



May 2005

The Bay Leaf

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Plant Sale Activities p. 5

Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 9 am to 2 pm, Merritt College, Oakland, Landscape Horticulture Department

Board of Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, May 4, 7:30 pm, home of Charli Danielsen, 10 Kerr Avenue, Kensington

Native Here Nursery p. 5

Fridays, May 6, 13, 20, 27, Native Here Nursery open 9-noon

Saturdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28, nursery open 10-1

Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, seed collecting, 9 am

Field Trips p. 3

Sunday May 8, 10:00 am, field trip to **Mt Diablo** vicinity

Saturday May 21, 9:00 am, joint field trip of East Bay CNPS and Save Mount Diablo to the **newly acquired Mangini property**

Saturday May 28, 11 am, all day trip to **Humboldt Redwoods State Park**

Membership Meeting, see below

Wednesday, May 25, 2005, 7:30 pm

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Diversity and Conservation of East Bay Plant Communities

Speaker: Sue Bainbridge

Wednesday, May 25, 2005, 7:30 pm.

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

The East Bay environment is rich in natural communities and botanical diversity, attributed in part to the variety of climate regimes, topography, and geologic substrates in the region. Many plant communities are unique to the East Bay or reach their northern limit in the East Bay. Unfortunately, Alameda and Contra Costa are also among the most rapidly developing counties in the Bay Area. Land use decisions are made without adequate information about the distribution and status of these natural communities and the biodiversity they support.

Vegetation maps can be used as tools for accurately determining potential habitat for rare species, and for ensuring a wider range of diversity is included in

conservation plans and protected areas. This month's speaker, Sue Bainbridge, has been actively involved in mapping East Bay vegetation using the California Native Plant Society vegetation inventory and mapping method. Using this method, she and her colleagues have identified many common and rare East Bay vegetation types not previously recognized. In her presentation, Sue will describe the inventory and mapping method as well as some of the newly identified plant communities and their conservation importance. She will also describe opportunities for volunteers to get involved in this urgently important work.

Susan Bainbridge is the Plant Community Coordinator for the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and is a Museum Scientist at the Jepson Herbarium.

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 Law-

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING continued from page 1

rence 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 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 any questions.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I think it's time I tell you about your 2005 president before the year is over, as I want to know more about each and every one of you. My name is Elaine P. Jackson and I live in Martinez. My first introduction to CNPS was in the 70's from a professor at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill. His name was Bob Cowden. Bob was friends with Wayne Roderick, and Wayne would stop by Bob's horticulture classes and talk about native plants and the practicality of using natives instead of exotics. I got hooked. When I retired from AT&T a few years ago I was able to join in on the fun with Shirley McPheeters and her Tuesday morning propagators up at our growing grounds at Merritt College. I am sorry to say we are losing that location, but happy to announce that we have a group looking for a new location with a possible expanded agenda. This is where you come in. We need to know what you want from our plant sale/outreach program. We will also be taking this opportunity when we call to find out more about you, our members, your wants and needs, and how we might get you more involved in the day to day activities of CNPS.

We need to get your ideas and input. In order to accomplish this we need to contact you. Several of us will be dividing up our membership list and calling you. If you would rather be contacted by email, please let me know, elainejx@mindspring.com There are about 1200 of us, so this is not a small task. We could use your help and will be asking you when we call if you would like to have a few names and phone numbers.

Our Plant Sale Coordinator Shirley McPheeters has asked that we put out the word that she would like to move on to other things besides plant sale. We are in search of that special person or persons to take over this vital task. You need not be experienced in native plant propagation. Shirley has assured us she will train and stay on throughout the transition period. Organization skills will be a plus. On that same note, Delia Taylor, our Membership/Outreach Coordinator, needs an assistant, and we need a Poster Sales Coordinator. Please check out our new "Volunteer Opportunities" site in this *Bay Leaf* and on the chapter web site,

East Bay CNPS membership meetings will be on summer recess during the months of June, July, and August, and will resume in September.

www.ebcnps.org. This is a great opportunity to learn from the best and help out a great organization

Be talking to you soon.

Elaine Jackson

NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION TEAM

Saturday, May 21, EBCNPS Restoration Team Work Party: **Skyline Serpentine Prairie at Redwood Regional Park**

Skyline Serpentine Prairie is a precious habitat of sloping hillsides covered with a wide variety of wildflowers in the spring. It is a reminder of how many of the East Bay hills looked hundreds of years ago. We are fortunate that it has been preserved for us to enjoy.

The yellow star thistle stand on the slopes just below the park offices is always a threat to the expansive wildflower/grasslands below. Constant vigilance is required to keep these invasives at bay and protect this great place.

Which is where the May 21 restoration work party comes in. The focus of this visit will be to do what we can to reduce/eradicate this weed. You are invited to spend some time under the big open skies of Redwood Regional Park, so bring plenty of sunscreen and water.

Directions. The Serpentine preserve is at the edge of Joaquin Miller and Redwood Regional Parks in Oakland. Take Highway 13 to the Joaquin Miller exit. Proceed up the hill, going straight at the Skyline/Joaquin Miller split. Just ahead, at 11500 Skyline Blvd. are park offices and a large parking lot where we will meet at 9:30 am. It is a short walk to the work site, just below the parking lot. Hope to see you there!

For further information contact Greg Wolford at 510-848-6489 or Californica@mac.com.

Coming June 11: the return visit to eradicate cape ivy at the Sausal Creek headwaters in Joaquin Miller Park.

Greg Wolford

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday May 8, 10:00 am, field trip to **Mt Diablo** vicinity. Join Gregg Weber to view a contrast of grazed and ungrazed land in and around **Mt. Diablo State Park**. We'll hike through about 0.5 miles of an area devastated by cattle ranching, followed by an area with total removal of grazing. Then we go through several fairly pristine native plant communities with a nice diversity of species. Many species were flowering abundantly in early April, but a different succession of flowers will follow in May. We will be taking Clayton Oaks trail, Bruce Lee Spring Trail, lower Donner trail, Wasserman and Olympia trails. Expect a 900 foot elevation gain on the way in, and it will be all downhill on the return trip. The round trip distance is about 3.5 miles. As an option for those interested, Gregg is willing to continue on Falls and middle trail, for an additional 300 foot elevation gain and 2 more miles. The trip will last 2.5-4 hours. Bring lunch and water, and be prepared for a wide range of temperature, depending on the weather.

Directions: Take 24 or 680 to Ignacio Valley Road into Clayton (city), then turn right on Clayton Road. Take Clayton Road past the first intersection with Marsh Creek Road. After about a mile, Clayton Road becomes Marsh Creek Road. Continue straight on Marsh Creek Road. Turn right on Regency Road. Go 3 blocks and turn left on Rialto Court. Go to the end of Rialto Court and park. Gregg will be waiting.

On Saturday May 21, 9:00 am, Sue Bainbridge and Seth Adams will lead a joint field trip of East Bay CNPS and Save Mount Diablo to the **newly acquired Mangini property** (see the March 2005 *Bay Leaf*) and introduce us to various methods of conservation at the site. The trip will include description of conservation methods by Save Mount Diablo at the site, from land acquisition to

restoration to protection, while also talking about the site's ecology, botany, and significance. Seth Adams described the Mangini ranch as comprised of grassland, oak woodland, chaparral, a stockpond, several springs, and a branched, seasonal riparian corridor approximately 3/4 of a mile long. The Mangini property will bridge the gap between Walnut Creek's Lime Ridge Open Space and Mt. Diablo State Park. Although biotic studies are not yet complete, the property has both high wildlife and botanic value, including an extreme northern occurrence of desert olive.

Directions: Take 680 or 24 east and exit at Ignacio Valley Road. Follow Ignacio Valley Road northeast to Concord and then turn south on Crystyl Ranch Parkway and proceed over the hill into Crystyl Ranch. Continue on Crystyl Ranch Parkway, and then go right at Deer Spring Circle. Turn right again at Aspenwood and follow it to the end, where Sue and Seth will begin the trip.

Saturday May 28, 11 am, all day trip to **Humboldt Redwoods State Park**. This driving tour will include a number of stops at the mature redwood forests near Highway 101. Meet David Margolies at the Frank Lane Grove, which is at the south end of the park, on the right side, just past Phillipsville and south of Miranda. This grove is one of the stops on the tour. We will visit various locations in the park, and then drive south along Highway 1. It takes about 4 hours to drive to the park from the San Francisco Bay Area. Expect to return home after dark. Please contact David Margolies to reserve a place on the trip and to get more specific driving directions at 510-654-0283 or divaricatum@aol.com.

Janet Gawthrop

HELP WANTED

Plant Sale Coordinator

Immediate opening for a fantastic volunteer job, no experience needed, organizational skill a plus. On site job training and transitional support supplied. We are looking for that special person or persons who would like to take on the challenge of Plant Sale Chair for our East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Come on board now and join in on selecting a new location. Please send in resumés to EBCNPS, ATTN: Volunteer Opportunities, 3311 Estudillo St., Martinez, CA 94553 or email to elainejx@mindspring.com

Membership Coordinator/Outreach Assistant

Learn valuable outreaching skills while assisting our Membership Chairperson, Delia Taylor. Light computer skills needed, Excel and Word. Please send in

resumés to EBCNPS ATTN. Volunteer Opportunities, 3311 Estudillo St., Martinez, CA 94553 or email to elainejx@mindspring.com.

Poster Sales Coordinator

Our chapter is in need of an enthusiastic volunteer who would like to visit ecology sites, nurseries, parks etc. that have visitor centers and sell our beautiful wildflower and grass posters. Online sales to organizations world-wide are a future possibility. This position is open to your ideas. You would be in charge of creating a market as you feel it should be done, while helping our chapter, not only financially, but with outreach. Please send in resumés to EBCNPS ATTN. Volunteer Opportunities, 3311 Estudillo St., Martinez, CA 94553 or email to elainejx@mindspring.com

CONSERVATION

As our chapter entered its new fiscal year in April, it was clear that having the conservation committee staffed with Jessica Olson as East Bay Conservation Analyst has been a good move. Committee members have continued to focus on their specific assignments. For example, Laura Baker kept up her coverage of East Bay Regional Park and Wildland Fire Protection issues. Committee members are exploring with the CNPS state board the possibility of accepting a conservation easement to protect rare plant habitat (truly an educational exercise for those involved). Having staff has opened up new opportunities for the chapter. We now participate in the Union-Enviro Group, offering the opportunity to build consensus with labor on Urban Limit Line issues in Contra Costa County. Interaction with staff of environmental groups such as Save Mount Diablo, the California Invasive Plant Council, the Greenbelt Alliance and the Sierra Club has increased considerably, as has that between the chapter and staff of city and county planning departments and other relevant public bodies. Jessica meets with our CNPS plant science volunteers, receiving solid information on what impacts each development and planning decision will have. She prepares strong statements of CNPS position on various issues. Jessica attends many meetings and hearings, and she briefs members so they can speak at meetings more effectively. There are so many issues that covering them all would require more than a full time employee. The chapter budget, however, only funds a half time position. Those funds are available thanks to a generous grant from the San

Francisco Foundation, and the generosity of you, our members.

How can we assure that the chapter's money is spent as effectively as possible in conserving native plants in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties? One way is by offering to attend meetings and hearings. Because of the staff work, this is a much less daunting proposition than it used to be. One night in March I went to an Urban Limit Line meeting in Concord, while Elaine Jackson and Gregg Weber went to a hearing on the casino proposal in Richmond. We each went to the meetings with a well developed statement to deliver, thanks to Jessica's groundwork and the input of our plant science folks. Since we spoke both as members of CNPS and constituents of the governmental bodies we were addressing, our argument carried some weight. If you are willing to go to evening meetings or have some day hours available Monday through Friday, the time consuming task of driving to, waiting through and driving back from meetings will come off the payroll.

Another way to help is financially. Contributions to CNPS, noted for "East Bay Conservation Analyst Fund" may be sent to CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816 at any time. Each contribution received helps preserve our Alameda and Contra Costa native flora.

Charli Danielsen

CNPS 40TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

The Chapter Council meeting and related events will be held 10-11-12 June 2005 at the Sierra Friends Conference Center near Grass Valley

The facility covers over 200 acres of foothill landscapes, a lovely peaceful setting. More information is available at http://woolman.org/sfc_index.html.

The details of the programs and of our arrangements with the Center will be sent out in early May. There will be plenty to do at the Center, and independent travels to areas outside of it will have to be limited to before arriving or after leaving the event.

There will be many activities (besides the meetings), and lots of opportunities to interact with other chapters

and to learn about their histories and highlights. Self-guided and leader-guided plant walks will be available on the grounds. We expect to have evening programs on both Friday and Saturday nights, and field trips on Sunday. Chapters will have displays about their local works and special features, where you can peruse and converse with chapter representatives.

It should be a good time in a nice place. We encourage not only the delegates, but chapter members, family members, and friends to enjoy the 40th Anniversary celebration.

Further information about the meeting will be available at www.cnps.org in early May.

A practical botanist will distinguish at the first glance the plant of the different quarters of the globe and yet will be at a loss to tell by what marks he detects them.

Carolus Linnaeus

PLANT SALE ACTIVITIES

The plant sale committee/propagators/potters are meeting on Tuesday mornings to grow plants and prepare for the fall Plant Sale—October 1-2.

The plant sale will look different this year. Due to an expansion of Merritt College's Landscape Horticulture Department, our space will be limited, and we will be moving our growing grounds off campus afterwards.

Our goal for the October sale is to offer as much variety in plant selections as ever but necessarily fewer in number.

We hope our Chapter members will plan to be a part of our last Merritt sale, as volunteers assisting in sales and as buyers of our special native plants.



Tuesday sessions
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
9 am to 2 pm
Merritt College, Oakland
Landscape Horticulture Department
Parking fee: 50 cents

Shirley McPheeters

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Fridays, May 6, 13, 20, 27, Native Here Nursery open 9-noon

Saturdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28, nursery open 10-1

Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, seed collecting, 9 am

So much is green and colorful at the nursery. The yellow monkey flowers and fringe cups are blooming. Grasses are seeding. It's a good time to learn our native grasses. The rest of the year they look alike to the untrained eye, but when they seed, you can tell them apart much more easily. *Elymus glaucus* has long, narrow seedheads that resemble rat tails. Species of *Nassella* have long, bent seed awns on a profusion of arching stalks. *Festuca californica* has tall, upright seed panicles. *Koeleria micrantha* has fluffy-looking seed heads. *Melica* species have large, papery seeds that grow singly along the seed stalks, looking like little beads on strings. Seed stalks on *Poa* species grow upright until their tips, where the weight of the seeds arch the panicles.

In addition to plants we have free back issues of *Freemontia* and *Bay Nature*. And we sell a biodynamic calendar, a reprint from *Bay Nature* about landscap-

ing for wildlife with native plants, *Rare, Unusual, and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties*, and *Vegetation Management Almanac for the East Bay Hills*. Buy the almanac and you'll get a free copy of *The Weed Workers Handbook*.

We will make seed collecting forays every Tuesday starting May 3. If you would like to help us collect seed for propagating at the nursery, meet at 9 am at the bottom gate of the nursery to carpool.

The rains have been good for our plants this year, but they have also promoted a lot of weeds. Volunteers are welcome to help dig up weeds and trim vines. We have more seedlings than usual coming up this year, thanks to John Danielsen, who has built many new cages to protect our seedlings from mice and other critters. Volunteers are needed to transplant these young plants. No need to call ahead (except if it's raining or very windy). Show up either day we are open. We are located in Tilden Park at 101 Golf Course Drive (across the street from the entrance to the Tilden Golf Course), 510-549-0211.

Margot Cunningham

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

The Watershed Nursery invites you to its biannual **native plant sale** on Sunday May 15th, 2005 from 10 am to 4 pm. We offer a variety of native plants local to the Bay Area. The Watershed Nursery, usually open by appointment only, will have knowledgeable staff on hand to answer your questions about the nursery, native plants, and restoration science. Cash or check only. Location: 155 Tamalpais Road, Berkeley. Come early for the best selection; bring boxes and tarps to carry your purchases home. Our web site is www.TheWatershedNursery.com, our email address is TheWatershedNursery@earthlink.net, or call 510-548-4714. You can also join us for a bag lunch, noon-time talk on creating native plant communities in your garden sponsored by the Bay-Friendly Garden Tour. (See below.)

Bay-Friendly Garden Tour, Sunday, May 15, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Visit a wide assortment of Bay-Friendly Gardens on this free, self-guided tour. Over 30 private and public gardens will be featured throughout Alameda County.

Experience an art garden created with only recycled and salvaged materials; a garden expressly designed

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for children; a native plant collector garden. Host gardeners will be present throughout the day to share tips, plant lists, and gardening expertise.

Registration for the tour is required. Registrants will receive a tour guide book with garden directions and descriptions. Native plants and compost bins can be purchased at several sites on the tour.

Let the tour inspire, while getting hands-on experience with our free how-to workshops, starting in March.

Topics include Bay-Friendly design, plant selection, gardening with edibles, managing pests naturally and more. Every workshop participant will receive the free 70+ page Bay-Friendly Gardening Guide.

To register for the tour or for more information on our workshops, visit www.bayfriendly.org or call 510-444-SOIL for more information.



Collinsia heterophylla and *Ranunculus* sp. Photo by Janice Bray

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510-549-0211

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Delia Taylor
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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, Retired, Limited income, \$20

Individual, Library, \$35

Household, Family, or Group, \$45

Supporting, \$75

Plant lover, \$100

Patron, \$250

Benefactor, \$500

Mariposa Lily, \$1000

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



Carrizo Plain, April 2005. Photo by Greg Wolford

**California Native Plant Society
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