

# Hibiscus

FEBRUARY 2007

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY CHAPTER OF  
THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
*Serving the Sacramento, Yolo, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, lower Placer and northern San Joaquin County areas*

## **Sacramento Valley Chapter Meeting Wednesday, February 14, 7 p.m.**

Shepard Garden & Arts Center  
McKinley Park • 3330 McKinley Blvd.  
(the eastern extension of E St.) • Sacramento 95816  
**Diana Hickson, Program Chair** (916) 362-8022  
**Mary Maret, President** (916) 961-4057

*Our chapter meetings are free and the public is invited to attend. Each meeting*

*includes a "Know Your Natives" Plant Identification Challenge. Books, wildflower seeds, and Sacramento Valley Chapter t-shirts will be available for purchase at the meeting. Refreshments will be served.*



## **What we don't know about vernal pools: Water, the next frontier by Niall McCarten**

Great strides in understanding vernal pool ecosystems have been made over the past couple of decades. Environmental, public, regulatory, and scientific interest have increased substantially. Recognition of rare and endangered plants and wildlife, biodiversity and endemism, and complex community structure has added to our overall understanding. However, studies of fundamental hydrology and, more importantly, its links to biology, have been seriously neglected. Although the importance of vernal pool soils and geology has implied hydrological differences, there have been no detailed studies until recently.

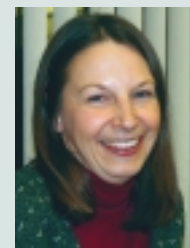
Niall's talk will discuss the history of our understanding of hydrology and its potential linkages. He will discuss new, yet to be published research he has

conducted with UC Davis hydrologists. Their findings suggest we have only hit the tip of the melting iceberg on the hydrological variations in vernal pool ecosystems. His presentation will include information on the hydrology and wetland functions related to extremely rare plants, as well as the potential impacts of climate-change-induced changes in rainfall on future outcomes for species and populations.

Niall McCarten is the Principal of the Botanical Research Group in Davis. He has been an environmental consultant for 23 years. Along with consulting and conducting botanical research in California, he is an accomplished photographer and produces videos of African wildlife through his company Cheetah Films and Photography.

## **Meet our new President**

Mary Maret has been a native plant enthusiast and member of Native Plant societies in Oregon, California, and even Arkansas! She has found that "these 'society' folks are always the nicest people!" Upon moving to Sacramento in 1999 Mary immediately joined CNPS and became a vernal pool docent with Eva Butler's Mather Preservation group. Says Mary, "it was so cool to actually see these vernal pools that I had written papers about and learned about in grad school." Our new pres' primary botanical



interests are field ecology, native prairie restoration, riparian restoration and vernal pools. She is looking forward to her term as our Chapter president.

The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them and their natural habitats through science, education, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship.



# FEBRUARY 2007 Calendar of Events

Check out the calendar online at [www.sacvalleycnps.org](http://www.sacvalleycnps.org) for more, updated events and happenings!

## FEBRUARY

**Sat., 2/3 EcoLandscape Conference  
Samuel C. Pannell Meadowview  
Community Center  
2450 Meadowview Road, Sacramento  
8:45 to 3:30**

The conference will feature speakers on such topics as how to ecologically design, build and maintain landscapes; soil management; turf management and alternative weed control methods. Our CNPS chapter will have an exhibit at the conference. Contact: Melinda Rivasplata, [melirivas@earthlink.net](mailto:melirivas@earthlink.net) or 916 454-5937. For more information on the EcoLandscape Conference go to [www.ecolandscapes.org](http://www.ecolandscapes.org)

**Tues., 2/6 Walk along the American River**

**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777  
8:00 am - noon**

Join Jack on a 4-hour walk looking at native and non-native plant species, mammals and birds. *This walk is great for both beginning and more experienced nature lovers.* Dress warmly and bring a snack and liquids if desired. Meet Jack at the end of Jacob Lane, which runs south off Fair Oaks Blvd. between Arden and Eastern.

**Sun., 2/18 Habitat Improvement Work Day**

**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Help Jack restore native vegetation along the American River Parkway. Tasks vary from month to month so call Jack for details and meeting time, usually early morning.

**Tues. 2/20 (NEW) Parkway Walk/  
Estates Drive**

**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777  
8:00 am - noon**

This early morning walk along the American River Parkway will be in an area just upriver from the Watt Avenue Bridge at the end of Estates Drive in Carmichael. Join Jack on this stretch of the river as he shares with you his knowledge of plants, mam-

mals, and of course, the birds. Meet Jack at the end of Estates Drive, which runs south off Fair Oaks Blvd. between Watt and Eastern Aves.

**Sat., 2/25 Vernal Pool Critter Tour  
Sacramento Splash Center, Mather  
Field RESERVATIONS REQUIRED  
1:00 p.m.**

A tour especially for kids and families to explore the wet phase of the vernal pools at Mather Field. We spotlight the critters that spring to life when the vernal pools fill with rain during the winter. You'll come nose-to-nose with creatures you've never seen and leave on a first name basis.

Call the CNPS Wildflower Hotline at 916-737-WILD for reservations **(required)** and directions. A map and directions are also posted at [www.sacvalleycnps.org](http://www.sacvalleycnps.org)

Did you know?  
You can view and download this newsletter in full blooming color on our website [www.SacValleyCNPS.org](http://www.SacValleyCNPS.org)

## ONGOING

**Native Plant Demo-Garden  
Saturdays and Sundays**

**10 am until noon (Rain cancels).**

Wear a hat, long shirt and boots (or sturdy tennis shoes). Also bring gloves, gardening tools and knee pads if you have them. RSVP by Sunday at 5 p.m. to confirm 929-7896. For more info, [Sabrina.soj@surewest.net](mailto:Sabrina.soj@surewest.net)

**Native Plant Nursery meeting  
PLEASE NOTE DATE AND LOCATION CHANGE!**

**7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Feb 27th  
at Chris Lewis' house.**

[lewisc@surewest.net](mailto:lewisc@surewest.net) or 916 482-5282

**Habitat 2020 Conservation meeting  
7:00 p.m.**

**Monday, Feb 12th at Carmichael  
Library, 5605 Marconi Ave. Questions? Chris Lewis-**

[lewisc@surewest.net](mailto:lewisc@surewest.net) or 916 482-5282

**Chapter Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

**2nd Wednesday of month (Jan-June;  
Sept.-Nov)**

Shepard Garden & Arts Center,  
McKinley Park, Sacramento.

Meetings are free and open to the public. Each meeting includes a "Know Your Natives" Plant Identification Challenge. Books, Wildflower Seeds, and our SacValley t-shirt always available for purchase. Refreshments.

**Newsletter Assembly party**

**7:00 p.m. 3rd Wednesday of month**

Held in Carmichael. Phone if you can help out. (916) 482-5282

**Chapter Board meetings**

**7:00 p.m. 4th Wednesday of month  
(Jan-June; Sept.-Nov)**

*\*New location starting January 2007!\**

Arden-Dimick Public Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento 95864. In Fair Oaks, corner of Northrup. Call Mary Maret for more information (916) 961-4057.

## SAVE THE DATE!

If you want to be involved in our chapter's signature annual event, please contact Chris Lewis: [lewisc@surewest.net](mailto:lewisc@surewest.net) or 916-482-5282

California Native Plant Society ~ Sacramento Valley Chapter	
	
Discovery Zone - Wildflower Exhibit Native Plant Sale ~ More!	
April 21 & 22 10 a.m. ~ 4 p.m. Free Admission	Crawford's Barn 2715 Tiber Drive Sacramento, CA 95826
For more information: <a href="http://www.SacValleyCNPS.org">www.SacValleyCNPS.org</a>	

# A Hard Act to Follow

**O**ur January meeting saw new President Mary Maret take on the president's role from former president Christina Lewis. Mary introduced herself and gave gracious words of thanks to Chris for her productive leadership.

She then sprang a surprise the board had conceived to honor Chris: Vice President Russ Huddleston presented Chris with a beautifully framed original painting by Linnea Fronce, CNPS' own talented botanical artist. (Linnea's work has graced past Wildflower Weekend posters, as it will again in 2007). The painting of California Hibiscus was meaningful not only because of its symbolism for our chapter, but because the photos used for reference were shot in Chris' own garden!

The moment became mushier still as Chris realized her whole family, including beloved granddaughter Mira, had come to share in the celebration. Meeting attendees then made short work of a delicious cake from Freeport Bakery that was inscribed "Thank You Chris."

Here are more words of appreciation for the great work Chris has done--and will be continuing to do--on behalf of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of CNPS.



*I'd like to add her unflinching determination and patience. Chris looked forward to retiring and being able to focus on CNPS needs, especially outreach and education. – Bonnie Green Ross*

*I remember Chris commenting on all of the old historical papers she found while helping to clean out the State CNPS office while they were moving. She noted that the chapter had more accomplishments and got a lot more done in the old days under George Clark than it seemed we did now. Soon after, Chris instituted Wildflower Weekend, the State Fair native plant garden and laid the blueprint for our own native plant nursery. I think George Clark would have approved. – Mary Maret*



*For my part, I'm thankful for Chris's hard work on hosting the Chapter Council's June 2005 40th Anniversary meeting in Grass Valley, her seemingly magical ability to find volunteers, her enthusiasm and hard work on our Wildflower Weekends, for hosting numerous Board meetings at her home (even providing dinner at some!), her commitment to Habitat 2020 and ECOS, her vision for teaching about native plants in their habitat, and her always pleasant personality! — Diana Hickson*

*Chris constantly amazes me — she's always thinking of productive and positive ways to better the work and mission of CNPS — and then she volunteers to "dig right in" and get these ideas and the needed volunteers moving. I have the highest respect for her creativity and commitment.... I'll admit I know only some, not all of her achievements on behalf of both our chapter and CNPS. – Peggy Berry*



## CONSERVATION

### Your input is needed on developing the plan and building community involvement at Robla Creek!

There will be a series of community meetings on the **Robla Creek Stewardship Program Plan Development.**

- Meeting 1** Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> (5:30-6:45)
- Meeting 2** Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> (6:15-7:30)
- Meeting 3** Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup> (6:15-7:30)
- Location** Taylor Street School Cafeteria  
4350 Taylor Street  
Sacramento, CA 95838
- Phone** 916-927-5340

For more information contact: Steven Giguere, Landscape Architect (916) 808-8354 or Sharon Farrell, Consultant, (415) 710-0557. If you cannot attend, please provide your input by phone or by email at [office@mayandassociatesinc.com](mailto:office@mayandassociatesinc.com)

### Front Yard Make-Over Contest: Win Free, Water-Wise Landscaping!

Peggy Berry shares this information from our local water leaders, who seem to be “on to something” in finding new ways to convince lawn lovers about the reality and necessity for water conservation in landscaping.

The Water Forum is pleased to partner with the Regional Water Authority and others in promoting RWA's first-ever “Ultimate Water Smart Garden Makeover Contest.”

Entries will be accepted between now and May 31. The grand prize winner will receive a complete front yard makeover this summer that will feature a custom water smart landscape design. The grand prize includes maintenance for one year!

In the Sacramento region outdoor water use accounts for half of all water consumed by single family homes. Water Forum signatories have pledged to implement best manage-

ment practices aimed at reducing outdoor water use, but getting their customers to take part in these programs is often difficult.

Although all jurisdictions have ordinances on the books, in most cases the implementation is falling short of goals.

Water efficient landscapes can benefit water suppliers, water users and the environment. Your assistance in promoting the RWA contest will help jump start a move toward more water efficient landscapes in our region.

In order to be eligible to win the grand prize, entrants must simply agree to a water wise house call (a.k.a. a water audit)!

For an entry form and contest rules contact Sarah Foley, Program Manager, Water Forum [sfoley@waterforum.org](mailto:sfoley@waterforum.org)

### Botanical Illustration Workshop In the Mojave Desert

The College of Extended Learning at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) will offer “Botanical Illustration of Native Desert Flora” from **Friday, March 31 through Sunday, April 1** at the California State University (CSU) Desert Studies Center in Zzyzx (near Baker), California. The cost per person is \$310 for credit or \$210 for non-credit and includes basic dormitory lodging and selected meals. For more information, visit <http://cel.csusb.edu/> or contact the College of Extended Learning at (909) 537-5979.

### 2007 Bringing Back the Natives & Select Tours!

May 6 - Register online by 4/25 at [www.BringingBackTheNatives.net](http://www.BringingBackTheNatives.net)  
Also see: [www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org](http://www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org)

### Native American Uses of Plants and Hands-on Pine Nut Necklace Workshop

Sponsored by The Davis Botanical Society and the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory

**January 27, 2007 Instructor: Renee Shahrokh Limit of 15 students**

**Fee: \$55** (*members of CNPS or the Davis Botanical Society receive a \$15 discount, pay \$40 fee*)

Renee is a Botany Professor at American River College where she teaches Ethnobotany, Botany and Plant I.D. She gives professional lectures on the traditional uses of plants by Native Tribes in California and works for the California Indian Basket Weaver's Association coordinating volunteers for their annual gathering.

Class participants will make a necklace of pine nuts similar to those made traditionally by the Maidu,



Wintu and many other tribes throughout California from seeds of the gray/bull pine tree (*Pinus sabiniana*). There will be a demonstration of cordage making and blackening of the pine nut beads.

To register, please include your name, address, phone and fax numbers, and email address with your check payable to “UC Regents” and mail to: Ernesto Sandoval, Botanical Conservatory, Plant Biology, 1002 Life Sciences Addition, Davis, CA 95616. For questions please call 530-752-0569 or e-mail [jesandoval@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jesandoval@ucdavis.edu)

# Big-Scale Balsamroot

(*Balsamorhiza macrolepis* var. *macrolepis*)



Dean Wm Taylor

© 2005 Dean Wm. Taylor

**Status:** CNPS 1B - Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.

**Habitat:** California prairie, chaparral and woodlands

**Blooming Period:** March – June  
**Range:** Widespread in northern California from Tehama County south to Santa Clara County

For further information, please contact Russell Huddleston, Rare Plant chair.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Vice President**  
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**Secretary**  
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**Treasurer**  
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**Kid/Community Gardens**  
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**ListServe Moderator**  
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**Longview Oaks, Project Mgr**  
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**Mather Preservation**  
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**Rare Plants**  
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**Spring Plant Sale Chair**  
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**Member at Large**  
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**Member at Large**  
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**Conservation Chair**  
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**Glen Holstein**

## HELP WANTED!

### CALLING NEW & USED MATHER FIELD DOCENTS!

**New Docents Training:**

**Feb. 25 10:00 – 12:00**

**All Docents Orientation:**

**April 7 2:00 – 4:00**

If you're already a trained docent, we need you back at the pools this spring. Orientation is April 7 from 2:00 – 4:00 at the Splash Center to meet the new docents and plan the season's logistics.

If you'd like to join these volunteers, CNPS will provide everything you need to start down the trail. A new docents training is Feb. 25 from 10:00 to noon.

**Both meetings are at the Splash Center at 4426 Excelsior Road, Mather, CA.** Directions are on the website at [www.sacvalleycnps.org](http://www.sacvalleycnps.org). Please RSVP to Eva Butler at [mathervernalpools@att.net](mailto:mathervernalpools@att.net) or 916-443-6282.

### ASSIST THE BOOK CHAIR

Help sell books at meetings and events. Great job for bookaholics! Contact Mary at [mmaret@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmaret@sbcglobal.net) or 916-961-4057

### HOSPITALITY CHAIR!

#### LARGE REWARDS from SMALL EFFORTS

This is an easy once-a-month effort for the general meetings. Responsibilities are to provide refreshments of the Hospitality Chair's choice; set up at meetings; chat with and enjoy the company of those who appreciate the goodies; clean up and later submit receipts to the Treasurer. Contact Peggy Berry at 916-944-1184.



CNPS Newsletter  
Sacramento Valley Chapter  
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Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

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## SAVE THE DATE!

California Native Plant Society  
Sacramento Valley Chapter presents



## FEBRUARY 2007 HIBISCUS

### [www.SacValleyCNPS.org](http://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. Articles for the Hibiscus must be submitted to the newsletter editor by the 8th of the month for possible inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

### PHOTO OF THE MONTH

From the Demonstration Garden,  
courtesy of Sabrina Okamura-Johnson  
**Bush Anemone** *Carpenteria californica*

Please submit photos for possible use  
in this space. E-mail to  
[bwolf@surewest.net](mailto:bwolf@surewest.net)



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