Elections Are Coming for the Milo Baker Chapter Board!

In October, our chapter will elect new officers and board members for the next two years. As chair of the Nominating committee, I would like to invite all of you interested in preserving our county’s flora to step up and bring what you have to offer to the Board. Experience in fundraising, working with people, project management, grant writing, and budgeting is helpful, with an interest in any of the CNPS programs: rare plants, vegetation, publications, conservation, education, horticulture, legislation, publicity and membership.

A nomination petition will be available in the September newsletter that you can fill out and mail in to the chapter mailbox. Until then, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee (below) and let them know you’d like to run for an elected position. Some positions like committee chairs are appointed by the Chapter Presidents, (Lily Verdone and Liz Parsons), so you may contact them for more information. Any help is welcome; we are a diverse chapter with many interests and there are small tasks and larger projects to explore. We need Directors at Large! Come and learn about CNPS. Please contact Lynn Houser at 568-3230 or housers@sonic.net for more information. Deadline for the September newsletter is August 15th; we like to announce the candidates then so the members can elect them in October. This year we would like to have a mail-in ballot, so the final deadline to appear on the ballot is September 15th.

Thank you all who have served on the Milo Baker Chapter board and all who step forward for 2006-07!

Lynn Houser, Barney Brady, and Marianne Perron (the Nominating Committee).

California Weed Awareness Week: July 17 - 23

What with the huge political, health and climate change problems that plague us all, we can feel helpless and depressed. There are few opportunities to do something that results in obvious benefits. Let me introduce BROOM BASHING, PAMPAS PULLING, and VINCA VAPORIZING. It's physical exercise, it's positive aggression, and your victim truly deserves it! Age is no obstacle. Kids and those of us with senior discounts are all capable of laying waste to invasive plants or locating them and reporting them to the chapter and Cal-IPC. In order to design the most effective weed removal plans, we need to have weed populations mapped, and at last concerted efforts are underway. There are more weeds arriving every day, and the cost of controlling them goes up dramatically if they are allowed here long enough to entrench themselves. Less obvious costs include their negative impacts on plant biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and increases in fire and flood susceptibility. Watch for CNPS trips and other restoration activity notices in our newsletters if you can help. Nurseries often unintentionally supply wildlands with invasive plant pests. Here is a short list of those to avoid: Red Sesbania aka Scarlet wisteria (Sesbania punicea), Ice plants (Carpobrotus edulis and Mesembryanthemum crystallinum), Capeweed (Arctotheca calendula), Cotonester (Cotoneaster ssp), Myoporum (Myoporum laetum), Purple foutaininggrass (Pennisetum setaceum), Pennyroyal (Mentha pulegium), Algerian, English and Irish ivies (Hedera ssp) German ivy (Senecio mikanoides), Pride of Madera, (Echium fastuosum), Forget-me-not (Myostis ssp). More recent escapees from gardens not found in Sonoma County wildlands - yet: Banana poka (Passiflora tarminiana or mollissima), Mourning bride or pincushion flower (Scabiosa atropurpurea), Mexican feather grass (Stipa tenuissima). (Of course you know about the Brooms, Vinca, Periwinkle, Pampas or Jubuta grass - sterility is not guaranteed.) Contact ML or Kate for further information, or if you'd like to be part of our efforts to get the word out to nurseries: mlml@svn.net, kate@terraserve.net

ML Carle

*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 7:00pm, 2nd Tuesday nine months of the year, Environmental Center, 55 Ridgeway Avenue, Suite A, Santa Rosa. Next meeting is September 12th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
President's Corner

Good news for the Cunningham Marsh preserve and the Pitkin Lily population that resides there: the Milo Baker Chapter, by way of Betty Young, has been awarded a $29,710 grant from the City of Santa Rosa’s Environmental Grant Program. This one time funding offer was made available as part of a lawsuit settlement between the City of Santa Rosa and the Northern California River Watch. The grant was designed to fund environmental or educational projects that focus on nutrient removal, re-vegetation, and/or restoration of the Laguna de Santa Rosa and its tributaries. This was a perfect fit for the management goals of Cunningham Marsh, some of which are to reduce nutrient movement into the marsh from surrounding cattle grazing and high nitrogen annual grasses, while planting and protecting species native to the area. We are excited to partner on this project with Circuit Rider Productions, a community-based non-profit ecological restoration organization. They will implement a large portion of the nutrient reduction and native planting projects, along with the regular scheduled volunteers days throughout the summer.

In other good conservation news, we have decided to focus this year on conservation and its importance in the preservation, understanding and appreciation of California’s native plants. This will begin with a reorganization of the Conservation Committee structure to allow for more effective time management for the Chairs and more specific places for people to volunteer. Part of this will be accomplished by the creation of sub-committees, one of which is the Invasive Plant Committee, chaired by ML Carle. Stay tuned for more conservation updates in the upcoming year.

ML Carle

Chapter Field Trips

Kangaroo Lake
July 29-30, Kangaroo Lake camping and wildflower hike. Ann Howald leads. Kangaroo Lake is in the Scott Mountains, at the southern end of Klamath National Forest (way up north, west of Weed). This is an area of very high conifer diversity. Beautiful mountain wildflowers can be expected here in late summer, especially in wetter years (like this one). The area is about 5 hours drive from Sonoma County. Saturday is for driving, arriving, socializing and botanizing around the campground. Sunday morning we’ll hike up a 1-mile trail (at 5,000’ approx.) that connects with the Pacific Crest Trail. The first mile has great flowers, and we can explore some of the PCT if we have the time and energy. There are two campgrounds in the area. One is located at Kangaroo Lake, which has numbered sites and fees. The other is at Scott Mountain Summit, a mile or so away -- no fees (at least none last year) and no water but lots of room. No reservations possible, so it’s first-come, first-served at both campgrounds. Flora of the Trinity Alps works pretty well here. Contact Ann for more info: (707)939-0775 or annhowald@vom.com.

ML Carle

Field Trip Note
I have resigned as field trip chair, so as to have more time to ruthlessly pursue invasive plants. Our new field trip chair will be Beth Robinson, an amazing naturalist with a newly sparked interest in California native plants. Beth is an active hiker and has led field trips for State Parks, CoastWalk, REI and other local groups. She’ll be joining us in the fall after she completes the John Muir Trail! In the meantime, check out adjoining chapters’ on-line newsletter field trip offerings at the CNPS newsletter site.

Lily Verdone

Chapter Events & Activities

Plant Sale News
The Shone Farm potting workshop will be at 10 AM, Saturday, August 12. We will pot up Salvias, Zauschneria, and Mimulus. They will be grown on at the Shone Farm greenhouse until the plant sale on October 14. We need many people to help with this important task. Please call Liz Parsons 833-2063 or Mary Aldrich 539-9005 for directions or for more information.

Liz Parsons

Picnic News
On Sunday, August 20, the Annual Chapter Picnic will be held at Alan Brubaker’s garden located at 1401 Adobe Canyon Road in Kenwood. We are pleased that Alan has agreed to host the picnic this year. Alan’s beautiful Sonoma Creekside garden includes many botanical delights. It is planted with many CA natives, but also includes an extensive collection of conifers. The large xeric garden in the rear of the property is filled with marvelous Mediterranean and desert plants. We will begin to assemble at 3:00 PM and a potluck dinner will be served at 4:30 PM. Bring your own utensils and a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Call M.L. Carle for more information: 792-1823.

Vine Hill Preserve- Say Thanks to Jay and Pull a Weed
Jay Pedersen, is stepping down after twelve years (!) as Vine Hill Preserve Steward. In recognition of Jay’s efforts, we are planning an appreciation event for Jay, Saturday, July 22 from 9 to noon at the Preserve. Parking is limited on Vine Hill School Road so we may carpool from the Sebastopol Safeway parking lot at 8:45.

Saturday July 22 falls within Weed Awareness Week and Jay, still the Steward, recommends that we spend some time pulling weeds at the Preserve as well as enjoying Vine Hill manzanita (Arctostaphylos densiflora), Vine Hill ceanothus (Ceanothus folius var. vineatus) and Vine Hill clarkia (Clarkia imbricata).

Thank you Jay for the time and concern you have given to the Society’s premier preserve. Contact me at 887-8542 or joherr@adelphia.com for more details.

John Herrick

Cunningham Marsh Volunteer Days
Please come & help on July 16th, 10am – 1pm. Bring water, lunch & your favorite weeding tool, rake, gloves, hat, sunscreen. Come prepared for poison oak & blackberries. We plan to:
* weed in the enclosures (they may be rebuilt by then with nice gates)
* search for and collect native grass seed
* rake the newly mowed grass, into compost piles, to prevent addition of nitrogen to the system
* cut re-sprouts from white poplar
* thin willows shading lilies
* dig non native thistles

ML Carle
I am very pleased to Chair the chapter’s Education program. I have a B.S. in Botany and come from a family of teachers. As a chapter we do many beneficial activities that fall into the education arena such as having experts in native plant gardening available at our plant sale, monthly speakers in evening programs, educational scholarships for Botany students transferring from the Junior College, and working with the public on land management issues. This spring John Herrick and I also conducted workshops in native plant training for Sonoma Land Trust monitors at Glen Oaks Ranch. I hope to continue this broad reach of education.

Classroom report

The microscope familiar to those who frequent the Plant ID Hour table made its rounds at Hidden Valley Elementary School in Santa Rosa this spring. Twenty 2nd graders looked at plants and insects over two class periods. Thirty 5th graders saw a slideshow and asked questions about plants (mostly about plant chemistry, I noticed), and each had a native plant specimen on their desk. They used the microscope throughout the whole day, as they had time. Brownie Troop 461 also had a look through the scope as part of a “Try-it” on plants. After months of test preparation and test taking, the teachers and students were delighted to have these hands-on opportunities. I received very warm thanks for my time and plan to continue next year.

If you would like any handouts or science ideas for kids or adults regarding our local plants or general botany, please let me know. You can contact me at 568-3230 or email at housers@sonic.net. The new science standards in public schools require a collaborative effort to teach plants in a meaningful way that is more than just testing. We can do all this, as a large and vibrant Society, with beautiful posters to donate to schools and valuable knowledge to share with the public.

Other educational materials are available through various CNPS chapters, and address a variety of current issues. For example Petaluma might like a copy of “We Took Out Our Lawn and You Can Too” by Gabi and Cliff McLean of the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter. Also, a new book by Betsey Landis and Bart O’Brien about gardening methods for California natives in English and Spanish will provide a much-needed tool for today’s landscape companies and homeowners. Look out for it this summer at www.cnps.org. The state-level Education program is up and running with a new committee headed by Spence McIntyre and Fred McPherson. If you have an interest in working with this group, please visit the state website and contact Spence.

Best wishes for a happy summer and lots of learning!

How many plants can you learn this summer? I have at least 10 grasses to key out to keep me busy (my educational goal).

Lynn Houser

We are especially pleased to have been part of the discovery of an undocumented population of false indigo on Rincon Ridge. We all too often get caught up in the beauty of the flowers, and we have tremendous respect for all those members out there week in and week out, in all weather, pulling weeds, providing painstaking documentation, nurturing and tending our wonderful native flora. Very special thanks to Lynn Houser!

Our publisher is Bob Lorentzen of Bored Feet Press and the publication date is set for October 2007, in time for the Christmas gift market! Bob prints many fine guides for Sonoma County hikers and many beautiful full color nature photography books. Marcus and I have already about two thousand images, but we would love to include photographs by other CNPS members. Please email us if you have good photos, or would like a photography guideline. We are also including short essays on relevant topics such as conservation and preservation by chapter members, including a very lyrical article about gardening with natives by Phil Van Soelen. Again, please email us if you have a short article or are interested in contributing. Our fund raising campaign will be in full swing in July. We’ll keep you posted. In the meantime, part of our exhibit “From Poppy to Prickly Pear: California’s Native Plants” is on display in the new environmental center. Thank you so much to all of you!

Marcus and Rosalie Wardell
707.433.8215
wardellphoto@earthlink.net

Help restore riverbank habitat. Join us every Wednesday and the second Saturday of each month, from 8:30 – 11 am. Bring gloves and water and wear sturdy shoes. We’ll be on the north bank of the Russian River directly upstream of the pedestrian bridge. Access is down a driveway west of Woody’s River Glass. At the bottom of the driveway look for the blue and white sign that says, “Russian Riverkeeper Demonstration Riparian Restoration Project Future Community Park.” Restoration activities include: erosion control, invasive plant removal, planting and caring for native vegetation, restoration education and trash pickup. See the website at http://www.russianriverkeeper.org or call Don McEnhill at 217-4762, or e-mail him at rrkeeper@sonic.net.

Victoria Wikle
Russian Riverkeeper Park Project Manager

Learn more about the Laguna - Take a Walk! Laguna Docents will be hosting walks Wednesday evening, July 5th at 7:00 PM and Saturday morning, July 15th at 9:15 AM. Meet BEHIND the Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris St. $5 donation is requested. Heavy rain cancels, light rain does not cancel. For more information, contact Mary Abbott, Education Coordinator at 527-9277 x.2 or email mary@lagunafoundation.org.

Milo Baker Chapter Newsletter - July/August 2006
We invite you to join CNPS

Name________________________________
Address______________________________
City/Zip______________________________
Phone________________________________
Email________________________________

Chapter affiliation:
☐ Milo Baker (Sonoma County)
☐ Other county ______________________

Membership category:
☐ Student or Limited Income……… $25
☐ Individual…………………….. $45
☐ Family, Group or Library………… $75
☐ Plant Lover……………………. $100
☐ Patron………………………….. $300
☐ Benefactor……………………… $600
☐ Mariposa Lily…………………… $1500

☐ New Member   ☐ Renewal

Make check payable to CNPS and mail to:
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To pay by credit card or for more info call
916.447.2677 or visit www.cnps.org

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Co-President, Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com
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Vine Hill Preserve, Jay Pedersen, shanjay@sonic.net
Volunteer Coordinator, Ruby Herrick, 887.8542, rherr@yahoocom
Webmaster, Ralph Johnson, webmaster@cnpsmb.org

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Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

Newsletter & Web Site Info
Send newsletter submissions to:
Heide Keeble: nemorphila@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the September
Newsletter is August 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