

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER



Heteromeles arbutifolia - Toyon near Kent Lake

Photo by Ann Elliott

December 2025 Newsletter

Marin Chapter & Annual Meeting

"San Francisco Bay Area: An Environmental History, with Highlights from Marin"

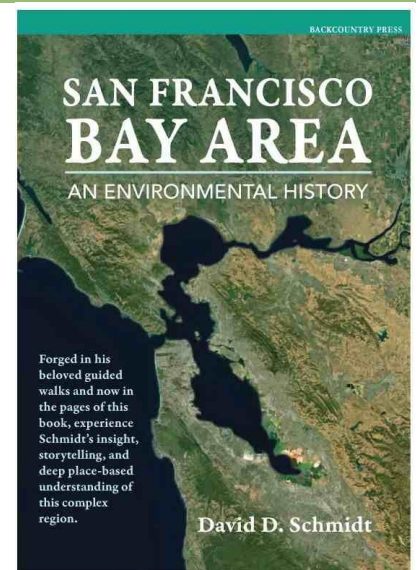
Guest Speaker: **David D. Schmidt, Environmental Historian, Author**

Monday, **December 8 at 7:30 pm**

David will give an overview of the Bay Area's environmental history, from 10,000 years ago to the present, starting with Native Tribes but focusing on land uses, industries, earthquakes, fires, transportation, water supplies, waste, and urban growth of the past 250 years. Highlights from Marin will include environmental pioneers like Laura Lyon White and William Kent, the founders of the Marin Conservation League and MALT.

David's recently published book, [San Francisco Bay Area: An Environmental History](#), is half historic and half recent history. Copies of this comprehensive book of 632 pages with more than 20 color maps and more than 60 photos are available at shop.cnpsmarin.org.

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



Marin Chapter Field Trips

- Sign up for 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.
- **New!** [CNPS Marin 2026 Waiver](#) Please use for January field trips.
- Practice clean trail etiquette. [Pocket Guide – Every Step Counts](#) and [Cleanliness Tips for Hikers](#).
- Contact the leader(s) with any questions.



Symphoricarpos albus - snowberry
In Miwok Park
Photo by Ann Elliott



Dogwood in Miwok Park
Photo by Ann Elliott

Plant Ramble in Miwok Park, Novato

Monday, December 8, 2025, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Leaders: **Stacey Pogorzelski**

Location: Miwok Park, 2200 Novato Blvd., Novato

We will do an easy walk in the flat areas of the park, including the native plant garden of the [Museum of the American Indian](#) and the Novato Creek, for the first approximately 1.5 hours. Trees we will see include bay laurel, California buckeye, Oregon ash, and blue elderberry. Then, we will climb the loop into the hillier part of the park with views and beautiful native oaks. There is a parking lot on Novato Blvd and street parking around the corner on San Miguel Way.

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

Lagunitas Creek Walk, Samuel P. Taylor State Park

Saturday, January 3, 2026, 10 am to 2 pm

Leader: **Carolyn Longstreth & Todd Steiner**, Founder SPAWN

Please sign the CNPS waiver for **2026**: [CNPS Marin 2026 Waiver](#)



Salmon spawning in Samuel P. Taylor State Park
Photo by Ann Elliott

When the first hard rains hit the ground, streams swell and Coho salmon begin their spectacular homeward migration. Participants of this creek walk will witness a tradition that goes back thousands of years, as these fish swim hundreds of miles from their ocean feeding grounds to return to their birthplace and continue the survival of their species. As we watch for spawning Coho and river otters, we will ponder the plight of our endangered Coho salmon and discuss their ancient connection to our iconic coast redwoods and the riparian plant community. We will drink in the moist forest atmosphere and admire the redwood specialist plant community that thrives there.

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

Field Trip Leaders and Ideas Sought

Do you have a favorite place you want to share with the CNPS Marin community?

Write up a short description and contact [Ann Elliott](#) to explore possibilities.

We have a new [Field Trip Template for 2026](#) to help us gather the information needed.



Toyon among madrone trees, Indian Tree OSP
Photo by Ann Elliott

Stewardship Opportunities

Habitat Restoration at Mt. Burdell

Leader: **Greg Reza**, Marin Co. Parks & Open Space

Coordinator: **Stacey Pogorzelski**

Thursday, **December 4, 2025, 9 to 11:30 am**

[RAIN DATE: Thursday, Dec 11]

Leaders: Greg Reza, Marin County Parks and Open Space District Volunteer Program Coordinator: Stacey Pogorzelski, Marin CNPS Location: Mt. Burdell Open Space Preserve in Novato

During the December workday we will continue tarping and hand removal of Bermuda buttercup, *Oxalis pes-caprae*. This aggressive weed is spreading to the nearby grasslands and is already in the creekbed. In November our awesome volunteer team tarped one area, and we look forward to working on an adjacent patch in December.

Marin County staff will provide tools and great snacks.

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



Tarpping Bermuda buttercup (*Oxalis pes-caprae*) on Mt. Burdell
Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski

Volunteer Workday with Marin County Parks & Open Space District at Roy's Redwoods

Leader: **Aja Wylder**, Marin County Parks Nursery Manager

Coordinator: **Caroline Christman**, Marin CNPS

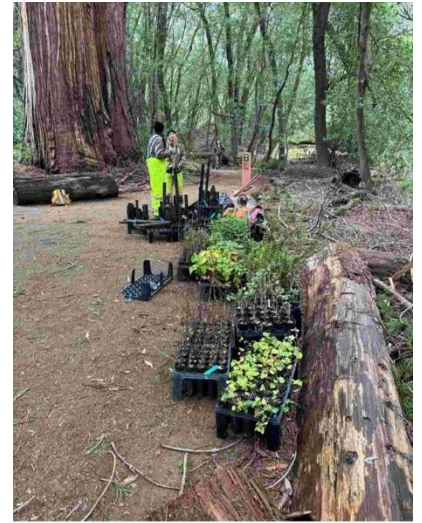
Tuesday, **December 16, 2025, 1 - 3 pm**

Location: **Roy's Redwoods**, San Geronimo Valley

This December, our third Tuesday Nursery workday will be a planting day! In the Nursery, 5,000 container plants have been grown to help restore habitat at [Roy's Redwoods](#). Join us to be part of this exciting restoration!

Learn more about [Roy's Redwoods Restoration](#).

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



Roy's Redwoods planting
Photo by Ann Elliott

Also:

- [Community planting days](#) will be on Saturdays, December 13 and January 24, 9 am - noon. Led by Greg Reza, Volunteer Coordinator, Marin Parks and Open Space
- "Special Group" workdays will be led by Aja Wylder, Nursery Manager, Parks and Open Space. These will all be on Tuesdays, 1 - 3 pm, beginning on December 16. After a break for the holidays, the workdays will continue on January 6 and every Tuesday afternoon through February 24, or until the supply of plants is exhausted.

Habitat Restoration at Chicken Ranch Beach

The [Tomales Bay Foundation](#) is seeking volunteers to help plant and maintain 7500 nursery-grown native plants at the newly excavated [wetland at Chicken Ranch Beach](#). Planting will be in accordance with detailed specifications.

On-site planting is scheduled most Wednesday and Saturday mornings during December 2025 and January 2026. Volunteer days are being coordinated by the SPAWN nursery. If you would like to volunteer you must sign up using the attached Doodle Calendar link to provide your name and contact info. Feel free to share your specific interest and/or experience with [Tom Gaman](#) of Tomales Bay Foundation or [Kristen Hopper](#), SPAWN Nursery Manager. Thank you for volunteering.

[Doodle link to sign up for specific planting days.](#)



Chicken Ranch Beach Wetland Restoration
after grading Photo by Tom Gaman

Gardening in the Company of Deer

Check out an updated handout to help your gardening efforts when deer live in your neighborhood. Ideas include:

- plant selection
- deer protection devices
- patience & sympathy

[Read more...](#)



Marin CNPS Micro Grants for 2026

The Marin chapter is pleased to offer individuals and organizations limited funding through our Micro Grant program, intended to close funding gaps and assist with projects that advance our mission. We will be offering 3 grants of up to \$1,000 each. The application process requires a one-page letter.

Deadline for applying is December 15, 2025. Recipients will be announced in February 2026.

[Read more...](#)

[Application instructions](#)



Native habitat garden near Town Park, Corte Madera
by Refugia Marin

CNPS Marin Board - Call for Nominations and Chapter Election

Our December membership meetings are also official annual meetings during which our members vote on a slate of officers for the Marin Chapter Board of Directors. We have space on the board for more members. If you are interested in serving, please contact [Kristin Jakob](#) 650-608-1274.

The tentative proposed slate for 2026 is as follows:

President: Kristin Jakob

Vice-President: Stacey Pogorzelski

Treasurer: Bonnie Gosliner

Recording Secretary: Woody Elliott

Board Members:

Eva Buxton

Paul da Silva

Ann Elliott

Robert Katz

David Long

Carolyn Longstreth

Laura Lovett

Eddie Robertson



Kristin Jakob arranging native
flower centerpieces for
50th Anniversary Gala

Registration Open!

February 5-7, 2026

Workshops & Field Trips:
February 4, 2026

Riverside Convention Center

Early [Discounted Registration](#) is open until Nov. 30.

[Preliminary Program details](#)

[Read more...](#)



Best Time for Attacking Broom is Now!

Marin Chapter has weed wrenches to loan for removing broom from your own property. Contact [Eddie Robertson](#) to borrow them.

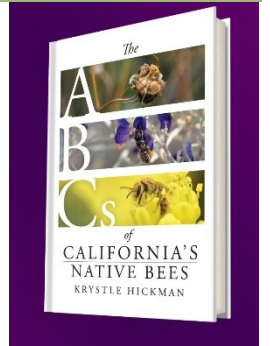
Rainouts and holidays aside, Broom Service enters its most productive workdays of the year. The soil has softened from recent rains, so that the plants can be pulled most often without the use of the specialized tools we use most of the year.

[Contact Mel Wright](#) for more information about Broom Service and to join their Thursday morning work parties.



The ABCs of California's Native Bees

National Geographic Explorer profiles California's native bees from A to Z in new image-rich guidebook by conservation photographer, community scientist, and bee expert [Krystle Hickman](#). [Heyday Books](#)



Tree in winter
Photo by Damir K

Winter Trees

William Carlos Williams

All the complicated details
of the attiring and
the disattiring are completed!
A liquid moon
moves gently among
the long branches.
Thus having prepared their buds
against a sure winter
the wise trees
stand sleeping in the cold.

Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

- 12/4 9 - 11:30 am [Habitat Restoration on Mt. Burdell](#) Leader: Stacey Pogorzelski
- 12/8 10 am - 12:30 pm [Plant Ramble in Miwok Park, Novato](#), Leader: Stacey Pogorzelski
- 12/8 7:30 pm Chapter Meeting: [San Francisco Bay Area: An Environmental History, with Highlights from Marin](#). Speaker: David Schmidt [Register here](#).
- 12/16 1 - 3 pm [Volunteer Workday at Marin County Parks, Roys Redwoods](#) Leaders: Aja Wylder & Caroline Christman
- 1/3 10 am - 2 pm [Lagunitas Creek Walk](#) Leaders: Carolyn Longstreth & Todd Steiner
- 1/13 1 - 3 pm [Habitat Restoration at Alder Creek Preserve](#)



Quercus lobata - valley oak in winter on Mt. Burdell
Photo by Ann Elliott

Other Native Plant Activities in Marin, Nearby, or Virtual

- 11/30 Deadline to apply to share your garden on [Marin/Sonoma Eco-Friendly Garden Tour](#) happening May 9, 2026. Contact Chad Singleton; for an application. savewater@scwa.ca.gov
- 12/4 10 am to 2 pm [Thursday Weeders at Abbotts Lagoon](#)
- 12/11 7:30 pm [From crisis to conservation: Empowering action for biodiversity](#) Speaker: Jun Bando, CNPS Executive Director, in-person at Merced Lake Boathouse, San Francisco, Yerba Buena Chapter



Anaphalis margaritacea - dried blossoms of pearly everlasting, Estero Tr., Point Reyes by Ann Elliott

Also checkout:

- [CNPS.org/events](https://www.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. Wayne Roderick Lecture Series - Saturdays at 10:30 am
- [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.



Grindelia stricta var. *platyphylla* - gumplant, Chimney Rock Trail, Point Reyes Photo by Ann Elliott

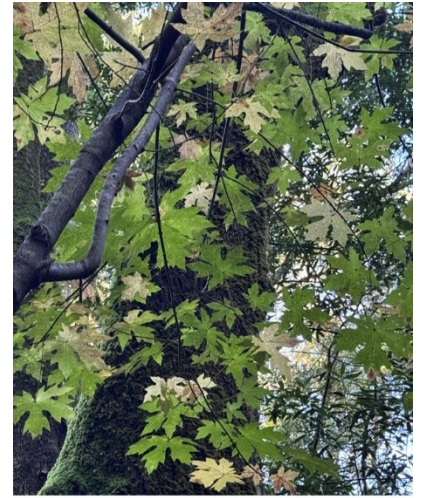
Fall Turns to Winter

The early rains this fall have greened up our hills. Hiking and exploration is easier in this cooler weather. It is a time to explore the foundation plants of our ecosystems without the distraction of a lot of showy flowers.

Send me events, stories, pictures, literature to share with our followers.

- Post your wild 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](#).
- Post anywhere with the hashtag #marinnativeplants.

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



Acer macrophyllum - big leaf maple
Devils Gulch, SP Taylor State Park
Photo by Ann Elliott



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