**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

A hearty Thank You goes to Sue Wickham and all the volunteers that made the October 3 Native Plant Sale a success. The weather was beautiful and it was great to see so many native plants being carted off to new gardens just in time for the rains.

In our September meeting we heard from Greg Suba and Nick Jensen about the planned solar projects in the Mojave Desert. CNPS is opposed to these projects as they are currently proposed because of the habitat loss on these wild lands. A plant survey conducted at the Ivanpah project site found rare plants and effectively confirmed that we do not sufficiently know what is at risk should these projects be built. More research needs to be conducted before we create a new environmental disaster while rushing to minimize the effects of another, climate change. The *New York Times* just published an article quoting Greg; find it online by Google searching on “Greg Suba Mojave”.

The Benicia State Recreation Area has been spared from closure, for at least another year. I am meeting with a group of advocates lead by the California State Parks Foundation to look at the prospects of finding a new way to provide the stable long term funding for CA State Parks. In the mean time the Botanic Garden is growing and Norma, Gary and Tim are proceeding with the approved build-out.

The 2nd Edition of *A Manual of California Vegetation* is now available. Greatly expanded from the 1995 edition, this revision updates a herculean task: to develop an administratively applicable and widely accepted vegetation classification scheme for the most floristically varied state in the nation. This task is accomplished through definitions, descriptions, maps and photos that enable more definitive assessments of extent, location, rarity, and threats to these natural communities. This manual is an essential tool for effective conservation of the plants and landscapes important to CNPS members. You can purchase yours at [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org).  

Gene Doherty, President

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**CHAPTER HOSTS TALK ON UC BOTANIC GARDEN**

The 34-acre UC Berkeley Botanical Garden hosts the broadest range of California native plants that can be found at any one place. Dr. Paul Licht, Garden Director, will be giving a presentation at our next membership meeting on this unique plant collection, how these plants are used for research and conservation activities, and will highlight his favorite native plants found in the Garden.

Dr. Licht joined the UC Berkeley faculty in the Department of Zoology in 1964 and has spent the last 45 years serving in various capacities at the university. In 2003 he became Director of the Botanical Garden.

Details are provided in the calendar above. This lecture is co-sponsored by the Benicia Library. The public is welcomed to attend this free event. Call 745-4675 for more information.
EVENTS OF OTHERS

WAYNE RODERICK LECTURE SERIES
The East Bay Regional Park District’s Botanic Garden lecture series has begun. Presentations start at 10:30 am at the Garden’s Visitor Center. A schedule is provided below. Most lectures emphasize ecology and biogeography of native plants in the field. The lectures are free but seating is limited so come early if you want a seat. Info at (510) 841-8732, bgarden@ebparks.org

- Nov. 21: Sweetwater Mountain of Mono County – Steve Edwards.
- Dec. 19: From Jewelflowers of California to the Sandia Mountains of New Mexico – Dick O’Donnell
- Jan. 2: Botanizing the east side of the Sierra and other irresistible places in California – Aaron Schusteff
- Jan 9: Roundabout the Walker Ridge burn of 2008 and nearby sites in Lake County – Steve Edwards
- Jan 16: Natural history of Hokkaido Japan – Ron Felzer
- Jan. 23: Flora of the Carquinez Strait—Dean Kelch

REPORT ON WEED COUNCIL MEETING
(Based on report by Susan Mason, Mount Lassen Chapter)
Visalia hosted the 18th annual California Invasive Plant Council (Cal IPC) Symposium in October. This year’s theme was Wildland Weed Management on the Leading Edge, a reference to Visalia’s location at the edge of the Sierras where yellow star thistle is starting to invade from the west and cheatgrass from the east.

The keynote address was given by Richard Minnich, author of California’s Fading Wildflowers, a new book that uses the historical journals of early explorers to help answer the question we’re so often asked: What was here before these invasive plants? His conclusion is that it was wildflowers rather than bunch grasses.

Information on tools and techniques, plant research, community organizing and education were on display. New tools included using paintball gun technology to deliver herbicide pellets to otherwise unreachable weeds and the use of mobile phones to map weed infestations via their GPS and photo capabilities.

Proceedings will soon be available at the Cal-IPC website www.cal-ipc.org.

WILLIS LINN JEPSON
CHAPTER ROSTER
We encourage 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 CNPS can mean to you. We welcome inquiries on the open positions for the Committees listed below.

- President, Gene Doherty, 415-609-5653 datagxd@comcast.net
- Vice President, Steven Goetz, 745-4675 sgoet@sbcglobal.net
- Recording Secretary, Alison Fleck, 747-9463 awfleck@sbcglobal.net
- Correspondence, Norma Deaner, 745-3906 ndeaner@pacbell.net
- Treasurer/Membership, Mary Frances Kelly Poh, 745-5461, mfpoh@pacbell.net
- Education/Outreach, POSITION OPEN
- Newsletter Editor, POSITION OPEN
- Webmaster, Ken Poerner, 432-0150, kenpoe@sbcglobal.net
- Book/Poster Sales, POSITION OPEN
- Programs/Lectures, POSITION OPEN
- Plant Propagation/Past President, Becky Mannion, 429-2494, rfvem@pacbell.net
- Plant Sales (interim chair), Sue Wickham, 747-4815 swgeo@sbcglobal.net
- Conservation, Ted Swiecki, 448-0230, phytosphere@phytosphere.com
- Botanic Garden. Norma Deaner and Gary Brogan, Co-Chairs

Send your announcements, events and stories to Steven Goetz at sgoet@sbcglobal.net.

HIKING AROUND SOLANO COUNTY
The following websites list hiking opportunities in Solano County or within an easy drive.

Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve
http://nrs.ucdavis.edu/stebbins/guides/guide_schedule.htm

Solano Land Trust

Napa Solano Audubon Society
http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/fieldtrips.htm

Napa Open Space District Hikes
http://napaoutdoors.org/news/calendar-of-events

Mare Island Heritage Preserve
http://www.mareislandpreserve.org/Visit/Events.html
CHAPTER UPDATES

BOTANIC GARDEN NEWS

Hard working volunteers over the last month or so have just about depleted the wood chips we received at the beginning of October. Volunteers have covered large patches of exposed weedblock in the Coastal Prairie and Chaparral plant communities.

The final Progress Report to the California Coastal Conservancy has been submitted. The garden’s initial phase was funded largely by a Conservancy grant using state park bonds approved by the voters in 2000. The term of the grant was from June 2003 to September 2009. The report contains wonderful photos taken by Norma Deaner and can be viewed on the Chapter’s website.

PLANT SALE SUCCESS—THANK YOU

The fall plant sale gross income was almost $1,600. Let’s recognize and thank our plant sale volunteers. We can’t pay them, but we can put them on the Jepson Chapter Honor Roll. Drum roll please.

Foster Plant Helpers
Barbara Reiley
Dan Jensen
Joanie Murphy
Dan Cross
Sue Wickham
Steven Goetz
Phyllis & Tom Malicki
Sale & Hauling Helpers
Joni Grishom
Mary Frances Kelly Poh
Steven Goetz

CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS

Stay the course – is what Chapter members chose when they re-elected our 2009 officers to serve again in 2010. See the roster of officers if you need to be reminded who you voted for.

NATIVE PLANTS WANTED

Our next plant sale is May 1, 2010. Many of the plants we sell are donated by members who have propagated and nurtured them in their backyards. This is a good time to start plants and seeds. If you have native plants that can be used for propagation, let one of our members in the friendly propagation group know about them, they will find a way to get your cuttings, seeds, and or seedlings into our native plant nursery. If you have questions on what to propagate or advice, call Becky Mannion at 429-2494 or email rfivem@pacbell.net

Proposals Sought for Bilisoly Fund

In September the State CNPS Board allocated $150,000 from a bequest of June Bilisoly for projects that will benefit CNPS. The Board is currently seeking worthy projects and active strategies to further the Society’s mission and goals. The allocation of the funds will be sufficient to sustain a number of such projects for a period of 5 years or more.

Any member, staff member or chapter of CNPS can submit a proposal, which should benefit the entire Society and must fit into current program structure. Priority will go to projects which promote membership growth. Initial proposal should be no more than two pages, including relevant information (Chapter name, proposer’s name, associated State CNPS program, etc.) Inquiries can be submitted to cnps.bilisoly.committee@googlegroups.com by 12/15/09. For more information, contact Tara Hansen at thansen@cnps.org or (916) 447-2677 x201

The CNPS Board adopted criteria for proposals to help applicants determine the type of projects that would be best suited for funding. These criteria can be found on the Jepson Chapter website. The Jepson Board encourages its members to think seriously about submitting a proposal. This call for proposals will be discussed at the Jepson Board meeting on November 19.

Santa Clara to Host Chapter Council

Chapter Council representatives meet with other CNPS members from throughout the state four times annually to chart the direction of CNPS. Bay Area CNPS members will have a nearby opportunity to attend the next quarterly meeting which is scheduled to be held at Santa Clara University’s Benson Memorial Center, on December 5-6.

Chapter Council meetings are open to all CNPS members and their guests. Attending these meetings is a great way to learn how CNPS works at the state level. There is no admission fee. Attendees are responsible for their own food and lodging expenses. Registration is requested for planning purposes; registration is required to reserve a meal. The schedule and registration information can be accessed online at http://cnps.org/cnps/admin.

A highlight at the Chapter Council meeting in September was a debate about adding the word “gardening” to our mission statement. A vote was taken and the measure won (14-12), which is certainly not a clear mandate for a change in something as important as the Society’s mission statement, especially with a half-dozen chapters not voting.

(continued on page 4)
**CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING (cont.)**
Later that evening the featured speaker was Mike Evans, co-owner of Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano. He commented that landscape uses 60% of the water delivered to Southern Californians. CNPS is poised to become the positive, authoritative clearinghouse for native plant horticulture, using “water conservation” as the current big attention getter. While there are many reasons to promote “gardening” and adding it to the CNPS mission statement, this debate is likely to continue.

**TILDEN BOTANIC GARDEN TOUR**
Jepson Chapter is sponsoring a tour of Tilden Botanic Garden on January 23rd. Established in 1940 in the North Berkeley Hills, the garden is devoted to growth, display, and preservation of native plants of California. Many floral areas, such as seacoast bluffs and coastal mountains, interior valleys, arid foothills, alpine zones, and desert, are represented in this garden which can be easily walked in an afternoon. The tour will begin at 1 PM following the Wayne Roderick Lecture on the *Flora of the Carquinez Strait* (see page 2). Carpools will assemble at Heritage Presbyterian Church parking lot in Benicia at 9:00 for those who want to go to the lecture and at 12:00 for those who want to go to the tour only. January 30 is the rain date.

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**CNPS MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name: __________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________

City/Zip:__________________________________________

Telephone:________________________________________

Email (optional):____________________________________

I wish to affiliate with: ____ Jepson Chapter
____________________________

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

Mail with check to CNPS, 2707 K St., Suite 1, Sacramento, CA  95816, or you can join or renew automatically year after year via the website www.cnps.org and click on JOIN.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED