



## What *SNOO* in the Park?

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

**August** brought an end to the official 2009 Weed Watchers season in Golden Gate. Thanks to all the volunteers, and especially the Invasive Plant Response Team interns, Jessica and Richard, all roads and trails in priority areas were surveyed for 2009.

The Weed Watchers started the month off with a survey of trails and roads at **Fort Baker** in **Subwatershed 3-4**. Along the **Drown Road Trail** loop, three patches of **English ivy** (*Hedera helix*), one patch of **blackwood acacia** (*Acacia melanoxylon*), one patch of **cape ivy** (*Delairea odorata*), and one patch of **narrowleaf firethorn** (*Pyracantha angustifolia*) were mapped. **Thoroughwort** (*Ageratina adenophora*) was also found scattered throughout both sides of the trail. A small patch of **Himalayan blackberry** (*Rubus discolor*) was mapped along the **Chapel Steps Trail**. The Weed Watchers also surveyed **Battery Yates** and found more **thoroughwort**, one patch of **pennyroyal** (*Mentha pulegium*), and a patch of **periwinkle** (*Vinca major*) on the top of the cliff.

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, the Weed Watchers headed south to check out the **Phleger Estate**. The trails were well maintained and mostly free of invasive plants. Along the **Miramonte Trail**, only one small **jubata grass** (*Cortaderia jubata*) was mapped, along with several small **English ivy** plants, which were mapped and removed. A patch of **English ivy** was mapped along the **Mount Redondo Trail**, which was too large for the Weed Watchers to remove, but still small enough to be easily removed soon before it has a chance to spread.

The Weed Watchers finished off the season with a hike on the trails at **Crissy Field** in **Subwatershed 26-0**. All the hard work out there has really paid off, with many great natives flourishing in the restoration areas. **Capeweed** (*Arctotheca calendula*) was the only Priority List 1 plant found. Two large patches were mapped in the field on the east end of Crissy Field near the Marina. Six patches of **Himalayan blackberry** were mapped, all of which were fairly small infestations. Three patches of **English ivy** and one small **jubata grass** were mapped. A small patch of **broadleaved pepperweed** (*Lepidium latifolium*) was also possibly found on the beach along the bay edge of the restoration area.

### **July Stats:**

9.8 Miles Surveyed, 52 Volunteer Hours

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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