Milo Baker Chapter
California Native Plant Society

General Meeting

Deborah Rogers - The Challenge of Managing Genetic Diversity in a Conservation Context
April 16, 2013 7:30 pm

Abstract: The management practices for parks, open spaces, and preserved lands are directed by the management objectives. Even when the primary objective is protection and conservation of native species and ecological processes, it is challenging to maintain the components that comprise a natural system. Genetic diversity is one of those management challenges - cryptic, always changing, and often only signaling a problem when it has reached a critical point. This presentation will revisit the value and principles of maintaining (plant) genetic diversity within the context of rapid climate change. Examples of the challenges, and reasonable responses, will be drawn from management of national parks, restoration projects, and endangered species management.

Speaker Biography: Deborah Rogers is Director of Conservation Science and Stewardship for the Center for Natural Lands Management, a nonprofit organization in California and Washington that focuses on perpetual stewardship of rare and endangered species and their habitats. She founded and directed the Monterey Pine Forest Ecology Cooperative, a nonpolitical forum for transferring scientific information to management and regulation of coastal California forest ecosystems, is an Associate Editor of the Native Plants Journal and is an Associate within the Agricultural Experiment Station of the Department of Plant Sciences at UC Davis.

Plant ID Hour
You see the plants blooming but the names are unclear? No need to fret, Plant I.D. Hour is here! Arrive at 6:45 p.m. 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.

Join us for Dinner before the 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, 833-2063, or LizPar8993@aol.com by April 15, if you plan to attend.

General Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa.
Milo Baker Chapter Board meetings start at 7:00pm, 2nd Tuesday nine months of the year, Environmental Center, 55 Ridgeway Avenue, Suite A, Santa Rosa. The next Board meeting is April 9th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
President’s Report

Put that Passion to Action
Are you really interested in native plants? Are you excited to learn more? Yes? The Milo Baker Chapter has found a good place to put that passionate energy. The Milo Baker Chapter is looking for new board members to join our team. No experience is necessary, we will train you! I can't say this enough. Some key positions that we need filled are a Program Chair to coordinate speakers for our general meetings and a secretary to take notes and create an agenda for our board meeting. At the moment many of our board members are juggling more than one board position which makes it difficult to accomplish all of the necessary tasks. If you are interested please email, call or come to our next board meeting.

On a personal note I have found the Milo Baker Board to be a fun group of people who are dedicated and passionate about native plants and I am so proud to serve on the board with these fantastic human beings.

I hope you consider joining us!

Leia Giambastiani

Dryopteris arguta (wood fern), Adiantum jordani (northern maidenhair), Polypodium californicum (polypody fern), Salvia ‘Bee’s Bliss’, Salvia spathacea (hummingbird sage), Epilobium canum (Zauschneria ‘Chaparral Silver’ and Zauschneria ‘Liz’s Choice), Dicentra formosa (bleeding heart), Asarum caudatum (wild ginger), Solidago californicum (goldenrod), Heteromeles arbutifolia (Toyon), and Aquilegia formosa (Columbine).

Thank you to Kathi Dowdakin, Pat Sesser, Cindy Tancreto, Penny Dalton, Lea Davis, Lynn Colborn, Sisan Nuermberg, Elmarie Hutchinson, Alan Brubaker, and Patty Mohar.

This was our second plant sale workshop. The third workshop will be at 10 am on Sunday, May 19 at Cal Flora Nursery in Fulton. At this workshop we will pot up liners of CA native shrubs and perennials. The liners will be provided by Shooting Star Wholesale Nursery in Graton.

For more information call Liz at 833-2063.

Liz Parsons

Gardening with Natives

Drought-Tolerant Gardening
Good soil preparation and grouping plants with similar requirements together are important in establishing native perennials. Another consideration is the availability and location of watering outlets.

Some perennials resent overhead watering. A further drawback of watering an entire area is that weed seeds sprout in the moist soil, which increases your maintenance chores. Targeting individual plants with drip irrigation solves this problem. An irrigation system that has watering outlets every 12" or so is easy to install, and if the area is heavily mulched, weed growth can be controlled.

On Sunday March 10, eleven members divided and potted up 102 plants in less than 2 hours. The plants that will be available at the plant sale in October are:

Plant Sale News

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Liz Parsons
Even though a plant is termed "drought-resistant" or "tolerant", many look better with some summer watering, perhaps as seldom as every four to six weeks. Unless you plan on letting your natives go completely dormant during the hot summer, make certain you can deliver water to them with relative ease. Deep watering during the first summer is important, however.

An intriguing selection of drought-resistant, native perennials is available to West Coast gardeners. Integrating them into a hardscaping scheme will ultimately accomplish a xeric, or non-thirsty, landscape, and coincidentally, one that is relatively carefree and easy to maintain. Hardscaping is the decks, paths, patios, steps, dry creek beds, etc. that are not watered and that invite us outside to enjoy the garden.

You can choose from trees, shrubs, vines, bulbs, ground covers, and perennials of all sizes. Many are attractive as cover and food supply for wildlife. Most put on a display of flowers once a year, sometimes more often. All will contentedly thrive and flourish in our wet-dry, Mediterranean climate.

Not all natives are drought-resistant...and not all drought-resistants are natives! Many, such as rosemary, catnip, lavenders, rock roses, butterfly bush, grevilleas, etc., aren't natives, although they may have a place in our xeriscape landscaping, depending on whether you are a purist about having natives. I know of several gardens that are completely native and are intriguing and beautiful. Many gardeners prefer a mix of natives and Mediterranean drought tolerant plants, or creating a mix as wildlife habitat. Nancy Bauer's wonderful book entitled “The California Wildlife Habitat Garden: How to Attract Bees, Butterflies, Birds, and Other Animals” explains how to do wildlife habitat gardening with mostly natives.

Judy Brinkerhoff
jooodbrink@comcast.net

Invasives Corner

Habitat Gardening: Getting Hipper

Recently becoming 73 years old, I decided it was time for me to look for a less hazardous place to live. I've lived in the same place for almost 25 years, having roosted when I thought I could make a living as an artist and live the romantic rural lifestyle. Hah! Spare The Air Days left me freezing. The dream was different now. I bought myself one of those mobile homes in a park reserved for smiling AARP cover people and walkers. It's a considerable improvement in lifestyle, but I've got a yard – two of them carpeted with homogenized rocks. Phoebe, the woman who was leaving loved the birds around the place and hoped I would not cut back the giant cloud of honeysuckle covering the shed where the birds like to jeer at one another (the level of sarcasm can be unbelievable)! But it had to go, the shed roof was buckling under the weight. I promised Phoebe I would install a habitat garden when we finished fixing the roof, the foundation and the plumbing. Then I went looking for websites on the subject, hoping I could also find some bad plants advocated to criticize in this newsletter. And of course I found some!

Urban Bee Gardens: Pride of Madeira – well at least they are urban

Sonoma County Master Gardeners: Buddleias (Butterfly Bush) Master Gardeners has come a long way from when I used to see them at the Sonoma County Fair handing out flyers suggesting all manner of bad, bad plants. Many
people are not aware that all Buddleias aren't good citizens. We have two hybrids that are better behaved, but not the pure *B. davidii*. Buddleias “Miss Ruby” and “Blue chip” are very reluctant seeders. 

**Garden for Wildlife, Create a Habitat:** fennel, but only one baddy mentioned among many good plants. Several years ago habitat gardening advocates were often oblivious to the invasiveness of plants they advised for wildlife. If the birds ate from it, it must be OK. Yeah - ok for the birds to poop cotoneaster seeds all over creation. But in looking for trouble today, it was hard to find even these little blemishes. Natives are becoming the gardening rage, urban or not. Hooray! Of course the bad news is that our wildlands show no signs of an invasive plants retreat. Our natives have been abandoned by government cutbacks to eradication projects, and new invasives arrive every day from all over the planet. You probably knew that.

AML Carle

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**Events and Items of Interest**

**California Native Plant Week**

**April 14-21, 2013**

California Native Plant Week (CNPW) is a week dedicated to the appreciation, education, and conservation of California’s fabulous flora. The CNPW legislation (ACR 173) was sponsored by CNPS, and introduced by Senator Noreen Evens during the 2010 legislative session to help protect California’s native plant heritage and preserve it for future generations by raising awareness about our state’s rich botanical diversity. California Native Plant Society promotes CNPW through native plant sales, wildflower shows, gardening workshops, lectures, hikes and many more events. CNPW events like these allow all California residents to take an active role in preserving the majesty of California’s native flora.

Visit [cnpweek.org](http://cnpweek.org) for more information and a calendar of CNPW events.

**April 15-17, 2013**

**Vernal Pool Plant Taxonomy**

Carol Witham and Jennifer Buck-Diaz
UC Davis and vernal pools at Jepson Prairie, Tule Ranch, Valensin Ranch, Rancho Seco, and Howard Ranch (Solano, Sacramento, and Yolo Counties)

This three-day course is a combination of laboratory and field studies of the taxonomy of vernal pool plants with a focus on difficult genera. The first day will take place in the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity where we will cover the characteristics of several difficult genera in the lab. The following two days we will visit hard pan and clay pan vernal pools with many rare and common vernal pool species. Participants should become more efficient and effective at vernal pool vegetation assessments, floristic surveys and rare plant surveys as a result of taking this course. For any questions about this or other workshops, call (916) 447-2677 ext 205 or email jcrawford@cnps.org

**Celebrate Spring at Pepperwood’s Annual Wildflower Festival**

**April 21, 2013 Sunday 9am to 4pm**

This year’s Festival will include an array of activities for the whole family. Participants will have the opportunity to take a van tour, go on guided wildflower...
walks, or enjoy hiking the preserve at their own pace on a self-guided interpretive trail. The new Dwight Center for Conservation science will feature lectures about our region’s diverse array of flora and fauna, a wildflower display, fun hands on activities for kids, an art exhibit featuring the spectacular work of botanical artist Pamela Glasscock, and much more! The Milo Baker chapter will have plants and books for sale, and will be leading tours as well. Come join the fun! Please carpool as parking is limited. Directions and more details at http://www.pepperwoodpreserve.org.

California’s diverse flora is generally attributed to its correspondingly complex array of climatic, topographical, and geological influences. At a finer spatial scale, local ecological heterogeneity can provide uncommon or unique niches and refugia for rare and endemic flora, the preservation and maintenance of which are at the heart of numerous local and regional conservation efforts throughout the world. In Sonoma County, straddling the juxtaposition of marine and interior climates, the 3200-acre Pepperwood Preserve cradles a microcosm of North Coast Range topography and plant life—canyons, slopes, and rocky turrets splashed across a melange of geological substrates and soils that support grasslands, chaparral, woodlands, forests, and wetlands, including habitats significant to a number of rare and locally endemic plants, including Napa false indigo, Jepson’s leptosiphon, oval-leaved viburnum, and redwood lily.

In this field course, we’ll explore the Preserve’s botanical diversity and challenge ourselves to accommodate a more holistic ecological perspective—incorporating what we know with what we don’t—on the evolutionary history, the “anthropocene” present, and the future of the native flora. We’ll discuss monitoring and management efforts at Pepperwood, and consider just what humans can or should do in terms of species and ecological conservation, sharing our individual and collective thoughts about the conservation implications for wild landscapes at the urban edge. Workshop fee $360/$400 includes lodging and meals from Friday evening through Sunday lunch. For more information or to register contact the Jepson Herbarium at (510) 643-7008 or jepsonworkshops@berkeley.edu

April 26-27 Friday-Saturday 9am to 4pm Graton Community Club Flower Show
The Graton Community Club is holding its spring flower show at the historic clubhouse at 8996 Graton Road in downtown Graton. The show will feature floral exhibits and displays that are based on the theme “From the Redwoods to the Sea.”, and is free to the public. Gardeners will have the chance to purchase home grown vegetable starts, California native plants, perennials, many other plants that grow in Sonoma County, and much more.

May 3-5, 2013 Friday-Sunday Liberating the Wild: An Exploration of Botanical Niches and the Implications for Urban-Wildlands Conservation
Steve Barnhart and Peter Warner
Location: Pepperwood Preserve
Field Trips

April 11, 2013 Thursday 9 am to 4 pm
Annadel State Park
Please meet at the Cobblestone Trail access, the gravel parking strip along Channel Drive about ¼ mile east of Spring Lake Park, prior to the entrance to Annadel SP at the ranger station and gate. This excursion is planned to take us across much of the northern part of the park, up to 8 miles of walking. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a diverse array of Sonoma County ecosystems. Bring lunch, plenty of water, hand lenses, cameras, etc. Persistent rain will cancel this event. Contact Peter Warner for information or to attend: 666-9071 or phytopagan@sonic.net

April 14, 2013 Sunday 10am to 2pm
Discover Wildflowers at Sonoma Land Trust’s Tolay Creek Ranch with Peter Warner
Join Sonoma County expert botanist Peter Warner for a hike to the spectacular display of native wildflowers on the serpentine fields above Tolay Creek. Learn how the geology influences the soils to make this unique habitat where many native species of wildflowers still thrive. Break out your hand lens and be prepared to spend some time on hands and knees discovering the features of these miniature flowers. Hike is 4 miles round-trip on a dirt road with a partial steep ascent. Pre-registration is required. Register online at sonomalandtrust.org or email outings@sonomalandtrust.org

April 20, 2013 Saturday 10am to 2pm
Explore Wildflowers and Views at Sonoma Land Trust’s Little Black Mountain
The clear skies of spring present a spectacular time to get up to the higher elevations and look out across the landscape. Join us for an Earth Day celebration hike to the Lone Antler Overlook for views of Mt. Tam, Mt. Diablo, Sonoma Mountain, Mt. St. Helena and beyond. We will also journey toward the west through the mixed conifer forest, crossing a natural spring and some open meadows where spring wildflowers take advantage of the exposure to the sun. Hike is 3 miles across cow pasture on rolling hills. Pre-registration is required. Register online at sonomalandtrust.org or email outings@sonomalandtrust.org.

April 25, 2013 Thursday 10 am to 4 pm
Wolf Ridge Trail – Marin Headlands.
Larkspur and columbine should be seen on this 4 mile loop from Rodeo Lagoon up through Gerbode Valley across Wolf Ridge and Hill 88 for amazing views of wildflowers and the Pacific. From 101, take the last exit before the Golden Gate Bridge, turn right under 101 around the hill and then left on Bunker Rd. Go through the 5 minute tunnel and follow the signs to Rodeo Beach. Go over the bridge at the east end of Rodeo Lagoon, you will be looking at the long warehouse building T1111. Park there to meet Betty Young at the Miwok Trailhead.

April 27, 2013 Saturday 10am to 3pm
Discover Wildflowers at Jenner Headlands with Peter Warner
Join Sonoma Land Trust, The Wildlands Conservancy, CNPS, and botanist Peter Warner to explore the wildflowers at Jenner Headlands! We’ll ascend the rolling coastal grasslands of this exquisite coastal property to reach the serpentine uplands and adjacent Jenner Gulch for a day exploring grassland and forest plant diversity. Be prepared to hike several miles on cow paths over steep terrain.
Pre-registration is required. Register online at sonomalandtrust.org or email outings@sonomalandtrust.org

April 28, 2013 Sunday 10am to 2pm
Discover Wildflowers at Sonoma Land Trust’s Sears Point with Julian Meisler
Join program manager Julian Meisler for a hike up the foothills of Cougar Mountain and learn about the variety of species of spring wildflowers that cover these grasslands. Be prepared to walk at a leisurely pace and spend time on hands and knees examining these flowers along the way. We will enjoy vistas over the San Pablo Bay, and also stop to take a look at the newly-created red-legged frog ponds on the way back. Hike is 3 miles across cow pasture on rolling hills.
Pre-registration is required. Register online at sonomalandtrust.org or email outings@sonomalandtrust.org.

May 4, 2013 Saturday The Cedars with Roger Raiche
Limited space, 4 Wheel drive vehicle may be required. Please contact Wendy Smit 481-3765 or wendysmit@hughes.net for more information.

May 10-11, 2013 Friday-Saturday
Walker Ridge in eastern Lake and western Colusa County
Friday meet at the Judge Davis Trail parking lot at 9 a.m. to caravan and share rides to the Barrel Springs site, about 14 miles north on Walker Ridge Rd. Rustic (unimproved) camping is available at Barrel Springs and a few other sites along the ridge, or improved camping is available at Indian Springs Reservoir and Blue Oak campgrounds, both on the Indian Valley Reservoir Rd. off Walker Ridge Rd. about 5 miles north of Hwy. 20. This will be a vehicular caravan trip along Walker Ridge, with frequent stops at areas of botanical interest. We’ll start Friday with a visit to Wayne’s Knoll, less than a mile north of Hwy. 20, where fire consumed much of the vegetation in 2012, to look at post-fire effects on the serpentine and non-serpentine flora. Further along the ridge, we’ll make stops at several rare plant populations, including Hall’s tarplant (Harmonia hallii), Sonoma canescent manzanita (Arctostaphylos canescens ssp. sonomensis), and Jepson’s milk-vetch (Astragalus rattanii var. jepsonianus). Saturday we’ll explore the rich wetland area and adjacent chaparral and grasslands near Barrel Springs.
Further information: Peter Warner at 666-9071 or phytopagan@sonic.net

Mark your calendars and check our website for more information on these upcoming trips:

May 18 Boggs Lake Ecological Reserve, Lake County
May 19 Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary
June 14 Pitkin Marsh
June 27-30 Plaskett Meadows and Anthony Peak Area, Mendocino National Forest
**Newsletter & Web Site Info:**
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the March Newsletter is March 15.
The chapter web site milobaker.cnps.org contains a wealth of information plus current and archived newsletters.
For newsletter mailing/membership issues, contact: Suzanne Harmon at cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com

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**Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors 2013**
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Vice President: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com
Secretary: OPEN
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Book, Poster & T-Shirt Sales: Cindy Tancreto, 528-9225, cindytancreto@pacbell.net
Programs/Lectures: OPEN
Publicity: OPEN
Rincon Ridge Park, Patricia Sesser, 528-9197, patriciasesser@comcast.net
SCCC Rep.: Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wlk@sonic.net
Southridge Preserve: Jim Piercy, 539-3441, terrapenecarolinamajor@yahoo.com
SRJC Representative: Lea Davis, 538-1499, legil42@sbcglobal.net
SSU Representative: Kerry Wininger, 888-5616, kerrywininger@gmail.com
Website: Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, sarahpgordon@gmail.com
Vine Hill Preserve: Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, sarahpgordon@gmail.com

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**We invite you to join CNPS**
Name________________________________
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Chapter affiliation:
☐ Milo Baker (Sonoma County)
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Membership category:
☐ Student or Limited Income............. $25
☐ Individual............................................ $45
☐ Family, Group or Library................ $75
☐ Plant Lover........................................ $100
☐ Patron............................................. $300
☐ Benefactor...................................... $600
☐ Mariposa Lily................................. $1500
☐ New Member  ☐ Renewal

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