**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING**

**TOPIC: INSECTS & THEIR IMPORTANCE TO NATIVE PLANTS.**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008, 7:00 PM**

HERITAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1400 EAST 2ND STREET, BENICIA

**SAVE OUR PARK & PROPAGATION WORKDAY**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009, 10 AM - NOON**

BENICIA STATE RECREATION AREA

**PLANT PROPAGATION WORKDAY – BENICIA**

**EVERY THURSDAY, 10 AM - NOON**

JEPSON GREENHOUSE - BENICIA STATE RECREATION AREA

**PLANT PROPAGATION WORKDAYS – VALLEJO**

**LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, 10 AM - NOON**

VALLEJO SANITATION DISTRICT

**FORREST DEANER BOTANIC GARDEN WORKDAYS**

**EVERY SATURDAY, 9:30 – 11:30 AM**

BENICIA STATE RECREATION AREA

**NEXT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH 2008 – DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS MARCH 14TH.**

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**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Dear All,

The beginning. We are looking for candidates to head up our chapter. If you have any desire to see where we are going, or if you have talents you are looking to use, please… I am resigning this year as President because I spread myself too thin. If you spread yourself too thin, not everything gets the attention needed to do a job well. There is a lot more paperwork then I was expecting. We also have no Vice President as well. I’m sure we can carry on since we are all focused on the principals that CNPS represents, but we could really use some leadership and representation.

I did go to the Chapter Council Meeting in December. I am happy to report that they are working on good policies and programs that help us all. Mary Frances Kelly Poh attends these meetings and I have to say, doing a fine job of it. Not everything involves getting wet and cold pulling up weeds, and we need people like Mary Frances to keep us all planting right.

In the meantime, this is the time of year when we start our seeds and other collected materials as well as pulling weeds. There are some really nasty weeds out there. Now is the time to get them out before the ground dries and the weeds get even bigger and nastier. You know those thistles and things. Right now they are small, but by midsummer they will be two feet tall and tear the heck out of your hands. Go see Norma any Saturday. She and Tim are keeping the garden clear of these monsters as well as laying out ground-up Christmas trees to keep other weeds down. That’s 10 to 12 p.m. every Saturday.

This is also the time to talk your horticulturally inclined to join the chapter. We will be giving discounts to members at our next plant sale May 3rd 2008. Everyone likes a discount. You may also notice that there is a special membership category for students and those on a fixed income. It is good to point this out when you know that someone might be more inclined at a lower rate.

Rebecca Mannion

President, Willis L. Jepson Chapter

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**Chapter Meeting to Host Talk on Insects in the Garden**

Peter and Judy Haggard will be guest speakers at the next meeting of the Jepson Chapter. They will present a slide show featuring some of the native insects that are in their field guide, Insects of the Pacific Northwest (2006). Part of the discussion will include the role native plants play in gardens to provide the stable environment needed to maintain healthy populations of insects, which in turn help maintain the health of the plants, which in turn attract other wildlife such as birds and frogs. If possible, they will provide a display of live insect specimens. The general public is welcomed to attend this talk which will begin at 7 PM on Monday, January 28 at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 1400 E. 2nd Street in Benicia.
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. Lectures are 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.

- Jan. 26: Contra Costa County wildlife and its relationships with native plant communities, Jim Hale.
- Feb. 2: Botanical adventures in Idaho and Montana, Bob Case.
- Feb. 9: California Indian material culture in the context of world prehistory, Steve Edwards.
- Feb. 16: Eccentrics, heroes, and cutthroats of old Berkeley, with emphasis on Wildcat Canyon stories, Richard Schwartz.
- Feb 23: California Indian religion in the age of the ethnographers: deep roots for native plants and animals, Steve Edwards.

Don’t forget: free tours of the botanic garden every Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 when it’s not raining.

TALK ON NATIVE BEES AND PLANTS
The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District and the Xerces Society are sponsoring a talk on Native Pollinators and Native Plants: Habitat Conservation for Wild Bees on Tuesday, January 29, 6 PM at Farm Bureau Hall, 5554 Clayton Road, Concord.

Katharina Ullmann, an expert on pollination biology and landscape ecology, will speak on the diversity of our native bees, the latest research on their value as pollinators, the best plants for native pollinators, and how to encourage native bees on your property. To RSVP, or for questions, contact Mary Grim at the RCD: mary.grim@ca.nacdnet.net or 925-672-6522 x113

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.

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COE BACKCOUNTRY WEEKEND
For one weekend this spring, Henry Coe State Park will open the gate at Bells Station on Highway 152 east of Gilroy. The Coe Backcountry Weekend is set for April 25-27, 2008. This event allows visitors vehicle access to a remote and beautiful area. Hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians are invited. This is one of the 12 parks proposed for closure in the State budget.

During the weekend, you can explore on your own or you can participate in group activities. Rangers will provide brochures, park maps, and all sorts of information at visitor booths. Entrance is by application only. All application must be received by February 29th. Applications and additional details will be available at www.coepark.org.
CHAPTER UPDATES

GARDEN COMMITTEE SPROUTS IDEAS TO PREVENT PARK CLOSURE

The Garden Committee recently directed its attention to the Governor’s proposal to close the Benicia State Recreation Area (BSRA), which hosts the Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden. We recognize the State budget dilemma is very serious. However, we must do all we can to prevent the closure of BSRA.

Gene Doherty, one of our dedicated volunteers, has registered a new website to help further the goal of keeping BSRA open. The website will serve as a link to important facts and background information concerning the Botanic Garden and BSRA. Contact information for our government officials will be listed as well as links to related agencies and possible supporters. News of interest and planned events/activities will also be posted on the website.

www.SaveBeniciaSRA.org
The site is expected to be up and running on/about January 23, 2008.

CNPS OFFICERS NEEDED AT CHAPTER AND STATE LEVELS

The Jepson Chapter has six vacancies, collectively, on the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. The last newsletter asked interested members to submit self-nomination forms for a position that might interest them. Unfortunately, only one form was submitted by the December 14th deadline.

CNPS also has had problems filling vacancies. Three positions on the CNPS Board of Directors were not filled in the 2007 general election. CNPA is holding a special election to fill these seats. Self nomination forms are due January 15.

Serving on the Board or as a Committee Chair provides an opportunity to interact with interesting people and support the preservation and propagation of native plants and their habitats. Your participation is welcomed.

CNPS-SUPPORTED BILLS BECOME LAW

At the conclusion of the 2007 legislative session, the Governor signed three CNPS-supported bills. He vetoed another. Nine CNPS-supported bills and one CNPS-opposed bill did not make it out of committee or failed. The three CNPS-supported bills that became law are:

AB 5 - Flood Management. This bill was authored by our own Assemblywoman Lois Wolk. Under existing law the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) performs various functions related to flood management, and local governments are required to adopt General Plans to guide new development. This bill requires DWR to prepare a Central Valley Flood Protection Plan to strengthen flood protection and avoid future flood damage exposure through appropriate land use measures, and it requires local governments to revise local plans accordingly and deny certain projects unless the agencies make findings regarding flood protection. This bill also allows state agencies to work with the Federal agencies on environmental enhancements to flood control projects, commonly called "multi-objective management."

SB 17 - Flood Protection. This bill renames the existing Reclamation Board the Central Valley Flood Protection Board and requires it to act independently of DWR. The board is required to establish standards for levee construction and operation, review local land use plans, deny funding to local projects that don’t provide adequate flood protection, and include in project objectives the enhancement of riparian and wetland habitats and recovery and stability of native plant and wildlife species.

SB 373 – Natural Community Conservation Planning. This bill authorizes the Department of Fish & Game to enter into agreements to prepare Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs). The purpose of NCCPs is to provide comprehensive management and conservation of native plant and wildlife species over large geographic areas. It makes legislative findings on protection of open space lands within the San Diego NCCP, thereby elevating the level of assurances that the species on these lands will be protected under the NCCP.

Members can support such legislative efforts by monitoring the CNPS web site for legislative news, which can be found under the Conservation Program tab. In 2008, the State Legislature is expected to take on fire and climate change. These issues are a central concern to CNPS. The CNPS Legislative Committee needs people to help watchdog legislation of interest. Contact Vern Goerhing at vern@cal.net if you can help—it’s almost all done via the internet.
Flock over to Mare Island and Join Us at the Flyway Festival

February 1 – 3 is the weekend set for the 12th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival. This three-day festival celebrates the natural, recreational, historic and cultural treasures of San Francisco Bay. Like-minded lovers of Solano County’s flora and fauna will gather at Mare Island, which will be the festival’s hub. The schedule of activities is under development and should be posted soon at the following website: www.sfbayflywayfestival.com.

The Jepson Chapter participates each year in the Flyway Festival with outings and as an exhibitor. Our booth will feature 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.

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

CNPS Jepson Chapter
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED