

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER



*Woodwardia fimbriata* - giant chain fern on Inverness Ridge

Photo by Ann Elliott

## January 2026 Newsletter

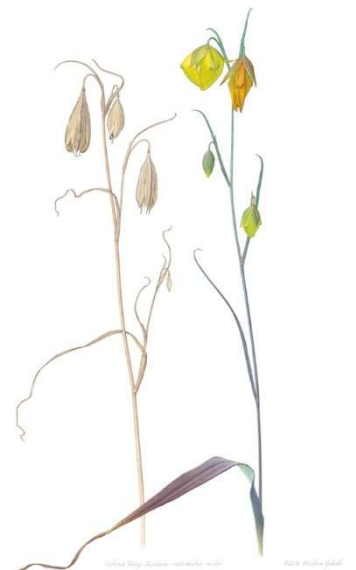
### Marin Chapter Meeting and Annual Mtg./Board Election (cont.)

### "An Island on the Land"

Guest Speaker: **Roger Raiche**, CNPS Fellow, Gardener, Horticulturist, Botanist

Monday, **January 12, 2026 at 7:30 pm**

[The Cedars](#) of Sonoma County is one of California's hotspots for ecological diversity. The geology of serpentine, an ultramafic rock, is characterized by high iron and magnesium content. It formed deep in the Earth's mantle and surfaced through the subduction process. This "island" of mantle rock is embedded in Sonoma County within the Coast Ranges of Northern California. The Cedars is characterized by its dramatic topography, featuring deep canyons and rich, red-colored rock. Ultrabasic springs (pH > 11) create another layer of geology. These unique conditions have given rise to a rich ecology, including newly discovered microorganisms, insects, and seven endemic plant species.



*Calochortus raichei* - Cedars Fairy Lantern Painting by Kristin Jakob

Author and lecturer, Roger Raiche, is a founding partner of The Cedars Science Program and Planet Horticulture Landscape Design. Roger is renowned for his keen observational skills and encyclopedic knowledge of the California Flora. For several decades, he curated the California native plant section by the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden. He authored the entire grass, sedge, and rush section of the UC Press book *Wild Lilies, Irises, and Grasses; Gardening with California Monocots*.

Roger discovered and published several new species, including three at The Cedars. Three other California plant species have been named in his honor. Roger has facilitated numerous scientific expeditions across a

wide range of disciplines. Read, [The Cedars: Sonoma County's Hidden Treasure](#) published in **Fremontia** the journal of the California Native Plant Society. The creation of the BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern ACEC at The Cedars and the permanent conservation of The Main Canyon at The Cedars were decades-long goals achieved.

Roger's observation skills have been complemented by his decades-long advocacy for the conservation of California native plant habitats. Roger is a California Native Plant Society Fellow. "Becoming a Fellow is the highest recognition CNPS awards its members. These members have accumulated extraordinary accomplishments towards the understanding, appreciation, and preservation of California native plants".



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

## Annual Meeting/Board Election to be continued

During our January 12, 2026 meeting we will continue collecting votes toward our quorum needed to elect our Chapter Board. The nominations are:

**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



## 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.

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# Lagunitas Creek Walk, Samuel P. Taylor State Park

(waitlist only)

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

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



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.

The walk will occur even if there will be light rain on January 3d. But if a heavy rain is forecast, check the Meetup site to find out if the walk will occur. In the event of a strong storm, the walk will take place on the following Sunday, January 10.

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

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# A Mid-Winter Stroll through Tilden Park's Botanic Garden

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 10 am to 2 pm

Leaders: **Anna Gil & Kurt Rademacher**

While many of the world's plants basically "close shop" during winter, for those which evolved to thrive in California's "Mediterranean" climate with its mild winters and long, hot, rainless summers, the early winter rains signal a spring-like resurrection! Long patient seeds germinate, ferns unfurl, and the mossy tree trunks and iconic yellow hillsides soon erupt into emerald green.

Join us for an intriguing walk through the Regional Parks Botanic Garden tucked into a valley in the Berkeley Hills. This "living museum" of California's varied plant communities, from deserts and alpine meadows to chaparral and coastal rainforests. We will explore how various plants adapt to their unique habitats and seasons: their structures and 'tricks' to both thrive and survive the exuberant and the dormant times.



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

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# 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 Bird's-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...](#)      [Meetup Registration Link](#)



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## 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.



## Stewardship Opportunities

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### Point Blue Novato Baylands Planting Workday

Friday, January 9, 2026, 9:30 am to noon

Leader: **Stacey Pogorzelski**

Join Point Blue volunteers in planting native plants along the Bay Trail, a public walking trail in the Hamilton Wetlands. We will be planting in a previously-weeded area, in order to increase native plant diversity and density. We will meet at the Nursery facility (see directions on Meetup) and then drive together to the planting site location.



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

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# Roy's Redwoods Planting Day

Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 1 pm 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 in January to plant native redwood understory species and be part of this exciting restoration!



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

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# Habitat Restoration at Alder Ck. Preserve, Inverness

Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 1 pm to 3 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 including directions. . .](#)

[Meetup Registration Link](#)

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# Habitat Restoration at Mt. Burdell

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

Coordinator: **Stacey Pogorzelski**

Thursday, January 15, 2026, 10 am to noon

Leaders: **Greg Reza**, Marin County Parks and OS District

Vol. Program Coordinator: **Stacey Pogorzelski**, Marin CNPS

Location: Mt. Burdell Open Space Preserve in Novato



During the January workday we will continue hand removal of several invasive species, including Bermuda buttercup (*Oxalis pes-caprae*) and Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*). 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.

Marin County staff will provide tools and great snacks.

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

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# Mt. Burdell Planting Day

Tuesday, January 21, 2026, 1 pm to 3 pm

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

CNPS Marin Coordinator: **Stacey Pogorzelski**

During this workday we will be planting milkweed to provide food for Monarchs, as well as other insects and birds that bring our grasslands to life with a dazzling display of diversity.

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

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# 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 continues most Wednesday and Saturday mornings during 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.](#)



# 2026 CNPS Conference

## February 5-7, 2026

Workshops & Field Trips:  
February 4, 2026

Riverside Convention Center

Waitlist Only. However all sessions will be recorded for later viewing.

[Preliminary Program details](#)

[Read more. . .](#)



# The King in Winter

*Betsey Crawford*

I live on a small mountain next to a larger one. Both are modest as mountains go, but at 2600 feet Mount Tamalpais reigns over the area like the queen she is. My apartment is on one of her foothills. If I walk up a steep fire road for a quarter of a mile, I arrive at the two-mile King Mountain Loop.

It's all forest, a third of it redwood forest, the rest a combination. Most of the trees in my neck of the woods are evergreens. So here, nature in winter is green. There are needled trees: redwoods, nutmegs, and Douglas firs. There are leafy ones: coast live oak, tanoak, and California bay laurel. The one deciduous tree on the loop is California buckeye, which leafs out in February.



[Visit Betsey's site to read the entire post. . .](#)

## Moist Soil Eases Control of Broom

For decades, French, Scotch, and Spanish broom were sold widely as landscape plants. They adapt well to our California climate and often out compete other plants, spreading in our yards and in public and private open spaces.

Soil softened by winter rains allows for easy pulling of broom plants. Removing the entire root ensures that the broom plant will not resprout. Small seedlings and plants can be pulled by hand; larger plants can be more successfully pulled with special tools: weed wrenches. Contact board member [Eddie Robertson](#) to borrow weed wrenches from Marin Chapter to help remove invasive broom plants from your property.



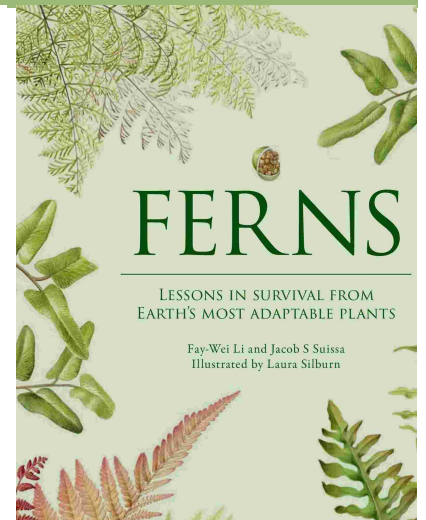
Broom Service volunteers tackle broom removal in and around San Geronimo Valley. [Contact Mel Wright](#) for more information about Broom Service and how to join their Thursday morning work parties.

## New Book!

### ***Ferns: Lessons in Survival from Earth's Most Adaptable Plants***

By Fay-Wei Li & Jacob S Suissa, Illustrated by Laura Silburn

A telling of the origination story of ferns over 350 million years ago and their ability to adapt. Ferns are the most remarkable of plants, both complex and beautiful. Among Earth's most ancient plants, their story reveals much about our planet's history.



Written by scientists with a passion for communicating with the widest audiences and illustrated with jewel-like details by an award-winning botanical artist, *Ferns* has much to say about our planet's botanical past, present, and future.

[Read more. . .](#)

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## To the New Year *By W. S. Merwin*

With what stillness at last  
you appear in the valley  
your first sunlight reaching down  
to touch the tips of a few  
high leaves that do not stir  
as though they had not noticed  
and did not know you at all  
then the voice of a dove calls  
from far away in itself  
to the hush of the morning

so this is the sound of you  
here and now whether or not  
anyone hears it this is  
where we have come with our age  
our knowledge such as it is  
and our hopes such as they are  
invisible before us  
untouched and still possible



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## Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

- 1/3 10 am - 2 pm [Lagunitas Creek Walk](#) Leaders: Carolyn Longstreth & Todd Steiner
- 1/9 9:30 am to noon [Point Blue Novato Baylands Planting](#)
- 1/12 7:30 pm Chapter Meeting: [An Island on the Land](#). Speaker: Roger Raiche [Register here](#).
- 1/13 1- 3 pm [Roy's Redwoods Planting](#)
- 1/13 1 - 3 pm [Habitat Restoration at Alder Creek Preserve](#)
- 1/15 10 am to noon [Habitat Restoration at Mt. Burdell](#)
- 1/21 1 to 3 pm [Mt. Burdell Planting](#)
- 1/28 10 am to 2 pm [A Mid-Winter Stroll Through Tilden Park's Botanic Garden](#)
- 2/12 10 am to 2 pm [Mt. Tamalpais Fern ID Field Trip](#)



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

- 1/8 7 pm [A Natural History of San Francisco](#) Speaker: Greg Gaar, Yerba Buena Chapter (Zoom only)
- 2/15 [Slinkpods at Armstrong Woods](#), 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

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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. 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.



*Arctostaphylos (patula?) - greenleaf*  
in Regional Parks Botanic Garden Photo by Anna Gil

## Winter: Time for Renewal

During this time of rest and renewal, take advantage of moist conditions for planting and weeding in your garden. If you have no garden or you are on top of yours, then join with others to plant natives and control weeds in our nearby open spaces. Learn about great tools and best practices from the experienced work party leaders.

However, don't work all the time. Get out between rain storms to explore Marin's abundant open spaces.

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



Kristen Hopper demonstrates planting technique at Chicken Ranch Beach Wetland Woody Elliott



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