

Milo Baker Chapter California Native Plant Society

Calendar

4/3	Ice Plant Removal
4/6	Ice Plant Removal
4/10	Ice Plant Removal
4/14	Jepson Prairie Hike
4/15	Submissions deadline: May Newsletter
4/16	General Meeting
4/17	Ice Plant Removal
4/20	Healdsburg Ridge Hike
4/24	Ice Plant Removal
4/25	Sonoma Horticulture Nursery Tour
4/29	Stump Beach Hike

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April General Meeting: April 16, 2019 at 7:30 PM.

Fire-adapted Landscapes With Steven Swain

Steven Swain, Environmental Horticulture Advisor for the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension for Marin and Sonoma Counties, has spent considerable time and energy over the years in researching and writing about the issue of what does the term "fire resistant species" really mean.



How does this affect home owners, builders, landscape designers, and fire fighters? How accurate are the current lists being circulated by various entities and organizations and what do these "fire resistant plant lists" really represent?

Steven feels the crux of the matter is not what plants will burn or not burn; "...most will burn if neglected and most can be maintained in a fire-resistant condition." He states "It's not about species. It's about landscape design and maintenance."

Join us for a stimulating and possibly controversial discussion about the considerations involved in adapting your own home and landscape to an environment where fire has been a regular part of the ecology for thousands of years.

General Meeting Plant Raffle

For 2019 general meetings, any member bringing a non-member to the meeting will receive an extra 5 raffle tickets! Ask when you sign in.



Join us for Dinner before the April Meeting: We'll gather for dinner at 5:45 pm at Kirin Restaurant, 2700 Yulupa Ave. We hope our speakers 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 at 833-2063 or lizpar8993@aol.com before noon on the day of the meeting, if you plan to attend.

General Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa. Milo Baker Chapter Board meetings start at 7 pm, 2nd Tuesday nine months of the year, Environmental Center, 55 Ridgeway Ave, Ste A, Santa Rosa. **The next Board meeting is April 9th.** Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!

Chapter News

A Message from our Chapter President

On a clear mid- March day I wandered the two preserves on Fountaingrove Ridge with our new manager Michelle Karle. As we walked carefully across the flat area, burned only 17 months before, I realized there is a low mat of many native plants thriving in a relative absence of competitive weeds. At the South Ridge acreage, we saw many new manzanita stump sprouts and seedlings, blooming short iris, and Scarlet Fritillary (*Fritillaria recurve*). While the damage to these areas was extensive, the plants seem to be making a recovery.



Michelle braved the deluge in February with Greg Wahlert, a previous steward who made the stop a priority on a visit from So. Cal. Michelle stepped up to tackle the manager position late last year. She works part time for the Sonoma County Regional Parks and at Muir Woods National Park. She grew up in South Texas, and at one point completed vegetation mapping at the Pinnacles National Park. She is the mother of 3, all under the age

of 14, so she will need lots of volunteer help as she identifies plants, then develops and executes a plan for protecting them and the habitat at our preserves. If you see her at our meetings, please welcome her to our chapter.

The Milo Baker Board met on March 12 and had a lively discussion of budget priorities for our next fiscal year. We are in excellent financial shape following a year of successful plant sales and fundraising. We currently have 483 chapter members.

Next month will bring many opportunities to see our lovely spring wildflowers, and to participate in many activities planned around Earth Day and in preparation for the Eco Friendly Garden tour. It is time to enjoy some warm dry weather.

🦋 Wendy Smit
Milo Baker Chapter President



Eco-Friendly Garden Tour

May 4, 2019, 10AM- 4PM

Each year, over 1000 people are introduced and inspired by native gardens on the Eco-Friendly Tour. It is a great way to educate about the importance of using natives in the garden and to introduce the public to CNPS.

Be sure to save the date on your calendar. If you haven't already signed up to volunteer, we still need Greeters and Parking Helpers.

Contact Sandi Martensen, martselb@sonic.net, if you are interested in volunteering. If you can't volunteer, we hope you will still visit gardens. Registration for the free tour at <http://www.savingwaterpartnership.org/eco-friendly-garden-tour/>.



Photo courtesy of Betty Young; Ceanothus ssp.

🦋 Betty Young
Plant Nursery Chair

Horticulture Committee

The Sonoma County Living Learning Landscapes demonstration garden project at the Santa Rosa Junior College is underway.

Come out and help us get the plants installed at 1808 Albany Drive Santa Rosa. Learn about this exciting demonstration garden CNPS Milo Baker is installing with 100% California Native Plants.

Learn more at LivingLearningLandscapes.com or find the plans on our CNPS Milo Baker website. Save the dates: April 19th 11-3 and April 20th 10-12 for our California Native Planting Party!

🦋 April Owens
Horticulture Chair

Invasive Plant Committee

Weekly Ice Plant Removal

Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 PM

Doran Beach

One of the most pleasant workdays happens every week – a trip to Doran Beach to pull ice plant. We are clearing out the ice plant that is in the marshland to make room for natives. It is very visual and quite satisfying, with the sound of the waves, birds and foghorn. To join us on a Wednesday, Please text Jan to let her know that you are coming: 707-569-4724.

We'll also meet Saturday April 6th from 10 am to 1 pm!

Meet at Penny's 1201 Garden Lane, in Sebastopol, by 9:00 to carpool OR meet at first parking lot on left after kiosk across from the walking path.

🦋 Jan Lochner,
Invasive Plants Chair

Fieldtrip Report

Willow and Salmon Creek Road

February 23 & 24, 2019

"I guess my feet know where they want me to go,
walkin' on a country road." James Taylor

Feb. 23 – Salmon Creek Road

So we set out on a cool damp morn, anticipating the first floral harbingers of spring. Salmon Creek is a fine country road for strolling, vibrant habitat hard along the pavement (and puddles), and affording re-acquaintance with the myriad delights that relatively untrammelled thoroughfares can offer. Along the way to western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*: Thymelaeaceae; CA rare plant rank 1B.2), we were greeted by pink flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum*) and its sister, canyon gooseberry (*Ribes menziesii*). The leatherwood had just begun its late winter flowering, and the poison-oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) sufficed to fend off human trampling of its humus-rich soils (thank you!), but a few shrubs leaned out from the wood to entice us with its delicate dangling lemon-yellow blossoms. Fresh young foliage of twinberry, osoberry, ninebark, and honeysuckle enlivened the backdrop of bay, Douglas-fir, and deciduous red alder, box-elder, buckeye, hazel, and other shrubs. Alas, coast silktassel (*Garrya elliptica*), was not in flower here, at the peak of its flowering season. But we found some solace in the myriad soft-hairy catkins of willows, arroyo (*Salix lasiolepis*) and Scouler (*S. scouleriana*) among them.

We reversed course to visit the second subpopulation of leatherwood, encountering a few more perennial wildflowers along the way: milk maids (*Cardamine californica*) and a diminutive sibling, bitter cress (*Cardamine oligosperma*), along with another mainstay of late winter flowering, hound's-tongue (*Cynoglossum* [*Adelinia*] *grande*). We also happened upon a splendid display of white trillium (*Trillium albidum*), numerous ferns, and some very large snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus* var. *laevigatus*) shrubs, still clinging to wrinkled, brown "slushballs" (rotting old fruits!) along branch-tips. Some of the old buckeye trees along the road are truly magnificent, limbs to twigs festooned with *Ramalina*, *Usnea*, and other lichens.

After finding the second, more cryptic, patch of leatherwood, we visited an emerging population of a robust perennial *Phacelia*, most likely *P. nemoralis*, not a "rare" plant, but rather uncommon in Sonoma County. We agreed a return visit in later spring was now necessary to see the bristly foliage grace itself with some flowers (albeit, not very showy ones).



Photo courtesy of Peter Warner; *Trillium albidum* – Green Valley Road

Feb. 24 – Willow Creek Road

Another day, another dead-end road for a peaceful stroll: Once again, we didn't get too far, but we saw over thirty plant species in flower – not bad for end of February! (Yes, many of them were "weeds," but plants to note and celebrate nonetheless.) Mertens saxifrage (*Saxifraga mertensiana*) was just starting to produce delicate white flowers capping naked stalks (peduncles) on a large rock outcrop, with nearby nests of hens-and-chicks (*Sedum spathulifolium*) and hedges of leather fern (*Polypodium scouleri*). Amidst the dusky-footed wood rat (*Neotoma fuscipes*) condos lining the Russian River and Willow Creek, beneath a canopy of red alder, box-elder, and willows, we spied a robust stand of fat false Solomon's-seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*), its first flowers just emerging. As well, the first magenta blossom of salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), then another, greeted us from sodden thickets of willows, ferns, and slough sedge (*Carex obnupta*). Spindly ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*) shrubs sported fresh leaves -- looking much like currant foliage – and a few early flowers.

We spied one lone buttercup plant (*Ranunculus californicus*) in flower along the roadside – are buttercups late in flowering this cool, wet winter, or what? One of my favorite shrubs for its chandeliers of pendent white flowers, osoberry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), was just starting to bud, but no fully open flowers could be found – a return in a couple of weeks is now on my calendar.

Among other notable denizens of the riparian corridor and flood plain of Willow Creek that we spotted were California phacelia (*Phacelia californica*), naked-stemmed buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum*), and the dubiously named old lady's hairnet (*Pterostegia drymarioides*), clinging to its customary habitat beneath rocks and shrubs and more robust herbs. As well, we found flowers on the sticky monkeyflower (the plant formerly known as *Mimulus aurantiacus* (now *Diplacus a.*)), and fresh foliage of its herbaceous, former *Mimulus* sibling, seep monkeyflower (*M. guttatus*, now *Erythranthe guttata*).

While approaching rainfall lurked overhead both days, these two trips were enlivened with light-hearted plant talk, astute observations, and the happiness of fellow plant nerds. Thank you to all who participated and gladdened my heart!

🍷 Peter Warner

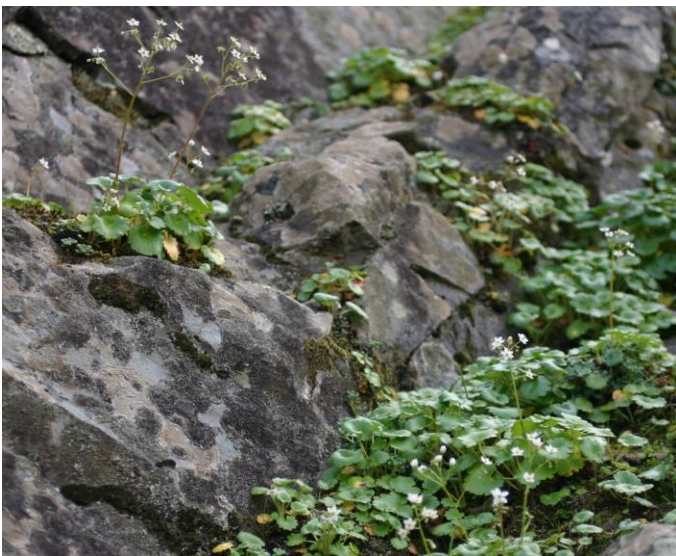


Photo courtesy of Peter Warner; *Saxifraga mertensiana* – Willow Creek Road

Events

Jepson Prairie Preserve

Sunday, April 14, 2019

10:30 AM to 3 PM

With Doug Wirtz

The hike will consist of viewing what vernal pool and upland flora as might be cooperative enough to bloom for us. The hike is relatively flat and easily travelled. If you wish to keep your feet dry boots might be recommended. Bring hat, water, sunscreen, and bag lunch. Also, as much as we enjoy sharing nature with our pets, dogs, cats, peacocks, to name a few, are not allowed on the prairie. The Cook Land is county owned and you can walk your pets along the road if you so choose. There will be no charge for the hike as you are a CNPS member but donations will be accepted to help fund the docents' program. We have recently produced a photo field guide for Jepson which is available for \$10.00 (cash).

Doug Wirtz is a retired member of the fire service who discovered digital photography and photo naturalism. I'm also qualified as a docent for Jepson Prairie and Rockville Trails Preserves. My job as a volunteer is to photograph all the preserves held by Solano Land Trust. If you'd like to see some of my work I have a presence on flickr.com. My screen name is ozone retired. I look forward to meeting you and sharing the panoply of native flora at Jepson Prairie.

West county carpool will leave at 8:30 from Sebastopol Lucky's, please rsvp to Ruthie. Santa Rosa carpool will leave at 8:30 from east end of park and ride under Highway 12, across from vet's hall. RSVP required to ruthiegardengirl@gmail.com or call 707-322-7462. There are no attendance limitations for this field trip.

Directions: The best waypoint for the Jepson Preserve is the only address on Cook Lane; your final destination. If you use the address 4975 Rio Dixon Road it will lead you to Hwy. 113. The recommended route from your area is to reach I-80. From there take the Hwy 12 exit and proceed east until you reach the Hwy. 113 turnoff on your left. Follow 113 north. You will reach a left turn and

about a mile to the west you approach a right turn. At that turn you must make a left onto Cook Lane. The first ¼ mile is paved and then you transition to compacted gravel. By the time you arrive I may direct the group to drive further down the road as we will likely have a lot of cars and visitors. Should some travelers arrive late, Doug's cell phone is (707)249-6853.

RSVP required to ruthiegardengirl@gmail.com or call 707-322-7462.

Healdsburg Ridge Hike

Saturday, April 20, 2019

10 AM to 2 PM

With Kate Symonds

Meet at the trailhead at the end of Bridle and Arabian Way off of Parkland Farms Blvd, at the north end of Healdsburg.

The 155-acre Healdsburg Ridge Open Space Preserve is owned and managed by the City of Healdsburg. We'll walk a 3-mile loop trail that will take us through a wide variety of natural communities including wetlands, oak woodlands, serpentine grassland, chaparral, and open grasslands. We'll also take in vistas of Fitch Mountain, the Russian River and the Mayacama Mountains. Easy to moderate walking. Bring water, bag lunch, hat, sunscreen, and hand lens, if you have one.

Santa Rosa carpool: meet at the east end of the Park & Ride under Highway 12, across from the Vets' Hall and SC Fairgrounds, leaving at 9:30.
West County Carpool: meet at Lucky Sebastopol, leaving at 9:30.

Hike leader: Kate Symonds, retired USFWS biologist, 707-318-3183

Sonoma Horticultural Nursery

Saturday, April 25, 2019

10 AM to 2 PM

With Mike Boss

The tour will wind through gardens in magical forest setting with pond, year-round creek, and a wetland, filled with many amazing and rare trees. We will get to experience the deciduous

Rhododendron occidentalis (western or California azalea) with its amazing fragrant and multicolored blooms. We'll also see large azaleas, camellias and several varieties of native plants. We'll see one of the largest and rarest deciduous trees in the country- a large grove of Metasequoia (dawn redwood). It will be a plant-lover's delight.

The garden has about two miles of trails, and while it is not strenuous, sturdy shoes or hiking boots are recommended because of uneven ground. Bring your own lunch to eat at picnic tables and seating areas throughout the garden. Please pack out what you bring.

Mike Boss is the new nursery owner, founder of an award winning landscape company, plant ecologist, and former docent at Stybing Arboretum. RSVP to ruthiegardengirl@gmail.com or call 707-322-7462.



Photo courtesy of Mike Boss

Stump Beach Wildflowers

Monday, April 29, 2019

10 AM to 2:30 PM

With Ann Howald

The coastal bluffs at Stump Beach always reward us with a myriad of spring flowers in a rainbow of colors. We should see: checkerbloom (*Sidalcea malviflora*) and hillside pea (*Lathyrus vestitus*) – pink flowers; footsteps-of-spring (*Sanicula arctopoides*) and common buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus*)- yellow flowers; Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*) and western dog violet (*Viola adunca*)- purple flowers; California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) and bush monkey flower (*Diplacus (=Mimulus) aurantiacus*)- orange flowers; brownie thistle (*Cirsium quercetorum*) and coastal bluff morning glory

(*Calystegia purperata* ssp. *saxicola*)- white flowers. Also many other wildflowers, ferns, flowering shrubs, a rare Ceanothus, Bishop pines (*Pinus muricata*), a few stunted grand fir trees (*Abies grandis*), and Tafoni- a geologic formation of mysterious origin.

Easy hiking, 1.5 miles or so, although there is a short, steep stretch down to the beach and a short, steep hill up the other side of the bluff. We need to cross Miller Creek, which may require a bit of rock-hopping, log-scooting, or foot-wetting, depending on your preference. Hiking poles may be useful. Bring snacks, lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, and hiking boots are recommended. Be prepared for chilly breezes up on the bluff. Dogs are not allowed at State Parks.

RSVP to ruthiegardengirl@gmail.com or call 707-322-7462.

Sierra Nevada Botany Course

Upper Feather River
June 23 -29 2019
Taught by Peter Warner

This introductory course explores the floristic and vegetational diversity of northern Sierra Nevada ecosystems. Course topics include identification of major vegetation types of the region, along with instruction in plant identification and general ecology. Course fees include meals and lodging – transportation is not included.

This course is not accredited nor affiliated with any educational institution. Instruction will be alternately detailed and casual, and will promote individually paced learning – no tests or grading. In addition to course content, students will be encouraged to devote time and thought to artistic expression, scientific study, or other appropriate means to communicate personal experience melded with ecological consciousness.

Participation limited. For further information contact Peter Warner phytopagan@sonic.net or (707) 666-9071.



Photo courtesy of Peter Warner

Upcoming Events

4/14/19 Jepson Prairie Preserve/ Doug Wirtz
4/20/19 Healdsburg Ridge/ Kate Symonds
4/25/19 Sonoma Horticulture Nursery/ Mike Boss
4/29/19 Stump Beach/ Ann Howald
5/30/19 Hood Mountain/ Peter Warner
7/15-18/19 Camping at Stillwater Cove
TBA Mayacamas Preserve/ Michelle Cooper*
*Mayacamas Preserve trip postponed due to landslide on Pine Flat Road.

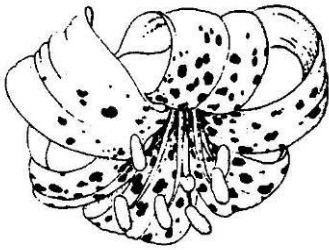
🦋 Ruthie Saia
Field Trip Coordinator
707-322-7462

Raise Funds while Grocery Shopping!

eScrip is a program where merchants donate a percentage (usually 3%) of your purchase to local schools and nonprofit organizations.

To register: go to escrip.com, choose "Milo Baker-CA Native Plant Society" and complete the enrollment steps. This is an easy way to help support our chapter!





CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Milo Baker Chapter milobaker.cnps.org
PO Box 892
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage Paid
Santa Rosa, CA
Permit #470

Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

Newsletter & Web Site Info:

Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Deadline for inclusion in the May
Newsletter is April 15th.
The chapter website milobaker.cnps.org
contains a wealth of information plus
current and archived newsletters.
For newsletter mailing/membership issues,
contact: cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com

Milo Baker Chapter Officers & Board of Directors 2017/2018

President:	Wendy Smit	707-481-3765, wsmit8000@gmail.com
Past President:	Leia Giambastiani	707-322-6722, leiagia@gmail.com
Vice President:	Liz Parsons	707-833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com
Secretary:	Kerry Wininger	707-888-5616, kerrywininger@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Jim Piercy	707-539-3441, terrapenecarolinamajor@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair:	Sean McNeil	707-480-2965, seanmcneil0@gmail.com
Cunningham Marsh:	Marcia Johnson	owlsnesttwo@att.net
Director at Large:	Penny Dalton	
Director at Large:	Cody Ender	codyender@gmail.com
Director at Large:	OPEN	
Field Trips:	Ruthie Saia	707-322-7463, ruthiegardengirl@gmail.com
Horticulture Chair:	April Owens	707-331-2070, aprilleeowens@gmail.com
Hospitality:	Becky Montgomery	707-573-0103, montyb@sonic.net
Hospitality:	Liz Parsons	707-833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com
Invasive Plant Chair:	Jan Lochner	707-569-4724, 4lochs@comcast.net
Membership:	Susan Dean	cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Caprice Disbrow	707-322-5119, cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com
Outreach Co-Chair:	Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven,	707-528-6030 vsteenhoven@sonic.net
Plant Sale:	Liz Parsons	707-833-2063, lizpar8993@aol.com
Programs/Lectures:	Virginia Hotz-Steenhoven,	vsteenhoven@sonic.net
Plant Nursery Chair	Betty Young	707-595-1463, youngb0721@msn.com
Publicity:	OPEN	
Rincon Ridge Park:	Michelle Karle	michelle_karle@hotmail.com
Sales Chair:	Judith Rousseau	707-326-6454, jrousseau12@hotmail.com
SCCC Rep.:	Wendy Krupnick	707-544-4582, wlk@sonic.net
Southridge Preserve:	Michelle Karle	michelle_karle@hotmail.com
SRJC Rep.:	OPEN	
SSU Rep.:	OPEN	
Web Site:	Molly Levitt	cnpsmb.webadm@gmail.com
Vine Hill Preserve:	Sarah Gordon	707-833-1243, sarahpgordon@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