



Hibiscus

September 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.

September Meeting of the California Native Plant Society's Sacramento Valley Chapter

Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Shepherd Garden and Arts Center
McKinley Park

3330 McKinley Blvd , Sacramento 95816

Toni Hart of Hartland Nursery

Our guest speaker will be Toni Hart of Hartland Nursery, a local (Grand Island) native plant nursery. Ms. Hart will talk about horticultural uses of California native plants and get us excited about our Chapter's Fall Plant Sale!

For information call Diana Hickson, Programs Chair, at (916) 362-8022.



Native Iris in Chris Lewis's back yard.

In Search of a Central Valley Botanist

The State CNPS and its Sacramento Valley chapter are taking a huge step to improve the conservation of the Central Valley's unique, imperiled ecosystems. We are seeking funding for a full-time, paid Central Valley Botanist to do the following:

- represent the conservation viewpoint in the process of creating federal Habitat Conservation Plans and state Natural Community Conservation Plans (HCP/NCCPs);
- coordinate local volunteers to provide input for environmental review; and
- provide continuity between neighboring regions' plans.

As all of us in the CNPS know, the Central Valley contains many special communities: vernal pools, alkaline grasslands, riparian woodlands, and so on. We also can see the houses springing up around us as droves of people move into the Central Valley, and many of us have participated directly in the attempt to make planners and boards of supervisors aware and protective of these special areas, which are nearly invisible to newcomers. A vernal pool may look like nothing much in August, while a redwood is awe-inspiring at any time of year. Though John Muir wrote beautifully about the "bee-gardens" of the Central Valley plains, his heart was in Yosemite. So the Central Valley's flora, fauna, and landscape have lacked a champion.

Yet we must do something. While HCPs/NCCPs are underway in five Central Valley counties, and governmental agencies are legally bound to advocate for habitat conservation in those plans, the agencies are too understaffed to provide leadership or even review all the plans necessary. Volunteers have made a valiant effort, but it's difficult to provide an adequate response to paid representatives of developers when one has other responsibilities.

Similar problems face Southern California. The Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains and South Coast CNPS chapters have hired a half-time Southern California Regional Botanist who has proven very effective. As the Regional *see Botanist, p. 2*

Botanist does in Southern California, a paid Central Valley Botanist would be able to review HCP's/NCCP's while they are still in process, provide committed leadership and a voice for conservation, and give the scientific input that has been shown to produce more effective plans.

Therefore we are now seeking funding for a botanist and associated GIS support. The Sacramento Valley Chapter has put up \$700 for a contractor to research and identify the 10 best foundations to whom to appeal. Based on the results, we will be writing grant proposals to the foundations. Contact Diana Hickson, 327-5956, or Chris Lewis, 482-5282, if you're interested in helping with this effort!

Once funding is in place, we will look for someone with experience in policy-making and conservation biology, relying on locals (that's us) to provide regional expertise.

Amy Boyer

Thanks for the Show!

Marcus and I took down our photography exhibit "From Poppy to Prickly Pear: California's Native Plants" in the Capitol Building, thrilled that the show had been such a success and received such lovely feedback, and sad that its stay in such a fabulous setting was over! We would like to extend a very special and heartfelt thank you to all the Sacramento members of the CNPS and to the Motherlode Chapter of the Sierra Club who contributed so much support to the reception and success of the show. We absolutely could not have done it without you. You are all truly appreciated, and we will be always grateful for your kindness and encouragement. The next venue will be in Sonoma in September, and then at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco. Please contact us at wardellphoto@earthlink.net if you would like an itinerary, or would be interested in exhibiting the show elsewhere.

Again, our most heartfelt thanks!

Rosalie and Marcus Wardell, wardellphotography.com



Call for Volunteers FALL PLANT SALE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2004 Sale hours – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Mark your calendars!

It's time to step up to the potting bench and volunteer to help with this year's fall plant sale. We need volunteers to help on Friday afternoon with receiving plants and setting up the sale area; Saturday morning we will need early volunteers to finish with setting up (7:00–9:00 am) and for your efforts you will receive muffins and beverages; we also need volunteers to help with cashiering, promoting t-shirt and books sales, and of course we will need volunteers to help with clean up at the end (if you're there around lunchtime, we will provide lunch).

So, if you feel like you have something to contribute to this major fundraising activity for the Sacramento Valley Chapter, please contact Kate Brennan to volunteer (916–444–8423 or e-mail to katebrennan@sbcglobal.net).

If you will have home grown plants to sell on September 25, please call so we can make room for you and your plants.

We have two special events at this fall's sale:

- At noon, there will be a 1 hour workshop, "Attracting Wildlife to Your Yard," by Brian Williams, Wildlife Ecologist, Williams Wildland Consulting.
- Throughout the day, FREE 15-minute landscape design consultations with native landscaping experts, including Amanda Van Houtte.

Plants available include: Fescue, deer grass, needlegrass, fuschia, yarrow, monkeyflower, sage, checkerbloom, yellow and blue-eyed grasses, goldenrod, penstemon, dogwood, and more! See Sacramento Valley Chapter website for complete list: <http://www.sacvalleycnps.org>

Don't forget to bring boxes for your plant purchases!!

Plant suppliers: Cornflower Farms, Restoration Resources, Hartland Nursery, Far West Bulbs, Golden Pond Nursery, Cache Creek Nursery, Steve Dowty Nursery, AlterNatives Nursery, and individual CNPS members.

See you on September 25!

Marcus and Rosalie Wardell show their stuff at the State Capitol



California Native Plant Society
Sacramento Valley Chapter

NATIVE PLANT SALE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2004

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Shepard Garden & Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd.



scarlet monkey flower - *Mimulus cardinalis*

Complimentary Activities:

- Noon – 1 hour workshop with Brian Williams
"Attracting Wildlife to Your Yard/Garden"

AND

- FREE 15-minute landscape
design consultations



Participating Nurseries/Growers:

Cornflower Farms
Restoration Resources
Hartland Nursery
Far West Bulbs

Golden Pond Nursery
Cache Creek Nursery
AlterNatives Nursery
Steve Dowty Nursery

Books, wildflower seeds, posters and cards will be available for purchase

*** Bring a box for your plants ***

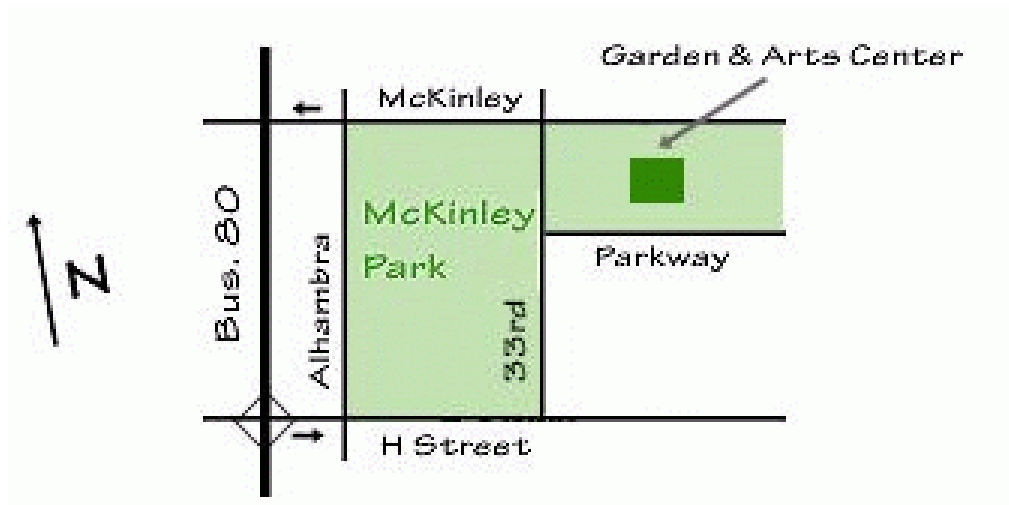
For more information or to volunteer: katebrennan@sbcglobal.net or www.sacvalleynps.org



Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

California Native Plant Society, Sacramento Valley Chapter
P.O. Box 160585 • Sacramento, CA 95816-0585
<http://www.sacvalleynps.org>

Shepard Garden & Arts Center 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA



Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

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Soil Question or Quest for Spiritual Enlightenment?

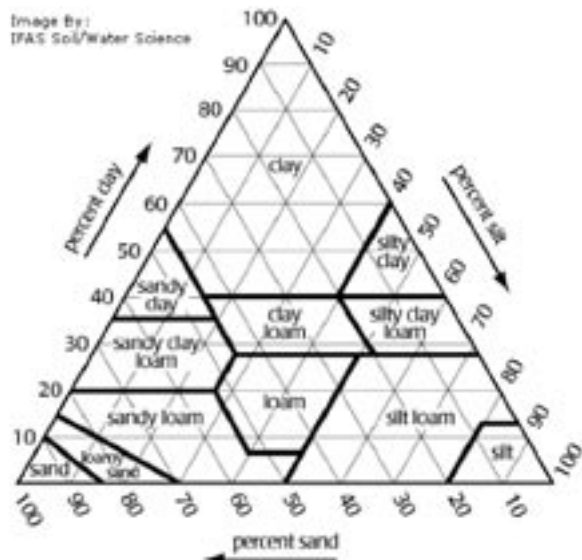
Question from P.B. What's the difference between "wet" and "moist"?

P.B., We were tempted to interpret your question as some sort of Zen koan, such as "What is the sound of one hand clapping?". However, after a few weeks of contemplation we have still not reached enlightenment, so we will make an assumption that you are referring to the cultural requirements of Californian native grasses cited in our last article.

The answer to your question is simple, P.B. Soil is moist when it is at field capacity. Soil is wet when it contains excess gravitational water. Of course, the terms wet and moist are used in non-standard ways, and people may not be familiar with terms like field capacity and gravitational water, so an additional explanation is in order.

Those of you who have taken a soil science class, take a deep breath and walk backwards, in your mind, to that first day of your first soil science class. Those of you who have not will have to take this explanation on faith or visit your local library for independent verification.

Different sized soil particles tend to exhibit different physical properties based primarily on their size (the origin of molecular attraction and small scale physical forces goes way beyond this article). Soil texture describes the proportion of different-sized particles that constitute soil; see the soil texture triangle of different soil types (see figure below). The International Society of Soil Science defines the diameter of particles such that clay is smaller than 0.002 mm, silt is 0.002–0.02 mm, and sand is 0.02–2.0 mm (Brady & Weil 1999). A predominance of larger particles can reduce water and nutrient retention in soils and can create spaces for water drainage, gas exchange and root growth. The reverse is true for soils with a predominance of smaller particles. Most soils are in between these extremes. How your particular soil will interact with water depends on its texture. Soil science can get complicated and people actually get their Ph.D.'s studying this stuff.



Field capacity is generally defined as the amount of water contained in soil after it has been allowed to freely drain for 24 hours. Soils at field capacity are ideal for growing most California native plant species.

Gravitational water is the water that drains out of a soil during the 24 hours it is approaching field capacity, if the soil freely drains. Of course in some soils the water may be blocked from draining properly or water may be continually supplied in amounts that equal or exceed the drainage rate. Lands that harbor soils from which the gravitational water does not drain, for whatever reason, are commonly called "wetlands." Some Californian plants have evolved special adaptations to live under these conditions and such plants are commonly called "wetland plants." Many wetland plants would actually grow better in soils at field capacity, but they will be out-competed by other plants under such ideal conditions in a natural setting.

A practical way to determine if you have wet soil is to dig a hole in the soil 1–2 ft. deep. If the hole fills with water then you have wet soil.

Send any native plant horticulture questions to davidbergendorf@hotmail.com and you might see an answer in the next newsletter.

David Bergendorf and Shelley Gardner

References

Brady, Nyle C., Weil, Ray R. 1999. *The Nature and Properties of Soil*, 12th edition. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.

Weed Warriors Win Praise

The heroic efforts of Frank Wallace and the Weed Warriors were recognized by the Sacramento Bee last July. For the last three years, the Weed Warriors have been chopping, pulling, and spraying weeds on 15 miles of the American River. Red sesbania, Chinese tallow, *Arundo donax*, Spanish broom, and tamarisk have all been greatly reduced in the riparian area between Capitol City Freeway and the old Fair Oaks bridge, and native grasses, willows, and cottonwoods are coming back in.

The Weed Warriors—CNPS members, AmeriCorps crews, church groups, students, and even juvenile offenders doing community service—have logged 5,000 volunteer hours. They have cleared 250 acres of weeds, in cooperation with May and Associates and Restoration Resources, contractors hired by Sacramento County, who cleared another 400 acres in a \$600,000 effort.

Now that the five species above have been beaten back, pampas grass is next, along with Scotch broom, French broom, oleander, and pyracantha. Star thistle is also targeted in some areas of the parkway. Once the weeds are out, cottonwoods, willows, and grasses will be planted to replace them.

Amy Boyer

Growing the Demonstration Garden to New Heights: Demonstration Garden Committee Members Needed

As the Garden has become more publicized and well-known in the last year, we have developed a core group of fun and social volunteers who love native plants. In addition, more people are coming forward to volunteer. However, this increased interest and activity is outstripping my ability to run the Demonstration Garden on my own. In order for the Garden to continue to attract visitors and volunteers and to become a first-class garden, a sub-committee is needed. As a group, we will more effectively fulfill the many roles and tasks of the Garden and will help grow the Garden to its maximum potential.

As a committee, we would meet about once a month to discuss goals and upcoming events. Responsibilities would include meeting and working in the Garden as well. While the entire committee is not expected to show up at every Garden work day, having several committee members present at the work days helps the sessions run more effectively. This is especially true when many volunteers show up.

Currently, I attempt to perform most of the duties that are listed below. In addition, I have created positions that do not currently exist, but if developed, they would bring new activities and opportunities into the Garden. The roles described are not set in stone and as needs and opportunities present themselves, the duties of each role can be adjusted or merged and new positions can be developed.

The opportunities in the Garden are many and with several people on board to help, the Garden can become a more beautiful, enriching and educational asset to the chapter and community. If you are interested in one or more Garden committee positions, please contact me. A more comprehensive description of each position will be on the website and can also be obtained by contacting me at cassandra@dangermond.com or 916.374.8116.

1. Demonstration Garden Director: Filled, but position will be open in 2005

- With input from the committee, plan direction of Garden development
- Coordinate Garden duties with committee members
- Act as lead contact to Old City Cemetery Committee

2. Volunteer Coordinator

- Volunteer coordination with community organizations
- Send out notes of appreciation and encouragement

3. Public Outreach

- Work with chapter Public Relations chair
- Publish work dates in the Sac Bee and other neighborhood newsletters, etc.

4. Old City Cemetery Committee Contact

5. Plant Labeling: Filled, but could use another helper

6. Data Collection

- Number garden plots and take inventory of plot plants, condition of plot, etc.

7. Plant List Maintenance

8. Garden Design/Horticulture

- Plan and design garden; choose planting palette

9. Walkway Maintenance & Watering: This is easy!!

- Maintain weed-free walkways by spraying Round-Up when needed. Requires Round-Up about once a month.
- Water native shade plants in summer twice a month

10. Grant Writer: Find us money!

11. Member At Large: Filled; could use another person

12. Children's Education Programs - NEW!

Develop, coordinate, and run education program. Could involve finding educators who would like to use the Garden as an educational opportunity

13. Adult Education Programs – NEW!

Duties are similar to above and could overlap in order to create family-friendly activities. I've started to give plant talks to various groups and would like to expand it to having people actually come out to the garden in addition to the plant lecture/slide show. Anyone else interested in this is welcome to join in!

Cassandra Nguyen-Musto

It Is a Time of Change

This year's Democratic convention reminds us of other great speeches: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." In that mindset, ask yourself what you can do for the environment. CNPS has many needs, as do other environmental organizations. Look for something that interests you and you will find the time. When I retired at the end of March, I knew vaguely what I wanted to do. What has been the hardest is seeing wonderful opportunities and NOT taking them all on—who wouldn't love speaking for CNPS, organizing a wildflower show, planning the Fall Plant Sale, contacting new members and recruiting them, working in a Demonstration Garden, organizing a legion of plant growers and more! But I know that someone out there needs one of these jobs. You need it because you too want to be a part of something positive, an organization that looks toward the future and actively engages the community. In this newsletter there are several articles about positions that are looking for new leaders. Please take the time to read about them and see if there isn't something that you would like to participate in. And as always, all of our committee chairs would appreciate any help you can offer. If you would like to help on a committee, contact that chair (contact info on back of newsletter). If you would like a bigger challenge, contact me and let's see if we can find a fit. Chris Lewis, 482-5282

Volunteer Opportunities—CNPS depends on volunteers for the success of its programs and activities. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Chris at 482-5282.

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|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| ❖ Plant surveys | ❖ Horticulture | ❖ Website | ❖ Hospitality |
| ❖ Letter writing | ❖ School gardens | ❖ Reporter | ❖ Membership |
| ❖ Conservation | ❖ Grant writing | ❖ Photographer | ❖ Fundraising |
| ❖ Nature guides | ❖ Newsletter | ❖ Book sales | ❖ Exotic pest plants |
| ❖ Education | ❖ Outreach | ❖ Plant sale | ❖ Legislation |

Volunteer Recognition

This is simply a list of some of the activities of the Board and the member volunteers who support our chapter. THANK YOU ALL!

Chapter Meetings: Diana Hickson, Shelley Gardner, Reese Williams.

Demonstration Garden: Cassandra Nguyen Musto, Sabrina Okamura-Johnson, Kate Brennan, Rees Williams, Brooke Langston, Don Wagenet, Ellen Baird, Jennifer Finton, Rita Birdsong, Joyce Miller, Leslie Lewis, Sarah Lou McFarland.

Dessert Social: TIM NOSAL (Master Baker!), Mary Maret (Plant Identification Challenge), Glen Holstein (Master of Ceremonies) and Jennifer Hogan and many more!

ECOS: Rick Bettis.

Fairs and Events: Mary Schiedt, Bill Jenkins, Heidi West, Chris Wilkinson, Bonnie Ross, Glen Holstein, Chris Lewis. Rees Williams, Paul Townsend.

Fall Plant Sale: Melinda Rivasplata and Steve Woodward, Bill Patterson and MOST of the BOARD, Bill Wingfield, David Popp, Joyce Martin, John Martin, Lorraine van Kekerix, Glen Carlson, Kathleen Carlson, Fran Sargent, Emmy Gunterman, Sylvia Gude, Carol Crofoot.

Garden and Arts Center: Linnea Fronce.

Longview Oaks: Paul Townsend, Nancy Thompson.

Mather Vernal Pool Preservation Campaign: Eva Butler, Peggy Berry, Bonnie Ross, Tim Nosal, Mary Maret, Glen Holstein, Heidi West, David Popp, Joyce and John Martin, Lucie Adams, Betty Christoff, Nancy Emery, Carol Witham.

Newsletter and Assembly Team: Amy Boyer, Karen Converse, Chris Lewis, Peggy Berry, Steve Woodward, Chris Wilkinson, Heidi West, Mary Schiedt, Fran Sargent, Lee Perrone.

Stockton Sub-Chapter: Martha Mallory, Bob Stahmer, David Marraccini, Dr. Dale W. McNeal, Grover C. Bethards III, Kathy Hieb, Lois Davis Bob Davis, Lee Fennell, Beth Fennell.

Weed Warriors: Frank Wallace, Hannah Lozier, Randy Everson, Harold Kerster.

WOW Spring Plant Sale: Marin Lemieux, Steve Woodward, Bill Jenkins, Olga Myslivec, Kate Brennan, Jennifer Hogan, Shelley Gardner, Dave Bergendorf, Cassandra Ngyuen Musto, Clay Courtright, Chris Lewis, Emmy Gunterman, Rita Birdsong, Maggie Johnson, Sara McFarland, Amanda Van Houtte, Lisa Serafini.

Wanted: Membership Chairperson for the Chapter



We need someone to help the Chapter grow.

The primary responsibility of the Membership Chair is to interact with the State Office Membership Coordinator to update the Chapter roster on a monthly basis. The Membership Chair also holds a position on the Chapter Board to help coordinate outreach activities and direct the future of the Chapter.

Duties include:

- Maintaining and updating the Chapter roster.
- Sending welcome letters to new and renewing members.
- Sending renewal letters to lapsed members.
- Participating in monthly Board meetings.

Interest in trying new ways to attract new or activate continuing members would be great!

If you would like to take a more active role in the Sacramento Valley Chapter of CNPS, this may be the job for you. Contact Chris Lewis at (916) 482-5282 or lupine@cwnet.com for more details.



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 Chris Wilkinson
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 Sacramento, CA 95816-0585

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SEPTEMBER 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 Membership, 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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| BOARD MEMBERS | <p>President Christina Lewis, 482-5282, lupine@cwnet.com Vice President Mary Maret, 961-4057, Mmaret@mindsync.com Treasurer Bill Patterson, 452-9491, bilwpat@aol.com Secretary Hazel Gordon, 530 297-7204, hgordon@fs.fed.us Book Sales Olga Myslivec, 483-6727, olgamyslivec@hotmail.com Chapter Botanist Glen Holstein, 530 758-6787, holstein@cal.net Chapter Council Delegate Diana Hickson, 327-5956, dianahickson@cwnet.com Conservation: Mary Maret, 961-4057, Mmaret@mindsync.com; John Hunter, 737-3000, Jhunter@jsanet.com Demo Garden: Cassandra Nguyen-Musto, 374-8116, cassandra@dangermond.com ECOS Representative Rick Bettis, rickb@ardennet.com Education Bonnie Ross, 962-3619, bross@water.ca.gov Ethnobotany Renee Shakroh, 484-8245, renees@cal.net Fairs & Events Mary Schiedt, 530 661-6061, maryolo1@netscape.net Fall Plant Sale Kate Brennan, 444-8423, katebrennan@sbcglobal.net Field Trips Tim Nosal, 961-0766, trnosal@aol.com Habitat Enhancement Frank Wallace, 213-4682, frankw2@pacbell.net Historian Betty Matyas, 363-2390 Horticulture Steve Woodward, 489-1744, woodzos@comcast.net Hospitality Peggy Berry, 944-1184, pegberry@aol.com Listserv Moderator Harry Spanglet, 445-6531, spanglet@water.ca.gov Mather Vernal Pools Eva Butler, 443-6282, riverside1@worldnet.att.net Membership OPEN Natural Communities Hazel Gordon, 530 297-7204 , hgordon@fs.fed.us Newsletter Amy Boyer, 530 753-6323 ajboyer@cal.net Plant Seeds/Bird House Bill Jenkins, 961-7772, wjenk6314@cs.com Poster Sales OPEN Programs Diana Hickson, dianahickson@cwnet.com Publicity Shelly Gardner, 736-9026, gardnershelley@comcast.net Rare Plants Heidi West, 457-4899, corydoras22@msn.com, Russell Huddleston, 456-1988, rhuddle1@CH2M.com Jennifer Hogan , 530 661-3410, jhogan@water.ca.gov School Gardens Marin Lemieux, 447-2677, mlemieux@cnps.org Spring Plant Sale Martha Mallery, 209 477-3966 Stockton Sub-Chapter Sabrina Okamura-Johnson, 929-7896, soj@surewest.net Web Site Melinda Rivasplata, 454-5937, melrivas@aol.com Member at Large:</p> | 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: \$1,000 |
| | | 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 |