



What *SNOO* in the Park?

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

With the help of the Invasive Plant Response Team interns, Jessica and Richard, June was a very busy and productive month for the Weed Watchers at GGNRA.

The Weed Watchers started the month in Tennessee Valley hiking the **Coastal Trail** to Wolfback ridge, surveying all trails in **Subwatershed 11-11**. One small patch of **tocalote**, (*Centaurea melitensis*) was both mapped and treated, while another patch on the ridge top was too large to remove and was only mapped. One patch of **blackwood acacia** (*Acacia melanoxylon*), one patch of **cape ivy** (*Delairea odorata*), and one patch of **Bermuda buttercup** (*Oxalis pes-caprae*) were all mapped. The Weed Watchers also spotted and mapped a patch of **licorice plant** (*Helichrysum petiolare*) in **Subwatershed 7-2**.

Again in Tennessee Valley on June 5th, the Weed Watchers surveyed **Haypress Trail** and the portion of the **Tennessee Valley Trail** in **Subwatershed 11-8**. One patch of **capeweed** (*Arctotheca calendula*) and large patches of **pennyroyal** (*Mentha pulegium*) and **Himalayan blackberry** (*Rubus discolor*) were mapped along the paved trail. Along the Haypress Trail, a patch of **Portuguese broom** (*Cytisus striatus*) was mapped and treated.

The Weed Watchers headed south to **Sweeney Ridge** on June 11th to survey the **Sweeney Ridge Trail** from the top of Sneath Lane to the Mori Ridge trail through **Subwatershed 20-2**. Five patches of **tocalote** and one patch of **pennyroyal** were

mapped. One small patch of **purple starthistle** (*Centaurea calcitrapa*) was the only Priority List 1 plant found, which was immediately mapped and removed. The **Horse Trail** at the south end of Sweeney Ridge trail was also surveyed, which is in an **unnamed subwatershed**. A large patch of **tocalote** was mapped along this trail. Sneath Lane was surveyed through **Subwatersheds 28-2 and 28-1**. One patch of **tocalote** and one patch of **English ivy** (*Hedera helix*) were both mapped in **28-2**. Four new patches of **tocalote** were mapped in **28-1**. The Weed Watchers also had time to treat a small patch of **purple starthistle** that had previously been mapped in **28-1**.

On June 12th, the Weed Watchers headed back to Tennessee Valley to survey several small portions of trails in high priority subwatersheds. Starting on the **Coastal Trail** bordering **Subwatersheds 11-1 and 11-2**, one patch of both **blackwood acacia** and **tocalote** were mapped in **11-1** while one patch of each of the following were mapped in **11-2**: **blackwood acacia**, **pennyroyal**, **licorice plant**, and **tocalote**. The Weed Watchers also surveyed the end of the **Tennessee Valley Trail** which goes between **Subwatersheds 11-2 and 11-12**. One patch of **blackwood acacia** and one patch of **tocalote** were mapped in **11-12**.

On June 13th, the Weed Watchers joined forces with another great volunteer program, The Trailkeepers, in hopes of training the Trailkeeper volunteers in identification of priority species. On a training walk around the **Old Bunker Rd** loop, one patch of **purple foxglove** (*Digitalis purpurea*) was mapped in **Subwatershed 7-1** and one patch of **ox-eye daisy** (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) was mapped and removed.

The Weed Watchers headed to Muir Woods on June 18th to survey along the **Ocean View Trail** and the **Main Trail** through **Subwatershed 12-5**. With all the canopy cover, the GPS did not cooperate very well, but four patches of **Himalayan blackberry**, one patch of **English holly** (*Ilex aquifolium*) and one patch of **Scotch broom** (*Cytisus scoparius*) were all mapped. Many patches of **English ivy** were found along the entire **Ocean View Trail**, but unfortunately were unable to be mapped due to the GPS not receiving satellite data.

June 22nd was a busy day of mapping for the Weed Watchers as they first surveyed along the **Rodeo Valley Trail**. One patch of **capeweed** was mapped in **Subwatershed 7-8**. Four more patches of **capeweed** were mapped in **Subwatershed 7-9**, along with two patches of **pennyroyal**, two patches of **purple foxglove**, one patch of **tocalote**, one patch of **wandflower** (*Sparaxis tricolor*), and one **singleseed hawthorn** (*Crataegus monogyna*). One patch of **ox-eye daisy** was mapped in **Subwatershed 7-10**. Continuing on the **SCA Trail**, three patches of **Himalayan blackberry**, one patch of **singleseed hawthorn**, and one patch of **ox-eye daisy** were all mapped in **Subwatershed 7-11**.

Returning to **Subwatershed 7-10** on June 28th, four patches of **Himalayan blackberry**, two patches of **tocalote**, and one patch of **thoroughwort** (*Ageratina adenophora*) were mapped along the **Alta Trail**. A portion of the **Bobcat Trail** was also

surveyed through **Subwatershed 8-5**. One patch each of **pennyroyal**, **capeweed**, **English ivy**, **tocalote**, and **ox-eye daisy** were mapped.

June Stats:

18.3 Miles Surveyed, 138 Volunteer Hours

If anyone would like more information please contact Jen at 331-5023 or Jenn_Jordan@nps.gov.

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Join us for one or several July surveys:

Thursday, July 9: Coastal Trail from Marin Headlands Visitor Center, 10:00-2:00

Meet at the Marin Headlands Visitor Center parking lot.

Capeweed and ox-eye daisy have been found on several trails in this area, so we will be keeping a sharp eye out for these plants while also looking for any other new infestations along the trail. Come early and check out the great displays at the visitor center if you have not been there already.

Directions **From Hwy 101 South**, 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 North** take the first exit off the GG Bridge 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 for about 2 miles, Turn **left** onto Field Rd. The visitor center will be on the **right** side of the road.

Thursday, July 16: Bobcat Trail to Hawk Camp, 9:30-3:00 *please note the time change

Meet at the parking lot on the East side of the Bunker Road Tunnel

We will meet in the parking lot, and then carpool up to Wolfback Ridge road where we will hike out to Hawk Camp. Foxglove and purple starthistle have both been reported on these trails. We will be looking out for these and all other Priority species, while hopefully enjoying some great views of the city and the Headlands.

Directions **From Hwy 101 South**, 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 North**, take the first exit off the GG Bridge onto Alexander Ave. From both directions take the first left at the Marin Headlands sign. Do not enter the tunnel, rather turn right before the tunnel and then turn left into the parking lot.

Thursday, July 23: Coastal Trail from Fort Cronkhite, 10:00-2:00

Meet at the Fort Cronkhite Parking Area

We will search the Coastal Trail as well as some well used social trails heading north from Fort Cronkhite looking for our Priority species.

Directions: **From Hwy 101 South**, 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 North**, take the first exit off the GG Bridge 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 all the way out to the lagoon. Turn left to stay along the lagoon towards Fort Cronkhite and go to the parking area at the end of the road near the beach.

Saturday, July 25: Beginner Weed Watcher Training, 10:00-1:00

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 around Rodeo Lagoon Trail.

Please pass this information along to anyone you think may be interested in becoming a Weed Watcher.

Monday, July 27: Point Bonita Trail, 10:00 - 2:00

Meet at the parking area at the Point Bonita Trailhead .

The Weed Watchers will finish off the month with a great opportunity to survey down this trail with beautiful views and then check out the active lighthouse of Point Bonita.

Directions: **From Hwy 101 South**, 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 North**, take the first exit off the GG Bridge 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 Bunker Road for about 2 miles; turn left on Field Road. Follow Field Road 0.8-miles to Point Bonita parking lot and trailhead

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