



California Native Plant Society

MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)

Marin chapter established 1973

Monday, October 8, Marin Chapter Meeting

Andrea Williams on “Water, Fire, and Mt. Tamalpais”

The Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) is continuing to take action to minimize fire hazards and maximize ecological health on its watershed lands. The Mt. Tamalpais, Nicasio Reservoir, and Soulajule Reservoir watersheds encompass approximately 22,000 acres of publicly accessible wildlands characterized by both high wildfire risk and high biological diversity. Vegetation Ecologist and CNPS member Andrea Williams is on the front lines of vegetation and wildlife management at MMWD and will share a closer look at fire safety and vegetation management on Mt. Tamalpais.



CAL FIRE tanker releasing retardant on the #PineFire near Kent Lake and Pine Mountain Fire Road in June, 2017

October 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.**

MARIN CNPS Field Trips, September 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 as well as 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.cnpsmarin.org/events/events-calendar.

Native American Fall Harvest in Marin

Saturday, September 29, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Fall has always been a busy time for California’s Native Americans—a time of gathering, preparing, and storing food, as well as a time of celebration of nature’s bounty. Learn how local indigenous people manipulated the environment to favor certain plants. Identify a variety of acorns, nuts, and berry plants, and discover beneficial uses for stinging nettle and even poison oak. There will be no harvesting of plants.

Meet the group at the Rock Springs Parking Lot on Mt. Tamalpais and continue from there for a moderate hike to rediscover plants that have been used for centuries as food, medicine, and raw materials. The field trip will be approximately 2 miles in length.

Kurt Rademacher is a Bay Area naturalist who has taught field classes for CA Academy of Sciences, environmental science courses at UC Berkeley, and worked 28 years for The Nature Conservancy. For many years, he has led groups into the Lshi Wilderness to explore the Yahi tribal homeland, its surface archaeology, and ethnobotany.

Leader: Kurt Rademacher, krademacher3@comcast.net.

GARDENING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

by Charlotte Torgovitsky

“We must unhumanize our views a little,
and become confident
As the rock and ocean that we were made from.”
—Robinson Jeffers

Early this morning, on the first of my garden “walk-about,” I encountered two handsome, healthy bucks browsing in my front garden border. There was no fright or flight on their part, and no upset on mine; we are on familiar terms. They took their sweet time, browsing plants that actually benefit from a bit of tip pruning, and then needed a drink from the birdbath. All the while I’m no more than a few feet away. Eventually they retreated back to the woodlands where small groups of bucks spend most of their time when not in pursuit of females during the rut.

The does are always around and visit my garden regularly; they rely on getting water from my various birdbaths, and last year I also set up a watering trough along one of their main pathways through the woods. Apparently I now have enough water features on the property for a black phoebe to decide to live here!



Black-tailed buck—Charlotte Torgovitsky

Titmice, chickadees, and nuthatches all raised broods in nesting boxes placed throughout our woods, while the Bewick’s wrens found gourds on my back porch suitable for raising their young. Brush piles provide safe nesting spots for towhees and juncos, and dense shrubs are safe places for the tiny cupped nests of goldfinches. With so many resources close at hand, barn owls raised a brood of four this last season in a box close to our house. It was quite a thrilling evening spectacle to see the nestlings fledge; all six barn owls were visible, with the fledglings trying out their wings on progressively longer practice flights. And they’re still here—screeching all night long for more food!

I’m interested in what the deer eat during the summer months, and try to keep notes on favored garden plants

by the season. In spring and summer they add flowers to their diet; by midsummer, they are also eating berries and seed capsules. Hikers probably notice the soap lily plants, but rarely see lots of the flowers because the deer eat them; the deer also often eat the flowers of poppies, blue dicks, and ookow.



Bumblebee on soap lily flower—Suzi Katz

The soap lilies that grow within my fenced garden area set flowering stalks that can reach 7–9 feet in height and produce hundreds, if not thousands, of flowers. The small but beautiful white flowers open in the late afternoon, and attract lots of bumblebees as well as night-flying lepidopterans. They are large enough to block my pathway, and there are so many that I simply have to cut some of the stalks. I do this as the seed is set, but not fully ripe, and then leave them outside the fence for the deer to eat. They also eat a lot of milkmaid and California poppy seed capsules; this can be a little frustrating when I also want to collect some seed!

My seed-collecting activities are in full swing during the summer months; I collect sparingly from individual plants, taking just a few from each, and doing so over a period of time. All seeds do not set or ripen at once, and neither do all those seeds germinate at only one time. Seeds are allowed to dry out thoroughly in open boxes all over my house; at present, there are two species of native wallflowers, several species of clarkias, cobweb thistle, and various salvias. Berries are ripening, and with these (barberries, elderberries and currants) I often make various food products as I’m separating out the seed.

The summer months are a good time to start many native perennial plants from seed; in the fall, I focus more on shrubs and trees from seeds. Perennials started now will be ready to plant out in the early spring, but shrubs take a good year or more to grow to a plant mature enough to withstand the rigors of establishment in a natural setting.

Interested readers can find more about seed collecting, cleaning, and storing at www.homegroundhabitats.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

Marin Chapter Fall Native Plant Sale

Saturday, October 20, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

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

For our fall sale, we are again at this picturesque and popular venue on the grounds of the handsome and historic Falkirk Mansion in San Rafael. The Marin Master Gardeners maintain the display gardens and will be co-sponsoring this sale.

Among the many plants we'll have for sale are a wide variety of salvias, perfect for the hummers; a selection of ceanothus species and cultivars, great for insects and insect-eating birds; and berry-producing shrubs to provide for resident as well as migratory birds. We'll also have a selection of prolific seed-producing plants to keep the finches and sparrows happy. And we'll have plenty of native milkweeds for the monarchs—everyone wants these beauties in their garden!



Toyon berries in fall are a big attraction for birds—M. Watkins

At 10:30 a.m., Charlotte Torgovitsky will talk about "Providing Resources for the Birds in Your Garden." She'll identify the plants we're offering that provide food during spring and fall migrations, and how to create the right conditions in your garden to lure our avian friends to linger.

Please volunteer: Friday, October 19, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. and on Saturday for the sale.

At this time, we most urgently need a Volunteer Coordinator. Help will also be needed for plant pricing and other pre-sale preparations, as well as for a variety of functions on the day of the sale: displaying plants, assisting customers with advice and 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 promised a free plant, good company, and further education!

Parking: Volunteers and customers are welcome to park along the driveway that passes in front of the

mansion, or in the main parking lot at Mission and E St., where there is 2-hour parking in the front section. You may also park in the City Hall lot across Mission Ave. from Falkirk.

Please contact the plant sale co-chairs with questions or to volunteer: Charlotte Torgovitsky 415.892.9148/torgovitsky@comcast.net or Kristin Jakob 415.388.1844/kristinjakob@att.net.



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

THIRD THURSDAY WEEDERS

Thursday, September 20, 9:30 a.m.

Join the Third Thursday Weeders, spend a companionable day at beautiful Point Reyes, and help protect important plant habitat in the Point Reyes National Seashore! Removal of invasive plants makes way for the resurgence of native vegetation, including many uncommon and rare species.

The Weeders meet regularly on the third Thursday of every month. Over the past seven years, we have reduced 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!

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



A few weeders on the Paleodunes at outer Point Reyes—Carolyn Longstreth

THE BAY MODEL POLLINATOR GARDEN BECOMES A REALITY

After months of planning, and some familiarization on how to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers, our chapter's California Native Pollinator demonstration garden at the Bay Model in Sausalito is starting to look like a real garden.

Not only are we thrilled to help establish a large native plant garden in a very public location, but board members felt it would be a wonderful enhancement for the show that Marin CNPS will be holding next spring. Beauty and the Beast, an exhibit of outstanding wildflower photography by Rob Badger and Nita Winters, will be on display at the Bay Model's entrance gallery through April and May of 2019. And out front, some of the same plants will be on display for the public to admire in the garden!

When we met to review the exhibit space, the Bay Model manager mentioned that she had gotten a grant to plant a native plant garden for pollinators in the empty garden bed out front, but didn't know where to start. Of course, we volunteered to help her! The garden design process started last fall, with the design team—Laura Lovett, Charlotte Torgovitsky, and Kristin Jakob—making some tough decisions on which plants should be included in this limited garden area. Our final choices were based on plants that provide for three types of pollinators. The garden will offer a bird habitat, a butterfly garden with a monarch way station, and a hummingbird garden. In addition, there is a shade garden under the redwood trees. We also tried to highlight plants that can be found here in Marin.

Landscape designer Jeanne Lau filled in the planting plan with artfully grouped stones and boulders; landscape contractor Dan Dufficy and his crew from CNL Nurseries actually placed the boulders, brought in yards of soil, installed the irrigation valves,



Volunteers loosen the soil for planting—Harry McGrath



Our completed handiwork—Harry McGrath

and created two water features—a birdbath and a hummingbird mister. These will be solar powered; Eddie Robertson constructed a lovely rustic redwood frame to hold the panels.

Although the Bay Model is paying for materials, volunteers have been essential to the whole process. Charlotte and her propagation group grew and tended many of the plants, and Charlotte gathered all the materials for planting. Laura has been the organizational wizard behind the whole process and that key person who remembers to bring snacks for our volunteers!

We tackled the planting on June 12 and 13 with the able assistance of Colleen Lenihan, Deepa Jayanth, Nancy Hanson, Kate Lipman, Audrey Fusco, Ken Wu, and Harry McGrath. It was tough going; the soil was hard and dry from sitting in the sun! By watering as we worked the soil, we managed to plant a considerable number of perennials as well as the more structural shrubs that help to define each section of the garden. At the end, we had turned bare dirt and rocks into a green space. Dan Dufficy ran irrigation lines to the newly-planted specimens the next day.

July 21 brought a new round of volunteers, with Laura and Charlotte assisted by Kate Lipman and Imok Cha. Planting was made much easier with the help of Chris Cassee, who came the evening before to do some heavy digging, and Laura, who went ahead to water everything in preparation. More shrubs and perennials went into the ground to fill out the hummingbird and butterfly sections of the garden. We also filled out the monarch way station with plenty of narrow-leaf milkweed along with fall-blooming natives like goldenrod, gumplant, asters, and California fuchsias.

We'll be planning several more volunteer planting parties to complete the garden. In the fall, we'll add more shrubs and some native bulbs, as well as seeding in some wildflowers, and in spring, we'll be adding grasses and wildflower seedlings.

Bay Model Pollinator Garden continued on page 5

This demonstration garden is an ongoing project and our chapter will have a role in tending and maintaining it. The hope is to educate those who would like to create a similar garden for pollinators on their property, both by showing them what we have done and offering a chance for hands-on experience in creating it. If the idea interests you, please volunteer for our work crew—we welcome all levels of experience. We are very grateful to all our volunteers thus far who have given so generously of their time and look forward to welcoming more of you to the Bay Model California Native Pollinator Garden project as it progresses!



2018 PLANT PROPAGATION CLASSES

The following classes take place at the Red Barn at the Pt. Reyes Bear Valley headquarters. The classes are free, but pre-registration is required. Please RSVP to Sarah Phillips, sarah@marinrcd.org, 415.663.1170 x 302.

Weeds—the Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful!

Saturday, September 8, 10 a.m.–12 noon

The simplest definition of a weed is a “plant in a place where it is not wanted”! But where did these weeds come from, and why? And now that they are here, what do we do with them?

Some weedy species are edible, some are medicinal, and some are good habitat plants. Many weedy species have multiple reproductive strategies that make them very hardy plants. Certain truly invasive non-native species have proven to be very costly mistakes because of the way in which they can destroy the biodiversity of delicate natural environments.

In this class, we’ll discuss a number of different species and talk about how to either manage or eradicate problematic plants in order to restore sensitive native habitats. We’ll also sample edible wild plants, and learn about some of the valuable medicinal plants found in wild and disturbed sites.

Instructors: Sarah Phillips, Charlotte Torgovitsky, Eden Clearbrook

Plant from Pieces! Cloning and Divisions

Saturday, October 13, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Did you know that plants possess “totipotency”? It’s just another one of nature’s miracles—in that every living cell of a plant has the potential to grow all the other functional parts of a whole new plant! This method of propagation is in essence “cloning,” which has advantages, but also some drawbacks.

In this class, we’ll look at a number of different plant families and species to learn about specific methods and mediums, and the critical timing necessary to get

the best results from cuttings. We’ll also discuss the important life-support systems necessary for a cutting to grow into a self-sufficient healthy plant. And we’ll practice one of the simplest methods of propagation by dividing some perennial plants. You’ll learn which species respond the best to this method, and when to do it!

Instructor: Charlotte Torgovitsky



KRISTIN JAKOB & CNPS AT MILL VALLEY FALL ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday & Sunday, September 15–16, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

CNPS Marin Co-Vice President and Program Chair Kristin Jakob has been invited to be the Featured Artist at the Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival in Old Mill Park.

Her botanical art, primarily depicting California native plants, fungi, and lichens, will be displayed in a redwood grove; state CNPS is sponsoring the booth and will have a membership outreach table staffed by Marin Chapter volunteers in the grove. Kristin illustrated the Wildflowers of the Sierra Nevada and popular grass placemats/posters published by CNPS.

Admission is \$12, \$8 for seniors and students, free for children under 12. Visit the art festival’s website (www.mvfaf.org) for more information.



Heteromeles arbutifolia (toyon) berries—Kristin Jakob



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THE CEDARS

Marin CNPS Field Trip Report, May 12, 2018

The Cedars is located at the headwaters of both Big and East Austin Creek in the Russian River Watershed. It is a large geographic area (over 6,000 acres) of serpentinite, a mineralogically complex rock rich in magnesium and iron. The watershed receives an unusually high amount of water: seeps and streams supersaturated with calcium carbonate flow year round, and winter rainfall averages 50–55 inches per year. The watershed's tributaries have carved deep canyons among the coastal ridges. The vegetation, geology, and watershed topography are beautiful, extreme, and fascinating. A highlight was enjoying the peak of the California lady-slipper orchid (*Cypripedium californicum*) bloom, though the entire day was amazing.



Cypripedium californicum (California lady-slipper orchid)—Susan Schlosser

At the Shangri-La parcel (a local name), the typical Sonoma County riparian and arid inland forest gave way to Sargent cypress (*Hesperocyparis sargentii*) and a noticeable lack of invasive grasses. It is at this point that the canyon penetrates the harsh serpentinite (ultramafic rock) that defines the boundary of The Cedars. In the understory, we observed lace fern (*Aspidotis densa*), and large patches of woodland violet (*Viola ocellata*) and Indian warrior (*Pedicularis densiflora*) were flowering along large talus slopes.

Led by Roger Raiche, our morning hike followed the Main Canyon along Big Austin Creek to The Saddle, a panoramic viewpoint at 1,300 feet. Along the trail, we saw many springs and seeps fed by water supersaturated with calcium; the rocks were covered with calcium carbonate. Among the interesting plants we identified en route were Sargent cypress, Cedars' manzanita (*Arctostaphylos bakeri* ssp. *sublaevis*), white leaf manzanita (*A. viscida* ssp. *pulchella*), leather oak (*Quercus durata* var. *durata*), western azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*), Cedars' milkmaid (a distinct local race of *Cardamine californica*), wiry snapdragon (*Antirrhinum vexillo-calyculatum* ssp. *breweri*), tiny madia (*Madia exigua*), sickle-leaf onion (*Allium*

falcifolium), Cedars' globe lily (*Calochortus raichei*, leaves and buds), Morrison's jewelflower (*Streptanthus morrisonii* ssp. *morrisonii*, leaves and buds), canyon paintbrush (*Castilleja applegatei* ssp. *martinii*), minute willow-herb (*Epilobium minutum*), Cedars' stream orchid (*Epipactis gigantea* forma *rubrifolia*), Cedars' oceanspray (*Holodiscus dumosus* var. *cedrorum*—a disjunctive race of the Great Basin *Holodiscus* with dispersed flowers and open skeletal new growth), the evergreen Mendocino sedge (*Carex mendocinensis*), annual sandwort (*Minuartia douglasii*), musk brush (*Ceanothus jepsonii*), California lady-slipper orchid, and Cedars' buckwheat (*Eriogonum cedrorum*).

From The Saddle we could see The Cedars watershed, tributaries, and habitats, including *H. sargentii* woodlands; dense stands of shrubs, *H. sargentii*, and other trees in riparian areas; dwarf *H. sargentii* in chaparral; dwarf, individual bonsai-like *H. sargentii*; and barren slopes of reddish mantle rock and rock taluses with *E. cedrorum*, serpentine phacelia (*Phacelia corymbosa*), and *H. dumosus* var. *cedrorum*. We took another route back and added narrow-petal piperia (*Piperia leptopetala*) and bearded jewelflower (*Streptanthus barbiger*) to our list.

Lunch at the Grotto Pool included a great viewing of two garter snakes fishing the creek rapids. The intrepid among us swam in the Grotto Pool. Above the pool, the ultra-basic Grotto Pool Spring is the discovery site of two microbes not found anywhere else on earth (*Serpentinomonas raichei* and *Serpentinomonas mccroryi*).

After lunch, we hiked up another tributary above the Grotto Pool through an unusual riparian forest where *H. sargentii* form the canopy. The riparian understory included spreading Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), tanbark oak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*), spice bush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*), and Brewer's willow (*Salix breweri*). The *P. menziesii* appeared almost prostrate.



Our hiking group—Susan Schlosser

The Cedars continued on page 7



Trail above Grotto Pool and site of *C. raichei* type specimen collection—Woody Elliot

The *Q. agrifolia* and *N. densiflorus* were stunted and about 5–7 feet tall. The *Q. agrifolia* here have never been observed to produce catkins or acorns. Other plants we saw were the western wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum* ssp. *capitatum*), long-tube iris (*Iris macrosiphon*), morning glory (*Calystegia collina* ssp. *oxyphylla*), and a second gorgeous population of California lady-slipper orchid.

This hike then took us to an ancient calcium carbonate waterfall aged by Columbia University geologists to 3,000 BC. There is an active spring and seep at the top of this waterfall. As rainfall flows decrease in summer, the seep water flow remains constant resulting in carbonate formations in the creek bed. We saw “the wedding cake,” a spring that appears to be edged with lace in summer; the lace may be washed away or damaged in winter, but reforms quickly.

On the way down the other side of the creek, we saw Pringle’s bird’s beak (*Cordylanthus pringlei*) and a wet meadow with muhly (*Muhlenbergia andina*) and other salt-tolerant plants.

ZEN OF WEEDING

Habitat Restoration at Samuel P. Taylor St. Park
Friday, September 7 and Sunday, September 9,
1–3 p.m.

In September, we’ll meet a week early on the first Friday and first Sunday. This summer we focused on two areas, first clearing all the thistles from the South Creek Trail section nearest the campground and the Ox Trail. We also tried taking out some velvet and orchard grasses on South Creek, but decided complete the work after winter rains soften the ground. Most of our time, however, was spent removing forget-me-nots near campsite 21. It’s always fun to tackle a new section that we haven’t weeded before. We’ll continue here in September. As soon as the trees drop enough new duff, we’ll apply some more sterile straw to the patches where we removed Ehrharta grass to control the seedlings. We cover the straw with duff to weigh it down and make it look more natural for the campers.

We meet just before 1 p.m. at the far end of the main picnic area near the bathroom; look for my red Honda. Bring gloves or borrow from the park supply. Get a free parking pass at the entry kiosk when you volunteer. Please reply if you are coming so that I know whom to expect.

Contact: Nancy Hanson at nphanson@comcast.net.



2018 ONE TAM SCIENCE SUMMIT

Into the Woods: Mt. Tam’s Forests in a Changing Environment

Friday, October 5, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Marin CNPS is one of the sponsors of this summit, where scientists and naturalists will discuss Mt. Tam’s forest systems and how they are changing.

- Look at Mt. Tam’s redwood forests, oak woodlands, and conifer forests through multiple angles, including their ecology, wildlife, and resiliency.
- Learn how forests are affected by regional changes in climate, fire regimes, and disease.
- Take a close look at the tanoak, a common element of our region’s landscapes, but very rich in natural and cultural history.
- Explore Mt. Tam’s health, with a spotlight on grasslands, serpentine flora, weed management, and vegetation mapping.

Location: Mill Valley Community Center, 180 Camino Alto, Mill Valley.

Ticket includes lunch and a wine and cheese reception following the event. For more details and to register, visit www.onetam.org/2018-one-tam-science-summit.

SUPPORTING SCHOOL GARDENS

For nearly 10 years, I worked in the gardens at the Marin Art and Garden Center as the originator and managing educator for a number of programs that engaged both children and adults in garden activities. One very well-received program, geared for first-through third-grade students, was titled “Exploring Habitats.” Children came with their teachers and classmates to learn about the plants and creatures in the various habitat niches that we had created around the gardens.

For children, in particular, a habitat garden can be a big, wild world full of delights to be discovered and a wonderful introduction to the concept of stewardship of nature. Many young children have a natural affinity for nature, and are eager to get outside and get their hands dirty. For some it becomes a favorite activity, until adults and the modern “commodification” of nature teach them otherwise. So much of modern culture promotes a “synthetic nature,” which creates a sense that real nature is irrelevant.

These days a number of schools have gardens on the campus to engage the students in more outside nature-based activities. A school garden helps to provide children with important primary experiences: things they can see, feel, taste, hear, or smell for themselves. A garden is a safe place to freely experiment with all these sensations, as well as a great, year-round outdoor classroom for all sorts of related studies.

But, as we all know, school teachers are stretched thin, and even when there is a garden on the campus, it is often underfunded and lacking in expert guidance. I know there are ways to help create some changes, so I volunteer my time at several local schools. I strongly encourage and support an expansion of the typical school veggie garden to include areas for California native plants and more pollinator-friendly plants.

At Terra Linda High School, for the last three years, I’ve been mentoring groups of ninth graders who have signed on with the Marin School of Environmental Leadership (MSEL). Their LEAD (Leadership and Environmental Action Development) programs focus on environmental issues in several areas. My group studies natural resources with a focus on California native plants and ecosystem services. The students do some research and apply their new-found knowledge to developing and establishing native gardens on campus as well as doing fundraising and outreach. In the last spring term, we planted some native food plants close to the orchard and vegetable garden on campus: a much easier task than in our previous sites, where terribly depleted soils and lack of any water close by created very challenging conditions. The students were very encouraged, and I’m looking forward to expanding the gardens this fall term.



The MSEL group (Finley, Ruby, Ella, and Joey, minus Lucas and Ezra)—Charlotte Torgovitsky

My big-picture vision for this program at Terra Linda High is that it becomes a full circle: instead of being supplied with plants, the students will be propagating them; instead of being supplied with seeds for a fundraiser, the seeds will be collected from native plants established on campus.

When Girl Scout Troop Leader Julie Mund contacted me for more information about gardening for butterflies, I connected my MSEL students with this group of fifth-grade scouts who were researching, designing, and building a butterfly way station for their Bronze Award. I had a fun time with the girls, sharing with them some of the wonders of butterflies; the MSEL students helped with some of the planning; and the troop bought a number of the plants they wanted at the chapter spring plant sale. The garden was installed at the Marin Humane Society in May, and we’re all hoping for a great number of monarchs to be visiting the milkweeds there later this summer!

In the last year, we also supported teacher Julie Ryan at Short School in San Rafael with donations of native plants for a new garden, and teacher Nancy Morita



The completed Girl Scout garden—Julie Mund

Supporting School Gardens continued on page 9

at Laguna School in rural Marin (one of just two one-room schools remaining in the county).

Marin CNPS and the state CNPS office now have lots of resources available to support teachers who wish to include more of a focus on nature studies in a garden setting. We have native plants and seeds that can be donated to school gardens; other plants can be sourced at prices that will really help stretch a garden budget.

Lots of educational tools have been developed and can be downloaded from the Marin chapter website. Numerous handouts on plant communities, bees and butterflies, sowing wildflowers, and garden planting plans are available, as well as specific details on individual native plants and their needs.

We hope to match up mentors with a school in their local neighborhood! Please contact me if you are interested, and we'll support your efforts.

—Charlotte Torgovitsky, torgovitsky@comcast.net, 415.892.9148

MARIN CNPS CONTACTS

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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.



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.

PLANT OF THE MONTH: MARIN'S ELDERBERRIES

Text by Doreen Smith

We have two native species of elderberry: the coastal red-berried species (*Sambucus racemosa*) and the more inland-growing bluish-black-berried *Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*. Both have whitish flowers



Above: *Sambucus racemosa* berries—Doreen Smith
Below: *Sambucus racemosa* flowers—Vernon Smith



Above: *Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea* berries—Vernon Smith
Below: *Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea* flowers—Vernon Smith



and juicy-looking fruit. However, it is, I hope, well known that only the bluish-black berries should be eaten by humans. Recipes can be found online, but just remember that if it is a small-crop year, leave something for the birds. Around here (Marinwood, San Rafael) it seems to be a bumper-crop year.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

✿ **Tuesday 9/4, 7 p.m.**

Chapter Board Meeting, 5 Hamilton Lndg, Suite 200, Novato

✿ **Friday 9/7 and Sunday 9/9, 1–3 p.m.**

The Zen of Weeding, Samuel P. Taylor State Park

✿ **Saturday 9/8, 10 a.m.–12 noon**

Plant propagation class: Weeds—the Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful!

✿ **Saturday 9/15, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Novato Island Habitat Maintenance

✿ **Saturday 9/15–Sunday 9/16, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.**

Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival feat. Kristin Jakob & CNPS

✿ **Thursday 9/20, 9:30 a.m.**

Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Pt. Reyes

✿ **Saturday 9/29, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**

Chapter Field Trip: Native American Fall Harvest in Marin

✿ **Monday 10/1, 7 p.m.**

Chapter Board Meeting, 5 Hamilton Lndg, Suite 200, Novato

✿ **Friday 10/5, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.**

2018 One Tam Science Summit: Into the Woods at Mill Valley Community Center

✿ **Monday 10/8, 7–9 p.m.**

Chapter Meeting: Andrea Williams on “Water, Fire, and Mt. Tamalpais”

✿ **Saturday 10/13, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Plant propagation class: Plant from Pieces! Cloning and Divisions

✿ **Saturday 10/20, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Marin CNPS Fall Plant Sale

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: Marin CNPS, 58 Redwood Dr., Kentfield, CA 94904.

Newsletter Subscription only \$10

NOVATO ISLAND HABITATS

Saturday, September 15, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

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% 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. Ongoing weeding and maintenance continues in preparation for fall planting. 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.



FALL PLANT ID WORKSHOPS AT SFSU

Second Thursdays, 6–7:30 p.m.

The fall semester will bring us four exciting workshops on the second Thursday of the month. If you are searching for a fascinating way to spend an hour and a half once a month studying botany, this is the place. We learn about plants, observe their distinguishing characteristics, and usually dissect them. Botany graduate students give us a brief but informative Powerpoint lecture on the plant family under discussion and then help us to key out the plants that have been selected for that evening's workshop. Join us from 6–7:30 p.m. on September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 13. Please bring the *Jepson Manual*, 2nd edition, if you have one.

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

Questions? Email Mila Stroganoff at milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net.



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.

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 _____