



## What *SNOO* in the Park?

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

October closed out a successful season of surveying for the Weed Watcher Program. Thanks to the help of volunteers, interns, and staff, all trails and roads within priority subwatersheds were surveyed this season.

The Weed Watchers hiked the **Coast Trail** at **Lands End** on October 8<sup>th</sup>. There were plenty of invasive plants throughout **Subwatershed 25-2** to keep the Weed Watchers busy for a day of surveying. **Periwinkle** (*Vinca major*) was the only List 1 plant found with two patches mapped. Many more List 2 plants were mapped, including six patches of **Himalayan blackberry** (*Rubus discolor*), three patches of **English ivy** (*Hedera helix*), four patches of **blackwood acacia** (*Acacia melanoxydon*), and six patches of **cape ivy** (*Delairea odorata*).

**Muir Woods** was on the list of areas to survey once again in October. **English ivy** was the only priority species found along the **Ben Johnson Trail** in **Subwatershed 12-3**. All six patches were mapped as well as treated. The **Dipsea Trail** and **Deer Park Fire Road** in **Subwatershed 12-2** were also surveyed, and two patches of **Scotch broom** (*Cytisus scoparius*), one patch of **tocalote** (*Centaurea melitensis*), two patches of **licorice plant** (*Helichrysum petiolare*), one **singleseed hawthorn** (*Crataegus monogyna*), and three more patches of **English ivy** were all mapped.

On October 17, the Weed Watchers joined Melissa at **Point Reyes** to survey **Inverness Ridge trail** in **Subwatersheds 5-5 and 5-6**. In **Subwatershed 5-5**, a single **jubata grass** (*Cortaderia jubata*) and some **English ivy** were mapped. The **English ivy** was

immediately treated. In **Subwatershed 5-6**, small patches of **Harding grass** (*Phalaris aquatica*) and **pennyroyal** (*Mentha pulegium*) as well as a single **jubata grass** occurrence was mapped.

The social trail going from the **Hawk Hill** parking area to **Kirby Cove** was finally surveyed this month. The only species mapped along this trail was a small patch of **jubata grass** in **Subwatershed 2-1**. There was a large patch of **thoroughwort** (*Ageratina adenophora*) and small patches of **jubata grass** on the cliffs, but they seem to have already been mapped. The Weed Watchers hiked up the Kirby Cove trail, and completed a survey from the Kirby Cove Trailhead back to the Hawk Hill parking area along **Conzelman Road**, mostly through **Subwatershed 2-2**. Along the road, two small patches of **thoroughwort** were mapped, as well as one patch of **Kikuyu grass** (*Pennisetum clandestinum*), one patch of **blackwood acacia** and a patch of **pennyroyal**.

The Weed Watchers headed south for the last two hikes of the season. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, **Mori Ridge Trail** was surveyed through **Subwatershed 21-1**. Many infestations had previously been mapped in this area, but two patches of **tocalote** and one patch of **common teasel** (*Dipsacus fullonum*) were added to the database on this hike.

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, trails at **Mori Point** were surveyed. In **Subwatershed 21-1** four patches of **narrowleaf firethorn** (*Pyracantha angustifolia*), two patches of **cape ivy**, two patches of **common teasel**, two patches of **periwinkle**, and one **mourningbride** (*Scabiosa atropurpurea*) were all mapped. The **mourningbride** was also treated. In **Subwatershed 20-2**, one patch of **cape ivy** was just mapped, while one patch of **purple starthistle** (*Centaurea calcitrapa*) and one patch of **mourningbride** were mapped and treated.

If anyone would like more information or maps please contact Jen at 331-5023 or [Jenn\\_Jordan@nps.gov](mailto:Jenn_Jordan@nps.gov).