



June 2015

The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERS' MEETING ON HIATUS UNTIL SEPTEMBER

East Bay CNPS Programs will take a break for our summer recess during the months of June through August. Watch the chapter newsletter and website for announcements of our

September meeting. And as always, be sure to share your ideas for program topics or speakers: They are always welcome.

THEO FITANIDES, NATIVE HERE MANAGER, MOVES ON

Theo Fitanides, manager of the Native Here Nursery, has decided to move on to a new job. We will miss him. See below for information on applying for the manager's job. The editors.

Dear East Bay CNPS,

I am both happy and regretful to announce that I will resign as Manager of Native Here Nursery effective June 24th. I will miss talking with customers, working alongside volunteers, and growing our local flora. I am confident in the future of our Chapter nursery, both for its fundraising capacity and its ability to connect with and educate community members and plant advocates. Charli Danielsen began something truly remarkable and unique back in the early nineties, when she began to realize her vision of a native plant nursery growing local plants for local places. While I have made some efficiency changes to the operation of the nursery, the core principles remain the same and I trust that our Chapter will continue to refine, and grow, its vision for Native Here.

I believe that during my time with CNPS we have set the nursery on a good path, and I am glad to be turning over leadership to whoever will be next. I have already begun

working with a committee of Board Members and other dedicated volunteers to ensure that this transition is as smooth as possible, creating a more robust structure in its wake.

I will be moving back toward field botany, working with AECOM on various projects, not the least of which will be keying plants from field surveys. I plan on staying involved with CNPS, and will remain on the steering committee for the California Native Nursery Network. I hope to see some of you on weekend stewardship projects, and if the new manager can strong-arm me I might just take on a watering assignment at the nursery.

Thank you to all the volunteers, Board Members, CNPS State office staff, and customers who have supported me and the nursery during my 20 months here. I am especially thankful for the wisdom and counsel of John and Charli Danielsen, and the training from Margot Cunningham.

Best wishes,
Theo Fitanides

NATIVE HERE MANAGER

Job Opening
Nursery Manager
Native Here Nursery

To apply send a cover letter, resume and contact information for 3 references to Sue Duckles by e-mail at spduckle@uci.edu or mail to 3360 Ruben Drive, Oakland, CA 94602.

Review of applications begins ASAP.

The California Native Plant Society is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

Help Save Tesla Park! – Comment Now on Carnegie SVRA General Plan DEIR

On April 23rd the California State Park's Off-Highway Motor Vehicular Recreation Division released its new Preliminary General Plan for and accompanying Environmental Impact Report for Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (CSVRA). This plan includes the expansion of Carnegie onto 3,400 acres of wildland in eastern Alameda County (an area commonly referred to as Tesla Park – this is also the area designated by EBCNPS as our “Corral Hollow” Botanical Priority Protection Area). The General Plan and EIR can be found at this link: <http://carnegiegeneralplan.com/document-library>

EBCNPS is preparing to submit detailed comments on the plan. We are working to establish Tesla Park as a *non-motorized low impact* historic and natural resource park and preserve. We believe that such a designation would provide the best protection for the rare native habitats and critical wildlife corridor that exist on the Tesla Park land while still providing recreational and educational value to the general public.

To learn more about Tesla Park and its wonderful natural resources please visit: www.teslapark.org . While you're there, be sure to sign up to the mailing list, click on the Facebook **Like** button on www.teslapark.org and consider making a donation to the effort. Also, be sure to check

out our Corral Hollow Botanical Priority Protection Area description on page 12 and 13 of our BPPA Guidebook at: <http://ebcnps.org/bppabotanical/GuidebookBPPA-EBCNPS-download-web.pdf>

We need all the help we can get to show strong support for a non-motorized alternative land use for this area. State Parks had originally set the due date for comments as June 8th, but they have since bumped it back. The new **comment deadline is June 29**. Please, review the documents and submit comments before the deadline.

To send your message to State Parks you can fill in an online form at

<http://www.CarnegieGeneralPlan.com/DEIR-comments> .

You can support Friends of Tesla Park and help save Tesla at <http://www.teslapark.org/>

I will be posting more information as it becomes available on the EBCNPS Conservation Blog:

<http://ebcnps.wordpress.com>

*Mack Casterman
Conservation Analyst*



Photos by Mack Casterman. ORV damage at the Tesla site. Compared with an unspoiled view with Mt. Diablo in the distance on the next page.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, June 13, 2015, 9:45 AM to 2:15 PM: Redwood Regional Park, manzanitas sedges, ferns, anzanitas, violets. Meet at the Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Boulevard, Oakland. Join Gregg Weber to see five species of sedge. Learn some basics of sedge ID. A copy of *Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges* and the key from the 2012 *Jepson Manual* will be available for reference. We will take the Redwood Peak Trail, the French Trail, the Starflower Trail, los Tres Sendas Trail, and the Stream Trail. We will also see plenty of redwood violets and stream violets, both of which are yellow.

LOCAL STUDENT PROMOTES DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS

Aubrey Jean is a student in Environmental Science at Solano College. Her professor is Dr. Pam Muick, Secretary of the Jepson Chapter, CNPS. Aubrey also works at the Aveda Store on Fourth Street in Berkeley. For Earth Month Aubrey asked our Chapter for donations of local drought tolerant plants that she would pot in re-used Aveda product bottles and sell for donations to The Clean Water Fund. Theo Fitandis, manager of Native Here Nursery, liked the idea and donated dozens of seedlings. The photo shows Aubrey Jean and one of the final products. Brochures about Native Here and CNPS were on display at the store. We enjoyed working with Aubrey and look forward to more projects together.

Aveda has celebrated Earth Month for over 10 years and has generated over \$20,000 for the Clean Water Fund (www.cleanwaterfund.org). Aveda manufactures skin care, cosmetics and hair care products, and trains students in cosmetology and esthology.

Delia Taylor

Directions: Get onto Skyline Drive in the Hills above Oakland. Go to the Chabot Space Center, which is about 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 signs saying private property; they do not apply to Park or Chabot Space Center visitors.



POINT ISABEL RESTORATION

Pt. Isabel is in full regalia these days. Not just poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) but the buckeyes (*Aesculus californica*) we planted several years ago are now flowering as are the morning glories (*Calystegia occidentalis*), the farewell-to-spring (*Clarkia rubicunda*), and the bee plant (*Scrophularia californica*). The toyons (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), a favorite food source for the cedar waxwings and robins, are just beginning to shed their flowers. Soon the fleshy red berries that the birds look forward to devouring will ripen. We learned that the guts in the robins expand when the berries are ripe to allow them to consume one berry after another. Lacy phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*) is ending its blooming cycle and forming many seeds.

In steward Nathan's site the bunch grasses that we discovered in winter (under the oat grass) are now blooming and were identified by Gudrun Kleist and Janet Gawthrop as California brome (*Bromus carinatus*) blue wild rye (*Elymus glaucus*), and red fescue (*Festuca rubra*). We didn't plant these grasses. Were they perhaps recently seeded by birds or were their seeds in the soils that were deposited at the site? We'll never know,

but we are glad to have discovered them and will ensure they have room to re-seed and spread.

Steward Margot's Adopt-a-Spot at Central Avenue/Rydin Road is being transformed from a weed and trash ridden corner to a beautiful native plant site. A new volunteer, Nancy, saw the work underway when she was walking by and joined us on May 16 to help finish the restoration. The volunteers – including some hard working students from Berkeley High – at our two work parties in May removed radish, thistle, and oat grass. They also pulled out huge amounts of Russian thistle (*Salsola soda*) from an area just outside of our project. Kudos to EBRPD Ranger Bruce Adams, who brought us all the tools and also transported the bags of weeds to the main weed pile up the trail.

Steward Arthur T. is conducting water quality testing of the marsh to check on its health and reports that he ran into a family of skunks that he, gratefully, managed to get past without any harm to either.

Jane and Tom Kelly



MORE POINT ISABEL RESTORATION PHOTOS



Photos by Jane Kelly. On previous page, Margot and Nancy at Margot's corner. On this page, two group shots, festuca which appeared on its own, and yarrow.



NATIVE HERE NURSERY: SUMMER TALKS

Native Here Nursery's 2015 "Sense of Place" Summer Talk Series to Focus on Water.

The Native Here Nursery is all about a *sense of place*: the plants are locally native, grown from seed and cuttings collected in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Featuring these plants in your garden links you to the insects, the birds, the soil types, the geography of this place where we live. And also to the climate, which is drought-prone, a characteristic with which we all now have first-hand experience.

The theme of water leads us to water conservation through talks on irrigation efficiency, no-irrigation native plant gardening, and "losing your lawn". The water theme also leads us

to consider East Bay plants that require the driest of habitats, and those that require the wettest of habitats, manzanitas and redwoods respectively. We will explore the theme of water and Sense of Place as part of the human experience in our East Bay landscape through poetry readings and music.

Time: 10:30 to noon

Location: Native Here Nursery, 101 Golf Course Drive, Berkeley, CA

See the Native Here Nursery website for more details (nativeherenursery.org).

Date	Title	speaker	About the Speaker
June 6	Water-wise Gardening with Native Plants	Margo Cunningham, Dave Drummond, and Anita Pereira	Margot was the sales manager for Native Here for 13 years before retiring in 2013. Dave is a co-founder of California Habitats Indigenous Activists, which has created and is maintaining a native coastal prairie along the Ohlone Greenway. Anita created wonderful habitat home for butterflies, bees, birds, frogs, and reptiles around her home.
June 20	Ecology of manzanitas of the East Bay	Bert Johnson	Bert is a manzanita enthusiast and expert and a retired member of the East Bay Regional Park District Botanic Garden staff.
July 11	Irrigation Efficiency	Seth Wright	Seth is a Landscape Contractor specializing in Irrigation Efficiency and has been in the landscape industry for 20 years.
July 18	Ecology of East Bay Redwoods	Emily Burns	Emily is Director of Science at Save the Redwoods League.
August 1	The Poetry of Water	Kirk Lumpkin, Host	Kirk, a poet, helped facilitate the Watershed Environmental Poetry Festival [with Poetry Flash & former U.S. Poet Laureate, Robert Hass], and regularly hosts poetry readings.

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Join Friends of Albany Hill on the last Saturday of each month to eradicate invasives and pick up trash on Albany Hill, a city park covered with eucalyptus trees but harboring surprising biodiversity. Barbara Ertter, co-author of *Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora*, documented over 100 native plants on the hill and surrounding Cerrito Creek in 1999. Migrating monarch butterflies roost in the eucalyptus every year from September to March. Two UC entomologists documented over 100 species of moths and butterflies on the hill in the late 1990s, birdwatchers have counted over 50 species of birds, and over 50 species of bryophytes (mosses and related plants) have been found there. To get on our email list, contact Margot Cunningham at <mailto:friendsalbanyhill@gmail.com>

Margot Cunningham

Volunteer Workday and Creek Cleanup

Nature walk: It Takes a Watershed to Raise a Creek
Wednesday, June 3, 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Abrigo Valley Trail, Briones Regional Park (directions below)

Thousands of Native Americans and pioneers lived near creeks in this watershed during the last 10,000 years. Join SPAWNERS as retired EBMUD ranger Bob Flasher leads us on a beautiful walk along the Abrigo Valley Trail in Briones Regional Park. Bob will talk to us about how many people our current water system serves now, how this is possible, and what to expect when the water source no longer exists. We will appreciate the wildlife and local flora along the trail on this gentle walk. We hope that you can join us.

To access the trailhead turn off of San Pablo Dam Road onto Bear Creek Road. Travel east for 5 miles and turn right into East Bay Regional Park's Bear Creek Staging Area. Take an immediate left at the kiosk and meet us in the parking lot.

Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle, and SPAWNERS will provide snacks. RSVP to helen@thewatershedproject.org. Apologies to your canine friends, but please leave dogs at home.

To learn more about any of our events or to RSVP, contact Helen at (510) 665-3538 or helen@thewatershedproject.org

Saturday, June 6, 9:20 am-2 pm, Pt. Isabel restoration at Eastshore State Park

Meet at the Eastshore State Park lot at the end of Rydin Road next to Hoffman Marsh. We remove invasive plants and revegetate with natives grown from plants found at the site.

Saturday, June 20, 9:20 am-2 pm, Pt. Isabel restoration at Eastshore State Park

Meet at the Eastshore State Park lot at the end of Rydin Road next to Hoffman Marsh. We remove invasive plants and revegetate with natives grown from plants found at the site.

Volunteer Workday in Beaconsfield Canyon

Saturday, June 27, 9-12

In June we'll be focusing on evicting some of the most fire prone plants--thistle and annual grasses. Please join us. We provide tools, gloves, water and snacks. Wear long sleeves, long pants and shoes with good treads. All are welcome, no experience necessary. We meet at 2639 Beaconsfield Place off Chelton Drive in Montclair. Just walk in on the dirt road. For more information, email richard@rkcommunications.com.

Richard Kauffman

(510) 531-1237

(510) 908-2563 (cell)

richard@rkcommunications.com

June 27, 9:30-11:30 am, Friends of Albany Hill work party

Pull ivy and pick up trash. Gloves and tools supplied but bring a favorite weeding tool if you like. Wear close-toed shoes with good traction and clothes that can get dirty. Long pants and long sleeves recommended. Meet in meadow on south side of Cerrito Creek near benches. Walk downhill from the end of Madison, walk in from Pierce Street along the south side of the creek, or ford the creek from El Cerrito's Creekside Park, end of Santa Clara St. AC Transit 25 and 72 stop nearby. Info: mail to friendsalbanyhill@gmail.com

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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

East Bay Chapter News list Emailed announcements of upcoming EBCNPS events

List manager--Martha Booz
mlbooz@calnatives.com

Native Here Nursery

510-549-0211
Manager—Theo Fitantes
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Native Here inventory specialist
Adam Huggins

Plant Fair

vacant

Restoration Huckleberry Regional Preserve

Janet Gawthrop, leader
janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

Point Isabel

Tom and Jane Kelly, leaders
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510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net

Marsh Creek

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925-957-0069
hbartosh@nomadecology.com

John Muir NHS (Martinez)

Elaine Jackson, leader
925-372-0687
elainejx@att.net

Walnut Creek

Lesley Hunt, leader
925-937-6791
ldhunt@astound.net

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