Flowering Plants of Bhutan: Michael Ellis
October General Meeting, Tuesday, October 16th, 7:30 p.m.

Michael Ellis is a naturalist who has led educational trips all over the world. He is working on a book of his beautiful photographs reflecting this Buddhist country’s reverence for its incredible diversity of plant and animal life. You may be familiar with Michael Ellis through his radio essays on extra-special- but- ordinary discoveries in nature on the “Perspective” series on KQED 88.5 fm, where he is a frequent contributor.

Join us for Dinner before the Meeting!
We’ll gather for dinner at 6PM at Kirin Restaurant, 2700 Yulupa Ave. We hope our speaker will join us, but we always have an enjoyable group of fellow members and a delicious Northern Chinese meal in any case. Please call or e-mail Lynn Colborn at 829-9128 or clc123@comcast.net by Oct. 15 if you plan to attend.

Plant I.D. Hour begins at 6:30; see p.4

Plant Sale News
Mark your calendars for our big event: October 13th, 9 am – 1 pm

Yes, it's that time of year again. Time for all members to pull together for our big sale fundraiser! This year Becky Montgomery, Mary Aldrich, and I will be pricing and labeling plants the week before the sale. Anyone who has some free time during the day on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday before the sale, please call Liz at 833-2063. These vital tasks go faster if we have a lot of help. The plants will be collected at the usual collection centers. If you are growing plants for the sale please bring them to any of the following collection centers on the weekend before the sale:
1. Mary Aldrich, 4775 Newanga, SR, SR, 539-9005
2. Cal Flora Nursery, D and Sommers, Fulton, 528=8813
3. Hale’s Apple Farm, 1526 Gravenstein Highway, N, Dave Hale, 823-4613

On Friday night we will need truckers to transport plants from the collection center to the Vet’s Memorial Building. Call Liz if you have a truck and can help. Once again the County is in a water crisis. This benefits our sale because many of our natives are drought-tolerant and can be used in a water-wise landscape, also called a xeriscape. Manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos*), Sages (*Salvia*), and CA wild lilac (*Ceanothus*) are three large plant groups that can be used in xeriscaping and in a habitat garden. These are two movements that have encouraged people to seek out plants native to California. There will be a table featuring habitat plants. The special feature at the sale will be the new Marin County Flora. Wilma Follette of the Marin Chapter has worked very hard

*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 October 9th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
President's Corner

All of the sudden “Native Plants” are starting to make sense to a wider audience. Whether folks are taking out the lawn to save water or curb global warming, the result is more native plants and awareness of our flora. Tell your friends and family about CNPS, and ask them to join. We are an effective organization, with outreach and education, conservation through sound policy, collaborations with agencies and landowners, and generous volunteer service provided every day in Sonoma County and around the state.

State News: The Conservation Conference was well-attended, hosted by the Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and Monterey Bay chapters. I attended a membership committee meeting, and our membership incentive of $5.00 off plants at the sale for new and renewing members will again be featured on Oct. 13th. The incentive concept and materials have been shared with all the chapters. Staff: The state office has some new open positions: please check www.cnps.org for details. We welcome Stacey Flowerdew (membership) and Melissa Cirone (development/fundraising) in the Sacramento office and wish the best to Kristi Lazar (Rare Plants) and Anne Klein (Veg Program), who moved over to the Dept. of Fish and Game. At our meeting, the state Board approved a simple IRA plan for CNPS staff and is working towards hiring a new Conservation Director using some funds from a new bequest. Our Executive Director, Amanda Jorgenson, is doing a wonderful job.

Chapter News: We welcome Katy Redmon as Newsletter Editor. Katy serves as our Legislative Chair as well and has been attending the General Plan 2020 Update meetings. I also want to thank John Herrick for his work on the GP 2020 comments on behalf of the chapter, following up on what Bob Hass did in the last several years. We are seeking conservation committee members, someone to help with book and poster sales, and a membership list person (see below). Please contact me if you can help out in any of these important chapter jobs. Special thanks this month go to all the volunteers that help out at the plant sale and especially to Judy Hartwig for organizing all the volunteers and Liz Parsons for coordinating all the plants!

MB Chapter will receive the Merit Award for Community Service in Santa Rosa!
I am very excited to announce that the Milo Baker Chapter of CNPS will be formally acknowledged with the Community Service Merit Award from the City of Santa Rosa, at the awards ceremony in the City Council Chambers on Monday, October 29th at 7:00 p.m. The event will be broadcast on Channel 70 and live-streamed on their website. I am honored to accept the award on behalf of the chapter and will display it at the Environmental Center. Kathy Allen of the Awards Committee interviewed me the day after coming to our General Meeting with speaker Alrie Middlebrook, which had 75 people in attendance! Thanks to Gary Hundt for use of his photos in the awards presentation; they capture our activities and the beautiful flora so well. Thanks especially to everyone in the chapter for their great service!

Milo Baker Scholarships awarded:
We are pleased to announce the recipients of the chapter’s merit scholarship for students of native plants, Michelle Early and Laura Saunders. Both are graduate students in the Biology Department at Sonoma State University. Each was awarded a $500 scholarship for use towards research expenses.

Michelle is planning to study the effects of seasonal livestock grazing on valley oak recruitment and restoration on the Santa Rosa Plain. First, she plans to map current and historic valley oak distribution, and to look for relationships between oak distribution and land use practices, soil types, elevation, and other variables. She will also conduct an experiment on City of Santa Rosa farms to evaluate seedling success under three grazing regimes: no grazing, year-round sheep grazing, and seasonal (winter-spring only) sheep grazing.

Laura is also planning to study the influence of herbivory on native oak establishment and survival, but her work will focus on the effects of wildlife rather than livestock. She plans to build on two long-term studies, established at Stanford University’s Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve and Sonoma State’s Fairfield Osborn Preserve. Existing exclosures on these sites will enable her to examine the effects of mammals such as black-tailed deer and meadow voles on native oaks.

Both of these projects have potential to contribute to the preservation and restoration of our county’s
magnificent but threatened oak populations. Congratulations, Michelle and Laura, and best wishes with your studies!

The Chapter awards these scholarships to support students of native plant conservation, restoration, or other native plant sciences. Scholarships are available each semester to students at Sonoma State or Santa Rosa Junior College. The funds may be used for educational or research-related expenses. Applications for the spring 2008 scholarship will be accepted this winter. For details, please contact Joan Schwan (SSU Representative), at 707-823-0446 or schwanjo@sonoma.edu

From the Education Desk:

September and October are always busy months for native plant gardens, classroom outreach, and tabling events with the public. In September, I did presentations and luncheon outreach for the City of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County campaigns for Earth Share of California, a non-profit federation of over 80 environmental groups that benefits CNPS. It is a great opportunity to tell people about all the exciting things our chapter is doing and advertise the plant sale on October 13th and make new contacts. In September, the Milo Baker Board of Directors approved donating grass placemats and wildflower posters to Earth Share campaign raffles, which were requested by popular demand.

We continue the practice of donating posters to local public schools. I recently met with James Garcia, Director of the Enrichment Program at a new charter high school located at Chop’s Teen Center in Santa Rosa. They are doing a restoration project over three miles of Santa Rosa Creek and also putting in a native plant garden and nursery. The kids have monthly work parties on the first Saturday. I plan to do some “plant I.D. hour” classroom volunteering, and will also deliver these materials to the following students:

9th and 10th grade Enrichment Classes at the Arts and Ethics charter high school at Chops Teen Center: Spring Wildflowers and Shrubs of the Coast Ranges
7th grade life science classes, Santa Rosa Middle School: Spring Wildflowers and Wildflowers of the Redwood Forest

4th grade at Hidden Valley Elementary: Shrubs of the Coast Ranges and Pomo plants (a booklet)
The chapter gets many requests for planting advice at this time of year, and we also want to donate any extra stock after the plant sale. If you have education outreach ideas or know of students that are putting in native plant gardens, please contact Lynn or Liz.

Thank you for supporting our chapter through your plant sale purchases and donations so we can continue educating local kids and grown ups, too.

Chapter Business: Bylaws Amendment

The Milo Baker Chapter Board of Directors is requesting the membership to approve a By Law change at the next general meeting, October 16th at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center. Currently, nine board members must be present at a board meeting to reach a quorum, the number of Board members needed to pass motions, approve minutes etc. A quorum has not been met at a few board meetings this past year, restricting the Board's ability to make important decisions and take action on time sensitive matters. The Board requests the membership to approve reducing the quorum from nine to seven Board members. A vote will be conducted at the October general meeting. Please contact Lynn Houser or Sarah Gordon if you have any questions.

Proposed By Law Amendment:

Article IV  Section 2
Quorum:
A quorum for the purpose of Board meetings will consist of seven* members of the board.
*currently nine

Membership Chair needed

NO PLANT KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED!!!!!!
Starting with the January newsletter we are in need of a new Membership chair. The membership chair enters monthly updates of members’ status, adds new members into the database, and generates labels for the newsletter. A working knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Access is helpful, as well as being able to import data between the two programs. This position requires approximately 2 hours a month of a volunteer’s time.
If you would like more info or want to volunteer contact: Wendy Born spores@excite.com or Lynn Houser housers@sonic.net

Wendy Born
Invasive Plant Corner

This month’s article features *Sesbania punicea*, Red sesbania, Rattlebox, Scarlet wisteria; a small tree in the FABACEAE family with red pea-shaped lowers and acacia-like leaves. www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu

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 colours... 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.

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 it 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 at kate@terraserve.net or ML at <mlml@svn.net>  

º M.L. Carle

Plant I.D. Hour:

Let's have a closer look at that Mystery plant

Arrive at 6:30, an hour before the General Meeting, and bring specimens of plants you want to identify. At Plant ID 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. In addition to some fresh plant material, 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!  

º Lynn Houser

Feature Plant for October:

*Aster radulinus*, Broad-leaved aster

The Flora of Sonoma County describes *A. radulinus* as “occasional, colonies favoring loose soil”, with several locations in the elevation range of 400-5000 feet. This cute little perennial blooms July-October, and stands 2-6 dm tall (make a broad “C” with your hand to get a decimeter, dm), or “½ to 1 ½ feet tall, arising from branching rootstocks”, as the 1925 Jepson Manual of Flowering Plants of California states on p. 1048. It is “herbaceous scabrous-pubescent; leaves oval-obovate to oblong, sharply serrate above the entire (often attenuate) base, 1 to 4 in. long, ½ to 2 ¼ in. wide”. Look for it in foothills and mountains, mostly wooded slopes.

I see this plant on many hikes around the county, and find its leaves rather distinct, like little serrated spatulas with pointy tips. It occurs on Rincon Ridge’s “loose soil” and is a welcome sight in the late season for insects and people. *Aster radulinus* is distinguished from other Asters by its “purple-tips or margin of the phyllaries and disk corollas with tube = or > than the limb” (from the key in our flora), and the plant being shorter than *A. chilensis*, Common Aster, which usually grows in moist soil. 

º Lynn Houser
Chapter Field Trips and Work Parties

Sunday, Oct. 7th, 10am-1pm
Cunningham Marsh Clean up
Please join us for an important day at the Marsh. Lots of oaks have come up and they need to be caged. Other jobs include weeding the oaks planted last year, cutting and painting poplars, weeding within the new lily exclosures and possible thistle removal. We need a good turnout. These will be the only workdays for the remainder of the year.

Come and check out the exciting changes at Cunningham Marsh. We need you now more than ever!!! Location: Marcia Johnson’s, 1460 Big Cedar Lane (off Lone Pine Road, 2nd house from end), Sebastopol 707-829-3808; owlsnest@hughes.net

Betty Young has access to free conifer chips just off Hwy 1 in Mill Valley. Does anyone have a large pickup truck that would be willing to get some? Contact Betty: BYoung@ParksConservancy.org

Saturday, October 27, 9-11am
Weed Removal on Santa Rosa Creek with City of Santa Rosa
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@srcity.org

Saturday, November 3rd, 9AM-3PM
Conservatory of Flowers, Golden Gate Park
Head on down to the COF with CNPS! We’ll catch the final weekend of the special Carnivorous Plant Exhibit. "Visitors can see an eye-popping array of hundreds of carnivorous plants in our Big Bog, a swampy paradise for meat-eating plants like the statuesque white trumpets of the American Southeast, the sinister pitcher plants of Borneo and the glistening sundews of South Africa. With many rare and unusual species, even the most squeamish will be captivated by the extraordinary beauty and diversity of plants on display." Check out their website at: www.conservatoryofflowers.org

Gather: Cotati Park and Ride: Redwood Dr./Hwy. 116. Just South of gas station and West of Hwy. 116. (NOT the P&R on the East side of the Hwy 101, don't be fooled!)
Depart: 9AM SHARP! Arrive COF: 10AM
Depart COF: no later than 2PM, maybe earlier, depending on how the group is feeling.
Admission: $5 for Adults; $3 for Youth 12-17, Seniors 65 & over, and Students w/ ID, $1.50 for Children 5-11, and free to kids under 4.
Bring: admission fee, lunch, water, camera
Please RSVP and let me know if you’re willing to drive. Contact: bethysmail@gmail.com, 490-4951.

No Field Trip in December: Happy Holidays!

Beth Robinson

Items of Interest

Monday, October 1, 7pm: Cotati Creek Critters
Native Grasses: The Misunderstood, undervalued, Understory. Learn about the history and value of California native grasses with Jeanne Wirka, resident biologist at the Bouverie Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch in Glen Ellen, and former president of the California Native Grass Association. 7 p.m., Cotati Community Center, 216 E. School St. Cotati Creek Critters will continue to plant native trees and shrubs along the Laguna de Santa Rosa in Cotati this fall, and will begin a new project planting an understory of native grasses, sedges, and rushes. Next workdays: Sat. Oct. 13 (9-12), Sun. Oct. 28 (10-1) For information see www.CotatiCreekCritters.info Contact jenny@creeks.cotati.info or 707 792 4422.

Saturday, October 6th: 10:00 am -2:00 pm
Creek Restoration with Chops Teen Center
Come join us to help clean up Santa Rosa Creek. Chops and volunteers from the surrounding neighborhoods hope to spend time the first Saturday of every month making Prince Memorial Greenway and connecting areas look their best. The restoration project runs from near the Vineyard Creek Hotel to Dutton Ave., and CNPS members can help the kids with plant identification and weed removal as well as planting suggestions. Bring tools and gloves; lunch follows. Check out the website at www.firstsaturdaycleanup.org. Contact James Garcia at jdagedn1@aim.com for details or to get more involved.
October 16-18th: Vegetation Mapping Workshop, UC Berkeley and Mt Tamalpais
Join CNPS, CDFG (Department of Fish and Game), and AIS (Aerial Information Systems) for a 3-day vegetation mapping workshop, hosted by UC Berkeley’s Geospatial Imaging and Informatics facility and Marin Municipal Watershed District (MMWD), Mount Tamalpais. Go to www.cnps.org or call the state office at 916-447-2677 for details.

October 18th - 21st
Sonoma Valley Watershed Walk & Celebration
The Sonoma Valley Watershed Walk & Celebration explores and honors Sonoma Valley through a series of community events, creating a moving, human thread from the headwaters to the bay, connecting us to the land and each other in unique ways. The goals of the Walk are to:
▪ Travel the length of the Sonoma Valley watershed on foot and by paddle.
▪ Provide events and activities led by community members, artists, and scientists, which celebrate Sonoma Valley and express a variety of perspectives.
▪ Bring diverse parts of our local community together.
See sonomaecologycenter.org for event schedule. Or contact Arthur Dawson at: (707) 996-0712 x111 arthur@sonomaecologycenter.org
The Milo Baker Chapter is a sponsor of this event.

Saturday November 3 9-12am
Paulin Creek Work Party-
We'll be doing restoration work on a stretch of Paulin Creek between Marlow Rd and W. Steele Lane in Santa Rosa. We would like to remove some of the invasive exotics and plant native trees and shrubs in time for the winter rains. Meet in the parking lot of Northwest Community Park at 2536 Marlow Rd (Across from Monroe Elementary School). We do have extra shovels and pruners, but it would be helpful if people brought tools as well as gloves. There are small patches of poison oak to deal with, but it isn't too bad. Contact Wayne at 542-1377 or gyrfalcon@sbcglobal.net for more info.

September CNPS Chapter Council meeting and Conservation Conference Report
I had the privilege to attend the CNPS Chapter Council meeting in Santa Cruz as alternate delegate in place of Liz Parsons, who was heading for France. This was a great opportunity to meet other CNPS chapter and state people, many that I had heard much about and a few that I had met before on field trips and other CNPS events.

Michael Lennox, Julie Evens, Joe Honton at Cunningham Marsh

Julie Evens was one of the familiar faces, as she has been frequenting Sonoma County reinforcing our Vegetation Mapping skills during recent outings at Cunningham Marsh, and the Manzanita Workshop, and on other occasions beginning with the Rapid Assessment training at Ocean Song two years ago. Here in Santa Cruz, Julie talked about other recent trainings conducted in the Eastern Sierra, at Ft Ord, and at the Elkhorn Slough Maritime Chaparral Workshop. Upcoming in October at UC Berkeley and in Marin County will be a new twist on these workshops – how to map vegetation in the office.

Julie also reported that The Manual of California Vegetation is being revised to reflect 10 years of data working with John Sawyer and Todd Keeler Wolf, and planned for fall 2008 publication. Funds are being sought for an online version. Brett Hall is forming a committee to rank plant communities to protect them in a manner similar to that of the CNPS species status lists.

Jim Bishop led a discussion on proposed host group changes to support location changes of the winter and spring meetings. The December meeting normally held at the Faculty Club will be at the Tilden Botanical Garden this year. An alternative
Plant Sale news, continued from p. 1

to update the original Marin Flora by John Thomas Howell. This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase this new book and add it to your library.

We welcome everyone to our sale and want to provide the plants that they need for their particular purpose. I welcome suggestions. If you have any plant that you would like to see at our sale, let me know and perhaps we will be able to fulfill your request. A more complete list of plants was published in the September newsletter.

If you helped at our sale last year, Judy Hartwig will be calling you soon to ask you to volunteer. I hope that all members will help us again. This is a huge effort and WE NEED YOU! Call Judy (832-1821) and volunteer. We need cashiers, salespersons, drivers, and help in many areas. Please mark your calendars for October 13 and plan to help us by working at the sale. If you can't work, please come by and shop for plants. Workers can purchase plants on Friday evening before the sale, so make plans to work for the sale. The work of the Milo Baker Chapter depends on the success of our plant sale. Our members are our best customers. Please tell your friends to attend and buy plants.

Fall is planting season in California. The soil is still warm and the roots will grow slowly through the rainy season. The following spring, the plants are ready to survive the summer heat. A plant planted in the spring does not have a well-developed root system and will have difficulty surviving through the summer. See you at the plant sale!

Deborah Rogers, a Conservation Geneticist, talked about the risks of genetic degradation when distributing native plants from unknown sources for landscaping, and when attempting to restore an area from a single source. This is the topic of the CNPS policy “Guidelines for Landscaping” at www.cnps.org/cnps/archive/landscaping.php and generated much discussion. This is why we use local sources for our plant sale whenever possible).

On Sunday the weekend concluded with field trips. Tim Hyland led an outing to the pygmy forest and chaparral on private land above Point Lobos.
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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Vine Hill Preserve, Sarah Gordon, 575-3979, Sarahgordon17@aol.com

Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors

Newsletter & Web Site Info
Send newsletter submissions to:
Katy Redmon, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the November newsletter is October 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