

After the broom pull was over, Sunday, April 23, 2017
Genie McNaughton, Land Stewardship Committee

A beautiful Sunday morning, no traffic over the bridge, I drove over to Bolinas after a drinking a cup of Equator coffee and eating one of Um Muhammed's delicious brownies in Tam Junction. I picked up three broom pullers (baby, mama and papa sized) at Judith Larner's to bring to the on-going Spanish-scotch broom pulling event on the knoll below the treatment ponds. Met Meg on the way, a good thing, as she was headed in the wrong direction, wondering where we all were. At the "spot" a quick decision was made to focus, not the broom growing around the fence at the top of a Murch garden, but to take out a big, in-your-face broom plant surrounded and surrounding poison oak, cotoneaster and a coffee berry bush. Ken quickly commandeered the new Japanese saw I bought at Judith's to cut down the many thick branches of the flowering broom. I worked on the thinner branches of cotoneaster, while Juliana took on broom further into the field. Tish loves to dig in the ground, and was rewarded by uprooting a system of woody cotoneaster underground stem and roots. Janine worked with all of us, giving good advice based on years of working in gardens and restoration projects. While you might not be able to see much of our handiwork if you don't walk into the tall grass, you will definitely notice the difference between the growth around the old (cypress?) snag before and after when you walk up the steep path and turn your eyes left. The coffeeberry (*Rhamnus* or *Frangula californica*) and wild cucumber (*Marah macrocarpus*) are revealed in all their native glory. Amen!



BEFORE (February 12, 2017)



AFTER (April 23, 2017)