**PROGRAMS**

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 Barbara Pitschel at 415-282-5066 by the Wednesday evening preceding the program.

**MARCH 4, THURSDAY**

*Texture and Diversity: A Visual Tour of Lichens*

7:30 pm, Speaker: Stephen Sharnoff

*Plant Identification Workshop*

6 to 7:15 pm, Leader: Gail Wechsler

We asked Steve Sharnoff to repeat his very popular June 2002 presentation to our chapter. Lichens grow everywhere the air is clean, and they add texture and beauty to the landscape, but they are often overlooked. However, many are not so easy to overlook, as can be seen in the superbly beautiful photography by Steve and his late wife Sylvia in the monumental *Lichens of North America*, text by Dr. Irwin Brodo of the Canadian Museum of Nature, first published by Yale University Press in 2001. No one has captured their beauty and interest better than Steve and Sylvia. One glance at these exceedingly interesting organisms—a lichen is a symbiosis between components of two unrelated kingdoms—and you will not ignore them again. Steve will present a slide show of lichens, mostly close-up, with a focus on California species. He will talk about their biology, natural history, and importance, and your awareness of the world around you will be stimulated. In addition to his botanical work, Steve has been documenting environmental and cultural changes in California and in France, working with the themes of memory, time, and effects of globalization. He is currently working on a new field guide to the wildflowers and flowering shrubs of the Sierra Nevada; the text for this book is being written by Joanna Clines, Forest Botanist for Sierra National Forest and long-time CNPS activist. Other photographic projects include the cemeteries of Paris and Provence, and the world from the point of view of a very young child. Steve lives in Berkeley, where he also works as a carpenter and building contractor. You can see examples of his work on his website at <http://www.sharnoffphotos.com/>. He can be reached at <lichen@idiom.com>.

**APRIL 1, THURSDAY**

*Edgewood: A Park For All Seasons and For All Times*

7:30 pm, Speakers: Ken Himes & Paul Heiple

*Plant Identification Workshop*

6 to 7:15 pm, Leader: Gail Wechsler

Some of our members remember the hair-raising history of Edgewood Park. During the late 1960s, a concerned citizen, Susan Sommers, recognizing something extraordinarily special, began documenting Edgewood’s rare species and diversity and started the fight to protect it. CNPS Santa Clara Valley (SCV) Chapter became involved, and in the 1980s took legal action on behalf of the endangered species. More than 40 organizations formed a coalition to preserve Edgewood. Finally, in 1993, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors declared Edgewood County Park a Natural Preserve Area. Edgewood is a bit of California that has some of the best wildflower displays available locally, with carpets of bloom abounding during the spring months. It is a place of interest and beauty at all times of the year, with habitats as diverse as woodland, extensive serpentine grassland, and chaparral. The restoration program is active year-round to remove invasive non-native plants and restore local natives, making it an improving park and a place of beauty for all time. Ken Himes and Paul Heiple will present Edgewood through the seasons and through time to show the treasures and the changes that are occurring and have occurred in the park. It is a trip that is pure California at its finest.

Ken Himes has been leading field trips and has been involved with restoration efforts at Edgewood for nearly two decades. He has been a plant aficionado and student since childhood, is retired from a career with the Belmont Parks and Recreation Department, has served actively with the CNPS SCV Chapter since 1985, and was named a CNPS Fellow in 2006. Ken’s greatest inspiration was a 1960s talk by G. Ledyard Stebbins on biological islands, of which Edgewood is certainly a prime example. Paul Heiple is a naturalist, interested in all aspects of science in the natural world. His interest in plants also goes back to his childhood. He currently has a collection of succulent plants, carnivorous plants, and a hillside restored to native plants. His interest in weeds started early as well, and he continues to weed today as a volunteer, active gardener, and a member of Acterra.
PROGRAMS (continued)

(Action For a Sustainable Earth). He is also active in the CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter, co-chair of the San Mateo County Weed Management Area, member of the Portola Valley Conservation Committee, head Friday weeder at Edgewood County Park, and an associate at Jasper Ridge, where he works in the herbarium. Paul is a geologist by training. He worked for Getty Oil Company exploring for oil in the Williston Basin of North Dakota. His early observation of the connection between where plants grow and the rocks underneath was very useful when mapping geology in the East, where most of the rocks are covered by soil.

MAY 6, THURSDAY, 5:30 to 7:30 pm
Some California Flowering Shrubs for Our Gardens
7:30 pm, Speaker: Ted Kipping
Plant Identification Workshop
6 to 7:15 pm, Leader: Gail Wechsler
While gazing in rapture at fields of spring wildflowers or hidden wildflower treasures, or while craneing our necks to observe majestic California trees, we sometimes overlook the amazing array of shrubs that are native to our state and our chapter area. (As a reminder, see the Rare Plant section of this newsletter to read about the history and rediscovery of our local presumed-extinct-in-the-wild shrub, Franciscan manzanita, pages 12-13.) Planting with some of our native flowering shrubs nearly guarantees garden bloom and/or fruiting in every season. Ted Kipping is unsurpassed as the person to introduce us to a sampling of the myriad possibilities. Those of you who have enjoyed Ted’s own amazing garden on our annual spring Garden Tour know his artistic and horticultural skills. If you have joined his field trips, or his CNPS walks on our special evenings in SF Botanical Garden’s native plant garden, you have experienced his extraordinary breadth of natural history, earth science, and plant science knowledge, and his unsurpassed ability to see, interpret, and explain his observations. Add to this his skill at conveying this information through his exquisite and often breathtaking photographs, and your can prepare for an informative and enjoyable evening. An arborist by profession, Ted founded a tree pruning business, Tree Shapers, and earned a reputation as one of the most artistic of Bay Area arborists. He is active in a wide array of horticultural societies and has been an active member of our CNPS chapter since its inception.

FIELD TRIPS
Trips are held rain or shine, but heavy rain cancels unless otherwise noted. Contacts for additional information are listed at the end of each field trip description. 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. SEE ALSO LIST OF WALKS TO SEARCH FOR LOCAL RARE PLANT TREASURES ON PAGE 11!

MARCH 13, SATURDAY, 10 am to 1 pm
Glen Canyon Wildflowers (San Francisco County)
Leaders: Richard Craib & Jake Sigg
Cosponsored by Friends of Glen Canyon
Climate change means wildflowers are abundant by mid-March, and abundant rains assure growth and flowering of wildflowers (and, unfortunately, invasive plants). Checkerbloom, lomatium, blue-eyed grass, buttercups, and probably coast sunflower (mule’s ears) should regale us—not to overlook our wonderful bunchgrasses which are the foundation of the wildflower community. Friends of Glen Canyon’s beautiful, new, full-color wildflower guide will debut on this walk. Meet behind the Glen Park Recreation Center, where the developed part of the canyon stops and the wild part starts. (Contact: Rich Craib <richcraib@gmail.com> or 415-648-0862)

MARCH 27, SATURDAY, 10 am to 1 pm
Twin Peaks Watershed (San Francisco County)
Leader: Amber Hasselbring
We will meet at the Noe Valley Farmers’ Market (3861 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez) and walk up 24th Street and underneath the Portola Drive overpass where there are remnants of Precita Creek; we will continue up stairways and walking paths to the top of Twin Peaks. This walk will focus on the natural topography of the land and how water has shaped the urban landscape of road and sewage systems underfoot. We will stop at various viewpoints to look eastward toward the Bay as we climb to a 922-foot elevation. Walking through urbanized spaces, we’ll discuss sidewalk gardens and other ecologically sensitive ways to improve San Francisco’s ecosystems. As we enter the creek site and Twin Peaks we will discuss gardening for habitat, botany, history, geography, birds, and insects. Wear boots that can get wet. Bring water and light snacks. (Contact: Amber Hasselbring <amber@art-eco.org> or 415-786-4957)

FUTURE PROGRAMS
June 3—Butterflies and Bulldozers: San Bruno Mountain—Steve Dunksy
July 1—Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN): Solving Tomorrow’s Problems Today—Daniel Gluesenkamp
August 5—San Francisco Botanical Garden Native Plant Garden—Garden Tour & Bag Lunch
September 2—Bristlecone Pines of the White Mountains: Long-Lived and Long-Dead Charismatic Megaflora—Adelia Barber

APRIL 10, SATURDAY, 10 am to Noon
Glen Canyon Spiders (San Francisco County)
Leader: Darrell Ubick & Rich Craib
Cosponsored by Friends of Glen Canyon
Past springs’ spider field trips in Glen Canyon were so hugely successful that we have decided to offer the adventure again this year. 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

(FIELD TRIPS continued on page 3)
FIELD TRIPS (continued)

ages on previous trips vouched for that. Darrell wants to repeat the walk in Glen Canyon to compare it with what we saw in past years. 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 cancel. Meet up-canyon from the Recreation Center in Glen Park where the lawn stops and the wild part of the canyon starts. (Contact: Rich Craib <richcraib@gmail.com> or 415-648-0862)

APRIL 17, SATURDAY, 10 am to 3 pm
San Bruno Mountain Summit Trail (San Mateo County)
Leader: Doug Allshouse
The Summit Trail is a three-mile loop that stretches over most of the northern portion of San Bruno Mountain; it is the most species-rich trail on the mountain, with 170 natives documented. Near the summit we find mostly Franciscan Coastal Scrub and Coastal Terrace Prairie and in the lower reaches we encounter Central Coast Riparian Scrub and fresh water seeps. Isolated grasslands dot the ridges and are home to numerous wildflowers. We’ll see rare plants such as San Bruno Mountain manzanita (Arctostaphylos imbricata var. imbricata), woodland star (Lithophragma affine), rock cress (Arabis blepharophylla), and California saxifrage (Saxifraga californica), as well as the host plants for the mountain’s three endangered butterflies. Meet in the main parking lot on the north side of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway just past the ranger’s kiosk. We will then shuttle to the summit, hike down the mountain’s east side, and have lunch at the picnic area. From there we will complete our trip, passing by seeps and April Brook, then climbing up the western ridges back to the summit, gaining about 650 feet over gentle sloping terrain. Admission to the park is five dollars at the unstaffed kiosk. (Be prepared with correct change.) Weather on the mountain is a box of chocolates. The trail has sheltered areas and exposed ridge lines so bring layers of clothing. Rain rules apply. (Contact: Doug Allshouse <dougsr228@comcast.net> or 415-584-5114)

APRIL 24, SATURDAY, 9 am
Montara Mountain Brooks Creek Trail (San Mateo County)
Leader: Toni Corelli
Cospo nsored by Friends of San Pedro Valley Park
Join botanist, environmental consultant, and long-time member of the CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter Toni Corelli for a wildflower hike on the Brooks Creek-Montara Mountain loop in San Pedro Valley Park. Toni has lived on the San Mateo Coast and botanized the local flora for 20 years; many of our members enjoyed her program and field trip on the coastal flora last year. Toni is the author of The Rare and Endangered Plants of San Mateo and Santa Clara County. You can also see her Checklist of Plants of Montara Mountain at <www.stanford.edu/~corelli/montara.html>. Meet at the visitor center of San Pedro Valley County Park at the end of Linda Mar Boulevard in Pacifica. (Contact: Carolyn Pankow <carolynjune@pankow@yahoo.com> or 650-355-7466)

MAY 8, SATURDAY, 10 am to 2 pm
Yerba Buena Island (San Francisco County)
Leaders: Mike Wood, Ruth Gravanis, Jake Sigg
It has been a couple of years since Mike Wood last led a public tour of Yerba Buena Island (YBI). But with the upcoming transfer of a portion of this natural island from the Navy to the City, and with the Habitat Management Plan in the works, it’s high time for another tour. A prominent feature of San Francisco Bay, located just off our city’s shores, YBI was entirely overlooked by early botanical explorers. This familiar yet little-known feature of the bay was placed under military control in 1868 and was off-limits to the public for 130 years. But with the closure of the naval facility and its transfer back to the public, you can now see for yourself some of the botanical treasures that represent the indigenous flora of the island. Join us for a circumnavigation of this natural geologic feature. In addition to astounding views of the city and bay, visit a pygmy oak grove, see willows growing in mangrove-like colonies that dip into salt water, see the locally rare dune gilia, fiesta flower, and Dutchman’s pipevine (host for the beautiful pipevine swallowtail butterfly). We’ll see fern gottrots, coastal scrub, and wonderful specimens of toyon, buckeye, and California hazelnut. Western gulls nest on the island and harbor seals haul out near the oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the West Coast. There are no trails or sidewalks so we’ll have to walk single-file along some busy and narrow roads. The terrain is steep and challenging—recommended for moderately strong hikers with good balance. We’ll meet at the parking lot just inside the main gate to Treasure Island. Catch the #108 Muni bus at the third level of the transbay terminal. Bring sturdy shoes or boots, hats, water, a snack, and a camera. Group size is limited. (RESERVE YOUR SPOT IN ADVANCE Contact: Mike Wood <wood-biological@mindspring.com> or 925-899-1282)

MAY 16, SUNDAY, 10 am to 2 pm
Point Molate Grassland (contra Costa County)
Leaders: David Amme & Lech Naumovich
Cospo nsored by CNPS East Bay & Marin Chapters
The grasslands of the Potrero Hills at Point Molate are one of the last undeveloped landscapes on San Francisco Bay with intact native coastal bunchgrass prairies, currently threatened by a proposed mega-casino development under consideration by the City of Richmond and the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Potrero Hills is an “almost-island” peninsula in the narrows of San Pablo
FIELD TRIPS (continued)

Bay in the rain shadow of the high hills of Marin County, with a
spectacular view of Mt. Tamalpais, San Francisco, and San Pablo
Bay. On the knolls and swales overlooking the Bay are precious
coastal prairie meadows transitioning into valley grassland. California
oatgrass grows with purple needlegrass, squirreltail, junegrass, and
red fescue adjacent to patches of California fescue and the unique
robust form of creeping wildrye. Mix in large patches of Diego
bentgrass and you are sure to want to lie down, eat lunch, and take
a nap. Perhaps the most interesting grass is the Molate red fescue.
The waxy blue forms of red fescue hop down the north coast from
Patrick’s Point to the Mendocino coast, Point Arena, and the Bay
Area. The red fescue form on the Potrero Hills is both ornamental
and drought tolerant. Where else would you find a red fescue
happily hanging out with squirreltail and purple needlegrass? Molate
fescue is the most winter-active red fescue on Planet Earth. When
the soil dries out in the late spring, the gray waxy coat carries it
into summer dormancy with dignity; it reappears green and
succulent in the spring. On this trip we will revel in this as yet
undisturbed beauty and discuss what can be done to save it. CNPS
and the California Native Grasslands Association (CNGA) is
encouraging Bay Area residents to get involved in the fate of this
unique and special place. See article by Jim Hanson on page 10 of
this newsletter. A PDF-format copy of a more detailed article by
Jim from the Winter 2010 issue of CNGA’s Grasslands may be
obtained by contacting Judy G-Scott at <admin@cnga.org>. Point
Molate is just north of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. From the
Bay Bridge, head north on I-80, take the 1-580 split on the right
just before Albany Hill, and head toward the Richmond-San Rafael
Bridge. Just before the toll plaza take the right at the Western
Drive/Point Molate exit. Proceed straight on this road which
gradually rises a hill curving more towards the north. As the road
descends the hill, park at the parking lot on the right just before
the “Point Molate Restricted Area” open gate/chain link fence. Bag
lunch, sunscreen, hat, and water are essential; hand lens and camera
are good options. (Contact: David Amme
<damme@epiphany2000.com>; office 510-544-2344;
cell 510-432-6141)

MAY 22, SATURDAY, 10 am to Noon
Glen Canyon Butterflies
(San Francisco County)
Leader: Liam O’Brien
Cosponsored by Friends of Glen Canyon
Liam O’Brien is a lepidopterist who spent 2007 and 2009 surveying
the remaining butterfly species within San Francisco County. One
of his sites was the beautiful Glen Canyon—the topography and
flora of which pull in a number of uncommon butterfly species for
our city. We might see one of our rare Satyr Anglewings, which
use the stinging nettle along the creek as host plants. Come spend
a few hours strolling the valley and take a course in Butterfly 101.
Liam will be catching and releasing lots of things and the walk will
focus on the host plant-butterfly dynamic. Cross your fingers for
sunshine. The Nature in the City field guide that Liam created from
his work, The Butterflies of San Francisco will be available for a five
dollar donation. Note: Overcast weather CANCELS a butterfly
walk. Unlike plants, butterflies won’t come out if it’s overcast,
iclement, or raining. (Contact: Liam O’Brien
<liammail56@yahoo.com> or 415-863-1212).

ACTIVITIES

GGNRA RARE PLANT SEARCHES
see special section on page 11

SAN FRANCISCO NATURAL HISTORY SERIES
4th Thursday of each month, 7:30 pm,
Randall Museum Theater
Monthly illustrated talks on San Francisco’s natural history by
expert naturalists are held at 199 Museum Way,
off Roosevelt Way. Donations are appreciated.
Information: Philip Gerrie at 415-641-7457 or
<glassgerrie@earthlink.net>
<www.randallmuseum.org/SanFranciscoNaturalHistorySeries.aspx>

NATURE IN THE CITY
Talks: in partnership with Shaping SF
Last Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm
CounterPULSE, 1310 Mission at 9th Street
March 31—Ecology and Journalism
May 26—San Miguel Hills: Transitional Strategy for the
Heart of San Francisco
Information: 415-626-2060 or
<http://natureinthecity.org/TALKS.php>
More about Nature in the City: 415.564.4107 or
<steward@natureinthecity>

Walks: Spaces limited, RSVP required, $10-$20 donation
supports Nature in the City programs
March 28, Sunday, 9 am to noon—Stay Tuned for Spring
on Twin Peaks—Josiah Clark
April 3, Saturday, 1 to 2:30 pm—Urban Nature
Adventure—Ruth Gravanis
April 10, Saturday, 10 am to noon—Mt. Sutro in Bloom—
Craig Dawson
April 10, Saturday, 10 am to noon—URBIA Adventure
League in Green Hairstreak Corridor—Family-friendly)
April 17, Saturday, 1 to 3 pm—Twin Peaks
Watershed and Botany Walk—Amber
Hasselbring

Danthonia californica
California oatgrass
by Kristin Jakob
ACTIVITIES (continued)

April 24, Saturday, 11 am to 1 pm—Green Hairstreak Butterfly Corridor—Liam O’Brien
April 25, Sunday, 8:30 to 11am—Spring Bird Migration at Mt. Davidson—Dominik Mosur
May 2, Sunday, 11am to 1 pm—Green Hairstreak Butterfly Corridor—Liam O’Brien
May 29, Saturday, 9:30 am to noon—Get Out & Get Dirty in Golden Gate Park—Chris Giorni (Family-friendly)
Please visit <natureinthecity.org> for more information on these and other hikes & events.

Contact: Iris Clearwater
<iris@natureinthecity.org> or 415-564-4107

Calyptorhys dumetorum
Green hairstreak

CALIFORNIA NATIVE GRASSLANDS ASSOCIATION
Grass Identification Workshop
Saturday, May 22, 8:30 am to Sunday, May 23, 4 pm
Identifying and Appreciating the Native and Naturalized Grasses of California
Instructors: David Amme & Wade Belew
Day 1: Point Reyes Dance Palace, 503 B Street, Point Reyes Station
Day 2: Field Sites, local grasslands
Grasses are fun and easy to identify. Learn about California’s grassland ecology and the qualities of specific native grasses for restoration, and become skilled at recognizing the basic groups and common species by working with plant samples in the classroom and in the field. A valuable class syllabus binder and basic keys will be provided.

Registration: Judy G-Scott (530-661-2280 or <admin@cnga.org>) or <www.cnga.org>

CNPS EDUCATION PROGRAM
CNPS Workshops and Professional Training
The CNPS Plant Science Training Program provides professional botanists, biologists, and ecologists with skills, tools and resources for conducting sound scientific surveys for rare plants, rare plant communities, vegetation, wetlands, and invasive plants. Discounted registration fees for CNPS members. A Work Exchange Program is available for reduced or waived workshop fees.
Registration or more information: Contact Josie Crawford at 916-447-2677 or <jcrfawrd@cnps.org>
March 1 to 5—Dunes, Wetlands, and Coastal Scrub Volcanoes: An Introduction to the Plants and Habitats of the San Quintin, Baja California—Sula Vanderplank, John Rebman
March 25 to 27—Rare Plants and Habitats of Eastern San Luis Obispo County—David Keil, Deborah Hillyard, Kevin Merk
March 29 to 31—Vegetation Rapid Assessment: Carrizo Plain—Todd Keebler-Wolf, Julie Evens
April 12 to 14—Vernal Pool Plant Taxonomy: UC Davis and Central Valley Sites—Carol Witham, Nick Jensen
April 15 to 16—Classification of Vernal Pool Plant Communities: Central Valley Sites—Michael Barbour, Ayzik Solomeshi
May 4 to 6—Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations: TreePeople’s Cold Water Canyon Park (on Ridgeline Between Beverly Hills and Studio City)—John Willoughby
May 18 to 20—Riparian Ecology and Restoration: UC Davis

with Field Trips to Marin County and Central Valley Watersheds—Bruce Orr, Amy Merrill

FRIENDS OF REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN
Information, costs, location, details, and registration:
Contact: John Rusk 510-528-80526 or <john@rusk.com>
Sunday, March 14, 10 am to 12:30 pm —Tending the Native Plant Garden: A Workshop at the Fleming Garden
—Luke Hass
Sundays, March 21 & 28, 10 am to 2:30 pm —Learning All About Our Native Lilies—Glenn Keator
Saturday, April 10, 9:30 am to Noon—Spring Native Plant Workshop in a Private Garden—Katherine Greenberg
Sunday, April 25, 10 am to 3 pm—Botanizing California: Mines Road—Glenn Keator
Saturday, May 1, 10 am to 4 pm —The Spring Color Palette
—Andie Thrams
Sunday, May 2, 10 am to 4 pm—Watercolors in the Field
—Andie Thrams
Sunday, May 16, 10 am to 3:30 pm—Botanizing California: Mount Vision at Point Reyes National Seashore
—Glenn Keator

JEPSON HERBARIUM WORKSHOPS
The 2010 workshop program is online and classes are open for enrollment. <ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops>
Public programs are designed to help botanical enthusiasts, from beginners to specialists, gain a unique perspective on the flora of California as they learn from the experts and interact with fellow botanists. Basic Botany classes are designed for participants with little or no botanical background. Weekend Workshop classes serve botanists, ecologists, conservationists, educators, interested amateurs, biological consultants, and agency employees. Botanical Illustration classes serve participants with little or no botanical background.

Contact: Cecile Shohet, Coordinator, Public Education <eshohet@berkeley.edu> or 510-643-7008

VERNAL POOLS CONFERENCE
Vernal Pool Conservation: Research, Progress, and Problems. Is Recovery Possible?
March 25 & 26, Thursday & Friday, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, Chico
AquaAlliance, Vernal Pool Landscapes Committee
Sponsors include the Rose Foundation, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game. Fieldtrips to explore some magnificent local sites on Friday. Eminent scholars, agency representatives, and other professionals will present research and case studies regarding plant and animal species dependent on the vernal pool ecosystem, conservation efforts, legal cases, and management techniques that have been used to enhance the economic and habitat viability of certain lands. Science and vernal pool conservation research questions, methodologies, and applications will be addressed. California has lost 95% of its estimated five million acres of wetlands that were present in the 1780s. With the Central Valley gaining population twice as fast as the rest of the state, vernal pool landscapes continue to be lost at an alarming rate. The conference will assist planners, ranchers, conservationists, students, and builders to understand the importance of the vernal pool ecosystem and what mechanisms exist or are currently under development to protect it.

Details & Registration: <www.aqualliance.net>
FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW
by Ellen Edelson

CNPS CHAPTERS PARTICIPATE IN 2010 SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW!
San Mateo Event Center, 2495 South Delaware Street
Wednesday to Saturday, March 24 to 27, 10 am to 8 pm
Sunday, March 28, 9 am to 6 pm

Volunteers Needed!!!

CNPS will have a booth at the annual San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, which is now held at the San Mateo Event Center in San Mateo. This has been the Bay Area’s premier garden event for 25 years. There are garden displays, seminars, children’s activities, and many educational and sales booths. It is a prime opportunity to tell the gardening public about CNPS—highlighting our activities and our vision. We will introduce many people to CNPS and, of course, promote gardening with natives!

Our Beautiful Booth Last Year Was a Great Success! Over the five day event, volunteers from five Bay Area Chapters—Yerba Buena (San Francisco & Northern San Mateo Counties), Marin, Willis Linn Jepson (Solano County), East Bay, and Santa Clara Valley—informed thousands of people about CNPS. Using the impressive array of plants in our display, we explained the benefits of planting local natives, signed up many new members, and had lots of fun! We plan to do it again!

This is a five-day event, so we need many volunteers to help out. We will need people to help design, set up, and break down the booth and to staff the booth in two-and-a-half-hour shifts. Working a shift includes access to the entire show for the whole day! Public transportation is encouraged; BART and Caltrain are nearby with shuttle service to the show. First come, first served! This is a fun and easy way for members to support CNPS and our Yerba Buena Chapter. Enthusiastic new members and Jepson Manual-carrying veterans are equally encouraged to participate!

For show information: <www.gardenshow.com>
To Volunteer, contact Ellen Edelson at 415-531-2140 (cell) or e.edelson@sbglobal.net

HABITAT RESTORATION

 Bookmark the daily event calendar at <http://cnps-yerbabuena.org/calendar>

Alemany Native Plant Garden. Third Sundays, 1 to 5 pm. Contact Casey Allen, 415-572-1144 or casey@sflandscapes.com.


Bernal Hilltop. Third Sundays, 11 am to 2 pm. Information Barbara Pittsch 415-282-5066; Work party contact Jake Sigg jakesigg@earthlink; Groups contact Kristin Bowman@sfgov.org or 415-831-6325.

Brisbane Acres. First Saturdays, 1 to 4 pm. Tools and gloves provided. Contact: Ken McIntire 415-467-6631 or sanbruno@mountainwatch.org.

Buena Vista Park. First Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Contact Kristin Bowman@sfgov.org or 415-831-6325.

Candlestick State Park Nursery, 1150 Carroll Street. First Saturdays, 9 am to noon. BayYouth for the Environment. Contact Patrick Rumph bye@leyouth.org.

Castro-Duncan Open Space. Contact Dave Thompson or Gloria Koh-Choung 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 Saturdays, 10 am to noon. Contact Jim Houllion 415-532-3542 or coronavolunteers@sonic.net.

Edgehill Mt. Park. Second Saturdays, 1 to 3 pm. Contact Stan Kaufman 415-681-4954 or skaufman@epmetrics.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, 9:30 am to 2 pm with lunch break. Contact volunteer@parkconservancy.org or 415-331-0732. Locations hotline: 415-561-4848.

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


Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. Milagra Ridge, Mori Point. Saturdays. Contact Christina Crocker CCrocker@parkconservancy.org.

Golden Gate Park Oak Woodlands. Second Saturdays, 10 am to 12:30 pm. Contact Rob Bakewell 415-221-1137 or 415-710-9617 (cell) or rcbakewell@yahoo.com.

Haight Ashbury Stewards. Contact Nature in the City 415-564-4107.

Half Moon Bay State Park. 650-726-8801.

Herons Head Park. Second Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Contact Myla Ablog 415-282-6840 or heronshead@leyouth.org.

Lake Merced. First Saturdays, 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 ccchristman@parkconservancy.org.

Marin Headlands Native Plant Nursery. Wednesday, 1 to 4 pm & Saturday, 9 am to noon. Contact 415-332-5193 or AShor@parkconservancy.org.

McLaren Park. Second Saturdays, 10 am to noon. Contact Kristin Bowman@sfgov.org or 415-831-6325.

Mission Creek Bank Restoration. Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm. Contact Bob Isaacson 415-552-4577 or rbsaasoon@gmail.com.

Mt. Davidson. First Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Friends of Mt. Davidson. Contact Stan Kaufman 415-681-4954 or skaufman@epmetrics.com.

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

OriZaba/Shields Hilltop. Dates TBA. Contact Gary Schwantes 415-239-0248.

Pacheco & 12th Avenue. Contact Barbara Kobayashi okin1946@yahoo.com.

Pacifico’s Environmental Family. Fourth Sundays, 10 am. Contact Shirley Suhrer 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 ASfarron@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 PresidioParkStewards@parkconservancy.org.

Redwood Creek Nursery and Stewards. Wednesday & Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm. Contact 415-383-4390 or RedwoodCreek@parkconservancy.org.


SF Recreation & Parks Department. Natural Areas Program. Kristin Bowman@sfgov.org or 415-831-6325.

San Pedro Valley County Park, Pacifica. Third Saturdays, 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 nursery work Wednesdays. Contact Jocelyn Gertz 510-452-9261 x109 or www.savesfay.org/bayevents.

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

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

Delphinium parryi n larkspur n by Margo Bors
GARDEN TOURS

6th ANNUAL CNPS YERBA BUENA CHAPTER SPRING TOUR OF NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

San Francisco County
Sunday, April 25, 11 am to 3 pm
FREE ADMISSION, NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

SAVE THIS DATE for the Native Plant Garden Tour organized by CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter. This is a prime opportunity to see what can be done with native plants in San Francisco gardens. There will be a variety of gardens including private gardens, gardens in transition, front only gardens, public gardens, and possibly some gardens at which plants will be for sale. This popular event is being planned as we go to press. Check the chapter website in March for more information. If you know of gardens that should be included, please contact Susan Floore at <sfloore@att.net> or 415-285-4692. Also please let Susan know if you can volunteer to help by co-hosting at one of the gardens on the day of the tour.

visit www.cnps-yerbabuena.org/gardentour for up-to-date information

8th ANNUAL GOING NATIVE GARDENTOUR
San Francisco Peninsula & Santa Clara Valley
Sunday, April 18, 10 am to 4 pm
FREE ADMISSION, Registration required
<www.goingnativegardentour.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. 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, contact <info@goingnativegardentour.org>. Please be sure to include a subject line. This tour is organized and operated by volunteers working evenings and weekends. Allow sufficient time for a response.

“Beauty is its own excuse for being.”
—Ralph Waldo Emerson, The Rhodora

6th ANNUAL BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
Sunday, May 2, 10 am to 5 pm
FREE ADMISSION, Registration required
<www.bringingbackthenatives.net>
Free Self-Guided Tour: As usual, the free Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour will take place on the first Sunday in May. Fifty beautiful native plant gardens, including a variety of bird- and butterfly-friendly, pesticide-free, water-conserving, low maintenance gardens that contain 50% or more native plants will be open. More than 40 garden talks will be scheduled throughout the day. Please DO NOT visit these gardens on Saturday, May 1; the free tour takes place ONLY on Sunday, May 2 at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Native Plant Sale Extravaganza: Several nurseries specializing in California natives will be open on Saturday May 1 and Sunday May 2 from 10 am to 5 pm. These nurseries carry large quantities of hard-to-find California natives. Knowledgeable staff will be on hand to help you select plants right for your garden throughout the weekend.

Register now at <www.BringingBacktheNatives.net> to reserve your place on the tour and to receive your garden guide.

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

CNPS-YBC SUCCESSFUL FALL PLANT SALE—
PREPARING NOW FOR FALL 2010
by Ellen Edelson, Chapter Plant Sale Chair

Our chapter’s 15th Annual Native Plant Sale on Nov 5 was quite a success! Many thanks to all of the volunteers who grew plants in their backyards as well as to those who worked at the sale. A big “thank you!” also goes to the three nurseries who generously sold us plants on consignment: HANC Native Plant Nursery <www.hanc-sf.org/native-plant-nursery>; Go Native, Inc., a habitat restoration company in Montara <www.gonativenursery.com>; and Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ) <www.lejyouth.org>. Please support the organizations that support us! Much appreciation also goes to all of the people who came out and purchased our plants! Proceeds from the plant sale help pay chapter expenses.

Planning has already begun for the 2010 sale! To build on and improve the plant sale for the future, your feedback, suggestions, and help are sought. Are there specific plants you are looking for? Can you provide seeds, cuttings, or divisions of your plants? Can you help us grow the plants we need? Do you have—or know of—growing space we could possibly use—from a few flats in your backyard to a larger space, as in a nursery? Adequate local growing space and people to care for the plants, continue to be our biggest plant sale challenges.

To offer help with the 2010 plant sale, to provide suggestions, or to request the short feedback survey, contact Ellen Edelson <e.edelson@sbcglobal.net> or 415-531-2140. Now is the time to begin planning and planting for our fall sale!

Note: A few plants will be available for purchase at spring program meetings, so bring a few extra bucks, or your checkbook. It is not too late to plant! (…and don’t forget to look over the book/poster table, too!)

HAIGHT-ASHBURY 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 Golden Gate Park) in San Francisco, and visit Greg Gaar, local ecological activist extraordinaire, who has more than 40 species of native plants, grown from local seed. Native plants are adapted to local environmental conditions; ideal habitat for local birds, butterflies, bees, and other pollinators; drought tolerant. Donations are requested on a per-plant basis. Discounts can be negotiated for large orders.
Monday through Saturday 9 am to 4 pm
Sunday Noon to 4 pm
<www.natureinthecity.org/plantsale.php>

LUPINE
by David Schooley

Sometimes
empty is the wing of the lupine
abundant is the light of dawn.
But no one stands
in the ring of songs
that pinches this garden
from a lentil-fed belly
in a burp.
No one in the scrub bloom
that prints this southern ridge of trees,
and nothing draws
this slipping thread of no one
through the words.
Empty is the wing of the lupine,
abundant is the light of dawn.

Lupinus nanus
sky lupine
by Martha Kemp
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 Vernal Pools
<www.veralpools.org>
Links to guided tours of the Jepson Prairie, Mather Field, Rancho Seco Howard Ranch, Santa Rosa Plateau & Vina Plains Preserve.

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.

Desert USA’s Wildflower Watch
<www.desertusa.com/wildflw/wildupdates.html>
Updates on desert wildflowers in AZ, CA, NV, UT, & TX.

Nevada Natural Heritage Program
< > (not updated since 2008 but still useful information)

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.
<www.theodorepayne.org/hotline.html> includes links to dozens of wildflower sites.

US Forest Service
<www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/regions/index.shtml>
links to wildflower pages in 49 states.

INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

Antelope Valley California Poppy Preserve
<www.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

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

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

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.
<www.solanolandtrust.org/o_jepsonPrairie.php>

Joshua Tree National Park
760-367-5500—Press 1, then 9, for recorded wildflower information.
<www.nps.gov/jotr/index.htm>

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

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

Mojave Desert
<www.digital-desert.com/wild-flowers/>
Kelso Depot Visitor Center—Call 760-252-6108
Hole-in-the-Wall Visitor Center—Call 760-928-2572 to speak to the ranger.

Mount Diablo State Park
Summit Visitors’ Center 925-837-6119
Junction Station 925-837-6129
Check <mdia.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.
<www.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 <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>

Yosemite National Park
209-372-0200—Press 3, then 5, to speak to a ranger.
<www.nps.gov/yose>
POINT MOLATE
EYED FOR SAN FRANCISCO BAY MEGA-CASINO
by Jim Hanson

Located on the inland side of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge where San Pablo and San Francisco Bays meet, Point Molate is home to some of the largest intact coastal bunchgrass prairie left around San Francisco Bay. Glimpses while driving over the bridge from San Rafael to Richmond, Point Molate is also being eyed for a proposed casino complex with more gambling floor space than most casinos on the Las Vegas strip.

A quiet beauty Dwells at Point Molate. Indeed, walking through the native coastal scrub and coastal prairie here, one has a sense of the Bay’s original ecological landscape. Unlike many disturbed, non-serpentine grasslands around the Bay, acres of native coastal bunchgrass prairie thrive in the hills and at locations along the shoreline. Toyon shrubs the size of live oak trees dot these prairies. From the ridgetops one can take in sweeping views across two bays and gaze at majestic Mount Tamalpais.

Due to the unique and rare plant communities, Point Molate is one of 15 East Bay Priority Plant Protection Areas designated by the East Bay Chapter of CNPS. The chapter noted 45 ‘CEQA-significant rare and unusual plants of the Molate region in 2005. Also, bird life abounds. Point Molate is part the North Richmond Shoreline “Important Bird Area,” one of only four within Golden Gate Audubon’s chapter area. A shoreline census from 2007-2008 reported 92 species of birds.

In the sub-tidal habitat just offshore are some of the Bay’s largest and most significant eelgrass beds, a habitat that has been vanishing from San Francisco Bay. The eel grass beds serve as protective cover for migrating salmon and as spawning substrate for Pacific herring.

This ecological richness remained stable and intact, even with development at Point Molate, during the 20th century. After the 1906 earthquake, the California Winery Association moved from San Francisco to the Point Molate shore to re-establish the largest winery operation in California at the time. During World War II, Point Molate served as a Navy fuel depot.

Six years ago, the Navy deeded the hills and bayshore of the former fuel depot to the City of Richmond for one dollar. Within the same period, the Richmond City Council entered into an initial agreement with a developer-tribe partnership that proposes to build 124,000 square feet of gambling floor space for 4,000 slot machines.

The Ukiah Guidiville Band of Pomo are part of a developer-tribe partnership that claims Point Molate as ancestral land, a necessary condition for the Department of the Interior/Bureau of Indian Affairs to permit the proposed several thousand slot machines within the immediate Bay Area. However, in a February 27, 2008 response to the tribe’s claim, Contra Costa County stated that “the Guidiville Band is a Mendocino County Tribe, with trust land in Mendocino County. It has no geographic, historic, cultural, or modern connection to the Point Molate property.” The County attests that the original inhabitants were Costanoans. They go on to state that “outside investors acquired the property for the sole purpose of using the (Guidiville) Band to build an urban casino in Contra Costa County and thus tap into the lucrative San Francisco Bay Area market.”

A recent nationally-distributed article indicates that the proposed casino on San Francisco Bay is being watched nationally. Mentioning Point Molate, the Associated Press reports that the Obama administration is being asked by several tribes to loosen the rules for developing casinos more than a hundred miles from their reservations or other tribal lands. (“Off-reservation tribal gambling raises concerns across the nation” by Sudhin Thanawala, 11/09—available online.) This proposed development also comes at a time when questions are being raised about who is really benefiting from the expansion of tribal gambling. (Barlett and Steele, “Wheel of Misfortune” TIME.com, 12/16/02; Alison Owings “The kaching doesn’t ring for everyone” SF Chronicle/SF Gate.com, 2/11/07—available online).

One of the chief benefits of the proposed casino development is stated to be jobs. In the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) released last summer by the City of Richmond and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, no other development alternatives—whether education, health care, or green energy research and development—were included for consideration and public comment.

The East Bay Chapter of CNPS and the California Native Grasslands Association have stated that the Draft Environmental Impact Report is inadequate and should be recirculated. Currently, Bay Area politicians and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar are gauging local and regional sentiment on the proposed San Francisco Bay casino development.

To have your opinion considered, email your California senators and House representatives through their websites, or phone the local offices: Senator Boxer—415-403-0100, Senator Feinstein—415-393-0707, Congresswoman Pelosi—415-556-4862. Interior Secretary Salazar can be contacted through the Department of Interior website or by writing to: The Honorable Kenneth Salazar, Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, Washington, DC 20240.

Jim Hanson is an Oakland landscape architect who was introduced to Point Molate a decade ago on a hike organized by the CNPS East Bay and Yerba Buena Chapters. See also Field Trip, page 4.
RARE PLANT SEARCHES

CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunts
by California Native Plant Society
Rare Plant and Education Programs
You are invited to go eco-caching for conservation this spring! The Rare Plant Treasure Hunt is a new statewide effort, initiated by the CNPS Rare Plant and Education Programs, to update data on rare plants and their associated habitats. We will team experienced botanists with amateurs to conduct searches for historical (more than 20 years since last documented) and new occurrences of rare plants. Potential projects at the local or chapter level include surveys for rare plants in areas with little history of botanical exploration, documenting the relocation of historical rare plant occurrences, and updating known occurrences of high-priority rare plants. Up-to-date information on rare plants and their habitats is needed to inform conservation actions and to aid planning efforts. Currently, the current status of many rare plant occurrences is unknown, and thousands have not been documented for decades.

GGNRA-GGNP-NPS Rare Plant Searches

RARE PLANT THURSDAYS IN YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL PARK
Visit some of the GGNRA’s most spectacular habitat and help the National Park Service gather important rare plant data. This year’s locations include Mori Point, Sweeney Ridge, Land’s End, the Presidio, Marin Headlands, Tennessee Valley, and Nicasio Ridge. Half-day and full-day sessions will be held on most Thursdays from March to August. RSVP required. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Michael Chassé at 415-561-2857 or <Michael_Chasse@nps.gov>.

GGNP ENDANGERED SPECIES BIG YEAR
by Brent Plater, Wild Equity Institute

The 2010 Golden Gate National Parks Endangered Species Big Year is a race against time to see—and save—the 36 endangered and threatened species found within GGNP, while taking 36 discrete conservation recovery actions that will prevent these species from going extinct. It is a competitive event, and the person who sees and helps the most species between January 1 and December 31, 2010 will win the Big Year. The Big Year will enable you to explore the diverse habitats of the GGNP while helping the rare and threatened species that call the Park home. In the process, we hope you will discover the humility, compassion, and hope embodied in the legal protections for this land and our imperiled neighbors. To find out how the GGNP Endangered Species Big Year works, to download the species list, and for information about signing up to compete, visit <http://wildequity.org/sections/2/>. If you have problems, e-mail <info@wildequity.org>. Check out the calendar of GGNP Endangered Species Big Year events for special trips to observe endangered species and opportunities to help them recover, and sign-up for some trips. Or explore the park on your own. Once you have signed up, you can enter all of your sightings on the Big Year web site.

CNPS-Yerba Buena Chapter Rare Plant Searches

San Francisco Presidio (San Francisco County)
MARCH 20, SATURDAY, 9 am to 12 Noon
Leaders: Michael Chassé & Alex Hooker
Search for rare plants in the dune and serpentine habitats along the western edge of the Presidio. Meet in the parking lot near the Lobos Creek Valley kiosk. It’s the first right turn off Lincoln Boulevard if you enter the Park via 25th Avenue and El Camino Del Mar. (Contact: <Michael_Chasse@nps.gov> or 415-561-2857)

San Bruno Mountain (San Mateo County)
APRIL 18, SUNDAY, 10 am to 12:30 pm
APRIL 24, SATURDAY, 1:30 to 4 pm
MAY 15, SATURDAY, 1:30 to 4 pm
Leaders: Joe Cannon & Jake Sigg
Come out to help relocate populations of locally rare, threatened, and endangered plant species that are listed in historic botanical records as being present on San Bruno Mountain but have not been seen in a couple of decades. Botanical skill levels can vary; we just need many eyes to locate specific rare plants in bloom from pictures we will provide. The mountain can be steep and we will be venturing off the trail, so be prepared for bushwhacking.
DIRECTIONS: From San Francisco, take 101 South to the Sierra Point Parkway exit. Follow signs to Downtown Brisbane, turning right (west) at the first stop sign off of the freeway, then left (south) at the next (Tunnel Road) over rail bridge. You’ll find yourself at the intersection with Bayshore Boulevard across from the main entrance to town. Go straight through the light across Bayshore onto Old County Road by the Bank of America and past the little shopping center; then veer left around park. At the stop between the Post Office and the City Park, this turns into Visitacion Avenue, the main street in Brisbane. We will meet at the Mountain Watch office, upstairs and in the back of 44 Visitacion Avenue, on the right at the end of the first block. To get there via bus, take the Samtrans, route 292, from the SITerminal. (Contact: Joe Cannon <restore_ecology@earthlink.net> or 415-467-6631)

Mori Point
(San Mateo County)
MAY 1, SATURDAY
10 am to Noon
Leaders: Michael Chassé & Mike Vasey
Help locate and monitor rose linanthus (Leptosiphon parviflorus) and other botanical treasures on the headlands of Pacifica’s Mori Point. From Highway 1 south, turn right onto Westport Drive (the first street after the Sharp Park exit) and turn left onto Bradford Way. Park on Bradford Way or Mori Point Road and meet at the gate at the end of Mori Point Road. (Contact: <Michael_Chasse@nps.gov> or 415-561-2857)

“To feel and speak the astonishing beauty of things—earth, stone and water, Beast, man and woman, sun, moon and stars” —Robinson Jeffers

(RARE PLANTS continued on page 12)
FOCUS ON RARITIES

FRANCISCAN MANZANITAS

*Arctostaphylos franciscana*

by Michael Wood and Michael Chassé

In previous articles, we’ve had the opportunity to pass on exciting news regarding the discovery in San Francisco of botanical treasures long lost or seldom seen—yellow mariposa lily in a Hunters Point neighborhood, fiesta flower and dune gilia on Yerba Buena Island, San Francisco collinsia and California saxifrage on Bayview Hill, to name a few. We’ve used these occasions to emphasize that there are still discoveries to be made in this metropolis, citing them as examples of the surprisingly rich biological diversity of our remaining natural areas and as a rationale for their preservation and management. But these discoveries never made the papers and none can compare with the earth-shattering news of the rediscovery of Franciscan manzanita, a plant thought extinct in the wild for nearly 70 years.

Last seen in the wild in 1947 and maintained only in cultivation, a single wild plant of Franciscan manzanita was discovered this past October in the Presidio. Hidden by overgrown vegetation, the plant was exposed when trees and shrubs were cleared to make way for construction of the Doyle Drive replacement project. It was found by Dr. Dan Gluesenkamp, Director of Habitat Protection and Restoration at Audubon Canyon Ranch, who spotted it while driving home and informed his colleagues at the Presidio. As soon as they crossed the highway to take a closer look, the Presidio’s ecologists knew they had something special. And while its true identity won’t be confirmed until DNA analysis is complete, the two people most qualified to hazard a guess, San Francisco State University scientists Dr. Thomas Parker and Michael Vasey, believe the specimen to be the long-lost Franciscan manzanita.

The genus name *Arctostaphylos* is combined from the Greek words for “bear” and “grape cluster”; the common name, *manzanita* is Spanish for “little apple.” It belongs to the heath family (Ericaceae), which includes azaleas and rhododendrons, madrone (Arbutus menziesii), salal (Gaultheria), and huckleberry (Vaccinium), among others. Typically associated with acidic substrates, the family is widely distributed in North America, Europe, and Asia, as well as the tropics of South America and New Guinea, and in southern Africa. The manzanitas include 62 species and at least 30 subspecies or varieties. Although its main center of diversity is along the central California coast, members of the genus are also found in Mexico, Central America (Guatemala), Europe, and Asia. Typically known for their smooth, burgundy-red bark, the manzanitas vary from prostrate, mat-forming plants to large shrubs or trees approaching 30 feet tall. The combination of dry summers and winter rainfall, frequent fire, and a diversity of soil types have likely contributed to the spectacular diversity of manzanita species in California.

The Franciscan manzanita (formerly named *A. hookeri* subsp. *franciscana*) is a low-growing, spreading shrub associated primarily with outcrops of serpentine or other ultramafic rock. The legendary botanist Alice Eastwood first described Franciscan manzanita as a unique species in 1905. Eastwood and others collected from a scattered population of Franciscan manzanita along the edge of a serpentine quarry in the Laurel Hill Cemetery. The area is now occupied by the Laurel Hill Playground, where one can still see traces of serpentine rock along its edges. The Franciscan manzanita also formerly occurred at Masonic Cemetery and on the windswept greenstone slopes of Mt. Davidson. It grew with Raven’s manzanita in all three locations, and possibly others, until being lost to development—but not before a number of horticulturists, including James Roof and Lester Rowntree, salvaged some of the original specimens, just ahead of the bulldozers. The Franciscan manzanitas of Laurel Hill are preserved at several botanic gardens, including the Regional Parks Botanic Garden at Tilden Park in Berkeley and the San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum. These institutions deserve much credit and thanks for preserving the original Laurel Hill genotypes.

At the same time as Franciscan manzanita was being driven from Laurel Hill Cemetery, bulldozers were at work in another part of town. The construction of Doyle Drive in the late 1930s scraped through the Presidio’s serpentine headlands, fragmenting the wildflower-studded “mesa” first described by the Spanish colonists upon their arrival in the area. Ironically, these destructive forces likely provided for the renewal of a dying species by stimulating seed lying dormant in the soil to germinate. As cars passed by on their way to the recently completed Golden Gate Bridge, a manzanita emerged unnoticeably along the top of a serpentine roadcut. Here it grew on a remarkably small patch of ground surrounded by highway ramps and roadways. Australian tea tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) and other exotic plants eventually over-topped their low-growing neighbor. This one plant managed to evade detection by contemporary botanists who over the years found a number of rare species in nearby fragments of serpentine prairie. But they missed the biggest prize of all, until a series of serendipitous events this past October led to the greatest manzanita discovery since 1952, when Dr. Peter Raven rediscovered the shrub first identified by Kate Brandgee in 1892, Raven’s manzanita (*A. hookeri* (renamed *montana*) subsp. *ravenii*).

The excitement over the recent discovery of Franciscan manzanita has been slightly tempered by its extremely vulnerable location within the Doyle Drive reconstruction corridor. Fortunately, a network of experts came together immediately after its identification to consider every possible option for its conservation, as well as providing for the eventual recovery of the species. Various federal agencies and manzanita authorities worked with CalTrans to develop a conservation plan that includes its propagation by cuttings, rooted stem layers, and seeds; seed bank salvage and germination; and the movement of the “parent” plant to a suitable (and secret) protected natural area in the Presidio. In the meantime, specialists in manzanita propagation are growing cuttings at botanic gardens and native plant nurseries to safeguard the genotype and to provide source material for subsequent plantings. Coincidentally, co-author Michael Chassé
FOCUS ON RARITIES (continued)

has been working on a graduate studies project at San Francisco State University to analyze the prospects of establishing multiple viable populations of Franciscan manzanita on the northern San Francisco peninsula. The combination of ex situ conservation and maritime chaparral restoration may provide this species with a brighter future than could have ever been imagined over half a century ago.

Although the Franciscan manzanita was once a candidate for inclusion on the federal endangered species list, it was never listed because no natural populations remained. But with this discovery, an emergency petition for listing under the Endangered Species Act has been filed by the Wild Equity Institute, the Center for Biological Diversity, and the California Native Plant Society. The species has been on the CNPS List 1A, indicating that it is presumed extinct. A proposal has already been made to change its status to List 1B.

In reading the local newspapers, you may have been amazed about all the excitement generated by the discovery of Franciscan manzanita. You might even have chuckled to yourself, thinking something like, “Oh, those crazy botanists get so excited about such little things.” But if you’re a regular reader of this column, perhaps you can appreciate the remarkable diversity of plant life that can still be found in San Francisco, and perhaps you are at least a little excited that there is still the chance to discover new and unique species growing right under our noses. Have an adventurous spring!

Epilogue: Feds Find Funding to Protect Franciscan Manzanita
Adapted from information received from Brent Plater, Wild Equity Institute

Responding to a petition filed by the Wild Equity Institute, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has secured funding to start the Endangered Species Act protection process for the Franciscan manzanita in 2010. The individual plant has already been moved to a more secure home in the Presidio of San Francisco, and, with the help of the Endangered Species Act, recovery efforts for the entire species can begin in earnest. Learn more at <http://wildequity.org/sections/12>.

“If we do not begin to preserve them (native wildflowers), the time will come when they will become extinct and live only in history.” —Theodore Payne, 1916

RARE PLANTS

FRANCISCAN MANZANITA HISTORY
(The article below is an excerpt from pages 121-122 of *Lester Rowntree’s Flowering Shrubs of California*, published in 1939 by Stanford University Press.—Editor)

“Almost in the heart of the city of San Francisco grows another creeping Arctostaphylos, very much resembling the most prostrate form of *A. hookeri*. Although it is a trifle looser in growth, it has the same general habit and for garden purposes is equally satisfactory. It is low and spreading and rooting along the stem and has a little longer, narrower, more pointed, and greyer leaf. It is only in the last couple of years that botanists have become aware of this creeping Manzanita and have named it *A. franciscana*.

“It grows on Mount Davidson in San Francisco, in old Laurel Hill Cemetery, forming flat masses over serpentine outcroppings and humus-filled gravel and flopping down over the sides of gray and chrome rocks. Ericameris, Baccharis, Ferns, Buckwheats, and Golden Yarrow grow among it; and over it stand Toyons and Live Oaks—rather untidy ones, which seem to have withstood the encroachments of civilization less well than has the Manzanita. Lovely Cypress trees spread their branches over disheveled graves and break the bleak outlines of encircling buildings. The Manzanita has been there longer than the buildings and longer probably than the oldest graves. None of it grows on the graves (which are unmarked, neglected, and usually encircled by rickety old wooden palings) though nothing could be more suitable and enduring.

“Its surroundings are typically Californian (though this isn’t the California which the outlanders think of as typical)—an old stable, a few piles of iron junk, grass which turns green with the rains and tan with the drought, and a background of Eucalyptus. A cart drawn by a thin horse comes down the little-used drive, a man with a pitchfork meanders along beside it. They look like a slow movie; their speed is not the speed of the noisy, traffic-filled streets only a few yards away. The cart, the Manzanita, and the dead belong to another era. It was in 1854, the Gold Rush days, that the old cemetery was set aside as a quiet haven for San Francisco’s pioneer dead; so it is no wonder that it seems to recall a different phase of life. Now it is being regarded impatiently by the folk to whom any land is just so many building lots. If they can they will eradicate it as a cemetery and that will be the last of an old San Francisco record and certainly the last of Arctostaphylos franciscana. Why not make the place a memorial park and leave untouched the air of past days which it now possesses?”

*Arctostaphylos bakeri* ssp. *bakeri* Baker’s manzanita (Sonoma County) by Mary Ann Showers

(RARE PLANTS continued on page 14)
RARE PLANTS (continued)

RARE PUMICE GRAPE FERN REDISCOVERED IN CALIFORNIA

Excerpted from an article by John Game
in the December 2009 CNPS East Bay
Chapter’s newsletter The Bay Leaf

On July 13, 2009 Mellon Colberg, Eric White, and others found three plants of pumice grape fern (*Botrychium pumaticola*) on Shastina, the 12,000-foot peak that forms the northwest flank of Mount Shasta. The plants were near tree-line at the place where, in 1941, William Bridge Cooke made the only other California find of this rare fern. In August, the discoverers led John Game and others to the site; the group found four more plants. It is thought that, after one or two wet years, many more plants will emerge from underground, and now that some people have a feel for the unusual barren, rocky microhabitat of this fern, they hope to find more populations. Members of the genus *Botrychium* are known in California mostly as rare plants on mountains away from the coast, but no other fern genus has so many species native to California.

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!
November 16 through January 15, 2010
Linda Peterson, Judy Roos, Linda Widdifield

MEMBERSHIP NEWS
by Barbara Pitschel

Suzanne Harmon has served as our chapter Membership Chair since 2006, despite the fact that she moved to the Sierra foothills in 2007! During her tenure Suzanne earned the title Membership Guru as she restructured the system and database to better meet our varied needs. All this was done despite the fact that she is also serving as Treasurer on the Sierra Foothills Chapter board, and working for the state CNPS doing both botanical surveys in the field and database work in the office.

Change is in the offing. Chapter member Richard Craib, whom many of you know from his great work with Friends of Glen Canyon, as well as from his recent coordination of our newsletter mailings, very generously offered to take over the position of Membership Chair. Suzanne is adapting the membership database for ease of use on Rich’s Mac, and Suzanne and Rich are working together for an interim period to ensure a smooth transition.

Thank you, Suzanne and Rich!!! We all send kudos, thanks, and undying appreciation to both of you for your hard work and infinite generosity to the CNPS/Yerba Buena Chapter. Suzanne, we wish you great happiness in your new foothill home, your new CNPS chapter, and your wonderful new opportunities to pursue your chosen profession as native plant botanist. Rich, we have always enjoyed working with you and are indeed fortunate to finally have you as a great addition to our chapter board and interface with our chapter members.

RENEW ONLINE

Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, set it up to renew automatically year after year. It’s quick, easy, and reduces renewal mailing costs.

www.cnps.org - Click on the JOIN button

Make the switch to the NEW Electronic Newsletter!

If you prefer mail delivery, do nothing.
Members and subscribers will continue to receive mailed paper newsletters unless they request a change.

If you prefer electronic delivery:
Send an email indicating your wish to Membership Chair Rich Craib richcraib@gmail.com.

We’ll email you when the change will be implemented. We hope this added alternative will prove to be mutually beneficial.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Barbara Pitschel, 99 Ellsworth Street. Contact Linda Shaffer for information (415-206-1428 <ljshaffer1@comcast.net>), or Barbara Pitschel for directions (415-282-5066 <bpandrp@peoplepc.com>).

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MEET YOUR BOARD

Gail Wechsler, Field Trips Chair
Gail Wechsler is pleased to contribute her botanical and administrative skills to the Yerba Buena Chapter. She currently leads the plant ID workshops held immediately before membership meetings and coordinates field trips for our Chapter.

Gail holds a degree in Environmental Studies from San Francisco State University, where she focused on biodiversity, plant ecology, and taxonomy. Her ecological interests extend beyond plants to birds and other animals, including those without internal skeletons; she is also deeply committed to environmental justice.

A lifelong resident of the Bay Area, Gail now lives in San Francisco’s Mission Creek watershed. Long before she became fascinated by the biological sciences, she enjoyed hiking and backpacking in parks and wildlands in California and beyond. She encourages everyone to deepen their knowledge of our natural heritage and be more active in preserving and restoring it. In addition to CNPS, Gail volunteers with the Sierra Club and Nature in the City.

(I personally thank Gail for her help with guest editing our previous newsletter while I was recovering from surgery. She is a wonderfully organized and competent person. Please let her know about suggested chapter field trips for future newsletters. Thank you, Gail! — Editor)

CHAPTER NEWS

BENEFIT YOUR CNPS CHAPTER!

Community Thrift
Donating to Community Thrift (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 on 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. Please note that, because of the February 2009 Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, Community Thrift can no longer accept any children’s items. Community Thrift is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency and your donation is tax deductible. In 2009, our chapter earned almost $1,000 from your gifts. Thanks to everyone who continues to support the 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.
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

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Make your check out to “CNPS” and mail with this form to:

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