On Sunday, August 19, the Annual Chapter Picnic will be held at Liz Parson's garden in Kenwood. It is planted with many CA natives and is on the banks of Sonoma Creek. Families are welcome.

We will begin to assemble at 3:00 PM and a potluck supper will be served at 4:30 PM. Please bring your own utensils and a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Call Liz (707-833-2063) if you have any questions.

Directions: Take Route 12 to Kenwood, turn west onto Greene Street at the gas station. Continue on Greene to the end (about two blocks), turn right on Turtle Creek Drive and go to the end (#8). Drive through the gate and park.

Note: There will be no General Meeting in July or August. The next meeting will be September 18 and will feature Plant ID Hour at 6:30 as usual. See below for location.

Sonoma Land Trust Purchases and Protects Lower Pitkin Marsh
With support from Chapter members John Herrick and Betty Guggolz

From Sonoma Land Trust: Sonoma Land Trust (SLT) and Synergy PMC have signed an agreement for the Land Trust to purchase Lower Pitkin Marsh, 27-acres of botanically unique habitat on Gravenstein Highway, between Graton and Forestville in Sonoma County. "There's nothing else like it on the planet," declared Trust Conservation Director Wendy Eliot. "It's an example of why we do this work."

Just a few months ago, a very different scenario was envisioned for Pitkin Marsh: a development proposal of a 24,000 square foot residential care facility. The development was in its last stages of the permitting process when the owner decided to put the plan on hold and pursue a conservation outcome instead.

The wetlands of Lower Pitkin Marsh in the Atascadero Creek have been recognized since the 1950s as having enormous botanical significance. Plant species currently listed and protected at either the state or federal level include white sedge (Carex albida), a plant believed extinct until its rediscovery in 1983 at Pitkin Marsh. This Sonoma County endemic species has been in decline for years due to loss of habitat, alteration of hydrology and competition with invasive

(Story continued, p. 6)
President's Corner

Summer is here and the hills are golden in Sonoma County. I was surprised to see buckeyes going deciduous already the third week of June in Glen Ellen: a sign of a dry year. Still, the native plants trek on and continue to encourage us in our daily lives.

With the little rain we have had, the water conservation measures that are to begin on July 1st will undoubtedly challenge the plants in our landscaping. Mark your calendar for Saturday October 13th for our Annual Native Plant Sale, where you can find drought tolerant natives such as Salvia, Zauschneria, Manzanita, Ceanothus, and Mimulus that can provide beauty and habitat value with little water to maintain. Our plant sale is a huge endeavor, and our main fundraiser. Plant sale volunteers get to shop the night before the sale and often share freebies at potting workshops. Check the plant sale news for details for the Aug. 11th potting workshop at Shone Farm and come on out to join us! We really appreciate the amazing horticultural talent that our volunteers contribute to growing and selling the plants; thank you all for watering and pinching back when needed this summer so we have beauties to sell on October 13th.

I attended a networking BBQ at the Pepperwood Preserve in June and made some contacts to plan some field trips next year on the 3000+ acre preserve. Pepperwood has been transferred from the California Academy of Sciences to the Pepperwood Foundation, and Steve Barnhart is now the Education Director. They offer many educational classes through the Santa Rosa Junior College. The new Education center should be completed in 2009. The serpentine and other diverse habitats on the preserve make it a great destination for CNPS hikes and weed-removal work days. Perhaps we could get our vegetation survey volunteers out for a day as well? A coordinator for vegetation activities in the chapter is very much needed to see these things through. We plan on hosting a table at the Pepperwood Acorn Day on September 30th. Please let me know if you’d like to help get new CNPS memberships and network with other local groups.

Chapter Help Needed: We hope by this time to have filled the Newsletter Editor and Conservation Coordinator positions. If you are interested in helping out, please do not hesitate to contact me. Even if you can only help a few hours a month, the Chapter needs help reviewing projects and communicating them to our membership so we can be more effective in conservation. You can take on tasks that suit your interest and expertise, or submit articles about conservation and plant science to the newsletter. We could also use more botanical illustrations, and we know there is a lot of artistic talent out there among our members!

Enjoy the flora in your travels this summer, and think about all the people who travel to our county for its natural beauty. May you return with new enthusiasm for conservation and science and good land management, and spread the word to neighbors and friends. I look forward to seeing you at chapter events; please call me at 568-3230 if you would like to get more involved.

Lynn Houser

Scholarship and Internship Opportunities for Students of Native Plants

The Milo Baker Chapter awards scholarships to support students pursuing interests in native plant conservation, restoration, or other native plant-related endeavors. Scholarships are available each semester to students at Sonoma State University or Santa Rosa Junior College. The funds may be used for educational or research-related expenses. The deadline for applications for the fall 2007 scholarship is September 1. For details, please contact Joan Schwan (SSU Representative), at 707-823-0446 or schwanjo@sonoma.edu.

This coming fall, the Chapter will offer internship opportunities including natural communities work in the Mayacamas Mountains, or assisting with stewardship of Cunningham Marsh and perhaps Pitkin Marsh. Students may be able to arrange college credit for internship work. For more information, contact John Herrick at joherri@yahoo.com or 707-887-8542.

Donations Received: Remembering Marco Waaland

The Milo Baker Chapter has received nearly $2,000 in donations honoring wetlands specialist Marco Waaland, who died this spring. We gratefully acknowledge the following generous donors for remembering Marco and his dedication to native plants:

Mary Aldrich, Santa Rosa
Elizabeth Andrews, Santa Rosa
Lucille A. Boggs, Santa Rosa
Miriam D. Bruner, Santa Rosa
Celtic Rose Gardening & Maintenance Service, Windsor
Joseph Gaffney and Stephanie Nora Bodi, Rohnert Park
Green Valley Consulting Engineers, Santa Rosa
The Chapter plans to use these donations to fund a scholarship for outstanding local undergraduate or graduate students engaged in botanical work in the Laguna or on the Santa Rosa Plain, where Marco’s work was focused. Details on the scholarship will be available in a future issue of this newsletter.

**Plant Sale News:**

**Shone Farm Potting Workshop – Help Needed!**

Saturday, August 11, at 10 a.m., we will be potting up *Salvia*, *Zauschneria*, and *Mimulus*. They will be grown on at the Shone Farm greenhouse until the plant sale on October 13. We need many people to help with this important task. We will probably have about 500 plants. Please call Liz Parsons 833-2063 or Mary Aldrich 539-9005 for directions or more information.

**Chapter Field Trips**

**National Weed Awareness Week: Ivy Removal, Doyle Park**

*Saturday, July 28, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

Come help us remove ivy from the grand old trees of Doyle Park! Many of the old oak, bay, buckeye, maple, and alder trees in one of Santa Rosa’s oldest parks are stressed by tons of English ivy that climb to the treetops. After a short presentation on botany and creek history, spend the morning in the shade along Spring and Matanzas Creeks providing relief to the trees by girdling the ivy and creating ivy free zones around the trunks. This project continues the work of Wright School, Montgomery High School, Brookhill School, and AmeriCorps volunteers who, under the guidance of STRAW and LandPaths, have used the riparian areas in the park for nature study and restoration projects. Join neighbors, CNPS, and Creek Stewardship Program volunteers. Bring long sleeved work clothes (fortunately, there is very little poison oak), gloves, small pruning saws, loppers, and hand pruners. Keep an eye out for other invasive plant species.

Directions: Meet at Doyle Park’s north entrance on Doyle Park Drive (south of Sonoma Ave. and east of Brookwood Ave.) Contact: Alistair Bleifuss: ableifuss@srcity.org or 543-3845 for directions and details as the date approaches.

© Alistair Bleifuss, Creek Stewardship Program Coordinator, Sonoma County Water Agency and City of Santa Rosa

**Fern Canyon Walk, Kenwood**

*Saturday, August 25, 9-12*

We’ll join Chapter Vice President, Liz Parsons for a walk in Fern Canyon in Kenwood, near Hood Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve. We’ll meet at Liz’s house on Adobe Canyon Road to carpool to the site. Please bring water, sturdy shoes, and a snack.

Contact: Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com.

**Invasive Plant Corner**

Weed Awareness Week is this month. Here are the names of some of the worst invasive plants, often sold as garden plants. Unfortunately these plants have their ways of not staying garden plants. After each group are some good alternative plants; natives and well-behaved others. Some brooms, etc. are sold as sterile, but research shows that infertility may not hold up over time, so best to avoid. It’s really quite easy to have a gorgeous non-invasive garden with a full range of colors and textures—unless, like me, all the plants you buy are suicidal.

**Trees that Tend to Take Over:** Chinese tallow tree, silk tree, mayten, Russian olive, privet, acacia, myoporum, blue gum eucalyptus, tree of heaven, edible fig, English holly, London plane tree, pepper trees, tamarix or salt cedar.

**Well-Behaved Trees:** Strawberry tree, madrone, native oaks, box elder, big leaf maple, redbud, bay laurel, crape myrtle, bald cypress, California flannel bush, golden rain tree, ginkgo, liquidambar, dogwood, Western sycamore

**Overbearing Shrubs and Ground Covers:** Scarlet wisteria, brooms, cotoneasters, English hawthorn, buddleia, pride of Madera, Himalayan blackberry, ivy (English, German, Algerian), periwinkle (*Vinca* spp.), iceplants (*Carpobrotus conicosia, Mesembryanthemum* spp.), capeweeds.
Lovely Alternatives: Ceanothus, forsythia, winter jasmine, toyon, dogwood, golden currant, wild ginger, California blackberry, elderberries, pineapple guava, lizard tail, Oregon grape, hummingbird sage, manzanitas, beach or wood strawberry, twinberry, bush poppy.

Insidious Annuals: Purple loosestrife, Queen Anne's lace, pennyroyal, viper's bugloss, parentucellia, rose clover, forget-me-not, bouncing bet, some nightshades.

Terrific Replacements: Clarkia spp., bird’s-eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*), sky lupine (*Lupinus nanus*), Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*), and of course, California poppy

Chapter member Jon Akre removing an overbearing shrub (aka broom).

Hostile Takeover Ornamental Grasses: Arundo (not very ornamental to most people), Pampas grass, jubata grass, fountain grasses

Responsible Grassroots Investments: clumping bamboos, *Muhlenbergia* spp., Bigelow's bear grass, San Diego sedge

Note: A more extensive description of great plants which more than compensate for the absence of invasives will be available at Milo Baker general meetings. Native plant garden books are also available. If you have comments or questions, especially weed sightings, feel free to e-mail me.

M.L. Carle   mlml@svn.net

Items of Interest

**Watch the Fireworks from Taylor Mountain with Landpaths**

**July 4, 8:00 pm -10:30 pm**

Looking for a “birds-eye” view of Santa Rosa’s 4th of July fireworks display? Bring your family, friends, and picnic dinner/dessert and join us on your County’s Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District’s Taylor Mountain Preserve. We’ll take a short hike to a great vantage point, spread out the picnic blankets and watch the show. 1.5-miles round trip; moderate terrain; slow, family friendly pace; very uneven footing (walking sticks, flashlights advised), BYO picnic dinner or dessert to share. Reservations are required. For sign up and for meeting location, contact LandPaths at: outings@landpaths.org, 707.524.9318.

**Native Plant Nursery Workparty**

**Sears Point Ranch, San Pablo Bay**

**Friday July 13th, 1-3pm**

Sonoma Land Trust is hosting a native plant nursery workparty at Sears Point Ranch in Southern Sonoma County (near Lakeville Hwy & Hwy 37). Volunteers are needed to propagate native plants in preparation for winter plantings at restoration sites along Tolay Creek and other wetland sites in the North Bay. For more information or to sign-up, please call 526-6930 x111 or email: volunteer@sonomalandtrust.org.

**Laufenburg Ranch**

**Volunteer Workday and Hike**

**Saturday July 14, 9:30am-2pm**

Join a volunteer workday and hike at Sonoma Land Trust’s historic Laufenburg Ranch in the Knights Valley. Come help remove a small yellow starthistle patch before it spreads throughout the property. We’ll use a simple eradication technique of cutting the plant at the base to prevent seed spread and soil disturbance. Stewardship activities will be followed by a picnic lunch (provided) and an optional hike to the upland forest. For more information or to RSVP, please call (707) 526-6930 ext. 111 or email: volunteer@sonomalandtrust.org.

**Glen Oaks Ranch**

**Native Seedling Irrigation Project**

**Orientation: Wednesday July 18th, 5:30-7:00pm**

It is once again time to care for the native oak and buckeye seedlings planted in the riparian zone of Stuart Creek at Glen Oaks Ranch in Glen Ellen. Seedlings planted last winter by students participating in Circuit Rider Productions’ Watershed Science Program require irrigation and hand watering this dry summer season. Sign up to visit the property twice a month – and enjoy hiking, vistas, and the satisfaction of stewarding a unique and historic landscape. Teams of two are needed to run irrigation system and hand-water seedlings in meadows paralleling Stuart Creek (during morning or evening hours). Volunteers are welcome to enjoy the Ranch’s three mile trail that stretches from the riparian zone to the chaparral area above. For more
information or to sign up, please call 526-6930 ext. 100 or email: volunteer@sonomalandtrust.org.

**Annadel State Park Trail Stewardship**
**Sonoma County Trails Council**
**Saturday, July 28, 9:30am-2:30pm**
Join the Trails Council and Santa Rosa REI as we steward the park’s trails. Work will involve brushing and possible trail repairs. Bring water, lunch, sturdy shoes. For details and to RSVP, contact Rob Helms, directorsctc@gmail.com or 490-4950.

**Docent-Led Walks in the Laguna with the Laguna Foundation**
**Sebastopol Wetlands Preserve**
**August 18, 9:15 am & August 22, 7:00 pm**
Learn more about the Laguna! The walks will last about 1 ½ hours. Bring binoculars if you have them and wear comfortable walking shoes. We ask for a $5.00 donation for the walk. Meet behind the Youth Annex at 425 Morris Street off Hwy 12 in Sebastopol. For further info check the Laguna Foundation's website at: www.lagunafoundation.org or call (707) 527-9277 x107.

**Russian Riverkeeper Park Volunteer Days**
Wednesdays, 8:30am – 11:30am, join us for all or part. Heavy rain cancels. Help restore riverbank habitat. No experience necessary. Everyone is welcome. Restoration activities include planting and caring for native plants, weeding, erosion control, restoration education and Park cleanup. Students can receive volunteer credit for participating. Visit the park to see the transformation or be part of the transformation taking place. Light refreshments provided. The park is at 16153 Main St., Guerneville, located 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.” Parking is available near the sign. For more information, visit http://www.russianriverkeeper.org, call or email Don McEnhill: 217-4762 or rrkeeper@sonic.net or contact me at 865-2474 or victoriawikle@usa.net.

**New Field Guide:**
**Insects of the Pacific Northwest**
A new field guide, "Insects of the Pacific Northwest," by Peter Haggard and Judy Haggard, was published last spring by Timber Press (March 2006). The Haggards are active members of the North Coast Chapter of CNPS and emphasize the value of native plants (and native insects) in their introduction. The book describes more than 450 species of common, easily visible insects found from southwestern British Columbia to northern California. It covers the main insect orders, with an emphasis on beetles and butterflies and moths, and also includes a sampling of common non-insect terrestrial invertebrates, such as spiders and snails. The book also includes over 600 photographs, a series of visual keys to orders and families, and a clear color-coded layout. The guide is available through www.timberpress.com.

**Water Agency calls for mandatory water conservation**
If you’ve been looking for an excuse to abandon your thirsty, high-maintenance lawn and help it return to a lovely native grassland or shady patch of oak woodland, look no further. The Sonoma County Water Agency has called for mandatory water conservation measures throughout much of the North Bay, effective July 1. The 600,000 residential, business, and agricultural customers in cities and water districts supplied by the Water Agency will be asked to cut back by 15%.

According to the Press Democrat, the ultimate purpose of this mandate is to protect the fall run of the Chinook salmon in the Russian River. The Water Agency draws water from the Russian River, so by reducing usage this summer, the Agency can discharge less from Lake Mendocino, which already is at a low level because of the dry rainy season and less water diverted to it from the Eel River. Then, more Lake Mendocino water will be available to discharge into the Russian River during the fall run of the Chinook salmon, protecting that fishery.

Since irrigation is typically the biggest single water use for residential users in the summer, officials are focusing on the need for reduced watering. Luckily, the Sonoma County natives in our gardens rarely need watering once established (some, like oaks, can even be harmed by summer watering). So maybe this is your chance to let your lawn go. Instead of spending your spare summer hours mowing, fertilizing, and watering, you could spend them hiking on your favorite local trails, gathering inspiration for how to transform your yard this winter, when planting time arrives with the rains.

The Water Agency’s top suggestions for reducing residential water use are:
- Reduce irrigation by 20%.
- Find and repair leaks now.
- Inspect and tune-up irrigation system monthly.
- Irrigate between midnight and 6:00 am to reduce water loss from evaporation and wind.

Just think what reductions in use of this precious resource we would see if “restore your yard to native habitat” were at the top of that list!
Here are a few links to information from native plant nurseries around the state on how to convert a lawn into a native garden:
www.yerbabuenanursery.com/Cal_Native_Garden_Design.htm
www.laspilitas.com/replawn.htm

Joan Schwan

Pitkin Marsh, cont’d from p. 1

species. Pitkin Marsh is the only known location in the Western U.S. where three species of beaked rush (Rhynchospora) occur together.

The preservation of this natural area will save one of the most valuable and vital habitats in Sonoma County, protecting portions of complex mixed native creekside, marsh, oak woodland, and grasslands, as well as irreplaceable habitat areas like perennial wet freshwater marshland and “quaking bogs”. The creek corridor on the land provides passage and protection for wildlife between the surrounding ranchettes, agricultural operations, estates and vineyards.

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPoSD), CA Dept. of Fish and Game, California State Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Native Plant Society are partners in the protection of this botanically distinctive and irreplaceable wetland property. SCAPOSD has approved $500,000 toward the purchase price of Pitkin Marsh, and Fish and Wildlife has committed $25,000 in federal funding with an eye to adding more.

SLT will take title and manage the property until a public agency is prepared to take it over, and SCAPOSD will hold a perpetual natural resource conservation easement over the land. The property offers great field trip and research opportunities.

We appreciate outgoing Newsletter Editor
Heide Keeble

On behalf of the Milo Baker Chapter Board of Directors, I’d like to thank Heide Keeble for her excellent service as Milo Baker Chapter Newsletter Editor since 2005. A newlywed and new homeowner, Heide has officially retired as Editor and provided us with an email address to submit articles to (cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com) which makes the transition easier. Not only has Heide produced a beautiful newsletter each month for nearly 2 years, but she has also regularly sent reminders to article writers, been agreeable about photo swaps and changes, and gotten it to the printer on time. The Chapter Newsletter is our primary communication line to our members, and we appreciate Heide’s help very much. We are in the process of lining up a new editor, and would appreciate any time, text, or illustrations you can contribute to our success.

This newsletter issue was produced by an ad-hoc committee of Joan Schwan, Gary Hundt, and me. Thank you Joan and Gary for stepping up so Heide can think about moving into her new house!

Lynn Houser

Plant of the Month:
Tarweed, Genus Hemizonia

All around the hills and fields of Sonoma County the tarweeds bloom in the summer, with their resinous scent lingering on our pants and shoes long after we’ve left the field. The new Jepson Manual will lump some subspecies of Hemizonia congesta into the species. Here is a description of Hemizonia from the first Jepson Manual, issued Nov. 24th, 1925, followed by a description of the species from the 1993 Jepson Manual:

From A Manual of Flowering Plants of California by Willis Linn Jepson, 1923, Published by the Associated Students Store. From p. 1088:
HEMIZONIA DC. Tarweed
Annuals (or two species perennial) with viscid-glandular heavy-scented herbage. Leaves narrow, alternate (or the lowest sometimes opposite). Flowers yellow or white, in mostly numerous heads. Disk-flowers surrounded by a circle of chaffy and often slightly united bracts or the disk chaffy throughout. Ray-achenes fertile, without pappus, thick, short, turgid, half enclosed by the lower part of the bract of the involucre which falls with it or is at least deciduous; areola of the ray-achenes borne on the inner angle at apex, or most commonly raised on an intra-apical and very distinct beak. Disk-achenes sterile or fertile, with or without pappus. (Greek hemi, half, and zonia, zone, the bracts but half enclosing the fruit.)

A description of Hayfield tarweed, from the 1993 Jepson Manual (online):
Hemizonia congesta
Annual 1–8 dm
Stem simple below, branched above
Leaves generally linear to narrowly elliptic, entire to sparsely dentate; lower 5–18 cm; upper entire, generally densely glandular; leaf clusters in upper axils generally 0
Inflorescence: heads solitary or in small groups, sessile to long-peduncled; involucre 3.5–12 mm; phyllaries long-soft-hairy and densely stalked-glandular; chaff scales scattered, fused at base, falling with disk flowers, tips blunt, ± hairy
Ray flowers 5–13; ligules 5–11 mm, generally white, generally red- or purple-striped below, central lobe narrow
Disk flowers 5–60, staminate; corollas white to yellow; anthers appearing black
Fruit 2–3 mm; beak 0; disk pappus 0
Ecology: Common. Grassland, fallow fields
Elevation: < 1400 m.
Bioregional distribution: North Coast Ranges, w&c Great Central Valley, Central Western California
Distribution outside California: sw Oregon ± interfertile races; intergradation compounded by seasonal changes in form.

Sonoma County General Plan Update:
Last-Minute Opportunities for Your Input
Two meetings are scheduled for July 10 and 17, 6:00-9:00 pm, to consider the recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on Sonoma County’s draft General Plan update (GP2020) and final Environmental Impact Report. (The second date is only tentatively reserved; call 707-565-8354 to confirm as the date approaches.) The meetings will be held at the PRMD Hearing Room, 2550 Ventura Avenue in Santa Rosa.

To review the draft GP2020, visit: www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/gp2020/index.html
This Website also includes contact information for staff working on each section of the General Plan. The GP2020 will be used to guide policy decisions in many realms affecting life in Sonoma County, including traffic, flood management, casinos, parks, water supply, creeks and riparian setbacks, solid waste disposal, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Previous Chapter Conservation Co-Chairs Bob Hass and John Herrick worked hard in the planning phases of the GP2020 to ensure that native plant issues were properly addressed in the plan. But the Sonoma County Water Coalition, of which the Milo Baker Chapter is a member, has raised concerns about recent changes to the draft that may decrease protections for water resources and native plants.

The Board of Supervisors is expected to begin their deliberations in August. The Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department can be contacted at: PRMD, 2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403, Fax (707) 565-8343. To contact the Board of Supervisors: Phone (707)-565-2241; FAX (707)-565-3778. E-mail:
1st District: Valerie Brown, vbrown@sonoma-county.org
2nd District: Mike Kerns, mkerns@sonoma-county.org
3rd District: Tim Smith, tsmith@sonoma-county.org
4th District: Paul L. Kelley, pkelley@sonoma-county.org
5th District: Mike Reilly, mreilly@sonoma-county.org

Joan Schwan
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NewsLetter & Web Site Info
Send newsletter submissions to:
Lynn House, cnpsmnnleletter@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.cnpsmmb.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