General Meeting
Annual Chapter Picnic
August 18, 2013
Liz Parson’s home in Kenwood
The Milo Baker Chapter Annual Picnic will be held at Liz’s Kenwood Home at 8 Turtle Creek Drive. Liz’s garden is located on Sonoma Creek and has a lot of interesting riparian vegetation. The Sonoma Ecology Center has been revegetating the area after getting rid of vinca and blackberries, and Liz has planted an interesting mix of natives and Mediterranean plants in a continually evolving scene.
Bring a dish to share and your own table setting. There will be a propane bar-b-que available. We will meet at 3:00 pm and a potluck dinner will be served at 4:00. Call Liz for more information, 833-2063.

Upcoming Programs:
For the September meeting, Peter Veilleux will be giving a program on gardening with natives to prepare us for our 42nd annual plant sale. In October, Curtis Short will be speaking on the advantages of fall planting of California native plants. In November, Rachel Zierdt will be our speaker, talking about the mushrooms of Northern California.

Plant ID Hour
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 July 9th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
Chapter News

Chapter Council Meeting
Walker Creek Ranch, Marin Co.
May 31/ June 1-2, 2013
The California Native Plant Society held the second Chapter Council meeting of the year at the Walker Creek Ranch in Marin County. The meeting was hosted by the Marin Chapter, the Napa Chapter, and by the Milo Baker Chapter. I am proud to report that it was a great success. On Friday night, the three chapters served dinner to the assembled delegates and the Board of Directors, who met that afternoon. The Council, with President David Magney, met on Saturday and continued through Sunday. Roger Raiche spoke after Saturday’s dinner. He presented an excellent program on The Cedars. The next meeting will be in Arcata on September 6-8. The focus of the meeting will be conservation. Following are some of the highlights of the Council meeting:

a) The CNPS publication committee announced that in partnership with Heyday Press, CNPS will publish the Flora of Napa County, The Flora of San Francisco, the Flora of King’s Canyon, and will re-print the Flora of Kern County. Phyllis Faber is helping with the publications.

b) The Conservation Campaign was a big success. The campaign raised $97,700.00 almost reaching the $100,000.00 goal. This money will greatly enhance our ability to carry out the conservation mandate. Part of that mandate is protecting rare plants. CNPS announced that they are beginning a RARE CAMPAIGN. The Rare Campaign is an effort to promote the conservation of rare plants and the CNPS Rare Plant Program through education and fundraising.

c) The Bylaws Committee reported that they have completed the revision of the bylaws and a lawyer is reviewing them to see that they satisfy the CA Corporation Statutes. At the September meeting, the new bylaws will be voted on. Any comments or suggestions should be made immediately.

d) The Council voted to make Doreen Smith a Fellow of the CNPS. Doreen in a member of the Marin Chapter and attended the dinner and received her award after dinner.

e) As of April, 2013, the Milo Baker Chapter had 385 members.

f) There is a new chapter--our 34th and it is in Baja, Mexico. They are working closely with the San Diego Chapter.

g) The next CNPS Conference will be in January 10-17, 2015 in San Jose at the Doubletree. This will be our 50th Anniversary. We have every reason to celebrate!

h) Executive Director Dan Glusenkamp gave a report. We have received a $54,000.00 bequest from the Scott and Jenny Fleming estate. The funds are unrestricted, but the Chapter Council advised the following: $10,000.00 for the Educational Grants and $44,000.00 for Chapter needs. The CNPS will be hiring 3 new staff members--a horticulture person and a person to serve chapter needs and a person to replace a departing staff member who coordinated membership processing and development.
Cunningham Marsh June Workdays!!!!!
With unbelievably cool weather for June 9th & 10th, 15 volunteers eagerly accomplished work to be done on Cunningham Marsh. Most all the 8 exclosures were weeded free of Holcus (invasive velvet grass), exposing many tiny Pitkin Lily plants. New lilies were discovered outside one of the exclosures by John Herrick. Trails were almost completely opened, cutting back native and non-native blackberries as well as Holcus. Exclosure #9 was completely weeded by Betty Young and Pat Chan, exposing a whole city of baby lilies. As this exclosure is totally in the sun, it was covered by shade cloth to try to protect the small plants, as previously Holcus had been giving them shade. Finishing up the second day, extra smaller oaks in the big field were eliminated from the milk cartons, leaving the strongest to grow. To top all of this off was the early blooming of the Pitkin Lilies, giving many good photo ops. A wonderful two days of getting lots done in cool weather. Besides John, Betty and Pat, much thanks goes to Rainbow and Lorraine Francom, Kathi Dowdakin, Rob Fox, Dan Noreen, Franny Miniverni-Zick, Judith Rousseau, Wendy Born, Giel Witt and Claire Warner.

Marcia Johnson
Steward, Cunningham Marsh
owlsnesttwo@att.net

Wanted: Your knowledge of special vegetation in Sonoma County
As we wrote in the June newsletter, the Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District is leading the effort to produce a detailed vegetation classification and map of Sonoma County. The District’s Vegetation Mapping Team (which includes Tukman Geospatial LLC, CNPS, and Prunuske-Chatham, Inc.) will collect field data this summer/fall and during spring of 2014. California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (VegCAMP) will also be collecting field data. These field samples will form the basis for the descriptions of all the types of vegetation in the county. If you know the location of stands of rare, unique, or excellent quality vegetation types that we should sample, please contact us. We would also like to hear about stands on lands owned by people who would be willing to allow sampling to occur on their property.

Contact:
Joan Schwan: 824-4601 x 131, jschwan@pcz.com
Julie Evens (916) 327-0714, jevens@cnps.org
Diana Hickson (916) 327-5956, Diana.Hickson@wildlife.ca.gov
Todd Keeler-Wolf (916) 708-2059, Todd.Keeler-Wolf@wildlife.ca.gov
Conservation Briefs

Santa Rosa Airport Runway Extension:
The most recent public hearing was June 20 on the federal (NEPA) draft Environmental Assessment. Comments deadline on the draft Environmental Assessment is Monday July 1. The draft Environmental Assessment can be reviewed at:
http://www.sonomacountyairport.org/news-business

Groundbreaking is anticipated for later this summer. The proposed project will result in the loss of 4.46 acres of habitat occupied historically by Burke’s goldfields (Lasthenia burkei). The FAA safety regulations prohibit on-site wetland mitigation. Most of mitigation will occur outside the Windsor area in banks south of Santa Rosa Creek (Guerneville Rd). Watch for reports at the above address, in the press, and on our website.

Preservation Ranch:
The purchase of about 20,000 acres by the Conservation Fund was completed on May 31st, with funds from several sources. Specifics of the conservation easement and logging plans will be upcoming.

Artesa forest conversion project:
This project has been held up due to ongoing litigation.

Sonoma County Tree Ordinance:
At our June meeting, The Milo Baker CNPS board approved in principle to join Forests Unlimited in requesting a review of the county tree ordinance by the supervisors to strengthen its protections for tree habitat.

SCAPOSD Projects:
The Open Space District has initiated the Sonoma County Vegetation and Habitat Mapping Project awarding the project to Tukman Geospatial and Prunuske & Chatham. While we were disappointed that our own CNPS Sacramento staff were not awarded the contract, CNPS Vegetation Program Director Julie Evens is working closely with the district on the project, and some local botanists will be working on the effort. Another of the District’s projects is “to perform economic analysis of the value of conservation” called ‘Healthy Lands, Healthy Economies’, a project funded through the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and is a 3 county effort with Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties.

Building development:
Many projects approved before the ‘great recession’ are now coming up for final approval. This was the case with Range Ranch in Santa Rosa, a project that had been put on the back burner. Many old trees have been cleared to make way for this residential project. A small park is planned at the site, but a very old majestic valley oak will be lost, due to ‘safety concerns’. Another resurrected project is for the construction of 29 homes at 2028 Piner Road where illegal fill and grading of wetlands had occurred prior to December 2012. This will require mitigation. Work will start sometime this summer. Comment and correction are welcome on the above information.

Wendy Smit
Conservation Chair
wendysmit@hughes.net

In Memorandum - Rose Lea Rhodes
April 26, 1934 - May 8, 2013
Our member Rose Rhodes passed away on May 8 at the Sonoma Valley Hospital. She helped the Chapter in many ways. For years she organized the mailing of the newsletter - this a service that we now
must pay for. She helped with membership and was a volunteer at the plant sale. Rose grew up on a farm near Miller, Missouri. Her surviving older sister, Jean, still lives in Miller as do Rose’s nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her younger sister, Jo. Rose moved to North Hollywood when she was 11 and graduated from Hollywood High School. She worked in the travel industry and was with Trans World Airlines (TWA) for 29 years as a ticket agent and in other capacities, arranging travel around the world for her customers and dealing with damaged luggage and other duties as required. This was an important job in the years before the internet! She retired from TWA in 1985 and has been volunteering since then. First, she volunteered in Los Angeles with Meals on Wheels and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). She moved to Kenwood/Glen Ellen in 1991 because she wanted to live in the country again. Since then she has volunteered for the public library, the Kenwood Community Club, the California Native Plant Society, the Sonoma County Permit and Resources Department (PRMD), the Wildlife Center of Kenwood, Bright Haven for Animals, and for other organizations concerned with the welfare of animals, including caring for 50 cats that live in a barn near Sonoma and for her favorite, Joey, a dog on wheels who was injured by a car. She will be missed by her many friends. Donations can be sent to:

Bright Haven
5465 Bravo Toro Lane
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Donations will be used to care for Joey.

Still Seeking Newsletter Editor
We are still seeking a volunteer to take on the roll of Newsletter Editor. The responsibilities of the position include:
- Establish and publicize clear timelines for each edition; remind people about upcoming and/or missed deadlines for articles
- Select good current interest pieces when appropriate; decide what material goes where in each edition
- Edit the newsletter content
- Ensure that both proofreading and mailing are on schedule
- Email the newsletter to the printer

The Newsletter Editor must be computer literate, a team player, highly motivated, and a good manager. If you can fill this role, or can recommend someone who might be interested, please contact cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com.

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

Attack Of The Mealybugs
I had an “Oh, NO!” day in my garden in May. I discovered that four of my hillside manzanitas had mealy bugs! The sucking insects were on the ground in the mulch, they were lodged in all the nodes of twigs, they were on the main trunk and they were on the leaves, which were turning yellow and drying up. I know mealy bugs from the days that I had houseplants…they are tough to get rid of. I never imagined that they could show up on manzanitas! I also knew that plants don’t normally become pest-infected unless they are stressed for some reason. So I became a
bug-detector and examined the shrubs’ environment and the possible reasons for this attack. I think I have solved the causes and I have squished and squashed and rubbed out as many of the little white cottony nests as possible. I then used a Safer product spray with pyrethrins and stashed liquid ant traps at the base of each shrub, wondering if they were doing the “milking” as they do with aphids.

I believe the causes were dual. The manzanitas were not receiving their maximum amount of sunshine, nor the maximum amount of air circulation. I had mulched with fallen oak leaves all around their trunks over the years, and unfortunately, the mulch was right up to the trunks. There were lots of other plants crowding around and shading...even though they were natives doing the crowding, they were not allowing air and sun to penetrate into the manzanitas. I thought about what a manzanita forest looks like: There is no understory and the leaf mulch is of manzanita leaves only. I had been doing a lot in error. Although I think I know a fair amount about gardening, I had allowed the manzanitas area in my yard to become overgrown with other plants. I think I have “fixed” it, but I continue to squish new-looking nests and I hope that the manzanitas will now be happy enough to outgrow these rascally bugs! A bitter lesson and I hope of some help to you who have manzanitas or other chaparral-type shrubs and plants in your yard!

Judy Brinkerhoff
joodbrink@comcast.net

**Plant Sale News**

On May 19th, 14 of us gathered at Cal Flora Nursery and we potted up over 400 liners in 2 hours. We are really getting good at this! Thanks to Rob Fox, Kathi Dowdikin, Janet Ross, Leah Davis, Cindy Tancreto, Penny Dalton, Pat Sesser, Becky Montgomery, Deb Dobish, Elmarie Hutchinson, Sandy Martensen, Steve Long, and Theresa Wistrom for their hard work. Much thanks to Dan and Nancy at Shooting Star Propagation for the liners of Ceanothus, Erigeron, columbine, and other plants that we are growing for the sale at members’ homes.

Our fourth and final potting workshop will be on Saturday, August 10, at Casa Grande High School in Petaluma at 10 AM. We will be potting up fast growing Salvias, Mimulus, Ribes, and Zauschnerias. All of these plants will be available at the October 12 plant sale. Mark your calendars.

**Events and Items of Interest**

**Geology of Jenner Headlands with Loren Raymond**

**July 13, 2013 Saturday 10 am – 3 pm**

Rock out with the Sonoma Land Trust and The Wildlands Conservancy on the Jenner
Headlands as we tour the coastal prairie with Geologist Loren Raymond! Come and learn about the unique geologic history that has shaped the Jenner Headlands and the Sonoma coast over time, and understand what a truly amazing landscape we live in. The strenuous 4.5-mile roundtrip hike will ascend more than 800 feet in elevation and, along the way, hikers will be greeted with dazzling views of the Sonoma Coast (on clear days!) Some sections of the route are especially rough with uneven footing; being in good physical condition is a must. Pre-registration is required. Register online at sonomalandtrust.org or email outings@sonomalandtrust.org.

Ecology of Edible and Medicinal Natives: Traditional and Scientific Perspectives
July 24, 2013 Wednesday 9 am – 4 pm
This classroom and field course will give participants the knowledge of how to combine available science, traditional knowledge and current interest in wild foods as a basis for instruction in the sustainable use of native plants. The classroom section will focus on the scientific information supporting native plants for food and health, as well as top priorities for additional research and an overview of sustainability issues. Participants will receive hands-on demonstrations of current processing methods of edible and medicinal native plants and sample recipes. The field portion will be conducted at 3,000' in the Sierra Nevada region, near Nevada City, California, with views of Donner Summit and the Yuba River, and will focus on identifying edible and medicinal natives in the field and reviewing uses within traditional, Native American ecology. Taught by Alicia Funk, co-author of Living Wild, Flicker Press, 2013, and Farrell Cunningham, Mountain Maidu teacher
Cost: is $175 for CNPS members or $200 for Non-members.
Register online at: https://support.cnps.org/pages/education-workshops/2013_ecology-of-edible

Nature Journaling at Sonoma Land Trust’s Estero Americano Preserve with Joseph Kinyon
July 28, 2013 Sunday 10 am – 2 pm
Join naturalist Joseph Kinyon, Sonoma Land Trust’s GIS manager, for a day of nature journaling at Estero Americano Preserve. Learn how to create a nature journal as a tool for deepening your experience of the natural world. Enjoy some time alone exploring the preserve and recording your observations. You don’t need to be an artist or a poet! All it takes is a willing and inquisitive mind.
Pre-registration is required. Register online at sonomalandtrust.org or email outings@sonomalandtrust.org.
Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

Newsletter & Web Site Info:
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the July
Newsletter is August 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
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Vice President: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com
Secretary: OPEN
Treasurer: Jim Piercy, 539-9225, terrapenecarolinamajor@yahoo.com
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Field Trips: OPEN
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Field Trips: OPEN
Invasive Plant Chair: ML Carle, 792-1823, mlml@sonic.net
Legislative Chair: OPEN
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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
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Southridge Preserve: 539-3441, terrapenecarolinamajor@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

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