**Annual Chapter Picnic**  
**August 17th, 2008**

**Picnic News**

On Sunday, August 17, the Annual Chapter Picnic will be held at Alan Brubaker’s garden located at 1401 Adobe Canyon Road in Kenwood. This is the road to Sugarloaf State Park. The garden is located on the left side of the road. Parking will be tight, please carpool. We are pleased that Alan has once again agreed to host the picnic. Sonoma Creek runs through this loveliest of gardens. The garden is planted with many botanical delights including many CA natives and an extensive collection of conifers. The large xeric garden in the rear of the property is filled with marvelous Mediterranean and desert plants. We will begin to assemble at 3:30 PM and a potluck dinner will be served at 4:30 PM. Bring your own utensils and dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Call Liz Parsons 833-2063 for more information.

*°* Liz Parsons

**Plant I.D. Hour**

**WILL RETURN IN SEPTEMBER**

Until then, try your plant family identification skills with these riddles:

What plant family do I belong to?

1. I am the largest family of vascular plants, mostly herbaceous. Sometimes it goes to my head!
2. I’m usually a shrub or vine; leaves are always opposite; my ovaries are inferior. I like the forest and forest animals like me.
3. My fruit may have a beak or wing; is that why I attract birds? Or is it the umbel and late season seeds?  

*Answers can be found on page 7.*

*Lynn Houser*

**Note:** There will be no General Meeting in July or August. The next meeting will be September 16th and will feature Plant I.D. Hour at 6:30 as usual. See below for location.

---

**Calendar**

- 7/19 Field Trip: Russian River Riparian Walk & Swim
- 8/09 Field Trip: Islands in the Sky Albino Redwood
- 8/15 Submissions deadline: September Newsletter
- 8/17 Chapter Picnic, Alan Brubaker’s garden
- 9/6 Chapter Council Conservation Conference
- 9/16 General Meeting, Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center
- 10/11 Annual Plant Sale Santa Rosa Vet’s Bld.

**In This Issue**

- Calendar 1
- Plant ID Hour 1
- President’s Corner 2
- Horticulture Feature 3
- Plant Sale News 4
- Invasives Corner 4
- Preserve Stewardship 5
- Chapter Council News 5
- Chapter Field Trips 6
- Conservation 6
- Events/Items of Interest 7
- Board Contacts 8
President's Report

A step back from Planet California... After experiencing a week of stormy, sunny and humid weather in Washington D.C. and Virginia in June, I realize again how unique the Sonoma County climate is in our country. Everything is green back east and needs to be mowed in the summer with big, riding lawn mowers. There is dew on the grass and frizz in the hair in summer.

The Mountain Laurels (*Kalmia latifolia*, pictured) are big and showy in lush forests, unlike our little Sierra Nevada *Kalmia*. The Midwest and the east get flooding and tornadoes; we get dry wind. I did not see any low-flow toilets or drought-tolerant landscaping. There is no chaparral! I think sometimes we forget just how different it is here. California news traveled to the east coast about the declaration of drought by Gov. Schwarzenegger with water rationing in some areas.

*Back to Planet California...* I reached for my lipstick and water as soon as we landed: it’s back to moisturizing and hydrating (do they use those words back east?) The hills are golden and crispy, dotted with dark green oaks that bear deep roots, lining dry creeks. However, in the cities and suburbs, lawns are being ripped out left and right for the latest trend: **Landscaping with Native Plants!** I’ve been talking to neighbors and at family gatherings about natives in the garden for at least ten years, but now with the drought, my advice is in high demand, as locals and east bay relatives ask for recommendations to replace their lawn which used so much water, gas, time and energy to keep up. Now is the time to plan and choose your plants so you can plant in the fall, I tell them. Be the leader on your block! Aside from the usual salvias, manzanitas, and monkeyflowers, new native plant gardening books talk about care and maintenance, habitat value and design (check out www.cnps.org ). I still see Eucalyptus and Acacias suggested in municipality-recommended books though. Caution about invasive plants needs to be front and center as we embrace drought-tolerant landscaping!

**Chapter News:** We take a little break from our evening programs and usual field trips in the summer, but the board will be meeting in July. Nominations for Board members for 2009-10 are welcome; if you are interested in a position, please contact any board member and try to attend the July or September board meetings (second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.). We’d also love to see you at the annual Chapter Picnic in August. The nominating committee will be meeting over the summer and will have candidates to present in September: you could be one of them! I’d be happy to answer any questions about the chapter’s board positions, and can email job descriptions if you’d like. Even ‘President’ is pretty well defined and do-able for a few hours per week. We have a new email address for conservation issues: milobakerflora@gmail.com, where referrals from the county will be sent. Your help reviewing proposals is most welcome. We’ll have a meeting in July to continue planning the September Chapter Council and Conservation (statewide CNPS) meeting; contact me or Liz for details. Please call also if you can suggest a topic for discussion at the meeting, ideas for field trips, or if you can help out in any way the weekend of September 6th - 8th at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center. Thanks, everyone!

*Lynn Houser*

We wish to thank the Crabb-Grasseschi Family Foundation of Healdsburg For their $500 donation
Designing with California Natives—The Basics.

Whether your garden needs a complete overhaul or it is time to replace that water hogging front lawn, designing in the summer and planting in the fall will maximize your chances for a successful California native plant garden next spring. It takes about four steps: measure out the space you plan to design, study what is going on in that part of your garden (wind, sun, clay soil, etc...), decide what that space needs in terms of uses and structure (seating, paths, etc...) and select your plants choosing from the plant community that best suits your tastes and site.

Base Plan  In order to create a base plan, either draw out your garden in a rough sketch or measure the space you want to design and create a scaled drawing to work with. This is a bird’s eye view of your garden. For a large property, consider hiring a surveyor to create this plan. Art supply stores usually carry rolls of sketch or trace paper. This is a cheap and easy medium to use since it is transparent and can be layered. A mechanical or #2 pencil and eraser are the only other requirements. Some useful tools are an architect’s scale and drafting tape. However complex you choose to be to execute this process, you will end up with what we call a base plan.

Site Analysis  Over that base plan on your next piece of trace paper, draw what elements are affecting the area. Which areas are shady, windy or sunny? Are there views you want to screen? What type of soil do you have? Use these elements to match your garden with a plant community. Is your garden shady and you irrigate? Use the redwood plant community. Is your garden hot and you are conserving water? Look at the chaparral and desert plants. Are you toward the coast? Look at the coastal community plants. These plants are already adapted to the conditions of your site. For more information on California’s diverse plant communities look at the CNPS website: CNPS.org.

The Big Picture  Step back and get creative. Don’t worry about being perfect, creativity is what the trace paper is for. Are you filling in an existing garden? Where are the existing plants? What do you want to remove or keep? Is your garden lacking a structure? Do you need some large or small shrubs that pull the garden together? Think about what style you want in your garden, such as cottage garden or modern. Native gardens don’t have to look like nature. Think about practical needs you have for your garden such as: outdoor dining, room to entertain, a water feature. This is your big idea plan. Stay loose. I like to attach pictures from magazines like a collage.

There are some basic design principles that may help. Use odd numbers. Use more than one of most plants to create masses. Think about the plant at it mature size. Create the bones of the garden using shrubs and trees for structure. Think of where you would like your attention to move throughout the garden and place interesting art pieces or specimen plants that attract attention in those spaces.

The Plants  Gather some resources. Websites are great ways to find information on native plants, but I prefer to have a couple of books to leaf through. For inspiration I turn to Judith Larner Lowry for her career changing books Gardening with a Wild Heart and The Landscaping Ideas of Jays. For design concepts and plant materials, I use The California Landscape Garden by Mark Francis and Andreas Reimann, Designing California Native Gardens by Glenn Keator and Alrie Middlebrook and California Native Plants for the Garden by Carol Bornstein. However, these are just a few of the growing list of great books on the subject of California native plants and sustainable design.

Once you have research tools, think about the types of plants you want to use. Overlay more trace paper and lay them out as best you can. If you have a scaled drawing, look up the size of a mature plant and make a circle that size. Otherwise, estimate the plant count and adjust when you are planting. Salvias (Salvia sp.) and Deer grass (Muhlenbergia rigens) are sturdy and adaptable sun lovers. They combine well with sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), a perennial that blooms beautifully without much water. In the shade, the combination of Philadelphus, Bleeding hearts (Dicentra formosa) and Alum root (Heuchera micrantha) is wonderful. Manzanita (Arctostaphylos sp.) and coffeeberry (Rhamnus californica) are reliable foundation shrubs. They are available in many cultivars from big to small. Lovely local shrubs like Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia) and Wax Myrtle (Myrica californica) are good as screening plants. For plant ideas and availability, look at the plant
list for our chapter plant sale in the fall on our website: www.cnpsmmb.org. This is an opportunity to find local species as well as popular favorites for your garden. I am excited to try some local species of Manzanita and Ceanothus in my new garden in Santa Rosa.

The benefits of gardening with California natives are different for each gardener. A few of my reasons are: to promote habitat and biodiversity in my small residential garden, to save California’s precious resources and to educate my son with nature. I also think these plants have superior beauty to any exotics. For you it may be different. Whatever the reason I hope you enjoy this spectacular group of plants in your garden.

April Owens

Plant Sale News

Potting Workshop, Saturday August 9, 10 AM

As you may have read in the newspaper, Shone Farm garden is having water delivery problems, so we will be meeting at another place this year. Casa Grande High School has offered us a wonderful alternative space to grow our plants and to have our potting workshop. We will be meeting at Casa Grande High School in Petaluma in the NW corner of the campus. This is located off of Ely Road at the end of Juliet Drive. Call Liz Parsons, 833-2063 for more information or meet us there. This is the last workshop before our 37th Annual Plant Sale on October 11. We will be potting up Salvias, Zauschnerias, and Mimulus provided to us by Shooting Star Nursery.

Liz Parsons

Invasives Corner

Imp and Invasive Grasses

Last week, my dog, Imp, and I had a wake-up call related to invasive plants. Retrieving her ball in tall grass, she emerged shaking her head. I guessed correctly that she had gotten a foxtail in her ear. Silly me, I thought maybe she would shake it out. I couldn't see anything when I checked her ears with a flashlight and she had stopped shaking her head.

The next morning she suddenly began shivering and ran under the bed. Of course she hadn't shaken it out and it had wedged itself far into her ear next to her eardrum. Ugh! After a day at the vet's, she staggered out into the waiting room. She was free of the foxtail and I was free of $150. Ouch!

So I looked up "foxtail" and found that there were at least four culprits, all on the invasive species list: Hordeum murinum - wild barley, Bromus: ssp. madritensis - red brome, diandrus - ripgut brome, and tectorum - cheatgrass.

Luckily we don't seem to have cheatgrass yet - though it is an enormous pest in Southern California, particularly in the desert, where grasses are creating a fire hazard that didn't exist before.

"Foxtails" are sharp and have tiny barbs that keep the seed moving forward, even into the interior of the body. They can enter a dog's body via the ears, eyes, nose, throat, paws, underarms, skin and even anus. We pet owners need to check our animals after they have been in grassy areas, or just keep them away. Ideally, we could mow areas where foxtails grow before they dry out and seeds occur.

As I researched foxtails, I came across sites that named plants that are toxic to pets. Natives, non-native invasives, and garden plants all had several toxic plants to contribute to these lists. Because there are so many, it just seems like the best idea is not to let your animals eat any plants. Dogs seem to enjoy eating grass at times, but it's probably not the best idea they ever had - even worse, in the long run, than threatening a skunk or rolling in unpleasant substances.

Here are some sites with more information on toxic plants and foxtails:
* Cornell University Poisonous Plants Informational Database
* California Poison Action Line
* Foxtails - A Deadly Summertime Danger

I'm still waiting for some invasive plant recipes.

mlml@sonic.net
Chapter Council News

On June 7th, the Chapter Council met in Coloma at the Gold Discovery State Park. We met in an Odd Fellows Hall that was built in 1854. I enjoyed meeting other active CNPSers, exchanging ideas, camping out on the banks of the American River and taking a field trip to a serpentine area. Here are the high points of the meeting.

The state organization has very ambitious plans for 2009. CNPS is organizing a huge botanical conference to be held in Sacramento in January; you will be getting registration information in the mail soon. This is a very exciting prospect for all our members. There will be volunteer positions open for those who wish to attend and help out. Milo Baker Chapter will host a workshop on the conservation work that our chapter has been doing.

The CNPS is planning a two day symposium on Native Plant Gardening. We will be partnering with Pacific Horticulture Magazine and the Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. The venue will be the new Cavallo Point conference center in Sausalito. The dates will be March 28-29, 2009. I am very excited about both of these very high profile undertakings and hope that our chapter will be able to provide volunteer help and registered participants.

Executive Director Amanda Jorgenson will be resigning her position right after the conference in Sacramento. She and her family are relocating to Washington, D.C. We have enjoyed working with Amanda and she has been an excellent director. She leaves an organization that is in good shape for her successor.

Milo Baker Chapter will host the Chapter Council meeting on September 6th at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center in Santa Rosa. All members are invited to attend and meet members from other chapters. There will be a dinner and the after-dinner speaker will be John Muir Laws. Liz Parsons, Lynn Houser and Wendy Krupnik will be coordinating this event.

Preserve Stewardship

Cunningham Marsh
Get involved this summer
CUNNINGHAM MARSH WATERING SYSTEM - May 18, 2008
Installation of the watering system for the hedgerows continued under the guidance of Joe Honton. Those helping were: Russ Lyon, Terry Moores, Steve Ehrmann, Gary Hundt and, the always helpful, Betty Young. Arlene Kallen and Kelly Dabney completed the watering of the lower western hedgerows. Many thanks for all the help.

On June 1, Kelly Dabney, Judith Rousseau and M.L. Carle helped Marcia with the watering of the western hedgerows via tractor and wagon. We are still looking for anyone who would like to help water every other week for the remainder of the summer. Most of the plants are looking great and, with the new system in place of watering by hose, the job should be much easier.

owlsnest@hughes.net 707-829-3808
Marcia Johnson, Cunningham Marsh Steward

Rincon Ridge Park
Monday July 21st, 10:00-noon
Work party and hike
Five hardworking volunteers turned out for the June 16th work party. A new trail was created and piles of coyote brush removed. I only counted 121 Brodiaea californica ssp. leptandra, but it is a year for low numbers. Thanks to thank Gary Hundt, Bryan Sesser, Pat Sesser, and Patrick Smithson for all their work: sawing, lopping and hauling!

There is something fun about cutting brush; for me, it is the smell of the chaparral and discovery of plants in the understory. At the work party, we saw lots of Blue Wild rye, Elymus glaucus, and California oatgrass, Danthonia californica, plus the Sonoma brodiaeas. It is a dry summer for the herbs. No rain in March this year, following the dry

DID YOU KNOW
That you can renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card? As an option, you can set it up to renew automatically year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces the cost of mailing renewal notices.

www.cnps.org
Click on the JOIN button
Katy Redmon

Calochortus albus ©2008 John Muir Laws

Raccoon ©2008 John Muir Laws

Drawings with permission from www.johnmuirlaws.com
January in ’07, is a big contrast with the rich year of 2005 (the first year after the fence went up) when the nicely spaced rains lasted through June and the wildflowers bloomed on. Looking really good at the park, though surrounded by poison oak, is some Beargrass, *Xenophyllum tenax*, (near the parkway). We also saw some burned patches in that area, on which we may see some new seedlings of Rincon Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos stanfordiana ssp. decumbens*) next year. If you want to venture into the preserve, please contact me and I’ll give you the combination to the gate.

**Next work party: July 21st 10:00-noon.** More trail making, maybe some local hiking in Fountaingrove open space if the weather and volunteers call for it. Rincon Ridge work parties are usually held the 3rd Monday of the month at 10 a.m. All are welcome; bring tools to cut brush and pick out Harding grass. **Rincon Ridge Park** is located off of Fountain Grove Parkway in N.E. Santa Rosa. From Fountain Grove Parkway, make a left turn at the Rincon Ridge Drive stoplight, then make the first right on Park Gardens Dr. Park along the street. Long sleeves and pants are recommended; also bring a hat, gloves and sunscreen. There is poison oak, but it can be avoided. Call me if you have any questions at 568-3230.

*Lynn Houser, Rincon Ridge Park Steward*

---

**Chapter Field Trips**

**Russian River Riparian walk & swim**  
*Saturday, July 19, 9:30-2:00 pm*  
*River Road Park & Ride, River Road (west side of 101)*  
*Mystery Location, a.k.a. Secret Adventure!*  
  
Saturday July 19th: we’ll see some river plants along the Russian. Get to know your willows and other riparian vegetation. Stick around and cool off with a swim after our walk. In addition to a lunch and water, bring your swimwear, sunscreen, hat, towel, walking shoes and/or comfortable sandals. Binoculars recommended for spotting the ospreys and other birds on the river.

We’ll meet at the River Road Park and ride at 9:30 a.m. Contact Lynn Houser to RSVP at 568-3230 or housers@sonic.net.

**The Hunt for the Albino Redwood**  
*August 9, Willow Creek, 9:30am-2pm*  
*Duncans Mills*  
Have you ever seen an albino redwood? Did you even know such a thing existed? Well, its true! We’ll enjoy a 5-6 mile moderately strenuous hike up to Islands in the Sky, which offers some of the most stunning vistas in the County. We’ll then take a side trip to find the elusive albino. If it’s a clear day, we’ll be able to see the ocean, as well as the entire Willow Creek watershed. There won’t be much blooming, but we’ll have a good hike. The day will start with a steep climb (approximately 1.5 miles) through doug fir and redwood forest, to reach the grassland ridgeline. The rest of the day’s walk will be relatively flat, with a descent back down to the cars at the end of the day. An unstaffed carpool will meet at the River Road Park and Ride off Hwy 101 in Santa Rosa at 8:30AM. Take River Road/Hwy 116 to Monte Rio. At stop sign, stay right on Hwy 116 to Duncans Mills. Turn left on Moscow Road and immediate right onto Steelhead Blvd. Veer right in the parking lot and proceed to the end, where you’ll park in front of the old train cars and the State Parks office. We’ll proceed together at 9:30 to the Willow Creek property. If you have a Willow Creek permit, please bring it (but its not required). Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, hat, camera, hiking poles (if you like). Please wear sturdy hiking shoes and long pants. Contact: Beth, bethysmail@gmail.com, 490-4951.  

*Beth Robinson*

---

**Conservation**

**New Conservation Email Address**  
For Milo Baker Chapter  

There is a new email address for the chapter’s conservation committee, now that the PRMD (Permit and Resource Management Department) has decided to send all referrals as PDF files via email. Rather than visiting the P.O. box, now referrals can be accessible to members of the Conservation Committee or the Milo Baker Board as a Gmail address that can be signed-in from...
anywhere. Also, if you want to send conservation related notices to the chapter that need attention, you can send them to milobakerflora@gmail.com. However, until we get a new Conservation Coordinator, items will be reviewed by the board, and we would appreciate you considering priority when sending items to the email address. We will try to respond in a timely manner.

If you would like to be part of the Conservation Committee or try out the role of Coordinator, please email the conservation email address above or call me at 568-3230 to know the password. John Herrick has done a fantastic job as Conservation Chair for several years, and we need to build on the momentum that he has created, with continued relationships and good science. General training will be available over the course of the Sept. 6-8 weekend at the Chapter Council Conservation Meeting, and we can also meet with you on your schedule over the summer. Let’s think about what we can do to preserve the Milo Baker Flora for future generations.

John Herrick

**Riverkeeper Stewardship Park Volunteer Days**

**What:** Enjoy time on the Russian River working with other volunteers to restore healthy riverbank habitat. No experience necessary. Everyone and all ages are welcome. Activities include: planting and caring for native plants, weeding, erosion control, restoration education and Park cleanup. Students can receive volunteer credit for participating. Everyone and all ages are welcome, no experience is necessary. Visit the park to see the transformation or be part of the transformation taking place. Light refreshments are provided.

**When:** Every Wednesday.

**Time:** 8:30 - 11:30 am, please join us for all or part of the time.

**Bring:** water and gloves - 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 in front of Sonoma Nesting Co. At the bottom of the driveway look for the blue and white sign that says, “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.

**Do you have a favorite quote?**

The idea of adding a quote or comment in the newsletter was inspired by an email I get from Sierra Club each day. They call it The Daily Ray of Hope. Each day, I receive a picture from nature and a quote is underneath. I noticed that the quotes aren’t always referencing nature exactly, but one runs out of ideas, I suppose. I was thinking of printing quotes referencing nature in our newsletter, but I wanted to take it a step further. We could have quotes relating directly to California, to California’s native flora. Is that difficult? What about quotes relating to flora and fauna?

If you have a quote or comment which you like, send it to: cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoogroups.com. You can be anonymous if you wish.

Katy Redmon, Newsletter Editor

---

Lynn Houser

---

**Events and Items of Interest**

**Pepperwood Preserve**

Offers free and fee education at the Bechtel house. Limited space, register at pepperwoodpreserve.org.

**Pepperwood “Free” Activities, Summer, 2008**

**Wings in the Night: A Celebration of Bats**

Friday, July 25, 2008, 6-10pm

Pat Winters, educator and wildlife rehabilitator with the California Bat Conservation Fund, will discuss the tremendous diversity of bats and the many myths and misconceptions about these ecologically beneficial mammals. After showing some live, tame indigenous bats, Pat will take us into the field to observe wild bats foraging at dusk. Meet at the Bechtel House. **Registration begins June 25.**

**Insect Defenses: Mimicry, Camouflage and Other Curious Strategies**

Saturday, August 9, 2008, 9am-2pm

Join Frederique Lavoipierre, Director of the SSU Sustainable Landscape Program, for an eye-opening look at the ways insects have evolved to protect themselves from predators. Meet at Bechtel House for a Powerpoint presentation and close-up look at insect collections, then we hit the trail to look for living examples. **Registration begins July 9.**

---

Lynn Houser

---

Answers from Plant ID Hour family quiz, p. 1:

1. Asteraceae (Sunflower family); 2. Caprifoliaceae (Honeysuckle family); 3. Apiaceae (Carrot family).
Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

**Newsletter & Web Site Info:**
Send newsletter submissions to:
Katy Redmon, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the September Newsletter is August 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, or for newsletter mailing/membership issues, contact: Gary Hundt, ghundt@gmail.com

---

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Milo Baker Chapter
ttnsmb.org
P.O. Box 892
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

**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