

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER



Eriophyllum lanatum 'Siskiyou' is a focal point of front garden by Pete Veilleux

April 2021 Newsletter

Marin Chapter Meeting: "New Native Plants to Try in Your Garden" Guest Speaker: Pete Veilleux

April 12 @ 7:30 pm via Zoom

[Register Here.](#)



Lewisia cotyledon & Heuchera 'Canyon Duet'
by Pete Veilleux



plants you may not have considered including in your patio and garden.

One of Pete Veilleux's goals as a landscaper is to help people make the connection between their yards and the greater, wild world around us. He wants people to experience in their own yards the beautiful harmony that we see when exploring the woods, meadows and high rocky outcrops around the Bay.

Join Pete for an exploration of some native



About Pete Veilleux (in his own words)
East Bay Wilds Native Plant Nursery began as a small gardening service called 'Pete's Gardens' in 2004. I had reached a point where my 17 years in social services both in the USA and throughout Latin America was no longer "cuttin' the mustard". Exploring our remaining wild places and gardening with native plants have been passions [obsessions?] of mine since I was a little kid. I had always dreamed of having my own landscape business but didn't realize there actually were folks

interested in native plants until I began propagating things I would find while exploring the woods and hills around the east bay and then giving them away.

East Bay Wilds is a firm which specializes in the use of native plant material for use in residential and commercial landscapes in the East Bay as well as the rest of the San Francisco Bay Area. We design, install and maintain "naturescape" gardens using plants cultivated in our own native plant nursery. Bay Wilds Native Plant Nursery and garden center with a variety of garden furniture, planters, and art is open every Friday from 9:30 to 4:00 - 2777 Foothill Blvd., the entrance is on 28th Ave. in Oakland, CA.



Field Trips Resume!

After a year's hiatus, Marin CNPS is very pleased to offer field outings once again! Due to the continuing pandemic, though, we will be following state guidelines for outdoor activities: masks and social distancing will be required; carpooling is not permitted. Additionally, outings will be limited to 10 participants. Please sign up for any trips you are interested in by emailing Susan Schlosser scschlosser52@gmail.com.

Other COVID-related obstacles are that state and county parks have implemented onerous and unworkable permit requirements for groups so we will be sticking with federal parks for now. And we are choosing more weekdays than usual because the pandemic is causing such overcrowding of many trails on weekends.

Tuesday, April 20 - 9:30 am to 1 pm - Palomarin Trail, Bolinas. This lovely trail follows along a bluff right above the ocean and continues into an open forest, eventually passing a couple of small lakes. We should find a variety of chaparral and woodland wildflowers in these habitats, including red and yellow paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.), cow parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), lupine sp., Douglas iris (*Iris douglasii*), California buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus*) and various ferns. Migrating California gray whales would be an added treat.



Field Trip to Abbotts Lagoon 2014
Photo by Vernon Smith from the archives



Palomarin Bluff Looking Toward Drakes Bay, Point Reyes National Seashore by Vernon Smith

This is an out-and-back hike; we'll continue as far as we are inclined, probably not the full 4 miles to Double Point.

To reach the trailhead, approach the town of Bolinas using the Bolinas-Olema Road off Route 1. Go left when the road T's at a plant nursery. As you continue, watch for the "Peace Barn" on the left and take the next right onto Mesa Road. Continue for 4.2 miles to the parking lot.

Sunday, May 9 - 9:30 am to 1:30 pm - Point Reyes National Seashore. Celebrate Mother's Day looking for flowers at Point Reyes! Hopefully we will tour the Woodward Fire scar. Alternatively we will search for as many as seven species of lupine at Abbott's Lagoon. Once determined, we will email directions to those who have signed up. **Note:** The Seashore is planning to open the closed fire area to everyone at the same time, so anyone who signs up too late to join the maximum group size of 10 can visit the fire scar on their own.

Thursday, May 27- 9:30 am to 11:30 pm - Julian Trail, Marin Headlands. We will explore this north-facing trail for lingering spring wildflowers. This trail descends gently for about a mile; excellent ocean views will be bonus if the sun is out.

[Upcoming field trip details can be viewed here.](#)

April Plant Sale

We expect to have many new offerings at our April sale, including milkweed plants and spring flowering annuals and perennials. Items that didn't sell in March will be available again, however there were very few of those! We hope everyone is enjoying their new plants.

Order online through the link on our website cnpsmarin.org

- **Sale Opens** at 8 am on Wed. April 14
- **Sale Closes** 6 pm on Wed. April 21
- **Pickup** orders on Sat. April 24 between 10:30 am and 1:30 pm, in the parking lot of Bon Air Center, Greenbrae.

Offerings:

- flowering perennials, bulbs, and annuals for spring and summer color and to support our pollinators
- locally sourced native seeds
- local flowering shrubs that attract pollinators, birds, etc.
- selections from the [Plant Replacement List](#) alternatives to fire-prone plants

[Read more...](#)



Plants Growing Strong for the April Online Plant Sale
by Laura Lovett

California Native Plant Week - April 17 to 25, 2021

This California Native Plant week, CNPS invites you to grow your **CARE** for native plants.

Cultivate a native plant garden.

Act to protect California plants and natural habitats.

Restore and improve habitat near you.

Enjoy native plants on the trail or at a botanic garden near you.



Check in daily for activities in local Chapters and statewide. Each day a 360 virtual tours of backyard gardens, city parks, and wildlands across the state will be highlighted. Wherever you live, whoever you are, you can **CARE** for native plants! Connect to [Grow Care Everywhere](#) here.

Become a Fire Follower

- California experienced the largest fire season in 2020.
- Fire (human-caused or natural) is an important component of the California ecosystem.
- Plants dependent on fire contribute to California's natural diversity.

The CNPS California Fire Followers campaign seeks to record the response of plants in areas burned in 2020. Together, we can collect data via [iNaturalist](#) and compare plants observed pre-and post-fire to increase our understanding of California's biodiversity and collect valuable information to aid future conservation efforts. [Read more...](#)



Fire Followers

Community Science Project of CNPS and iNaturalist

Local areas where you might view post-fire blooms: Annandel State Park in Santa Rosa and Mix Canyon Road outside Vacaville. Go sooner rather than later due to dry conditions.

Heal the Earth: An Earth Day Conversation

We hear plenty of bad news about the environment. What we seldom hear is that around the world even the most damaged environments can be restored. Journalist Judith D. Schwartz and Diana Donlon, Executive Director of SoilCentric, have been following the growing global ecosystem restoration movement. They will offer highlights of earth repair efforts and ways that people can get involved. Listen and join with questions on [McCullough Library's Facebook Page](#). Earth Day: Thursday April 22, 2021 @ 3 pm Pacific Time

Want to join the conversation? Email mclibrary@comcast.net for Zoom invitation.



Volunteer Spotlight: Wendy Dreskin

As a professional and volunteer, Wendy Dreskin has been exploring and sharing her love of nature with people in Marin County for more than four decades.

With the birth of her daughter in the early 1980's, Wendy quickly discovered that birders are not fond of babies because they make noise and scare the birds. At the same time, Wendy heard about Marin Chapter CNPS Wednesday Wildflower Walks led by Wilma Follette and joined them with her baby in her backpack. She found that botanists move slowly, so the group had only moved ten yards down the trail in the time it took Wendy to nurse and change the baby. The CNPS group nicknamed Wendy's daughter Baby Blue Eyes.



Wendy Dreskin
by William Dreskin

Wendy loves introducing adults and children to nature. Since 1998, Wendy has taught her popular adult class "Meandering in Marin" through College of Marin Community Education. Her ongoing column in the *Marin Independent Journal* also inspires people to get out on Marin's hiking trails. Wendy especially enjoys introducing people to areas she loves. Wendy has led walks centered on a variety of topics including native wildflowers, tidepools, butterflies, migratory birds, and Native American uses of plants.

While Wendy served as Education Chair for the Marin Chapter of CNPS she started the [Junior Botanist](#) program. Free to schools in Marin, the program has reached more than four thousand children over the past two decades. Wendy also collaborated with the Richardson Bay Audubon Center in creating a Junior Bird Watcher Program modeled on the Junior Botanist Program.

Since 2005, Wendy has coordinated the Marin Butterfly Count for the North American Butterfly Association. Other volunteer activities include leading a group for the Point Reyes Christmas Bird Count for Kids, participating in the Mt. Tamalpais Bioblitz, and Point Reyes Rare-Plant-At-Thons. She has been a participant or a group leader for the Marin and Point Reyes Christmas Bird Counts since the early 1970s. Wendy Dreskin at Lakes Basin by William Dreskin



Wendy introduced hikers from around the country to Marin's wonderful hiking trails through Elderhostel (now Road Scholar). She started leading safaris to Tanzania in 2014. The 2017 trip was for Branson School students, and the 2018 trip included an optional volunteer week at a school after the safari which will be repeated in 2022.

For her work inspiring both children and adults, Wendy received the Elizabeth Terwilliger Environmental Award from WildCare and the Johns Hopkins University Institute for the Academic Advancement of Youth Teacher Recognition Award. In 2018 she was inducted into the Marin Women's Hall of Fame

Wendy currently writes her Marin IJ column, teaches two pods of children about nature, leads adult hikes, and gives zoom presentations on nature. Post-COVID she looks forward to resuming *Meandering in Marin*, after school classes for Bacich Elementary School students, in-school nature classes at Kids on the Hill Preschool, and of course the Junior Botany Program. Check out all her activities at her website: www.wendydreskin.com

Upcoming Events

- [Point Reyes Field Institute: Butterflies for Beginners April 17](#) and Magic of Minus Tides in May
- Tanzania safari - rescheduled to 2022
- Marin's annual [NABA Butterfly Count](#) June 12
- Sonoma LandPaths walk on May 8

Nature Education for Children

Terwilliger Nature Education Center (now WildCare)

Mark Day School

Odyssey program for gifted students

Kids on the Hill Preschool

[Fortune Kids Orphanage and Foundation](#)

[Zariki Preschool and Elementary School](#)

[Girls' Hope](#)

Marin County Free Library

Hikes and Programs for Adults

Friends of Olompali State Park
CNPS Marin Chapter
Friends of Corte Madera Creek
Marin Audubon
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin
Point Reyes Seashore Association
Marin Municipal Water District
Marin County Open Space District
Rotary Clubs of San Rafael Harbor and Marin Sunrise

***Phytophthora*: Sources and Spread**

A just published study documents that *Phytophthora* soil borne pathogens (oomycetes or water molds including Sudden Oak Death - SOD) have been introduced into restoration sites via plant and/or soil material from native plant propagation facilities. *Phytophthora* can spread beyond an infected restoration site from infested soil or water. However, it was not found everywhere, e.g. in unrestored locations, so efforts to contain its spread are warranted.

Several years ago, CNPS became aware of *Phytophthora* infections of nursery stock. CNPS developed best management practices (BMPs) to control its spread from retail nurseries and wholesale propagation facilities. It has been encouraging CNPS Chapters, commercial nurseries, restoration agencies, and the public to adopt these BMPs.

Resources:

- [Soil borne pathogen invasions linked to ecological restorations](#): Press Release
- [Phytophthora species repeatedly introduced in Northern California through restoration projects can spread into adjacent sites](#). By: Laura Lee Sims & Matteo Garbelotto
- CNPS Policy: [PREVENTING INFECTION AND SPREAD OF HARMFUL PATHOGENS VIA NATIVE PLANT NURSERY AND PLANT SALE STOCK](#)
- CNPS Website article: [Native Plant Group Supports Clean Nursery Practices](#)
- Citizen Science Opportunity: Marin SOD Blitz on May 8 to 11 [Read more. . .](#)



Dying and dead *Diplacus aurantiacus* with *Phytophthora* disease by Laura Sims

Got broom?

Broom and other fire-prone horticultural shrubs pose a fire danger **in open landscapes** and act as “ladder fuels” from a ground fire to the tree canopy **in wooded areas**. Borrow up to six wrenches to help prevent further spread of the most invasive shrub in Marin County.

[To borrow a weed wrench from CNPS Marin](#), please contact Eva Buxton (Conservation & Invasive Species Chair) at evabuxton@sbcglobal.net



Kid's Corner (for the young at heart)

After the winter rains, spring warmth encourages California native plants to burst into bloom. Enjoy the show and check out these [Wild for Wildflowers](#) activities.



Ranunculus californicus - common buttercup
By Ann Elliott

Upcoming Marin Chapter Events - 2021

April

- 1 **Howard-Kohn Memorial Scholarship Deadline** [Read more. . .](#)
- 12 **Chapter Meeting "New Plants to Try in Your Garden"** Guest Speaker: Pete Veilleux @ 7:30 pm ([See description above.](#)) [Register here.](#)
- 14- **Online Plant Sale** - Pickup date April 24 - [See above.](#)
- 21
- 20 **Field Trip - Palomarin Trail, Bolinas** - Tues. @ 9:30 am [Read more. . .](#)

May

- 9 **Field Trip - Point Reyes Nat. Seashore** - Sun. @ 9:30 am
- 10 **Chapter Meeting "Results of the One Tam Pollinator Study"** Guest Speaker: Gretchen LeBuhn @ 7:30 pm
- 27 **Field Trip - Julian Trail, Marin Headlands** - Thurs. @ 9:30 am

Marin Chapter Board Meetings generally occur on the first Monday of each month. To attend, contact David Long sfdlong@ix.netcom.com



Delphinium decorum ssp. *decorum* Vernon Smith

Join [CNPS Events](#) - Statewide & Organized by Other Chapters

Peruse this [list of events](#) that includes virtual talks about pollinators, vernal pools and wetlands, and droughts, as well as virtual garden tours.



Calochortus uniflorus - large flowered star tulip
by Ann Elliott

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram Lovers!

Do you enjoy social media? Marin Chapter is looking for someone who can boost our social media presence. We want to reach a wider audience for our upcoming events, especially plant sales and field trips. It won't be a lot of hours and can be done on your own schedule. Information and graphics for posts can/will be provided. Please contact Ann Elliott annonfire@gmail.com

Do you love literature about plants and the environment? Do you have a knack for creating botanical puzzles? Are you concerned about or commenting on a plant conservation issue? Is there something else about native plants that intrigues you? Submit an article about any of these interests; others are bound to be interested too.

Add cnps@cnps.org to your email contacts to avoid news from Marin Chapter going to promotions, spam, or junk. Thank you.
Ann Elliott, Newsletter Editor
annonfire@gmail.com



Fritillaria liliacea - fragrant fritillary by Woody Elliott



Marin Chapter

California Native Plant Society

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2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5130 | Tel: (916) 447-2677
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