General Meeting
Annual Chapter Picnic
August 21, 2011
3 PM
Hope that you can join us for this fun event.
On Sunday August 21, the Annual Chapter Picnic will be held at Alan Brubaker's garden located at 1401 Adobe Canyon Road in Kenwood. This is the road to Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. The garden is located on the left side of the road. Parking is tight, please carpool. Alan has once again agreed to host the picnic because everyone enjoys his lovely home and garden. Sonoma Creek runs through the middle of the property creating a calm, peaceful space for our party. Alan has planted his garden with many botanical delights including California natives, Mediterranean plants, and a large collection of rare conifers. The large xeric garden in the rear of the property is filled with an exciting mix of desert plants...succulents, grasses, and ferns. We will begin to assemble at 3:00 PM and a potluck dinner will be served at 4:00 PM. Bring your own utensils and a dish to share! There will be no barbecue available. Call Liz Parsons 833-2063 for more information.

Plant ID Hour
You see the plants blooming but the names are unclear? No need to fret, Plant I.D. Hour is here! Arrive at 6:45 p.m. 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. I’ll bring in the dissecting microscope and some flowering plants from the local area. Keying is worthwhile and challenging for all of us, but it’s fun to work through them together, and learn what distinguishes this plant from that one.

Join us for Dinner before the Meeting
We’ll gather for dinner at 6PM 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, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com.

Website Committee meeting:
On July 12, in place of our normal Board meeting, the Website Committee will meet. If interested, please contact Gary Hundt, ghundt@gmail.com

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 August 9. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
Gardening with Natives

THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE

SHRUBS FOR SUNNY AREAS

Most California native plants feed and house some type of wildlife, so planting the natives just about guarantees you’ll find pollinators, such as bees (both native and honey), moths, butterflies, flies and so on, and their larvae, as they have all evolved together.

Birds come to plants for seeds, nuts, berries or nectar…and attendant insects. The pair of titmice that raised a brood of babies in my bluebird nest box this Spring, fed their young on little green caterpillars they hunted in the oaks. You never really know, without close observance, WHO is feeding on WHAT! Of course, birds also use shrubs and trees for nest sites, places to rest, cover from predators, and as highways from one area to another.

Many of our natives, either during their bloom or after it, produce nectar or berries. Toyon, for example, blooms with white flowers that the hummingbirds and pollinators visit; red, holly-like berries that the Robins and Cedar waxwings gobble follow the blooms. Toyon is a full sun shrub, drought tolerant, and evergreen. Boggy or poorly drained soil will kill it, so find a slope or dry area to raise it. Toyon also makes a great hedge or is useful in a hedgerow.

Since our manzanitas, salvias and wild lilacs (ceanothus) are fairly well known, I won’t cover them here. But they continue to be the best shrubs for full sun and well-drained areas that provide pollinators and birds with cover, food, and nest sites.

A tough and unusual shrub is the mountain mahogany (Cerocarpus betuloides). I planted one about seven years ago on a hot, dry hillside and it’s thriving. I love the open, airy structure of the twiggy branches. The leaves are small, dark green and veined. I never really notice the flowers, but the fruits are plumes of white and the bark is silver. Redbud (Cercis occidentalis) is a stunning, multi-trunked shrub, the branches of which are covered in the spring with fuchsia-purple, pea-like flowers.

A redbud in full bloom is a unique sight. Plant it with a fremontodendron nearby. Flannel bush (Fremontodendron californicum) shouldn’t be planted where you could brush against it, as it’s covered with little rust colored bristles that irritate the skin. But use it as a background to redbud and perhaps a blue-blooming ceanothus to provide a color riot to brighten any gray spring day.

Coyote bush is an unprepossessing shrub that many folks pull out, thinking it’s just weedy brush. Many insects go to coyote bush, which brings in birds. As wildlife habitat, it excels, so if you have room, put some in the background. It’s green year-round, takes full sun, any soil, and no summer water.

One of my very favorites is relatively unknown…it’s called chaparral pea (Pickeringia montana). I first saw it on the slopes where I was hiking around the Robert Louis Stevenson park area in the eastern part of Sonoma County (or it may actually be Napa County.) I’d never heard of it before and when it’s in bloom it will take your breath away with its abundance of rosy-purple flowers that cloak the stems. Keator suggests keeping it in a moveable container, as it’s not especially pretty when it’s out of bloom. I would plant it in among ceanothus and manzanitas.

Native plums and cherries provide berries for birds and pretty flowers in the spring. Look for bitter cherry (Prunus emarginata) and P. virginiana, choke cherry. They are deciduous and need some summer water.

Snowbell bush (Styrax officinalis) is a slow-to-grow, but worth-it shrub if you have patience. The white petals fall like snow to the ground from the bell flowers.

You could also look at the two spireas, Spiraea densiflora and S. douglasii, for pretty summer flowers of pink. I grow the S. douglasii beside the waterfall by my wildlife pond and it is slowly spreading. It does get summer water and some shade. Yerba buena is a happy ground cover under it.

Other choices for sunny shrubs include bush lupines. Lupinus arboreus blooms yellow; Lupinus chamissonis blooms bluish-purple. Currents and gooseberries (the Ribes spp) are great, but should have a bit of shade. Coffeeberry (Rhamnus californica) is a good habitat shrub and will take a
bit of shade also. Blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) needs lots of room to spread out and would be happy with occasional summer water. California has several of its own wild roses, the best known being *Rosa californica*. Give it plenty of room to wander as it could go to nine feet if the deer leave it alone. The flowers are pink and fragrant and the stems are prickly. Wild roses often grow at forest edges and therefore get a bit of light shade.

Please write me at: joodbrink@comcast.net

Judy Brinkerhoff

---

**Invasives Corner**

**Weed Warrior and Gentle Man Leaves Us**

**Boz Williams**

Just before publication of the June newsletter, our chapter photographer Gary Hundt informed me of Boz's death from cancer. Gary and our editor Linda Ramos managed to get Gary's photos of Boz participating in Milo Baker field trips into the newsletter at the last moment. Boz had come on many of our trips over the years, and was a dedicated invasive plant volunteer with Sonoma Land Trust. I considered him my friend.

I met Boz in a botany class at the JC several years ago, and continued to see him on many field trips with CNPS over the years. He usually had a ratty old cowboy hat on top on his tall, spare frame. There was an attitude, a way of moving and speaking that said relaxed, a person you could trust in a crisis. I couldn't imagine him either furious or deliriously ecstatic. I saw him as a close observer of people and the earth. I think Boz was comfortable in his skin, and he was comfortable to be around. He was a very aware guy, a reader, knowledgeable about a number of things, native plants in particular. I often chatted with him on these trips, and he always had interesting, and often drily funny things to say. I wish I could remember what they were, but what I'm left with, sadly, is a strong impression of a man who isn't here anymore.

I remember one time when the chapter was visiting The Cedars. Fearless Roger Raiche, whom some of us compare with a mountain goat, had constructed a narrow trail at the top of a knife-edge bald ridge. Nobody wanted the view bad enough to try it at first. But Boz, who was far from being a teenager, got up and started out. Gary Hundt followed him. We watched them, hoping they wouldn't lose their balance, as they went all the way to the end and came back unscathed. That would have taken a great deal of courage for someone like me, but for those two - they might as well have been on a walk on a paved path in a city park. Maybe a metaphor for how he spent his life? Those who knew him intimately would know better than I. To read a warm and informative article about Boz and his wife Kathrin's interesting life, check out the Press Democrat obituary page for May 17th 2011.

M.L. Carle

---

**Plant Sale News**

**Casa Grande Potting workshop**

**August 6, 2011 Saturday 10 AM**

Please come and help us at this important workshop. Many of our workers will be in the Sierra on a camping trip and we really need YOU. We need a lot of help to pot up over 500 plants. We can do this in about 2 hours! We will meet at Casa Grande High School where we will be potting up **Mimulus**, **Salvias**, and other fast growing plants. We have a wonderful growing space there. Our thanks go to John Schribbs, who is in charge of the growing area. The plants that we grow at Casa Grande are blooming beautifully and sell rapidly at the sale. We will meet at Casa Grande High School in Petaluma in the NW corner of the campus off of Ely Road at the end of Juliet Drive. This is the last workshop before our 40th Annual Plant Sale on October 8. Call Liz, 833-2063, for more information or meet us there.

Liz Parsons
State news

Go Rare Plant Treasure Hunting on Your Summer Vacation!

*From the May 2011 issue of the CNPS E-Newsletter*

Many of us are making plans for summer vacations throughout California. I, for one, plan to visit a natural waterslide in the El Dorado National Forest, go backpacking with friends near Yosemite National Park, and kayak through the Delta from Sacramento to San Francisco. Incorporating my botanical interests into recreational trips in the past has involved bringing along a species list for the area, carrying a copy of *The Jepson Manual* and a hand lens, and keying some of the more interesting specimens observed along the way.

Now, as project coordinator for the CNPS’s Rare Plant Treasure Hunt, I have found an even better way to combine botany with recreation and still have it feel like a vacation: planning and leading a Rare Plant Treasure Hunt! On a Rare Plant Treasure Hunt, we have an opportunity to see some of California’s beautiful places while searching for its rarest plants and making a significant contribution to their conservation in the process!

As the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt Coordinator, my job is to support rare plant treasure hunters throughout the state. Before heading out on a rare plant treasure hunt adventure, we check through the GIS layers in the California Natural Diversity Database to see what rare plants are in need of updating in the area we plan to visit. We make maps of historic populations of rare plants - some that haven’t been seen in over 20 years - and compile plant identification materials and photos. We also coordinate with land managers to make sure we have permission to search for rare plants on a particular site. Because of the planning and coordinating involved, each trip does require advance notice of a week or more.

If you are interested in combining your summer vacation plans with a treasure hunt for rare plants, please send an email to treasurehunt@cnps.org and tell us how you’d like to get involved. We can add you to the mailing list to be notified upcoming trips, or help you find a way to incorporate rare plant searches into your upcoming adventures. You can check out upcoming trips on our calendar.

Land managers are also encouraged to contact us to get involved in the program – we can help organize groups to meet their rare plant surveying needs.

Danny Slakey

Take Action: Save Walker Ridge

Support Walker Ridge Area of Critical Environmental Concern

*(Taken from Tuleyome, The Wilderness Society and California Native Plant Society information)*

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has nominated the entire Walker Ridge public lands as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC.) An ACEC designation recognizes the special ecological, educational, recreational, and scenic values of the region. Help support the CNPS in this effort!

California’s Walker Ridge is cherished for its natural beauty, vital wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. It is an ecologically important site, and the California Native Plant Society has petitioned it to be protected as an “Area of Critical Environmental Concern” because of a high diversity of plant species, serpentine-associated plants, special-status plants, potentially undescribed plants, unusual plant associations, and wetlands. The proposed Walker Ridge Wind Development would have significant impacts to the proposed ACEC biological resources, including potential mercury and chromium contamination of water resources, and alteration of wilderness quality lands. Walker Ridge public lands cover an area of 14,000 acres along an 11-mile, north-south trending ridge located on the boundary of Colusa and Lake Counties. The Ridge, which is north of Highway 20 in California’s Inner Coast Range has significant ecological, scenic, and educational values. It is situated immediately to the west of Bear Valley—a renowned wildflower area—and immediately to the north of the Cache Creek Wilderness. Its linkages to Bear Valley and public lands to the west, north, and south, including designated and proposed wilderness areas, gives further value to the Ridge as a large and mostly unfragmented natural area. Collectively, the Ridge and adjacent lands constitute a major public resource that is now proposed as a National Conservation Area.

Peter Warner, Dan Slakey, and Rare Plant Treasure Hunters from several CNPS chapters reviewing plant occurrence maps of the Walker Ridge area, this June.
Misguided Wind Development
Canadian developer Alta Gas Income Trust has proposed the 29-tower commercial wind development project on Walker Ridge. This would require earthmoving on a massive scale, approaching ridge top removal. And yet, the project represents marginal wind energy potential associated with large ecological damage. More important the ecological integrity of this special place as exemplified in this nomination will be irreparably damaged.
Renewable energy is an essential part of our nation’s clean energy future but some wild places just aren’t right for development—of any kind. In California, Walker Ridge, located in the chaparral-covered hills northwest of Sacramento, is one such place. Energy development here would leave a huge imprint and could interfere with habitat and important wildlife corridors in this area of outstanding scenery and biodiversity.
Large contiguous natural areas such as Walker Ridge and the surrounding region provide our best hope for addressing loss of species and open space, preserving water quality and providing opportunities for species to adapt to the effects of climate change. This area preserves the wildlife and lands we enjoy today, and it also provides countless opportunities for connecting the Bay Area and the Central Valley communities with nature.

Take Action Today:
Tell the BLM to designate all of Walker Ridge as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.
Call, send an email, or letter to:
Jim Abbott
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 978-4600
jim_abbott@ca.blm.gov
Sample letters are available at www.tuleyome.org
For additional information contact Bob Schneider at 530-304-6215 or bschneider@tuleyome.org.

Field Trips

Milo Baker Camping Trip to Highland Lakes in the High Sierras
August 3–7, 2011

The lakes are set in a spectacular high alpine valley, close to the top of Ebbetts Pass at an elevation of 8,600 feet. These two lakes are unique as they are headwaters for two different watersheds. Highland Lakes are located at the end of Highland Lakes Road, seven miles off Highway 4. Highland Lakes Road is a narrow, steep and winding dirt route. For more information or questions, contact o at cindytancreto@pacbell.net or 707 528-9225.

Sonoma Land Trust
Additional hikes on the Jenner Headlands are available through our partner organizations as follows. Please check their Web sites for further information.

LandPaths
August 7, 2011
www.landpaths.org

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods
August 13, 2011
www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org

CoastWalk
August 21, 2011
www.coastwalk.org

Events and Items of Interest

Wildcare’s Family Adventures
Saturday July 23/ Sábado23 de Julio
Canal Family Walk/Paseo Familiar en Canal
Saturday August 20/ Sábado20 de Agosto
Beach Family Day/Vamos a la Playa!
Free to the public, these programs will be conducted in both English and Spanish.
Estos programas son en español e inglés y gratuitos para el público.
Programs begin at 10:00 a.m. at the trailhead and end around 12:30 p.m. If you would like to carpool, meet at 9:15 a.m. at the Canal Alliance headquarters at 91 Larkspur Street in San Rafael.
Questions? Preguntas en español: Contact Juan-Carlos Solis at 415.453.1000, ext.17 juan-carlos@wildcarebayarea.org.
For directions to program sites, visit www.wildcarebayarea.org/adventures

Growing Natives: Inspiring & Enduring Gardens.
Saturday, September 17, 2011
Sunday, September 18, 2011
A two-day symposium titled “Growing Natives: Inspiring & Enduring Gardens” is being offered on Saturday & Sunday, September 17 & 18, 2011 in Lafayette and Berkeley. Designing, installing, and maintaining native plant gardens of lasting value is the theme of this symposium aimed at professionals, home gardeners, and native plant enthusiasts.
The Saturday program at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St Mary’s Road, Lafayette includes presentations on garden design by author Carol Bornstein, formerly of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden; site preparation by landscape professional Deva Luna; sourcing native plants by Michael Craib of Suncrest Nurseries; case study of a 40-year-old native plant garden by landscape professional Luke Hass; and maintenance tips by nurseryman and author David Fross; and a panel discussion and Q&A. The Saturday program includes a continental breakfast and lunch. A selection of books will be available for purchase.
The Sunday program at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Wildcat Canyon Road, Berkeley offers five concurrent workshops over two time slots: container gardening by Pete Veilleux, wildlife gardening by Don Mahoney, plants for dry shade by Katherine Greenberg, rockeries in native plant gardens by Steve Edwards, and aesthetic pruning by Jocelyn Cohen. Participants are invited to bring a picnic lunch, and stay for afternoon plant sales and docented tours at two locations: Regional Parks Botanic Garden as well as Native Here Nursery, 101 Golf Course Road, Berkeley.
The symposium is organized by California Native Plant Society, Friends of Regional Parks Botanic Garden, and Pacific Horticulture. Members and subscribers of the sponsoring organizations receive a discount on registration fees. Space is limited and early registration is recommended. For more information and to register, visit http://gns.cnps-scv.org. With questions, call Margot Sheffner 510-849-1627.

Riverkeeper Stewardship Park Volunteer Days
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. Please 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.
**We need more newspapers and cardboard. Please drop off in or near the sheds.
For more information contact Victoria Wikle at 865-2474 or VictoriaWikle@usa.net. Visit our new website at www.russianriverkeeper.org.

Sonoma Land Trust
Join in a volunteer outing!
We could really use your help on an upcoming workday. Along with the work, we guarantee some good fun in the form of a hike or picnic following the activity. Check out the SLT Volunteer Days schedule at www.sonomalandtrust.org.

Photo Credits:
Pickeringia montana 2002 Lynn Watson
Cerocarpus betuloides 2008 Keir Morse
Rosa californica 2005 Barry Breckling
Mimulus aurantiacus 2009 John W. Wall
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

Califonia Native Plant Society
Milo Baker Chapter                         www.cnpsmb.org
P.O. Box 892
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

Newsletter & Web Site Info:
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the September Newsletter is August 15.
The chapter web site www.cnpsmb.org contains a wealth of information plus current and archived newsletters.
For newsletter mailing/membership issues, contact: Gary Hundt, ghundt@gmail.com

Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors 2011
President OPEN
Vice President, Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com
Secretary, Patricia Sesser, 528-9197, patricia@comcast.net
Treasurer, Jim Piercy, 539-3441, terrapenecarolinamajor@yahoo.com
Book Sales, Wendy Smit, 431.7913, wendysmit@hughes.net
Conservation Chair, Michael Hogan, milobakerflora@gmail.com
Cunningham Marsh, Marcia Johnson, 829-3808, owlsnest@hughes.net
Director at Large, Lea Davis, 538-1499, legil42@sbcglobal.net
Director at Large, Joan Schwan, 823-0446, jschwan@sonic.net
Director at Large, Cindy Tancreto, 528-9225, cindytancreto@pacbell.net
Field Trips, Cindy Tancreto, 528-9225, cindytancreto@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, trypelee@comcast.net
Membership, Gary Hundt, 636-4468, ghundt@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor, Linda Ramos, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.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, Lynn Houser, 568-3230, housers@sonic.net
Rincon Ridge Park, Patricia Sesser, 528-9197, patricia@comcast.net
SCCC Rep., Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wlk@sonic.net
Southridge Preserve, OPEN
SRJC Representative: OPEN
SSU Rep., Linden Schneider, 707 495-6730, schneili@seawolf.sonoma.edu
Web Site, Gary Hundt, 636-4468, ghundt@gmail.com
Vine Hill Preserve, Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, Sarahpgordon@gmail.com

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage Paid
Santa Rosa, CA
Permit #470