



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- CHAPTER POTLUCK/GARDEN SOIREE, SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 10 AM, (SEE ARTICLE BELOW)
- NEXT CHAPTER MEETING, SEPTEMBER 28, 2009, 7:00 PM, RUSH RANCH NATURE CENTER (**NOTE LOCATION**), GRIZZLY ISLAND ROAD, SUISUN CITY
- PLANT PROPAGATION WORKDAYS – BENICIA EVERY THURSDAY, 10 AM – NOON, JEPSON GREENHOUSE - BENICIA STATE RECREATION AREA, CALL BECKY AT 707-429-2494 FOR INFO.
- PLANT PROPAGATION WORKDAYS – VALLEJO EVERY THURSDAY & SUNDAY, 10 AM – NOON VALLEJO SANITATION DISTRICT. CALL BECKY AT 707-429-2494 FOR INFO.
- FORREST DEANER BOTANIC GARDEN WORKDAYS EVERY SATURDAY, 9:30 – 11:30 AM, BENICIA STATE RECREATION AREA
- NEXT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2009 – ARTICLES DUE TO EDITOR ON SEPTEMBER 7, SGOET@SBCGLOBAL.NET

### Garden Soiree/LePotluck in Vacaville

Who says you can't have a French garden party in Cowtown? Mark this event on your calendar for Saturday, August 29 at 10am at Emily Rued's garden in Vacaville. This is a potluck, so bring an item suitable for brunch to share. Ms. Rued is a Jepson chapter member and looks forward to opening her garden to us.

This is the only chapter-sponsored activity for the summer, so here is a chance to catch up with fellow members and see a fine example of drought-tolerant native landscaping. The garden is located at 2124 Vineyard Hills Court. Please RSVP to Steve Goetz at [745-4675](tel:745-4675) or [sgoet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sgoet@sbcglobal.net) and indicate if you're interested in carpooling.

### REGION LAUNCHES INVASIVE WEED WAR

*By Dr. David Gluesenkamp*

The third week of July is always California Invasive Weed Awareness Week. This year is extra special, because Weed Awareness Week will launch the Bay Area's Early Detection Network, BAEDN for short!

The new initiative follows the maxim "a stitch in time is worth nine." There are hundreds of scientific studies and agency plans which all reaffirm the critical importance of early detection and rapid response (EDRR). We use EDRR to protect human health, and it is time to use it to protect ecosystems.

*The California Invasive Weed Action Plan (2005)*, produced by the California Invasive Weeds Awareness Coalition and the California Department of Food and Agriculture, identifies EDRR as "the single most important element" for coping with invasions. Whether we are protecting humans from swine flu or protecting ecosystems from sudden oak death, EDRR is the most effective and cost-efficient approach for coping with biological invasions. The BAEDN will use this approach to manage invasive species throughout California and enable native species to thrive.

The BAEDN provides an EDRR system covering the entire nine county Bay Area by coordinating EDRR efforts of dozens of agencies, hundreds of professional land managers, and potentially thousands of volunteers. BAEDN partners work together to develop a scientifically rigorous list of the most harmful invasive plants, train each other in detection techniques, detect outbreaks and report them to the online website, and then prioritize individual patches so that the most dangerous outbreaks can be removed before they spread and cause harm. We eradicate an occurrence when removal is cheap and before ecosystems are harmed. ***It's simple, it's sensible, it's about time.***

Work began on BAEDN in 2006 by Audubon Canyon Ranch's Director of Habitat Protection and Restoration

*(Continued on page 2 – Invasive Weed War)*

## Invasive Weed War - cont.

Daniel Gluesenkamp, National Park Service's Francisco Bay Area Network Inventory and Monitoring Biologist Andrea Williams, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Biologist Giselle Block, and numerous colleagues throughout the Bay Area.

BAEDN has recruited partners and built the core structure of the network. Calflora has built BAEDN's user-friendly online occurrence reporting database, with a clickable Google map interface and picklists to make it highly user-friendly. In addition, BAEDN has hired Jennifer Stern to serve as BAEDN's Coordinator, thanks to support from the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and US Fish and Wildlife Service funding. BAEDN also helps broaden efforts such as the NPS's Weed Watchers program, which trains volunteers in early detection at Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and builds on more targeted efforts such as the Invasive Spartina Project.

**What you can do:** There are several ways to participate. First, you can detect and report unusual or harmful invasive plants; go to the website (<http://BAEDN.org>) and test out the Google-maps-driven reporting tool! Second, we hope you will help us to build a BAEDN which is truly collaborative by becoming a partner; please go to the website and subscribe to the BAEDN Partners email list, come to the annual meeting to help refine the system, and please let the Coordinator know of any individuals or groups who should learn about the network and participate.

Invasive weeds are important, not because they are out of place but because the worst of them can destroy the ancient biodiversity of places we love, and cost California hundreds of millions of dollars in control costs and lost productivity annually. Humans have introduced these species and have disrupted ecosystems so that weeds can thrive. We have the moral obligation to right what we have wronged, we have the responsibility to use our heads so that our actions are strategic and effective, and now we have a new tool for protecting California's precious natural resources. Please join us in this effort! Your help can really make a difference.

### Contact information:

Daniel Gluesenkamp, Audubon Canyon Ranch,  
[gluesenkamp@egret.org](mailto:gluesenkamp@egret.org)  
Jennifer Stern, BAEDN, [jenstern@baedn.org](mailto:jenstern@baedn.org)

*MARK YOUR CALENDAR – CHAPTER FALL  
PLANT SALE OCTOBER 3, 2009*

## WILLIS LINN JEPSON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We encourage all members to become involved in what interests you. We are available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas of what membership in the Jepson Chapter can mean to you. We welcome inquiries about the open positions for the Committees listed below.

- President, Gene Doherty, 415-609-5653  
[datagxd@comcast.net](mailto:datagxd@comcast.net)
- Vice President, Steven Goetz, 745-4675  
[sgoet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sgoet@sbcglobal.net)
- Recording Secretary, Alison Fleck, 747-9463  
[awfleck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:awfleck@sbcglobal.net)
- Correspondence, Norma Deaner, 745-3906  
[ndeaner@pacbell.net](mailto:ndeaner@pacbell.net)
- Treasurer/Membership, Mary Frances Kelly Poh, 745-5461, [mfpoh@pacbell.net](mailto:mfpoh@pacbell.net)
- Education/Outreach, POSITION OPEN
- Newsletter Editor, POSITION OPEN
- Webmaster, Ken Poerner, 432-0150,  
[kenpoe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kenpoe@sbcglobal.net)
- Book/Poster Sales, POSITION OPEN
- Programs/Lectures, POSITION OPEN
- Plant Propagation/Past President, Becky Mannion, 429-2494, [rfivem@pacbell.net](mailto:rfivem@pacbell.net)
- Plant Sales (interim chair), Sue Wickham, 747-4815 [swgeo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swgeo@sbcglobal.net)
- Conservation, Ted Swiecki, 448-0230,  
[phytosphere@phytosphere.com](mailto:phytosphere@phytosphere.com)
- Botanic Garden. Norma Deaner and Gary Brogan, Co-Chairs

## Wildlife Refuge Seeking Volunteers

Audubon California and the US Fish & Wildlife Service seek volunteers to assist with ecological restoration and monitoring on Tubbs Island in the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Tubbs Island is south of the intersection of State Routes 37 and 121.

Volunteers will have opportunities to learn ecological monitoring and restoration techniques and species identification. Additional details can be found on the Jepson Chapter website, or by contacting Mike Perlmutter, Audubon California: 510-601-1866 ext. 231 or [MPerlmutter@audubon.org](mailto:MPerlmutter@audubon.org). Our general membership meeting in September will feature a talk on restoration efforts at this National Wildlife Refuge.

## CNPS NEWS

### BOTANIC GARDEN PROGRESS

Great progress continues to be made at the botanic garden. Here is a sample of the volunteer activity that occurred last Saturday, as reported by Tim Sullivan, Garden Curator.

"We had an awesome team of volunteer mulchers this morning. Every spot of exposed weedblock was covered in a 2" layer of eucalyptus chips (Christmas tree chips are out of stock). Charlie, Dan J., Alex, and Tim M. did the heavy work - Tim S. deftly spread the mulch with his favorite leaf rake. We covered an approx 6'x24' area in the Chaparral and another 24'x36' space in the Coastal Scrub plant community.

Norma had the fun task of adding (21) Golden Yarrow plants (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*) to the Valley Grassland community. This will likely be our last planting till we see the rains again. Gene started out helping Norma, but soon determined to do a little mindful weeding (the Meadow and Riparian garden areas look much better).

The garden rabbits are reportedly very unhappy. We built a new fence around the Purple Needlegrass and also a fence circling the Idaho Fescue. The rabbits seemed to really like these two grasses, as many of the plants were nibbled right down to the crown.

Gary with some assistance by Dan P. continued pruning the dwarf Coyote Bush that front the parking lot. The Residential/Sensory gardens stand out now that the Coyote Bush is down to a more reasonable size.

Next Saturday, the 18th, we'll go back to laying out sheets of weedblock. It appears that many of the more noxious weed species have taken a break for the summer, but we still have a lot of maintenance to catch up on. Garden workday is from 9:30-11:30."

### Get Clickin'! for the Annual Weed Photo Contest

Help spread the word about the devastating impacts weeds have on our natural environment by entering your photos as part of the 2009 California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) Annual Symposium, Oct. 8-10 in Visalia. Deadline is September 1, 2009.

See the following for details:

<http://www.calipc.org/symposia/pdf/2009%20contest%20flyer.pdf>

## CNPS Targets Solar Gold Rush

One of the state's most pressing environmental problem is the "solar gold rush" going on in the CA desert areas. This was the topic of CNPS Conservation Director Greg Suba's presentation at the CNPS Chapter Council meeting last month. Over 100 applications for solar and wind farms have been received. The CNPS is working to see that the areas where they site the solar collectors and the transmission lines are in non-sensitive areas.

This is a very important conservation issue that is getting very little publicity. The process is way ahead of us and huge tracts of the desert lands are going to be impacted. Not only is land threatened, but huge amounts of ground water will be required to generate the electricity.

The Society will be sending out letter templates to help us write letters to newspapers and to representatives. We need to emphasize that we are not against renewable energy; we are against the loss of so much desert habitat. Our concern is with siting of the collections areas and the transmission lines in high value habitats.

*Article by Liz Parsons, Milo Baker Chapter* **CNPS**

## Educational Grants Available

Each year the State CNPS Educational Grants program receives funding to support field research related to California's native plants. Students, CNPS members, or postdoctoral botanists are eligible, in that order, for grants that are generally not more than \$1,000. Proposals should involve taxa or plant communities that are of concern due to direct or indirect potential impacts. The grants need to be relevant to our conservation mission. Funds are also available for graduate students planning research involving rare plants or evolutionary botany.

The Jepson Board has discussed hiring botanists to assist volunteers in surveying the Mare Island Shoreline Preserve for rare and endangered native plants. This is a necessary step before this shoreline park can be developed for public use. The Board is also interested in discussing other ideas members may have.

If you are interested in seeking a grant, request a copy of the guidelines for drafting and submitting a proposal. Requests for this or other information can be directed to Joan Stewart, Chair, Educational Grants Committee, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. Completed proposals are due to the CNPS in Sacramento by September 30, 2009.

## CLOSING 200+ STATE PARKS

*Think about it - then Act*

As we enter an uncertain summer is there much we can do to bring about change? Often there is so much to do and so many obstacles that it is hard to choose the battle. The threat to shut down many of our precious and much used (over 80 million visitors last year) State Parks is very real.

There are over 200 parks on the closure list. A review of this list brings forth great memories for many of us. Park funding accounts for less than one tenth of one percent of the State Budget; however, visitor economic activities in communities surrounding these parks generate a tremendous revenue stream – an estimated \$350 million.

Those are the economic arguments. The environmental and social benefits of preserving and protecting our wild and open spaces are even more valuable to our state and its citizens. Taking action is as easy as emailing your Governor, State Senator or Assemblyman. Save Our State Parks and the California State Parks Foundation have links that you can use to email your concerns to our state "leadership".

Get more info via the website <http://www.calparks.org>

## CNPS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to affiliate with: \_\_\_\_\_ Jepson Chapter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category:

\_\_\_\_\_ 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, Sacto, CA 95816, or you can join or **renew automatically** via the website [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) and click on JOIN.

CNPS Jepson Chapter  
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