## Calendar

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### June General Meeting – Tuesday, June 17: Glenn Keator

**Trees of the San Francisco Bay Area**

Glenn Keator is a well-known local botanist and former Milo Baker Board member, who has worked freelance as a teacher, writer and botanist for the California Academy of Sciences, The Yosemite Association and the Strybing Arboretum. He is the author of *The Life of an Oak, Complete Garden Guide to the Native Perennials of California, Complete Garden Guide to the Native Shrubs of California*, and many other publications. – Abigail Zoger

**Chapter Picnic: Sunday, August 17 at Wayward Gardens Nursery**

September General Meeting: Seed Packaging Workshop

**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, July 8, 2003. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend. Meetings are regularly held every other month, on the 2nd Tuesday.
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President's Corner

I'm sure that most of you already know what a smashing success we had at our first Spring Wildflower Festival. Beautiful weather, beautiful plants, great seminars, interesting exhibits, inspirational wildflower art and lots of friendly people were just a few of the highlights of the day. The event brought in over $11,000 (less expenses) that will be used for chapter activities. Perhaps even more importantly, it demonstrated a general interest in our beautiful flora and generated a lot of interest in native plant conservation. Next month you can expect a full report from Reny Parker, our tireless festival coordinator when she returns from a well-deserved vacation. Till then, many thanks to all who volunteered, we couldn’t have done it without you.

– Leana Beeman-Sims

My thanks to the 50-plus volunteers who made our first Spring Wildflower Festival at LBC such a success. Your commitment to this event made it all possible. I appreciate your response to our call for volunteers. If you haven’t given us some feedback on how your volunteer day went, please let us know. You may email me at rdherr@yahoo.com or call me at 887-8542. Again, thanks to everyone. – Ruby Herrick

Editor’s note: Kudos to Reny, Leana, Joan, Marcia, Colleen, Ruby & Heidi of the Festival Committee, and the many others who worked so hard and made it look so easy. Look for your names in August’s newsletter.

Plant Sale News

May Potting Workshop Report

On May 4 we had a brief break in the rains and we were able to have a very successful potting workshop without getting wet! Lynn Houser, her daughter, Kate, Mary Aldrich, Anna and Dave Webster, Ann and Paul Hernday, Victoria Wikle, Becky Montgomery and Alan Brubaker assembled at Cal Flora and in less than an hour they had all of the cuttings planted in gallon containers. In another hour the containers were all watered and distributed to growers. The cuttings were provided by Shooting Star Propagation Nursery and included Ceanothus ‘Yankee Point’, several manzanitas (Arctostaphylos ‘Howard McMinn’, Arctostaphylos ‘Emerald Carpet’, and Arctostaphylos ‘Pt. Reyes’), and Pacific wax myrtle (Myrica californica). Thank you to all the participants. These plants will be available at the October 11 plant sale.

Coming Up: August Potting Workshop

The next potting workshop will be on Sunday, August 3, at 10 A.M. at Cal Flora Nursery at Somers & D Streets in Fulton. At that time we will pot up cuttings of fast growing plants such as Salvia, Zauschneria, and Mimulus. Call Liz at 833-2063 or Mary at 539-9005 if you have any questions – otherwise just show up and we will put you to work.

– Liz Parsons

Native Trees, Shrubs and June Bloomers:

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

Arrive at 6:30, an hour before the June 17th 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...
Meet for dinner before the General Meeting

Hooray! Our longtime friend and Chapter member, Glenn Keator, is back in town and will be updating us about local trees, and he will be coming to the dinner with us first. Come along and join us and meet him on Tuesday, June 17 at the Kirin Restaurant - at 2700 Yulupa Ave., about half a mile south of the Art and Garden Center. It’s a co-op dinner, as usual, and be there at six so we’ll have time to consider and order and talk and eat and talk and get to the meeting in reasonable time. Be sure to phone me at 538-4551 or e-mail at maygmiller@aol.com so we’ll have a table of the proper size. – May Miller

Conservation Report

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

Chapter Activities

Fountaingrove Preserve
Lynn Houser organized a second broom-bashing party at Fountaingrove Preserve on May 16. Five local homeowners joined in to remove broom with weed wrenches along Thomas Lake Harris Drive for almost two hours.

Rincon Ridge
The Milo Baker Board approved adopting as a green space the Rincon Ridge Sensitive Plant Area. The agreement still needs to be finalized by the Santa Rosa Parks Department. On May 17, Lynn Houser led a tour of the area for homeowners.

Plant Science Committee
The MB Board also approved the formation of a chapter Plant Science Committee, and the position of Plant Science Chair. This new structure parallels that at the state level, which has separate programs for Conservation and Plant Science. The new committee would be empowered to: 1) plan and implement an ongoing program—including the recruitment and training of chapter volunteers—to survey rare and endangered plants, and vegetation types/plant communities; 2) address requests by State CNPS, individuals, and local agencies to provide information on rare plants and local flora (formerly handled by the Conservation Committee); and 3) research and supply scientific information to the Conservation Committee for advocacy. If you would like to help out with this important work, contact Lynn Houser (568-3230).

Sonoma County General Plan Update
The full Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) recently considered the report of the Riparian Corridor/Biological Habitat Subcommittee, part of the General Plan Update process that has been ongoing now for well over a year. Our chapter was represented at the meeting, and urged that the CAC adopt a policy and standards to measure cumulative habitat loss in the county.

While the report contains numerous shortcomings, this seemed to be the most critical omission. As things currently stand, when development proposals come before the County’s planning department, each is considered only in relationship to the habitat on the involved property. So, for example, if a grove of oaks is to be removed, the decision to do so is made without considering what percent of oak woodland is left in the county. In fact, the county does not maintain baseline information on percentages of remaining habitat for any of the many vegetation types/plant communities. The mapping project (described in last month’s newsletter) that our chapter is hoping to get going will go a long way toward making available more accurate baseline information. Of course policymakers and environmental advocates will still need to reach agreement on what percentages of habitat need to be protected for each vegetation type in the county.
CAC members are likely to finalize the Riparian Corridor/Biological Habitat Subcommittee report at their next meeting on **June 5**. This is a great learning opportunity for chapter members who want to see what advocacy work is all about. Once you’ve had a meeting or two under your belt, you may be able to help us strategize next steps. If interested, contact Bob Hass: 938-8868, bhass@vom.com.

**Mapping Project**

In late May or early June, a meeting will be held involving stakeholders from many agencies and organizations to consider undertaking a **vegetation mapping program for Sonoma County**. State CNPS vegetation ecologist Julie Evens is coordinating the meeting, with assistance from our chapter. For more information, contact Bob Hass.

—Bob Hass and Lynn Houser

*Ceanothus confusus, leaves & fruit* (Rincon ceanothus)
*Arctostaphylos densiflora, flowers & branch* (Vine Hill manzanita)
*Zigadenus fremontii* (star lily)

**Chapter Field Trip News**

**Sunday, June 8: Lake Soulajule**

Come along with our own famous **Peter Warner**, botanist for Mendocino County, on a trip to Lake Soulajule (pronounced “soo-la-hooly” we’re told), little-known jewel in the hills west of Petaluma. "What," you say, "was it not Tresch Ranch we were planning?" Well, it was, but a date conflict made it impossible. Nonetheless we will still be meeting at **9:30 at the Petaluma Outlet Mall** on Petaluma Blvd. North, easily accessed from 101. Bring lunch, binocs, and a plastic bag to sit on. This trip will last until 3 or 4, and cover 4 or 5 miles, but you can leave earlier if you want. There are ups and downs, but also wildflowers, birds, and maybe an otter or two to make it worth your while. We have a creek to cross, so I’ll bring the ski poles. E-mail ML at <mlml@svn.net> or (707) 792-1823 for more info.

*Alan’s Garden*

Those of you who couldn't make the trip to Alan Brubaker’s garden missed an outstanding display of plant variety and garden design. We went inside when it got chilly, and Alan started a fire for us in his wood stove. Conversation was so lively that it was a good thing we had treats to eat, or we all would have been talking at once. The social and aesthetic event of the season! Thank you, Alan Brubaker.

*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

**Work Party at Doyle Park**

We will meet again on Sunday, June 22nd, at 1:00 p.m. at Doyle Park in Santa Rosa (end of Doyle Park Dr., south of Sonoma Ave, near the hospital) for our monthly work party in the native plant garden that CNPS has adopted. We took the month of May off, but in April we got lots of weeding done as well as some remedial pruning. We also planted a few plants (Sysrinchium bellum, Salvia spathacea) that some of us donated from our gardens. For this next work party, there are sure to be more weeds to contend with. There are also have several other shrubs that need some pruning (or removal in the case of a dead one). For questions, call Dana Glei (544-3006) or Lynn Houser (568-3230). —Dana Glei
Santa Rosa Creeks Master Plan

You are invited to help with the development of a Creek Master Plan for Santa Rosa. The Plan will direct future growth, preservation, and enhancement along over 70 miles of waterways that flow through the City.

Join us on Wednesday, June 18 for a Creek Explorer Tour to Brush Creek and Flat Rock aboard Rosie the Trolley (tours leave at 6 and 7 pm from the Downtown Market). Bring the kids!

There will also be Hands-on Creek Planning Workshops focused on creeks in your Santa Rosa neighborhood. Come share your ideas for the Creek Plan, ask questions, and learn more about your creeks. Everyone can participate! Your ideas and comments will be compiled into a summary document called Watershed Visions. This document will guide the development of the Creek Master Plan for Santa Rosa.

Roseland and Colgan Creeks:
Wednesday, June 4, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. – Roseland Elementary School

Brush, Austin, and Ducker Creeks:
Monday, June 9, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. – Rincon Valley Library

Piner, Peterson, and Coffey Creeks:
Wednesday, June 25, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. – Piner High School

Paulin Creek:
Thursday, July 10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. – Steele Lane Community Center

Spring and Matanzas Creeks:
Wednesday, July 16, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. – Montgomery High School

Please share this information with your neighbors. Come be a part of the process and demonstrate your commitment to the preservation, enhancement, and restoration of our natural and social watersheds for all to enjoy. Contact me directly at (707) 543-4225 or sjemerson@ci.santa-rosa.ca.us with any questions.

– Sheri Emerson

More Trips, Special Events, & Learning Opportunities

Saturday-Sunday, June 7-8, “Rare Plant-a-Thon” at Point Reyes National Seashore
Discover new rare plant populations and enjoy the wildflower season in one of California’s botanical showcases! Join a group of fellow rare plant lovers for our fifth annual "Rare Plant-A-Thon" at Point Reyes National Seashore. All levels of botanical experience are welcome. The National Park Service will host this weekend event June 7th and 8th. Free overnight accommodations are available at the Point Reyes Historic Lifesaving Station at Chimney Rock so RSVP to reserve a space. Please call Michelle Coppoletta or Shelly Benson for details (415) 464-5195. – Michelle Coppoletta
Santa Rosa Junior College Summer Field Classes
There may still be room in these classes. To find out, go to www.santarosa.edu, or by phone at (707) 525-3800. Due to the recent budget cuts, the school administration has decided that field-oriented short courses will not be offered after this summer until such time as the budget picture improves. Thus, the following may or may not be available in the future.

**June 8-14, Feather River Country – Steve Barnhart**
Biology 81.7. Sierra Nevada Wildflowers. Section #8297. Fee - $240.00 plus registration fees. Class meets Monday evening (6/2) 7-9 pm at SRJC. Field Trip Sunday-Saturday, 6/8-6/14 to Plumas County Feather River Country. Transportation, room and board at the UC Berkeley Field station included in fee. Daily field trips to various wildflower haunts and plant communities of the area.

**July 13-19, Yosemite and Eastern Sierra – Ann Howald**
Biology 81.16. Plants of Yosemite and the Eastern Sierra. Section #9062. Fee- $120.00 plus registration fees. Class meets Thursday evening (7/3) 7-10 pm at SRJC. Field trip 7/13-7/19 to the Eastern Sierra and Yosemite. Fee includes transportation and camping fees. Food will be arranged. Daily trips to some beautiful wildflower sites and ecological treasures of the Eastern Sierra.

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Eriogonum lobbii

### A Few Good Websites

**Sudden Oak Death**
- UC Davis Cooperative Extension/Marin County: [http://cemarin.ucdavis.edu/symptoms.html](http://cemarin.ucdavis.edu/symptoms.html)
- Sudden Oak Mortality Task Force: [http://www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org)

**Recycling and non-toxics**
Here’s a website with useful info on less toxic home, lawn and garden management. [http://www.recyclenow.org/o_links.html](http://www.recyclenow.org/o_links.html). It’s compiled and provided by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency. This site includes:
- Pest management: [http://www.recyclenow.org/less-toxic/index.html](http://www.recyclenow.org/less-toxic/index.html)
- Household toxics and battery disposal: [http://www.recyclenow.org/r_householdtoxics.html](http://www.recyclenow.org/r_householdtoxics.html)
- Recycling (including used motor oil): [http://www.recyclenow.org/r_recycling.cgi](http://www.recyclenow.org/r_recycling.cgi)
- …and lots more.

**Native plant info and photos**
**Jepson Herbarium** has announced a new site dedicated to the study of the plants of California, with information on plant names, distribution and up-to-date taxonomy. Additional features include links to CalPhoto, the CNPS Inventory, and the Flora of North America.

Look up a plant (you’ll need the genus name, and don’t forget to capitalize it) on: [http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/interchange.html](http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/interchange.html).

To see a photo of the plant, then click on CalPhoto - which is a good resource for pictures since CalFlora lost its funding and is non-functioning. To access CalPhoto directly, go to: [http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/photos/](http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/photos/)

**Growing Native**
Louise Lacey’s lively and unique newsletter on gardening with natives is missed by many. It still lives, in Web form. Check it out at: [http://www.growingnative.com/](http://www.growingnative.com/).

**Hiking Guide**
And while we’re at it let’s mention again the Greenbelt Wonders and Neighborhood Wanders Online Hiking Guide. Find it at: [http://www.greenbelt.org/wondersandwanders/index.html](http://www.greenbelt.org/wondersandwanders/index.html).
Sudden Oak Death is here – and it’s not going away

Did you know that the Sudden Oak Death pathogen – *Phytophthora ramorum* – does not spread from infected oaks? That its main host and disease vector for oaks is bay laurel? That it can both swim and fly? We were extremely fortunate to have had Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, forest pathologist on the forefront of Sudden Oak Death research, at our May General Meeting where we learned these things and much more. The charming Matteo was accompanied by his equally charming 4-month old chocolate lab, Scooby.

There is bad news and good news about SOD. First the bad news: there is a whole lot of SOD in Sonoma County. It likes our coastal moisture and moderate temperatures. It can apparently infect just about any plant, given the right conditions, and it affects different species differently. There is high mortality among redwood sprouts and young douglas firs. Many nurseries are affected. If an oak has cankers all the way around its trunk, it’s a goner. It can be spread by the soil on our boots. It’s here to stay. The good news: some individual oaks demonstrate natural resistance. Compost may be clear of infection when subjected to heat for 2 weeks. Phosphonate treatment shows promise for some individual trees, and training will soon be given to selected arborists as part of the research. There is a lot of study being done, by Matteo Garbelotto and colleagues, people who before there was government funding available began their work in grassroots fashion as the Sudden Oak Mortality Task Force.

Here’s how coast live oaks & other victims get the disease. The airborne sporangia of *P. ramorum* are sprinkled by the breeze onto the leaves of bay and other plants of which leaves are its target. There, if there is moisture, lots of tiny zoospores are released and in a few days the bay leaf has symptoms; soon it will in turn release many more sporangia to powder its neighbors and understory. Oaks appear to be infected through breaks in their bark (which could have many possible causes), and are killed by spreading trunk cankers when the trunk is girdled. The disease does not spread from the infected trunks. SOD can also travel through ground water, surface runoff and flooding. Tanoaks are the most susceptible, dying quickly; black & coast live oaks often die (but not always); canyon oaks (in the intermediate, not red oaks group) have recently been found to be susceptible. Bay, huckleberry, madrone, rhododendron, manzanita, buckeye, & redwood suffer damage primarily to their leaves (or needles).

Management recommendations include: not weakening oaks by inappropriate irrigation; avoiding overhead watering; not making large pruning cuts in the wet season, especially near bay trees; following guidelines and good sense about moving infected material; cleaning boots with Lysol or bleach after walking in infested areas; educating ourselves and our neighbors about SOD.

You will find all kinds of helpful information, photos, guidelines, and lots of good links on the Sudden Oak Mortality Task Force website, [http://www.suddenoakdeath.org/](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org/). Also, the UC Davis Cooperative Extension/Marin website has good information and photos showing symptoms of SOD on various plants: [http://cemarin.ucdavis.edu/symptoms.html](http://cemarin.ucdavis.edu/symptoms.html).

– Betsy Livingstone

Bleeding on coast live oak bark; tip damage on bay laurel leaves, where water accumulates and infection develops. Photos from UC Davis website cited above. Bay leaf photo by Joe O’Brien.
Board of Directors – Milo Baker Chapter – June-July, 2003

President: Leana Beeman-Sims wayward@sonic.net 829-8225
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Treasurer: Nancy Prouty prouty@sonic.net 874-1294
Membership: Wendy Born spores@excite.com 829-7519
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Conservation Co-chairs: Bob Hass bhass@vom.com 938-8868
and Lynn Houser housers@sonic.net 568-3230
Legislative chair: Barney Brady bbrady@pon.net 433-0485
Education: vacant
Field Trip Coordinator: ML Carle mlml@svn.net 792-1823
Publicity: Terry Loveton tloveton@msn.com 829-6824
Plant Sales: Liz Parsons lizpar8993@aol.com 833-2063
Poster Sales: Jeff Woodward ................. 765-0245
Book Sales: Colleen Gibbons ................. 433-4246
Hospitality: Joan Grosser ................. 781-3854
SCCC Rep.: Wendy Krupnick wendyk@pon.net 544-4582
RRWC Rep.: vacant
Webmaster: Leha Carpenter leha@forestnatives.com 874-3740
Directors at Large: Ruby Herrick rdherr@yahoo.com 887-8542
Leslie Vivian Leslie.L.Vivian@valley.net 824-8922

Clarkia Concinna (red ribbons clarkia)

Newsletter on the Web: Check out the Milo Baker Chapter newsletter on our new chapter Web site at: http://www.cnpsmb.org.

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. Note that there is no newsletter in July! Deadline for inclusion in the August newsletter is July 18. If you need more time, please let me know before that date.
Support Our Local Native Plant Nurseries

**Appleton Forestry Nursery**  
(call for appointment)  
1369 Tilton Road, Sebastopol  
707-823-3776  
(Contact: Patricia Canfield)

**California Flora Nursery**  
Somers & D Streets, Fulton  
707-528-8813  
(Contact: Sherrie Althouse)

**Circuit Rider Productions**  
(call for appointment)  
9619 Redwood Highway, Windsor  
707-838-6641  
(Contact: Rose Roberts)

**Mostly Natives Nursery**  
27235 Highway 1, Tomales  
707-878-2009  
(Contact: Walter Earle)  
www.mostlynatives.com

**North Coast Native Nursery**  
(call for appointment)  
2710 Chileno Valley Road, Petaluma  
707-769-1213  
(Contact: Dave Kaplow)  
www.northcoastnativenersery.com

**Wayward Gardens**  
1296 Tilton Road, Sebastopol  
707-829-8225  
(Contact: Leana Beeman-Sims)