The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California’s native plants and to conserve them and their natural habitats through science, education, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship.

May Meeting
of the California Native Plant Society’s
Sacramento Valley Chapter

Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2005
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Shepherd Garden & Arts Center,
McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd (E Street’s eastern continuation)

You may remember reading about our two speakers in the Sacramento Bee last October. Both decided to forego front lawns and planted natives and other plants adapted to California’s climate. Both were found in violation of local policies. Heather faced a fine of up to $500 in Roseville. Jeff and his wife Carolyn Haase of Loomis paid thousands in fines and have two liens placed on their home by their homeowners association, which is threatening to foreclose on their home. These horticultural heroes will talk about their environmentally friendly yards, their philosophy, and their experiences with the law. They will also show photos of their beautiful, offending yards. How many members of our chapter are also Cultivation Criminals? You know who you are! Come and show your support. After the presentations, we will discuss ways the Society can work to legalize native plants.

Our chapter meetings are free and the public is invited to attend. Each meeting includes a “Know Your Natives” Plant Identification Challenge. Books, wildflower seeds, posters and our new Sac Valley CNPS Chapter t-shirts will be available for purchase at the meeting. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call Diana Hickson, Program Chair, (916) 362–8022.

May Calendar

1  ARP Public Display of Appreciation
10:00 AM–1:00 PM American River Parkway

3  American River Parkway Update Committee
6:00–9:00 PM 799 G St. Rm. 221

7  Rare Plant Survey
9:00 AM Cosumnes River Preserve

11  Chapter meeting: Native Gardening Outlaws
7:00 PM Shepherd Garden & Arts Center

13–15  Sierra Spring Sojourn
Bernasconi Center, Big Pine

13  Nature Walk with Jack Hiehle
8:00 AM–noon Paradise Beach

14  Spring Plant Sale/Walk on the Wildside
10:00 AM–3:00 PM Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge

15  Habitat Improvement with Jack Hiehle
8:00 AM Effie Yeaw

16  Open House Garden Tours
Old City Cemetery

17  American River Parkway Update Committee
6:00–9:00 PM 3701 Branch Center Rd. Rm. 128

27  Nature Walk with Jack Hiehle
8:00 AM–noon Sailor Bar
Local Conservation Update

Below is a list of local conservation issues that members of our chapter are actively involved in, or that we are concerned about and hoping a member can become involved in. If you are concerned about any of these issues, please contact the CNPS contacts for further information on how you can help. (See the back page for their phone numbers and e-mail addresses.)

General Plans

General Plans serve as the blueprint for development and resource management. They contain goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures that are revised periodically. The following counties and cities are in the midst of such revisions, and for each there is a website and the names of CNPS contacts who can provide further information.

CNPS Contact: Glen Holstein.

Sacramento County.  www.co.sacramento.ca.us/planning/gpupdate/gpu-index.html
CNPS Contacts: Mary Maret, Glen Holstein, John Hunter.

Lincoln.  The city of Lincoln may be getting ready to update its general plan. If you live in Lincoln, and have an interest in conservation, you could contact the City’s Community Development Department at (916) 645-3320 for further information.

Currently there is no CNPS contact, but there are plenty of vernal pools. If you live in Rancho Cordova, you could contribute to conservation in your community by participating in the update of your general plan. For further information see the Notice of Preparation (NOP) posted at the web address above, or contact Paul Junker, Planning Director, pjunker@cityofranchocordova.org, (916) 942-0277.  (If you do become involved, please let one of our Conservation Co-Chairs know.)

Wheatland General Plan.  Currently there is no CNPS contact, but there are plants and their ecosystems to conserve. If you live in Wheatland, you could contribute to conservation in your community by participating in the update of your general plan. For further information on the update of your general plan, contact Lisa J. Welch, City Clerk, City of Wheatland, 530-633-2761, or e-mail the city at cityofwheatland1@otnusa.com.  (If you do become involved, please let one of our Conservation Co-Chairs know.)

Conservation Planning

Besides general plans, there are several long-term plans being developed that are focused primarily on conservation. These are especially important for native plants and plant communities. Several of these are described below.

**American River Parkway Plan Update.**  This plan guides resource management for the American River Parkway. For further information, contact Frank Wallace or Peggy Berry, or see http://www.co.sacramento.ca.us/planning/american-river-parkway/index.html.

**Yolo County HCP/NCCP.**  Just as General Plans guide development, Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and Natural Communities Conservation Plans (NCCPs) guide long-term conservation. Right now, Yolo County is trying to create an HCP/NCCP for the entire county. For further information contact Glen Holstein.

**Yuba/Sutter HCP/NCCP.**  Yuba and Sutter Counties are jointly developing an HCP/NCCP for a portion of their lands. There is no CNPS contact for this project and they are currently forming a stakeholder group. So if you live in these counties, please see http://www.yubasutternccp.org/ for further information. (If you do become involved, please let one of our Conservation Co-Chairs know.)

**BLM Ukiah District RMP.**  This Resource Management Plan will guide future uses of the botanically rich Bureau of Land Management lands in the inner North Coast Ranges, including Walker Ridge (which looks down on Bear Valley). The alternatives for the plan are now being developed, and our chapter has participated in the process to date. However, our comments and concerns have not been recognized. For further information contact John Hunter, or see http://www.ca.blm.gov/ukiah.

---

Get Involved with the Spring Plant Sale at WOW!

CNPS will be celebrating the 11th anniversary of the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (SLNWR) by hosting a spring native plant sale at “Walk on the Wildside” on Saturday, May 14th, from 10 AM to 3 PM.

We need volunteers to help run this event, so please contact me if you are interested in helping out. Otherwise, we hope you mark this date on your calendar to come and join in the fun of celebrating Sacramento’s diverse natural habitats and wildlife!

For additional information, please contact Marin Lemieux at marinlemieux@hotmail.com or (916) 952-6009.

---

John Hunter
We will be celebrating the 11th anniversary of the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (SLNWR) by hosting a spring native plant sale at the Walk on the Wildside festival. The date is again changed from Mother’s Day weekend to the following weekend, with hopes of providing more opportunity for people to come out and celebrate the importance of nature. For those who haven’t attended WOW, it is a great event at Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Elk Grove. The event focuses on wetlands, wildlife, native plants, restoration, and the importance of nature in general. The event usually has approximately 30 exhibitors, from parks, wildlife rehabilitation centers, Bufferlands, and many other environmentally-conscious groups. Both guided and self-guided tours are available, including bus tours of the refuge and Bufferlands.

Native annuals, perennials, shrubs and vines, trees, and grasses from just $1.00 and up!

Grasses and sedges, redbud, elderberry, dogwood, manzanita, lilac, monkeyflower sp., fuchsia, iris, poppies, lupine, penstemon, yellow and blue-eyed grasses, mule’s ears, sage, and more!

See you there!
The Update Committee
Needs YOUR INPUT

How do you use the Parkway? Do you think its natural characteristics are unique and should be preserved? Does it offer opportunities for respite from the increasing urbanization of the area? Or, do you have ideas for new development within the Parkway, especially the lower 5.5 miles from Cal Expo to Discovery Park?

Some participants at the two American River Parkway Plan Update Community Meetings proposed new uses within the Parkway, such as an off-leash dog area near water, special trails for mountain bikers and a 100 Acre, 60,000 sq. ft. California Indian Heritage Center. Other participants advocated for preserving the natural, minimally developed features of the Parkway as envisioned by its founders and still appreciated by thousands of Parkway users today.

What are your thoughts about this “Crown Jewel” of our region?

The Parkway Plan Update Committee will meet May 3, 2005, 6–9:00 pm, 799 G Street (OCIT) Rm. 221. This meeting is focused on committee member education and discussion, with time for public questions and input.

The same format will be followed at another Update Committee meeting May 17, 2005, 6–9:00 pm, 3701 Branch Center Rd., Rm. 128.

A date in MID-JUNE will be scheduled for the 3rd COMMUNITY MEETING focusing completely on public participation. The exact date and location will be announced in the next Hibiscus. Additional information is available on the Parkway Update website at www.saccounty.net/planning.

Peggy Berry
(916) 944-1184
ARPParkway Plan Update Committee Member

American River Parkway
Public Display of Appreciation

The 2nd Annual ARP—PDA takes place Sunday, May 1, 2005 from 10:00 am–1:00 pm along the American River Parkway.

Parkway user groups such as bicycle, running, paddling, birding, and plant groups, as well as individuals, families, and others who love the Parkway, are encouraged to show their support for the Parkway by using the Parkway May 1. The Parkway Coalition, made up of Save the American River Association (SARA), the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA), and the American River Parkway Foundation, is sponsoring this “appreciation event.”

The Coalition will have 5 tables of volunteers situated throughout the Parkway ready to answer questions about Coalition membership and explain issues facing the Parkway such as public support for adequate funding and the Bureau of Reclamation delay in establishing a Minimum Flow Standard for the Lower American River.

Free “I love (heart) the Parkway” stickers will be given out AND the new “PARKS PASSPORT CAMPAIGN” will be launched. Although Sacramento County is responsible for funding the Parkway, users can show they don’t take the Parkway for granted by purchasing the Annual Parkway Pass for $40.00. This bargain pass permits FREE yearlong parking in all County parks and helps reduce the shortfall in County Parkway funding. Annual passes can be conveniently purchased at the ARP—PDA w/checks or cash, or any time throughout the year at specific locations.

Experience and appreciate the American River Parkway May 1.

Peggy Berry

Photos Needed for Virtual Home Garden Tour!

Show off your garden in our “virtual” Home Garden Tour at our June 8, 2005 Potluck and Chapter Meeting! We’re seeking digital photos of your native (or mixed native and non-native) landscaping, but if you don’t have digital photos, we can come and photograph your garden. You can come to the meeting and narrate your portion of the “tour” or give us plant names or some interesting garden history. If you know of other native plant gardeners that we should include, please let them know to contact us: Diana Hickson, Programs Chair, at (916) 362–8022, dianahickson@cwnet.com, or Chris Lewis, President at (916) 482–5282, lewisc@surewest.net.

May Field Trips

Sierra Spring Sojourn, May 13–15, 2005. The Bristlecone Chapter will hold their 8th Biennial Sierra Spring Sojourn at the Bernasconi Center in Big Pine. The Sojourn is a weekend of field trips and evening programs focusing on the flora of the White Mountains, Owens Valley, and east side of the Sierra Nevada.

If you would like an registration pack via email when they are available in March, contact Sherryl Taylor at staylor@npgcable.com. To receive the registration pack by mail, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Sherryl Taylor at P.O. Box 1638, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. For more information, call 760-924-8742.
Death Valley Days

The Sac Valley Chapter’s field trip to Death Valley in March was a spectacular success. With more than 6 inches of rain this season, the park rangers were waxing poetic about the once-in-a-lifetime wildflower event for 2005. And what a fantastic treasure the park was for the dozen chapter members who braved the crowds and $2.85 gas prices of the park.

Leaving the Central Valley and its week of rain, we descended into Death Valley on March 19th and were greeted by brittle bush (Encelia farinosa) along the roadside on our approach to Stovepipe Wells. Park literature warned that campgrounds were filling early this year, so our group was content to set up tents in the parking lot the first night.

The next few days we explored canyons, ridges and alluvial fans seeking all that the park offered. The greatest floral shows were the masses of desert gold (Geraea canescens), caltha-leaf phacelia (Phacelia calthifolia), and gravel ghost (Atrichoseris platyphylla). These three were in great abundance near Furnace Creek, often stretching for miles. Other frequently encountered plants included checker fiddleneck (Amsinckia tessellata), desert trumpet (Eriogonum inflatum), various evening primroses (Cammisonia spp.) lesser mojavea (Mojavea breviflora), desert star (Monoptilon belloides), Fremont pincushion (Chaenactis fremontii), desert paintbrush (Castilleja appelgaei ssp. martinii), masses of toothed dodder (Cuscuta denticulata), desert five-spot (Eremalche rotundifolia), Mojave aster (Xylorhiza tortifolia), Bigelow monkeyflower (Mimulus bigelovii), and various other species of phacelia (Phacelia spp.). Only two rarities were encountered: the endemic Death Valley sage (Salvia funera) and goldcarpet (Gilmania luteola).

Favorite stops this year included the road up to Hell’s Gate, where we spent a few hours searching for early beavertail cactus (Opuntia basilaris) in bloom, and Titus Canyon, where the abundance and diversity of plants truly “wowed” us. A side trip with the fisheries biologist in our group allowed us a glimpse at the territorial behavior of desert pupfish in Salt Creek.

After a few days of wonderful sunny days in the 70’s, the weather turned a bit breezy on our final day. In fact, an unexpected sandstorm ushered us out of the park Tuesday night, having claimed our dining canopy and eliminated any hope for a grand finale bonfire to say goodbye to the once-in-a-lifetime event that spring 2005 in Death Valley is said to be.

Tim Nosal

Deer Creek Hills Botany Trips

On April 3, a group of seven intrepid souls met with three CNPS botanists to identify vegetation types in a grassland area of the Deer Creek Hills preserve. After some training, we learned how to standardize our estimates of canopy cover in a plot and how to identify numerous grasses and forbs with and without floral parts available. Having a visual imagination with a good sense of touch and smell are tricks of the trade, as Carol Witham, Julie Evens, and Josie Crawford showed us. Despite the persistent wind and cool temperatures, we managed to complete a releve and the associated CNPS data entry forms by mid-afternoon to determine the vegetation type at a later date of analysis. We were delighted by the beauty of this area and the diversity of its plants, birds and even insects.

We intend to have another training in the releve method applied to the blue oak grassland communities of this area, probably in June. If you are interested in learning more about the CNPS vegetation sampling methods and in helping the botanists gather data to apply to the preserve’s management plan as well as for the Sierra foothills mapping and classification project, please look for this trip in the June Hibiscus. You can also send me your email address or phone number so that I can give you more information on this trip.

Hazel Gordon
hazlegordon@hotmail.com or (530) 297-7204

Wildflower Weekend
Featured in Sacramento Bee

Glen Holstein (Chapter Botanist), Chris Lewis (Chapter President), native wildflowers, and our own Wildflower Weekend got an article in the April 10 Sacramento Bee. The Wildflower Weekend got a detailed write up. It was just in time to bring out the crowds! Thanks to the Sacramento Bee and Edie Lau, Bee science writer.
Rare Plant Surveys

Two rare plant field trips are planned for this spring. The first trip will be Saturday, May 7th, and will focus on vernal pool habitat/annual grassland associated with the Cosumnes River Preserve. The exact area is yet to be determined, but we will be going to one of two areas where the preserve holds conservation easements. No plant surveys have been conducted in either of these areas. The goal of this trip is to conduct botanical surveys to see if there are any populations of special status plants such as dwarf downingia (Downingia pusilla), Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop (Gratiola heterosepala), Ahart’s dwarf rush (Juncus leiospermus var. ahartii), legenere (Legenere limosa) and pincushion navarretia (Navarretia myersii ssp. myersii). At the same time we should see lots of other interesting (if not rare) vernal pool species. The field trip is open to anyone regardless of experience. Hopefully we will have enough experienced folks that we can all share knowledge with one another.

The second trip is planned for Saturday June 4th (changed from May 28th, the holiday weekend). This trip will be to the American River and will focus primarily on Sanford’s arrowhead (Sagittaria sanfordii) which has been reported from several location in the parkway. During this trip we will investigate the status of the known populations and see if there are any other new populations. We will also be looking at other riparian species and doing what we can to add to the plant list for the parkway. As with the first trip, all levels of experience are welcome.

Meeting locations are to be determined. We will start around 9:00 in the morning and go until 3:00 or so in the afternoon (or later if people want to). If people are interested, please contact me at 916-456-1988 or rhuddle1@CH2M.com.

Russell Huddleston

Volunteer at Our Demo Garden!

As the Chapter’s new Native Plant Demonstration Garden Chair, I first want to thank everyone for all their hard work and support in preparation of the north area for the Open House Garden Tours at the Old City Cemetery, Saturday April 16th: the Sheriff’s staff and crews, Sharon and Curtis with the Old City Cemetery, and our own CNPS folks, Eva, Rees, Peggy, Cassandra, and Sabrina; and one student volunteer Chris who came out on Sunday.

We are off to a good start caring for and managing the 200+ cemetery plots located within our garden area. Due to the formal cemetery setting our garden needs extra care and attention to make sure that our wild natives don’t overwhelm and obscure the many historic headstones and flat burial monuments located in most of the plots. Because of our unique and sensitive situation, it is apparent that we need CNPS volunteers out there every weekend, and I need your help, commitment, and efforts to make sure we are out there regularly caring for our beautiful treasure.

After visiting the demo garden, I believe with your help we can improve things at the garden. We immediately need several CNPS volunteer representatives out there every weekend to muster at 8 AM with the Sheriff’s crew and supervise crew members work in our area. We need CNPS volunteers to work with the community volunteers from area schools and church groups that would like to learn more about native plants while they work with us at the garden. We also need volunteers to help with our mapping, plant list, and labeling efforts.

As for me, my formal education includes degrees in both Environmental Horticulture and Geography (specializing in plant geography). My avocation, in addition to gardening, is plant illustration. For the past five years I’ve been a bit of a recluse, but as I enter a semi-retirement phase of my life, I look forward to digging in the dirt and gardening out here with more members of our chapter than ever before. I’d also like to have other plant illustrators and photographers from our chapter come out and capture the beauty of our garden for possible inclusion in next year’s Wildflower Weekend or Native Plant Garden Tour.

Please contact me (916-736-0850) if you want to get involved, or just to share any thoughts and suggestions you may have about maintaining a public native plant garden. I am open to all ideas, thoughts, and suggestions, and am in need of a great deal of support.

Regards, Mitchell Alford
Sac Valley CNPS Demo-Garden Chair

Nature Walks with Jack Hiehle

May Walks

Fri. May 13 8:00AM-noon: Paradise Beach
Meet at the end of Carlson Dr., River Park at Glenn Hall Park.

Fri. May 27 8:00AM-noon: Sailor Bar
Meet at end of Emperor via Winding Way (Kenneth to Emperor).

May Habitat Improvement

Sun. May 15 at 8:00 AM
Meet at Effie Yeaw Parking lot, Ancil Hoffman Park.
Call Jack if you plan to help: 916-967-0777

Sac Valley CNPS Demo-Garden Chair
Recent New and Renewing CNPS Members

Many thanks to those who most recently became new members of the Sacramento Chapter:


Our quarterly welcoming letter will soon be on its way to your mailbox. We hope you’ll join us in some of our varied activities and send back the postage paid questionnaire so that we can work together more effectively.

Additional thanks and gratitude go to our most recently renewed members, whose continuing encouragement keeps us going:


Please check your address label for your renewal date.

If anyone wishes to receive the on-line version of Hibiscus alone or in addition to the printed copy, please let me know. You can address any questions about Hibiscus mailings and membership issues, including your pending changes of address or our errors, to my email.

Hazel Gordon
hazelgordon@hotmail.com

HELP! New Newsletter Editor Needed!

We still need someone with courage and good grammar to help CNPS Sac Valley communicate! The newsletter is a vital part of making our chapter work, and it’s a great chance to get to know your chapter and to make a difference.

If you’re good at meeting deadlines and enjoy helping people communicate, you can edit the newsletter. Access to a page-layout program are helpful, as is any editing or layout experience. Even if you don’t have experience, I’ll be happy to consult with whoever becomes the next editor, so the transition goes as smoothly as possible.

Please contact me at ajboyer@dcn.org, (530) 753-6323, if you’re interested.

Amy Boyer

Are You a “People Person?”

If you think you might enjoy helping out at our booth at an event or two, let us know how you feel. We sometimes turn down an opportunity to get CNPS in the public eye because the same few people help out every time. Your fresh face can help us avoid burn-out and lets you meet new homeowners, plant nerds, restorationists, and enthusiastic kids. Contact Mary Schiedt, Fairs and Events, at maryolo1 at netscape dot net, or (530) 661-6061. We promise not to overwork you!

May Jepson Herbarium Workshops

For more information, or to register, please consult http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepwkshp.html or phone Cynthia Perrine, Public Programs Coordinator at the Jepson Herbarium, (510) 643-7008.

May 6–8: Boraginaceae

May 7–8: Poaceae

May 12–15: Flora of Eureka Dunes and Inyo Mts

Thanks, Trader Joe’s!

What would 100 wildflower and native plant examples look like at Wildflower Weekend without special water-filled containers to hold them for display?

When Chris Lewis, CNPS Sac Valley president, wondered about displaying a large variety of local native flora, she approached Manager Richard Allen at Trader Joe’s in Town and Country Village for help.

The results? Tasty and practical! The Wildflower Weekend “stars” were exhibited attractively in 100 Orangina bottles donated by Trader Joe’s. Earlier, CNPS members and guests attending the March and April meetings were assigned the welcome task of emptying the bottles prior to the wildflower show. No one refused this assignment!

THANK YOU TRADER JOE’S at Town and Country Village, Marconi, for your generous donation to Wildflower Weekend.

Contribute to the Newsletter!

Send pictures and articles by May 8 for the June Hibiscus to ajboyer@dcn.org, (530) 753-6323.

This newsletter produced pro bono by Amy J. Boyer

Getting the word out for the earth and its people.

Writing • Editing • Software scripting
The Sacramento Valley chapter newsletter, Hibiscus, is published every month, except for December, July and August. Subscriptions are $10.00 for one year. If you wish to subscribe solely to the newsletter, send your check for $10, made out to: CNPS Sac Valley Membership, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.

Articles for Hibiscus must be submitted to the newsletter editor by the 8th of the month for the next month’s issue.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name_____________________________________
Address____________________________________
City____________________________State_______
Zipcode________________

I wish to affiliate with
___Sacramento Valley Chapter of CNPS
___Other chapter____________________________

Membership category
___Student, Retired, or Limited Income: $20
___Individual, or Library: $35
___Household, Family, or Group: $45
___Supporting: $75
___Plant Lover: $100
___Benefactor: $500
___Bristlecone: $1,000

Please complete form and mail with a check payable to
California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.
Tel. (916) 447-2677 • Fax (916) 447-2727