

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER



*Diplacus aurantiacus* - sticky monkeyflower

by Ann Elliott

## July 2022 Newsletter

### Marin Chapter Meeting "Cliff Hangers and Flatlanders: Dudleya on the Edge" Monday, July 11 @ 7:30 pm

Guest Speaker: **Stephen McCabe**, Emeritus Director of  
Research, UC Santa Cruz Arboretum



*Dudleya cymosa*  
By Stephen McCabe

Succulents, a hot topic in gardening circles, have brought new attention to California's dramatic native succulents, the dudleyas. These succulent beauties grow on the West Coast from Oregon to the tip of Baja California in a wide range of habitats and microclimates. They face challenges hanging on to cliffs, being trampled on mesas, and lasting through the summer dry season. Development, fires, poaching, and climate change present additional threats. Like many succulents, they grow in somewhat extreme places. Many species are naturally rare and others have become endangered through coastal development or by having rabbits released into their island habitats.

Stephen McCabe has been studying and growing Dudleya for over 30 years and has been growing other succulents since he was a child. He is the Emeritus Director of Research for the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, a private consultant, and the first Fellow for the Cactus and Succulent Society of San Jose. His interests are in the classification, evolution, ecology, and conservation of Dudleya and other plants. His hobbies include rock climbing and hybridizing similar species to each other within the following genera: *Dudleya*, *Gasteria*, and California monkey flowers.

[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 20.
- **Electronically sign** the CNPS Liability waiver for the trip (Susan will provide the link.)



Toxicodendron diversilobum - poison oak  
By Ann Elliott

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## Orchids of Olompali

**Saturday, July 2, 2022 - 9 am**

Leader: **Clint Kellner** (415) 895-8591 (cell)

We will hike the loop trail (2.3 miles) at Olompali State Historic Park and look for the summer-blooming rein orchid, *Piperia transversa*. We will also see the rare Napa false indigo shrub, *Amorpha californica* var. *napensis*, and California fescue, *Festuca californica*, grasslands and some blue oaks.

From southbound Hwy 101, take the Atherton/San Marin exit, go right, and take the first right onto the frontage road. The road ends at the park entrance. From northbound 101, exit at the San Marin/Atherton exit, go left and cross over the freeway. Take the first right on the frontage road and follow it to the entrance to Olompali State Historic Park.

Meet in the parking lot. Parking at Olompali State Historic Park costs \$8; please bring the exact amount.

Please sign up by emailing Susan Schlosser and she will send you a link to the CNPS field trip waiver. \*\*\*\*\*



*Piperia transversa* - summer-blooming rein orchid  
Photo by Vernon Smith

## Suzi Katz Garden Visit

**Sunday, July 10, 2022 - 10 am to noon**

Leaders: **Suzi Katz**

Calling gardeners! Come to Point Reyes Station and get some inspiration for your own garden! In 2010, Suzi Katz began the process of converting a large lawn into a beautiful native garden—almost by accident! Over the subsequent years, her stunning design and plant selections combined to create a really special garden. In early July, even as the native wildflowers fade, Suzi's shrubs and perennials will be thriving and creating a wonderful scene. Limit 15 attendees. Please sign up by emailing Susan Schlosser and she will send you a waiver and directions to the site.



*Salvia clevelandii* - Cleveland Sage blooms in early summer and provides nectar for a variety of pollinators. Photo by Suzi Katz

See Suzi's website: <https://www.suzikatzgardendesign.com/>

## Suzi's Garden Story

Our garden has a birthday: March 25, 2010, the day our neighbor knocked on the door and offered us a truck load of arborist mulch courtesy of the County of Marin. A photo of our old dogfriend, Riley, posing in front of what seemed at the time to be an enormous pile of wood chips records the event. In the years since that first truckload, many chip piles materialized and were absorbed into the landscape one wheelbarrow load at a time.

We used to mow down the grass and weeds every week or two; it was a huge chore, especially on the slope. These days, we re-apply wood chips on the paths and in problem areas annually, and less frequently in other places. After sheet mulching the area of grass and weeds that might generously have been called a lawn, we gave away our lawn mower and we've never looked back.

On the hill behind our house, we planted an orchard with about 100 heritage apple varieties; 60 of these are grafted onto two mature trees that previously bore unidentifiable apples with lackluster texture. On Sundays in the dry season, we fill a 3-gallon bucket and give each of the younger fruit trees a drink. We underplanted the new orchard with *Carex pansa* (California meadow sedge) along with native bunchgrasses, wildflowers, and bulbs. This area is not chipped and must be faithfully weeded; the areas of exposed soil are useful to ground nesting native bees who need bare earth to tunnel into.

For privacy, we planted a mixed native hedge around the entire perimeter of the property. The foundation of the hedge is *Myrica californica* (pacific wax myrtle), which provides thick cover and plentiful seeds for birds. I like to think of it as a BB&B (Bird Bed & Breakfast). Mixed in with the *Myrica* are many other species of native shrub. Upright and groundcover manzanitas are well represented with about 60 different varieties. This diverse planting replaced a monolithic row of overgrown Photinia.

The garden is densely planted with flowering annuals and perennials that support pollinators year-round with a succession of bloom, yet it has to be pretty tough to withstand our two young dogs who run around chasing each other like maniacs. We place stakes near young plants so frisky pups do not destroy them; strategic traffic calming measures (strings run between posts) slow dog activity so plants can survive long enough to become established.

## Volunteer Opportunities:

### Share Your Love of Native Plant Gardening

Marin Art and Garden Center is hosting a Conservation Night on Thursday, July 21 from 5-7 pm as part of their Summer Concerts series <https://maringarden.org/summer-concerts-2022/>

Conservation Nights in the past have had a robust group of local conservation groups set up tables and exhibits in the south parking lot for the audience to engage throughout the event. This year they are expecting about 250 people, including a lot of kids.

We are looking for volunteers to host a table at the event, offering materials and information about Marin CNPS. Please let us know if you are interested. You will be able to mingle with other conservation-minded folk, visit the opening of their summer show about climate change in The Studio, and hear some great music (Danny Click & The Hell Yeahs!). Representing CNPS, you could share information about how people can incorporate native plants in their landscapes and the importance of conservation in the wild. Handouts and literature supplied.

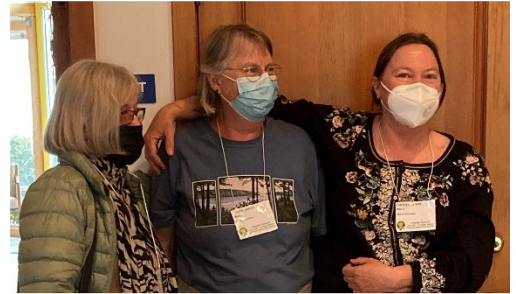


Deadline to confirm participants is July 5, so contact [Stacey Pogorzelski](#) soon if you would like to join our CNPS contingent.

If you are interested in tabling at future events (even though you aren't available this particular date), also contact [Stacey](#). [Check here for more volunteer opportunities.](#)

## CNPS Honors Kristin Jakob as CNPS Fellow

Congratulations are in order for Kristin Jakob who was made a CNPS Fellow at the June Chapter Council meeting held at Point Reyes Station. This award was richly deserved. For those of you who are not aware of Kristin's many years of dedicated service to the Marin Chapter of CNPS and the full range of her contributions to the organization, a summary of her accomplishments and contributions to our chapter are below. Other Marin Chapter members who have been made CNPS Fellows include Wilma Follette, Phyllis Faber and Doreen Smith.



Kristin Jakob (middle) receiving CNPS Fellow award at Chapter Council Meeting June 2022 Point Reyes Station photo by Ann Elliott

How appropriate that Kristin received this award at a Chapter Council meeting hosted by our Chapter.

**David C. Long, Co-President Marin Chapter**

### SUMMARY OF KRISTIN JAKOB'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MARIN CHAPTER OF CNPS

Kristin Jakob has been interested in natural history since childhood. She joined the Marin chapter at age 12, inspired by a neighbor, Virginia Stone, who introduced her to the world of plants. On her return in 1984 from several years studying abroad, she rejoined the chapter and has been a board member most of the decades since.

Kristin's contribution to the ongoing running of the Marin chapter is enormous. She has held several jobs in the chapter for multiple decades, all of which she carries out with energy, creativity and great loyalty. By 1991, she became program chair, a responsibility she has steadfastly rendered to the chapter, month after month, for over thirty years. As program chair, she has been responsible for producing monthly public educational presentations which have been one of the chapter's most important vehicles for public education about native plants.

In 1992, she became vice president of the Marin chapter. Starting in 2001, the post of President was vacant, and Kristin stepped up to lead the chapter until 2010. She became co-president again in 2012–14, and returned to the job in 2016, sharing the responsibility with David Long, a position in which she continues to serve. Consequently, she has led or co-led the Marin chapter for two decades. Very few decisions and projects have been undertaken in the chapter without Kristin's thoughtful input and dedicated support.

In 1995, we find notes in our monthly newsletter that she is helping chapter member Ken Howard purchase plants and organize the chapter's two annual plant sales. She has remained co-chair of our plant sales since then, often investing substantial time to shop for plants and organize the complicated delivery of plants, tables, books, cashiering supplies and more to the sale location. She is always the first to arrive and last to leave after closing.

Entirely self-taught when it comes to understanding and identifying our native plants, she has nevertheless become one of the most knowledgeable botanists in our chapter. As part of her self-

education, she has visited and photographed dozens of California native plant sites from Anza Borrego to the Oregon border and far beyond, as well as making excursions overseas to places like Chile to view and learn about compatible Mediterranean plant communities.

By 2004 she was leading field trips for the chapter, particularly on Tiburon's Ring Mountain at peak time for *Calochortus tiburonensis* and *Hesperolinon congestum*, and Mt. Tam's Rock Springs with *Calypso bulbosa* in mind. She has continued to do so each year since. There is no doubt that her enthusiasm about and knowledge of our native plants have greatly increased the appreciation for our local species in both members and the public.

Kristin is also an accomplished botanical illustrator. What is unique about Kristin is the success with which she has integrated her artistic talents and tastes with the promotion and protection of California native plants. She attended the Royal College of Art in London to study natural history illustration, graduating with a master's degree in 1981. Turning her natural history interest into her vocation, she remained in London for a year and a half after graduation working as an illustrator. During that time, she was awarded silver-gilt medals in 1981 and 1982 for works exhibited at the Royal Horticultural Society.

On her return to Marin, she has continued to pursue her career in botanical illustration through the present day. As a scientific illustrator, she creates paintings that are accurate enough to be used for plant identification. Her immense graphic skill is deployed to bring these plants to life. Often this skill was put to work for the benefit of CNPS; the Marin chapter is particularly grateful to be a big beneficiary. She has provided the chapter with art for the plant sale poster for many years, illustrations for chapter newsletters, and design for the brochure for the symposium we held, "Go Native,



Grow Natives." She has displayed her work at over 30 group and solo exhibitions over the years, including four solo shows at the San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing.

Her first illustration commission was for a children's book on poisonous plants of the world, by CNPS member Alan Eschelman. Her first published illustrations appeared in the CNPS Marin newsletters and the state organization's quarterly journal *Fremontia* (now *Artemisia*). Two of her largest subsequent commissions, the poster "Wildflowers of the Sierra Nevada" (1985), for which she illustrated 75 different species, and a set of four placemats/posters depicting California grasses (2004) were published by CNPS. Sales of these posters have brought in over a million dollars for the organization. She illustrated long articles about the genera *Streptanthus* and *Hesperolinon* in the Four Seasons (East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden annual journal) with precise drawings of the plants and their parts. Her largest project was to create pen & ink drawings for a book on the cultivation of California native Wild Lilies, Irises, and Grasses (2003, UC Press, Berkeley), which she also co-edited. During



CNPS Conservation Conferences, she is frequently found setting up and running the botanical illustration gallery and contest.

Outside of her professional art sphere, Kristin has worked for years as a garden consultant. She contributed horticultural advice to the Mill Valley Outdoor Art Club, the City of Mill Valley's Parks & Recreation Dept, Mill Valley Library, the O'Hanlon Center for the Arts, and Mill Valley Bloomathon, for which she designed the logo. The City of Mill Valley recognized her talent and contributions a few years ago with the Milley Award, in recognition of her accomplishments in the arts that have brought honor to the community. She helped develop the planting list for our successful public pollinator garden at the Bay Model in Sausalito, as well as Marin county lists of fire-wise plants to use in home gardens. Her garden advice to customers and chapter members alike is highly valued.

It is difficult to imagine the Marin chapter without Kristin's contributions and talents; there are many years when she was the force that kept us together. We have come to rely on her knowledge, expertise, thoughtful ideas and good common sense. We are very belated in acknowledging her enormous contribution to CNPS and hope you will look on her nomination favorably.

## CNPS 2022 Conference

**Oct. 20-22, 2022 San Jose**

**Workshops & Field Trips Oct. 18-19**

Topics: Plant Science, Conservation, Horticulture, Education

Registration opens in July.

[Read more...](#)



## Other CNPS Events and Issues

Ask your State Senator to support AB 2146, California's Pollinator Protection Act, which passed the Assembly on May 23. This bill would limit the use of neonic pesticides in California. Neonics are devastating to pollinators like bees and butterflies and leach into soil and groundwater. [Read more...](#)

CA State Senator Mike McGuire represents Marin County. Email him: [senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov](mailto:senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov)



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CNPS is looking to refresh their website. Consider sharing your photos of native plant gardens for them to post. [Read more...](#)

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

### Mother Nature: "Why don't you kids go play outside!"



Studies show that kids (and adults) are healthier and happier when they spend time outside and connect with nature. Here are some **fun** ideas to make it happen.

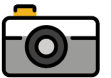
**Keep it Simple:** Take a walk around the block or in your yard.

**Get Dirty:** Pick up sticks, leaves, and pinecones; look for bugs and worms under rocks and in the dirt; build forts; jump in puddles; have fun!

**Be Curious:** How do plants grow? What do birds eat? Books and online resources help you identify plants and animals and understand their behavior and how they are connected.

**Be Observant:** Take pictures of what you see! Submit them to [Ranger Rick's monthly photo contest!](#) No camera? Start a [nature journal](#) and draw and describe your discoveries.

**Make it a Date:** Put outdoor time on your schedule every day. List the natural spaces near your home, then check them off as you visit them.



Resources and information for parents:

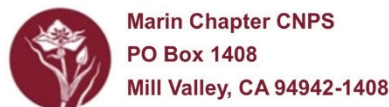
<https://www.cnps.org/education/students/parents-teachers>  
[https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/six\\_ways\\_nature\\_helps\\_children\\_learn](https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/six_ways_nature_helps_children_learn)  
<https://www.nwf.org/home/kids-and-family/connecting-kids-and-nature>  
<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/family-life/parent-child/why-kids-need-nature.html>  
<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/6-reasons-children-need-to-play-outside-2018052213880>

## Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

7/2 9 am Field Trip [Orchids of Olompali](#)  
7/10 10 am Field Trip [Suzi Katz Garden](#)  
7/11 7:30 pm General Meeting "[Cliff Hangers and Flatlanders: Dudleya on the Edge](#)" Speaker: **Stephen McCabe**



*Eriophyllum staechadifolium* - lizard tail  
By Ann Elliott



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Marin CNPS Newsletter

Summer's Native Attractions

July 2022