General Meeting:
Restoration of the Southeast Greenway and its Value to You
With Steve Barnhart
September 20, 2016 at 7:30pm

The City of Santa Rosa, in concert with a variety of community partners, is currently deciding the future development and use of the old highway 12 right-of-way which extends from Farmer’s Lane east to Spring Lake Regional Park. This 57 acre strip of land, currently referred to as the Southeast Greenway (SEG), will be assessed, appraised and zoned within 12 to 18 months. These decisions are contingent upon the selection of “best uses.” Steve will outline the reasons for why these “best uses” should include the restoration of much of the SEG to native woodlands, prairie, creeks and wetlands. Steve’s talk will emphasize the importance of trees and tree dominated communities to this landscape from a variety of perspectives, including ecological, economic, health, education and recreation. Learn more at: www.southeastgreenway.org

About the Speaker:
Steve Barnhart spent 41 years as a college professor, 37 at Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC), where he taught biology, botany and ecology. He has also taught a variety of field classes across the western United States and consulted with local, state and regional parks on vegetation management and restoration issues. Steve recently retired as Academic Director for the Pepperwood Foundation and Preserve, where he administered the college/adult environmental education program in cooperation with SRJC and provided direction to research and stewardship programs

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 19th, if you plan to attend
Chapter News

Education and Outreach Activities

Once again we're beginning our busiest time of the year for our Milo Baker Chapter Education and Outreach Committee. We're seeking interested volunteers who enjoy interacting with the public and sharing their knowledge of CNPS in general, our chapter activities including the October Plant Sale, and the wonderful world of California's amazingly diverse flora. Volunteer shifts last two hours and we need two to three people per shift depending upon the location of the activity. We provide informational materials, handouts, etc.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 10am to 4pm
NATURE AND OPTICS FAIR, at the Sonoma Plaza area next door to Vallejo's Sonoma Barracks. Two hour shifts, 2 people per shift. 9-12, 12-2, and 2-4 including break down.

The above activity will include a general information table with an emphasis on our upcoming October Plant Sale and the benefits of landscaping with California Natives.

OCTOBER 8, 2016, Milo Baker Plant Sale, 9am-1pm., Veterans Memorial Building. 2 two hour shifts, 1-2 people per shift.

OCTOBER 29, 2016, Saturday, 10am-4pm, THE NORTH BAY SCIENCE DISCOVERY DAY at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds (Indoor building for us). Two hour shifts with a minimum of three people per shift. Set up starts 8:30. Shifts are 10-12, 12-2, and 2-4. Most of our set up accomplished the day before.

The North Bay Science Discovery Day is a very large, well-attended event and excellent exposure for CNPS and our chapter. Those of you who participated last year will remember the enthusiastic crowds of 3rd through 8th grade students, parents, teachers and interested adults from all walks of life. We are one of 100 exhibitors in this very popular family event. Our subject last year focused on Plant Galls and literally hundreds of people came away knowing about something they see, but don't often think about.

Our science question this year is "What do plant roots do?" (including bulbs, corms, rhizomes, tap roots, tubers and more!) We'll again have an interactive booth where visitors can explore and ask questions as well as learn about what CNPS is and does.

We invite you to join us for these stimulating and energizing educational activities and help us share the CNPS mission with people. To volunteer for one of the above activities please contact either Education and Outreach Co-chairs, Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven, vsteenhoven@sonic.net (707)528-6030 or Lea Davis, legil42@sbcglobal.net.

Plant Sale News

CASA GRANDE POTTING WORKSHOP: A SUCCESS
On August 6, we held our fourth and final potting workshop of the season at Casa Grande High School. Teacher John Shribbs has retired and a new teacher Dan Hubacker is overseeing the growing ground. 9 of us gathered and we potted up 700 plants in a little over two hours! Everyone worked so well together. The plants were supplied by Shooting Star Propagation Nursery in Graton.

Thanks to our members Penny Dalton, Cindy Tancrero, Kathi Dowdakin, Rob Fox, Alan Brubaker, Ed Niehus, Mary Aldrich, Pat Sesser and Wendy Born.

We potted up liners of Atriplex lentiformis (Quailbush), Ceanothus ‘El Dorado’, Cornus sericea (red twig dogwood), Festuca ‘Tomales
Bay’ (a grass), *Lonicera ciliosa* (orange-flowered honeysuckle), nine different varieties of *Mimulus*(!), *Penstemon* ‘Blue Springs’ and P.’ Margarita BOP’ (both blue flowered), *Physocarpus capitata* (ninebark), *Rhamnus* ‘Eve Case’, *Ribes s.g.*, *Spirea densiflora*, *Symphoricarpus* (snowberry), *Verbena* ‘de la Mina’, and several varieties of *Epilobium canum* (Zauschneria, CA fuchsia).

It was a very successful day and now we look forward to our sale on October 8. (See flyer).

**SEED PACKAGING WORKSHOP AND POTLUCK- WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28**

We will meet at Liz’s house in Kenwood for a potluck and seed packaging. Come any time after 5 PM to help with this important task. No experience necessary. Last year we has over 25 species of seeds at the sale. If you have seeds to contribute, you can bring them to the September 20 general meeting. This is a special feature of our sale and we can be proud of this. We will also offer bulbs from Brent and Becky’s. Although this year they do not have any Calochortus.

**PRICING FOR THE SALE**

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, October 3 (Casa Grande), Tuesday, October 4 (Sebastopol), Wednesday, October 5 (Cal Flora), or Thursday, October 6 (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 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:

1. Mary Aldrich, 4775 Newanga, SR, SR, 539-9005

2. Cal Flora Nursery, D and Sommers, Fulton, 528-8813

**Plant Sale News**

The flyer for our 45th plant sale features an illustration by Lynn Colborn. It features *Mimulus aurantiacus*, one of the most widely grown Mimulus. We will have 10 varieties at the sale.

I have posted a list of the plants that we potted up at our four workshops on the website www.milobaker.cnps.org As always, we will shop for plants at Cal Flora in Fulton. I am sorry to report that Margaret and Walter Earle of Mostly Natives in Tomales have retired. They have been big supporters of our sale for over 30 years and we will miss them and their plants.

I am very excited about the number of plants that we are growing this year. We will have a great selections of ferns this year. Sword ferns (*Polistichum munitum*) and a deer ferns (*Blechnum spicant*) we will have in good numbers. However, the following ferns were dug up from members gardens and there will be limited quantities—northern maidenhair fern (*Adiantum jordanii*), *Adiantum x tracyi* (a cross of *A. jordanii* and *A. aleuticum*) and Lyman’s fern (*Polypody californicum v. lymani*), and giant chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*).

In December, we potted up over 50 PCN hybrid iris...in beautiful colors including striped gold, striped brown, red-violet w/gold blaze, magenta, lavender w/yellow. I will have about 10 seedlings from my garden. The seedlings will be interesting colors since they are grown from seeds from my extensive collection but they have not bloomed yet. They are one or two years old. We will also have many of the straight species - *Iris douglasiana*. My garden is abaze with California fuchsia aka Zauschneria. It blooms profusely from July until the first frost and the bright red-orange flowers make it the star of the late summer garden. The hummingbirds love it! It should be planted in the hottest, driest part of the garden and every garden should have this stunning plant. It responds well to a little
water, but not too much because it spreads by underground runners and might invade other parts of the garden. The sale will feature many California fuchsias (Epilobium sp.). Epilobium canum ‘Calistoga’ is a variety that Phil Van Soelen (co-owner of California Flora Nursery in Fulton) collected in the Palisades near Calistoga in Napa County. It grows to 1 foot tall with wide grey-green leaves and scarlet flowers. It is a slow spreader. Other varieties that we will have include E.c. ‘Chaparral Silver’ (very flat with bright red flowers), and E.c. ‘Schieffelin’s Choice’ a nice gray leaved species that grows to 1’ tall, E. ‘Everett’s Choice’ is back. We will also have an unusual E. ‘Marin Pink’ which has pink flowers and is also a slow grower. We will also have 10 varieties of shrubby Salvias. Salvia clevelandii ‘Allen Chickering’ is shrubby (5’ tall x 6’ wide) with lavender flowers and grey leaves. S. leucophylla ‘Pt. Sal’ was successful this year, we will have 20 of them at the sale. Salvia spathacea (hummingbird sage) which creeps by underground runners and has large pink flowers. Other varieties will be S. ‘Winifred Gilman’, S. brandegeei ‘Pacific Blue’, S. ‘Calamity Jane’, S. ‘Bee’s Bliss’, S. ‘Pozo Blue’, S. Dara’s Choice’, as well as S. munzii (blue flowers) and S. apiana (white sage). There will be Mimulus aurantiacus, sticky monkeyflower, and 8 named varieties. These Mimulus are very drought tolerant and love a sunny location with little summer water. Creating a mass planting with several different colors is a great idea for lots of summer color...so buy more than one. We will have the following varieties... ‘Orange’, ‘Vibrant Red’, ‘Eleanor’/’Pumpkin’, ‘White’, ‘UC Hybrid’ and a new one simply called ‘Red’ that is a profuse bloomer and a very sturdy plant. Other unusual plants at the sale include: Atriplex lentiformis - quailbush, Myrica (new name Morella) californica (wax myrtle), Physocarpus capitatus - Ninebark, Cornus sericea-red twig dogwood, and Penstemon heterophyllus ‘Margaret BOP’ and ‘Blue Springs’.

Grasses will include Muhlenbergia rigens, basket or deer grass and Festuca idahoensis ‘Tomales Bay’.

If you like plants with brown/green flowers, there will be a few Dutchman’s Pipe (Aristolochia californica) at the sale (look at the habitat table) and wild ginger (Asarum caudatum) which is such a successful ground cover for the north side of the house or in any shady location.

Even though the rains returned, we live in a Mediterranean climate with 6 hot dry months. Our natives are drought-tolerant and can be used in a water-wise landscape, also called a xeriscape. Manzanitas (Arctostaphylos) and CA wild lilacs (Ceanothus) are shrubs that are native to the chaparral ecosystem and perfect for this sort of landscaping. Manzanitas and wild lilacs are evergreen plants that come in sizes from small shrubby ground covers to large (15’) shrubs. Ceanothus, or CA wild lilac, is a drought tolerant plant that fits well in the dry garden and in the habitat garden. At the sale we will have Ceanothus ‘Dark Star’, a stunning shrub that has electric blue flowers and grows to 6’x6’. C. griseus horizontalis ‘Yankee Point’ is a ground cover (to 2 ft.) with shiny green leaves and striking light blue flowers.

Manzanitas (Arctostaphylos) are another large group of plants from the chaparral. At the sale, we will have Arctostaphylos canescens ‘Emerald Carpet’ an introduction from Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden that is very popular. A ground cover that forms a dense mat of shining emerald-green leaves, decorated by white/pink flowers in the winter. It requires moderate watering in hot summer areas. Arctostaphylos uva-ursi ‘Pt. Reyes’ is another ground cover manzanita rather similar to the A.c. ‘Emerald Carpet’. A. densiflora ‘Howard McMinn’ (5’x5’), the most versatile and popular shrub for almost any location. It is covered with white/pink flower in the spring. A. ‘Pacific Mist’ is a low growing (to 2’) shrub with gray leaves and red stems. A real beauty.

There will be a table featuring habitat plants are the sale. We hope that Sonoma Counties
own butterfly expert, Louise Hallberg, will be able to attend to answer all of your butterfly plant questions.

On Friday night October 7, we will need truckers to transport plants from the collection centers to the Vet’s Memorial Building. Call Liz if you have a truck and can help. Getting plants from Casa Grande High School in Petaluma requires about 3 trucks. We welcome everyone to our sale and want to provide the plants that they need for their particular purpose. I welcome suggestions. If you have any plant that you would like to see at our sale, let me know and perhaps we will be able to fulfill your request. An almost complete list of plants is on the website www.milobaker.cnps.org

If you helped at our sale last year, Judy Hartwig (823-1821) will be calling you soon to ask you to volunteer. I hope that all members will help us again. This is a huge effort and WE NEED YOU!

Call Judy and volunteer. We need cashiers, salespersons, drivers, and help in many areas. Please mark your calendars for October 7 and 8 and plan to help us by working at the sale. If you can’t work, please come by and shop for plants. Only workers can purchase plants on Friday evening before the sale, so make plans to work for the sale and this special privilege will be yours.

The work of the Milo Baker Chapter depends on the success of our plant sale. Our members are our best customers. Please tell your friends to attend and buy plants. Please place our flyer in an area near your home. If everyone does this we will blanket the county with the information.

Fall is planting season in California. The soil is still warm and the roots will grow slowly through the rainy season. The following spring, the well rooted plants are ready to survive the summer heat. A plant planted in the spring does not have a well-developed root system and will have difficulty surviving through the summer.

FALL IS PLANTING TIME IN CALIFORNIA

Liz Parsons

Events

Sunset and Cornerstone Gardens
23570 Arnold Drive (south of the 4 way stop at 116 and 121) Sonoma
September 15, Thursday

11am meet to form carpools at Hwy 12 Park & Ride north of the fairgrounds – meet at the east end of the lot.
Noon – picnic lunch at the gardens or purchase lunch there.
1pm – escorted tour of the gardens. $10

Have you heard about the new Sunset demonstration gardens in Sonoma but haven’t been there? Now is your chance. Can’t promise we will see many native plants but we will see a variety of small gardens for our climate, including one designed by our own Roger Raiche and David McCrory (Planet Horticulture) Then we will see Sunset Magazine’s new ¼ acre Farm and Home demonstration gardens.

We need a minimum of 10 people for the tour. Cost is $10 each. Contact Betty Young with questions and to reserve your spot, youngb0721@msn.org, 595-1463.

Betty Young
Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

Newsletter & Web Site Info:
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbsnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the Oct
Newsletter is September 15.
The chapter web site milobaker.cnps.org
contains a wealth of information plus
current and archived newsletters.
For newsletter mailing/membership issues,
contact:
 cnpsmbsmembership@gmail.com