CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **MONDAY, MAY 23, 7PM, CHAPTER MEETING, OAKS: THREATS & OPPORTUNITIES**, (SEE ARTICLE BELOW),
- **SATURDAY, JULY 30, 7PM, TWILIGHT IN THE GARDEN, BENICIA STATE RECREATION AREA (SEE PAGE 3)**
- **PLANT PROPAGATION WORKDAYS – VALLEJO, EVERY THURSDAY AND SUNDAY, 10AM– 12, VALLEJO SANITATION DISTRICT , CALL BECKY AT 429-2494**
- **FORREST DEANER BOTANIC GARDEN WORKDAYS, every SATURDAY, 9:30-11:30, BENICIA STATE RECREATION AREA**

Reimagining Your Lawn

Californians are avid gardeners, and for good reason. Throughout much of the state, outdoor gardening activities are enhanced by mild weather, frost-free nights, and relatively fertile soils. As in other regions of the country, water-loving lawns have been a major element in our gardens. Turfgrass lawns seduce us with their seeming simplicity and versatility, but our reliance on them comes at a high cost. After considering the resources and maintenance that most California lawns demand—from heavy irrigation to regular applications of fertilizers to frequent mowing with power equipment—one conclusion becomes inescapable: we need to find alternatives to turfgrass that are more environmentally sound.

If you are one of the many gardeners who are thinking about removing or reducing your lawn, look for the new book *Reimagining the California Lawn: Waterconserving Plants, Practices, and Designs*. Authored by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O’Brien, it describes hundreds of waterwise plants from California and other Mediterranean climates of the world and provides information on how to plan, install, and maintain an attractive landscape that can replace your lawn. The book is packed with ideas and advice, and is richly illustrated with more than 300 color photographs. It offers a variety of practical designs and plant palettes to choose from.

Carol Bornstein is a horticulturist, instructor, and garden designer. For more than 30 years, she has been an advocate for sustainable, regionally appropriate landscaping. While Director of Horticulture at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, she managed the living collections, retail nursery, and plant introduction program and selected several new cultivars. She continues to seek out exceptional plants for California gardens and to share her knowledge of plants native to California and other Mediterranean regions through her work. Along with David Fross and Bart O’Brien, she is also the coauthor of *California Native Plants for the Garden*.

Spotlight on Native Oaks

The Jepson Chapter is joining with the Benicia Tree Foundation to sponsor a program on California’s iconic oak trees to be held on the evening of May 23rd. Dr. Ted Swiecki will discuss threats to California oaks posed by introduced and native pests and diseases, as well as land management practices. He will also discuss actions that can be used to counter these threats and restore oak woodlands. Updates will be provided on sudden oak death research, gold-spotted oak borer, and oak restoration projects in Solano County.

Dr. Swiecki has extensive research experience with California oak pests and diseases, ecology, and regeneration, and has worked with a number of other California native plant species. Dr. Swiecki’s other areas of research interest include urban forestry and the sustainable management of both natural and urbanized landscapes. Dr. Swiecki received his Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology from the University of California at Davis in 1984. He is one of the founders of the Vacaville Tree Foundation, a volunteer organization that actively participates in the protection and restoration of local native plant communities and other community forestry issues and projects.

The meeting is free, open to the public and will begin at 7pm at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 1400 E. Second St. in Benicia. Call 745-4675 for more info.
Park Closure Threatens Botanic Garden
By Gene Doherty, Chapter President
The Benicia State Recreation Area, home of the Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden, is included on a list of state parks to close due to the state’s budget deficit. On May 12th the Benicia State Parks Association hosted a community forum to discuss the closure. At the forum, residents collectively decided to create a steering committee, and some stepped forward as prospective members. We’re going to be calling on prospective committee members to set up a meeting this week.

A majority of the issues have some semblance of resolution. One option discussed has the City of Benicia signing an operating agreement for the park. Our role as a Chapter would be to continue supporting the volunteers and further outreach of the Botanic Garden and then assist with the broader outreach in support of the local solution to save the state parks (which primarily will be helping with fundraising). We may need to participate in paying the water bill for which we added $2,000 for the fiscal year (expecting that we will actively fundraise to cover the expense).

It appears that during my tenure as a Board member on the State Parks Association, we have raised awareness for the Botanic Garden and our Chapter, for which I am thankful. Two online groups have been set up to provide up to date information to interested stakeholders.

www.facebook.com then search for Benicia State Parks

groups.google.com/group/benicia-state-parks

Scholarship Launched
The Jepson Board announced a scholarship program for students at Solano Community College (SCC). $250 will be offered to one or two students, who will also receive a one year student membership to CNPS. The criteria are:

- Academic excellence consistent with the SCC Scholarship Foundation (3.3 GPA or higher);
- Strong interest in native plant biology, ecology and/or horticulture. The student must demonstrate this interest in the application letter;
- Must have completed at least one class in biology, plant science, or horticulture;
- May be awarded to one or two students as determined by the Scholarship Committee (for a total of $ 250); and
- Transferring to a four year accredited college in Vegetation Ecology, Plant Science, Horticulture, Landscape Architecture, Botany or related field.

The scholarship(s) will be awarded at the college commencement ceremonies on September 25 from 3-4 pm at the campus.

Registration Open for Native Gardening Seminar
A two-day symposium titled “Growing Natives: Inspiring & Enduring Gardens” is being offered on Saturday & Sunday, September 17 & 18, 2011 in Lafayette and Berkeley.

Designing, installing, and maintaining native plant gardens of lasting value is the theme of this symposium aimed at professionals, home gardeners, and native plant enthusiasts.

The Saturday program includes presentations on garden design by author Carol Bornstein; site preparation by landscape professional Deva Luna; sourcing native plants by Michael Craib of Suncrest Nurseries; case study of a 40-year-old native plant garden by landscape professional Luke Hass; and maintenance tips by nurseryman and author David Fross; and a panel discussion and Q&A.

The Sunday program offers five concurrent workshops over two time slots: container gardening by Pete Veilleux, wildlife gardening by Don Mahoney, plants for dry shade by Katherine Greenberg, rockeries in native plant gardens by Stephen Edwards, and aesthetic pruning by Jocelyn Cohen.

The goal is to serve CNPS members and to raise much needed funds for the CNPS horticulture program. The symposium is organized by California Native Plant Society, Friends of Regional Parks Botanic Garden, and Pacific Horticulture. Members of the sponsoring organizations receive a discount on registration fees. Space is limited and early registration is recommended. For more information and to register, visit http://gns.cnps-scv.org. With questions, call Margot Sheffner 510-849-1627.
Record Earth Day Event

Nearly 140 eager volunteers flowed into the Benicia State Recreation Area on the morning of Saturday, April 16 to celebrate Earth Day and support the Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden. Volunteers were welcomed by Benicia Mayor Patterson and Vice Mayor Schwartzman. Volunteers were also thanked by several executives from Pacific Gas & Electric, the primary sponsor of the event. Participating organizations included the City of Benicia, Benicia Tree Foundation, Benicia Plein Air Artists, and Arts Benicia. Other sponsors included Starbucks and Fresh Choice, who provided refreshments and lunch for the volunteers.

Volunteers planted for 70 trees and shrubs, filled two 20-cubic yard dumpsters to capacity with tree and brush clippings, and exotic weeds.

Spring Plant Sale Success

By Sue Wickham, Plant Sale Chair

Our Spring Plant Sale at the Community Garden on May 7 was both a fun and successful event. We saw many new faces interested in native plants and a few of our regulars. I wanted to thank all the volunteers: Sue Maddux, Becky Mannion, Steve Goetz, and Barbara Reiley for not only hauling plants to the sale but also propagating and watering all year. Our sale helpers Joni Grisham, Maggie Ingalls, Norma Deaner, Barbara Reiley, Becky Mannion, Steve Goetz, Dan Jensen, Gene Doherty, Mary Frances Kelly Poe, Pam Muick, Linda Sonner, and Belinda Smith. I hope I got all of you listed! It takes a lot of teamwork to get the plants to the sale and get them organized and we did it!

The Chapter grossed over $1,900 in sales. Most of this revenue is profit since most all the plants sold were grown by the Plant Propagation Committee which is led by Becky Mannion.

Our next sale is at the Benicia Arbor Day celebration on October 15. We’d love to see some new faces helping with our preparations. If you are interested in contributing a few hours to this event or the preparation for it please contact Sue at 707-747-5815. We are in need of someone to do outreach and this could be done from home.

Clean & Green Day at Solano College

Jepson Chapter seeks opportunities for community outreach throughout the county. Most recently, Solano Community College invited the Jepson Chapter to participate in its Clean and Green Day on May 22, beginning at 9 AM at the main campus in Fairfield. Our booth will be located at the Horticulture building. Come by and say hi.

Photo Contest Underway

The Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden 2011 Photo Competition is an opportunity for county residents to share their view of life through photos taken at the Botanic Garden. Photo categories include:

• Native Plant Life
• Native Wild Life
• People Life
• Landscapes

Photos submitted to the contest will be posted weekly on the Chapter website (www.cnpsjepson.org), and selected photos will be included in the Chapter pamphlets, desk planners, calendars, newsletters, and other official Chapter publications.

The Contest began on April 16th and will end at 11:59 pm PST on July 16. The contest is subject to these official rules, which also can be found at:


The Grand Prize winner will receive $250 and a gift certificate to Garden Natives, a native plant nursery in Martinez. Winners of an individual category will receive $150 and a gift certificate to Garden Natives. A People’s Choice winner selected during the Twilight in the Garden event will receive a $50 cash prize and a “Dinner for 2” invitation and a gift certificate to Garden Natives.

Winners will be selected by judges on July 23rd. The judges will be selected with the assistance of Arts Benicia. All submitters will be invited to attend the Twilight in the Garden event on July 30th where the category winners will be awarded (winners will be notified ahead of time).

The public is invited to attend the Twilight in the Garden event to congratulate the winners and enjoy the setting hi.
WILLIS LINN JEPSON CHAPTER
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CNPS MEMBERSHIP FORM

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