

# 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

October 2010

## OCT. MEETING:

Wed., 10/13 7:00 p.m.  
Shepard Garden &  
Arts Center  
McKinley Park  
3330 McKinley Blvd.,  
Sacramento 95816  
Jennifer Stock, President  
(916) 443-3484

*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!

**For more on what's  
happening at the  
Demo Garden,  
see inside!**

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## OCTOBER PRESENTATION:

# Native Plants in a Cemetery?

**Sabrina Okamura-Johnson,  
Old City Cemetery Demo-  
Garden Co-Chair**



Cemeteries often conjure up visions of monuments, mausoleums, turf and trees and, in October, maybe a ghost or two. But this October we'll introduce you to the California native plants in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery.

Sabrina Okamura-Johnson will be your tour guide to our chapter's California Native Plant Demonstration Garden at the southeast corner of the cemetery.

The chapter established the garden 1997 in cooperation with the City of Sacramento and the Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc., to beautify this once neglected area of the cemetery and enlighten visitors to the beauty of California native plants. The cemetery is at 1000 Broadway along Riverside Boulevard.

Sabrina has been a member of the Sacramento Valley chapter of CNPS for 20 years. She has volunteered at the demo-garden since it began. Sabrina has a BS and MS in geography with an undergraduate minor in biology. She has more than 25 years experience as a land use and environmental planner/analyst,



*Epilobium (syn. Zauschneria) canum ssp. Latifolium  
'Everett's Choice', or prostrate California fuchsia,  
in cemetery plot at the garden.  
Photo © 2010 Sabrina Okamura*

much of it gained while living, working and gardening in Sacramento. Her education, work experience and love of gardening give her a unique perspective and desire to encourage the incorporation of native plants into residential, commercial and rural landscapes.

*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.*

# Notes from the Demo-Garden: Summer & Fall

Story and photos by Sabrina Okamura-Johnson

Our summer “garden parties” were busy with general maintenance chores and tending to the new babies we planted in the spring. Unfortunately we had to say good-bye to our lovely 10+ year old California flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californicum*) and our Ione manzanita (*Arctostaphylos myrtifoli*). The fremontia finally succumbed to drainage issues, a beetle infestation and possible viral infection. The manzanita just gave up the ghost.

During July and August past Demo-Garden Chair and native horticulture specialist Mitchell Alford came out to provide pointers on general and hard pruning of our native shrubs, like our lovely Channel Island bush mal-low (*Lavatera asurgentiflora*) and our delightful Cleveland/fragrant sages (*Salvia clevelandii*). On July 18 the local Native Plant Meet-up group, led by Donna Caye, came out for a tour of the garden, and met the many different varieties of California fuchsia in the garden.

After the tour some really enthusiastic group members stayed and helped with our aisle maintenance and and potted up native fuchsia to take home with them.

At the end of August all of the native fuchsia were in full bloom, the buckwheats were just starting to fade to rust, and the native rose had put forth giant clusters of delicious rose hips.

## New Demo-Garden Co-Chair

Donna Caye has agreed to become a Demo-Garden co-chair. Donna will seek funding to complete the irrigation project along the Veterans’ aisle and demo-garden interface in cooperation with the Old City Cemetery Committee and Sacramento City staff. She needs assistance identifying grants and donations of money, materials or time. Donna will also work on establishing a garden tour schedule for 2011. Our goal is to have three or four tours of the demo-garden next spring and summer that complement the cemetery’s event schedule. Please contact Donna (916-850-5913) with suggestions for tours or to help.

## Native Plant Pruning Session Sunday Oct. 3, 10 a.m.

Mitchell Alford will conduct a 2-hour session on practical pruning techniques for the native trees and shrubs at the garden. She will focus on understanding the science and skill necessary for pruning native shrubs, followed by a walk through the garden viewing and discussing how pruning can enhance the natural forms of specific species.

We’ll end with a fun pruning project at the garden. We are requesting a \$20 donation and the event is limited to 20 people. If there is enough interest, we may schedule another session around 12:30 p.m. Please dress in comfortable clothing, bring gloves and clean pruning

shears. We will also need some volunteers for the registration/info table and help with set up and tear down. Please contact Donna Caye (916-850-5913) and/or Mitchell Alford (916-399-9457) for more information about this event.

## Fall Garden Party Schedule.

**Sundays, 10 a.m. - noon.** We are dedicating all Sundays in October to preparing the Riverside Boulevard area for plantings, then subdividing and transplanting our native iris beds.

We also hope the city will provide wood chips for spreading in the aisles. Due to budget/staff issues they have not been able to provide chips for some time and we really need them before the rains start. If you know of a source for wood chips please let Donna or Sabrina (916-929-7896) know.

## Needs/Wish list

Urgent! We need new or lightly used garden hoses to replace old, worn, leaky ones. We also need:

- Arborists with equipment to prune/top our Pacific Sunset Fremontias
- Handy man to repair our blue-bird boxes
- 1-gallon pots, gloves, hand tools,



Above: California native rose hips at the demo-garden in August.

Below: One of the garden’s native iris beds to be divided and replanted along Riverside Boulevard.



*continued on page 6*

# She Killed Her Lawn! Native Yard Conversion Project

Story and photos by Linda Roye



1. Solarizing

I started my native garden project on June 8, 2009 by solarizing a section of my yard, then turning over, sifting out Bermuda grass, and building mounds. Planting began in October and November.

I had 10 cubic feet of soil in my driveway and another seven cubic feet of mulch in front.



2. Sifting out Bermuda grass



3. Sheet mulching with mounds, mulch and soil.

Then I sheet-mulched, which didn't work too well. Since then I have continued to remove Bermuda grass and hope to have that done by September.

Next steps are to install a drip system, a flagstone walkway, and complete the planting design. My goal is to have it ready for the "Gardens Gone Native" tour May 1, 2011.



4. The garden in June 2010. Looking good! But the project continues.



# Calendar of Events

See our calendar online at [www.sacvalleycnps.org](http://www.sacvalleycnps.org) for more, updated events and happenings!

## OCTOBER

**Wednesdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
**Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery Work Days**  
**Located at Soil Born Farms**  
**2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova**  
Contact Chris at [lewisc916@yahoo.com](mailto:lewisc916@yahoo.com)

**Fridays, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.**  
**Nursery Friday Walks**  
We walk several locations along the American River Parkway, depending on what is in bloom or in seed and who knows where they are. Rain or shine. To sign up for the Nursery's listserv send an e-mail to: [Elderberry\\_Farms\\_Native\\_Plant\\_Nursery-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Elderberry_Farms_Native_Plant_Nursery-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) or contact Chris at [lewisc916@yahoo.com](mailto:lewisc916@yahoo.com).

**Wed. 9 a.m. - noon during October Native Plant Sale at the Nursery**  
Contact Chris at [lewisc916@yahoo.com](mailto:lewisc916@yahoo.com)

**Wed., 10/18**  
**Bulb Propagation with Robin Rietz at the Nursery.**  
Contact Chris at [lewisc916@yahoo.com](mailto:lewisc916@yahoo.com)

**Sun., 10/10, 9 a.m. - 12 noon**  
**The Quotable Naturalist**  
**Leader: John Huls (916) 284-7021**  
[johnhuls@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnhuls@sbcglobal.net)  
Bring some of your favorite quotes to share as we check out the flora and fauna of Bobelaine in the early fall. Meet at 8:35 for carpooling at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. Or meet the group in the Bobelaine parking lot at 9 a.m. This is a joint trip with the Sacramento Audubon so bring binoculars. More details in October Hibiscus or call John.

## ONGOING

**Native Plant Demo-Garden Old City Cemetery**  
**1000 Broadway, Sacramento**  
**Sundays, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.**  
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](mailto: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**  
*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: Jen Stock, (916) 443-3484 [jstock2409@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jstock2409@sbcglobal.net)

**Chapter Board Meetings**  
**4th Wed. of month, 7:00 p.m. SMUD Art Gallery & Community Center, 6301 S Street, Sacramento, CA95817 (Jan-June; Sept.-Nov)** For more information call Jennifer Stock (916) 443-3484 or e-mail [jstock2409@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jstock2409@sbcglobal.net)

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

**Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery Work Days**  
**Located at Soil Born Farms**  
**2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova**  
Contact Chris Lewis (916) 812-2876 or [lewisc916@yahoo.com](mailto:lewisc916@yahoo.com) for work day schedule. To join the garden listserv, send a blank email to: [Elderberry\\_Farms\\_Native\\_Plant\\_Nursery-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Elderberry_Farms_Native_Plant_Nursery-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**Habitat 2020**  
**Day and Time TBD**  
For information contact Glen Holstein (530) 758-6787, [holstein@cal.net](mailto:holstein@cal.net)

**"Gardens Gone Native" Tour Committee Meetings**  
**3rd Thurs. of month, 7 p.m.**  
Contact [simwil@surewest.net](mailto:simwil@surewest.net) for location, directions, information.

## Attention School and Community Garden enthusiasts: Kids In Native Plant Gardens Program Funds Available

Do you know of a school or community gathering place that could use **\$100 to buy California native plants to enhance a garden?** Jennifer Hogan will provide this opportunity through the "Kids in Native Gardens" grant program.

Go to the Sacramento Valley Chapter's website <http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/gardening/kid.html> for more information and to download the grant application.

Advice and site visits are included in the program.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**May 1, 2011**

## "Gardens Gone Native" Tour

May 1, 2011 is the chapter's first annual native garden tour of the Sacramento area. Want to help? We have two pressing needs now:

Our most critical and time-sensitive need is for **web design technical assistance**. We need to get our pages up and running to publicize the event.

We also are looking for **gardens that are at least 50 percent native**. That means that if your front yard has at least half native plants, it might be a candidate for the tour.

If you don't garden but have seen one that might qualify, let us know the location and we'll contact the homeowner. To help, e-mail us at [simwil@surewest.net](mailto:simwil@surewest.net).

### Aspiring trip leaders:

Contact John Huls at 916-284-7021 or [johnhuls@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnhuls@sbcglobal.net) for help planning your trips and publicizing in the Hibiscus and our website.

# California Native Plant Society

Sacramento Valley Chapter  
Stockton Subchapter



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.

Stay up to date on Stockton subchapter activities by visiting them on the web:  
<http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/stockton/stockton.html>

## Field Trips

### Eastern Sierra/Mono Lake

Early October, dates TBD

call Martha at (209) 477-3966

Join us for a few days at Mono Lake when the aspen trees in Lundy Canyon turn amber gold. For information call (209) 477-3966.



Photo © 2005 Martha Mallery

### Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival

November 6 & 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This year CNPS will sell a small number of popular species to spread the word about growing native plants. If you can take a shift at our table for a few a few hours, please phone (209) 477-3966

## Effie Yeaw Saved! ARNHA Will Manage

In July 2010, the County of Sacramento cut all funding to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, an award-winning environmental education center and nature preserve that serves approximately 80,000 each year and has millions in the 34 years since it opened.

The American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) has stepped up to care for the Nature Center and Preserve. Sacramento County has transferred all responsibility for Nature Center management to ARNHA. Support from the community is vital to keep the Nature Center open and functioning.

### Fundraiser: Photography Workshop with Lewis Kemper

**When:** Fri., 10/22, 7 - 9 p.m. and Sat. 10/23, 6:30 a.m. - 12 noon

**Where:** Effie Yeaw Nature Center, Ancil Hoffman County Park, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, CA

**Who:** Anyone age 12 and up with a digital camera

**Cost:** \$120 if received by September 22; \$140 after September 22. Benefits EYNC.

**Registration:** *By credit card:* call the Nature Center at (916) 489-4918. *By check:* mark "Photography Workshop" and mail to ARNHA, P.O. Box 241, Carmichael CA 95609. *In person:* Register at Effie Yeaw Nature Center, Wed. and Thurs., 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; Fri., Sat., Sun. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. [www.effieyeaw.org](http://www.effieyeaw.org)

## AB173 Native Plant Week Passes!

It's official – the third week of April will be Native Plant Week in California! The state Senate passed AB 173 on August 30.

Thanks to Vern Goehring and Joshua Stark for working with Assemblywoman Evans and her staff to move the bill forward, and to all volunteers who contributed their efforts.

## OTHER EVENTS

### Volunteer Sunday Afternoons 2010-2011 at the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity

Oct. 17, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, and Feb. 20,  
2 pm to 5 p.m.

1026 Sciences Laboratory Building,  
UC Davis Campus.

If you enjoy plants, museums, libraries, or just working with fun people, volunteer at the Center for Plant Diversity one Sunday afternoon this fall/winter. Parking is free and convenient. Snacks will be provided.

Many different jobs await you. Tasks that we particularly need help with include: **mounting plant specimens; filing specimens, labeling specimen folders; making labels for specimens; plant identification** (for those confident using the Jepson Manual).

Please contact Ellen Dean at [eadean@ucdavis.edu](mailto:eadean@ucdavis.edu) or 530-752-1091. Driving directions and map available at <http://herbarium.ucdavis.edu>.

The Center will also be open for general use of the collections during these Sundays. Access to the Center will be through the loading dock door off of Hutchison Drive.

### Friends of the Chico State Herbarium Workshop

Sat., 10/30 Living With California's  
Native Oaks.

Workshop taught by Doug McCreary. For registration and information see [www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html](http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html)

**SAVE THE DATE: Jan. 10-11, 2011  
Northern California Botanists Annual Symposium – Chico, CA**

## Board Elections at the November Meeting

Elections for chapter board members will be held at the general meeting November 10. Vote is by show of hands, so it's important that you be there!

We need nominees for President and Vice President.

To nominate someone or if you are interested in a role on the board, contact Jennifer Stock, (916) 443-3484, [jstock2409@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jstock2409@sbcglobal.net). Include "CNPS Chapter Board Elections" in the subject line.

*Cemetery Demo Garden,  
continued from page 2*

pruning equipment, shovels, knee pads

- Old CNPS bumper stickers, which we use to label our tools.

### Join us & thanks!

Please join us this fall. Your help with our ongoing garden activities, pruning, mulching, weeding, dead-heading, plantings and seeding will be much appreciated.

A big thank you goes out to our dedicated volunteers

of this past summer: Bridgette Dinaberg, Renate Sperlich, Kim Courtright, Alicia Riese, Dana Nolan, Julie Jones, Paul Townsend, Andy Phillips, Mitchell Alford, Bonnie Ross, Donna Caye, the Native Plant Meet-up group and our week day weeders.

As always, we hope to see you in the garden soon.



*In honor of October, a resident spider spun a huge web between two giant buckwheats and posed for a photo!*

## Sacramento County's "New" General Plan

*An essay by Glen Holstein, Ph.D., chapter botanist*

I come to urban issues like Sacramento's proposed new general plan indirectly, as a biologist fortunate to learn about and see worlds of beauty and diversity just beyond Sacramento's urban edge that most folks scarcely know exist. I have also been saddened to see sprawl destroy those worlds in a slow motion holocaust.

John Muir's heart was broken when San Francisco flooded Hetch Hetchy, a second Yosemite Valley he knew and loved. He was right when he said "everything is hitched to everything else." Sprawl doesn't just hurt little creatures few ever see.

Sacramento, like Stockton, San Bernardino, Las Vegas, Phoenix, and Orlando, was at the epicenter of a sprawl bubble that continues to hurt people all over. How did it happen? Our balance of payments became increasingly negative as policies de-industrialized America and Americans bought foreign goods.

America found a way to get that money back in mortgage securities marketed to the world. That worked until about 2006 when we ran out of home buyers with the good jobs manufacturing used to provide. The system lasted another year or so until the world caught on it was now based on selling homes to folks without the income to pay for them. The rest is history.

World investors won't make that mistake again. Now the mortgage market only exists because federal money props it up. It's one reason the federal deficit is the biggest in history and getting bigger.

The Sacramento County General Plan, which is based on sprawl, is like Mariposa County in 1850 planning for the gold rush to go on forever because that made it such a big state player that its boundaries stretched south into what's now LA County.

Sprawl is a dead idea for a lot of reasons. The money to finance it is gone. Cheap oil that made it possible is getting scarcer. Sprawl conflicts directly with carbon reduction goals.

And it doesn't make economic sense. Silicon Valley cities ran the numbers and found buying open space was cheaper than providing infrastructure for sprawl. Now it attracts smart people who fix the balance of payments the old fashioned way. They make products the world needs. That's smart growth.

Now the Sacramento area is less attractive because it's underserved by parks even though surrounded by nearby natural wonders as great as any in California. Most folks just never see them because they're hidden behind locked gates of sprawl speculators. Cordova Hills is just one example. That's not smart growth. Everything really is hitched to everything else.

## Join the Global Work Party on 10-10-10

On October 10, 2010, join the Global Work Party, with a number of opportunities to participate in Sacramento and Davis. Go to <http://www.350.org> for up-to-date information on local activities.

The Global Work Party is an attempt to jump-start actions to slow climate change, after our leaders have shown a disappointing reluctance to address this most urgent challenge to our future. We are going show the leaders that the world can't wait.

Please join us to do something for the climate, the future and for native plant communities, which face severe challenges from a warming planet. For more information on the Global Work Party and for background on climate change, go to <http://www.350.org>. Contact Laurie Litman for information on Sacramento activities, [llitman@pacbell.net](mailto:llitman@pacbell.net) or 916.443.2976 or go to our Facebook page at "10-10-10 Work Party Sacramento."

# What's up at Elderberry Farms Nursery

by Chris Lewis

Each Hibiscus, I'll update what's blooming in my garden and/or in the nursery demonstration garden. As of September 10, these were in bloom: *Artemisia douglasiana* (Mugwort), *Madia elegans* (Common Madia), *Asclepias fascicularis* (Narrowleaf Milkweed), *Clematis ligusticifolia* (Virgins Bower), *Lessingia glandulifera* (no common name!), *Brickellia Californica* (California brickellbush), *Eriogonum nudum* (Wild Buckwheat), *Achillea millefolium* (Common Yarrow) and *Mimulus aurantiacus* (Sticky Monkey-flower). Just starting are *Epilobium Canum* (California Fuchsia), *Aster chilensis* (Common Aster), and (on the Parkway) *Trichostema lanceolatum* (Vinegar weed; see photo above), *Heterotheca oregana* (Oregon Golden aster) and *Heterotheca grandiflora* (Telegraphplant).



Vinegar weed at Snipes Pershing Ravine  
Photo ©2010 Terry Linton

A ton of work got done at the nursery, thanks to our summer regular crew including: Brian Butzin, Paul Lester, Joanne Heraty, Mary Beth Metcalf, Gin Wenslaff, Tom Balestrieri, Tony Duke, Carol Crofoot, and others who worked with propagation guru Robin Rietz. Also indispensable are demonstration garden master designer Betsy Weiland; master irrigation specialist Jim Wadsworth; and master of few trades Chris Lewis.

## Friday Parkway Walks

Each Friday we walk some wonderful part of the Parkway to document the seasonal changes in our flora and collect seeds to propagate at the nursery. If you walk a special part of the Parkway that you would like to share with us, let me know when and where. Contact Chris at: lewisc916@yahoo.com

## It's Plant Sale October!

- Plant sales at the Nursery, Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon
- Wed. Oct 13, Robin Rietz will demonstrate propagating bulbs.
- We'll be doing propagation work every week. For more info, contact Chris at: lewisc916@yahoo.com

## Update: Native Plant Gardening Committee

by Chris Lewis

We're developing a **Sacramento Valley Nature Coloring Book**, to educate and inspire kids and their parents about the interconnectedness of nature – plants and animals in home gardens or in local nature areas.

It will have 16 pages of pictures and information. We hope to publish and sell it at a reasonable price. As an educational piece, we may post it on the SacValley CNPS website to be downloaded and printed.

Thus far the committee is Glen Holstein, Alison Shilling, illustrator Kathy Ikeda and Chris Lewis. We are developing a collection of illustrations. If you'd like to help with this project, let Chris know at lewisc916@yahoo.com.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (area code 916 unless otherwise noted)

<b>President</b> 443-3484	Jennifer Stock jstock2409@sbcglobal.net	<b>Ecolandscape Rep.</b> 443-3484	Jennifer Stock jstock2409@sbcglobal.net	<b>Native Plant Gardening Chair</b> Chris Lewis 812-2876 lewisc916@yahoo.com
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<b>Demonstration Garden</b> 929-7896	Sabrina Okamura-Johnson soj@surewest.net	<b>Mather Preservation</b> 719-4854	Eva Butler mathervernalpools@att.net	<b>Member at Large</b> 916 961-0766 Tim Nosal trnosal@comcast.net
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CNPS Newsletter  
 Sacramento Valley Chapter  
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 Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

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## Celebrate Native Plants all year long!

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

### October 2010

[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 Friday after the monthly meeting for possible inclusion in the next month's newsletter. E-mail to [bwolf@surewest.net](mailto:bwolf@surewest.net)

# Hibiscus

California Native Plant Society  
 Sacramento Valley Chapter Newsletter

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

October 2010

Oct. 13 Chapter Meeting:  
**Native Plants in  
 in the Cemetery?**  
 Sabrina Okamura-Johnson,  
 Demonstration Garden Co-Chair

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

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*A butterfly visits an aster at the Elderberry Farms demonstration garden.  
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