



MARCH 2016

The Bay Leaf

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

WWW.EBCNPS.ORG

WWW.GROUPS.GOOGLE.COM/GROUP/EBCNPS

MEMBERS' MEETING

Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 pm

A Journey to the Ionian Basin and Back

Speaker: Michael Uhler

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

In northern Kings Canyon National Park is the Ionian Basin (shown below in the photo by Laura Molnar), a remote, trail-less, high basin of rugged talus slopes ringing glacial lakes with no names. Surrounded by spectacular peaks named after monsters from Greek mythology, the Ionian Basin seems desolate and forbidding, but it holds challenges and beauty in its alpine landscape. Michael Uhler backpacked into the Ionian Basin – and back! – and he will regale us with stories of his trip along with plant lore and beautiful photos of this unusual place.

Michael Uhler a gardener at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, where he maintains the Sierra Nevada and Sea Bluff sections. He is an avid and adventurous mountaineer, and on his days off he likes to explore both Alta and Baja California.

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. Email sr0433@yahoo.com or call 510-496-6016 if you have questions.

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.



UNUSUAL PLANT DATABASE AVAILABLE SOON

Launch of the database of *Rare, Unusual and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties*

The Unusual Plants Committee is pleased to announce that starting in March (look on ebcnps.org for the the exact date), CNPS members and the general public will be able to access and search the Chapter's database of *Rare, Unusual and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties*. It will be available online via a link on the EBCNPS website. This is just in time for the beginning of the field season, and we hope it will be of great assistance to amateur and professional botanists.

This database represents over 26 years of research and monitoring of locally rare and statewide rare plants by the Rare and Unusual Plant Committee and its volunteers. It includes 1,014 plants with almost 18,000 observation records from a myriad of sources including CNPS volunteers, local botanists, herbaria records, etc.

Because the East Bay is a melting pot for California vegetation, there are a great many plants that have very limited distribution in our two-county area. In 1989 the Rare Plant Committee started looking at the local flora in terms of local rarity, and by 1992 it had identified 658 taxa that had 5 or fewer locations in the East Bay. A database was set up to track these "unusual and significant" plants, and research and monitoring have continued ever since.

Many of you are familiar with the report of the same name that was produced periodically from 1992 through 2010

for 8 editions. That report was a great success and became an invaluable tool for land managers, planners, agencies, conservationists, and others.

In 2010 our focus changed to putting the database online so that those professionals and amateurs as well as the general public could search for a greater variety of data, and data that might be more specific to their various projects and endeavors.

The Unusual Plants Committee has spent almost 5 years making changes and improvements to the database so that it will be user-friendly for multiple users. It can be searched for species or observation records, with 36 different search fields, such as location, rarity, habitat, blooming periods, etc. A "How To Use The Database" section is provided to assist users in learning how the database works and how they can find the data they seek.

Users will also be able to add their own observations to the database, and these will be reviewed and checked for accuracy before actually being added into the database. These observations can be added at home by computer, or while still in the field on an Observation App for android phones, which was generously produced for our Chapter with donated time from the staff of CalFlora.

We hope that the online database will be of great help and enjoyment to professionals and amateurs alike.

Dianne Lake
Unusual Plants Chair

ANDROID DEVICES DONATIONS NEEDED

The Unusual Plants Committee requests a donation of Android tablets and phones to enter plant observations while in the field. The app for this was generously developed by CalFlora and is similar to their Observation App. The app works only on Android devices, not Apple products. If you would like to give your old Android tablet or phone a new career collecting plant data, please contact Gregg Weber

at lessingia3@sonic.net . We are also in need of GNS200 bluetooth gps, or other Bluetooth GPS devices that can work with an Android phone.

Thanks!

Dianne Lake, Unusual Plants Chair

VOLUNTEER AT JEPSON HERBARIUM ON MARCH 5

Saturday, March 5, 10 am-4 pm (participants don't have to stay the whole time), curatorial volunteers needed at the University and Jepson Herbaria.

See the diversity of flora in California. Volunteers needed to mount, sort, and file a backlog of plant collections from California and around the world, some decades old. While providing assistance with the specimens that are the raw data on which our knowledge of the California flora is based, you'll learn more about the California flora, gain first hand experience with herbarium techniques, and have the opportunity to socialize with fellow native plant enthusiasts. No previous herbarium experience is necessary, but a level of dexterity and

attention to detail is valued. Later volunteer days are Apr 16 and May 7. The University and Jepson Herbaria are in the Valley Life Sciences Building on the UC Berkeley campus. The entrance is on the ground floor of the atrium, in front of the *Tyrannosaurus rex*. The downtown Berkeley BART station is nearby, as are many bus lines, and free parking can generally be found along streets north of campus (posted 2 hour time limit is in effect only on weekdays). Individual volunteers are welcome during regular hours as well (M-F, 8 am-5 pm). For more information call Ana Penny, 510-642-2465.

Margot Cunningham

AMY LEONARD, NEW NATIVE HERE NURSERY MANAGER

Welcome Amy Leonard, our new Nursery Manager

Native Here Nursery is pleased to introduce its new Nursery Manager, Amy Leonard, who began work on February 17. Amy has a degree in Media from UC San Diego and has considerable background in business and media relations as well as recent experience as a project manager at The Watershed Nursery in Richmond. At the end of a couple of whirlwind days at Native Here, Amy was still smiling, helping customers, and multi-tasking. We think she will be a great fit. Please stop by and say hello.

Barbara Leitner



FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, March 5, 2:00 pm. Joaquin Miller Park. Meet at 2 pm next to the Monterey Avenue trailhead on the west side of Highway 13, just south of the stoplight for Park & Monterey. From there we will start through the hiker tunnel under 13 and up through Joaquin Miller Park. We'll cross the blackberry thickets nearest 13 without delay, but then slow down as we get further uphill and into places with native plants. This beginner-level walk will feature cute flowering angiosperms, but we'll also take in ferns and other non-angiosperm plants (such as conifers, mosses, etc.) as interest permits. Bring your East Bay checklist or Glenn Keator's *Plants of the East Bay Regional Parks*, which works well in Oakland parks. You can also look up plant information at www.calflora.org and then work through the prompts and interactive map on "What Grows Here" function. We'll try to be back at the trailhead around 5 pm, but we might be later if we find great plants. I'll also talk at the general level (think arm waving) about historical uses of this watershed, and current restoration efforts of Friends of Sausal Creek.

Led by Janet Gawthrop (janetgawthrop47@gmail.com).

Sunday, March 13, 2:00 pm, MacDonald Fire Road in Chabot Regional Park. Meet at the MacDonald Staging Area on Redwood Road in Chabot Regional Park. (Take Highway 13 south to Redwood Road exit, turn left onto Redwood Road after exiting, go over the hill. The MacDonald Staging Area is on the right about one mile into the valley. If you come to the entrance to Redwood Regional Park on the left or to Pinehurst Road, you have gone too far.) We will look for woody plants, many of which should be in bloom, including western

leatherwood. An uphill walk but not too strenuous. Meet at 2:00 pm. (We are walking south/ southeast towards Castro Valley, so if you are late, just catch up.) Trip leader: David Margolies (divaricatum@gmail.com, 510-393-1858).

Sunday, March 20, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Kennedy Grove. Patra Dr, El Sobrante. We will take the Seafoam Loop and the Black Oak Loop. Bring lunch if you want. You can return to the parking area at 12:00, or continue on to Black Oak loop, then return to parking area about 2 pm. Gregg Weber will be leading this trip to a botanically rich area in El Sobrante. In the shady areas under bay trees there is more plant diversity than you would expect, with many common natives, and some unusual ones. Under the oaks on the ridge there are whole different communities. Both kinds of false solomon's seal, trilliums, Meadow rue, gooseberries, American vetch, shooting stars, cream cups, rein orchids, fritillaries, pipevine, madrone, Wight's paintbrush, arnica, spotted coralroot, indian warriors, and more. This is a short 2.5 mile walk, with only a 400 feet elevation gain up to the ridge, and 150 feet elevation gain on Black Oak Loop.

Directions: From I-80, exit at San Pablo Dam Road and turn onto Castro Ranch Road in El Sobrante. From Orinda, take San Pablo Dam Road to El Sobrante, and turn onto Castro Ranch Road. Go two blocks on Castro Ranch Road, and then turn right onto Hillside Drive. Go about 1/2 mile to the end of Hillside Drive, and then turn left on Patra Drive and park near the trailhead. No entrance fees. Do not turn into the Kennedy Grove park entrance on San Pablo Dam Road.

And this, our life, exempt from public haunt, finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything.

William Shakespeare

Who could refrain that had a heart to love and in that heart courage to make love known?

William Shakespeare

Let me embrace thee, sour adversity, for wise men say it is the wisest course.

William Shakespeare

NATIVE HERE NURSERY NOTES

Rain has stimulated germination and growth of plants in the nursery, and also customer enthusiasm for planting.

The Valentine's weekend crowd was enthusiastic, knowledgeable and generous. Customer activity continues as the end of February nears.

I am so pleased to be working with the new manager, Amy Leonard, (see article by Barbara Leitner in this issue) giving me time to concentrate on growing and displaying plants. Each time I walk through the nursery there is something new happening, either a different species of display plant coming into bloom or another perennial showing new shoots, or shrub leaf buds bursting. End of winter is a study in contrasts: some of the sedges look beige and scruffy, just the way the birds and little critters like them for shelter, while mule's ears (*Wyethia*), hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum*), and yerba mansa (*Anemopsis*) are poking little shoots out of the soil. I am looking forward to seeing the buttercups (*Ranunculus*) bloom in March. Will the Iris bloom in their pots or wait another year?

JOB OPENING AT NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Native Here Nursery is looking for an entry level worker, 5 to 10 hours per week, generally on weekends, to assist with moving plants and supplies, assisting with simple clerical tasks, and data entry. The job will be located at Native Here Nursery, 101 Golf Course Drive, Berkeley.

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Restoration events sponsored by the East Bay Chapter of CNPS

Saturday, March 5, 9:30 am - 2 pm, Pt. Isabel in Eastshore State Park, at the end of Rydin Road, off Central Avenue in Richmond.

Saturday, March 12, 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.

Saturday, March 19, 9:30 am - 2 pm, Pt. Isabel in Eastshore State Park, at the end of Rydin Road, off Central Avenue in Richmond.

Sunday, March, 20, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park. Meet us at the Skyline parking lot on the Oakland side of the park to get tools. If you have any questions about the Huckleberry or Sibley work dates, please e-mail janetgawthrop47@gmail.com.
Janet Gawthrop

Restoration events sponsored by other organizations

Habitat Restoration Workday, Garber Park, Saturday, March 19, 10 am-noon. Join us in Garber Park as we tackle

How much growth will the little manzanita cuttings achieve before summer?

Come to the nursery and observe. I hope you will be as excited as I am about what the plants are doing.

Volunteers are always welcome to join in activities such as watering, weeding, potting up plants, cleaning nursery containers and moving stock to and from the "sales floor". It is best to come during regular nursery hours: Tuesdays noon to three, Fridays nine to noon, and Saturdays ten to two for orientation and training. Watering assignments can be flexible to accommodate volunteers' schedules.

The nursery is in Tilden Park, across from the Golf Course at 101 Golf Course Drive (between Shasta Road and Grizzly Peak Boulevard). nativehere@ebcnps.org, 510-549-0211

Charli Daniels, Production Manager

Click [here](#) for the job description and instructions on how to apply.

the invading French broom, thistle, Cape ivy in and around the Harwood Creek Restoration Site to give the natives a chance to thrive. As we weed we will also monitor the survival rate from past plantings at this beautiful riparian corridor. We provide gloves, tools, water and snacks. Please bring a water bottle. Wear long sleeves and pants, and shoes/boots with good tread. Directions to the Claremont Ave Entrance: Many of you have been to Garber before and have your own favorite way of getting here, but for those who aren't familiar with the park a map and directions can be found on our website www.garberparkstewards.org. Click on Directions in the menu bar at the top.

Shelagh Brodersen
Volunteer Coordinator, Garber Park Stewards
Email: garberparkstewards@gmail.com
Tel: 510-540-1918
Blog: www.garberparkstewards.org

Saturday, March 26, 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: friendsalbanyhill@gmail.com.

Margot Cunningham

PT. ISABEL RESTORATION

2016 is off to an excellent start at Pt. Isabel. In late January, Eagle Scout Jason Yan and his fellow scouts come out in the face of threatened storms and completed Jason's Eagle Scout project. Jason and his team pulled out weeds, mulched, and planted 24 native plants - California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), lizard tail, (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), bee plant (*Scrophularia californica*), and purple needle grass (*Stipa pulchra*) at the entrance to Pt. Isabel. They also scattered California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) seeds. The rain came down like a monsoon in the late morning, but true to the Scouts' motto (always be prepared), Jason had brought pop-up rain canopies to keep us (and the pizza) nice and dry.

We were delighted when a few days later, long-time volunteer, Lewis Payne, offered to become our newest steward for the site next to Jason's. Lewis's site is a relatively clean slate, in the shadow of two eucalyptus but with several established toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) and now with 3 newly planted buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) seeds. It will be a wonderful spot

for yampah (*Perideridia* spp.) and for narrow-leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*).

Our amazing project volunteers have taken advantage of the softened earth to remove thousands of radish and invasive mallow sprouts as well as masses of oat grass and other weeds. New volunteer Doug and volunteer Steve (who came all the way from Indiana!) helped remove the last of the radish on one site at our last work party in February.

Margot's Adopt-a-Spot at the corner of Central Avenue and Rydin Road is looking fantastic with the first display of California poppies already providing food for our bumble bees and it's a show-stopper for our human visitors.

Rob has returned from his trip to the southwest and managed to collect way too much trash from in and around the park. Nevertheless, his tireless efforts help to keep Hoffman Marsh clean and make the park look inviting.

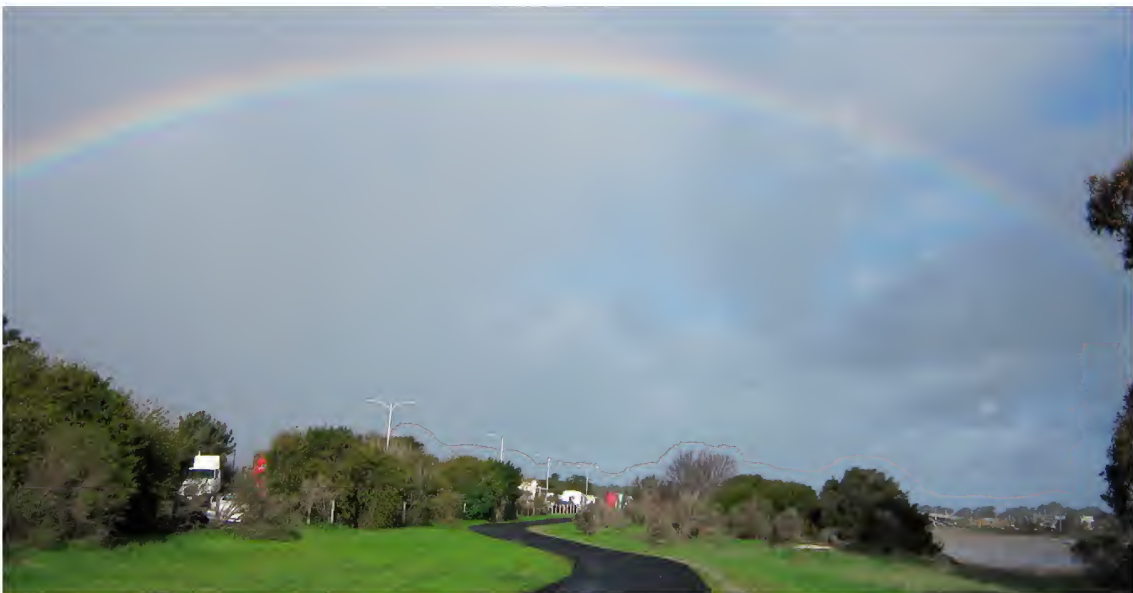


Jason and his crew (above), and the mugwort (*Artemisia douglasii*) they planted (left). Photos by Jane Kelly.

MORE POINT ISABEL PICTURES



The crew and a canine helper. A rainbow over the park. Photos by Jane Kelly.



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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

East Bay Chapter News list
Emailed announcements of
upcoming EBCNPS events
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mlbooz@calnatives.com

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Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other _____

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 _____

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