



The Superior California Chapter of the  
***Association of Environmental Professionals Presents:***

## **Jepson Prairie Preserve Guided Tour**

**Saturday, April 26, 2008, 10:00 AM**

Jepson Prairie is the premier (and one of the few remaining) vernal pool habitats and native bunchgrass prairies in California.

Once abundant in California's Central Valley, today bunch grass prairies and vernal pools are rare. In addition to supporting Native American inhabitants, they supported large grazing animals and enormous clouds of migratory birds. As California's population grew, and the majority of its 13 million acres of grasslands were converted to agriculture, the poor soils at Jepson made it more suitable for livestock grazing. Unlike other vernal pools that were filled and developed, the pools at Jepson still remain, including the 93-acre Olcott Lake. Jepson Prairie is home to numerous threatened and endangered species including the Delta green ground beetle known only from the 10 square-mile area surrounding the Preserve. Other endangered, threatened or rare species found on the Preserve include Vernal Pool fairy shrimp, Conservancy fairy shrimp, Vernal Pool tadpole shrimp, and California tiger salamander. The Preserve also provides critical habitat for 400 species of plants, including 15 rare and endangered species such as Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop, dwarf Downingia, Baker's navarretia, Colusa grass and Solano grass.

The vernal pool flora at Jepson was first described in 1892 by botanist Willis Linn Jepson, but it took another 80 years for scientists and conservationists to gain enough momentum for protection. In the mid-1970's a committee was formed to protect Olcott Lake and the surrounding prairie. Two years after TNC purchased the 1,566 acre site, it was dedicated as the Willis Linn Jepson Prairie Preserve in 1982. In 1983, the University of California brought the Preserve into the University's Natural Reserve System. In 1987, the National Park Service designated Dixon Vernal Pools, of which Jepson is the centerpiece, a National Natural Landmark. Solano Land Trust assumes primary responsibility for the management of the land to preserve, protect and enhance the habitat for native plants and animals.

***Location:*** Jepson Prairie Preserve - see attached map

**Please RSVP by Friday April 12, 2008** to Kristie Ehrhardt [kehrhardt@wildlandsinc.com](mailto:kehrhardt@wildlandsinc.com) or 916.435.3555. Cost is covered for AEP members and \$5 donation for non-members.