General Meeting

Curtis Short - Advantages of Planting in the Fall
October 15, 2013 7:30 pm

Abstract: The October meeting will feature Curtis Short, a good follow-up to the plant sale on October 12! The best time to make changes in a landscape or create a new landscape is fall. Curtis Short will demonstrate how to be successful with your fall planting of California native and non-native trees, shrubs, bulbs and wildflowers. He will discuss the importance of planting in the fall and will present a slideshow with case studies of planting projects he has been involved with. The program will conclude with slides that expose the locations of roots within gardens so that home gardeners can better understand how to prepare soil and set up irrigation systems to meet the needs of those roots.

Speaker Biography: Curtis Short received his Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science/Plant Pathology from U.C. Davis in 1986. He had experience in the U.C. Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program in Sonoma County after being certified in 1989, and he also served as a Master Gardener in the University of Maine Cooperative Extension program after being certified there in 2005. He completed several courses in Landscape Architecture at U.C. Berkeley Cooperative Extension in San Francisco during the early 90's. While living out of state between 2004 and 2007, Curtis landscaped professionally both in Maine and in New Brunswick, Canada and worked on a project to catalog some of the roughly four-thousand heirloom and endangered seed varieties in the collection of legendary and eccentric Maine seed saver Will Bonsall. Curtis and his family returned to California in 2007 where they are all once again enjoying the best climate on earth. Curtis has been a licensed California Landscape Contractor since 1989 and his business is called Curtis Short Expert Pruning.

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 September 16, if you plan to attend.

General Meetings are held 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 October 8th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
State News

Elections for 2014 State Offices
Announcements and nominations for 2014 State Offices are due on October 1. Ballots and nomination forms will be mailed to Chapter Council Delegates on October 15 to be returned on November 15. Ballots will be counted at the December Board of Directors and Chapter Council Meetings. New officers take office on January 1, 2014.

Check www.CNPS.org for the latest State CNPS news.

Chapter News

Milo Baker Awards Caryl Hart With An Honorary CNPS Membership
On September 6 Leia Giambastiani and Jim Piercy met with Caryl Hart in her office at Sonoma County Regional Parks Administration to present her with an honorary membership to CNPS. Caryl has dedicated her life to advocacy for parks and open spaces. She received her Ph.D. at the College of Natural Resources UC Berkeley on the topic of climate change and public lands. She co-founded LandPaths, was Chair of the Open Space Advisory Committee for three years, and was a member of the State Parks Commission before leading Sonoma County Regional Parks. She is also currently a member of the Parks Forward Commission working to design a blueprint for the future of State Parks. Milo Baker and Regional Parks have a long history of collaboration. Projects include the ongoing wetland restoration work at Sonoma Valley R.P., bush lupine removal at Gualala Point R.P., Cordylanthus surveys at Doran Marsh, and planning work at Tolay Lake R.P. Caryl is supportive of continuing that relationship with CNPS and offered a number of suggestions for further collaboration, including creating native plant gardens and guided paths at Regional Parks, community outreach, and more. CNPS has offered this membership as part of our ongoing efforts to honor members of the community who advocate for California’s native plant life.

Invasive Plant Removal at Sonoma County Regional Parks
Since its founding Milo Baker Chapter has worked with Sonoma County Regional Parks to protect and promote native plants. Last spring, John Herrick, an active member of the Milo Baker Chapter coordinated a volunteer workday with Regional Parks to remove invasive Klamath weed at Sonoma Valley Regional Park. I spoke with John Ryan, Volunteer Coordinator for Regional Parks, to learn more about how the program manages invasive plant removal projects.

For the last twelve years Ryan has led the Regional Parks Volunteer effort and the program has been so successful that Regional Parks recently hired a second volunteer coordinator, Jen Stanfield. Ryan and Stanfield work with a variety of schools, non-profits, civic organizations, local businesses and individuals on projects that are important to the community. In addition to Milo Baker, Regional Parks works with Sonoma Ecology Center, The Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship, Agilent Technology, Sonoma State University, the Boy Scouts of America and more. Ryan also works closely with the Mounted Assistance Unit, a group of some seventy volunteers who patrol Regional Parks on horseback to assist park staff and park visitors. Ryan assists individuals and organizations to initiate and connect with projects in Regional Parks. Ryan keeps a list of potential projects for volunteers and he maintains a list of volunteers that he can contact when a project needs some help.
Common invasive plant removal projects include giant reed, blackberry, and broom species. Ryan and Stanfield map out invasive plants at Regional Parks and prioritize projects by targeting the most damaging species, identifying emerging threats, and monitoring infestations of sensitive habitats. Strategies they employ include working at the perimeter of a park to contain infestations, focusing their efforts on high-value habitats, and removing small patches before they become big patches. Often it’s not possible to remove everything at once, it can take several workdays or even several years to remove some infestations. John said to me “it’s a neat experience to go back and see native plants return”.

Of course there are rules about working with Regional Parks. A project has to be located on property managed by Regional Parks and volunteers are required to sign a waiver, listen to a safety talk, and to use proper safety equipment. Regional Parks provides tools and gloves and will dispose of the invasive plant material at the end of the day. To become a Regional Parks volunteer or to initiate a project, contact John Ryan at John.Ryan@sonoma-county.org or call him at 565-3356.

### 2013 Preserves Update

**Milo Baker members have been hard at work this year at our preserves throughout the County.**

#### Cunningham Marsh
Marcia Johnson hosted several workdays at Cunningham Marsh. On May 5 she was joined by Kathi Dowdakin, Rob Fox, Sonya Zohan, John Herrick, Denise Cadman and her daughter, Rosalie, Christina and Michael Ogdon and Cindy Tancreto removing weeds around the small oaks in the big field, removing empty exclosures, opening trails, and removing a fallen willow from the SW trail. On June 9-10 she was joined by Betty Young, Rainbow Francom, L.E. Francom, Kathi Dowkakin, Rob Fox, Dan Noreen, John Herrick, Franny M-Z, Judith Rousseau, Wendy Born, Giel Witt, and Clair Warner removing velvet grass and cutting back non-native blackberry vines. On June 23 Marcia and John Herrick returned and moved exclosures to provide better access around the Pitkin lilies. On July 18 Marcia hosted a walk-around with John Herrick, Betty Guggolz, Judy Luckout, Joan Swan, Charlie Patterson, and Gene Cooley. Thanks to Ken Brandt for mowing the weeds at Cunningham twice this summer.

**Be sure to check the Events section for details on the upcoming October 6 workday.**

#### Vine Hill Preserve
Sarah Gordon hosted a well-attended and successful workday at Vine Hill Preserve on June 22. Attendees included John Herrick, Peter Warner, Wendy Smit, Wendy Born, Virginia and her husband, Lea Giambastiani, Lea Davis, Pat Sesser, Liz Parsons, Samuel Gilbert, Rebecca Slazinski, and Jim Piercy. Participants removed velvet grass to open up habitat for the Vine Hill Clarkias. Sarah counted 908 Clarkias this season, down a bit from two years ago. She speculates that is due to the dry spring. However the Vine Hill Manzanitas are looking very good. They suffer from a fungus that grows during the rainy season and this year’s dry weather offered a respite from that pathogen. In 2012 a large work party cleared trees and brush from the roadway to open up airflow and sunlight for the manzanitas. Still to do for 2014: install a fence and a gate on the roadway.

#### Southridge and Rincon Ridge Preserves
Milo Baker volunteers also worked on Southridge and Rincon Ridge preserves clearing brush and removing invasives. After several years of effort, broom has largely been removed from Southridge although ongoing efforts at removing broom sprouts will be needed for years to come. Harding grass
and milk thistle continue to be a problem at Southridge. We will be hosting a work day in Spring 2014 to work on these issues.

**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!

---

**Gardening with Natives**

October is a good time to remind us all about gardening for wildlife by NOT doing autumn or winter cleanup. Try an experiment: Leave your gardens untrimmed, unraked, and basically “untidy” until the light and warmth of spring initiate new growth. An entire panorama of activity will ensue. The idea is to give spiders, butterflies, and other insects a secure hiding place from the cold and wet during their dormancy or egg stages. Further, the debris gives birds productive areas in which to forage when much of their food supply is at its most meager. It’s a rather revolutionary thought...however, lots of gardening columnists are advising just this.

I have found it to be a successful experiment. Flocks of sparrows, finches, and pine siskins pick away at seed heads that to my eyes look unproductive. Perhaps insects hide down inside the empty pods. Towhees, juncos and sparrows scratch and forage all day under the debris. I myself went on my own foraging excursion. Getting down on hands and knees, and wearing my strongest magnifying glasses, I discovered egg cases everywhere, some even suspended on webs between dry stems. I would have unwittingly destroyed that entire productive habitat if I had trimmed and raked it all away. You might ask, aren’t there non-beneficial insects hiding out as well as beneficials? True, I’m sure there are, but from the abundance of birds in the garden, most of the insects are being found anyway.

A walk in the woods or in a wild meadow shows that Mother Nature does no tidying up. The leaves litter the ground, the brown stems ultimately tumble over, the dead branches fall, and the wild lands are still beautiful and provide all the food and shelter necessary to keep the ecology in balance. It’s only when we humans try to outwit our Mother that we end up out of balance. So here’s to a brown winter garden!

By Judy Brinkerhoff
joodbrink@comcast.net

---

**Invasives Corner**

OK, don't bother to read this if you want any serious information. This is a complete departure from my stated purpose in writing this column. You can go back and read about Arundo from last month if you want. But this IS about plants. Sort of....

OOOOOH! The plant sale is coming. The plant sale is coming! This is the first time I've really been interested in gardening with natives – or any plant. But now I'm responsible for all this dirt. When I was a teacher, at Xmas time or the last day of school, kids would bring me gifts. The thing I dreaded besides all the soap that turned up every year - suggesting I never took baths, was a plant. The kids were always giving me a plant to murder - slowly, mercilessly. I should have just put the lovely thing in the blender and sent it down the drain out of its misery, but no, maybe this time the plant would do what plants are supposed to do! Never. Maybe if one of those kids had given me a nice invasive like Arundo in a pot, it would not have died out of spite. Maybe it would slowly, mercilessly lifted the roof off in a couple of years because I didn't pay any attention to it. I did have success with mushrooms though. When I was
teaching on the coast, I neglected washing windows for so long, I didn't notice that four of them were growing in the window sill and had obviously been there for some time.

Mae story: I took her to the pool at my senior park the other day. She was splashing around merrily to the smiles of some of my neighbors at poolside. Out of nowhere Mae stopped thrashing and in her best theatrical voice called out, "You know why I know the names of a lot of bugs and birds? My grandmother, (she paused for effect) is a member - of The California Native Plant Society! And she knows all the names!" "Not all of them," I muttered shyly, not wanting them to question Mae's veracity. Well what would you have said? Perhaps some day she will be publicity chair. Meanwhile my neighbors are probably whispering to each other, "I bet that old show-off biddy told that little girl to say that - like we care!"

ML Carle

Plant Sale News

I hope that everyone who received the plant sale flyer in their September newsletter will place it on a bulletin board in their neighborhood. In this way we should cover the county with our publicity. We thank Rob Fox for his beautiful drawing of the Penstemon heterophyllus.

I have posted a partial plant list on the web-site...please note that we have a new web-site-- www.milobaker.cnps.org. The Board of Directors has been working very hard to get this new web-site up and running. Check it out. It is not quite finished, but it is the place to get some information about the plants that we will have been growing. The September newsletter also contains information about the plants that we will have available on October 12 at the sale.

We often have a problem with boxes. It is difficult to have enough, so I hope that everyone will go to their local market and collect beer flats and other small boxes for our customers to use. Many of our customers bring their own!

The big news is that we are going to be able to accept debit and credit cards this year! This should increase our sales because many customers have wanted to use credit cards in the past. The Native Plant Society office in Sacramento has made the arrangements for this service.

We will also have new t-shirts. Cindy Tancreto and I have been working with Pangea in Petaluma. Pamela Glasscock, an extraordinary botanical artist, created a line drawing of the following plants: western buttercup, blue dicks, California catchfly, long-tubed iris, CA poppy, and mission bells. This ensemble of flowers will be printed on black (with grey printing) t-shirts and pistachio green (with brown printing) t-shirts. There will be men’s and women’s styles. The women’s black will feature a v-neck with 3/4 length sleeves. Thanks to Pam for donating her work.

Perennial plants that we are growing include: the reliable Penstemon heterophyllus ‘Margarita BOP’ with beautiful blue flowers; Erigeron glaucus ‘Cape Sebastian’ and E.g. ‘Wayne Roderick’ both flower profusely with blue/yellow flowers and grows to 6 inches high with a spread of 2-3 feet; Heuchera maxima (Island alumroot) has a low growing cluster of evergreen foliage with a stalk (2 ft.) of white flower in the spring; Sedum spathulifolium ‘Cape Blanco’ is a succulent groundcover; and Satureja douglasii (yerba buena) is a creeping groundcover that also makes a lovely, minty tea. The grasses available will be Festuca ‘Tomales Bay’ and Muhlenbergia rigens (basket grass).

Other plants will be selected at Cal Flora and Mostly Natives, the two nurseries that support our sale. There will be wonderful CA native bulbs from Brent and Becky's again this year. We have also been increasing the number of seeds that will be offered. So check out the seed and bulb table at the sale you might be surprised.

Check out the selection of books, there is always some new book that you must add to your collection.
Becky Montgomery, Mary Aldrich, Kathi Dowdikan, and I will be pricing and labeling plants the week before the sale. Anyone who has some free time during the day can join us on Monday October 7 at Casa Grande H.S., Tuesday October 8 at Kathi Dowdikin’s in Sebastopol, Wednesday October 9 at Cal Flora, or Thursday, October 10 in Santa Rosa (please call Liz at 833-2063). These vital tasks go faster if we have a lot of help. The plants will be collected at the usual collection centers. If you are growing plants for the sale please bring them to any of the following collection centers on the weekend before the sale:

Collection Centers:

1. Mary Aldrich, 4775 Newanga, SR, SR, 539-9005
2. Cal Flora Nursery, D and Sommers, Fulton, 528-8813

Friday night, October 11, we will need truckers to transport plants from the collection centers to the Vet's Memorial Building. Call Liz (833-2063) if you have a truck and can help.

If you helped at our sale last year, Judy Hartwig (832-1821) has probably already called you! She is most efficient and already has all of the cashiers that we will need. Thanks you to the fabulous volunteers who return year after year to help with our sale.

This is our most important funds raiser, so please come and buy plants. You can create a beautiful native landscape to enhance to beauty of your home. There will be expert gardeners on hand to help you make the right selections.

Book Review:


The title says it all; Beauty and Balance. This is what my husband and I are attempting to do to our front yard. This book by Greg Rubin and Lucy Warren helps perfectly in giving us a wide scope of information. I liked it right off the bat for the title page shows a home like mine; simple, so I instantly identified with it. Many times I open books with landscape ideas to find the home is more of a mansion and I am turned off. These two authors, he is a landscape business owner and she is a gardener, editor and board member of the Pacific Horticultural Society, reside in Southern California (we won’t hold it against them) and start the first third of the book with an explanation and definition of California native plants with an emphasis on southern ones. A little history of what California must have looked like and the influences that were and are still here. Their aim is for us to understand the difficulties and challenges of the day, addressing climate change, and encouraging a vision of creating a beautiful landscape without the usual water consumption, poison usage and mixing that which doesn’t belong. Then comes my favorite section. Marked by colors that makes the section stand out to get to easily: the plants. These are divided by type of plant from tree to monocots (true grass or grass-like) along with some nice pictures. Lastly the how, making things beautiful can be done with elbow grease. Even if you knew nothing at all regarding California native gardening this would be an excellent introduction. On a serious note they also address the issue of fire, which as I write this, Yosemite is on fire along with 45 other fires across 10 states. The philosophy and tone that is intertwined throughout out the book leaves a feeling of trying to go back to when the landscape didn’t need a human hand to survive. And we should acknowledge our history and that our future depends on it. Enjoy.

*L Davis
**Events and Items of Interest**

**CUNNINGHAM MARSH - Sunday, October 6, 2013**

Come join us for the final 2013 workday at Cunningham Marsh...home of the endangered Pitkin Lily. We will put pine shavings on some lily exclosures, open trails, do light weeding of lilies and possibly plant acorns in the big field. Bring gloves (we have some), WATER, hat, sturdy shoes, favorite weeding tool. Workday will be Sunday, October 6, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 12: p.m. For more information, or if you would like to be on the Cunningham Marsh Workday list, please contact Marcia Johnson at: owlsnesttwo@att.net or 707-829-3808.

Cunningham Marsh is a 19-acre Fish & Wildlife Conservation Easement located in south Sebastopol off of Hwy. 116. It is home to the endangered Pitkin Lily (Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitinense). Workdays are usually 2-hour sessions held 2-3 times per year, or as needed.

*********************************************************

**MILO BAKER PLANT SALE – Saturday, October 12**

Friday, October 11 for plant sale volunteers and everyone on Saturday, October 12 at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Hall, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa California 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**********************************************************

**VOLUNTEERING AT THE MAYACAMAS MOUNTAINS SANCTUARY**

Audubon Canyon Ranch holds its 1st meeting to organize Mayacamas volunteers on October 11, 7pm, Modini House, 226 Center St, Healdsburg. We need volunteers for a trail crew, folks who want to grow and plant natives, folks who’ll help keep an eye on the place during drives or hikes; etc. Or perhaps you’d like to help develop a habitat restoration and education program that will explore Native Cultures and their Land-care Traditions. Some of you may even be ready to lead walks or other projects here. Visit the “Friends” page [http://www.meetup.com/Friends-of-the-Mayacamas/](http://www.meetup.com/Friends-of-the-Mayacamas/) or ask david.self@egret.org for details. The Mayacamas Mountains Sanctuary is private nature sanctuary is owned and managed by Audubon Canyon Ranch ([egret.org](http://egret.org)).

**UPCOMING CLASSES AT PEPPERWOOD PRESERVE**

October 13 from 9am to 3pm – $35 – Edible Plants of Pepperwood

Have you ever tasted a roasted bay nut, nettle pesto or sautéed milk thistle greens? Come explore the world of edible plants found at Pepperwood and throughout Sonoma County with Autumn Summers, teacher and program coordinator for the California School of Herbal Studies. [http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/393570](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/393570)

**Hey, all you hummingbird groupies!** The Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery's California Native Plant/Wildlife Habitat/ Memorial Garden is a magnet for hummingbirds this season, usually! Although most of our natives are going into their dormant phase, the California Fuchsias/Epilobium/Zauschnerias are coming into bloom. As all you hummingbird fans know, they love red tubular flowers and these plants are loaded with them. The best time to visit the garden in order to see the hummingbirds is early morning or early evening. You all probably already know the plants and the hummingbirds evolved together. Hummingbirds are only found in North and South America and so are their favorite flower shapes: red and tubular. The other plants that are blooming wildly are the various buckwheat varieties. We have several kinds in our garden and all are blooming, now. We are very popular with the pollinators. They tend to hang out once it warms up. We have several native bees that are very beautiful. The garden is located in the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery on Franklin near the double wrought iron gates and the G.A.R. monument. If you have questions call me (Becky Montgomery) at 573-0103.
**Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense**  
Pitkin lily

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

---

**Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors 2012/2013**

President: Leia Giambastian, 322-6722, leiagia@gmail.com  
Vice President: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com  
Secretary: OPEN  
Treasurer: Jim Piercy, 539-9225, cindytancreto@pacbell.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@pacbell.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: cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com  
Plant Sale: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com  
Poster & T-Shirt Sales: Cindy Tancreto, 528-9225, cindytancreto@pacbell.net  
Programs/Lectures: OPEN  
Publicity: OPEN  
Rincon Ridge Park, Patricia Sesser, 528-9197, patriciasesser@comcast.net  
SCCC Rep.: Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wlk@sonic.net  
Southridge Preserve: 539-3441, terrapene@carolinamajor@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

**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

---

[Type text]