

Hibiscus

May 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, May 9, 7 pm

Shepard Garden & Arts Center
McKinley Park * 3330 McKinley Blvd
(the eastern extension of E Street)
Sacramento 95816

Diana Hickson, Program Chair, (916) 362-8022

Mary Maret, President, (916) 961-4057

MAY PRESENTATION

California Desert Plants Amazing Beauty in a Harsh Environment

by Steve Hartman



The California desert has much more than just cactus! Steve Hartman, veteran leader of many CNPS desert field trips over the past two decades, will take you on a powerpoint tour of the Sonoran and Mojave deserts. Learn about the many plant communities and the key plant species that inhabit these hot arid regions. Get a visual treat with colorful images of spectacular spring and fall wildflower displays. Find out about some of the projects that CNPS has undertaken in helping survey and analyze rare desert flora. Steve will discuss some important threats to desert ecosystems such as fire and the invasion by non-native plants.

Steve Hartman has been member of the California Native Plant Society since 1974, has served on the CNPS State Board of Directors as Treasurer for over a decade, and was recently honored as a CNPS Fellow. Steve is a long-time volunteer of the Los Angeles / Santa Monica Mountains chapter, having served as chapter president, treasurer, newsletter editor, and plant sale co-chair. His local project is the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area, in the San Fernando Valley, where he has guided revegetation projects and has encouraged the City of Los Angeles to develop large-scale native landscaping projects. He served on the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert District Advisory Council for six years representing CNPS. Steve is a business executive and multimedia producer, and has combined these talents to produce a series of wildflower CD-ROMs available through the CNPS on-line store and catalog.

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.

www.SacValley CNPS.org

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.



MAY 2007

Calendar of Events

Check out the calendar online at www.sacvalleycnps.org for more, updated events and happenings!



Native Plant Demo-Garden at Old City Cemetery -

Saturdays and Sundays

10 a.m. 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. To help on **Saturdays** contact Mitchell Alford at 916 399-9457 or phytophinder@bcglobal.net.

To help on **Sundays** - Sabrina Okamura-Johnson at 916 929-7896 or soj@surewest.net.

Sacramento Weed Warriors

May 5 Saturday 8:45-12:15

Community Work Group / Spanish broom removal – Ancil Hoffman Park 1st picnic area parking lot. Please contact Ken Myatt, SWW Program Manager, at the American River Parkway Foundation (456-7423).

Habitat Improvement Work Day

May 20 Sunday call Jack Hiehle for details 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.

Phoenix Field

May 2 Wednesday 8am-11 am

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777
Join Jack at Phoenix Field (Jim David Park) for a walk around the beautiful vernal pools. This trip will feature rare plants and spring blooms in the vernal pools. Jack will lend his expertise in identifying these unusual plants. Phoenix Field is located on Sunset Blvd. just east of Hazel Ave.

Pine Hill

May 12 Saturday 8:15 am

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777
Walk with Jack up to a Fire Lookout and explore till early afternoon, with a focus on the rare and endangered plants found in this special area. Jack will not ignore the birds, so bring your binoculars as well. Meet at 8:15 am at the El Dorado Park & Ride, (going east on Hwy 50, take the first El Dorado off ramp; go right to the second stop sign, and left into the Park & Ride.) Alternate meeting place is at 9 am at the gate at Ulenkamp and Pine Hill Roads. (Hwy 50 to Bass Lake Road; right on Green Valley Road; pass a school on your right and then turn left on Ulenkamp Road to Pine Hill Road.) This trip will last till early afternoon so bring a lunch and liquids..

Paradise Beach

May 14 Monday 8am-noon

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777
Meet Jack in Glen Hall Park at the end of Carlson Drive for this interesting morning hike along the American River. Jack will show his skills as an all-around naturalist by pointing out birds, butterflies and wildflowers.



Chapter Board meeting

May 23 Wed 7:00 pm

Arden-Dimick Library
891 Watt Ave, Sac 95864
(corner of Watt & Northrup)
For more information contact Mary Maret 916 961-4057



Our Newest Little CNPSer!
Congratulations go to our Publicity Chair Janie Booth and her husband Tobin. And Welcome Alexandra, born March 9th. Mom & baby are doing fine!

Habitat 2020 Conservation

May 14 Monday 7:00 pm

SPEAKER: Tim Washburn

SAFCA

Arden-Dimick Library
891 Watt Ave, Sac 95864
(corner of Watt & Northrup)
Questions? Contact Chris-lewisc@surewest.net
916 812-2876

Newsletter Assembling Party!

May 16 Wed 7:00 pm

Need a project just once a month?

Let me know at 916 482-5282.

American River Native Plant Nursery/Demo Garden

planning meeting

May 20 Tues 6:00 pm

At the Goethe Farm.

Info: lewisc@surewest.net
or **916 812-2876**



Lewisia rediviva- Bitterroot (Table Mountain) By Samantha Hillaire

Help fight “The Preserve”

“The Preserve” is the name of a proposed 530 acre AKT development in the middle of the Sunrise-Douglas specific planning area. As approved by the Rancho Cordova City Council, this development would realign portions of Morrison Creek and protect only 90 acres of vernal pool grassland. As designed, this development will also eliminate an important wildlife corridor between two other preserved areas. The City Council approved the project even though the state and federal wildlife agencies have said that a minimum of 200 acres must be protected along the original alignment of Morrison Creek.

The Sacramento Valley Chapter of CNPS has filed a lawsuit against the City for their approval of this project on the grounds that they failed to show that proposed offsite mitigation would offset impacts to this rich vernal pool landscape. The proposed project also relies on “paper water” which the California Supreme Court has determined to have been inadequately analyzed in an earlier environmental review document.

The chapter is seeking donations to help fund this very important lawsuit. We cannot allow developers and the City of Rancho Cordova to just ignore irreplaceable natural resources. Donations to CNPS are tax-deductible. Checks should be made payable to *CNPS Vernal Pool Conservation Fund* and mailed to Carol Crowfoot, 2280 Stillwind Lane RC 95670. For more information contact Carol Witham (cwitham@cnps.org).

Make a difference: Be the Fall Plant Sale Coordinator.

Did you know that our Fall Plant Sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year? But this year, no one has stepped up to coordinate it. Will there be no plant sale in 2007? Perhaps this is a job that YOU can do. Much support and guidance is provided, and there is always a large cadre of volunteers to pitch in. The plant sale is on the fourth Saturday of September. It is a big job for a short period of time. Then its over and you can spend the rest of the year resting on your accolades.

Besides fighting for native plants (see pages 7 & 8), our chapter pays for our meeting room at McKinley Park, provides refreshments, prints and mails our newsletters, and purchases various items to keep all of our outreach and education programs going strong. It is a fun event and a great way to meet your fellow CNPS'rs. Please contact Mary M. (961-4057) for more information.

The NEW Front Yard Landscape Code... by Dave Roberts

'Sacramento Citizens for Sustainable Landscapes' fought hard for this: On April 3, 2007 the Sacramento City council voted to allow vegetables to be grown in front yard landscapes without any restrictions other than the health and safety codes that already exist. They voted 8 to 1 to delete the section of the revised code that would restrict vegetables to 30% and no more to four foot tall. The new Front Yard Landscape code language states that Sacramento gardeners can grow a diverse landscape of their choice: "The landscape may include grass, annuals, perennials, ground cover, shrubs, trees, and any design elements such as planters, rocks, mulch, or similar elements when integrated as part of the landscape."

The only restrictions are for health and safety reasons such as: "All landscaping located within the clear zone for driveways and corner lots, as set forth in Section 17.76.010 of this title, shall not exceed four (4) feet in height, except that trees exceeding four (4) feet in height shall be allowed if the tree is maintained free of branches five (5) feet above the finished grade."

Sacramento has committed to making the city more sustainable. Valuable city resources are currently being directed towards programs for water conservation, water quality (toxic lawn chemical contamination of our rivers and streams), and green waste management. City Council's adoption of this new code language supports diverse urban landscapes in Sacramento's front yards and will not only help address crucial environmental issues, but will help Sacramento meet its sustainability goals. Food security and hunger are also factors that can be addressed through home gardens. Homegrown fruit and vegetables can supply needed food that is fresh and nutritious. Many backyards are unsuitable for growing food so the option of front yard gardening is critical.

Build Green by Paul Townsend

The U.S. Green Building Council is a consensus coalition promoting the understanding, development, and accelerated implementation of green buildings. Their green building guidelines offer suggestions for conserving of natural resources, using water and energy wisely, improving indoor air quality, and planning for livable and sustainable communities. As part of conserving water, use of native plants is encouraged. On the PBS television series “This Old House”, a house in Austin, Texas was recently remodeled to achieve a high level of green building standards. In addition to use of recycled materials in the home, work in the yard included planting native plants, mulching planting beds, reduction of lawn areas, and storage and use of rain water to water vegetation and for domestic use. For this project the homeowner obtained the highest green building rating from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®).





CNPS Newsletter
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See pages 2-3 inside!

MAY 2007 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 newsletter.

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El Dorado mule-ears