General Meeting: October 17, 2017 at 7:30PM
Wildscaping for Songbirds with Veronica Bowers

Abstract: Your garden is your outdoor sanctuary. With some careful plant choices, it can be a haven for native birds as well. Landscaped with native species, your yard, patio, or balcony becomes a vital recharge station for migratory birds passing through and a sanctuary for nesting and overwintering birds.

Each patch of restored native habitat is just that – a patch in the frayed fabric of the ecosystem in which it lies. By landscaping, or wildscaping, with native plants, we can turn a patchwork of green spaces into a quilt of restored habitat. More native plants mean more choices of food and shelter for native birds, native pollinators and other wildlife.

Wildscaping for Songbirds will demonstrate the importance of restoring our communities, one garden patch at a time. From a birds-eye view, learn how to create wildlife-friendly gardens that help combat the loss of open spaces and create green corridors that link your wildscape to larger natural areas by providing habitat for wildlife.

Join us for Dinner before the September Meeting: We'll gather for dinner at 6 pm at Kirin Restaurant, 2700 Yulupa Ave. We hope our speaker 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 by October 15th, if you plan to attend.
Chapter News

The quarterly meeting of the CNPS Chapter Council was held at the Kenwood Depot on September 9. The members of the Milo Baker Chapter served the 45 attendees a wonderful breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Our volunteers worked very well together and everything went smoothly. Thanks to Sarah Gordon, Sandy Martenson, Penny Dalton, Cindy Tancreto, Patty Mohar, Betty Young, Leia Giambastiani, April Owens, Wendy Krupnik, Sean McNeil, and Wendy and Steve Smit. Wendy Krupnik coordinated the dinner and was invaluable in planning the food that we served. Cindy Tancreto helped shop at Costco and we used her truck to transport the sample nursery bench that we will use in our nursery for the group to see. The sample bench was built by Ralph Johnson. Wendy and Steve Smit donated wine and worked very hard serving and cleaning up.

Betty Young presented a talk on our greenhouse project and the problem of phytphthera-free plants that all state chapters are facing. Sean O’Neil gave a presentation on the vegetation map of Sonoma County that the Open Space District recently completed.

All in all the Milo Baker Chapter performed well in all respects. The field trips to the Sonoma Valley Regional Park (led by Liz Parsons), Sugarloaf Ridge State Park (led by Betty Young), and Jack London State Park (led by docent John Lynch) were enjoyed by the participants. The after dinner speaker was Richard Dale the Executive Director of the Sonoma Ecology Center. We succeeded in introducing the Chapter Council reps from all over the state to the Kenwood area and the upper Sonoma Valley which is where Milo Baker lived on Adobe Canyon Road for over 50 years.

General Meeting Continued

Speaker Biography

Veronica Bowers is the director and founder of Native Songbird Care and Conservation (NSCC). Located in Sebastopol, California, NSCC is a state and federally permitted wildlife rehabilitation facility devoted exclusively to the care of native passerines. With support of a small team of 12 amazing volunteers, Native Songbird Care & Conservation cares for approximately 1,000 songbirds each year.

Veronica has a passion for songbirds and has been working exclusively with this diverse and challenging group of wildlife since 1999. Veronica became an accidental gardener nearly 18 years ago when she began learning about the vital connection between our native plants and native songbirds. Since then she has fallen in love with native plants and has created the Songbird Sanctuary Habitat Gardens on the grounds of Native Songbird Care & Conservation. The gardens include 1.5 acres of songbird habitat comprised mostly of native plants and support over 70 species of songbirds throughout the year.

You see the plants blooming but the names are unclear? No need to fret, Plant I.D. Hour is here!

Arrive at 6:45 pm before the General Meeting, and bring specimens of plants you want to identify. At Plant I.D. Hour you can see plants up close and key them to species, while getting to know fellow Milo Baker Chapter members. Plants that you key out or learn with friends are easily remembered! Bring in some mystery plants to challenge us.
Education and Outreach News

Our September 9th exhibit table at the Sonoma Nature and Optics Fair was well received and provided good exposure for our Milo Baker Chapter. We focused on landscaping with California natives with before and after photos of a garden, references applicable to the subject, plant specimens including our own native grapes to taste and flyers about the upcoming October 14th Plant Sale. Thanks to our intrepid volunteers, Caprice Lee, Susan Dean (and her husband), Lea Davis, Patty J Mohar and Kerry Winninger we had help for set up, take down and people to answer questions and encourage plant lovers. We also made some good contacts, including a graphics artist who is interested in volunteering her skills at some point.

Our October 28th North Bay Science Discovery Day plans are taking shape thanks to the Education and Outreach Committee with the addition of botanical illustrator, Vi Strain, who is willing to allow us to use some prints of her seed/plant illustrations and is helping gather specimens for our use.

Our 3rd through 8th grade science students question is "How do Seeds Get to Where They're Going to Grow?" and we're using not only photos and drawings, but actual examples of the various seeds/pods/cones that visitors will be able to touch, handle, and experiment with. We'll be incorporating velcro, animal skins with fur and a mini wind tunnel to illustrate how some seeds travel by air.

We will be happy to accept any donations of interesting seeds, cones and pods you might find in your gardens or on hikes. We can also use extra glass pie plates to show off the materials (and corral them in place at the same time).

Materials the Education and Outreach Committee can use include:

- **Buckeye**: fruits, both with skin on and off, and a few buckeye leaves
- **Conifer** cones with at least some seeds, samara attached (wing) and needles. Pinus sabiniana would be ideal
- **Dandelions**: heads with fluff and seeds or any composite flower head going to seed, sunflowers included.
- **Big Leaf Maple**: both seeds and leaves
- **Box Elder**: Acer negundo var. californicum
- a specimen of the huge *Coco De Mer* coconut (the largest in the world) from the Seychelles.
- **Bay Nuts**: some in their skins with a few leaves, ripe or not
- **Cow parsnip**: umbels with seeds
- **Devil's Claw**: pods and seed
- **Pipevine**: pods and seeds
- **Redwood**: cones and needles
- **Native grass** heads and seeds (fixed with plastic or hair spray)
- **Milkweed pods**: fluff and seeds

While we're focusing on California natives we'll accept donations of any interesting seeds, pods, cones. You can use hair spray or plastic spray fixative to hold the pod/husk, flower in shape. Store the materials in paper bags to prevent mold, etc.

You can contact Virginia or Lea about how to deliver the materials at (707) 528-6030vstehoven@sonic.net or legil42@sbcglobal.net

Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven
Plant Sale News

Our annual plant sale will be held on October 14th at the Santa Rosa Veterans Building. Please help spread the word! Place our flier on a bulletin board in your neighborhood or tell a friend!

I have posted a partial plant list on the web-site www.milobaker.cnps.org. Check it out. The September newsletter also contained information about the plants that we will have available at the sale.

We are usually short on boxes so please go to your local market and collect beer flats and other small boxes for our customers to use. Many of our customers bring their own but we need to provide for those who do not.

The big news is that once again, we are going to be able to accept debit and credit cards! The Native Plant Society office in Sacramento has made the arrangements for this service.

Perennial plants that we are growing: reliable Penstemon heterophyllus ‘Margarita BOP’ with beautiful blue flowers; Heuchera maxima (Island alumroot) has a low growing cluster of evergreen foliage with a stalk (2 ft.) of white flower in the spring; Monardella villosa ‘Russian River’ a low growing sub-shrub (12” to 20”). Epilobium canum, CA Fuchsia, will be blooming and there will be 7 varieties available.

There will be buckwheats - Eriogonum fasciculatum ‘Warriner Lytle’ and E. grande var. rubescens. The grasses available will be Festuca idahoensis ‘Patrick Point’ and Muhlenbergia rigens (basket grass). An interesting perennial that we have not had for some years is the Lewisia cotyledon. A low growing rosette of leaves produces a cluster of pinkish flowers in the spring. Lewisias are very interesting in containers.

Ferns that we will have include the evergreen maidenhair fern Adiantum x tracyi a rare cross between A. jordanii and A. aleuticum. Also deer fern, Blechnum spicant. And there will be many of the giant chair fern, Woodwardia fimbriata.

Other plants will be selected at Cal Flora in Fulton, we thank them for supporting our sale. There will be wonderful CA native bulbs from Brent and Becky’s again this year, but no Calochortus. We have also been increasing the number of seeds that will be offered. So check out the seed and bulb table at the sale you might be surprised.

Look carefully at the selection of books, there is always some new book that you must add to your collection.

If you are growing plants for the sale please bring them to any of the following collection centers on the weekend before the sale to our Plant Collection Centers:

1. Mary Aldrich, 4775 Newanga, Santa Rosa , 539-9005
2. Cal Flora Nursery, D and Sommers, Fulton, 528-8813

Friday night, October 13, we will need truckers to transport plants from the collection centers to the Vet’s Memorial Building. Call Liz (833-2063) if you have a truck and can help.

If you helped at our sale last year, Judy Hartwig (832-1821) has probably already called you! She is most efficient and already has all of the cashiers that we will need. Thanks you to the fabulous volunteers who return year after year to help with our sale.

This is our most important funds raiser, so please come and buy plants. You can create a beautiful native landscape to enhance to beauty of your home. There will be expert gardeners on hand to help you make the right selections.

Liz Parsons
Nursery News

We are moving forward with the nursery construction in partnership with the Laguna Foundation. We have had a delay due to building permit requirements; for fire truck access and disability accessibility. But we are moving forward.

Chapter member, Ralph Johnson has been a huge help with thinking through and documenting all the construction details. He even built one bench as a prototype.

The other 35 benches are scheduled to be built by Eagle Scouts, thanks to Art Slater’s connection with the Troup.

Leveling of the site happened Monday September 11. I am hoping we will get our building permits and start trenching and pouring footings in November.

Then we will be contacting those of you who have volunteered to help; to lay landscape fabric, spread drain rock and more landscape fabric, put together the shadehouse structure, kind of like a big erector set. Then help install irrigation lines, put up the awning over the work area, put together shelving for clean pots, and help build the soil bin with concrete blocks.

Betty Young

You can help the Milo Baker Chapter raise funds by shopping at local stores!

Our Milo Baker Chapter is now a part of the eScrip program! eScrip is a program where merchants donate a percentage (usually 3%) of your purchase to local schools and non profit organizations. You can shop at the local stores listed below, and the stores donate a percentage to the Milo Baker Chapter. For this to be successful for our chapter we need member support. All you have to do is register and shop. It doesn’t cost you anything additional. 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!
Events

San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge
Thursday, October 5, 2017 9:30-12:30

Join us for a field trip to San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. We will be checking out a newly restored salt marsh to upland area where Sonoma Creek winds into the bay. Led by Leia Giambastiani, Project Manager with Point Blue Conservation Science and Meg Marriott, Refuge Biologist for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service the trip will cover the history of the area, the current efforts of restoration as well as a peek at salt marsh plants and newly colonizing plants both restored and natural regeneration.

The walk will be 3/4 of a mile on fairly flat terrain however there is uneven ground and vegetation on the path so be sure to wear sturdy shoes a hat and jacket. Bring water and snacks as desired.

Where to meet: 9:30am Point Blue Conservation Science Headquarters 3820 Cypress Dr Suite 11, Petaluma, CA 94954. We will caravan/carpool to the site. There are no bathrooms on the walk so please utilize Point Blue’s restrooms before leaving.

For questions contact Leia Giambastiani lgiambastiani@pointblue.org 707-322-6722

Shollenberger/Ellis Creek Marsh, Petaluma
Saturday October 21, 2017 10:15 a.m.

Fall is a good time to check out the different habitats in and around the marsh; brackish ponds, fresh water marsh, tidal marsh, and riparian. We’ll see the treatment ponds where tertiary (drinkable) treated water travels from the treatment plant before draining into the Petaluma River. We compare that area with the natural marshes adjacent. Learn your tidal marsh plants—it’s not just pickleweed.

We may also see migrating or overwintering birds like: Blue-winged Teal, American Golden Plover, Clay colored sparrow, Great-tailed Grackle and more. Bring your binoculars, hat, water, and lunch.

Where to meet: 10:15am Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility Parking lot, 3882 Cypress Dr, Petaluma or Carpool at 9:30 from Hwy 12 Park & Ride (between Vet’s Hall and Fairgrounds), east end.

For questions contact Betty Young youngb0721@msn.com 595-1463
Events continued

Plant Sale Seed Packaging Workshop

The plant sale seed packaging workshop will be on Tuesday, October 3 at Liz Parsons' house at 5 PM or later. If you have collected seeds bring them or call Liz (833-2063) for pick up. There will be pizza. If you would like to bring a salad or dessert to serve please do.

Plant Sale Labeling & Pricing Work Days

Anyone who has some free time during the day on Monday October 9 at the Laguna Foundation, Tuesday October 10 (at Kathi Dowdakin’s in Sebastopol), Wednesday October 11 (Cal Flora), or Thursday, October 12 (Santa Rosa, Mary Aldrich’s) please call Liz at 833-2063. These vital tasks go faster if we have a lot of help.

Weeding Work Day at Doran Beach

Please join us for an official workday on Wednesday October 11th from 9 to noon. You can also join us any Wednesday by just letting Penny know you are going and you can carpool from her house off Mill Station or meet us at the beach.

Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Releve Workshop

The Statewide California Native Plant Society and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are holding a workshop that combines lecture and field exercises in vegetation sampling with a focus on collecting fine-scale vegetation samplings, classification and mapping, how to document rare natural communities and how vegetation information fits into planning documents. October 3-5 at the UC Bodega Marine Lab. Registration required. More info at www.cnps.org/workshops.

Scholarship Announcement

The Milo Baker Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (Milo Baker) is looking to support students who are interested in learning about native plants or are engaged in study and/or research relating to native plant conservation, restoration, or other native plant studies.

Milo Baker provides two types of scholarships; for educational or research-related expenses. Awards are open to students of Sonoma State University or Santa Rosa Junior College. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate a focus on Sonoma County flora or issues affecting plant communities of Sonoma County.

Deadline: Applications for the Fall semester award must be received by October 15th, 2017.

Send all applications via email to the Scholarship Committee at cnpsmilobakerscholarship@gmail.com

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Pitkin lily

Newsletter & Web Site Info:
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the November Newsletter is October 15.
The chapter web site milobaker.cnps.org contains a wealth of information plus current and archived newsletters.
For newsletter mailing/membership issues, contact: cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com