



# Hibiscus

Oct. 2003

**Sacramento Valley Chapter Newsletter • California Native Plant Society**  
www.cnpssacvalley.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.



## October Program The Wild Onions of California and the Rest of

North America  
Professor Dale McNeal

**Date:** Wednesday, October 8, 2003

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Shepherd Garden and Arts Center,  
McKinley Park  
3330 McKinley Blvd.  
Sacramento

California supports 52 of the 96 species of wild onions found in all of North America. They are found in all of our bioregions, from the interior valleys and deserts to alpine meadows. As expected for a genus of the Lily Family, many are quite beautiful (if not odoriferous)!

Professor Dale McNeal has been studying native onions for close to 40 years, and is co-author of the treatment of the onion genus, *Allium*, for the Flora of North America. Dr. McNeal is Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of the Pacific, where he taught for 33 years. He will present a talk and slide show about his favorite genus, including a new, undescribed species from practically his own backyard—near Comanche Reservoir, east of Lodi.

Books, wildflower seeds, posters and cards will be available for purchase at the meeting. Refreshments will be served. The meeting is free and the public is welcome to attend.

For information call Diana Hickson, Programs Chair, at (916) 327-5956.

*Allium cernuum*, Nodding Wild Onion, Courtesy of CalPhoto, Jeff Abbas, 2003

## Sacramento County Persists in Plan to Plant a Plant on Our Plants!

Plans to build a water supply treatment plant at Mather Field took another misstep forward on August 25, 2003 when the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review and Assessment (DERA) released its initial study on the Sunridge Mather Water Supply Facilities Project County. Public comments are due on September 23, 2003. Against the advice of CNPS, the Sacramento County Department of Economic Development and Water Resources have produced a plan to site the treatment plant on the most celebrated, pristine and beautiful field of vernal pool grasslands at Mather Field. This plant would block a critical connection between the rest of the Mather Field vernal pool grasslands and existing and anticipated preserves to the south.

For the last several years, the County Planning Department has invested well over a million dollars and years of staff time molding the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), with extensive participation by CNPS, environmental advocates and developers. The goal of the HCP is to streamline the environmental permit process for development by planning for the acquisition and management of thousands of acres of vernal pool grassland and other habitats. Although the HCP is not complete, the Mather Field vernal pools have always been a key part of the vision to create a sustainable, interconnected matrix of preserves. To plant this plant on this site drives a stake

through the heart of this vision and erodes the endurance, faith and trust essential to achieve it.

The negative declaration (Neg Dec) produced by DERA ignores the project's impacts and dismisses the long-term vision for Mather as "speculative." This is a red flag to members of CNPS and environmental advocates who have long measured the County's commitment to the HCP vision by watching their actions at Mather Field. Until conservation easements are secured on prime habitat, the County must conscientiously avoid impacts to the "the best" habitat areas under its control. When the County proposes to first sacrifice the finest habitat at Mather Field, despite its access to hundreds of disturbed acres for development, it blurs the vision of an achievable HCP for everyone.

During October the Mather Field Vernal Pool Preservation Campaign Committee will be sending Mather Field picture postcards to everyone on our Mather Action Alert list. These are to share your thoughts with the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. Most importantly, we will arrange to overfill the Board of Supervisors chambers when the environmental document goes to them for approval. This is our best chance to demonstrate to the Board how much our community values the Mather Field vernal pools.

There is no way to accomplish this without you. The best way to know what to do and when to do it, is to get your name on the Mather Action Alert list by registering through our website at [www.sacvalleycnps.org](http://www.sacvalleycnps.org) or by calling the CNPS Wildflower Hotline at 916-737-WILD. If you are already on the list, you'll be hearing from us soon.

Eve Butler

### **Federal Impacts on California Environments**

The CNPS web pages lists many, many areas in which Federal action (or inaction) is affecting plant and wildlife conservation in California. See <http://www.cnps.org/federalissues/> for details and action you can take. Hot issue: Vernal pools have recently lost critical habitat protection to preserve development opportunities

### **Summary of State Board Election**

Officers; Carol Witham, President

Carol Baird, Secretary

Directors: David Magney, Vern Goehring, Diana Hickson, Mary Shaw, Lynne Houser

The 2003 election for the CNPS Board of Directors has been held and the ballots counted. 27 ballots were cast. The Leadership Development Committee extended the date by which ballots needed to be back to the state office to August 20, which hopefully made it easier for chapters to deliberate on the election.

At its February, 2003 meeting, the Board set its membership at 12. Board members take office on January 1, 2004. The CNPS Board for 2004 will be as follows:

Carol Witham, President (04-05)  
Sandy McCoy, Vice President (03-04)  
Steve Hartman, Treasurer (03-04)  
Carol Baird, Secretary (04-05)  
Lynne Kada, Chapter Council President (to May, 2004)  
Jim Bishop, Chapter Council Vice-Chair (to May, 2004)  
Vern Goehring, Director (04-05)  
Lynne Houser, Director (04-05)  
Diana Hickson, Director (04-05)  
David Magney, Director (04-05)  
Spence McIntyre, Director (03-04)  
Mary Shaw, Director (04-05)

Diana Hickson

### **Rare Plants Update**

Over the summer, Rare Plant co-chairs Heidi West and Russell Huddleston had several planning meetings to resurrect the chapter Rare Plant Program. They defined basic objectives and in August met with Dave Tibor (CNPS state-level rare plant botanist) and Roxanne Bitmann (Lead Botanist for the California Natural Diversity) for assistance in prioritizing species and known occurrence locations for monitoring purposes. By Spring 2004, Heidi and Russell will invite chapter members to assist in the monitoring efforts.

Heidi West

**In Response to Representative Doolittle's Comments in the Article "Dam ideas lauded, plants not worthy" Placerville Mountain Democrat - 8/4/03**

(Mike Tomlinson, CNPS Development Director & Dave Tibor, CNPS Rare Plant Botanist coordinated this effort.)

On behalf of the 1,050 members of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) who live in or directly adjacent to Representative Doolittle's district and the nearly 10,000 CNPS members statewide, I would like to point out that there are indeed people who care about the unique plants that inhabit the Pine Hill Preserve near Shingle Springs.



**Calystegia stebbinsii**  
Photo by Steve Tyron

We value the rare plants found in the Pine Hill Preserve because they thrive on inhospitable infertile soils. Their chemical and genetic makeup may someday provide keys to valuable medicines or other products that benefit humankind.

We value the preserve because of its incredible

botanic diversity. At least 740 distinct plant species – almost 10% of the native plant species known in California – are found in the soils of the Pine Hill Preserve, making it a nationally significant scientific site.

We value the preserve for the community spirit and volunteerism it creates.

For instance, in June this year, a local Eagle Scout candidate lead his Boy Scout Troop to volunteer over 100 hours pulling invasive plants like Yellow star thistle on the preserve.

People literally travel from around the world to study and take inspiration from the incredibly adapted plants found in the Pine Hill Preserve. We are proud to have the preserve in our back yard. In fact, having this incredible example of our shared natural heritage is one of the reasons the foothill and Sacramento region is such a desirable place to live.

Sincerely,

Pamela C. Muick, Ph.D, Executive Director,  
CNPS

Sue Britting, Board Chair, CNPS

Amy Hoffman, CNPS El Dorado Chapter  
President

Richard Hanes, CNPS Redbud Chapter President

Christina Lewis, CNPS Sacramento Chapter  
President

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The original quote:

One area though that still bothers Doolittle is the rare plant preserves in Shingle Springs. El Dorado County has been required to preserve several endangered species of plants that only grow in the gabbroic soils in that area in order to access additional water supply.

"Who cares about those plants?" Doolittle asked. "I've never met anybody. It's just an absurd surrogate for the real agenda."

"As long as they've got to set aside all this land, why don't they make lemonade with lemons and plant some rhododendrons or azaleas?" Doolittle asked.

**2004 California Wildflower Calendars Are In!**

Once again California wildflower photographer Larry Ulrich has outdone himself with his 2004 calendar. The gorgeous tiger lilies, cardinal monkey flowers, and fields of lupine and poppies are a great monthly reminder why CNPS is so important. If you have web access you can see these pictures at:

<http://www.gacpc.com/gacpc/titles/calendars/cwf04/cwf04.asp>

The Chapter's wildflower calendar sales are a beautiful and popular fundraiser for our Native Plant Demonstration Garden at the Old City Cemetery. They are \$14 each (includes tax) and will be available at the October meeting (provided we don't sell them all at the Fall Plant sale...).

Cassandra Nguyen & Sabrina Okamura-Johnson

Welcome New Chapter Members! We would like to thank all of our new and renewing chapter members for their support of CNPS.

The following are new members to the chapter since June 2003:

|                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Ellen & Andrew Baird               | Carmichael     |
| Virginia Boucher                   | Davis          |
| Kathleen Brennan and Rite Birdsong |                |
| Sacramento                         |                |
| Jeanne Brock                       | Sacramento     |
| Matt & Teri Clark                  | Davis          |
| Julie Cooper                       | Sacramento     |
| Stephanie Coppeto                  | Davis          |
| Jeff Cox                           | Sacramento     |
| Carolyn Craig                      | Sacramento     |
| Charles & Lois Cunningham          | Sacramento     |
| Nancy C. Emery                     | Davis          |
| Michael Finan                      | Sacramento     |
| Dr. G.O. Graening                  | Sacramento     |
| Rene Hamlin                        | Sacramento     |
| Victoria Harris                    | Rancho         |
| Cordova                            |                |
| Amy Hiss                           | Davis          |
| Nancy Houlding                     | Davis          |
| Sarah Johnson                      | Davis          |
| Charles Kersey                     | Sacramento     |
| Esther Kim-Ambuehl                 | Davis          |
| Michele Korkowski                  | Davis          |
| Marin Lemieux                      | Sacramento     |
| Monte Vista Middle School          | Tracy          |
| Tony Loftin                        | Sacramento     |
| Margaret Marvin and Alan Hicklin   | Sacramento     |
| Loran May                          | Walnut Grove   |
| Bill McCoy                         | Davis          |
| Liz Merry and Bob Schneider        | Davis          |
| John M. Miller                     | Sacramento     |
| Tameron B. Mitchell                | Sacramento     |
| Shelah Morita                      | Davis          |
| Denise Piechnik                    | Davis          |
| John Poort                         | Davis          |
| W. Robert Powell                   | Davis          |
| Sherri Sandberg Ransom             | Davis          |
| Ann F. Scheuring                   | Rumsey         |
| Michael Tomlinson                  | Sacramento     |
| Emma Underwood and Vance Russell   |                |
| Davis                              |                |
| Bruce & Bev Watros                 | Winters        |
| Rebecca B. Wayman                  | Davis          |
| Brett Williams                     | Sacramento     |
| Brian Williams                     | Marysville     |
| Diane Williams Wyatt               | Galt           |
| Ed Wrenn                           | Citrus Heights |
| Chris Wilkinson                    |                |



### **Fantastic Fall Outing!**

**What:** Overnight plant adventure with Tim Nosal and family.

**Where:** Pollock Pines area, Markleeville, Ebbetts Pass, and Calaveras Big Trees.

**When:** October 4-5, 2003

**Why:** To observe up to 50 different native trees and shrubs; Aspens changing colors

This is my favorite fall field trip. A quick run up into the Sierra, a quiet evening at Indian Springs Campground near Markleeville, then a return trip along beautiful Highway 4 including stops at Ebbetts Pass and Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Acquaint yourselves with thousand year old trees, observe the inseparable white bark pine and Clark's nutcracker, and ponder the role of fire in our local ecosystems.

Contact Information: Call Tim Nosal at 916-961-0766 or email [trnosal@aol.com](mailto:trnosal@aol.com)

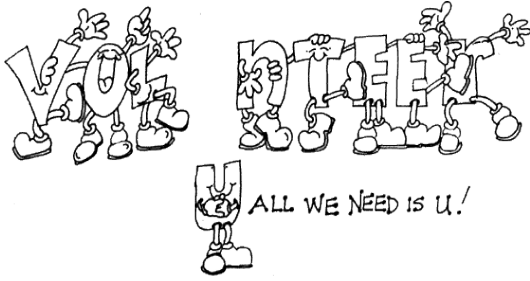
### **Cornflower Farms 2nd Saturday Presentation**

Programs begin at 10:00AM; they are open 7:00AM -3:30 PM. Bring a picnic if you like!

Candace Shunke, Landscape Designer

Designing a Landscape with Native Plants and

Garden Tour of the Private and Production Gardens Fresh Ideas and Energy Needed Now!



### **Fresh Ideas and Energy Needed Now!**

Many thanks to current Chapter Chairs and members who continue to respond to fill recently vacated chair positions and Chapter program needs. The Chapter Board continues to seek volunteers of all backgrounds to help us from getting too myopic and to also make sure that long time volunteers and Chairs don't burn out or get too overwhelmed. Please contact any one of us on the back of the newsletter if you would like to serve, or would like more information about the following vacancies and committees:

#### **Current Board Vacancies:**

Vice-President  
 Conservation Chair  
 Chapter Webmaster  
 Poster Chair  
 Publicity Chair  
 Volunteer Coordinator.

**Volunteer Committee Members:** Volunteers are needed for all committees, please consider joining:

**Fairs & Events:** to help w/public information and outreach at upcoming Salmon Festival, Crane Festival, and Duck Days events;

**Conservation:** join us on impromptu field trips to interesting development sites and help review and comments on environmental documents;

**Demonstration Garden:** help w/upcoming fall plantings;

**Habitat Enhancement/Weed Warriors:** join us in improving and enhancing the American River Parkway and Long View Oaks;

**Books & Posters:** sign up to help out w/Chapter sales at upcoming meetings and events;

**Hospitality:** help w/welcoming new members at meetings and seeing that volunteers get fed at special events;

**Education:** help provide outreach to area schools and children of all ages.

Chapter Board

### **Poster Chair (Botanical Art Lover) Needed**

OK. Poster chair is not a glamorous job. But if you love botanical art, have room to store the Chapter's poster stock and enjoy coming to monthly meetings -this job's for you. The Chapter has recently purchased new carrying cases and protective poster tubes to make transport of posters with minimal damage alot easier. For more info about the position just call us.

Chris Lewis & Sabrina Okamura-Johnson

### **Falling into Natives**

Join the Demo-Garden crew and learn about native plants  
 Sunday October 5, 9:00 AM-12:00 noon

as we prepare our garden for our annual fall planting on

Sunday October 26, 9:00 AM-12:00 noon.

We will be weeding, watering, removing runaway elm tree saplings, and laying bark mulch. In addition, if you have brick-laying skills, we need you! Many of our 100+ year old plots are in need of rebuilding and repair.

Bring garden tools, hat, gloves and other gardening stuff and we will provide refreshments, some tools and supplies, a fun attitude and lots of weeds!

For more info about our garden and directions, visit our webpage at

[www.sacvalleycnps.org/projects/demoGarden.html](http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/projects/demoGarden.html)

Cassandra Nguyen& Sabrina Okamura-Johnson

### **Sacramento Weed Warriors Wanted**

SWW, defenders of the American River Parkway from plant invaders, have now passed the 11,000 volunteer hour mark—and hope to generate more than 5000 volunteer hours over the next 9 months.

Join Frank Wallace at the American River to help eradicate invasive non-native plants!

Sat. October 11th, 8:30 AM 11:30 PM

Sat. November 1, 9:00 AM- noon

Sat. December.6, 9:00 AM- noon.

For meeting place,, call Frank Wallace (916) 427-5694 or send an email to [frankw2@pacbell.net](mailto:frankw2@pacbell.net).

**BOARD MEMBERS**

President Christina Lewis, 875-8910, LewisChris@saccounty.net  
 Vice-President OPEN  
 Treasurer Bill Patterson, 452-9491, bilwpat@aol.com  
 Secretary Hazel Gordon, hazelgordon@hotmail.com  
 Book Sales Olga Myslivec, 483-6727, olgamyslivec@hotmail.com  
 Chapter Botanist Glen Holstein, holstein@cal.net  
 Conservation Co-Chairs: OPEN  
 Demo-Garden Co-Chrs: Cassandra Nguyen, 455-6201, conguyen@attbi.com,  
 Sabrina Okamura-Johnson-929-7896  
 Rick Bettis, rickb@ardennet.com  
 ECOS Representative Bonnie Ross, 962-3619, bross@water.ca.gov  
 Education Renee Shakroh, renees@cal.net  
 Ethnobotany Mary Schiedt, (530) 661-6061  
 Fairs & Events Tim Nosal, 961-0776, trnosal@aol.com  
 Field Trips Frank Wallace, 427-5694, frankw2@pacbell.net  
 Habitat Enhancement Betty Matyas, 363-2390  
 Historian Steve Woodward, 489-1744, woodzos@aol.com  
 Horticulture Peggy Berry, 944-1184, pegberry@aol.com  
 Hospitality Eva Butler, 443-6282, riverside1@worldnet.att.net  
 Mather Vernal Pools Chris Wilkinson, 457-4899 cdw@water.ca.gov  
 Membership Chair Hazel Gordon, (530)297-7204  
 Natural Communities Amy Boyer, (530) 753-6323 ajboyer@cal.net  
 Newsletter Melinda Rivasplata, 454-5937, melrivas@aol.com  
 Plant Sale Bill Jenkins, 961-7772, wjenk6314@cs.com  
 Plant Seeds/Bird House OPEN  
 Poster Sales Diana Hickson, DianaHickson@aol.com  
 Programs Chair Heidi West, 457-4899, corydoras22@msn.com, and  
 Rare Plants Russell Huddleston, 456-1988, rhuddle1@CH2M.com  
 Martha Mallery, (209) 477-3966  
 Stockton Sub-Chapter OPEN  
 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

2707 K Street, Suite 1 • Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.

Tel. (916) 447-2677 • Fax (916) 447-2727

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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