

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER

December 2022 Newsletter

Marin Chapter Annual Meeting

"A Preview Of The "Pinnacles Jewelflower" - an undescribed species - and other botanical rarities of Pinnacles"

Monday, December 12 @ 7:30 pm

Guest Speaker: **Amelia Ryan**, Vegetation Ecologist, Pinnacles National Park

Though identified nearly 20 years ago as a probable new species, the "Pinnacles Jewelflower" has languished undescribed. At last, this species is in the process of being described. As an extremely rare endemic species,



describing it is the first step to making sure it is preserved. Pinnacles has also been allocated funding to begin systematic surveys of this rare species. As of yet, however, we have only casual observations about the species and no idea of the sizes, number, and extent of populations. In this "preview" talk, we will look at what we know so far about this species, its characteristics, and its preferred habitat, and discuss the distribution and status of other similar species in the area. We will also cover some other interesting and unusual plants found at Pinnacles.

Amelia Ryan is a Vegetation Ecologist at the Pinnacles National Park. She developed a love of plants growing up on 40 acres in western Sonoma County. This led her to study botany at UC Davis and later acquire a MS in Ecology from San Francisco State. She has been working in habitat restoration and resource management for over 20 years, having started at Armstrong Redwoods in the late 90s, then worked at Point Reyes National Seashore on several restoration and endangered plant projects for nearly 14 years before moving to Pinnacles National Park where she has been the Vegetation Ecologist for 5 years. She is a long-time member of CNPS and served on the Marin Chapter Board for 6 years.

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



Streptanthus sp. - "Pinnacles Jewelflower"
(undescribed) photo by Keir Morse

Annual Membership Meeting

Our December membership meeting will be our official annual meeting to elect a slate of officers for the 2023 Marin Chapter Board of Directors.

We have space on the board and call for additional nominations. If you are interested in serving, please contact Kristin Jakob at 650-608-1274, akristinjakob@gmail.com.

The proposed slate for 2023 is as follows:

Co-President: David Long

Co-President: Kristin Jakob

Treasurer: Kate Wing

Recording Secretary: Woody Elliott

Eva Buxton

Paul da Silva

Ann Elliott

Carolyn Longstreth

Laura Lovett

Eddie Robertson



High Peaks, Pinnacles National Park
Photo by Brad Elliott

We need a quorum of 10% of Chapter members voting at the meeting, please attend, vote, and enjoy Amelia Ryan's talk about the Pinnacles.

Ring Mountain Docent Program Starts Spring 2023!

Become part of the first group of Ring Mountain Preserve Wildflower Docents. Join the Marin Chapter of CNPS and Marin County Parks for this fantastic opportunity to share your love of Ring Mountain's unique ecology, wildflowers, and unusual serpentine grassland habitat with the general public, while also fostering stewardship of this Marin landmark. This opportunity will run weekends from April through mid-June 2023, with training in March. No experience is necessary, but familiarity with native plants is preferred.



Layia platyglossa - Tidy Tips and poppies
Ring Mountain Photo by Laura Lovett

Additional details and a formal sign-up will be available early next year. For more information and to receive notice of the registration website for the docent program, please contact Stacey Pogorzelski at marincnpsvolunteers@gmail.com

[Read more...](#)

New! Bay Area Regional Garden Planner

Rachael L. Olliff Yang, PhD
Plant Ecologist & Marin CNPS Volunteer

This past month CNPS released a new [Bay Area Garden Planner](#) as part of its [Calscape](#) website, making planting native in the Bay Area even easier than before!

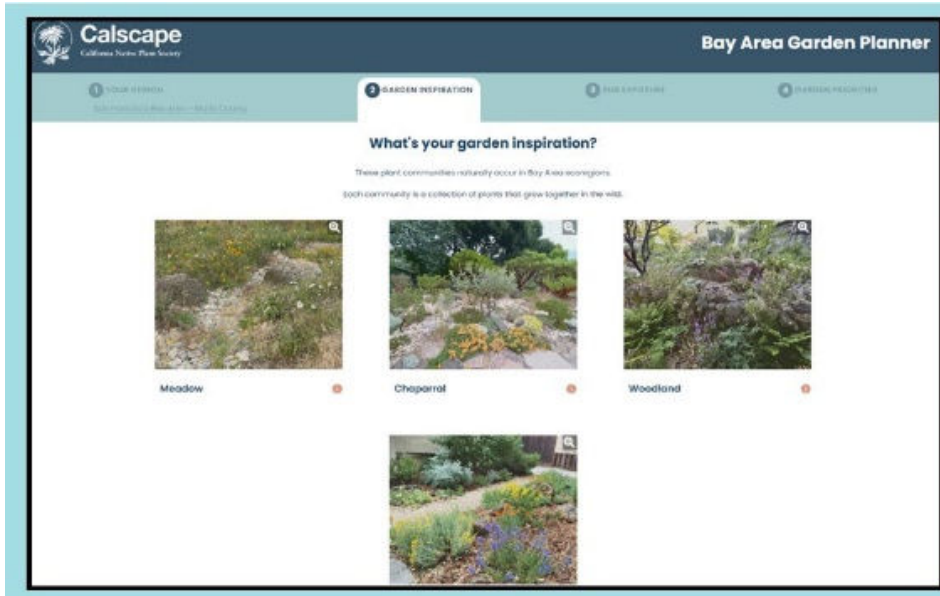
Marin CNPS Newsletter

Native Plants in Marin and Beyond



December 2022

California is a huge state which means plants “native to California” can be as drastically different as opuntia cacti and redwood trees. While my parents did have both opuntia and a redwood in our yard when I was a child, I think we all agreed that the poor redwood tree did not belong in our East San Diego County desert. Focusing on locally native plant species makes it easier to keep your plants alive and thriving because they are better adapted to your local microclimate. Local species also provide the most benefit to the wildlife in your specific area and are essential for specialized insect species with limited host plants, such as caterpillars which tend to be highly specialized.



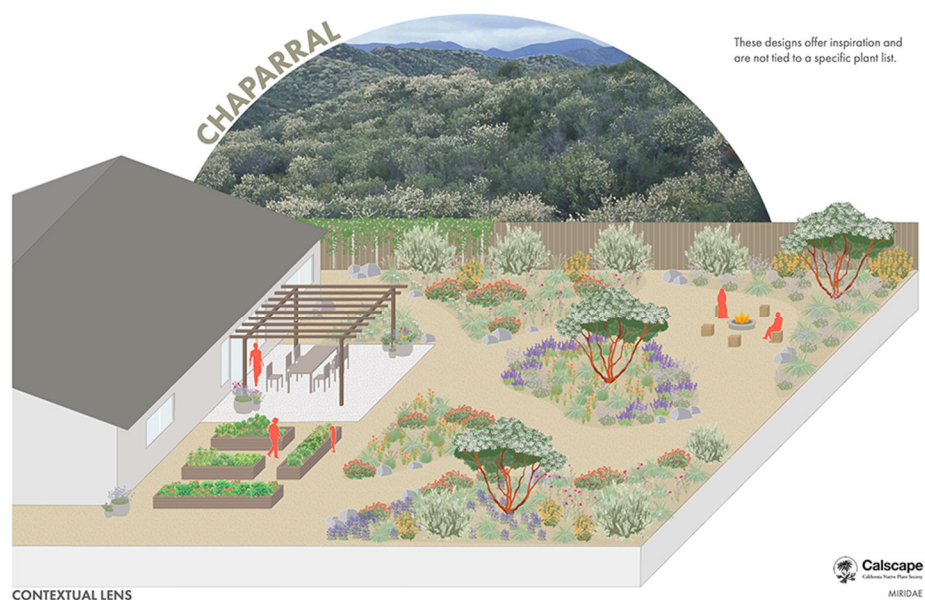
But how does this [Bay Area Garden Planner](#) improve on the previous garden planner in Calscape? The main difference is that the planning questionnaire allows gardeners to sort by ecoregions and habitat type within the Bay Area. Ecoregions are areas that are characterized by similar soil type, slope, climate, and plant assemblages. The habitat types listed are naturally occurring plant communities from within the Bay Area ecoregion such as meadows, coastal shrub, chaparral, and woodland habitat. These choices were especially exciting for me since meadow or

grassland habitats are often overlooked in the native gardening world, despite being such an important habitat type in California. Like the original Calscape garden planner, the Bay Area tool also asks for gardening preferences: provide support for birds or pollinators, ease of care, or wildfire risk reduction.

The plant species lists produced by the Bay Area Planner are quite different from the original Calscape lists, as this Planner narrows down the species for you based on more regionally-specific habitat goals. Therefore, I think this new tool will help enthusiastic gardeners like me focus on the species that are most important to plant for the wildlife in our area. During Marin CNPS Chapter plant sales, I want to buy ALL of the different native plants available for my home, but using this Planner will guide me in choosing those best suited for the specific ecoregion and habitat of my garden.

The Bay Area is the first to have this helpful new site to use, but plans are in the works to create similar regionally-specific sites for other parts of the state.

The [Bay Area Garden Planner](#) was made possible by a grant from the [Saratoga Horticultural Research Endowment](#), with special thanks to [The Butterfly Net](#) for lepidoptera-plant interaction data.



International Biodiversity Meetings Reconvene December 7th

The UN Biodiversity Conference - 15th Conference of Parties (COP-15), which began in Kunming, China in April 2022, will continue in Montreal, Canada, from December 7 to 19. Biodiversity loss is one of the biggest threats to our planet.

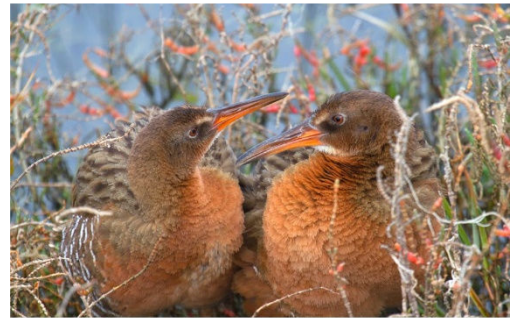
Because native plants are a big part of global biodiversity, this meeting is of special interest to CNPS members. An important question that the meeting will address is: What should be the revised goals since the targets for the Biodiversity Decade from 2010 to 2020 were not met?

Read more at [Canada's host site](#). [The United Nations Environment Programme site](#) has the schedule and link for live streaming the conference.



Green Visits to Green Spaces: *Bothin Marsh*

Check out [Bothin Marsh](#) along [Marin Transit Route 17](#). This rich habitat is a remnant of the vast salt marshes which once surrounded the San Francisco Bay. Bothin Marsh filters runoff pollution from nearby urban areas, reduces erosion into Richardson Bay, and reduces flood risk when water levels are high. Home to the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse and Ridgeway's rail, it also provides a rest stop for hundreds of migratory birds traveling the Pacific Flyway. Take your binoculars to watch the birds more closely.



Ridgeway's Rails

Rick Lewis - Audubon Photography Awards



Getting there: Parking is at a premium at the marsh, so connect with [Marin Transit Route 17](#) bus in San Rafael, Mill Valley, Sausalito, or anywhere along its extensive route. The well-used Mill Valley-Sausalito Pathway and the Charles F. McGlashan Pathway travel through and along Bothin Marsh. To access these trails, get off the bus at the Shoreline Hwy & Pohono St. stop or the Almonte Blvd. & Miller Ave. stop. The current trails flood regularly during higher tides; check [a tide table](#) for better accessibility at lower tides.

Resilience: Marin County Open Space District and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy are collaborating in the [Evolving Shorelines](#) project to assess and plan for sea-level rise resiliency by restoring native plant habitat and improving recreation trails. **Fill out** the [Preliminary Design Survey](#) to help them assess public attitudes about their proposed rerouting of the pathway to the edge of the marsh.



Evolving Shorelines: Bothin Marsh

Favored Concept: Ring the Marsh

CNPS has adopted the goal to become carbon neutral in its activities by 2030. Visiting our favorite spaces for viewing native plants involves some kind of transportation. Walking to a park, forest, or seashore is a very green transportation option. To go farther from our home, public transportation, bicycles, electric cars, and car pooling are good ways to reduce our carbon footprint.

Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

- **12/12 7:30 pm** General Meeting [“A Preview Of The “Pinnacles Jewelflower” - an undescribed species - and other botanical rarities of Pinnacles”](#) Guest Speaker: **Amelia Ryan**
- **12/16** [2023 Micro Grant Deadline](#) for projects to benefit native plants, native plant knowledge and education, and/or the organizations and people who care for the lands where these plants grow



Clarkia unguiculata - woodland clarkia
Pinnacles National Park Photo by Brad Elliott



Pseudotsuga menziesii - Douglas fir
Bolinas Ridge Photo by Ann Elliott

Other Activities of Interest

- **12/3 9 am to noon** [Broom Busters of Old St. Hilary's](#). Register ahead.
- **12/4 9 am to noon** [Planting at Hal Brown Park](#), Register ahead.
- **12/7 to 12/19** [UN Biodiversity Conference COP 15](#)
- **Soon** [Bothin Marsh Preliminary Design Survey](#)
- **Now** [Bay Area Fall color is at it's peak.](#)

Chapter News Submissions

This digital newsletter is emailed monthly to inform CNPS members and other Marin CNPS followers about the activities, events, and issues concerning native plants in Marin County and California.

Please send articles, information about related events, photography, art, prose, and poetry relating to native plants for inclusion in upcoming newsletters to Ann Elliott, Newsletter Editor annonfire@gmail.com .



Viola sempervirens - redwood violet
Inverness Ridge Photo by Ann Elliott

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Marin Chapter
California Native Plant Society

[CNPS Marin Chapter Website](#) | [CNPS Statewide Website](#)

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