



May 2008

The Bay Leaf

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Membership meeting see page 2

Wednesday, May 28, 7:30 pm, UC Botanical Garden. Matteo Garbelotto, 'What's new with Sudden Oak Death'.

Native Here see page 3

Fridays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 9-noon, Native Here Nursery open for business, volunteers welcome

Saturdays, May 3, 10, 10-5, Native Here Nursery extended sales hours

Saturdays, May 17, 24, 31, 10-1, Native Here Nursery open for business, volunteers welcome

Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27, 9 am, local seed forays from Native Here

Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27, 1-5, volunteers needed to grow plants at Native Here

Field Trips see page 4

Saturday, May 3, 9:30 am, East Trail, Mount Diablo

Saturday, May 10, 10 am, Briones Park, Blue Oak Trail, Spengler Trail

MARIAN REEVE, 1920-2008

Marian Reeve grew up on her family's ranch near Cool, California, where her lifelong interest in California's flora began. At the University of California-Berkeley she earned a Bachelor's degree and PhD in botany.



After her schooling, Dr. Reeve began a lifetime of teaching in both formal and informal settings. At one time, board meetings of our CNPS Chapter were a veritable alumni gathering of Marian's former students.

A founding member of CNPS, Marian served the East Bay Chapter (earlier called the San Francisco Bay Chapter) in almost every capacity. Her special interest was conservation, and she tenaciously brought plant issues to almost every land and resource agency in our area. Her efforts ranged from overall

Sunday, May 18, 2:00 pm, Pioneer Tree Trail, Samuel Taylor State Park

Saturday, May 24, 10 am, Mount Diablo State Park, North peak trail

Membership Activities see page 5

Sunday, May 4, Bay Area, Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, Contact Janice Bray, janicebray@mindspring.com

Sunday, June 8, Heritage Day, Walnut Creek, Borgus Ranch. Contact Elaine P. Jackson, elainejx@att.net.

Help needed at the Native Plant Garden at the Clayton Library. Contact Lisa Anich at 925- 689-2642 or email admin@diablocreek.info.

Native demonstration garden on The Iron Horse Trail in Walnut Creek near the Walnut Creek Intermediate School. Contact Judy Adler, jadlermtnmama@sbcglobal.net.

Conservation Committee

Next Conservation Committee meeting, Wednesday evening, May 14th. For details on place and time, please call Laura Baker at 510-849-1409.

strategy to poring over pages of plan documents, finding speakers, and promoting letter writing campaigns.

Her pointed but courteous style was legendary. She demonstrated that a tough conservation outlook is not incompatible with reasoned, fact-based positions.

While serving as San Francisco Bay Chapter president in 1983-84, Marian successfully guided the Chapter in carrying out a lawsuit that prevented San Mateo County from building a golf course at Edgewood Park. Among her many other contributions to CNPS—workshops, field trips, programs, writings—a specialty was the annual field trip to Huckleberry Preserve, which she first co-led with Paul Covel and led many times after Paul's death.

Marian was named a Fellow of the California Native Plant Society in 1992. Later, she served as a member of the Fellows Committee. David Bigham, also a member of the committee, remembers Marian as demonstrating "absolute pragmatism, and absolute humanity".

continued on page 2

After their retirements, she and her husband Roger traveled extensively, pursuing their mutual interests in plants, birds and photography. She loved to cook, garden and attend opera and theater.

Marian is survived by four sons, ten grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Phoebe Watts, photo by Anne Reeve

MEMBERSHIP MEETING



What's New with Sudden Oak Death?

Speaker: **Matteo Garbelotto**

Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 7:30 pm

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

Exotic diseases like Sudden Oak Death are among the most destructive forces responsible for major changes in native plant communities.

Although an initial flurry of media attention and public interest several years ago brought Sudden Oak Death into the limelight, it has all but disappeared from the news and the general public consciousness of late. But *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen responsible for the disease, continues to spread in northern California, including the East Bay, and the count of susceptible plant species now numbers in the dozens. Fortunately, research on the disease and the pathogen has also been expanding, led by scientists like this month's speaker, Matteo Garbelotto.

Matteo's presentation will focus on examples of exotic forest diseases and explain how they were introduced and how they may be spreading. In particular he will present the latest published data showing where Sudden Oak Death was first introduced in California, how it has been spreading, and what the natural potential spread of this scary pathogen is likely to be. Answering these questions required dedicated work by many researchers at several universities and included sequencing the entire pathogen genome. Alarming as the pathogen and the disease are, the research and its findings are fascinating. Those who have attended Matteo's presentations in the past know he is a dynamic speaker and a brilliant researcher who always provides ample reason for hope.

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

Directions to the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley

From I-80: Take the University Ave. exit and proceed east on University Ave. toward the hills until it ends at Oxford St. Turn left on Oxford St. and continue to Hearst Ave., the third stoplight. Turn right on Hearst Ave. and continue to Gayley Rd., the second stoplight. Turn right on Gayley Rd., turn left on Stadium Rim Way, and turn left on Centennial Dr. The Garden entrance is 3/4 mile up Centennial Dr. on the right. Parking is just past the Garden on the left. Bring quarters for parking.

From Contra Costa County: From Hwy 24 westbound, exit at Fish Ranch Rd. At the end of the off ramp, turn right on Fish Ranch Rd. and follow it to the stop sign at Grizzly Peak Blvd. Turn right on Grizzly Peak Blvd. and follow it 3.1 miles to the stop sign at Centennial Dr. Turn left on Centennial Dr. and continue for 1 mile to the Garden's parking lot on the right. Bring quarters for parking.

From Dwight Way in Berkeley: Take Dwight Way east to Prospect St. Turn left on Prospect St., which merges with Stadium Rim Way. Turn right on Centennial Dr. The Garden entrance is 3/4 mile up Centennial Dr. on the right. Parking is past the Garden on the left. Bring quarters for parking.

Upcoming Meetings

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

UP FOR A NATIVE HERE PARTY?

Work party, that is, and you are invited!

Where: Native Here Nursery

Date and time: Saturday, May 24, 10 am on

While helping out at the nursery, we will be eating, drinking and socializing. Snacks and drinks will be provided, as will be work

gloves, and aprons, and all kinds of tasks from easy to challenging. Bring a lunch if you'd like to stay through some or all of the afternoon. Questions? Contact Delia Taylor, 510 527 3912 deliataylor@mac.com.

NATIVE HERE

Plants for sale: Some of the annuals will still be available in May. Late spring and summer flowering perennials include *Ranunculus californicus* from a variety of locales, *Wyethia angustifolia*, *Triteleia laxa*, *Monardella villosa*, and *Fragaria vesca*. This year osoberry and hazel seeds germinated well, so those shrubs are in good supply.

There is always an extensive supply of oaks and buckeyes. This year willows are also numerous and varied. The nursery is open from 9-noon on Fridays and 10-1 on Saturdays (but see below for some extended hours). The nursery is across from Tilden Park Golf Course, at 101 Golf Course Drive in Tilden Park.

Native Here and Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: Hours will be extended on Saturday, May 3 and Saturday, May 10 until 5 pm to accommodate interest generated by Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. Books will be featured, as well as our huge selection of local native plants. The nursery will be closed Sunday, May 4th, the day of the tour, so that our volunteers may attend the gardens on the tour.

Volunteer Opportunities: As well as regular open hours on Fridays and Saturdays, volunteers are encouraged to join in the fun of growing natives on Tuesday afternoons from 1-5 pm. Plants require potting up, weeding, etc. Watering 2/3 of an acre of native plants through the summer requires many hands and minds. If you are interested in either a regular 2-4 hour stint, or to be available to substitute for regular waterers, please contact Charli nativehere@ebcnps.org or call Delia, 510 527-3912 to arrange a time for orientation. Our practices of hand watering, elevating the plants off the ground and having a chip covering on the paths have been cited

as good practices which have kept the plants at the nursery free of pathogens which are nearby in the park.

The nursery benefited from a St Mary's College volunteer assignment: Lisa Bachtold put in her 20 required hours during her Easter Break, potting 1082 seedlings into 4" pots. She enjoyed the work so much she hopes to return as a regular volunteer in the future.

Seed Collection: Tuesday morning seed collection starts May 6th. Meet across from the entrance to Native Here at the end of the golf course parking lot. These are planned to be short trips ending by 1 pm, usually led by Charli Danielsen. Gregg Weber will be leading longer trips some Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Check the web site www.ebcnps.org/seedtrips.html for dates, locations and estimated duration, or phone Gregg at 510-223-3310 for more information.

Charli Danielsen



A Native Here young volunteer brings his own equipment.

BIOBLITZ AT MOUNT DIABLO MAY 16, 17

Save Mount Diablo is inviting Bay Area expert scientists and naturalists to participate in our 2008 BioBlitz, taking place May 16 and 17 at our Mangini Ranch property and Lime Ridge Open Space in Concord/Walnut Creek. The BioBlitz will survey, identify and categorize as many plant and animal species as we can find during a 24-hour period. The event will begin at 4p.m. on Friday, May 16 and conclude at 4p.m. on Saturday, May 17.

What is a bioblitz?

A BioBlitz brings together scientists, naturalists and volunteers to document biodiversity present in our community. Our BioBlitz 2008 will be a unique opportunity to explore, discover, educate and investigate the tremendous amount of biodiversity that surrounds us in our local environment. It also helps us understand and take better care of our local flora and fauna.

BioBlitz 2008 - Mangini Ranch, Lime Ridge Open Space

Save Mount Diablo acquired the Mangini Ranch property in January of 2007. It is a strategic and historic 208-acre property located on the north side of Mount Diablo near the city of Concord between Lime Ridge Open Space and Mount Diablo State Park. The property has many habitats and supports rich plant and animal life, including several special status species.

We need your help!

This year, we are also inviting the public to participate in the event, so this will be a wonderful opportunity to educate citizens about the ecology of this local treasure.

We need experts to record species and naturalists to lead teams of volunteers (both adults and children) to interpret natural history, count species and present their findings on the biodiversity within the study area. The data gathered will provide essential information for Save Mount Diablo's conservation efforts at Mangini Ranch and Lime Ridge.

Experts can participate for the entire 24 hours or sign up for specific time slots. If you like, you can camp at Mangini Ranch overnight on May 16 to record nocturnal species. Experts can register now by filling out the registration form available on our website at http://www.savemountdiablo.org/BioBlitz_2008.htm. Public registration opens April 15, 2008.

For more information call 925.947-3535 or email mwaver@savemountdiablo.org.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, May 3, East Trail, Mount Diablo. Meet at 9:30 am across from the Divide Reservoir sign on Marsh Creek Road in Clayton. Led by Gregg Weber.

We will see a great diversity of native plants, and lots of wildflowers. There is an interesting interior live oak forest. This walk has a 1600 feet elevation gain on the way out. It will be all downhill on the return trip. Round trip is about 5 miles. Figure on returning around 3-4 pm. Bring lunch and water. We will take Three Springs Road, Olympia Trail, and East Trail.

Directions: Take 24 or 680 to Ignacio Valley Road. Continue on Ignacio Valley Road into the City of Clayton, turn right on Clayton Road. Take Clayton Road past the first intersection with Marsh Creek Road. In about a mile, it becomes Marsh Creek Road. Continue straight on Marsh Creek Road. Go about two miles past Regency Drive. As you go uphill, look for the Divide Reservoir sign on the left side of the road (not the Nob Hill reservoir sign). Park on the right side of the road across from the Divide Reservoir sign. There is plenty of space to park.

Saturday, May 10, 10 am, Briones Park - Blue Oak Trail, Spengler Trail.

There should be quite a few *Calochortus pulchellus*. 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 18, 2 pm: Pioneer Tree Trail, Samuel Taylor State Park (on Sir Francis Drake Blvd in Marin County, near Olema)

Directions: From the East Bay, take the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge and take the Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (second) exit once over the Bridge. Stay on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard nearly across the county. You enter Samuel Taylor State Park soon after passing through the town of Laganitas (and soon after you enter redwood groves). Look for the park headquarters and main picnic area on the left, after a mile or two. Enter the headquarters area (there is a parking fee that must be paid whether or not the booth is staffed). Park in a space in the Picnic Area and walk across the bridge, taking a left past the group picnic area to the group picnic area parking lot, where we will meet.

The Pioneer Tree Trail is about two miles, with several hundred feet of elevation change. There are old growth redwoods (as well as logged groves) and early redwood forest flowers. Please contact David Margolies (510-654-0283, divaricatum@aol.com) if you need further information.

Saturday, May 24, 10 am, Mount Diablo State Park, North peak trail from Devil's Elbow to Prospectors Gap.

Meet at Devils Elbow parking lot at 10 am. This trail is packed with native plants, and relatively few alien species. There may be *Calochortus venustus*, *C. pulchellus*, *Chorizanthe membranacea*, *Hydrophyllum occidentale*, *Arnica discoidea*, a few areas of *Collinsia tinctoria*, *Lupinus spp*, *Cirsium spp*, *Clarkia concinna*, *Lomatium spp*, and many more common species. There are large areas of *Quercus chrysolepsis*. Bring lunch and water. We should arrive back at the parking lot around 2 pm. Gray sky or light rain will not cancel. Trip leader is Gregg Weber. Call 510 223-3310 if there are questions.

Directions: take 680 to Diablo Road. Go east on Diablo Road. At Green Valley Road, only one lane goes straight ahead. After Green Valley Road, go past and do not turn at the Diablo Country Club sign. In about a mile, turn left at the Mount Diablo State Park sign. Continue to end of Mount Diablo Scenic Boulevard. It becomes South Gate Road as it enters the park. Pay fee of \$5 at the entrance station. Continue to Junction Ranger Station, and make a right. About 3/4 mile past Juniper Camp's large parking area is a small parking area at Devil's Elbow. That is where we will meet at 10 am.



Osoberry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*). Photo by Gregg Weber.



Joaquin Bartosh, budding rare plant specialist, shown here examining a *Ranunculus californica*, accompanied by dad, Heath (only leg shown), & buddy Brett Stevenson (not in picture), leads the way up a little known trail to Mt. Wanda. Many local native plant enthusiasts joined the journey (part of the National Park Service John Muir Historical Site) in Martinez on March 15th. Photo by Jamie Menasco.

MEMBERSHIP

While renewing my membership online <http://cnps.org/> this past month I was pleasantly surprised by being able to select “recurring donation” as an option. The term “recurring donation” confused me for a second, then I was thanked for becoming a member, so that assured me I did it right. Perhaps this process will help those of us who just forget to renew and assure our safe and timely delivery of the *Bay Leaf*, *Fremontia*, & the *Bulletin*.

Have any questions about upcoming events? Interested in getting more involved? Please don't hesitate to contact us. elainejx@att.net, 925.372.0687 or carollbcastro@hotmail.com, 510-352-2382.

Getting More Involved and Having Lots of Fun Doing It

Think Globally, Volunteer Locally

Bay Area – Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour May 4th. Contact Janice Bray, janicebray@mindspring.com

Walnut Creek – Heritage Day, Borgus Ranch, June 8th. Contact Elaine P. Jackson, elainejx@att.net.

Clayton – Help needed at the Native Plant Garden at the Clayton Library. Contact Lisa Anich at 925- 689-2642 or email admin@diablocreek.info.

diablocreek.info. (Thank you Kelly Marshall.)

Walnut Creek - Native demonstration garden on The Iron Horse Trail in Walnut Creek near the Walnut Creek Intermediate School. Contact Judy Adler, jadlermtnmama@sbcglobal.net.

Do you have or know of a local event coming up in your neighborhood that would be a good location for CNPS to have a display table? You can host it . Come on up to our Native Here Nursery (during business hours) and pick up supplies to pass out. Call us with any questions.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming those who joined in February: Dina Blackwell, Karen Chan, Susan Chan, Joseph Davis Jr., Paul Hyman, Betsy Mueller, Leo Rogers, Jennifer Sanchez, Jennifer Smith, Leslie Webster, and Lori Wheeley.

Elaine Jackson

Carol Castro

STEWARDSHIP

The East Bay chapter's stewardship activities have been ongoing both on the ground, and behind the scenes. Volunteers such as Tom and Jane Kelley have been leading efforts to remove large stands of French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) along the Richmond shoreline. Janet Gawthrop has been not only leading botanizing trips at Huckleberry Botanical Preserve, but has also been leading work parties there to pull invasive plant species such as Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*), Forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*) and periwinkle (*Vinca major*). Barbara Leitner has been leading the charge against a newly colonizing invasive plant, stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*).

While members have been making great strides in the field, the chapter has also been working behind the scenes to establish a more formalized partnership with the East Bay Regional Park District. The chapter has met with staff at the Park District to discuss setting up restoration projects at four park units

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

Pleasant Hill Adult Education Center Garden

Various gardening groups and other interested volunteers and neighbors are teaming up with the City of Pleasant Hill and the Contra Costa Central Sanitary District to create a beautiful and water-conserving garden at the Pleasant Hill Adult Education Center on Santa Barbara Road, next to the Pleasant Hill Middle School.

We would very much appreciate if you select one or more of these work party days to help us out at the garden. All work times are 2 pm to 6 pm.

May 2, 9, 30, June 6 (Fridays)

May 18, June 8 (Sundays)

For more information email: phecgarden@prodigy.net or phone Monika Olsen, Teacher: 925- 937-1530.

Counting endangered plants at Antioch Dunes

In May, the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge will be conducting a plant survey of one of its two endangered plants, the Antioch Dunes evening primrose. It's a great opportunity to visit a special place that is not open to the public. Please feel free to share this information with others who might be interested.

Antioch Dunes evening primrose surveys will be on Wednesday and Thursday, May 14-15, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Who? USFWS staff and volunteers who love to get out of the office/house and enjoy nature.

What to wear/bring? Long pants (there can be scratchy plants and stickers), layered clothing, sturdy walking shoes, lunch and water,

that the chapter would visit at least three times per year in order to build ecological and social momentum at these sites. Partnering with the East Bay Regional Park District presents an opportunity to contribute to the management and stewardship of botanically valuable sites throughout the geographic range of the Chapter, add capacity to the Park District, and leverage the Park District's operational resources.

The Serpentine Prairie, Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve, the Richmond shoreline (including Pt. Isabel and Miller Knox), and Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline were selected as the chapter's four sites. The chapter's next step is to meet to plan out and schedule work at these sites. Our next meeting will take place 7:30 pm, Tuesday May 20th at the home of Mike Perlmutter, 486 63rd St. A light dinner will be served. RSVP to Mike at mperlmutter@audubon.org or 774-279-6416.

sunhat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and gaitors if you like to use them. Raingear is optional (you never know).

Where? Antioch Dunes NWR (Contra Costa County) - Stamm Unit on Fulton Shipyard Rd. From 680 N, take Hwy. 242 E to Hwy 4 E towards Pittsburg/Antioch. At Antioch, take A Street/Lone Tree exit and go left under freeway. Proceed about 1 mile and go right onto Wilbur Avenue. At Fulton Shipyard Rd. (first light) go left. Cross RR tracks and then see large brown refuge sign (2nd driveway on R). Carpooling opportunities may be available.

For inquiries and to RSVP, please call Susan Euing at 510- 521-9624 or send e-mail to susan_euing@yahoo.com.

The San Francisco Public Library is seeking the following back issues of the CNPS Bulletin:

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BURMA ROAD FIELD TRIP

Gregg Weber wasn't kidding about the 1000 foot gain up Burma Road on Mt Diablo! Poppies were blooming over acres and acres, the blossoms were not fully open as it was cool and cloudy, but so elegant nonetheless! A rare fern, *Cheilanthes gracillima*, round hood milkweed, *Asclepias californica*, swamp thistle, *Cirsium douglasii*,

Blue witch, *Solanum umbelliferum*, and many charming belly plants such as *Lasthenia californica*, were among the special finds.

Delia Taylor, all photos by John Taylor.



Above, the Burma Road hikers on the trail: Joe, Gregg, Rita, Pierre, and Margot. Below some of the flowers seen: top left *Lasthenia californica*, top right *Solanum umbelliferum*, lower left *Cirsium douglasii*, lower right *Eschscholzia californica*.



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Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

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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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