

This edition of the YB News is dedicated to Barbara Pitschel (1939-2010).
See a special tribute to Barbara on pages 6&7.



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

Vol. 24 No. 3 ■ September 2010

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“A hen is only an egg’s
way of making
another egg.”
—Samuel Butler

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.

SEPTEMBER 2, THURSDAY

*A Natural History of California's
Long-Lived and Long-Dead Charismatic Megaflores:
The Bristlecone Pines of the White Mountains*
7:30 pm, Speaker: Adelia Barber

Plant Identification Workshop, 6 to 7:15 pm

Adelia Barber will present her research work on the ancient bristlecone pines, one of California's great natural treasures. Stands of *Pinus longaeva* in the White Mountains are not only a very long-living species, but deceased individuals and relict wood can remain intact for millennia after death due to the cold and dry high elevation environment. Adelia's research focuses on understanding the population dynamics and life-history of this species.

She has conducted surveys and experiments on seedling germination and survival, cone production, and has used tree-ring analyses to understand when and why some trees die while others survive. For this talk, Adelia will discuss the natural history and important life-stages of this ancient species and provide some insights about how bristlecone pines are responding to climate change.

Adelia Barber is a PhD candidate at the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She grew up in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and developed an early love for the native plants of this region. While completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Brown University, she worked on wildlife biology issues in Tanzania and studied seed biology in the endangered Santa Cruz tarplant. In addition to her dissertation research on bristlecone pines, she has been involved with conservation efforts in both the Los Gatos watershed, and the Bohemian Grove on the Russian River.

THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER

Invasive Plants: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly - And What is Being Done
7.30 pm , Speaker: Bob Case, CNPS Invasive Exotics Chair

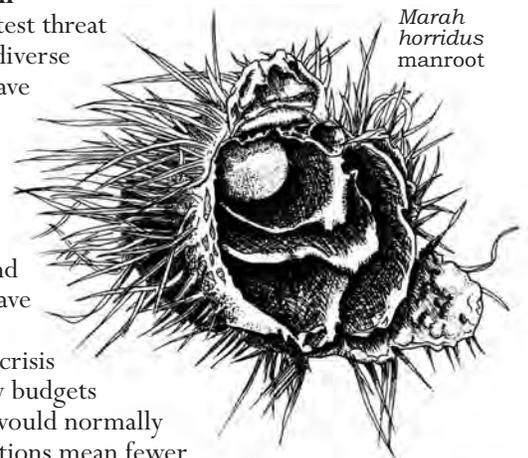
Plant Identification Workshop, 6 to 7:15 pm

Invasive plants vie with habitat loss as the greatest threat to world biodiversity, including our wonderfully diverse California flora. Increased travel and the internet have opened new pathways for introduction of exotic plants. Some of these newcomers, coupled with those already in our state, may invade and even displace healthy plants--including endangered species--and destabilize plant communities which have evolved over eons. When the native plants and communities disappear, so does the wildlife that have coevolved with them.

Unfortunately, today's financial and economic crisis coincides with this ecological crisis. Public agency budgets don't currently allow the degree of response we would normally expect to a challenge. Budget cuts and staff reductions mean fewer trained detection and management professionals in the field. The net result is less help, more undetected invaders, more environmental damage and greater costs for control.

Although this is worrisome, human creativity is beginning to show imaginative responses. Some economic interests are beginning to recognize a connection between their interests and healthy ecosystems, and the general public may come to perceive the connection with human welfare, including the connection to climate change. Public agencies and non-governmental organizations have recognized the problem and are rallying to meet the challenge. Local weed management areas have been formed and new resources are being utilized to manage invasives and help stop the spread. It is a time of rapid change--and a time rife with opportunities for creativity.

Bob Case holds a Masters degree from San Francisco State University in Ecology and Systematics.



*Marah
horridus
manroot*

PROGRAMS *(continued)*

Bob has taught biology and environmental science classes in Bay Area colleges and community colleges for twenty-five years. He recently retired after 23 years of service with the Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture, where he served as a deputy commissioner responsible for the implementation of biologically-sound pest management practices, including the biological control of weeds.

He is a field course instructor and former board member of the California Invasive Plant Council, and is an Associate Board Member with the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

NOVEMBER 4, THURSDAY

16th Annual Sale of San Francisco Native Plants

7:30 pm, Coordinator: Ellen Edelson

NO PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

We will be holding our 16th annual plant sale on this evening during our regular November meeting time. This is a great opportunity to find many native plant species that aren't readily available at garden centers. Our focus and offerings will be primarily locally native plants of our chapter area: San Francisco and northern San Mateo County, including Montara and San Bruno Mountains. These are the species already adapted to our area's climate, soils, and habitats--and are so important to our local fauna.

Many of the plants for sale will have been grown by chapter volunteers from seeds, cuttings, or divisions-- from garden plants or other sources from our chapter area. Great efforts are made to learn the provenance of the plants at our sale, as we understand the importance of maintaining a local gene pool.

There may be a few California native plants offered which are not

native to our chapter area but are valuable to insects, birds, or other wildlife, and are horticulturally-proven. These will be on a separate table from the plants of local origins.

There will be a large number of plants whose flowers attract pollinators, including native bees, butterflies, moths, and birds. These include host and nectar plants for the Green Hairstreak butterfly.

To assist shoppers in their selections, you will find: a plant list of the offerings on our website before the sale; the plants displayed according to their general plant community of origin; signage indicating the plant type, habit, size, soil preferences, and wildlife interest for each species; a photo of the flower and/or form of each plant. Also, several experts in native plant horticulture will be present for consultation. There will also be books and other print materials available for reference during the sale. Many books and posters will also be available for purchase.

Fall is the best time for planting. To help yourself plan ahead, refer anytime to our website, where you will find many informational and inspiring articles--and links--about "Gardening with Natives".

Cash and checks (sorry, no credit cards) will be accepted for plant and book sales. Membership applications accept credit info. Please join CNPS! For additional information, or to help before and/or at the plant sale, contact Ellen Edelson (415-531-2140 or e.edelson@sbcglobal.net).

PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

If you are interested in learning to key plants or to increase your plant recognition skills, join our informal, relaxed, and very popular plant identification workshops. Bring a hand lens and a *Jepson Manual* if you own one. We provide a dissecting scope and suitable plants. Workshop contact is Gail Wechsler, 415-285-4172 or gail.wechsler@gmail.com.

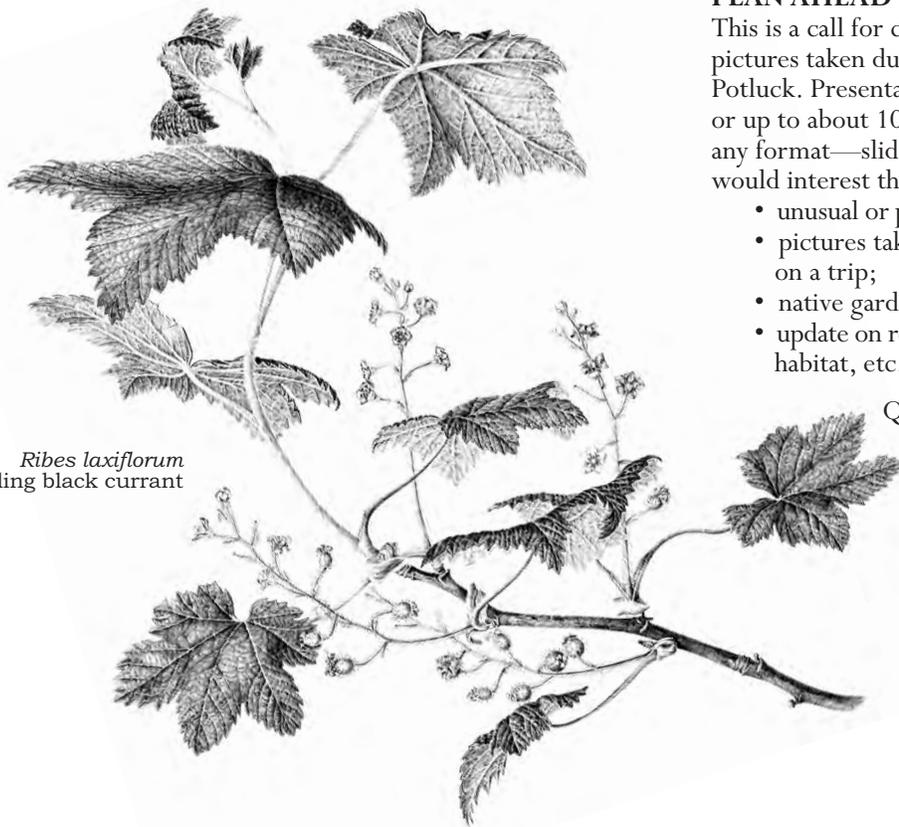
PLAN AHEAD FOR DECEMBER 2 MEMBERS' SLIDES!

This is a call for chapter members to start saving their favorite pictures taken during the year to share at the annual Holiday Potluck. Presentations could be less than a minute for one slide or up to about 10 minutes for numerous images. Pictures can be any format—slides or digital. They can be any subject you think would interest the group. For example:

- unusual or particularly nice plants, or animals, or landscapes;
- pictures taken while doing restoration, or taking a hike, or on a trip;
- native garden pictures, yours or others;
- update on research you have been doing on a particular plant, habitat, etc.

Questions: Contact Margo Bors at mcbors@comcast.net.

Ribes laxiflorum
trailing black currant



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.

OCTOBER 2, Saturday, 11 am to 1 pm

The Smallest Butterfly in North America — A Walk from India Basin to Heron's Head Park

Leader: Liam O'Brien

Few naturalists in San Francisco realize the smallest butterfly on the continent flies along our shores, where it uses pickleweed and other marsh plants as its hosts. The Pygmy Blue (*Brephidium exile*) is easily overlooked, being less than the size of a dime! It flies year-round, but the best time to see it is in the fall. Once you see it, you'll be hard pressed to forget this magical encounter. Liam O'Brien, a Bay Area lepidopterist, will discuss several butterflies along the way and have available the field guide he created, *The Butterflies of San Francisco*, for a \$5 donation to Nature in the City. Meet at the parking lot at India Basin Shoreline Park. Bring a light lunch to carry while we stroll and eat at Heron's Head Park. Call 415-863-1212 or email <liammail56@yahoo.com> for more information.

OCTOBER 9, Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm

Pedro Point Headlands

Leaders: Jake Sigg & Mike Vasey

Co-sponsored by Pacifica Land Trst

The 4-mile-long ridge of Montara Mountain terminates at Pedro Point, immediately south of Pacifica. It is a dramatic meeting of land and sea, and atop the bluffs abruptly rising from the Pacific are headlands whose biological makeup was at least uncommon, and probably unique in its constituents. The north side of Mt Davidson in San Francisco is dominated by many of the same plants that dominate here, but the aggregation is not known elsewhere: Nootka reedgrass (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*), huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*), California fescue (*Festuca californica*), and numerous berried shrubs. The reedgrass is noteworthy: its range begins in Alaska and it hugs the coast all the way to here, which is the southern terminus of its range if you ignore a small disjunct population near Monterey.

The area was abused and neglected for a long time while used as a motorcycle playground, thus resulting in deep erosion gullies. In 1992, the Pacifica Land Trust acquired title to the area and has been engaged in the slow process of arresting and binding the wounds and restoring a modicum of health. These efforts have increased recently as the result of a Coastal Conservancy-funded stewardship project that began during late 2009. The Pedro Point Headland stewardship team will welcome ideas on how to enhance its efforts to recover Pedro Point Headland and build community support for this effort. We will meet at the Pedro Point Shopping Center on west side of Highway 1, across from the Ace Hardware, Castle Kitchen businesses and car pool.

OCTOBER 30, Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm

San Bruno Mountain Natural History "Potluck" Tour

Leader: Doug Allshouse

San Bruno Mountain is a local landmark of political and natural historical significance. In his book *The Diversity of Life*, Edward O. Wilson calls the mountain "one of 18 ecosystem hotspots in the

world." It also has been Doug's backyard since 1978 and he walks the trails almost daily, so he has had plenty of time to learn about his environment. Blooms of wildflowers are scarce in October, but some do exist, and in any case there is much more to this place than the flora. The fauna are just as fascinating and are crucial to the many ecosystems present. As home to 3 endangered butterflies and 14 rare or endangered plants, the mountain has motivated many volunteers to undertake restoration projects to remove invasive plants and enhance our native plant communities. Doug has volunteered with Friends of San Bruno Mountain since 1996, in the field and in the nursery. What with these activities and 32 years of peregrinations, he tends to know where things are and, in some instances, how they got there. He will scout out and share the most interesting botanical and other phenomena of the season. Bring binoculars if you wish. Given the marine influence the weather is a box of chocolates so please bring layers. Enter the park off Guadalupe Canyon Parkway and meet in the main parking lot just past the rangers' kiosk. There is a self-registered \$5 admission

fee paid at the iron ranger at the kiosk. For directions or more information contact Doug at <dougsr228@comcast.net or 415-584-5114.



Neostapfia colusana
colusagrass

"Men do change, and change comes like a little wind that ruffles the curtains at dawn, and it comes like the stealthy perfume of wildflowers hidden in the grass."

—John Steinbeck

ACTIVITIES

CNPS PLANT SCIENCE TRAINING PROGRAM

Legends Of The Fall—Exploring The Clandestine Flora Of Early Fall In The Eastern Mojave Desert
September 28-30, 2010

UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center

Evening lecture on 28th followed by two days in field and 2nd evening lecture. Few botanists journey out in the late summer or early fall in search of colorful blooms of California's desert plants. Yet the early fall bloom in the eastern Mojave Desert can be more reliable than the more popular spring blooms. Approximately 10% of eastern Mojave annuals are considered "summer annuals", species that germinate following the monsoonal cloudbursts of summer, grow rapidly, and complete the life cycle before temperatures decline sharply in fall. In addition, many perennial species flower in early fall, particularly those of the Asteraceae, Poaceae, and Polygonaceae. This course will introduce botanists to the ecology and taxonomy of the diverse flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert, with special emphasis on rare or unique species.

Plant Taxonomy Teacher Training November 20-21, 2010

Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Tilden Park Berkeley

If you have ever dreamed of teaching a plant taxonomy class but never had the time to develop the curriculum, this is the opportunity for you. Course is for people interested in teaching a plant taxonomy course at the junior college or extended education level. Potential teachers should have taken one or more semesters of Plant Taxonomy or Systematics and have field experience in California floristics. This teacher training will not teach plant taxonomy but how to teach a course using the syllabus provided by Dr. Glenn Keator. There will be a mixture of indoor classroom time and time in the garden. Course materials are designed to teach a semester or quarter length class at a junior college or extended education program.



"Nature is what she is—amoral and persistent."—Stephen Jay Gould



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 September and November. Contact Terese Lawler tereselawler@gmail.com.

Bernal Hilltop.

3rd Sundays, 11 am to 2 pm. Work party contact Jake Sigg jakesigg@earthlink.net; Groups contact Kristin Bowman@sfgov.org or 415-831-6325.

Buena Vista Park. 1st Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Contact Kristin Bowman@sfgov.org 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.

Edgemoor 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 Heights Sandy Dunes Native Plant Community Garden. Contact Barbara Kobayashi okim1946@yahoo.com.

Golden Gate Park Oak Woodlands.

2nd Saturdays, 10 am to 12:30 pm. Contact Rob Bakewell 415-710-9617 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 Beach. 650-726-8801 or hmbrestore@gmail.com.

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 3:30 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@sfgov.org 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@sfgov.org 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 or <http://natureinthecity.org/mtsutro.php>.

Pacifica'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

Wednesdays, 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@sfgov.org or 415-831-6325.

San Pedro Valley County Park, Pacifica. 3rd Saturdays, 9 am. Contact Carolyn Pankow 650-355-7466.

Save the Bay. Tidal marsh habitats. Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Native Plant Nursery work on the first two Wednesday's of the month. Contact Natalie LaVan 510-452-9261 x109, or www.saveSFbay.org/volunteer.

Shields/Orizaba Rocky Outcrop. Contact Paul Koski at pkoski7@netscape.net.

Tennessee Valley Nursery and Stewards. Every Tuesday, 10 am to noon & 1 to 4 pm.

Contact 415-331-0732 or

lpnzini@parksconservancy.org.

Yerba Buena Island. Contact steward@natureinthecity.org or 415-564-4107.

FOCUS ON RARITIES

THE TARWEEDS

by Michael Wood

If you've walked through any of the Bay Area's grasslands in the summer, you've no doubt notice patches of dainty daisies with small white or yellow blossoms. Pleasing to the eye, you've also no doubt had another of your senses tickled by these plants. That turpentine odor that you pick up on your boots or pant legs and notice when you get back in your car can mean only one thing: You've wandered through a field of tarweeds.

Belonging to the sunflower family (Asteraceae), the so-called tarweeds are assigned to the tribe Heliantheae and the subtribe Madiinae. There are some 127 species of tarweeds in 17 genera with a center of diversity occurring in California and Hawaii. Also known as tarplant and rosinweed, the tarweeds are notable for the presence of glands on the leaves, stems, and involucre (bracts surrounding the inflorescence) that exude a sticky, strong-smelling resin. Our native California tarweeds belong to the genera *Anisocarpus*, *Blepharizonia*, *Calycadenia*, *Carlquistia*, *Centromadia*, *Deinandra*, *Harmonia*, *Hemizonella*, *Hemizonia*, *Holocarpha*, *Jensia*, *Kyhosia*, *Layia*, and *Madia*. Other members of the subtribe but not commonly called tarweeds are blow-wives (*Achyraea*), eyelashweed (*Blepharipappus*) whitecrown, (*Holozonia*), and hareleaf (*Lagophylla*).

But back to the tarweeds. Until Dr. Bruce Baldwin published his ground-breaking work on the group and reassessed the taxonomy of the species, the tarweeds were pretty much divided up between two genera, *Madia* and *Hemizonia*. *A California Flora and Supplement* (Munz 1968) lists 18 species and five subspecies of *Madia* and 27 species and six subspecies of *Hemizonia*. Of course, that has all changed now. The genera *Hemizonia* and *Madia* still exists (thank goodness), but some members are now assigned to some of those unfamiliar genera listed above.

The tarweeds are mostly annual herbs with the aforementioned aromatic herbage. The group of plants formerly lumped under the genus *Hemizonia* also includes one perennial shrub species. Several members have spine-tipped leaves and involucre. These species have the well-deserved common name of

spikeweed, which is readily apparent to anyone that has ever tried to collect specimens. Our local *Hemizonia* and *Madia* species (and their derivatives) are mostly summer-flowering denizens of grasslands and fields. The spikeweeds, more common in low-lying alkaline flats around the edge of the bay, flower late summer and into the early fall, while the layias are mostly spring-flowering. Long after the non-native annual grasses have turned brown and the other flowering herbs have dried up and blown away, the tarweeds can put on quite a show.



With relatively deep roots and small leaves, tarweeds are able to tap moisture held deep in the clayey soils and to limit water loss during the heat of the day, making these summer-flowering plants well adapted to growing long after the last rains have fallen.

By flowering as late in the season as they do, they are almost the only game in town for such pollinators as native bees. And although they might be the only green plant in the field, they tend to be avoided by grazing cattle because of the accumulation of the pungent resin on their leaf surfaces.

In fact, by late summer, few animals can forage on tarweeds.

Many tarweeds produce copious amounts of seed and they were a staple of many Native American tribes. Seeds were collected and ground into pinole or meal, which was eaten dry. Seeds and roots of

tarweeds were also stored and consumed through the year. The seeds are also consumed by a wide variety of birds and small mammals.

In addition to being pretty and at least to some, pleasant-smelling, many of the tarweeds have very limited distributions. In California, the group includes 11 species that are federally and/or State-listed as Endangered, Threatened or Rare, 32 species that are on the CNPS list 1B, one on List 3 and seven on List 4.

In San Francisco, five tarweeds can still be found, but only one is common.

Coast tarweed (*Madia sativa*, which includes what was formerly known as *M. capitata*) grows abundantly in the grasslands of Bayview Hill, Corona Heights, Glen Canyon, along O'Shaughnessey Boulevard, and in the Presidio. **Little tarweed** (*Hemizonella minima*; formerly *Madia m.*) is known only from McLaren Park.

Hayfield tarweed (*Hemizonia congesta* ssp. *luzulifolia*) has been found growing in coastal prairie near the Log Cabin in the Presidio. Ten plants were counted in 2002, but they have not been observed there for at least four years. **Tall tidy-tips** (*Layia hieracioides*) and **tidy-tips** (*Layia platyglossa*) are both known only from the Presidio. With the exception of coast tarweed, each of these species will be included on our chapter's revised list of locally significant plants.

Tarweeds known historically from the County (Howell, *et al.* 1958) but no longer present include spikeweed (*Centromadia pungens*), coastal tarweed (*Deinandra corymbosa*), fascicled tarweed (*Deinandra fasciculata*), Kellogg's tarweed (*Deinandra kelloggii*), smooth layia (*Layia chrysanthemoides*), woodland layia (*Layia gaillardiioides*), threadstem madia (*Madia exigua*), and slender tarweed (*Madia gracilis*).

So this summer, when you're out hiking in the grassy hills of the Bay Area, remember to follow your nose as well as your eyes. And when you pick up that strong odor of turpentine, look for the source. You're likely to be rewarded by spying some very pretty native herbs that you might otherwise have overlooked.

Happy summer.

REFERENCE

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

An Appreciation: Barbara Pitschel 1939-2010

Long time CNPS-YB board member Barbara Pitschel joined her beloved, late husband Roland in death on August 3, 2010. As she put it not long before she died, she was going “to be with the man.”

Barbara and Roland moved from Chicago to San Francisco in 1963 and to Bernal Heights in 1966. They participated from the very beginning in the years of work leading to the establishment of Bernal Hill Park as a natural area.

The Pitschels were also founding members of the Yerba Buena chapter of CNPS. Over the years Barbara served the chapter as editor of the newsletter, Program Committee Chair, Hospitality Chair --- and, as Ted Kipping put it, unofficial earth mother.

According to long time chapter member

Mila Stroganoff, Barbara believed strongly that when people gathered, there should be food and hospitality. Her actions matched her words. Bernal Hill work parties were followed by meals at the Pitschel residence on Ellsworth St., and Mila reports that thankfully there was no requirement that the amount of food consumed be proportional to the number of invasive weeds pulled!

In addition, monthly board meetings were almost always held at the Pitschels' house and there was always food for those meetings too. The tradition of having refreshments at member meetings was Barbara's idea (and, for a long time, they were provided by the Pitschels at their expense), as was the insistence that speakers should be treated to dinner before the meeting. Susan Floore notes that Barbara and Roland also always made sure that speakers were appreciated and thanked.

Barbara's dedication to the chapter newsletter is legendary. She insisted that the newsletter contain not just “news” but also art and even a bit of poetry. For the Pitschels' work on this and other chapter business, and at the urging of Mila and Adrian Stroganoff, the chapter board nominated the Pitschels for their eventual election as CNPS Fellows in 2006. Jake Sigg, long time friend and founding chapter member, in the nominating petition that appeared in *Fremontia*, said Barbara “orchestrates the production process, taking infinite pains to have each newsletter attractive, error-free, timely, of excellent quality, varied and balanced in content, interesting to readers, and educational.” Rich Craib says he could not believe how much attention Barbara paid at mailing sessions to the placement of sealers -- her concern being that every single copy should arrive intact. How typical that Barbara was working on edits to this edition of the newsletter in her hospital room 3 days prior to her death.

Ellen Edelson, a fairly recent addition to the CNPS-YB board, focused on a different aspect of Barbara's many contributions:

“Barbara was always available to help sort out an issue. She had the meticulous organizational skills of a head librarian, but also possessed highly tuned intuition and was a master of diplomacy. I will greatly miss our post-board meeting visits over a glass of wine, her soft spoken, warm, gentle nature, and her passion and dedication to CNPS.”

Artist and photographer Margo Bors, another long time chapter member and friend, contributed these reminiscences:

“I always think of Barbara and Roland together. They both had a great appreciation for the arts. She was a master carver and one of my prized possessions is a hand carved walking stick he created that has a small



owl and frogs and a salamander working their way up the staff and the handle tip turning into a beautifully carved whistle. I bribed him to trade the stick for some of my artwork I knew Barbara wanted. Barbara loved the art exhibitions at the Library [the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture at the San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, where Barbara was head librarian for years] and knew most of the artists personally. Her home was like a gallery, full of beautiful botanical artwork that she and Roland purchased at Library shows over the years. Her wish was that after she passed away her art collection be given to the Library for a special exhibition and sale with proceeds to benefit the Library. Roland had a wonderful sense of humor, but wouldn't smile if you pointed a camera at him. Even though she was very meticulous, Barbara took things with a chuckle and always had a twinkle in her eye."



Roland and Barbara Pitschel on Bernal Hill, 2006

In fact, it is impossible to list Barbara's many contributions to the chapter without mentioning Roland in connection with each. To quote Jake Sigg again (writing in 2006): "...if Barbara is the tree, Roland is the root system that anchors, supports, and nourishes it." They worked always together as a pair. And we will always remember them that way.

Calochortus luteus &
Triteleia laxa
Yellow calochortus &
Ithuriel's Spear
by Margo Bors

AN ENDURING LEGACY: BERNAL HILLTOP

Barbara's and Roland's long history in the field of ecological restoration in San Francisco began in 1972 when they became involved in Bernal Heights Park, which is now recognized as one of the city's significant natural areas. They helped in the successful effort to transfer this property from the Department of Public Works, where it was a candidate for development, to the Recreation and Park Department (RPD), where it will be preserved in perpetuity in a natural state.

After moving to Bernal Heights in 1966, they quickly realized that, despite years of disturbances and weed invasion, here was a remnant of the original landscape, complete with many of the native plants that had been present since the time of European settlement. The transfer agreement stipulated that any maintenance work undertaken at this park would be only to restore it to a "pre-1825" condition. In 1973, Barbara and Roland inaugurated monthly hilltop trash removal work parties. This effort gradually evolved into the monthly restoration work parties that still exist today. In 1980, aided by the expertise of David Amme and Dennis (Rogers) Martinez, founders of DAWN (Design Associates Working With Nature), the Pitschels were instrumental in gaining permission from RPD authorizing their volunteer stewardship efforts on Bernal Heights Park. Early efforts concentrated primarily on eradication of invasive exotic weeds. In 1986, with the help of Bernal Heights resident and plant ecologist Rick Clinebell, efforts were formalized into the Bernal Hilltop Native Grassland Restoration Project, which added propagation and planting of locally indigenous stock on the site and observation of results. The Bernal Hilltop Project was the first ecological restoration project attempted in San Francisco and one of the earliest such efforts in California. (Excerpted from *Fremontia* Vol. 35, No. 2)



Bernal Heights Park, North slope in August, *Piperia* orchid season



Piperia elegans
on Bernal Hilltop



"We have receipt of fernseed, we walk invisible."
—Shakespeare, *Henry IV*

Fall Planting Season Warm Up!

Our early fall rain is a great reminder that the fall planting season is about to begin. Fall is the best time to plant natives so they can establish during the cool and rainy months ahead. **The Fall Plant Sale on Nov 4** is a great chance to get plants native to our chapter area. New and renewing members will receive a free plant! **See page 2 for Fall Plant Sale info.**

PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

by Jake Sigg

If you're uncertain what to buy for your garden, look at what you see most commonly in our natural areas. To survive in the pocket fragments that represent San Francisco's natural areas, plants have to be tough. If you are lacking confidence on what to plant, that's what you want for your garden: spunky survivors. Here are a few selections, randomly chosen.

Making recommendations for home gardens is not easy; gardens are artificial, highly modified sites, and the conditions in which the plants will be growing are very different from their natural homes. Shade is more common, there's more moisture, soil may be sandy rather than clayey, and there are usually established shrubs or trees. So a bunchgrass or gumplant usually exposed to full sun and fierce wind may be asked to look beautiful or charming in the ungrateful conditions you've provided. Why do I tell you this? Only to warn you that you have to interpret advice you get from someone who hasn't seen your garden and your description may not be adequate to convey the reality. The advisor doesn't have a clue to these conditions, so the responsibility is with you.

Spring: Some bunchgrasses should be your foundation plantings; they provide a matrix and a foil for wildflowers, such as blue-eyed grass, checkerbloom, iris, aster, goldenrod, dudleya.

California sagebrush is fundamental to your shrub section; it is unbeatable for showing off other shrubs or herbs, such as bush monkey flower, gumplants, dudleyas, blue-eyed grass, checkerbloom--or you-name-it. Did I mention aster and goldenrod? Yes, I did, but they bear repeating because they are summer/autumn bloomers, even in very dry soils. You need them as nectar sources for all the critters that are abroad then and need sustenance. Damn few native plants offer nectar in our dry summer-autumn. Don't suffer blossom-blindness by loading your garden for spring. Think summer/autumn too.

Need advice on what to plant in the sandy Richmond and Sunset districts? How about checking out the Green Hairstreak gardens that Nature in the City (natureinthecity.org) has been encouraging neighbors to plant and take care of along 14th & 15th Avenues in the Sunset? There is eye-witness proof for what you can grow in our sand and fog. Caution to you sandy-soil people (like me): Many of the most delightful spring wildflowers grow in the heavier soils of the eastern part of the city. Some of them simply will not persist in sand, even with extra water. Some of my favorites, such as footsteps of spring, checkerbloom, and blue-eyed grass I have learned to just enjoy in the wild. They quietly and insistently taught me to practice what I preached to others: Grow those plants for which your situation is suited. You can get advice at the sale.

SOME OF THE NATIVES ON SALE NOVEMBER 4

woodland sanicle

Sanicula crassicaulis: Likes shade or dappled shade; beautiful foliage, unshowy flowers)

purple needlegrass

Nassella pulchra: The state grass of California, very drought-tolerant

yerba buena

Satureja douglasii: San Francisco's original name came from this plant

scarlet monkey flower

Mimulus cardinalis: A wet grower

scarlet columbine

Aquilegia formosa: Needs modicum of water, at least through flowering (beautiful, but beware: snails love it)

gum plant

Grindelia stricta: Abundant yellow daisy-like flowers in midsummer; very drought tolerant

pink currant

Ribes sanguineum glutinosum: Clusters of pink flowers on bare branches in January. Hummingbirds love, and berries devoured by birds

yarrow

Achillea millefolium: Beautiful foliage, visited by numerous wild creatures; ferny foliage. A toughie

clarkia

Clarkia rubicunda: Also called farewell to spring, annual that blooms late spring through summer. Self-sows

coast buckwheat

Eriogonum latifolium: Beautiful at all times of year, blooms in spring to autumn; dense clusters of tiny flowers beloved of bees and butterflies; a toughie

California sagebrush

Artemisia californica: A beautiful fine-foliaged gray shrub that makes wonderful foil for any plant; very tough and drought-tolerant

bush monkeyflower

Mimulus aurantiacus: Very floriferous drought-tolerant shrub that blooms all through summer; very good companion for sagebrush

fringecups

Tellima grandiflora: Slightly woody, loves dappled shade and moisture through late spring. Self-sows abundantly

angelica

Angelica hendersonii: Large tough perennial with beautiful foliage and tall, dense cluster of white flowers in mid-summer

blue-eyed grass

Sisyrinchium bellum: Good with perennial bunchgrasses and other wildflowers. Very drought-tolerant; self-sows



“Opinion says hot and bold, but the reality is atoms and empty space.”
—Democritus



CHAPTER NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(by Vice President Linda Shaffer)

Our chapter's plans to be the lead host of the CNPS December 2010 Chapter Council meeting are proceeding. Please note the form on page 11 for registering to host a delegate or two.

FROM THE LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

The Yerba Buena Chapter board voted to sign on to an appeal filed by the Sierra Club, Golden Gate Audubon, and SF Tomorrow protesting the certification of the Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Candlestick Point/Hunters Point Shipyard redevelopment project. There were nine issues of concern listed on the appeal, the most prominent of which is the proposal to build an 81 foot wide bridge over Yosemite Slough. The Slough, which is part of the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, is the site of a major wetlands restoration project (a project, by the way, which is a mitigation for wetlands destruction caused at SFO!). The bridge is to be used by pedestrians, bicyclists, and a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line, and, if the 49ers re-consider building a new stadium on the shipyard, by automobiles on game days. Noise, bright lights, shading of bird nesting sites and mud flats, and bay fill are all environmental issues associated with the construction and subsequent usage of such a bridge.

The appeal was heard by the Board of Supervisors on July 13 and was denied by an 8-3 vote. On July 27, the Board, after amending the project to reduce the bridge to a 41 foot width, approved the project 10-1. (An amendment to remove the bridge totally lost by one vote.) The project must still be approved by at least two regulatory agencies, so the fight is not ended. Representatives of the four appellants will meet soon to discuss next steps.

CHAPTER BOARD ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER

Election of chapter officers will be conducted at our annual meeting on Thursday, October 7, 2010. Membership meetings begin at 7:30 pm and the election will be one of the first orders of business. The Nominating Committee - Margo Bors (chair), Susan Floore, and Jake Sigg - has submitted the following slate of candidates for election as officers for the year 2011:

- **President, Casey Allen**
- **Vice-President, Linda Shaffer (incumbent)**
- **Treasurer, Adrian Stroganoff (incumbent)**
- **Secretary, Nancy Rosenthal**

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 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.

CHAPTER NEWS *(continued)*

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: THIS MEANS YOU!

Chapter members: There were already some vacant committee chair positions before the recent, unexpected loss of long time stalwart Barbara Pitschell. Now we really need help. It's time to step up and volunteer.

Barbara was not only the Newsletter Editor, she was also Programs Co-chair. We need IMMEDIATE help with both positions.

Did you ever work for your high school or college newspaper? We need you! Contact Kipp McMichael at kimcmich@hotmail.com to offer your services.

Do you enjoy the tradition of having interesting, timely, educational presentations at monthly member meetings? Consider offering to help continue this tradition. The Programs Committee is responsible for arranging speakers at 8 monthly meetings each year (4 months are pre-arranged.) If three people would offer to join the Committee, they would each be responsible for contacting speakers for 2 meetings. Suggestions for speakers can come from many sources. **YOU CAN DO THIS!!** Contact Jake Sigg at jakesigg@earthlink.net or 415-731-3028 to sign up!

After these positions are filled, we can get back to enlisting a new Hospitality Chair to take over from Nancy Rosenthal, who has agreed to serve as chapter Secretary starting in January.

Do not assume someone else will do these jobs. We need you!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

May 16 through August 12, 2010

Manuel Arteaga, Josephine Christen, Kevin Cox, J. Decker, Georgia Fie, Rachel Kesel, Linda Luntsford, Karen Malm, Deidre Martin, Nicole Meeker, Mavie Portman, Anthony Powell, Samuel Scarlett, Daniel Slakey, Judith Taylor, Jacqueline Weltman, Sara Witt, Kathleen Zierolf

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are scheduled for 7:15 pm on the second Monday of every month except August and December. Contact Linda Shaffer for information (415-206-1428, ljshaffer1@comcast.net).

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President

Position vacant

Vice President

Linda Shaffer 415-206-1428
ljshaffer1@comcast.net

Treasurer

Adrian Stroganoff 650-359-1642
adrianstroganoff@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Susan Floore 415-285-4692
sfloore@att.net

Chapter Council Delegate

Ellen Edelson 415-531-2140
e.edelson@sbcglobal.net

Alt. Chapter Council Delegate

Linda Shaffer 415-206-1428
ljshaffer1@comcast.net

Conservation Chair

Jake Sigg 415-731-3028
jakesigg@earthlink.net

San Mateo County Conservation Chair

Mike Vasey 650-359-7034
mvasey@sfsu.edu

Education Chair

Position vacant

Field Trips Chair

Gail Wechsler
gail.wechsler@gmail.com

Hospitality Chair

Nancy Rosenthal 415-928-2690
415miznan@comcast.net

Invasive Exotics Chair

Mark Heath 415-235-0987
heathman@jubata.com

Legislation Chair

Linda Shaffer 415-206-1428
ljshaffer1@comcast.net

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Posters and Book Sales Chair

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milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net

Presidio Chair

Peter Brastow 415-564-4107
peter@natureinthecity.org

Programs Co-Chair

Jake Sigg 415-731-3028
jakesigg@earthlink.net

Programs Co-Chair

Position vacant

Publicity Chair

Sharon Kato 415-752-7031
skkato@aol.com

Rare Plants Co-Chair

Peter Brastow 415-564-4107
peter@natureinthecity.org

Rare Plants Co-Chair

Michael Wood 925-939-3266
wood-biological@mindspring.com

San Bruno Mountain Chair

Doug Allshouse 415-584-5114
dougsr228@comcast.net

Seed Bank Chair

Don Mahoney 510-233-4624
dmahoney@sfbotanicalgarden.org

Webmaster

Kipp McMichael 510-759-3178
kimcmich@hotmail.com

Director at Large

Casey Allen 415-572-1144
Casey@SFLandscapes.com

Director at Large

Norine Yee 415-824-3312
norine@galicers.com

Director at Large

Randy Zebell 415-759-7448
rzebell@gmail.com

DECEMBER CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING:

by Ellen Edelson

To understand what the Chapter Council is and does, it is helpful to know a little bit about the rest of the structure of CNPS.

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide 501(c)3 non-profit organization with 33 chapters throughout California. There are large chapters (Yerba Buena is 6th largest) and small chapters—all organized and run by their own members according to their chapter by-laws. Thus, chapters vary somewhat in their structure. There are currently about 9400 members statewide.

On the other end, at the state level, there is an Executive Director who oversees everything, including the statewide committees and programs. There are also paid staff, including: Administration and

CHAPTER NEWS *(continued)*

Finance Manager; Directors of Membership, Development, Education; Office support: Webmaster; Bulletin and Fremontia Editors; Legislative Consultant; Botanist and Ecologists. Some of the state level programs are: Conservation, Rare Plant Science, Vegetation Science, Education, and Horticulture.

In between the local Chapters and the Sacramento office are two other bodies: the statewide Board of Directors and the Chapter Council. The Board of Directors has fiduciary responsibility for the whole organization. It consists of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, two Chapter Council representatives, and a number of Directors. The state Board of Directors is elected by the Chapter Council delegates. Board members also hold positions on various state-level committees.

The Chapter Council is a body of representatives of the chapters. Every chapter is asked to designate an individual to be their Chapter Council Delegate. This person is often, but not always, the chapter president. (Commonly chapters also designate an alternate delegate who keeps informed and attends as well or sometimes in place of the delegate.) Each chapter has one vote at Chapter Council meetings, which occur quarterly and are hosted by various chapters throughout the state.

The CC annually elects its own Chair, Vice –Chair, Secretary, and two Representatives to the state Board of Directors.

As a body, the Chapter Council creates policy for the organization.

Recently, it revised our mission and vision statements (revisited every 5 years), updated our statewide fire policy, decided the best uses of monies received from a bequest, and is now in the process of updating the organization's logo.

Members of the Chapter Council participate in many committees which help drive the organization on the larger scale. Input from many chapters help keep the information broadly pertinent throughout the state. Examples of such committees are: Membership, Chapter Support, Program Policy, Horticulture, Governance/Elections, Bylaws, Fellows Recognition, and Volunteer Recognition.

The Chapter Council is an important avenue of communication between our State Office and the individual Chapters. Particularly through the quarterly 8-12 hours of meetings, chapter delegates are able to get updated on: activities, programs, legislation, conservation, rare plant issues, membership issues, finances, etc.

These gatherings are also an ideal venue through which to meet other chapter representatives and share ideas, issues, successes, struggles, and materials. This networking encourages communication and cooperation between chapters and strengthens CNPS overall. Though there is plenty of work involved in being a Chapter Council delegate, one is rewarded with the satisfaction of helping CNPS, terrific presentations, interesting travel, great field trips, and new friendships.

The Yerba Buena Chapter has the privilege of hosting the upcoming December 2010 Chapter Council meeting. It will take place Saturday and Sunday December 11-12 at San Francisco State University, and It is open to all members. I hope many of you will take this opportunity to sit in --and learn about some of the behind the scenes efforts that help keep CNPS effective and moving forward. At the very least, plan to attend the dinner on Saturday evening. It is quite a festive event.

For more information, contact Ellen Edelson ,Yerba Buena Chapter Council Delegate, at e.edelson@sbcglobal.net or 415-531-2140.

HELP NEEDED FOR DECEMBER CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING

The December Chapter Council Meeting for 2010 will be taking place at San Francisco State University on December 10, 11, 12. The majority of people will be arriving December 10, and leaving on December 12. There will be others, obviously, who may arrive earlier and leave later. The quarterly Chapter Council meetings take place in different locations in California. The December meeting is traditionally held in the Bay Area. This year, the **Yerba Buena Chapter is the host chapter.**

We are addressing our chapter membership to assist us with accommodations in their homes during these days. **You are not obliged to provide food or transportation.**

If you can host Chapter Council attendees, please return to this form to the Home Hosting Coordinator:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone (home) _____

(cell) _____

E-mail _____

Number of people you can accommodate in total: _____

Number of beds: _____ Number of couches: _____

Number of people who can stay using sleeping bags: _____

Check whether you have a:

cat dog (for guests with allergies)

Comments:

Dates you have available space:

- Thursday, December 9 Sunday, December 12
 Friday, December 10 Monday, December 13
 Saturday, December 11

Reply to the Home Hosting Coordinator:

Mila Stroganoff.
1 Alviso Court, Pacifica, CA 94044
Telephone: 650-359-1642
e-mail: milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net

JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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

____ Yes, I'd like to join.

Affiliation: **Yerba Buena Chapter**

Membership Category

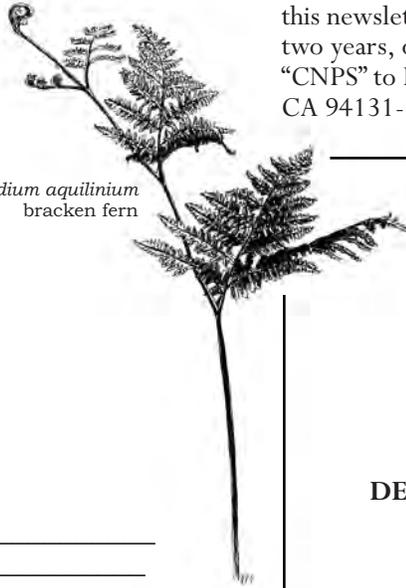
- ____ \$1,500 Mariposa Lily
- ____ \$ 600 Benefactor
- ____ \$ 300 Patron
- ____ \$ 100 Plant Lover
- ____ \$ 75 Family
- ____ \$ 45 Individual
- ____ \$ 25 Limited Income/Student

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

California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Telephone _____
email _____

Pteridium aquilinum
bracken fern



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 Richard Craib 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131-1640.

YERBA BUENA NEWS

Volume 24, number 3 (September 2010)
Published quarterly by the Yerba Buena Chapter
California Native Plant Society
Interim Editor – Kipp McMichael
Desktop publishing – Kipp McMichael
Mailing Coordinator – Rich Craib
Masthead design – Barry Deutsch
Chapter logo – Nancy Baron

DEADLINES FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

Visit: www.cnps-yerbabuena.org

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