November General Meeting – Tuesday, November 18, 7:30 pm

Debby Zygielbaum, Native Plants in the Garden: Planting and Maintenance

Finally, a down-in-the-dirt, pragmatic guide to keeping the natives alive in your garden! Debby worked in the nursery at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and is currently working for a certified organic vineyard. She has used natives in all types of habitats and situations and wholeheartedly believes in the concept of “right plant, right place.” Bring your gardening questions!

There are a few activities happening right before the November General Meeting! Check out “Chapter Events & Activities” for more details!

December General Meeting – Tuesday, December 16, 7:30 pm

Holiday Wreath Making Workshop

*Chapter Board Meeting

Milo Baker Chapter Board meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every other month at the:
Environmental Center, 404 Mendocino Avenue in Santa Rosa, Suite A

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 11, 2003, 7:00 pm.

Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
President's Corner

Help Wanted – Natives plants need you!
We need your volunteer time to strengthen the native plant communities in Sonoma County. All that's needed is an average of 2 hours per month, and it doesn't even have to be every month! There are so many opportunities to preserve native plants and our local environment that we need your help to accomplish. All of the work is important but we have to limit ourselves to what we can realistically do with the number of volunteers we have. The tasks cover a broad range of activities, really something to suit everyone's needs. Everything from office tasks, to bookkeeping, pulling weeds and planting natives, leading hikes for other organizations, plant surveys, working with kids at local schools, attending city/county meetings, helping with the Spring Wildflower Festival and yearly plant sale.... You definitely don't need to be an expert on native plants to help out, just a desire to go native and help the Milo Baker Chapter succeed in preserving our native flora. To find out how you can help, check out “Volunteer Opportunities” or contact Reny at 894-9100, reny@renyswildflowers.com or Ruby at 887-8542, rdherr@yahoo.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

Milo Baker Chapter needs you!

Help protect native plants
Are you interested in becoming more involved in protecting Sonoma Country’s precious native plants and their habitat? They need your advocacy. There are lots of ways to help. If you’re not sure how you want to be involved, whether you’re just at the “checking it out” stage or looking for a committed role, you can start by introducing yourself to any of the Board members at the General Meeting. Or give a call to Ruby Herrick at 887-8542, or email her at rdherr@yahoo.com.

Hospitality Help Needed for General Meetings
Who brings the coffee & tea & cookies every month at the General Meeting? Who sets them out invitingly so we can munch and sip as we socialize and peruse the dazzling display of books? Who has set out the name stickers and pens and signup lists, and who has made sure all those cold, hard folding chairs are set up for us to squirm in while we bask in the glow of fabulous slide shows and lectures? A quietly gracious lady whom you may not have noticed, Joan Grosser, is the unsung heroine of the General Meetings and she could use a little help. If you could be her assistant (or co- or whatever) Hospitality Chair, she’d be grateful & so would we all. Please contact Joan if you can help, at 781-3854, JRGrosser@aol.com or Ruby Herrick at 887-8542, rdherr@yahoo.com.

Wish List

Want to help out, but don’t have the time to volunteer? How about donating one of the following to Milo Baker Chapter? Donations are tax deductible and make you feel good, too.

- Fold up table(s)
- Free-standing umbrella(s)
- Adding machine
- Small calculators

Conservation Report

Invasives Coordinator Sought
Our chapter currently does not have anyone to arrange occasional workdays to remove invasive plants in the county. If you are concerned about the damage that invasive exotics wreak on our native plant habitats and might like to help out, please contact Bob Hass at bhass@vom.com.
**Email List**
The Conservation Committee maintains an email list of chapter members who want to be kept informed of proposed or ongoing conservation-related projects and activities. In the past, there have not been more than a few emails sent out per week from CC members, and some weeks there have been none. Being on the list does not commit you to doing anything specific, but it is a way of keeping yourself “in the loop” on what is happening. To be added to the list, simply send an email to Bob Hass at bhass@vom.com, and in the body of the message type, “Add to CC list.”

**Native Plant Educational Program & Nursery**
The Pauline Bond Community Garden in Sonoma is seeking local CNPS members who would like to help create small demonstration gardens and landscapes with native plants, or help out at the small native plant nursery. There are also opportunities to do homeowner outreach and education, and to work with school children in propagating and planting natives. This project is sponsored by the Sonoma Ecology Center. For more information or to volunteer, contact Molly Anne Meyn at 695-2164.

**Chapter Events & Activities**

**Join Us for Dinner Before the General Meeting!**
Join us for dinner and a chance to meet Debby Zygielbaum, our speaker for our November General meeting and also our incoming Newsletter editor. For our monthly co-op dinner plan to meet at the Kirin at 2700 Yulupa Ave - about half a mile south of the Art aned Garden Center - and be there at 6:00 pm so we can get our orders in by 6:15 pm and talk and eat and get Debby to her Speakers Platform on time. Be sure to phone May at 538-4551 or send an e-mail to maygmiller@aol.com so we'll have the right sized table for us.

**Come Get Your Bulbs!**
Thanks to all those folks who helped at the seed packaging workshop, bagging up over 100 seed packages. Also, this wouldn't happen if it weren’t for all you seed and bulb contributors!! Thank you! As usual the bulk of the bulbs arrived late so there were those of us packaging up late Friday night before the sale. Good news . . . the remaining bulbs have arrived and will be available at the general meeting. These are Calochortus superbus, and C. venustus . . . Thirty bags were pre-sold at the sale, so get them while they're hot. – Wendy B.

**Plant ID before the November General Meeting**
The keys are here! Come “unlock” the identities of some of our local native plants at Plant I.D. Hour! Arrive at 6:30, an hour before the November 18th 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 Co. 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

**Spring Wildflower Festival**
*it was so good, we’re doing it again!*
Our Spring Wildflower Festival was such a success that we are currently planning for our next festival. The Festival Committee needs your ideas, energy and commitment to make it happen. If you are interested in helping us with publicity or other areas please contact Reny Parker, reny@renyswildflowers.com, 894-9100, or Ruby Herrick, rdherr@yahoo.com, 887-8542. – Reny Parker

**33rd Annual Plant Sale October 9 and 10, 2004**
We have just signed the contract for the Santa Rosa Vet’s Memorial our next plant sale. If you want to start seeds of many natives now is the time to put them into containers for winter stratification or put them in a baggy filled with damp soil to stratify them in the refrigerator. If you have any questions give me a call. The Plant Sale Committee will be meeting soon to discuss the last sale and to begin planning of the next sale. If you have suggestions or would like to become a member of the vital committee contact Liz at 833-2063 or lizpar8993@aol.com.

**32nd Annual Plant Sale Report**
The plant sale is over and, although there were not as many customers and we had plants left over at the end, we accomplished our goal of getting many native plants into local gardens and of raising money for the chapter’s work in the coming year. This year, we had a steady flow of customers and there was a
good selection of plants all morning. Unlike last year, when there was a huge crush at the beginning and all plants were gone by eleven o'clock. I prefer the less hectic atmosphere of this year's sale! There was plenty of time to answer questions and to talk to people about CA native plants and how to grow them. Our customers had questions about xeriscaping and habitat gardening. Herbalists also are finding that CA natives will substitute for exotics in many cases. Interest in gardening with CA natives has never been higher.

A special feature of this year's sale was a display by the California Native Grass Association. The director, Janice Bridge, set up the display and our member, Dave Dietz, staffed the display during the sale. There was lot of interest in grasses as more and more people are adding them to their gardens. The sale featured a large number of native grasses, many grown by Walter Earle at Mostly Natives in Tomales.

The fact that so many people return year after year to volunteer at the same jobs is a big factor in our successful sales. This was the 27th year that I have been involved in our sale; all that experience makes it easier and easier. Special thanks to Mary Aldrich and Judy Hartwig who worked on plants and personnel; they devote a lot of time and energy to our sale. Growers, truckers, cashiers, and sellers have all been volunteering for many years and know their jobs well. It is impossible to mention everyone by name as we had over 40 volunteers working on Saturday. Our chapter is in a very good financial position thanks to you and all your hard work! When all the taxes and bills are paid, we will have cleared about $6500.00. Yes, this is less than last year, but now that we have a spring event, the plant sale does not have to produce all our revenue.

We had great looking plants, the result of four potting workshops and good growers—thanks to Dave and Anna Webster, Dana Glei, Lynn Houser, Wendy Born, Elmarie Hutchinson, Ruby Herrick, Mary Reid, Alan Brubaker, Greg Wright, Rob Fox, Kathi Dowdakian, Joan Grosser, Leanna Beeman-Sims, and Mary Aldrich. Shooting Star Propagation Nursery provided great rooted cuttings and Wendy Krupnik at Shone Farm provided the growing space for the August workshop plants. We also purchased plants from Cal Flora, Mostly Natives, and North Coast Natives; our sale had the best selection of native plants available anywhere. The Salvias and Zauschnerias that were potted up at the August workshop were particularly good looking and ready to be put into the ground.

Wendy Born organized the seed and bulb table. We bought several varieties of CA native bulbs from Brent and Becky's Bulbs and they proved to be very popular with our customers. The local Brodiaea elegans, which Vicky Wilson provides, are unique to our sale.

In addition to the plants, our books, posters and t-shirts were very popular. The new t-shirt featuring the Oaks of Sonoma County, which was designed by M. L. Carle, was very popular. Becky Montgomery did an excellent job at the membership table. Joan Grosser and Avis Anderson provided refreshments for all. Thanks to the members who brought in such delicious cookies!

Betty Andrews who has been our artist since the very beginning of our sale has retired. Betty's paintings and note cards were always a very special part of the sale. We miss her and her husband Derrick and wish them well. Derrick always grew columbine (Aquilegia formosa) for our sale and Ruby Herrick has taken on that project. Betty and Derrick are now living at the Mirabel Lodge in Forestville. We have a new artist, our member, Louisa Carter, sold her wildflower note cards for the third year and our customers like her cards very much.

Treasurer Nancy Prouty, assisted by Barbara Alexander, spent the day in a dark closet counting the money, which the 14 cashiers collected. We appreciate their dedication.

Without publicity we would have no customers. Terry Loveton and Reny Parker worked all year to make sure that our event was covered in all forms of media. We must thank Rosemary McCreary, Dave Fazio, and Wade Belew for their kind mention of our sale. In addition, the Press Democrat ran a free advertisement for our sale in the Tuesday, October 7 edition.

The extra plants went to the Salmon Creek School in Bodega Bay, to the Arthur Page School in Cotati and to the Rural Cemetery in Santa Rosa. We are happy that the plants will be used to benefit children and for the beautification of the historic cemetery.

We can be very proud of our sale! We provide an excellent selection of well-grown native plants. The seed and bulb selection is unique to our sale. The success of the sale is a wonderful testament of how well we all work together for the cause of California native plants. – Liz Parsons

**Chapter Field Trips**

**Mushrooms – to eat or not to eat?**
The Sonoma County Mycological Association (SOMA) invites the Milo Baker Chapter of the California Native Plant Society to a fungal walk.
SOMA has monthly forays to catalogue the fungi of Sonoma County and we cordially invite our brothers and sisters who study the green flora to join us in November. Following the walk, we will have a mushroom round-up to discuss the fungi found and learn about their biology.

When: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Saturday, Nov. 22, 2003
Where: Fisk Mill Cove (Southern end) in Salt Point State Park

Extras: Pot Luck lunch to follow the walk. Bring your own drink and some food to share. SOMA has a culinary committee with stoves and they cook up some of the wild mushrooms collected and add a hot dish or two to the pot luck.

Directions: Fisk Mill Cove is at the northern end of Salt Point State Park on Highway 1. The entrance to the cove is near the road to Kruse Rhododendron State Reserve. Allow almost 2 hours driving from Santa Rosa. Bring a basket to collect mushrooms in, wax bags or boxes for specimens, a compass, a whistle or walkie-talkies, and dress for rain with an extra dry set of clothes to go home in.

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.

Upcoming Field Trips
On December 6th, our chapter will be heading for the newly repaired Conservatory of Flowers in San Francisco. We will be starting very early, to avoid the crush. The trip is limited to 20 people, so contact ML (see contact info below) to be signed up, and receive further info. E-mail is best.

On January 10th, Judy Robertson, lichen expert, will lead us on a tour of Howarth Park. This is also limited to twenty, so please sign up (see contact info below).

On February 28th, Peter Warner will be leading us to Lake Soulajule to help Americord get rid of broom, which is threatening a hillside of many beautiful native plants. Afterwards we’ll investigate the area for more natives. More details to come in upcoming newsletters.

For more information or to sign up for any of these upcoming field trips, please contact ML Carle at mlml@svn.net. – ML Carle

Activities & Events of Interest

Work Party at Doyle Park
At the September work party, M.L. Carle, Lynn Houser, Dana Glei, and Chris Schofield put in a hard day’s work on a very hot summer day and spread six yards of mulch (that’s 1.5 yards each!)

Our next work party is on Sunday, November 16 at 1:00 p.m. Please join us at Doyle Park in Santa Rosa. There is likely to be weeding, watering if necessary (of the plants we planted in October), and other clean-up work. Bring your weeding tools. For questions, call Dana Glei at 544-3006 or Lynn Houser at 568-3230. If you can’t make the work party, but would like to help out, we could also use some help with the watering. If we don’t have regular rain, our newly planted plants will need to be checked on weekly and watered if necessary through next summer. If you would like to volunteer to do the weekly watering for a month, give Dana a call at the number above.

The Wayne Roderick Lectures . . .
. . . at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden on Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive (South Park Drive is closed Nov.-March) in Tilden Park, Berkeley, (510) 841-8732, bgarden@ebparks.org, www.nativeplants.org

Saturday Mornings, 10:30 am. Free to the Public. Seating is limited. To be sure of a seat, come early and save a chair.

Saturday, November 1, 10:30 am
Sudden oak death and its native American cultural implications (lecture in the morning followed by a garden tour after lunch. The tour will cover plants affected by S.O.D. plus plants used by Indians) — Bev Ortiz

Saturday, November 8, 10:30 am
Joaquin Murietta country, the arid inner south coast ranges — Steve Edwards

Saturday, November 15, 10:30 am
The trillion-trillium trek — Bob Case

Saturday, November 22, 10:30 am
Native grasses and grasslands of California (lecture in the morning followed by a garden tour of grasses after lunch) — David Amme.
# Board of Directors – Milo Baker Chapter

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## Newsletter Submissions & Website

› Check out the Milo Baker Chapter newsletter on our chapter Web site at: [http://www.cnpsmb.org](http://www.cnpsmb.org) ›

Send items for the newsletter to Debby Zygielbaum, 762-1962, zygie@sonic.net

Deadline for inclusion in the December newsletter is November 10, 2003

## Support Our Local Native Plant Nurseries

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

**California Flora Nursery**  
Somers & D Streets, Fulton  
707-528-8813  
www.calfloranursery.com

**Circuit Rider Productions**  
(call for appointment)  
9619 Redwood Hwy, Windsor  
707-838-6641

**Mostly Natives Nursery**  
27235 Highway 1, Tomales  
707-878-2009  
www.mostlynatives.com

**North Coast Native Nursery**  
(call for appointment)  
2710 Chileno Valley Road, Petaluma  
707-769-1213  
www.northcoastnativenursery.com

**Wayward Gardens**  
1296 Tilton Road, Sebastopol  
707-829-8225

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THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California’s native plants. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California’s native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Membership is open to all. Membership includes *Fremontia*, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants, the *Bulletin*, a quarterly statewide report of activities, and the Milo Baker Chapter newsletter. WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US.

Name________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

City_______________________________State_______Zip_____________Phone_____________________Email_______________________

CHAPTER AFFILIATION:  □ Milo Baker  □ Other_____________________________________(County)

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:  □ Student, Retired, Limited Income $20 □ Plant Lover $100
              □ Individual or Library $35 □ Patron $250
              □ Family or Group $45 □ Benefactor $500
              □ Supporting $75 □ Angel $1000

Please make check payable to: THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Mail membership application to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816