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.

Serving the Sacramento, Yolo, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, lower Placer and northern San Joaquin County areas

October 2010

OCT. MEETING:
Wed., 10/13  7:00 p.m.
Shepard Garden &
Arts Center
McKinley Park
3330 McKinley Blvd.,
Sacramento 95816
Jennifer Stock, President
(916) 443-3484

OCTOBER PRESENTATION:
Native Plants in a Cemetery?
Sabrina Okamura-Johnson,
Old City Cemetery Demo-
Garden Co-Chair

Cemeteries often conjure up visions of monuments, mausoleums, turf and trees and, in October, maybe a ghost or two. But this October we’ll introduce you to the California native plants in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery.

Sabrina Okamura-Johnson will be your tour guide to our chapter’s California Native Plant Demonstration Garden at the southeast corner of the cemetery.

The chapter established the garden 1997 in cooperation with the City of Sacramento and the Old City Cemetery Committee, Inc., to beautify this once neglected area of the cemetery and enlighten visitors to the beauty of California native plants. The cemetery is at 1000 Broadway along Riverside Boulevard.

Sabrina has been a member of the Sacramento Valley chapter of CNPS for 20 years. She has volunteered at the demo-garden since it began. Sabrina has a BS and MS in geography with an undergraduate minor in biology. She has more than 25 years experience as a land use and environmental planner/analyst, much of it gained while living, working and gardening in Sacramento. Her education, work experience and love of gardening give her a unique perspective and desire to encourage the incorporation of native plants into residential, commercial and rural landscapes.

Epilobium (syn. Zauschneria) canum ssp. Latifolium
‘Everett’s Choice’, or prostrate California fuchsia,
in cemetery plot at the garden.
Photo © 2010 Sabrina Okamura

Our chapter meetings are free and open to the public.
Wildflower seeds, books and Sacramento Valley Chapter t-shirts are available for purchase at meetings.
Refreshments provided!

For more on what’s happening at the Demo Garden, see inside!

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For more on what’s happening at the Demo Garden, see inside!
Our summer “garden parties” were busy with general maintenance chores and tending to the new babies we planted in the spring. Unfortunately we had to say good-bye to our lovely 10+ year old California flannel bush (Fremontodendron californicum) and our Ione manzanita (Arctostaphylos myrtifolia). The fremontia finally succumbed to drainage issues, a beetle infestation and possible viral infection. The manzanita just gave up the ghost.

During July and August past Demo-Garden Chair and native horticulture specialist Mitchell Alford came out to provide pointers on general and hard pruning of our native shrubs, like our lovely Channel Island bush mal- low (Lavatera asurgentiflora) and our delightful Cleveland/fragrant sages (Salvia clevelandii). On July 18 the local Native Plant Meet-up group, led by Donna Caye, came out for a tour of the garden, and met the many different varieties of California fuchsia in the garden.

After the tour some really enthusiastic group members stayed and helped with our aisle maintenance and and potted up native fuchsia to take home with them.

At the end of August all of the native fuchsia were in full bloom, the buckwheats were just starting to fade to rust, and the native rose had put forth giant clusters of delicious rose hips.

New Demo-Garden Co-Chair
Donna Caye has agreed to become a Demo-Garden co-chair. Donna will seek funding to complete the irrigation project along the Veterans’ aisle and demo-garden interface in cooperation with the Old City Cemetery Committee and Sacramento City staff. She needs assistance identifying grants and donations of money, materials or time. Donna will also work on establishing a garden tour schedule for 2011. Our goal is to have three or four tours of the demo-garden next spring and summer that complement the cemetery’s event schedule. Please contact Donna (916-850-5913) with suggestions for tours or to help.
I started my native garden project on June 8, 2009 by solarizing a section of my yard, then turning over, sifting out Bermuda grass, and building mounds. Planting began in October and November.

I had 10 cubic feet of soil in my driveway and another seven cubic feet of mulch in front.

Then I sheet-mulched, which didn’t work too well. Since then I have continued to remove Bermuda grass and hope to have that done by September.

Next steps are to install a drip system, a flagstone walkway, and complete the planting design. My goal is to have it ready for the “Gardens Gone Native” tour May 1, 2011.
**OCTOBER**

**Chapter Meeting & Guest Speaker**
2nd Wed. of month, 7:00 p.m.
(Jan-June: Sept.-Nov)
Shepard Garden & Arts Center,
Mckinley Park, Sacramento
See page 1. Meetings are free and open to the public. Books, wildflower seeds, and our SacValley t-shirt always available for purchase. Refreshments. For info: Jen Stock, (916) 443-3484 jstock2409@sbcglobal.net

**Chapter Board Meetings**
4th Wed. of month, 7:00 p.m. SMUD
Art Gallery & Community Center,
6301 S Street, Sacramento, CA95817
(Jan-June: Sept.-Nov) For more information call Jennifer Stock (916) 443-3484 or e-mail jstock2409@sbcglobal.net

**Ceanothus - Collaborative Plant Identification Workshops**
3rd Sat. of month, 9 a.m.
Davis Center for Biological Diversity. Michael Bower, Debra Sykes
Bring any plants you’re curious about, the Jepson Manual, and your enthusiasm! Visit www.ceanothus.org for upcoming workshop dates, locations, and directions. Free. Questions to ceanothusfieldbot@gmail.com

**Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery Work Days**
Located at Soil Born Farms
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova
Contact Chris Lewis (916) 812-2876 or lewisc916@yahoo.com for work day schedule. To join the garden listserv, send a blank email to: Elderberry_Farms_Native_Plan_Nursery-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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

**“Gardens Gone Native” Tour Committee Meetings**
3rd Thurs. of month, 7 p.m.
Contact simwil@surewest.net for location, directions, information.

**Attention School and Community Garden enthusiasts: Kids In Native Gardens**
Program Funds Available
Do you know of a school or community gathering place that could use $100 to buy California native plants to enhance a garden? Jennifer Hogan will provide this opportunity through the “Kids in Native Gardens” grant program.

Go to the Sacramento Valley Chapter’s website http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/gardening/kid.html for more information and to download the grant application.

Advice and site visits are included in the program.

**SAVE THE DATE!**
**May 1, 2011**
“Gardens Gone Native”
Tour
May 1, 2011 is the chapter’s first annual native garden tour of the Sacramento area. Want to help? We have two pressing needs now:

Our most critical and time-sensitive need is for web design technical assistance. We need to get our pages up and running to publicize the event.

We also are looking for gardens that are at least 50 percent native. That means that if your front yard has at least half native plants, it might be a candidate for the tour.

If you don’t garden but have seen one that might qualify, let us know the location and we’ll contact the homeowner. To help, e-mail us at simwil@surewest.net.

**Aspiring trip leaders:** Contact John Huls at 916-284-7021 or johnhuls@sbcglobal.net for help planning your trips and publicizing in the Hibiscus and our website.
Hibiscus welcomes news and listings from our Stockton subchapter, serving San Joaquin Valley CNPS Sac Valley members. If you would like to contribute, please contact Martha Mallery at (209) 477-3966 or Bob Stahmer at (209) 943-2277. Stay up to date on Stockton subchapter activities by visiting them on the web: http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/stockton/stockton.html

Field Trips

Eastern Sierra/Mono Lake
Early October, dates TBD
call Martha at (209) 477-3966
Join us for a few days at Mono Lake when the aspen trees in Lundy Canyon turn amber gold. For information call (209) 477-3966.

Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival
November 6 & 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
This year CNPS will sell a small number of popular species to spread the word about growing native plants. If you can take a shift at our table for a few a few hours, please phone (209) 477-3966

Effie Yeaw Saved! ARNHA Will Manage
In July 2010, the County of Sacramento cut all funding to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, an award-winning environmental education center and nature preserve that serves approximately 80,000 each year and has millions in the 34 years since it opened.

The American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) has stepped up to care for the Nature Center and Preserve. Sacramento County has transferred all responsibility for Nature Center management to ARNHA. Support from the community is vital to keep the Nature Center open and functioning.

Fundraiser: Photography Workshop with Lewis Kemper
When: Fri., 10/22, 7 - 9 p.m. and Sat. 10/23, 6:30 a.m. - 12 noon
Where: Effie Yeaw Nature Center, Ancil Hoffman County Park, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, CA
Who: Anyone age 12 and up with a digital camera
Cost: $120 if received by September 22; $140 after September 22. Benefits EYNC.
Registration: By credit card: call the Nature Center at (916) 489-4918. By check: mark “Photography Workshop” and mail to ARNHA, P.O. Box 241, Carmichael CA 95609. In person: Register at Effie Yeaw Nature Center, Wed. and Thurs., 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; Fri., Sat., Sun. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. www.effieyeaw.org

AB173 Native Plant Week Passes!
It’s official – the third week of April will be Native Plant Week in California! The state Senate passed AB 173 on August 30.

Thanks to Vern Goehring and Joshua Stark for working with Assemblywoman Evans and her staff to move the bill forward, and to all volunteers who contributed their efforts.

Volunteer Sunday Afternoons
2010-2011 at the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity
Oct. 17, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, and Feb. 20, 2 pm to 5 p.m.
1026 Sciences Laboratory Building, UC Davis Campus.
If you enjoy plants, museums, libraries, or just working with fun people, volunteer at the Center for Plant Diversity one Sunday afternoon this fall/winter. Parking is free and convenient. Snacks will be provided.

Many different jobs await you. Tasks that we particularly need help with include: mounting plant specimens; filing specimens, labeling specimen folders; making labels for specimens; plant identification (for those confident using the Jepson Manual).

Please contact Ellen Dean at eadean@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-1091. Driving directions and map available at http://herbarium.ucdavis.edu.

The Center will also be open for general use of the collections during these Sundays. Access to the Center will be through the loading dock door off of Hutchison Drive.

Friends of the Chico State Herbarium Workshop
Sat., 10/30 Living With California’s Native Oaks.
Workshop taught by Doug McCreary. For registration and information see www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html

SAVE THE DATE: Jan. 10-11, 2011 Northern California Botanists Annual Symposium – Chico, CA
Board Elections at the November Meeting

Elections for chapter board members will be held at the general meeting November 10. Vote is by show of hands, so it’s important that you be there!

We need nominees for President and Vice President.

To nominate someone or if you are interested in a role on the board, contact Jennifer Stock, (916) 443-3484, jstock2409@sbcglobal.net. Include “CNPS Chapter Board Elections” in the subject line.

Cemetery Demo Garden, continued from page 2

- pruning equipment, shovels, knee pads
- Old CNPS bumper stickers, which we use to label our tools.

Join us & thanks!

Please join us this fall. Your help with our ongoing garden activities, pruning, mulching, weeding, deadheading, plantings and seedling will be much appreciated.

A big thank you goes out to our dedicated volunteers of this past summer: Bridgette Dinaberg, Renate Sperlich, Kim Courtright, Alicia Riese, Dana Nolan, Julie Jones, Paul Townsend, Andy Phillips, Mitchell Alford, Bonnie Ross, Donna Caye, the Native Plant Meet-up group and our week day weeders.

As always, we hope to see you in the garden soon.

Sacramento County’s “New” General Plan

An essay by Glen Holstein, Ph.D., chapter botanist

I come to urban issues like Sacramento’s proposed new general plan indirectly, as a biologist fortunate to learn about and see worlds of beauty and diversity just beyond Sacramento’s urban edge that most folks scarcely know exist. We have also been saddened to see sprawl destroy those worlds in a slow motion holocaust.

John Muir’s heart was broken when San Francisco flooded Hetch Hetchy, a second Yosemite Valley he knew and loved. He was right when he said “everything is hitched to everything else.” Sprawl doesn’t just hurt little creatures few ever see.

Sacramento, like Stockton, San Bernardino, Las Vegas, Phoenix, and Orlando, was at the epicenter of a sprawl bubble that continues to hurt people all over. How did it happen? Our balance of payments became increasingly negative as policies de-industrialized America and Americans bought foreign goods.

America found a way to get that money back in mortgage securities marketed to the world. That worked until about 2006 when we ran out of home buyers with the good jobs manufacturing used to provide. The system lasted another year or so until the world caught on it was now based on selling homes to folks without the income to pay for them. The rest is history.

World investors won’t make that mistake again. Now the mortgage market only exists because federal money props it up. It’s one reason the federal deficit is the biggest in history and getting bigger.

The Sacramento County General Plan, which is based on sprawl, is like Mariposa County in 1850 planning for the gold rush to go on forever because that made it such a big state player that its boundaries stretched south into what’s now LA County.

Sprawl is a dead idea for a lot of reasons. The money to finance it is gone. Cheap oil that made it possible is getting scarcer. Sprawl conflicts directly with carbon reduction goals.

And it doesn’t make economic sense. Silicon Valley cities ran the numbers and found buying open space was cheaper than providing infrastructure for sprawl. Now it attracts smart people who fix the balance of payments the old fashioned way. They make products the world needs. That’s smart growth.

Now the Sacramento area is less attractive because it’s underserved by parks even though surrounded by nearby natural wonders as great as any in California. Most folks just never see them because they’re hidden behind locked gates of sprawl speculators. Cordova Hills is just one example. That’s not smart growth. Everything really is hitched to everything else.

Join the Global Work Party on 10-10-10

On October 10, 2010, join the Global Work Party, with a number of opportunities to participate in Sacramento and Davis. Go to http://www.350.org for up-to-date information on local activities.

The Global Work Party is an attempt to jump-start actions to slow climate change, after our leaders have shown a disappointing reluctance to address this most urgent challenge to our future. We are going show the leaders that the world can’t wait.

Please join us to do something for the climate, the future and for native plant communities, which face severe challenges from a warming planet. For more information on the Global Work Party and for background on climate change, go to http://www.350.org. Contact Laurie Litman for information on Sacramento activities, llitman@pacbell.net or 916.443.2976 or go to our Facebook page at “10-10-10 Work Party Sacramento.”

In honor of October, a resident spider spun a huge web between two giant buckwheat and posed for a photo!
What’s up at Elderberry Farms Nursery
by Chris Lewis

Each Hibiscus, I’ll update what’s blooming in my garden and/or in the nursery demonstration garden. As of September 10, these were in bloom: Artemisia douglasiana (Mugwort), Madia elegans (Common Madia), Asclepias fascicularis (Narrowleaf Milkwort), Madia elegans (Common Madia), Asclepias fascicularis (Narrowleaf Milkwort), Clematis ligusticifolia (Virgins Bower), Lessingia glandulifera (no common name), Brickellia California (California brickellbusch), Erigernum nudum (Wild Buckwheat), Achillea millefolium (Common Yarrow) and Mimulus aurantiacus (Sticky Monkey-flower). Just starting are Epilobium Canum (California Fuchsia), Aster chilensis (California Brickmimulus aurantiacus (Sticky Monkey-flower). Just starting are Epilobium Canum (California Fuchsia), Aster chilensis (California Brickmimulus aurantiacus (Sticky Monkey-flower). Just starting are Epilobium Canum (California Fuchsia), Aster chilensis (California Brick, and (on the Parkway) Trichostema lanceolatum (Vinegar weed; see photo above), Heterotheca oregana (Oregon Golden aster) and Heterotheca grandiflora (Telegraphplant).

A ton of work got done at the nursery, thanks to our summer regular crew including: Brian Butzin, Paul Lester, Joanne Heraty, Mary Beth Metcalf, Gin Wenslaff, Tom Balestrieri, Tony Duke, Carol Crofoot, and others who worked with propagation guru Robin Rietz. Also indispensable are demonstration garden master designer Betsy Weiland; master irrigation specialist Jim Wadsworth; and master of few trades Chris Lewis.

Friday Parkway Walks
Each Friday we walk some wonderful part of the Parkway to document the seasonal changes in our flora and collect seeds to propagate at the nursery. If you walk a special part of the Parkway that you would like to share with us, let me know when and where. Contact Chris at: lewisc916@yahoo.com

It’s Plant Sale October!
• Plant sales at the Nursery, Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon
• Wed. Oct 13, Robin Rietz will demonstrate propagating bulbs.
• We’ll be doing propagation work every week. For more info, contact Chris at: lewisc916@yahoo.com

Update: Native Plant Gardening Committee
by Chris Lewis

We’re developing a Sacramento Valley Nature Coloring Book, to educate and inspire kids and their parents about the interconnectedness of nature – plants and animals in home gardens or in local nature areas.

It will have 16 pages of pictures and information. We hope to publish and sell it at a reasonable price. As an educational piece, we may post it on the SacValley CNPS website to be downloaded and printed.

Thus far the committee is Glen Holstein, Alison Shilling, illustrator Kathy Ikeda and Chris Lewis. We are developing a collection of illustrations. If you’d like to help with this project, let Chris know at lewisc916@yahoo.com

Vinegar weed at Snipes Pershing Ravine
Photo ©2010 Terry Linton
Celebrate Native Plants all year long!

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

October 2010

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. E-mail to bwolf@surewest.net