

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER

## January 2023 Newsletter

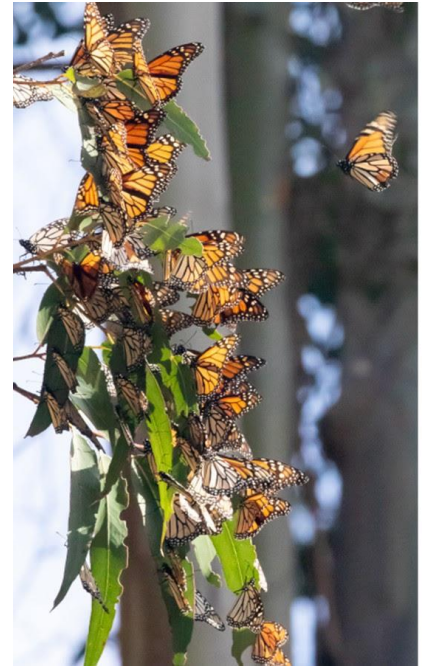
### Marin Chapter January 2023 Meeting

#### "Monarchs Make Their Home in Marin Again"

Guest Speakers: **Ole Schell** (Founder of the Bolinas Monarch Sanctuary), **Audrey Fusco** (SPAWN Nursery Manager and Restoration Ecologist), and **Mia Monroe** (Xerces Society Volunteer)

**Monday, January 9 @ 7:30 pm**

Monarchs breed and overwinter in Marin, regaining population support thanks to habitat enhancement and re-establishment. Ole and Audrey will examine several significant efforts to offer breeding options in our gardens, public spaces and overwintering support. They will highlight several recent efforts underway in Marin to provide healthy options for monarch butterflies based on the value and significance of native plants. Mia Monroe will provide a survey of population trends and an update.



Overwintering Monarchs



Award-winning filmmaker, and farmer Ole Schell grew up in Bolinas on his father's Niman/Schell Ranch, where the annual arrival of thousands of Western Monarch butterflies was a dependable autumn phenomenon. The alarming decline in this butterfly population has moved Schell to establish the West Marin Monarch Sanctuary on his family land in Bolinas. With extensive research, partnership with specialists, and a creative vision, Schell has planted hundreds of native plants and developed a program to support the butterflies

and inform and inspire the public.

Audrey Fusco created a school habitat garden program in conjunction with Charlotte Torgovitsky of Home Ground Habitat Nursery. The program, "Bringing Nature to School", launched in spring 2020. This program supports the creation of native habitat gardens in schoolyards; the objectives are to provide students with opportunities for hands-on learning in nature and to improve habitat for wildlife. Six new monarch waystations have been created at schools in Marin County as a result of this program. SPAWN also works with local elementary school students to propagate native milkweed and nectar plants at their schools.



Mia Monroe is a Xerces volunteer conducting western monarch overwintering counts for a quarter of a century! She is a National Park ranger in Marin and is part of the OneTam collaborative.

[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.)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Evergreen Woodlands on the Inverness Fire Road

Saturday, **January 14, 2023** - 9:45 am to noon

Leader: **Carolyn Longstreth**

This easy 2-mile walk will explore a pristine native landscape on the Inverness Fire Road. The route passes through a mixed evergreen forest of bishop pine, madrone and chinquapin with a diverse understory of huckleberry, Labrador tea, ferns and herbaceous perennials. Toward the end of the route, we will admire the low-growing Mt. Vision ceanothus (*Ceanothus gloriosus* var. *porrectus*) and puzzle out the differences between Marin manzanita (*Arctostaphylos virgata*) and Eastwood manzanita (*A. glandulosa*). Both Mt. Vision ceanothus and Marin manzanita are rare throughout their ranges. Occasional views of Tomales Bay.

Download the [PLANT LIST](#) for near this area. [Read more about this field trip. . .](#)



*Arctostaphylos virgata* - Marin manzanita  
Photo by Vernon Smith



*Ceanothus gloriosus* var. *porrectus*  
Mt. Vision Ceanothus Photo by Doreen Smith

## 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 helpful.

Additional details and a formal sign-up will be available soon. For more information and to receive notice of the registration website for the docent program, please contact Stacey Pogorzelski at [marincnpsvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:marincnpsvolunteers@gmail.com) [Read more. . .](#)

## New Member Discount Through Jan. 10

Join CNPS to help protect California Native Plants. Members receive the [Flora and Artemisia magazines](#) and [discounts](#) at many local nurseries. Membership supports monitoring of rare plants and habitats, a science-based resource for public and private planning documents, and advocacy for preservation of native plants and natural processes.

Sign up for the new member discount of 40% for yourself or a friend through January 10, 2023. [Please use this link through the CNPS store.](#) The discount is applied at checkout.



*Calochortus tiburonensis* - Tiburon mariposa lily  
Photo by Tom Hilton



*Sisyinchium bellum* - blue-eyed grass  
Photo by Wilma Follette

## Green Visits to Green Spaces\*: *Hal Brown Park*

Check out the creekside restoration project underway at Hal Brown Park at Creekside in Greenbrae anytime or join one of the [winter planting parties](#). Watch the transformation of this weedy area to native habitat for Ridgeway's Rail.



Marin Transit's Routes [22](#) and [29](#) will take you within 10 minutes walk of the park (near Marin Health Medical Center) and Route [228](#) will take you right to the park.

\* CNPS has adopted the goal to become carbon neutral in its activities by 2030.

## Borrow a Weed Wrench!

Take advantage of this wonderful soil-moistening rain and borrow the Chapter's weed wrenches to pull broom and other fire-prone weedy bushes.

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...](#)



## COP15

As part of an extended California delegation, CNPS Staff attended the U.N. Global Biodiversity Conference in Montreal (the 15th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity [COP15]). Read their [reflections](#) on the conference, the international commitment to 30 x 30, and California's presence there. (California has committed to the goal of conserving 30 percent of our lands and coastal waters by 2030.)

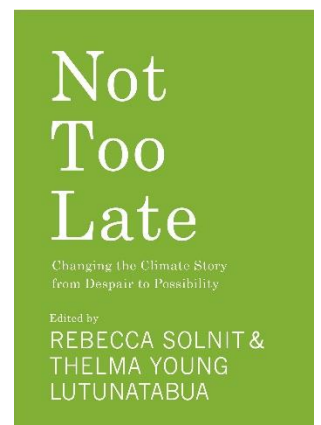


## #Not Too Late

Preview by *Carolyn Losee*

Rebecca Solnit (Novato raised) is in the news again with her [Not Too Late](#) project, co-created in 2022 with Thelma Young Lutunatabua. Guiding us away from feeling overwhelmed and toward potential solutions, they point out that much of the climate crisis is also a crisis of imagination. In the transition from grief to action, the project showcases current efforts to address climate and biodiversity. Public TV will air a series of talks from last fall (watch an [introductory interview](#)); their [book](#) will come out in April; and they are even planning (much needed) school curriculum!

Solnit says, "We need system change through collective action." Much of her award-winning work has been to provide examples of David winning over Goliath. [Not Too Late](#) offers good information - science and solutions. The creators seek to give readers new models of change, power and possibility. Says Solnit, "There will always be something worth doing."



## Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

- 1/9 7:30 pm General Meeting "[Monarchs Make Their Home in Marin Again](#)" Guest Speakers: **Ole Schell, Audrey Fusco, and Mia Monroe**
- 1/14 9:45 am Field Trip: [Evergreen Woodlands on the Inverness Fire Road](#)



*Arctostaphylos* sp. - showy manzanita blossoms adorn fence Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski

## Other Activities of Interest

- 1/5 5:30 pm CNPS [Naturehood Webinar: Gardening for Kids](#)
- 1/7 9 am - noon [Broom Busters of Old St. Hilary's](#)
- 1/8 9 am - noon [Planting at Hal Brown Park](#)
- 1/17 7:30 pm "[How To Protect Forest Ecosystems](#)" with Rick Coates. Hosted by Milo Baker Chapter
- 1/28 10 am - 1 pm [Ring Mountain Grassland Restoration](#)
- 1/29 11 am to 3 pm [Garden Ambassador Patricia Carpenter's Seasonal Winter Ramble](#), near Davis, RSVP only



Ring Mountain Open Space Preserve  
Photo by Ann Elliott

## Chapter News Submissions

This is **our** newsletter - for CNPS members and followers of Marin CNPS.

Please send articles, information about events, photography, art, prose, and poetry relating to native plants, so I may include them in upcoming editions.

Thank you. Ann Elliott, Newsletter Editor [annonfire@gmail.com](mailto:annonfire@gmail.com)



*Festuca californica* & *Claytonia perfoliata*, CA fescue & miner's lettuce Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski

[Join/Renew](#)

[Donate](#)



Marin Chapter  
California Native Plant Society

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

2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5130 | Tel: (916) 447-2677  
California Native Plant Society ©2022 All rights reserved.