



What *SNOO* in the Park?

Golden Gate Weed Watchers Invasive Species Early Detection Significant **N**ew **O**bservations and **O**ccurrences March 2008

Importance of Early Detection of Invasive Species

Aggressive non-native plants threaten to change the landscape of our national parks. These plants can alter entire ecosystems, reducing habitat for the unique plants and animals of the San Francisco Bay Area in the very places set aside to protect them. Often, by the time a plant is noticed as a problem it has spread throughout an area. The Weed Watchers help patrol the park for some of the newest invaders—and find them when they can still be prevented from becoming a permanent part of the landscape.

March began another year of weed watching, and welcomed three new volunteers to the program at a kick-off training on the 6th in the **Presidio**. In addition to learning the top 12 priority weeds to watch, participants encountered several on their short hike—including a previously unknown patch of **periwinkle** east of the Log Cabin. Other species of note included **English holly** (*Ilex aquifolium*) and a couple patches of **capeweed** (*Arctotheca calendula*).

The following Thursday, a brief training hike rambled through **Subwatershed 07-02** from **Fort Cronkhite** Building 1063, past the Native Plant Nursery, to Building T1111, and back along Bunker Road. The patch of **periwinkle** by the nursery steps was finally mapped, as were the few new **thoroughwort** (*Ageratina adenophora*) plants in the ditch by T1111.

On the First Day of Spring, March 20th, Weed Watchers preceded a big day of Big Year events at Muir Woods with a hike up the **Subwatershed 12-3** portion of the **Dipsea Trail** from Muir Woods Road to the Deer Park Fire Road. While no priority invaders were seen, someone had dropped **periwinkle** flowers along the trail. Andrea was concerned about the reproductive **English ivy** (*Hedera helix*) and **bird cherry** (*Prunus avium*) see near the top of the rise, as well as the **ornamental plum** (*Prunus cerasifera*) spreading in the Monument and seen along the trails.

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