



California Native Plant Society

MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)

Marin Chapter established 1973

Monday, May 13 Marin Chapter Meeting

“A New Meadowfoam Subspecies” by guest speaker Eva Buxton

While working as a botanist for an environmental consulting firm in 1998, Eva Buxton found a large population of an unknown meadowfoam (*Limnanthes* sp.) in a fallow agricultural field in Moss Beach, San Mateo County. She finally got around to describing it as a new subspecies last fall. It differs from all other meadowfoams—except for one that grows on Vancouver Island in Canada—by having floral parts in 4s (tetramerous) instead of in 5s. Her talk will focus on how the new taxon was circumscribed, and specifically how she came to name it *Limnanthes douglasii* ssp. *ornduffii*.

Eva became interested in plants as a young child growing up in Sweden. She has a MA in ecology and systematic biology with emphasis on botany, and worked as a botanist for an environmental consulting firm for 16 years. She is the Conservation Chair for the Marin Chapter of CNPS and also volunteers for other environmental organizations in Marin County.



Above: *Limnanthes douglasii* ssp. *ornduffii*—Eva G. Buxton

Below: Eva Buxton



May 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.

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.



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.

MAY 2013 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 hand lenses, and your favorite field guides. Contact hike leaders with any questions about individual hikes.

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.

A Celebration of Lupines at Abbotts Lagoon, Point Reyes National Seashore

Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Mid-May is prime time for lupines! On this outing, we hope to see and admire five or more species in bloom as we meander down the trail past the freshwater ponds and out to the dunes: yellow bush, bog, prairie, sky, and dune lupines. Then we'll head to the outer beach and hike past the snowy plover enclosures to a restoration area where, after removal of European beach grass, a large patch of the rare and stunning Tidestrom's lupine is now thriving.

Of course there will be many other beautiful and interesting plants to see along the way, including marsh harebell, cobweb thistle, beach suncup, beach layia, beach-bur, seaside dandelion, yellow sand verbena, dune grass, and more. Total distance will be five or six miles, mostly level with some looser sand.

Meet at the Abbotts Lagoon trailhead. Dress in layers, bring lunch, water, and a hat.

Leader: Carolyn Longstreth, cklongstreth@gmail.com

Looking at Grasses on Mt. Tam: Rock Spring-Potrero Meadows-Barth's Retreat Loop

Thursday, May 30, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

This beautiful loop takes us through tanbark oak-madrone woodland, open meadows, serpentine grasslands, chaparral, and wet meadows. We will see a stunning array of grasses associated with these plant communities (possibly as many as 50 grass species). I will provide a species list with grass descriptions and other helpful information. Bring a hand lens if possible.

Meet at the Rock Spring parking area at the junction of Pantoll Rd. and Ridgecrest Blvd. Please call Ashley if you have any questions.

Leader: Ashley Ratcliffe (415) 868-0681



GROWING NATIVES!

We had a huge turnout at the chapter spring plant sale, and many of our carefully tended "babies" have gone off to live in the gardens of other native plant lovers. We wish them a long and healthy life in various beautiful gardens throughout Marin, where they will also be providing resources for the local wildlife.

Now our focus is on growing on the many species of shrubs and other perennials that have been started from seed. We're growing *Cercis*, *Cercocarpus*, *Frangula*, *Garrya*, *Heteromeles*, *Ribes*, and even *Prunus ilicifolia* from seed. A number of these species need pre-treatment to aid in germination; they've been in my refrigerator, packed into a moist medium, and checked on weekly over the last few months. Sometimes it takes as long as four months for the beginning development of the radical, at which stage they're ready to be planted into soil and babied along in a safe, warm environment.

The tiny seedlings are in the greenhouse, some still in seed flats, others already in 2" pots, or "stubbies." They will be "moved up" into larger pots and gradually acclimated to outdoor conditions. May is also the time that we start various shrubs from tip cuttings; join us to learn more.

Come help us propagate! Each session is fun and educational. We work in the shade under a canopy, where the tree frogs also like to hang out, and we have a good view of all the bird life in the area. We're all volunteering our time, sharing good energy, our love of California natives, and tips and ideas for their culture in the garden. 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, 1–3 p.m.: May 14 and 28

Thursdays, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.: May 9 and 23

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

MARIN CHAPTER 37TH SPRING PLANT SALE A HUGE SUCCESS

Many avid plant lovers turned out on a gorgeous day (April 13) to support our chapter by purchasing beautiful natives for their gardens. We're now growing about 70 percent of the plants we're selling, and by holding our sale events at the same location (thanks to the owners of Green Point Nursery), everything is so much easier on all the volunteers who work hard to make these events successful.

We're offering a huge "Thank You!" to our wonderful volunteers, who all cheerfully took on various tasks; every one of them played an important part in the overall success of this event.

There was a lot of "behind the scenes" work that went on for months to put together the plant sale. However, this sale event was not all about selling plants; we also offered a whole day of talks and demos. CNPS member, biologist, and Master Gardener Jeanne Ballestero did a terrific job of lining up speakers, tending to their needs, and even presenting each one with a gift of delicious home-baked cookies as a special thank you for sharing their time and expertise. Alison Blume, also a CNPS member, did a great job of getting the word out to the public about the wonderful plants we grew for sale, and all the free informative talks we offered at the sale event.

Susan Miller, a Master Gardener, talked about "Gardening on the Grid" in the new vegetable garden at Green Point. Another Master Gardener, Michele Bush, demonstrated sheet composting techniques. Alan Good, Landscape Supervisor at the California Academy of Sciences, spoke on "California Native Food Plants": how the native peoples found plentiful diversity in the wild, emphasizing that modern day Californians can grow and harvest these same food plants in their gardens. Attendees were treated to a taste of home-grown, home-made blue elderberry jelly!

Jeanne Ballestero also gave a talk on native bees and their important role as pollinators, and Charlotte Torgovitsky talked about providing larval host plants



Above: Shoppers enjoying the plant sale—Meiko Watkins

for butterflies to help grow populations in our area. CNPS member Suzi Katz designed the beautiful plant sale flier, and also gave a talk describing how to use native grasses and sedges in the garden. Terry Loveton, a Milo Baker chapter member and passionate advocate and designer of native habitat gardens, discussed her favorite plants. Terry is also working with Partners for Sustainable Pollination (www.pfspbees.org) to raise awareness about the plight of pollinators.

Toward the end of the day, Ryan Grisso, Water Conservation Coordinator for the North Marin Water District, gave a very thorough talk on Pacific coast irises, complete with information on care, culture, propagation, and even tips on hybridization. Ryan has been a Pacific coast iris fancier and grower for years, and he displayed a beautiful collection of specimens to enhance his talk and pique the interest of gardeners.

A new and very active CNPS member, Gisela le Maitre, coordinated the many volunteers who helped with preparations on Thursday and Friday (setting up tables and canopies, labeling, pricing, moving and watering plants) and on Saturday (cashiering, assisting and advising customers, and helping with take-down at the close of the sale). CNPS members Nancy Brown and Marcia Basalla arranged for delicious refreshments. Many thanks to Peet's Coffee and Tea, here in Novato, for donating the coffee.

Many thanks also to our partner organizations: Sustainable Novato, North Marin Water District, Novato Streetscape, and Novato Live Well Network. Their participation enhanced our event, and helps spread the message about cultivating a love of California's native plants.

—Plant Sale Committee Co-Chairs,
Charlotte Torgovitsky & Kristin Jakob



RING MOUNTAIN DROP-IN VOLUNTEER DAY

Join Marin County Parks for a regular "drop-in" volunteer program on Ring Mountain to help restore the native grasslands that make this preserve so special. Activities this spring will focus on weeding our newly planted restoration site. We will periodically include plant walks, bird walks, and special guest naturalists. Volunteer days are held on the last Saturday of every month. Work is mildly strenuous, but family-friendly. For more information, contact Sam Abercrombie at sabercrombie@marincounty.org, or visit the Marin County Parks events page for information about this month's workday: www.marincountyparks.org.

Next volunteer date: Saturday, May 25, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Meeting Place: the end of Taylor Road, off of Paradise Drive, in Tiburon.

ECO-FRIENDLY GARDEN TOUR, PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

The CNPS native demonstration gardens at Green Point Nursery in Novato will be on this self-guided tour of gardens in Sonoma County and northern Marin. Sponsored by the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership, the tour highlights gardening practices sensitive to local watersheds; a professional landscape designer or homeowner will be available to provide information on each garden.

We'll be offering another great selection of native plants for sale during the tour—all those beautiful wildflowers, perennials, shrubs, and bunchgrasses that we're growing along, and which were not quite ready for the chapter's Spring Plant Sale!

There is no charge for the tour, but registration is required. For more information and to register, visit www.savingwaterpartnership.org.



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

THIRD THURSDAY WEEDERS

**Next workdays: May 16 and June 20
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 sites in West Marin. The location of each work party is set in consultation with Seashore staff. Over the past two years, we have made great progress on the iceplant and veldt grass infestations at the Outer Point, European beachgrass at Abbotts Lagoon, perennial pepperweed in the Giacomini Wetland, and cape ivy at Pierce Point.



Above: Iceplant invading a clump of baby-blue-eyes
—NPS photo

To sign up and receive notification of the meeting places in May and June, please send an email to Ellen Hamingson at Ellen_Hamingson@nps.gov. Be sure to let Ellen know whether 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, and work clothes. No shorts or open-toed shoes. The Park provides tools and gloves.

For more information, contact Carolyn Longstreth at cclongstreth@gmail.com or (415) 669-7514. Hope to see you there!



Point Reyes Field Institute Class

BRINGING NATURE HOME: CREATING A WILDLIFE HABITAT GARDEN

Saturday, May 25, 10:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Nancy Bauer & Charlotte Torgovitsky

Cost: \$50 (\$40 for Point Reyes National Seashore Association members)

Enhance the habitat value of any garden, and create abundant year-round resources to attract a diversity of wildlife species. Habitat gardening basics, wildlife-friendly gardening practices, water features, and wildlife ponds are covered through examples of beautiful habitat gardens from around the SF Bay region. The focus is on native plants through the seasons, and their relationships with various local birds, butterflies, bees, and other beneficial insects. We'll take a close look at a display of some of the best habitat plants for the garden and their care, culture, and function in the garden. This will be followed by a walk up to Kule Loklo (replica Miwok village) to identify various native plants in a natural setting. To see native plants in a cultivated setting, we'll end the afternoon with a tour of a local wildlife habitat garden.

To sign up for this class, visit www.ptreyes.org or call (415) 663-1200 x 373.



MARIN-FRIENDLY GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

This free, self-guided Southern Marin garden tour sponsored by MMWD highlights Marin-friendly gardening practices, which reduce waste and pollution; conserve natural resources; and create healthy, productive landscapes that are also beautiful. Marin CNPS Co-Vice President David Long's native garden in Mill Valley is on this tour, as well as other gardens featuring native plants. At each location a homeowner or landscape professional will be on hand to answer questions and share gardening knowledge and experience. Registration is online at marinfriendly.brownpapertickets.com.

RARE PLANT MONITORING

Text and photo by Doreen Smith

The rare plant monitoring group has finished mapping the Point Reyes populations of our two species of white wallflowers. This seemed to be a great year for them; they were very abundant especially on the hills and dunes north of Abbotts Lagoon. Of course we also get to see the other species in any area we go to on our expeditions, and this spring we finally got some showers to perk up the flowers. In March we saw a few of the local chocolate lilies (*Fritillaria lanceolata* var. *tristulis*) but this wasn't the best year for them in many of the usual places. They did very well on Millerton Point, where there were clumps of lilies in the grassland.



Rare Plant Monitoring is an ongoing mostly weekday program of the Marin chapter CNPS. Prospective new participants who are members of any CNPS Chapter are welcome, but need to contact me first by email (dsmith@lvha.net) or telephone (415-479-7888).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- * **Sunday 5/5, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.**
Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour (East Bay)
- * **Monday 5/6, 7 p.m.**
Chapter Board Meeting at the MA&GC in Ross
- * **Saturday 5/11, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**
Sonoma/North Marin Eco-friendly Garden Tour, with Plant Sale at Green Point Nursery in Novato
- * **Monday 5/13, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**
Chapter Meeting: Eva Buxton on “A New Meadowfoam Subspecies”
- * **Thursday 5/16, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**
Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Point Reyes
- * **Saturday 5/18, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: A Celebration of Lupines at Abbotts Lagoon, Point Reyes National Seashore
- * **Saturday 5/18, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**
Marin-Friendly Garden Tour
- * **Saturday 5/25, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**
Ring Mountain Drop-In Volunteer Day in Tiburon
- * **Saturday 5/25, 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.**
Point Reyes Field Institute Class—Bringing Nature Home: Creating a Wildlife Habitat Garden
- * **Thursday 5/30, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: Looking at Grasses on Mt. Tam—Rock Spring-Potrero Meadows-Barth's Retreat Loop
- * **Friday 5/31–Sunday 6/2**
State CNPS Board/Chapter Council Meeting at Walker Creek Ranch
- * **Monday 6/10, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**
Chapter Meeting: Ingrid Morken, Jim Hanson, and Richard King on “Emerging Trends for Native Grasses within Urban, Coastal Prairie, and Ranchland Environments”
- * **Thursday 6/20, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**
Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Point Reyes



STATE CNPS BOARD/CHAPTER COUNCIL COMING TO MARIN IN JUNE!

The June meeting of the CNPS state board and Chapter Council will take place from Friday, May 31 through Sunday, June 2 at the Walker Creek Ranch, off of Marshall-Petaluma Road in northwestern Marin County.

Volunteers will be needed to assist with serving food, cleaning up, greeting, and orienting visitors. Please contact Carolyn Longstreth (cklongstreth@gmail.com, 415-669-7514) or Kristin Jakob (kristinjakob@att.net, 415-388-1844) to volunteer, obtain details about the agenda, and to be notified when registration opens.

For full details, see the Marin chapter CNPS website at www.marinnativeplants.org.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Text and photo by Doreen Smith



Above: *Clarkia purpurea* ssp. *purpurea*

According to Howell's revised *Marin Flora*, we have three subspecies of *Clarkia purpurea*, the most uncommon of which is the ssp. *purpurea*. In a good year, the large Godetia-type flowers can be seen along the western part of Alexander Avenue in Sausalito, growing roadside in the cherty soil. They also grow along the fire road to Kirby Cove near the Golden Gate Bridge overlook. Most years, however, plants are small and few and far between. There are records of this species occurring on Tomales Point, Point Reyes National Seashore, but I've not ever seen them there.



CNPS 2013 WORKSHOPS

Visit www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php or contact Josie Crawford at (916) 447-2677 or jcrawford@cnps.org for more information.

MARIN CNPS CONTACTS

Position	Name
Co-Vice President; Plant Sale Committee Co-Chair; Program Committee Co-Chair	Kristin Jakob
Co-Vice President	David Long
Treasurer	Amelia Ryan
Board Member; Conservation and Invasives Committee Chair (Conservation)	Eva Buxton
Board Member; Education and Publicity Committee Co-Chair	Paul da Silva
Board Member, Field Trip Committee Chair/Coordinator	Sam Gilbert
Board Member; Legislation	Phyllis Faber
Gardening with Natives Committee Chair	Renee Fittinghoff
Board Member; <i>Marin Flora</i> Project	Wilma Follette
Board Member; Chapter Council Delegate	Carolyn Longstreth
Board Member	Sam Abercrombie
Board Member	Sandy Ross
ID What You See Website Committee Chair	Bruce Homer-Smith
Rare Plant Committee Chair	Doreen Smith
Website	Mary Stevens
Board Member; Membership Committee Co-Chair; Program Committee Co-Chair; Plant Sale 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, Recording Secretary, Conservation and Invasives Committee Co-Chair (Invasives), Education and Publicity Committee Co-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: Amelia Ryan, P.O. Box 162, Inverness, CA 94937.

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: Amelia Ryan, P.O. Box 162, Inverness, CA 94937.

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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Sausalito, CA 94965

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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)



NINTH ANNUAL BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

Sunday, May 5, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Registration for this tour is now open. This free, award-winning tour features 40 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60 percent or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from large parcels in the hills to small lots in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Space is limited; registration is required. Volunteers are needed. Please register or volunteer at www.bringingbackthenatives.net.

PLANT COMMUNITIES OF MARIN COUNTY

Do you want to learn more about the diverse plant communities of this special county?

Plant Communities of Marin County, written by David Shuford and Irene C. Timossi and illustrated with exquisite black and white photographs of the communities and their member species, is an excellent resource. Send your check payable to **CNPS** for \$11 per copy (shipping, handling, and tax included) to:

Phyllis Faber
765 Miller Ave.
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Enclosed is \$_____. Please send me _____
copies of *Plant Communities of Marin County*.

Name _____
Address _____

Telephone _____