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.
Sacramento Valley Chapter
California Native Plant Society

Fall Plant Sale
September 24-25, 2011
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Admission is Free and the Public is Welcome.

Native Plant Sale includes these nurseries: Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery with their inventory of local native plants; Cornflower Farms with native plants that have been used in horticulture for years; Far West Bulbs with their extensive list of native bulbs; Windmill Nursery with their favorite native plant selections, and more, to be confirmed.

Also for sale: native plant books — A wide variety of gardening books, field guides, and other native plant literature will be for sale. Plus a wide selection of wildflower seeds.

FREE Plant for New or Renewing Memberships!
When you join or renew your CNPS membership you can choose any one gallon Elderberry Farms Plant. The California Native Plant Society has been protecting our native flora since 1965 and works hard to protect our native plant heritage and preserve it for future generations. Our nearly 10,000 members promote native plant appreciation, research, education, and conservation through our five statewide programs and 33 regional chapters in California.

Saturday, Noon. Native Gardening Basics with Alison Shilling. Alison is CNPS Director and Legislation Committee Chair, a retired teacher and college instructor, and a Master Gardener life member.

This class is for people new to gardening who want to start out right with water-saving and habitat-building techniques, but also for anyone who has a conventional yard who wants to change gradually to natives.

Native Plant Gardening and Design Clinic. Visit our volunteer staff of professionals if you have questions about design, irrigation, plants that attract birds & pollinators, and gardening basics. We will also have garden photos that might inspire you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (half day or all day):
Friday 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.: set up, including plant set up for all nurseries, plant pick up from Elderberry Farms*, pricing, and signage. Perks: coffee in the morning and food all day, plus will be able to purchase plants at the end of the day. *Even if you can’t work with us on Friday, if you can deliver plants on your way into Sacramento, let us know.

Saturday & Sunday 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.: gardeners, design experts, plant advisor, cashier, photographers, and general help. Perks: food- CNPS provides food for all volunteers! Mary Schiedt brings fresh fruit & veggies, makes an amazing veggie soup and bakes brownies! Plus return plants to Elderberry Farms (hopefully not many!)

Please contact Chris if you can help, lewisc916@yahoo.com.
The January 10–14, 2012 statewide CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference, in San Diego, is an opportunity for all of us to come together and celebrate everything we do as a leading plant conservation organization in California. Our membership includes top level scientists and decision-makers in agencies, universities, consulting firms, and non-profit environmental organizations as well as the grassroots activists working hard on the front lines. Hundreds of CNPS volunteers have worked to create this event for the past two and a half years. There are sessions and activities for everyone from career botanists to garden enthusiasts.

There will be five days of non-stop workshops, talks, and social events. For example, you will be able to:

- Learn about starting a plant restoration nursery at a workshop, listen to talks on rare plant or invasive species, converse about CEQA or desert energy projects.
- Attend one of five sessions focusing on regional issues from north to south, including Baja California.
- Take a drawing workshop with John Muir Laws to nourish your appreciation of our native landscape.
- Read a poem, submit a photograph, admire botanical art, sing, play music.

Registration is now open for both the conference events and the hotel. Early registration discounts are available until Oct 31. Additional discounts are also available for CNPS members and students. Special discounts are available until December 16 (on a space available basis) at the conference hotel, the Town and Country Resort. Register for the conference and/or hotel through our website.

There are a million ways that you can participate in this conference from presenting or attending talks to taking tickets at the door. We need scores of volunteers during the days of the conference and we offer registration rebates to all volunteers who work eight hours or more. If you would like to volunteer, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Michelle Cox at volunteers2012@cnps.org.

If you are a student or know students that might want to attend the conference, check out the Student Opportunities and Activities (including registration and/or travel stipend funding) on our website.

Please visit the conference website for up to date information on all the events. Hope to see you there!

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**CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference**

**Something for Everyone!**

Thanks to all of you, our first Wine and Cheese with the Bees was a great success. Your raffle donations, totaling $175 will be put to good use in our botany, education, community gardens, and other programs.

**Thank yous go to:**

- The Old City Cemetery Committee, with a special thank you to our shuttle-cart driver Sharon Patrician.
- City of Sacramento, with a special thank you to Liz Brenner, the City’s volunteer coordinator and Butch, cemetery support staff.
- Sabrina Okamura-Johnson, our current chapter President.
- Our Garden Volunteers: Dana Nolan, Brigette Dinaberg, Renate Sperlich, Mitchell Alford, Paul Townsend, and Margaux McClure; and unofficial volunteers, Kristin Jacobs (flower arrangements) and Zack (photographer).

**Thank yous for raffle donations:**

- Icing on the Cupcake: cupcakes and baby bites.
- The Davis Food Co-op & Bernadette Balics: Double magnum of Bogle Winery’s petit syrah (plus wine for the party).
- Pietro Talini’s Nursery: Gift certificate in the amount of $30.00
- Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery: $25.00 gift certificate.
- Mystery Donor: Mason bee house with native plant seeds for native pollinator friendly plants.

Thank you for helping make our first Wine & Cheese with the Bees great fun!

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**Wine and Cheese with the Bees**

*Cassandra Nguyen Musto and the Sacramento Valley Chapter Board*

Thank you again for helping make our first Wine & Cheese with the Bees great fun!
**SEPTEMBER**

Sat.-Sun., 9/17-9/18
Growing Natives Symposium
CNPS, Friends of Regional Parks Botanic Garden, and Pacific Horticulture are collaborating once again to present a two-day symposium on native plant gardening and design on Sat-Sun, Sep 17-18, 2011 in Lafayette & Berkeley. Featured speakers include Carol Bornstein, David Fross, Steve Edwards, Don Mahoney, and other native plant professionals.

Thur.-Sat., 9/22-9/24
Legends of the Fall: exploring the clandestine flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert
James M. Andre and Tasha La Doux
UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center
http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php

Course Description: 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.
Cost: CNPS members: $435 (includes meals and dorm lodging for 2 days & nights); Non-members: $460 includes meals and dorm lodging for 2 days & nights
Location: UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center, located within the Mojave National Preserve, eastern Mojave Desert

**ONGOING**

Native Plant Demo-Garden
Old City Cemetery
1000 Broadway, Sacramento
Sundays, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
Wear hat, long-sleeved shirt, boots and bring water, gardening tools, gloves, and knee pads. To volunteer during the week contact Sabrina (916) 929-7896 or soj@surewest.net.

Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery Workdays,
Wednesdays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Located at Soil Born Farms
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova
Help us propagate our wonderful native plants and enjoy the atmosphere! Please bring your hat, gloves, and snack. If you’d like a PBJ, just email Chris beforehand at lewisc916@yahoo.com.

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: Sabrina Okamura-Johnson (916) 929-7896 or e-mail soj@surewest.net.

Chapter Board Meetings
4th Wed. of month, 7 p.m. SMUD Art Gallery & Community Center, 6301 S Street, Sacramento, CA95817 (Jan.-June; Sept.-Nov.)
Contact: Sabrina Okamura-Johnson (916) 929-7896 or soj@surewest.net.

Ceanothus - Collaborative Plant Identification Workshops
3rd Sat. of month, 9 a.m.
Davis Center for Biological Diversity.
Michael Bower, (530) 902.8721
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

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

Call for Abstracts extended to August 28!

CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference
January 12-14, 2012
Town and Country Resort and Conference Center, San Diego

“Conserving and restoring the roots of California’s richness” is the 2012 conference theme. Submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations by August 28, 2011. For instructions, or to submit abstracts visit: http://ice.ucdavis.edu/conferences/cnps/2012. For information see www.cnps.org/2012.

Social Networking in the Garden

The Historic City Cemetery Demonstration Garden is now on Facebook! “Like” our page, California Native Plant Demonstration Garden :: Sacramento. Yelpers! Give us a review and help put us on the map as a cool Sacramento garden. Look for special Yelp promotions.
Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery

by Christina Lewis, Nursery Leader

What a summer we had. Our volunteers are the best! We enjoyed working and dining in the shade of the trees next to the Nursery. And the summer breeze...

This year we were very lucky to have Tony Duke join weekly volunteers Jim Wadsworth, Brian Butzin and me. Tony is a 4th grade teacher who came to us a few years ago interested in putting Native Plants in his school’s garden. He not only volunteered every Wednesday of his summer vacation, he also shared his Pastry Chef skills — yum!

Thank you Tony and all of our wonderful volunteers: Jim, Brian, and Jami Rains (another 4th Grade Teacher!), Paul Lester (and Buttercup), Lori Augustine, Mary Runyan, Carol Crofoot, Carolyn, Givare Hegwood, Ryan Santini, Gin Wenslaff, Jessica Bender, Mary & Jessica & Jack Yoder, Larry Ladd, Marybeth Metcalf, Teresa Liang, and Dean Mortenson.

Our Nursery Leaders have been busy this summer — Robin had a very successful surgery and is back at the helm leading propagation. Betsy has been busy saving Effie Yeaw and our regional park system through the Grassroots Working Group. And me, I’ve been at or doing research for the Nursery, leading walks, or working on Native Plant Gardening Committee projects.

Have you been to Elderberry Farms recently? You must see it! We’ve filled our space with gallons of our treasured plants and tables holding flats of starts, 2” and 4” plants. Thank you Jim for building the additional tables!

This Fall we will have 2 major projects. The first is installing a specialized irrigation system in the Greenhouse. The second is expanding the Nursery’s footprint by another 800 square feet (+). If you’d like to help with either project, please let me know.

— Chris (lewisc916@yahoo.com)

A dot makes the difference: New chapter website in the works!

by Barbara Wolf

Our chapter is working on a long-needed website upgrade. When the state office offered chapters the opportunity to have its webmaster develop a site design based on the state’s template, we jumped on it! A clean new layout consistent with the state’s identity will help tie us together visually and make navigation easier. It will also allow chapter committees to add and change their own content without burdening our local volunteer webmaster. Right now we’re learning to use the Joomla web software that allows us to do so.

Our web address will change slightly with the addition of a dot between sacvalley and cnps: we will now be www.sacvalley.cnps.org. When the new site is ready for prime time, the old address will automatically redirect you to the new location.

We have a new resident at the greenhouse. We heard a lot of fluttering and bird sounds…. seems like this little darling had just built a new nest over the doorway of the greenhouse and didn’t want us around. Any suggestions for a name to our new resident???

— Jim Wadsworth

http://www.sacvalley.cnps.org/stockton/stockton.htm

California Native Plant Society

Sacramento Valley Chapter Stockton Subchapter

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.

http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/stockton/stockton.html
**Effie Yeaw Nature Center - September 2011**

**Free Programs (Donations welcome)**
Ancil Hoffman County Park, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, CA

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

Park entrance fee: $5.00 per car or FREE to ARNHA members.
Hours: Wed. - Sun. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
The Nature Center may be closed in stormy weather. Please call to confirm hours.
(916) 489-4918 www.sacnaturecenter.net

Sat. 8/27, 10:30 a.m.
**Raptor Rapture**
Meet our resident owl, Sofia, and red-shouldered hawk, Skye. Take a peek into the amazing world of birds of prey that live in and around the Nature Center.

Sat. 9/3, 10:30 a.m.
**Turkey Vultures**
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 their importance to our ecosystem.

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

Sat. 9/17, 10:30 a.m.
**Hawk Talk**
Come learn about these amazing raptors that have color vision eight times better than humans. Get a rare close look at a red-tailed hawk and learn more about the hawk family, which includes eagles and kites.

Sat. 9/24, 10:30 a.m.
**Sacramento Storytellers**
Come to the Nature Center to hear some exciting tales told by the Sacramento Storytellers Guild. Suitable for all ages.

**OTHER EVENTS**

Sat.–Sun. 9/17–18
**Growing Natives: Inspiring & Enduring Gardens**
Lafayette, Berkeley
A two-day symposium focusing on designing, installing, and maintaining native plant gardens of lasting value. Includes lectures, workshops, tours, and plant and book sales. For more information and to register, visit gns.cnps-scv.org and www.pacifichorticulture.org.

Sat. 10/1, 9:00 a.m. – noon
**Native Plants for Food and Health**
Friends of the Chico State Herbarium California State University, Chico
Registration Fee: $45
Learn how native plants provided a sustainable source of food and medicine for local inhabitants for thousands of years. Learn how to prepare and enjoy backyard fall and winter edibles such as Oak Nut (acorn) Bliss Bars, Beyond Cranberry Wild Berry Sauce, and Toyon Cider. Discover how native plants such as Yerba Santa and California Bay can help address common winter colds. Take a walk outdoors to identify the uses of plants in the field.

Class includes information on:
Food: Backyard Edibles for Fall: Prepare and taste Oak Nuts (acorns), Madrone berries, and Toyon berries.
Health: Natives for the Common Cold: Integrate Yerba Santa and California Bay into the natural medicine cabinet for common winter colds and flu.

Field Walk: Exploring Nature with Ethnobotanical Eyes: Identify plants in nature and learn common uses.
Register in advance; class is limited to 20 participants (minimum: 8). Please contact Alicia Funk (alicia@livingwild.org) for information on content and the Biology office ((530) 898-5356) or jbraden@csuchico.edu for information about registration.

**New Organization for Biodiversity**

Announcing the creation of Endow-Bio, Inc., the First National Endowment for Biodiversity. Our mission is to expose the full breadth of our environmental problems, to show there are good-hearted people working to solve these problems who would benefit from more support, and to provide a simple and inexpensive mechanism to provide such support. Learn more at Endow-Bio.org.
Sacramento County's budget crisis is threatening our parkways, regional parks, and open space system. The Save the American River Association has recognized this crisis and is leading a grassroots effort to save our parks by providing recommendations to create stable funding. They have created the Grassroots Working Group (GRWG), of which I am a member, to further that goal. I was able to speak at the July 19th workshop held by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors.

This is what I told them:

I took a long walk this morning on the American River Parkway’s bike trail. It is such a sensory place to be! The sun, the trees and their shade, the views, the breeze, the bird songs, the river and the people. People of all stripes. Bike riders in their jerseys, families trying out new bicycles, and runners all passing me by. We all had one thing in common, a smile – sometimes visible, sometimes not. But everyone was enjoying their time on the Parkway.

The dedicated volunteers who make up the Grassroots Working Group have launched a full year’s study of what would both serve the residents of Sacramento County and be supported by its residents and visitors. Their proposal is to place funding options for Regional Parks on the November 2012 general election ballot.

We believe that it is our last best chance to save our Regional Park System for future generations.

The GRWG poll shows that the only combination the voters of Sacramento would approve is:

a) Creation of Independent Regional District
b) Sales Tax of 0.1%

For more information visit [www.sarariverwatch.org/grassroots.php](http://www.sarariverwatch.org/grassroots.php).

Please contact your Supervisor ([www.bos.saccounty.net/ContactUs/](http://www.bos.saccounty.net/ContactUs/)) and let them know what you think!
Fall Plant Sale

September 24-25, 2011
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
See page 2 for more information

SEPTMBER 2011

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