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.

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!

Join or renew today!

CNPS’ success depends on members’ support. To join, go to www.cnps.org/join. Or mail membership dues (individual $45; student or limited income $25) to CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. Other membership levels also available.

Send questions or address changes to cnps@cnps.org.

Visit our website at sacvalley.cnps.org

SEPTEMBER PRESENTATION:

California Natives – Gateway Plants to Coolness

Cassandra Nguyen Musto, Landscape Architect, Native Plant Garden Coordinator

The latest gardening trends talk about how all the cool gardening kids are incorporating decorative grasses in the landscape, reducing pesticide and water use, planting for pollinators, using containers for small gardens, and growing edibles. California native plant insiders have been doing this for years. Still nervous about using California natives? That’s ok! Cassandra, garden coordinator of the California Native Plant Demonstration Garden at the Historic Old City Cemetery, will show you how to be a cool kid in the garden, too.

Using the Demonstration Garden, residential gardens, and even parking lots and levee repair mitigation sites as examples, Cassandra will showcase dozens of native plants that can be used in the home garden, including wild edibles and medicinals, hummingbird and beneficial insect attractors, and wildlife habitat. Cassandra will bring in samples of jelly and teas made from natives as well as cuttings, seedlings, and seeds from the Demonstration Garden. Bring a flash drive if you would like a copy of the presentation.

Cassandra fell in love with California natives as a student at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. After graduating and moving to Sacramento in 1996, she joined the Sacramento Valley chapter of CNPS and soon became one of the co-founders of the California Native Plant Demonstration Garden. Cassandra has worked as a landscape architect in the private and public sectors for 16 years and is now with the California Department of Water Resources. When she’s not tending the secretly trendy Demonstration Garden, she’s designing riparian mitigation for levee repairs, working on the State’s levee vegetation policy, or dragging her husband off to native plant nursery outings.

Cassandra Nguyen Musto in the CA Native Plant Demonstration Garden with a composition of western redbud, deergrass, and California fuschia. Photo by Michael Musto.
From the President…
by Sabrina Okamura-Johnson

Can you believe that September is here? Well it is and there are a variety of opportunities available for you to get involved and support our chapter this month. Please consider signing up for the September 8th native plant gardening workshop Bringing Nature Home, then coming to the September 12th membership program that will highlight native plants for your garden. And finally, consider volunteering for 2-4 hours at our Fall Plant Sale September 22nd & 23rd at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center.

On another note, Barbara Wolf and I are coming to the end of our 2-year term as Chapter Vice-President and President, and for personal reasons we will not be renewing our positions. (I’m moving to a 25-acre farm in West Virginia—in case you haven’t heard...) Therefore, the entire Chapter Board would love to hear from members that would consider filling the President and Vice-President positions for the 2013-2014 terms. The Board is also accepting nominees for these positions as well. For more information about these positions please contact Barbara (bwolf@surewest.net) or myself (soj@surewest.net).

New CNPS Executive Director
by Sabrina Okamura-Johnson

Daniel Gluesenkamp has accepted the position of CNPS Executive Director. Upon accepting the position, Dan said, “The chance to lead CNPS is a dream come true. Much of what we love in California is here because it was saved by CNPS. I believe the Society’s greatest successes are still ahead, and I am honored being chosen to serve.” Stay tuned for more from Dan when he starts in August.

Most recently, Dan served as Executive Director of The Calflora Database where he led the organization in developing new tools for research and conservation of California flora.

Dan earned his Ph.D. at UC Berkeley studying the ecology of native and invasive thistles. He was Director of Habitat Protection for Audubon Canyon Ranch and has had leadership roles in the California Invasive Plant Council and Bay Area Early Detection Network.

Seeking Gardens for the 2013 Gardens Gone Natives Garden Tour

Gardens are now being sought to participate in the third annual Gardens Gone Native Garden Tour taking place in Spring 2013. We are looking for unique native and drought-tolerant gardens that provide habitat for wildlife and contain at least around 50% native plants. The gardens featured in this tour will demonstrate that, from postage stamp-sized yards to large lots, beautiful California native plant gardens are possible for anyone. Garden selections will begin this September and continue through December.

The goals of this garden tour are to allow the Greater Sacramento Valley residents to:

- Have the opportunity to see first-hand many attractive native gardens that flourish with little water, minimal maintenance, and without the use of synthetic chemicals and fertilizers.
- Demonstrate how well-designed gardens provide a healthy habitat for a variety of wildlife. This includes birds, bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.
- Inspire and motivate residents to garden with native plants, and use natural and sustainable gardening techniques in their own gardens.

If you would like to submit a garden to show, or would like to volunteer to help with this effort, please contact Mojgan Fischer as soon as possible at mojybird@sbcglobal.net, or call (916) 638-2101 between 9 am and 9 pm.

Volunteers Needed for Plant Sale
by Alison Shilling
(Contact: abshilling@mindspring.com; (530) 756-4649)

The success of our main plant sale depends crucially on the efforts of our volunteers. Whether you have stepped up before or are considering it for the first time, please let me know as soon as possible your availability for these most important tasks.

Friday, Sept. 21
Elderberry Farms Nursery
8am–noon. Final selection of plants; loading and driving plants.

Shepard Garden and Arts Center
8–10am. Set up tables [strong arms]
10–noon. Receive and set out Cornflower plants [strong backs]
Noon–2pm. Ditto Nursery plants
All day. Label and price plants; put up signs etc.

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 22 & 23
Shepard Garden and Arts Center
8–9am. Final tidying and arranging
In shifts: 9am–12:30pm, 12:30–4pm. Customer advisers, plant experts, cashiers, general gofers;

Sunday, Sept. 23
pm. Transport plants back to Nursery.
Bringing Nature Home

Transitioning to a Beautiful, Water-Wise Native Garden

California Native Plant Gardening Workshop
Saturday, September 8, 2012; 9:00am to 4:00pm
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, CA 95608
Cost: $35, CNPS members $25

For Information contact: Chris Lewis
Tel: 916 812-2876; Email: lewisc916@yahoo.com
To make Reservations, contact Betsy Weiland
Tel: (916) 488-3894; Email: flweiland@yahoo.com

As most of us know, California’s water supply needs to be carefully managed to ensure that multiple demands for home use, agriculture, habitat, and recreation are met as best as possible. In addition, the City of Sacramento is transitioning to water meters and many homeowners and business owners will see their water rates go up.

An elegant and natural solution to these changes is to replace water thirsty landscape plants and unused turf space with California native plants. Do you want a native garden, but are not sure where to start? The Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is here to help with “Bringing Nature Home,” a day-long, native plant workshop.

“Our workshop will educate and assist you in transitioning a water-thirsty landscape into a beautiful, water-wise garden that is uniquely Californian and filled with a diversity of habitats for wildlife and beneficial insects,” says Betsy Weiland, one of the workshop organizers.

Just in time for the fall planting season, this workshop is taught by local experts who have years of water-wise landscape and native plant experience to share. They will take you from beginning your garden’s transition, to designing your garden, caring for your native plants, and inviting nature into your yard. You will be inspired by a show of native plants of the Sacramento region and guided walks with naturalists and biologists.

An organic lunch is included in the workshop price.

Workshop Line-up

Beginning your transition
How to Tear Out a Lawn & Area Prep by Dave Roberts, landscape designer and founder of Ecolandscape

Design Principles
Simplify Your Life with Good Planning by Paul Weller, PLA, ISA, LEED® AP, senior landscape architect, arborist

Show of Native Plants of the Sacramento Region
by Chris Lewis, founder and director of Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery

LUNCH (organic, catered, casual)
Participants are invited on a 30 minute Walk with a Naturalist by Kelly Cohen, biologist, and Jennifer Hogan, biologist and CNPS Kids & Community Garden chair

Care & Maintenance of Native Plants and Pruning Demonstration
by Alison Shilling, professor (retired), chapter and state CNPS board member

Bringing Nature Home
by Julie Serences, Xerces Society Partner in Pollinator Conservation, native plant coordinator for Sacramento Audubon Society
Calendar of Events

Upcoming

Sept. 7-9
CNPS Chapter Council Meeting
Arboretum at UC Santa Cruz
1156 High St., Santa Cruz, 95064
Conservation Symposium at Chapter September Council Meeting (see article this page).

Sept. 8, 9am–4pm
Bringing Nature Home
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael
Cost: $35, CNPS members $25
See page 3 for more information.

Sept. 12, 7pm
Chapter Meeting
See page 1 for more information.

Sept. 22 & 23
Fall Native Plant Sale
Shepard Garden & Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd.
See page 5 for more information.

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. Meetings are free and open to the public. Books, wildflower seeds, and our SacValley t-shirt available for purchase. Refreshments. For info: Sabrina Okamura-Johnson (916) 929-7896 or email soj@surewest.net.

4th Wed. of the month, 7pm
Chapter Board Meetings
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.

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 9am–1pm
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! Different destinations weekly.

Other items of interest

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
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. Free. Email questions to ceanothusfieldbot@gmail.com.

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

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

Effie Yeaw
The Effie Yeaw Nature Center (at California Ave. & Tarshes Dr. in Carmichael) offers free nature-related activities Saturdays at 10:30am and Sundays at 1:30pm. For specifics, check out www.sacnaturecenter.net (there’s a downloadable PDF of the month’s activities under “Happening Now…”); or call (916) 489-4918.

Conservation Symposium at the September Chapter Council Meeting

by Greg Suba, CNPS Conservation Program Director
Each September during our fall Chapter Council meeting, CNPS presents the Conservation Symposium—a day-long series of talks and discussions addressing a focus topic. This year, speakers will present a retrospective, including case studies, of how plant species and plant communities have been addressed in Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs) over the past 20 years. Presentations will include recommendations for improving plant community conservation in future NCCPs, and tips for plant advocates interested in engaging in NCCP processes in their Chapters.

The September 7-9 Chapter Council meeting will be held at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, 1156 High St., Santa Cruz.

For more information visit http://arboretum.ucsc.edu/ or contact: Brett Hall, Chapter Council Vice-Chair (brett@ucsc.edu or 707-599-6964) or Glen Holstein our Chapter Council Representative (holstein@cal.net or 530.758.6787).
Fall’s the time to plant your native garden!

**Free Admission**
Shepard Garden &
Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd.
(in McKinley Park)
Sacramento 95816

**Sept. 22 & 23**
10 a.m.–3 p.m.

**SACRAMENTO VALLEY CHAPTER**
**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

**Free Plant**! Join CNPS
or renew your membership
at the sale and choose
a 1-gallon plant from
Elderberry Farms!

To volunteer, email VolunteerSacCNPS@hotmail.com

SacValley.CNPS.org
On Wednesday July 25, a beautiful summer’s day, 17 people worked with us for a few pleasant hours! We moved plants from one size pot to the next: Linum lewisii, Frangula tomentella, Sporobolus airoides, Stipa pulchra, Muhlenbergia rigens, Wyethia angustifolia, Baccharis pilularis, and Monardella villosa. With so many hands we also got other work done including: made name changes according to Jepson; trimmed grasses, washed aphids off milkweeds, completed a full Inventory, and cleaned seeds for: Brickellia californica, Melica Californica, Keckellia breviflora and the Asclepias speciosa (being cleaned in the photo). Volunteers this day included: Ross & Joyce Dibble, Bessie & Regina* Jones, Brian Butzin, Terrance Foreman, Mary Ann Robinson, Mirah Lucas, Feraydoun Sohrab, Tony Duke*, Betsy Webster, Alejandro (Alex) Venegas, Jim Wadsworth, Jami Rains*, Myra & Artista Chauhan, Alex Morton and Betsy Weiland. (The * are our 3- 4th Grade teachers who join us when their schedule permits!)

Everyone was engaged in various tasks when Julie Serences (our very own Bee-ologist) announced that there was a sweat bee, probably Hailictus, still sleeping (at 10:30 in the morning!) in the shade on an Aster in our Demonstration Garden. Thirty seconds later everyone had gathered to observe the little critter, Sweet!

Join us for Propagation Workdays every Wednesday from 9:00 - 1:00 - We pot up seedlings and learn various propagating techniques under the excellent direction of Robin Rietz, Propagation Manager. For questions/comments, contact Chris Lewis at LewisC916@yahoo.com.

Our Friday Seed Collecting Walks - 9:00 - 12:00 - The walks are for seed and data collecting, photography, mapping and fun! Our destination changes each week and can be found on our website. Our Walk destinations are also posted on our bi-weekly eNewsletter. Sign up on the Chapter’s Home page: SacValley.CNPS.org. Jim Wadsworth’s photos from the Walks are posted in the eNewsletter also.

Gardening with CNPS on some Saturdays 9:00-1:00. The next will be August 25. The Elderberry Farms’ demonstration gardens are small sized landscapes that show others how to...
effectively use native plants in their own landscape. Soil Born Farms’ wildlife-friendly hedgerows in the crop fields are an example of conservation-based agriculture. We need the help of community volunteers to maintain them. Please bring gloves and water. Tools and Snacks will be provided. Contact our Landscape Manager, part of the Elderberry Farms Nursery team. Alex Morton 916/717-6155 amordfeh@comcast.net.

Friday walkers check out a Narrowleaf Milkweed. Photo by Jim Wadsworth.

New Book Now Available…

A Field Guide to the Plants of the San Emigdio Mountains Region of California

by Pam De Vries

F.M. Roberts Publications

(760) 439-6244

FMRPublications@cox.net
Save the Dates...
Sept 8: Bringing Nature Home Workshop
Sept 22–23: Fall Plant Sale

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.

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Check it out!!
California Native Plant Gardening Workshop
Sept. 8, 2012

California Natives—Gateway Plants to Coolness
Cassandra Nguyen Musto, Landscape Architect, Native Plant Garden Coordinator

Our chapter meetings are free and open to the public!