



California Native Plant Society

MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)

Marin Chapter established 1973

Monday May 12, Marin Chapter Meeting

“Update on Sudden Oak Death” by guest speaker Matteo Garbelotto

Exotic diseases like Sudden Oak Death are among the most destructive forces responsible for major changes in native plant communities. Although an initial flurry of media attention and public interest several years ago brought Sudden Oak Death into the limelight, it has all but disappeared from the news and the general public consciousness of late. But *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen responsible for the disease, continues to spread in northern California, including the North Bay, and the count of susceptible plant species now numbers in the dozens. Fortunately, research on the disease and the pathogen has also been expanding, led by scientists like this month’s speaker, Matteo Garbelotto.

Matteo’s presentation will focus on examples of exotic forest diseases and explain how they were introduced and how they may be spreading. In particular he will present the latest published data showing where Sudden Oak Death was first introduced in California, how it has been spreading, and what the natural potential spread of this scary pathogen is likely to be. Answering these questions required dedicated work by



Above: Matteo Garbelotto

many researchers at several universities and included sequencing the entire pathogen genome. Alarming as the pathogen and the disease are, the research and its findings are fascinating. Those who have attended Matteo’s presentations in the past know he is a dynamic speaker and a brilliant researcher who always provides ample reason for hope.

Dr. Matteo Garbelotto is a plant pathologist who serves as Extension Specialist and Professor of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at UC Berkeley. His research interests include ecosystem sciences, forestry, microbial biology, plant biology, Sudden Oak Death, and forest pathology.

April meeting:

6 p.m. Our usual dinner venue, the Cantina, will be closed for renovations in May and June, so if you wish to join the speaker and others, please call Kristin Jakob at (415) 388-1844 by the Saturday before the meeting date to be included in the reservation and to receive directions to the restaurant (venue to be determined).

7:30 p.m. Meet at the Redwoods retirement home, 40 Camino Alto, Mill Valley. Books, posters, and cards will be for sale before as well as after the meeting. Lecture starts at 8 p.m.



Above: Tan Oak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*) affected by Sudden Oak Death; photo by John Bienapfl

RARE PLANTS OF THE MONTH

Text and photographs by Doreen Smith

Marin has several jewelflowers of interest. They are in the Mustard family (*Brassicaceae*), and have the characteristic four sepals, four petals, and six anthers, but unlike many other species in the same plant family, the flowers are bilaterally symmetrical.



Above: Tiburon black jewelflower (*Streptanthus niger*)

Below: One sided jewelflower (*Streptanthus glandulosus* ssp. *secundus*)



Our most remarkable species is *Streptanthus niger*, Tiburon black jewelflower, of the serpentine-soil areas

of the Tiburon peninsula. Of course it isn't really black; the flowers just have a very dark calyx.

Other species of the *Streptanthus glandulosus* group in Marin may have pink, purple, yellow, or white flowers. *Streptanthus batrachopus*, the Tamalpais jewelflower, is usually very small, growing on serpentine-bald sites on the north side of Mt. Tamalpais and also further north into the Carson Ridge/San Geronimo Ridge chaparral wilds.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ✿ **Saturday 5/3, 10 a.m.**
Chapter Field Trip—Sky Camp to Bear Valley, Pt. Reyes National Seashore
- ✿ **Sunday 5/4, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.**
Bringing Back the Natives 2008
- ✿ **Monday 5/5, 7:30 p.m.**
Marin Chapter Board Meeting at Marin Recycling
- ✿ **Tuesday 5/6, 10 a.m.**
Chapter Field Trip—Coastal Trail, Marin Headlands
- ✿ **Monday 5/12, 9 a.m.**
Chapter Field Trip—Mount St. Helena
- ✿ **Monday 5/12, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**
Marin Chapter Meeting: Matteo Garbelotto with an “Update on Sudden Oak Death”
- ✿ **Thursday 5/15, 10 a.m.**
Chapter Field Trip—Lake Lagunitas
- ✿ **Saturday 5/17, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.**
Wildflower Photography Workshop with Reny Parker in Fort Ross
- ✿ **Saturday 5/17, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**
2nd Annual Marin Eco-Friendly Garden Tour
- ✿ **Sunday 5/18, 10 a.m.**
Chapter Field Trip—Palomarin Trail, Pt. Reyes National Seashore
- ✿ **Tuesday 5/20, 10 a.m.**
Chapter Field Trip—Loma Alta, North Slope
- ✿ **Tuesday 5/27, 10 a.m.**
Chapter Field Trip—Pine Mountain Treasure Hunt
- ✿ **Sunday 6/1, 2 p.m.**
Chapter Field Trip—Rare Plants of the Tiburon Peninsula
- ✿ **Monday 6/9, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**
Marin Chapter Meeting: Glenn Keator on “Creating California Native Gardens”

GARDEN TOURS

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour 2008

Sunday, May 4, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

The Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is seeking volunteers who will spend a morning or afternoon greeting tour participants and answering questions at this native plant garden tour. More than 60 gardens located throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties will be showcased.

Benefits to volunteers include invitations to Garden Soirees, in which tour gardens are open for leisurely, private viewing by hosts and volunteers; a pre-tour meeting with the owner and private tour of the garden you will be staffing; a guaranteed tour reservation for the half day you are free; a Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour t-shirt; and, perhaps best of all, heartfelt thanks for helping to educate the general public about the many pleasures and benefits of gardening with California native plants. Gardens will be assigned on a first-come basis.

As part of the Tour, a number of native plant nurseries—most not normally open to the public—will be open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on May 3rd and 4th. Some native plants will be for sale at selected tour gardens. For more information, visit <http://www.bringing-backthenatives.net>.

Due to popular request, the Tour now features a series of Select Tours. These exclusive guided tours to inspirational native plant gardens allow the serious gardener to gain an insider's view of a variety of unusual and delightful gardens in a small group setting. Select Tours will be offered on May 3, 18, and 25.

To volunteer or for more information, please email Kathy Kramer at Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net, or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

2nd Annual Marin Eco-Friendly Garden Tour

Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Join this self-paced tour featuring 10 of Marin's wonderful gardens and see "eco-friendly" methods in action! At each garden, a certified landscape professional will be available to answer questions and discuss the garden's unique features.

Participants receive a Garden Guide that describes the highlights of each garden and offers directions, a garden admission pass, and a choice of eco-friendly publications at each garden. Visit as many sites as you like in the four-hour period.

Tour Features:

- Fire-resistant plants
- Wildlife habitat that attracts birds and butterflies
- Deer-"resistant" gardens

- Creekbank stabilization and restoration with natives
- Erosion control measures
- Working bee hive
- Colorful native plants labeled for identification
- Use of native grasses
- Rain chains as alternatives to downspouts
- Smart irrigation controllers
- Straw mulch to restructure clay soil
- Permeable paths from flagstone and decomposed granite
- Outdoor grill in a recycled glass countertop
- Lawns and gardens maintained without pesticides

Bonus—Entry to native plant sale and tour of the Marin Art & Garden Center on Sunday, May 18. Details in Garden Guide.

Registration: Pre-registration is required. Through May 4, register through the College of Marin: <http://www.marincommunityed.org> (look under registration information) or call them at (415) 485-9305 for a registration form. The Garden Tour is Course # 8224. Beginning May 5, register through Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program by calling Gina at (415) 499-3202. Cost: \$15 per adult.

JEPSON HERBARIUM WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

Spring/Summer 2008

The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium are pleased to present a broad range of topics for this year's weekend workshop series. Unless otherwise specified, workshops are held at UC Berkeley.

- May 1–4: Off the Beaten Path in the Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area: Shrubs and Endemics (Shasta-Trinity National Forest)—John O. Sawyer
- May 17–18: Medicinal Plants of Northern California—Christopher Hobbs
- May 29–June 1: Flora of the Sierra Valley (Sierra Nevada Field Campus, Sierra Valley)—Bill and Nancy Harnach
- June 6–8: Bee Pollination Ecology of Spring Wildflowers (UC Hastings Reserve, Carmel Valley)—Gordon Frankie and Robbin Thorp
- June 14: Beneath the Crown: A Paleobotanical Perspective on the Green Tree of Life—Diane M. Erwin and John M. Miller
- July 18–20: *Juncaceae* (Sagehen Creek Field Station, Sierra Nevada)—Peter Zika

For more information on the workshops, or to register, please consult <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops> or phone Anna Larsen, the Jepson Workshop Coordinator, at (510) 643-7008, or write her at alarsen@berkeley.edu.

MAY FIELD TRIPS 2008

Marin Chapter Field Trip News and Policies

Take a hike with Joe Kohn and the members of the Marin chapter of the California Native Plant Society. All hikes are free and open to the public, so please invite your friends.

Come prepared for any type of weather or conditions, dress in layers, and bring rain/wind protection just in case. Although it may be sunny and warm when you leave home, the weather in West Marin could be cold and foggy. Please be prepared. Bring lunch and plenty of water, binoculars and/or hand lenses, and your favorite field guides.

For further information, call Joe Kohn (415) 459-0231 or send an email to joko@foxvalley.net.

Field Trip Plant Lists

Plant lists compiled by Marin CNPS for many Marin localities are available on the Marin Chapter CNPS website at <http://www.marin.edu/cnps>.

Sky Camp to Bear Valley, Pt. Reyes National Seashore

Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m.

A lovely and mostly downhill and easy hike awaits those who show up at the Bear Valley Visitor Center. We'll do a car shuttle to take us over to the Sky Camp Trailhead on Limantour Rd. and we'll take the Sky Trail over to the Old Pine Trail, then descend to Divide Meadow and loop back to the Visitor Center. Often shielded by fog, the uplands of the Pt. Reyes Peninsula could be quite a late-season colorful sight to see.

Meet at the parking lot at the Pt. Reyes Visitor Center in Bear Valley at 10 a.m. Please be on time for the car shuttle.

Coastal Trail, Marin Headlands

Tuesday, May 6, 10 a.m.

The most florally fantastic walk we took in early spring was the eastern part of the Coastal Trail in the Marin Headlands. It runs along and above 101 and then over the ridge into the Headlands. It was so wonderful, let's do it again! Unlike last time, the north facing slope of the Coastal Trail will most probably put on an incredible late-season flower display.

Let's meet at the same parking area, on the west side of 101, on the other side of the freeway from the Golden Gate Bridge overlook. That's at the very start of Conzelman Road; make a left turn into the parking lot about 50 feet after starting uphill. (If you've reached Battery Spencer, you've gone too far!) From there,

we'll drop some cars off near the old Rifle Range in the Headlands so that we'll have an easy, leisurely, and beautiful one-way walk.

Mount St. Helena

Monday, May 12, 9 a.m.

Rising more than 4,000 feet, Mount St. Helena is home to sugar pines, ponderosa pines, knobcone pines, and many other northern species that just barely have a presence into the Bay Area. And, a number of us have never taken the trail towards the top, so that's our goal.

The trailhead is approximately two hours from central Marin. Because of the CNPS monthly meeting that same night, we plan to be back in Marin at 6 p.m., so it is unknown whether we'll actually reach the summit or not. But we'll have a good time trying!

Directions: From Calistoga, drive north on Highway 29 for eight miles to the parking area on the left side of the road at the Mount St. Helena trailhead. (This is directly across the road from the Table Rock/Palisades Trailhead at Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.) We'll meet at the trailhead at 9 a.m.

Carpool information: We'll be meeting at 7 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot that's located on the north side of the intersection of Route 37 and Atherton Avenue, in Novato, approximately two miles east of 101.

Lake Lagunitas

Thursday, May 15, 10 a.m.

A favorite walk during any season is the walk around Lake Lagunitas. It's beautiful, relatively flat, and there's always lots to see, whether it's an Osprey carrying a fish back to the nest for lunch, dragonflies darting over the water, hungry mallards who might follow us looking for a handout, or hillsides filled with native plants in flower. Please note that there is a \$7 parking fee.

To get to Lake Lagunitas, go to Fairfax, and go up Bolinas Rd., approximately 1.5 miles (you will pass the Deer Park Villa restaurant). At 700 Bolinas Rd. there is a wooden sign on your left saying "Lake Lagunitas". Make that left turn onto Sky Oaks Rd. (If you miss the Sky Oaks Rd. turn-off and you get to the Meadow Club golf course, you have gone too far.)

Go up approximately 1/4 mile and Sky Oaks Watershed Headquarters is on the left at the crest of the hill. You are also at the entrance to Lagunitas and Bon Tempe Lakes. The Lagunitas picnic area is about one mile beyond the entrance Kiosk/Pay Station. After you have paid your entrance fee, stay on the paved road and within a mile or so you will come to a long straight-away and then a T-intersection. Go right at the intersection; within 100 yards you will be at the Lake Lagunitas parking area.

Field trips continued on page 5

Palomarin Trail, Pt. Reyes National Seashore

Sunday, May 18, 10 a.m.

When the rest of the Bay Area is starting to feel the summer heat, and the hills are turning brown, spring goes on and on and on at Pt. Reyes. Prior to the start of wildflower season, we saw more than 15 species of native plants in bloom at Palomarin, and that number should be doubled or tripled in mid-May. Plus, this is the only trail in Marin where we get to eat lunch while luxuriating next to a lily pond.

Palomarin is located at the end of Mesa Rd. in Bolinas, past Commonweal and past the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory. To get there, head towards downtown Bolinas, and at the Stop sign before getting to town, make a right onto Mesa Rd. Follow that for more than four miles, the last mile of which is unpaved road. There's a large parking lot at the end of the road where we will meet.

Loma Alta, North Slope

Tuesday, May 20, 10 a.m.

Last year, one of the most colorful late season wildflower displays was found on the north slopes of Loma Alta, so here's hoping that those north-facing slopes will still be in bloom, as the hillsides in the rest of Marin start to turn brown. If not, we'll just have to settle for "million dollar" views!

Meet at the Big Rock trailhead, about five miles west of 101, on Lucas Valley Rd.

Pine Mountain Treasure Hunt

Tuesday, May 27, 10 a.m.

Although there's no mention of it in the original *Marin Flora*, the recently updated edition from Almeda, Follette et. al. lists "several mature individuals" of *Fremontodendron californicum* (flannel bush, Fremontia) in the vicinity "east of Pine Mountain Fire Road and northeast of Repack Fire Road." Let's go on a botanical treasure hunt in search of Marin's only stand of *Fremontia*, at a time when they should be displaying their petal-less (!) beautiful yellowish-orange flowers.

Fremontia is a Serpentine indicator, found in chaparral, and the Marin location is reported to be within 200 yards of two main fire roads. So, how hard can it be to find? (Hint: our rare plant sleuth, Doreen Smith, has never seen the Marin population of *Fremontia*.)

Meet at the (unsigned) Azalea Hill/Pine Mt. Fire Rd. parking area, about six miles south of Fairfax on the Fairfax-Bolinas Rd.

Rare Plants of the Tiburon Peninsula

Sunday, June 1, 2 p.m.

We'll start out our day admiring one of the least known of the rarest of the "Rare Plants of the Tiburon peninsula," the lovely black-sepalled *Streptanthus niger* (Tiburon black jewelflower), found only in the serpentine near the Old St. Hilary Botanical Preserve. From there, it's just a short walk to the not-so-rare-but-stunningly-beautiful *Lilium pardalinum* (leopard lily). After we've had our fill there, we'll drive over to the north side of Ring Mountain to see such rarities as the *Calochortus tiburonensis* (Tiburon mariposa lily) and the *Castilleja affinis* ssp. *neglecta* (Tiburon paintbrush), both CNPS-listed 1B plants on the brink of extinction, as well as the less-rare *Eriogonum luteolum* var. *caninum* (Tiburon buckwheat). We should still be there at 6 p.m. when more than one million beautiful buds of the *Chlorogalum pomeridianum* lily (soap plant) snap open to reveal their scented flowers for all the world to see and smell!

Meet at 2 p.m. at the northern end of the Old St. Hilary Botanical Preserve. To get there, take Tiburon Blvd. towards downtown Tiburon, and make a left uphill at Lyford Dr. Make a right onto Vistazo West, and park at the end of the road. After that, we'll drive to Ring Mountain, and between approximately 4 and 5 p.m., park at the end of Westward Dr. (from Paradise Dr., turn south on Westward, follow uphill to the end). Dinner afterwards, anyone?



CAPTURE THE MAGIC OF WILDFLOWERS: A PHOTOGRAPHER'S WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Do your photos of wildflowers emote the beauty and feeling you experienced while clicking the shutter? Would you like to have your images "speak" to people? Join Reny Parker, author of *Wildflowers of Northern California's Wine Country & North Coast Ranges*, for a day-long workshop. Great for anyone wanting to improve their photographs of wildflowers or other small objects of nature.

Location: Fort Ross State Historic Park, Sonoma County

Workshop fee: \$59

For more details: <http://www.Renyswildflowers.com/workshop.html>

GGNRA ENDANGERED SPECIES BIG YEAR EVENTS

Join the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Endangered Species Big Year in 2008! Visit <http://www.ggnrabisyear.org> for a full calendar of events.

Tiburon Paintbrush Restoration

Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Join Greg Reza and David Herlocker of the Marin Open Space District to restore habitat for the Tiburon Paintbrush. RSVP required: call (415) 572-6989.

Endangered Species Day Celebration

Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

The GGNRA contains more endangered species than any other national park in continental North America.

We'll have informational displays about the GGNRA's work to protect these endangered species and the special places they call home. Then after some free snacks and drinks, we'll go on a naturalist-led hike to search for the tidewater goby, a small, endangered, nest-building fish that calls the GGNRA's Rodeo Lagoon home! Location: Fort Cronkhite/Rodeo Lagoon. Directions: <http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/focr.htm>.

Tiburon Paintbrush Trip

Friday, May 30, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

A behind-the-scenes tour of one of the wildest and most striking areas of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area on a search for the endangered Tiburon Paintbrush, a beautiful plant that is still found in this great national park. Meet at Nicasio Ridge, Marin County. RSVP required: Call (415) 564-4107. Maximum 15 participants.

Board of Directors

Board contact information has been removed from the online version of this newsletter.

Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Membership is open to all.

Join CNPS Now!

Membership includes informative publications, field trips, monthly programs, and discounts on books and posters. Also included are *Fremontia* (a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants), the *Bulletin* (a quarterly statewide report of activities and schedules), and the chapter newsletter. Please call the membership chairperson for more information.

Yes! I wish to affiliate with the Marin Chapter.

Membership Category:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mariposa Lily | \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Benefactor | \$600 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Patron | \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Plant Lover | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family, Group, or Library | \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual | \$45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student or Limited Income | \$25 |

New Member Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please mail application and check payable to **CNPS** to:

California Native Plant Society
2707 K St., Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

If you wish to receive only the newsletter, please make \$10 check payable to **CNPS Marin** and mail to:

Daniel Kushner
201 Ross St.
San Rafael, CA 94901

Newsletter Subscription only \$10

CNPS Contact Information

Phone (916) 447-2677 (state)

Fax (916) 447-2727 (state)

Email cnps@cnps.org (state)

Web <http://www.marin.edu/cnps> (chapter)

<http://www.cnps.org> (state) The state CNPS site is a resource for a wealth of materials, including promotional materials such as banners and posters.

Tax-Deductible Contributions

Tax-deductible contributions to the Marin Chapter are always welcome, either as memorial or honorarium donations or regular contributions. You may designate your contribution for a specific purpose of your choice. Unless otherwise designated, all contributions will be placed in a separate Special Projects Fund. The Special Projects Fund will enable the Chapter to extend our efforts to additional plant-related issues. Our regular, ongoing program and operating expenses are largely covered by our plant sales and book and poster sales.

A contribution of \$_____ is made in honor of:

Contribution designated for:

From:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name _____

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Mail check payable to **CNPS** to:

Daniel Kushner
201 Ross St.
San Rafael, CA 94901

The IRS considers dues in excess of \$12.00 per year and all gifts to CNPS Tax Deductible.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
MARIN CHAPTER
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GET YOUR COPY OF THE REVISED *MARIN FLORA!*

Now available: the long-awaited, revised edition of John Thomas Howell's classic *Marin Flora* (1949). Copies of the book will be available at chapter meetings and most field trips. You can also print out an order form at the chapter website (<http://www.marin.edu/cnps>).

Prices:	Hard cover	Soft cover
Retail	\$45 (plus \$3.49 tax)	\$35 (plus \$2.71 tax)
CNPS members (20% off)	\$36 (plus \$2.79 tax)	\$28 (plus \$2.17 tax)

PT. REYES RARE PLANT MONITORING

With the help of CNPS volunteers, Pt. Reyes National Seashore monitors rare plant populations in areas where management changes may occur. If you are interested in assisting us, please contact Ellen Hamingson at (415) 464-5196 or Ellen_Hamingson@nps.gov.

We generally meet every other Friday at the Inverness General Store parking lot for a 9:30-2:30 workday. Please call to confirm. The next workday is May 9.

MARIN CHAPTER PLANT SALE

The Marin chapter of CNPS held our 32nd annual plant sale on April 12, the first gloriously sunny and warm day of the season. The crowds were eager to buy early on, and tidy mounds of *Sedum spathulifolium* and most of the Pacific Coast iris hybrids in bloom were quickly sold. We offered seven different cultivars of ceanothus, manzanita, the ever-popular salvias and penstemons, and 18 different native grasses, in all over 700 plants beautifully grown by Mostly Natives Nursery, Cal Flora and our members: Alice Bachelder, Kristin Jakob, Daniel Kushner, Carolyn Longstreth, Vivian Mazur, Doreen Smith, and Bob Soost. Special thanks again go to Ken Howard for his generous cash donation towards the purchase of plants. We are also grateful to the members who made this endeavor possible: the book and poster sellers; cashiers; and those who assisted buyers with plant selections, transported plants to cars, and kept the area looking like a plant sale. Also, members who on Thursday helped unload and price the plants, and secure them from deer until sale day. We are indebted to Brooke Langston, director of the Richardson Bay Audubon Center, for allowing us to hold our sale on this most spectacular site, and to the excellent members of her staff. Our only fundraiser of the year netted \$2,528 for the chapter.

—The Plant Sale Committee