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?

Bob Case is a retired Deputy Agricultural Commissioner with 24 years at the Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture. He has an MA degree from San Francisco State University in Ecology and Systematics, and has taught many biology and natural history classes for bay area community colleges. Bob is also an avid armature photographer and Lewis and Clark buff. Currently he is on the Board of Directors for Cal-IPC (California Invasive Plant Council), serves on the CNPS statewide Exotic Invasives Committee, serves on the Contra Costa County Resource Conservation District, and works with several restoration groups. Bob is a regular lecturer for the Wayne Roderick Winter Lecture series at the Tilden Park Botanical Garden and for the Jepson Herbarium lunch time lectures.

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

Peter Baye:
Protecting the Endangered Pitkin Lily:
Management Plan for Cunningham Marsh

*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 May 10th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
President's Corner

Lots of activities going on with the Chapter, even more so since Spring is here with Summer on the way. Read further in the newsletter to see what all we are up to.

Our new web site is now “live” at www.cnpsmb.org. Ralph Johnson has put several 100 hours of volunteer time into this complicated project. As usual, with a web site you don’t see all the effort that goes in to the programming and functionality that now allows board members to automatically change and upload data to the site. This great function will allow us to keep the web site up to date and get last minute notices out instantaneously. Also, the newsletter will now be available online before the print version is out!

Keep in mind that the site is still under construction and not yet in it’s final beauty, but take a look and see the possibilities. It is best viewed with Internet Explorer.

We still have some openings on the board: vice president and conservation, and our newsletter editor will be moving on at the end of the year. Keep in mind that you do not need to be a botanist! Having an interest in native plants is most helpful. Board members act as administrators, leaders, and treasurers, and have many varied interests and abilities. If you have an inkling to join us and to get more details contact me or Ruby. We’d love to have you join this great group of interesting and dedicated people.

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.

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

Chapter Events & Activities

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 May 17th. 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.

Plant ID Before the May General Meeting
Discover New Plants, See them in Flower:
It’s All Here for You at Plant ID Hour
Arrive at 6:30, an hour before the May 17th General Meeting, and bring specimens of plants you want to identify. You’ll see some current plants of interest from the Santa Rosa area, have a look through a dissecting microscope, and discover the differences between our many native plants. I’ll bring some field guides, 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 with 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! Special thanks go to Sarah Gordon and crew for personing the Plant ID table in April while I was out of town; I appreciate it!

Potting Workshop, Sunday, May 8
May 8, Sunday, 10 AM, Cal Flora in Fulton:
Potting workshop. We need workers to put rooted cuttings in gallon containers and we need people who will take them home to grow on until the plant sale in the fall. PLEASE, come and help us with the
very important activity. Show up and we will put you to work or call, Liz at 833.2063.

**Plant Sale News**

Heidi Herrmann and Laurel Begley are taking over the seed and bulb component of the plant sale from Wendy Born. We thank Wendy for her 12 years of excellent service in this duty. Heidi and Laurel will be in charge of the Seed Packaging Workshop at the September meeting and of the Seed and Bulb Sales area at the plant sale. We welcome them.

Let's welcome them with a special effort to collect seeds for the sale this spring and summer. It is easy to do and very rewarding. I like to collect seeds in the wild and then grow them in my garden, that makes collecting easier in following years.

**Collecting Seeds:** First, the plant must be identified and marked so the seeds can be collected later when they are ripe. Some plants, like Clarkia hold their seeds in the ripe capsule for several weeks; others, like California poppy, expel the seeds explosively and require clever methods of capture. I have used the foot part of nylon stockings to hold seeds that are difficult. When the seeds of shooting stars are ready, the entire stem falls over dropping the seeds on the ground—a stocking lets the pods mature because the light and air get through, but is ready to catch the seeds when they fall. When collecting, I put the seed pods of the plant in a brown paper bag on which I write the plant name and the date. Later, I clean the seeds and place them in an envelope (with the name of the plant written on it) for transporting to the seed packaging workshop. Plants that grow by the side of the road are especially easy. Last year I collected the seeds from a Washington lily that grew by the side of the road where I spend the summer in Siskiyou County. After one month of stratification in the refrigerator, they are beginning to germinate. *Madia elegans* is a wonderful annual tarweed that blooms late in the summer and extends the wildflower season in the garden. I collected seeds last year and planted them directly in the garden and now I have about 10 very robust plants ready to bloom in August. I will collect the seeds from those plants for next years sale and some will re-seed for next year. Three years ago I started seeds that I received from the Pacific Coast Native Iris Society, and this year I am finally seeing the plants flower for the first time. What a thrill! I had such good luck with the PCN Iris seeds that I sold many plants at the plant sale two years ago. I hope that our customers are enjoying the flowers, too. When gardeners have success growing plants from seeds, they have the fun of sharing them with friends. Don't forget the plant sale! Send in plants and collect seeds so that we can have a big success on Saturday, October 8. Liz Parsons

**Vine Hill Preserve Workday**

**Saturday, May 14, 9:00-1:00** Please meet at 8:30 at Coffee Catz Cafe 6761 Sebastopol Ave. Sebastopol, to carpool, since there is limited parking at the Preserve. It is on the south side of Hwy 12 just as one is entering Sebastopol from the east. Tools needed are gloves, shovel, pick, pliers, loppers, and saw. Anybody have a good tool for removing metal fencing Tstakes? Also, does anyone have a chain saw? Drinks and snacks provided. Please contact me by email shanjay@sonic.net, or call 707 824-1208 for more information and so I know who is coming.

Jay Pedersen

**Cunningham Marsh Report**

On April 3rd, a small group carefully cut grasses and blackberries in and around the Pitkin lilies. Each enclosure had several lilies one foot tall or so, plus many, many seedlings. A big thank you to Kate Symonds, Ellen Sherron, Betty Young and Brian Bosor. We got our work done just before the big storm hit. In May, grass identification and collection will begin with the help of Brian and Betty, followed by collection of seeds of other native plants, bushes and trees. This is the beginning of the implementation of Peter Baye's Management Plan for Cunningham Marsh.

Marcia Johnson, Steward, Cunningham Marsh

**Come Celebrate the Completion of Rincon Ridge Park**

**Saturday, May 21, Noon-4:00 p.m.** Directions: Take Bicentennial Way east to Fountaingrove Parkway; turn left on Rincon Ridge Drive and then right on Park Gardens Drive Join us in celebrating Santa Rosa’s new city park atop Rincon Ridge (off of Fountaingrove parkway). The play equipment, turf, paths, and fencing of the rare plant area are all in! There will be food and drinks, a giant slide for the kids, and plenty of wildflowers to see in the preserve on this grand opening day, thanks to lots of planning by Kim Nielsen-Glynn, Parks Committee Chair of the Fountaingrove II Homeowners Association.

The Milo Baker Chapter of CNPS has worked for several years with the city and local agencies to protect the unique and endangered Rincon Ridge manzanitas and ceanothus and their...
habitat, starting with Betty Guggolz’s role as Rare Plant Chair.

On Saturday May 21, I will lead a walk around the Sensitive Plant Area and introduce the public to the rare and native plants of the park. Your attendance is most welcome, and if you’d like to help out in any way (sell posters, get memberships?), please contact me. Lynn Houser at 568.3230 or houers@sonic.net

Southridge Preserve Update
What’s Blooming? Blue-eyed grass, sticky monkeyflower and water hemlock.
Conservation/Restoration Work Party
**Saturday, May 21, 2005, 10:00 am – 2:00 p.m.**

Last month’s work party at Southridge Preserve was very productive. Even though it rained a little, five volunteers and I cleared out a lot of French broom, vinca and pampas grass that threatens the rare Rincon Ridge ceanothus and Rincon manzanita growing up there. I am sure the preserve was very happy with the help and many thanks to Frances, Betsy, Greg, and Mai.

Restoration of the preserve is coming along well considering how disturbed the habitat was from the construction of the fire road last July. All the flowering French broom has been removed which means there will not be a huge production of seeds this summer exploding from their pods to infect the preserve. Due to the high rainfall amounts this winter, the invasive grasses and forbs like red-stemmed storksbill (Erodium cicutarium) and harding grass (Phalaris aquaticus) have heavily encroached on the low-growing, ground-hugging rare manzanita and ceanothus shrubs. These invasive plants compete with the native plants for water, nutrition, and sunlight and so I have been weeding around these rare shrubs to help promote growth that is more vigorous. These non-native grasses and forbs are also smothering the many black, California coast, and interior live oak seedlings sprouting up and so I have been weeding around them to help them out too.

There is yet much weeding to do around the rare shrubs and oak seedlings on the preserve and I need any help that I can get. I also need help with a plant survey to identify, number and label the rare shrubs, the mature oaks, and other trees up there. I plan to hold another conservation work party on Saturday May 21, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please bring gloves, water and any weeding tools you may have. Wear/bring long-sleeved shirt and pants to protect yourself from poison oak. I will provide a plant list for everyone and plant survey equipment. The preserve is located on Long Leaf Ct. off Fountaingrove Drive in Santa Rosa. Call me for directions at 707.573.0271 or email me at barrett8@sonic.net

Jeffery Barrett

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Chapter Field Trips

**Van Hoosier Preserve (with Marin CNPS)**
Saturday May 7, Van Hoosier Preserve, Sonoma, Docent led, $10 donation each, and a limit of ten people. The landowners and other supporters of the botanical community spent years getting this pristine area protected from future development. The preserve shows us what the Sonoma Valley was like before so much of it was farmed, developed, paved, etc. It may be ten dollars, but it's worth it! This is a fairly easy hike and we should be done before lunch. We are planning to be there from ten to twelve o’clock. However, always bring something to eat and drink, just in case. A growling stomach is so annoying.

**Laughlin Peak Trip Cancelled**
Saturday, May 14, Laughlin Peak CANCELLED
Please contact M.L. for Mystery Field Trip information

**Rickabaugh Glade (with Sanhedrin CNPS)**
Saturday, May 21, Rickabaugh Glade near Cow Mt. Join The Sanhedrin chapter along with Kerry Heise, research botanist and expert on grasses and mosses, and Vishnu, wonderful and knowledgeable person, for an opportunity to visit seldom seen plants. Parking is limited, so let me know if you can come. Contact M.L. at mlml@svn.net for details

**Ring Mountain (with Marin CNPS)**
Ring Mountain, Phyllis Ellman Trail, Saturday, June 4th at 9:30 AM. The logo of the Marin chapter is the Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis), an extremely rare lily that can be seen blooming from the end of May through mid-June among the serpentine rocks of Ring Mountain, the only place in the world that it has ever been found growing in the wild. Join Joe Kohn and the Marin chapter as we go off in search of the from-outer-space Calochortus tiburonesii. Afterwards, there will be an optional side trip to see the rare Tiburon jewel flower, which grows only in one location, close to the St Hilary Preserve, an area described by Howell as "one of the most interesting..."
and remarkable and beautiful wildflower gardens in California (and therefore in all the world).” Let’s gather at Noah’s Bagels in Petaluma east off the Washington exit on McDowell at 8:45 so that we can meet Marin at 9:30 at the Phyllis Ellman Trailhead, located on Paradise Drive in Corte Madera, 1 mile east of the freeway exit, just past Westward Drive.

ML Carle, Field Trip Organizer

Activities & Events of Interest

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour
Free passes to 50 gardens. Registrants will receive a printed garden guide; garden talks will be scheduled throughout the day. A variety of bird- and butterfly-friendly, pesticide-free, water conserving, low maintenance gardens that contain 30% or more native plants will be open on Sunday, May 1, 2005, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Free admission; registration required at www.BringingBackTheNatives.net. Space is limited; register early to ensure a place. Sponsored by the Kathy Kramer Consulting and the Urban Creeks Council. For more information, email Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call 510.236.9558 between 9 am and 9 pm.

Sierra Spring Sojourn
The Bristlecone Chapter will hold our 8th Biennial Sierra Spring Sojourn on May 13-15, 2005, at the Bernasconi Center in Big Pine. The Sojourn is a weekend of field trips and evening programs focusing on the flora of the White Mountains, Owens Valley and east side of the Sierra Nevada. Please save the date! If you would like to receive a registration pack by email when they are available in March, contact Sherryl Taylor at staylor@npgcable.com. To receive the registration pack by mail, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Sherryl Taylor at P.O. Box 1638, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. For more information, call 760.924.8742.

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. To find out more, come to one of these introductory meetings:
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

Upcoming Classes at SRJC

Biology 71.10 Sonoma County Woodlands
Section #9025 1.0 units Survey of the ecology, flora and vegetation of the woodlands and forests of Sonoma County. Two evenings- TTH, 6-10pm, May 24 and 26, rm 1849 Baker hall and three one-day field trips on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (5/27-5/29) to Salt Point, Annadel and the Pepperwood Preserve. Cost: $5.00 plus registration fees that include the cost of transportation.

Botany 64 Plants of the Northern Sierra
Section #8279 1.5 units Survey of the ecology, flora and vegetation of the northern Sierra in the Feather River region of Plumas County. One evening orientation on May 31, 7-9pm and the field trip from June 5 to June 11. Accommodations are at the UC Berkeley Meadow Valley Forestry Field Station near Quincy, CA. Cost: $330.00 plus registration fees. The cost includes transportation, room and board.

Registration begins May 9 by phone or web. Call Steve Barnhart for more details, 707.527.4632

Share Your Love of Nature with Children
Bouverie Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch is accepting applications for its Fall Docent Training Program at the 530-acre nature preserve located in Glen Ellen. Training consists of 23 weeks of courses in natural history and environmental education. Graduates commit to two years of seasonal nature hikes and classroom visits with 3rd and 4th grade children in Sonoma County Schools. The current training program runs from late August through February 2006. Tuition is $120. Class size is limited. For applications and information, please call 938.4554.

Articles to Increase Your Knowledge

The Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy
For a year now, I’ve been representing the Milo Baker Chapter of CNPS, offering input to the environmental representative (Keith Kaulum of the...
Sierra Club) who sits on the “Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy Team.” The Strategy Team is charged with developing a conservation plan that will preserve the recently listed Sonoma County population of the California Tiger Salamander (CTS), (“threatened” under the Federal Endangered Species Act), as well as providing protection for four federally and state-listed plant species: Sonoma sunshine, Burke’s goldfields, Sebastopol meadowfoam, and many-flowered navarettia.

The salamander and plants face serious challenges on the Santa Rosa Plain, as the County and the Cities of Santa Rosa, Cotati, and Rohnert Park continue to move forward with residential, commercial and industrial development, roads and other infrastructure, cultivation, and even irrigation at the wrong time of the year for these species and their habitats, on the Plain. The known range of these species covers significant areas planned for future development, and their listed status is causing some confusion and uncertainties for landowners, developers, permitting agencies, and people concerned with the species.

CNPS folks may recall a previous effort to conserve the listed plants by the Santa Rosa Plain Vernal Pool Task Force, which developed a “Final Santa Rosa Plain Vernal Pool Ecosystem Preservation Plan” in 1995. The Vernal Pool Preservation Plan made it clear that lack of implementation would lead to further declines in overall ecosystem values on the plain and foresaw the listing of additional species, including the California Tiger Salamander. The plan was unsuccessful due to the lack of implementation and commitment to abide by its goals, objectives and strategies by the local agencies.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) organized the Strategy Team in March 2004 as part of an effort to preserve the listed animal as well as to revive conservation of the plants and vernal pool ecosystems on the Santa Rosa Plain. The team is composed of 5 state and federal agency representatives, one representative for the County and cities, a member of the Laguna Foundation, a landowner representative, and an environmental representative. Members of the Sierra Club, Madrone Audubon, and CNPS have been actively following discussions and voicing opinions and concerns through the Team’s environmental representative.

A draft of the Strategy has been prepared and sent to the newly created “Implementation Team” composed of agency representatives (primarily FWS) sitting with several city and county representatives to oversee the creation of implementing mechanisms (such as ordinances and General Plan amendments) to ensure that the Strategy receives a clear level of commitment for implementation. Only consistent and methodical implementation of the preservation and mitigation measures in the Strategy will save the salamander, plants, and the Santa Rosa Plain ecosystem from obliteration.

Although the Strategy is far from perfect, and many questions on successful implementation remain, the success of its efforts will ultimately depend on the whole community cooperating to save the unique ecosystem on the plain. This will include landowners, local government, and public citizens, including those interested in native plants and wildflowers, our natural ecosystems, and those interested in Smart Growth and the prevention of sprawl. Unfortunately, the local newspaper has not been fair in presenting all sides of this issue, and therefore it is left to citizens (whether representing specific groups or not) to get involved, develop realistic information about the costs and benefits of preservation, and inform each other about this effort.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- Write to your local city councilpeople and county supervisors to inform them of your interest in preserving the ecosystem values and wonderfully unique plants and animals of the Santa Rosa Plain. Inform them you’d like to visit these sites and have them be a public resource.
- Watch for the publication of the public review draft of the “**Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy,**” expected in early June. Read through it and provide your input for improvements.
- Check the City of Santa Rosa website for more details on the Strategy and to view maps of the Santa Rosa Plain: http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/default.aspx?PageId=1111 (or go to the city website’s home page, and in the “Find It Fast” search window, click on “Santa Rosa Plain…”)
- Attend public meetings on this issue—expected after publication of the draft Strategy.
- Become familiar with the Santa Rosa Plain and its issues; watch for and go on a fieldtrip to the existing plant preserves on the plain to view wildflowers and learn about the ecosystem.
- Come up with your own ideas of how best to preserve this special area! (Involve children and schools? Write letters to the editors of local newspapers and publications, etc.) Contact me at sanclei@earthlink.net if you have questions.

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

Deadline for inclusion in the June/July newsletter is May 15, 2005.

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

**Support Our Local Native Plant Nurseries**

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<td>707-823-3776</td>
<td><a href="http://www.appletonnursery.com">www.appletonnursery.com</a></td>
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<td>707-559-7081</td>
<td><a href="http://www.buckeynursery.com">www.buckeynursery.com</a></td>
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<td>707-528-8813</td>
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<td>707-838-6641</td>
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<td>Tomales</td>
<td>707-878-2009</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mostlynatives.com">www.mostlynatives.com</a></td>
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<td>North Coast Native Nursery</td>
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<td>707-769-1213</td>
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CHAPTER AFFILIATION:   ☐ Milo Baker   ☐ Other_____________________________________(County)

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☐ Individual or Library $35   ☐ Patron $250
☐ Family or Group $45   ☐ Benefactor $500
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