Plant Expert to Speak on Helping Nature in the Garden

The Jepson Chapter will host Charlize Danielson, manager of Native Here Nursery in Berkeley, at its meeting on March 24th, 7PM at the Heritage Presbyterian Church, 1400 E. 2nd St. in Benicia. Ms. Danielson has been a member of CNPS since 1976 and served as CNPS President in 1986. Native Here grows plants from seed and cuttings collected within the East Bay. The nursery blends conservation with stewardship and horticulture, and promotes these values to their customers. Typical questions of customers will be addressed in the presentation. Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

No President Report

Dear All,

Your Board of Directors needs some fresh faces. We have vacancies for President, Vice President, Education/Outreach, Programs/Lectures, and Books/Posters positions. Why should you do it?

PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT: Looking for leadership opportunities? We are looking for you! Our former President stepped down in January after serving three years, and will be missed. The Vice-President usually becomes the new President, however, we have been without a Vice-President for a year. Unlike the national race, the campaign is short and cheap. It looks great on a resume too.

BOOK/POSTER SALES CHAIR: If you’re a bibliophile or artists, you might be interested in being our Chair for BOOK/POSTER sales. You’ll get to choose books and posters that you judge will be of interest to our members from various catalogs. The Board can assist with helpers for storage, transport, sales, and bookkeeping. We have been strategizing about making this job lighter, so if you are “on the fence”, it might be easier than you think.

PROGRAMS/LECTURES: Help find exciting guests for our chapter meetings. The Program Chair solicits ideas, contacts potential speakers, and introduces them at meetings. (The President will fill in if you can’t make the meeting). Responsibilities also include providing refreshments of your choice; set up at meetings; chat with and enjoy the company of those who appreciate the goodies; clean up and submit receipts to the Treasurer. Please consider it.

PROPAGATION CO-CHAIR: Manage the propagation operation at the Benicia State Recreation Area (BSRA). Use our greenhouse and shade structure to propagate plants for plant sales and the Botanic Garden, and collect seeds/cuttings from BSRA. Training available. Leave a message at 707-429-2494 and someone will get back to you.
**NATURE WALKS IN MARIN**

The Marin County Open Space District offers nature walks for the public. Most walks are moderately paced and cover less than five miles. Check their website for more info: www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/PK/Main/mcosd/

- Sunday, March 23, 10am - Bolinas Ridge
- Sunday, March 30, 10am - Tomales Point

**STRENTZEL MEADOW TO MT. WANDA HIKE, MARTINEZ**

Saturday March 15, 10am, Join Friends of Alhambra Creek in this half-day trip through a limited access portion of the Alhambra Creek watershed. **Strentzel Meadow** is located at 5026 Alhambra Valley Road in Martinez. The meadow access is off a private driveway and parking is limited. Bring water if desired.

**BAYLANDS WILDFLOWER HIKE**

Saturday & Sunday, March 29th & 30th, 10am to 1pm. Sonoma Land Trust invites you to experience a day at the San Pablo Baylands (near Hwy 37 and Lakeville Hwy) for wildflower exploration, bird watching and spectacular views of the North Bay. Land Trust staff will lead you on a rigorous hike across the open ranch and along the west side of Cougar Mountain. Directions and further information will be provided with your RSVP. To sign up for this free public outing, please call (707) 544-5614 ext. 2 or email: volunteer@sonomalalandtrust.org.

**SOLANO LAND TRUST MARCH HIKES**

For information, call 707-432-0150 x 200 or visit website at: www.solanolandtrust.org

March 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30 (every Sat and Sun) Guided tours of amazing vernal pools at Jepson Prairie at 10 am. Meet docent at parking lot by 9:45 am.

March 16 (Sun) Guided, Guided easy hike thru Lynch Canyon with Docent Doris, meet in parking lot by 9am. Great hike for seniors.

March 29 (Sat) -Hike Lynch Canyon with Docent Dave, moderate pace. Meet at Lynch Canyon parking lot by 9am. 3 hrs.

April 5 (Sat), 9:00 am to 11am. Take a beautiful spring walk at Rush Ranch Open Space. Learn about the region's wildflowers with Docent Don Taynton. Expect wet and possibly muddy conditions. Call 707-422-4491 or 425-3706 for additional information.

**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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<th>Position</th>
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**RUSH RANCH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday, April 26, 10am to 3pm

The Rush Ranch Educational Council sponsors this event. Enjoy special tours, horse-drawn wagon rides, live music, demonstrations of square dancing, blacksmithing, woodcarving, Native American skills, working sheep dogs, a falconry demonstration and working horse demonstrations. Remember, it's free, except for the hamburgers and hot dogs.

From Highway 12 in Suisun City, head south on Grizzly Island Road for about two miles. The entrance gate is on the right. Call (707) 422-4491 for additional information.
CHAPTER UPDATES

BOTANIC GARDEN EARTH DAY EVENT
The Jepson Chapter will stage an Earth Day event at our Botanic Garden in the Benicia State Recreation Area on April 19. We hope to attract 40 to 50 volunteers to the garden to install new plants, remove invasive non-natives, clear brush and distribute mulch on the grounds. Employees of Starbuck shops in Solano County are also helping with the event. Activities start at 9AM.

VALLEJO EARTH DAY EVENT
Vallejo will celebrate Earth Day on April 19 during the Farmer’s Market on Georgia Street. Details of the event will appear on Valcore’s website www.valcorerecycling.org The Jepson Chapter will be downtown selling plants and promoting CNPS. If you would like to help out at the booth please call Mary Frances Kelly Poh.

CHAPTER SPONSORS Mt. DIABLO HIKE
On Saturday, April 5, the Jepson Chapter will join with the East Bay Chapter to sponsor a guided hike on Mt. Diablo near Clayton. Our guide will be Yulan Chang Tong. You may have enjoyed Lilies of the Field, her book of photographs of Mt. Diablo’s flora. Now you have an opportunity to see some of this amazing flora firsthand.

Participants will hike the Mitchell Canyon trail. This trail is a relatively level loop, with a short, steep end portion. Total distance is about four miles. To get to the Mitchell Canyon staging area, take I-680 south to Walnut Creek and exit N. Main Street and continue south. Turn left onto Ygnacio Valley Road. Continue east about five or six miles to Clayton Road, where you will turn right and continue to Mitchell Canyon Road. Take a right on Mitchell Canyon Road and drive to the end. There will be a $3 or $4 fee to enter and park. Our group will meet in front of the visitors’ center. Bring water and lunch. Depending on what we see, expect to be back at the trailhead between 2 and 3 pm.

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE BSRA UNDERWAY
Help save Benicia State Park by writing letters to the Governor and our legislators. Gene Doherty, Jepson Chapter member, has created a website with resources to help you take action. Visit it at www.SaveBeniciaSRA.org. On Monday, April 6, the California State Parks Foundation will hold a public rally on the steps of the State Capitol at Noon in Sacramento to show support for our threatened state parks. Please attend this important rally.

JEPSON CHAPTER SPRING PLANT SALE ON SATURDAY, MAY 3RD
The Jepson Chapter sponsors plant sales every spring and fall. The spring plant sale is the larger of the two and is set for Saturday, May 3rd at the Benicia Community Garden located at the corner of E. 2nd Street and Military East. Sales begin at 9AM.

Art’s Benicia will also be hosting Open Studios on May 3rd, so buy some natives for your garden and take in a few studios. Local experts will provide advice on plant selection and care. Books, posters and other resources will be available too. Remember, CNPS members will receive a 10% discount on plant purchases.

Check the website after April 1 for a list of plants for sale, www.cnpsjepsonchapter.org. Prior to the sale, the Chapter will be hosting tours of the Botanic Garden in the Benicia State Recreation Area at 9:30 AM on April 12 and 26 to show the public how these native plants can grow in a garden setting.

We need helpers for the sale, particularly moving plants to the site on Friday and back to the propagation area on Saturday afternoon. Call Becky at 429-2494 if you would like to help.

Spring Plant Sales by Others
April 5 and 6, Napa Chapter CNPS, Skyline Park in Napa, just off Imola Avenue. 11AM to 4 PM. Includes wildflower show. Call (707) 642-7641 for more information
April 12th, 9:30AM to 2PM, Marin Chapter CNPS Tiburon Audubon Center and Wildlife Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon.
April 12th, 9AM to 1PM, UC Davis Arboretum, Arboretum Nursery at Orchard Park, Orchard Rd, Davis, (530) 752-4880.
April 19th, 10AM to 3PM, East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Anza View Road, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley.
April 19th, 8AM to 1PM, Solano Resource Conservation District, Spring Conservation Fair and Plant Sale, 6390 Lewis Rd, Vacaville. Call (707) 678-1655 x 109 for more information.
BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES
GARDEN TOUR SET FOR MAY 4

Registration is now open for this free, award-winning tour featuring 60 pesticide-free gardens located throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties that conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 50% or more native plants.

In addition, private, guided tours of signature native plant gardens are offered on April 12, 13, 26, 27, and May 3, 18, and 25, 2008. Register early, as the Select Tours are expected to fill quickly.  www.bringingbackthenatives.net

Finally, during the free garden tour weekend, several nurseries specializing in California natives will be open from 10 to 5 PM.

- Nursery Marketplace, 2701 Main Street, Alameda
- University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley
- Watershed Nursery, 155 Tamalpais Rd, Berkeley
- Carquinez Regional Environmental Education Center, 1909 Dowrelio Dr, Crockett

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED