



What ***SNOO*** in the Park?

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

The Weed Watchers really took off in **July with ___ m2 of area within GGNRA and PORE surveyed for priority species.**

CEME was the “star” of surveys in July, with 29 separate occurrences being mapped throughout GGNRA

Many days were spent during the first part of July going on surveys with the three interns in order to train them so that they would be able to perform surveys on their own. On July 2, the Weed Watchers headed out with the intent of surveying portions of the Bobcat trail and the cutoff trail that leads to the Rodeo Valley Trail found in ubwaterhed 8-6

June was quite an exciting month for the Weed Watchers Program. We did not survey as much area as in May, but we managed to recruit and train many great new volunteers who will be very beneficial to our program in the future!

The Weed Watchers Program really got going at our 1st training of the month on June 14th in the **Presidio**. Nine enthusiastic volunteers, including one very bright six year-old, attended a training which included an introduction to the program and identification of our 12 priority species. After the classroom training, we went for a hike to learn mapping and data collection techniques, while collecting points for **capeweed** (*Arctotheca calendula*), **periwinkle** (*Vinca major*), and **English holly** (*Ilex aquifolium*). These volunteers not only picked up surveying for our top 12 plants quickly, but were also interested in learning all of the plants along our hike.

On June, **Subwatershed 13-6** was surveyed by a trained volunteer along with his family. They reported that they found no Priority 1 Species found along the first mile of the **Miwok trail** heading north from **Tennessee Valley**.

The Weed Watchers surveyed the **Miwok trail**, starting from **Shoreline Highway** and hiking south through **Subwatersheds 12-8** and **13-1** on June 19th. Near the trailhead, a patch of **singleseed hawthorn** (*Crataegus monogyna*) was mapped and a small patch of **oxeye daisy** (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) was mapped and treated. One small infestation of **licorice plant** (*Helichrysum petiolare*) was mapped near a social trail in **12-8**, located upslope from several larger patches previously mapped in **Subwatershed 13-1**. Two patches of **Scotch broom** (*Cytisus scoparius*) were also mapped along this same social trail in **Subwatershed 12-8**.

June 23rd was another big day for the Weed Watchers. Three interns began working with the program and will continue through the summer working 32 hours per week on early detection. Their first week mainly consisted of training, with June 26th as a Weed Watcher training at **Fort Cronkhite** open to the public. We had two volunteers attend this training along with the interns. We covered the same information as we had at the Presidio earlier in the month. We then hiked around to get experience surveying and even were able to map a patch of **capeweed**. After the regular training, the interns received GPS/GeoWeed training. Since then, they have been practicing their skills in the field.

June 28th was a good day for the new interns to gain experience as we hiked along **Old Bunker Road** in **Subwatersheds 7-1** and **7-2**. They mapped one patch of **capeweed** and one patch of **tocalote** (*Centaurea melitensis*), along with several other lower-priority species.

We set out to finish **Old Bunker Rd** connecting to the **Coast trail** and leading back to **Fort Cronkhite** on June 30th and July 1st. We were able to complete this task while only finding **tocalote** from our Priority 1 list. We also spotted and mapped several patches of **thoroughwort** (*Ageratina adenophora*) scattered throughout **Subwatersheds 5-2** and **7-1**.

We are looking forward to July as a month of covering many miles of trails along with all of our newly trained volunteers and interns. We will also be holding an advanced Weed Watchers training in July where we will be covering data collection using a GPS unit along with ArcPad and the GeoWeed database. If anyone is interested in attending this training or any other hikes, or if you would like more information or maps please contact Jen at 331-5023 or Jenn.Jordan@nps.gov.



Golden Gate Weed Watchers

Be the eyes of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Become a citizen scientist at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area!

Weed Watchers patrol national park trails in San Mateo, San Francisco, and Marin Counties, detecting and mapping weeds as they first invade.

Deepen your understanding of the natural world while playing an important role in the protection of unique park resources.

Discovering weeds before they become well-established is critical to preventing damage to ecosystem integrity, avoiding the loss of habitat for rare plants and animals, and reducing the need for costly natural resource management.

For more information or to RSVP:

Jennifer Jordan, (415) 331-5023, Jenn_Jordan@nps.gov

http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/vital_signs/Invasives/weed_watchers.cfm

Weed Watchers July 2008 Schedule

Thursday, July 3: Owl Trail

Meet at the Muir Beach Overlook Parking lot. 10:00 - 2:00

Join us as we hike along the Owl Trail admiring the amazing views of the coast. Hopefully we will not be too distracted by the scenery while we search for our priority plants such as licorice plant and capeweed.

Directions: From Highway 101 in Marin County, take the **Highway 1/Shoreline Highway exit**.

Continue along Highway 1 for about 6.5 miles to the **Muir Beach Overlook Turnoff** on the left (the overlook will be a little over a mile past the Muir Beach turnoff). Follow this road to the parking lot.

Thursday, July 10: 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, July 12: Advanced Weed Watchers Training (Location TBA)

10:00-1:00

Attend this training to build upon your skills as a Weed Watcher. We will be reviewing more priority species and advanced data collection techniques. This training will include basic GPS use to map priority species while collecting data using ArcPad and our GeoWeed database.

Thursday, July 17: Coast Marin Trail, Marin Headlands

Meet at the parking area on the **Northwest** end of the Golden Gate Bridge, 10:00-2:00

Put your new GPS skills to use during this survey as we stroll along the Coast Marin Trail overlooking the city and bay.

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**. Shortly after turning onto Conzelman Road, take your 1st left into the parking area.

Saturday, July 26: Mori Point Ridge Trail

Meet at the trailhead parking lot at Shelldance Nursery 10:00-2:00

Hike along Mori Ridge trail admiring the native coastal scrub while keeping a keen eye out for invasive species such as purple starthistle and Scotch broom.

Directions: **From San Francisco** take Hwy. 280 South, Exit **Hwy. 1 South/Pacifica** Continue on Hwy 1 to the First Stoplight (Reina Del Mar) U-turn at this light, continue North on Hwy 1, past the Gas Station, past the Pacifica Police Station (all on the right) Shelldance entrance is on your right. (3 minutes from the light) A sign " Orchids" is at the entrance. Drive up the winding road to main parking area, over looking the beautiful Pacific Ocean



Purple Starthistle, *Centaurea calcitrapa*

Tuesday, July 29: Marincello Road, Marin Headlands

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

We will climb the Marincello Rd trail searching for invaders such as Portuguese and Scotch broom, pampass grass, and gorse.

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.