



# California Native Plant Society

## MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

*Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)*

*Marin Chapter established 1973*

### **Monday, March 9, Marin Chapter Meeting**

#### **Dylan Burge on “*Ceanothus*”**

Marin County is a world center of *Ceanothus* diversity, with as many as 10 species found within the county. From the summit of Mount Tamalpais to the rocky spit of Point Reyes, *Ceanothus* is a constant companion for Marin County botanists, and an ecologically significant member of forest and chaparral plant communities in the county. Dylan’s talk will take a close look at *Ceanothus* diversity in Marin County and address recent scientific discoveries in the genus, including where *Ceanothus* came from and how it became so diverse.

Dylan Burge is a botanist who specializes in California plants. He is especially interested in how unusual soils, such as serpentine, affect plant evolution. Dylan grew up in rural northern California, where he developed a love for biodiversity very early on.

He attended UC Davis for his undergraduate work and obtained a B.S. in Evolution and Ecology in 2004.

He then did graduate work at Duke University, obtaining a Ph.D. in Biology in 2011. He has done field work in many places around the world, including South Africa, Madagascar, Malaysia, China, Belize, and Mexico. In addition to botanical research, Dylan likes to spend time hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail and taking photographs of living organisms in the wild. He is now a post-doctoral researcher at the University of British Columbia.



*Ceanothus cuneatus* var. *ramulosus*



*Ceanothus oliganthus*

#### **March meeting:**

**5:30 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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The amazing rainfall we had in December buoyed my spirits, but all through January, as a gardener, I had to rely on faith as I went about sowing still more wildflowers and planting native shrubs. I use irrigation in just certain confined areas on my property, but many native plants, especially those growing under the canopy of oaks, get no water other than rainwater once they are established.

We recently delivered the last of the plants for the Ring Mt. grasslands restoration project. Our chapter provided the funding to cover the costs of growing the plants; we were able to donate 842 of them to the Marin County Parks. I had been tending these plants with the help of my core group of volunteer propagators since the seeds germinated in the fall of 2013. We looked after them all through the drought year, when nothing could be reliably planted out; now, many have been planted, and the recent rain from "atmospheric rivers" was exactly what was needed assure some success with the restoration project.

I continue to propagate a great many native plants in my home nursery; there's huge satisfaction in nurturing a plant along from a seed or cutting, and still more, years later, when that tiny seed is now a 15-foot tree, and in full glorious bloom!

Our Native Plant Week committee has also been busy putting together a full nine days of activities highlighting native plants. We kick off the week with a spring plant sale on Saturday, April 11, at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center. Save the date, and watch for more details on various activities all around the county, such as weeding parties, a native garden tour, naturalist-led hikes, great speakers, and nature-related activities for children. The calendar of activities, with something every day between April 11 through 19, will be posted on the Marin chapter website as we finalize the details.



14 years from seed to first bloom; the birds and bees are not the only ones appreciating the profusion of gorgeous pink eastern redbud flowers!—Mieko Watkins

I am very pleased to announce that our chapter will be offering a new scholarship. For many years, we have provided scholarships to graduate and undergraduate college students studying botany or other plant-related sciences. This year we're initiating a scholarship for a high school student to participate in a new UC Cooperative Extension certification program on becoming a California Naturalist. The week-long immersion course takes place this summer at UC Berkeley's Sagehen Creek Field Station near Truckee. This "classroom without walls" allows field studies with experts covering plants, water, geology, wildlife, woodlands, and more.

Perhaps you also saw the notice about the program in the state CNPS bulletin; when I read it, I immediately got in touch with the coordinator for the program. My love for all of nature began as a child, and has been an important part of my life since. I thought we, as an organization, nature-lovers all, could do nothing better than to help nurture that love and understanding in our younger generations. And, dear members, so did our chapter Board, by voting to fund the scholarship!

Watch for more details; we want to create a contest of some sort so that students can strive to win this scholarship based on their own merits. Feel free to contact me if you have contest ideas to contribute. If you know of a high school student for whom such an experience would have profound meaning, please alert him or her to this wonderful opportunity.

—Charlotte Torgovitsky



## THANK YOU, KEVIN!

Sadly, our February 9 scheduled speaker, Judith Larner Lowry, caught a bug on February 7 and needed to cancel, but fortunately, Kevin Sadlier came to the rescue, and gave an excellent, informative, and entertaining presentation on "Wild Mushroom Foraging."

Kevin is a longtime, responsible wild mushroom forager who supplies some of the Bay Area's finest restaurants and serves on the Council of the San Francisco Mycological Society. Kevin co-owns, with his wife Xander Wessells, Green Jeans Garden Supply, a nursery in Mill Valley that offers a wide array of plants (including California natives), pottery, garden art, and organic garden supplies. His program was not illustrated, but Kevin brought an array of mushrooms collected that day in Sonoma and Marin Counties, and these were passed amongst the audience members as Kevin described his foraging year, some of the species he collects, their physical and culinary traits, and the trees with which they associate.

Judith will speak at the Fairfax Library on March 24 at 7 p.m.

# CNPS CONSERVATION CONFERENCE REPORT

The CNPS 2015 Conservation Conference, held in San Jose from January 13–17, was a resounding success, with over 1,000 registrants. More than 300 speakers (including our own Amelia Ryan, who discussed the results of her work restoring the Sonoma alopecurus grass at Pt. Reyes) presented inspiring and enlightening talks on a very wide array of topics in sessions such as: rare plants and communities, invasive plants and other threats, horticulture, restoration, fire, changing climate, plant science, vegetation classification, mapping and monitoring, pathogens and pests, lichens and bryophytes, Baja California, and current research. Registrants were offered a wealth of choices!

Key speakers, including Jared Farmer, Paul Ehrlich, and Dr. Peter Raven, were featured in the opening plenary, at the banquet, and in the closing “Progress and Promise” series. A theme of the Progress and Promise talks was that we have a lot of obstacles to overcome to maintain our current ecosystems intact in the face of weak political will and climate change; in the developing world, mapping technology is helping indigenous people hold governments accountable for illegal land conversion. Other takeaways included:

- Non-native pathogens are invading California in record numbers.
- Land management is becoming much more sophisticated.
- There is growing interest in the effects of native plants (versus non-native plants) on animal distribution and abundance, as well as the great benefits that native plants provide to native animals.
- Researchers are studying the various ways that animals can increase or decrease the reproduction of native plants.

Many talks were recorded and are being posted on YouTube at <http://tinyurl.com/cnps2015>, and abstracts can be found on the state CNPS website.

Other highlights were pre-conference workshops and field trips, a photo exhibition and contest, and scientific and chapter posters. Amelia Ryan compiled a beautiful poster featuring the Marin Chapter’s various invasive plant removal projects; Clint Kellner’s poster discussed preliminary results of his experiment to bring back wildflowers at Olompali.

A beautiful botanical art exhibition was co-chaired, juried, and curated by Marin Chapter members Kristin Jakob and Bernard Halliwell. The show displayed 68 original artworks depicting California native plants in various media by 45 artists. Three cash prizes, one Conference Choice, and five Honorable Mentions were awarded and several talks and demos on botanical art were scheduled. Many of the artists also submitted

cards and fine art prints which were sold at the conference store, with a commission to benefit CNPS.

The Conference attracted a large turnout of young, aspiring botanists, ecologists, and conservationists, and engendered a high level of enthusiasm and productive networking. Many thanks to the organizers, CNPS staff, and legions of volunteers who put on a superb event!



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

## **THIRD THURSDAY WEEDERS**

***March 19 and April 16, 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 Abbotts Lagoon, perennial pepperweed in the Giacomini Wetland, and cape ivy at Pierce Point.



Some of the incredible plant habitat improved by the Third Thursday Weeders—the scenery’s not bad either!—NPS photo

To sign up and obtain more information, please contact [cklongstreth@gmail.com](mailto: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



## **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.

## **MARIN CNPS 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.

### **Spring Wildflowers at Chimney Rock**

**Friday, March 6, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**

Come catch the wildflowers at their peak at Chimney Rock, famous for its early spring displays. We'll look for Douglas iris, wallflower, Johnny tuck, pussy-ears, Indian paintbrush, baby-blue eyes, and other beauties as we walk along this gentle trail. While we're at it, we'll keep our eyes out for birds, elephant seals, and gray whales making their northern migration, so bring binoculars. Meet at Chimney Rock parking area (outer Point Reyes, near the end of Sir Francis Drake Blvd.). Heavy rain cancels; call Amelia if in doubt.

Leader: Amelia Ryan 707.481.9932

### ***Ceanothus* of Marin County with Dylan Burge**

**Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.**

This will be a day-long field trip to observe *Ceanothus* species in a wild setting. This field trip will take place along the Bolinas-Fairfax Road, an area that is home to more than seven *Ceanothus* species, a remarkable concentration of diversity. During several stops along a route from Fairfax to Bolinas, participants will have the opportunity to see as many as six *Ceanothus* taxa (species and varieties), and observe several interesting hybrids. At each stop, Dylan (our March meeting speaker) will discuss identification, biology, evolution, and ecology of individual taxa. Time will be taken to consider the plant communities, and to enjoy the natural setting provided by each stop. The trip will be focused around four sites, with up to three species per site.

Please wear sturdy shoes for hiking on rocky trails for up to one-half mile, and wear clothing that will protect you from the scratching branches of chaparral plants. Bring plenty of water and pack a lunch; we'll try to stop somewhere nice for the lunch break. Please meet at the Azalea Hill Trailhead, 3.8 miles up the Bolinas-Fairfax Rd. from the intersection with Broadway Blvd. in downtown Fairfax.

Leader: Dylan O. Burge, Ph.D. dylan.o.burge@gmail.com

### **Mount Burdell's Serpentine Outcrops**

**Sunday, March 8, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

We'll visit some serpentine outcrops on the south-facing slope of Mount Burdell for early wildflowers. Meet at the San Carlos Dr. entrance to Mt. Burdell Open Space Preserve in Novato. San Carlos Dr. is a stub street that runs north off San Marin Dr., which itself runs west from the Highway 101 interchange.

A plant list and an illustrated flower sheet for Mount Burdell can be downloaded from the Marin Chapter CNPS website. See <http://tinyurl.com/MtBurdellTot> and <http://tinyurl.com/MtBurdellEarly>.

Leader: Doreen Smith 415.479.7888

### **Rock Spring Calypso Orchid Hunt and More!**

**Saturday, March 21, 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m.**

In addition to searching through the forest looking for the fairy slipper orchid, *Calypso bulbosa*, we'll explore the trails around the upper Rock Spring meadow, enjoy a picnic lunch, then head down the Cataract Trail as far as participants wish to hike, enjoying other early wildflowers and a diverse array of ferns. If the weather is dry and mild, artistic participants may wish to linger and sketch; there are picnic benches on the wooded knoll above the parking area, and a stroll across the road leads to great views.

We'll 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. Rain cancels; call Kristin if in doubt.

This outing is offered jointly by the Marin Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and the Northern California Society of Botanical Artists. A list of the plants found in this area may be found at [www.marin.edu/cnps/Rock\\_Spring.html](http://www.marin.edu/cnps/Rock_Spring.html).

Leader: Kristin Jakob 415.388.1844 [kristinjakob@att.net](mailto:kristinjakob@att.net)

### **Mid-spring Wildflowers of Mount Burdell and the County's Largest Vernal Pool**

**Sunday, March 29, 9:30 a.m.–noon**

Blooming buckeyes and wildflowers paint the slopes of Novato's Mount Burdell in late March. We will visit a vernal pool surrounded by bay laurels and two species of local oaks. Meet at the San Andreas Dr. Open Space entrance, where you'll find streetside parking. A comprehensive list of Mount Burdell's

*Field Trips continued on page 5*

Field Trips continued from page 4

plants may be found at <http://tinyurl.com/MtBurdellTot>.

Leader: Doreen Smith 415.479.7888

## 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

## 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 may be found at <http://tinyurl.com/BullPt>. Rain cancels.

Leader: Doreen Smith 415.479.7888

## The Cedars with Roger Raiche

**Saturday, May 2, 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m.**

The Marin Chapter of the CNPS will make its second annual trip to The Cedars on May 2. This is an all-day outing that involves hiking over uneven rocky terrain. Please read the following description, and if you'd like to attend, send Sam Gilbert an email message ([srg@uchicago.edu](mailto:srg@uchicago.edu)). No more than 15 people can be accommodated, and preference will be given to those who have never before visited this spot.

A floristic island, The Cedars is a privately owned 7,500 acre site in a remote part of northwestern

Sonoma County—nine miles inland from Timber Cove, a short drive from Cazadero. Because the soil in this mountainous region is primarily serpentine, indigenous flora are specialized and in some cases rare. Plants include Sargent cypress (*Cupressus sargentii*), California lady slipper orchid (*Cypripedium californicum*), Morrison's jewelflower (*Streptanthus morrisonii*), The Cedars manzanita (*Arctostaphylos bakeri* ssp. *sublaevis*), and The Cedars fairy lantern (*Calochortus raichei*). It is difficult to predict what will be in bloom, but Raiche believes three orchids will be in flower (*Cypripedium*, *Epipactis*, and *Piperia leptopetala*), as well as some lingering Western azaleas.

The terrain is rugged and involves creek crossings (without bridges), so participants should be in good hiking shape and capable of dealing with irregular, rocky terrain.

We'll need three high-clearance/4WD vehicles. We will meet in Cazadero at 9:30 a.m. and try to be out of the canyon by 3:30 or 4 p.m. Sam will send plant lists to all who sign up.



## 2015 PLANT SAFARIS

### ***Expanding stewardship beyond the weed wrench!***

Over the past three years, MMWD and the California Academy of Science 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' 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, March 27
- Saturday, March 28
- 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](mailto: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.

## MEET A MEMBER: SAM ABERCROMBIE

As long as I can remember, I've loved the outdoors and the natural world. From a young age, I have been consistently moved and awed by the beauty of nature, and never questioned that I would go on to study biology and work to protect our natural resources.

I grew up in North Carolina, a beautiful state with the Appalachian Mountains in the west, and the outer banks and Atlantic Ocean to the east. I love the lush, warm climate of North Carolina, but something about California has always called to me. We used to visit the Bay Area frequently to see family members, and every time I came out here, something about this place always said "home."

After graduating from the University of North Carolina, where I studied biology and worked in a research lab studying California native grasslands, I was fortunate enough to do a little traveling and eventually find some very enriching job opportunities here in California. I spent a summer working for UC Berkeley monitoring native pollinators in agricultural fields in the Central Valley, and afterwards landed a habitat restoration internship with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. There, I was mentored and surrounded by some of the most dedicated, intelligent, and passionate people I have ever met. I spent my time there like a sponge—soaking up and learning as much as I could about our native plants, ecosystems, and natural history, as well as the field of restoration ecology. While there, I also began to volunteer with other exemplary organizations, including CNPS and the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, where I have been a bander since 2010.

I now work at Marin County Parks, an organization that manages 34 Open Space preserves and four regional parks, while also actively working to acquire more land for conservation. I started with Parks as the Ring Mountain Stewardship Coordinator, a position that is funded through a partnership with The Nature Conservancy. As the Ring Mountain Steward, I was tasked with building a stewardship program that better protects and preserves Ring Mountain, a place that I'm sure many of you know to have some of the most beautiful native grasslands left in California, and some of the rarest plants on earth. While my love for



Ring Mountain endures, I've since changed positions within the organization and now focus more broadly on resource issues across the county. The most exciting project I am working on right now is a regional wildlife monitoring program, called the Wildlife Picture Index, which is being conducted at a regional scale through the efforts of multiple land management agencies.

My involvement with CNPS started with two simple things: a deep love and appreciation for the native plants and ecosystems here in Marin and California, and a deep fear that what we have will soon disappear. We Marinites (and more broadly, Californians) are faced with an interesting paradox: we have (arguably) both the most diverse, beautiful state in the nation, as

well as (currently) the largest human population in the country. Luckily, we have demonstrated that we appreciate what we have through large-scale conservation efforts, and have led the way in taking progressive steps toward natural resource conservation.

But the challenge to protect and preserve our natural resources never stops. The pressure to continue to exploit, develop, and pave over our native landscapes is ever present, and it is this threat that spurs my personal commitment to be a part of groups that work to understand, preserve, and enhance our natural world. If you are reading this newsletter, then you, too, feel an obligation to make a stand for the environment, so thank you for joining in our crusade!



## RING MOUNTAIN GRASSLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

**Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Let's celebrate Ring Mountain Preserve for our 15<sup>th</sup> annual "Fling on Ring" community event! Join us for a day of environmental education and community service. We'll remove invasive French broom to help restore the native grassland that makes Ring Mountain special.

Drop-in days are held on the last Saturday of every month (except November and December). All skill levels are welcome and no previous experience is necessary. All ages are welcome; anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Snacks, lunch, and extra water will be provided.

In the event of heavy rain and/or high winds call 415.473.3778 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. RSVP's are appreciated but not required.

Questions or to RSVP: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Greg Reza at 415.473.3778.

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).

Check the Marin County Parks website events calendar ([www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/calendar](http://www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/calendar)) for the latest info on meeting times, locations, and activities.



## 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 February 12. No reservation is required.

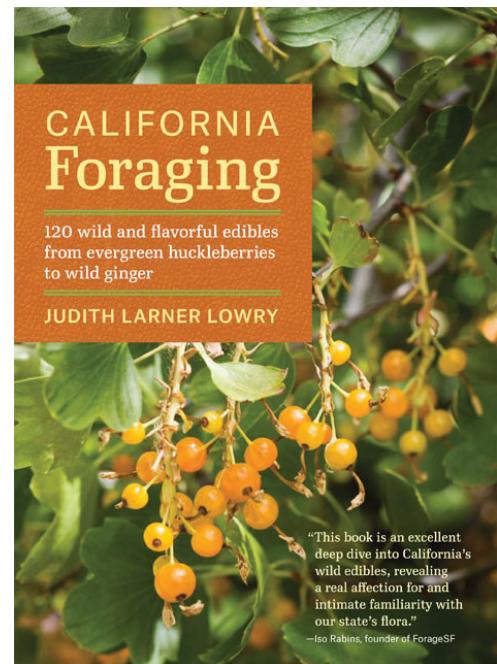
Join us for some fun time keying plants and learning plant terminology in a relaxed atmosphere. Bring the *Jepson Manual* (old or new edition) or *Plants of the San Francisco Bay Region: Mendocino to Monterey* (revised edition), as well as a hand lens. Participants are welcome to bring their copy of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

**Location:** Hensill Hall at SFSU, 1600 Holloway Ave., Botany Lab, Room 440. Campus map: [sfsu.edu/~sfsumap/](http://sfsu.edu/~sfsumap/).

## BACKYARD RESTORATION GARDENING: FROM HABITAT TO WILD FOODS

**Tuesday, March 24, 7–9 p.m.**

Judith Larner Lowry, of Larner Seeds in Bolinas, is passionate about California native plants! She will be sharing her 35 years of experience with backyard restoration gardening, natural design, habitat enhancement, and cultivating a wild food garden. Judith is the author of *Gardening with a Wild Heart*, *The Landscaping Ideas of Jays*, and *California Foraging*.



**Location:** Fairfax Library, 2097 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Fairfax.

Visit the library website (<http://tinyurl.com/FrFxLib>) or Marin CNPS website ([www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)) closer to the date of the talk to confirm the date and time.

This talk is co-sponsored by CNPS, and CNPS will be hosting Judith at a dinner at 5 p.m. at Sorella Cafe in Fairfax prior to her talk. If you would like to join us, please let Renee know at [reneef94941@gmail.com](mailto:reneef94941@gmail.com) to reserve a place.



## 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 (March 6, April 3, and May 1), from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Room SMN 108 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](mailto:pdasilva@marin.edu).

## PHOTO MYSTERY SOLVED: DEDICATION OF THE JEPSON MEMORIAL, TOMALES BAY STATE PARK

The Anne T. Kent California Room is an archive dedicated to collecting and preserving information on local, regional, and state history with a strong emphasis on the history and culture of Marin County. Recently, the California Room acquired a photograph depicting an event in what looked like a clearing in a forest. With no other information at hand, such as a caption or other related materials, or even to whom the photo originally belonged (what we call the “provenance”), we were—pardon the pun—stumped. But not for long! We called in an expert: researcher, author, and historian Dewey Livingston, who is always a tremendous help in sharing his vast knowledge of Marin County history. Immediately Dewey knew by the trees and surroundings that this was Inverness, and more specifically Tomales Bay State Park, and the woman looked to be conservationist Caroline Livermore. We concluded the date of the photograph was circa 1950.

Given this helpful information, we checked the California Room clipping files for Tomales Bay State Park. Lo and behold, on the front page of the *Marin Independent Journal* of November 10, 1952 we found the article “Jepson Lauded At Dedication of Memorial Near Inverness,” with accompanying pictures which were likely taken by the very photographer shown in our own now-identifiable photograph.

Dedication of the Willis Linn Jepson Memorial occurred on November 8, 1952. More than 200 people attended the event in honor of Professor Jepson (1867-1946), a botanist whose career at the University of California, Berkeley spanned from 1899 until 1937. Jepson is known as the “dean of California botanists,” having authored over 200 scientific papers and eight books, including *A Manual of the Flowering Plants of California* and *A Flora of California*. Jepson founded



Dedication of the Jepson Memorial Grove—Anne T. Kent California Room Collection

the California Botanical Society (1913), and the Save the Redwoods League (1918), and is highly respected for his research and for laying the foundation for the study of California flora.

Pictured in the photograph, left-right: [unknown]; Joseph R. Knowland, chair, state park commission; Emanuel Fritz, UC faculty and friend of Jepson; Caroline Livermore, Marin Conservation League; and Charles Kasch of the park commission.

According to the newspaper article, the memorial is located among Bishop pine trees, “so often a refuge and meditation spot for the late Professor Jepson.” The site was chosen by a close friend of Jepson’s, Emanuel Fritz, University of California forestry professor and consultant for the California Redwood Association. State park commissioner Charles Kasch said that day, “There could be no better site for a memorial to Prof. Jepson, because seldom are memorials so typical of the persons involved.” He continued, “Jepson fought 40 years ago for the things we fight for today. Boundaries to this memorial have been suggested. I hope none are established. He could not be fenced in during his lifetime. I hope he isn’t fenced in at this memorial.”

Visit the Jepson Memorial at Tomales Bay State Park (<http://tinyurl.com/JepsonGrove>), and learn more about Willis Linn Jepson via UC Berkeley’s Jepson Herbaria (<http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu>).

—Carol Acquaviva, Librarian & Digital Archivist, Anne T. Kent California Room, Marin County Free Library



## 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](mailto:nandean@comcast.net) if you want to attend, need more info, or want notice of other work parties at the park.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ✿ **Monday 3/2, 7 p.m.**  
Chapter Board Meeting at the MA&GC, Ross
- ✿ **Friday 3/6 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**  
Chapter Field Trip: Spring Wildflowers at Chimney Rock
- ✿ **Friday 3/6, 6–9 p.m. (also 4/3 and 5/1)**  
Marin Plant ID Workshop
- ✿ **Saturday 3/7, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.**  
Chapter Field Trip: Ceanothus of Marin County with Dylan Burge
- ✿ **Sunday 3/8, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**  
Chapter Field Trip: Mount Burdell's Serpentine Outcrops
- ✿ **Sunday 3/8 & Friday 3/13, 1–3 p.m. (also 4/10 & 4/12)**  
Habitat Restoration at Samuel P. Taylor St. Park
- ✿ **Monday 3/9, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**  
Chapter Meeting: Dylan Burge on "Ceanothus"
- ✿ **Thursday 3/12, 6–7:30 p.m. (also 4/9)**  
Plant ID Workshop at SFSU
- ✿ **Thursday 3/19, 9:30 a.m. (also 4/16)**  
Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Point Reyes
- ✿ **Saturday 3/21, 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m.**  
Chapter Field Trip: Rock Spring Calypso Orchid Hunt & More!
- ✿ **Tuesday 3/24, 7–9 p.m.**  
Judith Larner Lowry at Fairfax Library on "Backyard Restoration Gardening: From Habitat to Wild Foods"
- ✿ **Friday 3/27, 9 a.m. (also 3/28, 4/10, 4/11, 4/24, 5/9)**  
MMWD/Cal Academy Mt. Tamalpais Plant Safari
- ✿ **Saturday 3/28, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. (also 4/25)**  
15<sup>th</sup> Annual "Fling on Ring" Education/Volunteer Day at Ring Mountain in Tiburon
- ✿ **Sunday 3/29, 9:30 a.m.–noon**  
Chapter Field Trip: Mid-spring Wildflowers of Mount Burdell and the County's Largest Vernal Pool
- ✿ **Monday 4/6, 7 p.m.**  
Chapter Board Meeting at the MA&GC, Ross
- ✿ **Saturday 4/11, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**  
Marin Chapter Spring Plant Sale at Richardson Bay Audubon Center, Tiburon
- ✿ **Saturday 4/11–Sunday 4/19**  
California Native Plant Week
- ✿ **Monday 4/13, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**  
Chapter Meeting: Bob Stewart on "Pollination Biology of California Plants"
- ✿ **Monday 4/13, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**  
Chapter Field Trip: Wild Food and Medicines of Rock Spring with Jolie Egert Elan
- ✿ **Thursday 4/16, 2–4 p.m.**  
Chapter Field Trip: Rare Plants of Bull Point
- ✿ **Saturday 5/2, 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m.**  
Chapter Field Trip: The Cedars with Roger Raiche

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

Text and photos by Doreen Smith

*Montia diffusa* is listed as a rare plant in states north of California, has its southern limit in Marin County near Muir Woods. This unusual plant hadn't been seen by anyone who knew what it was since Alice Eastwood's collection from "Mill Valley" of May 1901 in the UC Herbarium as UC83789. Mary Stevens of our CNPS Chapter re-found it in late March 2005 on a hike from Muir Woods when she was going up the Bootjack trail. The site is on a bank trailside, just outside and north of Muir Woods, so it is actually in Mt. Tamalpais State Park.



*Montia diffusa* (diffuse Montia)



Though the population was visited on a field trip and the plant photographed, since then we've not been able to find it again. Maybe someone reading this will be lucky and get better photographs than mine; it is in a dark forested place.

## 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](mailto:jdesser@gmail.com).

## GET YOUR MARIN CHAPTER CNPS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY

The Marin Chapter is trying to reduce unnecessary costs and use of paper for the chapter *Newsletter*. Chapter members now have the option of receiving the color version of the *Newsletter* electronically by email instead of by snail mail. We urge you to say Yes to this option to help us reduce costs and paper by sending an email to [deliveriesmarincnps@gmail.com](mailto:deliveriesmarincnps@gmail.com). Please put "Email Newsletter" in the subject line and your name and address in the body of the email. You can also drop us a note at Marin Chapter CNPS, PO Box 1408, Mill Valley, CA 94942-1408. Many thanks!

## CNPS MARIN CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS 2015

The Marin Chapter is pleased to announce that four scholarships will be available to qualified undergraduate and graduate students who will be conducting research on California native plants during the 2015–2016 academic year. There will be two Joe Kohn Scholarships and two Ken Howard Scholarships, one for undergraduate research and one for graduate research in each category. For more information and an application form, please visit the Marin Chapter web page at [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org).

---

## 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</i> Project	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
<b>Open Positions:</b> Conservation and Invasives Committee Co-Chair (Invasives)	

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

# 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](http://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](mailto:cnps@cnps.org) (state)

Web                              [www.cnpsmarin.org](http://www.cnpsmarin.org) (Marin chapter)

[www.cnps.org](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/MarinNativePlants)

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
MARIN CHAPTER  
PO Box 1408  
Mill Valley, CA 94942-1408

Printed on Recycled Paper

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

Or Current Resident

Visit us at [www.cnpsmarin.org](http://www.cnpsmarin.org)!

## 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](http://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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_