



## What *SNOO* in the Park?

### Golden Gate Invasive Species Early Detection Significant **N**ew **O**bservations and **O**ccurrences April 2009

#### 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 program continued to grow in April with the addition of another intern, Richard Wong; the Point Reyes Early Detection seasonal, Natalie Howe; and four new volunteers!

The Weed Watchers didn't let the rain slow them down on May 8<sup>th</sup> as they surveyed the **Coastal Trail** south from Muir Beach, then looped around on the **Coyote Ridge Trail**. The hike started along the Coastal Trail in [Subwatershed 12-8](#) where one patch of **capeweed** (*Arctotheca calendula*), a patch of **cape ivy** (*Delairea odorata*), and one patch of **Bermuda buttercup** (*Oxalis pes-caprae*) were all mapped. Continuing along the Coastal trail and Coyote Ridge trail in [Subwatersheds 10-1](#) and [10-2](#), eight patches of **Bermuda buttercup** were mapped while five patches of **wandflower** (*Sparaxis tricolor*) and one patch of **thoroughwort** (*Ageratina adenophora*) were both mapped and treated.

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, the Weed Watchers continued a survey started in March along the **Coastal Trail** from the Golden Gate Bridge parking area. Once again many patches of **Bermuda buttercup** were mapped: five in [Subwatershed 3-1](#), one in [7-12](#), and four in [7-13](#). **Narrowleaf firethorn** (*Pyracantha angustifolia*) was also mapped in [Subwatershed 7-13](#) on the **Slacker Ridge Trail**. Along the SCA trail in [7-12](#) **licorice plant** (*Helichrysum petiolare*) and **Scotch broom** (*Cytisus scoparius*) were mapped, and one small patch of **wandflower** was mapped and treated.

The **Kirby Cove Trail** was surveyed on May 23<sup>rd</sup> with only a few new infestations that had not previously been mapped. Two small isolated patches of **thoroughwort** were mapped in [Subwatershed 2-3](#). One patch of **licorice plant** and two patches of **Bermuda buttercup** were mapped in [Subwatershed 2-2](#).

The Weed Watchers headed south to **Mori Point** on April 25<sup>th</sup> to survey all the trails in both [Subwatersheds 21-1](#) and [20-2](#). There was quite a display of native wildflowers, but unfortunately quite a few invasive plants were also found. In **Subwatershed 21-1**, two patches of **purple starthistle** (*Centaurea calcitrapa*) were mapped and treated, two small patches of **cape ivy** were mapped, and three patches of **Bermuda buttercup** were mapped. One more patch of **purple starthistle** was both mapped and treated in **Subwatershed 20-2**, and two patches of **tocalote**, one patch of **cape ivy**, and three patches of **Bermuda buttercup** were all mapped.

March Stats:

13 Miles Surveyed, 14 Volunteer Hours

For maps relating to this WhatSNOO, please visit:

[http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/vital\\_signs/Invasives/whatsnoo.cfm](http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/vital_signs/Invasives/whatsnoo.cfm)

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

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