



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

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PROGRAMS

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. Before our programs, we take our speakers to dinner at Chang's Kitchen, 1030 Irving Street, between 11th and 12th Avenues. Join us for good Chinese food and interesting conversation. Meet at the restaurant at 5:30 pm. RSVP appreciated but not required. If you wish to notify, please call Jake Sigg at 415-731-3028.

JUNE 2, THURSDAY

Wild Utah

Speaker: Michael Painter

The wild landscape of Utah has been an inspiration to people for years, and few visitors fail to fall in love with the place. But once you love something, it's your obligation to protect it, too. The campaign to permanently protect wilderness in Utah has been ongoing for many years. And while there has only been a small amount of wilderness designated in the state so far, the threats continue: oil & gas exploration, uranium mining, potash development, and off-road vehicle abuse, among other things. If you've always wanted to visit Utah or have been there and want to know more, Californians for Western Wilderness coordinator Mike Painter will be presenting a slideshow looking at the landscape and discussing current conservation issues.

Come see some of what makes Utah so special!

Before founding CalUWild, Mike worked at the Resource Renewal Institute, an environmental policy think tank in San Francisco, where he was assistant to the president and also managed the international arm of the Green Belt Movement of Kenya, the women's tree planting and pro-democracy organization whose founder, Wangari Maathai, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. He is the translator of a German-language guidebook to Mono Lake. Mike is also a member of the Sierra Club's National Utah Wilderness Team as well as the Club's California-Nevada Wilderness Committee and Bay Chapter Wilderness Subcommittee. Mike is a geneticist and lawyer by training and has been camping since he was 4 months old.

JULY 7, THURSDAY

The Natural History of the San Bruno Mountains: Rare and Endemic Plants

Speakers: Douglas Allshouse, David Nelson, MD

Doug Allshouse lives on the San Bruno Mountains and has been observing the wonders of his "backyard" for 32 years. He is a self-taught naturalist whose desire in retirement is to teach the

local flora and fauna to anyone willing to learn. He serves on the Technical Advisory Committee for the SBM Habitat Conservation Plan. David is an amateur naturalist who has been studying nature and teaching it since his college days. He teamed up with Doug three years ago to write a book, *The Natural History of the San Bruno Mountains*, after he took a CNPS field trip with Doug. He now has 17,000 photographs of the flora and fauna of San Bruno Mountain. During his weekday hours, he is an orthopedic hand surgeon. Doug and David will discuss the Mountain's history but will concentrate on its wonderful endemic and rare species. Together, they have spent more than a thousand hours exploring every nook and cranny of the Mountain, and have the bruises and scratches to prove it. They will entertain you with pictures and stories of the mountain that is next door to San Francisco, but that you have never seen as you will see this evening.

AUGUST 4, THURSDAY

Opportunities and Solutions in California Plant Conservation: Appreciating Our Past and Looking Forward to the Future.

Speaker: Daniel Gluesenkamp, Ph.D.

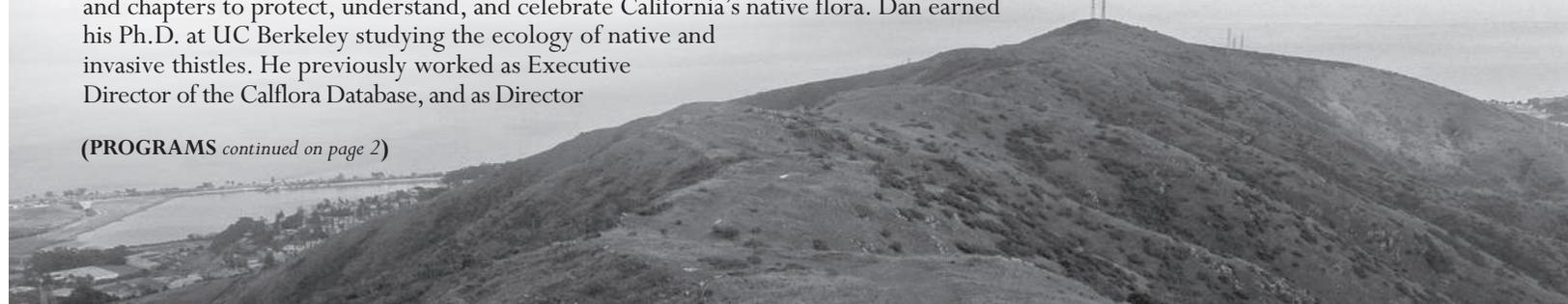
For over 50 years, the California Native Plant Society has protected our native plants and celebrated California's wild gardens. During those decades, the human population has doubled and conservation in California has been dramatically transformed. Against all odds, a dedicated community of plant lovers, using a growing diversity of conservation tools, has somehow managed to save most of the plants and places that make California special. As we look to the future, we see continued population growth, as well as new threats, and wonder how to save California for the future.

Dan Gluesenkamp will speak about plants, places, and projects, and engage in a discussion of how to learn and work together to make a real and lasting difference. Dan Gluesenkamp is Executive Director of the California Native Plant Society and works with CNPS staff and chapters to protect, understand, and celebrate California's native flora. Dan earned his Ph.D. at UC Berkeley studying the ecology of native and invasive thistles. He previously worked as Executive Director of the Calflora Database, and as Director

(PROGRAMS continued on page 2)

FUTURE PROGRAM

September 1—Camera Traps in California —Ken Hickman



PROGRAMS *(continued)*

of Habitat Protection and Restoration for Audubon Canyon Ranch's thirty preserves. He is a co-founder of the California Invasive Plant Council and of the Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN), and in 2009 discovered a presumed-extinct Franciscan manzanita plant growing on a traffic island near the Golden Gate Bridge.



FIELD TRIPS

Members and non-members are encouraged to attend these FREE walks. Signups are not required. If rain or high wind is forecast, we recommend checking with the contact (listed at the end of the trip description) a couple of hours before the trip.

JUNE 5, SUNDAY, 10 am – noon

Dune Habitats of the Presidio

Leader: Michael Chassé

Join Michael Chassé, National Park Service stewardship ecologist, for a walk through the Presidio's wonderfully rich dune habitats, where there are sure to be lots of plants blooming in late spring. We may see a tremendous color show, with yellow bush lupine and mustard-colored lizardtail, red paintbrush, blue-purple lupines, and shades of green leaves from pale grayish to deep bluish to straight-up green. The route wends through a variety of dune vegetation communities, including foredunes, dune scrub, and dune wetlands, and Michael will discuss 20 years of dune restoration efforts—successes, challenges, and lessons learned. This walk will be moderately strenuous, with some steep hills and uneven footing. Meet at Baker Beach in the south parking lot (the first lot after the turnoff to the beach). Contact: Michael Chassé, michael_chasse@nps.gov, 415-225-4685.

JUNE 11, SATURDAY, 10 am – 1 pm

Daly City Dunes, Guadalupe Hills (San Bruno Mountain)

Leader: Doug Allshouse

The Guadalupe Hills are the northeastern part of San Bruno Mountain, and on their western edge is a rare inland sand dune system known as the Daly City Dunes. The endangered San Francisco lessingia (*Lessingia germanorum*) grows there, currently unprotected on land that is privately owned. Efforts are underway to create a public park for the preservation of this population. We might also see San Francisco spineflower (*Chorizanthe cuspidata*), dune suncup (*Camissonia strigulosa*), beach evening-primrose (*Camissoniopsis*



ACTIVITIES

CELEBRATE NATIVE PLANTS

Saturday, June 11, 4-6 PM

Free for SFBGS members; \$6 General admission

Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture, San Francisco Botanical Garden

Join us for a tour of the beautiful Arthur L. Menzies Garden of California Native Plants and the Redwood Grove. Learn about California native plants and the Garden's habitat plantings that support populations of bees, birds, butterflies, and other animals. Then, join us in the Library for refreshments and a talk by artist and native plant enthusiast Margo Bors. In "San Francisco, City of St. Francis" Margo talks about San Francisco's variety of unique

cheiranthifolia), beach blue lupine (*Lupinus chamissonis*), and California pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*)—the latter means possible sightings of pipevine swallowtail butterflies (*Battus philenor*), equally spectacular as adults or larvae. Wear sturdy shoes suitable for sand, and feel free to bring a snack or light lunch. Meet at Hilldale School at the junction of Thiers and Florence Streets. From "Top of the Hill Daly City" (intersection of Mission Street with John Daly and Hillside Blvds) take Hillside and turn left on Thiers Street. **Heavy rain postpones until June 25.** Contact: Doug Allshouse, dougsr228@comcast.net or 415-584-5114.

AUGUST 6, SATURDAY, 11 am – 3:30 pm

Montara Mountain Manzanitas in Summer

Leader: Mike Vasey

In the summer installment of our manzanitas-through-the-seasons series, Mike Vasey will show and tell how manzanitas are adapted to ride out the dry season. He'll also discuss some of the unique features of their reproductive cycle, including fruits that linger on the plants for months, and inflorescences that persist for most of the year in an immature state. Both these traits are key to identifying manzanitas species. Mike is coauthor of the outstanding *Field Guide to Manzanitas* (available at store.cnps.org), an indispensable book for those interested in this beautiful and fascinating genus. Meet at San Pedro Valley County Park near the visitor center, at the end of Linda Mar Boulevard in Pacifica. Contact: Gail Wechsler, wechslerifolia@gmail.com.



Sisyrinchium bellum
blue-eyed grass
by Margo Bors

remnant natural areas and the many native plants and animals that call San Francisco home. Featuring Margo's own photographs, her slideshow will look at varied landscapes and wildflowers in all seasons.

PLANT ID WORKSHOPS ON SUMMER BREAK

As is customary for our plant ID workshops, we are off the summer months of June, July, and August. The workshops will resume in September and continue through the fall. Please stay tuned for updated information in the September newsletter. With any questions, please email Mila Stroganoff at milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net.

CHAPTER NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ellen Edelson

At a recent chapter board meeting, someone commented: “We don’t pat ourselves on the back enough” (for all that we accomplish). So, I thought I’d use this space, not to boast—rather to share some of the good stuff that the Yerba Buena Chapter—*your chapter*—has been up to—some for our entire 30 years, others more recently, in no particular order. (If you don’t see your favorite activity/idea on the list, you are encouraged to help us make it happen!)

Garden Tour (with 2 Plant Sales)—We just held another exciting Tour. Tons of thanks to Susan Floore who coordinated this important event again—and to all who helped and participated. However, Susan announced that after 8 years, she will be turning this task over to someone else for next year. Might that be YOU??

Earth Day at CCSF—Denise Louie and I once again brought plants and info. We are always met with great interest by students and staff alike. Great connections.

SF Garden Show—This 5 day event is always a *lot of work*, but with the help of many amazing volunteers (both from YB and other chapters), we had another beautiful, successful booth. Our first “double wide”! Will you help us next year?

Field trips—Thanks to Gail Wechsler for coordinating these outdoor adventures each season. Great job. Gail is seeking someone to help with this. Please don’t be shy.

Programs—a core activity of our chapter. Since 2008, Mila and Jake have been our program co-chairs. Much appreciated! Can you imagine life without our monthly talks? Exactly.

Wednesday work parties—For far longer than I’ve been a member, week in and week out, Jake has been doing the vital “dirty work” of weeding and nurturing our natural areas—in SF and beyond. A dedicated team of volunteers has formed over the years. You are invited to join in!

Plant ID workshops—Mila has taken this from a pre-program event at the County Fair Building to SFSU—where the microscopes and biology grad students are! Sessions are held throughout the school year. Stop by and learn to botanize-in the comfort of a classroom.

Plant lists—On behalf of our chapter, Mike Wood has done a phenomenal job of creating several categories of invaluable, comprehensive plant lists for SF County: extant (existing), extirpated (gone), significant plants, plant lists by natural area, and more. www.wood-biological.com Lucky us to have someone with such expertise, interest and patience on our team!

Newsletter—Thanks to our super-talented editor, Kipp McMichael, YB chapter puts out one of the best newsletters of all chapters. (OK, perhaps I *am* a bit biased, but I *have* received a number of compliments from other chapters!) Whether you choose print or online, you will appreciate Kipp’s beautiful layouts, inserted artwork and quotes, and hopefully recognize the time/effort involved. Also, we all enjoy reading the *very much* appreciated articles submitted quarterly by Doug Allshouse, Mike Wood, and other members.

Crystal Springs Reservoir—YB recently signed on to a letter drafted by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter to the GGNRA stating CNPS’ concerns about PGE’s proposed pipeline replacement projects, as well as potential impacts of opening recreational use of the watershed.

Running short on space, I, regretfully, can only *mention* the commitment and hard work put in by ALL of the other YB Chairs/Coordinators - Website, Legislation, Conservation, San Bruno Mountain, Rare Plants, Exotics, Photography, Books/Posters, Plant Sale, Hospitality,

Chapter Council Delegate—as well as our terrific YB Chapter Officers.

Also, CNPS is doing amazing work statewide! Be sure to check our state website (www.cnps.org) often for details.

Finally, of several important things in the works for YB at press time, I will mention just one: I am incredibly pleased and proud that the Yerba Buena Chapter has taken the lead to resume CNPS’ advertising in the fabulous, incomparable Bay Nature Magazine! This is a win-win-win! We will be promoting CNPS through this enviro-friendly periodical; CNPS will be supporting an invaluable, award-winning, Bay Area based environmental publication; and both organizations stand to gain membership/readership from the relationship. If you are not a CNPS member, *please JOIN today!* If you are not a subscriber to Bay Nature (baynature.org), I similarly urge you to consider becoming one. In both cases, you may pat yourself on the back!

SNACK TABLE AT MONTHLY PROGRAMS

We have a very long tradition of having snacks at our monthly programs. It provides atmosphere and encourages those attending our programs to linger and chat with each other—while providing nibbles for those of us rushing to the meeting before dinner!

Such treats have been brought by yours truly for *many* months (since our former Hospitality Chair went and had a little one!) However, we thought we’d try a new idea: inviting members to contribute to the yumminess, so here is the plan:

We are inviting members whose last names fall within a group of letters to bring a snack or beverage to share. Examples include: a box of cookies, pastry, cheese, humus, crackers, chips, nuts, dried fruit, fresh fruit, carrot sticks, veggie bites, cherry tomatoes, bottle of juice, etc. Leftovers go home with you.

We will continue to provide dry goods (small plates, cups, napkins, etc) and a limited supply of serving dishes, a cutting board/knife, etc.

So, here is the schedule: Members with last names that begin with:

“A” to “C”—June 2 program

“D” to “F”—July 7 program

“G” to “I”—August 4 program

We will also remind members through our Google groups email list. Thank you!

YERBA BUENA CHAPTER: HELP WANTED

Membership Development—Join committee. Have ideas; welcome yours, too! Need to help to implement. Goal is to encourage and to show value of membership.

Garden Tour—Coordinate team of volunteers to put on annual Spring Native Garden Tour.

Website—Join our team to work on upgrading our website.

Outreach/tabling—Help us do more outreach events (such as Sunday Streets, farmers markets, fairs)-or seek and coordinate others. Easy, fun, materials/plants available for events. Help welcomed for single event or many.

Hospitality—Greet and welcome visitors at our monthly programs. Bring and/or coordinate snacks for table.

Newsletter production scheduling. Set production dates/deadlines.

FOCUS ON RARITIES

The Trefoils

Acmispon Species

by Michael Wood

In case you haven't been able to keep up with all the nomenclatural changes (and who can?), you might not be familiar with the genus *Acmispon*. Yes, those darned taxonomists have been consorting again. Formerly lumped in the world-wide genus *Lotus*, the North American taxa were assigned to one of three sub-genera, *Hosackia*, *Syrmatium* and *Acmispon*. In the early 2000s, based on morphological studies and then confirmed by molecular phylogenetic analyses, it was demonstrated that these taxa are distinct from the Eurasian species of *Lotus*. As currently accepted, the genus *Acmispon* consists of uniquely American taxa, while the genus *Lotus* consists of some 125 taxa native to Europe, Africa, eastern Asia, Australia and New Caledonia.

The genus *Acmispon* belongs to the pea or legume family (*Fabaceae*). The pea family ranks among the most species-rich families of flowering plants in the world. Consisting of some 730 genera and 19,400 species, legumes are found north and south of the equator and on all continents except Antarctica. Members of the family range from vines to herbs to shrubs to trees, occupying a tremendous variety of habitats in tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions. For further discussion of this family and its importance to mankind, see the June 2015 issue of this column (vol. 29, no. 2).

The common name "trefoil" is derived from the Latin *trifolium*, meaning three-leaved. Also known variously as deerwatches and deerweeds, there are 37 species/subspecies or varieties of trefoils that occur in California. Remarkably, 21 (58%) of these taxa are endemic, meaning they do not occur outside of the state. Of these, three taxa are listed under the federal and/or California endangered species acts, five have a California rare plant rank (CRPR) of 1B and another two have a CRPR of 4.

Six species of *Acmispon* are extant in San Francisco County, while a seventh species is believed to have been extirpated (Wood, 2014). All seven taxa are cited in Howell et al (1958) and are presumed to be indigenous to San Francisco. Of the seven species recorded from San Francisco, four are included on our new locally significant species list (Wood, 2015).

Spanish clover (*A. americanus* var. *americanus*; formerly *Lotus purshianus*), is an annual herb with a prostrate to erect form. It is found in dry, often disturbed grasslands, chaparral, scrub, and roadsides. This species occurs across the length and breadth of the state. Flowers are white to yellow to pink and appear from May through October. In San Francisco,

Spanish clover is known only from Bayview Hill and Lobos Creek Valley; it has been assigned the ranking of A2 as a locally significant species.

Short-podded lotus (*A. brachycarpus*; formerly *Lotus humistratus*) is an annual herb with fleshy, fuzzy leaves and a mat-like form. It is associated with grasslands, oak and pine woodlands, desert flats and mountains, and roadsides. It is widely distributed over the state, occurring on the coast, in the Coast Ranges, Transverse Ranges, and the northern foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The yellow flowers appear from March through June. Short-podded lotus was historically known from western San Francisco near Point Lobos; sadly, it is believed to have been extirpated here. The species has been assigned the ranking of A2 as a locally



significant species.

Deerweed or California broom (*A. glaber*; formerly *Lotus scoparius*) is a stout, perennial subshrub forming dense clusters of green, wiry, stiff stems to 3 feet tall or more.

Deerweed is commonly found in dry, sandy soils in chaparral and coastal scrub from Lake to San Diego counties and in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada from Butte to San Bernardino counties. The yellow flowers appear from March through August. Deerweed has been reported from 28 of San Francisco's natural areas; it is not considered a locally significant species.

Heermann's bird's-foot trefoil (*A. heermanni* var. *orbicularis*; formerly *Lotus h.* var. *o.*) is a perennial herb with a prostrate, mat-like form. It is found on sandy flats and slopes with coastal scrub and chaparral. This species is restricted to the immediate coast of California, with San Francisco representing its northern-most

location. It produces yellow flowers with red dark-tipped wings from March through October. This species has been reported from four locations in the county and it has been assigned the ranking of A2 as a locally significant species.

Hill lotus (*A. parviflorus*; formerly *Lotus micranthus*) is an annual herb with ascending to erect stems. It occurs on coastal bluffs, oak/pine or fir woodlands and on open, disturbed sites from the Oregon border to San Diego and Imperial counties, and from the coast to the Sierra Nevada. The pink to salmon-colored flowers appear from March through May. In San Francisco it is known from a single location in the Presidio and it has been assigned the ranking of A2 as a locally significant species (Wood, 2015).

Strigose trefoil (*A. strigosus*; formerly *Lotus s.*) is an annual herb with fleshy stems and a prostrate, mat-like form. It occurs in many plant communities including creosote bush scrub, foothill woodland, chaparral, and valley grassland. It is particularly common in southern California from the coast to the interior deserts, northward along the coast, reaching its northern limits in Sonoma County. It also occurs in along the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The yellow to orange flowers appear from March through June. Strigose trefoil has been recorded from eight locations in San Francisco; it is not considered a locally significant species.

Chilean trefoil (*A. wrangelianus*; formerly *Lotus w.*) is an annual herb with fuzzy leaves and a prostrate, spreading form. It occurs on coastal bluffs, in chaparral, and disturbed sites. In California, it has a wide distribution from the northern Sacramento Valley southward in the Transverse Ranges and along coastal California from Humboldt County to Baja California. Curiously, it is native to both California and Chile. The yellow flowers appear from March through June. In San Francisco, Chilean trefoil has been recorded from 14 locations; it is not considered a locally significant species.

Literature Cited

- Howell, J.T., P.H. Raven, and P. Rubtzoff. 1958. *A Flora of San Francisco, California*. Univ. of San Francisco. 157 pp.
- Wood, M.K. 2014. *Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Francisco's Natural Areas*. Rare Plant Committee, California Native Plant Society, Yerba Buena Chapter. Version dated April 6. Available online at <http://www.wood-biological.com/san-francisco-plant-checklist/>
- Wood, M.K. 2015. *Locally Significant Plant Species of San Francisco County*. Rare Plant Committee, California Native Plant Society, Yerba Buena Chapter. Version dated July 4. Available online at <http://www.wood-biological.com/san-francisco-plant-checklist/>

DOUG'S MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

A Chronicle of Natural History on San Bruno Mountain

by Doug Allshouse

I love my solitary morning walks particularly because no one is with me who would want to talk; thereby spoiling my enjoyment of a singing Winter Wren or the ethereal song of a Swainson's Thrush. I don't understand why anyone would walk in the park with buds in their ears listening to "their music" or worse yet—talk radio. Life is so much clearer and cleaner when my feet are eating trail and my eyes see the moon disappear behind a cloud or spot some sky lupines on the trailside.

Much was anticipated of our El Nino as it strengthened in the Pacific but it was largely a bust although we have surpassed last year's precipitation totals. The flowers of trees, shrubs and herbs have responded amazingly and much credit has been given to the rain. As I mentioned in the last Journal we experienced several months of really cold weather for the first time in quite a while and I attribute much of the beauty this spring to the chilly days and nights. At least one other person has made a similar observation in his neighborhood and his initials are JS. I'm in good company on this.

The San Bruno Mountains are about four square miles yet they are home to five species of manzanitas. The most common species, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* or bearberry manzanita, has eight recognized forms world-wide. Five are in California, three are on SBM and two of those forms are endemic, which means we have four endemic manzanitas here. They were all in glorious bloom in January and February with the large and dense white clusters of Montara manzanita, the gentle pinks of San Bruno Mountain and Pacific manzanita and the hot pink blooms of *leobreweri* manzanita.

The second and third week of February brought a sight not ever seen by this keen observer. I'll call it Robin Palooza. While walking the Bog Trail I heard a cacophony of robins singing in the eucalyptus trees up on the Old Guadalupe Trail. I got to the upper Colma Creek Bridge to see what the fuss was about. For a good five minutes I saw flock after flock of 100-200 robins flying into the eucs. Mostly they were flying in from the northwest and I can only surmise that maybe something really good to eat was drawing them in. There were a couple thousand birds in those trees, kind of like Woodstock for robins.

Fifteen years ago our chapter helped sponsor a restoration project at the headwaters of Colma Creek called Heart of the Mountain. What was once a native creek choked with Himalayan blackberry, hawthorn, cotoneaster, and English and Cape ivy and covered by eucalyptus is now teeming with lady fern, rushes, dogwood, wax myrtle, elderberry, willows and horsetails. Recently a twinberry and osoberry have moved into the neighborhood. I am constantly working to rid the creek bed of encroaching cotoneaster, hawthorn and cypress. What I fear is that our native arroyo willow will eventually swallow up the creek as it has done south of the bridge.

A couple days into March our first Orange-crowned Warblers arrived followed by Wilson's Warblers about 3 weeks later. These two species signal the arrival of spring in the bog but our winter sparrows—Fox, White-crowned, Golden-crowned and White-throated—haven't vacated the park. "Time's a-wastin' little ones; now go on, git."

This has been an incredible spring with the afore-mentioned rainfall and cold weather. For the first time in a few years I have seen a rare owl's clover, johnny tuck or butter and eggs. We have a

subspecies called *rosea* since it has flowers that are white with a slight pink tinge. Its genus *Triphysaria* is Greek for *having three bladders* because of the three lower lip pouches on the flowers. I have found four populations this year—three in the saddle and one at Bitter Cherry Ridge. One of the saddle populations shares space with some goldenrod and two plants were blooming! Goldenrods are mid-to-late summer bloomers, but that's how things are on the mountain.

Last year our Natural Resources Manager, Ramona Arechiga, secured funds from Measure A in San Mateo County to fund a rare plant search on the mountain. I had the privilege of tagging along with the team of Lech Naumovich and Crystal Niederer from Dr. Stu Weiss' company Creekside Science. We began looking for Diablo sunflower, *Helianthella castanea*, a low-growing perennial with basal clumps of leaves and naked-stemmed yellow daisy-like flowers that resemble mules' ears. In fact the two plants often grow together. We found some in Firth Canyon and a couple of places in Brisbane Acres but we were looking in June when the plants were desiccated. Fast-forward to this year when several of us volunteered to look in late February and March. What a difference to look for them when they are green and starting to bloom as opposed to crispy brown and dried. In mid-March we counted and GPS'd 118 plants in Firth Canyon and a few weeks later found a population of 7-8 plants surrounding a trailside toyon on the Brisbane Acres Trail. This population was quite far from the Firth population.

The second rousing success story came on April 10 when we discovered the presence of San Francisco catchfly, *Silene verecunda*. We looked for this guy for a month last year in July and could not find it. We assumed that it was extirpated from the mountain and all we could find was the more common Scouler's catchfly and the non-native windmill pink. The next week David Nelson, Mark Sustarich and I spent four hours at the site and photographed, measured and listed each plant that we found—82 in all! This was great news indeed, and an important lesson in discovering both the sunflower and the catchfly—it pays to look for it—when it's blooming stupid! The interesting story with *verecunda* is that it was formerly listed as four subspecies and is currently lumped as one species. Its distribution around the state is quite large, from coastal Humboldt County to San Diego County and inland from San Bernardino County along the foothills of the eastern ranges to Modoc County. The subspecies *verecunda*, which is our local plant, is quite rare and found only in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. We've got some conservation to do with this plant and for starters its location has been kept secret to minimize stress and damage to the population. It was originally found on Mount Davidson where it is hanging on by the skin of its teeth, but perhaps not for long.

So far it has been an exciting start to the year, with other exciting finds such as new locations for spotted coral root, skullcap, dune tansy, toad flax and sea pink. There is a lot going on here. Come see for yourself.

See you on the mountain...



"Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them."

—Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

HABITAT RESTORATION

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

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

Alemanys Natives at Alemanys 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.

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 rcbakewell@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. Sutro.

Wednesdays 9:30am-12:30pm at the nursery; 1st and 3rd Saturdays 9am to 1pm Visit

<http://sutrostewards.org>

Pacifica's Environmental Family. 4th Sundays, 10 am. Contact Lynn Adams 650-355-1668.

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.

Starr-King Open Space.

Serpentine grassland on Potrero Hill. 2nd Saturdays, 9:30 am to noon.

Contact Tom tphilip@yahoo.com.

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

CONSERVATION NEWS

ACTION ALERT: Mount Sutro

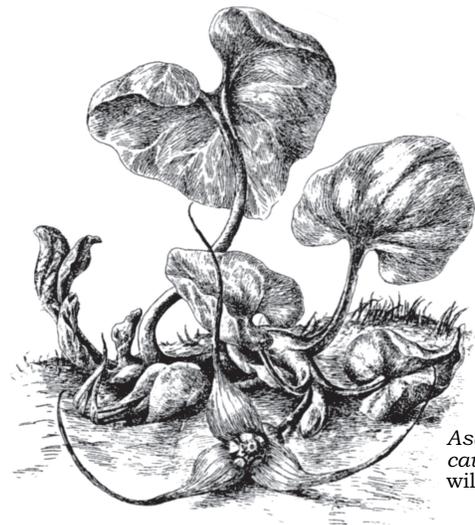
by Jake Sigg

UCSF, after years of confusion and incremental steps, has benefitted from the work of three arborists it hired to deal with the rapidly deteriorating eucalyptus plantings on Mount Sutro. It also formed a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which has met twice, to help create a management plan for the trees. Its next meeting, which has yet to be scheduled is likely to be important.

The multi-year drought has taken a severe toll on parts of the Tasmanian blue gum plantation, resulting in dead, dying, and hazardous trees. At the next TAC meeting, committee members are expected to discuss more detailed and specific plans than in the past. Replanting of large areas will include trees, understory plantings, and ground cover. In order to attract wildlife there should be an emphasis on native plants, as that is what most wildlife is adapted to. (There are still a few dozen indigenous plant species not yet overwhelmed by ivy, blackberry, and euharta, and they should be augmented and expanded.)

In this fractious city there will be opposition to these plans --why, I don't know, but there will-- especially from those who have been continually trying to obstruct the University's plans for the mountain.

Your presence, speaking in support of the University's plan, will be very helpful. Because a date has not been set, I would like to have a way to contact you if you are willing to come. If you are not on the Yerba Buena Chapter email alert list or do not attend members meetings, please send me an email (jakesigg@earthlink.net) or telephone (415-731-3028) so I can provide you with information.



Asarum caudatum
wild ginger

CHAPTER NEWS *(continued)*

Send schedule and invitation for articles to board and others. Important but focused task. Small commitment of time *once per quarter*. Proofreading welcomed but optional.

Field trips—Help arrange a few (or more) local field trips each quarter. Send in write ups for newsletter, website, etc. .

Data entry—Specific, focused, easy project for YB. At home on your own computer, at own schedule/pace. Use Word or similar. Ellen—.

Your idea here—Just present your idea to any board member. Chances are good that we'd say "yes, thanks!"

MEET YOUR BOARD: Gerry Knezevich

Greetings Yerba Buena Chapter members. My name is Gerald (Gerry) Knezevich, and as of January 2016 I have assumed the position of V.P. of Yerba Buena Chapter. A native of the Bay Area, I have lived in San Francisco for twenty five years. While I have no formal background in botany or horticulture I have been an avid gardener since childhood. I have been a chapter member since 2010, and have taken part in the last two plant sales and recently taken over certain tasks to do with the newsletter mailing. I have also assisted at our booth at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show in San Mateo.

Married, with a sixteen year old son, and a twelve year old daughter, I have the luxury of being retired. I am a house-husband. We have two cats and a dog. The dog stands out as the unique member of the family, as she is the only one who listens to me.

I enjoy cooking, and have recently begun dabbling in the art of fermentation in a quest to produce the perfect kimchi. Surf fishing our beautiful California coastline has long been a passion of mine. I am fortunate in that I have a green house which I spend many hours in propagating and talking to my plants. A green house for natives in this area is no more necessary than a cold frame, but I do have orchids that require the shelter, and most of all it is my sanctuary. While my plants care for all types of music I find they are partial to Bach.

2016 will be Yerba Buena Chapters 30th anniversary, and I am looking forward to working with you all to carry on the mission of the CNPS. Restoration and conservation of our natural areas are certainly two vital areas that need our constant attention.

Increasing our membership while we add to our treasury are two more areas that I hope to work on with all of you. Large numbers in both the number of members and the numbers in our treasury will insure that we will be able to carry on and further our past accomplishments.

In closing I would like to thank Linda Shaffer for the excellent job she has done as Vice President, and for all the help she has given me in assuming the position of V.P. Yerba Buena Chapter has been fortunate to have Linda as a board member. Her knowledge of the political machinations of the city of San Francisco that CNPS must navigate has been invaluable. Thank you Linda!

Looking forward to working with all of you in propagating a beautiful, prolific CNPS chapter.

How You Can Contribute to CNPS

Please shop at Cole Hardware (www.colehardware.com) It's easy to donate: Simply choose the "donate" option when you're checking out at any of our registers. Cole Hardware's Community Assistance Partnership Program annually donates 10% of designated purchases (in the form of gift cards) to participating local schools and non-profits, such as CNPS. To contribute through this program *throughout the year*, simply ask the cashier to credit CNPS (member #1424)

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 (SF Police Academy) and start at 7 pm. Contact Ellen Edelson (e.edelson@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

OFFICERS & CONTACTS

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Education Coordinator

Position vacant

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Garden Tour

Susan Floore
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Position vacant

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Lepidopterist

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Position vacant

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Webmaster

Kipp McMichael
kimcmich@hotmail.com

at the checkout register. For more info:

<http://www.colehardware.com/community-partners/>

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 daily from 10 am to 5 pm.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

Molly Barth, Lisa Dougherty, Janis Gomes, Kat Grigg, Robert Hanenberg, Richard Holtz, Brenda Martin, Linda Mostovoy, Omega Pascubello, William Putnam, Benjamin Saragusa.

JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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

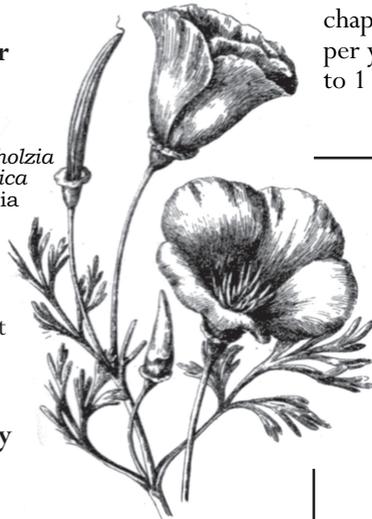
____ Yes, I'd like to join.

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

*Eschscholzia
californica
californica
poppy*



Dues above the \$12 for publications are tax deductible. You will receive the Yerba Buena News, the informative triannual journal Fremontia, and a statewide news bulletin. Members of other chapters may subscribe to the Yerba Buena News alone for \$10 per year, renewable annually. Send a check made out to "CNPS" to 1 Alviso Court, Pacifica, CA 94044-4239.

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

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

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

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Articles & general copy – July 25

Time-dependent material – August 5

Late-breaking news – By arrangement

Visit: www.cnps-yerbabuena.org

California Native Plant Society
Yerba Buena Chapter
338 Ortega Street
San Francisco, CA 94122



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ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO: cnps@cnps.org - subject: Member Address Change