MEMBERSHIP MEETING

2,600 Miles on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
Speakers: Bob Sikora and Martha Ashton-Sikora

Wednesday, November 16, 7:30 pm
Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (directions below)

The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail extends 2,650 miles from the Sonoran Desert at the Mexican border to the boreal forests in Canada. The entire route stays within some of the most strikingly beautiful and pristine habitats in the three westernmost states, California, Oregon and Washington. Passing through some 50-odd national and state forests, parks, and wilderness areas, the trail winds up the Peninsular and Transverse ranges, across the western tip of the Mojave Desert and the Tehachapi Mountains, and along the length of the Sierra Nevada and the Cascade Mountains.

Bob and Martha Sikora completed the entire Pacific Crest Trail and will share with us some of the scenery and wildflowers they saw along the way. In a walk of that length, can one make adequate photographs to give a sense of the whole endeavor and still manage to cover the distance? Join Bob and Martha on their journey and find out. (Hint: It took them 13 years!)

Bob Sikora (MA, zoology, UC Berkeley) was one of the first four research divers at UC Berkeley. He taught advanced

Two photos by Bob Sikora: to the left a view of the Got Rock wilderness in Washington state; to the right, alpine gentian, (Gentiana newberryi).

biology at Berkeley High and enjoys nature photography in his retirement. Martha Ashton-Sikora (PhD, theater, Michigan State University) did her research in India and has authored two books and numerous articles on Indian theater forms. She has taught at the University of Chicago and UC Berkeley.

East Bay CNPS membership 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 24 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. Contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornica2@earthlink.net, if you have questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

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.

continued on page 2
There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From 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

**PLANT FAIR**

The weather cooperated in making October 1 and 2 lovely days to be at Native Here Nursery. In addition to the sixteen 2011 Plant Fair Committee members, 62 chapter members volunteered during and right after the Fair, members of Kappa Alpha Order from UC Berkeley helped with traffic control, and students from San Lorenzo High School helped on Saturday morning. Nita Stull and Liz Shedd kept all volunteers well fed at the volunteer refreshment area. Volunteers were especially happy to enjoy the pizza donated by Little Star Pizza in Albany.

Plant Fair-goers were treated to talks by two authors: artist, natural science illustrator and naturalist Laura Cunningham spoke about the landscape of the Bay Area and California thousands of years ago, and illustrated her descriptions with some of the beautiful paintings from her book, *A State of Change: Forgotten Landscapes of California*, which was sold at the fair. Local historian, storyteller and building contractor Richard Schwartz told stories about the forest of monumental old-growth redwood trees that once grew in the Oakland hills and provided graphic evidence of their massive size by marking the outline of a 33.5 foot diameter tree on the ground. Richard’s books on local history — *Berkeley 1900: Daily Life at the Turn of the Century: Eccentrics, Heroes, and Cutthroats of Old Berkeley; and Earthquake Exodus, 1906: Berkeley Responds to the San Francisco Refugees*— were available at the fair.

Seedy Friends, a volunteer group with the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, had a booth selling seeds to fairgoers on both Saturday and Sunday.

Heidi Rand, GardenDelightsArts.com, and Dianne Lake, Lake & Lake Photography, returned to the Fair with wonderful photographs and gift items both Saturday and Sunday. Cinda MacKinnon sold plant photography based items on Saturday. The vendors really contribute to the festive atmosphere of the Fair.

Janice Bray demonstrated how to use the CD *East Bay Native Plants* which she had revised with many new pages and improved search by both newly assigned and familiar names.

Posters from our Restoration Team and other related restoration efforts appeared in time for the Fair and were on display throughout both days.

The hat decorating and container plant contests arranged by Delia Taylor added greatly to the festive nature of the Fair.

Thanks to everyone who helped, who shopped, and made the Fair the “annual gathering of the EB-CNPS membership” this fall.

*Charli Danielsen and Sue Rosenthal*

**LATE FALL AT NATIVE HERE NURSERY**

Many, many wonderful plants were sold at the 2011 Native Plant Fair. New plants are coming along from seeds and cuttings. Some of the plants in larger containers really need to go into the ground! During November and December, prices are slashed in half for two gallon *Cornus sericea*, two and five gallon *Lonicera involucrata*, and all five gallon trees. (That makes a 2 gallon creek dogwood less expensive than one in a gallon pot—what a deal!)

Inland gardeners and landscapers may still take advantage of the half price offer on *Rhamnus ilicifolia* from Livermore (sorry, not other locales) when buying three or more. Redberry has not been used much in horticulture, partly because it has not been available. Its foliage, lovely red berries, and drought hardiness make it a great candidate for informal hedges or group plantings.

Nursery hours continue to be Tuesdays—noon to 3 pm, Fridays—nine to noon, and Saturdays—10 to 2. Come shop! From the large lower parking lot, enter the nursery from either the entrance used during the Plant Fair or walk up the steep driveway. Loading and limited parking is available on the upper level.

Volunteers are always welcome during open hours. The nursery needs more volunteers willing to “adopt” a section to keep watered and weed free. Once trained in our water conserving practices, watering volunteers can choose a schedule independent of the open hours. Spending time quietly watering or weeding in the nursery can be very restful and contemplative. It is a lovely place to be.

*Charli Danielsen*
CONSERVATION ANALYST APPEAL

We are now into our sixth week since our 2011-2012 Conservation Analyst Fund drive began. So far, more than 10% of our Chapter has responded to the appeal with generous gifts. To all of you who responded without delay, a huge thank you from all of us directly involved with the appeal and the Conservation Committee’s work. These funds ensure that Mack will be able to continue working on the many complex projects he undertakes for EBCNPS.

We are, however, still about $20,000 away from our goal. Without these funds, our ability to address effectively conservation in Alameda and Contra Costa will be reduced.

I urge all our EB-CNPS members to help with this year’s fundraiser like never before. Even though these are clearly uncertain economic times, the forces that push for land use decisions that affect our native flora are always at work. With your help, however big or small your donation, our chapter can and does bring science, good analysis and forward thinking to the agencies and entities whose decisions affect our local native flora and all aspects of life that are dependent on its thriving.

Please give what you can to our 2011-2012 conservation analyst fund appeal. Your donation will make a big difference.

Carol Castro

THANKS TO CONSERVATION ANALYST DONORS

We have received contributions from these generous members and friends. Send your donation today if you have not done so already!


FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, November 26, 9:30 am, Hoffman Marsh and Point Isabel

On this Buy-Nothing Saturday trip, join Tom and Jane Kelly and Janet Gawthrop as they revisit this popular edge of San Francisco Bay shoreline. We will look for new growth in the restoration area, but focus on the marsh plants with a view to both learning tidal marsh flora and identification of particular species. Some plants will still have fruit, but it will be a time to learn plant ID by foliage. This is a field trip, so we will be viewing but not weeding. In case of rain on Saturday morning, we will hold the field trip at the same time on Sunday, November 27. You cannot bring dogs into the salt marsh, but Point Isabel has a nearby dog field providing your dog has a human companion present.

Directions: Exit I-80 at Central Avenue. (in El Cerrito), and cross over the freeway. Once you are west of the freeway, bear right to follow Rydin Road north of Central Avenue. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Rydin Road. This site is also accessible by mass transit, but requires some walking from El Cerrito Plaza BART station. Follow Central Avenue by way of the pedestrian walk over the freeway to Rydin Road, and then follow Rydin Road to the parking lot.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT: GREG WOLFORD, IN MEMORIAM

Shirley McPheeters and Greg Wolford, working at the Oct 18, 2008 plant fair, photo by Delia Barnes-Taylor.

Greg Wolford passed away last month after a long fight against lymphoma. Many of us had the pleasure of working with Greg be it a weeding, pull it out project, or a planting, put it in project. Here are a few remembrances from his friends. I think of him so often because of the work he did here in my garden, he and Kevin kidding around and so pleased with making something together.

Shirley McPheeters

I didn’t know Greg well, but here’s what I remember very clearly about him. He had the kind of face that registered everything that he felt—he was unguarded in that way—so he expressed his feelings readily. I had to get used to the fact that sometimes he would frown when he first heard something, but then I realized that that was his way of concentrating and taking everything in. Then he’d respond. He had huge integrity and sensitivity. He loved the earth. He has simply gone too soon.

Laura Baker

Greg Wolford was one of those rare artists who knew our natural world intimately and could use its forms, colors and textures to shape gardens that made us all see its subtle beauty and appreciate its ever changing form and character. As a landscape architect and resource manager for John Muir National Historic Site, I had the lucky opportunity to work with Greg as he designed and implemented a garden that greets visitors to the Muir home with the California native plants that John Muir and Greg loved so much. It was an honor and a pleasure to have worked with Greg. He will be missed.

Lucy Lawliss
Superintendent
George Washington Birthplace National Monument

In 2007 Greg was hired by NPS Lucy Lawliss to design and plant a California Native Garden at the John Muir Historic Site Visitor’s Center in Martinez. Greg designed it with his heart and soul. Now several years later Keith Parks, NPS Horticulturist, and volunteers are in the process of refreshing the garden. The new plantings will be planted in Greg’s memory.

Elaine Jackson

I am very sorry that Greg has lost his fight. I joined Greg on a few restoration outings and we hired him to help us out in our home garden. He was a lovely person, so loyal to his little dog, and always pure of heart.

Delia Barnes-Taylor

We the Friends of Alhambra Creek have also become Friends of Greg Wolford as we worked together to build the native plant garden at the John Muir National Historic Site. Greg’s dedication, his generosity, his quiet good humor and his unrelenting hard work are an inspiration to all of us. The Garden he built with us is Greg’s beautiful legacy to the community and to all who come to visit John Muir’s home. No doubt, Greg and John are finding themselves as Kindred and Related Spirits in the world beyond this one.

Each time we plant a native, or pull a weed in Greg’s Garden we will be reminded of this kind and generous man who gave us this marvelous gift, and in touching the plants and the soil, we will be in touch with his spirit. Greg departed from us too soon, but his spirit will be with us always.

Igor and Shirley Skaredoff

Peace and love to you Greg, from all of us.

Please join us in welcoming our new members for August, September time frame; Tanner Harris, Thomas Carns, Laura Kukulski, Robert Garnaas, Karl Ruddy, Sallie Pine, Morgan Ramirez, Shari Gent, Evelyn Wenk, Dayna Yocum, Melissa Grush, Myra Delzeit, & Carolyn Price. As always, a huge thank you to our renewing members.

Announcement
The Membership Chair position will soon be vacant. If you are looking for a fun, fulfilling, self-directed volunteer opportunity, this position is for you. Email of call me for more information elainejx@att.net 925-372-0687

Reminders
• Still looking for join dates prior to 1986
• Outreach Coordinator position still vacant
• Restoration Chair, vacant
• Be sure and visit our updated membership page at http://ebcnps.org/index.php/membership/

Elaine Jackson
RESTORATION

Many invasive plants have produced new seedlings in response to early rains this fall, but wet weather is also the easiest time to remove new weeds. In addition to the monthly Pt. Isabel crew, volunteer weed bashers will return to regional parks in the Oakland/Orinda hills at the following dates and times:

Saturday, November 5 at 9:00 am, Redwood Regional Park

This crew meets at Skyline Gate, but we’ll wrench out French broom (Genista monspessulana) further in the park, depending on weather and trail conditions. Bring your favorite glove or tool, or you can ask for loaner gloves and tools from park staff. In the absence of rain, this crew ends at roughly 1 pm.

Saturday, November 12, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park

We will meet at the Huckleberry parking lot, and then we’ll fan out to remove several exotic species. If you prefer to weed without a weed wrench, there will be new sprouts of Italian thistle and the usual mats of cape ivy and Vinca for hand pulling and bagging. Thanks to volunteer efforts this spring, western sword ferns, wood ferns and bracken ferns are spreading horizontally from their pockets in the driveway rocks. If you need loaner gloves or tools, please e-mail janet-gawthrop47@gmail.com or sibley@ebparks.org.

Sunday, November 20 at 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park

Now that the rains have softened the trails, we will return to the parking lot off of Skyline, on the Oakland side of the park. Depending on trail conditions, we can go out to pull larger broom on the Sibley-to-Tilden trail, or remove broom and poison hemlock seedlings nearer to the entrance. This will be our chance to find out if clipping and bagging seeds earlier in the fall will noticeably reduce new seedlings.

Directions: To all locations, exit Highway 13 at either Moraga/Thornhill from the north, or the Park exit arriving from the south. Go to the traffic light intersection of Snake with Moraga/Mountain, and follow Snake uphill (only one direction is possible). To get to Redwood Park, proceed straight at the intersection of Snake and Shepherd Canyon — this will put you on Shepherd Canyon Road, which you will follow to its other end at the intersection with Skyline. Then turn right and follow Skyline until you see the Skyline Gate parking lot where you’ll turn in to park.

For Huckleberry and Sibley parks, follow the same directions until you reach the intersection of Snake and Shepherd Canyon roads. There, you will make a hard left turn, more than ninety degrees, to proceed uphill on Snake. Keep going on Snake until it ends at Skyline and then turn left to follow Skyline north. Huckleberry will be the first regional park on your right, and the Sibley parking lot is about another 1/2 mile further north on Skyline.

Janet Gawthrop

Last week’s rains were good for our plantings at Pt. Isabel along the shores of Hoffman Marsh – and for the 8 volunteers who found the weeds easy pickings as a result of the rain softened earth. As we move into the planting season, we are clearing as much plantable area as we can of the non-native grasses and other weeds that compete so aggressively with the native plantings for the moisture and nutrients necessary for life. We know the bee plant (Scrophularia californica) will re-seed easily as will the wildflowers and we’re already seeing coyote bush (Baccharis pilularis) seedlings appearing on the cleared areas of the upper bank. We’ll be adding more sagebrush (Artemisia californica) this winter. It’s one of the shrubs that we first found onsite and the one that flourishes in the existing conditions of sun coupled with strong breezes.

The Park District brought us some more mulch that we spread in the hard-baked area near the trail (far away from the banks to avoid covering the entrances to the nests of the native bees).

Our wildlife count for the day included a beautiful gopher snake (shown below in a photo by Jane Kelly, who also took the picture on the right) sunning herself amidst the yampah (Perideridia kelloggii), a great blue heron, and a monarch butterfly.

Jane and Tom Kelley
CONSERVATION

East Alameda County Solar Policy
EBCNPS has recently joined forces with Friends of Livermore, Friends of the Vineyards, Citizens for Open Space in Alameda County (Measure D Committee), the Alameda Creek Alliance, and the Ohlone Audubon Society to create a statement of principles that apply to the development of large-scale solar energy facilities in rural areas of Alameda County. This coalition was formed in response to the County’s ongoing effort to create a county wide policy for solar energy facilities in rural areas. A list of our coalition’s principles can be found on our blog: http://ebcnps.wordpress.com.

On October 3rd, I presented this list to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors’ Transportation and Planning Committee. At this meeting, the supervisors (Haggerty and Miley) decided to postpone recommendation of the planning department’s solar policy until its impacts are more closely considered. The Planning Department will keep working on this policy and bring it back to the Transportation/Planning Committee next month in “much greater detail.”

I think this is a great step, and I believe that our coalition played a large part in making our voices heard during this part of the process. We will continue to keep you updated with any new information as it becomes available.

North Richmond Shoreline
EBCNPS has been closely following the debate regarding the City of Richmond’s zoning of Richmond’s North Shoreline.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

An Appreciation of Laura Baker, retiring Conservation Chair

An Appreciation of Laura Baker, retiring Conservation Chair

About six years ago I was with Laura Baker in her garden when she mentioned she had taken on Chairing the Conservation Committee “on an interim basis only”. Then chapter President Charli Danielson had urged her to take up the challenge. Laura was clear about the “interim” part; in fact she had the Bay Leaf Officer roster list her as such.

But the bug had bitten; Laura found herself excited and engaged with the role. After a year she quietly dropped the “interim”. In the succeeding times Laura, in a strong partnership with longtime Conservation Analyst Lech Naumovich and a supportive Conservation Committee focused and strengthened our Conservation activist work in the East Bay.

Building on our CNPS science-based plant conservation, Laura reached out to our plant science Committees. Working with Lech, Rare Plant Committee Chair Heath Bartosh and others Laura formalized our Conservation Committee direc-

in their forthcoming General Plan. We have submitted comments stating that the area should keep its current zoning in the new General Plan of “open space” but several landowners on the North Shoreline have voiced concern that their land could lose value if this zoning were to be allowed. The next discussion of this issue will be on October 20th where the Planning Commission will start deliberations on this subject. We hope that what we view as a great General Plan that makes conservation a priority in Richmond will remain.

Oakland Zoo Expansion
We are still attempting mediation with the Oakland Zoo and the City of Oakland regarding the Zoo’s planned expansion onto upper Knowland Park (part of our “Foothills of South Oakland BPPA). We remain hopeful that we will achieve a settlement through mediation, but we have not ruled out continued litigation in the event that settlement is not possible.

The Conservation Committee is always looking for volunteers to get involved in our many projects. If you are interested in working with me on any of the above projects or any that you have read about on our blog or in past Conservation Analyst Updates, please feel free to contact me by phone at 510-734-0335 or by email at conservation@ebcnps.org. And as always, for more detailed updates on all of our conservation projects, please visit the Conservation Blog at http://ebcnps.wordpress.com.

Mack Casterman, Conservation Analyst

Laura has found her work at all times enriching, at sometimes exhausting. She has brought her personal clarity to every meeting, hearing, and discussion she attended. She spoke for the plants with conviction and truth.

Now she is stepping into a new role. She wants to get better acquainted with her Adopt-A-Rare-Plant subject, the Contra Costa Manzanita, Arctostaphylos laevigata. She wants to do vegetation community sleuthing. And she just wants to be in her garden.

She leaves a strong committee, of which that she will continue to be a member. Committee members and Mack Casterman, our current Conservation Analyst, are carrying many issues forward. Along with the whole chapter I thank Laura for her work.

David Bigham
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Sales—Margot Cunningham
bunchgrassmarg@gmail.com

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Lesley Hunt, Native Here/ Plant Fair-East Bay
Chapter Board liaison
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Gawthrop
Point Isabel—Tom and
Jane Kelly
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510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net

Strawberry Creek—Tom
and Jane Kelly

Officers and Commit-
tee Chairs serve on the Board.

Hats decorated with locally native plant material provided rare and unusual fall fashion. Photos and photo arrangement by Delia Taylor.

THE BAY LEAF November 2011

Pete Veilleux won the container plant competition with an Arc
tostaphylos ‘Greenleaf’. Photo by Delia Taylor.
WAYNE RODERICK LECTURES
WINTER 2011-2012

at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden
Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive (South Park Drive is closed Nov. through Mar.)
in Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley, CA  (510) 544-3169  E-mail Address: bgarden@ebparks.org
www.ebparks.org/parks/VC/botanic_garden    www.nativeplants.org
Saturday mornings 10:30   Free
Notice: Seating is limited. To be sure of a seat, come early and save a chair.

2011

| Nov. 5   | The Cedars of Cazadero, Yosemite of serpentines —Steve Edwards |
| Nov. 12  | Island hopping in the Sea of Cortez—Buff & Gerald Corsi and Ted Kipping |
| Nov. 19  | Along the Wonderland Trail—plants of Mt. Rainier—Vernon Smith |

More WAYNE RODERICK lectures in December, January, February and March.

Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name ________________________________
Address ______________________________
Zip ____________ Telephone _____________
Email ________________________________

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

Membership category:
___ Individual, $45
___ Family, Library, Group or International, $75
___ Plant lover, $100
___ Patron, $300
___ Benefactor, $600
___ Mariposa Lily, $1500
___ Limited Income or student, $25.00
___ Other ________

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