

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER



*Rhododendron columbianum* - western Labrador tea

Photo by Ann Elliott

## November 2025 Newsletter

### Marin Chapter Meeting

#### "Overcoming Barriers to Conservation and Restoration"

Guest Speakers: **Ashley Boren and Stephanie Falzone**

Monday, **November 10 at 7:30 pm**

Ashley Boren and Stephanie Falzone from [Sustainable Conservation](#) will speak about how public-private collaborations can jump roadblocks to yield conservation results. Ashley will open and talk about the origins of Sustainable Conservation and share the Brake Pad Partnership story. Stephanie will then talk about [PlantRight](#) and [Accelerating Restoration](#). Read about [their visit](#) to Marin Water's project on Lagunitas Creek.

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



Sustainable Conservation at  
the Lagunitas Creek Watershed

# Native Plant Garden Group's Fall Seed Swap

Saturday, **November 15, 3 to 5 pm**

Join us for our fall native plant seed swap! We hope everyone had time to collect seeds from spring and summer blooms.

Bring cleaned seeds labeled with species and envelopes of some kind to take seeds home in. We will have some small envelopes to offer.



Small potted plants are ok too as long as they are in a container that will keep dirt and water out of Mary's house.

If you don't have seeds to share, please come anyway—we always have excess seed to offer.

Please RSVP to [marincnpsevents@gmail.com](mailto:marincnpsevents@gmail.com) if you plan to come so we know how much food and drink to get.

[Read more...](#)

## Stewardship Opportunities

### Habitat Restoration at Alder Creek Preserve, Inverness

Leader: **Carolyn Longstreth**

Tuesday, **November 11, 10 am to noon**

Join CNPS and Friends to weed the Alder Creek Preserve restoration site in Inverness.



*Acer negundo* - boxelder  
Photo by Carolyn Longstreth

In 2023, the Inverness Association (IA) cleared the site of a large acacia forest. Since then, an enthusiastic group of IA members, neighbors, and SPAWN volunteers have planted a mix of native trees and shrubs and watered them throughout the summer.

Now the focus turns to tackling the weeds: acacia seedlings, poison hemlock, vinca, African veldt grass, and others. We'd love to have your help!

[Read more including directions...](#)

[Meetup Registration Link](#)

# Habitat Restoration at Mt. Burdell

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

Coordinator: **Stacey Pogorzelski**

Thursday, **November 13, 9 to 11 am**

Join a community of habitat restorers! Marin CNPS is partnering with Marin County Open Space District staff to remove invasive species and improve native habitat at Mt. Burdell. Located at the northern edge of Novato, Mt. Burdell has serpentine grasslands with rare plants, an incredible array of oaks, and seasonal streams that support milkweed – the critical host for Monarch butterflies. During the November workday we will focus on removing invasive species that threaten the wild narrow-leaf milkweed population including pennyroyal, Himalayan blackberry, and nearby patches of yellow star-thistle. This work will help prepare the area for planting native plant species this winter.

We would love for you to join us! Marin County staff will provide tools and (good!) snacks. Bring a reusable water bottle, sun and wind protection, layers (mornings can be chilly), long pants and work/garden gloves (gloves provided if you don't have them).

[Read more including directions. . .](#)

[Meetup Registration Link](#)

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# Volunteer Workday at Marin County Parks & Open Space District Native Plant Nursery

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

Coordinator: **Stacey Pogorzelski**, Marin CNPS

Tuesday, **November 18, 10 am - noon**

Location: **Marin County Native Plant Nursery in San Rafael**, near the Marin County Civic Center

Join us for our monthly morning of pruning and transplanting native plants at the Marin County Parks and Open Space District Nursery. Set in a lovely, shaded garden, the Nursery grows native plants to be used in habitat restoration projects throughout parks and natural preserves in Marin. For those new to the nursery, Aja will provide a tour of the nursery, demonstrate nursery methods, and describe how the plants being grown will be used in restoration projects. Volunteer activities may include pruning, potting up seedlings, transplanting plants into larger pots, pot washing, or working in the native plant garden.

[Read more including directions. . .](#)

[Meetup Registration Link](#)



Looking forward to cookie reward after weed pulling at Mt. Burdell. Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski



Volunteers potting up CA fuchsia seedlings at Marin Co. Native Nursery - Stacey Pogorzelski

## Marin Water is Updating their Roads and Trails Management Plan

Marin CNPS encourages our members to attend Marin Water's Roads and Trails Management Plan (RTMP) [Community Open House and Workshops](#) at the Sky Oaks Headquarters on:

**November 9, between 11 am and 3 pm;** or  
**November 10, between 3 and 6 pm.**

The same activities are planned both days.

The RTMP process will take place over the next year, and the Water District needs to hear from native plant lovers!

[Subscribe here to receive email notifications and updates](#) from Marin Water about this and other elements of the RTMP process.



Intrenched section of the Concrete Pipeline Trail in Mt. Tamalpais watershed Photo by David Long

## 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 15th, 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

## Thank You!

Our very successful Fall Native Plant Sale has wrapped up, just in time to get plants in the ground before it rained. Thanks to everyone who bought plants and our terrific team of helpers that packed up over 100 orders. Your plant purchases support the events and advocacy work of our chapter, which we greatly appreciate. **Our Spring Plant Sale will be April 9–13 online, with the in-person sale on April 18th.**

May your native gardens thrive and bring you joy.



Fall plant sale orders are ready for pickup.  
Photo by Laura Lovett

## Fall Garden Care

With these early fall rains gardeners have opportunities for many native plant care activities like planting, weeding, pruning, and mulching. Get those plants from the plant sale into their new homes. Clean up faded blossoms and decadent plant material near structures. Divide clumping plants to spread or share with friends.

[Read more](#) and download our [printable Fall Garden Care handout](#).



## Registration Open!

**February 5-7, 2026**

Workshops & Field Trips:  
February 4, 2026

Riverside Convention Center

Early [Discounted Registration](#) is open now.

[Read more...](#)



## Moist Soil Eases Broom Removal

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. Also, we don't tire as much in the cool weather.

This week we will be continuing to meet and work at the Conifer Gate site in Woodacre. Conifer Gate is at the boundary between private property and public open space. Though many people hike, bike, or ride horses from the valley floor, the Gate is one of the entryways to the San Geronimo Ridge, a delightful wild recreational area open to all.



Broom Service volunteers  
Photo by Melvyn Wright

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

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



## The Tree on the Corner

*Lilian Moore*

I've seen  
the tree on the corner  
in spring bud  
and summer green.  
Yesterday  
it was yellow gold.

Then a cold  
wind began to blow.  
Now I know--  
you really do not see  
a tree  
until you see  
its bones.



*Quercus kelloggii* - California black oak  
Photo by Ann Elliott



## Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

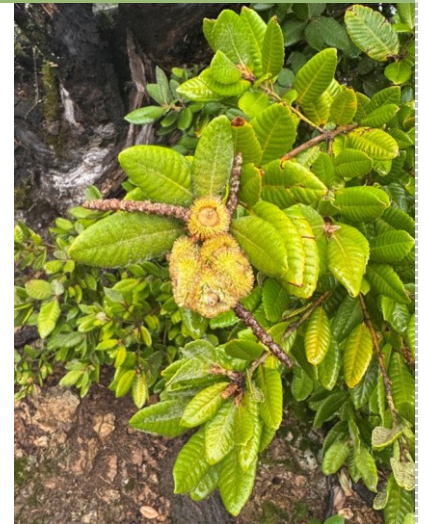
- 11/10 7:30 pm Chapter Meeting: [Overcoming Barriers to Conservation and Restoration](#). Speakers: Ashley Boren and Stephanie Falzone [Register here](#).
- 11/11 10 am - noon [Habitat Restoration at Alder Creek Preserve](#)
- 11/13 10 am - noon [Volunteer Workday at Marin County Native Nursery](#) Leaders: Aja Wylder & Stacey Pogorzelski
- 11/15 3 pm - 5 pm [Fall Native Plant Seed Swap](#)
- 11/18 9 - 11 am [Mt Burdell Habitat Restoration Work Party](#) Leader: Stacey Pogorzelski
- 12/1 7 pm Marin Chapter Board Meeting via Zoom, please email [Kristin Jakob](#) to attend



*Baccharis pilularis* - coyote brush  
flowers on female plant  
Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski

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

- 11/10 6:30 pm [Sudden Oak Death Blitz 2025 - Results Meeting](#), Dr. Matteo Garbelotto & Debbie Mendelson
- 11/13 10 am to 2 pm [Thursday Weeders at Abbotts Lagoon](#) also on 12/4
- 11/13 7:30 pm [The California Current's influence on San Francisco's weather, people, and plants](#) Speaker: Darren Peck, in-person & via Zoom, Yerba Buena Chapter
- 11/15 10 am - 3 pm Fluvial Processes in Geomorphology & How the Flora Responded to a Devastating Debris Flow in Buckeye Canyon, December 31, 2022, Yerba Buena Chapter Field Trip on San Bruno Mountain, Leaders: David Nelson and Doug Allshouse Contact [David](#) to attend.
- 11/30 [Deadline to apply to share your garden on Marin/Sonoma Eco-Friendly Garden Tour happening May 9, 2026](#). Contact Chad Singleton [savewater@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:savewater@scwa.ca.gov) for an application.

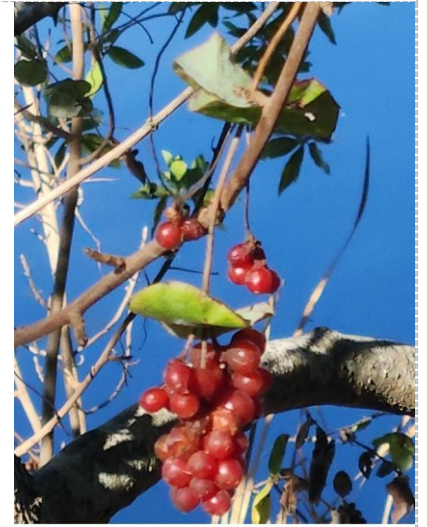


*Notholithocarpus densiflorus* -  
tanoak, Mt. Tamalpais Ann Elliott

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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.



*Lonicera* sp. - honeysuckle berries  
Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski

## The Varieties of Fall in a Mediterranean Climate

As Northern California transitions to cooler and wetter weather plants feel relief from the summer heat. Leaves are washed off. Fire seems a distant threat. Hills are greening up. Some plants are resting for the cool season. Others are bursting to life building resources for when the weather warms next spring.

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



*Oxalis oregana* - redwood sorrel, moss, & fungus  
Samuel P Taylor SP Photo by Ann Elliott



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