



APRIL 2016

The Bay Leaf

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY + EAST BAY CHAPTER
ALAMEDA & CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES

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MEMBERS' MEETING

Wednesday, April 27, 7:30 pm
Indian Baskets of Northern California and Oregon

Speaker: Ralph Shanks
Location: Garden Room, Orinda Library (see directions below)

California and Oregon weavers have created what may be the finest baskets in the world. Though these baskets are truly works of art, they have traditionally served as far more: they were vital to the survival of most native cultures in the region.

Ralph Shanks has studied California and Oregon Indian basketry for over 40 years, and with his wife Lisa Woo Shanks has published a three-book series on the subject. For this month's meeting, Ralph will present information on basketry and botany in a richly illustrated slide show based on his newest book, *Indian Baskets of Northern California and Oregon*.

Ralph Shanks is a research associate in anthropology at UC Davis and teaches classes on the analysis of Native American basketry. He is also president of the Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin (MAPOM). Ralph has written two other books on California Indian basketry, *Indian Baskets of Central California: Art, Culture, and History* and *California Indian Baskets: San Diego to Santa Barbara and Beyond to the San Joaquin Valley, Mountains and Deserts*. Lisa Woo Shanks is editor and photographer of the Indian Baskets of California and Oregon book series. All three of the Shanks' books will be available for purchase at the presentation.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room opens at 7 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. If you have questions, email sr0433@yahoo.com or call 510-496-6016.

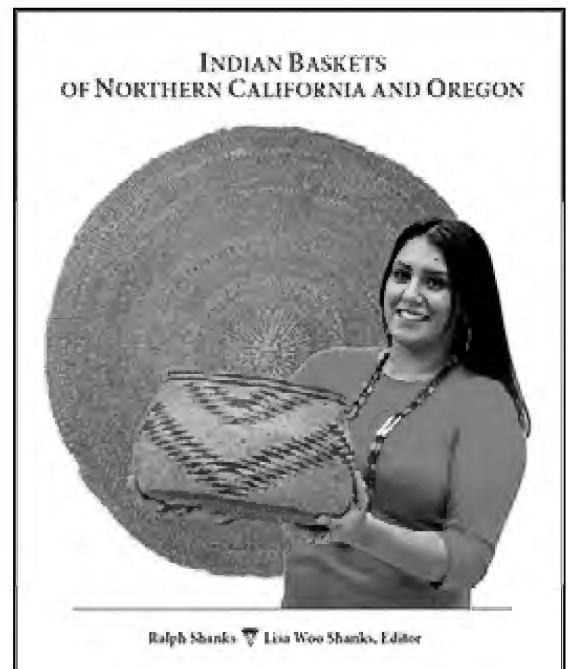
Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way.

From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.



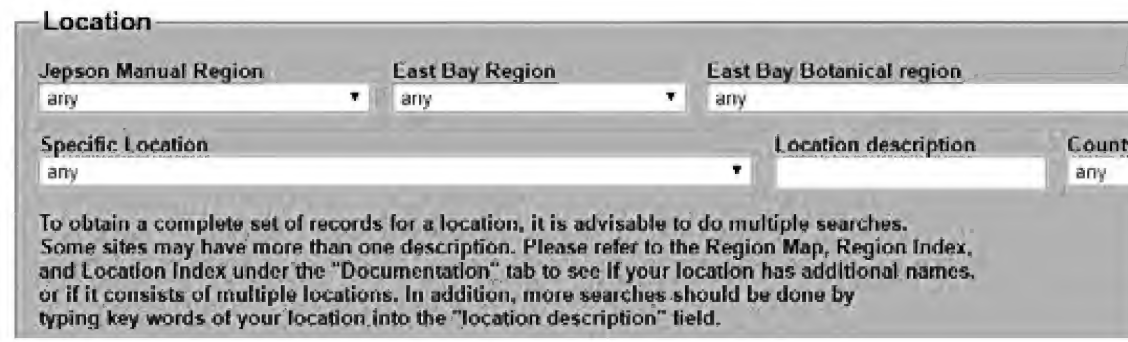
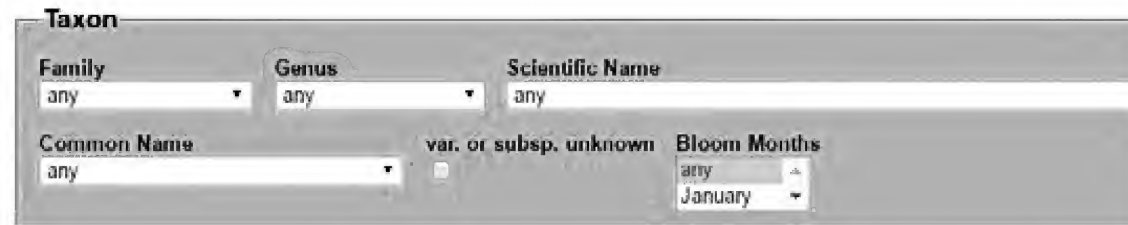
Vanessa Esquivido-Meza (Wintu) holds a Wintu basket, with a Klamath winnowing tray in the background. Photo by Lisa Woo Shanks

UNUSUAL PLANT DATABASE NOW AVAILABLE

The new online rare and unusual plant database is ready for use. See the description on our website, <http://ebcnps.org/>. To view the database, you must become a registered user. Click <http://ebcnps.org/user-agreement/> to get access (it typically takes several days to get set up).

Once you are registered, go to <https://ebcnps.fatcow.com/cgi-bin/ebrare/ebrare.cgi> to access the database. Once in, you can query the database by taxon (what plant or plants that you are interested in), by location, and by other categories. In the first two pictures, we see the various search categories:

We display the Genus menu:



UNUSUAL PLANT DATABASE

We chose *Dirca*, the genus of Western Leatherwood. We clicked on Search (and we chose **Observation Records as What to Display**) and got these results:



We have blotted out the exact locations. There were many more records, but we show just two, including the Bird Trail in Chabot Park, where the chapter gives regular field trips to see the leatherwood. This is an invaluable tool. Sign up today.

13243	<i>Dirca occidentalis</i>	*A2	1B 2 S253(CEQ4) (G2G3)	Dianne Lake and Jonathan Price for EDMUD	Gateway (EDMUD) Lower slopes, above Hwy 24, near tunnel. Several sites above and below fire road	25		CityE	Forest, Riparian Scrub (Coastal or Interior)	Scrub (Coastal or Interior), Woodland	Owens Area	Mapped
12002	<i>Dirca occidentalis</i>	*A2	1B 2 S253(CEQ4) (G2G3)	Dianne Lake	Chabot Regional Park. Above Bird Trail	44		CityP	Forest, Riparian Scrub (Coastal or Interior)	Woodland	Oakland Hills - South	Observed

UPCOMING APRIL BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on April 19 at 7:00 pm at the home of Lesley and Bill Hunt, 236 Warwick Drive, Walnut Creek. Welcome starts at 6:30.

STATE TO OPEN NEW EAST BAY OFFICE

Last month the State CNPS Board of Directors approved the opening of a new office in the East Bay for Dan Gluesenkamp, state CNPS Executive Director. Dan has long considered the East Bay his home and he plans to use this office as a base of operations for fundraising in the Bay Area. Other to-be-filled positions may also operate from this office, including commu-

nications and publications specialists, while the state CNPS headquarters will remain in Sacramento. Dan has changed his membership affiliation to the East Bay Chapter, so we know he is here to stay. Stay tuned for more information.

Barbara Leitner

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

Registration is now open for the free Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place on Sunday, May 1, 2016, from 10:00–5:00 at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Participants on the twelfth annual, free, self-guided Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour can choose from thirty showcase native plant gardens. They will have the opportunity to learn how to select and care for California native plants, lower their water bills, design a low maintenance garden, attract butterflies, birds, and bees, and garden without using pesticides. More than forty talks will be offered throughout the day. More than 5,000 people are expected to register for this annual event, which will fill; early registration is suggested to ensure a place.

The delightful collection of gardens offered this year ranges from five-acre lots in the hills to small gardens in the flats, and from professionally designed gardens to those designed by homeowners. Garden styles run the gamut – from restoration gardens containing local native plants to the horticulturally available suite of natives from throughout California, and to gardens containing a mixture of natives and Mediterranean plants.

In the “View the Gardens” section of the website are photographs of each garden, and extensive garden descriptions and plant lists. The website also contains a list of nurseries that sell native plants, as well as a list of landscape designers familiar with designing with native plants. Many of these designers offer discount consultations to tour participants.

A companion feature, the Native Plant Sale Extravaganza, will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1. This exclusive sale features a number of native plant nurseries

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES PLANT SALES

April 30 and May 1: On the weekend of the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, once again, a number of native plant nurseries, including our own Native Here Nursery, will be open on either or both Saturday, April 30, and Sunday, May 1, 2016 from 10:00–5:00. Take advantage of this opportunity to shop for unique or hard-to-find native plants that are not normally available in most nurseries.

This shopping extravaganza will offer native plant fans a good selection of native plants and provide a more relaxed

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES SPRING WORKSHOPS

Read full descriptions of these workshops and register for them at www.BringingBacktheNatives.net. (\$35 per person.)

1. **Saturday, April 16, 10:00-3:00, Oakland - FULL:** Designing Native Gardens for Color and Interest Throughout the Year, led by Pete Veilleux of East Bay Wilds
2. **Saturday, April 16, 10:00-3:00, Orinda/Lafayette/Moraga gardens:** Introducing The New California Lawn, led by Michael Thilgen of Four Dimensions Landscape Company

which carry large quantities of hard-to-find California natives, and offers native plant fans both a good selection of native plants and a relaxed shopping experience. Knowledgeable staff will be on hand to help shoppers select the right plants for their gardens, and Saturday shoppers will have time to visit more showcase native plant gardens on Sunday, May 1, during the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.

In addition, a series of workshops (\$35 per person) will be held between April and June. Participants can learn how to remove and replace their lawns, design native plant gardens for color and interest throughout the year, install a drip irrigation system, and garden sustainably (think chickens, rainwater harvesting, and creating pollinator gardens.) Details can be found on the website.

What’s special about California native plants? They are adapted to our soil and climate, and they are easy to care for. Native plants are naturally drought tolerant. They attract native birds, butterflies, and other forms of wildlife. And, as the gardens on the Tour show, California native plants are beautiful; these lovely gardens display a sense of place that is uniquely Californian.

Admission to the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is free, though donations are requested. This tour will fill; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed. Registration will close on April 24 or when the tour is full, whichever comes first. Register or volunteer at <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/>.

For more information, contact Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 am and 8 pm.

and less crowded shopping experience than one normally finds at native plant sales. Knowledgeable staff will be on hand to help shoppers select the right plants for their gardens. You do not have to register for the Tour in order to shop at these nurseries.

Talks will be given at several of the nurseries, and music will be played at two. See the website for details:

<http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/plant-sale>

3. **Sunday, April 17, 10:00–2:00, Livermore:** “How to remove your lawn (and get paid for it, too!) sheet mulching workshop” led by Kathy Kramer of the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour
4. **Saturday, April 23, 10:00–3:00, Walnut Creek** Introducing The New California Lawn, led by Michael Thilgen of Four Dimensions Landscape Company
5. **Saturday, April 30, 10:00–3:00, Walnut Creek** Gardening with Nature in Mind, led by Judy Adler

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Native Here Nursery is always full of exquisite flora native to the East Bay, and right now we are particularly enamored of our selection of *Iris douglasiana*, or Douglas iris. Boasting gorgeous blooms in shades of velvety purple and blue with shiny, evergreen foliage, Douglas iris is easy to care for, adaptable to both sun or shade, is able to grow under oaks, and requires very little water. Their ease of care and versatility make Douglas iris a great choice for folks new to gardening with California native plants and experienced gardeners alike.



Douglas iris in Joe Willingham’s garden. Photo by David Margolies.

M. Nevin Smith says of the Douglas iris in his book *Native Treasures*: “For sheer elegance, few flowers rival those of the iris....Douglas iris is a fine garden subject. In addition to its beauty, it is notable for its vigor, ease of culture, and ...floral form.”

He goes on to say that “...they are also long lived perennials, producing graceful fountains of evergreen leaves astride a branched rhizome at or just below ground level.”

In the garden, “...they are appropriate for formal border use but even more attractive in informal drifts, whether in odd nooks or large areas of the garden. Just as they do in nature, they thrive in cultivation under oaks, where their minimal summer water needs can be met by only occasional irrigation

VOLUNTEERS FOR JEPSON HERBARIUM ON CAL DAY

Curatorial volunteers are needed at the University and Jepson Herbaria, Saturday, April 16 (Cal Day), 10 am–4 pm (participants don’t have to stay the whole time). Volunteers will help greet students, prospective students, their families, and other visitors being shown the herbarium on the UC Open House (Cal) Day. Regular volunteering (mounting, sorting, and filing a backlog of plant collections from California and around the world) resumes May 7.

beyond fog drip...the plants require little active care. Reasonably well-drained acid soil is appreciated, particularly if the plants are to be summer irrigated. Up to the point where leaf tips begin to die back prematurely (this is normal in fall and winter with older leaves), the less supplemental irrigation, the better, for purposes of avoiding disease. Once a year, in late winter, you may want to tidy up the clumps by removing dead leaves, which take a while to rot away...”

Nancy Bauer suggests Douglas iris as part of a lawn alternative in her book *The California Wildlife Habitat Garden*, while Glen Keator and Alrie Middlebrook suggest using Douglas iris with bulbs on a hillside, or in any woodland garden setting, in their book *Designing California Native Gardens*. In EBMUD’s *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates* Douglas iris are described as being “...especially well suited to the Bay Region.”

So if you’re looking for an easy-to-grow, unfussy plant that requires very little maintenance and almost no supplemental water to look gorgeous year-round, take a look at our native *Iris douglasiana*.

Speaking of watering, we’re reaching the end of our nature-assisted watering season – it seems as though our 2015–2016 El Niño rains are over. Almost all plants put into the ground now, regardless of how drought tolerant they are, will require supplemental watering to get established.

This also means that our stock at the nursery will require watering by volunteers, not just nature. If you have an hour or so each week, watering at Native Here is a great way to be involved with our community of people and our community of plants that we grow from the East Bay. After a quick orientation, watering volunteers can set their own schedules, including weekend hours when the nursery is not open to the general public.

We have metal plant tags available for purchase – perfect for those of you getting your gardens groomed for the 2016 Bringing Back the Natives tours. We will be open the weekend of the Bringing Back The Natives Garden Tour (April 30 and May 1) from 10 to 5 each day.

Amy Leonard
Manager, Native Here Nursery

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE VIEWS A BPPA

The Conservation Committee took our new Conservation Analyst, Karen Whitestone to visit one of our Botanical Priority Protection Areas (BPPAs). The purpose of the field trip was to allow the participants to become more familiar with our BPPAs. This spring we are making a special effort to visit those that are currently conservation targets or are expected to be this year (for examples Pt. Molate and Tesla). Additionally, we are making an effort to see what we can of our other BPPAs in Eastern Alameda and Country Costa Counties.

The field trip was to part of our Byron BPPA. From our BPPA Guidebook: "...The Byron BPPA is a botanically diverse, habitat rich area unlike any you will encounter in the immedi-

ate Bay Area. The alkali-influenced habitats are reminiscent of the southern San Joaquin Valley..." (gobs of which are in bloom right now!)... "and supporting an exciting assemblage of annual and perennial species not found elsewhere in our chapter areas. It is part of a generally uninterrupted stretch of open space between the Central Valley, the Altamont Hills and Mt. Diablo. Some of the plant communities it supports are rare in the region and harbor rare plant and animal species. Nearly all the alkali wetlands within the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservation Plan inventory area are found in the Byron area."

Jean Robertson



The BPPA tour group (top). Karen Whitestone is second from the left, Chapter President Babara Leitner is third from the left, and Conservation Committee chair Jean Robertson is fifth from the left. Lower left: Jean looks at a fiddleneck through a hand lens. Bottom right: Conservation Analyst Karen Whitestone examines a plant. Photos by Beth Wurzburg.

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

I am pleased to present my first report as the Conservation Analyst of the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (EBCNPS). I have been representing EBCNPS at meetings with the East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) board and staff, Citizens for Sustainable Point Molate, SF Bay Shoreline Advocates, Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, and our Chapter Board of Directors. I am still introducing myself to our East Bay conservation network and agency partners. I received excellent advice from former Analysts Lech Naumovich and Mack Casterman. Jean Robertson, our Conservation Committee Chair, and I meet every week and she has been invaluable in guiding my progress.

Carnegie's SVRA: proposed expansion into Tesla-Alameda properties, Tracy, CA

February gave us two opportunities for our organization to continue to advocate for preservation of Tesla as a non-motorized park or preserve, in order to give maximum protection to these biologically and botanically significant lands. Tesla area is still considered for expansion as part of Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA). Our organization submitted comments, as well as spoke at the public Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission meeting on February 5, 2016, in Tracy. We reiterated that their Draft Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) did not adequately address our previous comments on the true impacts of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use on botanical resources, to the point of failing basic requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). We feel they missed the opportunity to improve the General Plan/EIR, and adequately survey and map the Tesla area for rich resources such as curly blue grass grasslands (*Poa secunda*). The opposition speakers who also believe the Tesla area is inappropriate for OHV use included groups we do not always see standing together. Conservation nonprofits, researchers, and students agreed with local ranchers, federal agencies, and local government that the Tesla area should not be open to OHVs. It was a heartwarming chapter in the struggle to get this area recognized for its amazing array of resources (see Corral Hollow Botanical Priority Protection Area (BPPA)).

Assemblywoman Catharine Baker (whose district 16 covers approximately Orinda to Livermore) convened her first Environmental Advisory Council meeting in San Ramon on March 19, 2016. In attendance were more than 30 members from about 15 different environmentally focused organizations, including Save Mount Diablo, Tri-Valley Conservancy, Bay Area Open Space Council, EBMUD, and Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. Ms. Baker wanted an introduction to key issues her constituents and the organizations they support find important. I was excited to take this opportunity to engage, in person, with our District 16 elected official, and hear our concerns discussed and validated by a politically influential voice. In roundtable fashion, local agencies described a handful of actionable items we thought needed Ms. Baker's support and engagement. The timeliness of this

meeting announcement was important to our chapter, because a narrow margin still exists for increasing public pressure on Carnegie SVRA to stop their OHV expansion plans. A large majority in attendance mentioned the Tesla area. Assemblywoman Baker heard much about defense of our open spaces for public recreation, vegetation-wildlife corridor vitality, and how the EIR meant to protect it still lacks substance. We all would love to see non-motorized public recreation opportunities in such a beautiful place. Ms. Baker pointed out parallels in our concerns with policy she has supported.

As conservation analyst I greatly enjoyed this opportunity to represent EBCNPS priorities to a political representative who engages with a large East Bay Area population. I learned more about how our scientific evidence could be used for the essential task of convincing politicians to take action in favor of conserving exquisite open spaces.

Our newest update: The Carnegie SVRA General Plan Team emailed out a project update March 18, 2016, telling us that the process on the State Park's end is delayed, and that more news should be available in summer 2016. This delay is good news because the commissioners could have voted to approve the expansion as early as immediately following their February 2016 meeting. The team instead will continue sorting through testimony and submitted written comments from the February meeting, and subsequently editing the Carnegie SVRA General Plan/EIR. There will be a new and we hope better version of the Plan, followed by an OHMVR Commission meeting, at which they may vote. (We may call on you to attend; it will be preceded by a 30-day public notice.) We intend to carefully scrutinize their revisions when they become available, and attend the future public meeting to continue advocating for Tesla.

Fuels management affecting East Bay Maritime Chaparral, and grazing contracts:

Our Conservation Committee continues to work with the East Bay Regional Park District to effectively steward important Maritime Chaparral habitat, in the context of required "fuels reduction" work. Maritime Chaparral consists of areas of open shrubland dominated by brittle-leaf, woolly-leaf, and/or pallid manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos crustacea*, *A. tomentosa*, and *A. pallida*), plus their associates. This plant community (with the pallid manzanitas) exists nowhere else in the world except in our two-county area, and is rare here (federally listed as threatened, state listed as endangered). Two important stands occur: in Sobrante Ridge Regional Preserve (see Sobrante Ridge BPPA), and at Huckleberry Regional Preserve in the Oakland Hills. Although this vegetation profile requires fire intervals for healthy cycling, our local stands are threatened by nearby urbanization, requiring manual, non-fire fuel reduction methods. No proven method yet exists for how to best manage these important vegetation stands for their own values, while effectively reducing fire risk to nearby homes. It is all a guessing game and an experiment, so we

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT (CONTINUED 1)

are carefully monitoring how this fuels reduction work will be carried out. As part of that process, we await the release of the Pallid Manzanita Management Plan, a document that will guide how the fuels reduction work will be performed for the benefit of the pallid manzanita and its characteristic, sensitive community.

The California Native Plant Society and East Bay Regional Park District agree that appropriate management of the maritime chaparral and its nearby buffering chaparral vegetation is critical. We are eager to better understand which of their vegetation management protocol options they plan to follow for areas such as Huckleberry Preserve. We continue to stay sharp on monitoring these entire habitat regions.

We recently noticed that a multiyear grazing contract for about 800 acres that was approved by the Park District for managing fuel breaks lacked robust plant protections. For example, avoiding tree girdling was required, but maintaining any measurement of native bunchgrass on each parcel was not. In this case vegetation management protocols do exist to guide the contractor in the form of the Park District's own robust Wildland Management Policies and Guidelines. We assert that incorporating whole-habitat vegetation management standards within the contract language lends enforceable value to plant protections. We all want these plant protection measures not to get lost in the cracks of communication, risking irreparable damage to native plants. Other bay area governments and entities have incorporated these guidances without significant expense or hardship. I was greatly assisted by chapter volunteer Jim Hansen, also of the California Native Grasslands Association, in finding this contract detail and understanding its importance. We are heartened by the positive and immediate feedback we have received from Park District department heads on fuels management projects.

Teens explore the Point Molate vistas and vegetation corridor:

Citizens for Sustainable Point Molate's Pam Stello invited me to join other professional scientist mentors for a walk on February 26, 2016 with a local high school group learning about environmental science. We walked for an hour, starting from Point Molate Beach Park in small groups along Drumm Road (currently closed to public access). We saw California man-root (*Marah* sp.), elderberry (*Sambucus* sp.), the invasive weed French broom *Genista monspessulana*, toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*), California fescue (*Festuca californica*) blue dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*) and a lone California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*). One spot had gooseberries, blackberries, and poison oak (close to each other, which helped in noting the species' differences. They had just discussed ocean acidification in class, so we talked about how well bunchgrasses store carbon in its fibrous but deep roots.

We also had the pleasure of seeing an Allen's hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*).

It was exciting to experiment with my youth teaching strategies for inspiring conservation principles. I have a lot to learn! Although I was prepared for discussing the botanical bounty of this bay area, I realized it takes another kind of focused teaching to keep groups engaged. The students wanted to know how the color and shape of flowers affected which pollinator visits. Looking from uphill across our improved view of the Bay we talked about the mostly intact and uninterrupted stretch of vegetation in this section of the watershed, running from the mountain top to the shore and underwater eelgrass beds. We also saw how all Bay shore areas are connected, and we also discussed the rain shadow of Mount Tamalpais. Of course, the concrete and buried fuel tanks visible from Point Molate's naval depot history still carry a large effect into the present day. The Ohlone's use of this land factored into our discussion of edible native plants, and how invasives interrupt the food cycle for native plants. I introduced the idea that this area may be developed into housing or a community center one day, and it is up to everyday citizens like ourselves to understand the value of land from multiple perspectives. I think they walked away with some great facts and ideas to talk about in biology class, a closer connection to parks and open space, and an appreciation for making sure we have areas like this close to our urban environments.

Development plans for Point Molate may be up for discussion soon, due to recent litigation resolutions. The area is home to beautiful examples of native coastal prairie, as well as salt and riparian marsh and scrub habitats. It struggles with pressure from invasive non-native plants such as eucalyptus, brooms, and various grasses. This land is notable to our chapter because it falls within our Richmond Shoreline BPPA. Future developments need to manage for the health of the native scrublands, grasslands, and the eelgrass beds. Our chapter will continue monitoring development proposals for this area, and will continue advocating for a continuous open space corridor, from shoreline to hilltop. Other Shoreline advocacy groups, like Citizens for Sustainable Point Molate, would also like to see this area preserved as open space with recreation, and to protect the important remaining eelgrass beds of the bay from excess acidification and polluted runoff.

SF Bay Shoreline Advocates

On March 7, 2016, the Shoreline Advocates hosted a meeting at the Shorebird Park Nature Center. We had a roundtable introduction to current events within organizations such as Citizens for East Shore Parks, Audubon Society chapters, Kids for the Bay, Friends of Sausal Creek, Friends of Five Creeks, Alameda Creek Alliance, and others. Positive work abounds amongst our watershed partners. We heard a special presentation on Measure AA from the Trust for Public Land's Amanda Brown-Stevens, and on a constitutional amendment initiative in favor of redefining stormwater as an official utility, led by Mitch Avalon, County Engineers Association of California. EBCNPS is considering our options with supporting these

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT (CONTINUED 2)

movements. Our group also touched on how to learn from citizen science tools like bioblitzes, and the smart phone applications iNaturalist and Observer.

Concord Naval Weapons Station

The Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS) development is coming to a point again this Spring, as the city chooses a developer for the first phase of housing, and EBRPD launches plans to manage the 70% conserved open space of the more than 12000 acre former Superfund site. I had an informative working lunch on March 9, 2016, with chapter volunteer Lesley Hunt and an associate of hers from the CNWS Neighborhood Alliance. They both helped me contextualize the long process of Concord community involvement in coaxing this development into supporting local economy while also preserving a maximum of open space in perpetuity. The CNWS-associated conservation groups have done an excellent job, and I look forward to seeing this project continue with EBCNPS support. Soon, I will also meet with Save Mount Diablo's Juan Pablo Galvan, so I can educate myself on their deep involvement with the CNWS project and BPPA area.

Byron BPPA mini-tour

The Conservation Committee and I are arranging a series of field trips to our Botanical Priority Protection Areas, in order

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Can you help with outreach in April?

Outreach is an easy and pleasant way to inform the public about our chapter's existence, programs, and goals. People are interested in gardening with native plants and the right posters make it easy to open a conversation about conservation. There's no need to worry about not being able to answer all their questions, because you'll be working with an experienced person. You do not have to sign up for the whole time; crowds are usually larger in the early part of an event. If you can help at any of the following times and places, please write to Lesley Hunt at ldhunt@astound.net to work out the details.

Friends of San Leandro Creek, Saturday April 9, noon-2 pm: A mixture of gardening and conservation. You'll be working with an experienced chapter board member. It would help a lot if you could pick up the display materials and some display plants and a small table and two chairs, from Native Here Nursery either Friday or Saturday morning and transport them to the event. Transportation of the materials to the event on Saturday would be a big help even if you can't help with the outreach itself. Location is Root Park in San Leandro.

Sunol Wildflower Festival, Saturday April 9, 11am-4 pm: EBRPD's annual wildflower festival at Sunol Regional Park.

to increase our knowledge of these hidden beauty habitats. I have especially appreciated the help of our volunteers Heath Bartosh, also of Nomad Ecology, and Jean Robertson, who helped organize and guide our most recent trip exploring alkali meadow and scalds habitats on March 20, 2016. We celebrated this first day of spring with a botanizing hike through whitened patches of these soil-driven sensitive community types. The iodine bush (*Allenrolfea occidentalis*) stood out as the most imposing alkaline plant, surprisingly capable of surviving heavy grazing. The little ok orach (*Atriplex fruticulosa*) stays tighter to the ground, perhaps to avoid advertising its holiday-colored fruiting bracts; description credit is attributed to Jepson. The surrounding hills and meadows were a sea of beautiful greenery. From this brief introduction to our Eastern Bay Area BPPAs, I understood immediately how these salty areas have trouble scoring points in favor of their own preservation. But, I learned to love its charms along the way, and look forward to sharing about our future trips with you. Please join our chapter on field trips by checking out the EBCNPS website, <http://ebcnps.org/field-trips/>. Conservation Analyst blog updates can be found at: <https://ebcnps.wordpress.com/>.

Karen Whitestone, Conservation Analyst

Help me work this booth for a couple of hours or longer. Lunch is usually available from food trucks or you can bring your own.

Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden, Sunday April 17, 1-4 pm: A smaller event with the accent on native plant gardening. I'll be giving a brief talk and need someone to cover the table at least during that period. This is a good chance to reach people in an area where our CNPS chapter is not so well known.

Wild Birds Unlimited, Saturday, April 30, 10 am-4 pm: The focus here will be on gardening with native plants, especially bird-friendly aspects. Lunch is included for participants. The location is just north of Sun Valley Mall. Again, a chance to raise our profile in an area where we are not so well known.

April is our busiest month because of Earth Day. We'd really appreciate your assistance. Please contact me at ldhunt@astound.net if you can help.

Lesley Hunt
ldhunt@astound.net

FIELD TRIPS

North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve, Saturday April 2, 9:00 am, North Table Mountain, 2488 Cherokee Road, Oroville: RSVP. We will carpool, since this is a 2.5 hour drive each way from Berkeley. Hosted by Gregg Weber. (Co-Organizer). For more information go to <http://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/229170627/>

Toyon Canyon at Briones Regional Park, Sunday, April 3, 9:45 am, Briones Regional Park - Briones Road Staging Area, Briones Road, Martinez. RSVP. Native plant expert Gregg Weber leads this trip to a floristically rich area of Briones Regional Park. For more information go to <http://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/223750944/>

East Trail at Mount Diablo State Park, Saturday, April 16, 2016, 9:45 am to 3:00 pm, 9800 Marsh Creek Road, Clayton Hike led by Gregg Weber. For more information go to <http://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/221880279/>

April 16, 10:30 am Jepson Prairie vernal pools and Playa Lake Tour. In honor of California Native Plant Week, join naturalist Russ Huddleston of the Solano Land Trust to see both invertebrates and vernal pool flora at Lake Olcutt and the surrounding area. There will be a \$10 per person charge as a fundraiser; funds raised are to be spent on interpretive signage for Jepson Prairie. We will start with the "dipnet tour" of vernal pool invertebrates, and then proceed with Russ Huddleston to get up close with some truly unusual flora. Bring your *Jepson Manual* (paper or electronic) to work through keys on genera you won't see in most locations. RSVP is not required, but it will help planning if you check in at www.Meetup.com/ebcnps/ or e-mail janetgawthrop47@gmail.com.

Monday, April 18, 2016 7:00 am to Friday, April 22, 2016, 10:00 pm
See once in 100 year bloom in parts of Death valley and Panamints, Death Valley National Park, Death Valley. There may never be another year like this in Death Valley in

BIOENGINEERING FOR EROSION CONTROL WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 2, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Bioengineering Tools for Erosion Control. Workshop presented by Lech Nau-movich, Golden Hour Restoration Institute
RSVP: garberparkstewards@gmail.com

Join us for our 2nd Winter Workshop of the 2016 Season. Lech will take a pragmatic look at an eroding slope at Waterfall Creek in Garber Park and plan rehabilitation efforts from site analysis to monitoring outcomes. Among the topics to be covered: define the problem, introduce the site and selection process, identify the goals and success criteria, bioengineering techniques (spiling, living fascines, willow/perennial staking, erosion fabrics), native mulching, and monitoring approaches.

Meet at the Evergreen Lane entrance to Garber Park at 9:30. Come early for coffee, tea, and snacks and to meet fellow workshop participants.

10 THE BAY LEAF April 2016

our lifetimes. So I don't want to miss it! If you can't go for the whole 5 days, no problem, just sign up, and coordinate with us. Leave Bay area Monday, April 18 around 7 am.

Plan on car camping, backcountry, or maybe get a spot at one of the campgrounds in Death Valley if there is space. Drive back starting 11 am, Friday, April 22. There are several motels in Death Valley and Panamint Springs if you prefer to stay in a motel, and meet us for botanizing. For more information go to <http://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/229548094/>

Gregg Weber, co-organizer and event host

Tuesday, April 12 at 10 am, Friday, April 22 at 10 am, and Saturday, April 23 at 10 am. We have scheduled our vernal pool tours at Warm Springs. There are still quite a few spaces in 3 tours,

To sign up go to the website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/warm-springs-tour-tickets-22672040684>

There's a short description of the tours on the site linked above. Tours are about 2 hours, heavy rain will cancel, and good walking shoes are a must as we will be doing lots of off-trail walking. Directions to the meet site are sent out in an email as part of the registration confirmation.

Ivette Loreda

Wildlife Refuge Specialist

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

1 Marshlands Road

Fremont, CA 94555

(510) 792-4275 x 134 office phone

(510) 792-5828 fax

(510) 377-5956 cell

Directions: The closest address is 144 Evergreen Lane, Berkeley. From Ashby Avenue, take Alvarado Road to Slater Lane, turn right onto Evergreen Lane. The park is at the end of the street. A map and directions can be found at garberparkstewards.org. Click on directions in the menu bar.

All skill levels are welcome. No previous experience is necessary. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a refillable water bottle. We provide tools, water and snacks. We work in light rain; downpour will cancel.

--

Shelagh Brodersen

Volunteer Coordinator, Garber Park Stewards

Email: garberparkstewards@gmail.com

Tel: 510-517-1918

Blog: www.garberparkstewards.org

JOHN MUIR BIRTHDAY, NATIVE PLANT TRAIL

With the success of the California native garden that was originally designed and executed by Greg Wolford in 2006/2007 at the John Muir National Historic Site Visitor Center in Martinez and the desire to draw more visitors, there was talk of some kind of trail/tie-in between the Amtrak station and the John Muir site. In 2010 a few of us from Friends of Alhambra Creek (FOAC) and CNPS-East Bay started scouting for other potential garden plots with the idea of a creek botanical trail, adding a native plant corridor for birds, bees, and butterflies and other beneficial insects between sites. We identified an area that needed a bit of a spiff-up in front of the Martinez Chamber office located at one end of the Amtrak station, got permission from the city, solicited help from New Leaf Leadership Academy (an alternative high school program in Martinez) and funding from FOAC, and off we went. We then got staff support from NPS (National Park Service) to help us identify and plan other gardens. We caught the eye of some residents and were invited to create native garden pots and plots on their property. Funding from Fish and Wildlife, FOAC, and private donations has made it possible for our "Alhambra Native Plant Trail" team to do matching purchases of native plants from our wonderful local native nurseries along with other garden needs. We now have fourteen gardens planted, five in progress and we maintain one. We are always looking for more opportunities.

Our partners, FOAC, NPS, the New Leaf Leadership Academy, CNPS-East Bay, the City of Martinez, and the community of Martinez have made this project possible.

We were honored this year with the completion of a wayside sign designed in part by trail volunteers and NPS personnel and beautifully made by an NPS graphic designer. There are two and we hope to place one at the Muir garden and one at the beginning of the trail. See photo below.

We will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of our National Parks at this year's John Muir Birthday/Earth Day free event on April 23rd. at the John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Ave., Martinez, <http://www.johnmuirassociation.org/php/bday-earthday/bday-earthday.php> Come by and visit our CNPS-EB table and learn more about our local projects and partners.

Elsewhere, you will find information about the National Parks BioBlitz at the John Muir site on May 20-21.

Elaine Jackson



Elaine Jackson and John Muir New Leaf students

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturdays, April 2 and April 16, 9:30 am to 2 pm, Pt. Isabel, on the Bay Trail next to the dog park. Just off I-580 (take Central to the bottom of the I-580 overpass). At the stop sign (Rydin Road) turn right and come down to the end of the street. If you pass Costco on your right, you've gone too far. You'll find us on the trail.

RSVP - it will help us coordinate tools with the East Bay Regional Park District. And remember to bring good energy, hats, sunscreen, water, and family and friends. We'll supply refreshments.

Tom Kelly (510) 704-8628 (work), (510) 684-6484 (cell) or tkelly@kyotousa.org

Saturday, April 2, Sabercat Creek restoration

<http://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/172215472/>

<http://www.eventbrite.ca/o/city-of-fremont-environmental-services-division-6863572027?s=28268809>

Saturday, April 9, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park Meet with park staff at the main parking lot, where you can pick up loaner tools, gloves and snacks while we look at soil conditions and figure out where best to work. Weeding usually goes on until about 1 pm, so please let us know if you need to leave early.

Janet Gawthrop

There are also ongoing, monthly volunteer dates to rip out French broom at Redwood Regional Park--e-mail

SUDDEN OAK DEATH BIOBLITZ APRIL 9-10

Help track—and slow—the fungus-like water mold that is killing our beautiful coast live oaks. Two one-hour training sessions will be held:

Saturday, April 9 at 10:00 am in the Garden Room, Orinda Public Library. Contact Beth Girshman, wllhh@ymail.com, 925 254 2184 X 15 for information.

Saturday, April 9 at 1:30 pm in room 150, 2060 Valley Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley Campus. Info at f5creeks@gmail.com.

After the training or on Sunday, April 10 you'll take an easy walk or vigorous hike to look for suspect trees—or map in

redwood@ebparks.org for specific dates.

Sunday, April 17, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park. Sibley volunteers can start in either from the Oakland-side parking lot (off of Skyline, perhaps 1/3 mile north of the Huckleberry lot) at 9 am, hiking towards Tilden until they reach the footbridge by the wall of broom. Or Berkeley/Orinda-side volunteers can start from the Old Tunnel Road staging area and meet at the toolbox.

Janet Gawthrop

SOS!! A special request for help at Sibley Regional Park where we have made great progress fighting *Genista* but are now looking at large areas of 2nd and 3rd growth with flowers. The ground is soft right now, and we could really use help pulling the blooming bushes before they seed. The native grasses come in nicely in areas we clear, as well as a host of wild flowers.

Wendy Tokuda

Saturday, April 30, 9:30-11:30 am, join Friends of Albany Hill for the last Saturday of the month work party. Location to be determined. Gloves and tools provided but bring a favorite weeding tool if you like. Wear closed-toed shoes with good traction and clothes that can get dirty. Long pants and long sleeves recommended. We'll work in a light rain, but moderate rain cancels. For more info: friendsalbanhill@gmail.com.

Margot Cunningham

your own back yard! We'll suggest sites if you want. Return samples to the Berkeley campus by Monday morning. Results will be public by fall. Sign up at www.sodblitz2016.eventzilla.net (especially if you want guidance on sites). More information on Sudden Oak Death, locations and dates of other surveys around the Bay, and results of past surveys can be found at www.sodblitz.org.

Susan Schwartz, President

Friends of Five Creeks

510 848 9358

f5creeks@gmail.com

www.fivecreeks.org

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Tilden Regional Park

9:00 am – 10:00 am: Friends of RPBG members only*

10:00 am – 3:00 pm: Open to the public

REGIONAL PARKS



BOTANIC GARDEN

Bring your own small wagon or boxes | No parking fee, no entrance fee | Plenty of fun and expert advice!

Entrance to the sale will be at the Botanic Garden's west gate on Anza View Road via Wildcat Canyon Road

For more information, including a plant list available shortly before the sale, visit www.nativeplants.org

*Memberships may be purchased starting at 8:30 am at the Botanic Garden on April 16

POINT ISABEL RESTORATION: MARCH 2016

A Bay Trail user stopped next to the section we were working on at our March 20 work party and asked Jane the following question: With so many weeds out there, how do you know which ones to pull first? Jane thinks that the question was really about the point of trying to bring the weed population under control when there are so many weeds. We think this way of thinking is at the heart of why, when we look around us, so many open spaces are covered in weeds and only a few local governments, park districts, and others put any real effort into controlling burgeoning weed populations. In the long run, ignoring this problem is only going to put more pressure on the diversity of our open spaces. We'll return to this bigger question at a later date, but for the moment Jane's response to the trail user is that we work in a sequence, going after those that mature first so that we can reduce the seed bank and minimize the number of weeds that appear in the years to come. We've managed to get the fennel and vinca under control, eliminated the ice plant, broom, and cape ivy, and are now working on oat grass, radish, and thistle.

To that end, at our work party in March our tried and true volunteers worked tirelessly to remove blooming radish and the oat grass that was just going to seed. Our youngest steward, Oliver, who came out on the day of his birthday party (he is turning 11 years old), weeded and wheelbarrowed them up to our weed pile by the entrance to the dog park. Steward Sue and core volunteers Nancy and Jacob cleaned an entire area of oat grass and radish in steward Nina's spot and Nina's beautiful and blooming purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*) can now breathe freely.

We are encountering quite a number of newly emerging radish sprouts. Luckily, the one-inch radish seedlings are confined to just a few areas that we had recently cleared of radish plants. We know that our wonderful rains this winter are helping all the plants to grow and we're hoping that by removing this second set of radish seedlings, we will encounter far fewer radish seedlings next winter.

If you have a chance please take a peek at Steward Margot's Adopt-a-Spot area at the corner of Central Avenue and Rydin Road. It is covered in blooming California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) and tansy leaved phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*). Margot's purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*) is also in full bloom, her lizard tail (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*) is just starting to show its yellow flowers and the two coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) from Native Here that we planted there this winter are thriving. Steward Rob keeps that area, and the trail, free of trash and we receive many expressions of appreciation for the transformation of a trash and weed covered corner to a place of beauty. In turn, we sincerely thank the City of Richmond (Greg Hardesty and crew) for the fantastic support they provide for us at this spot.

Our thanks also go to Bruce, our EBRPD ranger, who enthusiastically supports the project and all its volunteers.

Jane and Tom Kelly



POINT ISABEL RESTORATION PICTURES



Previous page: the crew. Above: Sue, Snowy and Oliver. Left: *Stipa pulchra* and poppies. Right: an adopted spot. Photos by Jane Kelly.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BIOBLITZ

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
John Muir National Historic Site
4202 Alhambra Avenue
Martinez, California 94553

Dear Colleague,

In celebration of the National Park Service (NPS) Centennial (1916-2016), the NPS is partnering with the National Geographic Society, local communities, and other partners to conduct a BioBlitz at national parks across the country. We are recruiting scientists, field biologists and naturalists to participate in the **National Parks BioBlitz - John Muir** at John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Ave, Martinez, CA, May 20-21, 2016 (Friday 10am Through Saturday 2pm).

A BioBlitz is a biodiversity celebration that engages and educates communities in science, conservation and biological exploration. The center piece of this event is a biological inventory, where teams of volunteers - each led by a subject matter expert - find and identify as many species as possible of a given area within a 24-hour period. To learn more about BioBlitz and how you can help, please view this video: "Find Your Niche in BioBlitz."

If you are interested, please fill out the [Scientist Registration Form](#). **Scientist registration will close April 4, 2016.** The sooner you register, the better we will be able to accommodate you. If you are pressed for time or are uncertain about your availability, but would like to stay informed, please sign up on our [scientist contact list](#). If you'd like to be involved but the distance to Martinez, CA would be barrier for you to participate, go to [2016 National Parks BioBlitz](#) to find a National Parks BioBlitz near you.

We will be in touch to follow up with more details in the weeks and months ahead. In the meantime, please contact our Science Lead, Fernando Villalba, if you have questions at Fernando_Villalba@nps.gov or (925) 838-0249 ext. 6341.

Help us spread the word! Please forward this letter to any colleagues or friends who might be interested in being involved. **We hope you will be a part of the 2016 National Parks BioBlitz!**

Sincerely,

Tom Leatherman
Superintendent, John Muir National Historic Site

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Walnut Creek
Lesley Hunt, leader
925-937-6791
ldhunt@astound.net

Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816

Membership category:

Individual, \$45

Family, Library, Group or International, \$75

Plant lover, \$100

Patron, \$300

Benefactor, \$600

Mariposa Lily, \$1500

Limited Income or student, \$25.00

Other _____