Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month (except July, Aug, & Dec) at 7PM at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center in McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento

NEXt MEETING: 
Wed., June 12
Questions? Contact Carol Witham, cwitham@ncal.net

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.
Books and Sacramento Valley Chapter T-shirts 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/join. 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 also available.
Send questions or address changes to cnps@cnps.org.

JUNE CHAPTER MEETING:

Finger Foods and Gardens
Gone Native! Virtual Tour
Presented by Susan Freigen

No utensils needed! Just bring yourself for a relaxing evening. Or, if you like, you may bring a favorite finger food or non-alcoholic beverage to share. We’ll provide napkins, plates, and cups. Feel free to be really earth-friendly and bring your own re-usable dishes.

Snack time will be followed by a virtual “Gardens Gone Native” tour! If you missed the gardens during our April tour — or were not able to get to all of the gardens you wanted to see — here’s your chance to see what you missed! This virtual tour will showcase our own CNPS member gardens and take you all over town in just one evening. They include drought tolerant gardens and ponds; well-manicured “traditional look” gardens, habitat gardens, artistic gardens, and “wild” gardens. From newly planted to long-established, our members’ gardens are as diverse as we are! Our tour will certainly have something for everyone, to inspire your own native landscaping ambitions.

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.
Sutter Buttes Volcanic Site, Sutter County in April

by Hazel Gordon

I recently had the good fortune to visit part of the Sutter Buttes in their near-peak blooming season. The trips are usually run by the Middle Mountain Foundation (www.middlemountain.org) for a fee, and this one in early April was oriented for a group of local botanists. The Buttes are an extrusive and compact volcanic feature that erupted in the early Pleistocene Epoch. The highest point on South Butte is 2,132 feet in elevation, the North and West buttes are a bit lower. Both pyroclastic (explosive) and more gently flowing lavas occurred in which the older rhyolite deposits are now seen scattered around the central core of andesite and dacite lavas and their fragmented blocks. Debris flows and lahars (water-saturated lava flows) and outcroppings of pre-volcanic marine deposits of Sacramento Valley’s pre-Pleistocene shallow sea plus other non-marine sedimentary deposits and sediments complicate the geologic picture. A very deep lake deposit, some 1,000 feet thick, of sands and gravels derived from later eruptions is exposed at the center of the Buttes. The amazing landscape of volcanic crags was awesome to see as the day threatened to bring a thunderstorm in late afternoon.

Private ranches dominate the area; domestic animals are plentiful and colorful. We saw cattle from different breeds intermingling.

It was a pleasure to observe the water in ponds and small creeks and to try to understand the geologic features. Despite prolific non-native flowers, the beauty of the native plants and topography were worth the effort to get here. The seeming remoteness of this area is charmingly deceptive, as travel time to the site was much less than I had anticipated. It was a delightful day for most of us!

Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery

2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, on the American River Parkway at Soil Born Farms

By Chris Lewis, Nursery Leader

It is summer in the Nursery! We pot up seedlings and learn various plant propagating techniques under the excellent direction of Robin Rietz, Propagation Director. We treat volunteers to peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. We work year-round in the warmth of a Greenhouse in cold months or in the shade of Sycamore-like trees in the heat. We also work in our demonstration gardens on Wednesdays. Please bring gloves and water. For more information email Chris at lewisC916@yahoo.com.

Friday Walks

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The Nursery’s Friday Walks started with the singular focus of seed collecting on what were “Furlough Fridays.” Now each week we also enjoy plant identification, ecology and habitat, photography, and fun. Our destination changes each week depending on the Nursery’s need and the group’s interest. Walks are listed in our eNewsletter and on our webpage at SacValley.CNPS.org/Field Trips/Friday Walks
The Hunt for Andean Tussockgrass
by Ramona Robinson

Did you know the non-native Andean tussockgrass, *Stipa manicata*, is displacing native grasses? Starting in May we are planning to map the distribution and assess the feasibility of control on State Parks managed lands.

It used to be known as *Nassella manicata* or *N. formicarum*, but like our beloved purple needlegrass, it has now been moved back into *Stipa*. We now know it occurs in the Folsom State Recreation Area in the Peninsula Campground area, and along the Brown’s Ravine entrance off Green Valley Road. It is more common in coastal Sonoma and Marin counties, but its distribution in our area is not yet well documented. This plant has been known from the area for over 10 years. If you know any locations of this species in the Folsom area please contact Ramona Robison at (ramona.robinson@parks.ca.gov) or 916-653-0578. Thanks for your help in tracking down this non-native *Stipa*!

The following excerpt is from a paper by David Amme, published in the California Native Grass Association newsletter [Grasslands: A Publication of the California Native Grass Association 2003 13(4):3p].

“*N. manicata* (common name unknown) was first recognized as a different *Nassella* by the author in 1987 along the Sonoma County coast north of Jenner. It was immediately given the epithet “Stipa X” (Amme and Edwards 1988). Later Amme observed it on Angel Island. Everett Butts, the California Native Grass Association’s current eldest elder from Lincoln, found a healthy pure stand of an interesting *Nassella* in a wet grassy swale near Humbug Creek south of Folsom, California, which turned out to be *N. manicata*. Another large stand was soon observed by a State Parks ecologist in a wet swale just east of Folsom Lake and southwest of Flagstaff Hill. Dr. Mary Barkworth, editor of the new Manual of Grasses of the United States, collected samples and initially identified it as *N. formicarum* native to Argentina and Uruguay (Hickman 1993). *N. manicata* has apparently hitched a ride to the golden state with South America vaqueros and their livestock looking for greener pastures.

“Distinguishing *N. manicata* from *N. pulchra* is not easy. The seed, although similar in shape to that of *N. pulchra*, is slightly smaller and, like that of *N. cernua*, mostly glabrous. The awn is generally shorter than *N. pulchra* ranging from 40 to 80 mm in length (Barkworth 2003). A pronounced and unmistakable feature of *N. manicata* is the smooth constricted neck situated at the top of the seed, just below the awn. This feature is harder to distinguish as the material dries, however, the neck remains white in color. The white, glabrous constricted neck feature is also shared with the Texas needlegrass (*N. leucotricha*). Ecologically, *N. manicata* continues to grow as long as there is moisture and thrives with irrigation, whereas, *N. pulchra* displays more summer dormancy. Under moist meadow or coastal conditions, *N. manicata* plants grow to be quite robust with many flowering culms surpassing 1.5 meters in height. In the summer season, when typical purple needlegrass plants are dormant, the *N. manicata* plants are exhibiting new growth and form two or three secondary branched flowering culms from the nodes of the main flowering stem. On sites that are ungrazed (e.g., coastal terraces and moist flats near Folsom Lake) the individual bunches of *N. manicata* are difficult to distinguish and the plants grow in large continuous stands in swales and depressions. The largest population of *N. manicata* in California is in Sonoma County between the Russian River at Jenner to the beginning of Meyers Grade Road north of Russian Gulch. Tall plants are conspicuous along the side of Highway 1. Most of the open grassland at the beginning of Meyers Grade Road is dominated by *N. manicata*. *N. manicata* is not likely to invade typical summer drought grasslands, but mesic grasslands and possibly jurisdictional wetlands will need close monitoring.”
Field Trips

We have had a beautiful vernal pool year and the lower elevation wildflowers have been beautiful. Our trips have been well attended. We have been having a lot of fun sharing the outdoors together. While the valley wildflowers are starting to dry out, wildflowers continue to bloom at higher elevations. We plan to keep trips going into summer – following the blooms up the foothills and into the mountains. As we start to go higher into the forests and mountains, we will be travelling further from home and we hope you will take advantage of these opportunities. Carpools can be arranged. Please contact the trip leaders if you plan to attend. They need to know the number of participants. Chapter meetings will soon end for summer and since we do not have some of the trip dates set in stone, be sure to visit the CNPS Sacramento Valley website and access the “Field Trips” tab for detailed information and driving directions. The website is updated regularly. (You can also see what activities we have offered already this year and plan places you would like to visit in 2014). If you would like to lead a trip, or have suggestions about places to visit, please contact Pam Kirkbride at pamk7@frontier.com – 916-687-8134

Butterfly Valley Botanical Area
Saturday June 22nd – All Day
Join David Popp, and several other knowledgeable guides, to wander through this interesting area. Butterfly Valley was designated a protected botanical area in 1976 due to its abundance and diversity of plant life. It is located just north of Quincy, in Plumas County, and is home to the rare carnivorous plant Darlingtonia californica. The unique plant community also includes other carnivorous plants, species of native orchids; tiger lilies including Lilium washingtonianum and Lilium parvum; many species of native California ferns; and other California native plants. For more information, please check the website or Contact David at davidpp3@comcast.net.

Carson Pass
Wildflowers and Butterflies
Date – Probably July 13-but this could change. All day trip.
Watch the website for updates.
Join Pam Kirkbride and Greg Kareofelas to climb the trail up to Winnemucca Lake and view high mountain wildflowers and butterflies. This trail contains elephant heads, columbine, lupine, mule’s ear, buckwheat, penstemon, polemonium, wild onion, sandwort, catchfly, jewel flower, calochortus lilies, monkey flowers, and larkspur - just to name a few. Greg will tell you how some butterflies survive high elevation environments. The hike is at high elevation, but we will move slowly up the trail as there is much to stop and look at. Bring a lunch to eat at the lake, water, sturdy hiking shoes, camera, hat, suntan cream and rain gear if thunderstorms are forecast. There is a fee for parking at the trailhead at Woods Lake. For more information, watch the CNPS website or contact Pam Kirkbride at pamk7@frontier.com or by phone 916-687-8134.

Grass Lake – Exploring a Sphagnum Bog
Date – Probably August 3rd – but the date could change. Watch the website for possible updates.
Join Carol Witham and Greg Kareofelas to explore Grass Lake, the largest Sphagnum bog in California. While Carol will be showing us the local plants; Greg will be helping us watch for, and identify, dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies. This lake is considered the best representative floating bog in the Sierra Nevada. The area has a complex association of habitats ranging from aquatic and meadow types through upland forest. This diversity, along with a largely intact watershed surrounding the marshlands and meadows, contributes to the value of this site. It supports a number of boreal plant species unusual in the Sierra Nevada. In addition, several species of plants occur locally at substantially lower elevations than typical elsewhere in the Sierra Nevada. The wetlands support three species of carnivorous plants and four species of orchids. The plant associations are relatively pristine with virtually no introduced plants in the bog and meadow. For more information, watch the CNPS website or contact Pam Kirkbride at pamk7@frontier.com or by phone 916-687-8134.
Rare Plant Treasure Hunt
This year the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt is taking on the California Central Coast as a new geographic focus. We will be leading many trips in Monterey County’s Ventana Wilderness as well as in California State Parks and other public lands. We are pleased to announce that Deanna Giuliano, the Santa Cruz Chapter President, will be helping us out this season. Please consider coming out to join us. If you can make it out let us know. Happy Rare Plant Hunting!
http://cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/treasurehunt

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

Sunday, June 9, 9am - noon
Sunday, June 30, 9am - noon
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. Volunteers can take home free native plants. For more information, contact Cassandra at cnpsgarden@gmail.com

Ceanothus—Collaborative Plant Identification Workshops
3rd Sat. of month, 9 a.m.
UC Davis Herbarium (Center for Plant Diversity).
Michael Bower, (530) 902-8721

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, lewisc916@yahoo.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.

Pine Ridge Trail / Sykes Hot Springs Backpacking (Monterey County)
Wednesday to Friday, June 5-7
Andrew Molera State Park (Monterey County)
Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m to 4 p.m.
Alder Creek Botanical Area Car Camp/Optional Mountain Bike (Monterey Co.)
Friday to Sunday, June 14 to 16
Tomales Bay Rare Plant Treasure Hunt Saturday, June 22, 2013, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
Lion’s Den Botanical Area and Cruickshank Trail Backpacking/ Optional Car Camp Rendezvous Friday to Sunday, June 28 to 30
Trip information available by emailing dslakey@cnps.org, or at http://www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/treasurehunt/calendar.php

Other items of interest

Chico State Herbarium Activities
June 22, 2013, Saturday, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Introduction to the Willows of California (Salicaceae)

July 2013, Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Intro to Native Bees as Pollinators (date tba)
For more information about Friends of the Chico State Herbarium please go to: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html

A Field Trip in the White Mountains with the California GLORIA Project
Session 1: Sat July 20th - 24th
Session 2: Wed July 24th - 28th
The Full GLORIA Experience: Sat July 20th - Sun July 28th
This year the California Global Observation & Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA) field crew is holding an open-invitation field trip. For more details visit the GLORIA website: http://www.gloriacalifornia.org

Harvest Day at the Fair Oaks Horticultural Center August 3, 2013 8 a.m. -2 p.m.
Harvest Day is held in a grove of huge Valley Oaks, and the emphasis is on plants. Sacramento Valley CNPS will have a table at this event. Master Gardeners will be there as well as many local organizations. The demonstration garden has non-natives and natives. Attendance and parking are FREE. Hours, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., perfect for a hot time of the year.

Sacramento Valley Chapter Stockton Subchapter
Visit the Stockton subchapter’s website for latest news: eepurl.com/u8smNj Use this link to subscribe to the Stockton sub-chapter e-mail list: eepurl.com/usITb
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.
Hosts and Visitors Agree: Gardens Gone Native a Resounding Success

by Mary Ann Robinson

Twenty three groomed and labeled native plant gardens, a beautiful sunny day, and over 350 curious and enthusiastic visitors. By all accounts, the third annual CNPS Gardens Gone Native tour was a great success. If you missed the tour or would like to be a garden host next year, let these comments from hosts and visitors inspire you:

From Garden Hosts:

Hosting a garden is a pleasure. I relish sharing how easy it is to turn a boring yard into a glorious native shade garden in downtown Sacramento... Very gratifying.

Many visitors were in the planning stages of doing their own native gardens and were encouraged to see they could do it themselves... I was delighted to discover when I checked my bee house that some bees had nested in it. This was neat to show guests.

Favorite plants of the day: foothill penstemon and heuchera.

The tour was great fun for us. The mulch was all in place and the plant labels too. People expressed appreciation for the labels. And the poppies obliged us by blooming big!

It was a good day... There were lots of very positive comments on my yard, and the map and plant list I put together... People focused on things which were in bloom. Next year I plan to have pictures of plants that bloom at different times to give people an idea of what else to consider.

From Visitors:

I appreciated seeing gardens in different stages of development and the unique & utilitarian creativity. Looking forward to the tour next year.

Wonderful tour! Very gracious hosts. Well done! Every time I attend the tours, I am inspired to get back to work on my native plant garden. I always learn something new, even after years of going.

I was part of a group of four individuals...It was particularly helpful to see the plants in person so we can truly appreciate their color, size, and structure which will be helpful for us to incorporate native plants in our gardens in the future.

(Comments edited for length.)

3rd Annual Gardens Gone Native Tour Thank You!

by Susan Fregien, GGN Committee Chair

The 3rd Annual GGN Tour held on Saturday April 20th was a great success thanks to the garden hosts, greeters and docents, and a dedicated team of committee members. This entire event was organized and executed by volunteers, all of whom are already busy with jobs, family and other commitments. It was really inspiring and fulfilling to work with everyone who participated. I can’t think of anything more fun than talking and working with people who share a love of California native plants and who also want to share that with the larger community.

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. Depending on the news, we send 3 to 10 announcements per month. Sign up at: SacValley.CNPS.org/ or contact Chris at LewisC916@yahoo.com.
Wildflower Wonders 2013
by Chris Lewis

Wildflower Wonders was well attended by enthusiastic plant lovers. Wildflower Wonders had the enthusiastic participation of SVC CNPS Board members including: Alison Shilling, Barb Wolf, Betsy Weiland, Bonnie Ross, Brian Maxwell, Carol Crofoot, Deb Popejoy, Eva Butler, Joanne Heraty, Julie Serences, Martha Mallory, Pam Kirkbride, Paul Barth.

We were joined by these stars: Bernadette Balics, Betsy Webster, Greg Suba, Guy Galante, John Hunter, John Schmidt, Melanie DuBoce and Lestelle Manley-Nichols, Melanie Gogol-Prokurat, Michelle Stevens, Mike Finan, Robin Rietz, Shawn Harrison, Tara Collins, Tom Pimienta, Trevor Burwell.

Many CNPS members volunteered the entire day, as did students from Dr. Shannon Datwyler and Dr. Michelle Stevens classes, as well as students from Delta Epsilon Mu, a professional pre-health fraternity at Sac State. I want to thank you all: Alejandro Gutierrez, Alex Morton, Annette & Mike Heacox, Asha Galbadon, Ashton Smith, Barb Garnier, Bea Auerlio, Brandon Schaffer, Brian Andrew Kruger, Charles Fitzsimmon, Colene Rauh, Darrell nier, Bea Auerlio, Brandon Schaffer, Brian Andrew

View Jim Wadsworth’s photos on flickr at http://flickr/s/aHsjEW2kP5
Hibiscus returns in September!

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

Summer 2013

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 Elderberry Farms
3 Andean Tussockgrass
4 Upcoming Field Trips
5 Rare Plant Treasure Hunts

Our chapter meetings are free and open to the public! Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, our events would not be possible without your support! See page 6 and 7 for thank-yous!