Annual Chapter Picnic – Saturday, August 27th, 2:00 pm

Van Hoosear Wildflower Preserve

CORRECTED DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 27th, 2:00 pm

Join chapter members for a fun time of food, swimming, reminiscences, and celebrating at our annual picnic. A very special location has been reserved for us, the Van Hoosear Wildflower Preserve picnic/swimming area. See an article on the Preserve in the following pages. This year will include a celebration of the CNPS 40th anniversary. Highlights of the Milo Baker chapter’s 33 year history will be included. We will also continue with the year long celebration in honor of Liz Parsons who was named a CNPS Fellow earlier this year.

Please bring a potluck dish of your choice to share with others, plates and utensils, swim suits & towels for those wishing to take a dip in the pool. Beverages will be provided.

Van Hoosear picnic/swimming area is located at 2301 Grove Street west of Sonoma. Take Arnold Drive in the El Verano area and turn west on Grove Street, turn left at the wooden bridge, and left at all forks. We will have signs posted as well. For questions, contact M.L. at 792.1823, mlml@svn.net

Seed Packaging Workshop – Tuesday, Sept 20th, 7:30 pm

The seed packaging workshop takes place at the Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center. These seeds are then sold at our annual plant sale. If you have seeds to contribute, please call Heidi Herrmann, 824-1465, or Laurel Begley, 531-0408, and tell them. They are now in charge of the workshop and need to know what seeds will be available so that they can print the labels.

*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 September 13th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
President's Corner

I am writing this article on a blazing hot day, mid-July, with my ten year old granddaughter nearby. My memory is full of the wonderful wildflowers of this recent glorious spring, lilies of all kinds, downingias, Indian Warriors, and more. Perhaps this spring was a glimpse of what the pioneers and explorers experienced and serves to remind us of how important it is to encourage and protect our natural environment for future generations, my grandkids and yours. As a member of CNPS you are helping to do this, thank you. If you can do more, we welcome your help.

At the July board meeting John Herrick became an “official” member of the board by taking on the co-conservation position. Welcome, John, and thank you!

Reny Parker

Volunteer Opportunities

Milo Baker Chapter needs you!

Come help at the August 13th potting workshop! See “Plant Sale News” below for more details!

Join the Milo Baker Board of Directors

We currently are in need of two new officers for your board of directors: vice president and treasurer. The vice president assists the president and helps her keep in touch with the various committees’ activities. The treasurer keeps the books of the chapter and it is helpful if they know or will learn Quickbooks, but it is not necessary to be a bookkeeper. You do not need to be a botanist or have knowledge of native plants to serve on the board. Board meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm except for June, August, and December. We have a great organization and board, but we need YOU to continue our important work for native plants and their habitats. Please contact Reny or Ruby 887.8542, rdherr@yahoo.com for more information.

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.

Help Local Scholars

The Milo Baker Board of Directors is forming an ad hoc committee to examine our annual scholarship. This committee will meet a couple of times before November 1st and make recommendations to the board at its November 2005 board meeting on improving the current process. Topics of review will include; application, selection criteria, and publicity. If this sounds like a way for you to contribute your expertise with a modest time commitment, call Barney Brady at 433.0485. CNPS needs YOU!

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

Milo Baker Scholarship Winner

Erika Barnes is this year’s recipient of the $1000.00 Milo Baker Scholarship. She will be entering Humboldt State University this fall with her goal being a Bachelor of Science in Botany. Recently she has completed over 100 units of study at SRJC with a 3.25 GPA. She operates a part-time business making natural body & medicinal products. She hopes to become an educator with an emphasis on ecological conservation of our native flora. Congratulations Erika!

Chapter Events & Activities

Cunningham Marsh Report

The only native grass that could be found at Cunningham Marsh, Danthonia californica (California Oat Grass), has been collected and is being stored for future propagation. A big thank you to Brian Basor for all his knowledge and help.
And of course...the whole project would be just a name if it weren’t for the wisdom and help of Betty Young. Gratitude is also given to Peter Baye whose fantastic management report is definitely moving us forward. Much thanks to all of you!

Marcia Johnson, Cunningham Marsh Steward

Rincon Ridge Report

This is the first summer that the two-acre Greenspace has been protected by the six-foot ranch-style fence and locked gates, installed in late December thanks to the City’s Parks Director Rich Hovden. The problems of overbrowsing, garbage and yard waste dumping, and encampment will be significantly reduced as a result of the exclusion. Increased sunlight from the removal of invasive Douglas firs this spring by chapter volunteers has improved the habitat for the rare manzanitas and ceanothus. The City recently removed some abandoned stumps along the firebreak, an area we will monitor for invasive weeds and regenerating natives.

The pattern of rains this year produced a lengthy bloom for the Zigadene lilies as well as large numbers of Diogenes’ lanterns (Calochortus amabilis). Some of the four species of manzanitas were blooming again in June, and the sticky monkeyflowers, Mimulus aurantiacus, keep blooming through summer. In Spring the site was awash in blues and purples: Rincon Ridge ceanothus (C.confusus) and C. foliosus, Iris macrosiphon, Blue eyed grass (Sisyrinchium bellum), Ithuriel’s spear (Triteleia laxa) and California milkwort, Polygala californica. Late in the season (June-July), a great showing of narrow-flowered Brodiaea (Brodiaea californica var. leptandra, CNPS list 4) was observed, and plenty of the little dark purple-flowered Calistoga navarretia (N. heterodoxa). Wooly sunflowers (Eriophyllum lanatum), and Goldwire (Hypericum concinnum) provide spots of gold amidst light-green bracken ferns (Pteridium aquilinum).

The Official Dedication of Rincon Ridge Park with Santa Rosa Mayor Jane Bender and Rich Hovden of the Parks Department was on May 21. The park was filled with hundreds of people of all ages who enjoyed free hot dogs and chicken, chips, and drinks on the hot day, thanks to Kim Glynn and Sue Specker of the Fountaingrove II Homeowners Association. Three chapter volunteers and I welcomed folks at a CNPS table and led hikes around the rare plant area. Before the event, volunteers removed brush piles and updated the plant list. Thank you Jon Akre, ML Carle, John Herrick, Gary Hundt, Sandy LeMole, Greg Wahlert, (and your friend Roger) for all your help.

Chapter volunteers M.L. Carle, Sandra Cleisz, John Herrick, Gary Hundt and I conducted a CNPS Rapid Assessment vegetation survey on July 9, applying our training from CNPS’s Vegetation workshop in Occidental. The survey forms will be sent to Julie Evens at the state CNPS office for the Vegetation Program. To paraphrase Liz Parsons’ remarks later that day, “There are so many different species right here!”

Join Us: We are currently looking for volunteers to help produce a brochure about the plants and ecology of the park, including CNPS’s role in protecting the area. I have many photos and notes to contribute, from three years of visiting the site. The brochures would be located near our “Adopt a Greenspace” sign, to provide native plant and CNPS membership information to park visitors.

We will be doing more vegetation assessments this fall and winter. There is an ongoing plant list that welcomes additions from recent sightings. We could use ongoing weeding and monitoring help. Rincon Ridge Park is an interesting spot year-round and it is rewarding to observe and care for such a diverse and high-quality site.

If you want to participate and/or be on an email list for upcoming activities, let me know, 568.3230, housers@sonic.net. I will periodically post activities to the chapter website, www.cnpsmb.org.

Hope to see you on the Ridge!

Lynn Houser, Rincon Ridge Park Steward

Plant Sale News

Plant Sale Potting Workshop

On Saturday, August 13 at 1:00 PM we will meet at Shone Farm for the final potting workshop before the sale. This is a big one, so I hope that many members can come up and help us. Wendy Krupnik, who is in charge of the greenhouse, will be giving us instructions on how to put the rooted cuttings into gallon containers. If you have never attended one of our workshops, this is a chance for you to learn the technique. We will have over 300 cuttings of Salvias, Zauschnerias, and Mimulus to pot up and WE NEED YOU! Call Mary Aldrich at 539.9005 to volunteer. We will be doing the work in the greenhouse where we will be sheltered from the sun and where a lovely breeze will keep us cool.

Liz Parsons
**Conservation Report**

*Restoration/Conservation/Forestry/Invasive Exotics/Political Presence*

The Conservation Committee is creating a Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy Study Group and a Rincon Ridge Study Group to preserve native plants and plant communities, and to keep Chapter members informed and involved in local plant conservation efforts. We need your help to make these Study Groups effective Chapter conservation tools.

**Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy Study Group:**
We anticipate that by the end of summer, the Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy Team will release its draft Conservation Strategy for the California Tiger Salamander and the four endangered vernal pool plant species. Our Study Group will help us prepare the Chapter response to the Strategy and provide information to Chapter members who wish to prepare personal responses.

We will invite botanists, biologists, and planners to present critiques of the Strategy, discuss preserve design, and offer recommendations. The text of the draft Strategy will be available and we hope to obtain at least one high-quality set of the accompanying maps.

This is our best and perhaps last opportunity to preserve high quality habitat in Sonoma County for vernal pool species and provide meaningful, habitat-based protection for the future.

The first meeting of the Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy Study Group will be Tuesday, August 9, 7:00pm at the Environmental Center, 404 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa. Contact Sandra Cleisz, sanclei@earthlink.net or John Herrick, joherrri@yahoo.com.

**Rincon Ridge Study Group:**
The Rincon Ridge, along the hills of northeastern Santa Rosa, is home to several rare plants and two CNPS-managed conservation areas. The Rincon Ridge Study Group will keep track of the threats to the plants and plant communities caused by human intrusion including residential development, fire protection and the upcoming Fountaingrove Parkway modification. The Study Group will monitor and evaluate mitigation measures and educate residents on the unique nature of the local flora and the need for plant and habitat conservation.

The Rincon Ridge is a unique area; but much of its natural community has disappeared over the past 15 years, making what remains more precious. The first meeting of the Rincon Ridge Study Group will be Tuesday, August 16, 7:00pm at the Environmental Center, 404 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa. Contact Lynn Houser, housers@sonic.net or John Herrick, joherrri@yahoo.com.

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**Activities & Events of Interest**

**Walks in the Laguna**
Are you new to Sonoma County? Lived here a long time, but still don’t know what the Laguna is? Learn all about it by coming on a Laguna Foundation-sponsored docent-led walk! We offer walks twice a month on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings at the Sebastopol Wetlands Preserve and other locations (check our website for updates). Upcoming walks will be Weds, August 10, 6:30 pm and Saturday, August 27, 9:15 am. Meet behind 425 Morris St, Sebastopol. Bring your questions, binoculars and a friend. A $5 donation will be requested. Register by contacting Mary@lagunadesantarosa.org or learn more about the Laguna by visiting www.lagunadesantarosa.org

**Modesto Chapter Annual Plant Sale**
The California Native Plant Society of Modesto would like to announce our 3rd Annual Plant sale Sunday, November 12th, at the Great Valley Museum in Modesto, CA. The address is 1100 Stoddard Ave. For questions, please call Gail Clark at 572.2030 or the Museum at 575.6196. As in past years, if you have something to share, please bring it along! At the past sales, we’ve received some wonderful additions for the sale, and the extras get tucked into the garden somewhere.

Gail Clark, Northern San Joaquin Chapter

**Cal-IPC Symposium 2005**
"Prevention Reinvention: Protocols, Information, and Partnerships to Stop the Spread of Invasive Plants"
October 6-8, 2005, CSU Chico. Call for Papers: Submission guidelines at www.cal-ipc.org. Abstracts sent to contributed sessions organizer Dan Gluesenkamp at gluesenkamp@egret.org. Deadline is Friday, June 17.
Articles to Increase Your Knowledge

Van Hoosear Wildflower Preserve

While most of you have probably visited the Van Hoosear Wildflower Preserve at some time in the past, you may not know that it has been protected in perpetuity by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. The District partnered with the State Wildlife Conservation Board to purchase a Forever Wild conservation easement over the property in July of 2004 so that this beautiful acreage could be protected and enjoyed for generations to come.

Three sisters, Patricia Westerbeke, Joy Moulton and Marilyn Goode inherited the property from their parents who had bought most of it from 1935 to 1962. Historically, the family had allowed organized groups to tour the property and individuals to study the variety of species on the site, both botanical and biological.

With a desire to protect this natural area for the public to enjoy and use as an outdoor classroom, the family approached the District. Over the course of several months, the District committed $3.3 million and the California Department of Fish and Game’s Wildlife Conservation Board committed $1.7 million to the project. The sales price was $5 million, which was a 12% discount from the appraised value of the land. The family then gave back $450,000 to fund an endowment held by the Community Foundation of Sonoma County. This will pay for perpetual management of the property as a nature preserve. “We are very fortunate that the family cared enough about the wildlife value to the community, that they approached us to work with them in preserving it,” said Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager of the District.

The property is located on Grove Street in El Verano at the southwestern edge of Sonoma Valley. It is 162 acres of gently sloping grassland and oak savannah. There are more than 250 species of wildflowers, some quite rare, and native grasses scattered throughout the acreage. California poppies share the site with less well-known plants, such as owl’s clover, mule’s ear, tidy tips, lupine and blow wives. Carriger Creek, a perennial tributary of Sonoma Creek, runs through the Preserve. The property is being managed by the Sonoma Ecology Center, with the primary goal of protecting and restoring the Preserve’s botanical, aquatic and wildlife values and secondarily to continue providing access to the public for educational purposes. The easement provides for no less than six public outdoor recreational and/or educational opportunities a year. Contact the Sonoma Ecology Center (www.sonomaecologycenter.org) to learn about future visit opportunities.

Marilyn Goode’s long-term dream was realized when the property was protected for all time. The District was able to participate in the purchase through a 1/4-cent sales tax approved by Sonoma County voters in 1990. Since its first acquisition in 1992, the District has protected 135 properties totaling over 65,000 acres, through conservation easement and fee purchases. To learn more about the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, log on to www.sonomopenspace.org

Maureen Middlebrook

Monte Rio Union School Environmental Education Program

Did you know that for the past 10 years the Monte Rio Union School has had an Environmental Education Site with an evolving education program thanks to a line of committed teachers, parents, volunteers and students? The magical western end of the school property is devoted to a living laboratory that includes a vegetable garden and a redwood forest where the children and the community can gather to learn about their own health, the health of the school community and the health of the watershed through experiential learning, growing, cooking and stewardship in the outdoor classroom.

On the sunny south side is a vegetable garden with raised beds. Many different kinds of vegetables and flowers grow there throughout the various seasons. Behind the vegetable garden lies
the forested area with its canopy of large trees, redwoods, maple and bay to name of few. In the center of the forest is a large circular table built by a volunteer. There the children can pot up seeds, have a snack, and work on projects. The forest also has a small pond where frogs and other aquatic life offer another learning experience. Multiple paths take visitors from one area to another. The fence surrounding the site provides a climbing opportunity for vines. A butterfly garden is planned for the entrance.

The children are enthusiastic and enjoy visiting the EE site. They know where the first flower bloomed this spring, what the soil looked like after the rains, the difference between their native blackberry plant and the Himalayan blackberry, where the best patches of redwood sorrel, Miner’s lettuce and wild strawberries can be found. They also like to see what can be found under rocks and in spider webs. They are learning about native plants used by the Pomo Native Americans and the historical garden used by the settlers at Fort Ross.

In one classroom the children adopted individual tree “partners” that they observed as the seasons changed. Students have been introduced to the concept of a watershed and they have participated and learned about invasive weed removal. They have collected seeds and cuttings for native plant propagation for growing out on their behalf by Circuit Rider Productions. As part of the program they grow salad ingredients that they harvest and eat. Kids actually like vegetables that they have grown and harvested.

This is the first year that the garden has a coordinator, Elizabeth Beak. Her part time position is funded by the California Nutrition Network and the Monte Rio Recreation and Park District. During the school year she works with the regular teaching staff to provide supplemental education and during the summer she runs a 3-day a week program. Her enthusiasm and that of the children is contagious.

Elizabeth’s dream is to work with members of the community to enhance the program and the site. The site and the program could be improved if the invasive plants including ivy, broom, Himalayan blackberry and other invasive weeds were removed and the site replanted with more native plants. For the past several weeks I’ve been working with Elizabeth and a couple of other volunteers to remove the weeds. We plan to replant the weed-free areas next fall with native redwood under story plants such as:

- Redwood sorrel, *Oxalis oregana*
- Columbine, *Aquilegia formosa*
- Wild ginger, *Asarum caudatum*
- Fringe cups, *Tellima grandiflora*
- Piggyback plant, *Tolmiea menziesii*
- Western bleeding heart, *Dicentra formosa*
- Redwood violet, *Viola sempervirens*
- Wood rose, *Rosa gymnocarpa*
- California maidenhair fern, *Adiantum jordanii*
- Huckleberry, *Vaccinium ovatum*
- Twin berry, *Lonicera involucrata*

The program needs donations of time, money and materials. How can you help? Here is an opportunity to: do vegetable gardening or learn about vegetable gardening, educate yourself about redwood forest plants, contribute to the community, work with children and plants, have fun, exercise, be outdoors, meet other involved people, watch birds, butterflies or insects, write grants, make signs, do a scientific study, collect seeds, share your vegetable seeds or starts, grow and contribute redwood under story plants, play with dirt and mulch, garden in the sun or shade, donate to a worthy cause and be part of the community.

If you want to volunteer, Elizabeth would love to hear from you at 327-7865 or elizbeak@yahoo.com

Victoria Wikle
## Board of Directors – Milo Baker Chapter

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### Newsletter Submissions & Website

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

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

Deadline for inclusion in the September newsletter is August 15, 2005.

**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

- **Buckeye Nursery**
  2425 Old Adobe Road, Petaluma
  707-559-7081

- **California Flora Nursery**
  Somers & D Streets, Fulton
  707-528-8813
  [www.calfloranursery.com](http://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](http://www.mostlynatives.com)

- **North Coast Native Nursery**
  (call for appointment)
  2710 Chileno Valley Road, Petaluma
  707-769-1213, [www.northcoastnativenuery.com](http://www.northcoastnativenuery.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:  □  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