July - August 2011 Newsletter - Page 1

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

• SATURDAY, JULY 16, MIDNIGHT, DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES
  FORREST DEANER NATIVE PLANT BOTANIC GARDEN
  2011 PHOTO COMPETITION (SEE ARTICLE BELOW)
• SATURDAY, JULY 30, 6PM, TWILIGHT IN THE GARDEN,
  BENICIA STATE RECREATION AREA (SEE PRESIDENT’S
  REPORT ON THIS PAGE)
• MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 7PM, CHAPTER MEETING, NATIVE
  PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN. (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 REC AREA

President’s Report – Botanic Garden Events

By now, you should have received a letter from me requesting that Chapter members consider making a donation to help maintain the Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden, which is located within the boundaries of the Benicia State Recreation Area (BSRA). This letter was authorized by the Board, following an announcement by the State of California to close 70 of our state parks, including BSRA.

The proposed park closure has reduced our ability to arrange grants for the Garden during the transition period, and grants have been our major source of funding since the Garden’s inception in 2004. We are looking to our members and supporters to provide funds that will enable the Jepson Chapter to continue maintenance and operation of the garden.

Norma Deaner has produced a beautiful brochure that describes the Garden, its history, its volunteer program and its native plants. It also provides a map showing locations of the demonstration gardens and the Solano County plant communities. A copy of the brochure has been included with this newsletter for your enjoyment. The brochure is available on our website, too www.cnpsjepson.org.

If you haven’t been to the Garden recently, I invite you to attend the Twilight in the Garden event on July 30th. We are sponsoring this event in partnership with Arts Benicia and Benicia Magazine to award the winners of this year’s Garden Photo Competition. This event is an opportunity for CNPS members and Garden volunteers to celebrate the summer transformation of plants as they change from variations of green to rust and gold. The event will begin at 6:00pm and conclude with light refreshments. RVSP datadcj@gmail.com

And please read the request for contributions that you received and respond in any way you can.

Sincerely,
Gene Doherty, President – Jepson Chapter

Garden Photo Contest Deadline Nears

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: 1) Native Plant Life, 2) Native Wildlife, 3) People Life, and 4) Landscapes

The Contest began on April 16th and will end at 11:59 pm PST on July 16, 2011. The contest is subject to official rules which can be found at:

www.cnpsjepson.org/media/1733/ContestOfficialRules.pdf

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 (July 30, 2011) will received 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. 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).
Grow Natives, Not Lawns
Obtain expert advice on how to convert your lawn to a native plant garden by attending *Growing Natives: Inspiring and Enduring Gardens*. This two-day symposium covers designing, installing, and maintaining native plant gardens of lasting value. Information will be provided through talks by leading practitioners, workshops, and garden tours. Plants will also be offered for sale.

This event is scheduled for September 17 in Lafayette and the 18th in Berkeley and is sponsored by CNPS, Friends of Regional Parks Botanic Garden, and Pacific Horticulture. Sign up for one or both days. For more information and to register, visit [www.gns.cnps-scv.org](http://www.gns.cnps-scv.org). With questions, call Margot Sheffner (510) 849-1627.

Help Needed to Trap Mice
In case you are interested in volunteering here are the dates and times for the small mammal trapping at San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Meg Marriott, new biologist with San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge will be leading the days. The first day is setting up the traps. The morning times are for checking the traps (a chance to see the endangered Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse) and the evenings are setting the traps.

- July 18th (2pm - 8:30pm may not be this long)
- July 19th (5:30am - 8am) and evening (6:15 - 8:30pm)
- July 20th (5:30am - 8am) and evening (6:15 - 8:30pm)
- July 21st (5:30am - 8am)
- Aug 16th (2pm - 8:30pm may not be this long)
- Aug 17th (5:30am - 8am) and evening (6:15 - 8:30pm)
- Aug 18th (5:30am - 8am) and evening (6:15 - 8:30pm)
- Aug 19th (5:30am - 8am)
- Aug 21st (2pm - 8:30pm may not be this long)
- Aug 22nd (5:30am - 8am) and evening (6:15 - 8:30pm)
- Aug 23rd (5:30am - 8am) and evening (6:15 - 8:30pm)
- Aug 24th (5:30 - 8am)

If you are interested in any, or all of these dates please let Meg Marriott know at 707-769-4200, X 104, meg_marriott@fws.gov

Lawn for Cash Program
Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) reinstated its water-efficient landscape rebate program.

The water-efficient landscape rebate program offers water customers in Solano County a cash rebate for replacing thirsty turf grass with drip-irrigated, low-water-use plants or permeable hardscape. Although the pilot program last summer offered rebates for lawn replacement with artificial turf, this year the rebate does not cover artificial turf.

For complete details, visit [www.solanosaveswater.org](http://www.solanosaveswater.org), and use the "Water Wise Gardening" website link to find landscaping and gardening ideas. This link features California native plants as a waterwise, attractive, low maintenance replacement for the lawn. Some of these plants will be available at the Chapter's plant sale in Benicia on October 15th. A list of plants to be available at this sale can be found at the Chapter’s website. This list will grow as the date of the plant sale approaches.

The program offers residents 60 cents per square foot, up to a total rebate amount of $600. The program consists of a pre-inspection during which SCWA staff must verify that the existing area is a watered lawn. Techniques for removing the lawn can be found at [www.yerbabuenanursery.com/Cal_Native_Garden_Design.php](http://www.yerbabuenanursery.com/Cal_Native_Garden_Design.php).

To qualify for a rebate, do not begin a lawn conversion project before receiving approval from SCWA staff. To schedule a pre-inspection or to ask any questions contact a SCWA water conservation staff member at 455-1113 or 580-8023.

More information for these rebates can also be found at [www.solanosaveswater.org](http://www.solanosaveswater.org), along with other conservation tips.

Funding for the rebate programs is limited and applications will only be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate programs will end on June 30, 2012, or when current funds are depleted.
Plant Talk in September
Our September 26th meeting will feature experienced field botanist and plantsman Bert Johnson. He has been working at the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden for many years and will share his experience with native plants grown in gardens. Bert will also preview some of the plants available for purchase at our fall native plant sale on October 15th. The meeting will be held a Heritage Presbyterian Church, 1400 East 2nd Street, Benicia, 7pm.

Chapter Leads in Growth
CNPS leadership - recognizing that CNPS’s political and social influence can increase substantially with the growth of its membership - made membership growth a top priority strategic goal for CNPS in the 2010 Strategic Direction. Jepson Chapter was recognized at a standout in the State, with the highest rate of growth compared to other chapters in the State. Willis Jepson Chapter signed up 7 new members in May and brought back 7 others for a net growth rate of 24%!

Supper & Slide Show
For our November 28th General Meeting, the Chapter has scheduled a potluck supper and show-and-tell where members can share photos of the beautiful native plants and landscapes they have seen in 2011. A laptop and projector will be setup to display your digital pictures. This is YOUR chance to give a short program (5-10 minutes). So take a camera with you on summer hikes, garden parties and camping trips. Details will be provided in the November newsletter.

Chapter Looks to the Future
The Board of Directors of the Jepson Chapter is looking to the future. The Board is working through a strategic planning process this summer to describe a vision of the Chapter as we’d like to see it in 5 years and to put a plan in place for the next year to ensure we are moving in the right direction. The State CNPS organization also is working on strategic planning, and our Chapter’s work will feed into that. As part of our process, we intend to ask for input from our members, most likely in the form of a survey towards the end of the summer. We hope you will provide your perspectives and contribute to building a strong membership organization.

Board/Committee Vacancies
Our chapter is shaped by the people participating in it, and your Board strives to always maintain an open, friendly, and helpful attitude toward all our members. Although our Chapter is small, it offers many activities such as hikes, programs, plant propagation, and special events. More is better.

Please consider stepping in to an open position, assisting one of our committee chairs, or leading a hike. Current open positions on the Board include education programs, newsletter editor, webmaster, books/poster sales, and programs/outreach. You have an opportunity to help shape the Chapter: Step out! Step up! Step in! Contact any board member. We hope to hear from you.

Plant Sale Report
Last month volunteers completed spring cleaning chores at our Val San and BSRA propagation areas. We noticed that we have plenty of pots now and won't be accepting any for a while. Thanks to Barbara Reilly for getting us a load of gallons.

CNPS Logo Face Lift
The Panamint Daisy, Enceliopsis covillei, has been our logo since shortly after CNPS was founded in 1965. It has recently been slightly redesigned to make it more readily identifiable with the Society. This updated logo appears on page 4 of this newsletter. While it is a rare plant due to its narrow range—stony hillsides on the western side of the Panamint Mountains—it is easily seen at the right time of year when entering Death Valley National Park by way of the Wild Rose Canyon entrance. For those who haven’t seen it in person, know that this is not a diminutive desert flower. Panamint Daisy is a big, bold one. To do it justice, our logo would have to be elongated into a tall skinny oval. The whole plant stands almost two feet high and the flower heads are about five inches across. Handsome basal leaves are silvery gray and kind of diamond-shaped – see to appreciate.

Paper or PDF?
In you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please send your email address to Steve Goetz at sgoet@sbcglobal.net. If you prefer paper, do nothing. A newsletter will continue to arrive via USPS.
WILLIS LINN JEPSON CHAPTER
2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
• President, Gene Doherty, 415-609-5653 datagxd@comcast.net
• Vice President, Steven Goetz, 745-4675 sgoet@sbcglobal.net
• Recording Secretary, Janet Mackey, janetmackey@verizon.net
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• Plant Propagation/Past President, Becky Mannion 429-2494, rfivem@pacbell.net
• Plant Sales, Sue Wickham
• Conservation, Ted Swiecki, 448-0230 phytosphere@phytosphere.com
• Botanic Garden, Norma Deaner

CNPS MEMBERSHIP FORM
Name: ________________________________
Address:________________________________
City/Zip: ________________________________
Telephone:______________________________
Email (optional):__________________________
I wish to affiliate with:____ Jepson Chapter
____ Other_____________
Individual Membership Categories:
____ 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.
Blue Oak (Quercus douglasii)

This handsome Blue Oak (Quercus douglasii) is one of the first trees planted at the Garden in mid-1999. Now 15 feet high, it stands tall at the Garden’s upper elevation. The blue oak, named for its blue-green foliage, is a California endemic. A medium sized deciduous tree, it usually grows to heights of 20-60 ft. The tallest will grow to over 90 ft. Blue oaks are long-lived - from 200 to 500 years. They are adapted to drought and dry climates. They are widely distributed on the foothills of inner North coast and South coast ranges, around the Central Valley, the Cascades and Sierra Nevada, and are used for fence posts and fuel. Native Americans made meal from blue oak acorns, used the leachate for dying baskets and used the wood to make bowls.

Garden Hours

The Garden is open when the Benicia State Recreation Area is open, from 8 a.m. to sunset daily. There is no entry fee to the Garden, but the Park charges a day-use vehicle fee at the Park entrance.

Garden Tours

Garden docents are available on Saturday mornings, during the normal garden volunteer day, and if requested in advance of a visit. Plant markers showing common, scientific and family names, and interpretive panels positioned at each Garden subsection, make self-guided tours informative and enjoyable.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Garden welcomes volunteers interested in learning about native plants, their maintenance and care. Garden volunteer days are held every Saturday, 9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. Additionally, the Garden has a 10x10 Program. Volunteers select a 10x10 area to keep weed free and tended. The program includes published educational learning material on native plants, wildlife, and more.

Your help will ensure the Garden continues to thrive and flourish. For more information, visit us at www.cnpsjepson.org or email us at volunteer@cnpsjepson.org

Top: Painted Lady on Pink Flowering Currant (Ribes Sanguineum); Bottom: Soap Plant (Chorogalum pomeridianum)

History of the Garden

The Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden took root in 1998 when Forrest Deaner (1928-2002) founded the Solano Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. The chapter adopted the name of Willis Linn Jepson who was one of Solano County’s native sons. Jepson was one of the greatest of American regional botanists, and a foremost authority on California flora. His classic work, *A Manual of the Flowering Plants of California*, completed in 1925, was the first attempt to provide a comprehensive reference manual for California flora.

Forrest Deaner served as the Chapter’s first president. He led a team of enthusiastic members that searched for a garden site and made feasibility studies. In 2000, he negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Parks and Recreation for the establishment of the 3 1/2 acre public education garden at the Benicia State Recreation Area.

Construction and development of the Garden began in 2003. It was opened to the public in late 2004. The garden now has a collection of over 3000 native trees, shrubs, perennials and bunch grasses representing over 300 species.

The garden is divided into two sections: Demonstration Gardens at the lower elevation, and the Solano Plant Communities at the upper elevation. There are six subsections in the Demonstration Gardens: Residential/Sensory, Hummingbird/Butterfly, Native American, Memorial, Wildflower Meadow and Riparian. The Solano Plant Communities subsections include: Valley Grassland, Coastal Prairie, Coastal Sage Scrub, Chaparral and the Foothill Woodland.

Top: Painted Lady on Pink Flowering Currant (Ribes Sanguineum); Bottom: Soap Plant (Chorogalum pomeridianum)

Western Redbud (Cercis Occidentalis)
The mission of the Forrest Deaneer Native Plant Botanic Garden is to demonstrate the diverse plant life of California natives and to provide opportunities for education, recreation, conservation and research. Through its programs and facilities, the Garden fosters an understanding and appreciation of California's native flora.

FORREST DEANER NATIVE PLANT BOTANIC GARDEN
Benicia State Recreation Area

Spring

Summer
Blue Witch, Bush Poppy, Black Sage, Bear Valley Buckwheat, Button Willow, California Buckwheat, California Fuchsia, California Goldenrod, Cleveland Sage, Coyote Mint, Hummingbird Sage, Island Bush Snapdragon, Island Buckwheat, Naked Stem Buckwheat, Scarlet Columbine, Serpentine Columbine, Sticky Monkeyflower, Sulphur Buckwheat

Fall
Colorful leaves of California Grape, Big-Leaf Maple, Creek Dogwood and Fremont Cottonwood; Snowberry

Winter
Toyon, wintering wildbirds

Visit our website for plant listings on each Garden/Solano Plant Community Plant Area: www.cnpsjepson.org

Access to Benicia State Recreation Area:
From Interstate 780 West, exit onto Columbus Parkway. Then turn left onto Rose Drive. Turn right into the Park. From Interstate 780 East, exit onto Columbus Parkway. Turn left into the Park. The Garden is about 1 1/2 miles from the Park Entrance, next to the Picnic Area.