December General Meeting: Wreath-Making Workshop
Tuesday, December 20th, 7:30pm

It's our 12th annual wreath-making event! Grab your pruning shears, or something with which to cut our greenery, and try your hand at creating a lovely, festive wreath to decorate your home or to give as a gift. You'll get the simple instructions needed to discover your hidden creative talents and watch others discover theirs. Hoops, paddle wire, and greenery will be provided. To add special touches, please bring anything you have on hand for your own wreath or to share: berries, pine cones, pomegranates, holly, dried flowers, eucalyptus pods, raffia, ribbons etc. Drop cloths, tarps, or old sheets to make clean-up easier will be greatly appreciated. We'll have hot cider and Christmas cookies -- bring some of your favorites to share if you like. The third Tuesday is very late in the season, but we hope you will come join the festivities and share some holiday cheer with your Milo Baker Chapter friends.

* Note: there is no plant ID hour before the December meeting.

January General Meeting: California Desert Plants
Tuesday, January 17th, 7:30pm

Our California deserts are loaded with fascinating plants -- cacti of many shapes and sizes, fields of poppies, bigger fields of composites, desert lilies, desert candle, desert star, elephant trees, palm trees, boojum trees and Joshua trees -- just to name a few!

What better way to spend a chilly January evening than to wander through Death Valley, Mojave National Park and Anza-Borrego State Park checking out desert plants and places to visit in spring 2006? Our speaker, Ann Howald, is a Milo Baker Chapter member, CNPS's Rare Plant Program Director (volunteer) and a Senior Botanist with Garcia and Associates in San Anselmo.

*Join us at 6:30 for plant ID hour before the general meeting.

34th Annual Plant Sale Report

The plant sale was a huge success! We took in $13,000 in four hours! Our net profit after expenses and taxes will be between $7,500 and $8,000. There was a long line waiting to buy our plants when the doors opened, and there was a steady stream of customers all morning. Most of our customers are very knowledgeable and know exactly what they want. Our emphasis on plants for habitat gardens was a big success. Herbalists also are finding that CA natives can be used instead of more exotic herbs. The interest in gardening with CA natives has never been greater. The plant sale is truly our Milo Baker Chapter community in action. Our workers return year after year to form a temporary community. We come together, work hard for 2 days, and make money for the chapter. We were able to move into the Vet's Building in record time, even though we started at 5:00 PM.

*Continued on page 2

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

In the February issue, having written our yearly report to the state, there will be a review of the chapter’s accomplishments for the past year. I look forward to new challenges and even greater endeavors in 2006 by the remarkable board and volunteers that our chapter is so fortunate to have.

A new project taking place is the Wildflowers of Sonoma County & Beyond, a guide that will be as beautiful as it is informative and instructive. Rosalie and Marcus Wardell and myself are leading the production and there are many opportunities for members to participate: plant id and description, icon illustrations, list of hot spots to see plants, marketing and fundraising, essays, and indexing. A local publishing house of top quality books, Bored Feet Press, has accepted our proposal and the guide will be available February 2007. If you would like to be involved please contact me for more details.

The end of the year is an appropriate time for me to remind you that the chapter can always put contributions of any amount to good use. If you would like the money to go toward a specific purpose, conservation, scholarships, outreach, or just for general purposes, you can note that on your check. Send your tax deductible contributions to CNPS - Donation, PO Box 892, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

Wishing you all the best of holidays and a wonderful New Year!

Reny Parker

Plant Sale Report

(Continued from page 1)

Special thanks to Judy Hartwig who worked on assembling the personnel; she devoted a lot of time and energy to recruiting cashiers, plant holding people, traffic directors, and others who make the sale proceed so smoothly. It is impossible to mention everyone by name since we had over 50 volunteers working on Saturday. The Society is in a very good financial position thanks to all of you and your hard work.

The plants that we offered for sale were well grown and beautiful. This was the result of four potting workshops and good growers. We must thank Dave and Anna Webster, Lynn Houser, Wendy Born, Elmarie Hutchinson, Owen Meyer, Ruby Fales, Mary Reid, Alan Brubaker, Rob Fox, Kathi Dowdakin, Carol Vellutini, Victoria Wikle, Pauline Haro, and Mary Aldrich. Shooting Star Propagation Nursery gave us liners and Wendy Krupnik at Shone Farm provided the growing space for the August workshop plants. Cal Flora, Mostly Natives, and Shooting Star donated many beautiful plants. We also purchased plants from Cal Flora, Mostly Natives, and North Coast Natives; our sale had the best selection of native plants available anywhere.

Heidi Herrmann and Laurel Begley did an excellent job on their first year of organizing the seed and bulb table. We bought many varieties of CA native bulbs from Brent and

Becky's Bulbs and they proved to be very popular with our customers. Our member Rainbow Francom from Lake County brought us a fabulous addition to our seed selection—seeds from 10 different species of native lilies. John Akre has replaced Jeff Woodward at selling t-shirts and posters. Jeff did an excellent job for ten years and we thank him. Becky Montgomery returned to the membership table and did an excellent job. John Herrick and Judy Robertson provided refreshments for all. Thanks to the members who brought in the delicious cookies! Our member, Louise Carter, sold her wildflower note cards and prints for the fifth year. Our customers like her cards very much. This was the first plant sale for our new Treasurer, Jim Piercy and he caught on very quickly. He was assisted by Marianne Perron, Laura Graham, and Barbara Alexander. There were 14 cashiers working to make sure that no one stood in line very long. We appreciate their dedication. Thanks to Karen Blaney for buying us a shade structure of our very own!

Without publicity we would have no customers. Pauline Haro worked all year to make sure that our event was covered in all forms of media. We must thank Rosemary McCreary, Dave Fazio, and Wade Belew for their kind mention of our sale. In addition, the Press Democrat ran a free advertisement for our sale in the Tuesday, October 4 edition. The left over plants went to a new habitat school garden that Claire Sherenson is planting, to Cotati Critters, and to the Rincon Ridge Park. We are happy that the plants will be used to benefit the environment Sonoma County.

We can be very proud of our sale. We provide an excellent selection of well-grown native plants. The seeds and bulbs are unique to our sale. The success of the sale is a wonderful testament of how well we all work together to promote the use of California native plants in local gardens.

35th Annual Plant Sale October 13 and 14, 2006. The second Saturday in October comes very late next year. If you want to start seeds of many natives now is the time to put them into containers for winter stratification or put them in a plastic bag filled with damp soil to stratify them in the refrigerator for a month. If you have any questions give me a call. I’m sowing my lily seeds in pots that will winter outside for germination in the spring.

**The Plant Sale Committee will be meeting soon to discuss this sale and to begin planning for the next sale. We need new committee members. We welcome anyone who would like to help with this important work. We have a lot of fun at our workshops and welcome new ideas.

Liz Parsons
833-2063 or lizpar8993@aol.com

Meet Our New Treasurer!

I am a fairly new member of the CNPS and I live in Santa Rosa but have not attended many meetings. I graduated from Sonoma State University in 1993 with a B.A. in Business Management and a B.A. in Economics. I think I took just about every accounting class SSU offered when I was there. I worked in Hewlett-Packard and Agilent Finance for 10 years in Planning and Reporting and Cost Accounting and I am currently a budget accountant for the Sonoma County Department of Health Services.

Jim Piercy
Thank You to All Who Responded to Our Survey!

Thanks to all chapter members who answered the survey in the October and November newsletters. The Milo Baker Board of Directors recognizes the importance of the newsletter issue and has sought input for the past 2 months. I have received 48 responses as of November 15, and look forward to more responses. Currently our newsletter costs over $4000 a year to print and mail. We have discussed being able to send newsletters to members while saving chapter funds. We will carry this discussion to the January Board meeting and vote on whether or not we will change the newsletter. Once again, thanks to all who have participated in the survey.

Ruby Herrick

Conservation Report

Restoration/Conservation/Forestry/Invasive Exotics/Political Presence

California Invasive Plant Council (CalIPC) Weed Symposium October 2005

I attended the three day meeting in Chico for two days as a representative of the chapter. My registration fee was paid for by a $100 anonymous donation and the balance by the chapter. I was pleased to see how many people were there from various agencies and nonprofit like ourselves - over 350 - and many were turned away for lack of space.

A new draft of invasive plants in California was presented. The new list gives information about plant location, potential for invasion, ecological impact and distribution. The most serious pests are flagged. The list is expanding, and the likelihood is that it will continue to expand, either accidentally by seeds hitchhiking on foreign goods or goods from other states, or deliberately out of ignorance of the potential impact of their distribution. There are new computer programs, called "predictive models" which can tell us when a plant is likely to be an unwelcome citizen. Perhaps someday ignorance will no longer be an excuse.

Studies were presented on the various means of control. At this point there are vast areas of invasives, which are unlikely to be controlled, and the wisest strategy is to identify and eliminate the pioneer infestations before they take over. The work of volunteers using hand tools, controlled burns, goats, propane flaming and pesticides were compared. Different situations require different strategies. When the usual strategies are not making headway, the judicious use of the newer targeted pesticides with very brief half-lives may be the only option to prevent a huge loss of native plants and wildlife habitat. It must not be forgotten that removal is not enough. If natives are not restored, we are just preparing the soil for the next invader.

What can Milo Baker chapter members do?

- We can educate ourselves and keep an eye out for invasives.
- You can communicate with the chapter when you see an invasive plant for sale, or a weed infestation of manageable size.
- We can attend more community events and distribute CalIPC materials.

M.L.Carle

Nursery Outreach on Alternatives to Invasive Plants

Invasive plants, such as the brooms, pampas grass, vinca, etc. are spreading so quickly that they are fast becoming the biggest threat to native species in our state. Invasive species are spread in various ways, but a major source is the nursery industry.

Obviously nurseries want us to have a good experience with the plants we buy. Customers whose plants flourish without much coddling are going to be happy with the nursery. Wholesalers are able to cut their costs if plants are easy to propagate. This predisposes nurseries to sell plants that are particularly hardy, and to continue to introduce new, very fertile and insect-resistant plants that excite the public.

Compounding the problem, most new plants are made available to the public without first being researched to determine their potential for becoming invasive. (Currently computer programs are being constructed that will soon be able to predict the behavior of plants in our soils and climate conditions.) With the pressure to survive in a competitive industry, it is unlikely we will see any improvement in what nurseries sell unless we are able to connect with nurseries in a way that makes sense to their bottom line and their reputation.

At this time, Sustainable Conservation is working with wholesale nurseries throughout California to come up with a voluntary code of ethics to sell plants that will not harm native ecosystems. (For more information on their Invasive Plant Project, go to: http://www.suscon.org/invasives/index.asp.) In an attempt to impact the problem closer to home, a number of us have taken on the job of working with the retail nurseries in the North Bay Area to educate them and their clientele about plants that are invasive, and to help them find alternative choices. This project is a collaborative effort between a number of North Bay groups, including the Milo Baker Chapter of CNPS.

At our initial planning meeting, we identified a number of issues that we want to address in upcoming planning meetings: Current research on invasive plants (especially on newer cultivars being sold as sterile or unable to reproduce), strategies to communicate with retail nurseries, ways to motivate and educate volunteers, networking with related organizations such as Master Gardeners, best ways to communicate with consumers, incentives for nurseries, use of the media, and research to - avoid reinventing the wheel.

Our first meeting was attended by Kate Symonds, Betty Young, Bob Hass, and M. L. Carle. We are interested in expanding the number of participants in upcoming planning sessions. As the expression goes, "many hands make light work." So give us a hand, won't you?
Chapter Field Trips

Botany Walk and Broom Pull at Soulajule Reservoir:
Saturday, December 17th, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Join Janet Klein, vegetation ecologist, on our annual broom bashing extravaganza on the shores of Marin’s best kept secret: Soulajule Reservoir. In addition to our usual work with weed wrenches, we’ll be experimenting with propane flaming and extension pole-mounted broom pullers. In the afternoon, we’ll botanize the lakeshore and revisit the last known location of Delphinium bakerii. We’ll meet at 8:20 at Noah's Bagels in Petaluma, and drive on to the gate on Marshall-Petaluma Rd at 8:50 a.m. to catch the shuttle to the project site. Bring sturdy shoes. There's a possibility for damp feet or a wet backside. Bring your lunch and a plastic bag to protect you when we sit down. A firm date will be set soon. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at mlml@svn.net or 707-792-1823.

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Chapter Events & Activities

Have a Look at that Flower at Plant ID Hour!
Winter’s Here, Plants are Sappy; Rains Come Down and so They’re Happy!

What blooms in January? Come have a look. Arrive at 6:30, an hour before the January 17th General Meeting, and bring specimens of plants you want to identify. You’ll see some current plants of interest from the local 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!

LYNN HOUSER

PCN Iris Workshop - December 10
Pacific Coast Native Iris are one of the best native perennials and sell rapidly at our sale. Once again we are making an effort to make sure that we have plenty of them to sell next year. We had a very successful workshop last year and we are going to do it again! PCN Iris can only be divided in the winter. Therefore, there will be an iris workshop at Mary Aldrich's garden on Saturday, December 10 at 11 AM. The iris rhizomes will be brought in from various gardens and at the workshop we will divide them and put into containers. In the past, this activity has taken less than two hours. We need willing workers and also people who will be able to take them home to grow until the sale on October 14, 2006. The workshop will be at 4775 Newanga (near Summerfield and Hoen), Santa Rosa. If you would like to come and help, or if you have iris to bring for us to divide, call Mary, 539-9005 or Liz 833-2063.

Cunningham Marsh Work Day Report
A heartly group had a very successful day on November 13. Blackberries were cut & painted, one enclosure is now completely weed free, willow branches were cut to bring in more light, popular suckers were cut & piled within a “fire-proof” ring. Betty Young looked for Myrica californica seeds which were not yet ready. The Marsh is ready for winter. A very big thank you to the following: Betty Young, Liz Parsons, Gary Hundt, M.L. Carle, Jeff Woodward, Wendy Born, Peter Erhlich & Joe Honton from the Laguna Foundation. You are all super!!!!

MARCIA JOHNSON

Southridge Conservation Easement Update and Work Party Announcement
Saturday, January 7, 2006 – 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The French broom is growing thick and fast up at the preserve and the native plants need your help so they have room to grow! Come help pull broom seedlings and small saplings on Saturday, January 7, 2006 at Southridge Preserve. Please wear boots and clothes for possible rain and bring your raincoats, gloves, and water. Extra gloves and work tools will be available. Heavy rain cancels.

Meet at 10 a.m. at preserve gate on Long Leaf Ct., which is located off Fountaingrove Parkway on Rincon Ridge. For directions, call the preserve steward, Jeffery Barrett, at 707-573-0271 or email at barrett8@sonic.net

OTHER NEWS:
I would like to extend a big thank you to the Fountaingrove Ranch Master Association and LaFontaine Management for putting in a new split-rail fence along the borders of Southridge Preserve. Not only does the fence look fantastic, it makes the preserve and rare plants feel more cared for and protected. Thank you.

JEFFERY BARRETT

First Restoration Planting at Rincon Ridge Park!
Next work party; Saturday, December 10th from 10:00-12:00, bring saws and loppers for deadwood removal and fire trimming.

A warm weather trend came into Santa Rosa as we put 30 one-gallon shrubs into the ground on Saturday, November 12 at the Rincon Ridge Park Sensitive Plant Area. This was the first planting of rare shrubs for restoration, and included Rincon Manzanita (Arctostaphylos stanfordiana ssp. decumbens), Sonoma Manzanita (A. canescens ssp. sonomensis) and Rincon Ridge California Lilac (Ceanothus confusus), as well as a couple of Sticky Monkeyflowers, (Mimulus aurantiacus).
These were propagated by cuttings from plants from the park area. The recent 80 degree temperatures following the planting will mean more watering, but the plants should do fine. If anyone would like to assist in watering, please contact Lynn Houser.

Five Chapter volunteers: Jon Akre, Ken Cummings, Lynn Houser, Gary Hundt, and John Herrick selected sites and industriously planted all 30 shrubs within three hours, leaving a little time to haul some dead firs to the curb for chipping. Great job! Thanks Gary for taking photos (as usual). You can see pictures from our July Rincon Ridge Rapid Assessment Survey and plenty of beautiful nature photos on his website, www.muddyknees.com. Some of Gary’s photos will be featured in the upcoming Rincon Ridge Park brochure, which is in progress and will be available early next year.

Later that afternoon, Santa Rosa’s Brownie Girl Scouts did their part to restore and beautify the park. Six members of Troop 461 (2nd and 3rd graders) planted little Toyons (Heteromeles arbutifolia) donated from the plant sale, as part of their service project relating to the 1930’s. I think they enjoyed the planting as much as the playground, and the girls can visit their plants and watch them grow.

The big picture: Working with children and teaching them about plants and nature is one of the most important things we can do for plants and for the world. Volunteering in elementary school classrooms to teach plant science is one of the most rewarding things I do, and recently there is more need due to the new science standards, but not the time for teacher training on these difficult subjects. I plan to lead wildflower field trips in the spring at Rincon Ridge Park for Brownie Troop 461, the Hidden Valley Gate Program, and teachers who request it. I hope others will realize what great knowledge they have to offer as members of CNPS. You would be amazed at the interest of these kids; but then, they live in beautiful Sonoma County too. They are the stewards of tomorrow; give them the gift of loving nature.

For more information about Rincon Ridge Park, please contact me at 568-3230 or email at housers@sonic.net

Lynn Houser

Chapter Planning for Manzanita ID Workshop

Do Arctostaphylos provoke personal ambivalence? Do you feel fortunate (cursed) that Sonoma County supports such a diverse (confounding) variety of Manzanitas?

Perhaps the Milo Baker Chapter, in 2006, can help you resolve this inner conflict as we host a weekend Manzanita ID workshop.

The workshop is in the preliminary planning stages, but SFSU professors Mike Vasey and Tom Parker, who are involved in reworking the Arctostaphylos treatment in the upcoming Jepson Manual revision, are willing to lead the workshop. The workshop will be a lecture/lab/fieldtrip format scheduled for late spring or early summer of 2006.

Your help is needed planning and organizing the workshop. Our first planning meeting will be 7pm Tuesday, December 13 at the Environmental Center, 404 Mendocino Avenue in Santa Rosa. Contact me at 887-8542 or joberri@yahoo.com if you have questions or suggestions.

John Herrick

Other Events & Activities of Interest

Environmental Center Benefit: Holiday Networking Party

Fundraising can be fun! Greet old friends & meet new ones! Wednesday, Dec 7th, 6 – 8:30 pm

Classic jazz tunes by - 'Generations'

Sonoma County food, wine, refreshments and perhaps dancing! Omelette Express

112 4th Street, Railroad Square, Santa Rosa

Donation: $25 per person, sliding scale.

RSVP requested but not required.

$100 for groups of 5 plus $20 for each additional person – with advance purchase only.

Additional tax deductible donations welcome – this is a fundraiser for our upcoming move!

Open to the public - plan to bring friends and family!

Benefits the Environmental Center of Sonoma County. A project of the Sonoma County Conservation Council (SCCC)

Volunteer help needed: PR, food preparation, set-up, door keepers, servers, clean-up.

Contact Wendy Krumnick, wendyk@pon.net/544-4582 or Portia Sinnott, pmsinnott@aol.com/824-9931

Mailing Address: PO Box 4346, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

This party is based on the Alphabet Soup networking events held in Santa Cruz. The idea was to get different groups together for synergy and networking, i.e., SCC, CAFF, CNPS, SCCA, LWV, SCRC, LITE, FORR, RRWC,... This is a wonderful opportunity to start using this idea since the Environmental Center is preparing to move.

Thanks Wendy for conceiving of this event and making it happen and to Susan Keller for initiating this with Community Network Board Member Don Taylor, the owner of Omelette Express (www.omelette.com).

For information about the Environmental Center and the Council groups please visit: www.envirocentersoco.org

Laguna Restoration workday

Become part of the Laguna restoration team and join us on Saturday, December 10, from 9am until noon.

LagunaKeepers are meeting at Stone Farm, home of the future Laguna Learning Center, and the workday will take place inside of the historic hop barn. Stone Farm is located north of Occidental Road, just east of the Laguna and Sanford Road.

*Be sure to bring your gloves, water, tools and wear appropriate shoes for outside work. And bring your friends too; we always need new LagunaKeepers! Snacks will be provided.

For more information or to be added to our mailing list, please contact Mary B. Abbott, Education Coordinator at the Laguna Foundation

Phone: (707) 527-9277 ext.2 Email: mary@lagunafoundation.org
Cotati Creek Critters
Help the Cotati Critters plant 2,000 native trees over the next two years along Cotati’s reach of the Laguna de Santa Rosa! Workdays are the second Saturday of the month from 9:00am – noon. December 10, 2005, January 14, February 11, March 11, 2006. Call Jenny at 707-792-4422, email jenny@creeks.cotati.info or visit www.CotatiCreekCritters.info for more details.

Naturalist-Led Hikes at Fairfield Osborn Preserve
Saturdays at 10:00 am, September 17 – December 10. The Preserve is located on Sonoma Mountain at the end of Lichau road. It is open to the public only during these scheduled Saturday hikes. There is a $3 donation requested per adult. For more info call: 795-5069, visit www.sonoma.edu/org/preserve or email: fairfield.osborn@sonoma.edu

Other Items of Interest
Inventory of California Natural Areas Now Online
A new feature of the www.californiawildflowers.info website has been published. Visitors to the website can now access the text descriptions found in the Inventory of California Natural Areas of 11 southern California counties: Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.

This project began when, in 1969, a group of concerned scientists and laymen, under the leadership of Dr. G. Ledyard Stebbins, formed the organization that was to become the California Natural Areas Coordinating Council, eventually directed by Leslie Hood. It was the purpose of this group to inventory the natural areas of the state and to seek means of protecting them. Over 1,500 discrete areas were named, categorized, located and described. These descriptions were then published in a limited edition multi-volume set of green binders (one set is located in the conference room at the State CNPS office).

While the descriptions provide a snapshot of the California landscape a quarter of a century ago, the information is valuable when planning field trips and outings. While some formerly “pristine” areas have been developed, and ownership, boundaries, and place names have changed (e.g. some National Monuments have become National Parks), the underlying information about the flora and fauna is still valid. Indeed, browsing through the natural areas gives a sense of the significant changes in landscapes since the mid-70’s (and you can see it visually as each area is linked to a Google satellite map showing what the landscape looks like today!).

After contacting the Dept of Fish and Game natural areas program, I was encouraged to OCR-scan the publication and publish it on the web. This job is now complete for southern California counties and can be found at www.californiawildflowers.info. Click on ‘Natural Areas’. The descriptions have been revised by updating all the Latin plant names to match The Jepson Manual (1993) and creating hyperlinks to other natural areas referenced within the text. A complete synonym list is provided. Also there is an index by feature. Finally, each location can be displayed in a map or satellite view.

Steve Hartman

New Online Plant Key in Development Stages
Mr. Robin Myers, a member of the East Bay chapter CNPS, is developing an online plant keying system that doesn’t involve learning obscure botanical terminology. He would like your feedback.
http://www.rmimaging.com/projects/flowers/ff/ff_color.html Email robin@rmimaging.com with feedback.

Free Wildflower eCards
Want to send a friend an e-Card but having problem finding just the right one? Go to ecards.renswildflowers.com and choose from beautiful wildflower image cards or an image with a short poem. It’s quick, easy, and free so give it a try today.

A Few Winter Chores for Native Gardens
Pruning: For those natives that benefit from trimming, this is the very best time to prune, shear, or in some cases hack away in your garden. Plants such as Desert Willow; Mexican Elderberry; Water Birch, and False Indigo Bush often lack structure. During winter they are bare of leaf, making it much easier to select and prune out unwanted crossing and cluttering branches. These cuts you make in winter will direct spring’s growth. Shearing about one third of foliage volume suits plants such as Cleveland Sage, Island Snapdragon, and Coyote Mint. This helps create a more compact plant that is more densely flowered in spring. Lighter shearing (if any), is used on plants such as Chaparral Mallow, Hollyleaf Cherry, and Woolly Blue Curls. Some plants are a bit too vigorous for our small home gardens, but we can’t resist their beauty. Matilija Poppy and Wild Rose fall into this category. These do well with a severe pruning, to the ground, every year or two. California Fuchsia also can be treated in this manner. These plants are fast growers and spread quickly by underground rhizomes. Care should be taken in placing these aggressive plants in your garden.

Vines: Now is a great time to trim and train your native vines. California Grape enjoys a good pruning about now. I usually take about a third off of young plants, just above a growth point. Older, established plants can usually be trimmed back as hard as is needed without harm. Vines pulling away from the fence or arbor should be held in place with stretch tie.

Transplanting: Winter’s cooler temperatures and higher humidity mean less shock to plants you are moving. Often such moves can stimulate new growth and vigor in a plant that was unhappy in its prior spot. Have the new hole dug to the right depth before carefully lifting out the plant from its old home and gently setting it in place. Install with root crown slightly above surrounding grade. Unless rain is imminent create a basin and water immediately. Do not fertilize transplants.

Wildflowers: If you have seeded your garden with wildflowers it is probable that they share their seedbed with several non-native annuals. It is best to weed these areas while these weeds are small and easy to pull, and before they begin competing for the nutrients and water the wildflowers need. This is much easier if you know what wildflower seedlings look like, (as opposed to germinating weeds). Sow a small amount of each seed in a flat and label accordingly. You will see what the immature plants look like and what not to weed. Unfortunately, snails and slugs seem to prefer wildflowers over weeds so whether with bait or some home remedy, get them!

Dan Songster
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
(*) Send submissions for the newsletter to Heide Klein: nemorphila@yahoo.com
(*) Deadline for inclusion in the February newsletter is January 15, 2006.
(*) NOTE: For newsletter subscription questions or problems, please contact Wendy Born, spores@excite.com

Support Our Local Native Plant Nurseries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nursery Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</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>Buckeye Nursery</td>
<td>2425 Old Adobe Road, Petaluma</td>
<td>707-559-7081</td>
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<td>California Flora Nursery</td>
<td>Somers &amp; D Streets, Fulton</td>
<td>707-528-8813</td>
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<td>Circuit Rider Productions</td>
<td>27135 Highway 1, Tomales</td>
<td>707-878-2009</td>
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<td>Mostly Natives Nursery</td>
<td>27135 Highway 1, Tomales</td>
<td>707-878-2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Coast Native Nursery</td>
<td>2710 Chileno Valley Road, Petaluma</td>
<td>707-838-6641</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 and membership includes *Fremontia*, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants, the *Bulletin*, a quarterly statewide report of activities, the Milo Baker Chapter newsletter and an opportunity to participate in chapter events. 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