



Hibiscus

Feb. 2004

Sacramento Valley Chapter Newsletter • California Native Plant Society
www.sacvalleycnps.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.

American River Parkway Funding Crisis

There was a dynamic rally for the American Parkway on Saturday morning, January 10th, at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. The new Nature Center was overfilled with over 200 people: nature enthusiasts, bicyclists, walkers and runners, fishermen, and politicians wanting to hear what the people are thinking. This meeting was open to everyone and was a forum to exchange ideas on the best way to solve the funding crisis once and for all. Sponsors were Save the American River Association (SARA), the American River Parkway Foundation and the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA). We heard from the leaders of SARA, ARNHA, and Sacramento County's Ron Suter. You would be proud to hear how our own Peggy Berry, Frank Wallace, and our botanists (Glen Holstein, Bonnie Ross, and Heidi West) are held in high esteem.



Arden Islands, American River
© Frank Wallace

The funding crisis is real. Ron Suter, County Director of Regional Parks, Recreation and Open Space, explained the consequences to the parkway of the proposed funding cuts by the County. The situation is bleak and could lead to closure of this 23-mile, 5,000-acre regional treasure, which draws more visitors per year than Yosemite.

Even if the parkway remains open under severe budget cutbacks, the reduction or even elimination of overall maintenance, rangers, bike trail maintenance, fire break clearing, and so on would be so dramatic that the negative impacts would undoubtedly create severe visual, physical, and safety problems. These problems would, in turn, discourage user fees, nonprofit contributions, and other funding sources.

For more information, please visit the SARA website at: www.sarariverwatch.org.

What can you do?

#1 Write, call, or e-mail your supervisor, copying the other supervisors, and **demand that the Parkway remain open**. Express your reasons why the American River Parkway must remain open and funds must be found to ensure its preservation and protection for the coming year. Funding for the next year is a short-term solution, but insist this be done, providing essential "bridging" time until long-term funding solutions are developed. We don't want the Parkway turned into a 23 mile slum.

District 1: Roger Dickinson, (916) 874-5485
dickinsonr@saccounty.net
District 2: Illa Collin, (916) 874-5481
collini@saccounty.net

See American River, p. 2

American River from p. 1

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District 4: Roger Niello, (916) 874-5491
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District 5: Don Nottoli, (916) 874-5465
nottolid@saccounty.net
Mayor Heather Fargo: phone (916) 808-5300
hfargo@cityofsacramento.org
730 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

#2 Attend the Supervisors' hearing on the Parkway Budget, currently scheduled for February 10, 2:00 P.M., 700 H Street, Sacramento. People are still talking with awe about the impression made by approximately 100 CNPS Mather vernal pools supporters who showed up at the November Board of Supervisors hearing! The agenda for the county is usually placed on the web site the Friday before the hearing is scheduled. Meeting time may change, so check their website first: www.bos.saccounty.net/.

Whatever you do, please communicate your support for the American River Parkway immediately. If you do not know what district you are in, or who your supervisor is, please call the county clerk at (916) 874-5411, give her your address and she will be able to tell you the information you need.

Chris Lewis and Peg Berry

Parkway under Siege from Many Directions

Given the enormity of funding problems for the American River Parkway, it's easy to miss one on-going problem for the Parkway: the proliferation of trophy houses in the Parkway Combining Zone. An individual is asking the County for the following variances on a formerly one-house lot in Carmichael:

1. Put three houses on an R-1 zoned lot.
2. Put the traffic of three houses on a private easement which has accommodated one house.
3. Put two of the three houses 20 feet back from the river bluff.

The implications of so much impermeable surface 20 feet from the edge of an eroding cliff resounds farther than its immediate neighbors: there are liability issues for Riverwood and the County of Sacramento, should the County approve such a vulnerable project. If the

Parkway Plan can be so easily subverted by the Board of Supervisors, no other builder/developer along the river will expect to adhere to the regulations of the Parkway Plan.

If you would like to encourage protection of the Parkway from encroaching mansions, please write a letter referring to the Markis Use Permit or #020841. Send a copy to the Sacramento County Planning Commission, 700 H Street, Suite 2450, Sacramento, 95814. Send the other to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, same address. The fax # is 874-7593. Include your name and address!

Letters to the Planning Commission should reach the office by 15 February. The meeting of the Planning Commission to hear the proposed project will be 23 February at 5:30 pm. You can access current information about the Board of Supervisors meeting (March or April) by going to www.Sarariverwatch.org, and clicking on "News & Issues". Email Baltzie@aol.com for additional information.

Maxine Clark



Egret at Warm Pond © Frank Wallace

Nature Walks with Jack Hiehle

February Nature Walks

Mon. Feb. 9. 8:00 AM-noon

Meet at Jacob Lane and American River Parkway.

Thur. Feb. 19. 8:00 AM-noon

Meet at Estates Drive and American River Parkway.

Habitat Improvement at Effie Yeaw

Sun. Feb. 15 8:00 AM.

Call Jack for location if you plan to help: (916) 967-0777.

Sharing the Magic of Mather Field

Our chapter of CNPS is playing the lead role in creating a vernal pool prairie preserve at Mather Field. The key to our success is that we began building a constituency for vernal pools seven years ago. Since 1997 CNPS volunteer docents have led over 2,000 visitors to discover the magic of a walk among the flowers. Not surprisingly many people who came forward to oppose the proposed Mather-Sunrise water treatment plant last fall were introduced to the vernal pools by CNPS docents. These former and future visitors will be the stewards who ensure the longevity of any preserve we help to create.

Each spring the beauty of the flowering pools provides a potential magnet for future vernal pool advocates. To capitalize on this ephemeral, annual display, CNPS announces tour dates and provides trained docents to share the landscape and its stories with the public. A vernal pool tour is more than a walk: It is a secret world revealed to its visitors by its admirers. By sharing some of the mysteries of vernal pools with visitors, CNPS docents change the minds and hearts of hundreds of people every year.

You can help CNPS to continue this tradition of community outreach:

Encourage your friends, family, co-workers, and club/church members to visit.

Download a tour announcement from the Mather Vernal Pools link at www.sacvalleycnps.org and post it by April 1st where others will see it.

Volunteer to become a docent, so you can share the magic of Mather with others. (Contact Tim Nosal at 916-961-0766 about training and scheduling of docents.)

Eva Butler

2004 Mather Field Vernal Pool Tours

Vernal Pool Critter Walk

Sunday, February 22: 1:00 to 3:00

Vernal Pool Flower Walks

Start Times

Sunday, April 11: 10:00 & 1:00

Saturday, April 17: 10:00 & 1:00

Sunday, April 25: 10:00 & 1:00

Reservations are requested.

Call the Wildflower Hotline at 916-737-WILD.

Leave a message on the hotline recorder including: (1) Your name (2) Phone number (3) Address (3) Date of trip (4) Time of trip (5) Number in party.

IMPORTANT: A windbreaker and boots or old shoes are recommended. Tours will be conducted under sun, light rain, or scattered showers, so come prepared. Cancellation of tours due to heavy rain will be announced on the hotline by 8:00 AM, so call to confirm.

Directions: Take Highway 50 to Sunrise Boulevard (South). Go about 4 miles on Sunrise. Turn right onto Douglas Road. Go about 1 mile and turn left onto Eagles Nest Road (following signs for the Golf Course). Take your first left into the parking lot at Mather Lake Rotary Park. Meet under the blue-roofed picnic shelter at least 10 minutes before your trip begins. We will drive to the vernal pools from there. (Note: There is a \$2 charge for parking for cars left in the lot.)

Eva Butler

Our New CNPS President, Carol Witham

Carol Witham, long time member of our Chapter, is now President of the California Native Plant Society, leading the twelve-member Board of Directors. Carol, an independent biological consultant, has been an active member of CNPS for 15 years. She served as our Chapter's Rare Plant Coordinator and Conservation Chair and Co-Chair and has been very involved in the Mather Field Docent Program and the Mather Field Conservation Campaign, among many other things. In fact, you may recall that we presented her an award for the tremendous amount of work she has done for our Chapter at our member dinner last June.

Carol has also been extremely active and effective within the state organization, having served on the Board of Directors and on statewide committees such as the Chapter Council's Conservation Policy Committee. She has also been very active in Legislation, having lobbied legislators on behalf of CNPS, and in Central Valley issues including UC Merced. She is a recognized expert in vernal pool ecology.

As President for 2004 and 2005, Carol plans to continue moving CNPS toward an effective completion of the recent structural reorganization;

to begin strategic planning; to work with the Board to raise more funds; and to support priority programs, including paid Regional Botanists.

Our Chapter will be well-represented on the state Board of Directors. Along with Carol as President, Chapter members Diana Hickson and Vern Goerhing will also be on the Board for 2004 and 2005.

Diana Hickson

A Tropical Paradise is Waiting for You!

We invite you to attend the Annual UC Davis Botanical Conservatory Open House co-hosted by the Davis Botanical Society Saturday, February 14th, 2004, 1:30-4:00 p.m.

Come and see the Conservatory's beautiful collection of tropical and desert plants—orchids, ferns, cacti, succulents, and bromeliads as well as hundreds of species of tropical plants from throughout the world. The carnivorous plants will be available for viewing, as well as important tropical economic plants, such as bananas, chocolate, and coffee. Herbarium specimens will be placed throughout the conservatory with information on the ecology and economic botany of tropical plant species. In each area of the collection, volunteer docents will be present to answer your questions, and the conservatory and herbarium curators will be available as well.

Refreshments will be served!

The conservatory is located by parking lot 27 on Kleiber Hall Drive. From I-80, take Hwy 113 north to Woodland. Get off at Hutchinson and go east on Hutchinson into campus. Go past La Rue Blvd. (a stop light) and make a left at Kleiber Hall drive. (the stop sign). Curve around on Kleiber to the gate and park in lot 27. Parking is free on Saturdays. Questions? Call the conservatory at 530-752-0569.

The Sacramento Valley Chapter E-mail list: Staying on Top of the Local Plant Scene by E-mail

Did you know that the Sacramento Valley chapter's email list delivers exciting botanical messages right to your e-mailbox?

The CNPS-Sacramento Valley email list is a convenient way for CNPS people to share news and views. Any subscribed member can send a message, which is then redistributed to everyone on the list. Joining is easy: just send an email!

We have about 50 people signed up who have passed on lots of exciting info—some examples of messages from this year are:

- * Wildflower alerts.
- * Hiking and camping trip announcements.
- * Job announcements.
- * Events such as plant sales, nursery open-houses, garden tours, nature events, lectures, classes, public meetings, conferences, etc.
- * Articles about native plants and nature.
- * References to gardening and botanical web sites.
- * Requests for volunteers.
- * Legislative/action alerts.

Check out the archive at:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CNPS_SacramentoValley

The more people on the list, the more info there is to exchange. Please contact Harry Spanglet (spanglet@water.ca.gov) if you have any questions, or have any problems subscribing.

To subscribe to the list: send a blank email to:

CNPS_SacramentoValley-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

You will receive instructions on how to post messages, unsubscribe, contact the moderator, etc.

The volume of emails is about 2–10 emails per month.

Subscription is voluntary, and is only open to CNPS Sac. Valley Chapter members (all subscriptions must be "approved" by the moderator).

Members are never required to post messages and can leave the list at any time.

Only messages originating from registered email addresses can be posted—no spam!

The moderator can unsubscribe anyone who misuses the list.

Harry Spanglet

Society of Ethnobiology's 27th Annual Meeting

Please join us at the Society of Ethnobiology's 27th Annual Meeting at the University of California, Davis, March 24-27, 2004.

The conference theme is "Living Landscapes, Linking Ethnobiology and Restoration Ecology in the Revival of Native Systems."

A Website

(<http://www.ethnobiology.org/2004conference>) is available and you can register for the conference on-line. We are also now accepting abstracts for contributed papers. Hard-copy registration packets are also available. To receive a conference packet please contact Kat Anderson by phone at (530)752-8439 or email her at mkanderson@ucdavis.edu

Pre-conference workshop, Wednesday, March 24. "Community supported wild foraging training" sponsored by the Center for Sustainable Environments, led by Gary Nabhan and Patty West.

Opening reception, Wednesday evening, March 24. Cultural practitioners from the California Indian Basketweavers Association will demonstrate weaving techniques using California native plants.

Plenary Session, Thursday morning, March 25: "The Ethnobiology of Crop Diversity in Contemporary Agriculture." Speakers: Stephen Brush (session organizer) UC Davis; Christine Padoch, New York Botanical Garden; Jan Salick, Missouri Botanical Garden; Arturo Gomez Pompa, UC Riverside.

Below is an abridged list of activities.

Symposia and Panel Discussions, Thursday March 25 and Friday March 26, include:

Restoring Native American land management practices on US and State Government Lands, Native American ecosystem management, challenges faced by Native Americans in accessing traditional plants and animals, California traditional plant uses, and Native American storytelling.

California Indian cultural demonstrations, Thursday March 25 and Friday March 26.

Cultural practitioners will demonstrate: preparation and weaving of California Native plants into beautiful baskets; preparing acorns

for acorn mush; producing manzanita cider; making musical instruments from elderberry.

Conference banquet.

Friday evening March 26. Speaker: Dr. Judith Carney.

Dancers and Singers: Maidu Dancers and Traditionalists.

Post-conference field trips Saturday March 27:

Effie Yeaw Nature Center and the California State Indian Museum in Sacramento.

Chaw'se Indian Grinding Rock State Park.

Native American gathering garden and restoration projects at Cache Creek Conservancy Reserve.

Kule Loklo, Point Reyes National Seashore.

UC Davis Botanical Conservatory and Arboretum.

Native American Conference Scholarships for the 2004 Society for Ethnobiology Conference at UC Davis, March 24-27, 2004

Thanks to generous funding provided by the California State Office of NRCS, the Concow-Maidu of Mooretown Rancheria, and the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians, and the Ford Foundation, a limited number of conference scholarships are available for Native American representatives to attend and present at the conference.

Individuals who would like to apply for the scholarships can contact the Conference Chair (Kat Anderson) NRCS, Department of Environmental Horticulture, One Shields Avenue, University of California, Davis, CA 95616; Phone (530)752-8439; FAX (530) 752-1819; email mkanderson@ucdavis to ask for a scholarship form. Scholarships range from \$65 (to cover student registration) up to \$600. There are a limited number of scholarships available. Scholarship awards will be based upon financial need, order of applications received, and total funding available from grants. Priority will be given to those applications received by January 23rd, 2004. Applications received after that date will also be considered, provided there is funding. We will notify you of the award amount by January 31st, 2004.



CNPS Newsletter
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February 2004 Hibiscus

Hibiscus Newsletter The Sacramento Valley chapter newsletter, Hibiscus, is published every month, except for December, July and August. Subscriptions are \$10.00 for one year. If you wish to subscribe solely to the newsletter, send your check for \$10, made out to: CNPS Chris Wilkinson, PO Box 160585, Sacramento, CA 95816-0585. Articles for Hibiscus must be to the newsletter editor by the 5th of the month for the next month's issue.

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OPEN: Vice-President, Demo Garden Co-Chair, Plant Sale, Poster Sales, Web site

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zipcode _____

I wish to affiliate with

____ Sacramento Valley Chapter of CNPS

____ Other chapter _____

Membership category

____ Student, Retired, or Limited Income: \$20

____ Individual, or Library: \$35

____ Household, Family, or Group: \$45

____ Supporting: \$75

____ Plant Lover: \$100

____ Benefactor: \$500

____ Bristlecone Pine : \$1,000

____ Redwood: \$2500

____ Valley Oak: \$5000

____ Giant Sequoia: \$10,000

Please complete form and mail with a check payable to
 California Native Plant Society

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