



September 2007

The Bay Leaf

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 5, 7:30 pm, home of Barbara Leitner, 2 Parkway Court, Orinda

Native Here Nursery p. 4

Tuesdays, September 4, 11, 18, 25: seed collection mornings

Fridays, September 7, 14, 21, 28: Native Here Nursery open 9 am -noon.

Saturdays, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Native Here open 10 am - 1 pm.

Sunday, September 16, Native Plant Fair preparations 10 am, followed by picnic at 1 pm

Field Trips p. 2

September 8, 2007, 10 am, east of Livermore

September 22, 2007, 9:30 am at Mount Wanda (part of the John Muir National Historic Site) in Martinez

Chapter Picnic p. 7

Native Here Nursery Plant Fair preparation party and annual potluck picnic for the East Bay Chapter of CNPS, Sunday, September 16, 2007, 10 am-3 pm, Native Here Nursery, 101 Golf Course Road (across from the Golf Course entrance) in Tilden Park, Berkeley

Membership Meeting (see below)

Wednesday, September 26, 2007, Orinda Public Library

Native Plant Fair and Silent Auction

Fair Saturday, October 20 and Sunday, October 21; auction Sunday, October 21

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Flowering California Native Shrubs for the Garden
Speaker: Ted Kipping

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

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

California is rich with beautiful shrubs that provide structure to our gardens as well as colorful flowers in the spring and summer. Ted Kipping will speak at this month's membership meeting about a number of flowering native shrubs that work well in gardens along with some lovely wildflowers that add an extra piquancy to the landscape. Ted's photography is superb, so this presentation will be not only informative and useful but visually delectable, as well.

Ted's interest in the natural world began early and led to studies of natural history and a passion for plants. After working at Strybing Arboretum, Ted founded a tree pruning business and has earned a reputation as one of the most artistic of Bay Area arborists. In addition, Ted is an accomplished

and widely published plant photographer who is active in a variety of horticultural societies.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting will take place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room will open at 7:00 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be served after the presentation. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornica@earthlink.net, if you have any questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Highway 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way.

From the east, take Highway 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the new 2-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.

CNPS WINS BAY GUARDIAN AWARD

CNPS has been named **best perambulating amateur botanists** by The San Francisco Bay Guardian, Best of the Bay 2007

In the July 25-31, 2007 issue of *The San Francisco Bay Guardian* (page 35, vol. 41, no. 43) there is a great plug for the Society:

"If you enjoy experiencing nature as a classroom as well as a playground, grab your binos and hand lens and join them by getting involved with the California Native Plant Society. Launched in the East Bay in 1965, the society now has five chapters throughout the Bay Area. So you can hike along no matter where you live. Each chapter offers outings and activities, such as plant identification workshops, invasive species removal, and native species propagation." They also list our website.

The title of the award reminds me that CNPS, while we do conservation and horticulture and outreach to kids, has always been a bunch of people who get out and enjoy native

Upcoming Programs

Wednesday, October 24, 2007, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library):

Dr. Stuart B. Weiss – Human Connections to the Survival of Species: Return of the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly to Edgewood Park

plants outdoors, in the wild. Sometimes we don't even notice that this is one of our major activities! Our field trips are usually free. There is no age limit, although we sometimes publish the difficulty or length of the walks and camping trips planned by the chapters' field trip chairs. East Bay Chapter thanks Janet Gawthrop and her committee, including frequent field trip leaders David Margolies and Greg Weber. Heath Bartosh, Rare Plant Chair for EB CNPS and Dianne Lake, Unusual Plants Chair also involve volunteers in field trips to botanize for rare and unusual plants.

In nearby Bay Area chapters, thanks to Tom Annese who plans Yerba Buena Chapter's trips, Joe Kohn in Marin Chapter, Beth Robinson in Milo Baker Chapter, Margaret Barson in Napa Valley Chapter, and Kevin Bryant in Santa Clara Valley Chapter, and the Willis Lynn Jepson Chapter for giving us amateur botanists a chance to perambulate. (Okay, that's seven Bay Area chapters, not five!)

Charli Danielsen, President, EBCNPS

FIELD TRIPS

September 8, 2007, 10 am, east of Livermore. Chris Thayer goes back east (of Livermore) to lead this field trip to view and smell several tarweed species in bloom. On this driving trip with several stops and short walks we will likely encounter Livermore tarplant, Congdon's tarplant, and big tarplant (*Deinandra bacigalupi*, *Centromadia parryi* ssp. *Congonii*, *Blepharizonia plumose*). Take this opportunity to see some of what our chapter wants to save in the inland portions of the East Bay. If time allows, we will also look for several other rare species, including the bird's beak species of *Cordylanthus palmatus* and *C. mollis* ssp. *hispidus*, and perhaps *Atriplex*.

Directions: Go on 580 East and exit north at Vasco Road. Go north from the exit about one mile and then turn left on Dalton. Broadmoor is in a residential area on the left about 1/2 mile west of Vasco Road. Be prepared for punishing heat by bringing adequate water and dressing appropriately. The trip will last a few hours, and we will eat and drink on the fly. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Thayer at 925-279-0265 or chthayer@yahoo.com.

September 22, 2007, 9:30 am, Mount Wanda (part of John Muir National Historic Site) in Martinez. Meet at the Mount Wanda parking lot in Martinez. Learn to recognize Coast live, blue, valley, black oaks, and hybrids at Mount Wanda.

We will also identify many native plants that are in dormant and fruiting stages in September. We will return to the parking lot around 1 pm. Bring water and lunch. The leader is Gregg Weber, call 510-223-3310 if there are any questions about the trip.

Directions: Take 80 to Highway 4 east. Take the Alhambra Avenue exit. Turn right on Alhambra Avenue, and then immediately right into the parking lot. From Walnut Creek, take 680 to Highway 4 west. Take the Alhambra Avenue exit. Turn left on Alhambra Avenue, go under Highway 4 and turn right into the parking lot.

Janet Gawthrop

EBCNPS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2007

Each year, the East Bay Chapter of CNPS awards several scholarships of \$1200 to students. The goal of this program is to encourage students to pursue their academic interests in native California plants.

The recipients for 2007 are:

- Laura Feinstein, UC Davis, working toward her master's degree and interested in cyptic hybrids of *Spartina* in San Francisco Bay;
- Eric Wrubel, SFSU, also working toward his master's and doing work on northern coastal scrub;

- Jesse Hersh, studying horticulture at Merritt College;
- Carol Blair, who is also seeking a degree at Merritt in landscape design.
- Laura Feinstein is also the recipient of the Myrtle Wolf Scholarship for an additional \$750, given to the outstanding applicant.

Many thanks to John Game, Holly Forbes, and Phoebe Watts, all of whom served on the 2007 scholarship committee.

Sandy McCoy



Dick Vrmeer, Brentwood resident and East Bay Chapter member who participated in finalizing the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan is shown here saying a few words at the July 25th, 2007 Approval Ceremony and Celebration on

top of Kreiger Peak. Kreiger Peak has an elevation of 1,900 feet and is located between Mt. Diablo and Black Diamond Mines Regional Park.

Photo and caption by Elaine P. Jackson

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Fridays, September 7, 14, 21, 28: Native Here Nursery open 9 am -noon.

Saturdays, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Native Here open 10 am - 1 pm.

Tuesdays, September 4, 11, 18, 25: seed collection mornings

Sunday, September 16, Native Plant Fair preparations 10 am, followed by picnic at 1 pm

All chapter members and their friends and families are invited to join us at Native Here Nursery on Sunday, September 16, from 10 am until 3 pm, to work on preparations for the October Native Plant Fair and then play at our chapter's annual potluck picnic. From 10:00 until 1:00, we'll be placing price labels in all of the plant pots, doing inventory, and cleaning up the nursery to get ready for the fair. At 1:00, we'll take off our work gloves and enjoy the picnic. Bring gardening tools (gloves, pruners, rakes, hoes) and a dish to share (appetizer, main dish, side dish, or dessert). We'll supply beverages and all the tools for eating and drinking. (See the picnic announcement elsewhere in this newsletter for more details).

We're still signing up volunteers for the fair. If you'd like to help, contact Elaine Jackson (925-372-0687 or elainejx@mindspring.com). We'll need volunteers to help with cashiering, tallying, physical handling, selling plants and offering advice, selling books, bulbs, and posters, and more.

Plants have fared well over the summer with a combination of attentive watering by volunteers and new umbrellas strategically placed throughout the nursery to provide shade in the heat of the day.



Gregg and Mel taking cuttings. *Photo by Janice Bray.*

We have some very nice willows in 1-gallon pots and madrones and California fescues in 5-gallon pots and will have more shrubs and trees as fall progresses. At the fair iris will be available for fall planting and bulbs from the Native Here collection will be offered as bulbs, not in pots. Also at the fair a selection of plants selected from habitats outside our two counties will be available in addition to the Native Here selection of local plants. Please be aware that discounts will not be given during the fair.

Volunteers are welcome at the nursery during our regular hours every Friday and Saturday as well as Monday or Thursday mornings throughout September (from 10 am). We'll need help preparing for the fair and with propagating for the following year. The week of September 17-23 we'll be sowing this year's seed crop, so if you'd like to get an idea of what plants will be available next year, this is a good time to help out.

Tuesday mornings we go on seed collecting walks to gather seed for propagation at the nursery. If you would like to join us, meet at the bottom gate of the nursery at 9 am. To get on the e-mail reminder list, contact nativehere@ebcnps.org.

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 Native Here link.

Margot Cunningham, Native Here Nursery



You're never too young to enjoy Native Here, as Kyle discovers. *Photo by Janice Bray.*

ITEMS NEEDED FOR SILENT AUCTION AT PLANT FAIR

If you have something you'd like to donate for the Silent Auction to be held during the Plant Fair, contact nativehere@ebcnps.org. Unfortunately plants cannot be accepted at this time due to quarantine regulations, but other botanically related items are welcome.

Donations accepted may be brought to Native Here the week before the Fair. The auction will be held at 2:30 pm on Sunday, October 21 just before the Plant Fair ends.

Charli Danielsen



Fremont's cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) Photo by Gregg Weber.



When a really defenceless flower did issue, like a moth-still, ghost-centered mariposa lily, with its inner moth-dust of yellow, it came invisible. There was nothing to be seen, but a hair of greyish grass near the oak scrub. Behold, this invisible long stalk was balancing a white, ghostly three-petalled flower, naked out of nothingness. A mariposa lily!

D. H. Lawrence, St. Mawr

Calochortus howellii, Photo by John Game.

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

Wednesdays in September at Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge

Staff biologist Susan Euing invites CNPS members and other volunteers to count Lange's metalmark butterflies at the two Antioch Dunes units which are ordinarily locked except on official tours. The surveys, which each need 10 volunteers, will start mid-morning at the main gate of the Stamm Unit and will continue through most of the day. Please call 510-521-9624 or e-mail susan_euing@yahoo.com to reserve a spot, and be sure to leave a return phone number. If needed, butterfly surveys will continue into the first two weeks of October. Volunteers should dress for hot weather.

Directions: From most points in the Bay Area, go east on Highway 4 and exit at A Street/Lone Tree Way. At the traffic light at the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto A Street and follow it north through Antioch to the traffic light at the intersection with Wilbur Ave. Turn right onto Wilbur Ave. and follow it through town to the intersection with Fulton Shipyard Road. Turn left onto Fulton Shipyard, and follow it to the Stamm Unit gate on the right, past the railroad tracks. Park next to the chain link fence on the right and meet Susan at the gate.



Slough sedge (*Carex obnupta*) Photo by Gregg Weber.

You're Invited !



**NATIVE HERE NURSERY
PLANT FAIR PREP / NURSERY CLEAN-UP PARTY
and ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC
for the EAST BAY CHAPTER of CNPS**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2007

10:00 am-3:00 pm

(picnic begins at 1:00 p.m.)

**at NATIVE HERE NURSERY
101 Golf Course Road (across from the Golf Course entrance)
in Tilden Park, Berkeley**

Bring gardening gloves and a dish to share
(appetizer, main dish, side dish, or dessert).
We'll supply wine and beer, soft drinks, and all the tools for eating.

Spend a few hours in the morning helping prepare the nursery
for our October Native Plant Fair and then shift into picnic mode.
Along with great food and drink, enjoy the company of fellow native plant
enthusiasts and our traditional, everyone-wins native plant raffle.

All are welcome—invite your family and friends!

**For more information: 510-496-6016, rosacalifornica@earthlink.net, or
nativehere@ebcnps.org.**

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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, 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

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