



June 2003

The Bay Leaf

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

Calendar of Events

Plant Sale Activities, p. 3

Propagating and Potting Sessions, Tuesdays, June 3, 10, 17, 24, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Merritt College, Oakland

Board of Directors Meeting, Wednesday, June 4, home of Barbara Ertter, 1859 Catalina Avenue, Berkeley

Native Here Seed Collecting Hikes, p. 3

Tuesdays: June 3, 10, 17, 24

Native Here Nursery Open, p. 3

Fridays, June 6, 13, 20, 27, 9-noon

Saturdays, June 7, 14, 21, 28, 10 a.m.-1p.m.

Native Plant Restoration Team, p. 3

Saturday, June 7, 9:30-12:30 p.m., work party at the Serpentine Prairie at Skyline Drive, Redwood Regional Park

Field Trips, p. 4

Saturday, June 14, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., **Abbotts Lagoon**

June 14-15 Weekend in the **Klamath Mountains**

Sunday, June 22, 2:00 p.m., **Mount Diablo summit**

Conservation Committee Meeting, p. 2

Wednesday, June 18, 7:30 p.m., home of Elaine Jackson, 3311 Estudillo Street, Martinez

Membership Meetings

The monthly East Bay CNPS chapter membership meeting will be on summer recess until September 24, 2003. Watch future issues of the *Bay Leaf* for announcements of upcoming programs.

Board of Directors' Resolution

Resolved: that the East Bay Chapter of CNPS ask the Chapter Council to join us in a resolution confirming to the Board of Directors and to the Executive Director of the State CNPS that the most important business of the Society is the protection and conservation of both native plant communities and individual native plant taxa.

Floras Updated

As proof of the axiom that the appearance of a new or newly revised flora will immediately lead to a flurry of discoveries that make the book outdated, as well as a testimony to the great wildflower year we've been having in the Bay Area, several changes can already be made to the recently published new edition of *Flowering Plants and Ferns of Mount Diablo, California*, by Barbara Ertter and Mary L. Bowerman. Several species can now happily be removed from the list of "Possible Disappearances" on pp. 102-103: *Carex densa*, *Cicendia quadrangularis*, *Hordeum brachyantherum*, *Horkelia californica* ssp. *frondosa*, and *Lasthenia glaberrima*. Several other species can be added to the addenda on pp. 402-405, including *Frankenia salina*, *Koeleria phleoides* and *Scleranthus annuus*. You can notify Barbara Ertter of any other significant changes you may find by emailing her at ertter@uclink4.berkeley.edu.

A newly revised edition of *Plants of the San Francisco Bay Region*, by Linda H. Beidleman and Eugene N. Kozloff, has just been published by University of California Press. More information, including how to order, can be found at www.ucpress.edu.

Barbara Ertter

Legislation

CNPS is a non-partisan organization, but we do take stands on state and federal legislation and rule making insofar as these affect our goal of preserving California's native plants and plant communities. State CNPS senior policy analyst Emily Roberson and the Conservation Committee of the East Bay Chapter urge our members to write to their Congressional representatives and senators and urge them to oppose:

- (1) any attempt to weaken environmental laws and regulations
- (2) any attempt to reduce or eliminate the public's ability through the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process or through administrative processes such

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as Forest Service appeals, to participate in planning for federal activities that affect the environment and public lands

(3) attempts to pack the courts with judges biased against environmental protection.

Another point: The federal government should not be in the business of violating the right of Californians to protect their environment.

Members may want to thank Senator Boxer and Attorney General Bill Lockyer for their strong opposition to rollbacks in environmental protection. You may also want to suggest to Governor Davis that he should be doing more on this front.

You can find email addresses for Congress members by going to www.congress.org and typing in your ZIP code.

Joe Willingham

Unusual Plants Committee

Many CNPS volunteers have been out and about this spring scouring the East Bay countryside for rare and unusual plants. Following are some of the fruits of their labors.

A population of *Calochortus umbellatus* has just been found at Lake Temescal where it had not been reported since 1891!

New populations have been found in the East Bay for several statewide rare plants, including:

Acanthomintha lanceolata on Mines Road

Amsinckia lunaris near Pereira Cove at Briones Reservoir

Amsinckia lunaris near the Madrone trail at Las Trampas Regional Park

Calochortus pulchellus above Mallery Creek at Los Vaqueros Reservoir

Galium andrewsii ssp. *gatense* above Mallery Creek at Los Vaqueros Reservoir

The following unusual plants (rare locally but not statewide) have been rediscovered at sites in the East Bay where they had only been known historically:

Carex globosa at Redwood Peak (last reported there in 1937)

Chrysolepis chrysophylla var. *minor* at Redwood Peak (1921)

Cicendia quadrangularis at Mt. Diablo (1942)

Descurainia pinnata ssp. *menziesii* on Mines Road (1927)

Eriophyllum staechadifolium at Fleming Point

in Albany (date unknown)

Lasthenia glaberrima at Mt. Diablo (1935)

Nemophila pedunculata on Mines Road (1925)

Parietaria hespera var. *californica* at Black Diamond Regional Preserve (1929)

Salix scouleriana at Grizzly Peak (date unknown)

Tauschia hartwegii on Mines Road (1925)

Vicia hassei (not confirmed) in Livermore (1891)

In addition, new populations have been found for several unusual plants, including:

Carex densa in Moraga and at Chabot Regional Park

Plantago elongata at Oyster Bay Regional Park

Quercus chasei on Redwood Peak

Vulpia microstachys var. *ciliata* on Mines Road

Our appreciation goes to Barbara Ertter, David Gowen, Kevin Hints, Sherry McCreedy, Chris Thayer and Gregg Weber, who have found some of these populations, and to all the many other volunteers who are helping search for and monitor rare and unusual plants this year.

Dianne Lake, Unusual Plants Coordinator

Conservation Committee

Local citizens make more effective spokespersons with cities and agencies than "outsiders". The East Bay CNPS Conservation Committee is composed of concerned citizens, as well as plant scientists, in order for the chapter to give informed comment advocating protection of native plant communities and taxa. We follow land use planning and land management issues throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

CNPS members are invited to become active with the Conservation Committee. Especially needed are residents of Livermore, Pleasanton, and Alameda to cover immediate planning issues. But "watchdogs" are needed for other cities and agencies as well.

CNPS conservation policies may be reviewed on-line at www.cnps.org/archives/archives.htm. If you wish to join the committee, come to the next meeting (see paragraph below) or contact Charli Danielsen, charlid@pacbell.net, or phone her at 510-525-9076.

A meeting of the East Bay CNPS Conservation Committee is planned for Wednesday, June 18, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Elaine Jackson, 3311 Estudillo Street, Martinez 94553. Parking is limited.

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A major agenda item is to update the priority list of projects shown on the chapter web site. Another is to focus on projects in the eastern parts of both counties.

The committee meets 3-4 times a year, conducting most business and discussion through an e-mail list serve.

In April and May, the committee filed comments on the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservation Plan and wrote letters regarding the Palos Colorados proposed development and Los Vaqueros expansion. Members review one another's drafts, attend meetings and hearings, and provide scientific information to back up the comments.

Charli Danielsen

Plant Sale Activities

Propagating and Potting Sessions:



Tuesdays
June 3, 10, 17, 24
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Merritt College, Oakland
Landscape Horticulture
Parking fee: 50 cents

This month we will continue making some cuttings, but our main focus will be on potting up earlier cuttings that have formed roots in the greenhouse.

Everyone is welcome for all or part of our weekly sessions. Bring a bag lunch if you can stay for the noon break.

Call 925-376-4095 if you would like directions to the campus or for further information.

The annual plant sale takes place at the nursery the first weekend of October.

Shirley McPheeters

Native Here Nursery

Although the time for planting in the garden is over, now is a good time to place orders for fall. Native Here has many seedlings in early stages that can be brought to either D-pot or gallon size by fall. Volunteers have plenty to do in the nursery. Customers need assistance placing orders, purchasing gift certificates and books. Seeds collected last year have germinated and need to be taken through the various steps bringing them to the size and vigor required to plant out in the fall-winter.

Volunteers are especially welcome to join Margot at the nursery Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. To volunteer, please show up in the first hour, as she gets too busy with customers to orient volunteers later in the morning. Although there is an adequate number of volunteers on Friday, a few more would be welcome. If you are able to come on Friday a few times to "learn the ropes" and then help Margot on Saturdays, that would be ideal.

Volunteers and customers are welcome any time the nursery is open: Friday and Saturday mornings. The nursery is at 101 Golf Course Drive, Tilden Park. Heavy rain or strong winds cancel. (This year this phrase might apply even in summer!)

Seed Collecting Hikes

You are welcome to meet with Charli Danielsen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday mornings at the nursery entrance on Golf Course Drive in Tilden Park. Participants usually park at the very end of the golf course lot by the road, and they often arrange to ride together to the seed collecting destination. This year seeds have been delayed by all the late rains and will likely be ripening in many different locations at once. We plan to split the group to cover more than one location. Collection permits have been issued to "Charli Danielsen and immediate associates". As seed collectors, we have competition from deer, cattle, and fire protection measures, so may have to search hard to find plants in fruit.

Destinations are not announced ahead of time, but we often plan the following week's trip at the close of the morning.

If there has been rain the night before, or if it is raining, seed collection will be cancelled that day.

Charli Danielsen

Native Plant Restoration Team

Thanks to the great crew that turned out, May's work party at **Wildcat Creek in Tilden Park** made a sizeable dent in the invasive exotic plants that are trying to take over at this access point to the creek/trails. This winter, after the rains have started, we hope to do some restoration planting of ferns, cow parsnip, pink flowering currant, dogwood, etc. Next time we'll tackle some more Himalayan Blackberry!

June 7, 9:30-12:30 p.m., work party at the **Serpentine Prairie** at Skyline Drive, Redwood Regional Park. CNPS Restoration Team member Gudrun Kleist has kindly agreed to "hostess" this work party to pull yellow star thistle (Gudrun can be contacted at:

ghkleist@lbl.gov). According to the interpretive signage on site, there are only a handful of places in the state where the State Rock, Serpentine (lovely blue colors), is visible, and where this unique combination of rock, soil and vegetation can be found. The state grass, purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*) is common here, as well as many other native plants including grasses, wildflowers, and some scattered shrubs and trees. Farther down the east facing slope, this prairie disappears and becomes first an oak and then a redwood woodland. The Golden Spike Trail-head is located at the bottom of the hill and is a good starting spot for a number of lovely loop hikes. With all the late rain, there should still be some lovely wildflowers out.

Location: 11500 Skyline Boulevard, between Joaquin Miller and Redwood Roads. Shown on Redwood Regional Park map as “Serpentine Prairie Resource Protection Area” (www.ebparcs.org is a source for park/trail maps).

Directions: From Highway 13, take Joaquin Miller exit, go east up the hill (Joaquin Miller becomes Skyline Boulevard), then left into the parking lot (across from Crestmont Drive). Bus stop: AC Transit #46.

Supplies and gear: For each work party, we ask that you wear long sleeves and pants, a hat, clothing layers as needed for varying weather, sturdy shoes, your favorite gloves, and bring weeding/gardening tools, adequate water (weeding can be hard work!) and a snack as needed. We do have some gloves and tools to lend.

Other upcoming events:

July 5, 9:30 – 12:30 p.m., work party at **Mitchell Canyon**, Mt. Diablo State Park.

August 2, 9:30-12:30 p.m., work party at **Eastshore State Park**, Berkeley.

We hope to see you at our events - please mark your calendars today!

E-mail reminders: If you would like to be on the Restoration Team’s e-mail list for team events, occasional field trips, and other related events/issues, please notify Jim Sharp at itsa@dnai.com. (Many thanks to Jim who has offered to provide this service to the Team’s members.)

General weeding: Many invasive exotic plants are just now flowering or setting seed – so it is a great time to get them first. Do you have a favorite place you’d like the Restoration Team to visit?

Questions or comments? Please contact: Sarah Ginskey (510) 558-8139.

Sarah Ginskey

Saturday, June 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., **Abbotts Lagoon**.

Don’t miss this opportunity to explore the beautiful Abbotts Lagoon area of Point Reyes National Seashore with Steve Edwards, director of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. On a level hike of a few miles, we will see ponds, lakes, and fens, as well as rare and beautiful dune plants, including beach pea (*Lathyrus littoralis*), beach tidytips (*Layia carnosa*), dune gilia (*Gilia capitata* ssp. *chamissonis*) and fragrant curly-leaved monardella (*Monardella undulata*). Tidestrom’s lupine (*Lupinus tidestromii*), one of the rarest plants in Point Reyes National Seashore (or on the entire coast for that matter), also grows here in good numbers. Meet at the parking area for Abbotts Lagoon at 11:00 a.m. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and layered clothing (it can be sunny, warm, foggy or windy here—or all of the above in one day). Bring lunch, liquids, sun protection, a hand lens, and a camera, if desired.

Directions: Take 580 west to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. In San Rafael, drivers have a choice of crossing Marin County by Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, or by taking 101 north to Lucas Valley Road. 101 to Lucas Valley Road to Olema is a longer distance, but may be an equal or shorter time if Saturday traffic is heavy. To continue on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, take the middle lane at the junction with 101 and avoid the lanes that become entrance ramps to 101. Both routes will end at Olema, near the Visitor’s Center for Point Reyes National Seashore. From Olema, drivers can take the road towards the north beaches of Point Reyes and look for the turnoff to Abbotts Lagoon; or, stop at the Visitor’s Center for a map and detailed directions to the lagoon.

June 14-15 Weekend in the **Klamath Mountains** (overnight trip with \$50.00 fee). Please contact David Margolies for information about this trip at divaricatum@aol.com or 510-654-0283.

June 22, Sunday, 2:00 p.m., **Mount Diablo summit**.

This half-day field trip will take in the latest flowering part of the mountain, possibly including both *Keckiella* species and *Penstemon heterophylla*. Meet David Margolies at the summit parking lot; bring \$ for state park admission and plenty of water.

Directions: From points west of Walnut Creek, take 24 east from the Caldecott Tunnel to the 24/680 junction at Walnut Creek. The junction with 680 splits into both northbound (left side) and southbound (right side) ramps. Take the northbound lanes, but stay to the right. Exit almost immediately onto Ygnacio Valley Road

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and then turn right from the exit ramp onto Ygnacio Valley Road (so you are going east). Take a right onto Walnut Avenue from Ygnacio Valley. Follow Walnut Avenue all the way to Oak Grove; Walnut Avenue ends at Oak Grove. From Oak Grove, take a right and then an immediate left onto Northgate Road, which leads into Mount Diablo State Park. Follow signs to the summit. Park in the large lot just below the summit.

From points south of Mount Diablo, take 680 to Danville. Exit 680 at Diablo Road, and follow Diablo Road 3 miles east to Mount Diablo Scenic Boulevard. Take Mount Diablo Scenic into the park and proceed on the road to the summit past the entrance kiosk.

Janet Gawthrop

Activities of Others

California Native Art and Garden Show, artist **Sarah Ginskey**

May 31, June 1, 7 & 8, 11a.m. to 6 p.m., 1096 Miller Avenue, Berkeley

Directions: from Highway 80/580 take the Albany/Buchanan exit and head way up Marin Avenue. Take a right on Keeler, then left on Miller. Or: from Grizzly Peak Boulevard, turn west on Shasta Road, then right onto Miller. Street parking available.

For more information call 510-558-8139.

“The Art of Seeing: Nature Revealed Through Illustration” is an exhibition at the **Oakland Museum** of California, closing soon (June 15). In addition to some excellent contemporary examples of floristic and faunistic art, there is a special display of artwork by Sarah Plummer Lemmon, courtesy of the Jepson Herbarium. Among other claims to fame (namesake of Mount Lemmon in Arizona, wife of John Gill Lemmon), Mrs. Lemmon was the driving force behind getting the California poppy designated our state flower. More information on the exhibition is at www.museumca.org/exhibit/exhi_art_of_seeing.html.

The Art of Saving Oaks: Revered Native Species Highlighted in Two-Week Exhibit at Filoli

Woodside, Calif., June 18 - July 5. Every day many of us drive by a variety of stately oaks which blanket the hillsides and enhance our neighborhoods. We gaze at their mighty presence and admire these assets throughout the landscape of northern California. However, according to the California Oak Mortality Task Force, “Sud-

den Oak Death has caused widespread dieback of several oak species in the central and northern coastal counties of California.” In order to serve as an educational forum for this growing concern, **Filoli** will present a two-week exhibit entitled, “The Art of Saving Oaks,” June 18-July 5, 2003.

According to Molly Barker, Director of Education at Filoli, “during this two week event, we hope to inspire and educate visitors on how to be better stewards of California’s oak population.” Filoli will be offering diverse activities such as guided woodland hikes, a lecture series, and informational displays by noted horticulturists. An invitational art exhibit consisting of landscape and interpretive art which focuses on oaks and their related plant communities will also be on display.

Oak Stewardship Day, Saturday, June 21, 2003, 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Free to members, free to non-members with paid admission to Filoli. An open house featuring informational presentations on the stewardship and preservation of Oaks. Guests include members from the California Native Plant Society, Oak Mortality Task Force and Suncrest Nursery. Plant samples and information will be available.

Lectures (free for members; \$5 for non-members), all on Saturday, June 21, 2003.

“Oak Habitat Threats and Restoration”. 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Doug McCreary, a leading expert on Oak restoration and Sudden Oak Death, will discuss the threats to Oak habitats and the challenges of restoration.

“How to Care for Oaks”, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Lucy Tolmach, Director of Horticulture at Filoli, will talk about how Filoli cares for its great oaks in both its formal gardens as well as in its woodland landscape.

“Gardening among Oaks”, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Ellen Zagory, U.C. Davis Arboretum horticulturist, will present information on living and gardening among oaks.

Oak Woodland Hike, Saturdays, June 18-July 5, 2003, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon.

Free to members, free to non-members with paid admission to Filoli. This moderate hike will take you through Filoli’s mixed evergreen forest and foothill woodlands to visit the beautiful native oaks, identify some plant hosts of Sudden Oak Death, and learn about California’s oak environments. For safety concerns, participants are encouraged to wear sturdy walking shoes and long pants. Reservations are required Tuesday-Thursday and drop-ins are available Friday-Saturday. For hike reservations or ticket information, please call 650-364-8300, 508.

Wildflower Show

The **Oakland Museum Wildflower Show** will be held on July 12 and 13. Wildflowers from the Sierra Nevada will be on display this year. It should be a delightful event.

We need people to help type labels and/or key out plants on Friday July 11. On the days of the show we will need people to help at our membership and information table. This event is always fun and interesting and the entrance fee to the museum is free for helpers.

There will be 2 or 3 hour shifts from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Please contact Delia Taylor if you can help, 510-527-3912, deliataylor@mac.com.

Delia Taylor

Annual East Bay CNPS Chapter Potluck Picnic

Saturday, September 20, 2003
beginning at 3:00 p.m.

At the Regional Parks Botanic Garden
(in Tilden Park, Berkeley)

Friends, food and drink, live music,
plant raffle, garden tour, and more
Save the date!



Field Trip on March 9, 2003, to Mt. Diablo Foothills, 46 participants in addition to trip leaders Chris Thayer, Celia Zavatsky. Photo by Janet Gawthrop.

Board of Directors

Elected Officers

President:

Tony Morosco, c/o Calflora, 937 San Pablo Ave., Albany 94706
w/528-5426, tony-morosco@calflora.org

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Vacant

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Native Plant Restoration Team:

Sarah Ginskey, 1096 Miller Avenue, Berkeley 94708, 510-558-8139,
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Vacant

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Rare Plants:

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Recorded Chapter Information: 464-4977

CNPS Home Page: www.cnps.org

East Bay Chapter CNPS Home Page:
www.ebcnps.org

**Bay Leaf &
Board meeting minutes online**

Chapter CNPS-EB-Alerts E-mail List:
Find out more; email to listserv@usobi.org with:
INFO CNPS-EB Alerts

Membership Application

Name	_____	Membership category:
Address	_____	___ Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20
		___ Individual, Library, \$35
		___ Household, Family, or Group, \$45
		___ Supporting, \$75
		___ Plant lover, \$100
		___ Benefactor, \$500
		___ Life, \$1000

I wish to affiliate with:

___ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

___ Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 1722 J Street, Suite 17, Sacramento CA 95814



Western sea-purslane, *Sesuvium verrucosum*, is an uncommon native that grows on drying mud in low, open country, often near water in saline places. It was photographed here in Contra Costa County, on a plant survey a few miles east of Los Vaqueros reservoir. It has no petals, but the large sepals are rose-pink on the inside, as seen here. (The photo can be seen in color in the online *Bay Leaf* at the Chapter's website). *S. verrucosum* is one of very few native members of the family Aizoaceae, better known for invasive aliens such as *Mesembryanthemum* and *Carpobrotus* species, including the yellow ice-plant or fig-marigold, *C. edulis*. Photo and caption by John Game

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

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Time Value
June 2003 issue