



## What *SNOO* in the Park?

### Golden Gate Weed Watchers Invasive Species Early Detection Significant **N**ew **O**bservations and **O**ccurrences April 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.

April started off with the addition of an emergency hire to help with the Weed Watcher program for both April and May. This allowed for more time to be spent in the field surveying, as well as time spent recruiting new volunteers and interns.

April 3<sup>rd</sup> welcomed one new volunteer along with her two children at a training at **Fort Cronkhite**. They were introduced to the top 12 priority species and then led on a hike along the roads where they were able to get up-close identification and mapping experience with **capeweed** (*Arctotheca calendula*) and several patches of **periwinkle** (*Vinca major*).

The Weed Watchers joined forces with the Habitat Restoration Team on several IPP (Invasive Plant Patrol) hikes this month. Together they surveyed a loop within **Subwatersheds 11-8 and 13-6** on April 2 going down Tennessee Valley Trail, up the Haypress Camp Trail to Coyote Ridge, and then going cross country down to the Miwok Trail. Several patches of **Scotch broom** (*Cytisus scoparius*), **Portuguese broom** (*Cytisus striatus*), and **licorice plant** (*Helichrysum petiolare*) were not only mapped but also treated. A small patch of **capeweed** along **Tennessee Valley Trail** was mapped and put into the GeoWeed database for the first time.

On April 9th IPP lead a hike in **Subwatershed 7-3** along **Rodeo Valley Trail**. Not much ground was covered, but some important mapping of **capeweed** and **thoroughwort** (*Ageratina adenophora*) and removal of **French broom** and **thoroughwort** took place.

Data was also collected for one isolated **acacia** (*Acacia longifolia*) not previously on the map.

Weed Watchers joined IPP once again on April 30 to survey **Subwatersheds 13-1 and 13-7**. Most effort was concentrated on mapping **French broom** and **cotoneaster** patches while IPP worked on removing the plants. A small patch of **English holly** (*Ilex aquifolium*) was also discovered under a large stand of eucalyptus and mapped.

The **Point Bonita** area in the Headlands was surveyed over several days of hiking throughout **Subwatersheds 6-1, 1-1, and 7-5**. While many invasive plants were found and mapped, **periwinkle** was the only Priority 1 species seen. Two large patches were mapped near the trailhead to the Point Bonita Lighthouse.

Want more information? Contact Jennifer Jordan, at 415-331-5023 or [Jenn\\_Jordan@nps.gov](mailto:Jenn_Jordan@nps.gov)

## **Weed Watchers May 2008 Schedule**

### **Thursday, May 15: Wolfback Ridge and Rodeo Valley, Marin Headlands**

Meet at Morning Sun Trailhead. 10:00- 2:00

Enjoy the spectacular views of the bay as we hike up Morning Sun Trailhead to Wolfback Ridge. Then we will loop around from the Bobcat Trail to Rodeo Valley Trail via the cutoff while looking for priority species such as licorice plant and jubata grass.

Directions: From San Francisco: Go **north** on highway 101, exit on to Monte Mar Dr toward Spencer Ave, Follow Monte Mar Dr to 1<sup>st</sup> left -Turn left to go under highway  
[http://maps.google.com/maps?q= 37.852933,-122.493417](http://maps.google.com/maps?q=37.852933,-122.493417)

### **Thursday, May 22: Sweeney Ridge, San Bruno**

Meet at the Sneath Road entrance to GGNRA 10:00 – 3:00

Hike along Sweeney Ridge and Baquiano trail while looking for oxeye daisy and other weeds in the ridge top coastal scrub.

Directions: From San Francisco: Go **south** on 280, take the Sneath Ln exit, Take a right on Sneath Lane, continue until the end of the road.

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=37.619429,-122.4544161>

### **Thursday, May 29: Lower Tennessee Valley Trail**

Meet at the Tennessee Valley Road Parking Lot, 10:00-2:00

We will hike the trails from the Tennessee Valley nursery heading west, surveying for invasive plants. Hopefully we will make it all the way to Tennessee Cove, protecting the beautiful native coastal scrub from new invaders along the way.

Directions: From Highway 101 in Marin County, take the Highway 1/Shoreline Highway exit. After about 0.5 mile, turn left onto Tennessee Valley Road. Go about 1.5 miles to the parking lot at the end of the road.

**Make sure to bring:** Lunch, plenty of water, Weed Watching supplies: binoculars, pen/pencils, colored marker, weed identification cards, field notebook and/or blank paper

**Can't make one of the hikes?** Find out how you can adopt a corner of the park and Weed Watch on your own time. All it takes is a willingness to learn to identify a few new weeds and a commitment to visit your adopted trail regularly over a six month period. It's a great way to learn in depth about a section of the park and make a difference at the same time.