Next Meeting:
Wed., Feb 12
Questions? Contact Carol Witham, cwitham@ncal.net

FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING:

Deer Creek: Botanical Exploration of a Southern Sierra Stream
Presented by Steve Laymon

While living in south-western Tulare Co. near the town of Alpaugh, Steve Laymon and Pam Williams began spending their weekends exploring the Deer Creek watershed from the alkali sinks of the dried Ton Tache lake bed in the center of the Tulare Basin to the red fir forest atop Tobias Peak in the Greenhorn Mountain. Besides living at the lower end of Deer Creek for 8 years, they took more than 100 trips into the watershed and identified and photographed more than 700 species of flowers, trees, and shrubs. During our presentation, Steve will take us on a tour of the watershed from BLM’s Atwell Island Restoration Project, where he was the project manager for 10 years, to the alkali grassland and vernal pools at Pixley National Wildlife Refuge where Pam was the wildlife biologist, past Sequoia Riverland Trust’s Pixley Vernal Pool Preserve, along the little traveled foothill dirt roads (Deer Creek Road and Old Control Road), through California Hot Springs, and upslope into the Giant Sequoia National Monument to Parker Pass, Deer Creek Giant Sequoia Grove, Pup Meadow, and the top of Tobias Peak at 8,284 feet. While on the photo tour we will see and discuss some of the rare and interesting plant species that grow in the area.

Steve now works for the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a wildlife biologist here in Sacramento. He and Pam spend their weekends traveling around northern California identifying and photographing wildflowers and exploring the state’s natural wonders.
Horticulture Program Update
By Susan Krzywicki

The new state-wide Horticulture Program Director position has been an eye-opener. It's been fun to get to know people throughout the state and into Baja, and to see the wide variety of events and activities the chapters produce.

I've been working to implement the following steps to expanding our offerings. The first step is supporting the chapters. This includes listening to the variety of voices that come from all areas: science, home gardening, nursery trades, water conservation, and other stakeholders in our success. I love hearing from any and all who have ideas, suggestions or observations. My contact information is at the end of this article - so keep in touch.

The next step is to implement the projects that we've deemed the most strategically aligned and the most urgent. There are so many ways we could spend our time and scant resources, so this prioritization process is a difficult one, especially when people have such good ideas. I expect that symposia events, garden tours and plant sales will continue to be top focus, as will Native Plant Week and the 2015 Conservation Conference activities.

We will be seeking additional funds to continue to support the current projects and to increase our reach over time. If you do hear of any potential grants that we might apply for, please do let us know. Please continue to support your local gardening events - good turnouts are what keep the momentum going.

The job wouldn't be half as exciting without the pleasure of communicating across the chapters and networking within the many partnerships and industry connections. We rely on you for the local expertise on who is important in your chapter's geography. It may be water companies, nurseries or local political figures. We want to know about good-looking gardens and interesting events. We also have a blog that I’ve been posting to. Check it out at http://grownatives.cnps.org. Comments are very welcome. They help us to increase visibility for the blog itself and create that sense of community we are all looking for. There is also a CNPS forum about horticulture that you can find at: http://www.cnps.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=5.

The way to connect with me: call me at (619) 318-4590 or email me at skrzywicki@cnps.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Susan Krzywicki is the Horticulture Program Director for the California Native Plant Society. She has been a native plant landscape designer in San Diego, as well as chair of the San Diego Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Gardens Committee.

Volunteering-Passion and Commitment
Glen Holstein
Sacramento Valley CNPS Chapter Botanist
by Linda Ramos

This month we feature Glen Holstein, who volunteers for several organizations in the Sacramento area. Glen has a devotion to California Native plants and their preservation. He states that he feels a spiritual connection with the plants and their environments. He does not want to see them disappear. Glen recognizes the fragile nature of California’s native plant life and volunteers to help protect it. Last October his dedication was recognized by the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) with their Environmentalist of the Year Award.

He greatly appreciated this acknowledgement of the work that he does.

Glen has a PhD in Botany from UC Davis and worked as a science consultant throughout most of his career. He has been a member of CNPS since the 1970’s and is able to take a more active role now that he is retired. He volunteers as the Chapter Botanist for the Sacramento Valley CNPS and is also the Sacramento Valley Chapter’s Delegate to the Chapter Council, which he will represent on the State Board this year.

Continued on page 4
Wildflower Wonders

A Celebration of California Heartland Plants and Native Plant Sale

May 3, 2014
10 a.m.–5 p.m.
sacvalley.cnps.org

Walks... Talks... and Fun!

Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery
at Soil Born Farms
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
on the American River Parkway
Suggested donation: $5. (no one will be turned away)
year. Glen planned the December 2012 Chapter Council Meeting at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center near Sacramento, and it was popular enough that he’s been asked to do it again in December 2014.

Through CNPS, Glen is involved with conservation efforts like the Yolo Natural Heritage Plan to preserve the natural communities and species of Yolo County. He is also involved in a partnership between CNPS and the Sierra Club to explore potential litigation over development in Yolo County on critical habitat for two federally listed rare plants and an animal. He has advised the West Sacramento Conservancy on their rights regarding conservation of native mature Sycamore trees. He is working to protect the vernal pools and native habitat in the Cordova Hills. As a volunteer for both Habitat 2020 of ECOS and CNPS, Glen developed the California Heartland Project idea to call attention to the great natural heritage of Sacramento. A project goal is to develop a “green print” of areas to protect to complement an existing blueprint for new growth in the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) region.

One of Glen’s crusades, as he calls it, is saving California’s prairies, which too often now are dismissed as just non-native annual grasslands, a term that dismisses and obscures their great native plant diversity particularly present in their forbs rather than their grasses. Glen would like to see them called by their historic name, which is California Prairies. Glen shared his passion for prairies as contributing editor on the Fremontia journal issue on California’s Prairies and Grasslands (Volume 39, No. 2 and 3). He wrote three articles for the journal and recruited authors for most of its other articles. Glen also has given a presentation on prairies to several different CNPS Chapters.

Glen hopes people will increasingly appreciate California’s mosaic of vegetation and how different it is from other parts of the United States, where vegetation is more uniform. With his volunteer work Glen says he is “getting a fair amount done” and is looking forward to doing more.

To learn more about Glen’s volunteer interests, visit these websites:
Environmental Council of Sacramento: www.ecosacramento.net
West Sacramento Conservancy: www.westsacconcervancy.org
Yolo Natural Heritage Plan: www.yoloconservationplan.org

### Botany on the Internet (a Brief Sampling)

by Hazel Gordon

These are some websites that are useful to look at for some California plant lovers, depending on your purpose. Of course the CNPS website is loaded with information and our chapter’s website is timely and useful for plant lovers in general: www.sacvalleycnps.org

For photos of various plants as well as the landscapes in which they reside, perhaps the best known is CalPhotos. You can browse by common or scientific names, locations or other criteria. Many of the better photographers submit their photos, and there are certain restrictions in downloading them without appropriate permissions. This site also includes photos of landscapes from California and beyond: http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/flora/ and http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/landscape/

Another good site for gardeners of native plants is provided by Las Pilitas Native Plant Nursery which gives photos, general and regional gardening advice, descriptions, landscape photos and much more at: http://laspilitas.com

Our local native plant nursery (Cornflower Farms) provides a downloadable catalog for gardeners that has recommendations for plants to attract various birds and insects, descriptions of native plants and other drought-tolerant plants suitable for this region and a lot more pages of good advice at: http://cornflowerfarms.com/pdf/Wildlands_Catalog.pdf

In addition, Redwood Barns Nursery in Davis offers good reading material on non-native as well as native plants for the garden at www.redwoodbarn.com.

Another excellent gardening nursery, California Flora Nursery, provides great criteria to select native plants for the garden based on user preferences, with brief descriptions and some photos: http://www.calfloranursery.com

### Calling all Field Trip Leaders and Participants!

We are looking for trip leaders, group camp and trip suggestions; please contact Pam Kirkbride at pank7@frontier.com or call 916-687-8134.
Calendar of Events

Upcoming

Nevada City Independence Trail Lichen Hike
Saturday, Mar. 1, 2014 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Come out to look at lichens along the Yuba River near Nevada City. Pam will discuss various aspects of lichens and point out the different species. You will observe the lichens close-up through a dissecting scope that will be set up along the trail. This field trip is being coordinated with the Redbud Chapter of CNPS. Bring lunch, water, boots, magnifier loupe, and dress for winter weather, as appropriate. Call Pam at (916) 687-8134 for more information and directions to the trailhead.

Identifying Lichens to Genus
Saturday, Mar. 1, 2014, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30
Holt Hall room 129 at CSU Chico.
This one-day workshop will focus on identifying the lichens of the lower Sierra Nevada foothills to genus. The morning will be spent covering lichen basics and lunch will be in the field. For details, contact info, and a registration form, please go to: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html

Vernal Pools Conference 2014
Thursday, Apr. 10, 2014, 9 a.m. - 5:30
Friday, Apr. 11, 2014, 9 a.m. - 3:00
Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, Chico
Vernal Pools in Changing Landscapes: From Shasta to Baja. For more information or to register visit: www.aqualliance.net/vernal-pools/vernal-pools-conference-2014

Friends of the Chico State Herbarium:
Introduction to Soil Morphology and Hydric Soils
Saturday, Apr. 12, 2014, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00
Botanical Illustration.
Saturday Apr. 26, 2014, 10:00 a.m.-4:00
For more information visit: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html

Calendar of events

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 Carol Witham, cwitham@ncal.net for more information.

4th Wed. of the month, 7 p.m. (Jan.–June; Sept.–Nov.)
Chapter Board Meetings
SMUD, 6301 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95817
Contact: Carol Witham, cwitham@ncal.net.

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. Next sessions: Feb. 15 Visit www.ceanothus.org for more information. Email questions to ceanothustieldbot@gmail.com.

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. Pacific Coast iris and red buckwheat 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
Wednesday Workdays 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
We pot up seedlings and learn plant propagation techniques. Peanut butter & 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 & Field Trips.

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

Effie Yeaw Nature Center
The Center offers free nature-related activities Saturdays and Sundays. For specifics, check out www.sacnaturecenter.net

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy events and outings including Deer Creek Hill
See website for more info. www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar.asp

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

Other items of interest

Effie Yeaw Nature Center
The Center offers free nature-related activities Saturdays and Sundays. For specifics, check out www.sacnaturecenter.net

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy events and outings including Deer Creek Hill
See website for more info. www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar.asp

Save the Date

Wildflower Wonders
May 3 10 a.m. - 5p.m.
Located at Soil Born Farms
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova.

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 Nadia Zane, (209) 931-5151.
The mission of Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery is to promote awareness of the benefits of native plant habitat, encourage community involvement, and provide a source of local native plants for restoration projects as well as gardeners. Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery is located on the American River Parkway within Soil Born Farms, 2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. (If you are biking, we’re located between mileposts 15 and 15.5 on the ARP Bike Trail.) When you drive in, follow driveway to the Parking Area. Then continue walking on the road until you have passed the duplex. The Nursery is just beyond and behind the duplex on your left.

**Every Wednesday Workday (from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)**

We pot up seedlings and learn various propagating techniques under the excellent direction of Robin Rietz, Propagation Manager. CNPS treats volunteers to Peanut Butter & Jelly sandwiches though you are welcome to bring your own lunch. We also work in our demonstration gardens during our workdays. Bring garden gloves and water; dress in layers. Knowledge of plants is not necessary: your willingness to help is all that’s required!

**Sunday Workday is February 16th, 10:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.**

Contact Sunday Nursery Workday Coordinator, Pat Gilbert at battypatty296@gmail.com to sign up or for more information.

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**Nursery Orientation is February 5, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.**

- Includes tour of Nursery and Demonstration Gardens
- Learn about our relationship with Soil Born Farms
- Nursery operations - overview of jobs in Nursery

Sign up by emailing Chris at cnpschris@gmail.com.

**Friday Walks**

Fridays each week are used for seed and data collecting, plant identification, photography, and fun! Our destination changes weekly depending on the Nursery’s need and the group’s interest. Walks are organized and led by John Schmidt in coordination with Robin Rietz, EFNPN Propagation Director. Check out John’s webpage for details on Friday Walks at: sacvalleycnps.org/Events & Field Trips/Friday Walks. For more information, email John at john_waif@msn.com

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**Calling All Gardens!**

May 10, 2014, will be here before you know it and the Gardens Gone Native Tour Planning Committee is still looking for gardens for this year’s tour. Garden applications will be accepted until the end of this month. Join in the fun and share your garden inspiration with others. If you are interested in having your garden on tour or volunteering to help please send an email to: gardensgonenative@gmail.com. More information can be found on the Sac Valley CNPS site.

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**Get Your eNews Here!**

The Sacramento Valley Chapter CNPS emails announcements about upcoming events. The eNewsletter is another way to get your 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: SacValley.CNPS.org/ or contact Chris at cnpschris@gmail.com.
Knowledge You Can Usnea
by S. Joe Griffin

Take a close look at the organisms under the dissection scope in the photo. Can you tell the Candelaria from the Xanthoria? If those genera aren’t familiar to you don’t worry, they are two of California’s often overlooked, but fascinating lichens. Both are yellow and, though morphologically distinct in their own right, a drop of potassium oxide turns the Xanthoria a brilliant purple-red (look at the color version of this photo in the on-line newsletter).

It turns out that potassium oxide is just one of the tools in the arsenal of those seeking to identify lichens, several of whom crowded into a U.C. Davis classroom on January 11th, to learn from the Sacramento Valley CNPS Chapter’s own lichen expert, Pam Kirkbride. The class involved a short lecture in which Pam sketched out the basics of what lichens are, followed by an in-class exercise in which students keyed out a handful of specimens using a simple key Pam developed for the course. The day ended with a brief field trip near Lake Berryessa to look at the astonishing variety of lichens growing in a small stand of trees.

Lichens are the result of a symbiotic relationship between a fungus and an photobiont, an alga or a cyanobacterium. The fungus provides structure and the photobiont provides energy through photosynthesis. Some have humorously described lichens as fungi that have discovered agriculture.

Most lichens come in three general forms, crustose, foliose, and fruticose. Our class was focused on several foliose and fruticose varieties ranging from Ramalina menziesii, the lace lichen, commonly called Spanish Moss in California, which hangs majestically from trees in damp areas; to members of the Usnea genus with their hairy, branching structures; to large, leafy Lobaria. A great time was had by all.
Save the date
Wildflower Wonders
Returns May 3

Submit content for the March Hibiscus
by February 8!

Be sure your membership is current! See
your address label for your renewal date.

February 2014

SacValley.CNPS.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.

In this issue:
2 CNPS Horticulture Program Update
4 Botany on the Internet
5 Calendar of Events
6 Elderberry Farms

Join or renew today!
CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.
CNPS’ success depends on
members’ support. Go to
www.cnps.org/join or mail
memberships, $25 (individual); $45
student or limited income.

February PreSENTatiON:
Deer Creek: Botanical Exploration
of a Southern Sierra Stream
Presented by Steve Laymon

Volunteer for the Gardens Gone
Native Tour
See page 6 for details!