Milo Baker Chapter
California Native Plant Society

General Meeting:
Sonoma County Open Space District: 25 Years of Protecting Land in Sonoma County
With Karen Gaffney
November 15, 2016 at 7:30pm

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District was formed in 1990 by the visionary Sonoma County community to permanently protect the diverse agricultural, natural resource, and scenic open space lands of Sonoma County for future generations. To date, the District has conserved over 107,000 acres of land – over 10% of Sonoma County – including important native habitats, key watersheds, and ecosystems. The District is embarking on a comprehensive planning process to guide its work through 2031, and help to prioritize its conservation investments and other local and regional datasets.

About the Speaker:
Karen Gaffney is the Conservation Planning Manager at the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, where she works with a diverse cross section of the community on innovative conservation programs. Karen leads landscape scale initiatives related to climate change, ecosystem services, and conservation prioritization. A graduate of U.C Berkeley, she has a Master's degree in biology from Sonoma State University and is a Switzer Environmental Leadership Fellow.

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 14th, 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 8th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
Chapter News

Upcoming Board Elections for 2017

Board Elections for the 2017 & 2018 term will be held at the November business meeting (also known as the November general meeting). Other nominations may be submitted by Chapter members, in writing, and with written permission of the nominee(s) and will be received from the floor before the annual business meeting. Officers will be elected by a majority of members present at the November general meeting, or by mailed ballot, or both.

Election Slate
President: OPEN
Vice President: Liz Parsons
Secretary: Kerry Wininger
Treasurer: Jim Piercy
Director at Large: Wendy Smit
Director at Large: Patty Mohar
Director at Large: Caprice Lee
SRJC Representative: OPEN

Milo Baker Chapter Supports Measure K

Measure K, the Community Separator Protection Ordinance, if approved by Sonoma County voters this fall, will help to protect open space and farmlands between and around our towns and cities from sprawling urban development for the next 20 years.

The existing Community Separators were originally approved by over 70% of Sonoma County voters over 20 years ago. They have helped to maintain the distinct characters of each of the towns and cities, while also protecting watersheds, wildlife habitat and corridors, groundwater recharge areas, farmland, hillsides, woodlands and open space between the cities.

If Measure K is approved by the voters, 53,576 acres of Sonoma County greenbelts will be protected from subdivision and sprawl – at no cost to tax payers.

Measure K has attracted a wide range of supporters and endorsers from the Sonoma County Alliance to the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, the League of Women Voters, the Sierra Club, Sonoma County Conservation Action, the Sonoma Ecology Center, Madrone Audubon Society, and many others. For further information including maps see: http://www.keepcommunityseparators.com/

Preserve Update

CUNNINGHAM MARSH … A SUCCESSFUL WORKDAY

Sunday, September 26, was promised to be a cool day to work down on Cunningham Marsh… it was NOT.

Thirteen (yes, 13) volunteers worked for 2 hours plus getting the Marsh ready for winter. Most of the group was divided into 2 groups, by plant experts Betty Young & Wendy Born, working within the exclosures, weeding, cutting blackberries & opening the paths. Dan Noreen spent the 2 hours freeing a Valley Oak from hardware cloth that the poor tree had literally grown around. Giel Witt spent his time cutting, chopping & digging thistle. Rob Fox cut a willow branch that was near to blocking tall people from using a path.


Work was also done in the field, replacing wire cages on growing oaks and planting the very few Black Oak acorns that were available.

If you would like to help in the Spring at beautiful Cunningham Marsh, please contact.
Plant Sale News

I am happy to report that we had another successful plant sale...the 45th. It was the most successful sale in years. The plants were well grown and looked good. Our customers were quick to recognize the excellent quality, and by noon most of the plants were gone! By the time that we closed at 1 PM they were all gone. It is a wonderful feeling to see those empty tables.

There are 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 had name tags, and that the signs were in place. Marcia Johnson signed everyone in and then she patrolled to see that everything was kept clean and picked up. Marcia Johnson assisted Judy; and thanks to Tamara, Judy and Marcia we left a very clean hall.

Thanks to everyone beginning with the cashiers...Linda Webster, Sandy Martinson, Betsy Livingston, Karen Blaney, Sharon Bouton, Teresa Wistrom, Michele Karle, Allison Willets, Margaret Spaulding, and Steve Smit. Plant carriers were the Boy Scout troop and their leader Dan Logan. Plant holding was womaned once again 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 people about the activities of the Milo Baker Chapter. Thanks to Virginia Steenhoven and Audrey Katitan. 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, Barbara Coe, and Lynn Colborn helped the customers find just the right plant. Betty Young helped people at seeds and bulbs.

Cindy Tancreto, Judy Johnson, and Leah Davis sold books, posters, and t-shirts. Wendy Smit and Mia James helped with the refreshments. Thanks to Board member Kerry Wininger for the Sonoma State Biology Outreach program with a display of pollinator insects and other activities.

The all-important treasurer Jim Piercy kept track of the money with the able assistance of Becky Montgomery. 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 Dowdakin, Lea Davis, and Dave and Anna Webster. 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 Dan Hubacker 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 Hargraves are our long time benefactors and our plant sale depends on the liners that they provide 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 purchased plants from Mostly Natives and Cal Flora. Margaret and Walter are retiring from the nursery business after 31 years and will be missed. Their beautiful plants have been a
large part of our sale for many years and we
will miss the plants, especially the 4 inch size
plants.

We needed truckers to get the plants to
the hall on Friday night. Thanks to Wendy
Krupnik and Wendy Smit who went to Cal
Flora. Barney Bradey, Brian Sesser, and Dave
Webster went to Casa Grande. Michelle Karle,
Donna, Betty Young and Patrick Smithson
brought in plants from Mary Aldrich's house.
This was such a well-coordinated effort that the
plants arrived and were all on the tables by 6
PM! Our volunteers return year after year and
work quickly together to distribute the plants to
the proper places.

The plant cards with color photos and a
huge amount of information (all available on
our web site, by the way) were in place by 7:30
PM. Thanks to Peter Warner and his crew.
Betty Young helped pull together that massive
amount of information on a spread sheet.
What a lot of work--we cannot thank Betty
enough for doing this for the sale and for the
chapter.

Betty also made sure that we followed
the Phytophthera 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
2017. We are teaming up with the Water
Agency garden tour.

Our co-president, Leia Giambastiani,
was a great help. 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.)

Publicity is the key to a successful sale.
Wendy Born is doing publicity for the chapter
and we thank her for her efforts. The Press
Democrat mentioned our sale in a very
prominent place on the Saturday before the
sale and on sale day.

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
$7,500. Thanks everyone for a job well done.
Mark your calendars for October 14,
2017 when we will once again have our plant
sale.

We are starting to plan next year’s sale
with a native iris division workshop that will be
at Wendy Born’s Sebastopol Garden in early
December.

Liz Parsons

Events

Floribunda Botanical Art Exhibit
Petaluma Art Center, 230 Lakeville St,
Petaluma
Thursday, November 10, noon – 2pm
Carpool at 11:15am, from “Under Hwy 12” Park
and Ride (between Vet’s Hall and Fairground)
east end of lot, back by 3pm.
The Petaluma Art Center is presenting the
Hunt Institute 14th International Exhibition
Botanical Art and Illustration. The show
features: Aimee Baldwin, Evan Kolker, Randy
Strong and other local and regional botanical
artists and illustrators.

Since we are not “on the trail” for this trip, we
will meet for lunch at Jennie Low’s Chinese
Restaurant in Petaluma (140 2nd St-across
from the theater) at noon. Then we will head to
the art center several blocks away.

Modini Mayacamas Preserve
Sunday, November 13, 9am – 2pm (at
Preserve)
Carpool at 8:15am from “Under Hwy 12” Park
& Ride-east end, back by 3pm.
Leader: Dave Self, Preserve Ecologist

Follow up on Dave’s October General meeting
lecture and make your fall visit to the Audubon
Canyon Ranch Modini Mayacamas Preserve.
We will look for fall flowers. We should see
asters and goldenrod as well as fruits and
seeds as we hike through Pine Flat and along
part of Little Sulphur Creek. Then we will head
up to a serpentine ridge at the top of Redhill for
views and lunch.

Total distance will be about 4 miles with a 600’
elevation gain.
There is no charge for the field trip, but the preserve is supported by donations, so feel free to donate. Bring: hat, plenty of water, sunscreen and lunch.

**Cresta Ranch – Sonoma County Ag and Open Space District**

Friday, December 2, 2-4 pm. (at Ranch). Meet at 1:15pm at the “Under Hwy 12” Park & Ride-east end.

Leader: Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Manager for the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

Sheri will introduce the group to Cresta Ranch, a property owned by the District since 2007, and part of the future Mark West Creek Regional Park and Open Space Preserve.

The acquisition was intended to protect the scenic values and natural resources and wildlife on the property, as well as allow appropriate public access. The property is situated at the confluence of Mark West and Porter Creeks, providing habitat for both Coho salmon and steelhead trout. The property includes healthy riparian and floodplain habitat, seasonal wetlands, annual grasslands, oak woodlands, and Douglas fir forest.

Participants will visit a riparian planting project and discuss a planned in-stream restoration project for Mark West Creek.

Meet at 2pm on site. Parking is very limited, so please carpool. Carpool at 1:15pm, east end of “Under Hwy 12 Park and Ride). Directions: Highway 101 North to Mark West springs Road exit, travel east for about 8 miles. Continue on Porter Creek Road, turn right onto Cresta Road. Please drive carefully as this is a private, narrow road. After approximately 1 mile, park on left inside the property gate (Sheri will be waiting at gate, there will be a sign as well). Contact number is 707-479-7150, though cell coverage in this location is spotty.

Bring layered clothing, sturdy shoes, hat, sunscreen, and / or raingear as needed. Heavy rain cancels.

We will have only one field trip in December so we can all concentrate on the Holidays. Any questions contact, Betty Young, 595-1463, cell 695-4257, byoung.cnps@gmail.com. youngb0721@msn.org, 595-1463.

Betty Young
**Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense**
Pitkin lily

**Newsletter & Web Site Info:**
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the Dec 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: cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com

---

**Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors 2015/2016**

Co-President: Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, Sarahpgordon@gmail.com
Co-President: Leia Giambastiani, 322-6722, leia@leia@gmail.com
Vice President: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com
Secretary: Wendy Smit, 431-7913, wendysmit@hughes.net
Treasurer: Jim Piercy, 539-3441, cindytancreto@pacbell.net
Conservation Chair: Sean McNeil, seanmcnelli0@gmail.com, 707-480-2965
Cunningham Marsh: Marcia Johnson, owlsnesttwo@att.net
Director at Large: OPEN
Director at Large: Patty Mohar
Director at Large: Pat Sesser
Field Trips: Betty Young, byyoung.cnps@gmail.com, 595-1463
Horticulture Chair: April Owens, 331-2070, aprilceowens@gmail.com
Hospitality: Becky Montgomery, 573-0103, montyb@sonic.net
Invasive Plant Chair: Kate Symonds, kate@terraserve.net
Membership: OPEN cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Wayne Clark cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Outreach Co-Chair: Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven, vsteenhoven@sonic.net
Outreach Co-Chair: Lea Davis legal42@global.net
Plant Sale: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com
Poster & T-Shirt Sales: Cindy Tancreto, 528-9225, cindytancreto@pacbell.net
Programs/Lectures: Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven, vsteenhoven@sonic.net
Publicity: Wendy Born wendyborm@comcast.net
Rincon Ridge Park: Penny Dalton
SCCC Rep.: Wendy Krepnick, 544-4582, wk@sonic.net
Southridge Preserve: 539-3441, terrapene.carolinamajors@yahoo.com
SRJC Representative: OPEN
SSU Rep.: Kerry Winingher, 888-5616, kerrywininger@gmail.com
Web Site: Molly Levitt, cnpsmb.webadm@gmail.com
Vine Hill Preserve: Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, Sarahpgordon@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