Greetings to all. I hope everyone had wonderful holidays and that the 2012 has started off well for you. For those of you who missed our December potluck, it was a little different than normal because of the electrical outages which forced us to move to the community room in the library. I would like to announce to all of you who weren’t there my selections for this year’s President’s Recognitions. All of these individuals met or exceeded the criteria for having contributed to our chapter’s successes over a prolonged of time:

Stephanie Garcia, Jennie Haas, Billy & Christy Hamilton, Carolee James, Pat Reh, Conny Simonis, Beckwith Spierling, Steve Stocking, Pat Stone, and Winifred Stone.

I would still like to have your ideas for programs in the upcoming year so that we can incorporate them into a planning session. Please remember to mark your calendars for the Spring Plant Sale to be held on Saturday April 21 to coincide with Native Plant week in California.

We are in the process of planning a training session for the Rare Plant Treasure Hunts that we hope to sponsor this year and will be putting more information in our next newsletter. Call me if you have an interest in participating.

I look forward to seeing you at our February meeting!

-Bob Brown, President

<<<<<<<<<<Jennie, Plse check the bold part of this sentence. I think the word “period” is missing???

Jennie Haas
19287 James Circle
Groveland, 95321
jhaas953@gmail.com

California Native Plant Society
2702 K. St, Ste 1
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora.

President’s Message

February’s Photographer: Bob Brown

CALENDAR
Thursday, February 2nd, 6:00 pm
Board Meeting (all members welcome)
7:00 pm General Meeting. Location: Tuolumne County Library, 480 Greenley Road, Sonora.
Refreshments will be served.
PROGRAM: Val Myrick will give a slide show about Penstemon. (To amend later today)
WORKSHOPS 2012

Contact Josie Crawford for more information.

Jan 31-Feb 2 Vegetation Mapping, University of Redlands and surrounding field sites. Instructors: Todd Keeler Wolf, Julie Evens, and John Menke. Three day combination of lecture, computer lab exercises, and field exercises. Fees: CNPS members $665; Non-members $690

Feb 15 Rare Plants of the Central Valley UC Davis. Instructor: Carol Witham Fees: CNPS members $150; Non-members $175

March 22-23 California Rangeland Monitoring, Lower San Joaquin Valley

March 22-23 California Rangeland Monitoring, Lower San Joaquin Valley

Instructor: Jennifer Buck-Diaz

WORKSHOPS 2012 continued

Options for single day or 2-day:
1st day - Maintaining grassland biodiversity and basic plant ID. 2nd day - Grassland vegetation sampling using Relevé method. Prices to be announced shortly.

Further details will be available at http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php.

An important advance in systematics of California plants:

The Jepson eFlora is now on line.

See http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/IJM.html

The Jepson eFlora initially parallels the second edition of The Jepson Manual, Vascular Plants of California, which is the work of 300 authors and editors being published by the University of California Press. The e-Flora includes all of the taxonomic treatments of the print Manual and has in addition treatments for taxa that were excluded from the print Manual because of doubts about naturalization status. Interactive distribution maps linked to specimen data from the Consortium of California Herbaria are included. Words that were abbreviated to save space in the print Manual have been expanded. Keys are linked to the treatments to which they refer. Accepted names and synonyms can be searched for. The eFlora is linked to the Jepson Online Interchange, and from there to numerous electronic tools. The Jepson Herbarium will work with the treatment authors and users to keep the eFlora in sync with advances in California botanical knowledge.-- Susan Bainbridge, Jepson Herbarium , <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/>
The Gift Of Rain

Working with Heat-Sensitive Natives

Beautiful mid-spring shirtsleeve weather is not the best time for transplanting and otherwise disturbing California Native plants that evolved to have their highest-energy period in cold and wet.

Gardeners who stay indoors all winter and early spring, and then do loads of planting in April and May soon before summer hits, will find heat-sensitive species much harder to successfully establish than would have been the case in all those mild wet 50° days they let pass by. Many California Natives survive the hot dry interior summer by going dormant or by entering a low-energy maintenance phase until fall rains. Meanwhile, some rot-inducing soil organisms are asleep during cold and damp but active in heat and damp, and there lies part of the trouble with trying to make new plantings take by flooding with water during 100° weeks.

Matilija poppy (Romneya Coulteri) root divisions, elderberry (Sambucus) top cuttings and sucker divisions, summer-dormant dry shooting star varieties, coyote mints (Monardella), top cuttings of common nine-bark (Physocarpus capitatus), native honeysuckles (Lonicera), the perennial-rooted buttercups (Ranunculus) and all sorts of milkweeds (Asclepias) are some I found over the years to need coolness and the gift of rain to be moved or propagated. Many of these may root later in spring only to have those tenderest, newest white juicy roots rot off from heat. Give any root division or top cutting partial shade and good drainage, of course. Two other natives, a beautiful purple nightshade and one of the red paintbrushes, I’ve had only partial success with and only know that these too make the most root spreading activity in coolness and rains from winter through March, before much or any top growth shows.

If clumps of the little goldback fern (Pentagramma) among foothill boulders or of any other little leathery, harsh-site-adapted, summer brown and dormant fern must be relocated for any reason, do so when the gift of rain is persuading them into their full active growth for the year and when coolness will persist at least a month more. If moved in the heat and then watered the way we usually do to get a transplant to take hold, these fern crowns rot and crash—though more may slowly come from spores. If dry land summer-dormant ferns and shooting stars must be salvaged in April through October because you’re given no choice, dig the biggest intact soil ball containing them you can. Immediately get it in the ground somewhere and firm down to eliminate big air pockets, but DON’T KEEP WATERING IT all summer. Just label or otherwise keep track of its location and see if next fall’s rains will tease them to new fresh growth.

Gallon pots of iris, toyon (Heteromeles) and some others, if carefully tipped out in late fall through winter, show lots of frantic activity of new white growth tips; clear away some of the accumulation of falling-off old dead roots at this time to renew this stock if it must stay potted longer; and do grooming and dividing iris clumps around October - not April. Relocate any caterpillar-like perennial buttercup rhizome (not the pesky, stickery-seeded, rather sprawling and messy non-native Ranunculus muricatus which is annual) as early in the year as you can see the low flat rosette of leaves. If in late spring you see the buttercups tall, blooming, and seeding, the root can NOT be successfully moved except, again, by the enormous-intact-soilball method which is still risky to summer survival.

Some garden books say that California poppies (Eschscholzia) can’t be transplanted. The truth is, they can’t if heat is soon to follow. Put on that jacket between rains in 50 degree days and you can do anything you want with them…dig and move seedlings, plant-out previous container sowings with their plugs of soil, even move big roots without it being critical if a few roots break. Free of transplant-shock wilting, they are invigorated by continuing rain and take hold. Seed of this and other “cold-favored” plants shouldn’t be sowed in April or later, either, or the heat will attack seedlings that are too small.

Honeysuckles (Lonicera) layer in winter like crazy! In addition to pulling up rooted branches along the ground, get even more by wiring gallon pots of soil to your fence and securing aerial branches into them at this time. Layerings and top cuttings of these honeysuckles in late spring through early fall are worthless.

Tuolumne fawn lily (Erythronium tuolumnense) will be actively rooting, then top growing, in coolness and damp. It, like several other woodland fawn lilies and other lilies, must not be overwatered in summer dormancy. But no bulb, tuber, or corm should be let get so desiccated in the dry season that it’s dry and hard through— and - through. Unless tubers, bulbs, and corms remain like a raw potato in their interiors, they can never grow again, so woodland damp leafmold-growing ones, and the teeny first-year seedling bulbs of any monocot, will probably need a few LIGHT summer watering.

--Patricia Reh
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Officers and Chairperson
All phone numbers are 209 area code unless otherwise specified.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRESIDENT</td>
<td>Bob Brown</td>
<td>928-9281</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rbrown4674@aol.com">rbrown4674@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP AMADOR CO.</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>VP CALAVARAS CO.</td>
<td>Robert &amp; Judy Dean</td>
<td>754-5887</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rjdean@goldrush.com">rjdean@goldrush.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP MARIPOSA CO.</td>
<td>Ann Mendershausen</td>
<td>742-7734</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ralph@sierratel.com">ralph@sierratel.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP TUOLUMNE CO.</td>
<td>Pat Gogas</td>
<td>586-9043</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECRETARY</td>
<td>Stephanie Garcia</td>
<td>586-3593</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sigarcia@mlode.com">sigarcia@mlode.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREASURER</td>
<td>Pati Hohne</td>
<td>352-4312</td>
<td><a href="mailto:phohne@gmail.com">phohne@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSERVATION CHAIR</td>
<td>Pat Stone</td>
<td>984-0304</td>
<td><a href="mailto:patstone@gmail.com">patstone@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION CHAIR</td>
<td>Steve Stocking</td>
<td>754-9029</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smbowser@earthlink.net">smbowser@earthlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR</td>
<td>Jennie Haas</td>
<td>962-4759</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jhaas953@gmail.com">jhaas953@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROWING AREA MGR.</td>
<td>Stephanie Garcia</td>
<td>586-3593</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sigarcia@mlode.com">sigarcia@mlode.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOSPITALITY COORD.</td>
<td>Winifred Stone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>INVASIVE EXOTICS</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>SALES COORD.</td>
<td>Pat Reh</td>
<td>536-6871</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMBERSHIP COORD.</td>
<td>Jennie Haas</td>
<td>962-4759</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jhaas953@gmail.com">jhaas953@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</td>
<td>Conny Simonis</td>
<td>588-0484</td>
<td><a href="mailto:conny@simonis.org">conny@simonis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLANT SALES CHAIR</td>
<td>Stefani Reichle</td>
<td>533-3181</td>
<td><a href="mailto:carpecircus@gmail.com">carpecircus@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLANT SALES VOL. COORD.</td>
<td>Barbara Strother</td>
<td>532-7500</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Bjss37@msn.com">Bjss37@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM COMM. CHAIR</td>
<td>Bob Brown</td>
<td>928-9281</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rbnwva4674@aol.com">rbnwva4674@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLICITY COORD.</td>
<td>Conny Simonis</td>
<td>588-0484</td>
<td><a href="mailto:conny@simonis.org">conny@simonis.org</a></td>
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