



California Native Plant Society

MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)

Marin chapter established 1973

Monday, June 13 Marin Chapter Meeting

Ted Kipping on “The Floral Riches of Kit Carson Pass”



Trail to Winnemucca and Round Top Lakes—Ted Kipping

Carson Pass through the Sierra Nevada Mountains is a byway not just for humans but for plants and animals as well. The pass was named for Kit Carson, John Charles Fremont’s guide on his 1844 expedition. Plants can ascend and descend between elevations via mountain passes. Plants normally seen in higher elevations can descend lower in passes because the cooler night air follows down these passes allowing physiologic relief for plants that normally inhabit the higher reaches. Additionally, the varied rock types leading to a variety of soil chemistries have helped contribute to a botanically rich Carson Pass area.

Come for easy armchair access to these treasures at our June 13th meeting with Ted Kipping, a Life Member of CNPS and artistic tree pruner based in San Francisco. Ted has guided hundreds of hikers into the Carson Pass area and his photography has been extensively published.

June 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 and after the meeting; **note that the June presentation, will start 15 minutes earlier than usual, at 7:45 p.m.** The Redwoods is undergoing major renovation work and onsite parking will be limited, so we recommend parking along or across the street. Our meetings are held in a room in the wing parallel to Miller Ave instead of in the main auditorium. The main entrance is shifting to that southern side of the complex, so look for directional signage. We apologize for any inconvenience!



White bark pines—Ted Kipping



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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In late April my garden was part of the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour, sponsored by the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership and the North Marin Water District; about 100 people came to see my habitat garden.

I talked to a lot of interested naturalistic gardeners that day: some beginners and some already well versed in California's flora and fauna, all with the desire to do what's right for the environment and our local ecology. Habitat gardens do exactly that, and gardeners who create and maintain these types of gardens also help to re-create wildlife corridors between open spaces.

Some of the things I love the most about my garden are the areas where I now have native plants beautifully established under my oak trees. It's a really tranquil place to be, where all I pay attention to is the life around me, the plants needing nothing from me except admiration and appreciation!

The first thing I did when we moved to this house 12 years ago was to sheet mulch under the oaks and in a wide border along a low wooden fence. The sheet mulching for natives, and for clay soils, is very simple: just newspaper or cardboard and rice straw. After a few years, the weeds (mostly European annual grasses) were well under control, and the soil much improved with the added humus. Then I started to install my understory of natives, babying the plants along for the first two or three summers, setting them up with DriWater reservoirs initially, and also just occasionally deep watering during the worst of the drought-stricken months.

Ceanothus, California rose, toyon, elderberry, and hummingbird sage have grown into a mingled hedge-row at the edges of the tree canopy. Under the coast live oaks I've planted drifts of snowberry, cream bush, California fescue, heuchera, and pipevines. California hazelnuts, more elderberries, and toyons are all fine in the filtered light or in sunny spots under the oaks, and all will provide food for the resident creatures of the oak woodlands.



Cream bush (*Holodiscus discolor*)—Charlotte Torgovitsky

One particularly beautiful sight that many tour-goers commented on was California bush anemone in full bloom next to a drift of heuchera 'Old la Rochette' and lilac-flowered Douglas Iris; the white, pinks, and lilac tones all so gorgeous together that it made my heart sing just to look at it!

I've served as President of this chapter since January of 2014, but this is the last message I'll be writing in that role. I found that the duties of the position kept me on the computer for what felt like endless hours when I really wanted to be outside with nature in my garden, carefully tending to the plants I'm propagating, and collecting seeds in a more timely fashion.

Life is too short to do everything one might want to, and so I've had to make choices about using my time more wisely, and really focusing on the things most important to me personally. I will continue to support the chapter as a member of the board, and hope to take on some projects that will be of benefit to the members of the Marin chapter.

—Charlotte Torgovitsky



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

✿ **Saturday 6/4, 2–6 p.m.**

Chapter Field Trip: Ring Mountain

✿ **Monday 6/6, 7 p.m.**

Chapter Board Meeting, 30 N. San Pedro Rd., San Rafael

✿ **Friday 6/10, 1–3 p.m. (also 6/12, 7/8, 7/10, 8/12, and 8/14)**

The Zen of Weeding, Samuel P. Taylor State Park, Lagunitas

✿ **Monday 6/13, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**

Chapter Meeting: Ted Kipping on "The Floral Riches Of Kit Carson Pass"

✿ **Thursday 6/16, 9:30 a.m. (also 7/21 and 8/18)**

Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Point Reyes

✿ **Thursday, 6/16, 10–11:30 a.m.**

Chapter Field Trip: Cal Academy of Sciences Green Roof

✿ **Saturday 6/18, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

Chapter Field Trip: Nicasio Ridge (West Marin)

✿ **Saturday 6/25, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. (also 7/30 and 8/27)**

Ring Mountain Grassland Restoration

✿ **Sunday 6/26, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Chapter Field Trip: The Rare Plants of Bull Point

✿ **Saturday 7/9, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Chapter Field Trip: Gary Giacomini Open Space Preserve

✿ **Saturday 7/23, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**

Chapter Field Trip: Abbotts Lagoon, Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore

✿ **Sunday 8/14, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**

Chapter Field Trip: Tomales Bay St. Park, Jepson-Johnstone Trail

✿ **Sunday 8/28, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Chapter Field Trip: Giacomini Wetlands Excursion

CHAPTER SPRING PLANT SALE REPORT

April 16 turned out to be a lovely day for our spring native plant sale, which was another very successful team effort with the Marin Master Gardeners in their display garden at the Falkirk Cultural Center in San Rafael. The MMG provided not only the venue and refreshments, but many gracious volunteers who helped with a wide array of tasks from setup through takedown. Many thanks also to the CNPS Marin members who helped with planning, volunteer coordination, publicity, plant buying, transportation of plants and supplies, cashiering, book and poster sales, and helping customers find the best plants for their garden conditions.



Spring plant sale display, ready for customers—Laura Lovett

Customers were lined up outside the garden before the sale started, and by the end, nearly all the plants had sold. A number of plants were donated to the Falkirk display gardens. About 40 people listened raptly as Paul da Silva gave an engaging presentation on native plant and insect relationships, which was the theme of the sale, and of the California Native Plant Week that it launched.

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



Paul da Silva giving his presentation—Kristin Jakob

2016 MARIN CNPS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Marin Chapter is pleased to announce the recipients of awards in our 2016 Scholarship Program. The winner of the Ken Howard Scholarship is Steven Serkanic of San Francisco State University for his research into the evolutionary history of manzanitas. The winner of the Joe Kohn Scholarship is Brittni Brown of the University of Idaho for her work modeling climatic impacts on blue oak dieback. We wish all the best to our 2016 recipients and look forward to future reports of their work.



RING MOUNTAIN GRASSLAND RESTORATION

Saturday, June 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! This month we'll learn how to identify some of our native grass and forb species and we'll spend time collecting their seeds so that we can plant them in restoration areas. While we're collecting seeds, we'll get to enjoy the late-blooming flowers and beautiful views Ring Mountain has to offer.

Drop-in days are held on the last Saturday of every month (except November and December). Volunteer work is mildly strenuous and involves bending, pulling, 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, but bring a lunch. High fire danger cancels: Call 415.473.7191 to get an update on fire danger status and land closures. If a "Red Flag" warning is in effect, all walks and events on Open Space District preserves are cancelled. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. RSVP's are appreciated but not required. Check the Marin County Parks event calendar (www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/calendar) for information about the July and August drop-in days.

Questions or to RSVP: Contact Ring Mountain Stewardship Coordinator Sarah Minnick at 415.473.5058.

Location: 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 FIELD TRIPS, JUNE–AUGUST 2016

There is no better way to learn your wildflowers and other native plants than to join chapter members and others in the field! All hikes are free and open to the public, so please invite your friends. Beginning plant enthusiasts are particularly welcome on all hikes.

Dress in layers, wear non-slip footwear and come prepared for cold, fog, rain and wind, just in case. 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.

Ring Mountain

Saturday, June 4, 2–6 p.m.

This annual outing showcases several of this Marin County Open Space preserve's rare plants, including Tiburon mariposa lily (*Calochortus tiburonensis*), found only at this location, and Marin dwarf flax (*Hesperolinon congestum*). Other lovely flowers we can expect to see include Ithuriel's spear (*Triteleia laxa*) and farewell-to-spring (*Clarkia rubicunda*). Participants able to linger until after 4 p.m. may be treated to the delightful sight of clouds of the whitish starry flowers of soap plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*) which seem to hover over the grasses. The many notable native, and relatively few non-native grasses will also be appreciated on this ramble.

The top of the ridge affords 360-degree views, and serpentine rock outcroppings host an array of interesting plants. A plant list is available on the CNPS Marin Chapter website.

Meet at the top end of Westward Dr., off Paradise Dr. in Corte Madera, a few blocks east of the Paradise Shopping Center (comestibles and restrooms available at Paradise Market). Latecomers will easily find our group higher up the trail that starts at the end of Westward. Bring a snack, plenty of water, and clothes for possibly cold, possibly hot, almost certainly breezy weather. This will be a joint outing with the Northern California Society of Botanical Artists (NCaSBA), so bring your sketching supplies if you are artistically inclined.

Leader: Kristin Jakob, kristinjacob@att.net, 415.388.1844 (land line).

California Academy of Sciences Green Roof

Thursday, June 16, 10–11:30 a.m.

Join Landscape Exhibits Team members Will Silver and Kendra Hauser for a tour of the iconic living roof at the California Academy of Sciences, composed of over 100 local California native species. By June, there should be quite a show of perennial plants in bloom. We'll hear how the Academy built and

maintains a garden on the roof of the museum, the benefits of green roofs, and how plants are selected to encourage wildlife, as well as some details about the scientific research that has been completed in this dynamic outdoor classroom. The tour will end with a look at the other California native gardens located around the perimeter of the building, which you are welcome to explore further after the tour concludes. The tour does not include admission to the Academy.

Space is limited; pre-registration required. Contact Laura Lovett at lelovett@earthlink.net or call 415.927.4561 to register. Meet-up location and carpooling information will be provided to registrants.

Nicasio Ridge (West Marin)

Saturday, June 18, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

The serpentine ridge of the Nicasio Highlands supports a diverse native plant community, including several rare species, and is much less heavily impacted by invasive species and human visitation than many other West Marin sites.

Thanks to the generosity of a private landowner, we'll have drive-in access to this section of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. We can expect to see *Ceanothus decornutus*, a newly described serpentine endemic known only from this region, as well as the yellow mariposa lily (*Calochortus luteus*), white rosinweed (*Calycadenia multiglandulosa*), and several clover species. We may also find some rare species still in flower, including Marin dwarf flax (*Hesperolinon congestum*) and Tamalpais jewelflower (*Streptanthus glandulosus*), and will look for other plants, including woolly blue-headed gilia (*Gilia capitata* ssp. *tomentosa*), small-flowered gilia (*G. clivorum*), and dwarf blue phacelia (*Phacelia divaricata*). A plant list will be made available.

Bring your lunch to eat while enjoying the spectacular views, and plan to help us spot possible lark sparrows and horned larks.

Meet at the junction of Laurel Canyon Rd. (private) and the Point Reyes-Petaluma Rd. (between Nicasio Reservoir and Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Park in the small lot on the west side of the Point Reyes-Petaluma Rd. We'll need to limit the number of cars going through the locked Laurel Canyon gate and on up to Nicasio Ridge. No water or restroom facilities are available. Some of the walking will be on uneven ground. Please sanitize your footwear prior to the hike, to prevent spreading any pathogen to the *Ceanothus* or other species.

Leaders: Ellen Hamingson and Carolyn Longstreth. For more information or to sign up, contact Carolyn at cklongstreth@gmail.com. Heavy rain cancels.

Field trip information continued on page 5

The Rare Plants of Bull Point

Sunday, June 26, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

As June turns into July at Bull Point on Point Reyes, what looks to most like just another cow pasture turns into Rare Plant Central!! There's the fragrant and rare *Horkelia marinensis*, which on a warm day will scent the air like honey perfume. There's rare *Linanthus* as far as the eye can see. And then there's several rare orchids and lilies! After touring Bull Point, the group will continue to the bluffs at the Drake's Beach parking lot to look for the stunning coastal gentian (*Gentiana affinis*) in bloom.

To get to Bull Point, take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. west past the town of Inverness, and at the fork in the road several miles past Inverness, follow the sign towards the Point Reyes Lighthouse. Bull Point is a few miles from the fork in the road, about a mile or so past the Drakes Estero turnoff.

Leader: Amelia Ryan.

Gary Giacomini Open Space Preserve

Saturday, July 9, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Gary Giacomini Open Space Preserve is 1,500 acres of rugged ridges, redwood canyons, serpentine meadows, and dwarf Sargent cypress woodlands. The preserve is named in honor of Gary Giacomini, a long-time West Marin County Supervisor who worked with the community to save this area from development. On this field trip, we'll visit serpentine meadow, chaparral, and redwood forest habitats. We'll see not only unique and interesting plants, but also areas where we can discuss protecting open space lands from invasive species (broom), succession pressure due to fire suppression, restoration efforts, and the Marin County Open Space District Road and Trail Management Plan.

Meet at the Redwood Canyon Drive Gate: From Highway 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and continue west 7.7 miles. Turn left onto Railroad Ave., make a sharp right onto San Geronimo Valley Dr., and take the second left onto Redwood Canyon Dr. The gate is immediately on the right and parking is available.

Leader: Linda Novy. For more information and to sign up, contact Susan Schlosser, scschlosser52@gmail.com, 707.834.6525.

Abbotts Lagoon, Point Reyes National Seashore

Saturday, July 23, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

The Abbotts Lagoon trail is gentle and flat; from the parking lot, it is two miles to the brackish lagoon. Fog

and moisture here result in a later blooming season. In July, we should see shrubs of the coastal chaparral such as coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), yellow bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*), California goldenbush (*Ericameria ericoides*), and salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*). Along the trail, we may encounter coast harebell (*Campanula californica*), marsh hedge nettle (*Stachys ajugoides*), marsh buttercup (*Ranunculus orthorhynchus*), and perhaps *Sidalcea*, *Oenanthe*, *Sparganium*, *Castilleja*, *Mimulus*, *Hydrocotyle*, and *Grindelia*. The dunes should be colorful with curly-leaved monardella (*Monardella undulata*), yellow sand-verbena (*Abronia latifolia*) and other dune specialists. If time permits, we'll check the upper bluffs for red-flowered catchfly (*Silene scouleri*) in bloom and perhaps coastal gentian (*Gentiana affinis*). A bonus for bird-lovers may be a frenzy of migrating hummingbirds on the hedge nettle.

Leader: Paul da Silva.

Tomales Bay St. Park, Jepson-Johnstone Trail

Sunday, August 14, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Leader: Carolyn Longstreth.

Tomales Bay State Park has botanical treasures any time of the year. The Johnstone-Jepson Trail will take us through the Zen-like bishop pine forest and mixed hardwoods to ledum swamps, decomposed granite beaches, and a small freshwater wetland. We'll eat huckleberries, marvel at the fruit on the California honeysuckle, search for the CNPS Listed 1B marsh harebell (*Campanula californica*), and have lunch at a beautiful secluded beach.

The four-mile round-trip hike is mostly in shade with plenty of birds, shrubs, and berries.

Take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. west through Marin, several miles past Inverness. Enter the National Seashore at the top of a hill and then continue down to a fork in the road. Bear right and go about a mile. Meet at the (unsigned) small parking area at the top of the Jepson Trail. If you reach the entrance to Tomales Bay State Park, turn around and go back 100–200 yards.

Giacomini Wetlands Excursion

Sunday, August 28, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

We'll start off with an overview of the 2008 Wetlands Restoration, which converted the 550-acre site from a dairy diked off from Lagunitas Creek to a fully connected tidal wetland. The talk will cover the transformation of the affected plant communities over the seven years since the restoration into an evolving mosaic of tidal wetlands, mudflat, grasslands and riparian forbs. The hike will follow the public trail towards the historic dairy barn where the group will stop to look over the wetlands, then proceed down into

Field trip information continued on page 6

Field trip information continued from page 5

them. This second part of the hike is not strenuous, but it will be off the formal trail, and the ground is somewhat uneven in places, so sensible shoes are advised. Once down in the tidal zone, group members will have a chance to look closely at the salt marsh plant community including arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*), pickleweed (*Salicornia pacifica*), gumplant (*Grindelia stricta*), and sea lavender (*Limonium californicum*); seek out the rare salt marsh annual Point Reyes bird's beak (*Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre*); and examine the upland transition zone, which has several native brackish water-tolerant native grasses such as creeping wildrye (*Elymus triticoides*), meadow barley (*Hordeum brachyantherum*), and Alaska alkali grass (*Puccinellia nutkaensis*). Total hike length is about 1.5 miles.

Meet at the Giacomini Wetlands Trailhead at the corner of 3rd and C Street, Point Reyes Station.

Leader: Lorraine Parsons, project manager for the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration.



PLANT FAMILIES AND PLANT ID WORKSHOPS AT SFSU!

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

Talented and knowledgeable graduate students at San Francisco State University lead these workshops on the second Thursday of the month. There will be a summer break during the months of June, July, and August. Workshops will resume September 8 and continue October 13, November 10, and December 8. The atmosphere is relaxed and there are no tests to take.

We'll discuss characteristics of a plant family using a PowerPoint presentation for approximately 20–30 minutes and then delve into keying plants of the same family. Understanding the characteristics of plant families is important not only when keying plants, but also when seeing them in the field. So let's be adventurous and see how much we can learn about plants and their families.

If you have a new edition of the *Jepson Manual*, bring it along with a hand lens. If you have further questions, please email Mila Stroganoff at milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net

Location: SFSU Botany Lab (Room 440) in Hensill Hall, 1600 Holloway Ave., San Francisco. Campus map: sfsu.edu/~sfsuemap/.

Directions: MUNI's M-Ocean line and #28 bus both stop at 19th Ave. & Holloway St. At the Daly City BART station, board an SFSU shuttle (it runs every 10–15 minutes). If you drive, there is street parking on 19th Ave. as well as paid campus parking. Hensill Hall is located just off 19th Ave., between Winston and Holloway.

MT. TAM BIOBLITZ REPORT

On May 7, I was the leader of one of several teams of budding naturalists who braved wind and rain to document the flora and fauna of Mt. Tamalpais State Park in the vicinity of Rock Spring during a Bioblitz organized by One Tam. My team investigated the serpentine outcrop near Rock Spring, and my task was to identify plants, in the field and afterward, from photos uploaded in iNaturalist.



Mt. Tamalpais jewelflower (*Streptanthus glandulosus* ssp. *pulchellus*)—Doreen Smith

The entire Bioblitz produced over 600 observations, including many occurrences of Mt. Tamalpais jewelflower (*Streptanthus glandulosus* ssp. *pulchellus*) (CNPS Rank 1B) in the serpentine area.

—Eva Buxton, Conservation Chair

BOARD & VOLUNTEER NEWS

Welcome, Susan Schlosser!

We are delighted that Susan Schlosser has stepped up to help organize our field outings! Susan moved from Arcata to Novato in 2012. A retired marine biologist, she loves getting out on the trail to look at plants and has become a regular on CNPS walks. Do say “hello” the next time you attend a field trip!

Welcome, Bonnie Gosliner!

Bonnie Gosliner, who also volunteers on the chapter’s website team, has offered to handle retail sales of the Marin Flora. She will supply copies to local parks, booksellers and other stores, as well as the state CNPS office. Bonnie is retired, after serving as a Librarian at the Corte Madera Library.

Thank you, Bonnie!

Needed: Membership Chair

The Marin chapter is looking for someone who can reach out to our members and really help our chapter grow! This is a very important position in a volunteer-based organization such as CNPS. The work can be done at home, and as Chair you can create a committee to help with the tasks, if you prefer.

CNPS members register with the state organization, and each chapter gets a monthly membership report in Excel spreadsheet format. The Membership Chair can decide to keep it simple with a welcome letter to new members on a monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual basis. We have a welcome letter already drafted; it just needs seasonal updating. CNPS stationery, envelopes, and nice little gifts such as a decal, bookmark, and informative brochures are provided for enclosures. Our chapter will reimburse you for any other expenditures, such as stamps.

We also have more ideas to share about various resources and how previous Membership Chairs have reached out to the general membership. Outreach to engage both new members and “old-timers” is vital to the work our chapter does within the community.

Please consider donating your time to an important cause. In the process, you can also help the board of directors come to decisions about what our chapter can do to best protect the amazing floristic resources of Marin County and the state at this critical time.

Please get in touch with me, or either of our Co-Vice Presidents, if you’re interested in helping. Thank you!

—Charlotte Torgovitsky

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

THIRD THURSDAY WEEDERS

Thursday, June 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. Over the past five years, the Weeders have made great progress on the iceplant and veldt grass infestations at the Outer Point, European beachgrass at Abbott’s Lagoon, perennial pepperweed in the Giacomini Wetland, and cape ivy at Pierce Point.

Going forward, the Seashore has designated the Weeders as site stewards for the road leading from the Lighthouse parking lot to the whalewatch platform. This location is a priority, high-visibility area that is in special need of regular, skilled attention. The group will remove iceplant seedlings, Bermuda buttercup, erharta grass, and other weeds as needed.



Three weeders taking a break on the Lighthouse Platform at Point Reyes

The Weeders’ summer sessions will take place on June 16, July 21, and August 18. Further details, including the meetup location, will be emailed to the group early each month. To be added to the email contact list, please send a message to leader Carolyn Longstreth at cklongstreth@gmail.com. Plan to bring plenty of water, lunch and snacks, warm and wind-stopping layers, sturdy shoes, work clothes. No shorts or open-toed shoes. The Park provides tools and gloves.

Hope to see you there!



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.

THE THREAT OF NON-NATIVE GRASSES



Rattlesnake grass cover in oak woodland along Bahia Trail in Novato—Eva Buxton

Many of you have heard me say that the greatest threat to our native vegetation, in my opinion, is non-native, annual grasses. The picture above was taken along the first quarter-mile stretch of Bahia Trail in Novato. It is easy to imagine what this slope in the oak woodland supported before one of the most invasive grass-species in Marin—rattlesnake grass (*Briza maxima*)—became established and outcompeted the many native plants associated with this plant community in the County. Along this trail, less than five percent of the cover consists of native species, including purple pincushion (*Sanicula bipinnatifida*),



Indian paintbrush among wild oats on Ring Mountain—Eva Buxton

blue-dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*), and ground iris (*Iris macrosiphon*).

In today's discussions about maintaining and restoring biodiversity on County lands, the use of herbicides to combat non-native species is at the forefront. IPM (Integrated Pest Management) includes the use of herbicides—it should be part of the “toolbox” and used where appropriate—but, unfortunately, vegetation management consisting of grazing, weed-whacking, or hand-pulling in grasslands, woodlands, and savannas appears to be seldom used. These methods need to be emphasized where non-native grasses are devastating native plant communities, and they are especially important where species that are listed under the Endangered Species Acts are being impacted. One such species is Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis* ssp. *neglecta*), which is being outcompeted by wild oats (*Avena* spp.) on Ring Mountain. Managing the ubiquitous, non-native grasses is an enormous task, both with respect to funds and manpower, but I wish that this type of plant would attract more attention from land managers and private property owners with land adjacent to open space than is presently the case.

—Eva Buxton, Conservation Chair



HALLBERG BUTTERFLY GARDENS

19th Annual Open Gardens Celebration

**Sunday, June 26,
10 a.m.–4 p.m.**



Walking Tours
Docents
Wildflower Display
Bird & Butterfly Sightings
Children's Activities

Handcrafted Items, Books, & Butterfly-attracting Plants for Sale

Free! No reservations needed!

Everyone is welcome to come and learn about the butterfly life cycle, wildlife gardening, and habitat preservation. Limited wheelchair access—please no smoking or pets.

8687 Oak Grove Ave., Sebastopol (off of Hwy 116, across from Oak Grove School). Please park along the street and walk down driveway or wait for the shuttle.

For more information, call 707.823.3420 or visit www.hallbergbutterflygardens.org.

PLANTS OF THE MONTH: SIDALCEA OF MARIN COUNTY

Text by Doreen Smith; photos by Vernon Smith

Several of our native mallows flower in May or later. Most of us are familiar with the commonest perennial species, *Sidalcea malviflora*, but may not have recently checked to find we are supposed to have three or more subspecies according to *Jepson Manual # 2* and their online *eFlora* website (<http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/>). Two other perennial species are less common and are listed rare; they are *Sidalcea calycosa* ssp. *rhizomata* of Pt. Reyes and *S. hickmanii* ssp. *viridis*, a serpentine endemic of Carson Ridge. There have been no reports of anyone seeing the latter for many years. We have a photograph of ssp. *anomala* from San Luis Obispo County. It is grown in East Bay Parks' Tilden Botanic garden and differs in having cut leaves and not round ones like our ssp. *viridis*.

We have two annual *Sidalcea* species: *Sidalcea diploscypha*, which can be seen in serpentine grassland such as at Big Rock by the Loma Alta trail and The seasonal wetland species *Sidalcea calycosa* ssp. *calycosa*, which is unusual in Marin and found accessible only near the MMWD Sky Oaks Bon Tempe reservoir's southeast end pump outlet.

Shown clockwise from upper right:

- Point Reyes checkerbloom (*Sidalcea calycosa* ssp. *rhizomata*)
- Dwarf checkerbloom (*S. malviflora* ssp. *malviflora*)
- Vernal pool annual checkerbloom (*S. calycosa* ssp. *calycosa*)
- Chaparral checkerbloom (*S. hickmanii*)
- Fringed checkerbloom (*S. diploscypha*)



ZEN OF WEEDING

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

2016 is the sixth year for our Marin CNPS collaboration with Samuel P. Taylor State Park and San Geronimo Valley's SPAWN (Salmon Protection and Watershed Network). Join us for easy, companionable work along the trails and around the campground. Spending time working under the redwoods restores our spirits as well as the habitat. It is very gratifying to see the native plants making a comeback where we have weeded.

We are excited to be providing a more pristine native environment for the endangered Coho salmon and all the birds and animals, as well as human visitors at this beautiful state park.

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

MARIN CNPS CONTACTS

Position	Name
President; Plant Sale Committee Co-Chair	Charlotte Torgovitsky
Co-Vice President; Plant Sale Committee Co-Chair; Program Chair	Kristin Jakob
Co-Vice President; Chapter Council Delegate	David Long
Treasurer, Board Member	Amelia Ryan
Recording Secretary, Nursery Outreach	April Post
Communications Chair, Board Member	Laura Lovett
Education Committee Chair, Board Member	Paul da Silva
Field Trip Co-coordinator, Board Member	Carolyn Longstreth
Field Trip Co-coordinator	Susan Schlosser
Legislation, Board Member	Phyllis Faber
Board Member	Jacoba Charles
<i>Marin Flora</i> Project	Wilma Follette
Book Sales	Jane Medley
Conservation and Invasives Committee Chair (Conservation)	Eva Buxton
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, <i>Marin Flora</i> mail orders	Vivian Mazur
<i>Marin Flora</i> retail sales	Bonnie Gosliner
Newsletter Editor	Krista Fechner
Newsletter Mailing	Paul Kryloff
Poster Sales	Gerd Jakob

Open Positions: Conservation and Invasives Committee Co-Chair (Invasives), Membership Committee Chair

PLANT ID WORKSHOPS AT THE COLLEGE OF MARIN

College of Marin Plant ID workshops will take a break for the summer. They will resume after the Labor Day weekend on September 9, and then continue on the first Friday of each month (October 7 and November 4). Workshops are held from 6–9 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.



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!

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 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 _____

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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:

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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)



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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 _____
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