General Meeting:
Drought, Soil & Your Backyard: Making Every Drop Count
March 18, 2014 7:30 pm

Abstract: The 20th century marked a milder and wetter period in California's geologic history. Yet in spite of this, California ironically remained a state in drought 37% of the time. This talk will examine climate change and drought, the toll that these events take on your backyard soil, and offer tips on how you can sustain your soil by making every drop of moisture count.

Speaker Bio: Stephen Andrews is a soil scientist, educator, and natural resources consultant specializing in the development of landscape products made from recycled materials. Known variously throughout the Bay Area as the Dirt Dude, Soil Sommelier, and Compost Crusader, Stephen has been indoctrinating classes of Master Gardeners, Bay-Friendly landscape professionals, and UC Berkeley students with his mantras of "compost, compost, compost" and "mulch, mulch, mulch" for nearly two decades. Stephen also writes a monthly landscape and gardening newsletter/blog called "The Scoop" for WM EarthCare™.

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 March 17th, if you plan to attend.

General Meetings are held 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 March 11th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
Cost of the Paper Newsletter

The Milo Baker Chapter publishes 10 newsletters each year. The newsletter is published using a local copy printing company and then addressed and mailed using a mailing service. The total cost of printing and mailing the newsletter each year to roughly 430 members is $3500. Each issue that you receive in the mail costs roughly $0.81 cents (not including the volunteer hours utilized to create and track members).

In light of this information, please consider signing up for the electronic newsletter. It will be mailed in a pdf form to the email address of your choice. Every newsletter since March of 2003 is also available on our website including the most recent ones. They also look nicer in color!

Leia Giambastiani

Editor’s Note

Those of you who receive the printed newsletter may have been surprised to receive the Dec/Jan Newsletter in the mail again in February. A slight mix-up at the printer resulted in the Dec/Jan Newsletter being printed and mailed out again in place of the February Newsletter. The February Newsletter was then reprinted and mailed out. We are sorry for any confusion. Those of you who receive the electronic version received the correct newsletter.

Program Chair Position Open

This volunteer board position oversees the Milo Baker Chapter programs at the general meetings that occur January through June and September through November. The program chair finds speakers on a variety of native plant related topics including native plant gardening, science, wildflowers, geographic locations, and more. The program chair then coordinates details with the speakers.

Specific Duties include:

- Obtain short biography and description of the talk and disperse this to publicity chair, web admin and newsletter
- Send confirmation email with clear site directions, complimentary dinner invitation details.
- Notify speaker of equipment availability and time allocation.
- Introduce the speaker at the general meeting.
- Follow up with a thank you to the speaker.

This is a board position which encourages regular attendance at monthly board meetings (we have 9 meetings per year on the second Tuesday of each month from 7-9pm).

If interested or you would like more information please contact: Leia Giambastiani leiagia@gmail.com

Invasives Corner

Update on Stapled Moss/Weed Management Area

My brilliant idea for a fetching column of moss is off to a bad start. After the Great Rain the column now tilts at a dangerous angle. As for the stapled moss, “not dead yet” is all you can say in its favor. However if you stapled a cockroach to a cement stepping stone, it would be dead by now. So being alive under the circumstances is admirable, I guess.
Now for some actual information. I continue to attend the Sonoma/Marin Weed Management Area WMA meetings which are not oriented to parks in Sonoma County that much, I think because I am usually the only person from Sonoma County who attends and don't represent any power. (Excuse me, folks, but nobody has volunteered for our legislative position for the last 4 years. Not even me.) The WMA is no longer funded by the state, and there hasn't been any mention of getting the funds back. That may be why the last California Invasive Pest Plant Council's quarterly rag centered on barbed goatgrass and medusa head grasses which invade pastureland and make bad fodder. If the economic interests of the state are ignored, fat chance there will be any funding legislated for the WMA. But we CNPSers don't like those grasses either. Years ago, Jeff Woodward and I were pulling distaff thistle for a Marin organic dairy. He looked up at me and said, “Well, if we get all this out, some other non-native plants can replace it.” (On the good side, the ranchers provided live music and gluten-free sodas.) Those two grasses can be the state's poster child for paying attention to non-natives. We want our milk cheap! Then maybe we can get some attention to gardening escapees which threaten our wildland native plants.

Marin County is almost ready to approve a ten-year master plan for controlling noxious weeds. The representative at the meeting said there were few objections to the plan which promises to minimize – but not exclude pesticides for certain populations with the caveat to apply them only at first and to use the least risky. After the plant infestation becomes manageable, mechanical means would be used to control the weeds. I am thinking gorse, because it grows densely on slopes and is viciously thorny. I sort of wonder why the no-pesticide EVER” people haven't appeared demanding that the county stop poisoning their kids. That ploy worked a couple of years ago to return acres of broom to the Tam wilderness. Maybe it's the impressive number of organizations and agencies, including Marin CNPS - who are supporting the plan. Hey Sonoma County – Marin has done all the work – how about you change a few words and get it to our supes for a vote? I guess it's not that easy. Seems like county plans have to be subjected to years of education and meetings to get made into law.

Mae came by after school to see that her buckeye seed had sprouted and to plant her new cactus. "I'm never dressed right for what you want me to do, Granny," she complained. Humph.

\(\text{ML Carle}\)
T-Shirts  Still Available

The new tee shirt logo by Pam Glasscock was a big hit at the annual plant sale. Women's black 3/4 sleeve vee neck are $25. (Men's are regular tee style). Men's and women's green tee style are $20.

To purchase contact Cindy Tancreto at 707-528-9225 or cindytancreto@pacbell.net.

Native Plant Gardens

Susan Krzywicki will be our April Guest Speaker, so Start Your List of Inspiring Native Plant Gardens to Share with her.

The CNPS Horticulture Program has begun running a series of articles in the CNPS Bulletin on native plant gardens of CNPS members. The first one appeared in the Oct.–Dec. 2013 issue on page 7. Depending on the response, this series could become a regular feature in the state newsletter. The purpose of the series is to inspire others to create their own native plant gardens, or to add natives to an already existing garden.

If you have a native plant garden you feel is special and beautiful, and if you would like to share it with others in CNPS, send us an inspiring article draft of 575–600 words. We hope you'll include your experiences with the garden, as well as just describing what's there. Also include two high-quality photos (in jpg format, not close-ups) that show off your garden, and one-sentence captions for each. Send your submission to Susan Krzywicki, CNPS Horticulture Program Director, atskrzywicki@cnps.org. If we feel your article can be published, we will work with you through the editing process until it's in a final form. We look forward to hearing from a number of CNPS members!

Susan Krzywicki
Horticulture Program Director
California Native Plant Society

Events

March 9, 2014 Sunday, Ukiah Low Gap Park and Grace Hudson Museum

Join a group of Milo Baker chapter members on a day trip to Ukiah in Mendocino County. Meet at Low Gap Park parking lot (841 Low Gap Rd.) across from the high school at 10 A.M. A short, moderately strenuous hike to see early wildflowers on this 80 acre park will be followed by picnic lunch. After lunch, we will drive to the Grace Hudson Museum (431 S. Main St.) to see a special exhibit “Nature’s Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir’s Botanical Legacy” which traces his travels through North America and presents digitally restored images of some plant specimens. For more information on the exhibit and the museum, see gracehudsonmuseum.org. The museum is also featuring a botanical artist Ernest Clayton. There will be time to browse the other interesting collections there. We will plan to leave Ukiah by 4 P.M.
Please contact Wendy for more information or for car pool locations. Wendysmit@hughes.net

March 22, 2014 Saturday Mount Tamalpais, Marin County
Join the Sacramento chapter on a hike from Rock Spring with Doreen Smith. For more information contact Betty Young at Betty@ParksConservancy.org.

Stay Tuned For More Details on these Later Outings!

UC McLaughlin Reserve, April 12-13 and June 7-8, 2014
Lake/Napa County north of Lake Berryessa

Serpentine Grassland and Spring Wildflowers, April 12-13, Saturday & Sunday:
Camping will be available at the UC McLaughlin Reserve on Sat night, and we are planning a potluck dinner that night at the Reserve field station, just a short drive up the hill from the campground. On Sunday morning, the Reserve staff will lead us on a gently-paced walk through fields of serpentine spring wildflowers at a nearby location. For those interested, other serpentine locations can be visited on our drive home.

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. There will be opportunities to learn how to census rare plants and fill out CNDDB field survey forms for anyone who's interested. Hope you can join us!
Wendy Smit, Milo Baker Fieldtrip Chair wendysmit@hughes.net

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Wendy Smit, Milo Baker Fieldtrip Chair wendysmit@hughes.net

Stay Tuned For More Details on these Later Outings!

- April 27 Cedars
- May 3 or 4 Coast hike at Stump Beach
- May 3 Cow Mountain
- May 10 Mayacamas/Modini Preserve

38th Annual Sonoma County Environmental Awards Dinner
March 16, 2014 Saturday, 5pm to 8:30pm
Building a Stronger Coalition Between Agriculture and Environment

Speaker: Joseph McIntyre
President Ag Innovations Network
Location: Sebastopol Community Center
390 Morris Street, Sebastopol
Live music, silent auction, and dinner catered by A La Heart catering.
$40, After 2/14 $60; Students with ID $35, after 2/14 $35.
Purchase online at www.envirocentersoco.org
**Newsletter & Web Site Info:**
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the April Newsletter is March 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

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**Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors 2012/2013**

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Southridge Preserve: 539-3441, terrapenecarolinamajor@yahoo.com
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SSU Rep.: Kerry Wininger, 888-5616, kerrywininger@gmail.com
Web Site: Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, Sarahpgordon@gmail.com
Vine Hill Preserve: Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, Sarahpgordon@gmail.com

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**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

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**Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense**
Pitkin lily