



January 2004

The Bay Leaf

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Native Here Nursery, p. 3

Fridays, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Native Here Nursery Open 9-noon

Saturdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Native Here Nursery Open 10-1.

Plant Sale Activities, p. 3

Tuesdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27, 9:00 am to noon (rain or shine)

Plants for sale and volunteer activities

Saturday, February 7, final sale of season

Chapter Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 7, home of Sarah Ginskey, 1095 Miller Street, Berkeley. Go up Marin, right on Keeler, left on Miller.

Native Plant Restoration Team, p. 4

Friday, February 7, 1-4 pm, "Generations at San Leandro Creek", Canyon Elementary School

Membership Meeting, see below

Wednesday, January 28, 7:30 pm

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

New phytophthoras [Greek: *plant destroyers*] in California: exotic, native, or naturalized pathogens?

Speaker: **Dr. Matteo Garbelotto**

Wednesday, January 28, 2004, 7:30 pm

Location: Conference Center, University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley (directions below)

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is an emergent forest disease affecting dozens of native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants along the central and northern California coast region. Although tree mortality was first noticed in 1994, it was only in 2000 that the microbe responsible for the disease was discovered. This microorganism was soon identified as a new and undescribed species of *Phytophthora*, later named *Phytophthora ramorum*.

Phytophthoras include many well-known aggressive plant pathogens and have caused several plant epidemics, including the potato blight that resulted in the Irish famine of the 1800s. Although fungus-like in appearance, Phytophthoras are actually in a separate kingdom that includes kelp and diatoms. The limited geographic distribution of *Phytophthora ramorum* and the high susceptibility of several native plant species suggest this pathogen is not native, but an exotic species. Recent genetic analysis has validated this hypothesis by showing the California population has extremely limited genetic variability, a common characteristic of introduced organisms.

While previously identified forest phytophthoras are water- and soilborne, *P. ramorum* represents the first exception, being airborne. This unprecedented feature currently limits our understanding of the epidemiology of this new pathogen, as there are few or no comparative models to which we can refer. Researchers were further surprised to discover two

STOP THE DAM WASTE: VOTE NO ON N

Please join the California Native Plant Society in opposing the Contra Costa Water District's (CCWD) proposal on the March ballot to destroy the Los Vaqueros Reservoir and rebuild it to five times its current size. Measure N is an ill-conceived plan that puts at risk district residents' access to clean water for the three to seven years it will take to complete the project and asks voters to approve the vaguely worded measure without the benefits of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

CCWD only finished construction of the existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir four years ago. The project cost \$450 billion and took 10 years to complete. It destroyed 1,600 acres of sensitive habitat and created a 2.5-mile barrier to wildlife and recreation.

To get the project approved by voters back in 1988 CCWD was forced to make a lot of promises. The district promised voters that it would provide a myriad of recreational facilities, preserve the watershed, and only modestly increase rates. *All these prom-*

MEMBERSHIP MEETING, continued on page 2

STOP THE DAM, continued on page 2

MEMBERSHIP MEETING, continued from page 1 page

more new *Phytophthora* species while intensively studying *P. ramorum*. These species are also aerial and cause identical symptoms on many of the same hosts as *P. ramorum*, however their geographic distribution is larger and the disease they cause does not seem to lead to massive plant death. It is possible these new *Phytophthora* species may represent native microbes in coevolutionary equilibrium with the native flora. Synergies or antagonisms among the three aerial *Phytophthora* species are yet unknown.

While surveying California for SOD, researchers made a further discovery: *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, an aggressive pathogen for agricultural crops, is now found in the wild throughout the central and southern parts of the state. *P. cinnamomi* causes significant mortality of coast live oak in southern California and is a very serious and imminent threat for the endangered Ione manzanita, *Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*.

From current research a picture emerges of a group of microbes, phytophthoras, likely to play a major role in the future of California native ecosystems. Management plans will need to factor in these pathogens in order to

be effective, and regulations will need to be enforced to slow down what appears to be an accelerated introduction of these organisms through human activities.

This month's speaker, Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, is a plant pathologist who serves as Extension Specialist and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at U.C. Berkeley and is one of the leading researchers working on SOD and new phytophthoras. He will bring us up-to-date on current knowledge of these fascinating microbes.

East Bay Chapter CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting will take place in the Conference Center of the University of California Botanical Garden on Centennial Drive, east of Memorial Stadium and west of the Lawrence Hall of Science, above the main campus of the University of California at Berkeley. The Garden gate will open at 7:00 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. **Due to the popularity of this month's speaker and the limited seating space, we suggest you arrive early.** Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornica@earthlink.net, if

you have any questions.

Upcoming Programs

Wednesday, February 25, 2004, 7:30 pm (at the U.C. Botanical Garden at Berkeley):
Speaker TBA

Wednesday, March 24, 2004, 7:30 pm (at the U.C. Botanical Garden at Berkeley):
Jan Southworth—Butterfly gardening with native plants

Sue Rosenthal

STOP THE DAM, continued from page 1 upon

ises were broken. The district raised rates far higher than it suggested, provided far less recreation, and now proposes to flood what it promised to preserve.

Former Senator John Nejedly remembers those promises well. He was co-chair for the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) campaign that authorized creation of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir. He now serves as chair for the No on N campaign, because of his concern that the measure will harm the environment and lead to more water exports.

Expansion of Los Vaqueros could significantly endanger the health of our bay and delta (see Bay Institute's *Bay Ecological Scorecard*, 2003). It would destroy 2,600 acres of natural habitat, flood current rec-

reational facilities and endangered species habitat, allow for the export of our water to the south, increase urban sprawl and development, and **cost as much as \$1.5 billion** to complete.

Measure N is precisely the kind of water export and expansion project that Contra Costa voters overwhelmingly rejected by a nine to one ratio in the initial campaign to construct the reservoir. The only difference is that the construction of a peripheral canal is no longer needed to export our water south; this project, and CCWD's offer to CalFed to use its pipelines for export, serves that same purpose.

CCWD's "tear it down and rebuild it" plan doesn't guarantee any benefits to our district,

yet the potential downside is extraordinary. Consider: no environmental analysis has been conducted, no specific projects have been selected, no financial commitments to pay for the project have been made, no concrete cost estimates exist, and no guarantees of any kind have been given regarding the creation or protection of recreational facilities. CCWD offers no compelling arguments for the expansion, yet the huge risk to our water supply and natural environment is indisputable.

Clearly, California faces important water issues. But CCWD's latest scheme is hardly a solution. Agriculture uses more than 85% of the state's developed water. If it conserves 10% of its water use, urban demand can be met without new reservoirs and more water

could be returned to the environment, our bay, and the delta.

For all these reasons and more we urge you to join our growing coalition, which includes Save Mount Diablo, the Sierra Club, Save San Francisco Bay Association, Golden Gate Audubon, Environmental Defense, East Bay Area Trails Council, California Native Plant Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, Citizens for Democracy, and others in rejecting more CCWD false promises and another CalFed power grab.

You can help save Los Vaqueros and Stop the Dam Waste by joining the campaign. CCWD will spend millions on PR, so we need every dollar, volunteer, and endorsement we can muster. To get involved, contact Jeni Krencicki at 510-848-0800 ext. 307 or email jeni@sfbaysc.org. You can also visit our website at www.StoptheDamWaste.com.

Committee to Stop the Dam Waste

PLANT SALE ACTIVITIES



Tuesdays
January 6, 13, 20, 27
9:00 am to noon (rain or shine)
Merritt College, Oakland
Landscape Horticulture Department
Parking fee: 50 cents

Come in on Tuesday mornings in January to find all remaining plants from the October plant sale reduced in price. We have:

<i>Arctostaphylos</i> (manzanita)	<i>Erigeron</i> (sea daisy)
<i>Ceanothus</i> (CA lilac)	<i>Berberis</i> (mahonia)
<i>Garrya</i> (silktassel)	<i>Asarum</i> (ginger)
<i>Salvia</i> (sage)	<i>Aquilegia</i> (columbine)
<i>Keckiella</i>	<i>Aristolochia</i> (pipevine)
<i>Muhlenbergia</i> (deergrass)	<i>Phacelia</i>
	and a few odds & ends.

Our final sale of the season, with further discounting, will be Saturday, **February 7, 9:00 am – noon**. Rain date: following Saturday.

Shirley McPheeters

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Calendar:

Fridays, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Native Here Nursery Open 9-noon

Saturdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Native Here Nursery Open 10-1.

A new contract has been negotiated with the Park District. Native Here is good to go for another five years. Rent has increased slightly, but we will be expanding the area somewhat. Many of the seeds collected in 2003 have been sown, and more will be through the winter. Planting weather will continue for at least a month or two, so come buy. As bulbs react to rain and sunlight, they will be offered for sale. Some will be ready this month. *Ranunculus californica* from a variety of locales is available now, too.

Volunteers are always needed whenever the nursery is open: Fridays, 9 to noon, and Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm. No need to phone ahead, just show up.

Native Here has voice mail at 510-549-0211 and is located at 101 Golf Course Drive, across from the Golf Course main parking lot.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the nursery in November and entered the raffle. We still have plenty of time to plant while the rains continue, so come by and say hello!

Our six winners are:

Carole Schemmerling, Berkeley
Leila Clark-Riddell, Oakland
Edison School Garden, Alameda
Arlene Giordano, Piedmont
Rikke Cox, Oakland
Catherine Sutton, Albany

Charli Danielsen

We end, I think, at what might be called the standard paradox of the 20th century: our tools are better than we are, and grow faster than we do. They suffice to crack the atom, to command the tides. But they do not suffice for the oldest task in human history: to live on a piece of land without spoiling it.

Aldo Leopold

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

I am constantly amazed at the number of projects requiring CNPS' review in order to ensure that native plants are protected in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Even with an active group on the conservation committee, it is difficult to cover everything. An ad hoc committee met to investigate the possibility of hiring conservation and plant science staff. A plan and budget for a Regional Conservation Analyst was compiled. The chapter does not have sufficient funds on hand to proceed with the plan at this time, but has committed \$5000, which could go toward the plan if the rest of the money were to be raised.

The chapter board passed a spending plan based on funds already on hand. Even without the part time Conservation Analyst, that allocation is less than half of the expense planned. We need to find sources of revenue to cover the necessary expenses.

As CNPS members, are we willing to cut contributions to important campaigns being waged by other organizations with our participation? Do we stint on getting a consultant to work on off road vehicle issues? Do we ask volunteers to cover their own expenses in purchasing documents necessary to comment on projects, and

representing the chapter at meetings and hearings?

In order to do effective conservation work, we need to develop strategies for raising chapter income. The chapter can accept donations from members and we can use volunteers to develop ideas for raising more funds. Volunteering at the plant sales and Native Here, taking on CNPS poster sales, and helping with book sales, can help fund the work of the chapter. The conservation committee still needs people willing to follow issues in their communities for us, but we also could use members with grant writing skills and contacts.

Please think about ways in which you can help ... the plants need you!

Charli Danielsen, Conservation Coordinator

NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION TEAM

na•tive adj. In a natural state; unaffected by artificial influences: *native beauty*.

December, "**Recovery at Wildcat Creek**". Tilden Park. A big "thank you" goes out to the members of the Student Conservation Association who joined our efforts to restore native vegetation to the creek's banks. (The Park District has installed split-rail fencing to help deter further damage.) Our own Team's work party had to be cancelled due to illness and anticipated rain. We hope you will join us for continued restoration work in 2004.

Friday, January 3, 2004 "**Selecting a Restoration Site**" The Team will not officially meet on the 3rd. Instead, have some fun figuring out the puzzle of what plants grow where and why. We would like to broaden the number and type of sites where the Team is sponsoring restoration work to include additional plant ranges (there are 8 in the two counties per the range map in *Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora*).

"**Selecting a Restoration Site**" is the Restoration Team's worksheet and a suggested outline for uncovering the uniqueness of your site. Worksheets will also be available

at www.ebcnps.org under "**Restoration Team.**"

Whether you are considering planting local natives in your own garden, want to teach school kids about botany, or have a favorite trail that needs help from weeds, everyone's help and suggestions are welcome.

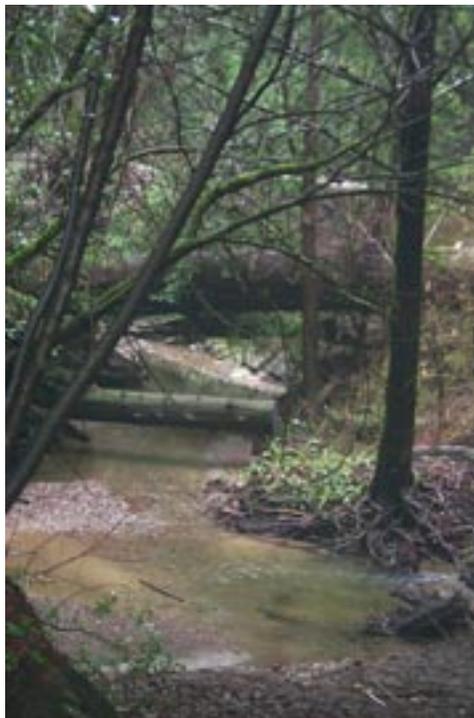
E-mail reminders: Please contact Jim Sharp at itsa@dnai.com to receive a reminder message the week prior to the event.

Friday, February 7, 1-4 pm,
"Generations at San Leandro Creek", Canyon Elementary School.

Kids, creeks, spring flowers and newts: weed wackin', newt anatomy my and restoration planting work party.

Directions: Canyon Elementary School, 187 Pinehurst Road, Canyon. 925-376-4671.

From Highway 13, exit Park Boulevard, left onto Park Boulevard, then left onto Mountain Boulevard, then right onto Snake Road. Stay "straight" through intersection onto Shepard Canyon. After almost 2 miles, at Skyline Boulevard, cross over Skyline – on the other side is Pinehurst Road. Canyon School is on the left after about 3 miles. The school's parking



San Leandro Creek, Canyon School

lot is very limited but roadside parking is available. If in doubt, a map is advised. (Please note: the W. Roderick Lecture Series is at Regional Parks Botanic Garden at 10:30 am.)

Supplies and gear: For each work party, we ask that you wear long sleeves and pants, a hat, sturdy shoes, and bring water, favorite gloves and garden ing tools. We do have some gloves and tools to lend.

Questions or comments? Please call me at 510-558-8139.

Sarah Ginskey

WINTER THRILLS

de•cid•u•ous adj. Falling off or shed at a stage of growth, not permanent: antlers, leaves.

sub•al•pine adj. Just below timberline; between montane and alpine; e.g. Alps region.

wa•ter •shed n. Ridges of high land, dividing two areas that are drained by different systems – “water parting”.

Snowshoeing the Carson Pass (8,573')

The Mokelumne Wilderness is spectacular for its location (the spine of two great watersheds), geology (volcanic and metamorphic) and sub-alpine forest. That this region borders the Great Basin Province to the East feels palpable from the dryness of the air.

One of a half-dozen or so predominant trees, silhouetted against the sky, the western juniper (also known as the Sierra juniper) is gorgeous with its short, ragged, richly reddish trunk and massive crown of gray-green scale-like foliage. Fabulous individuals have been found with a trunk diameter of 16' and estimated to be over 2,000 years old.

My favorite tree guide, the National Audubon Society's *Field Guide to North American Trees*, shows most trees silhouetted, as well as photographs of bark, flowers, seeds and leaves.

Newt watch

Drizzly twilight, a creek-side trail, and a Coast Live Oak/ California-laurel grove are locally good ingredients for catching sight of these redwood-duff and bay-leaf-orange colored masterful swimmers. All summer they have been living under fog-moistened deadwood and rocks, waiting for the storms in order to come out to migrate and mate in the creeks, ponds and ditches.

Rain thirst

My garden rain gauge consistently records more precipitation than the newspaper's tally for our town. In summer our redwoods catch

the fog and drip considerably, making the sword ferns very happy. Trees direct and drip water to certain areas, and with the first rains, it seems to take longer for the ground sheltered by the limbs to become saturated than the wide-open areas. The shade also eans that once wet, the soil stays moist longer too. I have been lulled by our first few storms into neglecting to observe closely how wet the

ground is and have cut off required irrigation prematurely.

Hermit thrushes are my current crush with their dainty ways. These darling woodland birds are a bit smaller than a robin, are down south for the winter, and have discovered and love to eat my California grapes. Even the California towhee has joined them for meals, although tending to pick at the grapes – the hermit thrushes swallow grapes whole as big as will fit down their gullets!

Change of view

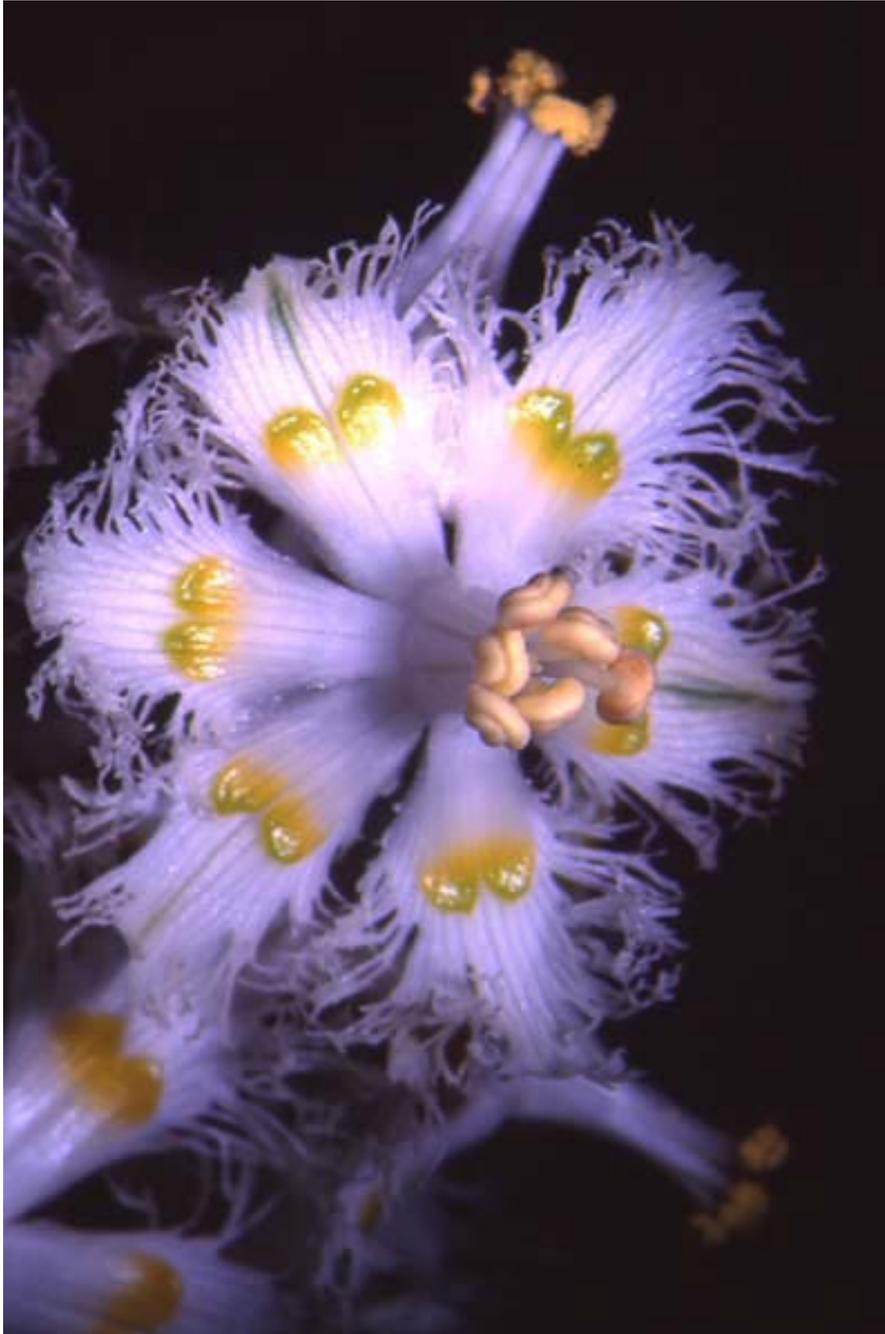
Along the creeks, in the forest under-story, and amongst the coastal

chaparral -- new structural patterns and perspectives are on display now that the deciduous plants are in the process of shedding this year's garments (gooseberry, buckeye, hazelnut, dogwood, elderberry, ninebark, lady fern, alder, willows, current, and thimbleberry).

Sarah Ginskey



Mostly volcanic Elephant Back Peak (9,635 ft.)



Veratrum fimbriatum, fringed corn lily

The white color of this blossom makes it visible on the dim forest floor. It also grows near the ocean in bogs and springs. On Greenhill Road north of Cherry Ridge Road in Sonoma County, I have seen a colony of fringed corn lilies blooming in October. Because the other plants had all set seed, it had all of the pollinators to itself. As they approach, the ring of yellow is the bull's-eye that guides them to the nectar and pollen.

It is an endemic of Mendocino and Sonoma Counties, a range narrower than *Veratrum californicum*, and its alkaloids are toxic. The rice-like seed germinate immediately and this plant is very easy to grow if you give it a lot of water and shade.

Photo and notes by Margaret Ely

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Vacant

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CNPS Home Page: www.cnps.org

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Board meeting minutes online

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Find out more; email to listserv@usobi.org with:

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(optional)

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

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

Saturday, January 31, 10 am, Rock City Area, Mt. Diablo, Contra Costa Co., California Lichen Society (CALs) Field Trip

CALS potluck birthday celebration and general meeting, followed by The Making of the New Mini-Guide, a slide presentation by Richard and Janet Doell.

We will start at the Rock Creek Area of Mt. Diablo at 10 am. Doris Baltzo, a long-time CALS member, will lead us on a lichen foray to this area. Her master's thesis was *The Lichens of Mount Diablo State Park*. We will meet at the Rock City area of Mt. Diablo. Coming from the North or South on Highway 680, watch for the Mt Diablo signs, and turn east on Diablo Road (South of Alamo). Drive east to the South Gate. Rock City will be the first picnic area after the gate. This will be our starting point. We may reach the summit, which has a fire trail around it with many rock

lichens. Bring a lunch.

At approximately 4 pm, we will drive west over the San Rafael bridge to the Brickyard Court Clubhouse in Pt. Richmond, where we will hold our annual CALS Potluck, Birthday Celebration and General Meeting. After the meeting, Richard and Janet Doell will show slides taken in connection with the preparation of their new mini guide to Southern California Lichens, which is approaching completion, and talk about some of their experiences along the way. CALS will furnish the cake, plates, utensils and drinks for the Pot luck. Please bring your favorite dish to share. Contact Judy Robertson at jksrr@aol.com or 707-584-8099 if you plan to attend the field trip and/or dinner.

**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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