Monday, April 13, Marin Chapter Meeting

“Geology of Marin County” by guest speaker
Doris Sloan

This talk will give an overview of the County’s complex and fascinating geology, which attracts geologists from all over the world. We will look at the processes that shape Marin’s scenic landscape, including how the San Andreas Fault and other plate tectonic movements have brought exceptionally interesting rocks to Marin from far distances in time and space.

Doris Sloan is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Science at UC Berkeley. She has a MS in geology and a PhD in paleontology, both from UC Berkeley. She taught for two decades in the Environmental Sciences program at UCB and has led field seminars for Point Reyes National Seashore Association, and several other organizations. She is the author of *Geology of the San Francisco Bay Region*, published by the University of California Press in their California Natural History Series, and is writing a booklet on *Discovering Geology at Point Reyes* for the Association. Her current research focuses primarily on microfossils in the sediments beneath San Francisco Bay and what they can tell us about the Bay’s geologic history.

April meeting:

5:45 p.m. Join friends and meet our speaker for a no-host dinner at Gira Polli of Mill Valley, 590 East Blithedale Ave. at Camino Alto. Please be prompt to be assured of a seat with our group.

7:30 p.m. Meet at the Redwoods retirement home, 40 Camino Alto, Mill Valley. Books, posters, and cards will be for sale before as well as after the meeting. Lecture starts at 8 p.m.

Above: Point Reyes Lighthouse photo by John Karachewski

Above: Nicasio pillow basalts photo by John Karachewski

WE’D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to make a suggestion for a chapter meeting program, field trip, plant identification workshop, or anything else, please contact us. You can phone or email your ideas to any of the board members listed on page 6 of the newsletter.
PLANTS OF THE MONTH
Text and Photos by Doreen Smith

Above: Franciscan paintbrush (Castilleja subinclusa ssp. franciscana)

The bright red-orange spikes of this hemi-parasitic paintbrush are conspicuous in the coastal brush. The actual flowers are small, tubular, and yellowish, but enveloped in a conspicuous red calyx and bracts. The calyx is slit more on the underside than the upper so the flowers can bend outwards. Along Shoreline Highway 1 north of Stinson Beach they are often flowering as early as mid-February. Later, fine examples can be seen about Nicasio reservoir. On the outer bluffs of Pt. Reyes, the inflorescences can be more compact and the bracts a deeper red than plants from further east in Marin.

Marin has other species of red paintbrush, also all hemi-parasitic; they look very similar to the above; the most obvious difference is that the flowers do not bend at right angles to the stem axis as in the Franciscan paintbrush, because in common paintbrush the red calyx is slit equally on both sides and the flowers are upright against the stem. The common paintbrush is very variable in appearance and perhaps several entities are lumped into this taxon. They can be seen growing in open grassland or on well-drained roadside banks near mixed evergreen woodland. The plant pictured was growing near Pt. Reyes Lighthouse visitor center with the large native bunchgrass, Calamagrostis nutkaensis.

Our other two red paintbrushes are C. foliolosa (woolly-leaved chaparral paintbrush) and C. wightii (coastal paintbrush). The latter can have red flowering spikes as well as the more usual pale yellow. Just to make things more difficult for us to identify them, the various coastal species have the reputation of hybridizing.

Above: Common paintbrush (Castilleja affinis)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

❖ Saturday 4/4, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
Chapter Field Trip: Carson Ridge: Azalea Hill to Pine Mtn. Fire Road

❖ Sunday 4/5, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Yerba Buena Chapter Native Plant Garden Tour

❖ Monday 4/6, 7:30 p.m.
Marin Chapter Board Meeting at Marin Recycling

❖ Tuesday 4/7, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Chapter Field Trip: Audubon Canyon Ranch

❖ Monday 4/13, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Marin Chapter Meeting: Doris Sloan on “Geology of Marin County”

❖ Saturday 4/18, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Regional Parks Botanic Garden Plant Sale

❖ Sunday 4/19, 10 a.m.
Chapter Field Trip: Glide Tule Ranch Vernal Pool

❖ Sunday 4/19, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Going Native Garden Tour

❖ Tuesday 4/21, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
Chapter Field Trip: San Andreas Trail, Mt. Burdell

❖ Sunday 5/3, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

❖ Monday 5/4, 7:30 p.m.
Marin Chapter Board Meeting at Marin Recycling

❖ Monday 5/11, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Marin Chapter Meeting: Laurie Adams on “Our Future Flies on the Wings of Pollinators”
GARDEN TOURS AND SALES

Native Plant Garden Tour
**Sunday, April 5, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.**

CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter presents their annual San Francisco garden tour. Free and self-paced; no registration required. Visit any time between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Visit [http://www.cnps-yerbabuena.org/garden-tour](http://www.cnps-yerbabuena.org/garden-tour) for a garden list, tour map, and more information, or contact Susan Floore at sfloore@earthlink.net or (415) 285-4692 (email preferred).

Regional Parks Botanic Garden Plant Sale
**Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**

This spring plant sale is a once-a-year opportunity to select from an unmatched diversity of California native plants propagated by volunteers from the Garden’s collection, including trees, shrubs, groundcovers, perennials, grasses, bulbs, ferns, and annuals, as well as native plant seeds. Many of the plants offered are not available anywhere else. The sale features plants to fit conditions in every Bay Area garden, with experts on hand to provide advice and gardening tips. All proceeds from the sale directly benefit the Regional Parks Botanic Garden.

Admission is free; refreshments available. Sale will take place rain or shine. Bring boxes to carry your purchases. Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted.

Location: intersection of Wildcat Canyon Rd. & South Park Dr. (near the Brazil Building) in Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley (park along Anza View Rd.). For more information, call (510) 841-8732 or visit [http://www.nativeplants.org](http://www.nativeplants.org).

Going Native Garden Tour 2009
**Sunday, April 19, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Since 2003, the Bay Area’s pioneering native garden tour has showcased gardens featuring California native plants. This community-based tour is free of charge to the public upon successful registration. Each tour features about 45 gardens in the Santa Clara Valley and on the Peninsula, most of them private home gardens, which are open on tour day for viewing by the public in a do-it-yourself, open house format.

The goals of the tour are to demonstrate reduced water use, reduced chemical and pesticide use, improved habitat, and the unique aesthetic appeal of gardens designed with California native plants. Tour sponsors—Yerba Buena Nursery, Almaden Valley Nursery and Central Coast Wilds Nursery—will conduct native plant sales at select gardens on tour day. Part of the proceeds will benefit the tour. Please pay by cash or check (no credit cards).

Registration for the 2009 tour is now open at [http://www.goingnativegardentour.org](http://www.goingnativegardentour.org). Registration will close at 12 p.m., Sunday, April 19, or when the tour reaches capacity, whichever comes first.

**Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour 2009**
**Sunday, May 3, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.**

This is a free, self-guided tour of 60 fabulous gardens that provide habitat for wildlife, are pesticide-free, conserve water, and contain 50% or more native plants. More than 50 free talks will be given throughout the day. Win a free landscape consultation from a noted native plant landscape designer by completing an evaluation on the day of the tour! Several nurseries specializing in California natives will be open on Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. These nurseries carry large quantities of hard-to-find California natives. Knowledgeable staff will be on hand to help you select plants right for your garden throughout the weekend.

Registration is required in order to receive a guidebook, which contains garden addresses, maps and directions. Registration is now open at [http://www.goingnativegardentour.org](http://www.goingnativegardentour.org). Early registration is highly recommended, as the tour usually fills to capacity. To volunteer or for more information, please email Kathy Kramer at Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net, or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

**GREAT PHACELIA SCAVENGER HUNT**

SFSU graduate student Genevieve Walden is studying the evolution of the genus *Phacelia* (Boraginaceae). Her master’s thesis includes research to sample the genus *Phacelia* and infer phylogenetic relationships from chloroplast and nuclear sequences.

If you observe *Phacelia* species in leaf, flower, or fruit on any botanical expedition in the Bay Area, please contact her at gkwalden@sfsu.edu. She is particularly interested in any unique or interesting variations within populations in our area and would be happy to receive voucher specimens as well.
Glide Tule Ranch, a vernal pool with so much color that you can easily become color-blinded by endless vistas of some of the most vibrant and brightest colors imaginable, produced by four subspecies of lovely blue downingias, carpets of goldfields (*Lasthenia* spp.), masses of woolly starfish (*Hespereval caulescens*) endless seas of Oregon woolly marbles (*Psilocarphus oreganus*), and many other wondrous and rare species of vernal pool plants.

Adding to its mystery and allure is the fact that Glide Tule Ranch Vernal Pool is open to the public only one day a year. So the vast majority of amateur botanists have never even heard of Glide Tule Ranch, much less visited this enchanted and fantastic floral exposition.

A small group of us went in 2008, and the Field Trip Coordinator was heard to blurt out that it was the best, most intense wildflower display he’d ever seen. And, keep in mind, 2008 wasn’t a particularly colorful year for wildflowers.

Glide Tule Ranch is located about 15 miles south of Davis in Yolo County, and is part of the Southern Yolo Wildlife Area, a large protected area to the west of Sacramento. To get there, take Interstate 80 to Davis, and exit at Mace Blvd. To reach the meeting site, drive south on Mace Blvd., which becomes County Road 104. One mile south of Putah Creek, turn left (east) on County Road 35 and drive to County Road 106. Turn right (south) on Road 106 and go for about three miles to County Road 38A, where there will be signs for driving into the Wildlife Area.

Since it’s a long-distance drive that takes approximately two hours to reach from central Marin County, let’s plan on having an informal carpool. To partake in that, meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot for the Larkspur Ferry Terminal.

To learn more about the Yolo Wildlife Area and Glide Tule Ranch, visit http://www.yolobasin.org.

**San Andreas Trail, Mt. Burdell**

*Tuesday, April 21, 9 a.m.*

This hike should coincide with the peak of the local spring wildflower season. Expect to see masses of grassland wildflowers and various serpentine-soil specialties! The hike will be led by Doreen Smith.

If participants are willing, we will learn to key some species, so make sure to bring your copy of either edition of Howell’s *Marin Flora*. If you don’t already own a copy of this indispensable resource, it will be for sale at the trailhead at the start of the hike.

Meet at the San Andreas trailhead for Mt. Burdell. From Highway 101 in Novato, take the Atherton/San Marin exit, go west on San Marin for 2.3 miles, and turn right on San Andreas. The trailhead is near the end of this short street; park by the roadside.

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**NATIVE PLANT WALKS APRIL 2009**

**Marin Chapter Field Trip News and Policies**

All hikes are free and open to the public; please invite your friends. The outings will often go on until 2 p.m., so bring your lunch, and be prepared for unreliable weather. Field trips will be cancelled if it is raining on the morning of the hike. For last minute trip status, call Doreen Smith at (415) 479-7888.

**Field Trip Plant Lists**

Plant lists compiled by Marin CNPS for many Marin localities are available on the Marin Chapter CNPS website at http://www.marin.edu/cnps.

**Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

A trip co-sponsored by CNPS and Friends of Corte Madera Creek. We’ll see flowering chaparral wildflowers and shrubs on both serpentineite and sandstone soils. If we’re lucky, we’ll find California groundconce (*Boschniakia strobilacea*), an unusual parasitic plant which grows on *Arctostaphylos montana* in the dwarf forest of Sargent cypress (*Callitropsis sargentii*). Our route will take us north along the Pine Mountain fire road about two miles to the Cascade Canyon fire road junction. Here grows the only Marin population of *Fremontodendron californicum*. The Carson Falls are a side-trip option. Doreen Smith will be leading this hike.

Meet at the large roadside parking area for Azalea Hill/Pine Mountain fire road, about six miles southwest of Fairfax at the top of the hill on the Fairfax-Bolinas Rd.

**Audubon Canyon Ranch (Near Bolinas)**

*Tuesday, April 7, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.*

Hilary Saunders of Audubon Canyon Ranch’s Habitat Protection and Restoration Project has offered to take us on an exclusive hike to see the flora, at a preserve where usually interest focuses on the egrets and other nesting birds that inhabit the canyon. Audubon Canyon Ranch is located on Coast Highway 1, several miles north of Stinson Beach, and about a mile south of the (deliberately) unsigned turn-off to Bolinas, that is, where the Fairfax/Bolinas Rd. crosses Highway 1.

**Glide Tule Ranch Vernal Pool**

*Sunday, April 19, 10 a.m.*

When California botanists think of botanical hotspots that will take their breath away, they usually think of places like the Anza-Borrego, Colusa County’s Bear Valley, Carson Pass, or closer to home, Pt. Reyes Chimney Rock and San Mateo’s Edgewood Preserve.

One name that is missing from virtually any and all lists of magical floral wonderlands is the miraculous
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT HIKES
Marin CNPS is cooperating with Marin County Open Space naturalist David Herlocker on other wildflower-oriented walks both on weekends and weekdays. More information is available on the Marin County Open Space District website at: http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/PK/Main/mcosd/os_walks.asp.

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, AND SYMPOSIA
Regional Parks Botanic Garden
Spring Classes 2009
• Saturday, April 25 through Sunday April 26: Botanizing California: Spring in Yosemite Valley—Glenn Keator
• Saturdays, May 2 and May 9: Native Plant Workshops in a Private Garden—Katherine Greenberg
• Saturday, May 2 through Sunday, May 3: Wildflower Weekend in the Feather River Region of the Northern Sierra Foothills—Glenn Keator
• Saturday, May 16 through Sunday, May 17: Botanizing California: The Foothills and Mountains of The South-Central Sierra—Glenn Keator
• Saturday, June 6: Pollinator Paradise: An Introduction to Native Bees And Pollination Ecology—K Ruby

For additional information, consult http://www.native-plants.org/events.html. To register, call John Rusk at (510) 528-0526 or email him at john@rusk.com.

MAGC EVENTS
Gardening from the Ground Up
Saturday, April 11, 9 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Healthy soil is the foundation of a healthy garden. Understanding your soil will help you grow a blossoming garden this season and for seasons to come. Backyard composting, sheet mulching basics, and other soil-building techniques will be covered during this workshop. Marin County residents who take this class qualify for a large discount on a compost bin from the County of Marin.

Go Native—Planting for Pollinators
Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Attract birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects. Learn to diversify your garden by including California native plants that provide food, shelter, and nesting places for wildlife.

Pre-registration is required for all classes. Contact Janet Stephens (Marin Art & Garden Center Education) at (415) 455-5260 or education@magc.org.

Third Annual Eco-Friendly Garden Tours
Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
This tour promotes sustainable, organic gardening practices, and the use of California native plants to create habitat. Garden tours will be followed by a native plant sale, displays, and mini-lectures at the Marin Art & Garden Center. We need volunteers in the gardens. If you can help, please contact the MAGC Volunteer Coordinator, (Jennifer Taibi) at (415) 455-5260 or jennifer@magc.org or Gina Purin (MCSTOPPP) at (415) 499-3202 or gpurin@co.marin.ca.us.

IN MEMORIAM: BOB SOOST
The Marin Chapter of CNPS has lost a most treasured and valued friend. Dr. Robert K. “Bob” Soost died unexpectedly on March 6 of an apparent heart attack suffered at his home in Inverness. He was 88. Our great sympathy is extended to his wife, Jean, who has been his companion at so many CNPS events, and his three daughters. Bob was invaluable as our chapter president for many years, our representative at State Board meetings and field trips for even more years, and a source of knowledge for so many of us on a wide range of topics. Bob also volunteered regularly for many years on Fridays for the Marin CNPS rare plant monitoring group. He kept meticulous records of the rare plants monitored each year and turned them over to the Pt. Reyes National Seashore vegetation-management staff. Bob was a great source of information for the Park and all of us. His loss will be felt for a very long time.

His career spanned 37 years at UC Riverside. He started in 1949 as a researcher in Riverside at the Citrus Experiment Station, which later became part of the University. He went on to become a full Professor, and was Chairman of the Horticulture Department for a time. He was a plant geneticist who helped develop important (patented) varieties of citrus, including Oroblanco grapefruit and Gold Nugget mandarin. Bob's family suggests that donations be made to the Marin Chapter of CNPS in Bob's memory. These would be gratefully received and acknowledged and should be made to “CNPS Marin,” and mailed c/o Daniel Kushner, 201 Ross St., San Rafael, CA 94901.

Bob will be remembered at a public gathering at 2 p.m. on April 4 at the Dance Palace Community Center in Point Reyes Station.

There will be more information and stories about Bob in the next Newsletter.
BOARD NEWS

New Invasives Chair

We welcome Charlotte Torgovitsky as Invasives Chair. By way of introduction, she tells us:

I am a naturalist, published garden writer, and amateur lepidopterist who loves to spend as much time as possible outside in the gardens.

At home in Novato I grow food for my family and also provide ample foraging opportunities for all the butterflies, birds, and other creatures that share our oak woodland. At the Marin Art & Garden Center, I have established numerous educational programs for children, youth, and adults, and have created California native gardens, a composting demonstration site, and a native plant nursery. I teach hands-on workshops at these facilities, and really look forward to working with CNPS members in further developing the gardens at MAGC to encourage appreciation of California’s amazing flora.

Reminder: Plant Sale Postponed

The CNPS Marin Chapter Board has voted in favor of postponing the chapter plant sale until the fall, in light of the pending water shortage and likelihood of mandatory rationing.

Book Sales Chair Needed!

We are seeking one or two people to fill this position. Books are stored privately in Mill Valley, and transported to and from the meetings by Robert Feist, so we only need people to maintain the inventory, purchase books as needed, and sell at all our membership meetings and at occasional other events, such as plant sales.

Publicity Chair Needed!

The publicity position essentially entails notifying the press of upcoming CNPS Marin programs, activities, and plant sales, but could include writing or soliciting articles on CNPS Marin and native plants.

Please call Kristin Jakob at (415) 388-1844 if you would like more details on any of the open positions.

Board of Directors

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<th>Position</th>
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<td>President</td>
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<td>VP, Programs &amp; Acting Pres.</td>
<td>Kristin Jakob</td>
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<td>Chapter Council Delegate</td>
<td>Carolyn Longstreth</td>
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<td>Daniel Kushner</td>
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<td>Conservation Co-Chair</td>
<td>Eva Buxton</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Paul da Silva</td>
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Field Trips: Joe Kohn
Historian: Vivian Mazur
Hospitality Chair: Open—Volunteer Needed
Invasives Chair: Charlotte Torgovitsky
Legislation: Phyllis Faber
Marin Flora Project: Wilma Follette
Membership: Ashley Ratcliffe
Newsletter Editor: Krista Fechner
Newsletter Folding/Mailing: Paul Kryloff
Plant Sale Co-Chair: Kristin Jakob
Plant Sale Co-Chair: Renee Fittinghoff
Poster Sales: Gerd Jakob
Publicity Chair: Open—Volunteer Needed
Rare Plant Coordinator: Doreen Smith
Website: Mary Stevens
Member at Large: Carolyn Caldwell-White
Member at Large: Gini Havel
Member at Large: Stacey Pogorzelski
Member at Large: Dabney J. Smith
Member at Large: Carol Weiske

Board contact information has been removed from the online version of this newsletter.
Dedicated to the Preservation of California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California’s native plants. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California’s native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Membership is open to all.

Join CNPS Now!

Membership includes informative publications, field trips, monthly programs, and discounts on books and posters. Also included are Frementia (a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants), the Bulletin (a quarterly statewide report of activities and schedules), and the chapter newsletter. Please call the membership chairperson for more information.

☐ Yes! I wish to affiliate with the Marin Chapter.

Membership Category:

☐ Mariposa Lily $1,500
☐ Benefactor $600
☐ Patron $300
☐ Plant Lover $100
☐ Family, Group, or Library $75
☐ Individual $45
☐ Student or Limited Income $25

New Member Information:

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
Telephone ____________________________
Email ____________________________

Please mail application and check payable to CNPS to:

California Native Plant Society
2707 K St., Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

CNPS Contact Information

Phone (916) 447-2677 (state)
Fax (916) 447-2727 (state)
Email cnps@cnps.org (state)
Web http://www.marin.edu/cnps (chapter)
http://www.cnps.org (state) The state CNPS site is a resource for a wealth of materials, including promotional materials such as banners and posters.

Newsletter Only

If you wish to receive only the newsletter, please make $10 check payable to CNPS Marin and mail to:

Daniel Kushner
201 Ross St.
San Rafael, CA 94901

☐ Newsletter Subscription only $10

Tax-Deductible Contributions

Tax-deductible contributions to the Marin Chapter are always welcome, either as memorial or honorarium donations or regular contributions. You may designate your contribution for a specific purpose of your choice. Unless otherwise designated, all contributions will be placed in a separate Special Projects Fund. The Special Projects Fund will enable the Chapter to extend our efforts to additional plant-related issues. Our regular, ongoing program and operating expenses are largely covered by our plant sales and book and poster sales.

A contribution of $_______ is made in honor of:

________________________________________________________________________

Contribution designated for:

________________________________________________________________________

From:

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
Telephone ____________________________
Email ____________________________

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
Telephone ____________________________
Email ____________________________

Mail check payable to CNPS to:

Daniel Kushner
201 Ross St.
San Rafael, CA 94901

The IRS considers dues in excess of $12.00 per year and all gifts to CNPS Tax Deductible.
GET YOUR COPY OF THE REVISED
MARIN FLORA!

Now available: the long-awaited, 2007 revised edition of John Thomas Howell’s classic *Marin Flora* (originally published in 1949). Copies of the book will be available at chapter meetings and most field trips. You can also print out an order form at the chapter website (http://www.marin.edu/cnps).

**Prices:**

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**RENEW ONLINE**

Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, set it to renew automatically year after year. It’s quick, easy, convenient, and reduces renewal mailing costs.

Visit http://www.cnps.org and click JOIN.

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PLANT COMMUNITIES OF MARIN
COUNTY

Do you want to learn more about the diverse plant communities of this special county?

*Plant Communities of Marin County*, written by David Shuford and Irene C. Timossi and illustrated with exquisite black and white photographs of the communities and their member species, is an excellent resource. Send your check payable to **CNPS** for $11 per copy (shipping, handling, and tax included) to:

Phyllis Faber
212 Del Casa Dr.
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Enclosed is $_________. Please send me_________ copies of *Plant Communities of Marin County*.

Name  

Address  

Telephone  
