April General Meeting – Steve Barnhart

Ecology of Sonoma County Plant Communities
Tuesday, April 15

Steve Barnhart is a beloved teacher at the Santa Rosa Junior College and well regarded leader in the community. He received his Masters degree in Plant Ecology from San Diego State University in 1967. In 1969 Steve began to teach in Santa Rosa Junior College’s Biology Department. He has taught Botany, General Biology, Ecology, Field Botany, as well as popular courses on Oaks, Redwoods, and Sierra Plants. In addition to his teaching, he continues to do research on California Oaks. – Abigail Zoger

May General Meeting:

Tuesday, May 20: Matteo Garboletteo On Sudden Oak Death

June General Meeting:

Tuesday, June 17: Glenn Keator on Trees of the San Francisco Bay Area

General Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at:
Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center
2050 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa

Chapter Board Meeting
The Milo Baker Board will meet at the Environmental Center, located at 404 Mendocino, Suite A, at 7 pm on Tuesday, May 13, 2003. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend.

Meetings are regularly held every other month, on the 2nd Tuesday.
President's Corner

Spring is really here, once again, bringing hope of renewal and bloom. Our first ever Spring Wildflower Festival is right around the corner, and we will need lots of helpers to make this a success. Call Ruby Herrick if you can volunteer to help out.

I attended the state meeting at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic garden and heard from our Southern California counterparts. I feel lucky to be living in a place that still has so much wild land, but am reminded that development interests are intensifying everywhere, so the work to protect our area is increasingly important. We really don't want to watch as Sonoma County becomes a sprawling metropolis. Get active; let's show the politicians in charge of our county that we really do care.

– Leana Beeman-Sims

Spring Wildflower Festival, Saturday, May 10
at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts

Celebrate wildflowers
There's something for everyone so bring family and friends and allow plenty of time to enjoy the festival.

• All of the local native plant nurseries will have booths overflowing with native plants for sale.
• We've got a full line up of free seminars that will be going on simultaneously throughout the day.
• Take the opportunity to buy the best of local art, as well as organic wine, for great prices at the silent auction.
• For the kids: face painting, discovery center, and more.

With 40 booths, you’ll see everything from nurseries, gardening and nature groups, artisans, books, t-shirts (a new chapter design!), water use, slide show of Sonoma County wildflowers, to a kids treasure hunt and lots of other fun activities.

You won’t go hungry, as food will be available from the Burbank Bistro.

Raffle of a lifetime!
If you’ve ever been to or heard of The Cedars near Cazadero you’ll want to start buying lots of our raffle tickets. The Cedars is a Sonoma County botanical wonderland where the winners of the raffle drawing will have a private guided hike with Roger Raiche and David McCrory. An unbelievable opportunity!

Got Milk or Art?
Stock up on cookies and keep an eye out for the Clover-Stornetta milk cartons with the CNPS plant sales advertised. They will hit the shelves April 6 going on 310,000 cartons with our May 10 Spring Wildflower Festival listed. Quite a coup, or is it cow, getting our ad out to a lot of new folks.

We are inviting artists to donate fine art, photography, ceramics, sculpture, or jewelry for the silent art auction. The subject matter should be native flora or fauna. The deadline is April 25.
**Give us a hand**

We've enclosed a poster for the Spring Wildflower Festival in your newsletter. After enjoying it yourself, we'd love it if you would find a public place to post it in your area, helping us with publicity. We suggest asking a local business to display it in their front window, or pin it to a good local bulletin board. OK to copy, or call Reny to request additional posters. Thank you!

We are offering a number of **volunteer opportunities**. If you’ve always wanted to participate in an art show or silent auction, here’s your chance. Help share our wealth of knowledge about native plants with others – you don’t need to be an expert! Like the feel of green (money, that is)? Maybe a cashier position is right for you. We’re asking for four hours of your time to join us for a very exciting day.

Contact **Ruby Herrick** at 887.8542 or rdherr@yahoo.com.

**Be there**

Most important of all is for you to **attend**, so **circle May 10 on your calendar**. It’s Mother’s Day weekend – a wonderful thing to share with the mothers in your life.

For additional information, posters, and art show forms [www.cnpsmb.org](http://www.cnpsmb.org) and go to **festival**, or contact **Reny Parker** 894.9100. Or email: **festival@cnpsmb.org**.

**Conservation Report**

| Restoration / Conservation / Rare Plants / Forestry / Invasive Exotics / Political Presence |

**News Update**

**The Importance of Water**

Recently we have begun hearing increased calls for greater government accountability regarding the use of water in Sonoma County. The **draft Water Element report for the General Plan Update** states that because “an adequate water supply is considered a basic human right...the use and quality of water have long been regulated by government.” The report then identifies the major water issues in the county, and the rest of the report attempts to address them. It states: “As development has continued, the long-term adequacy of groundwater and surface water resources has become a major public concern. Water-related issues include lowered groundwater levels, increased storm water runoff, sediment and pollutants in runoff, water diversions into and out of the Russian River basin, summer rationing in dry years, the water needs of fish and wildlife, the rates of water usage, conservation methods, water storage limitations, the growing reuse of water, and the continuing changes in state and federal regulations.” Interesting that there is no mention in this introductory section regarding the water needs of native habitat. Maybe if someone from our CNPS chapter was participating in this part of the General Plan Update, that glaring omission would not be present. (To read the full draft report, go to http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/gp2020/cac-sub.html and look for “Draft Water Element” report.)

**For Native Grass Enthusiasts**

For those who didn’t know, there is a state organization for native grass lovers. Founded in 1989, the **California Native Grass Association** raises public awareness of the ecological importance and natural diversity of California’s native grassland ecosystems. It also offers training in grassland restoration techniques, and promotes range management methods that enhance native grassland habitat and biodiversity. The organization produces a quarterly newsletter, and their website ([www.cnnga.org](http://www.cnnga.org)) contains, among other things, a forum and listserve.

**Invasive Plant Forum**

CalEPPC (the California Exotic Pest Plant Council) has started an electronic forum for California invasive plant issues. It allows subscribers to post questions, job announcements, and event announcements. To subscribe, send a totally blank email to: CaliforniaWeedTalk-subscribe@topica.com

— Bob Hass

**Tiger Salamander Listing = Good News for Native Plants**

Protecting the salamander and its habitat will also protect biodiversity, ecosystem health, and open space for future generations....The salamander is part of the unique Santa Rosa Plain ecosystem that includes vernal pools, grassland, and valley oak savannah, and supports a variety of plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. — excerpted from “Celebrating Salamander Protection” by Kassie Siegel, published in The Santa Rosa Press Democrat, Tuesday, march 18, 2003.

Kassie Siegel is a staff attorney for the **Center for Biological Diversity**, and author of the 2001 Petition to List the Sonoma County California Tiger Salamander under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The Center for Biological Diversity is national non-profit, public interest organization dedicated to the protection of imperiled native species and their habitat.
Native Plant Garden at Doyle Park:

Friendly Faces and Cooperative Clouds make for Quick Work! In a short two hours on Sunday, March 16 at Doyle Park in Santa Rosa, Dana Glei, Phyllis Schmitt, Pauline Haro and Lynn Houser shoveled and spread three yards of decomposed granite over 200 feet of weedmat, to create six new paths through the Native Plant Garden. When we’d finished, a nice rain came down to compact and settle the decomposed granite. The paths follow natural walking patterns and will highlight the native plants. We have a great list of plants to add, and will likely put a few things in for spring, then a larger planting in the fall. We plan to have workdays each third Sunday of the month at 1:00 p.m. This month, because of Easter, the workday will be Sunday April 27th, at 1:00 p.m. We’ll do some planting, weeding and pruning. Bring gloves and tools, if you like. Enter on Doyle Park Drive from Sonoma Ave. (near Brookwood Ave.), behind the school. Questions? Please contact either Dana Glei at 544-3006, email: danaglei@pacbell.net. Or Lynn Houser at 568-3230, email: housers@sonic.net. See you there! – Lynn Houser

Meet for dinner before the General Meeting

Dinner??? Definitely!!! Steve Barnhart knows. And it should be a really great evening. We are starting it off by having him and his wife as guests for our pre-meeting co-op dinner. We can't make him talk all the time of course, he's got to eat to keep up his strength and prepare for work - but it will be great to meet them. At the Kirin, 2700 Yulupa Ave – about half a mile south of the Art and Garden Center. Be there on time at six, so we'll have time to order and eat and even maybe ask a simple question or two so we can get our speaker to the meeting on time. Phone me at 538-4551 or e-mail at maygmiller@aol.com so we'll have a table of the proper size. – May Miller
Sunday, April 13: Van Hoosear Wildflower Preserve, Sonoma Valley – Ann Howald

In spring, the Van Hoosear, a 160 acre private preserve, has the best floral display in the Sonoma Valley. Grassy slopes in the oak woodlands are covered with lupines, baby blue eyes, popcorn flower, California poppy, johnny jump-ups, checker mallow and shooting stars. Moist grassland “meadows” have California buttercups, Douglas’s meadowfoam, suncups and a dozen species of clover. In the vernal swales, the “belly plants” begin to bloom – vernal pool lasthenia, common hedge-hyssop, loosestrife, and much more! There is nothing else like it in Sonoma Valley. We will walk through gently rolling terrain. There is no defined trail, and the ground is uneven, but the scenery is spectacular. Don’t miss a chance to visit this jewel of Sonoma County.

Meet at 9:30 am on Fowler Creek Road, just west of its intersection with Arnold Drive. Bring snacks and lunch, water, plastic bag to sit on, hand lens, sunglasses, hat. Rain cancels. Trip is limited to 20, so please contact: Ann Howald at 939-0775 or preferably at annhowald@vom.com to reserve space. – Ann Howald

Note: Sonoma Ecology Center will sponsor guided hikes to Van Hoosear on Sunday, April 6 and Saturday, April 19. Donation requested. Reservation required. Call 996-0712 for reservations, info.

Saturday, April 19: Snell Valley, Napa Land Trust Property – Peter Warner

Meet at 10 a.m. at the Napa Land Trust gate on Snell Valley Road, about 2 miles east of Butts Canyon Rd., north of Pope Valley in northern Napa County. Consult a map for the best route – this site is about 1 hour from Santa Rosa. Carpooling is recommended. Bring water and lunch. While the terrain is uneven and rocky, this trip will not require a great deal of walking. The grasslands of Snell Valley offer one of the showiest wildflower displays in the north Bay Area. The grasslands are influenced by serpentinite-derived soils, with a diversity of habitats, from wet to dry and rocky. We’ll explore the floristic diversity, spend some time identifying plants (bring your field guides and Jepson Manuals, and hand lenses), and enjoy the color treats that spring provides. Call Peter at 707-937-2278 or 937-9172, or email: pwarner@mcn.org or pwarn@parks.ca.gov for information. – Peter Warner

Saturday, May 3: Alan Brubaker's garden

Come enjoy this wonderful garden with us. Some of you are familiar with Alan from the advice he gives at our plant sales. He is well known for his xerophilous and native plantings. We are to arrive at Alan's at 11:00, and after a tour, enjoy the view and each other on his patio. Alan is offering wine to top it off! The trip is limited to 20 people, so e-mail (preferably) mmlml@svn.net or call ML to be on the guest list. Visitors should bring a lunch. – ML Carle

Memorial Day weekend, May 23-26 at Salt Point State Park – Field Trip & Habitat Restoration – Peter Warner

Meet at the Woodside group camping area at the park, on the east side of Highway 1, at your convenience, starting on Friday, May 23 about noon. We’ll either be in a nearby campsite north of the parking lot, or we’ll post information on our whereabouts at the park entrance kiosk and with park rangers (just ask for the restoration group, the plant group, or something close). This weekend will feature both habitat restoration work and a field trip at one of the gems of the state park system. On Friday afternoon and Saturday, we’ll descend like locusts on alien plant invaders, either at Salt Point or nearby Fort Ross State Park. This is an opportunity to take out your aggressions – or just to get some exercise for all you mellow folks – for a very good cause. On Sunday, we’ll have a day to explore the park’s wonderful wildflowers and forests and rocky coast. Evenings are full of laughter and mouth-watering aromas, off-key singing, and silly stories.

If you come for overnight, bring all you need for camping, such as tents, sleeping bags, etc. – be prepared for dampness and wind. Water, toilets, picnic tables, and fire rings are available. Please also bring along eating utensils and food or beverages to share – you can contact me at the phone number or email address below to inquire about meal menus and other provisions. If you come only to camp and don’t want to pull weeds, I will request a cash donation for campsite and equipment use. State Parks and CNPS will provide some tools, but if you have a weed wrench, pulaski, shovel, or other useful gear, please bring them along, and definitely bring gloves. Call Peter at 707-937-2278 or 937-9172, or preferably email: pwarner@mcn.org or pwarn@parks.ca.gov for information. – Peter Warner

April, 2003
Monday Walkers
A group of retired and somewhat retired CNPS members take hikes on Mondays in Sonoma and Marin County. The hikes are generally about two easy miles in length, and involve lunch on the trail. We have our own botanist, Dr. Keith Wagnon, to help us to identify plants we encounter. The group is very congenial, and we welcome all levels of experience. Please call Joyce Bacci, at 869-2143 for details.
– ML Carle

More Trips, Special Events, & Learning Opportunities

April 4-6: CNPS Desert Field Trip, Joshua Tree National Park
CNPS members are invited to attend a field trip on April 4-6 at Joshua Tree National Park. We will be camping at the Lost Horse Campground, reserved especially for our group. We will have field trips, some weeding, a meeting to discuss current environmental issues facing the desert, followed by a campfire sing-along / music making session (bring your guitar / fiddle / harmonica / mandolin / drum / etc. if you have one). There has been rainfall in the desert this winter so we are hoping for wildflowers. Please RSVP Steve Hartman at naturebase@aol.com or call 818-881-3706

Saturday, April 5: CNPS Marin Chapter 27th Annual Native Plant Sale
9:30am to 2 pm, Tiburon Audubon Center and Wildlife Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon. (Tiburon Exit off Hwy 101, East to traffic lights at Cove Shopping Center, Right on Greenwood Cove, becomes Greenwood Beach.) Ken Howard, 415-332-4117

Saturday, April 5: Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation – Laguna Keeper workday
9am to 12pm, behind the Teen Center: removing non native plants and sprucing up the trail. Come join us on either of these days and sneak in a little birding at the same time! Free LagunaKeeper tee shirts to new volunteers. Bring tools, gloves and water. Rain cancels. Questions? call Mary Abbott, 823-5331 X310.

Saturday, April 5: "Planting the Future: Cultivation and Preservation of Native Medicinal Plants"

Sunday, April 6: UC Davis McLaughlin Reserve Hike -- Carol Vellutini
CNPS member Carol is also the local Sierra Club Outings chair & hike leader extraordinaire Located in California’s inner North Coast Range, the McLaughlin Reserve encompasses several geologic formations, two watersheds (Putah and Cache Creeks) and a variety of vegetation including oak woodland, non-serpentine chaparral, serpentine chaparral, and grasslands. In 1880 the town of Knoxville had about 300 people and fifty buildings, including a hotel, church, and school. Our hike will take us through time, and although the most we might see of the past is a few stone walls and a cliff of orange-colored rock, we can imagine what it must have been like in those days long ago. This time of the year is magical. We’ll see lots of wildflowers and the grass will be wonderful shades of green. Meet the new reserve manager Cathy Koehler (she might bake cookies). Bring lunch, liquids, layered clothing, sturdy hiking boots, and personal first aid kit. Rain cancels. By reservation only. Leaders: Carol Vellutini- 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net and reserve manager. A Sierra Club sponsored trip. Carpools: Santa Rosa, meet at Old Yardbird's parking lot at 7:45, leave promptly at 8am. If you’re driving, call for directions & allow 2 hours to get there from SR. Call to reserve by April 3rd. – Carol Vellutini

Friday evening, April 11 & Saturday, April 12: Wildflower Photography Class in SF
Noted Bay Area nature photographer Jo-Ann Ordano offers an instructional evening on equipment and techniques Friday evening followed by an all-day field session on Saturday. Cost, $60. Call Jo-Ann at 650-712-0203 or email her at joannordano@yahoo.com.

Saturday, April 19: Native Plant Sale Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Tilden Park, Berkeley
10 am to 3 pm, Wildcat Canyon Road & South Park Drive. In this microcosm of California environments, garden staff and docents will enlighten and entertain us as we shop for our home native gardens. Refreshments will be provided. Please bring cardboard boxes, if possible, to carry your purchases, and an umbrella if it rains. Admission is free. Information: (510) 841-8732 or www.nativeplants.org.

Monday, May 12 & Wednesday, May 14: Grass Identification Workshops, Hopland – Kerry Heise
At the UC Hopland Research and Extension Center. Monday, May 12: Introduction to Grasses. Wednesday, May 14: Advanced Grass ID. Cost is $35. To register, or for more info, contact Amber Shrum at 744-1424 or go to the website at http://hopland.uchrec.org. –Kerry Heise

June 8-14: SRJC Summer Field Class, Sierra Wildflower Field Trip – Steve Barnhart
I will offer a course through the JC on Sierran Wildflowers in Plumas County, June 8-14. We will stay at the UC Berkeley Forestry Camp, so meals and lodging are included in the fee of $240.00. Daily excursions to different elevations and habitats to see the flora and discuss the ecology of the different communities. Watch for the summer catalog. More later! – Steve Barnhart

**July 13-19: SRJC Summer Field Class, Natural History of the Eastern Sierra and Yosemite – Ann Howald**

Plant communities will be emphasized during this camping class in the Eastern Sierra. We’ll camp at about 7,000’ near the town of Mammoth Lakes, go on day trips to see Mono Lake, bristlecone pines, Devil’s Postpile area and much more. Required orientation meeting is Thursday, July 3, 6-10 pm and class is Sunday, July 13 - Saturday, July 19. Cost is $120 plus registration fees. Includes camping, transportation, some entry fees. Does not include food. Sign up through SRJC after summer catalog comes out (BIO 81.16). Contact Ann at 939-0775 or preferably at [annhowald@vom.com](mailto:annhowald@vom.com) for more info. – Ann Howald
Through the Garden Gate
by Judy Brinkerhoff

The Monarchs Reign
Or, The Rain of Monarchs

Western Sierra Madre, Mexico, January 22, 2003, Part two of two

Inexplicably and suddenly, thousands, millions, of the butterflies leave their haven and flit upward, up, up, up into the sunshine in the open area in the canopy above our heads. It’s like gazing up into a massive orange snow flurry. It’s raining butterflies! The monarchs reign! The onlookers fall into shock, exclaiming in hushed voices, quiet and reverent.

The sun goes under a cloud, the day is immediately cooler. The butterflies drift downwards, leaving the air and settling back upon each other, on the trunks, on the branches, on the stems, from top to bottom of these endlessly tall trees. I later discover they are called oyamel. I wonder if so many butterflies in these massive clusters aren’t maybe generating the necessary heat to keep their delicate bodies from freezing.

For, after all, we are high in the mountains and it’s cold. The speculation had always been that the butterflies over-wintered in a tropical climate. They were sought for decades, until in the mid 1970’s, researchers discovered them here in the Western Sierra Madre mountains of mid-Mexico. The inhabitants of the local villages knew, of course, of the butterflies, which often blanketed the nearby town of Angangueo.

The butterflies spend their summers in North America, both Canada and the U.S. They mate several times over the summer, living from 2-6 weeks. At the end of the summer, they head south, averaging perhaps 100 miles a day. The journey continues for about two months, depending on the winds and rains. They remain in the forests of Mexico, where they are basically inactive, throughout the winter. Upon the arrival of warm weather, they begin a mating process and in April, make the long flight to North America to begin again the process that is such a wonder and magical event for us to ponder.

It remains a mystery how the butterflies, several generations removed from their ancestors, are able to migrate to the same place. One speculation is that some sort of regional magnetism coming from the nearby mountains, acts as a homing beacon, since this area is a former mining area.

There are five sanctuaries in this area, each with approximately 20 million butterflies. Only two sanctuaries are open to the public. The word “sanctuary” is used loosely, as illegal logging continues around and in the sanctuaries, and has led to the destruction of several of the reserves. Of the two that are open, one, El Rosario, is open every year, November through March. The other, Chincua, is only open when the National Institute of Ecology deems that visitation will not harm the monarchs.

However, the continuing existence of these delicate creatures depends on the efforts of Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Many of our farmers have declared the milkweed on which the caterpillars, and thus the butterflies, rely as a noxious weed and use herbicides to control it. Further, there has been a suggestion that if the local population of Mexico were to receive an annual fee for the conservation of the trees in and around the reserves, they perhaps might not continue to destroy the trees and thus the over-wintering habitat of the monarchs.

The question presents itself...is there anything we in Sonoma County can do to help? Staying informed is a partial answer. Give donations when needed. Another, more practical answer, is to plant milkweed, lots of it, great patches of it. Ask your favorite nursery which species is the most beneficial for the monarch caterpillars. And of course, don’t use pesticides, as they will kill the very caterpillars you are trying to attract.

Look for the jewel-like green and gold chrysalis hanging from the undersides of leaves; protect them from pruning; show them to your kids; watch them as they change in color; look for the butterfly to emerge, dry its wings, and avail itself of the nectar in the flowers of your yard. And think on the grand scale of it!

– Judy Brinkerhoff

What is this Mystery Plant? Is it Native or Just Another Weed?

Come learn more about our Local Flora at Plant I.D. Hour!

Arrive at 6:30, an hour before the April General Meeting, and bring specimens of plants you want to identify. Some specimens will be available if you don’t have any but just want to practice. I will bring my dissecting microscope, hand lens, and books, and can help you work through the keys in The Jepson Manual and A Sonoma County Flora. Keying can be fun, even if you get stuck. For those who know a lot of plants already, there are always grasses, sedges, and composites to keep things challenging—bring in a
curiosity or come to help others. Bring your dinner if you want to, a hand lens and a copy of Jepson or Sonoma County Flora if you have them. A copy of each and glossaries will be available. The plants are what CNPS is about—come get to know them and some fellow chapter members too! – Lynn Houser

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Board of Directors – Milo Baker Chapter – April, 2003

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Mailing List Alert ...Y2K Strikes!!

With the computer hard drive crashing, and the back - up floppy failing I had to check the calendar for the right year... what a mess, and naturally at (March) newsletter time! The state CNPS membership person came to the rescue with labels, and now a total membership update. What needs to be corrected are the members getting their newsletter “off the web” as the state doesn’t have that info. So please email me if you are receiving a hard copy and prefer an online newsletter. I need your name, and email address both. You’ll receive a monthly email reminder notice to let you know when a new newsletter has been posted to our Web site.

– Wendy Born (spores@excite.com)

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Newsletter on the Web: Check out the Milo Baker Chapter newsletter on our NEW chapter Web site at:


Newsletter Submissions: Send any items you’d like included in the newsletter to the Editor: Betsy Livingstone, 9502 Argonne Way, Forestville, CA 95436. Phone: (707) 887-8873. Email: betsl@sonic.net. Deadline for inclusion in the May newsletter is April 11. If you need more time, please let me know by the 11th.
Support Our Local Native Plant Nurseries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nursery Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appleton Forestry Nursery</td>
<td>1369 Tilton Road, Sebastopol</td>
<td>Patricia Canfield</td>
<td>707-823-3776</td>
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<tr>
<td>California Flora Nursery</td>
<td>Somers &amp; D Streets, Fulton</td>
<td>Sherrie Althouse</td>
<td>707-528-8813</td>
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<td>Circuit Rider Productions</td>
<td>9619 Redwood Highway, Windsor</td>
<td>Rose Roberts</td>
<td>707-838-6641</td>
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<td>Mostly Natives Nursery</td>
<td>27235 Highway 1, Tomales</td>
<td>Walter Earle</td>
<td>707-878-2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Coast Native Nursery</td>
<td>2710 Chileno Valley Road, Petaluma</td>
<td>Debby Zygielbaum</td>
<td>707-769-1213</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayward Gardens</td>
<td>1296 Tilton Road, Sebastopol</td>
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<td>707-829-8225</td>
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