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 11

Questions? Contact Carol Witham, cwitham@ncal.net

SUMMER CHAPTER MEETING:
Finger Food Potluck plus Virtual Tour of Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery

No utensils needed! Just bring yourself for a relaxing evening. If you like, bring a favorite finger food or non-alcoholic beverage to share. We'll provide napkins, plates, and cups, but feel free to be earth-friendly and bring your own re-usable dishes. Snack time will be followed by short presentations of what's going on in our Chapter's very own native plant nursery.

Some of our dedicated volunteers will show us photos and tell us what they enjoy doing at Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery. We'll hear about activities such as learning propagation techniques, landscaping small demonstration gardens, and tending wildlife-friendly hedgerows.

We'll hear about the Friday walks, which explore our local wild areas for seed and data collecting, plant identification, photography, and fun! This virtual tour will certainly inspire you to come visit the nursery, participate in a Friday Field Trips, and join the friendly cadre of volunteers.

Finally, the Wildflower Wonders Committee - Chris Lewis, Mike Finan, Glen Holstein, Mike Vilhauer, and Betsy Weiland - thank all the wonderful WW volunteers! They will show highlights from this year’s “Wildflower Wonders” - a showcase of native plants in their natural habitats of our Sacramento region. The event is held at the Soil Born Farms’ American River Ranch, and features Plant Community Exhibits, Special Guest Speakers, a Discovery Zone and a Plant Sale.

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 are also available.

Send questions or address changes to cnps@cnps.org.

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.
Invitation to CNPS Members to Visit the State Indian Museum
By Melanie Loo, State Indian Museum Docent

As a follow-up to Joe Griffin’s presentation on California Native Plants and California Natives at the May Chapter meeting, CNPS members may be interested in visiting the State Indian Museum. It is across K Street from the CNPS state office, and across the pond from Sutter’s Fort. With the assistance of a CNPS Kid/Community Garden Grant, a group of docents at the museum has been working to spruce up a healthy collection of native plants that are culturally significant to California Indian groups. You can view plants growing around the museum and see culturally-derived items in the museum, including baskets, tools, dance regalia, cordage, and musical instruments. There are also information and displays on acorn preparation and a broader perspective on Native Americans’ interactions with nature. Available in the Museum’s gift shop is Tending the Wild by M. Kat Anderson. This is a well-researched book on how California Native Americans cared for and influenced the growth of the plants so important to their lives. Kat Anderson presents evidence of Native Americans using such practices as controlled burning, pruning, harvesting seeds and bulbs in a way that some seeds and bulblets were replanted, and loosening of the soil to encourage healthy root growth for basketry. While the Native practices may not be considered agriculture, they demonstrated great knowledge of what and when to harvest different plant materials, how to maintain sustainable populations of plants, and how to maintain biodiversity.

The State Indian Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a $3 entrance fee. There will be tours of selected plants around the museum on Sunday, June 29, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Sunday, October 12, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.; and Sunday, November 9, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. The tours will focus on Native uses and relationships with plants (rather than botanical details).

Native Plant Gardening – a Summer Project

After all of the wonderful spring gardening events, plus the Chapter’s on-going Nursery, Demonstration Gardens, and Kids in Native Gardens projects, it’s apparent we need to develop local ‘how to’ content for our website and for handouts. We can use the State CNPS Native Plant Gardening content as a starting point. We’re looking for folks to take on one or more topic. Most work can be done on your own timeline. Would you be interested in helping?

Here are some of the topics that would be good to address: Why Garden with Natives; Benefits of Native Plants; Planning Your Garden; Habitat Gardening; Patio Gardens; Sample Garden Plans; Drought Tolerant Gardening; Native Plant Resources for Your Home Garden; Native Plant Resources for Landscapers; Arboreums & Botanic Gardens; Invasive Weeds Management; Pest Management; and Native Plant Lists for our region.

Would you like to help in some way? Contact Chris at: cnpschris@gmail.com.
Upcoming

CNPS Hikers and Campers!
Come out to see native plants or join us for a fun overnight trip. Look at the Sac Valley Chapter CNPS website, sacvalley.cnps.org, under the Field Trips tab for the latest information. If you are going to attend a trip, please let the contact know if case plans change. This will also let them call on additional leaders if necessary. We hope your summer is full of wildflowers and sunshine!

Lake Clementine Area, Placer County Saturday, June 7
Join Diane Cornwall to explore spring wildflowers and a chance to see a rare shrub, Oval-Leafed Viburnum (Viburnum ellipticum) in bloom. This is an easy to moderate hike. Contact Diane Cornwall at dancingwildflowers@me.com or (530) 888-1404

French Meadows and Granite Chief Wilderness Overnight Saturday and Sunday, June 28 to 29
Join Pam Kirkbride for an overnight camping trip to French Meadows Reservoir. We will travel through Foresthill, then follow Mosquito Ridge road up to Giant Sequoia grove. We will explore plants around the lake on Saturday, have a potluck dinner Saturday night and hike into Granite Chief Wilderness on Sunday. There’s only room for 25 people. Contact Pam Kirkbride: pam.c.kirkbride@frontier.com or (916) 687-8134.

Carson Pass High Elevation Wildflowers and Butterflies Saturday, July 12
Join Pam Kirkbride and Greg Kareofelas for a hike in this spectacular area. We will hike the trail from Woods Lake up to a lake near tree line. We will be hiking at least one mile up on a fairly steep trail, but will stop often to rest and enjoy the flowers and scenery. Contact Pam Kirkbride: pam.c.kirkbride@frontier.com or (916) 687-8134.

Grass Lake, Saturday, August 2
Join Carol Witham for a walk on a sphagnum mat that covers this lake. Watch the website through the summer for more information. Contact Pam Kirkbride for details: pam.c.kirkbride@frontier.com or (916) 687-8134.

Rare Plant Treasure Hikes

Tassajara Hot Springs Backpacking, Monterey County Monday - Wednesday, June 2 – 4
Knoxville Serpentesines Day Hike, Lake/Napa County Saturday - Sunday, June 7 – 8
Lottie Potrero Backpacking, Monterey/SLO County Friday - Sunday, June 13 – 15
Silver Peak Wilderness Downhill-Only Day Hike, Monterey/SLO County Saturday - Sunday, June 21 – 22

Rare Plant Treasure Hike and Adopt-A-Botanical Area Training near Arcata, Humboldt County, June 28 –29
For additional information contact Danny Slakey: dslakey@cnps.org

Ongoing

2nd Wed. of the month, 7 p.m. (Jan.–June; Sept.–Nov.)
Chapter Meeting & Guest Speaker Shepard Garden & Arts Center, McKinley Park, Sacramento
See page 1. Contact Carol Witham, cwitham@ncal.net for more information.

4th Wed. of the month, 7 p.m. (Jan.–June; Sept.–Nov.)
Chapter Board Meetings
SMUD, 6301 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95817
Contact: Carol Witham, cwitham@ncal.net.

Garden Work Days at the 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. A plant will be available to take home. For more information, contact Cassandra at cnpsgarden@gmail.com

Elderberry Farms
Native Plant Nursery
Located at Soil Born Farms
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova

Wednesday Workdays 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
We pot up seedlings and learn plant propagation techniques. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches provided. RSVP to Chris, cnpschris@gmail.com.

Friday Walks 9 a.m.–noon.
Plant identification, photography, art and fun! Go to sacvalley.cnps.org, find Friday Walks under Events and Field Trips.

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

Ceanothus—Collaborative Plant Identification Workshops
3rd Sat. of the month, 9 a.m.
UC Davis Herbarium (Center for Plant Diversity).
Michael Bower, (530) 902-8721
Bring any plants you’re curious about and the Jepson Manual. Next session: June 21 Visit www.ceanothus.org for more information. Email questions to ceanothusfieldbot@gmail.com.

Lichens for Beginners Class
TBA October 2014
Sign up for “Lichens for Beginners Class” at the UCD Herbarium. There is a 25 student limit, contact Pam to reserve a spot. You will learn about lichen anatomy, taxonomy, key identification characteristics, ecology, habitats, etc. A field trip to Lake Berryessa is scheduled for after lunch. Proceeds from the fee go to CNPS Sac Valley Chapter and the Herbarium. Contact Pam Kirkbride pam.c.kirkbride@frontier.com or (916) 687-8134.

Save the Date
Wonder of wonders despite the drought this turned out to be quite a good spring for wildflowers. I work with Tuleyome on developing a management plan for the Bureau of Land Management Bear Creek Unit, a place Ellen Dean calls “Where Rare Plants are Common,” and on a May 1 trip there I was surprised by some of the most awesome wildflower displays ever. The Bear Creek Unit is huge and located in southwestern Colusa County west of Highway 16 between Highway 20 and the Cache Creek Ridge.

That was good news since Tuleyome persuaded me to lead a plant trip to the same general area on May 4 the day after Wildflower Weekend. With a bum knee I’m reluctant to do field trips any more but Tuleyome persuaded me with a promise of 3 paid staff to handle all logistics. That was an offer I couldn’t refuse and the trip turned out great. We couldn’t enter the heart of Bear Creek but there was plenty to see outside it. By the time the trip concluded on Walker Ridge folks were pretty amazed at the diversity and abundance of wildflowers they’d seen.

Tuleyome is working on acquiring an important holding called Silver Spur west of Walker Ridge in their proposed Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument and a visit there on May 13 revealed a whole new crop of wildflowers. Slopes covered by poppies on May 1 were now covered just as thickly with golden lupines.

All this floral splendor is hard to believe after the brown slopes that should have been green back in January, but that may just explain this fabulous spring. The non-native grasses that normally exclude our native prairie wildflowers didn’t do so well this year, and when we finally got a few late rains the flowers rescued from the usual competition exploded in seldom seen splendor.

Not Such a Bad Spring After All
By Glen Holstein

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Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery
2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, on the American River Parkway at Soil Born Farms
By Chris Lewis, Nursery Leader
cnpschris@gmail.com

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

Every Wednesday Workday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
When it’s hot, work continues under the shade of Sycamores. This summer we’ll be renovating our soil bin in addition to our propagation operation. We pot up seedlings and learn various propagating techniques under the excellent direction of Robin Rietz, Propagation Director. CNPS treats volunteers to peanut butter and jelly sandwiches or you can bring your own lunch. We also work in our demonstration gardens during our workdays. Bring garden gloves and water; dress in layers. Knowledge of plants or propagation techniques is not necessary: your willingness to help is all that’s required.

Sunday Workdays 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Even though it is summer, there is still work to do at the nursery, so let’s continue to meet at Elderberry on the 3rd Sunday for June, July, and August. (June 22, July 20, August 17) We will shift one hour earlier to compensate for hotter weather so see you from 9:00 to 1:00!

Weekly Friday Walks. Friday Field Trips are for seed and data collecting, plant identification, photography, and fun! Our destination changes each week depending on the Nursery’s need and the group’s interest. John Schmidt organizes these Field Trips. Walks are listed in our eNewsletter (email cnpschris@gmail.com) or check the Friday Walk webpage on sacvalleycnps.org

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Outreach Training this summer

Do you like talking with people? Being at fun events? Here’s your chance! SacValley CNPS receives invitations to host a table at events year-round. We need more people trained to carry the CNPS mission at more events. When you are doing an event you can see the possibilities for introducing people to Native Plants and to CNPS. We can be more effective if we have CNPS representatives at each event. Then it’s possible to have more conversations and have time to suggest a CNPS activity the visitor might be interested in.

Sound like fun? It is! Contact Chris and we’ll find a time to get together this summer at cnpschris@gmail.com

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. Sign up at: sacvalleycnps.org or contact Chris at cnpschris@gmail.com.

California Native Plant Society
Sacramento Valley Chapter Stockton Subchapter

Visit the Stockton subchapter’s website for the latest news: eepurl.com/uy8mNj Use this link to subscribe to the Stockton sub-chapter e-mail list: eepurl.com/u8iTb

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.
Submit content for the September Hibiscus by August 8!

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

Summer 2014

sacvalleycnps.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:
1. Visit the State Indian Museum
2. Rare Plant Treasure Hunt News
3. Native Plant Gardening
4. Elderberry Farms
5. Calendar of Events
6. Summer Presentation: Finger Food Potluck plus Virtual Tour of Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Our events would not be possible without your hard work and dedication.

Our chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

Or Current Occupant