



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

Point Reyes National Seashore Weed Watchers Invasive Species Early Detection Significant **N**ew **O**bservations and **O**ccurrences July 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 first July hike was on the 2nd. We went on a long hike to survey the Estero Trail and Drake's View Trail in **subwatershed 5-7**. It was a successful day in animal viewing as well as in finding weeds; as we hiked, several deer, rabbits, cows, and quail ambled across our path, and down the bluffs at Drake's View, we saw a heron and a bat ray! There was an abundance of **oxeye daisy** (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), and we also mapped some **hyssop loosestrife** (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*), **Harding grass** (*Phalaris aquatica*), **dallis grass** (*Paspalum dilatatum*), and **pennyroyal** (*Mentha pulegium*).

Don became an official Weed Watcher at our training on July 6th, and joined us for a hike on July 7th to Marshall Beach in **subwatershed 7-2**, where we enjoyed a picnic on the shore of Tomales Bay. At the beach we found large patches of **iceplant** (*Carpobrotus edulis*), some **New Zealand spinach** (*Tetragonia tetragonoides*), and **tocalote** (*centaurea melitensis*). We also found some **periwinkle** (*Vinca major*) by the bathrooms, some **oxeye daisy** along the trail, and some **pennyroyal** in the parking lot.

Weed Watchers revisited Bull Point in **subwatershed 6-12** on July 8th with the Marin County Open Space District hikers and mapped new patches of **hyssop loostrife** and **Harding grass**.

On a sweltering (for Point Reyes) day, July 13th, weedwatchers surveyed the western portion of the Fire Lane Trail, in **subwatershed 5-3**, finding some **English holly** (*Ilex aquifolium*) in the woods.

For Bastille day on July 14th, Natural Resources interns Natchi and Claire came on a hike across the rolling hills of Bolinas Ridge and Jewell trail, before descending into a shady valley to survey the Cross Marin Trail in [subwatersheds 18-9, 1-44, 1-42, and 1-46](#). Several weed populations had been mapped here before, but we also found new patches of **wolly distaff thistle** (*Carthamus lanatus*, which we removed) **pennyroyal**, **hyssop loostrife**, **Tasmanian bluegum** (*Eucalyptus globosus*), **fennel** (*Foeniculum vulgare*), **Himalayan blackberry** (*Rubus discolor*), **English ivy** (*Hedera helix*), **periwinkle** and **Fuller's teasel** (*Dipsacus fullonum*).

Weed Watchers teamed up with a Marin Open Space District hike on July 16th, and surveyed the Arroyo Hondo trail in [subwatershed 27-1](#). We found **Harding grass**, **panic veldt grass** (*Eberharta erecta*), and **French broom** (*Genista monspessulana*).

June 21st proved to be an epic day of Weed Watching, as the Golden Gate and Point Reyes groups joined forces for a survey of the West end of Sir Francis Drake in [subwatersheds 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5, 6-6, 6-7, 6-8, 6-9, 6-10, 6-11, 6-12, 6-13, 6-14, 6-15, 5-14 and 5-13](#). We found a plethora of weeds including **Scotch broom** (*Cytissus scoparius*), **periwinkle**, **Himalayan blackberry**, **Harding grass**, **Dallis grass**, **New Zealand spinach**, **ox-eye daisy**, **orange cotoneaster** (*Cotoneaster franchetii*), **showy dewflower** (*Drosanthemum floribundum*), **Bermuda grass** (*Cynodon dactylon*), and **pride of Madeira** (*Echium candicans*).

On June 22nd, while mapping **Jubata grass** (*Cortaderia jubata*) with the Vegetation Restoration Team in [subwatershed 5-1](#), Weed Watchers found and removed seed heads from **ox-eye daisy** along the Coast Trail. That same day, Doreen, an honorary Weed Watcher, found some **barbed goatgrass** (*Aegilops triuncialis*) by the Visitor Center and some **sweet vernal grass** (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) on a horse track north of the Sky Trailhead.

Weed watchers continued road surveys with Natural Resources interns Natchi and Claire on July 23rd, and found patches of **Himalayan blackberry** and **Dallis grass** on Pierce Point Road in [subwatershed 7-1](#). Along Kehoe beach, we also found many large patches and one small patch of **iceplant**, as well as **floating primrose willow** (*Ludwigia peploides*), in a lagoon near the beach.

To finish the week, 2 newly trained volunteers and a guest came out for a hike on the Laguna trail in [subwatershed 5-4](#). We found new patches of **English holly** and **Harding grass**, saw some lovely views once the fog lifted, and were eyed suspiciously by several groups of quails.

On a hike and road survey in [subwatersheds 16-9, 16-10, 16-11, 16-12, 16-13, 16-14, 1-10, 1-12, 1-13, 1-16, 1-18, 1-21, 1-23, and 17-2](#) on July 28th, Weed Watchers discovered some stunning views of Stinson Beach to one side and the San Francisco Bay to the other from the southern end of the Bolinas Ridge trail. Along the trail, we found some **French broom** and **pennyroyal**. The real weed jackpot of the day turned

out to be the the Bolinas Fairfax road. There we found and mapped a patch of **orange cotoneaster**, as well as some **Harding grass, dallis grass, jubata grass, Himalayan blackberry, Pride of Madeira, everlasting pea** (*Lathyrus latifolius*), and **periwinkle**.

The hike into Duck Cove on July 29th through **subwatersheds 4-13 and 4-14** was stunning, with moss-covered oaks arching over the roadway that leads down to Tomales Bay. On the beach at the cove, Weed Watchers found some **New Zealand Spinach** and some **iceplant**, and on the road leading to the beach, we found **English ivy** and **periwinkle**.

For our final weed watcher hike of the season on July 30th, two new volunteers joined us. Along the Bucklin Trail in **subwatershed 5-6**, we found some **Harding grass**, and along the Muddy Hollow Rd, we found **pennyroyal**.

July Stats:

75.3 miles surveyed, 70 volunteer hours

If anyone would like more information please contact Natalie at 464-5201 or Natalie_Howe@nps.gov.

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