President’s Report

In September our Chapter President, Gene Doherty, submitted his resignation for personal reasons. I am now serving as Acting President until we hold elections at our annual membership meeting on November 28. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gene on behalf of the Board for his nearly three year’s of service to the Chapter.

In thanking Gene, a review of his accomplishments as Chapter President is warranted. His most notable accomplishment has been his advocacy in saving our State Parks from closing. Gene worked tirelessly with city, county, state officials and other stakeholder groups to seek solutions for funding the operation and maintenance of our state parks.

His work on state parks was motivated by his love for the Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden located at the Benicia State Recreation Area (BSRA). Gene donated many hours and dollars toward the Garden’s upkeep and expansion. Under his leadership Project 10x10 was established to compliment the current Garden work day by enlisting volunteers to select a 10-foot by 10-foot area to keep weed free by tending the Garden one or more hours per month.

While the threat of state park closures is not over, we do have some hope for the state park facilities in Benicia. The City of Benicia has initiated discussions with the state on a two-year operating agreement that will include BSRA. CNPS is proposing a separate agreement with the city to cover our maintenance activities at BSRA.

Gene was the face of the Chapter as he attended or hosted most every Chapter-sponsored event. He would meet Chapter members, local and state officials, establish relationships and increase awareness and support of our Chapter and its activities.

Please join me in wishing Gene the best in his future endeavors.

Sincerely, Steven Goetz, Acting Chapter President

Have your say, supper and slides on Nov. 28th

The program for our annual business meeting on November 28th will be sharing.

First, we want you to share your views on who should lead the Chapter by voting for your officers. Your Board of Directors has nominated following individuals to serve the Jepson Chapter in 2012:

- President: Steven Goetz
- Vice President: Janet Mackey
- Treasurer: Sue Wickham
- Secretary: OPEN

Currently no member has offered to serve as Secretary. The Board encourages members to self-nominate if interested in any position on the Board.

Next, we want you to share something to eat with your fellow members. This is a potluck, so bring your favorite dish, whether it is a salad, entree, dessert, or appetizer. Identify your dish with a label. Drinks, cups, plates, napkins, and eating utensils will be provided.

Finally, we want you to share your favorite pictures taken during the year. Presentations could be less than a minute for one slide or up to about 10 minutes for numerous images. Pictures must be digital and can be any subject you think would interest the group (e.g. unusual plant, scenic landscape, hike, trip or native garden). Bring your slides on a flash drive or disk and they will be loaded during the potluck.

The sharing starts at 7pm at the Heritage Presbyterian Church, 1400 East 2nd Street, Benicia.
Chapter supports Vacaville Urban Greening Project

The Willis Linn Jepson Chapter Board of Directors has agreed to lend support to a community-based restoration project of Alamo Creek proposed by the City of Vacaville and the Solano Resource Conservation District (RCD).

The project proposes to revegetate eleven sites along a four-mile stretch of the Alamo Creek bike path using native plants. The sites are currently either barren or dominated by invasive annual grasses and thistles. Some sites are experiencing significant erosion.

The revegetation project will use native trees, shrubs, forbs, grass, sedge and seeds of native wildflowers and grasses. These plants will serve to filter pollutants and sediment from storm water. They will also increase ground water infiltration, reduce erosion and contribute to carbon sequestration. The project will also be a cooling and pleasing visual effect along the bike path, increasing its usage by the community. At two of the sites, demonstration gardens will be installed encouraging and educating the community on the benefits of native plants in home landscaping and the environment.

The Chapter will support this project by helping to recruit volunteers for plant propagation and the planting of the restoration sites. Involving volunteers, including school children, will help educate the community on the benefits and pleasures of native plants. Our participation will be similar to our commitment last September to support Solano RCD’s creek restoration project proposed for Vacaville’s Centennial Park.

Solano RCD is seeking a $522,000 grant from the state’s Urban Greening Program to build this project. Grant awards will be announced in mid 2012. – Linda Cody

Wayne Roderick Lectures

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. 19: Along the Wonderland Trail--Plants of Mt. Rainier, Vernon Smith
- Dec. 3: Sierra Valley and Lakes Basin in the Northern Sierra, Steve Edwards
- Dec. 10: Tales from Old Greyback: A Foray to the Top of Southern California’s Highest Peak, San Gorgonio Mountain, Heath Bartosh
- Dec. 17: Plants of Arizona’s Deserts and Mountains, Dick O’Donnell
- Jan. 7: Wildflower Hunting in the Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota, and Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior, Bob Case
- Jan. 14: East of the Range of Light, Steve Edwards and Mike Uhler

Acorn: Point Up or Down?

The issue often comes up this time of year: Which orientation for planting an acorn? Note that the leaf/stem and roots both emanate from the tip! Considering gravity and the shape of the acorn when hitting the ground, the acorn would probably be oriented tip-down at a shallow angle.

For all the discussion of what squirrels do when they dig a hole and place the acorn therein, I don’t think they really give it much thought… do you?

I don’t think it matters much how the darn acorn is oriented. If the acorns cotyledon is intact (i.e. no bug has eaten the inside contents, and if the acorn has viable moisture, soil, temperature and oxygen conditions, it is bound to grow no matter the orientation. Throw the acorn in a hole, cover it up and be patient: time will reward your efforts. – excerpt from Gardening with Natives listserv

- Janet Mackey
THE 2011 BOTANIC GARDEN CAMPAIGN BOASTS RESULTS

The Board wishes to thank the contributors to the Jepson Chapter’s 2011 Botanic Garden Campaign. We received $1,440 in donations from more than 20 generous people. This money will be used to support continued operation of the Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden in the Benicia State Recreation Area. Donors included:

Bob & Carol Berman  Linda Cody
Jane Hicks  Maggie Ingalls & David Lindsay
Kathy Kerridge  Mariko Yamada
Nancy McCoy  Nancy McGraw
Elizabeth Patterson  Tom Campbell & Kerry Carney

Thanks also to the other contributors who wish to remain anonymous.

The Botanic Garden is dependent on volunteers and financial contributions. Please contact Norma Deaner for information about helping in the Garden. To contribute, please make your check payable to CNPS - Jepson Chapter and mail it to CNPS - Jepson Chapter, P.O. Box 2212, Benicia, CA 94510. Our Botanic Garden will grow with your support. - Janet Mackey

BOARD SETS COURSE FOR THE FUTURE

The Board of Directors and several interested chapter members joined in an effort this past summer to establish a strategic plan to guide the Chapter’s work for the next few years. Janet Mackey, Secretary for the chapter, facilitated the workshops using a technique that focuses on the organization’s Strengths, Opportunities, Accomplishments, and Results.

The group identified four major goals for the chapter. Details about these goals and related strategies are described in the Chapter’s 2011-2016 Strategic Plan that can be found on our website www.cnpsjepton.org. A summary of this plan is included in the newsletter.

The chapter welcomes input from members and friends on the content of our recently-minted strategy. We especially look forward to engaging members and friends in implementing the Jepson Chapter’s strategies. Please contact a board member if you see ways you would like to participate.

Thanks to those who participated in the strategic planning work, including Steven Goetz, Sue Wickham, Mary Frances Kelly Poh, Norma Deaner, Maggie Ingalls, Dan Jenson, and Pam Muik. - Janet Mackey

KUDOS FROM THE PLANT SALE CHAIR

You are all so very wonderful!! Our team for the CNPS fall plant sale net our chapter $1500! This semi-annual event is not possible without our Propagation Committee, which includes (but is not limited to) Becky, Barbara, Steve, Sue M, and Sue W. We did not purchase plants for this sale due to their great work at our two nurseries.

Thanks for lending your back and vehicles for hauling. Steve, Janet, Barb, Becky, Sue W, Jane B, Sybill and daughter.

Special thanks for being at the sale, providing sales help and great outreach for our chapter: Pam, Joni, Steve, Barb, Meg, Maggie, Becky, Janet, Norma and Chris W.

As a recap, we sold 285 plants to 71 buyers with 50 sales under $25. The larger sales came from folks re-doing their yards. I saw many new faces and walk-ins from the event. We had $15.11 in donations for the scholarship fund and two small books sold.

I’ll be doing and inventory and we will be selling our leftover stock which can be viewed at Val San on Thursdays and Sundays. Call Steve at 745-4675 for an appointment. Let me know if you have thoughts about improving our sale. Next sale is May 5th at the Benicia Community Garden. – Sue Wickham

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

October brought four new CNPS members to the Chapter. These include Barbara Relley, Heidi Cotler Elise Morrison and Debbie Morrison. Consider giving a CNPS membership to a friend or relative this holiday season. A membership form can be found on Page 4.

BOARD’S WISH LIST FOR SANTA

In an effort to stretch the Chapter’s budget, the Board wrote Santa the following list of items he could donate:

• Powerpoint projector (for Chapter meetings)
• Biostack Stacking Composter Bin (2)
• Metal Storage Shed 8’x6’
• 20” Plastic Garden Pots (4), for propagation

Santa can call Steve at 745-4675.
Paper or PDF?
In you would like to receive your newsletter via email 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

• Acting President and Vice President, Steven Goetz, 745-4675 sgoet@sbcglobal.net
• Recording Secretary, Janet Mackey, janetmackey@verizon.net
• Correspondence, Norma Deaner, 745-3906 ndeaner@pacbell.net
• Treasurer, Sue Wickham, 747-5815 sweeo1@gmail.com
• Membership, Mary Frances Kelly Poh, 745-5461, mfpooh@pacbell.net
• Education, POSITION OPEN
• Newsletter Editor, POSITION OPEN
• Webmaster, POSITION OPEN
• Book/Poster Sales, POSITION OPEN
• Programs/Outreach, POSITION OPEN
• Plant Propagation/Past President, Becky Mannion 429-2494, rfvem@pacbell.net
• Plant Sales, Sue Wickham
• Conservation, Ted Swiecki, 448-0230 phytopshere@phytopshere.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.
Mission

The mission of the Society is to conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.

Vision

• Be the leader in education, learning, and outreach regarding the importance of native plants to Solano County and California;
• Welcome participation by all individuals throughout Solano County who are enthusiastic about, or interested in, native plants; and
• Obtain support of the public and private sectors for conserving native plants in Solano County.

Goals and Strategies – Summary

Goal 1. Conserve and enhance native plant communities in Solano County
A. Get our message out to officials and the public about the value of native plants and plant communities that grow in Solano County.
B. Help identify and protect critical habitat in Solano County.
C. Advocate for an oak and hardwood tree conservation program for Solano County.
D. Advocate for a Flora of Solano County.

Goal 2. Increase appreciation of native plants
A. Develop an information/outreach program to increase community understanding of native plants.
B. Engage more people in native-plant-related activities in Solano County and encourage them to plant more native plants.
C. Get commercial gardeners to have a greater appreciation of native plants.
D. Have a more comprehensive education program about native plants in Solano County schools.

Goal 3. Ensure the Botanic Garden thrives
A. Secure funding to continue the Garden's infrastructure development.
B. Secure funding for the Garden's maintenance and operations.
C. Support active garden volunteers and develop a program to retain active volunteers, including 10x10 participants, and attract new volunteers.
D. Actively promote the Garden (a publicity plan) and support the Garden's activities.
E. Work with the Benicia State Parks Stakeholders’ Group and the City of Benicia during the caretaker/closure period of BSRA by California State Parks.

Goal 4. Build organizational capacity to support the chapter’s activities
A. Build a stronger chapter organization.
B. Leverage the strength of our core of dedicated members by pursuing partnerships with local organizations with mutual interests.
C. Make being part of the chapter a fun thing.
D. Ensure the chapter has sufficient funding to support its activities.
E. Make greater use of local media, the chapter website, and social marketing tools.
F. Provide input to requests from the State Office to make the chapter’s relationship and interaction with the State office more integrated and effective.

Action Plan for 2011-12

1. Conserve and enhance native plant communities in Solano County
   A. Provide comments on Solano County’s Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).
   B. Have a chapter member serve on the HCP coordinating group.

2. Increase appreciation of native plants
   A. Continue speaker program.
   B. Continue the plant sales.
   C. Provide a chapter presence, and plants for sale when appropriate, at community events.

3. Ensure the Botanic Garden thrives
   A. Sign a follow-up Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Botanic Garden with California State Parks.
   B. Strengthen our partnership with the Benicia State Parks Association through a formal agreement.

4. Build organizational capacity to support the chapter’s activities
   A. Develop a slate of board officers for election in fall 2011.
   B. Find a volunteer coordinator or Curator for the Garden.
   C. Find a Hospitality Chair.
   D. Survey members to better understand why members join, stay members, participate in chapter activities, etc.
   E. Focus on effective outreach for speaker programs and plant sales.
   F. Provide give-aways (such as native plants) at speaker meetings.
   G. Set up the speaker series for 2012.
   H. Plan an annual pot-luck meeting beginning in November 2011.
   I. Develop and maintain a calendar of events for chapter activities.
   J. Prioritize community events where the chapter could provide a presence.
   K. Write and distribute an Annual Appeal fundraising letter; find a way to make it and a return envelope available at the Garden.
   L. Take greater advantage of the chapter website.
   M. Assist East Bay chapter with the June 2012 Chapter Council meeting.
   N. Design and produce a chapter t-shirt for sale at the January 2012 CNPS Conservation Conference and for sale as a fundraiser by the chapter.
   O. Increase membership by ten in 2012.