Pitkin Marsh
Sonoma Land Trust
November 17th, 7:30

Please join us November 17th at 7:30 pm for our General Meeting panel by local experts on lower Pitkin Marsh and related Sonoma Land Trust conservation activities.

Peter Warner will speak about his Vegetation and Flora Report on Lower Pitkin Marsh. The Sonoma Land Trust (SLT) Pitkin manager, Anthony Nelson, will address conservation activities in the Marsh and Wendy Eliot, SLT Conservation Director, will summarize the Marsh watershed-oriented planning effort.

Pitkin Marsh, located on a stretch of Highway 116 in Forestville, is an oasis of rare botanical richness including plants such as the white sedge (Carex albida) which occurs only in Sonoma County and was thought to be extinct until its rediscovery there in 1983, the Pitkin lily (Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense) and the Pitkin Marsh Indian Paint Brush (Castilleja miniata). This property, which is in the Atascadero Creek watershed, includes native stands of creekside riparian vegetation, freshwater wetlands, oak woodland and grasslands. It is also the location of rare “quaking bogs” and serves as an important wildlife corridor for animals moving between the homes and development surrounding the marsh. April Owens

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.

Plant Sale News

Once again I can report that we had a very successful plant sale! When the doors opened at 9 AM there was a long line of eager customers. They were rewarded with the best selection of plants that we have ever had. (Continued on page 2.)
President's Report

November 2009
The October rains have created a carpet of green all around Sonoma County, and the soil is becoming soft enough to dig. Now is the time to plant your native plants, bulbs, and seeds. Pictured here is California Bay, *Umbellularia californica*, illustrated by Slow. Our plant sale was a tremendous success thanks to all our volunteers coordinated by Liz Parsons and Judy Hartwig, and all our members and the public who bought plants. With water rates going up and the drought not yet over, planting natives will save you money and time irrigating. Since tarweeds are still blooming out there, I have a follow-up to the October talk with a tarweed wordsearch. At the meeting, we were presented with a beautiful book on the flora of Estero Americano from Shanti Wright of the Sonoma Land Trust (SLT). The full-color book compiles plant and vegetation data with photocopied plant specimens. This documentation by our volunteers - Natasha Granoff, Michael Hogan, and Liz Parsons - is a great example of what CNPS and SLT can do together.

Thank you to the Milo Baker Board and all who attend our meetings and keep current membership. Thanks to our active volunteers for bringing on new collaborations and projects. There is a great deal going on in the chapter relating to conservation. Your help is most welcome. We'll hear more about conservation, CNPS and SLT at the November General Meeting about Pitkin Marsh.

Lynn Houser

Plant ID Hour

In November many of the native trees are either laden with acorns or other fruits, or just blooming. Arrive up to an hour before the Nov. 17th 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 or Sonoma Co. Flora if you have them. One of each will be available plus some other references. 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. You can be smart on your plant families during the Thanksgiving holiday while you are with your usual families. Hope to see you there!

Lynn Houser

Plant Sale News

(Continued from page one.) The hall looked beautiful as the eager customers selected their plants. Many of the plants are grown by our members from rooted cuttings (liners) provided to us by Shooting Star Propagation, Dan Jennison and Nancy Hargeaves, in Graton. We are very grateful to them for their continuing support. We had many blooming monkey flowers, CA fuchsias, and salvias...
that were grown at Casa Grande High School growing grounds which are run by teacher John Schribbs. These plants sold rapidly, as plants with flowers always do! Treasurer Jim Piercy has not given us the final figures yet, but our final net income will be between $8,500.00 and $9,000.00. This is the same as last year.

Mostly Natives and Cal Flora are the local nurseries that donate plants to our sale every year. We thank them profusely for their generous support. Thanks to members who worked so hard to make the sale a success. Teamwork is the reason our sale goes so smoothly. Last year I published a list of the 80 people who were involved in some aspect of the sale. Many of them returned again this year. The plant sale is so enjoyable because we all work so well together. Thank you to all of you who return year after year; you help create such a successful sale.

Without publicity we would have no customers. Leia Giambastiani worked to make sure that our event was covered in all forms of media. Steve Garner and Gwen Kilcher on KSRO’s Garden Talk radio show gave us very good publicity. A special thanks goes to Rosemary McCready for her excellent article about CA native plants and our sale in the October 3rd Press Democrat.

We had two special features this year. M.L. Carle had a display that brought attention to the many invasive plants that threaten our native wild lands. A student from the Entomology Department at Sonoma State University had a display devoted to insects and the important relationships they have with plants. They had a microscope and several trays of insect specimens that were very interesting.

The 39th Annual Plant Sale will be October 9, 2010, the second Saturday in October at the Santa Rosa Vet’s Building. Mark your calendars.

Liz Parsons

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**Invasives Corner**

**Website sources, New Zealand Spinach, and Ludwigia**

I promised some people at the plant sale that I would come up with good websites for weed information. I typed these words into Google and immediately got these sites. So here goes:


**These are useful for natives as well as invasive species.**

**Alert**

**New Zealand Spinach**

I met CNPS’s publicity chair, Leia Giambastiani, at the plant sale. She mentioned that she found New Zealand spinach seeds at a local retail source, and that it had recently been quite troublesome on the Marin coast. I did my standard research, but found little information except that it is advocated on several nursery sites. The website, Dave’s Garden, doesn’t sell plants but gives advice to gardeners. It accepts negative comments on plants, and they responded immediately. So for now, I hope you will plant a different spinach.

*Ludwigia species* continue their spread. The reason I don’t specify the subspecies is that it is botanist are unclear about the many subspecies differentiation at this time and are studying the genetics. To see what it can look like, type in (Ludwigia tricky emergents Florida).

The city of Petaluma has recently opened their polishing wetlands to walkers and birders. I found out from Gerald Moore of Shollenberger Park that they have planted Ludwigia in the ponds as per the advice of the landscape designer - obviously not a resident in our county. I didn’t know anyone would consider it. The city says they are dealing with it, but we don’t yet know what that “dealing” is. The city of Petaluma seems to be awfully ignorant about native and invasive plants. The lakes in the newish Riverfront Park near Windsor are now encircled by Ludwigia. Another visitor at the plant sale told me he saw Ludwigia established in Bullfrog Pond above Armstrong Woods. I contacted Joyce Bacci, a long time volunteer out there, and she said she’d check on it. She added, if you want to see Ludwigia, take a trip down the Russian River. She hopes there can be volunteer efforts to remove it. Hand pulling is said to be the best method to keep from creating more fragments if the amount of vegetation is manageable. I can imagine how Ludwigia got established in the river, but it puzzled me as to how land-locked water is infected. The sites I visited mention fragments as the main instigator, but that there hasn’t been much work on seeds. It seems to this ignorant person that seeds may establish the plant initially - perhaps birds bring the seed on their bodies, or excrete the seeds. Boats may be the carriers of fragments in some cases. I went to a site for fish fanciers and saw that Ludwigia is advocated for aquariums. So that could be a large
part of the problem - people wanting to get rid of the contents of their aquariums. But these are fiercely invasive plants. We ignore them at our peril. French studies say that Ludwigia can double its biomass in fifteen to twenty days in slow moving water and in 70 days in rivers.

AIEEE!

ML Carle, Invasives Chair

Scholarship News

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the chapter’s merit scholarship for students of native plants: Amber Parsons and Andy Kleinhesselink. We had many promising applicants this semester and wish all of them the best in pursuing their work and studies with native plants.

Amber is an undergraduate student in Botany at Santa Rosa Junior College, and was recently promoted to be SRJC’s Greenhouse Manager. She intends to use the scholarship funds to help increase the native plant component of SRJC’s nursery. She is also interested in developing native plant demonstration gardens. Amber hopes to continue her native plant studies at UC Davis in the future. Her career goals include teaching Plant Systematics and researching canopy epiphytes of the coast redwood (Sequoia sempervirens). She already has experience working at the Urban Tree Farm nursery, the CalFlora Nursery, and as an intern with the Laguna Foundation.

Andy is a Master’s student in Biology at Sonoma State University. He received his undergraduate degree from Carleton College in Minnesota. Andy plans to use the scholarship funds to support his research into the role of mosses in maintaining species composition of dune habitats. Many of California’s remaining coastal dunes have been invaded by European beach grass (Ammophila arenaria) and ice plant (Carpobrotus edulus). In Bodega Bay, some dunes remain relatively free of these invasives—and instead support a dense carpet of moss and native species. Andy will be investigating the role moss may play in preventing establishment of nonnatives. In the past, Andy has worked on restoration projects in the Presidio, participated in bird banding with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, and managed a French broom removal project for the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Congratulations, Amber and Andy, and best wishes with your work!

The Chapter awards these scholarships to support students of native plant conservation, restoration, or other native plant sciences. Scholarships are available each semester to students at Sonoma State or Santa Rosa Junior College. The funds may be used for educational or research-related expenses. Applications for the spring 2010 scholarship will be accepted this winter. For details, please contact Joan Schwan (SSU Representative), at 707-823-0446 or jschwan@sonic.net.

Sonoma County Tarweed Wordsearch:
Family Asteraceae, Subtribe Madiinae
By Lynn Houser
This is your refresher from the October meeting!

First Find these Sonoma Co. Genera of the Madiinae:

ACHYRACHAENA  HEMIZONIA
ANISOCARPHUS  HOLOCARPHA
CALYCADENIA  LAGOPHYLLA
CENTROMADIA  LAYIA
DEINANDRA  MADIA
HARMONIA

Now Find the Answers to these blanks:
1. Spine-tipped Hemizonas that are changing to Centromadias are called _ _ _ _ _ weeds.
2. The Calycadenias are commonly called _ _ _ _ _ weeds.
3. Hemizonas and Madias share the common name, _ _ _ _ _ weeds. Find this word 6 times.
4. Tarweeds have _ _ _ _ _ _ scales in the heads.
5. Tarweeds are now in the sub_ _ _ _ _ _ Madiinae.
6. See changes in the new _ _ _ _ _ _ Manual.

Clue: When all the words are found, the remaining letters (43 of them) will spell the answer to this question: There was a new plant...
discovered by our chapter founders. It is in a new genus and lives in Mendocino County. What is the name of the plant, followed by the people who discovered it, and the name of our organization? Write the answer below:

Bonus Question: Which Sonoma County tarweed genus is missing from the wordsearch? (Hint: Think about combining the names Holocarpha and Hemizonia.)

Events and Items of Interest

Raptors surf the thermals at the Estero Estero Americano Preserve south of Bodega Bay Monday, November 2, 10 am–2 pm “Birds fly for free when it’s windy,” hike leader Larry Broderick likes to say. We head out planning to catch some of the fall migration, whether north to south or east to west, of buteos and accipiters. Whether you’re a novice or an expert, being out at the Estero is a pleasure, as we watch numerous red tails and their rarer brethren. Project manager Shanti Wright adds the story of the land. Space is limited; RSVP to hikes@sonomalandtrust.org.
Level 2; open to SLT members and the public.

Water issues and sustainable forestry Ranchero Mark West on St. Helena Road Sunday, November 15, 2–4:30 pm Longtime SLT members Jim and Betty Doerksen's beautiful land is protected by one of the earliest conservation easements held by the Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District. They grow and harvest redwoods and Douglas fir, and have been repeatedly acknowledged for their sustainable practices. Now they want us to think more carefully about the water we all take for granted. Space is limited; RSVP to hikes@sonomalandtrust.org.
Level 3; open to SLT members and the public.

Making Madrone Berry Necklaces Little Black Mountain, Cazadero Friday, November 20, 10 am–3 pm Madrone berries give us exquisite drops of reds and oranges on the fall canvas, and we follow project manager Shanti Wright to one of her favorite trees to gather and string these bright gifts of the arbutus. Outspread blankets and glad hearts are part of our celebration of this place and these trees, and the ornaments we bring home remind us of our good fortune in being here. Space is limited; RSVP to hikes@sonomalandtrust.org.
Level 3; open to SLT members and the public.

Riverkeeper Stewardship Park Volunteer Days On the entire 110 miles of the Russian River this is the place to see and participate in riverbank stewardship. Everyone and all ages are welcome to visit or volunteer. No experience necessary. Activities include: planting and caring for native plants, weeding, erosion control, restoration education and Park cleanup. Students can receive volunteer credit for participating. Light refreshments are provided.
Enjoy time on the Russian River 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 footwear.
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.
For more information contact Victoria Wikle at 865-2474 or VictoriaWikle@usa.net. See the website at http://www.russianriverkeeper.org.
We invite you to join CNPS

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City/Zip ___________________________
Phone ____________________________
Email ____________________________

Chapter affiliation:
☐ Milo Baker (Sonoma County)
☐ Other county ___________________

Membership category:
☐ Student or Limited Income......... $25
☐ Individual..............................$45
☐ Family, Group or Library...........$75
☐ Plant Lover............................$100
☐ Patron..................................$300
☐ Benefactor............................$600
☐ Mariposa Lily..........................$1500

☐ New Member    ☐ Renewal

Make check payable to CNPS and mail to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

To pay by credit card or for more info call 916.447.2677 or visit www.cnps.org

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Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

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