



March 2006

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, March 1, 7:30 pm, home of Delia Taylor, 1851 Catalina Avenue, Berkeley

Native Here Nursery p. 6

Fridays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Native Here Nursery open 9 am-noon.

Saturdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 nursery open 10 am-1 pm

Field Trips p. 5

Sunday, March 5, 10:00 am, **Skyline Serpentine Prairie/Redwood Regional Park**

Sunday, March 12, 2:00 pm, **Bird Trail, Chabot Regional Park**

Saturday, March 18, 10:00 am, **Brushy Peak**
Sunday, March 26, 10:00 am, **Hampton Road area of East Bay MUD watershed**

Native Plant Restoration Team p. 3

Saturday, March 18, 9:30 am-1 pm, UC Richmond Field Station, Richmond, work-party, teasel weeding of coastal terrace prairie grassland

Membership Meeting See below.

Wednesday, March 22, 2006, 7:30 pm, Auditorium, Orinda Public Library

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

California Native Plants for the Garden

Speaker: Bart O'Brien

Wednesday, March 22, 2006, 7:30 pm

Location: Auditorium, Orinda Public Library (directions below)

Until this past November, if you asked anyone who gardens with California natives to name a good, comprehensive book on that subject, you would always get the same answer: Marjorie Schmidt's *Growing California Native Plants*. But now there is an excellent new book on California native plant gardening, *California Native Plants for the Garden*, written by three leading experts in the field: Bart O'Brien of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Carol Bornstein of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and David Fross of Native Sons Nursery. We're fortunate to have Bart O'Brien as our speaker this month. Bart will present a slide-illustrated talk on the subject of gardening with natives, drawing on his many years of experience both in southern California at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and in northern California in the heady early years of Yerba Buena Nursery in Woodside. His talk will highlight both familiar and unusual native plants for the garden and provide information you can apply

to make your own native garden a success. He will also answer questions and sign copies of the new book after his presentation.

Bart O'Brien is Director of Horticulture and Curator of the Living Collection at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, CA. Bart is a fifth-generation Californian; an authority on the native flora of California and northern Baja California; and an accomplished collector, grower, photographer, lecturer, and author. He is co-author of another new book, *Care & Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens* (with Betsey Landis of CNPS and Ellen Mackey of the Theodore Payne Foundation), which will be published by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in early 2006. Bart was named 2005 Horticulturist of the Year by the Southern California Horticultural Society.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting will take place in the Auditorium of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Auditorium is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Auditorium will open at 7:00 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm. We will have copies of

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the book *California Native Plants for the Garden* available for purchase and signing at the meeting. If you have already purchased the book elsewhere, Bart will still sign it if you bring it! Refreshments will be served after the presentation. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornica@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 Meetings

Wednesday, April 26, 7:30 pm, Auditorium, Orinda Public Library
Speaker TBA

Wednesday, May 24, 7:30 pm, Conference Center, UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley
Kathy Ann Miller—Algae

CONSERVATION

The East Bay Chapter is fortunate indeed to have Lech Naumovich as our new Conservation Analyst. We had an extremely strong field of applicants from which to choose. I want to thank my fellow members of the hiring committee (Charli Daniels, Elaine Jackson, Dianne Lake, and George McCrae) for their time and effort in helping to select Lech. Welcome aboard, Lech!

Laura Baker, Conservation Chair

I would like to introduce myself as the new Conservation Analyst for the East Bay chapter of CNPS. I have recently moved from Monterey County where I served as the Restoration Coordinator for Fort Hunter Liggett and worked for the Bureau of Land Management on the restoration of Fort Ord's maritime chaparral. Prior to these positions in Monterey, I spent the lion's share of my career in academia, culminating in a Master's degree in Landscape and Restoration Ecology from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a Fulbright Scholarship in Poland.

I am honored to represent CNPS in the role of the East Bay Conservation Analyst. The East Bay area represents one of the greatest conservation challenges in all of the US. Our ecologically endowed landscape is under constant pressure from development and habitat degradation. The Chapter Conservation Committee has the ability to play an indispensable role in shaping critical development projects within our two-county area. As the new conservation analyst, I hope to educate our members about conservation issues in order to help East Bay CNPS achieve its goals. As

a leading science-based conservation organization of the Bay Area, EBCNPS has a special responsibility in preserving and protecting this vast and wonderful landscape. I plan to help fulfill this responsibility not only for our members, but for the place we call home. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, or comments.

Lech Naumovich

VEGETATION COMMITTEE

Saturdays, March 11, March 18, April 1, April 29, **Vegetation Sampling and Orientation Spring** is on its way and the field season is about to start. Vegetation sampling volunteers are much needed for wetland, grassland, and other data collection. Orientation and data collection are scheduled for most Saturdays in March and April, and additional dates are possible too. Contact Sue Bainbridge (sjbainbridge@calmail.berkeley.edu, 510-548-2918) if you are interested in any of these dates, or others.

Sue Bainbridge

Raffle Winner Sought

One of the CNPS 40th anniversary party raffle winners for the Mines Road field trip did not sign our list of winners. We need to know who you are so we can let you know the details of the trip. If you had a winning ticket for this trip, please contact Sue Rosenthal as soon as possible at rosacalifornica@earthlink.net or 510-496-6016.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, the East bay Chapter of the CNPS grants scholarships to worthy students. The money to support these scholarships is raised by volunteers who work on the Chapter's plant sales. Recent scholarships have supported students working in horticulture, plant evolution, park management, ecosystem management, conservation biology, plant ecology, plant physiology and plant systematics.

Five scholarships of \$1200 each are awarded to undergraduate or graduate students in botany, horticulture and related fields interested in working with California native plants. An outstanding student will be awarded the Myrtle Wolf Scholarship and an additional \$750.

Preference is given to students working in or, or working with plants in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, although other applications will be considered.

The East Bay Chapter specifically encourages applications from students in the community college system and students in horticulture.

Application Deadline: April 30, 2006

Applicants should submit the following information:

1. Name
2. Present address
3. The school you are currently attending
4. Address where you can be reached at the close of school (particularly in May or June)

5. The school you will be attending in the summer or fall of 2006
6. A description of your work with California native plants to date and your plans for future work with California native plants
7. A statement of your level of commitment to native plants
8. Two letters of recommendation that substantiate your work with California native plants and
9. A current transcript from the school you last attended.

Send your application by April 30, 2006 to:

The California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter Grants Committee
c/o McCoy
1311 Bay View Place
Berkeley, Ca 94708
510-981-1991

By FAX: c/o McCoy : 510-848-1789

By email: wbmccoy@earthlink.net (Please put "EBCNPS Scholarship" in the subject line.)

Sandy McCoy

NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION TEAM

March Work Party

Teasel weeding of Coastal Terrace Prairie Grassland
Saturday, March 18, 9:30 am-1 pm
UC Richmond Field Station

This month we will heading out to the University of California's Richmond Field Station to join the Watershed Project in their ongoing efforts to restore and maintain the last remaining coastal terrace prairie grassland of its kind in the world. The area around the work site was once the place of heavy industrial activity. The site has a number of special surprises, though it is not particularly glamorous looking or inspiring at first glance.

This coastal terrace prairie contains *Juncus phaeocephalus* and *Carex subbracteata*, revealing one major variation it has from more typical prairies of its kind. Here there is damp clay. (Boots and rain gear provided.) It is much wetter than a typical prairie, which

tends to be located in more inland locales and to be much drier.

Another truly unique feature of this location is the presence of the A-1 classified *Carex densa*, listed as having been extirpated from the East Bay. It is abundant here. We are likely to have the opportunity to plant starts of this extremely-rare-in-the-East Bay sedge at the work party.

The bulk of the work will be in removing teasel, a tall growing European native that thrives in moist soils. Teasel has a thick, carrot-like tap root . . . a soil knife may be the tool of the day. We may also experiment with cutting the plant to the ground. It blankets the site.

The University of California has expansion plans for the Field Station, and this area is not exempt from potential development.

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After the work party there will be a short tour of the Watershed Project's ongoing effort to restore a portion of West Stege Marsh, one of the few remaining tidal marshes in central San Francisco Bay . . . with a commanding view of the San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate. It will be led by staff naturalist Monica Stafford, who will be with us for the day to answer questions and lead a variety of short tours of the work site.

Come, befriend this truly uncommon grassland.

From I-80 in El Cerrito: Take the Carlson exit west (towards San Rafael). Turn left at Bayview Avenue, which is the second signal, and go over I-580. Follow the road as it curves, and turn left on South 47th, then take an immediate right into the U.C. Richmond Field Station. Take the side road to the left, to gate #2.

From I-580 in Richmond, take the Bayview exit and turn south towards the Bay. Follow the directions above.

Pouring rain cancels. Call 510-684-2473 or email californica@mac.com if rain seems likely.

Greg Wolford

PLANT SALE ACTIVITIES



I am taking over as successor to Shirley McPheeters in the role of Plant Sale Chair for the chapter. We all know no one can replace Shirley and I see my role as more of a coordinator, facilitating and supporting the efforts of others involved with the plant sale. Shirley has generously offered to help

me learn the ropes and has been instrumental in finding temporary foster homes for our plants and equipment. Some of our regular plant sale propagators as well as Charli Danielsen and the staff and volunteers at Native Here Nursery are caring for our plants at their homes and the nursery. Ed Peters has built a substantial shed to house our tools and equipment at Native Here until we have a new location.

Although we are not yet working to increase our stock, there is lots of activity around other aspects of the plant sale. Roy West is spearheading our search for new growing grounds. He is actively investigating several possibilities: meeting with city officials and representatives of community groups, inspecting potential locations, and keeping us informed of progress toward a new site. Barbara Leitner laid the groundwork for all that is happening now, defining our needs and goals as well as identifying and evaluating a number of potential sites. Susan D'Alcama, Linda Hill, and I are assisting Roy in the search and evaluation process.

Delia Taylor and Shirley McPheeters are planning and organizing sales of our chapter's plants at five of the gardens on the May 7 **Bringing Back the Natives** garden tour. Delia is looking for volunteers to staff these sale sites in shifts. If you would like to help, please contact Delia at deliataylor@mac.com or 510-527-3912.

We do hope to get our weekly propagation sessions going again and are looking into the logistics of doing that soon. We are also looking into ways to sell plants whether or not we find and secure a permanent site by the time of our annual October sale. Revenues from the plant sale are the backbone of the chapter's activities, providing the largest portion of our annual revenues.

I am excited about the prospect of finding a permanent home for our growing grounds and sale where we can build the kind of facility we really need, complete with greenhouse, shade structure, protected work area, and ample storage. I am also looking forward to meeting and working with volunteers in the chapter who are interested in helping with any aspect of the plant sale. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you would like to help in any way; if you have suggestions, ideas, or wishes for the plant sale (including suggestions for new growing grounds locations); or if you just have questions: rosacalifornica@earthlink.net or 510-496-6016.

Sue Rosenthal

RARE AND UNUSUAL PLANTS

Rare, Unusual, and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties now available on the Web

The database of over 16,000 records that is the basis for Dianne Lake's seventh edition of the *Rare, Unusual, and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties* is now available on the web, through The Calflora Database (www.calflora.org).

Each observation from the EB Unusual Plants database includes the taxon, observer, and date. For rare taxa, the East Bay region code (from the map of regions in Dianne's book) is listed. For taxa that are more common in the East Bay and elsewhere, a great deal of detail is included about each observation's location—much more than could be included in the printed edition of the book.

The Calflora Map Viewer now includes the regions from the EB Unusual Plants database; if a plant occurs in one of these regions, it is drawn in color on a relief map, alongside observations at specific points (shown as dots) and "quads" from the state CNPS "Inventory," and the many other Calflora sources of observations. For more information about the Map Viewer, visit the Calflora

web site and click the "Map Viewer" link on the front page or in any sidebar.

Look for more information in coming weeks on the East Bay Chapter Web site and on Calflora for how to take advantage of this exciting new resource. We are also planning to update the Calflora copy of the EB Unusual Plants database in coming months to include the many additions Dianne made this past Fall. (Calflora is eager to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer to learn how databases are added to Calflora and can help with this task.)

The printed book of course remains the official source of the EB Unusual Plants data and continues to be available from Dianne Lake, as described in the Unusual Plants Program section on the East Bay chapter web site (www.ebcnps.org).

Through the remarkable generosity of an anonymous donor, registering and renewing a personal account at Calflora is free in 2006. We are optimistic this will remain true in future years; if not, Calflora will remain free to members of the East Bay Chapter who want to use Calflora for nonprofessional purposes, such as volunteering with CNPS!

Roy West
rwest@monocot.com

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, March 5, 10:00 am, **Skyline Serpentine Prairie/Redwood Regional Park**. Eric Harris will lead this morning field trip, which features bryophytes in both the open serpentine prairie and the shaded woodland below the prairie, including ephemeral species that vanish later. A hand lens, or camera lenses for close work, provides the best viewing of these small, non-vascular plants. Some copies of the bryophyte catalog published in Madrono will be available for purchase. Only heavy rain will cancel the trip.

From Berkeley and points north, take Highway 13 south to Oakland and exit at Joaquin Miller Road. Go uphill on Joaquin Miller until it ends at Skyline Boulevard and turn right at the traffic light to go south on Skyline. After a short distance south on Skyline, turn left to enter the parking lot, next to the low building, which was the former regional parks headquarters. Meet Eric in the parking lot.

Sunday, March 12, 2:00 pm, **Bird Trail, Chabot Regional Park**. This botanically rich area on the interface between redwood forest and oak/bay mixed evergreen forest has plants in flower most of the year. At this relatively early date, we should see the Bay Area endemic

western leatherwood, osoberry, hazel, and trilliums. The walk is less than a mile, with insignificant elevation change. Be prepared for mud or rain, as the walk will take place regardless of the weather. Please contact David Margolies at 510-654-0283, or divaricatum@aol.com, if you need further information.

From all locations, get on Highway 13. From San Francisco, take the Bay Bridge, staying to the right, but **do not go to San Jose**; take 580 east to 24, and go east on 24 to 13, and take the 13 southbound ramp. After several miles south on 13, exit at Redwood Road, and go east (uphill). At the top of the hill, cross Skyline Boulevard and pass various equestrian facilities and proceed down into the valley. About two miles after Skyline Boulevard, turn right into the MacDonald Staging Area parking lot. It is a large lot, and you cross a bridge over a creek to get to it. There is a small lot about 1/4 mile to the north, which is not the correct place. If you are coming from the north as instructed above, and reach the entrance to Redwood Regional Park on the left, then you have gone about 1/4 mile too far.

Saturday, March 18, 10:00 am, **Brushy Peak**. Join Chris Thayer at Brushy Peak for the first spring bloom open for public access at this brand new regional park. Early spring plants we are likely to see include fritillaries and violas, and we will also see some unusual springs, alkali wetlands, and other unique features.

Meet at the parking lot at the end of Laughlin Road, which is reached by exiting at Vasco Road off Highway 580 just east of Livermore. Take Vasco Road North about a half mile and turn right on North Front Road. Go less than a mile to Laughlin road and turn left. Proceed north to the end of Laughlin, about two miles. There is no charge for parking.

Sunday, March 26, 10:00 am, **Hampton Road area of East Bay MUD watershed**. Limit 28 people; to reserve e-mail _janetg24@excite.com.

Janet Gawthrop

Man with all his noble qualities, with sympathy which feels for the most debased, with benevolence which extends not only to other men but to the humblest living creature, with his god-like intellect which has penetrated into the movements and constitution of the solar system—with all these exalted powers—Man still bears in his bodily frame the indelible stamp of his lowly origin.

Charles Darwin

NATIVE HERE

Fridays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Native Here Nursery open 9 am-noon.

Saturdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 nursery open 10 am-1 pm.

The days are getting warmer at the nursery. Lots of little plants are peeking out of our pots that we seeded the past few months. If you want to get hands-on experience pricking out and transplanting, we have a lot of work for you. Stop by Friday 9 am-noon or early Saturday (before 11am preferably, as we tend to get busy with customers after that time) and we'll put you to work. It's fun. You'll get to see what plants will be available later on.

If you get tired of transplanting, there are plenty of other tasks to do, such as grooming pine needles out of pots, labeling, and weeding. We may also need help building a fence around our extension.

We have bulbs, including *Triteleia*, some *Dichelostemma*, and some *Brodiaea*. We have a lot of *Scirpus* from Palomares Creek and *Triglochin maritima* (arrow grass) from the Oakland shoreline, which will grow in freshwater as well as saltwater. We also have *Acer macrophyllum*, generously donated by Friends of Sausal Creek, in tall 3-gallon pots. We may have some annual lupines left, if the slugs haven't eaten them. We may also have some poppies. March is the last month to buy *Iris douglasiana*, as we will put them in storage in April until fall. They do best when planted in fall and winter.

We are organized geographically, and areas where we currently have plants from are, roughly from north to south: Mt. Diablo, Shell Ridge, Acalanes Ridge, Briones Regional Park, San Pablo Reservoir, El Sobrante, Tilden Regional Park, Wildcat Regional Park, Pt. Molate, Richmond Field Station, Albany Hill, El Cerrito hills, Kensington, hills above UCB, Claremont Canyon, Orinda, Canyon, Oakland (Sibley, Huckleberry Preserve, Redwood Regional Park, Joaquin Miller Park, Skyline serpentine prairie, King Estate, Merritt College), Palomares Creek, Sunol, and areas south of Livermore (Mines Road, Cedar Mountain).

Volunteers are welcome either day we are open, no need to call ahead. We are located in Tilden Park at 101 Golf Course Drive (across the street from the entrance to the Tilden Golf Course), 510-549-0211.

Margot Cunningham, Native Here Nursery

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

April 5th, 2006, Contra Costa College, **The Contra Costa Watershed Forum** will host a Regional Symposium featuring special speakers, awards, watershed highlights and more. Contact Kae Ono at 925-335-1230 or kono@cd.ecounty.

Saturday, April 22, 2006, 10 am to 4 pm, **John Muir's Birthday/Earth Day Celebration, John Muir National Historic Site**, 4202 Alhambra Avenue, just north of Highway 4, Martinez. Celebrate the life of the great naturalist, preservationist and writer John Muir. Learn how you can make a difference to our environment.

Sunday, April 30 2006 – 10 am to 4 pm, **Third Annual Bay-Friendly Garden Tour**, showcasing natural gardening techniques. Visit a wide assortment of Bay-Friendly Gardens on this free, self-guided tour. Over 30 public and private gardens will be featured throughout Alameda County, all of them for the first time on this year's tour. Several of the clusters are walkable and/or bikeable.

For more information or to register, please visit www.BayFriendly.org or call 510-444-SOIL. Volunteers are needed for the day of the tour. If interested, please contact Lawrence Grodeska at lgrodeska@stopwaste.org or 510-614-1699.

Registration Opens for Sunday, May 7, 2006 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. More than 60 showcase gardens will be open from 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday, May 7, 2006. Native plants will be given away at some gardens and available for purchase at many others. Participants who fill out an evaluation will be entered into a drawing to win a free garden consultation from a noted landscape professional.

The delightful collection of gardens on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour range from Jenny and Scott Fleming's 50 year old garden to several that are newly installed, from five-acre lots to small front gardens in the flats, from local native plants to the horticulturally available suite of natives from throughout California, and from gardens designed and installed by owners to those designed and installed by professionals.

Admission is free; registration is required at www.BringingBackTheNatives.net. Volunteers are needed. For more information, email Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call 510-236-9558 between 9 am and 9 pm.

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Berkeley CA 94705

Chapter web site
www.ebcnps.org

Recorded Chapter Infor-
mation
510-464-4977

State CNPS web site
www.cnps.org

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

____ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

____ Other _____

E-mail _____
(optional)

Membership category:

____ Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20

____ Individual, Library, \$35

____ Household, Family, or Group, \$45

____ Supporting, \$75

____ Plant lover, \$100

____ Patron, \$250

____ Benefactor, \$500

____ Mariposa Lily, \$1000

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



Calochortus venustus. Photo by Janice Bray

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

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Time Value
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