Natural Variation
a slide presentation by Eric Knapp

Within plant populations, no two individuals look exactly alike. Sometimes the differences in traits such as flower color or the color of leaves in the fall are obvious. Other differences, such as leaf shape or growth form are subtle, and require an eye for detail to detect. This variation not only provides the building blocks for evolutionary change, but adds interest and beauty to our surroundings.

Eric Knapp began taking photographs of variation in nature thirteen years ago, an idea inspired by teaching a college course in plant evolution. The resulting collection of images provides a glimpse into the world of shapes, colors and sizes within plant populations that might be missed if one hurries down the trail.

Eric is a Research Ecologist for the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station in Redding, where he carries out studies on fire ecology and fuel management. Before moving to Redding, he managed a research program in Sequoia National Park, where many of the photographs were taken. In his spare time he enjoys backpacking, telemark skiing, botanizing, and photography—especially capturing the “freaks” of nature on film.

ALSO at this meeting:
CNPS 2007 Legislator of the Year Award Presentation Honoring Assemblywoman Lois Wolk (Davis) See Page 2
See Inside for our CALENDAR OF EVENTS!
Local Assemblywoman Lois Wolk is a lifelong supporter of natural resources, native habitats and open space preservation. She has been a persistent leader on conservation and general environmental issues and this has guided her legislative activities. Assemblywoman Wolk routinely takes positions that are consistent with the CNPS mission and our conservation goals. The California League of Conservation Voters has scored her at between 70% and 100% each year regarding her favorable votes on key environmental legislation.

Lois Wolk has represented the 8th Assembly District, an area that includes all of Yolo County except part of its rural northwest and all of Solano County except Vallejo, since 2002. She rose to chair of the Assembly’s Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee in addition to serving on many other committees. In her short time in the Assembly, Ms Wolk has been one of California’s strongest voices for protecting nature.

She was instrumental in obtaining California Wild and Scenic River status for Cache Creek, spending many days and weeks of personal time resolving differences among numerous groups until intense opposition was overcome and Cache Creek’s beautiful canyon was finally protected forever. Whenever the environment needs a friend Lois Wolk is there, whether it’s cleaning an oil spill in Suisun Bay or addressing the need for more state parks in the Central Valley. The organization ECOS recognized her great work by naming her Environmentalist of the Year in 2006.

A native of Philadelphia, Ms Wolk first entered politics when elected to the Davis City Council in 1990. She became Davis mayor in 1992 and then a Yolo County Supervisor in 1998. Because of term limits she unfortunately must leave the Assembly this year, but her good work for the environment doesn’t need to end. She plans to run for the Fifth State Senate District to replace Mike Machado, who is leaving office. Winning will be a challenge since Ms Wolk loses some of her old district and must run in new territory that extends south through the Delta to Stockton and Tracy. We wish her well in this new challenge so she can continue to be nature’s strong voice in Sacramento.

Ms Wolk will accept this award at our March 12 chapter meeting. Let’s have a fantastic turn-out to honor her!

**Forest Poems**

*Melinda Rivasplata*

I.

Black oaks glow golden
against conifer green
Red underwings unfold
a flight barely seen.

II.

Black oaks glow
amidst a conifer screen.
A Flicker calls sharply and red
underwings flash.
In the thickening silence
no tree falls in the forest.
Does anyone hear?

III.

The forest has no opinion
(though some may have pinion).
Conifers are those darkish greens
(pine, cedar, fir, hemlock and spruce)
Because they are conifers
they need no excuse.

The black oaks
may seem the eccentrics
with no apparent reason
use leaves changing
from bright green to gold
then falling with the seasons
But I remind you,
the forest has no opinion.

Fir and pine are
better for lumber,
cedar is spurned as a weed.
Clear cutting encourages
shrubby succession
and lets loose soil in the creek
But once again,
I can only tell you
The forest has no opinion.

**If you can spend 2 hours or more at the Plant Sale during Wildflower Weekend, please contact Betsy Weiland at flweiland@yahoo.com or phone 916 488-3894.**
Not the ones you think you know about! Our fourth annual Wildflower Weekend, an outreach event that showcases native plants in their natural habitats of our greater Sacramento region, will be held on April 12 and 13. This year we inaugurate a new exhibit: “The Birds & the Bees (and the Flowers and the Trees).”

As we know, habitats are more than plants. “The Birds & the Bees” will explore the connections between those creatures and our native flora. Trees, shrubs and flowers provide homes, food and shelter for the winged ones, which in turn help plants reproduce by dispersing seeds and pollen. In some instances, species have evolved together, linking the survival of each to the other.

Byron Love, a graduate student researcher in biological sciences at California State University, Sacramento, will host the exhibit and also present a talk on the topic. Representatives from Sacramento Audubon Society will be present to answer questions regarding attracting and identifying birds.

In the Wildflower Weekend tradition, each stall of a charming converted barn will feature one habitat—oak woodland, vernal pool grassland, California prairie, riparian woodland, freshwater marsh, and chaparral—and highlight its rare and endangered plants. Hundreds of fresh-cut native wildflowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses illustrate each display. Rounding out each habitat area are inspiring photographs of the landscape. Expert naturalists provide friendly and knowledgeable interpretation at each exhibit.

Presentations this year have something to offer everyone, no matter what their interest is in our natural landscapes: landscaping with natives, hiking the California Heartland, vernal pool endemics, and Native American uses of native plants—all this and the birds and bees!

And of course, don’t miss Wildflower Weekend’s two-day native plant sale! Purchase plants for your own garden, get free assistance from gardening experts. As always, a wide variety of gardening books, field guides, and other native plant literature will be for sale. Proceeds from this event support our chapter’s outreach, education and conservation work.

Invite your colleagues, friends and family to join us at Wildflower Weekend 2008!
We have postcards you can mail or distribute! Pick them up at the Nursery workday (March 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. American River Ranch); Habitat 2020 meeting (March 10, 7:00 p.m. at the Arden-Dimick Library); Chapter meeting on March 12; or by contacting Chris at (916) 812-2876 to arrange to pick up!

STILL recruiting volunteers!
Contact Chris Lewis
lewisc916@yahoo.com / Phone: (916) 482-5282
MARCH

Sat., 3/1 Salt Springs Reservoir Hike
Leader: Doug Rischbieter
(916) 296-0901
Experience an area similar to what a restored Hetch-Hetchy might look like. Join Doug for a 5-6 mile hike along Salt Springs Reservoir. The hike could easily be up to twice as long, depending on the interest and ability of those in the party. Camping overnight a possibility. Plan to meet in Jackson at 7a.m., and to proceed about another 40 miles on slow, narrow road. Participants limited to 15 maximum.
For more information call Doug.

Thu., 3/6, 8:00 a.m.
Nature Walk
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Leader: Jack Hiehle
Meet wildlife expert Jack Hiehle in the parking lot at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center (in Ancil Hoffman Park) and take a guided walk through the Nature Area.

Sat. 3/8, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
American River Native Plant Nursery/Demo Garden Workdays
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova
For information, contact Chris Lewis, lewisc916@yahoo.com / (916) 812-2876.

Sun., 3/16, 8:00 a.m.
Habitat Improvement
Leader: Jack Hiehle
Come and help Jack improve the Nature Area. Call Jack at 967-0777 if you are planning to help with this project.

ONGOING

Native Plant Demo-Garden Saturdays and Sundays
10 a.m. until noon (Rain cancels)
Wear a hat, long shirt and boots (or sturdy tennis shoes). Also bring gloves, gardening tools and knee pads if you have them. RSVP by Sunday at 5 p.m. to confirm 929-7896. For more info, Sabrina soj@surewest.net

Chapter Meeting & Guest Speaker
2nd Wed. of month, 7:00 p.m.
(Jan-June; Sept.-Nov)
Shepard Garden & Arts Center, McKinley Park, Sacramento.
Meetings are free and open to the public. Books, Wildflower Seeds, and our SacValley t-shirt always available for purchase. Refreshments.

Habitat 2020 Conservation
Mon. 3/10 7:00 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Avenue at the corner of Watt Avenue and Northrup
For information, contact Chris Lewis, lewisc916@yahoo.com / (916) 812-2876.

Sacramento Splash presents a
Nature in the Neighborhood family event
Stargazing at Mather Field
When: Saturday, March 15th, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Where: Splash Education Center, 4426 Excelsior Road, Mather, CA 95655
Cost: $10/adult, $5/child (8-18)
Join us for this very special program as members of the Sacramento Valley Astronomical Society share their cosmic knowledge with us. Check out the night sky over Mather Field through giant telescopes. Each telescope will be focused on a different object, so you can go from scope to scope and see a variety of amazing celestial treats. Reservations strongly recommended. Please visit www.sacsplash.org or call (916) 364-2437.
Since this program depends on clear skies, it will be cancelled in the event of rain or heavy clouds.
Effie Yeaw Nature Center - March 2008
Located in Ancil Hoffman County Park, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, CA
All programs are FREE unless stated otherwise.
Park entrance fee: $5.00 per car or FREE to ARNHA members.
Open 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. daily.
For more information about the Center or events, contact: www.effieyeaw.org or (916) 489-4918

Interative Exhibit: Endangered Species of California’s Central Valley

Nature Myths Debunked
Will a toad give you warts? Does a porcupine shoot its quills? Learn the truth about these myths and more. Sat., 3/1 at 1:30 p.m.

Reptiles, Mammals, and Birds
Some birds never fly and some mammals live in water all their lives. See how many differences and similarities you can find during this lively presentation. Sun., 3/2nd at 1:30 p.m.

Drawing from Nature
Expert artists not required! Join a naturalist and learn some simple skills to capture nature on paper. Supplies provided. Sat., 3/8 at 1:30 p.m.

Basic Birding
Join Brian, the Nature Center’s birding expert, to find and identify the birds most commonly seen in our area. Bring your binoculars. Sun., 3/9 at 1:30 p.m.

SSSnakes
Where do these scaly creatures go when the sun does not shine? Learn about the life of a snake and get a chance to meet one! Sat., 3/15 at 1:30 p.m.

Go for the Green
Celebrate the day with a green craft project and then take a walk to find a rainbow of colors in the Nature Area. Sun., 3/16 at 1:30 p.m.

Endangered Species
Join a naturalist for a guided tour of the Nature Center’s interactive exhibit, Endangered Species of California’s Central Valley. Try on some life-sized California condor wings, crawl into the kit fox burrow and more. Sat., 3/22 at 1:30 p.m.

Rabbit or Hare?
Hop on in and find out why long ears and fluffy tails aren’t the end of the story. Make your own pair of ears and then go out into the Nature Area to look for some of these fast and furry animals. Sun., 3/23rd at 1:30 p.m.

Marcie the Marsupial
Meet the Nature Center’s newest resident, an eight month old opossum. Find out how these shy nocturnal creatures survive and what makes them more like kangaroos than rats. Sat., 3/29 at 1:30 p.m.

Beginning Nature Photography
Join Natalie to learn some basics of nature photography. Sun., 3/30 at 1:30 p.m.

Sierra Nevada Lecture Series
Presented by the Sierra College Natural History Museum, the Sierra College Center for Sierra Nevada Studies – Free & Open to the Public
Thursday nights, 6 – 9 p.m.
Sierra College - Rocklin Campus
Room LRC 107
Learning Resources/ Library Bldg.
visit www.sierracollege.edu

3/6 The Hetch Hetchy Story
Dennis Pottenger, journalist, Hetch Hetchy historian; Ron Good, Executive Director, Restore Hetch Hetchy

3/13 The Sierra Nevada Project
John Muir Laws, Naturalist and Illustrator, California Academy of Sciences

3/27 The Artistic Legacy of Chiura Obata
Kimi Kodani Hill, Artist, Trustee of the Yosemite Association, Obata Family Historian

April 3 Sierra Nevada Trout and Salmon
Peter Moyle, professor of fish biology in the Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology, UC Davis
Lectures weekly through May 8.
916-789-2725 / jmedeiros@sierracollege.edu
916-781-7184 / gnoy@sierracollege.edu

See next page for Special Events at Effie Yeaw!
Giant reed (Arundo donax) and common reed (Phragmites australis) are major invasive plants of riparian and wetland ecosystems in the U.S. The Arundo/Phragmites Symposium brings together experts from both coasts to present the current knowledge on the biology, ecology, impacts, and management of both species. While common reed is principally thought to be a problem of the east coast, invasive biotypes have been identified from California and Idaho. This will be an opportunity for “weed warriors” in the west to learn first hand about this potential new pest. Plan now to attend this important symposium.

Spring Botanical Illustration Workshops in the Mojave Desert

Donald Davidson will teach two Mojave Desert native plants-oriented workshops this Spring. Examples of past programs may be seen at <www.nps.gov/plants/cw/watercolor/index.htm>
davidson@interpretnature.us / (202) 744-3647

Desert Studies Center, Zzyzx (Soda Springs), CA
Friday, April 4, 7 p.m. through Sunday, April 6, 3 p.m.
Registration Deadline: Monday, March 19, 2007
Contact: Carol Galvin at Tel (909) 537-3910 for ART 1509 (credit optional)
<http://cel.csusb.edu/desert_studies.html>

Joshua Tree National Park
Sunday, March 16, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Contact “Join JTNPA” before you register and qualify for the member rates ($10 off on Desert Institute classes and 15% discount at our visitor centers). Call (760) 367-5525 or use our online Membership Application form.
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/cw/watercolor/weekendworkshop/index.htm>
To register for a course by phone, please call (760) 367-5535.
Important: Register through “The Desert Institute” for UCR Credit Optional Classes.

Botanical Drawing: A Visual Journal
Sunday, March 16, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Class #: 329
Cost: $50
($40 for JTNPA/PINE members)
Meet at Oasis Visitor Center
Instructor: Donald Davidson
Hike Level: Easy

Registration for the Symposium and hotel reservations are available at the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) website (http://www.wsweedscience.org).
Registration fee: $100 / $50 for students with current student id.
For further information, contact a member of the symposium committee:
Chair: Carl E. Bell, UC Cooperative Extension, San Diego, CA (cebell@ucdavis.edu); Tom Dudley, UC, Santa Barbara, CA (tdudley@msi.ucsb.edu)
Adam Lambert, U. of Eastern Connecticut State College (lamberta@easternct.edu); Joe DiTomaso, UC, Davis, CA (jmditomaso@ucdavis.edu)
Posters and exhibits by private individuals and non-profit organizations that register for the symposium are being accepted; please contact Carl E. Bell for information.
Legenere
(Legenere limosa)

Bellflower Family (Campanulaceae)
Federal Status – None
State Status – None
Other – CNPS List 1B (rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere)

Legenere is an annual herb that occurs in a variety of aquatic habitats including vernal pools, seasonally wet swales, stock ponds, and floodplains of intermittent drainages. It occurs at elevations that range from 1 to 880 meters (m) above mean sea level. This species blooms from April through June. The known range of legenere includes Alameda, Lake, Napa, Placer, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Shasta, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus (may be extirpated), Tehama, and Yuba counties.

Legenere is differentiated from other species in the Campanulaceae family by its unique cylindrical fruits. In fact, another common name for this species is Venus’ looking glass. This name refers to the fruit shape because it resembles the cone-shaped sea telescopes historically used by sailors. Legenere is a fleshy, prostrate to decumbent, or reclining species and is often seen clambering up other emergent species such as creeping spikerush (Eleocharis macrostachya). This species may be approximately 10 to 30 centimeters (cm) in length. It has a characteristic zig-zag axis and a single leaf-like bract subtends each flower. The narrow, slightly triangular leaves of legenere are sessile and the inconspicuous white flowers are early deciduous. Legenere is cryptic and may be difficult to detect, even by the trained eye.
It’s almost here! See p. 3

MARCH 2008 Hibiscus
www.SacValleyCNPS.org
The Sacramento Valley chapter newsletter, Hibiscus, is published monthly, except for July, August, and December. Subscriptions are $10 per year. To subscribe solely to this newsletter, send your $10 check to: CNPS Sac Valley Membership, 2707 K St., Ste. 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. Deadline for Hibiscus contributions is midnight of the Friday after the monthly meeting for possible inclusion in the next month’s newsletter. Email to bwolf@surewest.net

Do you part for our chapter!

We are still recruiting for:

Vice President - heir-apparent to the presidency
Hospitality Chair - Juice-and-Cookie Master!
Book Chair - bibliophile’s dream job
Program Chair - we’ll let you entertain us.
Field Trips coordinator - Share the fun!
Current chair persons will help you ease into the position. Some positions lend themselves to teaming up—get a partner and share the experience. For information or to volunteer, Call Mary M. at (916) 961-4057

Are you being served?
Subscribe to the chapter listserv by sending a blank email to: CNPS_SacramentoValley-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Contact Harry Spanglet (spanglet@water.ca.gov) for more info.

You may choose to receive your newsletter via e-mail instead of a printed copy. What’s the advantage? You get your newsletter sooner than a regular-mail copy; and, you get to enjoy it in full, glorious color! Send an e-mail to Barbara W. at <bwolf@surewest.net> and Hazel G. at <hazelpgordon@hotmail.com> if you’d like to stop your paper copies.

Northern California Botanists (NCB) Announces Botany Research Scholarship Program
<www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/norcalbot/scholarships.htm>

Starting in 2008 NCB will provide a number of $1000 botany and plant ecology research awards each year to undergraduate and graduate students who are studying botany and/or plant ecology. These research scholarships are funded by NCB with the goals of promoting undergraduate and graduate botany and plant ecology research, of encouraging undergraduate students to pursue academic endeavors toward a career in botany, and to implement the objectives of the NCB mission. The application deadline for 2008 awards is March 15.

Details about these awards, eligibility, and the application procedure may be found on the NCB web site at <www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/norcalbot/scholarships.htm>

Further questions about these NCB scholarship awards should be directed to NCB at ncbotanists@gmail.com.

More information about Northern California Botanists and its mission may be found at <www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/norcalbot/index.htm>.