November Chapter Meeting:

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Super Bloom 2017

Presented by Eva Butler and Pam Kirkbride

The desert regions of California experienced a dramatic increase in rainfall last spring, causing our native wildflowers and plants to bloom in abundance. Many desert lovers headed south to explore this wonderful burst of color. Join Eva Butler and Pam Kirkbride as they travelled to the four corners of this beautiful State Park and share what they experienced. They will discuss the park’s history, ecology, geology, wild plants and the critters they saw as they explored the park in 95 degree temps, travelling back roads, camping out in the wilderness, hiking various flowering desert areas and learning new plants not seen in other parts of California.

Eva is the founder of Sacramento Splash, a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching children and adults about the wonders of the vernal pools at Mather Field and preserving this area for all time. Pam is a naturalist who has contributed to the newsletter most recently in her “Botany from the Road” series, highlighting wildflowers she experienced while travelling. She has also taught wildflower and lichen classes locally over the years and led numerous field trips. Both of these ladies are long-time CNPS members and seasoned travelers, story tellers and photographers. You are sure to enjoy this presentation.

Eva Butler and Pam Kirkbride
It has been seven seasons since the Sacramento Valley CNPS chapter began its stewardship of River Mile 13 South on the American River Parkway. As steward and volunteer coordinator, I can testify that 2017 was a memorable year.

Compared to the dry, sunny January 2016, January 2017 had more excitement to offer. Cautioned by the rangers and the Parkway Foundation, no volunteers went out to RM 13S until late February 2017, on a rare clear day between intense storms. In the previous weeks, dam releases had increased river flows to as much as 85,000 cubic feet per second, submerging most of our expansive stewardship area. Our February visit was a revelation. In the company of a dozen teenage volunteers from Legend Martial Arts, I discovered new topography everywhere, including new deep ponds and gullies, expansive lumpy deposits of sand and gravel, and a broad, deep creek of clear water where once had been only a muddy channel. The wrack line from the flood was 8 or 10 feet above ground level, so often we reached up over our heads to remove trash from trees. (The wrack line persisted through at least October this year, when CNPS volunteers removed a deflated raft from a tree limb about 12 feet up.)

Being so much broader and less developed than most of the parkway, our mile showcases the effects of natural river processes. The high flows not only changed the physical landscape and scoured away or buried most trash, it also provided dispersal and regeneration opportunities for plants. In June 2017—this time accompanied by a team from Westervelt Ecological Consulting—I noticed far more Datura plants than I’d ever before seen in our stewardship area. Other memorable sights this year: in the spring, a young rattlesnake, and in the fall in same location, the sandy track of a snake; in September, fish swimming in an isolated pond, still sustained by the rains of winter; a mule deer skull with a mohawk of fur; blooming buttonwillow (Cephalanthus occidentalis) and blazing star (Mentzelia laevicaulis); and not a lot of people—perhaps not surprising considering the ample rains and then the persistent heat.

Whatever 2018 holds, I’ll be watching to see how River Mile 13 evolves. Maybe I’ll see you there—stay tuned to SacValleyCNPS.org for next year’s schedule of stewardship events.
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, botanyjohnhunter@gmail.com for more information.

Elderberry Farms
Native Plant Nursery
At Soil Born Farms 2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
We pot up seedlings and learn plant propagation techniques. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches provided. RSVP to Chris, cnpschris@gmail.com.

Friday Walks 9:15 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
3rd Sat. of the month, 9 a.m.
UC Davis Herbarium (Center for Plant Diversity)
Michael Bower, (530) 902-8721
Bring any plants you’re curious about and the Jepson Manual. Visit www.ceanothus.org for more information. Email questions to ceanothusfieldbot@gmail.com.

4th Wed. of the month, 7 p.m. (Jan.–June; Sept.–Nov.)
Chapter Board Meetings
Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Park
Contact: John Hunter, botanyjohnhunter@gmail.com

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

Garden Work Days at the Native Plant Demonstration Garden
Sacramento Historic City Cemetery
1000 Broadway, Sacramento
Bring a hat and water and wear garden-appropriate clothes. Gardening tools available for use and refreshments provided. A plant will be available to take home. For more information, contact Cassandra at cnpsgarden@gmail.com.

Other Items of Interest

Effie Yeaw Nature Center Weekend Programs
Sat. 10:30 a.m & Sun. 1:30 p.m.
2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael
Join us for a hike or a talk led by one of our naturalists. These public programs, appropriate for all ages and interest levels, are provided free of charge. Space is limited - sign-ups are taken the day of the event. We recommend you arrive 30 minutes prior to start time. Weekend programs are free to visitors, but donations helps us keep our doors open and programs running. For a list of upcoming programs visit - https://www.sacnaturecenter.net/events/calendar

Statewide CNPS Quarterly Meeting, December 1-3

Have you ever wondered what statewide CNPS does? How about what other chapters do? The quarterly meeting is a great way to find out and to connect with other CNPS members and staff.

The next CNPS quarterly meeting is being hosted by the Sacramento Valley Chapter. It will be held December 1-3 at the Splash Education Center in Rancho Cordova. There will be field trips on Friday, an all-day business/information meeting on Saturday, happy hour and a banquet on Saturday night, and tours of Elderberry Farms Nursery and the City Cemetery Demonstration Garden on Sunday.

You are welcome to join any or all activities of the weekend. Additionally volunteers are needed for several aspects of the event. For additional information or to volunteer, contact Carol Witham at: carolwwitham@gmail.org.

California Native Plant Society
Sacramento Valley Chapter Stockton Subchapter

Visit the Stockton subchapter’s website for latest news: eepurl.com/u8mNj
Use this link to subscribe to the Stockton sub-chapter e-mail list: eepurl.com/u8iTb
CNPS members living in Stockton who would like to find others in the area to carpool to chapter activities in Sacramento should contact Martha Mallory, (209) 477-3966.
California Pipevine

Guest article by Julie Clements

One of the “most distinctive of California’s endemic plants” is California pipevine, Aristolochia californica. Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars feed on the leaves of and absorb chemicals in the pipevine plant that repel predators. Adult butterflies lay eggs on or near specific host plants to provide a food source for the larvae, or caterpillars, when they hatch.

The pipevine is found naturally from the bay area north along the west side of the Central Valley and Sierra foothills. The sculptural flower is an outstanding example of beauty in nature. You can help restore the native landscape in its native region by adding this wonderful plant to your garden.

Check out the Pipevine Swallowtail Project for more information about protecting the Pipevine swallowtail and its relationship to the California Pipevine plant. Re-discover your native treasures.

Wednesday Workdays: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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 & Jelly sandwiches (you’re also welcome to bring your own lunch).

California Valley Chapter
l
California Native Plant Society November 2017

Fall Plant Sale

It was great! The Art Market was a success! Thank you for your support: Volunteers, CNPS Members and the Public!

Thank You: Robin Rietz for leading the growing of all of the plants, Lauren Bertelson for organizing all the Volunteers, and Julie Clements for organizing the Art Market, from Chris Lewis, Betsy Weiland and the rest of the SacValley CNPS Board.


Thank you to our Art Market participants:

Julie Clements of Clay Pigeon Ceramics and ART Market organizer: www.claypigeonceramics.com

Tina and Lindsey of Coyote Brush Studios: www.etsy.com/shop/CoyoteBrushStudios

Cassandra Nguyen Musto: www.facebook.com/nguyenmusto.artworks

Guy Galante: www.facebook.com/guy.galante.7

Eva Devon of Sweaty Taxidermy: www.sweatytaxidermy.com

Linnea Fronce: Oil paintings and pencil drawings

Chris Jakle: Fish printing and succulent rock art

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Linnea Fronce: Oil paintings and pencil drawings

Chris Jakle: Fish printing and succulent rock art
Calling All Gardens Gone Native

If you have a garden that is 50% or more California native plants, please consider sharing your garden and your native plant experience with members of the public. The interest in water efficient landscape alternatives incorporating native plants in gardens continues to grow as evidenced by the doubling of attendance at our Gardens Gone Native Tour in past years. We anticipate the largest turn out yet this year and are hoping to add new gardens to the tour. Your garden can be large or small; it can be a specific section of your yard that is devoted to California natives; or it can be a mixture of water efficient natives and non-natives as long as there are 50% or more California natives.

The transition from traditional to water efficient landscape is becoming increasingly popular for residential makeovers. It is a perfect opportunity for CNPS to share all the benefits of California native plants with members of the public trying to make that transition. Won’t you help encourage others to join the trend by sharing your knowledge of California natives as well as your own personal experience in transitioning from traditional to low water use plants?

The tour is great fun. Members of the public are so happy to talk with someone who is further along in their garden transformations. In addition, the committee provides a great deal of support to our garden hosts. If you are interested go to www.sacvalleycnps.org/ and select the Events & Field Trips tab to find the Native Plant Garden Tour webpage. Then click on the simple garden application form and submit. You can also check out virtual tours and articles about past garden tours. If you have questions or would like to speak to someone on the GGN committee, send us an email at gardensgonenative@gmail.com and either email or leave a phone number with the best time to contact you. One of the committee members will contact you. Garden applications are typically due by the middle of January.

If you don’t have a garden to share then save the date – April 14, 2018, 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. – and attend the tour. Registration begins in March.
Submit content for the January Hibiscus by December 9!
Be sure your membership is current! See your address label for your renewal date.

November 2017
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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November Presentation:
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Volunteer for Gardens Gone Native!
See page 5 for details

Or Current Occupant