



July-August 2001

The Bay Leaf

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

Wild Plants in Cyberspace

Have you discovered the CalFlora Database yet? At www.calflora.org you will find:

- taxon reports for every plant recognized in California by the Jepson Manual and the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory.
- over 15,000 synonyms to clarify plant names and identifications.
- over 20,000 photos of California's vascular plants and fungi.
- over 790,000 plant observations and related documentation.
- geographical information system (GIS) tools to illuminate plant location data.

Your CNPS East Bay Chapter is well connected with this remarkable resource. In addition to licensing our unusual plant data to CalFlora, we contributed early this year toward their efforts to digitize invasives.

CalFlora's user base is booming . . .

In May alone, CalFlora attracted over 14,000 database inquiries *every* day (over 500 per hour—three times the rate of a year earlier). This translates into 28,000 unique users searching CalFlora for photos and information (or nearly three times the current statewide membership of CNPS!).

. . . yet CalFlora's sustainability remains uncertain

If CalFlora does not successfully manage the transition from research-based experiment to self-supporting non-profit organization, the conservation work and education of tens of thousands of Californians could be severely compromised.

If you share the East Bay Chapter's and CalFlora's commitment to conserve and promote California's plant diversity via freely accessible information please consider what you can do to help CalFlora's support keep pace with its phenomenal growth.

Please direct your ideas, volunteer time, contributions, and best wishes for CalFlora's future to:

Tony Morosco,
Technical Manager, CalFlora Database
937 San Pablo Avenue
Albany CA 94706

(510) 528-5426 phone
(510) 528-6399 fax
tony-morosco@calflora.org

Conservation Committee Ready for Action

After 15 years of hiking and photographing wildflowers in the East Bay hills, I hope to become more involved in local conservation issues by becoming the new East Bay CNPS conservation chair. Much good work has been done by past committees on many fronts; I hope to build from this base to promote sensible conservation. Joining me on the committee are Peter Rausch, Joe Willingham, Sue Bainbridge, Staci Markos, Tim Heelan and Dan Gluesencamp. If you are interested in single or multifaceted conservation issues please contact me at asztalos1@llnl.gov.

Steve Asztalos

Fall Garden Tour

On September 9th at 1:30 p.m. Steve Asztalos will lead a tour of the California native section at the UC Botanical Garden. Steve has been a docent at the Botanical Garden for the past several years and is eager to introduce new people to this beautiful and accessible location. The California section, which occupies nearly a third of the garden's acreage, contains nearly one-half of the state's native vascular plant species, including 174 taxa on CNPS's list of rare and endangered species. At this time of the year one can expect to be treated to a variety of flowering plants, including *Zauschneria californica*, *Eriogonum* ssp., Bushmallow, various composites and other Fall treats. The garden is located on Centennial Drive, east of Memorial Stadium, above the main campus of the University of California in Berkeley. There is a \$3 entrance fee for non-UC students.

Saving California's Rarest Plants

One of the more notable achievements of CNPS over the years has been the development of the *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California*. The updated state-wide accounts of our rare plants in each edition of the CNPS Inventory have been widely used by environmental consultants, developers and legislators alike in making planning decisions, and have influenced policy at both the State and local levels. Very soon, the sixth edition of our Inventory will be available in printed form, containing new and revised information for many species as well as some exciting additions.

While we often hear of the threat and reality of species extinctions on a global scale, there is better news about some of our plants. The number of natives "presumed extinct" in California has actually *declined* from 34 in the 1994 edition of the Inventory to about 29 today. Just a few of these 29 are known to survive in other States. The rediscoveries happen because CNPS members and other enthusiasts have discovered small new populations of several of these plants, often in remote places or on private land, but usually in or near the historic range originally known for the plant. The finds emphasize the value of detailed botanical explorations by knowledgeable people, and the need to follow through with communicating new information when it is obtained.

The latest Inventory also contains new species not previously known in California, and newly described species not previously known to science. An example of the former is the fern *Botrychium virginianum*, with recently found populations in Siskiyou and Mendocino Counties. This fern was previously known from all the mainland US states *except* California, and brings the number of our known native ferns and fern allies to exactly one hundred. Species new to science include members of such charismatic genera as *Erythronium* and *Calochortus*, as well as the distinctive tarweed *Deinandra bacigalupi*. This is from our own Chapter's area near Livermore and was recognized as new by our tarweed expert, Bruce Baldwin. Finally, the new Inventory include rare Bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) for the first time, thanks to efforts by Dan Norris and Jim Shevock.

Our rare plant botanist Dave Tibor deserves major credit for bringing the Inventory up to date, together with many others including the hundreds of people who have provided information. Let's remember in our wanderings that 29 lost species are out there, each waiting to make someone's year by being re-discovered.

John Game

Don't expect me to do the right thing, make me do it.
U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt

Plant Sale Activities

Potting Sessions

July: Tuesdays, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Saturday, July 14
August: Tuesdays, August 7, 14, 21, 28
Saturday, August 18

Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Place: Merritt College Landscape Horticulture Area

Note our Saturday meeting dates during the summer; there will be more of them in September. We look forward to seeing some of our members who wish to take part in plant sale work but cannot attend Tuesdays.

We have an overwhelming number of plants in 4-inch pots awaiting hands to move them into 1-gallon containers during July. This activity continues into mid-August and is the most rewarding phase of our year-long propagation efforts.

Come join in the fun. You are welcome anytime, for all or part of a day's work session.

Many, many thanks to Ed and his helpers – the nursery's newly rebuilt shade structure, designed and crafted by volunteer Ed Peters, is much admired by all (and appreciated by the plants, too).

Bring your lunch for the break at noon and 50 cents for the parking fee. For more information and/or directions to

Shirley McPheeters
(925) 376-4095

Native Here Nursery

Seed collection continues Tuesday mornings from 9 AM to around 1 PM. Meet at the lower gate by the nursery. Volunteers are welcome.

The plants from seed collected last year are growing, and there is a wonderful selection. Lots of volunteer help is needed to provide room for growing roots by moving the seedlings to ever larger containers. Volunteers are welcome both Fridays and Saturdays.

There is a project that is waiting for the right volunteer: two buckets full of used labels have accumulated over the years. If someone is willing to take on the task of cleaning them, Shirley McPheeters gave us a great method...all we need is someone with the time and patience to do it. You could even take them home. It always feels good to reuse something that could easily add to the landfill.

Board of Directors

Elected Officers

President:

Barbara Ertter, 1859 Catalina Ave., Berkeley 94707, h/526-4592, w/643-0600

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Recorded Chapter Information: 464-4977

CNPS Home Page: <http://www.cnps.org>

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

Printed on recycled paper

Committee Coordinators

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Steve Asztalos, asztalos1@llnl.gov

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Dianne Lake, 1050 Bayview Farm Rd. #121, Pinole 94564, 741-8066

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Dan Bigham, 1542 La Loma Ave., Berkeley 94708, 848-6308

Myrtle Wolf, 181 Stonewall Rd., Berkeley 94705, 843-8759

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Native Here Nursery:

Charli Danielsen, 101 Golf Course Dr., Berkeley 94708, 549-0211, email cwd@wli.net

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Noah Booker, 6366 Valley View Rd., Oakland 94611, h/339-1588, w/840-9367, email casartunda@aol.com

Posters:

Heather Koshinsky, 2033 Carquinez Ave., El Cerrito 94530, w/522-8180

Plant Sale:

Shirley McPheeters, 104 Ivy Dr., Orinda 94563, 925-376-4095

Phoebe Watts, 1419 Grant St., Berkeley 94703, 525-6614

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

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other _____

Membership category:

Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20

Individual, Library, \$35

Household, Family, or Group, \$45

Supporting, \$75

Plant lover, \$100

Benefactor, \$500

Life, \$1000

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

Native Plant Restoration Team

Another task is for someone with a pickup to cart away the things that we just can't find a way to compost, recycle or reuse, on a monthly basis. Native Here will pay the dump fees, we just don't have the appropriate vehicle.

Want some wonderful trees for fall and winter planting? We are offering *Sequoia sempervirens* from the grove that flows from Joaquin Miller Park through Redwood Regional Park and over into Canyon. They are in three-gallon long containers and might even be an unusual holiday tree. These are ideal for planting as memorial trees in Joaquin Miller Park (with City permission, of course). *Quercus douglasii* from Mitchell Canyon is available in D-pots (maybe in long gallon pots by fall). Sycamore seeds have germinated for us this year. This *Platanus racemosa* is from Sunol. There are also *Quercus lobata* and *Quercus agrifolia* from Sunol. These would make great street trees for Sunol when they grow up!

Come in and start your wish list for fall and winter planting. The nursery is at 101 Golf Course Drive, across the street from the golf course parking lot exit. The phone there is (510) 549-0211.

Charli Danielsen

EAST BAY CHAPTER OF CNPS 35TH ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE OCTOBER 6TH & 7TH

We had a great work party at Skyline Serpentine Prairie on June 2. It seems we are really helping to make a difference up there. Join us for one or all of our upcoming events.

NPRT Star Thistle Bash, Mitchell Canyon Bunchgrass Restoration Site, Saturday, July 7. See June Bay Leaf or web site for details.

Saturday, August 1, 10 a.m.: Work with us along the Berkeley waterfront, spitting distance from the Bay. We will be pulling Yellow Starthistle in the Eastshore State Park and Cesar Chavez Park. There seems to be less YST this year (partly thanks to our efforts), so we may work on other invasives as well. Meet off Spinnaker Way, opposite the Berkeley Marina Radisson, at 10 a.m. (look for the red Toyota pickup and the dangerous looking, tool-toting weed nuts). Please meet on site; do not go to Native Here this day. Thanks to Susan Schwartz for the inspiration.

Saturday, September 1, 10 a.m.: Native Here work party! Come hang out in this delightful spot with Charli and the gang. We'll work around the nursery on Oblong Spurge and assorted other nasties, and also bust a move inside the fence on potting and other needed chores. This will be a good time to start eyeing what's available at the nursery for the fall planting season. Meet at Native Here, 101 Golf Course Drive, Tilden Park, across from the Golf Course entrance.

No reservations are needed . . . just show up and pitch in. Wear protective clothing—sturdy shoes, long sleeves and pants, a sun hat; bring water, gloves and your favorite weeding tool. We also have gloves and tools to lend. Would you like to get on our email list? Drop me a line at casartunda@aol.com.

Noah Booker

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East Bay Chapter
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Berkeley CA 94705**

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