



California Native Plant Society

MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)

Marin Chapter established 1973

Monday, October 14 Marin Chapter Meeting

“Tale of Two City Butterflies” by guest speaker Liam O’Brien

The small county of San Francisco has 34 breeding species of butterflies. Learn about the two leading ones—the western tiger swallowtail and the monarch. Remarkably, the tiger swallowtail has adapted to ultra-urban Market Street. Speaker Liam O’Brien is coauthor of *The Butterflies of San Francisco*, published by the Presidio Trust.

Monday, November 11 Marin Chapter Meeting

“Lichens—Biological Indicators of Air Quality and Climate” by guest speaker Shelly Benson

Lichens are found all around us, growing in nearly every habitat; however, they are commonly overlooked. These cryptic organisms have been used to monitor air quality since the early 1800s. Within the last 20 years, researchers have found that lichens are sensitive to climate change. Lichenologist Shelly Benson will explain what lichens are and how they



Cladonia spp. (Pixie cup lichen)—Shelly Benson

can be used as biological indicators of air quality and climate change.

Shelly Benson is currently the president of the California Lichen Society and has been studying lichens for the past 14 years. She received a Master of Science degree in 2001 from the University of Northern British Columbia, Canada, where she studied lichen ecology in the canopy of old growth forests in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. She has conducted lichen inventories in the San Francisco Bay Area and is currently working on identifying lichens from several Bay Area State Parks.



Teloschistes chrysophthalmus (gold eye lichen)—Shelly Benson

October and November meetings:

5:45 p.m. Join friends and meet our speakers 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.

MARIN CHAPTER FALL PLANT SALE AND FAIR

Saturday, October 12, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

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

Please help support our chapter and plan to join us for a great day of celebrating California's native plants and animals! Besides an extensive selection of native plants, many of which have been grown on site by our dedicated group of volunteer plant propagators, we have some great FREE educational talks lined up:

- 11 a.m.—Alex Godbe and Maggie Rufo with the Hungry Owl Project will be talking about natural rodent control. If we're lucky, Alex and Maggie will introduce us to a live owl!
- 12 p.m.—Charlie Kennard will share his amazing and beautiful basket work. Charlie not only grows many of the native plants he uses, he is also skilled at preparing the plants for use in the baskets he weaves, using techniques developed by native peoples.
- 1 p.m.—Jolie Egert will share her knowledge of native plants that heal and nourish. Jolie encourages people to grow these health-giving plants in their own gardens.

Plan also to meet the folks from the California Invasive Plant Council, the California Native Grasslands Association, and Novato Streetscape to learn more about the work they do to preserve and enhance California's natural heritage.



American robin on toyon—Bob Watkins

We'll be offering a FREE 4-inch wildflower to attendees who stop by the pollinator display, plus you can learn about upcoming home composting classes and how to grow a winter veggie garden. Many of the native plants offered for sale can also be seen in a more mature state in our demonstration gardens, and we'll have experts on hand to help with your selections.

A complete inventory will be posted on the chapter website two weeks before the sale. We'll also have a selection of native plant books, posters, and note cards for sale, and while they last, homemade refreshments!

We still need volunteers to help with setup on Friday, and with the sale on Saturday.

Please contact us if you can help out: Kristin Jakob (415) 388-1844, kristinjacob@att.net; Charlotte Torgovitsky, (415) 892-9148, torgovitsky@comcast.net; or volunteer coordinator Gisela Le Maitre, (415) 898-6893, lemaitredesign@hotmail.com.



NEW PLANTS FOR THE *MARIN FLORA*



Malvella leprosa (alkali mallow)

Text and photos by Doreen Smith

Just because the *Marin Flora* has been recently revised (in 2007), it doesn't mean that new species of plants cannot be discovered, possibly by any of you. The drying shores of Stafford Lake reservoir west of Novato have been a site for finding unusual-for-Marin flowers even in late summer and fall. Marin Parks and Open Space naturalists often lead free outings there; otherwise there is an entrance fee. It is a great place to visit not just to see the flowers and birds; there are many picnic tables available in both shade and sun with expanses of green lawns where children can run and play.

Two recent discoveries are native species probably introduced by migrating waterfowl from other parts of California. They are tiny blue-purple petunia (*Petunia parviflora*) and white alkali mallow (*Malvella leprosa*) which are growing by the eastern part of the reservoir. Two other unusual species are a naturalized arrowhead (*Sagittaria brevirostra*) and also an introduced loosestrife (*Lythrum tribracteatum*).

If you find a flowering or fruiting plant that has been difficult for you to identify, I may be able to help you (dsmith@lvha.net) if you email me details of the location it was found in Marin and a digital image.

BOARD NEWS

Dear Members,

The Marin Chapter's Annual Meeting for the election of officers and board members will be held in connection with the Chapter's regular public membership meeting on Monday, November 11 at 8 p.m. at the Redwoods in Mill Valley. Nominations may be made from the floor. The slate of officers and board members for the 2014 Marin Chapter Board is as follows:

- President: Charlotte Torgovitsky
- Co-Vice President: David Long
- Co-Vice President: Kristin Jakob
- Secretary: Sam Abercrombie
- Treasurer: Amelia Ryan
- Board Members:
 - Sam Gilbert
 - Paul da Silva
 - Phyllis Faber
 - Wilma Follette
 - Carolyn Longstreth

We still have several openings for Board Members. If you are interested in serving or would like to suggest another (with their permission!), please contact one of the Co-Vice Presidents: Kristin Jakob (415) 388-1844 (kristinjakob@att.net, David Long (415) 381-6327 (sfdlong@ix.netcom.com). The board wishes to extend thanks to outgoing board members Eva Buxton, Sandy Ross, and Doreen Smith for their valuable service to the chapter.



CNPS MEMBERS! GOT BROOM?

Borrow as many as six broom wrenches for two weeks at a time from Marin CNPS! Our county is overrun with French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) (some call it Scotch broom), an invasive shrub native to the Mediterranean area.

Preventing wildfires that start along the wildland/urban interface by creating "defensible space" is presently a focus of land managers and fire agencies in the county. With the help of a broom wrench you can create defensible space around your home or take the battle to adjacent wildlands. The wrenches will work on virtually all woody plants, even on previously cut plants, if a section of the original stem is accessible.

CNPS owns wrenches in three different sizes:

- One medium wrench—jaw capacity up to 2.25 inches, weight 17.5 lbs
- Two light wrenches—jaw capacity up to 1.5 inches, weight 11.5 lbs
- Three mini wrenches—jaw capacity up to 1 inch, weight 5.25 lbs



Pulling French broom with a wrench

Please contact Eva Buxton (Conservation Chair) at evabuxton@sbcglobal.net to arrange for pickup/delivery of the wrenches. Your name, address, phone number, and a small refundable deposit per wrench will be required.



Mini and light wrenches

FALL 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 are 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.

Madrone Trail

Sunday, October 13, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

At this time of year, the thin bark of the madrone peels off in sheets, some of the leaves turn color and fall, and the berries ripen to what Howell calls “etched carnelian globes.” We’ll walk along Pumpkin Ridge, down the Madrone trail, and return via Fish Gulch (with trail names like this, how can you resist?) This hike is especially suitable for beginning plant enthusiasts.

Meet at the Lagunitas Lake parking lot. Parking fee.

Leader: Dabney Smith, djs1947@hotmail.com.

Lichen Walk on Mount Vision

Wednesday, November 13, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Join Shelly Benson, the president of the California Lichen Society (and our November speaker), for a walk through a mature stand of coyote bush to view an amazing display of cyanolichens. Don’t know what cyanolichens are? Well, come on this walk and find out!

Lichens are found all around us, growing in nearly every habitat; however, they are commonly overlooked. These cryptic organisms have been used to monitor air quality since the early 1800s. Within the last 20 years, researchers have found that lichens are sensitive to climate change.

Meet at the parking lot at the end of Mt. Vision Rd.

Leader: Shelly Benson, shelly.benson@yahoo.com.

Fresh Air Holiday Hike at Big Rock

Wednesday, December 25, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Feel like getting some fresh air over the holidays? It doesn’t get any fresher than the top of Big Rock Ridge,

the second highest peak in Marin! On very clear days, you can see the snow-capped Sierra, and previous hikes at this time of year have found a dozen or so native plants in flower as the trail winds through several habitats on this south-facing slope. It’s a bit strenuous at seven miles and 1,500 feet altitude gain. This hike is especially suitable for beginning plant enthusiasts. Meet at the Big Rock trailhead.

From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take Lucas Valley Rd. west about five miles; the trailhead is beside the big rock at the crest of the hill. Rain cancels; call Dabney if in doubt.

Leader: Dabney Smith, djs1947@hotmail.com.

GIACOMINI WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT 5TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT!

Saturday, October 26, 7 a.m.–4 p.m.

Free and open to the public

Morning Outings*

- 7–9 a.m. Birding in the Giacomini Wetlands with Jules Evens and Mary Anne Flett. Meeting Place: Point Reyes Animal Hospital, 11030 Hwy 1, Point Reyes Station
- 9–11:30 a.m. Kayaking the Giacomini Wetlands with Greg Kamman. Limited to 20 kayaks. RSVP required to Amelia_Ryan@nps.gov/(415) 464-5227. Bring your own kayak and safety equipment. First come, first serve. Meeting Place: White House Pool County Park Parking Lot
- 9–11 a.m. Hiking in the Giacomini Wetlands with Lorraine Parsons, Rachel Kamman, and Amelia Ryan; Meeting Place: 4th and C Street, Point Reyes Station

*Heavy rain cancels

Afternoon Symposium

1–4 p.m. Red Barn, Point Reyes National Seashore

- Historical Perspective and Project Significance—Brannon Ketcham
- The Changing Hydrology of the Wetlands—Greg Kamman
- Evolution of Vegetation Communities—Amelia Ryan
- Improving Watershed Health and Productivity—Lorraine Parsons
- Waterbird Use of the Wetlands—Jules Evens
- Wetland Restoration in the Face of Climate Change—Rachel Kamman
- The Power of Partnerships—Sally Bolger

Light refreshments provided courtesy of PRNSA (Pt. Reyes National Seashore Association)

GROWING NATIVES!

No sooner do we sell all the beautiful plants we've been growing than we get busy propagating still more plants! We'll start a number of plants from seed that we have collected during the summer, including wildflowers for the spring sale. We'll also be potting on cuttings that were being rooted during the summer, and when the weather cools, we'll be dividing Douglas iris, and taking cuttings of *Heuchera*. I have a particularly vigorous stand of *Heuchera* "Old la Rochette" in my garden from which to take stem cuttings. It's a learning experience, and our volunteers usually make a party of it; we'll have food and drink and good cheer to share after we've done the work!

Soon we'll also be learning a whole new set of skills as we enter into an exciting partnership with Marin County Parks and Sam Abercrombie, Ring Mountain Stewardship Coordinator. We'll be growing buckwheat, blue-eyed grass, and several species of native grasses to help restore a sensitive grassland ecosystem on the mountain. Volunteers will have a chance to be engaged in the whole restoration cycle—from collecting the seed on site; to growing, transplanting, and tending the plants in our nursery; and then planting them out, back on site. Volunteers can contact Sam at (415) 473-2128 or sabercrombie@marincounty.org for more information on his Ring Mountain work days, which are scheduled on the last Saturday of each month, January through October.

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 where 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.:

October 1, 15, and 29
November 12 and 26
December 10

Thursdays, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.:

October 10 and 24
November 7 and 21
December 5

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

✿ **Saturday 10/12, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**

Fall Chapter Plant Sale at Green Point Nursery, Novato

✿ **Sunday 10/13, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Chapter Field Trip: Madrone Trail

✿ **Monday 10/14, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**

Chapter Meeting: Liam O'Brien on "Tale of Two City Butterflies"

✿ **Tuesday 10/15, 1–3 p.m.**

Growing Natives for the Ring Mtn. Restoration Project, Green Point Nursery

✿ **Thursday 10/17, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**

Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Point Reyes

✿ **Saturday 10/26, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Ring Mountain Drop-in Volunteer Day

✿ **Tuesday 11/5, 7 p.m.**

Chapter Board Meeting at the MA&GC in Ross

✿ **Monday 11/11, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**

Chapter Meeting: Shelley Benson on "Lichens—Biological Indicators of Air Quality and Climate"

✿ **Wednesday 11/13, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Chapter Field Trip: Lichen Walk on Mount Vision

✿ **Thursday 11/21, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**

Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Point Reyes

✿ **Wednesday 12/25, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**

Chapter Field Trip: Fresh Air Holiday Hike at Big Rock

✿ **Monday 1/13/2014, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**

Chapter Meeting: Eva Buxton and Carissa Brands on "Restoring Habitat for Tiburon Jewelflower and Other Rare Species"



RING MOUNTAIN GRASSLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

Saturday, October 26, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join Marin County Parks for our regular drop-in volunteer program on Ring Mountain, where we will be working to restore the native grasslands that make this preserve so special. This project is being conducted in partnership with Marin CNPS, and volunteers are encouraged to get involved in all aspects of these restoration efforts. With Marin CNPS funding, the plants for this project are being custom-grown from seed collected on Ring Mountain at Charlotte Torgovitsky's volunteer-powered nursery within Green Point Nursery.

Work on Ring Mountain is mildly strenuous, but family-friendly. Ring Mountain drop-in days are always held on the last Saturday of every month, January through October. For more information, contact Sam Abercrombie at sabercrombie@marincounty.org, or visit the Marin County Parks events page for information about upcoming workdays: www.marincountyparks.org.

Location: End of Taylor Road, off Paradise Dr., Tiburon.

TWO SUDDEN OAK DEATH EDUCATION EVENTS

Thursday, October 3, 7–8:30 p.m.: Spring SOD Blitz Results Webcast

Saturday, November 16, 10 a.m.–12 noon: SOD Prevention Training

If you are concerned about the spread of Sudden Oak Death (SOD), here is an opportunity to help scientists combat the disease. SOD Blitzes took place all over the central California coast this spring, and will again this late fall, many of them co-sponsored for the first time by CNPS chapters, in an effort to boost publicity and participation. Training was provided by Matteo Garbelotto, Principal Investigator, Extension Specialist, and Adjunct Professor at the UC Berkeley Forest Pathology and Mycology Laboratory,

www.matteolab.org. CNPS Marin co-sponsored a spring SOD Blitz on April 20, and the results of this and other spring Blitzes will be presented on the evening of Thursday, October 3 at Matteo's lab, shared via webcast with other groups that took part in the Blitz. In Marin, this webcast will be presented on the same evening at Dominican University. All are welcome to attend, whether they participated in the April 20 Blitz or not.

CNPS Marin is also co-sponsoring a free SOD Prevention Training on Saturday, November 16 at Dominican University. Learn what steps you can take to help minimize the spread of, and damage from, this devastating introduced pathogen.

Location for both events: Dominican University, 155 Palm Ave., Joseph R. Fink Science Center, Room 102, San Rafael. For more information, visit www.sodmap.org or contact Kristin Jakob at (415) 388-1844, kristinjakob@att.net.

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 Mailing	Paul Kryloff
Poster Sales	Gerd Jakob

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

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

CNPS MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS

The mission of the 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 benefits include 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

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.

Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/MarinNativePlants



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

THIRD THURSDAY WEEDERS

Next workdays: October 17 and November 21, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Do you grind your teeth in frustration when you see native plants being supplanted by invasive exotic species? If so, the "Third Thursday Weeders" is for you! Spend a companionable day at beautiful Point Reyes and help us protect 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 removed infestations of iceplant, veldt grass, European beachgrass, perennial pepperweed, cape ivy and Napa star-thistle. We have a good time and it's highly rewarding to see the native plants making a comeback in these areas!

To sign up and receive notification of the meeting places in October and November, 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 cklongstreth@gmail.com or (415) 669-7514. Hope to see you there!

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
MARIN CHAPTER
1 Harrison Avenue
Sausalito, CA 94965

Printed on Recycled Paper

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Rafael, CA
Permit No. 300

Or Current Resident

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)



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.



Scan the image at left with your smartphone or tablet for immediate access to the *Marin CNPS website!*

GROWING NATIVES FOR THE RING MTN. RESTORATION PROJECT

Tuesday, October 15, 1–3 p.m.

The fall season is upon us, which means it is time to start propagating plants! Join us on for a special day of sowing seeds for a stewardship project. As part of a new partnership between Marin CNPS and Marin County Parks, we will be growing native plants for the restoration work on Ring Mountain.

All summer, volunteers have been collecting native plant seeds from across the Ring Mountain Preserve. Now, we will be sowing these species and germinating natives that will later be planted in the serpentine grasslands. The project is a collaborative effort that will include opportunities for volunteers to be a part of the entire restoration cycle both in the nursery and out in the field. On Ring Mountain, we meet on the last Saturday of every month, January-October, to build fences, weed, tarp, and plant natives. In the nursery, we sow seeds, transplant, and tend to the plants that will one day go in the field. Volunteers are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the project.

Come to Green Point Nursery, 275 Olive Ave. at the corner of Atherton Ave. in Novato. We look forward to working with you all on this full-circle restoration project.