New Calflora Tools for CNPS Users
with Cynthia Powell

General Meeting October 16, 2018 7:30PM
2050 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa

Join Calflora’s new Executive Director Cynthia Powell to discuss new Calflora tools for CNPS Calflora users. Calflora’s plant database hosts over 2 million plant occurrences, some of which come directly from Milo Baker CNPS members. Cynthia will go over Calflora’s new plant photo project, planting guide, population monitoring tools, email alerts, and speak more generally about the uses of Calflora for CNPS chapters. She would also like to know how Calflora can better serve the Milo Baker CNPS Chapter and to answer any of your questions.

Speaker Biography:
After 3 years as Calflora’s GIS Project Manager, Cynthia is now Calflora’s Executive Director. She graduated with her MS in GIS in 2010 forecasting Mokelumne River water supply based on MODIS remote sensing snow pack images. She’s been examining what was under that snow — plants — ever since. She now coordinates all Calflora programs, research, outreach, and advocacy, as well as fundraising and management.

Join us for Dinner before the October Meeting: We’ll gather for dinner at 5:45 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 call Liz Parsons at 833-2063 before noon on the day of the meeting, if you plan to attend.
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. If we get good publicity we have a lot of customers.

We have posted a partial plant list on the website...please note the web-site--www.milobaker.cnps.org. Check it out. The September newsletter also contains information about the plants that we will have available on October 13 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! But we need to provide for those who do not.

The big news is that once again, we are going to be able to accept debit and credit cards! This has increased our sales because so many folks don’t carry cash or checks anymore. The Native Plant Society office in Sacramento has made the arrangements for this service. Other plants will be selected at Cal Flora in Fulton, we thank them for supporting our sale. There will be wonderful CA native bulbs from Brent and Becky’s again this year, but no Calochortus. 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. Look carefully at the selection of books, there is always some new book that you must add to your collection. The t-shirts are a great gift or buy a new one for yourself.

Becky Montgomery, Mary Aldrich, Kathi Dowdakin, and I will be pricing and labeling plants the week before the sale. Anyone who has some free time during the day on Monday and Tuesday October 8 and 9, Wednesday October 10 (Cal Flora), 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: Cal Flora Nursery, D and Sommers, Fulton, 528-8813 The New Laguna Shade House

Friday night, October 12, 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.

Liz Parsons,
Vice President
**A Very Special Thank You**

**Additional Scholarship Contribution**

Thank you Sue Flagg and Carlo Rocca, for again making a contribution to the Milo Baker Chapter of the California Native Plant Society scholarship fund. This is the fifth year they have given a donation to this fund. They wish to help students of Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University, who are interested in studying and working in native plant conservation, restoration, plant ecology, plant genetics, horticulture, and other native plant studies. They hope enrolled students interested in these disciplines will apply for the scholarships offered through our chapter.

In the past, our annual chapter plant sales funded the operating expenses of the chapter, our newsletter costs, and the scholarship fund. Sue Flagg learned a few years ago that our plant sale had not made as much money as previous years, and she made a donation to specifically help the scholarship fund. She has continued to add donations each year since then. We know that more students will have opportunities than ever before, from this added help.

Sue’s husband, Carlo Rocca, attended Santa Rosa Junior College from 1953-1955, living in the barracks on campus. It was a much smaller college then, and everyone knew each other. He worked one summer at Luther Burbank’s home and growing grounds at the junction of Sonoma and Santa Rosa Avenues, spading the beds under the direction of the groundskeeper, Harold Moore. Carlo saw Mrs. Elizabeth Burbank on occasion, and he mentioned that she was kind to him.

Sue is passionate about providing plants to feed butterflies and caterpillars, in their own garden. Last year she grew Narrow-leaf milkweed (Asclepias fascicularis), to feed Monarch butterflies, and to provide a place they may lay their eggs. She also grew 24 – 4” pots of this milkweed for our first plant sale at Laguna Foundation last year, and those were sold out by noon! She has planted two of our native Pipevine plants (Aristolochia californica) and once established, hopes they will provide the only food the Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars are able to feed upon, in a few years. Her husband installed and maintains their drip irrigation system to carefully use and conserve water.

Sue says the funds they have donated for scholarships, come from her mother and grandfather, and they would have been happy that students will be helped. Sue encourages all of us, to also make donations to this scholarship fund.

✉ Barbara Coe

**Scholarships for Students!**

Applications are open for the Fall 2018 Scholarships! We are looking to support students who are interested in learning about native plants or are engaged in study and/or research relating to native plant conservation, restoration, or other native plant studies

**Deadline: October 30th, 2018.**

Send all applications and/or questions via email to the Scholarship Committee at seanmcneil0@gmail.com

✉ Scholarship Committee
General Meeting cont.

Join the Milo Baker Chapter of CNPS for our General Meeting series:

“In Our Own Backyards: The Joys and Benefits of Gardening with California’s Diverse Native Plants”

**November 20th**: Walter Earle, knowledgeable horticulturist /nursery manager will discuss native plant propagation, care and plant resources.

**January 15, 2019**: Arthur Dawson, the historical ecology of our iconic native oaks and their ecosystems.

**February 19**: Breck Parkman, retired Ca. State Archaeologist and Docia Dodds, SSU grad student - A presentation about some unusual plants identified in ancient soils of Sonoma County.

**March 19th**: Round table/panel discussion with experienced native plant specialists, including horticulturists, landscape designers, and experienced native plant garden owners.

**Dates**: The third Tuesdays of the month September through November and continuing January through March, 2019.

**Time**: 7:30 p.m.

**Location**: Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, 3050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa, Ca.

Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven
Programs & Lectures Chair
Education and Outreach Co-Chair

Chapter News

**Nature and Optics Fair - A Great Success!**

Saturday, September 8th found Education and Outreach committee volunteers, Lea Davis, Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven, Patty Mohar, Susan Dean and Kerry Wininger presenting our 4th year exhibit at the Sonoma Birding, Nature and Optics Fair at Vallejo's Sonoma Barracks. It's always a well-organized event and a pleasure to be a part of; well-attended by people from Sonoma County and the Bay Area. We joined 50 other natural history exhibitors, artists and crafts people along with optics vendors.

During this event we emphasize landscaping with native plants since our October 13th Plant Sale is so close. We include books, photos, story boards and live plant specimens to stimulate conversation with visitors. People were especially taken with the live specimens of colorful Mimulus cultivars as well as the freshly picked samples of tasty Vitus californica grapes. Patty Mohar provided a healthy example of a Festuca species and our own nursery provided beautiful, healthy specimens of Q. agrifolia seedlings. One visitor who had a family member who lost their home in last October's fires took one of the seedlings as a gift for their relative. Patty’s cut specimens of native plant flowers from her yard added a lovely touch of color to the exhibit. As always we had an attractive specimen of the delicately scented Yerba Buena for people to admire and touch. The lovely mint fragrance always stimulates conversation.

Our next event will be a table at the Plant Sale on October 13th. Saturday, October 27th you’ll see us at the North Bay Science Discovery Day for our fourth year. Our subject this year is the iconic oaks of Sonoma County, "A Circus of Quercus". Title is courtesy of photographer/naturalist David Cavagnaro.

If you are interested in volunteering a couple of hours for the October 27th event or set up on the 26th, or any other Education/Outreach activities please contact Lea Davis, co-chair of the Education/Outreach Committee.

Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven

Nature and Optics Fair with our Education and Outreach Committee and Volunteers
**Field Trips and Events**

**Volunteer Work Day at Vine Hill Preserve**

**October 16, 18, 23, 27, 2018**
**09:30-Noon**

This little 1.6 acre preserve in West County needs some work. Velvet grass is invading, coast oak needs cutting back, berries need to be cut to ground level but not disturb the soil, and other misc. tasks. I will send directions and more specific information soon. Please shoot me an email to let me know who and how many are coming.

**Hands-on Plant Data Collecting at Taylor Mountain Regional Park**

**Wednesday, October 17, 2018**
**10:00am-2:00pm**

Carpool at Hwy 12 park-and-ride, btw Vet’s hall and fairgrounds, east side of parking lot

Join Calflora and for a rigorous and hands-on plant data collecting 4-mile hike at Taylor Mountain Regional Park starting at 9am. Here are blooming plants we may find.

Please email or text if you are planning to come so that any changes and directions can be sent to you. Plan to bring lunch, water, sunblock, hat and wear hiking shoes.

Contact Wendy at wsmi8000@gmail.com or call 707 481-3765 for more information.

We will have another **Ice Plant day at Doran Beach** on Oct. 24th from 9:30 to noon.
Carpooling from Penny’s at 1201 Garden Lane Sebastopol at 9:00. Bring clippers and layers.
The work will be followed by lunch at the Fishitarian Restaurant which offers many options besides good chowder. Go mark your calendar now before you forget!! I will send out cancellation notice by 8pm the night before if the weather is bad. Return to Sebastopol by 2 pm.

**Poetry Reading with Maya Kholsa**

**Sunday, October 14, 2018**
& **January 10, 2019**
**3:00 - 7:30 PM**
Pepperwood’s Bechtel House
2130 Pepperwood Preserve Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

An afternoon with Maya Kholsa featuring poetry written in response to the Sonoma fires. Please bring your poem and encourage others to bring theirs! Free and open to the public; signup is required. Refreshments will be served.

Find more information at https://socolitupdate.com/current-calendar-of-literary-events/
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: cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com