The pitkin lily has a new friend and partner – the Community Foundation of Sonoma County. We have been fortunate to receive a grant of $5400 to help us carry out work there to enhance and protect the lily population and expand the wetland. The grant will pay for mowing the non-native grasses and Himalayan blackberry thickets, improve the fencing around the lilies, and purchase mulch to protect critical areas from weed reinvasion.

Those of you who have volunteered at the marsh can picture the huge blackberry thickets that are marching ever closer to the lilies and wetland. Rather than our just cutting blackberries away from the lilies, we will hopefully remove all the blackberries in the upper marsh. Neighbors and the wetland plants will be happy to see the tall grasses gone. We have collected black oak acorns, the wonderful native hawthorne, and other seed from Cunningham. Volunteers are propagating these plants to plant in the newly available areas next winter.

*Continued on page 2
President's Corner

You are going to be hearing a lot from us about Cunningham Marsh, located in the Sebastopol area. The CA Department of Fish and Game holds a conservation easement on a 19-acre portion of this very special marsh, and the chapter assumes responsibility for monitoring and maintaining the Pitkin Marsh Lily population within the easement. For the past ten years volunteers from the chapter have worked to maintain the population of the endangered Pitkin Lily and in fact it has increased from less than 100 to over 500 plants. With this success it has become evident that we need to restore and enhance not only the Pitkin Lily, but the richness of native habitat and ecological health to the site. I’ve taken this information from Betty Young’s grant proposal.

Last year the chapter contracted ecologist Peter Baye, Ph.D. to write a vegetation management plan for Cunningham Marsh. The result is an eye-opener for the amount of tasks yet to be accomplished. Volunteers alone cannot do all the work, and both paid contractors and special equipment are needed. To help support these projects, with a ten year plan in mind, we are applying for grants. Betty Young, past MB president and professional restoration horticulturalist extraordinaire, is leading the overall project. She was successful in obtaining a grant of $5,400 from the Community Foundation of Sonoma County. Great start, Betty!

The chapter board voted at our February budget meeting to have a goal of raising an additional $5,000 this and each of the next ten years. You will be receiving a letter in the near future that I hope each one of you will respond to. Your participation is needed for the successful recovery of this rare wetland. Keep an eye out for this special communication from the chapter.

The full vegetation management plan is available on our web site at www.cnpsmb.org (under “Preserves”).

Cunningham Marsh Grant

*Continued from page 1*

There will be many opportunities for all skill levels this year and in the future for you to help bring Cunningham Marsh back. Join us through the year, and see the progress from grass and blackberry thickets to wetland and oak woodland. In March we will GPS the current borders of the wetland and oak woodland so we can measure our progress. In April we will perform a new plant survey and install cages around any natural oak seedlings. May will see us hand weeding around the precious lilies. In June, learn grass identification, seed collection and the fine art of mulch spreading. July and into the fall brings rush and sedge seed collection and then woody plant seed collection along with continued weeding and preparation for winter planting. If all goes well, next year at this time, where once we had huge blackberry thickets, we will have planted wetland plants. Where once there was 5’ tall grass, the rebirth of an oak woodland will have begun.

Watch each newsletter for volunteer days or let Marcia Johnson, the Head Cunningham Steward, (owlsnest@earthlink.net) know you would like to be notified of workdays. Become a Cunningham Marsh Steward. Skip the gym, and join us for productive workouts through the year. You’ll enliven the lily, buff up those muscles, and renew your spirit.

Betty Young

Chapter Field Trips

Restoration Event at Mt. Tamalpais

Saturday, March 4th: 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Janet Klein of the Marin water district, who made mud, weeds and physical stress fun last month at Lake Soulajule, has invited us to a restoration event at Phoenix Lake: a broom pull and native grass planting. She said the Marin water district is planning to turn it into a very large event with representation from all the different groups that volunteer with us or that use and love Mt Tamalpais. It will be organized in such a way that participating organizations will be able to highlight their own activities, both with us and in general. We hope to encourage networking among environmental groups operating in the Marin/Sonoma area. There will be raffle prizes and such from REI.

Janet told me that after lunch we would meet some rare wildlife on site, and hike with a botanist. So let’s go! Contact M. L. at mlml@svn.net or 792-1823 (harder but doable) for details. As of now we’d be meeting at Noah's Bagels in Petaluma at 8:00, giving ten minutes leeway for those who have contacted me.

ML Carle, Field Trip Organizer

Field Trip to Shiloh Ranch Regional Park in Windsor

Sunday March 26th; 9:30-2:00

Join Lynn Houser for a hike around Shiloh Ranch on March 26th. This beautiful Regional Park features oak woodlands and grasslands, chaparral, forest, and stunning ridgeline views of the Santa Rosa Plain, with exciting wildflowers and ferns. This will be a moderate to steep hike of 3-4 miles, and the trail is rocky in places.

From 101 north, take the Shiloh Road exit in Windsor; go East until you reach the park at the corner of Shiloh and Faught Roads. An entrance fee of $3.00 is required unless you have a Regional Parks pass or park on the road. Meet in the parking lot; the trailhead is to the left. We will take a counter-clockwise loop and have lunch at the top. Bring water and food, hat and sunscreen, and wear sturdy boots. You may also want a plastic bag to sit on, field guides, binoculars and camera. Rain or shine; heavy rain cancels. South County or

Reny Parker
Marin folks may meet at Noah's Bagels in Petaluma at 8:45. If you have questions, please contact Lynn at
housers@sonic.net 568-3230 or ML at mlml@svn.net 
Lynn Housers

Field Trip Outlook
Memorial Day weekend (Fri, May 26 - Mon. May 29)
Group camping at Salt Point State Park (very northern
Sonoma coast). There will be restoration work, a plant
survey and a field trip. Attend all or part. Contact Peter
Warner at: 937-2278 or corylus@earthlink.net

Saturday June 3 an exploration of the botanical features of
the mouth of the Gualala River with Dr. Peter Baye.
Dr. Baye is an enthusiastic leader who has inspired many
on prior trips. Meeting time TBA.

Tentative: Saturday June 10 field trip to Manchester
State Park (near Elk) with both Peter Warner and Peter
Baye. Stay tuned.

Saturday June 17 field trip organized by Peter Warner
for the Dorothy King Young and Sanhedrin chapters to
The Cedars, in Sonoma County near Guerneville.
Wonderful serpentine barrens area owned by
Roger Raiche, who will show us around. This is an area
many like to re-visit and those who have never been
should plan to see. An easy 4-wheel drive outing.
Contact Peter Warner at: 937-2278 or
corylus@earthlink.net or Vishnu: 467-1341.

Saturday June 24 Field trip with Chuck Williams to
Duncan Peak in Mendocino County.

Mid to late July. Sometime in July there will be a multi-
day field trip to the Mt. Eddie/Kangaroo Lake area, west
of Mt Shasta.

Please contact ML: mlml@svn.net if you think you’d be
interested. Some of these may have limits on the number
of people who can go, and carpooling may be a choice.

Chapter Events & Activities

March is Here and Plants are in Flower; Come
Explore What They Are at Plant ID Hour! Arrive at
6:30, an hour before the March 21st General Meeting,
and bring specimens of plants you want to identify.
You’ll see some current interests 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

Join Us for Dinner Before the General Meeting!
Have dinner with our speaker at our monthly free-form,
lots-of-talk dinner before the general meeting. 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.
May Miller

Southridge Preserve Nature Walk and Work Party
Announcement
Saturday, March 25, 2006 – 10:00 - 2:00
Meet in front of preserve gate on Long Leaf Ct., located
off Fountain Grove Parkway on Rincon Ridge, in Santa
Rosa. The wildflowers will be out in full glory in the
hills above Santa Rosa, so come out for a little nature
walk and flower identification at Southridge Preserve.
After a morning tour, there will be plenty else to do,
for those who wish to stay, that will be beneficial to the rare
plants and habitat (who says pulling weeds to save rare
plants is work?). Please wear sturdy shoes or boots, and
bring your gloves and bottled water. Extra gloves and
work tools will also be available.
For directions or questions, call the preserve steward,
Jeffery Barrett, at 707-573-0271 or email me at
barrett8@sonic.net
Jeffery Barrett

Activities of Interest

Spring Native Plant Sale in Berkeley
Saturday, April 15, 2006, 10a.m. to 3p.m.
Organized by the Volunteers of the Regional Parks
Botanic Garden. Admission is free.
Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Regional Park,
Berkeley (Wildcat Canyon Road & South Park Drive,
near the Brazil Building). California native plants:
Shrubs, trees, perennials. Many plants that are not
available in a nursery. Horticultural advice gladly given!
Come and explore the Garden - and buy some plants to
take home. Please bring boxes to carry home your
treasures and an umbrella if it rains.
Proceeds directly benefit the Garden.
(510) 841-8732 www.nativeplants.org

2006 Anderson Valley Wildflower Show
April 29, and 30, 2006, 9AM to 4PM, rain or shine
June Bldg, Mendocino Co. Fair Grounds
Highway 128, Boonville, CA.
Spring is here and our recent rains have brought a
profusion of wildflowers for all of us to enjoy. Most of
us like to see the wildflowers, but not many of us can identify more than a few. Now is the time to rectify that. The Garden Section of the AV Unity Club sponsors the event. Members and volunteers have been working on the show for many months, potting plants for sale, planning displays, holding plant identification sessions, and will collect up to 400 specimens for display the last few days before the show. Native and “invader aliens” will be on display and will be identified by both common and botanical names. No endangered plants will be gathered for display. Educational photos and materials will be on exhibit. Botanists are invited to come in on Saturday to assist in identification and labeling of specimens. In addition to the Garden Section plant sale, the AV Library will have a booth selling wildflower and general botanical books. There will be a raffle and a tearoom serving delicious food. Admission is FREE.

Contact: 895-3624

2006 Mayacamas Sanctuary Field Trips Sponsored by the Madrone Audubon Society

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL EVENTS: The field trips are free, open to the public and suitable for all levels of interest. Bring your lunch and refreshments for the day; wear layered clothing, hats, and sun protection. Sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots are recommended. Be prepared for rain showers, but heavy rain cancels the hikes unless otherwise indicated. No dogs, no smoking—and the preserve is not wheelchair accessible. Also be aware that spring is the season for the emergence of poison oak, ticks and rattlesnakes. Meet on Pine Flat Road between Red Winery Road and the Sausal Creek Bridge. Pine Flat Road begins ¼ mile past the Jimtown Store on Highway 128 East at the first sharp right hand turn. IMPORTANT: Reservations for the field trips are NOT required this year.

Sunday, March 25, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Terry Wright, retired professor emeritus of geology at SSU and president of Terry Wright Geology, an educational consulting company, will help us become more familiar with the dynamic geological history of the sanctuary and the Mayacamas Mountains. We will travel by car and make stops along the road, with short moderate hikes to geologic features. Bring pocket magnifiers and binoculars. Limited to adults.

Saturday, April 1, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Join naturalist and retired biology professor Peter Leveque in his annual search for the Fawn Lily, Erythronium helenae. A moderately strenuous hike on Clark Foss Road; you’ll need to get out your hiking sticks and boots. Limited to adults.

Saturday, April 15, 9:00 to 3:00 PM
Join Lynn Houser, an active board member of the California Native Plant Society, to see spring flowers and plant growth two years after the fire. Plant identification, ecology, and natural history of the Mayacamas area will be featured. This is a moderately strenuous three-to four-mile hike. Bring binoculars, field guides, and camera.

Plant lists will be available. Older children OK with supervision.

2006 Tillie Hardwick Lecture Series

March 25, 2006: Protecting California Indian Cultural Resources: Religion and Environment
April 29, 2006: California Native plants: Identification & Specialized Uses
May 27, 2006: California Indian Basketry: A Living Legacy

Lectures are held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center, located at 5250 Aero Drive, Santa Rosa. Call CIMCC for more information, lecture times and directions: (707) 579-3004. All lectures are open to the public and are free of charge. Lecture dates and times are subject to change based on availability. View Lectures and obtain more information online at www.cimcc.org

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

The next free Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour will take place on Sunday, May 7, 2006. Registration is now open! This event is expected to fill; please visit www.BringingBackTheNatives.net now to reserve your place on the tour.

Volunteers are needed to help on the day of the tour, and also before-hand to prepare for the event; please fill out the volunteer form on the website.

For more information, contact Kathy Kramer, Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour Coordinator: Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 am and 9 pm.

Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation Events

Docent Training begins Monday, March 13. 10 week training; learn all about the science and lore of the Laguna. Become a volunteer docent! Must be available during some school hours in fall and spring. Interested? Visit www.lagunafoundation.org for more information, or call Mary Abbott, 527-9277 x2 for space availability.

Join LagunaKeepers on Saturday, March 11, 9am – noon. Meet at the Laguna Uplands in Sebastopol, at the end of Palm Avenue (near Palm Drive Hospital). Bring your tools and water. Snacks will be provided. Heavy rain cancels the workday, light rain does not.

Take a Walk in the Laguna! The water is high and spring has sprung in the Laguna. Learn more by taking a docent led walk. Meet BEHIND the Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris St at 9:15 am Saturday, March 18. $5 donation is requested. Heavy rain cancels, light rain does not cancel. *For more info, please contact Mary Abbott at: mary@lagunafoundation.org*
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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**Newsletter Submissions & Website**

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

To receive notification for the online newsletter, sign up at: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cnps_mb_newsletter](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cnps_mb_newsletter)

Send submissions for the newsletter to **Heide Klein: nemorphila@yahoo.com**

Deadline for inclusion in the April newsletter is March 15, 2006.

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

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**Support Our Local Native Plant Nurseries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nursery Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tbody>
<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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<tr>
<td>California Flora Nursery</td>
<td>Somers &amp; D Streets, Fulton</td>
<td>707-529-8813</td>
<td><a href="http://www.calfloranursery.com">www.calfloranursery.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circuit Rider Productions</td>
<td>9619 Redwood Hwy, Windsor</td>
<td>707-838-6641</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mostly Natives Nursery</td>
<td>27235 Highway 1, Tomales</td>
<td>707-878-2009</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mostlynatives.com">www.mostlynatives.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>North Coast Native Nursery</td>
<td>2710 Chileno Valley Road, Petaluma</td>
<td>707-769-1213</td>
<td><a href="http://www.northcoastnativernursery.com">www.northcoastnativernursery.com</a></td>
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Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

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 or Limited Income $25           ☐ Patron $300
☐ Individual                  $45                              ☐ Benefactor $600
☐ Family, Group or Library $75                              ☐ Mariposa Lily $1500
☐ Plant Lover                 $100

Please make check payable to: THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Mail membership application to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816