



April 2017

The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnp.org www.nativeherenursery.org

MEMBERS' MEETING APRIL

A Journey Back in Time on San Miguel Island

Speaker: Bob Sikora

Wednesday, April 26, 7:30 pm

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (directions below)

Extending west into the Pacific beyond the area sheltered by Point Conception, San Miguel Island has been sheltered from people for decades—by the weather, the Navy, and now, hopefully, by the National Park Service. The island's isolation has left it as a virtual museum of California geology and archaeology. Bob Sikora has had occasion to visit the island several times, beginning 50 years ago. As you will see, a visit is an experience akin to walking on the moon. He will take us there on April 26.

Bob Sikora (MA, zoology, UC Berkeley) was one of the first four research divers at UC Berkeley. He taught advanced biology at Berkeley High and enjoys nature photography in his retirement.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 26 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room opens at 7 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Questions? Email programs@ebcnp.org or call 510-496-6016.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 26 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.

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 southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

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 Library.

Next Month's Program:

May 24, 7:30 pm, Garden Room, Orinda Public Library
Ted Kipping: Pacific Coast Irises and Their Beautiful Love Children



San Miguel Island location (image OpenStreetMap contributors)

Thursday, May 4, 2017 is a Big Day of Giving for Sacramento Area non-profits including the California Native Plant Society. See <https://www.bigdayofgiving.org/CNPS> for information on how to contribute.

CONSERVATION ANALYST'S REPORT

Antioch Residents Turn out for Forum on Sand Creek Housing Development

Over 180 people crowded into Antioch's Prewett Community Center one night in late February to talk about housing development plans slated for southeast Antioch, south of Lone Tree Way. A large planning area named the "Sand Creek Focus Area" in City planning documents, this four square mile area lies on both sides of Deer Valley Road in southeast Antioch. The Kaiser Center sits inside; the entire planning area stretches lengthwise from slightly east of the hospital all the way over to Black Diamond Mines. Water flows east from the oak woodland foothills of Black Diamond Mines Regional Park and across a broad sweeping valley, then crosses Deer Valley Road. This is Sand Creek, from which the planning area takes its name. (See maps on the next page.)

The forum was organized by Antioch residents, Save Mount Diablo, Sierra Club, Greenbelt Alliance, and the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (EBCNPS). EBCNPS is advocating the protection of the rare and unique plant species and communities of Sand Creek. The Sand Creek Focus Area almost fully occupies the "Four Valleys" conservation area from the Chapter's 2010 publication, "Botanical Priority Protection Areas (BPPA) of the East Bay" (<http://ebcnps.org/publications/guidebook-to-botanical-priority-protection-areas/>)

Dianne Lake, EBCNPS Unusual Plants Committee Chair, assembled a list of more than 200 rare, unusual and significant native plants likely to occur within the Sand Creek Focus Area. Megan Keever and Nicole Jurjavcic, the Chapter's Vegetation Committee Co-Chairs, examined the California Natural Diversity Database vicinity occurrence records and found several rare natural communities that may occur in Sand Creek Focus Area, such as alkali meadow and seeps, northern claypan vernal pools, and cismontane alkali marsh.

I shared photos of several native plants with the forum audience. Many residents were surprised to learn about the variety and beauty of their natural heritage. Some of these genera have known occurrences within the City of Antioch, commonly encountered on a trail hike. Other pictures showed species that are documented within eastern Contra Costa County, but are rare gems: brodiaea (*Brodiaea* spp.), calandrinia (*Calandrinia* spp.), round-leaved filaree (*California*

macrophylla), showy golden madia (*Madia radiata*), diamond-petaled California poppy (*Eschscholzia rhombipetala*), small-flowered morning-glory (*Convolvulus simulans*), adobe navarretia (*Navarretia nigelliformis* ssp. *nigelliformis*) and various fiddlenecks (*Amsinckia* spp.) with attractive caterpillar-shaped inflorescences. The area also includes potential habitat for rare large-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia grandiflora*), and recently rediscovered Mt. Diablo buckwheat (*Eriogonum truncatum*). Ending the slideshow, I recounted a few local native plant protection successes, including preservation of rare Antioch Dunes evening-primrose (*Oenothera deltooides* ssp. *howellii*), and Antioch Dunes buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum* var. *psychicola*).

The City is still proposing to allow the building of up to 4,000 housing units in the Sand Creek Focus Area. Of particular concern is a development named "The Ranch," up to 1,300 houses in almost one third of the Sand Creek Focus Area between Empire Mine Road and Deer Valley Road. If constructed, the Ranch project could stimulate even more development along its outskirts.

Public concern is growing, and residents are telling the City that the planning area for housing is too big, with too many houses. Residents at the forum expressed concern about added traffic delays, neighborhood safety, loss of focus away from other revitalization plans, and of course, loss of a beautiful open space. The organizations involved support more community workshops, a full EIR, and an alternative that shrinks the Urban Growth Boundary (aka, Urban Limit Line). Stimulated by the February forum turnout, City officials scheduled two "Listening Forums" in late March. Most importantly, residents at all these forums are loudly voicing their desire to keep some of the area's natural beauty and see Antioch fix its other issues before adding large housing developments.

If you have photos or special stories about Antioch's open spaces and wildflower fields, or wish to keep informed on this issue, please contact me at conservation@ebcnps.org. For more information and photos of the site there is also a Facebook page, "Antioch Community to Save Sand Creek", <https://www.facebook.com/antiochcommunitytosavesandcreekandstoptheranch/>

Karen Whitestone

UC BOTANICAL GARDEN PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 29, 10 am - 2 pm
[UC Botanical Garden Spring Plant Sale](#)

Your Source For Waterwise Plants

Despite the recent rains waterwise gardening in the Bay area is smart and sensible. The Garden offers a wide selection of drought resistant plants from around the world, including an extensive selection of California natives. Shop for exotic, unusual and hard to find plants: rare cycads

and palms, carnivorous plants, cacti and succulents, vines, tropical specimens and more. There is something for everyone at the Spring Plant Sale.

Great Advice and Guidance

The UC Botanical Garden's expert staff and volunteers take pride in the plants we grow and propagate. We'll be here to answer questions, give advice, and talk all things plants.

<http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/springplantsale/>



POINT ISABEL RESTORATION IN MARCH 2017

This Point Isabel Restoration Project article is dedicated to all our volunteers, both current and past, without whom we could never have accomplished much nor could we have been able to maintain our own commitment to making Hoffman Marsh the best habitat possible.

Since getting under way nearly a decade ago we have had thousands of volunteers participate in the restoration effort. In the early years volunteers pulled out hundreds of tall, invasive French broom shrubs, moved mulch, eliminated Cape Ivy, ice plant (well, as long as you don't look at the I-580 embankment), thistle, radish, mustard and more. Daisy Scouts, Eagle Scouts, schools, churches and synagogues, office workers, and more are taking part.

Just this month we welcomed 30 volunteers at the work party on March 4. English Studies Institute (ESI) students from Japan, CorePower Yoga teachers-in-training from the Bay Area, Point Isabel Stewards and Core Volunteers. We mixed up the groups to help the ESI students learn many new English words. Pulling oat grass and oxalis, sheltering beetle cocoons and spiders. Learning how to say to the little creatures "See You Later, Alligator" and learning the correct response of "After a While, Crocodile". Inspecting the California native plants - poppies, toyon, California sage brush, lizard tail, monkey flowers and bunch grasses. Shore birds fed everywhere, including great blue heron, egrets large and small, willets, ducks, buffleheads and geese. Both groups did a tremendous weed removal job and CorePower Yoga teachers-in-training stepped up and helped an ESI student stretch to relieve a leg cramp.

On March 6 we worked with Steward Margot to start replanting the Adopt-a-Spot that had been erroneously mowed by Caltrans. We settled in a five-gallon buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) as well as pink flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum* v. *glutinosum*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), big saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), California phacelia (*Phacelia californica*), and sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*). Margot found the young buckeye that had been mowed to the ground but that is beginning to grow again. At the end of March Margot will supervise an Eagle Scout candidate who will remove invasive grass and complete the replanting of this site.

On March 9 we planted six more yampah (*Perideridia kelloggii*) on Steward Tom's site to create a good patch for the anise swallowtail caterpillars.

On March 18 we had our 2nd work party with Stewards, Core Volunteers, and new volunteers Matt and Charlotte and spent a serene and very productive day removing oat grass, oxalis, thistle, dandelion and California burclover (not native, despite its common name). Core Volunteer Rob Kirby picked up all the trash along the trail preventing any of it from reaching the marsh.

Thanks to EBRPD Recreation Supervisor Jeremy Saito for the bandanas and hats. Thanks as always to our District Ranger, Bruce Adams.

Jane and Tom Kelly



March 4 crew (previous page), Core Yoga volunteers (upper left), Berkeley High volunteer Charlotte (upper right), Gudrun with ESI students (below). Photos by Jane Kelly.



NATIVE HERE WATERING TEAM NEEDED

Join the watering team and save lives — plant lives!

Native Here Nursery (shown below) is in need of a few more watering team members. We have watering slots available on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays. If you like solitude you can water when the nursery is closed. If you prefer the fellowship of volunteers doing a variety of activities, we have slots to fill while the nursery is open.

We depend entirely on volunteers to keep the nursery going, and there are ways for volunteers with many backgrounds and skills to be involved.

For more details on how you may become involved with the nursery see <http://nativeherenursery.org/volunteer-opportunities/> or email the Volunteer Coordinator at rpearsons1@mac.com, East Bay CNPS Native Here Nursery.



GOLDEN HOUR INSTITUTE EVENTS

On April 10, the Golden Hour Institute is having a workshop for five people to learn QGIS - a fantastic free GIS platform. This workshop is intended for beginners who want to find out how to set up open source Geographic Information Systems software and some basic functions around using it. Note, space is limited to five - you must buy a ticket here: <https://introtoqgis-goldenhour.eventbrite.com>

This workshop will be conducted indoors at the David Brower Center - 2nd Floor conference room - 2150 Allston Way Berkeley, CA. Cost: \$35, light evening snacks provided.

In April the Institute plans to have a rare plant workshop on taking a census of an endangered annual plant.

Lech Naumovich
Executive Director
Golden Hour Restoration Institute
David Brower Center
2150 Allston Way - Suite 32
Berkeley, CA 94704
510 495 5885
www.goldenhour.org

FIELD TRIPS

April 1-6

[Death Valley, Amarogosa and Panamint Ranges botany trip](#)

April 8

Toyon Canyon April 8

<https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/235194203/>

April 15-20

[Joshua Tree National Park Botany trip](#)

April 29-May 5

[Mojave National Preserve 8 day trip](#)

As part of the year-long celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy's work, the Conservancy and East Bay Regional Park District are hosting a series of hikes on properties that have been acquired and have not yet opened to the public. Save Mount Diablo, Nomad Ecology, and the California Native Plant Society-East Bay are partnering with the Conservancy and EBRPD to lead hikes. The hikes for April and May are listed below.

Explore Horse Valley (Roddy Ranch) - South Antioch Area

Sunday, April 9, 9:30-noon

Monday, April 10, 9:30-noon

Participants must register in advance. The registration link

WORKSHOPS BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Workshops at the Ruth Bancroft Garden

The Garden will host monthly free all-day events featuring different themes that relate to sustainable gardening practices. Here are the themes for upcoming Waterwise Wednesdays:

Wednesday, April 12: Expert Advice for Drought Tolerant Garden. Learn the best practices and "how to's" of converting a traditional lawn to a vibrant drought tolerant garden

Wednesday, May 10: Making and Using Compost. In conjunction with International Compost Awareness Week, come learn how to make and use compost--the secret ingredient for improving your soil and invigorating your plants.

Wednesday, June 14: Birds, Bats and Other Pollinators. Welcome birds, bats and other important pollinators into your garden. Find out how to choose plants that will provide food and habitats for wildlife.

Wednesday, July 12: Insect Friends and Foes. Learn about organic methods of pest control including how to cultivate beneficial insects and identify garden pests.

Wednesday, August 9: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Water in the Garden. Learn how to set up water conserving drip irrigation systems, harvest rainwater or set up a grey water recycling system in your garden.

Wednesday, September 13: Native Plants. Plants that are adapted to our climate and soils thrive in garden settings and require much less supplemental watering. Fall is the perfect time for planting native plants! Learn from experts

to the hike is here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/explore-horse-valley-rodny-ranch-tickets-32179453612>

Hosted by the Conservancy and Nomad Ecology.

Exclusive Irish Canyon Property Tour - Clayton Area Saturday, May 13, 9 am-1pm

Participants must register in advance at:

<https://irish-canyon-property-hike.eventbrite.com>

Hosted by Save Mount Diablo, this docent-led hike will be on:

Abigail Fateman

Phone: (925) 674-7820

Email: Abigail.Fateman@dcd.cccounty.us

Sunday, April 23, 9:30 am, field trip to Richmond Hills Join Dick Schneider and Janet Gawthrop for this beginner-level walk into the Richmond Hills, starting from the Clark-Boas trailhead. This trip will focus on the mixed grasslands and conservation election victory last year, in which voters saved this open space adjoining East Bay Regional Parks. If you have a grass key that you want to learn to use, bring it along. This is a good place to learn keying grasses in the field, if you don't mind staying on in the middle of the day. You can RSVP either by e-mail janetgawthrop47@gmail.com or go to www.meetup.com/ebcnps/.

about designing and choosing plants for your water-wise garden.

Anna Halverson
Ruth Bancroft Garden
1552 Bancroft Road
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
925-944-9352

Mono Lake Workshop on High Country Plants and Habitats

July 28-30, Friday-Sunday, 2017

Instructor: Ann Howald

Cost: \$165 per person, \$150 for Mono Lake Committee members, limited to 15 participants

Taught in the Tioga Pass region of the Sierra Nevada, this field seminar visits subalpine meadows, forests, lakeshores, streams, and natural rock gardens. Field identification of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and ferns, resident birds, insects and other wildlife combines with discussions of how these plants and animals rely on each other for food, seed distribution, nesting sites, and other necessities. A special focus is how high elevation plants and animals are being affected by climate change, and how they are coping with "weird weather" and other new realities.

For detailed information, please visit: <http://www.mono-lake.org/visit/seminars>

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megan@stillwatersci.com

Nicole Jurjavcic, Co-Chair
nicole@stillwatersci.com

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
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Charli Danielsen, production manager
charlid@pacbell.net

Volunteer Coordinator Ruth Ann Pearsons
rapearsons1@mac.com

Penny Spear, infrastructure

Gudrun Kleist, bulbs

John Danielsen, propagule collection
dnlsen@pacbell.net

Saige White, Nursery assistant
swhite@cnps.com

Restoration Projects Leaders:
Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve
Janet Gawthrop, leader
Janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

John Muir NHS (Martinez)
Elaine Jackson, leader

925-372-0687
elainejx@att.net

Marsh Creek
Heath Bartosh, leader
925-957-0069
hbartosh@nomadecology.com

Point Isabel
Strawberry Creek
Tom and Jane Kelly, lead-ers
510-704-8628 (w)
510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net

Skyline Gardens
Glen Schneider, leader
skylinegardens@ebcnps.org

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

Officers and Committee Chairs serve on the Board

Committees are formed based on chapter needs and the interests of volunteers. Proposals for committees and projects are welcome and will be considered by the Board

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter PO Box 5597 Elmwood Station Berkeley CA 94705**



Pallid manzanita berries (photo by Gudrun Kleist)