



The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnps.org

www.nativeherenursery.org

JANUARY MEMBERS' MEETING (NO DEC. MEETING)

East Bay CNPS Members' Meetings are great for:

- Learning about native plants (and wildlife) and their habitats
- Virtually visiting beautiful and interesting places
- Being inspired by conservation challenges and success stories
- Meeting nice people who share your interests

Our meetings are always free and open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike. We meet at 7:30 pm on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month in January-May and September-November, with a slight adjustment in the schedule to avoid Thanksgiving week. Most of our meetings take place at the Orinda Library, which is centrally located in our big, two-county chapter area.

We welcome your ideas for topics or speakers (some of our best programs have come from members' suggestions), so please feel free to contact Programs chair Sue Rosenthal with your ideas (programs@ebcnps.org or 510-496-6016).

Here's what's coming up in the next few months:

December: No meeting (happy holidays!)

January 24, 7:30 pm Orinda Library Garden Room:

Photo Sharing Night!

East Bay CNPS photo sharing nights are eye-popping, educational, and fun. Everyone is invited to share photos or video of hikes, trips and adventures, gardens, landscapes, work parties, flora, fauna, plant art, you name it! Come to share your images or just to enjoy those that others bring. Nonmembers are welcome to present and/or enjoy, and both amateur and pro photographers are invited and appreciated.

Guidelines:

1. **IMPORTANT:** Please contact Sue at programs@ebcnps.org or 510-496-6016 by January 17 if you want to show photos or video.
2. Each presenter will have time for up to 25 images (or up to 7 minutes of video). Bring photos you think will appeal to native plant and nature lovers.
3. Provide your images in advance so we can save time during the meeting: when you contact Sue, you'll get detailed instructions about how to do this.
4. Prints are also welcome: We'll have a table on which you can display them.

February 28, 7:30 pm, Orinda Library Garden Room

Leslie Buck: *Cutting Back* – Garden Memoir Reading and Pruning Demonstration

NATIVE HERE NURSERY SPECIAL SALES: TREES 12/9

Have you been thinking about planting a local native tree? Now is a great time to do so. Come and learn about our local native trees, some of which will be on **special price sale** at **Native Here Nursery**.

Look for oaks (*Quercus* spp.), madrone (*Arbutus*), redwood (*Sequoia*) and many other trees. Trees that really need to get in the ground soon will on **special price sale**.

Charli Danielsen will talk at 11 am about our local native trees, including criteria for selecting and caring for them. Charli has a distinguished background with local native plants, having founded Native Here Nursery over twenty years ago. She is past president of the board of directors of CNPS as well as a fellow of the organization. And Charli has served several times as chapter president.

Come and bring your lunch to enjoy while listening to Charli's talk, then continue shopping for plants. Even if you are not looking to plant local native trees just now, we will be offering over 200 species of other local native plants for your delight, including a selection of manzanitas and ferns featured during our previous fall **Special Events**. Also our **special half price sale** on selected riparian and wetland plants continues.

Upcoming Special Events at Native Here

Grasslands Day -- January 20, 10-2

Trillium and other Treasures -- February 24, 10-2

For more information and updates on our plant inventory please see <http://nativeherenursery.org/plant-inventory/>

Native Here Nursery, 101 Golf Course Drive, Tilden Park, Berkeley, 94708

REMEMBERING JEAN ROBERTSON, CONSERVATION CHAIR

Long time CNPS stalwart Jean Robertson has died. Jean, as she put it, had been living with cancer for many years.

By profession Jean was a landscape contractor and the creator of many beautiful gardens. She was also a loving partner and parent. She delighted in music and sang in choruses and played musical instruments including the ukulele.

It was her life long dedication to community public service work that brought her to the California Native Plant Society. She had long been active in her North Oakland and Emeryville neighborhood. She helped organize California native plantings in her local public spaces and helped start community food gardens. She was crucial in transforming a proposed expressway in her neighborhood into a parkway with an emphasis on bicycle and pedestrian use.



She came to East Bay CNPS because she wanted to affect a broader community with her public service and help protect and publicize California's native plants, which she so delighted in. She became East Bay Chapter Conservation Chair, a role she served in for many years until very recently. She also served at State CNPS, first on the Chapter Council, then on the State Board of Directors until recently.

Jean was thorough, careful, and passionate in performing her responsibilities. Her honest, engaged style was

uniquely her own. She knew how to listen and even when in difficult situations, she maintained a respectful presence to all around her. She will be missed, but as the following tributes show, her work will continue to inspire others to help in making a better world.

David Bigham

I am so sorry to hear of this. Jean was a great asset to CNPS and, although I never knew her well, I always enjoyed talking to her when I saw her and thought she was an intelligent, interesting, and genuinely nice person. The world is losing far too many wonderful people these days. *Dianne Lake, EBCNPS Unusual Plants Chair*

Thank you for sharing the sad news. It's hard to think of Jean as not being here any longer, but she will continue to inspire me for the rest of my life. I'm involved in a three day environmental negotiation workshop this week, which is coincidental but perfect timing. It seems like a very fitting thing to be doing in memory of Jean's passion, integrity, and commitment. *Sue Rosenthal, EBCNPS Programs Chair*

I only knew Jean for a short time but I loved her and I know she was very dear to you. Please accept my condolences and keep me informed of any plans for a memorial.

Marcia Kolb, Huckleberry Preserve exotics remover

I've been thinking about her. I'm very sad. *Delia Taylor, EBCNPS longtime Board member*

I'm terribly sorry to hear that. A remarkable woman I felt lucky to meet. *Roy West, long time, CNPS and CalFlora activist*

She was such a great heart. *Barbara Leitner, Past Chapter Board President*

It is always good to share gratitude for the joy a person has brought into our lives, even if only for the few minutes we shared with them, and to recognize all we admire in them. I have come to understand that when a person dies, a person that has touched us even in a small way, they have lessons to teach and we lose something valuable when we don't recognize them. Jean's lesson for me, even after only a few minutes with her, was that she brought acceptance of her limitations, joy and commitment to all she did that day. She reached out to me with welcoming interest, and I saw her absolute attention to the present moment and what she was experiencing in that moment. And, she did this faced with a very short time horizon and a great deal of discomfort. Seeing Jean live so completely in the face of loss, discomfort and impending death is a huge lesson. It is always worth taking notes since the longer each of us lives, the more likely we will have to face deep personal loss, and we can only learn from others how to best live those moments completely with grace, ease and interest in each nano-second of the life we have left. Gratitude to all Jean gave to every person she touched. *Hilary Lorraine, hiker and outdoorswoman*



Photos of Jean Robertson. With Judy Schwartz (previous page). With Bill Hunt (above). At Point Reyes (right top, photo by Alissa Shethar). Jean looking closely at a fiddleneck (right).

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, December 2, 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.

Redwood Park Broom Pull. We will meet at the Canyon Meadow staging area of Redwood Regional Park and hike up to Eastridge to continue pulling broom. **We will meet on Saturday, December 2nd** at 9:00 and work until 1:00. **On Sunday the 10th we will meet at 9:30 and work until 1:30.** As usual, we will enjoy delicious snacks. There is no registration necessary. If you are under 18 you will need to have an adult sign a work waiver before we start.
Ranger Monica

Sunday, December 3, 10 am, North Basin at the mouth of Schoolhouse Creek. Meet John Kenny at the bend in the shoreline, maybe a 10 meter walk from the paved Bay Trail to the waterfront. Volunteers will be weeding, planting and maybe watering new plants until early afternoon.

Saturday, December 9, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve. Meet at the parking lot, where we look at

weather and soil to decide the best worksite for the month. We had enough volunteers this month to split and work on two locations. With luck, there may be early flowers on the pallid manzanita. Heavy rain will cancel (soil erosion on slopes).

Saturday, December 16, 10 am, Garber Park (Oakland) This group starts from the trailhead on Claremont Avenue, but best to e-mail garberparkstewards@gmail.com to let them know you plan to attend.

Sunday, December 17, 9 am, Sibley Regional Park Meet at the Old Tunnel Road staging area. If the Bay Ridge trail is muddy then we will start in from the paved road above the wall of broom. If you have questions e-mail janet-gawthrop47@gmail.com or sibley@ebparks.org.

Saturday, December 30, join Friends of Albany Hill for the last Saturday of the month work party, 9:30-11:30 am. Email for location (email address below). 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: friendsalbanhill@gmail.com, friendsofalbanhill.org.

SKYLINE GARDEN REPORT

We are definitely in the rainy season, with good amounts forecast this week. We've already had over two inches at Skyline. Last week we finished our last cut and rake section at the Siesta Nose above the old bench on the Steam Trains leg of the trail. On Sunday Bob led the attack on *Euphorbia* above the Water Tank. Thanks Bob, I saw the piles. We'll be working on that for several more outings.

We'll have regular days out this week, but we may get rain. Please let me know if you can make it. If it looks like we need to cancel I'll let those folks know by 8 am of the target day. This week I wanted to show in more detail our efforts to protect young live oaks. This is part of our overall restoration strategy of encouraging the return of oak woodland at Skyline in appropriate places. This is important in itself, as oak woodlands are the most diverse ecosystems in California. All those leaves, branches and acorns house and feed multitudes of lichen, moss, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals large and small.

Live oak woodland also plays an important role in wildfire control, as they rarely burn and act as dependable fire breaks. They shade out flammable annual grasses and shrubs. The leaves are not full of oil like pines and eucalyptus, and very little litter (read branches, needles, and bark for fuel) gathers in the woods underneath them. They can get singed by nearby flames, but they almost always bounce right back.

Up at Skyline there are scores of young live oak seedlings and saplings that all want to become big trees. But they are heavily browsed by deer and kept small. We have all seen the topiary oaks that the deer keep in that mushroom shape for decades. Our strategy is to ID the most promising of these and put wire cages around them so they can get a leader above the 'browse line.' Once they get a branch above the browse line they are on their way to becoming a tree.

The first step is to mark or flag the best ones. Here is a picture of one that has been flagged (white):



Notice how at this browsed stage the oak looks a lot like the surrounding Coyote Bush. The next thing we do is drive a T-stake at the edge of the oak. This will support the wire cage:



The oak to be caged is to the right of the stake. Just to show you the age of this browsed one, here's a shot of the trunk at ground level:



Look at the size of that trunk! The blue is one of our nitrile gloves for comparison. This trunk is about five inches in diameter. This oak may be 20 or more years old, but the deer have kept it low by diligent browsing. Next step is to put a wire cage around the oak. This is the same tree:



The wire will prevent the deer from reaching in and nibbling the new growth. Next spring, this oak will shoot up a leader perhaps four feet or more. This tree has a huge root system and will just shoot up with protection. Shall we form another friendly betting pool on how tall this one will be next year?

SKYLINE GARDENS REPORT (CONT.)

Here's what the growth of a live oak looks like once the leader climbs above the browse line:



In the photo above you can see three year's growth (look for a straight shoot and then a cluster of spreading branches). In this case, there's about six feet of growth, or two feet a year. At

this rate, a ten year old live oak would be twenty feet tall and nearly as wide. They grow really fast; I've seen it many times.

To close out, the rain means seeds are sprouting. Here's a shot from today along the trail:



The yellow-green duo in the middle are fiddlenecks; their seed leaves are forked and bristly. I see some *Geranium* and clover there too, exotics. We've been waiting for this all summer and we are ready. Like Grant at Richmond, we know where they are and we've got them surrounded, and when they make their move we will pounce.

Get the vinegar ready.

Happy Trails,

Glen Schneider

NATIVE HERE REPORT

Fall has been busy at Native Here Nursery. CNPS member volunteers have been joined by several student volunteers. Many of them are from other countries and enrolled in a UC Extension program to introduce them to American university life.

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and two paid assistants, a steady stream of plants has been produced and sold.

People ask "When is the plant sale?" The nursery actually has three per week year round – Tuesdays noon-three, Fridays nine-noon, and Saturdays ten-two. This fall and winter, instead of one big fall fair or sale, we have held special focused events.

So far September's Manzanita Day, October's Ferns and Other Shady Friends, and November's Special Sale of Plants for Creeks and Wet Spots have drawn enthusiastic customers. **The series continues with Trees of the East Bay Day on December 9, Grasslands Day on January 20, and Trillium and Other Treasures on February 24.**

Available plants are listed on the nursery website www.nativeherenursery.org, in an inventory updated around mid-month. Details of events are also posted on that website.

Now the rains have begun, plants may not need as much water delivered by volunteers as in summer and early fall, but there is still a need for continued attention: winds and cold temperature can dry plant tissue and soil, leaves and debris need to be kept off the surfaces, newly divided plants need special care, and many seeds collected through the previous year need to be sown between November and March. Volunteers also help with selling plants, writing up and recording sales, keeping signage current, helping with efforts to keep the nursery *Phytophthora*-free, repairing and improving structures, pruning and weeding. If you would like to become a regular volunteer, or just have a few random hours to pitch in, please come to the nursery when it is open, or contact Ruth Ann Pearsons rapearsons1@mac.com.

Charli Danielsen, production leader

CONSERVATION ANALYST'S REPORT

An Update of Conservation Success and Progress in 2017

Our beloved pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*) received some overdue attention this year at its home in the East Bay Hills. The long-awaited [Pallid Manzanita Management Plan](#) was finally approved midway through this year to help guide East Bay Regional Park District conservation efforts. The District counted all the individual plants in populations on Park property, evaluated the health of pallid manzanita stands, and has begun to implement several "best management practices" documents regarding *Phytophthora* sanitation. Several dedicated Conservation Committee members gave extensive feedback on the plan. Our advocacy achieved many positive changes to the plan. One example is a commitment to developing individual treatment plans for areas with maritime chaparral. Even with progress, several outstanding concerns remain unaddressed, including long term funding. Several funding sources (including 2018's Measure CC) may hold the answer for assuring plan implementation and success for years to come. Go see pallid manzanita for yourself in bloom this winter on a trail hike at one of its primary locations, Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve. Thank you: Judy Schwartz, Marcia Kolb, Peter Rauch, David Bigham, Jean Robertson, Jim Hanson



Pallid manzanita at Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve. © 2004 Steve Matson.

Antioch officially tabled its plan to rezone the [Sand Creek Focus Area](#) in October. The City Council did not approve the General Plan EIR Addendum prepared by City staff. A few Councilmembers expressed concern that stakeholders and community members should have been consulted earlier in that process. Also, staff noted that Antioch's recent commitment to creating a Habitat Conservation Plan is a lengthy process that may be complicated by a change in zoning. Lesley Hunt and I continue to represent our chapter within the group called Antioch Community to Save Sand Creek. We continue to engage the local community with educational hikes and some coffee get-togethers. Keep an eye out in early 2018 for more exciting news and opportunity to get involved in Antioch. Thank you: Lesley Hunt, Dianne Lake, Nicole Jurjavic, Megan Keever

At the early November meeting of Oakland City Council on the [Oak Knoll Mixed Use Community](#), CNPS advocated for

improved mitigation for the Rank 4 Oakland star-tulip (*Calochortus umbellatus*) and native purple needlegrass grasslands



Conservation analyst Karen Whitestone speaking about the Oak Knoll project.

within the proposed 900 unit housing development at the site of the former Oak Knoll Naval Hospital in the Oakland hills. CNPS delivered comments. Support letters also were sent to Council from Sierra Club's Northern Alameda County Group and the California Native Grasslands Association. Since this project has been under consideration for many years, our recommendations focused on a few critical and sensible protections for the star tulip and native grassland in the project's "conditions of approval." The project was approved to move forward and we are following up on with Council staff on specific protections for this sensitive plant community and Oakland namesake rare bulb. Thank you: Jim Hanson, Jean Robertson

One week later in November, the FEIR for the [Mountain View Cemetery](#) expansion was approved by the Oakland Planning Commission. The Mountain View Cemetery in North Oakland is home to hundreds of majestic coast live oaks and is a favored urban walking spot for Oaklanders. Although the Planning Commission recommended a number of additional protections and assurances, these were vague and insufficient. With the assistance of attorney Martin Bern, CNPS appealed the Planning Commission's decision. The appeal will be heard by Oakland City Council in early 2018. This project was close to Jean Robertson's heart, and one of last projects where I had the honor to co-sign a project comment letter with her. Thank you: Judy Schwartz, Jean Robertson, Barbara Leitner, Jim Hanson

In a flurry over a couple weeks this fall, our



Jean Robertson at Mountain View Cemetery.

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT (CONT.)

chapter cranked out comments on four of the Park District's anticipated Land Use Plans (LUP) for Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve, Concord Hills Regional Park, Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, and Miller/ Knox Regional Shoreline. CNPS wrote in to ask the district to fully inventory all rare native plant resources and outline management plans for their protection. We also provided input on habitat conservation projects in Measure CC, a Park improvements bond measure for 2018. Thank you: David Bigham, Peter Rauch, Lesley Hunt, Jim Hanson

The public transit agency BART released their Livermore expansion project proposal. We found that significant impacts are likely to occur on hundreds of acres of special-status species, critical habitats, and sensitive natural communities from the proposed project. We submitted a letter on the basic need for more surveys and analysis so that impacts from the project can be realistically understood and avoided or mitigated. Thank you: Barbara Leitner, Jim Hanson

The end of year 2017 is approaching but conservation work marches on. I continue to feel honored to serve the East Bay Chapter in the position of Conservation Analyst. Thank you for the unmatched opportunity to connect with native plant experts such as yourselves. Thank you as well for additional

opportunities for my education and professional development. I attended a workshop for biologists who work with local governments and I will attend the 2018 CNPS Conservation Conference in Los Angeles in February.

As many of you know, Conservation Committee Chair Jean Robertson passed away on November 7, 2017. Jean was my supervisor for my initial year working for our chapter. She played an important role in my professional development. But besides that, I had a special spot in my heart for her. I admired her particular brand of zeal in conserving our natural world. My experience of Jean was of a person for whom passionate, whole-hearted environmentalism was a core life philosophy. I have been bid to "remember Jean when you are in nature," and I shall.

Karen Whitestone, East Bay Chapter Conservation Analyst

DONORS TO THE CONSERVATION ANALYST FUND

Conservation Appeal for 2018 - Great progress toward our goal. Thanks to our generous members and friends, we are making great progress toward our 2018 goal of \$40,000, to sustain our Conservation Analyst and conservation activities. We also received donations specified to support Chapter activities which are very much appreciated and needed.

Heartfelt thanks to all below for your donations received this fiscal year:

John Alcorn, George Ayala, Elly Bade, Ronald Barklow and Viola Saima-Barklow, Robert Berman, David Bigham and Howard Arendtson, Terry Blair, Susan Blanc, Peter Boffey, Barbara and Robert Brandriff, Zelda Bronstein, Margaret Brostrom, Robert Case, Carmen Castain, Sheila Castilla, Albert Chung, Patricia Coffey, Carol and Robert Coon, Margot Cunningham, Charli and John Danielsen, Jessica Davenport, Elizabeth Davidson, William Davis, Sally de Becker, Mark Detterman, Tri Do, Julie Dobson, John and Lisa Doyen, Sue Duckles, Chris Erickson, Nada and Bruce Ferris, Mary Fisher, Judith Frank, Gordon and Jutta Frankie, Linda Gavenda, Clara Gerdes, Sara Goolsby, Greenberg Family Trust, Sandy Pearson Greenwald, Ann Gurbaxani, Marguerite Harrell, Christie and John V. Hastings, Barry and Ellen Hecht, Hillside Gardeners of Montclair, Mike and Karen Ivankovich, Ashok Jethanandani and Arvind Kumar, Robert Jolda, Nicole Jurjavcic, Jane and Tom Kelly, John Kenny, Caroline Kim, Marian Kirch and Cindy Siegel, Gudrun Kleist, Marcia Kolb, Eve Lednicki, Elizabeth Leite, Nancy Leite, Barbara and Philip

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Clara Gerdes

POINT ISABEL RESTORATION NOVEMBER 2017

We are deeply heartened by the volunteers who come out to work with us at Pt. Isabel. Volunteers come from all walks of life and demonstrate that it is possible to transform a short, degraded stretch of the Bay Trail into an area that teems with life. They accomplish this by pulling out one invasive plant after another, planting California native plants grown from seed from the watershed, and picking up all the trash along that stretch of the trail to ensure Hoffman Marsh remains an inviting habitat. At our first work party this month we were surprised and delighted when an endangered species Ridgway's Rail (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*) appeared in the marsh close to our rest area.

We saw a good example of volunteerism this past month when we were joined by Andrew from St. Joseph Notre Dame High School in Alameda and by a small and very dedicated crew from the Stanford School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences. Together with our stewards and regular volunteers, Andrew and the Stanford team, led by Becky (whose focus is on conservation psychology) we removed fields of fennel before they dropped their seeds, acacias were

cut down revealing several toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) that were seeking the sun to ripen their berries, and the year's remaining pepper weed, Russian thistle, old oat grass and Algerian lavender were removed. Becky tells us that conservation psychology looks into why people do conservation work. We asked her to let us know when she finds out. Kudos to Andrew and to Stanford! We were all impressed.

Many thanks to Martha, Mayu, and Sankofa for helping to transplant plants and weed Bermuda grass on the Adopt-a-Spot. And thanks to Core Volunteer John Kenny, who works month after month all along the 1/3 mile at the marsh edge removing several kinds of invasive weeds and allowing the salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*) to establish itself up slope. The results are terrific.

Our thanks as always to our EBRPD Ranger Bruce Adams for bringing us all the tools and good cheer we need to complete the work and to Mariko, Dick, and Rob for their generous donations.

Jane and Tom Kelly



The November crew at Point Isabel. Photo by Jane Kelly.



The crew with the people from Stanford (above). The crew with a pile of fennel and acacia (below). Both at Point Isabel. Photo by Jane Kelly.



ELECTIONS FOR CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2018

There are five elected officers on the Board of Directors: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary. As often happens, there is just one candidate for each position but please do vote! Voting indicates your support for the direction and efforts of the Chapter. (You may also write in other candidates.)

The candidates are listed below, along with brief biographies. Beth Wurzburg, candidate for Chapter President, is the current President. As a child Beth Wurzburg fell in love with nature and decided that the best way to study it was to become a scientist. After a career in basic research, she is delighted to be spending more time in the outdoors again, exploring California's wild places. She moved to California and became a member of CNPS in 2008, and started doing conservation work in East Bay parks. She was active in the effort to save Knowland Park and continues to advocate for saving our wild places. She has served as President for the past year and previously was Vice President for two years.

Judy Schwartz, candidate for Chapter Vice President, gives this biographical sketch: "I grew up in the East Bay and have been passionate about plants most of my life. Three years ago I became involved in monitoring pallid manzanitas in the East Bay and restoring habitat for them at the Chabot Space and Science Center. As a member of the Conservation Committee I helped to increase protections for the coast live oaks that would be impacted by the new development plan at Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland. If I become Vice President of our chapter, I will look forward to becoming involved in more of our chapter's conservation projects."

David Margolies, candidate for Chapter Treasurer, was born in Washington DC and moved to California in 1970 to attend

graduate school at UC Berkeley, where he was awarded a PhD in Mathematics in 1977. After working at a government lab for some years, in 1985 he joined Franz Inc., a local software company, where he has worked ever since. He became interested in plants as an adult and learned about them from Glenn Keator, taking courses at the California Academy of Sciences. He is an active volunteer at the Jepson/UC Herbaria and regularly takes Jepson courses. He joined CNPS in the 1990s, and soon started giving field trips for the chapter. He has been assistant editor of the *Bay Leaf* for some years and treasurer of the chapter since 2010. He lives in Oakland.

Sue Duckles, candidate for Chapter Recording Secretary, a biomedical scientist, grew up in Oakland, close to Redwood Park, where she developed a life-long love of wild places. After a career as a medical school Professor, Sue and her husband returned to Oakland, where she spends her time maintaining a large native plant garden reclaimed from an ivy covered hillside, volunteering at Native Here Nursery, with Friends of Joaquin Miller Park, and as a Weed Warrior in Regional Parks. Sue has served as EBCNPS Recording Secretary for the last three years.

Clara Gerdes, candidate for Chapter Corresponding Secretary, has been a member of the California Native Plant Society for a number of years and the Corresponding Secretary since 2014. Clara has been a dedicated volunteer for restoration projects in Redwood Regional, Huckleberry and Sibley regional parks, where she wields her weed wrench with enthusiasm. Clara gained her appreciation for the outdoors and the environment from her mother, taking long walks along the paths and woodlands of western Michigan.

FIELD TRIPS

Monday, December 25, 2017, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, manzanitas, toyon, at Mt. Diablo, end of Regency Drive, 117 Regency Drive, Clayton. At Mount Diablo, Hetherington Loop is gorgeous this time of year. We should see big berry manzanita in flower, and toyon in fruit. If we are lucky, we might get to see crystal clear Donner Creek during a high flow. We will take Donner Canyon Road, and Hetherington loop trail. Round trip distance is 3 miles, elevation gain is 350 ft.

If there has been a lot of rain wear appropriate footwear, since it can get very muddy on this walk. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the end of Regency Drive in Clayton.

Directions: Take 24 or 680 to Ygnacio Valley Road. Continue on Ygnacio Valley Road into the city of Clayton and turn right onto Clayton Road. Take Clayton Road past the first intersection with Marsh Creek Road. In about a mile it becomes Marsh Creek Road. Continue straight on Marsh Creek Road. Turn right on Regency Drive. Go to the end of Regency. Do not turn onto Rialto Drive; that is for a different trail.

Gregg Weber
Co-organizer

Sunday, January 7, 2018, 2:00 pm, field trip to Huddart County Park to see fetid adder's tongue

Location: Huddart County Park, 1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside (San Mateo County) California

Meet in the parking lot just past the pay station. David Margolies (510-393-1858 cell, divaricatum@gmail.com) will lead a hike on the Crystal Springs Trail where fetid adder's tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii*, Liliaceae) usually blooms in early January. (In most locations outside botanical gardens it blooms in late January or early February. We have seen it here almost every year except 2013 and 2016.) This is a gentle trail, losing about 200 feet over about 1/2 mile to the creek. We will walk to the creek and then return the same way. It is unlikely that there will be any other flowers out this early, but the fetid adder's tongue's presence tells us that the new flower season has started. Plants out of flower will also be identified. The area is second growth redwood and mixed evergreen forest.

David Margolies

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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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