Monday, October 11, Marin Chapter Meeting

“Winged Visitors in Your Garden Sanctuary” by guest speaker Charlotte Torgovitsky

Now that you’re gardening organically, and have planted California native plants for their habitat value, you have probably noticed increased activity in your garden sanctuary. Perhaps you would like to know more about all those creatures in your garden!

Did you know that it’s easy to distinguish male from female in some butterfly species, and that some butterflies can emerge from the chrysalis years after going into the pupal stage? You’ll learn how birds divide habitat resources by using different foraging strategies, and why spiders play an important role in the life cycle of certain birds.

We’ll take a “slide show tour” of beautiful habitat gardens, discuss what makes some plants “habitat heroes,” and learn unique and identifying features of the birds and butterflies most likely to be seen in your garden sanctuary. You’ll learn interesting facts about each species, their life cycles, and the important associations these creatures have developed with the native plants of California. Detailed handouts will be provided. A selection of the best habitat plants will be offered for sale to members.

Charlotte Torgovitsky is a naturalist, longtime organic gardener, garden writer, and educator. Charlotte currently teaches classes on Bay-Friendly Gardening and Home Composting through the local community college. As Garden Education Manager at the Marin Art and Garden Center from 2001 to 2009, she created numerous California native gardens, a native plant nursery, and composting facilities.

Monday, November 8, Marin Chapter Meeting

“A Diversity of Lichens” by guest speaker Stephen Sharnoff

November’s presentation will consist of a short, illustrated introduction to lichen biology and natural history, followed by a series of images that show the diversity and beauty of lichens. The emphasis will be on California species, but will include examples from other parts of North America.

Stephen Sharnoff grew up in Berkeley and attended the University of Chicago and UC Berkeley. He has pursued various photography projects while working as a carpenter and building contractor in the Berkeley area for about 40 years. He and his late wife Sylvia Sharnoff did the photographic fieldwork for Lichens of North America, with a text by Irwin Brodo, published by Yale University Press in 2001. The volume includes over 900 color photographs, and was described as "...the twenty-first-century lichen equivalent of Audubon’s Birds of America" by Thomas E. Lovejoy of the Smithsonian Institution. A new photographic guide to the wildflowers of the Sierra Nevada in collaboration with Joanna Clines of the USDA Forest Service is forthcoming from University...
of California Press. Sharnoff’s photographs have been used in numerous magazines, books, and exhibits, most recently at the Townsend Center for the Humanities, UC Berkeley. The National Geographic Image Collection and Getty Images represent him as a stock photographer.

October and November meetings:

5:45 p.m. Join friends and meet our speaker for a no-host dinner at Gira Polli of Mill Valley, 590 East Blithedale Ave. at Camino Alto. Please call Gerd or Kristin Jakob at (415) 388-1844 at least one day ahead to be assured of a seat with our group.

7:30 p.m. Meet at the Redwoods retirement home, 40 Camino Alto, Mill Valley. Books, posters, and cards will be for sale before as well as after the meeting. Lecture starts at 8 p.m.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Fall is here, the white berries of snowberry (Symphoricarpus albus) are out, poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum) is turning red, and the yellow hayfield tar-weed (Hemizonia congesta) is still in bloom!! Enjoy the fall color on some of our outings planned for this fall.

Fall is election time for CNPS. Candidates running for the board will be announced during our Membership meeting on November 8. You can still nominate yourself or another member! Call Wilma Follette at (415) 332-4048 if you are interested.

We reported in our last newsletter that a California Native Plant week was under consideration by the Legislature. I am happy to announce that it has passed! The third week of April is now officially Native Plant Week in our state. Watch for spring activities to celebrate the week! Our local assemblyman, Jared Huffman, was a co-author of the bill to create the Native Plant Week. Send your thanks to Jared by calling (415) 479-4920 or by emailing his staff member at valerie.cartwright@asm.ca.gov.

Stacey Pogorzelski, Acting President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The following members have joined since May: Jack Spears, Chris Havel, Katherine Mitchell, Anne Rogers, Lois Stevens, Cheryl Vann.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 10/11, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Marin Chapter Meeting: Charlotte Torgovitsky on “Winged Visitors in Your Garden Sanctuary”

Thursday 10/14, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Backyard Nursery Network Propagation Session

Saturday 10/16, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. & Sunday 10/17, 12–3 p.m.
East Bay Chapter Native Plant Fair

Sunday 10/17, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Chapter Field Trip: Bald Hill

Sunday 10/24, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Chapter Field Trip: Trees of Gerstle Park, San Rafael

Sunday 10/31, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Chapter Field Trip: Madrone Trail

Tuesday 11/2, 7 p.m.
Marin Chapter Board Meeting at Marin Recycling

Sunday 11/7, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Chapter Field Trip: Rock Spring to West Point Inn

Monday 11/8, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Marin Chapter Meeting: Stephen Sharnoff on “A Diversity of Lichens”

Sunday 11/12, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Chapter Field Trip: White Hill

Sunday 11/28, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Chapter Field Trip: Loma Alta

Sunday 12/6, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Chapter Field Trip: Tomales Bay Mushrooming

EAST BAY CHAPTER NATIVE PLANT FAIR

Saturday, October 16, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. & Sunday, October 17, 12–3 p.m.

This year, the Fair includes significant markdowns on the entire book inventory of the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. The chapter will discontinue selling books except for select titles to be offered at its Native Here Nursery and certain public programs. A wide selection of locally native plants, garden art, and photographs from area craftspersons will be also offered. Plant and book inventories are available on the Nursery website.

Location: Native Here Nursery, 101 Gold Course Dr., Tilden Park, Berkeley (across the street from the Tilden Golf Course exit). For more information, visit www.ebcnps.org.
FAVORITE CAMPING GROUNDS
by Charlotte Torgovitsky

Lake Pillsbury, a reservoir on the Eel River at about 1,800 feet in Mendocino National Forest, is one of my favorite camping spots. This is the place that first inspired me to learn more about California’s native flora. I was in awe of the silvery halo surrounding the mountain mahogany; the long, supple needles, massive cones, and huge seeds of the ghost pines; and the meadows full of milkweeds and butterflies!

Tule Elk were introduced to the lake basin about six or seven years ago; over the last two summers, crews have been clearing out areas of dense scrubby brush to improve the habitat for them. The herd has prospered. Towards the end of each summer, which is also the beginning of the mating season, the nightly bugling contests are spectacular!

I like to explore the lake basin on foot or on bicycle, binoculars, hand lens, and notebook in my pack. After a long, hot hike, the lake is perfect for swimming. Lots of people have cabins in the area, including friends of ours who permit me to gather seeds and fruits on their land.

Thickets of mountain mahogany, manzanita, redbud, and coffeeberry grow at the foot of pines and oaks. Thesc poison oak at this elevation, too, and an interesting member of the sumac family: Rhus trilobata. This shrub resembles poison oak with leaflets in threes, but the growth habit is more uniform. The plant spreads by suckering, creating thickets that are about three to five feet tall; by mid-summer, flat red drupes have matured, and they are quite unlike the fruits of poison oak.

The native peoples had lots of uses for this plant, and early settlers had several names for the shrub; squaw-bush, skunkbush, or sourberry. The native peoples managed these plants by cutting back or burning the shrubs to induce the growth of long, straight canes from the epicormic buds on the crown, and from the adventitious buds on the wandering lateral roots. About 1,200 canes, each about four feet long, were needed to create a burden basket; canes were also used to make seed-beaters.

I like to pick the drupes and suck on them while hiking; they have a sweet/sour taste. On the hottest days the drupes exude a really sticky, sweet white substance. This makes them messier to pick, but also adds more flavor to a drink, which is really easy to make. Simply crush a quantity of the drupes, add water, and let it sit a little while, then drain off the drink. It’s fizzy and refreshing, and making it also cleans some seeds for me.

In many species where the seed is encased in a fleshy fruit, the flesh will inhibit germination. It has to be removed, and the seed coat scarified to promote germination of the seed. This happens naturally when an animal eats the fruit and the seeds pass through the digestive tract; the animal also frequently deposits the seed some distance away from the parent plant. I will mimic this process by soaking the cleaned seed in strong, black coffee before sowing it.

But, as I’m collecting the fruits, others are collecting on me; most often Torilis arvensis, hedge parsley. It’s rare that I hate a plant, but this one I do! I’d like to rename it—Torilis terribilis, T. horribilis, or perhaps T. nuisans-esina. It’s native to Europe and arrived on the East Coast in the ballast of boats way back with the first settlers. The fruits are equipped with bristles that attach to everything, and in that manner it has successfully extended its range all the way across the American continent.

I imagine that this plant got to the forest on grazing animals, and the more I got to know about the plant life at Lake Pillsbury, the more I realized that many were not California natives, but naturalized here from other parts of the world. Plants have evolved amazing and diverse ways of moving themselves all over the globe!

Note: Seed collection on public lands is not permitted without permission of the land manager, and is not sanctioned by the California Native Plant Society.

WITH APPRECIATION

Thanks to the following members who worked to mail out the September 2010 newsletter!

• Thelma Arlon • Gerd Jakob
• Carol Weiske • Paul Kryloff
• Kristin Jakob

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE!

You can find a color PDF edition of this newsletter on the Marin chapter website by visiting www.marin.edu/cnps/newsletters.html.

GET YOUR COPY OF THE REVISED MARIN FLORA!

Now available: the long-awaited, 2007 revised edition of John Thomas Howell’s classic Marin Flora (originally published in 1949). Copies of the book are available at chapter meetings and most field trips. You can also print out an order form at the chapter website (www.marin.edu/cnps).

Prices:

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(20% off)
**OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2010 NATIVE PLANT WALKS**

**Marin Chapter Field Trip News and Policies**

Make some seedy pals with the Marin chapter of the California Native Plant Society. All hikes are free and open to the public, so please invite your friends. Beginning plant enthusiasts welcome on all hikes.

Come prepared for any type of weather or conditions, dress in layers, have non-slip footwear, and bring rain/wind protection just in case. Although it may be sunny and warm when you leave home, the weather could be cold and foggy when we reach our destination. Bring lunch and plenty of water, binoculars and/or hand lenses, and your favorite field guides. Contact Brad Kelley, Field Trip Coordinator, at fieldtrips@bradkelley.org, for trip requests or suggestions. Contact hike Leaders with any questions about individual hikes.

**Field Trip Plant Lists**

Plant lists compiled by Marin CNPS for many Marin localities are available on the Marin Chapter CNPS website at http://www.marin.edu/cnps.

**Bald Hill**

**Sunday, October 17, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

As the fog clears away and the skies become a darker blue, fall is the best time for big views, so Dabney starts a series of peak-bagging hikes with Bald Hill. As we climb through the wooded canyons of Deer Park to the Yolanda trail, we’ll identify trees, shrubs, acorns, and berries, and maybe see a raptor or two as they migrate through Marin. At about four miles with 1000’ elevation gain, this hike is especially suitable for beginning plant enthusiasts. Meet at Deer Park at the end of Porteus Rd. in Fairfax.

Leader: Dabney Smith—(415) 320-9229.

**Trees of Gerstle Park, San Rafael**

**Sunday, October 24, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Gerstle Park is a 3.5-acre park in San Rafael. It was an estate built by Louis Gerstle in the late 1800s. In the 1950s, the property was acquired by the City of San Rafael. We’ll see exotic trees such as a grouping of coral trees (Erythrina), Araucaria bidwillii, and a Camperdown elm, as well as several large California tree species. Afterwards, we’ll walk up into the open space above the park to see one of the only naturalized Pokeweed (Phytolacca) plants in Marin. If time permits, we’ll then drive to Dominican University to see a variety of other notable trees. Meet above the steps at the main entrance on San Rafael Ave. between Marin St. and Clark St.

Leader: Daniel Kushner—dskushner@gmail.com, (415) 457-1211.

**Madrone Trail**

**Sunday, October 31, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Our Halloween treat this year is a walk through a madrone forest. At this time of year, the thin bark peels off in sheets, some of the leaves turn color and fall, and the berries ripen to what Howell calls “etched carnelian globes.” We’ll walk along Pumpkin Ridge, down the Madrone trail, and return via Fish Gulch (with trail names like this, how can you resist?) This hike is especially suitable for beginning plant enthusiasts. Meet at the Lagunitas Lake parking lot. Parking fee.

Leader: Dabney Smith—(415) 320-9229.

**Rock Spring to West Point Inn**

**Sunday, November 7, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Mt. Tam is beautiful in the fall, and this trip on the south side will have stunning views of the Marin Headlands, the Golden Gate, the bay, and the ocean. The hike from the Rock Spring parking lot, past Forbes Bench and the Mountain Theater, and out to the historic West Point Inn has what David Herlocker often calls “million dollar views.” We will return the same way.

In November, the weather should be perfect and fog-free. The trail is relatively flat, yet traverses a variety of different habitats, including mixed coniferous redwood/Douglas fir/California nutmeg forests, patches of grassland, serpentine outcrops, and chaparral. We’ll meet at the Rock Spring parking lot on Mt. Tam, located at the intersection of Ridgcrest and Pantoll Roads, approximately one mile uphill from the Pantoll Ranger Station, which is located on Panoramic Hwy. The road uphill to Rock Spring is directly across the road from the Ranger Station. No charge to park at Rock Spring.

Leader: Eva Buxton—(415) 435-2745, evabuxton@sbcglobal.net.

**White Hill**

**Sunday, November 21, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

As the second in Dabney’s peak-bagging series of field trips, the trail to the top presents a variety of plant habitats and views. If we’ve had some rain, the dust of summer will have settled and the mushrooms will be out in force as we walk through oak/madrone woodlands then through the Douglas firs of the Porcupine Trail. The top gives us interesting plants, views of Mt. Tam, and a mysterious atomic bomb-era plane crash site. At about five miles and 1000’ elevation gain, this hike is especially suitable for beginning plant enthusiasts. Meet at the parking area on the east side of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. just below the “Brown Bridge” about two miles west of downtown Fairfax.

Leader: Dabney Smith—(415) 320-9229.

Field trip information continued on page 5
Loma Alta

**Sunday, November 28, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Loma Alta is Spanish for “tall hill,” and it provides the views expected of the fourth tallest peak in Marin. The third of Dabney’s peak-bagging field trips will take us along a short section of the original route of the historic North Pacific Railroad, and then we climb about two miles with an altitude gain of 1000’. Along the way we’ll see the effects of cattle grazing dating back to the Mexican ranchos. The geology that formed this and surrounding Marin peaks will be visible as we climb. This hike is especially suitable for beginning plant enthusiasts. Meet at the parking area on the east side of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. just below the “Brown Bridge” about two miles west of downtown Fairfax.

**Leader:** Dabney Smith—(415) 320-9229.

Tomales Bay Mushrooming

**Sunday, December 26, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Walk off some of that holiday stuffing with us at one of the best trails around. A little rain in the fall will turn this into a great mushroom hike with a fine lunch spot where we can eat our carrot and celery sticks on a pebbly beach. Meet at the Jepson Trailhead parking lot about one quarter mile on Pierce Point Rd. before the main entrance to Tomales Bay State Park.

**Leader:** Brad Kelley—fieldtrips@bradkelley.org.

**OPEN SPACE DISTRICT HIKES**

For information, visit the Marin County Open Space District website at http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/PK/Main/mcosd/os_walks.asp or contact David Herlocker at (415) 499-3647.

**MARIN BOTANY COURSE**

For all those who want to get to know the plants of Marin just a little better, Paul da Silva (Marin CNPS Education Chair) will be teaching a course called Field Botany of Marin beginning Wednesday, January 26th at the College of Marin (Kentfield campus). The course includes introductions to the principal communities, families, and genera of Marin County plants. Laboratory sessions using the new Marin Flora for identification and field trips to significant areas of floral diversity will be highlights of the course.

To register, go to the college website at www.marin.edu. For more information, contact Paul at Paul.daSilva@marin.edu.

*Newsletter editor’s note: I took this course when it was offered two years ago, and learned so much! I highly recommend it.*

**BOARD NEWS**

**Marin Chapter Board Elections for 2011**

The board elections will take place at the start of the November 8 membership meeting at the Redwoods in Mill Valley. Wilma Follette, nominating committee chair, is pleased to announce that the following current officers will run again this year:

- President: Stacey Pogorzelski
- Vice President: Jolie Egert
- Treasurer: Daniel Kushner
- Recording Secretary: Amelia Ryan

The following people are running as new Members-at-Large:

- Sandy Ross
- Carissa Brands

We still have four openings for Members-at-Large, and any CNPS member in good standing can nominate him- or herself, or another member, with their permission, at the November 14 meeting.

In addition to these elected offices, the membership committee is looking for someone to be the liaison with the state membership office, report to the board changes in membership numbers, and strategize ways to increase membership. Please contact Stacey Pogorzelski at (415) 789-0475 or spilogales@hotmail.com for more information.

**Book Transportation Still Needed**

Many thanks to Doyleen McMurtry, who is helping Daniel Kushner with book sales at our meetings! We could still use some help transporting the books between the membership meetings and where they are housed in Mill Valley. Please contact Kristin Jakob at (415) 388-1844 if you are able to help.

**CALIFORNIA GARDENS:**

**Beauty and Sustainability With Native Plants**

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter will organize its first symposium on native plant gardening and design on Sat, Feb 19, 2011 at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. Talks by California’s top horticulturists and designers:

- Bart O’Brien, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
- Bernard Trainor, Bernard Trainor & Associates
- David Fross, Native Sons Nursery
- Glenn Keator, author and instructor
- Judith Lowry, Larner Seeds
- Nevin Smith, Suncrest Nurseries
- Paul Kephart, Rana Creek

For more information, visit www.cnps-scv.org, email-symposium@cnps-svc.org, or call (650) 260-3450.
THE DYC, “CURSE OF THE GOLDEN COMPOSITAE”?
Text and photos by Doreen Smith

Fall is the season when many plants of the DYC, darned yellow-flowered Compositae/Asteraceae, are abundant and, of course, they are often difficult to key out. This month’s featured species, spikeweeds, are native to central California and now can be seen in bloom by the roadsides in parts of northern Marin County. To add to the “botanical fun,” name changes have recently been put forward for several genera of our Asteraceae including this segregate from Hemizonia, “Centromadia”.

The spikeweeds we have in Marin are Centromadia pungens and C. fitchii. The former has smaller flower-heads and is less hirsute than the latter. Both of these plants can be found by roadsides and at the sites of earlier major construction projects. The pictures were taken near Marinwood, north of San Rafael.

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*Board contact information has been removed from the online version of this newsletter.*
CNPS MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS

The mission of California Native Plant Society is to conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. Membership is open to everyone.

Join CNPS Now!

Membership includes informative publications, field trips, monthly programs, and discounts on books and posters. Also included are Fremontia (a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants), the Bulletin (a quarterly statewide report of activities and schedules), and the chapter newsletter. Please call the membership chairperson, Ashley Ratcliffe, for more information.

Join or Renew Online

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


Join or Renew by Mail

Yes! I wish to affiliate with the Marin Chapter.

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Membership Category:

☐ Mariposa Lily $1,500
☐ Benefactor $600
☐ Patron $300
☐ Plant Lover $100
☐ Family, Group, or Library $75
☐ Individual $45
☐ Student or Limited Income $25

Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
Telephone ____________________________________________
Email ____________________________________________

Please mail application and check payable to CNPS to:
California Native Plant Society
2707 K St., Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

The IRS considers dues in excess of $12.00 per year and all gifts to CNPS Tax Deductible.

Newsletter Only

If you wish to receive only the newsletter, please make a $10 check payable to CNPS Marin and mail to: Daniel Kushner, 201 Ross St., San Rafael, CA 94901.

☐ Newsletter Subscription only $10

Tax-Deductible Contributions

Tax-deductible contributions to the Marin Chapter are always welcome, either as memorial or honorarium donations or regular contributions. You may designate your contribution for a specific purpose of your choice. Unless otherwise designated, all contributions will be placed in the general fund, which will enable the Chapter to extend our efforts to plant conservation and education. Our regular, ongoing program and operating expenses are largely covered by our plant sales and book and poster sales.

A contribution of $_______ is made in honor of:

_____________________________________________

Contribution designated for:

_____________________________________________

From:
Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
Telephone ____________________________________________
Email ____________________________________________

Please send acknowledgement to:
Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
Telephone ____________________________________________
Email ____________________________________________

Mail check payable to CNPS to: Daniel Kushner, 201 Ross St., San Rafael, CA 94901.

CNPS Contact Information

Phone (916) 447-2677 (state)
Fax (916) 447-2727 (state)
Email cnps@cnps.org (state)
Web www.marin.edu/cnps (Marin chapter)
www.cnps.org (state) The state CNPS site is a resource for a wealth of materials, including promotional materials such as banners and posters.
CALLING ALL PROPAGATORS—AGAIN!
by Renee Fittinghoff

We're excited by the enthusiastic response to the Backyard Nursery Network propagation session on September 16. However, more people wanted to participate than Charlotte could comfortably handle. Fortunately, Charlotte will be conducting another workshop on Thursday, October 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Backyard Nursery Network strives to help CNPS members learn to propagate retail-quality plants for our spring chapter plant sale. During this session, Charlotte will show participants how to set up a propagation area for native plants, sow and clean seeds, and make and pot up cuttings. From a list of plants needed for the plant sale, you can make a selection appropriate for propagating in your area. Bring a bag lunch. Tea and treats will be provided!

Again the group will be limited to 12, so you need to let Renee know if you would like to attend. There will be additional CNPS propagation events in various members' gardens later in the year, so if you can't make it on October 14, you can still participate! If you'd like to be included in the Gardening with Natives emailings notifying you of these events, send your email address to Renee at reneef94941@gmail.com.

PLANT COMMUNITIES OF MARIN COUNTY

Do you want to learn more about the diverse plant communities of this special county?

*Plant Communities of Marin County*, written by David Shuford and Irene C. Timossi and illustrated with exquisite black and white photographs of the communities and their member species, is an excellent resource. Send your check payable to **CNPS** for $11 per copy (shipping, handling, and tax included) to:

Phyllis Faber
212 Del Casa Dr.
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Enclosed is $_____. Please send me_______ copies of *Plant Communities of Marin County*.

Name __________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
Telephone ________________________________________