectors

Ellen Dean

Curator, UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity

The Center for Plant Diversity houses the second largest university herbarium in California, and Ellen Dean dedicates part of her time to collecting herbarium specimens, earning her a reputation as “the dead plant lady.” In addition to her own plant collecting, often done with her husband Tom (chapter webmaster) and daughter Margaret Starbuck, Ellen has organized a number of volunteer and UC Davis student plant collecting projects in northern California, especially in the Inner Coast Ranges. Locations have included several UC reserves (Stebbins Cold Canyon, Quail Ridge, and McLaughlin), the BLM-owned Payne Ranch in Colusa County, and the Tuleyome-owned Ireland Ranch in Yolo County. She has also led collecting trips to Washoe Meadows State Park and Donner State Park in the high Sierra Nevada.

The aim of these collecting projects is to create a plant list for an area and to document rare plant occurrences. Ellen will discuss the importance of herbarium specimens to our understanding of plant species, their importance in creating a plant list, how specimens are collected, how she organizes volunteer collecting projects, and the surprising floristic finds that her groups have made.

Ellen keying plants with husband Tom at the Carrizo Plain in March 2008.
Photo: Margaret Starbuck



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.



Rosehips by the river

Photo: © 2008 Christina Lewis

Photos from the Nursery group's Monday morning information gathering walks. With our new GPS device we'll be able to locate particularly good species stands and help the Sacramento Weed Warriors with tagging species of interest.

Elderberry Farm Native Plant Nursery Receives Grant!

In August, the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment awarded Elderberry Farms a grant of \$6,500 to support riparian restoration on the American River. This funding will enable the nursery to purchase a badly needed shade structure. Thanks to previous grants from the Sierra Club, Jones & Stokes, and EDAW we were able to purchase fencing, shed building materials, a watering system design, and a GPS device. We are sure to have a shade structure assembling party in the near future. If you can help, please let us know!



A view of the American River from William Pond Park

Photo: © 2008 Christina Lewis

Climate Change Could Severely Impact California's Unique Native Plants

excerpted from Science Daily - June 25, 2008

The native plants unique to California are so vulnerable to global climate change that two-thirds of these "endemics" could suffer more than an 80 percent reduction in geographic range by the end of the century, according to a new University of California, Berkeley, study.

Because endemic species - native species not found outside the state - make up nearly half of all California's native plants, a changing climate will have a major impact on the state's unparalleled plant diversity, the researchers warn.

"Our study projects that climate change will profoundly impact the

future of the native flora in California," said David Ackerly, UC Berkeley professor of integrative biology. "The magnitude and speed of climate change today is greater than during past glacial periods, and plants are in danger of getting killed off before they can adjust their distributions to keep pace."

The researchers caution that their study can't reliably predict the fate of specific species. However, the trend is clear: The researchers project that, in response to rising temperatures and altered rainfall, many plants could move northward and toward the coast, following the shifts in their preferred

climate, while others, primarily in the southern part of the state and in Baja California, may move up mountains into cool but highly vulnerable refugia....

"Across the flora, there will be winners and losers," said first author Scott Loarie, a Ph.D. candidate at Duke University's Nicholas School for the Environment who has worked with Ackerly on the analysis for the past four years. "In nearly every scenario we explored, biodiversity suffers - especially if the flora can't disperse fast enough to keep pace with climate change."

The authors identified several

continued on p. 7



RARE PLANT BRIEF

by Kristie Haydu, Rare Plant Chair

Woolly Rose-Mallow

(*Hibiscus lasiocarpus*)

Malvaceae (Mallow Family)

Federal Status – None

State Status – None

Other – CNPS List 2 (Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere)



Photo: © 2002 Kristiaan Stuart / CalPhotos

Woolly rose-mallow (also known as California hibiscus, Sacramento rose-mallow, and river mallow) is a perennial herb that occurs in freshwater marshes and swamps and along wet stream-banks at elevations that range from 0 to 120 meters (m) above mean sea level. This species blooms from June through September. The known range of woolly rose-mallow includes Butte, Contra Costa, Colusa, Glenn, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Sutter, and Yolo counties.

Members of the Malvaceae family can be easily recognized because of their unique “monodelphous epipetalous stamens.” In other words, the filaments (the stalks of the stamens that support the anthers) are fused into a tube that surrounds the style and eventually joins the petal bases. Woolly rose-mallow is differentiated from other species in the Malvaceae by its capsule fruit and large showy, often solitary flowers.

There are three species of *Hibiscus* in California, but woolly rose-mallow has large cordate (i.e., heart-shaped) leaves and petals that are 6 to 10 centimeters (cm) long.

The flowers are indeed spectacular and hard to forget. The petals are snowy white or slightly rose-colored with deep red bases. The genus *Hibiscus* was chosen as our Sacramento Chapter CNPS newsletter name and logo because of its compelling beauty and because it represents the essence of the Sacramento Delta and riverine systems characteristic of our region. Rose-mallow is a rhizomatous plant that reproduces clonally. As such, this plant is easily cultivated from cuttings and can do well in gardens with clay soils and plenty of water.

Unfortunately, most of the documented populations of rose-mallow are small and this species is continuously threatened by habitat disturbance, riverbank alteration and channelization, development, agriculture, recreation, erosion, and weed abatement measures.

Lithocarpus densiflorus: An Environmental History of Tanoak

November 23, 2008

Frederica Bowcutt

Location: Valley Life Sciences
Building, UC Berkeley

Of the hundreds of species worldwide, only one species of *Lithocarpus* grows in North America. Tanoak, *Lithocarpus densiflorus*, is restricted to California and the southwestern corner of Oregon. By focusing on this singular hardwood tree, we will explore American history as it relates to changing attitudes and land use practices affecting forests. This workshop will focus particularly on the environmental history of the Mendocino and Humboldt Coast. If linking botany, American history, and political economics sounds fun, this is the workshop for you.

Course fee: \$85 members of the Friends of the Jepson Herbarium/
\$110 non-members

<<http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/2008/index.html#Nov23>>



Lithocarpus densiflorus; Tan-bark Oak © 1999 Charles Webber / California Academy of Sciences



October 2008 Calendar of Events

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

OCTOBER

If you want to invite others to join you on field trips, please notify:

Field Trips Chair Tony Loftin
(916) 448-3230
HikingTony@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor Barbara Wolf
bwolf@surewest.net

Webmaster Tom Starbuck
tjstarbuck@ucdavis.edu

Sun., 10/19, 8:00 a.m.
**Habitat Improvement, Effie Yeaw
Nature Center**

Come and help Jack improve the Nature Area. Call Jack at 967-0777 if you are planning to come out and help.

Hollyleaf Redberry
Photo: © 2008 Christina Lewis

Wed., 10/22, 8:00 a.m.-Noon
**Nature Walk at William Pond
Recreation Area**
Meet Jack at the outside entrance to the park at the end of Arden Way.



ONGOING

**Native Plant Demo-Garden
Old City Cemetery
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
Care about Conservation?
Monday, 10/13 (Second Monday of
each month) 7:00 p.m. - 9 p.m.
NEW LOCATION: SMUD Bldg.**
Questions? Ask Chris at 812-2876 or lewisc916@yahoo.com.

**Elderberry Farms
Native Plant Nursery
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova
Demo Garden Workdays
2nd Saturday of every month**
Rain or shine, there is lots of work to be done.

**Explore the Parkway with the
Nursery folks!
MONDAY MORNINGS 7:45 - 10:30**
Help with mapping plant locations and collecting seeds. Bring your water and hat and dress for the weather. Contact Chris for meeting locations or more information. 812-2876 or lewisc916@yahoo.com

**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.

Sac Valley Chapter Volunteer Hosts Needed during CNPS 2009 Conference

Do you live in Sacramento or Davis and would you be willing to provide a place for a student to stay while attending the CNPS Conservation Conference **January 17-19, 2009**? We expect 800 to 1000 attendees, many of them students who will be presenting the results of their studies.

Some chapters would like to pay for the conference registration and travel for some of these students. However, full support of lodging and meal expenses is beyond the resources of some chapters. If you can help,

contact Josie Crawford at jrcrawford@cnps.org, or (916) 447-2677.

For more information about the Conference, or other opportunities to volunteer, see www.cnps.org and click on the conference logo.

Strategies & Solutions



CONSERVATION
CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE! Growing Natives: Celebrating California's Beauty in Dry Times

**March 28, 2009 - Lafayette
Community Center, Lafayette
March 29, 2009 - Regional Parks
Botanic Garden, Berkeley**

Co-sponsored by Pacific Horticulture, CNPS, and the Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden

A two-day program of talks and workshops exploring the possibilities for creating beautiful waterwise gardens. For more information, please visit www.nativeplants.org / www.cnps.org / www.pacifichorticulture.org

Other Events

Effie Yeaw Nature Center - Oct. 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

Sat., 10/4, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Maidu Indian Day:

Special Fundraising Event

Celebrate Maidu culture with traditional food tasting, games and demonstrations, watch Maidu dances and make Maidu crafts. This fundraiser supports the Nature Center's educational programs. Event admission \$3.00/person, children 3 and under free.

Sun., 10/5, 1:30 p.m.

Riparian Habitat Walk

Join a naturalist for a walk through the Nature Area's riparian habitat and discover what plants and animals are found within this special area.

Fri., 10/10, 8:00 a.m.-12 Noon

Bannister Park Hike

Meet Jack at the end of Bannister, just off Fair Oaks Boulevard, for a hike along this beautiful part of the American River Parkway.

Sat., 10/11, 1:30 p.m.

Wings in the Night

Join bat conservationist Patricia Winters of the California Bat Conservation Fund and learn about these mysterious flying mammals. Get a good look at some live bats as you learn about the myths, superstitions and misconceptions regarding these highly beneficial animals. Program best suited for adults and children over 6 years old.

Sun., 10/12, 1:30 p.m.

Living with Wildlife

Bats in your belfry? Raccoons in the trash? Explore ways that humans can peacefully coexist with wildlife in their neighborhoods.

Sat., 10/18, 1:30 p.m.

Owls of October

When are owls most active? Can they turn their heads all the way around? What is an owl pellet? Meet a resident owl of the Nature Center and learn the answers to these questions and more.

Sun., 10/19, 1:30 p.m.

Wildlife Care Association

What do you do when you find an injured or sick bird or animal? Meet Doug from Wildlife Care Association and find out first hand what to do.

Sat., 10/25, 1:30 p.m.

Things that Slither

Some have scaly skin, some have slimy skin, some have legs, and some don't! Can you guess what they are? Join us if you dare to find out!

Sun., 10/26, 1:30 p.m.

Salmon Stroll

Take a stroll to the American River with a naturalist to catch a glimpse of the migrating salmon. You will see many that remain in the riffles here to spawn.

Birds of Winter in the Sacramento Valley

Ed Harper, longtime educator, tour guide and noted birder of the Sacramento area, will help you learn the finer points of identification, calls and natural history of the many species of winter birds in the Sacramento region. Both beginning and experienced birders can improve their knowledge and skills with this series of lectures and field trips. Whether you simply want to distinguish one sparrow species from another or seek help learning the distinctive "chuck" note of a hermit thrush, this course has many facets for wide appeal. Anyone with a serious interest in birds and who enjoys their presence in our world can benefit from this class.

LECTURES - Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and Nov. 13

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

FIELD TRIPS - Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon

Nov. 1, Ancil Hoffman Park,

Nov. 8, Yolo Basin Wetlands,

Nov. 15, Nimbus Fish Hatchery

To enroll contact Effie Yeaw Nature Center (916) 489-4918

Fee: \$80 includes all lectures and field trips. *Pre-registration is required.*



Great American Egret

Photo: © 2004 George Hartwell / CalPhotos,
California Academy of Sciences

Full Belly Farm Hoes Down Harvest Celebration

Saturday, October 4th and Sunday October 5th

Two days promoting agricultural arts and sustainable rural living. **Where:** Full Belly Farm is off of State Highway 16, just past Guinda in the Capay Valley.

Admission: \$20 Adults, \$5 Kids (ages 2-12), free for children under 2

Camping Saturday night: \$20 per car. For more information see:

<www.hoesdown.org> e-mail: info@hoesdown.org or call (800) 791-2110.



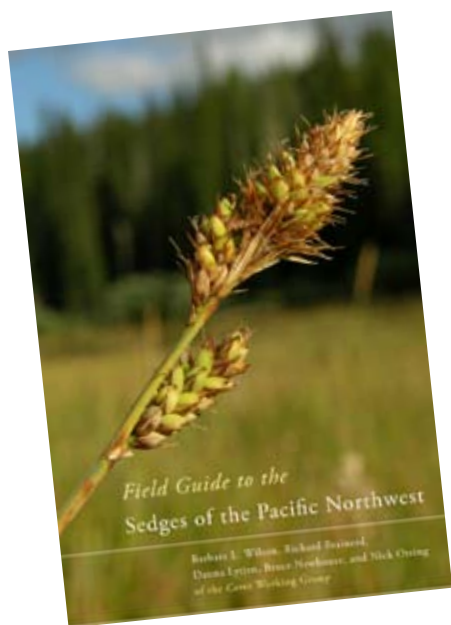
A Native Garden Comes to the Capitol

by Chris Lewis

New chapter volunteer Cate Schmiedt*, Landscape Designer, designed and oversaw installation of a California native plant garden at the California State Capitol Park to honor Senator Sheila Kuehl. Senator Kuehl, representing parts of western Los Angeles county and southern Ventura county, has played a leadership role on water management and conservation issues. Senator Kuehl will be leaving the legislature this year after serving

six years as a member of the California Assembly and eight years in the State Senate. Amanda Jorgensen worked with several state officials to make this happen. Donations from Senator Kuehl's district paid for the materials.

*Cate was formerly with Cornflower Farms and now works for State Boating & Waterways. She also recently volunteered to be our Hospitality Chair! Thank you Cate!



Announcing: "Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest"

The Carex Working Group is pleased to announce the publication of the "Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest." The book is an illustrated guide to all 164 species, subspecies, and varieties of Carex that occur in Washington and Oregon. Botanists will find it useful throughout much of California particularly in northern California and in the mountains throughout the state. It contains identification keys, descriptions, color photographs, and distribution maps for each species, along with information about sedge ecology, habitat, and management.

The field guide is available by calling 1-800-426-3797 or it can be ordered by going to <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/press/e-f/FieldGuideSedges.html> and then clicking on "Secure online ordering form."

Climate Change Could Severely Impact California's Unique Native Plants

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"climate-change refugia" scattered around the state. These are places where large numbers of the plants hit the hardest by climate change are projected to relocate and hang on. Many of these refugia are in the foothills of coastal mountains such as the Santa Lucia Mountains along California's Central Coast, the Transverse Ranges separating the Central Valley from Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Mountains east of Los Angeles. Many of these areas are already under increasing pressure from encroaching suburban development.

"There's a real potential for sheltering a large portion of the flora in these refugia if they are kept wild and if plants can reach them in time," Loarie said. The authors argue that it's not too early to prepare for this eventuality by protecting corridors through which plants can move to such refugia, and maybe even assisting plants in reestablishing themselves in new regions.

"Part of me can't believe that California's flora will collapse over a period of 100 years," Ackerly said. "It's hard to comprehend the potential impacts of climate change. We haven't seen such drastic changes in the last 200 years of human history, since we have been cataloguing species."

Ackerly, Loarie and colleagues at UC Berkeley, Duke University in Durham, N.C., California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo and Texas Tech University in Lubbock report their findings in the open-access journal PLoS One, which appeared online June 25, 2008.

Loarie, et al. *Climate Change and the Future of California's Endemic Flora*
<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002502>

The complete Science Daily article can be found at
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/06/080625073809.htm>



Penstemon

Photo: © 2008 Robert Boyer

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**Jan. 17-19,
2009**

Early-bird registration ends 11/15!

[www.cnps.org/
conservation/
conference/2009/
registration](http://www.cnps.org/conservation/conference/2009/registration)

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

October 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

How to Improve Your Fuel Economy

Excerpted from Consumer Reports

A co-worker sent this excerpt recently. In these energy-challenged times, it's advice worth heeding! - B. Wolf

- Don't idle. Restarting the engine is the same as idling for only 8 seconds.
- Go the speed limit. Every five mph over 60 mph reduces fuel efficiency by about seven to ten percent.
- Keep your vehicle maintained. A dirty air filter can result in up to 20% fewer miles per gallon.
- Keep tires properly inflated. One tire under-inflated by 20% (8psi) can cost more than 1/2 mile per gallon.
- If possible, alter your drive time to avoid driving during peak, congested hours.
- Lighten your load. Every 250 lbs = one mile per gallon. If you don't need to carry something, consider leaving it off the vehicle.
- Reduce drag. Remove racks if no longer needed. Half of a vehicle's energy is expended overcoming wind resistance.
- Buy gas during the coolest times of the day. Use the right octane for your car.
- Do not top off your tank, it contributes to ground ozone.
- Be sure your gas cap is fastened tight. Improperly seated caps waste 147 million gallons of gas per year.
- Drive at a constant, moderate speed. Accelerate slowly and brake over a longer distance. If equipped, use cruise control.

DID YOU KNOW that you can renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card?

You can also set up to renew automatically year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces the cost to CNPS of mailing renewal notices.

[<www.cnps.org>](http://www.cnps.org)

Click on the JOIN button

Board positions are still open for Book Chair, Conservation Chair, and Program Chair.

Call Mary M. to volunteer for any of these rewarding positions.

(916) 961-4057

Are you being served?

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