November General Meeting  
Tuesday, November 16th, 7:30 pm

Liz Parsons:  
Designing Your Garden with California Native Plants

California native plants don’t just belong in the habitat garden! Join us as Liz Parsons shows us how to use California native plants in our gardens. California native plants have a role to play in any design, whether formal or informal. Come learn about the trees, shrubs, and perennials that make up the California native plant palette.

Liz has been coordinator of the CNPS Milo Baker plant sale for over 25 years. During that time she has become acquainted with the native plants that do well in Sonoma County. She gardens in Kenwood where she grows many of the plants that she will talk about.

Join Us for Dinner Before the General Meeting!  
Come to dinner at our monthly free form, lots-of-talk dinner before the general meeting on November 16th. Our own darling Liz Parsons is going to be speaker in November and we certainly hope and expect she will join us for dinner - and maybe bring Milt? 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!

December General Meeting – Tuesday, December 21st, 7:30 pm

Annual Wreath Making Workshop

*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 November 9th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
My recently purchased native plants will soon be in their new homes in my drought tolerant, deer resistant garden. Fall is the only time of year plants have an opportunity to get their roots going in my tough gardening situation where they are pushed to their limits. On first starting the garden, 12 years ago, both native and Mediterranean plants were used. It’s taken awhile but now each year more and more of the non-natives are being removed and replaced with those native plants I’ve found really work. Of course, I can never resist a few non-tested ones as well. That’s part of the fun!

As I write this, rain is forecast for almost the entire next week, yippee! Planting can never start in this garden until the rock hard soil has been softened up, and with a spring as our water source I can’t soften it up on demand. Let’s hope for a nice amount of rain, spread throughout the season, with a wonderful spring. That doesn’t seem too much to ask.

Don’t forget to get out and enjoy the wonderful fall season. Our oaks, Oregon Ash, and others put on a wonderful show. Check out the Gallery on my website www.renyswildflowers.com to see some of the glory around Lake Sonoma area.

Reny Parker

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.

Southridge Preserve Needs a New Steward!
See below in this newsletter under “Conservation Report” for more details.

Wanted: Hospitality Chair
A hospitality chair is needed to arrange for and set up refreshments at the general meetings starting in November. The position also involves purchasing supplies and food, as well as helping to greet guests and members. This would be a good position for two people to share. Please reply to Reny at reny@renyswildflowers.com, 707.894.9100 or Joan Grosser, 707.781.3854, jrgrosser@aol.com.

Call for Committee Volunteers
The Milo Baker board invites you to sign up to help board chairs diversify their chapter programs. For example: our treasurer would like to have a finance committee to help in formulating chapter policy; our program chair needs help with program innovation and our hospitality chair would like help in broadening her offerings. Be the first to know what is new in your sphere of interest! Call Marianne Perron, 707.887.1362.

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)
- small calculators

Thank you to Carol Waxman for donating 4 adding machines to our chapter!

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 mml@svn.net

Chapter Events & Activities

Plant ID Before the October General Meeting
The Plants will be Growing with Autumn Rains Flowing: Do You Remember What Blooms in November? Arrive at 6:30, an hour before the November 16th General Meeting, and bring
specimens of plants you want to identify. I will bring some current plants of interest from the Santa Rosa area, plus 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. Even with good references, sometimes the identifying characteristics can be best taught and remembered by keying with 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 native plants are what CNPS is about—come get to know them and some fellow chapter members too!

Lynn Houser

Plant Sale Donations
The 33rd annual plant sale seems to have been a success. About five plants (both freebies and some purchased for the sale) were donated to the Hidden Valley Elementary School in Santa Rosa. The habitat garden at Hidden Valley was started last year by the 6th grade classes and is in full bloom with Zauschnerias and monkeyflowers. The principal was delighted to receive our additions.

Liz Parsons

Chapter Field Trips

Sonoma Mycological Association’s November Mushroom Foray & Potluck
November 20th we are invited to attend the Sonoma Mycological Association’s November mushroom foray and potluck at Fisk Mill Cove in Salt Point State Park. We are to be there at 10:00 am. The Mycological Association members are not only friendly and fun loving, but also fine cooks! We go out with one of their experts looking for edible mushrooms. When we return, all the mushrooms are put out on a table and identified. Soon the cooking, the conversation and laughter begins. Come join us with whatever you like to cook! E-mail M.L. at mlml@svn.net if you are interested, or call 792.1823.

Trip to Lake Soulajule
On January 8th, we are planning a trip to Lake Soulajule, about 15 miles out Marshall-Petaluma Road, to enjoy the birds and early blooming plants Ther’s a catch though: we are also going to be pulling out some broom which has resprouted since our last year’s broom bashing. We are trying to protect a beautifully flowering bank from being crowded out. Not only will you be getting out and taking care of your mental and physical heath to welcome the New Year, you will also be supporting biodiversity! We will meet at Noah’s Bagels at 9:15 am. Bring a lunch and gloves and plan to be gone until three. E-mail M.L. at mlml@svn.net if you are interested, or call 792.1823.

Mt. Tam in February?
M.L. is working on a plan to get a botanist to lead us to Mt. Tam for blooming manzanita in February. Watch your newsletter for more information!

Sharing Chapter Field Trips
We have been seeing more of the Marin chapter of late, and have offered the invitation to attend each others’ field trips. Please feel free to attend any of their trips. Check out the Marin website for information: www.marin.cc.ca.us/cnps. We will try to publish information in our newsletter when we know in advance.

ML Carle, Field Trip Organizer

Conservation Report

Southridge Preserve Needs a New Steward!
Greg Wahlert, Southridge Preserve steward for the past fourteen years, will soon be going east to pursue his Ph.D and is looking for a dedicated volunteer to take on this position starting in January 2005. The conservation easement preserve, in NE Santa Rosa, was negotiated by the Milo Baker Chapter in the late 1980’s, when Fountaingrove I was developed, to mitigate for the loss of rare shrubs Rincon Ridge ceanothus (C. confusus) and Rincon manzanita (Arctostaphylos stanfordiana ssp. decumbens), both CNPS list 1B plants. Each year Greg has had workdays and walks at the preserve, and several plantings of manzanitas have been established with plants grown from California Flora Nursery in Fulton. A plant list with about 60 species has been continually updated, and contains such beauties as Scarlet frittilary (Frittilaria recurva) and Indian warrior (Pedicularis densiflora). The area boasts a mix of chaparral, oak woodland, and mixed evergreen forest all in a southward facing 4-acres.

The new Southridge Preserve Steward does not need to live in Santa Rosa or have a detailed...
knowledge of restoration and ecology. A few hours several times a year is all that is required, and guidelines for management have already been established. Outreach to the local residents through the homeowner’s association board and their committees are good ways to assure the long-term health of the preserve. This spring, additional monitoring will be needed to assess the impacts of the fire-safety vegetation removal, giving chapter members an opportunity to key out plants and observe changes.

Please call Lynn Houser at 568.3230 if you’d like to visit Southridge Preserve or send an email to Greg Wahlert at gwahlert@sfsu.edu to inquire about the Steward position.

Conservation Report: Make Your Voice Heard!

Many changes have gone on over the summer that impact native plants: new residential development, fuel-reduction clearing, and some important votes and new policies that affect native plants. As we enter the shorter days of fall, with memories of spring and summer wildflowers still in our minds, it is a great time to take stock and plan for the New Year. In addition to budgeting and setting up schedules for rare plant monitoring in the spring, the Conservation Committee has recently brought in new members and ideas. With the coming election of our government officials, now is the time to think of ways to begin new, positive encounters with the decision-makers of our area and to educate them about the importance of protecting our flora. In addition to the letters that the Milo Baker Chapter writes, your individual letters regarding local proposals can make a real difference. Even if you cannot attend a city council meeting, your special knowledge and passion for native plants will come through in written comments to help educate our officials so they can make informed decisions. Your personal letter puts a constituent’s face on conserving our flora that they can understand; tell them why this area is important to you and how you will be affected by the project.

When you write a letter, stress the values that are important to everyone in words that most people relate to, such as conserving water quality and supply, protecting natural areas for wildlife and future generations, planned growth, developers “playing by the rules”, and land protection agreements. When commenting on a specific proposal, ask what measures will be taken to ensure that the project will not impact the sensitive plants, putting the burden of proof on the developer. If you ask specific questions, they will have to respond. If you only state your objection, you might just get “Comment noted”. Keep your letter straightforward and concise. If it is an important project and you feel comments should come from the chapter, email it to me (Conservation Chair) at housers@sonic.net for review and we’ll try to make it happen. Getting letters in by the requested deadline is important!

With good, sharp tools in our conservation tool box, our letters and public comments not only educate our elected officials about preserving the flora, but also remind them of their legal responsibility to protect our natural resources and make smart land-management decisions that will benefit our future.

Lynn Houser

Activities & Events of Interest

Growing Native is Back!
Longtime readers of Louise Lacey’s quirky and informative Growing Native newsletter will be happy to know that Louise is back, with a web-based version of the newsletter. Her website contains some of your favorite articles, and offers collections of detailed articles on specific topics from the Growing Native archives for about $15. Louise writes: “For the last year I have been sneaking around behind the scenes reorganizing 59 issues of Growing Native Newsletter into different formats so that I can make their information available to people at a lower price and with less effort and money on my part. Go to: www.growingnative.com. There you will find detailed segments of what I am now realizing is the beginnings of a native plant encyclopedia.”

Betsy Livingstone

Laguna Keepers
Laguna Keepers meet on Saturday, November 6th to begin valley oak restoration of the old “Barlow field” in the Sebastopol Preserve. Meet at 9:00 am at the Chevron Station parking lot on Hwy 12 coming into Sebastopol. Bring water, gloves, mc clouds, hoes, rakes, garbage bags of oak leaves, and all of your friends – we need lots of help! For more information contact mary@lagunadesantarosa.org or call the Laguna Foundation at 527.9277.

Mary Abbott

Public Programs at the Sonoma Co. Museum
Roger Raiche: A Tale of Two Landscapes
Thursday, December 2, 2004, 6pm
Admission $7.50 / Members $5
The Rincon manzanita (Manzanitas, Part II: The Rincon Manzanita)

The Conservation of Two Sonoma County Manzanitas

The Rincon manzanita (A. stanfordiana ssp. decumbens) is a Sonoma County endemic that the Milo Baker Chapter actively manages for conservation. The first mention of this subspecies of A. stanfordiana was in 1939 when McMinn writes “In Sonoma County in the Rincon Ridge and Vine Hill districts this species often becomes much reduced in size and often has a sprawling habit”. One year later, in his treatment of the genus, Adams writes “In the Vine Hill and Rincon Ridge areas near Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co., this species becomes a much depressed shrub, often cascading over road banks”. Apparently, both botanists failed to differentiate the yet-undescribed Rincon manzanita from the Vine Hill manzanita. It would be another 30 years before James Roof formally described the Rincon manzanita.

Roof originally described Rincon manzanita as a variety of the nominate species: A. stanfordiana var. repens. In 1988, Wells demoted it to A. stanfordiana forma decumbens; a name which was rejected by the editors of the Jepson Manual. A few years later, Wells again changed the status of Rincon manzanita to the name that is now generally accepted: A. stanfordiana ssp. decumbens. Regardless of which infraspecific rank this manzanita is recognized, it is a unique entity with a very limited distribution.

Other populations of this manzanita have been reported from the Bradford Mountain area, above Dry Creek Valley west of Healdsburg. However, these plants are best described as aberrant, semi-spreading individuals of the erect A. stanfordiana ssp. stanfordiana. In other locations where A. stanfordiana ssp. stanfordiana occurs, it is common to see low-growing, stunted individuals on road cuts, firebreaks and extreme rocky soils mixed in with erect shrubs. Such mixed populations can also be found in Lake County near Lake Pillsbury and on French Ridge just north of Upper Lake in the Mendocino National Forest. At an old quarry at Buzzard Peak, Sonoma County, A. stanfordiana ssp. stanfordiana has been observed in the same stunted condition, rooting at the nodes where branches come into contact with the rocky substrate.

It is on Rincon Ridge in northeast Santa Rosa that the Rincon manzanita reaches its best development. On the red rhyolite soils on top of the ridge, it forms an open, dwarfed chaparral reminiscent of a barrens. This low-growing chaparral is dominated by Rincon manzanita, Rincon ceanothus (Ceanothus confusus) and wavy-leaved ceanothus (C. foliosus). Rincon Ridge has long been known for its unique flora. It is the type locality for Rincon manzanita, Rincon ceanothus and Sonoma manzanita. Sadly though, most of the natural vegetation, rare plants and wildlife of Rincon Ridge has been eradicated for office parks and hundreds of new houses.

The Southridge Preserve In the early 1970’s, development plans for Rincon Ridge (known locally as the Fountaina grove Ranch) were being drawn up. This prompted Betty Guggolz, CNPS Fellow and the Chapter’s former Rare Plant Coordinator, to secure a preserve that would protect both the Rincon manzanita and Rincon ceanothus. After wrangling with developers for many years, a small 4.2-acre conservation easement was granted to the Milo Baker chapter in 1988. Initially, there were only three individuals of Rincon manzanita at the site (along with perhaps 200-300 Rincon ceanothus individuals). Unfortunately, the Southridge Preserve is shaped

Jepson Herbarium Workshops in 2004-2005
The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium is pleased to present a broad range of topics for this year’s weekend workshop series. For more information on the workshops, or to register, please consult http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepwkshp.html or phone Cynthia Perrine, Public Programs Coordinator at the Jepson Herbarium, 510.643.7008.

Nov 13-14, 2004: Introduction to Medicinal Fungi and Herbs; Dec 4-5, 2004: Plant Evolution and Diversity; Dec 11, 2004: Reconstructing the Tree of Life; Jan 29-30: Photoshop for Botanical Photographers

Articles to Increase Your Knowledge
[Ed note: This article is an excerpt from “Milo Baker Chapter’s Conservation of Two Sonoma County Manzanitas” to be submitted to Fremontia by Greg Wahlert and Phil Van Soelen.]

The Conservation of Two Sonoma County Manzanitas, Part II: The Rincon Manzanita

The Rincon manzanita (A. stanfordiana ssp. decumbens) is a Sonoma County endemic that the Milo Baker Chapter actively manages for conservation. The first mention of this subspecies of A. stanfordiana was in 1939 when McMinn writes “In Sonoma County in the Rincon Ridge and Vine Hill districts this species often becomes much reduced in size and often has a sprawling habit”. One year later, in his treatment of the genus, Adams writes “In the Vine Hill and Rincon Ridge areas near Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co., this species becomes a much depressed shrub, often cascading over road banks”. Apparently, both botanists failed to differentiate the yet-undescribed Rincon manzanita from the Vine Hill manzanita. It would be another 30 years before James Roof formally described the Rincon manzanita.

Roof originally described Rincon manzanita as a variety of the nominate species: A. stanfordiana var.
like a donut and has a very high perimeter to area ratio. This type of preserve design does not allow for a buffer area between disturbance and rare plants. Furthermore, only about a third of the preserve is suitable habitat for the Rincon manzanita and Rincon ceanothus.

Over the years, effective management of this tiny, suburban preserve has been a challenge for the Chapter’s preserve steward and volunteers. Disturbances from adjacent homeowners continually impact, and sometimes kill, rare plants on the preserve. It is common to see yard waste dumped on top of the rare plants, smothering and killing them. Deer take refuge in the preserve and heavily browse the vegetation. Invasive exotic plants and aggressive natives such as French broom, Douglas fir and coyote brush continue to threaten the rare plants. Over the years, chapter volunteers have sought to mitigate these disturbances through yearly work parties and by regular monitoring by the chapter preserve steward. Numerous attempts have been made to educate local homeowner’s about the unique land around their homes and to foster a sense of stewardship. Cages to prevent browsing by deer are constantly being installed and maintained over the rare plants. In 1989, a work party removed all of the Douglas fir on the preserve, preventing the conversion of the chaparral and black oak woodland to Douglas fir forest.

Since the preserve’s creation, volunteers have established about 50 new Rincon manzanita individuals on the preserve (as well as about 40 Rincon ceanothus). Many of these plants were propagated from parent material that has since been extirpated. Some Rincon manzanitas propagated by California Flora Nursery have also been planted out on the preserve. Despite its delicate beauty, the Rincon manzanita has yet to enter the horticulture trade. Selections of potentially valuable cultivars have yet to be made for this handsome shrub. Several years ago, the median strip of Fountaingrove Parkway on Rincon Ridge was landscaped with a few hundred Rincon manzanitas grown from cuttings. These plants represent a starting point for selection and trial as some mature individuals are decidedly more decumbent than others. In the last couple of years California Flora Nursery has made Rincon manzanita available for sale to the public.

The long-term survival of the Rincon manzanita will depend greatly upon the efforts of Milo Baker Chapter preserve stewards and volunteers. On Rincon Ridge, where the final stages of development are now being built out, the chapter is still advocating for the conservation of Rincon manzanita. Much work has yet to be done creating management plans with the City of Santa Rosa and lobbying for the protection of other patches of the unique chaparral barrens. As of the summer of 2004, an ill-conceived firebreak at the sensitive plant area at Rincon Ridge Park wiped out about 50 Rincon manzanitas, as well as about 50 Rincon ceanothus plants. Clearly, the Milo Baker Chapter has to work more closely with City officials to prevent such destructive practices in the future. While there are hundreds of Rincon manzanitas found in both the Chapter’s Southridge Preserve and adopted green space at Rincon Ridge Park, volunteers must remain vigilant to guard against a slow degradation of the last wild plants growing on Rincon Ridge.

Greg Wahlert, Southridge Preserve Steward
### Board of Directors – Milo Baker Chapter

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<th>Position</th>
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### 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 December newsletter is November 15, 2004.

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

### Support Our Local Native Plant Nurseries

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<th>Nursery Name</th>
<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>
<td><a href="http://www.calfloranursery.com">www.calfloranursery.com</a></td>
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<td>Circuit Rider Productions</td>
<td>9619 Redwood Hwy, Windsor</td>
<td>707-838-6641</td>
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<td>Mostly Natives Nursery</td>
<td>27235 Highway 1, Tomales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayward Gardens</td>
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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  □ 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