

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER



Agate Beach bluff by Stacey Pogorzelski

July 2023 Newsletter

Marin Chapter July 2023 Meeting

"Preparing for Sea Level Rise and protecting biodiversity and *Chloropyron maritimum* populations at Bothin Marsh"

Guest Speakers: Julian Geoghegan, Shelly Benson, Veronica Pearson, & Rob LaPorte

Monday, July 10 @ 7:30 pm

This presentation will give an overview of the Evolving Shorelines Project and will focus on the effort to protect tidal wetland habitat and the population of *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* at Bothin Marsh Open Space Preserve. Topics will include fine-scale (plant community Association) level mapping, an introduction to the biology of *Chloropyron* and efforts underway to understand its presence and habitat, and plans for improving marsh habitat and climate change resiliency at Bothin Marsh.

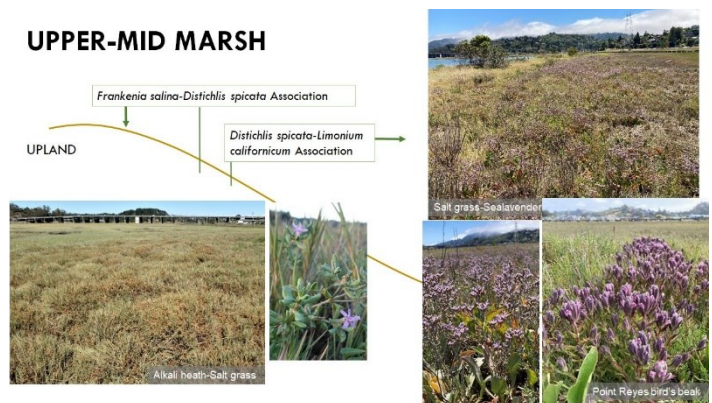
Julian Geoghegan is the Vegetation Specialist with Marin County Parks.

Shelly Benson is an independent biological consultant.

Veronica Pearson is a Sr. Ecological Restoration Planner with Marin County Parks.

Rob LaPorte is a Project Manager with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

[Read more...](#) [Register for this Zoom meeting here.](#) [Join the speakers for a site visit/field trip to Bothin Marsh.](#)



Marin Chapter Field Trips

Field Trip Guidelines:

- **Email Susan Schlosser** scschlosser52@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.)

The Rare Plants of Bull Point, Point Reyes National Seashore

Bull Point Trail and "F" Ranch

Sunday, **July 16, 2023** - 10 am to 2 pm

Leader: **Amelia Ryan**, Vegetation Ecologist NPS

This field trip is full. Contact Susan to be added to the waiting list. [Read more. . .](#)



Leptosiphon parviflorus - variable linanthus
Photo by Vernon Smith

Preparing for Sea Level Rise and protecting biodiversity and *Chloropyron maritimum* populations at Bothin Marsh - Site Visit

Tuesday, **July 18th, 2023**, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Field Trip Leaders: **Rob LaPorte, Julian Geoghegan, Shelly Benson, Veronica Pearson**

The hike will take us along the Mill Valley-Sausalito Pathway through the tidal marsh complex along the Richardson Bay shoreline and across one of the primary creeks that connects Bothin Marsh to its watershed, Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio. We will see a range of tidal marsh habitats: low marsh; transitional; high marsh; and uplands. Shelly and Julian will lead an exploration of the high marsh and upper-mid marsh habitats characterized by several different plant Associations, notably the *Distichlis spicata-Limonium californicum* Association which is the typical habitat for the rare *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* (Point Reyes birds-beak). The *Chloropyron* and *Limonium californicum* are likely to still be in bloom and readably visible from several parts of the trail. It is also very common to see many types of shorebirds foraging in the marsh; binoculars can be handy.



Chloropyron maritimum ssp. *palustre* - Point Reyes
Bird Beak

The hike will start at the Mill Valley-Sausalito Pathway at Bayfront Park near the Mill Valley Middle School. Biking and walking are highly encouraged. However, street parking is available along Sycamore Avenue. Public restrooms are also available nearby at the SASM treatment plant. We will hike along the flat trail and a slow pace with several stops to identify and discuss plants. Round trip the hike will be approximately 2 to 2.5 miles. Bring water and sun protection. Here is a possible [public transit connection from the San Rafael Transit center.](#)

[Read more. . .](#)

Lower Carpenter Valley Trail Walk, Truckee Donner Land Trust

Saturday, **July 29, 2023**

Field trip time: 10 am to 3 pm Carpool meeting time – 9 am

Leader: **Ginna Meyer** (El Dorado Chapter)

This field trip is full.

[Read more. . .](#)

Page Meadows, near Tahoe City

Sunday, **July 30** - 10 am to 1 pm

Leader: **Suzanne Weakley**

There is still room in this field trip.

Page Meadows (also known as Paige Meadows), elevation 6,600', is a series of enchanting alpine meadows with vernal pools surrounded by forests of conifers. The trail is easy, essentially flat with a slight downhill at the beginning. We will hike approximately 2 or 3 miles in total, out and back. The trail may be boggy in places.

We hope to see Porterella (*Porterella carnosula*), as well as *Camassia quamash* (common camas lily), Bolander's yampah (*Perideridia bolanderi*), penstemon, peonies, and many other alpine wildflowers. Please bring water and snacks. (We will not have lunch on the trail.)

Directions to Trailhead: Parking is limited at the trailhead, so please carpool if possible. The trailhead is tagged on Google Maps as "Page Meadows Parking," at the western end of Silver Tip Drive in Tahoe City. From Tahoe City, drive south 1.9 miles on Highway 89, and turn right on Pine Avenue. Head uphill and turn right on Tahoe Park Heights Drive. After 0.6 mile, there's a three-way intersection. Go straight across onto Big Pine Drive, then turn left onto Silver Tip Drive. Follow Silver Tip Drive to its end at the unsigned trailhead. We will meet there at 10:00 a.m.

Further Information: This hike is listed as #11 in Tahoe's Spectacular Wildflower Trails, by Julie S. Carville (Mountain Gypsy Press, 2016). In addition, Charlie Russell Nature Photography describes a Page Meadows hike (from a different trailhead) here, including a plant list: <https://ibrakeforwildflowers.com/page-meadows-wildflowers/>.

[Read more. . .](#)

Native Plant Gardening Group

Join the Native Plant Gardening Group in sharing successes and concerns. We have had a few garden visits, met via Zoom, and shared information through group emails. You can join the group by answering this [short questionnaire](#).



Lupinus polyphyllus - bigleaf lupine
in Carpenter Valley
Photo by Suzanne Weakley



Porterella carnosula - porterella
in Page Meadows
Photo by Suzanne Weakley

2023 Howard-Kohn Memorial Scholarship Recipient

The Marin CNPS Scholarship Committee is pleased to award the 2023 Howard-Kohn Memorial Scholarship to Miranda Melen for her proposal "Seedbank and germination behavior of an invading member of the Asteraeae, *Dittrichia graveolens*."

Miranda Melen is a Ph.D. candidate specializing in plant invasion biology at UC Santa Cruz in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Her research focuses on understanding the spreading potential of invasive species and the underlying mechanisms that drive their invasion. Specifically, Miranda investigates stinkwort's (*Dittrichia graveolens*) competition dynamics, seed bank persistence, and whether populations are evolving rapidly. In addition to her academic pursuits, Miranda has a diverse background encompassing restoration, vegetation management, plant conservation, and teaching. Outside of her scientific endeavors, she finds inspiration in weekend activities with her family, such as hiking, camping, kayaking, and baking. Miranda's ultimate aspiration is to contribute to the academic community by teaching at a state university or community college. Her primary goal is to actively engage and support underrepresented students in STEM fields, fostering inclusivity and equity within higher education.



Miranda Melen

We wish her well in her work and hope that together we can advance the mission of CNPS and our chapter: To conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, especially those of Marin, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.

Scotch Broom Removal at Point Reyes

The Marin Chapter of the California Native Plant Society has donated \$1,000 to an ambitious project designed to eliminate Scotch broom (*Cystisus scoparius*) from Point Reyes National Seashore. This highly invasive plant, which is allelopathic to native plants, forms dense monospecific stands and threatens to take over vast areas of the Seashore if it is not controlled.



Cystisus scoparius - Scotch broom at Drake's Estero

Photo by Jerry Meral

The first step will be to map the occurrence of the plant, which is entirely in the Drake's Estero watershed. Then a cost estimate for a plan to entirely remove all the plants will be developed. Since the Seashore lacks funding for this and many other resource programs, a fundraising campaign is planned. The goal is to begin eradication during the next flowering season, when the plants are most easily identified. Removal methods will include manual extraction, cut stump treatment, and possibly other methods.

A recent National Park Service assessment of Point Reyes National Seashore listed invasion by non-native plants (including Scotch broom) as one of the most critical natural resource problems. However, the Seashore budget is completely insufficient to deal with this threat to the incredible native plant diversity of Point Reyes.

Jerry Meral, Deputy Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency, retired

Native Plant Landscaping Requirement Legislation has Passed the California State Assembly!

This bill, AB 1573, 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!



The bill passed the assembly on May 31, and is now scheduled for the CA Senate Natural Resource and Water committee July 3.

How you can help:

- 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.
- More info at the [State CNPS website](#).

Stacey Pogorzelski

Home Ground Habitats 2023 Plant Propagation Classes

Hands-on classes are back this summer at Home Ground Habitats! Join Instructor Charlotte Torgovitsky in the garden and under the work canopy for our hands-on Plant Propagation Class series. We supply all the tools, clippers, gloves, seed collecting and cleaning tools, and worktables of different heights. Also on hand are an assortment of nursery pots and containers, soils and soil components, and various natural fertilizers. Fourth Saturday of each month, 10 am to 1:30 pm. \$45 per class (\$120.00 for the 3-part series) 12 people max enrollment per class.



- 7/22 Seeds, Seeds, and More Seeds
- 8/26 Plant from Pieces
- 9/23 More Plants by Division

[Read more. . .](#)

“Broom Service” Helps Out SPAWN

Our "Brave Little Band" deviated a bit from our usual mission, our quixotic war against invasive broom, to help remove other invasive species that threaten [SPAWN's ongoing restoration project along San Geronimo Creek in the commons.](#)

This beautifully restored section of the project is threatened by invasive, nonnative vegetation. The invasives lurking nearby include Italian thistle, Harding grass, and most noxious of all poison hemlock. There are many others, including some broom, but our primary focus was on the thistle and hemlock.

Ayano Hayes, SPAWN watershed biologist, set us up with tools and tarps to put the plants on for easy haul away. This project is ongoing, and volunteers are needed on Thursdays and Friday afternoons, and every other Saturday. Check spawnusa.org for details.

To join the Broom Service broom eradication team some Thursday morning, contact me for our work location. ospreflight@gmail.com

Mel Wright, Volunteer for “Broom Service” and SPAWN



Broom Service volunteers Jane Super, Dr. Bill Teufel, & Phil Sotter along San Geronimo Creek

Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

- **7/10 7:30 pm** Chapter Meeting: [Sea Level Rise and Bothin Marsh](#), Guest Speakers: **Julian Geoghegan, Shelly Benson, Veronica Pearson, & Rob LaPorte**
- **7/16 10 am** Field Trip: [The Rare Plants of Bull Point](#), Leader: **Amelia Ryan**
- **7/18 10 am** Site Visit/Field Trip: [Sea Level Rise and Bothin Marsh](#)
- **7/29** Field Trip: [Lower Carpenter Valley](#) w/ El Dorado Chapter, Leader: **GINNA MEYER**
- **7/30** Field Trip: [Page Meadows](#), Leader: **Suzanne Weakley**



Eriogonum strictum var. *anserinum* - blue mountain buckwheat Calpine, Sierra Valley by Ann Elliott

Other Activities in Marin and Nearby

- **7/5 10 am** [Johnstone and Jepson Trails](#), Marin Co. Parks
- **7/6 5:30 pm** [CNPS Native Gardening Chats: Native Plants and Art](#) (Zoom)
- **7/7 10 am** [Kent Island Restoration](#)
- **7/8** [Bull Point](#), Napa Valley Chapter



Calochortus luteus - yellow mariposa lily - Marin Highlands photo by Julie Wittmann

- 7/13 7:30 [From Sea to Sky: Ecology of Rancho Corral de Tierra](#) CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter
- 7/15 10 am [Kent Island Restoration](#)
- 7/16 10 am [Family Walk: Indian Tree](#), Marin Co. Parks
- 7/19 10 am [Bull Point Botany](#), Marin Co. Parks
- 7/22 10 am [Kent Island Restoration](#)
- 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](#)
- 8/6 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
- 8/20 6 pm [Family Walk: Evening at Deer Island](#)
- 8/27 9 am [Bothin Marsh Restoration](#)
- 8/30 9 am [Mount Burdell Plant Galls](#)



Send Your Pictures, Events, Thoughts

Share your pictures from your expeditions with other plant lovers. Please send me upcoming events related to native plants. Write an article of interest to our community.

Ann Elliott, Newsletter Editor annonfire@gmail.com

[Join/Renew](#)

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Angelica hendersonii -
Henderson's angelica at Point
Bonita by Ann Elliott



Marin Chapter
California Native Plant Society

[CNPS Marin Chapter Website](#) | [CNPS Statewide Website](#)

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