

**From:** bdreskin@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, January 21, 2008 5:32 PM  
**To:** Cheryl Carlson  
**Subject:** spring meandering in Marin itineraries

SPRING 2008 MONDAY MEANDERING IN MARIN #9225 EC

### MARCH 24 IVC OPEN SPACE

Indian Valley College Open Space. Two loops combine to make an interesting hike. We've seen 9 species of butterflies other years! We could see owl's clover, larkspur, and woodland stars.

Take 101 to the Ignacio Blvd. exit. Go west and follow Ignacio Blvd. into the campus. (Careful not to get back on the freeway again by mistake after you exit!) Our hike starts from the athletic field near the police station. Bring quarters to get a ticket from the parking machines.

25 minutes from College of Marin. Restrooms at trailhead.

### MARCH 31 DEER PARK TO PHOENIX LAKE

We can expect scarlet larkspur, mule's ears, and mission bells. This is also a good butterfly hike, and there should be birds and maybe some dragonflies around Phoenix Lake.

Go west on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to Fairfax. As you enter Fairfax, turn left at the IGS gas station, and make an immediate right in front of the movie theater. This puts you on Broadway. Make the first left onto Bolinas Ave. Just after it veers left, turn left on Porteous Ave. Follow it to the parking lot at Deer Park.

15 minutes from College of Marin. Restrooms at trailhead.

### APRIL 7 NO CLASS

### APRIL 14 MOUNT BURDELL OPEN SPACE, NOVATO

Flowers and tadpoles/frogs! This loop takes us by Hidden Lake which is home to thousands of Pacific tree frogs! We may see cream cups, fiddleneck, blue-headed gilia (which is purple) and bitterroot, as well as seven or eight species of butterflies.

Take 101 north and take the San Marin Drive exit. Go west on San Marin Drive. Turn right on San Andreas Drive. The entrance to the Open Space will be on your right. If you come to the dead end of San Andreas you've only gone about half a block too far.

No lot but plenty of curbside parking.

30 minutes from College of Marin. No restrooms on this hike.

### APRIL 21 CHIMNEY ROCK, POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE

This is one of Marin's must-see spring wildflower displays! Some plants we don't see inland include coastal wallflower, pussy ears, and sea thrift. We'll see elephant seals at the overlook and we'll take time to learn about their history and return from the brink of extinction. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and turn right at Olema make an immediate left onto Bear Valley Rd. Continue until you pick up SF Drake again. Go through Inverness. At the junction with Pierce Point Rd STAY ON Sir Francis Drake by bearing left. Follow signs towards the Lighthouse and Drakes Beach. About 10 minutes after you pass the signed road to Drakes Beach watch for a signed left turn to Chimney Rock. About 1 1/2 hours from College of Marin. Restrooms at trailhead. Note: Even when it's sunny inland, Chimney Rock can be windy or foggy so bring layers.

#### **APRIL 28 WOLF RIDGE, GGNRA**

Wildflowers and views! This is a wonderful wildflower hike with the native cobweb thistle, bee plant, fringe cups, and many more!

From 101 South, take the last exit before the Golden Gate Bridge. Turn right, go under the freeway, and get in the left turn lane to go through the one way tunnel with the 5 minute traffic light. Follow the road down (it will go right at the end of the lagoon and then left so the lagoon is on your left) and park at the end of the road. (The beach will be on the other side of the road.)

40 minutes from COM. Restrooms in parking lot.

#### **MAY 5 OLOMPALI STATE PARK, NOVATO**

This site was a Miwok settlement inhabited from about 500 AD, a ranch given to Mary Black when she married James Burdell, a home for the Grateful Dead and a gathering place for Bay Area rock musicians, and finally a State Historic Park. We'll take a loop trail for the natural history and then check out the historical buildings. The park doesn't officially open until 10 but usually the gate is open by 9:45.

Olompali is 2.5 miles north of the city of Novato. Take 101 north to Landfill Rd. Cross the freeway and go south to the park entrance. Portable at trailhead. 35 minutes from College of Marin.

#### **MAY 12 FINAL EXAM ROCK SPRING, MOUNT TAMALPAIS**

We could see coral roots (a native orchid), meadow rue, and golden banners on this mostly shady loop hike. Bring a plate and utensils (think green and bring re-usables not disposables), and food to share for the Gourmet Final!

Go south on Hway 101 to the Stinson Beach/Hway 1 exit. Go west on Hway 1 and wind around a lot. At the top of the ridge, turn right onto Panoramic Hway and continue to the 4-way "crossroads." Take the middle road to Mt. Tamalpais. Continue along this road for 5-6 miles. At the Pantoll Ranger Station the road divides. Take the upper road for about 1 mile. The road divides again. This is Rock Spring. Park here.

Driving time from College of Marin 55 minutes. Outhouse at trailhead and mid-way.

#### **SPRING 2008 TUESDAY MEANDERING IN MARIN**

#### **MARCH 25 Indian Valley College Open Space**

Two loops combine to make an interesting hike. We've seen 9 species of butterflies other years! We could see owl's clover, larkspur, and woodland stars.

Take 101 to the Ignacio Blvd. exit. Go west and follow Ignacio Blvd. into the campus. (Careful not to get back on the freeway again by mistake after you exit!) Our hike starts from the athletic field near the police station. Bring quarters to get a ticket from the parking machines.

25 minutes from College of Marin. Restrooms at trailhead.

## **APRIL 1 OLOMPALI STATE PARK, NOVATO**

This site was a Miwok settlement inhabited from about 500 AD, a ranch given to Mary Black when she married James Burdell, a home for the Grateful Dead and a gathering place for Bay Area rock musicians, and finally a State Historic Park. We'll take a loop trail for the natural history and then check out the historical buildings. The park doesn't officially open until 10 but usually the gate is open by 9:45.

Olompali is 2.5 miles north of the city of Novato. Take 101 north to Landfill Rd. Cross the freeway and go south to the park entrance. Portable at trailhead. 35 minutes from College of Marin.

## **APRIL 8 NO CLASS**

## **APRIL 15 CHIMNEY ROCK, POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE**

This is one of Marin's must-see spring wildflower displays! Some plants we don't see inland include coastal wallflower, pussy ears, and sea thrift. We'll see elephant seals at the overlook and we'll take time to learn about their history and return from the brink of extinction. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and turn right at Olema make an immediate left onto Bear Valley Rd. Continue until you pick up SF Drake again. Go through Inverness. At the junction with Pierce Point Rd STAY ON Sir Francis Drake by bearing left. Follow signs towards the Lighthouse and Drakes Beach. About 10 minutes after you pass the signed road to Drakes Beach watch for a signed left turn to Chimney Rock. About 1 1/2 hours from College of Marin. Restrooms at trailhead. Note: Even when it's sunny inland, Chimney Rock can be windy or foggy so bring layers.

## **APRIL 22 MOUNT BURDELL OPEN SPACE, NOVATO**

Flowers and tadpoles/frogs! This loop takes us by Hidden Lake which is home to thousands of Pacific tree frogs! We may see cream cups, fiddleneck, blue-headed gilia (which is purple) and bitterroot, as well as seven or eight species of butterflies.

Take 101 north and take the San Marin Drive exit. Go west on San Marin Drive. Turn right on San Andreas Drive. The entrance to the Open Space will be on your right. If you come to the dead end of San Andreas you've only gone about half a block too far.

No lot but plenty of curbside parking.

30 minutes from College of Marin. No restrooms on this hike.

## **APRIL 29 DEER PARK TO PHOENIX LAKE**

We can expect columbine, polygala, and other later bloomers. This is also a good butterfly hike, and there should be birds and maybe some dragonflies around Phoenix Lake.

Go west on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to Fairfax. As you enter Fairfax, turn left at the IGS gas station, and make an immediate right in front of the movie theater. This puts you on Broadway. Make the first left onto Bolinas Ave. Just after it veers left, turn left on Porteous Ave. Follow it to the parking lot at

## Deer Park.

15 minutes from College of Marin. Restrooms at trailhead.

## MAY 6 WOLF RIDGE, GGNRA

Wildflowers and views! This is a wonderful wildflower hike with the native cobweb thistle, bee plant, fringe cups, and many more!

From 101 South, take the last exit before the Golden Gate Bridge. Turn right, go under the freeway, and get in the left turn lane to go through the one way tunnel with the 5 minute traffic light. Follow the road down (it will go right at the end of the lagoon and then left so the lagoon is on your left) and park at the end of the road. (The beach will be on the other side of the road.)

40 minutes from COM. Restrooms in parking lot.

## MAY 13 FINAL EXAM FINAL EXAM ROCK SPRING, MOUNT TAMALPAIS

We could see coral roots (a native orchid), meadow rue, and golden banners on this mostly shady loop hike. Bring a plate and utensils (think green and bring re-usables not disposables), and food to share for the Gourmet Final!

Go south on Hway 101 to the Stinson Beach/Hway 1 exit. Go west on Hway 1 and wind around a lot. At the top of the ridge, turn right onto Panoramic Hway and continue to the 4-way "crossroads." Take the middle road to Mt. Tamalpais. Continue along this road for 5-6 miles. At the Pantoll Ranger Station the road divides. Take the upper road for about 1 mile. The road divides again. This is Rock Spring. Park here.

Driving time from College of Marin 55 minutes. Outhouse at trailhead and mid-way.