

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**MILO BAKER**



## **July/August 2020 Newsletter**

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### **A Message from our Chapter President**

One unmistakable aspect of this summer is that we are all learning the wide ranging results of a shelter in place followed by a limited ‘opening up’ order of our County Health Officer. For the Milo Baker Chapter it has been disruptive but not impossible to carry on some of our activities. It is regrettable that we are forgoing a season of group plant walks as well as friendly and lively member meetings and presentations. We apologize for any problems this has presented to you, our members. We are hoping to be able to get back to relatively typical gatherings and hikes soon. But in the meantime, our picnic and all other group events are cancelled.

Because of the rapidly changing regulations and also people’s individual needs, we are hoping to be able to communicate with you between newsletters by sending emails. These would be very occasional, and we never give out your addresses. To improve our ability to reach you, the Milo Baker Board has approved formation of a Communications Committee, chaired by April Owens. The committee consists of Susan Dean (Membership), Caprice Disbrow (Newsletter), Natasha Granoff (Website) and Allison Titus (Social Media). They meet regularly in Sebastopol at a coffee shop to discuss the changing demands and technology overtaking our situation. The CNPS state office has embarked on a new software program for managing email. You may have noticed that the June newsletter looked quite different. This is because it is our first try at ‘Luminate’ . Caprice has been training and

experimenting on the system, grappling with uploading color photos and formatting. It is still a work in progress. Susan pours over the member list every month to fine tune the data. Another aspect is an upgrade to our website. This too is in development. Natasha keeps the information fresh and timely. Please check it for news! The newsletter will continue to be printed and mailed. Allison has been diligent in providing beautiful plant photos on social media. If you like to participate, please search for our links on Facebook or Instagram.

The Milo Baker Board will once again meet in July, most likely over Zoom. Our goal is to have a virtual presentation ready to go, for members, soon. You may be weary of Zoom meetings but for now we have no alternative. Our own Caprice Disbrow presented with the Laguna Foundation a webinar on “Plants, Pollinators, and Co-Evolution”. Be sure to keep an eye on the Laguna Foundation offerings ([lagunafoundation.org](http://lagunafoundation.org)) as they are very relevant and informative.

Finally, the Fall Plant Sale is still on!! Betty Young and her group of propagators have been busy potting up plants for the sale. Most likely there will be a limited number of people allowed on site at the nursery at any one time, but over a few days we hope to have a successful sale. Thanks to all our plant sale workers for their hard work and planning. Stay tuned for more information!

Have a wonderful healthy summer. Please call or email if you have questions or comments.

-Wendy Smit, Milo Baker Chapter President

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July/August Speaker Series postponed. Virtual events are being considered. Volunteer work and plant walks are also postponed for the time being. Please visit <https://milobaker.cnps.org/> for updates.

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# **Betty Lovell Guggolz 1923-2020 - What She Began**

**By Liz Parsons**

The founder of the Milo Baker Chapter, Betty Lovell Guggolz, died on April 17. She was living with one of her daughters in Tennessee at the time. She was 96 and died of natural causes. A very long obituary written by Chris Smith appeared in the May 12 Press Democrat; I hope that all members have been able to read it. It was a wonderful tribute to Betty and spoke about her importance in the early years of the environmental movement in Sonoma County. For our MBC newsletter, I want to write a more personal view of Betty and her work for 30 years for the Conservation and Rare Plant committee of the Milo Baker Chapter..

I joined the Chapter in 1976 after taking a Field Botany class at the SRJC with Steve Barnhart. His teaching assistant was Nancy Harrison (who died in June) and she was the President of the Milo Baker Chapter at that time. Nancy encouraged students to attend the general meetings of the CNPS on the third Tuesday of the month. This was the beginning of my long association with the MBC. I admired Betty Lovell and the other members like Vanette Bunyon and Ruth Hass, who were so active in the protection of local plants. Soon I was growing plants and working on the plant sale. I always felt that the money raised by the sale supported the Conservation work of the Chapter.

Betty Lovell founded the Milo Baker Chapter on March 2, 1972. Fifteen charter members attended that first meeting. It was a small beginning for our chapter that was to become one of the largest and most important chapters of the California Native Plant Society. The first plant sale was held in Santa Rosa Courthouse Square and made a profit of \$276.00. The plants were mostly salvaged from the area that is now Spring Lake and from the area that would be flooded by the Warm Springs Dam.

James Roof, distinguished botanist and the director of Tilden Park Native Plant Garden, botanized with Milo Baker and knew the locations of many rare plants and special habitats in Sonoma County. He went on field trips with members of the chapter and introduced them to areas of Sonoma County that he thought were of great concern. These included: the Vine Hill area that became a preserve owned by the CNPS and maintained by MBC. Rare plants found there include *Arctostaphylos densiflora* (Vine Hill Manzanita) and *Ceanothus foliosus* var. *vineatus* (Vine Hill Ceanothus). The *Clarkia imbricata*, Vine Hill Clarkia, was transplanted to the Preserve from an area what was to be destroyed by a construction project.

Another special habitat that James Roof showed the group was the Fountain Grove area which was totally undeveloped at the time. He showed them the two rare plants that grew there: *Arctostaphylos stanfordiana* subsp. *decumbens* (Rincon Ridge Manzanita) and *Ceanothus confusus* (Rincon Ridge Ceanothus). These rare and endangered plants are on two preserves maintained by the Chapter. These preserves exist because of Betty and her work with the developers and the homeowners to make sure that some of the native habitat would be preserved after all of the houses were built. This was a 10 year effort. Betty was tenacious!

Betty relocated the Cunningham Marsh near Sebastopol and she worked with homeowners and CA Fish and Wildlife, to create a Conservation Easement maintained by the Chapter. This is the Cunningham Marsh Preserve. Thanks to Betty Young's work, the Chapter has received grants to fund the preservation and maintenance of the *Lilium pardalinum* var. *pitkinense*, (our Chapter logo). The Pitkin lily was originally found in the Pitkin Marsh, a well known rare plant habitat. The lower Marsh was recently purchased by open space district.

Betty embodied the ideals of the CA Native Plant Society. She was a self-taught amateur

botanist. Although she was not an academic, but her expertise was respected and sought after by public agencies such as planning departments and CA Fish and Game. The California Native Plant Society is collectively made up of people with a keen interest in botany and plants, people with a deep belief in citizen science who know that an individual can make a difference, but that there is power in a group of like minded individuals.

In 1974, the passage of the Environmental Protection Act put into motion a drive for each state to compile a list of rare and endangered plants to be sent to the Smithsonian Institute. CNPS was selected to do this job in California and Betty and the local committee undertook the task of field checking herbarium labels for this area that were furnished by a team of botanists. This group of dedicated amateurs from the Milo Baker Chapter went all over the county. Since Betty didn't drive, there were always two or three people in a car looking for the plants. I can remember when Betty and I found *Limnanthes vinculans* (Sebastopol Meadowfoam) on LLano Road. We found it on Occidental Road in a field near what is now the Earl Baum Center for the Blind. On Piner Road, we found a colony of *Lasthenia burkei* (Burke's Goldfields) in an area that was to become apartments. There is still a small vernal pool in the center of the apartment complex! In the Sonoma Valley Regional Park, we found *Blennosperma bakeri* (Sonoma Sunshine), in time to prevent it from being bulldozed and turned into an archery range. Yes, it is named after our Milo Baker. These three vernal pool annuals are now federally listed rare plants. This was a very exciting time for the members of the chapter.

In 1984, Betty Lovell married Jack Guggolz and they became a dynamic duo who did extensive field work for many projects. When they were doing botanical work for the Willets by-pass, they both found a specimen of a "new" daisy. It is now called *Harmonia guggolziorum*! A crowning achievement that can be found in the new Jepson Manual (2012). Their many specimens are housed at the Sonoma State Herbarium. As a result, they have many credits in the Sonoma County Flora (Knight, 1996).

Betty received many honors for her work. In 1988, she was made a Fellow of the California Native Plant Society. This honor recognized all of her work in Sonoma County and with the State organization. She was our Chapter Council representative for many years. In 2013, she was named Environmentalist of the Year by the Sonoma County Conservation Council.

In 1997, the California Native Plant Society published a beautiful book called California's Wild Gardens, a Living Legacy filled with color photographs of CA plants in their special California habitats. On page 78-79 you will find a wonderful article written by Betty about the Santa Rosa Plain Vernal Pools and the three federally listed vernal pool species. When Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey organized the Vernal Pool Task Force, she asked Betty to serve from 1991 to 1997. She was the co-author of the Seasonal Wetland Baseline Report for the Santa Rosa Plain. She attended many meetings and always contributed and worked tirelessly to preserve the remaining vernal pools.

Betty and Jack retired from active participation in the Chapter in 2001 and Jack passed away in 2001. Betty continued consulting with agencies and kept up her interest in botany and California plants. But she lived in Cloverdale and didn't drive, so it was hard for her to get to meetings. As a result, many current members did not have the opportunity to get to know Betty. This is unfortunate because she was a tireless advocate for California plants, especially Sonoma County plants.

She would be pleased that the Milo Baker Chapter is such a dynamic group. We are very actively managing our preserves. We have a young and knowledgeable Board of Directors who are eager to promote the goals of the Society. Our 10 general meetings have presentations by knowledgeable people and are attended by members and the

public. Our field trips are well attended and always in areas with great botanical interest. The Milo Baker Chapter has an active Conservation group that reviews many planning documents for their impact on plants and habitats. We are particularly proud of the scholarships that we give to Santa Rosa Junior College students with an interest in botany. We also give grants to Sonoma State University students to help them carry out their field work. The Chapter has a wonderful horticulture presence. The Eco Friendly Garden tour had to be canceled this year, but there have been 4 very successful tours. The plant sale is better than ever with our new shade house and green house at the Laguna Foundation. We had our first fall sale at the Laguna and it was very successful. Recently, the spring sale was held on line with personal deliveries and this new format worked very well.

The Milo Baker Chapter that Betty started in 1972 is doing very well. Thank you for your support. If you are reading this, you have an interest in California botany just like Betty did. Think of how far it took her...an interested and dedicated amateur. A woman who was tenacious in her pursuit of conserving rare plants and habitats in Sonoma County.

We will miss her, but we are beneficiaries of her legacy.

## **Nancy Harrison: 1936-2020**

The obituary of Nancy Harrison was published in the June 17, 2020 edition of the Press Democrat. Nancy was the second President of the Milo Baker Chapter. She served from 1974-1975. She was a teaching assistant in Botany at the SRJC where she was an tireless promoter of the Milo Baker Chapter and Sonoma County plants. In the obituary of Betty Guggolz in this newsletter, you will see that it was Nancy's influence that drew me to the CNPS and the Milo Baker Chapter. In a Field Botany course taught by Steve Barnhart, I went on some wonderful field trips with Nancy. She was so excited when she was in the field when coming across an interesting plant that she could share with us. She worked with Betty Lovell and other member of the Chapter to locate rare plants in Sonoma County. Her influence in the Chapter was not as great as Betty Lovell Guggolz, but she was just as passionate about the plants.

-Liz Parsons, Milo Baker Chapter Vice President

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## **Spring Plant Sale**

WOW, what a surprise! As of mid-March we were all set for the Garden Tour and potting up the last of the plants for the Spring Plant Sale. Then whamo, our plant sale, like every facet of our lives was turned upside down.

Each of the gardens that CNPS was sponsoring, were on the virtual tour. Thanks to Trish Tatarian, April Owens, and Maggie Hart and Allison Titus for filming their video tours.

In the nursery, we couldn't see those plants being composted, our amazing Nursery Volunteer Team put in too many hours to waste, and those plants needed to be providing habitat in our gardens not in a compost pile. So we decided to go ONLINE. With the invaluable support from Maya Argaman, Horticulture Coordinator in the main CNPS office, we put our whole inventory online and had a sale anyway.

Amazingly, the sale was financially successful, grossing just slightly more than last year, \$5100. One advantage of the online sale is it gave us some interesting data; 38 orders from Santa Rosa, 27 from Sebastopol, 7 from Petaluma and a few each from many of our smaller towns. 807 plants are hopefully planted and providing beauty and habitat.

We regret that the Press Democrat published the article about the virtual Garden Tour and plant sale a week earlier than requested, so the public knew before we could send out the pre-sale notice to our members and that we sold-out so quickly after that.

Since we could not have the public at the nursery, the sale never would have happened without an amazing team of volunteers. Thanks so much to all of our masked volunteers; Judith Rousseau, Penny Dalton and Natasha Granoff for helping to pull our 100 orders. Deliveries were made from Healdsburg to Petaluma and Cazadero to the Petrified Forest by; Cindy and Bob Tancreto, Bryan Sesser, Leia Giambastiani, Wendy Smit, Wendy Born, Susan Dean, Liz Parsons, Christine Fontaine and Penny, Judith and Natasha. Their willingness to help, to jump right up when needed on the spur of the moment and good cheer made an otherwise crazy situation so pretty smoothly.

My thanks and admiration to you all.

-Betty Young, Milo Baker Chapter Nursery and Garden Tour Chair

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## **Signage in the Garden**





When Shelter-in-Place started late March my neighborhood exploded with walkers. Spring bloom was well on its way in my yard including poppies, lacy phacelia, blue-eyed grass, coral bells, pacific iris, penstemon, monkeyflower, California aster and native grasses. I'm often working in the yard so people began asking about the plants. It was frequent enough that I thought it an opportunity to add signs, even erect a small holder for home printed information about gardening with natives. I bought metal garden sign holders and initially used a tape machine to label. Then migrated to Calscape species signs you can print from the website and had them laminated at Office Depot. Since April 20<sup>th</sup>, fifty three information sheets have been taken. Wouldn't it be great if that meant 53 more native gardens!











*Salvia apiana, Monardella sp, Madia elegans Eriogonum sp*

-Natasha Granoff, Milo Baker Chapter Website Chair

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## **Milo Baker Chapter Officers and**

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