



## Willis Linn Jepson Chapter Solano County

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND LECTURE

Monday, October 26, 2009

Contact: **Steven Goetz**, 707-745-4675, P.O. Box 2212 Benicia, CA 94510

## Restoring Native Plant Communities at San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

The San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1974 to conserve and restore habitat to benefit endangered species and migratory birds. Giselle Block, biologist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, will talk about restoration of native plant communities as a major component of the refuge biology program. Projects currently underway include control of invasive plant species (e.g., *Spartina alterniflora*, *Lepidium latifolium*) and restoration of the marsh-upland ecotone. Propagation and out-planting of native species to restore the marsh-upland ecotone of the SF Estuary has been underway for several years.

Research at the Refuge has found that direct planting can produce positive results but the method also has a number of limitations. Propagation and planting provide significant opportunities for the public to engage in the restoration process and there are several places where native plants have established, are spreading, and have effectively competed with weeds. A significant constraint is the amount of effort required to establish dominant native cover over a large scale, especially given the wide range of baseline conditions (e.g., soil structure and chemistry). Direct planting, in conjunction with other methods (e.g., hydroseeding + direct planting) may provide a more efficient approach to large-scale restoration of the marsh-upland ecotone while still engaging the public.

Giselle has worked in tidal marsh systems of the San Francisco Estuary since 1998. Her work began in the tidal marshes of Suisun Bay with the University of CA at Berkeley and was followed by work in San Pablo Bay with U.S. Geological Survey. Giselle began her career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2002 where she leads the biology program for the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge. A major focus of Giselle's work at both refuges is to protect, enhance, and restore habitat for endangered species and migratory birds.

This talk takes place at 7 PM at the Heritage Presbyterian Church community room, 1400 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and is sponsored by Solano County's Jepson Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. The public is welcomed to attend this free event. Call 745-4675 for more information.