September Chapter Meeting:
Life Beyond a Lawn
Presented by Bernadette Balics

You stopped watering your lawn because of the drought and because you wanted something new. What to do? Come to this talk and be inspired to create a beautiful, water-wise garden. See a variety of no-lawn landscaping styles and ideas. Get professional tips on removing that weed-filled patch called a lawn, and learn to choose climate-adapted native plants. You’ll see how to have a lush landscape without that water-hogging grass.

Bernadette Balics, owner of Ecological Landscape Design, specializes in ecologically-oriented residential design. She enjoys creating landscapes that reduce water use, require less maintenance, and provide a connection to the natural world.
Fall Native Plant Sale

This year at the Native Plant Sale we will have several ten minute talks, starting at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 26. They will include topics like these:

- Water Harvesting: How to Slow, Spread, and Sink Water
- Drought Response and your Garden
- Dutchman’s Pipevine and Caterpillar – made for each other
- Irrigation Basics
- 5 Ways to use California Poppies
- The American River Parkway and you

We’re bee friendly: All plants at our Native Plant Sale are neonicotinoid free. Neonicotinoids are a class of neuro-active insecticides chemically similar to nicotine. The use of neonicotinoids was linked in a range of studies to a number of adverse ecological effects, including honey-bee colony collapse disorder and loss of birds due to reduction in insect populations. Increased scrutiny eventually led to restrictions and bans on the use of different neonicotinoids in several countries.

Volunteers Needed

The plant sale hours are 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday when we’ll need help with plant advice, customer help, and cashiers. Friday set up will be from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year we will also need help taking unsold plants home on Sunday after 3:00 p.m. and then returning them to Cornflower Farms on Monday morning. This is a critical new job for us. Because of this new responsibility we must have these volunteers lined up when we order the plants. If you can help, please email Chris at cnpschris@gmail.com.

Get Your eNews Here!

The Sacramento Valley Chapter CNPS emails announcements about upcoming events (talks, hikes, sales, and events). The eNewsletter is another way to get information about what’s happening in our Chapter. Don’t worry, signing up for the eNewsletter does not interrupt your Hibiscus newsletter service. Sign up at: sacvalleycnps.org or contact Chris at cnpschris@gmail.com.
Calendar of Events

Upcoming

Browns Island Rare Plant Paddle
Saturday Sept. 12, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Pittsburg Marina, 51 Marina Blvd, Pittsburg, CA
Join CNPS and Rivers for Change for our second rare plant paddle trip this season. We plan to paddle out from the Pittsburg Marina to Brown’s Island, making our way to the center of the island through Crooked Slough. We’ll be on the hunt for Bolander’s water-hemlock (Cicuta maculata var. bolanderi) which hasn’t been seen in the East Bay for over 30 years! We’ll also search for other rare delta plants, like the delta tule pea and Mason’s lilaeopsis, as well as some locally rare plants. A very limited number of spaces may be available, but this is primarily a bring-your-own-boat event; inflatable kayaks are not advised. Personal flotation devices and previous paddling experience is required. A small donation to Rivers for Change to cover their expenses in organizing this trip is recommended. Please RSVP to dslakey@cnps.org to sign up for this trip.

CNDDB & BIOS Training for CNPS
Rare Plant Volunteers
Thursday, Sept. 24th 9:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.
The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has offered up more free spots for CNPS volunteers in their upcoming trainings for the CNDDB and BIOS rare plant applications. The schedule and more info can be found here. Space is very limited, so RSVP early. Other dates and locations are: Sacramento: Oct 15th, Nov. 15th and Dec. 8th.
Redding: Nov. 17th, and Nov. 18th
Sign up for these trainings through dslakey@cnps.org. Time and location info at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/training.asp

Reprinted from the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt News

Ongoing

2nd Wed. of the month, 7 p.m.
(Jan.–June; Sept.–Nov.)
Chapter Meeting & Guest Speaker
Shepard Garden & Arts Center, McKinley Park, Sacramento
See page 1. Contact John Hunter, jhunter@harveyecology.com for more information.

4th Wed. of the month, 7 p.m.
(Jan.–June; Sept.–Nov.)
Chapter Board Meetings
CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1 Sacramento CA 95816
Contact: John Hunter, jhunter@harveyecology.com

Elderberry Farms
Native Plant Nursery
Located at Soil Born Farms
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova

Wednesday Workday 10 a.m. – 1p.m.
We pot up seedlings and learn plant propagation techniques. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches provided. RSVP to Chris, cnpschris@gmail.com.

Friday Walks 9 a.m.–noon.
Plant identification, photography, art and fun! Go to sacvalley.cnps.org, find Friday Walks under Events and Field Trips.

Ceanothus—Collaborative Plant Identification Workshops
9a.m. - noon. UC Davis Herbarium
(Center for Plant Diversity)
Michael Bower, (530) 902-8721
Bring any plants you’re curious about and the Jepson Manual. 2015 sessions scheduled for Sept.19, and Oct. 17. Visit www.ceanothusfieldbotanist.blogspot.com for more information. Email questions to ceanothusfieldbot@gmail.com.

Garden Work Parties at the Native Plant Demonstration Garden
Sacramento Historic City Cemetery
1000 Broadway, Sacramento
Learn about native plants, bees, and more while helping us maintain the largest California native plant garden in the City of Sacramento. Bring a hat and water and wear garden-appropriate clothes. Gardening tools available for use and refreshments provided. Free plants and seeds available to volunteers to take home. For more information, contact Cassandra cnpsgarden@gmail.com or 916-678-0317.

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

Other Items of Intrest

Ditch your Lawn Workshops
Saturday Sept. 27, 1:00 p.m. - 5 p.m.
American River College Student Center, Sacramento.
The new statewide Ditch your Lawn! workshops program is off to a great start! Class sizes are limited to 50 people, so pre-registration is required. Register online at https://support.cnps.org/workshops/2015/sept/DitchYourLawn-Sacramento

Friends of the Chico State Herbarium
Classes are held at CSU Chico. For contact information and registration: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html

Tree Identification
Saturday Sept. 19, 9:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.
This workshop will discuss the key characteristics of leaves, bark and reproductive structures (either cones or flowers), tree biology, pruning and urban forest management. We will walk around the campus and identify trees, collect specimens, and bring them back to the lab.

Introduction to Keying Sunflowers
Saturday, Sept. 12, 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Participants key specimens using the Jepson Manual, 2nd edition. Emphasis will be on terminology, morphology, and taxonomic characters used to circumscribe Sub-Family groups, genera and select species.

Calendar of events

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Habitat 2020
Day and Time TBD
For information contact Glen Holstein, holstein@cal.net: (530) 758-6787.
Wednesday Workdays: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 (or so)
Can you help us at the Nursery or on our Friday Walks? Let’s talk! Join us for propagation work on Wednesdays and help pot up seedlings and learn various propagating techniques under the excellent direction of Robin Rietz, Propagation Manager. We treat volunteers to peanut butter and jelly sandwiches (you’re also welcome to bring your own lunch).

A Day at the Nursery
How can we possibly need or make use of 23 volunteers in one Wednesday morning session? Robin Rietz found jobs for everyone!
• Rinsing then sterilizing pots
• Updating drip irrigation
• Weeding Outdoor Classroom
• Fertilizing plants
• Cleaning out two pot storage areas
• Transplanting grasses from flats to 2” pots
• Writing plant labels
• Weeding in the Demo Garden
• Hand watering the Butterfly Waystation
• Updating inventory

The reasons folks volunteer are as varied as the talents they bring to us.

2nd Sunday Workdays: September 13th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00
Contact Pat Gilbert at battypatty296@gmail.com for additional information. Soil Born Farms is closed on Sundays and the gate is locked. Elderberry Farms leaders will unlock the gate for the Workday. You will need to open and then close the gate.

Weekly Friday Field Trips
John Schmidt, Friday Walk leader, updates the webpage and provides plant lists for updates. Friday Walks are for seed and data collecting, plant identification, photography, and fun! The Nursery grows only plants that are native to the American River Parkway. Our destination changes each week depending on the Nursery’s need and the group’s interest. Visit SacValleyCNPS.org/Field Trips/Friday Walks for more info.
Botany From the Road
By Pam Kirkbride

**September 2015:**
If you have been around sandy places in California, such as beaches or the desert areas, you have probably become familiar with Sand Verbena – species of the genus *Abronia*. Here is one that grows in southern Arizona, New Mexico and in Big Bend National Park, Texas. Pink Sand Verbena, *Abronia angustifolia* is shown here growing on white gypsum sand at White Sands National Monument near Alamogordo, New Mexico.

**August 2015:**
One of my favorite Sierra Nevada wildflowers is the Crimson Columbine, *Aquilegia formosa*. I thought I had found these in the Sacramento Mountains of New Mexico, but something was not quite right. The flower looked different, so I investigated further. What I learned was that this wildflower is actually *Aquilegia elegantula*, Western Red Columbine, which is native to the southwestern US - particularly the Four Corners states and northern Mexico. This plant grows in mountain coniferous forests, which is where I found it.

If you wish to receive stories of my adventures on a regular basis, please contact me at pamkirkbride7@gmail.com.
Submit content for the October Hibiscus by September 4!
Be sure your membership is current! See your address label for your renewal date.

September 2015
sacvalleycnps.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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