

BCPUD Land Steward Committee
Meeting minutes 12/12/14

Attendees: Jack Siedman, Vic Amoroso, Jody Angel, Janine Arayan, Tish Brown, Ken Masterton, Mickey Murch, Eugenia McNaughton (secretary)
Public: Bill Brash, Mary Nesbit, Clemmie Brown, Jeff Manson

Minutes of last meeting accepted?

Judith Lowry gave a presentation, accompanied by a wonderful slide show, on the flora and fauna present and past present on the BCPUD land. Starting with poppies, there are 70 varieties, including the coast yellow that was probably dominant until the Boy Scouts dropped seeds of the orange variety from airplanes along the coast several decades ago. The yellow variety is perennial and probably was in bloom six months out of the year in Bolinas.

Plant insect relationships are very important in this (and other) ecosystems. For example, *Limnanthes* or meadowfoam was probably seasonally presents in moist places, vernal pools. If seeded now, would bloom in the spring. Of the 1400 species of bees, one is particularly fond of meadowfoam. Most native bees are solitary, live underground until, in this case, meadowfoam is in bloom.

The nectar and pollen that flowers produce varies from plant to plant and their insect visitors are aware of the differences. Coyote bush (*Baccharis*), for example, supports 200 species of insects. The plant, underappreciated by gardeners, once had a society, Friends of the Coyote Bush, dedicated to educating people as to its importance in the coastal ecosystem. Birds, such as the white crowned sparrow, the wren tit and bush tit, make use of the dwarf variety especially.

Horticulturalists are now selling coyote bush from cuttings of southern California varieties. But it's best to start from seeds, so there is a mixing of genes, rather than from cuttings, that are genetically replicas of one parent specimen.

The native tachina fly eats agricultural "pests." The wren dhtit is a "native son." Coffee berry (*Rhamnus*) is growing all over the land below the sewer pond area. We see the seeds in fox and coyote scat. It is not pyrifitic, that is, it doesn't burn. Since Don Murch took out the invasive cotoneaster, we see California hazel

(Corylus) growing there. The blue blossom Ceanothus, native to Bolinas, probably grew there as well. Those seeds respond to fire and were seen on the trail after the Laguna (?) train. The bushtit builds its pendulous nest in Ceanothus, the silk moth is another inhabitant that then serves as the bushtit's babies' food.

In a landscaping class that Judith took in the 1970's, she was taught that native plants are a problem. Her understanding of the role that native plants play in their local ecosystems has changed completely since that time.

Take, for another instance of the marvelous variety of flora-fauna interaction, the coast Lotus formosissimus (literally, most beautiful lotus) supports the Coast blue butterfly