

2018

NATIVE PLANT PROPAGATION CLASSES

All Classes at: Red Barn Classroom @ The Bear Valley Visitor Center*
1 Bear Valley Visitor Center Access Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

RSVP: Sarah Phillips • Sarah@marinrcd.org • (415) 663-1170 ext 302



Saturday, June 16 • 10 a.m. - noon

Who's that Buzzing around the Garden?

Instructors
Sarah Phillips
Charlotte Torgovitsky

*Habitat Gardening
Insects in the Garden
IPM Methodologies*

From the soil to the topmost canopies of the trees a healthy garden hosts abundant populations of arthropods and other invertebrates. A garden 'full of bugs' is a habitat rich with resources – but did you know that while all “bugs” are insects – all insects are not bugs?

Though a few of the thousands of insect species may pose problems for humans, many, many, others provide beneficial eco-system services. This brief introduction for the layman will help you identify some common insects, learn about their life cycles, and plant associations; and how to manage the populations using integrated pest management techniques.

Saturday, July 14 • 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Seeds, Seeds and More Seeds!

Instructor
Charlotte Torgovitsky

*Plant Families
Seed Anatomy
Seed Collecting
Seed Travelers*

“Before the Seed, there comes the Thought of Bloom; and we have much to Hope from Flowers”. Seeds are one of nature’s Miracles; and so much of all other life is tied to the phenology of plants and the reproduction of their species.

To start learning about plant families we'll look at the floral formulas; traits which are also easily identifiable in the fruits and seeds. In this class we'll look at selection of seeds from various native genera, and talk about ethical harvesting, and how seeds travel. We'll practice some simple methods of cleaning these seeds, and learn how to properly label and store seeds.

You'll also learn to 'think like nature' while timing your harvest, and considering a variety of pre-germination techniques.

Saturday, August 11 • 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Field trip to Charlotte's Garden *Location given after RSVP

Instructor
Charlotte Torgovitsky

*Nursery Systems
Nursery Containers
Soil Mediums
Plant Phenology*

In this class we'll visit a small, but very productive nursery, where you can see some simple propagation systems all set up. We'll also look at a variety of nursery containers, different soil mediums, and options for irrigation systems. You'll learn how to customize your soil mixes to accommodate a variety of propagation options. We'll also discuss best management practices in a nursery to produce vigorous healthy plants and to avoid problems with plant pathogens.

Once you start to propagate your own plants you'll begin to see the potential of 'Mother Plants' throughout your garden. We'll look at a number of different plants to learn to determine which propagation method is best for each species, and how to time your efforts for best results.

Saturday, September 8 • 10 a.m. - noon

Weeds – the Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful!

Instructors
Sarah Phillips
Charlotte Torgovitsky
Eden Clearbrook

*Invasives
Restoration Practices
Native Edible Plants
Medicinal Plants*

The simplest definition of a weed is a 'plant in a place where it is not wanted!' But where did these weeds come from, and why? And now that they are here what do we do with them? Some weedy species are edible, some are medicinal, and some are good habitat plants. Many weedy species have multiple reproductive strategies which make them very hardy plants.

Certain truly invasive non-native species have proven to be very costly mistakes because of the way in which they can destroy the bio-diversity of delicate natural environments. In this class we'll discuss a number of different species and talk about how to either manage or eradicate problematic plants in order to restore sensitive native habitats. We'll also sample edible wild plants, and learn about some of the valuable medicinal plants found in wild and disturbed sites.

Saturday, October 13 • 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Plant from Pieces! Cloning and Divisions

Instructor
Charlotte Torgovitsky

*Plant Families
Cloning Plants
Dividing Plants
Life Support Systems*

Did you know that plants possess 'Totipotency'? It's just another one of nature's miracles - in that every living cell of a plant has the potential to grow all the other functional parts of a whole new plant! These methods of propagation are in essence 'cloning' which has advantages, but also some drawbacks.

In this class we'll look at a number of different plant families and species to learn about specific methods and mediums, and the critical timing necessary to get the best results from cuttings. We'll also discuss the important life support systems necessary for a cutting to grow into a self-sufficient healthy plant. And we'll practice one of the simplest methods of propagation by dividing some perennial plants: You'll learn which species respond the best to this method, and when to do it!