

April 2007

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

Sacramento Valley Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, April 11, 7 pm

Shepard Garden & Arts Center
McKinley Park * 3330 McKinley Blvd
(the eastern extension of E Street)
Sacramento 95816

Diana Hickson, Program Chair, (916) 362-8022

Mary Maret, President, (916) 961-4057

APRIL PRESENTATION

California's Heartland and Central Chile: Twins In Different Hemispheres

by Glen Holstein



In California's Heartland, the area around Sacramento, all major elements of the Californian Floristic Province, its chaparral, woodlands, prairies, and vernal pools come together. The Californian and Middle Chilean Floristic Provinces are in different hemispheres but have much in common since their climates are nearly identical, and both have coastal ranges, central valleys, and high eastern mountain ranges that wall them off from the rest of their continents. They also have important differences. In 2005, Dr. Glen Holstein, California Native Plant Society Sacramento Valley Chapter Botanist, visited Chile to find out how much it's really like California. At the April meeting he'll take us on a tour of scenic and botanical beauty in both our own Heartland and its southern twin, from central Chile's northern desert to its southern rain forest.

Our chapter meetings are free and the public is invited to attend. Each meeting includes a "Know Your Natives" Plant Identification Challenge. Books, wildflower seeds, and Sacramento Valley Chapter t-shirts will be available for purchase at the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Make a difference: Be the Fall Plant Sale Coordinator.

Did you know that our Fall Plant Sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year? But this year, no one has stepped up to coordinate it. Will there be no plant sale in 2007? Perhaps this is a job that YOU can do. Much support and guidance is provided, and there is always a large cadre of volunteers to pitch in. The plant sale is on the fourth Saturday of September. It is a big job for a short period of time. Then it's over and you can spend the rest of the year resting on your accolades.

Besides fighting for native plants (see pages 7 & 8), our chapter pays for our meeting room at McKinley Park, provides refreshments, prints and mails our newsletters, and purchases various items to keep all of our outreach and education programs going strong. It is a fun event and a great way to meet your fellow CNPS'rs. Please contact Marv M. (961-4057) for more information.

www.SacValleyCNPS.org

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.



APRIL 2007 Calendar of Events

Check out the calendar online
at www.sacvalleycnps.org for
more, updated events and
happenings!



Native Plant Demo-Garden at 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. To help on **Saturdays** contact Mitchell Alford at 916 399-9457 or phytophinder@bcglobal.net. To help on **Sundays** - Sabrina Okamura-Johnson at 916 929-7896 or soj@surewest.net.

Oak Woodland Hike – Center Property

March 31 Sat 11:00 to 3:00

Bill and Robin Center own ridgeline property above the South Fork of the American River. They have built a trail that meanders from their property down to the water's edge – about an hour to an hour and a half hike, if you don't stop frequently to botanize. The trail traverses annual grasses and forbs with some patches of oak trees here and there, as well as a couple of small drainages. This hike is limited to 20 people and is not for the weak-kneed. The hike difficulty is at the intermediate level. For more information contact Shannon Hickey at (530) 792-0973 or at Shannon.Hickey@edaw.com.

Sacramento Weed Warriors

Apr 1 Sat 8:45-12:15

Community Work Group / Spanish broom removal – Ancil Hoffman Park 1st picnic area parking lot. Please contact Ken Myatt, SWW Program Manager, at the American River Parkway Foundation (456-7423).

American River Parkway - Bannister Park

Apr 4 Wed 8:00 - noon

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777
Explore another beautiful area along the American River with Jack. As always, you can share in his knowledge of the natural history of the parkway. Meet Jack in the parking lot at the end of Bannister Road, south off Fair Oaks Blvd., west of Sunrise Blvd.

Mather Field Docents Orientation

Apr 7 Sat 2:00 – 4:00

Splash Center, 4426 Excelsior Road,
Mather, CA, 95655

For all new and returning docents, we'll have an orientation to meet the new docents and plan logistics for the season. Directions are on the website at Splash Center. Please RSVP by contacting Eva Butler at mathervernalpools@att.net or 916-443-6282.

Habitat 2020 Conservation

Apr 9 Mon 7:00 pm

Arden-Dimick Library
891 Watt Ave, Sac 95864
(corner of Watt & Northrup)
Questions? Contact Chris-
lewis@surewest.net
916 812-2876

American River Watershed Conference

Apr 12-13 for information:

Ron Coleman, CSUS Biology
rcoleman@csus.edu

CNPS VERNAL POOLS SLIDE SHOW

Apr 13 Fri 7:30 PM

No charge, donation accepted. Please attend an inspirational vernal pools lecture and slide show by Prof. Joe Medeiros at the Sierra College, Rocklin, Sewell Hall auditorium, Room 111, to learn more about vernal pool ecosystems. For information contact: Joan Jernegan, (916) 874-5619 or Jernegan95602@wildblue.net or Richard Rivas, at [916] 714-1104 x 111 or Richard.Rivas@ca.usda.gov

Placer County Vernal Pool Tour

Apr 14 Sat 9:00 AM

This field trip will visit the Hofman Ranch, a 420-acre working cattle ranch with vernal pools, and possibly the Swainson's Grassland Preserve, 469 acres of vernal pool grasslands and grazing land, in the Coon Creek watershed near Lincoln, which are being preserved as part of Placer Land Trust's West Placer Habitat Protection Program. Meet at Sierra College, Sewell Hall parking lot. Plan on a half day trip, walking approximately one mile, to explore this critical vernal pool habitat in western Placer County, with Prof. Joe Medeiros. Bring a hand lens, field guide, water, lunch and wear sturdy shoes or boots. For more information contact: Joan (916) 874-5619/ or Richard Rivas, (916) 714-1104 x 111



Mather Vernal Pool Tour

Apr 15 Sun 10:00 & 1:00

Splash Education Center
4426 Excelsior Rd, Mather 95655

Free, 2-hour tours of the spectacular vernal pools at Sacramento's Mather Field. Reservations are required and can be made by leaving a message at 916 737-WILD at least 24 hours in advance. Directions and map are posted on web at www.SacValleyCNPS.org/ Type Mather Field in the Search window.

Sacramento Weed Warriors

Apr 15 Sun 9:00 – 12:00

American River Parkway Foundation / Earth Day Cleanup. Paradise Beach...Meet at Glen Hall Park. Please contact Ken Myatt 456-7423.



Habitat Improvement Work Day

Apr 15 Sun call Jack Hiehle for details

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.

American River Parkway - William Pond Park

Apr 17 Tues 8am-noon

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777
Join Jack for this walk to check out both the river and the small lake, as well as the developed park area. A variety of birds may be present, and Jack will point out some of the local plants and share information about their use by Native Americans. Meet him just outside the park entrance at the end of Arden Way.

This trip is a great one for beginners.

(Calendar continues on page 7)

California Native Plant Society ~ Sacramento Valley Chapter



Discovery Zone ~ Wildflower Exhibit
Native Plant Sale ~ More!

April 21 & 22
10 a.m.~4 p.m.
Free Admission

Crawford's Barn
2715 Tiber Drive
Sacramento, CA
95826

For more information:
www.SacValleyCNPS.org

WHAT IS WILDFLOWER WEEKEND?



Primarily it is an exhibit held at Crawford's Barn where we present hundreds of wildflowers of our region in the context of their natural habitat, or their plant community. Each plant community is represented by an informative and attractive exhibit hosted by an expert naturalist. The exhibits feature wildflowers as well as samples of grasses, shrubs

and trees supplemented with inspiring photographs depicting examples of the plant communities at the landscape level.

We have something for everyone! For the scientist, we have the experts! For the curious, we have many exhibits to intrigue you. For students, we have plant science at a basic level. For those who just want to have fun- we have that everywhere!

Exhibits/Exhibitors this year are:

Discovery Zone – Wildlife Biologist

California Prairie – Dr. Glen Holstein

Oak Woodland – Sacramento Valley Conservancy

Gabbro Soils – Dr. Debra Ayres

Serpentine Soils – Dr. John Hunter

Freshwater Marsh – Dr. Ellen Dean

Riparian Woodland – Mary Maret & Bonnie Ross, Environmental Scientists

Vernal Pools - Russell Huddleston, Wetlands Ecologist/ Botanist

Native American Uses – Dr. Renee Shahrokh on Saturday and
on Sunday - Diana Almendariz

Sacramento Weed Warriors – Frank Wallace, Ken Myatt, American River
Parkway Foundation



DISCOVERY ZONE

In the Discovery Zone, we challenge you with a 'scavenger hunt' where you gather information while touring each exhibit! Can you:

- Name a riparian tree that can readily re-root once toppled over and drifted downstream?
- Name all the ways plants disperse their seeds (through the digestive process of animals is one way)?
- Name a chaparral plant that is entirely non-toxic, its berries feed people and animals, its bark can be made into tea, and is adapted to surviving and thriving in fire events?
- Complete a California endangered species crossword puzzle (with answers on the back)?

Does this pique your curiosity? Jennifer Hogan, Wildlife Biologist, past-President and Board member of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of CNPS, has these and many other ways for you to learn about and enjoy our California native plants!

NEW This year UNDER THE TENT @ Wildflower Weekend

Gardening w/ Natives ~ Sat, April 21 10:00 am

Have you ever wondered what a Native Plant is or why you should care if you garden with native plants? What do you get out of planting natives? How can you go about converting your yard to a native garden? These questions and more are explored as Jessica Hankins, Horticulture Chair for the Sacramento Valley Chapter of CNPS, takes you through the basics of gardening with California Native Plants! GO NATIVES!!



Wild Animals~Wild Habitats! Sat, April 21 2:00 pm

Join Effie Yeaw Nature Center naturalist Shawna Protze and meet some live wild animals including Tanner, the red-tailed hawk. Get a close-up look at how animals are adapted to their habitats and discover why habitat is vital to their survival.

Native American Uses, Sunday , April 22 10:00 am

Diana Almendariz, Maidu/ Wintun/ Hupa/ Yurok, will hold a workshop about native plants, their uses and how to plan your own native front and/or back yard habitat. Diana is currently on the committee for the American Indian Education and is working with DQU (a tribal college) on a plan is to redirect the land to restoration and cultural preservation.



Puppet Show ~ Sunday, April 22nd 2:00 pm

A children's favorite our first year, the Puppet Show returns! Talk show host *Helen DeGoosiness* and *Phil Sky, the Plant Science Guy* introduce the audience to the concepts such as habitat, plant communities, and indigenous as well as fun facts about 4 wildflowers -Tidy Tips, Monkeyflower, Butter 'n' Eggs, and Pipevine!

Helen DeGoosiness,
Talk Show Goose!

Major Sponsors, Thank you for your support!

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NATIVE PLANT SALE

CNPS members receive 10% off on all plants! ... Not a member?

You can join CNPS at the Plant Sale or at the Exhibit!

Volunteers needed at the Plant Sale! Please contact Betsy Weiland at 916 488-3894 or flweiland@yahoo.com. We always need either paper or plastic grocery bags & boxes at the Plant Sale. Please drop them off on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday (morning).

An example of the science available at each exhibit at Wildflower Weekend

Vernal Pools by Russell Huddleston

Vernal pools are a specific type of seasonal wetland that form as a result of surface water perched above an impervious layer near the surface such as a dense clay pan, duripan or similar restrictive layer and are often characterized by plant and animals species which have become adapted to the annual cycle of wetting and drying. Vernal pool vegetation is characterized almost entirely by native annual forbs and grasses such as Fremont's goldfields (*Lasthenia* spp.), slender popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys* spp.) coyote thistle (*Eryngium* spp.), smooth goldfields (*Lasthenia glaberrima*), wooly marbles (*Psilocarphus* spp.), Downingia (*Downingia* spp.) and semaphore grass (*Pleuropogon californicus*).



Photo by Eva Butler

Vernal pool hydrology is driven almost entirely by direct precipitation. Timing and amount of rainfall along with basin topography are the primary factors that determine depth and duration of standing water in pools. In most years water input from surface flow is limited to periods when pools are already full and overland flow would be in excess of the pools water holding capacity. However, interaction with the surrounding landscape is important in terms of controlling water level relationships and sub-surface inflows tend to dampen water level fluctuations during the late winter and early spring.

Resident wildlife species found in vernal pools have developed lifecycles that are compatible with the seasonal wetting and drying cycle. Because high order predators (e.g. fish and bull frogs) require permanent inundation, they are seldom found in vernal pools and do not persist in these environments during the dry season. Vernal pool crustaceans such as Copepods, water fleas (Cladocerans), seed shrimp (Ostracods), fairy shrimp (Anostracans), and tadpole shrimp (Notostracans) persist as dormant cysts in the soil during the summer drought stage. With the onset of fall rains and cooler temperatures the cysts break dormancy and the organisms rapidly grow and reproduce while conditions are favorable. Many of the insects commonly found in vernal pools such as beetles (Hydrophilidae and Dytiscidae), water boatmen (Corixidae), and backswimmers (Notonectidae) are aquatic during both larval and adult stages, with adults capable of terrestrial dispersal from one area to another. Other insects such as damselflies and dragonflies (Zygoptera and Anisoptera) have aquatic larval stages and terrestrial adult stages. Only a few amphibians have adapted to the relatively short ponding conditions of vernal pool environments. Common amphibians include the Pacific chorus frog (*Hyla regilla*) and the western toad (*Bufo boreas*). Rare amphibians that may be found in vernal pools include the spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondi*) and the California tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*).

Activists defeat proposal for sprawl! by Mary Maret & Chris Lewis

Bright red signs announcing "Sprawl Hurts Us All" filled the Sacramento Board of Supervisor's chambers on the March 14 Workshop on Land Use. Led by our own CNPS Board member **Betsy Weiland** along with **Tara Hansen** of SOS Crane and **Graham Brownstein**, Executive Director of ECOS, more than 100 folks rallied to speak against a proposal by developer Angelo K. Tsakopoulos to study redrawing the county's growth boundary to develop 3,400 acres of his land along the El Dorado County line. This proposal would have flown in the face of "the Blueprint", damaging a voluntary, regional

plan to accommodate growth while minimizing conversion of farmland to subdivisions. Among the crowd were many CNPS members including Peggy Berry, Melinda Rivasplata, Mary Maret, Glen Holstein, Bonnie Ross, Bill Patterson, Diana Hickson, Rick Bettis, Linnea Fronce, Tom Hall, Carol Witham, Rod Reis, Mike Savino, and Chris Lewis. We also thank **Mary Lynne Vellinga** at the Sacramento Bee for her thorough coverage on these issues. She quoted our own Peggy Berry in a recent article "The implications of the turnout are very positive. I do feel there's an emerging political upswell of people who care about where they live." After five hours of testimony, the supervisors voted to reject the developer's proposal -- an important victory for Sacramento's environmental community and important for all citizens of Sacramento!

The interests of the environmental community come together in Habitat 2020, a committee of environmental organizations collaborating on common issues in and affecting Sacramento County. The mission of Habitat 2020 is to protect the lands and waters where our wildlife and native plants live in Sacramento County. The member organizations are Sacramento Audubon, Save the American River Association, Sacramento Urban Creeks Council, California Native Plant Society- Sacramento Valley Chapter, Environmental Council of Sacramento, Sierra Club- Mother Lode Chapter, Save Our Sandhill Cranes, and Friends of Swainson's Hawk.

Get involved! Financially support your favorite environmental organization or come to the next Habitat 2020 meeting on Monday April 9th at 7:00pm at the Arden-Dimick Library, corner of Watt & Northrup- see how you can help! For more information about Habitat 2020, contact Chris at lewisc@surewest.net.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

CNPS members receive 10% off on all plants! Not a member? You can join CNPS at the Plant Sale or at the Exhibit!

Landscaping with native plants By Cate Schmiedt at Cornflower Farms

I once overheard a person say 'I'd plant natives in my garden...they just don't do well here'. Having a successful native planting is no different from any other garden success. Knowing the right plant for the right place is all it takes. Planning your garden well requires observation of your site, thoughtful design and selection of proper plant material. Even if you think your yard isn't well suited for natives, remember there's a native for every application. Here are a few tips to successfully design with natives (or any other plant).

1. Foliage color and texture have a big impact especially when flowers are absent. Don't just think of your plants in terms of color of bloom. Make a point to mix and match big with little, dark with light and fine with thick. Think of silvery fine *Lupinus albifrons* with big leathery *Ceanothus* 'Yankee Point' and *Festuca californica*'s solid green spiky softness.
2. Design with the four seasons in mind. Year round interest in the garden is key in battling those winter blues. Utilize evergreen plants, plants with interesting bark or plants with long lasting seed heads. Even if there's not a lick of color in the dead of winter, those birds will provide endless entertainment as they forage for food in your *Baccharis pilularis*.
3. Even small spaces need big plants. If you only have a little bit of soil, filling it all with small plants can create a fussy boring landscape. One well placed medium to large shrub or small tree with a high canopy will create a great change in scale. Small spaces mean everything has a big impact. Plan your space judiciously.
4. Every yard has room for a piece of non-plant art. It doesn't have to be expensive, just creative. Keep your eyes open for interesting old farm equipment, simple birdbaths or a fun mirror. No space? Go vertical with an outdoor wall hanging.
5. When planting smaller size plants, use more. One lone *Monardella odoratissima* won't create the impact that seven (or seventeen) could. Plant an odd number for a more eye-appealing patch.
6. Although we dig the dirt, we don't want to look at big empty areas of it. Use groundcover plants to fill in space, reduce weeds and control erosion.
7. Rarely is a yard the same in every location. Adjust your irrigation accordingly. Improper watering commonly causes plant failure.

Pairing the right plants can be tricky sometime so we've created a few pairing possibilities.

Bright and sunny- Do you have an area that bakes in the middle of summer? These plants will love it.

Epilobium canum / California fuchsia, 1'-2'. high with upright stems. Full sun, tolerant of many soil types.

Eriogonum ursinum / Bear Valley Buckwheat, 4"-6". high / 1 ½' wide. Needs well draining soil, drought tolerant.

Mimulus aurantiacus / golden sticky monkey flower, 3-4' tall and as wide. Grows in any kind of soil likes light water after established and good drainage. Full sun to part shade.

Penstemon azureus / azure penstemon, 1/2-2' high. Full sun, tolerates drought, wind, heat or cold.

Potentilla glandulosa / sticky cinquefoil, 18"-30" high. Full sun or part shade with some water and any type of soil.

Sing the Blues! Plant a cool spot to rest your eyes in this summer. Blue and purple flowers can refresh your gardens palette.

Achillea millefolium 'Lilac Beauty' / Lilac Beauty yarrow, 2'-3'. Tolerant of any soil type and sun to shade. Bullet proof.

Festuca idahoensis 'Siskiyou Blue' / Siskiyou Blue Idaho fescue, 1' tall and 18" wide. Full sun/ light shade average/poor soil.

Iris douglasiana / Douglas iris, 2'. tall and 4' wide. Sun/ shade, summer water, fertile soils. Tolerates poorer conditions.

Lupinus albifrons / bush lupine, 5' tall. Full sun and little to no water once established.

Nassella pulchra / purple needlegrass, 1'-3' tall and as wide. Likes dry rocky soils and full sun. Drought tolerant.

Penstemon spectabilis / Showy penstemon , 3' tall and as wide. Likes dry soils and full sun.

Salvia clevelandii 'Whirley Blue' / Whirley Blue sage, 4-5' high and up to 6' wide. Tolerates full sun and dry conditions.

Trichostema lanatum / woolly bluecurls, 3'-5' high with open branching habit. Full sun, demands drought tolerance

Boggy and heavy- Does the water just sit there? Create your own little bio-swale with these guys.

Carex pansa / California meadow sedge, 1' tall and spreading. Tolerates full sun to partial shade. Any soil with moderate water.

Deschampsia 'Susan's Choice', 18"-24" tall and as wide. Tolerates sun or shade, any soil with regular to moderate water.

Helenium bigelovii / Bigelow's sneezeweed, 2'-3' high. Full sun, moist soil, blooms June-Sept.

Mimulus guttatus / yellow monkey flower, 1'-3' high, erect leafy stalks. Full sun or light shade ,tolerates heavy wet soil.

Juncus patens / gray rush, 1 1/2-2 1/2 feet high. Full sun or light shade, requires moist soil.

Penstemon rydbergii / Meadow Beard tongue, 12" tall and as wide. Likes moist soils and full sun.

Shady and cool- Whether dry or moist shade, there's a native for that dark little corner of the garden.

Aquilegia formosa / western columbine, 1' tall and wide. Part to full shade, many types of soil.

Aristolochia californica / California Dutchman's pipe , A long slow growing vine. Part to full shade. Many types of soil, prefers moisture.

Asarum caudatum / wild ginger, 10" Evergreen in mild climates and survives with occasional water in these situations. Requires more water inland.

Festuca rubra 'Molate' / Pt. Molate fescue, 1' tall and 1'-2' wide. Likes full sun to part shade and semi-moist sandy or clay soil.

Heuchera 'Canyon Delight' / canyon delight alum root, 1'-2' tall and wide. Part to full shade, drought tolerant, many different soil types.

Lilium pardalinum / leopard lily, 4'-5' high in flower. Part to full shade. Likes moist soils.

Symphoricarpos rivularis (*S. albus* var. *laivigatus*) / snowberry, 18"-24" tall. Best in shade to part sun, any type of soil.

Newsletter Assembling Party!

Apr 18 Wed 7:00 pm
Need a project just once a month?
Let me know at 916 482-5282.

Wildflower Weekend!

Apr 21, 22 see details in this paper! Would you like to help out at Wildflower Weekend? Please contact Chris at 916 812-2876 or lewisc@surewest.net.

Mather Vernal Pool Tour

Apr 22 Sun 10:00 & 1:00
(see Apr 15 for details.)

NATIVE PLANT OPEN GARDEN TOURS

at the Old City Cemetery
APRIL 21-22 Sat & Sun 11-3
Our native plant demonstration garden at the Sacramento Historic Cemetery (1000 Broadway) will have open garden tours on the hour from 11am until 3pm Saturday and Sunday April 21/22. The Native Plant Demo-Garden Tours is free and open to the public. Also on Sat both the Historic Rose Garden and the Hamilton Square Perennial Garden at the historic cemetery will also be open for tours. For more information contact Sabrina Okamura-Johnson 916 929-7896 or Mitchell Alford at 916 399-9457.

For all Creek Week Activities:
www.creekweek.net/

American River Native Plant Nursery/Demo Garden

planning meeting
Apr 24 Tues 7:00 pm
ARPF Volunteer Center in the Wm Pond Rec area at the eastern end of Arden Wy. For info, lewisc@surewest.net or 916 482-5282

Chapter Board meeting

Apr 25 Wed 7:00 pm
Arden-Dimick Library
891 Watt Ave, Sac 95864
(corner of Watt & Northrup)
For more information contact Mary Maret 916 961-4057

Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) Wetland Tour

April 26 Thurs 9-11 am
Natural Resource Specialist Lizette Crosbie will lead a tour of Wolf Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary, a 60 acre wetland which is a major habitat feature of northern Sacramento and has a large diversity of viewable wildlife including waterfowl, raptors, songbirds and beaver. This tour includes a 1 mile walk and the opportunity to view features of SAFCA's wetland and riparian restoration projects. Meet at the Ueda Parkway staging area at Elkhorn Blvd. and Sorrento Rd. just east of Steelhead Creek. Please call to sign up or for further information (916) 874-6451 or email crosbiel@saccounty.net.

Creek Week Clean Up and Celebration

Apr 28 Sat 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Join the Celebration! The 17th Annual Creek Week ends on Saturday, April 28th with a county-wide creek clean up. Clean up teams gather at the Discovery Museum from 12:00 to 2:00pm for a barbecue, with live music, games and contests. Environmentally minded organizations and related city and county programs will have booths, free exhibits, and fun activities. Please bring your family, friends, teams, and clubs to Creek Week 2007. Be a part of this volunteer effort to celebrate and restore many of Sacramento County's creeks!

Mather Vernal Pool Tour

Apr 29 Sun 10:00 & 1:00
(see Apr 15 for details.)

Our newsletter editor, Barbara Wolf, is in New York tending to her mother who is in poor health. We extend our thoughts and concern to Barbara and her family.

Pine Hill Plants Under Attack!

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and the Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation (CSNC) filed a lawsuit against the County of El Dorado and the developer on January 12, 2007 in an effort to protect a nationally significant site of species diversity in the Cameron Park area. **Our chapter board voted to contribute \$1000 to this effort.** The proposed Congregate development project would eliminate approximately one-third (!!) of the known plants of Pine Hill ceanothus which is found only on gabbro soils in Western El Dorado County and nowhere else in the world. Almost 10% of the native plant species known in California are represented within this tiny fraction of the state. Already the developer has "sprayed" the area for the purpose of trying to kill the rare plants before the Court could act on a temporary restraining order to protect them. (The full effect of clearing and spraying upon the rare plants on the site are not known at this time.) Organizations like CNPS are important to stop such disgraceful acts from destroying our natural heritage.

If you are able to make a contribution, please make your check to El Dorado CNPS and note "lawsuit fund" on the check. Your donation to CNPS, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Please mail your contribution to:

El Dorado Chapter CNPS
P.O. Box 1948
Placerville, CA 95667



Fremontodendron californicum
ssp. *decumbens*
Pine Hill Fremontia



CNPS Newsletter
 Sacramento Valley Chapter
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See pages 2-6 inside!

California Native Plant Society
 Sacramento Valley Chapter presents



Be sure your membership is up to date to
 take advantage of the 10% member
 discount at the plant sale!
 Your renewal date is on your mailing label

APRIL 2007 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. Articles for the Hibiscus must be submitted to the newsletter editor by the 8th of the month for possible inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

Help fight "The Preserve"

"The Preserve" is the name of a proposed 530 acre AKT development in the middle of the Sunrise-Douglas specific planning area. As approved by the Rancho Cordova City Council, this development would realign portions of Morrison Creek and protect only 90 acres of vernal pool grassland. As designed, this development will also eliminate an important wildlife corridor between two other preserved areas. The City Council approved the project even though the state and federal wildlife agencies have said that a minimum of 200 acres must be protected along the original alignment of Morrison Creek.

The Sacramento Valley Chapter of CNPS has filed a lawsuit against the City for their approval of this project on the grounds that they failed to show that proposed offsite mitigation would offset impacts to this rich vernal pool landscape. The proposed project also relies on "paper water" which the California Supreme Court has determined to have been inadequately analyzed in an earlier environmental review document.

The chapter is seeking donations to help fund this very important lawsuit. We cannot allow developers and the City of Rancho Cordova to just ignore irreplaceable natural resources. Donations to CNPS are tax-deductible. Checks should be made payable to *CNPS Vernal Pool Conservation Fund* and mailed to Carol Crowfoot, 2280 Stillwind Lane RC 95670. For more information contact Carol Witham (cwitham@cnps.org).

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