Sustainable Landscape Maintenance
May 19, 7:30 p.m.

“Allen Land Design’s philosophy of enhancing the lives of present and future generations through our work is grounded in the concepts of sustainability.”

Creative Director Sierra Hart of Allen Land Design will be giving us an informative talk on their company’s transition from typical landscaping practices to creating sustainable landscapes. Sierra will present how they promote this ethic with climate-appropriate plant palettes including wildlife habitat plants and edible landscapes, landscape designs to enhance passive solar heating and cooling, recycled and sustainable material choices, green living roofs and living walls, efficient irrigation systems, as well as organic and bio-dynamic soil and plant-system management. We will all leave with a better understanding of ways to use these principles in our home gardens.

Plant I.D. Hour begins at 6:45

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 contact, Liz Parsons, 833-2063.

Design a T-Shirt
An ad-hoc committee is forming to explore designing and producing a new T-shirt for the Milo Baker chapter. If you are interested in being on the committee or want to make suggestions, please e-mail wendysmit@hughes.net or call 431-7913 to leave a message.

Dear Members
Occasionally, field trips and other events must be canceled or changed. The event and workshop coordinators are concerned that the membership will not receive the correct information on time if it is too late to make changes in our newsletter.
If you have email and would like updates for any scheduling changes or any other updates, please email the newsletter editor at: cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com

Katy Redmon

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 start at 7:00pm, 2nd Tuesday nine months of the year, Environmental Center, 55 Ridgeway Avenue, Suite A, Santa Rosa. The next Board meeting is May 12th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
President's Report

May 2009

In the hand lens, one can discover many little faces that speak to us, like this one in the Valley Tassels flower, only 2 mm wide. The characters say, in their plant-like way: get out and go hiking! Time for a camping trip! You could spend a bit more time getting to know the new family members of the former Scrophulariaceae, you know! And so the owl-clovers and monkey flower faces compel us to take time and think about what Spring means and why it is so important to all of us to see the natural beauty of the flora, for our well-being. Here are some things you can do for yourself, your neighbors, and your native plants, which don’t cost too much:

- Get out on a CNPS hike and meet some like-minded friends over flowers.
- Join Project Budburst, and keep track of when your favorite plants are blooming: [http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/](http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/).
- Prioritize your weeds and do a little at a time: Get that Lolium before it blooms and you’ll save $$ on allergy medications! Hoe plants before they set seed to reduce seedlings next year. Don’t exhaust yourself; just hit what’s going to seed next.
- Plan a hike and picnic to a park or trail you’ve never explored. The South Burma trail in Annadel State Park is wonderful in May. Or, plan to do Mt. Hood or Mt. St. Helena before it gets too hot. Not to advertise for Marin, but if you haven’t done the Steep Ravine trail, go NOW. Find your destination and pack a picnic lunch for a special date to remember. Check out [www.westernwildflower.com](http://www.westernwildflower.com) for plant lists associated with trails, courtesy of our Napa friend.
- Remember to renew your CNPS membership and encourage others to join: we are offering a free CNPS poster to new members this year.
- Think about how conservation happens: take good notes and report back on rare plants, weed invasions, land management changes and developments around the county: talk to your CNPS friends about what is going on.

It is going to be a busy spring: check the calendar and make some plans. The state meeting will be in Lake Tahoe on June 6th; all are welcome and the chapter has funds to reimburse a member to attend. The Milo Baker Board approved a new budget at the April Board meeting, and there is much to do. Please contact me if you would like to be more involved. We look forward to working with you, our wonderful membership, on various projects and outings this spring and throughout the year. Thank you for supporting CNPS.

Lynn Houser

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Plant ID Hour

The flowers are out in abundance, but do you know what they are? Come see what is blooming in Sonoma County this spring. Arrive up to an hour before the May 19th General Meeting, and bring specimens of plants you want to identify.

At Plant I.D. Hour you can see plants up close and key them to species, while getting to know fellow Milo Baker Chapter members. Plants that you key out or learn with friends are easily remembered! Bring in some mystery plants to challenge us.

I’ll bring in the dissecting microscope and some flowering plants from the local area. You can bring your dinner if you want to, a hand lens and a copy of [Jepson](http://www.westernwildflower.com) or [Sonoma Co. Flora](http://www.westernwildflower.com) if you have them. One of each will be available plus some other florals. Keying is worthwhile and challenging for all of us, but it’s fun to work through them together, and learn what distinguishes this plant from that one.

Lynn Houser

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Abronia maritima-BW
Plant Sale News

Potting workshop at Cal Flora Nursery
Sunday, May 17, 10 AM. We will meet at Cal Flora Nursery to pot up Arctostaphylos, Ceanothus, Myrica, and other plants. We will be planting liners from Shooting Star Nursery. Please come and help us with this very important event, we need many members to help out. We need members to take these plants home to grow on until the October 10 plant sale. This is the third of four workshops that get us ready for the plant sale. The fourth will be on August 8 at Casa Grande High School. John Shribbs, as teacher at the school, has volunteered growing space at a nursery at the high school.

Liz Parsons

State News

Plant Science Training Program Workshops, 2009
To find out more information about the following and other CNPS workshops, go to:
http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php

May 5-6
Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations
Primary Instructor: John Willoughby, former State Botanist for the Bureau of Land Management
Location: Fort Ord, Monterey
Course Description: Using classroom and field exercises, the workshop will focus on the role of plant population monitoring for adaptive management. Participants will learn how to develop good management objectives. Topics cover principles of sampling and several sampling designs, field techniques for measuring vegetation, analyzing monitoring data and presenting results. Participants will receive a copy of the BLM-published book, Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations by Caryl Elzinga, Dan Salzer, and John Willoughby and other useful materials.
Cost: Members $290
Non-members $315

For more information email or call Josie Crawford at jcrawford@cnps.org or (916) 447-2677 ext 205.

May 29-31
Rare Plants of San Luis Obispo County
Instructors: David Keil PhD, Deb Hillyard, Kevin Merk
Location: San Luis Obispo and coastal locations
Course Description: The distinct combination of climate, soils and topography of coastal San Luis Obispo County are the foundation of the unique array of natural communities, which in turn support a wide variety of endemic, rare and endangered plant species. This workshop will utilize both classroom and field exploration of various local coastal communities, such as serpentine seep, grassland and chaparral; coastal dunes; coast live oak woodlands, including the local "elfin forest"; estuarine marsh; maritime chaparral; and coastal prairie. Learn to recognize these communities and their associated species, and which laws and regulations apply to their conservation. The workshop is geared toward agency planners, professional and amateur botanists, as well as local land-use advocates, to help participants identify these local treasures and understand their importance; and to be able to select and utilize the various tools available to assess and conserve these resources.

June 10-12
Introduction to the second edition of A Manual of California Vegetation
Primary Instructors and authors: Todd Keeler Wolf, John O. Sawyer, Julie Evens
Location: A 3-day transect across the central Sierra Nevada, from the foothills to the eastern Sierra. We will begin at Calaveras Big Trees and end at Grover Hot Springs Valley, near Markleeville. See http://www.scenic4.org/map.html
Course Description: The authors will debut the greatly expanded second edition of A Manual of
California Vegetation. They will provide an overview of additions and changes to the manual, including new vegetation types recognized or redefined across many habitats. You will learn how to use the new manual, in the field as we traverse a variety of vegetation types in the Sierra Nevada, as well as its uses for conservation and management.

Cost:  Members $445  
Non-members $470

Josie Crawford

Fabulous New Membership Promotion

Now available from the cnps.org website home page.

Not a CNPS member?  
Join today  
Save native plants and the environment!

For a limited time, CNPS is offering a special incentive to new members! Join online at the $45.00 member or higher levels and we’ll send you one of three of our beautiful wildflower posters:  
**Wildflowers of the Desert, Wildflowers of the Coast, or Wildflowers of the Redwood Forest**

Arvind Kumar, State Board Member

**Preserve Stewardship**

CUNNINGHAM MARSH  
Last Work Day  
WHEN:  MAY 17, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. - last work day of the season  
WHERE:  Parking limited.  Please carpool or meet at 8:30 at Sebastopol Safeway near the Rite-Aid side, to be at Marcia's house (next to the marsh) by 9 a.m.  Just gather yourselves for carpooling.  RSVP for directions (see below).  
TO DO:  We have completed all the major planting for the near future, however, we need:  
A bit more weeding within the Pitkin Lily exclosures  
Weeding areas with new plantings  
Walking the fields looking for new oaks that are coming in and protecting them before mowing  
In general, getting the area ready for the year.  
**We really need your help!** Come see what we have done, and be a part of this important restoration project on this 19-acre conservation easement....home to the endangered Pitkin Lily!  
Bring gloves and any favorite hand tool.  Snacks and water provided.  
Marcia Johnson: owlsnest@hughes.net  707-829-3808

Marcia Johnson,Steward, Cunningham Marsh

**Field Trips**

Mammoth Rocks near Goat Rock, Coastal Prairie  
May 9th  
10-3pm  Michael Hogan, Conservation Chair:  
This is a special segment of the California State Beaches trail somewhat south of Goat Rock.  Besides the variety of flora along this section of the Kortum Trail, we’ll explore the mysterious four meter high rubbings on Mammoth Rocks, which are explained by State Archaeologist Breck Parkman as 40,000 year old rubbings of this ancient mammal.  We’ll investigate wetland elements of the coastal prairie and relate these to the possible woolly mammoth activities.  In addition we shall explore the interesting vegetation of one of the most spectacular rock outcrops on the Sonoma coast.  
Meet 9am at the Park N Ride at River Rd and Hwy 101, near PG&E substation for carpooling the site.  RSVP Natasha, njgranoff@comcast.net

June Outings:  
**Estero Americano**  
June 6, Saturday 10-2pm, with Michael Hogan, Conservation Chair and Shanti Wright of Sonoma Land Trust  
We shall visit this Sonoma Land Trust property and endeavor to view the coastal grassland habitat, rock outcrops and marshy area tangent to the Estero itself.  We shall also discuss and view the controlled grazing program in place, which is intended to minimize propagation of invasive grasses.  Included in the multiplicity of coastal species we hope to see the Brownie Thistle on the grassland and some special things among the rock outcrops.  Our hike will traverse the coastal prairie hills and...
brackish/salt marsh areas of the Preserve. Bring your binoculars and a camera for the spectacular views and soaring raptors along the way. Dress in layers, bring water, lunch, prepare for windy conditions. Meet at 10am in Bodega (the town, not Bodega Bay) at the local coffee shop "Brew", 17192 Bodega Hwy, for carpool to the Estero. For carpool from Santa Rosa, please call Natasha 542-9670. For more information or to sign up, please call 544-5614 ext. 2 or email: shanti@sonomalandtrust.org.

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Natasha: njgranoff@comcast.net

McCray Ridge

June 20, Saturday 10-3pm, guided by property owner Carol Vellutini.

Our outing will be to private property on narrow dirt roads off of Sweetwater Springs Rd. We will spend two hours cutting and pulling Doug Firs in a serpentine Sergeant Cypress forest. Afterwards we will do a hike on the scenic ridge with views of St. Helena, Queen’s Peak, Mt. Jackson & scenic valleys and mountain ranges. Some flowers will still be blooming. Chance to see serpentine plants & grasses. Bring liquids, lunch, hiking boots, gloves, loppers & pruning saw if you have them. Limit 15 participants. 4WD vehicles preferred. Meet 9:30 am Park N Ride by PG&E substation at River Rd and Hwy 101. RSVP Natasha njgranoff@comcast.net

For additional information call Carol Vellutini 546-6308.

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Harrison Grade Ecological Reserve

June 21, 9-2pm, with Gene Cooley, Biologist with Fish and Game.

This 32-acre Department of Fish and Game preserve that was purchased in 1985 in cooperation with the Sonoma Land Trust to protect serpentine habitat. The Ecological Reserve is dominated by Sargent cypress (Cupressus sargentii) and Baker’s manzanita(Arctostaphylos bakeri ssp. bakeri), with patches of an unusual serpentine sedge (Carex brevicaulis). Two rare plants are present, Pennell’s bird’s-beak (Cordylanthus tenuis ssp. capillaris, State-listed. Rare, federally-listed Endangered, California Native Plant Society List 1B) and Baker’s manzanita (State-listed Rare, CNPS List 1B). Pennell’s bird’s-beak will be blooming, although the flowers are not showy.

There is no parking at the Ecological Reserve and no trails. This field trip, although it covers a small geographic area, requires walking on steep rocky terrain, and walking through chaparral. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring sunscreen, water

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excellent botanist and explorer, at the spectacular Glide vernal pools last month. She said she had seen Phragmites growing on Grizzly Island, which means it also grows on our side of the bay, if perhaps not in our county.

The plant flowers in July and August, so I think I’ll be prowling about the salt marshes then. Ingrid Hogle of the Spartina Project says they hadn’t noticed it in the North Bay, and it’s a tall plant, so I may be wasting my time. If I find the type M, I can report my findings to *Noelle Johnson, the recently hired Early Detection, Rapid Response Coordinator for the MarinSonoma Weed Management Area.*

Dan Gluesenkamp just kept pushing for a coordinator and, after writing a successful grant, triumphed! Thank you, Dan! Our Milo Baker Chapter showed its appreciation by giving five-hundred dollars to the program. Plant sale money well spent. Thanks everybody!

PS: Have you noticed all the marigold clumps alongside our roads? Last year there were none along my familiar stretch of Old Redwood Highway. This year they are much in evidence. I guess they spread by vehicles. Pretty, but what will they do next?

ML Carle

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### Events and Items of Interest

#### Wildland Weed Field Courses

**2009 Schedule**

**Santa Rosa:**

- **Mountain Home Ranch**
  - May 13 - Biology and Identification
  - May 14 - Control Methods

Regular fees are $145 (Cal-IPC member)/$165 (Non-member) per course (each topic is a different course, thus registering as a member for both courses in San Diego would cost $290).

This year we are able to offer a discounted rate of $45 per course for restoration volunteers, thanks to special grant funding. You qualify as a "restoration volunteer" if weed management is not part of your professional work and you volunteer for an organized restoration effort.

All courses include lunch, snacks and reference material. We have received DPR continuing education credits for most courses. Registration is taken on a space-available basis. Pre-registration is required as we are not able to handle any payments on the day of the course. See you in the field: Heather.

You can find more info online at [www.cal-ipc.org/fieldcourses](http://www.cal-ipc.org/fieldcourses).

#### San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Restoration

**Background:** San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge partners with The Bay Institute’s STRAW project (Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed) to restore the salt marsh transition zone at the north end of San Pablo Bay. The restoration efforts include local seed collection, growing the plants in the SPBNWR nursery, pretreatment of restoration zones, installation of plants and maintenance. SPBNWR is also working to map and remove invasive species including New Zealand Spinach Tetragonia tetragonooides and Perennial Pepperweed Lepidium latifolium. The restoration improves habitat for two endangered species that live in the marsh, the California Clapper Rail and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse.

Ongoing volunteer opportunities occur throughout the year with both student and adults.

**Location:** Office is at Sears Point Ranch 2100 Hwy 37 on a Sonoma Land Trust Property. Restoration areas currently include SPBNWR and Sonoma Baylands.

**Upcoming events:** May 29th 10am-12pm. All ages welcome! Groups of 10 or more should RSVP. Private group volunteer events of 10 or more people can also be scheduled.

**Contact:**

Leia Giambastiani

giambastiani@bay.org

Office 707-769-4200 ext 101

Work cell 510-377-6146

#### Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Registration is now open for the free Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place Sunday, May 3, 2009, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. This free, award-winning tour features pesticide-free gardens that conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 50% or more native plants. Space is limited and registration is required; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed. Participants on the fifth annual, free, self-guided Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour can choose from fifty showcase native plant gardens. They will have the opportunity to learn how select and care for California native plants, lower their water bills, design a low-maintenance garden, attract...
butterflies, birds, and bees, and garden without using pesticides. More than 40 talks will be offered throughout the day. More than 5,000 people are expected to register for this annual event; early registration is suggested to ensure a place.

The delightful collection of gardens offered this year range from Jenny and Scott Fleming’s 50-year-old collector’s garden to several that are newly installed, and from five-acre lots to small front gardens in the flats. Garden styles run the gamut—from restoration gardens containing local native plants to the horticulturally available suite of natives from throughout California, and from gardens designed and installed by owners to those designed and installed by professionals.

In the “Preview the Gardens” section at www.BringingBackTheNatives.net are photographs of each garden, extensive garden descriptions, and plant lists, as well as a list of nurseries that sell natives. Landscape designers familiar with designing with natives can also be located on the website; many of these landscape designers are offering discount consultations to tour participants.

A companion feature, the Native Plant Sale Extravaganza, will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and 3. This exclusive sale features a number of native plant nurseries—many not normally open to the general public—which carry large quantities of hard-to-find California natives. This two-day shopping opportunity will offer native plant fans a good selection of native plants and provide a relaxed shopping experience. Knowledgeable staff will be on hand to help shoppers select the right plants for their gardens, and Saturday shoppers will have time to visit more showcase native plant gardens on Sunday, May 3, during the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.

What’s special about California native plants? They are adapted to our soil and climate and are easy to care for. Native plants are naturally drought tolerant. They attract native birds, butterflies, and other forms of wildlife. And, as the gardens on the Tour show, California native plants are beautiful; these lovely gardens display a sense of place that is uniquely Californian.

Admission to the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is free. Registration prior to April 20 is required and can be completed at www.BringingBackTheNatives.net. While registering, a visit to the Carpoools and Gardeners Match section of the website will help registrants find neighbors to share gardening skills, native plants, or tools; to plan work parties; or carpool, either on the day of the Tour, or to the Select Tours.

For more information, contact Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

**Riverkeeper Stewardship Park Volunteer Days**

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.

We meet every Wednesday except when there is enough rain to need a raincoat. Please join us from 8:30 - 11:30 am, for all or part of the time. We suggest that you bring your own drinking water and wear sturdy shoes.

The Park is located at 16153 Main St., Guerneville 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, “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.

*Limanthes douglasii*
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

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

Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

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