Calendar of Events

Saturday, December 1
State Board Meeting, Faculty Club, UC-Berkeley (open to all members), 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
No Host Bar, 5-6 p.m.
Annual Banquet & Evening Program: Dr. Matteo Garbeletto, “The Discovery of Sudden Oak Death Pathogen, a Potential Threat to California Forest Ecosystems: A Detective Story”, 6-10 p.m.

December 4, 11, 18
January 8, 15, 22, 29, Tuesdays
Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., p. 3

Fridays and Saturdays
Native Here Nursery open for business, p. 3

December 23, Sunday
Wildflower and bunchgrass sowing at Project site, 1 p.m., p. 3

January 1, Tuesday
Field trip led by Dan Norris to Rock City on Mt. Diablo, p. 6

Ballot for Year 2002 Elected Officers

The nominating committee presents the following slate of officers for the CNPS East Bay Chapter for the year 2002:

President: Tony Morosco
Vice President: Elaine Jackson
Treasurer: Holly Forbes
Recording Secretary: Michele Lee
Corresponding Secretary: Joanne Kerbavaz

Although voting in an uncontested election may not seem necessary, an election is required by our bylaws. Please vote as an expression of confidence in those who are willing to serve as volunteer officers in our organization. Please send your ballot to CNPS, P. O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley, CA 94705 or bring it to the January Board meeting.
As my two-year tenure as chapter president nears its end, I recall that my first action as president-to-be was signing the Memorandum of Understanding that made the East Bay Chapter of CNPS an official partner in the recently created Alameda-Contra Costa Weed Management Area. As described by the California Department of Food & Agriculture, “Weed Management Areas (WMAs) are local organizations that bring together landowners and managers (private, city, county, State, and Federal) in a county, multi-county, or other geographical area to coordinate efforts and expertise against common invasive weed species. . . . WMAs are unique because they attempt to address agricultural (regulatory) weeds and “wildland” weeds under one local umbrella organization.”

Although at first glance it might seem paradoxical for an organization whose avowed interest is native plants to participate in a cooperative program whose primary focus is non-native plants, most of us are more than familiar with the threat that invasive non-natives represent to the native diversity that we treasure. Independent of any formal participation in a WMA, many of us have already been out there, sleeves rolled up (or down, depending on the proximity of poison-oak!), bashing broom, wreaking mayhem on mayten, and ripping out ripgut grass. Our chapter’s Native Plant Restoration Team, under the able direction of Noah Booker, provides a monthly opportunity for weed-warriors to work together, and a newly created stewardship program at the state level should increase the opportunity for and effectiveness of similar hands-on efforts throughout the state (http://www.cnps.org/conservation/exotics.htm).

As noted by Alameda-Contra Costa WMA representative (and superb plant photographer) Bob Case, “Chapters can participate in many ways including noxious weed reporting and mapping, educational efforts or alternative weed control projects. How you participate is up to you and the local chapter.” The potential role played by the many eyes of CNPS volunteers in spotting and reporting new populations of invasive weeds should not be underestimated. I’ve certainly done my share of notifying Bob about stray patches of Lepidium latifolium, Centaurea solstitialis, and other species on the WMA’s target list (at http://pi.cdfa.ca.gov/weedinfo/sortbyrating2.htm). CNPS members are also on the front lines of discovering and reporting new weeds that are continually flooding into California. Although the majority of newly established non-native species do not achieve pest status, a certain percentage have the potential to become future equivalents of yellow star thistle and French broom. If these can be recognized and eradicated before they spread, a great deal of money and effort can be saved.

Another important role for CNPS within the WMA is to counterbalance the orientation that otherwise exists towards agricultural pests, with threats to native habitats often given little attention. While this imbalance is more than CNPS alone can offset, we have at least managed not only to increase awareness of the importance of weed control in wildland situation, but also to remove several native species from the list of targeted species.

As further incentive to participate in the WMA, about $50,000 per county has been allocated by SB1740 for WMAs to spend on noxious weed management and related activities over the next two years. Although the East Bay Chapter did not apply for funds from this source (volunteers being our limiting factor more than money), we were happy to draft a support letter for a proposal submitted by some CNPS members acting in their professional capacity. This proposal, to hand-remove broom and other fire-prone exotics along sections of the East Bay Hills urban-wildland interface, is an alternative to less selective goat-grazing. The proposal has happily been funded, so we can now see how successful this approach will be in creating a self-sustaining, fire-resistant, native vegetation type that requires significantly less maintenance over the long run.

For more information on the Alameda-Contra Costa Weed Management Area, see http://pi.cdfa.ca.gov/wma/AlamedaCC/AlamedaCC.html.

Barbara Ertter

Membership meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>December, 2001</td>
<td>No meeting (happy holidays!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 23, 2002</td>
<td>Carol Witham — Vernal pools and conservation aspects of the U.C. Merced issue</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 27, 2002</td>
<td>Rosemary Donlon — The best desert wildflower year of the century</td>
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Sue Rosenthal

We have tried on a large scale the experiment of preferring ourselves to the exclusion of other creatures...And now, conscious of those results, we are tempted to correct them by denigrating ourselves . . . Finally, we must see that we cannot be made kind toward our fellow creatures except by the same qualities that make us kind toward our fellow humans.

Wendell Berry
Plant Sale

Propagation and Potting:

Tuesdays  December 4, 11, 18
         January 8, 15, 22, 29
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Merritt College Landscape Horticulture
Area

We will be there, rain or shine, on Tuesdays for our
weekly work sessions.

The above seven are the only remaining dates we will be
selling plants still left from the October sale. Also, there
are some plants added to the mix that weren’t quite
ready earlier. An excellent selection of manzanitas,
ceanothus and other shrubs, plus a few perennials await
buyers during this prime planting time.

While shoppers are browsing, the volunteers will be
doing the ongoing potting-up to larger containers,
beginning the new cycle of making cuttings of plant
material for next year’s sale.

Become one of us by showing up anytime during this
year – no experience is necessary – and get acquainted
with the plants at all stages of their growth.

Lunch break is 12 noon; bring a sandwich if you can stay.
Dress warmly, and bring two quarters for the parking fee
machine.

Plant Sale Committee

Native Here Nursery

Gift Certificates are available at the nursery, 101 Golf
Course Drive, during the hours it is open for business:
Friday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon, and Saturdays
from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thanks to John Danielsen for all the work on building
platforms to protect and display all the plants. There is
lots of room for all the tiny seedlings that will grow into
“selling size” plants through the winter and spring.
Seed collection has come to an end for the winter . . .
extcept that Toyon berries will ripen around Christmas.
If you have a wild toyon on your property, we would
love to receive berries with the relevant collection
information.

As members plan their activities for the new year, keep
in mind that volunteers are always welcome to help
during nursery hours, and that Tuesday morning seed
collection will start in May.

Mitchell Canyon Entrance, Mt Diablo State Park
Charli Danielsen will be one of 30 recipients of a Moun-
tain Star Award at Save Mount Diablo’s 30th Anniversary
celebration on Monday, December 10, 2001. The event
will be held at the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the
Arts in Walnut Creek. Charli is being recognized for
pioneering Save Mount Diablo’s first stewardship efforts
at Chaparral Spring and for leading the ongoing project
to restore native bunchgrasses at the State Park entrance.

Join Charli on Sunday, December 23 at 1 p.m. at the
project site to sow seeds of bunchgrasses and wildflow-
ers collected this spring and summer. This project is at a
stage where it requires only a few days of attention each
year, harvesting seed in the spring, mowing to keep the
weeds under control, and sowing seed in the winter.
This low-key effort will need to continue for several
years before the entire ten acres returns to perennial
grassland

Charli Danielsen

Native Plant Restoration Team

Join us on Saturday, December 1 for a work party on
EBRPD land in El Cerrito, with dramatic views of
Wildcat Canyon. We will work on the invasive Chilean
mayten, French broom, etc. Meet on site Saturday,
December 1 at 10 a.m. Directions: please meet on site,
not at Native Here. Take Moeser up from the El Cerrito
flats, cross Arlington, the name changes to Terrace.
Curve left, then right. Meet at the dead end of Terrace
(cross street Leneve Place and/or Kensington Road).
Thanks to Ed Leong, Fuel Break Supervisor of the
EBRPD, for having us.

Saturday, January 5: Meet before the work party to hear
Bob Case speak on invasive plants in the East Bay at the
Wayne Roderick Lecture Series at the Tilden (EBRPD)
Bot. Garden. The lecture starts at 10:30 a.m. We will
rally afterwards and drive to Canyon School for our
annual work party there. There are loads of bonus native
plants, including indigenous redwood groves. Come on
down! If you are not coming to the lecture, meet at
Canyon School at 1 p.m. or a little after. To Canyon
School: From Skyline Boulevard in Oakland, take
Pinehurst Road all the way down into Canyon; pass the
Post Office, and the school is immediately on your left.
Bring water, a raincoat just in case, gloves and a favorite
gardening tool (we have gloves and tools to lend, as
well). Heavy rain cancels; call 840-9367 on Saturday
morning for a recorded message if it is raining and you
are wondering.

Noah Booker
The Almanac is designed to promote native plant and wildlife habitat when conducting vegetation management for fire hazard reduction in the urban-wildlife intermix zone. The project brought together authors with different backgrounds to look at techniques and timing for solving vegetation management problems, as well as identifying species to protect, to retain, or to control or diminish.

The ultimate goal of the authors is to nurture vegetation management that moves toward converting areas to stable plant communities with favorable fire behavior characteristics. Generally, they favor removing non-native plants, especially those that are weedy or fire-prone, and allowing native plants to move in and take their place.

Six simplified plant “communities” are analyzed – grassland, north coastal scrub, oak/bay woodland, Eucalyptus plantations, Pine plantations, and disturbed places. Charts are used to help illustrate when the pest plants can be most effectively attacked, and how to best avoid harming animals using the community.

Those who have used drafts of the almanac in planning vegetation management have had high praise for its professionalism and utility, especially in identifying plants. Color illustrations include 40 species of plants to manage, 12 desirable species easily confused with pest plants and 7 case studies.

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Land, then, is not merely soil; it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals...This thumbnail sketch of land as an energy circuit conveys three basic ideas: (1) That land is not merely soil, (2) That the native plants and animals kept the energy circuit open; others may or may not, (3) That man-made changes are of a different order than evolutionary changes, and have effects more comprehensive than is intended or foreseen...A land ethic, then, reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity ...

Aldo Leopold
Board of Directors

Elected Officers

President:
Barbara Ertter, 1859 Catalina Ave., Berkeley 94707, h/526-4592, w/643-0600
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Holly Forbes, 7128 Blake St., El Cerrito 94530, 234-2913, w/643-8040
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Jim Sharp, 2663 LeConte Ave., Berkeley 94709, 644-9344
Joe Willingham, 2512 Etna St., Berkeley 94704, 841-4681

Bay Leaf Editors

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Joe Willingham, 2512 Etna St., Berkeley 94704, 841-4681, pepe@dnai.com

Recorded Chapter Information: 464-4977
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East Bay Chapter CNPS Home Page: http://www.ebcnps.org
Chapter CNPS-EB-Alerts E-mail List:
Find out more; email to listserv@usobi.org with:
INFO CNPS-EB Alerts
All area codes are 510 unless noted

Committee Coordinators

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Donations:
Vacant
Education:
Elly Bade, 2699 Shasta Rd., Berkeley 94708, 644-1656
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Janet Gawthrop, 360 Monte Vista Ave. #214, Oakland 94610, 654-3066
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Native Plant Restoration Team:
Noah Booker, 6366 Valley View Rd., Oakland 94611, h/339-1588, w/840-9367, email casartunda@aol.com
Posters:
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Plant Sale:
Shirley McPheeters, 104 Ivy Dr., Orinda 94563, 925-376-4095
Phoebe Watts, 1419 Grant St., Berkeley 94703, 525-6614
Plant Sale Publicity:
Elaine Jackson, 3311 Estudillo St., Martinez 94553, 925-372-0687
Programs:
Sue Rosenthal, P.O. Box 20489, Oakland 94620, 496-6016, email rosacalifornica@earthlink.net
EBRP Botanic Garden Liaison:
Sue Rosenthal, P.O. Box 20489, Oakland 94620, 496-6016

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Chapter CNPS-EB-Alerts E-mail List:
Find out more; email to listserv@usobi.org with:
INFO CNPS-EB Alerts
All area codes are 510 unless noted

Membership Application

Name ________________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________
Zip ________________________ Telephone _______________________________

I wish to affiliate with:
___ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)
___ Other ____________________________

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 1722 J St., Suite 17, Sacramento CA 95814

Membership category:
___ Student, Retired, Limited income, $20
___ Individual, Library, $35
___ Household, Family, or Group, $45
___ Supporting, $75
___ Plant lover, $100
___ Benefactor, $500
___ Life, $1000
Field Trips

Tuesday, January 1 at 10 a.m.: Rock City at Mt. Diablo, Dan Norris will lead a half-day bryophyte field trip (mosses, liverworts, maybe hornworts) to start the new year. Mosses and liverworts flourish with some rain and cooler temperatures, and they are most visible when flowering plants are dormant. The trip will not involve strenuous hiking, but participants will find the best viewing on their hands and knees. Bring lunch and water and if possible a hand lens. Camera lenses for magnified photos of small objects also provide good viewing of bryophytes. The trip will start from the small parking lot in the picnic table area of Rock City.

Directions: Take I-680 to El Cerro Boulevard in Danville. Proceed east on El Cerro one mile to join Diablo Road. Proceed east on Diablo Road two miles to Mt. Diablo Scenic Boulevard. Turn left (north) on Mt. Diablo Scenic Boulevard (which becomes South Gate Road) for approximately three miles to Rock City. If the park entry booth is open, there is a $2 entry fee, so you may want to carpool. If you have questions, call Janet Gawthrop, 654-3066.

Janet Gawthrop

Activities of Others

Aquatic Institute workshop. Saturdays, February 2 and 9, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the U.C. Berkeley Richmond Field Station and Willard Middle School in Berkeley.

This two-day workshop will be held at the U.C. Berkeley Richmond Field Station and Willard Middle School in Berkeley. It is designed for Grade 6-12 educators. Participants will learn environmental activities that improve the health of our watersheds, such as monitoring creeks, propagating native plants and surveying homes and schools for household hazardous products. Also included is a curriculum guide with extensive resource materials. A $150 stipend will be offered for participating in both days of the workshop and completing an outreach project. Participants will also have access to Watching Our Watersheds grant funds. Academic credit is available through California State University, Hayward. A $25 pre-registration fee is required to attend the workshop. This program is funded by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

For more information about the workshop, or to register, please check our website at www.aoinstitute.org or contact Lisa Lacabanne at the Aquatic Outreach Institute at (510) 231-5783.

The Oakland Museum of California will offer a training course for people who want to lead tours in its Natural Sciences Gallery. The comprehensive course includes lectures, films, and field trips; gallery walks with museum curators; and training in gallery tour techniques.

The course runs from January 15, 2002 through May 2002, then recommences in September, with graduation in February 2003. Classes will be held Tuesday afternoons from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. No previous science education is necessary to qualify as a trainee.

Docents are tour guides who interpret the Oakland Museum’s California exhibits to visitors. Participants are asked to make a two-year commitment to volunteer as docents after completing the course.

For information, call the Docent Center, 510-238-3514 or visit the Museum web site at www.museumca.org.