General Meeting:
Sunflowers – A Very Versatile Plant

With Dr. Tom Gulya
June 21, 2016 7:30 pm

Abstract: Sunflowers, to many people, are just that bright, attractive centerpiece found in many bouquets in flower shops and grocery stores. However, that is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the diversity that sunflower (Helianthus annuus) displays. Native Americans domesticated wild sunflower in eastern North America over two thousand years ago, and used it as a source of vegetable oil, as well as extracting dye from the seeds and using pollen in religious ceremonies. Early explorers took these sunflowers back to Europe where they became a staple oilseed, especially in Russia, which is now the world’s leading producer. Join Dr. Gulya as he covers all these topics, but concentrates mostly on the wild Helianthus, and goes into detail on those species native to California.

Speaker Bio: Raised in northern New Jersey (aka “the garden state”), Dr. Gulya got a BS in Agriculture at the University of Delaware. After a brief stint in the Army, he started graduate school at Iowa State where he got both MS and PhD degrees in Plant Pathology, doing research on corn and soybean diseases.

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 20th, 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 14th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
Chapter News

Eco-Friendly Garden Tour Report
Did you join the Garden Tour on April 30th? It was a beautiful day with gorgeous gardens. Our 9 members who opened their native gardens were visited by 1253 of our neighbors. Some of the gardens had as many as 240 visitors during the day. They were inspired by the beauty and habitat value from natives. Some hopefully learned more about CNPS and our work.

Over 50 people joined Becky Montgomery’s Pollinator walks at the Rural Cemetery Memorial Native Garden. Bill Montgomery’s huge sign let everyone know when they had arrived. The educational materials on gardening that Virginia Holz-Steenhoven prepared and presented with Leah Davis were very informative. Everyone who visited Wendy Born’s garden were inspired by the garden and the display about the Pipevine Swallowtail life cycle. Kudos and thanks to Terese Hillborn who designed the display. Many of the visitors to Wendy’s enjoyed Terry Loveton’s Pruning demonstration and learned the secrets of keeping those natives attractive.

Gardening on a hillside was demonstrated at Pat and Bryan Sesser’s in Santa Rosa, Metha Singleton’s on Blucher Valley Rd, and Margaret Spaulding’s garden in Glen Ellen. Beautiful gardens and streamside restoration were celebrated at Liz Parson’s. Gardening in a small space was beautifully demonstrated at Kathryn Devereux’s in Santa Rosa. Live in a wet place? Visitors saw how to deal with that at Penny Dalton and Paul Fuerst’s garden. One of the largest gardens demonstrated appropriate riparian plantings right on the Russian River at Victoria Wikle’s home. She and Russian Patterson Preserve volunteers also planted a lovely postage stamp size garden at the Ville Grande post office and restored a section of riparian habitat in Ville Grande along the river. Our own Board member April Owens, landscape designer and owner of Sustainable Urban Natives designed three of the gardens; the ones on Blucher Valley Rd, Virginia Count in SR and her mom’s-Penny Dalton in Sebastopol. A huge thanks to the garden owners for planting, spiffing up, and welcoming everyone on the tour. They are our heroes.

Not only did we inspire visitors to go NATIVE, but we sold them the plants to do it with. Thanks to Pat Sesser who took charge of the sale for the tour. We made about $2400 on plant sales. YAHOO. That should close our budget gap this year. Thanks to Cashiers for raking in the dough and sending out our native babies; Jim Piercy, Judy Johnson, Cindy Tancreto, and Sandy Martinson.

We could not have done so well without the donation of rooted cuttings from Shooting Star Nursery-Dan and Nancy Hargreaves, and the team who potted them up at Mary Aldrich’s house: Mary, Kathi Dowdakin and Rob Fox, Liz Parsons, Pat Sesser, Cindy Tancreto, Penny Dalton, and Wendy Born and cared for them at home; Wendy Born, Pat Sesser, and Kathi Dowdakin and schlepped them to Pat and Wendy’s gardens with additional help from Cindy and Helen Howard.

You may have noticed that the non CNPS gardens on the tour did not have volunteers. We received many compliments about how helpful and informative the Greeters and Horticulturists were and how much they enriched the visit. Thanks to Greeters for welcoming visitors and making the connection to CNPS: Anna Webster, Betsy Livingstone, Colleen Gibbons, Judy Hartwig, Mary Ann Dragotto, Paul Fuerst, Heidi Stewart, Steve Smit, Sandy Corbert, Audrey Kapitan, Bryan Sesser, Helen Walton, Molly Levitt, Virginia Holz-Steenhoven, and Leah Davis. Horticulturists answered questions on plants and their garden, gave helpful advice on
planning and maintaining a native garden and inspired visitors to take that info home and go for it. Thanks to: John Akers, Sarah Gordon, Ben Verduin, Pat Schuch, Marcia Johnson, Leslie Vivian, Cheryl Paulus, Carol Felch, Nicole and Merlin Schumberger, Sue Fritzie, Patty Mohar, Alan Brubaker, Cynthia Kayser, Deb Dobish, Nancy Bauer, Kathi Dowdakin, Wendy Krupick, Wendy Smit, Art Slater, Terry Loveton, Pam Horton, Barbara Coe, Leia Giambastiani, Kate Symonds, Mary Aldrich, Cheryl Harris, Wayne Clark, Pauline Haro, Lessly Field, Carson Field, Claudia Sisomphou, Judy Harada, Julie Cross, Lena Chyle, Bill Montgomery, Jean McMullin, and Linda Ross Yates. Why did those gardens look so spiffy? Thanks to the weeding and spiffing before the tour by: many above plus, Caro Pemberton, Nancy Pemberton and Helen Howard. Please forgive me, if I have missed anyone.

Last but certainly not least, the tour would never have happened without the support and partnership with the Sonoma County Water Agency and Greg Plumb, tour manager, and our planning committee; Cindy Tancreto, Pat Sesser, Penny Dalton, Becky Montgomery, Terry Loveton, Becky Montgomery, Wendy Born, and Virginia Holz-Steenhoven. Our fun meetings with pot lucks, of course, kept our planning moving. Everyone pitched in and did their parts.

We hope you will join or volunteer to help at the tour next year or open you garden if it is mostly natives to inspire your fellow community members. Any ideas to improve next year, or to offer your garden or someone you know, or to help, please let me know.

A huge thank you to all, Betty Young, 2016 Garden Tour committee chair.

Betty Young

Electronic Newsletter
If you have an internet connection, you can get your newsletter on line and save the chapter those funds for our other good work, at our four rare plant preserves, outreach, invasive plant control, education and outreach. You will get an e-mail when the newsletter is ready, often days before it arrives in the mail. You can save the newsletter as a PDF document or print out yourself, if you love to have a paper copy to refer to throughout the month. To change to online, just email cnp smbmembership@gmail.com

Invasives Corner

Update on the Milo Baker Weeder’s Group

The Milo Baker Weeder’s Group continues to visit wildland sites around Sonoma County to benefit special status plant species through the removal of invasive nonnative plants. On March 29, we went back to Doran Regional Park on Bodega Bay for more pulling and digging up of nonnative iceplant. We expanded the area we worked on last December to keep iceplant from encroaching into the high marsh where native marsh plant species, such as the rare Point Reyes bird’s-beak occurs. Thanks to Natasha G., Betsy L., Susan D., Judith R., Michelle K., Sean M., Jesse D., and guidance by ranger Dea F. On April 20 and May 3, the Weeders convened in the early evening for nonnative grass pulling until dusk at Vine Hill Preserve near Sebastopol. We pulled invasive nonnative rattlesnake grass (*Briza major*) and velvet grass (*Holcus lanatus*) to make room for two endangered plant species, Vine Hill clarkia (*Clarkia imbricata*) and the Vine Hill manzanita (*Arctostaphylos densiflora*). Our efforts last year to pull velvet grass before it went to seed appears to have paid off. We found very little or it this year, but rattlesnake grass kept us busy. Thanks to Penny D., Wendy B., Ben V., Michelle K., Susan and John D., and Emily for your help! On Sunday, May 15, we had our first of two Weeder’s events this Spring at Neferttierra, an 80-acre undeveloped private preserve near the
Mt. St. Helena Road. Ben V. and I assisted owner Sue Smith in digging up small patches of Canada thistle, and other herbaceous nonnative invasive plants to keep them from going to seed. We’ll be coming back June 7.

**Milo Baker Weeder’s Group improving high marsh habitat through iceplant removal at Doran Regional Park in Bodega Bay.**

**Upcoming Weeder’s Group events:**
**Tuesday, June 7, 2016. 9 AM to 12:30 PM.**
Nefertitierra off of St. Helena Road. We’ll be strolling and pulling weeds on this lovely 80-acre rugged private property to benefit rare plants. We’ll assemble for informal carpools at 8:30 am at the Safeway parking lot at Hwy 12 and Calistoga Hwy in Rincon Valley area (note new location). Walking will be on or off trail, sometimes steep, but slow paced.

**Thursday, August 4, 2016. 9 AM to 12:30 PM.**
Bohemia Preserve with LandPaths (near Occidental). We’ll be pulling yellow star thistle before it goes to seed from a serpentine rock outcrop that supports many rare plant species. We’ll walk in 1/10 mile on a fire road. The patch of yellow star thistle is on a slope in full sun. This time of year the fog tends to not burn off until noon, but sun protection recommended. Email kate@terraserve.net for meeting location.

All are welcome. No experience necessary. Please RSVP to Kate Symonds, Invasive Chair, Milo Baker Chapter of CNPS. kate@terraserve.net, 707-318-3183 (text/call)

Kate Symonds

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**Preserve Update**

**CUNNINGHAM MARSH WORKDAY**
Friday, June 3, 9 a.m.-11+a.m.

Last month’s workday was canceled due to soggy conditions. Please come & help weed the lilies and cage oaks in the big field. Bring water, gloves, favorite digging tool, hat, long pants best.

Please contact me if you can attend or need more information.

Marcia Johnson
Steward, Cunningham Marsh
owlsnesttwo@att.net
707-829-3808

**Events**

**Field Trips**
For all field trips below, there is no need to register, unless the description specifically states to do so. Always bring water, hat, sunscreen, lunch, field guides and hand lens, if desired. Sprinkles will not cancel, steady rain will. Contact Betty, youngb0721@msn.com or 707-595-1463 to verify, if questionable.
Tidal marsh restoration: what has been learned through 20 years of restoration.

Thursday, June 9, 2016: 10am – 2pm.
Meet at 9am to carpool or 10am at Hwy 37 meeting place below.
Leader: Peter Baye, Botanist and restoration ecologist

Join our leader who has been involved in the design and implementation of many tidal marsh projects around the SF Bay. We will look at a 1 yr old (Sears Point) and a 20 yr old (Sonoma Baylands) restoration projects which fringe post-Gold Rush naturally formed tidal marshes. What has worked, what was learned, what can be done in the future?

Carpool at 9am at the east end of the under Hwy 12 Park and Ride lot (between Vet’s Hall and Fairgrounds). Or meet at 10am at the stoplight intersection of Highway 37, Lakeville Hwy and Reclamation Rd across Hwy. 37 from Lakeville. Trip should end there by 2pm.

Presidio Bluffs: from dump to most spectacular trail on the CA Coast
Wednesday, June 22, 2016, 11am – 2pm
Meet to carpool at 9:30 am at Hwy 12 Park and Ride or 9:45 at Rohnert Park Expwy Pk and Ride-see below.

Leaders: Naomi LeBeau and Kara Mirmelstein, Yakuta Poonawalla; Restoration, community and Project Specialists

The bluffs from the Golden Gate Bridge to 25th Avenue were used as dumping grounds by the US Army. There were no safe trails. In the last year the removal of dump materials and beautifully designed safe and visually spectacular bridges, outlooks and trails have been installed. Restoration of coastal dune, swale, and bluffs plant communities have been made replanting every species that once lived there. And did I mention the most spectacular views of the central coast and Golden Gate?

Hike the new trails from the GG Bridge to south Baker Beach, see the gorgeous outlooks that have been installed, the protection and stabilization of the Batteries, and of course, the gorgeous habitat that now exists, especially in the Valley of the Serpent. Naomi and Kara will give us some history of the site and how the restoration was done, and, of course, show us the best flowers still blooming.

Carpool at 9:30am at the east end of the under Hwy 12 Park and Ride lot (between Vet’s Hall and Fairgrounds or 9:45am at the Park and Ride in the SW corner of Rohnert Park Expressway and Hwy 101. We will park to begin our hike at 11am at the end of the parking lot on Merchant Rd, the first exit after the Golden Gate Bridge.

Betty Young

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**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:
cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com