October Chapter Meeting:

**Botanizing Jepson’s Backyard: The Solano Flora Project**

Presented by Heath Bartosh

Solano County, our neighbor to the southwest, is home to a variety of botanical landscapes, including parts of the Central Coast, the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta, the Sacramento Valley, and the Inner North Coast Range. This diverse range of habitats makes Solano County a true botanical hotspot with many interesting places to explore. Solano County is also where Willis Linn Jepson cut his botanical teeth near his hometown of Vacaville, at the foot of the Vaca Mountains. Heath Bartosh will explain Solano County’s impressive wealth of physiographic, botanical, and historical attributes. He will also share results and aspirations for the Solano County Flora Project’s ongoing efforts, including many excellent photos of some of their most beautiful, interesting, and unusual botanical finds.

Heath Bartosh is co-founder and Senior Botanist of Nomad Ecology, based in Martinez and a Research Associate at the University and Jepson Herbaria at Cal Berkeley. After graduating from Humboldt State University, Heath began his career as a professional botanist and has been an earnest student of the California flora. As a member of the CNPS Rare Plant Program Committee, he has worked to help develop current, accurate information on the distribution, ecology, and conservation status of California’s rare and endangered plants, and to influence native plant conservation in California.
Nursery Favorites
Are California’s Native Grapes smothering trees on the American River Parkway?

A resident posed this question to Betsy Weiland, Board Member of both Sacramento Valley Chapter CNPS and Save the American River Parkway. This is her inspiring response:

Please don’t worry. Native California wild grape vines are climbing in the trees, especially the oaks and the cottonwoods. The edible grapes change from green to purple as they ripen. In the fall, the leaves can turn brilliant shades of orange, red and gold. Local Native Americans used the leaves to wrap foods for roasting and the stringy bark for twine. They enjoyed the fresh grapes and raisins. Birds and other animals also enjoy the fruit.

The California wild grape is not an invasive species. It is a native component of the American River Parkway’s riparian forest. This grapevine, as opposed to the non-native wine grape, has an entire undissected leaf. Sometimes there is some hybridization with a non-native wine grape, but mostly the Parkway has the pure native type.

One problem with the native grape that we do watch for is that during drought years the vine can function as an effective ladder fuel. It facilitates the fire burning from the ground up to the tops of trees. Typically riparian areas do not burn, but with extended drought that dynamic can change.

Sometimes the grape vine can become so massive, limbs of trees do break. However, the vine does not set roots into the tree trunk the way ivy and other problem vines can. A benefit, though, is that the healthy vines create a shade canopy that shelters wildlife and keeps the ground cool.

In conclusion, I hope you will pass these exuberant grape vines and think of them as good for people, other plants, and wildlife.

His response was this: I ran this morning. Birds, bikers, insects; Lord are we lucky. I’ll view the grapevines in a new light, although it will still be tough to be enthused about them covering the majestic cottonwoods. Lord we are lucky!

Wednesday Workdays: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Come learn propagation techniques and help tend our demo gardens. We treat volunteers to PB&J sandwiches or bring your own lunch, if you prefer. Join us!
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
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
3rd Sat. of the month, 9 a.m.
UC Davis Herbarium (Center for Plant Diversity)
Michael Bower, (530) 902-8721
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
Shepard Garden and Arts Center
Annual Fall Sale Sat. & Sun. Oct. 7 and 8th 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento
Submit content for the November Hibiscus by October 14!
Be sure your membership is current! See your address label for your renewal date.

October 2017
sacvalleyncps.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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2. Elderberry Farms
3. Calendar of Events

Join or renew today! CNPS's success depends on members' support. Go to sacvalleyncps.org/join. Or mail membership dues (individual $45; student or limited income $25) to CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.

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Hummingbird visits California Fuchsia

Our chapter meetings are free and open to the public!