MAY MEETING:
Wed., 5/12  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!

Opportunity Knocks!
Join our chapter board. The po-
sition of Book Chair is currently
open. Or, help the program
chair select, invite and follow up
with presenters for our monthly
chapter meetings.
Contact Jennifer Stock,
916/443-3484
jstock2409@sbcglobal.net

MAY PRESENTATION:
Mysteries of the
Sutter Buttes
Margit Sands  Middle Mountain Foundation

In the midst of California’s broad Sacramento Valley, an isolated cluster of small mountain peaks rises abruptly above the populated and cultivated valley floor. They stand rugged and raw in stark contrast to the surrounding development below.

The original Maidu inhabitants of the Central Valley lived in the shadow of the Sutter Buttes, which they called Esto Yamani (Histum Yani), the Middle Mountain. Then, as now, there was a mystique about the mountains that continues to intrigue people both near and far. Through the centuries, various cultures have accessed and utilized the landscape in diverse ways that reflect the values of their societies.

Margit Sands is president of Middle Mountain Foundation. Her slide show will take you to the heart of the Middle Mountain to solve some of the mystery of this tiny range in the middle of the Sacramento Valley.

Margit is deeply involved with the working cattle ranch that her family has owned in the Sutter Buttes since 1898. Since retiring from teaching primary grades in a small rural school, she can often be found on horseback on the ranch or tending to many other ranch duties.

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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.
CONSERVATION NEWS

Still time to protest Mustang Airport expansion!
Appeal hearing moved to August

As previously reported, the Cosumnes River Preserve and allies (including the Sac Valley CNPS chapter) are fighting the proposed expansion of Mustang Airport, a privately owned and operated airstrip that borders the Horseshoe Lake and Valensin properties on the east side of the Preserve. In February, the Sacramento County planning commission approved permits to expand and open the airport to public, general aviation flights. Flights would increase from less than a few per week to more than 15,000 per year.

With the variety of large birds that frequent this region, the increased air traffic causes tremendous concerns over bird strikes. Horseshoe Lake houses one of the largest egret, heron and cormorant rookeries in the state. Along with concerns for the safety of the pilots, passengers and birds, the Preserve is also concerned about the possibility of having to halt restoration or even destroy habitat. This is a very real possibility, since FAA regulations override natural resource interests.

The expansion was approved and the decision appealed. The appeal hearing, originally scheduled for April 14, has been postponed to August 11, 2010, 6:00 p.m., pending SACOG’s compatibility determination with Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) policy. That means there is still time to write to your district representative to the Board of Supervisors, to let them know you oppose the expansion. Also consider attending the hearing. Please help protect the Preserve and voice your opinion on this matter.

To view the environmental documents, click here or go to www.dera.saccounty.net, click “Search for documents” in the menu at left, and search for “Mustang.” For an information packet with maps and model letter, contact rhoadesj@sacounty.net

CNPS Adopts Native Plants and Fire Safety Policy

The Chapter Council adopted the following policy at its March 13 meeting.

Statement:
The California Native Plant Society opposes the unnecessary destruction of California’s native plant heritage for the purpose of wildfire fuel management. The California Native Plant Society supports protecting human lives, property and California’s native plants from poor fuel management practices. California’s superbly diverse native plants are its most valuable resource for erosion control and water conservation, and are vital to the long-term health of California.

Intent:
To provide an authoritative policy that California Native Plant Society and others can use to persuade legislators and regulators to approve fire-safe practices that maximize conservation of native plants and native plant ecosystems, while protecting citizens, firefighters and property.

Rationale (excerpt):
Siting development in or adjacent to native plant communities increases the risk to structures from wildfire, the potential for additional human-caused ignitions, and the need for more fuel management. The best land-use planning practices minimize placing development in locations that increase the risk of property exposure or of ignitions. The best fire-safe building codes reduce the risk of the structure being ignited, or spreading fire, in a wildfire. Fuel management practices to protect urban development generally have been ineffective and/or counterproductive, severely impacting that native vegetation. Public ordinances and bureaucratic regulations often require fuel-removal practices in excess of 2006 California Public Resource Code

continued on p. 3
Wildflower Wonders Wins Over Weather

Betsy Weiland

April 11 dawned with dire predictions of high wind and lots of rain. Did that deter our intrepid group of single minded volunteers? Not for one moment! Everyone gathered promptly at 8:00 a.m. at Southside Park, wrapped in every piece of rain gear he or she could dredge up, happy and ready to celebrate Mother Earth. Yes the rain came and the wind blew, but our exhibits were as exciting as ever and our plants looked beautiful.

Thank you to CNPS’ Elderberry Farms Nursery, Steve Douty, Linnea Fronce, and John Nitta of High Ranch Nursery for providing those plants. Mary Schiedt managed to set up her usual delicious lunch which always keeps us motivated and full of energy. And wonder of wonders, the public came, albeit in much decreased numbers, to talk to our expert exhibitors and buy lots of plants. The spirit of the day was infectious and we cannot thank our volunteers enough for their hard work and downright fun attitude:

Chris Lewis, Paul Barth, Robin Rietz, Linda and Tom Maurer, Alison Shilling, Steve Woodward, Mary, Joe and Andrew Maret, Jann and Tom MacDonald, Bernadette Balics, Susan Fregien, Jennifer Stock, Jeff Shaffer, Paul Lester, Tony Duke, Terry Linton, Glen Holstein, Bonnie Ross, Eva Butler, Wendy Baty, Kathy Reynolds, Mary Lou Brennon, Barbara Wolf, Patricia Gilbert, Carol Crofoot, Frank Wallace, Emmy Gunterman, Mary Schiedt, Kelly Cohen, Jessica Triplett, Marisol Reynoso, Katie Holland, Linnea Fronce, Katie Lockhart, student Stephanie and Melinda Rivasplata. Equal thanks to anyone we inadvertently left off the list!

Implementation:
The California Native Plant Society supports:

• Fuel management plans that minimize the risk to human life and property while maximizing protection of native plants and their habitats. These plans should be locally-adapted and account for all combustible materials, including building materials, ornamental vegetation, other landscaping materials, and adjacent native plant ecosystems.

• Building codes and ordinances that require structures and landscaping in high fire risk areas to be situated, constructed, retrofitted and maintained using materials and practices that minimize the ignition and spread of wildfires.

• The creation of laws, regulations and land use policies that discourage new development in areas of high fire danger.

There are many different fire environments and property-development settings throughout the state. The California Native Plant Society will develop specific guidelines for implementation, supported by current applicable fire science and botanical knowledge, to fit the particular wildfire environment and property-development patterns of a given area. These detailed guidelines will be supplemental to this policy, and can be created, modified, or removed by approval of the California Native Plant Society Chapter Council.

All Photos © 2010 Terry Linton
Calendar of Events

MAY

Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery at Soil Born Farms - 2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova
Nursery Work Days
Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Contact Linda Maurer at n8trldy@surewest.net or (916) 202-9307
Nursery Furlough Friday walks, every Friday.
Sign up for the Nursery’s listserve. Just send an email to: Elderberry_Farms_Native_Plant_Nursery-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

CNPS 2010 Plant Science Training Workshops
Registration and full details for all workshops: http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/

May 4-6
Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations
TreePeople’s Cold Water Canyon Park (located on the ridgeline between Beverly Hills and Studio City)
Instructor: John Willoughby
Three-day workshop will focus on the role of plant population monitoring for adaptive management. Participants will learn how to develop good management objectives. Topics include principles of sampling and several sampling designs, field techniques for measuring vegetation, analyzing monitoring data and presenting results. Participants will receive a copy of the BLM-published book, Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations by Caryl Elzinga, Dan Salzer, and John Willoughby.

CNPS Members ($410)
Non-members ($435)

May 19
Mountainside Conference Center, Mammoth Lakes, CA
See www.sercal.org/conference.htm
Instructors: John Sawyer, Professor Emeritus at Humboldt State University; Todd Keeler-Wolf, Senior Vegetation Ecologist at California Department of Fish and Game, Biogeographic Data Branch; Julie Evens, Vegetation Program Director, California Native Plant Society.
This workshop will provide an overview of the changes and additions in long-awaited second edition of A Manual of California Vegetation and cover new components of the vegetation descriptions and how to use this book for conservation and management. Books will be available for purchase ($82. + tax) and loan during the workshop. All net proceeds from this workshop will go to CNPS. Maximum # Registrants: 30
Fee: $110 SERCAL or CNPS Members/ $135 Non-Members. Includes lunch.

You are welcome to join the field trips of other chapters!
Links to chapter websites and newsletters are at: http://www.cnps.org/cnps/chapters/list.php

ONGOING

Native Plant Demo-Garden
Old City Cemetery
1000 Broadway, Sacramento
Sundays, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
Wear hat, long shirt, boots & bring water, gardening tools, gloves, and knee pads. If interested in volunteering during the week contact Sabrina (916) 929-7896 or 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

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

Ceanothus – Plant identification
E-mail for date, time and directions.
Michael Bower, Debra Sykes ceanothusfieldbot@gmail.com

Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery at Soil Born Farms - Nursery Work Days
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova
See page 2. Contact Chris Lewis (916) 812-2876 or 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

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

See our calendar online at <www.sacvalleycnps.org> for more, updated events and happenings!
Welcome our new Field Trips Chair John Huls

John has been leading outings for the Cosumnes River Preserve for eight years, including birding outings for the Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival, the Galt Winter Bird Festival and vernal pool walks at Howard Ranch. He is also a volunteer for the Yolo Basin Foundation where he has lead docent tours at the City of Davis Wetlands.

John’s fascination with wildlife and plants springs from growing up in Oroville, followed by British Columbia, Sackatchewen, Wyoming and northern New Mexico.

John will help you plan your trips, offer ideas for outings or make sure your field trip is publicized in the Hibiscus. Contact him at 916-284-7021 or johnhuls@bcglobal.net

To invite chapter members on a field trip, be sure to also contact newsletter editor Barbara Wolf, bwolf@surewest.net and webmaster Tom Starbuck at tjstarbuck@ucdavis.edu

Sac Valley Chapter news direct to your e-mail

Subscribe to the chapter listserv. Send a blank email to: CNPS_SacramentoValley-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

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

May Field Trips
For more information please phone (209) 477-3966.

May 6 - Calaveras Big Trees
Stroll the North Grove trail beneath the giant sequoias.

May 15 - Pine Hill Preserve
Hike to see the rare *Fremontodendron californicum* subspecies *decumbens*. Arthur Kruckeberg, in his book *Introduction to California Soils and Plants*\(^*\), documents the regeneration problems of this endemic plant. Having been damaged by construction of a fire tower and assaulted by moths and rodents, the future of this Fremontodendron is very insecure.


Meetings
Our subchapter does not have regularly scheduled meetings, but a few of us usually attend the Sacramento programs on the second Wednesday of each month. If you would like a ride, please call (209) 477-3966.

CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt
You are invited to go eco-caching for conservation this spring!

The Rare Plant Treasure Hunt is a new statewide effort, initiated by the Rare Plant and Education Programs, to update data on rare plants and their associated habitats. We will team experienced botanists with amateurs to conduct searches for historical (>20 years since last documented) and new occurrences of rare plants. Potential projects at the local or chapter level include surveys for rare plants in areas with little history of botanical exploration, documenting the relocation of historical rare plant occurrences, and updating known occurrences of high-priority rare plants. Visit the CNPS website for more info: http://www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/treasure-hunt/

Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery Listserv
Are you interested in learning about local native plants, propagating plants, landscape design, growing plants for habitat, or sharing your expertise?

Contact Linda Maurer at n8trlady@surewest.net. Or join the Elderberry Farms listserv by sending a blank email to: Elderberry_Farms_Native_Plant_Nursery-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Photo © 2010 Chris Lewis

John and friends on a Parkway walk earlier this year.
**OTHER EVENTS**

**Effie Yeaw Nature Center - May 2010**
Ancil Hoffman County Park, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, CA
All programs are FREE unless stated otherwise. Donations welcome.
Park entrance fee: $5.00 per car or FREE to ARNHA members.

**Nature Center Hours:** Wed.–Sun., 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Mon.–Tues., 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Please call to confirm hours.

For more information contact: www.effieyeaw.org or (916) 489-4918

**New Interactive Exhibit: Bountiful Harvest: An Exploration of Maidu Culture**

May 15, 4 p.m.–9 p.m.

**First Annual “Where the Wild Things Are” Gala and Art Auction to Benefit the Nature Center**
An evening of art, live music, food and fun at the Nature Center. A portion of the proceeds from this event will benefit the Nature Center.
- Live & Silent Auction, Food, Wine & Art of the American River Parkway
- Music by Lisa Phenix

Where: Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Tickets $30
RSVP: 916.489.4918 or eync@saccounty.net

**Help support the Nature Center**
Your generous donation to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center will ensure that we continue to fulfill Effie Yeaw’s vision of providing some of the most high quality and entertaining educational and cultural programs and events in the Sacramento region to children and adults alike. There are two ways to donate to the Nature Center. Donations can be made to the County care of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center or through the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA). ARHNA is a 501(c)(3) organization established 27 years ago to support the nature center. Join ARHNA at the Nature Center or at www.arnha.org. Check out the member benefits!

**Save the Date! January 10-11, 2011**
Northern California Botanists Annual Symposium – Chico, CA

**Friends of the Chico State Herbarium Workshops**
For more information and registration go to: http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html or contact (530) 898-3511 or NS@csuchico.edu

May 8, 2010, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Soils, Landforms, And Vegetation Of Bidwell Park
Instructor: Andrew Conlin.
Two walks exploring the the relationships between landform, soils, and the vegetation occurring on those soils Fee: $35. (kids under 12 free when accompanied by an adult). Meet in Chico’s Upper Bidwell Park Parking Lot B (by the Easter cross). Please register in advance; attendance limited to 40.

May 15, 2010 Botanical Illustration
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Holt Hall Room 129 at CSU Chico
Instructor: Judy McCrary, illustrator and teacher
The workshop will concentrate on pencil and ink techniques, although other media may be explored depending on the interests of the participants.
Fee: $40.00; ($30.00 for students, and for members of Friends of the Herbarium). Please register in advance; attendance limited to 16.

**California Invasive Plant Council’s 2010 Wildland Weed Field Courses!**
Six upcoming field courses will train natural resource managers and restoration volunteers on all aspects of invasive weed management.
Registration and course details at www.cal-ipc.org/fieldcourses/index.php.
NEW! Native Plant Gardening Committee Forming
by Christina Lewis

Who: Beginning or seasoned gardeners, landscapers, scientists, educators, propagators, writers, and the curious!

What: An organizing committee whose focus will be to develop programs that introduce the benefits of native plants in the environment to gardeners, landscapers, and public officials.

Why: The Sacramento Region is far behind Southern and Coastal California in understanding the importance of Native Plants.

When: Wed, May 5th, 6:30-8:30. Then we would decide how often we need to meet and how much planning can be done via email.

Where: Home of Chris Lewis, I’ll send my address and directions to those who want to attend.

RSVP: Chris lewisc916@yahoo.com.

Why Grow Natives?
A native plant is one that naturally occurs on a site and has not been introduced from another far-off place. (This includes Southern or Coastal California.) Natives provide the best diversity of habitat elements for wildlife. Wildlife in your area has evolved to use native plants as food, cover, places to raise young, and sometimes even for water. Native plants will thrive in their natural site because they are best suited to the conditions of that site.

What you can do:
- Create habitat by planting local native plants in your garden.
- Join the Native Plant Gardening Committee.
- Promote the use of native plants in roadside, school, governmental, and commercial landscaping.
- Save native plant communities in your area. It’s much harder to restore wild areas than it is to preserve them and sometimes it is impossible.

Western Redbud (Cercis occidentalis), well-adapted to most landscapes.
Photo © 2010 Christina Lewis
May 2010 Hibiscus

www.SacValleyCNPS.org

The Sacramento Valley chapter newsletter, Hibiscus, is published monthly, except for July, August, and December. Subscriptions are $10 per year. To subscribe solely to this newsletter, send your $10 check to: CNPS Sac Valley Membership, 2707 K St., Ste. 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. Deadline for Hibiscus contributions is midnight of the Friday after the monthly meeting for possible inclusion in the next month's newsletter. E-mail to bwolf@surewest.net

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

May 12 Chapter Meeting:
Mysteries of the Sutter Buttes by Margit Sands, Middle Mountain Foundation

Join Cosumnes River Preserve, CNPS, TNC and others to fight Mustang Airport Expansion. See page 2.

Chapter seeks Book Chair and Programs Co-chair. Contact Jennifer Stock 916/443-3484 jstock2409@sbcglobal.net

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