



California Native Plant Society

MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)

Marin chapter established 1973

Monday, January 8, Marin Chapter Meeting

CNPS Members' Photos from 2017 Botanical Adventures

January's potluck slides program will feature the botanical excursions of several of our Chapter members:

- Doreen and Vernon Smith on Salt Point, Sea Ranch, and Mendocino
- Eva Buxton on Australia
- Dave Long on Japan
- Christina Orth on Marin Chapter's bicycling field trip
- Rob Badger and Nita Winter on Carrizo Plains National Monument's Super Bloom in early April

Please join us!



Caulanthus inflatus (desert candles) in the Carrizo Plains National Monument—Nita Winter and Rob Badger

Monday, February 12 Marin Chapter Meeting

Saxon Holt on "The California Wildflower Superbloom—A Garden Photographer's View"

Saxon Holt has been a professional garden photographer for 30 years, and a CNPS member 35. In recent years he has been seeking to combine these two passions to inspire gardeners to use the diverse palette



Nature's garden in the Sonoran Desert spring superbloom at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park—Saxon Holt

of native plants. The 2017 superbloom in southern California's deserts became an incredible opportunity to illustrate that God's garden can become our garden.

A life-long gardener from a family of gardeners, Saxon Holt spent his professional time as a commercial photographer until 1985, when he discovered the gardening market and could no longer stay indoors. He quickly developed a reputation as a photographer with a distinct vision and understanding of plants in the landscape.

He owns PhotoBotanic.com and Summer-Dry.com. PhotoBotanic is a garden picture resource for photos, e-books, and photography workshops, where his first e-book on garden photography received the Gold Award as the best Overall Garden Book from the Garden Writers Association.

Summer-Dry is an ongoing project to provide gardeners in California and other summer-dry climates a photo resource of climate-appropriate plants for sustainable gardening.

His work has been featured in diverse publications from *Architectural Digest* and *Pacific Horticulture* magazine to *Smithsonian* and *Money* magazine; with 20+ books, Saxon's work is known throughout the gardening world.

Chapter Meetings continued on page 2

Chapter Meetings continued from page 1

He is the Photography Program Director at San Francisco Botanical Garden, a Fellow of the Garden Writers Association, and Board Member of Pacific Horticulture Society.

He is currently working on *The Summer-Dry Garden* to be published by Timber Press in 2019.



Fouquieria splendens (ocotillo) and cactus by Coyote Mountain, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park—Saxon Holt

January and February meetings:

Note the **earlier dinner and meeting starting times.**

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.



SFSU PLANT ID WORKSHOPS!

Second Thursdays, 6–7:30 p.m.

Plant ID workshops at SFSU will take a break for January and then continue on the second Thursday of the month throughout the winter. 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 February 8 and March 8. Join us. The location is San Francisco State University, Hensill Hall, Botany Lab, Room 440.

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

THIRD THURSDAY WEEDERS

Thursday, January 18 and February 15, 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 Abbotts Lagoon. We always have a good time and it's highly rewarding to see the native plants making a comeback in these areas!



Blennosperma nanum var. *robustum* (List 1B), an early bloomer at Point Reyes—Carolyn Longstreth

To sign up and receive notification of the meeting place, please contact Carolyn Longstreth at 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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ✿ **Thursday 1/4, 7 p.m.**
Chapter Board Meeting, 5 Hamilton Lndg, Suite 200, Novato
- ✿ **Saturday 1/6, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: Mt. Tam in Winter: Rock Spring to Old Stove
- ✿ **Monday 1/8, 7–9 p.m.**
Chapter Meeting: CNPS Members' Photos from 2017 Botanical Adventures
- ✿ **Thursday 1/18, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. (also 2/15)**
Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Pt. Reyes
- ✿ **Friday 1/19, 1–3 p.m. (also 1/21, 2/9, and 2/11)**
The Zen of Weeding, Samuel P. Taylor State Park
- ✿ **Saturday 1/20 (also 2/17)**
Novato Native Habitat Maintenance
- ✿ **Monday 2/5, 7 p.m.**
Chapter Board Meeting, 5 Hamilton Lndg, Suite 200, Novato
- ✿ **Saturday 2/10, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: Drakes Estero Trail to Drakes Head—The Long and Short of It
- ✿ **Monday 2/12, 7–9 p.m.**
Chapter Meeting: Saxon Holt on "The California Wildflower Superbloom—A Garden Photographer's View"
- ✿ **Sunday 2/25, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**
Chapter Field Trip: Early Serpentine Wildflowers of Mt. Burdell
- ✿ **Monday 3/5, 7 p.m.**
Chapter Board Meeting, 5 Hamilton Lndg, Suite 200, Novato
- ✿ **Monday 3/12, 7–9 p.m.**
Chapter Meeting: Dick O'Donnell on "Our Pals, the Pollinators"



NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE!

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



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Text by Doreen Smith

Is *Ribes malvaceum*, chaparral flowering currant, Marin's rarest common shrub? Though mentioned as occurring in two local sites by Howell's *Marin Flora*, it took me many years to locate even one plant of *Ribes malvaceum*. Maybe you have discovered others in Marin County? The site where we found it was not one of the given-by-Howell locations, but in the coastal chaparral of the Marin Headlands. The plant was (hope it still survives) on the upper end of the Bobcat trail/fire road, next to the only willow thicket.

It may be an even earlier-flowering species than the more common flowering currant, *Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum*. *R. malvaceum* prefers the dry



Ribes malvaceum (chaparral flowering currant)—Vernon Smith

chaparral, whereas *R. sanguineum* prefers moist coastal habitats. The appearance of the leaves also differs: the upper surface is fissured and rough-hairy (*malvaceum*) or not so (*sanguineum*). Another distinction is an obscure feature of the flowers: the style is hairy in *R. malvaceum*, whereas it is glabrous in *R. sanguineum*.

Marin's *Ribes malvaceum* flowers look morphologically like those of the Mt. San Bruno shrubs, but differ in appearance from those of the Mt. Diablo population. However, the *Jepson Manual* says they are the same subspecies, *R. malvaceum* var. *malvaceum*.



Ribes sanguineum var. *glutinosum* (red flowering currant)—Vernon Smith

GARDENING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

by Charlotte Torgovitsky

My husband and I live on a south-facing hillside situated above the Novato Creek floodplains; it's a beautiful, warm, and sunny spot with a great vantage point. Our hill, called Cherry Hill on some maps, is a part of one of the ridges extending from Mt. Burdell, the third-highest peak in Marin County, and we're directly facing Big Rock Ridge, the second highest spot in Marin. And, when the skies are clear we can actually see just a little tip of Mt. Tamalpais, the highest peak in Marin! To the east, we can see the twin peaks of Mt. Diablo, the highest peak of all in our area, and therefore the base meridian of much of northern California.

The views are wonderful, but the rainfall here on our land is sometimes disappointing; while other places in Marin are measuring an inch of rain, we might get a mere quarter inch! We're in a rain shadow; I can see all the rain falling on the north side of Big Rock Ridge, and in Indian Valley, but then the clouds are often blown east, or if they do get to our side, there's not much moisture left.

Even so, with not much more than an inch of rain, I'm witnessing an almost instantaneous re-greening of the landscape! Within days, thousands of seeds are germinating: lots of grasses, and a great variety of weeds and wildflowers. This is where the fun begins; I love the challenges of identifying these minute plantlets. Sometimes I'm already so familiar with the plant that I know it from the cotyledons, but very often I need to see the first true leaves before I really know what it is.

Thinking About Weeds

Annual grass seeds are amongst the first to germinate, and of course wild oats (*Avena* species) are well represented. Wild oats, very different looking than the native oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*) were introduced from Europe and brought to California, most likely with the very first Spanish settlers, who brought livestock, and with them the seeds of these grasses. In Europe during the olden times, the leafy new spring growth of one wild oat species (*Avena sativa*) was used as a medicinal to treat various conditions, including diminished sex drive. The phrase "sowing one's wild oats" originates from this!

Along with the annual grasses come lots of thistle seedlings; their cotyledons are large and somewhat spoon-shaped. I can identify Italian thistles (*Carduus pycnocephalus*) easily when the first set of small and somewhat spiky, medium-green true leaves have developed. Some of the non-native weeds, including thistles, that plague wild areas in Marin are thought to have been brought to the county by Samuel P. Taylor in

raw materials for his paper mill. At first there was plenty of wood pulp locally available, but as those sources dwindled and the demand for paper kept rising, he also made paper using rags imported from Europe. It's within these supplies that the seeds of some European weeds are thought to have "hitched a ride."

Here's where my thoughts about weeds differ from those of many others; weeds are not all bad! People emigrating to new lands have always brought plants with them for various purposes, such as for food or medicines, feed for livestock, or for useful tools. Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) and onion grass (*Allium triquetrum*) were food plants; blessed milkthistle (*Silybum marianum*) is a useful medicinal plant; and teasel (*Dipsacus* species) came with settlers because the dried seed heads are the best tool for hand-carding wool. The early settlers must have thought they were doing a good thing when these useful plants not only adapted to, but thrived in their new homelands.

Now, some of these species are considered a plague in our wild places, but a number of them are actually also good habitat plants, supporting all sorts of life. Various thistle species support a great number of insect species as well as birds and small mammals. Hummingbirds take advantage of the nectar; all sorts of bees gather both nectar and pollen from the flowers; and later on, when the seeds have set, goldfinches flock to the plants for nourishment. They eat the seeds, and they also breed later than many small birds, partly to gather the thistledown, which they use to line their tiny open-cup nests. American goldfinches are the "sad thistle eaters" (*Carduelis tristis*), and they are one of the few songbirds that feed their fast-growing nestlings with seeds, not insects.



Carduelis tristis (goldfinch) on redbud—Bob and Mieko Watkins

There are a number of thistles in the genus *Cirsium* native to California, but one non-native is the bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), with big beautiful purple flowers. This species is one we're authorized to pull at Samuel P. Taylor Park, where I help out with the ongoing "Zen of Weeding" project. Large seedlings

Gardening in Harmony with Nature continued on page 5

are easy to identify, with a rosette of soft oblong leaves that are fringed with small spines, and since they are biennial plants, we have time to get to them out long before seed-set. We use hori-hori knives to make sure we get the taproot out. Manual methods like hand weeding are really the best way to control small populations or scattered individuals, but the timing is critical; get it done before the plants get too big and spiky, or before flower buds are formed, and most certainly before seeds have set!



Bee on *Cirsium vulgare* (bull thistle)—Bob and Mieke Watkins

Native Thistles

One of the most beautiful of all thistles, the cobweb thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* var. *occidentale*) is native to California and never invasive. Cobweb thistle is a stunning plant with almost-white leaves and gorgeous deep-pink flowers barely emerging from an involucre that displays a webby wooliness on the outer surface. This thistle has been growing in my garden for many years now, and I love it as much as the wildlife does. But it's not a plant amenable to average garden culture, since it likes to decide for itself where it wants to grow! Every few years new colonies of seedlings show up in areas that get some occasional water.

In the summer months, the first-year growth of the cobweb thistle becomes a completely dried-up and shriveled looking rosette of leaves that might look dead, but its strongly developed tap root is actually alive, just dormant. As soon as the first rains begin, the plants come alive with new leafy growth. This unattractive summer dormancy, and the fact that a number of native plants just want to decide for themselves where to get established, can make a California habitat garden a challenging concept to many gardeners.

Furthermore, in a successful habitat garden, the animals also play a part and gardens change and evolve as "life itself creates conditions conducive to life." The gardener becomes more of an editor than an author, and has to make decisions about which plants, often



Cirsium occidentale var. *occidentale* (cobweb thistle)—Bob and Mieke Watkins

introduced by various creatures, can stay where they are. I'm particularly thrilled when I notice that some of the native plants that I've planted in my garden are spreading and establishing in the wild lands around us!

I'm also getting the Venus thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* var. *venustum*), established in my garden. It's similar to the cobweb thistle, except that the leaves are greenish and the flowers are red, and are held above the involucre, which is not as webby. The plants also have a much taller, lankier stature.

I first noticed the Venus thistle growing at the edges of oak woodlands along the ridge trails at Rush Creek in Novato. I collected a few seeds, grew a few seedlings in a controlled situation, and planted them out in an area with similar exposure. Now into the third year, I have a small colony that is not in the same place where I first planted it, but it appears to be thriving and spreading.

For more on weeds and wildflowers, interested readers can visit Charlotte's blog at www.homegroundhabitats.org.



CNPS MARIN CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS 2018

The Marin Chapter is pleased to announce that two scholarships will be available to qualified students who will be conducting research on California native plants during the 2018–19 academic year. There will be one Joe Kohn Scholarship and one Ken Howard Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,500 each. For more information and an application form, please visit the Marin Chapter website at www.cnpsmarin.org.

NEW NATIVE PLANT OASIS IN LARKSPUR

Marin CNPS responded to a request from some members of the city of Larkspur Chamber of Commerce to help beautify the downtown area this fall. Rob Katz and Laura Lovett met with them to get an idea of what they hoped to accomplish, and proposed that we help design and supply plants for an area that had been neglected for years, on the north end of the main street near the Lark Theater.

For many years, Charlotte Torgovitsky has been assisting a team of Novato volunteers who have been successfully converting the city's medians and traffic islands to California natives and other drought-resistant plants. Charlotte proposed a palette of plants that she knew from experience would flourish in the exposed conditions next to busy Magnolia Avenue. After clearing the planting list with the City Council and the city's Heritage Board, the Larkspur Public Works Department came by with a tractor, dug out the large mats of crabgrass, and brought in new soil for the planting beds. Just before the rains began in November, over 100 plants went into the ground. A new irrigation system and a topping of mulch finished off the job. The plants have already been well soaked in subsequent rains and should put down healthy roots this winter, ready for spring growth once the weather warms up.



Larkspur bed ready for planting—Laura Lovett

Coldwell Banker realtor Angela Curley, whose office is next to the Lark Theater, made a generous donation to enable the project to get underway. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the plants, and help us build up a fund to purchase plants for more medians nearby, tax-deductible donations can be made through the Larkspur Foundation at www.larkspurcommunity-foundation.org. You'll find a button on the home page labeled "Donate to Native Bloom Larkspur". And next time you visit either Larkspur or Novato, be sure to admire our native planting efforts in public spaces.

MARIN CHAPTER FALL PLANT SALE RECAP

A big THANK YOU to the many volunteers who helped us set up and run the fall plant sale and all the members and friends who came to purchase plants! We had a very successful day and couldn't have done it without you. We are grateful for the ongoing support and help of our co-sponsors, the Marin Master Gardeners, at our lovely venue in the garden at the Falkirk Cultural Center.



Shoppers check out plants for shade—Laura Lovett

Audrey Fusco of SPAWN and Charlotte Torgovitsky of CNPS gave talks on what to plant along riparian corridors and under the shade of native oaks, and a lot of beautiful, custom-grown plants were carried off to grace their new owners' homes. Thanks to the volunteers who oversee the myriad of tasks involved, we are able to put on a sale that offers alternatives to standard garden choices and spread the word about a new and better approach to gardening in Marin.



The plant sale in full swing—Gail Mason

MARIN CNPS FIELD TRIPS JANUARY–FEBRUARY 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.

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.

Mt. Tam in Winter: Rock Spring to Old Stove

Saturday, January 6, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Dabney Smith will lead us down the Cataract Trail to High Marsh and then to Old Stove, returning via one of several possible trails. The route will pass through moist redwood canyons with ferns and rushing creeks, and continue into open grasslands and chaparral for a total of six or seven miles of moderately difficult hiking. We'll be searching for fetid adder's tongue and other early wildflowers.

Meet at the Rock Spring parking area. This hike is especially suitable for beginning plant enthusiasts. Rain cancels; call Dabney if in doubt at 415.320.9229.

Drakes Estero Trail to Drakes Head—The Long and Short of It

Saturday, February 10, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Susan Schlosser and Carolyn Longstreth will lead this classic Point Reyes foray through chaparral, pine forest, grassland, and coastal bluffs. We'll discuss plant communities, search for early flowers, and marvel at the spectacular views of Drakes Estero. It's an 8.8-mile round trip to Drakes Head, but the route is out-and-back so participants can turn back whenever they wish. Drakes Head is one of the most awesome overlooks in the Seashore, worth every step!

The group will meet at the Drakes Estero trailhead, which is located 0.5 mile off Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Enter the Park at the hilltop west of Inverness, drive downhill past the Mt. Vision Road turnoff, and take the next left, at the sign for Drake's Estero.

For more information, contact Susan Schlosser (scschlosser52@gmail.com/707.834.6525) or Carolyn Longstreth (cklongstreth@gmail.com/415.669.7514).

Early Serpentine Wildflowers of Mt. Burdell

Sunday, February 25, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

This is an easy walk of about two miles, visiting two serpentine exposures on the lower slopes of Mt. Burdell. Most years, there are many early-blooming wildflowers such as little sticky-seed (*Blennosperma nanum*), goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*), star zigadene (*Toxicoscordion fremontii*), early pepper-cress (*Lepidium nitidum*), bluedicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*), fragrant fritillary (*Fritillaria liliacea*), purple mouse-ears (*Mimulus douglasii*), and annual suncups (*Tetrapteron graciliflorum*).

Meet at the San Andreas Open Space gate at the end of San Andreas Drive off San Marin Dr. about two miles west of Highway 101. The hike will end at the top of San Carlos Dr. There will be at least one car left there to car-pool back to San Andreas, but it's not a long walk. Rain cancels; call Doreen if in doubt.

Leader: Doreen Smith (dlsflora321@gmail.com/415.479.7888).



ZEN OF WEEDING

Habitat Restoration at Samuel P. Taylor St. Park

Friday, January 19, Sunday, January 21, Friday, February 9, and Sunday, February 11, 1–3 p.m.

Change of schedule! Nancy will be traveling (birding in southern Mexico) this January. So just in January, we'll shift to the third Friday and third Sunday (1/19 and 1/21) for Zen Weeding. In February we'll return to our regular schedule and weed on the second Friday and Sunday.

The early rains brought some unexpected salmon to Lagunitas Creek this fall, but the Coho are still waiting in Tomales Bay for bigger storms before they swim upstream to spawn. It is heartwarming to see them returning each year and know we are helping to create a healthier habitat for them and their offspring. Taylor Park and the Leo T Cronin viewing area are some of the best places to spot them.

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. 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.



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 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.

GET YOUR MARIN CHAPTER CNPS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY

Help the Marin Chapter reduce unnecessary costs and use of paper for the chapter *Newsletter* by receiving the color version of the *Newsletter* by email instead of by snail mail. Write to deliveriesmarincnps@gmail.com with "Email Newsletter" in the subject line and your name and address in the body of the email. Many thanks!

MARIN CNPS CONTACTS

Board Members

Kristin Jakob, Co-Vice President
David Long, Co-Vice President
Katherine Wing, Treasurer
Ashley Eastman Dumbra, Recording Secretary
Charlotte Torgovitsky
Laura Lovett
Paul da Silva
Carolyn Longstreth
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: open
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

Congratulations and welcome to the 2018 Chapter Board members elected at the November membership meeting! A huge Thank You to retiring board member **Phyllis Faber**, who has served for several decades, and recently celebrated her 90th birthday!

Continuing board members are **Paul da Silva, Rob Katz, Carolyn Longstreth, Laura Lovett, Eddie Robertson, and Charlotte Torgovitsky**, along with Co-Vice Presidents (and Acting Co-Presidents) **Kristin Jakob** and **David Long**.

We officially welcome **David Greenberger**, whom the Board elected on an interim basis in 2017; **Katherine Wing**, who will serve as Treasurer; and **Ashley Eastman Dumbra** as Recording Secretary—many thanks to them all!

David Greenberger has been professionally involved in native plant conservation in Marin County since 2013. His work history includes stints at Point Blue, MMWD, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and now One Tam, where he's heavily involved in an Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) program to combat the spread of invasive species on Mt. Tamalpais. His fascination with biodiversity has driven him to all corners of the county (and indeed the state) in search of CNPS-listed, locally rare, or otherwise intriguing native plants, which he makes sure to document using the

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wonderful iNaturalist and Calflora platforms. He has rediscovered several species not recorded in Marin for decades, observed the county's first ever occurrence of *Malacothrix floccifera*, and hopes to find the presumed extirpated *Cypripedium californicum*.

Ashley Eastman Dumbra began learning about native plants when she first had a bit of dirt to enjoy after college. Since then, she has been taking classes and attending field trips in order to deepen her understanding of the flora native to California. As an elementary teacher, she incorporates native plant studies into the curriculum. She was a docent at Edgewood Preserve in Redwood City, leading kids on trips to explore their botanical surroundings. Now that she lives in West Marin, she is enjoying getting to know the land that is home, collecting local seeds and preparing for their residence at her home. She is particularly interested in learning about how the original Miwok inhabitants interact with and care for the native plants. Her hope is to restore her land and contribute to other restoration projects in West Marin, participating in larger efforts to understand the responsibilities we carry as stewards of the land. Ashley is grateful for this opportunity with the Marin Chapter of CNPS.

Kate Wing's enthusiasm for California native plants is inextricably linked with her enthusiasm for being outdoors. She is a Marin native, and after a few years of enjoying the field trips and lectures offered by CNPS, she decided to join the board. Although she is taking on the role of Treasurer, her primary interest is involvement with the Chapter's conservation and advocacy projects.



ISLAND HABITATS

Saturday, January 20 and Saturday, February 17

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 this winter we will 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.

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:

- Mariposa Lily \$1,500
- Benefactor \$600
- Patron \$300
- Plant Lover \$100
- Family, Group, or Library \$75
- Individual \$45
- Student or Limited Income \$25

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

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.

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