General Meeting
Annual Chapter Picnic
August 17, 2014
Liz Parson’s home in Kenwood

Once again the Milo Baker Chapter Annual Picnic will be held at Liz’s Kenwood Home at 8 Turtle Creek Drive. Liz’s garden is located on Sonoma Creek and has a lot of interesting riparian vegetation. The Sonoma Ecology Center has been revegetating the area after getting rid of vinca and blackberries, and Liz has planted an interesting mix of natives and Mediterranean plants in a continually evolving scene. Bring a dish to share and your own table setting. There will be a propane bbq available. We will meet at 3:00 pm and a potluck dinner will be served at 4:00. Call Liz for more information, 833-206

Upcoming Programs:

There is no general meeting in July. We are working on some exciting speakers for the Fall. Check out our website for more info on our September and October speakers.

You see the plants blooming but the names are unclear? No need to fret, Plant I.D. Hour is here! Arrive at 6:45 pm 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.

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 September 15th, if you plan to attend.
Chapter News

The Milo Baker Chapter is pleased to announce a new Program Chair board member, Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven. We are excited to have her expertise, passion and enthusiasm on our board.

As a former museum curator and field naturalist, Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven has lectured, conducted workshops and taught field classes in human use of the environment, California Indian Uses of Native Plants, contemporary California Indian artists, and rock art of California for the California Academy of Sciences former Adult Education Program, College of Marin, Marin Audubon and other organizations. She retired two years ago after 22+ years as a Support Services Specialist for SRJC’s Disability Resources Department.

Virginia recently completed her California Naturalist's Certificate and her requirements as a Pepperwood Preserve steward. She attended the College of Marin and University of California, Berkeley majoring in anthropology with a minor in geology. Virginia published her first professional paper while a student at College of Marin.

鞍 Leia Giambastiani

Send Us Your Photos

Coast Hedge Nettle, *Stachys chamissonis*
June 15, 2013, Pomo Canyon
Photo by Joe Bales

We’d like to see what you’re seeing! Send us your photos of California native flowers and plants for publication in our newsletter. Please include the date and location of the photo along with your submission and send it to: cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
All photos become property of CNPS and may be published in our newsletter or on our website.

Burke’s Goldfields, *Lasthenia burkei*
May 3, 2014, Piner Road, Santa Rosa
Photo by Wayne Clark
Gardening with Natives

Caterpillar Food Plants for Butterflies

Holodiscus discolor, Creambush

If-you-plant-for-them-they-will-come has become a reality in my habitat garden. I have counted over 20 butterfly species and over half are regular visitors. So many of the native shrubs and perennials many of us grow in our gardens are not only important nectar sources for butterflies and other pollinators, but some double as caterpillar food plants.

For example, creambush (Holodiscus discolor). I am crazy about this shrub; the creamy sprays of nectar flowers are gorgeous in late spring, the foliage is beautiful, its form graceful. Since I planted two of them three years ago, I am seeing more Lorquin Admirals, a large butterfly with orange wingtips, though this butterfly (and the Western Tiger Swallowtail) may also be using the willow in the hedgerow as a host plant.

Spring Azures, which I have seen nectaring on the tiny flowers of coffeeberry (Rhamnus spp.), also use creambush (and Ceanothus spp.) as a larval food plant. Pale Swallowtails sometimes show up in my garden and both coffeeberry and creambush are caterpillar food plants for this lovely butterfly. Pipevine Swallowtails breed on the two pipevines that climb up and flow out from under an elderberry tree, and the handsome black and red caterpillars are now a common sight. For the West Coast and Painted Ladies and Common-checkered Skipper, I use plants in the mallow family. Due to gopher predation, I grow checkerblooms (Sidalceca) in pots and have recently added a bush mallow (Malacathamnus fremontii), but there are other mallows to choose as host plants.

I grow showy milkweed (Asclepias speciosa) and narrowleaf milkweed (A. fasicularis) for the Monarch. A cautionary note: gophers do like milkweed. Buckwheat (Eriogonom latifolium) brings Acmon Blues to the garden; cow parsnip (Heracleum) is used by the Anise Swallowtail, though this butterfly seems to have vanished from my neighborhood. Or grow other umbellifers such as yampah, angelica, and Lomatium as host plants.

www.calwildgarden.com

Nancy Bauer

Invasives Corner

Spanish Weeds

Queen Anne’s Lace
Daucus carota

So back from Spain, feeling as if I had been on the moon in a dream. Part of the time we stayed with a friend who lives in the interior of Mallorca in a small village amidst farmland, much of it abandoned, the ancient stone farmhouses, barns and windmills slowly breaking down. There is where I saw my sworn enemy the dreaded Italian thistle, which I learned was native to much of the Mediterranean, not just Italy. But I never saw more than a few of them. Makes you wonder.
What I did see a lot of were what I think were *Daucus carota*, Queen Anne's lace by the thousands. The other ubiquitous plant was a short, bright red poppy: “Spanish Poppy (*Papaver rupifragum*) It's a native of the mountains of southern Spain. It loves to grow in the crevices of rocks. It freely reseeds when happy and can produce so many seeds that it becomes weedy, so don't plant it in a rock garden, or you will never get rid of it.”

[http://www.alchemy-works.com/info_spanish_poppy.html](http://www.alchemy-works.com/info_spanish_poppy.html) Every few inches this poppy stood up even though the village of Llubi was in the midst of a flat plain, the mountains far away. Both the Queen Anne's lace (?) and the poppy plants could be called invasive just by the number of them I saw on Mallorca and also along the railroad tracks we chased on our way to Dali's Museum along the coast of the mainland. The other plant that dominated along the tracks and wherever there were creeks looked like *Arundo donax*, supposedly native to the Mediterranean, but suspicions are that it came from Asia originally. It was planted in Spain for hundreds of years to make cane roofs. It looked to me as out of control in Spain as US. There was some Spanish broom in evidence, but it didn't look invasive in its homeland. The Spain I saw flying from Barcelona to Madrid was vast and flat. You could imagine Don Quixote ambling along, windmills studding the landscape. The uncultivated land is largely scrub, and there were huge fires in 2012 near Figueroa where Dali's Museum is. It must have been northeast of us, because we didn't see anything from the train. Record heat and dryness along with cuts in firefighting personnel due to the Austerity Program were said to contribute to the violence of the fire. I thought maybe the prevalence of Arundo in that area and its high flammability might have made the fire spread more rapidly. Though I thought an old European country would be very lucky to have any native plants to protect, Spain does, and their scientists are studying the potential threat of non-natives that have not yet arrived in Spain, particularly from the nursery trade which is responsible for about 60% of their invasive problem." Be careful what you wish for," they say.

ML Carle

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**Plant Sale News**

![Mimulus aurantiaucus](image)

The 43rd Annual Plant Sale will be Saturday, October 11 at the Santa Rosa Vets Building. Mark your calendars and tell your friends. We have been preparing for the event all year and now the fourth and final potting workshop will be held at Casa Grande High School in Petaluma on Saturday, August 9 at 10 AM.

We will be potting up liners of Mimulus, Cornus, Zauschneria, Salvia, and other fast growing perennials. If you would like to help, give Liz a call 833-2063. There is a very nice facility that John Shribbs has built on Juliet Street, in the northwest corner of the school. There is shade for the workers and a wonderful place to grow our plants. We usually finish potting up the plants in about 2 hours.

Liz Parsons
Book Review


I just happened to be at my childhood family’s land that I use to play on when I got to witness the removal of the tree I had spent lots of time in, climbed to the top of, got my hair stuck in its sap and breathed a perfume that I only now get to smell again around Christmas time. The seventy five foot cedar’s roots had grown into the road’s sewer line at the base of the drive way and it needed to come out. I stood frozen watching the workers. I don’t know the word for mourning a tree but if there is one I still mourn to this day.

Gary Nabhan & Steven Trimble have captured all that is best in childhood, this collection of short stories published in 1994 are personal, scientific, fun and timeless. They speak of raising, influencing, observing and leaving children alone while in nature. The many angles, observations and stories are from their childhood’s risings and adventures. They reference many other authors’ writings from psychologists, naturalists and native americans. The black and white photos of them and their children are enchanting. This is a book to make one think for they include their own wonderments and the questions they pose. A great read as summer vacations begin with the kids.

~Lea Davis

Events

Abbott’s Lagoon, Pt. Reyes National Seashore, Friday July 11, 2014
Come and visit beautiful Abbott’s Lagoon with Lorraine Parsons, Pt Reyes National Seashore Supervisory Vegetation Ecologist and Betty Young. See the dune restoration project undertaken there. While we are there we will help her count Endangered Tidestrom’s lupine seedlings that come up in the restored area. It’s easy to identify. Contact Wendy Smit for the time, meeting locations and directions. This will be an all day trip.

Stay tuned for more fall outings and events!
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 milobaker.cnps.org contains a wealth of information plus current and archived newsletters.
For newsletter mailing/membership issues, contact: Suzanne Harmon at cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com

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**Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors 2013/2014**

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