

The **H**ibiscus

September '06

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, September 13, 2006 7pm
Shepard Garden & Arts Center, McKinley Park
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento

Restoring Hetch Hetchy

By Dennis Pottenger

Dennis Pottenger, an award-winning journalist and author, will speak at our September meeting about the movement to remove O'Shaughnessy Dam and restore Yosemite Valley's "twin" valley, Hetch Hetchy. The Schwarzenegger Administration has just released its study stating that restoration would be feasible, so this discussion is timely. Dennis will put the controversy over Hetch Hetchy in its historical context – the proposed construction of the dam in the early 1900s resulted in the first national movement to preserve nature – and will discuss the details of proposed restoration itself. What should we native plant enthusiasts expect to gain from what could be the biggest ecological restoration project of our lifetime?



Hetch Hetchy Valley before the dam

Dennis Pottenger works for both Restore Hetch Hetchy and for Environmental Defense, two organizations that are working to find solutions to San Francisco's water and power needs while allowing restoration of the Hetch Hetchy Valley.

Dennis recommends two excellent books on the subject: ***The Battle Over Hetch Hetchy: America's Most Controversial Dam and the Birth of Modern Environmentalism*** by Robert Righter, and ***Dam!: Water, Power, Politics, and Preservation in Hetch Hetchy and Yosemite National Park*** by John W. Simpson.



EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND OUR MEETINGS! Our chapter meetings are free and the public is invited to attend. Bring a friend!

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.



August

30: Sac Valley Chapter Board Meeting at Chris Lewis' house
7pm 916-482-5282

30: Evening Beaver Walks w/Jack Hiehle
[Effie Yeaw Nature Center](#)

Walk with Jack and search for nature's nocturnal engineer, the beaver. Ask Jack about any of the flora and fauna along the trail. Limited to eight people and best suited for adults and children over 7 years old. Call Jack at 967-0777 for time and reservation.

September

Native Plant Demo-Garden Management.
Saturdays and Sundays

7:45 am until noon. Wear a hat, long shirt and boots (or sturdy tennis shoes). Also bring gloves, gardening tools and knee pads if you have them. Please RSVP by Friday at 1pm to confirm 929-7896. Rain cancels.

5: Evening Beaver Walks w/Jack Hiehle
[Effie Yeaw Nature Center](#)

Walk with Jack and search for nature's nocturnal engineer, the beaver. Ask Jack about any of the flora and fauna along the trail. Limited to eight people and best suited for adults and children over 7 years old. Call Jack at 967-0777 for time and reservation.

9: Trail Days at Stone Lakes NWR

Stone Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge 7:30 am A free docent guided walk will begin at 9 am from the trail head overlooking seasonal wetlands. Migratory birds will be starting to come thru California. All trail days are free. Reservations are not required. For updates on events call the information line at 916775-4420.

14: Evening Beaver Walks w/Jack Hiehle
[Effie Yeaw Nature Center](#)

Walk with Jack and search for nature's nocturnal engineer, the beaver. Ask Jack about any of the flora and fauna along the trail. Limited to eight people and best suited for adults and children over 7 years old. Call Jack at 967-0777 for time and reservation.

17: Habitat Improvement w/Jack Hiehle
[Effie Yeaw Nature Center](#)

Come and help improve the Nature Area.
Call Jack at 967-0777 if you plan to come.

8:00AM

23: FALL PLANT SALE (See the flyer on page 3)
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! (See page 5)

Plant List available online at www.sacvalleycnps.org

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Stone Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge 7:30 am A free docent guided walk will begin at 9 am from the trail head overlooking seasonal wetlands. Migratory birds will be starting to come thru California. All trail days are free. Reservations are not required. For updates on events call the information line at 916 775-4420.

26: Evening Beaver Walks w/Jack Hiehle
[Effie Yeaw Nature Center](#)

Walk with Jack and search for nature's nocturnal engineer, the beaver. Ask Jack about any of the flora and fauna along the trail. Limited to eight people and best suited for adults and children over 7 years old. Call Jack at 967-0777 for time and reservation.

27: Sac Valley Chapter Board Meeting at Chris Lewis' house
7pm

Meetings & Such

Reoccurring meetings for Sept, Oct, & Nov
(Not December):

Nursery Planning-

1st Tuesday (Goethe Ranch,
phone or email for directions-
812-2876; lewisc@surewest.net)

Habitat 2020 Conservation Meeting-

2nd Monday
(phone for information
482-5282)

Sac Valley CNPS Chapter meetings-

2nd Wednesday of each month
except July, Aug & Dec:
7pm

Shepard Garden & Arts Center, McKinley Park
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento

Newsletter assembly-

3rd Wednesday at Chris'
(phone if you want to help
482-5282)

Board meeting-

4th Wednesday at Chris'
(phone or email for directions-
482-5282; lewisc@surewest.net)

Don't Forget To Check Out
Our Online Calendar
www.sacvalleycnps.org
For More Up-To-Date
Happenings & Events

Habitat 2020 Help Needed

Fundraising help needed! Habitat 2020 is a committee of environmental organizations collaborating on common issues in and affecting Sacramento County. The mission of Habitat 2020 is to protect the lands and waters where our wildlife and native plants live in Sacramento County. The member organizations are Sacramento Audubon, Save the American River Association, Urban Creeks Council, Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, Environmental Council Of Sacramento (ECOS), Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Friends of Swainson's Hawk. This year a sub-committee led by Betsy Weiland put on an educational outreach event, The Natural Treasures of Rancho Cordova. It was a huge success bringing out 150 people. We need to have the ability to do more outreach as well as have a lawsuit fund. If YOU can help in ANY way, please contact Chris Lewis at lewisc@surewest.net



Summertime Membership Highlights

from Membership Coordinator Hazel Gordon

We'd like to thank the many renewing members of our chapter, whose loyalty and encouragement keep us going, even in the summer. We thank them all, but they are too numerous to mention here. Our chapter continues to attract new members, so we'd like to especially thank those who joined CNPS or our chapter during the past few months: A. Anderson, D. Armstrong, K. Byrne, J. Cleckler, F. Cranmore, G. Davidson, R. Ditty, J. Duthie, K. Fernandez, R. Fratti, L. Harvell, K. Jankowski, the Jorgensons, J. Knight, K. Longworth, N. McLachlin, J. Meffe, M. Muck, L. Neal, C. Newlin, A. Nobayashi, P. Perkins, M. Peters, D. Potter, J. Rexroth, F. Russo, T. Sapunor, K. Schick, J. Semple, R. Seward, B. Silverman, S. Still, S. Stone, M. And J. Swiecicki, T. Wheeler, L. Wilen, the Van de Waters, A. Young and others.

Conservation Help Needed

We need help everywhere! Every corner of every county in the Sacramento Valley seems to be prime for development, no matter if its in a flood plain, prime ag land, or prime habitat!

Several CNPS folks try to do what they can to stay informed and comment when appropriate. But just a few people can't do it all.

Could you be the eyes and ears in your community? We need folks willing to comment, write letters, and attend meetings. Yes, we need YOU.

Please contact me and let me know how you can help.

Chris Lewis
lewisc@surewest.net
916 482-5282 home 916 812-2876 cell

HELP NEEDED

FALL PLANT SALE (Saturday September 23rd):

Temporary Coordinator: Chris Lewis If you would like to help Coordinate this event, please contact Chris

The Sacramento Valley Chapter's sale is scheduled for Saturday, Sept 23rd from 9:00 - 3:00 at the Shepard Garden and Art Center in McKinley Park.

There are a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for about 40-50 people. You can coordinate efforts or be a team member, use plant expertise or volunteer for one of the vital support positions, and there are both *presale* and day-of-sale activities. Take a minute to see where you might fit in, and then give us a call. If you'll be out of town for the sale, consider helping out ahead of time.

We will be able to set up the afternoon before the sale. I'm trying to get the sale organized and would like to know if you will participate. There are a wide variety of tasks that need to be done, and all kinds of skills, and time commitments are required to complete the tasks. For most day-of-the-sale activities, I would like to have volunteers for a two hour shift.

Presale:

Prepare more uniform plant information cards

(Requires gathering information on the plants we have ordered, data input into a spreadsheet and printing out new information cards).

Bundle colored plastic pricing stakes

to be put in plant pots (e.g. 25 blue stakes for Achillea millefolium) -- you can watch TV and do this.

Grow plants for sale.

Determine plant sale layout

Plant sale set up on Friday afternoon

If you can't come on Saturday, would Friday work?

Provide cardboard boxes or plastic plant trays

for moving sold plants to cars.

Purchase food

(breakfast and lunch).

Day of the sale:

Last minute set up help

(an early-bird activity 7-9 am)

Cashiers

Plant movers

taking plants to cars (great job for younger members)

Plant information/advice

Book/poster sales

Promote CNPS and CNPS membership

Food preparation and clean up

Loading unsold plants and clean up

Please let me know if you can take on one or more of these jobs! If you have any questions, you can e-mail or phone me. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

One job not listed was doing a make-over on the Plant List to make it more user friendly. Thank You Jessica Cook for taking this one on! Chris

Several Board members are doing their part with Books, Teeshirts, Membership, and Coordinating the Nurseries.

The Plant List for this sale is available on our website: www.sacvalleycnps.org

Give Chris Lewis a call and let us know how you can help!
916 482-5282 or lewisc@surewest.net.



CNPS Newsletter
 Sacramento Valley Chapter
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September 2006 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. 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 issue.

Chapter President	Christina Lewis, 482-5282, lewisc@surewest.net
Chapter Vice President	Mary Maret, 961-4057, mmaret@sbcglobal.net
Chapter Treasurer	Bill Patterson, 452-9491, billwpat@surewest.net
Chapter Secretary	Hazel Gordon, 530 297-7204, hazelgordon@hotmail.com
Book Sales Coordinator	Olga Myslivec, 483-6727, olgamyslivec@hotmail.com
Chapter Botanist	Glen Holstein, 530 758-6787 holstein@cal.net
Chapter Council Delegate	Diana Hickson, 327-5956, dianahickson@comcast.net
Conservation Chair	Mary Maret, 961-4057, mmaret@sbcglobal.net
Demo Garden Director	Mitchell Alford, 399-9457, phytophinder@sbcglobal.net
Education Coordinator	Bonnie Ross, 962-3619, brross@water.ca.gov
Chapter Ethnobotanist	Renee Shahrok, 484-8245 shahror@losrios.edu
Fairs & Events Coordinator	Mary Schiedt, 530 400-7094, maryoloi@netscape.net
Fall Plant Sale Coordinator	HELP NEEDED
Field Trip Coordinator	Richard Rivas, 916 714-1104 x111, richard.rivas@ca.usda.gov
Habitat Enhancement Chair	Frank Wallace, 213-4682, frankw2@pacbell.net
Chapter Historian	Betty Matyas, 363-2390
Horticulture Chair	Jessica Hankins, 731-4910, jhankins@csus.edu
Chapter Hospitality Diva	Peggy Berry, 944-1184, pegberry@aol.com
Listserv Moderator	Harry Spanglet, 445-6531, spanglet@water.ca.gov
Long View Oaks Coordinator	Deborah Stout, 916 564-8541 stout@nsrnet.com
Mather Vernal Pools Coordinator	Eva Butler, 443-6282, riverside1@att.net
Membership Coordinator	Hazel Gordon, 530 297-7204, hazelgordon@hotmail.com
Natural Communities Director	Hazel Gordon, 530 297-7204, hazelgordon@hotmail.com
Newsletter / Website	Slow, 916 508-8288, slow@cal.net
Programs Director	Diana Hickson, 327-5956, dianahickson@cwnet.com
Publicity Coordinator	Janie Booth, 530 220-3283, janiebooth@gmail.com
Rare Plants Chair	Russell Huddleston, 456-1988, rhuddle1@CH2M.com
Kids/Community Gardens Director	Jennifer Hogan, 530 661-3410, jhogan@dfg.ca.gov
Spring Plant Sale Coordinator	Betsy Weiland, 916 488-3894, flweiland@yahoo.com
Stockton Sub-Chapter	Martha Mallery, 209 477-3966
Wildflower Seeds	Paul Townsend, 916 454-9677, paul.t.townsend@usace.army.mil
Wildflower Weekend Plant Sales	Betsy Weiland, 916 488-3894, flweiland@yahoo.com
Members at Large	Sabrina Okamura-Johnson, 929-7896, soj@surewest.net
	Steve Woodward, 916 489-1744, woodzos@comcast.net
	Tim Nosal, 916 961-0766 trnosal@aol.com

Oak Action Kit

from Chris Lewis, Sac Valley Chapter President

While I was helping organize files in CNPS' State Office*, I came across a binder titled **Oak Action Kit**. It is a compilation of resources for the preservation and conservation of oak habitats that was put together in 1989.

In leafing thru it, I found it to be quite useful... but how to disseminate it?

On the web, of course!

The Kit was designed for Conservation Committees of local CNPS chapters and other groups and individuals interested in our native oaks.

So what is needed is to adapt the documents for the use of Sacramento Valley residents. Then we can present it for publication on our website.

If interested please contact Chris at lewisc@surewest.net.

**Interested in helping at the State Office (2707 K Street in Sacramento)? Please contact Cari Porter at 916 447-2677.*



Sacramento Valley CNPS NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday, September 23rd
9:00 — 3:00



Shepard Garden & Arts Center, McKinley Park

3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento
www.SacValleyCNPS.org



For information or to help, please contact Chris at lewisc@surewest.net
Calycanthus occidentalis, Spice Bush sketch by Linnea Fronce

Did You See Us At The Fair?

SUPER-SCREEN WOMAN



Our newsletter editor, Slow, worked up some awesome signs for the exhibit we shared with Fish & Wildlife. Mary Maret worked diligently to coordinate with Cornflower Farms, buy wine barrels, label plants & recruit speakers for us. Janet Gerland drew up plans and plant lists and Cornflower Farms donated all the plant materials!

Our speakers were (will be depending on when you read this!):

Tim Nosal on Saturday, Aug 9, 12:30-1:00;
Frank Wallace on Saturday, Aug 19, 4:30-5:00;
Jessica Hankins on Sunday, Aug 20, 12:30 to 1:00;
Bonnie Ross on Sunday, Aug 20, 4:30 to 5:00.

A special thanks to Viola Taylor of Fish & Wildlife!

Our Sac Valley CNPS Chapter Projects & Cooperative Efforts Online

www.sacvalleycnps.org

Besides having our Chapter's--and access to other organizations'-events calendars; regularly updated local current events; employment and volunteer opportunities; archived chapter and sub-chapter newsletters, and news articles gleaned from statewide news sources; access to our board members and to our ListSrv, our website also has organized side-bar buttons that interested folk can click on to check out our impressive, ongoing, future and past projects. You'll find whatever you're looking for under one of the four Projects Buttons (if you get lost, just type in whatever your looking for in our handy-dandy search window):

OUR CONSERVATION PROJECTS:

Mission & Action Alerts, Vernal Pools, Mather Field Preservation, Habitat 2020, American River Parkway, Longview Oaks Preservation, Sacramento Weed Warriors, Sacramento Urban Creeks Council, Plant Lists, Native Plant Demo Garden, Volunteer Opportunities

OUR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS:

Classes, Field Trips, Wildflower Weekend, Mather Field Preservation, Mather Field Flower Walks, SPLASH Program, Kid's Garden, Vernal Pools, Sacramento Weed Warriors, Plant Lists, Demo Garden, Plant Propagation Workshops, Plants Of Mather Field, Volunteer Opportunities

OUR HORTICULTURE PROJECTS:

Plant Lists, Plant sales, Wildflower Weekend, Demo Garden, Plant Propagation Workshops, Kid's Garden, *Bringing Back The Natives* Tour, Volunteer Opportunities

OUR RARE PLANT PROJECTS

Rare Plant Monitoring At Pine Hill, Plant Lists, Plants Of Mather Field, Mission & Action Alerts, Vernal Pools, Demo Garden, Volunteer Opportunities

October 7: Native Bees and their role at the Old City Cemetery Gardens

Join the Old City Cemetery garden volunteers on Saturday, October 7, 2006 at 9:30AM as they learn about the native bees that have taken up residence in the gardens in the Old City Cemetery. UC Berkeley entomologist Dr. Gordon Frankie will be giving a presentation on these native pollinators that he has been studying since this spring. These native bees have found the cemetery gardens (which includes our native plant demonstration garden) to be an excellent food source and have made a home in the gardens at the Old City Cemetery.

So that we may have an accurate count for chair and coffee setup at this event, please send RSVP to Sharon Partician (patrician@midtown.net) or Sabrina Okamura-Johnson (soj@surewest.net).

Sac Valley CNPS & 4-H

4-H County-wide California Native Plant Project being offered to Sac County 4-H members

Bonnie Ross, SacValley Chapter Education Chair, is offering a County-wide Native plant project to Sacramento County 4-H members. The participant must be an active member in a local 4-H club in Sacramento County and be 10 years old or above. Bonnie will be giving a presentation about the project on September 19th from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M in the County offices off of Bradshaw.



Bonnie Ross and Andrew Maret on a field trip to Sacramento Bar last February.
Photo by Keith Wagner

Each meeting will have a new and fascinating topic related to native plants with topic specialists leading the meeting. Topics will include: plant ecology, the importance and reason for using native plants, ethnobotany (native plant uses), bee and butterfly plants for your garden, native plants that attract wildlife, conservation biology, rare plants, plant communities, vernal pools, and more. Members will also be making presentations

on a native plant of their choice. Projects could include: making your own plant presses, leaf and flower painting on t-shirts, pressed native flower framed pictures, making native gardens in aquaria or in your own back yard and other fun and interesting activities depending on the topic and the leader. Bonnie is also investigating our project of creating a wildflower garden on the grounds of the Extension Office. Field trips will be an integral part of the project and, so far, include trips to: the Demo Garden in the City Cemetery, vernal pool visits in the late winter, and a drive up Highway 50 through several of California's unique habitat types.

News From The CNPS Demo-Garden



In August, our native buckwheats and fuchsias were (and still are) the big bloomers. You should make it out to see them, especially to see our pink fuchsias and our beautiful St. Catherine's Lace (*Eriogonum giganteum*), the state's largest buckwheat—in flower at least! It has also been fun just watching all the bees, insects and hummingbirds that come out to enjoy the blooms. On a related note, be sure to mark October 7, 9:30 am on your calendars to enjoy a presentation at the Old/Historic City Cemetery by UC Berkeley entomologist Dr. Gordon Frankie, who has been studying native bees that have made their home in the cemetery's gardens.

This summer was a hard one due to the severe heat and invasive grasses that encroach our garden from the adjacent cemetery lawn area. But we have rallied and will actually have racked up over 120 volunteer hours by September 1st. So I really want to thank all the old and new volunteers who took the time to come out and help at the demo-garden.

Special appreciation goes out to Mitchell Alford, Andy Phillips, Paul Townsend, Reese Williams and Jessica Hankins.

Thanks also needs to go out to Luther Burbank High School teacher Clay Dagler and student volunteers: Peter Do, Thomas Aguilera and Susan Vang (pictured above), who came out on July 23rd to help with weeding, pruning and potting up California fuchsias that had started to invade one of our aisles -that gets supplemental water from the nearby irrigation line.

We are currently in great need of other horticultural managers who can help share the weekend workload this fall and next year. If you are able to commit 4 hours a month of volunteer work on either a Saturday or Sunday please contact me at 916-929-7896 or via e-mail at CNPSgarden@surewest.net. We are also in need of native plant enthusiasts and horticulturalists that can donate 1-2 hours a month on the weekend to share their knowledge about native plants while leading a "general public" tour of the Native Plant Demo-garden, or lead a "native plant horticultural workshop".

See you in the garden, Sabrina Okamura-Johnson



Last May was a great time to stop by our chapter's Native Plant Demo Garden at the Old City Cemetery as either a visitor or horticultural volunteer!

Come get up close and personal with the garden's Scarlet Bugler (above) and Bush Anemone (right).



Photo Of The Month



This beautiful photo of a native hibiscus was submitted by Sac Valley Chapter member Nancy Thompson who was kind enough to share it with us all.

"I started it from seed about 5 years ago. The seeds were collected from a county road near the Butte Sink area. I planted 50 seeds, but, only 7 grew into plants. It needs constant watering so it is in a container with a bottom reservoir of about a half gallon of water that I replenish twice a day if it is over 100 degrees outside."

Please Submit your proud photos and stories for the Hibiscus to Slow@cal.net

Carol Witham's Field Guide To The Vernal Pools Of Mather Field

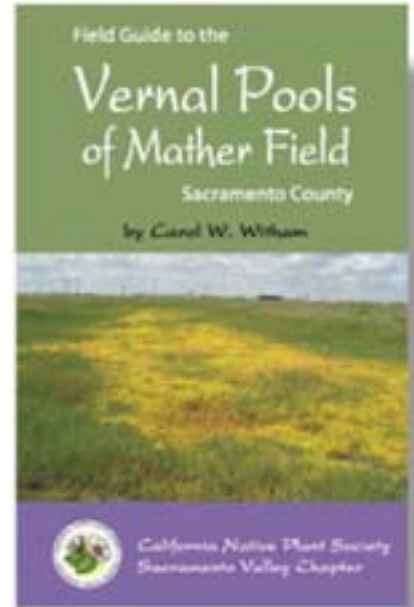
Over 1000 copies sold!

Get yours now before they're all gone.

Proceeds from sales benefit: our Sac Valley CNPS Chapter's vernal pool conservation and educational efforts.

Order yours by calling Slow at 916 508-8288, or, email your request to Slow@cal.net.

\$10 each + S&H



Your Membership Helps To Preserve and Protect California Native Plants & Their Habitats

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