



January 2008

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
www.ebcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board of Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, January 9, 7:15 pm (snacks at 7:00 pm), home of Delia Taylor 1851 Catalina Ave., Berkeley 94707.

Native Here (see page 6)

Fridays, January 4, 11, 18, 25, 9 am to noon, and Saturdays, January 5, 12, 19, 26, 10 am to 1 pm: Native Here open for business and volunteer help needed.

Field trip (see page 5)

Sunday, January 6, 2008, Huddart County Park, San Mateo County

Membership Meeting (see below)

Wednesday, January 23, 2008 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library):

Brent Plater—The Golden Gate National Recreation Area's 2008 Endangered Species Big Year

Wayne Roderick Lectures (Regional Parks Botanic Garden, all at 10:30 am)

Saturday, January 5: California geology from the ground up – Steve Edwards

Saturday, January 12: Botany of the inner Grand Canyon gorge – Larry Abers

Saturday, January 19: Floral remnants of the Livermore Valley – Steve Edwards

Saturday, January 26: Contra Costa County wildlife and its relationships with native plant communities – Jim Hale

Saturday, February 2: Botanical adventures in Idaho and Montana – Bob Case

Saturday, February 9: California Indian material culture in the context of world prehistory – Steve Edwards

Saturday, February 16: Eccentrics, heroes, and cutthroats of old Berkeley – Richard Schwartz

Saturday, February 22: California Indian religion in the age of ethnographers – Steve Edwards

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

2008: The Endangered Species Big Year in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Speaker: Brent Plater

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (directions below)

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) contains more endangered species than any national park in continental North America, more than Yosemite, Yellowstone, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia national parks combined. This astounding array of imperiled biodiversity—in the midst of the Bay Area's vibrant civilization—is certainly cause for celebration, but also for concern, as the species' dire status may indicate that something is wrong with our relationship to the park. One third of these species (11 of 33) are plants.

In 2008, the GGNRA will embark on an exciting campaign to reconnect people with these species: the Endangered Species Big Year. Like traditional listing competitions, the

Endangered Species Big Year provides park visitors with opportunities to see each of the 33 listed species found in the park, both through individual exploration and guided expeditions. But it doesn't stop there. The Endangered Species Big Year also empowers individual competitors to take 33 conservation actions that aid species recovery, reconnecting people with the preservationist values of this urban national park experiment.

Join Brent Plater, Director of the GGNRA Endangered Species Big Year, to find out how you can be part of the Endangered Species Big Year. You can also discover more about the Endangered Species Big Year at www.ggnrbigyear.org.

Brent Plater is a Visiting Assistant Professor and Staff Attorney at Golden Gate University Law School's Environmental Law and Justice Clinic. He is a member of the National Sierra Club's Wildlife and Endangered Species Committee, and was previously the Bay Area Director of the Center for Biological Diversity. He is a graduate of UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law, University of Michigan's School of Natural

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Resources and Environment, and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting will take 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 will open at 7:00 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be served after the presentation. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornia@earthlink.net, if you have any questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Highway 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 Highway 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 new 2-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.

Upcoming Programs:

Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library):

Frank Almeda—Sustainability and the Living Roof at the New California Academy of Sciences

Wednesday, March 26, 2008, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library):

To be announced

Wednesday, April 23, 2008, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library):

Glenn Keator—Designing California Native Gardens

MARY ANN HANNON WINS THREADS OF HOPE AWARD

When I asked longtime CNPS member and volunteer Mary Ann Hannon if there was anything she would like to include in this *Bay Leaf* article that might have been missed in the December 2007 *Diablo* magazine article about her Threads of Hope Award, she said, "Well, one thing is that the herbarium at Sunol has been a team effort." The *Diablo* article focused on Mary Ann's important contributions to Sunol-Ohlone Regional Park's extensive herbarium without mentioning any of the other volunteers (Helen Hancock, Sharon Johnson, Keven Hintsa, Dianne Lake) and staff members who have worked on it with her over the years. Mary Ann's generous attitude of collaboration and sharing is a feature of all of her volunteer activities and embodies the spirit of the Threads of Hope Award.

Each year, *Diablo* magazine presents Threads of Hope Awards to a few individuals in the East Bay whose records of volunteer service have distinguished them and "strengthened the fabric of our community." Mary Ann, who is currently an active member of the East Bay CNPS Conservation Committee, a long-time docent at Sunol-Ohlone Regional Park, a co-founder of Friends of Springtown Preserve, a garden volunteer at the Granada Native Plant Gardens and the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, and a 35-year volunteer and leader of the local League of Women Voters, was selected for the award along with four other community volunteers from among the more than 60 people who were nominated this year. The recipients were profiled in the magazine and honored with a reception and award presentation at the Blackhawk Museum in November.

Mary Ann started her volunteer career 35 years ago when she discovered that volunteer activities and her roles as wife and mother of three were very compatible. She describes this combination as "my job, [which] gave me enough stimulation that I felt good about it and felt I had made my contribution" at a time when having an outside career was supplanting stay-at-home motherhood as the preferred occupation for women.



Mary Ann Hannon, long-time CNPS and Regional Park volunteer, shown here with her granddaughter.

Mary Ann's work at Sunol has continued from those beginnings in the 1970s to the present time. She (with the "team") not only has collected, identified, and mounted a large number of the more than 500 plant specimens beautifully represented in Sunol's herbarium, but she also has led educational programs in the park for children from East Bay schools on subjects including Native American culture, natural history, stream studies, and history of the area's settlers.

Her work on Sunol's flora has been interwoven with her own education in botany at Las Positas College. As soon as she had time to go back to school, Mary Ann enrolled in a plant taxonomy class that she has taken every spring since for 20 years. The participants in this small, independent-study course collect plant specimens for each class meeting and key them out together. In addition, they mount specimens for the Las Positas herbarium, which now has a sizeable collection thanks to their efforts.

Around the same time she began her volunteer work at Sunol, Mary Ann also became active in the League of Women Voters, the nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Over the past 35 years, Mary Ann has served in almost every capacity with the Livermore-Amador Valley League, including two terms as president. In her early days of involvement, when she craved adult conversation, she found volunteer work with the League stimulating and also welcoming thanks to the babysitting services offered by the League for its many young-mother volunteers.

Always finding new ways to contribute to the community, Mary Ann and her husband Jim, who are now grandparents, joined the crew of volunteers who maintain Granada Native Gardens in Livermore a few years ago. This 1/3-acre native habitat garden occupies a once-neglected vacant lot owned by the Livermore School District. In addition to working with the plants, Mary Ann gives tours of the garden when it is featured on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.

Mary Ann has also been a long-time member of CNPS. She is active on the Conservation Committee, writing letters in support

of CNPS's positions on development proposals affecting native plants, following and reporting to the committee about east-county plant conservation issues, and participating in CNPS field trips. She is the chapter's main volunteer watchdog and activist in the eastern portion of our chapter area.

In the past two years, Mary Ann has taken her local stewardship work to a new level. Joining with five other concerned citizens, including Lech Naumovich, Heath Bartosh, and Debbie Petersen from CNPS and Rich Cimino and Patti Cole from the Ohlone Audubon Society, she founded Friends of Springtown Preserve. This nonprofit organization is currently raising funds to develop its website (www.springtownpreserve.org) as a tool "to educate and engage the community in the preservation and sound management of the unique Springtown Alkali Sink Ecosystem." Threats to the Springtown Preserve ecosystem include well-intentioned but ill-informed proposals to preserve the urban limit line along the northern edge of Livermore by means of an irrigated agriculture greenbelt that could impact the delicate ecology of the area's alkali sink habitat. Although the Friends of Springtown website is still under construction, it already includes a prominent compilation of rare, threatened, and endangered plant species in the Springtown area.

True to the local focus of the awards, Mary Ann's passion for education and environmental service work in her community is the embodiment of acting locally to make a difference. "You want to go out and save the world, and then you realize your world is right around you and you do what you can where you are." Mary Ann's contributions have saved a significant piece of our local world and have educated and inspired the next generations to join in this important work.

Sue Rosenthal

The December 2007 *Diablo* magazine article about this year's recipients of Threads of Hope Awards is available online at http://www.diablog.com/home/show_story/862/. You can visit and enjoy the herbarium in the Old Green Barn Visitor Center at Sunol during the Visitor Center's open hours.

THANKS FROM CNPS FOR HOSTING COUNCIL

Brad Jenkins sent this note to Chapter President Charli Danielsen and Vice President Delia Taylor thanking the Chapter for hosting the December Chapter Council meeting. - Bay Leaf Editors

The banquet Saturday night was perfect. The location was great. The downstairs gathering room had an atmosphere of a friendly local (upscale) pub. Upstairs again had the right atmosphere for the activity. Tables were dressed nicely and spaced appropriately. Food was good. Volunteer table service was timed just right. The speaker and subject matched the day's main topic, were easy to listen too, and provided practi-

cal advice that many people could use soon. The evening met the needs of delegates who had a long day, as well as donors and fellows and guests joining us for a special night. It was a pleasure to be a part of this well planned event. Please pass congratulations and thanks to the volunteers who made the evening a success.

*Brad Jenkins
President, Board of Directors
California Native Plant Society*

CALFLORA PRESENTATION TO THE CNPS COUNCIL

Calflora made a presentation at the December Chapter Council meeting. Roy West of Calflora describes what was said.

Thanks for inviting us to present what we've been doing at Calflora. You can view the presentation at <http://www.calflora.org/2007/2007.html>. Be sure to follow the links for examples of the work we've done. Here are the major points:

Try the new feature at Calflora, "What Grows Here?": <http://www.calflora.org/app/wgh?page=entry>. Imagine a web site where anyone can enter a zip code and find out what's rare near that proposed development: "What Grows Here?" can do that for your community.

Please work with us to fill in Calflora's knowledge of what grows in the places you know. The more this info is available to all of us, the more effective it can be in helping people help you to con-

serve California's flora. We want to help you get your plant data on line.

We want to publish current plant data for you. We'd like permission to update the CNPS Inventory data (14,000 visitors to Calflora every day are seeing Inventory data that is 2 years old). We'd love to make the CNPS Vegetation Committee data available on line, too -- we'll do the work for you!

Calflora is free to all amateur users and to all CNPS volunteers.

As always, we're eager to hear your suggestions for Calflora and to find ways to work with you in the coming year.

Roy West

MEMBERSHIP NOTES



The December gathering of the Chapter Council in Berkeley brought a wealth of knowledgeable representatives from all over the state to come to difficult decisions on herbicide use and Integrated Weed Management. The new policies should be posted on our state website soon. Chapter Council members are chosen by the local chapter officers.



Our Chapter won a lovely garden insects book with lots of color pictures and information on them. This was second prize in the new members drive effort. Between the September and December Council meetings, East Bay gained 41 new members (we had 10 renewing as reported in the November Bay Leaf) We tied with Santa Clara Valley, (gained 41) and were behind San Gabriel Valley, (gained 51).

Delia Taylor, our Vice President, suggests we use the book as a membership incentive at a springtime event, either the Wildflower show or the Garden tour.

In 2008, the state CNPS office will issue membership cards. Further, the Membership Committees, with Arvid Kumar, Santa Clara Chapter membership chair, as lead, are reaching out to local business to ask for discounts or other incentives that we can offer card bearing members. Six letters have been sent to East Bay businesses so far and we have had three positive replies. More letters are planned in the coming months. If you have any suggestions on businesses to contact please let Carol or me know.

A contact list for membership chairpersons has been set up. The list will enable membership committee heads to share information on their successes and opportunities for improvement.

Having a clean email list of our chapter members, so that we can email out breaking news would be very helpful. If you have not updated your email address in a while please do so now. You can

send your update to me, elainejx@mindspring.com and I will forward it on to our state office.

Getting More Involved and Having Lots of Fun Doing It

Have you ever attended an event in your neighborhood and thought that it would have been a good location for the CNPS to have a display table? It can be done and you can do it. Just come up to Native Here (during business hours) and pick up supplies to pass out.

The Native Plant Garden at the Clayton Library is looking for a little help. Contact Lisa Anich at (925) 689-2642 or email admin@diablocreek.info. For more information about the garden visit www.diablocreek.info/3garden.htm

A part of the Iron Horse Trail in Walnut Creek near the Walnut Creek Intermediate School will have a native demonstration garden project starting soon with Judy Adler of Life Gardens heading up the project. More to come on that soon.

New Members

Welcome new members who joined in October; Mary Ashby, Ray Bambhu, Terry Blair, Yael Bloom, Margaret Bradford, Michael Chamofsky, Kevin Dixon, Ned Fisher, Bill Gottfried, Jessica Hamburger, Annette Herskovits, Jerry Oyarzo Hickey Aaron Johnson, Dee Kerkhoff, John Kusakabe, Carol Lampson, Mary K. Lands, Kathryn Lee, Robert Maples, Steve Mullin, Glen Olson, Jade Paget-Seekins, Janis Pearson, Cynthia Pieslak, Erin Poma BJ Potter, Jose Ramirez, Phil Reed, Carolyn Remick, Norma Solarz, Thara Srinivasan, Joan Underwood, Bill Williams, Prentiss Williams, Roberta Zorzynski, Anna Larsen, Christine Brigagliano

Carol Castro

Elaine Jackson

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, January 6, 2008, Huddart County Park, San Mateo County. Meet at the main parking lot (off Kings Mountain Road) at 2:00 pm.

Fetid Adder's Tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii*) is usually out early in the year on the Crystal Springs Trail in the redwood forests in this pleasant county park. The walk is about 1.5 miles, with an elevation change of two hundred feet or so.

Directions: take I-280 south from San Francisco to the Woodside Road (State 84) exit. Take Woodside Road (84) west about 1.5

miles through the village of Woodside and take a right onto Kings Mountain Road. The park entrance is on the right a mile or two up the hill. The main parking lot is just after the pay station. You must pay for parking even if the station is not staffed. Be prepared for mud and/or rain. The walk will take place regardless of the weather. Please contact David Margolies (510-654-0283, divaricatum@aol.com) if you need further information.

Janet Gawthrop

UC BOTANIST DAN NORRIS LEADS BRYOPHYTE WALK

Dan Norris, a bryologist (moss expert) at the University of California's Jepson Herbarium, led a bryology field trip in Strawberry Canyon in the hills above the University on December 9. Dan took the fifteen or so participants along a fire road, pointing out patches of mosses and the occasional liverwort on trees and rocks beside the trail.

He made may one point that may not be well known to CNPS members: mosses on trees capture mineral nutrients sloughed off by tree leaves and slow the dispersal of these nutrients into the soil. As a result, release of these nutrients is metered by the mosses and that metering ensures a more or less constant supply over the years.

Mosses are very sensitive to air pollution. In the Czech Republic, there was very serious air pollution in the 1970s and 1980s which resulted in moss die out in the forests. Now, even though the air pollution has been reduced, the forests themselves are suffering

because the soils have fewer mineral nutrients. Because there are few mosses, mineral nutrients mostly fall to the ground and are washed away. The lack of nutrients has sickened the trees.

But air pollution is not the only threat to mosses. Moss is prized by florists for use in floral displays. Criminal organizations transport workers to moss-rich locations like the Olympic National Park where they denude the trees of mosses. The effect is similar to die off from pollution: the benefit of metering the dispersal of nutrients into the soil is lost. There is every reason to believe this will have a serious effect on the health of the forests in the park in coming years.

Dan said it takes about 25 years for mosses to grow back fully after dying from pollution (assuming the pollution is reduced) or after being harvested.

David Margolies



Attendees at the CNPS Chapter Council Banquet enjoy wine prior to the dinner.

NATIVE HERE

Thanks to East Bay Conservation Corps members who visited the nursery on November 30 and helped with lots of tasks. It was great to have help with the larger tree pots (5 gallon), reducing the volume of cut brush, chopping out seedlings of poison hemlock from our education area, and getting tiny seedlings on their way to sale size.

Bulbs are starting to break dormancy a species at a time: soap root, *Chlorogalum pomeridianum*, was ready in December and continues to be available. And we expect at least one and perhaps all of *Calochortus*, *Triteleia* and *Zigadenus* to be ready in January to plant out in gardens.

We also have a lot of trees in pots, including oaks, buckeyes, madrones (just a few), cypresses, desert olives, ashes.

This summer we hope to offer some Saturday workshops and discussions. Members are encouraged to let us know of topics they'd like to have covered; email your ideas to nativehere@ebcnps.org.

Volunteers are always welcome at the nursery to help with seed sowing, transplanting, and watering. Contact us about mid-week and weekend watering assignments, which are available with shifts from 2-4 hours. If you're interested in seed collection trips, contact us to get on a special list for notification of destinations and for forays to make cuttings through the late fall and winter. These trips are led by Gregg Weber on Tuesday mornings.

The Native Here Nursery is located in Tilden Regional Park, across the street from the entrance to the Tilden Golf Course, 101 Golf Course Dr, Berkeley, CA 94708, 510-549-0211, nativehere@ebcnps.org, www.ebcnps.org.

Margot Cunningham
Charli Danielsen
Janice Bray



East Bay Conservation Corps members at the Native Here Nursery.



Chlorogalum pomeridianum (soap plant)



Triteleia laxa (Ithuriel's spear)



Zigadenus fremontii (death camas)

SPRING WEEKEND AT HENRY COE STATE PARK

It's that time again! For one spectacular weekend this spring, Henry W. Coe State Park will again open the gate at Bells Station on Highway 152 east of Gilroy. The Coe Backcountry Weekend, held in the little-traveled east side of the 87,000 acre park is scheduled for April 25-27, 2008. This event, sponsored by the Pine Ridge Association and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, allows visitors vehicle access to a remote and beautiful area. Hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians have a unique opportunity to see and enjoy an area isolated from the park's western entrances by long distances and rugged terrain.

This is a really special opportunity to see close up the results of the Lick Wildfire in September 2007 that burned 47,000 acres. There will be special hikes and field trips into the heart of the burned area to see and learn about wild fire and its effects on the ecology.

The east side of the park has beautiful spring wildflowers, great fishing, and scenic trails, some with breathtaking panoramic views of the Diablo Range. The ridges and valleys are broader and easier to travel than the steep terrain in the western part of the park, and you can plan day trips to areas that normally require several days of strenuous backpacking; places like Mississippi Lake and the Orestimba Wilderness.

During the weekend, you can explore on your own or you can participate in group activities, such as guided hikes and horseback rides, wildflowers walks, and bird watching strolls. To help you make the most of your visit, we'll provide brochures, park maps, and all sorts of information at visitor booths.

The fees for entering the park on this special weekend are: for one day (either Saturday or Sunday), \$20 per vehicle, for two days (Saturday and Sunday and camp overnight), \$40 per vehicle, or for backpackers ONLY, \$50 per vehicle for two nights (Friday and Saturday nights). There is no limitation on the number of people in a vehicle. Carpooling is encouraged. Rental vans are permitted.

Entrance is by application only, since we limit the number of cars each day. Only one application per address is permitted. Applications are selected by drawing from applications dated from February 1 through February 29, 2008. Applications will be available on our website www.coepark.org, at park headquarters, and at the libraries in Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and Modesto. You may request an application in writing by mailing a self-addressed stamped business envelope to Application Forms, Coe Backcountry Weekend, 1410 Terri Lynn Court, Gilroy, CA 95020. Please check our website, www.coepark.org for additional details.

Bonnie Stromberg

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

Buzz on Native Bees

Monday, February 4, 7 pm at Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin. Dr. Gordon Frankie, UC Berkeley Professor of Insect Biology, will speak on Berkeley's amazing variety of native bees, why they and other pollinators are important, and how we can help them help nature. Information at f5creeks@aol.com, www.fivecreeks.org.

Thursday, February 7, 7 pm at Redwood Gardens, 2951 Derby Street, Berkeley. Dr. Frankie will again speak on the Berkeley's native bees. Information at www.berkeleypaths.org.

HORTICULTURE AND CONSERVATION NOTES

Native plants provide us with life, right? Actually most plants can convert carbon dioxide to oxygen, whether native or not. How about shelter? Many timber species are non-native, especially ones grown in forestry operations. So how about our food? Sure we do eat some native berries and grasses, but honestly most of our food comes from horticultural varieties or imported agriculture strains. So do native plants really sustain life, or are we just kidding ourselves?

A new research study from Delaware, published in a book titled "Bringing Nature Home", finds that most native insects only eat native plants. Professor Douglas Tallamy further reasons that a world without insects is a world without most higher forms of life. Once we lose these, entire ecosystem collapse is imminent. In a small scale study of insects in people's backyards, a significantly elevated number of birds and insects were present in yards with predominantly native plants. Exotic gardens had many fewer

insects and birds. Sites were suburban, also leading researchers to conclude that every gardener in every backyard can make a difference in biodiversity conservation.

On a related note, *Organic Gardening* reports that native pollinators were the reason America didn't see major crop failures from the European honeybee crisis of this spring. Many native pollinators continued to pollinate our croplands so that food production of insect pollinated crops would not be adversely affected. Suddenly, having a native garden out by the farm is of extreme importance for small farms and agricultural operations.

So for the sake of all of us, two, four, or eight-legged, go out to Native Here and get some locally appropriate native plants!

Lech Naumovich

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Membership Application

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Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other _____

E-mail _____
(optional)

Membership category:

- Student, Limited income, \$25
 Individual, Library, \$45
 Household, Family, or Group, \$75
 Supporting, \$75
 Plant lover, \$100
 Patron, \$300
 Benefactor, \$600
 Mariposa Lily, \$1500

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

California Native Plant Society
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P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705

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