

September 2009



The Bay Leaf

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 6:30 pm, Joe Willingham's house, 2512 Etna Street, Berkeley.

Membership Meeting: Native Orchids of California, 7:30 pm, Founder's Auditorium, Orinda Community Center (next to the Library, where the meetings are often held). See below.

Native Here: Open for business & volunteer help: Fridays 9 am - 12 pm, Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm, and Tuesdays 12 pm - 3 pm.

Native Here Seed Collecting: Thursdays, meet at 9 am at the nursery (see article on page 5).

Plant Fair Work Parties at Native Here: Tuesdays 12-3, Fridays 9-noon, Saturdays 10-2 through September. October 9th, all day set up. October 12, clean up help needed.

Native Plant Fair: Saturday, October 10, 10 am - 3 pm, Sunday, October 11, 12 pm - 3 pm (see article on page 7).

Restoration: Saturday, September 12, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Preserve in north Oakland, off of Skyline Boulevard,

French broom removal. <http://www.ebcnps.org/restoration.html> For more information go to

<http://www.ebcnps.org/restoration.html>

Save Lime Ridge's Peak Hikes: learn about proposals for Lime Ridge in one of the following guided hikes (meet at the eastern end of Valley Vista Road in Walnut Creek next to the Boundary Oaks Club House.

Sunday September 13, 9 am. Co-led by Troy Bristol, SMD's Land Conservation Associate, and George Phillips, intern for SMD (Save Mount Diablo).

Saturday September 26, 9 am. Led by Seth Adams, SMD's Director of Land Programs.

September 15-17, Introduction to the second edition of A Manual of California Vegetation, CNPS Workshop, For full details and registration go to <http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php>. For questions, contact Josie Crawford at jrcrawford@cnps.org or 916-447-2677 x 205.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Native Orchids of California

Speaker: **Ron Parsons**

Wednesday, September 23, 7:30 pm

Location: Founders Auditorium, Orinda Community Center (next door to the Orinda Library, see directions below)

California has 34 species of native orchids (actually, one is an introduced species), and one or more species can be found in every county of the state. The largest genus is *Piperia*, which includes eleven species many would call insignificant, but they are actually quite beautiful under close inspection. The state is home to three species of *Cypripedium* (lady's slippers), one of which is a near-endemic (its range extends just into the southwest corner of Oregon), as well as a host of other beauties.

Ron Parsons, orchid expert and photographer extraordinaire, will show and discuss most of our California orchid species, some with examples from different parts of their ranges, others with different color forms. All the photographs Ron will show were taken in the wild.

Ron Parsons is considered by many to be one of the finest flower photographers in the United States. His photography and encyclopedic knowledge of orchids is known both nationally and internationally. He has been photographing orchids,

wildflowers, and almost every other kind of plant for over 25 years, and has a slide collection that numbers well over 80,000 images. Ron loves to travel, photograph orchids and wildflowers in situ, visit orchid and other plant enthusiasts' collections, and most of all, take photographs of plants and flowers that he likes. Ron's photos have been featured in journal articles, on book covers, and in several books, including his most recent, *Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies and Their Relatives* (co-authored with Mary E. Gerritsen).

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Founders Auditorium of the Orinda Community Center at 28 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Founders Auditorium is at the south end of the Community Center building. The meeting room opens at 7:00 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornica@earthlink.net, if you have any questions.

Directions to Orinda Community Center at 28 Orinda Way
From the west, take Highway 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 Highway 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the

Continued on page 2

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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 set back from the street on your right. There is additional free parking on the street, next door beneath the library building, and in the parking lot south of the library.

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.

Upcoming Programs (Both in Orinda Garden Room)
Wednesday, October 28, 7:30 pm: TBA

Wednesday, November 18, 7:30 pm: Jerry Powell: Moth and Butterfly Caterpillars and California Native Plants

Sue Rosenthal

LARRY ABERS, LONGTIME MEMBER



Larry Abers (top left) shows *Penstemon clevelandii* ssp. *con-natus* to John Game (lower left), Jeff Greenhouse (lower right) and others in Borrego Palm Canyon. Photo by Delia Taylor.

Larry Abers, EB chapter activist and plant photographer familiar to many of us from wonderful field trips, workshops, lectures and other activities, died on the evening of July 30th while he was camping at Tuolumne Meadows at the beginning of the Jepson Herbarium Alpine Botany Workshop in Yosemite. Those with him at the time said that he was relaxed and in good spirits until he suddenly lost consciousness from an apparent heart attack and could not be revived.

I had known Larry for some time, especially through Jepson workshops, which he attended once or twice a year, accompanied recently by his companion Britt Thorsnes. We shared a strong interest in photography, and he was always very helpful, encouraging, and friendly. I remember him particularly from San Miguel Island, where the plants were so good that I ran out of film. He provided a spare roll and shared his top-of-the-line lenses. Larry liked to visit Anza Borrego in the spring of most years, and this year he encountered our CNPS group by chance in Borrego Palm Canyon. He had found an unusual penstemon that most of us had never seen, and obligingly retraced his steps to show it to the group (see Delia Taylor's photograph). Later, I talked more about penstemons with Larry on the excellent San Jacinto Mountains

workshop in May. Early in July, Larry came to Berkeley and we visited the herbarium to talk at length with others about plant locations in Oregon, where Larry was going to look for rare *Calochortus* species. The genus was always a favorite with Larry, me and others in our loop, and he would, as always, share his enthusiasm and information about it. We had talked of going to Oregon together one day, but sadly it wasn't to be. His knowledge, warmth, companionship and generosity will be missed by many.

John Game



Larry, John Game, and Jeff Greenhouse have a chance encounter in the wilderness. Photo by Delia Taylor

Beginning in the early nineties, Larry was a regular on many of the East Bay Chapter's field trips when I was field trip coordinator, and he attended many of the winter lectures at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. It was great to have him along on local trips and especially on weekend trips as far away as Cook and Green with Wayne Roderick. This was way before the Jepson Herbarium workshops began.

He was a long-time boy scout troop leader and took the boys out on many outdoor and nature outings, including rafting on the Klamath River. He was also a dedicated desert rat and arranged his schedule most years so he could spend as

much of the spring in various southern deserts as possible, much of it on his own.

It was when he gave his first lecture/slide show at the Botanic Garden earlier this decade that I realized he not only took great photos of the flora, but also was a wonderful all-around nature photographer with fabulous shots of birds, mammals, reptiles/amphibians, insects, landscapes, etc. In addition, he shared wonderful stories of his experiences as he roamed the natural world. I always looked forward to his annual slide show at the Garden.

I was lucky to have been friends with both Larry and his girlfriend Britt Thorsnes separately before they “found” each other and fell in love, and so feel fortunate that I witnessed that wonderful relationship from its beginnings. They went on so many terrific nature explorations during their years together, including participating in several Jepson Herbarium workshops.

More recently, this past year Larry led two field trips for our chapter for the first time, helped the Regional Parks botanist monitor rare plant populations, and volunteered regularly with Britt to get the *Bay Leaf* mailing out on time; they have been volunteering at the plant fair each fall as well. Also, this spring he confirmed Britt’s rediscovery of a fairly large population of the rare Oakland star tulip, *Calochortus umbellatus*, (not reported since the 1960’s) on or adjacent to EBMUD land near Wildcat Canyon Road. I am glad to have seen Larry grow through the years in his relationship with and contribution to native plants through both our chapter of CNPS and the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. We will miss him.

There will be a celebration of Larry’s life on Sunday, Sept 13th, at 1:00 pm. RSVP to Britt by Sunday, Sept 6th, at bthorsnes@earthlink.net or call her at 510-232-6061.

Celia Zavatsky

STATE CNPS OFFERS STUDY GRANTS

Each year the State CNPS Educational Grants program receives funding to help support field research related to California’s native plants. Students, CNPS members, or post-doctoral botanists are eligible, in that order, for grants that are generally not more than \$1,000. Proposals should involve taxa or plant communities that are of concern due to direct or indirect potential impacts. The grants need to be relevant to our conservation mission. Certain small endowed funds are available specifically for graduate students planning research involving rare plants or evolutionary botany.

If you are interested in obtaining support from CNPS for your work, request a copy of the guidelines for drafting and submitting a proposal from the state CNPS office. Requests for this or other information can be directed to Chair, Educational Grants Committee, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. Completed proposals must be received in the CNPS office no later than September 30, 2009.

Joan Stewart, Chair
CNPS Educational Grants Committee

EAST BAY CHAPTER 2009 SCHOLARSHIPS

The East Bay Chapter Scholarship and Grants Committee has chosen the recipients of the Chapter’s scholarships for 2009. They are Michal Shuldman, Jae Pasari, and Dave Mrus. Each received \$1200 in support.

Michal Shuldman is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley. Her current research work focuses on the effects of heat waves on toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) at three different research sites ranging from San Diego to Mendocino. How a species deals with extreme heat events is important because it is expected that global warming will produce more of them in the coming years. Michal’s research may provide insights into how plants may adapt to global warming.

Dave Mrus is a student at Diablo Valley College. He has both botanical and horticultural interests and was previously a student at Merritt College. His current independent research project is the botany, ecology, and the horticultural potential of chinquapin (*Chrysolepis* sp.).

Jae Pasari is a graduate student at Environmental Studies Department at UC Santa Cruz and currently lives in Berkeley. He is interested in the effects of nitrogen deposition on serpentine grasslands, which are refuges for many rare natives from invasive grasses, and in the effects of grazing on these sensitive lands. The committee judged that Mr. Pasari’s application was outstanding and awarded him the Myrtle Wolf Scholarship, which is an additional \$750.

The East Bay Chapter’s scholarship program is an investment in the future of our native plants and of the California Native Plant Society. The committee expects that the students who benefit from the Chapter’s scholarships will remember the Chapter’s generosity and return to provide it with their knowledge, participation, and leadership.

Please join me in thanking the members of the Scholarships and Grants Committee: Holly Forbes, Susan Spiller, and John Game.

Sandy McCoy

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Chapter Jobs Bulletin

The East Bay Chapter is in urgent need of a dedicated Outreach person. This person would be in charge of reaching out to our membership for volunteers to cover all of our requested tabling events throughout the year and possibly finding other venues we could share in. All materials, tables, chairs, canopies, flyers etc. are readily available at our Native Here Nursery. A current membership list would be supplied as a resource for seeking volunteers. Please contact elainejx@att.net or any Board Member.

Membership Notes:

Meet Margot Cunningham, Native Here Nursery Sales Manager



Photo of Margot Cunningham by Pierre La Plant

My family enjoyed the outdoors, and I love being outside to this day. I grew up in Kensington, close to Tilden Regional Park. My sister Laura and I would hike in Tilden and Wildcat Canyon Parks, identifying plants and animals. Laura took copious notes and photographs while hiking and read a lot of natural history books and passed her knowledge on to me. Our mother enjoyed hiking in Tilden from the time she and my dad settled in Kensington in 1968. She learned to identify many edible plants and pointed them out to us as the three of us hiked.

My dad loved to take us camping in the summers. He was an erudite librarian, but in the summer he took great pleasure in donning his cowboy hat, jeans, and boots and packed the car up, drove us to the campground, found the perfect campsite, pitched the tent, and made campfires for cooking and sitting around after dinner.

After graduating from UC Berkeley with a B.S. in forestry and wildlife biology I landed a temporary job with the Forest Service in Placerville, and my husband Pierre and I moved there. My co-worker and I traveled all over the El Dorado

National Forest hooting for spotted owls and mapping their locations. After the job ended in the fall Pierre and I missed the Bay Area and decided to move back, renting a house in Richmond Annex (several years later we bought the house from our landlady).

I worked and volunteered for various environmental organizations. My sister told me about the California Native Plant Society and gave me back issues of *Fremontia*. I joined and learned more about native plants, buying plants at the plant sales at Merritt College and the botanic garden in Tilden. I planted some in my garden and others in friend's yards.

From the *Bay Leaf* I also found out about this new place called Native Here Nursery in Tilden Park. I rode my bike up to it and helped Charli and other volunteers put in the gate, set up platforms to hold the plants, and later on transplant seedlings. I continued volunteering there about once a month until they needed someone to staff the nursery every Saturday. I applied for the job and have been there almost every Saturday since the fall of 2000 (and every Tuesday since late last year). I have seen the nursery grow and change over the years, expanding here and there, seeing the diversity of plants for sale greatly increase, and watching the number of people interested in planting with natives multiply as well.

The Native Plant Fair has brought even more people to the nursery, both as volunteers and as customers. The fair (mark your calendars for October 10 and 11) is always a fun-packed event, with East Bay native plants and vendors galore.

When I'm not at the nursery, I like to work in my yard weeding out non-native plants and planting natives. Most new plants in my yard are from the nursery. I have an affinity for native grasses and have planted several in various parts of my yard. While working on the computer my husband likes to look out the window at the seed stalks waving in the wind and the brown towhees pecking for the seeds. Sometimes they even grab the seeds with their beaks from the stalks before they've fallen on the ground.

I also enjoy hiking and riding my bike with my husband. We leave our car at home most of the time and bicycle around town with a trailer (our SUV) to go shopping and for other errands. Sometimes we ride up to the nursery as well.

Margot Cunningham

Think Globally, Volunteer Locally

Mark your calendars for our

Native Plant Fair 2009

Saturday, October 10, 10 am - 3 pm

Sunday, October 11, Noon - 3 pm

101 Golf Course Drive, Tilden Park Berkeley

(Across the street from Tilden Golf Course Parking lot)
Volunteers needed for this fun event, contact elainejx@att.net

Martinez—Native Plant Garden and Strentzel Meadow located at the John Muir Historical Site in Martinez, ongoing weeding, planting, & learning about our local environment. Contact Elaine Jackson at 925-372-0687 or email elainejx@att.net.

Pleasant Hill—Volunteers are always welcome at the Pleasant Hill Adult Education Center Garden. Contact Monika Olsen at 925-937-1530 or email phecgarden@prodigy.net or go online to <http://phig.webs.com>.

Walnut Creek—Native demonstration garden on The Iron Horse Trail in Walnut Creek near the Walnut Creek Intermediate. Contact Judy Adler, jadlermtnmama@sbcglobal.net.

Do you have or know of a local event coming up in your neighborhood that would be a good location for CNPS to have a display table? You can host it. Come on up to our Native

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Join us on our seed collecting trips on Thursdays. Meet at the bottom gate of the nursery at 9 am. For further information check the calendar of the chapter website www.ebcnps.org, or e-mail nativehere@ebcnps.org. Usually the group returns by 1 pm, but occasional longer trips will be scheduled. E-mail ahead if time is a concern or call the nursery on Tuesday afternoon between noon and 3.

Watering the thousands of plants in the nursery must be done carefully and with care to conserve water. If you can spend two hours each week on a regular basis, a section can be assigned to you. If you can spare time less frequently, come in on Tuesday afternoon or Saturday morning to help fill in for those on vacation and to relieve the managers of some of the watering tasks. No experience is necessary. We will train you. Strong wrists are important.

Native Here customers wishing to take advantage of the volume discounts and those purchasing plants for agencies and restoration projects will wish to shop before the Plant Fair. The only discounts during the fair will be on five-gallon *Quercus agrifolia*, *Quercus lobata*, and *Quercus douglasii*.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLANT FAIR 2009

- Join us for work parties through September whenever the nursery is open to help get the nursery ready for the plant fair. Help clean up the nursery, water, weed, pot up plants, and get familiar with our plant selection.

- We'll need many volunteers just before, during and after the Fair for such tasks as getting the bulbs ready for sale, setting

Here Nursery (during business hours) and pick up supplies to pass out. Call us with any questions.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming those who joined in the May/June time frame: Beatrice Arias, Penny Barthel, Patte Bishop, Rubelet Domingo, Marjorie Guinasso, Nick Mealy, Lynn Miller, Susan Miller, Juliane Monroe, Hulda Nelson, Monika Pitchford, Suzan Requa, Robert Rhew, Mason Roberts, Michael Tice, John Tuttle, Dolphin Waletzky, Li-hsia Wang, & Jane Whitley. Please let me know if I have missed you on this list.

Many thanks to all who have renewed their membership throughout the year. May you enjoy many more years with EB-CNPS.

Elaine Jackson and Carol Castro



Iris douglasiana, will be available for sale at the plant sale. Photo by Janice Bray.

Iris, ferns and wild ginger will not be offered until the Plant Fair.

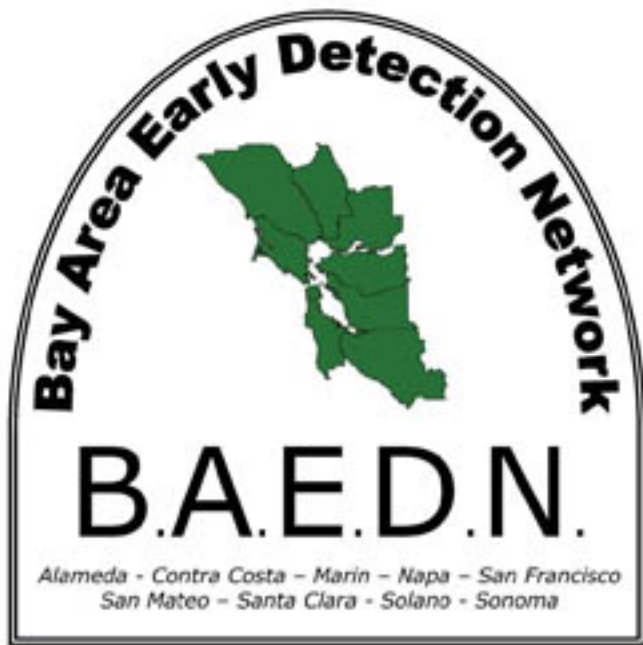
Charli Danielsen

- up before the fair, sales, holding area help, cashiering, helping vendors, loading, and clean-up.

- To help at the Fair, contact Elaine Jackson, elainejx@att.net.

INVASIVE PLANT AWARENESS WEEK

The third week of July is always California Invasive Weed Awareness Week. This year is extra special, because this year we are celebrating Weed Awareness Week with the launch of the Bay Area's Early Detection Network, BAEDN for short! The BAEDN is an exciting new initiative that follows the maxim "a stitch in time saves nine." There are hundreds of scientific studies and agency plans which all reaffirm the critical importance of early detection and rapid response (EDRR). We use EDRR to protect human health, and it is time to use it to protect ecosystems.



The California Invasive Weed Action Plan (2005), produced by the California Invasive Weeds Awareness Coalition and the California Department of Food and Agriculture, identifies EDRR as "the single most important element" for coping with invasions. Whether we are protecting humans from swine flu or protecting ecosystems from sudden oak death, EDRR is the most effective and cost-efficient approach for coping with biological invasions. The creation of BAEDN encourages broad participation, knowledge sharing and reporting of invasive species so we can work together to most effectively manage invasive species throughout California, enabling native species to thrive.

The BAEDN provides an EDRR system covering the entire nine-county San Francisco Bay Area: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma counties. The group coordinates EDRR efforts of dozens of agencies, hundreds of professional land managers, and potentially thousands of volunteers. BAEDN partners work together to develop a scientifically rigorous list of the most harmful invasive plants, train each other in detection

techniques, make detections and report them to the online website, and then prioritize individual patches so that the most dangerous outbreaks can be removed before they spread and cause harm. We remove the easiest and most harmful first, while removal is cheap and before ecosystems have been harmed. It's simple, it's sensible, it's about time.

Initiated in 2006 by Audubon Canyon Ranch's Director of Habitat Protection and Restoration Daniel Gluesenkamp, National Park Service's San Francisco Bay Area Network Inventory and Monitoring Biologist Andrea Williams, U.S. Fish & Wildlife San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Biologist Giselle Block, and numerous colleagues throughout the Bay Area, BAEDN has recruited partners and built the core structure of the network. Calflora has built BAEDN's user-friendly online occurrence reporting database, with a clickable Google map interface and picklists to make it highly user friendly. In addition, BAEDN has hired an Early Detection Coordinator, thanks to support from the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and US Fish and Wildlife funding. BAEDN also helps broaden efforts such as the National Park Service's Weed Watchers program, which trains volunteers in early detection at Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and builds on more targeted efforts such as The Invasive Spartina Project.

There are several ways to participate. First, you can detect and report unusual or harmful invasive plants. Go to the website (<http://BAEDN.org>) and test out the Google-maps-driven reporting tool! Second, we hope you will help us to build a BAEDN which is truly collaborative by becoming a partner; please go to the website and subscribe to the BAEDN Partners email list, come to the annual meeting to help refine the system, and please let the Coordinator know of any individuals or groups who should learn about the network and participate.

Invasive weeds are important, not because they are out of place but because the worst of them can destroy the ancient biodiversity of places we love and cost California hundreds of millions of dollars in control costs and lost productivity annually. Humans have introduced these species, and humans have disrupted ecosystems so that weeds can thrive. We have the moral obligation to right what we have wronged, we have the responsibility to use our heads so that our actions are strategic and effective, and now we have a new tool for protecting California's precious natural resources. Please join us in this effort! Your help can really make a difference. You may contact me at gluesenkamp@egret.org.

Daniel Gluesenkamp, Audubon Canyon Ranch

California Native Plant Society East Bay Chapter

2009 NATIVE PLANT FAIR Native Here Nursery

101 Golf Course Drive – Tilden Park, Berkeley
(Across from the Tilden Golf Course)

Saturday	October 10th	10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Sunday	October 11th	noon – 3:00 pm

Native plants, books, posters, gift items for sale
Vendors showcasing photography, seeds & bulbs, crafts
Exhibits about invasive plants, native bees, CNPS membership

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Saturday	Guest Speaker each day at 1:00 pm	Sunday
Pete Veilleux, <i>East Bay Wilds</i> “Lose the Lawn, Gain a Beautiful <u>and</u> Functional Garden”		David Bigham, <i>Landscape Architect</i> “Gardening with Locally Native Plants”

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- o Special plants for fall: Ferns, Douglas Iris, Wild Ginger
- o 5-gallon Coast Live, Blue, and Valley Oaks half price
- o Plant holding area for your shopping convenience
- o Limited parking with plant-pickup loading zone available
- o Volunteers shuttle purchased plants to loading zone

*Checks or Cash only; no credit cards
Bring sturdy boxes for your purchases*

*Carpooling is appreciated
Volunteer traffic control*

For more information please visit our website:
<http://ebcnps.org>

A map showing the location of Native Here Nursery can be found at
<http://ebcnps.org/nativehere.html>

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
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Sandy McCoy
sandymccoy@mindspring.com

Native Here Nursery

510-549-0211
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nativehere@ebcnps.org
Sales—Margot Cunningham
bunchgrassmarg@gmail.com
Seed Collection—Gregg
Weber
510-223-3310

Plant Fair

Gudrun Kleist
510-222-2320
gkleist@sbcglobal.net
and Charli Danielsen
Coordinators

Restoration Projects

Leaders:
Huckleberry—Janet
Gawthrop
Point Isabel—Tom and Jane
Kelly
510-704-8628 (w)
510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net
Strawberry Creek—Tom and
Jane Kelly

*Officers and Committee
Chairs serve on the Board.*

*Committees are formed
based on chapter needs and
the interests of volunteers.
Proposals for committees
and projects are welcome
and will be considered by
the Board.*

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

___ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

___ Other _____

E-mail _____

Membership category:

- ___ Individual, \$45
___ Family, Library, Group or International, \$75
___ Plant Lover, \$100.00
___ 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