June General Meeting: Going Native, Going Sustainable  
Tuesday, June 20, 7:30pm

How can we use our California native plants to create gardens that delight the senses, while conserving resources and supporting wildlife? Our June speaker will be Peigi Duvall, landscape designer of “indigenous California gardens” and Chair of the state CNPS Horticulture Committee. Peigi is a delightful speaker and will inspire us with her stories and photos.

The dynamic CNPS Horticulture Program works to bring more awareness to the public about gardening with our wonderful California flora.

Our chapter meetings are free and the public is invited to attend. Books, Chapter T-shirts, and wildflower photo cards will be available for purchase at the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

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

There will be no General Meetings in July or August. Our annual Chapter Membership Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 20, at Alan Brubaker's gorgeous garden located at 1401 Adobe Canyon Road in Kenwood, beginning at 3 pm. Details in next month’s newsletter.

Weed Awareness Week  
July 17-23

Our Conservation Co-chair, Bob Hass, negotiated with the County Supervisors to designate this Weed Awareness Week two years ago. Yea Bob! Now the Sonoma-Marin Weed Area, an organization funded (slightly) by the state, and made up of environmental stakeholders, including CNPS, Cal-trans, Cal-IPC (California Invasive Plants Council) the County Agriculture Commission, Master Gardeners and others, is coordinating an effort to bring the invasive species problem in our counties to the attention of the public. (Our Nurseries Program, which is taking action to inform the public and nurseries of the invasive plant problem, is under their aegis.) Marin Watershed District will be hosting a weed elimination strategy day in the Tamalpais area for those who work with various agencies on the problem. Several activities for the public are planned for July 22rd and 23rd, and we are working on getting plenty of attention from the media. I'm working with Petaluma Wetlands Association and River Keepers to come up with an activity for us on the weekend, perhaps with canoes and kayaks in the Russian and Petaluma rivers. We hope you will choose to attend an event. Please contact me mlml@svn.net 792-1823 if you think you'd be interested in going on a river trip. Look for more possibilities in the next newsletter, or sooner on our Chapter website.

For more on Weed Awareness activities – it’s a big deal! – see page 2.
Weed Awareness
Increasingly, I am meeting more plant enthusiasts and professionals who are focusing their time on the management and research of invasive species. Globalization and increased mobility over the last century has greatly benefited humans, but also comes with many unavoidable consequences, one of which is exotic species. As native plant and wildland advocates, the threat of non-native invasive species is one that we cannot overlook.

Managed and natural ecosystems worldwide are increasingly impacted by non-native invasive species. Invasive species have become so widespread, they are now recognized as a key component of global change, with severe environmental, economic and public health implications. Plant invasions occur when organisms are transported outside their native range, where they become widespread and dominant. However, not all non-native plant introductions become problematic, only a fraction become invasive and a concern to land managers, biologists and the interested public. The worst plant invaders are those that modify sensitive habitats by out-competing native plants and alter ecosystem processes, like fires and flooding. For example, in Sonoma County and throughout the West, giant reed (Arundo donax) has invaded stream banks, creating a monoculture that is fire-prone and eliminates native vegetation that provide habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. Along with Arundo, Sonoma County is home to many other damaging weeds, including pampas grass (Cortaderia jubata) along the coast, star thistle (Centaurea solstitialis) in open grasslands and water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes) and perennial pepperweed (Lepidium latifolium) in wetlands. All habitat types are susceptible to invasion and it is estimated that millions of dollars are spent annually on invasive species in California.

For more information on invasive species check out the California Invasive Plant Council (www.cal-ipc.org), look for Chapter activities during Weed Awareness Week July 17th – 23rd, and you can also help educate local nurseries in not planting pests (contact M.L. at mlml@svn.net or 792-1823) or volunteer at one of our many weed removal days.

Lily Verdone

A great year for wildflowers
The wet spring has passed and we are enjoying the wildflower season. Flowers are blooming gloriously, although a little late. Members of four CNPS chapters—East Bay, Napa, Marin and Milo Baker, attended the field trip to the Palisades/Table Rock area of Napa County. The group included three all-star botanists: Wilma Follette, Jake Rugyt, and Doreen Smith. Botanizing with such knowledgeable members was a special treat for me. This was CNPS at its best. A highlight of the trip was Allium cratericola (crater onion) growing in profusion in an area of small pumice stones which was called “the Craters” by early botanists. Mimulus douglasi and Lewisia rediviva (bitterroot) were companion plants. By the time you receive this newsletter, the late wildflowers should be blooming on the sides of secondary roads throughout the county. Clarkias (fare-well-to-spring), the harvest Brodiaea (Brodiaea elegans) and Heliurie’s Spear (Triteleia laxa), and the gold nuggets (Calochortus luteus) will be observed in the grasslands. Bennett Valley Road, Skaggs Springs Road, Pine Flat Road, Cavedale/Trinity Road, and Geyers Road are all great for roadside botanizing.

Liz Parsons

What’s Wrong with Periwinkle?
Most of you probably know periwinkle, Vinca major, is a major pest plant. Nonetheless, you might be able to use some ammunition the next time you try to explain to someone else why it’s so bad. And you may wonder what the best way is to get rid of it. Illustrating its proclivity for taking over the world: my landlord wanted something to plant next to his outbuildings so the area wouldn’t have to be mowed every year. He chose periwinkle from a nearby nursery. He now has a field of it, overgrowing his roses, twinberry, etc. Periwinkle is often advocated as a stabilizer of creek banks. Hah! Not only does it wipe out every plant left and right, but in the rainy season, its shallow roots allow it to slide into the stream in chunks and establish itself miles away. Periwinkle aids erosion.

Here’s what you can do, and it won't be easy. You can pull it when the soil is damp and loose, with the knowledge that if you leave a fragment in the soil, it will sprout. For tougher situations, a McLeod is needed. (A McLeod is a hoe with several tines on the back of it.) Another option is to brush-cut it close to the ground and cover for at least a year. A 2% solution of glyphosate applied to the stems immediately after cutting in spring can be a solution when other methods are not an option. Glyphosate has a very short half-life. If you can't get to it this year, dig a trench 6 inches deeper than the stolons around the infestation, and line it with fabric to temporarily contain its spread. If you have Vinca on a slope, particularly next to a creek or stream, it's good to replant with willows, or something with deeper roots to prevent erosion. Disposing of plants is so important. Since Vinca sprouts so easily, it should not be left anywhere near soil. Consider the dump (your green bin will get it safely composted). You will need to go back and check for resprouting in a few months. Thanks to the California Invasive Plant Council for the information provided in the Weed Workers’ Handbook. (510) 843-3902 or <http://cal-ipc.org>

ML Carle

Nursery Outreach Project
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.
**Chapter Field Trips**

**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. mlml@svn.net or 792-1823.

**Kangaroo Lake**
July 29-30, camping field trip to Kangaroo Lake with Ann Howald, botanist extraordinaire. Kangaroo Lake is approximately half-way between the town of Weed and the Oregon border. More details in the next newsletter. mlml@svn.net or 792-1823  
✉ ML Carle, Field Trip Organizer

**Chapter Events & Activities**

**Brodiaea Count at Rincon Ridge Park**
Sunday, June 11 from 9:30-1:00; meet at Rincon Ridge Park playground. June is the month for Brodiaeas at Rincon Ridge, and we are lucky to have the CNPS list IB Sonoma Brodiaea, *Brodiaea californica var. leptandra* at the park, which is located off of Fountaingrove Parkway at Rincon Ridge and Park Gardens (off the Bicentennial Way exit in NE Santa Rosa). Sonoma brodiaea Gary Hundt

It has been a late season for many plants, germinating weeks behind schedule; let’s see how the bulbs are turning out! Last year the brodiaeas were in peak bloom the third week of June; this time we hope to catch them early enough to do an accurate count for the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and document the location. This is an important population, and we will be recording it for the first time for the Dept. of Fish and Game. Come on out and help count! Learn to identify Sonoma Brodiaea. I will bring flags, GPS, tape measure, *Sonoma Flora*, camera, and CNDDB forms. If there is time, we will try to identify the vegetation association or alliance where the brodiaeas are most abundant. Please bring your lunch and water, and wear sturdy boots.

You’ll see the late bloomers at the sensitive plant area, including Calistoga navarretia, woolly sunflower, and goldwire, and hopefully some Diogenes’ lantern and Ithuriel’s Spear will be still blooming. We can teach you how to fill in a CNDDB form and report on rare plant occurrences, something all CNPS members should know!

For more information, contact Lynn Houser, Rincon Ridge Park Steward, at 568-3230 or email at housers@sonic.net  
✉ Lynne Houser

**What’s In Flower? Come Find Out At Plant ID Hour!**
Come early at 6:30, an hour before the June 20 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!  
✉ Lynne Houser

**Cunningham Marsh Volunteer Day**
Please come & help protect the rare plants in our Cunningham Marsh Preserve on Sunday, July 16 from 10 am to 1 pm. Bring water, lunch & your favorite weeding tool. Be prepared for poison oak & blackberries. Meet at 1460 Big Cedar Lane, Sebastopol (off Lone Pine Road from Hwy. 116). For further info.: owlsnest@javures.net or 829-3808  
✉ Marcia Johnson, CNPS Steward, Cunningham Marsh

**Plant Sale News**
The May 21st workshop at Cal Flora was a success with over 400 plants growing to be ready for the October 14 sale. The next event will be at Shone Farm on Saturday, August 12. We will pot up Salvias and Mimulus. More details in the August newsletter, but, please, mark your calendars now.

✉ Liz Parsons

**Board News**
Breaking news! Lynn Houser will be our new Education Chair.

**Items of Interest**

**Hallberg Butterfly Gardens Event**
Sunday, June 25th, 10am to 4pm, 9th Annual Open Gardens Celebration. The Hallberg Butterfly Gardens, created by Louise Hallberg, are located at 8687 Oak Grove Road, Sebastopol (off Hwy. 116, between Occidental Rd. & Graton Rd.) Info: 823-3420. Admission free.

**Master Gardeners Tour**
Sunday, June 25th, 10am to 4pm. The Sonoma County Master Gardeners will present “Bloomin’ Backyards,” a self-drive tour of seven members’ private gardens in the Sebastopol area. Live demonstrations on reducing pesticides, controlling gophers, composting with worms and growing habitat plants; plants and handmade garden crafts for sale. Tickets $20 in advance, $25 day of the tour, children under 12 accompanied by an adult free. More info: 823-8010 or visit our website at mgsonoma.ucdavis.edu. Click on Special Events/Garden Tour.
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Milo Baker Chapter www.cnpsmb.org
P.O. Box 892
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

Newsletter & Web Site Info
Send newsletter submissions to:
Heide Klein nemorphila@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the combined
July-August newsletter is June 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

Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors
Co-President, Lily Verdone, 573-3967, verdone@sonoma.edu
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Director at Large, Barney Brady, 433-0485, bbrady@pon.net
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Education Chair, Lynn Houser, 568-3230, housers@sonic.net
Event Photographer/Website Admin, Gary Hundt, 763-3387, garyhundt@muddyknees.com
Field Trip Coordinator, ML Carle, 792-1823, mlml@svn.net
Hospitality, Becky Montgomery, 573-0103, montyb@sonic.net
Hospitality, May Miller, 538-4551, Maymiller@aol.com
Membership, Wendy Born, 829-7519, spores@excite.com
Newsletter Editor, Heide Klein, 820-1024, nemorphila@yahoo.com
Plant Sale, Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com
Poster & T-Shirt Sales, John Akre, 833-1243, jakre@pon.net
Programs/Lectures, Betsy Livingstone, 887-8873, betsl@sonic.net
Publicity, Pauline Haro, blue lady@earthlink.net
Rincon Ridge Park, Lynn Houser, 568-3230, housers@sonic.net
SCCC Rep, Wendy Kruipnick, 544-4542, wendyk@pon.net
Southridge Preserve, Jeffery Barrett 573-0271, barrett@sonic.net
Vine Hill Preserve, Jay Pedersen, shanjay@sonic.net
Volunteer Coordinator, Ruby Herrick, 887-8542, rdherr@yahoo.com
Webmaster, Ralph Johnson, webmaster@cnpsmb.org

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