CALANDAR OF EVENTS

• MARCH 25, LOOSE THE LAWN SEMINAR, CNPS NAPA CHAPTER, 7PM SOCIAL HALL IN SKYLINE PARK, 2201 IMOLA AVENUE, NAPA
• MARCH 27 & 28, BENICIA IN BLOOM, CALL GENE DOHERTY FOR MORE INFO.
• APRIL 3, CHAPTER HIKE AT SWETT RANCH, 9AM, VALLEJO. (SEE PAGE 3)
• APRIL 17, EARTH DAY AT VALLEJO Farmers MARKET 9AM TO 1PM. (SEE PAGE 3)
• APRIL 17, EARTH DAY AT FORREST DEANER BOTANIC GARDEN, 9AM, (SEE PAGE 3)
• APRIL 24, ROCKVILLE HILLS REGIONAL PARK HIKE, 9:30AM, FAIRFIELD. (SEE PAGE 3)
• APRIL 25, VACAVILLE GARDEN PARTY, 10:30AM (SEE BELOW)
• MAY 1, SPRING PLANT SALE, 9AM, BENICIA HERITAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. (SEE PAGE 3)
• PLANT PROPAGATION WORKDAYS – EVERY THURSDAY AND SUNDAY, 10 AM – NOON VALLEJO SANITATION DISTRICT (CALL BECKY 429-2494)
• FORREST DEANER BOTANIC GARDEN WORKDAYS, EVERY SATURDAY, 9:30-11:30, BENICIA STATE RECREATION AREA

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

California wildflowers are starting to pop up, beckoning us all to take a hike. The newsletter describes many opportunities to get outdoors and enjoy what our region and the rest of California has to offer us.

Let me take a moment to thank member Maggie Ingalls for leading our January tour of the Tilden Botanic Garden. We toured several “regions” of the garden paying close attention to the many varieties of Arctostaphylos. A follow-up visit will be forthcoming, watch for details and I hope you can join us.

The annual Earth Day workday for the Botanic Garden in the Benicia SRA will be 9:00am to 1:00pm Saturday April 17. Please come join us to plant, mulch, weed and celebrate native plants. A thank you also goes to Linda Fiack and the Delta Protection Commission who have awarded the Garden a grant for the remaining balance to fully fund the interpretive panels. The panels are in final design and will be installed in June.

May 1 is our Spring Plant Sale. I hope you can help out at the sale and find a new native to take home and plant. Plant sales are the primary income source for our Chapter to pay for our newsletter, meeting space and the education and garden projects we support. Please help publicize the Plant Sale by telling all your family and friends about it. See page 3 for details.

Most of you know I have been very active in saving our State Parks from closing. Again this year State Parks are caught up in the political games of the state budget process, and again we will advocate for funding, but it is getting harder to succeed. This year we have two actions that you can help with to implement a long term solution. First is a November 2 proposition referred to as the State Park Access Pass. If you get a chance, sign the initiative and then watch for it on the November ballot. The second is an online Park Excellence Survey that you can take between now and March 26. Go to www.calparks.org and follow the link to the survey and provide your thoughts on the value and future of State Parks. Gene Doherty - President, Willis Linn Jepson Chapter

Vacaville Garden Party

Jepson Chapter members and their friends are invited to Emily Rued’s garden in Vacaville on Sunday, April 25 at 10:30 AM. This is a potluck, so bring an item suitable for brunch to share. Those of us that attended her morning “Soiree” last August (who knew it meant evening party) had a great time and were very impressed with Emily’s work. We wished to see her garden in spring time, and Emily has granted this wish.

Ms. Rued is a Jepson chapter member and looks forward to opening her drought-tolerant acre-plus native garden to us. The garden is located at 2124 Vineyard Hills Court. Please RSVP to Steve Goetz at 745-4675 or sgoet@sbcglobal.net and indicate if you're interested in carpooling.
Draft Suisun Marsh Plan

The US Fish & Wildlife Service released a draft *Recovery Plan for Tidal Marsh Ecosystems of Northern and Central California* for public review and comment. This plan proposes $1.3 billion in tidal marsh restoration activities to recover endangered species by 2059. Species addressed include Cirsium hydrophilum var. hydrophilum (Suisun thistle) which was once widespread in Suisun Marsh, but is now only found in four locations, and Cordylanthus mollis (soft bird’s beak) which has locations in Benicia and Suisun Marsh. Comments are due June 10th. More info can be obtained under “Public Comment Dates” at the website http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/

Spring Brings Garden Tours

Here are two free, self-guided home garden tours that feature California native plants, are water-wise, and wildlife friendly. Both require registration in advance.

- **Going Native Garden Tour** in Santa Clara Valley and Peninsula, April 18, 10am to 4pm, [www.gngt.org](http://www.gngt.org)
- **Bringing Back The Natives Garden Tour** in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, May 2, 10am to 5 pm [www.bringingbackthenatives.net](http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net)

Audubon Blue Oak Project

Oak woodland habitat is severely threatened by suburban development and has recently been identified by the state as a conservation management priority. This spring, the Audubon Landowner Stewardship Program will begin a pilot study to learn more about the factors that influence successful Blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) habitat regeneration.

Volunteers are sought to collect enough data. Participation in our pilot study will include: one day of training at Audubon’s Bobcat Ranch in Yolo County on **Saturday April 10, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** and one to two days of Blue oak data collection on private ranches in the region in the late spring (dates TBD). Food and research supplies will be provided. Volunteers will work in groups with trained ecologists from Audubon and UC Davis – no prior scientific experience is needed. Contact Erin Hardie at eehardie@ucdavis.edu or (530) 204-8603 to sign up. To learn more about the Audubon Landowner Stewardship Program, please visit [http://ca.audubon.org/lsp/](http://ca.audubon.org/lsp/)

Wednesday Flower Walks Benefit Vallejo Museum

The Wednesday walking series “*Adventures Afoot*” to benefit Vallejo’s Naval and Historical Museum begins on March 3. This series is for the joy of discovery and celebration of wildflowers, weather and waterfalls that are special to our area. While walks are slow-paced and chosen for gentle terrain, wildflowers grow in wonderful places, so there is a certain amount of endurance required, even though the mileage will be less than 5 miles.

Ride-Sharing is recommended to reduce the costs of per-car fees charged at some sites. Suggested donation to sign up for this 12-week series is $10 for members and $15 for your non-Museum friends.

Some hikes will be near Vallejo. Some will be in Marin. Some of the best flowers grow in Napa’s beautiful hills, and a few forays across the Benicia Bridge will lead to enjoyable hiking on the East Bay’s gentle hills and flower-filled meadows.

Leader is Doris Klein, a well-experienced hiker and a Jepson Chapter member. The locations will be scouted and documented by the time you sign up. Register at the Museum on Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 4:00 p.m. Hikes will begin with carpooling from the Greater Vallejo Recreation District parking lot at 395 Amador Street. Meeting time is 8:15. Carry a light lunch in your pack, wear sensible shoes, be prepared for lectures (and Latin names, occasionally) to fulfill the "Historical" part of the day, natural history, that is. Since we walk slow and stop at every flower, the day is full, but you can usually expect to return by 3:00. For more info call Doris at 643-4468.
FROM THE EDITOR

Let me know if you prefer an electronic version of this newsletter. This inquiry is strictly for the convenience and preference of our members. We are happy to continue mailing you your newsletter via the post office. Contact me at 745-4675 or sgoet@sbcglobal.net

Chapter Plant Sale on May 1st

California native plants will be offered at our Chapter’s Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 1st at the Benicia Community Garden located at the corner of E. 2nd Street and Military East. Sales begin at 9AM. Help publicize the sale by posting the enclosed flyer where it can be seen.

CNPS members will provide advice on plant selection and care, and answer your garden questions. Books, posters and other resources will be available too.

Check the Chapter website after April 1 for a list of plants for sale. Many of these plants can be seen by visiting the Botanic Garden in the Benicia State Recreation Area. Come at 9:30am on April 10 and 24 and Tim will show them to you. Plants have markers so you can also visit on your own ($6 state parking fee)

We need helpers for the sale, particularly to move plants to the site on Friday and back to the propagation area on Saturday afternoon. Some of our regular volunteers won’t be available. Call Sue at 747-4815 if you can help.

Spring Plant Sales by Others

- April 10, 9am-1pm, UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars Centennial Celebration & Sale, (some natives) Arboretum Teaching Nursery on Garrod Dr, Davis, www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu/default.aspx
- April 10 & 11, 11am-4pm, Napa Chapter CNPS, Skyline Park, 2201 Imola Avenue, Napa.
- April 17th, 10am-3pm, East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Anza View Road, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley, www.nativeplants.org
- April 17th, 8am-Noon, Solano Resource Conservation District, Spring Conservation Fair & Plant Sale, 6390 Lewis Rd, Vacaville, www.solanorcd.org
- May 6th, 7am-8pm, May 7th, 7am-4pm, and May 8th, 8am-2pm, Horticulture Club of Solano Community College, (some natives), 4000 Suisun Valley Rd. Horticulture Bldg. 1000 (formerly bldg. 900)

JEPSON CHAPTER UPDATES

BOTANIC GARDEN SIGNS FUNDED

Interpretive panels for the garden are now fully funded, with grant awards from Solano County - $17,630, California State Parks Foundation - $5,250, and most recently from the Delta Protection Commission - $3,000. Work continues on the layout, graphics and text for eight panels that will tell the garden’s story. Installation is planned for the summer.

SWETT RANCH & ROCKVILLE HIKES

On Saturday, April 3, the Jepson Chapter will join with the Solano Land Trust to sponsor a guided hike on Vallejo’s Swett Ranch. Our guides will be Sue Wickham and Jim Walsh. Meet at park-n-ride area at Hiddenbrooke exit off I-80 at 8:45 AM. We’ll carpool into the ranch for a 3 hour hike. Reach Sue at 432-0150 x207 for more information.

On Saturday, April 24, Gene Doherty will be leading a hike at Rockville Hills Regional Park in Fairfield, form 9:30am to Noon. Meet at the park entrance on Rockville Road. There is a $3/person day-use fee at the park.

EARTH DAY IN SOLANO COUNTY

The Jepson Chapter will stage an Earth Day event at our Botanic Garden in the Benicia State Recreation Area on April 17. Volunteer tasks include planting the new Coastal Prairie section, removing invasive non-natives, clearing brush and distributing mulch on the grounds. The event will start at 9am in the Garden until noon.

Vallejo will celebrate Earth Day on April 17 during the Farmer’s Market on Georgia Street. Details of the event will appear on the website www.valcorerecycling.org The Jepson Chapter will be there selling plants and promoting CNPS. If you would like to help out at the booth please call Mary Frances Kelly Poh. Activities start at 9 AM.

IDEAS SOUGHT FOR PLANT SALES

Your feedback and suggestions are sought on how to improve our plant sales, which are the Chapter’s biggest source of income. Are there specific plants you are looking for? Can you provide seeds, cuttings, or divisions of your plants? Can you help us grow the plants we need? Can you be a foster parent for fledgling native plants by providing a caring home for the summer?

Adequate local growing space and people to care for the plants, continue to be our biggest plant sale challenges. To offer help with the 2010 plant sales or to provide suggestions call Sue Wickham at 747-4815 or Gene Doherty at 415- 609-5653.
WILLIS LINN JEPSON CHAPTER
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CNPS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: ________________________________
Address:______________________________
City/Zip: ______________________________
Telephone:____________________________

Email (optional): ________________________
I wish to affiliate with: ____ Jepson Chapter
_____ Other_______________

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

Mail with check to CNPS, 2707 K Street, 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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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CNPS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of California native flora. CNPS has 32 chapters and membership is open to all persons with an interest in California’s native plants. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking, and gardening. Your membership includes Fremontia, a quarterly journal on native plants; the Bulletin, a statewide report of activities and schedules; and the Jepson Chapter newsletter.