SEPTEMBER PRESENTATION:

Native Plant Gardens and Beyond

Christina Lewis Founder,
Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery

Christina Lewis is passionate about using locally adapted native plant species to promote the genetic integrity of our plant communities. She will explain the “why” of gardening with California native plants and provide us with tips on using our local natives in gardens. Landscaping with native plants provides a beautiful and welcoming habitat for beneficial insects and other wildlife. Native plants require little to no irrigation or fertilization, so save energy, water and reduce pollution while saving us money and maintenance. Chris will provide helpful guidelines and inspirational examples, and finish with a slide show of some of the local native plants that will be available at the Fall Plant Sale.

Christina Lewis is a Master Gardener, past president, longtime member and active volunteer of the Sac Valley Chapter of CNPS. In addition to nurturing the Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery from concept to reality, she tends a magnificent native garden at her own home.

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.

The “why” of gardening with native plants: This mourning dove is raising her two babies mere feet from Chris’ front door.

2 Photos: © 2009 Christina Lewis
Notes from the Demo-Garden

Sabrina Okamura Johnson
Sac Valley CNPS Chair, Native Plant Demo-Garden at Historic City Cemetery
The garden and cemetery are at 1000 Broadway, Sacramento CA

The main goal of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Demonstration Garden is to enlighten visitors to the beauty of California native plants and to inspire them to incorporate native plants into their own home gardens. Other goals of the garden are to show how native plants can attract wildlife and beneficial insects and to educate visitors about the many medicinal, cultural and edible aspects of native plants used by the local Native Americans. The garden is located in the southeast corner of the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery.

Since the garden is located in a cemetery you will find some non-native plants in the demo-garden area that have been planted and are maintained by family members. However, the majority of the plants in this area are California natives. We have one of the area’s largest collections of California native lilacs (ceanothus), also known as “mountain lilacs” and California sages (salvias) in the Sacramento area. The native ceanothus and salvias have beautiful spring time blossoms, are very fragrant and are considered a must for any California native garden.

Volunteering. Volunteering in the Native Plant Demo-garden is educational, fun and rewarding. The rewards include making new friends and getting to take home free native plants for your own home gardening projects. Our regular “garden parties” occur most Sundays at the garden from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. during the summer and from 10 a.m. to noon during the winter. We also appreciate our volunteers who come out during the weekdays. Rain/bad weather and major holiday weekends cancel our garden workdays. If you would like to volunteer in the Native Plant Demo-garden please contact Sabrina Okamura-Johnson (916-929-7896; or CNPSgarden@surewest.net). Volunteers should bring gardening gloves, tools and knee pads if you have them.

Donations. Donations of garden supplies, tools and equipment are always needed and welcome. Our current wish list includes: new or gently used: gloves, pruners, trowels, hand weeders, hand cultivators, shovels, spades, grass shears, rakes, hula-hoes, knee pads, kneeler seats, and a garden cart or wheel barrel. In addition, we are also in need of a digital camera and photo cards, EZ-up Canopies and folding tables for outdoor events. Please contact Sabrina about making donation arrangements.

For more information about the California Native Plant Society please visit http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/gardening/demogarden.html.

Save the Date: Sacramento Garden and Arts Center Fall Festival October 17 & 18!
New ARNHA Book Honors Jo Smith

A new publication honors Jo Smith, widely respected naturalist, illustrator, and a founder of the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA). *An American River Journal: Art & observations of nature’s rhythms* will go on sale for $9.75 at ARNHA’s annual meeting, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 6-8 p.m., at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

The volume captures the beauty and peace of a walk along the river. It features Jo’s meticulous drawings of plants, birds, mammals, insects, reptiles and fish, along with perceptive nature essays by retired newspaper editor Peter Hayes. ARNHA is publishing it in memory of Jo, who died last Dec. 28. It is also a tribute to both who, as longtime members of its publications committee, have been key to fulfilling ARNHA’s mission of “bringing nature to people and people to nature.”

Jo created most of the drawings in ARNHA’s popular *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region*, a field guide based on work by revered teacher and naturalist Effie Yeaw. Jo inspired, edited and illustrated nearly a dozen other ARNHA publications.

Peter Hayes was an editor with “The Sacramento Union” for many years and frequently wrote nature essays for the editorial pages. In 2001, ARNHA published 60 of his essays in *The American River Almanac: Reflections on nature throughout the year*, with photographs by Tom Myers and George Turner. Since then he, too, has edited and contributed to numerous ARNHA publications.

The new volume, a pocket-sized gift book, will be on sale through arnha.org; at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center gift shop and at selected book stores; or by mail at ARNHA, P.O. Box 241. Carmichael, CA 95609.
Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery at Soil Born Farms
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova
Call Chris Lewis for details or join the garden listserv. Send a blank email to: Elderberry_Farms_Native_Plant_Nursery-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Sat. 9/26; Repeats Sun. 9/27
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
California Native Plant Propagation Workshop with Jen Hogan and Patricia Carpenter
Help support the Kids in Native Gardens Program of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of CNPS (http://www.sacvalleyncps.org/)
Cost: $25 per person, go home with at least $40 worth of native plants!
Location: The native garden of Patricia Carpenter, 36951 Russell Blvd. in Davis, CA 95616 (Just west of Road 97 where there is extra parking). Jennifer Hogan is a past chapter president and California native plant gardener for over 10 years. jen.hogan@wavecable.com or (530) 661-3410 for questions or to RSVP. Patricia Carpenter is a Gardening Coach (Design and Education) who has created a wonderful California native plant garden. Bring gardening gloves, a hat and your own gallon pots if you have them. We’ll have water and lemonade.

Attention School and Community Garden enthusiasts! Do you know of a school or community gathering place that could use $100 towards buying California native plants to enhance their 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.sacvalleyncps.org/gardening/kid.html> for more information and to download the grant application. Advice and site visits are included in the program.

**OCTOBER**

Chapter news direct to your mailbox - Subscribe to the chapter listserv -
Send a blank email to: CNPS_SacramentoValley-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

You are welcome to join the field trips of other chapters!

Redbud Chapter:
http://www.redbud-cnps.org/trips.htm#head

El Dorado chapter:
http://www.eldoradocnps.org/chapter-Pages/fieldTrips.html

**ONGOING**

Native Plant Demo-Garden
Old City Cemetery
1000 Broadway, Sacramento
Summer Sundays, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
Wear hat, long shirt, boots & bring water, gardening tools, gloves, and knee pads if you have them. If interested in volunteering during the week contact Sabrina (916) 929-7896 or soj@surewest.net.

Chapter Meeting & Guest Speaker
2nd Wed. of month, 7:00 p.m.
(Jan-June; Sept.-Nov) Arden-Dimick Public Library, 891 Watt Ave. at Northrup, Sacramento 95864
For more information call Jennifer Stock (916) 443-3484 or e-mail jstock2409@sbcglobal.net

Ceanothus – Plant identification
Email for date, time and directions. Melissa Hostler: ceanothusfieldbot@gmail.com

Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery Workdays
If you’d like to be notified, please join the Elderberry Farms listserve by sending a blank email to: Elderberry_Farms_Native_Plant_Nursery-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

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

Fall CNPS Plant Science Workshops
To register or for more information go to <http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php> or contact: Josie Crawford, CNPS Education Program Director, (916) 447-2677 or jcrawford@cnps.org.

Sept. 15-17, 2009 Introduction to the 2nd edition of A Manual of California Vegetation
Instructors: authors Todd Keeler Wolf, John O. Sawyer, Julie Evens
A 3-day transect across the central Sierra Nevada, from the foothills to the eastern Sierra. Begins at Calaveras Big Trees and ends at Grover Hot Springs Valley, near Markleeville. The authors will debut the greatly expanded second edition of A Manual of California Vegetation. They will provide an overview of updates to the manual, including new vegetation types recognized or redefined across many habitats. Learn how to use the new manual in the field as well as its uses for conservation and management.
Cost: Members $445 Non-members $470

**SEPTEMBER**

Planning a botanical outing?
To invite others to join you on field trips, please notify:
Field Trips Chair Tony Loftin:
(916) 448-3230
HikingTony@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor Barbara Wolf:
bwolf@surewest.net

Webmaster Tom Starbuck:
tjstarbuck@ucdavis.edu

Calendar of Events

See our calendar online at <www.sacvalleyncps.org> for more, updated events and happenings!
Sept 29–Oct 1, Legends of the Fall: Exploring the clandestine flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert  
**Instructors:** James M. Andre & Tasha La Doux  
**Location:** UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center  
Surprisingly, the early fall bloom in the eastern Mojave Desert can be more reliable than the more popular spring blooms. Approximately 10% of eastern Mojave annuals germinate following the summer monsoons, grow rapidly and complete their life cycle before temperatures decline in fall. Also, many perennial species flower in early fall, such as those of the Asteraceae, Poaceae, and Polygonaceae. This course will introduce botanists to the ecology and taxonomy of the diverse flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert, with special emphasis on rare or unique species. Participants should have moderate to advanced taxonomic skills. Field trips will include moderate-to-short day hikes.  
**Cost:** TBA

October 13-15 Vegetation Mapping:  
**Instructors:** Todd Keeler-Wolf, Julie Evens, Anne Klein, Jennifer Buck, Rachelle Boul, John Menke  
**Location:** Mulford Hall, UC Berkeley and Marin Municipal Water District, Fairfax  
A three-day vegetation mapping workshop with CNPS and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), hosted by University of California Berkeley’s Geospatial Imaging and Informatics facility and Marin Municipal Watershed District (MMWD), Mount Tamalpais. A combination of field and computer exercises in fine-scale vegetation mapping. Learn about vegetation sampling, classification, and photo interpretation. Collect reconnaissance samples to support a vegetation classification and map and practice photo interpretation, delineation, and attribution. Use accuracy assessment to validate a vegetation map.  
**Cost:** Members $570  
Non-members $595  
**Work Exchange Program for reduced or waived workshop fees is available.**  
Contact Josie Crawford

**Effie Yeaw Nature Center - Sept. 2009**

Ancil Hoffman County Park, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, CA  
All programs are FREE unless stated otherwise. Donations welcome.  
Park entrance fee: $5.00 per car or FREE to ARNHA members.  
**Nature Center Hours after Labor Day:**  
Wed. – Sun. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Mon. – Tues. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
For more information contact: <www.effieyeaw.org> or (916) 489-4918

**New Interactive Exhibit: Bountiful Harvest: An Exploration of Maidu Culture**

*Family Friendly Nature Hike*  
Sat. 8/29 at 10:30 a.m.  
Discover the many plants and animals that live along the American River while enjoying the sights and sounds of the Nature Area.  
*Beat the Heat!*  
Sun. 8/30 at 10:30 a.m.  
Take a leisurely stroll along the shady trails of the Nature Area with an EYNC naturalist.

*Evening Beaver Walks*  
Thurs. 9/3 and 17, call for times and reservations 967-0777  
Meet with Jack and search for nature’s engineer, the beaver. Limited to eight people; best for ages 7 and older.

*Exploring the Maidu Village*  
Sat. 9/12 at 10:30 a.m.  
How were tule shelters, grinding rocks, and acorn granaries made and used by Nisenan Indians? Join a naturalist for a guided tour of the Nature Center’s replica Nisenan Summer Village.

*Turkey Vultures*  
Sun. 9/13 at 10:30 a.m.  
What bird eats meat but can’t kill its own food? These relatives of the condor and stork are intelligent, family-oriented and play games together! Learn more about the amazing turkey vulture and its importance to our ecosystem.

*Meet ARNHA - the Friends of the Nature Center*  
Wed. 9/16 at 6:30 p.m.  
Meet the members of the Nature Center’s vital support organization, the American River Natural History Association, at this annual meeting and social evening. Prepare to be inspired!

*Shake, Rattle and Back Off!*  
Sat. 9/19 at 10:30 a.m.  
Join biologist Gary B. Hanson for this fun-filled program on one of the most misunderstood members of the animal kingdom. Great real-life stories, rattle-snake facts and a comparison of this viper with other local snakes.

*Habitat Improvement*  
Sun. 9/20 at 8:00 a.m.  
Our Nature Area needs some special care. Help make improvements that will benefit our riparian woodland. Call Jack at 967-0777.

*Discovering Gold in California*  
Sat. 9/26 at 10:30 a.m.  
Thar’s gold in them thar hills! Learn about the discovery of gold in California and what effect its discovery had on the environment and native cultures.

*Natural History Hike*  
Sun. 9/27 at 10:30 a.m.  
Enjoy the majesty of ancient oak trees and look for deer and turkeys trying to stay cool on hot summer days. Discover how each plant and animal in the Nature Area has a place in its environment.

*Local Organic Gardening*  
Wed. 9/30 at 7 p.m. (age 10 and older)  
Shawn Harrison, executive director of the Soil Born Urban Agriculture and Education Project, will share the story of the community garden on the American River Parkway. He will discuss the origins and mission of Soil Born and answer questions about growing organic vegetables in an urban setting.

For October Nature Center Activities, please visit the Effie Yeaw website  
<www.effieyeaw.org> or call (916) 489-4918

**For more information contact:** <www.effieyeaw.org> or (916) 489-4918

For October Nature Center Activities, please visit the Effie Yeaw website  
<www.effieyeaw.org> or call (916) 489-4918

www.SacValleyCNPS.org 5
Sacramento Splash presents a
Nature in the Neighborhood family event:
Raptor Rapture: Birds of Prey and the Sport of Falconry
Saturday, September 26, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Mather Field is one of the best places in the Sacramento area to view birds of prey, also known as raptors. From tiny American Kestrels to majestic Golden Eagles, nearly a dozen different species of raptors can be seen at Mather.

Falconer and raptor rehabilitator Bill Corbett will bring several live birds of prey to this presentation! You’ll have the chance to get “up close and personal” with spectacular live raptors, including Tesla, a huge Golden Eagle, and Bob, a Western Screech Owl. Bill will show his birds, tell their stories, and discuss the sport of falconry. Then we’ll venture into the field to watch Bill fly one of his trained birds and to look for wild raptors in their favorite habitats!

Binoculars provided or bring your own and wear good walking shoes for the field portion of this program. Reserve your spot early!

Important Information
• You may reserve a spot for this program by calling Splash at 916-364-2437.
• The Splash Education Center is at 4426 Excelsior Rd., Mather, CA 95655.

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Friends of the Chico State Herbarium Workshops

September 12, Introduction to the Sunflowers (Asteraceae).
October 10, Oak Woodland Ecology and Management.

Other Workshops in Preparation:
November 14, Growing and Propagating Native Plants for the Garden.
November 21, Basics of Native Grass Seed Collection and Storage.
For more information and registration:
<http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html>
The Renewable Energy Threat to California’s Desert Rare Plant Habitat
Nick Jensen, CNPS Rare Plant Botanist
Greg Suba, CNPS Conservation Program Director

As of June 2009, a total of 64 wind energy applications and 65 solar energy applications had been submitted to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for certification within the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA). With 50,000 megawatt potential for solar alone, these desert projects carry both great promise for our nation’s energy future and great losses to impacted desert habitats. An integrated, ecosystem-level project-siting review process is needed to coordinate and implement applicable federal, state, and local agency permitting requirements and to minimize cumulative negative impacts of projects within the CDCA. Such federal and state reviews have not been completed but existing project applications continue to be processed for certification.

This presentation summarizes the history and current state of utility-scale renewable energy projects within the CDCA, describes the character and scale of project-related impacts at specific sites, and describes conservation strategies being implemented by the California Native Plant Society.

The fate of California’s desert ecosystems will be determined by the collective abilities of conservation groups, regulatory agencies, energy corporations, and politicians to successfully navigate the myriad issues entangling the appropriate siting of, and mitigation for, renewable energy projects and the desert biota’s ability to survive our decisions.

Nick Jensen is CNPS Rare Plant Botanist. He holds a B.S. from UC Davis in Environmental Horticulture and Urban Forestry with an emphasis in Plant Biodiversity and Restoration Ecology. Nick’s love for plants began quite young while working in his grandmother’s garden and he has since become professionally involved in botanical research, teaching, and field work.

Greg Suba, CNPS Conservation Program Director, coordinates the development of native plant conservation policies and initiatives for CNPS. He received his B.S. in Biology from Duke University, his M.S. in Marine Science from UNC-Chapel Hill.

For background on this issue, see May 11, 2009 issue of High Country News “High Noon.” Subscribers can view at http://www.hcn.org/issues/41.8/high-noon
Fall Plant Sale
Sat., Sept. 19
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

CNPS at the 2009 State Fair!
Aug. 21-Sept. 7
See CNPS presentations on California native plants and water conservation at the CA Department of Water Resources exhibit

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

Sept.-Oct. 2009 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. E-mail to bwolf@surewest.net