Milo Baker Chapter
California Native Plant Society

General Meeting:
"Tending the Wild™:
Edible Wildflower Gardens of California Indian Tribes"
With M.Kat Anderson
February 21, 2016 7:30 PM

Join Kat Anderson as she discusses the beauty, bounty and biodiversity of California's edible bulb plants—the wild onions, mariposa lilies, true lilies, brodiaeas, camas, soaproots, sanicles, and wild carrots. Learn how Native people and their ancestors gathered and tended these wildflower gardens for thousands of years. Explore how we might bring back some of these practices—restoring our relationship with the earth.

About the Speaker: Kat Anderson is a frequent speaker on ethnoecology and Native American land management, author of numerous monographs and professional papers, and is co-editor with Thomas C. Blackburn, of Before the Wilderness, Environmental Management by Native Californians. She is an ethnoecologist and research associate in the Department of Plant Sciences, UC Davis. She is author of Tending the Wild: Native American Knowledge and the Management of California's Natural Resources, published by the University of California Press.

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 February 20th, if you plan to attend.
Chapter News

Eco-Friendly Garden Tour
Saturday April 29, 2017

Deb Dobish’s Garden

We will have 9 or 10 wonderful native gardens on the tour this year. The Garden tour committee needs your help to support that many native gardens. We hope if you volunteered last year, that you will volunteer again. We also need more volunteers than we had last year to direct parking or greet visitors. These jobs require no expertise in native plants. Shifts are 9:30-1 or 12:45-4.

Horticulturists, we are putting together a notebook for each of you with all of our gardening hand outs and other handy reference information. Horticulturists-grab your spouse to help with parking or greeting.

If you volunteered last year, and cannot volunteer this year, please let Betty know, byoung.cnps@gmail.com. If you didn’t volunteer and can help us direct cars to parking or Greet visitors at garden entrances, please also let Betty know.

Betty Young

Plant Sale News

Thanks to the people who helped with the Iris workshop in December. The workshop was held at Wendy Born’s house and we thank Wendy for hosting this event. We also must thank Mary Aldrich who hosted the Iris workshop for many years at her home.

The Irises that we divided came from Alan Brubaker, Kathi Dowdakin, and Wendy Born. 80 gallons of Iris divisions were potted up for the plant sale.

The Iris workshop is the first workshop and the second workshop is the division workshop that we hold at my house. We divide many plants in my garden. We will hold the division workshop on Saturday, March 11 at 10 AM at my Kenwood garden. Call me at 833-2063 if you have any questions.

Search for a Greenhouse Continues

Milo Baker Chapter has explored various solutions to our problem of growing our plants in one central location where we can guarantee that our plants are not going to be contaminated with Phytophthora spores. This is a continuing threat and our practice of growing plants in members’ backyards needs to be replaced with a more secure, fungus free environment. Phytophthora spores are found in many areas and protecting the plants that we sell from contamination is our priority.

Betty Young has written about this problem in previous newsletters. A solution that has been explored is joining with the Laguna Foundation in a project to build a greenhouse on their property near Sebastopol. Betty Young has written an application for a grant from the Wine Country Weekend funds to help with our part of the project.
expenses that such a project. We hope that MBC will be the recipient of such a grant so that we can move forward with this project that holds such promise.

Liz Parsons

**Invasives Corner**

The Growing Problem of Sudden Oak Death

The hope that researchers felt a year ago due to reduced symptom levels of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) seems to have been a fleeting one. As northern California's historic drought continues to wane, the oak and tanoak-killing pathogen is back with a vengeance in Sonoma County and beyond. A September 2015 article from The Press Democrat quoted UC Berkeley Forest Pathology and Mycology Lab Professor Matteo Garbelotto as saying “I think we're at the bottom of the infection rate,” and reassured readers that disease spread was the lowest it's been in a decade. In contrast, one year later, in October 2016, The Press Democrat published an article titled “Sudden oak death in Sonoma County explodes, thanks to winter rains.” The dichotomy is real. Annually since 2006, Garbelotto's Lab has run a successful statewide citizen science “SOD Blitz” campaign in each infested or at-risk California county; UCCE Sonoma coordinates this county's efforts. Volunteers in the community, from high schoolers to retirees, collect symptomatic leaves of the two trees most likely to spread the disease to oaks, California Bay Laurel and Tanoak, then Garbelotto's lab tests them.

Results from the most recent Blitz show the largest increase in cases of Bay and Tanoak infections by *Phytophthora ramorum*, the causal agent of SOD, since the surveys began. The estimated true infection rate of Sonoma county trees more than doubled since just last year. A new outbreak has appeared in the coastal area of northern Sonoma County, and infections have re-emerged in areas from which the disease had previously retreated during the drought. Further afield is the most striking, and discouraging, discovery from last year's Blitz – multiple infections were detected in San Luis Obispo, more southerly than ever previously documented, paving the way to add a 16th county to those listed as infected in the state. Infection was also observed in the hot eastern vicinity of Ukiah for the first time, startling researchers who are accustomed to the pathogen's preference for moist, cool areas. Other findings include two new possible host species in the San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, the first detected infections on Mt. Diablo in Contra Costa County, and an outbreak in southern coastal Mendocino County.

On the upside, substantially more trees were tested during this last blitz than in recent years, novel areas were sampled, and new participants joined the ranks of Citizen Scientists. New treatment recommendations out of the Garbelotto Lab show promise in helping individual trees more safely and effectively decrease their chances of infection if done so before exposure to the pathogen. Why should land owners and managers, businesses, and the public care? Sudden Oak Death poses many apparent threats as well as those that are less obvious. The dramatic loss of oaks and tanoaks impacts biodiversity, nutrient and water cycling, forest microclimate, wildlife, and erosion. There is the potential for increased fire risk and severity in areas with dead and downed trees, creating a safety hazard. Recreation in forests is altered. Traditional cultural practices are impacted. Even human health concerns such as...
transmission of Lyme Disease have the potential to increase (Swei et al. 2010). Lastly, economic consequences of SOD to land owners, municipalities, nurseries, and industry are estimated in the tens or even hundreds of millions of dollars (US GEO 2006).

Now, more than ever, it’s important for scientists, educators, professionals, and the community to come together. Though the news is disheartening, and attention may be elsewhere, collectively we can help slow the spread and cope with this disease that threatens to unhinge native California ecosystems and all that they impact.

(Taken from article originally appearing in January’s UCCE Sonoma County blog and the February edition of Sonoma County Farm Bureau, Sonoma-Marin Farm News)

More info at:
http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=22978

Kerry Wininger

Events

Salmon Creek Rd., Bodega
Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017

Meet at 9 a.m. to carpool. 10 a.m. at junction of Salmon Creek Rd. and Fitzpatrick Rd., about 2 miles west from the town of Bodega.

Carpool 9 a.m., if you can from Hwy 12 Park and Ride lot (between Vet’s Hall and the Fair Grounds) at the east end. We will pick up Sebastopol folks at Safeway parking lot, nearest 116. Call Betty for pick up in Sebastopol, youngb0721@msn.com, 595-1463. Parking is very limited at the meeting location.

Leader: Peter Warner, botanical/ecological consultant and educator.

This will be a leisurely walk along a very easy grade, relatively quiet country road, with focus on identifying late winter wildflowers and flowering shrubs. Notable among the latter is western leatherwood (Dirca occidentalis; CA rare plant rank 1B.2); the population along the road is the furthest north documented. We’ll also look for pink-flowering currant, osoberry, willows, and other woodies early to rise for the coming spring.

Bring a lunch and water; ticks and poison-oak are likely encountered hazards. About 2 miles of very easy walking. Contact: Peter phytopagan@sonic.net, (707) 666-9071, if weather questionable.

Armstrong Woods State Park

Thursday, February 23,

Meet 10 a.m. to carpool. At Armstrong parking lot about 10:45 a.m.: Should be back by 3:30.

Carpool 10 a.m. from Hwy 12 Park and Ride lot (between Vet’s Hall and the Fair Grounds) at the east end. Contact Betty for pick-up at Safeway Sebastopol.

We will celebrate the majesty of the redwoods while looking for our first harbinger of spring,
the charmingly named, Fetid Adders tongue. We will head up the Pool Ridge Trail (~400’ elevation gain) then back down to the Forest Theater to find Fetid Adder’s tongue and have lunch, onto the Armstrong Tree and back on the Pioneer Trail.

Bring lunch, water, hat, sunscreen or layers and gloves, depending on weather, and wear sturdy shoes. Call Betty 595-1463, 695-4257 if chance of rain.

Upcoming trips to put on your calendar:

TBD
Ethnobotanical walk at SRJC, with Virginia Holz-Steenhoven

Friday 3/17/2017
Annadel Plant Survey with Peter Warner

Friday 3/24/2017
Tolay Lake Regional Park with Jim Piercy

Tuesday 3/28/2017
Fitch Mountain with Kate Symonds, chapter member botanist

Monday 4/10/2017
Marilyn Goode Preserve, Sonoma with Liz Parsons

Monday 4/10-4/17
Carrizo Plain to E Mojave Camping Trip with Peter Warner, RSVP to Peter

Thursday 4/20/2017
Lake Soulajule, Marin/Sonoma border, with Suzanne Whelan, MMWD

Saturday 4/22/2017
Vernal Pools with Michelle Halbur, Pepperwood

Wednesday 4/26/2017
Fog Lichens at Bodgea Head with Shelly Benson, Lichenologist

Saturday 4/29/2017
ECO-FRIENDLY GARDEN TOUR 10 native gardens, see article

Sat. 5/6-Mon. 5/8
Salt Point State Park campout, Barbara Rice The Sea Ranch; Make your own reservations, but RSVP with Betty

Saturday 5/13/2017
Nefertierria preserve with Sue Smith

Th. 7/6-Sun.7/9
Plaskett Meadows, Masterson Group Campground reserved, RSVP to Betty

Thursday 8/10/2017
Wildlife Photography at Pepperwood, with Michelle Harbur

Also of interest, trips Peter is leading for other groups. Check their websites to sign up. There may be a charge for the group

Sunday 2/5/2017 Glen Oaks Ranch, Sonoma Land Trust

Sunday 3/5/2017 Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve Visitor Center, Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods

Saturday 3/18/2017 Shell Beach, Sonoma Coast State Park, Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods.

Betty Young
Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

Newsletter & Web Site Info:
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the March Newsletter is February 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

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