General Meeting: Native Plant Gardening

April 15, 2014 7:30 pm

Abstract: California native plants are the key component to creating a Sense of Place. Because of the unique interaction of flora, fauna, geography and rainfall, we can create beautiful gardens that are evocative of our rich cultural heritage while providing space for the rich variety of wildlife that make our state so special. Supporting native plant gardening is a natural branch of the CNPS mission for preservation and conservation. We will talk about the watershed concept of gardening, review key issues and discuss maintenance and appreciation of native plants in the garden, near the wildland interface and in public places. Additionally, I will talk about my new role as the Horticulture Program Director: how we plan to support the chapters and expand out sphere of influence to all Californians, including the Baja region.

Speaker Bio:

Susan Krzywicki is the Horticulture Program Director for the California Native Plant Society. She has been on the local chapter board, run the chapter Gardening Committee, and was a native plant landscape designer in San Diego. She also is co-chair of the San Diego Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Gardens Committee.

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.

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 at 833-2063 or lizpar8993@aol.com by April 14th, if you plan to attend.

General Meetings are held at 7:30pm 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 April 8th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
**Chapter News**

**New Board Position**

The Milo Baker Chapter is actively seeking to fill the newly created board position of Communications Chair. This volunteer position oversees emailing the members to notify of important events, activities and conservation alerts. The communications chair spearheads the effort to keep Milo Baker Chapter up to date with email communications.

- Develop appropriate means (tools and formatting) for email sending.
- Send email to members with permission from the board.
- Develop and maintain formatting for Milo Baker emails to the members.
- Create email groups for specific interests such as conservation, native plant gardening, chapter activities updates (hikes, workdays).
- Communicate regularly with membership chair, website administrator and newsletter editor.
- Work with Communications chair to learn process for managing and tracking emails in regards to membership and public
- Ensure privacy of email addresses are maintained

This position is a Board Position which encourages regular attendance at monthly Board meetings (we have 9 meetings per year on the second Tuesday of each month from 7-9pm).

Interested candidates should contact: Leia Giambastiani leiagia@gmail.com

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**Gardening with Natives**

**Yerba Buena**

![Satureja douglasii](image)

In 1835, when a Spanish family landed in San Francisco, all that was seen was lupines and other wildflowers, and the iconic yerba buena mint plant, which trailed over the sand dunes. The area was named for the plant, or hierba buena, the “good herb.” Eleven years later, in 1847, with a population of about 500 people, the new town became San Francisco.

Yerba buena (*Satureja douglasii*) is a delightful little trailing herb in the mint family. Its leaves are opposite each other on the stems and the stems root as they inch along the soil, often up to 6 feet long and several inches high. However, the plant is not invasive, but spreads beautifully, which makes it such a great ground cover, especially in dappled shade.

The leaves shine an apple-green color, and little white to purplish flowers appear in the spring and into the fall. I often see bees enjoying the blossoms, as they do in others of the mint family. A minty tea can be made from the leaves.

In the wild, yerba buena is found growing in the shade, often under oaks, bays or madrone trees. Hot sun will scald it and to keep it green and glowing, give it some sprinkles throughout the summer. It is an easy plant to
grow; deer leave it alone. I have it by the little waterfall by the pond and the deer, when coming to drink, walk right over it. The stems trail down over the rocks by the wildlife pond in a delicate fashion and I have read that folks often grow it in a hanging pot, which likely needs water often.

Have a happy and flowery spring!

joodbrink@comcast.net

Judy Brinkerhoff

Invasives Corner

Succulents

When you have the most rain, lots of succulents are planning to be dormant and feel resentful. This is my first year with a number of attractive gift succulents, and they are vociferous in their silent little way of expressing displeasure. Now you see us healthy, now you see us a moldering pile of slush. And the other thing about succulents is they are sneaky, outsmarting the naïve gardener with their death wishes. Succulents are associated in our minds with drought conditions and that idea precludes the idea that many succulents object to too much sun. Many fry - and die. And if they don't die they look like hell and make us look like abusive gardeners. So we innocents worry about them, but you know what? The ones I put on my porch and ignored all winter long are looking great. Some succulents that were exposed to sun, rain and frost melted into an unsanitary looking mess, deader 'n a doornail, I thought. And they were given to me in such good condition! But now some of them are coming back, just like the geraniums I thought were dead. “Ha ha, gotcha!' they whisper to us. A few of my succulents didn't care what I did to them. Hard frost? No problem, and so on. They are the non-natives you see in everyone's garden because they have Everlasting Life. How about our Sedums and Dudleas?

Dudleyas can actually live up to 100 years! (Of course if they were my plants I would have said Dudleas die like worms thrown to a herd of hungry frogs.) Yerba Buena nursery in Half Moon Bay has a whole bunch of natives on line. Cactus Jungle in Berkeley is great too. But Sonoma County has the wonderful cactus and succulent nursery, Lone Pine Gardens in Sebastopol, though not centered on California natives. Dave's Garden website writer, Palm Bob is a huge authority on succulents, cacti and palms. He says there are some agave species that are very invasive, Agave americana, angustifolia and sisalana, for three. Aloe greenii if watered is another plant on Bob's bad guy list. Those cute Kalanchoes (Mother of Thousands) with their plant babies along the leaf margins are a real population problem if you let them frolic outdoors. Here's another naughty girl, Pregnant Onion.

Too bad you can't spay them. I could go on and on, but try Palm Bob's article for yourself:

http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/3144/#b

ML Carlé
**Plant Sale News**

On February 22, 13 people gathered at my house to divide plants that grow in my garden...*Asarum caudatum* (wild ginger), *Salvia spathacea* (hummingbird sage), *Salvia ‘Bee’s Bliss’, Solidago californica* (goldenrod), *Dryopteris arguta* (wood fern), *Polypodium californicum* (CA polypody fern), *Adiantum jordanii* (northern maidenhair fern), and several varieties of *Epilobium canum* (CA fuchsia). Thanks to Kathi Dowdikin, Cindy Tancreto, Penny Dalton, Elmarie Hutchinson, Pat Sesser, Lea Davis, Helene Walton, Charlotte Martin, Alan Brubaker, Patty Mohar, Betsy Livingston, and Cynthia Kayser. In two hours, these hard workers divided over 100 plants for our October plant sale.

Our next workshop will be at Cal Flora on Sunday, May 18. We will meet at 10 AM. We will be potting up cuttings/liners of *Ceanothus, Arctostaphylos, Baccharis, Ribes,* and various grasses and ferns. The liners will be provided by Shooting Star Propagation Nursery in Graton. Please plan to attend this important workshop. We often have over 500 liners to pot up and need a lot of help as well as folks to take the plants home to care for until the plant sale. Call Liz at 833-2063 to volunteer or for more information.

Liz Parsons

**Events**

**The Cedars April 27**
This geological area has become well acclaimed among California botanists for its endemic and serpentine plants as well as a unique and beautiful landscape. Roger Raiche will lead a small group in a 4 wheel drive caravan across numerous creeks to the trailhead. This hike will showcase the earlier flowers along Austin Creek including azaleas. Massive barrens and talus slopes alternate with old growth Sargent cypress woodlands, forming an intricate mosaic of vegetation with 7 of its plants found nowhere else in the world, while others have their only Sonoma County populations here. Limited to 15 people and to the number of 4WD vehicles. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and a bathing suit if the forecast is for hot weather. Please contact Wendy Smit (wendysmit@hughes.net or 707 481-3765) for further instructions.

**Note Date change:**

**Thursday, May 1. Stump Beach Spring Wildflowers.** Explore this part of the coast with Ann Howald. Meet at 10:00 am at the Stump Beach picnic area, Salt Point State Park. Take Hwy 1 north from Jenner to Salt Point SP. Stump Beach is about 1 mile north of the Woodside and Gerstle Cove campgrounds. As of this writing, parking at Stump Beach is along Hwy 1 because the gates to the picnic area are still closed. The rest room at Stump Beach remains locked. There are bathrooms at Woodside and Gerstle Cove campgrounds. There is no fee to park along the road at Stump Beach or visit the area. However, to use the rest rooms at the campgrounds may require paying the entrance fee. Driving time from Santa Rosa is about 1.5 hours. We’ll hike down to the beach at Miller Creek, then up onto the coastal bluff, looking at what’s blooming. Possibilities include: footsteps-of-spring, purple checker mallow, western dog violet, coastal bluff morning glory, seaside daisy, lupines of several kinds, sea thrift, dudleya, castilleja, and
many others. There will likely be a chance to help the park with weed control by yanking up some invasive Australian fireweed, as well. We’ll return to the picnic area around 1:30 for a late lunch. This is an easy hike, although there are two short, steep stretches. For more information contact Wendy Smit (wendysmit@hughes.net). Please carpool if possible.

Cow Mountain - Saturday, May 3; meet at the California Conservation Corps facility at 2600 Old River Road in Talmage (Ukiah) at 9:30 a.m.

This trip will explore the vegetation along North Cow Mtn. Road, focusing on areas burned in 2012. We’ll make intermittent stops in ascending the mountain, then plan on a walk along Glen Eden Trail to explore post-fire plant recovery from the Scott fire.

We’ll organize transportation at the meeting site. Bring lunch and sufficient water for a full day. The trip will be cancelled in the event of rain or road closures. Leader: Peter Warner (707) 666-9071 phytopagan@sonic.net

Note Date Change:
Sunday May 11 Modini Mayacamas Preserve hike with Sherry Adams

UC McLaughlin Reserve, April 12-13 and June 7-8, 2014
Lake/Napa County north of Lake Berryessa

Serpentine Grassland and Spring Wildflowers, April 12-13, Sat & Sun: Camping will be available at the UC McLaughlin Reserve on Sat night, and we are planning a potluck dinner that night at the Reserve field station, just a short drive up the hill from the campground. On Sunday morning, the Reserve staff will lead us on a gently-paced walk through fields of serpentine spring wildflowers at a nearby location. For those interested, other serpentine locations can be visited on our drive home.

Rare Plant Treasure Hunt for Serpentine Endemics, June 7-8, Sat & Sun: We will also have the camping option for this trip on Sat night, and a potluck dinner. After breakfast Sunday morning, when it’s still somewhat cool, we will visit a rugged serpentine canyon to map CNPS-listed plants. We will carpool in high clearance/4WD vehicles for this moderately strenuous outing. Wendy Smit, Milo Baker Fieldtrip Chair wendysmit@hughes.net

Summer Botany Field Course

Santa Rosa Junior College is offering “Northern Sierra Plants” (Botany 64), emphasizing the ecology and taxonomy of the vascular plants of the Sierra Nevada north of Lake Tahoe, from Sunday, June 22, through Saturday, June 28; a mandatory pre-trip meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The course will be based at the University of California-Berkeley’s Forestry Camp in Meadow Valley, Plumas County, about 8 miles west of Quincy. Course fees cover instruction, meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner), lodging (rustic), and transportation. For further information, go to the SRJC summer 2014 class schedule: https://portal.santarosa.edu/SRWeb/SR_ScheduleOfClasses.aspx%3Ftermid=20145

Daily activities will include short presentations on the botany and plant ecology of the region, with the bulk of instructional time spent exploring the vegetation and flora of the northern Sierra Nevada in the wild. These daily outings require several continuous hours of walking on uneven terrain and exposure to the full array of environmental elements; good physical health and fitness are essential to participate in this course.

Additional course information will be provided at the mandatory pre-trip meeting on June 17.
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 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

Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors 2013/2014
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Publicity: Wendy Born wendyborn@comcast.net
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SCCC Rep.: Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wlk@sonic.net
Southridge Preserve: 539-3441, terrapenecarolinamajor@yahoo.com
SRJC Representative: Lea Davis, 538-1499
SSU Rep.: Kerry Wininger, 888-5616, kerrywininger@gmail.com
Web Site: Molly Graber, cnpswebadm@gmail.com
Vine Hill Preserve: Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, Sarahpgordon@gmail.com

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☐ Individual………………………………….$45
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☐ Plant Lover………………………………$100
☐ Patron……………………………………$300
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