



# California Native Plant Society

## MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

*Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)*

*Marin chapter established 1973*

### **Monday, March 14 Marin Chapter Meeting**

#### **Kipp McMichael on "Calochortus Pursuits: A Spring and Summer in Search of 'Beautiful Grass'"**

California is home to the lion's share of species in the genus *Calochortus*—they grow in every county of the state. Bay Area residents are lucky enough to live in the center of diversity for the genus. Such a locale is both a blessing and a curse, as the desire to see them all can be overwhelming! Kipp spent five months of 2015 on drives from the Bay Area to Southern California in search of these beautiful flowers. His presentation will include the natural history of this fascinating genus, a sampling of most of the species within a day's drive of Berkeley, and the habitats where these flowers can be found. The talk will include a photographic log of a spring and summer in search of this "beautiful grass."

Kipp McMichael is a web developer by profession and a plant-lover by temperament. He lives in Berkeley with his two husbands and far, far too many plants—mostly succulents and South African geophytes. When not pushing 1s and 0s, he spends as much time as possible exploring California's diverse landscapes, flora, and fauna.



*Calochortus argillosus* (clay mariposa lily)—Kipp McMichael

### **March meeting:**

**5:30 p.m.** Join friends and meet our (February) 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.



*Calochortus plummerae* (Plummer's mariposa lily)  
—Kipp McMichael



### **Save the Date!**

#### **WILD AT HOME: CALIFORNIA NATIVES IN THE GARDEN**

**Friday, April 29–Sunday, May 1**

Bolinas Community Center's 2016 Art & Garden

Performance, art, films, displays, vendors. All-species May Day Maypole in the park. A celebration of regional flora and fauna!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of my strongest motivations in creating habitat is my love and respect of all animals; I'm thrilled when I notice signs of the visitors that come at night, and even more so when I know they're living here and raising their young within the ecosystem we share on this hillside. This year, barn owls are breeding again in a nesting box hung at the meadow's edge; two screech owls live here as well, each in their own nesting box.

Besides huge compost and brush piles, plenty of water sources, a chemical-free environment, and the human food plants I grow, all inviting the animals in, the native plants in my garden provide resources at exactly the right time in the life cycles of all the native creatures. Last fall, the robins flocked to the toyons, feeding on the bright red berries, and then perching for some time in an old coast live oak. Within weeks, and especially since we've had some good rains, I noticed dozens and dozens of toyon seedlings under the oak, in the gravel pathways, and around the bird baths!

Once the birds and the bees and other creatures settle in to a safe haven, it's not that hard to notice that "Life itself creates conditions conducive to life." Native plants seem to just appear in the garden; I didn't plant them, and sometimes they're growing in places I couldn't plant them even if I wanted to! The animals bring in the seed, and if at all possible, I let the plants grow where they appear. I'm even more pleased when I notice natives like wildflowers, asters, and goldenrods growing in the wild areas of our property; they came from my garden, and are starting to re-establish wild populations without any attention from me.

Native animals need native plants, and if you love the animals, you have to love the plants, too! Marin CNPS has just started to work with the WildCare organization to help bring this message to the general public.



Planter box at WildCare—Laura Lovett

A volunteer group has been working with the architectural firm that is designing the new WildCare site in northern San Rafael. They included a native habitat garden as an important element at the new location, and Marin CNPS has the opportunity now to create the first public truly native demonstration garden in the county.

Meanwhile, since WildCare will be at their old location for another year or so, our volunteer team will be maintaining and refreshing natives growing in containers in their courtyard. Contact me if you would like to help!

Another important way that Marin CNPS gets the word out about native plants is by planning a number of opportunities to celebrate Native Plant Week, April 16–April 24. Our committee has been busy putting together a wide range of activities highlighting native plants.

We kick off the 10-day "week" with a spring plant sale on Saturday, April 16 at Falkirk Cultural Center in San Rafael. We're working with various groups and agencies within the County to host a number of the events we're promoting, such as naturalist-led hikes, classes, and hands-on workshops. The calendar of activities will be posted on the Marin chapter website as we finalize the details.

Our efforts are rewarded by developing new partnerships, increasing awareness of our organization, and expanding our own membership, enabling Marin CNPS to offer even more opportunities to engage in really meaningful ways with the natural world around us!

—Charlotte Torgovitsky



## CNPS 2016 WORKSHOPS

### ***March 14–15: Rare Plant Survey Protocols: A Scientific Approach***

**Instructors:** Heath Bartosh and Aaron Sims, with a lecture by Kristi Lazar

This course is designed to approach rare plant surveys using the best scientific information available. This scientific approach is built on conducting proper background review and literature searches, evaluating ecological information, assessing annual phenology, appropriate study design based on the scale of the survey area, survey execution, and adequate documentation of rare plant populations encountered.

This two-day course will include classroom and field settings where the instructors will cover three topic areas: preparing for surveys, conducting surveys, and reporting findings. Time in the field will be spent applying the concepts learned during classroom sessions.

**Location:** Oxnard Performing Arts & Convention Center, Oxnard, CA & Point Mugu State Park

**Cost:** CNPS members \$345 / non-members \$375.

*CNPS 2016 Workshops continued on page 3*

## **April 3–6: Measuring & Monitoring Plant Populations for Adaptive Management**

**Instructor:** John Willoughby

Using classroom and field exercises, this workshop will focus on the role of plant population monitoring for adaptive management. Participants will learn how to develop good management objectives.

Topics include principles of sampling and several sampling designs, field techniques for measuring vegetation, analysis of monitoring data, and presentation of results.

Participants will receive a copy of the BLM-published book, *Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations*, by Caryl Elzinga, Dan Salzer, and John Willoughby; a binder with all of the material presented at the workshop; and a CD containing helpful computer programs, papers, and other materials.

**Location:** CSU Desert Studies Center, Zzyzx, CA

**Cost:** CNPS members \$610 / non-members \$640. Includes meals and lodging for three nights.

## **May 3–5: Intro to Plant Identification: Northern California**

**Instructor:** Josie Crawford

This 2.5-day introductory workshop will include classroom presentations/exercises, with at least half of the time spent in the field. We will begin with basic plant structure terminology, then learn the terminology and characteristics of some of the most common California plant families, which will reduce the amount of time required to key most plants to genus and species.

Participants will be introduced to using dichotomous keys (such as *The Jepson Manual*) and other resources available to identify plants. Scientific names will be used throughout the workshop. Common native and non-native species will be covered, including species in riparian, oak woodland, and grassland areas. Emphasis will be given to northern California species; however, information learned in this class will be readily applicable throughout California and the world.

To earn a certificate of completion, participants will need to pass a test at the end of the workshop, where they will be expected to use the plant terminology covered, recognize plants learned, and identify the family in which they belong.

**Location:** Dye Creek Preserve, Los Molinos, CA (between Redding & Chico)

**Cost:** CNPS members \$375 / non-members \$395. Includes lodging at Dye Creek.

For more detailed course descriptions and to register, visit [www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops](http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops). Pre-registration is required for all CNPS workshops. If you would like to receive monthly updates about CNPS workshops, email [breilly@cnps.org](mailto:breilly@cnps.org).

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- \* **Friday 3/4, 6–9 p.m. (also 4/1)**  
Plant ID Workshop at College of Marin
- \* **Monday 3/7, 7 p.m.**  
Chapter Board Meeting, 30 N. San Pedro Rd., San Rafael
- \* **Thursday 3/10, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**  
Marin Co. Parks Naturalist Walk: Rush Creek
- \* **Friday 3/11, 1–3 p.m. (also 3/13, 4/8, and 4/10)**  
The Zen of Weeding, Samuel P. Taylor State Park, Lagunitas
- \* **Sunday 3/13, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**  
Marin Co. Parks Naturalist Walk: Indian Valley
- \* **Monday 3/14, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**  
Chapter Meeting: Kipp McMichael on “Calochortus Pursuits: A Spring and Summer in Search of ‘Beautiful Grass’”
- \* **Tuesday 3/15, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**  
Marin Co. Parks Naturalist Walk: Baltimore Canyon
- \* **Thursday 3/17, 9:30 a.m.**  
Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Point Reyes
- \* **Sunday 3/20, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.**  
Marin Co. Parks Naturalist Walk: Olompali State Park
- \* **Thursday 3/24, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.**  
Marin Co. Parks Naturalist Walk: Senior Stroll on the Coast Trail
- \* **Saturday 3/26, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.**  
Ring Mountain Grassland Restoration
- \* **Monday 3/28, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**  
Marin Co. Parks Naturalist Walk: Cascade Canyon
- \* **Monday 4/4, 7 p.m.**  
Chapter Board Meeting, 30 N. San Pedro Rd., San Rafael
- \* **Thursday 4/7, 7–9 p.m.**  
Soil Health Talk: Biochar, Water Conservation, and Effective Soil Enhancement
- \* **Monday 4/11, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**  
Chapter Meeting: Bob Stewart on “Plant-Animal Interactions in Southeast Arizona”
- \* **Saturday 4/16, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**  
Chapter Spring Plant Sale, Falkirk Cultural Center, San Rafael
- \* **Saturday 4/16–Sunday 4/24**  
California Native Plant Week (details in April newsletter)

## **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).

## BOARD NEWS

Many thanks to the board members willing to serve again in 2016! We still have several open positions that are vital to the club:

### ***Needed: Recording Secretary***

Previous Secretary Sam Abercrombie left Marin in January, so we are in urgent need of a board member who can attend our first Monday board meetings (held January–June, and September–November), take minutes, submit a draft by email for board review prior to the next meeting, and prepare a corrected version suitable for posting on the chapter website. This could be an ideal position for someone new to the board.

### ***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

### ***Needed: Marin Flora Sales Volunteer***

Wilma Follette has retired from her long-held position handling *Marin Flora* book inventory and distribution on behalf of CNPS Marin. Vivian Mazur handles individual mail-order retail sales, and Jane Medley sells them along with other books at our membership meetings and events, but we need a person willing to fulfill the periodic state CNPS office orders by UPS, as well as supply the books to a small number of local retailers.

We are very grateful to Mia Monroe, who is storing the inventory at her Mill Valley home! Records need to be maintained and an annual inventory and sales report provided to our chapter Treasurer. Anyone interested in helping the chapter in this important capacity may contact Wilma Follette at 415.332.4048 or Kristin Jakob at 415.388.1844/kristinjakob@att.net. Many thanks to Wilma for her dedication to the *Marin Flora* project, and Wilma earnestly hopes that we find a successor soon!



## Save the Date!

## SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE

Co-sponsored by CNPS Marin Chapter & Marin Master Gardeners

***Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.***

Our focus this spring is on “Plants for Pollinators.” We’ll be kicking off California Native Plant Week with the plant sale and a talk at the Falkirk Cultural Center in central San Rafael where we held last fall’s successful sale.

We’ll be highlighting a variety of native flowering perennials and grasses, along with expert advice on the plants that offer resources for all our native creatures, including insects and birds that provide pollination services. Home Ground Habitat Nursery is nurturing a selection of unusual native perennials, bunchgrasses, and shrubs grown from seed, cuttings, or divisions by our dedicated group of volunteer plant propagators. We’ll have seed packets for sale as well as a wide selection of native plant books, educational posters, and notecards.

At 11 a.m., Dr. Paul da Silva, entomologist and biology professor at College of Marin, will lead a free “walk and talk” through the demonstration gardens at Falkirk on “Native Plants and Native Insects: Partners in Ecosystems.” Come by and learn more about the life cycles of these creatures from an engaging expert!

An event like this takes months of planning for just a few days of work, but many hands make the work light and friendly people working together have a good time! We need volunteers on Friday, April 15 to do setup, pricing, and displaying of plants, and on Saturday, April 16 to help with sales, membership, and coordinating, as well as providing plant advice and making guests feel welcome. Please help if you can! Each volunteer can choose a free plant as a thank-you gift.

Please contact plant sale co-chairs:

- Kristin Jakob, 415.388.1844, kristinjakob@att.net
- Charlotte Torgovitsky, 415.892.9148, torgovitsky@comcast.net

**Location:** Falkirk Cultural Center, 1408 Mission Street, San Rafael

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: CALIFORNIA WILDFLOWERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Come visit this newly opened photography exhibit at the San Francisco Public Library by City Hall. Exquisite photographs by Rob Badger and Nita Winter highlight spectacular wildflower landscapes and intimate floral portraits created on California's public lands—from Death Valley National Park to the high alpine rock gardens above 11,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The exhibit runs through March 27 and can be seen in the Jewett Gallery on the lower floor.



## RING MOUNTAIN GRASSLAND RESTORATION

**Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Let's celebrate Ring Mountain Preserve for our 16<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 native grassland that make 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. Please bring gloves if you have them. 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. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Greg Reza at 415.473.3778.

**Location:** Meet at the gate at the end of Taylor Rd. in 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).

## BOY SCOUTS & WESTERN SWORD FERN

In January, I took a rambunctious group of ten 10-year-old Boy Scouts on a hike up Cascade Falls canyon in Mill Valley to talk about trees and associated ecology for their Forestry Badge. Hopefully they absorbed some information in between wild jaunts throughout the canyon!



Boy Scouts on the trail—Rix Kramlich

I had been made aware of yellowing of the foliage on Western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*) by the Mill Valley Stream Keepers earlier, but I observed the condition of the ferns myself for the first time. According to Kristin Jakob, when these ferns are stressed from drought, thrips (sap-sucking insects) infest the ferns in such large numbers that the fronds first attain a silvery color, then become yellow, and finally die. I also noticed that the sword ferns along Sir Francis Drake Blvd. in San Geronimo Valley have been attacked by thrips, and several of the plants appeared to be dead or dying.



Western sword fern affected by thrips—Eva Buxton

Other ferns that grow sympatrically (in the same vicinity), such as giant chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*) and California polypody (*Polypodium californicum*), were not affected. Let us hope that with plenty of rain this winter, the iconic sword ferns in Marin will revive!  
—Eva Buxton

## TENTATIVE PLANS FOR CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT WEEK 2016

California Native Plant Week will take place April 16 to April 24. The theme this year is plants and pollinators.

### **Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Marin CNPS Spring Plant Sale at Falkirk Cultural center in San Rafael, co-sponsored with Marin Master Gardeners. Talk at 11 a.m. by Paul da Silva on “Native Plants and Native Insects: Partners in Ecosystems.”

### **Sunday, April 17**

“Natives at the Nursery” talk at Green Jeans Garden Supply in Strawberry with owner Kevin Sadlier.

### **Sunday, April 17, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Marin Audubon Society will host a walk, talk, and workday on native plants and birds of the tidal wetlands at their Bahia marsh restoration site.

### **Monday, April 18**

Jaime Pawelek of the UC Berkeley Urban Bee Lab will give a garden tour and talk about their work to document bee diversity and bee frequencies on wild California plants. At Charlotte Torgovitsky’s home, Novato.

### **Tuesday, April 19, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Jolie Elan will offer a three-hour class, “Intro to Botany,” at SPAWN’s home in Forest Knolls.

### **Tuesday, April 19, 3:30–4:30 p.m.**

WildCare will welcome families to learn about habitat for wildlife at their site on Albert Park Lane, San Rafael.

### **Wednesday, April 20, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Hike with Jolie Elan through Deer Park in Fairfax and learn about “Native Wild Foods and Medicines.”

### **Thursday, April 21**

Join the Third Thursday Weeders to tackle invasive weeds that threaten important plant habitat in the Point Reyes National Seashore.

### **Thursday, April 21, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

David Herlocker of Marin County Parks will lead a walk to view and learn about “Wildflowers of Mt. Burdell.”

### **Friday, April 22, 12–1 p.m.**

Garden designer Kate Frey, author of *The Bee-Friendly Garden*, will give a talk and sign copies of her book at the Marin Civic Center Library.

### **Saturday, April 23, 10–11 a.m.**

SOD (Sudden Oak Death) Blitz training at Dominican College in San Rafael. Samples have to be collected soon after the training, and all collection materials will be provided, except for mobile phone or GPS device.

### **Saturday, April 23, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

On Earth Day, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy will sponsor a workday to help protect endangered species and restore sensitive habitat on Mt. Tam.

### **Sunday, April 24, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

David Herlocker of Marin County Parks will lead a walk to view and learn about “Wildflowers of Mt. Burdell.”

### **Sunday, April 24**

“Natives at the Nursery” talk at the CNL Native Plant Nursery on shoreline Highway in Mill Valley with owner and landscape designer Dan Dufficy.



## PLANT FAMILIES AND PLANT ID WORKSHOPS AT SFSU!

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

Talented and knowledgeable graduate botany students at San Francisco State University lead these workshops on the second Thursday of the month. Upcoming workshop dates are March 10 and April 14. The atmosphere is relaxed and there are no tests to take.

We will 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 on this, the first leg of our journey, and see how much we can learn about plants and the families they belong to.

If you have the old or new edition of the *Jepson Manual* or *Plants of the San Francisco Bay Region: Mendocino to Monterey*, bring it along with a hand lens. If you have any further questions, please email Mila Stroganoff at [milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net).

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



## 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.

*Please join us for a thought-provoking talk on soil health:*

## **Biochar, Water Conservation, and Effective Soil Enhancement**

**Thursday, April 7, 7-9 p.m.**

Biochar is a specialized form of charcoal made from waste wood burned at high temperatures in low-oxygen environments. Combined with compost and mixed into the topsoil in small quantities, biochar has been demonstrated to retain and enhance soil health, improve soil moisture, increase crop yields, and sequester carbon safely for decades or longer.

Under Director Dr. David Morell's leadership, the Sonoma Ecology Center's (SEC) Sonoma Biochar Initiative has learned a great deal about the use of biochar to reduce water use and improve soil health. The SEC has sponsored numerous education and outreach events, including a national biochar conference in 2012 at Sonoma State University. A grant received in 2014 allowed the SEC to purchase and operate its own—and California's first—farm-scale biochar production unit.



Dr. David Morell—Sonoma Ecology Center

At this talk, Dr. Morell will describe the biochar process and share preliminary results from three field trials conducted last year. The Sonoma Biochar Initiative and the Marin chapter of CNPS are exploring a partnership to remediate the exhausted and abused soils at the site of a new native plant garden we are designing. This would be the first time tests could be run on soils with biochar amendment for a site that was not planted with agricultural crops, but rather one that represented growing conditions similar to our home gardens. We are excited about the partnership.

Dr. Morell brings to biochar a wide range of experience in varied aspects of environmental management, leadership, and research. He taught at Princeton

University, helping establish its Center for Energy and Environmental Studies, and held senior positions with the US Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco. He was a senior director of California's hazardous waste management program and Toxics Coordinator for Santa Clara County. Author of five books and over 50 published articles, he has worked extensively on international projects for the World Bank and World Wildlife Fund in Mexico, Russia, and Thailand.

**Location:** Drake's Landing Community Room, Greenbrae

**Directions:** Drakes's Landing is at the junction of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and 101 in Greenbrae. From Sir Francis Drake traveling east, turn into the Drakes's Landing office park just before the 101 on-ramp. Turn left, then look for Jason's Restaurant toward the back of the complex. For those exiting from 101, go to the stoplight at Barry Way/Eliseo Drive (by the Shell station) and make a U-turn in order to access the office park. Enter under the blue awning that says "Jason's" and go left into the community room.

## **INVITE: MCL INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES SUBCOMMITTEE**

At the end of 2014, a subcommittee of the Marin Conservation League's Parks and Open Space committee was formed by a few of the members of the committee. The mission of the subcommittee is to educate and inform the citizens of Marin County about the threat to open spaces posed by invasive plants and to mobilize the human, financial, and institutional resources of our county in order to take effective action to restore our open spaces to their natural condition to a reasonably feasible extent. Please let me know if you would like to join our subcommittee and I will give you further information on when and where we meet.

—Eva Buxton, [evabuxton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:evabuxton@sbcglobal.net)

## **JOE KOHN AND KEN HOWARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Marin Chapter of CNPS is pleased to offer scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students doing research on California native plants during the 2016–17 academic year. Possible areas of study include plant systematics, plant ecology, plant physiology, plant community restoration, and other related botanical studies of native plants that grow in Northern or Central California.

The number of scholarships and award amounts will be announced later. For more information, visit the Marin Chapter website at [www.cnpsmarin.org](http://www.cnpsmarin.org).

## **MARCH MARIN COUNTY PARKS NATURALIST WALKS**

The walks listed here are for ages 15+. MCP requests that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel: if weather is questionable, call 415.893.9527 after 8 a.m. on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. Questions: Contact hike leader David Herlocker at 415.893.9508/ DHerlockermarincounty.org.

### **Rush Creek**

***Thursday, March 10, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.***

The combination of tidal wetlands, oak woodland, grasslands, and shrub habitats makes Rush Creek Preserve one of the most diverse sites in the county. As we transition from winter to spring, we should see some early season wildflowers getting started. This is also a great place to see a variety of raptors, shorebirds, waterfowl, and land birds. The road sometimes gets quite muddy, so wear appropriate footwear.

Meet at the Pinheiro Fire Rd. gate on Binford Rd. in Novato. From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for Atherton Ave. east. Turn left onto Binford Rd. The gate is on the right.

### **Indian Valley**

***Sunday, March 13, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.***

We'll start the day with a look at the frogs, toads, and newts that breed here, then we'll slowly ascend a rather steep road, stopping all along the way to enjoy the flowers, birds, and other wildlife. We'll pass through an area that is carpeted with a plant known as Indian warrior; with luck, it will be in full bloom.

Meet at the College of Marin Indian Valley Campus in Novato, parking lot 6 (1800 Ignacio Blvd.) From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the Ignacio Blvd./Bel Marin Keys Blvd. exit west onto Ignacio Blvd. approximately 2.5 miles, all the way through campus. Parking lot 6 is adjacent to the police station.

### **Baltimore Canyon**

***Tuesday, March 15, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.***

This is one of the best places to see a great variety of early blooming wildflowers. Within just a mile of the gate, we can find an amazing assortment of different habitats (and birds, bees, and more).

Meet at the gate at the end of Crown Rd. in Kent Woodlands. From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd. west 2.1 miles. Turn left onto College Ave., right onto Woodland Rd., then left onto Evergreen Dr. Continue uphill to the intersection with

Ridgecrest; 50 feet uphill from this junction, turn left onto Crown Rd., and follow to end (dead end).

### **Olompali State Park**

***Sunday, March 20, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.***

We'll enjoy an early spring outing to explore the other side of the mountain that we call Mount Burdell. Clint Kellner, who has been volunteering at Olompali for 15 years, will guide us on a tour that will start with the Victorian gardens and historic sites. Then we'll head up the 2.5-mile loop trail and look for native grasses, wildflowers, and the newly designated State Lichen of California. The walk will end with a stop at the recreated Miwok village and ethnobotanical garden where we will enjoy lunch.

Meet at the Olompali State Park entrance in Novato. From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr. west, take the first right onto Redwood Blvd., go 2.5 miles, and turn left into the parking area.

### **Senior Stroll on the Coast Trail**

***Thursday, March 24, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.***

This trail is one of the best places to see the early blooming wildflowers of the Marin Headlands. We'll follow a level road along a sheltered, north-facing slope where a number of "coastal specialties" should be flowering.

Meet at the Coast Trail trailhead at the junction of McCullough and Conzelman Rd. From Hwy 101, take the exit for Alexander Ave. Turn left at stop, then right up the hill on Conzelman Rd. and go 1.1 miles to McCullough Rd. Parking lot is on the west side of the roundabout.

### **Cascade Canyon**

***Monday, March 28, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.***

Flowers, birds, and butterflies will surround us as we enjoy a spring day in this Fairfax preserve. This canyon is the upper reach of the San Anselmo Creek watershed, a pristine wildlife refuge, and truly one of the jewels of Marin County. We should find an assortment of lilies and other shade-loving flowers in the forest, as well as some early returning avian migrants such as orange-crowned warblers, Pacific slope flycatchers, and warbling vireos.

Meet at the gate at the end of Cascade Dr. From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd. west to Fairfax 3.4 miles. Turn left onto Pacheco Ave., turn right onto Broadway, and make first left onto Bolinas Rd. Go 0.4 miles, make a slight right onto Cascade Dr. (at the stop sign), and continue about 1.5 miles to the gate (dead end). Parking is limited.

# PLANT OF THE MONTH

Text by Doreen Smith; photos by Vernon Smith

One of California's iconic native annual wildflowers, baby-blue-eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) is a variable taxon but easily recognized wherever it occurs. As with many annuals, it occurs sporadically in moist grassland sites. I think there are declining numbers here due to competition with introduced weedy plants.

The Pt. Reyes Lighthouse parking area, the Bull Point area, Rock Spring meadow, and the hills near Nicasio Reservoir are usually reliable places to see them.

Variation within a named species is quite common, and here in Marin there are several color forms ranging from white to blue, and rarely, pale mauve.



*Nemophila menziesii* var *atomaria* (Chimney Rock)

In coastal Marin, the flowers are heavily spotted with black, the petals are either white or pale blue, and they are called var. *atomaria*.



*Nemophila menziesii* var *atomaria* (Bull Point)

Inland at Nicasio and on Mt. Tamalpais they have fewer smaller spots and are bluer in color.

The sort that grows from the commercial seed packet is bluer still, has no spots, and features a white center. The origin is presumed to have been Southern California.



*Nemophila menziesii* var *menziesii* (Nicasio Reservoir)



## FREE NATIVE PLANT GARDEN CONSULTATION

April Post is making herself available for a free consultation for anybody who will include local natives in their garden. She is a retired landscaper with more than 30 years of experience in Marin maintaining and designing gardens, specializing in organic methods and native plants.



## REMEMBERING AL MOLINA

Long-time College of Marin Professor Al Molina, who passed away in 1997, is still fondly remembered by many in our community. He was instrumental in stimulating interest in our native flora for several generations of students. He was also a key force behind the formation of the Marin Chapter of CNPS. A special ceremony commemorating his contributions and dedicating a new museum cabinet in his honor is planned at the College for May of this year. All people who knew Al or would like to know more about him are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Dr. Paul da Silva at Pdasilva@marin.edu or 415.485.9542.



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

## THIRD THURSDAY WEEDERS

Third Thursday Weeders will be getting back to work after a winter break. For information about the session scheduled for March 17 and to sign up, please contact Carolyn Longstreth at cklongstreth@gmail.com.

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

## PLANT ID WORKSHOPS AT THE COLLEGE OF MARIN

College of Marin Plant ID Workshops have resumed in 2016 on the first Friday evening of each month. Upcoming dates are March 4, April 1, and May 6. Workshops will be held from 6–9 p.m. in SMN 112 on the Kentfield campus. The easiest access is from Parking Lot #9 off Kent Avenue. From there, it is just a short walk across the footbridge to the SMN building. Bring plant samples and the *Marin Flora* if you can! For more information, contact Dr. Paul da Silva ([pdasilva@marin.edu](mailto: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](mailto:deliveriesmarincnps@gmail.com) with "Email Newsletter" in the subject line and your name and address in the body of the email. Many thanks!

## 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	Amelia Ryan
Board Member, Communication Chair	Laura Lovett
Board Member; Education Committee Chair	Paul da Silva
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
Field Trip Coordinator	Tori Bohlen
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

**Open Positions:** Conservation and Invasives Committee Co-Chair (Invasives), Membership Committee Chair, *Marin Flora* volunteer, Secretary

***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
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- 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

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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](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)

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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](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!

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your smartphone or tablet  
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*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 \_\_\_\_\_