June General Meeting: June 18, 2019 at 7:30 PM.

Wappo spiritual leader Clint McKay will speak on the traditions in native American culture that embody the best of ways to steward our lands. His presentation will be similar to one he delivered at Pepperwood Preserve in the spring. His description of the lecture follows: “Native peoples have developed an intricate and highly sustainable relationship with the land, plants and animals of Northern California over millennia. He will delve into some of the ways Native peoples maintained a natural balance while tending the wild to create resources such as food and basketry plants. He will share the importance of native practices such as prescribed burning in both cultural and ecological contexts. He will discuss how our local tribes are working in the community to practice and sustain their customs and how we might learn from their wisdom and deep understanding of the natural world, of which we are all a part.”

General Meeting Plant Raffle
For 2019 general meetings, any member bringing a non-member to the meeting will receive an extra 5 raffle tickets! Ask when you sign in.

Join us for Dinner before the Meeting: We’ll gather for dinner at 5:45 pm at Kirin Restaurant, 2700 Yulupa Ave. We hope our speakers will join us, but we always have an enjoyable group of fellow members and a delicious Northern Chinese meal in any case. Please contact Liz Parsons at 833-2063 or lizpar8993@aol.com before noon on the day of the meeting, if you plan to attend.

General Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa. Milo Baker Chapter Board meetings start at 7 pm, 2nd Tuesday nine months of the year, Environmental Center, 55 Ridgeway Ave, Ste A, Santa Rosa. The next Board meeting is June 9th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
Chapter News

A Message from our Chapter President

Like any all-volunteer organization, our chapter’s life blood is new members and new leaders. This spring we have been fortunate to find a possible candidate for SRJC student rep position. In addition, we are hoping to start a new communications committee which will update our website and social media presence as well as publicize our events and sales. We are always looking for members who want to join in with others to tackle upcoming efforts.

Spring and all its activities are behind us and we look forward to summer field trips, propagation and potting days plus invasive weed pulling. At this time of year, I love going out to the coast where the flowers are peaking and to our valleys to see the various lilies and clarkia. The chapter has recently partnered with the Sonoma County Agriculture and Open Space District to allow field trips to select properties not open to the public. These trips have to be planned well in advance so keep your eye out for upcoming dates.

The conservation chairperson, Sean McNeil, wrote last month to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors urging them to take up in their next work plan the subject of revising the tree ordinance. The chapter also commented on possible changes to the recovery plans of two local federally listed species.

Don’t forget to put on your calendars the August picnic date, August 18 (details in next newsletter) and of course our fall plant sale, October 12. If you have any urge to plunge in and participate in any of these activities, please don’t hesitate to call me (707 481-3765) or any of the many volunteers who keep the Milo Baker Chapter flowing along.

Wendy Smit
Milo Baker Chapter President

Eco-Friendly Garden Tour

Thanks for a great Eco-Friendly Garden Tour

In a salute to Snoopy: It was a bright and sunny day. I hope you were able to visit some of the 42 gardens on the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour, in Sonoma and Marin, or at least a few of our CNPS sponsored gardens. We had 1100 visitors to our CNPS gardens. Those visitors especially appreciate our gardens because of our amazing volunteers who are there to talk about native gardening and to pique their interest in our chapter. We hope each community member was inspired to switch to natives or at least add a few to their landscapes.

The native gardens would not inspire, if not for our garden owners, who willingly shared their gardens. Jeanna Menze in Sonoma, Sarah Gordon and Liz Parsons in Kenwood, Jesse Robinson and Thomas Hare in Santa Rosa, Terry Loveton in Sebastopol, thank you for your hard work in getting your gardens ready and for your hospitality on the day of the tour. Our partners, the Laguna Environmental Center opened their lovely native garden and Education center and supported our plant sale at our shared nursery. Thanks to Chris Fontaine, Maggie Hart, Allison Titus and your Laguna volunteers for a wonderful educational experience. Kudos to you all.

Each garden owner was supported by a member of our amazing Garden Tour committee; Penny Dalton, April Owens, Wendy Born, Deb Dobish and Natasha Granoff supported our garden owners before and during the tour. Sandy Martensen kept the committee and our volunteers organized. Cindy Tancreto, Pat Sesser, Becky Montgomery, Judith Rousseau helped plan the tour and made the sale itself so successful. See separate article on the plant sale from our Spring Plant Sale Leader, Kathi Dowdakin. She alone gave 400 hours getting it organized and
making it such a success. Thanks to her and the plant sale team; Jim Piercy, Judith, Cindy, Theresa Wistrom, Pat S, Becky Montgomery, Michelle Karle, Bill Montgomery and Bryan Sesser. Virginia Holz-Steenhoven and the Outreach team, Susan Dean and Leah Davis educated folks about native gardening and CNPS in Herron Hall. Walter Earle presented his Native Plants for Sonoma County in Heron Hall. Terry led a special Wildlife Attracting Plants tour in her garden. Both were well attended and appreciated.

Visitors felt welcomed by our Garden Greeters; Patty Mohar, Sandy Martensen, Jane DeBryn, Barbara Coe, Elmarie Hutchinson, Karen Thompson, Judy Johnson, Heidi Fontacone and Heidi Stewart. Our Docents answered questions about native plant gardening; Nancy Bauer, Leia Giambastiani, Pam Horton, Betsy Livingstone, Wendy Krupnick, Marcia Johnson, Janna Mariposa, Heidi Herrman, Wendy Smit, Catherine Lipson, and Claire Etienne, along with the committee liaisons at the gardens all day.

The gardens would not have been so inviting and beautiful without the hours of weeding provided by the Weed Team, who not only helped the day of the tour but in the weeks before the tour; Penny Dalton organized visits and volunteers-hours of work; Heidi D., Sandy M, Jeanna M, Pat S, Jan Lochner, Betsy L, Heidi S, Judith R, Liz P, Cindy, Deb, Wendy B, Natasha, Louise Riedel, Marcia, Wendy K, Kathi, and Michelle K.

Last but not least, visitors would not know where to go without our Parking directors at Terry’s garden and the Laguna; Paul Fuerst, Bob Tancreto, Elmer and Cheryl Harris, Steve Smit and Jeff Loveton.

If you would like to share your garden next year or would like to join the committee, please contact me right away. Betty Young youngb0721@msn.com 595-1463.

We hope you enjoyed the day visiting gardens or volunteering. Thanks again to all of you for inspiring me and your community. It was my honor and privilege to be part of another successful tour. Betty Young, Garden Tour Chair.

Photo courtesy of Betty Young.

Betty Young
Plant Nursery Chair

Plant Sale Update

During the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour we had our first plant sale in the new Nursery. Even though quarters were rather tight, 180 enthusiastic customers bought everything from two-year-old Aristolochias to three-month-old Asclepias, netting MB $4900, before expenses. This was quite an increase over 2018’s sales of $2850.

This was also the first time we have propagated many of the plants ourselves, either from seed, cuttings, or divisions. Betty Young and the Nursery Propagation Team grew over 800 plants.

It takes a small army of volunteers to put on any Plant Sale, no matter where it is or what time of year. I would like to thank those people who helped prepare the plants for May 4 by labeling, pricing, signing, & tidying the plants, as well as preparing the site for visitors: Pat Sesser, Cindy Tancreto, Wendy Born, Pat...
Schuch, Betty Young, Marcia Johnson, Judith Rousseau, Liz Parsons, Wendy Smit, Natasha Granoff, Michelle Karle, and Penny Dalton. As the Plant Sale was in a brand-new location, directional signage needed to be created and posted - my thanks to Cindy and Judith for making that happen. MB shares the Nursery with the Laguna Foundation, adding new logistics for a sale. We hope to fine tune set-up to make the October sale go even more smoothly.

Everything that was set up had to be taken down again; all the remaining plants moved to appropriate tables; signage collected; cordoning removed - I appreciate the influx of help in striking the set, as provided by Betty Young, Bill Montgomery, Bob Tancreto, and Bryan Sesser. And thank you, Becky Montgomery, for re-filing all those picture-signs.

We are grateful for the camaraderie, support, and assistance of all the folks at the Laguna, especially Dr. Wendy Trowbridge, Brent Reed, Walter Earle, Paul Weber, Asa Voight, Maggie Hart, Allison Titus, Christine Fontaine, & Sarah Gordon -- without them there would be no Nursery in which to grow plants, let alone have a plant sale. Love you guys!

Right now, please put October 12 on your calendar as the date for the Fall Plant Sale. It will be held at the Nursery, not at the Santa Rosa Vets Hall. The hours are from 10 AM to 2 PM. Please remember, our Plant Sales provide the primary source of income for the chapter, so we appreciate all of you who made purchases at the Sale. Thank you!

Pat Sesser gets a Gold Star for her ability to sell plants. She can speak knowledgeably about any of them. It’s a gift that she’s shared with us for many years. Thank you so much, Pat! Pat Schuch and I arranged and tidied signs and plants, while Pat inspired customers. She did it so well that our four Cashiers, Cindy Tancreto, Judith Rousseau, Theresa Wistrom, and Jim Piercy, were overwhelmed by all the people trying to give them money for the first two hours. Michelle Karle could be seen moving through the crowd - helping people carry plants, answering questions, directing traffic. Since many of our regular sale volunteers were out at the gardens, either hosting or assisting with the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour, we were short of helpers at the sale. We hope to have all our volunteers there for the October 12 Plant Sale.

Raise Funds while Grocery Shopping!

eScrip is a program where merchants donate a percentage (usually 3%) of your purchase to local schools and nonprofit organizations.

To register: go to escrip.com, choose "Milo Baker-CA Native Plant Society" and complete the enrollment steps. This is an easy way to help support our chapter!
Fieldtrip Report

Fairfield Osborn Preserve
March 17, 2019

We tested our luck on this St. Patrick’s Day hike to discover the early spring bloomers at the Fairfield Osborn Preserve on Sonoma Mountain. The 450-acre Preserve is managed by Sonoma State University (SSU) for education, research, and nature preservation in support of carrying forward the conservation legacy of Fairfield Osborn, Jr. for whom the Preserve is named. It is only open to the public by docent-led tours and by special arrangement. Our group of 23 included supporters of CNPS and SSU’s Center for Environmental Inquiry. We searched the trailsides for wildflowers and other native plants of the oak woodlands and grasslands as we made our way to the top of the Preserve.

Our route headed uphill from the Education Center to the “Moving Mountain Trail,” first passing the heavily cleared area under the PG&E transmission lines that traverse this property. The area was cleared to reduce hazard of fire from electrical lines (the Preserve was not burned in the October 2017 wildfires). We spotted a mission bell/checker lily (Fritillaria affinis).

From there the trail narrowed as we entered the mixed evergreen forest with an overstory of Oregon white oak (Quercus garryana), black oak (Quercus kelloggii), coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia), California bay laurel (Umbellularia californica), Pacific madrone (Arbutus menziesii), and a scattering of Douglas fir (Pseudotsuga menzezzii). Milkmaids (Cardamine californica) and hound’s tongue (Cynoglossum grande) were some of our most common wildflowers in the woodlands. Poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum) was ubiquitous in the woodlands and just leafing out.

We encountered the Ephemeral Pond, a rain-filled depression that was amply covered by Lobb's aquatic buttercup (Ranunculus lobbii), a CNPS List 4.2 species (“watch list”). Continuing on, we ascended the undulating trail and encountered a small patch of white nemophila/white baby blue eyes (Nemophila heterophylla). Soaproot (Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. p.) was in its leafy stage and quite abundant everywhere.

At Kelly Pond, a former livestock pond, we extolled the pros and cons of the mosquito fern (Azolla filiculoides), the world’s smallest fern, that was covering some of the pond’s surface. After a short uphill walk from there we reached the highest point on the Preserve at 2,300 feet in elevation, which is close to the summit of Sonoma Mountain, which itself lies outside the Preserve. There, we had our lunch with views of Mt. Saint Helena, Cobb Mountain, Hood Mountain, Santa Rosa and other towns, west to the hills of west Sonoma County stretching to the Pacific Ocean, and south to Mt. Tamalpais.

We descended via the Madrone Trail where Ruthie Saia-Braziel showed a coast live oak that was exhibiting various symptoms of sudden oak death (Phytophthora ramorum), a tree pathogen that is prevalent within the Preserve and well beyond. Further down, we identified a handful of fern species including...
California polyploidy (*Polypodium californicum*), maidenhair fern (*Adiantum jordanii*), goldback fern (*Pentagramma triangularis*), and wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*).

We found a few shooting stars (*Primula hendersonii*) almost in bloom. Many plant species were not yet in bloom on the Preserve, but it made for a fun challenge (forensic botany of sorts) to hone in on other characteristics that could assist in their identification. One big miss was shamrocks, but we lucked out with a fine outing nonetheless.

Thanks to Fieldtrip Chair Ruthie Saia-Braziel and Kerry Wininger (CNPS and SSU CEI) for making this all come together!

Kate Symonds  
Hike Leader

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**Fieldtrip Report**

**Stump Beach Fieldtrip Report**  
April 29, 2019

Fair skies and a bit of a breeze greeted our 15 hikers as we assembled in the Stump Beach parking lot to hand out plant lists, and give the name of our favorite flower of the day (the winner - Pussy ears, *Calochortus tolmiei*). Before venturing out, we noted that the native Bishop pine (*Pinus muricata*) forest that surrounds the parking lot and extends through much of the lowest coastal terrace of Salt Point State Park, is aging, and becoming senescent due to lack of fire. Bishop pine is one of California’s “fire pines,” which depend on fire to reproduce. The cones remain on the trees and closed, containing live seed, until a fire comes through. Post-fire, the cones open, depositing years of accumulated seed on the now-bare soil, enriched by ash. Without fire these trees eventually die, as is happening within Salt Point SP, creating a dense understory of fallen branches and trunks.

The first short stretch of our hike yielded a variety of interesting plants in bloom: the ericaceous shrubs western huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*) and salal (*Gaultheria shallon*); footsteps-of-spring (*Sanicula arctopoides*); glory mat - a blue-flowered, CNPS-listed shrub (*Ceanothus gloriosus*); and a “forest” of western dog violet (*Viola adunca*), the food plant for caterpillars of the endangered butterfly, Myrtle’s silverspot - a California endemic. Also, beside the path were a few stunted individuals of grand fir (*Abies grandis*), a conifer that ranges from British Columbia to widely scattered trees in Sonoma County, reaching its known southern limit in the lower Willow Creek watershed.

Photo courtesy of Wendy Smit.
Down the hill, near the Miller Creek crossing, we saw one of our native plantains – a semi-succulent herb called goose-tongues (check out the leaves) (*Plantago maritima*), which was clinging to the rocky open cliffs, along with many happily un-poached live-forevers (*Dudleya lanceolata*). Creeping over the wet sand was silvermat (*Potentilla anserina*), with its bright yellow flowers and silver-backed leaves. A rocky cliff surprise was seaside alumroot (*Heuchera pilosissima*), a California endemic that hugs the coast from Mendocino Co to Santa Barbara Co.

After fording the creek in one’s chosen manner, we huffed up the short hill to the coastal bluffs, which did not disappoint, botanically. The most exuberant bloom of Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*) I’d seen at this location, fields of the tiny pink version of butter n’ eggs (*Tripodias eriantha ssp. rosea*), scattered pussy-ears, clumps of low-growing checker mallow (*Sidalcea malviflora*, some fitting the characteristics of CNPS-listed var. *purpurea*), the earliest blooms of the multi-colored lupine (*Lupinus varicolor*), big patches of goldfields (*Lasthenia gracilis*), the pink pom-poms of thrift, or sea pink (*Armeria maritima*), and of course, California poppies – the coastal version with petals golden at the base, yellow toward the tips. And others! Another treat was an amazing orange, red, black and white “woolly bear” caterpillar that Darlene determined was the larva of the garden tiger moth (*Arctia caja*).

We lunched on the edge of the bluffs, gazing at the crashing surf and the honeycombed sandstone known as tafoni, a formation that occurs all over the world, in different rock types, as a result of salt weathering. Salt Point’s formations are pictured in several on-line accounts of tafoni. Following the bluff edge after lunch, we came upon a pair of black oystercatchers “getting cozy,” as Kathi remarked. At a small stream we found a stand of the lovely yellow-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium californicum*), with its feet in water, as it likes to grow. Parts of the slow-moving stream were covered with the world’s smallest flowering plant – duckweed, likely a *Lemna* species.

Fieldtrippers, courtesy of Ruthie Saia.

After photos and much admiration, we circled back, passing beneath a rock outcrop with scattered individuals of the CNPS-listed coastal bluff morning-glory (*Calystegia purpurata ssp. saxicola*), and what I think was the world’s largest hill lotus (*Acmispon brachycarpus* [=*Lotus humistratus*]), with the stems of this typically diminutive annual spreading two feet wide. These things happen in a good rainfall year!

♀ Ann Howald

Castilleja wightii, Wendy Smit.
Invasive Plant Committee

Weekly Ice Plant Removal
Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 PM
Doran Beach

One of the most pleasant workdays happens every week – a trip to Doran Beach to pull ice plant. We are clearing out the ice plant that is in the marshland to make room for natives. It is very visual and quite satisfying, with the sound of the waves, birds and foghorn. To join us on a Wednesday, Please text Jan to let her know that you are coming: 707-569-4724.

Meet at Penny’s 1201 Garden Lane, in Sebastopol, by 9:00 to carpool OR meet at first parking lot on left after kiosk across from the walking path.

Jan Lochner,
Invasive Plants Chair

Events

Point Reyes National Seashore
June 13, 2019  9:00-4:30 PM
Rare Plant Monitoring for Sonoma Spine Flower with Lorraine Parsons

Point Reyes National Seashore is seeking volunteers willing to participate in its annual monitoring of the only extant population of Sonoma spineflower (Chorizanthe valida). This species was believed to be extinct until the 1980s, when the CNPS-Marin Chapter happened to find it within one of the leased ranches in the Seashore. For the last 15 years, the Seashore has been monitoring this population. This data not only helps the Seashore and USFWS track the status of the species and progress toward recovery; it helps the Seashore determine what adaptive management measures might be necessary to ensure this population’s continued survival.

Each year, the Seashore and a number of agency and public volunteers count the number of spineflower individuals along multiple line transects (or meter tapes) within the so-called "wild" population. This involves a lot of bending and kneeling, as the plants are tiny (but very cute!), and there is another spineflower species present, as well. Those interested in assisting will be trained in how to count the plants and how to differentiate the Sonoma spineflower from the non-federally-listed spineflower species. We often have a separate set of people act as data recorders.

We will meet at 9 a.m. at Bear Valley headquarters at the Seashore and then carpool from there to the ranch site. It is a short walk from the car parking area to the spineflower site. We should note that there will not be time for independent botanizing, except during the lunchtime. Sorry! People should bring lunches, lots of water, sun lotion, and layers in case it's gets cold and windy.

The address is 1 Bear Valley Road, located just outside of Olema. (But mailing address is Point Reyes Station). From Sonoma County, the fastest approach in the morning would probably be D Street in Petaluma to Point Reyes-Petaluma Road. Past Nicasio, go straight at the Purple (or multicolored) bridge to Platform Bridge Road. Take a right on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. When that dead-ends into Highway 1, make a right on Highway 1. You
will make the very next left onto Bear Valley Road. (You will see a Red Barn at the corner). Make an immediate right into the parking area. Park in the grassy area on the left, and then walk across the bridge. Walk on the paved road and make the first right after an open grass area with a house on the right. Pass garages on right to some buildings with a picnic table. We will meet there.

PLEASE RSVP!!! RSVP is to email, Lorraine Parsons, Lorraine_Parsons@nps.gov. Otherwise, messages can be left at (415)464-5193. Please make sure to give me your cell number so I can contact you if there is a change in plans.

♀ Lorraine Parsons
Vegetation/Wetland Ecologist
Point Reyes National Seashore

**Forest Ecotherapy at Fairfield Osborn Preserve**
June 15 and October 27, 2019
10:00 to 3:00 PM
With Treegirl

Rewild with TreeGirl as she leads you on a gentle multi-sensory forest walk, sit and rest, introducing you to the California Bay, Oak, and Big Leaf Maple trees as ecological and energetic beings with their own gifts to give and wisdom to share. We will enter the forest in a mindful way and learn to develop our skills of sensory awareness and interspecies listening. Bring your intentions for leaving behind what you don't need for the day and reconnecting with wild nature. Each walk we will focus on the seasonal gifts the forest has to offer.

Attendance limit: 10; Rsvp required to ruthiegardengirl@gmail.com. Bring a sun hat, water, sunscreen, lunch and hiking shoes. Sorry, no dogs.

We’ll meet 10 AM in the parking lot at Fairfield Osborn Preserve, 6543 Lichau Road, Penngrove. **Carpooling is strongly encouraged as the parking lot is small.** West county carpool leaves 9:15 from Sebastopol Luckys parking lot.

TreeGirl (aka Julianne Skai Arbor)--award-winning photographer and author of *TreeGirl: Intimate Encounters with Wild Nature*, is a certified ISA arborist and California naturalist, forest and ecotherapist. Her unique modality called Forest Ecotherapy weaves together forest sensory skills, forest ecology, arboriculture, nature interpretation, inter-species listening, ecopsychology and over 23 years in experiential environmental education along with her own direct sensory contact and intimate connection with over 100 species of trees all over the world. She leads individuals and groups in Forest Ecotherapy sessions as well as mentoring and training facilitators.


**Upcoming Events**
6/13 Point Reyes/ Lorraine Parsons
6/15 Fairfield Osborn Preserve/Treegirl
7/13 Kenwood Marsh/ Kate Simonds
7/15-18 Camping at Stillwater Cove
8/17 Fairfield Osborn Preserve/Ruthie Saia
9/19 Fairfield Osborn Preserve/ Kerry Wininger
10/5 SRJC Landscapes/April Owens
10/27 Fairfield Osborn Preserve/ Treegirl
Newsletter & Web Site Info:
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the July/August Newsletter is June 15th.
The chapter website milobaker.cnps.org contains a wealth of information plus current and archived newsletters.
For newsletter mailing/membership issues, contact: cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com

We invite you to join CNPS

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□ Milo Baker (Sonoma County)
□ Other county ______________________
Membership category:
□ Student or Limited Income………………. $25
□ Individual……………………………………$45
□ Family, Group or Library………………….$75
□ Plant Lover………………………………..$100
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