



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

Vol. 25 No. 1 ■ March 2011

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“Nature never blunders;
when she makes a fool
she means it.”
—Josh Billings

PROGRAMS

Everyone is welcome to attend membership meetings in the Recreation Room of the San Francisco County Fair Building (SFCFB) at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. The building is served by the #71 and #44 bus lines, is one block from the N-Judah car, and is two blocks from the #6, #43, and #66 bus lines.

MARCH 3, THURSDAY

CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter Open House

6 to 7:30 pm

The March CNPS monthly members' meeting will be an open house in celebration of the efforts of our local CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter to live up to the mission of CNPS "...to conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants." Next door in the auditorium, the Sustainability Fair, which is sponsored by the Urban Farmer Store as a benefit for the SF Botanical Garden, will be happening. CNPS will also have a table at the Fair.

Everyone, CNPS member or not, is invited to stop by both places and:

- See sample native plants
- Talk with experts about San Francisco native plants - in the wild or for the garden.
- Collect flyers and information on our local natives
- Enjoy a continuous large screen viewing of San Francisco wildflowers and landscapes.

We will close the meeting room at 7:30 pm when all are encouraged to go to the auditorium and hear noted expert, Bob Perry, speak on California Gold: Plants & Water. Mention you are a CNPS member for a reduced entry donation of \$10. Details at: <http://www.westernhort.org/Press Release March 3.pdf>.

APRIL 7, THURSDAY

A Visual Tour of San Francisco's Native Wildflower Areas

7:30 pm, Speaker: Margo Bors, CNPS-YB Chapter Photo

Documentation Chair

7 to 7:30 pm, social half hour

Although the area had more diversity before it was urbanized, still an amazing number of wildflowers, from mass blooms of goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*) to delicate rein orchids (*Piperia elegans*), have managed to survive in San Francisco. Our speaker is one of the many CNPS volunteers working with the City's Natural Areas Program to preserve this priceless heritage for our children and grandchildren. She will take us on a visual tour of a number of her favorite wildflower places.

Margo Bors has been doing habitat restoration and documenting San Francisco's native plants and habitats for herself and for the Yerba Buena Chapter of CNPS for more than 15 years. She is an artist who has had numerous solo exhibitions in both art and photography, including several at the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture in Golden Gate Park. Margo contributes regularly to CalPhotos, the UC Berkeley Digital Library. Her images are also frequently used in publications of conservation organizations such as the Audubon Society and Sierra Club. A sample of her art and photography can be seen at www.margobors.com.

May 5, THURSDAY

San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum

Arthur Menzies Garden of California Native Plants

5:30 to 7:30 pm, Leaders: Don Mahoney, Terry Seefeld, Jake Sigg, Ted Kipping

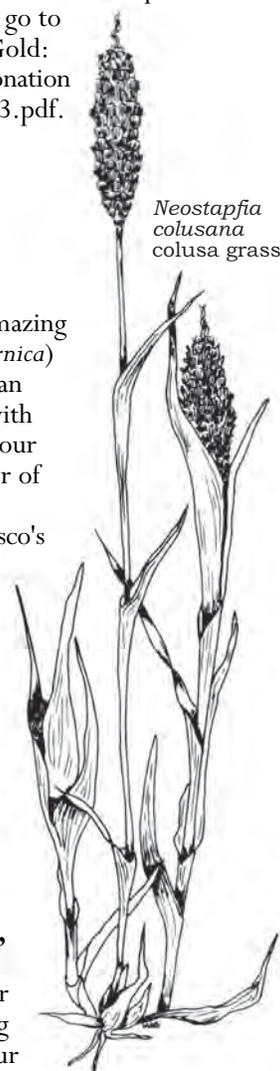
Come join us for a discovery tour of the Menzies Garden in May. Remember to bring a bag supper and enjoy a communal dinner in the garden among the native plants and evening wildlife. We have four experts to make your after-dinner walks truly an enjoyable experience and take advantage of the opportunity 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.

PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

We are temporarily suspending our plant identification workshops while we work on reinventing them in a new format. Stay tuned for their return later this year.

FUTURE PROGRAM

June 2: A State of Change
Laura Cunningham



Neostapfia colusana colusa grass

FIELD TRIPS

Members and non-members are encouraged to attend these FREE walks. Trips are held rain or shine, but heavy rain cancels unless otherwise noted. **Contacts for additional information are listed after each trip description.** In general, bring lunch, liquids, sunscreen, layered clothing, and hand lens or any other tools/toys that will enhance your exploratory experience.

MARCH 19, Saturday, 10am to noon

Glen Canyon Spiders

Leader: Darrell Ubick

Once again, California Academy of Sciences arachnologist Darrell Ubick will lead his very popular spring trip to Glen Canyon in search of spiders. The park is sure to be full of spiders, from newly hatched spiderlings to adults, out and about searching for prey or mates. While the untrained eye might not see them, Darrell knows where and how to look. If it's sunny there should be at least a few colorful members of the jumping spider family. The trip is on regardless of cloudy or rainy skies. **Only very heavy rain will cause postponement to March 26.** Meet behind the Glen Park Recreation Center where the lawn stops and the wild part of the canyon starts. (Contact: Darrell Ubick DUBick@calacademy.org)

MARCH 26, Saturday, 1 to 4pm

Rancho Corral de Tierra (San Mateo County)

Leaders: Jake Sigg & Susie Bennett

Rancho Corral de Tierra is an ecological gem, a large tract of formerly private land on Montara Mountain that is in the process of being transferred to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area from the Peninsula Open Space Trust (see www.nps.gov/goga/rcdt.htm). Join Jake Sigg and GGNRA natural resource specialist Susie Bennett to explore a portion of this huge (3,858 acres) parcel, which contains 3 of Montara Mountain's 4 peaks and a multitude of botanical wonders. Today's walk will meander through the area between McNee Ranch State Park and the town of Montara. Expect beautiful vistas, rolling hills, and potential for exposure to poison oak and ticks as we pass through coastal scrub, seasonal wetlands, annual grasslands, and some

remnants of coastal prairie. Most of the terrain is relatively flat, but more



Ribes laxiflorum
black trailing currant
by Martha Kemp

adventurous walkers may choose to explore the native grass communities growing along the ridges. Join us at the Le Conte Portal at the northern edge of Montara near the intersection of Le Conte Ave. and Kanno. From Highway 1, head east on Montara's 2nd St., take the first right onto Main, first left onto 3rd St., and the third left onto Le Conte. Drive to the northern end of the road and park parallel. **Heavy rain postpones to April 2.** (Contact: Susie Bennett 415-265-1540 or Susie_Bennett@nps.gov, Jake Sigg at 415-731-3028 or jakesigg@earthlink.net)

APRIL 16, Saturday, 10am to 3pm

San Bruno Mountain: Ridge Trail (San Mateo County)

Leaders: Doug Allhouse & Liam O'Brien

Cosponsored by CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter

The Ridge Trail offers a long and interesting menu of plant species including the endemic San Bruno Mountain manzanita (*Arctostaphylos imbricata*) plus fantastic views – on a very clear day, the vistas easily extend out to 35 miles. The trail is an undulating fire road that follows the ridge line and has one arduous dip. It begins in coastal scrub and transitions to grassland as we travel southeast. The wildflower show, while varied and spectacular, is just part of the allure. Quite often on past trips we have encountered the mountain's endangered mission blue and callippe silverspot butterflies along with other spectacular species such as anise and pipevine swallowtails. On hand to help us enjoy and learn more about these beauties will be noted lepidopterist/illustrator Liam O'Brien, who is no stranger to our local butterflies. Besides helping to relocate female mission blue butterflies to Twin Peaks, he created the Green Hairstreak Corridor restoration project and a butterfly field guide for Nature in the City. The Ridge Trail is best enjoyed at leisure so bring a lunch and liquids. Meet at the summit parking area: turn right just past the ranger kiosk and follow the road under the parkway, then drive through the open gate and take Radio Road all the way to the end. There is a \$5 park admission fee. Weather on the ridge is subject to the whims of the Pacific so bring layers. **Heavy rain moves the trip to April 23.** For further information including directions or weather reports, contact Doug Allhouse at 415-584-5114 or dougsr228@comcast.net.

APRIL 30, Saturday, 10am to 2pm

Point Molate Grassland (Contra Costa County)

Leader: David Amme

Cosponsored by CNPS East Bay Chapter

With the fate of Point Molate still hanging in the balance, we will again visit this lovely grassland on the Potrero Hills peninsula just north of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, a site with terrific views of San Francisco, Marin, and San Pablo Bay to the north. Its intact native coastal bunchgrass prairie is virtually the last of its kind within the Bay and boasts a unique mix of grasses: California oatgrass, purple needlegrass, squirreltail, junegrass, and red fescue adjacent to patches of California fescue, creeping wildrye, and Diego bentgrass. Despite encouraging outcomes in November's election in Richmond – a progressive majority on the city council and the defeat of an advisory measure favoring the casino – it's too soon to let down our guard against the mega-casino development proposed for this area. **Part of our route is a steep climb and may be slippery.** From the Bay Bridge, head north on I-80, take the I-580 split on the right just

FIELD TRIPS *(continued)*

before Albany Hill, and head toward the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Just before the toll plaza take the Western Drive/Point Molate exit. Continue on this road as it climbs a hill and curves north; as it descends the hill, park at the parking lot on the right before the Point Molate Restricted Area open gate/chain link fence. Be sure to bring lunch, sunscreen, a hat, and water; a hand lens and camera are also recommended. **Very heavy rain cancels.** (Contact: David Amme damme@epiphany2000.com; office 510-544-2344; cell 510-432-6141)

MAY 8, Sunday, 11am to 1pm

Claremont Canyon Butterflies

Leader: Liam O'Brien

Cosponsored by CNPS East Bay Chapter

Get to know this often overlooked natural area in the East Bay. One might drive through it without knowing it holds a rich butterfly diversity: Lorquin's admirals, veined whites, field crescents, and three *Vanessa* species. The not-so-secret to this wealth of fauna is an equally rich variety of native flora, which is beautifully documented at www.nhwildlife.net (click on Plant Gallery); after you browse this collaborative labor of love compiled by local naturalist Kay Loughman, come out and see with your own eyes. Lepidopterist/illustrator Liam O'Brien will walk you through Butterflies 101 and give tips on identifying butterfly species and

ACTIVITIES

GGNRA RARE PLANT MONITORING

CNPS members are invited to participate in rare plant monitoring in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. GGNRA staff and volunteers will gather data on a dozen rare plant species including Presidio clarkia and Franciscan thistle. Work days are scheduled on Thursdays: March 17 and 31, April 28, and May 5, 12, 19, and 26. Work generally begins at 8:30 and ends at 3:30, although times and dates are subject to change on short notice. Locations include Land's End, Fort Funston, and the Presidio; some sites involve long hikes or difficult terrain. Please contact Michael Chassé to RSVP and receive further information: 415-561-2857 or michael_chasse@nps.gov.

NATURE IN THE CITY NATURE TREKS

To sign up for a TREK email linda@natureinthecity.org or call 415-564-4107.

Hidden Treasures at Bayview Hill with Jake Sigg

Saturday, March 12, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Get Out & Get Dirty in Golden Gate Park with Chris Giorni

Thursday, March 24, 4:00 - 6:30 pm

The Rare Green Hairstreak Butterfly Sleuthing Adventure! with Damien Raffa

(URBIA Adventure League family-fun event!)

Sunday, March 27, 10 am - noon

Twin Peaks Bioregion & Eco-Corridor with Peter Brastow

Saturday, April 2, 10 am - 2 pm

Tune Into Spring on Twin Peaks with Josiah Clark

Sunday, April 3, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Medicinal Plants in Glen Canyon with Allison Budner

Sunday, April 10, 10:00 am - 12 noon

Green Hairstreak Butterfly Corridor with Liam O'Brien

understanding the close relationship each has with its host plant. We might encounter steep or rough terrain, so sturdy shoes and a walking stick are recommended. Because parking near the Canyon is scarce, we will meet at Rockridge Bart in the parking lot near the escalators and form carpools. From Highway 24 eastbound, take the Claremont Ave. exit, turn left onto Claremont then right onto College Ave. The Bart station is at the freeway overpass. Butterflies only fly when it's sunny, so **overcast skies will postpone the walk to May 15 and inclement weather on the 15th cancels.** (Contact: Liam O'Brien liammail56@yahoo.com or 415-863-1212)

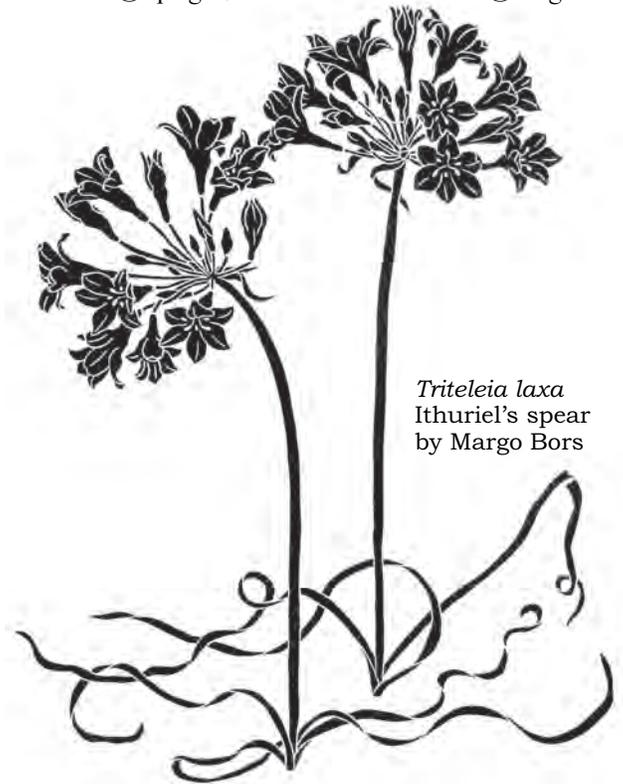
MAY 22, Sunday, 1 to 4pm

Rancho Corral de Tierra (San Mateo County)

Leaders: Susie Bennett & Eva Buxton

Anticipating lots of interest in this new, very large addition to GGNRA, we are offering a second trip in addition to the one held in March (see description above). GGNRA natural resource specialist Susie Bennett and CNPS volunteer botanist Eva Buxton will lead this time. Meet at the Le Conte Portal at the northern edge of Montara near the intersection of Le Conte Ave. and Kannoff. From Highway 1, head east on Montara's 2nd St., take the first right onto Main, first left onto 3rd St., and the third left onto Le Conte. Drive to the northern end of the road and park parallel.

Heavy rain cancels. (Contact: Susie Bennett 415-265-1540 or Susie_Bennett@nps.gov, Eva Buxton evabuxton@sbcglobal.net)



Triteleia laxa
Ithuriel's spear
by Margo Bors

Sunday, April 17, 11 am - 1 pm

Green Hairstreak Butterfly Corridor with Liam O'Brien

Saturday, May 7, 11 am - 1 pm

Wild Flower Power in the Dunes of the Presidio with Lew Stringer

Saturday, May 14, 10 am - 12:30 pm

Spring Bird Migration at Mt. Davidson with Dominik Mosur

Sunday, May 15, 8:30 am - 11:00 pm

Exploring Yerba Buena Island with Ruth Gravanis

Sunday, May 21, 9:15 am - 11:30 am

ACTIVITIES *(continued)*

JEPSON HERBARIUM WORKSHOPS

Registration information is available online at:
<http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/2011>

Flora of the Santa Cruz Sandhills

May 6-8, Santa Cruz County

Instructors: Jodi McGraw and Randy Morgan

Amidst the redwood forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains, islands of droughty, nutrient-poor sand soils formed from uplifted Miocene marine sand deposits give rise to unique plant communities found nowhere else in the world: the Santa Cruz Sandhills. Floristic jewels, the Sandhills are threatened by sand mining, residential development, incompatible recreation, and the invasion and spread of non-native species.

Mimulus

May 20-22, SNRI Yosemite Field Station in Wawona

Instructor: Steve Schoenig

California is the center of *Mimulus* diversity: 80 of the world's 120 species occur in the state. This class will discuss *Mimulus* evolution, ecology, and conservation while visiting some beautiful monkey flower hotspots in the Yosemite region.

HABITAT RESTORATION

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

Alemany 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.

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

CNPS EDUCATION PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA RANGELAND MONITORING WORKSHOP

March 22-23, Bakersfield & Tejon Ranch

Instructor: Jennifer Buck-Diaz, CNPS, Vegetation Ecologist

California grasslands are incredibly rich in herbaceous plant species; however, most areas are labeled and mapped as “non-native grassland”. We know less about this vegetation than any other major California ecosystem. CNPS has launched an initiative to understand and conserve California’s grassland vegetation. This workshop will focus on results of an NRCS-funded project titled: *California Rangeland Monitoring and Mapping, Focusing upon San Joaquin Valley and Carrizo Plain Grassland Habitats*. Two local field visits will help develop skills in field plant species identification and train participants in the CNPS Relevé sampling protocol.

For registration and full details, please go to CNPS Workshops page at: www.cnps.org/store.php?crn=67

or email or phone Josie Crawford at or (916) 447-2677 ext 205.

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

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 Nature in the City at 415-564-4107 or steward@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.

Linda Mar State Beach 4th Sundays, 10 am to noon. Contact 650-451-1130 or 94116bc@gmail.com.

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 - 1 pm

Contact Craig Dawson: craig@natureinthecity.org

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 lponzini@parksconservancy.org.

White-Crowned Sparrow

3rd Saturdays, 9am - noon
Contact sfrpd.volunteerprogram@sfgov.org

WILDFLOWER HOTLINES & WEBSITES

Updated by Sharon Kato

To maximize your chances of being in the right place at the right time to see spring wildflowers, you might want to periodically check some of the wildflower hotlines, websites, and information sources around the state. NOTE – Various State Parks may close or have limited access during the year due to budget cuts, check before you go: www.park.ca.gov.

MULTIPLE SITE LISTINGS

Bureau of Land Management Lands in California

www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/prog/recreation/wildflowers.html Contact numbers and a peak bloom chart

California State Parks

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

www.parks.ca.gov/pages/24317/files/2008_Spring_Wildflowers_release.pdf

California Vernal Pools

www.vernalpools.org

Links to guided tours of the Jepson Prairie, Mather Field, Rancho Seco Howard Ranch, Santa Rosa Plateau, Vina Plains Preserve & North Table Mountain.

Desert USA's Wildflower Watch

www.desertusa.com/wildflo/wildupdates.html

Updates on desert wildflowers in AZ, CA, NV, UT, & TX.

Nevada Natural Heritage Program

<<http://heritage.nv.gov/wildflow.htm>>

(not updated since 2008 but still useful information)

Theodore Payne Foundation Wildflower Hotline

818-768-3533—Taped wildflower reports for Southern California. Recording begins the first Friday in March, updated every Thursday through May. www.theodorepayne.org/hotline.html includes links to dozens of wildflower sites.

US Forest Service

www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/regions/index.shtml

links to wildflower pages in 49 states.

INDIVIDUAL LISTINGS

Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve

www.parks.ca.gov takes you to State Parks home page, click on "Find a Park" link.

661-724-1180 (recorded wildflower report)

Anza-Borrego Wildflower Hotline

760-767-4684—Recorded information

www.california-desert.org. Great information on weather and timing for desert bloom.

Carrizo Plain National Monument

Goodwin Educational Center (some recorded info)

805-475-2131

Bakersfield BLM Field Office 661-391-6000

www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bakersfield/Programs/carrizo.html

Death Valley National Park

760-786-2331—Press 1, then 5 for recorded wildflower information.

www.nps.gov/deva/naturescience/wildflower-update-2011.htm

Edgewood County Park

650-368-6283—Taped general information; can leave a question for ranger.

866-463-3439—Friends of Edgewood Park, to leave a question for a docent. Weekend wildflower walks mid-March to June

www.friendsofedgewood.org

Henry W. Coe State Park

408-779-2728 (usually staffed on weekends) www.coepark.org

Jepson Prairie Preserve

Site operable from early March through Mother's Day.

Check calendar for guided walks at www.solanolandtrust.org

Joshua Tree National Park

760-367-5500—Press 1, then 9, for recorded wildflower information.

www.nps.gov/Jotr/index.htm

Kern County Wildflower Hotline

661-322-WILD—Reports beginning in March.

Mendocino Headlands State Park

The Ford House Visitors' Center 707-937-5397 (open all week)

www.parks.ca.gov takes you to State Parks home page, click on "Find a Park" link.

Mojave Desert

www.digital-desert.com/wildflowers/wildflower_report.html

Kelso Depot Visitor Center—Call 760-252-6108

Hole-in-the Wall Visitor Center—Call 760-928-2572

to speak to the ranger.

Mount Diablo State Park

Summit Visitors' Center 925-837-6119

Junction Station 925-837-6129

Check www.mdia.org

Mount Tamalpais State Park

415-388-2070—Talk to rangers at Pan Toll Station.

www.parks.ca.gov

Pinnacles National Monument

Bear Gulch Visitor Center 831-389-4485 www.nps.gov/pinn

Point Reyes National Seashore

415-464-5100—Press 2 to talk to park ranger at

Bear Valley Visitor Center <www.nps.gov/pore>

Yosemite National Park

209-372-0200—Press 3, then 5, to speak to a ranger.

www.nps.gov/yose



Heracleum lanatum
cow parsnip

GARDEN TOURS

7th ANNUAL CNPS YERBA BUENA CHAPTER SPRING TOUR OF NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

Sunday, April 10, 11 am to 3 pm
FREE ADMISSION, NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

SAVE THE DATE for the Native Plant Garden Tour organized by CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter. The purpose of the tour is to expose gardeners to native plants, their charms in a garden and the benefits and possibilities of their inclusion in an attractive, wildlife-friendly garden. To this end we include an array of private gardens ranging from mature gardens featuring 100% natives (focusing on compatible plantings), mixed gardens, professionally designed and maintained artistic gardens, gardens focusing on habitat for wildlife (for example, the chorus frog), gardens integrating food production with native plantings, gardens in transition to include more natives. We also feature public gardens dedicated to local flora and fauna or similar gardens not usually open to the public. **Check the chapter website in March for more information.**

Further information: **Susan Floore** at sfloore@att.net or 415-285-4692. Also please let Susan know **if you can volunteer** to help by co-hosting at one of the gardens on the day of the tour.

visit

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

Native Plant Garden Tour

Sunday
April 10,
2011

11am to 3pm



Phacelia californica
California phacelia

- No registration required
- Free & self-paced
- Visit anytime 11am to 3pm

9th ANNUAL GOING NATIVE GARDEN TOUR San Francisco Peninsula & Santa Clara Valley Sunday, April 17, 10 am to 4 pm

FREE ADMISSION, Registration required
www.goingnativegardentour.org

Since 2003, the Bay Area's pioneering native garden tour has showcased gardens featuring California native plants. This community-based tour is free of charge to the public upon successful registration. Each tour features about 40-70 gardens, most of them private home gardens, which are open on tour day for viewing by the public in a do-it-yourself, open house format. The goals of the tour are to demonstrate reduced water use, reduced chemical and pesticide use, improved habitat, and the unique aesthetic appeal of gardens designed with California native plants.

For more information, contact info@goingnativegardentour.org. Please be sure to include a subject line. This tour is organized and operated by volunteers working evenings and weekends. Allow sufficient time for a response.

7th ANNUAL BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

Sunday, May 1, 10 am to 5 pm

FREE ADMISSION, Registration required
www.bringingbackthenatives.net

Free Self-Guided Tour: As usual, the free Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour will take place on the first Sunday in May. Fifty beautiful native plant gardens, including a variety of bird- and butterfly-friendly, pesticide-free, water-conserving, low maintenance gardens that contain 50% or more native plants will be open. More than 40 garden talks will be scheduled throughout the day.

Native Plant Sale Extravaganza: Several nurseries specializing in California natives will be open on Saturday April 30 and Sunday May 1 from 10 am to 5pm. These nurseries carry large quantities of hard-to-find California natives. Knowledgeable staff will be on hand to help you select plants right for your garden throughout the weekend.

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

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



Delphinium variegatum • Royal Larkspur • by Margo Bors

FOCUS ON RARITIES

San Francisco Woodland Star

Lithophragma affine

by Michael Wood

San Francisco woodland star is one of those pretty little herbs you encounter in the early spring on our coastal hillsides, along with similar beauties like milk-maids (*Cardamine californica*), hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*), common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), California buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus*), checker mallow (*Sidalcea malviflora*), and Johnny Jump-up (*Viola pedunculata*). It's always a delight to come across patches of these delicate flowers in a sea of green (native or otherwise).

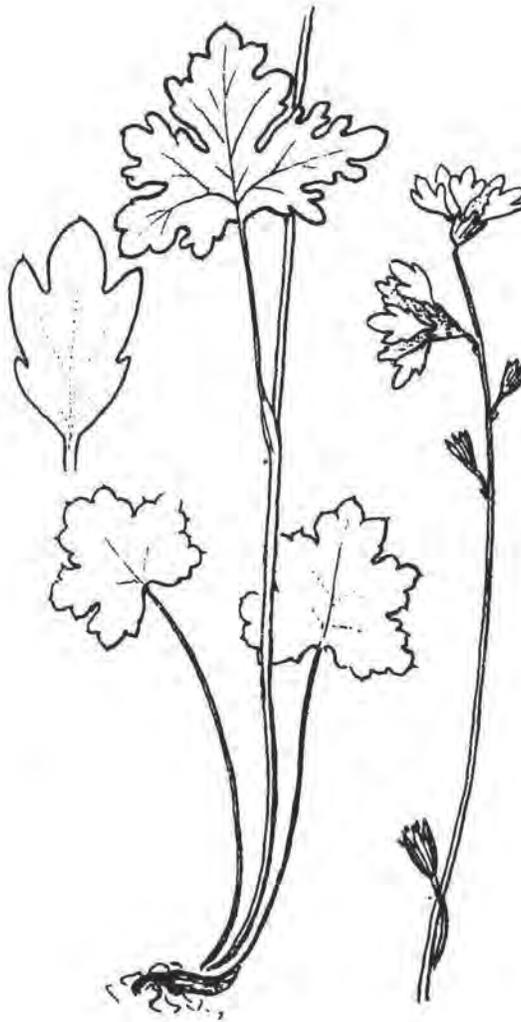
Perhaps reminiscent of some members of the Ranunculaceae or even Asteraceae, San Francisco woodland star actually belongs to the saxifrage family (Saxifragaceae). The Flora of North America lists ten species of *Lithophragma*, all found in the west and nine of which occur in California. One species, San Clemente Island woodland star (*L. maximum*) is both a federally and state-listed endangered species. The genus name is derived from the Greek word *lithos*, meaning stone, and *phragma*, which means hedge or fence, alluding to rocky habitat. These perennial plants are rhizomatous and sometimes bear bulbils in the axils of the leaves.

San Francisco woodland star is a robust perennial herb producing simple stems 8-20 inches tall. Foliage consists of a rosette of basal leaves about 2 inches wide and with 3-5 lobes, and of deeply three-lobed and much reduced cauline leaves. Flowers develop on nodding racemes as much as 23 inches tall. The half-inch flowers are white with shallowly 3-lobed petals and obscure venation. Flowering is very dependent on adequate rainfall and typically occurs from March through May. Vegetative reproduction also occurs through the production of aerial or subterranean bulbils.

Although widespread (woodland star is recorded from 44 of California's 58 counties), it is often found only locally where conditions are just right, and grazing and competition from non-native plants are minimal. It is primarily found in the coastal hills and mountains of California and southern Oregon, from sea-level to as much as 6500 feet in elevation. It occurs in open grasslands and bluffs in oak and

oak-conifer woodlands on moist, well-drained and often rocky sites.

In a previous newsletter (vol. 23 no. 2, June 2009²), I discussed another member of the family, California saxifrage. I won't repeat the discussion of the family's traits and related taxa. In that article, I was



Lithophragma affine
San Francisco woodland star

upbeat about its rediscovery in San Francisco. I feel less positive about San Francisco woodland star's fate in the City. Historically known from moist, shaded slopes in brush and grasslands at Lake Merced, Brotherhood Way, and Bayview Hills¹ (Howell, *et al.* 1958), its presence in the City is tenuous. It still occurs at Bayview Hill on a cliff face overlooking the stadium, but even there it is facing increasing competition from poison oak and yellow oxalis (J. Sigg, pers. comm.); Randy Zebell of the Natural Areas Program counted 20 plants there in 2010. It has also been reported from a single occurrence at Glen Canyon Park in coastal scrub; according to

chapter member Rich Craib, that population may have been lost. Jake Sigg also has reported a sighting of a single plant while weeding a north-facing cliff at The Rocks at 14th Avenue and Ortega Street. In 1995, woodland star was also reported from Twin Peaks growing above Burnett Avenue. As this later site has been the subject of attention for weed control, it may still be there. There are no recent records of San Francisco woodland star from the Presidio.

In San Mateo County, San Francisco woodland star is found on San Bruno Mountain, Montara Mountain, Edgewood County Park, in the Crystal Springs watershed, and on Jasper Ridge. Elsewhere in the Bay Area, San Francisco woodland star occurs throughout the Santa Cruz Mountains and the hills of Marin County. In Contra Costa and Alameda counties, it is known from the Berkeley and Oakland Hills, Mt. Diablo, and the Mt. Hamilton Range.

Despite its occurrence over a wide geographic range, San Francisco woodland star is very uncommon in our chapter area, despite a fair amount of suitable habitat. Competition with invasive plants poses a very serious threat to the limited number of plants remaining. The rarity of the species here, the small number of individuals in each population, and the threats they face make San Francisco woodland star a prime candidate for inclusion in our chapter's list of locally significant plant species³ (for a discussion of this list, please see chapter newsletter Vol. 23. No. 3, September 2009).

This spring, do yourself and us a favor by keeping an eye open for this lovely little wildflower as you explore our grassy hillsides. If you find it, be sure to make a note of the date, location and number of plants, and threats, and let us know about your discovery. Take some photos, too, but whatever you do, please don't pick this or any of our other natives...we want to keep them around as long as we can.

Reference:

1. Howell, J.T., P.H. Raven, and P. Rubtzoff. 1958. *A Flora of San Francisco, California*. Univ. of San Francisco. 157 pp.
2. CNPSYB Newsletter, September '09: www.cnps-yerbabuena.org/news/
3. Locally Significant Plants List: www.cnps-yerbabuena.org/local-sig/

PLANT SALE

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN

California Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 16, 10 am to 3 pm

Located near the Brazil Building at the intersection of Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive

Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley

Sale will feature California shrubs, trees, perennials.

Find many plants not available in the nursery trade.

Horticultural advice gladly given!

Explore the Garden. Admission is free.

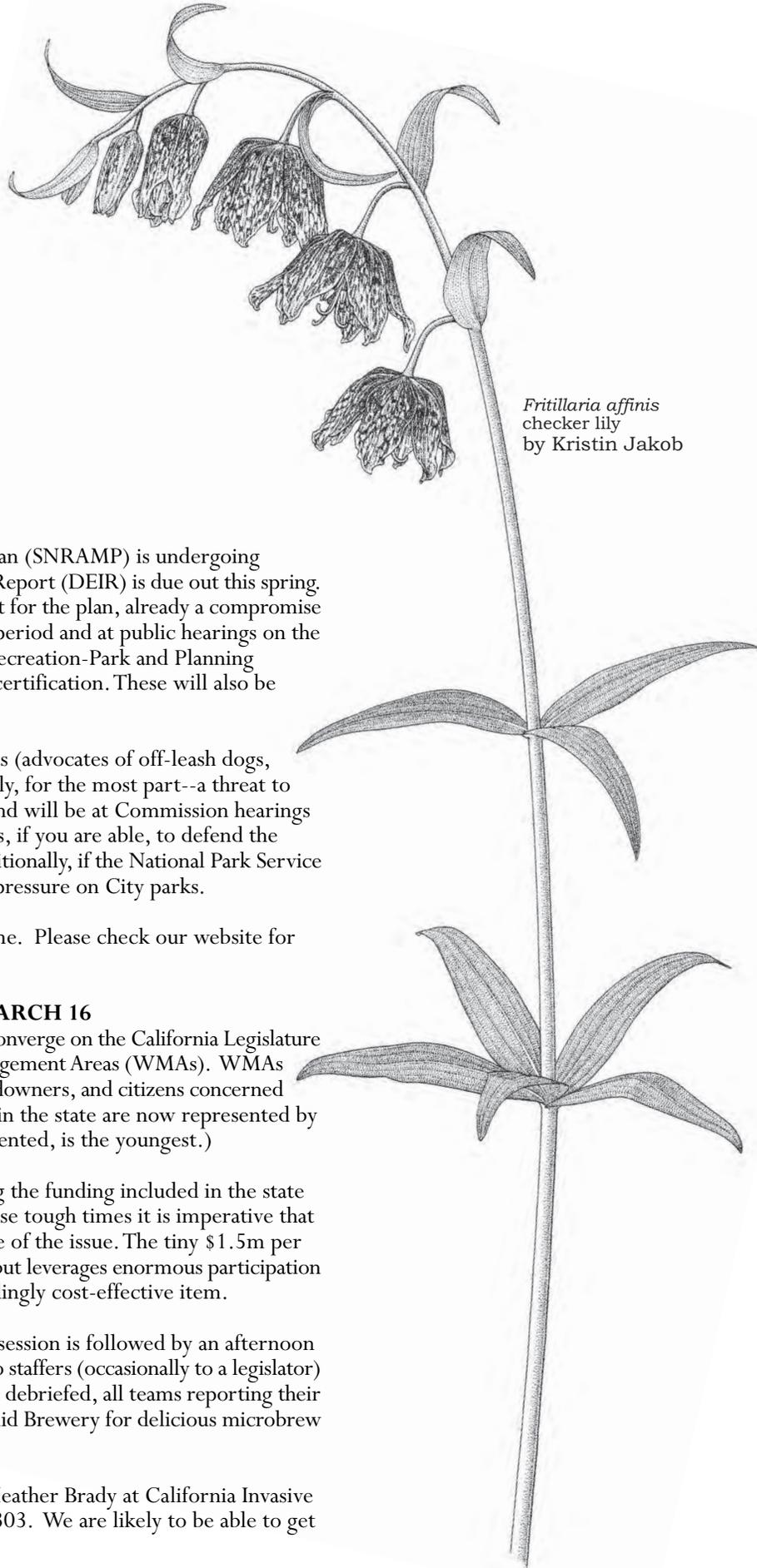
Proceeds directly benefit the Garden.

Bring boxes to carry plants home and an umbrella.

Refreshments available.

Information: 510-544-3169 or

http://www.ebparks.org/parks/vc/botanic_garden



Fritillaria affinis
checker lily
by Kristin Jakob

CONSERVATION

NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan (SNRAMP) is undergoing environmental review. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is due out this spring.

It will be important for conservationists to show support for the plan, already a compromise document, both in writing during the public comment period and at public hearings on the DEIR. After the Final EIR is produced, it goes to the Recreation-Park and Planning Commissions and then to the Board of Supervisors for certification. These will also be important venues for public support.

The SNRAMP has been under assault by special interests (advocates of off-leash dogs, feral cats, all trees) which consider the Program--unfairly, for the most part--a threat to them. The opponents have been politically influential and will be at Commission hearings in great numbers. We need you to attend these hearings, if you are able, to defend the Program. We will supply talking points on request. Additionally, if the National Park Service restricts off-leash dog-running, there will be increased pressure on City parks.

Commission hearing dates have not been set at press time. Please check our website for dates and pertinent information.

WEED DAY AT THE CAPITOL: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

As we do every year, activists from all over the state will converge on the California Legislature for our annual day of lobbying for funding for Weed Management Areas (WMAs). WMAs are semi-formal coalitions of agencies, organizations, landowners, and citizens concerned about invasion of our wildlands by weeds. All counties in the state are now represented by a WMA. (San Francisco WMA, on which we are represented, is the youngest.)

Our annual appearances have succeeded in, first, getting the funding included in the state budget, and second, ensuring its annual renewal. In these tough times it is imperative that we continue to educate legislators about the importance of the issue. The tiny \$1.5m per year is almost invisible in the multi-billion-dollar budget but leverages enormous participation from citizens, landowners, and agencies. It is an exceedingly cost-effective item.

In addition, it's fun. The morning briefing and training session is followed by an afternoon of threading through the hallways of the Capitol, talking to staffers (occasionally to a legislator) on an issue that is bipartisan--so it's easy. At 4 pm we are debriefed, all teams reporting their experiences, then we head across the street to the Pyramid Brewery for delicious microbrew and food.

The date is Wednesday 16 March. To sign up, contact Heather Brady at California Invasive Plant Council: hjbrady@cal-ipc.org, 510-843-3902 x 303. We are likely to be able to get you into a carpool.

MEMBERSHIP

DESPERATELY SEEKING A MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR!

The Yerba Buena Chapter is in need of a volunteer to manage our membership records on an ongoing basis. The job does not require attending board meetings, although doing so might be the best way to ensure good communication. Please consider whether you can fill this role or, possibly, recommend someone who can.

Qualifications:

- A computer, an internet connection, and a reliable printer
- Expertise with creating mail-merge documents using Microsoft Access, Word, and Excel
- Willingness to give CNPS about 1-2 hours per month, a little more in February, May, August, and November (months when this newsletter goes to press)
- Reliability, responsibility, self-motivation, patience, and a high comfort level working with minutiae

Job Overview:

The membership coordinator works directly with the newsletter editor to keep track of the chapter's members and other recipients of its quarterly newsletter and to produce address labels and letters as needed for mailings. The chapter covers the cost of all supplies.

The coordinator's primary job is to maintain the chapter's two databases of names and addresses which are currently in Access.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

November 11, 2010 through February 18, 2011
Sam Abercrombie, Susie Bennett, Gordon Cutts, Barbara Deutsch, Anastasia Fiandaca, Jeffrey Fraley, Gabriel Fraley, Gerald Kenzevich, Brendan Lange, Darlene Lockwood, Jennifer Mercado, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

CHAPTER NEWS

THE PITSCHEL PRIZE

2011 Essay Competition for San Francisco High School Students

The Pitschel Prize for Excellence in Environmental Writing is an essay contest to commemorate the late Barbara Pitschel, librarian of the Helen Crocker Russell Library at San Francisco Botanical Garden for 30 years. The topic centers around native plants, both wild and cultivated.

The Competition is open to all students enrolled in San Francisco high schools during the 2010 and 2011 school years. Entrants must submit, electronically, an original essay no longer than 1000 words. Up to three original images, drawn or photographic, may be submitted with the essay and must be created by the entrant and not obtained from the Internet. There are 3 cash prizes; the winning essay will appear in Pacific Horticulture.

The essay contest is endorsed by numerous organizations, including the CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter. For additional information or to make a contribution to this worthwhile project, visit www.pitschelprize.org.

(CHAPTER NEWS continued on page 10)

Specific tasks are:

1. Around the 15th of each month, the coordinator receives emailed Excel files containing updated membership information.
2. The coordinator may receive emails, phone calls, or mail from members and subscribers regarding address changes. This information is to be communicated to CNPS' Sacramento office.
3. In February, May, August, and November, the coordinator prepares a list of new members for publication in the newsletter.
4. In February, May, August, and November, the coordinator prepares address labels and letters (welcome letters to new members, renewal reminder letters, etc.) as needed for the newsletter mailing and delivers them to the newsletter editor by mail or in person.
5. The coordinator may receive checks and information from new and renewing subscribers and members. Subscription checks are forwarded to the chapter treasurer. Membership checks are forwarded to the Sacramento office along with database updates.
6. The coordinator provides monthly reports to the board and responds to questions and issues that are raised.

Apart from the monthly updates mentioned in #1, the chapter is responsible for maintaining its own database, creating its own chapter newsletter editor lists from the latest directory, and producing all its own materials for labels and letters.

A previous membership chair is available to help the new person settle in, as are the statewide membership coordinator and several current board members who have some knowledge of the process.

If you can help the chapter by taking responsibility for this important job or know someone who can, please contact chapter president Casey Allen: 415-572-1144 or Casey@SFLandscapes.com.



Pteridium aquilinum
bracken fern

CHAPTER NEWS *(continued)*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

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

Our beautiful booth last year was a great success! Over the five-day event, volunteers from four Bay Area Chapters (Yerba Buena-SF, Marin, East Bay, and Santa Clara Valley) informed thousands of people about CNPS. Using the many plants in our display, we explained the benefits of planting local natives, signed up many new members, and had lots of fun!

We plan to do it again! This year's show will be held March 23-27, 2010 (Wed-Sat: 10am-7pm, Sun: 10am-6pm). The location is the San Mateo Event Center, 2495 South Delaware Street, San Mateo. There are several public transportation options.

We will need people to help design, set up and break down the booth as well as volunteers to staff the booth in 2-1/4 hour shifts. Working a shift includes access to the entire show for the whole day! Enthusiastic new members and Jepson-carrying veterans are equally encouraged to participate! For show info: www.sfgardenshow.com. To volunteer: contact Ellen Edelson (e.edelson@sbcglobal.net or 415-531-2140.)

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.

If you prefer mail delivery, do nothing.

Members and subscribers will continue to receive mailed paper newsletters unless they request a change.

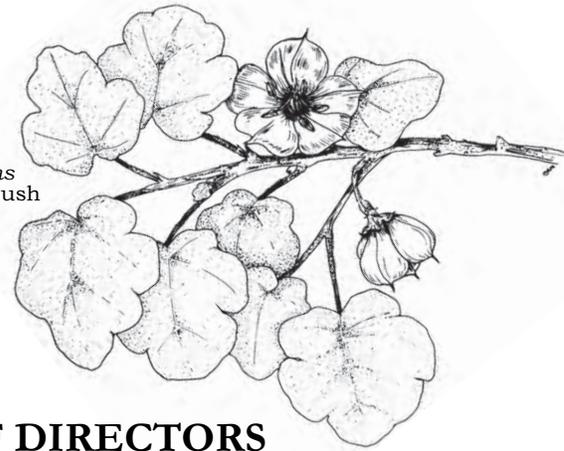
If you prefer electronic delivery:

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.

*Fremontodendron
decumbens*
Pine Hill flannel bush



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm on the second Monday of every month except August and December. Contact Casey Allen for information (415-572-1144, Casey@SFLandscapes.com).

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President

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

Vice President

Linda Shaffer 415-206-1428
lshaffer1@comcast.net

Treasurer

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

Secretary

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

Chapter Council Delegate

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

Alt. Chapter Council Delegate

Linda Shaffer 415-206-1428
lshaffer1@comcast.net

Conservation Chair

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

San Mateo County Conservation Chair

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

Education Chair

Position vacant

Field Trips Chair

Gail Wechsler
gail.wechsler@gmail.com

Hospitality Chair

Richard Craib 415-648-0862
richcraib@gmail.com

Invasive Exotics Chair

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

Legislation Chair

Linda Shaffer 415-206-1428
lshaffer1@comcast.net

Lepidopterist

Liam O'Brien 415-863-1212
liammail56@yahoo.com

Membership Chair

Position vacant

Newsletter Editor

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

Photo Documentation Co-Chair

Margo Bors 415-824-0471
mcbors@comcast.net

Photo Documentation Co-Chair

Greg Gaar 415-584-8985
dunetansy@yahoo.com

Plant Sale Coordinator

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

Posters and Book Sales Chair

Ludmila Stroganoff 650-359-1642
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

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

Director at Large

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS *(continued)*

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by Nancy Rosenthal, Secretary

Contact information for Board members mentioned in this report is located in this newsletter under Officers and Committees.

New officers Casey Allen, President, Nancy Rosenthal, Secretary, and Rich Craib, Hospitality Chair all assumed their duties at the first Board meeting of the year in January. Outgoing Secretary, Susan Floore, was recognized for her 17 years of outstanding service with a small gift certificate from the chapter. She will continue on the Board as Garden Tour Coordinator.

This year's Garden Tour is scheduled for Sunday, April 10, 2011 from 11 AM – 3 PM. The committee is always looking for more help with the many tasks involved in making this exciting event happen. More information about the tour can be found in the article devoted to the Garden Tour in this newsletter.

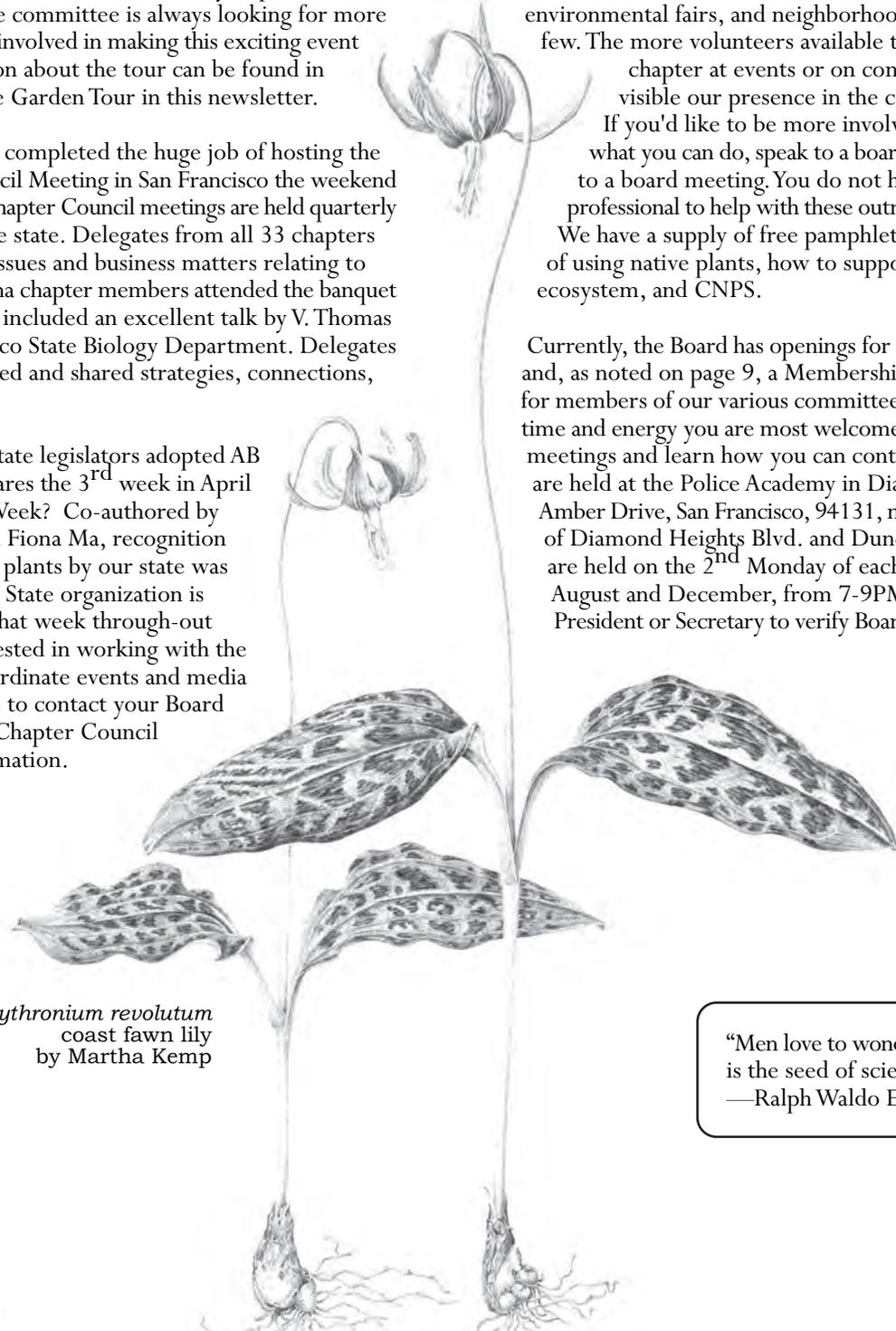
Our chapter successfully completed the huge job of hosting the December Chapter Council Meeting in San Francisco the weekend of December 10, 2010. Chapter Council meetings are held quarterly in different regions of the state. Delegates from all 33 chapters gather to discuss policy issues and business matters relating to CNPS. Several Yerba Buena chapter members attended the banquet on Saturday evening that included an excellent talk by V. Thomas Parker of the San Francisco State Biology Department. Delegates and state officers socialized and shared strategies, connections, and successes.

Did you know that our State legislators adopted AB 173 last August that declares the 3rd week in April California Native Plant Week? Co-authored by locals Tom Ammiano and Fiona Ma, recognition of the vital role of native plants by our state was long overdue. The CNPS State organization is coordinating events for that week through-out California. Anyone interested in working with the State organization to coordinate events and media in our region is welcome to contact your Board President, Secretary, or Chapter Council Delegate for more information.

Once again we will have a booth at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, March 23-27, 2011 at the San Mateo Convention Center. We partner with the three other neighboring chapters to staff the booth and need volunteers to commit to a few hours in the booth. Professional knowledge is not necessary. Volunteers only have to promote the use of native plants and membership in CNPS. There will be plenty of reference materials available in the booth. Contact Ellen Edelson, Plant Sale Coordinator and Chapter Council Delegate, for information.

During the year many other opportunities arise that our chapter could participate in. The BAEER Fair (Bay Area Environmental Educator's Resource Fair in Marin) every January, local environmental fairs, and neighborhood programs are a few. The more volunteers available to represent our chapter at events or on committees, the more visible our presence in the community will be. If you'd like to be more involved, but aren't sure what you can do, speak to a board member or come to a board meeting. You do not have to be a trained professional to help with these outreach opportunities. We have a supply of free pamphlets about the value of using native plants, how to support the local ecosystem, and CNPS.

Currently, the Board has openings for an Education Chair and, as noted on page 9, a Membership Chair, as well as for members of our various committees. If you have some time and energy you are most welcome to join us at Board meetings and learn how you can contribute. Meetings are held at the Police Academy in Diamond Heights, 38 Amber Drive, San Francisco, 94131, near the intersection of Diamond Heights Blvd. and Duncan. The meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month, except August and December, from 7-9PM. Contact the President or Secretary to verify Board meeting location.



Erythronium revolutum
coast fawn lily
by Martha Kemp

“Men love to wonder, and that is the seed of science.”
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

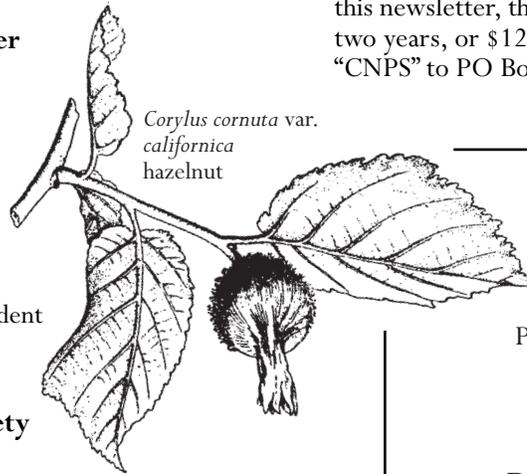
- ____ \$1,500 Mariposa Lily
- ____ \$ 600 Benefactor
- ____ \$ 300 Patron
- ____ \$ 100 Plant Lover
- ____ \$ 75 Family
- ____ \$ 45 Individual
- ____ \$ 25 Limited Income/Student

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 _____
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email _____

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 PO Box 31985, San Francisco CA 94131-9991.



Corylus cornuta var.
californica
hazelnut

YERBA BUENA NEWS

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DEADLINES FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER

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

Visit: www.cnps-yerbabuena.org

California Native Plant Society
Yerba Buena Chapter
PO Box 31985
San Francisco CA 94131-9991

