



COLUSA COUNTY CONSERVATION

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 3 | MARCH, 2012

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WELCOME *by Mary Fahey, Watershed Coordinator*



With the almonds in bloom, and bees buzzing in the trees, I thought I would share some interesting facts about pollinators to highlight the importance of pollinator conservation:

- *Some of our common pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, beetles, ants, bats and hummingbirds*
- *Nearly 75% of the world's 240,000 species of flowering plants are dependent on pollinators for reproduction*
- *Approximately 1/3 of California's agricultural crops are dependent on pollinators for production*
- *Over 1 million honeybee hives are imported to California each year, mainly for pollination of almonds*
- *A colony of honeybees requires the equivalent of 1 acre of flowering plants per day to meet their nutritional needs*
- *The non-native European honeybee is the most important crop pollinator in the U.S., but their populations are declining, leading to a greater interest in native pollinator species*
- *There are approximately 4,000 species of bees that are native to the U.S.*

Continued on page 10...



MISSION

The mission of the CCRCD is to assist local landowners to protect, conserve and restore natural resources through information, education, and access to technical assistance programs. In doing so the CCRCD will always take measures to protect the individual landowner's rights and fully support "from the ground up" conservation planning that promotes local, social, and economic sustainability through wise land use.

(Adopted: March 21, 2002)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jay Dee Garr, President
Tom Hickok, Vice President
Robert Alvernaz, Director
Ben Felt, Director
Beth Nall, Director
Gilbert Ramos, Director

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Openings available

STAFF

Patti Turner, District Manager
Mary Fahey, Watershed Coordinator

CONTACT US

Colusa County RCD
100 Sunrise Blvd., Suite B
Colusa, California 95932
Phone: 530.458.2931, ext. 3
Fax: 530.458.3683
info@colusarc.org

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.COLUSARCD.ORG

ABOUT THE COLUSA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CCRCD)

The CCRCD focuses their efforts on:

- Promoting resource management and conservation practices that will improve the health of Colusa County Watersheds
- Supporting measures that provide for the best use of the land while sustaining our natural resources and local economy
- Providing conservation education to ensure Colusa County's natural resources will be valued and protected in the future

CCRCD's Natural Resource Priorities:

- Identify natural resources issues and concerns within all Colusa County Watersheds
- Reduce erosion and sedimentation
- Work with all agencies of authority to reduce and control flooding
- Improve water quality and development
- Promote conservation practices for municipal, industrial and residential use
- Encourage the use of native vegetation and removal of non-native invasive species
- Improve Rangeland and Forest Resources
- Improve and Conserve wildlife and fishery habitat
- Reduce roadside pollution
- Protect agricultural viability
- Promote conservation education
- Promote director and staff development



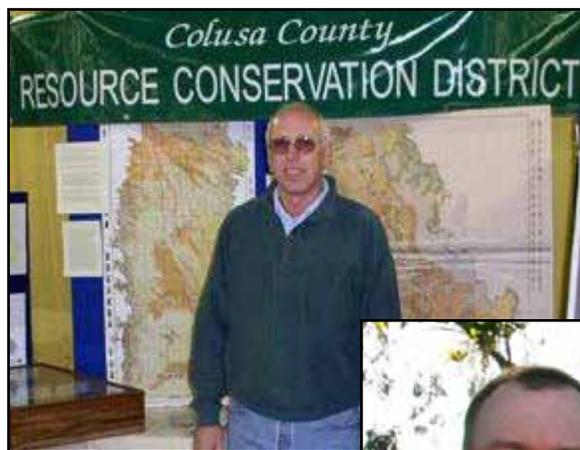
CHANGES TO CCRCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Colusa County Resource Conservation District had two Directors step down from office in 2011.

Director Darrin Williams served on the Board from June, 2007 until July, 2011. Darrin keeps a very busy schedule, working for T&P Farms in Arbuckle and raising three young children with his wife, Aimee. Darrin's expertise in buried drip irrigation systems and other water conservation practices enabled the District to transfer cutting edge technology to other producers in the County. We appreciate Darrin's years of service to the CCRCD and his ongoing commitment to conservation.

Director Brandon Ash retired after an impressive 25 years of service to the Colusa County Resource Conservation District. We really appreciate his wife Shelly sharing him with us for so many years. Brandon was a very engaged and enthusiastic board member throughout his many terms in office. Brandon's farming background and expertise in the management of natural resources played a vital role in directing USDA Farm Bill programs to best meet the needs of Colusa County agricultural producers. During his tenure with the District Brandon demonstrated his dedication by rarely missing a meeting.

We would like to welcome Ben Felt, the newest Director on the Board of the Colusa County Resource Conservation District. Ben was elected to serve as a Director at our January Board meeting. Ben is not exactly new to the CCRCD. Prior to election to the full board, Ben served as an active Associate Director since September, 2008. Ben's conservation interests lie in rangeland issues, including: water resources for livestock and wildlife, invasive weed control, erosion control and preservation of our working rangelands.



*Brandon Ash (above) and
Darrin Williams (right)*

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH A NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERN?

When the Colusa Basin Watershed Management Plan is completed at the end of 2012, the Colusa County Resource Conservation District will begin work on projects to address the goals and objectives of the Plan. We are planning for new projects now. Do you have a natural resource issue on your land that you would like to see addressed, but need help? The CCRCD is currently creating a database of potential projects and seeking funding opportunities for implementation. **Please let us know if we can assist you, or if you would like more information:** 530.458.2931 X3 or email: mary.fahey@ca.usda.gov.

“COLUSA COUNTY GROWN:” CONNECTING PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS

The CCRCDC has been awarded a 2012 Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) grant from the USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). Despite its title, this program is not just about farmers markets. The objective of the FMPP is to promote direct-to-consumer sales of agricultural products. This certainly includes farmers markets, but the goal of the *Colusa County Grown* project is to promote local agricultural producers and increase consumer awareness of the benefits of purchasing local healthy foods. We will utilize a variety of marketing tools to accomplish this goal.

Colusa County Grown will create brand recognition for local products and promote consumer education. Our efforts will help sustain Colusa County’s rich agricultural heritage by increasing demand for local food through increased consumer awareness of the availability and benefits of local healthy foods. We will develop *Colusa County Grown* promotional materials including a website, logo, signage, nutrition and recipe cards, and a local food directory. Materials will be printed in English and Spanish in an effort to reach all county residents.

Our project will involve existing direct-to-consumer venues, such as the Arbuckle and Colusa farmers markets and local farm stand operations, and encourage new start-up operations to participate.



The consumer education component of our project will encourage healthy eating habits for all ages. The project as a whole will create a strong connection between agriculture and community and expand access to healthy and affordable local food. We aim to provide viable economic opportunities for producers and bridge the gap between producers and consumers in Colusa County. We see this project not only benefiting producers, but in a larger context, it will benefit whole communities by bringing people together, fostering healthy lifestyles and enhancing the local economy.

Continued next page

If you are a Colusa County producer that sells your agricultural product(s) directly to the consumer, please contact us to get on our *Colusa County Grown* mailing list:
phone: 530.458.2931 X3
email: mary.fahey@ca.usda.gov

The *Colusa County Grown* promotional material created and produced during this project will include the following items:

- A Local Produce Guide containing listings of Colusa County agricultural producers that sell directly to the consumer, information about our local farmers markets, maps, nutrition information, a seasonal produce chart, recipes, coupons and general information about Colusa County agriculture.
- Two 3' X 5' wooden signs with the *Colusa County Grown* logo
- Full color Flyers with the *Colusa County Grown* logo and branding verbiage
- Full color Posters with the *Colusa County Grown* logo and branding verbiage
- Tent cards with the *Colusa County Grown* logo for producer use at farm stands and farmers markets
- Nutrition cards to promote the health value of eating fresh local produce
- Recipe cards featuring local products
- Full color postcards with the *Colusa County Grown* logo and branding verbiage
- Yard Signs with the *Colusa County Grown* logo for producer use
- Shopping bags with the *Colusa County Grown* logo
- Banners with the *Colusa County Grown* logo and branding verbiage
- *Colusa County Grown* website featuring producers and their products, as well as nutrition information and seasonal availability information.

For more information about this project, please contact the CCRCD:
phone: 530.458.2931 X3 or email: mary.fahey@ca.usda.gov

COLUSA BASIN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Writing of the Colusa Basin Watershed Management Plan continues and the Colusa Basin Watershed Coordinator is receiving stakeholder feedback along the way. Once the full draft is completed, it will be distributed to stakeholders and TAC for two rounds of review before the Plan is completed. We anticipate the first draft to be available for review some time in April, 2012. The following eight goals are being addressed in the Management Plan:

1. Protect, maintain and improve water quality
2. Promote activities to ensure a dependable water supply for current and future needs
3. Preserve agricultural land and open space
4. Manage and reduce invasive plant populations
5. Reduce destructive flooding
6. Reduce soil erosion
7. Preserve and enhance native habitat
8. Address unknown future affects of climate change

If you would like to be added to the list of stakeholders participating in the review process, please contact the Colusa Basin Watershed Coordinator, Mary Fahey at: 530.458.2931 X117, or email: mary.fahey@ca.usda.gov. You can also view the draft sections of the Plan on the CCRCD website at www.colusarcd.org, on the Projects page.

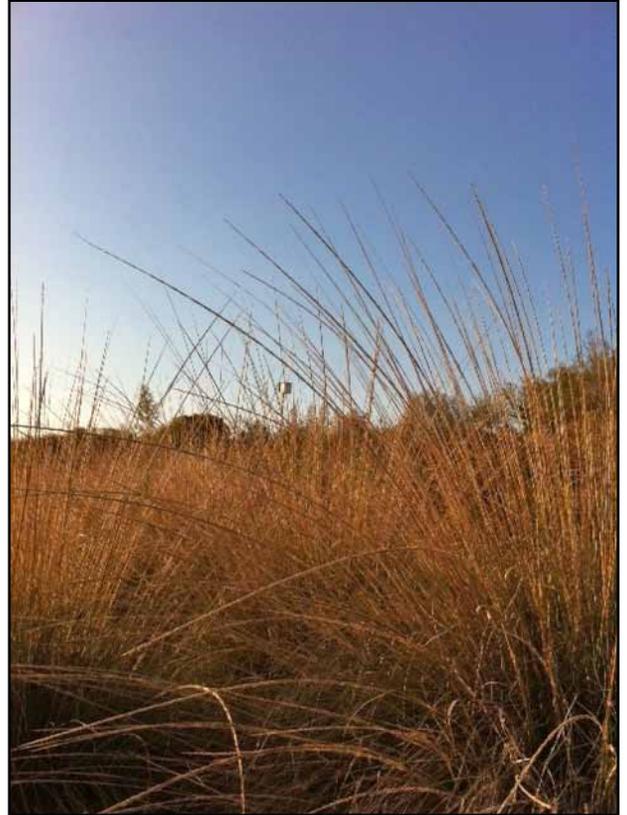
A FEW OF CCRCO'S PROJECTS

COLUSA BASIN WATERSHED COORDINATOR

This project includes completing a stakeholder-driven Watershed Management Plan, working on identifying and mapping invasive weed populations, creating a watershed education program for local youth and conducting a great deal of natural resources outreach and education throughout the watershed.

BEAR CREEK RANCH MERCURY REDUCTION PLANNING

The CCRCO's Bear Creek Mercury Reduction Planning Project will provide the necessary steps to create shovel-ready projects in Bear Creek and Cache Creek. The project will complete all steps necessary to support future implementation projects to reduce mercury-enriched sediments associated with previously identified depositional zones on the Bear Creek Ranch. Supporting documents completed during the process will include; geomorphic site characterization & implementation feasibility assessments, remediation design & engineering, and permitting documentation.



INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING

CCRCO staff have been assisting our local government by representing Colusa County through participation in the Westside and Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) efforts. Public workshops have been held for each planning effort and the groups are working on drafting Goals and Objectives. See pages 7 & 8 for more information.

COLUSA COUNTY GROWN

The CCRCO will be launching the Colusa County Grown campaign in 2012. This marketing campaign will showcase Colusa County agricultural producers that sell their products directly to the consumer. The project will also focus on nutrition education, highlighting the benefits of eating fresh, local and seasonal produce. We will create an eye-catching logo and a suite of marketing and educational materials to promote local producers and their products. See pages 4 & 5 for more information.

BEAR CREEK WATERSHED

This project, designed to enhance the ecological, agricultural and recreational conditions in the Bear Creek Watershed in Colusa County, wrapped up at the end of 2011.

WATERSHED EDUCATION

The Colusa Basin Watershed Coordinator is working on developing a Watershed Education Program to be presented to local youth to engage them in learning activities centered around watershed function.

For more information on our projects, please visit our website at www.colusarcdo.org

NORTHERN SACRAMENTO VALLEY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

As part of the Northern Sacramento Valley (NSV) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning process, members of the public are invited to comment on the draft Goals and Objectives for the NSV IRWM Plan. **[Deadline for Comment is March 2, 2012 at 3 pm](#)**

The group is especially seeking the following types of input:

1. New goals and/or objectives you'd like to add to the list, and why
2. Goals and/or objectives you'd like to drop from the list, and why
3. Suggestions/rewrites for goals and/or objectives that you think are unclear or off the mark
4. Thoughts on combining or condensing multiple similar goals and/or objectives
5. Thoughts on splitting goals and/or objectives that you feel contain multiple concepts that would be better separated.

Note: "Wordsmithing" suggestions will be useful if they contribute or clarify something critical. The intent is to have goals and objectives that are as clear and unambiguous as possible, and which are tailored to the water needs of the NSV region.

You may submit comments via any of the following methods. All comments will be equally considered.

1. Website comment form at http://www.nsvwaterplan.org/mail_forms
2. Email to: info@nsvwaterplan.org
3. Mail to: Monique Day, West Yost Associates, 2020 Research Park Drive, Ste #100, Davis, CA 95618. (Must be received by March 2, 2012).

The draft goals and objectives were developed by the project consultant team based on analysis of public comments received through a variety of outreach methods, in addition to the team's technical expertise, consideration of example Goals and Objectives from other regions' IRWM plans, and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) IRWM guidelines. The consultants presented the draft goals and objectives for initial discussion at the NSV IRWM Board's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on February 16, 2012. The TAC and members of the public should submit written comments for revision of the goals and objectives by March 2.

The NSV IRWM Board will hear an initial informational summary of the TAC's discussions and public comments regarding the draft goals and objectives at its next meeting on March 5, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the Willows City Hall. At the next TAC meeting, March 15 at 9 AM at the Willows City Hall, the TAC will continue its discussion. If appropriate, on March 15 they will produce a recommendation on revised Goals and Objectives that will be forwarded to the NSV IRWM Board for its consideration and potential adoption at a subsequent Board meeting, yet to be scheduled. All TAC and Board meetings are open to the public and subject to the Brown Act.

**To view the draft Goals and Objectives, or to obtain more information on the NSV IRWM process, including a meeting calendar, please visit:
www.nsvwaterplan.org.**

WESTSIDE INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

What is the Westside Sacramento IRWM Plan?

An Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan will be the outcome of an effort to identify regional water resources challenges and opportunities and prioritize actions and projects to address the challenges and opportunities. The goal is to leverage the resources of five agencies spanning the counties of Colusa, Lake, Yolo, Napa and Solano (Westside Sacramento Regional Water Management Group), and pursue state and federal funding to implement projects identified through the planning process. Residents from within the planning area are strongly encouraged to participate in developing the plan, and can do so by attending community meetings, reading and commenting on documents, and bringing forward concerns and suggestions.

What topics are covered in the IRWM planning process?

Generally speaking, the planning process includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Water supply reliability
- Water conservation
- Water quality improvement
- Storm water management
- Flood management
- Invasive species abatement
- Mercury contamination cleanup
- Wetlands enhancements and protections
- Environmental and habitat improvements and protections

What is the expected outcome of the IRWM process?

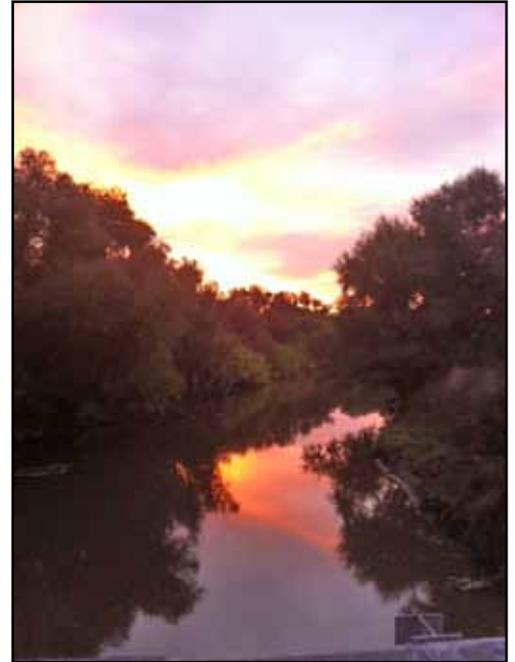
At the end of the planning process, the completed IRWM Plan will describe the water resources challenges and opportunities of the Westside Region and describe an approach to addressing those challenges and opportunities. The Plan will also support efforts to solicit state and federal grant funding to implement priority projects. State funding sources include Proposition 84 grants, which may be awarded to projects that improve water supply reliability and quality (particularly in disadvantaged communities); improve flood management practices; and eliminate or reduce pollution in sensitive habitat areas.

Who are the partners?

- Lake County Watershed Protection District
- Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Solano County Water Agency
- Water Resources Association of Yolo County and its 11 member agencies
- Colusa County Resource Conservation District

How can I be involved?

You can participate in community meetings, or review and comment on draft planning documents via email or through the website. You can monitor our progress by checking the website for news and updates and register for the quarterly eNewsletter. Your comments and questions are always welcome, and we're happy to receive them during meetings, by phone, email, and through the website. **For more information, please contact our Public Information Coordinator Kim Floyd at 530-661-8115, or email info@westsideirwm.com, or check the website at www.westsideirwm.com**



UPCOMING MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

COLUSA COUNTY RCD BOARD MEETINGS

CCRCB Board meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at the Colusa Industrial Park conference room, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA 95932 at 5:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. Our next Board meeting is Wednesday, March 7, 2012

For more information, visit our website: www.colusarcd.org

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER ASSOCIATION 20TH ANNUAL MEETING

Friday March 9, 2012 at the Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room, 9 am to 3 pm.

COLUSA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING - GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

On **Monday, March 12, 2012**, the Colusa County Planning Commission will be voting on the draft 2030 Colusa County General Plan Update

NORTHERN SACRAMENTO VALLEY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING (NSV IRWMP)

Technical Advisory Committee Meetings:

Third Thursday of every month, 9:00 a.m., Willows City Hall

Next meeting is **March 15, 2012**

The TAC will be discussing the draft Goals and Objectives of the plan

Board Meetings:

Next meeting of the NSV IRWMP Board is **March 5, 2012**, 9:00 a.m., Willows City Hall

For more information visit their website: www.nsvwaterplan.org

INVASIVE WEED AWARENESS DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at the California State Capitol

For more information: www.cal-ipc.org

WATERSHED DAY AT THE CAPITAL

Wednesday, March 21, 2012. Sponsored by the Sacramento River Watershed Program. California Natural Resources Secretary John Laird and State Water Resources Control Board Member Fran Spivy Weber are confirmed as event keynote speakers. www.sacriver.org

CNGA WEED MAPPING WORKSHOP

Thursday March 22, 8:00 am–4:00 pm (check-in 7:45 am)

American River Parkway Foundation, Sacramento

[See page 12 for more information](#)

COLUSA WESTERN DAYS

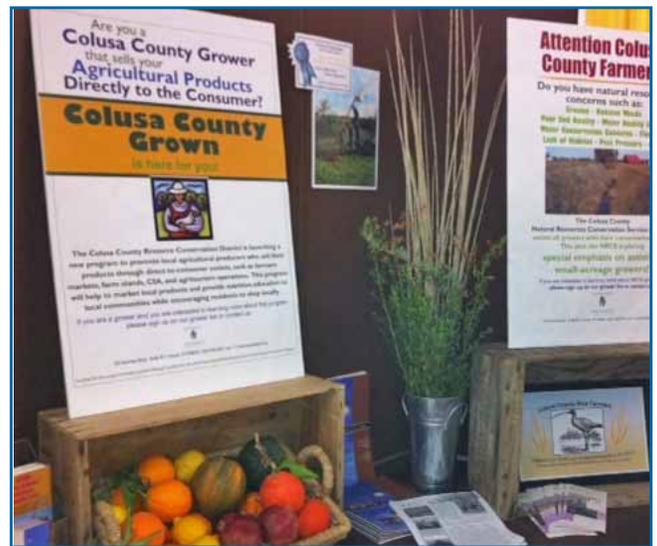
March 30 - April 1. As always food, entertainment, friends and fun can be found at the Colusa County Fairgrounds on the first weekend in April.

CCRCD AT THE 2012 COLUSA FARM SHOW

Each year, in early February, the Colusa County Resource Conservation District sets up an informational booth at the Colusa Farm Show. The Farm Show, dubbed “The Granddaddy of All Farm Shows,” is attended by more than 30,000 people from all over the world, according to past attendance reports.

This year, The CCRCD’s display highlighted our *Colusa Basin Watershed Management Plan* and our upcoming *Colusa County Grown* project. Also featured was information on the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative, and information on local NRCS assistance programs for small acreage producers.

CCRCD staff and Directors, as well as NRCS staff, helped to man the booth during the 3-day event. The Colusa Farm Show is an excellent opportunity for the CCRCD to share information with the public and chat with landowners.



Interesting Pollinator Facts *(continued from page 1)*

- *Habitat loss (including food, shelter, nesting resources) is the greatest threat to native bees*
- *It has been estimated that native bees provide \$3 billion worth of crop pollination to the U.S. economy each year*
- *When wild bees are present, they agitate honeybees, causing the honeybees to move more which makes them more efficient pollinators*

If you are interested in incorporating pollinator habitat on your land or in your garden, contact us - we can help!



CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL-ACREAGE PRODUCERS



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has a long history of “helping people help the land” by assisting agricultural producers with their natural resource concerns. NRCS programs address landowner concerns such as erosion, noxious weeds, pollinators and beneficial insects, soil quality, water quality, water conservation, flooding, habitat and more.

In 2012, the Colusa County NRCS will be placing a special emphasis on working with small-acreage producers. In this case, small acreage is considered 100 acres or less. The Colusa County Resource Conservation District will be assisting the NRCS in identifying these landowners and providing them with information on NRCS programs.

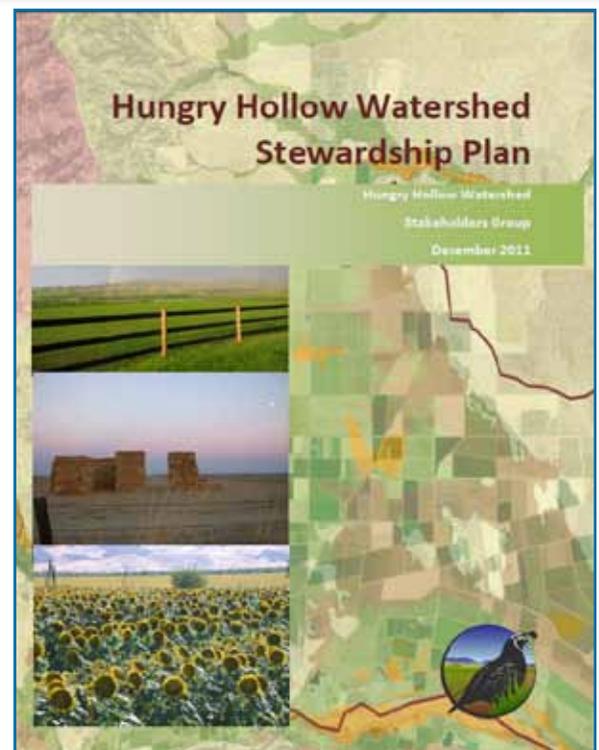
By targeting smaller acreages, we feel that we will have an opportunity to get more conservation on the ground by placing special outreach efforts on a sector of the agricultural community that typically has not participated in conservation programs in the past.

If you are a small-acreage producer interested in learning more about NRCS programs, please contact the Colusa County Resource Conservation District:
530.458.2931 X3 or email: info@colusarc.org

HUNGRY HOLLOW WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PLAN AVAILABLE

The Hungry Hollow Watershed of Yolo County is a small agricultural region located north of Cache Creek. The watershed consists of approximately 35,000 acres, most of which is prime agricultural land and productive rangeland. In 2007, a small group of family farmers, ranchers, and other local entities came together to discuss watershed issues including flooding, erosion, wildlife habitat, and ag land protection. Working with the Yolo County RCD, the group has recently completed a Stewardship Plan for the watershed.

Learn more about the plan and the watershed here:
yolorcd.org/nodes/resource/mywatershed.htm





The California Native Grasslands Association presents:

Emerging Botanical Technologies: Using New Tools to Identify, Map, and Explore Wild Diversity

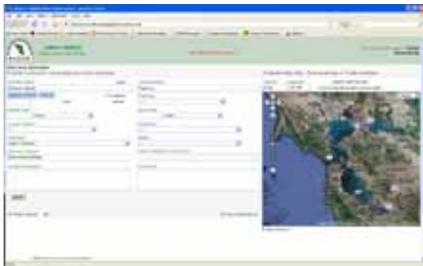
Thursday March 22, 8:00 am–4:00 pm (check-in 7:45 am)

American River Parkway Foundation, Sacramento

Fees: \$120/CNGA members, \$140/Non-members, \$75/Students w ID

Smart phone apps/GPS cameras/Web-based tools/ e-books!

This training workshop introduces participants to the diversity of technical tools available for exploring California’s botanical diversity. We will review the range of tools and how to use them in a way that adds to our field experience, not detracts from it. We will provide enough Android phones, iPhones, tablets, and GPS cameras to ensure that every attendee gets “hands-on” and familiar with using the tools. All attendees receive a **free Professional Registration to Calflora**, which allows you to explore the range of exciting tools available through the Calflora website and other electronic field tools. By the end of this class, you’ll be ready for your best spring wildflower season ever!



We can help you find answers to these questions:

- What is already known about my land or species?
- How should I map my grassland, preserve, or species?
- How can citizen science contribute to conservation?
- “There’s an app for that.” Who cares?
- I am a professional: What new tools can make my work better and easier?

Expert instructors will guide you through the following topics:

- Smartphone apps and mobile tools: Which ones work?
- Android and iPhone mapping tools for professionals
- Citizen science tools, considerations, strategies
- Using GPS cameras for fast and information-rich mapping
- Using online databases and advanced mapping tools
- Data collection principles and data quality considerations
- Vouchering and submitting specimens for ID

Instructors:

Daniel Gluesenkamp:
Executive Director, Calflora

Mike Perlmutter:
Coordinator, Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN)

Location: American River Parkway Foundation

5700 Arden Way, Carmichael, CA 95608 5700 Arden Way Carmichael, CA 95608

Includes: Morning refreshments, mapping handouts, and registration with Calflora website tools. CEU’s are pending.

Registration Form: Emerging Botanical Technologies Workshop | March 22, 2012

Mail to: CNGA, P.O. Box 8327, Woodland, CA 95776 | Secure Fax to: 530-661-2280 | Website/PayPal: www.cnga.org

Participant’s name (print or type please) _____

Participant’s organization or agency _____

Mailing Address: Street _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Preferred phone _____ Preferred e-mail _____

Registration Fees: [] \$120/CNGA members [] \$140/non-members [] \$75/students (include copy of student ID)

[] Payment by check made payable to California Native Grasslands Association

[] Payment by credit card (please check type) [] Visa [] MasterCard [] American Express

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Street Address for Card _____ Zip Code for Card _____

Registration questions? Contact Administrative Director Judy G-Scott at 530-661-2280, or E-mail: admin@cnga.org.