**General Meeting:**

Fire Ecology and the Land We Call Home with Sasha Berleman, PhD

November 21, 2017  7:30PM

Fire plays an integral, yet complicated role in our California landscapes. ACR, through its new Fire Ecology Program, is taking a leadership role in the North Bay working with various agencies and land managers to address hazardous fuel loads and declining ecosystem health through the coordination of cooperative, ecologically planned, scientifically monitored, and safely implemented controlled burns. Learn about the role of fire in the landscape, how California’s ecosystems coevolved with fire, and how fire suppression has changed our landscapes. We’ll discuss the differences between wildfire and prescribed fire, learn about intricacies of fire behavior, and how prescribed fires are manipulated, controlled, and monitored. We will also look at regional short- and long-term plans for fire management, objectives and rationale, and how these will be achieved.

**About the Speaker:** Sasha Berleman works for Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) as a fire ecologist. She has her PhD in wildland fire science from UC Berkeley. She conducted her graduate research on prescribed fire use in California landscapes for restoration of ecosystem health. She has been an active participant in Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) since 2010, with most being located in Northern California (Shasta, Trinity and Klamath regions). She is a wildland firefighter with “Fire Effects Monitoring” and “Squad Boss” qualifications. She spent the summer on the Redding Interagency Hotshot Crew and additionally has approximately 600 hours of hands-on prescribed fire experience. Sasha is a board member of the Central Coast Prescribed Fire Council.

**Join us for Dinner before the September 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 20th, if you plan to attend.
Plant Sale News

In the November newsletter I always give a glowing account of our wonderful sale. I thank all of the many people who worked so hard to make it a success and tell you how much money we made. As you already know, this year is completely different. We were unable to hold our sale because of the devastating wildfires that affected our county. This was especially difficult for us because we worked so hard for the entire year to grow over 1500 plants for the sale. Our 4 workshops were very successful and we produced beautiful plants. Everything was in place for us to begin labeling and pricing on Monday morning.

Sunday at midnight, I was evacuated as thefire closed in on Kenwood. (My house survived.) I had the presence of mind to put the plant labels into my trunk, along with an overnight bag, and I planned to begin pricing on Monday morning and to return to my home very soon. That was not to be. The fire continued for over a week and as I write this on October 18, I am still in San Francisco with my son; a refugee.

I have to thank Kathi Dowdakin for her huge efforts on our behalf. She had to call all of the people that were going to help with the Saturday, October 14 sale and tell them that it was cancelled. Then when Board member Jan Lochner offered us an opportunity to hold a small sale at Willowside School, Kathi had to get in touch with people and let them know that we needed help pricing and labeling the plants and moving them to Willowside and selling them. Once again Kathi was up to the task. We must be immensely grateful to her for the heroic effort on our behalf.

We also thank Misty Fiddler and Jan Lochner for letting us use the space at Willowside School. The Willowside School was a wonderful place to hold the sale. It is very close to the Laguna Foundation where our plants are growing so it was easy to get the plants to the sale area. The plants looked beautiful and sold fast. We were able to clear about $6,300! Many of our customers knew about the new location and we are grateful to them. Thanks to the folks who supported our new location and sale.

We are grateful to those who helped at this alternate sale:

Kathi Dowdakin - Logistics coordinator
Wendy Krupnick - Horticulture
Terry Loveton - Hort.
Marcia Johnson - Hort. sign filing
Walter Earle - Hort.
Becky Montgomery - Hort.
Deb Dobish - Hort.
Liz King - Greeter
Betty Young - seeds & bulbs
Penny Dalton - plant holding
Cindy Tancreto - head of the cashier squad
Betsy Livingstone - cashier
Sharon Bouton - cashier
Sandy Martensen - cashier
Theresa Wistrom - cashier
Virginia Steenhoven - membership & outreach
Caprice Lee - outreach
Susan Dean - membership

In fact, it was so successful, that we will repeat the sale on November 11 at Willowside Middle School from 9am to 1pm. Please watch the website, however, as the date may be moved. I hope that you will share this information with friends so that we can have a good turn out and sell more of the plants that we grew this year. They are well grown and just ready to be planted now.

Liz Parsons
Help our Milo Baker Chapter raise funds by shopping at local stores!

Our Milo Baker Chapter is now a part of the eScrip program! eScrip is a program where merchants donate a percentage (usually 3%) of your purchase to local schools and non profit organizations. You can shop at the local stores listed below, and the stores donate a percentage to the Milo Baker Chapter. For this to be successful for our chapter we need member support. All you have to do is register and shop. It doesn't cost you anything additional. To register: go to escrip.com, choose "Milo Baker-CA Native Plant Society" and complete the enrollment steps. This is an easy way to help support our chapter!

Request for Email Addresses

We need current email addresses in order to keep people informed at times like this.

If we have your email address, then you received emails informing you of the cancellation of the October 14th plant sale, of the cancellation of the October Chapter meeting, and the scheduling of a plant sale on October 21st. If you did not receive these emails and would like to receive information about changes in plans, then please send your current email address to: cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com

Also, the membership spreadsheet does not have the Newsletter delivery preference for many members. If you would prefer to have a printed copy of the newsletter, or would rather have it emailed, then please let me know at the above address.

Susan Dean,
Membership Chair

Nursery Update

We are still waiting on our building permit before we can begin construction. As soon as we receive that we will be full steam ahead. Once we receive the permit, I or Sarah Gordon will contact those who have volunteered and convey our construction activity schedule so you can join the activities that fit your interest or talents.

Before the fire we had an Eagle Scout project scheduled to build our growing tables on November 18. We hope that still happens. If you would like to help with the project and can handle some light labor, please contact me.

Betty Young, youngb0721@msn.com

Events

Plant Sale
at Willowside Middle School
5285 Hall Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
9am – 1pm

Field Trips
We will suspend field trips until February, but stay tuned for many spring field trips to see the rebirth of our native habitat after the fires. If you have a favorite area of Sonoma County and know the flora, please let me know if you would like to lead a field trip. Thanks, Betty Young youngb0721@msn.com
Newsletter & Web Site Info:
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the December/January
Newsletter is November 15.
The chapter website milobaker.cnps.org
contains a wealth of information plus
current and archived newsletters.
For newsletter mailing/membership issues
contact: 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

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