Ted Kipping - Wildflowers of Carson Pass
May 21, 2013 7:30 pm

Abstract: We can look forward to a wonderful program with excellent wildflower photographs. The world traveler, photographer and storyteller Ted Kipping will be returning to the Milo Baker Chapter after an absence of many years. Ted is prepared to talk about many subjects, but we have asked him to present a program on the Wildflowers of Carson Pass. Carson Pass is in the Sierra and is a destination for many summer travelers. Carson Pass has many beautiful flowers and we will have a preview of the wonders that await us. Ted seeks out the flowers at their peak, photographs them, and then shares them. Expect great things.

Speaker Biography: Ted Kipping is an avid gardener and grows over 100 plants from the California Floristic Province in his San Francisco garden. Ted is a certified arborist and has a business in San Francisco called Tree Shapers, LLC. He travels world-wide to learn more about trees as well as other plants and ecosystems.

Plant ID Hour
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 May 20, if you plan to attend.

General Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each 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 May 14th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
Chapter News

Cunningham Marsh Needs Wire Caging
If anyone has any extra, unused wire cages to protect oak seedlings and small hawthorns, we would most appreciate the donation. We have a heavy deer population on the Marsh, and would like to protect what we can.
For more information, contact Marcia Johnson, Cunningham Marsh Steward at 829-3810 or owlsnesttwo@att.net

Chapter Council to meet in Marin County
Those of you who attended the March general meeting and heard CNPS Conservation Program Director Greg Suba talk to us, had the opportunity to learn more about the structure CNPS and how it functions. Greg is one of the staff members and he works with the Executive Director, Dan Gluesenkamp, other staff members, the Board of Directors and the Chapter Council to determine the priorities of CNPS.

One important aspect of the society is the way that the state organization and the chapters communicate. Much of this communication takes place at the Chapter Council meetings. All of the chapters have a representative to the Chapter Council and they meet 4 times a year to discuss native plant issues and to communicate with one another. Every chapter is unique and there is a lot that we can learn from each other. The Chapter Council will be meeting in June at Walker Creek Ranch in Marin County. The Marin, the Milo Baker, and the Napa Chapters are hosting this meeting and all members are invited to attend. The meeting will be Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2. Liz Parsons is our Chapter Council representative. If you are interested in this or for more information contact Liz at 833-2063 or lizpar8993@aol.com

Still Seeking Newsletter Editor
We are still seeking a volunteer to take on the roll of Newsletter Editor. The responsibilities of the position include:
- Establish and publicize clear timelines for each edition; remind people about upcoming and/or missed deadlines for articles
- Select good current interest pieces when appropriate; decide what material goes where in each edition
- Edit the newsletter content
- Ensure that both proofreading and mailing are on schedule
- Email the newsletter to the printer

The Newsletter Editor must be computer literate, a team player, highly motivated, and a good manager. If you can fill this role, or can recommend someone who might be interested, please contact cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com.

Switch to an electronic newsletter
Sign up for a digital version instead of a hard copy of the newsletter by sending an e-mail to cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com. Thanks for going green!

Plant Sale News

Potting Workshop at Cal-Flora Nursery
May 19, 2013 Sunday 10 am
The third plant sale workshop will be held at Cal Flora Nursery in Fulton. We will be potting up Ceanothus, Arctostaphylos, Myrica (new name for Wax Myrtle is Morella californica) and any other plants that Shooting Star Propagation Nursery provide. We usually put up about 500 plants so we need people to help as well as people to care for the plants in their homes until the October 12 plant sale. If you can help please come to the workshop or contact Liz at 833-2063 or lizpar8993@aol.com for more information.

Liz Parsons
Gardening with Natives

Let’s Cover The Ground
Nature abhors bare ground. If you leave your yard or garden in bare ground, it becomes hard and dry, or weed seeds take hold. Best to use a ground cover when you need coverage.

There are plenty of native ground covers to be found, but if you’re looking at big box stores, you probably won’t find the natives. A bit of research, some questions to nursery folk, will serve you well.

By first ascertaining whether you have dry, moist, sun, shade, or some of all of it, figuring this out will help you decide which plants will work for your site. Dry shade is what you find under a native oak, or any other tree or shrub that should not be watered in the summer. Dry shade is not my favorite place to garden. I prefer a woodsy look; I leave a ground cover of dead leaves that are allowed to break down naturally. Hummingbird sage (Salvia spathacea) is said to be an okay dry shade ground cover. I planted it last fall and it spread all winter and now has two big blooming stalks. I have yet to decide if it will be as successful as I hope.

Yerba buena (Satureja douglasii), a perennial native, is a wonderful cover in moist part-shade. It has even spread into one of the bogs by my pond. Yerba buena was the name originally given to San Francisco. My one plant has spread at least six feet over the years, as the stems root as they go. Little white flowers cover the stems all spring and look delicate and pretty against the minty-green leaves. It can also be used as a tea.

Another pretty, moisture-loving, full shade cover is wild ginger (Asarum caudatum). A rapid grower and spreader, it loves to be cool and blooms in the spring with crazy looking little maroon flowers that hide under the leaves. This is not the ginger we use in cooking.

Oxalis oregana, the redwood sorrel, is a lovely little ground cover from the redwood forests. Try it if you can to some degree simulate the same conditions of the forest. It needs a light, rich soil, with enough summer moisture provided to keep it fresh. Spring blooms are pinkish-white.

Several sub-shrubs qualify as sun-loving ground covers, although they may need pruning of upright branches to keep them horizontal. Ceanothus griseus horizontalis is one and there are several selections available. Several manzanitas also qualify; the Carmel creeper or Carmel Sur manzanita, does not bloom, but will cover the ground handily in shiny green leaves. Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, also called kinnikinnick, requires some acidity in its soil. Check with a native plant nursery expert before you plant the above sub-shrubs, to find the best for your site.

Our native yarrow, Achillea millefolium, is a rapid spreader for a sunny spot. Pretty, with its ferny, frilly, bright green foliage, it sends up tall, flat-topped creamy-white flowers. In my cottage garden, which receives weekly summer water, the yarrow has spread throughout and is a bit more than I want! I water lightly in the summer, as I use this garden to attract pollinators. There are lots of annuals, such as zinnias, cosmos, and bachelor buttons. There are also lots of perennials that don’t need much water; I have not followed my own rule of keeping water lovers separate from drought-tolerant natives! I am a helter-skelter gardener; I see a plant that I like and I plant it!

Aster chilensis is a coastal species of the aster tribe, and if you want an invasive species, this is it. As Glenn Keator says, it “invades everything in sight.” But I found a place for it, on a hillside that needs cover...
against Scotch broom seedlings, and it’s working! I cheer it on, but there may be better ground covers. This aster needs some water to do its job. The California fuchsias, or the Zauschneria species, produce the most amazing red-orange colors in the late summer. They are vigorous, easily grown, and loved by lots of pollinators. They are wonderful in a casual, informal, sprawly sort of way. They can be weedy and ragged looking, so choose your site carefully. But they are some of the best loved of our natives, so don’t be frightened off by their lesser qualities.

Judy Brinkerhoff
joodbrink@comcast.net

Invasives Corner

Misinformation and Lessinformation
Well you real botanists out there, you’ve got work to do to get native plants correctly entered into human consciousness. Check out this website for an example:
List of San Francisco Bay Area wildflowers (From Wikipedia)
Then try the Napa Register for their plant “expert” columns. I was alerted to his articles by a CNPS member who almost dropped dead from the shock. (This is just a lie to get your attention - but she wasn't pleased which can cause you to die, can't it? I mean if you were really, really seriously not pleased?)
OK. Now I’m going to get off my donkey and back to my high horse. What is it that makes people think they can just take some pictures and/or write “educational” articles on native plants and send them out to the general public without credentials? Back when I was teaching, computer programmers were putting out “educational” programs with lots of cute characters and lame adventure themes that were supposed to teach basic skills to kids. They were absolutely useless because the writers had no experience or credentials. Furthermore, they cost money and wasted precious teaching time. Obviously no teachers who hadn't suffered flatlining brain damage were asked to evaluate the programs. Caflora database suffers from the effects of over-confident reporters who seem to think botany is not serious science or that they themselves are indeed serious scientists. Unfortunately, Caflora is underfunded which makes it impossible for them to send out the fully functioning brain of an actual botanist to evaluate plant ID and photo submissions for validity.
So you are probably wondering, “What makes ML think she can write these silly articles and pass them off as informative to the general public?”
Ummmmm.... Who wants to know?
ML Carle
mlml@sonic.net

Events and Items of Interest

Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville Volunteer Days
Wednesdays 8:30 am - 11:30 am
Volunteers play an important role in trail construction, work with native plants, and eliminate noxious weeds, control erosion plus many other activities at the pre-construction phase of our environmental educational facility. Adults and children are welcome to participate, and students can receive volunteer credit as well. The Park is located on the north bank of the Russian River directly upstream of the Guerneville pedestrian bridge - look for the blue and white sign that says, “Russian Riverkeeper Stewardship Park.” Please bring drinking water and wear sturdy footwear. Light refreshments are
Field Botany Fridays  
May 3, 2013 Friday 10 am - 3 pm  
Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary  
Practice plant ID skills, survey for rare plants, wildflower photography, ethnobotany, or other trailside botany. For this one, we’ll look at native and invasive plants all around the Horse Trough Springs Area, and we’ll talk about stewardship and restoration possibilities. For more information, contact Audubon Canyon Ranch at david.self@egret.org or www.egret.org.

Seaweed Ecology, Nutrition, and Use  
May 11, 2013 Saturday 3 pm - 4:30 pm  
Laguna Environmental Center  
Seaweeds (also known as sea vegetables) have been used by coastal people (native and current) all over the world to nourish themselves and their gardens. The Sonoma coast is incredibly rich in seaweeds that can be used as food, medicine and fertilizer. Nori, bladderwrack, kombu, and wakame are some names we’ll learn more about. Speaker Heidi Herrmann will teach us the history, how to identify, use, and how to sustainably collect Sonoma coast seaweeds. She will also have 1 oz. seaweed packets for sale at the presentation. Join us for this informative and inspiring talk. No RSVP is necessary, $10 at the door. For more information, contact Anita at 527-9277 or anita@lagunafoundation.org or visit www.lagunafoundation.org.

Explore Wildflowers and Views at Jenner Headlands  
May 11 & May 18 Saturday 10 am – 3 pm  
Grab a hand lens and your favorite field guide, and come out and explore the wildflowers at Jenner Headlands! This spring hike will take a look at the topographical and vegetational diversity in the coastal prairie, with a visit to the serpentine wildflowers present in the Jean Schulz Wildflower Meadow. This strenuous 4.5-mile roundtrip hike will ascend more than 800 feet in elevation and include dazzling views of the Sonoma Coast (on clear days!) Pre-registration is required. Register online at sonomalandtrust.org or email outings@sonomalandtrust.org.

Bambi vs. the Bulldozer  
Ecology of the Coastal Redwood Forest.  
May 15, 2013 Wednesday 7 pm  
Glaser Center, Santa Rosa  
California Extension Forest Advisor Greg Giusti presents on the Ecology of the Coastal Redwood Forest. Please join us at this free event to learn more about California’s coastal forests, the threats they face, what is being done to preserve them for our children and grandchildren, and how you can help. For more information visit www.redwood.sierraclub.org.

Sunflower Power: Exploring Asteraceae  
May 17-18, 2013 Friday-Saturday  
Peter Warner at Pepperwood Preserve  
Explore the extraordinary diversity of the sunflower plant family with botanist Peter Warner at this two-day workshop. This class costs $35 and ages 14 and up are welcome. Register online at Brown Paper Tickets here: http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/283334. Using diagrams, photographs and live material both in the lab and on the trail, Peter will teach the characteristic...
structures of sunflowers and how to distinguish among the many “tribes”. Find out how to identify and name plants using the Jepson Manual and other references. You’ll soon appreciate the splendor and bounty of the Asteraceae, or sunflower family in Sonoma County and beyond! For more information about Pepperwood Preserve and its programs, visit http://www.pepperwoodpreserve.org.

350 Home and Garden Challenge 2013 - Native Plants "Count"!
May 18-19, 2013
On May 18th and 19th thousands of people across Sonoma County will rise to the challenge of creating a more sustainable community. Building upon the incredible success of past garden actions, our goal this year is to inspire 3,500 registered actions! Please join us! Planting "water wise" is one of the suggested "action" options. Please go to DailyActs.org. You can start a garden, replace your lawn, inspire a neighbor and much more!

Nature Hike with Wildflowers and Views
May 26, 2013 Sunday 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary
Leader and Mayacamas Naturalist Dave Self will lead a carpool about 8 miles up to Pine Flat from the valley, for a leisurely hike around Little Sulphur Creek and nearby habitats. For more information, contact Audubon Canyon Ranch at david.self@egret.org or visit www.egret.org

Field Trips

The Cedars
May 4, 2013 Saturday
This geological area has become well acclaimed among California botanists for its endemic and serpentine plants as well as a unique and beautiful landscape. Roger Raiche will lead a small group in a 4 wheel drive caravan across numerous creeks to the trailhead. This hike will showcase the earlier flowers along Austin Creek including azaleas. Massive barrens and talus slopes alternate with old growth Sargent cypress woodlands, forming an intricate mosaic of vegetation with 7 of its plants found nowhere else in the world, while others have their only Sonoma County populations here. Limited to 15 people and to the number of 4WD vehicles. Bring plenty of water, and a bathing suit if the forecast is for hot weather. Please contact Wendy Smit for further instructions at 481-3765 or wendysmit@hughes.net

Walker Ridge in eastern Lake and western Colusa County
May 10-11, 2013 Friday-Saturday
Friday meet at the Judge Davis Trail parking lot on Hwy 20, 14 miles east of the Hwy 20 and 53 junction, at 10 am. On Saturday, meet at the Judge Davis Trail parking lot at 9 am to caravan and share rides to the Barrel Springs site, about 14 miles north on Walker Ridge Rd. Rustic camping is available at Barrel Springs and a few other sites along the ridge, or improved camping is available at Indian Springs Reservoir and Blue Oak campgrounds, both on the Indian Valley Reservoir Rd off Walker Ridge Rd about 5 miles west of the Judge Davis Trail parking lot.
miles north of Hwy 20. This will be a vehicular caravan trip along Walker Ridge, with frequent stops at areas of botanical interest. We’ll start Friday with a visit to Wayne’s Knoll, less than a mile north of Hwy. 20, where fire consumed much of the vegetation in 2012, to look at post-fire effects on the serpentine and non-serpentine flora. Further along the ridge, we’ll make stops at several rare plant populations, including Hall’s tarplant (*Harmonia hallii*), Sonoma canescent manzanita (*Arctostaphylos canescens ssp. sonomensis*), and Jepson’s milk-vetch (*Asiragatus rattanii var. jepsonianus*).

Saturday we’ll explore the rich wetland area and adjacent chaparral and grasslands near Barrel Springs.

For more information, contact Peter Warner at 666-9071 or phytopagan@sonic.net

**Nefertierra**

**May 16, 2013 Thursday 9:30 am – 2 pm**

This will be a moderate walk on beautiful private property on bedrock of the Mayacamas Mountains, with soils ranging from the Franciscan complex intruded by later volcanics and sedimentary rocks. Owner Sue Smith will lead a small group to view *Ceanothus foliosus, calochortus amabilis*, and clarkias which should all be in bloom. The small grassland openings, lava outcrops, and varying slopes which favor trees or chaparral result in alternating plant communities. A plant list will be made available. Bring water, lunch, hats, long sleeves and pants. Space limited, please contact Wendy for directions.

**Wildflowers and Other Plants of the Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary**

**May 19, 2013 Sunday 9:30 am - 3 pm**

We’ll be discovering the splendid diversity and ecology of land plants: mosses, ferns, trees, shrubs, and those photogenic wildflowers. Your guide will be Peter Warner, the pace will be deliberate, with frequent dalliances. Tote field guides, hand lenses, cameras is you wish. Children OK with supervision. A plant list for the Sanctuary and environs is available - contact Peter at phytopagan@sonic.net. For more information on this Madrone Audubon Society program, visit: www.audubon.sonoma.net/

**Boggs Lake Ecological Reserve, Lake Co**

**May 18, 2013 Saturday 8:30 am - 5 pm**

Boggs Lake is a large, shallow lake that fills to the brim with winter rain, then slowly dries out through the summer. It is essentially a huge vernal pool with a semi-permanent marsh in the center. The shoreline supports an array of vernal pool plants, while aquatic and marsh plants occupy the watery center. This vernal marsh is set within a forest of ponderosa pine and black oak. The property is managed jointly by The Nature Conservancy and the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and is an outstanding example of this unusual habitat type. Rare plant species found here include: few-flowered navarretia, many-flowered navarretia, Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop, and slender Orcutt grass. There are also interesting aquatics such as watershield and bladderworts. This is an all-day trip. Carpooling is highly recommended. For more information, contact Ann Howald at 721-6120 or annhowald@vom.com. Bring water, lunch, snacks, a hat, and sunscreen. Depending on how the season progresses, it is possible to get wet feet on this trip.

Mark your calendars and check our website for more information on these upcoming trips:

June 14   Pitkin Marsh
June 27-30  Plaskett Meadows & Anthony Peak Area, Mendocino National Forest
**Newsletter & Web Site Info:**

Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com

Deadline for inclusion in the June Newsletter is May 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**

President: Leia Giambastian, 322-6722, leia gia@gmail.com
Vice President: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com
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Cunningham Marsh: Marcia Johnson, 829-3808, owlsnest two@att.net
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Plant Sale: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com
Poster & T-Shirt Sales: Cindy Tancr eto, 528-9225, cindy tancreto@pacbell.net
Programs/Lectures: OPEN
Publicity: OPEN
Rincon Ridge Park, Patricia Sesser, 528-9197, patricia sesser@comcast.net
SCCC Rep.: Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wk@sonic.net
Southridge Preserve: 539-3441, terrapene carolinamaj or@yahoo.com
SRJC Representative: Lea Davis, 538-1499
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:
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To pay by credit card or for more info call 916.447.2677 or visit www.cnps.org