



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

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“When the difficulty
Of the mountains
is once behind
That’s when you’ll see
The difficulty of the
plains will start.”
—Bertolt Brecht



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 June and July 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. **There will be no restaurant dinner before the August program.**

JUNE 3, THURSDAY

Butterflies & Bulldozers: San Bruno Mountain

7:30 pm, Filmmakers & Speakers: Steve & Ann Dunskey

Plant Identification Workshop, 6 to 7:15 pm

Can people and endangered species coexist? In their feature film documentary, the Dunskeys deal with the central dilemma of human growth versus habitat preservation, of property rights versus the rights of other species. San Bruno Mountain provides a context to explore these complex questions. The mountain represents San Francisco’s lost landscape, a mostly intact remnant of the ecosystem that once covered the hills of this great progressive city. It is the site of the nation’s first Habitat Conservation Plan, a controversial compromise that trades development rights for increased preservation and management on private lands. The filmmakers do not seek to answer this question, but to tell a compelling story that captures the sometimes painful choices that local conservationists have to make.

Ann and Steve Dunskey have been making films together for nearly thirty years. The couple met at UCLA film school, where they received MFAs in film and television production. When they moved to the Bay Area in the late 1980s, they began working as filmmakers for the US Forest Service. Together they have made dozens of films and videos, mostly on conservation issues. Their feature-length documentary, *The Greatest Good*, a history of the Forest Service, has been shown widely on public television around America and internationally. They are currently producing another feature documentary, *Green Fire*, about the life and legacy of the great conservationist and writer Aldo Leopold. *Butterflies & Bulldozers* is an independent film that was inspired by a conservation story of national importance that took place in their home town of Brisbane, California.

Steve and Ann will introduce their film, which runs for about an hour. After the showing, they will be available to answer questions from the audience. The CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter welcomes the opportunity to present the history of this local biodiversity hotspot to those who have lived here throughout the saga, as well as to other more recent arrivals.

JULY 1, THURSDAY

The Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN):

Solving Tomorrow’s Problem Today

7:30 pm, Speaker: Dr. Daniel Gluesenkamp

Plant Identification Workshop, 6 to 7:15 pm

Californians have managed natural systems for ten millennia employing a relatively simple set of tools to favor desirable species and select against unwanted taxa. Contemporary natural resource management is significantly more complicated, as we manage an expanding list of desirable species and a growing diversity of unwanted taxa in a changing environment. Fortunately, conservation has undergone a burst of innovation in recent decades, and we are developing an array of tools which can be applied to protect important biodiversity. However, in many ways conservation practice has remained stagnant. It is not always clear what we are trying to achieve with our actions, and it is often difficult to know whether we have succeeded or failed. This situation is comparable to that seen in human obstetrics; until recently, and in spite of an array of advanced tools available in hospitals, mortality of mothers and babies was often lower when birth occurred at home. Obstetrics was improved by an efficacy revolution in which practitioners began measuring outcome, adopting best practices, and improving training. Now, natural areas managers are talking about the need for ambitious new tools to counter effects of climate change: assisted migration, breeding neo-natives, or selecting for change-tolerant traits. Before adding these “power tools” to our toolbox, it is imperative that we improve our practice, become clear about our objectives, and undergo our own efficacy revolution.

The Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN) is an initiative which coordinates and organizes Early Detection and Rapid Response to plant invasions across the nine counties which contact the



PROGRAMS *(continued)*

San Francisco Bay. We predict which species will be most harmful, coordinate detection of infestations, and prioritize the most harmful outbreaks for eradication. BAEDN then works with agencies and citizens to proactively deal with the highest priority outbreaks before they grow into large and costly threats. This “stitch-in-time” approach minimizes the environmental and economic damage caused by these invaders; educates citizens; and dramatically reduces the need for planning and resources required to control large, established invasive plant populations. With strategic goals, clear numeric objectives, and evaluation of outcome, we hope the BAEDN will serve as an example of the change we need if we are to succeed in our conservation commitment. Dan will introduce us to ways in which BAEDN affects or will affect our own habitat preservation and restoration concerns.

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. We are all grateful to Dan for his recent drive-by spotting of the long-believed-extinct-in-the-wild Franciscan manzanita (*Arctostaphylos franciscana*) in the Presidio, a great example of the best kind of early detection! (Read the amazing story of this species in the March 2010 issue of the *Yerba Buena News*.)

A WALK THROUGH HATE

by David Schooley

Held limpidly,
let run
the shadows of the creek,
late summer cries of a hawk,
ghostly moon of traffic,
shadows of the mound
withered muscle of the search.
I can’t remember
rootless stirring, sucking
hardened into clay.
Then a tiny spider
wound around the monkey flower spring,
lilies sprouting from the dry gray grass,
close distance of the watching heart.
My disdain of others gone out of it,
peaceful burned meadow
and then
all the pollen blooming through
the sun.

AUGUST 5, THURSDAY, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum
Arthur Menzies Garden of California Native Plants
**Leaders: Don Mahoney, Terry Seefeld, Jake Sigg,
Ted Kipping**

No Plant Identification Workshop

Every year we try to plan one of our programs as an after-hours stroll and picnic in San Francisco Botanical Garden’s (SFBG) award-winning Arthur Menzies Garden of California Native Plants. We all know that there is no off-season in San Francisco gardens. This year’s visit is scheduled to take advantage of the late-summer flowering, fruiting, foliage, and architecture of our amazing plants.

After a bring-your-own bag supper around the stone circle in the native meadow, informal guided walks will be led by four of the Garden’s expert luminaries. Dr. Don Mahoney is curator of the botanical garden collections, and has served as horticulture director and manager of plant sales for nearly a quarter of a century. His native plant gardening expertise is legend. Terry Seefeld has been the Menzies Garden gardener for more than a decade, and has developed a special love and knowledge for cultivating, nurturing, and tending this gem. He will give us an inside peek into this oasis. Our chapter conservation chair, guru, and elder statesman Jake Sigg spent 16 years of his city gardener career as caretaker and supervisor of the Menzies Garden. Jake will share with us the history of many of the well-established plants, some wonderful tales from the past, and his unceasing concerns about the threat posed by unchecked invasive species. Ted Kipping has been involved with SFBG most of his life, as gardener, treeworker, and always generous volunteer of time and expertise. A trained geologist, skilled in botany and horticulture, Ted’s breadth of natural history knowledge is extraordinary, and his ability to see, interpret, and explain his observations is unsurpassed. He is likely to draw our excited attention to things we never noticed before.

Don’t forget to bring your bag supper and enjoy a communal dinner in the garden among the native plants and the evening wildlife. Some beverages and cookies will be provided. Then savor the after-dinner walks led by our experts, and take advantage of the opportunity to ask your questions. Meet in the parking lot behind the County Fair Building before 5:30 pm. Please be on time, as we may have to lock the gate behind us.

FUTURE PROGRAM

**September 2—Bristlecone Pines of the White Mountains:
Long-Lived and Long-Dead Charismatic Megaflores**
—Adelia Barber



Epilobium canum
zauschneria or
California fuchsia

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.

JUNE 2, WEDNESDAY, 9 am to Noon

Habitat Restoration for San Francisco *Lessingia* (San Francisco County)

Leader: Michael Chassé, National Park Service

Join the Presidio Park Stewards in Lobos Creek Valley as we make a place for the endangered San Francisco *Lessingia* (*Lessingia germanorum*). Meet at the Presidio Transit Center, across from the Fire Station on Lincoln Boulevard near the Main Post of the Presidio. Call 415-561-2857 or email <michael_chasse@nps.gov> to RSVP and for more details.

JUNE 12, Saturday, 10 am to 3:30 pm

Crystal Springs Watershed (San Mateo County)

(Fountain Thistle Field Trip 10 am to Noon &

Restoration Work Party 1 to 3:30 pm)

Joint events of the Santa Clara Valley & Yerba Buena Chapters

Leaders: Ken Himes & Jake Sigg

This combination event is a contribution to the GGNRA 2010 Endangered Species Big Year, a follow-up to the highly successful 2008 Big Year. You may come on either or both field trip and work party. The rules of the Big Year call for contestants to take an action to help preserve each of 36 endangered species. **(See also Endangered Species Big Year, page 5.)** The trip provides contestants the opportunity to see the endangered fountain thistle, *Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*, which should be in bloom at this time. Even when not in bloom, the plant is stunningly beautiful—very sculptural. The thistle is part of a community bedizened by wildflowers and bunchgrasses—including an acre or more of yampah, *Perideridia kelloggii*—and non-contestants will also find it well worth visiting. The season for spring wildflower is past, but

this is still an active time of year with many sights competing for our interest. Bring lunch and liquids; after lunch we will move to the nearby site where we have been working to eradicate pampas grass that was usurping the serpentine seep necessary for the fountain thistle's existence. This land is owned by Caltrans, which has been very supportive of our work, so much so that it is truly a partnership. Caltrans has sprayed the massive pampas grass infestation three times, and CNPS volunteers have followed up by hand weeding the survivors and seedlings. The results have been immensely gratifying, as the fountain thistle has responded vigorously and is reclaiming its habitat. Our hope is to reintroduce appropriate native species that should be part of this community. RSVP to Jake Sigg at <jakesigg@earthlink.net> or 415-731-3028 for further information and directions to the sites.

AUGUST 14, SATURDAY, 10 am to 1 pm

San Bruno Mountain: Owl & Buckeye Canyons

(San Mateo County)

Leaders: Jake Sigg & Doug Allshouse

The fire that raged through San Bruno Mountain's Owl Canyon and spilled over into Buckeye Canyon in June 2008 was very hot in the deep canyon draws, giving rise to fears that many of the older plants, including bunchgrasses, might be root-killed. Fortunately that did not happen to any great extent. Most native plants have been strongly resurgent on the two previous fire-follower field trips we've had, but so have the invasive plants, so monitoring the changes through time will be interesting. Some of the less-than-common plants we should see: angelica (*Angelica hendersonii*), aster (*Aster radulinus*), hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*), tinker's penny (*Hypericum anagalloides*), thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), yellow-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium californicum*), and blue witch (*Solanum umbelliferum*). From Bayshore Boulevard in Brisbane turn onto Valley Drive. Turn left at the traffic light onto South Hill Drive. Turn left at the Aircraft Technical Publishers sign at 101 South Hill. Drive to the rear of the parking lot. If you need further directions call Doug at 415-584-5114 or email <dougsr228@comcast.net>.

“The violets in the mountains have broken the rocks.”—Tennessee Williams

ACTIVITIES

SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN, SUMMER GARDENING FAIR

Saturday, August 7, 10 am to 3 pm

CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter plans to participate with membership information, native plant books and posters, and information about local native plants and their cultivation. (Used book treasures will also be available for sale at this event by the SFBG Library.)

San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum

9th Avenue & Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park

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

SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN, LIBRARY ART EXHIBIT

***A Year in Bloom: Watercolors of Native California Wildflowers*—by Linda Stewart Henley**

Through August, 10 am to 4 pm, closed Tuesdays and major holidays

For wildflower lovers, this exhibit is like a walk in the woods—indoors. The exhibit displays representative California wildflowers blooming each month of the year. Painted almost entirely in the wild and often in somewhat remote locations, the work captures the fleeting beauty and individuality of seasonal native wildflowers. Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture
San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum
9th Avenue & Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park

ACTIVITIES *(continued)*

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. **FREE.** Donations are encouraged.

June 24—*Historic Watercourses of San Francisco*

—Joel Pomerantz

July 22 & August 26—To Be Announced

Information: Philip Gerrie 415 641-7457 or

<glassgerrie@earthlink.net> <www.randallmuseum.org>

CNPS PLANT SCIENCE TRAINING PROGRAM

June 10-12—*Introduction to 2nd edition of A Manual of California Vegetation*—Todd Keeler Wolf, John O. Sawyer, Julie Evens

June 23-26—*Great Rivers of California: the American River*—Robert Holland & Virginia Dains

August 12-14—*Vegetation Rapid Assessment*

—Todd Keeler Wolf, Eric Peterson, Jennifer Buck

Check <<http://cnps.org/cnps/education/>> for workshop and course descriptions, locations, and registration costs. If you do not have web access, contact Josie Crawford, Education Program Director at 916-447-2677 x205 or <jcrawford@cnps.org>.

NATURE IN THE CITY

Contact: <iris@natureinthecity.org> or 415-312-2214.

June 5th, Saturday, 9 am to Noon

—*Mount Sutro National Trails Day*

Please join us on a commemorative workday celebrating all that we have achieved together as a community on the mountain, with special gifts, hot pizza, beverages, and even more good cheer than usual! Woods Lot, at Medical Center Way, via Johnstone Drive.

June 12th, Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm

—*Plant Cultivation & BBQ Potluck*

Join Nature in the City and the Literacy for Environmental Justice Native Plant Nursery. Spend a day at this beautiful nursery and garden, helping prepare the seedlings for the coming year. At 1 pm we will put some food on the barbie, take time to relax, get to know each other, and share delicious treats. For those who can stay, we could pay a visit to the new EcoCenter, and/or take a plant and bird walk together in Candlestick Park.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE GRASSLANDS ASSOCIATION

North Coast Grass Identification Workshop

Learn to identify native and naturalized grasses of California's north coast.

Saturday, June 5, 8:30 am to Sunday, June 6, 4:30 pm

Humboldt State University, Arcata, and field sites

Instructors: David Amme & Wade Belew

Day 1—Humboldt State Herbarium: Learn about California's grassland ecology and the qualities of specific native grasses for restoration; become skilled at recognizing the basic groups and common species through work with plant samples in the classroom.

Day 2—In the Field: Visit field sites to identify grasses and view restoration practices first-hand.

Fees: \$220/CNGA Members, \$260/non-members (includes 1 year membership), \$135/Students

Enrollment limited to 30.

Registration: Judy G-Scott (530-661-2280 or

<admin@cnga.org>) or <www.cnga.org>

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN

Tilden Park, Berkeley

Contact Friends of Regional Parks Botanic Garden, John Rusk, 510- 528-0526 or <john@rusk.com>

June 5, Saturday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm—*Winged Visitors in Your Garden Sanctuary*—Charlotte Torgovitsky

\$30 members/\$35 nonmembers

Now that you're gardening organically and planting California natives for their habitat value, you have probably noticed increased activity in your garden sanctuary. Perhaps you would like to know more about all those creatures in your garden. We'll take a slide show tour through a year of birds and butterflies, learning unique and identifying features of the species most likely to be seen in gardens. You'll learn interesting facts about each species, its life cycle, and the important associations these creatures have developed with certain plants. Each student will take home a milkweed plant to provide food for monarch caterpillars.

June 19, Saturday, 10 am to Noon—*Introduction to Botanical Drawing for Kids*—Gretchen McCondochie

\$10 for children of members/\$15 nonmembers

Have fun finding art in the garden! In this two-hour workshop for children ages 8 to 12, we will look at shapes, colors, and textures in the garden and then learn how to make drawings of what we see. This is the first step toward creating botanical illustrations. No experience is needed; drawing materials and sketch pads will be provided. This is the first in a series of classes for kids at the garden.

JEPSON HERBARIUM WORKSHOPS

The 2010 workshop program is online and classes are open for enrollment.

<ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/2010/index.html>

Contact Coordinator of Public Education:

<jepsonworkshops@berkeley.edu> or 510-643-7008

June 3-6—*Rare Flora of the Kings River Canyon*

—Dana York

July 28-August 1—*Flora and Ecology of the Steens*

***Mountains*—Donald Mansfield & Richard Miller**

August 4-8—*Backpacking in the Alpine and Subalpine of Yosemite National Park: A Flora of Lyell Canyon in Four Days* (co-sponsored by the Yosemite Association)

—Steve Botti and Tom Leatherman

August 12-15—*Carex at Mammoth Lakes*—Peter Zika



Phlox diffusa
alpine phlox

ACTIVITIES *(continued)*

CALIFORNIA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL (Cal-IPC)

<<http://www.cal-ipc.org/fieldcourses/index.php>>
<510-843-3902> <info@cal-ipc.org>

Cal-IPC 2010 Symposium

CALL FOR PAPERS: **ABSTRACTS DUE JUNE 25!**

October 14-16 (field course October 13),

Ventura, California

Weeds and Wildlife: Impacts and Interactions

Abstract submission information:

<<http://www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/presenters.php>>

Main Symposium webpage:

<<http://www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/index.php>>

The California Invasive Plant Council invites abstracts for contributed papers and posters for our Annual Symposium in Ventura. This year our theme focuses on balancing management for invasive plants with the needs of wildlife. Paper sessions are held Thursday and Friday, October 14-15. Oral presentations are fifteen minutes plus five minutes for questions. A designated poster session will allow poster presenters to interact with attendees. Graduate and undergraduate students are encouraged to enter our Student Paper and Poster Contest.

Cal-IPC 2010 NORCAL FIELD COURSES

June 8 & 9—*Integrated Control Methods*

Instructors include Joe DiTomaso, Ken Moore, JP Marie, and others.

Site: McLaughlin Natural Reserve, which protects serpentine habitats, riparian woodlands, blue oak woodland, savannah, grasslands, and chaparral.

Questions, Costs, Registration:

Contact Heather Brady <hjbrady@cal-ipc.org> with any questions on 2010 field courses.

CALIFORNIA GRASSLANDS

GUIDE TO VISITING CALIFORNIA GRASSLANDS

California's native grasslands are incredibly diverse and biologically important ecosystems. Yet grasslands remain one of the most under-protected of California's vegetation types, and native grasslands have undergone the greatest percentage loss of any habitat type in the state—including much-publicized losses in wetland and riparian systems. This online guide to visiting California's grasslands was written to open readers' eyes to the diversity and natural beauty of native grasslands, to provide specific information about each site's ecology and management, and to make it possible for you to visit native grasses in the ground.

All of the locations included are publicly accessible grasslands. The profiles will tell you how to reach the site, best times to visit, what to look for, and where you may find similar sites. You are encouraged to print the profile and take it with you when you visit. Detailed information on each of the following grasslands is available at: <http://www.cnga.org/visitor_guide.html>

- **Alkali Sacaton Grassland:** San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Kesterson Unit
- **Coastal Grassland:** Tilden and Wildcat Canyon Regional Parks
- **Inner Coast Range Prairie:** Bear Creek Botanical Management Area
- **Native Dune Grasslands:** Asilomar State Beach
- **Purple Needlegrass Grassland:** Lake Chabot Regional Park, Fairmont Ridge
- **Purple Needlegrass Grassland:** Pacheco State Park, Pig Pond
- **Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve:** Southwestern Riverside County
- **Serpentine Grassland:** Redwood Regional Park, Skyline Serpentine Prairie
- **Tufted Hairgrass Grassland:** Point Reyes National Seashore, "F" Ranch
- **Vernal Pool Grassland:** Pixley Vernal Pools Preserve
- **Wagon Creek Research Natural Area:** Los Padres National Forest

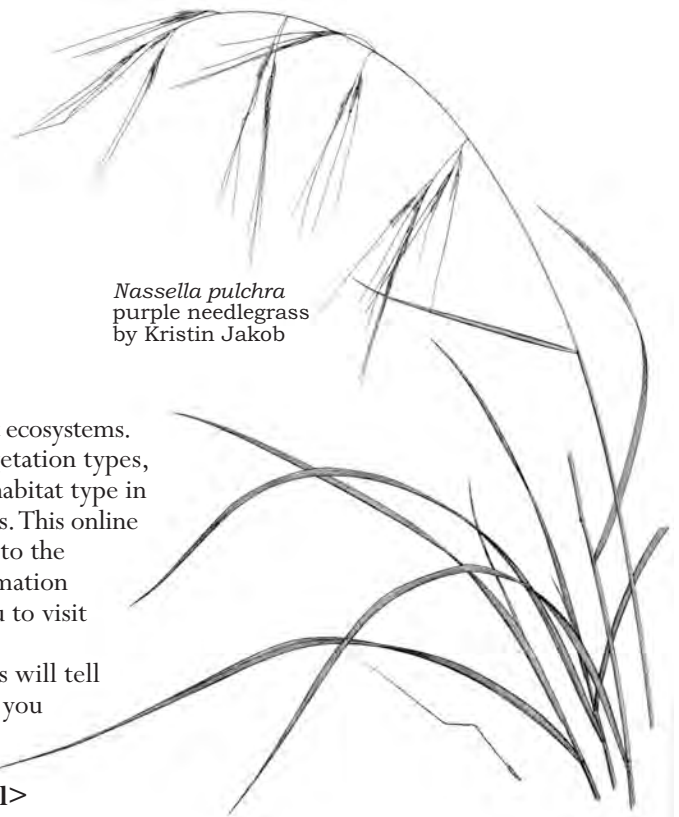
ENDANGERED SPECIES BIG YEAR

BUTTERFLY BEHAVIOR SEEN ON BIG YEAR TRIP

Adapted from information from Wild Equity Institute's Brent Plater and Chapter Lepidopterist Liam O'Brien


Participants in an April Golden Gate National Parks (GGNP) Endangered Species Big Year Mission Blue Butterfly hike got a wonderful treat: they not only saw a Mission Blue, but also watched it engage in "mud-puddling" behavior. Mud-puddling is infrequently seen in the Bay Area, primarily because our mud puddles don't last very long here in non-El Niño years. Mud-puddling occurs when butterflies congregate on moist soils or other substrates to obtain nutrients, such as amino acids and salts. These nutrients are believed to help the butterflies reproduce: males that mud-puddle tend to increase their reproductive success, if only because they sometimes transfer the nutrients to the female while mating as a nuptial gift! Females are not seen engaging in this behavior. We're glad to see one of the rarest butterflies in the GGNP finding ways to gain a reproductive edge. To find out how you can see and help save the Mission Blue and the 35 other endangered species at the Golden Gate National Parks, go to <http://wildequity.org/sections/2> to sign-up for your GGNP Endangered Species Big Year.

(See also June 12 Field Trip, page 3.)



Nassella pulchra
purple needlegrass
by Kristin Jakob

HABITAT RESTORATION

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

Alemanys Natives at Alemany Farm.

3rd Sundays, 1 to 4 pm. Contact Iris Clearwater, 415-312-2214, iris@natureinthecity.org

Bayview Hill. 2nd Saturdays of January, March, May will be GG Park Oak Woodlands instead, July, September and November.

Contact Terese Lawler tereselawler@gmail.com.

Bernal Hilltop.

3rd Sundays, 11 am to 2 pm. Information Barbara Pitschel 415-282-5066; Work party contact Jake Sigg jakesigg@earthlink.net; Groups contact Kristin Bowman@sf.gov or 415-831-6325.

Buena Vista Park. 1st Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Contact Kristin Bowman@sf.gov or 415-831-6325.

Brooks Park. Contact Dan Weaver 415-587-4588 or djpweaver@yahoo.com

Candlestick State Park Nursery. 1150 Carroll Street. 1st Saturdays, 10 am to 2 pm. Bay Youth for the Environment. Contact Patrick Rump bye@lejyouth.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 Saturdays, 10 am to noon. Contact Jim Houillion 415-552-3542 or coronavolunteers@sonic.net.

Edgehill Mt. Park. 2nd Saturdays, 1 to 3 pm. Contact Stan Kaufman 415-681-4954 or sekfmn@pacbell.net.

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

GGNRA Habitat Restoration Team. Every Sunday, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm with lunch break. Contact volunteer@parksconservancy.org or 415-331-0732. Locations hotline: 415-561-4747.

GGNRA Site Stewardship Program. Every Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm. Sites vary in Pacifica or Marin Headlands. Contact 415-561-3073 or volunteer@parksconservancy.org

Glen Canyon. Wednesdays & 3rd Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Friends of Glen Canyon. Contact Jean Conner 415-584-8576, Richard Craib 415-648-0862.

Golden Gate Park Oak Woodlands. 2nd Saturdays, 10 am to 12:30 pm.

Contact Rob Bakewell 415-221-1137 or 415-710-9617 (cell) or rcbakewell@gmail.com.

Green Hairstreak Butterfly Corridor. 2nd Sundays, 10 am to noon, 14th Ave. at Pacheco. Contact Iris Clearwater 415-312-2214 or iris@natureinthecity.org.

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

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

Heron's Head Park. 2nd Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Contact Myla Ablog 415-282-6840 or heronshead@lejyouth.org.

Lake Merced. 1st 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 415-561-4864 or lands_end@parksconservancy.org.

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

McLaren Park. 2nd Saturdays, 10 am to noon. Contact Kristin Bowman@sf.gov or 415-831-6325.

Mission Creek Bank Restoration. Generally Saturday mornings. Contact Ginny Stearns for times 415-552-4577 or GinnyStearns@gmail.com.

Mt. Davidson. 1st Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Friends of Mt. Davidson: Contact Kristin Bowman@sf.gov or 415-831-6325

Mt. Sutro. 1st Saturdays, 9 am at Woods Lot, on Medical Center Way halfway uphill from Parnassus. Contact Craig Dawson 415-665-1077.

GGNRA/Shields Hilltop. Dates TBA.

Contact Gary Schwantes 415-239-0248.

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

Pacific's Environmental Family. 4th 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 ehuerta@parksconservancy.org.

Presidio Park Stewards. Every Wednesday & Saturday, 9 am to noon.

Contact 415-561-3034 x3445 or PresidioParkStewards@parksconservancy.org.

Presidio Plant Patrol. Every Friday 1 to 4 pm. Contact 415-561-3034 x3445 or PresidioParkStewards@parksconservancy.org.

Redwood Creek Nursery and Stewards. Wednesday & Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm.

Contact 415-383-4390 or RedwoodCreek@parksconservancy.org.

San Bruno Mountain. Tuesdays, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm: Earthcare Wetlands Project Wednesday, 10 am to 12:30 pm: Greenhouse volunteers-Mission Blue Nursery,

1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10 am to 12:30 pm: Weed Rangers Stewardship Outing,

2nd & 4th Saturdays, 10 am to noon:

Bog Restoration

www.mountainwatch.org, 415-467-6631.

SF Recreation & Parks Department.

Natural Areas Program. Kristin Bowman@sf.gov or 415-831-6325.

San Pedro Valley County Park, Pacifica. 3rd 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 Gretz 510-452-9261 x109 or

www.savesfbay.org/bayevents.

Tennessee Valley Nursery and Stewards.

Every Tuesday, 10 am to noon & 1 to 4 pm.

Contact 415-331-0732 or

lponzini@parksconservancy.org.

White-Crowned Sparrow Restoration.

3rd Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Bison Paddock, GG Park. Contact sfrpd.volunteerprogram@sf.gov

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

CONSERVATION & LEGISLATION

WEED DAY AT THE CAPITOL

by Jake Sigg

On March 10, the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) sponsored Weed Day at the Capitol for the seventh consecutive year. In the morning, volunteers from all over the state convene for high-level briefings on current events pertaining to invasive plants in wildlands and for coaching regarding our afternoon legislative visits. Because we come annually, staffers are becoming familiar with our issues, and the fact that we're always there speaks volumes when it comes to budget time—they listen. This year Yerba Buena Chapter attendees were Ellen Edelson, Arnie Thompson, Peter Brastow, and Jake Sigg. One reason we get so many participants is because it is an exciting day, fun, and very educational. You learn a lot about the legislative process and get a feel for some of the problems. Late in the afternoon we debrief, then head across the street in high spirits to the Pyramid Brewery, where we are treated to sumptuous food and delicious home brew. **If you want to help in this way, please let Jake Sigg know** (415-731-3028 or <jakesigg@earthlink.net>). **The event is always the second Wednesday in March. We'd like to see you in 2011!**

Delairea odorata
Cape ivy (a weed)



SAN FRANCISCO WEED MANAGEMENT AREA (SFWMA)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[Excerpted from the SFWMA website—Editor]

Are weeds really a problem in San Francisco?

Yes, invasive weeds are a problem in San Francisco. The Franciscan Peninsula is a globally significant hotspot for biodiversity. The region harbors the Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve, which includes many of the natural lands in San Francisco County. Weeds threaten our precious remnants of the original landscape, including habitat for rare plants and wildlife. Weeds can have other impacts:

- Create fire danger.
- Cause soil erosion and impair unique geologic resources.
- Impact water quality.
- Increase costs of capital projects and land management programs.
- Dominate open spaces, turning them into impenetrable, uninviting wastelands.

What is a Weed Management Area?

From the California Food and Agricultural Code, Section 7272(b): "A 'weed management area' is a local organization that brings together all interested landowners, land managers (private, city, county, state, and federal), special districts, and the public in a county or other geographical area for the purpose of coordinating and combining their actions and expertise to deal with their common weed control problems."

So what does the SFWMA do?

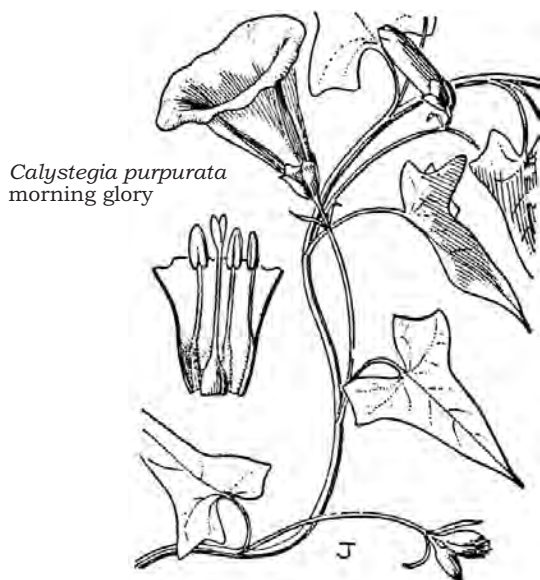
The SFWMA members cooperate to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive weeds in the City and County of San Francisco. The group has a two-part mission:

- (1) Employing an integrated strategy for exclusion, detection, eradication, and suppression of designated invasive weeds.
- (2) Education of the public, media, local office-holders, decision-makers, and public and private landowners about the identification, impacts, and management of invasive weeds.

The following goals represent the primary activities in which the SFWMA is engaged:

- Education
- Prevention, early detection & rapid response
- Inventory and mapping
- Management (physical/mechanical, chemical, biological, cultural)
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Restoration of habitat
- Cooperative action

For more information about the SFWMA, go to the California Department of Food and Agriculture website at http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/weedmgareas/SanFrancisco/SanFrancisco_hp.htm



Calystegia purpurata
morning glory



NATIVE MORNING GLORY

by Linnea

I am the bell
that wakes children in the morning.
I am the wheel
that turns the cart of life.
I am the cup
that holds water for the thirsty.
I am the moon
that gives light to the travelers.
I am the angel,
glory of the morning.

(From *California Poets in the Schools*, Joaquin Miller Elementary School, Oakland, Mrs. Kathy Ulrich's 4th Grade Class.)

Make the switch to the NEW Electronic Newsletter!

If you would prefer to receive your *Yerba Buena News* electronically instead of by postal mail, we are now able to offer this alternative. You may want to elect for the electronic newsletter to help save trees or to reduce chapter printing and mailing costs. Or perhaps it is your preference because the computer is your communication mode of choice. Whether your choice is paper or email, instructions for making the change are printed below.

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:

yerbabuenacnps@gmail.com

We'll email you when the change will be implemented. We hope this added alternative will prove to be mutually beneficial.

FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW REPORT

GREAT OUTREACH AT 2010 SF FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW!

by Ellen Edelson, Garden Show Coordinator

The Yerba Buena (YB), Marin, East Bay, and Santa Clara Valley (SCV) Chapters of the California Native Plant Society again came together to present an educational booth at the five-day 2010 San Francisco Flower & Garden Show in March. Our booth this year was in a prime location near a main entrance (even better than our great spot last year), so attendees saw us as they walked in the doors! We again greeted and gave information out to thousands of visitors!

On display in our beautiful, cozy booth were many locally-native plants, several of which we again borrowed (with sincere gratitude!) from Native Here Nursery in Tilden Park; cut-flower bouquets; and, of course, CNPS posters—all of which provided natural talking points.

Throughout the five day show, our enthusiastic volunteers answered many native plant gardening questions, informed people about our upcoming native garden tours and shows, gave out chapter information sheets and newsletters, spoke about the many CNPS programs, offered CNPS membership and “Gardening with Natives” brochures, and shared lots of Cal-IPC “Don’t Plant a Pest” brochures. (There were pest plants in the show—ugh!) We also handed out many copies of our newly-updated “Native Plant Resource List,” for which we owe a big “thank you!” to the resource list’s originator, native garden designer, and CNPS Horticulture Committee member Peigi Duvall, for providing us the list along with permission to edit and share it. The very latest edition will be available soon—check our website <www.cnps-yerbabuena.org>. Proudly, through many interesting conversations, we provided and made some good contacts, while we informed and enlightened many people!

Fifteen brand new CNPS members signed up on the spot—for chapters in the Bay Area and beyond—as far away as Kern County! (They each received a plant and a back issue of *Fremontia* as a “welcome” gift.) I am confident that more people have joined since, online or via mail, because of our efforts!

A huge “THANK YOU!” goes out to all of the terrific volunteers who gave their time and energy—staffing and helping to set up and break down our beautiful booth! Very special notes of appreciation go out to Toni Gregorio-Bunch (SCV) for helping organize, design, create, and break down the booth, and to Werner Schumann (YB) for donating two beautiful framed original photos to use as raffle prizes or membership gifts. Several other people and organizations loaned items or provided materials for the booth which contributed to our success. **Thank you all!**

I look forward to doing it all again next year!!! The process is already in motion for our CNPS booth at the 2011 San Francisco Flower & Garden Show (March 23-27, 2011). Mark your calendars!



Aesculus californica
California buckeye

GARDEN TOUR REPORT

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR 2010

by Alma Hecht and Susan Floore

The sixth Annual San Francisco Native Plant Garden Tour was held on Sunday, April 25, 2010. Enjoying glorious weather, enthusiastic participants ambled through 19 private and six public gardens, including several knockout-new and many established old favorites.

Our focused pre-tour publicity campaign proved a boon. All hosts reported record turnouts, with guests ranging from knowledgeable native plant enthusiasts to those hoping to understand how to successfully integrate natives into their gardens’ futures.

Celebrating the best of our California, Bay Area, and San Francisco identities, the gardens underscored our endemics’ suitability for full sun, partial shade, clay, or sandy soil, in styles from wildly expansive to sharply designed.

Examples of what was on view include the large garden surrounding a home originally given by Adolph Sutro to his own gardener, reestablished and carefully tended by Julie Swift, owner of Wild Natives, and featuring a meadow bursting in wildflowers and mature *Ceanothus* ‘Ray Hartman’. Alma Hecht, owner of Second Nature Design, displayed a joyful approach to “gardening by the square inch” featuring a 13-foot mural, watering can fountain, and bounty of natives for clay soil communities. Ted Kipping’s native and immigrant plants cascaded, climbed, and stretched forth from structures built of recycled bricks, logs and rocks. The many other glorious examples included a garden with monkeyflowers, coffeeberries, coyote bushes, toyons, and oaks snaking along a hillside; a dune garden planted to attract critters; another with a dry stream bed of decorative stone; a rear garden shaded under an enormous focal-point buckeye; gardens with food plants growing alongside natives; and those with special flora planted for the benefit of various fauna. All gardens welcomed wildlife as well as visitors on this beautiful day; song birds, hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees (but no gophers!) accompanied garden visitors.

Whether planted by homeowners or designed by professionals, the gardens offered abundant ideas for integrating natives into our urban spaces in all manner of style and cultural conditions.

“I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers.”
—Claude Monet

PLANT SALE

HELP NEEDED FOR FALL PLANT SALE

by Ellen Edelson, Plant Sales Coordinator

Preparation for our fall plant sale is already underway, but we need your help in several key areas:

1. Do you have seeds, cuttings, divisions, or seedlings of locally native plants (ideally with some known provenance) that you would donate for the sale?
2. Would you be willing to help with propagation (sow seeds or pot up cuttings/divisions) of plants that we acquire?
3. We are always short of growing space. Would you be able and willing to care for a few flats of plants until our sale?
4. There are other tasks to be done, as well. Would you like to be part of the plant sale committee—to help to determine the offerings, source the plants, link photos to the data base, make plant labels, etc? Aside from our desire to get native plants into more gardens, the plant sale is the main source of income for our chapter. It helps us pay the rental costs for our meetings, newsletter costs, and much more.
5. We can reuse most pots, especially tubes. Please bring cleaned pots to a program meeting or contact me to make alternate arrangements to donate recycled pots.

To help, please contact Ellen Edelson at <e.edelson@sbcglobal.net> or 415-531-2140.

CHAPTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Community Thrift

Our chapter recently received a check from Community Thrift (CT) for \$220.88. That makes a total of \$351.04 for 2010 and \$4,790.43 since we began in 2006. We sincerely thank all of you who have donated furniture, clothing, books, CDs, and housewares to CT and designated CNPS as the beneficiary. Donating is easy. Simply drop off clean and saleable items at the CT donation door, open from 10 am to 5 pm every day, 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 18th Street and perpendicular to Mission and Valencia Streets. Sycamore runs one way from Mission toward Valencia. Please note that, because of the February 2009 Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, CT can no longer accept any children's items. CT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax-deductible. Shopping at CT supports not only CNPS, but 200 other worthy nonprofits. Thank you so much for continuing to benefit our chapter in this way!

Cole Hardware

As a participant in Cole Hardware's Community Assistance Partnership Program with San Francisco schools and nonprofit organizations, our chapter received a credit for \$92.98, representing 10% of our readers' purchases in any one of the four Cole Hardware stores that were credited to CNPS in 2009. All you need to do is **tell the cashier to credit your purchases to #1424**.



CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Linda Shaffer

(written by the Vice President until the chapter gets a President)

Chapter Council Meeting in San Francisco: Big Job Ahead!

Every December, the CNPS Chapter Council holds a three-day meeting somewhere in the Bay Area. One of the five local chapters (East Bay, Marin, Santa Clara Valley, Willis Linn Jepson, and Yerba Buena) is asked to act as lead host. In December 2008, the East Bay chapter was lead host; the meeting was held at Mills College. Last year, the Santa Clara Valley chapter made arrangements centered around Santa Clara University. For 2010, our chapter was asked to act as lead host, and Yerba Buena's board of directors has voted to take on the job.

Acting as lead host is a huge task. For starters, the lead host chapter is expected (in consultation with state leadership) to find a meeting site suitable for use by delegates from all 33 chapters in the state plus the state CNPS Board and staff (50-75 people in all). Fortunately, we have had a most generous offer from the Biology Department at San Francisco State University (SFSU) to provide facilities on campus for the meeting. This includes underwriting the rental expense of using the Seven Hills Conference Center for a day (we are so grateful to them for this gesture!). As this newsletter goes to press, the CNPS state leadership has approved our plan to hold the meeting at SFSU the weekend of December 10 to 12, 2010.

One important part of our job is done, but there are many tasks left on the list! Here are just three examples: arranging to house attendees (the plan is to accommodate many in members' homes); planning for meals (especially for the Saturday evening banquet, always an elegant and well-attended affair); and thinking up fun field trips for the Sunday afternoon. So, advance notice: as December draws nearer, we—and the other four local chapters—will be asking for lots of volunteers. Make sure your spare rooms are presentable. Start thinking of good excursions to lead in December. And all you bakers, start planning for the scrumptious goodies you'll be providing for Sunday breakfast!

Members Welcome at Board Meetings

Members are always welcome at board meetings, and the board can always use motivated members. Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month from 7:15 to 9:15 pm, usually at Barbara Pitschel's (99 Ellsworth). As a courtesy, non-board members are asked to let Barbara know at <bpandrp@peoplepc.com> or 415-282-5066 if they plan to attend.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBERSHIP

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 June 14 and July 12 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>).

MEET YOUR BOARD

Richard Craib, Membership Chair

Richard Craib—born in San Francisco in 1941, raised in the Sunset District, and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1958—has recently reached another milestone, as he embarks upon the process of assuming the important role of CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter membership chair.

A long-time friend of the environment, Rich has been a CNPS volunteer since 1994 and has served as president of Friends of Glen Canyon Park for the past 15 years. He has been happily married to his childhood sweetheart Sandi (a 23-year San Francisco Botanical Garden volunteer) for 50 years; they have two grown children. The Craibs live on the Diamond Heights crest of Glen Canyon, where Rich enjoys sharing his backyard with raccoons, opossums, ground squirrels, and a curious coyote or two. He recently completed a beautiful and informative full-color Friends of Glen Canyon Park brochure depicting and identifying native wildflowers of this important San Francisco natural area.

Retired from the construction industry for the past 15 years, Richard is an inveterate traveler who manages to combine his wanderlust with his love of botany. His botanical sojourns have taken him to such far off places as South Africa, Patagonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Madagascar in the search of exotic plants.

Closer to his Diamond Heights home, where he has lived since 1962, Richard has led wildflower walks in his own “backyard,” most recently leading a March trek with co-leader Jake Sigg along the slopes of Glen Canyon, pointing out sun cups, Douglas irises, and all the nature Glen Canyon can muster to dozens of attentive flower lovers.

Richard oversees weekly Glen Canyon work parties, supervising a corps of volunteers in their efforts to combat invasive Cape ivy, French broom, wild radish, and mustard. His acumen with building materials held him in good stead in 2009, when he supervised the construction of a cedar railing that now adorns the west side of Islais Creek, helping to keep native plants safe from random traffic.

Whether hunting mushrooms, picking blackberries, or reintroducing native plants to local environs, Richard Craib brings to his new CNPS role the experience and enthusiasm that will attract eager members to our Yerba Buena Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

We extend a very warm welcome to Rich, a great friend of native plants and a great asset to our chapter, as he takes over this vital role! And thanks to Rich's friend Murray Schneider, who compiled the information for this biographical introduction.—Editor.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

January 16 through April 15, 2010

Carin Apperson, Patrick Furtado, Hank Gayler, Robert Hausman, Natalie Howe, Monique La Fleur, Alice Lehmann, Clifton Meek, Ben Stever

FOCUS ON RARITIES

STINGING NETTLE

Urtica dioica ssp. *holosericea*

by Michael Wood

[with contributions by Mark Frey,
Michael Chassé and Liam O'Brien]

Stinging nettle might seem an odd subject for this column. It's certainly not rare. And who on earth wants to have an encounter with a plant known for the dermal discomfort caused by contacting its stinging hairs? But there is a lot to say about this plant, and by no means does all of it involve cursing. In fact, stinging nettle is a most remarkable plant, one that plays a rather important role in our local ecology, perhaps in some ways you might not expect. Much like poison oak, once you can look past its nasty reputation, you can begin to appreciate it for its beauty, ecological role, and even the evolutionary story it has to offer.

The nettle family (Urticaceae) includes some 800 species in 45 genera; it is found in tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions on six continents. The family consists of deciduous annual and perennial herbs, perennial shrubs, lianas, and even small trees. These flowering dicots belong to the same subclass (Hamamelididae) as the oaks, birches, sycamores, walnuts, myrtle, and she-oaks (*Casuarina*). It is in the same order (Urticales) as hemp, mulberry, and elm. Members of the nettle family are well known noxious weeds, invading and densely colonizing disturbed streamsides, roadsides, canopy openings, fields, and orchards. Some members are useful for the harvestable bast-fibers that make up their stem tissue. Others are popular ornamental plants like artillery fern (*Pilea microphylla*), *Elatostema*, and *Pellionia*.

But the family is most notable for the presence of stinging hairs that function like hypodermic needles. The short, sharp, translucent and hollow hairs have bulbous bases filled with a pain-causing liquid reported to include a histamine, acetylcholine, and an as-yet-unidentified substance. Some genera have non-stinging hairs that are soft and flexible and lack the bulbous bases. Some have both. Perhaps the most notorious of all are the stinging-trees (*Dendrocnide* spp.) of northeastern Australia and Indonesia. Like stinging nettles on steroids, the hairs of these invaders of rainforest canopy openings can cause excruciating pain for days and weeks, painful

sensations for months and years, and has even purportedly resulted in human deaths. (What do you expect? It's from Australia.) I once tagged along with some ecologists collecting forest regeneration data in Queensland. They had been collecting years of data on huge forest quadrats that they had to throw out when this plant took over; there was no way to work on those sites. I asked if the plant is as bad as rumored. They assured me that it was and that any attempt to experience it, even on the tiniest bit of exposed skin, would be foolhardy.

Many folks feel similarly about our own nettle, especially after pushing through a



stand with bare arms and legs. All parts (stems, petioles, and both leaf surfaces) are covered in non-stinging and stinging hairs which, when brushed, inject an irritant just beneath the surface of the skin. Treatments for stinging nettle include applying a topical anti-inflammatory like hydrocortisone ointment, aloe vera, saliva, or hot mud compresses, and taking analgesics like acetaminophen. My favorite tried-and-true remedy is to crush a bunch of mugwort leaves (*Artemisia douglasiana*), which can almost always be found nearby, and rub them over the affected area, effectively neutralizing the stinging sensation.

This perennial herb spreads from underground rootstocks, developing stout, unbranched stems three to nine feet tall. It sometimes almost forms a forest of fuzzy stalks. The fuzzy, serrated leaves are gray-green and grow up to five inches long. Recorded from 55 of California's 58 counties, stinging nettle is generally associated with low, damp places, stream banks, and wooded or brushy flood terraces below 9,000 feet in elevation. The small,

greenish non-descript flowers lack petals. The male and female flowers develop in separate clusters on the same plant, a trait that distinguishes this subspecies from *Urtica dioica* ssp. *dioica*. In our area, flowering occurs from June through September.

Last year in this column (March 2009, vol. 23, no. 1) I touched upon the surprising role non-native plants play in supporting native butterflies, and I pondered how such organisms thrived before the introduction of non-native hosts. Like the native Kellogg's yampah (*Perideridia kelloggii*), stinging nettle is sure to have played (and continues to play) an important role. In this case, despite (or perhaps because of) its stinging hairs, *Urtica* is an important larval host plant for the red admiral butterfly (*Vanessa atalanta*) and the elusive satyr anglewing (*Polygonia satyrus*). According to Yerba Buena Chapter lepidopterist Liam O'Brien, the red admiral has made a great adaptive choice by also utilizing another non-native member of the nettle family, pellitory (*Parietaria judaica*), found in every crack along every sidewalk, thereby ensuring a virtual year-round flight; the satyr anglewing, however, has not made the move and is still completely dependent on the stinging nettle.

In our chapter area, stinging nettle is plentiful in Glen Canyon and is found occasionally at Lake Merced/ Brotherhood Way. It is present in the Presidio; it is abundant along Lobos Creek, and it has been included in several restoration projects at El Polin, Dragonfly Creek, and Thompson Reach. It was recently found to have spontaneously reestablished itself at the Historic Trail on Mount Sutro. Historically, it was reported as occurring in sandy soils among oaks in Golden Gate Park, at Pine Lake, Lake Merced, Mountain Lake, Lobos Creek, and above Bakers Beach (Howell, *et al.* 1958). Although common throughout the Bay Area and beyond, suitable habitat for stinging nettle in our chapter area is quite limited. And, like poison oak, efforts to promote its spread could reasonably be met with disdain. But not every spot on the planet needs to be comfortably accessible to us humans. We have lovely parks for casual enjoyment. In fact, it is just such defensive mechanisms as stinging hairs and caustic oils that may have kept such species around and doing what they do naturally—like feeding butterfly larvae. Now, what could be wrong with that?

REFERENCE

Howell, J.T., P.H. Raven, and P. Rubtzoff. 1958. *A Flora of San Francisco, California*. University of San Francisco. 157 pp.

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

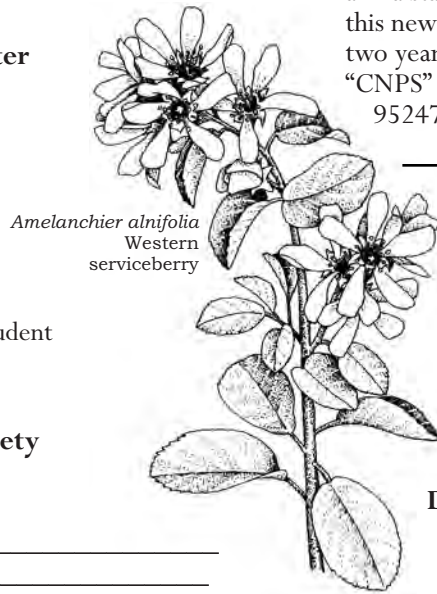
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Dues above the \$12 for publications are tax deductible. You will receive this newsletter, the informative quarterly journal *Fremontia*, and a statewide news bulletin. If you would like to receive only this newsletter, the price of a subscription is \$5 per year, \$9 for two years, or \$12 for three years. Send a check made out to "CNPS" to Suzanne Harmon, PO Box 1977, Murphys, CA 95247-1977.



YERBA BUENA NEWS

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DEADLINES FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Articles & general copy – July 15
Time-dependent material – August 1
Late-breaking news – By arrangement

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