**Milo Baker Picnic**

**Sunday, August 16th**

On Sunday, August 16, the annual chapter picnic will be held at the Sonoma County Regional Riverfront Park located at 7821 Eastside Road in Healdsburg (closer to Windsor). We have a reservation at the Redwood Grove Picnic Area. We will begin to assemble at 3 PM and a potluck dinner will be served at 4. We will build a charcoal fire for anyone who wants to barbeque. Bring your own meat. Bring your own utensils and a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Call Liz Parsons, 833-2063, for more information. There will be a $6.00 charge for parking at the regional park.

**Note: There will be no General Meeting in July or August. The next meeting will be September 15th and will feature Plant ID Hour at 6:30 as usual.**

Best wishes from the Milo Baker Board for a wonderful summer!
**State News**

**Chapter Council News**
On June 6, the Chapter Council met at the Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village near Lake Tahoe. We met in the Environmental Sciences building. The most important issue before the organization is the Bilosoly bequest of $800,000.00. Some members would like to purchase a permanent office for the Society in Sacramento and others would like to spend it on our conservation and education work. The final decision will be made by the Board of Directors with input from the Chapter Council.

The most pressing environmental problem is the “solar gold rush” going on in the CA desert areas.

The new Conservation Director, Greg Suba was introduced to the group. He has been very busy since he was hired by the Society on May 1. The most pressing environmental problem is the “solar gold rush” going on in the CA desert areas. Over 100 applications for solar and wind farms have been received. The CNPS is working to see that the areas where they site the solar collectors and the transmission lines are in non-sensitive areas. This is a very important conservation issue that is getting very little publicity. The process is way ahead of us and huge tracts of the desert lands are going to be impacted. Not only is land threatened, but huge amounts of ground water will be required to generate the electricity. The Society will be sending out letter templates to help us write letters to newspapers and to representatives. We need to emphasize that we are not against renewable energy; we are against the loss of so much desert habitat. Our concern is with siting of the collections areas and the transmission lines in high value habitats.

**Plant Sale News**

**Potting Workshop**
Casa Grande High School
Saturday, August 8th, 10 AM.
We will be returning to Casa Grande High School where we had a wonderful place to grow our plants last year. John Schribbs manages this great space and we thank him for sharing it with us. We will be meeting in the NW corner of the campus which is on Casa Grande Road on the East side of Petaluma. The growing area is located off of Ely Road at the end of Juliet Drive. Call Liz Parsons, 833-2063, for more information. This is the last workshop before our 38th Annual Plant Sale on October 10th. We will be potting up Salvia, Zauschnerias, and Mimulus provided to us by Shooting Star Nursery.

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

**August 12th – 14th**
**Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations**
**Vegetation Rapid Assessment:**
**Primary Instructors:** Todd Keeler Wolf, Julie Evans, Jennifer Buck, and Josie Crawford
**Location:** Donner Summit
**Course Description:** The California Native Plant Society (CNPS), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), present a Vegetation Rapid Assessment workshop near Donner Summit. The course will be a combination of lecture and field exercises in vegetation sampling. The course will focus on collecting data using the CNPS Rapid Assessment protocol. We will discuss applications of fine-scale vegetation sampling, classification and mapping, how to document rare natural communities, and how vegetation information fits into planning documents.
Cost: Members $365
Non-members $390

Josie Crawford
Legislative Notes

By David Anderson

GLOBAL WARMING vs. ENDANGERED SPECIES

On May 8, Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, announced that the Department will retain a Bush Administration rule under Section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The rule states that incidental take of polar bears resulting from activities outside the bear’s range, such as emission of greenhouse gases, will not be prohibited. Polar bears are listed as a threatened species under ESA. The rationale Secretary Salazar gave for retaining the Bush rule is: “The ESA is not the proper mechanism for controlling our nation’s carbon emissions. Instead, we need a comprehensive energy and climate strategy that curbs climate change and its impacts.”

In 1973, when ESA was enacted, global warming was not recognized as a threat to people or endangered animals and plants. ESA was not designed to cope with that problem. The refusal to prohibit “incidental take” of polar bears due to greenhouse gas emissions outside the bear’s range, however, indicates that ESA does apply in this situation. Otherwise the rule would be unnecessary. Secretary Salazar is obviously right that a comprehensive national (and international) energy and climate strategy is necessary to curtail global warming, but it may take a long time to develop and implement such a strategy.

The Interior Department’s ruling of May 8 applies only to polar bears, but the rationale that ESA is not the proper mechanism for controlling our nation’s carbon emissions could apply to efforts to use ESA to protect any species from the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions.

Field Trips

RECAP

Estero Americano

It was a beautiful day, not cold, enough of a breeze to be comfortable. Michael Hogan, Conservation Chair, and Shanti Wright, Sonoma Land Trust, led the hike through the area. The group’s interests were varied. Michael was asked about everything from Coastal Chaparral to kayaking. We spotted 2 varieties of Sidalcea. The bee on the Brownie Thistle kept itself busy long enough for pictures.

Michael explained that this area has 25% native species; it is quite possible to restore the area. Careful research is being conducted to discover the best strategies to use. Shanti suggested that photos could be shared on YouTube and Flicker; she is happy to post a link from the Sonoma Land Trust website.

Katy Redmon

Invasives Corner

Bill Khortum’s Question and Brassica nigra, Black Mustard

We were parked in the Stump Beach parking lot talking before we went out to search for the bizarre and beautiful gnome plant Hemitomes congestum last weekend. Jeff Woodard, who you may remember as Milo Baker T-shirt and poster guy for many years and who now lives in Point Arena, said to me, "Isn't that Bill Khortum and his wife with the loppers?" (Bill and his wife are famous in Sonoma County for all they have done to preserve land from mindless development, hence the trail named after him.) I said we should give him a plant list. Peter Warner, who was the author of the plant list, was unwilling to embarrass himself that way said, "Why don't you give him a plant list." So I
did. They were very pleasant about it, although I bet they were thinking, "What are we supposed to do with this?" (I could've asked them to autograph my plant list. What was I thinking?) They said they were there to clear trail. I told them we were from CNPS, and on the prowl for wildflowers. Bill said he had a question for us, "How long do we have to wait to call a plant native?"

I didn't have a good answer, but it got me to thinking of one of the earliest invasive plants in California, black mustard, Brassica nigra. I remember someone new on one of our field trips saying, "Isn't the mustard beautiful this year?" not understanding the prissy world of invasive, non-native weed warriors. One story I heard is that the Spanish friars brought mustard as a trail marker in the mid-18th century. I guessed we had accepted Brassica nigra because I've never been on a mustard wasting trip, or seen an exhaustive article raving on about its invasiveness, though it is highly rated by Cal-IPC. I decided to go on line and see what I could find out about Brassica nigra.

No author mentioned that the friars brought the mustard, but it does appear that it showed up quickly as California was settled by whites. It was used as mustard on their hot dogs, of course, and as a green vegetable (the tops or young vegetation) and as a cure for all manner of ailments - baldness being one of them. I think we have all heard of mustard plasters, even if we don't know exactly what one looks like. Native Americans made use of it too, as food and medicine. Mustard has a long history in the Middle East - even a prehistory. It has been widely cultivated for centuries all over the world, and now is widely used as a cover crop. It's not just that it has successfully escaped and taken over land, it is planted every year because of its quality of inhibiting other weeds, fungus and nematode worms. That's why we see the vast expanses of yellow in spring here in the county. It has an enemy; the mustard sawfly. But using the fly for weed control would set us up directly opposite the grape growers. I guess it's a weed to us, because it forces out native plants, but then so do fields of potatoes and grapes - and our native yellow bush lupine! I don't have an answer for Bill, but Brassica nigra is still an invasive pest plant, even if it has been here since the mid 1700's. When does "indigenous" start?

Here's a neat site for those interested in the history of many of our plants: <plantlives.com>

AML Carle

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**Events and Items of Interest**

**Bird Sleuth**

An announcement has been sent to CNPS from Cornell regarding a new curriculum. They have created this curriculum on DVDs for children. They are “…geared toward upper elementary and middle-school students.”

“The first module, BirdSleuth: Most Wanted Birds, contains fun, easy lessons with activities that teach children how to identify birds and collect observations that can be reported to the Cornell Lab and used in scientific studies. The curriculum comes with everything you need to help children make an important connection with nature—perhaps for the first time.”

The contact information is:  www.BirdSleuth.net
Jennifer Fee, Cornell Lab of Ornithology,
(607) 254-2403
bird sleuth@cornell.edu.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the web site at www.birds.cornell.edu.

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**Ruth Ann Swenson Sings a Benefit for the Sonoma Land Trust**

**Sunday, September 20, 2009**

3 pm

At the home of Donald and Maureen Green
950 Shiloh Vista, Santa Rosa
The afternoon will include wine and hors d’oeuvres before the concert, followed by a post-performance reception with Ruth Ann Swenson.

Proceeds from the benefit will support the Sonoma Land Trust’s Land Protection Fund, which provides the resources to purchase key conservation properties.

Tickets cost $250. Seating is limited.

For information, please contact Beverly Scottland at beverly@sonomalandtrust.org
(707) 526-6930, ext. 108.

RSVP by September 9
Valet Parking
Riverkeeper Stewardship Park
Volunteer Days
Enjoy time on the Russian River working with other volunteers to restore healthy riverbank habitat. 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.

Pepperwood
Free Activities
This series of hikes, lectures and workshops will introduce you to Pepperwood. The Pepperwood Preserve is home to more than 100 species of birds, 27 species of reptiles and amphibians and 25 species of mammals as well as more than 600 species of native ferns, wildflowers and trees. For the hikes, participants should be in good health and able to hike over hilly terrain; the hikes will last approximately four hours. Bring binoculars, cameras, field guides, water and a snack. Dress in layers and wear sturdy hiking shoes. These events are free, however, reservations are required and space is limited to 25 participants for most events. Registration begins approximately 30 days prior to the date that the event will take place; please do not contact us for reservations before the indicated registration date. To request a space in one of the events please email us at events@pepperwoodpreserve.org or call (707)542-2080. Please note that requests are limited to 2 spaces per event for all free events. Larger parties wishing to attend will need to make multiple requests. For information, go to the Pepperwood website www.pepperwoodpreserve.org

Vegetation Sampling Workshop
This workshop sponsored by the Pepperwood Foundation, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and the CNPS Milo Baker Chapter, and will provide an introduction to the CNPS rapid assessment and relevant vegetation sampling protocols. Participants will learn about the essential role of vegetation inventories and classification in ecological management and conservation, will practice accessing and compiling observations and data and relate these data to the classification format in the new Manual of California Vegetation. Bring lunch, water and appropriate field clothing. Instructors: Julie Evens, CNPS Vegetation program Director, and Peter Warner, botanical consultant to Pepperwood. Meet at Bechtel House. Registration begins June 24.
Friday, July 24, 2009, 10am-4pm & Saturday, July 25, 2009, 9am-3pm

Insect Defenses: Mimicry, Camouflage and Other Curious Strategies
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. We’ll start with a PowerPoint presentation and close-up look at insect collections; then we hit the trail to look for living examples. Bring a lunch and water. Meet at Bechtel House. Registration begins July 1.
Saturday, August 1, 2009, 9am-4pm

Wings in the Night: A Celebration of Bats
This workshop will provide discussion and demonstration of the natural history, diversity and evolutionary adaptations of bats at Pepperwood Preserve and beyond, with an emphasis on ecological roles and the need for conservation. The evening will include a demonstration of captive bats, a short session on building bat boxes, and a night hike to look and listen for local species. Patricia Winters is an educator and wildlife rehabilitator with the California Bat Conservation Fund. She operates a bat rehabilitation facility in Sonoma County and is widely sought for presentations to schools and organizations. SRJC Life Sciences instructor Danielle Purdy has a masters degree in wildlife from CSU Humbolt and did her graduate work on the roosting ecology of bats in old growth redwood forests. Meet at the Bechtel House. Registration begins July 14.
Friday, August 14, 2009, 4-10pm

Community education classes are offered through the SRJC at Pepperwood also.
Pepperwood is a 3,117-acre nature preserve located in northeastern Sonoma County, owned and operated by the Pepperwood Foundation with a focus on research, education and preservation. The Foundation works cooperatively with Santa Rosa Junior College to coordinate educational programs at the preserve. The preserve varies in elevation form 240 to 1,560 feet and has a complex geological structure, making it an ideal location for field classes. For more information, go to www.pepperwoodpreserve.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 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

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 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