June General Meeting
Tuesday, June 15, 7:30 pm

Daniel Murley:
Botanists and Explorers of the West, Part 2
Botanical Discoveries of Meriwether Lewis on the 200th Anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Daniel will be showing slides and discussing the contributions of the Lewis and Clark Expedition on the 200th anniversary of that famous journey of discovery.

Daniel Murley is a long time wildflower enthusiast and photographer who graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1969 and has been a weekly natural history columnist since 1979. He was a Ranger and Archaeologist for the State of California for thirty years and recently began a new career as curator of the Healdsburg Museum

Join Us for Dinner Before the General Meeting!
Have dinner with our June speaker, Program Chair Daniel Murley, at our monthly free-form, lots-of-talk dinner before the general meeting on June 15th. Join us at 6:00 pm at the Kirin Restaurant at 2700 Yulupa Ave (about a half mile south of the Art and Garden Center) for a co-op Chinese feast. Be sure to be there by 6:00 pm so we can get our orders in by 6:15 pm and get to the meeting on time. Contact May Miller, 538.4551, maygmiller@aol.com to make sure we'll have the right size table.

Come to Plant ID Hour before the General Meeting!
Check out “Chapter Events & Activities” for more details!

August Chapter Picnic
PLEASE NOTE:
THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEETING IN JULY!

Milo Baker Chapter Picnic
Sunday, August 22
Wayward Gardens Nursery

*General meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa

**Milo Baker Chapter Board meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday nine months of the year at the Environmental Center, 404 Mendocino Ave, Suite A, Santa Rosa. Next meeting is June 8th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
President's Corner

Ahhh, our second successful Festival has come and gone! The Spring Wildflower Festival is one of our two major fundraising events (the Fall plant sale being the other). All profits from the Festival go to our rare plant preserves – three very special places in Sonoma County.

Although attendance at the Festival was down somewhat from last year (350 this year versus 500 last year) the sales at our booths were almost the same. It seems that another local and long-time environmental event happening on the same day also had half their normal attendance, so it wasn’t just us. We had many positive comments on the new layout. Preliminary numbers show a gross income of $9700 and an approximate net profit of $3600. This is a tidy sum to add to our preserve fund!

Donna Podesto won the basket of goodies, including a year’s pass to Sonoma County Parks. The lucky winner of the overnight getaway to The Atrium and a year’s membership to Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens was Carolyn Withers. Congratulations to both of you!

Thanks go out to all of the 52 volunteers that helped that day, the 14 seminar speakers, the 42 booths (with many of them having their own dedicated volunteers), the artists donating their work for auction, and the sponsors for their contributions.

Welcome to the 6 new members who joined us, and any of those who took applications home to send in. The Festival would not have happened at all had it not been for the ongoing passion and commitment of the Festival committee: Ruby Herrick, Marcia Johnson, Joan Grosser, Pauline Haro, Rosalie & Marcus Wardell. And a special note of thanks to Buff Corsi for her assistance with gathering the artwork. Those of you who visited the Festival, we appreciate your attendance. If you did not attend, please mark your calendar for next year to give your support for this vital event!

You can see photos of the Festival online at www.cnpsmb.org under “Spring Wildflower Festival.”

Welcome New Members!

Welcome to our new chapter members this month:
- Doranell Ross
- Vivianne Nelson
- Alexis Tucker & David Rawle
- Kathy Jacobs
- Kate Reza

Thanks for joining and we look forward to seeing you around!

Volunteer Opportunities

Milo Baker Chapter needs you!

Thank You Wildflower Festival Volunteers!

Thank you everyone for your excellent volunteer work! All of you worked together, came early, stayed late and did a first rate job at our second Spring Wildflower Festival. If I left anyone out who participated, my apologies. It was an honor and joy to work with all of you: Adele Wikner, Alan Brubaker, Anna Young, Anna Webster, Barney Brady, Betty Young, Carolyn Stoops, Charlene Stone, Colleen Gibbons, Dan Murley, Dorothy BeeBee, Gail Cosmo, Gary Hundt, Irene Stewart, Jeff Woodward, Joan Grosser, Jean Himes, John Akre, John Herrick, Joyce Bacci, Judith Roseau, Julina Cross, Kathi Dowdkian, Katy Redmon, Leila Giambastiane, Liz Parsons, Lynn Houser, Makyla Stone, Marcia Johnson, Margaret & Carl Brown, Margaret Harryman, Marilyn Mullaney, Mary Aldrich, Michael Sheffield, Michelle Jensen, ML, Nancy Prouty, Pat Chan, Pauline Haro, Penny Dalton, Reny Parker, Rita, McPherson, Rosalie & Marcus Wardell, Ruby Herrick, Sabina Gilla, Sandy LeMolei, Sandy Martensen, Sarah French, Sarah Gordon, Sheri Emerson, Suki Winship, Terry Loveton, Thomas Kehrlein, Victoria Wikle

Thanks again!!

Ruby Herrick, Festival Committee

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.
**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.

- Free-standing umbrella(s)
- adding machine
- small calculators

The Milo Baker Chapter would like to thank **Leila Erskine** for her generous donation of a folding table. Leila, we will use the table and think of you!

**Got pots?**

MILO BAKER NEEDS YOUR GALLON POTS!

Every year our plant sale uses almost one thousand gallon pots. Please recycle your old pots with the Milo Baker Chapter. Call **Liz Parsons, 833-2063** or bring them to the monthly meeting, or simply take them to Cal Flora in Fulton and tell them that you have containers for the CA Native Plant Society plant sale. Thanks!

**Got books?**

If you have any native plant books such as field guides, nature studies, etc. that you’d like to clean out of your closet we’d love to find new owners for them. The Spring Wildflower Festival art auction included books, the sale of which brought in a nice extra amount of money. To donate your books, and get a tax-deduction, bring them to Joan Grosser at the general meetings. Or contact Joan at **781.3854** JRGrosser@aol.com

**Got plant lists?**

We’d like to collect reliable Sonoma County plant lists from the membership to organize and cross reference for the use of the chapter and interested persons. If you can locate any for us, please contact **M.L. at mlml@svn.net**

**Chapter Events & Activities**

**Plant ID Before the May General Meeting**

Arrive at 6:30, an hour before the June 15th 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

**Plant Sale News**

On May 2, eight hard working people gathered at Cal Flora Nursery in Fulton and put 300 rooted cuttings into gallon containers. Victoria Wikle, Elmarie Hutchinson, Ruby Herrick, Alan Brubaker, Pauline Haro, Mary Aldrich, and Dave and Anna Webster managed to complete the task before noon! Shooting Star Nursery in Graton supplied the cuttings. We potted up *Arctostaphylos ‘Pt. Reyes’, Ceanothus ‘Yankee Point’, Achillea ‘Pink Island Form’, Zauschneria ‘Calistoga’, Coral bells (*Heuchera maxima*), and wax myrtle (*Myrica californica*). Thank you to everyone who helped with the workshop and also to those who took plants home to care for during the summer.

**Potting Workshop**

The next potting workshop will be **Sunday, August 8th, 10 AM** at Cal Flora in Fulton. We will be potting up rooted cuttings of quick growing *Salvia, Zauschneria, Minulus*, and *Ribes*. They will be grown on by Wendy Krupnick at Shone Farm the SRJC organic farm. We thank them and really appreciate the fact that they are willing to let us use this space. Call **Mary Aldrich, 707.539.9005** for information.

**October 9th is the Fall Plant Sale!**

**Saving Your Own Seeds**

It is never too early to think about the plant sale to be held on Saturday, October 9. We always have a wonderful selection of seeds and bulbs at our sale and it is time to get out there and collect! Judging when the seed is ripe and ready is the most difficult part of collecting. Once you have determined that the seed is almost dry, place the plant or branch of the plant in a paper bag and wait for the seeds to fall to the bottom as the plant dries. Write the name of the plant on the bag. If the seeds are released
explosively, like the California poppy or some lupine species, take an old nylon stocking and tie it on to the end of the stem and it will hold the seeds until you are ready to harvest them. Once the seeds have been cleaned, put them into envelopes (envelopes that come with junk mail make wonderful containers), carefully note the genus, the species, common name, date, and any cultural information that you think important, then store in a cool, dry place. Don't forget where they are, because in the fall you will want to bring them into the seed packaging workshop at the September general meeting.

When you collect good viable seed in the wild, sow some of the seed in a container and when ready, plant the resulting plant in your garden, and you will have an easy, steady supply from then on. This is one of the challenges of growing native plants: beginning with seeds from a wild source and taming them in your garden. Always remain alert for seed collecting opportunities, travel with envelopes in your car, backpack, or purse. Remember, only collect when the number of plants is great and you are not endangering the population.

The number of members who are collecting seeds for our sale has diminished over the years. We need more collectors. Please consider becoming a seed saver. We no longer have a seed-cleaning workshop, but if you have any questions give me a call. Wendy Born is in charge of the seed-packaging workshop at the September meeting.

The last few years we have been purchasing bulbs from at supplier who does not collect from the wild. The Calochortus that we sold last year are blooming gloriously in containers in my garden. However, the Fritillaria pudica was a big disappointment and hardly had any leaves and no bloom. The very expensive Erythronium rotted. I would appreciate any comments on the bulbs from those who purchased them. We are currently deciding whether to order again this year and we need your feedback. Call Liz Parsons at 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com.

Liz Parsons

Conservation Report

State CNPS News
We welcome local botanist Ann Howald as the new Rare Plant Program Director at CNPS! Much is being planned at this time, and your participation is needed. In March, I met Misa Ward, the new Interim Rare Plant Botanist, and I am happy to see new momentum in this very important function of CNPS. A survey of users of the Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants is underway.

Chapter News
We have many conservation opportunities and your participation is greatly needed!

Chaparral Shrubs and Fuel Management
Up at Rincon Ridge in Santa Rosa (Fountaingrove II), the Chapter has been working to protect the rare Rincon Manzanita (Arctostaphylos standfordiana ssp. decumbens) and Rincon Ridge Ceanothus (Ceanothus confusus) in the chaparral area of the City’s new Rincon Ridge Park. Greg Wahlert, our Southridge Preserve steward, is also project leader for this Adopt-A-Green-Space. We have held five work parties so far, clearing dead brush, weeds, and garbage from the approximately 2-acre site that will be protected by a deer fence. Homeowners and CNPS members put in 70 volunteer hours in April. Special thanks go to SSU intern Sarah French and Greg’s fearless friend Roger, as well as Fountaingrove residents Kim and Brian Glynn, who have done a fantastic job organizing their members as well as putting in many hours clearing brush. Good fencing is essential for protecting these rare shrubs, and more funding is needed. The Milo Baker Chapter has already approved $500 of chapter funds for the fence. If you want to know more about Rincon Ridge Park, visit, or help out, or donate funds for the fencing of the rare plant area, please call Lynn Houser at 707.568.3230, housers@sonic.net.

Vernal Pools: Burke’s Goldfields
I have been very fortunate to spend five fleeting spring days so far with CNPS Fellow Betty Guggolz, the founder of the Milo Baker Chapter and well-known rare plant expert of Sonoma County. When it comes to our rare plants, she is still the sharpest tool in the shed! Betty and I attended a dedication ceremony on April 7th for Fish and Game’s newly acquired Southwest Santa Rosa Mitigation Bank. Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey gave an excellent presentation on the rare and endangered vernal pool.
plants: Sebastopol Meadowfoam, (*Limnanthes* vinculans), Sonoma Sunshine (*Blennosperma bakeri*) and Burke’s Goldfields, (*Lasthenia burkei*). Our whirlwind tours to look for current and historical populations of Burke’s Goldfields came out of that day’s visit. Burke’s Goldfields currently has no large populations under protection, and its genetically distinct populations in Santa Rosa and Windsor are increasingly isolated or are becoming weed patches. We visited several sites, our routes all efficiently organized by Betty, and saw a couple good examples of good pools with large numbers. We also struck out a few times, as with the unsuccessful search for a historical duck pond with Burke’s Goldfields out on Fish and Game’s Laguna property, which we visited with DFG’s Gene Cooley and Santa Rosa’s Denise Cadman – still a great day of learning!

**Rare Plant Surveys**

Our new board member and SSU Conservation volunteer Sarah Gordon has been a great help documenting rare and endangered populations with me in Santa Rosa and Sebastopol with CNDDB (CA Natural Diversity Database) forms. We have been meeting most weeks and have done surveys for a new population of Vine Hill Ceanothus (*Ceanothus foliosus* var. *vineatus*) as well as Sonoma Sunshine and Burke’s Goldfields. Please let me know about rare plant populations you feel should be visited or if you need help with a CNDDB survey. Survey forms are available at [www.cnps.org/index.htm](http://www.cnps.org/index.htm) under Policy Archives. Please send copies of your CNDDB surveys, to be included in our rare plant files, to the Conservation Committee at the chapter mailbox.

Lynn Houser, Conservation Chair

**Chapter Field Trips**

**Plaskett Meadows & Anthony Peak**

June 25th through June 27th

We’ll meet, starting at 5 p.m. Friday June 25, at the Masterson Group campsite at Plaskett Meadows. On Saturday and Sunday, we’ll travel to both Anthony Peak and Black Butte for botanizing. A local walk around the meadows and small lakes near camp will complete our itinerary.

**Directions:** The Masterson Group campsite is on the north side of Forest Highway 7 at Plaskett Meadows. From Hwy. 101, take Hwy. 162 east to Covelo; just north of Covelo, 162 becomes FH7. Proceed up the long grade to Mendocino Pass, then head south to Plaskett Meadows. From Interstate 5, take Hwy. 162 west from Willows, through Elk Creek (where 162 becomes FH7) and past Alder Springs, to Plaskett Meadows.

I estimate camping to cost about $5/person/night. Saturday night pot-luck (or planned group dinner if someone wants to organize this) meal; other meals on your own. Visit [http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/mendocino/recreation/camping/se/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/mendocino/recreation/camping/se/) for further information about the campsite. For more information about the trip, contact Peter Warner at 707.937.2278.

**Western Siskiyous**

July 17th through July 25th

We’ll meet at the Hiouchi General Store on Saturday, July 17 at 3 p.m. We will leave there no later than 4 p.m. for an indefinite destination up Low Divide Road, northeast of Crescent City. On this outing, we’ll explore the rich coniferous forests and serpentine woodlands of Del Norte and Siskiyou Counties. I expect we’ll see dozens of rare plant species, up to 20 conifer species, *Darlingtonia* bogs, and the recovering remains of the Biscuit Fire in 2002 that burned over 1/2 million acres. We’ll meander along back roads near the Oregon state line, and depending on botanical conditions, we could spend a day or two in the vicinity of the Marble Mountain Wilderness.

**What to bring:** Very likely, all camping will be in unimproved roadside locations in national forests. All participants need to provide all their camping needs, including shelter, water, toilet needs, food, and fuel. Summer rainfall is possible. Carpooling in dirt road-ready vehicles is recommended. Roads are generally in good condition, but carry a spare tire. During the week, we will have a couple of opportunities to replenish food and supplies.

**Directions:** Hwy. 101 to a couple of miles north of Crescent City; take Hwy. 199 towards Grants Pass, OR. Proceed a few miles through Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park into the village of Hiouchi; the general store is on your left.

**IMPORTANT!!** All participants must contact Peter at 707.937.2278 for updates and further information; if you don’t contact me, I won’t know you’re attending, and you could be left behind. I will not be available later than July 14 to reply with information.

Peter Warner
Activities & Events of Interest

Rare Plant-A-Thon at Point Reyes
Join a group of fellow rare plant lovers for our sixth "Rare Plant-A-Thon" at Point Reyes National Seashore on June 13th and June 14th. For those of you who have never attended this event, the Rare-Plant-A-Thon is an effort to inventory unrecorded rare plant populations throughout the Seashore. With almost 50 threatened or endangered plant species, this can be quite a daunting task. So mark your calendars! We welcome all levels of botanical experience. Join us for one or both days. Free overnight accommodations are available at the Point Reyes Historic Lifesaving Station at Chimney Rock so RSVP to reserve a space. For more information please call Michelle Coppoletta or John O'Brien at 415-464-5195.

Summer Walks in the Laguna
What is the Laguna de Santa Rosa and where is it? How do I find the Laguna? The public is invited to join a lively, informative one and a half hour docent-led walk through the Laguna Preserve in Sebastopol. Walks will be held on Wednesday evenings (June 23, July 28, August 25) from 6:45 until 8:15 and Saturday mornings (June 12, July 10, August 14) from 8:45 until 10:15 on selected dates. If you are interested, you must sign up prior to the walk by calling Mary at 707.527.9277 or sending an email to mary@lagunadesantarosa.org. Walks will be limited to 12 participants (all ages) and a donation will be requested. For further information check the Foundation website at www.lagunadesantarosa.org

Articles to Increase Your Knowledge

A Gardener’s Journal: Sunlight
Sunlight is a vital requirement for plants. An amazing process called photosynthesis takes place in the cells of plant leaves. Photosynthesis uses little more than sunlight, water and carbon dioxide to create oxygen and energy.

The inputs for the process are: sunlight that falls on the leaves and is taken in by the cells; water provided via the roots that take it up from the soil (the roots also provide other nutrients needed in small quantities for the process); carbon dioxide comes into the leaves from the surrounding air through tiny openings in the leaves called stomata.

The outputs from the process are: oxygen and water that flow out from plants into the air through the open stomata; energy created in the form of carbohydrates that plants use for food.

Plants retain the carbohydrates to grow and to reproduce. Humans and other animals derive energy in the form of food from these plant-based carbohydrates sometimes directly, for example, lettuce, potatoes and beans. In other cases plants are used indirectly to create food. Cows eat grass and convert it into milk and meat. Reproductive parts of plants are the basis for some high energy foods, like berries, seeds and nuts or even pollen that bees use to make honey. So without photosynthesis there would be no broccoli, milk or meat or anything else to eat.

One of the major factors that determine the growing season for plants is the amount of daylight. In more northern latitudes, like in central Alaska, the season starts around Memorial Day and ends about Labor Day. At this latitude we enjoy a much longer growing season. Some other major factors are altitude, temperature and precipitation.

Clouds have an effect but the amount of potential sunlight available in any one spot on the earth surface is the same over the course of the year. At the equator days and nights are about the same length all year round. Contrast that with a place close to one of the poles, say in Alaska north of the Arctic Circle, where in the winter sunlight is almost non-existent and in the summer the sun shines almost continuously. In fact, a little joke north of the Arctic Circle in Alaska is about the most useless piece of camping equipment in the summer -- a flashlight.

This year our longest day (and shortest night) is the summer solstice on June 21st. After that the days will shorten until the winter solstice in December when the cycle reverses itself and the days lengthen.

Enjoy your sunlit garden!

Victoria Wikle
Board of Directors – Milo Baker Chapter

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Vice President  Betsy Livingstone  betsl@sonic.net  887-8873
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Volunteer Coordinator  Ruby Herrick  rdherr@yahoo.com  887-8542
Webmaster  Leha Carpenter  webmaster@cnpsmb.org

Newsletter Submissions & Website

Check out the Milo Baker Chapter newsletter on our chapter Web site at:  http://www.cnpsmb.org
Send submissions for the newsletter to Debby Zygielbaum, zygie@sonic.net
Deadline for inclusion in the April newsletter is July 15, 2004.

NOTE:  For newsletter subscription questions or problems, please contact Wendy Born, spores@excite.com

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.northcoastnativenerery.com  

Wayward Gardens  
1296 Tilton Road, Sebastopol  
707-829-8225
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 □ Bristlecone $1000

Please make check payable to: THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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