



Vol. 28 No. 1 ■ March 2014

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PROGRAMS

Everyone is welcome to attend membership meetings in the Recreation Room of the San Francisco County Fair Building (SFCFB) at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. The #71 and #44 buses stop at the building. The N-Judah, #6, #43, and #66 lines stop within 2 blocks. Before our programs, we 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 at the restaurant at 5:30 pm. RSVP appreciated but not required: Call Jake Sigg at 415-731-3028.

MARCH 6, THURSDAY

Sweet Smells of Spring

7:30 pm, Speaker: Margareta Séquin Ph.D.

Sweet smells of spring blooms, flowering bushes and trees announce to us - and to pollinators - that spring has arrived. In this lecture we'll look at some of the amazing compounds that compose plant scents, in a gentle introduction to their organic chemistry illustrated by many plant pictures. Margareta Séquin obtained her Ph.D. in organic chemistry, with emphasis on natural products, at the University of Basel in Switzerland. After postdoctoral work at Princeton University she made her way west to the Bay Area where she has taught organic chemistry, natural products chemistry, and chemistry for non-majors at San Francisco State University for more than twenty years. She has also taught numerous field seminars and workshops at botanical gardens and in nature preserves. As a plant enthusiast, with special interest in the California native flora, she is a docent at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Berkeley. Margareta Séquin is the author of the book "The Chemistry of Plants: Perfumes, Pigments, and Poisons", published by RSC (Cambridge, UK) in 2012.

APRIL 3, THURSDAY

Spotlight on Native Plants in the new Natural Sciences Gallery at Oakland Museum of California

7:30 pm, Speaker: Mary Jo Sutton

The program will feature botanical aspects of the current gallery renovation project, which includes portraits of seven real places in California as seen through biological and cultural lenses. We will peek into the process of creating habitat dioramas, see how native plants contribute to the bigger story of California's great diversity and beauty, and see how our urban places are places of nature too. Mary Jo Sutton has been an exhibition planner for twenty plus years in the Bay Area. She was an exhibit designer for the California Academy of Sciences and is the former Director of Exhibits at the Bay Area Discovery Museum. During her tenure she oversaw the creation of outdoor learning environments for young children, which included local native plants. She is also a long time CNPS member and fan of

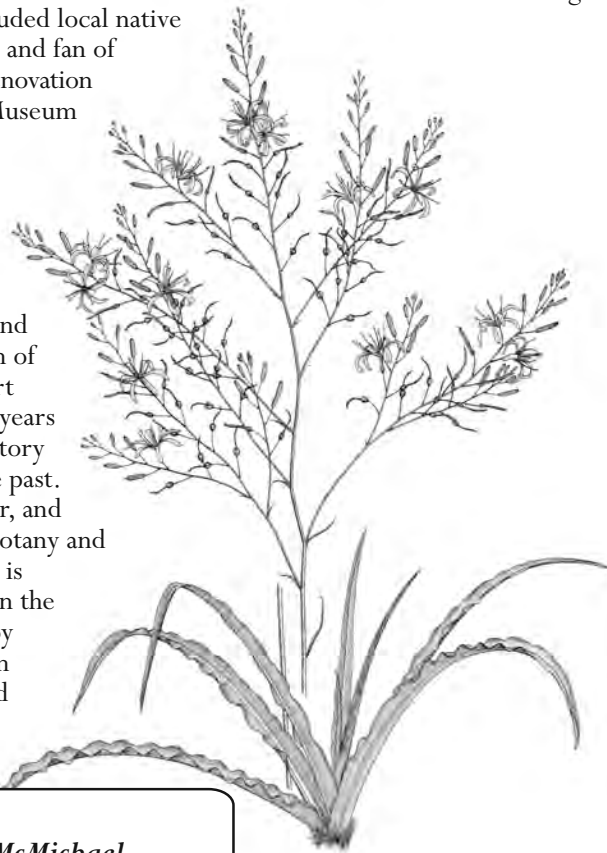
California's incredible flora. She currently has the role of exhibit developer on the renovation of the Natural Sciences Gallery and the "stealth botany curator" at the Oakland Museum of California.

MAY 1, THURSDAY

Guided Tour of the Arthur Menzies Garden of California Native Plants in the San Francisco Botanical Gardens at Strybing Arboretum

5:30 pm, Leaders: Jake Sigg & Ted Kipping

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 will be led by two of the Garden's expert luminaries. Our chapter conservation chair (and much more) Jake Sigg spent 16 years 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, tree worker, and always generous volunteer of time and expertise. A trained geologist, skilled in botany and horticulture and with an extraordinary breadth of natural-history knowledge, Ted is unsurpassed in his ability. He will concentrate on the wealth of trees and shrubs in the garden. Bring your bag supper and enjoy a communal dinner in the garden. Enjoy guided walks from our experts, and take advantage of the opportunity to ask them questions. Garden admission is free for all attendees. 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.



FUTURE PROGRAM

June 4—Cucurbits of California—Kipp McMichael

FIELD TRIPS

Members and non-members are encouraged to attend these FREE walks. Contacts for additional information are listed at the end of each trip description. If rain is forecast, we recommend checking with the contact a couple of hours before the trip.

MARCH 29, SATURDAY, 10 am to 2 pm

San Bruno Mountain: Buckeye & Owl Canyons

Leader: Doug Allshouse

These two large canyons adjacent to Brisbane offer habitats not common to the rest of the mountain. Both canyons contain riparian forests of buckeye, bay and oak trees, as well as hazelnut, toyon and a burgeoning new blueblossom community. In June 2008 a brutal wildfire transformed them from lush paradises to blackened moonscapes, and though they still show some of its effects, they have rebounded nicely. The canyons are very rich in species including hound's tongue, yerba santa, paintbrushes, lupines and sanicles. Rarities include centauray (*Zeltnera muehlenbergii*, a rare coastal gentian), coast rock cress (*Arabis blepharophylla*), San Francisco wallflower (*Erysimum franciscanum*), Eastwood manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa*) and star lily (*Toxicoscordion fremontii*). We'll visit an Ohlone shellmound in Buckeye Canyon where we will see chaparral currant, maidenhair fern and western chain fern. Bring a lunch, since we will stop for a while on the ridge between the canyons. **If there's heavy rain, we'll cancel and try again on April 12.** Meet at the Brisbane Post Office. From Bayshore Blvd turn onto Old County Road and follow it to Visitacion and San Francisco avenues. Contact: Doug Allshouse, dougsr228@comcast.net or 415-584-5114.

APRIL 5, SATURDAY, 10 am to 1 pm

Glen Canyon Spiders

Leader: Darrell Ubick

California Academy of Sciences arachnologist Darrell Ubick estimates there are hundreds of species of spiders in Glen Canyon, and hundreds of thousands of individuals. Drought or no drought, we are sure to find a variety of spiders out searching for prey or mates. We may see colorful jumping spiders, or wolf spiders carrying their egg sacs. Darrell is an excellent communicator, and he has great information to share with adults and children. **Wet weather postpones to April 12** in hopes of better conditions for spidering. Meet behind the Glen Park Recreation Center where the lawn stops and the wild part of the canyon starts. Contact: Gail Wechsler, wechslerifolia@gmail.com.

APRIL 13, SUNDAY, 11 am to 1:30 pm

Sign Hill Butterflies

Leaders: Liam O'Brien, Chuck Heimstadt and Loretta Brooks

Chapter lepidopterist Liam O'Brien will again lead an exploration of Sign Hill's plant communities, focusing on their value as butterfly habitat. Liam will give an enthusiastic Butterfly 101 field course while searching for some of the first Mission blues (*Icarica icariodes missionensis*, an endangered species) of the season. Co-leaders Chuck Heimstadt and Loretta Brooks have an intimate interest in Sign Hill—it's in their backyard! Join them to learn butterfly behavior, host plants, how to distinguish between Mission blues and silvery blues (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus*), and more. Be prepared with lunch and layered clothes; the group will take a break and enjoy the view. Butterflies only fly when it's sunny, so **overcast skies or stiff breezes on the 13th will cancel and there will be another try on April 27.** Meet at the park entrance: take Hillside Blvd to

Stonegate Drive, turn off Hillside and keep going uphill on Ridgeview Court to the end. Contact: Chuck Heimstadt and Loretta Brooks, chuckheimstadt@yahoo.com or 650-952-6174.

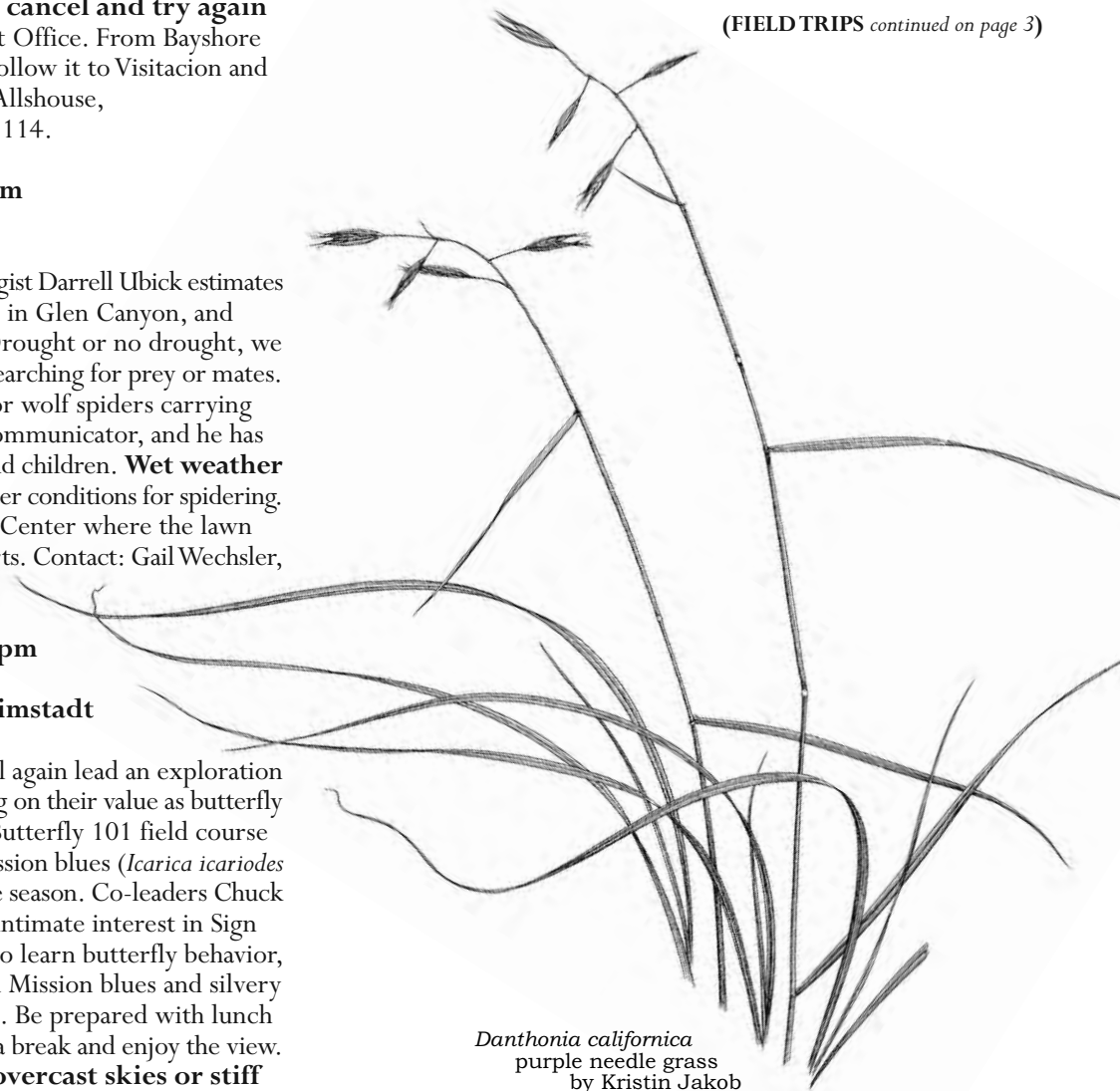
APRIL 26, SATURDAY, 10 am to 2 pm

San Bruno Mountain: Summit Trail

Leader: Doug Allshouse

The Summit Trail is a spectacular and very popular 3-mile loop that stretches over the northern portion of the mountain. It is the most species-rich trail, with 258 species including 173 natives. From Radio Road it passes through a logged eucalyptus forest and descends past active seeps until it reaches April Brook, then climbs a sheltered ridge-wall dotted with isolated grasslands to Bitter Cherry Ridge and views of the ocean and the Daly City dunes. After crossing the summit we'll check out Kamchatka Point and some interesting manzanitas and huckleberries and before descending through Cable Ravine to the parking lot. Doug led a walk here in October, but promises it will be look much different in springtime. Bring a lunch and layers of clothing because, due to the marine influence, you never know what to expect. **If there's heavy rain, we'll try again May 3.** Meet at the parking lot on the other side of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Self-register (\$6) at the entry kiosk, turn right at the stop sign just past the kiosk and follow the road under the parkway. Contact: Doug Allshouse, dougsr228@comcast.net or 415-584-5114.

(FIELD TRIPS continued on page 3)



Danthonia californica
purple needle grass
by Kristin Jakob

FIELD TRIPS *(continued)*

MAY 3, SATURDAY, 10 am

Nicasio Native Grass Ranch

Leader: John Wick

Cosponsored by CNPS Marin and Milo Baker Chapters

Rancher John Wick is a pioneer in managing grasslands to remove carbon from the atmosphere and hold it in the soil. He co-founded the Marin Carbon Project to demonstrate and promote agricultural practices that improve soil health and lessen climate change.

Increasing soil carbon automatically increases soil water-holding capacity, plant production and overall ecosystem function. Six years of peer-reviewed and published research support the methods used in Marin to manage working landscapes that produce healthy food and durable fiber while enhancing soil carbon and fostering high biodiversity and thriving native plant communities. Plant materials (cellulose, starches and sugars) are carbohydrates; all of the carbon in carbohydrates comes from air. Common agricultural practices—including driving a tractor, tilling the soil and waste management—result in the return of CO₂ to the air and a net loss in production. As much as one-third of the surplus CO₂ in the atmosphere today is carbon lost from agricultural lands. Directions: follow the signs from 4499 Nicasio Valley Drive to 250 Road to the Ranches, Nicasio. Contact: Jake Sigg, jakesigg@earthlink.net. Rsvp appreciated but not required.

MAY 18, SUNDAY, 1 to 3 pm

Pedro Point Headlands

Leaders: Mike Vasey and Jake Sigg

Co-sponsored by Pacifica Land Trust

As you may know from past events at the Pedro Point Headlands, we are excited by the solidly grounded restoration efforts of the Pacifica Land Trust, headed by stewardship coordinator Lynn Adams. We urge people to become involved in this ongoing process. Don't be discouraged by lack of rain; nature doesn't wait around for rains that may or may not show. There may not be as many wildflowers, but there are always lots of interesting things and processes to see and talk about, and we get to see the slow but real healing which restoration volunteers are stimulating. Come to the work party by meeting at the Pedro Point Firehouse, 1227 Danmann Ave, Pacifica, at 9:45 am. We will carpool from there. If you come only for the field trip, meet at the same place at 12:45 pm. Long sleeves and pants, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hat and jacket are encouraged. Contact: Jake Sigg, jakesigg@earthlink.net or 415-731-3028.

ACTIVITIES

10th ANNUAL CNPS YERBA BUENA CHAPTER SPRING TOUR OF NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

Sunday, April 27, 2014 - 11 am to 3 pm
FREE ADMISSION, NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

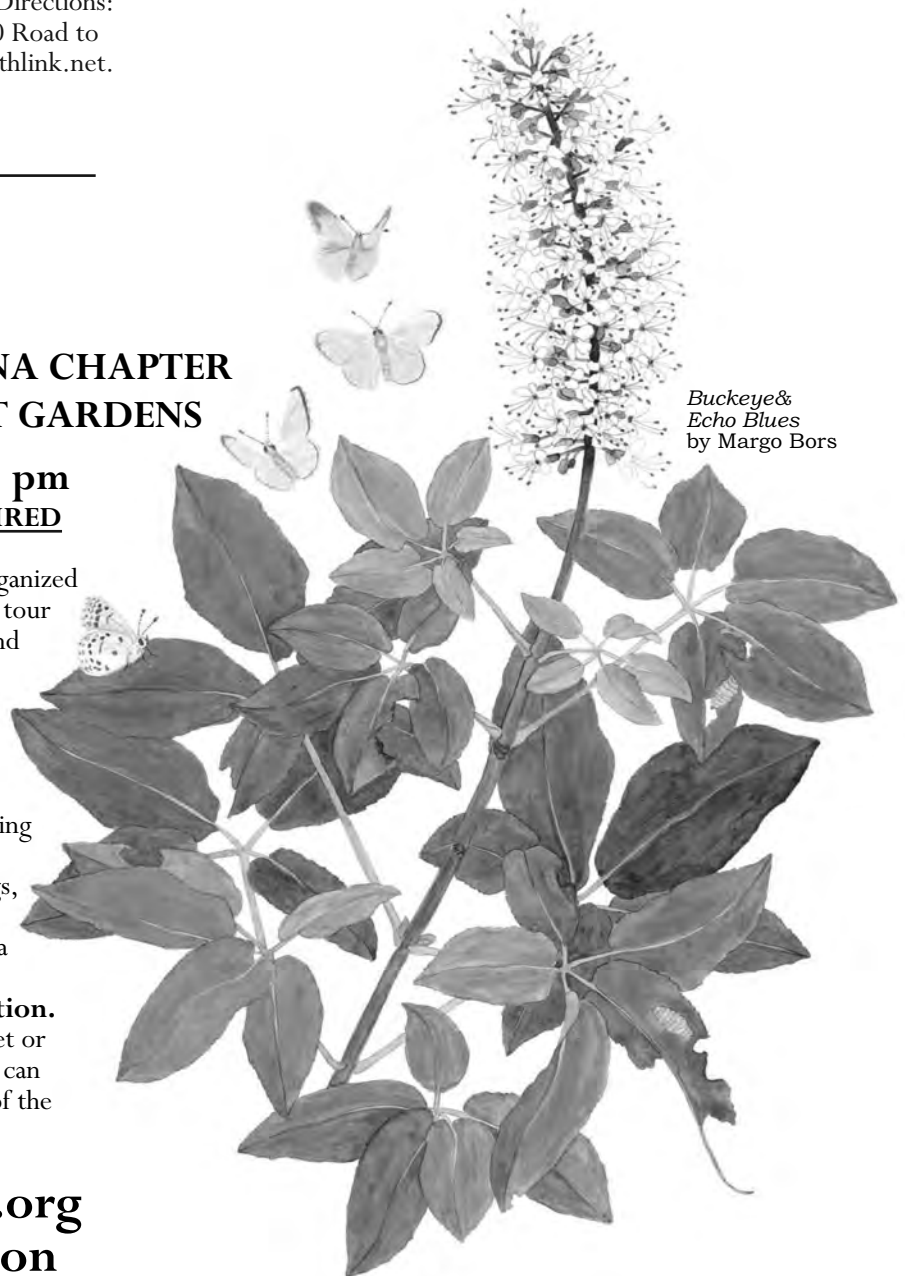
SAVE THE DATE for the Native Plant Garden Tour organized by the CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter. The purpose of the tour is to expose gardeners to native plants, their charms and the benefits, and to show some of the possibilities for including them in an attractive, wildlife-friendly garden.

To this end we include an array of private gardens: mature gardens featuring 100% natives (focusing on compatible plantings), mixed gardens, professionally designed and maintained artistic gardens, gardens focusing on habitat for wildlife (for example, the chorus frog), gardens integrating food production with native plantings, gardens in transition to include more natives. We also feature public gardens dedicated to local flora and fauna or similar gardens not usually open to the public.

Check the website in March for more information.

Further information: **Susan Floore** at sfloore@att.net or 415-285-4692. **Also, please let Susan know** if you can volunteer to co-host at one of the gardens on the day of the Tour.

**Visit sfnativegardentour.org
for up-to-date information**



*Buckeye &
Echo Blues
by Margo Bors*

ACTIVITIES *(continued)*

PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS: SPRING 2014 UPDATE!

Second Thursdays, 6-7:30pm
San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Avenue

The botany graduate students at San Francisco State University will lead the plant ID workshops on the second Thursday of the month. The dates are: March 13, April 10, May 8, and June 12. Remember to mark your calendars and please attend. **No workshops in July and August as the graduate students will be on summer break.** Meet at Hensill Hall, Room 440. Bring a hand lens and a copy of the Jepson Manual. Contact Mila Stroganoff at 650-359-1642 or milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net for further information.

WAYNE RODERICK LECTURE SERIES

Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Park
Saturdays, starting at 10:30 am

http://www.ebparks.org/parks/vc/botanic_garden
510-544-3169 bgarden@ebparks.org

March 1 Exploring Guadalupe Island, Mexico: The remarkable recovery of the island's flora - Bart O'Brien

LAST CALL FOR GARDENS!

The deadline for entries in our Spring Garden Tour is March 4. Gardens of all kinds and sizes are eligible provided they feature natives as a main or significant feature. If you'd like to include your garden in this year's tour, don't delay! Contact Sam Sapoznick, cnps-sam@sapoznick.org or (415) 513-8314. Or submit your garden at: <http://cnps-yerbabuena.org/gardens/tourIntake.html>

JOIN CNPS WORK PARTIES


Noon to 3 pm

Locations around San Francisco

Ever since 1989 the Yerba Buena Chapter has conducted weekly work parties to remove aggressive plants invading our native biological communities. Participants have found these days to be very pleasurable, and we hate it when we have to miss a day. There is no better way to become acquainted with both the native and nonnative flora and seasonal changes, and to learn to recognize plants in all their various guises. We go to places that no one else does, and workers become acquainted with areas and plants they didn't even know existed. Not everyone is able to come on Wednesdays, but for the lucky few who can, contact Jake Sigg at jakesigg@earthlink.net, 415-731-3028.

HABITAT RESTORATION

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

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

Alemanys Natives at Alemany Farm.

3rd Sundays, 1 to 4pm. Contact: alemanynatives@gmail.com

Bayview Hill.

2nd Saturdays
Contact Joe Grey joe.grey@sfgov.org

Bernal Hilltop.

3rd Saturdays,
10 am to 12 pm. Work party contact Rachel Kesel rachel.kesel@sfgov.org; Groups contact Joe Grey 415-831-6328.

Brooks Park.

Contact Joe Grey Joe.Grey@sfgov.org

Buena Vista Park.

1st Saturdays, 9am to noon.
Contact Joe.Grey@sfgov.org or 415-831-6328.

Candlestick State Park Nursery. 1150 Carroll Street. 1st Saturdays, 10am to 2pm. Bay Youth for the Environment. Contact Patrick Rump bye@lejyouth.org.

Castro-Duncan Open Space.

Contact Dave Thompson or Gloria Koch-Gonzalez 415-821-7601.

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

Corona Heights.

Last Saturdays, 10 am to noon.

Contact Jim Houillion 415-552-3542.

Edgehill Mt. Park.

2nd Saturdays, 10am to noon.

Contact Stan Kaufman 415-681-4954 or sekfmm@pacbell.net

Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Weekdays and weekends around the Bay Area.

Contact volunteer@parksconservancy.org or 415-561-3044.

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

Golden Gate Heights Sandy Dunes Native Plant Community Garden. Contact Barbara Kobayashi okim1946@yahoo.com.

Golden Gate Park Oak Woodlands.

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

Contact Rob Bakewell 415-710-9617 or rcbakewell@gmail.com

Green Hairstreak Butterfly Corridor.

3rd Saturday, 10 am to noon. Contact Nature in the City stewards@natureinthecity.org

Half Moon Bay State Beach.

650-726-8801 or hmbrestore@gmail.com

Heron's Head Park.

2nd Saturdays, 9am to noon.

Contact Raynelle Rino 415-282-6840 or raynelle.rino@lejyouth.org

Lake Merced.

3rd Saturdays, 10am to noon.

Contact Joe Grey joegrey@sfgov.org

Linda Mar State Beach

4th Sundays, 10am to noon.

Contact 650-451-1130 or 94116bc@gmail.com.

Marin Headlands Native Plant Nursery.

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

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

McLaren Park.

2nd Saturdays of even months, 10am to noon.

Contact Joe.Grey@sfgov.org or 415-831-6328.

McKinley Square Hillside.

2nd Sundays, 10am to noon. www.McKinleySquare.com or chris@McKinleySquare.org

Mission Creek Bank.

Generally Saturday mornings. Contact Ginny Stearns for times 415-552-4577 or GinnyStearns@gmail.com.

Mt. Davidson.

1st Saturdays, 10am to noon.

Friends of Mt. Davidson. Stan Kaufman 415-681-4954 or sekfmm@pacbell.net

Mt. Sutro.

1st Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm

Contact Craig Dawson: craig@sutrostowards.org

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

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

San Bruno Mountain.

Tuesdays, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm: Earthcare Wetlands Project;

Wednesdays, 10am to 12:30pm: Greenhouse

volunteers-Mission Blue Nursery;

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

Stewardship Outing; Saturdays, 10am to noon: Bog

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

South San Francisco Weed Rangers

www.mountainwatch.org, 415-467-6631.

SF Recreation & Parks Department. Natural

Areas Program. Joe.Grey@sfgov.org or 415-

831-6328.

San Pedro Valley County Park, Pacifica.

3rd Saturdays, 9am. Contact Carolyn Pankow 650-355-7466.

Save the Bay.

Tidal marsh habitats. Saturdays, 9 am to noon.

Native Plant Nursery work on the first two Wednesdays of the month. Contact Casey

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

Shields/Orizaba Rocky Outcrop.

Contact Paul Koski at pkoski7@netscape.net.

Tennessee Valley Nursery and Stewards.

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

Contact 415-289-1860 or

lponzini@parksconservancy.org

UCSF Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve.

1st & 3rd Saturdays, 9am to 12:30pm. Contact

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

White-Crowned Sparrow

3rd Saturdays, 9am - noon

Contact sfrpd.volunteerprogram@sfgov.org



"The violets in the mountains have broken the rocks."

—Tennessee Williams

FOCUS ON RARITIES

Hairy Woodsorrel (*Oxalis pilosa*) by Michael Wood

If you garden in San Francisco, or just about anywhere in the western U.S., you're likely familiar with *Oxalis*. A popular potted plant in its own right, the genus includes many species of weeds that appear spontaneously in potted plants and lawns. Growing up in the nursery business, I recall very clearly weeding potted plants full of creeping woodsorrel (*Oxalis corniculata*) and having its seed pods explode in my face. At least eight non-native species of oxalis may be encountered in our local gardens, although most are rarely found outside of cultivated areas. Still, a few species have naturalized in California. Aside from creeping woodsorrel, perhaps none is more notorious along the Central Coast than Bermuda buttercup (*O. pes-caprae*). Also known as sour grass, for its lemony-tasting peduncles, Bermuda buttercup is an aggressive weed on moist, loamy slopes near the coast, forming dense, lush green patches in the spring, dying back to copious numbers of buried bulbs when the rains cease.

The oxalis family (Oxalidaceae) is distributed across the tropics, subtropics and temperate regions of North and South America, Africa, Europe and Asia. The family consists of only five genera with around 880 species. In addition to "lucky clover" AKA "four-leaf clover" (*Oxalis tetraphylla*), is the sensitivity plant (*Biophytum* spp.), whose leaves fold up when touched.

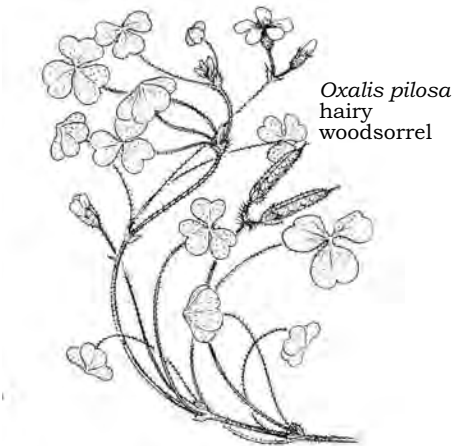
The genus *Oxalis* is the only member of the family represented in California and the continental United States. Members of the genus are characteristically herbaceous annuals or perennials with fibrous or woody roots, often producing bulbs, tubers or rhizomes, with palmate leaves with three small leaflets (arranged in a typical "clover" fashion). Flowers consist of five clawed, radial petals ranging from yellow to white to purplish or pinkish. Fruits are a narrow capsule described as "explosively dehiscent". The sour taste of Bermuda buttercup and other members of the genus is due to the presence of oxalic acid, which is also found in spinach, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, grapefruit, chives and rhubarb. In very large amounts, oxalic acid is considered slightly toxic and can interfere with digestion and kidney function. Interestingly, some members of the genus are known hyperaccumulators of copper, notably, *O. corniculata*, which was described in Chinese texts from the 1400s as an indicator of copper deposits.

Of the ten species of oxalis listed in the second edition of The Jepson Manual (Baldwin, *et al.*

2012), five are native and the other five are naturalized non-natives. Only a single member of the genus (*O. suksdorfii*, CNPS List 4.3) in California is considered to have special-status as a rare plant. Six of these plus an additional garden escape are extant in San Francisco (Wood 2013). In their Flora of San Francisco (1958) Howell, *et al.* describe six species of oxalis are described; but only one, hairy woodsorrel, is indigenous to San Francisco

Hairy woodsorrel (previously named *O. albicans* ssp. *pilosa*) is a perennial herb forming an erect to decumbent stem up to 15 inches long developing from a more or less woody taproot.

As the name indicates, plants have dense hairs along the stems, leaflets, and pedicels. Inflorescences produce 1-3 flowers in umbel- or raceme-like cymes at the end of 1 inch-long pedicels. The yellow, half inch-long flowers appear from February through September.



Oxalis pilosa
hairy
woodsorrel

A denizen of coastal grasslands, scrub and chaparral habitats below 2000 feet in elevation, hairy woodsorrel has been collected from coastal counties from San Diego to Humboldt. In their 1958 flora, Howell, *et al.* cite as locations for hairy woodsorrel the Presidio, Golden Gate Park, Sutro Hill, Laguna Honda, Lake Merced, Twin Peaks, Mt. Davidson, San Miguel Hills, and Bayview Hill. It is presumed to have been extirpated from the Presidio (Frey and Stevenson 2010). Currently, hairy woodsorrel has been reported from Bayview Hill, Bernal Hill, Brooks Park, Laguna Honda Reservoir, McLaren Park, Mt. Sutro and Twin Peaks (Wood 2013). While it is known from seven localities, it tends to persist as only very few plants, making it a strong candidate for inclusion on our upcoming revised list of locally significant plants. Hairy woodsorrel has no status as a CNPS-listed species nor is it included on the state's list of special plants.

Hairy woodsorrel is easily confused with the non-native creeping woodsorrel, an introduction from the Mediterranean region. In fact, hairy woodsorrel was once regarded

as a subspecies of *O. corniculata*. This fact is significant as hairy woodsorrel may be simultaneously underreported here and more seriously threatened. The native and non-native plants can be distinguished as follows:

Hairy woodsorrel is found primarily in undisturbed sites, has stems that do not root at the nodes, and has petals that are 8-12mm (0.31-0.47 in) long. Creeping woodsorrel is found in mostly disturbed sites, has stems that root at the nodes and has petals that are less than 8 mm (0.31 in.) long. Neither species produces bulbs; hairy woodsorrel produces a woody taproot while creeping woodsorrel produces a fleshy taproot. I don't recommend that you rely on this trait to identify plants in the field if you're uncertain, as it of course requires that you pull the plant out to make the determination. As I always say, that's how you identify a plant that USED to occur at a site.

This would be a great target for future "rare plant treasure hunts". I would be especially interested in learning of its status at any of the historical locations listed above. If you should find and be able to make a positive, reliable identification, I'd love to hear.

Happy hunting.

Literature Cited

Baldwin, B.G., D.H. Goldman, D.J. Keil, R. Patterson, T.J. Rosatti, and D.H. Wilken, editors. 2012. *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California*. Second edition. Univ. Calif. Press, Berkeley. 1568 pp. Jepson eFlora available online at <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/IJM.html>.

Frey, M. and B. Stevenson. 2010. *Status of the Presidio Native Flora*. December 14. Presidio Trust. Available online at http://www.sfnps.org/download_product/2236/0.

Wood, M.K. 2013. *Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Francisco's Natural Areas*. Co-chairman, Rare Plant Committee, California Native Plant Society, Yerba Buena Chapter. Revised August 9. Available online at <http://www.wood-biological.com/san-francisco-plant-checklist>



"Nature is trying very hard to make us succeed, but nature does not depend on us. We are not the only experiment."

—Richard Buckminster Fuller

DOUG'S MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

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

Wow, things are getting more than a little scary. This time last year we had the wettest December on record, then the spigot pretty much got turned off. We had six—yes SIX—rainfall days from September 21st to the end of the year and the gauge at the main entrance to the park shows just 2.77 inches. The net result is that plants are a month or two behind schedule. I'm not holding my breath waiting for our annuals this year unless we get a March miracle. Some years ago, either late 80s or early 90s, we had a similar rain cycle and it rained close to 15 straight days in March.

I was out on the Daly City dunes in mid-January and there were no San Francisco lessingia germinating. I saw one lessingia plant that had bloomed in late season and was still sporting a few flowers. On the upper portion of the Dairy Ravine and Summit Trails there was not one milkmaid or buttercup to be found. Both of those plants typically start to bloom around Christmas! Even miners' lettuce has not appeared. Right now the mountain looks like October except that some perennials, like goldenrod and seaside daisy, are leafing out from their bases. Is this what climate change will look like in the Bay Area, a persistent high pressure cell that refuses to move and blocks storms from reaching us?

The mountain is home to numerous seeps, which are underground springs. Colma Creek's headwaters start as a high-water table seep that greatly increases its flow during the rainy season. During a normal season water will gush from the ground when rainfall reaches 20-24 inches. Even gopher holes will serve as fountains when that happens. Here we are in the throes of almost 3 straight dry years and the threat of a drought being declared, and the seeps are still flowing. Colma Creek and April Brook still have water in them, although the creeks in Buckeye and Owl Canyons have been dry since last summer. Typically some of these vernal creeks have water in them year-round though others are strictly seasonal.

On the mountain's western side the bench above Juncus Ravine is green with hummingbird sage, soap plant and hillside pea. That is the same grassland that burned last September. It truly is beautiful to witness a landscape responding to the aftermath of a wildfire, and it teaches us to leave well-enough alone. Loretta Brooks and Chuck Heimstadt have a weeding project on that bench and are working with Joe Cannon and Lawrence Fernandez to seed some

CHAPTER NEWS

VOTE ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER BYLAWS

In the Sept. 2013 issue of this newsletter, chapter members were informed about some proposed changes to the bylaws. Their main purpose is three-fold: To establish a target range for the number of board members (currently there can be any number); to establish a couple of standing committees (currently there are none); and to establish that in future ALL board members (not just officers) will be elected by the chapter membership. For more details, please see the chapter website.

This is to give notice that a vote on whether or not to approve these amendments will be held at the member meeting on
Thursday April 3, 2014.

plots with annuals grown at our Mission Blue Nursery. This is a approach is similar to the one taken after the Buckeye-Owl Canyons fire in 2008. When fire clears scrub away, it is a perfect time to eliminate stump-sprouting brush and re-seed with native grasses and forbs, thus creating new grassland. That's the easy part. Next come years of weeding to ensure its survival. At least we're constantly learning new things by trying different techniques.

My morning walks start before sunrise when it's barely light enough to see. I've even been known to carry a flashlight...just in case. As you can imagine, I've encountered my fair share of skunks along the trails, to the point that they don't faze me anymore. They have very poor vision and if one were headed in your direction and you stood completely still, well it would probably walk right by you...if it didn't actually hit you. That might not be good; who knows what a completely surprised skunk might do. Here's a tip that works for me when I'm trying to shoo a skunk away: bark like a dog. That critter will stop, raise its tail, then turn around and run away. Just keep barking.

It is very rarely that I get to encounter a coyote, but I had that opportunity recently. This beautiful canine, exquisitely marked with its black-tipped tail was headed toward me. I immediately moved to the right of road that is called the Guadalupe Trail so he could pass. Well, he stopped and just stared at me as if to say, "No way pal, no way I'm walking past you." He eventually turned around and walked away, looking around occasionally to check on me. Since I was on my way home, I naturally kept walking behind him. When he got to the Saddle Trail he turned up the hill and waited for me to pass. I stopped when I knew that I was out of his sight and sure enough he came back down to the road and went on his merry way.

As of late January it is nice to note that silver bush lupine—larval host of the Mission Blue butterfly—has begun to bloom, and the leaves of California golden violet—larval host of the Callippe Silverspot butterfly—are beginning to appear. Stonecrop—the larval host of the San Bruno Elf— is pretty-much viable year-round, these occurrences guaranteeing that our endangered butterfly larvae will have something to eat beginning in late February and lasting into July. Those three butterflies stood in the way of the mountain becoming part of Daly City in the 60s and insured its existence as a wilderness in perpetuity. That's a heck of a trade, don't you think? Do yourself a huge favor and visit it soon. Lately the weather has been gorgeous—dry, but gorgeous.

See you on the mountain.



Delphinium variegatum • Royal Larkspur • by Margo Bors

Cole Hardware

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

(CHAPTER NEWS continued on page 7)

CHAPTER NEWS

URGENT: NEWSLETTER MAILING COORDINATOR NEEDED

The chapters needs a volunteer to take over coordinating the mailing of chapter newsletter -- a job which would take a maximum of 10 hours per quarter. Briefly, the mailing coordinator : sets a date and location for each quarterly mailing party and informs other newsletter volunteers; arranges for pickup of the printed newsletter and for the purchase of stamps; supervises the folding and stamping at the "mailing party"; and arranges for delivering the ready-to-mail newsletters to the main post office. We can also pass on the names of regular participants in past "mailing parties". If you can help, please contact Mila Stroganoff at 650-359-1642 or milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net. Please note that the job could be shared between two people.

Community Thrift

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

August 2013 through January 2014

Eduardo Abarca, Hugh Ashley, Sarah Bridge, Kimberly Drewiske, William Grant, Kelly Greenwood, Lizette Guzman-Zaragoza, Mary Ellen Hannibal, Jamie Hawk, Steven Hillson, Robin Innes, Parke Lewis-Deweese, Peggy Lopipero-Langmo, Christopher McGuire, Zach Tanner, Mark Wales, Sylvia Warnes

CONSERVATION NEWS

Good news from San Mateo County Parks

The Yerba Buena and Santa Clara Valley chapters of the California Native Plant Society have been part of a coalition working hard for the last three years to address worrisome problems with San Mateo County Parks. The Department operates 19 separate parks, three regional trails, and numerous other county and regional trails encompassing 16,183 acres. They are located throughout the county and represent a wide variety of natural settings, including a coastside marine reserve, a bayside recreational area, coastal mountain woodland areas, and urban sites.

Success has crowned our efforts, with the result that the County:

1. Removed Parks from under Public Works and restored it to its own department.
2. Established a natural resources position - a first for the County - and staffed it, beginning February 18.
3. Hired a dynamic new Director of Parks.

We worked hard to make these happen, and we asked to be represented on the interview panel for both the natural resources specialist and the director. We were ably represented on the panel by Lennie Roberts of Committee for Green Foothills, and we are

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are open to all Chapter members. They are held on the second Monday of every month (except August and December) at 350 Amber Drive (SF Police Academy) and start at 7 pm. Contact Ellen Edelson (e.edelson@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

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delighted by the new director, Marlene Finley, and the natural resources person, Ramona Arechiga.

The coalition met with the new director in her Redwood City office, and spent a whole day taking her around San Bruno Mountain. We could not have found a more suitable person for this job.

Arechiga comes to San Mateo County after working in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia, where she coordinated multicultural work teams to implement public planting programs in national park buffer communities. Most recently she moved to the Bay Area from Oregon where she completed her master's degree in forest resources from Oregon State University. Her background makes her sound ideal for the job.

In addition to CNPS and Committee for Green Foothills the coalition included San Bruno Mountain Watch, Sequoia Audubon

JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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

____ Yes, I'd like to join.

Affiliation: **Yerba Buena Chapter**

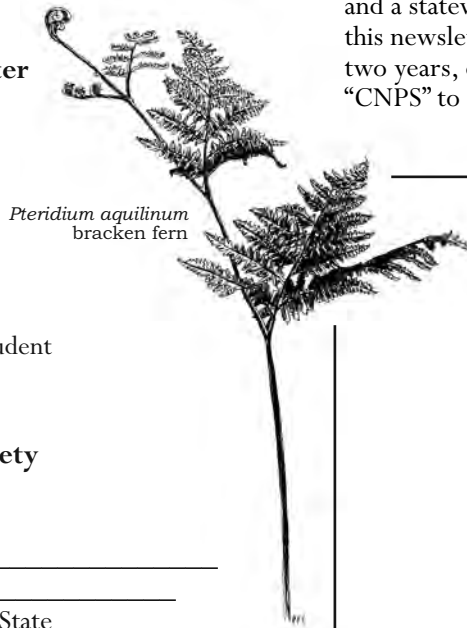
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Visit: www.cnps-yerbabuena.org

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