General Meeting:
How to Cheat at Coastal Grasslands Management

June 17, 2014 7:30 pm

Abstract: Although they don’t have the grandeur and charisma of the state’s redwood forests or the stark beauty of its deserts, California’s coastal perennial grasslands are among the most biodiverse and threatened ecosystems on Earth. Containing approximately 40% of the state’s native species, 80 endemic species, and an ability to sequester carbon unrivaled in the temperate world, these grasslands are worth understanding and protecting. This talk will focus on coastal grassland ecology through a land management lens. We’ll learn about some significant native and invasive species, approaches to grassland management, and how to start managing your own property…which is simpler than it sounds.

Speaker Bio:

Suzanne DeCoursey has fifteen years of experience working with volunteers, community members, and scientists to integrate research and education with land management and conservation. Her work has focused on interagency partnership and cooperation and, most recently, on citizen science, the practice of incorporating community members and other stakeholders into the scientific process. She has spent the last five years working as the Sonoma State University Preserves’ Education Manager, as well as managing and teaching about the Preserves’ coastal grasslands.

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 June 16th, 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 June 10th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
**Chapter News**

**A Book Inheritance, an unusual acquisition**

Recently Betty Guggolz, the founder of the Milo Baker Chapter, brought 13 boxes of books to my house. There is an interesting story about these books. In 1984, our member Marion Weiger, an 80 year old woman, was murdered in her home. The house was set on fire, but did not burn completely. Marion’s library of books was not burned and her daughter wanted the Milo Baker Chapter to have the books. They were boxed up and have been in storage ever since. It is time that they were reviewed and decisions made about what to do with them. I would like to find members who are willing to go through these boxes to determine what to do with them. There may be some very rare and valuable books among them. There is a ten page handwritten list of the contents of the boxes. Are there any book lovers among our members who would like to help me with this task? Call me if you are interested.

 распр L. Parsons

---

**Gardening with Natives**

**False Solomon’s Seal**

*Smilacina stellata*

This little shade-loving perennial in the lily family grows happily alongside the western bleeding heart I planted last year under the western spicebush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*). Many names exist for it: false Solomon’s seal, slim Solomon, star flowered false Solomon’s seal, Nuttall’s Solomon’s seal, and more. Keator calls it Solomon’s plume (*Smilacina racemosa*). Google seems to list it as *Smilacina stellata*. I like the stellata part, as the flowers look like little white stars (stellar). Binomials and classes are not my forte, nor do they really fall in my interest range!

Solomon was the son of David and a king of Israel around the mid-900’s BC. In later years, he became known as a magician, associated with amulets and medallion seals. The Seal of Solomon, which was on a magic ring, is now known as the Star of David.

The rootstock, apparently, has little indentations, which are the scars that appear when the previous year’s growth dies off. These supposedly resemble the impressions of a signet ring, therefore, Solomon’s seal. The true Solomon’s seal is *Polygonatum biflorum*, native to eastern North America. I did not research in depth why it is the “true” Solomon’s seal…something to do with its medicinal value.
I found some of this information online in “The Secrets of Wildflowers; Little known facts, folklore and History” by Jack Sanders, published in 2003 by Lyons Press. What an interesting book that looks to be and it’s for sale online on several sites.

The star-shaped white flowers bloom at the ends of the little branches in fuzzy-looking racemes. The birds eat the little round berries that appear after the flowers fade.

The plant goes dormant and basically disappears in the summer, as does the western bleeding heart. Come fall with the rains, the green stems and leaves reappear and bloom in late spring.

It reproduces by rhizomes, so give it moist, rich soil so it can spread out as a shady ground cover. A sweet little plant for a shady garden…joodbrink@comcast.net

Judy Brinkerhoff

**Invasives Corner**

**Spain and Invasive Plants**

I'm taking off to Spain for a couple of weeks so I thought I'd check out how Spain is doing with invasive plants. A list of their bad actors has many similarities to ours – iceplant, tamarisk, Jubuta grass, cotoneaster, *Ludwigia peploides* - one of the pests of our Laguna, as if you didn't know, several acacias, and some of the plants I mentioned last time. We have given them an overdose of our flora in the form of *Lupinus arboreus* – yellow (sometimes blue) bush lupine, which is crowding up our coast, too. In exchange, they gave us a much worse pest, that stickery *Carpobrotus edulis!*- almost bad enough to start up a Hatfield and McCoy feud if we weed dislikers (It was explained to me that we weed haters should calm our rhetoric because we were getting labeled "fanatics".) were thinking of retribution. I'm not sure if I would be a Hatfield or a McCoy sort of person, but I HATE that plant. Every time I get mad at myself for forgetting to bring gloves to yank them out when I'm out on the trail, I wish I could get even. Sometimes I just stomp on their defiant heads, knowing they'll keep making seeds anyway.

Maybe my visit to Spain will be horrific enough for Spain to consider herself retributed. I must consider my options, what with carrying on gallons of cheap perfume and giant squirt guns being forbidden at the airport. Too bad. That would be fun: “HAH!

Take that you naughty people who gave us Italian thistle – Oh yeah, Spain isn't the only culprit. It's native to most of the Mediterranean area. My war would have to expand.

I looked this plant up on Calflora and noted that there weren't many references to it in Sonoma County. Maybe people have gotten so used to seeing it take over the world that they don't even notice it. Like a one degree rise in yearly temperature. However, I saw that our loyal CNPSers, John Akre and Sarah Gordon recorded it for Calflora. Yay John and Sarah!!!
Now for the serious among you.


These are scientific papers from Spanish botanists directed at heading off new invasive plant infestations. One of them is about cataloguing and rating plants that have been invasive elsewhere in conditions similar to Spain's. Part of the rating will be the tendency to hybridize with natives. Spain doesn't have those bad plants yet but fears the plants are planning to invade them. The rating system would (they hope) be used to outlaw their entry into Spain, unless, of course, they came armed with nuclear weapons.

The other is about mapping areas or specific niches that are vulnerable to infestation of undesirable plants so that they can be spied upon and assaulted. So yay, Spanish botanists! Maybe I won't try to get even, if Spanish botanists are trying so hard. After all, twenty-one percent of the invasive plants Spain already has are reported to be from North America.

PS: If you don't know who the Hatfields and Mc Coys are try this: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqqTq18K25Q

Names were changed to protect the guilty.

ML Carle

---

**Plant Sale News**

*Myrica californica*

On May 14, Kathi Dowdakin, Penny Dalton, Mary Aldrich and I went to Shooting Star Propagation Nursery. We took in cuttings for them to use in creating plants for us to pot up in August at Casa Grande workshop. We picked up liners of Manzanita, Ceanothus, Myrica, and other plants that we potted up at the May 18 workshop at Cal Flora. Many thanks to those who helped at the workshop: Kathi Dowdakin, Rob Fox, Mary Aldrich, Lea Davis, Penny Dalton, Cindy Tancreto, Janet Ross, Patty Mohar, Charlotte Martin, Art Slater, Alan Brubaker, Steve Long, Cynthia Kayser, and Ellen Solomon.

We are on our way to another successful plant sale on October 11. All of the no-cost plants that we get from Shooting Star (Dan Jennison and Nancy Hargeaves) combined with all of the volunteer labor of our members means that our expenses are very low so that our profits to the chapter are great. Thanks to all out volunteer growers. Thanks to Cal Flora (Sherrie Althouse and Phil Van Soelen) for allowing us to have the May potting workshop at their nursery.

We will have our final potting workshop at the nursery at Casa Grande High School in Petaluma August 9, Saturday, at 10:00AM.

Liz Parsons
Events

Rickabaugh Glade, South Cow Mtn.,
Saturday and Sunday May 31-June 1

This will be a camping-optional trip for those interested in exploring a wider area of South Cow Mountain for an entire weekend.

We’ll continue our chapter efforts to compile a thorough inventory of the plants in the Rickabaugh Glade area, a diverse upland wetland amidst chaparral and woodlands.

Further information will be available by contacting a leader. Co-leaders: Kerry Heise, Peter Warner
(707) 666-9071
phytopagan@sonic.net

Bohemia Ecological Preserve, Sunday June 1

Darlene LaMont will lead us on this exploration of this Landpaths preserve near Camp Meeker, not yet open to the public. The property, long envisioned as a park is now a preserve and private conservation easement. This strenuous hike will cover a large portion of the property including the top of the waterfall. Late spring flowers on serpentine areas as well as in canyon habitats will be the focus. Bring a lunch for an all-day expedition. Contact Wendy for more specifics.

UC McLaughlin Reserve June 7-8, 2014
Lake/Napa County north of Lake Berryessa
Rare Plant Treasure Hunt for Serpentine Endemics, June 7-8, Sat & Sun: We will also have the camping option for this trip on Sat night, and a potluck dinner. After breakfast Sunday morning, when it's still somewhat cool, we will visit a rugged serpentine canyon to map CNPS-listed plants. We will carpool in high clearance/ 4WD vehicles for this moderately strenuous outing.
Wendy Smit, Milo Baker Fieldtrip Chair
wendysmit@hughes.net

Woodland Grazing Brown Bag Lunch
June 26, 12-1pm
Sonoma County Open Space District Office in Santa Rosa
This Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group brown bag lecture will explore managed grazing as a tool for fuels reduction, enhancement of wildlife habitat, control of invasive species, and increased water yields. The featured speaker will be Wendell Gilgert, the Working Landscapes Program Director for Blue Point Conservation Science (formerly known as the Point Reyes Bird Observatory). Details here: http://sonomaforests.org/

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.

Summer Botany Field Course
Santa Rosa Junior College is offering “Northern Sierra Plants” (Botany 64), emphasizing the ecology and taxonomy of the vascular plants of the Sierra Nevada north of Lake Tahoe, from Sunday, June 22, through Saturday, June 28; a mandatory pre-trip meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. For further information, go to the SRJC summer 2014 class schedule: https://portal.santarosa.edu/SRWeb/SR_ScheduleOfClasses.aspx%3Ftermid=20145
Daily activities will include short presentations on the botany and plant ecology of the region, with the bulk of instructional time spent exploring the vegetation and flora of the northern Sierra Nevada in the wild.
Peter Warner
Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

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

---

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

President: Leia Giambastiani, 322-6722, leiagia@gmail.com
Vice President: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com
Secretary: OPEN
Treasurer: Jim Piercy, 539-3441, terrapeneecarolinamajor@yahoo.com
Book Sales: Cindy Tancreto, 528-9225, cindytancreto@pacbell.net
Conservation Chair: Wendy Smit, 431-7913, wendysmit@hughes.net
Cunningham Marsh: Marcia Johnson, 829-3808, owlsnesttwo@att.net
Director at Large: Lea Davis, 538-1499, legil42@sbcglobal.net
Director at Large: OPEN
Director at Large: Cindy Tancreto, 528-9225, cindytancreto@pacbell.net
Field Trips: Wendy Smit, 431-7913, wendysmit@hughes.net
Field Trips: OPEN
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: OPEN
Membership: Suzanne Harmon, 933-8750, cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Wayne Clark cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Plant Sale: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com
Poster & T-shirt Sales: Cindy Tancreto, 528-9225, cindytancreto@pacbell.net
Programs/Lectures: Virginia Steenhoven, vsteen@sonic.net
Publicity: Wendy Born wendyborn@comcast.net
Rincon Ridge Park, Patricia Sesser, 528-9197, patriciasesser@comcast.net
SCCC Rep.: Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wk@sonic.net
Southridge Preserve: 539-3441, terrapeneecarolinamajor@yahoo.com
SRJC Representative: Lea Davis, 538-1499
SSU Rep.: Kerry Wininger, 888-5616, kerrywininger@gmail.com
Web Site: Molly Graber, cnpsmb.webadm@gmail.com
Vine Hill Preserve: Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, sarahpgordon@gmail.com

---

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