California Native Plants for the Garden
Tuesday, September 19th, 7:30pm

We are proud to be hosting Bart O’Brien, co-author of the wonderful new award-winning book *California Native Plants for the Garden*. Bart is also the new editor of the CNPS journal *Fremontia* and Senior Staff Research Associate at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, dedicated to research, conservation and horticulture of California native plants. Bart has a long list of accomplishments and publications, too numerous print here. He was named Horticulturist of the Year in 2005 by the Southern California Horticultural Society, and was listed as one of “The 100 Most Powerful People in Southern California” by the editorial staff of the Los Angeles Times/West Magazine (Aug 13, 2006). Wow!

All you native plant gardeners and native plant lovers, come on out for a gorgeous slide show and a unique learning opportunity. There will be copies of *California Native Plants for the Garden* available for perusal, sale and signing by the author.

Meet for Dinner before the General Meeting
How about dinner at the Kirin Restaurant before the September General Meeting? We are hoping our speaker will join us, but we’ll be a convivial group anyhow and we always eat well. We meet at 6 pm. Please call or email Betsy Livingstone before September 19 to let us know you are coming.

October General Meeting: Sudden Oak Death
Tuesday, October 17th, 7:30pm

Nathan Rank is professor of biology at SSU and director of Fairfield Osborne Preserve. An enthusiastic researcher, and a dynamic speaker, he will bring us up to date on the Sudden Oak Death situation here in Sonoma County.

Help Us Speak with Policymakers about General Plan

Our chapter now has a small public policy “team” working together on the County’s General Plan 2020. This is the policy document that the County Planning Department will use to make land-use decisions for at least the next 20 years and probably longer. Our chapter has been engaged in this process since 2001. We have focused our attention primarily on one section of the Plan—the Open Space and Resource Conservation Element—since it impacts most directly what happens to native plants and plant communities.

In the coming months the County Planning Commission and then the County Board of Supervisors will finalize the Plan. During this time we intend to arrange individual meetings with some of these policymakers. At these meetings we plan to convey our chapter’s position on a few of the issues we consider most important, and attempt to learn where they stand on them.

If you would consider helping us, please contact Mac Marshall (542-7811, mac-marshall@uiowa.edu) or Bob Hass (938-8868, bob_cnpsmb@comcast.net).

Bob Hass and Mac Marshall

Prop 90 Threatens California’s Environment and More

An initiative will appear on the November 7, 2006 California ballot called Proposition 90. Already more than 50 groups representing a broad range of constituencies are on record opposing Prop. 90.

*Continued on page 2
Prop 90, Continued from page 1
According to the California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV), if Prop. 90 passes, “it will cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year, entangle the state in costly and wasteful litigation, and have devastating impacts for our environment and local communities.” Under Prop. 90, any time a new law is passed, any landowner or business may file a speculative lawsuit, claiming it has impacted the value of their property. CLCV notes that Prop. 90 “would severely restrict the ability of voters and local and state agencies to enact and enforce basic laws that protect our coastline, preserve open spaces and farmland, protect air and water quality, and protect environmentally sensitive areas.”

Significantly, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst cites “potentially major future costs” to deal with regulatory ‘takings’ provisions and “potentially major changes in governmental costs to acquire property for public purposes.” After a similar law was passed in Oregon (a much smaller state) recently, nearly 2,000 claims were filed seeking $3.8 billion that taxpayers could ultimately end up having to pay. For more information, or to sign up for the No on Prop 90 campaign, go to: http://www.noprop90.com/.

Bob Hass

Chapter Field Trips

Report on Kangaroo Lake field trip with leaders Ann Howald and Peter Warner, July 28th - 30th
Our summer trip was another success. Some of us drove up early through Weed and into the wild and mountainous area to the east. Alongside the road grew the wide-ranging and spectacular Giant blazing star, Mentzelia laeviscaulis (We even have it on Russian River sandbars). We set up our tents at the small and primitive Scott Mountain campground. Xerophyllum tenax, Bear grass, was still flowering nearby. There was one latrine at Scott, but it was unusable because of a wasp nest inconveniently located. The next day the forest service arrived and executed them. This is one case where I am in favor of the death penalty. Although we were right next to a large marsh meadow area, the mosquitos were reasonably polite and needed no such drastic punishment. A few perfect Veratrum californicum, Corn lilies, grew there along with Polygonum bistortoides, Western bistort, Calochortus uniflorus, Pink star tulip, Pedicularis atolens, Baby elephant heads, Narthecium californicum, Bog asphodel, and Tofieldia glutinos, Western tofieldia - with its gooey stems, which helped distinguish it from the similar nearby White hastingia, Hastingsia album.

On Saturday we climbed to the beautiful Sugar Lake along the creek and stopped to identify the many pine species - thirteen of the sixteen possible. The lovely and seldom-seen Weeping or Brewer's spruce, Picea breweri, was among them. There were many Prince's pine, Chimaphila menziesii, Pyrola picta, wintergreen and Limnaea borealis -Twinflower on this trail. The next day we hiked to the fen above Kangaroo Lake and viewed the thousands of Darlingtonia californica, California pitcher plant and a host of other plants. Those of us who could stay another day hiked a steep valley up to three lakes above a spectacular waterfall. Panting and wheezing, we located three Lewisia, Bitterroot species and a single large Gentiana calycosa we think. It did not have the structures between the petals we expected after consulting Vishnu's Jepson, but it was the closest one. Hard as I tried, my companions would not agree to call it a new species, Gentiana carlensis. If it weren't for the gorgeous environment, and the evenings with the entertaining and interesting participants, I'd have been quite annoyed!

ML Carle

Chapter Events & Activities

Plant Sale News
The plant sale is always the second Saturday in October and this year it is as late as it can possibly be--October 14. Therefore the plant sale flyer will be in the October newsletter. There will also be a list of the plants that will be available at our sale in the October newsletter. Judy Hartwig will be calling you to ask you to volunteer for the plant sale or you can call her at 823-1821. Set aside Friday and Saturday to help with our most important fund raiser. The Chapter needs you!

Seed Packaging Workshop
Friday, September 22. We'll gather at Liz Parsons' Kenwood home for the seed packaging and a potluck. Come any time after 5:00 PM and we'll put you to work packaging the seeds. When we finish, we will enjoy a potluck dinner. If you have seeds that you have collected bring them to the workshop or call Liz (833-2063) and arrange for her to pick them up.

Potting Workshop News
The August Shone Farm Potting Workshop was a big success with over 500 liners put into gallon containers to grow on for our October 14 plant sale. Shooting Star provided liners of Heuchera maxima, Mimulus aurantiacus (bush monkeyflower), Ceanothus 'Yankee Point', Polystichum munitum (sword fern), Ribes sanguineum glutinosum (pink flowering currant), Salvia clevelandii 'Winnifred Gilman', Salvia clevelandii 'Alan Chickering', Salvia leucophylla 'Pt. Sal', and Epilobium canum (zauschneria) 'Calistoga'. We want to thank Charlotte Martin, Anne Aymes, Penny Dalton, Cindy Trancetto, Alan Brubaker, Wendy Krupnik, and Mary Aldrich for their help with this task. A special thanks to Richard Aldrich for picking up the soil and delivering it to Shone Farm. This organic soil is very important to the success of the workshop.

Liz Parsons

Cunningham Marsh Grant
Cunningham Marsh will be getting much needed T.L.C. with help from the City of Santa Rosa's Grant Program to improve Laguna water quality. We have been granted $29,710. Circuit Riders will be managing the contractors needed to do professional work in the marsh. This will include collecting seed not available in Cunningham, propagating and growing hundreds of plants to be planted in a hedgerow between the marsh and cow pasture next door. The hedge will filter out nitrates harmful to the marsh, lilies and water quality. The grant will continue the weed mowing, and removal of the huge blackberry thickets, expand the wetland and oak woodland. The Marsh will never be as it once was, however, this is a big first step towards partial restoration. Your help is very much needed, there are lots of tasks we, the volunteers, must do; collect seed, hand weed, set up experimental plots, and ID and count rare plants. The grants will pay for those nasty jobs we can't do. But we need your commitment to help more than ever. All of this effort could not have been done without the expertise and time commitment of Betty Young. Much thanks Betty. Call Marcia for any additional information.

Marcia Johnson
Thank You to the Cunningham Marsh Volunteers

A big thank you to Wendy Born, M.L. Carle, John Herrick, Gary Hundt, Rainbow Francom, Darlene LaMont, Ben Verduin & especially Betty Young for helping June 25th. We weeded lily exclosures, cut & painted holly & poplar resprouts, surveyed rare plants, pulled thistles & photographed the area. Your help is greatly appreciated.

On Sunday, July 16, eight volunteers inventoried garrityana oaks & counted lilies. Necessary weeding continued within the lily exclosures. The large exclosure was a blooming, with probably 150-200 Pitkin lily flowers. It was a truly beautiful sight seeing the lilies amongst the azaleas. Much thanks goes to Betty Young, John Herrick, Gary Hundt, Rainbow Francom, Darlene LaMont, Ben A big thank you to Wendy Born, M.L. Carle, John Herrick, Gary Hundt, Betsy Livingston, Peter Erlich & Kate Symonds.

Marcia Johnson
CNPS Steward, Cunningham Marsh

Other Chapter News

Invasive Plants Corner

This month, we’re featuring Sesbania punicea, Red sesbania, Rattlebox, Scarlet wisteria; a small tree in the Fabaceae family with red pea-shaped flowers and acacia-like leaves. The following is an excerpt from an on-line nursery in France which describes the attractiveness of this serious pest. "When I recently acquired this (plant) I was immediately struck with its stunning flowers...From May onwards clusters of flowers hung down on short stalks and had the most beautiful range of burnt orange to hot red colors... Cultivation is easy ....with great results."

This month I went out to visit a few nurseries, and some of them had this plant for sale. The nursery managers didn’t know of the international bad reputation of this South American plant, or that it is illegal to sell it in California. Red sesbania is listed as ‘Q’ rated by the Department of Fish and Game in this state, and that those who sell it have committed a misdemeanor and may have their plants confiscated, along with a fine of up to $1,000.

Why does it spread so easily? Here’s some about what we learn about it from the California Invasive Pest Plant Council newsletter of summer 2003 when Sesbania was becoming obvious in Central Valley rivers: “Red sesbania grows and reaches maturity rapidly...Reproductive individuals produce 100-1,000 pods each year, with 5-10 seeds per pod... Its pods...float for up to ten days... Because of its large seeds it is able to establish under a wider range of sites and conditions than Fremont cottonwoods and willows.”

What damage does it do? In the Sacramento area where it has already become a very serious problem in waterways, it forms dense stands because of its ability to inhibit the growth of other plants, making river access unavailable. It displaces the habitat that supports native animals, contributes to erosion and flooding, and decreases biodiversity. It is expensive to remove. If that’s not enough, it is poisonous to birds, mammals and reptiles.

Two things you can do to protect our native riparian plants from this invader. One is to report to us if you see it in river areas. (Since it is salt-tolerant, it can live in brackish as well as fresh water.) The other is to sign up with the Nursery Project to visit one or more Sonoma County nurseries and help get the word out. Contact Kate Symonds (kate@terraserve.net) or ML (mml@svn.net)

M.L. Carle

Items of Interest

Cal-IPC Symposium & Field Course; Research and Management: Bridging the Gap

Pre-Symposium field course
October 4, 2006, 8:00AM-5:00PM
Audubon Canyon Ranch’s Bouverie Preserve, Glen Ellen
To follow last year’s popular field course, we will offer a one-day course on Wednesday, October 4 at Audubon Canyon Ranch’s Bouverie Preserve near Sonoma. “‘Tools for Early Detection’ will give participants information for planning an early detection program. Topics will include general biology and identification; designing a monitoring and early detection program; preparing vouchers; measuring vegetation in the field; managing data; and reporting occurrences of invasive plants. A detailed agenda will be posted at www.cal-ipc.org. $125 for those attending the Symposium; $145 if not attending.

Cal-IPC Symposium: Bridging the Gap
October 5-7, 2006
Sonoma DoubleTree Hotel, One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, California.
Solving California’s invasive plant crisis requires rapid translation of research results into management actions. In addition, natural resource managers are often the first to identify interesting questions that become compelling research topics. This year’s Symposium explores commonalities and conflicts at the interface of research and management, with invited speakers from both realms. A panel discussion will allow attendees to interact with the speakers. In addition, we are honored to have Ruth Coleman, Director of California State Parks, as this year’s keynote speaker.

Saturday field trips will allow Symposium attendees to view local invasive plant control projects and hear from the land managers overseeing them. This year’s field trips include Kayaking the Laguna de Santa Rosa (limited to 15 participants), San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Marin Municipal Water District/ Mount Tamalpais watershed, and Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

A preliminary program and lodging information is available at http://www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/index.php.

Cal-IPC Symposium Raffle and Auction
Donate your weedy items! After a full day of interesting and informative speakers, we’ll lighten things up Thursday night at the Symposium Awards Banquet with a raffle and auction. A wide range of goodies will be up for grabs, from the practical to the eclectic. All are invited to donate fun, useful, beautiful, or bizarre items (please contact Marla Knight, maknight@fs.fed.us or 530-468-1238). Creativity is encouraged—wacky plants that you’ve made are most welcome! Donation ideas include, but are not limited to: weed art and crafts; weed removal/restoration tools; books, handbooks, field guides; posters or artwork; recreational clothes, gear, and supplies.

6th Annual Oak Symposium
The 6th California Oak Symposium is to be held in Rohnert Park, October 9-12, at Doubletree Hotel. The focus will be on science, management, conservation, planning, and policies related to California’s oak woodlands. Details on the web site: http://danr.ucop.edu/ihrmp/symposium.html
We invite you to join CNPS

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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

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CA \NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Milo Baker Chapter www.cnpsmb.org
P.O. Box 892
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Lilium pardinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

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

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