



California Native Plant Society

MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)

Marin Chapter established 1973

Tuesday, October 13, Marin Chapter Meeting

“Native Bees are a Rich Natural Resource in Urban California Gardens” by guest speaker Gordon Frankie

Evidence is mounting that pollinators of crop and wildland plants are declining worldwide. A research group at UC Berkeley and UC Davis led by Dr. Gordon Frankie conducted a three-year survey of bee pollinators in seven cities from Northern California to Southern California. Results indicate that many types of urban residential gardens provide floral and nesting resources for the reproduction and survival of bees, especially a diversity of native bees. Habitat gardening for bees, using targeted ornamental plants, can predictably increase bee diversity and abundance, and provide clear pollination benefits.



Above: *Eucera lunata* by Rollin Coville

Gordon Frankie is Professor of Insect Biology in the College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley. He received his Ph.D. in entomology from UC Berkeley in 1968. His research interests are in plant reproductive biology, pollination ecology, and solitary-bee ecology. His field research time is split between California and the seasonally dry tropical forests of Costa Rica. He teaches several lecture and field courses in applied conservation biology and environmental problem solving at UC Berkeley. Dr. Frankie is currently working



Above: Dr. Gordon Frankie by Stephen Spiker

on a new book on urban bees and their host flowers in California with three other colleagues. The book will be published by UC Press in the Natural History Field Guide Series, with a hopeful publication date of early 2011.

Tuesday, November 10, Marin Chapter Meeting

“Wildflowers of the Western Mountains” by guest speaker John Longstreth

John and his wife Carolyn moved to Inverness three years ago after spending nearly three decades in Connecticut, where John was a banker. He earned his Masters in Environmental Management from Yale’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, then developed and directed a 700-acre nature center for the National Audubon Society. He began photographing nature 20 years ago, starting with birds. Although birds remain his primary photographic

Chapter meeting information continued on page 2

Chapter meeting information continued from page 1

interest, he also enjoys shooting wildflowers, butterflies, dragonflies, and other critters.



Above: Giant blazing star (*Mentzelia laevicaulis*) by John Longstreth

This program will center on a trip this past summer with Bob Stewart to the Sierras north of Yosemite. Carolyn Longstreth is on the board of the Marin chapter of CNPS.



Above: Little elephant heads (*Pedicularis attollens*) by John Longstreth

October and November meetings:

(Please note these meetings are on Tuesday instead of the usual Monday!)

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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The October and November chapter meetings will be held on the second **Tuesday** instead of Monday.

✿ **Saturday 10/10, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. & Sunday 10/11, 12–3 p.m.**

East Bay Chapter Native Plant Fair

✿ **Tuesday 10/13, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**

Marin Chapter Meeting: Gordon Frankie on “Native Bees are a Rich Natural Resource in Urban California Gardens”

✿ **Monday 11/2, 7:30 p.m.**

Marin Chapter Board Meeting at Marin Recycling

✿ **Tuesday 11/10, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**

Marin Chapter Meeting: John Longstreth on “Wildflowers of the Western Mountains”

✿ **Saturday 11/14, 2 p.m.**

Sunday 12/6, 11 a.m.

Sunday 12/20, 11 a.m.

Docent-led walks at Tilden Botanic Garden, Berkeley



EAST BAY CHAPTER NATIVE PLANT FAIR

Saturday, October 10, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. & Sunday, October 11, 12–3 p.m.

Features:

- Native plants, books, posters, and gift items for sale
- Special plants for fall: ferns, Douglas iris, wild ginger
- 5-gallon coast live oak, blue oak, and valley oak at half price
- Vendors showcasing photography, seeds, bulbs, and crafts
- Exhibits about invasive plants, native bees, and CNPS membership
- Guest speakers each day at 1 p.m.
 - Saturday—Pete Veilleux, East Bay Wilds: “Lose the Lawn, Gain a Beautiful and Functional Garden”
 - Sunday—David Bigham, Landscape Architect: “Gardening with Locally Native Plants”

Location: Native Here Nursery, 101 Golf Course Dr., Tilden Park, Berkeley (across the street from the entrance to Tilden Golf Course).

Please bring sturdy boxes for carrying your plant purchases. Carpooling is appreciated. Checks/cash only. For more information, visit www.ebcnps.org.

BUCKWHEATS IN THE GARDEN

by Carolyn Longstreth

If you have ever admired a flowering buckwheat as it clung to a coastal cliffside, brightened a mountain slope, or filled a sandy wash, you might consider celebrating the genus *Eriogonum* in your garden. With about 125 species native to California, buckwheats range from large woody shrubs to herbaceous perennials and subshrubs and even annuals. In the wild, buckwheats favor open sunny banks and rocky hill-sides; in the garden, they need sun and a well-drained sandy soil.



Above: Buckwheat (*Eriogonum*) © 1989 Perina Wiley

Buckwheats bloom late in the growing season, offering fresh interest after spring and summer flowers fade. The simple leaves are often grayish green and hairy on the underside; round or flat clusters of small white, pink, or yellow flowers appear at the tips of branched or radiating stalks. Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators visit the flowers; birds and mammals relish the seeds. The flowers stay on the plant for many weeks, often drying to pleasing tan, cinnamon, or dark brown shades. Since the stems are brittle, it's best not to plant buckwheats where people or dogs will step on them.

Two of the commonly grown buckwheats are evergreen shrubs native to the Channel Islands and so thrive in salty, windy conditions. St. Catherine's lace (*E. giganteum*) is the largest of the buckwheats,

attaining a height of four to eight feet and a spread of six to 10 feet. Its enormous, lacy white flowers mellow to a beautiful pinkish cinnamon and can be useful in dried flower arrangements. St. Catherine's lace may be lightly tip-pruned to improve habit, but the old wood does not resprout if cut.

Santa Cruz Island buckwheat (*E. arborescens*) has been described as the most refined of the buckwheats. It grows to six feet tall with a spread of three to five feet. The flower display begins with flat clusters of pink flowers; more flowers open as the first fade to russet. As the plant matures, it displays attractive shredding bark on crooked branches. It looks especially good massed on a sunny bank with other native shrubs such as ceanothus and manzanita. It is hardy to 20 degrees.

The most widespread of the shrubby buckwheats is California buckwheat (*E. fasciculatum*). With needly foliage and a somewhat rangy habit, this species may not be the most classically beautiful when out of flower, but it is extremely drought tolerant and an excellent choice for erosion control. Abundant whitish or pale pink flowers virtually cover the plant, later to turn coppery brown. California buckwheat tolerates some shade and can be pruned to improve its habit. Several California buckwheat plants bloom in late summer and fall next to Limantour Road at the Point Reyes National Seashore, near the 35 MPH sign just after the turnoff from Bear Valley Road.

Smaller buckwheats do well in the rock garden or mixed perennial border. Our local species, the coast buckwheat (*E. latifolium*), grows as a low foliage clump, one to two feet high and wide. It sends up naked flowering stalks bearing white or pale pink flowers. Similar but with dark rose-pink flowers is the red-flowering buckwheat (*E. grande* var. *rubescens*), another species associated with the Channel Islands. For best display, use this plant as filler or plant in drifts. Sulfur buckwheat (*E. umbellatum* var. *polyanthum*) is among the 20 or so species of yellow-flowered buckwheats that bloom conspicuously in the mountains. It adapts quite well to garden conditions, growing with a semi-prostrate, open habit. The yellow flowers fade to reddish after bloom.

All of these buckwheats are available at local native plant nurseries such as Mostly Natives in Tomales and California Flora in Fulton.



WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to make a suggestion for a chapter meeting program, field trip, plant identification workshop, or anything else, please contact us. You can phone or email your ideas to any of the board members listed on page 6 of the newsletter.

FALL FIELD TRIPS

Marin Chapter Field Trip News and Policies

As I sit down to write about fall and early winter hikes, it's close to 100 degrees out, and since the hillsides haven't received any rain in six months, the prospect for seeing wildflowers this late in the season is pretty grim. Everything is very dry, and aside from the profusion of huckleberries and acorns this year, it doesn't look like we'll even have much of a fruit/berry/nut season.

Which of course presents a dilemma for setting up field trips. In fact, the last few we've had have been cut short because of the intense heat. So, what to do?

Recently, I went through the Docent Training Program at the all-native plant Tilden Botanic Garden, and have been leading docent-led walks for the past several months. On one recent walk, a half-dozen Marin CNPS members showed up; the scheduled one-hour walk lasted four hours, and we had a truly wonderful time.

Since I've committed to leading several walks there in the Fall, I thought I'd solve the field trip dilemma by dually offering up those walks to members of Marin CNPS. As an added treat for the Saturday walks, the Wayne Roderick Winter Lecture Series (<http://www.nativeplants.org/roderick.html>) will start in early November, so you should come early at 10 a.m. for that, and stick around for the 2 p.m. walk.

Bring lunch, as no food is for sale there, but it's a wonderful place to have a picnic. Everything, from the parking to the lectures to the walks, is completely free of charge, so if you've never been to the Tilden Botanic Garden, please consider going on one or more of the following walks. The dates that I'll be leading those walks in Tilden are:

- Saturday, November 14 at 2 p.m.
- Sunday, December 6 at 11 a.m.
- Sunday, December 20 at 11 a.m.

What makes the Tilden Botanic Garden such a special place is that not only does it have plants from all over California, but those plants are watered, so that when the hillsides are brown and dry, the Garden is green and vibrantly alive.

It takes approximately 45 minutes to get there from Central Marin, and because there are so many different ways to get there, with some being much more steep than others, please look at the maps and directions on the Garden's website at <http://nativeplants.org>.

—Your Field Trip Chair, Joe Kohn

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN FALL CLASSES

Botanizing the Northern Sonoma Coast

Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4

Lead by Glenn Keator. Includes Salt Point State Park, Pomo Camp, and Bodega Head. Trip fee does not include lodging, food, or transportation. Full details of the trip will be provided upon registration. \$125 members/\$140 nonmembers.

Building Ponds for Wildlife

Sunday, October 4, 1:30–4:30 p.m.

Led by Kathy and Dave Biggs. \$20 members/\$25 nonmembers.

Pruning Principles for Young Trees and Shrubs

Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Led by Jocelyn Cohen. \$35 members/\$40 nonmembers.

Pruning a Native Tree or Shrub from the Nursery

Saturday, October 10, 1:30–4:30 p.m.

Led by Jocelyn Cohen. \$70 members/\$80 nonmembers.

Growing Ferns from Spores

Sunday, October 18, 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Led by Martin Grantham. \$40 members/\$50 nonmembers.

Fall Diversity on Oat Hill Mine Road in the Mayacmas Mountains

Saturday, October 24

Led by Glenn Keator. Trailhead directions will be provided upon registration. \$75 members/\$85 nonmembers.

For full class descriptions, visit: <http://www.nativeplants.org/events.html>. Classes meet at the RPBG Visitor Center unless otherwise noted.

To enroll, print out the Class Registration Form (available online) and send it with your check to:

John Rusk
1354-B Lincoln St.
Berkeley, CA 94702

For additional information call John Rusk at (510) 528-0526 or email at john@rusk.com. Advance registration is required for all classes. Drop-ins are not permitted.

MARIN CHAPTER BOARD ELECTIONS FOR 2010

Your outgoing Acting President and Vice President, Kristin Jakob, is very happy to announce that several people have stepped forward offering to fill some key positions on our chapter's Board of Directors. Field Trip Chair Joe Kohn, while planning to continue in that capacity, has expressed a desire to run as President, so long as he has the backup of a Vice President or two. To this end, both Dabney Smith (who is presently a Member-at-Large), and Doreen Smith (who will continue to be our Rare Plants Chair) will be running as Co-Vice Presidents.

There are two openings for Members-at-Large, and this is an opportunity for any members in good standing to nominate themselves, or, with permission, another member, for one of these elected positions. The board elections will take place at the start of the November 10 membership meeting at the Redwoods in Mill Valley.

The slate, to date:

- President: Joe Kohn
- Co-Vice President: Dabney Smith
- Co-Vice President: Doreen Smith
- Treasurer: Daniel Kushner
- Recording Secretary: Paula Dawson
- Members-at-Large (up to six): Carolyn Caldwell-White, Jolie Egert, Gini Havel, Stacey Pogorzelski, Carol Weiske

In addition to these elected offices, several other volunteer positions remain unfilled, or in need of assistance. Please contact the following people should you wish to learn what their positions entail:

- Carolyn Longstreth is doing a superb job representing our chapter and keeping abreast of the rest of our statewide organization at the quarterly Chapter Council meetings, held at various locations in the state, but she would welcome an alternate for the meetings she is unable to attend.
- Eva Buxton would welcome a Co-Chair for Conservation, to attend public meetings and read EIRs, and the like.
- Paula Dawson has for many years provided an invaluable service faithfully recording our board meeting proceedings and actions, and would welcome an alternate for those meetings she cannot attend. Phyllis Faber has occasionally helped in this capacity, but we would welcome one more scribe!

Book Sales Chair(s) and Transportation Urgently Needed!

Robert Feist, who for many years has ferried our

inventory of books for sale to and from meetings, plant sales and other events, needs to step down after the November membership meeting. Robert has lived for a few years in San Francisco, and his work schedule makes it nearly impossible for him to continue this service for the chapter. If someone with a suitable vehicle could relieve him of this duty before the October or November meetings, we would be very happy for Robert! Many thanks to you, Robert, for your great contribution over the years!

We also need one or more people to conduct book sales, maintain, and possibly store the inventory (presently in Mill Valley), and order books as needed. Since our last book chair departed, Kristin Jakob has been filling in with buying, but it is not her forte, nor has she had time to sell books at meetings. Please call Kristin at (415) 388-1844 if you can assist in any one of these capacities.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Text and photo by Doreen Smith

Last year, while on a field trip to Stafford Lake Park in Novato, we found a new native plant species for Marin, a very small petunia, *Petunia parviflora*, a.k.a. *Calibrachoa parviflora*. This annual field trip was to look for late-blooming plants; the dried muddy reservoir shores are home to several species not otherwise seen in the County.



Above: Wild petunia (*Petunia parviflora*)

This year, on a repeat visit, we found another new native species for Marin, alkali mallow, *Malvella leprosa*.

The *Petunia* is very small, only about two inches tall, and the little purple flowers open only at mid-day, so it is not easy to find them unless you know just where they are. In the same area are *Persicaria amphibia*, *Heliotropium curassavicum*, and *Epilobium pygmaeum*. A plant list for "Stafford Lake Park" (MCOSD), will be on our Marin CNPS website.

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE!

You can find a color PDF edition of this newsletter on the Marin chapter website by visiting www.marin.edu/cnps/newsletters.html.



PLANT PORTRAITS: BOTANICAL PRINTS BY KRISTIN JAKOB

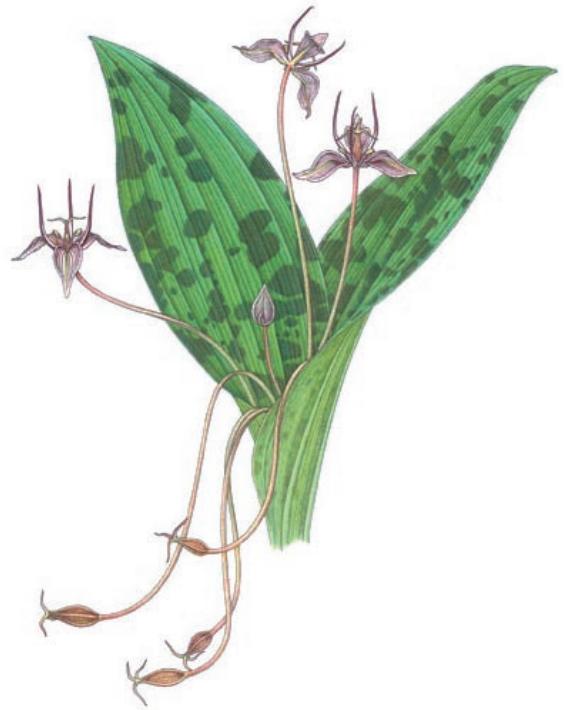
October 1, 2009–January 4, 2010

This exhibition will be held at the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture at Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park.

Please join us for the Artist's Reception on Thursday, October 29, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The library is open daily 10 a.m.–4 p.m. except major holidays. Phone (415) 661-1316 ext. 403 or visit <http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org/library/index.html>.

A percentage of the proceeds benefits the Library.



Above: Fetid Adder's Tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii*) by Kristin Jakob

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 Chair	Charlotte Torgovitsky
Legislation	Phyllis Faber
<i>Marin Flora</i> Project	Wilma Follette
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 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 www.marin.edu/cnps (chapter)

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 _____

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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
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Visit us at www.marin.edu/cnps!

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 (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)



RENEW ONLINE

Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, set it to renew automatically year after year. It's quick, easy, convenient, and reduces renewal mailing costs.

Visit www.cnps.org and click JOIN.

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 _____