

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER



*Claytonia perfoliata* miner's lettuce by Ann Elliott

## February 2022 Newsletter

### Marin Chapter Meeting

### "Mosses are from Mars, Vascular Plants are from Venus" Mon. Feb. 14 @ 7:30 pm

Guest Speaker: **Brent Mishler**  
President, CNPS Bryophyte Chapter  
also:

Distinguished Professor, Department of Integrative Biology,  
Director, University and Jepson Herbaria  
University of California, Berkeley



*Homalothecium nuttallii* - blond hugger moss  
By Brent Mishler

The bryophytes are the most diverse set of land plants aside from the flowering plants. The group includes three quite distinct lineages: mosses, hornworts, and liverworts; some familiar species are frequently encountered in mesic forests and along streams, while a number of less familiar species are in tropical rain forests, arctic tundra, and desert boulders. The bryophytes have an ancient history —they are remnant lineages surviving today from the spectacular radiation of the land plants in the Devonian Period, some 400-450 million years ago. Yet despite their diversity, phylogenetic importance, and key roles in the ecosystems of the world, study of many aspects of the biology of bryophytes has lagged behind that of the larger land plants, perhaps because of their small size and how few scientists specialize in them. In this talk, you will hear a summary of what we do know about their biology, as an encouragement for you to get to know them better.

Two questions to intrigue you: Are bryophytes biologically like their larger cousins, just smaller versions? If not, in what ways does bryophyte biology differ from that of the larger vascular plants? The short answers: No, and, in almost every way possible! The groups didn't evolve on different planets, but their differences could almost make you think they did. They certainly adopted very different approaches to being land plants on this planet. Many aspects need much more study, but what is known about bryophyte biology suggests that in general the bryophytes differ in most ways in their genetics, physiology, ecology, and evolution from vascular plants.

Brent D. Mishler is Director of the Jepson Herbaria at UC Berkeley, as well as Professor in the Department of Integrative Biology, where he teaches phylogenetic systematics, plant diversity, and island biology. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 1984, then was on the faculty at Duke University for nine years before moving to UC Berkeley in 1993. His research interests are in the systematics, evolution, and ecology of bryophytes, especially the diverse moss genus *Syntrichia*, as well as in the phylogeny of green plants. He is also interested in more general topics involving the theoretical basis of systematic and evolutionary biology, such as phylogenetic methods and the nature of species. He has been involved in developing electronic resources to present plant taxonomic and distributional information to the public, and for research applications of these data, including to the California flora. He is one of the founders of, and current President for, the CNPS Bryophyte Chapter. [Register for this Zoom meeting here.](#)

*California Mosses* - a color photographic guide for both amateur and professional botanists now **55% off** at CNPS store. [Purchase 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.)

## A Winter Walk in the Woods on Mt. Tamalpais

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 - 10 am to 3 pm

Leader: **Susan Schlosser**

This field trip begins by walking through an oak and madrone forest.

Wildflowers we are likely to see include: Coast Sanicle (*Sanicula*



*Viola purpurea* - yellow mountain violet  
By Susan Schlosser

*laciniata*), Milk-maids (*Cardimine californica*), Indian Warrior (*Pedicularis densiflora*), and Yellow Mountain Violet (*Viola*



*Pedicularis densiflora* - Indian warrior  
By Ann Elliott

*purpurea* ssp. *quercetorum*). Blossoming shrubs may include Mt. Tamalpais Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos montana* ssp. *montana*) and Buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*). Young trees and new sprouts on oaks and madrone are also very lovely. Some young plants we expect to see include Red Larkspur (*Delphinium nudicaule*), Hillside Pea (*Lathyrus vestitus*), California Honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*), Short Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos mollis*), Tall Star Lily (*Toxicoscordion fremontii* var. *fremontii*) and Shooting Star (*Primula hendersonii*).

As we ascend the ridge, the trail enters a Doug-fir forest (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*). Here the understory has been recently cleared. Evidence of nearly 100 years of fire suppression can be seen and discussed. Going down this ridge, the trail enters a Sargent Cypress (*Hesperocyparis sargentii*) forest. Blooming shrubs may include Mt. Tamalpais Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos montana* ssp. *montana*). Young plants of Mission-bells (*Fritillaria affinis* var. *affinis*), Oakland Star-tulip (*Calochortus umbellatus*) and Serpentine seep star lily (*Toxicoscordion fontanum*) beckon a visit to this trail later in the season. From here we head to the Potrero Camp picnic area adjacent to Potrero Meadows. A lovely creek and picnic tables are a great lunch spot. After lunch we follow the trail along Potrero Meadows. We'll likely see young plants of Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum polycarpum*) and Mount Tamalpais Thistle (*Cirsium hydrophilium* var. *vaseyi*). We return to Rock Springs via the Lagunitas Rock Springs Fire Road and will see a large stand of Canyon Live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) and a very large madrone tree (*Arbutus menziesii*).

This field trip is a steady, easy to moderate ascent (overall 400 foot elevation gain) to the top of the ridge on the Benstein Trail. Walking poles are recommended for a couple of short, steep, rocky areas of the trail. From Potrero Meadows back to Rock Springs we make this moderate ascent again. The overall mileage is 4 miles.

A half-mile (round trip) side trip to Barth's Retreat before going to Potrero Meadows is possible if participants are interested. This large serpentine area highlights a view of the *H. sargentii* forest, chaparral and fantastic panoramic views of Marin, San Francisco Bay and beyond to Mt. St. Helena. In the serpentine area, we may see young plants of *P. hendersonii*, Sickle-leaf onion (*Allium falcifolium*). Mosses and Serpentine fern (*Aspidotus densa*) cover and surround the rocks, especially in areas of seeps.

## Chimney Rock, Point Reyes National Seashore

**Sunday, February 20, 2022 - 10 am to 2 pm**

Leader: **Carolyn Longstreth**

Mid-February is the official unofficial start of wildflower season in Marin, and the yearly "botanical crawl" at Chimney Rock has yielded in recent years as few as 15 and as many as 65 different species of wildflowers in bloom. We will also see hundreds of elephant seals and might even witness a battle between 4000-pound males trying to impress their potential mates.



*Sanicula arctopoides* - footsteps of spring  
By Carolyn Longstreth

Meet at the Chimney Rock parking area, located on outer Point Reyes. From Point Reyes Station, drive .5 mile south on Route 1, turn right on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Continue 19 miles to a junction just after A Ranch. Turn left toward Chimney Rock, proceed to the parking lot. And remember, even if it is warm and sunny when you leave home, it could be cold and foggy and very, very, very windy at Point Reyes Headlands.

## Novato Baylands Nursery and Hamilton Wetlands Site Visit

Tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in March. Check [the website](#) or wait for an email from Susan if you are already signed up.

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

## Spring Native Plant Sales - Online Again

Thanks to the wet weather this past fall, spring wildflowers are coming along quickly and we'll be offering a big selection at the March sale. Species we have growing include: madia, sky lupine, globe gilia, ruby clarkia, buttercups, tidy tips, lacy phacelia, desert bluebells, mountain garland, and more. Also available in March will be soap lilies, mixes of brodiaea bulbs, low form lupines, heuchera, some perennial wildflowers, wildflower seed and more.

**March Sale** will focus on annual and perennial wildflowers.

- Opens: Thursday **March 3** at 6 pm for CNPS MARIN MEMBERS ONLY, 7 pm for the general public
- Closes: Sunday night March 6 at 7 pm
- Order Packing: Friday March 11 **Volunteers needed.**
- Order Pickup at Bon Air Shopping Ctr.: **Saturday March 12** 10:30 am to 1:30 pm

**April Sale** will focus on later blooming perennials and shrubs.

- 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; see volunteer article.**
- Order pickup at Bon Air Shopping Ctr.: **Saturday April 9** 10:30 am to 1:30 pm



*Clarkia amoena ssp amoena* - farewell to spring  
By Laura Lovett



*Lupinus albifrons* var. *collinus* - silver bush lupine  
By Laura Lovett

## Extra Bonuses for Joining CNPS Right Now

Thinking about Joining CNPS?

- **First time memberships are now available for the reduced price of only \$30.**
- **Plus, Join CNPS Marin Chapter now and enjoy "early-bird shopping" at our upcoming spring plant sales.** Our sales starts at 7 pm for the general public, but as a member you will receive an email with a link to each plant sale at 6 pm. There will be plenty of plants for all, but popular, rare, and hard-to-propagate plants often sell out quickly. The extra hour might help you find the varieties you have been looking for. To qualify for early bird shopping privileges, you must join CNPS Marin Chapter no later than midnight Sunday February 27.

Not a member yet? [Join CNPS here](#) to start your new membership for only \$30. Select the "Individual" option and enter the discount code **SALE22** at checkout to get this special new-member offer. Choose Marin as your main or secondary chapter.

Time to renew your membership? [Renew your CNPS membership here.](#)

**Get a head start on spring gardening – join today!**



CALIFORNIA  
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

# Statewide Conservation Issues

## Rooftop Solar is Good for Habitats

Under pressure from large utilities, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) had proposed major changes for rooftop solar, including lowering utility reimbursement rates and increasing monthly connection fees. These changes would discourage many homeowners from installing rooftop solar.

Large-scale solar installations often destroy intact habitat, particularly in California's deserts. Rooftop solar is a win-win to help address the co-existing challenges of habitat preservation and climate change mitigation.

**Call Governor Newsom (916-445-2841) or [write a comment](#)** to tell him that you oppose the rooftop solar proposal by the CPUC. The vote on this issue is scheduled for **February 10th**.

[Read more. . .](#)

#DefendRooftopSolar



## Housing vs. Safety vs. Nature

*"Californians shouldn't have to choose between housing, irreplaceable natural resources and their own safety."*

**Guenoc Valley:** On January 4, CNPS and the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) won a court challenge to the luxury resort approved by the Lake County Board of Supervisors in Guenoc Valley near Middletown. However, the ruling was based on inadequate evacuation from wildfire, not for protection of the rare and endangered species which would be impacted by the development. [Learn more. . .](#)



Evacuating Paradise Hospital During Camp Fire  
By Noah Berger AP

**Tejon Ranch:** Another ruling CNPS and CBD gained against the Tejon Ranch Centennial project south of Bakersfield remains based on flawed analysis of wildfire risks and greenhouse gas emissions. The Tejon Conservancy, set up in 2008 to protect 90% of the ranch, is poorly funded and not adequate to preserve this large tract of wilderness. [Learn more. . .](#)

*"As long as we continue to allow development in risky areas, we work against the very goals California's leaders have advanced through California's 30x30 Initiative, Governor Newsom's Executive Order on Biodiversity and California's Climate Smart Lands Strategy."* Both quotes by **Nick Jensen**, CNPS Conservation Director

## Saving Wild Places

Congressman Garamendi has [introduced HR 6366](#) to expand Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument to include much of Walker Ridge, which CNPS has been fighting to protect for many years. The legislation includes proposals for co-management of the National Monument with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and renaming the ridge to Molok Luyuk (Condor Ridge).

[Learn more. . .](#)



Congressmen Thompson and Garamendi - Dedication Berryessa Snow Mountain NM 2016 - Woody Elliott

## White Sage Poaching

Ninety-eight percent of the white sage sold in stores and online, usually as smudge sticks, is poached illegally from public lands. This is decimating the plant populations. Support Indigenous-led efforts to safeguard white sage.

- Know your source—do not purchase wild-harvested sage.
- Grow your own sage from nursery stock.
- Connect with native tribes to fight habitat loss

[Learn more. . .](#)



*Salvia apiana* - white sage (cultivated)  
By Ann Elliott

## Actions We Can Take

These decisions, proposals, and initiatives show us that we must do better. Contact your representatives: local, state, and national to voice your opinion. Support those groups that are carrying the burden of legal challenges. Help publicize our concerns and goals.

- **Governor Gavin Newsom 916-445-2841** [written comments](#)
- **CPUC** [Public Advisor's Office](#)
- **Congressman Jared Huffman 415-258-9657** [email him](#)
- **California Native Plant Society** [donate](#)
- [Center for Biological Diversity](#)



# Volunteer Now!

Marin CNPS is 100% volunteer run and we can use your help. Volunteering is a great way to learn about Marin's unique local ecology and meet fellow plant lovers while contributing to the overall health of our planet. A few current needs are below. Check out the full list on our website. If you see something appealing on the list, email [marincnpsvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:marincnpsvolunteers@gmail.com) for more information. [See the full list. . .](#)



## Garden Workday at the Bay Model Pollinator Garden

February 12, 10 am to 12:30 pm (Sat.)

We need to do some winter cleanup and get wildflowers in the ground. We're also removing some plants that haven't done well and replanting. If you'd like to get your hands dirty and learn about care of native plants, we're happy to have you join us.

Please RSVP to [lelovet@earthlink.net](mailto:lelovet@earthlink.net). Due to COVID, we have to limit the number of volunteers, so we can remain spread out. However, we are happy to put you on the list to be notified of future opportunities; there will be many.

[Read more. . .](#)



Bay Model Pollinator Garden  
by Paul da Silva

## Plant Sale Packing & Transport

Plant packing and transport: Friday **March 11** and Friday **April 8** starting at 10 am, in Novato.

Order Pickup: Saturday **March 12** and Saturday **April 9** starting at 10:30 am Bon Air Center, Greenbrae.

The day before orders are picked up, a group of volunteers pull each customer's order from the nursery benches. They label and pack the plants in boxes for transport, then into waiting SUV's or trucks for overnight hold. Plants get delivered to Bon Air Shopping Center, Greenbrae at 10 a.m. the following morning. As customers arrive, we make sure they get handed the correct order. Volunteers with bigger vehicles that can transport plants are very much needed. Email: [marincnpsplantsale@gmail.com](mailto:marincnpsplantsale@gmail.com)



Volunteers packing orders at Home Ground Habitats  
by Laura Lovett

## Field Trip Leaders

Marin Chapter is always looking for folks who want to share their favorite natural places with others. Excursions can be nearby lasting just a couple hours or an all-day exploration. We can provide plant experts if needed. Email [marincnpsvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:marincnpsvolunteers@gmail.com)

## Novato Streetscapes

No set date; Arranged periodically

If you live in Novato, the Novato Streetscape Committee maintains many of the medians in downtown Novato, which have been planted with low-water, pollinator-friendly native plants. You can adopt a space or sign up to be notified of their volunteer days.

[Read more. . .](#)



*Cynoglossom grande* - western houndstongue  
By Ann Elliott

# 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 Presentations now through March 31. [Read more. . .](#)



**CNPS**  
2022 CONFERENCE  
**ROOTING TOGETHER**  
RESTORING CONNECTIONS  
to  
PLANTS, PLACE & PEOPLE

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

**Moss is a special kind of plant.** Instead of having cells to move water around, it soaks up water like a sponge. CNPS even has a [Bryophyte Chapter](#) with members throughout California devoted to the enjoyment, study, and preservation of bryophytes (mosses, hornworts, and liverworts).

Check out these articles and videos.

- [moss](#) Britannica Kids
- [Moss Facts for Kids](#) Kiddle
- [Facts about Mosses](#) Easy Science for Kids



*Moss as substrate for Polypodium*  
By Ann Elliott

## Thinking of Some Broom Removal? Act while the soil is still moist.

Create defensible space around your home. Borrow a weed wrench from Marin CNPS. Broom and other fire-prone woody plants are easier to remove using a weed wrench when the soil is moist.

You may 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 about the wrenches. . .](#)



## Upcoming Marin Chapter Events - 2021

2/14 @ 7:30 pm - Chapter Meeting "[Mosses are from Mars, Vascular Plants are from Venus](#)" Guest Speaker: **Brent Mishler**

2/16 10 am to 3 pm - Field Trip [A Winter Walk in the Woods on Mt. Tamalpais](#)

2/20 10 am to 2:00 pm - Field Trip [Chimney Rock, Point Reyes National Seashore](#)

TBD - Field Trip [Novato Baylands Nursery and Hamilton Wetlands Site Visit](#)

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 [sdflong@ix.netcom.com](mailto:sdflong@ix.netcom.com)



Aristolochia californica - CA pipevine - Ann Elliott

## Other CNPS and Related Events

Participate in CNPS Events - Statewide & Organized by Other Chapters, etc. Peruse the [CNPS Calendar of Events](#).

Here are a few from CNPS and elsewhere:

2/10 7:30 pm [Maximizing Habitat Values and Habitat Function in Urban Landscapes](#) by Pat Reynolds, CA Native Grassland Assn. - Yerba Buena Chapter

2/15 7:30 pm [Discovering Mono County Plants with Ann Howard](#) - Milo Baker Chapter

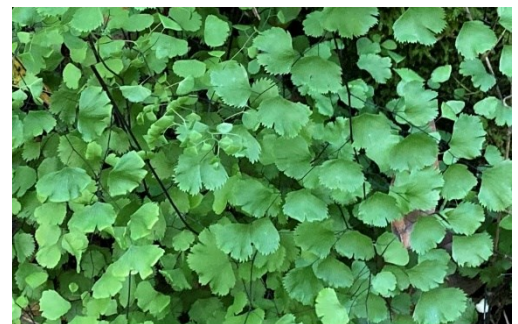


*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *cushingiana*  
Cushing manzanita By Ann Elliott

## 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 stories on your social media. Thank you!



*Adiantum jordanii* - maidenhair fern  
By Ann Elliott



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