



California Native Plant Society

MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)

Marin Chapter established 1973

Monday, April 13, Marin Chapter Meeting

Bob Stewart on "Pollination Biology of California Plants"

To understand what has shaped the color and structure of native plants, it would be helpful to know which creatures pollinate them. To discover who is actually doing the pollinating, one must do more than just watch the flowers and name all of the creatures that come to them (which is no mean feat itself). For example, in a study of pollination in *Penstemon davidsonii* and *Penstemon newberryi*, it was found that 50 species of insects come to the flowers, but only about 10 of them are effective pollinators; hummingbirds also serve as pollinators for these plants.



Ringlet on buttercup

Some plants with radial symmetry, such as California buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus*), are pollinated by many insects. Others such as orchids have one or few pollinators. Mechanisms to encourage cross-pollination and prevent self-pollination have evolved to maximize genetic variation. Bob Stewart will report on some of

the most interesting studies while utilizing his close-up photographs.

Bob has been a naturalist since 1962. Over his career, he has been a biology teacher in the California public schools (junior high, high school, junior college); a biologist/teacher at Point Reyes Bird Observatory (1968-1979); and a naturalist for Marin County Open Space District (1982-1997) (where he gave over 2,000 free walks to the public). He has led innumerable outings in California, Arizona, Texas, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Trinidad and Tobago. He has self-published two photographic butterfly books: *Common Butterflies of California* (1997) and *Butterflies of Arizona* (2001).

April meeting:

5:30 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.

Note: This spring, the Redwoods is undergoing remodeling work that will affect our meeting space; we will likely be moved to a smaller room inside the western-most corner of the facility for our April, May, and June meetings while the auditorium is used as a dining room. Please ask for directions at the front desk upon arrival.



MARIN PLANT ID WORKSHOPS

Would you like to join other people interested in a closer look at Marin plants? Then come to the monthly Plant ID Workshops at the College of Marin. Upcoming workshops will be on the first Friday of each month (April 3 and May 1), from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Room SMN 112 on the Kentfield campus. Bring curiosity, as well as plants and a copy of the *Marin Flora* if you have them. For more information, contact Paul da Silva at pdasilva@marin.edu.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year, California Native Plant Week is even more significant, since 2015 is also the 50th anniversary of CNPS, which was originally founded right here in the Bay Area. Our chapter is highlighting all sorts of activities taking place during the week of April 11–19.

The Marin chapter is kicking off Native Plant Week with a plant sale at Richardson Bay Audubon Center on Saturday, April 11. Every day of the following week, we're promoting activities such as hiking the wild lands, helping out with invasive plant eradication, propagating natives for restorations, and touring native gardens, all of which help to further our mission. We've reached out to other organizations such as our state and county parks, state restoration projects, and our water districts to work with us in this "Celebration of Native Plants."

A number of members have been very involved with organizing Native Plant Week, giving their time and energy, sharing ideas and contacts, and reaching out into the community. Two other board members (Kristin Jakob and April Post) and I have been spearheading the effort; we've received invaluable help from CNPS members Ann Bauer, Alison Blume, Renee Fittinghoff, Jean Ballestero, Treva McCarty, Nancy Brown, Georgia Fie, and Nancy Hanson. Many, many thanks to this committee, and a thank you in advance to all the other members who usually find the time to help with the plant sale. You'll be hearing from our Volunteer Coordinator, Ann Bauer, asking for your help with specific tasks.

The committee also wants to thank graphic designer Laura Lovett for a beautiful job on our NPW publicity pieces, and for her guidance and great ideas. Thanks are also due to the chapter's web team, particularly Jim Kasper, for getting all this info posted to the website. All these little details are labor-intensive, and depend on people who are selflessly willing to donate their time for a cause they believe in. We hope that you will find the lists of activities on the chapter's website useful in deciding how you want to show your appreciation of California's wonderful plants.

"Novato Native Plant Day," scheduled for Saturday, April 18, is obviously close to my heart. I've opened my woodlands, gardens, and home nursery for a full day workshop to share the wonders of California's oaks. I am a strong believer in teaching by doing, and hope to influence others to be more environmentally conscious even in small everyday acts. My husband and I have lived here for 11 years, and I've been creating habitat and enhancing the resources for wildlife for the last 10 years. The results are pretty amazing, and I'll have lots of tips and plants to share! See page 3 for details.

—Charlotte Torgovitsky

NOVATO'S 20TH ANNUAL CLEAN & GREEN DAY

Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join your friends and neighbors to celebrate Earth Day by helping to keep our city clean and beautiful. Volunteers make a big difference by removing litter from city streets, median strips, creek banks, parks, and bike paths! We will provide gloves, bags, and many heartfelt thank yous!



Keeping Novato clean & green—Stuart Lirette

Meet us at the Civic Green at 901 Sherman Ave. Representatives from CNPS, DriWater, Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program, North Marin Water District, and more will be there too! Come join the fun!

Sponsored by the Novato Streetscape Committee. For more information, call 415.899.8244 or visit novatostreetscape.org.



NEW BOOKS FOR GARDENERS AND NATURALISTS

Several recent publications may be of special interest to our members and will be available at the upcoming chapter native plant sale in April or at our regularly scheduled chapter meetings.

Kate Marianchild's new *Secrets of the Oak Woodlands* will no doubt complement her presentation during Native Plant Week at the San Rafael Civic Center. New from the Xerces Society is *Attracting Native Pollinators*, which offers a plan for protecting pollinators. Additionally for gardeners, *California Bees and Blooms* offers a guide for growing plants that help bees thrive.

Wildflower enthusiasts may want to pick up fold-out guides to *Wildflowers of the San Francisco Bay Area* and *Butterflies of Central and Northern California*. We have also recently purchased some new California field guides for mushrooms, grasses, and lichens.

—Jane Medley

NOVATO NATIVE PLANT DAY

Celebrate California's Oak Woodlands

Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Saturday, April 18 is Novato Native Plant Day, sponsored by North Marin Water District (NMWD). Come celebrate California's oak woodlands at Charlotte Torgovitsky's beautiful private property for a full-day workshop.

We'll start the day with a Walk in the Woods with author Kate Marianchild from 10 a.m. to noon. Kate will discuss oak woodland flora and fauna, emphasizing plant/animal/fungus/lichen interrelationships, survival strategies, anatomical marvels, and social structures. Participants will become acquainted with the property's resident oaks, as well as other common oak woodland species such as California buckeye, California bay laurel, toyon, lace lichen, and the grievously under-appreciated poison oak. Western bluebirds, scrub-jays, screech owls, and other bird species (including recently arrived migrants such as tree swallows) should be present in various stages of courting and nesting, and western gray squirrels will give Kate a chance to tell "tall tail tales."

Upon migrating from the Mendocino coast to inland Mendocino County in 2001, Kate Marianchild fell deeply in love with an ecosystem. Already a birder, she found herself wondering what the local birds needed from their environment—what foods, what nest materials, what plants for nesting and cover. Her investigations led her into the world of oak woodland plants, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals, and soon she was writing about and telling her friends astonishing things they had never heard of.

The route of the walk will include views of the native habitat garden on the property, where native pollinators and western fence lizards will be dancing attendance on and under the plants. Please bring binoculars, including close-focusing binoculars if you have them (Pentax Papilios 8.5x21s are recommended).

From noon to 1 p.m. you can settle yourself into one of the many quiet beautiful areas in the habitat garden for a picnic. Please bring your own brown-bag lunch; water will be available. And if you've ever wondered about acorn food—this will be your chance to try it! We'll have a sampling of acorn cakes, handmade by ethnobotanist Jolie Egert Elan.

After the lunch break, Charlotte Torgovitsky will lead a tour of her habitat garden from 1–2:30 p.m. The extensive native habitat garden is integrated into the oak woodlands surrounding it, and is situated on a south-facing slope overlooking the wetlands at Novato Creek. Learn more about gardening under native oaks as Charlotte points out native plants compatible with oak trees and discusses how to create enhanced foraging

opportunities for wildlife. We'll also discuss sustainable, organic gardening practices, as well as methods useful for establishing native plants without permanent irrigation systems. Elena Freeman, NMWD water conservation specialist, will be along on this part of the garden tour to discuss various irrigation options and water-saving techniques.

The oldest part of the garden was planted just 10 years ago, with other parts planted more recently; soon Charlotte will start a process of restoring the understory plants within the woodland itself. Water features and nesting boxes for several species of birds are provided and regularly occupied. All the common butterflies in the area will find the host plants for their larvae on the property; in fact all wild creatures are welcomed into the garden, including the deer! As we tour, Charlotte will talk about the development of the various garden areas, her plant choices, concerns about non-native invasive plants, deer-resistant plants, and specific plants that are "habitat heroes." We'll also view each plant as a potential "mother plant."

After the garden tour we'll propagate plants in a hands-on workshop from 2:30–4 p.m. We'll work with native seeds, seedlings, and rooted cuttings; you'll go home with a selection of plants for your own garden. Charlotte maintains a very productive small-scale nursery; by seeing this setup, you'll gain insight into how to create your own home nursery systems. Plant lists and handouts with propagation tips will be provided.

Charlotte Torgovitsky is a naturalist, long-time organic gardener, and a habitat garden educator. She currently serves as president of the Marin chapter. In 2011, she founded Home Ground Habitat Nursery, a non-profit, volunteer-powered native plant nursery. Charlotte was Garden Education Manager at the Marin Art & Garden Center from 2001 to 2009, where she created numerous California native gardens and educational programs for children and adults.

Her garden is featured in *The California Wildlife Habitat Garden: How to Attract Bees, Butterflies, Birds, and Other Animals* by Nancy Bauer, as well as in a special *Fremontia* magazine issue devoted to "Inspiration and Advice for Gardening with Native Plants" (September 2012 and January 2013).

Cost: \$30 for the full day; preregistration is required; 15 people maximum. Visit www.cnpsmarin.org to sign up.



SIGN UP FOR E-BULLETINS TO KEEP UP WITH CNPS MARIN NEWS!

Periodic e-bulletins are sent out to members and others who wish to be reminded of upcoming events and activities or notified of schedule changes. To sign up, please write to Jim Desser at jdesser@gmail.com.

MARIN CNPS AND OTHER FIELD TRIPS, SPRING 2015

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. Contact hike leaders with any questions about individual hikes.

* Asterisked items are CA Native Plant Week events!

Wildflowers of Mount Burdell (Marin County Parks)*

Sunday, April 12 & Tuesday, April 14, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Celebrate Native Plant Week at one of the best wildflower locations in the county. We'll visit a variety of habitats including volcanic outcrops, serpentine soils, freshwater springs, and oak woodlands. The flora of this Novato preserve is incredibly diverse and includes a number of rare plants as well as many species that don't occur anywhere else in Marin. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call 415.893.9527 after 8 a.m. on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message.

Meet at the gate on San Andreas Dr. in Novato. From Hwy. 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr. west 2.3 miles. Turn right onto San Andreas Dr. and follow approximately 0.5 miles. The gate is on the right (before the dead end). Questions: Contact David Herlocker at 415.893.9508.

Wild Food and Medicines of Rock Spring with Jolie Egert Elan*

Monday, April 13, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Wild foods and medicines abound in Marin. Join ethnobotanist Jolie Egert Elan for this fun-filled educational walk and connect more deeply to nature. We'll discuss how to identify common plants and use them for food and medicine. Learn how to distinguish useful plants from their poisonous cousins. Come immerse yourself in the myths, medicine, and culinary possibilities of the wild plants of Rock Spring. The walk will be friendly and slow-paced. This walk is not a forage, and wild plants will not be harvested, only greatly appreciated.

Bring a lunch, water, and comfortable walking shoes. You might also want to bring a notebook, a magnifying glass (or loupe), and camera.

Meet at the Rock Spring parking lot on Mt. Tamalpais, located at the intersection of Ridgecrest and Pantoll Roads. This is a bit over a mile uphill from the state park ranger station at Pantoll; turn uphill across the road from the ranger station. The parking area is large and you won't miss it. For those unfamiliar with the area, the ranger station is located on Panoramic Hwy. on the way from Mill Valley to Stinson Beach. There is no charge to park at the Rock Spring paved lot.

Leader: Jolie Egert Elan 510.666.9453

Pine Point Walk*

Thursday, April 16, 10 a.m.–noon

Come join MMWD's vegetation ecologist Andrea Williams on a family-friendly guided hike to see the recently restored area of Pine Point on Bon Tempe Lake. Afterwards, join in a free take-home seed-planting activity! Meet at the Lake Lagunitas parking lot. The \$8 parking fee is good for all day, so bring a picnic and enjoy! For more information visit www.marinwater.org, write to volunteerprogram@marinwater.org, or call 415.945.1128.

Rare Plants of Bull Point*

Thursday, April 16, 2 p.m.–4 p.m.

This walk will cross the old-dune sandy soils of Bull Point at the Point Reyes National Seashore. Meet at the parking lot for the Bull Point trail. A comprehensive plant list for Bull Point can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/BullPt>. Rain cancels.

Leader: Doreen Smith 415.479.7888

Old St. Hilary's Preserve in Tiburon

Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join Eva Buxton, botanist and resident of Tiburon, for a hike at this Marin County Parks open space parcel at the southern end of the Tiburon peninsula. The preserve supports one of two populations of Tiburon jewel-flower, a serpentine and geographic endemic that flowers in the late spring. There will be other spring wildflowers in bloom as well. We'll climb to the top of the ridge via a moderately steep trail for fantastic views of the Bay Area.

What to wear and bring: sturdy shoes/boots, hiking poles (if you use them), layered clothing, sun hat, sunblock, plenty of water, and lunch.

Meet at the entrance gate at the end of Vistazo West, reached by taking the Tiburon Blvd. (Hwy. 131) exit from Hwy. 101, going east for 3.5 miles, turning left onto Lyford Dr., continuing 0.3 mile, turning right on Vistazo West, and following it to the end, 0.2 mile.

Leader: Eva Buxton evabuxton@sbcglobal.net
415.435.2745

MARIN CHAPTER CONSERVATION EFFORTS INSPIRE MILO BAKER CHAPTER

At the end of last year, I was contacted by Virginia Steenhoven, program director of the CNPS Milo Baker Chapter (Sonoma County). She asked if I would give a talk to perhaps inspire their chapter's members, because she had heard that the Marin Chapter "was so successful" in our conservation efforts. With all the interesting and worthwhile conservation projects that the Marin Chapter is presently involved in, or has supported in the recent past, it was quite a feat to gather the information and produce a PowerPoint presentation titled "Plant and Habitat Conservation Projects, Marin Chapter"! On February 17, I delivered the talk to a group of interested Milo Baker Chapter members. Doreen and Vernon Smith attended and helped provide information and technical assistance.

—Eva Buxton, Conservation Chair



2015 PLANT SAFARIS

Expanding stewardship beyond the weed wrench!

Over the past three years, MMWD and the California Academy of Sciences have engaged with the public in a series of bioblitzes to document the plant biodiversity of Mt. Tamalpais. Collections and associated data will be added to the Academy's research collections and will serve as the beginnings of a new baseline of Mt. Tamalpais's botanic diversity. In addition, the new findings will be compared to historic collections in order to document any shifts in ranges or distributions.

The bioblitz model featured intense searches in predetermined, discrete plots. To find the remaining plants, we will need to map more locations, and safari participants will need to visit more than one location per foray. We have observed or collected about two thirds of the 935 species on the watershed. Can you help us collect the rest in 2015?

Plant Safaris are scheduled for the following dates:

- Friday, April 10
- Saturday, April 11
- Friday, April 24
- Saturday, May 9

All events start at 9 a.m. Attendees should prepare to be in the field until 2 p.m. and possibly stay until 4 p.m. for follow-up work. Please contact volunteerprogram@marinwater.org or call 415.945.1128 for more information and to register; you must register for each safari at least two days in advance.

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

THIRD THURSDAY WEEDERS

April 16 and May 21, 9:30 a.m.

Once a month, the Third Thursday Weeders help tackle invasive weeds that threaten important plant habitat in the Point Reyes National Seashore. The group meets on the third Thursday of every month, either in the Seashore or at other sites in West Marin.

Over the past three years, we have made great progress on the iceplant and veldt grass infestations at the Outer Point, European beachgrass at Abbots Lagoon, perennial pepperweed in the Giacomini Wetland, and cape ivy at Pierce Point.

In April, the Weeders will celebrate the group's fourth anniversary with a potluck lunch at the Lighthouse parking lot. To sign up and obtain more information, please contact cklongstreth@gmail.com.

Plan to 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.

Hope to see you there!

—Carolyn Longstreth



In March, the Weeders and an enthusiastic group from the University of Utah removed many patches of iceplant at the Outer Point. Migrating whales swam by during our lunch break, to the delight of all.—NPS photo



MT. TAMALPAIS EARTH DAY

Saturday, April 25

The Friends of Mount Tamalpais are sponsoring a full day of plant-related activities on Mt. Tam Earth Day. To sign up, visit www.meetup.com/Friends-of-Mt-Tam/events/219640157.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Text and photos by Doreen Smith

Raiche's red-ribbons clarkia (*Clarkia concinna* ssp. *raichei*) is one of the few annual Marin endemic species. The common subspecies, *Clarkia concinna* ssp. *concinna*, is not usually all that common in Marin, but it can still easily be seen later in April along the eastern parts of Lucas Valley Rd. The pink flowers of the plant sometimes appear in masses on steep banks where they get shade. Every year I hope the mowing blades of roadside maintenance equipment won't cut them before they set seed.



Clarkia concinna ssp. *concinna*

The rare subspecies was discovered years ago by Roger Raiche and grows only near Tomales, where it blooms in small numbers in early April. Flowers differ from ssp. *concinna* in that they are self-pollinated rather than cross-pollinated, have shorter petals, and the calyx segments remain partly united below the petals, that is, they do not split into the otherwise species-characteristic "red ribbons."



Clarkia concinna ssp. *raichei*

ZEN OF WEEDING

Habitat Restoration at Samuel P. Taylor St. Park
Second Friday & second Sunday of every month,
1–3 p.m.

2015 is the fifth year for our Marin CNPS collaboration with Samuel P. Taylor State Park and San Geronimo Valley's SPAWN (Salmon Protection and Watershed Network). Our list of exotic invasives has grown to about 10, although we focus mainly on *Myosotis latifolia* (forget-me-nots).

This is easy, companionable work. Spending time working under the redwoods restores our spirits as well as the habitat. Our goal is an invasive-free park. We want all the campers and visitors to Samuel P. Taylor Park to discover a more pristine native habitat. Bring your friends, neighbors, and families to join in this great project. We guarantee you will have fun and get hooked on weeding the woods.

We meet just before 1 p.m. at the far end of the picnic area. Bring gloves and get a free parking pass when you volunteer. Contact Nancy Hanson at nandean@comcast.net if you want to attend, need more info, or want notice of other work parties at the park.



PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS AT SFSU!

Second Thursday of each month, 6–7:30 p.m.

The botany graduate students at San Francisco State University will lead these free plant ID workshops. They very much enjoy teaching and do an excellent job. The next workshop will take place on April 16. No reservation is required.

Join us for some fun time keying plants and learning plant terminology in a relaxed atmosphere. Bring the *Jepson Manual* (old or new edition) or *Plants of the San Francisco Bay Region: Mendocino to Monterey* (revised edition), as well as a hand lens. Participants are welcome to bring their copy of the *Marin Flora*. If you have any further questions, please email Mila Stroganoff at milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net.

Location: Hensill Hall at SFSU, 1600 Holloway Ave., Botany Lab, Room 440. Campus map: sfsu.edu/~sfsumap/.



GET YOUR MARIN CHAPTER CNPS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY

Help the Marin Chapter reduce unnecessary costs and use of paper for the chapter *Newsletter* by receiving the color version of the *Newsletter* by email instead of by snail mail. Write to deliveriesmarincnps@gmail.com with "Email Newsletter" in the subject line and your name and address in the body of the email. Many thanks!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ✿ **Monday 4/6, 7 p.m.**
Chapter Board Meeting at the MA&GC, Ross
- ✿ **Saturday 4/11–Sunday 4/19**
California Native Plant Week. For details on events during this week, see www.cnpsmarin.org.
- ✿ **Saturday 4/11, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.**
Marin Chapter Spring Plant Sale at Richardson Bay Audubon Center, Tiburon
- ✿ **Sunday 4/12, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**
Marin County Parks Hike: Wildflowers of Mt. Burdell, Novato
- ✿ **Sunday 4/12, 1–3 p.m. (Also 4/10, 5/8, 5/10)**
Lend a Hand: The Zen of Weeding, Samuel P. Taylor State Park, Lagunitas
- ✿ **Monday 4/13, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: Wild Food and Medicines of Rock Spring with Jolie Egert Elan
- ✿ **Monday 4/13, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**
Chapter Meeting: Bob Stewart on “Pollination Biology of California Plants”
- ✿ **Tuesday 4/14, 10–11:30 a.m.**
Sketch: Learn to Draw Wildflowers with John Muir Laws, Richardson Bay Audubon Center, Tiburon
- ✿ **Tuesday 4/14, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**
Marin County Parks Hike: Wildflowers of Mt. Burdell, Novato
- ✿ **Wednesday 4/15, 10 a.m.–noon**
Tour: Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project and Hamilton Native Plant Nursery, Novato (limited to 30 people)
- ✿ **Wednesday 4/15, 1–2:30 p.m.**
Lend a Hand: Transplant local native plants for the Hamilton wetlands restoration, Novato (limited to 40 people)
- ✿ **Thursday 4/16, 9:30 a.m. (also 5/21)**
Lend a Hand: Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Pt. Reyes
- ✿ **Thursday 4/16, 10 a.m.–noon**
Walk: Restoration site at Pine Point, Bon Tempe Lake. Afterwards, join in a free take-home seed-planting activity.
- ✿ **Thursday 4/16, 2–4 p.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: Rare Plants of Bull Point, Pt. Reyes
- ✿ **Friday 4/17, noon**
Talk: “Secrets of the Oak Woodlands” with Kate Marianchild, San Rafael Civic Center
- ✿ **Saturday 4/18, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**
Novato Native Plant Day: Celebrating CA Oak Woodlands
Walk: Oak woodlands with Kate Marianchild.
Tour: Oak woodland habitat garden.
Hands-On Activity: Plant propagation workshop.
\$30 for the day. See page 3 for full description.
- ✿ **Sunday 4/19, noon–4 p.m.**
Open House: Lerner Seeds Demonstration Garden & Shop, Bolinas. Tours of the garden at 1 and 2:30 p.m.
- ✿ **Saturday 4/25, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**
Novato’s 20th Annual Clean & Green Day

- ✿ **Saturday 4/25 10 a.m.–1 p.m. (also 5/30)**
Ring Mountain Drop-in Volunteer Day
- ✿ **Saturday 5/2, 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: The Cedars with Roger Raiche (Trip is Full)
- ✿ **Monday 5/4, 7 p.m.**
Chapter Board Meeting at the MA&GC, Ross
- ✿ **Monday 5/11 7:30–9:30 p.m.**
Chapter Meeting: Ted Kipping on “Highlights of Cook & Green Pass, Siskiyou Mountains, CA”
- ✿ **Saturday 5/30, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: Old St. Hilary’s Preserve in Tiburon
- ✿ **Saturday 5/30, 10 a.m.**
SOD Blitz—Citizen scientists needed! Joseph R. Fink Science Center, Rm 102, Dominican University, San Rafael.



MARIN CHAPTER SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 11, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Location: Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon

We’ll be offering a wide selection of California native perennials, shrubs, and grasses, as well as wildflower seeds, books, and posters. Come browse our selection; a number of the plants offered for sale are still being grown by our volunteer propagation group from local genetic stock. These sale events are a wonderful way for our chapter to reach out to the general public, and considering the drought conditions, a great time to impress gardeners with the resiliency of native plants.

We will need help both on the day of the sale and the day before for setup. Most of the chapter’s equipment for sale events is now stored in Novato; we’ll need trucks and some muscle to move tables, chairs, tents, carts, and signs. We’ll start at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, April 10, finishing up with plant pricing and other sale preparations by 4 p.m.

On Saturday, starting at 8 a.m., we need volunteers to help display plants, books, and posters, and to set up the membership table. When the sale starts at 9:30, we’ll need volunteers to assist customers with advice and carry-out, cashiering, refreshments, and book and poster sales. At the end of the day, we’ll need helpers to move the equipment back to storage in Novato.

Many hands make the work light, and friendly people working together usually have a good time. Volunteers are promised a free plant as a thank you. Please help if you can!

To volunteer, please contact plant sale co-chairs: Kristin Jakob 415.388.1844/kristinjakob@att.net, Charlotte Torgovitsky 415.892.9148/torgovitsky@comcast.net, or volunteer coordinator Ann Bauer 415.259.8282/bauerannm@comcast.net.

MEET A MEMBER: ALICE LUKENS BACHELDER

CNPS has had a profound effect upon my life. This is essentially about love. Because of my experiences with CNPS, I have come to love and respect plants, botany, horticulture, history, California, geology and geography, scenery, and the people who also love them. I am no scientist; I am an amateur, in the original sense of the word: a person who engages in an art, sport, etc. for the love of it (credit to poet/farmer Wendell Berry for this word usage.)

It all began with adult education classes at COM taught by Al Molina. I joined a class because I wanted to know what to call those flowers we saw on our family hikes in Marin, as my mother could name the wildflowers in the Minnesota lakesides where I grew up. So I attended years of evening, non-credit classes taught by Al, Bob West, or Wilma Follette, followed by credit classes in associated fields. I found I had an affinity for botany, unrecognized as an undergraduate at U of Minnesota, and I was at a time in my life when I was ready to learn something new.

As soon as Al mentioned the formation of a new organization called CNPS, many in the class became members. The Marin chapter's leading lights, as well as others from throughout the state, led many day, weekend, and week-long field trips, botanizing from the Siskiyous to the Sonoran Desert, from sea level to the Sierra. What a way to learn! What a way to live! What a way to literally expand one's horizons. How grateful I am to be a participant of these intensive immersions in the California countryside, with a lot of laughter, friendship, and fellowship along the way. Not to mention fabulous shared food.

I've hosted a spring weekend trip or two to my beloved Inner Coast Range cabin where we had a hilarious and tricky crossing of Putah Creek by canoe to roam otherwise inaccessible fields of wildflowers, waterfalls, and some real botanical rarities, among which I classify the late Joe Callizzo, botanist for The Land Trust of Napa County. That's how we did it in the Olden Days—so gather ye tents, apps, and field guides, folks, and go awandering together!



Among the members of CNPS who influenced me personally, as well as our organization's development through sales of the much-imitated wildflower posters, is the artist who became my partner for many years, Gompers Saijo. He created the first two CNPS flower posters, as well as the flower logo used in this newsletter. We met in Al's class.

I am impressed by the science that drives our effective organization. I am grateful to the founders and all who follow for their vision into what is needed to research, collect, preserve, conserve, educate,

advocate, and litigate in order to promote awareness of the interdependence humans have with all life, and especially with the flora of California.

Out of CNPS grew my interest and continued involvement in horticulture. I have years of horticultural experience, begun with classes and volunteering at Strybing Arboretum (SF Botanical Garden) nurseries and plant sales, and meetings of the California Horticultural Society. While working at retail nurseries in Marin, and as a Master Gardener, I've been cheered by expanded interest in growing California natives. In retirement I've propagated plants at home and with Charlotte's group for Marin Chapter's plant sales. I boast of being a card-carrying member of CNPS when encouraging others to garden with appropriate plants. I belong to CNPS, and it belongs to me as I roam fields, woods, shores—the countryside that I love—and find that somehow I am loved back.

Currently I no longer go to meetings because they are inaccessible to me. With my severe hearing loss, I can't "hear in the dark." We turn out the lights and show slides, right? Alas, it doesn't work for this lip reader.



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 10.

MORE NATIVE PLANT WEEK EVENTS

How to Draw Wildflowers Workshop with John Muir Laws

Tuesday, April 14, 10–11:30 a.m.

Enjoy the beauty of spring wildflowers. Drawing them will help you get to know them better and will help you see aspects of your favorite wildflowers that you have never noticed before. Participants should bring a sketchbook and pencil. \$20 suggested donation.

Location: Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon.

Find information about naturalist, educator, and artist John (Jack) Muir Laws at www.johnmuirlaws.com.

Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project

Wednesday, April 15, 10 a.m.–noon, 1–2:30 p.m.

Christina McWhorter, project leader, will lead a tour of the nursery and the restoration site from 10 a.m. to noon. Limit 30 people.

- 10–10:45 a.m.: Introduction to project, nursery, and native garden.
- 10:45–11 a.m.: Travel to site (by carpool or by foot depending on weather and group needs).
- 11 a.m.–noon: Visit various locations in the Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project, allowing observation of native plants and seasonal and tidal wetlands.
- Noon–1 p.m.: Picnic lunch at Hamilton Native Plant Nursery; bring your own bag lunch.
- 1–2:30 p.m.: Hands-on Activity: Transplanting of Local Native Plants for Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project; all materials and guidance provided; all ages welcome. Limit 40 people.

Meet at Hamilton Native Plant Nursery, 737 Todds Rd., Novato. Restroom and drinking fountain available at nursery.

Please contact Christina McWhorter at 1plantminded1@gmail.com to RSVP by April 10, 5 p.m.; email preferred; phone 415.382.0104. For more information, visit hamiltonwetlands.scc.ca.gov.

Hitched to Everything: The Amazing Manzanita and the Beautiful Buckeye

Friday, April 17, 12–1:30 p.m.

Kate Marianchild, author of the recently published *Secrets of the Oak Woodlands: Plants and Animals among California's Oaks* (Heyday, 2014), will give a free illustrated lecture, basing her talk on John Muir's famous saying, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." Marianchild will discuss the survival strategies of common manzanita and California buckeye, as well as their relationships with birds, mammals,

insects, fungi, and lichens. The presentation will be illustrated with lovely images of these stunning plants and leavened with Marianchild's humor as well as her excitement about her subject matter.

The public is invited to come learn about manzanita's surprising pollination strategy ("buzz pollination in middle C"), manzanita's adaptations to drought, and the advantages and disadvantages of the thin red bark that begins peeling just before summer solstice to reveal silky green skin. Marianchild will also explore this "tree-shrub's" relationships with species as diverse as silk moths, bushtits, carpenter ants, pileated woodpeckers, black bears, mycorrhizal fungi, and "nectar thieves."

In the second part of the presentation, Marianchild will discuss California buckeye's adaptations to drought, its protections against the species that would otherwise eat its luscious leaves and seeds, its coevolution with native insects, and its disastrous relationship with European honeybees. After speculating about the dispersal of buckeye's huge toxic seeds and delving into this species' relationship with the echo blue butterfly, Marianchild will conclude with photos of the extraordinary "Grandmaw Buckeye."

After her presentation, Marianchild will sign books. She can accept cash and checks but not credit cards.

Location: Marin County Civic Center Library, 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, room #427.

Open Garden Day at Larner Seeds in Bolinas Sunday, April 19, noon–4 p.m.

The Larner Seeds Demonstration Garden, Nursery, and Shop will be open from 12 to 4 p.m., with garden tours at 1:30 and 3 p.m.

Join Larner Seeds employee, musician, and artist Jeff Manson, who works to restore and enhance habitat, keeps those orders going out, and occasionally writes a song about the work we do at Larner Seeds! He may bring his guitar.

His ongoing projects include The Bare Dirt Meadow, The Bolinas Hedge, Gardening with Coastal Scrub, and the Fostering Forbs Project. Along with a wild food component, these projects offer solutions to garden conundrums, while providing a lively textbook in garden design and the ecology of California.

Jeff is a knowledgeable and charming tour guide, specializing in bringing young people into the fold. He's well acquainted with current schools of thought about land and people, from permaculture to carbon sequestration, and how native plant horticulture and restoration fit in. Please join us!

Location: Larner Seeds, 235 Grove Rd, Bolinas. 415.868.9407. For more information, visit www.larnerseeds.com.

RING MOUNTAIN GRASSLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join us for our monthly drop-in volunteer workday as we focus on restoring the grasslands of Ring Mountain! Ring Mountain is home to numerous rare and endangered plants, but this habitat is being threatened by invasive species. Volunteer work may include invasive species removal, seed collecting, planting native plants, or other restoration activities. Educational components are included as we discuss the plants and animals that inhabit this unique place and explain how volunteer activities are having a positive impact.

Drop-in days are held on the last Saturday of every month (except November and December). Volunteer work is mildly strenuous and involves bending, pull-

ing, and kneeling, and usually requires a short hike to the site. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Please bring gloves if you have them. Snacks and extra water will be provided. RSVP's are appreciated but not required.

Questions or to RSVP: Contact Ring Mountain Stewardship Coordinator Sarah Minnick at 415.473.5058 or SMinnick@marincounty.org. Check the Marin County Parks website events calendar (www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/calendar) for the latest information about meeting times, locations, and activities.

Location: End of Taylor Road, Tiburon. From Hwy. 101 in Corte Madera, take the exit for Tamalpais Dr. east. Go straight onto San Clemente, which merges into Paradise Dr. after 0.4 miles. Follow Paradise Dr. approximately 1.7 miles, turn right onto Taylor Rd., and follow to end (dead end).

MARIN CNPS CONTACTS

Position	Name
President; Membership Committee Chair; Program Committee Co-Chair; Plant Sale Committee Co-Chair	Charlotte Torgovitsky
Co-Vice President; Plant Sale Committee Co-Chair; Program Committee Co-Chair	Kristin Jakob
Co-Vice President; Chapter Council Delegate	David Long
Treasurer	Amelia Ryan
Secretary	Sam Abercrombie
Board Member; Education Committee Chair	Paul da Silva
Board Member, Field Trip Committee Chair/Coordinator	Sam Gilbert
Board Member; Legislation	Phyllis Faber
Board Member	Jacoba Charles
Board Member	Carolyn Longstreth
Board Member, Nursery Outreach	April Post
<i>Marin Flora Project</i>	Wilma Follette
Book Sales	Jane Medley
Conservation and Invasives Committee Chair (Conservation)	Eva Buxton
Gardening with Natives Committee Chair	Renee Fittinghoff
ID What You See Website Committee Chair	Bruce Homer-Smith
Rare Plant Committee Chair	Doreen Smith
Website	Vernon Smith
Publicity Committee Chair	Alison Blume
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: Conservation and Invasives Committee Co-Chair (Invasives)

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, Charlotte Torgovitsky, 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.cnpsmarin.org (Marin chapter)

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

Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/MarinNativePlants

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GET YOUR COPY OF THE REVISED *MARIN FLORA*! NOW ON SALE!

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.cnpsmarin.org). We are now offering the hard cover books for the same price as the soft cover!

Prices:	Hard cover or soft cover
Retail	\$35 (plus \$2.98 tax)
CNPS members (20% off)	\$28 (plus \$2.38 tax)



NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE!

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



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

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 _____