Annual Chapter Picnic
Sunday, August 17, 4 o'clock pm

Please join fellow chapter members and guests at this year’s potluck picnic, hosted by Leana and Fred Beeman-Sims at Wayward Gardens Nursery in Sebastopol. Once again, Leana and Fred have graciously welcomed us to join them in their captivating garden, a haven for butterflies, birds, humans, and other creatures. This will provide a delightful setting for the day’s festivities.

Directions: Tilton road runs south off of Bodega Highway (just a short distance past Sexton Road), about 5 miles west of the center of Sebastopol. The nursery is located just over a mile from Bodega Highway, just past the junction of Tilton with Falstaff Road. Please park along Falstaff Road; the first driveway on Tilton past Falstaff is where you want to go. (There will be signs.) Plan on dining to start between 5 and 6 pm. (Please note the change of time from last year’s earlier start.)

Provisions: Please bring your own beverage of choice. Also, please bring your own table setting to reduce resource consumption. You are welcome to bring food to barbecue if you wish. Chairs, tables, and barbecues will be provided.

Potluck contributions: If your last name begins with: Please bring the following:

| A – J | Main dish |
| K – R | Appetizers, veggie or fruit salad, bread |
| S – Z | Dessert |

There is no regular General Meeting in August.

September General Meeting: Annual Seed Packaging Workshop for the Fall Sale
Tuesday, September 16, 7:30 pm at the Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center
2050 Yulup Avenue, 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, September 9, 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

As I walked across my garden this evening I paused to watch a hummingbird moth sipping at the ethereal blossoms of *Oenothera hookeri*, and I was reminded once again of the many reasons we need to keep working to protect our beautiful native flora. It's an ongoing process, trying to find the way to be effective as a conservation organization, but I believe that it is the sum total of all our work that results in more protection for native flora and fauna. Our educational efforts, plant sales and festivals all enhance the work of the front line activists whose work is crucial, too. Each month I'm grateful to all of us for the work we do as volunteers out of love of nature, on whatever level we can. Keep up the good work!

– Leana Beeman-Sims

*Oenothera hookeri*  
Hooker's evening primrose

Spring Wildflower Festival Roundup

What a great day the festival turned out to be. We couldn’t have asked for better weather or a finer group of people. For a first time event we were extremely pleased with the turnout, 500 paying attendees, 42 booth participants, and 50 great volunteers. Everyone seemed to be in a good mood, networking with new-found friends. Good vibes, lots of information, art, and free seminars. The numbers aren't final yet as we’ve not “backed-out” some of the expenses or number of raffle tickets sold, but we had a gross income of $11,550, with expenses of approximately $4500. Not bad for a first try! We also had 12 new members sign up and hopefully more will mail in the forms from home.

The raffle to The Cedars was won by Carolyn Guion and Carol Page. Congratulations and have a great hike with Roger Raiche and David McCrory.

Here’s feedback we had from one attendee: “Congratulations for a job well done. I arrived at the show at 11:15 and stayed until 4. It was the most fun I have had at any show, anywhere. I could have used more time, cloned myself so I could attend all the seminars, and feasted there. I hope you do it again. Excellent!”

... and from a vendor: “It was a pleasure for me to represent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Spring Wildflower Festival. It was well-organized and well-attended, and I had a lot of fun…. We hope that the Spring Wildflower Festival becomes an annual event. Thanks again for organizing a worthwhile event.”

This festival could not have happened without the incredible team on the festival committee: Marcia Johnson, Joan Grosser, Colleen Gibbons, Ruby Herrick, Heidi Herrmann, and Leana Sims. Also, I want to mention Ina Chun from Face2Face for giving us lots of good advice. And, Mila Mintun Lamberson for her hours of help with the art auction. Nancy Prouty, Chapter Treasurer, put in many hours accounting for all the money in & out. Putting out an incredible amount of energy and going beyond the call of duty these folks were joined by more than 40 other volunteers to make the festival the success that it was. Many of those volunteers were new, or nearly new, members, and a special thanks went out to all of you.

– Reny Parker, Festival Chair

Thank you, Volunteers!

Here are the Spring Wildflower Festival volunteers in alphabetical order by first name. If we don’t have your full name or it’s incorrect, or if we missed you please let us know! We thank you and hope you’ll be back for next year’s Festival.

Alan Brubaker, Anna Young, Barney Brady, Bertha Raines, Betsy Livingston, Betty Young, Bob Hass, Bob Raines, Carl Brown, Colleen Gibbons, Dana Glei, Gail C., Heidi Herrmann, Helen Shane, Joan Grosser, John Herrick, Joyce Bach, Judith Brown, Kathy D., Katy Redmon, Leana Sims, Lela Carpenter, Liz Brown, Liz Parsons, Lynn Houser, Marcia Johnson, Marg Harriman, Margaret Brown, Martha Kemp, Martha Metzger, Mary Aldrich, May Miller, ML Carle, Nancy Prouty, Pamela Glasscock, Pauline Haro, Rebecca, Reny Parker, Rita McPherson, Ruby Herrick, Shelly Phelps, Sheri Emerson, Silla Wirth, Suki W, Terry Loveton, Tom Drumm, Wendy Krupnick, and Wendy Smit.

Plant Sale News: August 3 Potting Workshop Coming Up

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
Board of Supes Proclamation
Our chapter recently received a proclamation (that we requested) from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors at their July 1 meeting in honor of California Weed Awareness Week, July 20-26, 2003. At the meeting, we emphasized to the Supervisors and all those present (the room was packed) the dangers to native plants and agriculture posed by invasive non-native weeds in Sonoma County. More information about the proclamation is posted at the Milo Baker website, www.cnpsmb.org.
(Editor’s note: congratulations, Bob, you made it happen!)

Vegetation Mapping Project
A follow-up meeting of agency and organization representatives will be held next September to continue discussions about the need for and scope of a proposed vegetation mapping program for Sonoma County. The Milo Baker Chapter is continuing to help lead this initiative, in partnership with state CNPS and the Sonoma Ecology Center.

General Plan Update
Most of the subcommittee reports on the Sonoma County General Plan Update will have been approved by the Citizens Advisory Committee by the time this issue of the chapter newsletter arrives at your home. The next administrative “hurdle” is review by the County Planning Commission, which has the right to make any changes to the plan that it feels are necessary. As the plan moves further along, those reviewing it tend to have less expertise on its specifics (at least that is my impression). This can be problematic, because these policymakers may be more susceptible to “lobbying” by special interest groups. We will keep you updated on developments.

Vegetation Mapping Workshop
State CNPS is sponsoring a two-day workshop August 14-15, 2003 for botanists, ecologists, and other scientists, biological consultants, and federal and state employees. It will cover training on CNPS vegetation survey protocols, as well as vegetation classification and mapping. Cost of the workshop is $125 before August 4, and $150 thereafter. Space is limited to 25. The workshop site is in the Sierra National Forest, about 1.5 hours east of Fresno. For more information, call or send an email to Lynn Hous er or Bob Hass.

CalFlora is Back
CalFlora is a pioneering online database of information on the flora of California, including taxonomy, imperilment, photographs, and much more. Several other states, including New York and Oregon, are developing similar botanical tools. The California botanical community had come to depend on CalFlora, and was dismayed when it went offline earlier in 2003. In the past, CalFlora relied mostly on grants from government agencies, but this support dried up entirely this past year. Now it is back with a new look, a new hosting service, and a new plan for supporting operating costs—including funding basic service through donations from users. Go take a look at the new CalFlora website: www.calfora.org.

Jepson Herbarium Also an Electronic Resource
Another useful resource for California native plant lovers is the Jepson Herbarium’s website: http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/interchange.html. Available is information on plant names, distribution, and taxonomy, and many valuable links to sites such as Cal Photos, the CNPS Inventory, and the Flora of North America. The site also contains a feature that allows you to conduct a search of its data.

—Bob Hass

CNPS Conservation Policies: Something to Think About
In my northwest Santa Rosa backyard I’ve been battling a new weed which took hold over the winter. At first it came up easy, and I did a lot of hand-pulling. Now only a severe beating with the pick-mattock will get it out. I brought a piece of it to Plant ID Hour at the chapter’s June meeting. A knowledgeable member remarked something like, “Ooh, what’s that Lolium doing here?” as it was sitting next to some rather showy natives. Happy to get the genus of this problem weed, I further keyed it to Lolium perenne, perennial ryegrass. It had been making me sneeze and itch every time I walked through it, and I’d never suffered from hay fever before.

Did you know that CNPS has a Policy On Introduction of Ryegrass? It is a short policy statement, found at www.cnps.org under the Policy Archives section. A group of dedicated CNPS volunteers decided several years ago that ryegrass, which was harming many native plant communities, was worthy of official CNPS policy.

Many issues are covered by CNPS policies. Some are simple and broad, like the Focus on Plants, and some are specific and detailed, such as those regarding rare plants and mitigation. These policies should be part of our “Conservation toolbox,” because as CNPS members, they can help us address local native plant issues. For example, in writing letters I have often referred to the CNPS Policy on Oak Hardwoods and the Policy on Wetlands.
CNPS conservation policies are based on referenced scientific information and reviewed and revised by CNPS committees, staff, and chapter members. Often they arise from the local needs of chapters, such as the new Policy on Brush Management at the Urban-Wildland Interface, submitted by the San Diego Chapter and currently under review by the Chapter Council and its Conservation Policy Committee. As a member of that committee, I will participate in reviewing and recommending revisions of CNPS conservation policies to the Chapter Council in Monterey on September 13.

I encourage all Milo Baker Chapter members to become familiar with CNPS policies. If you have questions about them, or want to know more but are not on the web, feel free to contact me (568-3230 or housers@sonic.net).

A great time to discuss this topic, as well as other conservation issues is at the next Conservation Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 12, 7:00 p.m., at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa. Please contact me for a copy of the meeting agenda or if you have items to add. Anyone interested in what the chapter is doing on the conservation front is welcome to attend.
—Lynn Houser

Chapter Field Trip News

Early Morning Tidepool Adventure, Saturday, August 16
Hey all you early risers and recovering slug-a-beds! Join us at the Bodega Head tide pools with The Amazing Dr. Peter Connors at 7 AM on August 16th. Those of you who recall Peter being devoured by ice plant have some idea of how much fun we’ll have. We’ll explore tide pools, concentrating on the beauty and diversity of marine algae along our coast, but may find time for some salt marsh plants also. This is a trip not to be missed! Please e-mail me at mlml@svn.net, or phone me at 792-1823. The number of participants is limited. You should bring hip boots (not chest waders) or old tennis shoes, prepared to get wet. If you bring a ziplock bag, you may find some drift algae on the beach to take home and press. – ML Carle

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

Laminaria sp. seaweed

Special Events & Learning Opportunities

Russian River Watershed Celebration, September 14 through 22
The annual Russian River Watershed Celebration brings thirty-five events beginning on September 14th and continuing through September 22nd. Twenty-five different groups come together under the Russian river Watershed banner to stage events reflecting their unique focus and interests. Co-chaired this year by Celebration founder Kay McCabe and Fred Euphrat, the events will include participation by schoolchildren, artists, Native American and Buddhist spiritual leaders, runners, kayakers, musicians, artists, and many more. Visit the website at www.RussianRiverCelebration.org.

Kicking off the celebration in fine Sonoma County style will be the …

11th Annual River Appreciation Festival at Hop Kiln Winery, Sunday, September 14
Join CNPS and many other environmental organizations and individuals in an afternoon of informative events, entertainment, food, and wine at the beautiful Hop Kiln Winery overlooking the Russian River. This year’s festival with feature and support the Russian Riverkeeper Program, and will honor the grass roots organizations and agencies working together to protect and restore our river lifeline. Our Chapter is proud to be one of the many sponsors of this event. More information will be appearing in next month’s newsletter and other publications.

Fourteenth Annual Creeks, Wetlands, and Watersheds Conference: Fall, 2003
This fall the Aquatic Outreach Institute will hold its Fourteenth Annual Creeks, Wetlands, and Watersheds Conference. The conference offers exciting workshops by local experts about the aquatic ecosystems around the Bay Area, and provides inspiration and techniques to protect these resources.

Workshops will take place on October 4, 18 & 25 and November 1, Sunday November 2 and Saturdays November 8 & 15, 2003 Workshop titles include: Creature Features for Your Garden: Attracting Bees, Bats, and Dragons (dragonflies, that is);
A Day in the School Garden; South Bay Creek and Wetlands Restoration Tour; Butterfly Habits and Habitats; Canoes in Sloughs-Gallinas Creek; Salt Pond Restoration-Turning the Dream to Reality; Gardening with East Bay Native Plants; Wetlands, Wastewater and Watersheds; Wild Seed Collection; Creek Restoration for Salmon; Canoes in Sloughs-Arrowhead Marsh; Nature's Sketchbook: Field Sketching Basics; Pond and Creek Restoration Hike and Work Party.

especially for teachers

For information and registration, please contact Mary Malko at Aquatic Outreach Institute at (510) 231-9430 or mary@aoinstitute.org, or you may download a registration flyer from our web site at www.aoinstitute.org. Academic credit is available through California State University, Hayward. Class sizes are limited so early registration is recommended.

*Marsilea vestita, water clover*
Welcome, new members!
(Note there is a lag time between when the state CNPS gets your membership & when they give us the names, so if we missed you, sorry – please check next month’s issue.)

Newsletter on the Web: Check out the Milo Baker Chapter newsletter on our 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 September newsletter is September 15. If you need more time, please let me know before that date.

Support Our Local Native Plant Nurseries

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<tr>
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<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>Appleton Forestry Nursery</td>
<td>1369 Tilton Road, Sebastopol</td>
<td>707-823-3776</td>
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<tr>
<td>California Flora Nursery</td>
<td>Somers &amp; D Streets, Fulton</td>
<td>707-528-8813</td>
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<td>Circuit Rider Productions</td>
<td>9619 Redwood Highway, Windsor</td>
<td>707-838-6641</td>
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<td>Mostly Natives Nursery</td>
<td>27235 Highway 1, Tomales</td>
<td>707-878-2009</td>
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<td>North Coast Native Nursery</td>
<td>2710 Chileno Valley Road, Petaluma</td>
<td>707-769-1213</td>
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<td>Wayward Gardens</td>
<td>1296 Tilton Road, Sebastopol</td>
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