

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER

June 2023 Newsletter



Summer Botanizing - Near and Far

Page Meadows near Tahoe by Suzanne Weakley

Marin Chapter June 2023 Meeting

"Plant Communities of Marin - Fact or Fiction?"

Guest Speaker: **Paul da Silva**, Professor College of Marin, Emeritus

Monday, June 12 @ 7:30 pm

This will be a historical, philosophical and biological look at groupings of plants in general and at some found in specific locations in Marin.

Paul da Silva has over four decades of teaching experience, including 23 years at College of Marin (COM), where he taught biology, natural history, environmental science and environmental landscaping. He was elected to the Board of COM in 2020. He recognizes our global diversity crisis as the source of important ecological, equity, economic and public health problems. Paul has been active with Marin Chapter for years, serving on the board and leading field trips.

[Read more...](#)

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



Paul da Silva at Abbotts Lagoon
Photo by Ann Elliott

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.)



Amelanchier utahensis - Utah serviceberry
Carpenter Valley photo by Suzanne Weakley

Grasslands of Ring Mountain Preserve - Ring Mountain, Tiburon

Sunday, **June 11** - 10 am to 2 pm

Leader: **Shelly Benson**

This trip will explore the grassland communities at Ring Mountain. Shelly Benson created a fine-scale grassland vegetation map of the preserve in 2018 for Marin County Parks and Open Space District. Shelly will show off the map and talk about the science and art of mapping herbaceous vegetation. You'll learn to develop your eye for seeing vegetation patterns on the landscape and to identify the common native grasses at the preserve. Grassland species we'll see include *Carex*, *Danthonia*, *Elymus* and *Melica*, among others. Wildflowers along the way will be identified.



Ring Mountain Open Space Preserve
Photo by Ann Elliott

Meet at the Taylor Road trailhead in Tiburon. From Paradise Drive in Tiburon, turn onto Taylor Road and proceed to the end. Parking is along the street.

This field trip will follow the Taylor Fire Road and Ring Mountain Fire Road to the Phyllis Ellman Loop Trail. The overall distance is 2 miles. The Phyllis Ellman Trail descends approximately 450 feet in 0.66 mile to the bottom of the Loop. Then we ascend on the other half of the Loop (0.65 mile) and return via the Fire Roads. The elevation at the Ring Mountain Fire Road junction with the Phyllis Ellman Trail is 526 feet and the elevation at the bottom the Loop is 58 feet. The trail is rocky in places and moderately difficult. Dress in layers, bring water and lunch.

[Read more. . .](#)

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

As June turns into July at Bull Point on Point Reyes, what looks to most like just another cow pasture turns into Rare Plant Central! We will see the fragrant and endemic *Horkelia marinensis*, which on a warm day will scent the air like honey perfume. There is a rare linanthus (*Leptosiphon grandiflorus*) as far as the eye can see, as well as the lovely *Leptosiphon parviflorus* var. *rosaceus*. And then there are rare orchids and lilies!



Horkelia marinensis - Point Reyes horkelia
by Vernon Smith

To get to Bull Point, take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. west, continue about a mile past the town of Inverness, go up and over a big hill with a sign for the Point Reyes National Seashore. As you descend, bear left at the fork in the road. Continue past the Drakes Estero turnoff (the former Oyster Farm) about 2 miles or so to an unpaved parking lot on the left. The sign might or might not have been put up again after the road was repaved. Dress in layers, bring water and lunch.

[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)

The Lower Carpenter Valley includes wet meadow, fresh water emergent wetland, riverine, and fen habitat types, as well as red fir, lodgepole pine, and mixed conifer forest. During the summer, the meadow receives runoff from the Sierra Crest and feeds Prosser Creek with clean, cold water, that in turn sustains high quality aquatic habitat in Prosser Creek and the Truckee River.

It is, in short, an example of how a subalpine Sierra meadow should work.

Plants we may see include California Valerian (*Valeriana californica*), Corn Lily Sierra (*Veratrum californicum*), Bog Orchid (*Platanthera dilatata*), Sierra Penstemon (*Penstemon heterodoxus*), Mule-Ear (*Wyethia amplexicaulis*), One-seeded Pussy Paws (*Calyptidium monospermum*), Columbian Monkshood (*Aconitum columbianum*).



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

We will be walking a 5.5-mile nature trail that was completed in 2020. It is an out and back route with a small loop at the end. The trail wanders above Prosser Creek on the edge of the forest and meadow, with long stretches of boardwalk to help protect the sensitive meadow habitat. There are minor ups and downs, but is basically flat. At the end of the trail is a spring/seep and fen/meadow area with interesting flowers. There are benches along the way if someone wants to rest or wait.



Lower Carpenter Valley photo by Suzanne Weakley

We are joining El Dorado Chapter on this trip, so have only 10 slots available. We will meet at a large public parking lot in Truckee located at 10069 Donner Pass Road at 9 am. There is limited parking at the trailhead, so we will be carpooling. It is 40-45 minute drive to the trailhead. The route to the trailhead is partly a bumpy dirt road and with potholes. This is an all-day field trip. Bring lunch, snacks and water. We will return to our vehicles in Truckee between 4 and 5 pm.

For more info about Lower Carpenter Valley and obtain a field guide to a number of wildflowers found there, visit: <https://www.truckeedonnerlandtrust.org/lower-carpenter-valley>. There is also an [illustrated plant list](#) on CalFlora.org. It can be printed with or without photos, in alphabetical order or by family.

[Read more. . .](#)

Page Meadows, near Tahoe City

Sunday, **July 30** - 10 am to 1 pm
Leader: **Suzanne Weakley**

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.)



Porterella carnosula - porterella
in Page Meadows
Photo by Suzanne Weakley

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. . .](#)

“Superbloom” of Rare Plants in Tiburon

For several months, I have been monitoring the Town of Tiburon’s Middle Ridge open space parcel in preparation for a report for US Fish & Wildlife Service about three species listed under the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts as either threatened (FT or ST) or endangered (FE or SE).

On Friday, May 19, I realized that all three were in bloom on a serpentine outcrop with easy access from a town street. I notified the CNPS board and a few friends offering to lead a one-hour walk to see them two days later. Three Board members joined me for this pop-up field trip and enjoyed the rare treat.

The Tiburon Jewelflower (*Streptanthus glandulosus* ssp. *niger*) FE/SE and the Marin Dwarf Flax (*Hesperolinon congestum*) FT/ST, both annual species, are doing very well this year after several years with very few plants. I would call it almost a “superbloom.”

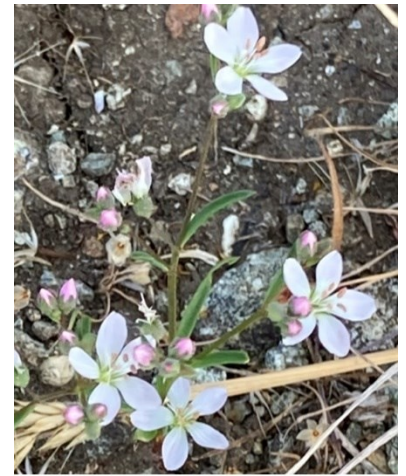
The Tiburon Paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis* ssp. *neglecta*) FE/ST, a perennial species less affected by the drought, is now out in profusion in the serpentine grassland. This spring, I found a new colony of about twenty plants on the Ridge. Now, I am motivated to search an area where this species grew about 25 years ago but has not been seen since. I can’t wait to go on my treasure hunt! If anyone would like to join me, let me know!

Eva Buxton, Conservation Chair 415-215-1774

Native Plant Gardening Group

The Native Plant Gardening Group is up and going. We have had a couple garden visits, met via Zoom and shared group emails about gardening success and challenges. We have another garden visit coming up this Friday.

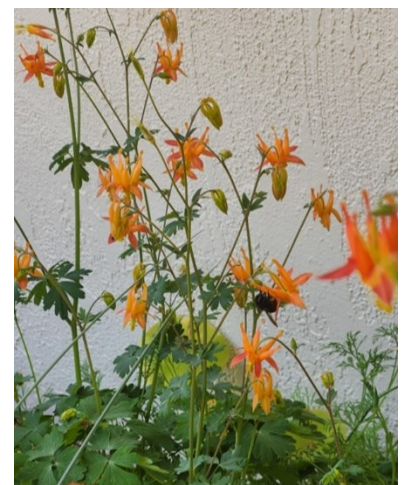
You can join the group by answering this [short questionnaire](#).



Hesperolinon congestum - Marin dwarf flax Tiburon Middle Ridge photo by Ann Elliott



Castilleja affinis ssp. *neglecta* - Tiburon paintbrush Tiburon Middle Ridge Photo by Ann Elliott



Aquilegia formosa - columbine and bumble bee Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski

Ember Stomp 2023 - Sharing Our Native Plant Knowledge with Marin

Marin CNPS distributed our [Plant Replacement List](#) to home owners and sold copies of the synonymous booklet to many landscapers at the event. Attendees who visited or table were very engaged and anxious to gain knowledge about good plants for their landscaping.

A recap of many of the vendors and organizations can be found [here](#).



Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

- **6/11 10 am** Field Trip: Grasslands of Ring Mountain Preserve Ring Mountain, Tiburon, Leader: **Shelly Benson**
- **6/12 7:30 pm** Chapter Meeting: Plant Communities of Marin, Guest Speaker: **Paul da Silva**
- **6/16 10 am** Field Trip: The Rare Plants of Bull Point, Leader: **Amelia Ryan**
- **7/29** Field Trip: Lower Carpenter Valley w/ El Dorado Chapter, Leader: **GINNA MEYER**
- **7/30** Field Trip: Page Meadows, Leader: **Suzanne Weakley**



Castilleja affinis ssp. *affinis* - coastal paintbrush near Felix Cove (Laird's Landing) at Point Reyes NS
photo by Jill Salmon

Other Activities in Marin and Nearby

- **6/1 5:30 pm** CNPS Native Gardening 101: Get Rid of Garden Pests the Natural Way (Zoom)
- **6/2 & 6/10 10 am - 2 pm** Kent Island Restoration(s) at Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co. Parks
- **6/3 9 am - noon** Broom Busters of Old St. Hilary's, Marin Co. Parks
- **6/3 10 am** Colma Canyon Dunes, San Bruno Mt. Yerba Buena Chapter (SF)
- **6/4 10 - 11:30 am** Senior Stroll: Old Saint Hilary's, Marin Co. Parks
- **6/6 10 am** Loma Alta Birds and Flowers, Marin Co. Parks



Leptosiphon grandiflorus
By John Longstreth

- **6/14 4 pm** Gardening with California Natives with Marin Master Gardener Bob Mauceli (Zoom)
- **6/17 10 am - 1 pm** Native Plant Sale at Home Ground Habitats, 1875 Indian Valley Road, Novato.
- **6/21 9 am** Doran Marsh Regional Park, Milo Baker Chapter
- **6/22 1 pm** Fire-smarting an Established Landscape and the Use of Native Plants with Bob Mauceli at Novato Library
- **6/27 10 am** Family Walk: Bear Valley, Marin Co. Parks
- **6/28 10 am** Bear Valley, Marin Co. Parks
- **6/30 9:30** Evolving Shorelines Coffee Hour, Marin Co. Parks
- **6/30 11:30** Evolving Shorelines Tour
- **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)
- **7/8** Bull Point, Napa Valley Chapter
- **7/16 10 am** Family Walk: Indian Tree, Marin Co. Parks
- **7/19 10 am** Bull Point Botany, Marin Co. Parks



Leptosiphon parviflorus - variable linanthus
Photo by Vernon Smith



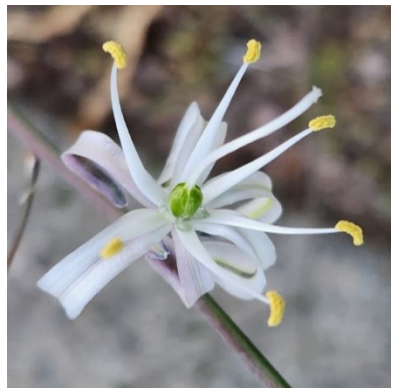
Iris douglasiana - both blue and yellow Douglas iris at Indian Tree Open Space Photos by Woody Elliott

Send Your Pictures, Events, Thoughts

Did you capture a picture of a beautiful flower or field on your botanizing expedition? Send me a copy to share. Upcoming events related to native plants are of interest to all our readers, so keep us in the loop.

Ann Elliott, Newsletter Editor

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Chlorogalum pomeridianum - soaproot
Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski



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