General Meeting:
Members’ Annual Chapter Picnic
August 19, 2018 3PM

The Chapter picnic will be held at Penny Dalton’s Sebastopol home on Sunday August 19. Penny’s house is located at 1201 Garden Lane, Sebastopol. Directions: Turn west off Highway 116 at the light at Mill Station Road, go one quarter mile and turn right at Garden Lane (just past Ragle Road). The house is the 3rd one on the right, bright blue. We are pleased that Penny has agreed to host the picnic. Our annual picnic has been held in the East County for many years and it is good to move it to the West County, Sebastopol. Penny’s garden is planted with many CA natives and has been on our Eco-Friendly Garden Tour. It will be a lovely place to spend an afternoon with friends. We will begin to assemble at 3:00 PM and a potluck dinner will be served at 4:30 PM. Bring your own utensils and a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Parking is limited so please car pool if possible. Call Penny (829-1586) for more information.

Upcoming Programs: There is no general meeting in July.

Starting in September, join the Milo Baker Chapter of CNPS for our new special focus, six part General Meeting series. “In Our Own Backyards: The Joys and Benefits of Gardening with California’s Diverse Native Plants”. This free six part series will feature speakers and discussions including:

September 18th: April Owens, local landscape designer with a focus on utilizing native plants for water conservation, habitat enhancement, pollination and an attractive garden.

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.

Join us for Dinner before the September 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 14th, if you plan to attend.

General Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa. Milo Baker Chapter Board meetings start at 7 pm, 2nd Tuesday nine months of the year, Environmental Center, 55 Ridgeway Ave, Ste A, Santa Rosa. The next Board meeting is July 10th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
General Meeting cont.

Join the Milo Baker Chapter of CNPS for our new special focus, six part General Meeting series beginning September 18, 2018.

“In Our Own Backyards: The Joys and Benefits of Gardening with California’s Diverse Native Plants”

This free six part series includes:

**September 18th:** *April Owens*, local landscape designer with a focus on utilizing native plants for water conservation, habitat enhancement, pollination and an attractive garden.

**October 16:** *Cynthia Powell:* “New Calflora Tools for CNPS Users”, a presentation providing resources to identify plants best suited to your neighborhood microclimate and habitat.

**November 20th:** *Walter Earle*, knowledgeable horticulturalist /nursery manager will discuss native plant propagation, care and plant resources.

**January 15, 2019:** *Arthur Dawson*, the historical ecology of our iconic native oaks and their ecosystems.

**February 19:** *Breck Parkman*, retired Ca. State Archaeologist and *Docia Dodds*, SSU grad student: - A presentation about some unusual plants identified in ancient soils of Sonoma County.

**March 19th:** Round table/panel discussion with experienced native plant specialists, including horticulturalists, landscape designers, and experienced native plant garden owners.

**Dates:** The third Tuesdays of the month September through November and continuing January through March, 2019. **Time:** 7:30 p.m. 
**Location:** Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, 3050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa, Ca.

Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven, 
Programs & Lectures Chair

Chapter News

Cunningham Marsh Workday- A Great Success!

On Friday, June 8, eight super volunteers showed up for a much needed workday at Cunningham Marsh, home of the endangered Pitkin Lily (Lilium pardilinum ssp. pitkenense). Two days prior, on June 6th, Brent Reed from the Laguna Foundation, kindly lent Hannah for 3 hours of much needed mowing & weedwhacking, so volunteers could easily reach the lily exclosures minus fields of invasive Purple Velvet Grass (Holcus lanatus). Due to late rains, the Holcus sp. was especially heavy within some of the exclosures. Also, heavy browsing occurred last year into this year, so lily growth was varied, with few flowers with capsules. Volunteers worked to clear grasses, thinned some native blackberry from needed areas & protected some small lilies with small baskets. Flowering Azaleas were freed, and the trail to the creek was opened. In the large field, cages were taken off larger oaks; all baskets & hardware where no oaks survived were removed; larger cages were put around growing oaks; all existing oaks now have high stakes to help with visibility when Ken, The Gentleman Farmer mows….this work being done over 3 days.

Many thanks go to Betty Young, Patricia & Joe Currie, Wendy Born, Kathi Dowdakin, Wendy Krupnick & neighbor Christina Ogden. Special thanks go to the Laguna Foundation for continuing support of this special place. If you would like to be added to the list of Cunningham volunteers, please contact me below.

Marcia Johnson, 
Steward, Cunningham Marsh owlsnesttwo@att.net
Plant Sale News

Potting Workshops

On May 20, we held our first potting workshop at the new Laguna facility. It was a pleasure to use our new space. Many thanks to Betty Young and the crew who worked so hard to make our new shade house a reality.

All went very well and we had a great group of volunteers to pot up 535 liners which were donated by Shooting Star. Thanks to Kathi Dowdakin, Mary Aldrich, Betty Young, Wendy Born, Cynthia Kayser, Barbara Coe, Elmarie Hutchinson, Louise Riedel, Deb Dobish, Lisa Seale, Stephanie Nacouzi, Patrick Smithson, Lea Davis, Daniela Kjeldson and her daughter Anna, Ann Shippey and Connie. Everyone worked very hard potting up the small liners into the gallon containers and getting them settled on the new benches.

Our next potting workshop will be on Thursday, August 2 at the new Laguna facility. We will pot more Shooting Star liners of quickly rooting plants, which will be ready to sell at our October 13 plant sale.

*Liz Parsons,
Vice President

Chapter Support

Name your own nursery bench!

A small metal placard with a name or short phrase of your choosing would commemorate your donation (minimum donation $500). We have 18 plant benches in our shade house, 10 of which have been sponsored as of May, 2018. The funds raised by your donation would be used to fund a small shed to store small tools and equipment, and a place to clean and process seed, and to keep records. If you are interested in sponsoring a plant bench in our new shade house, please contact Leia Giambastiani at leiagia@gmail.com.

In Loving Memory

Obituary for Margaret Graham

On June 17, Margaret Graham was killed in an automobile accident in Colorado. Margaret and her husband Walter Earle (past President of MBC 1986-7) were the proprietors of Mostly Natives Nursery in Tomales for over 30 years. Margaret was visiting friends and family in Colorado when the accident occurred. She lost control of her vehicle, and was struck by another at an intersection.

Milo Baker Chapter is very grateful to Margaret and Walter for their generous donations to the plant sale. When they retired last year, the number and type of plants that we offered suffered a decline. Their nursery was a beautiful place to visit. A small space, but full of so many different native plants offered for sale. Margaret was at the heart of the nursery, and will be missed by her Milo Baker friends. Walter’s address is P.O. Box 258 Tomales, CA 94971.

Name your own bench at our new nursery!
**Member Article**

**An Attractive Exotic Invader**

Recently I spent an afternoon touring local gardens that emphasized creating habitat and utilizing native plants. I enjoyed seeing the results of much creativity, passion, and hard work, but sadly, twice, I came upon a rapidly spreading, invasive grass-like plant, Carex divulsa, that the gardeners had bought believing it was the California native Carex tumulicola, that sometimes goes by the common name of Berkeley Sedge.

I think parts of the nursery trade have been slow in rectifying a labeling error that occurred sometime before the 2000s, most likely at a nursery in Berkeley, and had been brought to public attention by Michael Curto in a Pacific Horticulture article in 2006. More than 10 years later I find some nursery label corrections have continued to misrepresent Carex divulsa as being synonymous with Carex tumulicola, or else they misattribute the common name of “Berkeley Sedge,” which simply serves to confuse the shopper in the nursery. Correct labeling is important because when they are young many Carex look similar, although in maturity it is very easy to see the difference between these two Carex. The exotic Carex divulsa in maturity is a very vigorous, deep green, usually evergreen, tightly tufted clump while the true “Berkeley Sedge,” Carex tumulicola, is a sweet, loosely tufted, somewhat relaxed looking, non-aggressive clumping plant that will not take over a garden.

The mislabeling and misrepresentation has resulted in the introduction of a serious problem into landscapes that were intentionally planted with natives, and into ones near native habitat, and maybe more disastrously, into gardens with less aware owners that wouldn’t be alert to a plant that is so tenacious and vigorous about spreading. I had originally thought, when I still used Carex divulsa in landscapes, that keeping it contained would just be a matter of monitoring the edges, but unfortunately I was misguided, and have found seedlings up to 200 ft from original plantings. During the tour, both of the gardeners, when I pointed out the invader, shared that they had already become concerned by C. divulsa’s commitment to spread, and so were receptive to my bad news.

What I find so disturbing is that serious gardeners, who care about what they plant, had no way of knowing that they had introduced an invasive exotic thug from Eastern Europe masquerading as a California native into their gardens. The true Carex tumulicola is available locally at California Flora Nursery in Fulton.

©2002 Dean Wm. Taylor, Carex tumulicola

Heidi Freestone
Field Trips and Events

Canyon Trail: Searching for the Pleated Gentian at Sonoma Coast State Park

Sunday, July 22, 2018
10:00am-2:00pm

Pomo Canyon Trail
Carpool at Hwy 12 park-and-ride, btw Vet’s hall and fairgrounds, east side of parking lot

Join us on a local favorite hike that goes from deep redwood forest up a lovely trail to wide open grassland with vistas of the coast and Russian River. The path is reported to date back to a trading route of the native Pomo and Miwok. We will search for mid-summer bloomers including the Pleated Gentian (Gentiana affinis var. ovata).

The hike is fairly strenuous, 4-6 miles out and back. We will hike to the top of Red Hill at 1000 feet if time and energy permit. Kate Symonds will be our leader, all ages welcome. Parking at the gate is extremely limited. Please carpool whenever possible. Please email or text if you are planning to come so that any changes and directions can be sent to you. Plan to bring lunch, water, sunblock, hat and wear hiking shoes.

Contact Wendy at wsmite800@gmail.com or call 707 481-3765 for more information.
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: cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com

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Vice President: Liz Parsons 707-833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com
Secretary: Kerry Wininger 707-888-5616, kerrywininger@gmail.com
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Rincon Ridge Park: Penny Dalton
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Southridge Preserve: Jim Piercy 707-539-3441, terrapencarolinamajor@yahoo.com
SRJC Rep.: Dylan Gallagher
SSU Rep.: OPEN
Web Site: Molly Levitt cnpsmb.webadm@gmail.com
Vine Hill Preserve: Sarah Gordon 707-833-1243, sarahpgordon@gmail.com

We invite you to join CNPS
Name__________________________________________________
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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

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