Native Plant Gardening: How to Know and Choose Plants of Your Native Plant Community for Your Garden
Tuesday, November 20, 7:30pm

Dr. Glenn Keator is a renowned botanist and friend to many a local natural history enthusiast, hiker and native plant gardener. He is well known for his inspiring field trips, and as the author of numerous well-loved and well-thumbed books. His field guides, garden guides, references and essays on the natural world, plants and the native plant garden find a home on many a bookshelf, not to mention jacket pocket and daypack. He will be signing his newest book, Designing California Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens, a collaboration with garden designer Alrie Middlebrook who gave a talk at our September meeting. Dr. Keator’s focus will be on understanding plant communities (plants that grow together in the wild) and choosing their appropriate plants for our gardens. This practical approach will be immensely helpful as we move away from our traditionally water-intense, energy-intense, habitat-sterile gardening into a more sustainable and environmentally friendly relationship to our world via our garden. 

Meet for Dinner before the General Meeting
How about dinner at the Kirin Restaurant before the November 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 contact Lynn Colborn, 829-9128, lcolborn@earthlink.net before November 18 to let me know you are coming.

December General Meeting: Annual Wreath-Making Workshop
Tuesday, December 18, 7:30pm

The inimitable Liz Parsons will once again preside over the annual winter festivities of wreath-making, cookies, & cider for CNPS members, December 19. Join us for some holiday fun!

36th Annual Plant Sale Report
Liz Parsons
The Plant sale was a huge success! We took in over $11,000 in four hours! Our net profit after expenses and taxes will be between $6,500 and $7,000. There was a long line waiting to buy our plants when the doors opened, and there was a steady stream of customers all morning. Most of our customers are very knowledgeable and know exactly what they want. Others have questions about xeriscaping and habitat gardening. Continued on page 3

Santa Rosa Plain Study Group Starts 10/30/07
John Herrick
The coming months may offer the last opportunity to preserve the endangered species of the Santa Rosa Plain and Sonoma County’s vernal pool ecosystem.

The draft Implementation Plan for the Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy was released at the end of September. The completed Implementation Plan will guide how the town of Windsor, cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park and Cotati, and Sonoma County approve development in the Santa Rosa Plain, home to the endangered California tiger salamander and the four endangered vernal pool plant species; Blechnum bakeri, Lasthenia burkei, Limnanthes vinculans and Navarretia leucocephala ssp plieantha. Continued on page 4

*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 November 13th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
President's Corner

Like a well-oiled machine with all gears in harmony, the Milo Baker Chapter volunteers pulled off another successful plant sale. The trend toward native plant landscaping was well-apparent, with customers bragging about taking out their lawns. With the lovely early rain, we can plant already! Thanks to all the incredible volunteers for making the sale run smoothly. I enjoyed being a cashier again and seeing many friends out buying plants.

I was lucky enough to spend some time with Wilma Follette as she signed copies of the new Marin Flora, thanks to John Herrick taking my place at the cashier table for a while.

Judging by the relatively small number of plants left over and the good numbers from our Treasurer, Jim Piercy, we did very well this year! Thanks so much to Jim and also to past Treasurer Nancy Prouty, for all the accounting!

I am continually amazed by the friendly atmosphere and good energy that our chapter shows to the public at the plant sale every year. Great job, everyone!

November is a time when the Board thinks about the plans for the following year and tries to fill vacancies coming up in January. We will need a new Membership Chair to replace Wendy Born in January. Training is available, and the membership list maintenance is important to the newsletter function, so needs to be filled soon. Please contact Wendy or myself if you can help out.

Conservation is a major feature of the Milo Baker Chapter. We have such rich plant diversity and many rare and endangered plant communities, yet face many development issues. How can the chapter best comment on the current proposals? Only with your help. We owe it to the past volunteers who have done so much, like Betty and Jack Guggolz and John Herrick as recent conservation chair: the advocacy must continue!

Let me know if you have a particular area or plant community of interest, and we can forward proposals that need attention. Every little bit counts. Thank you.

Welcome New and Returning Members!

Al Milberg, Heather Young, Carol Benfell, Christina Fritsch, Karyn Taylor, Gerry Lennox, Chris Bailey, Jeanne Sternbergh, George Schwartz, John Malpas, Linda Cadwell, Joe Balestreri, Joylane Copper, Loren Heyer.

Chapter Business

At our October 16th General meeting, members passed a motion to change the number of board members needed to make a quorum from nine to seven. It was approved unanimously, with a great turnout of 75 people (not all were members, but enough were there to carry the vote). This means that when a few board members are sick or cannot make the meeting, there will be enough board members to make decisions for the chapter. Thanks to Sarah Gordon for announcing the bylaws change and to the Milo Baker members, for approving it.

The Chapter Board is a very productive and cooperative bunch. We welcome the opportunity to get to know you and work together to make our chapter even better and more fun. We have a few vacancies, notably, Conservation Chair, Membership Chair, Book Salesperson, and Poster and T-shirt sales. Please let me know if you can help out with the important work of the chapter. If you are interested in attending a board meeting, please contact Pat Sesser, Secretary, Liz Parsons, or me.

Plant I.D. Hour:

Let’s take a Closer Look at what blooms in autumn!

Early fall rains and a big acorn crop; what else is going on this season? Arrive at 6:30, an hour before the November 20th 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’ll 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. I’ll also have the brand new Marin Flora, which was featured at our plant sale with Wilma Follette signing books.

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!

Welcome New and Returning Members!
Education Report:

Acorn Day at Pepperwood Preserve

Acorn Day at Pepperwood Preserve was a family friendly event held on September 29th. Nature hikes, songs, local reptiles and insects from UC Davis were only part of the attractions at the beautiful preserve on Franz Valley Road. Young Kate Houser hosted a kids’ table, featuring miniature landscaping trees and glue to play with, which was a hit with the little ones. Steve Barnhart and others gave talks about oaks and related topics, and we had a wonderful dinner and trip to the top afterwards.

We hope to be more involved with Pepperwood Preserve and have a field trip there this spring.  

Lynn Houser  
Education Chair

Pepperwood Education Director Steve Barnhart talks with Brian Turner from the UC Davis Entomology Museum, as interested kids look on.

Plant Sale Report

Continued from page one

Herbalists also are finding that use for native plants. When there is talk of drought and water restrictions, people become very interested in water-wise CA native plants.

The weather was unusual this year, two inches of rain fell the week before the sale. We were lucky that it did not interfere with pricing on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, or with our move into the Vet’s building on Friday. The rain reminded everyone that fall is planting time in California.

Our workers return year after year. All that experience makes the work easier and easier. We were able to move into the Vet’s building in record time, even though we started at 5:00 PM. Special thanks to Judy Hartwig who worked on assembling the personnel; she devoted a lot of time and energy to recruiting the people who make the sale proceed so smoothly. It is impossible to mention everyone by name since we had over 40 workers. The Milo Baker Chapter is in a very good financial position thanks to all of you and your hard work.

The plants that we offered for sale were well grown and beautiful. This was the result of four potting workshops and good growers—we must thank Dave and Anna Webster, Lynn Houser, Wendy Born, Mary Reid, Alan Brubaker, Penny Dalton, Cindy Trancetto, Joe Balesteri, Wayne Clark, Rob Fox, Kathi Dowdakin, Wendy Krupnick, Pat Sesser, Lea Gillespie, Katy Redmon, Patrick Smithson, Carol Vellutini, Victoria Wikle, and Mary Aldrich. These folks took plants home and watered them faithfully through the summer. Betty Guggolz donated plants she had grown. Shooting Star Propagation Nursery provided well rooted cuttings for our May and August workshops. Cal Flora and Mostly Natives donated many beautiful plants. We also purchased plants from Cal Flora, Mostly Natives, and North Coast Natives; our sale had the best selection of native plants available anywhere.

Wendy Born and Heidi Herrmann organized the seed and bulb table. We bought several varieties of CA native bulbs from Brent and Becky’s Bulbs and they proved to be very popular with our customers. In addition to the plants, our books, posters and t-shirts were very popular. Rose Rhodes did an excellent job at the membership table. John Herrick and Kathy Jacobs provided refreshments for all. Thanks to the members who brought in the delicious cookies!

Our treasurer Jim Piercy was very efficient and was assisted by our former treasurer Nancy Prouty. There were 14 cashiers working to make sure that no one stood in line very long. We appreciate their dedication.

Without publicity we would have no customers. Mike and Stephanie Lennox worked all year to make sure that our event was covered in all forms of media. A special thanks to Rosemary McCready for her excellent article about our sale in the Press Democrat.

The few unsold plants went to a hedgerow project at SSU and to a school garden.

We can be very proud of our sale. We provide an excellent selection of well-grown native plants. The seeds and bulbs are unique to our sale. The success of the sale is a wonderful testament of how well we all work together to promote the use of California native plants in local gardens.

37th Annual Plant Sale

37th Annual Plant Sale will be October 11, 2008, the second Saturday in October at the Santa Rosa Vet’s Building.

**John Shribbs, a teacher at Casa Grande High School, talked to me at the plant sale about the possibility of growing some of our plants in the greenhouse at the school. This is a very exciting offer that could increase the number of plants that we grow. The Plant Sale Committee will be meeting soon to discuss this proposed change and to begin planning for the next sale. We need new committee members. We welcome anyone who would like to help with this important work. We have a lot of fun at our workshops and welcome new ideas. 833-2063 or lizpar8993@aol.com.

If you want to start seeds of many natives, now is the time to put them into containers for winter stratification or put them in a plastic bag filled with damp soil to stratify them in the refrigerator for a month. If you have any questions give me a call.

Liz Parsons
Santa Rosa Plain Study Group
Continued from page one
Beginning Tuesday, October 30, and continuing on the last Tuesday of each month until the Implementation Plan is adopted, informational meetings will be held at the Environmental Center to discuss the Conservation Strategy and the Implementation Plan. The meetings will have a fourfold purpose:

- To provide the audience with information on the Conservation Strategy and the Implementation Plan,
- Present information on the current status of the CA tiger salamander, the four vernal pool plant species and the impact the Plan will have on the Santa Rosa Plain ecosystem
- Provide the audience with a chance to voice concerns regarding the Plan and future development on the Plain
- Inform folks of public hearings and comment opportunities.

We plan to have botanists and biologists presenting information. The two environmental representatives on the Implementation Committee, Margaret Pennington and Joan Vilms, will discuss the Plan and committee process as schedules permit.

Please get involved now! It’s been a long and complicated process, but the details of the Implementation Plan will determine the success or failure of the Conservation Strategy and the recovery of the species. All meetings will begin at 7pm, at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Ave, Santa Rosa (west of HWY 101, off Cleveland Ave.)
Tuesday, October 30
Tuesday, November 27
December tba
Tuesday January 29
and additional last Tuesdays as needed

John Herrick

State CNPS News
Herbicide & Integrated Weed Management Policy drafts are now available for chapter member’s review

The state CNPS Policy Committee has been working on Herbicide Use and IWM policies since June 2006. Versions were presented to Chapter Delegates for review and discussion at the Chapter Council Meeting last September. Now these policies are available for review and discussion by all Chapter Members.

The purpose of this review is two-fold: 1. To explain and clarify the policies, the need for them, and how they have been devised. 2. To get an indication of how Chapter Members feel about the policies, that can guide your Delegate’s Adoption Vote at the upcoming Chapter Council Meeting this December.

Please keep in mind that Editorial revisions are not being solicited. Rather, members should consider the essential content and practical consequences of these policies. Think about questions such as: “Do these policies state something that is clearly incorrect, or omit something vital?”, “Will it compel us to use herbicide if we choose not to?” We have a very diverse state and organization, and the policy must serve the entire CNPS. But there is value in having a clear and consistent policy, and our influence and credibility as an organization is enhanced if we have a unified position as represented in a formal policy.

The adoption discussion will take place at our December Chapter Council meeting. Your delegate should come ready to vote on adopting the two related policies. If there are essential and substantive changes needed, they can be considered at that time. But we must move toward a final adoption vote and not let the minor adjustments to the policy texts go on indefinitely.

Please contact your Chapter Council Delegates (Liz Parsons or alternate Gary Hundt) to review these policy drafts.

Jim Bishop, Policy Committee Chairperson

Invasive Plant Corner
Pennyroyal - Mentha pulegium

Whorls of blue to violet and pink flowers around the characteristic square stems of the mint family - Lamiaceae. Blooms June through November, peaks in mid-summer.

Makes a pleasant tasting tea, I hear tell, and is easily available on line. BUT - drink it at your peril. It is known as an abortion inducer. It is said to provide infants relief from colic and cough. But should pennyroyal oil get into the tea, a child could incur liver and/or neurological damage, or even die. Adults can sicken as well. Cattle usually don't like it, and well they shouldn't, as it upsets their stomachs. But you thought this was the column about weeds, so I shall abandon the topic of digestive disturbances in cattle.

Our focus on pennyroyal is upon its invasive qualities, particularly in seasonal wetlands. Its impact on vernal pools is not well known, but those of us who frequent county wildlands have seen it as a dominant plant in low areas, particularly in the Laguna floodplain, in drying vernal pools, and on the edges of marshes.

Betty Young and I hiked to one of the vernal pools on Mt Burdell last year, and pennyroyal was clearly spreading on one side of the pool. It was questionable as to whether pennyroyal in such density...
Events of Interest

**Cotati Creek Critters:**
*Habitat Gardening with Native Plants, with Phil Van Soelen of the California Flora Nursery.*
Mon., Nov. 5th, 7 p.m., Stony Point Room, Cotati Community Center, 216 E. School St., Cotati (behind Cotati City Hall, 201 W. Sierra Ave.)

**Community Planting Days:**
Sat. Nov. 10th (9-12), Sun. Nov. 25th (10-1).
Join us in planting native trees, shrubs, grasses and other understory plants along the Laguna de Santa Rosa in Cotati.

Contact: jenney@cottaki.info or 792 4422 or www.CotatiCreekCritters.info

**Russian Riverkeeper Park Volunteer Days**
2007 Riverkeeper Stewardship Park Volunteer Days

**Help Wanted:** We need help planting hundreds of new plants this fall.

**What:** Help restore riverbank habitat. No experience necessary. 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. Refreshments provided.

**When:** Every Wednesday 8:30-11:30am. Cancelled when there is enough rain to require wearing a raincoat.

**Bring:** water - wear sturdy shoes

**Where:** 16153 Main St., Guerneville, on the north bank of the Russian River upstream of the pedestrian bridge. Access down a driveway west of Woody’s River Glass. At bottom of driveway is a blue and white sign that says, Riverkeeper Demonstration Riparian Restoration Project Future Community Park.” Parking available near sign.

**Contact:** VictoriaWikle@usa.net 865-2474 or DonMcEnhill rrkeeper@sonic.net 217-4762.

**Website:** www.russianriverkeeper.org

**Victoria Wikle**

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**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.

**Wayne Clark**

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**Chapter Field Trips**

**Conservatory of Flowers, Golden Gate Park, SF**
Saturday, November 3, 9AM-3PM
Head on down to the COF with CNPS! We’ll catch the final weekend for the special Carnivorous Plant Exhibit. “Visitors can see an eye-popping array of 100’s 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: 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; 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.
- **Brig:** admission fee, lunch, water, camera

Please RSVP and let me know if you're willing to drive.

Contact: bethysmail@gmail.com, 490-4951.

**Beth Robinson**

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**No Field Trip in December: Happy Holidays!**

Milo Baker Chapter Newsletter - November 2007
**Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors**

President, Lynn Houser, 568-3230, housers@sonic.net  
Vice President, Liz Parsons, 833-2063, LizPar8993@aol.com  
Secretary, Patricia Sesser, 528-9197, ptrisha@sbcglobal.net  
Treasurer, Jim Piercy, 539-3441, terrapenecarolinamajor@yahoo.com  
Book Sales, OPEN  
Conservation Chair, OPEN  
Cunningham Marsh, Marcia Johnson, 829-3808, owlsnest@hughes.net  
Director at Large, Dea Freid, 824-8165, lemuria@sonic.net  
Field Trip Coordinator, Beth Robinson, 490-4951, bethysmail@gmail.com  
Hospitality, Becky Montgomery, 573-0103, montyb@sonic.net  
Hospitality, Lynn Colborn, 829-9128, lcolborn@earthlink.net  
Invasive Plant Chair, ML Carle, 792-1823, mml@svn.net  
Legislative Chair, Katy Redmon, 762-3961, trypedece@comcast.net  
Membership, Wendy Born, 829-7519, spores@excite.com  
Newsletter Editor, Katy Redmon, 762-3961, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com  
Photographer/Website Admin, Gary Hundeit, 763-3387, garyhundeit@muddyknees.com  
Plant Sale, Liz Parsons, 833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com  
Poster & T-Shirt Sales, OPEN  
Programs/Lectures, Betsy Livingstone, 887-8873, betsl@sonic.net  
Publicity, Stephanie & Michael Lennox, sedgesalvage@comcast.net  
Rincon Ridge Park, Lynn Houser, 568-3230, housers@sonic.net  
SCCC Rep., Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wendyk@pon.net  
Southridge Preserve, Jeffrey Barrett 573-0271, barrett8@sonic.net  
SSU Rep, Joan Schwan, 823-0446, schwanojo@sonoma.edu  
Vine Hill Preserve, Sarah Gordon, 575-3979, Sarahgordon17@aol.com

**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

**Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense**  
Pitkin lily

**Newsletter & Web Site Info**  
Send newsletter submissions to:  
Katy Redmon, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com  
Deadline for inclusion in the Dec./Jan.  
Newsletter is November 15.

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_mb_newsletter

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