Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month (except July, Aug, & Dec) at 7PM at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center in McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento

NEXT MEETING: January 9
Questions? Contact Chris Lewis, LewisC916@yahoo.com or (916) 812-2876

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.

JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING:
Wildflowers and Wandering in El Dorado County
Presented by Sue Britting

Looking for a wildflower adventure close to home? Sue Britting, of our neighboring El Dorado Chapter, will lead us on a tour of wildflower hikes in El Dorado County. The tour will begin in the foothills, end at the crest of the Sierra Nevada, and will highlight some of the unique plant communities and spectacular landscapes in El Dorado County. Beginning early in the spring and heading up in elevation through to the fall, Sue will give a slide tour of hikes that you can take throughout the year.

Sue Britting is a former president of the CNPS board of directors, and is passionate about the Sierra Nevada and the natural environment in which she lives. This presentation is guaranteed to whet your appetite for the upcoming hiking season and may inspire you to attend one of our docent-led field trips.
Message from Our New Field Trip Chair

by Pam Kirkbride

“In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks.” – John Muir

As the new Field Trip Chair for 2013, I’d like to welcome everyone to get out and enjoy the outdoors by attending CNPS field trips in our area. We have knowledgeable trip leaders who are willing to share their expertise as they guide you to special areas that hold a wonderful variety of native species. Whether you are interested in wildflowers, trees, lichens, vernal pools, butterflies, or just want to experience a new place, our unique trips are sure to delight you. Come with us and join the fun!

If you would like to lead a trip, write an article for the newsletter/website, or share photos with other members from a trip you attend, please contact me at pamk7@frontier.com, or give me a call at (916) 687-8134 (evenings).

Chapter Council Delegate’s Report

by Glen Holstein

As your Chapter Council delegate and chapter botanist I get to attend many interesting meetings. Here are brief reports on some recent ones.

September 8: The September CNPS Chapter Council Meeting is tradition-ally devoted to conservation. This year it was held on the beautiful grounds of the Arboretum at UC Santa Cruz. In the morning Dan Gluesenkamp, our new Executive Director, was introduced; Todd Keeler-Wolf gave a moving tribute to the great northwest-ern California botanist John Sawyer, who died recently; and also explained how our vegetation program interfaces with California Natural Community Conservation Programs (NCCPs). Greg Suba, our Conservation Director, provided a symposium overview; Vern Goehring, our lobbyist, provided a history of CEQA’s evolution from an idea to an important conservation tool; and Wayne Spencer of the Conservation Biology Institute explained how scientific modeling of species ranges produces better NCCPs. In the afternoon CNPS activists discussed advocating for plants on NCCP and HCP (Habitat Conservation Plan) advisory committees around California. Woody Elliot of the Mt. Lassen Chapter discussed the Butte plan; Greg Suba discussed the Desert plan; Kevin Bryant of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter discussed his region’s plan; and Katie Barrows of the San Bernardino/Riverside Chapter explained the Coachella Valley plan and its need to maintain sand transport to its critical dune habitat. The afternoon finished with a panel discussion followed by a social time, a dinner, and an excellent talk by Chuck Striplen, who uses eco-logical science to help his local tribe’s cultural revival. Sunday morning was time for reports by CNPS staff and local chapters. Sacramento Valley had much positive to report. Then Caroline Garland reported on new horticultural initiatives including chapter horticultural symposia. The budget was also discussed. It was interesting to learn that Rare Plants, the program that most chapters rated most important in last summer’s feedback, gets only 4% of state funding, the least of any program. Input is also sought from chapters on how to use new bequests.

September 14: Successful meeting of CNPS and others with Woodland city staff to protect numerous rare plants.

September 20: The California Heartland Project was presented to the Sacramento Audubon Society.

November 1: A consensus emerged at a Vernal Pool Forum in Sacra-mento that uplands around pools have ecological significance and deserve protection. The next day a Celebration of Vernal Pools fundraiser was held at SacSplash.

November 15: Successful Tahoe to the Bay NCCP/HCP Conference was held in Vacaville. A more coordinated state and federal wetland policy was discussed. Loren Clark and other stakeholders discussed the Placer County Conservation Plan. Wayne Spencer applied his species modeling to the desert. Robin Grossinger of the San Francisco Estuary Institute discussed his successful analysis of historical ecology in many parts of California. Later that same day, Yolo reauthorized its conservation plan with a new executive director, and Tuleyome, an allied organization, celebrated its tenth anniversary.

December 7–9: CNPS Board and Chapter Council Meeting at Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. (Report to come in February issue.)

December 12: Sacramento County Board of Supervisors hearing on the Cordova Hills Project, which is currently the biggest threat to nature in the county. It violates numerous parts of the county general plan, is opposed by the Sacramento Bee and air quality watchdogs, and is not supported by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments. Its approval would be a disaster for native plants and wildlife.
Calendar of Events

Upcoming

**Chapter outing** —
Sat., Jan. 12, 10am–12:30pm
Field Trip to Sweetwater Creek
Chris Lewis will lead this trip along Sweetwater Creek, which flows into the South Fork of the American River as it is forming one arm of Folsom Lake. The trail that follows the creek for about 2 miles is fairly level. The trail is accessible from Salmon Falls Road a few miles north of Green Valley Road in El Dorado Hills. A ribbon of trees and other foliage lines the banks of the creek as it flows through dry chaparral. Songbirds can be seen and heard along the creek. For information contact Chris Lewis; lewisc916@yahoo.com; 916 812-2876.

**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

**July 7–14, 2013**
Golden Trout Wilderness Botanical Workshop—Flora and Natural History of the Southern Sierra
*Location: Golden Trout Wilderness Camp*  
*Instructors: Tim Thomas, Pam McKay and Naturalist/Bird Specialist*  
*Workshop Organizer: Susan D’Alcamo*

Come join us in the beautiful high Sierra of the Golden Trout Wilderness. Spend the week exploring alpine habitats of Cottonwood Lakes Basin and the John Muir Wilderness. Daily guided hikes and interpretive talks will be led by our experienced trip leaders. Lectures, slide shows and an opportunity to key plants with dissecting scopes will fill the evenings. We will see an abundance of wildflowers in alpine meadows and encounter endemic plant species while taking in the incredible Sierra vistas. Plant, animal and bird lists will be provided.

Our instructors are professional botanists and naturalists with many years of experience in the Golden Trout Wilderness area.

Cost: $525.00 (includes meals from Sunday dinner to Saturday lunch)
For information, brochure, and registration contact: Susan D’Alcamo: dalcamo@mcn.org, Cell (925) 899-0719
Registration deadline: March 15, 2013

**The Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) 2013 Outings at Deer Creek Hills**
Make Deer Creek Hills what you want… trail running, birding, photography, plein air art, spot wildlife… the possibilities are endless! The SVC calendar includes four birding outings, three service days, four history hikes, and many special events, such as the Cowboy Breakfast and the Twilight Wine & Cheese events! Registration required. See website for more info, registration, and hours: www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org
Or contact Gina Silvernale, (916) 612-3719, outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Upcoming SVC outings:
**Volunteer Service Project**
Saturday, January 12, 2013
8:30am–1:00pm
Free Lunch Provided

**Equestrian Outings**
Guided Tour
Sunday, February 24, 2013
10:00am–2:00pm
$20 per Equestrian outing or purchase a Season Pass for $40.

**Guided Hikes**
$10 per outing or purchase a Season Pass for $40.
Every Saturday: Free, Self-Guided Hikes with new trails marked every week!

**Free Sunday Sunsets 2013**
Starting Sunday, February 03 (ends Saturday, June 29)
4:30pm–dusk

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: Carol Witham, scwitham@ncal.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.
What Does the Chapter Board Do, Anyway?

You may know that the Sacramento Valley chapter board (a.k.a. “executive committee”) meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 9 months of the year. And you may occasionally refer to the contact list that appears in every issue of Hibiscus to learn who’s in charge of what. But have you ever wondered what some of those board roles and committees entail? Our chapter only thrives on volunteers’ commitment to carrying out essential functions and special projects. This article is the first of a series that we hope will help you, our members, learn more about what keeps our chapter running, and perhaps inspire you to help out on a committee or take on a leadership role.

Hazel Gordon, our current membership coordinator, has held this position for... well, let’s just say, quite a few years. She provided this thoughtful description of the duties and rewards of being chapter membership chair.

Chapter Membership Chair

Duties

The membership chair represents the chapter at outreach events and coordinates the chapter’s membership list, primarily used for mailing the Hibiscus. The list is a computer spreadsheet, and the chair updates it monthly from new lists provided by the state CNPS membership list staff person. It mainly involves keeping track of members who request that no paper copies of the chapter’s newsletter (Hibiscus) be sent to them; those who have joined CNPS for the first time; and those who have lapsed in renewing their memberships and have to be dropped from the list. Occasionally, discrepancies occur between the staff’s and chapter’s lists; these are easily resolved by examining other columns of these spreadsheets, such as membership renewal dates or name changes.

The membership chair prepares mailing labels for Hibiscus mailings, takes delivery of the newsletters, affixes the mailing labels, and delivers the newsletters to a designated bulk mailing post office. These procedures involve sorting the membership list with a specific (free) software package that places an address into one of six units determined by the post office’s zip code delivery system. The postal service tends to update its requirements at least once a year, so the software has to be downloaded from its website at those times. This sorted list is then put into word processing software such as Microsoft Word, which is used to print the labels onto standard computer address labels. Addressed newsletters are bundled into the six units (bins, or trays) and delivered to the post office. The coordinator is reimbursed for the expense of purchasing necessary supplies.

The tasks from spreadsheet to post office take me about 10 hours a month for the Hibiscus mailings (usually for nine months a year).

Perks

This role allows me to broaden my understanding of the general membership’s agencies, interests and locations. Since membership is the financial reason CNPS still exists after decades, the membership coordinator has a vital role in watching trends in membership and acting on suggestions to improve our recruitment efforts and broaden our outreach. In the past, staff and membership chairs of different chapters would meet and discuss activities to increase the public’s involvement with CNPS, which was highly motivational for all of us. There is also a bit of creativity in designing the address labels (font selection, use of additional words and the like), and satisfaction in creating and executing an entire procedure that benefits the chapter. Representing the chapter at outreach events (such as plant sales and community gatherings) as membership chair fosters a sense of pride in me and a need to summarize all the good things about CNPS and the chapter for people passing by our table. The membership chair thereby is a fulfilling role in that I periodically remind myself why I enjoy being a member of CNPS.

Traits Suitable for this Role

Basic computer skills are essential for working with spreadsheets, postal software, word processors and the like. Detail-oriented people would enjoy this role, as printing formats and protocols used can’t be rushed through until the techniques have been well established. In the past, labeling and mailing were done by other volunteers, lessening the workload on the membership chair. A future chair would be welcome to revive that system.
Enthusiastic and dependable individuals needed to help make the third annual GGN Tour a success and set the stage to grow and enhance the tour in the future. If you can help, contact GGN chair Susan Fregien at susanfregien@earthlink.net.

Currently seeking help with the following:

**Publicity and Promotion.** Identify a variety of media for publicity, prepare press releases and other promotional materials. Contact potential sources for promoting the tour. (Leader plus 2–4 persons needed)

**Garden Descriptions.** Help garden hosts prepare inviting descriptions of their gardens and ensure timely submittal for brochure (1–2 persons needed).

**Host Garden Questionnaire.** Convert questionnaire to a form that garden hosts can easily fill out in MS Word.

**Tour Brochure.** Develop tour brochure format and coordinate with other volunteers who will provide content (1–2 persons).

**Tour Maps.** Create electronic area maps showing locations of tour gardens (1–2 persons).

**Tour Day Coordinators.** Ensure that all garden hosts have the supplies, materials and docents needed for day of tour (2–3 persons).

**Registration.** Track and respond to registrants that will be participating in the tour (1 person needed).

**Plant Information.** Obtain host garden plant lists and provide assistance for plant labels/identification cards for the tour (1–2 persons needed).

**Signs and Materials.** Prepare signs and materials for the day of the tour (e.g., yard signs, handouts, CNPS promo, etc.) (5–6 persons).

**Webpage for Gardens Gone Native.** Develop and implement ideas to enhance the Gardens Gone Native webpage (1–2 persons).
Save the Date...
3rd Annual
Gardens Gone Native Tour
Saturday, April 20, 2013