

September 2018



The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnps.org

www.nativeherenursery.org

MEMBERS' MEETING SEPTEMBER PREVIEW

Native Buckwheats for Your Garden

Speaker: Pete Veilleux

Wednesday, September 26, 7:30 pm

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

Buckwheats, in the genus *Eriogonum*, comprise a beautiful group of California native all-star plants. They are both nectar and host plants for butterflies and moths, and they provide a bonanza for bees and other pollinators looking for summer food. An additional benefit is their versatility and ornamental value. Pete Veilleux's presentation will focus on buckwheats for their beauty as well as their habitat and horticultural importance, and he will have plants available for purchase after the presentation (cash or check only).

Pete Veilleux is a master designer, nurseryman, and photographer. He owns East Bay Wilds (eastbaywilds.com), a nursery and design/build company based in Oakland that grows many East Bay natives as well as rare and unusual plants from all over the state of California. Through East Bay Wilds, Pete builds gardens using native plants for self-sustaining landscapes. He is a tireless advocate for native plant gardening and a reservoir of information on how to succeed with natives.

East Bay CNPS members' 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 or call 510-496-6016 if you have questions.

Next Month's Program

October 24, 7:30 pm, Orinda Library Garden Room, Ted Kipping "Tree Ecology: The Rhizosphere – Tree Anatomy Below Ground".

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.



Left: Buckwheats in the garden and in the wild
Collage by Pete Veilleux, East Bay Wilds.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Pt. Molate faces critical council decision

By the time you read these three “visions” for repurposing Pt. Molate will be before Richmond residents. City council members will be selecting one of those in October.

This summer three community planning workshops were held to recommend a plan for Pt. Molate to elected officials. The workshops came after Council members, in a split vote, approved a closed session settlement with Jim Levine/Upstream and a Ukiah tribe, former sponsors of a huge casino development at Pt. Molate. A Council negotiating committee led by Mayor Butt agreed to sell prime shoreline property at Pt. Molate with half the revenue going to Upstream. In addition a minimum of 670 housing units would have to be built at Pt. Molate (even though vehicle access is limited to one road in and out, there is no functioning infrastructure, and no land use zoning has been officially adopted). Under this “favorable” agreement, residents have to pick up building entitlement costs, related legal fees, CEQA costs, and site security and maintenance costs. No money was dedicated to fund care of, or access to, the remaining “open space.” (Note: the East Bay Regional Parks District has set aside some funding for development of a regional park at Pt. Molate, but is taking the lead from the City and the public).

Since Pt. Molate never went through a formal public zoning process, the City Council also approved a series of community meetings in November, 2017 to hear what residents wanted to see there. This spring City planning staff returned with a hasty schedule of community planning meetings combined with a selection process for a developer and development project. Adopted on a 4-3 Council vote, a developer selection process began before the public finished commenting on their land use “vision” for Pt. Molate (note: until challenged by residents, the City’s invitation to developers also mentioned building a five lane shoreline highway at Pt. Molate. Currently, it is only two lanes).

On August 27 - after three site tours, a youth event at Pt. Molate, and two workshops - the city’s planning consultants unveiled three alternative plans for Pt. Molate. The plans are to be derived from the public input during the community workshops and from comments submitted during tours and online. A supermajority of the groups reporting back during a prior “input” workshop advocated keeping the south valley at Pt. Molate as a public recreational, cultural, and historical site. The Pt. Molate Alliance, formed over the last year by residents and organizations, also calls for saving Pt. Molate for all. The alliance proposes a balanced repurposing of this unique shoreline property. The group supports commercial and hospitality development in the north valley - site of the historic Winehaven village area - and keeping the south valley as a community outdoor park for recreational sports, biking, walking, family gatherings, children’s science education, and to recognize of the Richmond’s diverse history, including the Ohlone, the Chinese fishing camp, and workers during WWII. The group believes that housing should be moved to

the downtown. Housing is needed in Richmond, but where and for whom? Shoreline condominiums at Pt. Molate would mostly benefit an exclusive few. Instead, retaining the south valley at Pt. Molate for community recreation and outdoor activities would help attract mixed income housing development in the downtown, where it is needed.

The south valley at Pt. Molate is a still intact Bay hills biodiversity hot spot that connects the ridge top, seasonal waterways and meadows, and the Bay. Original native coastal bunchgrass prairie and coastal scrub dot the hillside. The native shrub community serves as a resting stop for migrating song birds and hosts toyons (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) the size of medium live oak trees. Hiding among the willows in the seasonal waterways are Dutchman’s pipe (*Aristolochia californica*) feeding caterpillars that alight as black swallowtail butterflies in the spring and summer. The rare eel grass beds in the Bay shallows offer foraging and shelter for young fish and spawning habitat for sardines. The San Francisco State University Romberg Marine Center uses the Pt. Molate shoreline shallows as an eel grass reference site for restoring other shoreline sites in San Francisco Bay. Eel grass depends on light reaching the leaves; turbidity from construction activity and nutrients from new developments degrades them. The south valley at Pt. Molate has been a refuge since WWII. It hosts a rich assemblage of native coastal prairie and shrubs, willow waterways, a coastal strand beach, and rare eel grass beds in the bay shallows.

The critical choice on a “vision” for Pt. Molate is scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in September and the City Council in October.

In other conservation news:

The Antioch City Council will have considered (on Tuesday, 8/28) whether the Chapter-supported **Save Sand Creek** initiative goes on the November ballot along with a developer’s initiative for the Sand Creek area. (lead: Lesley Hunt)

The Oakland Vegetation Management plan is being assembled by consultants, Horizon Vegetation Management. They are calling volunteer land management groups for short discussions, but so far there have been no reports of walkthroughs of fuel management areas with stewards, no site-specific plans, and no recognition of maritime chaparral (lead: Beth Wurzburg).

Comments were prepared and submitted on the **Sibley Volcanic Regional Park Land Use Plan Amendment/DEIR** for adequate plant surveys in areas of proposed new construction, along with questions about the proposed expansion of biking onto narrow trails. (lead: Jim Hanson)

Mountain View Cemetery (MVC) - The Cemetery hired one of the two independent oversight arborists recommended by the MVC subcommittee of the Conservation Committee. The independent arborist will review construction activity for compliance with oak

CONSERVATION REPORT CONTINUED

protection measures of the CNPS-Cemetery settlement agreement and Oakland's Tree Removal Permit as soon as these documents are provided (lead: Judy Schwartz).

The **Conservation Analyst** job description is being reviewed for updates and approval by the Board in the second half of September (lead: Jim Hanson).

Jim Hanson

Jim Hanson chairs the Conservation Committee. He is a landscape architect and lives in Richmond.

Right: *Festuca rubra* at Pt. Molate. Photo by David Amme.

See photo on page 8.



NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Calling Groomers and Potters! Nursery volunteers have been working hard in the Danielsens' absence. Many of them have put in extra hours and taken on new tasks, and we appreciate this very much. We have trained more people to do the common nursery tasks and there is multiple backup for most things. We believe we're to the point where we can execute the basics pretty well. Our two inventory assistants have also been invaluable, but unfortunately they both moved on to better things this week (college and NASA internship). We wish them well and will be hiring new ones as soon as possible.

We accepted an offer from NORS-DUC in Marin County to have a demonstration of their electric steam pasteurizer to clean both soil and pots. Barbara Leitner made all the arrangements for them to come to Native Here and a number of volunteers helped get the job done. This was a very successful day, greatly reducing our backlog of dirty pots and giving us at least a month's worth of recycled soil. (We can no longer just reuse it because of phytophthora protocols.) A welcome fringe benefit was that we cleaned out a lot of the plant benches and now we have more room for current inventory.



Part of the pots and soil we arranged in the parking lot for steaming. We put the soil in 5 gallon pots. The whole 20x25 ft layout was covered with a tarp, wired for temperature monitoring, and heated with steam. Afterwards we had to bag all the pots and loosely cover the soil to keep them clean.

We have continued to work on getting the nursery spruced up for our growing season special events and just so it looks better when customers come. We've cleaned up failed pots from the propagation area and rearranged the others more efficiently.

We need groomers and potters. As we move into fall potting and propagating becomes a bigger part of our activity. We need a couple more potters than we have., Helping things grow is pleasant work and inexperience is no barrier - we will train you how to do it.

We also need to prepare for the fall and winter selling season. The nursery needs to look its best when customers come. Oak leaves and some weeds have accumulated in our pots over the summer and we need help to clean them up. This does not require plant knowledge. Oak leaves are readily recognizable, and the good plant is in the center of the pot. There are people around to ask if you're not sure. And the rewards are immediate.

In the next 3-4 weeks we could also use help with watering until we can hire new inventory assistants.

To volunteer for any of these things, write to Ruth Ann Pearsons at rapearsons1@mac.com.

Update on Charli and John: They got home in mid August and are happy to be here. After a week or two of making arrangements for Charli's daytime care and continuing therapy John is starting to come to the nursery and go seed collecting. Charli would like to hear from everybody; please write to her if you have a moment. Cards are better than email at this point. We are all very glad to have them back.

Lesley Hunt, NHN Committee Chair

POINT ISABEL AND MILLER-KNOX RESTORATION

On July 4th Greens at Work took a fun and super-energetic crew to Miller Knox Park (Richmond) and worked on two separate sites - weed-wrenching out masses of French broom and removing exotic sweet peas that were crowding out coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*). We returned with another enthusiastic crew on July 15 and continued weed-wrenching the remaining large stand of French broom. Steward Lewis rescued a beautiful young *Quercus agrifolia* that was hidden by the broom but is now happily out in the sunshine.

In the busy month of July we held our two regular work parties at Point Isabel, ensuring that last winter's plantings were surviving and irrigating those that were thirsty. Stewards and volunteers removed bindweed that was sneaking up on the California native plants. Bees were relishing the flowers on the deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*). During our second work party we (and the insects) visited the beautiful blooming sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), California rose (*Rosa californica*), and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) at various points along the trail.

Steward Nancy met us one July day at Hoffman Marsh at the 5 pm low tide to remove small infestations of Algerian lavender. This is a yearly effort, but we can see how successful the work has been by the severely reduced patches of Algerian lavender and the huge increase in California sea lavender (*Limonium californicum*) throughout the marsh.

In August we began work to connect the end of Tom's site to the beginning of Steward Lewis' site in preparation for planting this winter. Once this area is connected the entire revegetated stretch will run for 1/3 mile. We also held a "family" work party in August with Tom and his youngest brother, Jim, digging out all the naked ladies (*Amaryllis belladonna*).

Special thanks to Core Volunteer Rob Kirby for his unceasing work picking up all the trash and protecting the health of the marsh. And our sincere thanks to EBRPD Supervisor Scott Possin for his unwavering support for the work of all the Point Isabel and Miller Knox volunteers. We count ourselves lucky to work with such a great EBRPD crew.

Jane and Tom Kelly



The July 7 crew. Photo by Jane Kelly.

PICTURES FROM PT. ISABEL AND MILLER-KNOX



Above: late blooming lizard tail and us. Below left: steward Nancy removes Algerian lavender. Below right: Tom and Jim remove *Amaryllis belladonna*. Photos by Jane Kelly.



SKYLINE GARDENS REPORT

August 22, 2018

We've been hitting the scattergrass diligently, and mopping up its last pockets. One more day should do it.

We are now back to our regular schedule this week: Thursday at 4 pm, Sunday at 9:30 am. On Thursday, we may do some seed cleaning.

I wanted to highlight several of those heroic wildflowers which bloom and shine now, in the heat and the dry. And since a number of us have been studying the plant families, I'll also highlight these.

The first one is commonly known as wire lettuce or wreath plant (*Stephanomeria virgata* ssp. *pleurocarpa*). These grow and are now flowering on the sunny, rocky slopes above Grizzly Peak Boulevard, about a tenth of a mile south of Siesta Gate. They grow in the same scree-like conditions as does chia.

Here's a side view through a grove of them:



These are the tall, wiry plants with the small pink flowers. The tallest plants here are nearly five feet tall. They are annuals and they have been growing steadily ever since they sprouted with last October's rains. Their leaves have now completely withered and the plants are basically just green stems with buds, flowers, and swelling seeds. For comparison, here is the very same clump of plants in early May:



This was quite a different season - chia blooming and tarweed still in bud. Two wire lettuce plants are near the chia on the right, with strap-like grey foliage. In this photo, they look to be about a foot tall.

Here is a close up of one flower:



The flowers are about the size of a dime. They are in the aster family (Asteraceae), in the chicory tribe. Each 'petal' represents one flower, so this is really a flower head with six flowers. This species is often beloved by botanists: they are uncommon, tough, and yet hauntingly beautiful. And who knows how long each blossom lasts, whether they close up at night, and how long the seeds take to ripen?

As you might expect, these are essentially Southern Californians who find a home up north on our hot and dry slopes. They are more often found in our area on Mount Diablo, but there are several populations along Grizzly Peak Boulevard. This grouping is just across the road and 100 yards south of UC signpost number 21.

While we are dwelling on the lovelies of Grizzly Peak, here's a shot of California fuchsia near Centennial Drive. This form has tall stems and large, showy flowers. Take a look:



Aren't they grand?

California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*) is a member of the evening primrose family, the Onagraceae. They grow all over the state in sunny, rocky areas - and come in many forms. Some

SKYLINE GARDENS REPORT CONTINUED

are nearly prostrate, some are tall with silvery foliage. Many forms are in the nursery trade and these are great plants for the native and dry garden, bringing color and hummingbirds in August and September. In the wild they survive on very poor mineral soils. In the garden, with richer soils, they can form large colonies.

Lastly the goldenrod (*Solidago californica*) have been really great this year. There's a close up to the right.

Goldenrods are another plant of the aster family (Asteraceae). The ray flowers are much reduced, but they are still there. This clump is blooming right now on the far side of the Bay Grove. Thanks to Karen for the photo.

I so deeply admire these late bloomers, which step forth and shine in the midst of the heat and the dry. That takes



something special. You have to wonder, what's their water strategy?

Glen Schneider

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, September 1, 9:30 am, Point Isabel planting and restoration until roughly 1:30 pm. Please contact Tom Kelly at kyotousa@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, September 2, 10 am Northshore Basin/mouth of Schoolhouse Creek. John Kenny leads this group in weeding, planting and spot watering. It is OK to just show up if you do not have time to RSVP. The worksite is just west of the frontage road, beyond the gravel turnout some meters south of the Bates sportsfields.

Saturday, September 1 and Sunday, September 9, pulling French broom in Redwood Regional Park. Contact redwood@ebparks.org for times and locations.

Saturday, September 8, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve. Next month we will swap work dates with Sibley Park, so mark your calendar for October 21 at 9:30 am.

Saturday, September 15, 9:30 am, Point Isabel planting and restoration until roughly 1:30 pm. Please contact Tom Kelly at kyotousa@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, September 15, 10 am, Garber Park Stewards meet on Claremont Avenue uphill from the Claremont Hotel.

Sunday September 16, 9 am, Sibley Park. Meet at Old Tunnel Road staging area on the Orinda side of the park, where we will continue the attack on French broom.

There are also a couple of new stinkwort populations (*Dittrichia graveolens*) that need eradication, and they can be cut down. E-mail janetgawthrop47@gmail.com or sibley@ebparks.org, or just show up. Loaner gloves, tools and water available.

Saturday, September 29, 9:30-11:30, Albany Hill, restoration with Tending Ancient Shoreline.

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, September 2, September plants in Briones Regional Park

Meet Gregg Weber at the trailhead at the top of Briones Road. RSVP, trip description and map are available at www.meetup.com/ebcnps/

NATURE AND ART WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 1, 11 am-3 pm. Sketching/photography/poetry with Leslie Buck at Tilden Regional Park Botanic Garden.

Bring food for potluck lunch, and any sketching or photography gear that you want. Carhaterers can catch AC Transit

#67 bus near downtown Berkeley BART; the last stop on weekend runs is at the Brazilian Building, just uphill from the garden. RSVP to <https://www.meetup.com/Artandnature/events/253565171/>

2019 MYRTLE WOLF GRANTS (APPLY BY 10/19/18)

The mission of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is to conserve California native plants and their natural habitats; and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. The East Bay Chapter, which serves Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, offers the Myrtle Wolf Student Research Grant in honor of Myrtle Wolf (1913-2012), a longtime Oakland teacher who on retirement devoted herself to California's native flora. As a member of CNPS for over 30 years, she worked on annual plant sales and promoting the use of native plants for landscaping and was made a CNPS Fellow in 1987. Myrtle Wolf also supported the UC Botanical Garden, which named its library in her honor in 2000.

The Myrtle Wolf Student Research Grant supports research on all aspects of the plant science of California native plants such as horticulture, taxonomy, biochemical processes, diseases, and interactions with the environment.

Applicants must be registered students, undergraduate or graduate, at an accredited institution of higher learning located in Alameda or Contra Costa County.

In 2019, \$3000 will be awarded. The maximum grant size will be \$1000. We anticipate awarding two \$1000 grants and two or more grants of smaller amounts; actual amounts are at the discretion of EBCNPS.

Awarded grant money is to be spent on research expenses including project travel within California (\$0.545 per mile), excluding travel for conferences or communication; equipment (under \$500); software; supplies such as laboratory or field materials; and space fees (e.g., greenhouse fees). Grant money is not to be used for indirect cost, stipends, or salaries.

The application shall include: A) project objective, rationale, and methods, B) budget and budget justification, C) resume or CV, D) letter of approval from a faculty sponsor, and E) statement of permit(s) needed, if any, to conduct the project. Excluding items C, D, and E, applications must not exceed two pages.

Applications must be emailed or postmarked by Friday October 19, 2018.

EBCNPS proposal evaluation criteria are: the project's potential to advance the current state of knowledge, suitability of the methodology, suitability of the researcher for the project, and degree to which the project supports the CNPS mission stated above, especially for taxa native to Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. EBCNPS encourages non-traditional applicants, notwithstanding the eligibility requirements.

Recipients must obtain required permits before a grant is awarded. Acknowledge the Myrtle Wolf Student Research Grant in communications that result from grant support, and provide a report on results to the Chapter in the form of a two-paragraph summary for publication in the *Bay Leaf* (chapter newsletter).

Contact information: mail or email applications and direct questions to:

Myrtle Wolf Student Research Grant
California Native Plant Society, East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705
wolf-grant@ebcnps.org



View of Point Molate at East Bay Headlands. Photo by Jim Hanson.

Manzanitas of California: A Two-day Identification Workshop in the Lab and Field

October 20–21, 2018 at the Cheadle Center for
Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration,
UC Santa Barbara

Learn how to identify the species of manzanitas native to California and Western North America

The focus of the workshop is to learn how to accurately identify manzanitas. The course will be informative for both naturalists and botanists alike. Other topics will include the diversity, evolution, and ecology of manzanitas in California's chaparral ecosystem.

Who should attend? People interested in learning about manzanitas!

- The workshop will be conducted by **V. Thomas Parker, Ph.D.** and **Michael C. Vasey, Ph.D.** from San Francisco State University. Dr. Parker and Dr. Vasey have spent the last 25 years studying the taxonomy, ecology, and evolution of manzanitas. With their colleague Jon Keeley, they provided the floristic treatments for manzanitas in the Flora of North America and the 2nd edition of the Jepson Manual.
- On Saturday, October 20th, the workshop will be conducted at the Cheadle Center, with lectures on manzanita ecology and evolution. We will then sharpen our identification skills using freshly collected manzanitas representing nearly all known species. On Sunday, October 21st, we will carpool to locations in Santa Barbara County (TBA) to examine manzanitas in the field.
- You're encouraged to bring your own samples of unknown manzanitas to identify. Include an inflorescence and/or fruit, information about its location, note whether the stem is smooth or with shreddy bark, and whether or not there the plant has a basal burl.
- The fee is \$125, and includes continental breakfast and lunch, and a signed copy of the book, *Field Guide to Manzanitas*, by Kauffmann, Parker, Vasey & Bisbee, which we will use both days.

To register, visit <https://extension.ucsb.edu/> and search "XLRN 814.CCBER" in the courses tab; contact Greg Wahlert with questions: wahlert@ccber.ucsb.edu



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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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