

The Hibiscus March '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, March 8, 2006 7pm
Shepard Garden & Arts Center, McKinley Park
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento

Great Places on the American River Parkway --Marilee & Steve Flannery

Come and renew your enthusiasm about the American River Parkway! Start at Discovery Park and fly upstream, zooming down into each park for a close up view of the unique wildlife, aesthetic and recreational values each place has to offer. Marilee and Steve Flannery will be your tour guides as they share their 27 years of interpretive and enforcement experience working on the Parkway.

Marilee Flannery is the Director of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Her college major in Fine Arts and minor in biology has given

her skills she used to design and fabricate many science and nature exhibits that have been displayed at the Nature Center and Science Center. Steve Flannery is a ranger supervisor for the Sacramento County Department of Parks, Recreation and Open Space. With his degree in Biology Steve is able to bring a special educational component to his interactions with visitors while patrolling the Parkway. Both have dedicated their careers to educating people about, and protecting, the natural environment. They are avid birders.

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.

--from Diana Hickson, Sac Valley
Chapter Program Chair

The New Sac Splash Center

The intrepid volunteers of the kid-based, award-winning Sacramento Splash Program are busy applying the finishing touches to their new facility near Mather Field in Rancho Cordova, and will already be conducting classes there by the time you read this.

Learn more about Sac

Splash on our website, www.sacvalleycnps.org, or, on their website, www.sacsplash.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.



The Hibiscus Calendar of Events for March

2: Nature Walk with Jack Hiehle at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center 8am - 12 916 967-0777 for more info

4: BLOOMIN' CRAZY At the **SACRAMENTO ZOO... A Plant Fair**, 9 am - 4 pm. It's Spring! Time to add more wild and brilliant color to your gardens with a plant fair. Learn more about the Sacramento Zoo's Backyard and enjoy the showcase of Sacramento's finest plant emporiums and organizations. plant societies, gardening clubs, nurseries, outdoor and gardening businesses, and see our gardening crafts, musicians, and more... Please join us!

4: Sacramento Weed Warriors invasive plant removal. www.sacvalleycnps.org/WeedWarriors.html or phone Frank Wallace 916 213-4682

4: City of Davis Wetlands Tour Visit this unique 400 acre wastewater treatment facility with specially trained docents. This constructed wetlands project utilizes treated wastewater and stormwater, and native plant communities to create and maintain a myriad of wildlife habitats. Scroll down on the website, www.yolobasin.org/events.cfm for more info about these City of Davis Wetlands Tours..

4 & 5: Grand Opening Weekend of ALL THINGS WILD featuring native plants, wildlife structures, habitat & wildlife consulting & assorted nature products 916 396-1518

6: (tentative) American River Parkway Plan Update UCAC Meeting Peggy Berry & Frank Wallace would like to invite anyone interested in preserving the habitat in the Parkway to come to the meetings & make yourself heard! **Library Galleria, 828 I Street, 6 - 9 p.m.** Peggy Berry, pegberry@aol.com Frank Wallace 916 213-4682

7: Jepson Prairie Preserve Docent Training last session Solano Land Trust 707 432-0150

8: CNPS Sac Valley Chapter Meeting 7pm Shepard Garden & Arts Center McKinley Park 3330 McKinley Boulevard, Sacramento. **EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND OUR MEETINGS!** 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 our Sac Valley CNPS Chapter t-shirts will be available for purchase at the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

11: Jepson Prairie Preserve Docent-led Tours Begin Accompany Jepson Prairie Preserve docents on walks over mima mounds, through winding swales, and around flower fringed vernal pools this spring. Experience close encounters with rare fairy shrimps and tiger salamanders and enjoy the diversity of bird life of the large playa pool every Saturday and Sunday from March 11 to May 14. Tours begin at 10am and a \$1 donation is requested. Jepson Prairie is a vernal pool dotted, native grassland located on Cook Lane, 11 miles south of Dixon off of Hwy 113. For more information, contact the Solano Land Trust

707 432-0150 x 202 or kirsti@solanolandtrust.org. For more information about Jepson Prairie Preserve, visit www.solanolandtrust.org. Groups larger than five should call ahead.

11: Yolo Wildlife Area Tour Tour the 16,000 acre Yolo Wildlife Area with an experienced field trip leader. View flooded seasonal and permanent wetlands, native grasslands, and young riparian forests. Depending on the season, look for migrating and resident waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, raptors, and wading birds. A \$5 donation is suggested. Check out their website, www.yolobasin.org/events.cfm for more info.

16: Nature Walk with Jack Hiehle at Sailor Bar - Meet at the end of Emperor 8am - 12 916 967-0777 for more info.

19: Habitat Improvement with Jack Hiehle 916 967-0777 for more info

19: State Parks Advocacy: Orientation and Briefing Hyatt Regency, Tahoe Rm 4:30-6:30 p.m More info: www.calparks.org

20: State Capitol State Parks Advocacy Day Join Mitchell Alford (Sac Valley CNPS Demo Garden Chair) and other concerned friends from the California State Parks Foundation at the State Capitol for Advocacy Day. We will spend most of the day "lobbying" legislators and members of the Governor's staff on issues related to the preservation of our state parks. If anyone out there is interested, check it out on their [website](http://www.calparks.org) www.calparks.org Signup deadline: Mar 10

20: (tentative) American River Parkway Plan Update UCAC Meeting Topic: UCAC priority issues Non-IAP area plans / narratives Peggy Berry & I would like to invite anyone interested in preserving the habitat in the Parkway to come to the meetings & make yourself heard! **Library Galleria, 828 I Street, 6 - 9 p.m.** Peggy Berry, pegberry@aol.com Chris Lewis, lewisc@surewest.net

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

23 & 24: The Butte Environmental Council is hosting The Vernal Pool Complex of the Northstate: Biology, Conservation, and Management Conference and tours on these two days. The conference will be held at the Sierra Nevada Brewery, 1075 E. 20th Street in Chico. Butte Environmental Council 116 W. Second Street, Suite 3 Chico, CA 95928 (530) 891-6424

25: Pt. Reyes - Abbott's Lagoon. This is an easy, short trail (approximately 1.5 miles long with very little up and down). We'll demonstrate how to key wildflowers using a couple of different methods available in the Peterson's Guide to Pacific States Wildflowers. Bring a copy of the Peterson's Guide and your camera for great ocean panoramas. Time permitting, we can visit the Bear Valley Visitor's Center and the Kule Loklo (Miwok for "Bear Valley"). Be prepared for changeable weather. Meet 8:30 a.m. in the open parking lot at the corner of 11th and P Street in downtown Sacramento. Leader: Tony Loftin 448-3230 or HikingTony@earthlink.net.

26: Propagation Workshop! Contact Jessica Hankins at 916-731-4910 for more information

April 1: Heads up! 10am on the American River Parkway. Meet Mary Maret and Bonnie Ross at the parking lot at the end of El Manto Drive in Rancho Cordova. For more information, call Mary at 916 961-4057



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Longview Oaks Volunteer Call

Longview Oaks is a 7-acre open space parcel within Del Paso Regional Park that is owned by the City of Sacramento. The City has partnered with CNPS to restore the site, which is located in the upper portion of the Arcade Creek Watershed. Urban development has removed precious riparian habitat and severely degraded water quality in Arcade Creek, creating high flood flows that result in severe erosion and bank undercutting. We have the opportunity to create a vision for this beautiful parcel and provide stewardship to the resources both on site and downstream. CNPS volunteers have planted several blue and valley oak seedlings, and a large majority of them are thriving. A number of vernal pools were also created on site. These pools have ponded wonderfully this winter. In addition, the site contains several large oak trees, a seasonal drainage, and many species of native wildflowers. We are recruiting volunteers to help us create and implement a vision for Longview Oaks. Other tasks might include noxious weed removal, installing bird and/or bat boxes if appropriate, or planting and maintaining additional native plant species. As you can see, we're in the early stages of planning so thoughts and suggestions are appreciated! If you are interested in finding out more about Longview Oaks or are interested in sharing your energy and creativity by becoming involved, please contact Deborah Stout (deborahlstout@yahoo.com).



National Parks Need Your Help!

I was fortunate to be able to attend a meeting sponsored by the National Parks Conservation Association. There were several National Park Service retirees in attendance. They spoke passionately about what this rewrite attempts to do. Both groups are trying to get the word out about the current rewrite of the National Park Service Management Policies. Our national parks have been called 'the best idea America ever had' and described by our current president as "America's gift to the world". The NPS retirees started a website devoted to stopping the rewrite. Please go there and write a letter to Bernard Fagan, National Park Service and to your governmental representatives. www.NPSretirees.org --from Chris Lewis, Chapter President

Notes From The Demo Garden

So you've got cabin-fever? Even if the weather turns cold and wet again, there are plenty of tasks that can be attacked now. These are some of the activities we'll be enjoying in the Demo Garden this month, and it's a good time to think about these things in your own garden.

* If you didn't do it in the Fall, inventory your tools; clean & paint, or replace them as required.

* It's best to attack the weeds now before they flower. Last year, in the Demo Garden, we were overrun by filarries. Most have not returned. The earlier weeds are attacked, the less work will be needed later on. Pull weeds up with the root, if you can. EXCEPT for the yellow oxalis. Do not pull these up. That will leave the corm and it's little nutlets in the ground to grow again! Get a shovel and dig them out, soil and all. Do not put them in the composter, either. Put the plants, corms and soil into a black refuse bag, leave for a week or two in the sun if possible and then discard in the trash. As a last resort, if you can't dig, try using *Round-up*.

* We will also be trimming back some shrubs. The ones in the Demo Garden spurted up and out with the first warm days. So, we're removing dead wood and the remains of last season's blooms.

* We'll also be clearing some plots, a couple per week, to plant the annual wildflowers. If you have some to donate or you want to plant some yourself in the Demo Garden, bring them by on the weekends between noon and two. It should be warm enough. A good test to see if the soil is warm enough to plant is to roll a ball of it in your hand. If it falls apart slowly when you open your hand, you're good to go. Some native Americans had another test: if you can sit bare-bottomed in the garden, it's warm enough for planting. With all clay soils here in Sacramento, either test is optional.

* Volunteers are always needed and wanted! (We have tools and no soil testing required). See you in the garden, Mitchell Alford Sac Valley CNPS Demonstration Garden Chair

Plant Propagation Workshop

Learn how to propagate the beautiful California fuschia (*zauschneria/epilobium*) and salvia at a native plant propagation workshop. Limited to 10 people. RSVP to Jessica Hankins at 916-731-4910. A \$5 donation is suggested to cover costs.

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
 Chapter President Chris Lewis's Home:
 4900 Kenneth Avenue Carmichael, CA 95608 916 482-5282 for directions



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 2707 K Street, Suite 1
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March 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.

We need help Friday, Saturday, and Sunday April 7, 8, and 9th. All jobs are vital to the success of Wildflower Weekend. To help at the Exhibit – botanist/biologist, membership information, exhibit & booth *set up, and take down*, book & poster information, greeter, cashier – *If you can help out 2, 4, or 8 hours*, please contact Chris Lewis at 916 482-5282. To help at the Plant Sale – set up Friday, plant information, organize/price plants, cashier, please contact Betsy Weiland at 916 488-3894.

Wildflower Weekend
 AN EXHIBITION OF THE WILDFLOWERS OF OUR REGION
 Presented by - The Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

Wildflower Exhibit 10 am - 4 pm
 Plant Sale 9 am - 2 pm
 Admission is Free

Information and Directions
www.SacValleyCNPS.org
 Questions call 916-775-9112

Cheyford's Barn
 2715 Thor Drive
 Sacramento, CA



April 8th & 9th
 2006