Abstract Understanding the factors that structure plant communities is a long-standing goal in ecology with important implications for restoration and conservation. Large herbivores can play a key role in structuring communities, affecting both plant invasions and community assembly. To better understand how large herbivores drive plant communities, we can examine plant functional traits such as leaf area or plant height. Importantly, both native and exotic plant functional traits can be linked to the direct and indirect effects of herbivores on different factors in the community.

About the Speaker: Caprice Lee is a graduate student at Sonoma State University studying plant ecology. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Plant Biology from the University of California Davis and prior to that, she earned an Associate’s Degree and certificate from the Santa Rosa Junior College in Natural Resource Management. Caprice is looking forward to developing her botanical skills professionally in Sonoma County and is excited to be a Milo Baker Chapter director-at-large.

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 19th, if you plan to attend
Chapter News

Earning $$ for the chapter:

Our Milo Baker chapter is now participating in the escrip program! It is a fundraising method for non-profits to earn money through participating merchants. Merchants typically donate up to 3% of purchases to a designated non-profit.

Some merchants such as Oliver’s use a community card, while other merchants use a registered credit card to donate back to the designated non-profit.

To participate: at Oliver’s you request a community card and then register that number with escrip. Otherwise go to escrip.com and follow directions. It is important to register with the organization name of Milo Baker-Ca. Native Plant Society

To be successful in earning money for our chapter we need members to sign up for scrip. It provides an easy way to support our chapter.

(signature)

Betty Young

Plant Sale News

CNPS-Laguna Foundation Nursery

We are scheduled to begin construction on the new nursery in early July. Making the new nursery happen depends on our members volunteering to help. No construction experience is necessary, it will be a lot of unskilled but essential labor. We also need a skilled construction person to lead the placement of footings for the shade house. That should happen in August.

Please see appeal letter on Page 7 of this newsletter.

If you can help in any way, contact Betty Young, youngby0721@msn.com or 595-1463.

(signature)

Betty Young
What a gorgeous day! The temperature was perfect and the gardens were all beautiful representations of gardening with natives. I hope everyone was able to participate. The Tour would not have been so organized and successful without our partnership with Sonoma County Water Agency and the Garden Tour manager, Greg Plumb. They provided the t-shirts, the Gardening with Natives and Soil Matters brochures, the metal plant labels, website, and immeasurable support.

Of course, the day was made because of the gorgeous gardens. Thanks so much to our hosts: Anita Smith at the Laguna Environmental Center, Betsy Livingstone, Durs Koenig, Deb Dobish, Veronica Bowers, Art Slater, Gail Cafferata and April Owens (designer), and Margaret Spaulding. We so appreciate your generosity in opening your garden, in preparing them for the day and sharing your experience that inspired our visitors.

Special thanks to our new partner-the Laguna Environmental Center for not only opening their garden but hosting our plant sale. We look forward to sharing a nursery and holding all our plant sales there as of 2018. Speaking of visitors, we counted about 1600 visitors to our gardens. That is amazing and a wonderful opportunity to introduce hundreds of new people to the importance of gardening with natives.

That importance would not have been imparted without our 65 phenomenal volunteers at each garden. Parkers; Gary Hundt, Louise Reidel, and Paul Fuerst got people parked without any major accidents-no small feat on some of our narrow west county roads.

Greeters; Anna Webster, Audrey Kapitan, Elmarie Hutchinson, Heidi Stewart, Helene Walton, Jane DeBriyn, Judy Hartwig, Judy Johnson, Mary Aldrich, Mary Ann Dragotto, ML Carle, Nancy Kirwan, Sandy Martinson, Steve Smit, and Terri Clark welcomed visitors, talked about CNPS, handed out bookmarks to plant information and supported the garden hosts.

Docents; Alan Brubaker, April Owens, Barbara Coe, Ben Verduin, Cheryl Harris, Cheryl Paulus, Cynthia Kayser Norrell, Heidi Herrmann, Jana Mariposa, Judy Brinkerhoff, Judith Rousseau, Kathi Dowdakin, Leslie Vivian, Liz Parsons, Marcia Johnson, Michelle Karle, Nancy Bauer, Nancy McDonald, Natasha Granoff, Pam Horton, Pat Sesser Patty Mohar, Penny Dalton, Tamara Brown, Theresa Wistrom, Wendy Born, Wendy Krupnick, Wendy Smit and of course, the garden hosts, educated visitors about each native plant and inspired many to begin gardening with natives.

Education and Outreach; at the Laguna Environmental Center Virginia Holz-Steenhoven, Caprice Lee, Kerry Wininger and Lea Davis provided a deeper education experience and handed out many CNPS brochures to perspective new members.

Weeders; in addition to helping with the above activities on tour day Penny Dalton and her loyal gang of weeders have been supporting each garden host by weeding in their gardens since February. They put in hundreds of hours...
to make each garden the most engaging it can be. April Owens, Ben Verduin, Cindy Tancreto, Cynthia Kayser Norall, Helen Howard, Colleen Gibbons, Heidi Stewart, Helene Walton, Jan Lochner, Wendy Born, Pat Sesser, Patty Mohar, Glenn Calkins, Leslie Vivian, and Wendy Krupnick. You all rock.

Please forgive me if I have missed anyone, you are not forgotten and much appreciated. We want to thank Terese Hillborn, graphic designer, for donating much of her time and awesome talent to produce the posters at most of our gardens. Visitors found them engaging and enlightening.

The native plant gardens in the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour would never happen without the year around work of the planning committee. Greg Plumb provided tons of support from the Water agency, Pat Sesser recruited and organized volunteer assignments with Cindy Tancreto. Pat also led planning for the plant sale. Cindy along with Jim Piercy handled cashiering at the sale. Kathi Dowdakin kept the sale organized—remembering every detail from labels to tables and of course, each and every plant. Betty, Kathi, Cindy and Pat took care of plants until the sale. Becky Montgomery got the Greeter table information together. Penny Dalton handled weeder organization and weeded 3-4 times a week since February. Wendy Born put together the very helpful Docent binders that we will use again and again. Terry Loveton composed a Bullet proof natives list. April Owens provided a workshop on that subject. Marcia Johnson provided valuable support and input to the committee. Virginia Holz-Steenhoven kept the committee apprised of education opportunities and put together an informative table. Cindy, Pat, Virginia and Betty provided info to Terese for the Posters seen at many of our gardens.

Our Garden Hosts not only generously opened their gardens to the public, but also, Art Slater provided information for 3 posters and did a workshop on Pollinators in his garden.

Veronica Bowers provided lots of info on Songbird needs and a workshop during the tour. The workshops and posters greatly enhanced the education value of the day. If you would like to open your garden for the tour next year, or if you have thoughts or suggestions for making the tour better, please contact Betty Young, younbg0721@msn.com, 595-1463.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED. WHAT A GREAT TEAM and a memorable day.

Betty Young, planning committee chair

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Preserve Update

*Lilium pardalinum subsp. pitkinense*

**CUDDINGHAM MARSH WET SPRING OF 2017**

This is the year where Cunningham Marsh really looks like a MARSH. As of May 3, 2017, the main trail of the Marsh is a ‘boot wearing’ only walk. Several trees are starting
to lean; however, one oak is heavily leaning over the main trail. Also a tree has fallen into (but not on the lilies) and has broken the fence of one exclosure. However, we have been getting work done.

April 18th, a small group, Giel, Christina, and Wendy K. gently weeded all the caged oaks in the big field. Most of the earlier plantings are doing very well; however, many of the ‘during the drought’ trees did not make it. We then made sure that all had bright flagging so that Ken, “The Gentleman Farmer” could mow.

April 18th, Cunningham received wonderful help from the Laguna Foundation staff, using a “Billy Goat” & string mowers to open up trails (even in the muddy areas). Big, big thanks go to Paul Webber, Asa Voight and Hannah Werdmuller. The following day, Ken mowed all needed areas, so we are good to go. Later on we will be having a weeding day within the exclosures; however before that, we need to take care of the one badly leaning tree and the cutting of the fallen tree so that the fencing can be fixed.

If you are interested in being on the Cunningham Marsh workday list, please let me know. We usually have one in the Spring & one in the Fall.

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

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**Events**

**Nefertierra**

June 3, 2017, Saturday, 10AM – 1PM at Nefertierra.

Carpool at 9:30AM at the Safeway on Hwy 12 and Calistoga Rd, meet in the row of parking closest to Calistoga Rd.

Host and leader: Sue Smith

Join us on this gem of a property now preserved with a conservation easement with Sonoma Land Trust. We’ll see plants native to Sonoma volcanic areas with lava, ash and deeper soils on north facing slopes. The property ranges from 1200 to 1600’ with 2 peaks and a plateau. 6 of the 7 tree oak species and 2 scrub oaks native in the county can be seen. Small grasslands alternate with Doug-Fir/oak woodlands along with 3 species of manzanita and 3 ceanothus are on the property.

We should see lots of species blooming among the 327 native species on this 78 acre site. Plant and bird list at http://milobaker.cnps.org/index.php/nativeplants/plant-lists

This will be a rugged hike. Bring hat, walking pole, sturdy shoes or boots, sunscreen. Brown bag lunch can be eaten at the top of the property. Use restroom at Safeway, before, no restrooms on site.
Effects of Elk Grazing on Native Plant Communities at Tomales Point, Point Reyes National Seashore.

June 24, 2017, Saturday, 10:30AM – 2PM at Tomales Point, Pt Reyes Nat’l Seashore.

Carpool 9AM at under Hwy 12 Vets’ Hall/Fairgrounds Park & Ride lot at the east end. Or meet at 10:30 at the Pierce Point Ranch parking area at Pt Reyes.

Leader: Caprice Lee, MS Biology and CNPS Milo Baker board member

We will join Caprice Lee to look at her research plots. We will hike on a relatively even path toward Windy Gap on the Tomales Point peninsula. Along the trail on this mellow 2 mile hike, we’ll see many coastal prairie species in flower! We’ll also see some of the elk exclosures for Caprice’s Master’s thesis research. These will demonstrate elk uses as well as soil type boundaries which correspond to shifts in plant communities.

Helpful info: There are bathrooms at the McClures Beach Parking lot which is just up the road from the Pierce Point Ranch. In addition to hat, water, sunscreen and lunch, participants should dress in layers – the weather can change from very cold, wet and foggy to hot and humid. Binoculars for viewing elk and exclosures, and a hand lens for flower parts may be helpful.

Upcoming:
July 6-9, 2017 Campout at Plaskett Meadows (Masterson Group Campsite). Leader Peter Warner. We have reserved the group campground, just RSVP to Betty, youngb0721@msn.com. More info will be sent about 3 weeks ahead to those who RSVPed.

August 10, 8:30-1 Pepperwood, Wildlife Photography with Michelle Halbur

⊞Betty Young

Members’ Annual Picnic

Sunday, August 20 at Alan Brubaker’s garden. 1401 Adobe Canyon Road. Kenwood.

Stay tuned for more picnic details in the next newsletter.
Dear Valued Member,

The Milo Baker Chapter Native Plant Nursery needs your help. Up to 30% of plants tested in commercial nurseries have been found to be contaminated with root rot pathogens which can spread into the wild from residential landscaping. To ensure we sell you healthy plants, best growing practices require that we have in place certain procedures and controls to prevent the spread of pathogens. Our Chapter work is funded nearly entirely by our Native Plant Sale, with plants grown by our members.

We have accomplished our goal of finding a site for the nursery to build a shared shade house and install the necessary infrastructure at the Laguna Foundation’s Stone Farm site. This will allow us to propagate and sell all our plants at one location (no more volunteers needed to move plants from various backyards to the Vets Hall!).

**An Investment in Our Chapter’s Future**

Combined, the Laguna Foundation and the Milo Baker Chapter have received over $32,000 in grant funds, which will cover the shade house structure. We are seeking an additional $10,000 in funding for shade house benches and an irrigation system.

Please consider making a donation to our chapter today. Gifts of any size will make a difference. Additionally, if you are interested in sponsoring a bench with a small metal placard with a name or short phrase of your choosing (minimum donation $500) please contact Leia Giambastiani at leiagia@gmail.com.

There are many ways you can contribute:

1. Send a check to CNPS, Milo Baker, an envelope is included for your convenience. Please designate nursery donation on memo line.
2. Or go online to the CNPS website, [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org). Simply click on the orange "Donate/Support" button, then in the “Designation” option, select “Donation for a Chapter (specify in comments)”, and be sure to include "Milo Baker Chapter" in the comments.

With your support the Milo Baker Chapter can continue the important work of promoting and conserving the native plants of Sonoma County.

Gratefully yours,

Leia Giambastiani
Interim President
California Native Plant Society, Milo Baker Chapter
**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