

Milo Baker Chapter

September 2013

California Native Plant Society

Calendar

9/10	Board Meeting
9/15	Submissions deadline: September Newsletter
9/17	General Meeting
10/12	Annual Plant Sale

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General Meeting

Peter Veilleux - Gardening with California Natives

September 17, 2013 7:30 pm

Abstract: The September meeting will feature Peter Veilleux, preparing us for the plant sale on October 12! Discussing California native plants he uses in landscapes, he will share photos from amongst over 40,000 photos he has online, along with a few plants brought along to illustrate the discussion. Pete will share how he uses natives in a wide variety of settings, talk about how to plant and care for these plants and which locations are best for which. He'll also discuss using different types of mulch for different effects along with the use of boulders and cobbles for a very natural look, as well as which plants are best for those spots where nothing seems to want to grow. Bring your questions about gardening with natives, and look forward to some great photos and lots of good information on growing the plants that you will find at the sale.

Speaker Biography: Pete is the founder of East Bay Wilds, a design, install, maintenance company, and native plant nursery. Besides

attending presentations and lectures, collaborating and sharing information with knowledgeable horticulturists, ecologists, and botanists, he received his education exploring our local wild places. His favorites extend from the high sierra, to the Livermore Hills and Mount Diablo. He considers his most important tool to be his camera. One of his goals is to help people make the connection between their yards and the greater, wild world around us. He wants people to experience a little of the beautiful harmony that he sees when exploring the woods, meadows and high rocky outcrops in their own yards which can become 'bridges' for wildlife moving between these places.

You see the plants blooming but the names are unclear? No need to fret, Plant I.D. Hour is here! Arrive at 6:45 pm before the General Meeting, and bring specimens of plants you want to identify. **At Plant I.D. Hour** you can see plants up close and key them to species, while getting to know fellow Milo Baker Chapter members. Plants that you key out or learn with friends are easily remembered! Bring in some mystery plants to challenge us.

Join us for Dinner before the Meeting:

We'll gather for dinner at 6 pm at Kirin Restaurant, 2700 Yulupa Ave. We hope our speaker 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 by September 16, if you plan to attend.

General Meetings are held 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 September 10th.** Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!

State News

CNPS Rare Campaign

Did you know that nearly 1/3 of the plants in our state are rare? For nearly 50 years, CNPS has worked to save, protect, and celebrate the spectacular flora of California, and this summer we are pleased to announce a campaign to boost our efforts to conserve rare plants and rare plant communities: The CNPS Rare Campaign.



Since 1968, when CNPS President G. Ledyard Stebbins began the Rare Plant Program, to the present day, with the free online *CNPS Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants*, accessed daily by scientists, researchers, agency staff, environmental firms, and students- the conservation of rare plants has been at the heart of CNPS's mission. Amazingly, CNPS's incredible rare plant work is accomplished with both limited budget and staff - but you can help us do more. Please consider making a special gift to support this crucial work. We need your help to discover and publish more data, complete more science, and win more fights to save these irreplaceable treasures! Donations may be made online at www.cnps.org ("Designation: Rare

Campaign"), or by sending a check to CNPS Rare Campaign, 2707 K St, Ste. 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

CNPS Education Grants Program - deadline September 30th

The California Native Plant Society Educational Grant application period has opened. Four types of grants are available. The Committee determines which type of grant is appropriate for each proposal funded. Please see details at:

<http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/grants.php>. There is a new online application system, and proposals are due by Sept 30.

Chapter News

Still Seeking Newsletter Editor

We are still seeking a volunteer to take on the roll of Newsletter Editor.

The responsibilities of the position include:

- Establish and publicize clear timelines for each edition; remind people about upcoming and/or missed deadlines for articles
- Select good current interest pieces when appropriate; decide what material goes where in each edition
- Edit the newsletter content
- Ensure that both proofreading and mailing are on schedule
- Email the newsletter to the printer

The Newsletter Editor must be computer literate, a team player, highly motivated, and a good manager. If you can fill this role, or can recommend someone who might be interested, please contact cnpsmbnewsletter@yahoo.com.

Switch to an electronic newsletter

Sign up for a digital version instead of a hard copy of the newsletter by sending an e-mail to cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com. Thanks for going green!

Gardening with Natives

Western Mock Orange *Philadelphus lewisii*

Gardeners from the mid-west and the east will remember the sweet mock orange (from Europe) shrubs that were commonly grown with purple lilacs (from eastern Europe) and yellow forsythia (from China & Korea), and usually set as hedges or at intervals around the big back yard of green lawn. Memories of their early spring fragrances stay with us forever!

We in northern California have a native Mock Orange, the so-called Wild Mock Orange, *Philadelphus lewisii*. I have been growing this pretty shrub for several years in a perfect spot for it, where it gets some full sun, some shade, and some dappled shade. The site is well drained; I give it a monthly watering in the summer. Mock orange grows in the mixed woodlands of our Coast Ranges, so recreating that type of habitat is helpful.

Fall pruning keeps it shrubbier and denser than if it grows up and up.

The leaves are opposite, a bright light green, with its white flowers appearing in the late spring. Full of fragrance, the centers are crowded with frilly yellow stamens.

M. Nevin Smith, in his delightful book, "Native Treasures" (U. of CA Press), says that it will produce "many strong arching shoots from the base." My shrub, however, has remained rather columnar; I would like it grow bigger around, but it may need more time.

Mock Orange would be nice as a hedge or in a hedgerow, along with Spicebush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*) and *Carpenteria californica*, to which it is related, as they are both in the same family, Philadelphaceae.

🍷 Judy Brinkerhoff
joodbrink@comcast.net

Invasives Corner

An Army of Giant Reeds Marching Our Way From the South?

Quite a while back Carol Velutini e-mailed me her concerns about *Arundo donax*. *Arundo* is an invasive bamboo-like weed that has invaded waterways throughout the west and has, in many cases, completely choked out entire rivers and streams and decimated the native environmental habitat in its wake. Besides, I think it's really ugly once it gets past its early stages. Every time I drive down Old Redwood Highway from Penngrove, I am presented with particularly gross examples of this plant. Yet it is sold in the nursery trade. I saw PBS gardening program which extolled the virtues of this "fast growing, beautiful plant". It had been recently planted by the side of someone's trophy pond. The blurb goes on: "Roots can become large and woody, so division of old clumps in spring can become quite a task." Furthermore, when they fall over, they establish more plants along the joints. Good thing the owners are rich and probably have several gardeners. But she/he may find efforts to establish fish or frogs in that pond unsuccessful. But the gardening problem is trivial when we consider the efforts to plant *Arundo* as biofuel. The feds just signed off on Chemtex's North Carolina plan to use *Arundo* as a biofuel crop. From Biofuels Digest: "Around 45 square miles of giant reed needed to supply Chemtex's NC plant" The semi-good news is that California has a history of warring with *Arundo*, and will be less likely to cave in to business interests who want to establish large fields of *Arundo* here. But in California, *Arundo donax* is rated a "B" weed. A "B" status doesn't offer much protection. Here's California Food and

Agriculture's definition of B rating:
"Except as provided in Section 3556 of the California Code of Regulations (California Feed Grain Program), shipments infested with any mature seed or other parts capable of propagation of any of the following species shall be rejected only when in the area of destination:(1) the weed pest is not of common occurrence or (2) if intensive control or eradication measures are being conducted against such a pest."

Who gets to decide whether it is common or not? What constitutes intensive?

Besides, the only control is for seeds in shipments of feed grain? *Arundo* doesn't even reproduce from seed. Yikes!

You can read more about *Arundo donax* here: <http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/management/ipcw/pages/detailreport.cfm?usernumber=8&surveynumber=182.php>

QML Carle

(Quailbush), *Ceanothus* 'Dark Star', *Cornus sericea* (red twig dogwood), *Festuca* 'Tomales Bay' (a grass), *Garryea elliptica* (silk tassel), *Holodiscus discolor* (ocean spray), *Lepechinia fragrans* (pitcher sage), *Lonicera ciliosa* (orange-flowered honeysuckle), nine different varieties of *Mimulus* (!), *Muhlenbergia rigens* (basket grass), *Penstemon* 'Blue Springs' and *P. 'Margarita BOP'* (both blue-flowered), *Physocarpus capitata* (ninebark), *Rhamnus* 'Eve Case', *Ribes malvaceum* (chaparral current), *Ribes* s.g., *Rosa gymnocarpa*, *Rosa pinetorum*, *Salvia clevelandii* 'Allen Chickering', *Salvia* c. 'Winnifred Gilman', *Salvia leucophylla* 'Point Sal', *Spiraea densiflora*, *Symphoricarpos* (snowberry), *Verbena* 'de la Mina', and several varieties of *Epilobium canum* (*Zauschneria*, CA fuchsia).

It was a very successful day and now we look forward to our sale on October 12. (See flyer).

Plant Sale News

Casa Grande Potting Workshop: A Success

On August 10th, we held our fourth and final potting workshop of the season at Casa Grande High School. Teacher John Shribbs has created an excellent growing facility there and we are very lucky to be able to work there. 15 of us gathered and we potted up 660 plants in less than two hours! Everyone worked so well together. The plants were supplied by Shooting Star Propagation Nursery in Graton.

Thanks to our members Penny Dalton, Janet and Pat Ross, Kathi Dowdakin, Rob Fox, Alan Brubaker, Lisa Seale, Lea Davis, Mary Aldrich, and Wendy Born. We were joined by teachers Cookie, Danny, and Lisa, as well as John Shribbs.

We potted up liners of *Atriplex lentiformis*

Seed Packaging Workshop & Potluck- Wednesday September 25th

We will meet at Liz's house in Kenwood for a potluck and seed packaging. Come any time after 5 pm to help with this important task. No experience necessary. Last year we had over 25 species of seeds at the sale. This is a special feature of our sale and we can be proud of this.

Plant Sale News

The flyer for our 42nd plant sale features an illustration by Rob Fox. It features *Penstemon heterophyllus*, one of the most widely grown penstemon of the US penstemons. At the sale, we will have two varieties of this beautiful blue flowered plant... 'Margarita MOP' and 'Blue Springs'. Please post the flyer in your neighborhood. I have posted a list of the plants that we potted up at our four workshops on the NEW website:

milobaker.cnps.org. As always, we will shop for plants at Cal Flora in Fulton and Mostly Natives in Tomales so many plants will be added at the last minute. These nurseries are also very generous in their donations to our sale.

I am very excited about the number of plants that we are growing year. We will have a great selection of ferns this year. Sword ferns (*Polystichum munitum*) and deer ferns (*Blechnum spicant*) we will have in good numbers. However, the following ferns were dug up from members gardens and there will be limited quantities: northern maidenhair fern (*Adiantum jordanii*), lady fern (*Athyrium filis-femina v. californicum*), wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*), polypody fern (*Polypodium californicum*), Lyman's fern (*Polypody californicum v. lymani*), and giant chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*).

In December, we potted up over 50 PCN hybrid iris...in beautiful colors including striped gold, striped brown, red-violet w/ gold blaze, magenta, lavender w/ yellow, and one that we call Sunset'. We will also have many of the straight species -*Iris douglasiana*.

My garden is ablaze with California fuchsia aka *Zauschneria*. It blooms profusely from July until the first frost and the bright red-orange flowers make it the star of the late summer garden. The hummingbirds love it! It should be planted in the hottest, driest part of the garden and every garden should have this stunning plant. It responds well to a little water, but not too much because it spreads by underground runners and might invade other parts of the garden. The sale will feature many California fuchsias (*Epilobium sp.*). *Epilobium canum* 'Calistoga' is a variety that Phil Van Soelen (co-owner of California Flora Nursery in Fulton) collected in the Pallisades near Calistoga in Napa County. It grows to 1 foot tall with

wide grey-green leaves and scarlet flowers. It is a slow spreader. Other varieties that we will have include *E.c.* 'Chaparral Silver' (very flat with bright red flowers), and *E.c.* 'Scheffelin's Choice' a nice gray leaved species that grows to 1' tall, *E.* 'Everett's Choice' is back. We will also have an unusual *E.* 'Marin Pink' which has pink flowers and is also a low grower.

We will also have several varieties of shrubby *Salvias*. *Salvia clevelandii* 'Allen Chickering' is shrubby (5' tall x 6' wide) with lavender flowers and grey leaves. *S. leucophylla* 'Pt. Sal' was successful this year - we will have 20 of them at the sale. *Salvia spathacea* (hummingbird sage) creeps by underground runners and has large pink flowers. We will be offering Yerba Buena, *Satureja* (new name *Clinopodium*) *douglasii*. This is a fragrant, creeping plant that is a great addition to the shade garden. It is lovely cascading down a wall.

There will be a huge selection of *Mimulus aurantiacus*, sticky monkeyflower, and the named varieties. These *Mimulus* are very drought tolerant and love a sunny location with little summer water. Creating a mass planting with several different colors is a great idea for lots of summer color...so buy more than one. We will have the following varieties: 'Rob's Orange', 'Vibrant Red', 'Eleanor', 'Pumpkin', 'White', and a new one which we call 'UC Hybrid'.

Other unusual plants at the sale include: *Atriplex lentiformis* - quailbush, *Myrica* (new name *Morella*) *californica* (wax myrtle), *Physocarpus capitatus*, -Ninebark, *Cornus sericea*-red twig dogwood, and *Penstemon heterophyllus* 'Margaret BOP' and 'Blue Springs'.

Grasses will include *Muhlenbergia rigens*, basket or deer grass and *Festuca idahoensis* 'Tomales Bay'. *Deschampsia caespitosa holciformis*, coastal hairgrass a tufted low growing grass.

If you like plants with brown/green flowers, there will be a few Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia californica*) at the sale (look at the habitat table) and wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*) which is such a successful ground cover for the north side of the house or in any shady location and *Epipactis gigantea*, stream orchid. *Epipactis* is a hardy (to 0 degrees) orchid found along stream banks and seeps over much of the western US. It grows from creeping rhizomes which send up leafy stems that bear a loose cluster of 1" blossoms in shades of tan and green. They require well drained soil, sun and water. They can go dormant in late summer if the water source dries up.

This was not a year with a lot of rain, which reminds us that CA natives are drought tolerant plants. We live in a Mediterranean climate with 6 hot dry months. Our natives are drought-tolerant and can be used in a water-wise landscape, also called a xeriscape. Manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos*) and CA wild lilacs (*Ceanothus*) are shrubs that are native to the chaparral ecosystem are perfect for this sort of landscaping.

Manzanitas and wild lilacs are evergreen plants that come in sizes from small shrubby ground covers to large (15') shrubs. *Ceanothus*, or CA wild lilac, is drought tolerant plant that fits well in the dry garden and in the habitat garden. At the sale we will have *Ceanothus* 'Dark Star', a stunning shrub that has electric blue flowers and grows to 6'x6'. *C. griseus horizontalis* 'Yankee Point' is a ground cover (to 2 ft.) with shiny green leaves and striking light blue flowers.

Manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos*) are another large group of plants from the chaparral. At the sale, we will have *Arctostaphylos canescens* 'Emerald Carpet' an introduction from Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden that is a very popular ground cover that

forms a dense mat of shining emerald-green leaves, decorated by white/pink flowers in the winter. It requires moderate watering in hot summer areas.

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi 'Pt. Reyes' is another ground cover manzanita rather similar to the A.c 'Emerald Carpet'. *A. densiflora* 'Howard McMinn' (5'x5'), the most versatile and popular shrub for almost any location, is covered with white/pink flower in the spring.

A. pajaroensis -Pajaro manzanita is native to the Monterey region. It has striking red new growth and may require irrigation when grown inland.

There will be a table featuring habitat plants at the sale. We hope that Sonoma County's own butterfly expert, Louise Hallberg, will be able to attend to answer all of your butterfly plant questions.

Nancy Bauer, the author of *The Habitat Garden Book: Wildlife Landscaping for the San Francisco Bay Region*, will also be on hand.

Pricing For The Sale

Becky Montgomery, Mary Aldrich, Kathi Dowdikan, and I will be pricing and labeling plants the week before the sale. Anyone who has some free time during the day on Monday, October 7 (Casa Grande), Tuesday (Sebastopol), Wednesday (Cal Flora), or Thursday, October 10 (Santa Rosa) please call Liz at 833-2063. These vital tasks go faster if we have a lot of help. The plants will be collected at the collection centers. If you are growing plants for the sale please bring them to any of the following collection centers on the weekend before the sale:

1. Mary Aldrich, 4775 Newanga Ave, Santa Rosa, 539-9005
2. Cal Flora Nursery, 2990 Sommers St (at D St), Fulton, 528-8813

On Friday night October 11, we will need trucks to transport plants from the collection centers to the Vet's Memorial Building. Call Liz if you have a truck and can help.

We welcome everyone to our sale and want to provide the plants that they need for their particular purpose. I welcome suggestions. If you have any plant that you would like to see at our sale, let me know and perhaps we will be able to fulfill your request. An almost complete list of plants is on the NEW website milobaker.cnps.org. If you helped at our sale last year, Judy Hartwig (823-1821) will be calling you soon to ask you to volunteer. I hope that all members will help us again. This is a huge effort and WE NEED YOU!

Call Judy and volunteer. We need cashiers, salespersons, drivers, and help in many areas. Please mark your calendars for October 11 and plan to help us by working at the sale. If you can't work, please come by and shop for plants. Only workers can purchase plants on Friday evening before the sale, so make plans to work for the sale and this special privilege will be yours. The work of the Milo Baker Chapter depends on the success of our plant sale. Our members are our best customers. Please ask your friends to attend and buy plants, and place our flyer in an area near your home. If everyone does this we will blanket the county with the plant sale information.

Fall is planting season in California. The soil is still warm and the roots will grow slowly through the rainy season. The following spring, the well rooted plants are ready to survive the summer heat. A plant planted in the spring does not have a well-developed root system and will have difficulty surviving through the summer.

✂Liz Parsons

Events and Items of Interest

Discover Nature Lecture: Climate Change and California's Coast Redwoods

September 13, 2013 7:00 pm - Free

Join Dr. Todd Dawson of UC Berkeley and learn how redwoods have adapted to a great deal of climatic change over the past 100 million years. Learn of the many challenges facing redwoods today, and what the future may hold for these trees in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

<http://app.pepperwoodpreserve.org/pls/apex/f?p=514:2:0#E2162>

Creating a Wildlife Habitat Garden

September 28, 2013 9am to 3pm - \$30

Nancy Bauer, author of *The California Wildlife Habitat Garden* and Charlotte Torgovitsky, habitat garden educator, will teach how to enhance the habitat value of your garden by creating year-round resources to attract a diversity of birds, pollinators and other wildlife species.

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/393561>

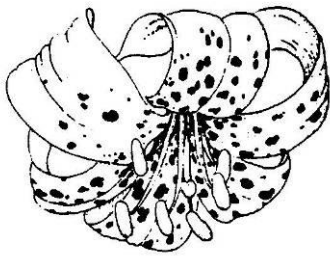
The Amazing World of Lichens

October 19, 2013 10 am to 4 pm - \$60

Hopland Extension & Research Center

Lichenologist Shelly Benson will explain at this workshop the fascinating fungal-algal relationship known as the lichen. You will learn the basics of lichen biology and ecology, and gain competence at recognizing the various lichen growth forms and structures that are used for identification. The workshop includes a classroom lecture, hands-on demonstrations, and a field excursion to observe lichens in their natural habitats.

Sign up for this class and get the chance to ask your burning lichen questions! To register contact Shelly Benson at 479-6777 or shelly.benson@yahoo.com



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 October
Newsletter is September 15.
The chapter web site milobaker.cnps.org
contains a wealth of information plus
current and archived newsletters.
For newsletter mailing/membership issues,
contact: Suzanne Harmon at
cnpsmbmembership@gmail.com

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SRJC Representative: Lea Davis, 538-1499
SSU Rep.: Kerry Wininger, 888-5616, kerrywininger@gmail.com
Web Site: Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, Sarahpgordon@gmail.com
Vine Hill Preserve: Sarah Gordon, 833-1243, Sarahpgordon@gmail.com

We invite you to join CNPS

Name _____

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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