

# The February '06 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, February 8, 2006 7pm  
Shepard Garden and Arts Center, McKinley Park  
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento

## Last month's cancelled Native Plant Propagation Workshop rescheduled for February mid-month (hopefully)

Weather permitting, join the California Native Plant Society for a rescheduled native plant propagation workshop sometime in the middle of this month to learn how to propagate native plants using cuttings and seeds from our Sac Valley Chapter's Demonstration Garden in the Old Sacramento City Cemetery. You can take home natives to grow and plant! Wear closed shoes that you don't mind getting dirty, garden gloves, and a hat if the weather is sunny. If you have pruners/clippers, pots, or soil, please bring those as well. If you don't, we will have some supplies on hand.

Where: Demonstration Garden, Old City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway. The main entrance is at 10th and Riverside, along Riverside. The native garden is located along the Riverside border of the cemetery.

Please contact Jessica Hankins for more information on the rescheduling and to RSVP about attending at (916) 731-4910. You can also check our website ([sacvalleycnps.org](http://sacvalleycnps.org)) for updates

## CNPS Horticulture Program: Going Native, Landscaping for Sustainability

--with Peigi Duvall, CNPS Horticulture Program Director

We have daily exposure to various landscapes: our residence, place of work, and the places we frequent, such as walkways, parking lots, and freeways. So many of these planted areas require large amounts of water, fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, and often quite a bit of effort. Living in a drought-prone area with an ever-expanding population, this type of landscaping does not seem wise or sustainable. What ways can we use our California native plants to bring about positive improvement?



We are happy to welcome Peigi Duvall, Horticulture Program Director for CNPS, landscape designer and Santa Clara Valley Chapter member, who will share insights and experiences about the good use of native plants in the landscape. The CNPS Horticulture Program works to bring more awareness to the public about our wonderful California flora.

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 Chapter t-shirts, will be available for purchase at the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

--by Diana Hickson, Sac Valley Program Chair



### Demonstration Garden Wish List:

- Bagged soil
- Pruners/clippers
- Small plastic pots for propagation
- Plant tags

Contact Jessica Hankins (916) 731-4910 to donate any of these items.

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.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> Nature Walk w/Jack Hiehle 916 967-0777	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  Hazel Gordon marks the Retirement Station at the January Chapter Meeting	<b>4</b> Sacramento Weed Warriors Invasive Plant Removal 916 213-4682
<b>5</b>  Paul Townsend sells native wildflower seeds and Barbara Wolf handles the chapter book sales at the January chapter meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Sac Valley Chapter Meeting 7pm Shepard Garden & Arts Center	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b> Restoration Riparian Planting Workday at Lynch Canyon Solano Land Trust 707 580-6277		
<b>12</b>	<b>14</b> VALENTINE'S DAY 	<b>15</b> Newsletter Assembly at Chris' house (Want to help out?) 916 482-5282	<b>16</b> Nature Walk w/Jack Hiehle 916 967-0777	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Sac Splash Vernal Pool Critter Tour 916 737-WILD	
<b>19</b> Habitat Improvement w/ Jack Hiehle 916 967-0777	<b>20</b> President's Day  Mary Maret runs the chapter t-shirt sales at the January chapter meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <small>Washington's Birthday</small> Sac Valley Chapter Board Meeting Chris Lewis' House 7pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> California Duck Days Today & Tomorrow 530 661-6061 530 757-2461 CNPS Volunteers Requested!	<b>25</b> Nature Walk w/ Mary Maret & Bonnie Ross American River Pkwy 916 961-4057
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28/06</b>	<b>Don't forget to check out our online Events Calendar at <a href="http://www.sacvalley.org">www.sacvalley.org</a> for more events from more groups!</b>			



## Vernal Pool Critter Tour

Sacramento Splash is inviting CNPS families and friends to attend its special Family Day Critter Tour on **Saturday, February 18 at 1:00 pm**. This tour was created especially for kids to explore the wet phase of the vernal pools at Mather Field. If you have kids, or have ever been one, this is the trip for you! The guided tour puts the spotlight on critters that spring to life when the vernal pools fill with rain during the winter. You'll come face-to-face with creatures you've never met and you'll never forget!

Call the Wildflower Hotline at 916-737-WILD to make reservations and get directions.

## Don't Pass Up A Good Time!

Our last Sac Valley Chapter meeting, attended by more than 50 hearty souls, was as interesting as it was informative.

Our guest speaker—CNPS Rare Plant Program Director—Ann Howald both captivated and informed her audience about the wildflowers of the Mono Lakes region with a wonderful slide-show and her years of experience. Thank you Ann!

Before her great presentation, tireless volunteers and board

members set up and manned their stations in the large hall at the Shepard's Garden & Art Center at McKinley Park. There were a wide variety of beautiful books and posters for sale and booklets and brochures free for the taking on every subject we hold dear. There were t-shirts for sale—one of the ways we raise funds to support our projects—and there were native wildflower seeds for sale for those of us looking to start or maintain our native gardens. There was a "Know Your Natives" plant identification exhibit set up to challenge meeting goers' knowledge of different ferns. How would you have done?

And let's not forget the wonderful refreshments provided by our members. They were free, as is our monthly chapter meeting, and everyone is invited.

We're looking forward to see-ing you there next month when Peigi Duvall--our State CNPS Horticulture Program Director--will tell us all about landscaping with natives. Come share in the fun and meet others who share in your ideals.



A good size crowd at our January Chapter meeting!

## Soil Born & CNPS Nursery?

From: Shawn Harrison Executive Director  
Soil Born Farm Urban Agriculture Project

The American River Farm near Haggin Park in Rancho Cordova will serve as the second urban farm site and permanent home of Soil Born Farm Urban Agriculture Project. This farm site is the last piece of agricultural ground within the 31 mile-long American River Parkway, a county park resource that sees nearly a million more visitors a year than Yosemite National Park. The opportunity to permanently preserve 40 acres of the 300+ acres within the historic American River Parkway farm site is simply an amazing opportunity. In partnership with the California Native Plant Society, Soil Born is developing plans for food production-growing grounds, a native plant nursery, native plant and wildlife habitat restoration activities and interpretive programming for the public. Collectively, our hope is that this site will enhance the parkway visitors experience, while educating about and preserving the unique native plant and wildlife resources of this special river ecosystem.

Fundraising and site development is slated for the 2006 season. We hope that supporters will commit their voice, time and resources to help realize this project. For more information please contact [Shawn Harrison](mailto:Shawn.Harrison@surewest.net) at 916 486-9686. If you would like to be involved in the native plant nursery, native plant and wildlife restoration activities and interpretive programming for the public, please contact Chris Lewis at [lewisc@surewest.net](mailto:lewisc@surewest.net).



*Please take a moment to complete and return the enclosed Member Involvement Questionnaire...Help us to help you! As a thank you, we will send you a gift of native wildflower seeds.*

*You can also download the form from our website!*

## Welcome and Thanks to New and Renewing Members

We'd like to sincerely thank our new members for joining this organization and hope that you enjoy your activities with our chapter: R. Beckwith, B. Berg, B. Bowers, N. Darby, S. Hickey, J. Janes, The Karas, T. Lodge, P. McIntyre, and C. Porter

A grateful thanks also to our renewing members, who help us in so many ways to define our goals and activities: P. Akers, The Beebys, G. Cunningham, M. Finn, The Foxes, C. Fox, The Gillies, S. Goehring, C. Hansen, J. Herbert, Jr., M. Jasper, A. Kempees, C. Kimball, C. Lamar, D. Mah, J.A. Martin, The Martins, S. Maus, S. A. Moriwaki, S. Petrash, C. Roye, K. Scarazzo, C. Schmidt, J. Smith, H. Spanglet, P. Townsend, The Wagners, M. Widdowson, N. Wilcox, P. Wofford, D. Wright, The Zezulaks, The Zisers, Plant Pest Diag. Center (Calif. Dept. Food and Agriculture), and Roseville High School Library

--from Hazel Gordon, membership chair

## Arcade Creek Project Mira Loma High School

--from Chris Lewis

Recently I had the opportunity to talk with the students involved in this project. They are the next generation's leaders... and with quality like this, I can't wait! Lisa Kelly and Stacey Chin are the Senior Co-leaders of the Outreach Group and they gave me an overview of the Arcade Creek Project. This award-winning project is essentially an ongoing study of a creek that runs year-round through the suburbs of Sacramento, California. What makes it unique is the scientists conducting it: the project is entirely run by students at Mira Loma High School and their five instructors. To find out more about the creek project's origins and its six-year history, check out the "INFORMATION" section. To learn where Arcade Creek is and where our sampling sites are, take a look at "SITE BY SITE" on their website [www.arcadecreekproject.org](http://www.arcadecreekproject.org).

I also met with their teacher- the inspiration for it all --

Cindy Suchanek. To witness this woman's energy level is an event! But she needs HELP! If you can help with Taxonomy or Keying of Plants, please contact her at [csuchanek@sanjuan.edu](mailto:csuchanek@sanjuan.edu) or 971-5360 x6656.

School children ran five stations, one called "Creek Critters", where they learned about the wide variety and importance of creatures in and around creeks.

--photo from the NRCS website

## Our Sac Valley Website

No matter what brought you to CNPS, whether it be the conservation of native plants and their habitats, learning about them or educating others about them; or, whether it be our horticultural or rare plant resources, each of those pursuits are highlighted on our website. *With no irritating pop-ups!*

You can even view this and past issues of our newsletter in full color. Some members opt for the online edition only.

Interested in local current events or statewide personalities or issues concerning our organization and its endeavors? You'll find them on our site, with fresh news articles showcased and old articles archived, and, current events updated daily.

Looking to turn your hobby into gainful employment? Seeking work in the botanical field you love? Look on our website where job listings are posted just as soon as we get them.

Want to know when and where you might want to get out for a field trip or a workshop or a class? Check out our up-to-date events calendar online.

Looking to volunteer some of your valuable time to a worthy cause, or be ready to respond to our action alerts? Want to sign up for our ListServ and receive interesting, timely and informative emails? Interested in our Stockton Sub-Chapter?

All of this and more are available to you, as a service we provide to our members at: [www.sacvalleycnps.org](http://www.sacvalleycnps.org)



CNPS Newsletter  
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FEBRUARY 2006 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 issue.

- |                                  |   |
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| Fairs & Events                   | Richard Rivas, 916 714-1104 x111, <a href="mailto:richard.rivas@ca.usda.gov">richard.rivas@ca.usda.gov</a>  |
| Fall Plant Sale Coordinator      | Frank Wallace, 213-4682, <a href="mailto:frankw2@pacbell.net">frankw2@pacbell.net</a>   |
| Field Trips                      | Betty Matyas, 363-2390  |
| Habitat Enhancement              | Jessica Hankins, 916 731-4910, <a href="mailto:jhankins@csus.edu">jhankins@csus.edu</a>   |
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| Mather Vernal Pools              | Hazel Gordon, 530 297-7204, <a href="mailto:hazelgordon@hotmail.com">hazelgordon@hotmail.com</a>  |
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| Rare Plants                      | Betsy Weiland, 916 488-3894, <a href="mailto:fweiland@yahoo.com">fweiland@yahoo.com</a>   |
| Kids/Community Gardens           | Martha Mallery, 209 477-3966  |
| Spring Plant Sale Coordinator    | Slow, 916 508-8288, <a href="mailto:slow@cal.net">slow@cal.net</a>  |
| Stockton Sub-Chapter             | Paul Townsend, 916 454-9677, <a href="mailto:paul.t.townsend@usace.army.mil">paul.t.townsend@usace.army.mil</a>   |
| Webcrafter                       | Christina Lewis, 482-5282, <a href="mailto:lewisc@surewest.net">lewisc@surewest.net</a>   |
| Wildflower Seeds                 | Sabrina Okamura-Johnson, 929-7896, <a href="mailto:soj@surewest.net">soj@surewest.net</a>   |
| Wildflower Weekend Coordinator   | Melinda Rivasplata, 454-5937, <a href="mailto:melrivas@aol.com">melrivas@aol.com</a>  |
| Members at Large                 |   |

**WILDFLOWER WEEKEND**  
 April 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>  
 2006

AN EXHIBITION OF WILDFLOWERS OF OUR REGION  
 Presented by the Sacramento Valley Chapter of The California Native Plant Society  
 Information & directions - [www.SacValleyCNPS.org](http://www.SacValleyCNPS.org)

**CRAWFORD'S BARN**  
 2715 Fiber Drive  
 Sacramento, CA

Admission is Free  
 Questions? Phone (916) 737-WILD

**Saturday & Sunday**  
 Wildflower Exhibit 10 am - 4 pm  
 Plant Sale 9 am - 2 pm