



# California Native Plant Society

## MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

*Tiburon Mariposa Lily (Calochortus tiburonensis)*

*Marin chapter established 1973*

### **Monday, May 13, Marin Chapter Meeting**

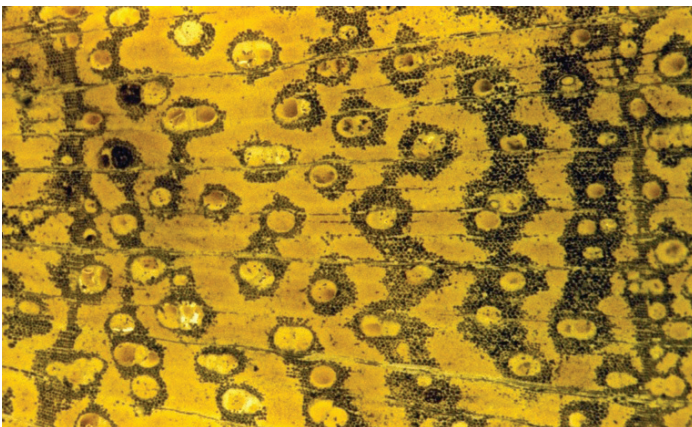
#### **Ted Kipping on “Tree Ecology—The Rhizosphere—Tree Anatomy Below Ground”**

Ted Kipping will share the amazing insights and lab work of the late Dr. Alex Shigo, a giant in tree research, along with the findings of some of



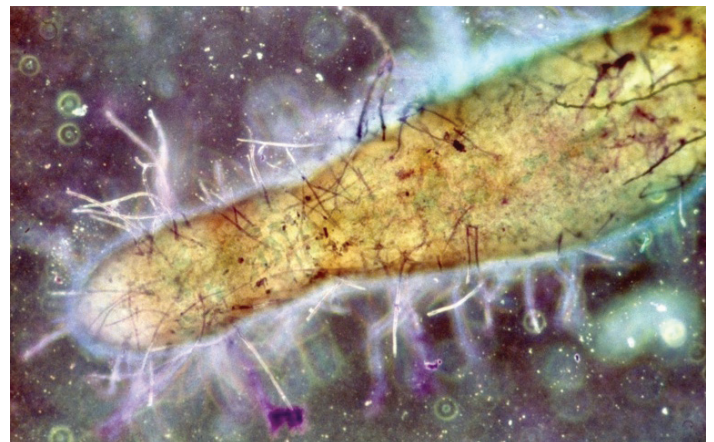
**Above:** Roots are intrepid pioneers as well as accomplished escape artists.—Ted Kipping

**Below:** Potassium iodide staining of starch in parenchyma root cells surrounding vascular vessels.—Ted Kipping



Dr. Shigo’s worldwide colleagues. Their discoveries and images will amaze you! Devotee Ted Kipping will be “channeling” Dr. Shigo as he discusses these discoveries. This talk will improve your understanding and success with trees.

Ted Kipping, a Life Member of CNPS, studied Natural History at Columbia University in NYC. Ted is a Certified and Consulting Arborist working in the Bay Area for nearly 50 years. Ted has traveled to many areas of the planet to better understand both our natural and cultivated worlds.



Backlit mycorrhiza showing different hyphal threads reaching into the surrounding environment.—Ted Kipping

#### **May 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 or slideshow starts at 7:30 p.m.**



**Krista Fechner, Newsletter Editor Since 2005, Stepping Down, Successor Sought**

See page 6 for details.

# GARDENING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

by Charlotte Torgovitsky

## ***A Big Year for the Painted Ladies!***

In some years with plenty of rainfall, in all the right places and at the right time, the result is a huge population of painted lady butterflies (*Vanessa cardui*). This is one of those years!

The last “mass migration” was in 2005, when hundreds of thousands of these butterflies made their way north from the deserts, pioneering new territories in the search for mates and larval host plants. These butterflies eclose from the pupa with a “fat pack,” which enables them to fly from dawn to dusk without the need to stop for nectar until they reach a suitable habitat for breeding.

We’ve experienced a dearth of the calm sunny days that butterflies favor, but even so, there are often numerous painted ladies arriving in my garden, some very fresh with newly “painted wings” and others with faded and tattered wings. They’re getting energy from the nectar of native salvias, mallows, and ceanothus; there are plenty of thistles around to host the larvae of this “thistle butterfly.”

The painted lady is the most cosmopolitan butterfly of all; the species is polyphagous and uses a variety of host plants in several different families for the larval stage. The most commonly used are thistles, and so, on my property I leave stands of weedy Italian thistles, and marvel at all the life these humble plants support!



Painted lady on *Salvia*—Meiko Watkins

## ***Weeds on My Mind***

Thistles are just one of the “weedy plants” that I respect because of the habitat resources they provide. Early in their growth cycle, the larvae of both the painted ladies and the Mylitta crescent butterflies feed on the foliage; there are always colonies of aphids and ants tending them, as well as soldier beetles and spiders preying on all these creatures. The flowers also attract lots of

pollinators, and the seeds are an important food source for both insects and songbirds.

The other weedy plant that consumes much of my attention is milkweed. These days, with the drastic decline in the population of the western monarch butterfly, milkweeds seem to be on everyone’s mind!

## ***Milkweeds in the Garden***



Monarch larva on narrow-leaf milkweed—Meiko Watkins

Milkweeds are inexorably tied to the life cycle of the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*); these are the only plants that the monarch larvae can feed on. The family Asclepiadaceae, to which the milkweeds belong, includes a very common landscape plant, *Nerium oleander*. Oleander is native to the Mediterranean region, and introduced to California, where it thrives in difficult situations.

The problem is that introduced along with the oleanders came a species of aphid (*Aphis nerii*) that is a specific pest on plants in the milkweed family.

As so often happens with non-native introduced species, the natural controls on the populations of this species of aphids were left behind. Our “normal” native predators on aphids (ladybird beetles, syrphid fly, and green lacewing larvae) cannot control these pests because they are toxic due to the poisonous plants they feed on.

Aphids have extremely interesting and varied reproductive strategies (parthenogenesis), which could simply be described as cloning. The orange oleander aphid shows up on milkweeds as soon as new growth starts in spring. The colonies quickly form from “stem mothers,” females that have over-wintered at the base of the plants. These pregnant females immediately give live birth to other already pregnant females; in this way, huge colonies can form in almost no time!

A gardener growing milkweeds for the larvae of the monarchs must keep the aphid colonies under control; otherwise, the aphids can enervate a plant and render it much less desirable to the female monarch searching for a host plant on which to lay her eggs.

*Gardening in Harmony with Nature continued on page 3*

My strategies for control are several:

- 1 I use a strong spray of water and my fingers to crush and remove the small initial colonies.
- 2 I use a Castile soap spray on colonies that aren't being controlled by physical removal.
- 3 If stems are inundated by aphids, I cut them out and put them in the green waste can to be removed from my property.
- 4 If colonies still persist, I use a neem oil spray to kill them; however, be aware that the oil spray can also kill beneficial insects.
- 5 In the fall, when these herbaceous perennials die back, I cut out all the old stems, clean up the base of each plant, and apply a sprinkling of neem seed meal.

Keep in mind that the management of the aphid colonies has to be done **before** the monarchs arrive to breed in parts of Marin, usually late summer and early fall.

With careful attention, I am almost managing to keep the aphids in check; however, my long-term goal is to eradicate the oleander aphids from my garden. I think the best approach is to prevent the aphid mothers from over-wintering. One other "control" that I am eager to try is diatomaceous earth applied at the base of each milkweed plant.

To keep up with the results of these various control strategies, visit [www.homegroundhabitats.org](http://www.homegroundhabitats.org).



Orange aphids on milkweed—Meiko Watkins



## 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.

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST OPENING

The photography exhibition sponsored by our chapter, *Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change*, is now open at the Bay Model Visitor Center, 2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito. Featuring over 70 wildflower portraits and native landscapes by chapter members and award-winning photographers Nita Winter and Rob Badger, the exhibit will be up through June 1. Additional events and activities are planned through April and May to encourage Bay Area residents to get out and admire our local flora on regional trails and to help us understand what may happen to our exceptional local biodiversity with the increasing effects of changing climate conditions.

A stellar group of wildflower enthusiasts showed up on Saturday April 6 for the opening reception of the show, where folks mingled and got a chance to see the beautiful photographs. For those who would like a further opportunity to talk with Rob and Nita about the 20+ year odyssey of capturing these images, we encourage you to drop by the Bay Model during Marin Open Studios on May 4 & 5 or May 11 & 12 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., when they will be on site. Members of the Marin chapter will also be staffing the pollinator garden out front from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 4 for the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour.

Be sure to make time to explore the exhibit while it is here; it is a window into the ephemeral beauty of California's diverse ecosystems that we are privileged to enjoy as residents of this remarkable state. The Bay Model is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2100 Bridgeway. The chapter extends its deep appreciation to our sponsors—the Buck Family Fund of the Marin Community Foundation, Marin Municipal Water District, and the One Tam Partners, who helped make these events possible.



Rob Badger and Nita Winter introduce Supervisor Kate Sears at the opening reception—Laura Lovett

## OFFICIAL “LAUNCH” OF THE POLLINATOR GARDEN

For the past two years, Gardening with Natives Committee co-chairs Charlotte Torgovitsky and Laura Lovett, aided by a lot of talented landscape designers and a host of volunteers, have been designing and diligently creating a native plant pollinator garden surrounding the amphitheater seating in front of the Bay Model Visitor Center. Gardening in Sausalito proved to be lots of fun—everything grows! Some of it is a bit confused and blooming out of season, but it looks beautiful and bountiful nonetheless.

The Bay Model is an educational facility of the US Army Corps of Engineers, which held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially “open” the garden on March 15. Park Manager Chris Gallagher was joined by a number of key personnel from the regional USACE offices, including the leader of the San Francisco District, Lt Col Travis Rayfield, who did the ribbon-cutting honors. Many members of our construction and volunteer planting team were also on hand for the ceremony, giving us the opportunity to thank them by name for their assistance. The members of the Army Corps made a special point to acknowledge the collaboration with the Marin chapter of CNPS and reiterate their support for natural, functioning, healthy ecosystems—a landscape that includes a thriving pollinator garden.

Charlotte and Laura were particularly honored for their hard work and many contributions in creating a garden where previously there was only bare soil, and the chapter was lavishly thanked for their partnership in a very successful collaborative effort. Work will continue on the garden as we fill in the final open spaces and trim, mulch, and maintain it in the future.



Charlotte, Laura, and Park Manager Chris Gallagher assist Lt Col Rayfield in officially opening the pollinator garden—Stephanie Clarke

Chapter members will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the garden on May 4 for the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour. Please stop by and learn more about our all-important pollinators and some great host plants.

For more information about the garden tour, see the last page of this newsletter.



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

## THIRD THURSDAY WEEDERS

*Thursday, May 16, 9:30 a.m.*



*Abronia latifolia* (yellow sand vebena) at Pt. Reyes—NPS photo

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](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

## Special Event

# FIREWISE LANDSCAPING: CAN NATIVE PLANTS HELP SAVE OUR HOMES FROM FIRE?

**Thursday, May 9, 7 p.m.**

In conjunction with the *Beauty and the Beast* wildflower exhibit and its focus on the increasing effects of climate change, we are very pleased to present a talk by Greg Rubin on May 9 at the Bay Model Visitor Center, 2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito. Greg is founder and President of California's Own Native Landscape Design, which has designed over 700 native landscapes in Southern California.

In Greg's experience, far from being "fire bombs," a landscape of California native plants may actually contribute to fire safety around your home—it's all in the approach. Nearly three dozen of his company's native landscapes have been involved in major fire events in San Diego county without the loss of a single home. This, despite the loss of neighboring homes in many cases. It appears that a few basic considerations may actually help native landscaping become quite fire resistant. Greg will explore the factors that encourage fire resistance, including design, irrigation, and maintenance, and will share actual case histories from a number of major fire events. Greg also discusses ways to deal with the aftermath of fire, such as erosion and weed control, and whether "restoration" is required.

The success Greg has had with native landscape performance in fire has led the United States Navy to award his company a five-year research grant for scientifically testing various methods of fuel modification, including thinning regimes, and garden design using very light overhead irrigation. Greg will share some preliminary results of the study, which is in its final year. Although there is no guarantee that a native

landscape will save a home in a fire event, Greg's experience has shown that a native landscape may be a sensible and environmentally responsible way to achieve defensible space around homes. Come learn how you can have a beautiful native landscape and be fire-wise at the same time.

Greg is co-author (with Lucy Warren) of a best-selling book, *The California Native Landscape: The Homeowners' Design Guide to Restoring its Beauty and Balance*, and the excellent *The Drought Defying California Garden*. Both books will be available for purchase and signing after the talk.

Admission is free, but registration is required, because seating is limited. Tickets are available through the special events listing on our website, [www.cnpsmarin.org](http://www.cnpsmarin.org).



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- \* **Tuesday 4/2–Saturday 6/1, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.**  
Photo Exhibit: "Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change," Bay Model, Sausalito
- \* **Saturday 5/4, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**  
Sonoma-Marin Eco-Friendly Garden Tour
- \* **Sunday 5/5, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**  
Chapter Field Trip: Old Stage Road to West Point Inn
- \* **Monday 5/6, 7 p.m.**  
Chapter Board Meeting, 5 Hamilton Lndg, Suite 200, Novato
- \* **Thursday 5/9, 7 p.m.**  
Special event: Greg Rubin on "Firewise Landscaping: Can Native Plants Help Save Our Homes From Fire?," Bay Model, Sausalito
- \* **Friday 5/10, 1–3 p.m.**  
The Zen of Weeding, Samuel P. Taylor State Park
- \* **Monday 5/13, 7–9 p.m.**  
Chapter Meeting: Ted Kipping on "Tree Ecology—The Rhizosphere—Tree Anatomy Below Ground"
- \* **Thursday 5/16, 9:30 a.m.**  
Third Thursday Weeders Workday at Pt. Reyes
- \* **Saturday 5/18, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**  
Chapter Field Trip: Lupines, Dunes, and Restoration at Abbotts Lagoon, Point Reyes National Seashore
- \* **Wednesday 5/22, 7 p.m.**  
Special event: Judith Schwartz on "Restoring Plants, Soil, and Water: Nature Wants to Help," Bay Model, Sausalito
- \* **Saturday–Sunday 6/8–9, 11 a.m.—6 p.m.**  
CNPS Table at the Fairfax EcoFest
- \* **Monday 6/10, 7–9 p.m.**  
Chapter Meeting: Laura Cunningham on "State of Change: Forgotten Landscapes of California"



## MARIN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED!

The Marin Chapter owes a huge debt of gratitude to Krista Fechner, who has faithfully and carefully crafted the chapter newsletter since taking the position of editor in September 2005. She has done a consistently superb job, gathering content from contributors, proofreading, knitting everything together with a great eye for graphics, sending out drafts to reviewers, and getting the issues to the printer.

Krista has always been a delight to work with these 14 years, but she needs to step down due to the demands of a new job and longer commute.

We hope that one of our chapter members who has experience in the arena will step forward to fill this critical position starting with the September 2019 issue. Attendance at board meetings is not necessary. We usually publish seven issues/year, three of which cover two or three months. Content is due around the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month before that of the issue, and is provided by various board members, speakers, and others. The newsletter is currently laid out in InDesign, but other suitable desktop publishing software can be used if you prefer. Krista can provide training and advice during the transition.

Please contact me if you are interested in filling this vital communications role for the Marin Chapter.

—Kristin Jakob, kristinjacob@att.net, 415.388.1844.



## STILL TIME TO PULL BROOM!

This year's weather pattern seems to have triggered extraordinarily good growing conditions for broom. Young plants, which normally have to "muster up" enough energy for several years to produce flowers, are now in full bloom on hillsides everywhere. The soil is still moist, making it easy to pull out large and small plants. Other species such as the native coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) (which, in the absence of fire, is converting grasslands to brushy areas) can also be pulled with a wrench in appropriate places.



*Genista monspessulana* (French broom)—Eva Buxton

I am again pleased to report that the six wrenches owned by the Marin chapter have been in nearly constant use in the last month. Please contact me at [evabuxton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:evabuxton@sbcglobal.net) to arrange for pickup of wrenches that come in two different sizes:

- Two light—jaw capacity up to 1.5 inches, weight 11.5 lbs
- Four mini—jaw capacity up to 1 inch, weight 5.25 lbs

—Eva Buxton, Conservation & Invasive Species Chair



## MARIN CNPS FIELD TRIPS, MAY 2019

There's 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](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).

### Old Stage Road to West Point Inn

**Sunday, May 5, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Early May permits us to see the beginning of the transition from spring to summer flowering seasons. The route from Bootjack requires a short climb to the relatively level Old Stage Road. We pass through mixed evergreen forest into a chaparral area that alternates between serpentine rock and graywacke sandstone, with sharp contrast between the different rock and soil types. We'll continue on about 1.5 miles to West Point Inn, where we can use restrooms and rehydrate before we head downhill via the Nora Trail to the Matt Davis trail. We'll return to Bootjack along the Matt Davis Trail. Interesting plants we may see include many serpentine endemics such as Jepson's ceanothus (*Ceanothus jepsonii*) and Mt. Tamalpais manzanita (*Arctostaphylos montana* ssp. *montana*). We'll also see chaparral pea (*Pickeringia montana*) and yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*) as dominant bushes and pass through the unique serpentine Sargent cypress forest (*Hesperocyparis sargentii*). At a wonderful serpentine spring, we should see blooming western azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*) and seep monkey flower (*Erythranthe guttata*, formerly *Mimulus*). Many other chaparral species are evident, such as bush poppy

*Field Trips continued on page 7*

Field Trips continued from page 6

(*Dendromecon rigida*), and we even pass by a small second-growth grove of redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*). Numerous other surprises await us as we hit this early peak bloom of Mt. Tam's rich diversity.

Trail length round trip is approximately 3.5 miles, with a bit of initial steep climb and some downhill and switchbacks along the Nora Trail. Meet at the Bootjack parking/picnic and campground area.

There is an \$8 parking fee. From US 101, take the Stinson Beach exit at Mill Valley towards Stinson Beach on CA 1. After 2.6 miles, veer right and up on to Panoramic Hwy towards Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods. Continue on Panoramic Hwy past the Muir Woods turnoff. Continue 4.1 miles until the Bootjack picnic area and campground parking lot. Proceed to the kiosk to pay your parking fee. Exact change is required. A bathroom and water are available at the parking lot.

**Leader:** Terry Gosliner is a CNPS member and a Curator in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Geology at the California Academy of Sciences, where he specializes in the evolution and systematics of nudibranchs (sea slugs). While his research focuses on marine biology and often takes him to coral reefs in the Philippines, he has a life-long passion for native California plants. As a child he grew up in Marin and explored the plants of the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed from an early age.

## Lupines, Dunes, and Restoration at Abbotts Lagoon, Point Reyes National Seashore

**Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

The Abbotts Lagoon trail wanders through coastal and dune scrub and passes freshwater ponds on its way to the lagoon, a large brackish wetland. We'll observe plant adaptations as well as restoration of the dune ecosystem. There will be many beautiful and interesting plants in these fascinating habitats including several species of lupine (*Lupinus* spp.), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), wild cucumber (*Marah fabacea*), mock heather (*Ericameria ericoides*), common owl's-clover (*Castilleja densiflora* var. *noctuinus*), two species of checkerbloom (*Sidalcea* spp.), large marsh buttercup (*Ranunculus orthorhynchus* var. *platyphylus*), seaside daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*), pennyworts (*Hydrocotyle* spp.), yellow sand verbena (*Abronia latifolia*), beach sagebrush (*Artemisia pycnocephala*), cream white wall flower (*Erysimum concinnum*), and many others. The total distance will be five or six miles, mostly level with some loose sand. If time allows, we may also explore the outer dunes beyond the lagoon and/or the bluffs above it.

Meet at the Abbotts Lagoon trailhead. Dress in layers; bring lunch, water, and a hat.

**Leaders:** Susan Schlosser and Carolyn Longstreth.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### *Hesperevax sparsiflora* var. *brevifolia*

Text by Doreen Smith



*Hesperevax sparsiflora* var. *brevifolia*—Vernon Smith

Some little obscure annual grey-green "belly-flowers" can be listed rare plants! Here in Marin, this category includes short-leaved evax, *Hesperevax sparsiflora* var. *brevifolia*, CNPS 1B.2. Mostly coastal, this species grows on sandy soils and ocean bluffs on Pt. Reyes and near Dillon Beach. The nominate species *H. sparsiflora* var. *sparsiflora* is slightly larger and more common. It is usually found in native serpentine grassland areas and not restricted to the coast.

I bet most of us have not closely examined the flowers of either variety of *Hesperevax*, as they are so small. It may surprise some, for a start, that it is in the sunflower family, Asteraceae. The male part of the inflorescence of one to four tiny flowers is surrounded by a circular-appearing structure of five bracts. The female florets are below on the stem. Even with a 10x lens, it is hard to make out the details of these structures.



*Hesperevax sparsiflora* var. *sparsiflora* inflorescence—Vernon Smith

## Special Event

# RESTORING PLANTS, SOIL, AND WATER: NATURE WANTS TO HELP

**Wednesday, May 22, 7 p.m.**

In conjunction with our focus this month on understanding the increasing effects of climate change, we are very pleased to present speaker Judith D. Schwartz on May 22 at the Bay Model Visitor Center, 2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito. Judith is an environmental journalist who has traveled the world, researching ways we can address climate, water, global warming, and food supply issues through a closer look at the way we treat our soil.

Discussions of climate have largely been driven by physics and a focus on fossil fuels. But the constellation of phenomena that, collectively, we call climate, also reflects biology. The problem isn't carbon per se, but that there's too much carbon in the air rather than in the ground. In soil, carbon is the good stuff. It generates fertility; it supports biodiversity; it retains water.

Nature conveniently arranged to have lots of carbon underground. Due to erosion and tillage, however, soil has lost much of its carbon: between 50 and 80 percent of the world's cultivated soil has lofted its carbon into the air. The resulting degraded land is an important cause of climate change as well as a result of it. There are ample opportunities to work with nature to restore processes that regenerate the land and bolster climate resilience. She is just waiting for us to ask. The main barrier to reviving the richness of our lands is that people don't know it's possible.

How might we rebuild lost carbon in soil and the plant communities that it supports? We're back to biology: through photosynthesis, plants pull carbon from the air to form carbon compounds. Plants send what they don't need through the root zone to nourish microbial life. Soils rich in carbon will absorb enormous amounts of water rather than shedding it like an umbrella. Moist soil supports diverse plant and animal life. Lush plant growth pulls yet more carbon from the air. The carbon cycle now works as nature intended.

As it turns out, much of what we aspire to—aesthetic landscapes, nutritious food, a profusion of wildlife, thriving communities—actually leads toward climate solutions. Judith will discuss the role of plants in attracting and generating water, the significance of forests, and ways we have disrupted the functioning of biological systems. Most importantly, she will describe people around the globe who are already implementing solutions that we can adopt to restore our living natural systems.

Judith is the author of *Water in Plain Sight: Hope for a Thirsty World*, and *Cows Save the Planet: And Other Improbable Ways of Restoring Soil to Heal the Earth*. Both books will be available for purchase and signing after the talk.

Admission is free, but registration is required because seating is limited. Tickets are available through the special events listing on our website, [www.cnpsmarin.org](http://www.cnpsmarin.org).



Judith Schwartz—Tony Eprile



## SPRING PLANT ID WORKSHOP AT SFSU

**Thursday, May 9, 6–7:30 p.m.**

Plant ID workshops at San Francisco State University (SFSU) are a wonderful way to spend some time learning about plants and to key them out. The May workshop is at Hensill Hall, Botany Lab, Room 440. There are no workshops at SFSU during the summer months of June, July, and August. The workshops will resume in September and continue through the fall semester. Please stay tuned for an update in the September newsletter with dates and times.

Hope to see you at some of these workshops.

—Plant ID Workshop Coordinator Mila Stroganoff  
([milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net))

### **Seeking Used Jepson Manuals, Second Edition!**

Botany students at SFSU are in need of copies of this book, which is very expensive even secondhand. If you can spare a copy that is lying fallow, please contact Kristin Jakob ([kristinjakob@att.net](mailto:kristinjakob@att.net), 415.388.1844)—the students will be very grateful!

## FAIRFAX ECOFEST—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Saturday–Sunday, June 8–9, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.**

The EcoFest takes place at the Fairfax pavilion uphill from the Fairfax police station and Bolinas Park in downtown Fairfax. Over 5,000 visitors will marvel over the exhibits and be educated on environmental issues, sustainability, and natural resources. Many non-profit groups will be on hand, as will many county agencies. CNPS Marin will have a table where we'll be selling books, wildflower posters, and botanical art. We'll have local plant lists, newsletters, and beneficial insect information (think butterflies and milkweed).

We'll also have a small native plant display to visually educate festival-goers. The plants will be sold for donation at the festival's end.

This is a big yearly event for the chapter—we acquire many new members, sell a good amount of educational material, and interact and connect with the local community as well as governmental officials.

We need some chapter members to assist with the tabling efforts. If interested, please contact Rob Katz at [waldenbobcats@hotmail.com](mailto:waldenbobcats@hotmail.com).



CNPS table at the EcoFest—Rob Katz

## ZEN OF WEEDING

**Habitat Restoration at Samuel P. Taylor Park  
Friday, May 10, 1–3 p.m.**

The second Sunday in May is Mother's Day, so we won't be weeding due that day to high visitor volume in the park. Take your mother for a picnic in a park!



Bolt Seymour pulls invasive forget-me-nots—Harry McGrath

Join us for a restorative afternoon in the May woodland. Migratory breeding birds are back and singing in chorus with our residents. The more invasive plants we pull, the more native plants become available and the more food the insects have. The insects are one of the main reasons these amazing birds fly so far to nest in North America. It's easy for them to feed those hungry chicks if we maintain the habitat that the swallows, vireos, flycatchers, and others expect to find. We think of these birds as "ours" but really they live most of the year "on vacation" from raising young in places like Costa Rica, Belize, and Panama.

We had fun in April learning the difference between the two species of fairy bells (*Prosartes hookeri* and *smithii*) blooming together at the park.

Please meet me just before 1 p.m. at the far end of the main picnic area near the bathroom. Look for my red Honda Accord. Bring gloves or borrow from the park supply. Wear work gear with long sleeves and pants. 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](mailto:nphanson@comcast.net).

# 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.

New Member                       Renewal

Membership Category:

#### Note dues changes as of April 1, 2019!

- Benefactor                      \$2,500
- Patron                              \$1,000
- Supporter                         \$500
- Plant Lover                       \$120
- Library                             \$75
- Individual                         \$50
- Student/Fixed 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

## 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

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

## 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contribution designated for:

\_\_\_\_\_

From:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check payable to **CNPS** to: Katherine Wing, 58 Redwood Dr., Kentfield, CA 94904.

## 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

### **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 and Laura Lovett  
Plant Sale Committee: Kristin Jakob and Charlotte Torgovitsky  
School Gardens Program: Charlotte Torgovitsky  
Nursery Outreach: Rob Katz  
Communications: Laura Lovett  
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.***

## 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.



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

Family-run Mill Valley Market gives 2% 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!



## 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).



## SHOP & SAVE AT GREEN JEANS GARDEN SUPPLY

Family-run Green Jeans Garden Supply in Mill Valley offers a 10% 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.

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](http://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](http://www.cnpsmarin.org)). We are now offering both the hard cover and soft cover books at sale prices!!

Prices:	Hard cover	Soft cover
<b>Retail</b>	\$35 (plus \$2.89 tax)	\$25 (plus \$2.06 tax)
<b>CNPS members</b> (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](mailto:cnps@cnps.org) (state)  
Web         [www.cnpsmarin.org](http://www.cnpsmarin.org) (Marin chapter)  
               [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)

## SONOMA-MARIN ECO-FRIENDLY GARDEN TOUR

**Saturday May 4, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Marin CNPS is delighted to announce that this year's Eco-Friendly Garden Tour will feature five gardens owned or hosted by chapter members.

The tour is free, but you must register at [www.savingwaterpartnership.org/eco-friendly-garden-tour](http://www.savingwaterpartnership.org/eco-friendly-garden-tour) to receive a list of addresses for all gardens on the tour.

The five gardens are:

- CA Native Plant Pollinator Garden, Bay Model Visitor Center, Sausalito
- Suzi's Wild-is-Beautiful Native Garden and Orchard, Suzi Katz, Point Reyes Station
- Point Reyes Prairie/Green Roof Design, Ashley Dumbra, Point Reyes Station
- California Native Hillside Garden, David and Carolyn Long, Mill Valley
- Charlotte T's Habitat Garden, Charlotte Torgovitsky, Novato

For descriptions of these gardens, see the April Marin CNPS newsletter ([www.cnpsmarin.org/images/newsletters/MarinCnps2019April.pdf](http://www.cnpsmarin.org/images/newsletters/MarinCnps2019April.pdf)).