



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

Vol. 26 No. 4 ■ December 2012

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## 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 lines, is one block from the N-Judah car, and is two blocks from the #6, #43, and #66 bus lines.

### DECEMBER 6, THURSDAY

*Annual Members' Slideshow and Potluck Supper*

**6:30 pm, Potluck: Coordinated by Richard Craib**

**7:30 pm, Slide Show: Coordinated by Margo Bors**

Join our annual year-end informal members' potluck dinner and slide show. Please bring your favorite slides or digital images and your favorite dish or beverage to share. Whether you are a photographer or an appreciator, come for an enjoyable evening of delicious food and great pictures.

#### SLIDE SHOW GUIDELINES:

- Bring about 10 minutes worth of images that you feel would appeal to CNPS members - interesting plants, gardens, landscapes, hikes, work parties, etc. Be prepared to say a few words about your images.
- Bring your digital .jpg images on a thumb drive or a CD and Margo will upload them to her laptop computer to project.
- Please let Margo know (contact information at end of this item) if you have slides and need a regular slide projector.
- Prints are also welcome. We will put them on display and ask you to tell us about them.
- If you're using your own laptop, please bring any adapters you might need to connect to our digital projector. We have some of the newer common adapters for Mac and PC.
- Contact: Margo at [mcbors@comcast.net](mailto:mcbors@comcast.net) or 415-824-0471

#### POTLUCK GUIDELINES:

- Bring your favorite drink. Please bring a dish according to your last name. For those with last names beginning with **A–H**, bring a **Salad/Appetizer**. Last names beginning with **I–R**, bring an **Entree**. Last names beginning with **S–Z**, bring a **Dessert**.
- Please bring whatever utensils are needed to serve your dish.
- Contact: Richard at 415-648-0862 or [richcraib@gmail.com](mailto:richcraib@gmail.com)

**NO PROGRAM IN JANUARY**

### FEBRUARY 7, THURSDAY

*Reassembling the Diablo Wilderness*

**7:30 pm, Speakers: Heath Bartosh and Seth Adams**

Mt. Diablo has amazing biodiversity and a rich botanical history. Its ongoing preservation is an expand Mt. Diablo State Park and to help create 40-50 more Diablo parks, totaling over 110,000 acres. 172 Square Miles! More than 15,000 acres have been preserved in just the past five years. Eight new parks were created or opened in the past 10-15 years. Mt. Diablo is such a biodiversity hotspot that it supports 1/10th of California's native plant species, including more than a dozen endemics found nowhere else. Several of SMD's newest acquisitions are native plant treasure chests. Join Seth and Heath as they thread their way through the mountain's natural, cultural, and botanical history. Learn about the characters who have been drawn to Mt. Diablo and the spectacular new areas which have been protected in recent years.

Heath Bartosh is co-founder and Senior Botanist of Nomad Ecology, based in Martinez. He is currently Rare Plant Committee Chair for the East Bay Chapter of CNPS. In 2009, he became a member of the Rare Plant Program Committee at the state level of CNPS. His role on these committees is to ensure these programs continue to develop current, accurate information on the distribution, ecology, and conservation status of California's rare and endangered plants. He also helps to promote the use of this information to influence on-site plant conservation in California. Mr. Bartosh is also a Research Associate at both the University and Jepson Herbaria at UC Berkeley.

Seth M. Adams is Director of Land Programs for Save Mount Diablo, a Contra Costa County conservation organization founded in 1971. Hired in 1988, he was SMD's first professional staff. He directs programs including land acquisition, land use planning, land stewardship, grassroots activism, legislation and public policy. He is involved in fundraising and public relations. Adams moved to California in 1981. An avid hiker, cyclist and weight lifter, he is also an amateur historian concentrating on the history of Mt. Diablo and surrounding open spaces. He is an alumnus of the University of California at Berkeley and resides in Martinez.

#### FUTURE PROGRAM

**March 7—The Great Sunflower Project: Pollinator Conservation by the Public—Gretchen LeBuhn**

## FIELD TRIPS

Members and non-members are encouraged to attend these FREE walks. Contacts for additional information are listed at the end of each trip description. If rain is forecast, we recommend checking with the contact a couple of hours before the trip. In general, bring lunch and liquids; sunscreen and layered clothing; and a hand lens, notebook, sketchbook, or any other tools/toys that will enhance your exploratory experience.

**DECEMBER 9, SUNDAY, 10 am to 2 pm**

*The Isles of Monarch: Adaptation to Natural and Unnatural Settings*

**Leaders: Ruth Gravanis and Liam O'Brien**

**Chapter lepidopterist Liam O'Brien was excited to discover that as monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) approach San Francisco on their southerly migration, one of the first places they land is out in the Bay on Treasure Island/Yerba Buena Island. We'll walk to the summit of Yerba Buena for a unique eye-level canopy view of overwintering behavior, then head to Treasure to see a roost that has adapted to large, mature eucalyptus trees planted in a bowl formation. Large numbers of monarchs are anticipated this year. We'll discuss what we can do to help these creatures while they are our guests for a season. **Overcast skies and/or stiff breezes will postpone to the 16th.** Rsvp to Liam O'Brien at [liammail56@yahoo.com](mailto:liammail56@yahoo.com).**

**JANUARY 19, SATURDAY, 10 am to 1 pm**

*San Bruno Mountain, Saddle and Bog Area*

**Leader: Doug Allshouse**

The saddle and bog area comprises the northernmost several hundred acres of the park and features grasslands, large monocultures of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), a eucalyptus (*E. globulus*) forest, and the headwaters of Colma Creek as part of a disturbed wetland. It is surprisingly rich in plant species, both native and non-native, and offers views spanning from the Marin Headlands to San Jose on clear days. It is home to several past and present restoration projects that offer vivid examples of success and failure. We'll look for the larval host plants of the mission blue and callippe silverspot butterflies (*Lupinus albifrons* and *Viola pedunculata*, respectively) on trails that are wide and easy on the legs. Our route for the day will depend on how much rainfall precedes the walk. **Heavy rain postpones until February 2.** There is a \$6 entry fee payable at the ranger kiosk. Meet in the main parking lot just past the kiosk. For trail conditions or other questions, contact Doug Allshouse at [dougsr228@comcast.net](mailto:dougsr228@comcast.net) or 415-584-5114.

## ACTIVITIES



**WAYNE RODERICK LECTURE SERIES**

**Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Park**

**Saturdays, starting at 10:30 am**

[http://www.ebparks.org/parks/vc/botanic\\_garden](http://www.ebparks.org/parks/vc/botanic_garden)

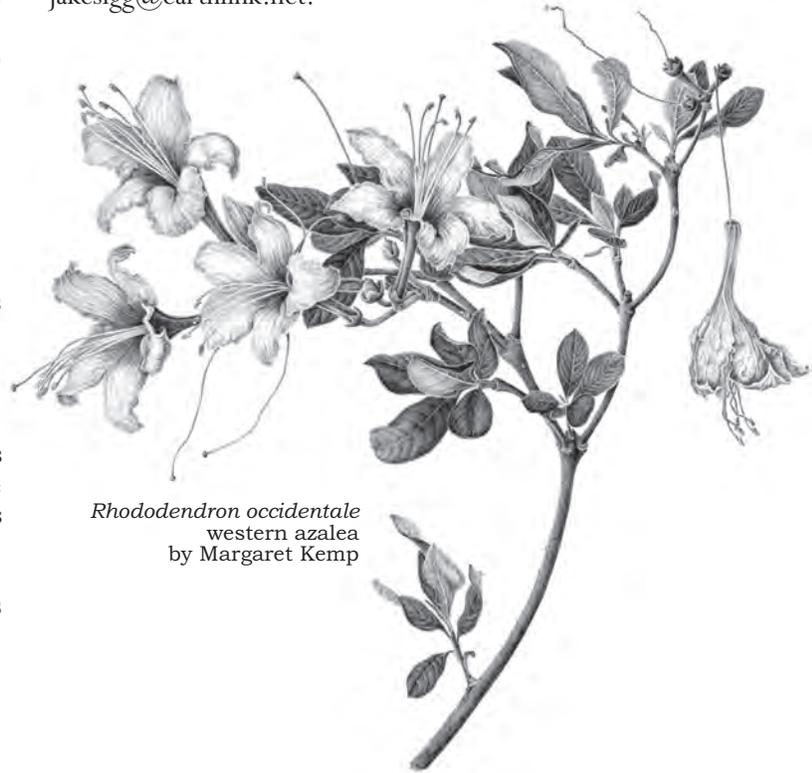
510-544-3169 [bgarden@ebparks.org](mailto:bgarden@ebparks.org)

- Dec. 1: Humboldt wonderland—Steve Edwards
- Dec. 8: 2600 miles of natural history on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail—Bob Sikora
- Dec. 15: Floristic surprises in the drought-stricken Southwest—Dick O'Donnell
- Dec. 22: Botany and geology of the Lassen region—Steve Edwards
- 2013**
- Jan. 5: Fabulous plants and stories from the East Bay flora—Heath Bartosh

**FEBRUARY 23, SATURDAY, noon to 2 pm**  
*Hazelnut Trail, San Pedro Valley County Park*

**Leader: Jake Sigg**

The Hazelnut Trail has been a late winter favorite of our chapter for at least 20 years. Proximity to the ocean and climate warming mean spring is well advanced by late February, and many early bloomers such as slinkpod (*Scolioopus bigelovii*), pink currant (*Ribes sanguineum glutinosum*), and perhaps hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*) will likely greet us. But who needs blossoms when subtle colors and textures abound: sage green, gray, and chrome yellow lichens, golden tomentum on the underside of chinquapin (*Chrysolepis chrysophylla*) leaves – yes! chinquapin, seldom encountered and always a joy – and the tiny but bright magenta female flowers of the hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*), so obscure and easy to miss, but beautiful when you focus on them. There is more than a pair of eyes can take in. The ambitious may want to do the complete five-mile circuit of the Hazelnut Trail (better bring lunch), but others may want to turn back after a couple of miles. Meet at the San Pedro Valley County Park Visitor's Center. **Light rain won't faze us, but sustained rain will postpone to March 2, same time.** Contact: Jake Sigg, 415-731-3028 or [jakesigg@earthlink.net](mailto:jakesigg@earthlink.net).



*Rhododendron occidentale*  
western azalea  
by Margaret Kemp

- Jan. 12: Wildflower trails of Mt. Diablo—Steve Edwards
- Jan. 19: Central coasting, with emphasis on our diverse marine algae—Bob Case
- Jan. 26: On the trail of Streptanthus (jewel flowers) from Lily Lake (Modoc) to Mt. Eddy, by way of southern Oregon—Dick O'Donnell
- Feb. 2: Hiking with a chemist: Admiring plants through a chemist's eyes—Greti Séquin
- Feb. 9: A visit to the Mono Recesses and a satisfying walk over the Mono Divide—Michael Uhler
- Feb. 16: California geology from the ground up, part one: from the delta south—Steve Edwards
- Feb. 23: California geology from the ground up, part two: north of the bay, including the Sierra—Steve Edwards

## FOCUS ON RARITIES

### THE SAND VERBENAS

(*Abronia* spp.)

by Michael Wood

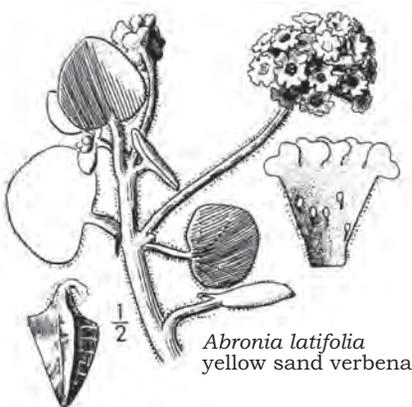
This past September I had the extreme good fortune of being invited to assist with a mapping effort of the coastal dune vegetation south of Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo County. As a student at Cal Poly SLO, I spent a fair amount of time exploring the dunes and working on several projects in the dune complex there, which extends to the mouth of the Santa Maria River and northern Santa Barbara County. But it has been many years since I've gotten to spend any time surveying the area and I'd forgotten how utterly fascinating the vegetation is. It provided the motivation for this newsletter's subject, the sand verbenas.

If you've followed this column over the years, you may recall I've covered numerous dune species and even dedicated one issue to coastal dune scrub (June 2003, vol.17 no.2). The amazingly dynamic coastal dune ecosystem can be broken up into three major ecological zones: strand, open dune pioneer community, and stabilized dunes. The strand zone is a narrow to wide band of unvegetated beach subject to the tidal action, if only episodic extreme high tides and storm surges. Inland from there is the open dune pioneer community, which consists of a complex of vegetated foredunes, dune slacks or hollows (which, surprisingly, may support oasis-like wetlands), and deflation areas supporting dune plains and shifting open dunes. Further inland are the stabilized dunes which may support scrub or, further north, forest communities.

Although found along the entire Pacific Coast of North America, the coastal dunes of Southern California have been mostly lost to development and shoreline modifications. Still, excellent examples of coastal dune habitats can be found in Santa Barbara County between Point Sal and Point Arguello, on the Nipomo-Oceano-Guadalupe dune complex of southern San Luis Obispo County, along Monterey Bay in northern Monterey County and southern Santa Cruz County, the Point Reyes Peninsula in Marin County, Bodega Peninsula in Southern Sonoma County, Manchester and Ten Mile dunes in Mendocino County, Humboldt Bay dunes in Humboldt County, and the Lake Earl dunes in Del Norte County. There are extensive dune systems along some 225 kilometers of Oregon's coastline, and north

into Washington and Vancouver Island, British Columbia. And, of course, there are the restored dunes of the Presidio at Lobos Creek, Baker Beach and Crissy Field. Historically, coastal dunes once covered all of the western San Francisco districts of the Sunset and Richmond, much of the Presidio, and Golden Gate Park. The last remaining stretch of dunes was graded in 1954.

The foredune zone is a harsh environment, subjected to strong winds, salt spray, blowing sand and a constantly shifting substrate. Characterized by hummocks of low-growing plants, the foredunes are likely to be dominated by the native species yellow sand verbena (*Abronia latifolia*) and beach-bur (*Ambrosia chamissonis*) and the non-native species sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*) and European beach grass (*Ammophila arenaria*). A piece of driftwood may be all that is needed to create a sheltered spot for a seed



to take root and it's all a plant can do to stay on top of the accumulating sand. The pioneer species of the foredunes are usually prostrate herbaceous perennial species with deep roots, although these are replaced by perennial grasses on dunes of northern latitudes.

The sand verbenas belong to the four-o'clock family (Nyctaginaceae), a collection of some 350 species of mostly herbs and shrubs in 30 genera. Found on five continents, the family is best represented in tropical and subtropical regions. The family includes the flowering vine *Bougainvillea*, a native of South America, widely planted for its brilliantly colored papery flower bracts. California hosts seven native genera, including the family's namesake *Mirabilis*.

The sand verbenas are annual or perennial herbs with opposite leaves and usually with viscid-pubescent stems (hairy with sticky sap). The genus *Abronia* (Greek for "graceful") includes about 20 species and is restricted to North America. California is host to eight

species and four varieties. Of these, three species occur on our coastal dunes: yellow sand verbena, pink sand verbena (*A. umbellata*), and red sand verbena (*A. maritima*). Red sand verbena is restricted to the coast from San Luis Obispo southward, while yellow sand verbena is restricted to the coast from San Luis Obispo County northward to British Columbia. Pink sand verbena (*A. u.* var. *breviflora*) occurs on the coast from Marin County northward to British Columbia; variety *A. u.* var. *umbellata* occurs along the coast from Baja California to Mendocino County and extends inland into the Sonoran Desert. Yellow and red sand verbenas are perennials and inhabitants of the foredunes, while pink sand verbena, an annual, is more likely to be found inland from the foredunes on more stabilized dunes.

Yellow sand verbena is a fleshy, deep-rooted perennial which forms dense mats about 6 feet around. The impressive root systems can extend 15 feet or more. The fleshy, glandular leaves and finely glandular-hairy stems seem always to be covered with sand grains. Plants produce a profusion of rounded clusters of yellow tubular flowers from May through October. The type specimen was named based on a collection made by Eschscholtz in 1824. It is native to our northern shores and is still found at Sharp Park, Fort Funston, Ocean Beach and the "Sutro dunes", Baker Beach, and Land's End, as well as along the sandy edge of the tidal marsh at Crissy Field; its persistence has been tremendously aided by the dune restoration efforts at the Presidio. Yellow sand verbena was described as one of the primary pioneer plants that typified San Francisco's historic dunes (Ramalay 1918, Wagstaff 1962).

Pink sand verbena is a glabrous to glandular-hairy annual which forms prostrate mats about 3 feet across. It too produces a profusion of rounded inflorescences only of green to magenta blossoms; flowering occurs from June through September. This species could be confused with the other reddish-flowering species, red sand verbena, but can be distinguished by its thinner, ovate to diamond-shaped leaf blades. The type specimen of this species was first collected at Monterey in 1786 by members of the La Perouse Expedition and was the first California plant that was new to science. Although also native to the San Francisco Peninsula, pink sand verbena is uncommon. I could not determine if it was ever more widely distributed here. In 1891, Katherine Brandege described it as occurring only at

(FOCUS ON RARITIES continued on page 5)

# DOUG'S MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

A Chronicle of Natural History on San Bruno Mountain  
by Doug Allshouse

October is the wackiest month of the year when it comes to weather. What time of the year could it be warm and sunny one day and cold and raining or snowing the next? Something definitive happens around Halloween that signals a turn in conditions for the rest of the year and beyond. Today marks the second short episode of very warm weather since September. As the air cools inland it is forced towards the ocean as the sun rises. These easterly breezes rustle the dried leaves of **blue-gum eucalyptus** (*Eucalyptus globulus*), which causes them to fall. Not being a fan of these mega-weeds, I must admit that the sound of crackling leaves as they fall and bang into each other and then hit the ground is a symphony of percussion second to none. Who says eucs aren't good for anything?

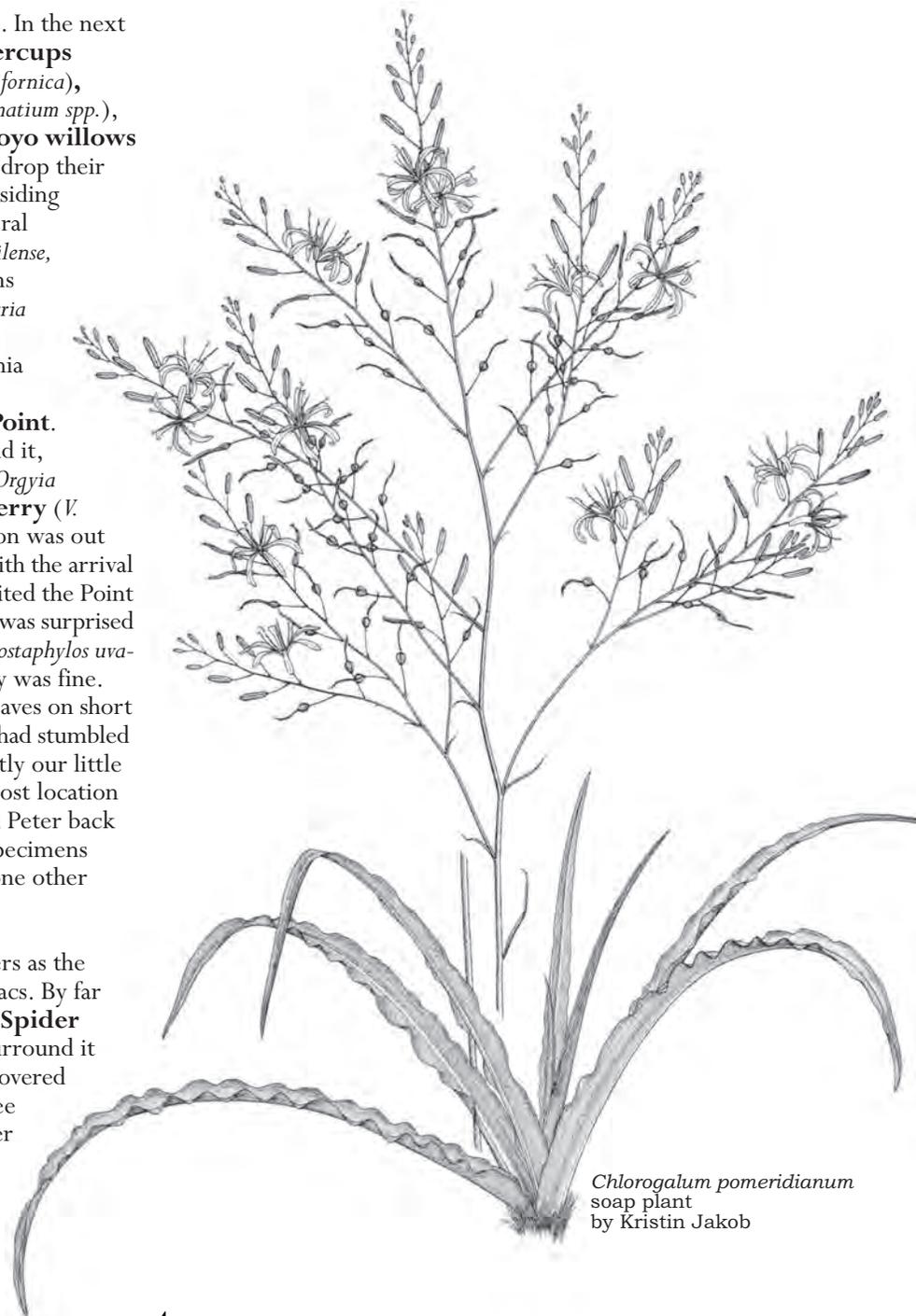
Winter signals the rebirth of our spring wildflowers. In the next month we will begin to see the appearance of **buttercups** (*Ranunculus californicus*), **milkmaids** (*Cardamine californica*), **polypody** (*Polypodium californicum*), **parsnips** (*Lomatium spp.*), and **SF wallflower** (*Erysimum franciscanum*). The **arroyo willows** (*Salix lasiolepis*) along **Colma Creek** have begun to drop their leaves which will completely expose the **lichens** residing on the branches. The most common species are several **foliose** lichens (*Flavoparmelia caperata*, *Parmotrema chilense*, *Lobaria pulmonaria*) and a couple of **fruticose** lichens (*Evernia prunastri*, *Usnea sp.*). The aptly-named *L. pulmonaria* was used for centuries to treat lung disease. Back in July I met **Dr. Peter Fritsch** of the California Academy of Sciences who was looking for **dwarf huckleberry** (*Vaccinium cespitosum*) on **Kamchatka Point**. We turned over every grain of soil and could not find it, but I discovered **Western Tussock Moth** larvae (*Orgyia vestuta*) happily munching on **evergreen huckleberry** (*V. ovatum*). The moth is native to the state, so eradication was out of the question and besides its demise would come with the arrival of avian predators. Fast forward to October and I visited the Point to check up on the damage done by the caterpillars. I was surprised to see that most of the **bearberry manzanita** (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) was consumed by the moth but the huckleberry was fine. Looking around the west side I saw some deep red leaves on short branches running along the ground. Lo and behold, I had stumbled upon the elusive *V. cespitosum*. Serendipity!! Apparently our little huckleberry (which by the way is in the southern-most location on the coast) blooms very late in the season. I called Peter back out to the mountain and he was excited to collect specimens including one with a flower. The academy only has one other flower in its collection.

This time of year is premium viewing time for spiders as the females spin webs and create places to deposit egg sacs. By far the most interesting web is spun by the **Labyrinth Spider** (*Metepeira arizonica*). She will spin a small orb and surround it with a scatter-shot pattern of silk and, which, when covered with dew on a foggy morning, resembles a street tree covered with tiny white lights. But it gets even better when there is a community of these spider homes, sometimes 20-30, covering several **coffeeberry** bushes (*Rhamnus californica*). It's like Spiderville and I think it warrants its own zip code. The female will roll coffee berry leaves into a short tube and

wait inside for something to get caught in her web. It also serves as shelter for her egg sacs. Another prevalent spider is the **Shamrock Orbweaver** (*Araneus trifolium*) and we aptly call her the **Pumpkin Spider** due to her large, round reddish-orange abdomen. She's quite an imposing sight when on her web, but she usually hides in foliage and keeps a leg on a trigger-strand of silk. When an insect hits her web she springs into action and wraps her catch in silk and hides it until she's hungry.

It's a wonderful time to spider hunt. If you eat a ripe coffee berry be sure to eat just one as the genus is used world-wide as a laxative. Winter is the time of rebirth for our flora so it's a good time to get acquainted with it.

See you on the mountain.



*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*  
soap plant  
by Kristin Jakob

## HABITAT RESTORATION

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

### Alemanys Natives at Alemany Farm.

3rd Sundays, 1 to 4 pm. Contact: [alemanyntatives@gmail.com](mailto:alemanyntatives@gmail.com)

**Bayview Hill.** 2nd Saturdays of September and November. Contact Terese Lawler [tereselawler@gmail.com](mailto:tereselawler@gmail.com).

**Bernal Hilltop.** 3rd Saturdays, 10 am to 12 pm. Work party contact Rachel Kesel [rachel.kesel@sfgov.org](mailto:rachel.kesel@sfgov.org); Groups contact Joe Grey 415-831-6328.

**Buena Vista Park.** 1st Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Contact Joe.Grey@sf.gov or 415-831-6328.

**Brooks Park.** Contact Joe Grey [Joe.Grey@sfgov.org](mailto:Joe.Grey@sfgov.org)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:jakesigg@earthlink.net).

**Corona Heights.** Last Saturdays, 10 am to noon. Contact Jim Houillion 415-552-3542.

**Edgehill Mt. Park.** 2nd Saturdays, 1 to 3 pm. Contact Stan Kaufman 415-681-4954 or [sekfmm@pacbell.net](mailto: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](mailto:skato@parksconservancy.org).

**GGNRA Habitat Restoration Team.** Every Sunday, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm with lunch break. Contact [volunteer@parksconservancy.org](mailto: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](mailto:volunteer@parksconservancy.org)

**Glen Canyon.** Wednesdays & 3rd Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Friends of Glen Canyon. Contact [rachel.kesel@sfgov.org](mailto:rachel.kesel@sfgov.org)

**Golden Gate Heights Sandy Dunes Native Plant Community Garden.** Contact Barbara Kobayashi [okim1946@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:hmbrestore@gmail.com)

**Heron's Head Park.** 2nd Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Contact Raynelle Rino 415-282-6840 or [raynelle.rino@lejyouth.org](mailto:raynelle.rino@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](mailto:lands_end@parksconservancy.org).

**Linda Mar State Beach** 4th Sundays, 10 am to noon. Contact 650-451-1130 or [94116bc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:AShor@parksconservancy.org).

**McLaren Park.** 2nd Saturdays, 10 am to noon. Contact Joe.Grey@sfgov.org or 415-831-6328.

**McKinley Square Hillside** Last Saturdays, 10 am to noon. [www.McKinleySquare.com](http://www.McKinleySquare.com) or [info@McKinleySquare.com](mailto:info@McKinleySquare.com).

**Mission Creek Bank.** Generally Saturday mornings. Contact Ginny Stearns for times 415-552-4577 or [GinnyStearns@gmail.com](mailto:GinnyStearns@gmail.com).

**Mt. Davidson.** 1st Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Friends of Mt. Davidson: Contact [Joe.Grey@sfgov.org](mailto:Joe.Grey@sfgov.org) or 415-831-6328

**Mt. Sutro.** 1st Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm Contact Craig Dawson: [craig@sutrostewards.org](mailto:craig@sutrostewards.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](mailto:ehuerta@parksconservancy.org).

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

Contact 415-561-3034 x3445 or [PresidioParkStewards@parksconservancy.org](mailto:PresidioParkStewards@parksconservancy.org).

**Presidio Plant Patrol.** Every Friday 1 to 4 pm. Contact 415-561-3034 x3445 or [PresidioParkStewards@parksconservancy.org](mailto:PresidioParkStewards@parksconservancy.org).

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

Contact 415-383-4390 or [RedwoodCreek@parksconservancy.org](mailto: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,

Saturdays, 10 am to 12:30 pm: Weed Rangers Stewardship Outing, Saturdays, 10 am to noon: Bog Restoration, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: South San Francisco Weed Rangers

[www.mountainwatch.org](http://www.mountainwatch.org), 415-467-6631.

**SF Recreation & Parks Department. Natural Areas Program.** Joe.Grey@sfgov.org or 415-831-6328.

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

**Save the Bay.** Tidal marsh habitats. Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Native Plant Nursery work on the first two Wednesdays of the month. Contact Natalie LaVan 510-452-9261 x109, or [www.saveSFbay.org/volunteer](http://www.saveSFbay.org/volunteer).

**Shields/Orizaba Rocky Outcrop.** Contact Paul Koski at [pkoski7@netscape.net](mailto: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](mailto:lponzini@parksconservancy.org).

**White-Crowned Sparrow**

3rd Saturdays, 9am - noon Contact [sfrpd.volunteerprogram@sfgov.org](mailto:sfrpd.volunteerprogram@sfgov.org)

## FOCUS ON RARITIES *(continued)*

Brandegee (1891) and Howell, *et al.* (1958) described it as rare on sandy beaches, listing collections made at Crissy Field and the Presidio.

Like yellow sand verbena, red sand verbena is a fleshy, glandular-hairy perennial. And like the others, it forms prostrate mats on loose sand. Flowers are wine-red, appearing February through October. Red sand verbena is not regarded as naturally occurring north of San Luis Obispo County, although it has turned up in Mendocino and Marin counties and the restoration project at Crissy Field.

Of the coastal sand verbenas, two are listed by the California Native Plant Society as rare. Pink sand verbena (*A.umbellata* var. *breviflora*) is a List 1B.1 taxon and red sand

verbena is a List 4.2 taxon. Neither of these is believed to occur in our chapter area. Although yellow sand verbena and the other variety of pink sand verbena (*A.u.* var. *umbellata*) are widely distributed and locally common, their presence here has been quite tenuous, and both are strong candidates for inclusion on our list of locally significant plant species.

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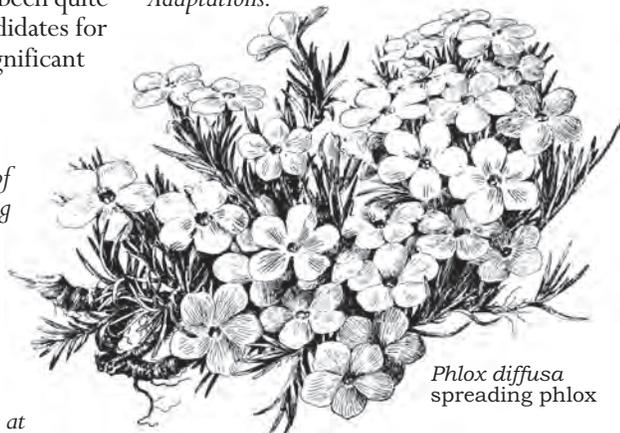
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*Phlox diffusa*  
spreading phlox

# CONSERVATION/LEGISLATION

## FRIENDS OF NATURAL AREAS MEETS WITH DISTRICT EIGHT SUPERVISOR

The Friends of Natural Areas, recently formed to support San Francisco's natural areas, continues to develop strategies for defending our naturally occurring ecosystems. Holding meetings with San Francisco decision makers is one of those strategies.

On Oct. 29, 2012, FNA members, including representatives from CNPS, met with Supervisor Scott Wiener regarding a proposed improvement project at Glen Park. San Francisco's Recreation and Parks Department (SFRPD) is renovating the rec center, playground, restrooms, and tennis courts, as well as the Elk Street entrance to Glen Park. Two of the goals are to make the facilities more ADA accessible, and to upgrade playground safety. After a long review process, SFRPD's proposal was endorsed by the surrounding neighborhood and organizations, and by the Rec Park Commission.

Even though the renovation project is in the developed, active recreational area, not in wild Glen Canyon, part of the project area lies in a natural area. Furthermore, the project plan calls for the removal of 58 trees, many of which have been labeled hazardous, risky, or both. (It also calls for eventually planting a total of 163 new trees from a broad variety of species.)

The San Francisco Forest Alliance (SFFA) filed an appeal of the construction permit issued to SFRPD at the Board of Appeals. The appeal focused mostly on the planned tree removals, implying that the plan had been influenced by the Natural Areas Program. Supervisor Wiener asked FNA members to support the Glen Park residents who favored the project, and to help counter misinformation. (A hearing was held on Nov. 14; several FNA members spoke; as expected, the appeal was denied by a 4-0 vote. SFFA may or may not file a CEQA appeal to the Board of Supervisors. Stay tuned!)

The Oct. 29th meeting also afforded the opportunity to discuss the Natural Areas Program with Supervisor Wiener. The group was pleased by this initial contact with the Supervisor, and was encouraged by his interest in a continuing relationship with FNA.



## CHAPTER NEWS

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: SF FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

The San Francisco Flower & Garden Show has been the Bay Area's premier garden event for 25 years. Our beautiful booth last year was a great success and we plan to do it again! This year's show will be held March 20-24, 2013. The location is the San Mateo Event Center. 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! To volunteer, contact Ellen Edelson at e.edelson@sbcglobal.net or 415-531-2140.

### YERBA BUENA CHAPTER ELECTIONS

At the October members' meeting, the fifty members in attendance unanimously voted-in the following slate of officers. All four officers were incumbents: President Casey Allen, Vice-President Linda Shaffer, Treasurer Adrian Stroganoff, and Secretary Rosalind Kutler.

(CHAPTER NEWS continued on page 7)

## A HISTORIC DAY: SFPUC WILL WORK WITH US IN MANAGING PUBLIC LANDS

Our strategy of educating government agencies about native biological communities in their purview has succeeded again. In 1995, the Recreation & Parks Dept. responded by creating the Natural Areas Program.

Now, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission responded by expanding its Natural Resources and Land Management Division. The division will take on the management of the SFPUC's natural areas within San Francisco as well as its watershed lands in San Mateo and Alameda counties and other lands, including Camp Mather.

In San Francisco, SFPUC owns the slope above Laguna Honda Reservoir, land surrounding Lake Merced, a wetland on Brotherhood Way, open spaces above O'Shaughnessy Boulevard, and lands surrounding a reservoir on Twin Peaks. To preserve these areas' fast-disappearing natural values, our CNPS volunteers have been working on these lands for 24 years without formal permission. On October 30, the entire NRD staff, along with RPD Natural Areas staff and volunteers from CNPS and Golden Gate Audubon, toured all these lands, discussing values and problems.

From our perspective, it was a historic day. Even though only the Laguna Honda Reservoir slope currently has any funding (\$250,000) for management, and it may be awhile before the other lands will be so favored, we are much encouraged to know that at long last these lands are on the radar of a public agency.

More volunteers are always needed to do the multitudinous tasks required to preserve these natural systems. Please join us -- especially if you can work from noon to 3 pm every Wednesday.



*Dodecatheon clevelandii*  
shooting star  
by Margo Bors

## CHAPTER NEWS *(continued)*

### Community Thrift

We sincerely thank all of you who have donated furniture, clothing, books, CDs, and housewares to CT and designated CNPS as the beneficiary. Donating is easy. Simply drop off clean and saleable items at the CT donation door, open from 10 am to 5 pm every day, and **ask them to list CNPS (charity #152) as the beneficiary**. The donation door is located on the south side of the building on Sycamore Alley, parallel to 18th Street and perpendicular to Mission and Valencia Streets. Sycamore runs one way from Mission toward Valencia. Please note that due to state law, CT can no longer accept any children's items. CT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax-deductible. Thank you for continuing to benefit our chapter in this way. In the past year, the chapter received \$1165 from CT!

### Cole Hardware

As a participant in Cole Hardware's Community Assistance Partnership Program with San Francisco schools and nonprofit organizations, our chapter receives a credit each year worth 10% of our readers' purchases at any one of the four Cole Hardware stores during that year. All you need to do is **tell the cashier to credit your purchases to \*1424**.

### 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:

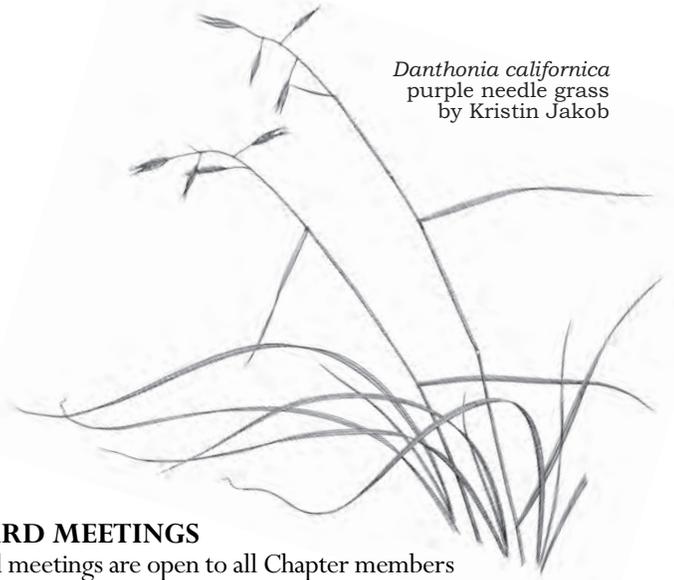
Send an email indicating your wish to:  
**yerbabuenacnps@gmail.com**

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



"Commonly we stride through the out-of-doors too swiftly to see more than the most obvious and prominent things. For observing nature, the best pace is a snail's pace."  
—Edwin Way Teale

*Danthonia californica*  
purple needle grass  
by Kristin Jakob



### BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are open to all Chapter members and scheduled for 7:00 pm on the second Monday of every month except August and December. Contact Casey Allen for information ([casey@sflandscapes.com](mailto:casey@sflandscapes.com)).

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# 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

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\_\_\_\_ \$ 75 Family

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Make your check out to "CNPS"  
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**California Native Plant Society**  
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Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

*Fritillaria affinis*  
checker lily  
by Margo Bors



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## DEADLINES FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER

Articles & general copy – January 15

Time-dependent material – February 1

Late-breaking news – By arrangement

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