

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER

May 2021 Newsletter

Marin Chapter Meeting: "Understanding the Biology of the Solitary Bees of the Bay Area" Guest Speaker: Gretchen LeBuhn

May 10 @ 7:30 pm via Zoom
[Register for this meeting here.](#)

Dr. LeBuhn will describe the initial results from a monitoring program of solitary bees in the Presidio and the North Bay, including work on the effects of the wildland urban interface and fire management plots on Mt. Tamalpais on bee populations.

Gretchen LeBuhn is a professor of Biology in the College of Science and Engineering at San Francisco State University. Author of [The Bee Friendly Garden](#), winner of the American Horticultural Society 2017 Book Award and over 50 peer-reviewed publications, she has served nationally and internationally on projects and committees regarding pollinators. She is the founder and director of the [Great Sunflower Project](#), the largest community science program focused on pollinators in the world.



Full Description: Dr. LeBuhn will review recent work from her laboratory at San Francisco State University on the factors influencing solitary bee communities. Over the past couple years, she and her students have established a monitoring program in the Presidio and the North Bay. She will describe the initial results of that program, including work on the effects of the wildland urban interface and fire management plots on Mt. Tamalpais on bee populations. In addition, Dr. LeBuhn will discuss work on the impacts of fire and invasive species on bee communities.

Gretchen LeBuhn is a professor of Biology in the College of Science and Engineering at San Francisco State University. She is the author of three books, including *The Bee Friendly Garden*, winner of the American Horticultural Society 2017 Book Award and over 50 peer-reviewed publications. She served as a lead author on the Pollination Assessment for the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and a science advisor for Global Environmental Facility/United Nations Environmental Programme/Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations Project on the Conservation and Management of Pollinators for Sustainable Agriculture (2008-2015).

She has served on numerous grant review panels for state, federal, and international granting agencies. She is currently the founder and director of the Great Sunflower Project, the largest community science program focused on pollinators in the world. Dr. LeBuhn has received ~30 external grants from federal, state, and local agencies and foundations since joining the faculty and provided research experiences for over 100 undergraduate and 30 graduate students at SFSU.

Marin Chapter Field Trips

What a joy to join with fellow plant lovers in the wilds after a year of sheltering in place. Hikers on the first excursion along the Palomarin Trail enjoyed spring wildflowers; a selection of native grasses, shrubs, and trees; sun; and blustery views from the coastal bluff to the exposed rocky reef and ocean.



For upcoming hikes:

- Limit 10 participants: **please sign up for any trips by emailing Susan Schlosser scschlosser52@gmail.com**. Please also contact her if you must cancel, so another can take your slot.
- Follow COVID-19 safe practices: Masking, social distancing, no carpooling.
- Participants will be asked to digitally sign a waiver, required by CNPS.

[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.



Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia ssp. *cheiranthifolia*
beach evening-primrose by Ann Elliott

[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 a bonus if the sun is out.

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

April Marin Chapter Plant Sale a Success

Colorfully flowering perennials, bulbs, and annuals were favorite purchases. Flowering shrubs and selections from the [Plant Replacement List](#) for alternatives to fire-prone plants were also popular. County residents with adequate water supply may be scattering their locally sourced native seeds, others will hold them until the first fall rains. Pollinators and birds will soon be visiting your new plantings. Remember, deer-resistant plants need protection when young.



Anaphalis margaritacea protected by Ann Elliott

SOD Blitzes - Community Science to Fight Sudden Oak Death

Sudden Oak Death (SOD), a serious exotic disease caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*, is threatening the survival of tanoak and several oak species in California. Currently SOD is found in patches in wildlands of 14 coastal California counties, from Monterey to Humboldt, but infection continues to spread. SOD spreads often from infected California bay laurel leaves.



SOD Blitz 2020, Tomales Bay State Park
by Woody Elliott

SOD-Blitzes educate the community about Sudden Oak Death and get locals involved in detecting the disease by collecting symptomatic leaves. The map of SOD occurrences can then be used to identify areas where the infestation might be controlled with management.

Volunteer for the Marin SOD Blitz - May 8-11, 2021:

- Register online at: www.sodblitz.com Look for SOD Blitz 2021 Spring Survey Project.
- Pick up collection materials May 8, collect samples, and return them May 10 or 11 at: [Dominican University](#), outside the entrance to the Fink Science Center, 155 Palm Ave, San Rafael (Approach via Acacia Avenue, walk through small park and cross bridge over creek.)
- Contacts:
 - Wolfgang Schweigkofler – wolfgang.schweigkofler@dominican.edu
 - Kristin Jakob (CNPS) – kristinjakob@att.net

Last year, the Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Blitzes were deemed a necessary program by the State and were allowed to be run following Covid-19 contactless guidelines. The 2020 SOD Blitzes were a smashing success and more trees were surveyed and samples in 2020 than in 2019! We are pleased to announce the 2021 SOD Blitzes will soon come to a neighborhood near you. Once again, we need your help to map the distribution of this

terrible disease that is killing many of our oaks, tanoaks and since 2017- some of our endemic California-unique manzanitas.

Most of you have already participated at least once in the past, many of you have participated more than once. This year, we need as many people as possible to complete the yearly statewide survey, given that a dangerous novel strain, or variant, of the SOD pathogen has been detected in California forests last year. All plant material you submit will be tested for infection by the SOD pathogen and for presence of the EU1 variant, known to be more aggressive than the NA1 variant, currently present in the vast majority of California forests. It is imperative we detect this variant ASAP, as its spread could accelerate the demise of our oaks and tanoaks.

These are the reasons why your participation will make a difference:

- 1- The data you collect will be useful to you, but also to all California residents, who can freely access the data at the [SOD map](#) website in the Fall of each year
- 2- If SOD is detected within half a mile of any given property, then it is urgent to proactively protect oaks. Oaks that are protected are less likely to become infected
- 3- Oaks infected by SOD are likely to die; they may fail and fall even before they die, causing injuries, death and damage to property; they may burn very hot in case of a wildfire, greatly enhancing local fire intensity.
- 4 If the new EU1 variant is found in your neighborhood early on, we may be able to eradicate it. Later detections will make it impossible to eradicate the new variant
- 5- Participation is 100% safe with regards to Covid-19 and is a much needed family outdoor activity in these troubled times

Go to [SOD Blitz Project](#) to identify the most convenient SOD Blitz for you. SOD Blitizes are organized throughout Northern California, but each area is assigned a specific week. Most SOD Blitizes run Saturday to Tuesday. Your registration and training will be done online. The day you decide to run your survey within the week assigned to your area, you can collect all of the materials you need to complete the survey in a SOD Blitz station near you. Return your samples in the same location when done. In a few cases, you will be allowed to return samples by mail. Most SOD Blitizes run Saturday to Tuesday, April to mid June. Please download the App [SODmap mobile](#) before starting your Blitz. The App allows you to see areas that are undersampled and also allows you to determine the latitude and longitude of trees you are surveying and/or sampling.

Be a part of one of the oldest Citizen Science programs focused on saving trees, worldwide! Thanks to your help, California majestic oaks and tanoaks and the animals that depend on them can be saved! The UC Berkeley Forest Pathology Laboratory together with our native trees thank you for your time and help!

YouTube Channel for CNPS Marin Chapter

Marin Chapter has launched a YouTube channel for public access to recordings of Chapter Meetings and other events. Check out the Chapter's last few "meetings" at the link below, or while in YouTube search for CNPS Marin. Hit the **SUBSCRIBE** button to be notified of new postings. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi7yQqf4y_RSUWlt9kGV1KQ



Got Broom?

Broom and other fire-prone invasive 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.

Contact Eva Buxton (Conservation & Invasive Species Chair) at evabuxton@sbcglobal.net



Kid's Corner (for the young at heart)

Do you wish you could preserve the beauty of wildflowers to enjoy for years and share with your friends? Consider these options:



Sisyrrinchium bellum - blue eyed grass
by Ann Elliott

- **Photography** is easy these days with our digital pocket computers with phone apps. Try getting really close or using the zoom feature.
- **Nature journaling** is a fun way to remember plants, animals, rocks, and even the weather. Keep a notebook with descriptions, drawings, and locations of all your favorites.
- **Create a herbarium**, a collection of preserved plant specimens (pressed plants mounted on paper).
 - Check out this article about [creating herbarium](#) from the CNPS *Flora* magazine.
 - Here are directions for making a basic [plant press](#). This is your first step in creating your herbarium.

Upcoming Marin Chapter Events - 2021

May

8-11 [Marin SOD Blitz](#)

9 [Field Trip - Point Reyes Nat. Seashore](#) - Sun. @ 9:30 am

10 [Chapter Meeting "Understanding the Biology of the Solitary Bees of the Bay Area"](#) Guest Speaker: Gretchen LeBuhn @ 7:30 pm

27 [Field Trip - Julian Trail, Marin Headlands](#) - Thurs. @ 9:30 am

June Check CNPSMarin.org for upcoming field trips and events as they are scheduled.

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

Join CNPS Events - Statewide & Organized by Other Chapters

Peruse the [CNPS Calendar of Events](#) that includes virtual talks and virtual garden tours.

Big Day of Giving - Donations to CNPS at bigdayofgiving.org/CNPS will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$25,000, thanks to the generosity of the Caroline and Susan Spiller Wildflower Fund. Your gift will directly support CNPS elementary school curricula, student research grants & college scholarships, student workshops and conference attendance. You can help inspire and support this next generation of native plant advocates and conservationists! [Donations through May 6 will be DOUBLED!](#)



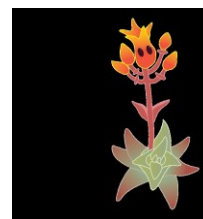
Naturehood Gardening Webinar - May 6, 5:30 pm
We will resume our first Thursday of the month gardening webinar with "Beyond the Backyard: Native Plants in the Built Environment." Landscape architects and designers who are revitalizing urban sites with California native plants will join us in a conversation about bringing native plants into all spaces. From sidewalk medians to school campuses, parkways to municipal landscaping, and more. Link to register: <http://bit.ly/cnps0506>



Forever Forests Art Contest - What are your favorite forest memories? What are your hopes and concerns regarding California's forests? All levels of artwork are encouraged - photography, painting, drawing, prints, textile art, and sculpture. Seven inspirational prompts from the word FOREVER guide artistic endeavors. Submit your creations by May 17 at www.cnps.org/forever-forests. Join this live [CNPS event](#) on International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22) to view the winners.



Dudleya Legislation - [CNPS continues its support of AB 223](#) to stop Dudleya poaching. Why does it matter? Because plants matter, they are part of the home for us and animals. View the [Plant Heist](#) documentary available for free at [Mailchimp's Support the Shorts!](#) Ask your CA State legislators to support AB 223.



Become a [Fire Follower](#):

- Visit a recent burn area
- Make observation with iNaturalist
- Increase our knowledge of CA biodiversity

[Fire Followers Current Hot Spots](#):

- Morgan Territory Regional Preserve, Alameda County
- Round Valley Regional Preserve, Contra Costa County
- Annadel State Park, Sonoma County
- Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, Sonoma & Napa Counties



Nemophila menziesii - baby blue eyes in small burn along trail to Pt. Reyes Lighthouse by Ann Elliott

30x30 - A global campaign to protect 30% of the Earth's surface from human exploitation by 2030

Last October, California was the first state to establish 30x30 goalposts, to protect 30 percent of California's land and waters by 2030 alongside California's goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. In January, President Biden pledged for all of the United States to join the 30x30 challenge.



[CNPS plans to be an active partner](#) with the California Natural Resources Agency to insure that CNPS priorities are included in the statewide 30x30 planning. These priorities include:

- A strong definition of "conservation"
- The incorporation of [California Important Plant Areas](#)
- Biodiversity protection and representation in protected areas
- Aligned land management approaches
- Access to nature
- Honoring Indigenous knowledge and sovereignty

CNPS Chapters are encouraged to:

- Contribute to regional information and CNPS talking points, so we capture top-level priorities and concerns for your area. CNPS will use this information for 30x30 outreach, to share with partners, and to incorporate into coalition talking points.
 - Identify local experts to attend local workshops, participate in regional coalitions, and contribute to targeted CNPS communications, as needed through the 30x30 process.
 - Share and distribute CNPS 30x30 talking points with your chapter members and local networks.
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Celebrate Spring with Community Science Activities!

Community science projects like CNPS's Fire Followers, the SOD Blitzes, and City Nature Challenge engage citizens to document nature to better understand biodiversity and collect valuable data to aid in future conservation efforts.



The international [#CityNatureChallenge](#) takes place April 30 - May 3. Take photos of wild plants and animals in your house, your backyard, a park, your neighborhood. Upload them to iNaturalist. [Join in and attend special events near you.](#)

Help Marin Chapter Reach a Wider Audience

Do you enjoy social media? Marin Chapter is looking for help boosting our social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter... We want to expand our outreach to more community members to encourage awareness of our Mission and upcoming events. Information and graphics/photos for posts will be provided. Please contact Ann Elliott at annonfire@gmail.com.



Wyethia angustifolia - narrow leaf mule ears just opening along Estero Americano by Ann Elliott

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Marin Chapter
California Native Plant Society

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