November Chapter Meeting:

Old and New: California Native Plants and Gardens at the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden

Presented by Ellen Zagory

Many people don’t realize that nearly half of the 100 acres of the UC Davis Arboretum is planted with California native plants. They are used in gardens of only native plants as well as in mixed plantings with compatible non-natives, both of which provide good examples for home gardeners. Mature specimens of native pines, oaks, and riparian species line the banks of the Arboretum Waterway for those wishing to see full grown specimens. Recently expanding educational outreach has led to construction of new native plantings for bank stabilization, attraction of native pollinators, and a vast water quality improvement landscape that keeps water on site and helps recharge local groundwater.

Come and hear about these native gardens and the plants in them, how they grow under local Valley conditions, and which have been long-lived and tolerate the hot and dry conditions of the Central Valley.

Ellen is a professional horticulturist with 30 years of experience in cultivation of plants for valley gardens. She has a particular interest in California native plants, their relationships to pollinators and their performance in urban landscapes. She recently retired from the position of Director of Public Horticulture for the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden where she provided outreach to media and interested groups on a variety of sustainable gardening topics as well as current developments and changes to improve the UC Davis campus landscape.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

Books are available for purchase at meetings. Refreshments provided!

Join or renew today!

CNPS’ success depends on members’ support. To join or renew, go to www.cnps.org and select the Join/Support or Join CNPS options. 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 are also available.

Send questions or address changes to cnps@cnps.org.

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.
Election of Chapter Officers at the Sacramento Valley CNPS November Public Meeting

At our November public meeting on Wednesday the 14th, we will hold our election for chapter president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Candidates may be nominated by others or themselves right up to the vote. If you would like to run for a position, please let John Hunter know by email (botanyjohnhunter@gmail.com) or at the beginning of the November meeting. Below are biographies of the currently declared candidates.

**President – Tara Collins**
Tara Collins is a professional botanist and ecologist with Westervelt Ecological Services. She is a longtime member of the CNPS, and has been the Sacramento Valley CNPS Chapter’s Vice President since 2015. From 2013-2018 Tara served on the planning committee for the annual Gardens Gone Native Tour and had her native garden featured on the tour three times. Tara is also a CNPS Garden Ambassador. Tara has a great love of the outdoors and celebrates California’s diverse plant and animal species.

**Treasurer – Carol Witham**
Carol Witham is well-known to long-time chapter members. Carol is a self-employed environmental consultant and recognized as an expert in vernal pools. Carol is a lifetime member of CNPS and has served in various capacities on committees and the state Board of Directors. She has served as chapter Treasurer since 2015.

**Secretary – Stephanie Smolenski Zullo**
Stephanie Smolenski Zullo is a graduate student studying horticulture and plant genetics at UC Davis. Stephanie joined the Sacramento Valley Chapter of CNPS shortly after moving to Sacramento five years ago when converting her yard to natives, and has served as the SVCNPS Secretary since 2015.

---

**Inspiring One Person at a Time**

By Julie Clements

As a studio artist working alone, every couple of weeks I find myself dying to get out of my space. I need a change of pace and something else to look at for a moment. When we moved to Sacramento I knew that I wanted to re-wild our yard to something closer to its natural state. I also just didn’t want to mow and water grass. I needed to get outside and I wanted to learn about Central Valley plants. That’s how I stumbled upon Friday walks with Sac Valley CNPS, led by John Schmidt. I wanted to see what plant communities were here so I could recreate them in my yard. Not only did I discover plants but also a group of inspiring and dedicated people.

The art market became an opportunity to expand the way we educate and talk to people about California native plants. In college, I wrote a thesis about the science behind inspiration leading to environmental conservation. It was all very complicated stuff about cognitive mapping and making indelible impressions. The basic idea was that the beauty we see in nature is what will inspire us to save it. Not a new idea, we protect what we love. In practice I think it takes one person at a time having their moment of inspiration. The art market could be that catalyst for even just one person. The objects we love and covet inform those around us of what we value.

Not only do I make art work for the Sac Valley Fall native plant sale art market but I primarily make larger sculptural pieces. I work from my home studio that I dubbed Clay Pigeon Ceramics. You can check out my work at my website www.claypigeonceramics.com and on social media. I have two major shows in December. Diurnal is a two person show with myself and Steven Black at the Pence Gallery in Davis. The show runs Dec. 4th to 30th. The second show will be at the Epperson Gallery in Crockett with Julia Feld and Claudia Tarantino on Dec. 15 to Jan. 26. I hope to see you at the gallery or in the Central Valley wilds.
My Native Garden in the Fall

By Tara Collins

I know I may not have the most traditionally beautiful garden. It is a bit wild and sticks out among all the manicured spans of green lawn and tidy bushes that are maintained weekly by hired crews of “mow and blow” gardeners in my neighborhood. But let me tell you, it is a magical place, especially in fall.

As a trained botanist, I started my native garden in 2009 as sort of my own botanical garden. The house I bought had a yard that was a blank slate. I sought out native plant sales and bought as many different species as possible. I did not have a specific list of what I wanted; I wanted them all! I installed over 80 different native plant species in my yard in a somewhat unplanned manner. While I love what I ended up with, if I could do it again I would plan my layout a bit more. Regardless, what I have learned watching my garden grow has been incredible. While I could always identify the plants before, now I am able to study how they behave across all the seasons. And planting so many species allows me to learn about all of them.

But I digress; I was telling you why my garden is magical. While I started the garden for the plants, as my garden has matured what I am enjoying the most is the wildlife. It is beyond what I ever imagined and a side benefit I never expected. As I sit in the backyard writing this, enjoying a morning cup of tea, I am surrounded by the music of bird songs. In the last half hour, I have seen 19 different species of birds in my garden. That’s incredible for a yard just under a half-acre! I watch three lesser goldfinches eat the seeds out of some common madia. A dozen white-crowned sparrows sing and chase each other around the yard. Yellow-rumped warblers are aerial acrobats, catching insects in mid-air and flashing their yellow butts. Mourning doves warm themselves in the sun and eat seeds from turkey mullein. A flock of bushtits twitter and hop around the evening primrose branches, pecking out seeds. A ruby-crowned kinglet flits between the valley oaks and grey pines, eating bugs from their branches. A northern flicker wants to pluck some California grapes from the vine but is deterred by my presence. A young male house sparrow, an invasive bird species, sits atop a nesting box I have put up. He is practicing for spring, claiming it as his, and is going in and out of the opening. That is, until a family of five western bluebirds come along and chase him off. I suspect some of them are the same bluebirds that raised a family in that very box this past spring. The bluebirds hang out for a while as they reestablish their claim. Sierran treefrogs sing their land calls in support of the victory, and a western fence lizard does push-ups on a nearby rock.

All this happens in less than an hour in the small California native ecosystem that I planted. I notice most of the birds in the neighborhood spend a majority of their time in this area. They are here for the habitat I have cultivated. The variety of plants gives a selection of vegetation types for shelter and a range of food sources; both seeds and insects.

As the native plants go dormant for the winter, I will do some yard clean up but I will leave areas that may be a bit unattractive alone for a while. I am leaving those areas for the birds, insects, amphibians and reptiles. Seeing all the wildlife flourish in my yard; that is more beautiful to me than green lawns and impeccable landscaping.
Calendar of 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.

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

Elderberry Farms
Native Plant Nursery
Located 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, cnpsgarden@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.

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

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.

Other Items of Interest

Botanical Illustration
Sat. Nov. 10th 9:30 a.m - 4:00 p.m.
Chico State Herbarium
The workshop will concentrate on accurate botanical drawing and graphite techniques. Plant materials will be provided but please bring a specific subject you would like to tackle. For more information and how to register go to: www.friendsofthechicostateherbarium.com/eventsviewcalendar/

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

Elderberry Farms
Native Plant Nursery
Located 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, cnpsgarden@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.

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

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.
Elderryberry Farms - Open House and Mini Class

How to Make Seed Balls
Instructor: Julie of Wild Jules, Crafted Seed Balls
Saturday, Nov 10th 10 a.m.-Noon
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA on the American River Parkway at Soil Born Farms (last driveway before entering Hagan Park)

The classes will be held in the Nursery greenhouse or around the Nursery. All classes are drop in. Come early because seating will be very limited. The class is free.

The open house will be casual. We will be there but you can also wander around the grounds and visit the nursery. We will also be selling plants during our open house. If you can help out at this event, contact Chris at cnpschris@gmail.com

Calling All Gardens Gone Native

Save the date! The 2019 Gardens Gone Native Garden Tour is scheduled for April 27, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Show off your California native garden and inspire others to share the joy of gardening with California native plants. Are you passionate about our native flora? Do you have a garden with 50% natives? Do you need an excuse to get your garden in shape? Then contact us at gardensgonenative@gmail.com. The garden tour is an opportunity for us to inspire others to plant California natives and restore our native flora one garden at a time. Join us as an attendee and see what others have done with California natives in a wide variety of landscapes. Questions contact Colene Rauh at 916-717-5517.

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.

Contact Information

Elected Officers
President: John Hunter
Vice President: Tara Collins
Secretary: Stephanie Smolenski
Treasurer: Carol Witham

Chapter Council Delegates
Delegate #1: Glen Holstein
Delegate #2: Hazel Gordon

Committee Chairs
Stockton Sub-Chapter: Martha Mallery
Books: Carrie Black
Conservation: OPEN
Education: OPEN
Native Plant Nursery: Chris Lewis
Fairs & Events: Mary Schiedt
Field Trips: John Schmidt
Friday Walks: John Schmidt
Habitat Ed. & Outreach: OPEN
Horticulture Outreach: Tim Crowley
Hospitality/Welcome: Linda Sanford
Kid/Community Gardens: Jennifer Hogan
Mather Preservation: Eva Butler
Member at Large: Mark Lum
Membership: Linda Sanford
Native Garden Tour: Colene Rauh
Native Plant Demo Garden, Historic City Cemetery: Cassandra Nguyen

Newsletter Ed., Hibiscus: Linda Ramos, Jamie LeFeve
Newsletter Ed., eNewsletter: Chris Lewis
Newsletter Ed., Stockton: Bob Stahmer
Plant Sale Co-Chairs: Betsy Weiland
Fall & Spring: Chris Lewis
Programs (Chap mtgs): Mary Schiedt
Ellen Zagory
Publicity: Paul Barth
Rare Plants: Mike Bower
Website Co-Chairs: Chris Lewis, Joan Kodani

Advisory Committee Representatives, Chapter Specialists, & Special Project Leaders
American River Parkway: Chris Lewis
Ceanothus Field Botanists: Mike Bower
ECOS: Chris Lewis
Habitat 2020: Will vanWigren
ListServe Moderator: Harry Spanglet
SAC: Bonnie Ross
SARA: Betsy Weiland
Wildflower Seed Sales: Mary Schiedt
Submit content for the January Hibiscus by December 8!
Be sure your membership is current! See your address label for your renewal date.

November 2018
sacvalleycnps.org

The Sacramento Valley chapter newsletter, Hibiscus, is published January, March, May, September, and November. 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.

In this issue:
- 2 Chapter Elections
- Julie Clements Art
- 3 Native Garden in Fall
- 4 Calendar of Events
- 5 Gardens Gone Native

Join or renew today!

Volunteer for Gardens Gone Native!

See page 5 for more information

NOVEMBER PRESENTATION:
Indigenous Peoples and their Gathering/Tending Practices for Healthy Temperate Forests: What can we learn in the face of global climate change?
Presented by Kat Anderson

NOVEMBER 2018
sacvalleycnps.org

Our chapter meets the first Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Sacramento Bee, 1001 Capitol Mall, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95814.