



# California Native Plant Society

## MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

*Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)*

*Marin chapter established 1973*

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

#### **Charlotte Torgovitsky on "Gardening for Butterflies"**

How can you invite the winged jewels into your garden sanctuary? From the regal monarch to the dainty "gossamer-winged ones," the more you understand about these most remarkable changelings of nature, the more your habitat garden will be graced by their presence.

Did you know that some butterflies are easily identified by their flight patterns, that monarch butterfly females search for certain qualities in the host plant before laying their eggs on it, and that some species can emerge from the pupa years after going into the pupal stage? You'll gain insight into the life cycles of these beautiful creatures by learning about the different life stages, the host plants and habitats frequented, and some fascinating ecological adaptations that make these creatures such a compelling study. Detailed handouts will be provided.

Charlotte Torgovitsky is a naturalist who loves to garden! As a lifelong student of nature and an organic gardener since 1975, she spends hours each day hiking or gardening, tending compost, and propagating plants. Charlotte is the immediate past president of the Marin chapter of



Western tiger swallowtail on showy milkweed—Mieko Watkins

the California Native Plant Society, and she now serves as the "Gardening with Natives" Chair. In 2011, Charlotte founded Home Ground Habitats, a volunteer-powered nursery that grows and provides native plants for numerous projects around Marin County.

#### **April meeting:**

**5:30 p.m.** Join friends 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 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. **Lecture starts at 7:30 p.m.**



### **NOVATO ISLAND HABITATS**

#### **Saturday, April 21**

Come to Novato and help build and maintain native habitat in unique settings. In 2009 and 2014, several large traffic islands were landscaped with 95 percent California native and other drought-resistant plants. These sites now support a variety of birds, insects, pollinators, and small mammals, while connecting local habitat corridors. We do basic weeding and maintenance. Due to lack of rain, fall planting was postponed, so we'll be adding new plants to supplement these thriving sites. Join us to support this growing trend of using native plants in otherwise wasted space.

We meet the third Saturday of each month at the entrance to Pacheco Valle (Alameda del Prado exit) or Redwood Blvd./DeLong Ave. (DeLong exit).

Gloves and tools available, or if you prefer, bring your own. For more information and directions to the site for that day contact: Marcia Basalla at 415.897.7124 or [marciabasalla@hotmail.com](mailto:marciabasalla@hotmail.com).

# SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE

**Saturday April 14, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Co-sponsored by CNPS Marin Chapter and Marin Master Gardeners.

Our ever-popular spring plant sale will be held in the Falkirk Center's lovely garden next to the greenhouse, with a focus on Wildflowers for Native Pollinators. We'll be highlighting a variety of native flowering perennials and bulbs, along with expert advice on the plants that offer resources for all our native creatures, including insects and birds that provide pollination services.

In addition to the usual wide range of spring-blooming plants, we'll have a great selection of wildflowers ready to plant in containers or into garden beds! You'll be able to choose from two different annual phacelias, two different species of clarkias, and two different gillias—or it may be too hard to choose, and you'll want them all! The best approach with wildflowers is to get the first plants established in your garden; sometimes the easiest way is to plant them in a well-placed container, where they can be carefully tended, and then let them go to seed in just the area you'd like to see them naturalize. They are also lovely mingling with bunch grasses or filling in around new shrubs and perennials. But best of all is having natural drifts of these beauties just show up in your garden to enjoy each year.

Plants in pots with white CNPS plant stake labels have been grown and tended by our dedicated group of plant propagators, some for more than a year! We'll have two-year-old showy milkweeds with vigorous root systems, large specimens of coffeeberry and 'Inverness White' flowering currant, and a selection of different *Ceanothus* and *Salvia* species and cultivars. We also have nice little buckeye trees in deep tree pots and purple-flowered desert willows. We've also grown island bush snapdragon and *Heuchera* 'Opal' from cuttings,



Come check out the many selections at the spring sale—  
Laura Lovett

and sticky monkeyflower from both seed and cuttings. Charlotte Torgovitsky will give a short, illustrated talk at 10:30 a.m. on encouraging a diversity of pollinators in your habitat garden. Long before European honeybees were introduced to the Americas, a host of other creatures were pollinating native plants and food crops. The talk will introduce the rich diversity of pollinators found in a healthy ecosystem. It will also cover some of the best plants to attract pollinators as well as important gardening methods that will ensure thriving populations of bees, butterflies, and birds in your garden.

If you appreciate these sales, and love the selection of beautiful, hard-to-find natives, it's not too late to volunteer to help! An event like this takes months of planning for just a few days of work, but many hands make the work light and we have a good time! We need volunteers on Friday, April 13 to do setup, pricing, and arranging of plants, and on Saturday, April 14 to help with sales and membership, provide plant advice, and make guests feel welcome. Each volunteer can choose a free 4" plant as a thank-you gift.

To volunteer, contact Jean Ballestero at [jeanballestero@gmail.com](mailto:jeanballestero@gmail.com) (preferred) or 415.794.9112.

Plant sale co-chairs:

- Kristin Jakob, 415.388.1844, [kristinjacob@att.net](mailto:kristinjacob@att.net)
- Charlotte Torgovitsky, 415.892.9148, [torgovitsky@comcast.net](mailto:torgovitsky@comcast.net)

**Location:** Falkirk Cultural Center Garden, 1408 Mission Ave., San Rafael.



## CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT WEEK

**Saturday, April 14–Sunday, April 22**

It's that wonderful time of year again when we all want to be outside celebrating the natural beauty of Marin County! We've coordinated many free events in celebration of California Native Plant Week: Find full details at [www.cnpsmarin.org/nativeplantweek](http://www.cnpsmarin.org/nativeplantweek).

We'll kick off the week with our popular Spring Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 14 from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. at Falkirk Cultural Center Garden, 1408 Mission Ave., San Rafael, where you can get native plants to enhance the beauty of your own garden, while providing habitat for a host of creatures. See the plant sale article on this page for more details on what we'll have available.

Learn more about some of our most important pollinators by attending a talk by pollinator ecologist Erin Elsey at the Marin Civic Center Library in San Rafael, on Friday, April 20, from 12–1 p.m. Erin will present a PowerPoint on "Bee Friends in Your Garden," talk about which native plants attract our native species, and share specimens of the many different native bees that can be found in our county.

*Native Plant Week continued on page 3*

Erin is currently leading the field initiative for the first pollinator inventory on Mt. Tamalpais and will describe how you can get involved.

Another new event this year will be a demonstration on how to make art from pressed flowers, led by Cindy LaMar, on Monday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m. in San Rafael. Cindy will demonstrate how to choose and dry the specimens, and will show samples of the artwork she has created using this technique. Following the class, for those who wish—and if the weather cooperates—class participants can walk through the gardens at Falkirk Center to discuss which plants work well for this technique. Space is limited, so preregistration is required; see the Marin CNPS website for details.

To see the full glory of natives in their natural habitats, plan to join Marin County Parks Naturalist Shannon Burke for wildflower walks at three of the best-known locations for impressive spring displays: Sunday, April 15 at Mt. Burdell in Novato; Wednesday, April 18 at Chimney Rock at Pt. Reyes; and for the more adventurous, a steeper climb with spectacular views on Sunday, April 22 at Gary Giacomini Open Space Preserve in Forest Knolls. See trip descriptions on pages 4–5.

If you like getting your hands dirty and want to help our Marin chapter achieve a long-term goal of restoring natural habitats and preserving native plants, plan to help Carolyn Longstreth and friends pull invasive weeds at the Point Reyes National Seashore on Thursday, April 19, from 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. This group has made impressive progress at removing thick stands of veldt grass and ice plant that have taken over native habitats, but they can always use some extra helping hands.



Children's activities by GreenPlay Camps at Samuel P. Taylor State Park—Laura Lovett

On Saturday, April 21, we'll celebrate Earth Day at Samuel P. Taylor Park in Lagunitas. Join us any time from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Azalea day use picnic area near the main entrance. Stop by just to say hello, meet old friends and partake in a snack, or join in some planned activities. Marin CNPS members will lead an easy walk to learn more about the local native plants, and also a "catch and release" with professor Paul da Silva to investigate some of the useful and helpful insects that are buzzing around. Julie Hanft of Marin GreenPlay Camps will offer a variety of fun activities for children, and the folks from SPAWN will talk about our local salmon and creek life.

There will also be an opportunity to help out with "Zen Weeding" on Earth Day by joining the continuing effort to rid the park of non-native invasive plants. Marin CNPS member Nancy Hanson started this project in the fall of 2010; since then she's been devoting at least two days a month to it and a lot of progress has been made! A popular trail at Devil's Gulch has been virtually cleared of forget-me-nots, which has restored a number of beautiful native species to healthy populations. On Earth Day we'll be working in the day use area clearing a very invasive non-native grass. We hope to see you there!



## SUDDEN OAK DEATH BLITZ

### Learn How YOU Can Help Stop the Disease as a Citizen Scientist

**Saturday, May 5, 10–11 a.m.**

This effort, led by UC Berkeley, is designed for all Californians to participate in the fight against Sudden Oak Death (SOD), the destructive and exotic disease that is decimating oaks throughout the state. Please attend our short and informative training session, where you'll receive an SOD Blitz collection kit with everything you'll need to survey and sample symptomatic trees in your area, making you a part of the hundreds of citizen scientists who are helping to track the presence of SOD.

Due to the extreme amount of rainfall, 2017 might have been one of the worst years for the spread of SOD. By volunteering a small amount of your time, you and your community can make a large impact toward helping control this terrible disease. By attending an SOD Blitz meeting in your area, you can learn the latest information about the disease. Each year the information that you help provide makes it possible for homeowners and land managers to successfully preserve and protect our native oak trees.

**Location:** Joseph R Fink Science Center, Room 103, Dominican College, San Rafael.

For more information, visit [www.sodblitz.org](http://www.sodblitz.org).

## MARIN CNPS FIELD TRIPS APRIL 2018

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.

This year for Native Plant Week, our chapter is again collaborating with the Marin County Parks (MCP) naturalists, who are excellent field trip leaders and provide detailed botanical and ecological information.

The MCP walks are for ages 18 and up. Please leave pets at home (except service animals). Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call 415.893.9527 after 8 a.m. on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. No registration is required.

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](http://www.cnpsmarin.org/plant-science/plant-lists/item/6-marin-county-plant-lists)). Check out our event listings at [www.cnpsmarin.org/events/events-calendar](http://www.cnpsmarin.org/events/events-calendar).

### **MCP Walk: Wildflowers at Mount Burdell** **Sunday, April 15, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Celebrate Native Plant Week at one of the best wildflower locations in the county. We'll visit a variety of habitats including volcanic outcrops, serpentine soils, freshwater springs, and oak woodlands. The flora of this Novato preserve is incredibly diverse and includes a number of rare plants.

**Directions:** Meet at the gate on San Andreas Dr. in Novato. From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr. west 2.3 miles. Turn right onto San



April wildflowers on Mt. Burdell—Shannon Burke

Andreas Dr. and follow approximately 0.5 miles. The gate is on the right (before dead end).

**Leader:** Shannon Burke, MCP Naturalist, 415.893.9520, [SBurke@marincounty.org](mailto:SBurke@marincounty.org).

### **MCP Walk: Wildflowers at Chimney Rock** **Wednesday, April 18, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Come celebrate Native Plant Week at one of the best spring hot spots in Marin. The coastal bluffs along the outer reaches of the Pt. Reyes Peninsula host a fantastic display of spring wildflowers. We'll take our time identifying the species that we find as we enjoy breathtaking views of the ocean.

**Directions:** Meet at the Chimney Rock trailhead. From Hwy. 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd. west 20.4 miles to Olema. Turn right onto Hwy. 1 and go 2 miles. Turn left onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and go 19 miles (allow about 30 minutes for this segment). Just after you pass the last dairy ranch (Ranch A) and a 'V' in the road, go left; the parking lot is at the end.

**Leader:** Shannon Burke, MCP Naturalist, 415.893.9520, [SBurke@marincounty.org](mailto:SBurke@marincounty.org).

### **Sonoma Post-Fire Field Trip to Pepperwood Preserve**

**Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

The Dwight family established the Pepperwood Preserve in the late 1980s following their purchase of the property. Pepperwood Preserve contains 3,200 acres of grasslands, bay/oak/madrone forests, Douglas fir groves, oak woodlands, and serpentine and mixed chaparral. The Preserve is unique in many ways, especially in terms of diversity of habitats and plant life.

Much of the Preserve was severely burned in the Tubbs fire; other areas were moderately burned. We'll see areas in these habitats with characteristic regrowth of some species that will recover on their own over time. Other areas will need active management and ecological restoration.

Pepperwood Preserve provides a unique opportunity to evaluate the response to fire. Preserve scientists and staff had monitored and studied habitats, wildlife, and ecological/climate factors for years before the fire. Much of the scientific wildfire literature on California is from the Sierra Nevada. Pepperwood Preserve may greatly increase our understanding of fire in North Coast Ranges. For instance, little is published about madrone response to fire.

Hosted by Pepperwood Preserve's Cassandra Liu, this field trip is approximately 4 miles long, with some uphill climbs.

*Field Trips continued on page 5*

Field Trips continued from page 4

**Location:** 2130 Pepperwood Preserve Road, Santa Rosa. From Northbound 101, take exit 494, River Rd./Guerneville/Calistoga. Head east on Mark West Springs Rd. towards Calistoga. At 5.4 miles, you reach the Mark West Springs Lodge and the road changes to Porter Creek Rd. Go another 1.6 miles to Franz Valley Rd., turn left, and go about 1 mile. Just before the crest of the hill, turn onto Pepperwood Preserve Rd. Follow the paved road approximately 1 mile until it ends at the parking lot. You'll pass the multi-story modern cement/steel/wood Dwight Center just before reaching the parking lot.

**Suggested donation:** \$10.

**Leader:** Dr. Terry Gosliner, California Academy of Sciences, TGosliner@calacademy.org.

### **MCP Walk: Wildflowers at Gary Giacomini**

**Sunday, April 22, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Join us in celebrating Native Plant Week. The ridge above the south side of the San Geronimo Valley is one of the great gems in the county. Wildflowers (including several serpentine endemics), a pygmy Sargent cypress forest, and incredible views are our reward for the sustained climb that will bring us to the top.

**Directions:** Meet at the gate on Redwood Canyon Dr. in San Geronimo. From Hwy. 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd. west 9.4 miles. Turn left onto Railroad Ave., take a sharp right onto San Geronimo Valley Dr., and take the second left onto Redwood Canyon Dr. The gate is immediately on the right.

**Leader:** Shannon Burke, MCP Naturalist, 415.893.9520, SBurke@marincounty.org.



Hiking in Gary Giacomini Open Space—Vernon Smith

### **Spring and Serpentine Wildflowers of Mt. Tam**

**Sunday, April 29, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

This moderate hike of approximately 5 miles will take participants to Potrero Meadows, a classic Mt. Tam destination with a wet meadow that supports native grasses, allium, meadow rue, and other wildflowers. The group will then continue to Barth's Retreat, which features serpentine specialists of many kinds.

Meet at the Lagunitas/Rocky Rd. trailhead. From the paved parking lot at Rock Spring, continue to the right (northeast) on Ridgecrest for about ½ mile to a large dirt parking lot on the right.

**Leader:** Dabney Smith, djs1947@hotmail.com.



### **ZEN OF WEEDING**

#### **Habitat Restoration at Samuel P. Taylor St. Park**

**Sunday, April 8 and Friday, April 13, 1–3 p.m.**

Invasive, non-native plants thrive in the lush Marin climate along with our local native plants, and sometimes they spread aggressively to the exclusion of everything else. "The Zen of Weeding" tackles the invasive plants on the trails and hillsides at Samuel P. Taylor State Park in west Marin. The weeding encourages the resurgence of native plants, which in turn support insects that feed fish and birds. Salmon thrive in streams with healthy riparian vegetation that provide shade and places to rest.

A lot of progress was made in the last few months with the help of Park Staffer Bill Miller, reinforcing the mulched areas in the Orchard Hill campground to suppress *Ehrharta* seedlings—a type of African grass that spreads rapidly under the right conditions.

Join us for easy, companionable work—you'll feel much better about everything after two hours in the redwoods. As the wildflowers continue to open, we'll restore their habitat as well as our spirits.

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. Please reply if you are coming so that I know who to expect. 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.



### **NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE!**

You can find a color PDF edition of this newsletter on the Marin chapter website by visiting [cnpsmarin.org/chapter/newsletters](http://cnpsmarin.org/chapter/newsletters).

# GARDENING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

by Charlotte Torgovitsky

Early in March, the redbud is ready to burst into bloom, the beautiful zigzagging tracery of its branches soon to be disguised in a cloud of pink flowers. I've planted several redbuds in different areas on our property, but the most spectacular is a well-developed small tree, now about 15 feet tall, in my front border. As it happens, it is an eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), a beautiful case of a mistaken identity!

About 18 years ago I was enrolled in a Nursery Management class at the College of Marin and our instructor always had plant propagules to share with his students. One day he took a bag of moist perlite full of stratified and germinating redbud seeds from the refrigerator to share with the class. I took a dozen or so to grow on, but it wasn't until several years later that I noticed some minor differences in the leaves of certain specimens: some were fully rounded, or with a slightly indented notch; others showed a delicate little tip to the rounded form, making the leaf almost a heart shape.

As it turned out, two species were intermingled: eastern redbud and western redbud (*C. occidentalis*). Over time, I've noticed differences in their growth habits. The eastern redbud has developed a single substantial trunk, whereas the western redbud grows in a more shrubby form, and much more slowly. The eastern is also a prolific bloomer; the first flowers appeared when the tree was about 12 years old. Western redbuds do not bloom as reliably here in Marin; mine never have set bud—they seem to want more cold nights than I get on my virtually frost-free hill.

I find it immensely satisfying to have nurtured "my" beautiful redbud along since it was nothing more than a single root and a set of cotyledons! I grew it on in containers of ever-increasing sizes for about five years, knowing that I would soon have a permanent garden in which to plant it. We planted it out in 2006, and protected it with a cage from the browsing deer for a few years.



*Bombus melanopygus* on eastern redbud—Bob & Mieke Watkins



Scrub jay in eastern redbud—Bob Watkins

The first blooms came in 2012, when my tree was a pre-teen, and the show each year thereafter has been more and more spectacular. The trunk is now about six inches in diameter, and there's also a healthy colony of lichens on the northeast side. Several years ago, I removed drip irrigation from the tree; it gets nothing but incidental water from plants close by. The redbud has no disease or pest problems. It gets a top-dressing of compost or mulch every year, and I prune it while it's dormant to preserve its beautiful form.

There's so much to love and appreciate about this tree: the beauty of its blossoms, the graceful growth pattern, the delicate shade it provides when fully leafed out, the bit of fall color as leaves begin to drop, and the contribution of its leaves to my compost piles.

A number of creatures get resources from redbuds: deer browse the young leaves if they can reach them, bumblebees seek nectar from the flowers, and a great number of birds find good perches within its canopy, or just great places to sing from! When I collect seeds from redbuds, I often find that beetles—usually weevils of some sort—have gotten to them first.

Western redbud was an important basketry plant for California's native peoples, and they carefully managed the shrubs to get exactly the type of growth they needed. Redbud shrubs were coppiced in winter or very early spring to induce the growth of pliant, straight new stems. Native peoples used these stems to make cradleboards, sifters, and winnowing baskets.

They also made coiled cooking baskets from the redbud stems—baskets so tight that they held water! For one basket like this, about seventy-five 30" stems were needed. In managed stands, just six shrubs could provide them all; in unmanaged stands, about 150 shrubs had to be visited in order to get enough supplies for one basket.

For more on plant "look-alikes," spring blooms, and creatures in the garden, interested readers can visit Charlotte's blog at [www.homegroundhabitats.org](http://www.homegroundhabitats.org).

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\* = California Native Plant Week event

- ✿ **Monday 4/2, 7 p.m.**  
Chapter Board Meeting, 5 Hamilton Lndg, Suite 200, Novato
- ✿ **Sunday 4/8, 1–3 p.m. (also 4/13)**  
The Zen of Weeding, Samuel P. Taylor State Park
- ✿ **Monday 4/9, 7–9 p.m.**  
Chapter Meeting: Charlotte Torgovitsky on “Gardening for Butterflies”
- ✿ **Saturday 4/14, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.\***  
Marin Chapter Spring Plant Sale, Falkirk Cultural Center, San Rafael
- ✿ **Sunday 4/15, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.\***  
Marin County Parks Naturalist Walk: Wildflowers at Mt. Burdell
- ✿ **Monday 4/16, 10:30 a.m.\***  
Demonstration: “The Art of Pressed Botanicals,” by Cindy LaMar, First Presbyterian Church, San Rafael
- ✿ **Wednesday 4/18, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.\***  
Marin County Parks Naturalist Walk: Wildflowers at Chimney Rock
- ✿ **Thursday 4/19, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.\***  
Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Pt. Reyes
- ✿ **Friday 4/20, 12–1 p.m.\***  
Talk: Erin Elsey on “Bee Friends in Your Garden,” Marin Civic Center Library, San Rafael
- ✿ **Saturday 4/21, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.\***  
Celebrate Earth Day at Samuel P. Taylor State Park
- ✿ **Saturday 4/21, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**  
Chapter Field Trip: Sonoma Post-Fire Field Trip to Pepperwood Preserve
- ✿ **Saturday 4/21**  
Novato Island Habitat Maintenance
- ✿ **Sunday 4/22, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.\***  
Marin County Parks Naturalist Walk: Wildflowers at Gary Giacomini
- ✿ **Sunday 4/29, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**  
Chapter Field Trip: Spring and Serpentine Wildflowers of Mt. Tam
- ✿ **Saturday 5/5, 10–11 a.m.**  
Sudden Oak Death training session, Dominican University, San Rafael
- ✿ **Monday 5/7, 7 p.m.**  
Chapter Board Meeting, 5 Hamilton Lndg, Suite 200, Novato
- ✿ **Monday 5/14, 7–9 p.m.**  
Chapter Meeting: Andrea Williams on “Vegetation Indicators for Ecosystem Health of Mt. Tamalpais”

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

## THIRD THURSDAY WEEDERS

**Thursday, April 19, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**

Don't you hate to see beautiful native vegetation being displaced by invasive exotic species? If so, the “Third Thursday Weeders” are for you! Spend a companionable day at beautiful Point Reyes and help us protect important plant habitat in the Point Reyes National Seashore.

The Weeders meet regularly on the third Thursday of every month. Over the past four years, we have removed infestations of iceplant, veldt grass, European beachgrass, perennial pepperweed, Cape ivy, and Napa star-thistle. Lately we've concentrated our efforts on the Lighthouse area and a dune restoration project near Abbots Lagoon. We always have a good time and it's highly rewarding to see the native plants making a comeback in these areas!

To sign up and receive notification of the meeting place, please contact Carolyn Longstreth at [cklongstreth@gmail.com](mailto:cklongstreth@gmail.com) or 415.669.7514. 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



Weeders moving tarp (and taking pictures of each other!) in March, 2018—Bear McGuinness

## 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, visit the CNPS Marin website at [www.cnpsmarin.org](http://www.cnpsmarin.org) and provide your email address in the “Sign up for our E-Bulletin” section of the home page.

# PLANT OF THE MONTH: TROUBLE WITH *TRIPHYSARIA*?

Text by Doreen Smith; photos by Vernon Smith

Many plants' Latin names and family designations were changed radically in the *Jepson Manual*, 2012 edition. The owl's clovers were divided into three different genera: *Castilleja*, *Orthocarpus*, and *Triphysaria*.



*Triphysaria eriantha* ssp. *rosea* (rosy butter 'n' eggs)

Marin has several species and subspecies of the genus *Triphysaria* that may look very alike when made into herbarium vouchers. The keys made from such pressed brown material are difficult to interpret. Live flowering plants in color are much easier to identify, but there are still confusing sources where the identifications are incorrect. For instance, on the poster at the Chimney Rock trailhead on Pt. Reyes, the photograph described as "*Triphysaria eriantha* ssp. *rosea*" is really the rare "*Triphysaria floribunda*," San Francisco owl's clover. Even though the responsible Seashore staff have been informed several times over about the errors in the last 10 years, updates have failed to happen.



*Triphysaria floribunda* (San Francisco owl's clover)



*Triphysaria pusilla* (least owl's clover)

Noticing the color of the two fused back petals making up the galea, "the beak," is very helpful in getting to which species you've found. It is either purple (*T. pusilla* and *T. eriantha*) or pale greenish (*T. floribunda* and *T. versicolor*).

Marin has the following species and subspecies of *Triphysaria*; only one other California species exists, found in the south of the state:

*Triphysaria pusilla* (least owl's clover) is the easiest to recognize; it usually has reddish-purple leaves and extremely small reddish flowers on a tiny plant.

*Triphysaria floribunda* (San Francisco owl's clover, CNPS List 1B) is white- to cream-flowered, each floret of the compact inflorescence is small, and each has exerted stamens.

In *Triphysaria eriantha* ssp. *rosea* (rosy butter 'n' eggs), the galea is purple, other petals can be either



*Triphysaria eriantha* ssp. *eriantha* (butter 'n' eggs)

*Plant of the Month continued on page 9*



*Triphysaria versicolor* ssp. *versicolor* (yellowbeak owl's clover)

white or pink, and the petal color does not change with aging of the flower.

*Triphysaria eriantha* ssp. *eriantha* (butter 'n' eggs) is yellow-flowered and there is a purple galea at the back of each floret. Though common in much of California, it's uncommon in Marin County and found only on a serpentine outcrop on the Leiss Ranch at the south end of Chileno Valley.

*Triphysaria versicolor* ssp. *versicolor* (yellowbeak owl's clover) is uncommon in Marin, and is found on the flatlands of the Lunny "G" Ranch at Pt. Reyes. The flowers have a pale galea; the puffy petals open white then fade pink.

*Triphysaria versicolor* ssp. *faucibarbata*, (also called yellowbeak owl's clover) is the most common here. It's a yellow-flowered species and its florets have a pale or greenish galea.



*Triphysaria versicolor* ssp. *faucibarbata*, (also called yellowbeak owl's clover)

## FIELD TRIP REPORT: THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

by S. Schlosser, C. Longstreth, and W. Elliot

Along the Estero and Drake's Head trails, we walked through coastal scrub, coastal prairie, salt marsh, mudflats, freshwater stock ponds, and a planted pine forest. We could see Bishop pine forest, coastal riparian forest, and Douglas fir forest. Adding to the beauty of these trails, there was always a view of water—Drakes Estero, Limantour Estero, or the Pacific Ocean.

We identified over 40 species of plants. Fourteen species were blooming: *Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum*, *Taraxia ovata*, *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* var. *thyrsiflorus*, *Rubus parviflorus*, *Rubus ursinus*, *Lathyrus vestitus* ssp. *vestitus*, *Vaccinium ovatum*, *Mimulus (Diplacus) aurantiacus* ssp. *aurantiacus*, *Helenium puberulum*, *Fragaria chiloensis*, *Castilleja affinis* ssp. *affinis*, *Sidalcea malviflora* ssp. *malviflora*, *Romulea rosea* var. *australis*, and *Iris douglasiana*.

Viewing the western slopes, crinkly ridges, and gullies of Inverness Ridge, we learned how to recognize former cultivation and other land uses by straight lines amongst the habitats. The coastal prairie we saw had been grazed and/or cultivated; among the former agricultural crops were grain and artichokes. The creeks were relatively short and looked choked with willow and alders. The coastal scrub was interspersed with grassy patches and the coastal prairie with patches of *Iris douglasiana*. Both habitats were treeless and windswept. The many bays of Drake's Estero reached into the low, rolling hills, producing a complex and beautiful shoreline.

Everyone spotted new plants and helped with identification. Wildlife included shore birds, ducks, white pelicans, cormorants, red-tailed hawks, deer, wood rat nests, and two snakes! This 8.5-mile field trip was completed in 6.5 hours.



Enjoying the fine day and flora along the Estero and Drake's Head trails

## MARIN CNPS FACEBOOK GROUP



Our chapter's Facebook group ([www.facebook.com/groups/MarinNativePlants](http://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.

## 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

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Chapter Programs: Kristin Jakob  
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Publicity: Alison Blume  
Membership: Eddie Robertson  
Legislation: open  
PlantID.net: Bruce Homer-Smith  
Marin CNPS Website: Vernon Smith

### **Other Useful Contacts**

*Marin Flora* mail orders: Vivian Mazur  
*Marin Flora* wholesale 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.***

## SFSU PLANT ID WORKSHOPS!

***Second Thursdays, 6–7:30 p.m.***

The spring semester brings us more plant ID workshops on the second Thursday of the month. A collaboration between Yerba Buena Chapter and San Francisco State University, these workshops are a great, relaxing place to learn about botany. A PowerPoint presentation starts things off with a discussion that includes diagnostic characteristics of a plant family, as well as aspects of its ecology, distribution, and evolutionary history. After the talk, botany graduate students assist attendees in keying out live specimens.

Mark your calendars for April 12 and May 10 and bring your *Jepson Manual* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition if you have one.

**Location:** San Francisco State University, Hensill Hall, Botany Lab, Room 440.

**Questions?** Email Mila Stroganoff at [milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net).



## 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.

# 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](http://www.cnps.org) and click **Join/Renew**.

## Join or Renew by Mail

Yes! I wish to affiliate with the Marin chapter.

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### Membership Category:

- Mariposa Lily    \$1,500
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Please mail application and check payable to **CNPS** to:  
California Native Plant Society  
2707 K St., Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

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

## Newsletter Only

If you wish to receive only the newsletter, please make a \$10 check payable to **CNPS Marin** and mail to: Marin CNPS, 58 Redwood Dr., Kentfield, CA 94904.

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: Katherine Wing, 58 Redwood Dr., Kentfield, CA 94904.



## SHOP & SAVE AT GREEN JEANS GARDEN SUPPLY

Family-run Green Jeans Garden Supply in Mill Valley offers a 10 percent discount to card-carrying members of CNPS! The nursery is located at 690 Redwood Hwy, the east-side frontage road alongside Hwy 101, south of the Strawberry Shopping Center.



## SHOP & GIVE TO CNPS MARIN AT MILL VALLEY MARKET

Family-run Mill Valley Market gives 2 percent of your total receipt to CNPS Marin. No registration necessary, no membership card, no overhead; just mention the donation code #7048 at the beginning of the transaction to benefit native plants!

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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 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

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[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)  
Meetup [www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Marin-Chapter-Meetup](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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