



May 2017

# The Bay Leaf

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

[www.ebcnp.org](http://www.ebcnp.org) [www.nativeherenursery.org](http://www.nativeherenursery.org)

## MEMBERS' MEETING

**Pacific Coast Native Irises and Their Beautiful Love Children**

**Speaker: Ted Kipping**

**Wednesday, May 24, 7:30 pm**

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

California's rich flora includes 11 species (or 10 or 12, depending on whom you ask!) of native Pacific Coast irises. These tough plants inhabit meadows and woodlands along the coast and in the Coast Ranges from Washington to Santa Barbara, with a few species also found in the Sierra Nevada. The genus name *Iris* is from the Greek word for rainbow, and true to their name, the elegant Pacific Coast iris flowers fill in swaths of the color wheel with whites, yellows, blues, purples, maroons, rusts, and more. Within each species there's a range of color and pattern thanks the tendency of Pacific Coast irises to mix it up genetically (cross pollinate) where their ranges overlap in the wild. Join Ted Kipping for a beautiful photographic tour of our Pacific Coast native irises along with commentary about their love lives and their lives in our gardens.

Ted Kipping is a Life Member of CNPS and many other botanical, horticultural, and natural history groups. He studied natural history at Columbia University in New York City, worked at the Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park, and 38 years ago started his own arboriculture firm, Tree Shapers, LLC, serving the Bay Area. Ted has traveled all over the West as well as to wild places in many other parts of the world. His photography has been extensively published.

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. Email [programs@ebcnps.org](mailto:programs@ebcnps.org) or call 510-496-6016 if you have questions.

**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 Highway 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.



*Iris* photo by Ted Kipping

# CONSERVATION ANALYST'S REPORT

## Why Support Senate Bill 249? Calling for Statewide Off-Highway Vehicle Reform

On April 18, 2017 the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing approved Senate Bill 249 (SB 249), a bill to increase accountability, oversight and enforcement of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) program, including much needed reforms in conservation. The bill proposes new protections for cultural and natural resources, including periodic review and updating of standards for erosion, sedimentation, and water quality, and calls for periodic wildlife inventories, habitat protection plans, and includes requirements for adaptive management and timely online reporting.

The mission of California Department of Parks and Recreation as a whole is to preserve natural and cultural resources, while also providing quality recreation. By contrast, its Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Division is directed to “make the ‘fullest public use’ of recreational opportunities, even to the extent of actually modifying natural and cultural resources to do so.”

What’s not to like? Opposition groups (OHV user groups, manufacturers and retailers) object to almost everything about SB 249. They primarily object to establishment of a Science Advisory Team that would have an important, one-time advisory role for the first five years after the bill’s passage, similar to the Independent Science Advisory panels for developing a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP).

Compared with the rest of State Parks, OHMVR is extremely well funded by fuel taxes paid by every Californian, not just OHV user fees. SB249 would broaden the benefits: fuel taxes would flow into the State Parks and Recreation Fund, allowing the funds to pay for road and trail infrastructure improvements and to provide underserved communities with access to parks and other outdoor recreation. Ensuring that the OHMVR program is not getting excess fuel tax transfers may help limit their expansion projects, requiring that they focus on current operations, restoration, and law enforcement.



CNPS Legislative Advisor Vern Goehring and Conservation Program Director Greg Suba are working closely with a coalition of groups supporting SB 249, including Friends of Tesla Park, Center for Biological Diversity, California Wilderness Coalition, The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club California, and many others.

## Will SB 249 protect Tesla?

Conservation reform sections of the bill will strike a chord with our members. If litigation is successful against Carnegie SVRA’s General Plan and Environmental Impact Report, SB 249’s current provisions could help the next stage of the fight to save Tesla. Final bill negotiations with OHV user groups will also reveal the true strength of the bill both for statewide OHMVR reform and preservation of Tesla.

As of April 18, 2017, Friends of Tesla Park and Dr. Sarah Kupferberg have crafted a Scientist Consensus Statement stating that Tesla “has rare ecological value and contains an abundance of highly sensitive natural resources,” and should be permanently preserved. EBCNPS Vegetation Committee Co-Chairs Megan Keever and Nicole Jurjavcic signed.

## Conclusion

Another action alert will come in early May when SB 249 will go through the appropriations process and to the floor vote in the Senate. Our timeline for activism will stretch through September 2017, when the bill would arrive on the Governor’s desk. Meantime, please continue to answer to the calls to support this bill and spread the word. Read SB 249 here: [https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=20170180SB249](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=20170180SB249)



The devastation from off-road vehicles on Carnegie SVRA’s hillsides shows why SB 249 is needed. The Tesla Coral Hollow Creek watershed (right photo) is an East Bay Chapter botanical priority protection area and is adjacent to Carnegie SVRA, near Tracy. (Photo credits: Save Tesla Park.)



## CONSERVATION ANALYST'S REPORT CONTINUED



Antioch residents and local organizations held a public forum in Antioch (left photo) on resources and history of the Sand Creek Focus Area (Feb 28, 2017), a special planning area at southern city limits, which overlaps completely with Four Valleys Botanical Priority Protection Area. (Photo by Seth Adams, Save Mount Diablo)



Signature gatherers for Richmond Hills Initiative (right photo) who in early 2017 successfully preserved 400+ acres in Richmond, land which overlaps partially with El Sobrante Botanical Priority Protection Area. (Photo by Jim Hogan)

### Other projects:

I represented EBCNPS at a public forum in Antioch on the resources and history of the Sand Creek Focus Area on February 28, 2017. The Focus Area is a special planning area at southern city limits, which overlaps completely with Four Valleys Botanical Priority Protection Area.

In eastern Contra Costa County in March and April, 2017, I submitted letters on project proposals in the cities of Pittsburg (Faria Annexation) and Brentwood (Cowell Ranch), and continue to attend meetings regarding land use policy in Sand

Creek Focus Area (Antioch).

Closer to the bay, I celebrated with a hike with the Friends of Richmond Hills on passage of their initiative to protect open space in Richmond.

The East Bay Regional Park District has still not published its Pallid Manzanita Management Plan, but it has started population surveys. And Oakland started scoping meetings for a fire department-led Vegetation Management Plan.

*Karen Whitestone, East Bay Chapter Conservation Analyst*



Dick and Karen Schneider on the Richmond hike.

## CNPS PLANT ID COURSE

**Local Beginner's Plant ID CNPS Workshop in May  
A Beginner's Look at Eight Plant Families, May 17-19,  
Berkeley**

This workshop will be taught at a beginner level, and it can be taken in conjunction with or separately from Part II (which will cover nine additional California plant families). Learn the terminology and characteristics of eight of the most common California plant families, reducing the amount of time required to key most plants to genus and species. Use of di-

chotomous keys will be covered. This workshop will include classroom presentations and exercises, and at least half the time will be spent outdoors in the beautiful Regional Parks Botanic Garden identifying plants. Taught by Josie Crawford. \$375 CNPS members, \$395 non-members. Registration and more information is at <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/>

*Sally de Becker*

East Bay Chapter Membership Committee Chair

# RESTORATION PROJECTS

Every Wednesday 4 pm to sunset and Sundays 9:30 am-1 pm, Skyline Gardens Project holds 3.5 hour workdays in the Berkeley/Oakland hills on Skyline Trail and its environs. RSVP Skylinegardens@ebcnps.org if interested.

The Skyline Gardens Project is a combination botanical survey and restoration project in the Skyline Trail area of the Oakland-Berkeley Hills. The purpose is to document the native flora and to remove invasive plants to restore the full native diversity of the area. The project is sponsored by the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) in collaboration with East Bay MUD. We hold workdays twice weekly, Wednesday late afternoons (after work) and Sunday mornings for three hours each. Since May 2016, 55 volunteer workdays have been held, involving 74 people in some 311 volunteer shifts totaling over 900 hours on site. [\[Read More\]](#)

**Saturday, May 6, 2017, 9 am-noon Sabercat Creek Habitat Restoration, Site 5 (Becado Place)** Join the City of Fremont's Environmental Services to enhance wildlife habitat along Sabercat Creek. We are holding volunteer work days on the first or second Saturday mornings of each month, from 9 am-12 pm.

We need a lot of help removing invasive plants and sheet mulching before the invasives bloom and set seed! Our work will help stabilize soils and creek banks, filter pollutants, increase native plant diversity, and improve food and shelter for wildlife.

Registration is required. Please visit [www.fremont.gov/SabercatRestoration](http://www.fremont.gov/SabercatRestoration). Click on the "Eventbrite" hyperlink to find the pages for upcoming events. Heavy rain cancels the event.

No experience is necessary. All ages are welcome, but children under 12 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Come dressed for the weather and prepared to get dirty (sturdy closed-toe shoes/boots, long pants, hat, sunscreen, and long-sleeved shirt recommended). Bring a signed waiver form, a reusable water bottle, and community service hours forms, if applicable. We'll provide tools, some gloves, and water to refill bottles. If you wish to bring your own gloves or tools, please label them.

For more questions or comments, please contact Sabrina Siebert at [ssiebert@fremont.gov](mailto:ssiebert@fremont.gov) or call 510-494-4570.

*Sabrina Siebert*  
Special Assistant  
City of Fremont Environmental Services Division  
Office phone #: 510-494-458  
Mobile phone #: 734-649-3795  
[www.fremont.gov/SabercatRestoration](http://www.fremont.gov/SabercatRestoration)

**Saturday, May 6, 9:30 am, Pt. Isabel at McLaughlin Eastshore State Park.** Meet at the end of Rydin Road to pick up tools and find a site in need of weeding. E-mail [kyotousa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kyotousa@sbcglobal.net) to RSVP and if you have any questions.

**Sunday, May 7, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, the monthly North Basin restoration.** Meet at Eastshore State Park, on the bay shoreline south of Tom Bates soccer fields, to continue clearing radish and other invasives from around the native plants. A map of the area can be found <https://goo.gl/rqdZQW>. For directions to the work site or more information about this project, contact John Kenny (<mailto:johnkenny54@yahoo.com>).

**Saturday, May 20, 10 am, Garber Park Stewards.** E-mail [garberparkstewards@gmail.com](mailto:garberparkstewards@gmail.com). If it is not a graduation day at Cal, street parking on Claremont Avenue should be available. For more information click on <http://garberparkstewards.blogspot.com/>

**Saturday, May 20, 9:30 am, Pt. Isabel at McLaughlin Eastshore State Park.** Meet at the end of Rydin Road to pick up tools and find a site in need of weeding. E-mail [kyotousa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kyotousa@sbcglobal.net) to RSVP and if you have any questions.

**Sunday, May 21, 9 am, Sibley Park.** Meet at the Oakland-side entrance off of Skyline, approximately 1/3 mile north of the Huckleberry Park entrance. It's OK to arrive from the north, via the Old Tunnel Road staging area, but please e-mail either [janetgawthrop47@gmail.com](mailto:janetgawthrop47@gmail.com) or [sibley@ebparks.org](mailto:sibley@ebparks.org) so that we know to expect you. Thanks to the brave souls who stacked up all that flowering French broom in the April showers.

**Saturday, May 27, 9 am, Friends of Beaconsfield Canyon.** Volunteers have been clearing and restoring this 5.5-acre canyon in upper Montclair since 2007. Once slated for development, this city-owned open space harbors four different habitats and a wealth of native plants (some 1,000 that we've planted), including a stand of rare black cottonwood trees. Volunteers meet the last Saturday of most months, 9-12. All are welcome. For information, contact Richard Kauffman at [richard@rkcommunications.com](mailto:richard@rkcommunications.com).

**Saturday, May 27, join Friends of Albany Hill** for the last Saturday of the month work party, **9:30 to 11:30 am** Location to be announced. Gloves and tools provided but bring a favorite weeding tool if you like. Wear closed-toed shoes with good traction and clothes that can get dirty. Long pants and long sleeves recommended. For more info: [friendsalbanyhill@gmail.com](mailto:friendsalbanyhill@gmail.com), [friendsofalbanyhill.org](http://friendsofalbanyhill.org)

*Janet Gawthrop*

## FIELD TRIPS

**Sunday, May 14, 10 am at Ayala Cove or as near thereafter as ferry arrival allows--Angel Island.** This is the return field trip promised after our "mad dogs and Englishmen" trip around the perimeter road last fall. This trip will go more uphill than perimeter, the better to scope out the coastal prairie and late spring flowers coming back in the blue gum removal zone. For more information e-mail [janetgawthrop47@gmail.com](mailto:janetgawthrop47@gmail.com).

**Sunday, May 21, 2017, 9:45, Briones - Blue Oak and Spengler Trails.** [Briones, staging area at Gloria Terrace / Reliez Valley Rd.](#) 1942 Reliez Valley Road, Lafayette, CA <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/232812058/>

**Sunday, May 21, 10 am Hillside Natural Area Festival in El Cerrito-main event next to the city recycling area** I will be leading a relatively short hike, starting from the stairs at the Madera Open Space.

## NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Flowering Plants for Sale at Native Here! Native Here is all about celebrating the East Bay's plant diversity, and some of our most colorful and interesting examples are annuals. Several dozen species are for sale in 4" pots. Many are just beginning to flower. At this point you will probably want to keep them in their pots or divide them into just a couple of pots to give them more room while supplying water. Dress them up in a jardinière (a larger, decorative pot), place them on your deck or porch, and enjoy their full season of glory. We also have some interesting species of perennials for sale, among them onions, brodiaeas, and a few other bulbs. Check out the amazing woodland star (*Lithophragma heterophyllum*), checkerbloom (*Sidalcea calycosa*), and thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*).

Waterer Training, Saturday, May 6, 10:30 am-noon

Warmer days are ahead, and a trained watering team is in great demand at Native Here Nursery. We need lots of waterers, and master waterer Charli Danielsen will offer a training session on Saturday, May 6. Please sign up and be a part of the crew. Watering shifts are about an hour and a half for one watering zone. Come in after work, take a long lunch, or find

**Saturday, May 27, field trip to Falls Trail--Mount Diablo State Park.** Gregg Weber will be starting from the Rialto Drive trailhead at 9:45 am. If you want to carpool from Orinda BART, then please go to [www.Meetup.com/ebcnps/](http://www.Meetup.com/ebcnps/) to let us know in advance.

**Please note the BART will close its tracks between Lake Meritt and Fruitvale stations on the weekends of May 13-14 and May 27-29. Trains still run, but past closures have slowed north-south travel.**

*Janet Gawthrop*

another time that you can commit to weekly. Alternatively, sign up to be a substitute waterer.

Watering at Native Here is a lovely meditation in nature. Each plant needs your attention for a few moments but you can also take in the sights and sounds of this beautiful and tranquil setting—the colors, textures and forms of the plants, the varied bird calls, the hum of the insects, and the occasional scuttling lizard or mouse. For more information contact Ruth Ann Pearsons at [rapearsons1@mac.com](mailto:rapearsons1@mac.com).

Power Line Maintenance, April 8

Winter winds blowing through the eucalyptus are exciting in the Berkeley Hills and the first week of April was no exception. A tree limb lodged against our power line, causing a (very localized) blackout. On April 8 we were happy to see six PG&E high-voltage specialists and two gigantic cherry pickers pull up. In about an hour they had identified and corrected the tree limb problem, replaced the transformer and cross-bars on our power pole, and had us back up and humming. Thanks, PG&E!

*Barbara Leitner, Nursery Volunteer*



*Lithophragma heterophyllum* on sale at Native Here. (Photo by Neal Kramer). PGE works at Native Here Nursery.



# POINT ISABEL RESTORATION IN APRIL 2017

The wildlife at Point Isabel has been spectacular the last few weeks! At 4:55pm on April 13, Lewis Payne, an avid birder who stewards the site under the one stand of eucalyptus trees in the area, spotted a beautiful bald eagle soaring over the Hoffman Marsh and gliding toward the Berkeley hills where these birds have been known to nest. Small worker bumblebees are collecting pollen from the countless blooms of tansy leafed phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*) and *Eschscholzia californica* (poppies), other native bees as well as honey bees are visiting the *Scrophularia californica* (bee plant), and we are beginning to see anise swallowtail butterflies cruising along the entire project – no doubt following the scent of the *Perideridia kelloggii* (yampah) we planted last year.

A small group of wild turkeys has managed to cross I-580 and taken up residence in the areas stewarded by Nina Barton and Ivy Ku. So far they've kept their distance but during mating season the toms have been known to become menacing. We read that the birds were introduced, but apparently, the bones of turkeys have been found in and around the La Brea tar pits. So native? Non-native? A question for another day.

On March 25th (under supervision by Steward Margot Cunningham), an Eagle Scout candidate, Evan Mallah, and his crew planted about 30 herbaceous perennials and grasses. These were some of the plants obtained with Caltrans funds after the agency had mistakenly mowed the Adopt-a-Spot. We planted checkerbloom (*Sidalcea malviflora*), poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*), *Delphinium californicum*, California Core volunteer Jacob Smith, a bumble bee on tansy-leaf phacelia and a turkey. Photos by Jane Kelly.

fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), goldenrod (*Solidago velutina* ssp. *californica*), California oat grass (*Danthonia californica*), and potentilla (*Drymocallis glandulosa*). The next day Evan and his crew grubbed out much of the bermuda grass infestation, laid down cardboard donated by the City of Richmond on one section of the grass and laid a tarp on another area of the infestation. The crew covered the cardboard and tarp with mulch. We'll monitor the area in the coming months to see how the treatments control the grass. Thanks to Evan and his crew for all of their work.

Our special thanks this month go to our fantastic 17-year-old volunteer Jacob Smith, who has been working with us for the past 1.5 years. Jacob, who attends St. Patrick-St. Vincent High School in Vallejo is interested in bioengineering, programming and gaming but, in addition, he wants to “make a difference” and tells us that the Point Isabel project provides him with that opportunity. Jacob does an amazing job gauging who needs help at any point along the trail and cheerfully supporting all of us in our tasks.

EBRPD Park Supervisor Scott Possin (also an Eagle Scout) was key to the success of Evan Mallah's project by providing us with all the tools needed to complete the project. The scout troop and all of us very much appreciate Scott's consistent support.

Jane and Tom Kelly, Margot Cunningham





# POINT ISABEL RESTORATION PICTURES



April 1 crew (above) and the Eagle Scout Project participants (below). Photos by Jane Kelly.



## Thirteenth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Sunday, May 7, 2017

Companion Events:

Native Plant Sale Extravaganza  
Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7, 2017

Workshops are held throughout the year

Kathy Kramer, (510) 236-9558  
<mailto:Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net>  
Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Thirteenth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: Registration for the Thirteenth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place on Sunday, May 7, 2017 from 10:00 to 5:00, is now open. This free, award-winning tour features forty Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, water conserving, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60% or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from wooded lots in the hills to small parcels in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Bluegrass, blues, Renaissance music and more will be performed at various gardens; children's activities will be offered at two gardens. Pre-registration for the Tour is required. This tour will fill; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed.

Companion events: The Native Plant Sale Extravaganza will take throughout the weekend of May 6 and 7.

Workshops will take place throughout the year.

Registration is now open for the free Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place Sunday, May 7, 2017, from 10:00-5:00 at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Participants on the thirteenth annual, free, self-guided Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour can visit any of forty showcase native plant gardens. Registrants will have the opportunity to learn how select and care for California native plants, lower their water bills, design a low-maintenance garden, attract butterflies, birds, and bees, and garden without using pesticides. Fifty talks will be offered throughout the day. More than 5,000 people are expected to register for this annual event, which will fill; early registration is suggested to ensure a place.

The delightful collection of gardens offered this year range from wooded lots in the hills to small gardens in the flats, and from professionally designed gardens to those designed by homeowners. Garden styles run the gamut – from restoration gardens containing local native plants to the horticulturally available suite of natives from throughout California, and to gardens containing a mixture of natives and Mediterranean climate plants.

In the “View the Gardens” section of the website are photographs of each garden, and extensive garden descriptions and plant lists. The website also contains a list of nurseries that sell native plants, as well as a list of landscape designers familiar with designing with native plants. Many of these designers offer discount consultations to tour participants.

A companion feature, the Native Plant Sale Extravaganza, will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7. This exclusive sale features a number of native plant nurseries which carry large quantities of hard-to-find California natives, and offers native plant fans both a good selection of native plants and a relaxed shopping experience. Knowledgeable staff will be on hand to help shoppers select the right plants for their gardens, and Saturday shoppers will have time to visit more showcase native plant gardens on Sunday, May 7, during the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.

In addition, a series of workshops (\$35 per person) will be held between April and June. Participants can learn how to remove and replace their lawns, design native plant gardens for color and interest throughout the year, install a drip irrigation system, and garden sustainably (think chickens, rainwater harvesting, and creating pollinator gardens.) Details can be found on the website.

Admission to the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is free, though donations are requested. This tour will fill; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed. Registration will close on April 29 or when the tour is full, whichever comes first. Register or volunteer at <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/>.

For more information, contact [Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net](mailto:Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net) or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 am and 8 pm.



# The 4th Annual El Cerrito Hillside Festival

Events throughout the 100-acre Hillside Natural Area: Hikes, Nature Walks, events for kids and families, metal detecting and geology displays, Dog Scouts, Boy Scouts, Historical Talks, Friends of Five Creeks, Garden Giveaways, music and poetry, more. Plus an early evening hillside meditation.

**10 am to 5 pm Sunday, May 21, 2017.**

**Free! Gather on Schmidt Lane by EC Recycling Center.**

**Info, Dave Weinstein, 510-524-1737, [davidsweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:davidsweinstein@yahoo.com),**

**Mollie Hazen [mollie.hazen@gmail.com](mailto:mollie.hazen@gmail.com)**

**[www.ctrailtrekkers.org](http://www.ctrailtrekkers.org).**

"Hillside Restoration" in the message line. (ECCF is EC Community Foundation, our fiscal agent.)

Send to Pam Austin, 834 Kearney St., EC 94530. Or donate online on our website.

El Cerrito Hillside Festival

10 am to 5 pm Sunday May 21, 2017. Free

Followed by an early evening meditation

All hikes start at the Meadow by Schmidt Lane trailhead near the El Cerrito Recycling Center unless otherwise noted. Demonstrations and displays are at the Meadow. <http://www.ctrailtrekkers.org/>

**All day: Wildlife Bingo.** Learn about the animals that inhabit El Cerrito's Hillside and other areas while having fun. Parents enjoy helping their children in this popular annual event.

**All day: Community Garden Network,** plant give-away and discussions about gardening and related topics.

**All day: Friends of Five Creeks** will provide information about wildflowers, and about the creeks and other natural areas of the Berkeley, Albany and El Cerrito areas.

**All day: Rock display and education.** Mark Petrofsky from the **Northern California Geological Society** will display a wide variety of local rocks, many of them beautiful, and all of them with their own stories.

**All day: National Park Service ranger Naomi Torres will display material about and discuss the Anza Expedition,** which passed through this area in 1775-1776 and the Juan Bautista de Anza National Trail. Also on display will be the **El Cerrito trail map** and way finding **signs to El Cerrito paths** developed by the Park Service.

**All day: Environmental Quality Committee Table,** discussions of topics concerning the city's environment, material about the 100 for 100 go deep green campaign, Green Teams activities, more.

**10 am to 11 am** Janet Gawthrop of the **California Native Plant Society** leads a beginner-general level **Plant Walk,** focusing on native plant restoration. **Meet at Madera Open Space,** at the bottom of the stairs between house numbers **1540 and 1560 Madera Circle.** Moderate.

**10 am to 2 pm: Metal detecting for fun and education.** Metal detecting enthusiast Bill Barr will demonstrate how kids and adults can use a metal detector to discover antiques and other treasures, display some of his finds, show off several metal detectors including an antique detector from the '70s, and answer questions. Easy.

**10 am to noon. Boy Scout Troop 104** will lead an all-ages nature hike and work party to remove invasive plants. Learn about native plants while improving the Hillside. Moderate

**11 am to noon. A Poetry Hike** for all ages. Poetry is hidden all over El Cerrito! Join Jenny Hammer for a literary treasure hunt as we ramble through nature and search for some of these hidden poems. Moderate.

**11 am to 3 pm Dog Scouts of America:** an organization dedicated to improving the lives of our canine companions. Come and meet a Therapy Dog. And, does your dog have a super-nose? Scent work is a slam-dunk for most dogs, but some training is required. Sherlock Dogs .. or wanna-bes...come and try your sniffing skills.

**Noontime** is for relaxing with a light lunch. We will have snacks. Bring your own sandwiches – while listening to **poet and performer Kirk Lumpkin** celebrate the city's open spaces, and **Ken Hayes and his Imaginary Friends,** a trio with Tom Cline and Ann Wright, performing superb renditions of roots and Americana tunes.

**1 pm to 2 pm** Ranger **Naomi Torres** of the **National Park Service** will lead a walk and talk about the Juan Bautista de Anza National Trail, focusing on the Anza expedition from Mexico to the Bay Area in 1775-1776. Meet at the meadow above the Schmidt Trail head. Moderate.

**1 pm to 2:30 pm Wildflower Hike,** Susan Schwartz of Friends of Five Creeks will lead an easy one-hour walk along the ridge, offering fabulous views as well as a chance to learn about native flowers, grasslands, oak forests, and coastal scrub. **Meet at the King Court trailhead.** Moderate. Hike ends at the Regency Court trailhead, where you can join the 2:30 pm Tree Hike, or return to the starting point with a car shuttle.

**2 pm to 3 pm** The Northern California Geological Society will lead a **Short Geology Walk** to get a close-up look at the former Hutchinson Quarry (the present day Recycling Center), whose stone face reveals much that is surprising about the Bay Area's bumptious geological past.

**2:30 pm to 3:30 pm Tree Hike.** Ralph Boniello of the Tree Commission leads a family-friendly tour of the Hillside Area's trees, from live oaks to exotics. **Meet at Regency Court trailhead. Hike ends at the Meadow.** Moderate.

**3 pm to 4:30 pm** Dave Weinstein of the El Cerrito Historical Society will lead a hike focusing on the **History of the Hillside Natural Area** from the early 1900s to today. Strenuous.

# MAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## 1. Trail Use Surveys at Bair Island, Redwood City for May

The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is in need of volunteers to tally trail users at the Bair Island Trail in Redwood City in May. These data are used to determine the number of visitors who recreate on the refuge. All you have to do is tally the number of people coming and going. If interested, please contact Carmen Minch at [car-men\\_leong-minch@fws.gov](mailto:car-men_leong-minch@fws.gov) or call [510-792-0222](tel:510-792-0222) ext. 476. Below are the dates and times:

Saturdays 1-3 p.m.  
May 6, 13, 20 and 27

Sundays 9-11 a.m.  
May 7, 14, 21, 28

Tuesdays 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Thursdays 3-5 p.m.  
May 4, 11, 18, 25

## 2. Visitor Center

**Training (two sessions): Sunday June 25 and Tuesday June 27**

We are looking for volunteers to staff the visitor center desk in Fremont, Wednesday through Saturday for 2.5-3.5 hour shifts. Save the dates for upcoming training on Sunday morning, June 25 and the evening of Tuesday, June 27. You must be able to attend both days. Registration is required. Current visitor center volunteers are welcome to attend this training as well. There will be more information to come in the June Sloughs News. For inquiries call or email Jackie at [510-792-0222](tel:510-792-0222) ext. 362 or [Jacquelyn\\_Warren@fws.gov](mailto:Jacquelyn_Warren@fws.gov).

As always, thank you for volunteering!

Paul Mueller, Volunteer Coordinator  
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
1 Marshlands Road  
Fremont, CA 94555

[510-792-0222](tel:510-792-0222), ext. 361



Iris closeup (see Members Meeting announcement on page 1). Photo by Ted Kipping.



# DIRECTORY OF CHAPTER LEADERS

## Officers

President  
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## Committees

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Restoration Chair  
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Unusual Plants  
Dianne Lake, Chair

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Vegetation  
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Nicole Jurjavcic, Co-Chair  
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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  
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Charli Danielsen, production manager  
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Volunteer Coordinator  
Ruth Ann Pearsons  
rapearsons1@mac.com

Penny Spear, infrastructure

Gudrun Kleist, bulbs

John Danielsen, propagule collection  
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Saige White, Nursery assistant  
swhite@cnps.com

Restoration Projects Leaders:  
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janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

John Muir NHS (Martinez)  
Elaine Jackson, leader

925-372-0687  
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Marsh Creek  
Heath Bartosh, leader  
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hbartosh@nomadecology.com

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

Skyline Gardens  
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Walnut Creek  
Lesley Hunt, leader  
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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  
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Berkeley CA 94705**