## Calendar of Events

- **Monday, Nov. 18, 7PM, JEPSON MEMBERSHIP MEETING, McBride Senior Center** *(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**

## CNPS Annual Meeting

**Featuring Alamo Creek Project in Vacaville**

The next General Membership, which will also be the Chapter’s annual business meeting, features Katherine Holmes, Restoration Program Manager for the Solano Resource Conservation District (RCD). She will speak on the restoration efforts slated for Alamo Creek. The project sponsored by Solano RCD and the City of Vacaville, will include the planting of over 1,500 native trees and shrubs as well as 10,000 native grass, sedge and forb plugs at 10 sites that are currently devoid of native vegetation. This will be a great opportunity for CNPS members to help restore an urban creek with native plants!

Although the exact planting days are not yet scheduled, Solano RCD intends to hold at least eight public planting events between December 2013 and March 2014. CNPS members interested in participating can sign up with Solano RCD to receive e-mail notification of when the planting events are occurring. Contact Katherine Holmes at katherine.holmes@solanorcd.org to be added to the e-mail list. Planting event information will also be posted on our Chapter website at jepson.cnps.org

The meeting is scheduled for:
- Monday, November 18, 7pm
- McBride Senior Center
- 91 Town Square Place in downtown Vacaville.

## President’s Report

I hope this edition of the Chapter newsletter finds you well. Newsletter publication dates have been spotty without an editor, but we have important news to cover since our spring edition so here is your fall newsletter.

Last November I reported to you that we were having difficulty filling vacancies on the Board of Directors and if no members stepped forward to serve, the remaining Board members would look at ways for Chapter members to participate in CNPS without a Board of Directors. In any case, I pledged to you that the Jepson Chapter would be a changed organization by November 2013. So here is how we have changed these past 12 months in service to you and CNPS.

2013 brought Pam Muick, Alison Fleck and Barbara Reiley as new Board members. We agreed to meet no more that four times annually. Teleconferencing has been used to make participation more convenient. We now have at least 75% attendance at each meeting.

The new Board chose to change the focus of its actions from support of the Forrest Deane Native Plant Botanic Garden to the conservation of native plants in Solano County. This required transferring sponsorship of the Botanic Garden to another entity – no small task by itself. But we did it, and you can read the details on page 3 of this newsletter.

We discussed whether to continue our plant propagation and plant sale programs. This is a source of enjoyment for members and is an important source of income for the Chapter. However, the concern of the new Board was to ensure these programs don’t spread plant pathogens that threaten native species. The new co-chairs for the Plant Sale Committee agreed to overhaul our plant propagation facility in Vallejo to provide a disease and pest free operation. The details are described on page 3.

The Chapter website has been without a webmaster for some time so we sought the assistance of the CNPS

*(President’s Report continued on page 4)*
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. The 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. 30: Botanizing Jepson's backyard - the Solano County flora project, Heath Bartosh
- Dec. 7: Kaweah Peaks Ridge - Summer images from the southern Sierra Nevada, Michael Uhler
- Dec. 14: Floristic Surprises from Mt. Eddy, Cave Junction and Northeast Oregon, Dick O'Donnell
- Dec. 21: At the edge of the arctic - botanizing near Hudson Bay; and a botanical glimpse of North Carolina, Ted Kipping
- Jan. 4: Forgotten landscapes of the Bay Area, Laura Cunningham
- Jan. 11: Tesla and Black Diamond Mines - botany, geology, and history, Steve Edwards
- Jan. 18: Natural history of the Ozarks, Ron Felzer
- Jan. 25: Passes of the Central Sierra - Sonora, Ebbets, Carson, and Luther, Steve Edwards
- Feb. 1: Springtime in the Smokies: trilliums, violets, bloodroots and more, Bob Case
- Feb. 8: La Sierra de San Francisco - deep canyons and lofty "sky islands" of Baja, Michael Uhler
- Feb. 15: Arctostaphylos - a photographic tour of California's manzanitas in the wild, Jeff Bisbee
- Feb. 22: The Sky Islands of Northeast Oregon, Dick O'Donnell

Hort Club Winter Sale

The Horticulture Club at Solano Community College will host its annual Winter Plant Sale, featuring the ever-popular wreaths and swags made by the students as well as seasonal flowering plants, house plants, succulents, and more.

The plant sale will be in the Horticulture Building 1000 on the Fairfield campus on, Dec. 5 from 8 to 8, Dec. 6 from 8 to 5, and Dec. 7 from 9 to 2. The sale funds scholarships, equipment, and reference material for the students. For more info, contact Ken Williams at 707-975-6856, kennav27@aol.com.

State Horticulture Program Director Starts Work

For the first time in history, the California Native Plant Society now has a fulltime staff Horticulture Program Director! This is a new staff position. CNPS sought out a Horticulture Program Director who could help chart the course of California's oldest and most recognized native plant gardening program.

Susan Krzywicki comes from our San Diego chapter, where she helped to grow that chapter's successful horticulture program. She worked to build a garden tour, deliver training symposia, and otherwise engage thousands of San Diegans in growing native plants. While doing all this, Susan has also helped other groups and local government in their work adopting and promoting California native plant horticulture.

Greg Rubin, San Diego Chapter Board member says "Catching the native gardening bug is quite the affliction—you never know where it will lead. I had no idea a dozen years ago when I met Susan Krzywicki that she would turn out to be the new Horticulture Program Director for CNPS. I witnessed her knowledge, interest, and passion blossom, however, bringing her commitment to friends, neighbors, clients, and companies.”

Susan's skills, public presence, leadership, and organizational ability will enable her to make an outstanding contribution to the CNPS mission: to protect California's native plant heritage and preserve it for future generations.

Native plant horticulture is increasingly popular and is catching on with gardeners, homeowners associations, and public entities across the state. It is a fun and effective approach that saves water and helps pollinators. This widespread acceptance is in large part due to our CNPS membership. and in the coming years we will continue to spread the word and encourage these gardening techniques.

The Horticulture Program is ramping up, and we are looking forward to input from members throughout the state. As we set plans in motion, it is crucial to focus on what works at a local level and how we can base our programs on a sound scientific footing that can help gardeners throughout the state to succeed. Please welcome Susan and send any suggestions or ideas to skrzywicki@cnps.org.

Dan Gluesenkamp, CNPS Executive Director
**New Sponsor and New Trails for the Botanic Garden**

This past year brought significant changes to the Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden. The trail system was upgraded and sponsorship of the Garden was transferred to the Benicia State Parks Association (BSPA).

Last March, State Parks broke ground on a $150,000 garden project to widen the existing trails and add new trails. The Jepson Chapter donated three benches as part of this project. The new trails were dedicated on September 21, with Benicia Mayor Elizabeth Patterson and State Parks officials as featured speakers.

On October 22nd, State Parks and BSPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for maintenance of the Botanic Garden. This replaces the 2005 MOU between State Parks and CNPS. Sponsorship of the Botanic Garden has now officially transferred from the Jepson Chapter to BSPA, a non-profit corporation dedicated to keeping the Benicia State Parks open, accessible, safe and committed to expanding the knowledge and appreciation of the natural environment and cultural heritage of our parks.

The 3.5 acre garden was established at the Benicia State Recreation Area by CNPS in 2004, however, the State Park closure crisis created a problem that was simply too large for the Chapter to handle effectively. Earlier this year, the Chapter Board recognized that BSPA had much greater political strength to bring to the Garden, and initiated talks with BSPA on the matter. In June, both organizations signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU) describing the understandings and commitments under which sponsorship of the Botanic Garden would transfer.

The LOU, among other things, would transfer from Jepson Chapter to BSPA funds restricted to the Botanic Garden and make two $1,000 donations to BSPA for garden maintenance. The transfer of funds would begin once BSPA and State Parks successfully negotiated a maintenance agreement. The Jepson Chapter is now working on transferring the restricted funds and making the first $1,000 donation. The second $1,000 donation will occur on the one-year anniversary of the new MOU.

The Jepson Chapter now begins a new relationship with the Botanic Garden and BSPA, providing plant propagation and botany expertise to BSPA and assisting with outreach for Botanic Garden volunteers. Further information on the Botanic Garden is on our website.

**Overhaul of Native Plant Propagation Facility Completed**

Early this year Chapter members overhauled our native plant propagation facility in Vallejo after the Board adopted a policy to operate a disease and pest free plant propagation operation. To comply, we follow the Safe Production and Procurement Manual: A Systems Approach to the Production of Health Nursery Stock, by the Oregon Association of Nurseries, January 2012. Best practices include:

- Purchasing potting soil from vendors that test for pests and pathogens;
- Storing potting soil so it does not come in contact with native soil (we installed a concrete slab);
- Grow plants on surfaces that do not come in contact with native soil (we grow plants on gravel); and
- Wash plant containers with a mild bleach solution to disinfect and to remove any old soil before re-use.

Volunteers not only completed this work, but were able to grow enough inventory to sell 250 plants ($1,436) at the Chapter’s fall plant sale!

**Call for 2014 Board Nominees**

Your Board of Directors has initiated the process for electing Board members by nominating the following individuals to serve the Jepson Chapter in 2014:

- President: Steven Goetz
- Vice President: Mary Francis Kelley Poh
- Treasurer: Sue Wickham
- Secretary: Pam Muick

Do the names sound familiar? Why yes, they are your officers for 2013! No worries though, the Board encourages members to self-nominate if interested in any position on the Board. Members will be requested to consider these nominations as well any others from the floor, and to vote on these positions through on-line balloting that will be scheduled after our general membership meeting on November 18th.

**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)
- One gallon plastic plant pots (as many as possible)
- 20” Plastic Garden Pots (4), for propagation
- 72” x 30” centerfold plastic utility tables (up to 6)

Santa can call Steve at 745-4675.
**President’s Report - continued**

State Office. The Chapter website has been overhauled and integrated into the CNPS website. We pay the State Office to be our webmaster for monthly updates.

Funds were budgeted to partner with the CNPS State Office to review and comment on the *Solano County Habitat Conservation Plan*, which will include protections for several endangered native plants found in Solano County. Release of the draft plan is anticipated within a year.

If you have a particular interest in any of these areas the Board has been working or would like to help shape the direction of the Jepson Chapter, see page 3 for the announcement of elections for the 2014 Board.

As always, if you would like to serve on a Board committee or have a suggestion for a chapter meeting program, field trip, or anything else that could help us improve our service to the Chapter members, please call or email me using the contact information on this page.

*Sincerely,*  
*Steven Goetz, Chapter President*

---

**2013 Board of Directors**

- President, Steven Goetz, 745-4675 [sgoet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sgoet@sbcglobal.net)
- Vice President, Mary Frances Kelly Poh, 745-5461, [mfpoh@pacbell.net](mailto:mfpoh@pacbell.net)
- Secretary, Pam Muick, [pmuick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pmuick@sbcglobal.net)
- Treasurer, Sue Wickham, 747-5815, [swgeo1@gmail.com](mailto:swgeo1@gmail.com)
- Membership, Mary Frances Kelly Poh
- Education, POSITION OPEN
- Newsletter/Outreach, POSITION OPEN
- Webmaster, POSITION OPEN (State Office interim)
- Book/Poster Sales, POSITION OPEN
- Programs, Alison Fleck, 747-9463, [awfleck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:awfleck@sbcglobal.net)
- Plant Propagation & Plant Sales, Pam Muick, and Barbara Reiley, [breiley45@yahoo.com](mailto:breiley45@yahoo.com)
- Past President, Becky Mannion 429-2494, [rfivem@pacbell.net](mailto:rfivem@pacbell.net)
- Conservation, Ted Swiecki, 448-0230, [phytosphere@phytosphere.com](mailto:phytosphere@phytosphere.com)
- Botanic Garden, Norma Deaner, 745-3906, [ndeaner@pacbell.net](mailto:ndeaner@pacbell.net)