CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Willis Linn Jepson Chapter – Serving Solano County

Spring 2013

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- APRIL 13, 9AM TO NOON, EARTH DAY AT BOTANIC GARDEN, BENICIA STATE REC. AREA (SEE PAGE 2)
- APRIL 13, 9AM TO NOON, EARTH DAY IN VALLEJO, DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET, (SEE PAGE 2)
- APRIL 14, 10 AM, JEPSON PRAIRIE HIKE, HIGHWAY 113 & COOK LANE, DIXON, (SEE PAGE 3)
- MAY 4, 9AM, SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE, COMMUNITY GARDEN, 1400 E. SECOND ST, BENICIA (SEE PAGE 3)
- JUNE 8, 6 PM, TWILIGHT IN THE GARDEN, BENICIA STATE RECREATION AREA (SEE ARTICLE BELOW)
- 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

Hello Everyone! I have the privilege to serve as your chapter president for another year. I will do my best further the mission of the California Native Plant Society in Solano County, which is dedicated to the conservation of California native plants and their natural habitats, and to increasing the understanding, appreciation and horticultural use of native plants.

These past few months have been a time of change for the Chapter. We have three new board members, Pam Muick, Barbara Reiley and Alison Fleck. Pam was elected chapter secretary, and Pam and Barbara will both serve as co-chairs for the Plant Sales and Propagation Committee. Alison will serve as Program Committee Chair.

Sue Wickham is retiring from her many years as chair of the Plant Sales Committee, but will continue in her position as chapter treasurer. Mary Frances Goetz, Chapter President, has added the office of Vice President to her current duties as Membership Chair. We are also fortunate that Norma Deaner and Ted Sweicke have agreed to continue serving on your Board of Directors.

It is an honor to work with such a talented group of individuals dedicated to the CNPS mission. I would also like take this opportunity to thank Janet Mackey like take this opportunity to thank Janet Mackey who is leaving the Board after serving two years as chapter vice president.

This newsletter features several events in April for native plant enthusiasts. April 14 to 21 is California Native Plant Week, so celebrate with a CNPS field trip to Jepson Prairie or by doing something to benefit the flora (rain dance, anyone?). April 13 is Earth Day and the Chapter is participating in events at the Benicia State Recreation Area and the Downtown Vallejo Farmers Market (see Calendar of Events on this page).

If you have a suggestion for a chapter meeting program, field trip, or anything else that could help us improve our service to the public, please call or email me using the contact information on page 4.

Steven Goetz, Chapter President

Photo Contest Launched

The Forrest Deaneer Native Plant Botanic Garden 2013 Photo Contest is an opportunity for county residents to share their view of life through photos taken at the Botanic Garden. Photo contest categories include:

- Native Plant Life
- Native Wild Life
- Landscapes

The Contest will end at 11:59 pm PST on May 30, The contest rules can be found at: www.cnpsjepson.org.

The Grand Prize winner will receive $100 and a native plant. Winners of an individual category will receive a $50 cash prize and a native plant. A People’s Choice winner selected by those attending the Twilight in the Garden event on June 8, will receive a $50 cash prize, a “Dinner for 2” invitation and a native plant.

All submitters and the public are invited to attend the Twilight in the Garden event where the category winners will be awarded. The Twilight in the Garden event to be held at 6pm at the Forrest Deaneer Native Plant Botanic Garden.
**SPRING BRINGS HIKES**
Spring hiking season is upon us. There are too many hikes in and around Solano County to list individually, so where are websites for more information.
- Marin CNPS, [http://www.marin.edu/cnps/FieldTrips.html](http://www.marin.edu/cnps/FieldTrips.html)
- For farther flung floriferous adventures, view the newsletters of CNPS chapters elsewhere in the state at [http://cnps.org/cnps/chapters/list.php](http://cnps.org/cnps/chapters/list.php) Most have lists of hikes and contact information. To maximize your chances of being in the right place at the right time for spring wildflowers, check the wildflower hotline (818) 768-3533 or online [http://www.theodorepayne.org/hotline.html](http://www.theodorepayne.org/hotline.html)
- CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunts are a citizen-science program for getting up-to-date information on many of our state’s rare plants. Send an email to treasurehunt@cnps.org to join an upcoming organized rare plant search or be notified of new events.

**SPRING BRINGS GARDEN TOURS**
These are self-guided home garden tours that feature native plants. All require registration in advance.
- **Napa County Bay Friendly Garden Tour, May 5, Fee:** $10 to obtain map for the self-guided tour. [http://bayfriendlycoalition.org/Calendar.shtml#Napa](http://bayfriendlycoalition.org/Calendar.shtml#Napa)
- **Bringing Back The Natives Garden Tour** in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, May 5, 10am to 5 pm [http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net](http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net)

**EARTH DAY EVENTS ON APRIL 13**
The Forrest Deaneer Botanic Garden will host the 16th Annual Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup. Beginning at 9am, volunteers will plant and tend the Botanic Garden. There will be a range of activities so all ages and abilities are welcome. Come dressed to get dirty and bring a hat, sun screen and gloves. A free lunch will follow at Noon. Funders for this event include the California State Parks Association and the Benicia State Parks Association.

The Jepson Chapter will also have a booth at the Vallejo Earth Day to be held from 9 to 1 during the Farmer’s Market on Georgia Street. Details of the event will appear on the website [www.valcorerecycling.org](http://www.valcorerecycling.org) We will be there selling plants and promoting CNPS. If you would like to help out at the booth please call Mary Frances Kelly Poh at 745-5461.

**STATE TO TREAT FOREST LANDS TO STOP WILDFIRES**

During the Christmas holiday, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire, released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on its Statewide Vegetation Treatment Program for review and comment.

This program generated much consternation because Cal Fire is seeking authorization to “treat” 38 million acres, or about 33 percent of the state to prevent wildfires based on a seriously flawed EIR. No maps are provided so isn’t possible to tell what resources would be impacted by the proposal.

“Treatment” methods would include reducing biomass by spraying herbicides, bulldozing the backcountry, grinding chaparral, and burning. They claim this will reduce fire danger to people and property, reduce invasive species, improve air quality, increase desirable plant species, and improve wildlife habitat.

Oddly, the EIR does not mention alternative fire prevention measures that Cal Fire itself has advocated, like retrofitting structures to block ember entry points, minimizing under-deck potential hotspots, fire-safe landscape zones, and removing firewood and other flammable debris. Some of the science cited in the EIR was outdated, and it even relied on one study that was withdrawn by its authors.

A concerted effort to share information and provide informed, helpful comments on the EIR included CNPS Conservation Director, Greg Suba, several CNPS chapters, including the Jepson Chapter, and the Chaparral Institute.

It is the hope of all participants that Cal Fire will rewrite its EIR and remedy all the flaws that currently make it so unworkable. It’s sad that a state agency would do such a poor job, causing many people to spend countless hours in an effort to improve the situation. The Los Angeles Times wrote an editorial on March 11th that Cal Fire should start over from scratch as the EIR was beyond tweaking. On the bright side, CNPS has taken part in a great collective effort to respond to a conservation challenge.

*This article based on reporting by Lori Hubbart – Dorothy King Young Chapter and Frank Landis – San Diego Chapter*
BOARD SETS NEW DIRECTION FOR JEPSON CHAPTER

At their March 14 meeting, the Jepson Chapter Board of Directors took action to define a new relationship between the Chapter and the Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden, and to initiate an expanded role in the Solano County Habitat Conservation Plan.

The state park closure crisis has frustrated the Chapter’s efforts to renew a maintenance agreement for the Botanic Garden located in the Benicia State Recreation Area. The Board recognized that Benicia State Parks Association has greater political strength to resolve this matter.

The Board decided to identify steps necessary to transfer maintenance and sponsorship for the Botanic Garden to the Association. At the same time, the Board agreed to offer technical and scientific support the Association may need to support the Botanic Garden’s mission.

As a next step Board members Steven Goetz and Sue Wickham agreed to meet with representatives of Benicia State Parks Association to discuss this proposal.

In a separate action, the Board agreed to seek technical assistance from the State CNPS office to evaluate the conservation strategy for endangered plant species covered by the draft Solano County Habitat Conservation Plan. For several years the Chapter has been participating on the committee advising the Solano County Water Agency on development of the plan. The Board anticipates a major effort by the Chapter to ensure that plan adequately protects native plants and their natural habitat in Solano County.

These actions represent a new direction for the Jepson Chapter, but are consistent with the mission of CNPS. At their June meeting, the Board will establish objectives to support the desired outcomes for the Botanic Garden and the Solano County Habitat Conservation Plan.

JEPSON PRAIRIE FIELD TRIP

The Jepson Chapter will commemorate California Native Plant Week by sponsoring a field trip to Jepson Prairie on April 14, led by vernal pool expert Carol Wickham. Carol will build upon the Jepson Prairie talk we sponsored at the Vacaville Library in March, where she described the plants that grow there and the wild life that depends on them. Carol has been studying vernal pools for 25 years and edited the Jepson Prairie Field Guide which was published last year by the Solano Land Trust.

The Jepson Prairie is the centerpiece of the Dixon Vernal Pools complex, which is a native bunchgrass prairie habitat that was once widespread throughout the Central Valley. The Jepson Prairie gained national significance when the National Park Service designated it as a National Natural Landmark.

Meet at Highway 113 and Cook Lane, 10 miles south of Dixon, at 10 AM

SPRING PLANT SALE AHEAD

Refresh your garden with some new plants from the Chapter’s Spring Plant Sale set for Saturday, May 4 at the Benicia Community Garden located at the corner of E. 2nd St. and Military East. Sales begin at 9am.

We know that fall is the best time for planting in California, but we also know that if you care for your new plantings, spring can be a good time too! And spring is such a wonderful season to be in the garden, among all the lovely tender new growth and returning warmth.

Local experts will provide advice on plant selection and care, and answer your garden questions. Check the Chapter website after April 25 for a list of plants for sale

Plant Sales by Others

- April 13-14, 10am-4pm, Napa CNPS, Skyline Park, 2201 Imola Ave, Napa
- April 6 and 28, 9am-1pm UC Davis Arboretum, Featuring some natives, Arboretum Teaching Nursery on Garrod Dr, UC Davis Campus, (530) 752-4880.
- April 20th, 10am-3pm, East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Anza View Road, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley. www.nativeplants.org
- April 20th, 8am-Noon, Solano Resource Conservation District, Spring Plant Sale (some natives), 6390 Lewis Rd, Vacaville, www.solanorcd.org
- April 20th, 10 am - 2 pm, UC Berkeley Botanic Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley, Some natives, a plant list can be found at www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu.
- May 9th, 8am-8pm, May 16th, 8am-5pm, and May 23rd, 9am-2pm, Horticulture Club of Solano Community College, (some natives), 4000 Suisun Valley Rd. Horticulture Bldg. 1000, easy parking in Lot 6,
WILLIS LINN JEPSON CHAPTER
2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President, Steven Goetz, 745-4675 sgoet@sbcglobal.net
- Vice President, Mary Frances Kelly Poh, , 745-5461, mfpoh@pacbell.net
- Recording Secretary, Norma Deaner, 745-3906 ndeaner@pacbell.net
- Correspondence, Pam Muick, pmuick@sbcglobal.net
- Treasurer, Sue Wickham, 747-5815 sweo1@gmail.com
- Membership, Mary Frances Kelly Poh
- Education, POSITION OPEN
- Newsletter/Outreach, POSITION OPEN
- Webmaster, POSITION OPEN
- Book/Poster Sales, POSITION OPEN
- Programs, Alison Fleck, 747-9463, awfleck@sbcglobal.net
- Plant Propagation & Plant Sales, Pam Muick, and Barbara Reiley, breiley45@yahoo.com
- Past President, Becky Mannion 429-2494, rfvem@pacbell.net
- 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.