General Meeting
April 17, 2012 7:30pm
Rodents and the Evolution of Obligate Seeding in *Arctostaphylos*
Speaker: Tom Parker

Manzanitas are a classic California group of shrubs with almost 100 taxa in the state. A number of rodents are seed predators of manzanita berries. Some of them bury the seed in a lot of small caches (scatter-hoarding). This talk will present evidence that rodent-caching acts as a fire adaptation for manzanita seeds. That turns out to be a critical step in a model of the evolution of obligate seeding in manzanitas, which also will be a focus of the talk. Obligate seeders are now about two thirds of the genus in California and number over 60 taxa.

Biography: Tom Parker is an ecologist with over 30 yrs experience working in California. He has studied *Arctostaphylos* in particular over the last 30 years and is a co-author for both the Flora of North America and Jepson 2nd Edition treatments of *Arctostaphylos*. He is currently a Professor of Biology at San Francisco State University. If you’d like more detail, visit: [http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~parker/index.html](http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~parker/index.html)

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**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, lizpar8993@aol.com by April 16th if you plan to attend.

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**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 17th.** Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
**Chapter News**

**Vine Hill Preserve 40 Year Anniversary**

The same year that CNPS granted a charter to start the new Milo Baker Chapter, a small property was bought by the Nature Conservancy on the ‘Sonoma Barrens’. Eventually this property was deeded to CNPS and has been managed by a series of volunteer stewards and chapter members ever since. While this 1.6 acre piece, surrounded by homes, vineyards and small farms, is small and easily overlooked, it was established to protect the last remaining wild population of Vine Hill manzanita (*Arctostaphylos densiflora*).

The preserve was purchased following a plea published by James Roof, Superintendent of Tilden Park Botanical Garden, in the Four Seasons periodical (May 1972) to protect the manzanita population under threat of extirpation from development. Mr. Roof had botanized in Sonoma County with Milo Baker in the 1930s and was interested in the rare plants of the county. The majority of the property at the time contained a cultivated vineyard, but naturally occurring manzanitas, Vine Hill ceanothus, and associated species grew in the narrow strip along the steep southern bank.

The Vine Hill region, roughly defined by Guerneville Road to the south, Vine Hill Road on the west and Laguna Road on the east, lies 8 miles west of Santa Rosa and is referred to as the Sonoma Barrens. This location places the climate midway between maritime and inland climates. The sandy clay soils are distinctly acidic and pale yellow to whitish in color and are believed to be a remnant of ancient dune soils (Roof 1972). Roof believed that the manzanitas remained viable in this location due to the undisturbed soils, a crust forming in the spring that protected the moisture from evaporation in the summer heat.

The dwarf creeping Vine Hill manzanita is the Barren’s centerpiece mixed in with beargrass (*Xerophyllum tenax*), rein orchid (*Piperia elongata*), braken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), thin lobed Horkelia (*Horkelia tenuiloba*) and Vine Hill ceanothus (*Ceanothus foliosus var. vineatus*). Grasslands within the Barrens contain goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*), Ithuriel’s spear (*Triteleia laxa*) and Vine Hill clarkia (*Clarkia imbricata*). Shrub species included three *ceanothus* species: Parry ceanothus (*C. parryi*), glory brush (*Ceanothus gloriosus var. exaltatus*) and blue blossom (*C. thryssiflorus*) among others, and salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) in the dense shade according to the draft management plan.

After the preserve was established, Roof continued to be involved in the stewardship. Betty Guggolz remembers his personality, saying, “He was very crusty and outspoken and yet so dedicated to what he did that he was still fun to be with. I remember being out in the pouring rain with him, transplanting glory brush onto the property from out on the asphalt. I got a big charge out of that.” He also surveyed West County for other interesting plants, always writing in general terms to not reveal the exact locations of many rare species.

Later, a population of federal and state listed endangered Vine Hill clarkia was introduced successfully on the lower previously disturbed area. This may be the last extant population of this species. In 1974 another population threatened by a planned Russian River-Cotati pipeline was saved by rerouting the construction and seed was collected that was planted at Vine Hill. The glory brush was also introduced from plants near Guerneville Road (MB History Committee 1990). There have been volunteers too numerous to mention, out of concern for leaving someone out. However, over the decades the chapter has relied on Preserve managers/stewards Phil Van Soelen, Jay Pedersen and Sarah Gordon to oversee the preserve. Phil wrote for both *Pacific Horticulture Magazine* (Jan/Feb/Mar 2004) and for *Fremontia Magazine* (July 2005) about the conservation of manzanitas and interesting aspects of propagating plants from the preserve and hybridizing. His *Pacific Horticulture* article is readily available on the magazine’s website. Much more history, detail and the plant list is available. Contact any board member for more information, including the Draft Vine Hill Preserve Management Plan.

**Invasives Corner**

**Shollenberger at the Forefront of Invasive Plants Again!**

Shollenberger Park seems to be a magnet for the spread of invasive species. Maybe it’s the heavy equipment carrying seeds from the last project that periodically come and disturb Shollenberger soil. Maybe it’s the droppings of waterfowl from afar that bring new invasive plant seeds. Maybe it’s the crevices of boots worn by visitors that harbor tiny hitchhikers. That could be me! Typhoid ML.

My five year old granddaughter and I took a walk in Alman Marsh from the Sheraton Hotel to the back of Shollenberger Park last month. As we came to the part where the creek makes the trail bend toward the Petaluma River, my granddaughter spotted a little path going down to the creek. "Let's go exploring," is one of her favorite sentences. I didn't much want to, thinking we could be unwelcome guests at a homeless encampment of escaped ax murderers, but Mae was very determined, and her grandmother not so much. Sure enough there were signs that someone had been camping there, but had left. After I extracted Mae from the creek (not easily done) and was on the way back, I noticed a group of unfamiliar plants.

They were in bloom and quite attractive. I uprooted a
events and Items of Interest

Pepperwood Preserve Activities
Pepperwood is an ecological institute dedicated to educating, engaging, and inspiring its community through land preservation, science-based conservation, leading edge research, and multidisciplinary educational programs. The Preserve is located at 2130 Pepperwood Preserve Road, approximately midway between the towns of Santa Rosa and Calistoga, and adjacent to Safari West. To find out more information about Pepperwood Preserve and its programs as well as directions, visit http://www.pepperwoodpreserve.org.

Wildflowers and Other Botanical Delights
April 14, 2012 Saturday
Examine the spring flowers of Pepperwood with Steve Barnhart, retired SRJC Botanist and the Pepperwood Academic Director. Common wildflowers, trees and shrubs will be identified and their ecological adaptations to meadow, chaparral and forest will be discussed.

Using the “Keys” to Plant Identification
April 14, 2012 Saturday
Have you wanted to learn to use a plant key, but didn’t know how? Led by Peter Warner, well known expert on all that flowers, this introduction to Pepperwood’s colorful spring wildflowers will empower you to name the names of all that is green and growing. Seasoned with a dash of plant jargon, you’ll learn how to turn a dichotomous key and your powers of scholarly observation into a virtually limitless frontier of botanical exploration.

Grass Identification: Tools and Techniques
May 19-20, 2012 Saturday & Sunday
This two-day lecture, lab, and field class, taught by expert botanist Peter Warner, will focus on the challenging identification and ecology of true grasses. Content will include plant structure, terminology, and techniques for field identification of common grass species of interior Sonoma County.

Field Photography
May 19, 2012 Saturday 9 am to 3 pm
Photographer and naturalist Greg Damron will lead a class at Pepperwood Preserve. The class is $20.00. Register online at brownpapertickets.com and search for “Pepperwood.”
Sharp your skills for documenting landscape, flora, and fauna by learning how to find wildlife, compose a picture, and work with natural light. Greg Damron has worked as an environmental photographer for over 25 years. His work can be seen at www.wildvinestudios.com.

Celebrate Spring at Pepperwood’s Annual Wildflower Festival
April 29, 2012 Sunday 9 am to 4 pm
Celebrate the delights of our native wildflowers and the majesty of the Mayacamas Mountains at Pepperwood’s annual Wildflower Festival. The festival is free and families are welcome. This year’s festival will include an array of activities for the whole family. Participants will have the opportunity to go on guided wildflower walks or enjoy hiking the preserve at their own pace on a self-guided interpretive walk. The Dwight Center for Conservation Science will feature lectures to inform visitors about the diversity of our region’s flora and fauna, a wildflower display and art exhibit, and fun hands-on activities for kids. Visitors will also have the opportunity to learn about different community organizations working with Pepperwood to protect the North Bay’s natural heritage for generations to come. Refreshments will be available on-site for purchase. Last year’s festival drew hundreds of visitors.

Friends of the Chico State Herbarium Spring 2012 Workshops
Workshop descriptions are on the Chico State Herbarium website: www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html

Introduction to the 2nd edition of The Jepson Manual (TJM2)
April 21, 2012 Saturday
The two primary goals of this workshop are to review background information about the conceptual reasons for changes in names to circumscriptions of taxa and to practice using the new manual with fresh material collected from the Chico area. By Dan Potter.

Fire Ecology
April 28, 2012 Saturday
Learn about the adaptations different plant communities and individual plant species have evolved to survive fire,
including species that require fire to reproduce. By Kyle Merriam

**Botanical Illustration**

**May 19, 2012 Saturday**
Want to draw plants and flowers? Here’s your chance! By Judy McCrary

**Laguna Foundation – Laguna Keeper Day**
Native Plant Demonstration Garden & Joint Wetlands

**April 14, 2012 Saturday 9 am to Noon**
Location: Meet at the 4300 Llano Road; follow the signs to the “Admin” building.
Contact info: John Guardino (707) 527-9277 x108 or email: john@lagunafoundation.org
Celebrate Earth Day by exploring the diversity of California native species and planting at the Joint Wetlands

Laguna Foundation’s Delta Pond Rookery Walks

**April 28, 2012 Saturday**
Choose your time: 7:45, 8:00, 8:15, 8:30, 8:50 am
$10 per person
Come watch adult great blue herons, great egrets & double crested cormorants endeavor to keep up with demanding chicks who are trying to out-compete nestmates and prepare for first flight. Docents lead informative walks out to the nesting site. Approximately-3 mile walk over flat, uneven terrain. This event is always a sell-out so register early online!

Native Plant Nursery Workday

**April 14, 2012 Saturday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**
Place: Sonoma Garden Park
Address: 19996 7th St East in Sonoma
Contact person: Megan FitzSimmons
Telephone:(707)996-0712 x113
Email: megan@sonomaecologycenter.org
Spring has sprung and the natives can really feel it. Some of our cuttings from February should have roots and we will be transplanting them to containers. We will also propagate some native trees such as the California Bay and Oregon Ash. Come witness the wonder of the tiny seeds that grow into mature canopy trees. Also, please join us on April 28 for our annual spring plant sale and the grand opening of our greenhouse! All ages and skill levels are welcome, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers will be getting dirty, so please dress appropriately: wear sturdy shoes, and bring gloves, a snack and refillable water bottle. Space is limited and RSVP is required.

MuRefuge Tours

**April 8, May 13, June 10, Aug. 12, Sept. 9, 2012**
Sundays 11 am until 1:30 pm
MuRefuge is a healthy, evolving full spectrum habitat (vegetable garden, orchard and an abundance of both local and California natives). The 3/4 acre is located in the Hessel area and is impressive to visit at any time of the year. MuRefuge is home to not only Cathie Haynes and Dwight Sims, but Rose, a 3 legged Saluki mix, 6 Indian Runner ducks and much wildlife. MuRefuge’s evolution is chronicled in BE-ing Rooted: a Practice in Essential Living. A link to this blog is http://beingrooted.blogspot.com/2012/01/in-dead-of-winter.html.
Native and edible Pass-A-Long plants will be available for the taking at the end of each tour. The number of participants are limited for each tour so please register or inquire with Cathie at afsp@sonic.net.

**The Graton Community Club Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale**

**April 13 & 14, 2012 Friday & Saturday 9 am to 4 pm**
Historic Graton Community Clubhouse at 8996 Graton Road in downtown Graton, about 3 miles north of Sebastopol. The theme of the show is “Garden Creatures.” Visitors will have an opportunity to see creative flower displays, to buy locally grown plants, including many natives, and to buy hand crafted items and unique collectibles. Visitors can also enjoy a lunch, dessert, and beverage for only $10, between 11 am and 2 pm. Proceeds benefit the local college scholarship program and the building maintenance fund for the clubhouse.

**Wildflower Lecture**

**April 21, 2012 Saturday 3 pm to 5 pm**
Liz Parsons will give a wildflower lecture at the Cloverdale History Center. She will be using Reny Parker’s photos in a power point presentation.

**Reny Parker’s Wildflower Photos Exhibit**

**Cloverdale History Museum**

**Museum Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm**
Reny Parker’s wildflower photos are currently on exhibit at the Cloverdale History Museum, located at 215 Cloverdale Boulevard. Call Marge Grey 894-5225 for more information.
Reny was the President of the Milo Baker Chapter from 2000 to 2005. She is the author of the book *Wildflowers of Northern California’s Wine Country and North Coast Ranges*. This book features her excellent photographs of the wildflowers of Sonoma County. It is the best popular guide to the wildflowers of our region and was assembled with the help of many chapter members. The book has received a first place award in the Reference category of the Writer’s Digest self published book awards. The prize was $1,000.00. Our congratulations go out to Reny for the recognition of her fine book. This is a testament to her skills as a photographer, as well as her organizational skills. Those of us who worked with her know what a monumental task publishing this book was. In addition to the award for the book, Reny received first prize award for her photo of coast buckwheat from the
after a pleasant and informative docent-led walk, we are
double-crested cormorants. Upon arriving at the site,
nesting colony of great blue herons, great egrets and
Laguna location, off Willowside Road, is an impressive
and prepare for exciting sights and sounds! At a hidden
9:15
Choose your time: 7:45 am, 8:00, 8:15, 8:30, 8:50,
April 28, 2012 Saturday

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. There were 2500 entries in the botanical photographs category, so it was a very competitive process. We are very happy that Reny is getting the recognition that she deserves. We always knew what a good photographer she was and now the wider world is taking note!

California Native Plant Sale
April 21, 2012 Saturday 10 am to 3 pm
The Botanic Garden is located at the intersection of Wildcat Canyon Road & South Park Drive near the Brazil Building in Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley (admission is free). California shrubs, trees, perennials. Find many plants that are not available in a commercial nursery. Horticultural advice gladly given! Come and explore the Garden. Buy some plants to take home. Proceeds directly benefit the Garden. Please bring boxes to carry home your treasures and an umbrella if it rains. Refreshments available. bgarden@ebparks.org 510-544-3169 http://nativeplants.org

The Anderson Valley Wildflower Show
April 28 and 29, 2012 Saturday and Sunday
10 am to 4 pm
At the Mendocino County Fairgrounds in Boonville, on highway 128 in the middle of town. Many wildflowers are collected and identified; plants and books are for sale; a tearoom offering good food is available; and a raffle is held which funds scholarships for Anderson Valley High School students for college or camp. The drawing for the raffle is held at 3p. Admission to the show is free.

Eighth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour
May 6, 2012 Sunday 10 am to 5 pm
Native Plant Sale Extravaganza
May 5 and May 6, 2012 Saturday and Sunday
Registration is now open for this free event. The tour will take place at fifty native plant gardens throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The Native Plant Sale Extravaganza sale features a number of hard-to-find California natives. The tour will fill quickly; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed. Registration will close on April 25 or when the tour is full. Register or volunteer at http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/. For more information, contact Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m

Nestward Migration-Docent-led walks to the nesting colony at Delta Pond
April 28, 2012 Saturday
Choose your time: 7:45 am, 8:00, 8:15, 8:30, 8:50, 9:15
$10 per person. Sign-up for this early-morning adventure and prepare for exciting sights and sounds! At a hidden Laguna location, off Willowside Road, is an impressive nesting colony of great blue herons, great egrets and double-crested cormorants. Upon arriving at the site, after a pleasant and informative docent-led walk, we are likely to see everything from courtship displays, nest building activity, adults incubating eggs, adults flying in with food trying to keep up with demanding feeding schedules, to chicks who are trying to out-compete nest-mates and prepare for first flight. Other possible treats include sightings of American white pelicans, a cliff swallow nesting colony and maybe even a bald eagle.

This event is always a sell-out, so register early! Approximately three-mile walk over flat, uneven terrain. Full details emailed upon registration. For More Information: P (707) 527-9277 http://www.lagunafoundation.org

Grand Opening Celebration of the Laguna Foundation’s New Center
May 26, 2012 Saturday, 11am to 4 pm (free)
Laguna Foundation Campus, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Join us for this fun-filled day to celebrate the long-awaited opening of the Laguna Foundation’s new center. We are planning a day full of activities for all! Come take in the beautiful views and perhaps do some bird watching. Take a tour of our restoration nursery. Learn about the history of the farm house and the property. Enjoy a horse-drawn carriage ride. Get in touch with the agricultural history of the area. Learn about Laguna flora and fauna. View the Tiddalick video with the whole family. Food, fun and lots environmental education activities for all promise to make for a great community day! For more information, contact: Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation (707) 527-9277 http://www.lagunafoundation.org

Riverkeeper Stewardship Park Volunteer Days
Wednesdays 8:30 am to 11:30 am
16153 Main St., Guerneville. For more information contact Victoria Wikle at 865-2474 or VictoriaWikle@usa.net. Visit our website at www.russianriverkeeper.org.

Field Trips

Sonoma Land Trust Spring Wildflower Hikes
Serpentine Wildflower Hike at Sonoma Land Trust’s Tolay Creek Ranch
April 1, 2012 Sunday 11am to 3pm
Join botanist Peter Warner and Sonoma Land Trust stewardship director Bob Neale for a four mile hike up Tolay Creek to see the serpentine wildflowers in bloom. Learn about the ecology of the area, restoration work in the watershed, and plans to connect this property to Tolay Lake Regional Park. Please wear sturdy hiking boots. Although we will be going at a slower pace to enjoy the wildflowers, this hike is not for inexperienced hikers. You must be in good physical condition. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.sonomalandtrust.org or contact us at
outings@sonomalandtrust.org or 707.544.5614.ext.6 for additional information.

Evening Wildflower Hike at Sonoma Land Trust’s Sears Point Ranch
April 12, 2012 Thursday 5:30 pm to 8pm
Sears Point Ranch bursts into bloom in the springtime. Join biologist John Vollmar of Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting for a 3 mile evening hike on the colorful grasslands. John is intimately familiar with Sears Point and will explore with us the connections between the landform processes, the soils and the wildflowers that grow there. Please wear sturdy hiking boots. This hike is not for inexperienced hikers. You must be in good physical condition. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.sonomalandtrust.org or contact us at outings@sonomalandtrust.org or 707.544.5614.ext.6 for additional information.

Wildflowers and Vast Vistas at Sonoma Land Trust’s Sears Point Ranch
April 22, 2012 Sunday 10am to 2pm
Celebrate Earth Day with a 5 mile wildflower hike led by Sonoma Land Trust’s Baylands program manager Julian Meisler. Identify flowers and learn about restoration plans for this 2,327-acre property bordering San Pablo Bay. This hike through the grasslands will lead to panoramic views of the Bay Area. Some sections of the off-trail route are especially rough with uneven footing, so please wear sturdy hiking boots. This hike is not for inexperienced hikers. You must be in good physical condition. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.sonomalandtrust.org or contact us at outings@sonomalandtrust.org or 707.544.5614.ext.6 for additional information.

Van Hoosear Wildflower Preserve- Wildflower Walk Outing
April 5, 15, 21, 26, 28, 2012 10 am to 12 pm
The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District will be leading walks at the Van Hoosear Wildflower Preserve located near the base of Sonoma Mountain. These guided walks have been very popular each year during the spring season when the flowers are at their peak. The Preserve is protected by a Conservation Easement, made possible by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and the California Department of Fish and Game’s Wildlife Conservation Board. The property is managed to protect and restore the Preserve’s botanical, aquatic, and wildlife values, and to provide access to the public for educational purposes. There is no charge for this outing. Reservations are required and space is limited for these popular walks, so make your reservations by 5pm the day prior to the outing. Contact person: Carolina Pickens at (707)996-0712 x 124 or Carolina@sonomaecologycenter.org

Montini Open Space Preserve Outing
April 14, 2012 Saturday 9 am to 11 am
The Montini Open Space Preserve was protected by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District in December 2005 for recreation and preservation of its natural and rich historic significance having been a working ranch since the time of General Vallejo. The property, which encompasses 152 acres, is in and adjacent to the City of Sonoma. With oak woodland, large rock outcroppings and open grassland, the property offers beautiful views of San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. This is an intermediate to advanced level hike. While the hike is relatively short, there is some elevation gain and very uneven footing. There is no charge for the outing. Reservations are required by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 13, 2012. Contact person: Carolina Pickens at (707)996-0712 x 124 or Carolina@sonomaecologycenter.org

Montgomery Woods (northwest of Ukiah)
April 14, 2012 Saturday 9:30 am to about 4 pm
This trip will afford a look at the diverse habitats of the upland parts of the Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve. Setting out from the splendor of a redwood forest floor dappled with calypso orchids, anemones, and trilliums, we’ll walk along Pruitt Creek into the elevated hinterlands of oaks, chaparral, perennial grasses, and rocks. Plan on a long, moderately strenuous walk of 4 to 6 miles. We’ll meet at the Pruitt Creek gate (about 1 mile east of the Reserve’s main parking lot) at 9:30 a.m. Please contact Peter Warner at 978-3155 or phytopagan@sonic.net for information.

Oat Hill Mine Trail (east of Calistoga, Napa Co.)
April 22, 2012 Sunday 10 am to 4 pm
This exciting area of geological and botanical diversity supports a number of rare plants and will provide an exciting day of discovery. We’ll meet at the Aetna Springs Road access, off Pope Valley Road in northern Napa County. Ride-sharing encouraged; estimated travel time from Santa Rosa: 1.5 hours. Contact Peter Warner at 978-3155 or phytopagan@sonic.net for more information.

Tolay Lake Regional Park Collaborative Outing
April 29, 2012 Sunday 9 am to 3 pm
Join Sonoma County Agricultural naturalists and staff from the Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma County Regional Parks for a collaborative outing at Tolay Lake Regional Park. The outing is immediately followed by an optional hour long orientation for those interested in acquiring a Day Use Permit for the Park, which will take place from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. Located at the intersection of Sonoma Valley with the baylands of San Francisco Bay, Tolay Lake Regional Park—formerly the Cardoza Ranch—was purchased and permanently protected in 2005 by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and Sonoma County Regional Parks. The park consists of 1,769 acres of farm and grasslands,
ridges, a seasonal freshwater lake, ponds, wetlands, and many other natural resources. The park contains a wealth of cultural and historical resources, with human activity on the property known to span more than 8,000 years. The walking route for this outing is on dirt farm roads and includes one large hill; you must be in moderately good physical condition. Reservations are required by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 27, 2012. Contact Carolina Pickens at (707)996-0712 x124 or Carolina@sonomalandtrust.org

**Sonoma Valley, East Side**

**April 7, 2012 Saturday**

We will visit Elarra, a private property and Sonoma Land Trust reserve high on the slopes of the southern Mayacamas Mountains. This is the warmer side of the Sonoma Valley, and Elarra has excellent examples of serpentine chaparral with rare manzanitas, Sonoma ceanothus, and other unusual plants. A short but steep hike will take us deep into a shaded canyon with a perennial stream, many ferns, and a stand of California nutmeg. This is a half-day outing, with moderately strenuous hiking, on trails. See photos of Elarra at: www.elarra.com  Space is limited, and carpooling is a must. Contact Cindy Tancreto 528-9225 or cindytancreto@pacbell.net for details and to reserve a space.

**Sonoma Valley, West Side**

**April 28, 2012 Saturday 10 am to 3 pm**

On this 4-mile loop hike we will see the cool, shaded redwood and mixed evergreen forests of the Sonoma Mountain (west) side of the Sonoma Valley. We will begin at the upper parking lot at Jack London State Historic Park, hiking up past the pond, and into the forest, then turning south to descend towards the hollow that shelters the Sonoma Valley’s largest (in circumference) redwood, locally known as “Mother Redwood.” We will look in the forest understory for ferns, lilies and orchids, as well as inside-out-flower (Satureja douglasii) and the aromatherapy favorite, yerba buena (Satureja douglasii). Parking fee: $8 per vehicle. Bring water, lunch, hat. A plant list will be available. Leader: Ann Howald. Contact Cindy Tancreto 528-9225 or cindytancreto@pacbell.net for information on car-pooling from Santa Rosa

**Walker Ridge Field Trip**

**May 5 and 6, 2012 Saturday & Sunday**

Come explore the splendid plant and wildlife habitat diversity of Walker Ridge while it’s still somewhat intact, if beleaguered. That could all change soon if the wind power generation project is approved by BLM. We’ll spend some time on the Ridge, but might explore a bit in the nearby Cache Creek Wilderness; some may want to check out Bear Valley, as well. Meet on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at the Judge Davis trailhead, about 17 miles east of Clearlake Oaks on Hwy. 20. For those staying overnight, camping spots are available, but some are completely without facilities, so be prepared for rustic camping (unless you want to drive out of the area for lodging). Anyone planning to attend Sunday only, please contact me close to the date (about May 1), and perhaps I’ll have a better idea where the overnight group will be Sunday morning. Further information, and to let me know you’ll be joining us: Peter Warner (707) 978-3155; phytopagan@sonic.net.

**Mayacamas Sanctuary**

**May 12, 2012 Saturday 9:30 am to 3 pm**

Sponsored by the Madrone Audubon Society. Please visit Madrone’s website for further information. A walk to appreciate the ecology of plants, trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses in this beautiful mountain setting, led by Peter Warner. The pace will be slow to moderate; please bring field guides, hand lenses, cameras. Children OK with supervision. A plant list will be provided upon prior request (sent digitally): contact Peter Warner at (707) 978-3155 or phytopagan@sonic.net. Meet at the lower end of Pine Flat Road (park along the road before the Sausal Creek Bridge), off Red Winery Road, off Hwy. 128 at the sharp curve 1/4 mile east of the Jimtown Store. For more information contact Suzanne at 829-7234. Reservations are not required.

**Jenner Headlands**

**May 17 and June 24, 2012 Thursday & Sunday**

The splendid biological diversity and enthralling aesthetics of the Jenner Headlands beckon to all. This terrestrial jewel, acquired by the Sonoma Land Trust in 2009, offers sweeping- or fog-enshrouded – coastal vistas, deep forested canyons, and grasslands bedazzling in spring’s tapestry of flowers. This spring, 2 field trips to the property will focus on plants and plant ecology, specifically arranged with CNPS members in mind. Reservations are required to participate in these trips. Please contact Kristin at 707-328-8539 or kristinm.m@twc.ca.org for your reservation.

**Volunteers Needed For Coastal Grassland Monitoring Project**

**May 26, 29 and 30, 2012**

Join Sonoma Land Trust staff, Dr. Caroline Christian of SSU, and botanist Peter Warner for a coastal grassland identification training day and two days of vegetation sampling at the Estero Americano Preserve. The Estero Americano Preserve is the site of a grassland management and monitoring project designed to evaluate the effectiveness of cattle grazing for coastal grassland enhancement. Following the grass ID training, teams of interns and volunteers will use quadrats to measure the percent cover of all native and exotic plant species at 29 1m2 permanent plots throughout the Preserve. A three day commitment is required for participation. For more information or to sign-up, please email: shanti@sonomalandtrust.org.

Photo Credits:
Arctostaphylos ©2004 Dean Wm. Taylor
Fumaria capreolata ©2008 Neal Kramer
Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense

Pitkin lily

Newsletter & Web Site Info:
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the May Newsletter is April 15.
The chapter web site www.cnpsmb.org contains a wealth of information plus current and archived newsletters.
For newsletter mailing/membership issues, contact: Gary Hundt, ghundt@gmail.com