General Meeting:
A Geologic Overview of California’s Great Valley
and Development of Vernal Pool Habitats at Mather Field

With Nate Manley
April 19, 2016 7:30 pm

Abstract  Many people in our region have learned to love California’s vernal pools and the unique array of plants and animals found in these ecosystems. Superbly adapted to their environments and the extreme seasonal fluctuations we enjoy here in California, these flora and fauna are both beautiful to behold and wondrously fascinating to study. But have you ever wondered how these vernal pool habitats formed in the first place? Not only are vernal pools distinctive biologically, they are geologically unique as well!

Speaker Bio:  Nate Manley studied geology as an undergraduate at Humboldt State University and went on to earn his Master’s degree in Structural Geology from Sacramento State. Over the years he has worked as a California licensed professional geologist in the fields of environmental and engineering geology and has participated in numerous projects all over California. In his role as an educator, Nate has taken a special interest in making complex geologic processes easy to understand and fun to explore and has been recognized by students and colleagues for his beautiful visual presentations, clear explanations and outright enthusiasm for sharing what he knows.

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 18th, 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 12th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
Chapter News

Marie Francescutti
February 13, 1918 -March 6, 2016

Marie Francescutti, a charter member of the Milo Baker Chapter, passed away at the age of 98. Long time members of the Chapter will remember Marie as a charming hostess. The January Board pot luck was held at her home for many years in the 1980’s. Marie continued to live at the lovely home that was built by Bunny Bunyan, the husband of another charter member, Vanette Bunyan. Marie passed away in that home surrounded by her family. A Life Tribute was published in the Press Democrat on March 11.

*Liz Parsons

Gardening with Natives

Betty Young’s Yard before

Have you ever wondered how you might turn a tiny landscape into a native plant garden? If you are looking for inspiration—or just curious—here’s how one of our members tackled the situation. After years of managing nursery operations at places as different as Filoli Gardens and Circuit Riders, Betty Young finally had the time and the opportunity in 2014 to create her own native plant garden—from scratch. As you can see from the before and after photos, it was, literally, barren ground. A friend helped her design the garden but Betty did most of the grunt work, which included shoveling out three layers of rock and plastic, by hand, to get to the clay soil beneath.

With six yards of compost Betty transformed a flat square space, 15 x 24 feet, into three mounded planting beds bisected with a flagstone and gravel walkway (3/8 inch decorative rock called Salmon Bay). She spent hours researching plants that were suitable for a tiny garden and a somewhat difficult sun/shade situation—bright to part shade most of the time with a short window of full sun in summer. The search was simplified by flower color. Betty had three colors in mind: blue, yellow and white.

Betty’s Yard After

Most of the plants went into the ground in November (many purchased at the CNPS October plant sale), and all of the empty spaces in between were seeded with large packets of wildflower seed. Last spring Betty was rewarded with masses of tidy tips and baby blue eyes, California poppies, gilia, and clarkias. Many of the wildflowers have reseeded this spring, not just in the beds but in the walkway, too. The baby blue eyes (Nemophila) not so much; Betty recommends re-seeding this wildflower each year. A groundcover, yerba buena (Satureja douglasii) is also spreading nicely in one of the beds, happy with the part-shade location.

Planted under the window against the house are Ceanothus thyrsiflorus ‘El Dorado’

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and yellow-flowered currant (*Ribes aureum*) — both have had vigorous growth in just one year in their shady location. When I saw them they were 4 feet tall, after having been pruned back several times. The gold tones of the variegated leaf on the ‘El Dorado’ harmonizes beautifully with the yellow flowers of the currant, which were in bloom when I saw the garden at the end of February. Betty planted mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisia*) nearby, but it had very few blooms last year and is not thriving in this shady spot. She plans to replace it with another ‘El Dorado’.

Many of the smaller shrubs and perennials Betty chose are especially attractive to hummingbirds: California fuchsia (*Epilobium ‘Marin Pink’*), *Mimulus ‘Eleanor’, Salvia ‘Bee’s Bliss’, S. clevelandii ‘Allen Chickering’, S. leucophylla ‘Pt. Sal’*, *Penstemon heterophylla ‘Margarita BOP’,* and island snapdragon (*Galvezia speciosa*). Although the island snapdragon shows signs of re-emerging after dying back this winter, Betty may replace it: it is frost tender and needs more sun.

Other perennials, such as scarlet coyote mint (*Monardella macrantha ‘Marion Sampson’*), *Phacelia californica*, and the many wildflower species are very attractive to butterflies and other pollinators. California pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*), the only caterpillar food plant for the pipevine swallowtail, and honeysuckle (*Lonicera ciliosa*) climb a trellis together.

There is no drip irrigation. Using recycled shower and sink water from a barrel hooked up to a downspout, Betty waters plants by hand with a bucket as needed, rejoicing no doubt at the El Nino season and her wonderful drought tolerant natives. In addition to the birds and insects these plants attract, a lovely small water feature—a ceramic pot filled with stones and a solar-powered fountain—further enhances the habitat value of this small, sweet garden.

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**Invasives Corner**

**Upcoming Weeder’s Group events:**

**Sunday, May 15, 2016. 9 AM to 12:30**

**Nefertierra** off of St. Helena Road. We’ll be strolling and pulling weeds on this lovely 80-acre rugged private property to benefit rare plants.

**Thursday, May 26, 2016. 9 AM to 12:30**

**Bohemia Preserve** with LandPaths (near Occidental). We’ll remove barbed-goat grass to benefit the endangered Pennell’s bird’s-beak.

**Tuesday, June 7, 2016. 9 AM to 12:30**

**Nefertierra** off of St. Helena Road. We’ll be strolling and pulling weeds on this lovely 80-acre rugged private property to benefit rare plants.

**June/July Date TBD. 9 AM TO 12:30**

**Bohemia Preserve** with LandPaths (near Occidental). Remove yellow star thistle from serpentine outcrops to benefit several rare plant species.

**Vine Hill Preserve. Summer TBD.**

To RSVP and/or to get on the Weeder’s Group email list for event details and future event notification, contact Kate Symonds (Milo Baker Invasive Chair) at kate@terraserve.net.

Updates posted at: [http://milobaker.cnps.org](http://milobaker.cnps.org)

No experience necessary. The more of us the merrier to make more room for our cherished native plant species.

Kate Symonds

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**Plant Sale News**

**May Potting Workshop**

There will be a workshop at Cal Flora in Fulton on Thursday, May 19 at 10 AM. We will be potting up liners of *Arctostaphylos, Ceanothus,* and other shrubs and perennials. The liners will be provided by Shooting Star Propagation.

Nancy Bauer
We need people to help pot up the plants as well as members who are willing to grow the plant on until our October 8 plant sale. If you have questions call Liz at 833-2063.

**Events**

**General note on field trips.** Unless stated in the individual field trip notice, there is no need to RSVP, just show up. Always, bring hat, sunscreen, and lunch.

**Sonoma Valley Regional Park: Wildflowers and Oaks**
**Friday, April 1; 10am-1pm**

(carpool at 9:15am from east end of Hwy 12 Park & Ride-between fairgrounds and Vets’ Hall)

**Leader:** Steve Barnhart, retired SRJC Botanist and recently retired Pepperwood Academic Director.

Join retired botany teacher who inspired so many of us, in a spring walk at Sonoma Valley Regional Park for vernal pool flowers, and many other wildflower delights. Learn your oaks from THE expert.

As always, bring lunch, water, hat, sunscreen. *Parking fee or pass required.*

**Lawson Addition at Hood Mountain Regional Park Wildflower Hike**
**Saturday, April 9, 2016; 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

(carpool at 9:15am from east end of Hwy 12 Park & Ride-between fairgrounds and Vets’ Hall)

**Leader:** Jim Piercy

Regional Parks in partnership with the California Native Plant Society Milo Baker Chapter will host a hike to the Lawson Addition at Hood Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve. The Lawson Addition is a 247-acre parcel purchased by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and transferred to Regional Parks in 2014. This will be a strenuous 6-mile hike to the top of a hill that offers great views of the Santa Rosa Plain, Valley of the Moon, and Hood Mountain. We’ll pass through oak woodlands, mixed evergreen forest, chaparral, and Sargent cypress woodlands on serpentine soils. Wildflower sightings might include Columbine, tidy tips, larkspur, zigadene, lupine and poppies, and in the serpentine area, jewel flowers and golden fairy lanterns.

Meet to form carpools at the Hwy. 12 Park & Ride at 9:15 or at the Pythian Road entrance to Hood Mountain for a prompt 10 a.m. departure. Bring lunch and plenty of water, hat, sunscreen, and lunch. (Water is not available at the park.) This hike will end around 2 p.m. *Parking fee or pass required.*

**Wildflowers of ACR’s Modini Mayacamas Preserves**
**Sunday, April 17, 2016; 10:30am - 2:30pm**

(carpool at 9:45am at the Park and Ride just west of Hwy 101 on River Rd-next to the big electrical transmission yard)

**Leader:** Sherry Adams, Biologist and Preserve Manager

We'll have a view of Mt St Helena and visit a serpentine outcrop for this wildflower hike in the Mayacamas Mountains. We'll see what's in bloom, which may include: St. Helena morning glory (CNPS list 4), bristly jewelflower (*Streptanthus glandulosus glandulosus*), Douglas sandwort (*Minuartia douglasii*), bush poppy, native grasses, variable linanthus (*Leptosiphon parviflorus*), and gypsum springbeauty. The entire preserve burned in the 2004 fire, so every visit is a chance to think about fire ecology.

Bring lunch, drinking water, and dress appropriate to the weather. It may be muddy, and this is steep country. You will be asked to clean off any seeds or mud from footwear and pant cuffs upon arrival and are encouraged to do so before coming.
Meeting location at 10:30AM: Intersection of Pine Flat Rd and Red Winery Rd, there is a large gravel shoulder with ample parking. We’ll get into as few cars as possible from there to head up to the preserve. We’ll be parking at about 1000’ elevation and hiking from there.

**Laguna Wetland and Native Demonstration Garden**  
**Friday, April 22; 9am – noon**

No carpool. Meet in parking lot of SR Water Treatment Plant, 4300 Llano Rd (south of Todd Rd)  
**Leader:** Denise Cadman, Environmental Specialist, City of Santa Rosa Water Department

Explore the native plant garden demonstrating local natives in a garden setting and the adjacent wetlands. We will see freshwater marsh and seasonal wetland flora, as well as, restoration plantings of trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses and non-grass monocots. We can decide whether to stay on site and walk down to the Laguna to explore the recent, very expansive restoration plantings, or we may choose to carpool/caravan to another nearby site depending on weather and site conditions. See the Laguna de Santa Rosa up close and the work by the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation and Water Department to restore the native habitat and natural functioning of this critical ecosystem.

Rubber boots are a good idea, along with the regular hat, water, no sunscreen. (No lunch stop on this trip.) Meet in the parking lot at the City of Santa Rosa Water Treatment Plant, 4300 Llano Rd, Santa Rosa, (south of Todd Rd)

**Eco-friendly Garden Tour**  
**Saturday April 30; 10am – 4pm**  
Self-guided tour.

The self-guided tour promotes sustainable landscaping practices by showcasing inspiring home gardens throughout Sonoma County and North Marin. Ten native plant gardens will be featured. The tour is free but registration is required at www.SavingWaterPartnership.org  
We will have plant sales at gardens in Santa Rosa and Sebastopol. Demonstrations of pruning native shrubs will be held at Wendy Born’s garden in Sebastopol and Gardening for Wildlife workshop at the Rural Cemetery Garden in Santa Rosa at 11am and 1pm at each location. Our own members will be greeting participants and knowledgeable gardeners will be at each native garden to answer questions.

Save the date:

- Friday, May 6 Wildflowers of Pepperwood
- Friday, May 6, Serpentine Areas of Bohemia Preserve.
- Saturday, May 14. The Cedars. You snooze you lose. This trip is full.
- Sunday, May 22, Fairfield Osborne Preserve
- Thursday June 9, Sears Point and Baylands tidal marshes
- Wednesday, June 22, Presidio Coastal Bluffs and lunch in the City

✉Betty Young

**Flora of Northern Sierra With Peter Warner**

Experience – live! in person! – the sumptuous botanical diversity of the northern Sierra Nevada: walking and reveling in its forests, meadows, mountains, lakes, and streams. A week (June 19-25) of “comfy camping,” camaraderie, and splendid scenery, with daily explorations of the marvelous plant world, will do wonders for your mind, heart, and soul. Register this spring for Botany 64: Northern Sierra Plants, at Santa Rosa Junior College.  
**Peter Warner**  
(707) 666-9071  
phytopagan@sonic.net
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: cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com