MEMBERS MEETING

Wednesday, November 16, 7:30 pm
Plants versus the Yellowstone Volcano
Speaker: Jennifer Whipple
Location: Room 7, Orinda Community Center (directions below)

The volcanic hotspot located below Yellowstone National Park is fascinating for many reasons, including the incredible array of geothermal phenomena such as geysers, hot springs, and fumaroles. The vegetation of the region has also been profoundly influenced by the volcano, and the interrelationships of the flora and the geology of the region will be the focus of Jennifer Whipple’s presentation, including why there are relatively few endemic plant species in the park. Expect loads of photos of cool plants and the unique geology of the area.

Jennifer’s fascination with the park started when she was a seasonal naturalist at Yellowstone while attending graduate school at Humboldt State University. “Seasonal naturalist” morphed into “biological technician,” and Jennifer eventually served as the park’s botanist for more than 20 years. In total, she lived in Yellowstone for 34 years, first at Old Faithful and then at Mammoth Hot Springs. Currently she is in the process of writing a new flora for the park, a “little” retirement project.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month’s meeting takes place in Room 7 of the Orinda Community Center at 28 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). Room 7 is at the south end of the Community Center building (next door to the Orinda Library). The room opens at 7:00 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Contact programs@ebcnps.org or 510-496-6016 if you have questions.

Directions to Orinda Community Center at 28 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 west side of the one-story Community Center building, which is set back from the street on the right. There is additional free parking on the street as well as beneath the library building next door and in the parking lot south of the library. Room 7 is at the south end of the Community Center building.

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 Orinda Community Center. Room 7 is at the south end of the Community Center building.

Upcoming Programs

December: No meeting (happy holidays!)
January 25, 2017, 7:30 pm: Photo Sharing Night, Orinda Library Garden Room
You’re invited to show up to 25 photos of trips and adventures, gardens, landscapes, flora, fauna, plant art, you name it! Come to share your images or just to enjoy the photos that others bring (nonmembers are most welcome to present and/or enjoy). Pro and amateur photographers are all invited and appreciated. VERY IMPORTANT: Contact Sue (programs@ebcnps.org or 510-496-6016) by January 22 if you want to show photos. I’ll send you information about photo format (digital images, old-fashioned slides, and prints are all welcome) and the uploading you will need to do prior to the meeting.
Native Here Nursery

2016 Fall Plant Sale Weekends

Saturday & Sunday
September 24th & 25th
10am to 2pm

Saturday & Sunday
October 22nd & 23rd
10am to 2pm

Saturday & Sunday
November 12th & 13th
10am to 2pm

Special plants & offers each weekend!

Native Here grows locally native plants from Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, plants that are especially suited to Bay Area landscapes and gardens.

We have plants for all types of gardens and designs, from drought-tolerant, low water gardens, to stream-side, water-loving plants, and everything in between.

101 Golf Course Drive
Berkeley, CA 94708

www.NativeHereNursery.org

Across from Tilden Park
Golf Course
It is the East Bay Chapter’s turn to host the quarterly State CNPS Board of Directors and Chapter Council meetings. We are co-hosting with the newly formed Bryophytes Chapter. They have arranged field trips to see local mosses, liverworts and hornworts.

The events are:

Friday, December 2: There will be a tour at 1:30 pm of our Native Here Nursery, one of the largest CNPS-run nurseries in the state. The Board of Directors meeting begins at 2:00 pm. In the evening, meet the delegates and members at a private room at Spat’s in Berkeley (1974 Shattuck Avenue). All members and their guests are welcome. (No host bar and food available for purchase.) The event starts at 6:30 pm.

Saturday, December 3: The Chapter Council meeting at UC Berkeley will last all day. There will be a banquet at the North Berkeley Senior Center. CNPS Fellows will be honored. The social hour starts at 5:30 pm, the dinner at 6:30 pm. Two East Bay Chapter members may be honored as new Fellows! Bryologist Jim Shevock will speak on “New Species and Old Favorites in the Western North American Bryoflora”. The banquet is open to all members and their guests. Reserve a space at http://cnps.org/cnps/admin/cc/.

Sunday, December 4: The Chapter Council meets in the morning. In the afternoon, at 1 pm, two field trips will be led by bryophyte experts Kiamara Ludwig (Tilden Park) and Paul Siri Wilson (Redwood Regional Park). Sign up for a field trip at http://cnps.org/cnps/admin/cc/.

Hosting chapters have lots to do! Here’s how you can help:
- Host an out-of-town Board member or Chapter delegate.
- Help with logistics (carpooling, refreshments) for Native Here Nursery tour Friday afternoon.
- Setup and cleanup for the Saturday banquet, including bryophyte-themed table decorations, audio-visual setup, and pickup and return of rented serving items.
- General logistical support for Board and Chapter Council meetings in the Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley, including help with lunches and snacks, arranging tables, audio-visual.

For more information, to sit in on the meetings, or to volunteer contact Delia Taylor at deliataylor@me.com or Barbara Leitner at bleitner@pacbell.net.

Some bryophyte photos by Paul Wilson. Upper left: sporophytes of Isothecium; upper right: Orthodicranum tauricum; lower left: the liverwort Riccardia chamedryfolia; lower right: the hornwork Paeoceras sp.
The Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area’s (SVRA) proposed expansion parcel of more than 3000 acres, known as Tesla Park to those supportive of its preservation, is not yet safe from the impacts of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation. Unfortunately, on Friday, October 21, 2016 the OHMVR Commission convened in Sacramento to approve the General Plan and certify the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the existing park and expansion. In my three minutes at the podium I presented a few main points from our EBCNPS letter to the OHMVR Commission. I held out hope that comments from all of the groups in attendance on Friday, may have swayed the commissioners to delay a decision. Our organization has contended for years that the plan neglects the significant impacts of OHV recreation to biotic resources, does not provide adequate mitigation measures, and most importantly, lacks adequate plant surveys.

The OHMVR Commission heard public comments from about 50 people, from approximately 11:00 am to 3:45 pm, with a lunch break. A multitude of organizations, individuals, politicians, local government agencies, and state government agencies have opposed this expansion project. Read the full list here: http://www.teslapark.org/. Members from several of these groups attended an in-person meeting with OHV Division Deputy Director Mathew Fuzie on October 12, but this did not result in action to stop the Final EIR and General Plan approval process. On a happy note, related to our organization’s past advocacy at several meetings with the Altamont Landfill Open Space Committee, ALOS C submitted a letter declaring their support for prioritizing funding applications for acquiring or conserving the Tesla expansion area. Commissioners on Friday took only about 15 minutes to review the stack of letters submitted into the record and then continued with questions for staff regarding some of the comments heard from the public. A couple of public agency representatives also returned to the podium for a few minutes of commission questioning.

By this point astute listeners realized the public had not yet seen a document referred to several times during the day, and this realization resulted in a big hiccup. The commission had referenced the existence of a CEQA document called a “Statement of Overriding Considerations,” as an existing document already created by the Director of State Parks. This type of document is important for understanding how an agency addressed environmental impact analysis concerns, because it provides an outline that typically both acknowledges significant impacts and declares the agency-level reasoning for ignoring these impacts. In a last minute twist before a commission vote, the commission broke to tell the remaining audience we would receive a copy of this Statement so as to read it, immediately followed (about 10 minutes later) by a supplementary public comment period. The text of two resolution documents were distributed, which referenced the Statement. But, it ended up that the meeting was adjourned without the public ever having seen the text of this Statement (still unavailable as of this writing). The commissioners themselves appeared not to have read this Statement or know whether or not it existed. Remaining members of the public were allowed two minutes to comment on the resolutions. In my brief reading, these resolutions did not provide substantive information on the agency’s reasons for dismissing significant impacts. They simply declared the OHMVR Commission’s intent to approve the General Plan and certify the Final EIR. Under no circumstance is a 10 minute review of a document sufficient for public comment. Minutes later the commission adopted the resolutions. The ultimate meaning of this hasty action will be addressed by Friends of Tesla Park and others undertaking likely future litigation.

Our conclusion is that Tesla is not an appropriate place for OHVs, and comparing areas within it to find a “relatively” appropriate development area for OHVs is inappropriate. The General Plan’s Preferred Concept Map clearly demonstrates project intentions for construction of facilities of all types, including trails. Think of this: a programmatic EIR is the last and only environmental analysis document that would look at this fact, this Final EIR commits to subsequent environmental analysis processes before any project proceeds. Regardless, the valuable resources on Tesla should not be destroyed as they were with OHV recreation activity, and we continue to hope Tesla will be preserved.

In the coming months return for updates on the status of the ill-conceived Carnegie SVRA Tesla expansion project. Following certification of an EIR the public is also notified of State Parks’ intention to carry out the project when they file a Notice of Determination. We hope that Carnegie SVRA understands that work cannot proceed until at least this notice is posted, and after a thirty-day period following the posting. Additionally, although we question Carnegie’s recognition of this fact, this Final EIR commits to subsequent environmental review processes before any project proceeds. Regardless, the valuable resources on Tesla should not be destroyed as they would be with OHV recreation activity, and we continue to hope Tesla will be preserved.

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Thanksgiving is approaching and we’re looking forward to the gathering of family and friends that takes place at our home each year. One of the things for which we are so thankful is the number of volunteers who come out to Pt. Isabel to help make it a more habitable place for the birds and other wildlife that live in or near Hoffman Marsh. The transformation that has taken place there over the years is directly attributable to both our regular stewards who maintain a specific section and to the many volunteers who have participated – some regularly and some who come just once.

October rain! This is not our traditional planting time but The Watershed Nursery in Richmond donated plants to the project and our stewards Sue Schoening, Nina Barton, Ivy Ku and Tom Kelly decided to honor Mother Nature’s rain gift by planting the 11 flowering currants (*Ribes sanguineum*), purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*), 2 big saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), 3 yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and a toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). The plants, with their unrestrained roots now in the soft earth, are flourishing in the copious rains.

In October, tenacious volunteer Luciano continued his arduous work removing pepper weed from the Eagle Scout’s site. Steward Lewis and volunteers Gudrun, Miriam, Nancy, Karen, Jacob and Jane cleared oat grass infestations, mulched the new area, and combed the marsh berm to remove newly established Russian thistle (*Salsola soda*) and emerging seedlings of Algerian sea lavender (*Limonium ramosissimum*). The consistent weed removal and trash collecting by core volunteers John Kenny and Rob Kirby is keeping the area inviting to all the creatures for whom we do this work. It also looks nice to the people who pass by.

Thanks to The Watershed Nursery in Richmond for the donated plants and for their expert advice. Many thanks also to Hugo Mendoza of the City of Richmond for his quick action in scheduling a crew to pick up the collected piles of trash. And our thanks, as always, to our EBRPD Ranger, Bruce Adams.

*Jane and Tom Kelly*
**VOLUNTEER AT THE UC/JEPSON HERBARIUM**

Saturday, November 5, help the University & Jepson Herbaria mount, sort, and file its backlog of plant specimens. Learn about plants from all over California and socialize with fellow plant enthusiasts. No previous herbarium experience necessary, but a level of dexterity and attention to detail is valuable. 10 am-4 pm (participants don’t have to stay the full time) in Valley Life Science Building at UC Berkeley. The entrance is on the ground floor in front of the *Tyrannosaurus rex*. A short walk from downtown Berkeley BART and AC transit bus lines. Free parking usually available along streets north of campus (posted 2-hr limit is in effect only on weekdays). More info: Ana Penny 510-642-2465.

*Margot Cunningham*
Friends of Albany Hill

**FIELD TRIP ON BUY NOTHING DAY**

Friday, November 25, 10:15 am (rain date Saturday, November 26 at the same time), Buy-Nothing Day field trip to Marin Headlands-Coastal Trail

Meet us at the the rotary intersection of McCullough and Conzelman roads in Golden Gate National Recreation Area for this beginner-level introduction to coastal scrub. Bring the *Flora of Marin County* if you have it, water, lunch, and cameras or binoculars for interesting plants on cliffs. If it is raining steadily at 9:30 am on Friday just consider the trip rescheduled to Saturday. If you are driving, you can follow most standard directions to the Hawk Hil/Point Bonita lighthouse area but park near the rotary instead of driving uphill. Mass transit hardcore can join Janet Gawthrop to pick up SF Muni bus 76X at 9:30 am when it starts from Sutter Street, just beyond Sansome in San Francisco. If the bus is late we may start late, but the 76X provides the option of going the longer distance to Fort Cronkhite and picking it up there for the return trip.

*Janet Gawthrop*

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Scout digs a hole for *Atriplex lentiformis* at Point Isabel. Photo by Jane Kelly.
RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, November 5 and Saturday, November 19, Pt. Isabel 9:30-2 pm at the end of Rydin Road in Eastshore State Park

Saturday, November 5, 9 am-noon Sabercat Creek restoration at Site 4, near intersection of Quema Drive and Paseo Padre, hosted by City of Fremont environmental staff

Registration is required. Please visit www.fremont.gov/SabercatRestoration. Click on the “Eventbrite” hyperlink to find the pages for upcoming events. Heavy rain cancels the event. No experience is necessary. All ages are welcome, but children under 12 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Come dressed for the weather and prepared to get dirty (sturdy closed-toe shoes/boots, long pants, hat, sunscreen, and long-sleeved shirt recommended). Bring a signed waiver form, a reusable water bottle, and community service hours forms, if applicable. We’ll provide tools, some gloves, and water to refill bottles. If you wish to bring your own gloves or tools please label them.

For more questions or comments, please contact Sabrina Siebert at ssiebert@fremont.gov or call 510-494-4570.

Sunday, November 6, 10 am, restoration at the mouth of Schoolhouse Creek, Berkeley Marina Email johnkenny54@yahoo.com for directions to the work site.

Saturday, November 12, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve

Meet at the parking lot, where we will look at what October rain did to the soil and where we can work around newly sprouting annuals and fencing work in progress. You can get loaner tools and gloves from the ranger if you don’t have your own. We may do some seeding at the “home site” and light planting, depending on how deeply water has penetrated the ground. For photos and link to a map of the area, go to www.meetup.com/ebcnps/.

Saturday, November 12, 10 am - 12:30 pm Help plant natives on Cerrito Creek at Albany Hill

Now that rain has come join Friends of Five Creeks volunteers planting natives along Cerrito Creek in order to help wildlife, increase biodiversity, control erosion, and improve the wonderful urban oasis that reaches from the creek to the top of Albany Hill. You’ll also learn about the exciting history of Native American settlements, Spanish and Mexican land grants, dynamite making, even a train robbery!

All ages welcome. Snacks, water, tools, gloves, and good company supplied. Wear closed-toed shoes with good traction and clothes that can get dirty. Dress in layers, prepared for changing weather.

Meet at Creekside Park, at the south end of Santa Clara Avenue, El Cerrito (3499 Santa Clara Avenue on Internet maps).

Short walk from AC Transit 72 or 25 or El Cerrito Plaza BART. We work in a drizzle, but heavy rain cancels. If we are rained out, we’ll try at the same time Sunday, November 13, and if that is rained out too, on the following Saturday, November 19. Info: f5creeks@gmail.com. Groups RSVP. Otherwise, just show up!

Susan Schwartz, President
Friends of Five Creeks
510 848 9358
f5creeks@gmail.com
www.fivecreeks.org

Sunday, November 13, 9:00 am, Redwood Regional Park
Meet at the Canyon Meadows picnic area, down the access road from the Redwood Road entrance.

Saturday, November 19, 10 am Garber Park Stewards, Oakland
Join us as we continue cutting and pulling invasive weeds and prepare our restoration sites for planting this winter. We will work in Harwood Creek and Rispin Meadow, perform some trail maintenance, and continue removing ivy at Fern Glade. Wear long sleeves and pants, and shoes with good traction. We provide tools, gloves, water and snacks but we encourage volunteers to bring their own gloves and reusable water bottles. Meet at the Claremont Avenue entrance.

Map and directions to Claremont Avenue entrance: http://garberparkstewards.blogspot.com/p/directions.html. From Ashby Ave. go .4 mile up (East) towards Grizzly Peak on Claremont Avenue to the Claremont Avenue entrance parking turn-out. Bus: via AC Transit #49. Exit at the stop at Ashby/Claremont Ave. intersection. Then follow the directions above to the Claremont Avenue entrance.

For more information contact Shelagh garberparkstewards@gmail.com or visit our website garberparkstewards.org.

Sunday, November 20, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park
Join us at the Oakland-side parking lot to march to the wall of broom.

October rains soaked volunteers but made a huge difference in removing French broom after the clay started turning to a loose slurry.

Saturday, November 26, 9:30-11:30 am
Join Friends of Albany Hill for the last Saturday of the month work party. Location to be announced. Gloves and tools provided but bring a favorite weeding tool if you like. Wear closed-toed shoes with good traction and clothes that can get dirty. Long pants and long sleeves recommended. Free t-shirts. Heavy rain cancels. For more info: friendsalbanyhill@gmail.com, friendsofalbanyhill.org.
Conservation Analyst Appeal for 2017
Please help!

The Conservation Committee and our Conservation Analyst, Karen Whitestone, are very busy reacting to threats to native plant habitats in our two counties. You can read the details in Karen’s monthly articles in the Bay Leaf and on the Conservation Blog. Our chapter is the only chapter in CNPS that supports a professional to assist our hard working Conservation Committee. We do this by asking for donations from our own members and friends, a true grassroots effort.

We are off to a great start in but need to keep up the momentum. We have received almost $20,000 toward our goal of $40,000. Please send a check in care of CNPS to our chapter mailbox (EBCNPS, Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley CA 94705), or use our website (www.ebcnps.org) to contribute using PayPal.

A heartfelt thanks to the following donors who responded quickly to our appeal:


Organizations:
The California Wildlife Society

Delia Taylor, Funds Development Chair
East Bay Chapter, CNPS

NATIVE HERE NURSERY NEWS

News from the Nursery
Fall rains mean that we’ve entered the perfect time to plant, when the soil is moist and the temperatures are mild. Native Here Nursery has thousands of beautiful plants ready for your garden. Come find out how to make your garden a friendlier place with locally native plants.

We are always open during our regular hours – Tuesdays 12-3, Fridays 9-12, Saturdays 10-2. In addition, the last of our special fall weekend sales is coming up.

Plant Sale Weekend - November 12-13th
Native Here Nursery will be open on both Saturday, November 12th and Sunday, November 13th from 10 am to 2 pm for the last in the fall plant sale series. New releases this weekend - manzanitas and ceanothus will be available, but in limited quantities. Fall rains will have helped you identify those spots in your yard or garden where water collects. Wetland plants are great planting candidates for such wet spots, and they will be half-price during November. Grasses and sedges will also be on sale.

Expert plant people will be available to answer your questions and help you find what you need – trees, shrubs, perennial herbs, vines, all native to Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

Weather permitting, Dianne Lake will be in attendance with her beautiful photographs and wares.

Seed Sowing Workshop
On Saturday, November 12th from 1 – 2 pm, Charli Danielsen will conduct a hands-on workshop on how to sow seeds of annual plants. Come find out about some of these wonderful plants and help sow seeds of plants that will emerge at the end of winter.

Volunteer Opportunities at Native Here Nursery
Native Here Nursery is a most exceptional place – tranquil, orderly, friendly, and full of people who share a love of native plants. Volunteering at Native Here is an extraordinary opportunity to learn, share, and serve. You can learn so
much from John and Charli Danielsen, the experts on all things native. We have lots of jobs — watering, potting, maintenance, outreach, sales, and coordination. Just a few hours per week makes a big difference. At present we are especially in need of someone who can help the Nursery manager with volunteer coordination and scheduling. If you just want to give it a try, contact Nursery manager Amy Leonard at nativehere@ebcnps.org.

Chevron’s Corporate Caring Day at Native Here Nursery
Chevron encourages its employees to engage in community service, and Native Here was the happy host to an afternoon of 20 dedicated volunteers one sunny September day. These Chevron employees helped raise 15 of our tables to reduce the risk of water-borne pathogens splashing onto our stock. They were fabulous — hard-working, friendly, and interested in Native Here’s mission. We hope they will join us again! If you or your employer would like to arrange a service day, we would love to have your help. Please contact Nursery Manager Amy Leonard at nativehere@ebcnps.org.

Barbara Leitner
President, East Bay Chapter
California Native Plant Society
DIRECTORY

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Delia Taylor
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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities
East Bay Chapter News list
Emailed announcements of upcoming EBCNPS events
List manager—Martha Booz
mlbooz@calnatives.com

Native Here Nursery
Manager—Amy Leonard
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Native Here inventory specialist
vacant

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, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento CA 95816

Membership Application and Renewal Form

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_______

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