



California Native Plant Society

MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)

Marin Chapter established 1973

MEMBERS' POTLUCK SLIDE SHOW AND DINNER

Saturday, September 29, 6–9:30 p.m.

Join us for an evening of delicious food, a tempting raffle, beautiful pictures, and good company!

Please bring a dish and beverage to share; a \$5 door donation will help us cover facility rental, and bringing your own plate and mug will help reduce waste. Cutlery, napkins, and backup plates and cups will be provided, as will teas and decaf coffee. Help will be appreciated for setup at 5:30 and for cleanup afterwards. Members are welcome to bring guests.

If you have up to 20 images to show from your botanical outings, near or far, please bring slides, digital images on a laptop or flash drive, or photo albums. There will be both digital and conventional projectors on hand. We will conduct a raffle of plants, botanical books, prints, and other appropriate, desirable items, so please consider bringing something to donate.

Location: Lucas Valley Community Center, 1201 Idylberry Rd., San Rafael

Directions: Highway 101 to west on Lucas Valley Rd.; after about two miles, turn right onto Mt. Shasta Dr., then take the second left onto Idylberry, and turn immediately left into the Community Center parking lot.

Questions: Contact Kristin Jakob, Tel (415) 388-1844, or kristinjakob@pacbell.net.



Monday, October 8 Marin Chapter Meeting

"Bringing Nature Back Home: Growing a Wildlife Habitat Garden" by guest speaker Nancy Bauer

We'll take a look at San Francisco Bay Area habitat gardens and their plants, including water features and ponds, and some of the wildlife species these gardens attract. The focus is native plants and their

relationships with birds, butterflies, bees, and other beneficial insects. Highlights of this talk will include:

- The basics of gardening for wildlife
- Examples from various Bay Area wildlife gardens of multifunctional native plants that offer cover, food, and nectar for birds and insects
- Pollinators (honeybees, native bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators) and gardens focused on attracting these pollinators
- Beneficial insect predators
- Wildlife ponds and creatures



Above: Bee on narrow leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) by Harmina Mansur

Nancy Bauer is a wildlife habitat gardener, garden writer, and author of *The Habitat Garden Book: Wildlife Landscaping for the San Francisco Bay Region*. Her new book, *The California Wildlife Habitat Garden*, was just published by UC Press in August. She is based in Sonoma County and got her Master Gardener certification in Marin County in 1994.

October meeting:

5:45 p.m. Join friends and meet our speaker for a no-host dinner at Gira Polli of Mill Valley, 590 East Blithedale Ave. at Camino Alto. Please call Gerd or Kristin Jakob at (415) 388-1844 at least one day ahead to be assured of a seat with our group.

October chapter meeting continued on page 2

October chapter meeting continued from page 1

7:30 p.m. Meet at the Redwoods retirement home, 40 Camino Alto, Mill Valley. Books, posters, and cards will be for sale before as well as after the meeting. Lecture starts at 8 p.m.



Above: House finch on Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) by Robert Watkins



SAVE THE DATE!

CNPS Marin Chapter Fall Plant Sale

Saturday October 13, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Fall is for planting! View the beautiful new California native demonstration gardens and participate in free workshops and hands-on demos. Expert gardeners will be on hand to help with your selections from our extensive inventory of native plants for your garden. Many of these plants have been grown on site.



Above: California native demonstration garden at Green Point Nursery by Mieko Watkins

We've been growing a beautiful variety of *Salvias* and *Ceanothus*, *Mimulus*, *Monardella*, and *Penstemon*. We'll have many wonderful garden plants from the coastal community such as buckwheats, wallflowers, and seaside daisies. We're also offering a variety of larval host plants for the butterfly gardener such as the rare cobweb thistle, California pipevine, and several species of native milkweeds, as well as a nice selection of perennial bunchgrasses.

Watch for a complete inventory list on the chapter website (www.marinnativeplants.org), and more details in our October Newsletter. For more information, contact Charlotte Torgovitsky at torgovitsky@comcast.net or (415) 892-9148.

Location: Green Point Nursery, 275 Olive Ave at Atherton Ave. in Novato.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Text and photo by Doreen Smith

At this time of year those in search of native wildflowers in Marin are lucky. We live on the Pacific coast, where the cool climate enables an impressive number of species to survive and flower well into fall. A traditional Marin CNPS "Last Wildflowers of Summer" hike at Pt. Reyes in September can yield at least 100 species in bloom.

Sagina maxima ssp. *crassicaulis* (thick-stemmed pearlwort) is small perennial that may now be classed as a rare species. It has been poorly collected recently but that is perhaps because it is small, easily overlooked, and thought insignificant or a weed.



Above: *Sagina maxima* ssp. *crassicaulis* (thick-stemmed pearlwort)

The plants occupy seeps on cliffs and upper parts of sandy beaches only in a narrow coastal strip, mostly north of San Francisco Bay. Southern California records are all old and it may already be extirpated there. The State CNPS Rare Plant Botanist, Aaron E. Sims, is now doing research to determine whether it deserves California Rare Plant Rank 4 (formerly List 4) status), that is, whether it is a candidate for the watch-list of plants of limited distribution.

To see the species in Marin is easy; it grows where freshwater seeps emerge from the bluffs at McClures Beach into the upper parts of the sandy beaches there. Another population is on the path to the lighthouse from the parking lot, where it is the little green plant mixed with the orange *Trentepohlia* under a north-facing cliff face. Fog drip from overhanging Monterey Cypress keeps the site moist all year.

BOARD NEWS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Chapter members interested in serving as an officer or board member of the Marin CNPS or who would like to suggest others for these positions are encouraged to contact one of the Co-Vice Presidents Kristin Jakob or David Long. The elected officers and board members of the Marin CNPS Board are President, up to two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer, and up to 11 additional board members. A slate of nominees will be published in the October–December chapter newsletter, and voted on at the November membership meeting. Contact Information: Kristin Jakob, (415) 388-1844 (kristinjacob@pacbell.net); David Long, (415) 381-6327 (sfdlong@ix.netcom.com).



LAWN ALTERNATIVES: DO-IT-YOURSELF NATIVE PLANTSCAPING

Saturday, September 29, 8:45 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

The theme of this one-day symposium is how to design, install, and care for native plant gardens—to save money, save water, and save the environment, all at the same time. Topics range from garden design and plant selection to lawn removal, garden installation, and maintenance, with a focus on specifics, practical steps, and how-to information. If you are a homeowner looking to do it yourself or a landscape professional wanting to hone or refresh your skills, this event is for you.

The speakers are accomplished professionals and authors: Peigi Duvall of Indig Design; Deva Luna of EarthCare Landscaping; Sherri Osaka of Sustainable Landscape Design; Nancy Bauer, author of *The California Wildlife Habitat Garden*; and Helen Popper, author of *California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide*. The program includes refreshments, lunch, and a reception. Books and plants will be available for sale.

The symposium is organized by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS, hosted by Foothill College Environmental Horticulture Department, and sponsored by Bay Area Water Supply Conservation Agency and Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Registration is now open; discounts are available for advance registration by September 15, for CNPS members, and for students. Space is limited: early registration recommended. To register, visit symposium.cnps-scv.org. For more information, email symposium@cnps-scv.org, or call (650) 260-3450.

Location: Foothill College, Lecture Hall 8338, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

✿ **Sunday 9/2, 9:15 a.m.**

Chapter Field Trip: Last Wildflowers of Summer

✿ **Tuesday 9/4, 7 p.m.**

Chapter Board Meeting at the MA&GC in Ross

✿ **Thursday 9/20, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**

Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Pt. Reyes

✿ **Saturday 9/29, 6–9:30 p.m.**

Annual Chapter Potluck at the Lucas Valley Community Center

✿ **Monday 10/1, 7 p.m.**

Chapter Board Meeting at the MA&GC in Ross

✿ **Monday 10/8, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**

Chapter Meeting: Nancy Bauer “Bringing Nature Back Home: Growing a Wildlife Habitat Garden”

✿ **Saturday 10/13, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Fall Chapter Plant Sale at Green Point Nursery, Novato

✿ **Thursday 10/18, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**

Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Pt. Reyes



CAL-IPC'S 21ST ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Bay to Basin: Coordinating Response to Invasive Plants Across California

Thursday–Saturday, October 11–13

This year's California Invasive Plant Council's symposium promises a great lineup of talks, posters, and activities. Sessions address working across landscapes, taxa, and time; managing grassland weeds; laws and regulations related to herbicide application; and engaging discussion groups.

Wednesday, October 10: Pre-Symposium Habitat Restoration Workday. Learn stewardship techniques in the field, and get your hands dirty trying them out.

Thursday–Friday, October 11–12: Symposium at the Wine Country DoubleTree in Rohnert Park

Saturday, October 13: Field trips will explore Northern California's natural areas. Visit Mt. Tamalpais, the Blue Ridge-Berryessa Natural Area, wild pollinators at a local farm, or local restoration projects.

Photo Contest and Exhibit: Every year invasive plant managers from around the state send us photos of their work. Submit entries by Friday, September 2.

Registration is now open! Save money by registering before Sept. 7th. Discounted room prices at the Wine Country DoubleTree.

For a full symposium program and to register, visit www.cal-ipc.org/symposia.

SEPTEMBER 2012 FIELD TRIPS

Marin Chapter Field Trip News and Policies

Make some seedy pals with the Marin chapter of the California Native Plant Society. All hikes are free and open to the public, so please invite your friends. Beginning plant enthusiasts welcome on all hikes.

Come prepared for any type of weather or conditions, dress in layers, have non-slip footwear, and bring rain/wind protection just in case. Although it may be sunny and warm when you leave home, the weather could be cold and foggy when we reach our destination. Bring lunch and plenty of water, binoculars and/or hand lenses, and your favorite field guides.

Field Trip Plant Lists

Plant lists compiled by Marin CNPS for many Marin localities are available on the Marin Chapter CNPS website at www.marinnativeplants.org. Email Board Member Doreen Smith, Rare Plant Committee Coordinator, for "updated to *Jepson 2*" versions of some of these lists. In addition, the Natural Resources Database link on the Marin CNPS website has flora and fauna lists for many Bay Area sites.

Last Wildflowers of Summer

Sunday, September 2, 9:15 a.m.

Meet on the front steps of the Bear Valley Visitor Center, Pt. Reyes National Seashore. We'll depart at 9:30 a.m. and leave a note of the destination with the desk staff. The trip will be to a site yet to be selected on the Seashore that has native plants still in bloom. We will stay out until after lunch, probably until 3 p.m. If the weather is unfavorable the trip will be postponed.

Trip Leader: Call Doreen Smith (415) 479-7888.



PARKS & OPEN SPACE BALLOT MEASURE

Your Marin CNPS Board has been following and participating in discussions with Marin County Department of Parks and Open Space (POS) and the Marin County Board of Supervisors (BOS) on a ballot measure for November, 6, 2012. Our parks are in need of maintenance and upgrading beyond that which is supported by their annual General Fund allocation from the County. Open Space acquisition funds are needed when important pieces become available, as are funds to purchase easements to help keep farmers on their land, instead of having to sell for development.

The ballot measure, which requires a 2/3 positive vote, would levy a 1/4-cent sales tax for nine years, renewable by voter approval. Marin has always been supportive of park and open space measures. Taxes, donations, and grants are how we got much of the 20,000

acres we steward. Dynamics of park use have shifted to more emphasis on recreation, and thus increased need for repair and maintenance of facilities and trails.

Linda Dahl, POS director, met with representatives of various local organizations to make sure their interests were included in the ballot measure, and to encourage their support in getting members to go to the polls and vote on November 6th. POS is relying on members of these organizations, and the people who made the six million park visits last year, to vote for the measure.

Environmental organizations secured assurances of ongoing efforts to decommission unauthorized and redundant trails, with concurrent habitat restoration. CNPS emphasized the importance of protection of Marin's indigenous rare plants; recommended having inaccessible areas for native flora to flourish; expressed concern over not having enough ranger control for trails; and supported efforts to eradicate and control destructive, invasive, non-native species.

The estimated \$10,000,000 per year revenue will be divided as follows:

- 65% to "Protect or Restore Natural Resources and Maintain Existing County Parks and Open Space Preserves," with 20% of this set aside, and accumulated as needed, for actual purchase of land or conservation easements to permanently protect "natural areas, streams, baylands, and native ecosystems with high natural resource values."
- 20% to the Farmland Preservation Program to purchase perpetual agricultural conservation easements and real property interests to protect our farms and ranches; 5% of this may be used for matching grants to enhance natural resource value and/or to monitor easements.
- 15% to an annual grant fund to which cities, towns, and applicable special districts can apply, to help them maintain, restore, or acquire parks, preserves, and recreational facilities.

All of these categories include vegetation management, reduction of wildfire risk, promotion of biodiversity, and control of invasive non-native weeds.

No more than five percent of expenditure allocations may be spent in overhead, and the County will not reduce General Fund support for parks (unless same is required of all departments). The BOS will appoint a seven-member Community Oversight Committee, and there will be an annual public meeting by POS.

A 2/3 majority vote will take everyone's effort to get the ballot measure passed. Educating friends, neighbors, and the public about this opportunity to protect decades of preservation efforts, as well as opportunities going forward, will be an important factor in encouraging them to go to the polls and vote "YES".

—Sandy Ross, CNPS Board representative to the POS Ballot Measure project

GROWING NATIVES!

Late summer is when we start lots of native perennials from seed. This starts a year-long process of tender, loving care: daily tending, potting up as necessary, fertilizing, and pruning, until we have a healthy, vigorous plant ready for your garden. We'll also start a number of species from cuttings; mint family plants respond readily to this technique, which allows us to grow a mature plant in a matter of months.



Vine Hill clarkia (*Clarkia imbricata*) by Mieko Watkins; it is endemic to the Sonoma County area and is rare and endangered.

Soon we'll be using the plants in our demonstration garden as a source of seed and cuttings. We left plenty of room for perennial species to reach their mature sizes, and filled in with wildflowers for instant color. We'll be collecting seed from clarkias, mallows, and gumplant, and plan to grow these for the Marin CNPS spring plant sale. The garden also includes a beautiful selection of zauschnerias; these plants will be propagated by cuttings taken from new spring growth.

Fall is the time teachers and garden coordinators start thinking about resurrecting school gardens. CNPS, and all the volunteers who do the work of propagating plants, are eager to support school gardens by providing both California natives, and well-behaved habitat plants, at discounted prices.

Come join this wonderful group of volunteers! We work in the shade, often with a nice breeze, and lots of birds around; sharing good energy, tips and ideas; and as an added bonus, volunteers helping with propagation often take home choice plants for their own garden!

Following is a schedule of work days and times:

Tuesdays, 1 to 3 p.m.

- September 4 and 18

Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- September 13 and 27

Come to Green Point Nursery, 275 Olive Ave. at the corner of Atherton Ave. in Novato. No need to bring anything; we have gloves and tools on hand, all necessary supplies, and lots of grow-power!

I'm looking forward to sharing in the abundance of plants propagated here at Green Point!

—Charlotte Torgovitsky

torgovitsky@comcast.net, (415) 892-9148



Save native plant habitat at Point Reyes with the...

THIRD THURSDAY WEEDERS

Next workdays: September 20 and October 18, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Join the "Third Thursday Weeders" to spend a day at beautiful Point Reyes and help tackle invasive weeds that threaten important plant habitat in the Point Reyes National Seashore.

The Weeders meet regularly on the third Thursday of every month, either in the Seashore or at other locations in West Marin. The locations of each session are set in consultation with Seashore staff. Over the past 18 months, we have made great progress on the iceplant and veldt grass infestations at the Outer Point, European beachgrass at Abbott's Lagoon, and perennial pepperweed in the Giacomini Wetland.



Above: Weeding with a dramatic backdrop by Ellen Hamingson

To sign up and receive notification of the meeting place for the next work party, please send an email to Ellen Hamingson at Ellen_Hamingson@nps.gov. Be sure to let Ellen know if you plan to attend so we'll know to wait for everyone before heading to the work area.

Bring plenty of water, lunch and snacks, warm and wind-stopping layers, sturdy shoes, work clothes. No shorts or open-toed shoes. The Park provides tools and gloves.

Hope to see you there!

—Carolyn Longstreth

MMWD CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



Above: Doreen Smith, Eva Buxton, and Wilma Follette staffing a booth during the MMWD centennial celebration in June

On Saturday, June 23, our CNPS chapter participated in the MMWD 100th anniversary celebration at three localities on Mt. Tamalpais. With setup help from Andrea Williams of MMWD, Doreen Smith, Eva Buxton, and Wilma Follette staffed the table at Rock Spring, which was devoted to botany and outdoor education. The other two locations were at Lake Lagunitas (devoted to outdoor activities) and the Sky Oaks Ranger Stations (on indoor presentations).

Many of the hikers who appeared at our trailhead location really needed advice—which we supplied—on where the trailhead led. We gave out plant lists, CNPS brochures, and plant identification information. We even sold a *Marin Flora* to a happy hiker.

We were each given a Mt. Tam map, bandana, a Mt. Tam history book, a t-shirt, a magnet, and a water bottle, plus the feeling that we had promoted dear old MMWD, its lands, and its community involvement.

—Wilma Follette

MARIN CNPS CONTACTS

Position	Name
Co-Vice President; Plant Sale Committee Co-Chair; Program Committee Co-Chair	Kristin Jakob
Co-Vice President	David Long
Secretary	Amelia Ryan
Treasurer	Daniel Kushner
Board Member	Janice Barry
Board Member; Conservation and Invasives Committee Chair (Conservation)	Eva Buxton
Board Member; Education and Publicity Committee Co-Chair	Paul da Silva
Board Member; Legislation	Phyllis Faber
Board Member; Gardening with Natives Committee Chair; Plant Sale Committee Co-Chair	Renee Fittinghoff
Board Member; <i>Marin Flora</i> Project	Wilma Follette
Board Member; Chapter Council Delegate	Carolyn Longstreth
Board Member	Sandy Ross
Board Member; Rare Plant Committee Chair	Doreen Smith
Board Member; Website	Mary Stevens
Board Member; Membership Committee Co-Chair; Program Committee Co-Chair	Charlotte Torgovitsky
Book Sales	Doyleen McMurtry
Membership Committee Co-Chair	Ashley Ratcliffe
Historian	Vivian Mazur
Newsletter Editor	Krista Fechner
Newsletter Folding/Mailing	Paul Kryloff
Poster Sales	Gerd Jakob

Open Positions: President, Conservation and Invasives Committee Co-Chair (Invasives), Education and Publicity Committee Co-Chair, Field Trips Committee Chair

Board contact information has been removed from the online version of this newsletter.

CNPS MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS

The mission of California Native Plant Society is to conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. Membership is open to everyone.

Join CNPS Now!

Membership includes informative publications, field trips, monthly programs, and discounts on books and posters. Also included are *Fremontia* (a journal with articles on all aspects of native plants published three times/year), the *Bulletin* (a quarterly statewide report of activities and schedules), and the chapter newsletter. Please call the membership chairperson, Ashley Ratcliffe, for more information.

Join or Renew Online

Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, set it to renew automatically year after year. It's quick, easy, convenient, and reduces renewal mailing costs.

Visit www.cnps.org and click **Join/Renew**.

Join or Renew by Mail

Yes! I wish to affiliate with the Marin Chapter.

New Member Renewal

Membership Category:

- Mariposa Lily \$1,500
- Benefactor \$600
- Patron \$300
- Plant Lover \$100
- Family, Group, or Library \$75
- Individual \$45
- Student or Limited Income \$25

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please mail application and check payable to **CNPS** to:

California Native Plant Society
2707 K St., Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

The IRS considers dues in excess of \$12.00 per year and all gifts to CNPS Tax Deductible.

Newsletter Only

If you wish to receive only the newsletter, please make a \$10 check payable to **CNPS Marin** and mail to: Daniel Kushner, 201 Ross St., San Rafael, CA 94901.

Newsletter Subscription only \$10

Tax-Deductible Contributions

Tax-deductible contributions to the Marin Chapter are always welcome, either as memorial or honorarium donations or regular contributions. You may designate your contribution for a specific purpose of your choice. Unless otherwise designated, all contributions will be placed in the general fund, which will enable the Chapter to extend our efforts to plant conservation and education. Our regular, ongoing program and operating expenses are largely covered by our plant sales and book and poster sales.

A contribution of \$_____ is made in honor of:

Contribution designated for:

From:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Mail check payable to **CNPS** to: Daniel Kushner, 201 Ross St., San Rafael, CA 94901.

CNPS Contact Information

Phone (916) 447-2677 (state)

Fax (916) 447-2727 (state)

Email cnps@cnps.org (state)

Web www.marinnativeplants.org (Marin chapter)

www.cnps.org (state) The state CNPS site is a resource for a wealth of materials, including promotional materials such as banners and posters.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
MARIN CHAPTER
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Visit us at www.marinnativeplants.org!

GET YOUR COPY OF THE REVISED *MARIN FLORA*!

The 2007 revised edition of John Thomas Howell's classic *Marin Flora* (originally published in 1949) is available at chapter meetings and at the chapter website (www.marinnativeplants.org).

Prices:	Hard cover	Soft cover
Retail	\$45 (plus \$3.49 tax)	\$35 (plus \$2.71 tax)
CNPS members (20% off)	\$36 (plus \$2.79 tax)	\$28 (plus \$2.17 tax)



WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to make a suggestion for a chapter meeting program, field trip, plant identification workshop, outreach program for schoolchildren, or anything else that could help us improve our service to the public, please contact us. You can phone or email your ideas to any of the board members listed on page 6.

TRANSFORMING THE PRESIDIO: FROM ARMY BASE TO NATIONAL PARK

October 4, 7–8:30 p.m.

Alex Hooker from the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy will describe how this former army base has been transformed into a national park. He will highlight the native plant restoration projects at Crissy Field, Lands End, the Presidio Bluffs, and the Tennessee Hollow watershed. He will take us behind the scenes to learn how thousands of volunteers were recruited, seeds were collected and propagated, and acres of plants were installed and monitored.

Sponsor: Marin Master Gardeners

Location: Marin Art and Garden Center, Ross

\$5 suggested donation



NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE!

You can find a color PDF edition of this newsletter on the Marin chapter website by visiting www.marinnativeplants.org/newsletters.html.