

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER



*Cerastium viride* - field chickweed, by Vernon Smith

## April 2025 Newsletter

### Spring Native Plant Sale

It's plant sale time! We have a wonderful inventory that includes many new or hard-to-find species, including bulbs, annuals for spring color, flowering perennials, and groundcovers.

**Our Spring Online Plant Sale** runs from April 3 at 6 pm through April 7 at 6 pm.

**Order Pickup** and **In-person Sale** of remaining plants will be held Saturday, April 12 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm at Bon Air Shopping Center, Greenbrae

[Read more...](#)



# Marin Chapter Meeting

## Fire-Resilience in the Defensible Space and Beyond

Guest Speaker: **Eric Schoohs**, Land Management Planner  
Sonoma Ecology Center

Monday, **April 14 at 7:30 pm**

Eric will discuss creating resilient landscapes both near the homes and in the Wildland Urban Interface including: sustainability, basic fire behavior, native plant placement and selection in the defensible space, and how to approach transitioning beyond defensible space.

Eric Schoohs is a leader in the North Bay stewardship community. He is passionate about empowering people to build a relationship with the land and works in many different roles to further this personal mission.

[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](#).
- Sign the Waiver for Marin Chapter 2025, if you have not done so already.
- Practice clean trail etiquette. [Pocket Guide – Every Step Counts](#) and [Cleanliness Tips for Hikers](#).
- Contact the leader(s) with any questions.

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## Reservoir Hill Spring Series #2

Thursday, **April 3, 9 to 10:30 am**

Leader: **Stacey Pogorzelski**

Join CNPS for a plant walk at local gem, Reservoir Hill, in the Hamilton neighborhood of Novato. Recently blooming with lupine and johnny jump-ups, come see what's popped up now! Trees include buckeye, madrone and 3 species of oaks, plus great views. Hike will be up to 2 miles if we do a loop via the Bay Trail. Extra bonus: lots of birds!

Meet in the parking lot next to 503 Palm Drive (the Hamilton Community Center). We will walk to the Hill from there.

Accessible by the SMART train. No public restroom at the trailhead but there is one at Hamilton Landing Hangar #6.

[Read more. . .](#)

[Meetup Registration Link](#)

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*Viola pedunculata* - California golden violet  
aka Johnny Jump Ups      Photo by Ann Elliott

# Wildflower Hike at Olompali State Historic Park

Sunday, April 6, 10 am to 1 pm

Leaders: **Clint and Madeline Kellner**

We will hike the loop trail (2.3 miles) at Olompali SHP and look for the last of the milk maids and shooting stars. We will see Indian paintbrush; 7 species of ferns; the California state lichen, lace lichen; and the California state grass, purple needle grass. We will also see the rare Napa false indigo shrub, California fescue grasslands, and 5 species of oaks including blue oak and Oregon white oak. The trail is relatively level with a somewhat steep part at the beginning.

[Read more. . .](#)

[Meetup Registration Link](#)



*Lithophragma affine* - woodland star in Olompali SHP by Ann Elliott

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## Ring Mountain Field Trips

Join Ring Mountain Docents Alison Pence or Karen Madsen for short wildflower forays on Ring Mountain **Wednesdays 4/16, 5/7, 5/14, 6/4, and 6/18 and Thursday 4/24 from 10 am to noon**. These field trips will allow us to see early, mid, and late blooming wildflowers.

Meet mostly at the Taylor Road Trailhead off Paradise Dr. in Tiburon. The trips on **5/7 and 6/4** will meet at Phyllis Ellman Trailhead on Paradise Dr.

Currently no registration required.

[Read more. . .](#)

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## Introduction to Conifers & Ginkgo (Coniferophytes)

Sunday, April 27, 9 am to 11 am

Leader: **Sterling J. Sam, Professor of Botany**

Come learn about conifers with a real botanist! During this 2-hour field trip, you'll learn about these ancient plants that play a critical role on our planet. These magnificent plants date back over 300 million years. Conifers are a group of plants that include cedars, firs, cypresses, junipers, larches, pines, hemlocks, redwoods, and spruces. They have flourished since the Triassic, existed in many forms and were the dominant plant species, long before the rise of flowering plants.

We will start by learning the conifers in and around the Marin Art & Garden Center in Ross. We will then walk to other conifers in Ross and Kentfield, to see such conifers as *Taxus* and *Taxodium*. Participants should be able to comfortably walk 2-3 miles.

[Read more. . .](#)

[Meetup Registration Link](#)



*Castilleja densiflora* ssp. *densiflora*  
owl's clover on Ring Mountain  
Marin County Parks & Open Space



*Ginkgo biloba* - ginkgo leaves and seeds  
Photo by Sterling Sam

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## Sugarloaf Ridge, a State Park ‘gem’ tucked back in the hills east of Kenwood in Sonoma County

Thursday, May 1, 10 am to 3 pm

Leader: **Kurt Rademacher**

Join us for a hike exploring the spring wildflowers, shrubs & trees of Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Portions of our route through woodlands, chaparral, grasslands and riparian woods burnt in 2017, and it’s interesting to see how these different plant communities have been regenerating. Just a few of the plants we hope to see are the golden fairy lantern, Oregon oak, coffee fern and, in keeping with your drive through the Sonoma Valley, the wine-cup clarkia.



*Calochortus amabilis* - golden fairy lantern  
Sugarloaf Ridge SP Photo by Kurt Rademacher

State Park entry fee; \$10 per vehicle. If you want to camp the night before, after or both, reserve your sites and/or tent online: [Sugarloaf Ridge State Park](#)

[Read more...](#) Waitlist: [Email Ann](#)

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## A 1-Mile Walk Around California! Exploring Via The Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Berkeley

Wednesday, May 21, 10 am to 2 pm

Leaders: **Kurt Rademacher & Anna Gil**

Join us for a botanical excursion from California’s Klamath Mountains to the Mojave Desert; from the Big Sur chaparral to alpine Sierra meadows; and from the Lassen foothills to the Santa Barbara Channel Islands. Tucked into a valley in the Berkeley Hills, the Regional Parks Botanic Garden’s sunny slopes, shaded glades, brooks and rocky outcrops have replicated plant communities from all around the state; showcasing their classic as well as their rare wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Have you never seen a bristlecone pine, the ‘insectivorous’ cobra lily, or a Santa Lucia fir? If not, come join us on the winding paths and stony stairs through this delightful outdoor living museum!



*Bridge across Wildcat Creek, Regional Parks Botanic Garden, in Tilden Park - Berkeley CA Photo by Richard A Walker © Creative Commons 2020*

[Read more...](#) Meetup registration begins May 1.



# Ring Mountain Wildflower Docents - Spring 2025

Want to know about Ring Mountain wildflowers and can't make the CNPS field trips, look for a Ring Mountain Wildflower Docent on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, beginning April 11 and running through June 22.

Some docents may set up tables near the Taylor Road entrance and some may rove the trails. You may encounter them from 8 am to 5 pm.

Self-guided explorations may be aided by the [iNaturalist Field Guide to Ring Mountain](#).



*Lupinus nanus* - sky lupine & *Layia platyglossa* - tidy tips observed for Ring Mt. BioBlitz

## Gardening with Natives

### Springtime Weeding in the Garden

Caroline Christman

This spring I've worked with gardeners on weeding projects in several native habitat gardens in Marin. On one sunny hillside in Marin City we focused on bur clover (*Medicago polymorpha*) and vetch (*Vicia sp.*) competing with purple-needle grass (*Stipa pulchra*) and soaproot (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*). On the north shore of Tiburon we scoured the small coastal prairie for bristly ox-tongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*) and Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*) and dug-out the taproot of small fennel plants (*Foeniculum vulgare*) whenever we saw them. At the Marin CNPS [Bay Model Pollinator Garden](#) we focused on panic veldtgrass (*Ehrharta erecta*) hiding in the shelter of native shrubs and making its way out to fill in all the open soil.

In each garden mentioned the weeding focus was different. We made choices of where and how to work based on multiple factors including: native species or plant community to protect; abundance of particular non-native species; likelihood for a non-native species to crowd out natives and alter the ecosystem; manner and speed at which the species spreads (seeds, rhizomes); most effective methods for control and removal; and difficulty of removing a mature plant.

#### Protecting Native Plants:

In the spring, new plantings will benefit greatly from controlling weeds near their base. If irrigation is directed to new plants, weeding is especially important to ensure the weeds are not gaining all the benefits of late-season water. Some plant communities and locations are vulnerable to invasion even after plants are established. Grasslands, for example, contain many low-growing forbs and have spaces between native bunch grasses that fill with annual wildflowers in the spring. Maintaining a native grassland requires on-going invasive species control to keep weeds from filling in the spaces and towering over the smaller plants. Areas adjacent to roadways, paths, or other sources of weed seeds, are also likely to need continuous attention.



Nita removes bur clover from around purple needle grass. Photo by Caroline Christman



Laura Weeding in the Bay Model Pollinator Garden Photo by Caroline Christman

### **Assessing Potential Weedy Species:**

Some non-native species are higher priority for control than others, and this varies from place to place. In wildland settings, some species are well-known for spreading quickly and creating dense monocultures (a large area of a single plant species). For example, French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) and jubata grass (*Cortaderia jubata*) are highly invasive non-native species which drastically alter ecosystems. In a garden setting, however, highest priority weeds may not be the same as in natural areas.

Getting to know the garden and watching it change over time is helpful to understand potential invasive issues. In the Tiburon garden, for example, several years of intensive French broom removal had allowed the remnant grassland to regenerate. We chose to focus on Italian thistle and bristly ox-tongue because we had seen these species spreading into the grassland from a nearby construction site. Both of these species are in the aster family and produce thousands of wind-blown seeds; a few Italian thistles left to go to seed one year may result in hundreds of thistles the following year. We also made sure to remove any small fennel or broom plants we came across because these are much easier to remove when small, and we didn't want to let even one plant flower and seed. In the Marin City garden, Nita (the owner) had seen the bur clover and vetch populations expanding, also in a grassland. Both are in the pea family (Fabaceae) and are nitrogen-fixers like many legumes. In fact, bur clover is planted for forage and to increase nitrogen in the soil in agricultural settings. In a native grassland, however, both species can alter the soil and make it more hospitable to invasives.

Walking the garden regularly, observing new invasive species making an appearance and those trying to take center stage, will help us in recognizing new threats. Learning about the way invasive species alter the habitat, how they spread (seeds, berries, rhizomes) and how quickly they multiply, and how difficult they are to remove is the next step.

### **Tools for Weed Assessment:**

Links for invasive species above are to the [California Invasive Plant Council](#) (Cal-IPC) plant profile. Cal-IPC has many resources to help assess and prioritize invasive species. They are focused on wildland rather than garden settings; however, the information in the plant profiles is still helpful in assessing invasives and choosing the best methods for control.

The [UC Weed Research and Information Center](#) (WRIC) website has lots of useful information on weeds and management methods. The site has a Weed ID tool, as well as information presented by weed species.

Cal-IPC, Cal EPA, and the [UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program](#) worked together to create WeedCUT (Weed Control User Tool). [WeedCUT](#) has an overview of different management practices, best management practices by species, and a decision-support tool to help users determine the best method to control different weeds. This is also geared towards wildlands but can still be helpful for us native habitat gardeners.

Another important tool is our own observations in nearby gardens and parks. Gardeners can't help looking at plants, so we often have a good idea of what weeds are problematic in our area, how they move, and how quickly they spread. This type of local knowledge is often the most useful!

### **How Weeds Spread:**

An important part of deciding which weed to focus on is knowing how species spread. For many species, this is knowing when it will flower and seed. Timing can vary from year to year, and from place to place, based on weather patterns, so we need to keep an eye on the garden as soon as sunny days start to spur flowering. Ideally, we want to catch plants before they go to seed. If plants are starting to seed, it is possible to put flower heads into bags and remove them from the site, but it's much easier to remove plants before they seed rather than trying to contain tiny seeds that want to get free. Keep in mind that



some species' seeds are known to persist in the soil for decades (broom, again!), so getting a plant out before it sets seeds is crucial. There are some invasive species which can flower and seed multiple times each year, panic veldtgrass being a notable one, and a different strategy is needed for these species. They can be worked on throughout the year to gradually reduce and control the population.



English ivy smothering native ferns  
Photo by Caroline Christman

Some of the most challenging invasive species spread vegetatively through rhizomes or stolons, such as English ivy (*Hedera helix*), periwinkle (*Vinca major*), and Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). These plants flower and spread via seed as well, but their vegetative spread may be the hardest to control. Because they are difficult to remove once established, it is important to remove young plants when they are first seen in the spring. Removing a mat of English ivy is a large task we can undertake later in the year once the spring and summer seeders are under control.

### Weed Control Methods:

There are numerous methods used for control depending on species, location, slope, soil type, time of year, resources available and more. The WeedCUT tool mentioned above is a good place to see a broad range of options. For the smaller native garden, some of the easiest methods available to us are hand removal; brushcutting; and covering areas with mulch or tarp. There is some overlap between these methods and many, many variations on how to use them.

Hand or Manual Removal. This is the method we were using, as described above, to remove thistles, bur clover, and panic veldtgrass. In winter and spring, when the soil is still moist and easy to dig, this approach works well. This is the most targeted method and the most certain, as we can ensure that the root is removed and the plant will not return. However, hand removal is time consuming when there is a lot of ground to cover. Any number of hand-held tools are available; we can choose between hoes, shovels, spades, handpicks, digging knives, weed wrenches, etc. Different tools are good for different species and soils: a handpick or digging knife is good when it's important to get out a long tap root, and a weed wrench is needed for getting larger species such as broom or cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster pannosus*). ([Marin CNPS Chapter lends](#) out small and large weed wrenches.) Pruning shears can be used to cut herbaceous plants, such as annual grasses – this is a nice option to use around new plantings where many small weeds come up and digging each one out is overkill. Hand weeding is also fun to do together- we can grab a few gardening friends and weed together!



Weed Wrenches

Brushcutting. A brushcutter or weed whip can be a great way to cut back larger areas of weedy grasses and forbs. This method allows control over how much material to leave above the soil surface, so we can leave 3 or 4 inches of stem to act as erosion control. When using power-tools it is important to keep in mind user safety, fire safety, and the potential to harm animals hiding in the vegetation. Before brush cutting an area, walk through and make sure there are no bird nests or wildlife. See WeedCUT for more information: [Cutting: String Trimmers / Brush Cutters](#)

Covering. Covering areas with mulch, sheet mulch, or tarp is another option to consider. On a small scale, mulch can be used to cover areas around new plantings and reduce the amount of hand weeding needed while also holding in soil moisture. There are many potential mulches to use, wood chips being the most common. When choosing mulch, make sure you are not introducing weed seeds (choose rice straw rather than hay) and consider [fire safety](#). Sheet mulching (placing cardboard or heavy-duty paper covered with a layer of mulch) and tarping can also be used on a larger scale in areas dominated by weedy plants. We

start this process by cutting plants back to the soil surface. For annual or biennial plants, covering for a few months during the growing season may be enough. For perennial plants with more energy stored in their roots, covering will probably need to be maintained for a year or longer, and still may not work depending on the weed species. When choosing to cover an area, we need to keep in mind that on-going maintenance is required to keep the cover in place and intact, and to remove any new growth coming up around the edges. Also note that long-term coverage will prevent the growth of any native plants in the seed bed.



Sheet mulching

Tarpping, which may be more effective to kill weeds than mulching, will also increase soil temperatures and may harm soil biota. See WeedCUT for more information on tarping: <https://weedcut-new.ipm.ucanr.edu/management-practices/tarpping/>

### Disposing of Weeds:

If weeds are removed prior to setting seed, we can keep them in the garden, adding them to a compost pile or bin, cutting them up to be used for mulch, or allowing them to decompose on site. Home compost piles are not hot enough to kill seeds, so any seed-bearing material should be added to the green bin to be composted at an industrial facility and kept out of the garden. Some plants are able to sprout from stems, think periwinkle and Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*), and the biomass should be taken out of the garden to reduce the chance of starting a new infestation.

This is just the tip of the weed control iceberg, and there is no one right answer for any weed management issue. Weed control, like gardening, is a process which takes time and experience, and lots of trial and error. It can be a lot of work, so don't go it alone! Join us in the Marin CNPS Gardening Group and look for upcoming Marin CNPS or other gardening events to meet other gardeners. Gardening together gets more than twice as much as done and is more than twice the fun!

*Please share your stories, tips, and tricks for weed control to help other habitat gardeners! Send them to [Ann Elliott](#).*

Contact us to borrow our weed wrenches.

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## Join Our Marin Chapter Native Plant Gardening Group

Our group is a community of Marin native-plant gardeners that shares information about native plant gardening. Activities of this group include:

- on-line discussions of native plant gardening in Marin,
- virtual or in-person site visits to native plant gardens and nurseries (**in the works**),
- volunteering at the Marin County native plant nursery.

If you would like to join the Marin CNPS Native Plant Gardening group, please fill out this [form](#).

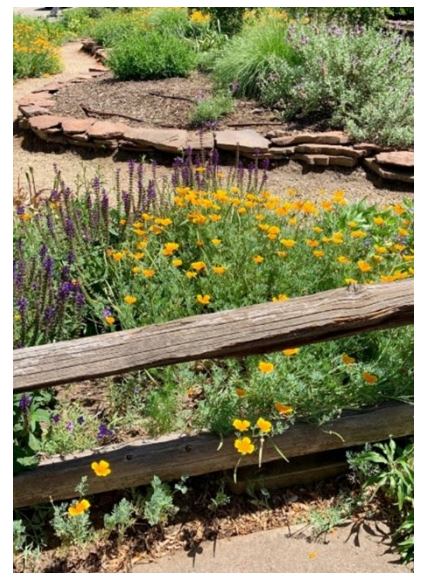


Photo by Janet Pearce

# Field Trip Reports – March, 2025 Hills and Mountains

Reservoir Hill 3/3/2025

Stacey Pogorzelski led the first of her Reservoir Hill field trip series, exploring a local neighborhood favorite spot for wildflowers and other native trees and plants. Among the early blooming plants were milkmaids and madrone trees.

**Field trips on Ring Mountain and in Lower Steep Ravine were rained out.**

**Southern Slopes of Mt. Tamalpais 3/19/2025**

*Paul Barnett*

CNPS hikers crossed mixed woodlands, chaparral, and serpentine terrains on the southern slopes of Mt. Tamalpais on Wednesday, March 19. Kurt Rademacher and Ann Elliott were our able and engaging leaders. Our hike left Bootjack Picnic area headed east on the Matt Davis Trail, where we were able to compare Eastwood, hoary, Mt. Tamalpais, and glossy-leaved manzanitas. Blue-flowered delights ranged from a stand of 50 western fairy slippers (*Calypso bulbosa occidentalis*) to four types of ceanothus: Jepson's musk brush, buck brush, Jimbrush, and wavy-leaved ceanothus. A lesson in the identification of early Apiaceae was possible because of simultaneous blooming of laceleaf sanicle, Kellogg's umbrellawort, and hairy hog fennel (*Lomatium dasycarpum*). We delighted in paintbrush and death camas peeking through the chaparral. After lunch in the picnic area in front of the West Point Inn, we returned via the Old Stage Fire Road, past serpentine endemics: Sergeant's Cypress, leather oak, and musk brush. An illustrated list of many of the species that were seen can be found on iNaturalist at: [https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?on=2025-03-19&subview=grid&user\\_id=paulgbarnett](https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?on=2025-03-19&subview=grid&user_id=paulgbarnett)



*Ceanothus cuneatus* - buck brush  
Photo by Paul Barnett



*Calypso bulbosa occidentalis* Photos by Ann Elliott



*Fritillaria affinis* – checker lily



Ceanothus jepsonii – musk brush



Castilleja foliosa – wooly paintbrush



Lomatium dasycarpum – hairy hog fennel



Ceanothus foliosus – wavy leaf ceanothus



Sanicula laciniata – ladeleaf sanicle



Arctostaphylos sensitiva – glossyleaf manzanita



Ceanothus cuneatus – buck brush



Chrysolepis chrysophylla – golden chinquapin



View from Nora Trail



Hesperocyparis sargentii – Sargent's Cypress

## Mount Burdell Serpentine, Oaks, and Grasslands Saturday, 3/22/25

Caroline Christman

As we walked through the gate, our group of enthusiastic plant explorers were surrounded by yellowbeak owl's clover, or butter and eggs (*Triphysaria versicolor* ssp. *faucibarbata*), making a mat of brilliant yellow in the thin soils along the trail. Someone asked if all plants, such as owl's clover, in the **Orobanchaceae** family are parasitic (turns out, yes, they are!) and we discussed the difference between plants which are hemiparasitic (semi-parasitic, able to photosynthesize) and those holoparasitic plants that rely completely on a host. After giving a stern look to a large patch of the invasive Bermuda buttercup (*Oxalis pes-caprae*), and a promise we'd return to weed, we made our way to the serpentine rock outcrops. Along the way we admired buttercups (*Ranunculus californicus*), blue Richards (*Dipterostemon capitatus*), and sun cups (*Taraxia ovata*) in all their spring-time glory. **Serpentinite**, our state rock, is high in heavy metals and low in Calcium, creating a challenging environment for many plant species. Around the serpentine outcrops the non-native annual grasses thin out, and the well-adapted California native plants are prominent. Many of these plants are very small, and botanizing may mean squatting down to examine a forest of 2-inch-tall dwarf plantain (*Plantago erecta*), denseflower owl's clover (*Castilleja densiflora*), and pale sack clover (*Trifolium depauperatum* var. *amplectens*), and then standing up, stretching your legs, and admiring the view out over the town of Novato. Behind us Mt. Burdell's green grasslands stretched up with clusters of valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) and buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) in new bud. It was a beautiful walk, and a reminder of how lucky we are in Marin to have natural areas right on our doorsteps.



Sisyrinchium bellum blue-eyed grass Stacey Pogorzelski



Tiny Plants of the Serpentine Grassland\_Mt. Burdell Caroline Christman



Trifolium\_depauperatum var. amplectens\_Mt. Burdell Caroline Christman



Mt. Burdell early spring flowers Stacey Pogorzelski

### Indian Tree OSP 3/26/2025

*Ann Elliott*

The rain held off for a lovely tour on the Big Trees, Deer Park, and Meadow Trails. We enjoyed fading shooting stars, warrior plums, darling California newts. The poison oak was gorgeous and reaching out to get us, just like the deer ticks. I still have a lump from a tick Annette removed from my belly as soon as we got back to the cars.



Indian tree map



Iris douglasiana yellow



brown-headed rush



pacific pea

# CNPS Statewide Invasive Species Committee News 2025:

Caroline Christman



- Rebud Chapter and CNPS Staff will continue [surveying for special status plants](#) in the footprint of the [Mosquito Fire](#). Training to join them is April 9.
- In 2024, [CNPS adopted updated policies](#) regarding herbicide use and invasive plants.
- [WeedCUT](#) provides guidance on methods for managing invasive plants.
- [Calflora Uncommon Invasive Alerts](#) notifies land managers of new observations.



Lewisia serrata (Sawtooth lewisia)  
(Photo: Steve Tyrone)

[Read more. . .](#)

Point Reyes National Seashore:  
Thursday Weeders at  
Abbotts Lagoon





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

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

**Winter/Spring Dates**  
March 6th & 20th  
April 3rd & 17th  
May 1st & 15th

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](mailto:cristobalcs@ptreyes.org)

[Sign up here . . .](#)

Also:

[Wildflower Habitat Restoration at Kehoe Beach](#), Pt. Reyes National Seashore  
Saturday, 4/5 10 am to 1 pm and  
Friday, 4/25 12 pm to 3 pm

## Broom Service Meets All Year-Round

Broom Service wishes to pull as many plants as possible before they bloom and make seed. Like other legumes, the seeds form in pods and one mature plant can produce thousands of seeds per season and can be viable for 15-25 years. Marin has three different genus and species of broom, but all are in the same family, Fabaceae, or peas. They fix nitrogen in the soil, thus feeding their progeny, making them highly invasive. All brooms are invasive in this area, crowd out native growth and are highly flammable. Brooms offer little in the way of habitat, as they appear to be inedible to most animals (make deer sick) and displace native growth, thus decreasing biodiversity.

Besides endeavoring to bring invasive brooms under control in our neighborhoods and open spaces, our goal at Broom Service is to inspire others to do the same. Anyone who desires to get some practice at identifying these invaders and learning to use appropriate tools for the task is welcome to join us for as much time as you'd prefer. [Contact Mel Wright](#) for more information.



Will Anton and Dr. Bill Teufel finishing the downhill end of broom-pulling project. The soil is still soft, making it possible to pull most of the plants by hand, not using tools. Photo by Mel Wright

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## Join Project Wingspan

[Pollinator Partnership](#) recently received funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to establish a native seed collection program in the greater Bay Area. Through this effort, known as Project Wingspan: Golden State, we are looking for volunteers who are interested in getting involved in wildland seed collection activities in 2025 and 2026. Getting involved is easy. Once you receive training (either from our online videos or in person at a collection event) and complete our contact form and volunteer waiver, you'll be ready to start collecting! Pollinator Partnership will organize collection events, provide training on proper seed collection techniques, and coordinate the tracking, cleaning, and growing out of some seed as live plants. The end result of this project will be an increase in the supply of locally adapted native plant materials and the overall amount of pollinator habitat on the landscape.



[Read more...](#)

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## Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

- **4/1 application deadline** [Howard-Kohn Scholarships for 2025-2026](#)
- **4/3 to 4/7** [Online Plant Sale](#)
- **4/6 10 am to 1 pm** Field Trip: [Wildflowers at Olompali SHP](#), Leaders: Clint and Madeline Kellner
- **4/7 7 pm** Marin Chapter Board Meets, contact [Kristin Jakob](#) to attend via Zoom.
- **4/12 10:30 am to 1:30 pm** [Plant Order Pickup and In-Person Plant Sale](#)
- **4/14 7:30 Chapter Meeting:** [Fire-Resilience in the Defensible Space and Beyond](#), Speaker: Eric Schoohs, Sonoma Ecology Center
- **4/16 10 am to noon** [Ring Mountain](#) - Taylor Rd, Leader: Alison Pence
- **4/24 10 am to noon** [Ring Mountain](#) - Taylor Rd, Leader: Karen Madsen
- **4/27 9 to 11 am** Field Trip: [Intro to Conifers & Ginkgo](#), Leader: Sterling Sam
- **5/1 10 am to 3:00 pm** Field Trip: [Sugarloaf Ridge SP](#), Leader: Kurt Rademacher
- **5/21 10 am to 2 pm** [A 1-Mile Walk Around California!](#), Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Leader: Kurt Rademacher & Anna Gil



*Sisyrrinchium bellum* - blue eyed grass  
by Ann Elliott

## Other Native Plant Activities in Marin, Nearby, or Virtual

- 4/5 10 am to 1 pm [Wildflower Restoration at Kehoe Beach, Pt. Reyes](#)
- 4/5 & 4/6 [Bringing Back the Natives virtual tours](#)
- 4/9 [Training for Mosquito Fire plant surveys](#)
- 4/10 [Bees & the Native Plants They Love](#), Speaker: Susan Karasoff, Yerba Buena Chapter hybrid talk
- 4/12 & 4/13 [Napa Valley Chapter Plant Sale & Wildflower Show](#)
- 4/14 10 am to noon Habitat Walk at China Camp. Meet at campground gate 730 N San Pedro Rd, **Santa Venetia Habitat Garden Club**
- 4/25 noon to 3 pm [Wildflower Habitat Restoration at Kehoe Beach](#), Pt. Reyes NS
- 5/3 & 5/4 [Bringing Back the Natives In-Person Tour](#)
- 5/10 2025 [Eco Friendly Garden Tour](#) in Marin & Sonoma Counties
- 5/30 - 6/2 [SoBeFree 29](#) - Bryophyte Chapter's annual foray, this year at Mattole River Camp and Retreat Center, Humboldt Co.



Bryophytes  
By Brent Mishler

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**Napa Valley Chapter** has scheduled Wildflower Walks most Saturdays, March through June. [See the schedule here.](#)

**Milo Baker Chapter** [Plant Walks are listed here.](#) Sign up for email alerts.

**East Bay Chapter** [Field Trip Listings on Meetup.](#)

**Yerba Buena Chapter** [Field Trip Listings](#)

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**Craig Dremann**, who described his restoration of a native grassland on Kite Hill in Woodside at our February public meeting, reports that he expects a super bloom of spring wildflowers in April. He invites those interested for a free tour including more information about his restoration methods. Best times are Saturday or Sunday mornings. Contact him at (650) 441-9323.

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Also check out:

- [CNPS.org/events](#) for interesting talks and field trips sponsored by CNPS Chapters and staff throughout the state.
- [Events Calendar for Marin County Parks.](#) They host a variety of local hikes, service projects, and presentations.
- [Regional Parks Botanic Garden](#) hosts talks (some online), workshops, tours and plant sales.
- [Point Reyes Nature](#) has great ideas for exploring the Point Reyes National Seashore.



Wildflowers at Kite Hill  
Photo by Craig Dremann



*Eschscholzia californica*  
California poppy in bud  
Photo by Eliezer Margolis

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## April Showers (?)

We welcome spring rain to benefit the new native annuals, bulbs and ground covers we plan to purchase from our [plant sale](#). Moist soil eases [weed pulling](#).

In between showers, get out to enjoy the wild plants leafing out and flowering. Join one of our field trips, one offered by a nearby chapter, or head out on your own to see our world transform.

Send me some of your photos or write a short story about your adventures. Post on our Facebook group [Marin Native Plants](#), follow us on Instagram [marincnps](#), post anywhere with the hashtag #marinnativeplants.

Thanks, [Ann Elliott](#), Newsletter Editor & Field Trip Committee



*Nemophila menziesii* - baby blue eyes in small burn along trail to Pt. Reyes Lighthouse by Ann Elliott



2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5130 | Tel: (916) 447-2677  
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