May General Meeting: May 21, 2019 at 7:30 PM.

May's General meeting will focus on the mission and goals of the California Native Plant Society with several speakers. It will also include a brief honoring of one of our long term members, Board of Director's member and Plant Nursery Committee Chair, Betty Young, with a gift to her from the Milo Baker Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

Betty Young, a long time CNPS activist and member has been involved in CNPS on both a local and State level and is a former Director of GGNRA Restoration nurseries. She was recently nominated and elected a CNPS Fellow, a considerable honor. Betty has been a guiding light in the development of the native plant nursery our CNPS chapter shares with the Laguna Foundation. Betty wrote the grant that made the nursery possible including the overall design and was an active participant in guiding/negotiating the agreement between the two organizations.

General meeting attendees are invited to a reception with refreshments following the short general meeting.

General Meeting Plant Raffle
For 2019 general meetings, any member bringing a non-member to the meeting will receive an extra 5 raffle tickets! Ask when you sign in.

Join us for Dinner before the April Meeting: We'll gather for dinner at 5:45 pm at Kirin Restaurant, 2700 Yulupa Ave. We hope our speakers 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 before noon on the day of the meeting, if you plan to attend.
Chapter News

A Message from our Chapter President

If you have been out recently on a Milo Baker field trip you have met our new field trip chairperson. Ruthie Saia is a new member and has revitalized the field trip effort, now with 9 trips coming up. She enthusiastically rushes to explore every suggestion for a trip, is working with the rare plant folks at the state CNPS and is getting to know all our faithful leaders and special plant places.

Ruthie grew up on a ranch in Castro Valley where her family raised goats, rabbits and other livestock, plus they farmed their own food. She was a member of 4-H, attended the Napa camp where she led nature walks. She has far reaching interests from her profession as a Massage Therapist to work at nurseries, organic farms, and in landscape design. She has completed programs in herbal studies and permaculture. She makes her home in Graton. We are so lucky to have her on our board. If you see her at a meeting or in the field, you will have much to talk about!

May will be another fantastic month for wild and garden flowers. Registration is required at the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour (www.savingwaterpartnership.org) on May 4 but it is free. So many of our volunteers have been madly weeding and preparing for this annual event.

Wendy Smit
Milo Baker Chapter President

Eco-Friendly Garden Tour

May 4, 2019, 10AM-4PM

Each year, over 1000 people are introduced and inspired by native gardens on the Eco-Friendly Tour. It is a great way to educate about the importance of using natives in the garden and to introduce the public to CNPS.

Be sure to save the date on your calendar. Registration for the free tour at http://www.savingwaterpartnership.org/eco-friendly-garden-tour/.

Betty Young
Plant Nursery Chair

Photo courtesy of Betty Young; Ceanothus ssp.
Cunningham Marsh Lilies get Protection from Hungry Herbivores

Cunningham Marsh is a 19-acre Conservation Easement in West County. The easement is held by California Fish and Wildlife, while the land is owned by 4 homeowners. The easement is home to the endangered Pitkin Lily (Lilium pardilinum ssp. pitkenense), as well as other native marsh land plants.

The first week of April, despite wet & very muddy conditions, for 3 days, members from the Laguna Foundation’s Restoration & Conservation Science Programs Staff spent well-earned grant money wrapping hardware cloth around all of the exclosures. Joined by 4 volunteers from Team Prunus, they worked at a brisk pace to protect the Pitkin Lily from browsing by suspected Brush Rabbits.

State CNPS obtained a generous grant from a foundation, and, despite the trying conditions, the work is nearly complete. A great deal of thanks goes to Betty Young and Brent Reed for writing the grant request. And, a lot of thanks and respect goes to: Brent, Paul Weber, Asa Voight, Elias Lopez, Sam and Nick (Interns). Also, kudos to Team Prunus’ Giel, Skip, Max and Jim for all the fast Himalayan Blackberry removal from the fence lines…a very scratchy job.

Volunteers installing exclosures, courtesy of Marcia Johnson

© Marcia Johnson
Cunningham Marsh Steward

Raise Funds while Grocery Shopping!

eScrip is a program where merchants donate a percentage (usually 3%) of your purchase to local schools and nonprofit organizations.

To register: go to escrip.com, choose "Milo Baker-CA Native Plant Society" and complete the enrollment steps. This is an easy way to help support our chapter!
Invasive Plant Committee

Sonoma County
Volunteer Program Honors
Penny Dalton and Jan Lochner
for Ice Plant Removal!

John Ryan, the Volunteer/Intern Coordinator, Sonoma County Regional Parks, sent the following message to Jan Lochner and Penny Dalton:

“I want to thank you both so much for your work out at the Doran Marsh. I am truly grateful for all of your efforts coordinating and motivating volunteers to protect this threatened ecosystem. Because of your ongoing commitment to Doran, I nominated the two of you as Regional Parks’ Outstanding volunteers for 2018. You will be honored, along with 12 volunteers from other County departments, at the Volunteer Recognition Reception… I nominated both of you because your work creating, coordinating and motivating your fellow volunteers is truly special. As someone who does this for a living, I am always impressed by volunteers who take on the additional responsibility of coordinating their peers. It takes lots of communication, lots of cheerleading, and lots of perseverance to create a group that comes out once a week, 52 times a year, rain or shine. In my experience, it’s pretty rare to start, let alone sustain a volunteer group like the one you have put together. It’s a testament to your passion for the project as well as your people skills. I feel very fortunate that the two of you are volunteers with our organization.”

The CNPS crew that has participated in this project include: John Dean, Susan Dean, Judith Rousseau, Alan Karbousky, Cheryl Davey, Leslie Lihou, Marsha Johnson, Michelle Karle, and Karen Nuebel. Wonderful work!

Weekly Ice Plant Removal
Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 PM
Doran Beach

One of the most pleasant workdays happens every week – a trip to Doran Beach to pull ice plant. We are clearing out the ice plant that is in the marshland to make room for natives. It is very visual and quite satisfying, with the sound of the waves, birds and foghorn. To join us on a Wednesday, please text Jan to let her know that you are coming: 707-569-4724.

Meet at Penny’s 1201 Garden Lane, in Sebastopol, by 9:00 to carpool OR meet at first parking lot on left after kiosk across from the walking path.

Jan Lochner,
Invasive Plants Chair
Fieldtrip Report

Trione-Annadel State Park
Rare Plant Treasure Hunt and Monitoring
March 21, 2019

Setting out on a crisp and sunny morn, 15 dedicated plant nerds pursued the promise of the re-emergent spring flora at Trione-Annadel State Park. Led by California Rare Plant Treasure Hunt Manager Amy Patten, CNPS-Milo Baker Chapter Field Trips Coordinator Ruthie Saia-Braziel, and California State Parks Environmental Scientist Bill Miller, we poked along the winding trail at the usual lurching botanical pace to admire friends from seasons’ past, such as osoberry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), California lomatium (*Lomatium californicum*), white trillium (*Trillium albidum*), hound’s-tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*), scarlet fritillary (*Fritillaria recurva*), checker lily (*Fritillaria affinis*), and shooting-stars (*Primula hendersonii*), as well as one hovering and persistent Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) who joined us for lunch. These and many more green and glowing denizens of meadow and woodland nodded in acknowledgement as we made our way to the promised land: the fertile fields of fragrant fritillary (*Fritillaria liliacea*).

The general condition of the park’s metapopulation of *Fritillaria liliacea* is generally excellent, although ongoing human recreational activities are a concern. Foremost among the immediate deleterious impacts are off-trail soil compaction, vegetation removal, and erosion resulting from bicycles, horses, and pedestrians. CNPS would do well to partner with State Parks and local trail user groups to promote enhanced education (if not legal enforcement) about local ecology, sensitive plant and animal habitats, and visitor use impacts with recreational visitors to parks and other publicly accessible open spaces, in order to preserve wild and scenic features of Sonoma County and beyond, for all and for future generations to enjoy.

I am humbled and grateful for the commitment and diligence of our band of nature enthusiasts – a more rewarding, fulfilling day is difficult to conjure, yet I look forward to many more!

Peter Warner
Fieldtrip Report

Jepson Prairie Preserve Report
April 14, 2019

On April 14th, 2019 we hiked two pastures at Jepson Prairie. The first pasture, also known as the Docents’ triangle, was beginning to present the mid-season flora Jepson Prairie has become known to produce.

The weekend public hikes always begin with a presentation by specially trained and federally licensed docent’s commonly known as ‘dippers’. As the group was driving to Jepson we were uncertain what time we’d arrived. As luck would have it, the group arrived as the invertebrate presentation for the public hike was completed and was treated to the same presentation offered every Saturday and Sunday.

We then proceeded to walk the shoreline of Olcott Playa, the largest of the alkaline pools on Jepson Prairie. The flora observed as we trekked along the path included Triphysaria eriantha (Butter and eggs), Lasthenia gracilis (California goldfields), Lasthenia fremontii (Vernal pool goldfields), Cotula coronopifolia (Brass buttons - non-native), Achyrachaaena mollis (Blow wives), Cicendia quadrangularis (Timwort), Blennosperma nanum (yellow carpet), Viola pedunculata (California golden violet), Plagiobothrys humistratus (Small popcornflower), Limnanthes douglasii ssp. rosea (Meadowfoam), Castilleja campestris (Field Owl’s Clover), Amsinckia menziesii (Fiddleneck), Mimulus guttatus (Seep spring monkeyflower), and Asmispon wrangelianus (California lotus).

We then hiked back to the picnic area for lunch and conversation. After lunch part of the group left and purchased 4 privately held properties creating a preserve for one of the most historically dominant ecosystems in California. Once occupying the central valley the vernal pool habitat has lost more than 90% of its original coverage. The conservancy then worked with local officials to create a non-profit organization to take over the preservation and restoration of the property. The Solano County Open Space Foundation has now become the Solano Land Trust.
the remainder hiked into Buck Pasture which is just south of the Olcott playa pool. We observed two species not already seen. Downingia concolor (Fringed downingia) and a plant likely to be Agoseris.

We also examined a couple of enclosures which are part of a multi-year research project being conducted by a Professor employed by the University of Colorado. It’s a reminder all of our preserves, including Jepson Prairie Preserve are not just a place for a wildflower walk. The seven preserves under the protection of the Solano Land Trust are constantly being researched by universities as well as professional botanists, entomologists, and agriculturists from around the world.

Doug Wirtz

Events

Saddle Mountain Agricultural and Open Space Preserve
May 19, 2019 9:30-2 PM
With Peter Warner

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the west end of the Sonoma County Library parking lot on Montecito Blvd., immediately adjacent to Maria Carrillo High School and playing fields for mandatory ride-sharing. Bring water, lunch, and the usual plant walk necessities, and dress for the weather expected.

We will walk up to 5 miles, slow pace, moderately strenuous, into forests and grasslands. This walk is the first for CNPS on this OSD Preserve, a result of the efforts in negotiating an agreement between OSD and CNPS. Part of our work will be recording and documenting (photographing) plants on the Preserve.

West county carpool leaves at 9:00 from Sebastopol Luckys.

Environmental Community Spring Social
May 19, 2019 3-6PM
Nolans Ranch in Forestville

See the Nolan Ranch as it is today, with a beautiful passive solar home made with salvaged materials and custom crafted wood, glass, stone and art
• Enjoy great local music – _The Cory Woods Trio_, wine, beer & lovely country vistas
• Meet Morgan horses & dwarf Nigerian goats – kid friendly!
• Potluck finger foods – please bring something to share

_Free_! Hosted by the Sonoma County Conservation Council. Please RSVP by May 18 to Wendy K to receive directions, wlk@sonic.net or (707) 544-4582

Hood Mountain Regional Park
May 30, 2019 9:30-3 PM
With Peter Warner & Amy Patton

We’ll ascend Hood Mtn. from the west, through forest and significant stands of serpentine scrub and Sargent cypress woodland, botanizing in general and searching for populations of several CA Rare Plant Ranked species, such as Sonoma ceanothus, dark-mouthed triteleia, Napa lomatium, and Sonoma penstemon. With elevation gain and distance (goal is to reach Gunsight Rock, followed by a long walk back), _this walk is strenuous, up to 8 miles long_. Dress appropriately for the weather; heavy rain cancels. Bring lots of water, food and snacks; cameras recommended GPS receivers helpful.

Meet at Pythian Road access (parking fee or Regional park pass). West county carpool leaves 8:30 from Sebastopol Luckys.

Upcoming Events
5/19 Saddle Mountain Open Space/ Peter Warner
5/19 Environmental Spring Social
5/30 Hood Mountain/ Peter Warner
6/02 Wright Hill Ranch/ Peter Warner
6/15 Fairfield Osborn Preserve/Treegril
7/15-18 Camping at Stillwater Cove
8/17 Fairfield Osborn Preserve/Ruthie Saia
9/19 Fairfield Osborn Preserve/ Kerry Wininger
10/5 SRJC Landscapes/ April Owens
Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

Newsletter & Web Site Info:
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the June Newsletter is May 15th.
The chapter website milobaker.cnps.org contains a wealth of information plus current and archived newsletters.
For newsletter mailing/membership issues, contact: cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com

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director at Large: OPEN
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We invite you to join CNPS

Name__________________________________________________________
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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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