



April 2019

The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnps.org

www.nativeherenursery.org

APRIL MEMBERS' MEETING

A Botanical Look at the Kaweah River and the Southern Sierra

Speaker: Camille Nowell

Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 pm

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (location info below)

The Kaweah River originates in the mountains of the Great Western Divide in the Southern Sierra then has a relatively short but very steep drop over its run into the San Joaquin Valley. The river spans a number of riparian ecoregions including giant sequoia and mixed conifer forests; oak, cottonwood, and sycamore woodlands; and alder, willow, and buttonbush shrublands.

Over several trips in 2018, while conducting botanical surveys for hydropower relicensing, botanist Camille Nowell mapped and documented the flora of this interesting and diverse region. In this talk Camille will provide a pictorial introduction to the Kaweah River, discuss a number of the species she encountered during her surveys, and also pay tribute to the legendary botanist Alice Eastwood, who traversed a similar route on the Kings River over one hundred years earlier.

Camille Nowell has conducted detailed botanical surveys in the Basin and Range ecoregion of Idaho, the Mojave Desert, the Sierra Nevada, and the San Joaquin Valley. She earned her M.S. degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology, with an emphasis on California native flora. Her research on *Cercis* (redbud) took her into a number of herbaria and on expeditions throughout montane California and the Colorado Plateau. She has also enjoyed working on barn owl, golden eagle, and prairie falcon studies for the East Bay Regional Park District.

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, Orinda 94563, a few blocks from the Orinda BART station. 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 if you have questions.

Next Month's Program

May 22, 7:30 pm, Orinda Library Garden Room

Michael Uhler: Botanical Gems in the Ruby Mountains



Kaweah River. Photo by Camille Nowell

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Engagement Opportunities at Native Here Nursery

(editor's note: Native Here Nursery is a fabulous peaceful environment where you can relax and contemplate while you accomplish great things.)

Through its sales of native plants, Native Here Nursery (nativeherenursery.org) performs two vital functions for our chapter – educating the public on the value of native plants in gardens and other settings and providing financial support for our other programs such as conservation.

The nursery is open year-round (Tu 12-3, Fr 9-12, and Sat 10-2) and we have a number of ways in which people can engage with our activities during those hours. We will provide training, hours are flexible as long as we're open, and experienced volunteers will be on hand to lead activities and answer questions. At the moment, we are featuring the following, but if you don't see something that fits your interests and talents, let us know; we have other roles.

Waterers: During the dry season, our plants need watering twice a week to keep them thriving. Adopt a section as your own, come weekly, or come when you can. A section takes 1-2 hours to water. Brief training required.

Potters: Do you have nimble fingers and a feel for plants? Potting new seedlings into larger pots is at the heart of the nursery's work. Training required; come regularly or when you can.

Maintenance: Many things at the nursery need periodic attention – checking plumbing fittings, mowing weeds around the periphery, and doing special building projects. If you're handy with tools, this is a great way to engage.

Spring Annuals Sale: Our spring annuals sale on Saturday, April 13, features something a bit different this year: In addition to a talk by John Danielsen, we'll be offering our annuals at a lower price of \$3 per 4-inch pot. Each pot contains multiple seedlings; plant promptly and enjoy! For details, see flyer elsewhere in this newsletter.

Lesley Hunt
NHN Committee Chair



Save the (New) Date!
April 13 ~ 11 am

**Flowering Annuals
and
Associated Plants**
John Danielsen
at
Native Here Nursery
101 Golf Course Rd., Berkeley

Wind poppy

FUNDS DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Thanks to the following donors, the 2019 Conservation Analyst Fund grew to \$47,463. Then came a fabulous anonymous donation, so we now have \$97,463! We truly appreciate this donation and all of our generous donors!

We are excited that we are now in the financial position to restructure the Conservation Analyst position.

Donations are also very welcome to support other important work of the chapter such as website development, printing costs, room rental etc. All donations are tax deductible (Federal Tax ID number 94-6116403) and may be made via PayPal or by credit card at the Chapter's website, www.ebcnps.org, or by check made to "CNPS", mailed to the Chapter's address:

East Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society
PO Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley CA 94705

Dues to CNPS are used for the many important projects of the State office in Sacramento. If a donation is sent to the Sacramento office and is intended for our chapter it should be designated as a gift to the East Bay Chapter.

THANKS TO ALL OUR GENEROUS DONORS:

Ann Adams, John Alcorn, Carl Anderson in memory of Margo Anderson, Stephen Asztalos, Carol Baumann, Luann Beadle, Laura Beckett, Carol Bieri, David Bigam and Howard Arndtson, Liz Bittner, Terry Blair, Elinor Blake, Peter Boffey, Richard Bogaert, Barbara and Robert Brandriff, Margaret Brostrom, Ann Brown, Robert Case, Albert Chung, Jean Circiello, Patricia Coffey, Carol Coon, Elizabeth Crews, Margot Cunningham, Colette Cussary, Charli and John Danielsen, Elizabeth Davidson, William Davis, Mary Davis, Jay Davis, Sally de Becker, Isabelle de Geofroy, Adrienne Debisschop, Gene DeMar, Mark Detterman, Tri Do, George Ayala, Joyce Dow, John and Lisa Doyen, Sue Duckles, El Cerrito Garden Club, David Edelson and Karen Garrison, Chris Erickson, Barbara Ertter, Marsha Feinland, Andrew Fitandes, Gerald

Ford and Holly Forbes, Gordon and Jutta Frankie, Dorothy Frantz, Lisa Frost, Clara Gerdes, Krista Glickman, Greenberg Family Trust, Ann Gurbaxani, Marilyn Halberg, Helen Hancock, Mary Ann and Willard Hannon, Jim Hanson, Christie Hastings, Miao He, Claudia and Scott Hein, Peter Hopkinson, Russell Huddleston, Bill and Lesley Hunt, Robin Hunter, Torris Jaeger, Ashok Jethanandani and Arvind Kumar, Dwight Johnson, Nicole Jurjavcic, Patricia and Jivendra Kale, Megan Keever, Jane and Tom Kelly, John Kenny, Lola Kent, Allison Kidder, Caroline Kim, Julie Kinder, Arti Kirch and Cindy Siegel, Gudrun Kleist, Marcia Kolb, Kathy Kramer, Christopher Kroll, Eve Lednicky, Barbara and Philip Leitner, David and Evelyne Lennette, Ed Leong, Allison Levin, Arthur Levy, Vera Lis, Patricia Litton and Peter J. Ralston, David Loeb, Ronald Lutsko, Joel Lym, Matthew Madison, Tamia Marg, David Margolies, Donna Maynard, Thomas McCall, Lisa McCarty, Jean McKenzie, Shirley McPheeters, Christina McWhorter, Jon Merkle, Helena Meyer-Knapp, Louise Miller, Brent Mishler, Caroline Moyer, Steve Mullin, Sheldon Nelson, Linda Newton, Oaktown Native Plant Nursery, Jana Olson, Sharon Ordeman, Christine O'Rourke Gaber, Elizabeth O'Shea, Carol Pahl, Karen Paulsell, Anita Pearson, Stefanie Pruegel, Linda Ramus, Kira Reoutt, Kelly Reuba, James Ringland and Karen E. Ivy, John Roberts, Carol Schneider, Dick Schneider, Judy Schwartz, Cheryl Sibthorp, Shirleymae and Igor Skaredoff, Doris Sloan, Karen Smith, Patricia Smith, Elizabeth Sojourner, Robert Sorenson, Dr. and Mrs. Lionel Sorenson, Jennifer Stern, Douglas Stinson and Joy Barnitz, Ruth and Donald Stiver, Emilie Strauss, Aaron Sunshine, Mary Jo Sutton, Sylvia Sykora, Delia and John Taylor, Elizabeth F. Thomas, Jean Thomas, Nancy Thomas, Britt Thorsnes, Iris Tommelein and Jim Lovekin, Laurie Umeh, Michael Vandeman, Liz Varnhagen, Elizabeth and Craig Wahl, Jeanne Walpole, Stephen Walsh and Brenda Buxton, Wendy Weikel, Berthold and Risa Weis, Karen Wetherell, Shirley White, Kitty Whiteside, Susan Wickham, Steve Wiley, Doris and Joe Willingham, Kelly Woodard, Elaine Worthington-Jackson, Beth Wurzburg and Brad Buckman, E. William and Mary Alice Yund.

CONSERVATION ANALYST POSITION

As everyone knows, the cost of living in the Bay Area has escalated rapidly over the last decade. Thanks to your response we are now able to increase the hours and compensation of the Conservation Analyst position to adjust to today's cost of living.

Also, a booming local economy has opened up many new and important conservation issues that the Chapter conserva-

tion program would like to respond to. The job description is being updated to reflect these positive changes and will be posted soon.

In addition to funding the Conservation Analyst position, conservation program funds are used for legal representation, education, and conservation campaign support as needed.

POINT ISABEL AND EL CERRITO IN MARCH

Pacific Ring-necked Snake (*Diadophis punctatus amabilis*). Volunteer Ivy encountered one of these stunning (as in beautiful/not as in biting) little creatures while weeding at Point Isabel on March 16. It was so exciting to discover yet another creature that makes its home on this site. This month we also spotted two queen bumblebees that emerged from their solitary abodes in the soil to collect pollen and nectar for their nest sites. The California currants (*Ribes sanguineum*) are in full bloom as are the first California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) and one of the mature black sages (*Salvia mellifera*) so we are confident there is sufficient food for the bumblebees to support their nests.

We have been splitting our time this month among Point Isabel, the City of Richmond Adopt-a-Spot, and the El Cerrito Recycling Center (ECRC) where the 3rd and 4th of our 2019 work parties were rained out. However, as of St. Patrick's Day - **Éire go Brách** - we have cleared the main section at the ECRC of the French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), giant reed (*Arundo donax*), and pampas grass. We have one distant section of *Arundo donax* that we will get to as we are able. We observed a queen bumblebee re-entering her nest at ECRC and the bunch grasses we spotted there are now identifying

themselves by blooming, showing off the beautiful colors of purple needle grass (*Stipa pulchra*). There are many large patches of fragrant mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*) at ECRC and we will keep our eyes out to see if there are any other California native grasses onsite.

The volunteer crews have been astounding. Three hours into the intense work parties, we tried to get volunteers to stop but no one paid any attention as they continued to remove invasives and drag the debris to the green waste dumpsters or weed pile. We welcomed back our volunteer from Kokomo, Indiana (Steve), and our friend Vincent took some time off from his studies to join us. Both of them helped Tom relocate a tarpaulin placed to kill off another section of Bermuda grass on the Richmond Adopt-a-Spot. It works! Kaela and Kyle came all the way from Pleasanton and made a real contribution to the work, and dedicated volunteers (Nina, Rob, Nancy, Lewis, Gudrun, Anushka, Miriam, Jim, Stan, Ivy, Margot, Molly, Jean, Juri, and Ian) were unstoppable in their removal of invasive plants throughout the projects. As always we are grateful to those who come out to contribute to the effort. We couldn't do it without them.



March volunteers at Point Isabel. Photo by Jane Kelly.

MORE PICTURES FROM MARCH



Above: Pacific ring-necked snake (*Diadophis punctatus amabilis*) (photo by Ivy Poisson). Right: Stan removes oat grass and oxalis at Pt. Isabel (photo by Jane Kelly). Below: Tom, Vincent, and Steve relocate the tarp (photo by Jane Kelly).



ADDITIONAL PICTURES FROM MARCH



Margot and Jim dig out pampas grass at El Cerrito Recycling center (ECRC)



Nina removes thistle at ECRC



Tom, Lewis, Gudrun and the largest destroyed pampas



Anushka and Rob fill 2nd dumpster at ECRC



Jim digs out *Arundo donax* at ECRC

RESTORATION PROJECTS IN APRIL

Saturdays, April 6 and April 20 at 9:30 am. Pt. Isabel at East shore State Park. Meet at or near parking lot at the end of Rydin Road, right off of Central Avenue west of 580. Contact Tom or Jane Kelly at kyotousa@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, April 7 at 10 am. Northshore Basin at the Schoolhouse Creek outlet to San Francisco Bay. This group both plants and weeds at the shoreline trail just south of the Tom Bates sports field. Parking can be limited, but you can park closer to University Avenue and walk the shoreline trail south to the work site. For information, e-mail johnkenny54@yahoo.com.

Saturday, April 13 at 9:30 am Sibley Park restoration. We'll start from the Old Tunnel Road staging area on the Orinda side of Sibley Park. So far the ground is still pretty wet so we can proceed aggressively in pulling larger French broom. If the bay ridge trail is too muddy, then we can walk the access road and then downhill to the worksite. For information you can e-mail either janetgawthrop47@gmail.com or sibley@ebparks.org.

Saturday, April 20 at 10 am Garber Park Stewards. Meet at the trailhead sign off of Claremont Ave, a few dozen meters uphill from the Claremont Hotel. There may be some planting, but there will always be weeding and perhaps a look at how the erosion control structures have fared in the rain. For information, e-mail garberparkstewards@gmail.com.

Sunday, April 21 at 9:30 am Earth Day and Easter conjunction. We will meet at the Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve parking lot as usual, to kick the soil and decide on the best worksite this month. For latecomers, wet conditions will usually lead us to the left, uphill to the ridge, and drier soil and heat will often direct us to pull *Vinca* or cape ivy at shady places on the lower loop trail. For more information e-mail marciakolb@gmail.com or janetgawthrop47@gmail.com.

Saturdays, April 7 and 27 at 9 am Albany Hill bioblitz with Tending Ancient Shoreline. The bioblitz will collect biological information (not just plants, but you can focus on a particular kingdom) to input on inaturalist, the better to inform ongoing restoration. E-mail tashoreill@gmail.com to register.

FIELDS TRIPS IN APRIL

Saturday, April 6, 2019, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve, Oakland. Directions from Hwy 24: Take CA-24 to Old Tunnel Road in Contra Costa County just east of the Caldecott Tunnel. Drive up Old Tunnel Road to the parking lot and trail head. Trip leaders Camille and Liz will be at the trail head. For more information see <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/258997566/>

Saturday, April 13, 2019, 9:45 am to 2:45 pm, every 12 months on the 2nd Saturday. Briones Regional Park, Briones Road Staging Area, Briones Road, Martinez. Hosted by Gregg Weber. For more information see <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/vrlnglyzgbrb/>

Sunday, April 21, 2pm, David Margolies will lead a nature walk in Mount Diablo State Park. We will walk the Mitch-

ell Canyon Fire Road. The primary plant community is oak savanna. There should be plenty of flowering shrubs and wildflowers. We hope to see the Mt. Diablo fairy lantern, wind poppies, various lupines, hop bush, blue blossom, larkspurs, and much else. **Directions:** Drive to Clayton (on, for example, Ygnacio Valley Road from Walnut Creek). Go south on Clayton Boulevard to Mitchell Canyon Road, and take that road toward the mountain to the end. You will then be in the park. There is a parking lot (and an overflow lot some way back on Mitchell Canyon Road. Meet at the trail head. We will walk a mile or so up the trail and then walk back. David Margolies can be contacted at 510-393-1858, divaricatum@gmail.com. See also [meetup.com/ebcnps](https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps).

BIOBLITZ AT ALBANY HILL APRIL 7 AND 27

Saturdays April 7 and 27 at 9 am Albany Hill bioblitz with Tending Ancient Shoreline
The bioblitz will collect biological information (not just plants, but you can focus on a particular kingdom) to input on inaturalist, the better to inform ongoing restoration.

E-mail tashoreill@gmail.com to register.

Volunteers Needed for Sudden Oak Death Blitzes

Important monitoring of the disease spread in a rainy year

Be on the lookout for new dangerous strains
Test oaks for SOD, thanks to OakSTeP

By Matteo Garbelotto

Californians do things differently. When the devastating forest disease known as Sudden Oak Death (aka SOD) became established across much of the coastal forests of Northern California, local residents together with environmental leaders and U.C Berkeley scientists decided to close ranks and fight back. They started what has become one of the oldest tree health Citizen Science programs in the world: the SOD Blitzes. Over 500 citizens per year volunteer their time to survey their local neighborhoods for the presence of SOD, and results are made public in real time on www.sodmap.org and SODmap mobile, two of the largest databases on distribution of a forest disease ever created by man. Thanks to this knowledge, most Californians will be informed on how close SOD is to their oaks and determine whether it is time to protect them.

This year, local volunteer-lead surveys will be organized throughout the State starting on March 30th (Marin County) and ending in Northern Humboldt County on June 15th. Go to www.sodblitz.org for a list of dates and venues: participation in a SOD blitz is 100% free, but requires attendance of a 1-hour training meeting. SOD spreads with rainfall, so this wet year may be yet another critical one for California forests, but there are several other **new reasons** to attend the 2019 Blitzes. SOD Blitzes traditionally focus on collections of California bay laurel and tanoak leaves, since these are responsible for most, if not all, the spread of SOD.

ARBORISTS! This year we will launch the program **OakSTeP (Oak Sod Testing Program www.oakstep.org)** that will allow licensed arborists, preserve managers, and qualified government employees to team up with U.C. Berkeley to test oaks for SOD infection. Registration to **OakSTeP** will be available at each SOD Blitz training, and within a couple of weeks you could have a precise diagnosis of possible SOD infection in oaks. In addition to **OakSTeP**, all samples collected by volunteers will be tested to ensure the new and aggressive EU1 strain of the pathogen found in Oregon has not arrived in California.

Finally, if you are thinking of doing something or you have done something to control SOD in the past, we will have a questionnaire and some important information and tips for you at the trainings. So 2019, offer many reasons to come to the BLITZes, and remember SOD blitzes do provide a nice opportunity to be strolling through the marvelous California landscape with the entire family.

May 11th, East Bay SOD Blitzes

1) ORINDA 10-11:30 am. Room 7 ORINDA LIBRARY, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda, Ca. 94563

Contact: Bill Hudson wllhh@gmail.com

2) BERKELEY 1-2:30 pm. Morgan Lounge, 114 Morgan Hall, U.C. Berkeley Campus

Contact: contact@matteolab.org



DIRECTORY

Officers

President

Judy Schwartz
president@ebcnps.org

Vice President

Sally de Becker
vice-president@ebcnps.org

Corresponding Secretary

Clara Gerdes
corresponding-secretary@ebcnps.org

Recording Secretary

Sue Duckles
recording-secretary@ebcnps.org

Treasurer

David Margolies
510-654-0283
treasurer@ebcnps.com

Committees

Bay Leaf Newsletter

Bay Leaf Editor and Webmaster
Joe Willingham
510-705-1798
bayleaf@ebcnps.org
webmaster@ebcnps.org

Bay Leaf Assistant Editor

David Margolies
510-654-0283
dm@franz.com

Bay Leaf Mailing

Holly Forbes
510-234-2913 h
510-643-8040 w

Bryophytes

John Game, Bryophyte Liaison
510-527-7855
johngame34@gmail.com

Conservation

Jim Hanson, Chair
conservation-chair@ebcnps.org

Field Trips

Janet Gawthrop, Chair
janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

Funds Development

Delia Taylor, Chair
funds-development-chair@ebcnps.org

Hospitality

Marilyn Catterton, Chair
mtcatt@gmail.com

Information Infrastructure

Peter Rauch, Chair
info-infra-comm-chair@ebcnps.org

Membership

Sally de Becker
ebcnps-membership@ebcnps.org

Outreach

Lesley Hunt
ldhunt@astound.net

Programs

Programs (Lecture Series)
programs@ebcnps.org

Publicity

Vacant

Rare Plants

Danny Slakey
dslakey@cnps.org

Unusual Plants

Dianne Lake, Chair
510-691-1428
unusual-plants-admin@ebcnps.org

Restoration Chair

Vacant

Vegetation

Megan Kever, Co-Chair
megan@stillwatersci.com

Nicole Jurjavcic, Co-Chair

nicole@stillwatersci.com

EBCNPS sponsored activities

East Bay Chapter News list

Emailed announcements of upcoming EBCNPS events
Robin Mitchell
eccommunitygarden@gmail.com

Native Here Nursery

Native Here Nursery
510-549-0211
nativehere@ebcnps.org
Lesley Hunt, chair
John Danielsen
Sue Duckles
Barbara Leitner
Ruth Ann Pearsons
Steve Toby
Beth Wurzburg

Restoration Projects Leaders

Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve
Janet Gawthrop, leader
janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

John Muir NHS (Martinez)

Elaine Jackson, leader
925-372-0687
elainejx@att.net

Marsh Creek

Heath Bartosh, leader
925-957-0069
hbartosh@nomadecology.com

Point Isabel

El Cerrito Recycling Center
Tom and Jane Kelly, leaders

510-684-6484 (c)
tkelly@kyotousa.org

Skyline Gardens

Glen Schneider, leader
skylinegardens@ebcnps.org

Walnut Creek

Lesley Hunt, leader
925-937-6791
ldhunt@astound.net

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

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
PO Box 5597
Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705**