General Meeting

The Effect of Ice plant and Mock Heather on the Bodega Head Dunes
June 21st, 7:30 PM

Speakers: Susan Magnoli and Andy Kleinhesselink

Susan Magnoli will talk about her study of the community-level effects of ice plant (Carpobrotus edulis) invasion on dune vegetation at the UC Davis Bodega Marine Reserve. She examined how ice plant invasion affected different plant groups, how ice plant removal affected community re-vegetation, and whether ice plant has residual effects on soil properties after its removal. Overall her findings suggest that ice plant removal will often be associated with a mixture of desirable and undesirable effects – native plants will respond positively to removal but so will other exotic taxa. Thus, other exotic species would need to be controlled after ice plant removal to effectively restore ice plant-invaded areas.

Andy Kleinhesselink will talk about his study of the importance of a facilitation between plants in the dunes at UC Davis Bodega Marine Reserve at Bodega Head. He hypothesized that native woody shrub, mock-heather (Ericameriaericoides), might play a crucial role in the overall community at the dunes by protecting smaller dune annuals from harsh conditions and thus facilitating overall community diversity and shifting species composition. He also investigated whether mock-heather facilitates invasion by exotic weeds, such as ripgut brome (Bromusdiandrus), into the dunes. He found that mock-heather was strongly associated with greater abundance of exotic annual species and that experimental pruning of shrubs reduced exotic annual richness and biomass. He suspects that this shrub has strong effects on the soil in this sandy environment, possibly creating patches of higher nutrient content that facilitated exotic weeds.

See speaker bios on page 7.

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 by June 20th if you plan to attend.

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 June 14th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
Gardening with Natives

Let's Cover the Ground
Nature abhors bare ground. If you leave your yard or garden in bare ground, it becomes hard and dry, or weed seeds take hold. Best to use a ground cover then

There are plenty of native ground covers to be found, but if you're looking at Home Depot, or some such place, you won’t find the natives. A bit of research, some questions to nursery folk, will serve you well.

By first ascertaining whether you have dry, moist, sun, shade, or some of all of it, this will help you decide which plants will work for your site. Dry shade is what you find under a native oak, or any other tree or shrub that should not be watered in the summer. Dry shade is not my favorite place to garden. I prefer a woodsy look, such as a ground cover of dead leaves that were allowed to break down naturally.

Hummingbird sage (Salvia spathacea) is said to be an okay dry shade ground cover. I planted it last fall and it spread all winter and now has two big blooming stalks. I have yet to decide if it will be as successful as I hope.

Yerba buena (Satureja douglasii), a perennial native, is a wonderful cover in moist part-shade. It has even spread into one of the bogs by my pond, although I will be removing it. Yerba buena was the name originally given to San Francisco. My one plant has spread at least six feet over the years, as the stems root as they go. Little white flowers cover the stems all spring and look delicate and pretty against the minty-green leaves.

Another pretty, moisture-loving, full shade cover is wild ginger (Asarum caudatum). A rapid grower, it loves to be cool and blooms in the spring with crazy looking little maroon flowers that hide under the leaves. This is not the ginger we use in cooking.

Oxalis oregana, the redwood sorrel, is a lovely little ground cover from the redwood forests. Try it if you can to some degree simulate the same conditions of the forest. It needs a light, rich soil, with enough summer moisture provided to keep it fresh. Spring blooms are pinkish-white.

Several sub-shrubs qualify as sun-loving ground covers, although they may need pruning of upright branches to keep them horizontal. Ceanothus griseus horizontalis is one and there are several selections available. Several manzanitas also qualify; the Carmel creeper or Carmel Sur manzanita, does not bloom, but will cover the ground handily in shiny green leaves.

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, also called kinnikinnick, requires some acidity in its soil. Check with a native plant nursery expert before you plant the above sub-shrubs, to find the best for your site.

Our native yarrow, Achillea millefolium, is a rapid spreader for a sunny spot. Pretty, with its ferny, frilly, bright green foliage, it sends up tall, flat-topped creamy-white flowers.

Aster chilensis is a coastal species of the aster tribe, and if you want an invasive species, this is it. As Glenn Keator says, it “invades everything in sight.” But I found a place for it, on a hillside that needs cover against Scotch broom seedling, and it’s working! I cheer it on, but there may be better ground covers....

The California fuchsias, or the Zauschneria species, produce the most amazing red-orange colors in the late summer. They are vigorous, easily grown, and loved by lots of pollinators. They are wonderful in a casual, informal, sprawling sort of way. They can be weedy and ragged looking, so choose your site carefully. But they are some of the best-loved of our natives, so don’t be frightened off by their lesser qualities.

This is just a simple sampling of all the wonderful plants available to native gardeners. Please contact me at joodbrink@comcast.net

Invasives Corner

Sonoma County Ag and Plant Nurseries

Here's the letter I got back from the County:

Thank you for contacting our office regarding nurseries cultivating and selling A & Q rated and invasive plants. If our office finds a nursery selling a plant that is listed as an A or Q rated weed, we ask the nursery to stop selling that plant and that they destroy the
stock on hand. Some nurseries may be selling broom that is not the same scientific name that is on A or Q listing. We can only take action on the scientific name and not the common name or plants that may be closely related.

There may be plants that are invasive but are not A & Q rated. We have encouraged nurseries to offer non-invasive alternatives to these plants. Several years ago we conducted outreach to nurseries in Sonoma County regarding selling invasive ornamental plants and provided them with brochures and posters of alternative plants that are not invasive.

If you do encounter a Sonoma County nursery selling a plant that matches the scientific name on the A&Q rated weed list, you can notify our office with the name of the nursery and scientific name of the plant and we will follow up with that nursery.

Thank you,
Joseph Gray, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

But now I have more questions: How often are horticultural nurseries contacted? Is there follow-up when the nursery has been found selling an A or Q listed plant? (Look up last month’s Invasive Corner if you aren’t sure what A & Q mean.) For C rated plants, the State says “regulations are at the discretion of the county ag commissioner.” Are there any? Has anything been done about the wholesale nursery which grows (or used to grow) water plants like the forbidden Giant Salvinia? What are the plans for the future, especially given cutbacks?

California Horticultural Invasives Prevention (CalHIP)’s PlantRight, which works with the nursery industry to plan strategies to reduce the sale of invasives, has been defunded by the State. Here are a few recommendations from their site (www.plantright.org): Broom- substitute Forsythia; Vinca- sub. Geranium, Rozanne; Hedera sp. (English ivy etc.)-sub. Trumpet creeper, Virginia creeper and our own Dutchman’s pipe. Yea! Hey, if you lasted this long, how about some feedback? If you have any amplifications, or beefs you’d like to air (excluding pervasive swearwords), send me an e-mail. If you make it amusing, it will probably end up in the Invasives Corner at some point.

But M.L. Carle

State news

CNPS Educational Grants Program
This program provides annual funding to help support field research related to California's native plants. Students, CNPS members, or postdoctoral botanists are eligible, in that order, for grants that are generally not more than $1,000. Proposals should involve taxa or plant communities that are of concern due to direct or indirect potential impacts. The grants need to be relevant to our conservation mission. Certain small endowed funds are available specifically for graduate students planning research involving rare plants or evolutionary botany.

If you are interested in obtaining support from CNPS for your work, request a copy of the guidelines (for drafting and submitting a proposal) from the state CNPS office. Requests for this or other information can be directed to Chair, Educational Grants Committee, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.

Completed proposals must be received in the CNPS office no later than September 30.

Updated version of the CNPS Panamint Daisy logo
The Chapter Council and CNPS Board of Directors voted to accept an updated version of the CNPS Panamint Daisy logo for interim use.

The updated logo helps resolve issues with media applications that we experienced with the previous logo. This new official version of the CNPS logo will be in use until the Chapter Council and CNPS Board of Directors determine whether or not the question of a new logo for CNPS should be revisited, and/or a new logo is developed, a subject that will be entertained at the March 2012 Chapter Council meeting.

We hope you are as excited about the revised version of the logo as we are.

Tara Hansen, Executive Director CNPS
**E**vents and Items of Interest

Larner Seeds 30th annual Open House at the Garden Shop and Demonstration Garden at 235 Grove, Bolinas, Saturday, June 4, 12-4pm

Garden Tours at 1:00 and 3:00

Larner Seeds specializes in California native plants. Many interesting plants, seeds, and books will be available, and native plant edibles will be offered. Our chia seed cookies are world renowned. Our Meadow foam Meditation Garden will be setting seed, Quail Village will be sequestering newly formed quail couples, and our grow-out areas will include some of our new seed offerings. Winners of our Larner Seeds t-shirt logo contest will be announced, and the new Larner Seeds t-shirts will be available. See www.larnerseeds.com for directions, and call 415-868-9407 with questions. Our regular hours are Tuesday 10am-2pm, Thursday 10am-2pm, Saturdays 12-4pm. Or, call: 415-868-9407 for an appointment!

Ordering is easy: visit: www.larnerseeds.com

Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Relevé Workshop at Ocean Song in Occidental and surrounding areas in Sonoma County, June 7-9, 2011

Members $310, Non-members $335

$15 Two nights on-site accommodations/camping

**Instructors:**

Julie Evens, Vegetation Ecologist / CNPS

Vegetation Program Director

Deborah Stout, CNPS Vegetation Project Leader

**Target Audience:** Professional and student botanists, ecologists, resource managers, and conservationists. Participants should have an initial understanding of the subject matter and basic plant identification skills. The course focuses on sampling plant communities using the CNPS-DFG combined vegetation rapid assessment/relevé method.

**Course Description:** Lecture and field exercises in vegetation sampling with a focus on collecting data using the CNPS-DFG combined vegetation rapid assessment/relevé method. We will discuss applications of fine-scale vegetation sampling, classification and mapping, how to document rare natural communities, and how vegetation information fits into planning documents.

**Participants will learn the following:**

Applications of fine-scale vegetation sampling, classification and mapping

How vegetation types and attributes can be mapped

How to collect data using the CNPS-DFG combined vegetation rapid assessment/relevé method.

How to document the rare natural communities

For further questions contact Josie Crawford at jcrawford@cnps.org or (916) 447-2677 ext. 205

**Glen Oaks Ranch Stewardship Workday June 10, 2011 Friday 10am - 2pm**

Join Sonoma Land Trust and lend a hand at the historic Glen Oaks Ranch in Glen Ellen. Volunteers are needed to help pull invasive yellow star and distaff thistle that are encroaching upon the grassland meadows and oak woodland areas. A picnic and optional tour of the vintage mansion will follow stewardship.

For more info or to RSVP, call (707) 544-5614 ext. 2 or email: volunteer@sonomalandtrust.org

**2011 Talk/Tours at MuRefuge**

June 12 and August 14, 2011

Sundays from 1:00 to 3:30 pm

Cathie Haynes, habitat restorationist, is again this year offering tours at MuRefuge, a living example of sustainability and a haven for wildlife, with native and edible plants. A small foraging female duck flock fertilizes the orchard, takes care of snails and slugs as well as provides delicious eggs. MuRefuge is located in rural residential Sebastopol on the North side of the Petaluma Wind Gap. The focus of talk/tours will be California natives and whole garden ecology with ample time for questions. Download a plant list to use during the tours from Cathie’s blog at beingrooted.blogspot.com/2011/01/2011-plant-list-for-murefuge.html Space is limited for each talk/tour so please register by emailing Cathie Haynes at afsp@sonic.net. The “fee” for attending is one bag of Organic Fox Farm Potting Soil.
Hallberg Butterfly Gardens in Sebastopol
Open Gardens Celebration
Sunday, June 26, 10 am to 4 pm, Free
8687 Oak Grove Road (across from Oak Grove Elementary School), in Graton/Sebastopol
No RSVP needed. Parking shuttle available.
Limited wheelchair access.

Please, no smoking or pets.

This summer, on Sunday, June 26th, from 10 am to 4 pm, Louise Hallberg and a group of dedicated volunteers will be hosting our 14th annual Open Gardens Celebration. This special event is free and everyone is welcome to come and learn about the butterfly life cycle, wildlife gardening, habitat preservation, and West County’s rich agricultural heritage.

This year we will be emphasizing 100 years of habitat history at the Garden, beginning in 1911, when Alfred and Della Hallberg, Louise’s parents, moved in and began planting. Displays will include historic items and photos pertaining to the Hallbergs’ 150 years as West County agriculturalists, as well as specimens of our local butterflies, wildflowers, and garden plants. Our guests are invited to partake in guided plant, bird and butterfly observation/identification tours and self-guided walking tours around the property. We will also have a large selection of butterfly-attracting plants for sale, including Dutchman’s Pipe, which is the slow-growing host plant for our native Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly that first brought butterflies to Della’s garden, as well as other host and nectar species. There will be a staffed kids’ craft table, which is always very popular, and the opportunity to purchase books, crafts, soft drinks and souvenirs.

For more information, (707) 823-3420
wintress@hallbergbutterflygardens.org
www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org

Growing Natives: Inspiring & Enduring Gardens.
Saturday, September 17, 2011
Sunday, September 18, 2011
Early Bird Registration: June 30, 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, contact Juan-Carlos Solis at 415.453.1000, ext.17
juan-carlos@wildcarebayarea.org.

Wildcare’s Family Adventures Sat. June 18
Aventuras Familiares Sábado 28 de Junio
Safari de Insectos en Deer Park
Deer Park Insect Safari
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.

For more information, visit www.wildcarebayarea.org/adventures
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.

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**Hailing from Healdsburg**

SLT welcomes Wendy Smit to the Board of Directors! Wendy earned a B.A. in economics at Stanford University, then worked as a commodity trader and in mortgage finance. She and her husband Steve moved to the Alexander Valley 25 years ago where he works in the wine business and they raised two children. An active member of the Milo Baker chapter of the California Native Plant Society, Wendy loves to hike and looks forward to “trekking gingerly” in SLT’s preserves.

Reprinted from the Sonoma Land Trust Newsletter, March 2011

**Coastal Prairie Herbarium Book Completed for the Estero Americano Preserve**

The Sonoma Land Trust is pleased to announce the release of the 2011 edition of the Herbarium Book for the Estero Americano Preserve, a property located near the town of Bodega in southwest Sonoma County. The book displays plant specimens for over 130 species that occur on the coastal grassland preserve as well as in the surrounding region. The Herbarium Book was developed as a plant identification guide for participants of an annual grassland monitoring project designed to evaluate the effectiveness of cattle grazing for coastal prairie enhancement. The herbarium book can be found online at the Sonoma Land Trust website at: www.sonomalandtrust.org.

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**Field Trips**

**Estero Americano Preserve with Sonoma Land Trust.**

**June 4, 2011 Saturday 10 am-2 pm**

Join Sonoma Land Trust staff and botanists Peter Warner and Kathleen Kraft for a scenic hike and picnic lunch at Sonoma Land Trust’s Estero Americano Preserve. Our botanical foray will traverse the coastal prairie hills bordering the Estero Americano, a tidal estuary that forms the Sonoma-Marin border. Bring your binoculars and a camera for spectacular views and soaring raptures along the way. For more information or to sign up email outings@sonomalandtrust.org.

**Mayacamas Sanctuary with Lynn Houser**

**June 12, 2011 Sunday 9:30am-2pm**

Lynn Houser, botanist and past president of the CNPS Milo Baker Chapter, will lead a hike to see what is blooming late season at Red Hill. Rare plants documented by Betty and Jack Guggolz will be identified, and serpentine plant communities, the Geyser’s pipeline, and post-fire growth will be topics of conversation as we trek up to see beautiful views of Alexander Valley and beyond. Kids welcome with parents, wear boots, bring binoculars, lunch, water and warm clothes and hat for possible changeable weather. Moderate elevation gain and activity. Meet on Pine Flat Road between Red Winery Road and the Sausal Creek Bridge. Pine Flat Road begins 1/4 mile past Jimtown Store on Highway 128 East at the first sharp right hand turn. Reservations are NOT required.

**Bouverie Preserve**

**June 18, 2011 Saturday 9:00am**

The Bouverie Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch encompasses more than 500 acres in the Valley of the Moon. Four distinct plant communities, forming a transect from valley floor to near ridge top, are represented within the boundaries. In a landscape
dominated by Stuart Creek Canyon, these communities include oak woodland, mixed evergreen forest, riparian woodland, and chaparral. Because of this diversity, the Preserve is home to a rich and distinct combination of plants and animals, including more than 130 species of birds, 350 species of flowering plants, and numerous large mammals. CNPS has a tour limited to 15 participants. There is no charge, but donations are accepted. To RSVP contact Cindy Tancreto at cindytancreto@pacbell.net or 707 528-9225.

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.

Speaker Bios:
Susan Magnoli will complete her Master’s degree in the Biology department at Sonoma State this summer. Before starting graduate school she got a B.S. in Plant Biology at UC Davis and worked as a field botanist, conducting botanical surveys in the central valley and throughout the Sierra Nevada. After completing her degree at Sonoma State she will begin working on a PhD in Plant Ecology at Michigan State University.

Andy Kleinhesselink will complete his Master's degree at Sonoma State this August. After graduating from college in 2005, he spent four years working on native plant restoration and conservation in the Golden Gate National Recreation area. He has also done botanical related work with the Nature Conservancy, the US Forest Service and UC Davis. After completing his degree at Sonoma State he will be leaving to start a PhD in plant ecology at Utah State University.

Photo Credits:
*Epilobium canum* by Christopher Christie, 2003
*Aristolochia californica* by Barry Breckling, 2009
*Salvia spathacea* by Steve Matson, 2006

*Laidlaw Williams*, lifetime CNPS member, missed by all but *Genista* at Armstrong, *Delairea* at Big Sur.
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

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To pay by credit card or for more info call
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CALIFORNIA 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 July/Aug.
Newsletter is June 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

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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.ed.
Web Site, Gary Hundt, 636-4468, ghundt@gmail.com
Vine Hill Preserve, Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, Sarahpgordon@gmail.com

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