

Hibiscus

California Native Plant Society
Sacramento Valley Chapter Newsletter

www.SacValleyCNPS.org

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

NOVEMBER 2011

October Meeting:

Wed., 11/9, 7:00 p.m.

Shepard Garden &
Arts Center

McKinley Park

3330 McKinley Blvd.,
Sacramento 95816

Sabrina Okamura Johnson,
President (916) 929-7896

*Our chapter meetings are free and
open to the public.*

Wildflower seeds, books and Sac-
ramento Valley Chapter t-shirts are
available for purchase at meetings.

Refreshments provided!



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NOVEMBER PRESENTATION:

Forests and Fire

Kim Ingram

The US Forest Service's 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment directs forest managers to implement fuels reduction projects that remove flammable natural materials from National Forests where fire risks are high. University of California scientists, within the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP), are researching how these projects affect fire behavior, wildlife (California Spotted Owl and Pacific Fisher), water quality and quantity, and overall forest health in two Sierra Nevada locations. Using an adaptive management approach with participation from the public, results will be used to guide future fuels management projects throughout the Sierra Nevada.

Kim Ingram will provide information on the various science teams including research results to date. Kim is the Program Representative for the SNAMP northern study site, called Last Chance, in the Tahoe National Forest.



A recent field trip at Last Chance, walking through an area that had been thinned.

Click arrows to turn pages!

© 2011 Kim Ingram

The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.

Native Plant Sale Sailed To Success

by Betsy Weiland, Plant Sale Co-Chair

Some days you wake up and think life just doesn't get any better. The Friday before the sale is set up IS normally a LONG and HECTIC day beginning at 7 a.m. and ending finally around 6 p.m. — BUT not so this year. Thanks to all of our volunteers and plant vendors who came ready to rock and roll, we were able to go home and put our feet up by 2:00 p.m. Chris and I were sure there was something, something BIG that we had overlooked. But no, Saturday dawned, our crew of new and returning volunteers from Friday, showed up at 9:00 a.m. with big smiles on their faces.

No customer was left unattended. They found valuable information served up with a large dose of enthusiasm. Our botanists, habitat specialists, and landscape design consultants stood ready to solve any native plant question or garden tale of woe. Our Customer Advisors roamed the rows of plants ever ready to answer questions. And the cashiers provided their usual efficient and cheerful service. A special treat for our customers this year was the personal carry out help by the charming and strong New Tech High School students.

Our Sunday volunteers must have caught positive energy from the Friday's and Saturday's crews because the day was definitely a continuation of Saturday's good time. By the time we closed the doors at 3:00 p.m. the clean up crew was already in motion and they must hold the record for time to knock down the plant sale. Most of us were in our cars headed for home by 4:30 p.m. Even those volunteers who took plants back to Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery were headed home by 4:00! And through it all, of course, was our treasured chef, Mary Schiedt, feeding us her delicious and nutritious food.

And so, your 2011 plant sale chairs, Chris and Betsy, salute the wonderful people who stepped forward this



Elderberry Farms' beautiful stock by Jim Wadsworth

© 2011 Jim Wadsworth

year and definitely kicked the bar up a notch or two, or three, or four. You contributed a 3 day total of about 400 volunteer hours, and more importantly created an atmosphere that matched the beauty and wonder of our California native plants. Thank you to:

Alison Shilling, Annie Kempees, Barbara Garnier, Barbara Wolf, Bernadette Balics, Bliss Gonsalves, Bonnie Ross, Carol Crofoot, Carol Yeates, Carrie Black, Cassandra Musto, Dana Nolan Bridgette, Dave Roberts, Glen Holstein, Hazel Gordon, Janet Gerland, Jennifer Hogan, Jim Wadsworth, Joan Kodani, Joanne Heraty, John Schmidt, Joyce and John Martin, Julie Serences, Kelly Cohen, Lee Perrone, Linnea Fronce, Lisa Coelho (of Wild Hare Native Plants), Lorraine Van Kekerix, Mary Beth Metcalf, Mary Maret, Mary Schiedt, Mike Finan, Neal Funston (of Cornflower Farms), Paul Barth, Paul Lester, Paul Townsend, Raymond Prothero, Rees Williams, Renate Rich and Linda Blackmarr, Rich Bettis, Robin Rietz, Ron Stork, Sabrina Okamura-Johnson, Sue Wallace, Susan Fregien, Tara Hansen, Taylor Lewis (of Cornflower Farms), Terry Linton and Tony Duke. And thank you student volunteers from New Tech High School: Kyle Wynn, Oscar Cruz, Ruben Romero, and Brandon Willems.



Joanne with her Books & Tees

© 2011 Jim Wadsworth



Tony (a Customer Advisor) had a good time!

© 2011 Jim Wadsworth



Tara Hansen, CNPS ED sold many memberships!

© 2011 Chris Lewis



Rich sells his wife Linda on the attributes of Snowberry

© 2011 Chris Lewis

CNPS Presents Legislative Staff of the Year Award

By Barbara Wolf

In 2009, an analyst in the little-known Assembly Floor Analysis office was doing a final review of Senate Bill 481 before it was submitted for an Assembly vote. SB 481 pertained to avoiding bird strikes at California airports like the one that caused an emergency landing in New York's Hudson River.

The analyst, Susan Little, noticed language that she thought put wildlife at risk. She then took action that earned her recognition as CNPS's first Legislative Staff of the Year—Susan contacted attorney Vern Goehring, CNPS' legislative watchdog, for a second opinion. The language "appeared to authorize airports to "take" [harm or destroy] any wildlife exempt from all provisions of the Fish and Game code," said Vern. Vern quickly submitted a letter of opposition on behalf of CNPS. The bill was amended "to very clearly limit exempted actions to taking birds and for only limited public safety purposes," Vern told the audience. "A major mistake had been avoided."

Susan Little accepted the award from Vern and CNPS Executive Director Tara Hansen at the October Sacramento Valley chapter meeting. She humbly shared credit with her committee leader and the bill's author for allowing the last minute changes to go through.

Vern hopes the recognition will "encourage other legislative staff to make that extra effort—people are paying attention."

© 2011 Cassandra Nguyen Musto



Vern Goehring (left) poses with Susan Little (second from right) after awarding her CNPS's first Legislative Staff Person of the Year Award

California Native Plant Society

Sacramento Valley Chapter
Stockton Subchapter



STILL WANTED: A volunteer to serve as the Stockton Subchapter Representative to Sacramento Valley CNPS in 2012. Major activities include: attending some of the monthly native plant programs in Sacramento; organizing field trips and local meetings; creating blurbs for the Hibiscus; and writing a two-page annual report. You'll also have the opportunity to get creative coordinating informative displays at local events. Please phone Martha at 477-3966 if you can volunteer for an exciting year as our subchapter representative. You'll have lots of help!

Hibiscus welcomes news and listings from our Stockton subchapter, serving San Joaquin Valley CNPS Sac Valley members. If you would like to contribute, please contact Martha Mallery at (209) 477-3966 or Bob Stahmer at (209) 943-2277.

<http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/stockton/stockton.html>

tions infrastructure, and 2) test fire's effect on the reproduction of endemic fire-adapted plant species where fire has long been excluded from the landscape.

Assembly member Roger Dickinson (D-Sacramento) stopped by to congratulate Susan Little and encourage CNPS members to support his Assembly Bill 1005. AB 1005 restores funding for DFG on-site timber-harvest inspections and would have the timber harvesters pay for timber harvest plan review by DFG and other agencies. FMI see http://www.aroundthecapitol.com/Bills/AB_1005/20112012/.



Assemblyman Roger Dickinson stopped by to congratulate Susan.

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Following the award presentation and break for celebratory cake, CA Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG) biologist (and long-time CNPS member) Tim Nosal presented an innovative inter-agency collaboration for managing rare flora at Pine Hill Preserve. The team is using fire as one management tool to meet two objectives: 1) clear a safe area around critical communica-



Calendar of Events

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

Sun. 10/30, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
El Día de Los Muertos
Historic City Cemetery
Demonstration Garden
(see ad on page 7 for details)

11/3
Sierra Foothills Chapter CNPS
Tuolumne
What's the Buzz About? —
Solitary Bees in Our Landscapes
Did you know that there are about 1500 different species of bees other than the European honey bee in California? Come hear a presentation about the "other" bees and their place in our landscapes.
Presented by Julie Serences, an educator with over twenty-five years of experience teaching all ages.

Sat. 11/19, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Your Help Needed!
Nursery Expansion
Have you been to your Chapter's Nursery? If not, this is a great time to visit and lend a hand.
We hope to finish the irrigation lines, move the t-post fence and fencing, and time permitting, move plants to their new home and prepare Demonstration Garden beds. PBJ's and snacks provided. Bring gloves, hat, layers of clothing, and a water. Only heavy rain will cancel. RSVP by 11/15 to Chris lewisc916@yahoo.com.

CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Tues.-Sat., 1/10–1/14/2012
CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference, San Diego
Register now! Something for everyone: 200 presentations in 22 sessions, field trips, 30 exhibitors and vendors, social events, photo and botanical art contests, and more. See <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2012/> for more information.

ONGOING

Sundays, 10 a.m.–noon
Native Plant Demo-Garden
Sacramento Historic City Cemetery
1000 Broadway, Sacramento
Wear hat, long-sleeved shirt, boots and bring water, gardening tools, gloves, and knee pads. To volunteer during the week contact Sabrina (916) 929-7896 or soj@surewest.net.

Wednesdays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery Workdays,
Located at Soil Born Farms
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova
Help us propagate our wonderful native plants and enjoy the atmosphere! Please bring your hat, gloves, and snack. If you'd like a PBJ, just email Chris beforehand at lewisc916@yahoo.com.

Fridays, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
Nursery Walks
We walk different paths along the American River Parkway and collect seeds, take photos, make notes about what plants and critters. Join us! To find out where we meet, sign up for our weekly emails by contacting Chris at lewisc916@yahoo.com.

Chapter Meeting & Guest Speaker
2nd Wed. of month, 7:00 p.m.
(Jan.-June; Sept.-Nov.)
Shepard Garden & Arts Center,
McKinley Park, Sacramento
See page 1. Meetings are free and open to the public. Books, wildflower seeds, and our SacValley t-shirt always available for purchase. Refreshments. For info: **Sabrina Okamura-Johnson (916) 929-7896** or e-mail soj@surewest.net.

Chapter Board Meetings
4th Wed. of month, 7 p.m. SMUD Art Gallery & Community Center, 6301 S Street, Sacramento, CA95817
(Jan.-June; Sept.-Nov.)
Contact: Sabrina Okamura-Johnson (916) 929-7896 or soj@surewest.net.

Ceanothus - Collaborative Plant Identification Workshops
3rd Sat. of month, 9 a.m.
Davis Center for Biological Diversity.
Michael Bower, (530) 902.8721
Bring any plants you're curious about, the Jepson Manual, and your enthusiasm! Visit www.ceanothus.org for upcoming workshop dates, locations, and directions. Free. Questions to ceanothusfieldbot@gmail.com

Habitat 2020
Day and Time TBD
For information contact Glen Holstein, holstein@cal.net; (530) 758-6787

featured in the Sacramento News and Review —

Learn from the California Native Plant Society:

BEST WAY TO REDUCE WATER USE

California is home to thousands of species of native plants and planting them, rather than non-native species, can drastically reduce water consumption. Native plants grow easily because they're adapted to local conditions, insects, soils, and fauna, and the California Native Plant Society is the best source of information about them. In addition to its guide books, plant sales and events, the Sacramento Valley chapter of the society maintains a 3.5-acre native plant demonstration garden in the Historic City Cemetery. Among the headstones and atop the burial plots grow silver-edged mums, manzanitas, California buckwheat, purple needlegrass, lilacs, sages and other flora, encouraging beneficial insects to visit and, well, generally livening up the place.



Effie Yeaw Nature Center - October 2011

Ancil Hoffman County Park, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, CA

Park entrance fee: \$5.00 per car or FREE to ARNHA members.

Hours: Wed. - Sun. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Nature Center may be closed in stormy weather. Please call to confirm hours.

(916) 489-4918 www.sacnaturecenter.net

Sat. 10/29, 10:30 a.m.

Spooky Story Time

Gear up for Halloween with some spooky stories told by the Sacramento Storytellers Guild. Stories guaranteed not to cause nightmares! All ages.

Sat. 11/5, 10:30 a.m.

Autumn Birding

Discover why autumn is a great time of the year for bird watching. Join a naturalist for a guided walk to welcome back some feathered travelers. Bring your binoculars or borrow some from the nature center.

Sun. 11/6, 1:30 p.m.

Wildlife of the Season

How do animals prepare for winter? Explore the changes that Fall brings to the oak woodland when you join a naturalist for this guided walk through the riparian habitat of the Nature Area. Sunday the 6th at 1:30 PM

Sat. 11/12, 10:30 a.m.

Gifts from the Earth

Explore the ways Maidu Indians used plants for food, medicine, clothing and shelter. Join a naturalist for a guided tour of the village and Nature Area to see some of these plants growing in their natural habitat.

Sun. 11/13, 1:30 p.m.

It's the Season for Salmon

Come learn about the challenges facing the amazing Chinook that travel thousands of miles in a cycle that has continued through millennia. Take a stroll to the American River with a naturalist to catch a glimpse of the migrating salmon. You may see some that remain in the riffles here to spawn.

Sat. 11/19, 10:30 a.m.

Great Gobblers

Beards, wattles and snoods - what strange things to find on a bird! Look and listen for wild turkeys as you explore their world on this guided walk through the Nature Area.

Sun. 11/20, 1:30 p.m.

Animal Tracks and Signs

There are many animal-made signs in the woods that reveal what has used the trail before you. Become a nature detective by playing tracks and scat games, then take a walk to find some animal signs in the Nature Area.

11/21-11/23, 9 a.m.-Noon

FALL FUN DAYS

Programs for children and families! Crafts, games, and nature walks. For class descriptions and prices please visit us online at www.sacnaturecenter.net. Pre-registration is required, space is limited. Please call (916) 489-4918. Discount for ARNHA members.

Closed Thanksgiving Day

Sat. 11/26, 10:30 a.m.

Beaks, Jaws and Claws

Discover and learn about the unique adaptations of birds, mammals, and reptiles. Participate in games and activities and get a close-up look at some of the Nature Center's animals.

Sun. 11/27, 1:30 p.m.

Things That Slither

What has no arms or legs and smells with its tongue? Learn about the life-cycles, predators and prey, habitats, locomotion and defenses of reptiles and amphibians. Then "slither" up to meet our resident animals up close.

Support Nature Center programs by joining the American River Natural History Association! Join at the Nature Center or at www.arnha.org.

Social Networking in the Garden

The Historic City Cemetery Demonstration Garden is now on **Facebook!** "Like" our page, **California Native Plant Demonstration Garden :: Sacramento.**

2012 Gardens Gone Native

The Sacramento Valley chapter of the California Native Plant Society is pleased to announce its second annual garden tour: "Gardens Gone Native". This will be a free, self-guided tour of home gardens and other landscapes, comprised of at least 50% California native plants. Last year we had 19 great locations in and around Sacramento, including several in Davis.

The next tour will take place on Saturday, March 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are once again looking for native plant gardens to be on the tour and hope that you will submit your garden as a possible tour location. We also need people to help out on the garden tour committee and to serve as hosts the day of the garden tour. If you would like to help or want to submit your garden for consideration, contact Maria at: kochism@csus.edu

CNPS State Office Silent Auction

The 2012 Conference Silent Auction Committee is looking for donations and committee members! The 2009 Conference Auction raised almost \$10,000 for CNPS' Conservation Program; let's beat our own record in the name of California's native plants! Ideas for donations include: plant themed and handmade artwork, books, gardening accessories, jewelry, and other items of beauty, value, or interest. If you would like to donate, please fill out the Auction Donor Form available at the www.cnps.org website. If you do not have something special to donate please consider donating your time by joining the Silent Auction Committee and soliciting donations or volunteering at the conference. For questions about donations or volunteer opportunities please contact silentauction2012@cnps.org.

Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery

by Christina Lewis, Nursery Leader

Nursery Needs: Irrigation Design

By Robin Rietz, Propagation Manager

We are looking for someone with design experience in irrigation systems to help us design systems for our greenhouse (10' x 25') and outside growing (40'x60')

areas. If you can help, please contact me at robinrietz@yahoo.com.

Outside Growing Area.

Our outside growing area has a steel frame with overhead sprinkling and shade cloth attached. We're having problems getting consistent watering, even on windless days.

If you can help, please contact me at robinrietz@yahoo.com.

Landscapers Will Make Their Mark!

Thanks to Jeannie Hanson, Kimberly Marshall, Rafael Aguilera, and Aaron Smith for responding to our 'Desperately Seeking' Landscapers plea. Over the next couple of months we'll have plans for our new and existing gardens. Installation will take the effort of many people. If you would like to help and learn some of the landscapers' techniques, please let me know. Once we have a plan, we can set up workdays – that won't need to be Wednesday mornings. Chris – lewisc916@yahoo.com.

© 2011 Chris Lewis



2010 workparty

Nursery Expansion Your Help Needed!

Sat. November 19, 9:00-1:00

Come lend your hand in expanding your chapter's nursery!

Why the expansion? Demand is high for our local native plants! We run out

of many of our favorite plants because we don't have enough room to grow what we need for the public, school & community

gardens, and restoration projects.

On our November 19 workday we hope to finish the irrigation lines, move the t-post fence and fencing, and move plants to their new temporary home.

If we have a good sized crew, we will also prepare Demonstration Garden beds. We will provide our famous PBJ's and snacks. Please bring gloves, hat, layers of clothing, and a water container. Only heavy rain will cancel. RSVP by 11/15 to Chris lewisc916@yahoo.com.



Demo Garden beginnings

Notes from the Demo Garden

Fall Arrives in the Garden

Our late summer brick work lasted until early fall and the results in the south area of the Garden are remarkable. We were very



Rose hips

fortunate to have a skilled brick crew and leader during this brief time. In 12 weeks, over 10 plots were repaired or completely rebuilt, bringing much needed structure and "bones" to this part of the Garden. We spent about \$500 in supplies to complete the brick work, which normally would have cost about \$5,000 if we had to pay real-world prices for supplies and labor. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to get this work done.

We're now focusing on our first fall event, Dia de los Muertos – Day of the Dead Garden Fiesta on Sunday, October 30th, new fall plantings, and redesigning a few of our early plots. We will be adding new grass species to showcase lawn substitutes, starting a desert collection, and enhancing our edibles collection. We'll have samples of some of our edibles at next month's meeting.

We thank our hardworking, long-time volunteers, Renate, Paul, Brigitte, and Dana. And we welcome a new volunteer, Rob, who found us through Hands-On Sacramento, a volunteer matching program through the City of Sacramento.

If you're interested in more information about the Garden or would like to volunteer, you can reach one of the co-chairs at soj@surewest.net (Sabrina) or cassandra_musto@yahoo.com (Cassandra).

We look forward to seeing you out at the Garden soon!

- Sabrina & Cassandra

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EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

at the California Native Plant Demonstration Garden

Celebrate Sacramento's ancestors and help us start our fall planting with wildflower seed sowing. Native plants, seeds, and other nature-inspired items for sale. Garden tour, raffle prizes, and free refreshments. Skull painting for the kids! Visit our Facebook page for more details.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2011
10AM - 1 PM

FIND US: Enter at 10th Street on Broadway. Follow the signs to our garden. Limited parking within cemetery. More free parking located across the street from the cemetery entry at the Sacramento Works building lot.



Calavera de la Catrina. by Posada

SACRAMENTO HISTORIC CITY CEMETERY
1000 BROADWAY, SACRAMENTO, CA



www.Facebook.com/CaliforniaNativePlantGarden | cnpsgarden@gmail.com | 916.374.8116

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (area code 916 unless otherwise noted)

President 929-7896	Sabrina Okamura-Johnson soj@surewest.net	608-0932	Donna Caye donna@cayesbusiness.com	Mather Preservation 719-4854	Eva Butler mathervernalpools@att.net
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Treasurer 635-4943	Carol Crofoot ccrofoot@cwo.com	812-2876	Renee Shahrokh forbotany@cal.net	Native Plant Gardening 812-2876	Chris Lewis lewisc916@yahoo.com
Chapter Council Delegates	Glen Holstein holstein@cal.net	Ethnobotany Consultant 484-8245	Mary Schiedt maryolo1@netscape.net	Newsletter Editor	Joan Kodani kodanij@yahoo.com
Stockton Sub-Chapter 209 477-3966	Martha Mallery	Fairs & Events 530 400-7094	Betsy Weiland flweiland@yahoo.com	Publicity	Paul Barth pathfinder@omsoft.com
COMMITTEE CHAIRS					
American River Parkway Advisory Committee 812-2876	Chris Lewis lewisc916@yahoo.com	Fall Plant Sale 488-3894	John Huls johnhuls@sbcglobal.net	Rare Plants 320-8135	Jill Spear jillespear@gmail.com
Books 951 452-8108	Joanne Heraty joanneheraty@gmail.com	Field Trips	Glen Holstein holstein@cal.net	Sac Weed Warriors 213-4682	Frank Wallace frankw2@pacbell.net
Ceanothus Field Botanists	Debra Sykes, Mike Bower ceanothusfieldbot@gmail.com	Habitat 2020 530 758-6787	Patty Hardesty patty.hardesty@hdrinc.com	Spring Plant Sale 488-3894	Betsy Weiland flweiland@yahoo.com
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Demonstration Garden 929-7896	Sabrina Okamura-Johnson soj@surewest.net	Kid/Community Gardens 530 661-3410	Jennifer Hogan jhogan@water.ca.gov	Wildflower Weekend 812-2876	Chris Lewis lewisc916@yahoo.com
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CNPS Newsletter
 Sacramento Valley Chapter
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Save the Date!
Gardens Gone Native
March 31, 2012

(See page 5)

NOVEMBER 2011

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 Tuesday before the monthly meeting for possible inclusion in the next month's newsletter. E-mail to kodanij@yahoo.com.

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HIBISCUS
 Serving the Sacramento, Yolo, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba,
 lower Placer and northern San Joaquin County areas
NOVEMBER 2011

**November 9 Chapter Meeting:
 Forests and Fire
 Kim Ingram**

Our chapter meetings are free and open to the public!

Join us Sunday, October 30th for

EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

at the California Native Plant Demonstration Garden



Renew online
 Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces mailing costs.
www.cnps.org
 Click on the JOIN button

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 Visit <http://cnps.org/cnps/join>

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<http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/>