

The

October '05



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, October 12, 2005 7pm
Shepard Garden and Arts Center, McKinley Park
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento

The California Prairie

Dr. Glen Holstein will present a talk about a vegetation type which has just recently begun to be appreciated, the *California Prairie*. You may know it by its former names, "non-native grassland" or "Mediterranean annual grassland," which refer to the fact that it was successfully invaded by annual grasses that came to California with the Europeans. This habitat hasn't received the recognition that others, such as oak woodlands or wetlands, have received in land use planning. The Sacramento County General Plan doesn't even address conservation of this type. However, ecologists are beginning to recognize the diversity of native herbaceous species that are found in the early spring and in the fall, and the value of protecting the "California Prairie."

Dr. Holstein received his PhD in Botany from U.C. Davis and is a Senior Scientist with Zentner and Zentner, a local biological consulting company. He has published his research on the California Prairie in *Madroño*, the journal of the California Botanical Society. Glen is our Chapter Botanist, represents our Chapter to Habitat 2020 and was the California Prairie spokesman at our Wildflower Weekend in April. He is also on the Board of Tuleyme, a non-profit organization working to protect the Cache Creek watershed and other areas in Yolo County, and on the steering committee of Yolo County's new NCCP.

This meeting will also be the Chapter's 40th Birthday Party. Come and celebrate our 40 years of success!

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, our Sac Valley CNPS Chapter t-shirts, posters, and bird boxes will be available for purchase at the meeting. Refreshments will be served.



Ca Prairie photo by Craig Lippus clippus@sbcglobal.net; photo of Dr. Holstein inserted by Slow!

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
The Hibiscus Calendar of Events for October 2005			Serving the Sacramento, Yolo, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, lower Placer & northern San Joaquin County areas			1 Sac Weed Warriors 9 am-noon Contact Ken Myatt 916-456-7423 or 916-215-9464
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 American River Salmon Festival Mary Schiedt 530-661-6061 530-757-2461 if you can help w/CNPS info tables at this family oriented event
9 American River Salmon Festival Mary Schiedt 530-661-6061 530-757-2461 if you can help w/CNPS info tables at this family oriented event	10 Columbus Day	11	12 Sac Valley Chapter Mtg 7pm Shepard Garden & Arts Center	13 Morning Nature Walk w/Jack Hiehle 916 967-0777		
16 Habitat Improvement w/Jack Hiehle 916 967-0777	17	18	19 Hibiscus Assembly Chris' House 7pm	20		
23	24	25	26 Chapter Board Mtg Chris' House 7pm	27 Morning Nature Walk w/Jack Hiehle 916 967-0777		
30	31 Halloween					

What is a Sub-Chapter?

from Chris Lewis

Recently I had the opportunity to spend the day in Yuba City. What a friendly town & what a nice library! It started me thinking about our website where we say: *"The Sacramento Valley Chapter serves Sacramento, Yolo, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, lower Placer and northern San Joaquin County areas. You are invited to come to our meetings and field trips,"* This is of course True! But our meetings are usually held at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center in McKinley Park in Sacramento - which is a far distance if you live in Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, lower Placer, or northern San Joaquin counties!

Martha Mallery did something about that years ago she was one of the organizers of the Stockton Sub-Chapter. Now they have meetings, walks, a native plant garden to tend, their own newsletter, a group of people to share their interest, and Sac Valley's support! Check out what the Stockton Sub-Chapter is doing by clicking on their link at: <http://sacvalleycnps.org/stockton.html>.

In the meantime, if you have a speaker in mind and would simply like to have a meeting at your local library or other meeting place, or lead a hike in your area, please let me know if we can help. Chris Lewis, (916) 482-5282 or lewisc@surewest.net.

www.SacValleyCNPS.org

Sabrina Okamura-Johnson has been working tirelessly to design a beautiful, useful website for us. Please check it out for *the rest of the story!* cl

Fall Plant Sale

Lorraine Van Kekerix did a wonderful job organizing and recruiting for the Fall Plant Sale! **Janie Booth**, **Jessica Hankins**, and **Carol Crofoot** did an amazing job writing up plant information for the Plant Sign ID Project! I inserted photos and **Janet Gerland** of Cornflower Farms fame laminated all 300+ signs. So, now we will have information on plants at all our Plant Sales!

Volunteers Needed

Newsletter Assembly (More hands make the job go quicker)
 Board Positions:

Poster Chair (Open)

Field Trip Coordinator (Open)

To offer assistance, or, for more information, please contact Chris Lewis @ 482-5282

CNPS-Sacramento Native Plant Nursery

from Frank Wallace

Chris Lewis and I are looking into starting up a native plant nursery in Sacramento. This idea, while not new, could be mentioned in the American River Parkway Update Plan and has been discussed with both County Parks staff and with the American River Parkway Foundation Board and staff. We realized we needed to learn more about how such nurseries are run in other CNPS Chapters, what support would be needed, the role of volunteers and possible paid staff, the types of plants that are typically grown, etc., so, Chris, I, and **Mitchell Alford** recently visited native plant nurseries in Napa and in the East Bay at Tilden Park. We met with leaders of these projects, toured the sites, and asked lots of questions.

We intend to document our observations of these site visits to share with the Board. We will need to explore grant opportunities since there will be initial developmental costs and many discussions needed to develop agreements as to just what the purpose of such a nursery would be, where it might be located, and so on.

Because of its focus, the American River Parkway Foundation would also be interested in supporting this type of nursery. We will be discussing these priorities and our own over the next several weeks and months to determine what types of grant programs might support such an ambitious undertaking. If you would like to help with grant writing or would like to be involved in starting our nursery, please contact Chris at 916 482-5282. For the rest of the story, please see our website: www.sacvalleycnps.org/

State Office In Transition

from Carol Witham

As you are probably aware, **Pam Muick** has stepped down as Executive Director of the California Native Plant Society. For the next several months, **Sue Britting**, former state president, will be serving as Interim Executive Director on a part-time basis. Sue and I will be working as a team to make sure that the business of the Society stays on track. Additionally, the Board of Directors has formed a Search Committee and approved both a job announcement and a job description. The Search Committee will be recruiting for a new Executive Director over the next couple of months. They are asking for your help in actively recruiting good candidates for the position. If you know anyone who might be right for the Executive Director position, or anyone who might know such people, please encourage them to visit www.cnps.org to obtain the job announcement and job description.

In the mean time, the state office is a bit short staffed. We are looking for a few dedicated Sacramento Valley Chapter volunteers that might be willing to spend a couple of hours every week or two to help out with office tasks. One important task that volunteers can help with is sorting and enveloping thank you letters to all of our new and returning members and our wonderful donors. Other tasks will surely arise that would also benefit from volunteer participation. So, if you are interested in helping out for a few hours here and there, please let me know.

Carol Witham, CNPS President
cwitham@cnps.org

Summer New & Continuing Members: Many Thanks!

from Hazel Gordon

We are very pleased to welcome new members who recently joined our chapter: K. Alcombright, F. Clarke, K. Dzurella, H. Festersen, C. Hughes, T. Kuhn, C. McAdams, M. McGraw, M. Morris, A. Mummert, D. Nicholson, D. Ouellette, P. Reed, C. Rust, T..J. Stewart and C. Thompson. Thank you for returning your chapter questionnaires to us so that we can serve you better.

Our sincere appreciation for their continuing support also goes to our recently renewing members: K. Belford, V. Boucher, J. Brock, S. Fawx, J. Frampton, M. Gause, A. Lauwerijssen, H. Mehl, G. Queirolo, S. Ransom and R. Wang.

If other members would like to complete the questionnaire and make suggestions to the chapter's board of directors, please ask me to send an electronic copy to your email address. If you need one sent by post office mail, that can be arranged by calling me.

Please remember to renew your membership to continue to receive the Hibiscus and other CNPS publications. Your timely financial support is crucial in enabling CNPS to continue its many roles in preserving and showcasing our natural botanical resources.



The Importance of Plants & Plant Communities

This printable brochure is now available on-line!
Check it out on our website:
www.SacValleyCNPS.org

Wayne Roderick Art Sale & Benefit

In his living trust, CNPS Fellow and beloved friend Wayne Roderick left his collection of botanical artwork, as well as some botanical dinnerware to San Francisco Botanical Garden's Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture, to be sold to benefit the library. The artwork will be on exhibit in the library from Oct 1 through Dec 30. Artwork can be purchased at any time and picked up at the end of the show. Other work may be purchased throughout the duration of the show.

To honor Wayne and celebrate his life, we will be hosting a special reception and sale, including a small silent auction, at the library on Sunday, October 16, from 3 to 6 pm. For more information, please visit www.SacValleyCNPS.org.



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www.SacValleyCNPS.org

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by Carol W. Williams



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All proceeds from the sale of this CDROM will go toward the "Mather Field Vernal Pool Preservation Campaign" of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of CNPS.