April General Meeting -- Tuesday, April 19th, 7:30 pm

Walter Earle, Mostly Natives Nursery: Wildflower Walks on the Sonoma Coast

Walter Earle is known to many of us gardeners as the longtime owner (with Margaret Graham) of Mostly Natives Nursery in Tomales. Walter has observed, photographed, propagated and promoted native plants – in particular, those that grow along the coast – for many years. He's also a past president of the Milo Baker Chapter (Sonoma County) of CNPS.

Walter’s talk will focus on the many fabulous places to walk and observe our bounty of flowering plants along the Sonoma County coast. While Sonoma Coast State Beaches are among the most heavily used state beaches, most people do exactly that: go to the beach. There, they are missing the nice walks along and near the coast where surprises are many and crowds are sparse. The Kortum Trail and the Pomo Trail are two such walks. We’ll learn about these trails and see some of the many plants that grow along these trails.

Another great place to hike is Salt Point State Park. Located on the northern Sonoma coast, it has a wide variety of habitats to explore. The north trail-pygmy forest hike takes one through several different forest types, including a small area of pygmy forest. Unusual plants such as Camas (Camassia quamash) and Coast Lily (Lilium maritimum) may be seen on this hike.

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

May General Meeting – Tuesday, May 2nd, 7:30 pm

Bob Case: The Aliens Have Landed, and it is War in the Bush!

Join us for an entertaining and informative evening as weeds expert Bob Case helps us to understand what is a weed, which weeds are a threat, how threatening are they and what can we do about it?

*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 April 12th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
President’s Corner

Ah, Spring is here and there’s not enough time to see and do all that is happening. I hope you’ve all been out enjoying the beauties that nature has provided, their season is short so don’t wait! An update on our Vision to Action 2005 (where we had 27 folks with their brains steaming on ideas and action plans): we broke into groups according to areas of interest and some really strong teams emerged—plant science, events, collaboration, and finance. With the blooming season upon us the plant science team has rocketed into action starting a long term monitoring project of our rare plants. Also, vegetation mapping training, a goal from Vision to Action 2002, has just taken place and activities will be planned to work with this team. Many environmental events take place this time of year and we have a group that will be representing our chapter at as many as possible, a great outreach opportunity for us. They also have the longer range plan for a garden tour as a fundraising event. You will be hearing more details about these two groups as well as collaboration and finance in the near future. It was a great day for the Chapter at the new to us SSU Environmental Technology Center. Thanks to all of you that participated. Please consider joining us as we need all of your help to be truly successful. Contact Ruby for details.

Liz Parsons CNPS Fellow to be Celebrated

Our dear Liz Parsons is now the second CNPS Fellow from the Milo Baker Chapter, Betty Guggolz being the first. At the March Chapter Council meeting and State Board meetings her nomination was unanimously approved. A beautiful plaque was presented from the state. This is a great honor for our Chapter and certainly for Liz. Liz has been a moving spirit of the Milo Baker Chapter for 30 years as well as a Board member for 27(!) consecutive years. Her enthusiasm, positive energy, and good humor seem to know no bounds. She always sees the glass as half full, never half empty. You can read all about her numerous contributions and accomplishments in an upcoming Fremontia. At our April general meeting we will be celebrating Liz being named a CNPS Fellow, please join us in showing our appreciation for all her endeavors for native plants and the Chapter.

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.

Welcome New Members!

Welcome to our new chapter members this month:
• Mary Cummings
• Curtis Kendall, Mayacamas Mtn. Sanctuary
• Stephanie Krantz
• Ivan Samuels
• Arthur Slater

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

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

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

Join Us for Dinner Before the General Meeting!

Its six o’clock and do you know where your hiking boots are?! Come to dinner at our monthly free form, lots-of-talk dinner before the general meeting on April 19th. 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. If you do e-mail, please allow for plenty of time because I don’t check my e-mail too often. See you soon.  

May Miller

Plant ID Before the April General Meeting
Arrive at 6:30, an hour before the April 19th 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. The best learned plants are those learned among friends. 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

Cunningham Marsh Cleanup
Please come and help get the Marsh ready for spring. We will be cutting and treating blackberries and pulling weeds. We especially would be grateful for people who have an expertise in grass identification for later collection. Dress in long pants & shirt, hat. Bring water & a lunch for later.

WHEN: Sunday, April 3, 2005
TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
WHERE: 1460 Big Cedar Lane, Sebastopol
If you need directions, email or call: Marcia Johnson, 829.3808, owlsnest@earthlink.net

Wildflower Exhibit at Foothill Regional Park
Sonoma County Regional Parks, with the support of the Milo Baker Chapter, has installed a wildflower photo exhibit near the ADA parking lot on Three Lakes Trail in Foothill Regional Park in Windsor. The exhibit will change at least three times during the spring-summer blooming season, capturing plants currently in bloom. We hope to display close to forty of the native plant species found in the Park and a limited number of exotic species as well. The exhibit will aid Park visitors wishing to identify the flowers they encounter. A short description of CNPS, the Milo Baker Chapter and background on Milo Baker are included in the exhibit. You can help sustain the exhibit by contributing photographs of plants blooming in the Park. Contact John Herrick, rdherr@yahoo.com, 887.8542

Plant Sale News
A successful division workshop was held in my Kenwood garden on February 26. Eleven people came to help dig up plants, put them in gallon containers, and take them home to grow on for the October plant sale. Wild ginger (Asarum caudatum), bleeding heart (Dicentra formosa), basket sedge (Carex barbara), Zauschneria (Epilobium canum), hummingbird sage (Salvia spathacea), Redwood sorrel (Oxalis oregana), wood fern (Dryopteris arguta), and northern maidenhair fern (Adiantum jordanii) will be all be available at our sale. Make a note now to look for them. Thanks to Charlotte Martin, Mary Aldrich, Betty Young, John Akre, Tom and Ronnie, Kathi Dowdakin, Wendy Born, Ellmarie Hutchinson, M.L. Carle, and Marcia Johnson. The theme of this year’s plant sale will be habitat gardens. We will have a special emphasis on native plants that provide habitat for birds and butterflies. We have had a special habitat section at previous plant sales but this year it will be bigger and better. Louise Hallberg of the Hallberg Butterfly Garden has helped us with information and advice for special butterfly plants and we look forward to welcoming her again. The flyer will feature a line drawing of a Mourning Cloak butterfly on a wild rose (Rosa californica) drawn by Peg Steunenberg. Peg, who lives in Alamo, has been very generous with the Milo Baker Chapter and both years she donated botanical prints that were sold at the silent art auction at our Spring Wildflower Festival. Peg’s latest project is providing 450 illustrations for a UC Press book on CA plant families written by Dr. Glenn Keator. MBC was very fortunate to have Glenn edit our newsletter from 1988-92.
On Sunday, May 8 at 10 AM, we will have our annual potting workshop at Cal Flora in Fulton. At this workshop we will put rooted cuttings of Ceanothus, Arctostaphylos, Myrica and others into gallon containers and members will take them home to grow on until the October sale. Shooting Star propagation Nursery will furnish the rooted cuttings and members are encouraged to bring in plants to be potted up at this time. This activity usually takes less than two hours, so please join us for some fun. PLEASE NOTE: In early August we will have our final potting workshop up at Shone Farm when we will pot up fast growing Salvia, Zauschneria, and Mimulus.

Mary Aldrich has just had three yards of potting soil delivered to her home and it is available to any member who wants to grow plants for us. Mary also can provide gallon containers and fertilizer. Give her a call at 539.9005 if you have plant divisions, cuttings, or seedlings that you want to grow for our sale. The more plants that we grow at no cost to us, the more money we will make at our plant sale! We always need more growers! For more information, contact Liz at 833.2063

Call for Gardens
At Vision to Action 2005 a group of folks gathered to plan a spring event for 2006. The Wildflower Festival was a huge undertaking so we were looking for an alternative. We are planning an event that would make money, but would be smaller and easier to accomplish. We decided that a garden tour for spring 2006 would be a perfect way to get people excited about growing native plants. We would like to hear from landscape designers and professional and amateur gardeners who have gardens that they would like to share. Gardens do not have to be 100 per cent CA natives, but can feature compatible plants that are water thrifty. The gardens can be new, but we hope to have some mature gardens. The committee planning this event are Suzanne Butterfield, Liz Parsons, Betty Young, Colleen Gibbons, Pauline Haro, and Marcia Johnson, if you have a garden for our consideration give one of us a call; Liz Parsons, 833.2063.

Chapter Field Trips

Field Trip Diary
We had enthusiastic participation by our chapter on the Lake Soulajule broom bash and plant scouting. Janet Kline, of Marin Water District, was our cheerful provider of tools, transportation, helpers and goodies. Those broom plants have good reason to wish they’d never been born. Janet said they’d be coming back to burn off the hundreds of tiny seedlings with a blow torch. We will need to follow up yearly for a while. When we walked up the road, we could see the kind of flowering banks we are hoping will result from our work. Janet showed us the site of the road scraping which result in the virtual wiping out of Delphinium bakerii in its native habitat. Perhaps you saw the large article about the situation in the Chronicle recently. We found three small plants. Last year there were about thirty. Peter Warner was our botanist for the day. He added a few more plants to the extensive plant list Peter and Doreen Smith made. This area is unique in that so many different native plants grow there. Notably we saw quite a number of Romansoffia californica in bloom, and lots of Fetid adder’s tongue (Scoliopis bigelovii) some still in bloom. The leaves were some of the biggest we’d seen. My personal favorite was the liverwort in breeding plumage, i.e. the little stalked umbrellas of reproductive structures, archegonia and antheridia that stand on the liverwort. I’d never seen that before except in a book. We wish we’d had a birder with us, because of the strange avian calls we heard up in the forest. I don’t know where else in the area you can visit the wild that is so remote and devoid of humans. If you want to visit, and need directions, send me an e-mail. The flowers haven’t reached their peak yet.

Upcoming Field Trips

Sunday, April 3, Sonoma County Regional Park, 10:30. Liz Parsons, our Pillar of the Chapter, and Wendy Born, fern expert: an easy hike with many oak woodland wildflowers and a bonus of vernal pool species. Contact Liz at 833.2063

Sunday, April 10, The Cedars, Roger Raiche, filled Saturday April 23, Booneville Native Plant Flower Show and Azalea Creek, San Hedrin chapter

Saturday, April 30, The new Galbreath Preserve, Mendocino County. Dr. Hall Cushman and Peter Warner. If you are planning to go to Galbreath Reserve, April 30th, and you don’t have a 4 wheel drive, you can only go if someone has room. If you have a 4 wheel drive, please let me know if you have available passenger seats.

Galbreath Wildlands Preserve is on Elkhorn Road, off Route 128 just before the village of Yorkville. Four- wheel drive vehicles with good clearance will be needed and, because the preserve is so large (3670 acres) and people will probably want to get an overview of this vast place The trip will consist of a combination of short drives, interspersed with intensive botanizing and site-seeing. The Galbreath Wildlands Preserve web page, under construction at the moment, should have some details.
Saturday May 10, Van Hoosier Preserve, Sonoma, Docent led, $10 donation each, and a limit of ten people.

Saturday, May 14, Laughlin Peak, between Ukiah and Willits with San Hedrin Chapter Weekend camping?

Saturday, May 21, Rickabaugh Glade near Cow Mt. Kerry Heise, research botanist and expert on grasses and mosses, and Vishnu. 
Contact M.L. at mlml@svn.net for details

Field Trips in Nearby Counties
Booneville Flower Show and Flynn Creek azaleas-San Hedrin chapter April 23rd

Rock Spring, Mt. Tamalpais State Park
Saturday, April 23, 2005, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
This loop trail at Rock Spring is a favorite for CALS members. Barbara Lachelt, a long time CALS member, has led many field trips at Rock Spring. Judy Robertson will be leading us this Saturday. We will look at lichens on oaks, conifers, soil and rock outcrops. Weather in the area is very unpredictable. Please dress accordingly. Meet at the Rock Spring parking lot at 10 am.

ML Carle, Field Trip Organizer

Conservation Report

When I attended the Napa Chapter's Rapid Assessment Method training in 2001, I had great plans for Julie Evens and Todd Keeler-Wolf to come to Sonoma County and give Milo Baker members a workshop too, and four years later it's here. Just as timely, the full published report on the Napa Valley Vegetation Mapping can be found in the latest issue of Madrono. The weather was beautiful as 35 participants learned the value of fine-scale mapping and rapid assessment advantages, and then how to assess stands of vegetation.

This wonderful project could not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of local volunteers and state CNPS staff. I would like to thank Kathleen Kraft, Bob Hass, Sheri Emerson, and Linda Esposito, as well as Julie Evens, Todd Keeler-Wolf, and Diana Hickson, for doing such a fine job and making the Vegetation Workshop such a valuable and fun experience. We will take our knowledge forward! For more information about the Vegetation Program, check it out at

www.cnps.org

Lynn Houser

CNPS Events for 40th Anniversary

[Editor’s Note: The following was excerpted from Fremontia.]

CNPS is planning to celebrate its 40th anniversary with a series of events spanning the year 2005. These activities will give members and supporters the opportunity to acknowledge and share our experiences in the spirit of friendship that has always characterized our organization. Included will be activities hosted by both the statewide organization and local chapters of CNPS.

The June and September Chapter Council meetings (held in the Sacramento Valley and Southern California areas, respectively) will be enhanced with extra events, such as presentations or field trips provided by exceptional presenters. We are planning workshops at these gatherings in which CNPS volunteer groups—such as chapter treasurers, program chairs, or rare plant coordinators—can exchange experiences and learn from each other. There will also be tabletop displays and posters where chapters will present who their members are, their history, their special plants and places, and their work. In addition, we will honor CNPS founders at these meetings and at our annual banquet in December.

All interested CNPS members, together with friends and family, are strongly encouraged to attend these special Chapter Council meeting events. (Look for specific event information and updates in your CNPS Bulletin.) A new 40th Anniversary logo has been created so chapters can use it in materials or at events they produce during 2005, as a way of celebrating and spreading the news of the valuable work of CNPS to the public and local politicians. In addition, two beautiful books will also be available for sales and outreach in 2005: a new book on the desert flora, The Best
Year Ever, and a new printing of California’s Wild Gardens, now with the different subtitle of A Guide to Favorite Botanical Sites.

Lastly, along with contributed articles, each 2005 issue of Fremontia will feature two articles in celebration of our 40th year. Each issue will begin with an article about several of the CNPS chapters, including their history, natural surroundings, and accomplishments—so that we can be inspired by the great work of others and the beauty of our botanically diverse state. The next article will feature statewide programs—so that we can all appreciate the hard work being done by both paid staff and especially by volunteers (who we know cannot be lauded enough for their incredible contribution). This should be a fun-filled and motivating year for all of us. Let’s join in celebrating the best of our great organization and the people who make it all happen—us!

Activities & Events of Interest

Regional Parks California Native Plant Sale
Saturday, April 16, 2005, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley, CA (Wildcat Canyon Road & South Park Drive near the Brazil Building) Admission is free. All proceeds benefit the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. Please bring cardboard boxes, if possible, to carry your purchases, and an umbrella if it rains. Refreshments available. Garden staff and docents ready to enlighten us. For more info, contact 510.841.8732 www.nativeplants.org

CNGA Annual Conference
15th Anniversary Annual Conference, Successes, Failures, and Lessons Learned: 15 Years of Native Grassland Restoration in California, April 14-16, 2005, Woodland, California, More Information: www.cnga.org, P.O. Box 72405, Davis, CA 95617-6405, Phone: (530) 759-8458* Fax: (530) 753-1553

Going Native Garden Tour
Visit home gardens that are water-wise, low maintenance, low on chemical use, bird and butterfly friendly, and attractive. A variety of home gardens landscaped with California native plants will be open to the public. Sunday, April 17, 2005, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Various locations throughout Santa Clara Valley. Free admission; registration required at www.GoingNativeGardenTour.com Space is limited; register early to ensure a place (before April 16th). For more information, email info@GoingNativeGardenTour.com.

This two-day expo showcases the beauty and diversity of wildflowers of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. The region’s premier botanical/horticultural event displays over 400 species of wildflowers and native plants, each one accurately labeled, many suitable for the home garden. Saturday & Sunday, April 23 & 24, 2005, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mission College, Hospitality Management Building, 3000 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara. Free parking. Organized by California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter. For more, visit www.cnps-scv.org, email cnps_scv@yahoo.com, or call 650.691.9749.

CNPS 2005 Spring Desert Field Trip
April 22-24, Leader: Steve Hartman
CNPS members are invited to attend a field trip on April 22-24 at Joshua Tree National Park. We will be camping at the Lost Horse Campground, reserved especially for our group. The Friday morning agenda is optional, so it is OK to arrive late Friday afternoon or evening or to arrive Saturday morning by 9am. The campground has a new pit toilet but no water and limited parking, so RSVP soon to get a spot. Some dirt road driving (4-wd not required). Space is limited so please RSVP to naturebase@aol.com or call 818.881.3706. Detailed instructions will be sent via email to all respondents prior to trip.

Interested in Sustainable Living, Voluntary Simplicity, Discovering a Sense of Place, Deep Ecology, or Globalization?
The Northern California Earth Institute’s mission is to motivate individuals “to examine and transform personal values and habits, to accept responsibility for the Earth, and to act on that commitment.” Self-directed discussion groups, based on a study guide (available for a $20 donation) meet for 7-8 sessions to focus on one of these topics. Tuesday, May 3 in Petaluma, 7:00 p.m at Petaluma Library, 100 Fairgrounds Drive. For more information: Debora Hammond at 664.3179, ncei@hotmail.com or www.Sonoma.edu/hutchins/ncei.
**Board of Directors – Milo Baker Chapter**

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<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Reny Parker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:reny@renyswildflowers.com">reny@renyswildflowers.com</a></td>
<td>894.9100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>open</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Suzanne Butterfield</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thelastiaeger@earthlink.net">thelastiaeger@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>793.8447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Marianne Perron</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mariannesp@earthlink.net">mariannesp@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>887.1362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Sales</td>
<td>John Akre</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jakre@pon.net">jakre@pon.net</a></td>
<td>833.1243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adele Wikner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:adelew@infostations.com">adelew@infostations.com</a></td>
<td>869.3024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Chair</td>
<td>open</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cunningham Marsh Preserve</td>
<td>Marcia Johnson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:owlsnest@earthlink.net">owlsnest@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>829.3808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director at Large</td>
<td>Barney Brady</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bbrady@pon.net">bbrady@pon.net</a></td>
<td>433.0485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director at Large</td>
<td>Dea Freid</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lemuria@sonic.net">lemuria@sonic.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director at Large</td>
<td>Gary Hundt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:garyhundt@comcast.net">garyhundt@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>763.3387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director at Large</td>
<td>Adele Wikner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:adelew@infostations.com">adelew@infostations.com</a></td>
<td>869.3024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director at Large</td>
<td>John Akre</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jakre@pon.net">jakre@pon.net</a></td>
<td>833.1243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director at Large, SSU Rep</td>
<td>Sarah Gordon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sarahgordon17@aol.com">Sarahgordon17@aol.com</a></td>
<td>575.3979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>open</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trip Coordinator</td>
<td>ML Carle</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mlml@svn.net">mlml@svn.net</a></td>
<td>792.1823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>Becky Montgomery</td>
<td><a href="mailto:montyb@sonic.net">montyb@sonic.net</a></td>
<td>573.0103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Wendy Born</td>
<td><a href="mailto:spores@excite.com">spores@excite.com</a></td>
<td>829.7519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Debby Zygielbaum</td>
<td><a href="mailto:zygie@sonic.net">zygie@sonic.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Sales</td>
<td>Liz Parsons</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lizpar8993@aol.com">lizpar8993@aol.com</a></td>
<td>833.2063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster &amp; T-Shirt Sales</td>
<td>Jeff Woodward</td>
<td></td>
<td>765.0245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>Betsy Livingstone</td>
<td><a href="mailto:betsl@sonic.net">betsl@sonic.net</a></td>
<td>887.8873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td>Pauline Haro</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bluelady@earthlink.net">bluelady@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rincon Ridge Park</td>
<td>Lynn Houser</td>
<td><a href="mailto:housers@sonic.net">housers@sonic.net</a></td>
<td>568.3230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southridge Preserve Steward</td>
<td>Jeffery Barrett</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barrett8@sonic.net">barrett8@sonic.net</a></td>
<td>573.0271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCCC Rep.</td>
<td>Wendy Krupnick</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wendyk@pon.net">wendyk@pon.net</a></td>
<td>544.4582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vine Hill Preserve</td>
<td>Jay Pedersen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shanjay@sonic.net">shanjay@sonic.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator</td>
<td>Ruby Herrick</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rdherr@yahoo.com">rdherr@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>887.8542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>Ralph Johnson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:webmaster@cnpsmb.org">webmaster@cnpsmb.org</a></td>
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**Newsletter Submissions & Website**

✔ Check out the Milo Baker Chapter newsletter on our chapter Website at: http://www.cnpsmb.org

Send submissions for the newsletter to Debby Zygielbaum, zygie@sonic.net

Deadline for inclusion in the May newsletter is April 15, 2005.

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

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**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

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**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.northcoastnativernursery.com
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:

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Student, Retired, Limited Income</th>
<th>Individual or Library</th>
<th>Family or Group</th>
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Please make check payable to: THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Mail membership application to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816