CNPS Chapter Council Meets at Rush Ranch

The Willis Linn Jepson Chapter will be hosting the CNPS Chapter Council’s quarterly meeting at Rush Ranch in Suisun City from November 30th to December 2nd. The Chapter Council is comprised of 35 delegates, each representing one of CNPS’s local chapters. Chapter Council delegates meet to discuss and decide on CNPS policies on behalf of their local membership, share successes and lessons learned with other delegates, and vote in CNPS elections. Chapter Council meetings are open to all CNPS members and friends. You can register for the meeting at Rush Ranch [here](#).

The agenda for this meeting includes a guided tour of the Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden in Benicia on Friday at 10:00 AM. On Saturday at the Rush Ranch Nature Center, a dinner buffet is scheduled at 6:45 PM, to be followed at 8:00 PM by a presentation from Jepson Chapter member Doug Wirtz featuring the flora and fauna he has photographed at the properties owned by the Solano Land Trust. Two guided hikes are scheduled on Sunday, one at Rockville Trails Preserve and the other at the Rush Ranch Tidal Wetlands. Both hikes begin at 10:00 AM and are open to all CNPS members, but [registration](#) is required.

Special thanks go to Chapter Vice President and Chapter Council Delegate Mary Frances Kelly Poh and her team of volunteers who made all the local arrangements for this meeting.

Chapter Meeting Hosts Expert on Plants Found in the Sierras

Michael Uhler, a gardener at the East Bay Regional Botanic Garden, will be speaking at a joint meeting of the Willis Linn Jepson Chapter of CNPS and the Solano Community College Horticulture Club. This free event is scheduled for January 14, 2019, 6:00 PM at Solano Community College, Horticulture Building 1000, 4000 Suisun Valley Road in Fairfield.

Michael specializes in plants from the Sierras. He will show how he finds these plants in nature and will talk about their habitats and their distribution both in California and other alpine areas. Park in Lot 6, purchase parking permit at the permit kiosk for $1 and place it on your dashboard. There is a $25 fine for parking without permit.
Jepson Native Plant Nursery Prepares for Fall Plant Sale

The Chapter’s semi-annual plant sale on October 6th at the Heritage Presbyterian Church in Benicia showcased the plants from the Jepson Native Plant Nursery in Vallejo. Proceeds from these plant sales fund the Chapter’s native plant conservation efforts in Solano County. Special thanks go to Barbara Reilley, Chair of the Plant Sale Committee, and her team of volunteers who can be found most Thursdays from ten to noon at the nursery tending to the plants that grow there. If you would like to help out on an upcoming Thursday, let Barbara know at breiley45@yahoo.com.

Figure 3: Volunteer, Ray Deutsch, helps at the Fall plant sale.

Plant Natives in Dixon on Dec. 2

On Sunday, December 2, the Solano Resource Conservation District will be planting over 1,000 native trees and shrubs at their Pond C restoration site in Dixon. If you are interested in joining please register by sending an e-mail or calling Katherine Holmes at 678-1655 x107 or katherine.holmes@solanorcd.org. Once you register, you will get additional information, including a map to the site. All of these events are family friendly, but children age 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult. All tools, gloves, and snacks will be provided. Additional events will be scheduled in January and February to plant sedge and wildflower plugs.

Figure 4: Pond C in Dixon
Plant of the Month: Rhus integrifolia

Rhus integrifolia, Lemonade berry, is an open and arching evergreen shrub to 8' (but can grow to 20' and often wider in ideal conditions). Its flat and waxy leaves are simple, thick and leathery, about an inch or so wide on reddish stems. These leaves are widely spaced on limbs giving the curving branches a rather stiff appearance. Small clusters of cream to rose colored panicles of flowers in early spring are soon followed by attractive, sticky, red berries. It likes full sun to partial shade, is not particular to soil, and is very drought tolerant once established. Native to the coastal bluffs, slopes, and canyons in coastal scrub and chaparral below 2500 feet from Santa Barbara County to northwest Baja California. Inland it can be found on the western edge of the Colorado Desert and Arizona. See ‘Plant of the Month’ on our website for more info on this plant.

Election of 2019 Jepson Chapter Board Members

Introducing the following slate of candidates for the Jepson Chapter Board to serve in 2019:

- President: Steven Goetz
- Vice President: Mary Frances Kelley Poh
- Treasurer: Kathleen Catton
- Secretary: Pam Muick

Look familiar? Yes, this is the same Board that served you in 2018. Any Chapter member is welcomed to submit a self-nomination for any of these positions via email contact@jepson.cnps.org. Get a free lunch or cup of coffee by just inquiring about any position on the Board. We have four board meetings a year, each is preceded by a delicious potluck. The President puts out the agenda for each meeting, the Vice President backs up the President. The Treasurer does the heavy lifting with the bank account, and the Secretary takes notes on decisions made at each meeting. Meetings currently take place in Fairfield and we try to have a good time. In December, you will receive an email to submit your votes via Survey-Monkey. If we don’t have your email address, we will mail you a postcard ballot.