

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER



Woodward Fire Scar, Point Reyes National Seashore - by Ann Elliott

## November 2021 Newsletter

### Marin Chapter Meeting "Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates, with Special Emphasis on California Natives"

Guest Speaker: **Saxon Holt**, award-winning photographer. **Mon. Nov. 8 @ 7:30 PM**

[Register for this Zoom meeting here.](#)



Charlotte Torgovitsky's garden by Saxon Holt



Saxon Holt will take us on a photographic journey through his new book, *Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates: Plants for a Lush, Water-Conscious Landscape*. This book includes detailed information that helps gardeners in each region choose plants that will work with their own local version of a summer-dry climate.

The [Summer-Dry Project](#) is an on-going initiative to provide gardeners in summer-dry, Mediterranean climates authentic photos that encourage sustainable garden practices. We want to change the aesthetic of what gardeners typically see in a garden photo for summer-dry climates. Beautiful photos of beautiful gardens inspire gardeners to mimic what they see. At [Summer-Dry](#) you will find a searchable database of photos, all taken in mature gardens that illustrate how plants grow in real settings.



# Chapter Board Elections

The November Chapter Meeting doubles as our Annual business meeting when we elect the Chapter Board. We need a quorum of 10% of Chapter members voting at the meeting, so **on Nov. 8, please attend, vote, and enjoy Saxon Holt's talk.**

Here are the self-nominated Board members for 2021:

- Co-President: Kristin Jakob
- Co-President: David Long
- Treasurer: Kate Wing
- Recording Secretary: Woody Elliott
- Eva Buxton
- Paul da Silva
- Ann Elliott
- Carolyn Longstreth
- Laura Lovett
- Nancy Morita
- Eddie Robertson



*Solanum xanti* - blue witch nightshade  
by Ann Elliott

Please vote at the upcoming [Chapter Meeting](#) to acknowledge our dedicated volunteers!

## Annual Member Celebration and Appreciation - Hopefully Next Year!

For the second year in a row, we have reluctantly canceled our annual November party for friends and members, held at Falkirk Cultural Center. This is our yearly chance to treat all of you and thank you for your generous support of our chapter in ways large and small. We miss you! We love hearing what you are up to and the ideas you have for our organization. Hopes are high for safe resumption of large gatherings by spring. In the meantime, keep an eye on this newsletter for word of upcoming activities and enjoy watching your garden come to life after the lovely downpour we got!



Marin CNPS Member Appreciation Event in 2017  
by Laura Lovett

## Online Plant Sale Rocked

The recent soaking Northern California received was perfect for native plants in the wild and in our gardens. Thank you to all who supported the Chapter with purchases at our Fall Online Native Plant Sale. If you have not got your plants in the ground yet, do it soon.



plants ready for packing at Home Ground Habitats  
by Laura Lovett

# Marin Chapter Field Trips

## Field Trip Guidelines:

- **Email Susan Schlosser** at [scschlosser52@gmail.com](mailto:scschlosser52@gmail.com) to sign up for a field trip, as we are limiting participants to 15.
- **Electronically sign** the CNPS Liability waiver for the trip (Susan will provide the link.)



Pioneer Tree Trail in Samuel P. Taylor State Park by Ann Elliott

**Turtle Back Trail at China Camp State Park Sun. Nov. 14 @ 10:00 am**  
 Enjoy a late fall stroll around Turtle Back Trail. This area is interesting year round. We will search for a few lingering flowers, appreciate fall color in the oak woodland, and explore the edges of the tidal marsh.

This fairly level ¾ mile trail is accessed from North San Pedro Road (the main park road) about .3 mi east of the campground entrance. Purchase a \$3 trail pass from one of the electronic kiosks or iron rangers found at points along the road. Those funds support Friends of China Camp and trail maintenance. Park along the road near the trail head.



Listen to the [Turtle Back Trail Interpretive Audio Tour](#) before or after the hike.



Optionally, we can reconvene at China Camp Village to picnic and visit the historic fishing village.

Here is an interesting article: [“Tidal Marsh Vegetation of China Camp”](#) by Peter Baye.

Leaders: **Woody and Ann Elliott**

[woodyelliott@gmail.com](mailto:woodyelliott@gmail.com) [annonfire@gmail.com](mailto:annonfire@gmail.com) 530-521-4402

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



# Tiburon Middle Ridge Open Space Parcel on the Radar Again

Eva Buxton, Conservation Chair Marin Chapter CNPS

Tiburon Middle Ridge composed of serpentine grassland and outcrops is the most biologically and ecologically valuable of the Town of Tiburon's preserves (26 parcels in all). Tiburon hired consulting firm LSA Associates, Inc. to update the Open Space Resource Management Plan (OSRMP) which I co-authored for that same firm in 2010. Although I am retired, I had the opportunity to accompany the authors of the plan update on a field visit to the Middle Ridge (MR) parcel and give input into the new plan. The updated plan, the Short-term Implementation Plan (STIP), is being reviewed by Tiburon's Parks, Open Space & Trails Commission. After review, comments, and possible revision it will eventually be adopted by the Tiburon Town Council.

Purposes of the STIP include:

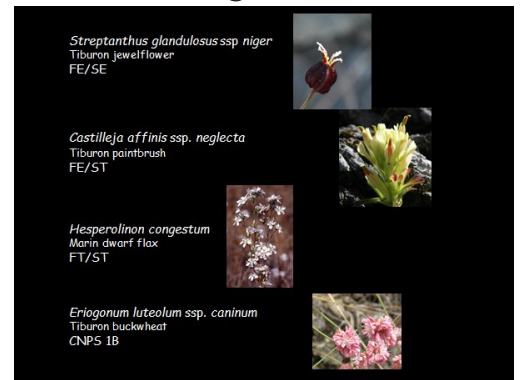
- Summarize the management activities conducted by the Town of Tiburon since the adoption of the OSRMP and the general process for scheduling and implementing these management activities;
- Identify any major changes in the environmental setting (vegetation, sensitive natural resources) and recommended treatment methods based on current conditions or best management practices (BMP);
- Re-establish the prioritization categories for management activities;
- Identify the specific projects, programs, or management actions to be implemented by the Town over the next five years and beyond, consistent with the OSRMP and based on current conditions;
- Provide an annual schedule that specifies the recommended activities for implementation; and
- Specify any recommended monitoring of management actions.

The STIP is very detailed regarding what invasive or flammable species to remove on all 26 open space parcels within the Town of Tiburon. The Commissioners were especially impressed by the detailed cost estimates for vegetation management on each parcel for each of the first five years. These amounts had been arrived at by interviewing other land managers in Marin County.

LSA asked me to review the document because of my years of involvement with the parcel. In my comments I will emphasize:

The ongoing destruction by dogs brought daily by professional dog-walkers to the Middle Ridge:

- Their use tramples the serpentine grassland.
- This use also impacts the habitat of three federal and state-listed species - Tiburon jewel-flower (*Streptanthus glandulosus* ssp. *niger*), Marin dwarf flax (*Hesperolinon congestum*) and Tiburon paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis* ssp. *neglecta*) - as well as a CNPS Rank 1B species, Tiburon buckwheat (*Eriogonum luteolum* ssp. *caninum*).
- There is no enforcement of the professional dog-walking Ordinance (2016) (after several requests to the Police Department).
- Invasion of Pride-of-Madeira (*Echium candicans*). This immensely invasive shrub is spreading into the open space from plants within the 100-foot encroachment space on parcels bordering the MR preserve.



Invasive grasses out-competing special-status species on Tiburon Middle Ridge by Eva Buxton



Heavy use by professional dog walkers damages Tiburon Middle Ridge. by Eva Buxton



*Echium candicans* (Pride of Madeira) invading Tiburon Middle Ridge from neighbors - Eva Buxton

## Hot Reads: Ten Essential New Books About Fighting Climate Change

*The Revelator*, a news and ideas initiative of the Center for Biological Diversity, suggests ten books which offer essential lessons for talking to a science-denying neighbor, local elected officials, your kids, or the corporations causing our worst problems.

[Read more...](#)



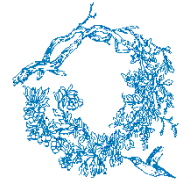
Bloom! California celebrates a category of native plants each week. In November the plants are: mint, oaks, ornamental grasses, and phacelia. [Explore these plants.](#) [Find a participating nursery near you!](#)

## CNPS Wreath Masters 2021 - The Competition Returns!

Create your own wreath of at least 51% native plants from a cultivated source. Submit pictures Nov. 5 to Dec. 5.

Look for the launch email with submission details.

[Read more...](#)



## **Kids' Corner** (for the young at heart)

### **Understanding Wildfire**

Many California ecosystems (community of living things) depend on fires to work properly. Wildfires recycle nutrients, help seeds germinate, and allow more sun to reach the low-growing plants. Forests, prairies, and chaparral can grow back into more healthy ecosystems after a fire.

Before we understood the significance of wildland fire, we put out wildfires as quickly as we could. Now, because too much fuel has built up and climate is changing, some areas are burning too hot and too often. Explore the role of fire and how we can safely return fire to the natural cycle in ecosystems.



*Pseudotsuga menziesii* - Douglas fir in Woodward Fire  
by Ann Elliott

- [How Wildfires Help!](#) - SciShow Kids
- [Fire ecology facts for kids](#)
- [We Will Live in This Forest Again](#) Mr. Wolfe reads this book by Giana Marino, Sonoma County resident

## Celebrate the Rain by Borrowing Our Weed Wrenches

Continue working on the defensible space around your home. Soil moistened by rain will allow easier clearing of broom and other fire-prone woody plants from your property with a weed wrench.

Borrow up to seven wrenches in three sizes, including one large wrench weighing 16.5 lbs. with a jaw capacity of 2.5 inches. Contact Eva Buxton (Conservation & Invasive Species Chair) [evabuxton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:evabuxton@sbcglobal.net)

[Read more...](#)



# Upcoming Marin Chapter Events - 2021

11/8 @ 7:30 Chapter Annual Meeting "Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates" Guest Speaker: **Saxon Holt** ([see above](#))

11/14 @ 10:00 am Field Trip: **Turtle Back Trail**, China Camp State Park ([see above](#))

12/13 @ 7:30 Chapter Meeting "Edible Native Plants of Marin County" Guest Speaker: **Susan Karasoff**, Yerba Buena Chapter

Check [CNPSMarin.org](http://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 co-President David Long [sfdlong@ix.netcom.com](mailto:sfdlong@ix.netcom.com)

Did you miss the symposium "Home Landscaping in a Changing Climate: Fire Smart, Water Wise and Biodiverse"? View talks from it and our recorded Zoom Chapter Meetings on our [YouTube channel](#) .

## Other CNPS and Related Events

Join these CNPS Events - Statewide & Organized by Other Chapters, etc. Peruse the [CNPS Calendar of Events](#). Here are a few:

- 11/3 @ 7 PM [Habitat Gardening in Fire Prone Landscapes](#) a talk by Adrienne Edwards & Rachel Schleiger for Mount Lassen Chapter
- 11/4 - 2-5:30 pm. Symposium: [Fire-resilient Landscapes: Creating Beautiful Gardens for Defensible Space](#) Association of Professional Landscape Designers - CA Chapter
- 11/7 is due date for [State CNPS Student Research Grants](#)
- 11/11 @ 7:30 pm. [Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Francisco](#) a talk by Mike Wood for Yerba Buena Chapter Speaker Series.
- 11/17 @ 7:30 pm. [California's Oaks and Their Countless Relations](#) a talk by Kate Marianchild for Santa Clara Valley Chapter
- November is Native American Heritage Month. See [Events and Resources](#)
- 12/2 @ 5:30 pm Naturehood Webinar [Native Gardening : Watering 101](#)

## Join the fun!

Spread the news about Marin CNPS. Submit ideas, articles, events, photos, art work, literary items to Ann Elliott, Newsletter Editor [annonfire@gmail.com](mailto:annonfire@gmail.com).

Please promote our events and engagement on your social media.



*Aralia californica* - elk clover  
by Ann Elliott



*Sequoia sempervirens* - The Pioneer Tree - Ann Elliott



*Pseudognaphalium californicum* - California everlasting  
by Ann Elliott

[Join/Renew](#)

[Donate](#)

