General Meeting
Wreath-making Workshop
December 17, 2013  7:30 pm

Once again we will have our traditional wreath-making workshop at the December meeting. This is a member’s only event, so it is a benefit for Milo Baker members. 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. The Milo Baker Chapter will provide wreath rings, paddle wire, and greens for the wreaths. To add special touches, please bring anything that you have to share: pine cones, acorns, lichen, eucalyptus, douglas-fir, and ribbons. No red berries please--they are very hard to clean up after. You can add berries at home. Remember to bring your clippers. There will be cookies and hot cider for holiday cheer. Call Liz 833-2063 if you have any questions.

NOTE: There will be no dinner before the December meeting. Preparing for the workshop takes the time set aside for the dinner. The dinner will return before the January meeting. Call Liz 833-2063 to make reservations in January.

California’s Native Plants: the past, our present, and prospects for the future
January 21, 2014  7:30 pm
Speaker: Dan Gluesenkamp

For almost 50 years, the California Native Plant Society has celebrated native plants and protected wild gardens. From a growing native plant horticulture program to an exciting rare plant campaign, there is a lot going on with the California Native Plant Society and with our wonderful flora. Dan Gluesenkamp, the new Executive Director of CNPS, will speak about plants, places, and projects. See Speaker Bio on page 2.

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 January 16th, 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 January 14th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
Meeting with Mariko Yamada

On September 22, Liz Parsons and Deborah Dobish, met with Mariko Yamada, Assemblywoman for the 4th District, to present her with a complimentary membership in CNPS-Milo Baker Chapter, both to recognize her environmental work and to introduce her to the chapter. However, it did not turn out quite as expected, as the Assemblywoman declared her support for our mission and accomplishments by insisting on purchasing a membership. Luckily, Liz brought the forms with her!

In a wide-ranging discussion, Liz and Deb were able to acquaint Assemblywoman Yamada with our local work in conservation, outreach and education, as well to highlight our statewide CNPS goals. Although she has been in the Assembly for a number of terms, only recently, due to redistricting in 2012, has her district included part of Sonoma County (Sonoma Valley and Rohnert Park.) Otherwise it includes parts of Lake, Solano, Yolo, Colusa and Napa Counties--- an agricultural area with many public lands, and an area that contains much of the Delta, including the Yolo Basin and the Suisun Marsh. Reflecting the concerns of her district, she serves on the Agriculture Committee and the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee. In addition she is the Chair of the Select Committee on Sustainable and Organic Agriculture.

Dan Gluesenkamp

Daniel Gluesenkamp is Executive Director of the California Native Plant Society and works with CNPS staff and chapters to protect, understand, and celebrate California’s native flora. Dan first fell in love with California plants (and CNPS) as a student at UC Santa Cruz, and he earned his Ph.D. at UC Berkeley studying the ecology of native and invasive thistles. He previously worked as Executive Director of The Calflora Database, where he led development of exciting new tools for conservation and research, and as Director of Habitat Protection and Restoration for Audubon Canyon Ranch’s 30 preserves (including Bouverie and Mayacamas Preserves). Dan is a co-founder and past president of the California Invasive Plant Council, co-founder of the Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN), and in 2009 discovered a presumed-extinct Franciscan manzanita plant growing on a traffic island at the Golden Gate Bridge.
Board Secretary Position Open
Learn more about what the Milo Baker Chapter is involved in by volunteering to become the board secretary. The position includes taking minutes and posting them on our Yahoo user group’s site, working with the President on the board agenda and distributing it before the meeting and storing and archiving minutes, committee reports and other information. The board meets 6-9 times a year on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00-9:00 pm at the Environmental Center on Ridgeway. Previous experience is not necessary. Training will be available. Contact Pat Sesser 528-9197 patriciasesser@comcast.net or any board member.

Gardening with Natives

Plant a Flannel Bush
If you have a large, well-drained sunny space in your yard, a California Fremontia (Fremontodendron californicum) is a good choice for that spot. The site must also be dry, as root rot is a problem for this chaparral shrub. Fremontias are called “Flannel Bush” for a logical reason: their stems and leaves are covered in short, very irritating to the skin, red-brown hairs. The placement of the shrub should be away from paths or anywhere that people might brush against it.

It is such a magnificent thing in bloom, and will show off its huge yellow 3-inch flowers after a season or so in the ground. The flowers are many and often hide the hairy dark green leaves.

I have seen Fremontias growing as sturdy upright trees; I have seen them arching, almost sprawling. It depends on which cultivar you plant. Check with the nursery where you buy it. The more trailing forms would work well on a hillside or a retaining wall. Mine grew very upright for several years, then suddenly decided to arch. It also decided to die! They are fairly short-lived anyway, but I had allowed water to get to its roots over several summers and that did it.

If you must prune it, you might think about wearing goggles and a mask, as those little hairs can fly about freely as you prune. The fall is a perfect time to plant it; do not mulch it anywhere near the trunk; water it in and let the winter rains keep it moist.

Depending on weather, how much rain we get this winter, how hot the following summer is, it could have one or two summer waterings, then leave it be.

With all the limiting factors I’ve mentioned, one might draw the conclusion that this plant is not a great idea to attempt in your yard or garden. However, if you can find the right spot for this fast-growing shrub (tree?), you will be elated by its incredible flower display…a true breath of sunshine.

Judy Brinkerhoff - joodbrink@comcast.net

Flannel Bush
Invasives Corner

Many of you may have the Cal IPC list of California's invasive plants, but it's getting old. There is a recently illustrated list of additions you might want to peruse:

http://www.calflora.org/app/ipl?list_id=px141

What strikes me is how many new plants have been added over the past few years. There are about thirty just in the A's. Some are plants that have been with us for a long time and are only now making themselves obnoxious. Others I have never heard of, perhaps because they are found invasive in Southern California or that I am not the Queen of Botany, nor even The Footwoman. Some are close relatives of those who have been on the Inventory. For instance, more Acacia species have been added. Several are grasses. Some are plants I find charming even though they aren't natives, such as the orange and blue species of Anagallis, scarlet and blue pimpernels and *Lathyrus tingitanus*, Tangier pea. I guess because I've never seen them look particularly overbearing. I was glad to see sweet pea on the list because I've been seeing too much of it in Mendocino County. Also Jupiter's beard in Marin and coastal Sonoma County annoys me for some reason. I was surprised, but I shouldn't have been, to see cultivated grapes are escaping into wildlands all over California. In Sonoma County it's been reported in Fairfield Osborn Preserve and environs, some near Armstrong, more at Preservation Ranch. Interesting stuff to muse upon if you're in the musing mode so I recommend you take a look at the link.

Jupiter's Beard (*Centranthus ruber*)

And now for something entirely different: Mae at Cunningham:

I took Mae, now six “AND ONE HALF”, she insists should I neglect to be accurate, with me to the last Cunningham Marsh work day. I showed her the grass she could pull up while I pulled out the blackberries in our exclosure. At this time of year there is no evidence of the Pitkin lilies, so having someone crawl around in there was not a serious problem. She showed reluctance to do the grunt work; "I'm tired!" after less than ten minutes. She certainly never confesses to be tired when it's an hour past her bedtime. So I gave her a pep talk about how she was helping the rare and beautiful lilies survive. She didn't reply or show any interest, but continued to weed without complaint. She was determined to get the most firmly rooted velvet grass out, which I had given up on, not having any tools. But Mae dug at it with a stick until it could finally be pulled. The next day I was taking her dictation for a letter to her Nona in Oregon who loves to hear what she's been up to. "I pulled up a whole bunch of weeds yesterday. They were about to take over the rarest plant in the world!"

Maybe she'll grow up to be Wonder Weed Warrior Woman - or a tall tale teller?

ML Carle
Switch to an electronic newsletter
The Milo Baker Chapter is pleased to offer its members the option of going to an electronic version of the newsletter. This saves the chapter money on printing and shipping costs as well as reduces the carbon footprint from producing paper and driving via post to your home address. We do not share your email address with anyone. If you are interested in receiving an electronic newsletter please send an email to cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com.

Plant Sale Workshop

The 42nd plant sale is history and it is time to begin preparing for the 43rd plant sale, October 11, 2014--mark your calendars. Our first workshop is the Pacific Coast Iris Workshop. December is the best time to propagate the PCN Iris, therefore we will meet at Mary Aldrich's at 11 AM on Saturday to perform this task. Mary's house is at 4775 Newanga, SR. Mary has a protected area, so this event will go forward rain or shine. We usually finish in less than 2 hours. For more information call Liz at 833-2063.

T-Shirt Update

The new tee shirt logo by Pam Glasscock was a big hit at the annual plant sale and women's sizes were sold out. More shirts will be coming by the end of November, just in time for holiday gifts. Women's black 3/4 sleeve vee neck are $25. (Men's are regular tee style). Men's and women's green tee style are $20.

To purchase contact Cindy Tancreto at 707-528-9225 or cindytancreto@pacbell.net.

Iris Workshop
December 14, 2013 at 11 AM

Pacific Coast Iris
Preserves Update

Cunningham Marsh-The State of

Eleven volunteers came to work at Cunningham in early May, after Ken, “The Gentleman Farmer” did the first of 2 mowings. Weeds were cleared from around milk cartons in the big field to protect the growing oaks (Quercus lobata/hybrid and Q. kelloggii), trails were opened to the lily exclosures and a fallen willow was removed. June saw 13 workers weed the nasty velvet grass (Holcus, sp.) from needed exclosures to protect the growth of the lilies. Shade cloth was placed over Ex. #9 to hopefully prevent some Holcus from growing. The Pitkin lilies and azaleas were blooming, which was a great photo-op for all.

In July, Cunningham Marsh welcomed back an old friend in Betty Guggolz. It was an honor to have her here, as she was instrumental in getting an easement placed on this special place. She was joined by John Herrick, Joan Schwan, Charlie Patterson and Gene Cooley. The last workday saw 9 volunteers clear blackberries (native and non-native), open trails, weed needed exclosures and get the marsh ready for the rains. Twenty-five more milk cartons were placed around planted acorns (all Quercus lobata/hybrid). These added to the last 2-years of plantings for a total of 83 hopefully future trees.

One of the 2 water tanks that in the past had helped with the watering of 4 hedgerows was moved to the Laguna Foundation office to be used for future restoration at a different location. The 2nd tank will be moved when needed. A collapsible metal cart which was bought for Cunningham, is now stored in the CNPS shed, as tractors are now used to bring supplies to and from Cunningham Marsh.

2013 was a good, mellow year for Cunningham. A huge thank you goes out to the volunteers who are the backbone of keeping this Preserve in good shape. Thank you all.

Cunningham Marsh is a 19-acre conservation easement in south Sebastopol…home of the endangered Pitkin Lily (Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense). If you would like to be on the list for notification of future workdays next year, please contact Marcia.

owlsnesttwo@att.net
707-829-3808

Marcia Johnson, Cunningham Marsh

Rincon Ridge Preserve

On Sunday, November 3rd Sam Gilbert, Bryan Sesser, Penny Dalton, Leia Giambastiani and Cindy Tancreto spent the morning cutting back coyote bush, chamise and small douglas-firs in the Rincon Ridge Park Sensitive Plant Area to provide a healthier environment for the endangered Rincon Ridge Ceanothus (Ceanothus confusus and the Rincon Manzanita (Arctostaphylos stanfordiana ssp. Decumbens) which are low growing shrubs. Thank you.

To volunteer for future work parties contact Pat Sesser 707-528-9197 patriciasesser@comcast.com.

Learn more about the preserves we manage by going to our website www.cnpsmbo.org

Pat Sesser, Preserve Steward
Save the dates! Celebrate 50 years of CNPS plant conservation, January 13-17, 2015
San Jose, CA
More Details to Come...

Open Web Administration Position
This volunteer position oversees the Milo Baker Chapter website content (http://milobaker.cnps.org/). No computer programming or web development experience is necessary. We contract with a web consultant who is responsible for posting new or changed content for our website. However, training is available to learn how to post/update our website if this is of interest to the incoming Web Admin candidate.

Duties Include:

- Coordinate with our Web Consultant to keep site up current and accurate.
- Periodically (monthly or quarterly) review all web pages and note updates and corrections to submit to the Web Consultant (1.5 hours monthly).
- Provide guidance to other Milo Baker volunteers developing content for the website (approximately 1 hour monthly).
- Attend board meetings as possible, 9 meetings per year on the second Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm except July, August and December.

For more information contact Sarah Gordon at sarahpgordon@gmail.com

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Milo Baker Chapter Newsletter – December 2013/January 2014

UC McLaughlin Reserve
April 12-13 and June 7-8, 2014
Lake/Napa County north of Lake Berryessa

Serpentine Grassland and Spring Wildflowers, April 12-13, Sat & Sun:
Camping will be available at the UC McLaughlin Reserve on Sat night, and we are planning a potluck dinner that night at the Reserve field station, just a short drive up the hill from the campground. On Sunday morning, the Reserve staff will lead us on a gently-paced walk through fields of serpentine spring wildflowers at a nearby location. For those interested, other serpentine locations can be visited on our drive home.

Rare Plant Treasure Hunt for Serpentine Endemics, June 7-8, Sat & Sun:
We will also have the camping option for this trip on Sat night, and a potluck dinner. After breakfast Sunday morning, when it's still somewhat cool, we will visit a rugged serpentine canyon to map CNPS-listed plants. We will carpool in high clearance/ 4WD vehicles for this moderately strenuous outing. There will be opportunities to learn how to census rare plants and fill out CNDDB field survey forms for anyone who's interested. Hope you can join us!

≠ Wendy Smit, Milo Baker Fieldtrip Chair
wendysmit@hughes.net

Events
**Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense**  
Pitkin lily

**Newsletter & Web Site Info:**
Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com  
Deadline for inclusion in the February Newsletter is January 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

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**Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors 2012/2013**

- President: Leia Giambastiani, 322-6722, leiagia@gmail.com  
- Vice President: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com  
- Secretary: OPEN  
- Treasurer: Jim Piercy, 539-3441, terrapeneicolaminajor@yahoo.com  
- Book Sales: Cindy Tancrerto, 528-9225, cindytaancrerto@pacbell.net  
- Conservation Chair: Wendy Smit, 431-7913, wendysmit@hughes.net  
- Cunningham Marsh: Marcia Johnson, 829-3808, owlsnesttwo@att.net  
- Director at Large: Lea Davis, 538-1499, legil42@sbcglobal.net  
- Director at Large: OPEN  
- Field Trips: Wendy Smit, 431-7913, wendysmit@hughes.net  
- Field Trips: OPEN  
- Hospitality: Becky Montgomery, 573-0103, montyb@sonic.net  
- Hospitality: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com  
- Invasive Plant Chair: ML Carle, 792-1823, mlml@sonic.net  
- Legislative Chair: OPEN  
- Membership: Suzanne Harmon, 933-8750, cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com  
- Newsletter Editor: cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com  
- Plant Sale: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com  
- Poster & T-Shirt Sales: Cindy Tancrerto, 528-9225, cindytaancrerto@pacbell.net  
- Programs/Lectures: OPEN  
- Publicity: Wendy Born wendyborn@comcast.net  
- Rincon Ridge Park, Patricia Sesser, 528-9197, patriciasesser@comcast.net  
- SCCC Rep.: Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wlk@sonic.net  
- Southridge Preserve: 539-3441, terrapeneicolaminajor@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

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**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

Make check payable to CNPS and mail to:  
CNPS, 2707 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95816  
To pay by credit card or for more info call (916) 447.2677 or visit www.cnps.org