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

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

NOVEMBER PRESENTATION:

Echoes of the eco-past at Cosumnes River Preserve
Sara Sweet, Restoration Ecologist

Long before the miles of levee system and dams were built, much of California’s Central Valley boasted wide riparian (by the river) forests on broad floodplains. Now, extensive flood control measures have cut the connection between most rivers and their floodplains, keeping them—and their riparian forests—confined to narrow, well-regulated corridors. But here in the Sacramento Valley, we are fortunate to have an outstanding example of what early settlers may have encountered: the Cosumnes River Preserve.

The Cosumnes River is exceptional because it has no major dams. It has low, flood-prone levees in some areas, and levees have been intentionally breached in other areas. Thus the river ebbs, flows and floods with the seasons, through one of the biologically richest regions in the Central Valley. More than 250 bird species, more than 40 fish species, and over 400 plant species have been identified on the Preserve.

Sara Sweet will lead us on a virtual tour of the preserve’s riparian forests. She is a restoration ecologist for The Nature Conservancy and manages the Preserve’s science program. Sara’s interest in ecological restoration began as an undergraduate through restoring coastal prairie, and continued with her master’s work studying fire and restoration at UC Davis.

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Also at the Nov. meeting:

Exciting update on the vernal pools lawsuit from Carol Witham
Chapter Board Elections - Be sure to attend and vote!

Riparian Forest along the Cosumnes River, near Mokelumne City.

Photo © 2007 Ann & John (Flickr)
CNPS gets seat at the DRECP Table
by Tara Hansen, Executive Director, CNPS

In early October, Greg Suba received a message from the Director of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) that CNPS would be accepted as a member of the DRECP Stakeholder Committee.

Previously, Greg had delivered critical information on rare plants and vegetation communities to the group through other stakeholders that hold seats on the committee. Director David Harlow cited general agreement among the member agencies that the addition of CNPS to the committee would contribute important expertise not currently represented on the committee.

CNPS now has its own seat at the table. This is a testament to the high quality data that has been developed through the CNPS science programs, and Greg’s persistence and excellent delivery skills as a non-member participant in the DRECP process to date.

The California Heartland Project Comes of Age
by Glen Holstein, Ph.D., chapter botanist

You may have seen presentations on The California Heartland Project at our fall plant sale. The California Heartland Project originated through collaboration between our chapter and Habitat 2020, the habitat committee of the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS).

It was designed as a way to proactively advocate for nature around Sacramento, rather than just react in opposition to sprawl projects. Since then it has been amazingly successful.

First, ECOS adopted it as its model for habitat protection. Now it has been adopted by the city of Sacramento’s Greenwise Initiative, which is uniting the region’s environmental, business, and agricultural communities to make Sacramento a greener city.

All this activity has brought the national conservation organization Trust for Public Land to our area to help protect nature. The California Heartland Project is no longer just a dream. It is becoming reality.

If you’d like to help, please contact Matt at: habitat@ecosacramento.net.

September Roundtable Success
Panelists and audience members at the September roundtable shared their knowledge and offered insights to gardeners’ questions. For instance, Glen Holstein’s advice was to get to know the soils and topography where you live and see what grows in natural areas around you. Plants that do well in those areas will probably do best in your garden. Start at http://soils.usda.gov/survey/.

Left to right: Moderator Mary Maret, panelists Chris Lewis, Glen Holstein, Julie Serences and Dennis Dahlin

ACR 173
Native Plant Week Committee formed
In August 2010 the California legislature declared the third week of April as California Native Plant Week.

The CNPS state office is forming a Chapter Council committee to coordinate chapter involvement and activities for Native Plant Week 2011.

This is an incredible opportunity to further the CNPS mission and vision by informing and engaging Californians in conservation and native plant education-related activities!

This committee will help coordinate publicity and develop a wide range of suggestions for events that chapters can plan. Activities can range from nature hikes to clean up and restoration events to horticulture/native plant sales to legislative advocacy and more.

If you have great ideas for this effort, please consider serving on this committee. For more information contact Tara Hansen, thansen@cnps.org or (916) 447-2677 x201

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 are seeking nominees for President and Vice President. You may nominate yourself or someone else. Contact current president Jennifer Stock (information below) or present your nomination at the meeting.

For information about the open roles, contact Jennifer Stock at (916) 443-3484, jstock2409@sbcglobal.net. You may also submit a nomination at the meeting.
Bring Nature Home Plant Sale and Celebration Revisited
by Christina Lewis

It was a big decision for the chapter board to change this year’s plant sale to two days, rather than the usual one-day sale. But everyone loved it!

Even with competition from other events that weekend we had a good turn out and good energy. As nursery volunteer Jim Wadsworth said, “Lots of people, lots of volunteers, lots of work, lots of fun.”

Outside at the Plant Sale

Betsy Weiland and I appreciate and admire the dedication of volunteers like: Barbara Wolf, Bill Davis, Bonnie Ross, Brigitte Dinaberg, Carol Crofoot, Carol Rogala, Carol Yeates, Cate Schmidt, Cathie LaZier, Christine Hansen, Dave Roberts, Dave Self, Elizabeth Hubert, Emmy Gunterman, Frank Wallace, Gerald Swafford, Gin Wenslaff, Glen Holstein, Hazel Gordon, Janet Baker, Jennifer Hogan, Jennifer Stock, Jenny Alexander, Jim Wadsworth, Joann Fuller, Joanne Hearty, John Huls, John Martin, Joyce Martin, Krishna Spier, Linda Maurer, Linda Sweetman, Linnea Fronce, Martha Mallery, Mary Lou Brennan, Mary Maret, Mary Schiedt, Matt Baker, Mike Bower, Mike Savino, Paul Barth, Paul Lester, Rees Williams, Robin Rietz, Ron Stork, Rose Hoskinson, Ruth Ostroff, Sean Wirth, Steve Woodward, Susan Fregien, Tara Hansen, Terry Linton, Tom Balestrieri, Tony Duke, Tricia Bippus, and Warren Truitt.

Additionally I want to thank Joan Kodani, Alan Kilgore, and Kristi Green for preparing documents for the plant sale.

Board members Betsy Weiland, Barb Wolf, Paul Barth, Mary Schiedt and I spent time planning for the sale and event.

Does that seem like a lot of people? Combined we volunteered more than 500 hours that weekend! Give yourselves a pat on the back!

Inside the Garden and Arts Center

Left: A great crowd on opening day
Below: Plant experts help a customer at the advice table.

Photos (2) ©2010 Jim Wadsworth

Photos (3) © 2010 Chris Lewis

Left: Glen Holstein of the California Heartland Project impressed the crowd with the ecological history of the Sacramento region!

Right: A satisfied customer!

www.SacValleyCNPS.org 3
Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Wednesdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
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 e-mail to: Elderberry_Farms_Native_Plant_Nursery-subscribe@yahoooogroups.com

Fridays, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
American River Parkway Walks
We walk different areas of the American River Parkway, depending on what is in bloom or in seed and who knows where they are. Rain or shine. To sign up for the Nursery’s listserv send an e-mail to: Elderberry_Farms_Native_Plant_Nursery-subscribe@yahoooogroups.com or contact Chris at lewisc916@yahoo.com.

Tues., 11/2 and 12/7, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Ceanothus Plant Identification Workshops
CNPS State Office, 2707 K Street, Ste. 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113
Contact: Carol Witham, cwitham@ncal.net or (916) 761-7886

Sat., 11/6, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Native Plant Sale at Elderberry Farms
See page 5 for details

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.

Chapter Meeting & Guest Speaker
2nd Wed. of month, 7:00 p.m.
(Jan-June; Sept.-Nov)
Shepard Garden & Arts Center,
McKinley Park, Sacramento

Photo ©2010 Jim Wadsworth

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, CA 95817
(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, (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
(530) 758-6787, holstein@cal.net

Photo ©2010 Jim Wadsworth

Help save the “Gardens Gone Native” Tour
by Christina Lewis
Scheduled for May 1, 2011, the chapter’s first annual native garden tour of the Sacramento area is in peril.
Our Garden Tour chair has had to step down. The rest of the committee is still interested in working on the tour. They did a lot of work, have made great progress and want to see our first Native Plant Garden Tour happen.
If you are interested in chairing or co-chairing the tour committee, please contact Chris at lewisc916@yahoo.com.
If no one steps up to chair this project, we will have to cancel the tour. That would be a blooming shame!

School and Community Garden enthusiasts: “Kids In Native Plant 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.
Advice and site visits are included in the program.
Go to the Sacramento Valley Chapter’s website http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/gardening/kid.htm for more information and to download the grant application.

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.

Stockton chapter outings are on winter hiatus. Stay up to date on Stockton subchapter activities by visiting them on the web: http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/stockton/stockton.html

OTHER EVENTS

Volunteer Sunday Afternoons 2010-2011 at the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity
Dec. 12, Jan. 9, and Feb. 20
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
1026 Sciences Laboratory Building, UC Davis Campus.

The Center will also be open for general use of the collections during these Sundays. Please contact Ellen Dean at eadean@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-1091. Driving directions and map available at http://herbarium.ucdavis.edu.

Save the Dates!
Upcoming workshops at UC Davis

Horticultural Workshop: The Botany and Ecology of How Plants Grow by Ernesto Sandoval, Director, UC Davis Botanical Conservatory
Sat., February 26, 2011, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
1022 Life Science Addition (UC Davis)
In this interactive discussion using live plants and images of plants from around the world, participants will better learn how and why plants live or die, flourish or flounder in our gardens, in a comfortable, non-technical setting. Enrollment information will be available in January at http://greenhouse.ucdavis.edu/conservatory or by calling Ernesto at 751-0569. All proceeds will go directly to the Conservatory.

Plant Name Changes with Dan Potter
UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity Herbarium
Sat., March 5, 2011
Advances in the understanding of phylogenetic relationships among plants are resulting in name changes, especially at the genus and family levels. Emphasis will be placed on name changes that are forthcoming in the second edition of The Jepson Manual. Look for registration information in early January at http://herbarium.ucdavis.edu or e-mail Ellen Dean at eadean@ucdavis.edu. All proceeds will benefit the herbarium.

Other Events continues next page
Friday Walks - Nature cures the blues!

by Christina Lewis

Last year, we continued the weekly seed collecting Friday walks thru the winter. Now I have to admit that I used to dread Sacramento’s dreary winters. One Sunday in January the weather forecast for the coming Friday was a 40 percent chance of rain.

Sure enough, that morning came cold and drizzling and sure to rain soon. Clearly no sane person would go for a walk this day! But since folks might show up and I didn’t want to leave anyone stranded, I drove to Snipes Ravine to meet with Terry Linton, who was to be our guide.

When I got there Linnea Fronce and Terry were both there. Their willingness to walk (although we would surely get wet) convinced me to go ahead and walk even though I wasn’t dressed properly.

Once out on the trails, our attention turned to the ferns, which were lush and everywhere. Then we saw the California figwort (Scrophularia californica) leafing out, admired the rock cliff dotted with canyon liveforever (Dudleya cymosa), the soap plant (Chlorogalum pomeridianum) starting its spiral upward. It was an hour before I realized my pant legs were wet and I was getting cold. BUT it was beautiful out there!

So, I recommend investing in some rain gear (like I did) and joining us rain or shine (very light rain only) on our Friday walks!

On our October 15 walk we saw an owl fly overhead and lots of great plants. The star of the day was the virgin’s bower (Clematis ligusticifolia) in glorious seed. We saw it draped over toyon, a live oak, and topping a 35 foot tall valley oak!

To stay posted about the Friday walks, sign up for the Elderberry Farms listserve by sending a blank e-mail to: Elderberry_Farms_Native_Plant_Nursery-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Questions, contact Chris at lewisc916@yahoo.com.

“Paint the Effie Yeaw Nature Center”
A Fundraising Workshop with David Peterson

Saturday, November 6, 2010 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Fee: $40 (50 percent goes to ARNHA, which operates EYNC)

Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, CA 95608

Join award-winning artist David Peterson for a four-hour watercolor painting workshop outdoors at EYNC. Create a beautiful, moving painting of a familiar subject we all love. Suitable for all levels of experience. Workshop will wind up with a 30-minute critique. Your work may be used in EYNC publicity, with your permission.

Materials: Bring your watercolor kit, prepare to paint half-sheet. Tables and easels will be provided. If you are new to watercolor you may pay a $10 fee for paper and paint and use the instructor’s supplies.


OTHER EVENTS

Friends of the Chico State Herbarium
Sat., 11/13
Two workshops by Ward Habriel:
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Home Composting – From the Basic to the Advanced
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.: Home Vermiculture and Home Vermicomposting
For registration and information about all workshops see: http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html

Northern California Botanists Annual Symposium – “California Plant Life - The Wonder, Revelations, and Concerns Continue”
Jan. 10-11, 2011 - Chico, CA
Call For Posters
Present a poster to share your work and knowledge of the biology, ecology, conservation or management of our Northern California plant life. This is a great opportunity for continuing education and networking. Deadline for poster abstract submission: December 1, 2010. For more information see http://www.norcalbotanists.org/symposia.htm

Photo ©2010 Jim Wadsworth
Photo ©2010 Chris Lewis
Convolances to the Berry family

On behalf of the Sacramento chapter board and membership, we offer deep condolences to board member Peggy Berry, whose husband Bill died September 30, 2010 after a long fight with pancreatic cancer.

Bill was an environmental lawyer with a love for rivers and flyfishing. He interrupted his early legal career to serve in the Peace Corps, giving his family the opportunity to live and travel in Turkey and Paraguay.

After retirement, he turned his legal skills and passion to protecting streams and rivers.

The Berry Family invites Bill’s family and friends to attend a celebration of his life November 7, 2010, beginning at 1:00 pm, at the Fair Oaks Park’s Community Clubhouse, 7997 California Avenue, Old Fair Oaks Village.

Donations in Bill’s name may be made to Save the American River Association, California Trout, High Country News, or Effie Yeaw Nature Center (c/o The American River Natural History Association), organizations that he long supported.

An obituary with additional details appeared in the October 14 issue of the Sacramento Bee.

5th Annual CELEBRATION FOR VERNAL POOLS

Friday, November 5, 6-9 pm
Splash Education Center
4426 Excelsior Road, Mather

Wine, microbrews, appetizers and desserts
Silent auction and raffle
Tours of the Splash Education Center
Live folk/rock/Celtic music by local environmentalists

Suggested donation is $25 per person and reservations are required.
Donors will receive raffle tickets for the numerous door prizes. All proceeds will go toward vernal pool conservation, advocacy and educational outreach efforts of the CNPS Sacramento Valley Chapter.

Contact Carol Witham cwitham@ncal.net or (916) 452-5440 to donate items or volunteer to help out before, during or after the event.

If you cannot attend the event and wish to make a donation, send a check payable to CNPS Vernal Pool Preservation Fund to Carol Crofoot, 2280 Stillwind Ln., Rancho Cordova CA 95670

Information and registration at http://www.vernalpools.org/celebration.

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Happy Holidays!
Hibiscus will return in January!
Submit content for the January Hibiscus by December 10!

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

November/December 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

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View and download this newsletter and past issues online at
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