

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER



Ribes speciosum - fuchsia flowering gooseberry

Photo by Ann Elliott

February 2026 Newsletter

Marin Chapter Meeting

"Biology and Conservation of the Endangered Myrtle's Silverspot Butterfly"

Guest Speakers: **Dick Arnold**, retired entomologist and environmental consultant and **Tanya Baxter**, consultant botanist and ecologist

Monday, **February 9, 2026 at 7:30 pm**

Hidden within the coastal scrub and prairies of West Marin lives the federally endangered Myrtle Silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria zerene myrtleae*). Rarely observed and exquisitely specialized, this butterfly's life cycle is bound to one plant alone—the Western dog violet. Explore its unique biology, uncover the subtle beauty of its ecological relationships, and learn how identifying and protecting its host plant can make an impactful difference in the butterfly's conservation.

Presentation Outline: The Myrtle's Silverspot butterfly is found in coastal areas of Marin and Sonoma counties. We will discuss the butterfly's historical and present-day geographic range, its life cycle, natural history, and conservation activities. Opportunities to get involved will be discussed.

Dick Arnold is a retired entomologist who worked as an environmental consultant for 45 years specializing in rare and endangered insects. He has experience with all of the federally-listed, endangered and most of the candidate insects that occur in California. He performed habitat assessment surveys, presence-absence surveys, impact analysis, prepared and implemented mitigation measures, as well as conducted long-term population and habitat monitoring. He is the



Myrtle's silverspot on gumplant

Photo by David Kelly USFWS

author or co-author of recovery plans for several of California's endangered insects, including the Myrtle's Silverspot butterfly.

Tanya Baxter M.S. is a consultant botanist and ecologist. With over fifteen years of expertise in land management she has led landscape scale restoration projects for the national park service and innovative collaborations with non-profit partners and open space. She led a multi-year grant to eradicate the most invasive species on 75,000 acres in Marin County combined with a dedicated volunteer program. She conducts rare and invasive plant surveys in the Sierra Nevada in the summer where she teaches plant taxonomy at the SFSU Field Campus in Calpine.

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

Marin Chapter Field Trips

- Sign up for field trips using [Meetup.com](#) or the [Meetup app](#). Signups usually begin the first of each month at 8 am.
- **New!** [CNPS Marin 2026 Waiver](#) Please use for January field trips and Chapter sponsored stewardship opportunities.
- Practice clean trail etiquette. [Pocket Guide – Every Step Counts](#) and [Cleanliness Tips for Hikers](#).
- Contact the leader(s) with any questions.



Myriopteris intertexta - coastal lip fern (bead fern)
near Rock Spring Photo by Kurt Rademacher

Mt. Tamalpais Fern ID Field Trip

Thursday, February 12, 2026: 10 am to 2 pm

Leaders: **Kurt Rademacher & David Edelson**

In our deep winter when most of Mt. Tamalpais' wildflowers are dormant or non-existent, the ancient ferns are in their glory, unfurling on shady creekbanks and sunny cliff faces.

- Ever find the diversity of these feathery fronds confusing?
- Want to be able to distinguish a Lady Fern from a Coastal Wood Fern, or the Leather Fern from a Birds-Foot Fern?
- How about a 6-foot Giant Chain Fern from a 2-inch Lip Fern!

Come join us for an exploration of about a dozen different species, their intriguing life cycles, extreme habitat preferences, and how to identify them. This will involve some close looking and attention to detail, so please bring a 4-power or stronger hand-lens if you have one.

[Read more. . .](#) [Join the Meetup Waitlist](#), most trips open up in last few days.



Lagunitas Creek FT attendees January 10, 2026
Paul Barnett

Vegetation Time Traveling!

Exploring Plant Succession over the centuries at Loma Alta & Roys Redwoods Preserves

Wednesday, **February 25, 2026: 10 am to 2 pm**

Leader: **Kurt Rademacher**

Ever wondered what our natural vegetation looked like a century or two ago, or might in the future? Though few wildflowers yet grace the February hillsides, come join us for an intriguing 2-mile stroll to piece together clues in today's woodlands, meadows, chaparral, and forests which reveal the succession of these vegetation types, each modifying the conditions it initially found suitable, until they are replaced in turn by other plant communities, and those by yet other plants. See the evidence of ancient events like fires or floods which set it all back to the earlier stages to start over yet again—or in some cases, have held one plant community in place for many centuries!

[Read more. . .](#)

[Sign up on Meetup.](#)

Have a Field Trip Idea?

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 for the writeup.



willow catkin

Photo by Anna Gil



Vegetation "mosaic" in San Geronimo Valley

Photo by Kurt Rademacher

Stewardship Opportunities

Roy's Redwoods Planting Day

Every Tuesday in **February:**

2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24 from **1 to 3 pm**

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

CNPS Marin Coordinator: **Caroline Christman**

Roy's Redwoods has long been a favorite spot for a ramble through a shady redwood grove. However, lack of a formal trail system led to the forest understory being trampled and natural drainage processes being altered. Over the last few years, the Marin County Open Space District and One Tam worked together to complete a project to restore forest and floodplain. The project also created a series of trails that allows visitors of all abilities to experience the beauty of the redwoods. Join us to plant native redwood understory species and be part of this exciting restoration!

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

[Meetup Registration Link](#)



Stacey planting at Roy's Redwoods

Photo by Caroline Christman

Mt. Burdell Habitat Restoration

Thursday, February 5, 2026, 10 am to noon

Leaders: **Greg Reza**, Marin Co. Parks and Open Space Dist.

Marin CNPS Coordinator: **Caroline Christman**

Location: Mt. Burdell Open Space Preserve in Novato

Join a community of habitat restorers! During this workday we will continue hand removal of several invasive species, including Bermuda buttercup (*Oxalis pes-caprae*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), and pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*). The Bermuda buttercup population is expanding rapidly, spreading from a small patch near the entry gate towards the nearby grasslands, and threatens to diminish wildflower diversity. Volunteers tarped a large area of Bermuda buttercup earlier this winter, and we will work on controlling other areas with manual removal. Himalayan blackberry grows along the stream channel and creates dense thickets that outcompete all other plants. Removing the non-native blackberry protects habitat for milkweed and other pollinator plants, as well as native shrubs such as snowberry.

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

Mt. Burdell Habitat Restoration- Weed Around the Milkweed!

Monday, February 9, 2026, 1 to 3 pm

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

CNPS Marin Coordinator: **Caroline Christman**

In January volunteers planted narrow-leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) and nectar plants along the stream corridor to improve habitat for Monarch butterflies. At this event we will focus on removing non-native invasive species which threaten the new plantings, including milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*). Removing the invasive species now gives the milkweed a better chance to survive the first season and become established along the stream bank.

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

Habitat Restoration at Alder Ck. Preserve, Inverness

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 1 to 4 pm

CNPS Marin Coordinator: **Carolyn Longstreth**

Join CNPS and friends to weed the Alder Creek Preserve restoration site in Inverness. We will be tackling these weeds: acacia seedlings, poison hemlock, vinca, African veldt grass, and others.

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



SPAWN staff Kristen, Jess & Graham tend native plants at Alder Ck. Photo: Carmen Violich-Goodin



Milkweed planting in January on Mt. Burdell Photo by Caroline Christman



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

Plant Keying Sessions this Spring

Join us for monthly drop-in plant keying sessions at Dominican University. Bring your mystery plants and unknown specimens for identification. At these hands-on sessions you can practice your keying skills in a group setting and learn quickly alongside fellow botanists and plant lovers. Beginners to experts are welcome. Some understanding of plant morphology terms is helpful. Dissection scopes, dichotomous keys, and local experts available.

We will meet from 6:30-8:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month: Feb. 10, March 10, April 14, May 12. Location is Room 106 at the Joseph R. Fink Science Center, Dominican University.

[Read more with helpful driving and parking directions. . .](#)

Contact [Tanya](#) with any questions.



Plant keying sessions at Dominican.

Howard-Kohn Scholarship Offered

Our Chapter is pleased to offer scholarships to students doing research on plant systematics, plant ecology, plant physiology, plant community restoration or other related botanical studies of native plants that grow in habitats in Marin County or other local habitats in Central and Northern California. Students researching topics related to native plant and native habitat conservation are especially encouraged to apply.

This year, one Howard-Kohn scholarship for the amount of \$3000 will be available. Evaluation of student applications will focus on the stated purpose of the research, research plan, and overall impression of the research project. Extra consideration will be given to proposals for work on one or more species that grow in Marin County, work to be carried out in Marin County, and work having special potential for improving conservation of California native plants or educating the public about them.

The application Deadline: April 1, 2026. More information and an application form can be found on the [Chapter website](#).



Katie Michel 2025-2026 Recipient of the Howard-Kohn Scholarship

Spring Native Plant Sale!

Purchase plants online at cnpsmarin.org

April 9 – 13, 2026

Pick up orders at Bon Air Center, Greenbrae:

Saturday **April 18th**

In person sale of remaining plants:

Saturday **April 18th**



Newly Elected, Returning Board Member Rob Katz

Rob became enlightened by the concept of native plants in New Jersey at age 15. He was involved with riparian restoration during college at California State University, Chico in the mid 1990's while also working and assisting botanists on the Plumas National Forest with various plant surveys. Rob offers native plant landscaping consultations and installations as a p/t career.

Rob became an active Marin CNPS Chapter volunteer about 2015 and soon joined the board. He has also served on the board with the Redbud Chapter in Placer & Nevada Counties and continues to volunteer with both Chapters. Rob has developed the "Art of Tabling" educational outreach plan for the California Native Plant Society ([FLORA V2 No2 Winter 2019](#) pp 24-25).



Sienna and Rob Katz

He represents his daughter Sienna Katz who would assist him with spreading the word about native plants in Marin. In the summer he also volunteers his time with the Native Plant Society of New Jersey where his roots started.

Field Trip Reports

Lagunitas Creek 1/10/26

Todd Steiner and Carolyn Longstreth lead a Marin CNSP field trip to visit Lagunitas Creek at Samuel P. Taylor State Park. "The limiting factor for Coho recovery is the lack of places for baby fish to hide", said Todd Steiner, who described efforts by SPAWN to recreate conditions needed for their survival.

Carolyn led the group on a hike on the Pioneer Tree Trail where we saw an early blooming redwood violet (*Viola sempervirens*), the not yet blooming redwood inside out flower (*Vancouveria planipetala*), and many different ferns.

[Read more...](#)



Ceanothus papillosus - wartleaf ceanothus, Reg. Parks Bot. Garden
Photo by Woody Elliott



Viola sempervirens - redwood violet in Samuel P. Taylor SP
Photo by Paul Barnett

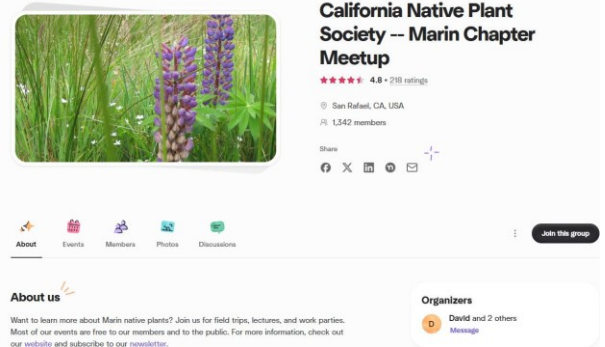
Regional Parks Botanic Garden 1/28/26

Anna Gil's idea to offer an opportunity to see this spectacular garden in winter was brilliant. With many geophytes, perennials, and annuals just starting spring growth, leaders Anna, Kurt, and Dave focused our attention on conifers and other trees and bushes. Highlights included manzanita and silk tassel blossoms, tree structure, ferns, and inside scoops on pollinators and other reproduction strategies.

[Read more...](#)

Meetup and Meetup+

Several CNPS Chapters are using Meetup to publicize meetings, field trips, and events. Meetup has a wide reach in the community and is fairly straight forward to enter events. It handles all of the advertising, announcements, signups, and waitlists. Marin Chapter has been using it successfully to publicize events for a while and pays Meetup a fee for posting events. We have over 1,300 Meetup members who come to our events. We hope many will join CNPS and support our efforts when they can.



In the past few months, Meetup has been aggressively promoting its Meetup+ membership level. Meetup+ allows you a variety of enhancements. However, it is completely not required to join our events. Often it is difficult to find the little “x” or “skip” or “no” to close the Meetup+ ad, but keep looking. Stay with the free Meetup membership level.

Meetup is not perfect. However, it frees our event organizers to spend their time planning and preparing for great events instead of sending and receiving a ton of emails or phone calls. Feel free to join any event waitlist and add it to your calendar. Many folks plans change at the last minute and positions open up.

[Join us on Meetup.](#)

Marin Water Roads and Trails Management Plan Update

Marin Water (MMWD) is in the process of updating their [Roads and Trails Management Plan](#) (RTMP). They plan a robust process over more than two years. They have identified about 35 miles of trails that they are assessing for modification (for use and improvement). This spring, they are having Community Site Walks to show the community a few of the trails and to talk about the kinds of modifications they envision. Most attendees of the Jan. 31 Site Walk were bicyclists.



At the Marin Water Community Site Walk #1, half of the attendees explored the Arturo Trail. Ann Elliott

Marin CNPS Board is looking for a Marin Water ratepayer or two to monitor the planning process and attend some of the meetings and upcoming Community Site Walks. We would ask them to keep the Board informed. The next Site Walk is tentatively planned for Feb. 27 in the Lagunitas and Bon Tempe Lakes area. [Contact us](#) for more information.

Broom Service Progress

Returning to Hill Road much earlier than our usual site rotation has turned out to be a very good decision. Not allowing the plants more time to grow and produce seed lets us prevent the present regrowth from doing just that with the bonus of not having to haul away huge piles of the shrub as in prior years. Also, this mid-winter dry spell, while not being environmentally ideal, allows us to make uninterrupted progress. Here are some images of Broom Service Volunteers at work:



Though the work is not easy, Broom Service Volunteers enjoy one another's company, sharing stories and knowledge, and most of all, a feeling of accomplishment; having served the environment and our community well. You can join us if you like on Thursday mornings all year. Rain cancels. Protective clothing (sun and poison oak) is recommended, and gloves if you have them. If not, we'll loan you a pair.

Dyson Lapre, another recent enthusiastic volunteer, has chosen to work in the sunny, uphill perimeter of the project. Looking to his left, note the tendency of the broom to follow the dripline of the trees up the incline. A few years ago, that line was a solid wall of French broom. Progress!!!

So . . . Let's pull together!

[Contact Mel Wright](#) for more information about Broom Service and how to join their Thursday morning work parties. Everyone is welcome, but it is great to know who and how many are coming.

"Bringing Back the Natives"

Garden Tour and Green Home Features Showcase

Events for 2026 begin with "Talks in the Nurseries" on Feb. 21.

Native Plant Extravaganzas 2026 are happening rain or shine! See their website: [Bringing Back the Natives](#) Garden Tour and Green Home Features Showcase

Attend a free talk at a Bay Area nursery on Feb. 21. Check out their [Doug Talamy page](#) as well as [his page](#).



Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

- 2/3 1 - 3 pm [Roy's Redwoods Planting Day](#)
- 2/5 10 am to noon [Habitat Restoration at Mt. Burdell](#)
- 2/9 1 to 3 pm [Mt. Burdell Habitat Restoration - Weed Around the Milkweed](#)
- 2/9 7:30 pm [Chapter Meeting: "Biology and Conservation of the Endangered Myrtle's Silverspot Butterfly"](#), Speakers: Dick Arnold & Tanya Baxter
- 2/10 1 - 3 pm [Roy's Redwoods Planting Day](#)
- 2/10 6:30 - 8:30 pm [Plant Keying Session at Dominican](#), Also 3/10, 4/14, & 5/12
- 2/12 10 am to 2 pm [Mt. Tamalpais Fern ID Field Trip](#)
- 2/17 1 - 3 pm [Roy's Redwoods Planting Day](#)
- 2/24 1 - 3 pm [Roy's Redwoods Planting Day](#)
- 2/25 10 am - 2 pm [Vegetation Time Traveling!](#), Leader: Kurt Rademacher
- 2/26 1 - 3 pm [Habitat Restoration at Alder Creek Preserve](#)
- 3/10 6:30 - 8:30 pm [Plant Keying Session at Dominican](#)



Trichostema lanatum - wooly bluecurls
Regional Parks Botanic Garden Ann Elliott



Arctostaphylos manzanita - common manzanita
Rush Creek, Bahia Trail Photo by Ann Elliott

Other Native Plant Activities in Marin, Nearby, or Virtual

- 2/12 7 pm [Butterflies of the Bay Area](#) Speaker: Liam O'Brian, Yerba Buena Chapter (In person only at Southeast Community Center, SF)
- 2/15 [Slinkpods at Armstrong Woods](#), Milo Baker Chapter
- 2/21 [Mt. Tam Lichen Walk](#), East Bay Chapter, Curator of Lichenology, Dr. Klara Scharnagl
- 2/21 [Bouverie Preserve Community Day](#), Glen Ellen
- 2/27 10 - 2 [Plant Walk - Estero Americano](#), Milo Baker Chapter
- 3/7 10 am to 3 pm [South Slope Walk on San Bruno Mountain](#), Leaders: Chuck Heimstadt & Loretta Brooks, Yerba Buena Chapter. Contact [Chuck](#).
- 3/21 [Martin Griffin Preserve Community Day](#), Stinson Beach



Umbellularia californica - CA bay laurel
Rush Creek, Bahia Trail Photo 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.



Sidalcea malviflora ssp *malviflora* - checkerbloom
Chimney Rock Trail Photo by Ann Elliott

In Search of Early Flowers

Early wildflower season has started, mostly with white flowers. Be sure to look up at trees and shrubs in your search for these winter flowers. In this short month of February, Marin Chapter is offering so many opportunities for plant lovers to see the wonders of our natural world and to make it a little bit better. Get out there and learn a bit more about nearby habitats.

While on the prowl, please be on the look out for events, stories, pictures, and literature to share with our followers. I am always in need of gems for the newsletter. In addition:

- Post pictures from field trips and stewardship on our [Meetup group](#).
- 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.



Toxicoscordion fremontii - zigadene lily
Fairfax Bolinas Road Photo by Ann Elliott

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



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