

March 2014



The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Plant Collectors and Collections: Stories from the California Academy of Sciences
Speaker: Debra Trock

Wednesday, March 26, 7:30 pm

Location: Room 6, Orinda Community Center (directions below)

Native plant lovers and local history buffs may have heard the story of how California Academy of Sciences botany curator Alice Eastwood climbed up the shattered staircase to the sixth floor of the academy building after the 1906 earthquake and rescued the academy's collection of botanical type specimens before the building burned. But there's more to this story and to other stories of botanical exploration and plant collection by Ms. Eastwood and the many botanists who have contributed to the academy's herbarium. Debra Trock will introduce us to the collection and share stories of some of the botanists and collectors whose work has made this repository of biodiversity information the largest collection of vascular plant specimens in the western U.S. and the sixth largest in the country.

Debra Trock is Senior Collections Manager in the Botany Department at the California Academy of Sciences. She holds a PhD in botany from Kansas State University, and her research focuses on the taxonomy of the Tribe Senecioneae (Asteraceae), particularly the genus *Senecio* and its segregates.

She is also involved with the Flora of North America project and serves as Member-At-Large on the board of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in Room 6 of the Orinda Community Center at 28 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). Room 6 is at the south end of the Community Center building. The room opens at 7:00 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Call 510-496-6016 or email rosacalifornica2@earthlink.net if you have questions.

Directions to Orinda Community Center at 28 Orinda Way

From the west, take Hwy 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.



Alice Eastwood with plant press, Warner Hot Springs, San Diego County, 1913. Courtesy of CAS Special Collections



Curator Alice Eastwood in the California Academy of Sciences herbarium on her 80th birthday in 1939. Courtesy of CAS Special Collections

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From the east, take Hwy 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.

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the west side of the one-story Community Center building, which is set back from the street on the right. There is additional free parking on the street, next door beneath the library building, and in the parking lot south of the library. Room 6 is at the south end of the Community Center building.

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 Community Center. Room 6 is at the south end of the Community Center building.



Alice Eastwood collecting *Festuca eastwoodae* at Pyramid Lake. Photo by Herman Knoche, 1927. Courtesy of CAS Special Collections

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, March 1, 9:00 am, Redwood Regional Park, French broom rip

Go in through the main entrance next to Redwood Road and proceed past the entry kiosk to the Wayside picnic area.

Saturday, March 1, 10:00 am, Pt. Isabel at Eastshore State Park

Pt. Isabel at the end of Rydin Road just off the I-580 next to Hoffman Marsh. Contact e-mail: kyotousa@sbcglobal.net, cell: 510-684-6484.

Saturday March 8, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park

We meet at the main parking lot and decide where and what

JEPSON HERBARIUM WORKSHOPS

The Jepson Herbarium at the University of California has workshops every year, mostly about botany and California flora. The schedule can be found at <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/2014/index.html>. Among those that might interest chapter members are (all still have space available, as do some others not listed):

April 5-6 *Ceanothus* (at UC and in the field): a technical workshop on the *Ceanothus* genus.

May 2-4 Ground Beetles (at Hopland): not plants but very common insects.

THANKS FOR DONATED ARTWORK

We appreciate very much Karen Wetherell's donation of expert graphic art for our Chapter's advertisement in the "Bringing Back the Natives" tour guide.

Delia Taylor

plants to rip out. February rainfall or its lack will definitely affect this decision.

Sunday, March 16, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park

Meet at the Oakland-side parking lot off Skyline (0.5 mile north of Huckleberry parking lot). We will aim to rip out French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), although dry weather may be a deciding factor.

If you have any questions, please e-mail janetgawthrop47@gmail.com.

May 15-18 Seaweeds of Northern California (at Point Arena).

May 9-11 Spectacular Diversity of Bay Area Public Gardens (around the Bay Area). This is taught by Dean Kelch, a botanist working for the California Department of Agriculture. **Chapter Treasurer David Margolies particularly recommends this** (and all workshops taught by Dean).

June 12-15 Sierra Nevada Wildflower ID (at Truckee).

October 3-5 Macrolichens Around the Bay Area (UC and in the field).

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR: MAY 4

What: Tenth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour
<http://bringingbackthenatives.net/>.

When: Sunday, May 4, 2014

Where: This award-winning, self-guided tour showcases thirty-five beautiful 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 April.

Cost: Free, but donations are requested. Preregistration is required. Registration will close when the tour reaches capacity, or on April 26, whichever comes first.

More: Native Plant Sale Extravaganza takes place May 3 and 4. Visit Preview the Gardens on the website to read garden descriptions, view photos, and download plant lists. Volunteers are needed. Workshops are offered throughout the spring. See the webpage for details.

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN PLANT SALE, APRIL 19

Saturday, April 19, 2014 10 am to 3 pm, fundraiser Plant Sale at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, the living museum of California native plants

Wildcat Canyon Road (between Anza View Road & South Park Drive) in Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley. Volunteers will direct you to parking spots. No entrance admission or parking fee.

Experts stationed at every post to answer questions like: "What plants would do well in clay soil?", "Any suggestions for a garden that doesn't get much sun?", "You got any 'deer proof' plants?", "Where's your seeds table?".

All proceeds will directly benefit the Garden.

Please bring empty boxes to carry your treasures home.
510-544-3169 Bgarden@ebparks.org www.nativeplants.org

A WALK IN BRIONES PARK

This article describes a fairly short walk with 150-300 feet of elevation over its 0.5 mile length. (1 mile round trip.) The dirt service road provides good footing and doesn't have any steep, difficult sections. The walk goes through a mixture of sun and shade with a variety of plants from the beginning to the end. The mixture of conditions supports a variety of plants including three *Calochortus* species.

When to go: Some plants may be in bloom in mid-late March but the peak will be in mid-April to early June depending on the weather. **Where:** starts at the end of Briones Road on the north side of Briones Regional Park.

Driving directions: From highway 4 in Martinez, take the Alhambra Avenue Exit and turn south onto Alhambra Avenue. After about ½ mile, turn right onto Alhambra Road and continue until this road meets Reliez Valley Road. Turn right and after 500 feet, turn left onto Briones Road. This narrow road winds upward to a turn-around at the park entrance. Take your time driving this road and be prepared to pull to the right when you meet oncoming traffic.

Walking directions: Walk by the locked gate next to the restroom onto the service road. You'll walk up this road for 0.5 to 1 mile. Walk slowly checking on both sides for interesting plants. There is a bank on the left side of the road and a steep drop on the right side.

Caution: Poison oak grows a few feet off the service road along the walk. Before you step off the service road to get a closer look at plants, check for the presence of poison oak.

Contact with poison oak will not be a problem on the service road itself.

Avoid the narrow trail going off the service road where it turns sharply to the right under deep shade. Poison oak grows very close to the trail making it difficult to avoid contact. If you are on a narrow trail and come to a section where contact with poison oak is likely, turn around and re-trace your steps to the service road.

There are nettles along the service road. The pale blue-white spotted flowers are pretty but don't touch the plant! A single touch produces a stinging rash.

Notes for your walk: Just after you start, you'll be going through oak woodland. Along the narrow trail going uphill to the left side of the road, look for blue Ithuriel's spear (*Triteleia laxa*) and white common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) growing under the oaks. The narrow trail continues up the hill under the oaks but returning to the service road will be more productive for seeing a variety of plants.

As you walk along, you will go from sun to shade and back and from one soil type to another.

Buckeye trees grow along the walk. In the early spring, look for the large seeds on the ground. They are always handsome trees and when they bloom, the candles with masses of flowers are beautiful and fragrant. A grove of buckeyes in bloom often draws a crowd of butterflies.

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California honeysuckle vines with pink flowers (*Lonicera hispidula*) grow along the left side of the road and in trees on the right side of the road. Marah vines with small white flowers are present along the trail in several spots.

In the deeply shaded area where the road turns sharply right, look for blue and white Chinese houses. Shortly after this section, look for Mount Diablo globe lily or fairy lantern (*Calochortus pulchellus*) shaded by other plants.



Several sunny sections provide views of yellow sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), golden yarrow and red Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis*) near the road. Fragrant California sage grows in these sunny sections as well.



Nearer the end of the road, look for yellow (*Calochortus luteus*) and white Mariposa Lilies (*Calochortus argillosus*) along narrow trails to the left and right of the road. A locked gate marks the end of the most productive area for seeing flowers. You can continue into a broad grassland area for a longer walk or turn around and return along the service road.

Conservation Notes: Briones Regional Park was established in 1967 as part of the extensive East Bay Regional Park District. Residents of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties voted to tax themselves to acquire land for parks and open space starting in the 1930s in the Great Depression.

Now that the land in Briones Park is preserved, we must ensure that it is managed to preserve its communities of native plants and animals for generations to come. Residents need to be aware of the natural resources in Briones Park and other local parks and make their elected officials and the



Park District aware that they want those resources preserved. The East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is active in monitoring the policies the Park District uses to manage the park system.

Briones Park is bordered by privately owned ranch land that has functioned as de facto open space, linking the Park to other undeveloped areas and adding to the vitality of the natural communities in the park. The fate of this privately owned open space in coming years will affect the health of the Park itself.

Online Resources:

This gallery of pictures (<http://tinyurl.com/jw3gs64>) provides examples of flowering plants seen along this walk in May of 2009. The park District web site (<http://www.ebparks.org/>) has information and maps for all the parks in the system. A Briones Park trail map (<http://tinyurl.com/bukeaj7>) and a flower guide for the park (<http://tinyurl.com/k2yktgk>) are useful aids for your walk.

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The Bay Area Hiker site (<http://tinyurl.com/lnk98xr>) describes a different walk in Briones Park.

The Every Trail site (<http://tinyurl.com/n6h8bzbz>) describes several other walks in Briones Park.

The pictures on the previous page, upper left, native honey-suckle (*Lonicera hispidula*); lower left, yellow mariposa lily

POINT ISABEL RESTORATION

The Pt. Isabel Restoration project's 1st Saturday work parties continue to bring in enthusiastic volunteers – young and less young – who are changing the landscape and habitat along the Hoffman Marsh.

A crew of twenty-three turned out for our February work party to weed around the new plantings on project steward Tyson's site and to clear more of that stretch. We welcomed four students from Islington High School in Fremont. (Islington High School continues to support this project, with new student volunteers joining us whenever possible.) Our work party members bring a wealth of experience and knowledge in restoration, California native plants, propagation, and the diversity of land and shore birds that frequent the site.

As we make our way south marsh-side along the trail to Central Avenue, we are encountering a somewhat different set of conditions as well as the occasional new (for us) invasive plant. The area of our current focus is slightly hilly and we are finding some concrete buried in the earth. This area too is the only spot along the project site where we have encountered *Vinca major* which, despite the lack of rain, already started to pop up in some spots after we had cleared the main invasion last year. We came across several patches of a plant that

(*Calchortus luteus*; and right, Ithuriel's spear (*Tritelea laxa*), are by Bill Hunt, who wrote this article.

we had not seen before and did not recognize. Janet ID'd it for us right away as *Arum* sp. (sometimes called Lords-and-Ladies), explaining that it is a tuberous perennial and that it is tricky to eradicate as the corms break off easily and can be mistaken for part of the soil due to their shape and color. Roy expanded on the ID, telling us about the different varieties and their multitude of common names (including cuckoo's pint and orange candleflower), before setting to work with Jane gently digging out each patch and sifting the soil to ensure we snagged every corm.

At the end of the day we planted two *Atriplex lentiformis* (quail bush aka big saltbush) to join the existing specimen further up the trail. As of this writing the rains are falling steadily and the new and established plants at Pt. Isabel are looking beautiful and grateful.

Our thanks as always to the East Bay Regional Park District staff for their support.

Jane and Tom Kelly

Photo of the volunteers by Jane Kelly.



FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, March 2, 10 am, Mount Diablo State Park. Burn area between three springs and North peak.

This is an exploratory trip to see what will be flowering later in the season. We will be walking on steep loose rock and gravel. There are lots of plants sprouting in the burn area. We will return to the parking lot around 2-3 pm. Bring lunch and water.

Gregg Weber will be the trip leader.

Directions: Take 24 or 680 to Ygnacio Valley Road. Continue on Ygnacio Valley Road several miles from Walnut Creek into the city of Clayton, and turn right onto Clayton Road. Don't turn right on Marsh creek road.

Continue on Clayton Road, it later becomes Marsh creek Road. Continue on Marsh Creek Road, until you see Morgan Territory Road Y off to the right. The parking lot is the first right turn off, and park right next to the road. Don't go down the driveway.

Saturday, March 8, 2014, 11:00 am, Redwood Park, 1A rare shrubs

Roy Buck (831-588-1776 roybuck@msn.com) will lead this 3-4 mile hike in Redwood Regional Park. We'll expect to see two of the Bay Area's rarest native shrubs, western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*) and pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*), in flower, along with other interesting natives like oracle oak (*Quercus x morehus*) and, hopefully, some early-flowering wildflowers. There is one half-mile segment of steady, moderately steep uphill. Bring lunch, liquids, and layered clothing; boots recommended. If rain is forecast, be prepared. Meet at the Redwood Bowl Staging Area parking lot.

Directions: From Highway 13 in Oakland, take Joaquin Miller Boulevard east about 1.2 miles to Skyline Boulevard. Turn left and proceed about 1.2 miles. The parking lot will be on the right, signed "Roberts Regional Park. Redwood Bowl Staging Area." (If you get to the entrance to Chabot Space and Science Center, you've gone too far.) Heavy rain cancels.

Sunday, March 9, 10 am, Sobrante Ridge

Meet at the end of Morningside Drive in Richmond/El Sobrante. This 3-mile hike (round trip) will take us through oak/bay woodlands, open grasslands, coastal scrub and manzanita chaparral, home to the rare Alameda manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*). This trail is moderately strenuous with some steep sections. Wear layers and sturdy shoes/boots. The views from the top can be spectacular. Bring lunch to eat at one of the picnic benches at the end of the hike.

Gudrun Kleist will be the trip leader.

Directions: From Berkeley and points south via I-80: Take the San Pablo Dam exit and turn right onto San Pablo Dam Road. Go east on San Pablo Dam through El Sobrante, and then turn left onto May Road, right onto Valley View, and then right on Morningside and follow it all the way to the top.

Via Highway 24: Take the Orinda exit and go west on Camino Pablo through Orinda and past the reservoir. Camino Pablo becomes San Pablo Dam Road in El Sobrante. Once on San Pablo Dam Road, turn right on Valley View, and right again on Morningside and follow it all the way to the top.

Note: Morningside Drive is not an official entrance to Sobrante Ridge Regional Preserve. There is only limited parking at the end of the cul-de-sac. Please park along Morningside or one of the side streets.

Sunday, March 16, 9:30 am, Seafoam Loop and Black Oak Loop at Kennedy Grove, El Sobrante.

Gregg Weber will be leading this trip to a botanically rich area in El Sobrante. In the shady areas under bay trees, there is more plant diversity than you would expect, with many common natives, and some unusual ones. Under the oaks on the ridge there are whole different communities.

Both kinds of false solomon's seal, trilliums, meadow rue, gooseberries, American vetch, shooting stars, cream cups, rein orchids, fritillaries, pipevine, madrone, Wight's paintbrush, arnica, spotted coralroot, Indian warriors, ok, I have to stop now.

This is a short 2.5 mile walk, with only a 400 feet elevation gain up to the ridge, and 150 feet elevation gain on Black Oak Loop.

Directions: From I-80, exit at San Pablo Dam Road and turn onto Castro Ranch Road in El Sobrante. From Orinda, take San Pablo Dam Road to El Sobrante, and turn onto Castro Ranch Road. Go two blocks on Castro Ranch Road, and then turn right onto Hillside Drive. Go about 1/2 mile to the end of Hillside Drive, and then turn left on Patra Drive and park near the trailhead. No entrance fees. Do not turn into the Kennedy Grove park entrance on San Pablo Dam Road.

Sunday, March 23, 10 am, Mount Diablo State Park, North Peak trail from Devil's Elbow to Prospector's Gap. Burn area.

Meet at the Devil's Elbow parking lot at 10 am. This will be an exploratory trip, we will come back later in the season based on what we find sprouting. This trip will be most of the day, so bring lunch and water. We should arrive back at the parking lot around 3:30 pm. There may be steep areas of loose rock and gravel, very difficult to stay upright.

Gregg Weber will be the trip leader.

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 3/4 mile past Juniper Camp's large parking area is a small parking area at Devil's Elbow, where we will meet at 10 am.

Allow about an extra 30 minutes driving time from the base of Mount Diablo, up to Devil's elbow.

Sunday, March 30, 2:00 San Pedro County Park, Pacifica

David Margolies will lead a walk in San Pedro County Park. This San Mateo County park is at the south end of Pacifica. It has coastal scrub and maritime chaparral with many flowering shrubs, including garrya, leatherwood, and California burning bush, and (we hope) many wildflowers. The walk

will have a few hundred feet of elevation gain on a gentle trail and will take about two hours. Meet in the main parking lot. There is a parking fee that must be paid even if the booth is not attended.

Directions: When coming to San Pedro Valley Park from the north (San Francisco) or the south (San Jose), use Highway 280 to Highway 1. Take Highway 1 south to the City of Pacifica. Turn east onto Linda Mar Boulevard (at the southern end of Pacifica). Follow Linda Mar Boulevard until it ends at Oddstad Boulevard. Turn right on Oddstad Boulevard. Proceed on Oddstad Boulevard one block to the park entrance.

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

Point Molate Update (Richmond Shoreline BPPA)

On February 14th the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (EBCNPS) submitted a letter to the Pt. Molate Community Advisory Committee and members of the Richmond City Council regarding goat grazing at Pt. Molate. This topic was brought to our attention due to a recent Pt. Molate Community Advisory Committee meeting where goat grazing for habitat management at Pt. Molate was discussed. Pt. Molate is one of EBCNPS's Botanical Priority Protection Areas due to its coastal prairie grassland and intact native habitats that intergrade from the bay shoreline into highland areas. Four years ago, Pt. Molate was the subject of national news when the Richmond City Council decided to abandon plans to build a Las Vegas-style casino resort at the site. EBCNPS was active in the effort to prevent the casino development and we have kept a close eye on the future of the area ever since.

EBCNPS is pleased to see an effort being made to manage the native habitat at Pt. Molate and to stem the spread of invasive weeds such as French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) that are shading out areas of native grassland. However, we are urging caution during the planning of these actions to ensure that sensitive habitat areas are not affected by any well-intentioned but poorly planned activities. Goat grazing in the East Bay has a history of doing more harm than good. An example of the potential damage goats can do when improperly managed can be seen at Knowland Park, where goats were allowed to graze several acres of rare native grassland down to bare soil last summer. We are hopeful that the City of Richmond will take the proper steps (including detailed botanical surveys of the areas being considered for grazing) to ensure that any action is properly planned so as to have minimal unintended impacts to the sensitive native habitats at Pt. Molate.

Our letter can be viewed at: <http://tinyurl.com/klhylq>.

Volunteer Opportunity in February and March in Tri-Valley Area

EBCNPS has been following an effort over the past several months by Dublin residents to craft and submit an initiative in Dublin that would create an urban limit line on Dublin's east-

ern boundary. This initiative represents a great opportunity to protect Doolan Canyon, part of our East Dublin and Tassajara Botanical Priority Protection Area (BPPA), from urban development. The initiative was recently submitted to the City, and now we are hoping to help this effort by mobilizing volunteers for the signature drive to qualify the initiative.

Doolan Canyon makes up a central portion of our East Dublin and Tassajara BPPA. It is recognized for priority protection due to its alkaline soils that run the entire length of the canyon's valley bottom, and its vernal pools. The area is also designated critical habitat for the California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. Currently, the canyon provides a natural buffer between Dublin and Livermore. Unfortunately, Dublin does not have an Urban Growth Boundary on its east side, leaving much of our Priority Protection Area at risk of development. In fact, a 2,000 unit development is proposed for Doolan Canyon right now. The proposed limit line would make the city's western urban growth line permanent.

How you can help: Volunteer to collect signatures so an east side Urban Growth Boundary in Dublin can be voted on by the people. With 3,500 signatures the initiative will be added to the ballot and we can help to protect this habitat. No prior experience is necessary to collect signatures. Training will be provided. The only requirement is that you be eligible to vote in California, that is: a California resident, U.S. citizen, and at least 18 years old. You do not need to live in Dublin. If you are interested, please contact me, Mack Casterman, EBCNPS Conservation Analyst at conservation@ebcnps.org or (510) 734-033.

Volunteering: The Conservation Committee is always looking for new volunteers to get involved in our many projects. If you are interested in working with me on any of the projects that you have read about on our blog or in past Conservation Analyst Updates, please feel free to contact me by phone at (510) 734-0335 or by email at conservation@ebcnps.org. And as always, for more detailed updates on all of our conservation projects please visit the Conservation Blog at <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com/>.

KNOWLAND PARK/OAKLAND ZOO REPORT

Over the past month CNPS and Friends of Knowland Park have continued to leaflet and picket the Oakland Zoo to inform visitors of the zoo's plans to expand into Knowland Park. As we reach out to the public, we have been surprised to learn that many people thought that the project was killed when Measure A1 failed last year. Sad to say, despite growing public opposition to the California Trails project, the zoo continues down its stubborn path to destruction.

Through Freedom of Information Act and Public Record Act requests, we have learned that both the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife have rejected the zoo's claims that the impacts of the project are only temporary. Instead the agencies agree with one another that the impacts are permanent and as a result will require approximately 20 more acres of Alameda whipsnake habitat in order to mitigate for these impacts. We learned that the zoo met with the agencies for the purpose of discussing how to decrease this required acreage, but we do not yet know the outcome of that meeting or if and when the agencies will grant them their permits.

While the zoo is busy greenwashing its reputation as a conservation organization, its behavior with the regulatory agencies behind closed doors tells a different story. Once again correspondence reveals the central irony: that the zoo is attempting to lay claims to the conservation mantle with this project, even as it tries to whittle away mitigation requirements behind closed doors. This is not how conservation organizations view wild land habitat—as a setting, a backdrop against which to portray an imitation of nature. Authenticity is key to developing a true conservation ethic, and without the ability to identify native habitats as they exist in nature, our children and coming generations will never be able to become the conservationists, naturalists, biologists, and botanists of the future. Bulldozing the living laboratory to serve the ambitions of building a bigger zoo is an act of singular destruction.

We need your help in spreading the word. Currently, we have two petitions to sign: the first is to the major donors of the zoo, asking them to withdraw funding and support for this project as it is currently designed. The second is to the members of the East Bay Zoological Society's Board of Trustees asking them to reconsider their decision to move forward with the project. (See below for links to the petitions.) At a recent Board meeting, we learned that the zoo has gotten a \$10 million

“bridge” loan, but we have no means for knowing how the loan was secured. Although the Zoological Society is required by its Management Agreement to report on its financial status (including submitting capital spending plans to the city), it has not done so. Multiple Public Record Act requests revealed that a one page capital spending plan consisted solely of estimated costs of a list of projects, but absolutely not a shred of information as to how these projects would be paid for. Furthermore, we can find no evidence that the \$10 million loan was approved by the Oakland City Council as required by the Management Agreement.

It appears that the zoo will plunge ahead recklessly regardless of contractual and legal requirements, public opinion, or common sense. If you are interested in helping us combat this project and its potential to damage and destroy two rare plant communities and many species of locally rare plants, please contact our Conservation Analyst, Mack Casterman, at 510-734-0335 or at conservation@ebcnps.org. For more information about Knowland Park and the fight to save it, visit www.saveknowland.org.

Last minute plant report: although two years of drought and continued overgrazing by goats produced an ugly moonscape in the park through the summer and fall months, the recent meager rains have begun to green up the native grasses, Fremont's lilies have begun to bloom, and the manzanitas are producing nascent inflorescences. Out on the native prairie there are thousands of lupine cotyledons peeking out of the soil, promising another year of spectacular blooms (perhaps in April?) if this week's predicted storms deliver some substantial rain.

Petition to big donors:
<http://tinyurl.com/kl4jt87>

Petition to Zoo Board:
<http://tinyurl.com/lftvdn8>

The Knowland Park Team

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Nursery News

There have been a significant amount of changes to the inventory this month. See it online at www.nativeherenursery.org by clicking on "plants for sale". Use the tabs at the bottom (like a spreadsheet) to navigate between the alphabetical list and geographic sub-sections. The 'comments' field is generally used to indicate abundance, where a blank comment indicates that we have 4 - 20 for sale.

We have *Allium* spp. available and will continue adding more such as *Fritillaria* and *Calochortus* as this month progresses. We have re-arranged our bulbs into an east of the hills and west of the hills section for easier care. Specific provenance is, as always, being maintained within these two sub-groups.

Thanks go to this blessed rain that has been heroically pushing through the high pressure system and beautifying the nursery. Our desert olive (*Forestiera pubescens*) is emerging from dormancy beautiful against its white winter bark. There is also still time to plant buttercups, larkspurs, columbine, checkerbloom, and others for perennial spring color.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Open hours drop-in help: Fridays potting group, Saturdays maintenance and plant care, and Tuesdays inventory and special projects.
- March 22nd repotting workday from 9:30-12:00. There will be a host of trees and shrubs to knock out of their cans, examine and break up root balls, and put into larger homes.

- Help with sales on May 3rd-4th when we will be open each day from 10 am-5 pm in connection with the Bringing Back the Natives garden tours.
- Help with planning this year's Plant Fair, which will be held October 4th and 5th. No volunteer job too large or too small.
- What inspires you! Drop in or drop us an email at native-here@ebcnps.org with an idea.

New Staff

I would like to introduce you to our new part-time staff member, Adam Huggins. Adam is filling part of Margot's old role, as well as taking care of pressing inventory needs. (A few of you may have met Molly who was with us for a brief time and moved on to another job in the Presidio.)

Adam is a student of ecology, a permaculture designer, and an artist. A Bay native, he has studied, foraged, propagated, grafted, and stalked the native and introduced flora of the west coast from British Columbia to Big Sur. He is delighted to have the opportunity to work at Native Here, and looks forward to continuing to working at the nursery and making new friends who share his love of our native flora.

Theo Fitanides

Native Here Nursery manager



One-leaf onion (*Allium unifolium*) Photo by Janice Bray. From the dvd *East Bay Native Plants* (available at Native Here Nursery).



Spreading larkspur (*Delphinium patens* var. *patens*) Photo by Janice Bray. From the dvd *East Bay Native Plants*.

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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

East Bay Chapter News list Emailed announcements of upcoming EBCNPS events

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Name _____

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I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other _____

Membership category:

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Family, Library, Group or International, \$75

Plant lover, \$100

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Limited Income or student, \$25.00

Other _____

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

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2014 Conservation Analyst Fund Almost There! \$1579 needed to meet our Goal of \$40,000

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