

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MARIN CHAPTER



*Superbloom!* pussy ears, mule ears, paintbrush - Chimney Rock, Pt. Reyes NS

Photo by Ann Elliott

## April 2026 Newsletter

### Spring Native Plant Sale

April 9 at 6 pm to April 13 at 6 pm - Purchase plants [online](#).

Saturday, **April 18, 2026** 10:30 am to 1:30 pm - Pick up orders at Bon Air Center, Greenbrae

Saturday, **April 18, 2026** 10:30 am to 1:30 pm - In person sale of remaining plants.

Read our upcoming email about plants that we will offer.



## Marin Chapter Meeting

# "Creating a Butterfly Habitat"

Guest Speaker: **Susan Dunlap, Habitats for Butterflies**

Monday, **April 13, 2026 at 7:30 pm**

[Habitats for Butterflies](#) provides scientifically informed resources for the development and maintenance of breeding habitats for all US butterflies including Monarchs. Susan's research analyzes thousands of butterfly photographs to identify the preferred nectar plants of 750 US butterflies.

Her talk will cover how to establish a butterfly garden, develop habitat, and understand how butterflies locate and use a garden, along with some interesting facts about butterfly behaviors. She will share her expertise on which nectar plants attract local butterflies, what makes them choose your garden, and practical tips to transform your space into a butterfly paradise.

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



*Vanessa cardui* - painted lady butterfly on  
*Monardella villosa* - coyote mint

## 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.

**Meetup is free for users. Do not pay for Meetup +.**

[CNPS Marin 2026 Waiver](#) Please use for 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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### Vegetation Time Traveling!

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

Wednesday, **April 8, 2026: 10 am to 2 pm (rescheduled from 3/4)**

Leader: **Kurt Rademacher**

Ever wondered what our natural vegetation looked like a century or two ago, or might in the future? 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,



*Hosackia gracilis* - harlequin lotus  
by Ann Elliott



Vegetation "mosaic" in San Geronimo Valley  
Photo by Kurt Rademacher

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. . .](#)      [Join wait list on Meetup.](#)

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### **Bowman Canyon, Mt. Burdell OSP, Novato**

Sunday, **April 12, 2026, 9 am to 2:30 pm**

Leaders: **Caleb Hute & Woody Elliott**

During this outing, we will hike through oak woodland and grasslands to reach the recently acquired Mount Burdell Bowman Canyon serpentine habitat. The hike will be an approximately 3-mile round-trip. Depending on weather leading up to the trip, there is a chance to see a variety of more ephemeral species, including late spring holdouts like California buttercup, owls clover, various true clovers, and goldfields. Regardless of the weather, we will discuss the significance and identifying characteristics of perennial shrubs and trees present along the trail, including oaks, California bay laurel and more.



Bowman Canyon flowers  
Photo by Caleb Hute

[Read more. . .](#)      [Register on Meetup.](#)

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### **Wildflower Field Trips on Ring Mountain, Tiburon**

Join Ring Mountain Docents, Alison Pence and Karen Madsen, for a short wildflower forays 10 am to 12:30.

Each few weeks different wildflowers become showy, so a number of trips are planned. See the website posting for details.

#### **Day    Date    Location & Leader**

Thurs. 4/23    Paradise Dr. - Phyllis Ellman Trailhead with Karen Madsen

Sun.    5/24    Taylor Rd Trailhead with Alison Pence

Tues.   5/26    Paradise Dr. - Phyllis Ellman Trailhead with Karen Madsen

Sun.    6/7    Taylor Rd Trailhead with Alison Pence



Ring Mountain      Photo by Laura Lovett

[Read more with directions, map and signups. . .](#)

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## Hoo-Koo-E-Koo Trail, Kentfield

Monday, **April 27, 2026** 12:30 to 4:30 pm

Leaders: **Betsey Crawford and Ann Elliott**

This afternoon stroll is less than 3 miles out and back, depending on how far we decide to go. The walk alternates between forest and chaparral. HKEK Trail is a wildflower gold mine and flowers we may see include iris, blue dicks, larkspur, buckwheat, mint, silene and others. There are always manzanita, huckleberry, ferns, buckeye, and chinquapin. The hike is mostly easy, single-file. There is a short, steep stretch to reach and leave the trail and a few places where the trail itself has roots or rocks to clamber over for a few paces.

[Read more with directions. . .](#) [Register on Meetup.](#)

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## Exploring Flicker Ridge

Wednesday, **April 29, 2026** 10 am to 2 pm

Leader: Kurt Rademacher

Straddling a ridge in the Oakland Hills are some isolated stands of knobcone pines, beneath which bright yellow bush poppy and magenta chaparral pea blossoms accent the brittle-leaf manzanita-covered slopes in late spring. As a classic, short-lived “fire pine,” these knobcones arose following a fire well over a century ago, and hardly warrant the word “stand” now. Come discover how a new, vigorous forest of *mixed*-age pines is arising among these leaning matriarchs in the absence of fire.

For several years in the 1960s, Kurt monitored a transect of 34 weather stations across three parallel ridges and valleys here, comparing north- and south-facing slopes, different geology and soil types, and various vegetation types—from pine and redwood forests to grasslands, chaparral, and oak-madrone woodlands. These micro-climatic data provided insight for U.C. forest ecology field classes to understand why various plants grow where they do.

[Read more with directions. . .](#) [Register on Meetup.](#)

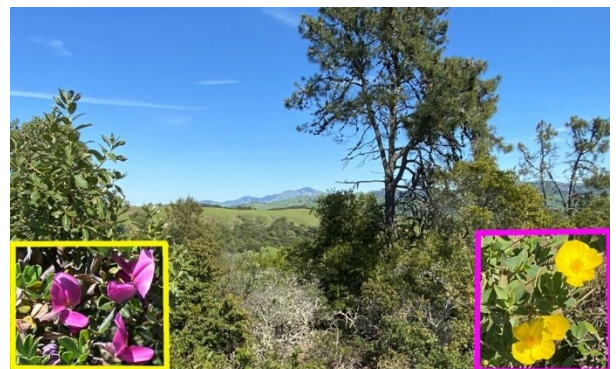
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## Mt. Tamalpais Gravity Car Road Wildflower and Nature Photography Walk

Friday, **May 1, 2026** 8 to 10:30 am

Leaders: **Caroline Christman and Marcos Gaxiola**

Join us for an early morning walk to enjoy the scenic beauty of the eastern slopes of Mt. Tamalpais, learn some native plants, and practice nature photography along the way. This will be a space for people who enjoy nature and photography to come together, have fun, and hopefully learn something new or simply connect with other photographers.



Flicker Ridge with knobcone pine, insets: chaparral pea and bush poppy Photos by Kurt Rademacher



Iris with bee Photo by Marcos Gaxiola

On the walk, Caroline will point out some of the diverse plants found along the trail, from the Pacific starflower (*Lysimachia latifolia*) in the shade of the redwoods to the golden blooms of the peak rush-rose (*Crocانthemum scoparium*) in open chaparral. Marcos will share simple, approachable photography techniques for composition, working with natural light, and capturing close-up details using whatever camera you bring on walks. Though not a professional photographer, Marcos enjoys nature photography as a way to slow down, observe, and connect more deeply with the landscape. He has a particular interest in capturing textures, light, and small details like insects, and will share his enthusiasm and methods with the group.

[Read more with directions. . .](#)    [Register on Meetup.](#)

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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 for the writeup.



Pioneer Tree Trail in Samuel P. Taylor State Park  
by Ann Elliott

## Marin Chapter Stewardship Opportunities

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### Ring Mountain Habitat Restoration Work Days

Fridays, **April 10 and May 8, 2026, 9:30am-12pm**

Leader: **Amanda Magallanes, Ring Mountain Stewardship Coordinator**

Marin CNPS Coordinator: **Caroline Christman**

Location: **Ring Mountain Preserve, Tiburon**

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 (*Calochortus umbellatus*) and the Tiburon mariposa lily (*Calochortus tiburonensis*), 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 2nd Friday work days for a morning of hands-on work to protect native habitat. We will focus on removing non-native invasive plants, such as tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), false brome (*Brachypodium distachyon*), and Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*). 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 including directions. . .](#)

[Meetup Registration Link](#)



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

Join us again on [May 8](#).

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### Mt. Burdell Habitat Restoration Work Party!

Thursday, **April 16, 2026, 9 – 11 am**

Leaders: **Greg Reza**, Marin County Parks and Open Space District Volunteer Program Coordinator

Marin CNPS Coordinator: **Caroline Christman**

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 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 for April 16](#)

Join us again on [May 14](#) and [June 4](#)

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### Volunteer Workday at Marin County Parks Native Plant Nursery

Tuesday **April 21, 2026 10 am to noon** (also May 19 & June 16, third Tuesdays)

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

CNPS Marin Coordinator: **Lewis Randall**

Join other volunteers for our monthly morning at the [Marin County Parks and Open Space District Nursery](#). The *third Tuesday* of each month we help maintain the native plants that will be used in restoration projects across Marin, from intertidal marsh wetlands to redwood forest. No prior nursery experience is required; Nursery Manager Aja Wylder will demonstrate nursery methods, including pruning, potting seedlings, transplanting plants into larger pots, pot washing, and working in the native plant garden.

[Read more. . .](#)     [Register on Meetup for April 21.](#)

Join us again on [May 19](#) and [June 16](#).



CNPS Marin volunteers and Marin Co. Parks staff bagging invasive weeds on Mt. Burdell



Transplanting seedlings at Marin County Parks native plant nursery     Photo by Caroline Christman

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### Habitat Restoration at Alder Ck. Preserve, Inverness

Thursday, **April 23, 2026, 1 to 4 pm (fourth Thursdays of each month)**

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](#)

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Alder Creek volunteers

### Novato Baylands Habitat Restoration: Weeding in a Native Plant Restoration Area

Friday, **April 24, 2026, 9:30 am to noon**

CNPS Marin Coordinator: **Stacey Pogorzelski**

Join Point Blue staff and Marin CNPS volunteers to remove invasive plants in the Hamilton Baylands restoration area. We will be weeding non-native or invasive plants in designated zones where native plants have been planted and are being monitored. This work is part of an ongoing project to restore tidal marsh and seasonal wetlands at the former Hamilton Army Airfield. Learn more about the Novato Baylands Wetland Restoration Project. We always have a good time at these restoration parties!

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



Students plant along the Bay Trail at the Novato Baylands as part of Point Blue's STRAW program. Photo by Matt Keller

### Chapter Picnic at China Camp with Field Trips

Sunday, **May 17, 2026, 10:30 am to 3 pm**

Join us at the Miwok Meadows Group Picnic area in China Camp State Park for an informal gathering of native plant lovers. Share your recent wildflower discoveries, garden additions and visits, botanical insights, restoration achievements, and advocacy goals. We will share a potluck picnic with optional field trips around Turtle Back Hill. It is a lovely, varied trail traversing grasslands, scrub, and mixed evergreen forest, at the edge of saltmarsh of the San Francisco Bay Estuary.

**Potluck Picnic Gathering at noon, eat at 12:30**

**Docent led hikes begin at 10:30 am and 2 pm.**

[Read more . . .](#)      Please sign up for this event on [Meetup](#) or **just show up.**



## 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: **April 14** and **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.

## Fairfax Festival & EcoFest June 13 & 14

CNPS Marin will have an information and sales table at the [Fairfax EcoFest](#). Share your love of wild flowers, native plant gardening, habitat restoration, and protecting our local resources. Sign up with Rob Katz to help staff our table Saturday June 13 or Sunday June 14.

Contact [Rob Katz](#)



Fairfax Festival

Photo by Rob Katz

## Introduction to Grasses

*By Caleb Hute, Consulting Botanist*

Spring has sprung, and even as the recent heat wave turns hillsides brown, wildflowers are blooming all across the county. The gorgeous wildflower displays we are lucky enough to receive fit nicely with the green background which accompanies them. Today I want to talk about the background that occurs between and around the flowers that you usually ignore: grasses.

### Evolutionary Significance

You might not believe it, but grasses are actually part of the larger evolutionary clade of plants referred to as angiosperms, or flowering plants. This family is immensely successful with grasslands, which are assemblages of plants where grasses are most prevalent, being found on every continent except Antarctica.

[Read more. . .](#)



*Stipa pulchra* - purple needle grass

Photo by Caleb Hute

# Poetry

## A Most Peculiar Lily

These few weeks only

Atop Ring Mountain there blooms  
Something to be seen

Haiku by Kurt Rademacher



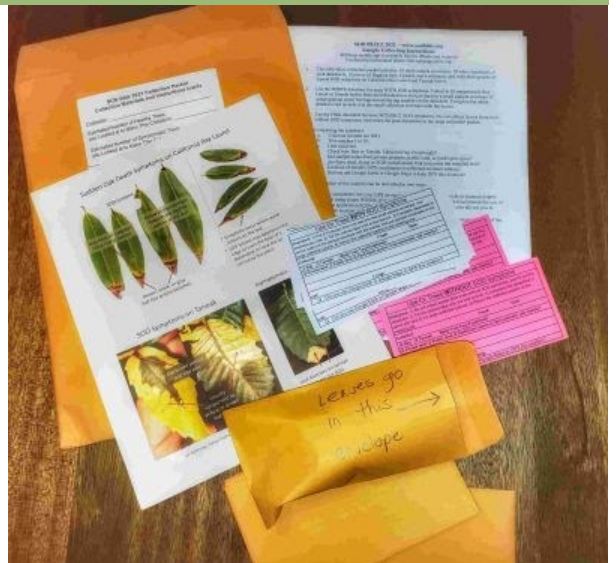
Calochortus tiburonensis - Tiburon Mariposa lily

Photo by Vernon Smith

## Communities Come Together to Fight Sudden Oak Death

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is a serious exotic disease threatening the survival of tanoak and several oak species in coastal forests of California. SOD blitzes inform and educate the community about SOD and get local citizen scientists involved in early detection of the disease on bay laurel and tanoak leaves.

Volunteer for the Marin SOD Blitz **April 24 to 27, 2026**. [Register here](#).



## Project Wingspan Offers Seeds and Plugs

Project Wingspan will provide FREE local ecotype native seed and plugs to help create new pollinator habitat or enhance existing habitat areas. Available species include milkweed and other important nectar and forage plants.

Seeds and plants will be distributed in Fall 2026 to successful applicants with “shovel ready” projects in the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Sonoma, San Mateo, Marin, Mendocino, or Napa County. [Apply by May 15, 2026](#).

To learn more, visit their website at [pollinator.org/wingspan](http://pollinator.org/wingspan) or reach out to James Hart ([james@pollinator.org](mailto:james@pollinator.org)).

Associated event: **6/5 9 am – 1 pm** [Take a tour of Heritage Growers](#), the seed processing and amplification farm for Project Wingspan in Colusa, CA.



A PROGRAM OF  
**POLLINATOR  
PARTNERSHIP**

# Other Stewardship Opportunities

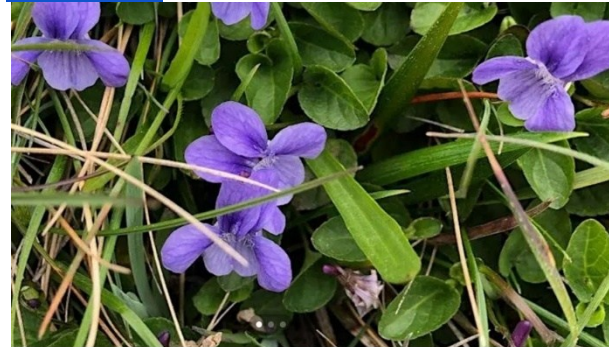
## Point Reyes National Seashore

### [Thursday Weeders @ Abbotts Lagoon](#)

Join park staff & volunteers every other Thursday 10am-2pm to help restore critical coastal dune habitat.

April 16, May 14 & 28, June 11 & 25

### [Habitat Helpers: Mapping the Myrtle Silverspot Butterfly's Host Plant!](#)



Help map Western dog violet, the sole plant for the endangered Myrtle silverspot butterfly, on the Point Reyes Peninsula near Bull Point and North Beach. April 9, 11, 23, 25 and May 7, 9, 21, 23.

Read more about other [PRNSA's restoration events](#).

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*Viola adunca* - Western dog violet Tanya Baxter

## Broom Service in San Geronimo Valley

Broom Service volunteers have completed pulling broom along the Rock Ridge Trail in Woodacre. Tory Van Wey lives nearby, hikes this trail frequently, and enjoys helping to maintain it. Note the wrist protectors. Melvyn Wright makes these from worn out socks; protects the forearms and wrists from scratches and poison oak.

Now the crew is moving to a nearby spot suggested by Greg Reza, Volunteer Coordinator at Marin County Parks and Open Space.

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



Tory Van Wey tackles broom  
Photo by Melvyn Wright

## Upcoming Marin Chapter Events

4/9 – 4/13 [Spring Online Plant Sale](#)

4/10 9:30 am – noon [Ring Mt. Habitat Restoration Work Days](#)

4/12 9 am – 2:30 pm [Bowman Canyon Field Trip](#)

4/13 7:30 pm “[Creating a Butterfly Habitat](#)” Chapter Meeting

4/14 6:30 - 8:30 pm [Plant Keying Session at Dominican](#)

4/16 9 – 11 am [Mt. Burdell Habitat Restoration](#)



## Upcoming Marin Chapter Events, cont.

4/18 10:30 am – 1:30 pm [In-person Plant Sale and order Pickup](#)

4/21 10 am – noon [Volunteer Workday at Marin Co. Parks Native Plant Nursery](#)

4/23 10 am – 12:30 pm [Ring Mt. Field Trip](#)

4/23 1 – 4 pm [Alder Creek Preserve Habitat Restoration](#)

4/24 9:30 am – noon [Novato Baylands Habitat Restoration](#)

4/27 12:30 – 4:30 pm [Hoo-Koo-E-Koo Trail](#)

4/29 10 am – 2 pm [Exploring Flicker Ridge](#)

5/1 8 – 10:30 am [Mt. Tamalpais Gravity Car Road Wildflower and Nature Photography Walk](#)

5/8 9:30 am – noon [Ring Mt. Habitat Restoration Work Days](#)

5/12 6:30 - 8:30 pm [Plant Keying Session at Dominican](#), final one

5/14 9 – 11 am [Mt. Burdell Habitat Restoration](#)

5/17 10 am – 3 pm [Chapter Picnic at China Camp State Park](#)

5/19 10 am – noon [Volunteer Workday at Marin Co. Parks Native Plant Nursery](#)

5/24 10 am – 12:30 pm [Ring Mt. Field Trip](#)

5/26 10 am – 12:30 pm [Ring Mt. Field Trip](#)

6/4 9 – 11 am [Mt. Burdell Habitat Restoration](#)

6/7 10 am – 12:30 pm [Ring Mt. Field Trip](#)

6/16 10 am – noon [Volunteer Workday at Marin Co. Parks Native Plant Nursery](#)



*Castilleja densiflora* - owls clover  
Photo by Doreen Smith

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

**4/9 7 pm** [Alice Eastwood, a talk](#) Speaker: Rebekah Kim, California Academy of Science's Head Librarian, Yerba Buena Chapter via Zoom

**4/11 10 am – 1 pm** [Home Ground Habitats](#) Plant Sale

**4/15, 4/16, 4/23 & 4/25 10:30 am** [Wildflower Walks at Chimney Rock, Point Reyes NS](#) Join NPS staff to explore wildflower from, structure, and color.



**4/26 10 am – 2 pm** Join Carolyn Longstreth at the [17th Annual Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival](#) on April 26th! She is co-leading "Wildflowers of Chimney Rock & More." Chimney Rock boasts one of the best spring wildflower displays to be found in Point Reyes National Seashore. Enjoy a rambling walk around this incredibly scenic area that overlooks both the ocean and Drakes Bay.



**4/26 3 – 5 pm** Special Jepson Prairie Tour fighting California Forever, Join Carol Witham, long-time vernal pool advocate and Jepson docent, for a special tour of Jepson Prairie Preserve (Solano County). We will spend some time looking at the flora (and fauna) unique to this vernal pool grassland habitat. Then we will talk about the potential impact of California Forever, a 400,000 resident new city proposed for just a mile away. Reservations are requested by [emailing Carol](#), indicating the number of attendees.

**5/2 & 5/3** [Bringing Back the Native Garden Tour](#), East Bay

**5/9 10 am – 4 pm** [2026 Eco-Friendly Garden Tour](#) in Sonoma & Marin, Free w/registration. There are several Marin gardens this year. Visit Refugia Marin, Hall Middle School, Homeground Habitats, and Paul B's garden: ["Natives for the South Slope"](#). Paul's garden is exclusively California natives selected for a wildlife purpose: berries and seeds for birds and year-round flowers for pollinators. They use drip irrigation to minimize water use and regular mulching with shredded wood mulch to suppress weeds.



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

5/16 2 – 4 pm [FARE Native Plants Workshop](#) at Museum of the American Indian

Topics: native plant gardening/landscaping, native plant seed collecting/exchange, Indigenous community initiatives (land sovereignty movement, stewardship, TEK, use of fire), and foraging in Marin County. Native Plant walks will be offered by CNPS members Stacey and Caroline.

6/5 9 am – 1 pm [Tour of Heritage Growers](#), Seed processing and amplification farm for Project Wingspan in Colusa, CA.

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Chloragalum pomerideridum seeds  
Photo by Stacey Pogorzelski

### 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.

[Plant Walks hosted by Milo Baker Chapter, Sonoma.](#)

[Wildflower Hikes hosted by Napa Valley Chapter.](#)

[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.

Check out hike offerings from [Marin Agricultural Land Trust](#) (MALT).

[Bay Nature Events](#)



*Dendromecon rigida* - bush poppy flower & seed pod  
Big Rock Trail by Ann Elliott

# Slow Down and Smell the Flowers

What a glorious time of year. Everything seems to be flowering, trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals. On every foray, short or long, you can discover native delights. Please continue sharing your pictures and stories along with upcoming events. I love sharing them with our readers.

If you enjoy social media:

- 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.



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

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



[Join/Renew](#) [Donate](#)

[CNPS Marin Chapter Website](#) | [CNPS Statewide Website](#)



2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5130 | Tel: (916) 447-2677  
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