General Meeting: Wreath-Making Workshop
December 19, 2017  7:30 PM

Our December meeting will once again be our traditional wreath-making workshop. Liz Parsons will give you a few simple instructions and you will discover how easy it is to make a spectacular wreath for your home and family. The Milo Baker Chapter will provide wreath rings, paddle wire, and greens for the wreaths. To add special personal touches, please bring anything that you want to use for your wreath: pine cones, lichen, ribbons, etc. No red berries please—they are very hard to clean up after. Remember to bring your clippers. There will be cookies and hot cider for holiday cheer and Rob Fox will sing. Call Liz 833-2063 if you have any questions.

Note: We will not meet for dinner before the December meeting.

January General Meeting: January 16, 2018 at 7:30 PM.
Wildscaping for Songbirds with Veronica Bowers

Abstract: Your garden is your outdoor sanctuary. With some careful plant choices, it can be a haven for native birds as well. Landscaped with native species, your yard, patio, or balcony becomes a vital recharge station for migratory birds passing through and a sanctuary for nesting and overwintering birds. Each patch of restored native habitat is just that – a patch in the frayed fabric of the ecosystem in which it lies. By landscaping, or wildscaping, with native plants, we can turn a patchwork of green spaces into a quilt of restored habitat. More native plants mean more choices of food and shelter for native birds, native pollinators and other wildlife. Wildscaping for Songbirds will demonstrate the importance of restoring our communities, one garden patch at a time. From a birds-eye view, learn how to create wildlife-friendly gardens that help combat the loss of open spaces and create green corridors that link your wildscape to larger natural areas by providing habitat for wildlife.

Join us for Dinner before the January 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 January 14th, if you plan to attend.
Chapter News

Acorn Collection Efforts

Everyone around the state, and especially those of us that live here want to help with fire recovery. You may have received an e-mail from CNPS Executive Director, or noticed on social media that CNPS has asked folks to mail in acorns to be used in recovery. So far we have received over 300 batches of acorns. They were prepared for cold storage by our own chapter members.

Thanks so much to; Penny Dalton, Wendy Krupnick, Michelle Karle, Judith Rousseau, Louise Riedel, Marcia Johnson, Walter Earle, Margaret Graham, Betsy Livingstone, Cindy Tancreto ML Carle, Mae Carle, Chelsea Dickson, Ben Verduin, Deb Dobish, Cheryl Harris, Wendy Smit, Wendy Herniman, Steve Smit, Jan Lochner, Natasha Granoff. Whether you were out climbing hillsides near the fire zones to collect or helped with the multi-step process of cleaning, preparing for storage and recording acorns. This huge project could not have happened without your time and energy.

Thanks to you all.

Betty Young

Wonderful November Meeting

Thank you to all who attended our November Meeting featuring Audubon Canyon Ranch’s Fire Ecologist, Sasha Berleman. We look forward to next year’s follow-up presentation about the fire ecology program at Bouverie Preserve.

Grateful for our Dedicated Volunteers

This is the moment in time to acknowledge the power of one demonstrated by two special individuals. These two women have sustained a continual effort toward a worthy goal, all by themselves over time. Penny Dalton continued pulling ice plant weekly at Doran Beach, keeping the project alive and progressing. Now the inlet is almost cleared (and we can move on to the next one). Peggy Calkins helped remove thistle at the Laguna Uplands for hours and days, and has continued weekly on her own to monitor and pull thistle and blackberries. These ladies have taken a landscape to heart and I personally honor and thank them.

Jan Lochner

Events

I am starting to plan spring field trips with a focus on burned areas. If you know of a site and the flora at that site, (you don’t have to know every plant, we would love to have more people leading field trips). Thanks to Ann Howald for already volunteering, but we need more. If interested, please contact me at byoung.cnps@gmail.com

Betty Young

Full House at November General Meeting
Plant Sale News

We held our second "abbreviated" plant sale during a break in the rains at the Willowside Middle School Nursery grounds on Saturday, November 11. While not quite as successful as our sale there on October 21, we still raised $4200 for the Chapter. This brings our Fall Plant Sale gross to $10,900, which is excellent, given the circumstances.

Once again, our Members proved to be our best customers, but many more folks did find us in our changed location. Additionally, we signed up eight new members on Saturday, which may be a record! People were also coming by to sign up to assist Betty Young with the acorn collecting she's been doing, ultimately to propagate oak trees for restoration projects in eastern Sonoma County.

We had five past-presidents of Milo Baker at the sale -- chatting, comparing notes, and making plans: Betty Young, Reny Parker, Leia Giambastiani, Peter Warner, and Walter Earle. Ann Howald was also in attendance, and I definitely felt that the future of our fire-ravished wildlands will be in caring and capable hands, thanks to these very knowledgeable and dedicated people.

I would also like to thank the volunteers who e-mailed hundreds of people; labeled & priced plants; cleaned tables; loaded & unloaded trucks; hand-carried over 600 plants multiple times; set up & took down tables, chairs, shade canopies; drew signs; created displays; made awesome cookies and cocoa; and then got down to the business (and fun!) of sharing years of practical experience of gardening with native plants. Volunteers were: Mary Aldrich, Wendy Born, Sharon Bouton, Penny Dalton, Lea Davis, Sue & John Dean, Deb Dobish, Walter Earle, Rob Fox, Michelle Karle, Liz King, Wendy Krupnick, Judy Johnson, Marcia Johnson, Betsy Livingstone, Terry Loveton, Becky & Bill Montgomery, Pat Sesser, Virginia Steenhoven, Cindy Tancreto, Peter Warner, Theresa Wistrom, & Betty Young.

The Plant Sale has several benefactors, for which we are very grateful:
Laguna Foundation -- shared their growing space with our Chapter since August
Shooting Star Propagations -- donated and propagated plant materials
California Flora Nursery -- donated premium quality plants
Walter Earle & Barbara Coe -- propagated and donated sought-after plants
Willowside School Nursery, Jan Lochner & Misty Fiddler -- shared their space for our sale, helped to advertise it, and also provided tables & shade canopies

Finally, I would like to thank the Propagation Group, some of whom literally went through fire to grow plants on for the Fall Sale. Let us not forget, these Plant Sales are our Chapter's primary fundraisers. Keeping these plants healthy and sellable - for an entire extra month this year! - was not an easy task. The growing zone must be disease-free and provide just the right amount of sunshine. Watering must be closely monitored, and vacation coverage has to be arranged. The plants must be protected from pests, grazers, and errant footballs. Judicious pruning is on-going. Some of these plants have been cared for at homes since December 2016. This is a major investment of time & energy, for all concerned. Kudos to: Betty Young, Dave Webster, Cindy Tancreto, Pat Sesser, Liz Parsons, Patty Mohar, Deb Dobish, Penny Dalton, Wendy Born, and I'll give myself a few pats on the back as well.

Kathi Dowdakin

Plant Sale Prep: Iris Workshop

There will be an iris division workshop in early December at Liz Parsons' house. Date to be determined. Call Liz at 833-2063 if you are interested.

Liz Parsons
Newsletter & Web Site Info:

Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the February Newsletter is January 15th.
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