



## **The California Native Plant Society honors CNPS Legislator of the Year: California State Senator Noreen Evans, September 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm.**

On September 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the Skyline Park Social Hall in Napa Valley, CNPS Executive Director Tara Hansen and Legislative Analyst Vern Goehring will present the CNPS Legislator of the Year award to California State Senator, Noreen Evans. The award celebration and reception will precede a program presentation by the Napa Valley Chapter of CNPS on Practical Tips for Growing Natives in your Garden; Perfect Plants for Napa Gardens.

Ms. Evans was nominated for the CNPS Legislator of the Year award by Vern Goehring based on her exemplary record as a public servant over the last 18 years.

In 1993, Ms. Evans was appointed to the Santa Rosa planning commission where she championed environmentally responsible growth, and was instrumental in establishing one of the state's first smart growth measures. Later, as chair of the budget committee she fought to maintain funding for state parks and for the Williamson Act which protects open space and agricultural lands. In 2004 Ms. Evans was elected to the state assembly where she continued her exemplary environmental record. As a member of the state assembly she authored much environmental legislation including AB 94 which re-instated tax credits for park and habitat land acquisitions, and AB 1364 which normalized funding and made timetables more adjustable for state projects including resource conservation projects.

Ms. Evans received an outstanding 98 percent voter approval record from the League of Conservation Voters for her first five years in the assembly. Most recently, Ms. Evans introduced Resolution ACR 173 establishing Native Plant Week in California. The measure, sponsored by the California Native Plant Society, proclaims the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April each year as California Native Plant Week and encourages community groups, schools, and citizens to undertake appropriate activities to promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of California's native plants.

We hope that you can join us on September 27<sup>th</sup> to honor State Senator Noreen Evans for all the wonderful work she has done for Native plants and the environment. Coffee and refreshments will be served during the reception. We also invite you to stay for the program after the award presentation to learn more about growing natives in your garden from the Napa Valley Chapter's Kathleen Chasey, former curator of the Martha Walker Native Habitat Garden.

The **California Native Plant Society** is a non-profit 501c3 organization whose mission is to conserve California's native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. Formed in 1965, CNPS has nearly 10,000 members and 33 chapters with expertise on native flora located across the state. The full text of Resolution ACR 173 can be accessed via the CNPS website, or by accessing the web page at the following URL: (<http://cnps.org/cnps/conservation/legislation/acr173.php>).

The **Napa Valley Chapter of CNPS** serves the Napa, St. Helena, American Canyon, and Calistoga areas of the Napa Valley region and maintains the Martha Walker Native Habitat Garden in Skyline Wilderness Park at 2201 Imola Avenue. The chapter also conducts semi-annual plant sales in the park. The Chapter's next fall plant sale takes place on October 1-2, 2011. Guests of the award presentation on September 27<sup>th</sup> will be able to preview plants in advance of the upcoming sale.