SPECIAL EDITORIAL MESSAGE
by Barbara M. Pitschel, Editor, Yerba Buena News

Dear Friends, Colleagues, Members, Readers, Native Plant Lovers,

I have the unfortunate duty to preempt the front page of this newsletter to inform you of several changes that are currently affecting the governance of our chapter and the way we conduct our work, and to ask you to consider ways, small or large, that you can contribute your time, knowledge, or energy to support the continuance of this work.

Roland Pitschel. Our first change came in December, when Roland Pitschel, our dependable chapter Vice-President since 1992, who has assisted with so many other activities (program set-up, newsletter production, garden tour assistance, building bird and bee boxes, creating republications, and much more), and my beloved husband of 45 years received a metastatic cancer diagnosis with a poor prognosis. I will jump forward to report that he has responded remarkably well to the first three rounds of chemo. No one can tell how the disease will progress, but we are hopeful. Many of you know Roland to be a strong, wise, positive, and hard-working person, and he is applying those gifts to his determination to fight for a place in the five percent of those diagnosed who are survivors of this disease. We ask you all to send many positive thoughts and wishes to support him.

Vice-President. As a consequence, Roland felt it necessary to resign as chapter Vice-President. Legislation Chair and Alternate Chapter Council Delegate Linda Shaffer, a strong and wise leader, has offered to fill this position; we are eternally grateful to her.

Programs. Roland and I will no longer be able to set up programs or arrange dinners for speakers, as we will often be unable to attend meetings. I have stepped down to Assistant Program Co-chair, a title and a job I would happily give over to someone willing to work with Program Co-chair Jake Sigg (already over-burdened and over-worked) to schedule and coordinate speakers. Our younger members are essential here—those of you who are acquainted with the new movers and shakers in the field of California native plant botany. Jake and I know many of the wonderful old warhorses, but input is desperately needed from new minds. I will remain as a member of the Program Committee, but other members are needed to work with speakers on equipment and support needs; set up and run projectors and sound equipment at meetings; and plan future programs.

Newsletter. The newsletter will be changing in ways as yet unknown. I will continue to try to compile and edit newsletter copy, but we are seeing changes in the production process, most of which we hope will be in a positive, forward-moving direction. We are deeply indebted to Jodi Redmon for 14 years of working with us as desktop publisher and growing the Yerba Buena News into a well-respected publication. Our amazing and versatile Webmaster Kipp McMichael is interacting with me on layout, and is desktop publishing the newsletter in electronic format. Mike Wood and Margo Bors are helping to locate and electronically insert illustrations and captions. Richard Crab has offered to assist with the mailing process. At this writing, procedures are being tested. Your help will be needed!

Tom Annese. Another shocking change will be impacting our chapter. Our wonderful President, Field Trip Chair, and Membership Development Chair Tom Annese will be marrying this spring, and in late summer he will accompany his wife to Iowa, where she has accepted an excellent tenure-track college teaching position. You will read more in the next issue about this, and about needs for people to take on Tom’s large jobs, as well as to carry on his valuable commitments to California grasslands and the control of invasive exotics. (We hope Tom will be protecting and restoring our central prairies!)

Membership. Membership Chair Suzanne Harmon is still working with us from Murphys in the Sierra foothills, where she moved two years ago. She is also Treasurer for the Sierra Foothills Chapter and is hoping, sometime when we get a little more stabilized, to transfer her Yerba Buena duties to someone in our chapter area.

Conservation. Conservation Chair Jake Sigg has expressed need for a Conservation Committee to share the immense load of following conservation issues in our area.

Help Needed. New people are desperately needed, in order to spread the work out in smaller pieces to more people. To find out more about chapter tasks or committees that interest you, contact an appropriate Board member (see list on page 15). Thank you all!

“Chaos often breeds life, when order breeds habit.”—Henry Brooks Adams

Erysimum franciscanum
San Francisco wallflower
by Margo Bors

Vol. 23 No. 1 ■ March 2009

CONTENTS
Editorial — page 1
Programs — pages 2-3
Field Trips — pages 3-4
Garden Tours — page 5
Poems — page 5
Plant Sales — page 6
Activities — pages 6-7
Habitat Restoration — page 8
Wildflowers — page 9
Focus on Rarities — pages 10
Conservation — pages 11-12
Bay-Friendly — pages 12-13
Pacifica News — page 14
Chapter News — page 15
Board of Directors — page 15
Membership — pages 15-16
Everyone is welcome to attend membership meetings in the Recreation Room of the San Francisco County Fair Building (SFCFB) at 9th Avenue & Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. The building is served by the #71 and #44 lines, is one block from the N Judah car, and is two blocks from the #6, #43, and #66 bus lines. Before our programs, we will take our speakers to dinner at Golden Rice Bowl, 1030 Irving Street, between 11th and 12th Avenues. Join us for good Chinese food and interesting conversation. Meet in the parking lot behind the SFCFB at 5:15 pm, or join the group at the restaurant at 5:30 pm. To reserve, call Jake Sigg at 415-731-3028 by the evening preceding the program.

MARCH 5, THURSDAY
Butterfly and Moth Caterpillars
Feeding on California Native Plants
7:30 pm, Speaker: Dr. Jerry Powell
Plant Identification Workshop
6 to 7:15 pm, Leader: Kirra Swenerton
Join us in welcoming Dr. Jerry Powell, Emeritus Professor of Entomology, and Entomologist in the Agricultural Experiment Station, Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, Division of Insect Biology, University of California, Berkeley, as he shares his knowledge and experience concerning our native lepidoptera. After giving us a brief overview of his life’s work, he will share his knowledge and his amazing photographs to emphasize the diversity of caterpillar feeding types and to show representative images of the adults (which do not feed on plants except to take nectar). Jerry tells us he first became interested in moths and butterflies at age 13 when he was “sentenced” to a summer course for junior naturalists at the San Diego Natural History Museum. By summer’s end he was an incurable lepidopterist. He began to specialize on the so-called microlepidoptera in his senior year at UC Berkeley, “probably because nobody else in the west was so gullible.” He is best known by non-entomologists for the popular California Insects (UC Press 1979). Dr. Powell received his B.S. (1955) and Ph.D. (1961) from UC Berkeley. He has spent his long career at the University and he currently holds the titles of Professor of the Graduate School and Director Emeritus of the Essig Museum of Entomology. His involvement with the Lepidopterists’ Society included editing its journal 1964-69 and its supplements 1969-71, serving on its Executive Council 1973-75, Vice President 1985-86, annual meeting coordinator 1987, and President, 1987-88. He also actively served the Pacific Coast Entomological Society, both on the editorial staff of Pan-Pacific Entomologist and on the society board, between 1957 through 1978. He was editorially involved in the University of California Publications in Entomology and the Bulletin of the California Insect Survey. He has also been active on the Xerces Society Board of Directors, the editorial board of The Moths of America North of Mexico, and the Society of Systematic Zoology. Dr. Powell was named Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences in 1971; he served as visiting research associate at the Smithsonian Institution 1970-1971, and at CSIRO, Canberra, Australia 1980-1981. He received the Lepidopterists’ Society Karl Jordan Medal in 1982; the Berkeley Citation in 2000; the Lepidopterists’ Society, Pacific Slope Section, John Comstock Award in 2003; and the Entomological Society of America, Pacific Branch, Thomas Say Award in 2005.

“Nature is visible thought.” — Heinrich Heine

APRIL 2, THURSDAY
Wild Turkeys in California: Their Brief History and Effects on Sonoma Oak Woodlands
7:30 pm, Speaker: Dr. Daniel Gluesenkamp
Plant Identification Workshop
6 to 7:15 pm, Leader: To Be Announced
Wild turkeys (Meleagris gallopavo) are certainly among the most interesting challenges introduced to California. Though native to other parts of North America, wild turkeys never successfully colonized California, and so the recent introduction and expansion of turkeys in California creates tantalizing questions and research opportunities. In November 2002, Daniel initiated the first experimental assessment of turkey impacts in California. This exclusion experiment evaluates the effect of turkeys on ground-dwelling invertebrate populations, acorn removal, and vegetation structure and composition. This presentation will give an overview of the history and biology of California’s introduced turkeys, describe research underway at Audubon Canyon Ranch’s Bouverie Preserve, and include presentation of preliminary results that improve our understanding of introduced turkey ecology. Dr. Gluesenkamp directs Habitat Protection and Restoration for Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) and leads in the development, implementation, and evaluation of conservation and restoration projects at ACR preserves. His work involves experimental evaluation of management techniques, oversight of stewardship activities such as control of invasive alien species, and collaboration with neighboring land owners and agencies to protect ACR lands. Daniel’s research focuses on the factors structuring plant communities, particularly as related to the invasion and spread of introduced species, with work in habitats ranging from desert riparian zones to subalpine Sierran meadows. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley with research that revealed how populations of native and alien thistles are shaped by plant competition, by insect herbivory, and by effects of habitat productivity on the relative intensity of competition versus herbivory.

MAY 7, THURSDAY
California Academy of Sciences Living Roof
7:30 pm, Speaker: Dr. Frank Almeda
Plant Identification Workshop
6 to 7:15 pm, Leader: Kirra Swenerton
Please join us as we learn how construction of the new California Academy of Sciences (CAS) in Golden Gate Park was informed by the institution’s commitment to the environment and its sustainability. As “green” and “sustainable” have become the buzzwords for building and landscape architects as the eco-friendly movement continues to take center stage, Dr. Frank Almeda’s presentation will cover the planning and implementation of the new Living Roof at CAS. He will discuss the challenges of assembling it; its many environmental benefits; its performance; and the ways in which it is being used not only as a sustainability feature but as a public exhibit, outdoor classroom, and as a setting to conduct research on a dynamic living landscape and its interaction with local biodiversity in Golden Gate Park. Frank served as CAS Director of Research from 1983 to 1986 and from 2006 to 2008. He is currently Senior Curator and Decker and Martha McAllister Chair of Botany at CAS; Research Professor of Biology at San Francisco State University; Visiting Professor of Botany at the University of Campinas in Brazil. He serves on advisory boards for San Francisco Botanical Garden, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and the Flora of North America Project. In addition to service on several editorial boards, he is a past president of the California Botanical Society and is currently on the Board of Commissioners.
PROGRAMS (continued)

for the Organization for Flora Neotropica. Before coming to the Academy Frank was Assistant Professor of Biology and Curator of the Herbarium and Botanical Gardens at UCLA. He received his B.A. in Botany and Bacteriology from the University of South Florida in Tampa, and his Ph.D. in Botany from Duke University. Using flowering plants to address questions about plant biodiversity, biogeography, and evolution, Frank is interested in why some families of flowering plants are so species-rich and in the factors that have promoted this diversification. Can certain families of plants be used as indicators of biodiversity hotspots and can this information be useful in conservation decisions? Frank has researched and published extensively on the systematics, phylogeny, and biogeography of flowering plants and has organized and led more than 25 research expeditions to tropical America, Africa, and Madagascar. In recent years he has been working with a team of colleagues including chemists and anthropologists on a drug discovery project in Madagascar where they are working with local healers and villagers to identify plants used by people and lemurs. This work is promoting sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in a critical developing country. Closer to home, Frank has always been heavily involved in teaching people about our local flora. Frank and CNPS Marin Chapter coauthors Wilma Follette and Catherine Best, were responsible for the CAS/CNPS publication of the new 2007 Marin Flora.

FUTURE PROGRAM

June 4—San Francisco Botanical Garden Native Plant Garden—Garden Tour & Bag Lunch

PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

If you are interested in learning to identify key plants or to increase your plant recognition skills, join our informal, relaxed, and very popular plant identification workshops. Bring a hand lens and a Jepson Manual if you own one. Suitable plants will be provided. Workshop contact is Kirra Swenerton (415-831-6332 or <Kirra.Swenerton@ssf.gov>).

FIELD TRIPS

Trips are held rain or shine, but heavy rain cancels unless otherwise noted. Contact field trip chair Tom Annese (415-297-1413 <tomannese@yahoo.com>) or contacts listed below for details. Nonmembers are encouraged to attend these FREE walks. In general, bring lunch, liquids, sunscreen, layered clothing, and hand lens or any other tools/toys that will enhance your exploratory experience.

MARCH 14, SATURDAY, 10:15 am to 5 pm
Angel Island Fire-Follower (Marin County)
Leader: Jake Sigg

In addition to the pleasure of spring wildflowers, we will also get to experience the response of the land to fire. Fire stimulates seed germination—of both native and non-native plants. We are certain to find many wildflowers. Whether we’re early or late for the peak is unpredictable because plenty will be happening. We will see hazelnuts ( Corylus cornuta ), coast iris ( Iris longipetala ), star lily ( Zigadenus fremontii ), paintbrush ( Castilleja spp. ), and lots of bunchgrasses, as well as the curious but beautiful California pipevine ( Aristolochia californica ). We may also catch sight of the midnight blue-black pipevine swallowtail butterfly, which is totally dependent on this plant. We will take the first ferry from Pier 41 at 10:35 am and leave Angel Island on the last ferry at 3:50 pm. We’ll cover a lot of ground (five to six miles) and elevation change, going through a diversity of communities: mixed evergreen forest, grasslands, and chaparral. We go rain or shine, but heavy, sustained rain will postpone to Sunday, March 29. Bring lunch and lots of liquids. Ferry information: <http://www.blueandgoldfleet.com/Ferry/Angel> (Jake 415-731-3028 or <jakesigg@earthlink.net>.)

MARCH 21, SATURDAY, 10:15 am
Angel Island Bicycle Tour (Marin County)
Leader: Casey Allen

Join us on the first day of spring for a repeat of last year’s enjoyable and successful native plant bike tour of Angel Island. About 20 people, many of them young, participated in 2008. The group had a bite to eat in the Ayala Cove picnic area before heading up the bike trail to the perimeter road. The dirt fire road/bike trail cuts through a coastal forest that includes coast live oak, toyon, buckeye, and madrone. Many shade-loving native plants were seen along the side of the path, including California figwort, mission bells, bitter-cress, western sword fern, and goldback fern. We rode the easy paved perimeter road around the island, stopping every quarter mile or so to let everyone catch up to look at plants beside the road and talk about their use in the home garden and the built environment. Among the plants we saw along the road were Dutchman’s pipe ( Aristolochia californica ) and the native Rosa californica . Miner’s lettuce and bracken fern abound along the road, growing amidst elderberry, California hazelnut, and other shrubs. As the forest opened up, we saw many sun-loving wildflowers—California poppies, lupines, morning glories, fiddleneck, star lilies, and mugworts—as well as great views of the bay. Then we rounded the bluff to see Mount Tamalpais, feel the wind from the ocean, and enjoy a plantscape that had changed to coastal shrub and grasslands. We will meet at the Blue and Gold Fleet at Pier 41 at 10:15 am to buy ferry tickets, which cost $15 for adults and $8.50 for kids six to twelve (the bikes ride free). This will be a slow ride with no cars on the island—great for kids (my son will be there). The return ferry will leave the island at 3:50 and get us to the city at 5 pm. (Casey’s cell 415-572-1144)

(FIELD TRIPS continued on page 4)
FIELD TRIPS (continued)

MARCH 28, SATURDAY, 9 am
**McLaren Park: Geneva Ridge, and Sunnyside Meadow**
(San Francisco County)
**Leader:** Jake Sigg
The ridge in McLaren Park overlooking Geneva Avenue is seldom visited—the percentage of San Franciscans who have ever seen it is probably a tiny fraction of one percent. It is valued by those devoted to saving our natural heritage. We’ll see lots of our perennial bunchgrasses, dichondra, acacena, blue-eyed grass, sun cups, and many more species. Coming and going to Geneva Ridge we’ll traverse the beautiful Sunnyside Meadow, one of the better wildflower spots in the city. Meet at the #9 Muni bus turnaround on Sunnyside Avenue, south of the Persia Street entrance to McLaren Park. (Jake 415-731-3028 or <jakesigg@earthlink.net>)

APRIL 4, SATURDAY, 10 am
**Glen Canyon Spider Field Trip**
(San Francisco County)
**Leader:** Darrell Ubick
**Cosponsored by Friends of Glen Canyon**
Last spring’s spider field trip in Glen Canyon was so hugely successful that we have decided to repeat it. Darrell Ubick, arachnologist at the California Academy of Sciences, is not only very knowledgeable, but a very effective communicator; the excitement of the large number of kids of all ages on the last trip vouched for that. Darrell wants to repeat the walk in Glen Canyon to compare it with what we saw last year. Depending on the weather conditions, there may well be different spiders and other organisms active this year.

**Darrell goes rain or shine, but very heavy rain will postpone to the following Saturday, April 11.** Meet up canyon from the Recreation Building in Glen Park where the lawn stops and the wild part of the canyon starts.

APRIL 11, SATURDAY, 9 am
**Duncan–Castro Open Space**
(San Francisco County)
**Leader:** Jake Sigg
This tiny wildflower gem is a piece of left-over topography, a “paper street” (i.e., a street that appears on maps, but which was never built). These fragments of original landscape are delightful places for those interested in natural history and our natural heritage. Although small, it is exceptionally rich, including plants that are now uncommon in our area. A distinguishing element is the large (did I say large?—it is humongous) population of Ithuriel’s spear, *Triteleia laxa*. This population has short stems and deep purple flowers (in contrast to the usual pale lavender), and may be what was formerly referred to as *T. l. var. nimia*. If we’re lucky they may be in flower on our visit. Some other species, such as footsteps of spring, will be through, but if we get reasonable rains there should be a lot still going. The wildflowers have survived the intense human impacts of the last 300 years, but they won’t survive forever without human help. The principal threat is invasive plants. The first hour will be spent viewing and talking about the plants. We hope that some attendees will be able to stay and help us weed some of these invasives. The “work” is easy and fun. But please come anyway to see this delightful spot even if you can’t get down and dirty. (Jake 415-731-3028 or <jakesigg@earthlink.net>)

APRIL 11, SATURDAY, 10 am
**Candlestick Point State Recreation Area**
(San Francisco County)
**Leaders:** Margo Bors, Patrick Rump, & Ranger Woody Nackley
Candlestick Point State Recreation Area (SRA), established in the 1970s, was the first urban SRA in California. Its 252 acres along San Francisco’s southeast shoreline provide diverse recreational activities plus rich habitat for birds and other animals. Two-thirds of the park is fill, much of which is being restored with local native plants. Come and check out this San Francisco treasure, its history, and restoration efforts. Those who wish can also help out at the Saturday work party. Meet in the parking lot inside the park’s main entrance on Hunter’s Point Expressway. Directions: Take Third Street to Gilman Avenue and follow Gilman south about one mile. The Candlestick Point SRA entrance is shortly after Gilman becomes Candlestick Point Expressway. Alternate route: Take the Candlestick Point exit from Highway101 and follow it back under the freeway and around the shoreline past the Last Point parking lot to the Candlestick Point SRA entrance and parking lot. MUNI: take the T-Line light rail to Gilman Avenue; walk back a block to Fitzgerald and take the #29 bus to Giants Drive and Gilman; continue walking out Gilman around the edge of the stadium parking lot to the park entrance, about a half mile. (Margo 415-824-0471 or <mcbors@comcast.net>)

APRIL 18, SATURDAY, 10 am
**San Bruno Mountain Ridge Trail**
(San Mateo County)
**Leader:** Doug Allhouse
The Ridge Trail is, by far, the mountain’s premier ramble. On a clear day the vistas are stunning, although fog and wind can make for a challenging day, so layered clothing is highly recommended. The terrain is moderately undulating with only one arduous dip. What makes the Ridge Trail so fascinating is the transition of plant communities from coastal scrub on the northwest to grasslands on the southeast. The wildflower species are numerous and include the endemic San Bruno Mountain manzanita (*Arctostaphylos imbricata* var. *imbricata*) and there is even a possibility of spotting the endangered mission blue butterfly. Also adding interest will be exploring the tops of Owl and Buckeye canyons which were severely burned last June. This will make for a full day so bring a lunch and liquids. Enter the parking lot on the north side of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway; turn right just past the ranger kiosk, and follow the road under the parkway. Drive through the open gate and take Radio Road all the way to the end, where we will meet at the summit parking area. (Doug 415-584-5114 or <doug228@comcast.net>)

MAY 2, SATURDAY, 10 am
**Baker Beach Bluffs**
(San Francisco County)
**Leader:** Michael Chassé
Once dubbed the “Great Sand Waste,” the dunes of San Francisco are now mostly covered by roads, buildings, and weedy back yards. Some of the best examples of coastal foredune and dune scrub habitat remain along the western shore of the Presidio at Baker Beach. Years of persistence in the removal of European dune grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) and iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) have renewed the diversity of these communities, including the return of extirpated species such as beach morning glory (*Calystegia soldanella*). Come explore these remnant and restored dune habitats with Michael Chassé of the National Park Service. Meet at the south Baker Beach parking lot at 10 am. Call Michael at 415-561-2857 for directions and to RSVP.

Delphinium variegatum • Royal Larkspur • by Margo Bors
GARDEN TOURS
5th ANNUAL CNPS
YERBA BUENA CHAPTER
SPRING TOUR OF GARDENS
San Francisco County
Sunday, April 5, 11 am to 3 pm
FREE ADMISSION
<www.cnps-yerbabuena.org/gardentour>

This popular event is being planned as we go to press. This year you will find full information about private gardens to visit and photograph on our CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter website. There are treats in store for you scattered across the city in a variety of neighborhoods. Some are gardens new to natives, some are in transition, some are mixed (native and other), and some are fully mature native gardens. Some gardens will close at 4 pm. Specific information on the gardens, open times, and tour information will be continually updated on our website: <www.cnps-yerbabuena.org>. Volunteers are needed to help with the garden tour. Contact Tom Annese at <tomannese@yahoo.com> or Susan Floore at 415-285-4692.

Also check out <www.cnps-yerbabuena.org/gardens/local_gardens.html> where our webmaster brings you glimpses of a number of public gardens that you can visit on your own at any time of the year.

See you in the gardens!

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES 2009
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
Sunday, May 3, 10 am to 5 pm
FREE ADMISSION, Registration required
<www.bringingbackthenatives.net>

This 5th annual award-winning self-guided tour features 50 gardens and six native plant nurseries, showcasing native plant gardens that conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 50% or more native plants. Approximately 40 talks will be offered throughout the day. More than 5,000 people are expected to register for this annual event; early registration is suggested to ensure a place. Registration prior to April 20 is required.

A Native Plant Sale Extravaganza will take place throughout the weekend of May 2 and 3, featuring a number of native plant nurseries—many not normally open to the general public—which carry large quantities of hard-to-find California natives.

Information: Kathy Kramer at 510-236-9558 (between 9 am and 9 pm) or <kathy@kathykramerconsulting.net>

GOING NATIVE GARDEN TOUR 2009
San Francisco Peninsula & Santa Clara Valley
Sunday, April 19, 10 am to 4 pm
FREE ADMISSION, Registration required
<www.goingnativetour.org>

Since 2003, the Bay Area’s pioneering native garden tour has showcased gardens featuring California native plants. This community-based tour is free of charge to the public upon successful registration. Each tour features about 45 gardens, most of them private home gardens, which are open on tour day for viewing by the public in a do-it-yourself, open house format. This year’s tour will showcase bird- and butterfly-friendly, pesticide-free, water-conserving gardens located in Santa Clara or San Mateo counties and containing 50% or more California native plants. The goals of the tour are to demonstrate reduced water use, reduced chemical and pesticide use, improved habitat, and the unique aesthetic appeal of gardens designed with California native plants. For more information or to register, visit <www.goingnativetour.org>.

MISSION BLUE
by David Schooley, San Bruno Mountain Watch

Nothing need be proven
though something cries out
at the murders of earth and person
Nothing need be said
though something asks
to be perfectly spoken
into a silence of seeing
were it only the first doubled leaves
of the lupine
through the crumbled earth
by the rock
or the opening, closing wings
of a butterfly
flash through the creekbed
on the heightened stillness
of the valley.

Radiant at midnight
Moonlit blossoms dream
To touch distant stars.
—Jeanette Young
PLANT SALES

HANC NATIVE PLANT NURSERY
Nature in the City and the Haight-Ashbury Neighborhood Council (HANC) have entered into a partnership to promote and manage HANC’s Native Plant Nursery. Head over to 780 Frederick Street at Arguello (inside the recycling center) in San Francisco, and visit Greg Gaar, local ecological activist extraordinaire, who has more than 40 species of native plants, sown from local seed. Donations are requested on a per-plant basis. Discount donations can be negotiated for large orders.

Monday through Saturday 9 am to 4 pm
Sunday Noon to 4 pm

Information: Greg Gaar (415-584-8985)
<www.natureinthecity.org/plantsale.php>

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN
California Native Plant Sale
Saturday, April 18, 10 am to 3 pm
Organized by the Garden Volunteers
Located near the Brazil Building at the intersection of Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive
Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley
Sale will feature California shrubs, trees, perennials. Find many plants not available in the nursery trade. Horticultural advice gladly given! Explore the Garden. Admission is free. Proceeds directly benefit the Garden. Bring boxes to carry plants home and an umbrella. Refreshments available.

Information: 510-841-8732 or <www.nativeplants.org>

ACTIVITIES

SAN FRANCISCO NATURAL HISTORY SERIES
4th Thursday of each month, 7:30 pm, Randall Museum Theater
Talks on San Francisco’s natural history are held at 199 Museum Way, off Roosevelt Way.
Donations are appreciated.

March 26—Fish Stories from the Golden Gate—Brian Hoffman
April 23—San Francisco and the New Deal—Gray Brechin
May 28—San Francisco’s Southeast Shore—Saul Bloom

At press time, both March and May programs are tentative, so check first!

Contacts: 415-554-9600 x16 or <info@randallmuseum.org> for information.

SAN PEDRO VALLEY COUNTY PARK
Friends of San Pedro Valley Park are pleased to present occasional FREE Saturday evening programs in the park’s visitor center in Pacifica.

March 21, Saturday, 7:30 pm—Flowers of Point Reyes—Jorg & Mimi Fleige
Travel down Highway 1 to Linda Mar Boulevard, turn left, and go two miles to its terminus at Oddstad Boulevard, where you can see the Park sign and driveway to the Visitor Center parking lot.
Contact: Carolyn Pankow <carolynjunepankow@yahoo.com> or 650-355-7466.

NATURE IN THE CITY TALKS
Last Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm
CounterPULSE, 1310 Mission at 9th Street
March 25—Toxic San Francisco—Doug Kern & Saul Bloom
April 29—Transition City: Permacultural Transformation—K. Ruby, Chris Shein, & Urban Permaculture Guild

Information: 415-626-2060 or <www.counterpulse.org/fall-winter-talks.shtml>

CNPS SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER
California Native Plant Sale
SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 10 am to 3 pm
Hidden Villa Ranch, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills
The ranch is 2 miles west of the I-280 Moody/El Monte Road exit. Free parking. Come early for the best selection. Bring boxes to carry your purchases home. Cash or check only.

Information: 650-941-1068 or <www.cnps-scv.org> or <cnps_scv@yahoo.com>. Make your garden water-wise and beautiful this season by introducing native plants, which are adapted to the local soil and climate, and bring habitat value and a sense of place to the garden. The plants are accurately tagged and lovingly nurtured. The non-profit, all-volunteer CNPS Nursery opens to the public twice a year (spring and fall). Proceeds fund chapter activities.

SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY
AT STRYBING ARBORETUM
42nd Annual Spring Plant Sale
Friday, May 1, 5 to 8 pm (members only)
Saturday, May 2, 10 am to 2 pm (public sale)
San Francisco County Fair Building
9th Avenue & Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park
Includes large selection of California native plants. Memberships available at the door.
New & used books also available for sale.

Information: 415-661-1316 or www.sfbotanicalgarden.org

Monardella villosa
coyote mint
ACTIVITIES (continued)

SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW
LAST SHOW—2009—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!
San Mateo Event Center,
2495 South Delaware Street, San Mateo
Wednesday to Saturday, March 18 to 21, 10 am to 8 pm
Sunday, March 22, 9 am to 6 pm
CNPS will have a booth at the 2009 Flower and Garden Show!
The show has always drawn very large crowds, so it is exciting that
we will be there again. Since this is being advertised by the sponsors
as the final year that the show will be presented in the Bay Area,
it is especially important for us to participate. We will introduce
many people to CNPS and, of course, promote gardening with
natives! The cost and staffing of the booth will be shared by the
Yerba Buena Chapter and four other Bay Area chapters (East Bay,
Marin, Santa Clara Valley, and Willis Linn Jepson). This is a five-
day event, so we need many volunteers to help out. There are four
two-and-a-half-hour shifts per day (Sunday shifts are only two
hours), and volunteers get in free for the entire day! Public
transportation is encouraged; Caltrain is nearby with shuttle service
to the show. If interested, please
contact Ellen Edelson at 415-531-2140 (cell) or
<edelson@sbglobal.net>. First come, first served! This is
a fun and easy way for members to support CNPS and our Yerba
Buena Chapter.

CALIFORNIA NATURE TOURS
Leader: David Schmidt
Subject: California Nature Tours
Chapter member, environmental historian, and naturalist David
D. Schmidt is leading ecology and history walking tours of the Bay
Area's natural areas for groups of two to 25 people. His tours
reveal local history through clues still present in the landscape,
including trees and other plants, as well as historic sites. Find out
more at <www.CaliforniaNatureTours.com> or call or email
David (415-971-5201 <daviddschmidt1@msn.com>.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE GRASSLANDS ASSOCIATION
Greetings from CNGA's new Administrative Director, Judy G-
Scott! She loves working with members and volunteers. Feel free
to call Judy at 530-661-2280 or email her at <admin@cnga.org>
with questions or concerns.

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN
Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley
General Information: 510-841-8732 or
<bgarden@ebparks.org>
Class costs, details, and registration: <www.nativeplants.org/events.html>
Saturday, March 7, Sunday, March 15—Backyard Beekeeping—K. Ruby
Saturday, March 14—Lewis and Clark—Bob Case
Saturday, March 21—Plant Portraits and Garden Images Workshop—Bob Case
Saturday, April 25-Sunday April 26—Spring in Yosemite Valley—Glenn Keator
Saturday, May 2-Sunday, May 3
Wildflower Weekend in Feather River Region—Glenn Keator
Saturday, May 2, Saturday, May 9
Native Plant Workshops in Private Garden—Katherine Greenberg
Saturday, May 16-Sunday, May 17
Foothills and Mountains of Central Sierra—Glenn Keator

JEPSON HERBARIUM WORKSHOPS
The 2009 workshop program is online
and classes are open for enrollment.
<u>ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/2009/index.html</u>
Contact: Cecile Shohet, Coordinator, Public Education
<cshohet@berkeley.edu> or 510-643-7008

GROWING NATIVES SYMPOSIUM
Growing Natives: Celebrating California's Beauty in Dry Times
Saturday, March 28, Lafayette Community Center
Sunday, March 29, Regional Parks Botanic Garden
Sponsored by: Friends of Regional Parks Botanic Garden,
California Native Plant Society, Pacific Horticulture
Creating beautiful water-wise gardens with California native plants
is the theme of this special two-day symposium aimed at
professionals, home gardeners, and native plant enthusiasts.

The Saturday program at the Lafayette Community Center includes
presentations on California native plants (by botanist and author
Glenn Keator), garden design (by author Carol Bornstein of Santa
Barbara Botanic Garden), the structure of the garden (by Phil Van
Soelen of Cal Flora Nursery), herbaceous perennials and bulbs (by
plantsman Roger Raiche), creating a native meadow (by David
Amme), and connecting with the garden (by Mike Evans of Tree
of Life Nursery). The Saturday program includes a continental
breakfast, lunch, and wine reception. A selection of books will be
available for purchase.

The Sunday program at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in
Berkeley begins with an inspiring talk by Director Steve Edwards,
followed by a choice of guided garden walks and workshops on
plants for dry gardens, aesthetic pruning, principles of irrigation,
and gardening practices. After lunch in the garden, the program
continues at Native Here Nursery with a presentation by Charli
Danielsen and an opportunity to purchase plants. The day concludes
with a visit to two spectacular private native gardens: the Fleming
garden in Berkeley and the Greenberg garden in Lafayette.

Registration or Information: Please visit
<u>www.nativeplants.org</u> or call Margot Sheltner at
510-849-1627. Members and subscribers of the sponsoring
organizations receive a discount on registration fees.
HABITAT RESTORATION


Bernal Hilltop. Third Sunday of each month, 11 am to 2 pm. Information Barbara Pitschel <bnpandrp@peoplepc.com>; work party contact Licia DeMeo SF NAP 415-831-6332.

Brisbane Acres. First Saturday of each month, 1 to 4 pm. We supply tools and gloves. Contact: Ken McIntire 415-467-6631 or <sanbruno@mountainwatch.org>.


Buena Vista Park. First Saturday of each month, 9 am to noon. Contact Steven Chapman 415-552-5299 or <steven@sfwild.net>.

Candlestick State Park Nursery. Second Saturday alternating months (April & June), 9 am to noon. Contact Benjamin Stone-Francisco 415-282-6840 or <heronhead@leyouth.org>.

Castro-Duncan Open Space. Contact Dave Thompson or Gloria Koch-Gonzalez 415-821-7601.

CNPS Native Plant Restoration Team. Every Wednesday, noon to 3 pm. Contact Jake Sigg 415-731-3028 or <jakesigg@earthlink.net>.

Corona Heights. Last Saturday of each month. Contact 415-554-9604.

Edgehill Mt. Park. Second Saturday of each month, 1 to 3 pm. Contact Stan Kaufman 415-681-4954 or <skaufman@epimetrics.com>.

Fort Funston Green Team (Nursery and Stewardship Program). Every Saturday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Contact 415-239-4247 or <skato@parkconservancy.org>.

GGNRA Habitat Restoration Team. Every Sunday at various locations, 9:30 am to 2 pm with lunch break. Contact 415-331-0732 or <volunteer@parkconservancy.org>.

Site locations and directions, call habitat hotline 415-561-4848.

GGNRA Site Stewardship Program. Every Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm. Contact 415-561-3073 or <volunteer@parkconservancy.org>.

Glen Canyon. Third Saturday of each month & every Wednesday, 9 am to noon. Contact Friends of Glen Canyon: Jean Conner 415-584-8576 or Richard Crabl 415-648-0862.

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. Milagra Ridge, Mori Point. Saturdays. Contact Christina Crooker <CCrooker@ParksConservancy.org>.

Golden Gate Park Oak Woodlands. Second Saturday of each month, 10 am to 12:30 pm. Contact Rob Bakewell 415-221-1137 or 415-710-9617 (cell) or <rbakewell@yahoo.com>.


Half Moon Bay State Park. Contact Restoration Coordinator 650-726-8801.

Heron’s Head Park. Second Saturday alternating months (March & May), 9 am to noon. Contact Benjamin Stone-Francisco 415-282-6840 or <heronhead@leyouth.org>.

Lake Merced. First Saturday, 1 to 3 pm. Contact Friends of Lake Merced: Craig or Martha Spriggs 415-661-1668.

Lands End Stewardship. Every Thursday & Saturday, 1 to 4 pm. Contact 415-385-3065 or <chrisman@parkconservancy.org>.

Marin Headlands Native Plant Nursery. Wednesday, 1 to 4 pm & Saturday, 9 am to noon. Contact 415-132-5193 or <Ashor@parkconservancy.org>.

McLaren Park. Second Saturday of each month, 10 am to noon. Contact Licia DeMoe 415-831-6332.

Mission Creek Bank Restoration. Every Saturday 10 am to 1 pm. Contact Bob Isaacsen 415-552-4577 or <bissacson@gmail.com>.

Mt. Davidson. First Saturday of each month, 9 am to noon. Contact Friends of Mt. Davidson: Stan Kaufman 415-681-4954 or <skaufman@epimetrics.com>.

Mt. Sutro. First Saturday of each month, 9 am at Woods Lot, on Medical Center Way halfway uphill from Parnassus. Contact Craig Dawson 415-665-1077.

Orizaba/Shields Hilltop. Third Saturday of each month, 10 am to noon. Contact Gary Schwartz 415-239-0248.

Pacheco & 12th Avenue. Contact Barbara Kobayashi <okim1946@yahoo.com>.

Pacifica’s Environmental Family. Fourth Sunday of each month, 10 am. Contact Shirley Suher 650-359-0892.

Pigeon Point Lighthouse. Contact Restoration Coordinator 650-726-8801.

Presidio Native Plant Nursery. Wednesday & Saturday, 1 to 4 pm. Contact 415-561-4826 or <ASHor@parkconservancy.org>.

Presidio Park Stewards. Every Wednesday & Saturday, 9 am to noon. Contact 415-561-3034 x3445 or <PresidioParkStewards@parkconservancy.org>.

Presidio Plant Patrol. Every Friday 1 to 4 pm. Contact 415-561-3034 x3445 or <PresidioPlantPatrol@parkconservancy.org>.

Redwood Creek Native Stewards. Weekly & Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm. Contact 415-383-4390 or <RedwoodCreek@parkconservancy.org>.


San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department. Natural Areas Program. Contact 415-831-6328.

San Pedro Valley County Park. Pacifica. Third Saturday of each month, 9 am. Contact Carolyn Pankow 650-355-7466.

Save San Francisco Bay Association (Save the Bay). Wetland restoration projects almost every Saturday, 9 am to noon; native plant work Wednesdays. Contact Joedlyn Gretz 510-452-9261 x109 or <www.savethebay.org/bayevents>.

Tennessee Valley Nursery and Stewards. Every Tuesday, 10 am to noon & 1 to 4 pm. Contact 415-331-0732 or <ionezini@parkconservancy.org>.

Yerba Buena Island. Contact Nature in the City at 415-564-4107.

NEW RESTORATION PROJECTS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Green Hairstreak Corridor

November 23 marked the first work party on the Green Hairstreak Corridor, at a small site on 14th Avenue and Pacheco Street. This was followed up with another day of planting on December 6. So far, almost 100 plants have gone in the ground! Walks to see this elusive butterfly are being scheduled for the spring when the butterflies are out in full force!

Stay tuned to <www.natureinthewcity.org> for dates, sign up for the Nature in the City e-newsletter to receive upcoming event notifications!

Alemany Natives Workday at Alemany Farm

700 Alemany Boulevard
San Francisco, CA 94110

Contact: Iris 415-312-2214
Third Sunday of each month
Noon to 5 pm

In addition, a new yahoo group called Alemany Natives has recently been formed. Join to find out more about the possible redesign of the native garden at Alemany Farm.
WILDFLOWER HOTLINES & WEBSITES

Updated by Sharon Kato

To maximize your chances of being in the right place at the right time to see spring wildflowers, you might want to periodically check some of the wildflower hotlines, websites, and information sources around the state.

MULTIPLE SITE LISTINGS

Bureau of Land Management Lands in California
<www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/prog/recreation/wildflowers.html> Contact numbers and a peak bloom chart

California State Parks
Discover Spring Wildflowers press release from March 2008 with 5 pages of contact numbers.

California Wildflower Hotsheet
<www.calphoto.com/wflower.htm> Website geared to photographers, but also great for passive enjoyers
Sponsored by Carol Leigh, author of 88 California Wildflower Locations. Interactive: read about other people’s favorite spots, report your own.

Nevada Natural Heritage Program
<http://heritage.nv.gov/wildflow.htm>

Theodore Payne Foundation Wildflower Hotline
818-768-3533—Taped wildflower reports for Southern California. Recording begins the first Friday in March, updated every Thursday through May.

INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

Antelope Valley California Poppy Preserve
<http://cal-parks.ca.gov/> takes you to State Parks home page, click on “Find a Park” link.
661-724-1180 (recorded wildflower report)

Anza-Borrego Wildflower Hotline
760-767-4684—Recorded information

California Vernal Pools
<www.venrpools.org/MatherSchedule.htm>

Carrizo Plain National Monument
Goodwin Educational Center (some recorded info)
805-475-2131
Bakersfield BLM Field Office 661-391-6000
<www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield>

Death Valley National Park
760-786-2331—Press 1, then 5 for recorded wildflower information.
<www.death.valley.national-park.com/address.htm>

Desert USA’s Wildflower Watch
<www.desertusa.com/wildflw/wildupdates.html>

Edgewood County Park
650-368-6283—Taped general information; can leave a question for ranger.
866-463-3439—Friends of Edgewood Park, to leave a question for a docent.
(Weekend wildflower walks mid-March to June)
<www.friendsofedgewood.org>

Henry W. Coe State Park
408-779-2728 (usually staffed on weekends) <www.coepark.org>

Jepson Prairie Preserve
Site operable from early March through Mother’s Day.
<http://www.solanolandtrust.org/o)._jepsonPrairie.php>

Joshua Tree National Park
760-367-5500—Press 1, then 9, for recorded wildflower information.
<www.joshua.tree.national-park.com>

Kern County Wildflower Hotline
661-322-WILD—Reports beginning in March.
<www.visit kern.com/wildflowers.asp>

Mendocino Headlands State Park
The Ford House Visitors’ Center 707-937-5397 (open all week)
<http://cal-parks.ca.gov/> takes you to State Parks home page, click on “Find a Park” link.

Mojave Desert
<www.digital-desert.com/wild-flowers/>

Kelso Depot Information Center—Call 760-252-6108
Hole-in-the-Wall Center—Call 760-928-2572
to speak with the ranger.

Mount Diablo State Park
Summit Visitors’ Center 925-837-6119
Junction Station 925-837-6129
Check <media.org> for information that takes you to State Parks home page.
Click on “Find a Park” link & follow directions to get to Mount Diablo State Park page.

Mount Tamalpais State Park
415-388-2070—Talk to rangers at Pan Toll Station, Friday through Sunday <http://cal-parks.ca.gov/> takes you to State Parks home page.
Click on “Find a Park” link & follow directions to get to Mount Tamalpais State Park page.

Pinnacles National Monument
Bear Gulch Visitor Center 831-389-4485, press 0.
<www.nps.gov/pinn>

Point Reyes National Seashore
415-464-5100—Press 2 to talk to park ranger at Bear Valley Visitor Center <www.nps.gov/pore/visit.htm>
<www.theodorepayne.org> includes links to dozens of wildflower sites.

Yosemite National Park
209-372-0200—Press 3, then 5, to speak to a ranger.
<www.nps.gov/yose>
FOCUS ON RARITIES

KELLOGG’S YAMPAH
Perideridia kelloggii
by Michael Wood

I’ve often wondered about the affinities some of our native wildlife species have for introduced plant species. How did those creatures manage before the Europeans began messing up the ecology of California by importing, on purpose or by accident, all those weeds? It is well known that numerous native wildlife species, such as monarch butterflies (Danaus plexippus), hummingbirds and raptors (birds of prey) seem to make very good use of eucalyptus. Butterflies that benefit from introduced species include American lady (Vanessa virginiensis, which utilizes milk thistle [Silybum marianum]) and painted lady (Vanessa cardui, which utilizes yellow star thistle [Centaura solstitialis]). Native bumblebees (Bombus spp.) collect the pollen of forage crops like alfalfa (Medicago sativa) and clover (Trifolium spp.).

Another example is the anise swallowtail butterfly (Papilio zelicaon). You perhaps associate this beautiful black and yellow swallowtail with sweet fennel (Foeniculum vulgare), that horrible weed of vacant lots and fields, or poison hemlock (Conium maculatum). But before the introduction and spread of these plants, anise swallowtail made do with other native members of the carrot family (Apiaceae or Umbelliferae) such as hog fennels (Lomatium californicum, L. dasycarpum, L. utriculatum), as well as the subject of today’s discussion, Kellogg’s yampah.

Kellogg’s yampah is a stout herbaceous perennial found in moist places below about 4,000 feet in elevation. It occurs in open or wooded sites and such plant communities as coastal prairie, mixed evergreen forest, chaparral, and foothill woodlands. Kellogg’s yampah is endemic to California, occurring in the Coast Ranges from Santa Clara to Del Norte counties and in the Sierra Nevada foothills from Mariposa to Sierra counties. It produces leafy (caulescent) stems two to five feet tall that develop from a cluster of fibrous to slightly thickened roots. The leaves are compound, being divided into leaflets one to four inches long with a seemingly inflated sheath at the point of attachment to the stem. The small white to pinkish flowers occur in umbels (think “umbrella” to imagine the arrangement of this type of inflorescence), appearing July through August. The genus Perideridia is entirely restricted to North America, with the greatest diversity found in the western United States. There are 20 taxa of Perideridia in North America, 17 of which occur in California, all indigenous.

As mentioned, Perideridia belongs to the carrot family. Worldwide there are 434 genera and about 3,800 species in the family; occurring here). Mildly poisonous members of the family that are present in California, in addition to poison hemlock, include western water hemlock (Cicuta douglasii), spotted water hemlock (Cicuta maculata), and water parsley (Oenanthe sarmentosa, fairly common in local streams).

The common name “yampah” comes from the Yampah Ute Indians of Colorado. The word yampah means “big medicine”, and Kellogg’s yampah was a staple of this and many other native-American tribes. The tuber-like roots were cooked like a vegetable and were dried and ground into flour (pinole) for baking. The seeds were eaten as a remedy for colds and indigestion and the roots were chewed to relieve sore throat. The flavor ranges in taste from radishes to carrots. Yampah was such an important staple and a commonly used word that it was almost given to the state we know as Colorado.

Kellogg’s yampah is common and widespread throughout the Bay Area, occurring in the coastal counties of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco, Marin, and Sonoma, as well as inland in the East Bay and North Bay. Historically, in San Francisco, it was reported from the Presidio, Laguna Honda, Mt. Davidson, Twin Peaks Bayview Hill, Hunter’s Point, and the San Miguel Hills (A Flora of San Francisco, California Howell et al., 1958). It has become much less widespread in the City now only found on Bayview Hill, Bernal Hill, and the Presidio. Elsewhere on the Peninsula, it can be seen at San Bruno Mountain, Crystal Springs, and Edgewood Park where volunteers have restored a terrific stand.

Kellogg’s yampah has no protected status under the federal or state endangered species acts, and is not considered a special-status species by the California Department of Fish and Game, nor listed by the CNPS. But like so many other pieces of the biological puzzle, it is part of the intricate and interconnected ecology of our region. Not only does its presence contribute to the biological diversity in its own right but also helps to maintain the diversity of insect life which adds so much to our own enjoyment of the natural world. So, the next time you’re pulling out sweet fennel, be sure to replace it with some yampah to keep the anise swallowtails around.
CONSERVATION NEWS

CNPS CONSERVATION CONFERENCE REPORT
by David Kruse-Pickler

The CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference was held in January at the Sacramento Convention Center. More than 600 native plant enthusiasts, educators, researchers, students, and vendors joined together for three very full days of seminars, speeches, and networking. This year’s conference was quite special as it was the first of its magnitude in 22 years. My attendance was graciously sponsored by a grant from the CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter, for which I am very appreciative.

There were four tracks running continuously throughout the day with 20-minute presentations. More than 215 seminars covered such topics such as Baja California, Rare Plants, Great Basin, Climate Change, and Plant Science, to name only a few. My goals for the weekend were three-fold: to attend and absorb as much as possible for the Yerba Buena Chapter, for San Francisco Botanical Garden, and for my research as a graduate student at San Francisco State University. This was a big undertaking, especially for my very first plant/botany conference.

Most of my time spent at the conference was, of course, in the sessions, but there were many other activities and events. The art and photo competition was beautiful and I even submitted two photos of Limnanthes dichotomus for consideration. Graduate posters were also set up and it was a great learning experience to see and hear what graduate students are doing all over the state. One of the most interesting posters was a student’s research on Limnanthes (meadow foam) cross pollination. The researcher placed large flats of greenhouse grown Limnanthes in the wild and did a side-by-side comparison of which flowers received the most pollinators. There were also many posters from other CNPS members, promoting all the good and relevant work they are doing in their chapters. Vendors and other conservation-related organizations were set up in a little “community” that you could visit throughout the day; smiles or free goodies encouraged participants to stop and spend some time. There were also a fairly decent-sized book sale, a local CNPS member selling his art and illustrations, a silent auction, and four plenary speakers. So there was always plenty to do and that was just during the day.

The evenings were for networking, mingling, and a bit of relaxing. Nothing seemed better than the coldest of beers after sitting through 12 sessions in one day. This was the time I really got to talk and meet with many different plant people. I met the new director of Kew Gardens, Dr. Steven Hopper, who is from southwestern Australia; made connections with Jon Rehman of the San Diego Museum of Natural History to go collecting in Baja California during the next two years; and talked with Mark Porter from Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden about molecular DNA work in the Polemoniaceae.

I attended more than 25 sessions and tried to observe as many varied topics as possible. Let me share some bits of information that stuck with me over the weekend:

• California deserts make up 28% of the entire states landmass and 90% of these deserts are public lands.
• There are two dozen dune systems in California.
• The number of rare plants in California deserts is underrepresented. CNPS lists 260 taxa as rare in the deserts and more than 1,800 in the rest of California.
• Twenty-five species of rare plants from the deserts have been added to the inventory in the last two years.
• The biggest concentration of rare plants in the deserts of California are on limestone cliffs at 17%.
• The highest diversity of plants in coastal scrub can be found within 20 meters of the edge of coastal bluffs.
• There is a movement now to publish a CNPS type inventory of the extinct, rare, endangered, and endemic vascular plants of Baja California.
• From 1996 to 2005, losses of California grassland totaled more than 132,000 acres, 25,000 from residential developments, and 107,000 due to agriculture.
• At the current rate of loss of grasslands there will be no vernal pools by 2097.
• Dirca occidentalis is one of the rarest shrubs in North America. It grows in six counties in the Bay Area in habitats from scrub to riparian. The species is in decline and the fact that it is slow-growing and difficult to propagate further complicates its recovery.
• Clarkia franciscana (Presidio clarkia) at Inspiration Point is undergoing many studies to see what types of germination treatments provide the best results. It was found that post-germination treatments like scraping, fall-flaming, and fall-tarping were the most effective.
• Quercus chrysolepis (canyon live oak) is the most widespread of all oaks in California.
• Quercus garryana (Oregon oak), Quercus lobata (valley oak), and Quercus engelmannii are not regenerating very well in California.
• Cupressus bakeri (Baker’s cypress) needs high-intensity fire to regenerate: 250 degree minimum temperature, but 500 degrees is optimal.

“The wilderness and the idea of wilderness is one of the permanent homes of the human spirit.”

Asarum caudatum
wild ginger

(CONSERVATION NEWS continued on page 12)
CONSERVATION NEWS (continued)

ENDANGERED SPECIES BIG YEAR 2008
by Brent Plater

After a year exploring the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and helping the park’s 33 endangered species recover, three individuals shared $3,000 in prizes by winning the GGNRA Endangered Species Big Year.

The GGNRA contains more endangered species than any other National Park in continental North America: more than Yellowstone, Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia National Parks combined. The 2008 GGNRA Endangered Species Big Year was a race against time to see and save each of the park’s 33 endangered species. During 2008, more than 15,000 people received free Big Year endangered species materials; more than 4,000 people participated in Big Year events; more than 600 people signed up on the Big Year mailing list; and more than 250 Endangered Species Big Year competitors raced to see each of the 33 endangered species found in the GGNRA, and then to take 33 actions to help these species recover during the calendar year of 2008.

The Yerba Buena Chapter’s Liam O’Brien tied for first place with Marin County’s Steve Price, a branding expert who named products such as Blackberry, Pentium, and Apple PowerBook. Mr. O’Brien and Mr. Price both completed 52 of the 66 possible actions and sightings to win the competition. Each received $1,250 in prize money. Alameda County’s David Seaborg, son of the famous Berkeley physicist for whom the element Seaborgium is named, came in second place, completing 50 of the actions and sightings. Mr. Seaborg received $500 in prize money.

In addition, the Burden-Cummings family received a special award for the rarest combination of sightings during the year: they were the only participants to see both the California sea otter and the California least tern during the competition. The Grush-Latimer family also received a special award for the greatest multi-generational commitment to the Endangered Species Big Year, with three generations of their family attending many Big Year events and becoming regular restoration volunteers in the Park.

The awards ceremony and celebration was held at 1 pm on Saturday, January 10, 2009 at the Crissy Field Center in the Presidio. It featured free food from Arizmendi Bakery, free 2009 nature almanacs from WildNature, and free subscriptions to Bay Nature magazine for 50 participants. The Parks Conservancy also provided free guides to the GGNRA, and raffled off endangered species T-shirts. After the ceremony, Matt Zlatunich led a short hike to search for the Western Snowy Plover, San Francisco’s very own endangered shorebird. On an unusually warm and sunny January day, all 70 participants got a chance to see five of the birds at the Crissy Field Wildlife Center.

The GGNRA Endangered Species Big Year received extensive media coverage throughout the year, raising awareness about the precarious state of the park’s endangered species. Thousands of actions were taken to help endangered species recover, from calling public officials to removing pampas grass from serpentine seeps. Dozens of volunteers and non-profit organizations made it all possible; if the stars align, look for an announcement about another Big Year in 2010!

BAY-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING
by Casey Allen

Earth Doctors Can Help the Bay Ecosystems
The Earth’s ecosystems are being put under tremendous stress by our human civilization. Land management—from agriculture to our cities—has by far the largest impact. Humans vs. nature is still a commonly-held belief—that in order to survive we must tame the wild and control the plants, animals, and even the land around us. Natural systems are circumvented using energy-intensive techniques creating a vast infrastructure in need of constant attention and upkeep. This is a never ending battle that just costs more and more over time. One example is pumping water hundreds of miles from large reservoirs instead of harvesting the rains on their way down; it will only cost more, never to get cheaper. Rainwater harvesting costs are fixed as the main cost is up front, the maintenance is minimal, and the gravity to move the rain is free.

Less Plant Debris into Landfills
Over the past two decades, there has been a significant reduction in plant debris going into landfills in the San Francisco Bay Area, due in large part to residential recycling programs and to tens of thousands of households practicing backyard composting. This positive trend reflects the interest of residents in recycling plant debris and reducing waste.* But more needs to be done because tons of plant debris are still thrown away each year. Twenty-three states have banned or limited the disposal of plant debris in their landfills; however California has not, and as a result 2.7 million tons of plant debris are landfilled each year. Leaves and clippings are sixth out of the ten most prevalent material types in California’s overall disposal system. In Alameda County alone 110,000 tons of plant debris are landfilled each year, much of which passed through the hands of a professional landscaper.* Other types of waste are also generated by conventional landscaping practices. The horticultural industry in the U.S. throws away almost a half-billion pounds of greenhouse film, plastic pots, and plastic groundwater each year. Annual disposal of leftover pesticides used by residents costs each Bay Area County tens of thousands of dollars—and only a fraction of the pesticides are disposed of properly.*

(BAY-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING continued on page 13)
BAY-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING (continued)

Cut Down on Waste with Good Planning and Techniques
Bay-Friendly landscaping minimizes the use of plastics and pesticides and diverts plant debris from the landfill by preventing waste in the first place through careful plant selection, watering, fertilizing, and reuse of plant materials through grasscycling, mulching, and composting. This integrated solution is essential because generating plant debris is linked to a wide range of landscaping practices such as watering and fertilizing. As professional gardeners we are responsible for wise use of our shared resources. We have the opportunity to manage our sites using environmentally sound techniques and practices, and we can educate our clients and staff with a call to action. We all play a role and have a responsibility to protect our environment. We are Earth doctors and our mantra is “do no harm.”

A Regional Effort
The Bay-Friendly Landscaper Qualification is a program sponsored by regional governments in the nine Bay Area counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano, and Sonoma. The program teaches ways to reduce negative impacts on our environment from landscape maintenance, site design, and construction. Over time it is believed that all of the Bay-Friendly practices will become common practice and may be enacted as law in order to protect our environment.

Today many of the Bay-Friendly techniques are widely used in the industry, such as applying mulch to suppress weeds and retain water. Others may be new to folks as in the case of rainwater harvesting—catching and storing rain water for use in the landscape. There are techniques that may be seen by some as controversial and one of these is greywater—the reuse of water from sinks, laundry, showers, and baths. However it is safe to use to irrigate landscapes and the Bay-Friendly program promotes greywater as a great way to reduce harmful runoff into the bay.

The Bay-Friendly qualification is six weeks long, one day per week. StopWaste.org started the program and their website, <stopwaste.org>, is a great place to find out more about the program, when the next classes are, and where they will be offered. Once you have completed the program your profile will be put on the <stopwaste.org> web site as well as in print ads running in environmental newspapers such as the Sierra Club’s Yedeler. You will be connected to more than 60 other professionals all of whom share the same passion for responsible stewardship of our landscapes. You will learn what others are doing both in public and private projects around the Bay.

Designing for the Whole Systems
Bay-Friendly Landscaping is a whole systems approach to the design, construction, and maintenance of the landscape in order to support the integrity of one of California’s most magnificent ecosystems, the San Francisco Bay watershed. There are seven Bay-Friendly principles and practices*:

1. Landscape Locally.
2. Landscape for Less to the Landfill.
3. Nurture the Soil.
5. Conserve Energy.
6. Protect Water and Air Quality.
7. Create and Protect Wildlife Habitat.

For public spaces, Bay-Friendly landscapes embody community values for health and safety, wildlife, and the environment. For private property, Bay-Friendly landscaping addresses issues that your clients care about, such as lowering water or garbage bills and protecting the environment. A well designed and maintained Bay-Friendly landscape will cost less to maintain in the long run, and will lead to increased customer satisfaction and referrals to new clients.

Learn Best Practices
Classes are offered at the StopWaste.org office in downtown Oakland; in Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County; and in Marin County. These classes are already full; there is a great demand for this qualification. Please sign up for San Francisco’s first class offering sometime in the upcoming year. Contact Casey Allen <casey@sflandscapes.com> for more information.

Now is the time to start learning Bay-Friendly practices because demand for sustainable services is increasing, offering new opportunities for prepared landscape professionals. Act now, as local governments may adopt these standards in the near future, leaving you out of the green economy. Start with the Bay-Friendly Landscape Guidelines Booklet and other information handouts from StopWaste.org and sign up for an upcoming Bay-Friendly qualification class. Also research permaculture, a whole systems design methodology, on the web, as Bay-Friendly is derived from many sources including permaculture.

Defend the Bay
You can be the first line of defense. Whether a site is next to a creek or miles away, your landscaping activities impact the quality of the San Francisco Bay watershed and the global climate. The landscape you design, construct, or maintain can conserve valuable resources, prevent waste, protect wildlife habitat, and reconnect your clients and the public to the beauty and value of the San Francisco Bay ecosystem.

*Source: Bay-Friendly Landscape Guidelines Booklet

"The earth is a garden and each of us only need care for our own part for life to be breathed back into the planet, into the soil, into ourselves.
—John Jeavons, Naturalist

Wyethia angustifolia • mule ears
Sisyrinchium bellum • blue-eyed grass
Adela trigrapha • adelita moth
from Bayview Hill • by Margo Bors
PACIFICA NEWS

PACIFICA STATE BEACH, 12th ANNUAL PLANTING
by Clark Natwick

On January 17, 25 people volunteered to do beach planting and restoration at Pacifica State Beach, for the twelfth year. This year we did it as our way of participating in the Martin Luther King Day of Service. As we helped the local Pacifica State Beach eco-community to thrive, we were joining with volunteers coast to coast to underscore the “we” in “Yes we can.” This effort was organized by Pacifica’s Environmental Family and guided by Mary Petrilli. The Martin Luther King Day of Service was arranged by Pacifican Roy Earnest, who is employed by the Corporation for National & Community Service in Oakland.

Because drought conditions had prevailed before January 17, it was decided that plants would not survive the unseasonable dry conditions, so beach restoration became the order of the day. Mary Petrilli organized everything beautifully. She had people removing ice plant from a large dune near the Crespi stop light. Then, to prevent the sand from blowing onto the sidewalk and across the highway, volunteers distributed the pulled ice plant along the bare sand. Mary and volunteers also went to an area where the native dune grass was dense and put some of that dune grass in a plastic bag that contained damp towels for the roots of the dune grass. David Sands and the Go Native Nursery team will care for the dune grass and next year, weather permitting, the dune grass will be planted at Pacifica State Beach in areas that need more dune grass.

Meanwhile, another group of volunteers removed some of the pernicious, invasive Cape ivy and ice plant from the hill above the sidewalk and east of the wetlands. Other volunteers also removed Cape ivy from the northeastern side of the wetlands. We then hauled the fruits of this harvest to a location east of the sidewalk and a little north of the Crespi stop light. The City of Pacifica picked up those piles on January 20.

One of the volunteers, Mary Keitleman, counted 14 threatened snowy plovers in the dunes not too far from the Crespi stop light.

Here’s the list of folks who signed on for our 2009 Beach Day: Glen Berwick, Pacifica; Larry Anderson, Park Pacifica; Dyer Crouch, Manor District; Cameron Jaggard, Watershed Stewards; Katie Natwick, AmeriCorp, San Mateo; Rebecca Natwick, San Mateo; Sue Willows, San Francisco; Roy Earnest, Pacifica; Tim Duff, Pacifica; Noel Blincoe, Pacifica; Ron Maykel, Pacifica; Mike, Sylvana, and Nerea Northrop, Pacifica; Mary Keitleman, Pacifica; Pam and Russ Teasdale, Sharp Park, Pacifica; Melanie Heisler, Pacifica; Linda and David Peebles, Pacifica; Clark Natwick, Pacifica; Mary Petrilli, Pacifica; and Marco Petrilli, Pacifica. Some other people volunteered but didn’t sign in.

But wait, there is more. On Wednesday, January 21, the drought ended and blessed rain poured Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. This is what Mary was waiting for. With two friends and plants that Mary had discovered at Go Native Nursery on January 17, Mary was back in the sand dunes near the Crespi stop light. On January 23, Mary and friends planted ten beach sagewort, six seaside daisy, three beach primrose, three knotweed, three coyote bush, six Chamisso’s lupine (Mary’s favorite), and four dune tansy. The beautiful lupine were planted especially for a man who was irate about losing ice plant with its purple flowers. Native dune grass was also gathered and transplanted.

Special thanks to the City of Pacifica for lending tools; supplying energy bars; and picking up the harvest of ice plant, Cape ivy, and other invasive plants which, if they are left to thrive will dominate and crowd out the native plants. Also, a big thank you to the Pacifica Beach Coalition who loaned and donated gear and equipment.
CHAPTER NEWS

NATIVE PLANTS IN STORMWATER DESIGN
COMING SOON
by Mark Heath

The Yerba Buena Chapter has been working with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission on the utilization of California Native Plants in Low Impact Design Stormwater Management Projects <http://sfwater.org/mto_main.cfm/MC_ID/14/MSC_ID/361/MTO_ID/541>. Our Chapter has developed a recommended “local-natives” plant list that will be a component of the upcoming SFPUC Stormwater Design Project Design Guide. This design guide is intended for contractors, engineers, and architects who will be designing and building green stormwater systems in San Francisco’s near future. These new design guidelines will help redirect stormwater from traditional pipes and gutters into natural vegetated systems, such as landscaped planters, swales, and gardens that reduce, filter, or slow the runoff so we can use it locally to green the City instead of piping and treating it offsite. So keep on the lookout for your favorite natives who may be soon invading your neighborhood streets and parking lots!!!

COMMUNITY THRIFT
by Randy Zebell

I just received a check for $154.92 from Community Thrift (CT) for CNPS. Our CT update is $870.14 for 2008. This compares to $2143.91 for 2007 and $519.08 for 2006. Our grand total is $3,688.05 for three-and-a-quarter years of participation.

Donating to CT is easy. Simply drop off clean and saleable items at the CT donation door and ask them to list CNPS (charity #152) as the beneficiary. The donation door is located at the south side of the building on Sycamore Alley, parallel to 17th and 18th Streets and perpendicular to Mission and Valencia Streets. Sycamore runs one way from Mission toward Valencia. The donation door is open from 10 am to 5 pm every day. Community Thrift is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency and your donation is tax deductible. Thanks to everyone who continues to support our chapter in this way.

[Cole Hardware—Your purchases at Cole Hardware can also benefit our chapter. When shopping at any one of the Cole Hardware stores, please tell the cashier to credit #1424. Cole Hardware will then credit 10% of your total purchase to the CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter. —Editor]

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!
November 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009
Cynthia Avakian, Lewis Butler, Mimi Clarke, William Collins, Denise Gilbert, David Kruse, Pamela McGee, Carole McLaughlin, Ellen Natesan, Crima Poppe, Carol Rominger, Monica Viarengo, Matt Wilson, Charollete Worchester

BOARD MEETINGS
Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend Board of Directors meetings, which are scheduled for 7:15 pm on the second Monday of every month except August and December. Meetings will be held on March 9, April 13, and May 11 at the home of Roland and Barbara Petschel, 99 Ellsworth Street. Contact Tom Annese (415-297-1413 <tomannese@yahoo.com>) for information, or the Petschel (415-282-5066 <bpandrp@peoplepc.com>) for directions.

CHAIRS & OFFICERS
President
Tom Annese 415-297-1413
tomannese@yahoo.com
Vice President
Linda Shaffer 415-206-1428
shaffer.linda@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer
Adrian Stroganoff 650-359-1642
adriansro@nyc.com
Secretary
Susan Floore 415-285-4692
sfloore@att.net
Chapter Council Delegate
position vacant
Alt. Chapter Council Delegate
Linda Shaffer 415-206-1428
shaffer.linda@sbcglobal.net
Conservation Chair
Jake Sigg 415-731-3028
jakesigg@earthlink.net
San Mateo County
Conservation Chair
Mike Vasey 650-359-7034
mvasey@sfusd.edu
Education Chair
position vacant
Field Trips Chair
Tom Annese 415-297-1413
tomannese@yahoo.com
Hospitality Chair
Nancy Rosenthal 415-928-2690
415mizum@comcast.net
Invasive Exotics Chair
Mark Heath 415-235-0987
heathan@jubata.com
Legislation Chair
Linda Shaffer 415-206-1428
shaffer.linda@sbcglobal.net
Lepidopterist
Liam O’Brien 415-863-1212
liammmail56@yahoo.com
Medicine Chair
Suzanne Harmon 209-275-7396
soozanne_b@yahoo.com
Membership Development Chair
Tom Annese 415-297-1413
tomannese@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor
Barbara Petschel 415-282-5066
bpandrp@peoplepc.com
Photo Documentation Chair
Margo Bors 415-824-0471
mcbors@comcast.net
Photo Documentation Chair
Greg Gaar 415-584-3985
duncansy@yahoo.com
Plant Sales Chair
Licia De Meco 415-668-3126
liciademeo@gmail.com
Posters and Book Sales Chair
Ludmila Stroganoff 650-359-1642
milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net
Presidio Chair
Peter Brastow 415-564-4107
peter@natureintheocity.org
Programs Chair
Jake Sigg 415-731-3028
jakesigg@earthlink.net
Assistant Programs Chair
Barbara Petschel 415-282-5066
bpandrp@peoplepc.com
Publications Chair
Roland Petschel 415-282-5066
bpandrp@peoplepc.com
Publicity Chair
Sharon Kato 415-752-7031
skkato@aol.com
Rare Plants Chair
Peter Brastow 415-564-4107
peter@natureintheocity.org
Rare Plants Chair
Michael Wood 925-939-3266
wood-biological@ mindspring.com
San Bruno Mountain Chair
Doug Allhouse 415-584-5114
dougr@rcn.com
Seed Bank Chair
Don Mahoney 510-233-4624
dmahoney@sfbotanicalgarden.org
Webmaster
Kipp McMichael 510-759-3178
kimcmich@hotmail.com
Director at Large
Casey Allen 415-572-1144
Casey@4Flscapes.com
Director at Large
Norie Yee 415-824-3312
norie@galercs.com
JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Learn to understand California’s unique flora and help to preserve this rich heritage for future generations.

___ Yes, I’d like to join.

Affiliation: Yerba Buena Chapter

Membership Category

___ $1,500 Mariposa Lily
___ $600 Benefactor
___ $300 Patron
___ $100 Plant Lover
___ $75 Family
___ $45 Individual
___ $25 Limited Income/Student

Make your check to “CNPS”
and mail with this form to:
California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

Name ________________________________
Address ______________________________________
City __________________ State ________
Zip __________ Telephone ________________

Visit: www.cnps-yerbabuena.org

YERBA BUENA NEWS

Volume 23, number 1 (March 2009)
Published quarterly by the Yerba Buena Chapter California Native Plant Society
Editor – Barbara M. Pitschel
Desktop publishing – Kipp McMichael
Production Coordination – Roland Pitschel
Masthead design – Barry Deutsch
Chapter logo – Nancy Baron

DEADLINES FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER
Articles & general copy – April 15
Time-dependent material – May 1
Late-breaking news – By arrangement

California Native Plant Society
Yerba Buena Chapter
PO Box 1977
Murphys, CA 95247-1977

YERBA BUENA NEWS

THE YERBA BUENA CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY FOR SAN FRANCISCO AND NORTHERN SAN MATEO COUNTY

ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO: PO BOX 1977, MURPHYS, CA 95247-1977