

KIRRA K. SWENERTON

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ACADEMIC EDUCATION

Post-graduate Studies, University of California, Davis Extension, CA (2012)

- Coursework: EIR/EIS preparation and review, CEQA/NEPA compliance

Post-graduate Studies, Elkhorn Slough Coastal Training Program, CA (2012)

- Certificate: California red-legged frog conservation and field techniques

MS, Ecosystem Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA (2000-2003)

- Specializations: Applied Restoration Ecology, Endangered Species, Ex-situ Plant Conservation
- Thesis: Soil suitability and Site Preparation Techniques for *Castilleja levisecta* Restoration on Whidbey Island, WA

Post-Baccalaureate Studies, College of Marin, Kentfield, CA (2000)

- Coursework: Ecology, Biology, Statistics

BA, Anthropology with Honors, University of California, Berkeley, CA (1994-1998)

- Specializations: Primate Behavioral Ecology, Ethnographic Film
- Honors Thesis: Out There: A Video About Fieldwork
- Internship: University of California Botanical Garden, Berkeley (1995)
- Study Abroad: Universidad de Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica (1996)
- Field Study: Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama (1998)

INITIATIONS & SPIRITWORK TRAINING

Temple Of Awakening Divinity, Ashland, OR

- Toad temple initiate and ceremonial sitter training (2012)

Zendo Project, Santa Cruz, CA

- Psychedelic harm reduction training (2016)

Essential Light Institute, Ashland, OR

- Mediumship and discernment training with Jonathan Goldman (2016)

Botanical Dimensions, Occidental, CA

- Ethnobotany, big botanical beings and limpia training with Kathleen Harrison (2017)

Universal Life Church, Modesto, CA

- Ordained Minister and Doctorate of Divinity (2018)

Ancestral Medicine, Asheville, NC

- Certified Ancestral Lineage Healing practitioner with Dr. Daniel Foor (2019)

SWANA Plantcestral Remembrance, Beirut, Lebanon

- Collective dreamwork and plant journeying with Leyla Feghali (2019)

Spirit-Wise Center for Heart Centered Shamanic Healing, Seattle, WA

- Compassionate Depossession initiation and practitioner training with Betsy Bergstrom (2020)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERINCE

Owner and Lead Scientist, Root Wisdom (1/11 to present)

- Consult, administer and direct conservation and research projects focused on rare and endangered species conservation and reintroduction including providing technical support, research design, permitting, training, field data collection, protected species and habitat monitoring, habitat enhancement, mapping, data analysis and reporting; collaboration with government agencies, non-profits and private institution and the press
- Integrate, practice and communicate the intersecting disciplines of ecology, ethnobiology, entheopharmacology, horticulture, animism, mysticism, ancestral healing, spiritwork and traditional ecological knowledge through research, mentorship, publication and private practice; design curriculum in medicinal plant conservation, propagation, medicine preparation, ceremonial practice and reciprocal medicine; serve individual clients, teach workshops, lead hikes, facilitate group rituals and ceremonies, integration circles and devotional journeys; organize volunteer events, author articles, attend and present at conferences and public events
- Oversee all aspects of small business administration; build partnerships with conservation organizations, NGOs, herbal medicine schools, healers, spiritworkers and gardeners; host conferences; provide professional consultation and advisory services to public agencies, tribes, non-profits and individuals

Healing Artist and Performer, San Francisco Bay Area, CA (10/13-present)

- Explore themes of sovereignty and relationship, death, intimacy, transitions and thresholds through the medium of immersive theater in collaboration with Ritual Death Experience, House of the Quivering Heart, Sensual Services, Valloween and Malaise Airways™; provide participants personalized, secure opportunities for contemplation, self expression and mind/body/spirit healing through various modalities.
- Design and construct installations, sets, props and costumes; develop characters, scripts, codes of ethics and protocols; train volunteers and performers; collaborate with individual artists, festival organizers, gallery owners and private venues; secure project funding, manage budgets, websites, ticket sales, marketing and promotions.

Zendo Project Volunteer, Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (8/16-present)

- Provide a supportive environment, individual peer support, specialized care and education to help transform difficult psychedelic and psychological experiences into opportunities for learning, healing and growth; work to reduce the number of drug-related hospitalizations and arrests resulting from psycho-spiritual crises in festival environments; apply harm reduction principles are to reduce the risks associated with substance use; staff healing space at festivals, conferences and community events.

Lead Horticulturalist, City of San Francisco, Golden Gate Park Nursery (12/15 to 11/16)

- Maintained and curated a collection of over 1,000 species of Mediterranean, drought-tolerant and California native plants; produced over 50,000 plants annually for revegetation of public park lands throughout San Francisco
- Developed and implemented sustainable growing practices, applied integrated pest management techniques and pathogen best management practices for maintaining a seven acre facility with seven commercial greenhouses
- Consulted with park staff on plant selection and design; mentored staff, volunteers and gardener apprentices

Natural Resource Manager, City of San Francisco, Parks Department (9/08 to 12/15)

- Lead recovery and reintroduction program for the federally endangered Mission blue butterfly, supported recovery of the endangered San Francisco garter snake and California red-legged frog; planned and managed stewardship and restoration of critical habitat, designed and implemented monitoring protocols, supervised collection and analysis of GIS and survey data; fulfilled reporting requirements, ensured compliance with environmental regulations and permits and liaised with media, regulatory agencies, stakeholders and other experts
- Oversaw management of over 200 acres of remnant natural habitat within 8 urban parks, created resource management plans, landscape and planting designs, implemented and supervised restoration and mitigation projects; designed and oversaw trail construction and maintenance projects, monitored and evaluated project success and applied adaptive management principles; assessed and tracked critical habitat and park biological conditions, monitored and mapped vegetation, surveyed wildlife, collected and analyzed geographic data and develop; applied and evaluated efficacy of IPM strategies and experimental invasive species control techniques
- Directed seed and propagule collection, managed inventory and records database, maintained nursery facilities, propagated 20,000 native plants per year; handled rare plant material, applied IPM measures, conducted public tours and volunteers
- Executed policies and procedures, supervised and trained staff, students, volunteers and interns; negotiated agreements, managed contractors and consultants, developed work plans, set project goals, schedules, budgets, prepared cost estimates and submitted funding proposals; provided field project oversight and landscape design, built community partnerships, gave interviews, prepared public statements and press releases

Nursery Manager & Seed Ecologist, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (6/05 to 9/08)

- Provided strategic and operational oversight and managed programming, facilities and budget of a restoration nursery, including the successful collection of over one million seeds, and propagation of 100,000+ native plants annually; supervised and trained staff, interns and hundreds of docents and volunteers; set program goals and policies, developed work plans and schedules, delivered 150 public programs annually and prepared reports and presentations in compliance with regulatory and funding agencies
- Researched and implemented cutting-edge plant propagation and seed storage techniques, managed rare plant conservation projects; collaborated with botanical gardens, plant societies, and other institutions to develop a comprehensive propagation database; designed and lead installation and maintenance of plant exhibits and award-winning public demonstration garden; lead development of seed source GPS mapping and data tracking protocols, piloted and

launched GIS, database and information management tools, produced and delivered technical reports, articles, lectures and scientific presentations to funders, partners and colleagues

- Provided technical expertise, internal trainings, lectures, workshops and mentorship for natural resources team and informal hands-on learning experiences during weekly volunteer programs; collaborated with multiple agencies and diverse stakeholders on natural resource planning issues, designed protocols for floristic surveys and rare plant monitoring and mapping

Workshop Instructor, California Native Plant Society, Yerba Buena Chapter (6/05 to 12/09)

- Taught workshops in plant identification, taxonomy and use of floristic keys for society members, maintained positive working relationship with board of directors

Research Scientist, University of Washington, Department of Biology (2/04 to 9/04)

- Coordinated international ecological study (Bolivia/USA) including hiring, training and supervision of multi-lingual field team, established and ensured implementation of field monitoring protocols and data handling; cultivated collaborative relationships with international partners, government institutions and NGOs
- Oversaw the development of multiple research projects focused on the chemical ecology of chili peppers in the laboratory and field; managed nursery facilities and, greenhouse and field experiments, established state-of-the-art seed storage facility; processed and analyzed data, prepared and submitted reports
- Functioned as lab manager, administered budget, payroll, work contracts and cooperative agreements, purchased, maintained and operated complex field and laboratory equipment

Park Ranger, University of Washington, Center for Urban Horticulture (10/02 to 1/03)

- Managed stewardship and restoration activities on a 50 acre urban natural area including creation of site adaptive management plans for wetland and upland habitat
- Operated and maintained field equipment, implemented IPM techniques for invasive species control, conducted wildlife surveys, wetland assessments and vegetation monitoring, and applied knowledge of watershed properties and wetland function to land management
- Recruited and trained volunteers and docents, coordinated stewardship projects, lead educational tours, initiated public outreach; maintained interpretive signs and trails, participated in local planning processes and gave presentations at community meetings

Consulting Scientist, The Nature Conservancy, Washington (9/01 to 6/03)

- Researched, identified and assessed habitat requirements for endangered plant reintroduction, conducted detailed geological and soil analyses and utilized results to inform coastal grassland management actions and conservation planning
- Designed, applied and evaluated experimental restoration strategies including IPM techniques; oversaw propagation and installation of endangered plants, developed and implemented monitoring protocols on experimental sites
- Built partnerships with private landowners and farmers, cultivated relationships between university, military and non-profit organizations, recruited community volunteers and interns; prepared and disseminated educational materials, maps, and scientific reports, and created and offered multimedia presentations for both professional scientists and community stakeholders

Graduate Student Instructor, Restoration Ecology Network, Univ. of WA (9/01 to 6/02)

- Facilitated senior/graduate level professional capstone course in applied habitat restoration, developed course materials, managed website, organized speakers, prepared funding proposals, won and administered grants
- Generated clients and fostered community partnerships, wrote and published reports; managed contracts between students and clients, evaluated student proposals, restoration project designs, installation and maintenance, and administered project budgets

Biological Science Technician, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (2/00 to 7/00)

- Monitored and mapped rare plant populations using GPS/GIS, ground sampling and survey techniques, produced reports in compliance with federal regulations; served as a biological monitor during construction activities, monitored and sampled endangered fisheries through water quality analysis, seine netting and electrofishing
- Managed and trained volunteers, supervised interns, organized restoration project scopes and delivered weekly volunteer events and community programs
- Researched reintroduction and restoration strategies for coastal dune, serpentine bluff, grassland, freshwater wetland and estuarine species on urban public lands

PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS & PODCASTS

Swenerton, K. (2019). *Fire and Shade: Lessons from the Plants on Death and Dying*. Sensory Solutions, Dorset, UK.

Swenerton, K. (2019). *The Dark Mirror: Reflections on Ancestral Identity through Dreams, Stones and Mystical Practice*. SWANA Ancestral Hub, Los Angeles, CA.

Woodruff, E., Swenerton, K. (2019). *Voices of the Psychedelic Renaissance*. Video by Psanctum Psychedelia., Portland, OR.

Swenerton, K. (2019). *Lupinus formosus Seed Experiment*. Root Wisdom. Mission Blue Butterfly Regional Summit. Naturebridge, Sausalito, CA.

Neiderer, C., Swenerton, K. (2017-2019). *Progress report for the Bay checkerspot butterfly (Euphydryas editha bayensis) reintroduction from Coyote Ridge to San Bruno Mountain*. Creekside Center for Earth Observation, prepared for San Mateo County and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Noconi, A., Swenerton, K., Rose, T., Dean, A., Castleberry, K. Holub, A. Dinova, M. (2018). *Women of the Psychedelic Renaissance Panel*. Exploring Psychedelics Conference. Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR.

Swenerton, K. (2018). *Current Research in Sonoran Desert Toad Conservation*. World Bufo Alvarius Congress. Mexico City, Mexico.

Swenerton, K. (2018). *Spirit Guides, Energetic Hygiene and Ritual Containers: Relational Technologies for Navigating Non-Ordinary States of Consciousness*. Exploring Psychedelics Conference. Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR. Rebroadcast by Ball, M. on the Entnoegenic Evolution Podcast.

Swenerton, K., Weiss, S. (2018-2019). *Lupine Diversification Project Annual Report*. Butterfly Conservation Initiative. Root Wisdom and Creekside Center for Earth Observation, prepared for the Disney Conservation Fund's Reverse the Decline Project.

Swenerton, K. (2017). *Best Handling Practices for Handling Wild Sonoran Desert Toads*. Prepared for the Terra Incognita Project.

Swenerton, K. (2017). *The Medicine of Reciprocity: Conserving Cactus Medicine*. Exploring Psychedelics Conference. Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR.

Swenerton, K. (2016). *Cultivating Sustainable Relationships with Cactus Medicine*. Portland Entheogenic Exploration and Research Society. Portland, OR.

Swenerton, K. (2016). *The Medicine of Reciprocity: Cultivating Sustainable Relationships with Entheogens*. 4th Annual Fall Symposium: Entheogens and Sustainability. Entheogenic Research, Integration and Education, California Institute for Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA.

Wayne, L., Swenerton, K., Weiss, S., Niederer, C., and Quenelle, J. (2010-2016). *Progress report for the Mission blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides missionensis*)*. San Francisco, CA: San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and Creekside Center for Earth Observation, prepared for the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Swenerton, K. (2012). Issues in Urban Conservation and Restoration. Lecture for Bio318: Our Endangered Planet, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA.

Swenerton, K. (2010). Seed pollination, maturation and collection. In B. Young (Ed.), *The Science and Art of Growing Plants for Habitat Restoration, 2nd Edition*. San Francisco, CA: Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Wayne, L., Swenerton, K., Weiss, S., and Niederer, C. (2009). *Recovery action plan for the Mission blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides missionensis*) at Twin Peaks natural area*. San Francisco, CA: San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and Creekside Center for Earth Observation, prepared for the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Swenerton, K. (2009). Mission blue butterfly relocation project. Poster presented at the San Francisco Natural Areas Meeting, San Francisco, CA, October 17.

Swenerton, K. (2008). Conservation and Propagation of the Presidio Manzanita. Presentation for the Golden Gate National Parks Endangered Species Big Year, Wild Equity Institute, San Francisco, CA, February 23.

Swenerton, K. (2008). Issues and solutions for nursery propagation and field survival. Presentation at the Presidio Manzanita Workshop, San Francisco, CA, September 11.

Swenerton, K. and Laskowski, M. (2008). *Germination trials for Raven's Manzanita*. San Francisco, CA: Report for the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Schaefer, B., Swenerton, K. and Heimbinder, E. (2007). *Plant and seed request protocol*. San

Francisco, CA: Report for the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Swenerton, K. (2007). Site selection and soil suitability for golden paintbrush restoration on Puget Lowland prairies. Ecological Society of America/Society of Ecological Restoration Joint Meeting, San Jose, CA, August 5-10, Paper 57-7.

Swenerton, K. (2001). Propagation of native Puget Lowland prairie species. Poster presented at the International Plant Propagators Society Meeting, Seattle, WA, September 4.

Swenerton, K. (2001). *Weed management plan for the Union Bay natural area southern wildlife zone*. Seattle, WA: Report for the University of Washington, Center for Urban Horticulture.

Swenerton, K. (2000). *Special status plant species monitoring report*. San Francisco, CA: Report for the National Park Service.

FILMS

Swenerton, K. (1998). *Spider monkey (Ateles geoffroyi) copulation on Barro Colorado Island* (22min, VHS). Wisconsin National Primate Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison: Primate Productions.

Swenerton, K. (1998). *Out There: A video about fieldwork* (29:30min, VHS). University of California, Berkeley: Primate Productions.

Butcher, C., Kuan, T., Swenerton, K. and Torres, S. (1997). *An Urban Tribe* (21min, VHS). University of California, Berkeley: Ethnographic Film Festival.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- Reverse the Decline Grant, Disney Conservation Fund (2017-present)
- Habitat Restoration Program Grant, Central Valley Project Conservation Program (2015-present)
- Art Grant, Reimagine End of Life Festival (2018-2019)
- Art Grant, Priceless Festival (2016-2018)
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy Natural Resources Grant (2017)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Recipient (2013-2015)
- William Hammond Hall Award for Excellence in Horticulture Winner (2013)
- King County Small Change for a Big Difference Grant (2002)
- Byron and Alice Lockwood Endowed Graduate Fellow (2000-2001)
- International Wildlife Film Festival Amateur Documentary Award Winner (1999)
- Berkeley Video and Film Festival, Grand Festival Prize for Ethnographic Film (1999)
- Associated Students of the University of California Grant Recipient (1997)
- Chancellor's Student Activity Fund Grant Recipient (1997)

- Honors in Anthropology, Distinction in General Scholarship, U.C. Berkeley (1994-1998)
- Vacaville Community Foundation Fellow (1994-1998)
- Lion's Club International, Speech Contest Winner (1994)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Spanish fluency
- Ex-situ plant conservation and seed science
- ArcGIS, ArcPad, cartography and GPS
- Database management
- Plant taxonomy
- Integrated pest management
- Forklift, chainsaw and power equipment operation

AFFILIATIONS

- SF Psychedelic Society (2019-present)
- Viridis Genii Symposium (2019-present)
- SWANA Ancestral Hub (2019-present)
- Terra Incognita Project (2018)
- World Bufo Alvarius Congress (2018)
- Northern California Women's Herbal Symposium (2017-present)
- Botanical Dimensions (2016-present)
- United Plant Savers (2016-present)
- Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (2013-present)
- Women's Visionary Congress (2015-present)
- Society for Ecological Restoration International (2001-present)
- Ecological Society of America (2007-present)
- California Invasive Plant Council (2000-present)
- San Francisco Integrative Pest Management Technical Advisory Committee (2008-2017)
- California Native Plant Society (2005-present)
- Nature In The City (2004-present)
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (2004-2008)
- International Plant Propagators Association (2000-2004)
- The Nature Conservancy (2000-2004)
- Chair, Society for Ecological Restoration North West Student Chapter (2001-2003)