

NOVEMBER 2006

Hibiscus

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, November 8, 2006 7 p.m.**

Hugh Safford, Ph.D. "Serpentine Geoecology in California"

Dr. Hugh Safford's presentation at our November meeting will be about the ecology of the vegetation of ultramafic "serpentine" soils in California. Particular focus will be on the geology of ultramafic outcrops, the pedology of soils developing on them, and the ways in which these factors influence vegetation structure, composition and diversity. Over the last decade, Safford and coworkers have carried out a series of studies on serpentine vegetation, dealing with disturbance ecology, biodiversity patterns, vegetation distribution, and patterns of exotic species invasion and endemism.

Dr. Safford will also discuss summarizing and generalizing these studies for the lay audience. The talk will be informal and "hands-on," with ample opportunity for questions and discussion.

Dr. Safford is the senior vegetation ecologist ("Regional Ecologist") for the USDA-Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Region (California, Hawaii, Pacific Islands), and holds a

research faculty affiliation with the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at UC Davis. He manages a staff of ecologists that provide vegetation and fire ecology expertise to land management on the eighteen National Forests in California. His areas of expertise are in community and landscape ecology, particularly biodiversity patterns, biogeography, and fire effects. Safford has a B.S. in geology from Montana State University, an M.A. in Secondary Education from San Francisco State University, and a Ph.D. in ecology from UC-Davis. He has been doing research on the ecology of ultramafic ("serpentine") habitats since 1998.

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



Serpentine linanthus (Linanthus ambiguus)

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.

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.



NOVEMBER 2006 Calendar of Events

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

OCTOBER

Wed. 10/25 Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of the Wildlife Society Natural Resources Symposium 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. California State University, Sacramento - University Union, Orchard Suite

Registration required.
Questions? 916-654-4024
Email: mdorin@energy.state.ca.us

Wed. 10/25 Sac Valley Chapter Board Meeting at Chris Lewis' house. 7 p.m. (916) 482-5282

Sat. 10/28 Trail Days at Stone Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

7:30 am and gate closes at 3 p.m.
A free docent guided walk will begin at 9 am from the trail head.

A 3-mile self-guided hike to view seasonal wetlands and migratory birds. Dress appropriately (layers, sturdy shoes) and bring binoculars, field guides, hat, water. No reservations.

Information: (916) 775-4420

Directions to Trail Head: Take I-5 to the Elk Grove Blvd exit, turn west, and park; the refuge trail head is adjacent to the highway.

NOVEMBER

Sat., 11/4 Sacramento Weed Warriors! Community Work Group

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Sesbania removal

Meet at William Pond Recreation Area (Proceed to last parking lot next to lake; tell gate attendant that you are participating with SWW!)

SWW provides tools, gloves and snacks. Please bring a water bottle.

Heavy infestations of Red Sesbania seedlings have sprouted throughout the Arden Bar area. We need lots of volunteers. Community service credit forms provided for participating students! The work is not difficult.

Contact Ken Myatt at the American River Parkway Foundation (486-2773) with questions or for information.

Fri. 11/ 17, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Old Fair Oaks Bridge, American River Pkwy.

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Meet Jack at the north end of the Old Fair Oaks Bridge, on Bridge Street. Jack is an expert on the area's flora and fauna, and a trip with him always turns up something different and interesting. Bridge Street runs east off Sunrise Blvd., just north of the American River bridge, at the intersection with Fair Oaks Blvd. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

Sun. 11/19 Habitat Improvement w/ Jack Hiehle. Call for time.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

<http://www.effieyeaw.org/>

Come and help improve the Nature Area. Tasks vary from month to month so call Jack for details and meeting time (usually early morning). Call Jack at 967-0777 if you plan to come. Free Program. Park entrance fee: \$4 per car

Thurs. 11/30, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Effie Yeaw Nature Center,

Ancil Hoffman Park

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Meet Jack in the nature center parking lot for a trip through the oak woodland and down to the river. Jack knows this area better than anyone and can tell you about the plants and mammals of the parkway, as well as the birds. There may also be opportunities to observe spawning salmon along the river. As on all of Jack's trips, both beginners and more advanced birders are welcome.

HELP NEEDED!

Assist the Book Chair with selling books at meetings and events. Great job for bookaholics! Contact Chris Lewis at **(916) 482-5282** or lewisc@surewest.net

HOSPITALITY CHAIR!

Thanks to Peggy Berry & Bonnie Ross for bringing snacks to the October meeting. And to the anonymous Oreo donor -- Thank you! Phone Chris to pick up your plate (916) 482-5282

ONGOING

Native Plant Demo-Garden Management

Saturdays and Sundays

7:45 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 Friday at 1 p.m. to confirm 929-7896.

For more info, [Sabrina soj@surewest.net](mailto:Sabrina.soj@surewest.net)

Native Plant Nursery meeting

7:00 p.m. 1st Tuesday of each month Goethe Ranch site

If interested please contact: Chris, lewisc@surewest.net / 916 812-2876

Habitat 2020 Conservation meeting

7:00 p.m.

2nd Monday of each month

If interested, contact Chris at lewisc@surewest.net / 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 (Jan-May; Aug-Oct, an earlier date in Dec)

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

Chapter Board meetings

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

Held at Chapter President's house. If you would like to attend, please contact Chris at lewisc@surewest.net 916 482-5282.

WE HAVE IMPORTANT CHAPTER BUSINESS AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING - PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTEND!

Chapter Membership to Vote on Proposed Bylaws Changes at November Meeting

Our Chapter's bylaws require a vote of the general membership on any proposed changes to those bylaws. The Chapter's Board discussed the following changes at its September meeting and unanimously recommends that the members adopt them. We will hold a vote on these changes at the November 8th meeting. If you have questions about the proposed changes, please contact Chris Lewis or Diana Hickson.

ARTICLE IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Section 1. The elected officers, Chapter Council Delegate (if one is appointed) and standing committee chairmen shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Chapter. Members of the Executive Committee must be Chapter members in good standing.

ARTICLE V. ELECTIVE OFFICERS. Section 2. President shall: preside at all regular and special meetings of the Chapter and the Executive Committee; appoint, with Committee approval, a Delegate to the Chapter Council if the President wishes to delegate responsibility for representation on the Council, appoint chairmen of committees; as needed to conduct the work of the Chapter, and be an ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Board Elections at the November Meeting

We will hold an election for our Chapter Board members at the upcoming general meeting November 8th.

Nominees at press time include: Mary Maret, President, and Hazel Gordon, Secretary. We may have a nominee for Vice President soon. However, Bill Patterson would like to give up his position as Treasurer, and we very much need someone to take over his post. Bill is willing to train the new person. If you can dedicate some time to our chapter in this position, please contact Chris Lewis.

Sac Valley Native Plant Nursery

by Chris Lewis

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Nov 1st and we'll walk the nursery site with Soil Born Farm's Shawn Harrison to further delineate our starting up needs. Because we need daytime light for our walk, we will meet at 4:00 p.m. at the Goethe Ranch site. (Please email me for directions). Come and join us!
Chris- lewisc@surewest.net

RARE PLANT BRIEF

Suisun Marsh Aster

(*Aster Lentus*)



© 2001 James Reiter

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

Habitat: Freshwater and brackish marshes

Blooming Period: May to November

Range: California Endemic found in the Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta

Threatened by: Habitat alteration and loss

Hibiscus regrets omitting the photo credit on last month's rare plant brief. The photos of Ione buckwheat were © 2001 George W. Hartwell

Fall Plant Sale THANK YOUs!

from Chris Lewis

Each fall we have our major fund raiser which supports all of our projects. The Fall Plant Sale does not happen without a tireless crew!

THANK YOU ONE & ALL!

**Lorraine Van Kerkerix, Melinda Rivasplata, Betsy Weiland,
Jessica Hankins! Barbara Wolf, Bernadette Balics, Bill Patterson, Bonnie
Ross, Carol Crofoot, Emmy Gunterman, Glen Holstein, Gordon Harrington,
Greg Schulmeister, Hazel Gordon,**

**Janie Booth, Jennifer Hogan, Jessica Cook, Joyce Martin,
Julie Evens, Lee Perone, Linnea Fronce, Mary Maret, Mary Schiedt, Mike
Savino, Paul Barth, Paul Townsend, Reese Williams,
Richard Rivas, Rick Bettis, Russ Huddleston, Ruth Rios, Steve Woodward,
Susan Fregien, and Sylvia Gude.**

**And THANK YOU to our faithful growers: Janet Gerland and Cornflower
Farms, Steve Dowty, as well as member growers:
Jack Hiehle, Linnea Fronce and Steve Woodward.**

Although all of our activities are coordinated or carried out by volunteers, there are many expenses involved with chapter meetings, newsletters, our website, the Mather Field Vernal Pool Preservation Campaign, Wildflower Weekend, Sacramento Weed Warriors, conservation and litigation, field trips, propagation workshops, helping start a Native Plant Nursery, outreach activities (including the State Fair!.) the Demonstration Garden at the Old City Cemetery, and plant science activities. None of it is possible without the funds we raise, and the work of our dedicated volunteers.

**COMING UP: Wildflower Weekend! Call Chris Lewis if you can help out at
our big springtime event! (916) 482-5282**



**Photos of
Fall Plant Sale
by Jay Miller**

Herbarium Specimen Preparation Workshop discounted for CNPS members

Center for Plant Diversity invites volunteers to participate in herbarium activities one Sunday afternoon per month

The UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity (herbarium) is holding a herbarium specimen preparation workshop on **Saturday December 2** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., taught by Ellen Dean. Herbarium specimens are flattened and dried plants glued to sheets of paper and used as an aid in plant identification. They can also be beautiful works of art.

Cost of the workshop is \$35 for Davis Botanical Society or CNPS members (\$40 for nonmembers). Registration materials are at <http://herbarium.ucdavis.edu>.

Participants can join the Center's volunteer mounting group that meets one Sunday afternoon a month from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sessions dates are Dec. 3, Jan. 7, Feb. 18, and March 11. Volunteers also help with other herbarium jobs such as specimen sorting and label-making. Parking at UC Davis is free on Sundays.

If you would like to attend the specimen preparation workshop or a volunteer Sunday, contact Ellen Dean at eadean@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-1091.

CONSERVATION

The American River Parkway

by Warren V. Truitt & Betsy Weiland, Save The American River Association

The Update Citizen's Advisory Committee (UCAC) completed its review and submitted recommendations to The American River Parkway Plan (ARPP) Update. This is an update of the 1985 Parkway Plan, the governing document for the Parkway currently in effect. The UCAC process—approximately 33 sessions—took two and a half years of thoughtful review, discussion and decision.

The Update process is now at the Project Management Team (PMT) level. The PMT is made of up staff from the cities of Sacramento and Rancho Cordova as well as the County of Sacramento. Historically, the PMT has received and reviewed the recommendations of the community representatives (UCAC) and generally accepted the well-vetted proposals — perhaps tweaking some proposals to make minor adjustments to assure the recommended changes conformed with approved Parkway uses. There is serious concern that an attempt may be made — at the PMT level — to not accept some UCAC proposals as submitted by the UCAC.

Please tell your Supervisor and/or City Council Representative to accept the UCAC recommendations as proposed! Here's how:

- Attend one of several ARPP community hearings scheduled through December 15th (the full schedule is on our website: www.SacValleyCNPS.org)
- Write letters to: Sunny Williams, Project Manager Sacramento County Planning & Community Development 827 7th Street, Room 230, Sacramento, CA 95814 or fax (916) 874-6400
- Contact Betsy Weiland to join the ARP Advocacy Group: (916) 488-3894

Please take action today to Support, Protect and Preserve Your Parkway!



Photo by Steve Clapper

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Native Plant Nursery

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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

Our native grasses are just as important as plants with more showy flowers. But if you've got some

beauties, we'd love to see them! Please submit photos for possible use in this space. E-mail to bwolf@surewest.net

Deergrass (Muhlenbergia rigens)
Photo by Barbara Wolf



Your Good Quality Photographs of Plant Communities Are Still Needed for CNPS Projects!

For more information, contact hazelgordon@hotmail.com or see: <http://www.cnps.org/programs/vegetation/photocollection.htm>

Sign up for The Sacramento Valley Chapter e-mail list

Join the Sacramento Valley chapter listserv and receive event announcements, job and internship opportunities. Share your botany adventures, or post a botanical query of your own!

To subscribe to the list: send a blank email to: CNPS_SacramentoValley-subscribe@yahoogroups.com Contact Harry Spanglet (spanglet@water.ca.gov) with questions or problems with subscribing.