



# California Native Plant Society Sacramento Valley Chapter Newsletter

www.SacValleyCNPS.org

# Hibiscus

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

**Special Edition: DECEMBER 2011**

**No December Meeting**

**January Meeting:  
Wed., 1/11, 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 Sacramento Valley Chapter t-shirts are available for purchase at meetings. Refreshments provided!

**Correction**  
The photo on the front page of the November 2011 was incorrectly attributed to Kim Ingram. The photographer was Shuefei Lei of the SNAMP Public Participation team

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*Special December Hibiscus –*  
**Looking Back at 2011**

*by Sabrina Okamura-Johnson*

Though we can't list everything we've done this year, this special December Hibiscus provides us an opportunity to look back at some of the things we've accomplished in 2011.

**Chapter Bylaws.** Our board spent the first part of the year working on necessary revisions to the chapter by-laws, which were then adopted by the membership in September.

**Walker Ridge.** In March, Board members submitted letters to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in support of the CNPS petition to designate the entire Walker Ridge public lands as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The BLM is currently reviewing an application to build an industrial wind energy facility that would have a significant impact on this valuable resource. Our Chapter Botanist, Dr. Glen Holstein, has been actively involved in the project and is keeping us apprised of its status.

**Other Chapter activities:**

**CHAPTER EVENTS**

**Elderberry Farm Native Plant Nursery:** Wednesday workdays; Field Trip Fridays; *Wildflower Weekend.*

**Historic City Cemetery Native Plant Garden:** Sunday workdays; *California Native Plant Week Open Garden and Plant Sale; Wine & Cheese with the Bees; Dia de Los Muertos.*

**Other Events:** *Gardens Gone Native Tour; Fall Native Plant Sale; Sesbania removal with the Sacramento Weed Warriors; Sacramento Weed Warriors workdays on the American River Parkway; 5th Annual Celebration for Vernal Pools.*

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

*Davis California Duck Days; Sacramento Zoo Sacramento Blooming Crazy; Shepard Garden & Arts Center Spring & Fall Garden Festivals; South Side Park Sacramento Earth Day; American River Parkway Creek Week; Mather Vernal Pool Tours Sacramento Splash Center; Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Walk on the Wildside; Fair Oaks Horticulture Center Harvest Day; Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival.*

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY**

**Letters:** Concerns about deficiencies of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Sutter Landing Photovoltaic Installation project; concerns about Tomales Dunes potential for environmental damage relating to the Lawson's Landing campground permit; and support for the American River Parkway Enhancement Project.

**Financial Support:** \$2,750.00 for protection of rare plants at Woodland Regional Park; \$7,000.00 CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference (including \$500 student sponsorships); \$2,500.00 Sacramento Splash; \$500 CAL-IPC invasive plant symposium; \$350 Sacramento New Technology High School California Forestry Challenge.

Click arrows to turn pages!

*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.*

## from the President...

by Sabrina Okamura-Johnson

The success of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society depends on the support of individuals like you. The native plants of California and our chapter area are unlike any other in the world. From the richly colored expanse of spring wildflowers in our vernal pools and prairies, to our riparian woodlands along the American, Sacramento, Feather, and Cosumnes Rivers, native plants provide our community with a deep sense of place, pride, and stability. Native plants also provide habitat for our native wildlife species that exist no other place on earth.

Our chapter, through its members, has been working to represent the public's interest in protecting California's beautiful native plants and their habitats in our community. We have been able to do this with the help of a dedicated group of unpaid chapter board members and an awesome group of energetic and committed volunteers.

This past year our chapter has been involved with a number of community outreach fairs and events that include: the Sand Hill Crane Festival in Lodi, California Duck Days in Davis, Earth Day events at Southside Park and area colleges, Sacramento Blooming Crazy at the Sacramento Zoo, the Shepard Garden and Arts Center spring and fall garden events, the Walk on the

Wildside nature event at Freeport and Creek Week on the American River Parkway — just to name a few! Our chapter special projects are unique and various and can only be successful with your and the community's continued support. These projects include the Sacramento Weed Warriors, the Mather Vernal Pool Preservation Project, Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery, Wildflower Weekend, Gardens Gone Native Garden Tour and the Sacramento

Historic Cemetery Native Plant Demonstration Garden.

As 2011 draws to a close, I am asking friends and members to consider all that we have done this year and if possible to send in a special tax deductible donation of \$10 or more to the CNPS Sacramento Valley Chapter to support our chapter's continued public outreach efforts or specific chapter projects that are near and dear to your heart in 2012. In addition, please seriously consider stepping up and filling vacant board positions such as the Conservation Chair. If you have never volunteered with the chapter before please consider making a 2012 New Year's resolution to donate four or more hours with us at one (or more) of our public outreach and special project events.

We can't do much without your continued support, but with your support and active involvement this coming year we can do wonders!

### WANTED:

## Welcoming Worker Bees

This coming year I would like our "hospitality" at the membership meetings to include a welcome table staffed by two volunteers and a chapter board member. All visitors to our membership meetings would be greeted at this table, asked to sign in and fill out a name tag to wear (and possibly receive a raffle ticket at the meeting for some fun). Visitors that are not CNPS members would also be provided a copy of the current Hibiscus and a membership brochure. If things aren't too busy, the welcome table volunteers could answer visitor questions and provide visitors with additional information about our book and wildflower seed sales, free plant lists, etc. If you'd like more information, or if you'd like to help welcome visitors to our meetings beginning this January, please contact Sabrina Okamura-Johnson (916-929-7896 or [soj@surewest.net](mailto:soj@surewest.net)).



A little "ticket picker" helps Paul and Sabrina with the Dia de los Muretos raffle at the Historic Cemetery Native Plant Demonstration garden.

## CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Like many CNPS chapters, our chapter membership has been significantly impacted by the downturn in the state and local economy. Our chapter membership has declined from a high of about 750 members to a low of about 550 members in 2010. Many of our core local, state and government employed members or their partners and spouses have been laid off or severely affected by reduced work hours (ie "furlough Fridays"). Other core members have had to retire 'early' for a variety of personal and professional reasons. Some chapter members have found themselves trying to manage household budgets and significant cost of living increases for food, utilities,

and gasoline without any cost of living increase in their salary.

In light of our chapter's loss of membership during this recession, I would like those of us that have been less affected to consider giving a 2012 gift membership to one or two friends and ex-members that we know would love to be a member of Sacramento Valley CNPS, but really just can't afford it right now. Regular CNPS individual memberships are available for \$45.00 and full student/limited income memberships are available for \$25.00. All membership gifts at these levels are tax deductible (minus \$12 for Fremontia) and CNPS membership comes with a variety of benefits including affiliation with our chapter and subscription to our newsletter the Hibiscus, plus 10% discounts at a number of nurseries. Another gift op-

## Celebration a Success

On November 4th about 90 people joined together at the Splash Education Center for the 6th annual Celebration for Vernal Pools. It was an evening of local musical talent, good food and beverages, door prizes and a silent auction. The \$4,000 raised during the event will go toward the Sacramento Valley Chapter's efforts to conserve vernal pools.

tion to consider is the \$10 Sacramento Chapter only Hibiscus subscription membership.

In this season of giving, please reflect on our CNPS friends and colleagues that have had to drop their membership over the last few years and surprise them with a gift membership/subscription.

### Notes from the Demo Garden...

## Day of the Dead Garden Fiesta

by Cassandra Nguyen Musto & Sabrina Okamura-Johnson, California Native Plant Demonstration Garden Co-chairs

With the utmost optimism that the weather would hold out until the end of October, the intrepid Demonstration Garden co-chairs started planning for the first Day of the Dead Garden Fiesta in early September. While writing this, it is cold and rainy just a week after the event, and we still can't believe how the weather was so cooperative last Sunday.

With great relief, Sunday, October 30th arrived with a beautiful sunny day in the mid-70's. The garden fiesta was attended by approximately 60 people with around 15 or so children in tow. Children and adults alike painted oak gall "skulls," sowed our special California wildflower fiesta mix, and tried out our homemade California wild grape jelly among other complimentary refreshments. Helping the kids prepare to plant the wildflower beds was especially cute.

Visitors bought bee houses, note-

cards, seeds, and plants and toured the garden on their own or with Davis-based landscape designer Bernadette Balics. Most folks even stayed around long enough for our raffle. Every visitor received a free raffle ticket and additional tickets were available with a suggested donation. Among some of our prizes were \$20 gift certificates from Cornflower Farms Nursery and Capital Nursery. Of course, these things are always a success due to the help we get from our great volunteers and partners. A big thank you goes out to the fantastic crew who helped us make our Day of the Dead Garden Fiesta such a fun event:

Americorps (Jack, Kim, Mary, and Rebecca), Chuck Armstrong (Capital Nursery), Bernadette Balics, City of Sacramento, Brigitte Dinaberg, Kristin Jacobs, Chris Lewis (Elderberry Farms), Taylor Lewis (Cornflower Farms), Michael J. Musto, Dana Nolan, Mary Schiedt, Renate Sperlich, Paul Townsend, and Heidi West.

We look forward to seeing you out at the garden soon! In the meantime, you can check out photos of our event and other activities on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/CaliforniaNativePlantGarden](http://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaNativePlantGarden).



Young helpers preparing wildflower seeds for planting at the demo-garden.



Large oak galls transformed into beautiful Dia de los Muertos painted skulls.



CNPS Newsletter  
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## Save the Date! Gardens Gone Native March 31, 2012

[www.SacValleyCNPS.org](http://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](mailto:kodanij@yahoo.com).

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Next Meeting: January 11, 2012

Consider giving a Sacramento Valley **CNPS GIFT MEMBERSHIP** to one or two friends or ex-members who would love to be members — but really just can't afford it right now.

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

Make a New Year's resolution to **VOLUNTEER**. Consider "stepping up" and filling vacant board positions or volunteer your time at one or more of our public outreach and special project events.



**Renew online**  
 Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces mailing costs.  
[www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)  
 Click on the JOIN button

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