Milo Baker Chapter
California Native Plant Society

December Meeting: Wreath-making Workshop

December 21, 2021. 7:30 PM

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Good news! We will have our traditional wreath-making workshop at the December meeting and it will be inside the building (Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa, Ca, 95405)! Vaccinated people will not need to wear masks. There is a new floor so the cleanup will be super easy. *(Right photo: Betty Young and her wreath!)*

This event is for members only, it is a benefit for Milo Baker members. Liz Parsons will give you a few simple instructions and you will discover how easy it is to make a spectacular wreath for your home.

The Milo Baker Chapter will provide wreath rings, paddle wire, and greens for the wreaths. Most of the greenery comes from Alan Brubaker's Kenwood garden. Thank you, Alan. Members can bring any greenery to share, as well as pinecones, lichens, ribbons, but no red berries please. They are too hard to clean up after. Remember to bring your clippers. There will be cider and cookies for holiday cheer. Call or text Liz at 707-508-8345 if you have any questions. *(Left photo: Liz Parson's submission to the CNPS Wreath-Masters Contest!)*

Liz Parsons
Milo Baker Chapter Vice President

Speaker Series (General Meetings) are held at 7:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month via Zoom (or at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa when meeting in-person). Milo Baker Chapter Board meetings are held at 7 pm on the 2nd Tuesday nine months of the year, via Zoom or at the Environmental Center, 55 Ridgeway Ave, Ste A, Santa Rosa**.** Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!

Letter from our President

As the end of the year approaches it is a good time to reflect on our organization and how it functions. One important way it reaches the members is through the newsletter. Wider reach is made with publicity, website and social media. Milo Baker is lucky to have a group of fun energetic folks working on getting the word out about important issues, education, and events.

Do you want to help spread the word about the importance of native plants and their habitats—and also join a team of people who are passionate about the natural world? The Milo Baker Chapter is looking for an imaginative PR/publicity person who can spend a few hours a month promoting our events and mission. You may gain experience and make contacts that are useful for careers in the environmental field.

We are also looking for a new newsletter editor. This person will be trained in how to compile all the content submitted by others. A copy is then sent to our membership chair who forwards this to members. A copy is also sent to the website chairperson. The chapter publishes an edition 10 times per year, the deadline for content is 10-15 days ahead of the first of the month.

December 2021/January 2022

CNPS

MILO BAKER CHAPTER

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California Native Plant Society
Milo Baker Chapter Newsletter

March, 2003

Please contact me or Judith (for publicity) or Caprice (for newsletter) if you are interested in either of these positions. Board meeting attendance is not required.

I look forward to seeing you all at the wreath making workshop in December!

Wendy Smit
Milo Baker Chapter President

January Speaker Series

Resilient Landscaping: Gardening in the Defensible Space Zone

April Owens, Mimi Enright, Ellie Insley- Members of the Resilient Landscapes Coalition

Tuesday January 18th at 7:30 pm via Zoom (zoom link emailed day of event)

California's natural landscapes are some of the most beautiful and diverse in the country but can be challenging replicate them in our residential gardens. Resilient landscapes consider water savings, biodiversity, fire-wise principles, and beauty. As our climate changes, so must our gardens.

Join us for 'Resilient Landscaping: Gardening in the Defensible Space Zone' Learn how to create a more fire-wise landscape using the natives we (and our local wildlife) know and love. This talk will focus on Sonoma County plant communities as a basis for design. Also, we will present recommendations for fire-wise landscaping in the 0-5', 5-30', and 30-100' defensible space zones, with specific plant and design suggestions will be discussed.

Presenters: Members of the Resilient Landscapes Coalition (SonomaResilientLandscapes.com)
This coalition was formed in 2018 to understand what makes a landscape resilient, especially focusing on fire with the help of fire professionals to inform residential landscapes in Sonoma County.

- **April Owens**, Horticulture Chair for CNPS Milo Baker and Executive Director of the Habitat Corridor Project
- **Mimi Enright**, Program Manager, UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County
- **Ellie Insley**, Board Member at the Sonoma Ecology Center and Landscape Architect

Past Presentations: Want to watch any of our previous presentations? Visit our YouTube channel!

Fall Scholarship Recipients

Rose Mohan

For the past few years, I've been a student at the SRJC, plugging away at my degree in Landscape Design. I work as a designer for Equinox Landscape, a permaculture-based design company in Petaluma, with particular design emphasis on native plants. It is so satisfying to be able to immediately put what I learn in my classes into use. My favorite native plant of the moment is *Festuca californica*- so graceful and calming, beautiful year-round. Thanks to everyone at CNPS for supporting me!

Korina Pierson

Plants are my passion and being supported by the plant community to help me pursue a degree in Botany means a lot to me. Every day I learn something new from, or about plants. I cannot wait to see where my studies in Botany will take me, thank you so much for this scholarship to help me achieve this.

Doshia Dodd

Doshia Dodd is the Archaeological and Administrative Assistant at the Anthropological Studies Center at Sonoma State University. She is a first-generation graduate student currently in her third year of the Cultural Resource Management Master's program at Sonoma State University where she is undertaking innovative and original research on Native Californian plant utilization. She grew up loving plants and learning about them with her father. One of his greatest gifts to her was growing up in a household where the majority of the medicine consisted of plant based natural resources. Receiving this scholarship mean the world to Doshia, now she is able to add additional course work to help her build a better foundation for her career goal. Mrs. Dodd strives to be an archaeobotanist that aids Native Californians and local tribes to protect, manage and restore culturally significant natural resources.

Vinicius (Vini) Souza

M.S. Student, Hughes Lab - Department of Biology
Sonoma State University

Vinicius (Vini) Souza is a first year master student in the Hughes marine ecology lab. As an avid surfer and wave photographer, his love and passion for the ocean started at a very young age, and was influential in helping him pursue a career as a marine scientist. Vini transferred from Santa Rosa Junior College, and received his B.S. in marine biology from the University of California Santa Cruz in 2019. Between these two institutions, he gained valuable experience through field courses, independent projects, and scientific diving. As an AAUS certified scientific diver, he's executed scientific research, marine fieldwork, and underwater surveys in Corsica, Monterey, Sonoma, and Mendocino. Currently in the Hughes lab, Vini is working on a large-scale kelp restoration project that aims to out plant juvenile bull kelp cultured at the Bodega Marine Laboratory in two sites along

the Sonoma and Mendocino coast. In addition, his thesis focusses on the relationship between spawners and recruiters in red abalone, with hopes that it will aid in the modeling of protected areas for a species that's been decimated by a cascade of anthropogenic and climatic factors.

Andres Jojoa

Cities remove nature every year by building more houses, shopping malls, highways, businesses, among others. Animals flee to the mountains because of the loud sounds of the highways, the lighting of streets and buildings, and ourselves. Many birds, mammals and pollinators travel back and forth and when they try to cross a city they die because they cannot find water or food sources to feed on. Many people grow plants that are not native to where they live and the animals do not feed on them, it takes a lot of water, fertilizers and other things to sustain them. This is why I have decided to create a garden at Santa Rosa Junior College with only native plants that don't require lots of water and are host plants for butterflies and pollinators. I want to make a place for them to stop when they fly through Santa Rosa. I know that other animals will benefit from this project, such as birds. I want to survey the area to see who will be the first to arrive and so to this garden that will be a home for pollinators. As a student it's hard to work on different things, but I'm glad and appreciate we have donors who help us financially by providing us with the opportunity to work on projects like this instead of working for a living.

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Sonoma County Living Learning Landscapes** first Friday of the month at 10am meet 1808 Albany Drive Santa Rosa email or call April Owens aprilleeowens@gmail.com, 707.331.2070.
- **Invasive Ice Plant Removal** Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 at Doran Beach. Text Invasive Plant Chair Jan 707.569.4724 to find out where they are working let her know you are coming!

Member Spotlight

April Owens

What is your current role in the CNPS Milo Baker chapter?

Horticulture Chair and Member of the Communications Committee

What is your favorite place to go to look at California native plants in Sonoma County?

I really enjoy Annadel State Park - lovely in all seasons. Also, Sugarloaf State Park for amazing spring wildflower shows.

What is your favorite memory associated with CNPS Milo Baker?

My favorite memory associated with CNPS Milo Baker has to be the group hiking and camping trips. I've made remarkable friendships over the 13 plus years on the board What's better than a group of friends to nerd out on plants with?! I look forward to those times again post Covid. We've been all over California.

This is where I want to give a plug for joining in or even filling one of the positions needed on the board. I'd even like to find someone interested in replacing me as Horticulture Chair - I feel like I've been doing it for too long. The best part of CNPS Milo Baker is our people. Start by coming to a board of directors meeting or showing up for volunteer days at Doran Regional Park, at the Sonoma County Living Learning Landscapes workdays, the plant sale or the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour. Such a diversity of positions and places to promote the use and conservation of native plants.

Every time I've volunteered for a position the experience has opened doors for me in my career. I highly suggest people try out board positions especially if you want to meet like-minded friends or if you want to make a career with California native plants.

What do you do when you're not enjoying California native plants?

Hmm... well my job as a landscape designer lets me enjoy them while at work. I also run a small non-profit that promotes California native plants and habitat. So most of my time is focused on them. I also love a long afternoon in my garden (again plants!) with a great book watching bumble bees and birds.

What's your favorite CA native plant?

That is too hard! This time of year, it is certainly Manzanita - I am enjoying one blooming outside my office window right now. Every once in a while, a bumble bee pops by. They are lovely and come in so many shapes and sizes.

Photo: 2019 Julie Kierstead Nelson, Arctostaphylos manzanita

Why are California native plants important to you?

I've spent my career studying them in their natural ecosystem on hikes with botanists. I only recently, in the past six years or so, discovered the delightful life that lives on them as well. I think they are our chance to use our landscapes as islands for habitat and love to watch these gardens evolve as the plants grow in. I feel like I'm saving biodiversity with each garden I plant. Clients will remark how they never noticed hummingbirds in their gardens or tell me how many different types of bees are on their Coffeeberry (another favorite plant of mine). I remember when I was young and overwhelmed by how we humans were ruining the environment and I didn't know how to help, my mom said to focus on one thing - something you can do. Well, getting all these native gardens in to replace conventional gardens and showing people how they can thrive has become that thing. These plants make that mission easy since they are so beautiful.

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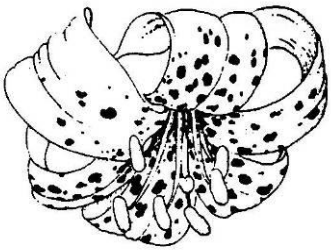
Nominate a member!
Email cnpsmbnewsletter@gmail.com to nominate someone or for more information.



Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense
Pitkin lily

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Milo Baker Chapter milobaker.cnps.org
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Newsletter & Web Site Info:

Send newsletter submissions to:
Editor, **cnpsmbnewsletter@gmail.com**
Deadline for inclusion in the February Newsletter is January 20th.
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 2020/2021

President	Wendy Smit	707-481-3765	wsmit8000@gmail.com
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Conservation Co-Chair:	Trish Tatarian	707-799-7750	Trishtatarian@gmail.com
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Hospitality:	Liz Parsons	707-833-2063	lizpar8993@aol.com
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Rincon Ridge Park:	Michelle Karle		michelle_karle@hotmail.com
Cunningham Marsh:	Marcia Johnson	707-829-3808	owlsnest.marcia@icloud.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

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