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 - call Jake Sigg at 415-731-3028 if you wish to notify.

FEBRUARY 7, THURSDAY 7:30 PM
Forest Fire and Fungi: Losers, Winners and Strategies in the Post-fire Environment
Speaker: Tom Bruns

Fire is an integral part of our western forest ecosystems, and our native plants are well known to be adapted to a variety of fire regimes that occur in our state. But what about our native fungi? Are they too adapted to fire? In this talk we will address that question by drawing from research conducted on the 1995 Mt Vision and the 2013 Rim fires, and from smaller scale experimental studies. The main finding is that there is a small set of fungi that rebound rapidly after fire. These are typically fungi that were uncommon in the pre-fire forest, or that are entirely restricted to post-fire settings. Most or all of these species appear to wait in the soil as spores or other propagules for decades between fire events. The identities and roles of these fungi will be discussed.

Tom Bruns is professor in the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology at the University of California, Berkeley. He received an MS in Botany from the University of Minnesota in 1982, where he worked on insect mycophagy in the boletes, and a PhD in Botany from the University of Michigan in 1987. His publication record includes over 180 papers primarily in the fields of fungal ecology and systematics. He is best known for his work in ectomycorrhizal systems where he has contributed to our understanding of community and population structure, spore banks, mycoheterotrophic plants, spore dispersal, and molecular method development. He has mentored 18 PhD students and 19 postdoctoral associates. He currently teaches three courses on mycology at Berkeley and has won the Weston Teaching Award from the Mycological Society of America in 2007, as well as the Distinguished Teaching Award from the College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley for his efforts. He served as president of the Mycological Society of America from 2011-2012, and received the Distinguished Mycologist Award in 2018 from the Mycological Society of America for his career achievements in the field. More details on his early path into mycology can be gleaned from his interview for the Oral History for Mycology:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlUeRjUTb2U.

FIELD TRIPS

Members and non-members are encouraged to attend these FREE walks. Signups generally not required—just meet at the specified place and time. 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.

JANUARY 19, SATURDAY 10am - 1pm
San Bruno Mountain: Saddle and Bog Trails
Leader: Doug Allshouse

This field trip is a winter staple so let’s start with an easy walk around the saddle and bog with East Bay and San Francisco views. It features grasslands, mono-cultures of gorse, a eucalyptus forest, the headwaters of Colma Creek, and a rare upland wetland. Several past restoration projects offer vivid examples of success and failure and are worth discussing. The area is rich in plant species and its eastern grasslands share plant species common to the southeast portion of the mountain such as coast iris and purple needlegrass. We may see golden violet and silver lupine, the host plants for the endangered Callippe Silverspot and Mission Blue butterflies. The bog is a wetland with sedges, rushes, cow parsnip, willows, and creek

(FIELD TRIPS continued on page 2)
FIELD TRIPS (continued)
dogwood. It may be wet from winter rains so wear appropriate shoes. Bring layers because the saddle may be windy, but the bog is generally sheltered. There is a $6 fee (cash or credit/debit card) for park admission payable at the pay station. Meet in the main lot just past the kiosk. Heavy rain postpones to January 26. For questions, call or text Doug at 415-269-9967 or email dougsr228@comcast.net.

January 27, SUNDAY at 10am
McLaren Park Mushrooms
Leader: Alan Rockefeller

Join mycologist, Alan Rockefeller, for a fungal foray in McLaren Park on Sunday, January 27th. We will meet at 10:00 am at the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater parking lot. Cancelled if no significant precipitation in January. Email alanrockefeller@gmail.com with questions.

FEBRUARY 16, SATURDAY 10am to 12.30pm
Hazelnut Trail
Leader: Jake Sigg

The Hazelnut Trail on Montara Mountain offers probably more diversity than any other area around here. A reason for that may be because it contains a rich mix of inland and maritime chaparral in the process of replacing a diverse grassland. In the absence of frequent burning practiced by the natives, woody plants displace the grasses and wildflowers, and you can see that process happening here.

We start out from the Visitor’s Center and cross the creek coming down from Brook Falls, cross a thriving riparian woodland loaded with lush vegetation, then our ascent brings us to a couple of grasslands which will have a few early blooming wildflowers.

At this time of year the glory of this trail is the woody plants and February is the perfect time to visit. Subtlety and restraint—the Japanese term shibui—characterize it. Sage greens, grays, soft browns, blue-greens, copper and an infinity of other hues and textures dominate. Most of the shrubs are still awakening from summer-autumn dormancy. Lichens are both fascinating and plentiful. Manzanitas and pink currants may be in full bloom. Hazelnuts ditto; pendent male catkins are abundant, and the sharp-eyed may spot red female flowers hiding in the axils of the branchlets—tiny but showy when you focus on them. A favorite—and locally rare—is the chinquapin, a close relative of the chestnut. The underside of its leaves are covered by a rich golden tomentum; in the right light conditions it fills the area with a warm golden glow.

This area is remarkably intact in terms of native species. However, building a trail is like opening a wound, where the land is exposed to infection. The only invasive weeds we will see are along this trail. But the trail also allows the wildflowers to persist, so there is much to see continually.

Because we will be strung out along a single-track trail, it is not possible to keep everyone within earshot. Therefore, we must restrict the number of people to 15. RSVP (first come, first served) and get directions at Hannahetokuno@gmail.com

This walk will be held rain or shine, but heavy rain postpones to February 23rd. Participants who have RSVP’ed will be notified if this happens.

MARCH 3, SUNDAY 10am -1pm
Sign Hill and Friends of Liberty Park Walk
Leaders: Chuck and Loretta Heimstadt

Join Chuck and Loretta for a leisurely walk up and down the beautiful yet sometimes steep trails and vistas of Sign Hill. We should see many wildflowers, especially the lovely flowers of the host plant for the endangered Mission Blue butterfly, the silver bush lupine, as well as the coast iris, the adopted flower of the city of South San Francisco, and others. The portion of Sign Hill included in the city park is protected, as is the brand new Friends of Liberty Park. But much of this precious open space is still in private ownership and vulnerable to development. Come see this treasure and appreciate its wide and open views.

Space is limited for this event. Email chuckheimstadt@yahoo.com to reserve your spot and to receive the meeting place, which is still in question and may be on the other side of the mountain as we will also be covering the newly acquired Friends of Liberty Park. Bring water & camera; please wear sturdy shoes, and dress in layers with long pants. We ask that pets be left at home, and note these trails are often too difficult for very young children.
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Werner Schumann
by Jake Sigg

Our CNPS chapter volunteers have been removing invasive plants from the 31 natural areas owned by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department in the city weekly since 1988. The Department’s Natural Resources Division was not formed until 1997 and we now work under its supervision.

We depend on those able to come out during the weekdays: those retired, between jobs, or students. Almost from the beginning Werner Schumann established a pattern of reliability. Retired from Lufthansa Airlines, he lives in Millbrae and journeys from there (by bicycle or public transit) every Wednesday—a record of a quarter-century or more! Since we move around every week that takes a little planning and resourcefulness. Werner is strong on both counts and he is a champion volunteer in terms of hours contributed.

There are many fewer invasive plants plaguing our wildflower areas because of him, and he sets a good example for all of us in his modes of travel.

CONSERVATION NEWS

A WIN FOR OUR NATURAL AREAS
By Bob Hall

Big news! The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department has created two new job classifications that will improve its Natural Resources Division: Job Codes 3420 and 3421. Still awake? Okay, on the surface it may not sound like news worth heralding but these new positions – Natural Resource Specialist and Chief Natural Resource Specialist – will put passionate individuals in our Natural Areas who have experience in the conservation and management of natural ecosystems, native plant communities and wildlife habitats. Prior to this, any gardener with enough seniority could request to work in our Natural Areas program when jobs opened up.

Chapter Conservation Chair, Jake Sigg, who helped advocate for this new job classification, points out that working in our Natural Areas requires a lot of specialized skills. Learning hundreds of native and invasive plants along with restoration best practices isn’t easy or for everyone. When you think of it, this somewhat sleepy bureaucratic achievement is a huge win for our parks and natural areas - and for everyone who loves them.

In addition to thanking Jake, the chapter would like to thank RPD General Manager Phil Ginsburg as well as the union for all the hard work that went into making this change happen.

ACTIVITIES

PLANT ID WORKSHOPS
Join us for our last plant ID workshop of 2018 on Thursday, December 13th at 6 pm. The workshops are a wonderful way to spend some time learning about plants and keying them out. I am pleased to announce that we will have four new workshops coming up in 2019 on the second Thursday in February, March, April, and May. Please mark your calendars for February 14th, March 14th, April 11th, and May 9th. As is the norm, we listen to a PowerPoint presentation that explains a plant family’s diagnostic features, its economic importance, distribution, and evolutionary history among other things. We are then assisted by graduate botany students to key out live specimens. Join us for a stress-free hour and a half learning about botany. Bring *Japan* Manual Second Edition, if you have one and a loupe. We do have microscopes on hand and instruments that aid with dissection of plants. Workshops begin at 6 pm and run until 7:30 pm. The location is San Francisco State University, Hensill Hall, Botany Lab, Room 440. Email Mila Stroganoff at milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net for more information.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BOTANISTS SYMPOSIUM

Research and Conservation of Northern California’s Vegetation Communities

On January 14–15, 2019, Northern California Botanists will be presenting a two-day symposium titled “Research and Conservation of Northern California’s Vegetation Communities”, to be held at California State University, Chico. The symposium will include an exciting line-up of topics ranging from vegetation and fire to Northern California botanical discoveries, a poster session, and a third day of workshops to choose from. The symposium will also include an evening reception, banquet, and keynote speaker Todd Keeler-Wolf, of California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, addressing “Learning to be a Naturalist in Northern California”. The symposium is open to anyone: botanical enthusiasts, professionals, and students. For a detailed program and registration information, see: www.norcalbotanists.org

A WIN FOR OUR NATURAL AREAS

By Bob Hall

Big news! The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department has created two new job classifications that will improve its Natural Resources Division: Job Codes 3420 and 3421. Still awake? Okay, on the surface it may not sound like news worth heralding but these new positions – Natural Resource Specialist and Chief Natural Resource Specialist – will put passionate individuals in our Natural Areas who have experience in the conservation and management of natural ecosystems, native plant communities and wildlife habitats. Prior to this, any gardener with enough seniority could request to work in our Natural Areas program when jobs opened up.

Chapter Conservation Chair, Jake Sigg, who helped advocate for this new job classification, points out that working in our Natural Areas requires a lot of specialized skills. Learning hundreds of native and invasive plants along with restoration best practices isn’t easy or for everyone. When you think of it, this somewhat sleepy bureaucratic achievement is a huge win for our parks and natural areas - and for everyone who loves them.

In addition to thanking Jake, the chapter would like to thank RPD General Manager Phil Ginsburg as well as the union for all the hard work that went into making this change happen.

CONSERVATION NEWS

McLAREN WORK PARTY
By Jake Sigg

The salvation of the 31 natural areas harboring wildflowers and other native plants in the city depends on a seriously understaffed RPD crew plus volunteers who aid them. CNPS has for 30 years been joining RPD staff at various sites on Wednesdays of most weeks. We are eager to preserve their park.

The proposal is for CNPS members to join McLaren Park neighbors in their monthly work parties in this great park. This is a really good place to start; McLaren hosts a lot of native plants, and the neighbors are eager to preserve their park.

SO . . . please come join the San Francisco Recreation & Park Department’s Natural Resources Division in a recurring volunteer habitat restoration project in John McLaren Park. Explore the diversity of San Francisco’s second largest park. Volunteer activities include weeding, planting, and trail maintenance. Please wear closed toed shoes, long pants and layers. The event will occur rain or shine. Light refreshments provided.

The group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am at the large parking lot at 21 John F. Shelley Drive. (If entering the park going east on Mansell, pass the Philosopher’s Way Trailhead and take the next right.) Please RSVP by emailing recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org or call 415-831-6330.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Werner Schumann
by Jake Sigg

Our CNPS chapter volunteers have been removing invasive plants from the 31 natural areas owned by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department in the city weekly since 1988. The Department’s Natural Resources Division was not formed until 1997 and we now work under its supervision.

We depend on those able to come out during the weekdays: those retired, between jobs, or students. Almost from the beginning Werner Schumann established a pattern of reliability. Retired from Lufthansa Airlines, he lives in Millbrae and journeys from there (by bicycle or public transit) every Wednesday—a record of a quarter-century or more! Since we move around every week that takes a little planning and resourcefulness. Werner is strong on both counts and he is a champion volunteer in terms of hours contributed.

There are many fewer invasive plants plaguing our wildflower areas because of him, and he sets a good example for all of us in his modes of travel.

There are many fewer invasive plants plaguing our wildflower areas because of him, and he sets a good example for all of us in his modes of travel.
DOUG’S MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

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

There is an old saying, “The more things change, the more they remain the same”. During the summer our plants were blessed with the usual cool moistening fog and as we anticipated our warm and sunny Indian summer, September and October gave us more cool foggy days, and a slight sprinkle of an autumn rain shower. The season changed, but the weather remained the same, and what a dichotomy from last year’s sizzling temperatures.

Autumn brings us shorter days by a few hours, perhaps to prepare us for the fleeting daylight ahead in the dead of winter. Walking through Fog Forest around 6:45 AM during morning twilight is a somber experience and to spy a waning moon framed by the silhouette of tree branches just adds a bit of excitement to the morning chill. Then as sunrise approaches just 15 minutes later the sun fires up the clouds to give us a wildly-different sensation with shades of peach and blue.

Fall is also the beginning of Nature’s berry bonanza, much to the delight of migrating birds. Coffee berry flashes berries in various stages of development from immature green and pale yellow to deliciously-ripe black. Although they are edible, caution must be exercised not to eat too many because the tribe worldwide is used for their laxative effect. The common name is derived from the seeds that, when dried, look like green coffee beans. There is loose evidence that Native Americans roasted them and made a coffee-like beverage from them. If so, I wonder if the practice was learned before the diaspora of humans from Africa, specifically those from Ethiopia.

I have an admitted soft spot for creek dogwood. Along with poison oak, dogwood is one of the most photogenic species on the Mountain. It literally disappeared when Guadalupe Canyon Parkway was built, and Colma Creek was decimated and buried in spots. Today it flourishes along the creek and in many wet spots along the Bog Trail. The deeply-veined leaves, flowers and bluish-white berries never cease to draw not only my attention, but my camera’s lens as well. As we get closer to winter the bark of creek dogwood turns a brighter red becoming the super-star attraction after the leaves have fallen.

Our two blackberry vines are also good candidates for autumn photography. Both sprout from perennial roots and produce a biennial cane. The primal cane grows rapidly, producing a leaf with 3 leaflets on the native and 5 leaflets on the non-native. Toward the end of the first year both species’ primal canes begin to produce floricanes, or flowering canes, with leaves having 3-leaflets. Our native California blackberry is monocious, having floricanes that are either female or male, with the female floricanes producing the fruits. The non-native Himalaya blackberry (originally from Armenia) is dioecious with each florican having male and female flowers so each cane produces fruits.

Autumn is spider time and the Labyrinth Spider (Metepeira arizonica) spins one of the most fascinating webs in the Arachnid world. It’s basically a medium-sized orb web hidden inside a tangle of spider silk that attaches to shrubbery at many points. Inside this tangled mess is an egg sac made of rolled leaves that also serves as a retreat for mom. It’s quite a sight to see numerous webs of other Labyrinth Spiders suspended in coffee berry bushes (they seem to have an affinity for them) forming neighborhoods. They are especially dazzling with dew drops from the overnight fog dangling from the silk.

Lichens are weird but enchanting organisms. The visible part is a fungus and we all know that fungi cannot produce their own food, so they must steal it from something. Mushrooms are the fruiting bodies of fungi called mycorrhizae living underground. They form vast networks that supply tree roots with water and minerals. In exchange they steal sugars from the roots. Lichens team up with algae or cyanobacteria that photosynthesize photons into sugars. A symbiotic relationship forms whereby the fungus supplies a place for the algae to live and the fungus consumes bits of the algae as food. We now know that a third organism must be present for this relationship to form, the wingman is a yeast. This tidbit was just uncovered recently by an amateur lichenologist.

The fall migration is underway with warblers and hawks passing through. I start looking for our birds that overwinter here around the end of September. I heard my last Swainson’s Thrush on September 16 and on October 4, I heard my first Fox Sparrow and Hermit Thrush. We mostly have Sooty Fox Sparrows that are a darker race. The Hermits can skulk in the bushes, but they become more bold as winter comes along, so they’re not as secretive as the Swainson’s tends to be. They have a rustier-brown head and back than the Swainson’s Thrush. Six days later, on the 10th, I heard my first Varied Thrush and have heard a few more each day. I’m still waiting on the Kinglets and the Townsend’s and Yellow-rumped Warblers as well as a White-throated Sparrow or two to round out the roster. I had a huge surprise this year with a pair of Western Bluebirds that hung around my hill. I would expect them around Woodside in central San Mateo County where there are nesting boxes, horse farms, horse manure, and lots of flies to eat but not around here.

And lastly, a pair of coyotes were hunting on the hill behind my house starting around March or April. I noticed that the male had a blue tag in his right ear and a radio collar around his neck. There was a smaller female with him. I contacted Jonathan Young, Wildlife Ecologist at the Presidio and right away he knew about this dog. In Jonathan’s words: “We had a young male we tagged in 2016 who ended up at Coit Tower only to be captured by Animal Care and Control, brought back and released in the Presidio only to return back to Coit Tower. Unfortunately, during ACC’s capturing his collar was damaged and malfunctioned soon after release. He went “off-line” almost a year ago. He was hanging around Coit Tower with another pack, including pups that we believe he did not father. Neighbors in the area were keeping us posted on his presence. He was originally tagged with a right blue and left yellow ear tag. Based on a few pictures that were sent to me from Coit Tower, it looked like he lost his left yellow tag. He has not been seen in the city in at least 6 months and I assumed he was killed by a car and died in some bushes somewhere… there are no other coyote collaring programs in the bay area. This must be him. Perhaps with a mate? Please keep me posted on any observations you make of him.”

Sadly, he was killed on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway on June 20. The female has been hunting on the hill and hangs out around the northern part of Village-in-the-Park near the intersection of South Hill Blvd and my street, Alta Vista Way.

See you on the Mountain…
FOCUS ON RARITIES

Common Reed
Phragmites australis
by Michael Wood

As my wife and I continue our travels, most recently around Andalucia, southern Spain, and currently in Provence, southeastern France, we’ve seen vast stands of common reed. I have often wondered about the status of common reed as a California native species, given that in other parts of the country it is regarded as a highly invasive species. This is more than just an academic question as it is considered a locally significant species in our chapter area.

Common reed is the quintessential cosmopolitan plant, occurring on every continent except Antarctica. It is considered one of the most widespread seed plants on the planet (Barkworth, et al., 2003). In the U.S., it occurs in every state except Alaska, and in California it has been collected in 34 of the state’s 58 counties. Common reed is most commonly found on wet, muddy, or flooded ground around ponds, marshes, lakes, springs, and irrigation ditches. It occurs in freshwater, brackish and saline conditions. In California, common reed is usually associated with freshwater and alkali wetlands, but it is also found in such upland habitats as creosote bush scrub, yellow pine forest, foothill woodland, chaparral, and valley grassland at elevations from sea level to 1600 m/5250 ft. Common reed has a remarkably wide range of climatic tolerances, growing in climates ranging from semiarid to arid desert, subhumid to humid continental, and subtropical, and in regions where the average winter temperatures are as low as -39 ⁰C/-39 ⁰F or where the average summer temperatures are as high as 46 ⁰C/115 ⁰F.

A member of the grass family (Poaceae), common reed belongs to the Panicoideae subfamily and the Arundineae tribe. The nomenclature for Phragmites australis has undergone many revisions. In fact, the species has some 130 synonyms, including one placing it in the same genus as that bane of western gardens, Arundo donax. Also known by its Spanish name carrizo, common reed is an erect perennial grass growing 2-5 m/6-15 ft tall. The stout, hollow and leafy stems range in diameter from 0.5-1 cm/0.2-0.4 in and remain standing year-round. The simple, entire leaves are flat, 10-60 cm/4-20 in long and 1-6 cm/0.4-2 in wide. Leaves develop on only one side of the stem. The flowers of common reed form on many-branched panicles at the terminal end of the stems. The easily recognizable plume-like inflorescences are 15-50 cm/6-20 in long, and in California appear from July through November. Common reed produces dense stands, spreading aggressively in suitable sites by seed as well as by underground stolons and rhizomes. Although individual stems live for about eight years, clones are long-lived and have been reported to persist as long as 1,000 years (Rudescu, et al., 1965, cited in Swearingen and Saltonstall, 2010).

There are three separate lineages of common reed in North America (Saltonstall, 2002). The endemic subspecies (Phragmites australis subsp. americanus) was historically widespread throughout Canada and most of the U.S. except for the Southwest. Based on preserved remains found in the American Southwest, common reed has been present at least for the past 40,000 years, and in coastal habitats preserved rhizomes have been found that are 3,000-4,000 years old (Swearingen and Saltonstall, 2010). This tells us, of course, that common reed was present in North America long before European colonization.

The so-called ‘Gulf Coast’ lineage (P. subsp. berlandieri) occurs across the southern U.S. from California to Florida, along the Gulf Coast of Mexico, in South America, and on the Southern Pacific Islands; it is of uncertain heritage and may or may not be indigenous.

The third lineage (P. subsp. australis) comes from Europe. It is thought to have been introduced to North America in the late 1700s or early 1800s when seed and/or rhizome sections were carried to Atlantic ports in the ballast of ships. It first became established along the eastern seaboard then spread westward. Over the course of the 20th century, infestations became particularly noticeable around the Great Lakes and Atlantic states. Because the native and non-native taxa are so similar, the spread of the introduced subspecies went unnoticed (Gucker, 2008).

Common reed produces copious amounts of seed which are transported by wind, water, and humans. Sections of rhizomes and stolons are also transported by water and humans. In the eastern U.S., the native lineage of common reed has been largely replaced by the invasive lineage, although it persists in scattered locations throughout its historic range (Swearingen and Saltonstall, 2010).

This latter lineage is the one causing all the trouble in North America. So much so, for example, that it is considered Canada’s worst invasive plant. Like giant reed, common reed spreads rapidly and aggressively, forming dense stands that exclude native plants and wildlife and turning once biologically diverse wetlands into monocultures. Once established, common reed can alter wetland ecosystems by disrupting wetland hydrology, increasing fire potential, and reducing wetland wildlife habitat.

Based on genetic analysis, both the native and non-native lineages are present in California and may overlap (Saltonstall, 2002). It is unclear if it was historically present in all regions of the state. Although sometimes problematic in California, due to the uncertainty of which stands represent the native genotype, common reed has not been assigned any status as an invasive species by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC). Scientists with Cal-IPC have not been able to develop an invasiveness score for the species, and mapping of native strains has not been possible.

In theory, the native and non-native lineages of common reed can be distinguished by several morphological features. For a detailed discussion of the distinguishing traits, see Swearingen and Saltonstall (2010). I have never tried to key out common reed, but based on a review of the key and its use of overlapping characteristics, distinguishing the native from the non-native lineages may be an unrewarding endeavor.

In San Francisco, common reed (under its synonym P. communis) was included in the San Francisco flora (Howell, et al., 1958), based on a record from 1880. The authors noted that it would be expected elsewhere in marshy places in the southern and eastern parts of the city. However, there are no vouchers for the species from San Francisco listed in the Consortium of California Herbaria. Until starting this article, I had assumed that the only patch of common reed left in San Francisco was on the east side of Brotherhood Way. Jake Sigg informed me that it also once occurred in an impoundment at the south end of Lake Merced and that it was very likely the native subspecies, as noted by Peter Rubtzoff himself. But Randy Zebell with the City’s Natural Areas Program has reported that common reed is no longer present at either site. This means, sadly, that yet another taxon
HABITAT RESTORATION

Alemany Natives at Alemany Farms
Community workdays held from Noon to 5pm every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month and the Saturdays in-between, plus every Monday afternoon from 1:00-5:00. Contact community.gardeners@gmail.com

Bayview Hill
2nd Saturday, every other month. Contact recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org

Bernal Hill
2nd Saturdays, every month. 10am-noon. Contact recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org

Candlestick Point State Park Nursery
1st Saturdays, every month. 10am-1pm Contact Patrick Marley Rump at patrick.rump@lejyouth.org

Candlestick Point Recreation Area
2nd Saturdays, every month Contact Patrick Marley Rump at patrick.rump@lejyouth.org.

Corona Heights
Last Saturdays, every month. 10am-noon. Contact recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org

Friends of San Pedro Valley Park:
Trail Restoration
2nd Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm, every month, meet in front of Visitor Center

Friends of San Pedro Valley Park: Habitat Restoration
3rd Saturdays 9 am - noon, every month, meet in front of Visitor Center

Glen Canyon Park
Wednesdays & 3rd Saturdays, every month. 9am-11:30am. Contact recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org

Golden Gate Audubon Society
Various opportunities: https://goldengateaudubon.org/volunteer/

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Weekdays and weekends around the Bay Area. Contact volunteer@parksconservancy.org or 415-561-3044

Golden Gate Park Nursery
1st Saturdays, every month. 9:30am-12:30pm Contact recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org

Golden Gate Park Oak Woodlands
2nd Saturdays, every month. 10:00am-12:30pm Contact recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org

Green Hairstreak Corridor, Golden Gate Heights
Periodically. Contact amber@natureinthecity.org

Half Moon Bay State Beach
Various restoration and nursery opportunities. Contact email HMBParksVolunteer@Parks.ca.gov

Herons’ Head Park
Various opportunities at http://sfport.com/herons-head-park

Linda Mar Beach, Pacifica
Visit pacificabeachcoalition.org

Marin Headlands Native Plant Nursery
Weekdays and weekends. Contact (415) 561-3044 or volunteer@parksconservancy.org

McLaren Park
2nd Saturdays every month, 10am-noon. Contact recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org

McKinley Square Hillside
3rd Saturdays, 10am-12:30pm. Contact into@mckinleysquare.org

Mission Creek South Bank
Generally Saturday mornings. Contact Ginny Stearns for times. Call 415-552-4577 or ginnystearns@gmail.com

Mt. Sutro
Wednesdays 9:30am-12:30pm at the nursery; 1st and 3rd Saturdays 9:00am-1pm, visit sutrostewards.org

Pacifica’s Environmental Family
Various opportunities. See events calendar: http://www.pacificenvironmentalfamily.org

Palou Phelps Park
1st Saturdays, seasonally. 10am-1pm Contact recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org

San Bruno Mountain
Guadalupe Valley Stewards, Tuesdays 10am-12pm; Mission Blue Nursery, Wednesdays, 10am-12:30pm; Stewardship Saturdays, 10am-1pm; South San Francisco Weed Warriors, last Fridays and Saturdays of the month, 9am-noon. See events calendar mountainwatch.org

San Mateo County Parks
Stewardship Core calendar http://parks.smcgov.org/smc-parks-stewardship-corps

Save the Bay
Various opportunities https://www.savesbay.org/volunteer

Starr-King Open Space
2nd Saturdays every month, 9:30am-noon. Visit starrkingopenspace.org

Tennessee Valley Restoration
2nd, 4th & 5th Tuesdays, 10am-2pm. Visit parksconservancy.org

Yerba Buena Chapter Restoration Team
Wednesdays, noon-3pm. Contact Jake Sigg at jakesigg@earthlink.net

RARITIES (continued)

has become extirpated from San Francisco.

Due to its limited occurrence in San Francisco and based on the assumption that ours is indeed the native subspecies, common reed was included on our chapter’s list of locally significant species. Using the criteria we developed, it is currently rated as an A-2 species, requiring that any potential project impacts be evaluated pursuant to the California Environmentally Quality Act (CEQA). Now that we suspect that common reed has been extirpated, it will be elevated to a rating of A-1. I hope all of you native plant enthusiasts out there will keep common reed on your radar. Let me know if it turns up.

Literature Cited


Community Thrift - $1034.04 raised this year!

Thank you to all 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 chapter income than you might think.

Follow us on Instagram

Thanks to USF student and YB chapter volunteer Cassie Murphy, an old chapter just learned a new trick. We’re now spreading chapter news and photos on Instagram. Hey, all the kids are doing it. So get the app and follow yerba.buena.cnps. Hopefully, by that time, we will have figured out how to use hashtags.

Chlorogalum pomeridianum
soap plant
by Kristin Jakob

CHAPTER NEWS

BOARD MEETINGS
Board meetings are open to all Chapter members. They are held on the second Monday of alternate months, beginning with January at 350 Amber Drive (SF Police Academy) and start at 7 pm. Email us at yerba.buenacnps.chapter@gmail.com for more information.

OFFICERS & CONTACTS

President
Gerry Knezevich
gruicaknez@yahoo.com

Vice President
Eddie Bartley
eddie@naturetrip.com

Past President
Ellen Edelson
e.edelson@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer
Bob Hall
bilgepump100@sbcglobal.net

Secretary
Jacq Gamache
jackieshmackie@gmail.com

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

Delegate alternate:
Gerry Knezevich
gruicaknez@yahoo.com

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

San Mateo County Conservation
Mike Vasey 650-359-7034
mvasey@sfsu.edu

Education Coordinator
Position vacant

Field Trips Chair
Noreen Weeden
noreen@naturetrip.com

Field Trips Coordinator
Hannah Tokuno
hannahetokuno@gmail.com

Garden Tour
Coordinator needed

Hospitality Coordinators
Position vacant

Invasive Exotics
Mark Heath 415-235-0987
mark@shelterbeltbuilders.com

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

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

Membership Development
Position vacant

Membership Records
George Suter 415-665-1185
gosuter@prodigy.net

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

Photo Documentation
Margo Bors 415-824-0471
mbors@comcast.net

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

San Bruno Mountain Chair
Doug Allshouse 415-269-9967
dougar228@comcast.net

Technology Co-Chairs
Eddie Bartley
eddie@naturetrip.com

Make the switch to the Electronic Newsletter!

If you prefer electronic delivery:
Send an email indicating your wish to:

yeerbabuenacnps@gmail.com
Learn to understand California’s unique flora and help to preserve this rich heritage for future generations.

Yes, I’d like to join.

Affiliation: Yerba Buena Chapter

Membership Category

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

Make your check out to “CNPS” and mail with this form to:
California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

Name ______________________________
Address __________________________
City ______________________ State _______
Zip ________ Telephone _____________
e-mail ______________________________

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 1946 Grove St. Apt. 6, San Francisco, CA 94117.

Visit: www.cnps-yerbabuena.org

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