



June 2017

The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnps.org

www.nativeherenursery.org

MEMBERS' MEETING: ON HIATUS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 27

Members' meetings are on hiatus for the Summer. The next meeting will be on September 27, at the Orinda Library Garden Room. The topic and speaker will be announced in the

usual places: the *Bay Leaf*, ebcnps.org, [meetup.com/ebcnps](https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps), and the chapter mailing list.

NATIVE ANNUALS ON SALE AT NATIVE HERE!

If you visit Native Here Nursery soon you will be treated to a tiny botanical version of a fireworks display – spring annuals! We can't resist collecting and growing seeds from these delightful members of our local flora.

I bought a few 4-inch pots for myself this spring, so I can tell you how it worked. If you buy these little chia pets as soon as they are put on the floor, say late March or April, you can divide them and let them get larger in a sunny, warm spot. From a handful of 4-inch pots I must have made two dozen little divisions in as many 4-inch pots, and when they looked strong I planted them out all over my meadow-like garden – clarkias, Chinese houses, agoseris, lupine. They've been flowering for a couple of weeks now, and some will keep on going for several more, providing cheery color now

that the grasses are finished flowering.

But it's not too late to have some fun. By now they are too big to divide, but you can group some pots in a colorful jardinière and enjoy them close up. Best of all you can collect the resulting seed and sprinkle them around your garden to see what happens next spring. I'm going to keep trying new species until I find ones that sustain themselves in my garden, and will still come back for the ones that are just too cute to miss.

Four-inch pots of annuals will be half-price at Native Here while they last. There are Chinese houses, wind poppies, blow wives, lupines, goldfields, *Clarkia*, *Madia*, *Castilleja*, lotus, and more!

Barbara Leitner

BECOME A NATIVE HERE DOCENT

This is a great opportunity to learn about growing locally native plants from the people who know them best.

We are starting a docent/salesperson training program at Native Here Nursery. Learn the basics of how the Nursery is organized and operates, informational resources, and the cultural characteristics of the most popular species grown at Native Here.

Registration is \$20 for a six-class series – June 10, July 8, July 30, August 20 and September 16, plus a one-on-one training meeting on sales procedures. The classes are from 10:30 am to noon. The Saturday scheduled dates will include special behind the scenes tours of the Nursery led by John and Charli Danielsen. On the two Sundays (July 30 and August 20), we will visit Alameda County and Contra Costa County gardens featuring local native plants. You must attend at least 4 sessions.

Your commitment to the Nursery is to help with sales once monthly on Saturdays during open hours (10 am-2 pm) for six months. Timing is flexible. When you complete 12 volunteer hours you will receive a gift certificate for \$20 to be used at Native Here.

To start, all you need is a willingness to learn and a desire to help customers with their native plant needs. Even when trained, you can always get help from other people at Native Here.

Native Here Nursery is located in Tilden Regional Park at 101 Golf Course Drive.

To sign up or get more information, contact Ruth Ann Pearsons at rpearsons1@mac.com.

Barbara Leitner

EAST BAY CHAPTER BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of the East Bay Chapter of the CNPS meets monthly (except August and December) on the third Tuesday of the month, generally from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Meetings are open

to CNPS members. If you are interested in attending, please contact corresponding-secretary@ebcnps.org for location information.

CONSERVATION ANALYST'S REPORT

Pallid Manzanita Management Plan Recommendations Submitted

In early May the East Bay Chapter conservation committee sent a letter to East Bay Regional Parks District stewardship staff concerning the Pallid Manzanita Management Plan (PMMP). We recommended that the PMMP be integrated with existing Park District documents containing broadly applicable policies for fuel load reductions. Our suggestions strengthen the possibility this scrappy but delicate native shrub will make a turnaround recovery to survive and thrive in our East Bay hills.

The current PMMP provides excellent background to the complexity of the needs of pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*, CNPS Rare Plant Rank 1B.1, state- endangered and federal-threatened). These were our additional recommendations:

- Identify and secure funding for species regeneration
- Craft site-specific plans for phased fuel reduction work around pallid manzanita stands
- Explain protocol for population surveys and measuring effect of management over time
- Integrate mentions of protection and mitigation measures, in all discussion of vegetation removal.

The largest stands of pallid manzanita are in Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve and Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve. December to March blooming times have already passed, but their peeling red bark is an identifying feature. Most individuals are as tall as typical hikers, indicating old age and a long overdue fire regime, and resulting in successional shifts. When visiting the sites please take care to stay on trail to avoid spread of *Phytophthora*, which is damaging the pallid manzanitas.

This letter and the East Bay Chapter's interaction on pallid manzanita with the Park District staff would not be possible without the members of the East Bay Chapter conservation committee and other volunteers who have read and analyzed Park District documents, removed invasives at pallid manzanita sites, documented pallid manzanita occurrences, attended meetings with Park District staff, and sent them thoughtful emails. We have received acknowledgement of our letter and look forward to seeing how recommendations are addressed in the final Pallid Manzanita Management Plan.

Senate Bill 249 (statewide): Off-Highway Vehicle Reform Bill

For those of you following my recent urgent action alerts, I have some good news. The Senate Appropriations Committee voted on May 25 to approve moving the bill to a full Senate vote in the first week of June. The OHV lobby has continued contacting many legislators. We will be back in touch about asking local Senators for their support of SB 249 when it reaches the Senate floor. Unfortunately the chance is still high that this bill will not continue to Assembly consideration and the governor's desk later this year.

SB 249 is important because it will address OHV enforcement issues and distribute state fuel tax money more equitably between motorized and non-motorized recreational uses. For example, did you know that a large portion of fuel taxes paid by every Californian, goes straight to the off-highway vehicle recreation division of State Parks? Every time we pump gas into our vehicles we pay for the expansion and maintenance of off-road motorized recreation even if we don't participate in this type of activity.



Left: OHV use causes ongoing and severe environmental degradation like the erosion gullies seen here at Carnegie SVRA (Alameda & San Joaquin Counties). Vertical hill climbs create dangerous instability and permanent environmental degradation. Damage from OHV use is an example of the type of enforcement and conservation issues addressed in SB 249. Right: Mitchell Ravine in Tesla park expansion area. All of Carnegie SVRA is part of EBCNPS' Corral Hollow Botanical Priority Protection Area. Photo credits: Friends of Tesla Park.

CONSERVATION ANALYST'S REPORT CONTINUED

Other bill reforms add important requirements and transparency to conservation and wildlife protection measures. That State Parks off-highway vehicle program needs reform has become evident from our Chapter's work to protect the Tesla wildlands near Livermore from expanded off-road vehicle use by the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA). For more information please email me or view the State CNPS web page dedicated to this effort: http://www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/actions/ohv_reform/index.php

Newly Released: Oak Knoll Final Supplemental EIR (Oakland)

In October 2016, we provided comments on the Oak Knoll Draft Supplemental EIR, which proposes to remove hundreds of native trees, impact acres of purple needlegrass grasslands and maritime chaparral, and to build over the location of one of the largest populations of Oakland star tulip in the East Bay. We especially advocated for protection of Oakland star tulip (*Calochortus umbellatus*, CNPS Rare Plant Rank 4.2).

In this newest proposal for redevelopment of the Navy's Oak Knoll Hospital site positive benefits include daylighting and restoring Rifle Range Creek, protecting most acres of purple needlegrass grasslands, and planting many more native trees than the project proposes to remove. We are encouraging better protections for mature oak woodlands and maritime chaparral (both sensitive natural communities), and enhancement of purple needlegrass grasslands protected by the project but starting to be impacted by invasive plant species. We also continue to insist on more specific mitigation plans for a population of 723 Oakland star tulips on the property. Commitments to mitigation are not yet strong enough to avoid tipping the balance towards losing this Oakland star tulip population entirely.

The next public meeting will be a June 21 convening of the city's planning commission. June 21 is also the closing date for public comment. Commission will give recommendation to City Council on whether to approve the EIR. Please email me if you are interested in updates or collaboration regarding this project, and consider attending the meeting.



CNPS East Bay Chapter Conservation Chair Jean Robertson checking out a purple needlegrass grassland on the Oak Knoll proposed project site. Old roads and infrastructure still exist. (Note the hydrant.) Some invasive plant populations have taken hold within the swaths of vegetation remaining. A lone Oakland star tulip in nearby Leona Canyon Regional Open Space Preserve. Coloration of star tulips can vary with gradations of white and purple. The flower is typically no bigger than a thumbnail. Photos by Karen Whitestone (2016).

ERRATUM

The caption "Dick and Karen Schneider on the Richmond hike" for the photo toward the bottom of page 3 of the May 2017 Bay Leaf is incorrect. It should read "Dick Schneider and Karen Whitestone". Dick and Karen are not husband and wife.

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, June 3, 2017, 9am-noon Sabercat Creek Habitat Restoration, Site TBA.

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. 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, long-sleeved shirt, and tick/mosquito repellent 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 contact Sabrina Siebert at ssiebert@fremont.gov or call 510-494-4570.



Carolyn, Einiro and Joanna weeding ivy. Picture by Sabrina Siebert.

Saturday, June 3, 9:00 am, Trudeau Training Center at Redwood Regional Park

The California Invasive Plant Council will hold a training session aimed at volunteers who weed invasive plants. If you did not already sign up through the previous e-mail you may want to contact the website to see if space is still available at www.cal-ipc.org.

Sunday, June 4, 10 am, North Basin at the mouth of Schoolhouse Creek in Eastshore State Park

John Kenny and other volunteers will mostly be weeding this month as temperatures increase and the ground dries. It is OK to just show up--pre-registration is not required.

Sunday, June 4th from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Crab Cove Visitors' Center, 1252 McKay Avenue, Alameda

Help keep our wildlife-friendly gardens beautiful by pruning, weeding, watering, and mulching around the visitor center. Choose the work that inspires you. Community Service hours available for students. Snacks and refreshments served, tools provided.

There are 1,600 species of bees native to California! Most are solitary ground nesters and do not sting, and many are colorful. Come see which plants attract native bees and butterflies at Crab Cove.

To register go to: https://apm.activecommunities.com/ebparks/Activity_Search/16824. If you decide to come at the last minute, please do. Volunteers under 18 must have a parent/guardian sign a volunteer form, so please email me to be sent one.

For questions call 510-544-3187 or call Michael directly at 510-544-3183, or email mcharnofsky@ebparks.org.

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Saturday, June 10, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park

Meet Janet, Marcia and park staff at the parking lot off Skyline. You do not have to register in advance, but you can RSVP and look through the project description at the chapter Meetup page.

Unless the fog moves in we are likely to head into the park and deep shade this month. Bagging *Vinca* or Cape ivy, anyone? For more information visit <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/236866928/>.

Sunday, June 11, 9:30 am, Redwood Park French broom pull

You need to register with the park ranger in advance because this restoration site moves from month-to-month within the park. You can call (510) 544-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4553. Tools will be provided and you will not be charged for parking. So many *Genista* sprouts, so little time.

Saturday, June 17, 10:00 am-noon, Garber Park Stewards

Meet Shelagh at the Claremont Avenue trailhead and help uncover the large population of native plants waiting below the Algerian ivy. You are not required to RSVP, but you can make contact if you want at their new Meetup page <https://www.meetup.com/en-AU/garberpark/>

Join Shelagh and the other volunteers in the cool shade of Garber's native Oak woodland where the focus will be chopping and pulling the usual invasive weeds. There are many activities to choose from: light and level at selected spots along the trails where we will be pruning and pushing back the weeds and freeing the natives - especially the ferns (Garber has seven native ferns) to the tough tasks in Horsetail Meadow where the poison hemlock and spurge are in bloom and need to be removed. We provide tools, gloves, drinks and snacks. Wear long sleeves and pants and shoes with good tread.

Saturday, June 17, 9:30 am, Point Isabel restoration

Meet at the end of Rydin Road to pick up tools and find a site in need of weeding. e-mail kyoutousa@sbcglobal.net to RSVP and if you have any questions.

Sunday, June 18, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park

Join us at the Oakland-side parking lot, where you can pick up water and snacks. Depending on the weather and volunteer interest we may head back towards Old Tunnel Road and the nearby wall of broom, but we may also slice poison hemlock and teasel in the shade.

Saturday June 24, 9:30 am, Friends of Albany Hill

E-mail friendsalbanyhill@gmail.com for the location of this conclusion to June restoration.

Hope to see you in the field.

Janet Gawthrop



Volunteers pulling thistles at Sabercat Creek. Picture by Sabrina Siebert.

POINT ISABEL RESTORATION IN MAY 2017

One of the reasons we are so enthusiastic about doing revegetation activities along the Bay Trail at Point Isabel is that the work attracts so much interest from the public. There are days – especially at this time of year – when our weeding and irrigating are frequently interrupted by people who are curious about whether our work is all volunteer (it is!) or who are stunned by the transformation over the years from a French broom and trash infested shoreline to a “daylighted” Hoffman Marsh, or those who love the look of the multicolor poppies mixed with the tansy-leaved phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*), bee plant (*Scrophularia californica*), and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*). For us the rewards of the work are to see the plants visited by pollinators, the birds nesting in the nearby trees, the galls in the marsh-side willows, the monarch butterfly larvae on the milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) and the yampah (*Perideridia kelloggii*). We are delighted that Point Isabel has become a “destination” for so many species.

One of our visitors (Doug Donaldson) is a hobby photographer who took the stunning photo of the bumblebee on the bee plant when he walked by one day and saw Jane pulling weeds. Does anyone need to ask why *Scrophularia californica* has the common name “bee plant”?

Recent work was done by Boy Scout Troop 888 from San Ramon. We were greatly impressed by the young scouts, their sisters, and their parents, all of whom worked enthusiastically removing invasive oat grass and some lingering radish sprouts. At the midday break everyone introduced themselves and we were struck by the confidence and eloquence of the young crew. Our thanks go to Boy Scout Aniketh for organizing the event. Congratulations go to the parents and to the Boy Scouts organization for guiding a wonderful group of young people. Thanks also go to all the Stewards, Core Volunteers, and other volunteers who joined us in May, including Amber who came out for the first time and thoroughly enjoyed herself.

News for this month is that Luciano Cortes and Nancy Leibowitz agreed to assume Co-Stewardship roles of the site planted a few years ago by Eagle Scout candidate Jason. Luciano, and Nancy have been taking extraordinary care of this area and will continue to do so in their Co-Stewardship roles.

Restoration takes place each month on the first and third Saturdays at 9:30 am, except we will not meet on June 3, just on June 17 this month only.

Jane and Tom Kelly



A bumble bee on a bee plant (above). The May crew at the end of the day (above on next page). The scouts get ready (below on next page). Pictures by Jane Kelly.

POINT ISABEL RESTORATION PICTURES



FIELD TRIPS

Saturday June 10, 9:45 am, Redwood Park, sedges, ferns, manzanita and violets

Join Gregg Weber at the parking lot for Chabot Space and Science Center for this trip through chaparral and redwood forest communities that border Oakland. For a more complete description and to RSVP go to our chapter's Meetup page <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/232853813/>.

Sunday, June 11, 2 pm, field trip to the Mary Bowerman Trail near the top of Mount Diablo

Meet at the large parking lot just below the summit (do not

go to the summit lot where parking is limited and time restricted). We will hike the Mary Bowerman Trail (previously called the Fire Interpretive Trail), which circles round the summit a few hundred feet down. Since blooms are later at the summit there should be many flowers. The trail is fairly level and about one mile long. David Margolies will lead. See www.meetup.com/ebcnps.

THE KELLYS BRING RESTORATION TO NATIVE HERE

Big Thanks to Jane and Tom Kelly. As if the Kellys don't already do enough to earn our gratitude for all their restoration work, they've come to clean up Native Here Nursery!

The intrepid power couple arrived last weekend, weed wrenches in hand, and took on a big patch of broom just outside the Native Here boundary fence.

Broom is no respecter of boundaries, with explosive pods that catapult seeds up to 13 feet from the mother plant. We don't

want those seeds hitching a ride on our nursery stock, so Tom and Jane created a safe zone around the nursery.

Thanks you two, keep up the great work.

To see Jane and Tom in action, and to learn the finer points of restoration ecology go to their Point Isabel restoration report, featured here in the *Bay Leaf*.

Barbara Leitner



Back at Point Isabel, the scout's last load. (See the scouts starting out on page 7.) Picture by Jane Kelly.

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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

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