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!

**Save the Dates…**

**June 24:** Pollination Sensation  
**Sept 8:** Bringing Nature Home Workshop  
**Sept 22–23:** Fall Plant sale

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**JUNE PRESENTATION:**

**Gardens Gone Native**  
—Virtual Tour!

If you missed visiting the gardens during Gardens Gone Native in March, here’s your chance to see what you missed and more. This virtual tour will showcase our own CNPS member gardens and take you all over town in just one evening. You’ll see photos of inspirational native plant gardens that were on the tour and some that weren’t. They include a rain garden, drought tolerant gardens and ponds; well-manicured “traditional-look” gardens, habitat gardens, artistic gardens, and “wild” gardens. From newly planted to long-established, our members’ gardens are as diverse as we are! Our tour will certainly have something for everyone, to inspire your own native landscaping ambitions.

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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.*
A Volunteer’s Discovery at Wildflower Wonders

by Robinson Ngo, UC Davis graduate, volunteer

As a recent graduate from UC Davis with a degree in landscape architecture, I felt it was my duty to learn as much as I could about our native plants and the importance of habitat restoration. What better way to soak up the knowledge than to volunteer? I decided to do my first volunteer work at Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery, and started off at Wildflower Wonders (WW). Held on April 14 by the Sacramento Valley chapter, WW kicked off the second annual California Native Plant Week, April 15–22, 2012.

I pulled up in my car and was directed towards a long narrow path. As I walked the quiet pathway, I noticed the sun gleaming through the leaves with clear blue skies all around. The rain from the day before had settled in the soils and provided fresh air. I walked over the mound and discovered free-roaming pigs and chickens with acres of land in the foreground. It was a delightful scene as I approached the event. “Wildflower Wonders”... an appropriate title for this eventful day.

I signed in, introduced myself to other volunteers, and began taking notes on the event. I soon learned about the Cordova Creek Project and the removal of invasive plants along the edges. The state-funded project will remove the quarter-mile long concrete channel and convert it into a natural riparian stream that will meander through the land. The project will slow and clean stormwater runoff from neighboring homes and streets. With the replanting of native flora donated by the nursery, we will restore habitats, too.

“Design should be incorporated into nature to promote awareness and educate others”, explains Betsy Weiland, Plant Sale chair. “We should work as one with nature.”

I listened carefully, feeling her passion rubbing off on me. I felt the same way.

As the day progressed, many exhibits, guided tours, and talks educated participants on issues like the yellow-billed magpies and their decline due to the West Nile virus; farming techniques for growing crops and the benefits of compost to soil; the importance of bees as natural pollinators attracted by native plants; the destruction of native plants by invasive plants like thistle; and the American River watershed habitat and ecology. Scavenger hunts, plant exhibits, and guest speakers filled the day. Gardening books, seeds, native plants, and refreshments were available, too.
Students from Sacramento State University, families, group field trips, and volunteers all came out to Elderberry Farms not just to buy California native plants, but also to share a common interest in preserving our natural habitats and learning what it takes to bring back what used to be here. People listened attentively to messages about the importance of plant and animal species that depend on native plantings, and what we can do to promote their well-being.

I learned that planting native vegetation has many benefits, such as saving water, lower maintenance, reducing pesticide use, inviting wildlife, and supporting local ecology. Of over 6,000 native plants in California, one-third occur nowhere else in the world.

My discoveries at Wildflower Wonders opened my eyes to my natural surroundings. I became aware of the growing concerns about these values, and realized that these organizations and volunteers are the backbone of protecting California’s native flora and its ecosystem integrity. The knowledge I’ve gained through volunteer work will forever be incorporated into my future work, fundamental values and responsibilities as a landscape architect. I have joined the California Native Plant Society and will continue to volunteer.

If you would like to volunteer and encourage community involvement, please contact Chris Lewis, Wildflower Wonders Coordinator, at lewisc916@yahoo.com.

Volunteers are invaluable. Whether they are with you for the long-haul or just briefly, they make sure each job that needs doing gets done to make the whole event a success. It’s always hard to find an adequate way to acknowledge all of the great volunteers who participated and WW2012 is no different. Let’s start with thanks to a few standouts: Thank you to Dr. Fred and Betsy Weiland, who donated $2,000 to prepare the grounds for Wildflower Wonders and to be sure that visitors, volunteers, and vendors all had a great experience. Dennis Dahlin drew the beautiful map of Soil Born Farms & Elderberry Farms. Mike Finan spent days putting together the outstanding Interactive Fun display! And Betsy Webster meticulously organized and updated plant descriptions for all of the Elderberry Farms Plants.

Robin Rietz, Betsy Weiland and I want to thank everyone else who gave their support (superheroes in bold; chapter board members have an asterisk*): Aaron Carnona, Alex Venegas, Alison Shilling*, Annabelle Kleist, Barb Wolf*, Bernadette Balics, Brett Warzecka, Carol Crofoot*, Carol Yeates, Chase Stremsterfer, Cortney Copeland, David Self*, Deb Popejoy, Dean Mortensen, Elia Bassin, Eria Garnica, Glen Holstein PhD, Grecia Solis, Guy Gallante, Hazel Gordon*, Janet Zeller, Jasmine Greer, Jennifer Yang, Jens Stevens, Jesse Adams, Jessica Bender, Jim Wadsworth, Joanne Heraty, John Schmidt, Josh Timbull, Julie Serences*, Kelly Cohen, Kelsey McDonald, Kristina echols, Lauren Carter, Lee Perrone, Linda Bean, Linda Pittman, Marit Wilkerson, Mary Beth Metcalf, Mary Lou Brennan, Mary Maret*, Mary Schiedt*, Maureen Dannen, Meghan Miller, Meghan Skaer, Melanie Choy, Michelle Stevens PhD, Mona Robison PhD, Nikko Paule, Paige Merriman, Patrick Fisher, Paul Barth, Paul Lester, Paul Townsend, Rachel Freud, Reese Williams, Robin Adams, Robinson Ngo, Simon Farmer, Stephanie Bill, Susan Fregien, Tammy Taxara, Terrance Foreman, Terry Linton, Tim Nosal*, Tom Pimenta, and Tony Duke. (If I left you out, I apologize and please let me know.)
Calendar of Events

See our calendar online at <sacvalleycnps.org> for more, updated events and happenings!

Sunday 6/24, 10am–2pm
Pollination Sensation
at the California Native Plant Demonstration Garden
1000 Broadway, Sacramento
Join us we kick off National Pollinator Week! Enjoy the early summer blooms of the garden and the amazing diversity of pollinators that come to visit them. We’ll have a garden tour showcasing native plant pollinator attractors, refreshments, kids’ activities, and more. Bee houses and other bee inspired merchandise will be available for purchase. Free. Contact Cassandra Nguyen Musto at cnpsgarden@gmail.com for more information.

Elderberry Farms
Native Plant Nursery
Located at Soil Born Farms
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova
To sign up for workdays or walks, email Chris at lewisc916@yahoo.com.

Wednesday Workdays
9am–1pm
We pot up seedlings and learn plant propagation techniques. Peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches provided. RSVP to Chris, lewisc916@yahoo.com.

Friday Walks 9am–noon
Seed and data collecting, photography, mapping and fun! Different destinations weekly.

Hedgerow & Demonstration Garden Workdays
June 9, 23; July 14, 28; August 11, 25
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova on the American River Parkway.
Soil Born Farms’ hedgerows and Elderberry Farms’ demonstration gardens need the help of community volunteers to maintain them. Please bring gloves and water. Tools and snacks will be provided. Contact Alex Morton, Landscape Manager, (916) 717-6155 amor-dfeh@comcast.net.

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

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

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

OTHER EVENTS

Sun. 6/10, 10am–4pm
Carmichael Day of Peace Event
Carmichael Park (bandshell area)
5750 Grant Ave. at Fair Oaks Blvd.
Carmichael, CA 95608
Come celebrate and learn ways you can make every day a Day of Peace with a healthy body, quiet mind and peaceful heart! SacValley CNPs will have a table there to share how native plants contribute to the earth’s health and our own. Yoga, Zumba, vendors, live music, food vendors all day! Soles4Souls fundraiser (www.soles4soles.org), bring shoes to donate. Concurrent with Carmichael Farmers’ Market. Dog- and family-friendly. http://inspiredmedicine.info/Day-Of-Peace.html

Tues.–Thurs. 8/28–30
Levee Vegetation Research Symposium 2012
“Scientific Progress Informing a Path Forward”
Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J St. Sacramento, CA
Our levees provide us with critical flood protection. How do we best manage them? An opportunity for researchers and stakeholders to share technical findings of levee vegetation research conducted throughout the nation and internationally. Invited presentations and discussions of the effects of woody vegetation on levee performance and reliability. For more information visit www.safca.org/symposium2012.htm or email LeveeVeg.2012@SacCounty.net.

© 2012 Zack Cunningham
Honeybee on Eriogonum fasciculatum
(CA buckwheat)
JOIN CNPS
CNPS’ success depends on members’ support. Join or renew today! 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.

Family and business memberships available too! Send questions or address changes to cnps@cnps.org.

Membership Benefits
• Fremontia, a botanic journal, published three times a year
• Quarterly CNPS Bulletin
• The local chapter newsletter
• Access to a wide range of local and statewide activities
• Access to chapter plant sales, book sales, lectures, classes, workshops, hikes, field trips, garden tours, and wildflower shows
• Discounts from nurseries, stores, magazines, and other partners
• Meeting people with similar interests

Effie Yeaw Nature Center
California Ave. & Tarshes Dr.
(916) 489-4918
www.sacnaturecenter.net

Special Events
Fri. 6/15, 6:30–7:45pm
Special Event, “Nature of Things,” Kate Marden presents “Falconry—The Sport of Kings.” Pre-registration required, $5.

Free Weekend Activities
May be closed due to stormy weather. Please call to confirm.

Saturdays, 10:30am
6/2: Nature Tails
6/9: Raptors Up Close
6/16: Sensational Snakes
6/23: Black Tailed Deer
6/30: Ethobotany Walk

Sundays, 1:30pm
6/3: Fly Fly Butterfly
6/10: River Walk
6/17: Gold Discovery
6/24: Frog vs. Toad

Save the Date…
Fall Plant Sale
Sat., Sept. 22 & Sun., Sept. 23
10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Shepard Garden & Arts Center, McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento
Slide show of native plants of the Sacramento Region, 1 p.m. both days.
Volunteers are huge part of the success of our plant sales. If you can volunteer, please contact Chris at lewisc916@yahoo.com.

Seeking Bee House Materials
Are you going to replace a fence or do other construction projects? Do you have leftover wood posts lying around that you don’t know what to with? If so, we might be able to use them to build bee houses.

We need 4”X4” untreated wood posts. Redwood preferred, but can use other hardwoods too.
If you have wood posts to donate, please contact Cassandra at (916) 397-8773 or cassandra_musto@yahoo.com.

California Native Plant Society
Sacramento Valley Chapter Stockton Subchapter
www.sacvalleycnps.org/stockton/stockton.html
How about taking part of this job? The Stockton Subchapter still needs a volunteer to serve as Representative to the Sacramento Valley Chapter. Please phone Martha at (209) 477-3966 for more information.
Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, on the American River Parkway at Soil Born Farms

By Chris Lewis, Nursery Leader

Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery works to promote awareness of the benefits of native plant habitat, encourage community involvement, and provide a source of locally grown native plants for restoration projects and home gardeners. It all happens thanks to the work and dedication of our volunteers. The nursery is operated entirely by volunteers from Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). CNPS membership is not required to volunteer, but volunteers are encouraged to become members of CNPS, of course! There are many fun ways you can support us.

Buy something!
Our lovingly nurtured plants are for sale at Wildflower Wonders each April (see story, page 2); Soil Born Farms’ “Day on the Farm” on May 20 this year, and at the Fall Plant Sale in McKinley Park, September 22 and 23 this year. We also sell plants as time permits during our weekly Wednesday Workdays (9:00 – 1:00). Call ahead if you’d like to come by to shop.

Join us!
Wednesday Workdays 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. We pot up seedling and learn various plant propagation techniques under the excellent direction of Robin Rietz, Propagation Manager. We treat volunteers to peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches, too! RSVP to Chris, lewisc916@yahoo.com.

Friday Walks 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Our walks have a purpose: seed and data collecting, photography, mapping and fun! The destination changes each week.
Sign up for workdays or walks by sending an email to Chris at lewisc916@yahoo.com.

Landscape Maintenance
Soil Born Farms’ wildlife-friendly hedgerows in the crop fields are an example of conservation-based agriculture. The Elderberry Farms’ demonstration gardens are small-scale landscapes that show others how to effectively use native plants in their own landscapes. We need the help of community volunteers to maintain them. Please bring gloves and water. Tools and snacks will be provided. Contact Alex Morton, Landscape Manager, part of the Elderberry Farms Nursery team. (916) 717-6155 amor-dfeh@comcast.net.

Summer Rules!
We will have Saturday workdays at least twice a month over the summer. Please check our new website for dates and details. Or stay updated by signing up for the SacValley CNPS bi-weekly eNewsletter, by emailing Chris at lewisc916@yahoo.com.

Happy shopper

Hedgerow before weeding

Hedrow with coffeeberry, after weeding

Elderberry Farms native plant nursery
Save the Date...

Bringing Nature Home

Sat., Sept. 8, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Workshop: Transitioning to a Beautiful, Water-Wise Native Garden
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Cost: $35, CNPS members $25

Want a native garden, but not sure where to start? Taught by local experts, this workshop 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’ll be inspired by a show of native plants of the Sacramento region and guided walks with a naturalist.

Brought to you by the Sac Valley chapter. Co-Chairs: Chris Lewis & Julie Serences. Committee: Betsy Weiland, Kelly Cohen, Jennifer Hogan, Alison Shilling, and Joan Kodani.

Workshop Agenda
- Beginning your transition – How to Tear Out a Lawn, Area Prep

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www.SacValleyCNPS.org 7
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.

Join or Renew Today!

CNPS’ success depends on members’ support.

Go to www.cnps.org/join.

Or mail membership dues (individual $35; student or limited income $25) to CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.