



California Native Plant Society

MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)

Marin chapter established 1973

Monday, October 10 Marin Chapter Meeting

Ralph & Lisa Shanks on “Indian Baskets of Northern California and Oregon”

Ralph and Lisa Shanks are Marin CNPS members who have studied Native American basketry for decades. Working in museums across America and in Europe and with skilled native weavers, a major focus of their research is on how California native plants were used in basketry. California Indian baskets are made from an amazing array of our native plants, including everything from redwood roots to Joshua trees! The rich California native flora allowed Native American weavers to create our state’s first and finest native art.

Ralph’s talk will have two main goals. First: introducing you to the basketry of Northern California and Oregon and explaining how native plants were central to the creation of these beautiful baskets. Second: drawing together the research from all three books to explain the significance of California Indian basketry in the region.

This will be the third presentation the Shanks have made at CNPS Marin. It results from the completion of their beautiful new book, *Indian Baskets of Northern California and Oregon*. This is the third and final book in the Indian Baskets of California and Oregon series. All three books in the series will be available for sale at the meeting.

Ralph Shanks is the author of eight books, nearly all of them dealing with California. He is Research Associate in Anthropology at the University of California at Davis and co-president of the Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin (MAPOM). One of his first published articles appeared in *Fremontia*, volume 1, number 1.

Lisa Woo Shanks is the editor of the Indian Baskets of California and Oregon Series. She is Research Associate for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, covering Sonoma County south to Santa Barbara County. The Shanks live in Novato.

Monday, November 14 Marin Chapter Meeting

Mia Monroe on “Muir Woods—A Close Look at Park Health During the NPS Centennial”

Muir Woods...set aside as a primeval forest over a century ago and now one of the most loved places... take a walk with a national park ranger to learn what scientists are sharing with the National Park Service on the health and future of this redwood forest, with a focus on the good news as well as what is disturbing. We’ll also look at restoration efforts and learn about park plans to better manage this special place during the NPS’ second century!



Mia Monroe—NPS photo

Mia Monroe is a national park ranger, currently working as the NPS Marin Community Liaison, yet still deeply rooted in several decades of park work at Muir Woods National Monument. She helped establish park nurseries, took part in restoring the Redwood Creek watershed from the lagoon at Muir Beach to the old-growth redwood forests, and is currently in the thick of the new One Tam collaboration. Guided by Rachel Carson’s suggestion to foster a sense of wonder in youth, Mia believes that walking to observe and learn, involving others in dialogue and stewardship, is the

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way to work. She watches out for monarchs, has a fondness for ferns, and kisses banana slugs.

October and November meetings:

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. We'll resume meetings in the main auditorium in October—please look for directional signage if the main entrance is still under construction, as there might be a temporary entrance just to the right. We apologize for any inconvenience!

Monday, January 9, 2017 Marin Chapter Meeting

CNPS Members' Photos from 2016 Botanical Adventures

Our January membership meeting program will be a potluck medley of your best pictures from botanical forays in California and beyond. Please contact Program Chair Kristin Jakob (415.388.1844/kristinjakob@att.net) by December 1, 2016 with your proposed subject and number of images; you will be contacted as she composes the program based on your submissions; an average of five presenters with about 20 images each would be ideal. The images can be in the form of a PowerPoint slideshow, or images on a flash drive.



RING MOUNTAIN GRASSLAND RESTORATION

Saturday, October 29, 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 preserve is home to numerous rare and endangered plants, but the habitat is threatened by invasive species. This month there may be some opportunities to remove invasive weeds, but our main task will be to get our hands dirty rolling small balls of mud and native seeds to plant later in restoration areas. Educational components are included as we discuss the flowers and plants in the seed mix, as well as projects to restore habitat at Ring Mountain. Drop in any time and stay as long as you want!

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. It is possible for volunteers as young as five years old to join if teamed with a parent or guardian. 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. 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. RSVP's are appreciated but not required.

Check the Marin County Parks event calendar (www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/calendar) for information about drop-in days.

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

Directions: Meet at the Phyllis Ellman trailhead on Paradise Dr. in Corte Madera. 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 mile (go past Westward Dr.) The gate is on the right.



FIRST ANNUAL MARIN CNPS MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT!

Friday November 11, 5:30–7 p.m.

Get to know your fellow plant lovers in Marin!

We are holding an informal gathering for members and friends. Please stop by and have a drink with us and hear what we have planned for the upcoming year. Meet the Board members and tell us your ideas—we'd like to get to know you and hear from you. The invitation is open to friends as well as members who would like to learn more about who we are and what we do. Beer, wine, and light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!

Location: Drake's Landing Community Room, 300 Drakes Landing Road, 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 right into the Drake'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 onto Sir Francis Drake, go to the stoplight at Barry Way/Eliseo Drive (by the Shell station), make a U-turn, and turn right into the office park. Enter under the blue awning that says Jason's and go left into the community room.

BOARD NEWS

Election Slate

Dear members,

The Marin chapter's annual meeting for the election of officers and board members will be held in conjunction with the Chapter's regular public membership meeting on Monday, November 14, at 8 p.m. at the Redwoods in Mill Valley. Nominations may be made from the floor. The slate of Marin Chapter officers and board members for 2017 is as follows:

- *President: Open*
- *Co-Vice President: David Long*
- *Co-Vice President: Kristin Jakob*
- *Secretary: April Post*
- *Treasurer: Amelia Ryan*
- *Board Members:*
 - *Eva Buxton*
 - *Jacoba Charles*
 - *Paul da Silva*
 - *Phyllis Faber*
 - *Carolyn Longstreth*
 - *Laura Lovett*
 - *Charlotte Torgovitsky*

We still have several openings for board members. If you might be interested in serving, or would like to suggest another member (with their permission!) for a board position, please contact one of the following people: David Long, 415.381.6327/sfdlong@ix.netcom.com; or Kristin Jakob, 415.388.1844/kristinjakob@att.net.

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 or quarterly 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 either of our Co-Vice Presidents, if you're interested in helping. Thank you!

A Welcome Donation of Funds and Time Towards Conservation Efforts

Janice Barry, former chapter board member, has made a donation to the Marin Chapter to help fund skilled weeding work on Tiburon's Middle Ridge. The goal is to improve conditions for the endemic Tiburon jewelflower, whose habitat is threatened by nonnative wild oats and other interlopers. Janice has also offered to assist Eva Buxton on the Conservation Committee—thank you, Janice!!

—Kristin Jakob, Co-Vice President



CNPS SCHOOL PROGRAMS

A native habitat garden in every Marin county school: That's our long-term goal, but we need YOU to help make it a reality. Marin CNPS is forming a School Programs Committee to support this effort with educational materials, native plant donations, and a list of mentors available for hands-on advice and help at local schools.

The CNPS School Programs Committee will be collaborating with the Salmon Protection and Watershed Network (SPAWN) to develop a native plant gardening manual with very specific information on native plants and plant communities; gardening timelines and local resources; and native insects, birds, and other pollinators. It will provide real help and support for the schools and teachers.

For children, in particular, a habitat garden can be a big, wild world full of delights to be discovered and a wonderful introduction to the concept of stewardship of nature. A native garden, alive with pollinators, birds, and other small animals, is a great, year-round outdoor classroom for all sorts of related studies as well. Most children are eager to get outside and get their hands dirty; for many it becomes one of their favorite activities!

Please let us know if you would like to be involved—either by serving on the committee to help us develop these materials, or by working directly with a particular school. Our first meeting will be scheduled in October.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Charlotte Torgovitsky at 415.892.9148 or torgovitsky@comcast.net.

GARDENING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

by Charlotte Torgovitsky

Blue oaks (*Quercus douglasii*) mingle with the coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) on our hillside in Novato, and for blue oaks, this is close to the southern limit of their range. After several months of totally dry weather, the leaves of the blue oaks are starting to drop. The oaks follow the buckeyes, another summer deciduous native species, whose bare limbs reveal clusters of large dangling nuts, the largest of all the native seeds.

I measured less than an inch of rain in the month of April this year, and other than a few sprinkles around the first of May, many of my established native plants have not had any additional water. Lots of native perennial bunchgrasses, especially the cool-season bloomers, look brown at first glance, but there are enough green blades at the center to support the larvae of the woodland skipper (*Ochiodes sylvanoides*). These little butterflies are swarming at the flowers of the grape-scented sage (*Salvia melissodora*)...literally hundreds of them, dancing and skipping from flower to flower, then circling and twirling up in pairs to identify a potential mate.

The skippers also appreciate nectar from the tarweeds, which are still blooming in late summer, but they are particularly fond of the tiny pink flowers of *Epilobium brachycarpum* (*E. paniculatum*). I've seen this "weed" growing in masses, and thought it quite lovely, so when a few showed up in my garden, I let them be. That was about the same time that I made an effort to positively identify the skippers, and then discovered that they are just about the only butterfly that can access the nectar from that little wildflower!

So even when our hills are looking brown and dry, there's still plenty of plant life to support all sorts of creatures. Acorns have started dropping, and deer that have ready access to oak trees will eat up to 300 acorns a day, making up the bulk of their diet in fall months. They browse some native shrubs—species that retain most of their leaves even in the driest months—but do no harm to established plants.

I have beautiful specimens of coast silk tassel, mountain mahogany, cream bush, toyon, quail bush, holly-leaf cherry, and manzanitas, all growing in areas open to the deer. We'll be offering all these great natives, and many others, at the chapter Fall Plant Sale.

Many of the shrubs being sold were started from locally collected seed and have been nurtured along for two years. We're growing many of the natives in containers that are taller, but narrower, than standard gallon-sized

pots. This style of container allows a really vigorous root system to develop. Look for the plants with the CNPS plant stakes; they are grown locally specifically for our chapter. Plant them out during the rainy season, with some protection for the first few years, and then enjoy a totally drought-tolerant landscape!

The deer I have figured out: I know what they eat and what they aren't interested in. Not so with the western gray squirrels! There's a nice population in our oak woodlands, but the last few very dry summers have been hard on them. They eat acorns, too, but are also opportunistic, and will eat fungus and fruits and even eggs if they find them. Omnivorous creatures like this need more smarts to figure out what can be food!



Western gray squirrel—Bob and Mieko Watkins

I have a food garden, and of course this has to be fenced off from the deer, but there is no way to fence out squirrels. The previous summer was even drier, and it took me a while to figure out what was happening. By the time I did, the squirrels had eaten every single totally green, unripe persimmon from my tree. Then they ate all the sunflower heads, climbing up the seven-foot stalks to nip off the large heads full of seeds. They dug out, and ate, many of the native bulbs I had carefully planted between stepping stones. The squirrels ate all my jalapeno peppers—who knew that they loved spicy food? Then they ate all the leaves off many of my succulents, and they even started to destroy my pine cone collection, looking for seeds no longer within any of the cones. They were so bold that year that they came right up onto my back porch to steal the buckeye seeds I'd planned to grow.

I can't blame them, though I felt ready to kill a few, and eat them myself! In the 12 years we've lived here I've created a garden full of resources for all creatures, which was my intention. I want to share with all living things; I just wish that some of these wild animals also understood how to share!

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

THIRD THURSDAY WEEDERS

Thursday, October 20, 9:30 a.m. (also 11/17 and 12/15)

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.



Carolyn and Leslie attack iceplant on a dune restoration site at Point Reyes—NPS Photo

Going forward, the Weeders are focusing on 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, erhart grass, and other weeds as needed.

Details, including the meet-up 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!

— Carolyn Longstreth

AZALEA HILL RESTORATION PROJECT

The Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) has proposed conversion of the Liberty Gulch Road (LGR) on Azalea Hill to a multiuse trail that would allow bikers and equestrians. Presently a narrow hiking trail, it starts at Bull Frog Road and runs along the toe of Azalea Hill and along Alpine Lake for about two miles. The main reason for the conversion appears to be to provide an authorized connection from Pine Mountain to the lakes for bicycles, as the bikers prefer not to ride approximately one mile on the paved Bolinas-Fairfax Road to the Meadow Club turnoff, which would take them back to Bull Frog Road.

MMWD led two informative hikes for the public describing the need to decommission a network of social trails on Azalea Hill in order to restore serpentine habitat, and to repair some stream crossings. As a botanist, I am concerned with the adverse impacts on serpentine plants and their habitat, which will occur by "improving" the LGR and with its future multipurpose use, but most of all it is disconcerting that a half-mile stretch of trail will be constructed through *pristine* chaparral leading to the Azalea Hill parking lot. Twelve special-status species, ranging from federal- and state-listed species to species on CNPS's List 4, all serpentine endemics and some endemic to Mt. Tam, are included on the plant list for Azalea Hill and South End of Carson Ridge (<http://tinyurl.com/jj2dlmb>).

Species that I observed on the fast-paced walk were Tiburon buckwheat (*Eriogonum luteolum* ssp. *caninum*, Rank 1 B); Mt. Tamalpais lessingia (*Lessingia micradenia* ssp. *micradenia*, Rank 1B); serpentine reedgrass (*Calamagrostis ophitidis*, Rank 4); and Mt. Tamalpais manzanita (*Arctostaphylos montana* ssp. *montana*, Rank 1B).

Implementation of the project is expected to start in the summer of 2017. It appears that some surveys for rare plants have been conducted, but it is not clear whether the new trail through the chaparral has been surveyed yet. I foresee much destruction of serpentine habitat and associated plants by the conversion of LGR to a multipurpose trail. I suggest that the existing Azalea Hill Trail, which is more of a road than the LGR and which partly runs through grassland dominated by non-native grasses, be upgraded to a multi-use trail with pinch points and clear sight lines to provide safety for all users. CNPS will have an opportunity to comment on an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration later this year.

—Eva Buxton, Conservation Chair

MARIN CNPS FIELD TRIPS, OCTOBER–DECEMBER, 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.

Lagunitas and Bon Tempe Lake Shorelines

Saturday, October 8, 9 a.m.–12 noon

As summer comes to an end, the local reservoirs continue to dry out along the shoreline and many late-blooming species appear. Take a walk along the meadows and shore of Lakes Lagunitas and Bon Tempe. We'll look at native trees, shrubs, and emergent aquatic species in this picturesque area. Interesting plants we may see include lowland cudweed (*Gnaphalium palustre*), rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), broad-leaved mudwort (*Limosella acaulis*), yellowseed false pimpernel (*Lindernia dubia*), aquatic pygmy-weed (*Crassula aquatica*), and purple sand spurry (*Spergularia rubra*). Unusual plants like the parasitic field dodder (*Cuscuta campestris*) are often found on the *Xanthium* cockleburs. Many of these plants are not known from elsewhere in Marin County. We will also see the drying meadows where the threatened Gairdner's yampah (*Perideridia gairdneri*) and the graceful narrow tarplant (*Holocarpha virgata*) are found. This is the only place in Marin in which this species of tarplant is known.



Perideridia gairdneri ssp. *gairdneri*, Lagunitas Meadows—Terry Gosliner

Terry Gosliner is a CNPS member and a curator in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Geology at the California Academy of Sciences, where he specializes

in the evolution and systematics of nudibranchs (sea slugs). While his research focuses on marine biology and often takes him to coral reefs in the Philippines, he has a life-long passion for native California plants. He grew up in Marin and explored the plants of the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed from an early age.



Cuscuta campestris, Lake Nicasio—Terry Gosliner

Directions: Meet at the Lake Lagunitas parking/picnic area. There is an \$8 parking fee. From Hwy 101, head west on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. until you reach the Fairfax city limits, turn left onto Broadway Blvd. (at the Valero), then immediately turn right to stay on Broadway. In about 500 feet, turn left onto Bolinas Road. After 1.5 miles, turn left on Sky Oaks Road. Stop at the MMWD kiosk to purchase a parking permit. Continue about 1.25 miles to the road's end at the Lake Lagunitas parking/picnic area, where a bathroom and water are available.

Leader: Terry Gosliner, tgosliner@calacademy.org.

Lichens of Olompali

Saturday, November 5, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Join Shelly Benson, president of the California Lichen Society, for a lichen walk at Olompali State Historic Park. We'll explore the lichens around the old ranch buildings, rock walls, and orchard—a great spot to see the California state lichen (lace lichen, *Ramalina menziesii*). There are some picnic tables where we'll have lunch and then continue on our way around the 3-mile loop trail.

Directions: Exit Highway 101 at Atherton Blvd. and follow posted directional signs to the park. Parking fee is \$8/vehicle, payable by credit card only.

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

Rock Spring Meander:

Late Autumn on Mt. Tamalpais

Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

This outing will follow a moderate 4-mile route from the Rock Spring parking lot to Barth's Retreat (via the Mickey

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O'Brien trail) and Potrero Meadows. We'll observe the diverse ecology of Mt. Tam, including meadows, mixed evergreen forest, serpentine outcrops, and chaparral. We'll look at the big picture of ecologically diverse plant communities and changes observed over the past few decades. Plants we expect to see on the narrow foot trail include huckleberry, California bay, Douglas fir, madrone, live oaks, sword and giant chain ferns, moss-covered rocks, buckthorn, manzanita, and Sargent cypress. This hike is especially suited for beginning plant enthusiasts. Meet at the Rock Spring parking lot.

Leader: Dabney Smith, djs1947@hotmail.com.



PLANTS OF THE MONTH: MARIN COUNTY ASTERS

Text by Doreen Smith

California no longer has any species remaining in the Latin genus "Aster." Now in Marin, most have been put into the genus *Symphotrichum*, but it remains OK to use "aster" as the common name for these plants. (The sand aster, *Corethrogyne filaginifolia*, is not dealt with here.)

Marin has four *Symphotrichum* species. Three are perennial: *Symphotrichum chilense*, *S. lentum*, and *S. subspicatum*; one is annual: *S. subulatum* var. *parviflorum*.

Despite its specific epithet, Pacific aster (*Symphotrichum chilense*) is a native Californian, and not from Chile. Some mix-up occurred in the Herbarium when the type specimen was named and now it can't be changed. The most common species found in many parts of the County, it blooms summer to fall. The bracts underneath the flower head are blunt-tipped. We saw some recently in grassland near Nicasio Reservoir.



Pacific aster (*Symphotrichum chilense*)—Vernon Smith

Very similar to *S. chilense* and able to hybridize with it is Douglas aster (*S. subspicatum*). This species has

pointed bracts below the flower head according to the Jepson Herbarium *e-Flora*. I have trouble separating the two. The famous botanist Randall Morgan identified some spring-flowering plants as this species on the Lunny "G" Ranch at Pt. Reyes.

Also similar, but with linear leaves and a semi-aquatic habitat is Suisun marsh aster (*S. lentum*), most recently seen here only in late summer and fall on the shores of the Chileno Valley Laguna.



Suisun marsh aster (*Symphotrichum lentum*)
—Doreen Smith

The smallest species we have is slim-aster or annual saltmarsh aster (*S. subulatum* var. *parviflorum*). It is found on the drying margins of fresh or brackish pools in late summer and fall. Plants are fairly abundant about the Las Gallinas wastewater ponds in some years, but hard to find in others.



Annual saltmarsh aster (*Symphotrichum subulatum*)—Doreen Smith

MT. TAM SCIENCE SUMMIT

Friday, October 28–Saturday, October 29

Sponsored by Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Marin County Parks, California State Parks, National Park Service, and Marin Municipal Water District.

Mt. Tam—beautiful and burgeoning with plant and animal life—is one of the region’s greatest natural treasures. Located in an internationally-recognized biodiversity hotspot, the mountain’s complex terrain and location creates a remarkably diverse array of climates and habitats.

However, despite its ecological riches and protected status, Mt. Tam is threatened by invasive species, forest pathogens, wildfire, and climate change. This year, the four land management agencies on Mt. Tam joined together with scientists and other experts from around the Bay Area to share their knowledge and expertise to try to answer the question: How healthy is Mt. Tam?

Come hear what they have learned about the condition of Mt. Tam’s plants, animals, and natural processes. See where the critical data gaps lie, and what might be done to fill them. The symposium is intended to share our best information on the health of Mt. Tam and how that fits within the context of land management and community involvement.

A big issue facing the mountain is one that Marin CNPS has been involved with for a long time: the spread of invasive plant species and the subsequent loss of native biodiversity. Mt. Tam’s thousands of acres of serpentine soils and other special habitats provide homes for many endemic plant species, but the mountain’s land managers do not know where they all are, or how they are faring—basic information necessary to ensure their long-term protection. What is needed is coordinated data management, mapping, monitoring, and research so we can focus on rare plant conservation across the mountain.



Tamalpais jewelflower (*Streptanthus batrachopus*), one of Mt. Tam’s endangered plants—William Follette

Marin CNPS is supporting the Science Summit as a co-sponsor. We encourage members to come learn about the health of Mt. Tam, how this work has progressed, and what you can do to help this beloved place flourish and thrive well into the future. Both days will cover a range of topics and are open to the public. We will staff a table on Saturday, October 29 to help educate attendees on Mt. Tam’s rare and native plant communities and the chapter’s role in identifying and protecting them.

Friday, October 28 is focused on engaging natural resource managers and the scientific community and will be more technical, but it is open to members of the public as well.

Saturday, October 29 reaches out to conservation and recreation groups, teachers, and other interested community members with short, focused talks and an interactive panel discussion about the essential role the public plays in caring for Mt. Tam.

For more information and to register, visit www.one-tam.org/science-summit. The cost is \$25 and includes lunch. You may choose to attend one or both days.

Location: Sausalito Portuguese Cultural Center, 511 Caledonia St., Sausalito.



CNPS MEMBERS! GOT BROOM?

Borrow as many as six broom wrenches for two weeks at a time from Marin CNPS! Our county is overrun with French broom (*Genista monspessulana*—some call it Scotch broom), an invasive shrub native to the Mediterranean. Preventing wildfires that start along the wildland/urban interface by creating “defensible space” is presently a focus of land managers and fire agencies in the county. With the help of a broom wrench, you can create defensible space around your home or take the battle to adjacent wildlands. The wrenches work on virtually all woody plants, even on previously cut plants, if a section of the original stem is accessible

CNPS owns wrenches in three different sizes:

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

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

MARIN CHAPTER FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday, October 15, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Location: Falkirk Cultural Center, 1408 Mission Ave., San Rafael (across from the San Rafael Public Library)

Come to the fall plant sale, co-sponsored by the Marin Master Gardeners in the habitat garden on the grounds of the historic Falkirk Mansion in downtown San Rafael. We'll be offering a wide selection of California native perennials, grasses, shrubs, and trees in 4-inch and 1-gallon pots, as well as some select larger plant specimens, seed packets, books, posters, and cards. In particular, this fall we'll have a very good assortment of shrubs, including coyote brush, coffeeberry, *Ceanothus*, *Eriogonum giganteum*, and *Lepechinia fragrans*. Fall is the perfect time to get these in the ground. We'll also have a generous stock of milkweed plants—the favored native larval food plants of the monarch butterfly.

Talk: Saturday at 11 am: Gardening in Deer Country

Yes, you can create a beautiful, floriferous garden, even with these lovely but voracious creatures around! Avoid a lot of frustration by understanding how our black-tailed deer live and what their needs are. Charlotte Torgovitsky will talk about California native plants that are deer-proof, and others that are simply deer-resistant, as well as how to get plants nicely established in a garden setting without becoming deer food.

Set-up: Friday, October 14, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Jean Ballestero at jeanballestero@gmail.com if you can lend a hand either Friday or Saturday. Help will be needed for plant pricing and other pre-sale preparations on Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and for a variety of functions on the day of the sale: displaying plants, assisting customers with advice/carry-out, cashiering, refreshments, and take-down. Helpers with brawn will be especially welcome for transporting, setting up, and taking down



Plants for pollinators offered at our last sale—Laura Lovett

tables and canopies. Volunteers are promised a free plant, good company, and further education!

Directions & Parking: The Falkirk Cultural Center is on Mission Avenue at E St. in downtown San Rafael. Look for the white greenhouse structure behind the mansion. Parking is available along the driveway that passes in front of the mansion, or in the main parking lot at Mission Ave. and E St., where there is 2-hour parking in the front section. (Note: the back section is for permit holders only.) You may also park in the City Hall lot across Mission Ave. from the Falkirk.

Please contact plant sale co-chairs Charlotte Torgovitsky 415.892.9148/torgovitsky@comcast.net or Kristin Jakob 415.388.1844/kristinjacob@att.net with questions.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ✿ **Monday 10/3, 7 p.m.**
Chapter Board Meeting, 5 Hamilton Lndg, Suite 200, Novato (note new location)
- ✿ **Friday 10/7, 6–9 p.m. (also 11/4)**
Plant ID Workshop at College of Marin
- ✿ **Saturday 10/8, 9 a.m.–12 noon**
Chapter Field Trip: Lagunitas and Bon Tempe Lake Shorelines
- ✿ **Monday 10/10, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**
Chapter Meeting: Ralph and Lisa Shanks on “Indian Baskets of Northern California and Oregon”
- ✿ **Saturday 10/15, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**
Chapter Fall Plant Sale (volunteers also needed for setup on Friday 10/14)
- ✿ **Thursday 10/20, 9:30 a.m. (also 11/17 and 12/15)**
Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Point Reyes
- ✿ **Friday 10/28–Saturday 10/29**
Mt. Tam Science Summit, Sausalito
- ✿ **Saturday 10/29, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.**
Ring Mountain Grassland Restoration
- ✿ **Saturday 11/5, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: Lichens of Olompali
- ✿ **Monday 11/7, 7 p.m.**
Chapter Board Meeting, 5 Hamilton Lndg, Suite 200, Novato
- ✿ **Friday 11/11, 5:30–7 p.m.**
First Annual Marin CNPS Member Appreciation Event, Drake's Landing Community Room, Greenbrae
- ✿ **Monday 11/14, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**
Chapter Meeting: Mia Monroe on “Muir Woods—A Close Look at Park Health During the NPS Centennial”
- ✿ **Saturday 12/10, 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: Rock Spring Meander: Late Autumn on Mt. Tamalpais
- ✿ **Monday 1/9, 2017, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**
Chapter Meeting: CNPS Members' Photos from 2016 Botanical Adventures

KRISTIN JAKOB'S BOTANICAL ART

Kristin Jakob, our co-vice president and a renowned botanical illustrator, exhibited some of her artwork at the Mill Valley Public Library in August as part the library's goal of educating the public about native plants, mushrooms, and lichens, and to publicize society (CNPS, CALS, Cal-IPC, etc.) and published resources on these subjects. The exhibit and reception were timed to coincide with Mill Valley's monthly "First Tuesday Art Walk" gallery/exhibition openings at various venues all over town.



Kristin explains her technique to an interested viewer at her Mill Valley Library art exhibit—Eva Buxton

Kristin, who grew up in Marin County, has illustrated plants and animals since childhood. Although mostly self-taught, she eventually earned an MA at London's Royal College of Art. She has exhibited widely in the US and London and has self-published cards and fine-art prints. She selectively undertakes commercial and private commissions, including illustrations of two newly described species for me. She works almost exclusively from live specimens, beginning with a sketch and a detailed pencil drawing, followed by the application of watercolors or pen and ink. Kristin illustrated two plant books—*Wild Lilies, Irises, and Grasses* and *Gardening with California Monocots*—published by UC Press, and she did the artwork for both the Sierra Nevada wildflower poster and the California grasses placemats published by CNPS.

In case you missed her show in Mill Valley, she will be exhibiting prints of her watercolors and line drawings of native and non-native plants at the Community Congregational Church in Tiburon from mid-October through November. I urge you to go see her exquisite and botanically accurate artwork.

—Eva Buxton, Conservation Chair

CNPS MEMBERSHIP

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.

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**.

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Yes! I wish to affiliate with the Marin chapter.

New Member Renewal

Membership Category:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mariposa Lily | \$1,500 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant Lover | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family, Group, or Library | \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student or Limited Income | \$25 |

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Please mail application and check payable to **CNPS** to:

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The IRS considers dues in excess of \$12.00 per year and all gifts to CNPS Tax Deductible.

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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.

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GET YOUR MARIN CHAPTER CNPS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY

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BOTANY AT THE COLLEGE OF MARIN

In what remains of 2016, Plant ID workshops will be held on October 7 and November 4 from 6–9 p.m. in Room SMN 112 on the Kentfield campus. In Spring of 2017, the full-length Field Botany of Marin course (Biology 161) may be offered if there is sufficient interest. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Paul da Silva by December 1 at pdasilva@marin.edu or 415.485.9542.

MARIN CNPS CONTACTS

Board Members

Kristin Jakob, Co-Vice President
David Long, Co-Vice President
Amelia Ryan, Treasurer
April Post, Recording Secretary
Charlotte Torgovitsky
Laura Lovett
Paul da Silva
Carolyn Longstreth
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Chapter Council Delegate: David Long
Chapter Programs: Kristin Jakob
Education: Paul da Silva
Field Trips: Carolyn Longstreth and Susan Schlosser
Conservation: Eva Buxton and Janice Barry
Rare Plants: Doreen Smith
Gardening with Natives: Charlotte Torgovitsky
Plant Sale: Kristin Jakob and Charlotte Torgovitsky
School Gardens Program: Charlotte Torgovitsky
Nursery Outreach: April Post
Communications: Laura Lovett
Publicity: Alison Blume
Membership:
Legislation: Phyllis Faber
ID What You See Website: Bruce Homer-Smith
Marin CNPS Website: Vernon Smith

Other Useful Contacts

Marin Flora mail orders: Vivian Mazur
Marin Flora retail sales: Bonnie Gosliner
Marin Flora Project: Wilma Follette
Book Sales: Jane Medley
Poster Sales: Gerd Jakob
Newsletter Editor: Krista Fechner
Newsletter Mailing: Paul Kryloff

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

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.



NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE!

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

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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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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

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*.

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