



## What *SNOO* in the Park?

---

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

**May** turned out to be a productive month for the Weed Watcher Program. Many miles of trails were surveyed from Point Reyes all the way down to Sweeney Ridge.

To start the month off, a training was held at the **Presidio** on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to the GGNRA Big Year Program, one new volunteer attended and was introduced to the top 12 priority species in the classroom. He then got some hands-on experience identifying **capeweed** (*Arctotheca calendula*), **periwinkle** (*Vinca major*), and **English holly** (*Ilex aquifolium*) along the sidewalks while learning how to map infestations and record data.

The Weed Watchers joined forces with the Habitat Restoration Team on May 7<sup>th</sup> to survey **Subwatershed 16-1** along Dipsea Trail. A large infestation of **oxeye daisy** (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) along with several patches of **licorice plant** (*Helichrysum petiolare*) were mapped for the first time using GeoWeed with the hopes of having volunteers return the following weekend to manually treat these patches.

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Weed Watchers hiked up **Old Springs Trail** starting from the Tennessee Valley stables. Several priority species were found and mapped including **Scotch broom** (*Cytisus scoparius*) and **singleseed hawthorn** (*Crataegus monogyna*) in **Subwatershed 11-9**. **Portuguese broom** (*Cytisus striatus*) was mapped in **Subwatershed 11-10** along with **oxeye daisy**, the flower heads of which were removed by the Weed Watchers.

Luckily the Weed Watchers got out to **Alta Trail along Wolfback Ridge** in time to collect the flowers from two **purple foxglove** (*Digitalis purpurea*) plants that were found on the side of the trail before they had a chance to spread their seeds throughout **Subwatershed 7-10**. These plants were mapped and removed. This survey on May 16<sup>th</sup> also resulted in the mapping of one patch of **Portuguese broom** and one patch of **singleseed hawthorn** in **Subwatershed 7-10**, an individual **Scotch broom** in **Subwatershed 9-3**, and a large patch of **English holly** in **Subwatershed 9-4**.

The Coastal Trail was surveyed from **Muir Beach to Pirates Cove** on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately one patch of **capeweed** was the only List 1 priority species found. A small patch of **oxeye daisy** was also found and mapped just above the trail junction leading to Pirates Cove.

The Weed Watchers traveled to **Sweeney Ridge** on May 22 to survey the Sneath Lane Trail within **Subwatershed 28-1**. Several patches of **tocalote** (*Centaurea melitensis*) scattered along both sides of the trail throughout the survey area were mapped for the first time. Patches of **oxeye daisy** were mapped and treated near the ridge.

Two new volunteers joined the Weed Watchers for a hike in Point Reyes on May 25. The new volunteers helped survey **Bayview Trail** in **Subwatershed 5-5** while learning new plants along the way. Just as the group was about to turn around and head back to the trailhead, a large **purple foxglove** was spotted. The area was searched further, resulting in 46 rosettes and 1 flowering plant being mapped and hand-pulled.

The final hike of the month started from the Tennessee Valley Nursery and followed the **Lower Tennessee Valley Trail** out to Tennessee Cove. Two patches of **periwinkle** were mapped in **Subwatershed 11-4**, one near the nursery and the other associated with a non-native rose bush along the trail. A patch of **capeweed** discovered on a previous hike in **Subwatershed 11-2** was also mapped on the Coastal Trail just west of the junction with Tennessee Valley Trail.

One volunteer also put in some solo time on the trails this month. On various hikes throughout the month, he mapped a large patch of **periwinkle** in **Subwatershed 1-46** of Point Reyes along **Cross Marin Trail**, recorded an occurrence of **periwinkle** along the Coastal Trail at **Lands End**, and mapped **Scotch broom** along **Marincello Trail** in **Subwatershed 13-6**.

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

## **Weed Watchers June 2008 Schedule**

### **Thursday, June 12: Kirby Cove, Marin Headlands**

Meet at Battery Spencer parking lot, 10:00- 2:00

We will hike down to Kirby Cove looking for priority species such as licorice plant, purple foxglove, and jubata grass in an effort to protect mission blue butterfly habitat.

Directions: From San Francisco: Take Hwy 101 north across the Golden Gate Bridge, Take the Alexander Avenue exit and curve left. Turn left at the stop sign and drive under the freeway overpass. From Hwy 101 South, take the 2nd Sausalito exit before the Golden Gate Bridge and turn left at the stop sign. From both directions: Do not get back onto 101, but veer to the right up the steep hill. This is Conzelman Road. The entrance to Kirby Cove will be on your left, a few hundred yards up Conzelman Road. Look for a gravel service road and metal gate, located at the end of the viewing point pullout.

### **Saturday, June 14: Weed Watcher Training**

Presidio Bldg 1216 10:00-1:00

Attend this training to become a volunteer Weed Watcher. We will review identification of priority plant species, as well as techniques for data collection and orienteering. We will start in the classroom, and then move outdoors to search for priority species on an introductory hike.

### **Thursday, June 19: Miwok Trail from Shoreline Hwy (Hwy 1)**

Meet at the Miwok Trailhead, 10:00-2:00

We will hike the trail from Shoreline Highway, surveying for capeweed, periwinkle, and other invasive plants.

Directions: From Highway 101 in Marin County, take the Highway 1/Shoreline Highway exit. Continue to follow Highway 1/Shoreline Highway for about 3.5 miles and you will see the trailhead on the left, about ½ mile past the turn for Panoramic highway. There is parking in the pullout on the left at the trailhead, and also a little further west there is a pullout on the right.

### **Thursday, June 26: Weed Watcher Training**

Marin Headlands, Fort Cronkhite, Building 1050

Attend this training to become a volunteer Weed Watcher. We will review identification of priority plant species, as well as techniques for data collection and orienteering. We will start in the classroom, and then move outdoors to search for priority species on an introductory hike.

### **Saturday, June 28: Old Bunker Road/Coastal Trail**

Meet near Marine Mammal Center, Marin Headlands, 10:00-2:00

Join us for a hike up Old Bunker Road to the Coast Trail. We will hike along this beautiful trail overlooking Rodeo Lagoon as we survey for priority species such as scotch broom, gorse, and oblong spurge.

Directions: From Hwy 101 North, take the 2nd Sausalito exit before the Golden Gate Bridge. Make a right at the off ramp and go under the overpass. From Hwy 101 South take the first exit off the GGBridge onto Alexander Ave. From both directions take the first left at the Marin Headlands sign. Continue through the 5 minute tunnel on Bunker Road. Follow Old Bunker Road towards the Marine Mammal Center (veer right at the fork). We will meet at the end of this road where the trail starts.

This hike is **transit friendly!** You can take public transportation on Saturdays via Golden Gate Transit Route **76**.

**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.