Designing California Native Gardens
September General Meeting, Tuesday, September 18

Alrie Middlebrook, landscape designer, nursery owner (Middlebrook Gardens) and co-author of Designing California Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens, will show appropriate plants for your native garden in the context of artful design and big-picture sustainability. Just in time for our October 13 Plant Sale!

Plant Sale News
Mark your calendars for our big event: October 13, 10 am – 1 pm

The flyer for our plant sale is in this issue. Please post it on your neighborhood bulletin board and share it with friends. Publicity is so important to the success of our plant sale. Our members know that we have one of the best plant sales in the state; tell everyone you know when it is and where.

We need about 40 volunteers to help with the sale on Friday and on Saturday. If you would like to help, call Judy Hartwig, 823-1821, to volunteer. She will also be calling to ask for your help if you have worked in the past.

Friday, September 7 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.

Impromptu Planting Party
Mary and Richard Aldrich helped the chapter's plant sale immensely when they rapidly put together an area for our August potting workshop. Three days before the annual workshop at Shone Farm we were informed that Sonoma County Water Department was going to cut off the water supply at the Farm in less than a week! For over eight years we have kept the plants from our August workshop in the greenhouse at Shone Farm where Wendy Krupnik kept them well watered. We needed to quickly come up with a new plan. We were able to contact the members who planned to attend and 12 people came to the Aldrich residence to help us pot up of 625 liners from Shooting Star Propagation Nursery. Everyone worked rapidly and we put the liners into gallon containers in just a little over 2 hours. Everyone then took the plants home to grow on for the plant sale.

We now have our plants being grown by over 15 members which shows a high level of commitment to our sale. Thanks to Cindy Trancatto, Penny Dalton, Wayne Clark, Joe Balestreri, Kathi Dowdakin, Wendy Krupnik, Alan Brubaker, Pat Sesser, Victoria Wikle, Lea Gillespie, Katy Redmon, and Patrick Smithson.

Plants at the Sale
Here is a list of the plants that our members are growing:
1. Mimulus (monkeyflower) species: bifidus (cream flowers), flemingii (red flowers), aurantiacus 'Kathi's Choice' (deep orange flowers), cardinalis (red flowers), gutattus (sloops monkeyflower)
2. Salvia clevelandii 'Winifred Gillman' and 'Alan Chickering'
(Continued on page 3)
President's Corner

On behalf of the Milo Baker Chapter, I’d like to thank Liz Parsons for hosting such a fine Chapter Picnic for our members in Kenwood on August 19th and to thank all the members who attended. The summer in Sonoma County has been beautiful, with just enough warm and foggy days to balance out the many activities around the land. September and October bring us to the garden, planning and planting drought-tolerant natives, as well as attending many fundraising events and other fall get-togethers.

The potting workshop in August was a success, and volunteers stepped up recently to take home and water and care for plants from Shone Farm, where water restrictions prevent us from growing our plants as in years past. Special thanks to Mary and Richard Aldrich for making things happen at the potting workshop.

I recently attended an Earthshare affiliates training session with CNPS staff members Melissa Cirone and Stacey Flowerdew, and received campaign information for the upcoming events. Earthshare of California is a nonprofit federation of environmental organizations (including CNPS) that is funded by payroll donations, like United Way and other charity federations. For the past three years, I have represented Earthshare at City of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County campaign events, and I plan to continue it this fall. Donations through your employer to Earthshare translate to unrestricted funds for CNPS. If you would like to help out or learn more about Earthshare, please contact me at 568-3230. Our service hours translate to $$ for CNPS, and it is a great way to reach large employers in the county and get our word out.

More local opportunities to show the public what CNPS does are coming up. Acorn Day at Pepperwood Preserve will be held September 30th. This is a great time to advertise our Native Plant Sale on Oct. 13th and recruit new members.

Thank you to Ruby Herrick and Marcia Johnson for tabling at the Wellness Fair at the Sonoma Development Center on August 1st. We received a kind note thanking us for our T-shirt donations and tabling at the event. I enjoyed the venue very much on the second shift, and handed out almost 20 brochures and plant sale flyers to potential new members while enjoying a local band called Sparrow and the Jay Killas. Maybe we can have them play for our September 2008 Conservation Conference…anyone know a good place to have it?

Lynn Houser

For Close Encounters of the Floral Kind, Come to Plant I.D. Hour!

Meteor showers, spent flowers, tarweeds and starflowers… After a dry summer we are looking at dried fruits and seeds now to identify our local natives. What do you have lurking in your plant press or blooming late (or early for fall) on your nearby trail? Perhaps it deserves a look through the microscope and a careful keying.

Arrive at 6:30, an hour before the September 18th General Meeting, and bring specimens of plants you want to identify. At Plant I.D Hour we feature plants of interest from the local area, see them through a dissecting microscope, and discover the differences between our many native species. I bring field guides and botany books. I can help you work through the keys in The Jepson Manual and A Sonoma County Flora or answer your questions. Keying is worthwhile and challenging for all of us! You can 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 will be available. I also have L.H. Bailey’s Manual of Cultivated plants (my first manual used to key plants) for your latest garden mystery or escape. Come talk plants with plant people. The best-learned plants are those learned with friends!

Lynn Houser

Donations in memory of Marco Waaland

In addition to those acknowledged in the previous newsletter, the Milo Baker Board thanks the following people for generous donations to the Chapter in memory of Marco Waaland:

- Joseph G. Gaffney & Stephanie Nora Bodi
- Stephen T. Kucas
- Liz Parsons
- Karen Rege-Harris
- Graham Simmons
Dr. Keith Wagnon, Ph.D., 1916 - 2007
A Notable Sonoma County Botanist

August 13, 2007
Yesterday Keith Wagnon's ashes were spread under the windmill that brought up water from the well that young Keith and his father dug for their farm in Sebastopol. His brother's son, Guy Blume, whom Keith and his wife raised, came from Idaho and Keith's nephew, Harald Wagnon, came from New Mexico to be with family.

I did not know Keith until he was in his eighties. Every Monday morning he led botanical walks in Sonoma and/or Marin County for a group of retired people, primarily from CNPS. Thanks to Keith we visited many beautiful sites we would never have gotten to on our own. None of us were very knowledgeable about our native plants, but Keith was very patient with us. I must have asked him forty times what hedge nettle was. At the end of every walk he made up a plant list for us, and presented us with a copy at the next Monday walk. He gave books to several of us Monday Walkers, and I received thousands of slides of plants he had photographed in the wild all over California. Clearly he was a kind and generous man.

As a young man, Keith had come to Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) to study animal husbandry, when he first met up with the famous Santa Rosa botanist Milo Baker. His major changed in short order. He accompanied Milo Baker on many field trips and helped Milo with his garden. After Milo died, Keith and Vanette Bunyan transferred and catalogued the bulk of the SRJC Herbarium specimens to Sonoma State.

After working in a lab for the army during World War II, Keith eventually took his Ph.D. at Davis specializing in grasses. He was employed for most of his career by the California Department of Agriculture as a researcher in plant viruses.

After retirement he traveled all over California searching out, keying, and photographing wild land plants, often in the company of Walter Knight, an amateur botanist who coauthored A Flora of Sonoma County, and his wife, Irja. Keith's name is cited in several places in the flora as the reporting botanist.

In the last few years Keith's health declined. I took him on wheelchair rides with his little dog Snoopy at Spring Lake Village where he and his wife Frances had lived for years. As the months wore on, he could recognize fewer and fewer of the plants he had known so well. But he never forgot Snoopy, his loving little dog, who always greeted him with paroxysms of delight and extensive licking.

Special thanks go to Edith Newsome for being Keith's most faithful friend, visiting him often, taking him shopping, and arranging his last birthday party.

M.L. Carle

Plant Sale News (continued from page 1)

4. Penstemon heterophyllus 'Catherine de la Mare'
5. Arctostaphylos densiflora 'Howard McMinn' - Sonoma manzanita
6. Myrica californica - Wax Myrtle
7. Zauschneria californica 'Calistoga' and 'Catalina'
8. Ribes malvaceum - Chaparral currant, R. viburnifolium - Catalina Perfume
9. Carpenteria californica - Bush anemone
10. Ceanothus griseus horizontalis - Groundcover CA lilac
11. Heuchera maxima - Giant Alumroot
12. Pacific Coast Native Iris

These plants will be supplemented with plants from the local native plant nurseries--grasses, perennials, trees, and shrubs. The selection of drought-tolerant CA native plants will be especially good.

Bulbs and seeds will be available for these plants:
1. Calochortus 'Golden Orb' - Mariposa lilies; C. venustus, C. superbus
2. Camassia quamash - Camas
3. Dichelostemma ida-maia - Firecracker flower
4. Triteleia hyacinthina - White flowers, T. ixides 'Starlight' - Yellow flowers, T. 'Queen Fabiola' - blue flowers

Liz Parsons

Chapter Field Trips

Glen Oak Ranch Walk with Sonoma Land Trust
Sunday, September 23, 10am-1pm
Come visit the historic Glen Oaks Ranch near Glen Ellen for a 3-4 mile hike through oak woodlands along Stuart's Creek to the chaparral uplands above. Land Trust staff will share history about the property and provide an overview of the exciting riparian restoration work taking place at Glen Oaks Ranch.
The 234-acre Glen Oaks Ranch property, located in the Valley of the Moon near Glen Ellen, was donated to Sonoma Land Trust in 2001. The Ranch's vintage farmhouse, stonewalls and oak woodlands are visible to travelers along the Highway 12 corridor. In addition to its scenic and historic value, Glen Oaks also offers exceptional wildlife habitat. The valley oaks are among the finest stands in the Sonoma Valley, and they are a stunning reminder of old California. For directions, RSVP to: Beth Robinson, bethysmail@gmail.com or 490-4951.

**Weed Removal on Santa Rosa Creek with City of Santa Rosa**
*Saturday, October 27, 9-11am*
Native California plants provide shelter and food for the many animals who call our creeks home. Learn to identify native plants and help remove ivy, Scotch broom, vinca, and other invasive plant species to enhance habitat along Santa Rosa Creek near Flat Rock. Gloves, tools, and snacks provided. For extra credit, add a walk along the creek trail to Farmers Lane. Kids welcome. Location: Yulupa Ave. Bridge over Santa Rosa Creek, east of Farmers Lane and north of Montgomery Drive. Contact: Alistair Bleifuss 543-3845, ableifuss@ssrcity.org

**Items of Interest**

**Sonoma Land Trust Seeks Volunteer Botanists for Invasive Weed Mapping Project**
Like to hike? Want to contribute your plant-identification skills for an important project? Interested in exploring some of the most amazing properties in Sonoma County? Sonoma Land Trust staff needs volunteer assistance with an invasive weed assessment project on Land Trust protected lands. A few enthusiastic volunteers are needed for several half-day invasive weed assessment field visits. GPS experience is helpful, but not required. For more information or to sign up, please call (707) 544-5614 ext. 2 or email volunteer@sonomalandtrust.org.

**The Incredible World of Insects: A Walk with Frederique Lavoipierre**
*Saturday, September 8, 2 pm*
Did you know that 95% of all animal species on earth are insects, that less than 1% of insects are pests, and that without pollinating insects, there would be no apples, silk, oranges, berries, cotton or chocolate, among other things? Meet by the statue of the accordion player in Cotati’s La Plaza Park for a walking discovery along the Laguna de Santa Rosa in Cotati. See www.CotatiCreekCritters.info Contact: Jenny Blaker 792 4422 or jenny@creeks.cotati.info

**Master Gardeners Recruit New Trainees**
Applications for the 2008 Sonoma County Master Gardener Training Classes are now available. They can be obtained at the organization’s booths at local farmers’ markets and at the Master Gardeners’ Office at 133 Aviation Blvd., Suite 109, in Santa Rosa (565-2608) or at http://groups.ucanr.org/sonomamg/. Forms must be returned by Sept. 28, 2007. Adults of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds are invited to participate in the program. Applicants must be Sonoma County residents and need to be available to attend an orientation Tues., Oct. 23 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m at the Master Gardener office. Upon acceptance, applicants will pay a $260 program fee. Partial financial assistance is available to those who qualify.

The classes in horticulture and plant science will be held from January 16 through April 16 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the 4H Center in Rohnert Park. The courses will be taught by UCCE farm advisors and specialists, UC Berkeley and Davis professors, and local community college faculty. In exchange for their training, Master Gardener interns volunteer a minimum of 72 hours for approved community service projects. Certified Master Gardeners volunteer a minimum of 37 hours each year.

There are now more than 225 Master Gardeners in Sonoma County, who answer gardening questions and diagnose plant problems for home gardeners at farmers’ markets, fairs and exhibits, library workshops, schools, community gardens and at information desks in Sonoma and Santa Rosa. County Farm Advisor Paul Vossen supervises the program.

**8th Biennial State of the Estuary Conference**
“A Greener Shade of Blue”
*October 16, 17 and 18, 2007, Oakland*
The San Francisco Estuary Project announces the 8th biennial State of the Estuary Conference. This conference provides a forum for scientists, resource managers, environmentalists, elected officials, stakeholders, and members of the public to assess the ecological health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. Speakers will address topics including global change impacts, pollution and emerging contaminants, land use challenges, wetlands restoration, status of fish and wildlife, invasive species and Bay-Delta linkages. The conference is sponsored by the San Francisco Estuary Project, CALFED Science Program and others. For details, see: http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/soe/

**2007 Riverkeeper Park Volunteer Days**
What: Help restore riverbank habitat. No experience necessary. Everyone and all ages are 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.

When: Every Wednesday. Event cancelled when there is enough rain to require wearing a raincoat.

Time: 8:30 am – 11:30 am, please join us for all or part

Bring: water - wear sturdy shoes

Where: 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: Contact Victoria Wikle at 865-2474 or VictoriaWikle@usa.net. See the website at http://www.russianriverkeeper.org or call Don McEnhill at 217-4762, or e-mail him at rrkeeper@sonic.net.

Naturalist-led hikes at Fairfield Osborn Preserve
Saturdays, 10 AM, September 15 through December 8
No hike offered November 24.
Hikes are appropriate for families, friends, and individuals. Visitors should expect to hike two to four miles over uneven ground. Sturdy shoes, long pants, drinking water, and a snack are highly recommended.
No reservations are required; visitors meet the naturalists in the Preserve parking lot by 10 AM. Visitors age 13 and older pay $3 and minors must be accompanied by their parent or guardian.

The Preserve is located on the western slope of Sonoma Mountain, about 7.5 miles from the SSU campus at 6543 Lichau Road. For more information and directions, consult http://www.sonoma.edu/org/preserve, call the Preserve at 795-5069, or email fairfield.osborn@sonoma.edu

Everybody is downstream from somebody:
Voice your opinions on Sonoma County’s General Plan Update
On August 15, 2007, I attended the August Environmental Forum given by the Sierra Club Sonoma Group at the Environmental Center of Sonoma County.

The presenters were Rue Furch, a County Planning Commissioner, Daisy Pistey-Lyhne, of the Greenbelt Alliance, and Stephen Fuller-Rowell, Cofounder and Chair of the Sonoma County Water Coalition.

Commissioner Furch discussed the General Plan update process, especially key changes which have been made by the Planning Commission and the critical areas where public involvement is still needed to sway the Board of Supervisors toward a more sustainable plan for Sonoma County.

I was heartened by an explanation of language changes that had been suggested by Rue Furch and approved by the Commission in order to maintain riparian corridors. The word “function” replaced the word “habitat,” when riparian values were referenced, which helped reframe the discussion. Commissioner Furch had supplied staff and Commission members with documentation of the functions served by these areas; for example, overstories provide temperature control, and root structures control sedimentation, erosion, purify water and allow greater potential for recharge. She said that most people do not argue the need for groundwater recharge and erosion control.

Daisy Pistey-Lyhne discussed the need to protect our open space areas from further sprawl development even though there are Urban Growth Boundaries. Growth is still a threat in the unincorporated areas outside the UGBs.

Stephen Fuller-Rowell explained why the new Water Resource Element of the General Plan update must do more to address the deepening water crisis in Sonoma County. He has talking points on the WRE to help people focus their participation in upcoming Board of Supervisors’ hearings.

There are also talking points on other issues in the General Plan update that are available through the Greenbelt Alliance, the Sierra Club, Sonoma County Conservation Action, CAFF and other groups that participated in their development.

Here are some upcoming opportunities for public input:

Open Space & Resource Conservation Element:
Wed Aug 29, 6-9PM and Thu, Aug 30, 1:30-5PM, Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave.
(riparian corridors, biotic habitat, scenic landscape units)

Ag Resources, Land Use, Area & Specific Plans:
Thu Sep 13, 1:30-5PM and Thu Sep 20, 1:30-5PM, and Weds Sep 19, 6-9PM (Land Use Requests only) Supervisor’s Chambers, 575 Administration Drive

To review the draft GP2020, visit: www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/gp2020/index.html
The Board of Supervisors has set Friday, September 28, 5 pm as the deadline for written comments.

© Katy Redmon
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: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95816
To pay by credit card or for more info call 916.447.2677 or visit www.cnps.org

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Milo Baker Chapter Newsletter & Web Site Info

Send newsletter submissions to:
Lynn Houser, cnpsmbnewsletter@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