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**Calendar of Events**

- **General Membership Meeting** – TBD
- **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

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**Adventures in Propagation**

This is the bit that you save until bedtime unless you have a real desire to make more of what you have. I’ve managed this nursery at Vallejo Sanitation for a decade now and I’ve had a few adventures in propagating our county’s natives. It can be hard, but mostly rewarding. There’s at least one disaster a year. The year the pipes shattered, the year the shade shed jumped over the fence, the year the water was turned off and we weren’t told about it, See? Adventures you weren’t even expecting! That’s not all the adventures; there are the places where I collected seed and cuttings, various wild places and some not so wild

The very best method of propagation is by sprouting seed. This keeps the genetics moving. Cuttings can create a monoculture of clones that could end us up in trouble. OK, considering our consumers and our inventory, a bit of monoculture is not going to mess up the county ecosystem, but given the choice between seed and cutting try getting the seed first.

Seed collecting can be quite an adventure. I have been up on Mt. Vaca, scrambling in the marsh, plucking the trees, walking the creeks. But more important is how you treat the seeds once you’ve got them. I have a book on propagating California natives. Most don’t require any treatment, but there are a few that require quite a ritual to get them to sprout. Most trees need their seeds put in the freezer for a month or two. Pine trees require heat to open the cones and drop their seed. Some seeds need a good soaking in acid and others need a bit of sanding. Think of the process they go through to get spread around in the wild. Things like birds eating them or like seeds rolling down a hill, summer fires, and winter chill. I swear that some plants count daylight hours before they come out of hibernation. A full sun means bright blue all day.

Hopefully this will be a continuing column for awhile, however, if you like some hands on experience for whatever purpose, we are at the nursery Thursday and Sunday mornings 10 to 12. It is better to contact me first as getting into Vallejo Sanitation has become a bit tricky. Becky Mannion, Plant Propagation Chair

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**Project 10 X 10 Launched**

*Dan Jensen, Jepson Chapter Member*

The Forrest Deaner Botanic Garden Volunteer group is starting a new program called Project 10x10. This project is designed to compliment the current Garden work day with a focus on maintaining established areas. Volunteers select a 10-foot by 10-foot area to keep weed free by tending the Garden one or more hours per month.

The Forrest Deaner Botanic Garden is located in the Benicia State Park Recreation Area. With the success of the Garden over the last several years, the number of native plant species has increased, a variety of native plant-related wild life has returned, and of course the need for tending is really important. A new website and outreach program will be launched to help coordinate the activities of the 10x10 project. The website will provide information on the program, (weeding, tending), scheduled times for group sessions and special events, and allow volunteers to post notes and collaborate on adventures in tending.

An educational component of the 10x10 program is also being designed to provide monthly information highlighting specific areas of the Garden. Monthly updates will include information on the beneficial relationships of native plants and wildlife, pollinators, and animals and will provide a learning experience for all our wonderful Garden volunteer enthusiasts.

For more information call Dan Jensen at 707.980.4416, or email at datadcj@me.com

“Weed Free - Natives Flourish”
NATIVE PLANT WEEK AND OTHER LAWS PROPOSED

Last month, Assembly member Noreen Evans introduced ACR 173, a resolution designating the third week of April each year as California Native Plant Week. ACR 173 points out that native plants have tremendous positive impacts to our watersheds, to habitat recovery, and to curbing catastrophic wildfires. It recognizes that landscaping with native plants can cut residential water use from 60 to 90% over conventional gardening.

If you support ACR 173 contact your assemblyperson and ask that they vote for the bill. Stay up-to-date on ACR 173 as well as other laws important to CNPS by visiting the CNPS website and clicking on the Legislation Tracker in the Conservation Program.

Other bills important to CNPS include:

**SB 1293 (Fire Management).** CNPS opposes this bill which exempts vegetative management plans from environmental laws and limits future efforts to review and comment on these plans. San Diego County sponsored this bill so it can proceed with its proposed vegetation management plan which would require the removal of dead or dying trees within 500 feet of roads and structures. The County has ignored requests to study the potential harmful environmental effects of their proposal and has refused to take a more collaborative approach to fire management planning. SB 1293 would enable increased brush clearance throughout the state without any proven increase in public safety.

**SB 1207 (Fire Management).** CNPS supports this bill which strengthens planning requirements for fire hazards by requiring the state to prepare new guidelines for fire hazard planning and requiring state agencies to comment on local fire hazard plans. This bill is similar to a bill that was passed in 2009, but vetoed by the Governor because the bill would adversely affect the state budget by increasing state costs. The Governor is likely to veto SB 1207, if it should pass, for the same reason.

**AB 2575 (Forest Practices).** CNPS supports this bill which requires the state to start a pilot project to restore riparian zones in watersheds with salmon habitat. State agency reviews of current forest practices have found that they are inadequate to protect salmon habitat. The pilot project authorized in this bill will improve our watersheds.

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**Summer Plant Classes Offered**

Friends of the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden offers a variety of summer classes to the general public as shown in the listing below. Most classes are offered on Saturday mornings in the Botanic Garden’s Visitor Center at Wildcat Canyon Rd & South Park Rd. Fees range from $25 to $75 for non-members. Advance registration is required and can be completed on the web www.nativeplants.org/events.html#1 or by calling John Rusk at 510-528-0526 or email at john@rusk.com.

- July 31, 10 am, Insects in the Garden - A class for Children Ages 8 to 12
- August 7, 10 am, Basic Drip and Low-Pressure Irrigation
- August 28, 9 am, Plant Portraits and Garden Images Photography Workshop
- September 11, 9:30 am, Late Summer Pruning of California Native Trees and Shrubs
- September 19, 10 am, Harvesting Rain for the Landscape
- September 25-26: Taxonomy of Flowering Plants II

**Mouse Trapping Outing**

You may recall Giselle Block’s talk about the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge at our membership meeting last October. Giselle is now inviting us to explore the pickleweed growing in the Refuge and hopefully trap mice, specifically the endangered Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse species. Trapping occurs on 7/26 - 7/29 and 8/1 - 8/4 from 7-10 am and 5-7 pm. Rain boots are recommended. Reservations required. Contact Giselle Block 707-769-4200 ext 104 or Giselle_Block@fws.gov

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Blue Lupine (Lupinus albifrons) on Mt. Vaca, Solano County
In accepting this honor Gene commented “the diversity of state parks in Benicia is phenomenal. We have recreation, biodiversity, preservation, and history. Watching the parks deteriorate from weather and invasive plants keeps me motivated to continue volunteering and advocating for state parks. I want them to remain inspirational to all for generation to come.”

**NEWSLETTER, PAPER OR PDF?**

Let me know if you prefer an electronic version of your Chapter 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

**Rare Find for Rare Plant Post**

In addition to many volunteers, CNPS has over a dozen paid staff that are dedicated to the conservation of California native plants and their natural habitats, and to increasing the understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. Tara Hansen, CNPS Executive Director, recently announced that she has hired Aaron Sims to fill the Rare Plant Botanist staff position at CNPS. He was able to come on board a couple of weeks before the departure our prior Rare Plant Botanist, Nick Jenson, at the end of June. Aaron is now in full swing at CNPS working on rare plant status reviews, the Online Inventory revision, and other projects!
WILLIS LINN JEPSON CHAPTER
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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.