

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER

November 2022 Newsletter



Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia - beach evening primrose by Ann Elliott

Marin Chapter Meeting

"Protecting biodiversity and facilitating landscape-scale tidal marsh restoration: Management of invasive *Spartina* in the San Francisco Estuary"

Monday, November 14 @ 7:30 pm

Guest Speaker: Drew Kerr and Simon Gunner, California State Coastal Conservancy's Invasive *Spartina* Project (ISP)



Restored marsh at Eden Landing by Drew Kerr

San Francisco Bay is more than just the geographic feature that defines our region, it is a major global biodiversity hotspot. The largest estuary on the west coast of North America, it is a critical stopover point along the Pacific Flyway migration route for millions of shorebirds and waterfowl. At a time when the world's biodiversity is under increasing pressure, we have a golden opportunity to protect the treasure at the heart of the Bay Area. Rimming the Bay between freeways, airports, and landfills remain precious tidal wetlands and opportunities to return salt evaporator ponds to functioning ecosystems. After more than a century of destruction, restoration projects are reversing the trend. However, restoring these saltwater marshes may be for naught if we cannot stop another threat that we unleashed in the last century. Atlantic cordgrass planted to stabilize dredge spoils in the 1970s has since

hybridized with Pacific cordgrass to create a highly fertile hybrid swarm that crowds out native marsh vegetation and colonizes mudflats to the detriment of foraging shorebirds. Since 2005, the Coastal Conservancy's Invasive Spartina Project has used airboats, genetic testing, sophisticated GIS, and a lot of hard, muddy work to push back the invasive plants that threaten endangered species like the Ridgway's rail and salt marsh harvest mouse. Learn about how hometown heroes are doing their part to address the global biodiversity crisis.



Helicopter shot of biologists in the field at Greco photo by Drew Kerr

Speaker Bios:

Drew Kerr is the Treatment Program Manager for the California State Coastal Conservancy's Invasive Spartina Project (ISP).

Before joining ISP in 2005, when Estuary-wide Spartina treatment was just beginning, Drew was the Aquatic Noxious Weed Specialist for the King County Department of Natural Resources in Seattle, where he began his career in wetland ecology and invasive species management in 1999. During his years at King County, Drew also worked on land use policy that established protected wildlife corridors and wetland complexes, and worked extensively with native Pacific Northwest amphibians. He received a BS in Environmental Policy & Behavior and a BA in Economics from the University of Michigan and holds a professional certificate in Wetland Science and Management from the University of Washington. Drew has a passion for ecology, particularly wetlands and aquatic systems, as well as protecting these ecosystems from the impact of noxious weed invasions. He is also managing two smaller invasive plant projects that he started, one for invasive sea lavender (*Limonium* spp.), and one for seashore paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum*) in the southeastern corner of the Estuary.



Wetlands at sunset while monitoring Ridgway's Rails photo by Lindsay Faye Domecus

Simon Gunner is the Senior Botanist at Olofson Environmental for the California State Coastal Conservancy's Invasive Spartina Project (ISP). Simon developed an early passion for plant ecology, but interned at

Harvard University and the New York Botanical Garden in plant systematics laboratories before earning his MA in Plant Biology from the LH Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University. Simon then settled in the Bay Area in 2012 and joined the ISP, where he has joyfully gotten to focus on habitat conservation. He develops cordgrass identification programs, maintains the rare and endangered plant species geodatabase, and assists with tidal marsh restoration designs throughout the Bay Area for ISP. [Register for this Zoom meeting here.](#)

Rooting Together

Stacey Pogorzelski and Ann Elliott

The CNPS 2022 Conference Oct 20-22 in San Jose, CA, went beyond the traditional sharing of native plant science and conservation issues; it also included concurrent session tracks on horticulture and education. With the conference theme of Rooting Together, a broader community gathered to share ideas for restoring our connections to nature, conserving native plants, and honoring and including indigenous voices in CNPS' work.

Plant Science and Conservation session topics included research and reports relating to climate change, fire resilience and recovery, biodiversity, invasive plants, livestock grazing, rare plants, seed banking, and bryology.



Many sessions explored the intrinsic and historically overlooked role of indigenous people in preserving, stewarding, and interpreting California native plants.

Sessions in native plant horticulture included technical challenges (climate challenges, phytophthora, ethics) as well as urban and suburban restoration challenges, including partnering with local governments and schools.

A selection of sessions:

Fire Resilience

Marin Chapter Co-President David Long described our taxpayer-approved Marin Wildfire Protection Authority (MWPA). The Chapter's partnership with Marin Audubon and West Marin Environmental Action Committee (Fire and Environmental Resilience Network - FERN) advocates for environmentally sound practices by MWPA. Marin Chapter Board Member and Field Trip Co-Chair Carolyn Longstreth reported how FERN uses the CalFire Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) to advocate for sound ecological practices in MWPA's vegetation management projects and evaluate environmental compliance. <https://www.cnpsmarin.org/protecting-natives/current-issues/item/763-fern-a-collaboration-to-protect-natural-resources-in-wildfire-risk-reduction-projects>

Land Back Movements and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)

The Amah Mutsun Land Trust enables the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band (also referred to as "Ohlone") to access, protect, and steward lands from Año Nuevo to the greater Monterey area, lands known to them as Popeloutchom. <https://www.amahmutsunlandtrust.org/>

The Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians is calling for a co-management agreement with CalFire in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest in Mendocino County, part of their traditional territory. <https://www.pomolandback.com/>

The Chico Traditional Ecological Stewardship Program of the Mechoopda Tribe is a Traditional Ecological Knowledge [TEK] certification program for land stewardship in California. <https://tekchico.org/>

Horticulture/Restoration

The Tule River Parkway Association has implemented a restoration in Porterville with 18 native plant demonstration gardens designed and maintained by various individuals and organizations. <https://www.tuleriverparkwayassociation.org/>

Westwood Greenway is a conversion of an abandoned railroad right of way to filter system and bioswale to clean dry weather runoff from an urban area before it enters a creek and the ocean. <https://westwoodgreenway.org/overview/>

Green infrastructure in San Francisco (think native plant rain gardens!) is being created throughout the very urban environment of SF. We could certainly do the same here in Marin! <https://sfpuc.org/programs/san-franciscos-urban-watersheds/what-green-infrastructure>

The Chino Basin Water Conservation Agency has done some interesting and incentivizing work to help residents plant natives and created a garden planner to make it easy. <https://waterwisegardenplanner.org/>

CALSCAPE.org (a project of CNPS) has a new Bay Area Garden Planner. <https://bayarea.calscape.org/>

Equity in access to green spaces

Green spaces in urban areas improve mental and physical health. Urban and transportation planning should consider public and human-powered transportation access to "wild" green spaces in and beyond cities.

Literacy for Environmental Justice promotes nature-based activities and job training in a lower-income neighborhood of San Francisco. <https://www.lejyouth.org/>



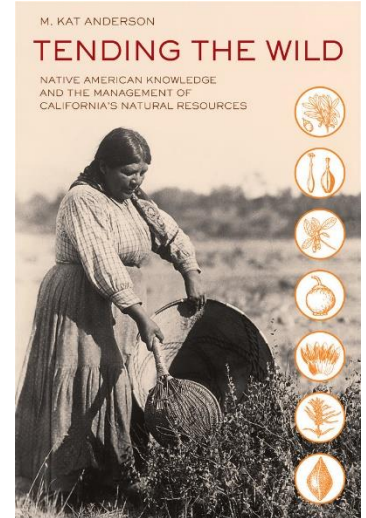
CNPS 2022 Conference Concurrent Sessions
photo by Ann Elliott



Filling plant sale orders at Home Ground Habitats
Fall 2022 photo by Laura Lovett

Highly Successful Fall Plant Sale!

A huge **THANK YOU** to all who helped and all who bought plants at our record fall plant sale. Customers took home a wide variety of gorgeous plants, custom grown by [Home Ground Habitats](#). We look forward to seeing you again at our spring sale.



Special Sale on Books Celebrating Indigenous People and Culture

Marin Chapter is offering our inventory of books about Native American basketry, ethnography, and use of native plants at a discount, just in time for Holiday gifts. See what's available on our [website store](#).



South Seasonal Hamilton Wetlands - July 2015
watercolor by Nancy Gorton

2023 Micro Grants to Aid Native Plants

The Marin Chapter is pleased to offer the 2023 round of funding for micro grants, intended to assist with projects that advance our mission. Individuals, nonprofits, community organizations, educational facilities and local governments will use the funds to benefit native plants, native plant knowledge and education, and the organizations and people who care for the lands where these plants grow. The application is short; deadline for applying is December 16, 2022.

[Read more. . .](#)

Advocate for Native Plants to Enhance Biodiversity

The County of Marin is finalizing its plan to address housing needs across the next 8 years, also known as the [Housing Element](#). A group of Marin CNPS members has been following this planning update with the goal of getting the new policy to encourage biodiversity by requiring use of more native plants. County planners will be sharing the status of this update at upcoming community meetings, scheduled for Nov. 1 to 10. For more information contact [Paul da Silva](#).



[Register for a Marin County Housing Element meeting.](#)

Green Visits to Green Spaces

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.



For the first installment of "Green Visits to Green Spaces" we will explore getting to our beloved [Muir Woods National Monument](#). This magnificent redwood forest has become so popular that reservations are always required to park your vehicle there. If you are not lucky enough to live within walking or biking distance, consider using the [Muir Woods Shuttle](#) from Larkspur Landing. It has connections to the Golden Gate Ferry from San Francisco, SMART train, and Marin Transit bus routes 17, 29, 228.

Reservations for the [Muir Woods Shuttle](#) as well as park entrance fee (if needed) can be ordered at [GoMuirWoods.com](#). Currently running weekends and holidays, the shuttle costs \$3.50 and is free for 15 and under.

Marin Transit identifies several [parks to visit by public transit](#). We will explore getting to another park in the next installment of "Green Visits to Green Spaces."

Biological Technician Career Opportunities, County of Marin

- [Seasonal Biological Technician - Nursery](#) - \$27 - \$32 / hourly
- [Seasonal Biological Technician - Trails](#) - \$27 - \$32 / hourly
- [Seasonal Biological Technician - Vegetation](#) - \$27 - \$32 / hourly
- [Seasonal Biological Technician - Wildlife](#) - \$27 - \$32 / hourly



Application for all of these positions closes 11/14/22.

Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

- 11/14 7:30 pm General Meeting [“Protecting biodiversity and facilitating landscape-scale tidal marsh restoration: Management of invasive Spartina in the San Francisco Estuary”](#) Guest Speakers: **Drew Kerr and Simon Gunner**
- 12/16 [Micro Grant](#) Deadline



Marin Chapter
California Native Plant Society

California Native Plant Society ©2022 All rights reserved.