Join us for Dinner before the Meeting

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 Jan 11th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend.
Happy Holidays and welcome winter! The rains have gotten us off to a good start in green Sonoma County. I was reminiscing on 10 years of Milo Baker Chapter volunteering and found my candidate’s statement from 2004, when I first ran for President. I did not read it for the election, which I lost, 12-6. In the last 4 years as your President, I have tried to give you these promises, with less time to volunteer than I hoped. I have greatly enjoyed being your President, and although I have not personally achieved all these goals, I believe our Board and chapter volunteers, as a team, have done the job under my leadership. I am very proud.

The Milo Baker Chapter has had numerous success stories over the last several years. Our collaborations with the Sonoma Land Trust, Laguna Foundation, and Sonoma State University have brought more young people in and achieved conservation and scientific gains all over the county. Thank you for the chance to lead such a dedicated group of wonderful volunteers committed to the Sonoma County Flora.

Here is part of my old 2004 candidate’s speech; I’m sure many of you will see yourselves as part of this success. I hope we can continue to embrace these principles in our board leadership and do the best for our wonderful members. Thank you everyone for making CNPS a fun place to be while we advocate for native plants!

What I (wanted to) bring to the Chapter as President:
♦ Knowledge of CNPS policies and governance structure, which will help the Board make sound decisions and fulfill its responsibilities.
♦ Open-mindedness to new people and ideas, which encourages the natural talents of the Board and members.
♦ Familiarity with the full range of chapter activities, which helps to recruit volunteers and keeps the Board involved.
♦ Experience with how to lead productive discussions at board meetings, which brings forth more participation and uses time wisely.
♦ Good writing skills and a willingness to communicate with the Board, members, and State, which facilitates cooperation and keeps projects going.
♦ Prompt response to chapter mail, public agency inquiries, and referral items, to make sure we don’t miss opportunities for conservation, education, and networking.
♦ Knowledge of Conservation-related laws, strategies, and contacts, to educate members and help the Conservation Committee be effective in advocacy.
♦ A focus on the mission and strategic plan of CNPS and how we can fulfill it in our chapter, working with members, the state organization, agencies, the public, and government.
♦ Friendly outreach at general meetings and events to bring in more members and active volunteers, and informative updates from the Board and State which matter to the Chapter.

Some things I am most proud of are:
1. Bringing new members to an active level of participation in the Chapter and on the Board.
2. Renewed interaction with the State, which has helped our chapter conservation program.
3. Utilizing the expertise in the Chapter (through the Conservation Committee and field days with Betty Guggolz) to more effectively respond to rare plant issues in the County and renew monitoring of rare populations.

Lynn Houser
December Gardening
So many of us easterners recall with nostalgia the Eastern Dogwood trees that light up the spring time woods. Did you know we have our own Western Dogwood or Pacific Mountain Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*)? It is attractive year round; red twigs during the winter; spring brings delicate green leaves followed by huge saucer-like, white flowers (actually, they are called bracts). After blooming, the “flowers” give way to red berries, treasured by birds. In the autumn, its green leaves transform themselves into wonderful fall colors. The Western Dogwood could be a focal point in the garden where you can watch it go through its seasonal changes. It does need summer shade and well-drained soil. Injury to bark should be avoided; the same with summer moisture and pruning. Dogwood disease, a non-native fungus, could be a problem with a stressed tree. It’s always best to do some research before going to the expense and time of planting a tree or shrub.

I mention Pyracantha because they came with the purchase of my house many years ago. I do not recommend planting Pyracantha shrubs. They become huge, they have dreadful thorns, and they are invasive as the birds “plant” the berries everywhere.

Judy Brinkerhoff
Please write me at: joodbrink@comcast.net

Invasives Corner

A Prickly Parable
When is a thistle not a weed? You may say any is a scourge to be sought and destroyed by blade, toxic potion, or carbon-swilling mechanical executioner. But what if the spiny one is as much a part of natural lore as the Quail, or Poppy, or Oak; here for years ‘ere humans cast long shadows across the land? What if our feathered friends and buzzing ones, too, relied upon these prickly plants for sustenance, shelter, and sociability? That they are well defended is scant reason to regard them with disfavor.

Weeds are simply so in the minds, the eyes, and the oft’ idle hands of the beholder. While many fall prey to righteous zeal, in attempts to repel invaders that squat in forest, glade, or meadow, too many of the vitally indigenous also perish, victims of mistaken identity. Thusly do so many native thistles suffer the indignity I plead you reserve for those oh-so-lovely ochre-blossomed peas from the East – you name the broom – or the hordes of red-berried, black-drupeled, fleshy fruited, woody-capsuled, parchment-podded, slimy or seedy, pompously plumed, nursery-groomed, creepily rhizomed, strangling, entangling, ecologically mangling, horticulturally-pimped-for-your-conspicuous-consumption garden wretches (*Acacia*, *Arundo*, *Carpobrotus*, *Cotoneaster*, *Cortaderia*, *Delairea*, *Eucalyptus*, *Hedera*, *Ilex*, *Ligustrum*, *Pyracantha*, *Vinca*, *Watsonia*, *et al.*, *ad nauseum*). But I digress!

Truly, with so many prickly pranksters infiltrating our fabulous thistle flora, the native sticklers can confound the otherwise noble restorationist, leading to their untimely demise.
(meaning that of the thistles, but who knows the vengeance that might simmer in the hearts of artichokes?). So, by way of telling tales (not tall), I must warn those who weed – one and all – know thy thistles! Seek counsel for taxonomically tantalizing tricksters! Grope and grab with all due caution amongst the spiny thickets, for the bite may be worse than the bark, and harbor botanical booty, to boot! Now will I share fair warning, from mountains far and near, of the blight those who vie to do good deeds can deliver, for alas, they know not foe from friend. These are dark fables of woe for thistles that, having peacefully plied verdant slopes for thousands of years, were tragically separated from their earthly heritage.

In Yosemite, the summer past, as I traipsed the slopes of Dana and Lyell, I was beset with the withering corpses of countless Cirsium scariosum (elk thistle), rent asunder and lying wasted along the way. Surely this could not be the work of an evolutionarily wayward deer, time and again mistaking the spiny herbage for more palatable fare? No, for I soon happened upon another traveler, also aghast, who shared with me the spying of the perpetrator's deeds. Apparently, these thistles manifested as a pestilence pirating resources from the more becoming native posies, and thus deserved to die! Yet, in these alpine climes, nary an invader has been known to survive winter's wrath, yet the unenlightened deed-doer didst mistakenly slay the indigenous herbs, whereupon the park's learned ones did lament by decree, "Let the natives be!"

As the days fell to chill, I returned to the hill called Hood, above Valley of the Moon. My heart did start me in a hurry and with a thrill, along the trail through these peculiar woods, where serpentine mineral and infertile till keep invaders at bay. Had but a few fortnights passed since I last trod these trails, and thence had made the dear acquaintance of Cirsium douglasii, the denizen thistle of western swamp. Soon, and alas, tears doused my cheer, as in the ultramafic muck I fell upon a field of gore – no, neither Al nor Vidal, but a sickening scene of *Cirsium* -slaying! With haste to sound the alarm of this errant slaughter, I soon learned the terrible truth that I must tell: citizens worthy, if not well informed, wreaked the havoc, fearing an invader had designs for the entire mountainside. So did another native thistle perish, for crimes of encroachment never committed. Well, fear not – these natives are tough, as well as perennial; in resiliency they will long outlive us! I know well that the weeders had love for habitat in mind, if not in the hand. But, please, take these tales to heart, and spend not your time wrenching from Earth those plants that precede us. Seek twice, nay, thrice, the advice, of a thistly sage, for knowing what weeds to cull from forest and field.

Peter Warner
phytopagan@gmail.com

---

**Plant Sale News**

**Saturday, December 18, 11 AM: Pacific Coast Iris Workshop**

We’ll meet at Mary Aldrich’s house, 4775 Newanga, SR (539-9005). We will be dividing Pacific Coast Iris and taking them home to grow for the sale (October 8, 2011). The PCN Iris are always very popular at our sale. We sold 110 of them this year. The only time that they can be divided is in the winter. This is a very important part of our plant sale preparation, so please come and help us. It takes less than two hours to prepare and divide the iris—we’re that good! Please join us. If you have any species iris like *Iris douglasiana* or *Iris macrosiphon*, bring them or call me and I’ll pick them up, many of our customers ask for them.

©Liz Parsons
State News

California Invasive Plant Council: Map the Spread to Stop the Spread
In 2006-2008 Cal-IPC mapped the existing distribution of all species in the Cal-IPC Inventory by county and Jepson floristic region. In 2010-2011 we’re continuing to map at a finer resolution (7.5 minute USGS quadrangles). The keystone of this effort is to gather a group of local botanists and land managers and map their expert knowledge. We’re seeking input from CNPS volunteers with strong botanical skills and a regional knowledge of invasive plant distribution. Come participate in our data gathering meetings!
Our meetings have been informative and collaborative, with palpable excitement about the final mapping products. The outcomes of this project will enable users to answer questions like: What’s here, What’s on the move, What’s on the way, What’s ripe for eradication and What’s ripe for containment. To participate, please contact your chapter’s invasive species or conservation coordinator (if applicable) or email mapping@cal-ipc.org. Visit www.calweedmapper.org for more information.
Bob Hass, Editor-Fremontia and CNPS Bulletin bhass@cnps.org

Events and Items of Interest

Cotati Creek Critters
Saturday, December 11, 9 am - 12 noon
Creek Stewardship Day
Help take care of native plants along the upper reach of the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Wear old clothes, and dress for work and weather - in layers, with boots if you have them, or sturdy shoes, and proper raingear if rain is forecast. Gloves and tools are provided. Please bring your own drinking water bottle. Meet at Cotati City well lot no. 2 on Lakewood Ave.

Guidelines, directions and maps at www.CotatiCreekCritters.info
Contact: jenny@creeks.cotati.info or 707 792 4422.

WILDCARE’S
Family Adventures, Saturday December 18/
Aventuras Familiares, Sabado 18 de Diciembre
Winter Wildlife / La Vida Salvaje en Invierno
Programs begin at 10:00 a.m. at the trailhead.
Questions? Contact Juan-Carlos Solis at:
juan-carlos@wildcarebayarea.org.
415.453.1000, ext.17
Información y preguntas en español al
juan-carlos@wildcarebayarea.org
415.45.1000, ext. 17

Northern California Botanists’ 2011 Symposium
January 10-11, 2011
The Northern California Botanists Symposium, “Northern California Plant Life – Wonder, Discovery, Concern,” will be at Bell Memorial Union on the Chico State campus. The 2011 Symposium will attract hundreds of professional botanists, scholars, plant biologists, and students who will participate in a full schedule of peer-led sessions, poster presentations, and networking opportunities. Session topics will provide updates and new perspectives on fire ecology, lichens, reproductive ecology, Jepson Manual changes, rare plant management, climate change, and new botanical discoveries, all emphasizing the northern part of California. President of the Northern California Botanists, Linnea Hanson, of the US Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, will open the event, which will feature more than 30 presenters representing federal and state government agencies, the leading environmental consulting firms in the region, academic institutions and non-profit organizations dedicated to improving our natural resources. The keynote speaker, Dr. Bob Patterson, of San Francisco State University, will present a talk on “A Tale of Two Trees: The History (Natural and Otherwise) of the Phlox Family” on Monday, January 10, during the annual Symposium Dinner.
Two post-conference field trips and a workshop are scheduled for Wednesday, January 12. The workshop, on the Chico State campus, will focus on regulatory framework resources for beginning professional botanists; local field trips exploring soils and lichens will be guided by experts in those fields. Students in botany can apply for an academic stipend to help defray the cost of the Symposium.

To register or for more information please visit the Northern California Botanists Symposium Web site at www.norcalbotanists.org – or call Gail Kuenster at (530) 570-5196.

About Northern California Botanists
Northern California Botanists is dedicated to establishing a forum for botanical issues in Northern California among professional botanists, students, and those with interest in the field. As a professional organization, they also provide a job forum, student scholarships, and general support for students interested in becoming professional botanists.

SLT Willow Planting Volunteer Workday
Friday January 28, 10-2
Sears Point Ranch, San Pablo Bay
Please join Sonoma Land Trust's willow planting workparty at Sears Point Ranch in Southern Sonoma County (near Lakeville Hwy & Hwy 37.) Volunteers are needed to help "sprig" riparian areas with willow poles as part of a riparian enhancement project. This project is level "2" (Some inclines with good trails or mostly flat with more difficult and/or longer trails). For more information or to sign-up, please call (707) 544-5614 ext. 2 or email: volunteer@sonomalandtrust.org. A flyer with more information is available to download at: www.sonomalandtrust.org/join_in/outings.html

Last month, Sonoma Land Trust and friends began construction of the **Sonoma Baylands Center** at the site of the Sears Point Habitat Restoration Project. The Center will serve as a gathering place to explore and learn about the diversity of activities and life forms at the Sonoma Baylands.

Laguna Docent Training Class Now Forming
February 15, March 2- Information Meetings
Expand and share your knowledge and love of nature – train to become a Laguna de Santa Rosa docent. Volunteers learn about the natural and cultural history of Sonoma County’s unique natural treasure, the Laguna de Santa Rosa, then lead dynamic, hands-on environmental education activities in 2nd - 4th grade classrooms throughout the watershed and during field trips to Laguna Preserves. Training starts March 2011 and informational meetings will be held from 6:00-7:30 pm on Tuesday, February 15th at the Sebastopol Library and on Wednesday, March 2 at the Central Santa Rosa Library. For information, including the application and training schedule visit www.lagunafoundation.org or contact Christine Fontaine, Laguna Foundation Education Programs Director: 527-9277 x102 christine@lagunafoundation.org

Riverkeeper Stewardship Park Volunteer Days
On the entire 110 miles of the Russian River this is the place to see and participate in riverbank stewardship. Everyone and all ages are welcome to visit or volunteer. No experience necessary. Enjoy time on the Russian River every Wednesday except when there is enough rain to need a raincoat. Please join us from 8:30 - 11:30 am, for all or part of the time. We suggest that you bring your own drinking water and wear sturdy footwear. The Park is located at 16153 Main St., Guerneville on the north bank of the Russian River directly upstream of the pedestrian bridge. Access is down a driveway in front of Sonoma Nesting Co. At the bottom of the driveway look for the blue and white sign that says, “Russian Riverkeeper Demonstration Riparian Restoration Project Future Community Park.” Parking is available near the sign. For more information contact Victoria Wikle at 865-2474 or VictoriaWikle@usa.net. Website at http://www.russianriverkeeper.org
Cunningham Marsh - The State Of 2010

Cunningham Marsh is alive and well. This past year has been one of maintenance. After two years of watering, and a great 2009-early 2010 year of rain, bi-monthly watering by volunteers with hoses was stopped in four hedgerows previously planted by volunteers and Sonoma State and J.C. students in 2008. Baccharis pilularis (coyote bush) are thriving and other plants are doing well considering an overrun of Holcus sp. (velvet grass), and in some hedgerows, thistle.

Highlights for the year: Peter Warner was most helpful and willing to discuss the thistle problem. John Herrick, Gene Cooley and Rocky Thompson walked the site many times and collected Crataegus douglasii (Western Hawthorn) leaf tissue and fruit as part of a larger west coast hawthorn genetics research project conducted by Tim Dickinson of the University of Toronto. With help from Catherine Cumberland of the Laguna Foundation, interns Rose Calzontzi, Samantha Hout, Tammie Lindstrom and Jamie Rowan removed most of the weed cloth from one hedgerow, while other volunteers worked on two other hedgerows.

Weeding within the hedgerows was done in May, as was mowing in the big field by Ken, "The Gentleman Farmer".

Lily counts in June were completed by Kate Symonds, with Kate doing a capsule count in October. Also in October, was a tour of C.M. with discussion focusing on Holcus sp. removal/control with John, Betty Young, and the Bodega Marine Reserve Coastal Prairie Holcus Management Group: Kathleen Kraft, Diana Immel, Hazel Flett, Michelle Cooper and Suzanne Olyarnick. Fellow hedgerow keepers M.L. Carle, Judith Rousseau and Arleen Kaller were always willing to help. Thank you to all who helped this year....it can't be done alone.

Great horned owls had 3 young, badgers moved in with a vengeance in the fields, and a pair of wood ducks were seen perching on a snag. The mountain lion kill of a deer from June 2009 was no longer visible. Lilium pardinum ssp. pitkinense (Pitkin Marsh lily) bloomed in abundance as did the Rhododendron occidentale (Western Azalea)......Cunningham Marsh thrives!

Future Tasks hopefully to be accomplished in 2011 and beyond include acorn planting and protecting, continuing removal of weed cloth, weeding and flagging around hawthorns for future mowing, and weeding within the lily exclosures.

Problems for the future: Velvet grass, thistle, mowing, oak planting and protecting and volunteer help. Please help in 2011, when called upon.

At the CNPS plant sale, speaking with Betty Guggolz was a highlight for me. She was instrumental in getting the easement for C.M. This article's for you Betty!

Marcia Johnson Steward, Cunningham Marsh

Bio for January Speaker from page 1

Curtis Short received his Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science/Plant Pathology from U.C. Davis in 1986. He was certified as a U.C. Cooperative Extension Master Gardener with the Sonoma County class of 1989 and went on to complete several courses in Landscape Architecture at U.C. Berkeley Cooperative Extension in San Francisco during the early 90's. While living out of state between 2004 and 2007, Mr. Short landscaped professionally in both Maine and New Brunswick Canada. He earned Master Gardener certification from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in 2005 and worked on a project to catalog some of the roughly four thousand heirloom and endangered seed varieties in the collection of legendary eccentric seed saver Will Bonsall. Mr. Short returned with his family to California in 2007 because the granite boulders he used for garden walls in the Northeast were much too heavy. Mr. Short has been a licensed California Landscape Contractor since 1989.
We invite you to join CNPS

Name______________________________
Address______________________________
City/Zip______________________________
Phone______________________________
Email______________________________
Chapter affiliation:
Milo Baker (Sonoma County)
Other county______________________________
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

Make check payable to CNPS and mail to:
CNPS, 2707 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95816
To pay by credit card or for more info call
916.447.2677 or visit www.cnps.org

Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors 2009-10
President, Lynn Houser, 568-3230, housers@sonic.net
Vice President, Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com
Secretary, Patricia Sesser, 528-9197, ptrisha@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer, Jim Piercy, 539-3441, terrapenecarolinamajor@yahoo.com
Book Sales, Wendy Smit, 431.7913, wendysmit@hughes.net
Conservation Chair, Michael Hogan, Hmilobakerflora@gmail.com
Cunningham Marsh, Marcia Johnson, 829-3808, owlsnest@hughes.net
Director at Large, Lea Davis, 538-1499
Director at Large, Beth Robinson, 490-4951, Hbethyemail@gmail.com
Director at Large, Joan Schwan, 823-0446, jschwan@sonic.net
Director at Large, Cindy Tancrero, 528-9225, cindytancrero@pacbell.net
Field Trips, Cindy Tancrero, 528-9225, cindytancrero@pacbell.net
Field Trips, Cassandra Liu, cassandra@sonomaecologycenter.org
Hospitality, Becky Montgomery, 573-0103, montyb@sonic.net
Hospitality, Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com
Invasive Plant Chair, ML Carle, 792-1823, mlml@sonic.net
Legislative Chair, Katy Redmon, 762-3961, tryleedee@comcast.net
Membership/WebAdmin., Gary Hundt, 542-4972, Hhundt@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor, Linda Ramos, Hcnpsmbsnews@email.com
Plant Sale, Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com
Poster & T-Shirt Sales, Wendy Smit, 431.7913, wendysmit@hughes.net
Programs/Lectures, Leia Giambastiani, 322-6722, leiagia@gmail.com
Publicity, OPEN
Rincon Ridge Park, Patricia Sesser, 528-9197, ptrisha@sbcglobal.net
SCCC Rep., Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wendyk@pon.net
Southridge Preserve, OPEN
SRJC Representative: OPEN
SSU Rep., Frederique Lavoipierre, 829-0751, lavoipie@sonoma.edu
Vine Hill Preserve, Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, HSarahpgordon@gmail.com

Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

Newsletter & Web Site Info:
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbsnews@email.com
Deadline for inclusion in the Feb.
Newsletter is Jan. 15.
The chapter web site www.cnpsmb.org
contains a wealth of information plus
current and archived newsletters.
To receive notification of the online newsletter,
or for newsletter mailing/membership issues,
contact: Gary Hundt, ghundt@gmail.com