

Davis Botanical Society Presents

A field trip to Southampton Bay Wetland Natural Preserve

Benicia State Recreation Area, Suisun Marsh

Saturday, October 8, 9am to 4pm

Trip Leaders: Brenda Grewell and Peter Baye

“The whole (Suisun Marsh) region abounds in vegetation. Tall rank tule and rice grasses fringe the sloughs, and in the low lands behind this dense curtain grow all manner of water and marsh plants. Sedges and rushes thrive, wild celery, water hemlock, and water pennywort grow in the wettest places; asters and leather root where the land is a bit higher; while an abounding profusion of sunflowers and sunflower-like plants, twice a man’s height, feeding on sunshine, water and fertile soil, run everywhere into a riot of bloom in August and September and at that season color the flat landscape as far as one may see.” -Willis Linn Jepson, 1905



Join us and follow in the footsteps of Willis Linn Jepson and Herbert Mason as we venture behind the tule curtain to explore the richness and diversity of the flora in brackish tidal wetlands at the western edge of the Suisun Marsh ecoregion, San Francisco Estuary, along the narrowest reach of the Carquinez Straits. We will hike up to 3 miles of park road and trails around and in the Southampton Bay Wetland Preserve at Benicia State Recreation Area from tidal sloughs and the bayshore fringed with bulrushes and Pacific cordgrass, to pickleweed plains and high elevation salt marsh-terrestrial ecotones. We will discuss plant species and their specialized adaptations tidal inundation and salinity stresses, and the food webs they support. A plant species list will be provided. Those interested may want to walk through the CNPS Willis Linn Jepson Chapter’s Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden adjacent to our lunch picnic area.

Details: The state park is 1.5 miles west of Benicia at Dillon Point Rd, Benicia, CA 94510 (see map on the back). From I-780, take the Columbus Parkway exit and enter Benicia State Recreation Area. We will meet in the parking area just beyond the entrance kiosk. The parking fee will be waived for participants. Those leaving from Davis can meet in the parking lot across from the Arboretum headquarters (lot 46) a little before 8:00 a.m. Fall weather can be variable – morning fog to full sun. Layered clothing and light hiking shoes are recommended. Rubber knee boots are not necessary but may be desirable at a few sites near our parked cars. Bring hats, sunscreen, water, and lunch.

Cost: FREE but only open to members of the Davis Botanical Society and their guests. New members are welcome! Make your reservations using the form below. Limited to 15 people. Please reserve by September 23, 2016. Please fill out the form below and mail to UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity, Plant Sciences Mail Stop 7, One Shields Ave, Davis, CA 95616. Contact Daniel McNair for more info or confirmation of your spot: dmcnair@ucdavis.edu

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Southampton Bay field trip form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone/Email _____

If you are willing to give rides to others from Davis, please indicate how many you can fit in your vehicle besides yourself _____

Please check the box below if you do NOT want your contact information distributed to other participants to facilitate carpooling:

