



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

### Point Reyes National Seashore Weed Watchers 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.

While August saw the departure of Point Reyes Natural Resources interns Nachi and Claire, the Weed Watchers also welcomed two new volunteers to the program.

Weed Watchers started out the month with a hike on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Pine Ridge, in **subwatersheds 4-10 and 5-13**. Lots of weeds were found that day, including a field of **oxeye daisy** (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), a carpet of **periwinkle** (*Vinca major*), and along the trail we found smaller patches of **English ivy** (*Hedera helix*), **English holly** (*Ilex aquifolium*), **pennyroyal** (*Mentha pulegium*) **foxglove** (*Digitalis purpurea*), **French broom** (*Genista monspessulana*), and **pride of Madeira** (*Echium candicans*).

The next day, August 4<sup>th</sup>, Weed Watcher interns Nachi and Claire surveyed the Horse trail in **subwatershed 4-2**. Patches of **periwinkle**, **foxglove**, **pennyroyal**, **Harding grass** (*Phalaris aquatica*), and **Himalayan blackberry** (*Rubus discolor*) were mapped.

Weed Watchers conducted a presentation for Point Reyes' Youth Conservation Corps in the morning of August 5<sup>th</sup>, then, in the afternoon, a section of the Muddy Hollow trail was surveyed in **subwatershed 5-5**. Patches of **periwinkle**, **pennyroyal**, **everlasting pea** (*Lathyrus latifolius*), and one **gopher plant** (*Euphorbia latifolia*) were mapped before the trail eventually became almost impassible because it was very narrow and passed through thickets of poison oak. Weed Watchers continued up the Estero Trail, where more **pennyroyal**, some **Harding grass**, and even some **tocalote** (*Centaurea melitensis*) were found.

On Nachi's last day, August 6<sup>th</sup>, Weed Watchers conducted a survey of Platform Bridge Road in **subwatersheds 1-47, 1-48, 1-49 and 1-50**. At the bridge, the streambank was teeming with **Himalyan blackberry** and a few trees were cloaked in **English ivy**. The bridge area was also host to a patch of **orange cotoneaster** (*Cotoneaster pannosus*). One clump of **pampas grass** (*Cortaderia selloana*) and one **spiny cocklebur** (*xanthium spinosum*) were also mapped. The roadsides hosted plenty of **pennyroyal**, **Harding grass**, **French broom**, and **Dallis grass** (*Paspalum dilatatum*).

The Sierra Club joined the Weed Watchers for a hike on the Estero Trail in **subwatershed 5-8** on August 9<sup>th</sup>. **Parrot's feather** (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) was found along the way in a pond. At Sunset Beach small patches of **iceplant** (*Carpobrotus edulis*) and **New Zealand spinach** (*Tetragonia tetragonoides*) were mapped.

Point Reyes Weed Watches joined forces with Golden Gate Weed Watchers for a hike on the Greenpicker Trail on August 11<sup>th</sup> through **subwatersheds 18-15, 3-7, 18-17, and 18-16**. In **subwatershed 18-15**, **English holly** and **Himalayan blackberry** were found. **English holly**, along with some **pennyroyal**, **English ivy** and **foxglove** were all mapped in **subwatershed 3-7**. **Subwatershed 18-17** had more **pennyroyal**, **Himalayan blackberry**, and **foxglove**, which was also found in **subwatershed 18-16**.

The trails around the Education Center, including the Hidden Valley Trail and Sunset Trail, in **subwatershed 5-5**, had no new weeds besides **Harding grass**.

**Subwatersheds 3-1, 17-3, 18-18, and 18-1** were surveyed on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The Olema Valley Trail delivered something of a shock when Weed Watchers found 4 weeds, **dallis grass**, **Himalayan blackberry**, **English ivy**, and **pennyroyal** in the first 10 m of the trail! The survey continued through **subwatershed 18-18**, where several more patches of **Himalayan blackberry**, along with long stretches of **French broom** and **pennyroyal** were found. Further down the trail, in **subwatershed 18-1**, a young **cotoneaster** was mapped. Along Olema Trail in **subwatershed 17-3** some **Scotch broom** and **Ehrharta** were mapped. At the junction with the Ridge Trail, in **subwatershed 3-1**, some **English ivy** was found.

Weed Watchers started the August 17<sup>th</sup> hike in thick mist, hiking down through the pine forests of the Woodward Valley trail in **subwatershed 5-2 and subwatershed 5-1**. Along the trail in **subwatershed 5-2**, a small patch of **Harding grass** was found and in **subwatershed 5-1**, a tiny patch of **ox-eye daisy** was mapped. On the coast trail, from Sculptured Beach to Kelham Beach, several more patches of **Harding grass**, a few patches of **iceplant**, and one patch of **everlasting pea** (*Lathyrus latifolius*) were mapped.

As part of the Weed Watchers training on August 19<sup>th</sup> new volunteers were lead on a hike on the Earthquake Trail in **subwatershed 4-1**, where **Harding grass** and **Himalayan blackberry** were found.

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, Weed Watchers surveyed the Chimney Rock area in **subwatershed 6-2**. **Pennyroyal, iceplant, Harding grass, New Zealand spinach, and showy dewflower** (*Drosanthemum floribundum*) were all mapped along the roads and trails

A road survey through **subwatersheds 7-1, 6-16, 5-14, 5-13 and 4-10** on August 27<sup>th</sup> turned up many new weed occurrences. On Pierce Point Road by Kehoe Beach in **subwatershed 7-1**, **Himalayan blackberry, fennel** (*Foeniculum vulgare*) and **dallis grass** were found. Farther down the road, in **subwatershed 6-16**, more **fennel** and **spiny cocklebur** were found. In the next **subwatershed, 5-14**, **iceplant** was found growing near a house, more **dallis grass**, and **orange cotoneaster** were found near Tomales Bay State Park. Along Sir Francis Drake, in **subwatershed 5-13**, more **dallis grass** along with some **ox-eye daisy** were found. The last, and messiest, part of the morning's survey was **subwatershed 4-10**, where **orange cotoneaster, pampas grass** (*Cortaderia selloana*), **scotch broom** (*Cytissus scoparius*) and more **dallis grass** were found. For the second half of the day, Sir Francis Drake west of Olema was surveyed through **subwatersheds 18-9, 1-47, 1-45, and 1-43**. In **subwatershed 18-9**, **Harding grass** and many patches of **Himalayan blackberry** were found. In **subwatershed 1-47** more **orange cotoneaster** was mapped. **Subwatershed 1-45** was the weed winner of the day, with **Fuller's teasel, Himalayan blackberry, dallis grass, English ivy, periwinkle, pennyroyal, and French broom**. **Subwatershed 1-43** seemed spotless in comparison, with only **Himalayan blackberry** and **periwinkle**.

Weed Watchers hiked Inverness Ridge on August 28<sup>th</sup> and found patches of **Phalaris aquatica** in **subwatershed 7-4**.

August Stats:

69 Volunteer Hours, 50.2 miles surveyed

If anyone would like more information, please contact Natalie at [Natalie\\_Howe@nps.gov](mailto:Natalie_Howe@nps.gov), or 415-464-5201

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