



May 2012

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

There will be no membership meeting in May, June, July, or August, but the meetings will resume in September. Watch

the *Bay Leaf* or the chapter website for announcements of our fall meetings.

CHAPTER COUNCIL (JUNE 2, 3) VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The East Bay Chapter will host the CNPS Chapter Council meeting on June 2 and 3 in Berkeley. The meeting will be held in Berkeley. We are looking for a few volunteers to assist with meeting set up as well as buffet installations. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know some folks from the State Board and the Chapter Council, along with fellow CNPS Chapter members from around the state.

tion and prepping meeting room for next day (2 volunteers needed).

Sunday, June 3rd, 7:00 am-noon. Meeting set up, breakfast buffet set up/breakdown, restocking beverage and light snack station, prepping box lunch (2 volunteers needed).

Saturday, June 2nd, 7:00 am to noon, and noon to 5:00 pm. There will be two shifts on Saturday. The first is from 7:00 am-noon. Its duties include meeting set up, breakfast buffet set up/break down as well as restocking the beverage and light snack station (2 volunteers needed). The second shift is from noon to 5:00 pm. Among its tasks are lunch buffet set up/break down, restocking the beverage and light snack sta-

To recap, six volunteers total: two for each of three shifts (Saturday am and pm, Sunday am).

All interested please contact our Hospitality Chair Howard Arendtson as soon as possible at howard@hjuliendesigns.com, 510-548-7400. Everything will be provided, we just need your hands, good attitude and bright smiling faces!

CHAPTER PICNIC ON SUNDAY JUNE 3

East Bay CNPS Picnic, Sunday June 3rd. 2:00 pm-6:00 pm, in the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Berkeley. Enjoy a lovely afternoon in one of the East Bay's most beautiful gardens. All members and their guests are welcome. It's our way of saying thank you for your generous support of our causes and projects throughout the year. We'll be featuring an old-fashioned barbeque with all the trimmings, a book sale, fun and games and there's even some talk about live music. Mark your calendars and save the date. Stay tuned for more details.

Volunteer Opportunities for Picnic. We need volunteers to set up and staff the picnic at 12 at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Park, Berkeley. Are you a barbeque wizard? Can you help with the serving stations and set up/clean up? Your help is essential to ensure success of our event. All interested please contact our Hospitality Chair Howard Arendtson as soon as possible at howard@hjuliendesigns.com.

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

May 6, 2012, Eighth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, bringingbackthenatives.net/

Cost: Free, but donations are requested. See web site for registration instructions.

This award-winning, self-guided tour includes 45 showcase Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, water-conserving, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60 percent or more native plants. Garden addresses are mailed to registrants in May.

More: Native Plant Sale Extravaganza takes place May 5 and 6. Visit <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/view-gardens> on the website to read garden descriptions, view photos, and download plant lists. Volunteers are needed.

IN MEMORY OF MYRTLE WOLF 1913-2012

Myrtle Wolf was a plant lover. She believed in the healing, civilizing, joy making of being involved with plants. From her grocery store botany curriculum for children to her garden project for parents of people with AIDS, she had an instinctive sense of what plants bring to us humans.

Born in Kentucky in 1913, Myrtle was raised in the Central Valley agricultural town of Winters. She gravitated to Berkeley, moving to her lifelong community in 1928 to complete high school. A UC Berkeley Botany graduate, she taught the life sciences in public schools for 36 years. With her beloved husband, Frank Wolf, she raised their son Thomas Wolf.

Always a people person, upon retiring Myrtle combined her deep interest in people with her passion for plants. Involvement with Bay Area botanical and horticultural groups filled her time of life that she called her "dessert of life" The U.C. Botanical Garden, the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden, the San Francisco Botanical Garden, the then Oakland Museum, the Berkeley Garden Club, the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, and others all saw her determined, focused volunteer leadership and just plain hands on work

The East Bay Chapter of CNPS was an especial pet of Myrtle's. For many years she was active on of Chapter Board of Directors always quietly pushing for action. She fostered our Plant Sale and plant growing and horticultural work. She of course had a conviction in the power of education. A major donor to various Chapter programs, she was a benefactor to our scholarship program for botanic studies. But whether it was to put on a sweater and "be a sweet old lady" at a hearing or "put on my tennis shoes" to stand in front of the proverbial bulldozer she also practiced plant conservation in the field. In any case she was always figuratively and often literally hands in the dirt. Recently Past President Charli Danielson noted that she was showing a Native Here volunteer how to settle a new transplant in its pot. She said it is a technique Myrtle taught her; she calls it "Myrtleizing". I can't think of better memorial for a life of giving.

David Bigham
President, East Bay Chapter

NATIVE HERE: OPEN DURING NATIVE GARDEN TOUR

Native Here will be participating in the **Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour**, open for the Saturday "Nursery Extravaganza" on May 5, and during the Tour on Sunday, May 6th. Hours are 10 am to 5 pm each day. David Bigham will lead a "virtual field trip" featuring our display plants from around the two counties at 11 am and again at 4 pm each day. Local native plants, books, and garden stakes will be sold throughout both days.

The nursery is at 101 Golf Course Drive on the Berkeley side of Tilden Regional Park.

Annuals haven't come up very early this year, but we have some lupines and clarkia in 4 inch containers. Perennials are doing well, however, and we have *Potentilla*, *Tellima*, *Fragaria vesca* (woodland strawberry), as well as many grasses.

We'll still have plants after the tour and will need help filling in the gaps left after customers have bought plants during the extravaganza and tour. We'd like to get a few more volunteers to commit to adopting a section in the nursery to oversee its watering, weeding and inventory. Open hours are a good time to start, but scheduling can be flexible once you are familiar with your section. Volunteers are also welcome to drop in and help with nursery tasks such as striking cuttings, potting young plants, watering, weeding, maintenance and signage, etc.

Seed collection will begin in May. Please contact us at nativehere@ebcnps.org to let us know you are interested, what locale you would be willing to collect from and what your time availability for seed collection is. Put "seed collection" in the subject line. We will set up a training session for those who express an interest in collecting seed for the nursery.

Native Here is committed to recycling and re-use. Please help yourself to the pots just outside the gate for planting projects. Once you've planted the plants you purchase from us, drop the "empties" off there too so we can reuse them. The price of containers has gone up sharply in the past two years, so being able to reuse helps keep our prices down.

Small bumblebees are nesting in one of our nest boxes. They were made for cavity-nesting birds, but the bees seem to like them more than do the birds. Frogs have been croaking and calling. We hope to see some tadpoles. Quail have been calling also. They like to forage in the meadow near the amphitheater. A male turkey was calling loudly a few weeks ago, presumably looking for a mate.

Charli Danielsen and Margot Cunningham

That virtue we appreciate is as much ours as another's. We see so much only as we possess.
Henry David Thoreau, Journals, June 22, 1839

2011-2012 CONSERVATION ANALYST FUND REPORT

The East Bay Chapter of CNPS has completed its 2011 - 2012 Conservation Analyst fund drive by successfully reaching our goal of \$35,000.

To all of you who have generously donated to this vital fund, please accept the Conservation Analyst Committee's deepest thanks for your important contribution. Without a doubt, our chapter's response is a strong voice of support for Mack Casterman, our Chapter's Conservation Analyst. By reaching our goal, Mack will be able to stay on track with the many projects in which he is currently involved. The CNPS mission statement is reaching farther with this dedicated work.

The Conservation Committee is open to volunteers who wish to join at any time. The projects cover a variety of geographical areas within Alameda and Contra Costa counties, and deal with a variety of landowners. Experience has shown our involvement does make a noticeable difference.

Thank you to all who participated this year. We couldn't have done it without your support.

Carol Castro
for the Conservation Analyst Fund Committee

PLANT FAIR PLANNING MEETING ON MAY 27

This year's Plant Fair is scheduled for October 25-26. There are openings on the planning committee. Are you good at publicity? Do you like to talk to craftspeople who make things related to native plants? How about shopping for and serving refreshments to our wonderful volunteers? Are you a natural salesperson who could sell bulbs, books, posters, hats, and memberships? Do you like to organize time schedules? Have you ever wanted to boss people around while they park their cars? Do you like to demonstrate your physical strength by

lifting heavy flats of plants onto and off carts and into people's cars? The Plant Fair can certainly use people who answer Yes to any of those questions. Contact Charli nativehere@ebcnp.org indicating Plant Fair in the subject line. We will have a meeting to get things rolling: Sunday, May 27 from 4:30 to 6 pm at the Danielsen home, 10 Kerr Ave, Kensington 94707 (take Rincon off Arlington).

Charli Danielsen and Margot Cunningham

RESTORATION

Saturday, May 5, (first Saturday of each month) at Pt. Isabel on the Bay Trail, 10 am to 2 pm. We remove invasive plants and re-vegetate with native plants grown from plants found at the site. We are located at the end of Rydin Road just off the I-580 next to Hoffman Marsh. Contact info: Tom Kelly, kyotousa@sbcglobal.net, cell: 510-684-6484.

Saturday, May 5, 9:00 am, Skyline Gate at Redwood Regional Park. Maybe this is not the oldest *Genista* rip in the East Bay, but it is certainly one with a long continuity. We will return to East Ridge Trail and see what we can remove before the soils dry completely. If you need loaner gloves or tools, you can just show up, but it helps to e-mail DRosario@ebparks.org.

Saturday, May 12, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park. Meet at the parking lot, where we will scope out weeds and decide on the worksite for the day. We will provide water, gloves and snacks, but please let us know if you need gloves and/or tools by e-mail to janetgawthrop47@gmail.com or jmanley@ebparks.org. We will finish up around 1 pm.

Saturday, May 19, 10 am-noon, Garber Park Habitat Restoration

We will "take a break" from weeding chores to traverse our creek from the springs through the Measure DD area to the drain on Claremont Avenue. We will measure and photograph all the Measure DD plantings and try to identify whatever birds and other wildlife we see. Including moths and butterflies. Maybe we'll even see another red tailed fox! So be prepared for wet feet, poison oak, and stinging nettles. Bring

binoculars, camera, notepad, gloves and more gloves, and a field guide of your choice. Also, a soft cloth tape measure might be helpful. We need to scope out the springs and the creek this spring.

Meet at the Evergreen Lane Entrance to Garber Park at 10 am. For internet directions the closest address is 144 Evergreen Lane, Berkeley. From Alvarado Road, take Slater Lane, turn Right onto Evergreen Lane. The park entrance is at the end of the street.

Wear long sleeves and pants and shoes with good treads. Bring sunhat and sunscreen.

Questions? For more information contact Mary Millman at garberparkstewards@gmail.com or visit our blog: <http://garberparkstewards.blogspot.com/>.

Sunday, May 20, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park. Meet at the parking lot off of Skyline on the Oakland side of the park, where we'll distribute gloves, tools and water. From there, you can join the main group to dent the wall of broom on the Sibley-to-Tilden trail. For the poison-oak shy, there are also areas near the entrance to clear poison hemlock, Chinese onions and forget-me-nots to make room for woodland strawberries and cow parsnip.

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday May 6, 10:00 am, Brooks Island (west of Point Richmond)

Dolphin Charters and the East Bay Regional Parks District have a tour boat reserved for an East Bay chapter field trip, which will depart the Berkeley Marina at 10:00 a.m. The cost is \$72.00 for residents of the park district, and \$80.00 for non-residents. To reserve a space and for payment and logistics details, you should call (888) 327-2757, and be sure to tell them the reservation number, 29606, and the "course name": *CNPS boat to Brooks Island*.

Because of the very shallow water around the island, the trip is planned around a higher tide to allow for landing, with a tour of the bay enroute to the anchorage. Passengers will then land on Brooks Island in a 17-foot skiff, which will take several trips (you should be mobile enough to climb in and out of the skiff without aid.) The environmentally sensitive island includes salt marsh and northern coastal scrub, plus over 18 species of birds nesting on the island. We'll eat lunch on the island and hike around it. Bring lunch and all the liquid you will need, plus all-weather clothing. A storm will cancel the trip, but not light rain.

Sunday May 13, 10:00 am, Blue Oak Trail at Briones Regional Park

Gregg Weber will lead on this trail that includes views of some unusual plants, such as *Myrica californica* and *Pickeringia montana* (think pink), and *Calochortus pulchellus* in bloom.

We will see a lot of diversity in grasslands, oak woodlands, and chemise/black sage chaparral.

The Blue Oak loop has a 700 foot elevation change and quite a few ups and downs. The round trip is about 5 miles.

Directions: Take Highway 24 to Lafayette, and exit at Pleasant Hill Road north. Go about one mile north on Pleasant Hill Road, and turn left onto Reliez Valley Road. Stay on Reliez Valley Road for about 3.5 miles. The parking lot is on the left, after Withers Ave. Do not go into the park entrance farther north on Reliez Valley Road or you will miss the field trip.

Sunday May 20, 10 am, Mount Diablo State Park North Peak trail from Devil's Elbow to Prospector's Gap

Meet at the Devil's 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*, *Clarkia concinna*, plus native *Cirsium* (thistles), lupines, and *Lomatium*. There are also large areas of *Quercus chrysolepis* (canyon live oak). This trip will be most of the day, so bring lunch and water. We should arrive back at the parking lot around 3 pm. The trip leader is Gregg Weber, and you can call him at 510-223-3310 if you have questions.

Directions: Take 680 to the Diablo Road exit, and go east on Diablo Road. At Green Valley Road, only one lane goes straight ahead. After Green Valley Road, go on 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 the end of Mount Diablo Scenic Boulevard, which becomes South Gate Road as it enters the park. Pay the \$10 gate fee at the entrance station (or have your state parks pass visible). Continue to Junction Ranger Station, and turn right. About ¾ mile past Juniper Camp's large parking area is a small parking area at Devil's Elbow, where we will meet at 10 am.

Sunday, May 27, 10:00 am, field trip to Serpentine Prairie (Redwood Regional Park)

Gregg Weber will lead a field trip to view not only *Presidio clarkia*, but also many other unusual flowers and grasses that are now several years into restoration. This trip is appropriate for beginning/intermediate plant identification. However, the unusual plant spotters have the option of looking up Serpentine Prairie plant lists at www.calflora.org, and then clicking on the What Grows Here feature. **Directions (driving):** Take Joaquin Miller Road exit from Highway 13 (coming from either north or south), and turn left (uphill) onto Joaquin Miller at the end of the exit ramp. Follow Joaquin Miller uphill all the way to its end at the traffic light intersection with Skyline. Go straight through the traffic light (proceeding southeast)-the road will change its name to Skyline without any turn required on your part. The Trudeau Training Center lot is also the parking lot for Serpentine Prairie, and it will appear on the left only a short block after the traffic light. For mass transit riders, take AC Transit bus # 54 (\$2.10 for adult/non-student) uphill from 35th Ave./MacArthur, and get off at the intersection of Redwood Road and Campus Drive (next to last stop.) Proceed uphill on Redwood Road to the intersection with Skyline, also with a traffic light. Cross Skyline and then go left (north on Skyline until you reach the Trudeau Center parking lot. Notice the *Calochortus luteus* and bunchgrasses flowering in the traffic median. AC Transit now has bicycle racks.

Sunday, June 3 at 1:00 pm, Tilden Park Field trip with CNPS state meeting delegates

After the CNPS chapter council meeting, our chapter will host field trips in Tilden Park for the state delegates and local chapter members. Due to the uncertainty in numbers attending, we ask that you e-mail your interest in the field trips to janetgawthrop47@gmail.com.

Sunday, June 10, 9:30 am, Mount Diablo State Park, Falls trail, Middle trail, Bruce Lee Spring trail, Wasserman trail

This is a moderate round trip of 5 miles with 1200 feet elevation gain on the way out. It will be mostly downhill on the return trip, and we expect to be out 4-5 hours. Bring lunch and at least 1.5 liters of water. We will start on Clayton Oaks trail, and proceed from there to Bruce Lee Spring trail, lower Donner trail, and on to Wasserman and Falls trails.

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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

Native Here Nursery

510-549-0211
Manager—Charli Daniels
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Sales—Margot Cunningham
bunchgrassmarg@gmail.com

Plant Fair

Charli Daniels, Chair
510-549-0211
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Lesley Hunt, Native Here/
Plant Fair-East Bay
Chapter Board liaison
925-937-6791
ldhunt@astound.net

Restoration Projects

Leaders:
Huckleberry—Janet
Gawthrop
Point Isabel—Tom and
Jane Kelly
510-704-8628 (w)
510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net
Strawberry Creek—Tom
and Jane Kelly

Officers and Committee Chairs serve on the Board.

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

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED

Expect to see *Monardella douglasii* and *Collinsia tinctoria* in flower, along with several paintbrush species, *Clarkia biloba*, *Sedum radiatum*, *Campanula exigua*, *Silene californica*, *Pickeringia montana*, *Asclepias californica*, and lots of common plants. We should arrive back at the parking lot around 3 pm. The trip leader is Gregg Weber, and you can call him at 510-223-3310 if you have questions.

Directions: Take 24 or 680 to Ignacio Valley Road, and continue on Ignacio Valley Road several miles into the city of Clayton. At the intersection of Ignacio Valley and Clayton Road, turn right at the stop light onto Clayton Road. Stay on Clayton Road past the first intersection with Marsh Creek Road; in about a mile, Clayton Road becomes Marsh Creek Road. Continue straight on Marsh Creek Road to Regency Drive, where you turn right. Go 3 blocks on Regency Drive, and then turn left on Rialto Drive. Go to the end of Rialto Drive and park. Do not go to the end of Regency, because that is a different access point.

Sunday, June 17, 9:30 am, Mount Diablo State Park, Knobcone Point Road and Blackhawk Ridge Road

We will go through woodland, grasslands, chaparral areas, with *Pickeringia*, *Salvia*, *Arctostaphylos*, *Garrya*, *Calochortus splendens*, and lots of oaks and *Clarkia rubicunda*. This can be a very hot walk, so dress for heat and bring at least 1.5 liters of water, and lunch.

The road loses about 500 feet down to a creek, and then gains 700 feet to the top of the loop, with elevations reversed on the way back. We should arrive back at the parking lot at 4 pm. The trip leader is Gregg Weber, and you can call him at 510-223-3310 with questions.

Directions: Take 680 to the Diablo Road exit, and 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 Mt. Diablo State Park sign. Continue to the end of Mt. Diablo Scenic Boulevard, which becomes South Gate Road as it enters the park. Be prepared to pay the fee (now \$10?) at the main entrance station, or have you state parks pass ready. Continue for about a mile, and park at the large parking area at Curry Point, where we will meet.

Sunday, July 15, 10:00 am, Redwood Regional Park, trip to focus on sedges and late-fruiting plants

We will see about 5 species of sedge. Learn some basics of sedge ID and morphology (sculptural shapes of plant parts in botany). A copy of the *Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges* and also the key from the 2011 *Jepson Manual* will be available for reference. We will take Redwood Peak trail, French trail, Starflower trail, Tres Sendas trail, and Stream trail.

Directions: Get onto Skyline Drive in the Oakland hills, either from Highway 13 from the north or 580 from the south. From 13, the most direct route is the Joaquin Miller exit, and then take Joaquin Miller Road to Skyline. Turn left at the light for Joaquin Miller and Skyline, and follow Skyline north (mostly uphill) as you go to the Chabot Space Science Center roughly a mile north of Joaquin Miller Road. Turn into the driveway for the Space Center and park either in the lot or in the parking garage, which is free. Ignore the no trespassing signs as the do not apply to park or science center users. Gregg Weber is leading and you can call him at 510-223-3310 if you have questions.

HELP CNPS BY LETTING A CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE STAY WITH YOU

The East Bay Chapter of CNPS will be hosting the June 2012 meeting of the CNPS Chapter Council on the weekend of June 1 through June 3. You can help by providing a place to stay for a Chapter Council delegate or state board member for the nights of June 1st and/or 2nd. CNPS will save money because it reimburses delegates and state board members for lodging costs to attend Chapter Council meetings. You will not be expected to provide meals for guests.

If you live on the west side of the East Bay Hills or in Orinda and you are willing to host a guest, please email Bill Hunt as soon as possible at ebc-nps_homestay@astound.net with the following information:

Your name, address and phone number

The number of people you can accommodate (and the number of beds and rooms used if more than one guest can be accepted.)

Restrictions on sex of guests

Availability of parking for your guests

Is your home smoke free? (We are asking to prevent problems for guests who have sensitivities to smoke.)

Do you have pets such as dogs or cats? (We are asking in order to prevent problems for guests who have allergies related to pets.)

Guests will be warned that smoking will not be permitted in the host's home.

We will contact you when the meeting date is closer to confirm commitments.



Calochortus kennedyi. Photo copyright John Game.



Calochortus raichei. Photo copyright John Game.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We have three upcoming events for which we need volunteer assistance. Our chapter attends a number of local conservation related happenings and tries to attract new members by presenting our mission to the public. Either all day or part of the day.

May Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness
Sunol Spring Wildflower Festival
May 14, 11:00 to 4:00

John Muir National Historic Site, Martinez
John Muir Birthday Celebration
May 21, 10:00 to 4:00

June Borges Ranch/Shell Ridge Open Space, Walnut
Creek

Heritage Day Event
June 16, 11:00 to 4:00

We are interested in members who wish to share their experience and interest in native plants and habitat. Please contact me if you are willing to contribute a brief story about yourself.

Tim Kask timkask@yahoo.com or 510-552-6168

Announcement

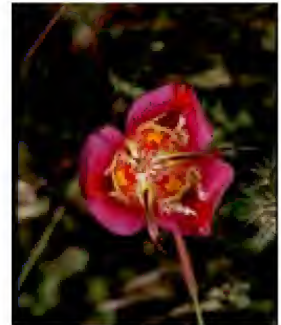
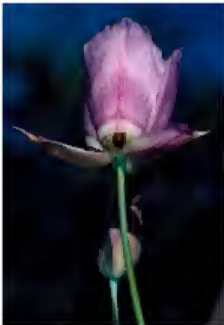
Still looking for join dates prior to 1986

- Outreach Coordinator position still vacant
- Restoration Chair, vacant
- Be sure and visit our updated membership page at <http://ebcnps.org/index.php/membership/>

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

On Saturday, May 19, 2012, 10 am to 2:30 pm, learn how to bring wild nature home with Judith Larner Lowry of Larner Seeds and Arvind Kumar of the California Native Plant Society. From the poetic to the technical and back again plus

native plant-based desserts and snacks. There is a \$40 fee for this event, which takes at the Larner Seeds Demonstration Garden in Bolinas. Preregistration is required. Contact suzannedconey@gmail.com for more information.



Left to right, *Calochortus greenei*, *C. howellii*, *C. venustus*. Photos copyright John Game.

Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other _____

Membership category:

Individual, \$45

Family, Library, Group or International, \$75

Plant lover, \$100

Patron, \$300

Benefactor, \$600

Mariposa Lily, \$1500

Limited Income or student, \$25.00

Other _____

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