

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER

August 2023 Newsletter



Anaphalis margaritacea - pearly everlasting at Chimney Rock, Point Reyes NS

photo by Ann Elliott

Marin Chapter August 2023 Meeting

"Digitizing California Herbarium Specimens at Cal Academy - Implications and Opportunities"

Guest Speaker: **Dr. Sarah Jacobs**

Monday, August 14 @ 7:30 pm

The California Academy of Sciences was recently funded to digitize 1 million California botany specimens from their herbarium. Each specimen in the collection contains valuable data that not only helps us understand California biodiversity as a whole, but also paints a picture of the history of species across the state. That trove of information is invaluable to research and conservation efforts, but right now most of it is only accessible to those who are able to visit our collections in San Francisco. In addition, summarizing information across the entire collection is currently impossible.

Previously estimated to take decades of work, this project will utilize cutting-edge technology (including engagement with community scientists) to perform the project in only a few years. As a result, the project will make the California botany collection accessible to scientists, policymakers, and community members across the state and beyond. It's a critical step towards supporting botanical exploration and research, and guiding development and management decisions that will help achieve CAS' Thriving California goal of conserving and regenerating the biodiversity that makes California so unique.

Dr. Sarah Jacobs, curator of the Botany Department at the California Academy of Sciences, is part of a core team of scientists that collectively curates the Academy's collection of over 2.3 million herbarium specimens.

[Register for this Zoom meeting here.](#)



Marin Chapter Field Trips

Field Trip Guidelines:

- Email Susan Schlosser seschlosser52@gmail.com to sign up for a field trip, as participants are limited.
- Electronically sign the CNPS Liability waiver for the trip (Susan will provide the link.)



Heliotropium curassavicum var *oculatum* - heliotrope
at Abbott's Lagoon photo by Ann Elliott

Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes National Seashore

Saturday, August 19, 2023 - 10 am to 2 pm

Leaders: Susan Schlosser and Carolyn Longstreth

The gentle and flat two-mile long trail that leads out to Abbott's Lagoon is a year-round CNPS favorite. It first passes through extensive coastal scrub, dotted by two marshes, and ends in the dunes beside a receding brackish lagoon. By August, we can hope to find some early flowering shrubs such as *Baccharis pilularis* and *Ericameria ericoides* along the trail. In the marshes, we'll encounter a few remaining *Campanula californica* and *Stachys chamissonis*, and perhaps *Sidalcea*, *Ludwigia*, *Oenanthe*, *Mentha*, *Hydrocotyle*, *Sparganium*, *Lilaeopsis*, and *Mimulus*, all still flowering. At the edge of the brackish lagoon, the receding water level should expose the swirling patterns made by the pinkleaved goosefoot, *Chenopodium macrospermum* var. *halophilum*.

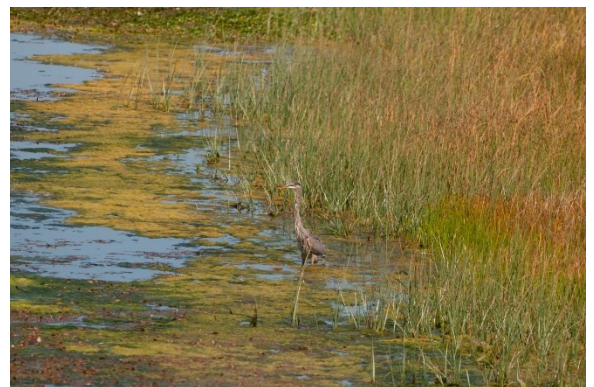


Piperia elegans - rein orchid
near Abbott's Lagoon,
Point Reyes NS by Delynn Cullen



Directions: To get to Abbott's Lagoon from Central Marin (or from further afield), take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. west through Marin County. Go past Fairfax, the San Geronimo Valley, Olema, and several miles past Inverness (on the west side of Tomales Bay). At the fork in the road, take the road that's marked Pierce Point Rd., and follow that another few miles to the clearly marked parking lot at Abbotts Lagoon

[See more field trips.](#)



Roy's Redwoods Restoration and Protection of Enchanter's Nightshade

Eva Buxton

In February of 2023, Marin County Parks (MCP) sent out a [Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration](#) (MND) for a restoration project in **Roy's Redwoods Open Space Preserve** that includes an old-growth grove in Woodacre, CA. The main purpose of the project was to restore hydrologic processes of Larson Creek, which runs through the preserve, thus implementing [MCP's Road and Trail Management Plan](#) to reduce environmental impacts and provide the public with a safe and sustainable, multi-use trail system. I commented on this CEQA document on behalf of the Marin chapter.



Circaea alpina ssp. pacifica - enchanter's nightshade
Photo by Vernon Smith

I have visited the preserve on many occasions, in the past with my own children, with CNPS about ten years ago, and recently on field trips during the planning phase. A large open area, suitable for outdoor education and where children could play in the creeks, balance on old logs, or build a fort with a few branches and sticks found on the ground, will have its floodplain restored by decommissioning social trails, reducing erosion and soil compaction, and increasing conditions for natural regeneration of vegetation. Low, split-rail fences will be installed to keep users on trails in the preserve.

Plant surveys were contracted out to Prunuske Chatham, Inc (PCI) by MCP. No rare plants were reported observed during their surveys in 2021; however, I found their surveys to be inadequately timed and so did the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Although no special-status species are likely to occur in the forested part of the site, additional surveys would be conducted, according to MCP.

In my comments on the MND, I mentioned the likely occurrence on the preserve of enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea alpina ssp. pacifica*) in the Evening-Primrose family (Onagraceae), a plant that Doreen Smith had shown me growing in the deep shade of the redwood forest many years ago. According to *Marin Flora* (J.T. Howell, et al. 2007) "this widely distributed but uncommon western American species is not known south of Marin County in the Coast Ranges." It was not included in the list of plants observed during surveys, a list that needs to be included in this kind of document. As it is a perennial species spreading by rhizomes or stolons, and MCP takes into consideration uncommon or unusual plants on their open space preserves, I recommended that it be salvaged and included in the revegetation effort. In their response to comments, MCP mentioned that they would do so.

Additional surveys were, in fact, done in 2023 by Julian Geoghegan, MCP staff botanist, which resulted in the mapping of many dense patches of enchanter's nightshade throughout the forest. Julian believes that the project will be good for the "health" of this species as the removal of social trails presently impacting it will reduce the trampling it now experiences. He further believes that this species fills the niche that redwood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*) fills in other redwood groves. Strangely enough, redwood sorrel common in redwood forests, is absent from Roy's Redwoods, although it is included on CNPS' plant list for the site. Work to salvage enchanter's nightshade for revegetation will start in August. MCP will also propagate the plant from seed for ongoing restoration.

On a happy note - I was pleased to see that a *Scramble and Nature Exploration Area* is included in the proposed project, designed to take the place of the large open area slated for complete restoration, where I saw teachers with school classes and children play in the past.

[Read about other current issues.](#)

Do You Have WordPress Skills?

We could use your help! The chapter is converting our website to WordPress and there is a lot of work to get done. Extra helpers are welcome. We can explain what needs to be done. Please contact [David Long](#).

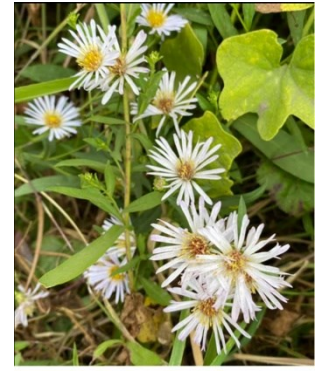


Rhododendron columbianum
Western labrador tea at Tomales
Bay SP photo by Ann Elliott

Marin Native Plants - Facebook

Visit our Facebook group [Marin Native Plants](#) to see what plants and flowers members are finding on their rambles. Find out about local events relating to California natives.

Ask to join the group to post your pictures, get help with plant id, and take part in the conversation.



Symphyotrichum chilense -
CA aster near Abbott's Lagoon,
Point Reyes NS by Delynne Cullen

Native Plant Gardening Group

Join the Native Plant Gardening Group in sharing successes and concerns through group emails. You can join the group by answering this [short questionnaire](#).

Yerba buena has proven to be a great ground cover for part shade in West Marin. Evergreen, low maintenance, and fire resistant, it thrives with a refreshing dust wash-off once a month in summer.



Clinopodium douglasii - yerba buena
photo by Ann Elliott

Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWEL0 - AB 1573)

This proposed ordinance aims to replace non-functional turf with water-conserving California native plants for commercial and public landscaping projects. AB 1573 would be the first bill of its kind to create a requirement for the use of California native plants. This would be a win for the biodiversity, water conservation, and beauty of our state!

After passing the CA Assembly on May 31, it was modified in the CA Senate Natural Resource and Water Committee and has moved to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Please continue to:

- Spread the word. AB 1573 is a nuanced bill. Help us communicate the facts and the importance of this opportunity by sharing [CNPS' AB 1573 landing page](#).
- Ask your CA State Senator to support AB 1573: [look up your legislator here](#). Then ask a friend in another district to call their legislator to ask them to support it.
- More info at the [State CNPS website](#).

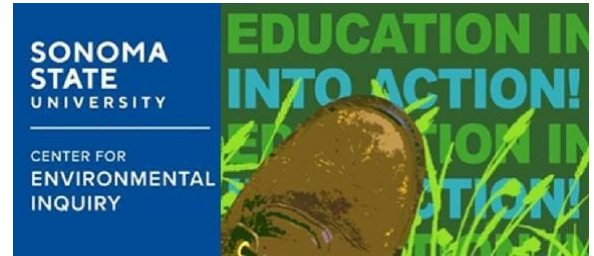
Stacey Pogorzelski (Ann Elliott updates)



Frangula californica - coffeeberry
A drought-tolerant favorite. photo by Ann Elliott

Naturalist Educator Series: Become an Osborn Naturalist!

Learn how to share nature's secrets with others while exploring the stunning ecosystems of Sonoma Mountain with university faculty and other experts. This outdoor Naturalist Educator Series will give you new insights into environmental education concepts and the skills to share your knowledge with elementary school children. Topics include plants, human history, pollinators, and more! This Series also provides a built-in opportunity for you to share your knowledge with other naturalists. Join an "[Environmentally Ready](#)" community working to eradicate Nature Deficit Disorder in the North Bay!



[Read more...](#)

Do You Love Both Hiking and Teaching Children?

Learn the renowned experiential teaching techniques of legendary Marin educator Elizabeth Terwilliger, aka Mrs. T! Get to know the plants, animals, habitats, and ecology of Marin County, then share that knowledge with eager students by leading discovery hikes full of exploration and adventure.

- Simple prerequisites are interests in wildlife, nature, and working with children!
- Learn to lead nature discovery hikes for elementary school children in Marin County on weekdays.
- Receive specialized training from WildCare staff in identifying local plants and wildlife and in outdoor teaching methods.



Mrs. T sharing her love of nature
photo by Tory Davis

[WildCare's Terwilliger Nature Guide training](#) will take place on four Saturdays and one Wednesday evening from September 30 - October 25. This will be the only training series offered this year.

"Teach children to love nature. People take care of the things they love." – Mrs. T.

If you or someone you know is interested, please visit [Wildcare's Nature Guide page](#) to learn more and complete an application!

Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

- 8/14 7:30 pm Chapter Meeting: [Digitizing California Herbarium Specimens at Cal Academy](#), Guest Speaker: **Dr. Sarah Jacobs**
- 8/19 10 am Field Trip: [Abbotts Lagoon, Pt. Reyes](#), Leaders: **Susan Schlosser and Carolyn Longstreth**



Baccharis pilularis - coyote brush, female flowers (L), male flowers (R) Limantour, Point Reyes NS Ann Elliott

Other Activities in Marin and Nearby

- 8/2 10 am [Family Walk: Kehoe Beach](#)
- 8/3 5:30 pm [CNPS Native Gardening 101: A Balanced Garden](#)
- 8/4 10 am [Kent Island Restoration](#)
- 8/4 10:30 am [Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project Tour, public comment on the project ends 8/8](#)
- 8/6 10 am [Senior Stroll: Santa Margarita Island](#)
- 8/10 7:30 pm [Urban Conservation: biodiversity, corridors, and native plants in our midst](#) CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter
- 8/12 4 to 7 pm [Kristin Jakobs artist reception](#), San Geronimo Valley Community Center, exhibit all of August
- 8/19 10 am [Kent Island Restoration](#)
- 8/19 10-11 am [The Art of Butterfly Gardening](#)
- 8/20 6 pm [Family Walk: Evening at Deer Island](#)
- 8/26 10 am [Home Ground Habitats Propagation Class](#)- Plants from Pieces
- 8/26 10-11 am [Embracing California Natives in Your Garden](#)
- 8/27 9 am [Bothin Marsh Restoration](#)
- 8/29 11 am to noon [Fire-smarting an Established Landscape and the Use of Native Plants](#)
- 8/30 9 am [Mount Burdell Plant Galls](#)
- 8/31 noon [Santa Venetia Parks Tour](#) of potential projects in these parks
- 9/5 11 am [Local Fungi Presentation](#)
- 9/23 10 am [Home Ground Habitats Propagation Class](#)-More Plants by Division

Be sure to periodically check [CNPS.org/events](https://www.cnps.org/events) for interesting talks and field trips sponsored by CNPS Chapters and staff throughout the state.



Calystegia pupurata ssp *purpurata* - purple western morning glory at Tomales Bay SP by Ann Elliott



Heteromeles arbutifolia
toyon berries by Kristin Jakob



Rubus ursinus - CA blackberry at Tomales Bay SP
photo by Ann Elliott

Share Your Pictures, Events, Thoughts

Broaden the scope of our newsletter. Please send me your photographs, art, and articles as well as information about upcoming events to include in future newsletter editions.

Ann Elliott, Newsletter Editor annonfire@gmail.com



Eriogonum latifolium - coast buckwheat
at North Beach Point Reyes NS photo by Ann Elliott

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