

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER



September 2024 Newsletter

CNPS Marin's 50th Anniversary Activities

50th Anniversary Dinner Was a Hit!

Members, friends, and supporters enjoyed a delicious dinner and speakers at Marin Chapter's 50th Anniversary Gala on August 24, 2024 at the Corte Madera Community Center. Many who attended the gathering have collaborated with us through the years and have encouraged efforts of the Chapter to appreciate and conserve the natural resources of Marin County. We enjoyed gathering to celebrate our significant work together. A slideshow of the event will be coming.



In Case You Missed: 50 Acts of Caring Challenge

Our 50 ideas of simple things for healthier landscapes are still on our Instagram account. Take a look and refer back for inspiration from time to time.



Peruse all 50 ideas at

[@marincnps](https://www.instagram.com/marincnps)

49. Stop and Look



Marin Chapter Meeting

“Navigating Nature: Design and Natural Process in Small Gardens”

Monday, September 9 @ 7:30 pm

Guest Speaker: **Todd Gilens**, Garden Designer and Visual Artist

As we work with native plants towards establishing healthy ecosystems, we necessarily learn more about those systems – as well as our culture and ourselves. Using examples from gardens and wilderness areas, art and urban design, this presentation will explore some of the sources of design in relation to ideas of nature. The focus will be on the intimate rewards and challenges of small private gardens.

[Read more. . .](#)

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



Salvia, bunch grasses, and monkey flower border informal garden pathway
Todd Gilens

Marin Chapter Field Trips

- Sign up for most field trips using [Meetup.com](#) or the [Meetup app](#).
- Electronically sign the CNPS waiver (once per year). [2024 Marin CNPS WaiverSign Link](#).
- Contact the leader(s) with any questions.

Native Trees and Shrubs of a Novato Neighborhood for Beginners

Saturday, September 14, 2024, 9:15 am to 11 am

Leader: **Stacey Pogorzelski**

Ever wonder what trees are native in your neighborhood? Join Stacey on a walk around the Marin Highlands, a hilly neighborhood interwoven with open space in northwest Novato. This area has many native oaks, bays, and buckeyes, as well as native shrubs. We may even see a late blooming wildflower! We plan to walk the hills via roads but if hills aren't your thing, shuttling by car is an option. .

[Read more. . .](#)

[Meetup Registration Link](#)



Symphotrichum chilense - Pacific aster, Abbotts Lagoon in Point Reyes NS Photo by Ann Elliott



Quercus lobata - valley oak
Marin Highlands Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski

Limantour Marsh and Foredune Habitats Followed by Sunset Beach Picnic

Sunday, **September 29, 2024** 3:00 pm to ?

Leader: Ann Elliott

Explore the Limantour Marsh at low tide and become more familiar with salt marsh plants and habitats. View the colorful patterns of vegetation at different levels of inundation. After wandering in the Marsh, we will head toward the beach to explore the inner dune area. Coyote brush should be in full bloom. We can compare female and male plants as well as sub species.

Brave souls will reconvene on the beach for a picnic dinner. If weather permits, we will have a beach fire and s'mores for dessert.

[Read more...](#) [Meetup](#) Registration coming soon



Grindelia stricta var. *angustifolia*- saltmarsh gumplant, Limantour Marsh Photo by Ann Elliott

August 2024 Field Trip Report - Abbotts Lagoon

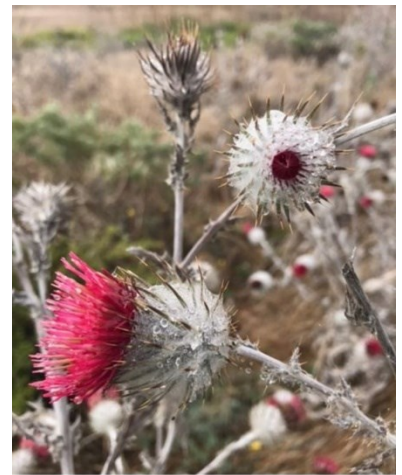
Lena Zentall

A small group of seven set off in the mist to explore Abbotts Lagoon on Saturday August 17, 2024.

Our journey started with several patches of ghostly cobwebby thistle (*Cirsium occidentale*) in its final bloom. Coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) was beginning to flower and to show us whether it was a male or female plant. Female plants have small paint brush-like flowers that turn to fluff and spread in the wind. Male plants have tiny spiky balls. Surprisingly, we didn't see any coyote brush leaf beetles (*Trirhabda flavolimbata*) nestled in its leaves which are common in late summer. However, much to our delight, we saw eight elegant rein orchids (*Platanthera elegans*) and plenty of withering San Francisco spineflower (*Chorizanthe cuspidata*) bordering the trail. A large area of west coast Canada goldenrod (*Solidago elongata*) was growing between the trail and marsh.

At the boardwalk, we encountered a sea of magenta spikes – coastal hedgenettle (*Stachys chamissonis*) swaying in the marsh, as well as a few remaining pale lavender marsh harebell (*Eastwoodiella californica*), and one faded annual Point Reyes checkerbloom (*Sidalcea calycosa* ssp. *rhizomata*). Two types of monkeyflower were blooming in the marsh: wing-leaf monkeyflower (*Erythranthe ptilota*) with exceptionally slimy stems, and tall magnificent seep monkeyflower (*Erythranthe grandis*).

The cheerful pale violet flowers of pacific aster (*Symphotrichum chilense*) spilled over the middle and sides of the trail along the dusty corridor just before the lagoon bridge. It has a long blooming period from June to October and while other summer flowers have faded, it's just getting started at Abbotts. Carolyn Longstreth and I were eager to find coastal woodfern (*Dryopteris arguta*) which is on the Abbotts' plant list but seemed somewhat out of place in this coastal scrub. We succeeded. It was growing in the most likely spot – in the raised bank not far from the lagoon, nestled with other natives including California horkelia (*Horkelia californica*). At the lagoon bridge, we saw the ever-present great blue heron accompanied by several snowy and great egrets – all successfully fishing in the lagoon. The sunny yellow Oregon gumplant (*Grindelia stricta*) was blooming radiantly along the sandy shoreline.



Cirsium occidentale -cobwebby thistle, Abbotts Lagoon in Point Reyes NS Photo by Lena Zentall

August 2024 Field Trip Report - Abbotts Lagoon, cont.

We ventured briefly into the dunes to observe California goldenbush (*Ericameria ericoides*) ablaze with golden flowers. Deep pink and rusty seaside buckwheat (*Eriogonum latifolium*) covered the dunes attracting bees, beetles, and other insects. The only curly-leaved monardella (*Monardella sinuata*) we discovered in the dunes were tiny sprouts that caused us to tread lightly to avoid crushing them.

We stopped for lunch on the shore of the lagoon and that's when it started drizzling. We quickly finished lunch and decided to turn back. Several of us shared that Abbotts Lagoon is our favorite trail and we look forward to revisiting this ever-changing marvelous place many times in the future.

[See all the pictures here.](#)



Eriogonum latifolium - seaside buckwheat, Abbotts Lagoon in Point Reyes NS Photo by Lena Zentall

Fall Plant Sale - Coming in October!

We expect to have favorites and some new and unusual plants to offer. Details for time and place being worked on now.



Epilobium canum 'Everett's Choice' - California fuchsia Photo by Ann Elliott

Save Your Native Seeds!

Last September, a member of the Marin CNPS Native Gardening Group hosted a well-attended seed swap. Because of its popularity, the group plans to hold another one in early winter. Save, clean, and label any seeds or starts of native plants from your garden. Bring them to exchange for items from other gardeners. Date to be determined.

[Join the Marin CNPS Native Plant Garden Group](#) email list to stay in the loop on garden group events.



Asclepias speciosa - showy milkweed seedpods Photo by Laura Lovett

Feast on Native Plants!

Thursday, **September 5 - 5:30 pm**

Join the CNPS September 2024 Naturehood Webinar | Feast on Native Plants: Edible California Plants for you Garden. Discover the hidden culinary gems in your garden with California's native edible plants. Learn how to grow and use California native plants as food in your garden. Explore health benefits, sustainable gardening practices, and tips for seamlessly blending these unique plants into your landscape. Enhance your garden and your meals while supporting local ecosystems.

[Read more...](#)



Ember Stomp - September 7

The third annual Ember Stomp Festival, organized by [Fire Safe Marin](#), focuses on preparing and preventing fire. It features wildfire products and service providers, fire-smart landscaping exhibits, and live burn demonstrations.

Visit or volunteer for the Marin Chapter CNPS booth. We will be sharing [ideas for including native plants in a fire-smart](#) yard and our [Plant Replacement List](#).

September 7 from 11 am to 5 pm at the Marin County Fairgrounds.

Contact Kristin to help staff the Marin Chapter CNPS table. akristinjakob@gmail.com



[Read more...](#)

Habitat Restoration at Point Reyes

Thursday Weeders

Join the "Thursday Weeders" volunteer event to remove invasive plant species from coastal dune habitats in the Abbots Lagoon area. These workdays will be held every other Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm, with the next event being on **September 5**. [Advance registration](#) is encouraged, but not required.

Ice Plant Pulling

Point Reyes NS need your help pulling invasive ice plant from the North Beach area on **September 8** from 11 am to 1 pm. All tools will be provided. Please register in advance by emailing: Volunteer Manager Cristobal Castañeda cristobalcs@ptreyes.org. However drop-ins are welcome too.

Point Reyes National Seashore:
Thursday Weeders at
Abbots Lagoon

Help restore critical coastal dune habitat every other Thursday each month!

- Meet at Abbots Lagoon Trailhead (Please note we will hike 1.5 miles to/from our work site).
- Workdays go from 10:00am-2:00pm.
- All experience levels are welcomed!

Summer/Fall Dates
August 22nd
September 5th and 19th
October 3rd and 17th

Advance registration encouraged but not required. Scan the QR code or email us at the address below to sign up.



Questions? Email Volunteer Manager at cristobalcs@ptreyes.org

Coastal Cleanup Day - Saturday, September 21, 2024

[Coastal Cleanup Day](#) is a statewide event that focuses on cleaning the shorelines, preventing litter from entering waterways, and raising awareness about the harmful effects of trash in marine ecosystems.

Sign up to help at a variety of Marin sites. Contact the [Marin County Coordinator](#) or check this [map](#) for a location near you. Some non-profits hosting this event:

[Marin County Parks](#)

[Environmental Action Committee of West Marin](#)

[Point Reyes National Seashore](#)

[Golden Gate Parks Conservancy](#)



Broom Service Continues Along Rock Ridge Trail

Volunteers calling themselves *Broom Service* are making a huge difference in San Geronimo Valley. They meet Thursday mornings to pull invasive broom (mostly French broom) from natural areas in the valley and surrounding hills. Broom can develop dense stands and threaten western azalea, grassy meadows, and mixed evergreen forests in the area.

Text Mel Wright to find out how to join their efforts.

415-999-4736



Mackenzie Calhoun assesses a stand of broom. Mackenzie is a SPAWN native plant nursery intern helping out Broom Service. Photo: Mel Wright

Marin Water - Your Landscaping Partner

Tired of hauling out the lawn mower every week in the summer heat? By upgrading your lawn to a water-smart landscape, you'll cut your water bill – not thirsty grass.

And with Marin Water's [Cash for Grass](#) customer incentive program, you can earn up to \$3 per square foot of grass turf that is replaced. Plus, you can wave goodbye to your weekly lawn mower duty!

Watershed Approach to Landscaping classes at College of Marin

Looking to continue your education and become a garden guru? Registration is now open for the popular [Watershed Approach to Landscaping](#) course series offered through the College of Marin.

Featuring courses on planning for Marin gardens, sustainable water use, soil health and more, this series is built on Marin Water's landscaping guidebook, "The Watershed Approach to Landscaping," and offers a comprehensive continuing education for gardeners of all skill levels.

The six-class series takes place in September and October. Sign up for one course at \$77 or register for the entire series at a discounted rate. The accompanying guidebook is provided to students at no additional cost.



Act Now to Protect Sáttítla National Monument

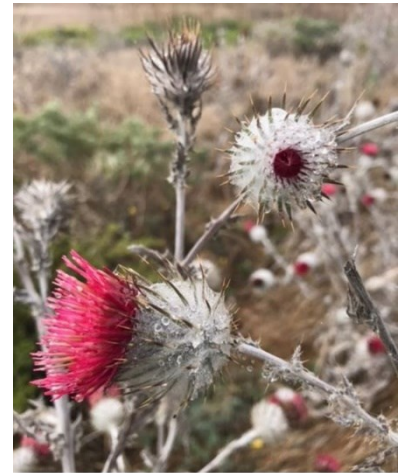
While wins like the expansion of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument give CNPS and others reasons to celebrate, we seek more protection for native habitats in California. CNPS and other advocates, with overwhelming bipartisan support from the California legislature, are calling for the designation of three new National Monuments in 2024. These include the effort led by the Pit River Tribe to protect Sáttítla, a sacred and significant landscape in the Medicine Lake Highlands of far northern California. Featuring extensive stands of mature and old-growth forests, pristine wetland habitat, and unusual rare plants hiding out among the monument's lava flows, the proposed Sáttítla National Monument is a botanical wonder waiting to be explored.



[Read more and sign the petition.](#)

Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

- **9/7 11 am - 5 pm** [Ember Stomp](#) - Marin Chapter CNPS tabling at event
- **9/9 7:30 pm** Chapter Meeting: "[Navigating Nature: Design and Natural Process in Small Gardens](#)" Speaker: **Todd Gilens**
- **9/14 9:15 am - 11 am** Field Trip: [Native trees and shrubs of a Novato neighborhood for beginners](#) [Meetup Registration Link](#)
- **9/29 3 pm - ?** Field Trip: [Limantour Marsh and foredune habitats followed by sunset beach picnic](#)



Cirsium occidentale -cobwebby thistle, Abbotts Lagoon in Point Reyes NS Photo by Lena Zentall

Other Activities in Marin and Nearby

- **9/5 5:30 pm** [CNPS Naturehood Webinar](#): **Edible California Plants**
- **9/5 & 9/19 10 am** Habitat Restoration at Abbott's Lagoon, Point Reyes ([see above](#))
- **9/8 11 am** Ice Plant Pull at North Beach, Point Reyes ([see above](#))
- **9/9 7 pm** [Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour & Kathy Kramer's Garden](#) North San Joaquin Chapter Speaker Series
- **9/12 7:30 pm** [Restoration of Yerba Buena Island – Weaving Ecology with Place and Infrastructure](#) Speakers: Will Bengé and Peter Brastow, Yerba Buena Chapter
- **9/17 7:30 pm** [The Importance of Urban Wildland, Local Biodiversity, and Global Warming](#), Milo Baker Chapter



Hemizonia congesta ssp *lutescens* - yellow hayfield tarweed, Verissimo Hills Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski

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.

Also check the [Events Calendar for Marin County Parks](#). They host a variety of local hikes, service projects, and presentations.

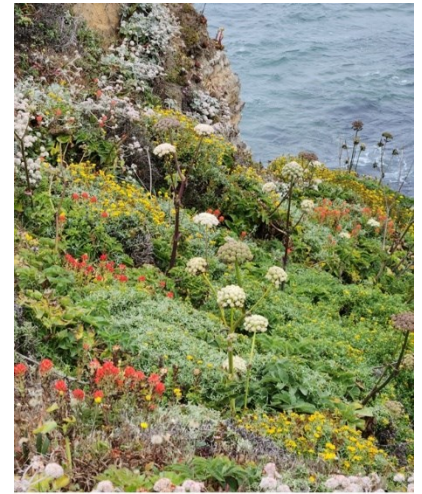
Native Plants Benefit from Our Efforts

Click on the links in this newsletter to find out more about upcoming events and how you can serve our native plants and habitats. Please send me information about interesting upcoming events, conservation issues, and native plant topics to include in the next edition.

Share your photos and stories from your native plant excursions with our readers.

Thank you. Ann Elliott, Newsletter Editor

annonfire@gmail.com



Coastal Bluff at Pt. Arena
Lighthouse
Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski

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California Native Plant Society



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