



March 2018

# 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)

## MARCH MEMBERS' MEETING

Wednesday, March 28, 7:30 pm

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

Visit the Members' Meetings page on the East Bay CNPS website after March 5 for the announcement of this month's program: <http://ebcnps.org/chapter-events-initiatives/members-meetings/>

If you have questions, please contact [programs@ebcnps.org](mailto:programs@ebcnps.org).

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

DRIVING: 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.

VIA 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

April 25, 7:30 pm, Orinda Library Garden Room

Michele Hammond: The East Bay's Endangered Pallid Manzanita



Mount Diablo with snow, February 2018. Photo by Glen Schneider.

# A CALL FOR UNUSUAL PLANTS FIELDWORK

Spring is approaching rapidly and it is once again time to get into the field and monitor our unusual (locally rare) native plant populations.

I have been reviewing our East Bay CNPS Chapter database of *Rare, Unusual, and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties* to prioritize field work for this spring. I have come to realize that there are many records from the 1990s that haven't been reported since that time, so those populations will be the focus for this spring.

Since I'm not able to do much hiking at all anymore I am asking for everyone's help to monitor these populations and see how they are doing.

While I have already requested a number of people to look for and monitor certain plants and/or various locations where multiple populations occur, there are still several plant species and locations to be surveyed, and volunteers are needed to visit and monitor those sites.

The main data to be gathered on these surveys are plant name, date monitored, location description (and GPS coordinates if possible), number of plants (or size of area), habitat, condition of population, and any threats.

Following is a list of some of the fieldwork that still needs to be done this spring. If you are familiar with any of these plants or locations, and would like to help, please contact me at [diannelake@yahoo.com](mailto:diannelake@yahoo.com) for more details.

## Plants

*Bidens laevis*: 6 sites

*Gilia achilleifolia*: 5 sites where the subspecies is unknown and needs to be determined

*Gilia capitata*: 3 sites where the subspecies is unknown and needs to be determined

*Gilia tricolor*: 8 sites where the subspecies is unknown and needs to be determined

*Juncus ensifolius*: 3 sites

*Lupinus variicolor*: 5 sites (this can be difficult to distinguish from a few other lupine species)

*Phacelia ciliata*: 15 sites

# 10 YEARS OF THE EAST COUNTY HABITAT CONSERVANCY

In 2007 the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy began operations after nearly a decade of planning and negotiation. The East Bay Chapter of CNPS was involved at an early stage and has always held a seat on the Public Advisory Committee.

A habitat conservancy streamlines the permitting process for developers and pools the resulting money to buy land that has the environmental values set out in its authorizing documents. This results in larger blocks of land that are better for conserving viable habitat. Our conservancy also restores features such as wetlands that are in short supply in East County.

*Polemonium carneum*: Palomares Rd: Stony Creek Canyon and Summit (probably on private land and might need research about ownership and access)

*Stachys bullata*: 5 sites. ID questionable at all 5 sites. Can be hard to distinguish from *Stachys rigida*

## Places

Browns Island: 25 species

Coyote Hills Regional Park (near Newark): 10 species

Del Valle Regional Park: Hills on East side of lake (this area is largely unexplored)

Los Vaqueros: Several species need specific location descriptions or points

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge (near Newark): 9 species

If none of these plants or locations are familiar to you or do not appeal to you, please look at the database and pick a plant species and/or place that you would like to monitor. If you are not already signed up to use the database, please go to the EBCNPS website, click on plant science, and you will see the database on the menu.

As you conduct your surveys please remember to record the plant name, date observed, location description (plus GPS coordinates if possible), number of plants (or size of area), habitat, condition of population, and any threats.

As you complete your surveys, please enter your results into the database, using the "add observations" function. Note that these observations go into a queue for review, so I may contact you if I have any questions or need additional information. If you are not already signed up to add observations, let me know and I will have Gregg upgrade your account without your having to fill out the additional application form.

Thank you ahead of time to all of you for your help. Happy Botanizing!

*Dianne Lake*

Unusual Plants Coordinator

Last September the Conservancy celebrated its tenth anniversary. It was amazing that all the primary players in forming the Conservancy were still around and attended the party. There were many speeches, people to recognize for their contributions, and much applause, but the only standing ovation was for John Kopchik, who conceived the idea and brought it to fruition, and Abby Fateman, who assisted him for years and succeeded him as Executive Director when John was promoted to Director of the County Planning Department.

*Lesley Hunt*

# BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR: 5/6/18

The Garden Tour - [Forty bird- and butterfly-friendly, pesticide-free, water conserving, low maintenance gardens](#) that contain 60% or more native plants will be open on Sunday, May 6, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. More than forty garden talks will be offered throughout the weekend of the Tour.

Art and Music in the Gardens - Join us for a day of art and music in the gardens on the day of the Tour! Whether you are interested in enjoying sculptures in situ, browsing art for sale, or sketching a garden yourself, this is the Tour for you! In addition, you are invited to settle down in one of a number of beautiful gardens to hear Bluegrass, Baroque, Jazz, or Renaissance music, as well as flutes, woodwinds, guitar, and even sitar.

Join California's Native Plant Movement! - [Special Offer for Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour Registrants](#): Become a California Native Plant Society (CNPS) member for just \$15 (normally \$45) when you register for the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. That's 66% off the regular membership price. Members receive the beautiful *Flora* magazine, filled with native gardening tips, inspiring interviews, and photo essays. You'll also be put in touch with your local chapter for field trip, volunteer, and other event information. Simply complete your online registration for the Tour, and in your registration confirmation email you'll find a discount code for a one year individual membership. Don't miss this rare discounted opportunity to join CNPS in its mission to restore nature one garden at a time and save California's native plants and places. Offer good through midnight, May 6 and does not apply to current CNPS members.

Be sure to add [Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting](mailto:Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting) to your address book, so you receive the Tour registration confirmation e-mail, which contains the CNPS discount link, as well as other emails the Tour will be sending out this spring.

Workshops - A [series of workshops](#) on native plant propagation and garden sustainable gardening will be offered this spring. (Think chickens, pond, rainwater harvesting, native plants, fruit trees, seed collection, and more!). These workshops will fill; register early to avoid being disappointed.

Garden Art and Native Plant Extravaganza at East Bay Wilds, Saturday, April 28

[Shop for garden art and native plants](#) at this special fundraiser for the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. Browse through owner Pete Veilleux's extensive, eclectic collection of garden benches, tables, chairs, statues, planters, antiques, and tchotchkes for sale at great prices. Peruse the more than 800 species of native plants - many of them not available elsewhere - grown at this amazing nursery. East Bay Wilds is not normally open to the public, so don't miss this opportunity to bring home garden art and native plants that are just right for your garden! 15% of all purchases will go to support the Tour. Can you print and distribute [Tour fliers](#)? - Due to budgetary constraints, we are not distributing Tour fliers this year. If you are able to print and distribute the Tour flier (to your

local library, nature center, coffee shop, co-workers or neighbors), we would be grateful.

Volunteers - are needed on the day of the Tour (Sunday, May 6, 2018), to spend a morning or afternoon greeting Tour participants or answering questions about natives. Complete the volunteer section of the registration form if you would like to help out this year. Benefits to volunteers include a free garden guide, invitations to Garden Soirees, in which Tour gardens are open to hosts and volunteers; a pre-Tour meeting with the owner and private Tour of the garden you will be staffing; a guaranteed Tour reservation for the half day you are free; a Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour t-shirt, and, perhaps best of all, heartfelt thanks for helping to educate the general public about the many pleasures and benefits of gardening with California native plants. Prior to signing up to volunteer, [browse the gardens](#) to choose the garden you would like to be assigned to. [Click here for more information on volunteering.](#)

2019 Tour - Applications for the 2019 Tour are now being accepted. You can download the [application form](#) from the Tour website. Garden visits will be made in May and June. (Please note that gardens must contain at least 60% or more native plants.)

Donations and Garden Guide - A \$15 per person donation is requested to help cover the cost of putting on the Tour. Please help ensure the Tour's continuation by donating generously; we are counting on your support. In addition to the requested \$15 per person for Tour attendance, please consider making a donation above and beyond that amount to help ensure the Tour runs in the black, and can continue on into the future. If you are not attending the Tour, but would still like to support it, you can make a donation [here](#).

To cover the expense of creating, printing, and mailing the garden guide, a \$10 fee will be charged for each guide. (One garden guide will serve up to four people.) Payment can be made with your credit card (via the PayPal site).

Advertise with us at <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/ads>. A limited amount of ad space is still available in the printed garden guide. Please contact me asap if you are interested in ad space, as the guide is being laid out now.

Facebook - Like us on Facebook! This spring the Garden Tour's [Facebook page](#) at <https://tinyurl.com/ya3vtx77> will run articles such as "What to do in your native plant garden each month" and "What's in bloom now?", describe the spring workshops, feature specific gardens, and show you before-and-after garden photos.

*Kathy Kramer*

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour Coordinator  
(510) 236-9558

[kathy@kathykramerconsulting.net](mailto:kathy@kathykramerconsulting.net)  
[www.bringingbackthenatives.net](http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net)  
[Visit the Garden Tour on Facebook](#)



# NATIVE HERE NURSERY

## Plants to consider

Now that the fall/winter series of focus days is over it is time to get ready for a new crop of seedlings. That means some of the older plants in larger containers need to move out of the nursery and into your gardens and projects.

March is not too late to plant. We have some great trees in one gallon pots and five gallon pots. Some fine deciduous shrubs are available in large quantities. Ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*), although it loses its leaves in winter, grows new ones shortly after leaves fall. The rest of the year, it provides a leafy screen. Twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*) is a loosely branched shrub with yellow flowers in rosy bracts that later cup the dark berries. It is an excellent plant in drainage areas. Found only in a few places in the Bay Area, burning bush (*Euonymus occidentalis*) grows in similar locations, with small, brightly colored fruit in late summer. Check the inventory online at [www.nativeherenursery.org](http://www.nativeherenursery.org) to see what is available and what is specially priced. There is also an assortment of plants on our "mark down rack" across the driveway from the office.

Native Here Nursery is open Fridays 9-noon, Saturdays 10-2, and Tuesdays noon-3.

## Volunteer training

Since the weather is warming up and rain is not in the forecast, the nursery is in need of more volunteers to water the plants. The nursery is divided into sections that take

from 45 minutes to a little over an hour to water. Watering in the morning is best, but not always possible. If you have an hour or two each week that you would like to spend nurturing plants in a peaceful setting, consider attending a training session on watering.

Other volunteer tasks include sowing seeds, potting up plants, grooming and pruning.

Training sessions for new volunteers will be held this month from 10:30 am to noon on Saturdays and Tuesdays:

- Saturday, March 3: 10:30- noon Learn how to pot seedlings and saplings
- Tuesday, March 6: 10:30-noon Repeat of March 3 training
- Saturday, March 10: 10:30-noon Learn watering philosophy and procedures
- Tuesday, March 13: 10:30-noon Repeat of March 10 training
- Saturday, March 17: 10:30-noon Learn seed sowing protocols at Native Here
- Tuesday, March 20: 10:30-noon Repeat of March 17 training
- Saturday March 24: 10:30-noon Learn how to groom and care for plants
- Tuesday, March 27: 10:30-noon Repeat of March 24 training

*Charli Danielsen, Production leader*



twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*). Photo by Janice Bray.



ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*). Photo by PNW Nursery.

*As long as I live, I'll hear waterfalls and birds and winds sing. I'll interpret the rocks, learn the language of flood, storm, and the avalanche. I'll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the world as I can.*

John Muir

## FIELD TRIPS

**Sunday, March 11, 10:00 am**, Field Trip led by Gregg Weber field trip to Kennedy Grove. Click on this link for more information: <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/qdckpyxfbxb/>

**Saturday, March 24, 10:00 am, Palos Colorados Trail along Palo Seco Creek.** Spring is bringing new lush growth in the hills of Oakland. We will hike along Palos Colorados Trail, which is lined with coast live oak, California bay and redwood trees. We will see at least five species of native fern, blooming milkmaids, California man-root, fairy bells, and many other natives.

## RESTORATION PROJECTS

**Sundays in March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th at 9:30 am -- for 3 1/2 hours.** Also, most Wednesday afternoons, Skyline Gardens Restoration.

Bring: Water, snack, hat, gloves, boots, long pants and shirts. Tools will be provided.

A most welcome storm front has helped to ensure the longevity of the recently planted natives up on Skyline as well as encourage more flowers to appear. Now is the time to see white popcorn flowers, pink California currant and blue dicks as well as our Golden State flower the glorious California poppy!

So far 253 native species have been identified in the mile-and-a-half corridor. (List pdf available on request.) Because of the high density of native plants, it is a great place to botanize, learn, and observe – not only species, but how they behave and associate in plant communities. We will learn natives not only as flowers, but also as seedlings, plants, seed heads, and at rest. We will learn them in community – who they grow with, and how they disperse and interact. We will learn the botanical seasons in detail.

This is a new project, so we will be co-creating this approach together. The project is open to anyone with a strong interest and commitment, regardless of background. Because of the nature of our permit from EBMUD, each outing will be limited to 15 persons, so RSVP is mandatory.

**Saturday, March 3 and Saturday, March 17, 9:30 am, Point Isabel restoration.** Join Greens at Work near the parking lot at the end of Rydin Road, on the side next to the salt marsh. This crew now carries into the afternoon, with a break at noon if you need to leave for Saturday errands.

**Saturday, March 3, 9 am to 1 pm, Redwood Regional Park.** Call [510-544-3127](tel:510-544-3127), starting from Pinehurst Gate.

**Saturday, March 3 and Saturday, March 10, Sabercat Creek restoration.** Click on this link for details: <https://tinyurl.com/yc7zmajv>

Meet at Palos Colorados Trailhead at the end of Joaquin Miller Court. Joaquin Miller Court is off Mountain Boulevard, which parallels Highway 13. The site is also accessible by AC Transit. The trip will cover about 1.5 miles. The trail follows a steep incline, is generally narrow, and at times traverses uneven and rocky terrain.

**Trip leader:** Camille Nowell ([camille\\_fawne@hotmail.com](mailto:camille_fawne@hotmail.com)).

For more information click on <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/248004195/>

**Sunday, March 4, 10:00 am, North Basin Shoreline (mouth of Schoolhouse Creek) with John Kenny.** The North Basin restoration project meets the first Sunday of each month at Eastshore State Park in Berkeley, on the bay shoreline south of Tom Bates soccer fields. For more information and directions, contact [johnkenny54@yahoo.com](mailto:johnkenny54@yahoo.com).

**Saturday, March 10, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve.** Join Janet Gawthrop and other volunteers restoring Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve in the Oakland hills. Please note that you may be exposed to poison oak during this event so if you are sensitive to it you may wish to consider another event. For more information: [www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/dqwtthyxdbnb/](http://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/dqwtthyxdbnb/)

**Sunday, March 11, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, Redwood Regional Park, Pinehurst Gate, French broom pull.** Tools and snacks will be provided. Rain cancels.

**Saturday, March 17, 10 am-noon, Garber Park Habitat Restoration.** Join us as we continue to attack the invasive spring weed growth. There are many activities to choose from light and level to the tough tasks in Horsetail Meadow where the poison hemlock and Cape Ivy need to be removed.

We provide tools, gloves, drinks and snacks. Wear long sleeves and pants and shoes with good tread. Meet at the Claremont Avenue entrance to Garber.

**Directions:** From the intersection of Claremont and Ashby (also the AC Transit #79 stop) go 0.4 miles up Claremont Avenue (towards Grizzly Peak) to the Garber Park sign and parking turn-out. More information and maps can be found at [garberparkstewards.org](http://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 **Saturday, March 31, 9:30 am, Friends of Albany Parks.** Join Friends of Albany Parks for the last Saturday of the month weeding and planting work party. Email for location (address below). Gloves and tools provided but bring a favorite



## SKYLINE RESTORATION REPORT: FEBRUARY 2018

Last week, we worked on cleaning up the Diablo Bend area. On Wednesday, we spot sprayed vinegar on Italian thistles on the slope above the bench. On Sunday, the group hand weeded thistles on the steep slope below the bench. And for a breather we plucked invasive geraniums off the trail shoulder there. The first poppies and popcorn flowers came out to thank us for our efforts. They are planning a glorious show there this year.

We'll be out regular days this week: Wednesday 2 pm to sunset; Sunday 9:30 to 1. Please let me know if you can make it. On Sunday we were joined by the crew from KPIX TV (CBS Channel 5) to film the project as part of the Jefferson Public Service Award we received. They were there with the big camera and microphones for a couple of hours, and they put us through the paces. Welcome to Jen and Alan from KPIX. Here's me getting hooked up for a microphone:



Jen Mistrot, the camera maestro from KPIX, has just put a microphone on my lapel. Having run a wire under my vest, she is now fitting the battery pack to my backside belt. Thanks to Cynthia for this shot.

The TV segment is scheduled to run on Wednesday, March 7 on the Channel 5 evening news, and then again on Thursday and the weekend. KCBS Radio will also run a segment. I will send out details as we get closer to air time.

Meanwhile, more wildflowers are coming out. Here is our lovely pink flowering currant (*Ribes glutinosum*):



We have found just a few flowering currants at Skyline, but a real honey grows right along the trail approaching Diablo Bend. Thanks to Laurie for this shot.

The great British garden writer W. H. Bean considered California's flowering currants to be one of the ten best flowering shrubs in the whole world. These are great plants for gardens. In terms of local ecology, our local Coast Range *Ribes* species (currants and gooseberries) - because they flower with nectar very early in the New Year - enable Anna's hummingbirds to overwinter in coastal California. All other hummer species must go to Central America to winter.



## SKYLINE RESTORATION REPORT: CONT.

Right on the heels of the currants come the big, gorgeous blue forget-me-nots that we call hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*). They are long-lived, deep rooted perennials that grow in the woods. On the previous page is a picture of one in glorious flower, in the woodland section of Skyline Gardens, near the Buckeye Grove. These belong on anybody's top ten list. Thanks again, Laurie, for this shot.

Their name comes from the large, long and rough leaves that someone thought resembled the tongue of a large dog. Personally, I think they deserve a more poetic common name. Does anyone know what the local Indians called them?

When these bloom in the East Bay, they are also sounding the bell for the early insects, who come to feed and pollinate. Often these are bumblebees, who because of their thick fur coats, are well dressed for cooler weather. I especially love to see the huge Yellow-faced Bumblebees (*Bombus vosnesenskii*) cruising around at this time of year. I call them the "flying mice" because they are so large and furry. These are gravid (fertilized) queens who are just emerging from their long hibernation that began with last summer's dry season. Right on schedule, they emerge in February with warming days and the first wildflowers. For ID purposes, here's a picture of a yellow-faced worker bee on a soap root flower in June:



This picture shows the typical yellow "forehead" and a tiny spot of yellow on the rump. The flying mice of February are about five times as large as the one in the picture. They are looking for a place to make their nest (hive), often in an abandoned gopher hole. The Queen's first job is to lay the first set of eggs and gather enough nectar and pollen to support them. At first, she has to do it all - gather food and tend the young. When the first workers mature, in about a month, they can take over the foraging and tending, while the queen stays home and lays more eggs to build the hive. In a few months' time a hive can grow from one gravid queen to a thousand bees. As wildflower season wanes, the hive produces males and new queens, who then mate. As the newly mated queens burrow down for the dry season, all the rest of the hive dies, and the cycle is complete.

The other bumblebee that we often see on hound's tongue is the Black-tailed Bumblebee. Here is one of them, taking a rest:



These have several bands of silver interlaced with black. Usually they dart so quickly in and out of the flowers that they are impossible to photograph. Congratulations and thanks to Ken-ishi Ueda for getting such a clear picture.

It's been quite a week.  
Happy Trails,  
Glen Schneider

*There are moments when all anxiety and stated toil are becalmed in the infinite leisure and repose of nature.*

*How novel and original must be each new man's view of the universe - for though the world is so old - and so many books have been written - each object appears wholly undescribed to our experience - each field of thought wholly unexplored - The whole.*

*Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plain.*

Henry David Thoreau



# CONSERVATION REPORT

**Campaign to Let Antioch Voters Decide: The Sand Creek Area Protection Initiative.** On Thursday, February 8, 2018 the “Antioch Community to Save Sand Creek,” a coalition of Antioch residents and community groups, submitted the text of the “Let Antioch Voters Decide: The Sand Creek Area Protection Initiative” to the City of Antioch. The initiative is in response to threats of thousands of houses in the Sand Creek area at Antioch’s southern border, the undeveloped area stretching from Deer Valley Road west to Black Diamond Mines Regional Park. The initiative would give Antioch voters the right to vote on Sand Creek Area projects or changes to Antioch’s Urban Limit Line.

“Conservation of the Sand Creek Area has long been one of our goals. It contains several rare and unusual plants with the potential for more. It is also an important transitional zone between three major ecoregions. Preservation of this area will allow all species to adapt to changing conditions,” said Lesley Hunt, Outreach Chair, California Native Plant Society, East Bay Chapter.

The “Let Antioch Voters Decide: The Sand Creek Area Protection Initiative” would:

- Require a vote to allow any major development in the initiative area
- Limit the extent and amount of development in a 3 square mile (1800-acre) area between Deer Valley Road and Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve
- Protect the existing Urban Limit Line; preserve nature, open spaces, and historic qualities
- Maintain agriculture; protect the Sand Creek stream corridor; limit traffic in Antioch; decrease impacts on schools, water, police, fire, and other services
- Help focus city investments, revitalization and economic development on existing neighborhoods, downtown and along the waterfront. It would do so by designating the roughly 1800-acre area between Kaiser Hospital and Black Diamond Mines for rural residential, agricultural and open space uses
- The Initiative Area is contained within our chapter’s Four Valleys Botanical Priority Protection Area (BPPA). It encompasses swaths of Lone Tree Valley and Horse Valley. Currently, the majority of the area remains as undeveloped grasslands on private property historically used for ranching. Check out my previous reports from

the Bay Leaf in April 2017 <http://ebcnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/April-2017-Bay-Leaf-urls-live2-corrected.pdf> and December 2017 <http://ebcnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/december-2017-bay-leaf-corrected.pdf> In addition to resources previously reported, a quick search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) shows rare plant records in the Initiative Area for showy golden madia (*Madia radiata*, 1B.1) and Brewer’s western flax (*Hesperolinon breweri*, 1B.2). Some rare plant records are notable for a close proximity to the Initiative Area: large-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia grandiflora*, 1B.1), Mt. Diablo buckwheat (*Eriogonum truncatum*, 1B.1) brittlescale (*Atriplex depressa*, 1B.2), big tarplant (*Blepharizonia plumosa*, 1B.1), and San Joaquin spearscale (*Atriplex joaquiniana*, 1B.2). Rare wildlife species with records in the Initiative Area include California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), Alameda whipsnake (*Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*) and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). Clearly, this Initiative Area in southern Antioch is richly biodiverse and worth preserving from development.

This Initiative contains many direct and indirect benefits for native plant preservation, such as

- Sand Creek buffer 200 feet of centerline preserved, development on wetlands not allowed,
- continuous grassland corridor preserved,
- more restrictive hillside ordinance enacted, special status species protected where found.

**You can get involved to help support this initiative!** Please volunteer to collect signatures for the petition that will place the initiative on the ballot for November 2018. We need 7600 Antioch voter signatures! Join and share our coalition’s Facebook group for additional announcements, such as hikes: [www.facebook.com/antiochsaveandcreekandstophtheranch/](http://www.facebook.com/antiochsaveandcreekandstophtheranch/)

Contact us for more information on how to get involved: Outreach Chair Lesley Hunt, at [ldhunt@astound.net](mailto:ldhunt@astound.net) ; Conservation Analyst Karen Whitestone, at [conservation@ebcnps.org](mailto:conservation@ebcnps.org)

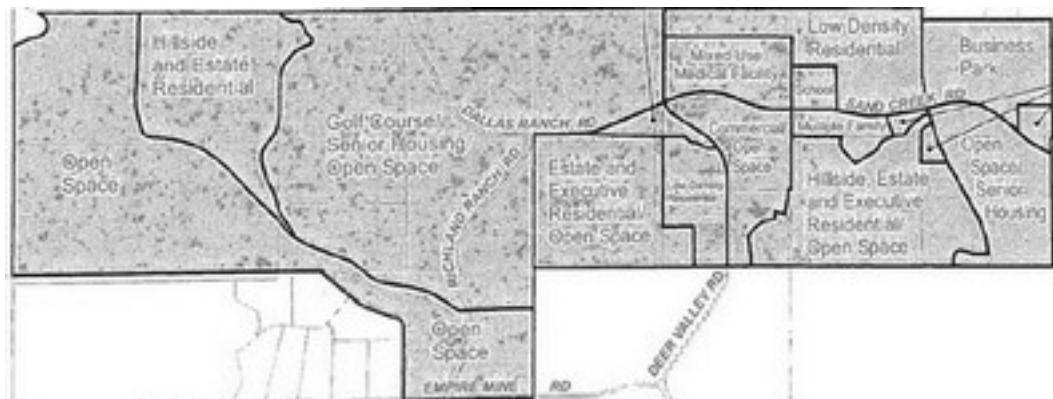


Figure 1. How this area is currently zoned in the City of Antioch General Plan 2003 (Figure 4.8).



# CONSERVATION REPORT CONT.

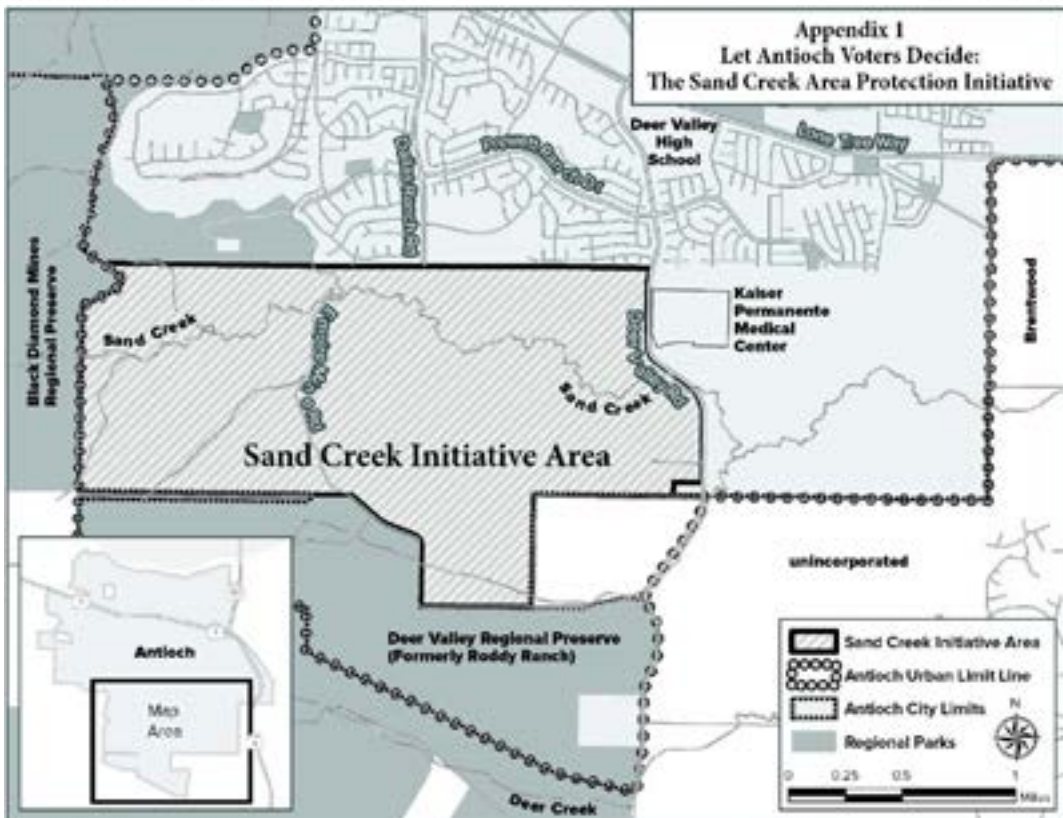
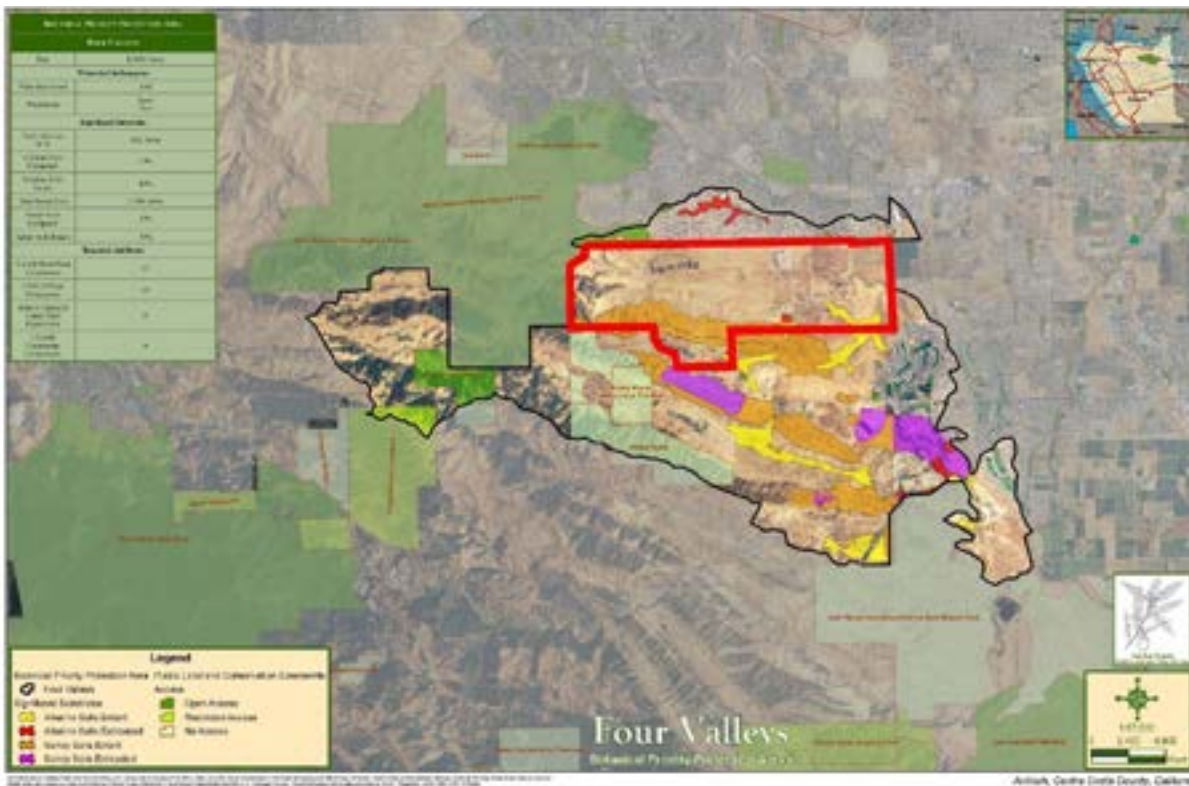


Figure 3. The Sand Creek Initiative Area we are working to protect is outlined in black. (Initiative, Appendix 1, 2018).

Click on this link to view clearer images of the above maps.  
<http://ebcnps.org/resources/online-resource-list/>.

## POINT ISABEL IN FEBRUARY, 2018

It has been warm and dry at Point Isabel. Too warm and too dry. After receiving almost five inches of rain in January, it has been bone dry in February. As a result, stewards and volunteers are spending much more time moving up and down the trail – filling watering cans from one of two faucets in the dog park - to the newly planted California native plants further down the Bay Trail. Fortunately for all the new plants, our volunteers have been making a real effort to keep them irrigated. The poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) and tansy leafed phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*) are starting to emerge and are patiently waiting for a little rain. It won't be long before the trail users start stopping to take pictures and asking if we planted the poppies!

Stewards, Core Volunteers, and many new volunteers came to our monthly work parties to remove oat grass and oxalis, performing rescue operations around the newly planted bunchgrasses and shrubs. We hosted a large group of Circle K volunteers from UC Davis and UC Berkeley as well as a small but very effective group including returning volunteer Elaine and Steward Ivy, and new volunteers Ben, Anushka and Nathanael. Thanks to these efforts the newly planted blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*) and red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) are thriving. We are excited to see their growth and we're looking forward to seeing them bloom and provide seeds for the many birds at Point Isabel.

In addition to picking up trash along Rydin Road and Central Avenue, Core Volunteer Rob Kirby cut back invasive shrubs

from the trail opening up the area for the EBRPD for keeping the grass mowed. Our thanks this month go to Shannon Elliot of the City of Richmond for removing discarded furniture and trash from along Rydin Road. We very much appreciate the continued support of the City of Richmond staff.

The flock of turkeys has reappeared and we are monitoring their activities as best we can. While we have not been able to catch them in the act, we consider them “birds of interest” in the acts of biting off the fresh growth on our California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) seedlings and of munching down our young soap plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*).

We see that bumblebees are beginning to emerge and are collecting pollen from plum tree flowers. Flocks of birds dash into the plum trees and appear to be eating the flowers. Hoffman Marsh has a constant stream of egret and mallard visitors, as well as the bird watchers who watch them.

The weather is wrong but we are trying to focus on continuing to create and protect the habitat at Point Isabel.

Many thanks to our supportive EBRPD Supervisor, Scott Possin, and to our fantastic Ranger, Bruce Adams.

*Jane and Tom Kelly*



The Circle K volunteers from UC Davis and UC Berkeley. Photo by Jane Kelly.



## POINT ISABEL IN FEBRUARY, 2018 (CONT.)



Above: the February crew; below left: Ben, Nathanael, and Elaine; below right: Tom and Anushka. Photos 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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