



December 2005

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
www.ebcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chapter Council Meeting and Banquet

Saturday, December 3, Faculty Club at the University of California at Berkeley

8:30 am-noon, CNPS Chapter Council Meeting in the Seaborg room

Noon-1 pm, lunch hour

1:00 pm-5:30 pm Chapter Council Meeting continues

5:30 pm-6:30 pm Social Hour & no-host bar, Heyn's Dining Room

6:30 pm-7:30 pm annual banquet, Heyn's Dining Room

7:30 pm-9:00 pm evening program: *Dispersal and establishment strategies of ectomycorrhizal fungi in post-fire California Forests* by Tom Bruns, Ph.D, Department of Plant & Microbial Biology, University of California at Berkeley

Native Here Nursery p. 4

Fridays, December 2, 9, 16, 23, Native Here open 9-noon

Saturdays, December 3, 10, 17, 24, nursery open 10-1

Field Trips see below

East Bay Chapter Election

Please send in your ballot for the election of Chapter officers postmarked by **December 31**. The ballot is on the last page of the November *Bay Leaf*. If you don't want to cut your copy of the *Bay Leaf*, you can download the November issue from the East Bay Chapter web site, www.ebcnps.org.

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, December 4, 9:30 am, **field trip to Mount Diablo** led by Gregg Weber. We will take the Back Creek Trail to Murchio Gap, then return via Meridian Ridge Road. We start at 600 ft elevation. The first mile is a dirt road through oak woodland and riparian areas, then we are on a single track trail through steep, rocky more open areas, eventually becoming chaparral. We won't need chaps since someone has built trails through the chaparral. For those who want a short easy walk, you can turn around at Tickwood Trail, which is a mile from the start. Otherwise we will continue uphill for another 1 mile until we arrive at Murchio Gap at 2350 ft. On the return, we will take Meridian Ridge Road.

Directions:

Take Ignacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek towards Clayton. Turn right on Clayton Road.

In Clayton, go past the first place where Marsh Creek Road intersects on the right.

A mile later, Clayton Road again intersects Marsh Creek Road. Go straight; the road becomes Marsh

Creek Road. Turn right at Regency Drive and go to the end where we will meet. Rain will not cancel, bring poncho, and shoes that won't be ruined by mud.

Sunday, December 11, 2005, field trip to **San Pedro Valley County Park, San Mateo County** led by David Margolies. Meet at the main parking lot at 2:00 pm.

San Pedro Valley County Park is on one side of Montara Mountain. It has a maritime climate so there are usually things in bloom all year round (though less this late in the year). We will look at shrubs and trees, including *Garrya*, manzanita, and creek dogwood. The emphasis will be on identification without flowers, using leaf arrangement and venation, fruits or fruit remnants, and twig and bud details.

To get to the park: take Highway 1 south from San Francisco to the south end of Pacifica (you pass through an area that is not built up after the main portion of the town and then get to the south end and

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a built-up area again). Turn left (east) onto Linda Mar Boulevard. Follow Linda Mar until it ends at Oddstad Boulevard. Turn right and proceed one block to the park entrance. The main parking lot is just after the pay station. You must pay for parking even if the station is not staffed.

Be prepared for mud and/or rain. The walk will take place regardless of the weather. Please contact David Margolies (510-654-0283, divaricatum@aol.com) if you need further information.

January 8, 2005, **Huddert County Park, San Mateo County**. Meet at the main parking lot (off Kings Mountain Road) at 2:00 pm. Fetid Adder's Tongue (*Scolioopus bigelovii*) is usually out early in the year on the Crystal Springs Trail in the redwood forests in this pleasant

county park. The walk is about 1.5 miles, with an elevation change of two hundred feet or so. To get to the park: take I-280 south from San Francisco to the Woodside Road (State 84) exit. Take Woodside Road (84) west about 1.5 miles through the village of Woodside and take a right onto Kings Mountain Road. The park entrance is on the right a mile or two up the hill. The main parking lot is just after the pay station. You must pay for parking even if the station is not staffed. Be prepared for mud and/or rain. The walk will take place regardless of the weather. Please contact David Margolies (510-654-0283, divaricatum@aol.com) if you need further information.

Janet Gawthrop

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

December 2005. No meeting (happy solstice and happy holidays!)

January 25, 2006. Joint program with *Bay Nature* magazine in celebration of its fifth anniversary. Oakland Museum Auditorium. More details in the January *Bay Leaf*.

February 22, 2006. Jack Laws—*Creation of a Sierra Nevada Field Guide*, Orinda Library Garden Room, 7:30 pm

Sue Rosenthal

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Jessica Olson will be leaving her position as the first East Bay Conservation Analyst on December 1 in order to accept a full time position with the Sonoma Ecology Center.

She will be sorely missed. Jessica has been a joy to work with and she has considerably increased the effectiveness of the Chapter Conservation Committee. She has shepherded us through the comment period on the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservation Plan—final comments are due her last day with us. There have been many other projects, some small, others larger that she has fostered.

The chapter intends to continue the position of Conservation Analyst and is in the process of hiring someone to continue the good work Jessica started. If you have not yet responded to the appeal for funds, please do so.

On behalf of the chapter conservation committee, I wish Jessica good luck in her new job.

Charli Danielsen, Conservation Committee Chair

CONSERVATION ANALYST JOB OPENING

East Bay Conservation Analyst A Half Time Job

Applications accepted until December 1, 2005 or until position is filled.

Background

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a state-wide non-profit conservation organization founded in 1965, with some 10,000 members in 32 chapters. The mission of CNPS is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them and their natural habitats through scientific study, education, advocacy, horticulture, and land stewardship. The East Bay Chapter of CNPS (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties) has over 1200 members.

The Position

The East Bay Conservation Analyst is an exempt or non-exempt position depending on experience; work hours are flexible, requiring an average of 20 hours per week. The Conservation Analyst analyzes the find-

ings of the chapter's plant science committees, plans advocacy for effective native habitat protection and preservation in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, and works with volunteers to carry out the priorities set with the East Bay Chapter Conservation Committee.

The East Bay Conservation Analyst is supervised by the Executive Director (ED) of statewide CNPS. The ED will review or delegate review of performance based on the job description and will be kept informed of activities. The East Bay Conservation Analyst and Chapter Conservation Committee will work as a team. Work plans developed by the team will be submitted to the Chapter leadership (Chapter Conservation Chair and/or Chapter President) and the ED.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

The core of the Chapter's conservation work involves representing the interests of the native flora to planning agencies. This typically involves reviewing and commenting on planning documents (EIR's, ULLs, HCPs, etc.), and attending and speaking at public meetings. Our mission also involves planning and coordinating with other environmental groups, educating agency staff and other conservation activists on plant and vegetation issues, building working relationships with such people, and making sure they have access to CNPS-generated resources such as the Unusual Plants List.

The duties of the East Bay Conservation Analyst include the following:

- Analyze scientific data accumulated by chapter and state CNPS plant science programs for relevance to local issues.
- Stay up to date on CNPS conservation policies and positions the East Bay Chapter has taken on projects and issues.
- Develop working relationships with groups and agencies involved in land use planning decision making, including raising their awareness of CNPS planning resources.
- Develop advocacy strategy and prioritize projects with our Conservation Committee.
- Work with the Conservation Committee (which includes chairs of the various plant science committees) to develop a specific work plan and budget for each project identified in d.
- Brief CNPS representatives (volunteers, consultants, or other staff) on assigned tasks within the work plans so that representation is consistent.
- Assure that all relevant meetings are covered either in person, or by another CNPS representative who has been briefed on the project, issues, availability of scientific data, etc.
- Lead EBCNPS' review and comment on environ-

mental planning documents; work with chapter officers on submitting comments.

- Prepare necessary internal reports to the East Bay Chapter, the CNPS state office, and the CNPS Executive Director. (May use the Conservation Committee Chair to help with these).

Compensation

The compensation for the Conservation Analyst is up to \$20,000 a year (qualifications of the applicant will determine hourly rate or salary) with medical and vacation benefits.

A cell phone account and computer equipment will be provided. The duration of the position is subject to funding availability. A fundraising program is in progress.

Application

For additional information about CNPS and a complete job description visit the East Bay Chapter website www.ebcnps.org and the CNPS website www.cnps.org.

To apply, please send resume indicating required qualifications and ability to meet job requirements and include contact information for three references to: East Bay Chapter, CNPS, PO Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley, CA 94705 and e-mail to charlid@pacbell.net. Please include e-mail address for response.

Interviews will be scheduled as applications are received and reviewed. The start date for the successful candidate will be as soon as possible.

Charli Danielsen

PLANT SALE ACTIVITIES



As we welcome the change of seasons, the native plant nursery welcomes a change as our term with Merritt College draws to a close. We are pursuing options for a new nursery location and will continue to keep you informed about our progress. As you may have read in the October *Bay Leaf*, Shirley McPheeters has stepped down as plant sale chairman. We will miss her greatly. Her compassion, knowledge and dedication have made the plant sale an exceptional event for many years. I will continue in her place and hope that she, and our remarkable volunteers, will continue to grow native plants with CNPS in the future.

As we anticipate a new location, new volunteers are always welcome. No experience is necessary, only an

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interest in growing and caring for native plants. We would also like to invite individuals to be a part of our plant sale committee. This committee will work to develop and operate our new nursery. If you are interested or would like more information, please call or email me directly at the number and address below.

Additionally, we still have a small number of plants for interested buyers; *Arctostaphylos* sp., *Rhamnus*

californica 'Eve Case', *Sisyrinchium californicum*, *Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*, to name a few.

If you are interested in purchasing plants please call 510-301-1138 or email Lhillink@aol.com.

Linda Hill

NATIVE HERE

Fridays, December 2, 9, 16, 23, Native Here open 9-noon

Saturdays, December 3, 10, 17, 24, nursery open 10-1

Extended hours in November brought new customers to Native Here. Many noticed the colorful signs borrowed from the chapter plant sale. Some saw the ad in the Hills newspapers.

We plan to follow our usual schedule in December, except for taking the last two days of the year off. All the other Fridays (nine to noon) and Saturdays (ten to one) the nursery is open and welcomes visits from plant shoppers, and volunteers. There is always plenty of work to go around. No need to phone first, just show up willing to work. If you haven't volunteered with us before, it is good to come on a Friday the first time for training. Margot gets pretty swamped with customers on Saturdays, so it helps to already "know the ropes".

If it gets too wet or windy, we don't stay. We are volunteers, not masochists!

This month some of the spring blooming perennials will be breaking dormancy. If you are looking for *Ranunculus*, *Delphinium*, or *Triteliaea*, you may find them here in December. We also have books and calendars for sale. Ask for them, as in damp weather we don't put them on display. Visitors are also welcome to browse our collection of restoration and horticulture literature.

Most of our plants do well planted any time November through February.

The nursery is located in Tilden Park, across from the Golf Course, at 101 Golf Course Drive. Telephone is 510-549-0211.

Charli Danielsen



Cordylanthus palmatus (palmate bird's beak). Photo by John Game

Cordylanthus palmatus (palmate bird's beak) is a rare and endangered species. The best of the few remaining populations of this plant is in the Springtown wetlands near Livermore. Measure D, a proposal to revise Livermore's Urban limit line, would have threatened the Springtown wetlands and its bird's beak plants. Thanks to the efforts of many conservation groups, including the East Bay Chapter of CNPS, as well as other concerned citizens, the voters of Livermore rejected Measure D.

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California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
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Chapter web site
www.ebcnps.org

Recorded Chapter Information
510-464-4977

State CNPS web site
www.cnps.org

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other _____

E-mail _____
(optional)

Membership category:

Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20

Individual, Library, \$35

Household, Family, or Group, \$45

Supporting, \$75

Plant lover, \$100

Patron, \$250

Benefactor, \$500

Mariposa Lily, \$1000

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816

**THE WAYNE RODERICK LECTURES
WINTER 2005 - 2006**

at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden
Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive (South Park Drive is closed Nov.-March)
in Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley
510-841-8732 bgarden@ebparks.org www.nativeplants.org

Saturday Mornings 10:30
Free

Notice: Seating is limited. To be sure of a seat, come early and save a chair.

December

- 3 **Serpentine soils and plant communities from Alaska to Baja**—Earl Alexander
10 **Botany of the northern Sierra from Lakes Basin to the Feather River country**—Steve Edwards
17 **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park: a feast of flora and fauna**—Larry Abers

2006

January

- 7 **The botany of Pt. Reyes National Seashore**—Steve Edwards
14 **Joaquin Murietta country**—Steve Edwards
21 **California Classics**—Dave Fross
28 **The Oat Hill Mine Trail and Knoxville areas of Napa County**—Dick O'Donnell

February

- 4 **Botany and geology of Death Valley, including the great spring of 2005**—Steve Edwards and a foray into the Panamints—John Game
11 **A botanist's Greece**—Bob Gibbons
18 **The glorious western Mojave**—Steve Edwards
25 **The June Lake and Tioga Pass areas, plants of late summer**—Bob Case

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
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