



fungus (may be *Dacrymyces chrysospermus* - orange jelly spot), Mt. Tamalpais

photo by Ann Elliott

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER

## January 2025 Newsletter

### Marin Chapter Meeting

### "Nature on the Edge: Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve"

Guest Speaker: **Bruce Byers**



Serpentine outcrop with poppies near Rock Springs, Mount Tamalpais

Monday, January 13 at 7:30 pm

Native plant conservation was part of the founding vision of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program and its world network of biosphere reserves in 1971. The Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve,

which includes Marin Country, was established in 1988 to represent the California Floristic Province in the global network. It is the largest, most populous, and perhaps most complicated of the twenty-eight US biosphere reserves, with fascinating success stories to tell and lessons to teach. This talk will feature highlights from the book *Nature on the Edge* regarding the history of the Golden Gate Biosphere Region, the heroes/heroines who fought to conserve its biodiversity over more than a century, and will give a few examples of native plant research and restoration going on now. Examples will include manzanitas and their relationship to serpentine soils; fire ecology of bishop pine at Point Reyes; restoration of native sand dune



*Arctostaphylos montana* - Mt. Tamalpais manzanita growing on serpentine, North Side Trail, Mt Tamalpais SP Photo by Bruce Byers



vegetation at Lobos Creek in San Francisco; and conservation and restoration of lupines at San Bruno Mountain and Sweeney Ridge as larval host plants for the endangered Mission Blue butterfly.

Bruce A. Byers is an ecologist, writer and international environmental consultant whose work aims to inform and inspire a more ecologically sustainable, equitable, and resilient relationship between humans and our home planet. His research, writing, and consulting has taken him to more than forty countries. Bruce is the author of *The View from Cascade Head: Lessons for the Biosphere from the Oregon Coast*, published in 2020, and *Nature on the Edge: Lessons for the Biosphere from the California Coast*, published in 2024. These books of interdisciplinary creative nonfiction essays explore three internationally recognized biosphere reserves on the US Pacific Coast—Golden Gate, Channel Islands, and Cascade Head—from ecological, evolutionary, cultural, political, and philosophical perspectives. Bruce’s

Deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*) at Lobos Creek dune restoration site, larval host plant of extinct Xerces Blue butterfly

blog, *Ecologia*, with almost 150 entries since 2011, describes his travel, research, consulting, and ecological adventures in the US and around the world. See more at <https://www.brucebyersconsulting.com/>

[Read more. . .](#)

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

## 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). **NEW!!!** [2025 Marin CNPS WaiverSign Link](#).
- Contact the leader(s) with any questions.

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## Indian Valley Open Space Preserve Winter Plant Walk

Saturday, **January 4, 2024, 10 to 12:30 am** (rain date Jan. 11)

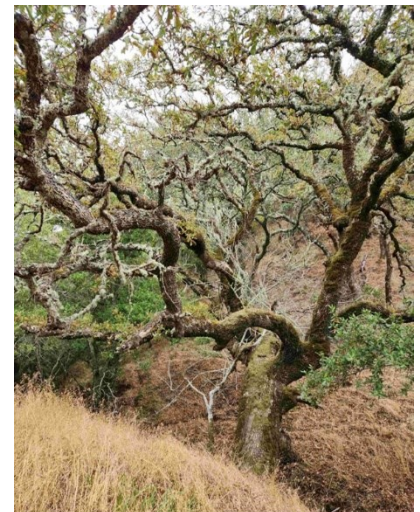
Leaders: **Stacey Pogorzelski and Caroline Christman**

Join us for an approximately 2-mile meander through oak woodlands and seasonal streams. We will encounter plants beginning their winter/spring growth. The area hosts valley, black, and coast live oak, madrone, bay laurel, California buckeye, understory shrubs, grasses, vines, geophytes, and annuals. We might even see some early-blooming manzanita! The trail has some steeper sections, so bring hiking poles if you use them.

[Read more. . .](#)

[Meetup Registration Link](#) waitlist only

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Oak in Indian Valley OSP  
Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski

## Mushroom Exploration on the Point Reyes Peninsula

Wednesday, January 15, 10 am to 2 pm

Leaders: **Lena Zentall & Ann Elliott**

Join us for a 5-mile loop hike to explore mushrooms in the winter forest of Inverness Ridge. We're likely to encounter large sprouting clumps of the iconic red and white dotted mushroom fly agaric (*Amanita muscaria*) as well as the subspecies American fly agaric (*Amanita muscaria* ssp. *flavivolvata*). Other common mushrooms along the path include *Suillus*, *Laccaria*, *Russula*, boletes, and bonnets. We will hike to the spine of Inverness Ridge, down the Drakes View trail and return up the Bayview Trail.

[Read more. . .](#)    [Meetup Registration Link](#)

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*Amanita muscaria* - fly agaric  
Photo by Lena Zentall

## Roy's Redwoods – Restoration of Its Forest and Trails (rescheduled from Dec.)

Sunday, January 19, 2025, 1:30 to 4 pm

Leader: **Ann Elliott & Betsey Crawford**

Explore the newly opened trails through Roy's Redwoods Preserve. Marin County Parks in cooperation with OneTam have restored and enhanced the health of the redwood forest and the hydrology of the site. Much of the understory trail through the redwoods accessible to ADA standards.

[Read more. . .](#)    [Meetup Registration Link](#)

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## Plant Walk at Turtle Back Nature Trail, China Camp State Park

Monday, January 27, 2025, 11 am to 12:30 pm

Leader: **Stacey Pogorzelski**

This short but sweet trail packs a lot of native plant punch! We will experience a grove of young madrone, smooth-barked manzanita and the scent of bay laurel. Also included: views of the bay, pickleweed, sinuous marshes and starting-to-grow annuals and geophytes. We may check out trails across the road if there is time.

[Read more. . .](#)    [Meetup Registration Link](#) opens Jan. 5.



*Arcotostaphylos manzanita* -  
common manzanita, Turtle Back NT  
Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski

## Broom Service

Pictured is Carly Frazee, a new [SPAWN](#) intern, who really loves pulling broom. Our thanks to SPAWN for sharing the interns with Broom Service. These young people have a lot of community spirit.

Broom Service volunteers remove invasive and flammable broom from natural areas in San Geronimo Valley and surrounding hills. Text Mel Wright to find out how to join their efforts: 415-999-4736



## Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

- 1/4 10 am to 12:30 pm [Indian Valley Open Space Preserve Winter Plant Walk](#) Leaders: Stacey and Caroline
- 1/6 7 pm Marin Chapter Board Meets, contact [David Long](#) to attend via Zoom
- 1/13 7:30 pm Chapter Meeting: "[Nature on the Edge: Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve](#)" Speaker: Bruce Byers
- 1/15 10 am to 2 pm Field Trip: [Point Reyes Mushrooms](#)
- 1/19 1:30 - 4 pm Field Trip: [Roy's Redwoods](#) Leaders: Betsey & Ann
- 1/27 11 am to 12:30 pm FieldTrip: [Turtle Back Nature Trail](#) Leader: Stacey Pogorzelski



elfin saddle fungus  
Ann Elliott

## Other Activities in Marin and Nearby

- 1/9 7:30 pm [Thriving in an Age of Drought and Deluge](#), Speaker: Erica Gies, Yerba Buena Chapter
- 1/13 & 1/14 [Northern California Botanists Symposium](#) Chico State

Be sure to periodically check [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.



*Ribes sanguineum* - pink-flowering currant  
Photo by Ann Elliott

## New Beginnings

A new year brings a burst of growth in California. Get out there and explore fungus, new green leaves, buds, and even a few blooms.

Then send me your best shots and stories to share with Chapter members. I appreciate getting information about related upcoming events, conservation issues, and native plant topics to include in the next edition.

Contact me: [Ann Elliott](#), Newsletter Editor



*Salix lasiolepis* - arroyo willow  
Chicken Ranch Beach  
Photo by Ann Elliott

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