Milo Baker Chapter
California Native Plant Society

April General Meeting/Speaker Series: Postponed

Chapter News

A Message from our Chapter President

Hounds tongue (*Adelinia grande)*. Photo Credit: Wendy Smit

April is super spring flower month in Sonoma County as so many wildflowers start blooming in our hills, oak woodlands and grasslands. Even in the flatland vernal pools are blanketed with low growing but exquisite flowers. The shrubs were exceptional earlier in the year, enjoying the clear and warm sunshine of a dry few months. And the prospect of coastal prairie flowers is yet to come.

One aspect of our local botany I never appreciated was the summer dormant plants which I thought were adapted to the dry months from May to November, often disappearing completely. This year I am understanding another adaptive reason for dormancy is as a tactic to survive fire. So many plants in our fire scorched hills are coming back, sometimes with a vengeance. From the buckeyes to the delicate bulbs.

Rarely have I seen better fields of lupines. It is annoying in my garden to lose those plants for the summer but this year in our fire scorched landscape we have surging Matilija poppies (*Romneya coulteri*), Hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*), Epilobium canum, Sticky monkey flower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), Pacific hounds tongue (*Adelinia grande*) and thick perennial grasses. Even the sorry looking manzanitas and silk tassel (*Garrya elliptica*) are making a brave comeback. Over millennia, these plants have evolved with drought and fire.

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Note: All volunteer work parties are cancelled until further notice.

The April Speaker Series (General Meeting) has been postponed and alternative options, such as zoom conferences are being considered for the May Speaker Series. Speaker Series (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 are held at 7 pm on the 2nd Tuesday nine months of the year, Environmental Center, 55 Ridgeway Ave, Ste A, Santa Rosa**.** Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!

Chapter News

A Message from our Chapter President, cont.

The last twelve months have been challenging for many of us but hopefully life will return to normal soon. I'm pretty sure many of our members are out enjoying the fresh air and our wonderful native flora.

I hope to see you on the trail later this season, a good way to reset our sense of wonder and appreciation for nature. There is nothing like viewing our local habitats changing with the seasons, the weather and the all-powerful forces that impact them. For each of you, I wish for a healthy and enjoyable spring.

Wendy Smit
Milo Baker Chapter President

Eco-Friendly Garden Tour and Spring Plant Sale

Unfortunately, the physical, in-person garden tour has been cancelled. Alternatives are being suggested, such as virtual tours of gardens, phone-in or online plant orders for pick-up, and many others. Please check our website or the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour website for updates.
http://www.savingwaterpartnership.org/eco-friendly-garden-tour/.

A big thank you goes to all the volunteers who had planned to help on May 2nd. Thanks to everyone for your support, your offers of help, and your creative ideas to keep this going.

Betty Young
Nursery and Garden Tour Chair

In the April Garden

As finally we get some rain, the California native garden is about to explode in bloom and our native shrubs are looking lush and full.

Vines are a good vertical addition to a garden on a fence or growing on other shrubs for support. We have some lovely native ones like these in the photo below.

Chaparral clematis (*Clematis lasiantha)* Photo Credit: April Owens

Chaparral clematis, *Clematis lasiantha* from one of our board member's gardens. Here it is clambering over a Coffeeberry, *Frangula californica*. These winter dormant vines are fairly easy to grow and love to climb a supporting shrub for a lovely spring display.

Another native plant species just starting to bloom are the Salvias. They are a diverse and wonderful flowering, pleasant smelling and insect attracting super plant for the Sonoma County garden. We have a bunch of wonderful species but here are a few favorites:

Salvias. Photo Credit: April Owens

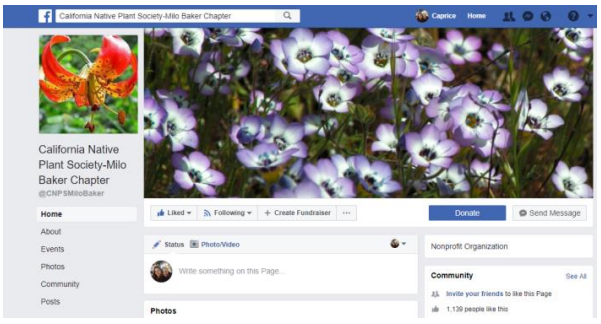
Pt Sal Sage (*Salvia* 'Pt Sal Spreader') (shown above). In two years, it is already taking up some real estate so make sure to leave some room for this one. Full sun and monthly water in summer especially on warmer inland sites. It works beautifully on the edges of the garden in masses of three to five.

Salvia 'Spathacea' (Hummingbird sage) Photo Credit: April Owens

Salvia 'Spathacea' (Hummingbird sage) is another consistent bloomer full of flowers right now. It likes a bit more water and part-sun. Tuck this sage in with some grasses or along a swale/low place in the garden.

Finally, we'd love to add photos of natives in our member's gardens. Send them along with a description of why you like it to cnpsmilobakerhorticulture@gmail.com.

Thanks!
The Horticulture Committee



Follow CNPS Milo Baker on Facebook!

It's a good place to get up-to-date information about what's going on with the Milo Baker Chapter. Find us at: https://www.facebook.com/CNPSMiloBaker

Field Trip Reports

Moss Walk at Annadel State Park Field Trip Report

From March 7, 2020

With Ben Carter, Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences San Jose State University

As the rain came down, we excitedly gathered to see the Mosses puff up before our eyes. The long-awaited rain came just in time for this deep learning experience into the microscopic world. Ben Carter blew our minds showing us how many species of Mosses, Liverworts, and Hornworts can be found on the surfaces of the park floor, trees and structures.

Mosses Photo Credit: Ruthie Saia

After instruction on how to use a hand lens to really see these one-celled plants we found at least 50 species only walking .9 miles!

Fieldtrippers. Photo Credit: Ruthie Saia

Ten slightly moist folks gathered for lunch, and we continued to find more species on our way back. How amazing to learn their life cycles and how they process energy. Super sporeific!

Ruthie Saia
Fieldtrip/Plant Walk Chair

Armstrong State Park Field Trip Report

From February 29, 2020 With Larry Williams

Fetid adder's tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii)* Photo Credit: Ruthie Saia

Trillions of *Trillium* were up to greet us as we strolled around the park. Larry the Tracker (Larry Williams) dove deep into the nature of the redwoods and the forest surrounding it.

Fourteen happy folks experienced the deep power of meeting redwood after redwood in an intimate way.

Fieldtrippers. Photo Credit: Ruthie Saia

Expounding on their growth habits and to see each as an amazing survivor. After lunch in the sun we had a treat at the redwood theatre seeing the blooming fetid adder's tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii)* in bloom. A lovely way to get the year started. Thank you to all who joined us.

Ruthie Saia
Fieldtrip/Plant Walk Chair

Plant Walks

Due to the Covid-19 virus, CNPS Milo Baker will be postponing plant walks until further notice. For more information and updates, please go to Milobaker.cnps.org.

Be well,
Ruthie Saia
Fieldtrip/Plant Walk Chair

Botany

There should be no monotony
In studying your botany;
It helps to train
And spur the brain--
Unless you haven't gotany.

It teaches you, does Botany,
To know the plants and spotany,
And learn just why
They live or die--
In case you plant or potany.

You learn, from reading Botany,
Of wooly plants and cottony
That grow on earth,
And what they're worth,
And why some spots have notany.

You sketch the plants in Botany,
You learn to chart and plotany
Like corn or oats--
You jot down notes,
If you know how to jotany.

Your time, if you'll allotany,
Will teach you how and what any
Old plant or tree
Can do or be--
And that's the use of Botany!

--Berton Braley
Science News Letter
March 9, 1929

Trillium. Photo Credit: Wendy Smit

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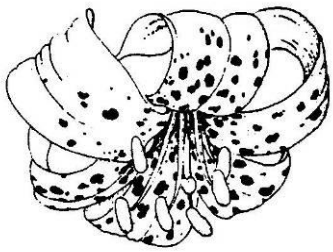

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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Santa Rosa, CA 95402

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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 2019/2020

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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

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