



July-August 2017

# The Bay Leaf

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

[www.ebcnps.org](http://www.ebcnps.org)

[www.nativeherenursery.org](http://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](http://ebcnps.org), [meetup.com/ebcnps](https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps), and the chapter mailing list.

## 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](mailto:corresponding-secretary@ebcnps.org) for location information.

## CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

### Comment letter submitted for Oak Knoll (Oakland)

The Oak Knoll Mixed Use Community is proposed for the former Oak Knoll Naval Hospital grounds in Oakland (between Knowland Park and the Leona Canyon Regional Preserve). The US Navy formerly owned most of the 190 acre site, but when the Naval Medical Center closed in 1996 the City of Oakland and the Navy prepared a list of alternatives for local community reuse of the property. This analysis was the first Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

In 2016 the Conservation Committee submitted comments on the project's Draft Supplemental EIR, and earlier this month we submitted a comment letter on the Final Supplemental EIR. We decided to focus our letter on improved protections and mitigations for these native plant resources: Oakland star tulip (*Calochortus umbellatus*), an *Arctostaphylos* (*crustacea, tomentosa*) Shrubland Alliance, and purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*) grasslands. The project proposes to remove all 723 Oakland star tulip bulbs from the site and to mitigate this action by replanting and monitoring the bulbs.

On June 21st we attended a City of Oakland Planning Commission meeting about Oak Knoll. We urged protection of the Oakland star tulip in open space areas, and long-term monitoring of replanted bulbs. There were more than 50 speakers. Many expressed concerns about traffic safety and lack of affordable housing. City staff advised the commissioners to delay making a recommendation on whether to certify the Final Supplemental EIR.

We will stay in touch with the City of Oakland to learn when the Planning Commission and City Council make final recommendations for certifying the Final Supplemental EIR. This may happen soon, and we will inform our membership when we know more.

### PG&E's SF Bay Area Habitat Conservation Plan

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) prepared a draft Habitat Conservation Plan (draft HCP) which covers routine operations and maintenance (O&M) plus minor new construction projects and natural gas transmission system maintenance. This particular draft HCP covers current and future O&M activities across the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area, or about 402,000 acres. The purpose of the draft HCP is to work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) to permit some impacts to federally threatened and endangered species over a period of 30 years. The plan also provides guidance for "avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on threatened and endangered species that could result" from covered activities (Ch 1, executive summary).

This draft HCP is a 30-year "incidental take permit" for some federally-listed species in the Bay Area. This type of permit is a streamlined process which takes a comprehensive look



## CONSERVATION ANALYST'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

at impacts and identifies measures to avoid and minimize take and compensate, where necessary, in a more meaningful way. HCPs are not written or implemented expressly for plants because federally-listed plants are not protected from take or destruction on private land, although these species are typically incorporated into the planning process.

This draft HCP covers 19 animal species and 13 plant species, of which the five listed below are located in the East Bay: pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*), coyote ceanothus (*Ceanothus ferrisiae*), Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjugens*), Contra Costa wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum* var. *angustatum*), and Antioch Dunes evening primrose (*Oenothera deltooides* ssp. *howellii*). We acknowledge PG&E's forward-looking efforts to design a comprehensive permitting and mitigation process for federally-listed species, but hope they will be more inclusive in scope to ensure appropriate protec-

tions for the many near-critically endangered plants in the Bay Area. We recommended expanding the list of covered species beyond currently-listed plants, to include species that could be listed in the future.

The next steps in the process are public notice of the HCP's approval and/or a response to our comments from USFWS, which will likely happen no sooner than September 2017. We will update our membership when we know more.

Many thanks to the Conservation Committee for thoughtful discussion; to Jim Hanson, Barbara Leitner, Jean Robertson, and Janet Gawthrop for help in producing this report; and to Vegetation Co-Chairs Nicole Jurjavic and Megan Kever for information on sensitive natural communities.

## CHAPTER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Spring, especially April, is always the busiest season for outreach activities. This year we have done events in Sunol, Walnut Creek (2), Pleasant Hill, and Coyote Hills Regional Park. In most cases conversation centered on the role of na-

tive plants in gardening, but at Sunol there was also interest in Tesla followed by concern for its future. Most field trip leaders do outreach at the beginning of a walk.

*Lesley Hunt*



Outreach Chair Lesley Hunt gives a talk at the Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden.

# NATIVE HERE NURSERY

## This Month at the Nursery

Saige White, our Nursery Assistant, has decided to resign. She has done a great job keeping tabs on our inventory, posting up to date listings, moving new stock onto the floor, and helping customers, all with efficiency and a sunny attitude. She will be hard to replace. Usually at this point we would say how much we'll miss her, but fortunately we don't have to. She's staying on as a volunteer to head up publicity for the nursery and do other tasks she enjoys. We are very pleased that she cares about the nursery and native plants enough to want to stay involved. We will post a job announcement for a new nursery assistant soon.

Docent training is underway with seven people attending the second session on June 10th. Most of them are new to the nursery. Charli led a very informative discussion about plants that grow in the Bay Hills.

The next meeting is Saturday, July 8 and the subject will be Mt. Diablo plants. This is a great way to learn about plants and help the nursery and chapter at the same time – profits from Native Here go to finance our chapter activities. Contact Ruth Ann Pearsons at [rapearsons1@mac.com](mailto:rapearsons1@mac.com) or see last month's *Bay Leaf* for more information.

The nursery still needs summer waterers. Whether you like quiet time alone in a peaceful setting or a chance to interact

with other volunteers, this is a great way to help the nursery. You can sign up to water a section regularly or substitute when your schedule allows. Get in touch with Ruth Ann Pearsons at [rapearsons1@mac.com](mailto:rapearsons1@mac.com) to sign up.

### Native Here Nursery and *Phytophthora ramorum*

On June 15 the Contra Costa County Agriculture Department informed Native Here Nursery that during a routine inspection three of our large display manzanitas tested positive for *Phytophthora ramorum*, the organism that causes sudden oak death. Native Here Nursery is working closely with the agriculture department to remedy the situation, removing the three infested plants as well as those nearby and testing extensively.

To date no stock offered for sale has tested positive for this organism. In addition, Native Here is implementing recommended best practices for phytosanitation (prevention and control of plant diseases), an effort we began two to three years ago as information became available. A small section of the nursery will be closed to the public during testing, but Native Here remains open during our usual hours. The nursery and the agriculture department are working hard to ensure that the plants offered for sale are healthy.

If you would like to follow our efforts check for updates on the Native Here Nursery website (<http://nativeherenursery.org>). If you have questions feel free to contact us at [nativehere@ebcnps.org](mailto:nativehere@ebcnps.org).

*The Native Here Nursery Committee*



Docent training at Native Here Nursery

## MORE NATIVE HERE PICTURES



A load of “playground chips” is delivered to the nursery. These particular chips minimize splash and thus help to protect against *Phytophthora*. We’ve been using them for a couple of years or so now.



On their last day of work before summer vacation Lamorinda high school volunteers spread the chips. Many of these students helped us multiple times through the school year and we thank them for their dedication.

## RESTORATION PROJECTS

### **Saturday, July 1 and Saturday, August 5, 9 am**

French broom rip at Redwood Regional Park Pre-registration strongly encouraged because the worksite moves within the park. You can e-mail [redwood@ebparks.org](mailto:redwood@ebparks.org) to register or for more information.

### **Saturday, July 1, and Saturday, August 5, 9:30 am, Point Isabel at Eastshore State Park**

This group starts across from the parking lot at the end of Rydin Road. You can e-mail [kyotousa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kyotousa@sbcglobal.net) to RSVP.

**Sunday, July 2 and Sunday, August 6, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, the monthly North Basin restoration** meets at Eastshore State Park in Berkeley, on the bay shoreline south of Tom Bates soccer fields, to continue clearing radish and other invasives from around the native plants and prepare for next year's plantings. A map of the area can be found at <https://goo.gl/rqdZQW>. For directions to the work site or more information about this project, contact John Kenny ([johnkenny54@yahoo.com](mailto:johnkenny54@yahoo.com)).

### **Saturday, July 8, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve**

You do not have to pre-register. Just be at the Huckleberry parking lot at 9:30 am. when we discuss our worksite before collecting water and tools from the ranger and heading to work somewhere shady. We'll be back on August 12, also at 9:30. For more information, see the description at [www.meetup.com/ebcnps/](http://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/) or e-mail [janetgawthrop47@gmail.com](mailto:janetgawthrop47@gmail.com).

### **Saturday, July 8, 9 am-noon Sabercat Creek Habitat Restoration, Site 5 (Becado Place)**

### **Saturday, August 5, 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. For July, we'll have the work day on the second Saturday of the month, instead of the first. We will be caring for native trees and shrubs, removing invasives, and sheet mulching! 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

## FIELD TRIPS

### **Saturday, August 5, 10:00 am (or as soon after as the MUNI 76X bus arrives), field trip to Golden Gate National Recreation Area**

We will hike the Coastal Trail from Fort Cronkhite to Tennessee Valley and back, starting from the SFMUNI bus stop/public shower area by the parking lot. Meet Janet Gawthrop at the whale skeleton by the parking area if you do not take the bus. Bring lunch, water, maybe a jacket, and a *Flora of Marin County*. You can RSVP to [www.Meetup.com/ebcnps/](http://www.Meetup.com/ebcnps/), which has a Google map of the area.

(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.

**Sunday, July 9 and Sunday, August 13, Sunday at 9 am, rip out more French broom at Redwood Park** Pre-registration also required for this volunteer crew--it helps the ranger to bring enough tools and water for all. E-mail [redwood@ebparks.org](mailto:redwood@ebparks.org) to pre-register or call (510) 544-3127.

### **Saturday, July 15 and Saturday, August 19, 10 am-noon, Garber Park Habitat Restoration Workdays**

Join us as we continue removing fire prone invasive weeds in Garber Park. Meet at the Claremont Avenue entrance to Garber Park, where we will continue our push to clear Algerian ivy from the parking area, along the trail, and in Fern Glade. For those who enjoy working on steep slopes the Evergreen Restoration Site needs your help in removing poison hemlock and erhartia grass. Wear long sleeves and pants, shoes with good tread, and bring a water bottle. We provide water, snacks, tools, and gloves. For directions (public transportation and car), maps and further information visit [www.garberparkstewards.org](http://www.garberparkstewards.org) or contact Shelagh at [garberparkstewards@gmail.com](mailto:garberparkstewards@gmail.com).

*Shelagh Brodersen*

Volunteer Coordinator, Garber Park Stewards

[garberparkstewards@gmail.com](mailto:garberparkstewards@gmail.com)

510-517-1918

[www.garberparkstewards.org](http://www.garberparkstewards.org)

### **Sunday, July 16 and Sunday, August 20 at 9:00 am, Sibley Park**

We will touch base for signups and water at the Oakland-side entrance off of Skyline Boulevard, but you can also go directly to the Old Tunnel Road staging area--just be sure to e-mail [sibley@ebparks.org](mailto:sibley@ebparks.org) or [janetgawthrop47@gmail.com](mailto:janetgawthrop47@gmail.com) to let us know to look for you.

### **Saturday, July 29 and Saturday, August 26, 9:30 am Albany Hill**

This crew mostly removes invasive weeds, with the expectation that the hills unique flora will fill in the bare spots soon. Best to pre-register. E-mail [friendsalbanhill@gmail.com](mailto:friendsalbanhill@gmail.com).

**Sunday, September 3, 10:00 am. September plants in Briones.** Meet Gregg Weber at the Briones Rd. Trailhead. RSVP and further details at <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/238733052/>.

### **Sunday, September 17, 10:00 am. Wonderful Delta and Marsh plants in Martinez.**

Meet Gregg Weber at Waterfront Road in Martinez. Further details and RSVP at <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/238733065/>.

## POINT ISABEL RESTORATION JUNE 2017

Scotland and Ireland took us away from our regularly scheduled work party dates in June. We visited the Scottish highlands, admiring the mountains, the lochs, and the fields of bluebells, heather, gorse, and ferns. In Ireland, we spent two days in the Burren in County Clare and were astounded at the profusion of beautiful plants from four continents that grow happily together in this distinctive area of limestone pavement, woods, and small mountains. We learned that over 700 different species of flowering plants, conifers and ferns are growing in the Burren and on the Aran Islands. We walked the Slieve Carran loop in the Burren National Park with Tony Kirby, an author and truly fantastic guide who led us across the limestone ending at a hermitage in a wooded area where Saint Colman mac Duagh was said to have lived in the 6th century. Tony pointed out eightpetal mountain avens (*Dryas octopetala*), an Arctic-alpine flowering plant, growing next to pink flowering bloody cranesbill (*Geranium sanguineum*) which we see growing in Europe by the Mediterranean. Numerous lovely and interesting orchids were in bloom including fly orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*) whose flowers resemble flies and whose scent attracts male wasps and bees that pollinate the flowers as they attempt to mate. For anyone traveling to Ireland who is interested in plants, history, archeology and poetry, we highly recommend taking a guided tour of the Burren with Tony Kirby of Heart of Burren Walks.

On June 10 we held a special work party and welcomed the new group of English Studies Institute (ESI) students from Japan to Point Isabel along with their new chaperone, Evka.

It was a delight to host these students, who helped us remove Bermuda grass and bindweed from two different sites. It's fun to learn about each student when we take our break and we very much appreciate ESI's continued support for the project. Many thanks to Stewards Margot and Tom, Core Volunteer Miriam, and new volunteer Nora for laying down another tarp on Margot's Adopt-a-Spot and covering it with mulch. It's our latest effort to control our greatest challenge to date - Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). This crew did so much great work at our work party on June 17 that we cut short due to the heat wave. Thanks also to all the Stewards and to Core Volunteers John Kenny and Rob Kirby for their continuous efforts this month in weeding, irrigating new plantings, removing trash, and keeping Hoffman Marsh clean.

June was a fun wildlife month. We spotted a Cooper's hawk, a skunk, a great blue heron, and black-necked stilts.

We send our thanks as always to our Ranger Bruce and to the EBRPD for all their support.

One work day in July: July 1<sup>st</sup> and one in August: August 5<sup>th</sup>, both 9:30 am as usual.

*Jane and Tom Kelly*

**Correction from last issue:** The photo of a bee on a bee plant at Point Isabel on page 6 of the June 2017 *Bay Leaf* was taken by Doug Donaldson. The caption incorrectly attributed all Point Isabel photos to Jane Kelly.

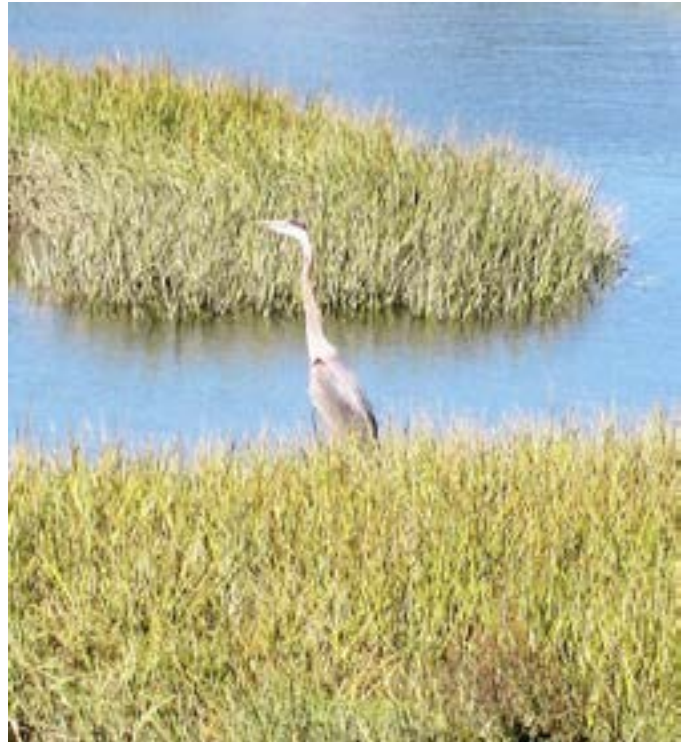


June 17 crew with Ranger Bruce. Photo by Jane Kelly.

# POINT ISABEL RESTORATION PICTURES



ESI students at the end of the day (above), photo by Jane Kelly. Skunk at Point Isabel, photo by Lewis Payne (left below). Great blue heron at Point Isabel, photo by Jane Kelly (right below).



## NATIVE PLANT WEEK CELEBRATION

This year CNPS celebrated the Seventh Annual California Native Plant Week, April 15 - April 23, 2017. At the annual John Muir Earth Day Birthday celebration on April 22nd the East Bay Chapter distributed cards that read "Why I love Native Plants" to celebrate the event. Visitors were happy to share their thoughts on the cards.

If you would like to help out at this event next year please let me know. Also our East Bay Chapter will again be having a table at the 10th annual Martinez Beaver Festival on Saturday August 5th, 2017 from 11 am to 4 pm. We volunteer in coordination with Friends of Alhambra Creek. Come join us if you can.

*Elaine Jackson*



## STINKWORT SEASON: YOU CAN HELP!

Readers of the *Bay Leaf* may recognize this scourge of the East Bay—stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*). Toxic to several types of livestock, worthless as wildlife habitat, a Cal-IPC "red alert" invasive, and—it produces a skin rash. What's to like? Not much.

But don't despair: it gives up reasonably easily—if one removes every single plant. Stinkwort has a limited seed bank, so if you remove all plants you can make it disappear in a year or two.

It's mighty satisfying to make a site go from A to B in just an hour or two (see photos), and to come back the next year and find just a few stragglers—or none.

Want to make the East Bay a better place by reducing stinkwort? Here are some possibilities:

- Join me on my "highway patrols"—to-be-scheduled

Stinkwort before (left – A) and after (right B)



workdays on Highway 24; weekend mornings in August and September

- Join me on evening walks on surface streets in Lamorinda, same idea but casual and brief
- If you see patches on public land, we can strategize about whom to contact
- If you have stinkwort in your neighborhood, I'll join you for a stinkwort-pulling session to get started
- I can provide you with customizable flyers to educate your neighbors

Write to me if you are interested in working with me, would like some help on your own project, or would like more information. Let the season begin!

*Barbara Leitner*  
bleitner@pacbell.net



# DIRECTORY

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Volunteer Coordinator  
Ruth Ann Pearsons  
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Penny Spear, infrastructure

Gudrun Kleist, bulbs

John Danielsen, propagule collection  
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John Muir NHS (Martinez)  
Elaine Jackson, leader  
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Marsh Creek

Heath Bartosh, leader  
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hbartosh@nomadecology.com

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Strawberry Creek  
Tom and Jane Kelly, leaders  
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Skyline Gardens  
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Walnut Creek  
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925-937-6791  
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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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