



California Native Plant Society

MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)

Marin chapter established 1973

Monday, October 9 Marin Chapter Meeting

Sarah Lummis on “Eelgrass Ecosystems: Understanding Impacts of Climate Change and Human Activities”

Eelgrass is one of 72 species of seagrass, a group of flowering plants whose ancestors evolved from land back into the ocean. Seagrasses are true angiosperms, and are important nursery habitats for many fish species in the shallow coastal areas where they grow. Eelgrass is a dominant seagrass species along our coasts, forming thick beds in areas with soft sandy bottoms and providing ecosystem services such as water filtration and sediment stabilization.

Presenter Sarah Lummis will go into detail about three eelgrass ecosystem projects:

- Using an experimental mesocosm system to examine eelgrass ecosystem responses to ocean acidification and increased nutrient loading
- How does eelgrass respond to oyster aquaculture?
- Can we develop a drone monitoring protocol as a cost-effective surveying alternative?



Bags of oysters on racks adjacent to seagrass beds, Tomales Bay—Sarah Lummis



Sarah Lummis conducts field work in Tomales Bay—Daniel Ibarra

Sarah Lummis is a marine ecologist from UC Santa Cruz working to better understand sustainability in eelgrass ecosystems at a landscape level. She studies seagrass ecosystems, and how the function and services of these ecosystems will be affected by climate change and anthropogenic impacts to the coast. Recently, Sarah has been collaborating with The Nature Conservancy and Hog Island Oyster Company to better understand the impacts of oyster aquaculture on eelgrass ecosystems. She likes working on questions at the intersection of science and policy, and is excited to share her results with both resource managers and local communities.

October meeting:

6 p.m. Join friends and meet our speaker for a no-host dinner at The Cantina, 651 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.

GARDENING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

by Charlotte Torgovitsky

In California native gardens, there's not all that much that needs to be done during the dry, dormant season; it's a time to just enjoy being outdoors! I've collected seeds, cleaned up the remaining growth of spring wildflowers, and day by day I'm starting to collect the seeds of late summer annuals like elegant madia and the sweet little hayfield tarweeds (*Hemizonia* spp.)

After I've separated out the seeds, I think of the stems, dried leaves, chaff, and capsules as "wildflower straw," and I strew it about in exactly the places where I'd like to see wildflowers take hold. And it's happening! I'm thrilled to see that natives (mostly the annual wildflowers, but also a few perennials) are now spreading from my garden into the open space all around our property!

Late summer is also a good time to start native perennials from seed in more controlled conditions. I set up a flat with a good seed-starting mix, sow my seeds (species such as salvias, penstemons, and festucas), and set the flat in a protected place to allow the seeds time to germinate. Late summer is also a good time to take tip cuttings of species such as salvia.

Sparrows and Flycatchers

Several pairs of California towhees and their fledglings are constantly foraging throughout my garden; they live here year round, and have become so comfortable around me that they're almost underfoot while I'm working at my potting table. A pair of spotted towhees also lives here, but they are very secretive, calling from hidden places high in the trees, or disappearing into the shrubs.

These birds are the largest of our sparrows. They feed on the ground, scratching up mulch and stirring up the soil to find small insects and seeds. In doing so, they create conditions that promote the germination of the seeds they are foraging for; the ones they miss are the ones that might grow when the time is right!



California towhee—Bob & Mieke Watkins



Spotted towhee—Bob & Mieke Watkins

One fine sunny morning in early July, the ash-throated flycatchers were more vocal than usual, their distinctive calls coming from the top of the tallest blue oak on our property. Later that day I was outside, potting up new plants, within perfect sight of the nesting box, when one of the flycatchers came to the nest box and hovered right at the entrance for a minute or so. Then it was gone!

I've felt so honored in years past that these beautiful flycatchers come to our property to breed; they have been successful, and I have a feeling that the individuals returning may actually have fledged here. This year I heard the first one calling in the woods about the third week in April. That's a bit earlier than usual, and the second one arrived a bit later than usual, on May 11. About two weeks later they were already in the nesting box, brooding.

I am a careful observer of the life around me, but I try to keep to a policy of not interfering too much. So I did notice that over the rainy season woodpeckers had slightly enlarged the entrance to the nest box. I did nothing about it, but I should have! The brood was destroyed, perhaps by scrub jays, about the middle of June; the adult flycatchers stayed around for another few weeks before taking their leave.

Gardening in Deer Country

I love to see the new spotted fawns early each summer. I'm somewhat familiar with a number of the individual does that are at home on our hillside, and one that I readily recognize had triplets this year! The first time I saw them all, I could see the doe fairly well; following close behind her, all I could see were so many little legs that I was absolutely astounded!

It's a hard job raising just one offspring, let alone three at a time, so I give this doe plenty of leeway to browse wherever she pleases, and she does take liberties! About noon one fine day I opened my front door—and there she was, right on the front doorstep—eating all my potted ornamental begonias, fuchsias, and impatiens.

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She could have knocked first before helping herself to lunch! However, being comfortable around me, she left very reluctantly, and on her way decided that she absolutely needed to eat the seed capsules of the California poppies by the driveway before heading back to her offspring and into the woodlands.

I've noticed that the deer often eat the "fruits" of all sorts of plants, even those that are merely dry capsules containing seeds; and it makes sense, since seeds contain so much nutrition. It is a little frustrating for a seed collector, though, when they seem to find so many of them before I do!

My unfenced hillside garden is just about as dry as the surrounding open space. The deer aren't particularly interested in the plants that are in a dry dormant state; more importantly, they have easy access to acres of oak woodlands. All through the dry summer months the deer browse the oak trees, eating leaves and small twigs that constitute about 40 percent of their diet. It's easy to see a "browse line" on many of the trees, and the does sometimes stand on their hind legs to reach just a little higher.

Deer-resistant Plants

The only time I add new plants to my landscape is during the rainy season, and then anything that is exposed to the deer is caged. The cage stays up to protect even deer-resistant plants for about three or four years; by that time the plants have matured and can survive a bit of seasonal browsing. This method works well with coffeeberry, mountain mahogany, silk tassel bush, manzanitas, and holly-leaf cherry.

Some native plants really are deer-proof: all the bunchgrasses, sedges, and rushes; most of the *Salvias*, the barberries (*Berberis* or *Mahonia* species) and coyote brush; they don't need caging. In my garden I've noticed that cream bush (*Holodiscus discolor*) is ignored by the deer in all seasons, even though the leaves and flower clusters are soft and tender!



A doe at the browse line—Bob & Mieko Watkins

Young plants straight from the nursery, have tender foliage high in available nutrients, but not enough mass to share; the foliage of older mature plants is not quite so tasty, and there is plenty of mass to withstand browsing without permanent damage to the entire plant.

"Mast crops" are seeds such as all the nuts we commonly eat, as well as buckeyes, bay nuts, and acorns; they are high in oils, fats and proteins, and therefore no longer viable if allowed to dry out. Coast live oaks produce a mast crop every year; this year's acorns are just now maturing. The developing acorns exude a sticky substance as they mature—a temporary condition called "drippy nut". It's a sticky mess on paving surfaces or outdoor furniture under the oaks, but it all gets washed away with the first rains.

Lots of creatures take advantage of this substance, so it must have some nutrient value. I see bees and wasps working the clusters of acorns, and hummingbirds also forage around the developing mast crop. The hummers, bushtits, and even chickadees that I've seen foraging at the canopy edges might actually be picking up small insects that get stuck in the sticky mess.



Bushtit in an oak—Bob & Mieko Watkins

After the acorns drop, and as long as it can get to them, a full-grown deer will eat about 300 per day, fulfilling more than half of its daily dietary requirements. Acorns are very nutritious, consisting of about 18 percent fat, 6 percent protein, and 68 percent carbohydrate, as well as fiber, amino acids, vitamins, and minerals. The acorns are high in tannins, but deer have special enzymes in their digestive tracts that break down these compounds. I'm convinced that a part of the "deer problem" in the more urban communities is that these animals are fenced out from many of their natural food sources.

For a longer version of this article, including information on native food plants, interested readers can visit Charlotte's blog at (www.homegroundhabitats.org).

MARIN CHAPTER CHALLENGES COUNTY APPROVAL OF TRAIL PROJECT

At its August meeting, the Marin CNPS Chapter Board of Directors unanimously approved the Chapter's participation in a lawsuit challenging the Marin County Open Space District's July 13 approval of the Hunt Camp Trail Project. Two co-plaintiffs, Marin Audubon Society and the Marin Conservation League, joined the Chapter in bringing the case.

The Hunt Camp Trail in the Giacomini Open Space Preserve is currently a social trail with upper and lower sections. The upper trail is a popular mountain biking route; the lower trail dead-ends onto a private road and is avoided by most mountain bikers. There is light pedestrian use on both portions.

The Giacomini Open Space Preserve is a botanically important site. In addition to its extensive, intact native plant communities (bunch grasses, forbs, oak/madrone forest, coastal scrub, serpentine chaparral), the Preserve supports 13 special-status plant species, more than twice as many as all other Marin County preserves, with exception of Mt. Burdell.

The Hunt Camp Trail itself is spectacularly rich in rare plants and plant communities. Much of the trail passes through Legacy Zone areas, characterized by high biodiversity and designated by the County as "sanctuaries for nature." Thousands of Oakland star tulips and pink claytonia line the Hunt Camp Trail in spring, mixing with native grasses, zigadene and other bulbs, native azalea, scarlet monkeyflower, and many other species.

A 2016 botanical survey revealed that nine special-status plant species occur within the Project area: *Arctostaphylos montana* ssp. *montana*, *Aspidotis carlotta-halliae*, *Calamagrostis ophitidis*, *Calochortus umbellatus*, *Cirsium hydrophilum* var. *vaseyi*, *Elymus californicus*, *Gentiana affinis* var. *ovata*, *Navarretia heterodoxa*, and *Sedum radiatum*. These rare plants are not readily found outside the county or Bay Area and are therefore particularly emblematic of our unique Marin County flora.

The Hunt Camp Trail Project would (1) adopt the trail under the County's Road and Trails Management Plan

(RTMP), (2) designate it for use by hikers and bikers, (3) construct a new trail almost 2,000 feet in length that would convert the lower trail from a dead end into part of a loop, (4) install drainage improvements, (5) reroute two sections of the trail, (6) designate a short section between the new connector trail and the private road as "hiker only," and (7) decommission 6,000 linear feet of other social trails in the vicinity, including a segment that leads to Bates Meadow, another floristically important site.



Upper Hunt Camp Trail—Marin County Open Space District

As the condition of the upper trail and others in the Giacomini Preserve shows, cyclists, as they ride rapidly down the trail, unavoidably swerve onto the margins of the trail to avoid rocks, roots, or pedestrians, crushing herbaceous plants, compacting the soil, and widening the travelled portion back to the edge of the chaparral, where these species cannot grow due to shading. Moreover, the Marin County Bicycle Coalition is already promoting an adopted Hunt Camp Trail as a legal single-track trail that is fun to ride.

The suit, filed in Superior Court on August 11, alleges that the County (1) violated the California Environmental Quality act by failing to prepare an Initial Study, which by law would have to be followed by either a full Environmental Impact Report or a Negative

Declaration and (2) failed to address the impacts to native plants that would result from greater intensity of use.

In its 2014 Tiered Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (TPEIR), the County identified potential impacts that could result from the adoption of the entire RTMP but did not cover subsequent individual trail projects, nor did it evaluate impacts of increased intensity of trail use. Although it declared that "subsequent environmental reviews would occur on a project-specific basis," the County approved the Project without complying with CEQA. Instead, it issued a "Consistency Assessment," which claimed that the earlier TPEIR constituted adequate CEQA review because the Project presented no new circumstances or new information that would warrant an Initial Study or EIR.

At least two other trail projects have prompted litigation against the County.

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

THIRD THURSDAY WEEDERS

Thursday, September 21 and October 19,
9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Do you grind your teeth in frustration when you see native plants being supplanted by invasive exotic species? If so, the “Third Thursday Weeders” is for you! Spend a companionable day at beautiful Point Reyes and help us protect precious plant habitat in the Point Reyes National Seashore.



Blennosperma nanum var. *robustum* thriving at the Outer Point after 2017's winter rains—Doreen Smith

The Weeders meet regularly on the third Thursday of every month, either in the Seashore or at other sites in West Marin. The location of each work party is set in consultation with Seashore staff. Over the past six years, we have removed infestations of iceplant, veldt grass, European beachgrass, perennial pepperweed, Cape ivy, and Napa star-thistle. We have a good time and it's highly rewarding to see the native plants making a comeback in these areas!



Fields of *Blennosperma nanum* var. *robustum* at the Outer Point—Doreen Smith

To sign up and receive notification of the meeting places in September and October, please send an email to Carolyn Longstreth at cklongstreth@gmail.com or call 415.669.7514. Be sure to let Carolyn know if you plan to attend so we'll bring enough tools and know to wait for everyone before heading to the work area.

Bring plenty of water, lunch and snacks, warm and wind-stopping layers, sturdy shoes, and work clothes. No shorts or open-toed shoes. The Park provides tools and gloves.

Hope to see you there!

—Carolyn Longstreth



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- * **Tuesday 9/5, 7 p.m.**
Chapter Board Meeting, 5 Hamilton Lndg, Suite 200, Novato
- * **Friday 9/8, 1–3 p.m. (also 9/10, 10/8, and 10/13)**
The Zen of Weeding, Samuel P. Taylor State Park
- * **Saturday 9/9, 10 a.m.–noon**
Native Plant Propagation Class: Cloning and Dividing Native Plants, Pt. Reyes Bear Valley Visitor Center
- * **Sunday 9/17, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: Homestead Valley Land Trust
- * **Thursday 9/21, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. (also 10/19)**
Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Pt. Reyes
- * **Monday 10/2, 7 p.m.**
Chapter Board Meeting, 5 Hamilton Lndg, Suite 200, Novato
- * **Saturday 10/7, 10 a.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: Olompali
- * **Monday 10/9, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**
Chapter Meeting: Sarah Lummis on “Eelgrass Ecosystems: Understanding Impacts of Climate Change and Human Activities”
- * **Saturday 10/14, 10 a.m.–noon**
Native Plant Propagation Class: Rain Gardens, Riparian Restorations, Weeds, and More!, Pt. Reyes Bear Valley Visitor Center
- * **Saturday 10/21, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**
Chapter Fall Plant Sale (volunteers also needed for setup on Friday 10/20)
- * **Monday 11/6, 7 p.m.**
Chapter Board Meeting, 5 Hamilton Lndg, Suite 200, Novato
- * **Monday 11/13, 7:30–9:30 p.m.**
Chapter Meeting: Camille Nowell on “North American Cercis (Redbud): A Study of Evolution and Adaptation”
- * **Friday 11/17, 5:30–7 p.m.**
Annual Marin CNPS Member Appreciation Event, Drake's Landing Community Room, Greenbrae

MARIN CHAPTER FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE:

“Right Plant, Right Place”

Saturday, October 21, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Fall is the perfect time to plant natives, ahead of the winter rains. This fall we are focusing on two types of habitats and the plants that thrive in them: riparian and wetland habitats, and dry shade under native oaks.

Native oaks should not be watered once established, which means the plants living in their shade must be able to tolerate the same dry conditions in order to keep the oak trees healthy. Adding water around the roots of an oak tree in warm weather encourages growth of a fungus that can eventually kill the tree. Among the many beautiful natives that do well without summer water once established are hummingbird sage, coral bells, snowberry, monkeyflower, coffeeberry, fragrant pitcher sage, western columbine, yerba buena, and blue nightshade. These plants will make themselves at home among the oak leaf mulch.



Gardening under oaks requires plants that tolerate dry shade—Mieko Watkins

All plants in the riparian corridor can withstand getting their feet wet. Planting along a tidal or wetland corridor requires choosing the plants that have the appropriate tolerance for the amount of water they'll receive. Those plants closest to the water flow must often be able to withstand standing water, whereas plants at the highest points of the bank may be dry in the late summer and fall. Generally, all of the plants must be happy growing with at least some shade. Erosion control along the bank sides is another important element in selecting planting material.

After you have the appropriate plants in the right place, you'll have a flourishing ecosystem in either of these hard-to-grow spots. We'll be offering educational talks on both habitats as well as plant choices that will thrive there.



Rubus spectabilis (salmonberry) thrives in riparian areas—William Follette

Our plant propagation volunteers are tending a selection of ceanothus species and varieties for the sale, as well as an interesting selection of native salvias, currants, buckwheats, and California fuchsias. We're growing some unusual natives from seed that will be available, including cobweb thistle, foothill wallflower, and blue nightshade. We'll also have a limited stock of native milkweed plants, a wide selection of California native perennials and grasses, a number of beautiful shrubs in 4-inch and 1-gallon pots, and some select larger plant specimens. We'll offer our custom line of native seed packets, books, posters, and cards. Come early for the best selection!

Set-up: Friday, October 20, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Riparian talk: Saturday, October 21, 10:30 a.m.
What to Plant Creekside, by Audrey Fusco, Nursery Manager and Restoration Specialist, SPAWN.

Dry oak shade talk: Saturday, October 21, 11 a.m.
Companion Plants for Native Oaks by Charlotte Torgovitsky, CNPS Marin Plant Guru

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Jean Ballestero at jeanballestero@gmail.com if you can lend a hand on 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 tables and canopies. Volunteers are offered a free plant, good company, and further education!

Sale Co-sponsored by: Marin Master Gardeners

Location: Falkirk Center, 1408 Mission Ave, San Rafael

Parking: 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 two-hour parking in the front section (**Note:** the back section

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Plant Sale continued from page 6

is for permit holders only). You may also park in the city hall lot across Mission Ave. from the Falkirk.

For more information: contact plant sale co-chairs:

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

Volunteer Coordinator: Jeanne Ballester, jeanballester@gmail.com (preferred) or 415.794.9112



MARIN CNPS FIELD TRIPS SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2017

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 water, lunch, and snacks; binoculars and/or hand lenses; and your favorite field guides. Contact hike leaders with any questions about individual hikes.

Full plant lists for many locations are available to download at the Marin Chapter CNPS website (www.cnpsmarin.org/plant-science/plant-lists/item/6-marin-county-plant-lists).

Check out our event listings at www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Marin-Chapter-Meetup.

Homestead Valley Land Trust

Sunday, September 17, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Below Panoramic and Four Corners in Mill Valley is the Homestead Valley Land Trust: 80+ acres of ridges; canyons filled with ferns, California bay laurel, and spikenard; grassy meadows; and rock outcrops and oak woodlands. On this field trip, we will make a two–three mile loop near the center of the preserve on the Ridgewood, Red Plum, and Homestead trails. We will identify plants in their late summer dormant or fading states. We will discuss protecting open space lands from invasive species in the urban-wildland interface. We'll see recently completed restoration projects (broom and ivy removal) and fire fuel vegetation management adjacent to areas without restoration. Bring lunch and water.

Hike leader Marabeth Grahame is on the board of the Homestead Valley Land Trust and local Firewise subcommittee that manage the open space lands her father helped protect in the 1970s. She publishes a Blooming Now blog chronicling flowers as they bloom in Homestead and maintains a Biological Inventory database of the plants growing there. In her free time,

she can be found out on the land pulling ivy off trees, weeding invasive plants, and photographing wildflowers.

For the Biological Inventory of plants, wildflower gallery, Blooming Now blog, history, and other information, visit the hvl.org website.

From US 101, take the Tiburon Blvd/E Blithedale exit and go west on East Blithedale, left on Camino Alto, right on Miller Ave., left on Reed Street, right on Laverne Ave., left on N. Ferndale Ave. and right on Ridgewood Ave. At the bottom of the driveway for 361 Ridgewood is a large parking area on the right. We will meet here and walk a short distance to the trailhead.

Leader: Marabeth Grahame, info@hvl.org.

Olompali Field Trip

Saturday, October 7, 10 a.m.

What can be found growing on volcanic soils late in the year? Come find out on an excursion to Olompali State Park. Among the natives, the oaks, toyons, coyote brush, and tarweeds may all have something to show. In addition, there will also be the cultivated plants of the Victorian gardens, including some cycads. Total trip length is three miles.

Coming from the north on Highway 101, take the Atherton Ave./San Marin Dr. exit, turn right at the stoplight at the end of the freeway exit, then turn right onto the frontage road, Redwood Blvd. It is 2.7 miles to Olompali, which is at the end of Redwood Blvd.

Coming from the south on Highway 101, take the Atherton Ave./San Marin Dr. exit, turn left at the stoplight, cross over the overpass and then turn right onto the frontage road, Redwood Blvd. It is 2.7 miles to Olompali, which is at the end of Redwood Blvd.

You can also follow the signs from either freeway exit to Olompali State Historic Park. They are the usual brown signs with white letters. There is a parking fee of \$8 payable at a kiosk in the parking lot.

Leader: Paul da Silva, pdasilva@marin.edu.



Save the Date!

ANNUAL MARIN CNPS MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT!

Friday, November 17, 5:30–7 p.m.

Get to know your fellow plant lovers in Marin. Please stop by and have a drink with us and share your ideas for the coming year.

Location: Drake's Landing Community Room, 300 Drakes Landing Road, Greenbrae, CA (at the junction of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and Hwy 101).

We hope that you can join us!

PLANTS OF THE MONTH: TROUBLE IDENTIFYING MARIN'S CLEMATIS SPECIES!

Text by Doreen Smith

We have two native *Clematis* species in Marin: the spring-flowering chaparral vine *Clematis lasiantha* (pipe-stems) and the late summer-flowering creekside climber *Clematis ligusticifolia* (virgin's bower). The keys to *Clematis* in the 2012 *Jepson Manual* and 2007 *Marin Flora* are both incomplete, failing to include *Clematis vitalba*, which is growing as wild in parts of southern Marin.



Clematis vitalba—Doreen Smith

Quite recently a closer look by botanists at Muir Woods discovered that masses of what had been called *C. ligusticifolia*, a dioecious native species, were not the species growing there but the similar-looking, bisexual



Clematis ligusticifolia (male)—Vernon Smith

European introduction, *C. vitalba*, aka "traveler's joy". Even CNPS native plant sales had been unknowingly spreading the non-native species, which is easy to grow as a clone from hardwood cuttings. True *C. ligusticifolia* is apparently uncommon in Marin County. A few plants of this vine grow along Lagunitas Creek east of Pt. Reyes Station. Unfortunately, roadside specimens get severely cut back by highway maintenance in August or September when peak flowering occurs.



Clematis ligusticifolia (female)—Vernon Smith



ZEN OF WEEDING

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

Last March, we co-hosted a big Americorp event with SPAWN, MMWD, and the Park in the Orchard Hill campground. This spring and summer we reweeded all the trails we currently manage at Taylor Park. This fall, while checking the success of the areas we mulched last March, we will focus on cleaning up any weed seedlings nearby to prevent reseeding into these sites.

Our weeding encourages the resurgence of native plants that support the insects that feed the fish and birds. Fall is in the air but the creek still runs and the woods are green and welcoming. You'll feel much better about everything after two hours in the redwoods killing invasive plants.

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. Join us for easy, companionable work. Please reply if you are coming so that I know who to expect.

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.

CALIFORNIA WILDFLOWERS LEAD TO ROMANCE

This month, the Anne T Kent California Room *Community Newsletter* from the Marin County Free Library features an article about Mary Elizabeth Parsons. Parsons is remembered today as the author of *The Wild Flowers of California*, which first appeared in 1897.



Mary Elizabeth Parsons Hawver—
Anne T Kent California Room

One aficionado of her book, Dr. JC Hawver of Auburn, sought to meet her, and a romance was born of their mutual interest in the study of the flora and fauna of California. Sadly, two years after their marriage, Dr. Hawver died suddenly from an apparent heart attack. Mary Elizabeth Parsons—now, Mrs. JC Hawver—left Auburn and returned to Marin where she lived for the rest of her life.

Read the full article here: <https://annetkent.kontribune.com/articles/8292>.



MARIN CNPS FACEBOOK GROUP



Our chapter's Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/MarinNativePlants) is a wonderful way to keep up with "what's blooming where," chapter events, and volunteer opportunities!

You don't need to have a Facebook account to view the page, but you do need one if you'd like to post and comment.

NATIVE PLANT PROPAGATION CLASSES

These classes were developed to help train volunteers to support the range and vegetation resource management programs at the Pt. Reyes National Seashore by establishing a volunteer-based nursery. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Many homeowners who wish to restore habitat on their properties do so because "growing your own" native plants from seed, cuttings, or divisions is not only very cost-effective; it's also incredibly satisfying! After you've learned some basic principles, and can avoid the most common mistakes made by gardeners trying to propagate plants, you will find that the rewards are many.

Classes are taught by Charlotte Torgovitsky and held on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon at the Red Barn at Bear Valley Visitor Center.

- September 9—Cloning and Dividing Native Plants
- October 14—Rain Gardens, Riparian Restorations, Weeds, and More!

Extensive, detailed handouts will be provided, and at every class, participants can take home a selection of seeds, seedlings, or cuttings. Light refreshments will be served.

This series of classes is a collaborative effort between Pt. Reyes National Seashore and the Seashore's volunteer association, Marin Resource Conservation District (RCD), and Home Ground Habitats.

Please RSVP to Sarah Phillips, Urban Streams Program Manager with the Marin RCD by emailing Sarah@marinrkd.org or by calling 415.663.1170 x 302.



Charlotte teaching a propagation class—Laura Lovett



NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE!

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

FREE VALLEY OAK SEEDLINGS

Please—Help me find homes for these trees!

If you have a space on your property for a very large tree, or know of a project in need of a grove of trees, I have 25 to 30 year-old seedlings, currently in gallon pots. I do not have any information as to the genetic origin of these plants, but you can pick and choose the ones that look the best!



Quercus lobata (valley oak)—Krista Fechner

The little oaks were originally a donation from a nursery that was closing out its native inventory. A good number of them have been donated to a local riparian restoration project, and I've been tending the rest, but they really need to be potted into larger pots—OR—better still, planted in a permanent location.

Please contact me if you have a place for a beautiful valley oak! Thanks, Charlotte Torgovitsky, torgovitsky@comcast.net, 415.892.9148



IT'S SEPTEMBER—WELCOME BACK TO SFSU PLANT ID WORKSHOPS!

Second Thursdays, 6–7:30 p.m.

It's the beginning of the fall semester and we head back to plant ID workshops on the second Thursday of the month throughout the fall. These workshops are a collaboration between Yerba Buena CNPS Chapter and San Francisco State University. The workshops are a great relaxing place to learn about botany. We normally start with a PowerPoint presentation discussing diagnostic characteristics of a plant family and aspects of its ecology, distribution, and evolutionary history. Botany graduate students will also assist us to key out live specimens. Mark your calendars for September 14, October 12, November 9, and December 14. Join us. The location is San Francisco State University, Hensill Hall, Botany Lab, Room 440.

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**.

Join or Renew by Mail

Yes! I wish to affiliate with the Marin chapter.

New Member Renewal

Membership Category:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mariposa Lily | \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$600 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$300 |
| <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 |

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

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 this page.

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

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

MARIN CNPS CONTACTS

Board Members

Kristin Jakob, Co-Vice President
David Long, Co-Vice President
Amelia Ryan, Treasurer
Recording Secretary: Open
Charlotte Torgovitsky
Laura Lovett
Paul da Silva
Carolyn Longstreth
Phyllis Faber
Rob Katz
Eddie Robertson
David Greenberger

Committee Chairs

Chapter Council Delegate: David Long
Chapter Programs: Kristin Jakob
Education: Paul da Silva
Field Trips: Carolyn Longstreth
and Susan Schlosser
Conservation; Invasive Species:
Eva Buxton
Rare Plants: Doreen Smith
Gardening with Natives: Charlotte Torgovitsky
Plant Sale Committee: Kristin Jakob
and Charlotte Torgovitsky
School Gardens Program: Charlotte Torgovitsky
Nursery Outreach: April Post
Communications: Laura Lovett
Publicity: Alison Blume
Membership: Eddie Robertson
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
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.

BOARD NEWS

Call for Nominations

We invite Chapter members to step forward to help run the Marin Chapter by serving as officers on the board; at present, the position of President is still open. If you are interested in running, or have another member to suggest, please contact one of the Co-Vice Presidents, David Long or Kristin Jakob, as soon as possible.

The elected officers are: President, up to two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and up to 11 additional board members. A slate of nominees will be published in the November–December chapter newsletter and voted on at the November membership meeting. Please consider volunteering in a leadership role—it can be very rewarding, and CNPS needs you!

Contact information: David Long, 415.381.6327/sfdlong@ix.netcom.com; Kristin Jakob, 415.388.1844/kristinjacob@att.net.

Recording Secretary Needed!

This is an excellent position for a newcomer to the board, requiring a willingness to attend our board meetings held on the first Mondays of January–June and September–November, plus one on a Saturday during summer.

Please contact Kristin Jakob at 415.388.1844 if interested.

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

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Visit us at www.cnpsmarin.org!

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

The 2007 revised edition of John Thomas Howell's classic *Marin Flora* (originally published in 1949) is available at chapter meetings and at the chapter website (www.cnpsmarin.org). We are now offering both the hard cover and soft cover books for at sale prices!!

Prices:	Hard cover	Soft cover
Retail	\$35 (plus \$2.89 tax)	\$25 (plus \$2.06 tax)
CNPS members (20% off)	\$28 (plus \$2.31 tax)	\$20 (plus \$1.65 tax)



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
Meetup www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Marin-Chapter-Meetup

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 _____