

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER



Field Trip at Ring Mountain Open Space Photo by Ann Elliott

May 2025 Newsletter

Marin Chapter Meeting

Project Wingspan: Golden State - Native seed collecting and amplification in the Bay Area

Guest Speaker: **James Hart**, Conservation Ecologist at
Pollinator Partnership

Monday, **May 12 at 7:30 pm**

[Pollinator Partnership](#) has initiated [Project Wingspan: Golden State](#), a program with the goal to increase the supply of local native seed and plants in the Bay Area. It will be a collaboration with numerous partners and volunteers to locate native plant populations, collect seed, and multiply that seed. The resulting locally-adapted seed and native plants will be used by homeowners and land managers to create and enhance pollinator habitat.

James Hart will describe the program, explain how Pollinator Partnership will organize collection events, provide volunteer training on proper seed collection techniques, and coordinate the tracking, cleaning, and growing out of some seed as live plants. He will explain how local-ecotype native plant materials are important because of the types of pollinators they support.

[Read more...](#)

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



Eschscholzia californica and *Lupinus albifrons*
in the hills above Berkeley Photo by James Hart



Marin Chapter Field Trips

- Sign up for most field trips using [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) or the [Meetup app](#). Signups usually begin the first of each month at 8 am.
- Sign the [Waiver for Marin Chapter 2025](#), if you have not done so already. Tambien [Renuncia del participante](#) en Espanol.
- Practice clean trail etiquette. [Pocket Guide – Every Step Counts](#) and [Cleanliness Tips for Hikers](#).
- Contact the leader(s) with any questions.

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. [Sugarloaf Ridge State Park](#)

[Read more. . .](#) A few last-minute spots have opened up. [Email Ann](#) for more info.

An Introduction to Grasses in Lagunitas

Wednesday, May 7, 2:30 to 4 pm

Leader: **Kristin Jakob**

This will be an easy, slow amble along a quiet neighborhood street, nearly level, to see a wide variety of grasses, native and exotic. A hand lens might come in handy to admire fine details, though we will not be keying the species.

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



Melica torreyana -
Torrey's melicgrass
line drawing by Kristin Jakob

Ring Mountain Field Trips

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

Meet either at the Taylor Road Trailhead off Paradise Dr. in Tiburon or the Phyllis Ellman Trailhead on Paradise Dr.

Please sign up for these trips on Meetup.

[Read more...](#)

Meetup Registration Links: [May 7](#) [May 14](#)



Lupinus nanus - sky lupine
at Ring Mountain OSP
Photo by Ann Elliott

Gravity Car Road and Upper Hoo Koo E Koo Trail on Mt. Tamalpais

Wednesday, **May 14, 10 am to noon**

Leaders: **Stacey Pogorzelski and Caroline Christman**

This walk will highlight the spring wildflowers and amazing views of the Bay from the southeast side of Mt. Tamalpais. We will start on Gravity Car Road, a wide, flat fire road and part of a former [railroad bed](#) that wound up to East Peak. We will pass through forest and chaparral, enjoying bush poppy, California milkwort, peak rush-rose, and many more. See the [CNPS plant list](#) for this area to get a sense of the incredible species diversity.

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



Peak rush-rose and milkwort on Mt. Tam
Photo by Caroline Christman

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!

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



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

CNPS Stewardship at Ring Mountain

Leaders: **Caroline Christman** and **Amanda Magallanes**, Ring Mountain Stewardship Coordinator with Marin County Parks

Tuesday, **May 13, 10 am to noon**

Ring Mountain is well-known for beautiful views and stunning wildflower displays. Its serpentine grasslands are home to several rare plants including the Oakland star tulip and the Tiburon mariposa lily, which is found nowhere else. CNPS has a long history of supporting Ring Mountain and is continuing that work with a stewardship focus.

Join us for the first CNPS Ring Mountain Stewardship event for a morning of hands-on work to protect native habitat. We will focus on removing non-native invasive plants, such as tocalote and false brome, on an important wildflower site across from Turtle Rock. Removing invasive plants frees space and resources for native grasses and wildflowers to thrive. After a morning of rewarding work, Amanda will lead a short plant walk to enjoy the abundant wildflowers including tidy tips, goldfields, and owl's clover, and to see if the Tiburon mariposa lily is blooming.

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



Turtle Rock, mule's ears, and serpentine rock on Ring Mountain Photo by Caroline Christman

Ring Mountain Wildflower Docents - Spring 2025

Want to know about Ring Mountain wildflowers and can't make the CNPS field trips or stewardship day, look for a Ring Mountain Wildflower Docent on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays 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](#).



Castilleja densiflora ssp. *densiflora* - owl's clover & *Lasthenia californica* - goldfields on Ring Mountain Photo by Ann Elliott

Spring Native Plant Sale

Many thanks to all of you who purchased plants at our April Plant Sale, both online and in-person. It was a very successful sale—over 900 plants were sold. We are thrilled to see how much active interest there is for using California's native plants in home gardens and hope your new purchases enrich your landscape and bring you joy. The fall sale will be in October, and we expect to be offering another great list of beautiful, tough native plants to choose from.

[Read more. . .](#)



Assorted gallon-sized plants offered at CNPS Marin Spring Native Plant Sale Photo by Ann Elliott

Marin Chapter Native Plant Gardening Group

The gardening group is planning a tour of two private gardens later this month. They will also get first dibs on a learning work day at the Point Blue Novato Baylands Nursery in June.

Join our gardening community to share gardening information and enjoy these activities.

Fill out this form: [CNPS Marin Native Plant Gardening Group](#)



Actostaphylos sp - manzanita in garden after a shower
Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski

Field Trip Reports - April 2025

Reservoir Hill # 2 4/3/20205

Wow, sky lupine was in abundance. What a delight to revisit a local spot as the spring show progresses. Thanks, Stacey.

Wildflowers at Olompali State Historic Park 4/6/2025

A large group enjoyed the loop trail at Olompali. CNPS members Clint and Madeline Kellner know their local park so well. Be sure to check out their Olompali orchid hike in June.

Ring Mountain 4/16/2025 & 4/24/2025

There are so many treats - masses of wildflowers, magical serpentine outcrops, majestic views to the east and south, and out of the way populations of rare species. Join Karen & Allison, Ring Mountain docents, for four more excursions or stop by on a weekend to see this jewel.

Introduction to Conifers 4/27/2025

Dr. Sam did an excellent job of introducing several families of conifers, combining scientific background with tree morphology and reproduction, in a way that was very accessible to novices. We observed specimen trees in Marin Art & Garden Center as well in the communities of Ross and Kentfield.

[See more pictures from these field trips](#)



Castilleja densiflora ssp. *densiflora* - owl's clover & *Layia platyglossa* - tidy tips on Ring Mt. by Ann Elliott



Metasequoia glyptostroboides - dawn redwood seed pod
Photo by Ann Elliott

Broom Service

Broom Service volunteers doggedly attack the invasive broom in San Geronimo Valley. Although a huge job, progress is being made.

[Contact Mel Wright](#) for more information and to join their Thursday work days.



Broom Service volunteers Phil Sotter and Carl Miller effectively battle broom. Photo by Mel Wright

Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

- 5/1 10 am to 3:00 pm Field Trip: [Sugarloaf Ridge SP](#), Leader: Kurt Rademacher
- 5/7 10 am to noon Field Trip: [Ring Mt. - Phyllis Ellman Trailhead](#), Leader: Karen Madsen
- 5/7 2:30 to 4 pm Field Trip: [An Introduction to Grasses in Lagunitas](#), Leader: Kristin Jakob
- 5/12 7:30 pm Chapter Meeting: [Project Wingspan: Golden State](#), Speaker: James Hart
- 5/13 10 am to noon [CNPS Stewardship at Ring Mountain](#)
- 5/14 10 am to noon Field Trip: [Ring Mt. - Taylor Road Trailhead](#), Leader: Allison Pence
- 5/14 10 am to noon Field Trip: [Gravity Car Road and Upper Hoo Koo E Koo Trail on Mt. Tamalpais](#), Leaders: Stacey Pogorzelski and Caroline Christman
- 5/21 10 am to 2 pm Field Trip: [A 1-Mile Walk Around California!](#), Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Leader: Kurt Rademacher & Anna Gil



Ring Mountain - tidy tips, sky lupine, and purple needle grass Photo by Caroline Christman

Other Native Plant Activities in Marin, Nearby, or Virtual

- 5/1 10 am to 2 pm [Thursday Weeders at Abbotts Lagoon](#)
- 5/3 & 5/4 [Bringing Back the Natives In-Person Tour](#)
- 5/10 2025 [Eco Friendly Garden Tour](#) in Marin & Sonoma Counties
- 5/15 10 am to 2 pm [Thursday Weeders at Abbotts Lagoon](#)
- 5/20 9 am to 3 pm Field Trip: [Lava Bluffs Trail at Calaveras Big Trees SP](#) Central Sierra Chapter
- 5/29 10 am to 2 pm [Thursday Weeders at Abbotts Lagoon](#)
- 5/30 - 6/2 [SoBeFree 29](#) - Bryophyte Chapter's annual foray, this year at Mattole River Camp and Retreat Center, Humboldt Co.



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](#)

Also checkout:

- [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.
- [The Soul of the Earth](#), exploring the world flower by flower, Betsey Crawford's monthly essay series.

May is Peak Wildflower Season

Join one of our field trips, one offered by a nearby chapter, or head out on your own to enjoy beautiful flowers and trees flowering or leafing out. The birds and other creatures are in an amorous mood, so bring your binoculars along with your hand lenses.

Send me some of your photos or write a short story about your explorations. Post your discoveries on our Facebook group [Marin Native Plants](#). Check out news and events at our Facebook group [California Native Plant Society - Marin Chapter](#). Follow us on Instagram [marincnps](#) and post anywhere with the hashtag #marinnativeplants.

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



I purchased some annual wildflower plants from our native plant sale to fill blank spots in my garden. I am hoping for more flowers this summer.



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