

PROGRAMS

Everyone is welcome to attend membership meetings in the Recreation Room of the San Francisco County Fair Building (SFCFB) at 9th Avenue & Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. The building is served by the #71 and #44 lines, is one block from the N-Judah car, and is two blocks from the #6, #43, and #66 bus lines. Before our July and August programs, we will take our speakers to dinner at Golden Rice Bowl, 1030 Irving Street, between 11th and 12th Avenues. Join us for good Chinese food and interesting conversation. Meet in the parking lot behind the SFCFB at 5:15 pm, or join the group at the restaurant at 5:30 pm. To reserve, call Jake Sigg at 415-731-3028 by the evening preceding the program.

JUNE 4, THURSDAY, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum

Arthur Menzies Garden of California Native Plants

Leaders: Don Mahoney, Terry Seefeld, Jake Sigg, Ted Kipping

NO PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Every year we try to arrange for one of our programs to be an after-hours stroll and picnic in San Francisco Botanical Garden's award-winning Arthur Menzies Garden of California Native Plants. This year's visit, scheduled during late-spring/early-summer bloom, will be led by four of the Garden's expert luminaries. Dr. Don Mahoney is curator of the botanical garden collections, and has served as horticulture director and manager of plant sales for more than 20 years. His native plant gardening expertise is legend. Terry Seefeld has been the Menzies Garden gardener for more than a decade, and has developed a special love and knowledge for cultivating and caring for this gem. He will give us an inside peek into this oasis. Our chapter conservation chair (and so much more) Jake Sigg spent 16 years of his city gardener career as caretaker and supervisor of the Menzies Garden. Jake will share with us the history of many of the well-established plants, as well as some wonderful stories from the past. Ted Kipping has been involved with SFBG most of his life, as gardener, treeworker, and always generous volunteer of time and expertise. A trained geologist, skilled in botany and horticulture, Ted's breadth of natural history knowledge is extraordinary, and his ability to see, interpret, and explain his observations is unsurpassed. He is likely to draw our attention to things we never noticed before. Bring your bag supper and enjoy a communal dinner in the garden, around the stone circle, amidst the wildflower meadow and the evening wildlife. Enjoy guided walks from our experts, and take advantage of the opportunity to ask them questions. Meet in the parking lot behind the County Fair Building before 5:30 pm. Please be on time, as we may have to lock the gate behind us. **Be sure to bring your own supper!**

JULY 2, THURSDAY

Resources for Wildlife in the Urban Landscape

7:30 pm, Speaker: Josiah Clark

Plant Identification Workshop

6 to 7:15 pm, Leader: Kirra Swenerton

The first step in improving habitat is identifying the resources that local wildlife need and use. In this talk we will discuss wildlife resources in general, exploring the importance of plant composition, origin, structure, habitat, and placement. Josiah will compare and contrast native and non-native plants and their uses by wildlife. We will also address the importance of water, dead wood, and dense cover in the urban landscape. Josiah will also talk about trees in San Francisco, homing in on when they contribute and when and how they detract from wildlife habitat. This presentation aims to inform people about how to improve their local urban surroundings for wildlife, but also aims to help the habitat stewardship community communicate more effectively about local wildlife habitat. We hope that this can make us

better advocates for better habitat comprised of native and wildlife-friendly plants. Josiah

Clark started Habitat Potential in 2002 and has worked as a Consulting Ecologist for a wide range of clients including the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the San Francisco Natural Areas Program, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, Golden Gate Audubon Society, and dozens of private property owners. The work of Josiah Clark and Habitat Potential is grounded in careful observation, case studies, reference sites, local knowledge, and a passion for maximizing biological productivity and the "life force" everywhere possible. Josiah is an expert on the urban-wildlife interface, and has investigated natural processes and the specific needs of wildlife in the urban setting for the past fifteen years. He also leads international birding tours and environmental stewardship with urban youth, and writes on environmental issues.

(PROGRAMS continued on page 2)



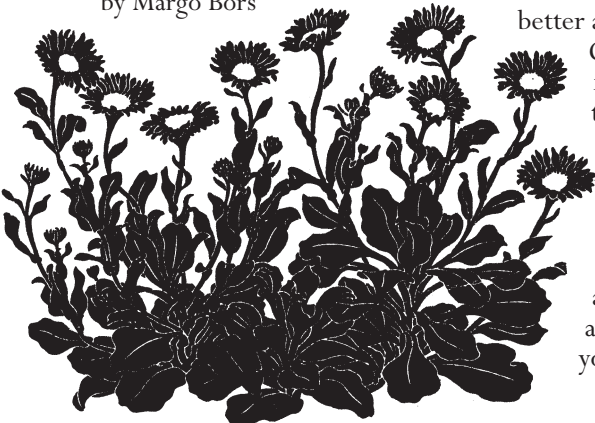
THE YERBA BUENA
CHAPTER OF THE
CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT
SOCIETY FOR
SAN FRANCISCO
AND NORTHERN
SAN MATEO COUNTY

Vol. 23 No. 2 ■ June 2009

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Erigeron glaucus
seaside daisy
by Margo Bors



PROGRAMS *(continued)*

AUGUST 6, THURSDAY

The Amazing Plants of Coastal San Mateo County

7:30 pm, Speaker: Toni Corelli

Plant Identification Workshop

6 to 7:15 pm, Leader: Kirra Swenerton

San Mateo Coast runs along the Pacific Ocean for more than 71 miles and has acres of public land with more than 25 parks and state beaches. Until now much of the flora has not been documented, but over the past two years Toni and other state park volunteers have listed more than 600 taxa for the public lands along the coast. This presentation will highlight the parks and plants “west of 1” and also show how volunteers, in collaboration with State Parks, are helping to restore native habitat on the coast. Learn about the diverse plant communities and spectacular wildflowers that occupy this slender stretch of Highway 1 along the San Mateo Coast. Toni Corelli is a botanist, environmental consultant, and long time member of the Santa Clara Valley chapter of CNPS. She has lived on the San Mateo Coast and botanized the local flora for 20 years. Toni is the author of *The Rare and Endangered Plants of San Mateo and Santa Clara County*. Prior to the talk you might want to **join Toni’s San Mateo Coast field trip on Sunday, June 14 (see below)**. To see photos go to: http://cnps-yerbabuena.org/torcelli_pix.

FIELD TRIPS

Trips are held rain or shine, but heavy rain cancels unless otherwise noted. Contact field trip chair Tom Annese (415-297-1413 <tomannese@yahoo.com>) or contacts listed below for details. Nonmembers are encouraged to attend these **FREE** walks. In general, bring lunch, liquids, sunscreen, layered clothing, and hand lens or any other tools/toys that will enhance your exploratory experience.

JUNE 14, SUNDAY, 10 am

Crystal Springs Watershed Pilarcitos Bike Trip (San Mateo County)

Leaders: Kirra Swenerton & Frank Babbit

We will be meeting at the Sneath Lane/northern entrance to the Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail at 10 am. From there we climb up a closed-to-vehicles paved road for another 5.6 miles and 1,200 feet to the top of Sweeney Ridge. This is where the Gaspar de Portola site is located (where Europeans first saw the San Francisco Bay). Once on the trail there are fairly large climbs and descents for another 4 miles or so through coastal scrub and serpentine grassland. We’ll turn around and come back out the way we came, biking approximately 20 miles in total. People should prepare for changing weather and dress in layers that allow for both a very hot day or a very cool one. The weather can be quite changing. We should bring lunch and/or a snack and especially **PLENTY OF WATER** as there is none available along the trail. There are, however, restroom facilities located every two miles along the trail. This ride is for **MOUNTAIN BIKES ONLY**—definitely not road bikes as fat tires and low gears are essential. The trail itself is a wide, graded dirt road that is an easy surface to ride on. There are some very big hill climbs throughout the trail. People should be in reasonably good shape and have spent time on their bikes recently. The permit we will receive allows for a maximum of 20 participants. Spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so contact me as soon as possible if you want to attend. Also, let me know if you (a) have a car and how many people/bikes you can transport; (b) need a ride and whether you will be coming from San Francisco, CalTrain, BART, etc. It is six miles and a 748-foot climb from the San Bruno BART station to the gate at the end of Sneath Lane. Please contact Kirra Swenerton (206-618-2552) if you would like to participate.

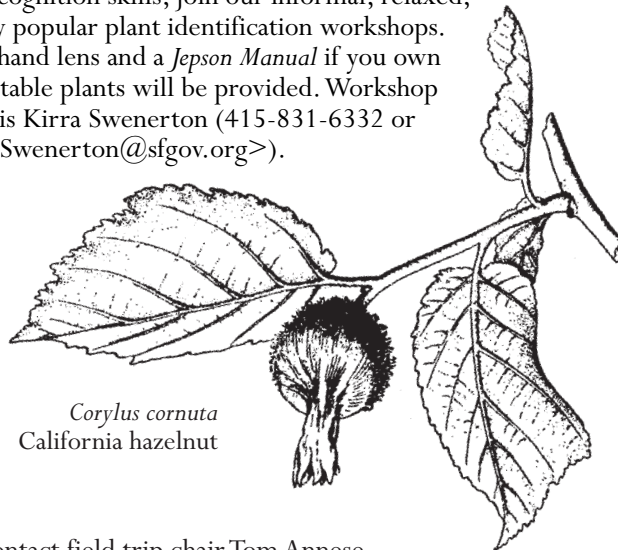
FUTURE PROGRAMS

September 3—Renewable Energy Development: an Emerging Threat to Rare Plants and Habitats of California’s Deserts and Beyond—Nick Jensen

October 1—Bay-Friendly Landscaping and Permaculture in the San Francisco Bay Area—Casey Allen

PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

If you are interested in learning to key plants or to increase your plant recognition skills, join our informal, relaxed, and very popular plant identification workshops. Bring a hand lens and a *Jepson Manual* if you own one. Suitable plants will be provided. Workshop contact is Kirra Swenerton (415-831-6332 or <Kirra.Swenerton@sfgov.org>).



Corylus cornuta
California hazelnut

JUNE 14, SUNDAY, 10 am to 2 pm

San Mateo Coast (San Mateo County)

Leader: Toni Corelli

Cosponsored by CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Join Toni Corelli for a walk at Montara State Beach and McNeer Ranch State Park. The areas we will visit will be easy trails with diverse plants through coastal habitats, and beautiful vistas of the ocean. Directions: Take Highway 1 about 20 miles south of San Francisco just past Devil’s Slide. Meet at the Montara State Beach parking lot, west of Highway 1, just south of the Outrigger restaurant <http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=532>. **(See top left for information on Toni’s August 6 program.)**

JUNE 27, SATURDAY, 1 to 4 pm

Fire-follower Field Trip to Owl and Buckeye Canyons (San Mateo County)

Leaders: Jake Sigg, Doug Allshouse, Joe Cannon

We had to turn away many people who wanted to attend our February trip into the burned area in these two canyons. Therefore, we scheduled this trip to accommodate them. On our February excursion, fortunately, our worst fears—that prolonged, intense heat would root-kill perennial grasses and forbs—did not happen. And late-June should give us more information than was available in late winter. A few of the less-than-common plants: *Angelica hendersonii* (angelica), *Aster radulinus* (aster), *Corylus cornuta* (California hazelnut), *Hypericum anagalloides* (tinker’s penny), *Rubus parviflorus* (thimbleberry), *Salvia spathacea* (hummingbird sage), *Sambucus mexicana* (blue elderberry), *Sisyrinchium californicum* (yellow-eyed grass), and one plant of *Solanum umbelliferum* (blue witch). There were many grasses, rushes, and sedges, many of which we were not able to identify in early season. This may be a challenge for

(FIELD TRIPS *continued on page 3*)

FIELD TRIPS *(continued)*

those of you who are into these groups of interesting plants. Directions: From Bayshore Boulevard turn onto Valley Drive and proceed to the traffic light at North Hill. Turn left onto South Hill Drive and turn left at the Aircraft Technical Publishers sign at 101 South Hill. Drive to the rear of the parking lot. If you need other directions contact Doug (415-584-5114 or <dougsr228@comcast.net>. **(See Doug's article on San Bruno Mountain fire-followers on page 5.)**

JULY 11, SATURDAY, 10 am

Plants of Pacifica State Beach (San Mateo County)

Leader: Avis Boutell

Cosponsored by Pacifica's Environmental Family & Pacifica Beach Coalition

In the summer of 2008, Avis Boutell and Toni Corelli identified and photographed 51 native species and 38 non-native species on Pacifica State Beach (PSB). This undertaking was part of a project to identify plants on all of the public coastal lands in San Mateo County. In addition to having the opportunity to discover the native and non-native plants that reside on PSB, there will also be a presentation about beach habitat restoration, which has been ongoing at PSB for more than 15 years. Meet near the Portola Statue at the Pacifica Community Center Parking Lot, Highway 1 & Crespi Drive. (Information: Clark Natwick 650-219-9314)

ACTIVITIES

SAN FRANCISCO DOWNTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, June 24, 6 to 7:30 pm

***The Lawn Goodbye*—Fred Bove & Jake Sigg**

Fred Bove, permaculturist and former Director of Adult Education at San Francisco Botanical Garden and Jake Sigg, biodiversity and wildlife advocate, will discuss our plant and lawn options during this dry time in California. They will discuss alternatives to lawns, care regimes between the alternatives, and the benefits of each alternative, as well as how alternate use of the land can bring benefits beyond saving water and labor.

**SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN,
SUMMER GARDENING FAIR**

Saturday, August 1, 10 am to 3 pm

CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter plans to participate with membership information, native plant books and posters, and information about local native plants and their cultivation. (Used book treasures will also be available for sale at this event by the SFBG Library.) San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum 9th Avenue & Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park
Information: 415-661-1316 or <www.sfbotanicalgarden.org>

**SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN,
LIBRARY ART EXHIBIT**

Through June, 10 am to 4 pm

***NESTS—Photographs of Bird Nests*—by Sharon Beals**

Visit Sharon's fascinating exhibition of bird nest photographs from museum collections. You can also see Sharon's work on the cover and illustrating an article in the March/April 2009 issue of *Audubon* magazine. In the past, Sharon has served as a CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter volunteer. 25% of all sales will benefit library.

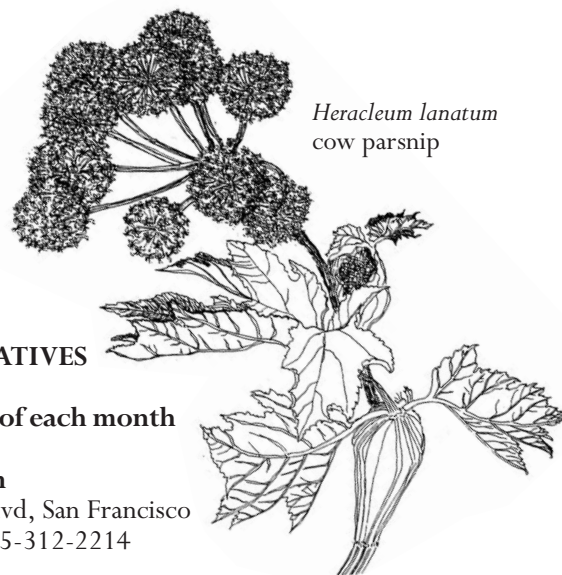
Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture
San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum
9th Avenue & Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park

Information: 415-661-1316 x403 or <www.sfbotanicalgarden.org>

POEM

by David Schooley, San Bruno Mountain Watch

All in quiet
standing on the path
and the sun among the leaves
a scurry in the brush behind me
a butterfly across the stones
along the empty creek
cow parsnip beside me lacy in the air
I thought he
hadn't seen me
and the old man turned the stillness
in between us
with a knotted hand



Heracleum lanatum
cow parsnip

**ALEMANY NATIVES
WORKDAYS**

Third Sunday of each month

Noon to 5 pm

Alemany Farm

700 Alemany Blvd, San Francisco

Contact: Iris 415-312-2214

SAN FRANCISCO NATURAL HISTORY SERIES

Fourth Thursday of each month, 7:30 pm

Randall Museum Theater

Talks on San Francisco's natural history are held at 199 Museum Way, off Roosevelt Way. **FREE.** Donations are encouraged.

June 25—*Experience the Undersea World Beneath Bay Area waves*—Mike Boom

July 23 & August 27—To Be Announced

Philip Gerrie <glassgerrie@earthlink.net>,

Adrian Cotter <acotter@nonsensical.com>,

and Dom Mosur are volunteering to run the series following Margaret Goodale's retirement.

Randall Museum: 415-554-9600 x16 or

<info@randallmuseum.org> <www.randallmuseum.org>

**CNPS PLANT SCIENCE TRAINING PROGRAM
WORKSHOPS**

Check <http://cnps.org/cnps/education/> for course descriptions, locations, and registration costs.

June 10-12—*Introduction to 2nd edition of A Manual of California Vegetation*—Todd Keeler Wolf, John O. Sawyer, Julie Evens

June 23-26—*Great Rivers of California: the American River*—Robert Holland & Virginia Dains

August 12-14—*Vegetation Rapid Assessment*—Todd Keeler Wolf, Eric Peterson, Jennifer Buck

ACTIVITIES *(continued)*

CALIFORNIA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL 17th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

The Leading Edge of Wildland Weed Management

October 7 to 10, Visalia, California

Call for Papers: Abstracts due June 19

Abstract submission instructions:

<www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/presenters.php>

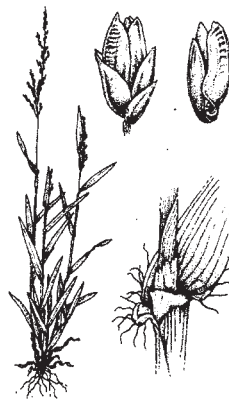
The Cal-IPC Symposium brings together more than 300 researchers, land managers, and other weed workers from throughout California. Paper sessions are held Thursday and Friday, October 8-9. Oral presentations are 15 minutes plus five minutes for questions.

- Invasive plant biology and ecology
- Control techniques
- Mapping and monitoring
- Habitat restoration as part of invasive plant control
- Early detection and rapid response
- Exceptional invasive plant removal projects or outreach programs
- Social issues or policy related to invasive plant management

Poster Session:

A poster session will allow poster presenters to interact with attendees. Graduate and undergraduate students are encouraged to enter the Student Paper and Poster Contest.

Symposium webpage: <www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/index.php>



Erharta erecta

INVASIVE EXOTIC SPECIES



Erharta calycina

JEPSON HERBARIUM WORKSHOPS

The 2009 workshop program is online and classes are open for enrollment. <ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/2009/index.html>
Contact: Cecile Shohet, Coordinator, Public Education
<cshohet@berkeley.edu> or 510-643-7008

June 11-14—Mid-elevation Flora of the White Mountains—Jim Morefield

June 18-21—Inland Flora of Humboldt County—Michael Meslet & John O. Sawyer

July 30-August 3—Alpine & Subalpine Flora of Yosemite National Park—Steve Botti

August 21-23—Carex—Peter Zika

HABITAT RESTORATION (browse by day of the week at <http://cnps-yerbabuena.org/calendar>)

Bayview Hill. Second Saturdays of January, March, May, July, September and November.

Contact Terese Lawler <tereselawler@yahoo.com>.

Bernal Hilltop. Third Sundays, 11 am to 2 pm.

Information Barbara Pitschel
<bpandrp@peoplepc.com> Work party contact Licia DeMeo SF NAP 415-831-6332.

Brisbane Acres. First Saturdays, 1 to 4 pm. Tools and gloves provided. Contact: Ken McIntire 415-467-6631 or <sanbruno@mountainwatch.org>

Brooks Park. Contact Dan Weaver 415-587-4588 or <dhweaver@yahoo.com>.

Buena Vista Park. First Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Contact Suzanna Buehl 415-831-6328 or <suzanna.buehl@sfgov.org>.

Candlestick State Park Nursery. 1150 Carroll Street. First Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Bay Youth for the Environment. Contact Patrick Rump <bye@lejyouth.org>.

Castro-Duncan Open Space. Contact Dave Thompson or Gloria Koch-Gonzalez 415-821-7601.

CNPS Native Plant Restoration Team. Every Wednesday, noon to 3 pm. Contact Jake Sigg 415-731-3028 or <jakesigg@earthlink.net>.

Corona Heights. Last Saturdays. Contact Jim Houllion 415-554-3452 or <jhoullion@sonic.net>.

Edgehill Mt. Park. Second Saturdays, 1 to 3 pm. Contact Stan Kaufman 415-681-4954 or <skaufman@epimetrics.com>.

Fort Funston Green Team (Nursery and Stewardship Program). Every Saturday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Contact 415-239-4247 or <skato@parksconservancy.org>.

GGNRA Habitat Restoration Team. Every Sunday, 9:30 am to 2 pm with lunch break. Contact 415-331-0732 or

<volunteer@parksconservancy.org>

Site locations and directions hotline: 415-561-4848.

GGNRA Site Stewardship Program. Every Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm. Contact 415-561-3073 or <volunteer@parksconservancy.org>

Glen Canyon. Wednesday & Third Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Friends of Glen Canyon. Contact Jean Conner 415-584-8576, Richard Craib 415-648-0862.

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Milagra Ridge, Mori Point. Saturdays.

Contact Christina Crooker
<CCrooker@parksconservancy.org>.

Golden Gate Park Oak Woodlands. Second Saturdays, 10 am to 12:30 pm.

Contact Rob Bakewell 415-221-1137 or 415-710-9617 (cell) or <rbakewell@yahoo.com>.

Haight Ashbury Stewards.
<natureinthecity.org/haightashburystewards.php>.

Half Moon Bay State Park. Contact Restoration Coordinator 650-726-8801.

Heron's Head Park. Second Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Contact Myla Ablog 415-282-6840 or <heronshead@lejyouth.org>.

Lake Merced. First Saturdays, 1 to 3 pm. Contact Friends of Lake Merced:
Craig or Martha Spriggs 415-661-1668.

Lands End Stewardship. Every Thursday & Saturday, 1 to 4 pm. Contact 415-385-3065 or <cchristman@parksconservancy.org>.

Marin Headlands Native Plant Nursery. Wednesday, 1 to 4 pm & Saturday, 9 am to noon.

Contact 415-332-5193 or
<AShor@parksconservancy.org>.

McLaren Park. Second Saturdays, 10 am to noon. Contact Suzanna Buehl 415-831-6328 or <suzanna.buehl@sfgov.org>.

Mission Creek Bank Restoration. Every Saturday 10 am to 1 pm.
Contact Bob Isaacson 415-552-4577 or
<rbisaacson@gmail.com>.

Mt. Davidson. First Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Contact Friends of Mt. Davidson:
Stan Kaufman 415-681-4954 or
<skaufman@epimetrics.com>.

Mt. Sutro. First Saturdays, 9 am at Woods Lot, on Medical Center Way halfway uphill from Parnassus. Contact Craig Dawson 415-665-1077.

Orizaba/Shields Hilltop. Dates TBA.
Contact Gary Schwantes 415-239-0248.

Pacheco & 12th Avenue. Contact Barbara Kobayashi <okim1946@yahoo.com>.

Pacifica's Environmental Family. Fourth

Sundays, 10 am. Contact Shirley Suhrer 650-359-0892.

Pigeon Point Lighthouse. Contact Restoration Coordinator 650-726-8801.

Presidio Native Plant Nursery. Wednesday & Saturday, 1 to 4 pm. Contact 415-561-4826 or <ASharron@parksconservancy.org>.

Presidio Park Stewards. Every Wednesday & Saturday, 9 am to noon. Contact 415-561-3034 x3445 or

<PresidioParkStewards@parksconservancy.org>.

Presidio Plant Patrol. Every Friday 1 to 4 pm. Contact 415-561-3034 x3445 or

<PresidioParkStewards@parksconservancy.org>.

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

Contact 415-383-4390 or
<RedwoodCreek@parksconservancy.org>.

San Bruno Mountain. Second & fourth Saturdays, 10 am to 12:30 pm.

More information: 650-355-6635 or
<www.heartofthemountain.com>.

SF Recreation & Parks Department. Natural Areas Program. 415-831-6328.

San Pedro Valley County Park, Pacifica. Third Saturdays, 9 am. Contact Carolyn Pankow 650-355-7466.

Save San Francisco Bay Association (Save the Bay). Wetland restoration projects almost every Saturday, 9 am to noon; native plant nursery work Wednesdays.

Contact Jocelyn Gretz 510-452-9261 x109 or
<www.savesfbay.org/bayevents>.

Tennessee Valley Nursery and Stewards. Every Tuesday, 10 am to noon & 1 to 4 pm.

Contact 415-331-0732 or
<lponzini@parksconservancy.org>.

Yerba Buena Island. Contact Nature in the City at 415-564-4107.

“Never does nature say one thing and wisdom another.”
—Juvenal

SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

FIRE-FOLLOWERS by Doug Allshouse

On February 28, about 15 intrepid fire-followers assembled for a look at Owl and Buckeye Canyons eight months after the great fire of June 24, 2008, which burned 300 acres. The fire greatly changed the face of Owl Canyon by scrubbing clean the dense coastal scrub that inhabited much of the canyon. More than 90% of the roasted and toasted shrubs and trees were stump-sprouting as they are genetically programmed to do. There were losses of some very old perennial bunchgrasses, but not as much as was originally feared. Much of what was incinerated in Buckeye Canyon is in the higher elevations on extremely steep ridges that do not have trails, making exploration virtually impossible.

Compared to the 72-acre Wax Myrtle Ravine fire in July 2003, the rejuvenation of scrub and grasses is happening at a much slower pace, perhaps due to the effects of three consecutive dry winters. In the few weeks prior to the field trip there was a series of storms that made up the bulk of the rainfall for this season. On February 24 the creeks in Buckeye and Owl were

gushing with water, but by February 28 they had dropped dramatically by at least 75%. Without the cover of plant life, plus the effects of the flames, the parched bare ground rapidly absorbed the rainfall, allowing little runoff. Fortunately there was no erosion.

When landscapes are erased after fires the hope is that the native plants will rebound and out-compete the invasive plants. The reality is that nature favors neither side. So far, the natives seem to be winning the early battle. There are some minor infestations of mouse-ear chickweed (*Cerastium glomeratum*), sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) and some annual grasses, most notably *Briza* spp., but no sign yet of fireweed (*Erechtites* spp.), prickly ox-tongue (*Picris echinoides*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*) or hairy dandelion (*Hypochaeris radicata*). **Caution:** It's still early in the game.

What has been a delight is the appearance of large populations of some wildflower species not seen in recent memory. Great flushes of star lily (*Zigadenus fremontii*), baby blue-eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), wake robin (*Trillium chloropetalum*), and Johnny-jump-

up (*Viola pedunculata*) are particularly noticeable. Many of those who lamented the destruction of Owl Canyon last June ("It'll never be the way I remembered it.") may be forced to reconsider that thought. At this moment it may actually be better. Because the regeneration of scrub species takes time there is more open space for forbs to occupy, and the surreal reality is that, so far, grass species have not returned in any abundance. It will not be long before a few of the more common invasive varieties find their way into the ecosystem, most notably wild oats (*Avena fatua*), quaking grass (*Briza maxima*), and rigput brome (*Bromus diandrus*). It sure would be encouraging if native fescues (*Festuca* spp.), California oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*), California hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*), junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), and purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*) join the party.

An opportunity now exists for serious restoration work to take place. Plans are being prepared. In order for restoration to be effective, certain areas should be targeted. There is no way to restore 300 acres; it is not possible. The smart bet is to see how natural processes unfold, try to supplement that, and hope for a positive outcome.

Join Doug Allshouse, Jake Sigg, and Joe Cannon for a fire-follower field trip to Owl and Buckeye Canyons Saturday, June 27, 1 to 4 pm (see page 2 for details).

SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN WATCH

New Conservancy Established

After striving for more than forty years to save San Bruno Mountain from being swallowed by development, San Bruno Mountain Watch (SBMW) is turning the tide. We are renewing ourselves as the San Bruno Mountain Watch Conservancy (SBMWC or Conservancy), and embarking on a long-term mission to expand the area's protected open space, including the habitats of several rare and endangered species.

To quote board member Josephine Coffey, "We have so much to be thankful for. The mountain's wild presence has survived because countless people have loved it enough—and have fought hard enough—to save it. Looking ahead, it's fantastic to imagine what more we can do to keep it thriving as a natural, growing refuge right here in the middle of the city."

The Conservancy, which will continue the work of SBMW, aims to acquire, enhance and protect the many unprotected parcels around the perimeter of SBM State and County Park and to establish corridors between its core habitat reserves and other

open spaces, such as McLaren Park, Sweeney Ridge and San Francisco Bay. We have begun working with elected officials, Park management, and private landowners to kick-start the initiative.

Ongoing educational and recreational activities, for children and adults alike, will remain a focal part of the group's mission, as will hands-on habitat restoration and policy-oriented work. The Conservancy invites anyone interested in preserving San Bruno Mountain to get involved. The mountain offers incredible opportunities to connect with nature—by studying it, by working physically on the land, or by merely visiting it. The activities of SBMWC will provide many other opportunities for volunteers. The future holds such great promise for the mountain and the communities around it.

New Stewardship Program

SBMW has been leading restoration efforts on the mountain for many years. For the past few years, these efforts have primarily consisted of a group working on Brisbane Acres; and the "weed rangers," a group that roamed to where the weeds are. Many schools, community groups, and businesses

have helped in these efforts. Last year, in partnership with the San Mateo County Parks Department, we began a stewardship training project with the goal of groups of people adopting habitat parcels and working to maintain and improve these parcels somewhat independently. A second training for this project occurred recently. Two other very exciting projects are coming on line this spring. Joe Cannon, from Heart of the Mountain, has become the Stewardship Director of the SBMWC, bringing his years of experience in habitat stewardship, including the Colma Creek headwaters restoration. He is now beginning a monthly Community Stewardship Project in Buckeye and Owl Canyons. These areas burned last summer and the opportunity to assist in their weed-free recovery has never been better. Joe will also be integrally involved with the Mission Blue Nursery, which is being built in Brisbane. Along with Doug Allshouse from Friends of the Mountain [and CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter board member], co-founder of the nursery, Joe will operate the nursery to provide plants for the restoration programs on the mountain. The nursery should be operational by this summer.

FOCUS ON RARITIES

CALIFORNIA SAXIFRAGE

Saxifraga californica

by Michael Wood

It's not all that often that we get to report some positive news regarding our local flora. More often than not, especially in the intensively developed, occupied, and abused landscape that makes up this city of three quarters of a million people, the news is of habitats lost, conservation battles waged, or the insurmountable odds faced by those brave souls dedicated to the preservation and restoration of our remaining patches of natural vegetation. But exciting and positive news is just what I'd like to share. Well, it's sort of positive.

Just this year, three small and precarious populations of California saxifrage (*Saxifraga californica*) have been discovered in San Francisco, having had the good fortune of reaching a recognizable state while a knowledgeable botanist happened to be in the neighborhood. First documented in San Francisco County by T.S. Brandegee (1891) and then by Peter Raven in the 1950s (Howell, *et al.* 1958), California saxifrage has not been documented in the City since. A search of the Consortium of California Herbaria database¹ doesn't yield a single accessioned specimen of California saxifrage from San Francisco County, despite an abundance of suitable or formerly suitable habitat. So what is California saxifrage, you ask?

The saxifrages might be more familiar to those of you from the northeastern United States, as this group is most common in temperate regions of East Asia, Europe and North America. The saxifrage family (Saxifragaceae) has a worldwide distribution and includes some 600 species in 40 genera. Other native California members of the family include *Boykinia*, golden saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium*), alum root (*Heuchera*), *Jepsonia*, woodland star (*Lithophragma*), miterwort (*Mitella*), *Tellima*, piggyback plant (*Tolmiea*), and laceflower (*Tiarella*). Formerly assigned to this family are the currants and gooseberries (*Ribes*), which are now assigned to the Grossulariaceae.

Worldwide, there are some 400 species of *Saxifraga*, with about 20 species or subspecies native to California. The genus consists of mostly perennial herbs growing from a non-woody caudex² or rhizome³ and is distinguished from other members of the family by having two or more non-showy flowers with five conspicuous sepals, ten

stamens, non-fused styles, and (you'll love this one) two ovary chambers. Leaves are roundish and not jointed to the petiole.

California saxifrage is a delightful, delicate plant that would be right in place in your rock garden. It has mostly basal leaves arising from a short erect caudex. The leaves are ovate to oblong, with slightly serrate margins, and one-half to two inches long on slightly shorter petioles. It produces succulent, greenish-red, upright flower stalks (inflorescences) that are four to twelve inches high. The five purplish sepals are soon reflexed, revealing white petals less than a quarter of an inch long. The fruits are capsules. In our area, flowering occurs from February through April.



California saxifrage has been recorded from 45 of California's 58 counties, occurring from San Diego to Siskiyou County and from the coast to the Sierra Nevada foothills and the Transverse Ranges. Its range extends south into Baja California and northward into southwest Oregon. It is restricted to moist, shady locations below 4,000 feet in elevation. As the name implies, saxifrages (Latin, *saxum*, rock and *frango*, to break) are often associated with rocky ground, occurring in rock crevices.

Past chapter president Jake Sigg reports the presence of a very small population of California saxifrage on Bayview Hill at the radio tower site, a botanical hot spot. He found a few plants there one year, but they went the way of the dodo. But in mid March of this year, while weeding nearby, Jake found a few plants at a different location clinging to existence. Early this year, during a weeding party in the remaining native grassland near the intersection of Palou Avenue and Phelps Street, Natural Areas

Program (NAP) staff found a population of about two dozen plants of California saxifrage. And in late March NAP staff found several dozen plants growing on Billy Goat Hill (Castro Street and 30th Street). Chapter newsletter editor Barbara Pitschel recalls seeing the species on Bernal Hill some 35 years ago, but despite many years of work and walks there, she has never seen it again.

The existence of California saxifrage in San Francisco is not surprising; there is an abundance of highly suitable habitat, if not for the presence of so very many invasive species. These delicate moisture-loving perennials are easily squeezed out by dense grasses and forbs that not only over-top them but also dry out the soil before they can flower and set seed. The Palou-Phelps population is growing among a bed of the horribly invasive and pernicious Bermuda buttercup (*Oxalis pes-caprae*). The Bayview Hill population is threatened by sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and annual grasses. The Billy Goat Hill population is threatened by Bermuda buttercup, perennial sweet pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*), English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), and annual grasses.

In her 1891 catalog of the plants of San Francisco, T.S. Brandegee reported her observations of California saxifrage as being the eastern *Saxifraga virginensis*, confusing it with a widespread species from the eastern half of the United States and Canada. She recorded it at Mission Hills and Laguna Honda. Howell, *et al.* (1958) reported it from the Bayview Hills. On nearby San Bruno Mountain, McClintock, *et al.* (1990) reported California saxifrage as an occasional occupant of moist grasslands and brushy or rocky areas in Colma Canyon, Cable Ravine, Devil's Arroyo and the vicinity of East Powerline. There is no record of California saxifrage at the Presidio and I have never found it on Yerba Buena Island, although it has been recorded on Angel Island. It has been recorded from every county surrounding San Francisco Bay. The (re)discovery of California saxifrage at these forgotten remnants of natural habitat, isolated in a sea of housing and industry and all but given up for lost amid the invading weeds, provides continued hope that there are discoveries yet to be made and motivation for the citizens of San Francisco to fight for the preservation of these last vestiges of our natural heritage.

Footnotes:

¹ <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium>

² A caudex is the persistent, often woody base of a herbaceous perennial.

³ A rhizome is a horizontal underground stem or rootstock.

SUMMER

THE FIFTH SEASON

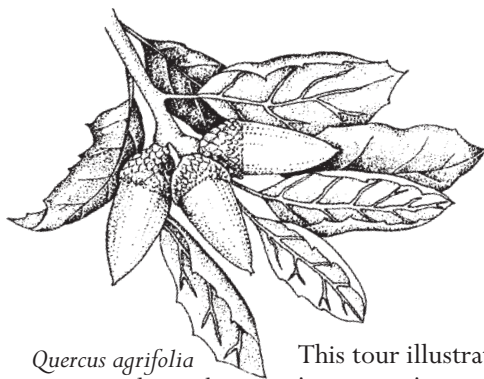
by David Rains Wallace, reprinted from *The Untamed Garden*, 1987

The old complaint about California not having seasons is, of course, wrong. The dry season is California's winter, its plant dormancy period. For some reason, though, our culture doesn't really want to acknowledge the dry season. Millions of people swear by cold winters, and like nothing better than to put on down parkas and romp in the snow. Very few revel in cavorting through the chaparral and dry grass on a blazing California August day. The very idea seems perverse, although dry-grass cavorting is actually the more "natural" of the two pursuits according to generally held theories of human origins. A biped ape of the African savannah would certainly be happier in a California August than in an Ohio January. Perhaps modern humans are repelled by the dry hills because it reminds some forgotten corner of their brains of a time when there were leopards and baboons in the tall grass.

Californians tend to treat their dry summers as though they were embarrassing lapses of

taste. They cover them up, sweep them under the rug. Cities are full of evergreen plantings and painstakingly watered lawns. For every garden of native grasses, chaparral plants, and oaks, there are thousands of artificial edens of hibiscus, banana trees, and tree ferns. Freeway borders are carefully, almost obsessively, planted with evergreens—eucalyptus, oleander, redwood, pine—anything to avoid showing the traveler a bare branch or a patch of dead grass. Somehow the barrenness of a snowscape is considered pretty, that of a bare landscape ugly.

I think we lose something important by covering up the dry season—the element of change. Change is the one universal attribute of life, and it is often very frightening; but attempts to avoid it usually turn out worse than letting it happen. The



Quercus agrifolia
coast live oak

green and white California cities look a little like cemeteries during the dry season. There is a similar preoccupation with an eternal springtime. Like most easterners (I grew up in Connecticut), I was favorably impressed with eternal springtime when I first came to California in 1968, but I've since come to view it with suspicion. There's something embalmed about it. The wrinkled body of the old, unwatered California may be a little scary, but it is the true source of renewal here.

There are difficulties about coming to terms with the dry season and giving it an honored place beside the four traditional Anglo seasons. For all its harshness, the California dry season is actually quite fragile. It very quickly shows the marks of mistreatment or neglect. A golden meadow of dry grass and tarweeds turns into a dusty trash heap when subjected to any degree of trampling or littering. The native perennial grasses are beautiful plants perfectly adapted to living through dry summers, but they've been largely wiped out by livestock grazing and competition from introduced annual grasses. The native oak trees seem to be headed in the same direction, since the heavy grazing that goes on in most areas makes it difficult for them to reproduce.

EVENT REPORTS

YERBA BUENA CHAPTER

APRIL GARDEN TOUR SUCCESS

by Susan Floore, Garden Tour Coordinator

On April 5, avid gardeners and casual visitors viewed gardens on our 2009 fifth annual tour of San Francisco gardens featuring native plants. Twenty private gardens were showcased, ranging from newly-emergent gardens like Alemany Farm's native garden to the fully-developed and mature native gardens of private homes. Our steadfast "bones" of the tour (Laidley Street, Valetta Court, Joost Avenue, 46th Avenue) hosted many repeat visitors, as well as those new to the idea of gardening with natives. There were gardens all over the city. Neighborhoods ranging from Bayview to Richmond to Ingleside were represented, in addition to clusters of gardens in more central areas. Exciting newly-opened gardens were found in each cluster! Throughout the tour, there were many and widely-varied examples of natives and horticultural plants in various combinations. Gardens showcased different ways of combining plants, ranging from mostly natives to relatively new native plantings interwoven with established non-natives.

Three of the gardens on our tour were featured public gardens, two of which are not usually open to the public. Alemany Farm has some natives planted in an earlier vision of the farm; this area is now being reclaimed and will be revitalized with additional native plantings dedicated to supporting native animals. The Pacheco and 12th Avenue garden provides native plants that support the green hairstreak butterfly corridor that is being established. The garden on Carroll Avenue in the Bayview has a native plant nursery and a demonstration garden backed by a beautiful mural.

This tour illustrated the variety and range of possibilities for incorporating native plants into existing gardens, or for just using appropriate native plant combinations in new gardens. So many glorious possibilities to be explored!

BAY AREA CNPS PARTICIPATION IN FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

by Ellen Edelson, Flower & Garden Show Chairperson

Our California Native Plant Society booth at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show was a great success! Thirty-six volunteers from five Bay Area chapters (Yerba Buena, Marin, Jepson [Solano], East Bay, and Santa Clara) staffed our booth over the five-day show!

We took in 16 new memberships (four for the Yerba Buena Chapter) on-site, and I'm confident that several more will come in through the mail or online as a result of our efforts!

We had a great location and handed out many hundreds of brochures, flyers, information sheets, and other handouts from CNPS, Cal-IPC, and other like-minded groups. We informed, educated, inspired, and connected many people.

A huge "thank you!" goes out to the scores of people and groups who helped make this outreach effort a success, including Native Here Nursery and the San Francisco Natural Areas Program for display plants and membership thank-you plants. **Many thanks go out again to the enthusiastic and informed on-site volunteers!**

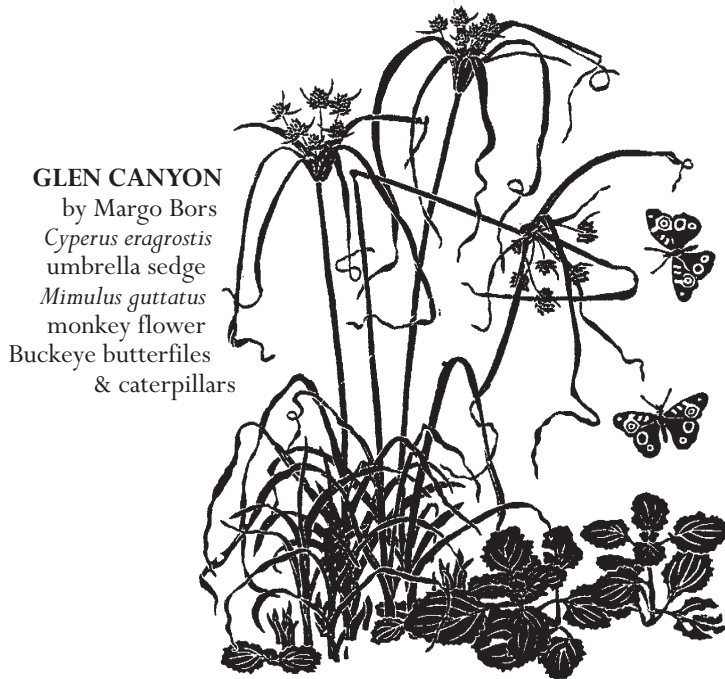
I look forward to doing it again next year!

CHAPTER NEWS

BRIEF EDITORIAL

by Barbara M. Pitschel

Thanks to the many of you who expressed support after our news in March of Roland's illness. I want to follow up by letting you know relatively good news. So far, he has been responding extremely well to treatment. A CT-scan after the first three rounds of chemotherapy showed significant tumor reduction and his oncologist considers it an A+ reaction. We are continuing to be hopeful! Thanks so much for your good thoughts. Please keep them coming.



GLEN CANYON

by Margo Bors
Cyperus eragrostis
umbrella sedge
Mimulus guttatus
monkey flower
Buckeye butterflies
& caterpillars

Thank you, Jodi!

At its March meeting, the Yerba Buena Chapter board of directors voted unanimously to recognize **Jodi Redmon's** substantial contribution of desktop publishing our *Yerba Buena News* for the past 15 years. President Tom Annese has written a letter of appreciation to her, and she has been given a set of CNPS laminated placemats featuring the exquisite drawings of grasses by Kristin Jakob. Jodi is Roland's long-time colleague at California College of the Arts, where she is employed as head of the Academic Affairs Office. She has our undying appreciation!

NEWSLETTER EVOLUTION

by Barbara M. Pitschel

Newsletter Evolution

A procedural change was implemented when Roland and I were forced to step back from some of our chapter responsibilities; the change enables our webmaster, **Kipp McMichael**, to produce the newsletter directly in electronic format. This will enable him to transfer data directly into our online calendar and other online files. I am continuing to compile and edit information and to contribute to overall organization and layout. Kipp is converting the text and illustrations from text files and hard copy into image files. Our proofreaders are still working hard. The newsletter is being printed by the same company we used in the past, but is being sent to them electronically. Despite my limited electronic publishing experience, Kipp is gradually guiding me through a mutually-functional process that will simplify the work on our end. Thank you, Kipp!!! I am also pleased to report that **Richard Craib** has offered to handle the newsletter mailings at the Glen Park Recreation Center. By the time you receive this issue, we will probably have tested the process. Thank you, Rich!!!

THANKS, NEW VOLUNTEERS!

by Barbara M. Pitschel

Thank you, All!

On behalf of my fellow Yerba Buena Chapter board members and committee chairs, I send our sincere thanks to those of you who responded to our appeal in the March issue for help. Respondents included new participants, as well as existing workers taking on new responsibilities. You have already read about **Ellen Edelson** (new board member and plant sale coordinator), **Kipp McMichael** (already webmaster, and now new desktop publisher), and **Rich Craib** (new newsletter mailing coordinator). Many others of you have offered to help where needed. I will just mention a few others at this time. We have not previously thanked **Alane Bowling**, who has been working with Nancy Rosenthal on the Hospitality Committee that provides delicious program refreshments. Alane also is a strong participant when people are needed to staff information tables at public events, and she has also adopted a part of Liam O'Brien's project to restore plant habitat for the Green Hairstreak butterfly. **Marnie Dunsmore**, who has been active in local habitat restoration work parties, is helping take responsibility for program equipment set-up. Marnie also attended our last board meeting and has already stepped in to assist with numerous projects in process for which she feels her skills and talents are suited (including helping with keeping the habitat restoration work party list up-to-date!). **Fred Rinne**, who has in the past written popular gardening articles for this newsletter, made one of Jake Sigg's dreams come true when he offered to work with Jake on the Conservation Committee! **To those not mentioned in this brief list, thank you all!!!**

More Volunteer Help is Needed!

As you can see from this issue of the newsletter, there are many roles in which you can assist—for example, see plant sales and field trip appeals on this page. Some appeals have already been written up; others are only implied. At this time, our chapter does not have an Education Chair, although we have a few people who try to offer limited assistance to schools and youth. We don't have anyone who can regularly represent our chapter at quarterly Chapter Council meetings at different places around the state, although we do have an Alternate Chapter Council Delegate, who is sometimes able to attend between her duties as Vice President and Legislation Chair! If you look at the list of officers and board chairs on page 10, you can see the many committees that could probably use helpers. Surely there is a way to combine your talents and interests with taking on a piece of one of these jobs. If you would like to know more about any of these opportunities, please contact the committee chair to offer your services. **Thank you in advance!**

CHAPTER NEWS *(continued)*

YERBA BUENA CHAPTER FALL PLANT SALE

by Ellen Edelson, Plant Sales Coordinator

Thank you, Licia!

After several years of being our plant sale chairperson (organizer, grower, guru), **Licia De Meo** is moving on from the position. Thank you, Licia, for all your hard work! The plant sale really grew under your care! (No pun intended!)

Help Needed Growing Plants

A committee is being formed to work on this year's plant sale, scheduled for November 5. We will be looking for growing space in or very near the city, volunteers to propagate and grow the plants, backyard growers, sources of seeds and cuttings, and other assistance.

The Fall Plant Sale is an important source of funds for our chapter. It is also a great venue to educate people about, and of course distribute, our local plants. If you can help in any way, large or small, please contact **Ellen Edelson** at <e.edelson@sbcglobal.net> or 415-531-2140.

FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR NEEDED

by Tom Annese

As you may know, the Yerba Buena Chapter's field trips are one of the most important and popular components of our mission to protect California's native plant communities. Hundreds of people attend our field trips every year. For some, a Yerba Buena Chapter field trip is their first introduction to the plants and animals of California's wild lands.

The CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter is seeking a new Field Trip Coordinator, perhaps with connections in the habitat restoration / scientific world and / or a knowledge of or interest in local parks and natural areas. We are looking for a creative and enthusiastic person, who has an innate love for our amazing natural resources, and who would like to expand our current understanding of what a field trip can be. As well as continuing old favorites, we encourage our new Coordinator to think outside the box and develop new and exciting field trips for all of the San Francisco Peninsula's diverse communities.

These field trips aren't limited to wildflower walks. We've had field trips on birds, butterflies, spiders, herps, geology, plant propagation, cultural history, and other subjects. Our field trips generally lie within San Francisco and northern San Mateo counties, but have extended from the Siskiyou Mountains and the Sierra Nevada to the Carrizo Plain.

If two people are interested in this role, it would be great to have cochairs, as we do for programs, rare plants, and photo documentation. For more information, please contact Tom Annese at <tomannese@yahoo.com> or 415-297-1413.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In accordance with chapter bylaws, President Tom Annese has appointed a Nominating Committee to put together a slate of candidates for the 2010 calendar year. The committee includes Nancy Rosenthal (Chair), Casey Allen, Ellen Edelson, and Kipp McMichael. The slate will be published in our September newsletter and the election will precede the October 1 members' meeting.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

January 16 through April 15

Robert Bakewell, Kathleen Beitiks, Sandra Church, Alice Gies, Joan Hasselgren, Erin Higbee, Jon Leising, Kirsten Leising, Alfred Luongo, Cathy McGee, Richard Meacham, Jan Moughler, Margaret Reiter, Nancy Rosenthal, Leslie Saul-Gershenz

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Community Thrift

by Tom Annese

As many of you know, the Yerba Buena Chapter has enjoyed a three-year partnership with Community Thrift, an amazing thrift store in the Mission District which supports over 200 local non-profits. We want to sincerely thank all of you who have donated furniture, clothing, books, CDs, and housewares to Community Thrift and designated CNPS as the beneficiary.

Thanks to Community Thrift and your support, we recently purchased plants for Downtown High School's new native plant garden on 18th and Kansas Streets. We worked with more than 30 enthusiastic Downtown High School students and faculty to create an urban oasis for students and pollinators alike.

Whether it's installing native plant gardens, growing nectar plants for the Green Hairstreak Butterfly Corridor, promoting native plant gardening, or funding invasive species control on San Bruno Mountain, your support is critical to our success.

Thank you so much!

Donating to Community Thrift is easy. Simply drop off clean and saleable items at the Community Thrift donation door 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. The donation door is open from 10 am to 5 pm every day. Community Thrift is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency and your donation is tax deductible.

Please note that, because of the February 2009 Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, Community Thrift can no longer accept any children's items.

Cole Hardware

by Barbara M. Pitschel

This year marks the 15th year of Cole Hardware's Community Assistance Partnership Program with San Francisco schools and nonprofit organizations. In March, our chapter received a credit for \$70.26, representing 10% of our readers' purchases in any one of the four Cole Hardware stores that were credited to CNPS in 2008. All you need to do is **tell the cashier to credit your purchases to #1424.**



Delphinium variegatum • royal larkspur • by Margo Bors

MEET YOUR BOARD

[It gives me special pleasure to introduce our newest board member, who is already a very hard-working and effective member of our team. I have known Ellen since she volunteered for me at the Helen Crocker Russell Library nearly 15 years ago. I consider it an understatement to say that she is exceptional! Welcome, Ellen!!!—Editor]

Ellen Edelson, Plant Sale Coordinator

I'm a rare native of San Francisco, and have lived here essentially all my life. I was educated in the public school system and took advantage of many of the extracurricular classes that were offered in the 1960s and 1970s, such as language, modern dance, tennis, and an allied medical program in high school. At City College of San Francisco I studied anatomy and physiology, as well as nutrition, ecology, geology, and horticulture.

I took a leave of absence from college to work—first at Other Avenues Community Food Store, then at Veritable Vegetable (wholesale organic produce). After six years, I bought a bicycle, Brit- and Eurail-passes, and a plane ticket and, at age 23, went to visit a friend in Scotland. I returned from my “three- to four-month” trip nearly two years later! Visiting much of Europe and Israel was a great experience!

Once back in San Francisco, I worked a variety of jobs, ending up as a front desk receptionist in a very busy and formal downtown office. (I also learned to ride a motorcycle and balanced motorcycle tires at racetracks for 13 years during this period—also founded and was president of a large motorcycle club's San Francisco chapter.) After five years downtown, I left and went camping!

That fall, I re-registered in the horticulture department at City College (after 19 years away). During the two-year program, I was honored with three scholarships: the Rubenstein Horticulture Scholarship, the San Francisco Garden Club's Alice Eastwood Scholarship, and the San Francisco Spring Blossom and Wildflower Association Scholarship. I have been a professional gardener with my own business in San Francisco since 1995. I have a California pest control license, but don't spray by choice.

I am a member of many horticultural and other organizations, including the San Francisco Professional Gardeners' Association (past president, current board member, fellowship cochair), the San Francisco Orchid Society (current board member, property manager/chair, and raffle ticket co-chair), the California Horticulture Society, Cal-IPC, and the San Francisco History Association. I've been a CNPS member since 1994.

I attended the CNPS Chapter Council meeting in December 2008, organized our CNPS booth at the Flower and Garden Show in March, and will be coordinating our 2009 Fall Plant Sale.

I look forward to many more projects with CNPS, including being a liaison between the horticultural and environmental camps, and helping to educate and excite young people about our native plants and the outdoors, as we'll need them to carry on our work!

“The Amen! of Nature is always a flower.”
—Oliver Wendell Holmes
The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table

Satureja douglasii • yerba buena • by Nancy Baron



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend Board of Directors meetings, which are scheduled for 7:15 pm on the second Monday of every month except August and December. Meetings will be held on June 8 and July 13 at the home of Roland and Barbara Pitschel, 99 Ellsworth Street. Contact Tom Annese (415-297-1413 <tomannese@yahoo.com>) for information, or the Pitschels (415-282-5066 <bpandrp@peoplepc.com>) for directions.

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Make the switch to the NEW Electronic Newsletter!

If you would prefer to receive your *Yerba Buena News* electronically instead of by postal mail, we are now able to offer this alternative. You may want to elect for the electronic newsletter to help save trees or to reduce chapter printing and mailing costs. Or perhaps it is your preference because the computer is your communication mode of choice. Whether your choice is paper or email, instructions for making the change are printed below.

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 Membership Chair Suzanne Harmon <soozanne_h@yahoo.com>.

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

CONSERVATION NEWS

SHARP PARK

by Brent Plater

On April 30, 2009, over 300 people attended the Government Audit and Oversight Committee of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors where the Supervisors voted 3-0 to start a restoration planning process at Sharp Park golf course. Over 60% of those attending spoke out in favor of restoring Sharp Park, culminating in a great victory for endangered species in San Francisco and Pacifica.

The ordinance containing this mandate passed the full Board of Supervisors unanimously.

The ordinance orders the Recreation and Parks Department to create a plan and budget for restoring Sharp Park and partnering with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to manage the land. The plan must include alternatives that retain, redesign, and eliminate the golf course, and the alternatives must be based on the best available science and be consistent with the Endangered Species Act.

While the first round has gone well, the fight to restore Sharp Park is not finished. Now we must monitor the Recreation and Parks Department to ensure that they create scientifically-based plans and that they ultimately select the alternative that will ensure that the San Francisco garter snake and California red-legged frog recover.

We are now working to make sure the Department has access to the necessary expertise and has considered various financing mechanisms, public and private, for restoring Sharp Park. Stay tuned for the next round!

RENEW ONLINE

Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, set it up to renew automatically year after year. It's quick, easy, and reduces renewal mailing costs.

www.cnps.org - Click on the JOIN button

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

CNPS POSITION ON STATE BILLS

by Linda Schaffer

Our state CNPS Legislative Advocate, Vern Goering, proposes that **CNPS SUPPORT AB 226; AB 291; AB 499; AB 1252 and SB 215 and OPPOSE AB 149 and SB 281.** Yerba Buena Chapter board members who have provided feedback support those recommendations. Chapter members who wish to know more about these or any other bills being tracked by CNPS can go to <<http://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/>> and then click on Legislative Activities in the Quick Links box.

Via Arthur Feinstein: "SB792(Leno) would authorize public trust land exchanges and Candlestick Point State Recreation Area boundary changes based on a map of the currently proposed [redevelopment] project [in the Hunters Point Shipyard and Candlestick Point]. This is [essentially] asking the legislature to approve the project before CEQA even takes place." Arthur, Saul Bloom, and others in the environmental community who wish to see improvements made to the current redevelopment plan are urging an "oppose unless amended" position on this bill.



Abronia latifolia
yellow sand verbena

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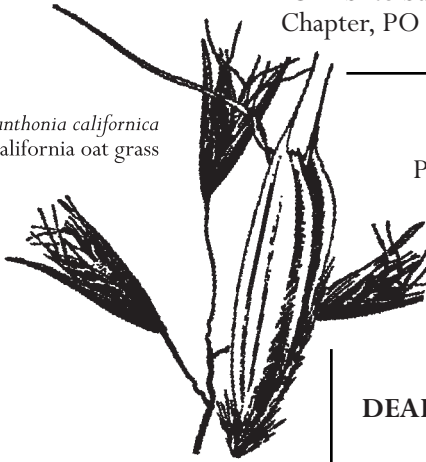
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Danthonia californica
California oat grass



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