YERBA BUENA NEWS

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

Vol. 29 No. 2 ■ June 2015

CONTENTS

PROGRAMS

Everyone is welcome to attend membership meetings in the Recreation Room of the San Francisco County Fair Building (SFCFB) at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. The #71 and #44 buses stop at the building. The N-Judah, #6, #43, and #66 lines stop within 2 blocks. Before our programs, we take our speakers to dinner at Chang's Kitchen, 1030 Irving Street, between 11th and 12th Avenues. Join us for good Chinese food and interesting conversation. Meet at the restaurant at 5:30 pm. RSVP appreciated but not required. If you wish to notify, please call Jake Sigg at 415-731-3028.

JUNE 4, THURSDAY, 7:30 PM

Cook and Green Pass

Speaker: Ted Kipping

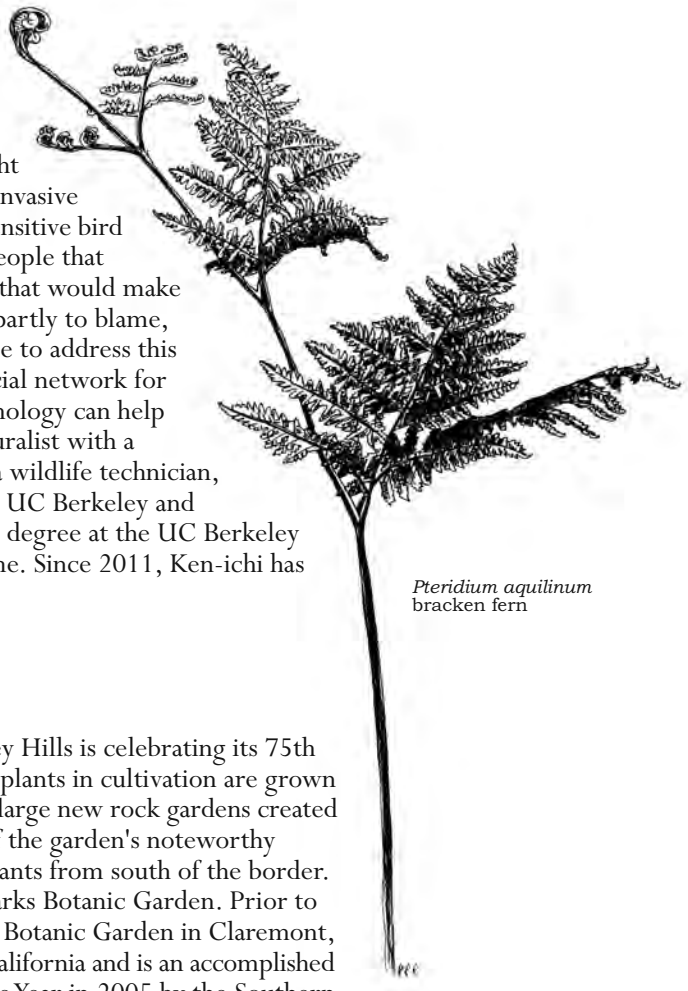
Cook and Green Pass Botanical Area, located in the Siskiyou Mountains, is a biological hotspot comprising just 700 acres. It is an area of geological and botanical diversity—full of interesting as well as beautiful plants. Low-elevation plants such as manzanitas and rhododendrons are juxtaposed with such high-elevation plants as mountain hemlock, Jeffrey pine and Brewer's spruce.
Come join us for an intimate look at an amazing place. This area has a phenomenal concentration of native plant species, one of the richest areas in California, with possibly as many as 300 species present. The area also contains a large stand of Siskiyou cypress (*Cupressus bakeri* ssp. *matthewsii*). Rare or sensitive plants present include *Pedicula howellii*, Siskiyou lewisia (*Lewisia cotyledon*), *Antennaria racemosa*, and *Lilium wigginsii*. Botanists and plant enthusiasts from around the country consider the Cook and Green Pass area significant. Ted Kipping, a frequent and popular speaker at our programs, is a superb photographer. He studied Natural History at Columbia University and gardened later at the San Francisco Botanical Garden. The last several decades he has operated Ted Kipping Tree Shapers, an arboricultural service.

JULY 2, THURSDAY, 7:30 PM

Natural History as Rhetoric

Speaker: Ken-ichi Ueda

In the San Francisco Bay Area, where we congratulate ourselves for our progressive politics and our long history of environmental activism, we still fight heated battles over clearing stands of invasive trees and keeping dogs on leashes in sensitive bird habitat. It seems we have convinced people that biodiversity matters without building the relationships to other organisms that would make their worth self-evident. I argue that the kinds of rhetoric we employ are partly to blame, and that the practice of natural history is itself a kind of rhetoric we can use to address this problem. I'll discuss my efforts to do so with iNaturalist.org, an online social network for people interested in biodiversity and natural history, and how I think technology can help us employ natural history as a rhetorical tool. Ken-ichi Ueda is an avid naturalist with a background in both biology and software development, having worked as a wildlife technician, GIS developer, and web developer for a variety of organizations, including UC Berkeley and Goodreads.com. Ken-ichi developed iNaturalist while pursuing a Master's degree at the UC Berkeley School of Information in 2008 and continued to work on it in his spare time. Since 2011, Ken-ichi has been working full time as iNaturalist's lead developer.



Pteridium aquilinum
bracken fern

AUGUST 6, THURSDAY, 7:30 PM

The Regional Parks Botanic Garden: 75 Years of Growing California Native Plants

Speaker: Bart O'Brien

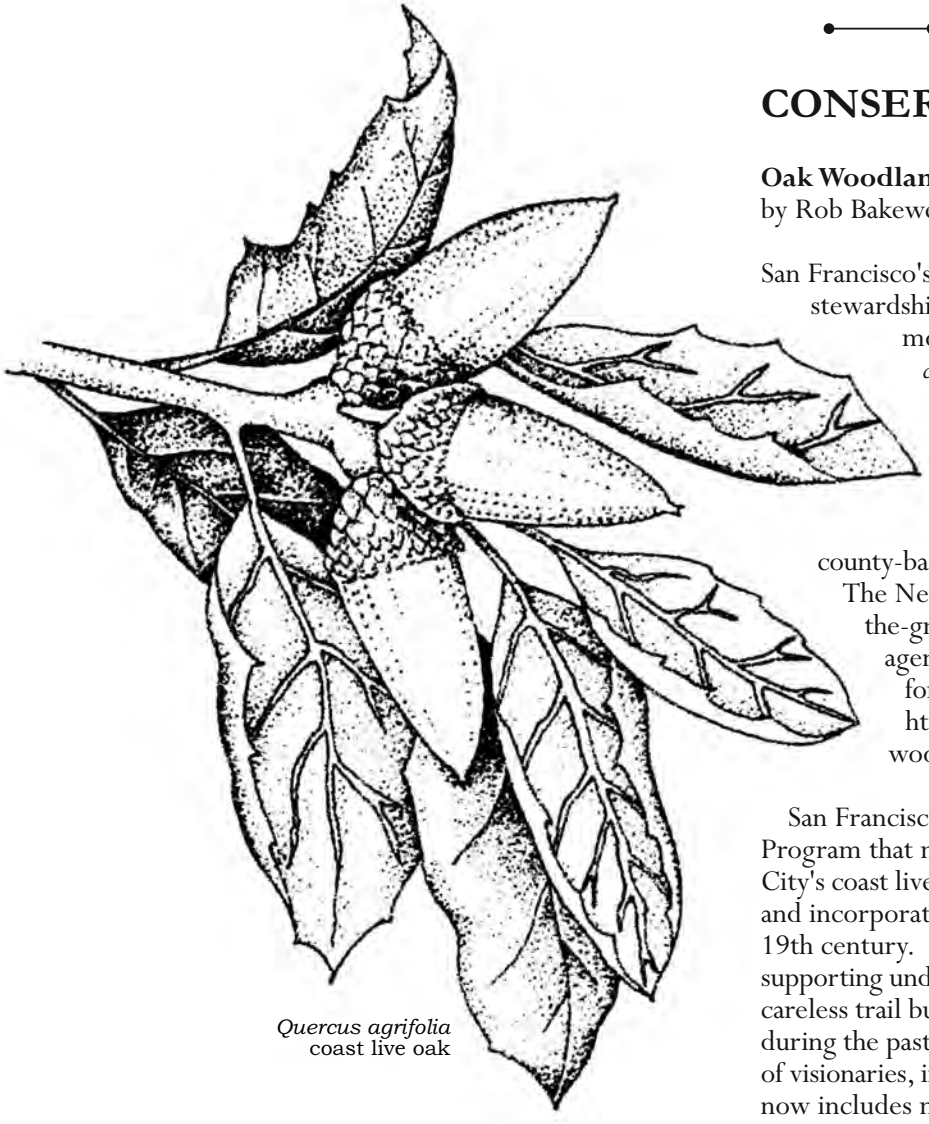
The Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Regional Park in the Berkeley Hills is celebrating its 75th Anniversary (1940-2015). The most remarkable array of California native plants in cultivation are grown here. Bart O'Brien will be discussing several projects, which include three large new rock gardens created by Phil Johnson and the new serpentine bog. Bart will also discuss some of the garden's noteworthy collections and new plants including a number of unusual "Californian" plants from south of the border. Bart O'Brien is the Botanic Garden Manager (Director) of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. Prior to this position, he held a variety of senior staff positions at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, CA. He is an authority on the native flora of the state and of northern Baja California and is an accomplished collector, grower, lecturer, and author. He was named Horticulturist of the Year in 2005 by the Southern California Horticultural Society.

FUTURE PROGRAM *September 3*—**Nutritional Ethnobotany of California** —*Tom Carlson*

FIELD TRIP

These walks are FREE to members and non-members. 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.

JUNE 20, SATURDAY, 10 am
Daly City Dunes, Guadalupe Hills
Leader: Doug Allshouse
The Guadalupe Hills are part of San Bruno Mountain, and on the western edge in lower Colma Canyon are the Daly City Dunes, a 300-foot-deep sand dune system that dates back about 125,000 years. Though surrounded by a residential neighborhood, a piece of this site is relatively intact and supports a specific ecosystem not usually found at such a distance from the coast. Of great interest—and dire concern—is the presence of San Francisco lessingia (*Lessingia germanorum*), an endangered composite found elsewhere only in the Presidio; theDunes population is the only one in San Mateo County. Also present is San Francisco spineflower (*Chorizanthe cuspidata*), dune suncup (*Camissonia strigulosa*), beach evening-primrose (*Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia*) and beach blue lupine (*Lupinus chamissonis*). There is a population of California pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*) nearby, which means the sighting of beautiful pipevine swallowtails (*Battus philenor*) (adults and/or larvae) is a distinct possibility. And there's more: a shell mound is also to be found high up the dune. Wear sturdy shoes suitable for sand, and bring a snack or light lunch if you wish. Meet at Hilldale School at the junction of Thiers and Florence Streets. From "Top of the Hill Daly City" (intersection of Mission Street with John Daly and Hillside Blvds) take Hillside and turn left on Thiers Street. **Heavy rain postpones until June 27.** Contact: Doug Allshouse, dougsr228@comcast.net or 415-584-5114.



Quercus agrifolia
coast live oak

"Commonly we stride through the out-of-doors too swiftly to see more than the most obvious and prominent things. For observing nature, the best pace is a snail's pace."—Edwin Way Teale

CONSERVATION

Oak Woodlands Dedication
by Rob Bakewell, Oak Woodlands steward

San Francisco's Oak Woodlands Natural Area and the vigorous stewardship and restoration effort to conserve our City's most extensive indigenous coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) woodland groves in northeastern Golden Gate Park is now less of a secret.

On Saturday, April 14, the Oak Woodlands were dedicated as San Francisco County's representative in the expanding nationwide county-based network of old growth forests and woodlands. The Network encourages and celebrates the boots-on-the-ground efforts of community volunteers and public agencies to designate and conserve an indigenous forest or woodland in every county in the U.S. Visit: http://www.oldgrowthforest.net/#!oak-woodlands-of-golden-gate-park/c1gqg

San Francisco has for nearly 20 years had a Natural Areas Program that manages 32 pieces of original landscape. Our City's coast live oak groves were fortunate enough to be noticed and incorporated into the new Golden Gate Park in the late 19th century. Until recently these venerable trees and their supporting understory had suffered crowding by invasive shrubs, careless trail building, camping, and general neglect. However, during the past 20 years, starting with ad hoc rescue by a group of visionaries, including CNPS members, the conservation effort now includes management by SFRPD Natural Areas Program and a strong community volunteer backbone.

We are looking forward to the completion of a nature trail and continuing restoration of the Woodlands understory including a wide variety of local shrubs and forbs. We invite all of you to come and see what we have accomplished and what we hope to achieve for the Oak Woodlands, and pitch in to one of our monthly work parties.

ACTIVITIES

PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS
Second Thursday of the month 6 – 7:30 pm.
Next workshop is September 10, 2015.
San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Avenue
Hensill Hall, Botany Lab, Room 440
Plant ID workshops are on summer break and will resume in September. Join us in the fall and see plants from a new perspective. It's fascinating! Talented and knowledgeable graduate botany students at San Francisco State University lead the plant ID workshops on the second Thursday of the month. The atmosphere is relaxed and there are no tests to take. If you have the old or new edition of the *Jepson Manual*, bring that along or *Plants of the San Francisco Bay Region: Mendocino to Monterey*, and a hand lens. If you have any further questions, email Mila Stroganoff at milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net.
Getting to SFSU by public transit: MUNI's M-Ocean line and #28 bus both stop at 19th Ave & Holloway St. Via BART to Daly City, collect a free two-part ticket from a machine inside the station which can be used on the #28 SF Muni or board an SFSU shuttle which runs every 10 to 15 minutes.
If you drive, there is street parking on 19th Avenue as well as paid campus parking. Hensill Hall is located just off 19th Avenue, between Winston and Holloway.

Nacella pulchra
purple needle grass
by Kristin Jakob

CNPS WORKSHOPS
The CNPS Plant Science Training Program specializes in providing workshops for professional botanists, biologists, and ecologists to teach the skills and provide the tools and resources for conducting sound scientific surveys for rare plants, rare plant communities, vegetation, and wetlands.

June 3-5
Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Releve
Location: El Portal Community Center, Yosemite National Park
Instructors: Jennifer Buck-Diaz (others TBD)
This course will be a combination of lecture and field exercises in vegetation sampling with a focus on collecting data using the CNPS-CDFW combined vegetation rapid assessment/relevé method. We will discuss applications of fine-scale vegetation sampling, classification and mapping, how to document rare natural communities, and how vegetation information fits into planning documents.

July 6-8
Introduction to Plant Family Identification
Location: Sagehen Field Station, Truckee
Instructor: David Magney
This is an intensive introductory course on how to recognize plant families, focusing on the 25 dominant families of native plants found in California. The workshop is geared towards anyone who wants or needs to improve their knowledge and skills about identifying native and naturalized plants. Emphasis will be given to northern California species; however, information learned in this class will be readily applicable throughout California and elsewhere.

Mid/Late October
Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Relevé
Location: Redding Area
Instructors: Julie Evens, Jennifer Buck-Diaz

November 4-5
CEQA Impact Assessment
Location: Ventura Area
Instructor: David Magney

~~~~~~~~~

LUPINE
by David Schooley

Sometimes
empty is the wing of the lupine
abundant is the light of dawn.
But no one stands
in the ring of songs
that pinches this garden
from a lentil-fed belly
in a burp.
No one in the scrub bloom
that prints this southern ridge of trees,
and nothing draws
this slipping thread of no one
through the words.
Empty is the wing of the lupine,
abundant is the light of dawn.
~~~~~~~~~

FOCUS ON RARITIES

Nuttall's Milkvetch
Astragalus nuttallii
by Michael Wood

Along with the sunflower (Asteraceae) and the grass (Poaceae) families, the legume family (Fabaceae - also called Leguminosae) ranks among the most species-rich families of flowering plants in the world. Consisting of some 730 genera and 19,400 species, legumes are found north and south of the equator and on all continents except Antarctica. Members of the family range from vines to herbs to shrubs to trees, occupying a tremendous variety of habitats in tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions. The legume family is of extreme importance to humans, providing an important source of protein, timber, dyes, and animal fodder such as alfalfa, as well as including plants of ornamental value. Economic crops include peanuts, soybeans, clovers, carob, garden peas and beans, lentils, lupines, wisteria, wattle, mesquite, and tamarind. A notable feature of most legumes is the presence of root nodules containing bacteria (*Rhizobium* spp.), which are capable of converting atmospheric nitrogen into other nitrogen compounds readily usable by plants. Crop rotation, incorporating a legume every three years, can substantially replace the soil nitrogen used up by other crops.

In California, the legumes are also second only to the sunflower family in terms of the number of species that occur here. *The Jepson Manual* lists 49 genera and 511 taxa, comprised of 423 native taxa and 88 non-native naturalized taxa. Some of the more familiar genera that include native taxa found in the Central Coast of California include *Astragalus*, *Lathyrus*, *Lotus*, *Lupinus,* and *Trifolium*. The family also includes some of the more notorious weeds in our region, such as French broom (*Genistamon spessulana*), the wattles (*Acacia* spp.), Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), vetch (*Vicia* spp.), and several clovers (*Medicago* spp., *Melilotus* spp., and *Trifolium* spp.).

Of 2343 taxa listed in the CNPS' *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California*[1] 183 (7.8%) belong to the Fabaceae. Twenty-three members of the legume family are federally or state listed as endangered, threatened, or rare.

The Fabaceae is divided into three subfamilies, the mimosas (Mimosoideae), the sennas (Caesalpinioideae), and the beans (Pailionoideae). Belonging to the bean subfamily, *Astragalus* is perhaps the most species-rich genus of all flowering plants, including an estimated 2,500 taxa worldwide. In terms of the number of native taxa (species, subspecies, and varieties), there are 380 taxa of *Astragalus* in North America, second only to the genus *Carex* (Kartesz 2015). California supports 148 indigenous taxa, or 35 percent of the state's native legumes. A very large proportion of California's milkvetches are highly restricted geographically. Some 84 taxa (56.8% of all members of the genus in the state) are included in the CNPS *Inventory*; 65 taxa (43.9%) are considered significant under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Known by such names as locoweed and milkvetch, the genus is the stuff of lore.

Anyone who grew up watching American westerns has heard the term locoweed. *Loco*, the Spanish word for crazy, alludes to the often disoriented behavior of livestock that browse on these plants. Along with another relative, *Oxytropis*, the locoweeds are a major cause of livestock losses in 17 western states (New Mexico State University 2010). This is due to the presence of a compound called swainsonine, an indolizidine alkaloid which has neurological, cardiovascular, and reproductive effects, and causes emaciation. Poisoning also results from the plants' production of toxic nitrogen compounds and, in some species, selenium accumulation.

In California, *Astragalus* has its greatest center of diversity in the southern deserts and Great Basin region of California. Commonly associated with sandy or alkaline soils in arid settings, the milkvetches are much less commonly encountered in the Bay Area. In fact, only 13 taxa occur in the region, and half of these are rare. Here, the milkvetches are truly an ancient link to another geoflora, left behind with the advance of moist climes from the north.

Despite being the second most speciose genus in the state, the milkvetches are particularly poorly represented in San Francisco. In their *Flora of San* Francisco (Howell, Raven, and Rubtzoff (1958) listed only three species of *Astragalus* here, one of which has been extirpated (*A. tener* var. *tener*). Factoring in taxonomic changes, we still have three taxa, Gambel's dwarf locoweed (*A. gambelianus*) and two varieties of Nuttall's milkvetch (*A. nuttallii* var. *nuttallii* and *A.n.* var. *virgatus*).

Nuttall's milkvetch is a rather robust perennial forming a dense mat up to a meter across. Like all members of the genus, the leaves are pinnately compound. Leaflets are crowded, 21-43 in number, green and hairy. Inflorescences arise from leaf axils, extending above the plant or lying on the ground, dense with 20-125 cream to lavender-tinged flowers. Flowering can occur year round. As is typical of the genus, the fruits are inflated, 1-2-chambered bladder-like sacks, inside of which the seeds may come loose when ripe and "rattle" in the wind. This is likely the reason the group was named *Astragalus*, a Greek word for ankle-bone, slang for dice, implying the sound made by shaking and tossing dice.

The two varieties of Nuttall's milkvetch are restricted entirely to California (i.e., endemic) and extant in San Francisco. Known as ocean bluff milkvetch, *A.n.* var. *nuttallii*, inhabits coastal bluff scrub and coastal dunes. It occurs along the coast from Santa Barbara to Marin counties. This variety is on CNPS List 4.2, indicating that it is uncommon and fairly endangered in the state. Interestingly enough, this variety was not reported in San Francisco by Howell et al. (1958). Known as *A. menziezii* in Abrams (1923-1960), it is listed as occurring from Monterey County southward. However, it has been documented in the Presidio at Baker Beach, the southwest dunes, World War II memorial, and at Crissy Field, where it was reintroduced.

Known locally as San Francisco rattleweed

(RARITIES *continued on page 6***)**

[1] You can peruse the CNPS Inventory database free of charge at http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/

DOUG'S MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

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

After an encouraging start to a possible wet winter the great umbrella in the sky opened up and gave us a bone-dry January—as in not a single drop of rain. Worse yet was the realization that the rain clouds decided to barely visit the Sierra Nevada to shed some frozen tears. February and April helped by combining for just over 3 inches and March kicked in a half inch. Together they managed to nudge the precipitation over the 20-inch mark for the year; and doesn't that make you want to rush to Mitchell's on San Jose Avenueto celebrate by ordering a cone of the latest ice cream flavor? I thought not.

Well a few things *really* lifted my spirits. On February 11, I spotted 3 blue larkspurs blooming above Nine Fern Rock and it portended an early spring, or so I thought. A month later I returned and the place was awash in larkspur—a good 200-300 of them!! I have never seen so many in one place and, wouldn't you know it; I began seeing those electric purple-blue beauties everywhere on the mountain. I can hear Frank Sinatra singing "And in the spring of '15, it was a very good year, it was very good year for blue-blooded blooms to smother the fields."

A special trip was made to Bitter Cherry Ridge to look for meadow white, *Cerastium arvense*, and they appeared for the first time in several years as they really a need a good amount of rain to bloom. Owl Canyon was bursting with yellow carpets of blennosperma after not seeing any last year. There are disjunct populationsof hillside morning glory all over the Owl/Buckeye Ridge along with a bumper crop of mule ears in those grasslands as well as along the East power line in Brisbane Acres. Owl Canyon also yielded meconella and two new discoveries, clematis and few-flowered clover, *Trifolium oliganthum*. We found skullcap in Firth Canyon along with fiesta flower, dwarf brodiaea and 4 centimeter-high infant plants of clarkia. So yes, things are looking up.

Clematis lasiantha
pipestem clematis

The morning of February 6 broke with a lightly overcast sky as a storm was brewing off the coast, and the added sunlight created a glowing golden-pink hue which intensified the greens of the grasses and foliage. It reminded me, as a young boy in Ohio, of a similar phenomenon following late-afternoon thunderstorms when the dark sky was replaced by sunlight and the robins began to sing; most likely rejoicing surviving the ordeal.

In the spring a young man's thoughts turn to love and none more so than thoughts of birds. I found myself above Colma Creek one morning listening to woodpeckers pecking in the eucalyptus trees announcing their presence. One was right above me, one was far off to the left and one was high to the right. I thought, my gosh, I've got stereophonic woodpeckers and as the concert went on I realized it sounded like the opening of a Manheim Steamroller instrumental. (Note: If by a slim chance you've never heard of Mannheim Steamroller, I highly recommend you remedy that.)

Looking straight up over me I spied a pair of flickers on a limb, both facing upward with one above the other. I put my binoculars on them to see what would transpire. The one above would spread its tail feathers several times every ten or fifteen seconds. The one on the bottom did absolutely nothing but observe the display. After a minute or more of flashing tail feathers, the flasher flew away. At first I assumed that the flasher was a male and that his noble efforts failed to arouse the female into mating so, dejected, he flew away. Then the other side of my brain fought back and surmised that maybe the female was trying to entice the clueless male into mating and, due to his disinterest, she left the scene to look for her true love of 2015. It's amazing how a flicker's fancy mirrors a human's dilemma. This is a great planet.

California Thrashers broke into song just below the summit on the west side of the mountain and a few White-throated Sparrows are still hanging out with some local sparrows, towhees and juncos as of mid-April. Throw in a couple of wood rats and that's quite a menagerie.

Red Mound Ants (*Formica*) always fascinate field trip participants with their nest consisting of a pile of small pieces of dead twig ends generally from the surrounding coyote brush shrubs. These

(MOUNTAIN JOURNAL *continued on page 7***)**

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

Alemany Natives at Alemany Farm. 3rd Sundays, 1 to 4pm. Contact: Jim Cartan, jcartan@gmail.com or Craig Heckman, heckmanc@sbcglobal.net

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

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

Brooks Park. Contact Joe Grey Joe.Grey@sfgov.org

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

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

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

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

Corona Heights. Last Saturdays,10 am to noon. Contact Jim Houillion 415-552-3542.

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

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

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

Golden Gate Park Oak Woodlands. 2nd Saturdays, 10am to 12:30pm. Contact Rob Bakewell 415-710-9617 or rcbakewell@gmail.com

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

Half Moon Bay State Beach. 650-726-8801 or hmbrestore@gmail.com

Heron's Head Park. 2nd Saturdays, 9am to noon. Contact Raynelle Rino 415-282-6840 or raynelle.rino@lejyoouth.org

Lake Merced. 3rd Saturdays, 10am to noon. Contact Joe Grey joegrey@sfgov.org

Linda Mar State Beach 4th Sundays,10am to noon. Contact 650-451-1130 or 94116bc@gmail.com.

Marin Headlands Native Plant Nursery. Wednesday, 1 to 4 pm & Saturday, 9am to noon. Contact 415-332-5193 or AShor@parksconservancy.org.

McLaren Park. 2nd Saturdays of even months, 10am to noon. Contact Joe.Grey@sfgov.org or 415-831-6328.

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

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

Mt. Sutro. 1st Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm Contact Craig Dawson: craig@sutrostewards.org

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

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

San Bruno Mountain. Tuesdays, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm: Earthcare Wetlands Project; Wednesdays, 10am to 12:30pm: Greenhouse volunteers-Mission Blue Nursery; Saturdays, 10am to 12:30pm: Weed Rangers Stewardship Outing; Saturdays, 10am to noon: Bog Restoration; 4th Fridays & Saturdays, 9am to noon: South San Francisco Weed Rangers www.mountainwatch.org, 415-467-6631.

SF Recreation & Parks Department. Natural Areas Program. Joe.Grey@sfgov.org or 415-831-6328.

San Pedro Valley County Park, Pacifica. 3rd Saturdays, 9am. Contact Carolyn Pankow 650-355-7466.

Save the Bay. Tidal marsh habitats. Saturdays, 9 am to noon. Native Plant Nursery work on the first two Wednesdays of the month. Contact Casey Ogden 510-452-6850 cogden@saveSFbay.org, or www.saveSFbay.org/volunteer.

Shields/Orizaba Rocky Outcrop. Contact Paul Koski at pkoski7@netscape.net.

Starr-King Open Space. Serpentine grassland on Potrero Hill. 2nd Saturdays, 9:30 am to noon. Contact Tom tphlip@yahoo.com.

Tennessee Valley Nursery and Stewards. Every Tuesday, 10am to noon & 1 to 4pm. Contact 415-289-1860 or lponzini@parksconservancy.org

UCSF Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve. 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 9am to 12:30pm. Contact Craig@sutrostewards.org or 415-665-1077.

White-Crowned Sparrow 3rd Saturdays, 9am - noon Contact sfrpd.volunteerprogram@sfgov.org

RARITIES *(continued)*

A.n. var. *virgatus*, inhabits sandy soils on coastal bluffs. It has been collected from Santa Barbara, San Mateo, Alameda, San Francisco, Marin, and Mendocino counties. It is not included on the CNPS *Inventory*. In previous treatments, San Francisco rattleweed is referred to as *A. franciscanus, A. crotalariae,* and *A. menziesii* ssp. *virgatus*. San Francisco is the type locality for this taxon and it was recorded at the Presidio, Point Lobos, Lone Mountain, Ocean View, and Lake Merced. The only location where this variety is extant is at Fort Funston. Caretakers Ingrid Cabada and Sharon Kato report that four patches of San Francisco rattleweed are hanging on there, barely, but are on the verge of losing out to erosion and competition.

Like so many of our indigenous psammophytes (plants that thrive on shifting sands), both varieties of Nuttall's milkvetch are highly threatened with extirpation in San Francisco due to loss of habitat and continuous, intense pressure from erosion and foot traffic. And, like many of the other sand-loving plants, both varieties are candidates for inclusion on our chapter's list of locally significant plants (due out soon…hopefully), as is our third member of the genus, Gambel's dwarf locoweed. Keep a lookout for the rare locoweeds of San Francisco, and if you find any, let us know. But please, tread lightly!

Literature Cited

Abrams, L.R. 1923-1960. *Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States, Washington, Oregon and California*. Vol. 4 by R. Ferris. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. 4 vols.

Kartesz, J.T., The Biota of North America Program (BONAP). 2015. North American Plant Atlas. (http://bonap.net/napa). Chapel Hill, N.C. [maps generated from Kartesz, J.T. 2015. Floristic Synthesis of North America, Version 1.0. Biota of North America Program (BONAP). (in press)]. Available online at http://bonap.org/2015_SpecialtyMaps/Most%20Number%20of%20Native%20Species/Native%20Species%20per%20Genus.html#Graph

Howell, J.T., P.H. Raven, and P. Rubtzoff. 1958. *A Flora of San Francisco, California*. Univ. of San Francisco. 157 pp. Available online at http://digitalcollections.usfca.edu/cdm/ref/collection/p15129coll11/id/285

New Mexico State University. 2010. *A Guide to the Common Locoweeds and Milkvetches of New Mexico.* Circular 557. Available on line at http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_circulars/CR-557.pdf

CHAPTER NEWS

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

Will a Spring Garden Tour Happen in 2016?
The CNPS–YB Chapter's Native Plant Garden Tour was on hiatus this Spring. We hope for the return of the tour next year *but volunteers are needed*. If you would like to offer help with next year's tour, you can contact Susan Floore at 415.285.4692 or sfloore@att.net.

MOUNTAIN JOURNAL *(continued)*

mounds can reach a foot or more high and two to three feet wide. On active days there are hundreds of workers swarming the top of the mound and other workers carrying more material across a trail and up a rocky face to the mound. Many times these sticks are 4-5 times longer than the ant, yet they struggle with the ascending terrain and finally make it home with their prize. The Yellow-spotted Millipede is a gorgeous specimen about 3 centimeters long with a shiny bluish-black back and each segment (about 18) has a yellow spot near each leg. I mention them because they will be roaming the trails very soon and you just might see one or more.

The vagaries of climate change have played out in many forms in many minds for many years. Living on the San Bruno Mountains for 38 years has given me a perspective of what has been occurring the past several years. The four-year drought has steeled our thinking about conservation, but what about the health of our native plants and the creatures, specifically the three endangered butterflies, that they feed and nurture? The marine influence and particularly fog are crucial to the presence and survival of many plants here. Fog cools and moisturizes much of the mountain in the summer months and its presence has not fluctuated much in the years since I moved here. What has changed dramatically in the past three winters is the stubborn high pressure cell that refuses to move south thereby blocking the door to Pacific storms. What has not been acknowledged is the effect of the warm winter days and nights. Will this condition cause earlier blooming and will our host-specific endangered butterflies adjust to this condition? Spring 2014 was an early year for stonecrop blooms but the San Bruno Elfin adults also emerged earlier and their larvae feasted on the flowers before they dried and died. Was this coincidence, luck or part of the plan? Time will tell.

See you on the mountain….

"Nature never blunders; when she makes a fool she means it."—Josh Billings

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

OFFICERS & CONTACTS

President
Ellen Edelson 415-531-2140
e.edelson@sbcglobal.net

Vice President
Linda Shaffer 415-206-1428
ljshaffer1@comcast.net

Treasurer
Adrian Stroganoff 650-359-1642
adrianstroganoff@sbcglobal.net

Secretary
Roz Kutler 650-201-6285
rozkutler@gmail.com

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

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

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

Education Coordinator
Position vacant

Field Trips Chair
Gail Wechsler
wechslerifolia@gmail.com

Garden Tour Co-Coordinators
Positions vacant

Hospitality Coordinators
Casey and Karla Dos Santos Allen
casey@sflandscapes.com

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

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

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

Membership Chair
George Suter 415-665-1185
geosuter@prodigy.net

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

Outreach Coordinator
Position vacant

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

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

Plant Sale Coordinator
Ellen Edelson 415-531-2140
e.edelson@sbcglobal.net

Posters and Book Sales Chair
Ludmila Stroganoff 650-359-1642
milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net

Presidio Chair
Peter Brastow
brastow@natureinthecity.org

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

Programs Co-Chair
Ludmila Stroganoff 650-359-1642
milastroganoff@sbcglobal.net

Publicity
Rachel Kesel

Rare Plants Co-Chair
Peter Brastow
brastow@natureinthecity.org

Rare Plants Co-Chair
Michael Wood 925-899-1282
mike@wood-biological.com

Rare Plants Chair San Mateo County
David Nelson 415-925-0501
nelsondl@pacbell.net

San Bruno Mountain Chair
Doug Allshouse 415-584-5114
dougsr228@comcast.net

Webmaster
Jean-Claude Breach
jcbreach@yahoo.com

JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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

_____Yes, I'd like to join.

Affiliation: **Yerba Buena Chapter**

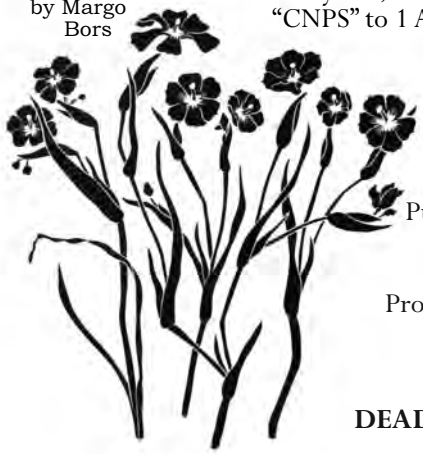
Membership Category

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

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

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

Sisyrinchium bellum
blue eyed grass
by Margo Bors



Dues above the $12 for publications are tax deductible. You will receive this newsletter, the informative triannual journal *Fremontia*, and a statewide news bulletin. If you would like to receive only this newsletter, the price of a subscription is $5 per year, $9 for two years, or $12 for three years. Send a check made out to "CNPS" to 1 Alviso Court, Pacifica, CA 94044-4239.

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

YERBA BUENA NEWS
Volume 29, number 2 (June 2015)
Published quarterly by the Yerba Buena Chapter
California Native Plant Society
Design & Production – Kipp McMichael
Proofreading – Linda Shaffer and Sara Greenwald
Masthead design – Barry Deutsch
Chapter logo – Nancy Baron

DEADLINES FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER
Articles & general copy – July 25
Time-dependent material – August 5
Late-breaking news – By arrangement

Visit: www.cnps-yerbabuena.org

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

YERBA BUENA NEWS

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

Printed on recycled paper

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