



California Native Plant Society

MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)

Marin Chapter established 1973

Monday, March 9, Marin Chapter Meeting

“My Year with the Butterflies of San Francisco” by guest speaker Liam O’Brien

Lepidopterist Liam O’Brien spent 2007 combing every bit of remaining open space, park, beach dune, and vacant lot to see exactly what butterflies still fly in San Francisco County. Armed with the historic record, he logged over 200 days in the field, in a city more famous for what is gone (the Xerces Blue) than for what remains. Come see some fantastic pictures and learn for yourself the interesting relationship between host plants and butterflies. Hear some interesting stories about the zones where humans and Lepidoptera converge, and become updated on some exciting new projects to turn the tide of our rapidly diminishing charismatic microfauna.

Trained as a professional stage actor, Liam O’Brien had returned to the Bay Area from Broadway in 1996 when a tiger swallowtail flew into his backyard off the Dubece Triangle. It was a life-changing experience. He



Above: Tiger swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio rutulus*) photo by Jerry Oldenettel © 2009 Creative Commons

travelled all over California studying and painting the state’s butterflies and moths. His artwork/journals have been published in many periodicals, most recently *Bay Nature* (April 2008). After surveying the butterflies of San Francisco, Liam came up with a conservation project in tandem with Nature in the City: the Green Hairstreak Corridor—the restoration of a disappearing butterfly’s ecosystem in the Sunset District. He runs the annual San Francisco butterfly count and is currently painting wildflowers and natives for some Recreation & Parks signage. He also serves on the board of directors of the CNPS Yerba Buena chapter.

Note: Due to unforeseen circumstances, Laurie Adams needed to reschedule her program.

March meeting:

5:45 p.m. Join friends and meet our speaker for a no-host dinner at Gira Polli of Mill Valley, 590 East Blithedale Ave. at Camino Alto. Please be prompt to be assured of a seat with our group.

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.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CNPS Booth at SF Flower & Garden Show

Wednesday, March 18–Sunday, March 22

Ellen Edelson of the Yerba Buena Chapter is organizing an educational booth on behalf of five Bay Area chapters, including Marin, and is coordinating volunteers to staff it. Volunteers will receive free admission on the day of their shift, which must be scheduled by the week prior to the show. Location: San Mateo County Fairgrounds. Show hours are: 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Wednesday–Saturday and 10 a.m.–6 p.m. on Sunday.

To register for a time slot, call or email Ellen at (415) 531-2140 or e.edelson@sbcglobal.net. To learn more about this year’s show, visit <http://www.gardenshow.com>.

PLANTS OF THE MONTH

Text and Photos by Doreen Smith

A tiny plant, *Claytonia exigua* ssp. *exigua* (serpentine springbeauty) is common in Marin, mainly on serpentine but occasionally on other soils. The flowers are white; the usually grey-green leaves are linear or needle-like and in a rosette. It is a relative of the much larger plant, miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*), which is very variable in leaf characteristics.



Above: Serpentine springbeauty (*Claytonia exigua* ssp. *exigua*)

A similar white-flowered species to *C. exigua* is *Claytonia parviflora* ssp. *parviflora* (narrow leaved miner's lettuce), which is usually found in shaded places on sandstone-derived soils. Some can be found along the north-facing part of the Verna Dunshee trail on Mt. Tamalpais. Also there is *C. gypsophiloides* (baby's-breath springbeauty), which has large, pink flowers. Compact, fleshy plants of this occur on the Carson Ridge. More wispy, delicate plants grow on serpentine elsewhere—sometimes they are numerous enough to give a bare, rocky area a pink haze of blossoms.



Above: Gypsum springbeauty (*Claytonia gypsophiloides*)

It may be difficult to decide which small Claytonias you have found, even if you try to key them out very carefully. The Calphotos.org pictures don't help much, as the images there are not yet verified by an expert!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ✿ **Monday 3/2, 7:30 p.m.**
Marin Chapter Board Meeting at Marin Recycling
- ✿ **Sunday 3/8, 9:30 a.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: Rock Spring Calypso Orchid Hunt
- ✿ **Monday 3/9, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**
Marin Chapter Meeting: Liam O'Brien on "My Year with the Butterflies of San Francisco"
- ✿ **Sunday 3/22, 9:30 a.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: Kirby Cove Orchid Hunt
- ✿ **Sunday 3/29, 9:30 a.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: Terra Linda-Las Gallinas Valley Divide
- ✿ **Monday 4/6, 7:30 p.m.**
Marin Chapter Board Meeting at Marin Recycling
- ✿ **Monday 4/13, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**
Marin Chapter Meeting: Doris Sloan on "Geology of Marin County"



SAVE THE DATE!

A Native Plant Symposium... Growing Natives: Celebrating California's Beauty in Dry Times

March 28, 2009

Lafayette Community Center, Lafayette

March 29, 2009 (Sold Out!)

Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Berkeley

Creating beautiful water-wise gardens with California native plants is the theme of this two-day symposium aimed at professionals, home gardeners, and native plant enthusiasts.

The Saturday program includes presentations on California native plants (by botanist and author Glenn Keator), garden design (by author Carol Bornstein of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden), the structure of the garden (by Phil Van Soelen of Cal Flora Nursery), herbaceous perennials and bulbs (by plantsman Roger Raiche), creating a native meadow (by David Amme), and connecting with the garden (by Mike Evans of Tree of Life Nursery). The Saturday program includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and wine reception. A selection of books will be available for purchase.

Members/subscribers of sponsoring organizations receive a discount on registration fees. Co-sponsored by Pacific Horticulture, the California Native Plant Society and the Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden.

For more information, please visit <http://www.nativeplants.org>.

NATIVE PLANT WALKS MARCH 2009

Marin Chapter Field Trip News and Policies

All hikes are free and open to the public; please invite your friends. The outings will often go on until 2 p.m., so bring your lunch, and be prepared for unreliable weather. In all cases, morning rain cancels. If you're unsure, call Doreen Smith at (415) 479-7888.

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>.

Rock Spring Calypso Orchid Hunt, and More!

Sunday, March 8, 9:30 a.m.

In addition to searching through the forest looking for the orchids, there is a large area of serpentinite soil near Rock Spring with early flowers, such as an unusual large-flowered (sic) *Athysanus pusillus* and the rosulate form of *Claytonia exigua* ssp. *exigua* (see p. 2).

We'll meet at the Rock Spring parking lot on Mt. Tamalpais, located at the intersection of Ridgecrest and Pantoll Roads. This is approximately one mile uphill from the state park ranger station at Pantoll; turn uphill across the road from the ranger station. For those unfamiliar with the area, the ranger station is located on Panoramic Hwy. on the way from Mill Valley to Stinson Beach. There is no charge to park at the Rock Spring paved lot. Please note that as we go to press, the road from Fairfax to Bolinas is closed, so you'll have to go up the mountain from Mill Valley or Stinson Beach.

Kirby Cove Orchid Hunt

Sunday, March 22, 9:30 a.m.

Sound the horns! Unleash the plant-hounds! It's time to hunt for a possible new orchid species in Marin. Suspicions arose of its existence about 15 years ago after someone searched through anomalous *Piperia* herbarium specimens. Now the time has finally arrived to investigate further. Learn a bit about orchid species in Marin from our resident orchidophile, Brad Kelley, and see many other wildflowers en route. Kirby Cove has fine shoreline views of the Golden Gate and the City.

To get there from U.S. 101 southbound: get off 101 at the southern-most Sausalito exit. Turn left at the stop sign. Go 100–200 feet and turn right to go uphill (rather than go onto the Golden Gate Bridge) and start heading uphill onto Conzelman Rd. Make a left turn almost immediately, and go downhill into the large parking lot. There is sometimes parking available at the rest rooms for the bridge overlook and at the beginning of the Kirby Cove fire road, but tourists usually have got there first. If you happen to wait there, the rest of the group will join you by 10 a.m.

Terra Linda–Las Gallinas Valley Divide

Sunday, March 29th, 9:30 a.m.

We'll visit the serpentinite flora and check on the status of the goat-grass control project on the Terra Linda side of the ridge. The fire-road trail winds creekside along Old Lucas Valley Road in the Las Gallinas Valley then up onto the ridge. Usually creekside California boxelder and various oak woodland flowers are visible at this time of year, including a fine population of blue *Delphinium patens*. This is a round-trip walk, returning via the Mt. Muir fire road.

Exit Highway 101 at the Lucas Valley Rd. exit, north of San Rafael, and go west approximately 1 mile. Park at the trailhead opposite the Mt. Lassen Drive mini-mart on the south side of Lucas Valley Rd.

OPEN SPACE DISTRICT HIKES

Marin CNPS is cooperating with Marin County Open Space naturalist David Herlocker on other wildflower-oriented walks both on weekends and weekdays. More information is available on the Marin County Open Space District website at: http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/PK/Main/mcosd/os_walks.asp.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Come join us every third Saturday of the month in the Botany Department at the new California Academy of Sciences. Volunteers will help prepare plant specimens for botanical research and have fun interacting with others interested in botany. We will train new and experienced plant mounters in the techniques used here at CAS and look forward to your ongoing participation in working through our large backlog of plants.

When: Third Saturday of each month.

Meeting time: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

To sign up, contact Rosalind Henning: (415) 379-5111/rhenning@calacademy.org.

For questions, contact Rebecca Peters at (415) 379-5392/rpeters@calacademy.org or Susan D'Alcama at (415) 379-5354/sdalcama@calacademy.org.

Ongoing dates: March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20. Be sure to let us know you're coming.



CHAPTER NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE!

You can find an electronic (PDF) edition of this newsletter on the Marin chapter website by visiting <http://www.marin.edu/cnps/newsletters.html>.

ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE POSTPONED

The CNPS Marin Chapter Board has voted in favor of postponing the chapter plant sale until the fall, in light of the pending water shortage and likelihood of mandatory rationing. We hope to organize a sale at the Marin Art & Garden Center in conjunction with one of their fall events, hopefully in late September.

We instead encourage members to patronize their favorite nurseries, who desperately need the business. Meanwhile, those of you who have been growing plants for the sale but do not wish to care for them all through the summer are welcome to bring a selection to each of the coming membership meetings for sale there. Charlotte Torgovitsky, at the Marin Art & Garden Center, welcomes participation by CNPS Marin members in native plant propagation and demonstration plantings at the center, so please consider availing yourselves of the horticultural opportunities provided by that facility.

–Plant Sale Committee

Board of Directors

Position	Name
President	Open—Volunteer Needed
VP, Programs & Acting Pres.	Kristin Jakob
Chapter Council Delegate	Carolyn Longstreth
Alternate Chapter Council Delegate	Open—Volunteer Needed
Programs Co-Chair	Open—Volunteer Needed
Secretary	Paula Dawson
Treasurer	Daniel Kushner
Book Sales	Open—Volunteer Needed
Conservation Co-Chair	Eva Buxton
Conservation Co-Chair	Open—Volunteer Needed
Education	Paul da Silva
Field Trips	Joe Kohn
Historian	Vivian Mazur
Hospitality Chair	Open—Volunteer Needed
Invasives	Open—Volunteer Needed
Legislation	Phyllis Faber
<i>Marin Flora</i> Project	Wilma Follette
Marin-Sonoma Weed Management Area Liaison	Bob Soost
Membership	Ashley Ratcliffe
Newsletter Editor	Krista Fechner
Newsletter Folding/Mailing	Paul Kryloff
Plant Sale Co-Chair	Kristin Jakob
Plant Sale Co-Chair	Renee Fittinghoff
Poster Sales	Gerd Jakob
Publicity	Open—Volunteer Needed
Rare Plant Coordinator	Doreen Smith
Website	Mary Stevens
Member at Large	Carolyn Caldwell-White
Member at Large	Gini Havel
Member at Large	Stacey Pogorzelski
Member at Large	Dabney J. Smith
Member at Large	Carol Weiske

BOARD NEWS

Please call Kristin Jakob at (415) 388-1844 if you would like more details on any of the open positions.

Book Sales Chair Needed!

We are seeking one or two people to fill this position. Books are stored privately in Mill Valley, and transported to and from the meetings by Robert Feist, so we only need people to maintain the inventory, purchase books as needed, and sell at all our membership meetings and at occasional other events, such as plant sales.

Publicity Chair Needed!

The publicity position essentially entails notifying the press of upcoming CNPS Marin programs, activities, and plant sales, but could include writing or soliciting articles on CNPS Marin and native plants.

Invasive Plant Chair Needed!

Tanya Baxter has announced that she needs to step down, so the board seeks one or two people to fill this important position.

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

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.

Newsletter Only

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

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 _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

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
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GET YOUR COPY OF THE REVISED *MARIN FLORA!*

Now available: the long-awaited, 2007 revised edition of John Thomas Howell's classic *Marin Flora* (originally published in 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)



"A WILDFLOWER'S BEST FRIEND"

Our chapter's own Wilma Follette was featured in a recent *Marin Independent Journal* article (http://www.marinij.com/lifestyles/ci_11614188). Wilma's February 5th "Wildflowers of Marin" lecture and slideshow at the Marin Art & Garden Center was attended by an unprecedented audience of nearly 200 people.

PLANT COMMUNITIES OF MARIN COUNTY

Do you want to learn more about the diverse plant communities of this special county?

Plant Communities of Marin County, written by David Shuford and Irene C. Timossi and illustrated with exquisite black and white photographs of the communities and their member species, is an excellent resource. Send your check payable to **CNPS** for \$11 per copy (shipping, handling, and tax included) to:

Phyllis Faber
212 Del Casa Dr.
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Enclosed is \$_____. Please send me _____
copies of *Plant Communities of Marin County*.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____