



May 2007

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
www.ebcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board of Directors Meeting (see President's message, p. 7) Wednesday, May 2, 7:30 pm, home of Barbara Leitner, 2 Parkway Court, Orinda

Native Here p. 6

Fridays, May 4, 11, 18, 25 Native Here Nursery Open 9 am - noon.

Saturdays, May 12, 19, 26 Native Here Open 10 am - 1 pm.
Open Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6 from 10 am - 5 pm for Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Bringing Back the Natives p. 6

Garden tour Sunday, May 6

Field Trips p. 4

Saturday, May 5, 1 pm, Pt. Lobos State Park, Monterey County

Saturday, May 12, 10 am, Serpentine Prairie (Redwood Regional Park)

Sunday, May 13, 10 am, Briones Park

Sunday, May 20, 9:30 am, Mount Diablo State Park

Saturday, May 26, all day trip to Humboldt Redwoods State Park and the Mendocino Coast

Sunday, June 3, 2:00 pm, Los Trancos Open Space Preserve, San Mateo/Santa Clara Counties

Oakland Museum Wildflower Show

Saturday, May 13, 10-5, Sunday May 13, 12-5

Native Plant Restoration Team p. 5

Saturday, May 12, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland, work party, cape ivy removal.

Saturday, May 19, 9:30 am-1 pm, forget-me-not/*Vinca minor* removal, Huckleberry Preserve

Saturday, May 19, 9 am-noon, Claremont Canyon, Berkeley/Oakland Hills, work party, yellow star thistle removal.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Lester Rowntree, *Hardy Californians: A Woman's Life with Native Plants*

Speaker: **Lester B. Rowntree**

Wednesday, May 23, 2007, 7:30 pm

Conference Center, UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley (directions below)

Lester Rowntree was a pioneer in the study, cultivation, and conservation of California native plants. While remembered today primarily for her 1936 classic, *Hardy Californians*, which UC Press recently republished in an expanded edition, Lester also authored over 700 popular articles and gave hundreds of public lectures as she tirelessly promoted the cause of native flora. Besides her botanical and horticultural messages, the public seemed equally enchanted by Lester's gypsy lifestyle and her irrepressible personality, empowered as it was by a mystical blend of natural philosophy and religion that was enriched by her outdoor life. In this lecture her grandson, Lester B. Rowntree, will talk about this fascinating woman's life with native plants. The talk will be illustrated with

pictures from the Rowntree family archives, as well as with original photographs taken by Lester herself. We will offer copies of *Hardy Californians* for sale after the talk.

After three decades of teaching in San Jose State's Department of Environmental Studies, Lester B. Rowntree is now a Visiting Scholar at UC Berkeley where he researches and writes about local and world environmental topics. In addition to editing the recent edition of *Hardy Californians*, Lester is currently working on a natural history book of California's Central Coast for UC Press. He is also the author of over a dozen college textbooks. He lives in Berkeley and has long been a member of the East Bay chapter of CNPS.

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 in Berkeley. The Garden gate will open at 7:00 pm; the meeting begins

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornia@earthlink.net, if you have questions.

Directions to the UC Botanical Garden

From Interstate 80, take the University Avenue exit. Take University Avenue toward the hills until it dead ends at Oxford Street. Turn left on Oxford Street and continue to the second stoplight. Turn right on Hearst Avenue and continue to the second stoplight. Turn right on Gayley Road and continue to the first stop sign. Turn left Stadium Rimway to the first stop sign. Turn left on Centennial Dr. The Garden entrance is 3/4 mile up Centennial Drive on the right. Parking is past the Garden on the left (across the street from the Garden).

From Dwight Way in Berkeley, take Dwight Way east, two blocks past Piedmont. Turn left on Prospect. Turn right on

Centennial Drive. The Garden entrance is 3/4 mile up Centennial Drive on the right. Parking is past the Garden on the left (across the street from the Garden).

From Walnut Creek, take the Fish Ranch Road exit from Highway 24 (just before the Caldecott Tunnel). Turn right onto Fish Ranch Road at the end of the long off ramp. Continue up Fish Ranch Road about 3/4 mile. At the stop sign, turn right on Grizzly Peak Blvd. Continue 3.1 miles on Grizzly Peak Blvd to the next stop sign (Centennial Drive/Golf Course Road). Turn left on Centennial Drive. Travel 3/4 mile down Centennial Drive, past the Lawrence Hall of Science. The parking lot is on the right-hand side just before the Garden, which is on the left.

Future Programs: membership meetings will be on summer hiatus until September 26. Watch the *Bay Leaf* and/or the chapter website for announcements of fall speaker programs.

VEGETATION ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

On March 13, 14, and 15, 2007, the Martinez-based Muir Heritage Land Trust (MHLT) hosted a vegetation workshop taught by the State CNPS Vegetation Program. Participants in the three-day workshop learned about the history and importance of vegetation sampling, the CNPS vegetation program, and how to carry out the CNPS Vegetation Rapid Assessment protocol in the field. Instructors included Todd Keeler-Wolf, vegetation ecologist with the California Department of Fish and Game and co-author of *The Manual of California Vegetation*, and staff from the State CNPS Vegetation program including Julie Evens, Josie Crawford, Anne Klein, Rachel Boul, and Nick Jensen. Among the twenty-five participants in the workshop were botanists, hydrologists, biologists, and restoration ecologists from private consulting companies, public agencies, and local stewardship groups, including the East Bay Chapter of CNPS. One goal of the workshop was to introduce and encourage the use of fine-scale vegetation mapping following the CNPS protocol by consultants and other professionals. A complementary goal was to explain how the Rapid Assessment protocol provides much higher quality habitat and vegetation information with only a modest increase in survey time and labor.

The workshop was held on the Muir Heritage Land Trust's most recent acquisition, the 702-acre Fernandez Ranch, located south of Highway 4, adjacent to Hercules' southern border. Fernandez Ranch is one of eight properties preserved by MHLT, all of which are in Contra Costa County, and which total over 2,000 acres. Beth Pardiek, Stewardship Manager for MHLT, helped coordinate the workshop and shared the remarkable story behind Fernandez Ranch. Though once slated for medium density housing, the Fernandez family decided they would much rather see the land remain open and wild. The family decided not to offer the land as mitigation, but to sell the land outright to MHLT at a price

well below market value. The result is that this land, now protected by a conservation easement, will be preserved in perpetuity for many generations to enjoy. Future plans for Fernandez Ranch include restoring portions of Rodeo Creek and the surrounding riparian areas, increasing public access, and building a trail network.

After a morning of presentations and lectures, participants and instructors were divided into teams to spread out over the property and map vegetation using the Rapid Assessment protocol. There are two main protocols that CNPS uses to map vegetation: the Rapid Assessment protocol and the Relevé protocol. In the Relevé method, a plot of varying size (usually 100, 400, or 1000 square meters, depending on the type of vegetation you are sampling, e.g. grassland or a forest) is laid down in a representative portion of the vegetation and data is collected in that plot. The Rapid Assessment is a plotless method where you collect data on the whole "stand of vegetation". A *stand of vegetation* is defined by using an aerial photo and visual assessment in the field to draw a boundary based on changes in vegetation. In the Relevé protocol, every single species found within the plot is recorded and cover estimated. In the Rapid Assessment method, only 20 major species are recorded and cover estimated for those 20 species. The goal of the Rapid Assessment protocol is to collect high quality information quickly. At the end of the first day, when we hadn't even completed one data sheet about one stand of vegetation, we began calling it the "Not-So-Rapid Assessment." However, by the third day, some groups completed up to three rapid assessments (one data sheet for each) in about five hours, including hiking and loafing time. Once a person becomes skilled at carrying out the protocol, he or she can complete five to seven Rapid Assessments in a day.

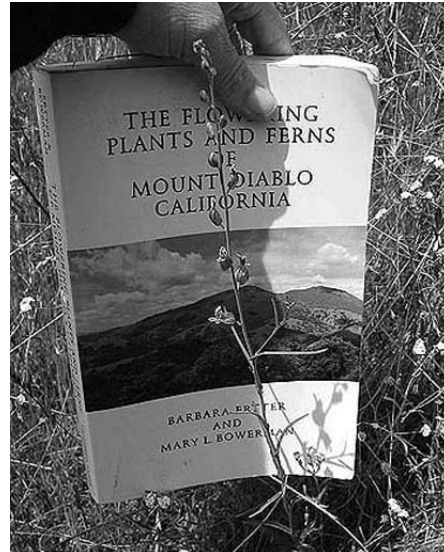
Once the vegetation information is collected, the data will be entered into a GIS (Geographic Information System) database and spatially linked to particular polygons which represent distinct vegetation stands. This data will then become accessible to the land manager who can use a GIS platform to help answer important management and habitat questions such as, "where is the youngest forest on the property and what areas would likely become more forested with time?"

or "where on the property is there suitable habitat for rare plant or animal species?". When ecological consultants and resource specialists begin to utilize this method, the high quality vegetation information will be instrumental in helping manage for rare vegetation communities and plants while monitoring for change on a landscape scale.

Lech Naumovich and Erin McDermott



Vegetation workshop in the field. Photo by Julie Evens



Streptanthus albidus peramoenus, found on Mount Diablo. Photo by Erin McDermott

MEET THE MOUNT DIABLO BUCKWHEAT

Meet the Mount Diablo Buckwheat (Wednesday, May 16, 7 - 9 pm, UC Botanical Garden Conference Center) and **First Annual Find the Mount Diablo Buckwheat Day** (Saturday, May 19)

The Mount Diablo buckwheat (*Eriogonum truncatum*) had not been observed since 1936, and was presumed extinct until recently. A single population of this East Bay and Solano County endemic was found in 2005. The Mount Diablo Working Group has organized a Mount Diablo Buckwheat identification workshop to help botanists search for new populations. The world buckwheat expert, Dr. Jim Reveal, will demonstrate diagnostic morphological characters and identification tips. In addition, you can meet the buckwheat! Mount Diablo buckwheat individuals in cultivation at the UC Botanical Garden. They will be available for up close examination. Reservations required.

The workshop is an excellent way to prepare for our **First Annual Find the Buckwheat Day** (Saturday, May 19, 2007, 9 am - 2 pm). This event is co-sponsored by East Bay CNPS and the Working Group. It will be a coordinated survey for the buckwheat in historic locations and suitable habitat in eastern Contra Costa County. Teams of botanists will survey

and document the searches. Each team will be given maps and background data. Botanists of all backgrounds are needed to ensure thorough searches and documentation. Some teams will be searching in areas otherwise not open to the public. Find the Buckwheat Day is a great opportunity to botanize hitherto inaccessible natural areas in the East Bay! Directions will be given with RSVP.

Two brochures are available from Mount Diablo Working Group at http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/news/index.html#buckwheat_events. One is a buckwheat identification guide for eastern Contra Costa County; the other is a pamphlet about the Mount Diablo buckwheat.

RSVP to Holly Forbes if you are interested in attending **the Meet the Mount Diablo Buckwheat Workshop**, or contact her if you have any questions (hforbes@berkeley.edu, 510-643-8040).

RSVP to Susan Bainbridge and Heath Bartosh if you are interested in attending the **Find the Buckwheat Day**, or contact us if you have any questions (sjbainbridge@berkeley.edu, hbartosh@nomadecology.com).

FIELD TRIPS IN MAY AND EARLY JUNE

Saturday, May 5, 1 pm, Pt. Lobos State Park

Point Lobos is in bloom. Join Rosemary Foster and the Monterey CNPS chapter in this field trip that continues Rosemary's talk at the April 25 chapter meeting. We will hike the perimeter of Point Lobos, around Whaler's Cove, up over the North Shore Trail, along the shore of Sand Hill Cove and South Shore trails, to Bird Island, then back to the entrance on South Plateau Trail. This trip covers about six miles and involves some hills, but we do break for wildflowers. For information contact Rosemary Foster at (831) 625-3083 or rdonlon@mbcnps@earthlink.net.

Directions: From Alameda or Contra Costa County proceed on 880 south to San Jose, and take the connecting ramp to 101 south. Proceed on 101 south to Highway 156 and go west on 156 to Highway 1. Proceed west and south on Highway 1 past the Monterey exits and look for the Pt. Lobos State Park turnoff to the right after entering the Carmel area south of Monterey. Meet Rosemary at the main parking lot entrance. There is an \$8.00 day use fee. Camping is not available at Point Lobos, but you can find and reserve campgrounds at nearby state parks.

Saturday, May 12, 10 am, Serpentine Prairie (Redwood Regional Park)

Join Ralph Kanz at the remnant of serpentine soil grassland in time to see the endangered *Presidio clarkia* in flower. Ralph can answer questions about his monitoring of the grassland over the past several years, as well as more general changes in the prairie's flora, both vegetative and human.

Directions: From Highway 13, take the Joaquin Miller exit and proceed uphill to the traffic light at Skyline and Joaquin Miller. Turn right onto Skyline and follow it to the former Regional Parks Headquarters (a short distance on the left) and join Ralph in the parking lot next to the building.

By transit, take #54 AC Transit bus up 35th Avenue from Fruitvale BART and get off at the intersection of Redwood Road and Campus Drive, just as the bus turns right to go to Merritt College. Walk uphill on Redwood Road, either to the intersection with Crestmont, or to Skyline. At either intersection, cross Redwood and proceed north until you reach the parking lot. The Regional Parks lot is about 1 mile from the nearest bus line; try this only if you're comfortable walking uphill for a distance.

Sunday, May 13, 10 am, Briones Park—Blue Oak Trail, Spengler Trail

2007 had a rainfall pattern very different from that of 2006. We will compare the flora produced as a result. There should be quite a few *Calochortus pulchellus* this year. We will see some unusual plants such as *Myrica californica* and *Pickeringia montana*. The loop has a 700 ft elevation change and quite a few ups and downs. Round trip is about 5 miles.

Meet at the Reliez Valley staging area (no parking or other fees) in Briones Park at 10 am. Gregg Weber will be leading this trip. If there are any questions, call him at 510-223-3310.

Directions: Take 24 east and exit at Pleasant Hill Road north in Lafayette. Go about one mile north on Pleasant Hill Road and make a left on Reliez Valley Road. Stay on Reliez Valley Road about 3-5 miles. The parking lot is on the left, shortly after Withers Avenue.

Sunday, May 20, 9:30 am, Mount Diablo State Park

Meet at the Mitchell Canyon parking lot. We should see a large variety of native plants in flower as we walk through some botanically rich areas of Mt Diablo. We will start at the bottom of Mitchell Canyon, go up to Deer Flat, then return back via the same trail. This walk has a 1500 ft elevation change and is about 6 miles long. For those who would like a less difficult walk, the first mile of the walk up Mitchell Canyon is very easy and has quite a variety of plants that will be in flower. You can go back whenever you like. Bring lunch and water. We should arrive back at the parking lot around 3-4 pm. Gray sky or light rain will not cancel. Trip leader is Gregg Weber. Call him at 510-223-3310 if there are questions.

Directions: take 24 or 680 to Ignacio Valley Road. Continue on Ignacio Valley Road into the City of Clayton and turn right on Clayton Road. Turn right on Mitchell Canyon Road and go all the way to the end. There is a fee of \$6 to park in this lot. Do not park in the horse parking area on the left.

Saturday, May 26, all day trip to Humboldt Redwoods State Park and the Mendocino Coast

We will meet at 11:00 am at the F. K. Lane Grove at the south end of Humboldt Redwoods State Park. (It is the southernmost stop on the park driving tour just north of Phillippsville.) We will then make several stops along the Avenue of the Giants and have lunch at the Federation Grove Picnic Area. After further stops in the park we will drive south to Highway 1 and along 1 to the Mendocino Coast, stopping at MacKerricher State Beach, Russian Gulch State Park, and Van Damme State Park. In Humboldt State Park we will see redwood lilies, firecracker flower, phantom orchid, Indian pink, sugar scoop and much else, not to mention the very big trees. At the beach there are tide pools and coastal flowers. Russian Gulch has a wide variety of saxifrage relatives and skunk cabbage. Van Damme has a pigmy forest.

Please contact David Margolies 510-654-0283 (h), 510-393-1858 (cell), divaricatum@comcast.net if you intend to go. There is no limit to the number of participants, but David would like to know you are coming so he can ensure everyone meets up. Children are welcome. There are hikes on level ground. It takes about four hours to get from the SF area to Humboldt State Park. Just follow 101 North and take the Avenue of the Giants exit.

Sunday, June 3, 2:00 pm, Los Trancos Open Space Preserve, San Mateo/Santa Clara Counties

This park, located in the hills at the south end of San Mateo County/north end of Santa Clara County, has meadows and oak woodland. One usually sees two kinds of coral root orchids and also two kinds of calochortus, irises, and numerous meadow flowers.

Directions: Get to the park by going south from San Francisco on Highway 280 to Highway 84 (Woodside Road). Take 84 West (away from the Bay) to Skyline. Turn left (to the south) on Skyline and go to Page Mill Road. Turn left (toward Palo

Alto). The park is on your left after a mile or so. (There is another park on the right.) There is no fee. Alternatively, take 280 South to Page Mill Road, turn right (away from Palo Alto) and proceed up the hill. The park will be on the right before you reach Skyline.

Please contact David Margolies (510-654-0283 or 510-393-1858 (cell), divaricatum@comcast.net) if you need further information.

Janet Gawthrop

NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION TEAM

Saturday, May 12, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, cape ivy removal, Joaquin Miller Park, Skyline Boulevard, Oakland

Contact Greg Wolford 510-848-6489, californica@mac.com for details.

Saturday, May 19, 9:30 am-1 pm, forget-me-not/*Vinca minor* removal, Huckleberry Preserve, Oakland hills

For over a month now, a group of volunteers have been spending part of their weekends pulling forget-me-not, an invasive flower, responding to an appeal for help from the park director. Forget-me-not has had a persistent presence in this native botanic wonderland for years, and has gotten worse over time. This is an opportunity to create a cooperative relationship with EBRPD. Please make time Saturday May 19 to take part in providing an effective response.

Directions: located on Skyline Boulevard in the Oakland Hills, Huckleberry Preserve is found between Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve and the Skyline Staging Area in Redwood Regional Park.

From Berkeley take Claremont Avenue and turn right on Skyline Boulevard. Follow Skyline to the Preserve parking lot, where we will meet.

From Oakland take Hwy 13 to Mountain Boulevard. Go up Mountain Boulevard which becomes Shepherd Canyon Road. Take Shepherd Canyon up the hill to Skyline Boulevard. Take a left at Skyline Boulevard. The Preserve is a short distance on your right.

For further information call 510 684 2473 or email californica@mac.com.

May 19, 9 am-noon, yellow star thistle removal, Side Hill Trail, Claremont Canyon, Berkeley/Oakland hills

If you have never discovered the beauty and wonder found on this remote trail, you might want to take this chance. There are glorious vistas, impressive rock formations and most importantly remarkably intact native Coastal Scrub/Prairie plant communities found in abundance here.

The Claremont Canyon Conservancy has been working for years to prevent yellow star thistle from gaining a foothold on this land, so when representatives from the group asked for our help, how could we refuse?

The site is already encircled by a massive ring of French broom. The spread of yellow star thistle would seriously degrade this remarkable place. The infestation is in its early stages, so earnest efforts now will stop it before it gets out of control.

Directions: meet on Grizzly Peak Boulevard .8 miles north of Claremont Avenue near the Four Corners area atop the Berkeley/Oakland Hills where Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Claremont Avenue and Fish Ranch Road intersect. Look for posted signs which will help direct you.

Greg Wolford

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

Gardens Sought for the May 2008 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

This tour will showcase bird- and butterfly-friendly, pesticide-free, water conserving gardens that contain 30% or more California native plants. Gardens must be located in Alameda or Contra Costa Counties. To receive an application or to be added to the mailing list, visit the website at www.BringingBackTheNatives.net (look under "Volunteer or Host"), email Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net, or call 510-236-9558 between 9 am and 9 pm.

Same day registration sites for the Sunday, May 6, 2007 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

On-line registration for the Sunday, May 6, 2007 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is now closed. If you would like to attend this free tour, visit www.BringingBackTheNatives.net and look under "Registration" to find a list of the same-day registration sites.

Antioch Dunes evening primrose count Wednesday, May 16th from 9 am to late afternoon

Come join the USFWS biologists with the annual flower counts of the endangered Antioch Dunes evening primrose. It's a day of sun and flowers and camaraderie, and a lot of walking. Antioch in spring means nice weather, sunny, warm and breezy, but it can also get downright hot. The terrain can be uneven and in some areas very steep.

Antioch Dunes evening primrose is native nowhere in the world except the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge. Volunteers will need to wear sturdy shoes/boots and long pants. Bring sunscreen, a hat, a bag lunch and lots of water.

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour happens on Saturday May 5 and Sunday May 6, 2007. We'll be open from 10 am-5 pm both days, selling plants and showing people the nursery. Come visit as part of the tour! Get more information at www.BringingBackTheNatives.net. A list of the plants on offer is posted on the Native Here Nursery link on the chapter web site, www.ebcnps.org.

Seed walks start on Tuesday mornings. Meet at the bottom gate of the nursery at 9 AM to join in on this enjoyable activity. This year we will try to have two groups at separate destinations. To get on the e-mail reminder list, contact nativehere@ebcnps.org.

Volunteers are always welcome to join in the work and fun on Friday and Saturday mornings. Once oriented to the nursery, volunteers may schedule different days to help with watering, plant care, and potting up. Once the Garden Tour is over, the nursery will need to be summerized — many plants moved to larger containers so that roots will be insulated from overheating, shade will need to be adjusted, and watering help will be needed throughout the week.

Midway through the day we'll eat our lunch at the beach. We can provide short gaiters, but if you have your own long pair, bring them.

We need 8-10 people for the flower survey. If you are interested in volunteering for the flower count, please sign up at the Antioch Gardening Club, give me a call at 510-521-9624, or e-mail Susan Euing at susan_euing@yahoo.com.

Susan Euing
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Alameda Point
P.O. Box 159
Alameda, CA 94501
510-521-9624

Perfect Garden Photography

When: Five part series, June 12, 19, 26, July 10, 17
6:30-9:00 pm

Where: San Francisco Botanical Garden

Cost: \$175 members/\$195 non members

Registration: San Francisco Botanical Garden Society
415-661-1316, ext 354

Instructor: Brad Polt-Jones of Future Light Digital Workshops

Web link (class specific) <http://sfbotanicalgarden.org/education/Registration/register.html>

Web link (general) <http://sfbotanicalgarden.org>

We have been noticing the common checkerspot caterpillars come back to munch on our *Scrophularia californica* (bee plant). If you have a bee plant, check to see if they have made an appearance in your garden. If you don't spot them right away, maybe you can see their telltale black round droppings on some of your leaves. Come visit the nursery and pick up something to plant to make your garden extra nice this spring. We have, for example, delphiniums in one-gallon pots that grow in well-drained, sunny or partly sunny spots, yarrow for carpeting sunny areas, aster for moist, sunny areas, and bunch grasses for every kind of condition.

Native Here Nursery is located in Tilden Park at 101 Golf Course Drive, across the street from the entrance to the Tilden Golf Course. Contact info: 510-549-0211, nativehere@ebcnps.org, www.ebcnps.org, click on the Native Here link.

Charli Danielsen, Janice Bray, and Margot Cunningham, Native Here Nursery

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So far this year, chapter board meetings have been very productive. In one and a half hours, the board discusses urgent business and makes plans which are then executed at smaller committee meetings, often by phone or e-mail.

At the April meeting, we passed an ambitious budget. For it to work, we will need to have another successful Native Plant Fair in October, continued sales of plants and books throughout the year, successful grant applications (three have gone out already this year), and contributions of money and time from our members.

The board next meets on Wednesday, May 2 at the Leitners' home, 2 Parkway Court, Orinda. Members are welcome to attend, especially those members interested in one of the open positions in the chapter (Outreach, Book Sales, Publicity,

Poster Sales, Hospitality). To receive an agenda a few days before the meeting or to find out about how you can match your interests and skills to the chapter's needs, contact me at nativehere@ebcnps.org.

You are also welcome to contact any of the committee chairs to learn more about helping with various aspects of our chapter's work.

CNPS members are a special kind of people. Their eyes don't glaze over when I talk to them about plants! It is really great to work with other people who share an interest in California's native plant life.

Charli Danielsen, Chapter President

PROJECT BUDBURST

Phenology is the timing of seasonal events such as germination and flowering time in the spring. Early clues to the onset of spring have been used for centuries by farmers to time sowing in order to maximize crop production. Today, phenological patterns are used to track the effect of climate change on plants and animals, to anticipate wildflower displays (and allergies), and to make predictions about fuel loads and about when to plant our gardens.

The U.S. National Phenology Network (NPN) was created in 2006 to facilitate the collection and sharing of phenological data. Project BudBurst is an annual campaign designed for the public; it's the collective effort of scientists and educators interested in encouraging citizen scientists to record flowering times in nearby natural areas.

Six steps will enable you to complete your phenological investigation:

1) Go to the Project BudBurst website (www.budburst.org), where you may subscribe (it's free) and find complete directions at the Participate! link. Here you will:

2) Select and identify one or more species using the plant list or by geographic area;

3) Locate the site where you may observe each species, including its latitude and longitude;

4) Determine which phenophase (phenological stage) you are looking for (i.e. Budburst/First Leaf, First Flower). For help, you may download plant descriptions by selecting species from the "Plants by List" link.

5) Report your observations (the dates of each phenophase) online.

6) Compare your observations on our maps to thousands of others around the country.

With your help, we will compile phenological information that will be compared to historical records to see how our backyards, parks, and forests are changing.

You can do your part by participating in Project BudBurst!

Dr. Susan Mazer, UC Santa Barbara



Milkweed in Yosemite. Photo by Greg Wolford

Board of Directors

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510-223-3310

Roy West
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650-906-1100

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other _____

E-mail _____

(optional)

Membership category:

- Student, limited income, \$25
- Individual, Library, \$45
- Household, Family, or Group, \$75
- Supporting, \$75
- Plant lover, \$100
- Patron, \$300
- Benefactor, \$600
- Mariposa Lily, \$1500

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

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
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