

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER



## April 2022 Newsletter

### Spring Online Native Plant Sales

We are continuing with online ordering with plant pickup in Greenbrae the following Saturday.

This second sale will focus on flowering perennials and shrubs, including ceanothus, buckwheat, monkeyflower, milkweeds, and many different types of salvia. Shrubs include toyon, coffeeberry, silver bush lupine, Catalina cherry, lemonadeberry and ninebark. Some of the wildflowers we will offer *Layia chrysanthemoides*, madia, globe gilia, buttercups, tidy tips, and Douglas iris. We have over 60 species that will be ready for sale!

**A link to the sale site will be posted on our website on March 31.**

- Opens: Thursday, **March 31**, at 6 pm CNPS MARIN MEMBERS ONLY, 7 pm for the general public
- Closes: Sunday, **April 3** at 7 pm
- Order packing: Friday, April 8 Volunteers needed; email [marincnpsvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:marincnpsvolunteers@gmail.com).
- Order pickup at Bon Air Shopping Ctr.: Saturday, **April 9** 10:30 am to 1:30 pm

[Read more...](#)



*Erythranthe cardinalis* - scarlet monkeyflower  
By Laura Lovett

# Marin Chapter Meeting

## "Maximizing Habitat Values in Urban Landscapes"

Monday, April 11 @ 7:30 pm

Guest Speaker: **Pat Reynolds**, River Partners Native Seed and Plant Program Director

Landscaping with native species and incorporation of habitat enhancement features within urban areas is a significant and underutilized conservation action that can effectively increase habitat values in the built environment. If designed properly, urban gardens can provide important habitat for beneficial insects including pollinators, improve water infiltration and retention, reduce irrigation requirements, help to combat climate change, and create resilient landscapes.



Showy milkweed, deergrass, sneezeweed, and cobwebby thistle combine to create structurally complex habitat in an urban setting



Coarse woody debris incorporated into native gardens adds beauty, visual interest, and habitat values.

Pat Reynolds' presentation will start with an introduction to Heritage Growers, River Partners new native seed and nursery program. He will then discuss the steps that go into the design, implementation and maintenance of habitat gardens dominated by native herbaceous vegetation including the incorporation of habitat features to maximize ecological values and habitat function. He will then conclude his presentation with a discussion of some of the findings of a U.C. Davis class study that looked at the social and ecological ramifications of a habitat enhancement project that he leads in his South Davis neighborhood with hopes of inspiring others to implement similar neighborhood projects.



The appropriate use of rich mixes of native seed can add significant biological diversity to habitat gardens.

Pat Reynolds is a restoration ecologist with more than 30 years of professional experience in the design, implementation and monitoring of restoration projects including the effective use of native seed. He is the General Manager Heritage Growers, River Partner's Native Seed and Nursery Program, the former General Manager of Hedgerow Farms and a past Associate Restoration Ecologist at H.T. Harvey & Associates. Pat sits on the Yolo County Planning Commission and is the Restoration Ecologist on the Science and Technical Advisory Committee for the Yolo County Habitat Agency. He has been a member of the California Native Grassland Association (CNGA) Board of Directors since 2017 where he often serves as an instructor for CNGA restoration workshops and events and periodically contributes to the CNGA's Grasslands journal. Pat also leads a community-based habitat enhancement project in south Davis where he collaborates with his neighbors to plant native oaks, grasses and wildflowers.

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

# 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.)

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## Muddy Hollow Trail and Limantour Beach Picnic

**Saturday, April 2, 2022 - 3:30 to 6 pm or later if you choose**

**Leaders: Ann & Woody Elliott**

Take a late afternoon walk down this 2-mile riparian corridor to the Limantour Estero. We will explore this beautiful canyon and then enjoy the late afternoon light on the salt marsh. There will be lupine shrubs in bloom, checker lilies, trillium, hound's tongue, and more. In addition to learning the names of plants, we'll talk about some of the traditional uses of plants for food, fiber, etc. We are likely to see several bird species as well; bring binoculars if you have them.



*Lupinus arboreus* - bush lupine and *Eriophyllum staechadifolium* - lizard tail  
By Ann Elliott

Join us after the hike for an evening picnic and beach fire (if permitted). It will be the dark of the moon so might be great for star gazing, if there is not too much moisture in the air. Bring your picnic and woolies if staying for the evening. [Read more about this field trip. . .](#)

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## Jepson Prairie Preserve - vernal pools and bunchgrass prairie

**Managed by the Solano Land Trust**

**Saturday, April 16, 2022 - 10:30 am to 1 pm**

**Leader: Charlie Russell**

Field trip donation: \$10/person (cash or check to Solano Land Trust)

Field trip coordinator: **Susan Schlosser**



*Downingia insignis*- harlequin downingia  
By Susan Schlosser

This field trip begins with an introduction to the Jepson Prairie Preserve and its vernal pool systems, followed by a stop at the large playa pool for a display and discussion of its endangered aquatic fauna (fairy and tadpole shrimp). Then we take off to wherever the flowers are best. The flowers we are likely to see include (*Lasthenia* spp.), *Brodiaea* spp., *Downingia* spp., *Navarettia leucocephala* ssp. *bakeri*, and many others.

This tour is on level, but possibly wet ground, depending on recent weather. Closed toe shoes, hats, sunscreen, wind protection and drinking water are advised. We will cover 1 to 1.5 miles.

Bring plenty of water. No water is available at Jepson Prairie. Come prepared for variable weather and the wind can come up. There is a porta potty and several picnic tables at the parking lot meeting site. We will have our lunch here after the field trip.

The Jepson Prairie Preserve Handbook, 3rd edition, 2012, 80 pages. C.W. Witham & K. Mawdsley, Editors, will be available on the tour. Cost is \$10.00



There is a limit of 20 people for this field trip. We can arrange for carpooling from the Atherton Park and Ride in Novato, if participants are interested. When you sign up, please let Susan know if you are interested in carpooling.

Directions: From Highway 101, take the Highway 37 exit. Proceed to Vallejo and get on I 80 East towards Sacramento. Exit on Highway 12, East (Fairfield). Proceed on Highway 12 east. When you reach the intersection with Highway 113, go north (left). At the flashing yellow light where Highway 113 takes a 90 degree turn to the north, SLOW DOWN and TURN LEFT on Cook Lane. Cook Lane quickly becomes a gravel road. Proceed 0.7 miles on Cook Lane, over the railroad tracks until you see the eucalyptus grove and interpretive sign. Park in the large dirt parking lot.

Field trip donation: \$10/person (cash or check to Solano Land Trust)

Please RSVP to Susan Schlosser, [scschlosser52@gmail.com](mailto:scschlosser52@gmail.com) to sign up for this field trip.

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## Woodward Burn Scar

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 - meet 9 am

Leaders: **Carolyn Longstreth, Susan Schlosser, John Longstreth, Woody Elliott**

In August, 2020, the Woodward Fire burned about 5,000 acres in the Phillip Burton Wilderness of Point Reyes National Seashore. After scouting the burn scar in February, we have decided to offer two hikes on the same day! Both groups will observe the variable fire effects and newly-opened views plus big stands of blue-form *Lupinus arboreus*. Of course, we will hope for some additional surprises!



Woodward Fire Burn Scar  
By Woody Elliott

John Longstreth and Woody Elliott will lead the group on the most comprehensive 7-mile route meeting at the Laguna Trailhead just past the youth hostel. After leaving cars there and carpooling up to the Sky Trailhead, the group will hike from there along Sky Trail, continuing down the Woodward Trail to Coast Camp and then taking the Laguna Trail back to the cars.

The second group, led by Carolyn Longstreth and Susan Schlosser, will also start at the Sky Trailhead and follow the same route but, instead of taking the Woodward Trail, this group will turn back before reaching the Woodward Trailhead and return to the Sky Trailhead parking lot. This route is approximately 4 miles.

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## Hoo-Koo-E-Koo Trail on Mt. Tam

Monday, April 25, 2022 - 1 to 4:30 pm

Leader: **Betsey Crawford**

This afternoon stroll alternates between forest and chaparral. It is hard to say what the wildflowers will be because this year is unlike others. As we have moved into May in other years there have been iris, blue dicks, larkspur, buckwheat, mint, silene, and others. There are always lots of manzanita, huckleberry, ferns, buckeye, and a variety of other trees and shrubs. It is a very special place.



Lathyrus vestitus - common pacific pea  
By Betsey Crawford

When Betsey Crawford first moved to Marin a few years ago she called the county parks naturalist number and asked for a good wildflower hike. The Hoo-Koo-E-Koo Trail, he said, it's great. And he was right! The trail is an offshoot of the Southern Marin Fire Road in Larkspur. It is a total of 3 miles out and back and full of interesting plants in alternating forest and chaparral.

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The hike is mostly easy, single-file. There is a short, steep stretch to reach and leave the trail and a few places where the trail itself is roots or rocks for a few paces, so need a bit of care.

Parking can be tricky, so we will meet at the Bon Air shopping center in front of Paxti's Pizza (across from CVS) to carpool. Take the Sir Francis Drake exit off 101 going west. At the first light beyond the highway, take a left between the Chevron and Shell stations onto Barry Road and then a right into the shopping center. Same if coming from the east — drive past the highway. If from the west on Sir Francis Drake, start looking for the Bon Air Center once you pass Bon Air Road. If you wait and turn at the gas stations at the end, it is easier than driving through the shopping center.



Rain cancels. Contact Susan Schlosser to sign up for this hike. Contact leader Betsey Crawford for information or emergencies - 631-484-1949.

Betsey Crawford spent her years as a landscape designer and environmental activist in New York convincing people to return to their literal roots by planting native plants and restoring ecosystems. Taking this passion on the road after retirement, she roamed the west, photographing wildflowers (and everything else.) Now living in Marin, she posts photos and writes about wildflowers, ecology, and all things nature on her website, The Soul of the Earth: <https://thesouloftheearth.com>.

## Drought and Native Trees

By: **Drew Zwart, PhD**

### **Bartlett Tree Research Labs**

Whether it's referred to as prolonged drought or the effects of climate change, or both, there's no doubt that Marin County is getting dryer and the native trees are suffering from it. In both tree pathology and entomology, a common general statement is that native trees aren't susceptible to native disease pathogens or insect pests because they've evolved various defense mechanisms.

However, when physiological stressors like drought are involved, this generalization starts to fall apart.

Two of the major health concerns with native trees under stress are boring beetles and canker pathogens. Take the iconic coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) as an example. In the past several years, we have seen a significant increase in live oaks attacked and often killed by the native 'western oak bark beetle' (*Pseudopityophthorus pubipennis*). Under normal conditions, these beetles can only attack and breed in trees that are dead and dying from other causes, but with widespread drought stress, most live oaks are susceptible and beetle populations have dramatically increased. Another example is the fungus *Armillaria mellea*. This fungus is widely present in forest soils of California but is only capable of infecting and ultimately killing oaks and other tree and shrub species when they're under physiological stress.

Unfortunately, there isn't much to be done on a large scale to protect our native trees. On an individual tree basis, things like mulching to preserve soil moisture and irrigating during 'normally' wet months that don't get rain (like this past February) will help maintain healthy trees, however these actions aren't feasible on a forest-wide scale. In large part, we're stuck hoping for rain and waiting to see what survives.



Beetle attacks on drought-stressed coast live oak  
By Drew Zwart, Bartlett Tree Research Labs



Armillaria cluster growing from roots of dead live oak  
By Drew Zwart, Bartlett Tree Research Labs

# Volunteer Opportunities:

## Marin SOD Blitz April 23-25, 2022

The Sudden Oak Death SOD Blitz Survey Project is a 15-year old citizen science program designed to map the distribution of SOD in California, thus identifying locations where native oaks should be treated to prevent SOD infection and death. To find out more about the SOD Blitz, please go to [sodblitz.org](http://sodblitz.org). Local SOD Blitzes are for people of all ages interested in learning about the ecology of forests and willing to spend a couple of hours in an oak woodland.

[Read more. . .](#)

[Check here for more volunteer opportunities.](#)

## Marin Native Plants [Facebook Group](#), a place for sharing

By: **Sam Gilbert**

On the first day of 2013, the Marin Chapter entered the presentist age. At the instigation of fellow board members, I created a Facebook group devoted to the county's native flora. Since that day, hundreds of enthusiasts have used that group to showcase their finds, pose questions, and share information about gardening, botanizing, restoration work, and road closures. Stars have emerged, some have flared and contracted, lurkers have thrived, and much love has been showered on strange, furry flowers.

[Do please join us.](#) If you search the Internet for "Marin Native Plants" you'll find the group in position number five or so. Add the dread "Facebook" and it's number one. This is an excellent way to learn about great flowery hikes, get some help with a tricky identification, share your enthusiasm for a certain pollinator, find out what's blooming today at Chimney Rock, and rub shoulders (quite safely) with esteemed experts.

## Native Plant Week April 16-23, 2022

Daily videos of gardens and natural areas are planned for each day in Native Plant Week 2022. Go to [CNPS.org](http://CNPS.org) to view them as they are posted. Right now you can see the 360 degree garden tours from last year. Check out the websites of other chapters for more Native Plant Week Activities you can join through the state.

## CA Native Plant Week: Create a Native Bouquet!

This month, we invite you to celebrate National Native Plant Month and California Native Plant Week (April 16-23) by visiting [Bloom! California](#) partner nurseries and taking home beautiful native plants that will flower for years to come. For this special month, we're also bringing the flowers right to you with free floral arranging activity stations!

At our partner nurseries Annie's Annuals and Cal Flora Nurseries, you'll be able to craft and take home your very own beautiful native plant bud vases with pre-cut stems (while supplies last). What a great little date for a parent and child, a treat for yourself, or an excuse for gardening buddies to go shopping!

If you already grow native plants, join the fun and create your own native plant arrangements. We



*Prosertes smithii* - largeflower fairybells  
Treasures found on a SOD Blitz by Ann Elliott



Marin Native Plants Facebook Group



*Sidalcea malviflora* ssp. *malviflora* - dwarf checkerbloom at Chimney Rock By Ann Elliott



#BloomBoutquetBash  
Debbie Ballantine

encourage everyone to share their Bloom! Bouquet Bash creations using the hashtag #BloomBouquetBash. All submissions will appear on the CNPS web site. [Read more...](#)

Wednesday, April 13, 10-12 am  
[California Flora Nursery](#)  
2990 Somers St, Fulton, CA 95439  
707-528-8813  
[www.calfloranursery.com](http://www.calfloranursery.com)

Friday, Apr 22, 2-4 pm  
[Annie's Annuals and Perennials](#)  
740 Market Ave, Richmond, CA 94801  
510-215-3301  
[www.anniesannuals.com](http://www.anniesannuals.com)

## CNPS 2022 Conference - Rooting Together

Oct. 20-22, 2022 San Jose

Workshops & Field Trips Oct. 18-19

Topics: Plant Science, Conservation, Horticulture, Education

Call for Presenters: Abstract, Session, or Poster - Mar. 31 deadline is likely extended [Read more...](#)



## CNPS Spring and Summer Workshops Now Scheduled!

California Native Plant Society plant science training workshops provide botanists, biologists, land managers, and ecologists the scientific skills and practical experience necessary to assess, manage, and protect native plants and lands in California and beyond. Sign up now and secure your spot for 2022 workshops! [Read more...](#)



## Save California Pollinators

Neonicotinoid insecticides, also known as “neonics,” are neurotoxins. Evidence shows they cause population declines in bees (both native and honey bees), monarchs, and many other pollinators. Healthy populations of these insects are essential for plant reproduction. [Ask your state legislators to support AB 2146 to ban non-agricultural use of neonics.](#)  
[Read more...](#)



Carpenter Bee on penstemon  
By Zia Miller

## Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

3/31 to 4/3 [Online Plant Sale](#), Pickup 4/9

4/2 3:30 pm Field Trip [Muddy Hollow and Limantour Beach Picnic](#)

4/11 7:30 pm General Meeting ["Maximizing Habitat Values in Urban Landscapes"](#) Guest Speaker: **Pat Reynolds**

4/16 10 am Field Trip [Jepson Prairie Preserve](#)

4/20 9 am Field Trip [Woodward Burn Scar](#)

4/25 1 pm Field Trip [Hoo-Koo-E-Koo Trail](#)



*Fritillaria affinis* - checker lily  
By Woody Elliott

