General Meeting:
Wreath-Making Workshop

December 20, 2016 7:30 PM

Our December meeting will once again be our traditional wreath-making workshop. This is a members-only event, it is a benefit for Milo Baker members. Liz Parsons will give you a few simple instructions and you will discover how easy it is to make a spectacular wreath for your home and family. The Milo Baker Chapter will provide wreath rings, paddle wire, and greens for the wreaths. Most of the greenery comes from Alan Brubaker’s Kenwood garden. Thank you Alan. To add special personal touches, please bring anything that you want to use for your wreath: pine cones, lichen, ribbons, etc. No red berries please—they are very hard to clean up after. Remember to bring your clippers. There will be cookies and hot cider for holiday cheer. Call Liz 833-2063 if you have any questions.

NOTE: There will be no dinner before the December meeting.

Preparing for the workshop takes the time set aside for the dinner

January General Meeting: January 17, 2017 at 7:30pm
Poet Ina Coolbrith's Love of California Wildflowers
Speaker: Aleta George

The California poppy was ten years away from being named California's official state flower when poet Ina Coolbrith wrote "Copa de Oro" in 1893. The orange poppy had been given the Latin name Eschscholzia californica, but Ina preferred the older Spanish name, la copa de oro. When botanist Luther Burbank later named a hybridized poppy crimson eschscholzia Ina Coolbrith, she told him that when she wrote "Copa de Oro" she hadn't known she would become a member of the family.

Aleta George is the author of an award-winning biography, Ina Coolbrith: The Bittersweet Song of California's First Poet Laureate. She will speak about Coolbrith and the poet's love of California wildflowers. Books will be available for selling and signing. George writes about nature and culture in California, and has written for Smithsonian, Bay Nature, and the San Francisco Chronicle.
Chapter News

New Board Members for the 2017-2018 term

Vice President: Liz Parsons
Secretary: Kerry Wininger
Treasurer: Jim Piercy
Director at Large: Wendy Smit
Director at Large: Patty Mohar
Director at Large: Caprice Lee

The President position remains open. However, current President, Leia Giambastiani will remain on the board as immediate past President.

Plant Sale News

The plant sale is over. As a result of many hours of work on the part of many folks who grow the plants all year long, we had beautiful plants to sell. The best quality that I have ever seen. Our net profit was $8,000.00. Thanks to everyone who helped. Now it is time to start again. During the year we hold 4 workshop in which we pot up the plants that we sell at the sale. These plants cost us nothing but the cost of the soil. This is one reason that our plants cost so little.

Our first workshop will be the PCN Iris workshop. December is the best time of year to divide our CA native iris. We will meet on Monday, December 5 at 10 AM. There will be a new meeting place this year. We will be at Wendy Born’s garden at 6625 Barbara, Sebastopol. Weekends get so busy that this season that we decided to not meet on a weekend but a week day. I hope that this does not inconvenience anyone.

Liz Parsons

Events

Cresta Ranch
Sonoma County Ag and Open Space District

Friday, December 2, 2-4 pm. (at Ranch). Meet to carpool at 1:30 pm at Park and Ride on River Rd 1 block west of 101. (Note new meeting place and time)

Leader: Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Manager for the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

Sheri will introduce the group to Cresta Ranch, a property owned by the District since 2007, and part of the future Mark West Creek Regional Park and Open Space Preserve.

The acquisition was intended to protect the scenic values and natural resources and wildlife on the property, as well as allow appropriate public access. The property is situated at the confluence of Mark West and Porter Creeks, providing habitat for both Coho salmon and steelhead trout. The property includes healthy riparian and floodplain habitat, seasonal wetlands, annual grasslands, oak woodlands, and Douglas fir forest.
Participants will visit a riparian planting project and discuss a planned in-stream restoration project for Mark West Creek. Parking is very limited, so please carpool, if possible. Carpool at 1:30pm at the River Rd Park and Ride-see above. Directions to site, if carpool not possible: Highway 101 North to Mark West springs Road exit, travel east for about 8 miles. Continue on Porter Creek Road, turn right onto Cresta Road. Please drive carefully as this is a private, narrow road. After approximately 1 mile, park on left inside the property gate (Sheri will be waiting at gate, there will be a sign as well). Contact number is 707-479-7150, though cell coverage in this location is spotty.

Bring layered clothing, sturdy shoes, hat, sunscreen, and / or raingear as needed. Heavy rain cancels.

The mission of the Ruth Bancroft Garden, Inc. is to preserve this exceptional example of garden design and to continue to develop its collection of water-conserving plants for the education and enjoyment of the public. Succulents are a highlight in this well-known garden. We will arrive by 11 am to join a docent tour.

After the tour, we’ll have lunch at a local eatery.

Rain will cancel, contact Betty if questionable, 595-1463.

Future trips:

February 23, 2017, 10am   Armstrong Redwoods State Park
March 30, 2017      9am   Fitch Mountain
April 29, 2017      10am   Eco-Friendly Garden Tour- volunteers-put on your calendars

May 6-8, 2017   Salt Point camping trip. I cancelled our group reservation-not enough participants to make cost of group campsite worthwhile. Please make your own reservation in the Woodside Campground now.

May 13, 2017 10:30am   Nefertiera

Stay tuned for many more.

We will have only one field trip in December so we can all concentrate on the Holidays. Any questions contact, Betty Young, 595-1463, cell 695-4257, byoung.cnps@gmail.com. youngb0721@msn.org, 595-1463.

Betty Young
**Newsletter & Web Site Info:**

Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com

Deadline for inclusion in the February Newsletter is January 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