**Ecological Economics: What is Open Space Worth?**

**Tuesday, May 16th, 7:30pm**

Land can be valued in many ways: as potential housing, or in board-feet of lumber, for example. What about natural habitat? Environmental economics can provide a framework for measuring the potential value of open space in a healthy economy. There is a growing awareness among economists that destruction of ecological systems impairs our long-term prospect for economic development. Jerrell Ross Richer, Ph.D., will identify a wide range of economic values associated with functioning ecosystems, and discuss ways to incorporate these values into public- and private-sector decision making to create a more sustainable economy. Jerrell's talk will assist environmentalists and planners to understand and collaborate on common ground. Jerrell Ross Richer, Ph.D. is a faculty member at Sonoma State University where he teaches ecological natural resource and environmental economics. He also teaches in the Green MBA program at New College of California, helping budding entrepreneurs create business plans for sustainable enterprises.

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

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**June General Meeting: Going Native; Landscaping for Sustainability**

**Tuesday, June 20th, 7:30pm**

Peigi Duvall, landscape designer and CNPS Horticulture Program Director will speak to us about Landscaping with Native Plants.

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**CNPS and the General Plan 2020**

The Sonoma County General Plan is the policy document that regulates development and guides land-use decisions in the unincorporated areas of the county. State law requires each county to adopt a general plan, which is supposed to reflect the community’s wishes regarding development goals. Beginning in 2002 the county began to revise its current General Plan, which was adopted back in 1989. Since that time, the Milo Baker Chapter has been involved in the drawn-out process to revise the plan. In February 2006 the chapter submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the plan. We also attended a public hearing before the County Planning Commission where we presented a brief summation of our key issues. These included: cumulative habitat loss, the need for more comprehensive mapping data on plant communities, land corridors and habitat connectivity, vernal pools, and oak woodlands. Hopefully the full text of our comments will be posted on the chapter website soon.

The next step in the process begins shortly. The Planning Commission has already started to hear public comments on each “element” or section of the draft General Plan. The section of greatest concern to CNPS is the Open Space and Resource Conservation Element, which most likely will be reviewed in June. Just two of us in the chapter--Mac Marshall and myself--are currently doing all of the work conducting research and drafting comments. You don’t need to be an expert to help out. If you can spare any time, please contact one of us as soon as possible (Mac, 542-7811, mac-marshall@uiowa.edu; Bob Hass, 938-8868, bob_cnpsmb@comcast.net).

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President's Corner

It is with great regret that the Milo Baker Chapter says farewell to Reny Parker. We are all going to miss her and the active leadership. She organized two board retreats that we called "Vision to Action", and indeed, many good actions were taken as a result of those meetings. First, a board manual was created and this quickly brings new board members up to speed on the chapter, the chapter history, and the tasks that they are expected to accomplish. Second, the chapter organized two wildflower festivals. Reny was the primary force behind the festivals that were held at the Luther Burbank Center. They were very well attended and gave the Milo Baker Chapter and native plants an important public platform. Reny is an excellent wildflower photographer and her love of wildflowers and wild places is the reason that she joined the CA Native Plant Society. Her photographs have graced this newsletter and her excellent website. She understands the Internet and that was another way that she benefited the chapter. She worked closely with our web-master, Ralph Johnson, with the design of our web-page and she hosted the listserv that keeps the board members in touch with what is going on in the chapter. Gary Hundt has agreed to take on this responsibility and we thank him for volunteering for that. We will always be grateful to Reny for her capable administration of the board meetings. She leaves a really good well functioning board and Lily and I can only hope that we can continue. Most members know me because I have been active in the chapter for over 25 years. I am happy to help Lily Verdone with the duties of President. Lily is a relatively new member, but she is a very capable and intelligent person. Lily is finishing work on her Master's degree at Sonoma State University. Her thesis is on the Ludwigia problem in the Laguna de Santa Rosa. She is very knowledgeable about local environmental issues and will serve as an excellent liaison to the academic, civic and environmental communities in Sonoma County. Lily and I look forward to working with all members of the Milo Baker Chapter and appreciate your good wishes and support.

Liz Parsons

Chapter Field Trips

Gayle Ranch Restoration
The April Gayle Ranch restoration trip was cancelled due to the wet conditions, but we haven't given up! The Gayles care for their land for the benefit of the plants and animals, both wild and domesticated. On May 13th we'll help rid this certified organic ranch of distaff thistle. We'll be joining other organizations at 10:00 and work until 12:00. After lunch we'll take a tour of the ranch's wildflower locations. We'll not only have a chance to engender good relationships with landowners and other organizations in the area, but we'll have a darn good time. There will even be some music to keep us going. The Gayle Ranch is at 5105 Chileno Valley Rd, Petaluma. Those of us who want to go together will meet at 9:30 at Noah's Bagels in Petaluma. Take the Washington exit from Hwy. 101, turn left and go over the overpass to McDowell. Turn right at the light and turn left into the Safeway parking lot. Noah's is just to the right of Safeway. It would be neat if you'd let me know if you are going. ML Carle mml@svn.net

Rickabaugh Glade
Let's go with San Hedrin chapter and our knowledgeable leader, Vishnu, on Saturday May 20th to this interesting site. We almost got there last year, but the ranger had not unlocked the gate! However we found many cool plants in spite of the d Brent's ranger. (In his defense, he may have been trying to protect the very soggy area from motorcycle damage.) This will be another one where we meet at the River Road park and ride for the trip up into Mendocino County. E-mail ML: mml@svn.net or phone 792-1823.

Salt Point
Memorial Day weekend (Fri. May 26 - Mon. May 29) with our good friend and excellent botanist, Peter Warner. Group camping at Salt Point State Park. There will be restoration work, a plant survey and field trip. Attend all or part. Contact Peter Warner at 937-2278 or corylus@earthlink.net for details. Let me (ML) know if you want to carpool from the Santa Rosa or Petaluma area. mml@svn.net or 792-1823.

Gualala River
June 3. Dr Peter Baye, whom some of you have had the pleasure of meeting and listening to, will lead us in investigating the botanical features of the mouth of the Gualala River. This is an opportunity not to be missed! We'll have to leave early, and you probably won't get home until late. So e-mail or call me and I'll fill you in on the time and exact location. This trip is subject to river level. mml@svn.net or 792-1823.

Kangaroo Lake
A July multi-day field trip to Kangaroo Lake with Ann Howald, botanist extraordinaire, is in the planning stages. Kangaroo Lake is approximately half-way between the town of Weed and the Oregon border.

ML Carle, Field Trip Organizer

Chapter Events & Activities

It's Been A Wet Spring, So What's In Flower? Come Find Out At Plant ID Hour!
Come early at 6:30, an hour before the May 16th 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

Plant Sale News
The potting workshop for the plant sale will be at Cal Flora in Fulton on Sunday, May 21 at 10 AM. At this workshop, we will be putting cuttings of Arctostaphylos, Ceanothus, Myrica and other slow growing shrubs into gallon containers. We need people to come help with the potting up and also members to take plants home to grow on until the plant sale on October 14. This is a very important plant sale activity; all members are encouraged to participate. We will also need gallon containers. For more information call Liz 833-2063.

Liz Parsons
**Horticulture Group**
The horticulture group met at Mary Aldrich’s on Wednesday, April 12. We started seeds of Lilies, Clarks, Collins, and other wildflowers. On April 26, we went to Cindy Tranceto’s garden in Santa Rosa and learned more about starting seeds. We will be meeting again on a Wednesday in May when we will go to Kathi Dowdakin and Rob Fox’s garden near Sebastopol where Kathi will show us the PCN Iris that she has hybridized and other marvels in their garden.

Call Liz, 833-2063, for more details.

**Book Sales Person Needed**
Are you are attracted to the book sales table at general meetings? If so, this volunteer opportunity will interest you. The chapter currently needs a Book Sales Chairperson. As the books sales person you would be previewing the latest publications in the native plant field and ordering them for the chapter. About 10 hours a month is needed, including selling books at the general meetings. Access to a computer with Microsoft Excel is extremely helpful. If you are interested, please talk to Adele Wikner 869-3024, or Ruby Herrick, 887-8542. Plant books rock!

**Cunningham Marsh Volunteer Days**
Please come & help on the following scheduled workdays. Come prepared for poison oak & blackberries.

*DATE:* May 20, June 25, July 16

*TIME:* 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

*BRING:* Water, lunch & your favorite weeding tool

*WHERE:* 1460 Big Cedar Lane, Sebastopol (off Lone Pine Road from Hwy. 116)

For further info.: owlsnest@hughes.net or 829-3808

Marcia Johnson
CNPS Steward, Cunningham Marsh

**Items of Interest**

**The Environmental Center has moved!**
The meeting place for the Milo Baker Chapter Board and its committees will now be **55 A Ridgeway Ave.** Santa Rosa (west of 101 off Cleveland, north of College Ave.) Come by and see the Sonoma County Conservation Council (SCCC) in a beautiful new space! We will be moved out of the Mendocino Ave. office by the end of April. The new building costs less and offers more: free parking, office space, good lighting, and two conference rooms for CNPS and the other member groups. Thanks to all who helped move our stuff to the new place; the CNPS file cabinet is heavy and treasure-laden! Come check us out in May; there will be an EC party on the evening of Monday, May 22nd to celebrate our new location. Visit the Center’s website: www.envirocentersoco.org (Note: Chapter programs will be held at 2050 Yulupa Ave. as usual).

Lynn Houser and Wendy Krupnick

**New Web Site Committee forming**
As you may have noticed, our chapter website at www.cnpsmb.org, has been redesigned from the ground up this past year. What you may not know is that members can now submit content without having to even bother the webmaster! This has been accomplished thanks to the skillful efforts of Ralph Johnson. Would you like to help in this process? Either by offering your vision as to what our site should be, offering to test-surf the site on Safari or Firefox or IE on the Mac or PC as Ralph implements changes, help new content providers use the submission forms, or just watch as we make this site shine? Join Adele Wikner, Bob Haas, and Gary Hundt in a newly reconstituted web site committee! Contact garyhundt@muddyknees.com or call 763-387.

**How You Can Help Preserve Native Plants With A Small Amount Of Time - Or More, If You Have It!**
We are planning to distribute information on invasive nursery plants to all the nurseries in Sonoma County and would like volunteers to visit nurseries and fill out a short information sheet for us. You can visit just one nursery for us or several, and it will be much appreciated. Contact ML mlml@svn.net or 792-1823 to get a copy of the form and choose the nursery or nurseries.

**Extended Broom-Removal Season: Take Advantage!**
Consider all this cold and rainy weather an opportunity to get yourself a weed wrench and take out the Scotch broom or French broom that may be invading your local hillside. The chapter uses three weed wrenches that do wonders on our preserves, and they may be available for borrowing; contact a board member for more info. You can do your part by taking advantage of the long rainy season, when they still can be pulled. Use gloves for small seedlings or visit www.weedwrench.com to order the size that suits your size weeds. Scotch Broom (Cytisus scoparius) is toxic to wildlife, invasive, and is impenetrable once it gets established. Small populations need immediate action; large ones need a successful plan and follow-up. All the wet weather means brooms can still be pulled from the roots successfully, especially with a weed wrench. Target those woody shrubs with yellow pea flowers; if you can’t do it now, flag your plants now for removal later when the blooms fade and then you can find them.

Lynn Houser

**Sonoma County Faces Nationwide Backyard Habitat Challenge**
The National Wildlife Federation has challenged Sonoma County to compete with three other counties nationwide to certify the highest number of Backyard Wildlife Habitats by August 31, 2006. Join 200+ others in Sonoma County and create wildlife habitat in your own backyard. For information: see http://www.theforestvillejoyfullivingcenter.org/ and follow the links to the Sonoma County Wildlife Habitat Project, or call Elaine Neiswender (707) 887-8129 M-F, 9 a.m. to noon.

**California Native Plant Book for Gardeners**
Finally a book has been written dealing with just California native plants. When I started gardening I looked for just such a book, but it was not to be found. “California Native Plants for the Garden” is a big step forward for every California gardener. Not only does it comprehensively describe some of my favorite plants, but it also has hundreds of beautiful photos showing close-ups and landscape views in California gardens. The pictures are so stunning that this book could easily reside in the place of honor on a coffee table. The authors - Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O’Brien -, have over 25 years experience with California native plants. The book has 271 pages and is published by Cachuma Press, Los Olivos, California. The book and most of the plants in the book are available at California Flora Nursery at Somers and D Street in Fulton.

Victoria Winkle
Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

Newsletter & Web Site Info
Send newsletter submissions to:
Heide Klein nemorphila@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the June newsletter is May 15.
For newsletter/membership issues contact:
Wendy Born spores@excite.com

The chapter web site www.cnpsmb.org contains a wealth of information plus current and archived newsletters.
To receive notification of the online newsletter sign up at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cnps

We invite you to join CNPS

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- □ New Member  □ Renewal

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