General Meeting:  
The Amazing Hidden World of Roots

With Robert Kourik  
November 17, 2015  7:30 pm

Abstract: Roots, the unseen portion of a plant, are often a mystery to people. Robert Kourik, author of the book Understanding Roots, will give insights into how roots operate and how they are different than most people imagine.

Speaker Bio: Gardening expert Robert Kourik is the author of ten books addressing topics that have ranged from drip irrigation, environmentally-sound homes, edible landscaping, and lavender. Now he turns his attention to the necessity of healthy roots (and thereby healthy plants) for successful gardening and agriculture.

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 16th, 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 10th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
Chapter News

Plant Info Cards

If you missed our new Plant Info Cards at our plant sale, be sure to check them out online. They are a great resource for using native plants in your garden: milobaker.cnps.org/index.php/nativeplants/gardening-with-natives.

Outreach and Education Committee Wishlist

The Outreach Committee is always looking for supplies to use at community events. Please consider donating items from their wishlist to help with public outreach.

Leaf and fruit specimens needed:
* Umbellularia leaves and nuts,
* Quercus kelloggii, garryanna, kellogii acorns;
* Notolithocarpus leaves and acorns, Toyon leaves and berries, Arbutus menziesii leaves and berries,
* Rhamnus leaves and berries. Call Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven at 528-6030 for details. These materials used in Outreach and Education.

We also need good color 8X10 photos of Sonoma Native Plants for use with our handouts on gardening with California/Sonoma County natives.

Please contact either Co-chair, Lea Davis at: legil42@sbcglobal.net or Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven at: vsteenhenven@sonic.net (707) 528-6030.

We need the following for Outreach and Education activities:

Your old copies of our Milo Baker Newsletters and any copies of Fremontia you’d like to share with us. They make ideal give away materials at our outreach table, both informative as well as attractive.

We can also use the following:
Large magnifying glasses, 10X hand lenses, and an additional plant press.

Our continuing wish list:
One 6 ft portable folding table
One 4 ft portable folding table
2-3 folding camp chairs
Scientific plant structure model
Large Laminating machine
2 binocular dissecting microscopes with built in lighting and a digital camera attachment for projecting images on a laptop or classroom screen
Laptop for Outreach and Milo Baker Chapter use
Reiker Mount specimen exhibit frames

Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven, Co-chair
Outreach and Education

Upcoming General Meetings:
December 15th-Annual Members’ Wreath-making Workshop
January 19th-Dragonflies with Kathy Biggs

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Preserve Update

CUNNINGHAM MARSH FALL CLEAN-UP... A SUCCESS

Sixteen great volunteers, including several new CMers, put in over 45 hours worth of people power to get Cunningham Marsh ready for the winter. Blackberries were cut; Pitkin Lily exclosures were cleared of *Holcus lanatus*, the very invasive velvet grass; oak saplings were cleared in the big field, pine chips were used for weed prevention and hardware was removed from the very few oaks that (without any water) did not make it. A very special thank you to the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation and the staff that opened up all the trails the day before, which made our volunteer work so much easier.

We hope to have an acorn planting in the big field once the rains come.

If you would like to join our friendly group, please contact Marcia Johnson, owlsnesttwo@att.net - 707-829-3808.

Marcia Johnson

Book Review

The Tanoak Tree
An Environmental History of a Pacific Coast Hardwood

University of Washington Press

While Tanoak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*) is one of California’s most common hardwood trees, it is often unappreciated and given less focus than our Oaks and Conifers. Botanist Frederica Bowcutt does a nice job of presenting the environmental and cultural history of this majestic tree. Tanoak has changed in our eyes over the years from an important food source and economic commodity, to a “trash” tree, and now one threatened with survival by Sudden Oak Death. While not always an easy read, the book gives some hope for the future of Tanoak while instilling a new love and appreciation of this important native tree. Well worth the read.

Wayne Clark

Plant Sale News

I am happy to report that we had another successful plant sale...the 44th. I have been involved with the sale since 1980. At that time my co-chair was Tim Schmidt. He returned this year and worked at hospitality serving coffee and cookies to our volunteers and customers. Betty Guggolz, the founder of the Milo Baker Chapter, also attended the sale. This continuity is what makes our sale so special. The continuity includes the people.
who come back to volunteer with the sale year after year. The customers notice and feel welcomed to the world of CA native plants! Judy Hartwig called the volunteers and made sure that we all have name tags and that the signs were in place. Betty Groce signed everyone in and then she patrolled to see that everything was kept clean and picked up. Marcia Johnson assisted Judy and thanks to Betty, Judy and Marcia we left a very clean hall. Thanks also to Cynthia Kayser who arrived near the end of the sale with fresh energy to help with the clean-up.

Thanks to everyone beginning with the cashiers...Linda Webster, Lynn Houser (a past-president), Sandy Martinson, Betsy Livingston, Brenda McEvoy, Michael McEvoy, Karen Blaney, Sharon Bouton, Audrey Katitan, Steve Smit, and Charlotte Martin. Plant carriers Coleen Gibbons, Forest Glover, and Max Parker. Plant holding was womanned by Patty Mohar and Penny Dalton (this was a very busy place). Now that we have an Outreach Committee, we had a big table telling about the activities of the Milo Baker Chapter, thanks to Virginia Steenhoven. Pat Sesser also told people about the chapter at the Membership table. Terry Loveton and April Owen were at the Habitat table. Alan Brubaker, Mary Aldrich, Kathi Dowdakin, Patrick Smithson, Margaret Spaulding and Pam Horton helped the customers find just the right plant. Betty Young helped people at seeds and bulbs. Cindy Tancreto and her granddaughter Emma, Judy Johnson, and Leah Davis sold books, posters, and t-shirts. Tim Schmidt and Heidi Stewart helped with the refreshments.

The all-important treasurer Jim Piercy kept track of the money with the able assistance of Deb Dobish. Once again we were able to accept credit cards and over half of our sales were credit card sales!

The plants that we sold were very well grown thanks to our growers Deb Dobish, Penny Dalton, Cindy Tancreto, Patty Mohar, Wendy Born, Mary Aldrich, Alan Brubaker, Pat Sesser, Kathi Dowkakin, Leah Davis, Dave and Anna Webster and Jay Pedersen. We potted up 700 plants in August at Casa Grande High School in Petaluma. The blooming *Mimulus*, CA fuchsia, and Salvias looked great and sold well. Thanks to teacher and nursery manager John Shribbs for giving us the space for our plants.

The plants that we pot up in May and in August 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 in Tomales (Walter Earle and Margaret Graham) are also very generous with their donations to the sale. We also purchase plants from Mostly Natives and Cal Flora.

We needed truckers to get the plants to the hall on Friday night. Thanks to Wendy Krupnick, Angelica Tochim, Brian Sesser, Dave Webster, Margaret Spaulding, Helen Howard, Nicole and Merlin Schlumberger, and Patrick Smithson.

I hope that everyone noticed the new plant cards with color photos and a huge amount of information (all available on our web site, by the way). Betty Young helped pull together that massive amount of information on a spreadsheet. The results are that we will have these information cards for all future sales. What a lot of work--we cannot thank Betty enough for doing this for the sale and for the chapter. After all of the plants were moved into the hall Nicole and Merlin Schlumberger were a great help in arranging the plant cards, as were other members of the plant sale committee.

Betty also made sure that we followed the Phytophthora protocols to keep the plants that we sold free from this fungus that has become a problem in some areas. Betty is also helping plan a garden tour in spring of 2016. We are teaming up with the Water Agency garden tour. The agency had a table at the sale to help people with their questions about gardening in a time of drought.
The Sonoma State Biology Outreach program had a display of pollinator insects and other activities.

Our president, Leia Giambastiani, was a great help. Best wishes to Leia who will give birth to a little girl in November. Her son George loves to help us move the plants into the hall on Friday night. (The co-president Sarah Gordon was not feeling well and we missed her.)

On a sad note, our artist, Louisa Carter, passed away recently and we really missed her beautiful note cards. Her memorial service was on October 4. Our condolences to her family. We will miss her and her beautiful watercolor cards of native wildflowers.

Publicity is the key to a successful sale. Wendy Born is doing publicity for the chapter and we thank her for her efforts. This year both The Gazette and the Press Democrat mentioned our sale. Rosemary McCreary mentioned our sale in her article on fall gardening in the Press Democrat.

This is our main fundraiser for the chapter and we all worked so hard to make it a success. We did not make more money that last year, but in the end we will net about $7,000. Thanks everyone for a job well done.

Liz Parsons

Events

Meet at the “Under Hwy 12 Park and Ride” east end, at 9:30am. Should return by 5pm. Contact Betty if you want us to meet you in Rohnert Park or Petaluma.

This is not quite all natives, but should be fun for the botanically inclined. We’ll start at the Helen Crocker Library (at the entrance to the San Francisco Botanical Gardens in Strybing Arboretum) to see the exhibit on our own Luther Burbank. Colored pencil artwork of his creations are featured.

Then we will get our plant fix with a stroll through the Botanical Gardens and stop to eat our brown bag lunches. We’ll be sure to make it to the Native Plant Garden to see these beauties showing their winter attributes.

Admission fee for garden: Adults $8, Seniors $6.

Bring entry fee, lunch, water and hat. We may need to pay for parking if no street parking places available. Contact Betty with questions, younbg0721@msn.com, 595-1463.

Sonoma County Conservation Council Holiday Networking Dinner Party,

Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 5 – 8 pm
Join members of many local environmental groups for good food, wine and hot cider! Hosted by Sonoma County Conservation Council and the Sebastopol Grange, 6000 Sebastopol Ave/Hwy 12, (approx.. 2.5 miles west of Fulton Rd.)

$25 per person includes dinner and one drink! Pay at the door. Benefits the Environmental Center of Sonoma County. http://envirocentersoco.org/.

Volunteers needed to help at the event. For more information, contact Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wlk@sonic.net.
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Pitkin lily

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

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Chapter affiliation:
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☐ 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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