Milo Baker Chapter
California Native Plant Society

May General Meeting/Speaker Series: Postponed

Chapter News

A Message from our Chapter President

It has been a disappointing spring for getting out and visiting our favorite hot spots for interesting and beautiful spring flowers. Living near Fitch Mountain in Healdsburg, I have been fortunate to be able to walk the road and see many of our local plants. I hope you too have been able to walk in your neighborhoods or nearby to observe small and large pockets of native plants. We are all hoping May will bring opportunities to hike our parks again. Stay tuned for a new set of plant walks (used to be called field trips) planned by our energetic Ruthie Saia. Email her (Ruthiegardengirl@gmail.com) if you would like to be on her e-mail list she uses to announce upcoming walks.

The Milo Baker Board held its first electronic meeting in April. We had 12 participants, not bad for a first time. At the meeting we thanked Penny Dalton who has given up her seat as Member-at-Large. Penny will continue to volunteer in gardens, the nursery and pulling ice plant. We will miss you, Penny! Taking her place, we elected Trish Tatarian who is interested in helping Sean on local conservation policy efforts. We also discussed the Milo Baker Scholarship Fund which has grown thanks to our very generous donor Sue Flagg. The chapter will be making an extra effort to find worthy students at the SRJC and SSU for awards. This year we will have two cycles with 2 awards each. They are $500 for Merit scholarships and $3,500 for research projects. Please contact me if you know of anyone who is interested in plant study and would benefit.

The time has come to think about new officers for January 2021. Leia Giambastiani has volunteered to be part of a Nominating Committee. The elected officers are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and 3 Members-at-Large. Please contact Leia (leiagia@gmail.com) if you want to join the Committee or would like to nominate someone (yourself?). Nominations are made in the Fall with the election at the regular meeting in November. (Message continued next page.)

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

The May Speaker Series (General Meeting) has been postponed and alternative options, such as zoom conferences are being considered for the June 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.

Our newsletter comes out 10 times a year and we are so lucky to have Caprice Disbrow, Susan Dean and Natasha Granoff publish them. Caprice edits the content and readies it for publication. Then our Membership Chair Susan Dean sends it out by e-mail with color photos. About a week later the printed, mailed copy arrives at mailboxes. Producing a print copy and mailing is quite expensive and we are hoping more members will send in their e-mail addresses to Susan cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com to minimize this expense. Newsletters are posted by Natasha on our website as soon as Susan sends it by e-mail.

The monthly "Regular Meetings: are now what we call "Speaker Series". Ruthie suggested the name change because "who wants to go to a 'meeting'?" Due to COVID-19, it is possible the venue will change to a virtual platform for June and July. Watch our website for more information on this. Or, call any one of the Board Members for timely information.

The Milo Baker chapter continues to be quite active and welcoming of all and any involvement. Come join us! Summer activities should return to 'normal' and we can enjoy native habitats together once more.

ꕥ Wendy Smit Milo Baker Chapter President

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.

ꕥ Ruthie Saia
Fieldtrip/Plant Walk Chair

In the May Garden

We received some lovely emails from our members after last month's announcement to send us photos of your garden!

For this month's 'In the May Garden' we're sharing the deep expertise our local chapter has about gardening with natives. Please email your stories, plant adventures, successes and failures to cnpsmilobakerhorticulture@gmail.com

This month's submissions:

Karen Kessel- Milo Baker Member

Here are 2 photos from my garden. The mimulus (monkey flower) suddenly brought forth its coral orange display of little trumpets above emerald carpet manzanita and Iris Douglasiana (Pacific Coast iris) bloom over the fallen petals of the fading camellia bush above them, emblems of winter turning to spring.

Cynthia Kayser- Milo Baker Member

A CA native plant that has delighted in my garden is Ceanothus griseus var. horizontalis 'Yankee Point.' Over about 5 years or so, a single 1-gallon plant grew to be over 11' in diameter. Beautiful flowers in spring and it attracts some very cute bees! Many thanks to Liz Parsons for her early encouragement and generously sharing her knowledge of gardening with native plants.

April Owens- CNPS Milo Baker Horticulture Chair

As our plant sale and virtual tour goes LIVE on May 2nd (Sign up now at http://www.savingwaterpartnership.org/eco-friendly-garden-tour/) you can get beautifully grown plants delivered to your door for a small fee! Check out the virtual tour for some plant ideas too!

I have a few combinations that I love so much - available at the sale - get a few of each to create a beautiful instant California native garden. Each has a shrub and some perennials for year-round interest.

In West Sonoma County or in part-shade:

- Aristolochia californica (Dutchman's Pipe) - vine or groundcover - attracts fabulous butterflies
- Eriogonum giganteum (Giant Buckwheat) - gorgeous pollinator attractor with large white blossoms
- Iris douglasiana (Douglas's Iris) - lovely bloomer
- Frangula 'Mound San Bruno' (Mound San Bruno Coffeeberry) - shrub
- Salvia spathacea (Hummingbird Sage)- flowering perennial - the name says it all!

In Santa Rosa or Eastern Sonoma County full sun:

- Ceanothus 'Concha' (Concha California Lilac) - gorgeous shrub covered in purple flowers
- Epilobium 'Calistoga' or 'Cloverdale' (California Fuchsia) - lovely groundcover covered in red flowers
- Diplacus 'Eleanor' Syn. Mimulus (Monkeyflower) - a wonderful group of flowering perennials with tons of colors. This one is a lovely peach with giant flowers
- Penstemon heterophyllus 'Margarita BOP' - (Foothill Penstemon) beautiful small perennial that does well near boulders or sidewalks

Leia Giambastiani - former CNPS Milo Baker President

Working from home I love to look out the front windows and see the green popping and flowering natives. Douglas iris, sticky monkey flower, hummingbird sage, blue blossom ceanothus, California poppy and red twig dogwood.

Karen Thompson-CNPS Milo Baker Board Member

First, my "garden" hardly qualifies to be called that. It is a beginner's work in progress, with no plan in place and random tryouts of native plants. It brings me so much joy and peace to walk through the wildflower meadow that is the backyard, to stand still, watch and listen as the insects and birds go about making their living. Bees, butterflies, dragonflies, hover flies. Birds whose names I do not yet know. The flowers are just coming into bloom.

Each morning I go out and watch the progression. It's good therapy after listening to the morning news, all corona virus all the time. The natural world goes on, and all's well. One

positive aspect of our shelter-in-place isolation is the opportunity to scout out ALL the weeds and pull them out before they can reproduce. Very satisfying.

The new western redbud tree has passed its full glory, so the photo is a few weeks old. Just had to share the thrill of it in bloom. I cannot even describe how happy I feel each time I look out the dining room window at that little tree.

The most exciting thing is watching how the native perennials purchased from the CNPS plant sale last year have thrived. My brain just explodes. The right plant in the right place doesn't NEED all the fussing and fertilizing. Natives are so lovely. How did I get this old and not know about native plants? I want more...

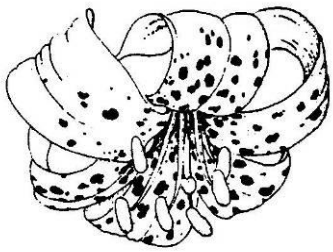
Susan Dean- CNPS Milo Baker Membership Chair

I love my native plants. The Sonoma sage is full of bumblebees and butterflies, and the Juncos nest under it.

Nature Heals. We hope you are safe and healthy.

Tell us your garden story at CNPSmilobakerhorticulture@gmail.com

The Horticulture Committee



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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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 June Newsletter is May 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

President:	Wendy Smit	707-481-3765, wsmit8000@gmail.com
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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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