General Meeting

Restoration of the Tidal marsh-Upland Ecotone at San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge
June 15th, 7:30 p.m.

The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex consists of seven National Wildlife Refuges located from the shores of San Pablo Bay south to Monterey Bay. They include tidal marsh, islands, sand dunes and other unique environments that support a rich array of wildlife. All of these refuges support endangered species populations or significant migratory and breeding bird populations. Giselle Block, a biologist within the SF Bay Complex, will take you on a tour of these seven refuges and then zoom in on the environments and wildlife of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1974 to conserve and restore habitat to benefit endangered species and migratory birds. Tidal environments dominate here and support a diverse array of species uniquely adapted to a wet and salty environment. Restoration of native plant communities is a major component of the refuge biology program. Projects currently underway include control of invasive plant species (e.g., Spartina alterniflora, Lepidium latifolium) and active restoration of the marsh-upland ecotone. Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1993 to conserve one of the largest heron and egret rookeries in the Bay Area and a restore a unique island plant community. Giselle will highlight some of the more interesting human and biological history of the two islands.

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, lizpar8993@aol.com by June 14th if you plan to attend.

Plant ID Hour

You see the plants blooming but the names are unclear? No need to fret, Plant I.D. Hour is here! Arrive at 6:45 p.m. before the June 15th 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 am retiring the microscope, but will bring some flowering plants from the local area. 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.

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 June 8th. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
This should be a good year for the narrow-leaved Mules’ Ears, *Wyethia angustifolia*, here illustrated by Slow. I imagine the birds will appreciate the large heads and long blooming season this year. I see this plant at Youth Community Park and other areas of the Santa Rosa Plain, and it is striking. I have planted some seeds for my garden. The almost weekly rains in May are going to keep a lot of flowers blooming through June and even July. I am leading a hike at the Mayacamas Sanctuary on June 13th, and I imagine the Serpentine sunflowers, *Helianthus exigus* will be just coming up. There should be a good showing of bulbs like Ithuriel’s spear, ookow, and other lily bulbs. Hope you can join us; it has been 5 years and 9 months since the fire that burned over 12,000 acres. I would like to apologize for the delay in the May newsletter. Our newsletter team is made up of Linda Ramos, editor; me, contributor and proofreader as president; and Gary Hundt, who figures out the mailing list, deals with the mailing company, makes it into a pdf and sends it to the website. Somewhere in there, a lack of communication resulted in it not getting sent to Clone Printing on time. We do value your membership and know you expect a timely newsletter, and hope we can get back to getting it out on time. Much thanks to Linda and Gary for their help. June is when most of us think about planning our vacations and relaxing. At this time the nominating committee for the Milo Baker Board is at work finding volunteers to serve the next 2 year term as Board members. Our Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary are willing to serve again. We have a new Program chair, and most of the other positions are filled and very productive. I have served 2 terms as President and would like to see someone else step up to the task. I am willing to talk with you if you are interested in knowing what is involved. The Milo Baker Chapter has excelled in bringing in the public, collaborating with other groups, and creating a positive, friendly society where new people feel comfortable. Our board meetings are 9 times a year and feature a potluck dinner, the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. I hope to continue to be involved in the Plant I.D. hour and other chapter hikes and meetings, but my work and family schedule is limiting me in being President. You, our members, deserve the best chapter leader you can elect. Please contact Sarah Gordon of the Nominating Committee if you are interested in running for President or any other position. Wishing you a happy summer with lots of flowers and weeds under control.

Lynn Houser

Gardening with Natives

Through The Garden Gate
Native Salivas for Sunny Dry Spots

Two California native sages that I love to grow are from hot dry areas in southern California; the third is a sage that grows on dry slopes with a bit of shade. This sage takes its name from Sonoma County; *Salvia sonomensis*, or Sonoma sage, and is therefore of particular interest to local gardeners. I planted one small Sonoma sage about 7 years ago. It extends its creeping branches in a low mat under an oak, under a manzanita, and has actually put down roots under some rosemary. It now covers an area about 10’ by 10’. It is finally nearing the end of its life span; it has become woody and a bit non-productive. I’ll take cuttings from it, re-root them, and hope for vigorous new plants.
I do give it water maybe twice in the summer, otherwise it really shrivels up. However, there is perfect drainage for it at the top of a steep hillside. It must not stay wet or be set out where it would receive garden water. You’ll be rewarded by the prettiest spikes of purple-blue blossoms all spring that will quickly be found by the hummingbirds. Other ground-feeding birds often scratch around its branches, finding insects and other food. Sonoma sage could be used in any dry, gravely area that needs a ground cover.

Two other California native salvias are great loves of mine; Cleveland’s sage (Salvia clevelandii) and Purple Sage (Salvia leucophylla). I love them most for the fragrances of both the flowers and the leaves. But their shapes and growth habits are stunning, and anything that feeds a hummingbird is a friend of mine. As an immediate, low shelter from predators, as a corridor to move safely from one area to another, or as a place under which they can scratch the ground for insects, nothing is better for birds than this type of shrubby cover. The seed heads are covered with golden crowned sparrows in early autumn. Both sages produce purple or pinky-purple spikes of blossoms that arise in whorls up the long stem. They wave and beckon to bees and hummingbirds all spring. My original one-gallon S. leucophylla has now reached a diameter of perhaps 15’. Its pretty branches swoop to the ground at the tips and take root there. I water it once in the summer, but again, this sage wants perfect drainage and no garden water.

I’ve had a bit of trouble with longevity with the Cleveland’s sage but I’ve read that they are short-lived. They need lots of sun, good drainage, and no water after they’ve become established. I would love to see a large dry slope covered with plantings of both these sages. The fragrance would be enchanting, especially after the first rains.

Either of these two sages should be planted where they can really spread out. You just need to simulate a dry chaparral hillside for them to luxuriate. The area will be in animated with the ceaseless movement of birds, hummingbirds and bees. Best yet, no deer or gophers will attend.

Judy Brinkerhoff
jooodbrink@comcast.net

Invasives Corner

Watsonia meriana v. bulbillafera

At the April general meeting an attractive orange-flowered plant was brought in that couldn’t be identified. It wasn’t in the Jepson and the gardeners who took a look didn’t know it. I saw Watsonia meriana v. bulbillafera in the winter issue of California Invasive Pest Plant as a “red alert” plant. It looked like the plant I remembered from the meeting, but I wasn't sure it was the plant, so I e-mailed a few people and learned that Liz Parsons had identified a sample as Homeria collina from the Sunset Garden Book. Oh well, at least they were both in the iris family.

Watsonia meriana v. bulbillafera: Erect perennial herb to 2 m high. Corm covered in fibrous tunic. Leaves basal, sword shaped, tough and fibrous to 80 cm long and 5 cm wide. Flowers tubular orange to dark red, 5-8 cm. Long. Tube approximately twice as long as lobes. Flowers spring and early summer. Distinguished by clusters of egg-shaped bulbils (small deciduous bulbs on the stem) at lower nodes of flower stem, replacing the flowers.

It is listed by Catherine Best in A Flora of Sonoma County as located near Salt Point in 1983, and in the new Marin Flora at the Point Bonita lighthouse and Point Reyes radio towers.

Here’s a quote from Peter Warner, our wonderful botanical resource and invasive plant expert. “It (the Watsonia) is very apparent from Ft. Ross north, and especially dominant along Hwy 1 just south of Salt Point. If anyone wants to see how bad it can get, go to Little River in Mendocino County – acres of prairie, scrub and pine forest taken over. I removed lots of it from my yard in Little River several years ago, and that experience (routing
them with a pulaski and shovel) convinced me that herbicides are the way to deal with it: even with exhaustive attempts to get all rhizomes and bulbil out of the soil, plants re-appeared within a few months.
The bulbils are spread by roadside mowing, mostly, perhaps locally by gophers or other rodents, and in tire treads. Some property owners appear to give Watsonia an advantage by removing other plants (including natives) and leaving Watsonia – dumb and dumber. Soon they’ll have what they want, 100% cover of Watsonia.”
And from Victoria in Australia: “A highly invasive species. Dominates ground flora and prevents most overstory regeneration.
Tolerates sun, semi-shade, moist conditions, flooding for several weeks, most soil types. Major replacement of species in lower and mid-strata.”
Watsonia meriana v. bulbillafera is available on line, as is Homeria collina. Let me know if you find the bad Watsonia in the wild. Not all Watsonias have a bad reputation.

M.L. Carle

Plant Sale News

We had a very successful potting workshop at Cal Flora on May 23. We potted up liners of wax myrtle, redwoods, coffeeberry, Ceanothus, manzanita, and several grasses. Now we are looking forward to our final workshop at Casa Grande High School in Petaluma on Saturday, August 7 at 10 AM. We will be potting up fast growing perennials such as monkeyflower, CA fuchsia, pink flowering currant, and several varieties of Salvia. Call Liz Parsons, 833-2063 if you want to join us for this final event before the plant sale on October 9.

Liz Parsons

Events and Items of Interest

2010 Sonoma County Master Gardeners BLOOMIN’ BACKYARDS garden tour!
June 6
We hope you will join us for the 2010 Sonoma County Master Gardeners BLOOMIN’ BACKYARDS garden tour! This biennial event will take place on June 6 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, and will feature gardens in Petaluma and Cotati.

Six exciting gardens at their summer peak promise to be full of ideas, inspiration and surprises! Master Gardeners will be available at each location to point out highlights of the garden. We will also feature educational booths at each garden where you will be able to ask questions of experts and get practical, in-depth information on topics including Sudden Oak Death, growing vegetables, bees, beneficial insects, composting, irrigation, and integrated pest management. We will also have information on our “Top Plants for Sonoma County.” Many of these “Top Plants” will be for sale as well!

And speaking of our Plant Sale, it will be stocked full of carefully cultivated offerings. We have well over 3,000 plants for sale, most of which were propagated by our own Master Gardeners from their own gardens, or the tour gardens. Our Craft Sale will offer some exceptional items made by our members. A wide selection of hand decorated bird houses will be available, as well as decorated note cards, tote bags, Orchard Mason Bee boxes and more. You will find something for every garden style! This is a great opportunity to get that special gift for the gardener.

Tickets cost $25 pre-ordered, or $30 “at the door.”

All sales will be final. For more information please visit our website: http://groups.ucanr.org/sonomamg
We hope to see you at BLOOMIN’ BACKYARDS!

Sandy Heft
707-795-1390 or sandyheft@earthlink.net
Sonoma County Master Gardeners
*Unfortunately, we cannot insure that gardens will be wheelchair accessible.

**Treasures in an Ancient Landscape: Rare Plants of the Eastern Klamath Ranges**

**June 15-17**

CNPS Plant Science Training Workshop with Julie Kierstead Nelson and Jim Nelson

**Course Description:** This field-based workshop will focus on regional endemics of the Eddys, Scott, and Trinity Mountains, within the triangle circumscribed by the towns of Redding, Mt. Shasta, and Weaverville. This landscape is not only geologically and topographically complex, but is also very old. We will see many rare plants that are confined to ultramafic (‘serpentine’) substrates, and will also see rare plants that are generalists. Habitats we will visit include Jeffrey pine/incense cedar woodlands, mixed conifer-oak forests, extensive rock outcrops, and Darlingtonia wetlands. The workshop will start with an evening presentation followed by two field days.

**Participants can expect to:**

- Meet many of the rare plants of the Eastern Klamath Ranges in their natural habitats
- Understand the factors that make the Eastern Klamath Ranges a hotspot for rare plants
- Learn about rare plant conservation in the Eastern Klamath Ranges.

**Cost:** CNPS members $310
Non members $335

Campsites for two nights provided
Dinners will be (optional) potlucks
For full details go to
For registration and information about other workshops go to
http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/

Contact Josie Crawford at jcrawford@cnps.org or call (916) 447-2677 ext 205.

**WILDCARE’S Family Adventures / Aventuras Familiares**

WildCare invites you and your family to join experienced naturalists on Saturday visits to nearby parks to enjoy a day in nature. WildCare’s naturalists will lead fun, free family programs to discover butterflies, flowers, birds and much, much more. Free to the public, these programs will be conducted in both English and Spanish. Estos programas son en español e inglés y gratuitos para el público. Programs begin at 10:00 a.m. at the trailhead. Questions? Contact Juan-Carlos Solis at 415.453.1000, ext.17/juan-carlos@wildcarebayarea.org.

**Saturday June 26 / Sábado June 26:**

Canal Family Walk / Paseo Familiar en el Canal

Walk along the shore of San Francisco Bay and look for creatures living in the marsh and mud, including California Clapper Rails, crabs and spiders. Meet at Pickleweed Community Center in San Rafael. Camine a lo largo de la Bahía de San Francisco y vea algunas de las criaturas que viven en esta zona costera incluyendo aves como el rascón picudo, cangrejos, lagartijas y arañas. Nos reuniremos enfrente del Pickleweed Community Center en San Rafael.

WILDCARE: 415.453.1000
www.wildcarebayarea.org

**Open Gardens Day at Hallberg Butterfly Gardens**

**Sunday, June 27th, 10 am to 4 pm**

8687 Oak Grove Road (across from Oak Grove Elementary School), in Graton/Sebastopol

Parking shuttle available; Limited wheelchair access. Hallberg Butterfly Gardens is a 501 c 3 corporation formed to educate the public about
butterflies and preserve habitat. Come celebrate our 13th annual Open Gardens Day with us!
This special event is free and everyone is welcome. Learn about the butterfly life cycle, wildlife gardening, habitat preservation, and West County’s rich agricultural heritage. There will be docents to assist with butterfly and bird sightings; informational displays, self-guided tours; children’s activities; plant, book, and stationery sales.
Please, no smoking or pets. For more information:
www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org or (707) 823-3420

Estero Americano Preserve Workday
July 10, 10am-2pm.
Come join Sonoma Land Trust and REI for a stewardship workday at the scenic Estero Americano Preserve near the town of Bodega. Together we will steward this unique coastal grassland area by removing invading thistles and collecting native grass seed for grassland enhancement. Level 2

RSVP to volunteer@sonomalandtrust.org or (707) 544-5614 x2.

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 from 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.

Cunningham Marsh Clean-up (May 3rd) Much thanks goes to John Herrick, Kate Symonds, Bill Krawetz, Terry Moores and Pat Sesser who gave a few hours of their time to weed the Pitkin Lilies. All exclosures are ready for the season.
Marcia Johnson
Steward, Cunningham Marsh

Sonoma Land Trust
Celebrating the Jenner Headlands and introducing The Wildlands Conservancy
More than 200 people representing more than 20 organizations involved in the five-year campaign to protect the Jenner Headlands celebrated with us last month on this spectacular coastal property. In our quest to protect the Jenner Headlands for current and future generations to enjoy, we have always planned to turn the property over, in time, to an organization with expertise in providing outdoor educational programs and enhanced public use. At this event, SLT executive director Ralph Benson announced an agreement to co-manage the property with The Wildlands Conservancy (TWC) and the intention for TWC to take ownership of the Jenner Headlands at some point over the next three years.

Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery
I want to thank Kathi Dawdakian, Patricia Sesser and Deb for their generous contribution of spring flowering plants for our Santa Rosa
with hwy 128, north of Healdsburg. Contact Lynn Houser at housers@sonic.net for more information.

Plaskett Meadows, Black Butte, Anthony Peak with Peter Warner
June 25-27
This botanically rich area of the Mendocino National Forest has delighted many of us in the past, and the camping and camaraderie are a bonus. We'll camp at Plaskett Meadows Masterson Group camping area on Friday and Saturday nights, and explore the meadows, peaks, and forests for a broad array of plant life, and indulge in a short drive to Mendocino Pass and Anthony Peak for yet more plant diversity. An extensive plant list of the area is available.

Please contact Peter if you plan on attending.
Peter: (707) 829-1183; phytopagan@gmail.com

Field Trips

Estero Americano Hike
June 5
Join us in visiting this Sonoma Land Trust property and endeavor to view the coastal grassland habitat, rocky outcrops, and marshy area tangent to the Estero itself. Our hike with grass experts will traverse prairie hills and brackish/salt marsh areas of the Preserve. Bring you binoculars and a camera for spectacular views and soaring raptors along the way. Dress in layers, bring water, lunch, and prepare for windy conditions. RSVP for additional information to outings@sonomalandtrust.org or cindytancreto@pacbell.net 528-9225.
Level 2.

Mayacamas Sanctuary
June 13, Sunday
9:30-1:00
See what’s growing at the Sanctuary nearly 6 years after the wildfire. A joint hike with Madrone Audubon. Meet at the first bridge on Pine Flat Road, just east of its intersection

Welcome New Members

This month we welcome Cindy Belluomini. Here is a little bit about her and why she joined the Milo Baker Chapter:

I moved to Kenwood about 18-months ago after falling in love with the Sonoma area during my oldest son's SSU stay. One of my four sisters lives in Mt Veeder and is very involved with the Napa chapter. I've gone on hikes, helped with their plant sales, etc and thought that I should really join CNPS in my own County allowing me to meet others who enjoy California natives, not only in nature, but in their own yards too. I specifically came to the last board meeting to join. I am looking forward to new adventures.

Welcome Cindy!
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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Programs/Lectures, Leia Giambastiani, 322-6722, leiagia@gmail.com
Publicity, OPEN
Rincon Ridge Park, Patricia Sesser, 528-9197, ptrisha@sbcglobal.net
SCCC Rep., Wendy Krupnick, 544-4582, wendyk@pon.net
Southridge Preserve, OPEN
SRJC Representative: OPEN
SSU Rep., Frederique Lavoipierre, 829-0751, lavoipie@sonoma.edu
Vine Hill Preserve, Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, Sarahpgordon@gmail.com

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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Pitkin lily

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Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the July/August
Newsletter is June 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