NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING:
The Fascinating World of Lichens
Presented by Pam Kirkbride, Naturalist

Lichens are Lilliputian-sized elements in our environment that are often overlooked because they are seemingly insignificant when compared to our native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. But these small beings play a very important role in nature. Whether your interest is in birds, mammals, insects, soils, people, chemistry, environmental issues, arts or medicine, you’ll find lichens in the mix. When studied under magnification, they reveal a special beauty not seen with the naked eye. Pam will give an overview of lichen habitats, evolution, morphology, reproduction, ecology and identification. She’ll introduce us to ten common species of lichens, found locally, that are easy to recognize. A variety of lichens will be available for a hands-on experience. Pam will also discuss how to start exploring the world of lichens and share her library of reference guides.

Pam Kirkbride is a self-taught naturalist specializing in native plant botany and lichenology. She has been a member of CNPS for over 30 years, acting as a docent for Jepson Prairie Preserve and Mather Field. She has taught native wildflower classes and has led and participated in dozens of field trips throughout California. Most recently she put together a class for SPLASH in which students reviewed changes to taxonomy in the new Jepson Manual for 44 families, focusing on wildflowers.

Chapter Board Elections!
Be sure to attend this meeting to cast your vote for new Board officers. See page 2.
November 6 is not the only important election day this month. At our chapter meeting November 14, we’ll vote for new chapter officers. Current terms are coming to an end and president Sabrina Okamura Johnson and vice-president Barbara Wolf are stepping down. Secretary Hazel Gordon and treasurer Carol Crofoot have agreed to run for their offices for another year.

According to the Chapter bylaws we are to publish the candidates in the November newsletter and nominate the candidates at the October membership meeting.

**Carol Witham** is well-known to long-time chapter members. A self-employed environmental consultant, she is a recognized expert in the rare plants and animals of vernal pools, and served as lead taxonomist in a state-wide research project to classify vernal pool vegetation. As a volunteer with CNPS, Carol leads the organization’s campaign to preserve vernal pools and their associated grasslands. Carol is a lifetime member of CNPS and has served in various capacities on committees and the Board of Directors, including Board President from 2004–05. Carol was the editor of *Ecology, Conservation, and Management of Vernal Pool Ecosystems* (1998) and author of *A Field Guide to Vernal Pools, Sacramento County* (2006).

**Ramona Robison** is an environmental scientist at California State Parks, working in vegetation management for the Natural Resources Division. Previously, she was a botanist and invasive species specialist at ICF International, conducting botanical surveys, wetland delineation, weed management and mitigation monitoring projects. Before joining ICF, Ramona had her own environmental consulting firm, California Botany, for 13 years, attended and taught at UC-Davis, and served on the board of the Cal-IPC. She has also been SVCNPS chapter conservation chair, president, and a State CNPS board member.

Ramona has a Ph.D. in plant biology and a BA in botany, both from UCDavis.

The current slate of officer nominees for 2013–2014 is:

**President**
Carol Witham

**Vice-President**
Ramona Robison

**Secretary**
Hazel Gordon

**Treasurer**
Carol Crofoot

Please make it a priority to vote, on both November 6 and November 14.

Additional nominations from the floor will be accepted at the October and November meetings. You may nominate yourself or someone else, but you must obtain the consent of the nominee. Only chapter members in good standing (i.e., CNPS membership is paid current) may vote, and you must be present at the November meeting when elections are held.

While officer terms are generally 2 years, the current slate of officers can each only commit to serve for 1 year. Accordingly, the primary goal during the new board year will be leadership recruitment.

**It Couldn’t Get Any Better…**

**by Peggy Berry**

…at the September meeting of the Sacramento Valley chapter of CNPS. Cassandra Nguyen Musto, Demonstration Garden Leader, provided an excellent presentation about the CNPS Sac Valley Demo Garden at the Old City Cemetery. She inspired us with photos of natives that have taken up residence (with help from the Demo Garden team) in very old and oftentimes abandoned gravesites. She showed beautiful examples of drought tolerant natives, planted and tended over the years by our dedicated chapter volunteers, and described the many characteristics that make our natives so “cool.”

We had a robust attendance of 50 people for this first fall meeting! That’s a record number of attendees to be proud of!

Among the crowd was Daniel Gluesenkamp, the new State CNPS Executive Director. Dan graciously accepted our spontaneous invitation to tell us about himself, his background experiences, education, and goals for CNPS, and received a warm greeting from the audience. It is apparent that our new Executive Director will be a pleasure to work with.

Three for three – it doesn’t get much better than that!
Calendar of Events

Upcoming

Friday, Nov. 2, 6–9pm
Celebration for Vernal Pools
Splash Education Center
4426 Excelsior Road, Mather
As in the past, this will be an evening of wine, brews, appetizers and desserts, with live music by local “rock stars for vernal pools” and raffles, silent auction, and “critterville.” Basically a fine evening to socialize with like-minded folks and support vernal pool conservation. Suggested donation $40 per person. Reservations required. For more information, visit http://www.vernalpools.org/celebration.

Nov. 8–9, 2012
CNPS Plant Science Workshop:
Nature Journaling
with John Muir Laws
Coyote Hills Regional Park, Fremont
Learn to improve observation skills, ask relevant scientific questions, and explore the natural world through nature journaling. Two days of sketching, art instruction and nature study. Cost: CNPS Members $295; Non-members $320
More information and registration online at cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php

Dec. 7–9
CNPS Chapter Council Meeting
Our chapter will be hosting the CNPS Chapter Council meeting the weekend of December 7-9. Glen Holstein is Chair of the ad-hoc committee for this event. Hosting the meeting is a lot work that can be made fun with the enthusiastic help of others. Please contact Glen (holstein@cal.net) if you would like to help him and our chapter host this important event.
If you can host a chapter council delegate from out of town in your home the nights of December 7 and 8, please contact Marty Foltyn at marty@bitsprings.com.

Ongoing

2nd Wed. of the month, 7pm
(Jan.–June; Sept.–Nov.)
Chapter Meeting & Guest Speaker
Shepard Garden & Arts Center,
Mckinley Park, Sacramento
See page 1. Contact Chris Lewis (LewisC916@yahoo.com or (916) 812-2876) for more information.

4th Wed. of the month, 7pm
Chapter Board Meetings
SMUD, 6301 S Street, Sacramento,
CA95817 (Jan.–June; Sept.–Nov.)
Contact: Sabrina Okamura-Johnson (916) 929-7896 or soj@surewest.net.

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

Sundays, 10am–noon
Native Plant Demonstration 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.

Elderberry Farms
Native Plant Nursery
Located at Soil Born Farms
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova
For more information, check out the Chapter’s bi-weekly eNewsletter. Sign up for it on the Chapter’s Home page: SacValley.CNPS.org

Wednesday Workdays
New workday hours: 10am–2pm
We pot up seedlings and learn plant propagation techniques. Peanut butter & jelly sandwiches provided. RSVP to Chris, lewisc916@yahoo.com.

Friday Walks 9am–noon.
Seed and data collecting, photography, mapping and fun! Go to SacValley.CNPS.org, look under “What We Do” then Elderberry Farms for walk location.

Other items of interest

Thursday, Nov. 15, 8:30am–3:40pm
“Habitat Conservation Planning from Tahoe to the Bay” workshop
Ulatis Community Center,
1000 Ulatis Dr., Vacaville
Questions? E-mail to ieh@cal.net or phone (530) 756-6455.
Registration: $50 through Nov. 8; $60 after. Mail to: HCP Workshop, c/o IEH, 409 Jardin Place, Davis, CA 95616. Register early—we fill up fast!

The following organizations frequently offer events that may be of interest to CNPS members. Please check their websites for more information.

Ceanothus—Collaborative Plant Identification Workshops
3rd Sat. of month, 9am
UC Davis Herbarium (Center for Plant Diversity).
Michael Bower, (530) 902-8721

The Friends of the Chico State Herbarium (www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html)

The California Native Grass Association (cnga.org/get_involved/)

Effie Yeaw
The Effie Yeaw Nature Center offers free nature-related activities Saturdays and Sundays. For specifics, check out www.sacnaturecenter.net (under “Happening Now…”) or call (916) 489-4918.

Save the Date!
Jan. 14–16, 2013; Northern California Botanists 2013 Symposium
Chico, California
www.norcalbotanists.org
Wednesday Workdays, New Hours! 10am–2pm

Our propagation efforts paid off! During the chapter’s fall plant sale and Soil Born Farms’ plant sale the following weekend, Elderberry Farms sold over 470 1-gallon plants, close to 2,000 4” plants, and all but a few bulbs we’ve propagated! How much effort was that you ask? Under the excellent direction of Propagation Manager Robin Rietz, more than 60 volunteers collectively worked about 2,000 hours in our nursery. Everyone comes out when they can—weekly, monthly, or even occasionally. Thank you one and all!

And you know what all those plant sales mean? They mean we have a lot more work ahead. Not only to replace our stock for your schools and gardens, but we’ll also be growing thousands of plants for the Cordova Creek Naturalization Project. Join us whenever you can. (For instance, we’re a great place to visit for a “mental health” day off from work!) In addition to propagation assistants, we also have projects and committees that can use your help: the Plant Fact Sheet Project and Host Habitat for Every School Project. Contact me (LewisC916@yahoo.com) if you would like to help out.

Friday Walks

Each week we walk a different local area; sometimes on the American River Parkway, sometimes around Folsom Lake, Auburn and more. To see where we’re going, sign up for the SacValley eNewsletter on our home page: SacValley.CNPS.org/

Sacramento County Master Gardeners 2013 Calendar Now Available

The Master Gardeners’ 2013 calendar “Gardening De-Myth-tified” is packed full of reliable and timely solutions. This full-color edition contains irrigation (water efficient), pest control, and many other gardening tasks on a monthly calendar; along with sections on soil preparation, composting, planting, seed starting, fertilizing, pruning, frost protection, vegetables, herbs, citrus, fruit trees, and lawns.

Available at the Cooperative Extension Office, 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento, 875-6913 for $11.00 each; as well as many of the area retail nurseries (they set their price). You can also order the from the Sacramento County UC Master Gardener web site at ucanr.org/sites/sacmg/. Questions? Contact Mindy Cecchettini at 354-1805 or mindyc1805@att.net.
The eNewsletter is another way to get (or share) your information about what’s happening in our Chapter!

Does it replace the Hibiscus? NO! But it fills in the gaps between issues.

Sign up for it on our home page: SacValley.CNPS.org/ or contact Chris at LewisC916@yahoo.com.
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This is the last Hibiscus of 2012. See you in January! Sign up for the eNewsletter for current events (see page 5).

SacValley.CNPS.org
The Sacramento Valley chapter newsletter, Hibiscus, is published monthly, except for July, August, and December. Deadline for Hibiscus contributions is midnight of the Friday before the monthly meeting for possible inclusion in the next month’s newsletter. Please send your submittals to EditorHibiscus@gmail.com.