



May 2013

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

California Prairies: More Than Just Grasslands

Speaker: Glen Holstein

Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 pm

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



Ever wondered what makes grassland a prairie or marveled over the stunning display of wildflowers across a rangeland? How important is the prairie ecosystem? What once was a vast expanse of native prairie across California is now represented as remnant patches. What is being done to enhance our native prairies? Where are they and how well are they understood? Can they be restored? Join us for the answers to these questions and more in a wonderful opportunity to learn about the important and diverse California prairie ecosystem.

Glen Holstein (shown in the photo) has been studying and advocating for the protection of California deserts, chaparral, riparian systems, and prairies for decades. He participated in the creation of many California reserves—Carrizo Plains, Nipomo Dunes, Cold Canyon, Cosumnes, and others—and helped found the California Natural Diversity Database. His career as a botanical consultant presented numerous opportunities to save rare plants, and he is proud to note that every

List 1B plant population he found is still extant. Retirement has enabled him to devote much more time to CNPS, and he currently serves as the Sacramento Valley Chapter Botanist and Chapter Council Delegate and as a board member for several allied conservation organizations. Among his recent projects was guest editing and writing three articles for a special *Fremontia* issue on California's prairies and grasslands.

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. Call 510-496-6016 or email rosacalifornica@earthlink.net 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.

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, May 12, 2013, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Briones – Blue Oak and Spangler Trails

Gregg Weber will lead on this trail that includes views of some unusual plants, such as wax myrtle and chaparral pea (think pink), and Mount Diablo fairy lantern and pygmy leptosiphon all in bloom.

We will see a lot of diversity in grasslands, oak woods of several species, chemise/black sage chaparral, with pipevine swallowtail caterpillars.

The Blue Oak loop has a 700 foot elevation change and quite a few ups and downs. The round trip is about five miles.

Directions: Take Highway 24 to Lafayette, and exit at Pleasant Hill Road north. Go about one mile north on Pleasant Hill Road, and turn left onto Reliez Valley Road. Stay on Reliez Valley Road for about 3.5 miles. The parking lot is on the left, after Withers Avenue. Do not go into the park entrance farther north on Reliez Valley Road or you will miss the field trip.

Sunday, May 12, 2:00 pm, Pioneer Tree Trail at Samuel Taylor State Park in Marin County

David Margolies will lead a hike on the Pioneer Tree Trail, returning on the Cross Marin Trail. The hike is through redwood forest (including old growth trees) and mixed evergreen forest.

There should be many woodland flowers in bloom, including trillium, violets, elk clover, fairy bells, anemones, columbines, clintonia, and mission bells. There are also a wide variety of trees, including California nutmeg, Douglas firs, bays, oaks, and redwoods. The hike is about 2 miles, with a couple of hundred feet elevation gain up and down.

Meet at the start of the Pioneer Tree Trail at 2:00 pm (it is across the stream from the picnic area on the far side of the group picnic area parking lot).

Directions: from the East Bay, cross the Bay on the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge, take the second exit (Sir Francis Drake Boulevard) and stay on that road all the way across the county. (Cross 101, watch out at Red Hill Road where the intersection is a bit confusing). You enter the park after the village of Lagunitas. Enter the picnic area with a left turn a mile or so into the park (there is an \$8 parking fee).

Park in the picnic area and walk over the bridge crossing Lagunitas Creek to the group picnic area, and meet at the far end of the group parking lot.

David Margolies, 510-393-1858, divaricatum@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 19, 2013, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm, Mount Diablo State Park, North Peak trail from Devil's Elbow to Prospector's Gap

Meet at the Devil's Elbow parking lot at 10 am. This trail is packed with native plants and relatively few weedy non-

native species. There may be *Calochortus venustus*, *C. pulchellus*, *Chorizanthe membranacea*, *Hydrophyllum occidentale*, *Arnica discoidea*, a few areas of *Collinsia tinctoria*, *Clarkia concinna*, plus native thistles (*Cirsium* sp.) (thistles), lupines, and *Lomatium chrysolepis*. This trip will take most of the day, so bring lunch and water. We should arrive back at the parking lot around 3:30 pm. We usually eat lunch at Prospector's gap, and you can return from there if you need to be somewhere. Otherwise, we will continue up to North Peak. The trip leader is Gregg Weber.

Directions: Take 680 to the Diablo Road exit, and go east on Diablo Road At Green Valley Road, only one lane goes straight ahead. After Green Valley Road, go on and do not turn at the Diablo Country Club sign. In about a mile, turn left at the Mount Diablo State Park sign. Continue to the end of Mount Diablo Scenic Boulevard, which becomes South Gate Road as it enters the park. Pay the \$10 gate fee at the entrance station (or have your state parks pass visible). Continue to Junction Ranger Station, and turn right. About 3/4 mile past Juniper Camp's large parking area is a small parking area at Devil's Elbow, where we will meet at 10 am. Allow about an extra 30 minutes driving time from the base of Mount Diablo, up to Devil's elbow.

Saturday, May 25, 10:00 am, Serpentine Prairie at Redwood Regional Park

Join David Amme of East Bay Regional Parks for a morning tour of this remnant grassland that has survived multiple urban impacts. The Serpentine Prairie is the largest undeveloped outcrop of a much larger expanse of exposed serpentine soils that once existed in the Oakland hills between Skyline Blvd., Highway 13 and Joaquin Miller Park. This grassland is one of two localities known to contain the endangered *Presidio clarkia* (*Clarkia franciscana*), and also nineteen species of native grasses, including slender wheatgrass (*Elymus trachycaulus*), and the rare Tiburon buckwheat (*Eriogonum luteolum* var. *caninum*). Several years ago, the park district instituted a plan for the recovery of the *Presidio clarkia*, including removal of trees planted on the site, and test plots to mow exotic grasses. Questions and observations are welcome concerning the management plan, while we focus on this years flowering of forbes and bunchgrasses.

Directions: From Highway 13 in either direction, exit at Joaquin Miller Road and follow it uphill to its end at the traffic light for Skyline and Joaquin Miller. Proceed straight through the intersection and you will be on southbound Skyline. The Trudeau Training Center and parking lot will be one short block past the traffic light, on the left side of Skyline. We will meet in the parking lot.

Sunday, June 9, 2013, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, Mount Diablo Falls Trail, Middle Trail

This is a moderate round trip of 5 miles, with 1200 feet elevation gain on the way out. It will be mostly downhill on the return trip, and we expect to be out 5-7 hours. Bring lunch

and at least 1.5 liters of water. We will start on Clayton Oaks trail, and proceed from there to Bruce Lee Spring trail, lower Donner trail, and on to Wasserman and Falls trails.

Expect to see Coyote mint (*Monardella douglasii*) and tincture plant (*Collinsia tinctoria*) in flower, along with several paintbrush species, several *Clarkia* species, *Sedum radiatum*, *Campanula exigua*, Indian Pink (*Silene californica*), Chaparral pea (*Pickeringia montana*), California milkweed (*Asclepias californica*), *Phacelia* spp., *Cryptantha* spp., maybe Mount Diablo jewelflower, and lots of common species. We should arrive back at the parking lot around 3-4 pm.

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

Corral Hollow BPPA

The Conservation Committee has been continuing its work to preserve 3,400 acres of our chapter's "Corral Hollow" Botanical Priority Protection Area. The land, called "Tesla Park" by the coalition of organizations working to protect it, is owned by the California Parks Department. Unfortunately, the Department's Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR) is planning to present a general plan update later this summer that would include opening Tesla Park to off road vehicle recreation. The East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (EBCNPS) is concerned that due to the OHMVR's lack of detailed botanical surveys of the Tesla Park property, the forthcoming general plan will not adequately address the potential for permanent ecological damage if off road vehicle recreation is allowed. Among the diverse flora of Tesla Park are acres of high quality native grassland, oak woodlands, and a community of rare Desert Olive Scrub. EBCNPS has been working with our coalition partners to build support for preserving the property for passive (non-motorized) recreation that would minimize impact to the land while still allowing the public to enjoy its wonderful natural resources. The *Livermore Independent* recently published an article about the ongoing debate regarding the future of this area and you can view it here:

<http://tinyurl.com/ccw3kmq>. I will have more to report on this issue later this summer as things move forward.

Concord Naval Weapons Station

The Department of the Navy recently released a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the disposal and reuse of the Naval Weapons Station in Concord. This area makes up our Concord Naval Weapons Station Botanical Priority Protection Area and is of concern to EBCNPS due to riparian habitats along Mt. Diablo creek, Northern Coastal Salt Marsh in Suisun Bay and extensive vernal pool habitat. This Environmental Impact Statement (Federal) comes after a planning process, dubbed the "Concord Naval Weapons Station Reuse Project" and Environmental Impact Report (State) that was completed by the City of Concord in 2006. During this earlier planning process, EBCNPS and other conservation minded organizations such as Save Mt. Diablo provided comments that resulted in a plan that would preserve 69% of the property as conservation, parks, or recreational land uses. In the Federal EIS that is forthcoming, a

Directions: Take 24 or 680 to Ygnacio Valley Road, and continue on Ygnacio Valley Road several miles into the city of Clayton. At the intersection of Ygnacio Valley and Clayton Road, turn right at the stop light onto Clayton Road. Stay on Clayton Road past the first intersection with Marsh Creek Road; in about a mile, Clayton Road becomes Marsh Creek Road. Continue straight on Marsh Creek Road to Regency Drive, where you turn right. Go 3 blocks on Regency Drive, and then turn left on Rialto Drive. Go to the end of Rialto Drive and park. Do not go to the end of Regency, because that is a different access point.

second alternative has been proposed that includes less land conservation and more development. EBCNPS submitted comments in April regarding this plan and will be following the EIS process closely to ensure our BPPA is spoken for during the federal review process.

The Conservation Committee is always looking for new volunteers to get involved in our many projects. If you are interested in working with me on any of the projects that you have read about on our blog or in past Conservation Analyst Updates, please feel free to contact me by phone at 510-734-0335 or by email at conservation@ebcnps.org. And as always, for more detailed updates on all of our conservation projects, please visit the Conservation Blog at: <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com/>.

Mack Casterman

East Bay Chapter CNPS Conservation Analyst



CONSERVATION OF TESLA PARK

As *Bay Leaf* readers may know, your Conservation Committee has been working on the issue of protection of the Tesla and Alameda properties acquired by State Parks Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR). These properties, amounting to approximately 3500 acres in the hills outside of Livermore, lie in our Botanical Priority Protection Area called Corral Hollow. Corral "Hollow" contains arid, rocky and steep terrain, but also some lush riparian valleys. It is near the northern end of the South Coast Range, and contains many desert species of plants and animals. This area is at an ecological crossroads here in Alameda County. Regionally, the area is part of the Diablo Range Corridor that connects Mt. Diablo in the north to the Mt. Hamilton Range in the west, and to Cedar Mountain, in the south. (paraphrased from "A Guidebook to Botanical Priority Protection Areas of the East Bay", an article by Erin McDermott).

These properties (the Tesla and the Alameda) were purchased by State Parks OHMVR Division several years ago and have been held quietly, with the plan to expand dirt biking and other off highway vehicle uses into these areas, from the nearby, existing, Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area, (which lies adjacent to these two properties). State Parks says that this summer they will release an Environmental Impact Report related to their plans to open these two beautiful properties to off highway vehicle use. State Parks Off Highway Division has a checkered history in regard to protecting lands in their care that are open for dirt biking. The existing Carnegie State Park is a graphic example of what could happen to the

botanically and biologically rich lands if they become part of the active use areas of Carnegie.

On March 24th of this year the Conservation Committee organized a group of eight professional botanists who volunteered their time for the day to have a look at some of the botanically lesser known areas of Tesla-Alameda, so that East Bay Chapter of CNPS will be able to comment more intelligently on the Draft Environmental Impact Report when it comes out. What we found was beautiful, stunning, lush country (it was still early in the year before things take on a parched look). We caravanned under State Parks escort beyond locked gates, through steep slopes of rich chaparral, rolling hills of picturesque oak savannah and surprisingly non-weedy native grasslands and forblands. We were delighted with and surprised at the abundance and diversity of wildflowers blooming on the ridge tops and upper flats.

This has been a dry spring (except for some late rains in April), so we didn't expect to find much in the way of rare plants known to exist in Corral Hollow. However, on this single visit, in this dry year, we were nonetheless pleased at what we did find. See photos for a sense of the area. In order to do a proper botanical study of an area, ideally there are multiple survey visits done over many weeks, in various points during the spring and summer, and over multiple years. Ours was not an actual botanical survey, but a single day's visit to look at some of the land and plants and plant communities contained in these beautiful acres. Incidentally, there are also



some areas of the property that are not botanically rich, as in the historical and protected coal and sand mining areas, which consist mostly of arid stripped land and mine tailing piles, with some scrubby brush, some non native brush, and bare eroded soil, eventually fanning out into richer habitats nearby. However, the greater percentage of acreage contained on the properties is amazingly beautiful country.

A comment from one of the botanists in attendance sums up some thoughts about this place:

"I think that I was most aware on this trip how relatively un-choked with exotics the area is, especially compared to other "parks", like Round Valley, for instance . . . It does seem misguided and a shame to contemplate taking what has been known for decades (probably more like 150 years actually) to be a major biological and cultural hotspot, and tear it up with vehicles.

The entire area north of Tesla should be off limits (all the way to the road at the pass), as it consists of fragile ecosystems of

drainages, scalds, and friable clay slopes with sparse vegetation.

You would think that in this day and age of diminishing natural resources, a project (of opening the place up for dirt bike use) in an area like this would not be contemplated at all. It would make more sense for it to become a park (EBRPD, State, or otherwise), and instead, use land acquired/exchanged along the I-5 corridor that has already been hammered, (for example, the areas being gravel mined), for an off highway vehicle playground."

Ongoing and long-term efforts to protect and preserve the Tesla-Alameda lands are being spearheaded by "Friends of Tesla Park" (FofTP). You can see their website at www.teslapark.org and learn more about this issue, as well as donate to the fund to protect this biologically unique, rich and significant land.

Jean Robertson
EBCNPS Conservation Chair

Photos from Tesla Park by Jean Robertson and Mack Casterman (this page, upper right). Vista on previous page. The Group. Field of buttercups. Stink pods (*Fritillaria agrestis*).



RESTORATION PROJECTS

On Saturday, May 11 at 9:30 am, the Huckleberry Park restoration crew will meet at the parking lot off the right side of Skyline in Oakland.

A big thank you to all the high school volunteers who ripped out *Ehrharta*, bagged it, and dragged it to be picked up on Earth Day. Once we meet at 9:30, we will decide on a worksite after taking stock of the day's conditions with park staff and getting tools and gloves. From Highway 13, exit at either Park or Moraga/Thornhill, cross 13 uphill to Montclair Village and follow Moraga/Mountain to the stoplight with Snake. Follow Snake uphill to its end at the junction with Skyline, and then turn left to follow Skyline a short distance to the Huckleberry parking lot.

Just a few blocks north and a week later is another volunteer French broom rip in Sibley Park. We will meet at the Skyline parking lot at 9:00 am on Sunday, May 19. Hardcore weed wrenchers will likely go back to attack the wall of broom near the Old Tunnel Road. Depending on interest, we may work at a second location. You may bring your own gloves and tool, or park staff can provide loaner gloves, tools and water.

If you have any questions, e-mail janetgawthrop47@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 18, 10 am-noon, Habitat Restoration Workday

Join us as we continue chopping and pulling the usual

EAST BAY CHECKLIST!

Now Available!

Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora

Native and Naturalized Vascular Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, California

Second Edition

Barbara Ertter and Lech Naumovich

April 2013

The Checklist is a wonderful source of information about all the plants growing in the open spaces in our two counties. Each plant is listed alphabetically by species and coded native or introduced, by its habit (herbaceous, woody, fern, grass), where it is found, how common or rare it is and some identification notes. All names are current with the second

invasives—ivy, poison hemlock, thistle, and Himalayan blackberry. The planting beds at the Evergreen Lane entrance could really use some weeding. Garber is hilly, but we do have some lovely flat spots as well to work in.

But rooting out invasive weeds isn't all we do. Help is needed in replacing the steps at the Evergreen Lane entrance, caging young native trees (oaks, maples, buckeyes) to give them a chance to grow and not become a tasty treat for the deer, and trail maintenance.

Wear long sleeves and pants, and shoes with good tread. Drinks, snacks, tools and gloves are provided, but do bring your own gloves and water bottle if you have them.

Meet at the Evergreen Lane entrance. For a map and directions go to <http://www.garberparkstewards.blogspot.com/p/directions.html>

For more information contact garberparkstewards@gmail.com or visit our blog www.garberparkstewards.org.

Saturday, June 1 (first Saturday of each month), 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Pt. Isabel

We remove invasive plants and re-vegetate with native plants grown from plants found at the site. We are located at the end of Rydin Road just off the I-580 next to Hoffman Marsh. Contact e-mail: kyotousa@sbcglobal.net, cell: 510-684-6484.

edition of *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California*, with cross-references inserted and a list of genera by family in the back.

There is a section on how to use the manual, an interesting description of the geographic sections and subunits used with a colorful map, and many references.

The *Checklist* is now on sale at Native Here Nursery for \$16. In other locales, the Checklist will be \$15 plus 1.28 tax in Contra Costa County and \$15 plus 1.35 tax in Alameda County. The *Checklist* will be for sale at chapter programs. It can also be ordered from Delia Taylor, deliataylor@me.com.



DIRECTORY

Officers

President

Lesley Hunt
lldhunt@astound.net

Vice President and Chapter Council Delegate

Bill Hunt
wjhunt@astound.net

Recording Secretary

Tina Wistrom
cmwistrom@yahoo.com
510-207-0370

Corresponding Secretary

Robert Sorenson
rls@sorensonvision.com

Treasurer

David Margolies
510-654-0283
dm@franz.com

Committees

Bayleaf Newsletter

Bay Leaf Editor and Webmaster,
Chair
Joe Willingham
510-705-1798
pepe1066@comcast.net

Bay Leaf Assistant Editor
David Margolies
510-654-0283
dm@franz.com

Bay Leaf Mailing

Holly Forbes
hforbes@berkeley.edu
h 510-234-2913
w 510-643-8040

Conservation

Jean Robertson, Chair
gaiajaan@yahoo.com

Conservation Analyst
Mack Casterman
conservation@ebcnps.org
510-734-0335

Funds Development

Delia Taylor, Chair
deliataylor@mac.com

Field Trips

Janet Gawthrop, Chair
janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

Hospitality

vacant

Information Infrastructure

Peter Rauch, Chair
peterar@berkeley.edu

Membership

Emma Jack
408-391-2454
emma.jack@gmail.com

Volunteer coordinator

Delia Taylor
volunteer@ebcnps.org

Programs

Sue Rosenthal
rosacalifornia2@earthlink.net
510-496-6016

Publicity

vacant

Rare Plants

Heath Bartosh, Chair
925-957-0069
hbartosh@nomadecology.com

Bryophytes

John Game, Chair
510-527-7855
jcgame@stanford.edu

Unusual Plants

Dianne Lake, Chair
510-691-1428
diannelake@yahoo.com

Vegetation

Megan Keever, Co-Chair
megan@stillwatersci.com

Nicole Jurjavcic, Co-Chair

nicole@stillwatersci.com

EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

Native Here Nursery

510-549-0211
Manager—Charli Danielsen
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Sales—Margot Cunningham
bunchgrassmarg@gmail.com

Restoration

Huckleberry Regional Preserve

Janet Gawthrop, leader
janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

Point Isabel

Tom and Jane Kelly, leaders
510-704-8628 (w)
510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net

Marsh Creek

Heath Bartosh, leader
925-957-0069
hbartosh@nomadecology.com

John Muir NHS (Martinez)

Elaine Jackson, leader
925-372-0687
elainejx@att.net

Walnut Creek

Lesley Hunt, leader
925-937-6791
lldhunt@astound.net

Plant Fair

Charli Danielsen, Chair
nativehere@ebcnps.org

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

WILDFLOWER TRIP TO BEAR VALLEY

On April 27, we went on a wildflower trip to Bear Valley and Walker Ridge that Frances Dahlquist organized through the EB-CNPS Meetup group she started last fall. The trip had been posted since January, so attendance was large – 33 people, only five of whom I could identify as EB-CNPS members.

Jack Alderson of the Sacramento Valley CNPS chapter was our guide. Before we left the meeting point, he gave us background information on the relationship between the soil type and flowers at our four stopping places. He also discussed the conservation history. The Bear Valley ranchers have long managed their pastures in a way that benefited wildflowers as well as cattle and we have all reaped the rewards. The valley was threatened by development a few years ago until a private land trust stepped in and purchased conservation easements. The

fate of Walker Ridge still hangs in the balance – although it is BLM land, a large wind farm has been proposed there. This is an issue that state CNPS has been following for some time.

The Meetup group has attracted a number of people who are knowledgeable about plants. Janet Gawthrop and Gregg Weber were also along, so the plant IDs flew fast and furious. The big displays in the Bear Valley pastures had come and gone, but we had great species diversity including five calochortuses. If you missed it this year, put it on your calendar for next April. Here are photos of some of the highlights.

Lesley Hunt
photos by Bill Hunt



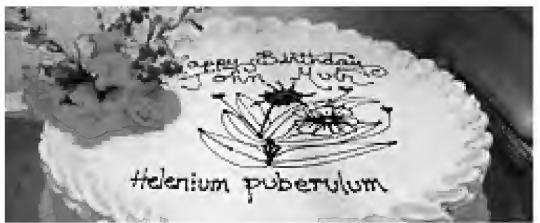
Photos from Bear Valley by Bill Hunt. Clockwise from upper left: blow wife (*Achryachaena mollis*), bitter root (*Lewisia rediviva*), pale western larkspur (*Delphinium hesperium*), Janet Gawthrop (EBCNPS Field Trips Chair).



More photos from Bear Valley by Bill Hunt. Clockwise from upper left: *Leptosiphon* sp., western flax (*Hesperolinum* sp.) and *Diogenes*' lantern (*Calochortus amabilis*).

EAST BAY CNPS AT JOHN MUIR DAY IN MARTINEZ

Elaine Jackson represents the chapter with an information table at John Muir day at the John Muir Historic Site in Martinez every year. Here are some pictures she took of the event, including setting up with Rosie, our Friends of Alhambra Creek Partner, the John Muir birthday cake by Jane Moore, and Keith Park of the NPS.



NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Native Here was open extra hours on May 4 as part of the nursery extravaganza of the **Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour**. Weather cooperated and over 20 people showed up to hear John Danielsen's talk on "Selecting Local Natives for Your Garden". Susan Holtzlander introduced her hand-made four-inch clay pots with unique decorations, and many people purchased plants.

May is sort of a "last call" for putting most natives into the ground, unless the gardener is prepared to play nursemaid to them all summer long. It's a fine time to purchase smaller plants that you want to pot into larger sizes to care for through the summer until optimal planting time in the fall/winter. It's also a good time to get annuals in so they can flower and drop seed in place. To that end, Native Here is offering a free 4-inch pot of the annual of your choice with each purchase between now and Father's Day, June 16th.

If you haven't purchased your copy of the new edition of the *Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora*, you may purchase it from Native Here for \$16 tax included. A copy of the CD *East Bay Native Plants* at \$25 is a great companion to the checklist. Both are handy for hiking and also for garden planning.

Native Here has thousands of plants growing for the Plant Fair and fall/winter planting. They need watering throughout the summer, and our regular volunteers often take vacations. If you have two to three hours a week to spend helping these plants thrive through the summer, contact the nursery nativehere@ebcnps.org, or drop in when the nursery is open Tuesday noon to 3, Friday 9 am-noon, or Saturday 10 am -2 pm.

Charli Danielsen

Free with each purchase
until June 16th, 2013
one 4" pot of the annual of your choice