



December 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

Wednesday, December 5, 7:00 pm, home of Barbara Leitner, 2 Parkway Court, Orinda

Native Here Nursery (see page 3)

Fridays, December 7, 14, 21, 28th: open 9 am -noon.
Saturdays, December 8, 15, 22, 29th: 10 am-1 pm.
Tuesdays, collecting by arrangement (see article)

Field trips (see page 5)

Sunday, December 9, 10 am, Strawberry Canyon
Sunday, January 6, 2008, Huddart County Park

Restoration Project at Huckleberry Preserve (see page 5)

Sunday, December 15, 9:30 am

Membership Meeting

December: no meeting (happy holidays!) See page 7 for upcoming meetings.

CNPS Banquet

December 8: Annual CNPS Banquet, Town and Gown Club, 2401 Dwight Way, Berkeley. (You should already have tickets if you are going.)

Wayne Roderick Lecture

(Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Saturdays 10:30 am)
December 1: The natural worlds of the Sierra Nevada
December 8: Wider explorations in Napa-Lake region
December 15: Natural history of Tasmania
(See <http://www.nativeplants.org/wayne07.html>)

PLANT FAIR A ROARING SUCCESS

The Plant Fair committee (Phoebe Watts, Barbara Leitner, Beth Keer, Carol Castro, Elaine Jackson, Gudrun Kleist, Joe Baptist, Janet Gawthrop, Janice Bray, John Danielsen, Margot Cunningham, Holly Forbes, Mel Erskine, Shirley McPheeters and Steve Cochrane) all helped co-chairs Charli Danielsen and Delia Taylor put on a wonderful event.

Despite adverse conditions including weather leading up to the fair date, illness and family pressures, everyone pitched in and the event went smoothly.

Not only did everyone have a good time at the Fair, it met financial expectations: plants grossed \$13,909, books \$2095 and bulbs \$719. We paid out \$1480 to participating vendors. Of course there were expenses, but those have not been itemized from the general books yet.

Elaine and Beth found marvelous volunteers. Phoebe found interesting speakers. Janet was great with the vendors. Janice kept us all well fed with wonderful donations from local businesses. Holly and John kept the money flowing. Mel and Gudrun kept the plant orders straight. Special thanks to Shirley for almost single-handedly caring for the Native There plants and putting them out for sale. Delia and John

Taylor produced effective and attractive signs even while John recovered from surgery. Steve got our event into many papers and the internet. Joe found great help with traffic (UC Berkeley Air Force ROTC cadets) and that was trouble-free this year. John did a terrific job getting the speaker area and the expanded parking in shape for the Fair. Ellen Gierson was super at getting donations for the auction and for membership incentives.

Tilden Park Supervisor Davio Santos and Parklands Unit Manager Jeff Wilson, expressed their positive response to the Fair, and stated they did not find it a drain on park personnel. They especially appreciated the parking and lessened congestion of cars and pedestrians.

Customers reported satisfaction. A few had forgotten their checkbooks but accommodations were made. Many commented that the prices were reasonable. Volunteers found the pricing system much easier to work with than the previous one.

Charli Danielsen and Delia Taylor

FAIR SUCCESS DEPENDED ON MANY DONORS

Many thanks to the following donors for their generous support of the 2007 Plant Fair!

Adachi Nursery Florist and Nursery, El Sobrante
Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore
Berkeley Horticultural Nursery, Berkeley
Cactus Jungle, Berkeley
Chabot Space and Science Center, Oakland
The Dry Garden Nursery, Oakland
East Bay Nursery, Berkeley
East Bay Regional Parks District
Flowerland Nursery, Albany
Green Jeans Garden Supply, Mill Valley
Jean Robertson, Earthly Delights Garden Design, Oakland
Magic Gardens, Berkeley
Mostly Natives Nursery, Tomales
Native Here Nursery
Oakland Museum of California, Oakland
Oakland Museum Bookstore, Oakland
O'Donnell's Fairfax Nursery, Fairfax
Orchard Florist and Nursery, Lafayette
Orchard Supply Hardware, Berkeley
Plant' It Earth, San Rafael
Regional Parks Botanical Garden, Tilden Park
Sloat Garden Center, Sausalito
University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley
The Urban Farmer Store, Richmond

The Watershed Nursery, Berkeley
Joe Willingham Garden Design

Charli and John Danielsen
Tom and Jane Kelly
Cinda MacKinnon
Thomas McCall
Phoebe Watts

And thanks to the following in-kind donors:
Starbucks for hot coffee, sugars & milk
Peets for pastries & cookies
Semifreddies for bread & rolls for both days
Kensington Inn for scones & jelly
Charli & John for a hot water pump

And thanks to Ellen Gierson and Rena Fischer for all their help with writing letters for donations to the Plant Fair and Janice Bray for obtaining the food donations.

Last but not least, all the volunteers who worked at the fair, organizing, setting it up, breaking it down, helping customers, giving the talks, selling, and working in the holding area.

Delia Taylor



Fairgoers browse the wares at the Plant Fair. Photo by Janet Bray

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Native Here was again proud to host the chapter's fall Plant Fair. Many people visited the nursery and were reminded what a great place it is to hang out. It's easy to do that – just volunteer when the nursery is open on Friday (9 am to noon) and Saturday (10 am to 1 pm) mornings. There is no need to phone ahead as there is always plenty to do.

Although many plants were sold during the Fair, the nursery is filling up with perennials and bulb plants that have broken dormancy (by the end of the first week of November, larkspur (*Delphinium californicum*) and soap plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*) had emerged). Seedlings from the 2007 collection season will be ready for sale this winter in 4", D pot and gallon sizes.

Barring hard frost, winter is a great time to plant in the East Bay. Giving plenty of water during the winter helps newly planted treasures get started and guards against frost dam-

age. Native Here has a wonderful selection of larger oaks and other trees (desert olive, California ash, Oregon ash, and Sargent cypress to name a few), as well as shrubs and perennials.

Winter is also a good time to take cuttings and get them started. Gregg Weber, who leads the seed collection forays spring through fall, will lead some late seed and cutting collections. Weather determines which Tuesdays that will happen. Contact Gregg at 510-223-3310 for meeting times and places.

The nursery is open Fridays from 9 to noon and Saturdays from 10 to 1. It is located at 101 Golf Course Drive in Tilden Park. Messages may be left at nativehere@ebcnps.org or 510-549-0211.

Janice Bray and Charli Danielsen



Photographs and cards made from them were popular items for vendors and customers at the Plant Fair.

Greg Wolford, shown to the left at the Plant Fair, recently retired from his position as Restoration Committee Chair after serving for three years. The Board and the membership would like to thank Greg for his service. The new chair is Mike Perlmutter.

CHARLI DANIELSEN WINS JEFFERSON AWARD

The East Bay Chapter's president Charli Danielsen is the recipient of a Jefferson Award, which is given to "encourage and honor individuals for their achievements and contributions through public and community service". Here is a reminder of what some of that community service has been.

Charli and her husband John joined CNPS in the 1970s. Charli was president of our local Chapter (then called San Francisco Bay Chapter and encompassing what are now East Bay, Yerba Buena, and Santa Clara Chapters) in 1981-82. She held several positions on the state level and was State President of CNPS 1986-88.

The seeds of restoration biology were being sown in the late 1970s when a group called DAWN (Design Associates Working with Nature) was founded. It advocated and practiced the propagation of native plant species for the purpose of restoring ecosystems. David Amme, one of its founders, recalls that Charli displayed extraordinary enthusiasm and talent for plant propagation. One of her larger projects at DAWN was propagating plants for Marina State Beach. By the mid-1980's Charli had become chief propagator for DAWN. Together with a large group of volunteers Charli and John undertook the re-establishment of a perennial bunchgrassland at Mitchell Canyon in Diablo State Park. The project involved seed col-

lecting and propagation, a controlled burn of the area, large experimental plots planted out in various ways, and regular mowing and tending. More than a dozen years have passed since its inception, and the project continues today.

When DAWN dissolved in the early 90's, it named the East Bay Chapter of CNPS as its successor. As a result, the Native Here Nursery was born. Native Here opened in 1994 with Charli as Nursery Manager. Over the years many plant enthusiasts have come to Native Here to learn seed collecting and propagating under a canopy of trees in Tilden Park. The income from the nursery provides an important source of support to a host of activities of the East Bay Chapter.

Jefferson Awards are administered by the American Institute for Public Service. In connection with her award Charli was interviewed for an article in the Style section of the San Francisco Chronicle, and for a segment on KRON TV.

(See the East Bay Chapter web site, www.ebcnps, for a link to the article about Charli in the Sunday, November 18 edition of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. ed.)

Congratulations, Charli!

Phoebe Watts

PLANT FAIR ATTRACTS NEW MEMBERS



Our second Annual Plant Fair held at Native Here on October 20 and 21 was a great success. Thanks to Ellen Gierson, Delia Taylor, and the other volunteers who helped at our membership table, East Bay CNPS gained fifty-one new and/or renewing members.



Besides letting people know the direct benefits of membership, they offered fair goers an instant raffle prize when they became members or renewed their membership. Delia, with Ellen's help, created the instant raffle prizes idea that went from a \$5.00 off any plant on the day of sale coupon to very nifty gifts such as an already semi-packed picnic basket, a wild bird feeder, native garden consultations, an illustrated botany book, as well as other valuable resource books for those of us who are always looking for tips and counsel about bringing native plants into our own habitats.

Thanks to all who helped at the fair and a huge **welcome** to the new and renewing members.

Another way Carol and I thought would welcome new and renewing members and to spark an interest to "get more involved" in all of our members, is to offer members opportunities to become engaged in a project in their own neighborhoods. For example, Lisa Anich with the RCD needs help with the California Native Garden at the Clayton Library. We asked her to do a little write up for us:

"The Friends of Mount Diablo Creek seek volunteers to sustain, improve, and interpret Clayton Community Library's garden of California native plants. The garden was planted in 2005 at the library's creekside interpretive area with support from The Watershed Project and funds from Contra Costa Clean Water Program. We're looking for volunteers to arrange donations of mulch and plants, organize work days, or act as a gardening docent for educational programs at the library's interpretive area. If you are interested in these projects, or if you would like to be notified about upcoming garden work days, please contact Lisa Anich at 925-689-2642 or email admin@diablocreek.info. For more information about the garden visit www.diablocreek.info/3garden.htm."

Besides the stated tasks, I am sure Lisa would be thrilled to just get a helping hand weeding now and then.

Please send us your projects so we can share them with the rest of the membership and don't forget, if you know of an event where you would like to see the CNPS table, all you need to do is come to Native Here and pick up all the items needed and you can do it!

Welcome to the new members who joined in September, Kevin Dixon, Torey Pratt and Aaron Johnson.

Carol Castro and Elaine P. Jackson

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, December 9 at 10:00 am Strawberry Canyon at UC Berkeley

Join Dan Norris on this walk for a close look at mosses and possibly other bryophytes both inside and out of the UC Botanical Garden. The early rains in October should bring out ephemeral mosses that are present but usually not visible in December. For best viewing, be sure to bring your strongest hand lens, or high-magnification camera lenses suitable for close work. If you want an introduction to bryophytes before the trip, see the bryophyte issue of *Fremontia*, which is available on-line at the publications link of www.cnps.org. The California Botanical Society has published a key for mosses in Madrono for the microscope users; you should contact Madrono offices directly to purchase this key. The trip will proceed in fog or light mist, but heavy rain will cancel. Meet at the UC Botanical Garden parking lot. If you want to carpool, or offer a ride to folks from the state CNPS meeting, contact Janet Gawthrop at janetgawthrop47@gmail.com.

Directions: From Highway 24, take the exit for Martin Luther King Way/51st Street and stay left to proceed north on Martin Luther King Way, through north Oakland into Berkeley. At the fork to divide Adeline/Shattuck and Martin Luther King Way, you can go north on either street for several blocks, and then turn right onto Dwight Way to go uphill to UC Berkeley. Dwight Way is a 1-way street uphill; it becomes 2-way after the intersection with Piedmont. Continue straight on Dwight for 2 blocks past Piedmont, turn left onto Prospect, and follow

Prospect as it crosses the Hayward fault around the football stadium. Turn right at the stop sign and continue uphill on Centennial (also called Strawberry Canyon Road), and follow Centennial to the garden parking lot just a few meters beyond the stop light. Bring \$\$ for parking and garden entrance fee.

Sunday, January 6, 2008, Huddart County Park, San Mateo County

Meet at the main parking lot (off Kings Mountain Road) at 2:00 pm.

Fetid Adder's Tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii*) is usually out early in the year on the Crystal Springs Trail in the redwood forests in this pleasant county park. The walk is about 1.5 miles, with an elevation change of two hundred feet or so.

Directions: take I-280 south from San Francisco to the Woodside Road (State 84) exit. Take Woodside Road (84) west about 1.5 miles through the village of Woodside and take a right onto Kings Mountain Road. The park entrance is on the right a mile or two up the hill. The main parking lot is just after the pay station. You must pay for parking even if the station is not staffed. Be prepared for mud and/or rain. The walk will take place regardless of the weather. Please contact David Margolies (510-654-0283, divaricatum@aol.com) if you need further information.

Janet Gawthrop

RESTORATION OF HUCKLEBERRY REGIONAL PRESERVE

Saturday December 15 at 9:30 am

Invasive *Myosotis* (forget-me-not), *Ehrharta erecta* (Stebbins or veldtgrass), and *Vinca major* (periwinkle), are in Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve. The native grasses and wildflowers could use some help. Meet at the parking lot off of Skyline Boulevard. We can help with identification if you are unfamiliar with the target species. We will continue exotics removal along the trail; latecomers can drop in by following the trail to the work group. We will work in light rain but heavy rain will postpone the project until January. Bring water and gloves.

Directions: From Highway 13 in either direction, exit at Thornhill/Moraga and proceed south on Moraga after the

traffic light on the exit ramp. Moraga will parallel 13 to its right, but will change its name to Mountain Blvd. Follow Moraga/Mountain straight through several traffic lights in Montclair Village, and turn left at the traffic light for Snake. Follow Snake uphill several blocks and turn left at the intersection of Snake and Shepherd Canyon (there is a stop sign here only for Shepherd Canyon). Follow Snake all the way uphill to Skyline through residential Montclair; if you see Shepherd Canyon Park on your right then turn around at the parking lot because you missed the Snake turn. Turn left at the intersection of Snake and Skyline, and follow Skyline to the parking lot for Huckleberry Preserve on the right.

Janet Gawthrop

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge has planned several habitat restoration groups in December to remove invasive weeds and plant local natives propagated at the refuge nursery. All restoration crews will work in or near Don Edwards refuge in Fremont, and Friday's weather will determine if the group will plant or weed on Saturday. Restoration

crews will start at 1:00 pm on December 1 and 15, but the December 8 group will start at 10:30 am. If interested, sign up by calling the refuge at (510) 792-0222 Ext. 43, or e-mail Laurie at Laurie_McEwen@fws.gov. Birders might also want to bring binoculars to scope out winter migrants at the refuge.

NWF HONORS KATHY KRAMER

The National Wildlife Federation honored Kathy Kramer, San Pablo, CA-based "Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour" coordinator, in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 1 at its annual National Conservation Achievement Awards and Dinner (www.nwf.org/about/connieawards2007.cfm). This annual celebration recognizes individuals and organizations that, through commitment and determination, make outstanding contributions to conservation. Kramer was honored with the Education Achievement award for exemplary leadership in educating and engaging both students and adults about their local environment.

Among the dozen other recipients receiving awards that evening were fellow Californians Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger ("Government") and Laurie David ("Special Achievement"). Former Vice President Al Gore was honored with the "'Ding' Darling Conservationist of the Year award." Past awardees include former President Jimmy Carter, Lady Bird Johnson, and former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall.

"The NWF award confirms that what we have been doing in the Bay Area to reduce pesticide, fertilizer and water use on gardens by planting native species is the right way to go," said Ms. Kramer. "The Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour can be emulated across the country, leading to reduced water pollution and water use, and the increased presence of beneficial wildlife," she added.

Over the past twenty years, Ms. Kramer has tirelessly developed a number of programs that involve teachers and the public in, and educate them about, local environmental issues. Most recently, and with NWF's support, Ms. Kramer developed the "Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour" (www.BringingBackTheNatives.net) which draws over 5,000

registrants each year to more than 60 Alameda and Contra Costa County gardens that are pesticide-free, water-conserving, and rich with habitat for wildlife, and contain 50 percent or more native plant varieties.

Prior to starting the garden tour Ms. Kramer founded and was Executive Director of the San Pablo-based Aquatic Outreach Institute. Other programs developed under Ms. Kramer's oversight include the teacher-training workshops Kids in Creeks, Kids in Marshes, Kids in Gardens, and Watching Our Watersheds. She has been responsible for developing several successful community-based programs, which resulted in the formation of the Friends of Sausal Creek and the Friends of San Leandro Creek. Ms. Kramer has overseen a dozen annual Creeks, Wetlands, and Watersheds conferences for educators and the general public, and she has developed both Community Stewardship and Teacher Action Grants programs representing millions of dollars in local funding.

The programs developed under Ms. Kramer's leadership received local, state, and national awards each year for six years in a row. Ms. Kramer herself received the National Wetlands Award for Education/Outreach in Washington D.C. in 1998.

The next "Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour" will be held May 4, 2008. The Tour is sponsored by the Alameda County Flood Control and Conservation District, the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, the Contra Costa Clean Water Program, Alameda County Clean Water Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program, and many others.

Text from Bringing Back the Natives Press Release

GRANT SUPPORTS NATIVE HERE NURSERY

The Strong Foundation has approved a grant to the chapter to support expanding opportunities for education at Native Here. We had applied for \$4,000 and the award was for \$5,000. The Strong Foundation makes grants to efforts that instill an ecological ethic in the individual and in our communities,

and which encourage grassroots environmental action based on such an ethic.

Charli Danielsen

EBCNPS CONTRIBUTES TO GARDEN TOUR'S SUCCESS

I would like to thank the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society for its continued support for the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. Over the past few years, in addition to providing financial contributions that have helped keep the Tour free, CNPS has helped to promote the event in the Bay Leaf and on CNPS's website. CNPS also provides a significant number of volunteers, who help before, during, and after the tour. It has been a pleasure collaborating with hard-working volunteer Delia Taylor, former CNPS Membership Chair, and now Vice-President, to plan the Tour. On the upcoming Tour Native Here will be participating in the

Native Plant Sale Extravaganza on Saturday, May 3, 2008, and CNPS will be selling books, posters, and memberships at a number of gardens on the day of the Tour (Sunday, May 4). CNPS has championed native plants for a long time; it is an honor for the the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour to partner with this prestigious organization. On behalf of the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, I look forward to many more years of pleasant partnership.

Kathy Kramer, Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour Coordinator

STINKWEED: THE LATEST INVASION

Stinkweed (*Dittrichia graveolens*) was first detected in 1995 in southern Alameda County and is spreading like wildfire throughout the Bay Area.

A Mediterranean native, stinkweed is unpalatable to livestock, is toxic to sheep, and can cause a skin reaction in people. It



Volunteers bag stinkweed collected from a roadside. Bagging is necessary to prevent the seeds from dispersing.

mainly grows in disturbed areas but can form dense stands in swales and invade riparian habitats. The California Invasive Plant Council classifies it as “red alert—highly invasive”.

Stinkweed is a late-developing member of the *Asteraceae*. It is prolific: a single plant can produce 15,000 seeds. Its tiny, papus-topped seeds can float for hundreds of feet and also can become attached to hair, feathers, clothing, and vehicles.

Stinkweed looks like just another roadside weed. From a distance it looks a little like Russian thistle, a little like horseweed, a little like the buzzed-off coyote bush one sees on maintained rights of way. Up close, it has small yellow flowers, and its resin smells like cough medicine.

On October 11, 2007, I first noticed stinkweed on a stretch of Highway 24 that I travel almost every day. I soon realized substantial colonies were growing on both sides of the Caldecott Tunnel all along Highway 24, and southward along Highway 680, as well as along Highway 880 and on the Peninsula. I have seen only a few skeletons from last year’s plants; those

few are the source for this year’s massive growth. Imagine what next year will look like.

Are we too late to take action? Some weed managers think so. Yet some are fighting it, with herbicide and clipping early on, and hand-removal after seed set begins. I’ve seen so many exotic weeds assault our California landscapes. If there is a chance of limiting the spread of this plant, I’d rather try than just stand by.

I asked friends and known weed warriors to join me in limiting the spread of stinkweed along the highways, corridors for dispersal. CalTrans provided volunteer forms, vests, gloves, hard hats—and hundreds of enormous plastic bags, because seed set is well underway.

In six work days, a total of 52 person-hours, these weed warriors have removed a ton and a half of stinkweed along Highway 24, from Highway 13 (west of the Caldecott Tunnel) to the Orinda exit east of the tunnel. (Avril Tolley, Sally and Elsa de Becker, Jim Luini, Maya Rappaport, Wendy Tokuda, Janet Gawthrop, Elaine Jackson, Laura Baker and Phil Leitner—you are awesome!) And hats off to Robert Songey, Walnut Creek CalTrans Maintenance Manager, who dispatched crews to remove large masses where road resurfacing is taking place.

In just the past few days, I’ve noticed stinkweed on surface roads in my town. Yesterday, I patrolled Lamorinda roads and returned with bags containing 80 lbs of stinkweed. There’s more out there.

Want to help? Removal has ended for 2007 but will start again in 2008. Please join us then! We will report in the *Bay Leaf* when projects are scheduled. Then we will work most Saturday and Sunday mornings, as we did this year.

Even if you don’t have time to work, plan to stop by a work party and get acquainted with stinkweed so you can remove it from your own community. Barbara Leitner (bleitner@pacbell.net) and Restoration Chair Mike Perlmutter (mperlmutter@audubon.org) are the members most involved in the project.

For images of dittrichia, go to <http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/management/alerts/pdf/2004RedAlerts.pdf>.

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Wednesday, January 23, 2008 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library): Brent Plater—The Golden Gate National Recreation Area’s 2008 Endangered Species Big Year

Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 7:30 pm (in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library): Frank Almeda—Sustainability and the Living Roof at the New California Academy of Sciences

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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

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

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