



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

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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 #71 and #44 buses stop at the building. The N-Judah, #6, #43, and #66 lines stop within 2 blocks.

JUNE 6, THURSDAY

A Tale of Two City Butterflies

7:30 pm, Speaker: Liam O'Brien

Known for his conservation work with two of our smallest butterflies, the Green Hairstreak and the endangered Mission Blue, local lepidopterist Liam O'Brien will focus this evening's efforts on the county's two largest butterflies: the Western Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio rutulus*) and the much-celebrated Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*). Come learn how behavioral adaptations to the urban setting have pushed these species into new modes of survival. With a background in theater, Liam has always been intrigued by our relationship to these creatures. In the shadow of the Xerces Blue - the first butterfly removed from the Earth due to human development in San Francisco - Liam will propose new ideas this evening on how to improve our legacy with this set of creatures that fascinate and enthrall us.

Liam O'Brien was working in ACT's production of *Angels in America* in the late 1990s when a tiger swallowtail flew into his yard. He surveyed every inch of San Francisco County to see what in fact remained of breeding butterfly species. Painting and illustration have replaced his passion for acting and his interpretive nature signs can be seen throughout the city on many SF Recreation & Park trails. The book, *The Butterflies of the Presidio*, written by Matthew Zlatunich and illustrated by Liam O'Brien, was published by the Presidio Trust in the fall of 2012.

NO PROGRAM IN JULY

August 1, THURSDAY

California's Native Prairies

7:30 pm, Speaker: Glen Holstein

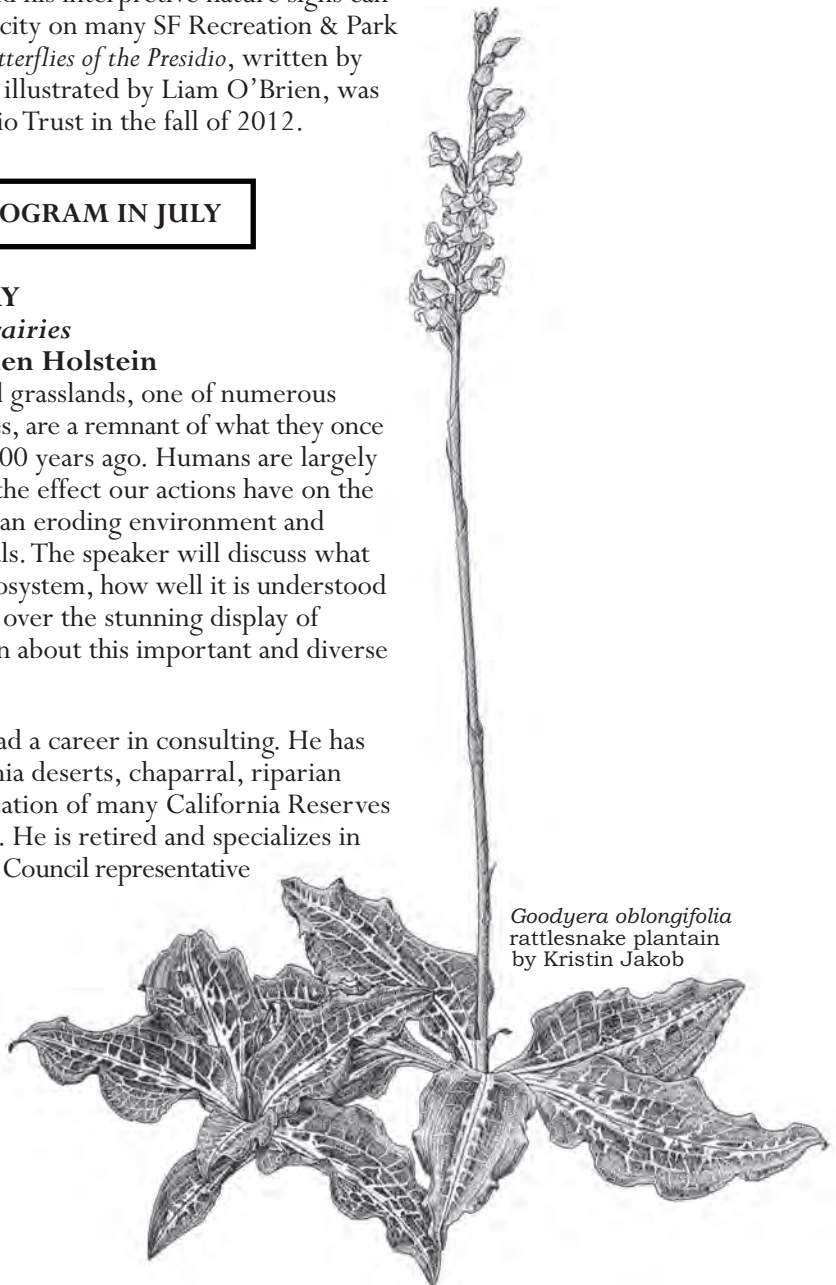
California's prairies and grasslands, one of numerous native plant communities, are a remnant of what they once were some 25, 50, or 100 years ago. Humans are largely

responsible for this decline. Too few of us pay attention to the effect our actions have on the environment and fewer still make the connection between an eroding environment and cumulative impacts to human health or to plants and animals. The speaker will discuss what makes a grassland a prairie, the importance of the prairie ecosystem, how well it is understood and whether it can be restored. He will allow us to marvel over the stunning display of wildflowers. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to learn about this important and diverse ecosystem.

Glen Holstein received his botany Ph.D at UC Davis and had a career in consulting. He has been studying and advocating for the protection of California deserts, chaparral, riparian systems and prairies for decades. He participated in the creation of many California Reserves - Carrizo Plains, Nipomo dunes, Cold Canyon, and others. He is retired and specializes in landscape ecology. He is also a volunteer botanist and Chapter Council representative for the CNPS Sacramento Valley Chapter.

FUTURE PROGRAM

Sept 5—*Et tu N2? The biological nitrogen cycle*
—Nick Bouskill



Goodyera oblongifolia
rattlesnake plantain
by Kristin Jakob

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 before the trip. In general, bring sturdy shoes; lunch and liquids; sunscreen and layered clothing; and a hand lens, camera, sketchbook, or any other tools/toys that will enhance your exploratory experience.

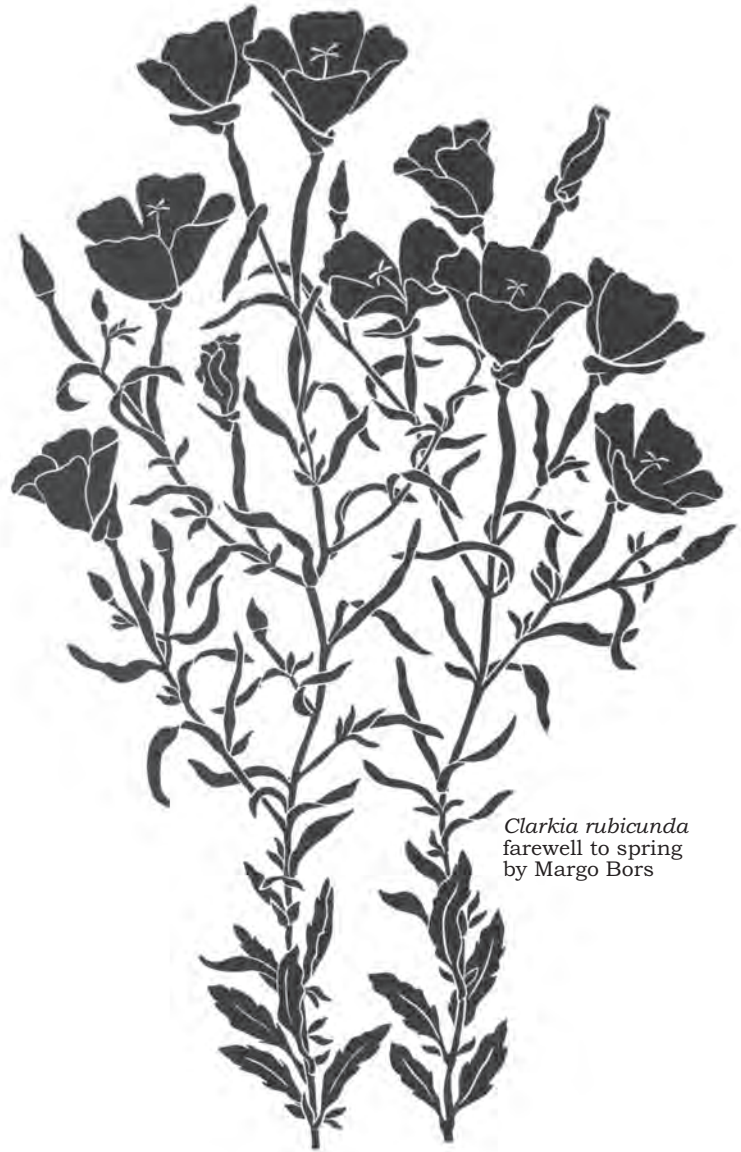
JUNE 8, SATURDAY, 10 am to 1 pm

San Bruno Mountain: Radio Road

Leader: Doug Allshouse

Radio Road is usually experienced as a quick ride to the summit but walking it reveals unexpected seasonal treasures such as coast rock cress (*Arabis blepharophylla*), rein orchid (*Piperia elegans*), and sand mat (*Cardionema ramosissimum*). Its road cuts and seeps are home to seasonal displays of 116 native plants, including grasses and ferns. One very important plant is stonecrop (*Sedum spathulifolium*), which is the larval host plant of the endangered San Bruno Elfin butterfly. We'll look for elfin larvae along the way and see some still-native communities at the summit festooned with fescues (*Festuca* spp.), Pacific reedgrass (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*) and stonecrop. Our return will take us down the short leg of the Summit Trail for more treasures, such as perhaps dwarf huckleberry (*Vaccinium cespitosum*). Self-register (\$6) at the entry kiosk. Meet at the parking lot on the other side of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Turn right at the stop sign just past the kiosk and follow the road under the parkway. Due to the marine influence the mountain offers box-of-chocolates weather, so bring layers.

Contact Doug at dougr228@comcast.net or 415-584-5114 if you have questions.



Clarkia rubicunda
farewell to spring
by Margo Bors

ACTIVITIES

PLANT ID WORKSHOPS ON SUMMER BREAK

The plant ID workshops that take place at SFSU on the second Thursday of the month will have a hiatus. There will be no workshops during the months of June, July, and August. They will resume on Thursday, September 12th at 6 pm. and continue through the fall. Please join us in September as we continue to explore the fun of keying plants with the graduate students of SFSU.

CNPS PLANT SCIENCE TRAINING PROGRAM

June 5-7 —Riparian Ecology and Restoration—Bruce Orr and Amy Merrill

July 24 —Ecology of Edible and Medicinal Natives: Traditional and Scientific Perspectives—Alicia Funk and Farrell Cunningham

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

GRASS IDENTIFICATION WEEKEND WORKSHOP

June 8-9—Sponsored by the California Native Grasslands Association—David Amme, Michelle Cooper & Jim Hanson

The goal of this workshop is to learn the basic skills of identifying grasses and provide an overview of the native grass distribution in California. Appropriate for restoration practitioners, land managers, landowners, grazing managers, students, and citizen scientists as a tool in revegetation, storm water retention, grazing, natural resources planning and management. For more information visit: <http://cnga.org>



“I go to Nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in tune once more.”—John Burroughs



FOCUS ON RARITIES

Checklist of the Extant Flora of San Francisco

by Michael Wood

San Francisco is blessed for many reasons... natural beauty, climate, being far away from Washington D.C., and, of course, a rather remarkable diversity of native plant species. This despite having been the launching point for the Gold Rush and Northern California's population explosion that followed. But with that population came scientific endeavors, efforts to document, quantify and understand the natural world we were simultaneously seeking to master and manipulate.

The Yerba Buena Chapter of CNPS is quite remarkable among the state's 33 chapters. The ratio of acreage to population is likely the lowest of any other chapter. This makes for a unique situation. Our chapter area is comprised of motivated and knowledgeable citizens keeping an eye on a finite number of well-defined natural areas, many of which have been quite closely surveyed and monitored. As a result, there has been an accumulation of separate species lists, many of which were recorded on loose sheets of paper in files, folders, cabinets, and tucked into the pages of Jepson Manuals.

When I was a new board member in 1994, I was in awe of the familiarity my fellow board members had regarding what grows where. A born list maker, I asked my colleagues if I could compile the species lists that had been amassed. It was my intention to compile these lists into a master checklist of the plant species San Franciscans might encounter when exploring our hills-and-dales. I'm a big fan of local checklists and you can find excellent examples on the websites of our neighboring chapters. It seemed like the time for San Francisco to have something similar was overdue.

The last flora of San Francisco County was completed in 1958 (Howell, *et al.*). Other frequently-referenced local floras include those that cover San Bruno Mountain (McClintock, *et al.* 1990) and the Santa Cruz Mountains (Thomas, 1961). Marin County has its new flora (Howell, *et al.* 2007) and the just released Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora (Ertter and Naumovich, 2013). We are all very excited about the efforts by Tom Daniel, Curator of the Botany Department at the California Academy of Sciences, to prepare a revised flora of San Francisco. Reporting from the island of São Tomé & Príncipe, an island off the coast of West Africa, Tom says that the revised SF flora, which will include keys, descriptions, general localities, taxonomic

and natural history notes, phenology, etc., should be completed by 2015.

There have been commendable efforts in the city to document the flora within specific jurisdictions. The Presidio Trust, Golden Gate National Recreation Areas and the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department's Natural Areas Program have accumulated an impressive amount of information regarding the occurrence of native and naturalized non-native plants growing on lands in their respective jurisdictions, and they have very generously shared their databases with me. (To get a good idea of where the city's natural areas are located, be sure to pick up the splendid map of San Francisco's natural areas put together by The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, The Presidio Trust, and Nature in the City).

When I started sorting out the various loose pieces of paper other chapter members had passed my way, I suddenly found myself with access to a rather impressive amount of data. Prompted by the publication of the 2nd edition of The Jepson Manual (TJM2; Baldwin, *et al.* 2012), I redoubled my efforts at compiling a single master checklist for the entire county, regardless of jurisdiction or ownership. This updated and annotated checklist is intended to serve as an easy-to-use guide to the floristic diversity of San Francisco County. I wish to emphasize that the checklist is not a scientific research effort, one supported by extensive ground-truthing, collection of voucher specimens, and the review of herbaria records. The information provided to me comes both from trained professional and amateur botanists, as well as second-hand reports from motivated citizens without formal botanical training; I have not attempted to verify species identifications or occurrences. I have, however, annotated the list to indicate suspect identifications based on anomalies in the known geographic records through personal experience or review of collections records available through the California Consortia of Herbaria (CCH).

Although I've updated the checklist to match TJM2, don't worry about not being up to speed on the latest nomenclatural revisions; former names and family assignments are noted. The checklist is also annotated with such information as rarity status, invasive status, blooming period, whether or not each is considered indigenous to the San Francisco Peninsula, notes on geographic range, the need for local S.F. collections, habitat specificity, and data gaps. Once completed, it will provide the basis for compiling our chapter's official List of

Locally Significant Plants (see my article in the September 2009 chapter newsletter)

I still have some more data to sort through and need to clean up the annotations, but my hope is to complete the checklist by this summer. At the moment, the master checklist includes over 1000 taxa (53% native, 47% non-native) and is sorted into nearly 70 specific parks, open areas, and private parcels. Ultimately, the entire checklist as well as individual checklists for each plot of land will be available for download in pdf format from the chapter website (www.cnps-yerbabuena.org/). Depending on interest, we may even publish a bound copy for those of you who, like me, simply must possess such local lists.


It is my hope that readily accessible checklists for specific plots of land will serve to enhance the experience of visitors interested in learning the identities of the plants they encounter along the city's many trails. More importantly, these lists should aid in conducting targeted searches for rare and unusual species, correcting misidentifications, focusing efforts on the eradication of invasive non-indigenous species, assembling a complete collection of voucher specimens for the county, filling in those data gaps.

Literature Cited

- Baldwin, B.G., D.H. Goldman, D.J. Keil, R. Patterson, T.J. Rosatti, and D.H. Wilken, editors. 2012. *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California*. Second edition. Univ. Calif. Press, Berkeley. 1568 pp. Jepson eFlora available online at <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/IJM.html>.
- California Consortium of Herbaria (CCH). Lists and maps of collections and potential distribution for San Francisco taxa. Available online at <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/>.
- Ertter, Barbara and Lech Naumovich. 2013. *Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora: Native and Naturalized Vascular Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, California*. Second Edition. California Native Plant Society, East Bay Chapter. Berkeley, CA. Available at www.ebcnps.org
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- San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, The Presidio Trust, Nature in the City. 2007. *Nature in the City: A Guide to San Francisco's Natural Heritage*. Available online at <http://natureinthecity.org/maps.php>.
- Thomas, J.H. 1961. *Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains of California*. Stanford University Press. 434 pp.

HABITAT RESTORATION

Please help us update these listings. If you have corrections or additions, please send them to kimcmich@hotmail.com.

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

Alemanys Natives at Alemany Farm.

3rd Sundays, 1 to 4pm. Contact:

alemanynatives@gmail.com

Bayview Hill. 2nd Saturdays

Contact Joe Grey joe.grey@sfgov.org

Bernal Hilltop. 3rd Saturdays,

10 am to 12 pm. Work party contact Rachel Kesel rachel.kesel@sfgov.org; Groups contact Joe Grey 415-831-6328.

Brooks Park. Contact Joe Grey

Joe.Grey@sfgov.org

Buena Vista Park. 1st Saturdays, 9am to noon.

Contact Joe.Grey@sfgov.org or

415-831-6328.

Candlestick State Park Nursery. 1150 Carroll

Street. 1st Saturdays, 10am to 2pm. 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 3pm. Contact Jake Sigg

415-731-3028 or jakesigg@earthlink.net.

Corona Heights. Last Saturdays, 10 am to noon.

Contact Jim Houillion 415-552-3542.

Edgehill Mt. Park. 2nd Saturdays, 10am to noon.

Contact Stan Kaufman 415-681-4954 or

sekfmm@pacbell.net

Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Weekdays and weekends around the Bay Area.

Contact volunteer@parksconservancy.org or

415-561-3044.

Glen Canyon. Wednesdays & 3rd Saturdays, 9am to noon. Friends of Glen Canyon. Contact rachel.kesel@sfgov.org

Golden Gate Heights Sandy Dunes Native

Plant Community Garden. Contact Barbara

Kobayashi okim1946@yahoo.com.

Golden Gate Park Oak Woodlands.

2nd Saturdays, 10am to 12:30pm.

Contact Rob Bakewell 415-710-9617 or

rebakewell@gmail.com

Green Hairstreak Butterfly Corridor.

3rd Saturday, 10 am to noon. Contact Nature in

the City stewards@natureinthecity.org

Half Moon Bay State Beach. 650-726-8801

or hmbrestore@gmail.com

Heron's Head Park. 2nd Saturdays, 9am to noon.

Contact Raynelle Rino 415-282-6840 or

raynelle.rino@lejyouth.org

Lake Merced. 3rd Saturdays, 10am to noon.

Contact Joe Grey joegrey@sfgov.org

Linda Mar State Beach 4th Sundays, 10am to

noon. Contact 650-451-1130 or

94116bc@gmail.com.

Marin Headlands Native Plant Nursery.

Wednesday, 1 to 4 pm & Saturday, 9am to noon.

Contact 415-332-5193 or

AShor@parksconservancy.org.

McLaren Park. 2nd Saturdays of even months,

10am to noon. Contact Joe.Grey@sfgov.org or

415-831-6328.

McKinley Square Hillside. 2nd Sundays, 10am

to noon. www.McKinleySquare.com or

chris@McKinleySquare.org.

Mission Creek Bank. Generally Saturday

mornings. Contact Ginny Stearns for times 415-

552-4577 or GinnyStearns@gmail.com.

Mt. Davidson. 1st Saturdays, 10am to noon.

Friends of Mt. Davidson. Stan Kaufman 415-681-

4954 or sekfmm@pacbell.net

Mt. Sutro. 1st Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm

Contact Craig Dawson: 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.

San Bruno Mountain. Tuesdays, 10:30 am to

12:30 pm; Earthcare Wetlands Project;

Wednesdays, 10am to 12:30pm: Greenhouse

volunteers-Mission Blue Nursery;

Saturdays, 10am to 12:30pm: Weed Rangers

Stewardship Outing; Saturdays, 10am to noon: Bog

Restoration; 4th Fridays & Saturdays, 9am to noon:

South San Francisco Weed Rangers

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, 9am. 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 Wednesdays of the month. Contact Casey

Ogden 510-452-6850 cogden@saveSFbay.org, or

www.saveSFbay.org/volunteer.

Shields/Orizaba Rocky Outcrop. Contact

Paul Koski at pkoski7@netscape.net.

Tennessee Valley Nursery and Stewards.

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

Contact 415-289-1860 or

lponzini@parksconservancy.org

UCSF Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve. 1st

& 3rd Saturdays, 9am to 12:30pm. Contact

Craig@sutrostewards.org or 415-665-1077.

White-Crowned Sparrow

3rd Saturdays, 9am - noon

Contact sfrpd.volunteerprogram@sfgov.org

DALY CITY DUNES: CONSERVE A RARE ECOSYSTEM by Ken McIntire

The Daly City Dunes, on the western end of San Bruno Mountain, are the last remnant of an ancient dune system formed 80,000 to 125,000 years ago during the Pleistocene era - when the northern San Francisco Peninsula was an island. These dunes are unique on the peninsula.

The dunes have a diverse and healthy plant community containing typical dune scrub species, plus rare and endangered California native plants, including San Francisco *Lessingia* (*Lessingia germanorum*). The dunes house about 50% of the total population of this plant.

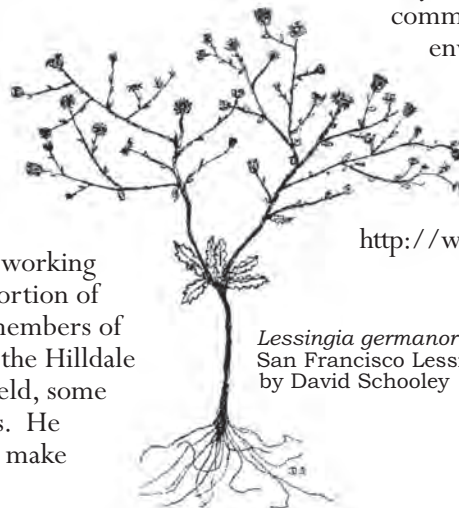
San Bruno Mountain Watch has been actively working to secure and preserve the privately owned portion of the dunes. Recently, two parcels owned by members of the Callan Family were sold to the owners of the Hilldale School. John Sittner plans to build a soccer field, some classrooms and some parking on these parcels. He hopes to double the size of Hilldale School to make it more profitable.

Mr. Sittner's parcels contain a portion of an ancient Ohlone site, as well as part of the population of San Francisco *Lessingia*. The owner down slope from the site, also on the dunes, would like to donate his property to open space. If Mr. Sittner develops his site, he would be splitting this rare habitat.

This is an opportunity for Daly City to gain a restored ancient dunes system through the cooperation of the city, the community, the surrounding schools and the environmental community.

Watch believes that the present Daily City Dunes open space and its rare ecosystem should be saved, NOT built on. Please help us in this effort. For more information, see:

<http://www.mountainwatch.org/daly-city-dunes>.



Lessingia germanorum
San Francisco *Lessingia*
by David Schooley

DOUG'S MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

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

Spring has arrived and not a moment too soon. I'll bet that's what they're thinking east of the Rockies. Prolonged cold and snowfall has gripped those poor souls while we out west enjoy fairly mild weather albeit a little chillier than normal. A certain little project has caused me to be 'out-and-about' more than usual in the canyons and on the trails in search of blooms to photograph. Otherwise it's "wait until next year." In my last journal I was holding off predictions of rainfall and how it might affect our annuals. The jury is still out but I can report that there have been mixed results for blooms here although, admittedly, it happens quite often.

The ridge between Owl and Buckeye Canyons is awash in the creamy-yellow sweetness of San Francisco wallflower, as are the upper portions of both canyons just off the Ridge Trail. Despite its classification as a rare plant, you'd be hard pressed to admit that here with thousands of wallflowers to be seen. The canyons are also loaded with hound's tongue. Check out "Naturalist's Notebook" by John Muir Laws in the April-June edition of *Bay Nature* for a fascinating explanation of the fickle blue flowers of this plant. Star lily and mission bells are also plentiful in the canyons. In the bog and lower Dairy Ravine there is a cornucopia of coast red elderberry. Sadly, this is a down year for California poppy and coast rock cress. It may require another wildfire to match the brilliant orange profusion of poppies in upper Buckeye and Owl during the spring following the 2008 fire.

The topic of the Mt. Sutro eucalyptus plantation has surfaced recently as UCSF attempts to manage an aging non-native forest; one that more than a few local residents have gotten quite accustomed to. I've read all the objections as to why the Sutro forest should be left alone and, as usual, there is some truth-

stretching here and there. The largest eucalyptus-cypress forest here on San Bruno Mountain is charmingly called Fog Forest because of the large amount of fog drip that rains down during the summer. As I look around our

eucalyptus groves

I find only a few

natives that

can tolerate

living under these

behemoths. Much

of it is due to the

micro-climate of

cool, moist conditions

that favor coast red

elderberry, redwood sorrel,

water parsley, and sword

fern. If you look up in the

cypress trees you'll also find leather fern growing amongst the boughs. The invasive non-natives win the battle in this understory with English and Cape ivy, Himalaya blackberry, poison hemlock, fumitory, cotoneaster, and forget-me-nots dominating.

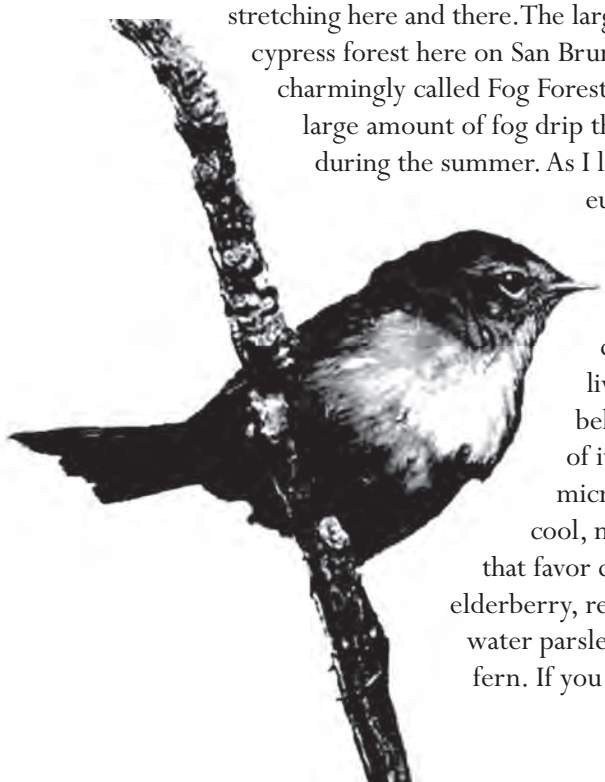
On the other end of the spectrum is the captivating conclusion as to what happens when wild land is developed for recreation, as in a picnic lawn, specifically the lawn adjacent to the main parking lot. Oh sure it's a hodge-podge of grasses and English daisy that are mowed a few times a year, but right now there are a few native plants poking out before the mower blades cut them back. These plants were there before the space was graded to allow Frisbees and balls to be tossed or a game of badminton to be played. The fact that they are still doing their thing is heartwarming. Walk around the picnic area and you will see coast iris, soap plant, suncup, dense sedge, lady and sword fern all woven into the verdant fabric of a field for play.

On a recent morning while walking the Bog Trail I stumbled upon a young Brush Rabbit doing some serious chewing on something trailside. I froze so as not to frighten my new bunny-buddy until I could better locate where it was eating. It did a 'one-eighty' on the trail while still working over this dark green cud hanging from its mouth. Finally it got tired of me and disappeared into the coyote brush and I hurried over to where it was eating. I spied the trifoliate leaflet of a California strawberry so apparently this is good eats in the lagomorph world. I'd always heard that dark-green leaves were the most nutritious and they don't get any darker than strawberry leaves.

The spring migration is warming up rapidly and already I've heard an Orange-crowned Warbler singing in a willow patch and I've seen a pair of Selasphorus hummingbirds. Selasphorus is birder-speak for the genus of either the Allen's or the Rufous Hummingbird since they're practically impossible to tell apart. And lately I've been hearing the rapid pecking of Downy and Nuttall's Woodpeckers as they hammer on some dead snags. If you can't sing a love song you've got to make some kind of enticing sound to advertise yourself; a woodpecker social medium. Robins are loading up on mud in the drainage ditches which means the first brood isn't far away, and I spotted a pair mating. My very first birthday present in the morning was my first-of-the-year Wilson's warbler singing.

Quick looks can be deceiving. I spotted a fuzzy-looking mass about six inches from the ground. Was it rabbit fur or maybe a stringy fungus growing from a rotting source? Upon closer inspection I noticed a mass of tiny golden dots lodged inside this fuzz, two silk strands stretching to a branch, and a few tiny golden dots climbing up those strands. They were baby spiders that had just hatched and were beginning their brief journey into the world. There must have been a couple hundred huddled together. Anyone who spends a fair amount of time outside should be fascinated with these interesting and vital creatures.

See you on the mountain



NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM AND NEXTDOOR.COM by Jake Sigg

Anyone with access to the internet can register on Nextdoor.com and talk to their neighbors about any subject, including the Natural Areas Program (NAP) and why San Francisco will benefit from it.

We expect the NAP management plan to emerge from environmental review by the autumn of this year. The same folks who have been attacking the Program since 2002 will attack it again. They have been in the press frequently, while time and energy needed to rebut misinformation and baseless statements have been wanting on our part. You can help to remedy that by talking to your neighbors through. It is free and easy to use.

While opponents have been very vocal, the public is simply confused, not knowing what to think. The Program is actually very popular. It engages more volunteers than any of RPD's other programs. If you tell your neighbors in your own words why you like and support the program, that is a powerful assist. The management plan will ultimately end up before the Board of Supervisors, and Supervisors need to know that their constituents want this Plan approved.

To refresh your memory about the NAP before starting a dialogue, go to the excellent summary and its many clickable links on RPD's web page at:
<http://sfrecpark.org/parks-open-spaces/natural-areas-program>.

Suggested talking points you might find useful:

- Natural areas support local butterflies, bees, birds, and other wildlife. It's not just about the plants!
- The city's eucalyptus plantations are seriously degraded -- the trees cannot regenerate. Management is needed to save the trees.
- Ivy and blackberry have taken over almost all of the understory, restricting appeal to wildlife.

To participate, go to: <https://nextdoor.com/>

CHAPTER NEWS

2013 NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR SUCCESSES

by Susan Floore

On April 28, 2013, numerous eager visitors took advantage of beautiful weather to see what is possible with native plants in 23 private and 3 public gardens. Some gardens were 100% native, while in others native plant components were blended with food plants, horticultural plants and other elements to support local wildlife like butterflies or chorus frogs. This year we were assisted at a number of gardens by volunteers hosts from our chapter and from Professor John Blair's "Plants of the World" course at SFSU (big thanks to each of you!).

Tour gardens featured strategies for addressing a variety of challenges including: poor soil/no summer watering, north facing shade, small areas, multiple owners (with several priorities), large areas of south facing hillsides with thin soil, adding native areas into existing horticultural gardens, historical gardens, gardens with a very steep rock slope. One mature garden is an exuberant, long-standing feast-for-the-senses with plants shoe-horned in every imaginable spot, others are more Spartan with featured plants highlighted. One visitor came specifically to a neighbor's garden because she was having so much trouble with her conventional garden because "too much water and pesticides were needed!" YEAH!

This was the introduction to native plants for many of our visitors, who were enthusiastic about the plants and blooms. Downloadable plant lists for ten gardens were posted on the chapter website. This year, symbols indicated gardens with physical access challenges and the two gardens where native plants were for sale. Statistics are not yet complete, but it seems that attendance and garden visits were about the same as last year. As before, publicity could have been more effective. We await the emergence of a knowledgeable volunteer.

All in all, the tour was a successful and enjoyable day for gardeners and hosts! Hosts and gardeners were invited to a post-tour of some of the premier gardens on May 19, 2013.

NEEDED: SLIDESHOW COORDINATOR FOR DECEMBER PROGRAM

It has been a tradition that the December member meeting be an opportunity for chapter members to share photos of interest as part of an evening that also includes a potluck supper. We currently lack someone to take charge of coordinating a slideshow. If you can help, please contact Programs Co-Chair Jake Sigg (jakesigg@earthlink.net or 415.731.3028). Long time coordinator Margo Bors will be happy to explain what this once-a-year job entails.

(CHAPTER NEWS continued on page 7)



"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

Nassella pulchra
purple needlegrass
by Kristin Jakob

CHAPTER NEWS *(continued)*

Community Thrift

We sincerely thank all of you who have donated furniture, clothing, books, CDs, and housewares to Community Thrift and designated CNPS as the beneficiary. Donating is easy. Simply drop off clean and saleable items at the CT donation door, open from 10 am to 5 pm every day, and **ask them to list CNPS (charity #152) as the beneficiary**. The donation door is located on the south side of the building on Sycamore Alley, parallel to 18th Street and perpendicular to Mission and Valencia Streets. Sycamore runs one way from Mission toward Valencia. Please note that, because of the February 2009 Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, CT can no longer accept any children's items. CT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donations are tax-deductible, and produce more income for the chapter than you might think.

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 choose 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

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are open to all Chapter members. They are held on the second Monday of every month (except August and December) at 350 Amber Drive (The SF Police Academy) and start at 7 pm. Contact Casey Allen (casey@sflandscapes.com) for more information.

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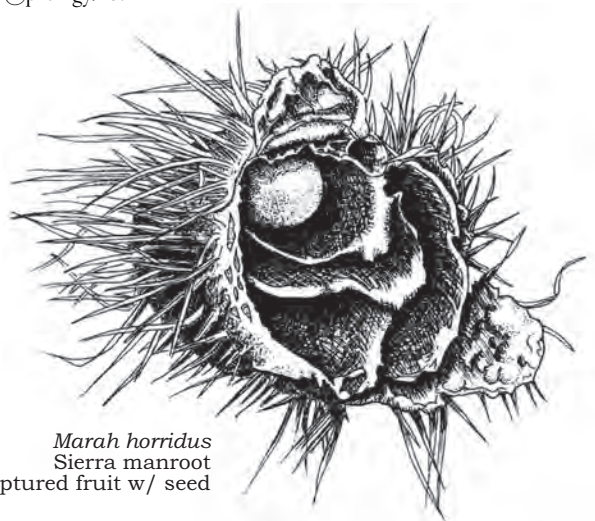
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Marah horridus
Sierra manroot
ruptured fruit w/ seed

JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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

____ Yes, I'd like to join.

Affiliation: **Yerba Buena Chapter**

Membership Category

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Romneya coulteri
Matilija poppy

Dues above the \$12 for publications are tax deductible. You will receive this newsletter, the informative triannual 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 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131-1640.

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Articles & general copy – July 20

Time-dependent material – August 5

Late-breaking news – By arrangement

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