Antioch Dunes Refuge Butterfly Count Underway

The last newsletter announced a unique opportunity to count Lange’s metalmark butterflies at the Antioch Dunes, which are normally closed to the public. Well, staff biologist Susan Euing reports that the butterflies are there and they still need your help for Wednesdays September 19, 26 and October 3. Please call Susan at (510) 521-9624 or susan_euing@yahoo.com to reserve a spot. She can use 8-9 people per day. Surveys start at 9 am and go until 4 or 4:30 pm. Wear long pants, sturdy walking/hiking shoes, and sun hat. Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, bag lunch and lots of water.

To get there take Highway 4 to Antioch. Exit at A Street. At the signal at the end of the exit ramp, turn north onto A Street and follow it through Antioch to the signal at Wilbur Avenue. Turn right onto Wilbur Avenue, and follow it to Fulton Shipyards Road. Turn left onto Fulton Shipyards, and follow it to the Stamm Unit gate on the right, past the railroad tracks. Park next to the chain link fence on the right and meet Susan at the gate.
September Meeting on Preserving Habitat for Birds

Mike Perlmutter, a Conservation Coordinator for Audubon California is the featured speaker at the Jepson Chapter General Membership meeting on Monday, September 24th at 7 p.m. Heritage Presbyterian Church, 1600 E. 2nd Street in Benicia.

Mike will explain the Important Bird Areas program and highlight Solano County’s designated Important Bird Areas: Benicia State Recreation Area, Jepson Grasslands, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, San Pablo Bay Wetlands, and Suisun Marsh. Mike will discuss how Solano County residents can get involved with the Important Bird Areas program. He would also like to hear from members what their conservation concerns and visions for the county and region are, so please bring your ideas!

Prior to the General Membership meeting, President Becky Mannion will be taking Mike to dinner at Sala Thai, 807 First Street at 5:30 pm. Chapter members are welcome to join Becky and Mike for dinner and learn more about the Audubon Society’s projects and how they support native plants.

October Meeting will be at Rush Ranch Nature Center

Join us at Rush Ranch for the CNPS Jepson Chapter General Membership meeting on Monday, October 22nd at 7 pm. The featured speaker will be Pam Nelson who is a docent at Rush Ranch. Pam will talk about native plants found in the area.

To reach Rush Ranch from I-80, take State Route 12 east to Grizzly Island Road (there’s a Burger King on the corner). Turn right and continue on Grizzly Island Road for several miles. When you see the sign, turn right into the gravel driveway at Rush Ranch.

Estuary Forum in Oakland

The San Francisco Estuary Project announces their 8th State of the Estuary Conference, for October 16 – 18, Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive in Oakland. This conference provides a forum for experts and the public to assess the ecological health of the Bay and Delta. For details check the conference website www.sfep.abag.ca.gov/soe or call 510-622-2406.
CHAPTER UPDATES

BOTANIC GARDEN WINS GRANT
The DEY Community Fund awarded a $1,000 grant to the Botanic Garden to be used for "educational markers" (plant labels) at the middle and upper elevation areas. We began planting in these areas last Earth Day, and the coffeeberries, quail bushes, sticky monkeyflowers, and coast live oaks are now established, thanks to our wonderful volunteers.

The Jepson Chapter’s Garden Committee made a presentation to the DEY Board earlier this year. DEY wanted to contribute to our current program that is directly related to education.

Over the years, we have received $9,000 in DEY grants for the Botanic Garden. The grants, augmented by grants from the California State Parks Foundation, and generous contributions from our members and volunteers, enabled us to procure plants, garden materials, equipment, supplies and tools.

It is indeed a great honor to have enjoyed DEY’s continued support. To all our wonderful volunteers, the honor belongs to you.

FALL PLANT SALE NEWS
Mark your calendars for our big event: Saturday, October 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Benicia Community Garden, corner of East 2nd and Military.

The flyer for our plant sale is in this issue. Please post it on a bulletin board in your neighborhood and share it with your friends. Remember, CNPS members will receive a 10% discount on all purchases!

We also welcome you to volunteer for a few hours. No experience is necessary. We’ll need people to help get the plants ready for sale and help on the day of the sale. On the day of the sale we’ll need volunteers to help with sales and sales write up, cashiering, and book/poster sales. To help out please contact Becky Mannion.

Finally, the Jepson Chapter would like to thank Sue Wickham for her years of service as chair of the Plant Sale Committee. We are now seeking a new chair of the Committee to work on our Spring Plant Sale.

Backyard Wildlife Habitat Certification Program
Habitat destruction and global warming are in the news. Species are disappearing, whether frogs and butterflies or bees and bats. You can repair some of this destruction by making your surroundings more wildlife-friendly. Native plants are part of the answer according to the National Wildlife Federation’s Backyard Wildlife Habitat Certification Program.

This program is based on understanding that wildlife needs a healthy source of food, water, cover and safe places to raise young. All you need to do is ensure that the space you provide has the elements that are basic to any wildlife habitat.

These elements include a source of food. Such as native plants, seeds, fruits, nuts, berries, and nectar. A source of water, such as a birdbath, pond, water garden, or stream. Places for cover, like a thicket, rockpile, or birdhouse. Places to raise young, such as dense shrubs, vegetation, a nesting box or pond.

Finally, you need to manage your wildlife habitat using sustainable gardening practices. For example, use mulch to retain moisture in the soil. Use compost to enrich the soil without harmful chemicals. Water the plants with drip irrigation, which will save water.

The National Wildlife Federation’s Certification Program offers suggestion on how to provide these elements to your local situation, be it a rural ranchette or an urban balcony.

Once you have these elements in place, you can apply for certification by submitting an application to the National Wildlife Federation. If your habitat meets the requirements, you’ll receive a certificate, membership to the National Wildlife Federation and a subscription to their magazine and enrollment in the National registry of certified habitats.

Over 70,000 habitats have been registered through the program. Further information on establishing a habitat can be obtained from the National Wildlife Federation at www.nwf.org/backyard/ or 1-800-822-9919.
**CNPS Workshops**

CNPS has a new program called the Plant Science Training Program. We offer workshops teaching professional skills to botanists and ecologists. Our primary goal is to raise the standard of science used for the protection of native plants. We believe we can begin to accomplish this by teaching the skills and providing the tools necessary for conducting sound scientific surveys for rare plants and vegetation. We are trying to cover the state, so sooner or later there should be a workshop or two in your region. The next workshops will occur as listed below. Discounts are offered to CNPS members who enroll.

Oct 16-18, 2007 Vegetation Mapping, UC Berkeley/Mount Tamalpais
Primary Instructors: Todd Keeler-Wolf, Julie Evens, John Menke

Primary Instructors: David Magney, Cher Batchelor

For more information visit CNPS state website at [http://cnps.org/cnps/education/](http://cnps.org/cnps/education/) or call / email Josie Crawford at (916) 447-2677 or jcrawford@cnps.org

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**CNPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name:________________________________________________

Address:______________________________________________

City/Zip:______________________________________________

Telephone:_____________________________________________

Email (optional):________________________________________

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

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED