General Meeting:
“The World of California’s Native Bees”
November 18, 2014 7:30 pm

Abstract: Join Jamie Pawelek, U.C. Berkeley Urban Bee Lab, and learn about the more than sixteen hundred species of wild bees in California and what role they play in pollinating our native plants.

Speaker Bio: Jaime has a B.S. from UC Berkeley in Conservation and Resource Studies with a focus on Restoration Ecology. She worked in the urban bee lab for 2 years after graduating, and then worked in Florida studying native bees, gopher tortoises, and beach mice for 3 years. She is now back with the bee lab doing bee identification, field sampling in urban and farm sites, and enjoys working in the experimental bee garden at the Oxford Tract. Jaime also has a garden design business, called Wild Bee Garden Design where she designs bee-attractive gardens for home owners, businesses, and farmers.

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 November 17th, 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 November 11th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome 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 7pm, 2nd Tuesday nine months of the year, Environmental Center, 55 Ridgeway Ave, Ste A, Santa Rosa. The next Board meeting is November 11th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!

**Chapter News**

**Sonoma County Gardening**

There were plenty of people at our annual native plant sale that were interested in adding native plants to their landscapes, but were unsure what to start with or where to start. Sonoma County alone is home to such a diverse array of native plants in many habitat types, that it can seem daunting when beginning to landscape with them. Don’t forget that our Milo Baker Chapter website (milobaker.cnps.org) has some great resources listed under “Native Plant Info- Gardening with Natives.” Whether you are tearing out a lawn, planting under an oak tree, or trying to attract wildlife, there is plenty of easy-to-read info to get you started. There are also some informative and inspiring gardening articles by Judy Brinkerhoff. We are always adding to these gardening resources, so if you don’t see what you are looking for, feel free to email us.

**Gardening with Natives**

**Penny’s Garden**

From the mid-80s to the mid-90s chapter member Penny Dalton was filling up two-thirds of an acre in Graton with a diversity of exotics. Thanks to her daughter April’s influence, all that suddenly changed. Penny made the commitment to go completely native. Out came virtually all of the exotics and — fairly quickly — her landscape transformed into an all-native garden. It was a lot of space to completely transform, and a short article cannot do it justice, but I’m delighted that Penny was willing to share her garden and experience. Penny’s strategy from the beginning was to plant the same species in three different places with the hopes that at least one of the plants would make it. That worked — some of the time. At the beginning some plants were lost from watering too much, others from too little. Plants that Penny fell in love with on hiking trips to the desert or the high Sierra were among the plant failures. She learned that lesson quickly and focuses mainly on local natives now, always experimenting with new and especially unusual native plants.

Trees and shrubs dominate in both front and back gardens. A hedgerow of mostly wax myrtle, coyote bush, Ceanothus arboreus, toyon, silk tassel bush, mountain mahogany, and coffeeberry (including R. ‘Leatherleaf’) screen the house from the street. Another hedgerow closer to the house features a very large native spirea, Pajaro manzanita, redbud, hazelnut, Malocathamnus fremontii, snowdrop bush, and, climbing up the house and over the tops of some of the shrubs, an exuberant stand of California pipevine (with resident populations of Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars and butterflies). A long fence on one side of the house is completely covered in two varieties of California grape (Vitis californica) — she tosses the fruit to her flock of chickens — and a short hedge of dwarf coyote bush (‘Pigeon Point’) borders the path to the front door.

*Photo by April Owens*
The most dramatic feature of the front garden is the extensive red fescue meadow (Festuca rubra and ‘Molate’). It is a lovely expanse of rolling bunchgrass edged here and there with various other native grasses and prostrate manzanitas. Penny warns, however, that the red fescue has taken over as the dominant plant species. Of the perennials that were planted nearby, only the aster (A. chilensis), the Matilija poppies, and the goldenrod have managed to successfully compete. While some folks are letting their lawns go dry and others are just thankful that they planted so many drought tolerant natives, Penny and her husband are blessed with too much water—a deep well and so much ground water that fruit trees rot in the winter. Wildly enthusiastic about riparian plants, Penny was quick to take advantage of the situation. She has created an entirely different garden in the back. A streambed carrying the overflow from a small pond winds through a shady corridor. Happily situated along the stream are blue elderberry, red-twiggled dogwood, vine maple, twinberry, and moisture-loving perennials such as skunk cabbage, corn lilies, deer fern, native spearmint and the rare Pitkin lily. And towering above all of these plants are the five white alders and three native sycamores that she planted 15 years ago. They are magnificent.

Still, a garden is never finished. Last winter, on the western edge of the property where African daisies once bloomed, Penny planted mostly purple needle grass with some California fescue and deer grass (Muhlenbergia rigens). In less than a year this bank has transformed into a large swath of beautiful mounding grasses. At one end of the bank, salty residues from a neighbor’s water filtering system leak into a cement trench. Faced with a pocket of salty marsh, Penny saw the perfect opportunity to experiment. On a scouting expedition to the Watershed Nursery in Richmond she found some marsh plants—a salt coyote bush, a Suisun marsh aster, and marsh Grindelia—and they couldn’t be happier.

Penny’s planting adventure for this month is to use the Tilden Regional Park’s preferred method for planting wildflower seed. Her husband made a wood frame that he covered in gopher wire. The box will be buried in the garden and special gravel called Minus Red Brown (7/16 inch) will be used as the seedbed. The folks at Tilden like this gravel because it does not compress. It’s available at Soiland at Stoney Point Rock Quarry. Penny promises to let us know if it works. 

Nancy Bauer
nbcoyoteridge@gmail.com

Plant Sale News

The 43rd annual plant sale is history. I have been involved with the sale since 1980. In that time the members of the Milo Baker Chapter have learned so much. The quality of the plants has improved, so have the logistics of the sale. This year the quality of our plants was outstanding and since members grow about 85% of our plants, our expenses are kept low. The same people come back to help with the sale year after year so that there is a great deal of camaraderie. It all begins with Judy Hartwig calling the volunteers. She does such
a good job making sure that we have enough cashiers (12) and that everyone has a name tag and that all of the signs are set up and then taken down at the end. Marcia Johnson assists in the work and thanks to Judy and Marcia, we leave a very clean hall.

Once more this year, Kathi Dowdakin was a big help with all aspects of the sale. She was the keeper of the plant lists and now after the sale she has given us the following calculations...we had 1600 plants at the sale. Most of them were produced at our 4 workshops. At the end of the sale there were 150 unsold plants. The Modini-Mayacamas Audubon Canyon Ranch Preserve will use them to landscape their Healdsburg office.

The plants that we sold were uniformly good looking. Our backyard growers—Deb Dobish, Penny Dalton, Cindy Tancreto, Patty Mohar, Alan Brubaker, Pat Sesser, Kathi Dowdakin, Mary Aldrich, Wendy Born, Patrick Smithson, Elmarie Hutchinson, Leah Davis, Cynthia Kayser, and Dave and Anna Webster—did a spectacular job. The 700 plants that were potted up and grown at Casa Grande in August were spectacular. The blooming Mimulus, Zauschneria, and Salvias sold very well. Thanks to teacher and nursery manager, John Shribbs, for giving us the space for our plants.

Moving the plants from the collection centers to the Vet’s Hall takes lots of truckers and we must thank Beverly Alexander, Brian Sesser and Dave Webster for bring the plants from Petaluma. Wendy Krupnik, Wendy Smit, and Joyce Bacci picked up the plants at Cal Flora Nursery in Fulton. Patrick Smithson, Pat and Janet Ross, and M L. Carle brought plants from Mary Aldrich’s house.

Once the plants are in place in the Vet’s Hall, Peter Warner, Terry Loveton, Lynn Colborn, and Kathi Dowdakin put up all of the descriptive signs. This really helps our customers find the right plant. Betty Young is back in Sonoma County and is retired from her job as Nursery Manager at the Golden Gate Natural Recreation Area. She was an immense help with the bulbs and the seeds as well as an invaluable aide during our week of pricing and labeling the plants. Welcome back, Betty!

This year we handed out programs with a map of the hall and a list of the businesses that help us and a report on where the money that we raise goes. Thanks to Pam Horton for handing them out at the door.

The plants that we put up at the May and August workshops are provided by Shooting Star Propagation Nursery in Graton. Dan Jennison and Nancy Hargeaves are our long time benefactors and our plant sale depends on them for our low expenses. California Flora Nursery (Phil Van Soelen and Sherrie Althouse) and Mostly Natives Nursery (Walter Earle and Margaret Graham) are also very generous with their donations to the sale.

Publicity is essential to the success of the sale. Our members are important customers, however getting the word out to the general public is equally important. Wendy Born is doing publicity for the chapter and we thank her for her efforts for the plant sale. This year The Gazette featured an article on habitat gardening with CA native plants that was written by Nancy Bauer. Thanks Nancy for
such a great article. Also, on October 11, in the Press Democrat, Meg McConahay wrote an article in the Saturday garden section about our sale and it was widely read and many of our customers arrived at the sale as a result of reading about us.

The beautiful t-shirt with a line drawing of 7 favorite wildflowers by Pam Glasscock was re-ordered, so we had plenty of them for our customers. We were so lucky to have an artist of Pam’s stature design a shirt for us. We cannot thank her enough for her contribution. Books and posters sold well. Thanks to Judy Johnson, Lea Davis, Cindy Tancreto and her granddaughter, Emma. Our artist Louisa Carter sold her beautiful cards illustrated with wildflowers.

Rob Fox contributes so much to our success. His illustration of the Epipactis gigantea, stream orchid, on the flyer was beautiful. Every year it seems that we need more signs and Rob is ever ready with his graphic skills.

Accepting credit cards has really increased our sales. Steve Smit was in charge of the card reader and he was very busy all day. In fact all of the cashiers were busy. Thanks to Sandy Martinson, Art Slater, Sharon Bouton, Karen Blaney, Charlotte Martin, Linda Webster, Brenda and Michael McEvoy, Coleen Gibbons, and Lynn Hauser. Thanks for Max Parker and Forest Glover for helping our customers carry their plants to their cars.

Our treasurer, Jim Piercy and his assistant Deb Dobish were very efficient and hard working.

Pat Sesser was at the membership table and we got 11 new members and that is huge! 11 members renewed their membership and we thank them for their continuing support. Our membership is now almost 400. Thank you Pat. Wendy Smit did a great job at refreshments. April Owens and Virginia Hotz-Steenhooven were at the reference table and answered all plant questions. 2 students, Shiloh and Dan, from the Sonoma State Biology Outreach program, had a display of pollinator insects and other activities for children. The plant holding area is a very active corner of the sale and Penny Dalton and Petty Mohar were busy all day. Our president, Leia Giambastiani, was a great help representing the Chapter and sharing her knowledge.

We are so lucky to have Nancy Bauer and Louise Hallberg at the habitat table. They bring great credibility to our sale--both ladies have a long history of habitat gardening. Nancy’s new book, The California Wildlife Habitat Garden, is published by UC Press, a Phyllis M. Faber Book, and it is a truly beautiful book with a northern California slant. It has lots of good information as well as fabulous photos.

As I write this and remember the sale, so many people worked so hard to make it a success. I have tried to thank you all individually and hope that I did not leave anyone out, because so many people contributed to making the Milo Baker Chapter’s main fund-raiser one of the best ever.

Everyone plays an important part in the year-long effort that culminates in October at our plant sale. It is all in interconnected web--workers, growers, customers---all play their part in the sale. We grossed $11,300.00 in 4 hours! That is truly remarkable. There are expenses and taxes that must be deducted, but we should net about $7,000.00. Thanks everyone for a job well done!

*Liz Parsons*
Newsletter & Web Site Info:
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the December Newsletter is November 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

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

Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors 2013/2014
President: Leia Giambastiani, 322-6722, leiagia@gmail.com
Vice President: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com
Secretary: OPEN
Treasurer: Jim Piercy, 539-3441, terrapenecarolinamajor@yahoo.com
Book Sales: Cindy Tancreto, 528-9225, cindytancreto@pachbell.net
Conservation Chair: Wendy Smit, 431-7913, wendysmit@hughes.net
Cunningham Marsh: Marcia Johnson, 829-3808, owlsnesttwo@att.net
Director at Large: Lea Davis, 538-1499, legil42@sbcglobal.net
Director at Large: OPEN
Director at Large: Cindy Tancreto, 528-9225, cindytancreto@pachbell.net
Field Trips: Wendy Smit, 431-7913, wendysmit@hughes.net
Field Trips: OPEN
Hospitality: Becky Montgomery, 573-0103, montyb@sonic.net
Hospitality: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com
Invasive Plant Chair: ML Carle, 792-1823, mlml@sonic.net
Legislative Chair: OPEN
Membership: Suzanne Harmon, 933-8750, cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Wayne Clark cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Plant Sale: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com
Poster & T-Shirt Sales: Cindy Tancreto, 528-9225, cindytancreto@pachbell.net
Programs/Lectures: Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven, vsteenhoven@sonic.net
Publicity: Wendy Born wendyborn@comcast.net
Rincon Ridge Park, Patricia Sesser, 528-9197, patricia@comcast.net
SCCC Rep.: Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wlk@sonic.net
Southridge Preserve: 539-3441, terrapenecarolinamajor@yahoo.com
SRJC Representative: Lea Davis, 538-1499
SSU Rep.: Kerry Wininger, 888-5616, kerrywininger@gmail.com
Web Site: Molly Levitt, cnpsmb.webadm@gmail.com
Vine Hill Preserve: Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, Sarahpgordon@gmail.com

Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily