April 2-3, 2011
Sacramento’s Wildflower Weekend promises to be spectacular at its new location near the American River. For details go to www.sacvalleynps.org or phone (916) 812-2876

April 16-17, 2011
Our Stockton Area Wildflower Show is certain to be magnificent too. But we still need volunteers to help with collecting and arranging the species. Please call Marth Mallery at (209) 477-3966.
TRIPS

OWL CREEK RANCH

April 3, 2011

Chico Grunder’s near Oakdale
Weather permitting
The mountain top at the ranch is one of the largest volcanic vernal pool sites in Central California
Easy walking after carpooling to the top
Come explore the myriads of vernal pools, watch the turkey vultures ride the thermals above the Stanislaus River Canyon and explore the Native American pounding rocks in Owl Creek.

For more information phone (209) 477-3966
VERNAL (SPRING) POOLS are formed when the water from winter rains is trapped by hardpan soil. As the water evaporates in the spring, flowers grow in rings around the pools.

Winter
Invertebrates hatch as rain fills the pool. Egrets, duck, hawks, and amphibians dine on the bugs.

Spring
Tiny wildflowers bloom as the pool recedes. Invertebrates eggs settle into the mud.

Summer
The pools are dry. Eggs, cysts and seeds lie dormant until winter returns.

The Vernal Pools of Butte County

Copyright © 1994
Butte Environmental Council
116 W. 2nd Street, Suite 3
Chico, CA 95928

Illustrations
Pavia Wald
Vernal pools illustration based on graphic from the Sacramento Bee.