Dear All,

And Happy New Year! I hope you all had wonderful holidays, I know I did.

So, it’s January and we are all working very hard. We have seedlings starting up in the greenhouse and cuttings starting up in various shade structures. But, we have various problems as well. At the Botanic Garden there are bunnies making short work of Tim and other’s hard work. While Tim has figured out how to solve the problem of slugs and snails, (copper wire, and it WORKS!!!) he’s at a loss as to how to deal with the bunnies. We are also having problems with mice in the greenhouse. I don’t know if they are eating seeds, or just making warm homes for their babies, but if anyone out there has an idea on how to discourage these pests, please let me know.

And before I put my phone number and e-mail address on this, there is a third problem at Vallejo Sanitation. There, it’s kitties. While we have complained about one cat for years, there are now 2 more digging up the pots and leaving little calling cards. So, if anyone knows how to discourage any of these pests, PLEASE let me know. (By the way, mothballs don’t work on the furry intruders and they kill the plants as well.)

Becky Mannion, Chapter President
(707) 429-2494, rfivem@pacbell.net

Sarah Davies, Education Coordinator with the San Francisco Bay NERR, will be our guest speaker at the Jepson Chapter meeting on Monday, January 22 at 7 PM in Benicia at the Heritage Presbyterian Church. The topic of her talk will be “Life in the Mud: Wetlands of the San Francisco Bay.” This talk will be based on research at Rush Ranch and elsewhere in the estuary.

Chapter meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. The meeting can be reached by taking I-780 to the East 2nd Street exit in Benicia and go south 2 blocks to 1400 East 2nd Street.
EVENTS OF OTHERS

WAYNE RODERICK LECTURE SERIES
The East Bay Regional Park District's Botanic Garden lecture series continues through the end of February. Presentations start at 10:30 AM on Saturday at the Garden's Visitor Center. The lecture series is named after the former Garden Director, Wayne Roderick. Most presentations emphasize ecology and biogeography of native plants in the field. Admission is free to the public but seating is limited so be sure to come early if you want a seat. For more info call (510) 841-8732.

JANUARY
20 Botanical adventures in the Channel Islands: Dudleya and other rarities—Stephen McCabe
27 Ecology of Pleistocene megafauna and the first Americans—Steve Edwards

FEBRUARY
3 Mt. Diablo – Steve Edwards
10 Geologic highlights and hotspots of the San Francisco Bay Region – Doris Sloan
17 California Indian material culture—Steve Edwards
24 John Muir: an inordinate fondness for plants. The study of his herbarium – Bonnie Gisel and Stephen Joseph

HELP SAVE THE BAY THIS WINTER
Save the Bay is plotting to plant 40,000 native seedlings at wetland restoration sites along the Bay shoreline this winter. The site nearest Solano County is at Tolay Creek in Sonoma, where volunteers will help plant 1,000 natives to advance the restoration of 435 acres of diked historic wetland to tidal salt marsh.

Participation is free, but you need to RSVP. Online registration is at www.savesfbay.org If you need more information contact Jocelyn Gretz at jgretz@savesfbay.org or (510)452-9261 x109. The Tolay Creek volunteer schedule is as follows:

Saturday, February 3, 9 AM to Noon.

WILLIS LINN JEPSON CHAPTER ROSTER
Your Board encourages all members to become involved in what interests you. We are available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas of what membership in the Jepson Chapter can mean to you. Those interested in serving on any of the open position on the Board should call Becky Mannion.

President Becky Mannion, 429-2494
Vice President Gary Brogan, 746-7926
Recording Secretary Sue Maddux, 745-4361
Correspondence Norma Deaner, 745-3906
Treasurer/Membership Mary Frances Kelly Poh
Education/Outreach POSITION OPEN
Newsletter Editor Steven Goetz, 745-4675
Webmaster Ken Poerner, 432-0150
Past President Alison Fleck, 747-9463
Book/Poster Sales POSITION OPEN
Programs/Lectures POSITION OPEN
Plant Sales Sue Wickham, 747-4815
Conservation Ted Swiecki, 448-0230

Newsletter Contributions
Send your announcements events, stories, articles or ideas to Steven Goetz at sgoet@sbcglobal.net or mail to 347 Goldenslopes Court, Benicia. The deadline for the next newsletter is March 10, 2007.
**Help Design the Botanic Garden**

For the past year the Chapter’s Botanic Garden Committee has been working on a 3.5 acres addition to the Forrest Deaner Botanic Garden. Plans have been completed for an orientation pavilion, an educational assembly area, benches and expanded trail and irrigation systems.

The Committee is welcoming volunteers to help prepare the planting design for this expansion. Planting design involves subdividing the new acreage into the various plant communities found in Solano County, choosing plants from a computerized plant database and arranging them in these plant communities. If you would like to help please contact Steve Goetz at 745-4675 or sgoet@sbcglobal.net.

**Try Propagating This Winter**

Jepson Chapter’s biggest fundraisers are the native plant sales. We invite members to participate in our plant propagation work days in Vallejo and Benicia, or to donate native plants that you propagate at home.

One advantage to winter propagation is that you don’t have to water the plants that often. Winter is also a good time to propagate certain native plants. Cuttings from the following woody winter-deciduous shrubs are relatively easy to grow:

- **Calycanthus occidentalis**, Spicebush
- **Cornus sericea**, Creek Dogwood
- **Philadelphus lewisi**, Western Mock Orange
- **Ribes sanguineum**, Pink-flowering Currant

Take about 8-inch cuttings from unflowered, healthy tips from last year’s growth. Treat the base with a rooting hormone such as Root Tone. Stick half the cutting in a gallon pot filled with a soil mixture of equal parts sand and peat moss. Put pots in good light but not in direct sun. When spring arrives and rain tapers off, keep the soil moist and new growth should appear.

Be sure to water the new plants regularly during the summer, or think about offering the little fledglings to the Plant Sale Committee. They do a great job of keeping the growing plants well watered during the summer.

P.S. January is also a good time to divide and pot those *Iris douglasiana* for the fall plant sale.

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**Access Plan for Sky Valley-Cordelia Hills Open Space**

The Solano Land Trust (SLT) Board is accepting public comments on their Draft Public Access Plan for the Sky Valley - Cordelia Hills Open Space. Public access is being proposed for nearly 4,000 acres of land on three former ranches in the hills between Vallejo, Fairfield and Benicia.

The major acquisition grants carried requirements for protection of natural resources and for provision of public access. The Access Plan provides over 30 miles of trails that will be open to the public on a daily basis in the years to come. Most trails are proposed as multi-use for low impact users such as hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians.

An important feature of the proposed public access is the Bay Area Ridge Trail that will pass through the western portion of the open space. The Ridge Trail will ultimately provide a 580-mile ridgeline trail connecting the Bay Area’s greenbelts and open spaces. The Access Plan links the three cities to this regional trail system.

The properties extend over rolling grasslands, oak savannah and dense riparian woodlands of the Inner Coast Range. Special on-site vegetative communities include serpentine bunchgrass grassland, native needlegrass grassland, and various wetlands. Several plants are designated as rare by the CNPS (Erigeron biolettii and Eriogonum luteolum var. caninu).

To review the plan go to the SLT website at: [www.solanolandtrust.org](http://www.solanolandtrust.org). Copies of the plan are available at the SLT office at 1001 Texas St, Suite C, Fairfield, or through your city or County planning department.

You may send comments to Sue Wickham via email sue@solanolandtrust.org, by phone 707-432-0150 x 207, or by regular mail to the SLT address above. The deadline for comments is February 13, 2007.

Another way to review the plan and comment is to attend the public meeting of the SLT Board, where details of the plan will be presented and comments from the public accepted. The meeting is scheduled as follows:

**Tuesday, January 30, 2007, 7:00 PM**

Fairfield - Cordelia Public Library (the new library) 5050 Business Center Drive, Fairfield
Jepson Chapter Joins the Flyway Festival in Vallejo

February 2 – 4 is the weekend set for the 11th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, Family Wildlife Exploration and Birding Expo. This three-day festival celebrates the natural, recreational, historic and cultural treasures of San Francisco Bay and with activities centered on Mare Island. Activities include a wine and art opening reception, regional outings, and nature, wildlife and birding exhibits.

On Saturday, the Jepson Chapter will be offering a tour of the Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden. Jepson Chapter will also be an exhibitor in Building 897 on Saturday from 9 AM to 4 PM, and on Sunday from 9 AM to 3 PM. Our booth will provide to sell CNPS books and posters to raise awareness about native plants in Solano County, provide advice on growing native plants and invite the public to join the CNPS and participate in our Chapter activities. Volunteers are needed to help staff our exhibit booth. If you have some time to offer at our booth, please call Becky Mannion at 429-2494

I wish to affiliate with:  
___ Jepson Chapter – Solano County  
___ Other __________________

Membership Category:  
___ Student/Retired/Limited Income, $25  
___ Individual, $45  
___ Family/Group/Library, $75  
___ Plant Lover, $100  
___ Patron, $300  
___ Benefactor, $600  
___ Mariposa Lily, $1500

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society  
2707 K Street, Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA  95816

CNPS Jepson Chapter  
P.O. Box 2212  
Benicia, CA  94510  
www.cnpsjepsonchapter.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED