General Meeting:
Lichens in the Mist: Exploring California's Fog Lichens
With Shelly Benson
March 21, 2017 7:30 PM

Abstract: A distinctive group of lichens called fog lichens (*Niebla* species) is restricted to rock outcrops in the coastal fog zone. These lichens require reliable summer moisture supplied by fog drip. In the face of climate change, there is a possibility that the frequency of summer fog will diminish and fog lichens, as well as other fog-dependent species, will be negatively affected. I'm interested in using fog lichens as biological indicators of change in the coastal fog regime.

About the Speaker: Shelly Benson has been studying lichens for the past 18 years. She received a Master of Science degree in 2001 from the University of Northern British Columbia, Canada, where she studied lichen ecology in the tree tops of old growth forests. Shelly served as president of the California Lichen Society from 2013-2016. She worked on several lichen inventories in the San Francisco Bay Area and continues to lead lichen walks and workshops around the region. Shelly is interested in using lichens as indicators for air quality and climate change.

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 20th, if you plan to attend
Chapter News

Plea for help! I have about 50 boxes of Milo Baker material that belonged to Jack and Betty Guggolz. When Betty moved out of her Cloverdale home, I agreed to take these boxes temporarily. I need help going through these to determine what is essential chapter history, and what is trash. Anyone who thinks that they could help in this task is welcome to call me and we can begin the process of going through the boxes and maps. Liz Parsons 833-2063.

Liz Parsons

Gardening with Natives

Arbutus menziesii- Madrone

One of the gardens on the spring tour will be Durs Koenig’s two and a half acres of wildlife habitat in Forestville, a place where many birds and other local creatures call home, including 100 quail. Once covered with vinca, English ivy, African cape weed, Himalayan blackberry and pampas grass, the land is now close to 65 percent native trees and shrubs.

Louise Hallberg’s garden was his inspiration. Durs has copied her naturalistic style and plant diversity to create a rich landscape of his own. Her success as a habitat gardener, Durs realized, was because she “hadn’t raked, weed-whacked, mowed or hedged.” Before planting his wildlife habitat, Durs enriched the soil with green manure, mainly buckwheats and vetches. Gradually, stands of toyon, manzanitas, ceanothus, coffeeberries and coyote brush joined the black oaks and live oaks that remained. These native trees and shrubs offer cover and food sources for woodpeckers, western bluebirds, swallows, and other bird species. Some of the wildlife residents have returned the favor. As we walk the land, Durs points out the one madrone he planted—the local wildlife have planted seven more! We move on to a 17-year old valley oak that was planted as an acorn on January 16, 2000.

Around the same time Durs planted that valley oak, he began to restore the area around an ephemeral creek, planting thick patches of currents, huckleberries, serviceberries, thimbleberries, and salmonberries. These thickets are favorite hiding places for his three coveys of quail. Pipevine, the host plant for the pipevine swallowtail, grows at the edges of a thicket in the moist area near the seasonal stream. Patches of sticky monkeyflower and California bee plant host the beautiful variable checkerspot that Durs has seen in his garden. Ceanothus, oaks, buckwheat, checkerbloom, milkweed, and native grasses are also larval food plants for other butterfly species.

Skinks, lizards and garden snakes use the cover of large and artfully arranged brush piles that dot the open spaces, perfect foraging spots for many bird species. Sixteen birdhouses provide additional cover and nesting sites for mostly western bluebirds, swallows and woodpeckers. Downy woodpeckers serenade Durs with an evening song each night before retiring to their nest boxes, and he rarely fails to listen.

When flowing, the stream is the most popular watering hole for resident birds, but a
tall birdbath near the house provides another place to bathe and drink. A game camera has recorded a bobcat, coyote, and foxes as well as the usual suspects, raccoon and deer. Recognizing the warning calls of resident birds paid off one day, says Durs. He was able to rush to his fence line in time to see a bobcat nonchalantly strolling by, checking out the neighbor’s new fence across the way.

Nancy Bauer

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**Plant Sale News**

**Plant Division Workshop**

We will hold the next division workshop on Saturday, March 11 at 10 AM at my Kenwood garden. Call me at 833-2063 if you have any questions.

Liz Parsons

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**Events**

**Annadel State Park** –

**Fritillaria liliacea plant survey**

Friday, Mar. 17, 2017

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (perhaps a bit later). No organized carpool.

Trip leader: Peter Warner, botanical/ecological consultant and educator;

Meet at Channel Drive parking strip (Cobblestone Trailhead), off Montgomery Drive, at 9 a.m. We’ll likely head up N. Burma to False Lake Meadow, then on to the Lake Ilsanjo area, to Canyon Trail, then back through Spring Lake Park to Channel Drive. Trip will include plant surveys of several Fritillaria liliacea populations (CA Rare Plant Rank 1B.2), along with looking for Fritillaria recurva and F. affinis, along with other wildflowers and plants of interest.

The walk will cover 6 to 7 miles, moderate topography, slow pace, mostly along trails. Dress for the environmental conditions, including potential muddy stretches of trail; we’ll go sun or light rain; heavy rain cancels. One or two willing photographers to record plants observed and plant survey activities would be very welcome! No dogs, wolverines, or other pets. Phone Peter with questions, or if weather is iffy, (707) 666-9071; (707)328-8251 (cell).

Audubon Canyon Ranch’s Modini Mayacamas Preserve

Saturday, March 18, 2017, 8:30 AM - 3PM

Carpool at 8:15AM from under Hwy 12 (across from Fairgrounds) Park and Ride- meet at east end. Or meet at 9:00 at the intersection of Pine Flat Rd and Red Winery Rd. in Healdsburg.

We’ll will join Sherry Adams, Preserve Biologist at ACR’s Modini Mayacamas Preserves, and Marin CNPS for a serpentine and fire ecology plant walk. This outing will specifically focus on a serpentine area where Sherry will point out plants that are uncommon or entirely absent from Marin County: needlemat galium (*Galium andrewsii*), Brewer's milkvetch (*Astragalus breweri*; CNPS list 4), St. Helena morning glory (*Calystegia collina ssp. oxyphylla*; CNPS list 4), flame ragwort (*Packera greenei*), knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*), and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). We may see a few St. Helena fawn lilies (*Erythronium helenae*; CNPS list 4) still in bloom, along with *Lomatium respostrum, Nemophila menzeisii atomera*.

Given that the entire Preserve burned in 2004, Sherry will discuss post-fire regeneration of plants with different fire adaptation strategies. The planned route is less than 3 miles along fire roads with a bit of climbing but at a relaxed botanizing pace.
The group will leave extra vehicles at Pine Flat and carpool the rest of the way into the Preserve. All Preserve visitors are encouraged to use a stiff brush to remove mud and seeds from footwear and pant cuffs. Sherry will have one available at our meet up spot.

The preserve plant list is posted at http://files.meetup.com/7090732/Mayacamas SanctuaryPlants%202010%20PWarner.pdf

Dress in layers; bring sunhat and sunscreen, lunch, and water. This trip requires a sign up, contact byoung.cnps@gmail.com. Heavy rain cancels. Hope to see you there!

**Tolay Creek Ranch, Petaluma**

**Friday, March 24, 2017**

9 a.m. carpool. 10am – 2p.m. at park.

Carpool 9am from Hwy 12 Park and Rider lot at the east end (between Vet’s Hall and the Fair Grounds). Call Betty, 595-1463, if you would like to be picked up in Rohnert Park. Leader: Jim Piercy, CNPS Board member and analyst for Regional Parks.

Our CNPS chapter board voted to support Measure J on the November ballot. Educate yourself about what this measure can accomplish for our Regional Parks with a hike at Tolay Lake Regional Park. Tolay Creek Ranch was purchased by the Sonoma Land Trust and will be transferred to Regional Parks for inclusion in the new Tolay Lake Regional Park. This will be a fairly flat hike along Tolay Creek. There will not be any botanical wonders to see this time of year but views across the Petaluma River basin and across San Pablo Bay are spectacular. As we walk through ranchland, we’ll talk about the potential for restoration to wonderful native habitat and what else Measure J will do.

We’ll meet in the Tolay Lake RP parking lot at 10am and do our best to be back there at 2pm. Bring lunch, water, hat, sunscreen and wear sturdy shoes. Hikers will need to sign a Waiver for Sonoma Land Trust. Thanks to SLT for allowing us to visit the property, not yet an official park.

**Putah Creek Wildlife Area to UC Davis Stebbins Cold Water Canyon Research Preserve**

Saturday March 25, 2017, 8:15AM carpool from Northeast corner of the Sutter Hospital parking lot, 101 and Mark West Springs Rd. 10AM at the Trailhead Parking lot on Hwy 128. Directions below. Should leave there by 4pm.

This joint trip with the Napa, Solano and Sanhedrin Chapters will visit the UC Davis Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve, entering from the Putah Creek Wildlife Area. Putah Creek Wildlife Area is 673 acres of gently sloping to steep hillsides of cottonwood riparian, blue oak woodland, and chamise chaparral natural communities. Just a few of the species supported by these habitats include California towhee, Bullock's oriole, and black-headed grosbeak. Stebbins Preserve is set in a steep canyon of the northern California Coast Range, showcases the impressive landscapes, human history, and plant and animal communities of the region. The reserve has a mix of undisturbed habitats, including grasslands, blue oak woodland, chaparral shrublands, riparian woodland, and a seasonal stream. This area is just downstream of the Monticello dam, where Cold Creek enters Putah Creek, and includes Stebbins' Cold Canyon Reserve. Much research is happening on the effects of the 2015 fire. The preserve is at the east end of Lake Berryessa.

This will be a strenuous 8 mile hike with steep climbs from the Putah Creek Wildlife Area into the Stebbins Preserve.

Bring LOTS of water, lunch, hat, sunscreen. Wear Hat. Ticks, and poison oak present. NO DOGS allowed at Stebbins Preserve—it is a research area.
Trailhead parking lot is on Highway 128 to just east of the Monticello dam. Watch for parking on west side of road but use caution as this parking occurs on a sharp turn in the road. Trailhead is south of the parking area, across Highway 128. From Santa Rosa, Hwy 101, right on Mark West Springs, left on Petrified Forest Rd, right on Hwy 128 for about 35 miles. RSVP to Betty, byoung.cnps@gmail.com.

Flora of Fitch Mountain – Healdsburg
Tuesday, March 28.
Carpool at 9a.m. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m

Carpool 9am, in the Coddington Mall parking lot near corner of Range Ave and Guerneville Rd - note new carpool location
Leader: Kate Symonds, CNPS member, Omar Gallardo, LandPaths

Fitch Mountain is a heavily forested "island" rising 991 feet in elevation with the Russian River wrapping around 3 sides of its base and the City of Healdsburg on the other side. We'll start our plant walk at the Villa Chanticleer parking area at 9 AM and we'll gradually make our way up the shady, winding fire road to the 991-foot summit, from where we can peek at views of Healdsburg, Russian River, Dry Creek, Alexander Valley, and beyond. We'll have lunch at the top. Along the way we will pass through a mixed evergreen forest of black oaks, coast live oak, madrone, Ca bay laurel, big leaf maple, Douglas fir, and pockets of second growth redwoods. We'll see a number of wildflower species scattered along the way. Rare species along that trail include the Napa false indigo (Amorpha californica var. napensis) a CNPS Rare Plant Rank 1B species. We'll also see redwood ivy, also called inside-out flower, (Vancouveria planipetala) and numerous other forest floor species. No dogs allowed in this preserve.

The trail is a wide fire road, so it's easy to avoid poison oak, but it is steep in places. Recommend sturdy shoes and hiking poles. Bring lunch and water. We'll eat lunch at the top. The hike is mostly shady. Total mileage is approximately 5 miles (half of it downhill!)

Carpool at 9am, in the Coddington Mall parking lot near corner of Range Ave and Guerneville Rd). Or contact Betty, byoung.cnps@gmail.com for directions to Villa Chanticleer Dog Park meeting place. This is a LandPaths property. Each participant will be asked to sign a waiver.

Upcoming trips to put on your calendar:
Monday 4/10/2017 Marilyn Goode Preserve, Sonoma with Liz Parsons
Monday 4/10-4/17 Carrizo Plain to E Mojave Camping Trip with Peter Warner, RSVP to Peter
Thursday 4/20/2017 Lake Soulajule, Marin/Sonoma border, with Suzanne Whelan, MMWD
Saturday 4/22/2017 Vernal Pools with Michelle Halbur, Pepperwood
Wednesday 4/26/2017 Fog Lichens at Bodega Head with Shelly Benson, Lichenologist
Sat. 5/6-Mon. 5/8 Salt Point State Park campout, Barbara Rice The Sea Ranch. Make your own reservations, but RSVP with Betty

Saturday 5/13/2017 ECO-FRIENDLY GARDEN TOUR – NOTE DATE CHANGE
Friday, 5/19/2017 Ethnobotanical walk at SRJC, with Virginia Holz-Steenhoven
Saturday, 5/27/2017 Hood Mountain with Peter Warner
Saturday 6/3/2017 Nefertierra preserve with Sue Smith (date changed due to Garden Tour)
Saturday, 6/24/2017 tentative – Effects of Elk Grazing to Habitat at Pt Reyes with Caprice Lee

Betty Young
**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: cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com

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**Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors 2017/2018**

- **President:** Vacant
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- **Vice President:** Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com
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- **Conservation Chair:** Sean McNeil, Seanmcneil@gmail.com, 707-480-2965
- **Cunningham Marsh:** Marcia Johnson, owlsnesttwo@att.net
- **Field Trips:** Betty Young, byoung.cnps@gmail.com, 595-1463
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- **Programs/Lectures:** Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven, vsteenhoven@sonic.net
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- **Rincon Ridge Park:** Penny Dalton
- **SCCC Rep.:** Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wlk@sonic.net
- **Southridge Preserve:** 539-3441, terrapenecarolinamajor@yahoo.com
- **SRJC Representative:** Dylan Gallagher
- **SSU Rep.:** OPEN
- **Web Site:** Molly Levitt, cnpsmb.webadm@gmail.com
- **Vine Hill Preserve:** Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, Sarahpgordon@gmail.com

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**We invite you to join CNPS**

Name_____________________________________
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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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