

September 2010



The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Peter Veilleux

Photo by Pedro Vasquez

Experimenting with Native Plants in the Landscape

Speaker: Pete Veilleux

Wednesday, September 22, 7:30 pm

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (directions below)

Did you know that you can grow some natives in containers with no holes in them? Do you know what to plant in that scorching hot spot up on the hill? Or do you know how to plant a madrone in your yard so that it will thrive? How about getting something to grow in a very shady but dry spot right next to a structure? What does “bright shade” mean? Or “partial sun”?

Come to Pete Veilleux’s presentation and get the scoop on how to do it right the first time—or if you’ve already killed a few plants, how to get it right the next time. Pete will talk about his experiments growing woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*), chaparral pea (*Pickeringia montana*), and our local bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*) along with many other plants rarely seen in the home landscape.

Pete Veilleux left a 20-year career in social services and international development to pursue his love of gardening with native plants in 2002. Since then he has founded East Bay

Wilds, a design-install-maintenance company and native plant nursery. One of his goals is to help people make the connection between their yards and the greater wild world around us. Pete is an avid photographer and plant explorer as well as a horticultural innovator.

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 7:00 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 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. 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 Orinda Library.

CHAPTER FINANCES - HOW YOU CAN HELP

In adopting the budget for this fiscal year (April 2010-March 2011) the Chapter Board took the responsible position of decreasing spending. Students will receive less grant money.

While the chapter has significant reserves, it is prudent to match spending with anticipated income. Our money comes from two main sources – Native Here Nursery sales (including the Plant Fair) and the Conservation Analyst Annual Appeal. Your CNPS dues support the many important projects at the state level as well as administration. Each chapter receives \$500 a year and has opportunities for small amounts of grant money. Each chapter must raise its own operating income.

Good news includes that the Conservation Analyst Appeal nearly met the goal set, and that first quarter financials for Native Here show an improvement over fiscal 2009-2010. Revenue and income less expenses peaked in the years 07-08 and 08-09. Since then we have noticed a decline in business from professional landscapers as they have had fewer jobs. The Plant Fair also is prohibited by the contract with the East Bay Regional Parks District from selling plants other than those

native to Alameda and Contra Costa County, which means no sales of the popular horticultural natives and hybrids that we sold for years at Merritt College.

We are working on increasing the business at Native Here. Thanks to a generous donor, we will have a year's worth of Native Here ads in the *Berkeley Monthly* magazine. We contribute to CNPS ads in *Bay Nature* magazine as well. Signs placed on Golf Course Road are drawing in new customers to the nursery. Beverly Powell, Publicity Chair, is working hard on getting the word out about October's Native Plant Fair.

You can help too! Spend money at Native Here Nursery. If all of our 1100 members did a little or a lot of shopping at Native Here Nursery, we would be in the green. Give plant gifts. Tell friends and neighbors about our nursery. Attend and help out at the Plant Fair. Please contribute generously to the Conservation Analyst Annual Fund. And if you have a way to help us make more money we'd like to hear about it.

Delia Taylor, East Bay Chapter President

CONSERVATION ANALYST FUND

Conservation Analyst Fund 2010-11 Appeal is On

In September we members will receive a request for contributions to the East Bay Chapter's Conservation Analyst Fund. Our goal of \$35,000 is the same we had last round when we raised \$30,000. We are the only CNPS chapter to support a Conservation Analyst, and it has made all the difference. Look at <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com/> and be impressed! We need your help to keep our excellent and unique Conservation Program thriving. Please contribute generously to the Conservation Analyst Annual Fund.

This year the Mount Diablo Sunflower is featured on the return card. *Helianthella castanea*, is a CNPS List 1B.2 plant (rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere). The largest number of occurrences is in Alameda and Contra Costa. It's a beautiful plant and is listed in a number of our conservation issues. The card was designed by Carol Castro, Laura Baker and Delia Taylor. We had great graphic design help from Shawn Morales.

2010-2011 Conservation Analyst Fund East Bay Chapter




Enclosed is my donation for the East Bay Chapter, in the amount of:

___ \$3,000 (month's salary)	___ \$500	___ \$250
___ \$1,500 (two weeks' salary)	___ \$150	___ \$100
___ \$750 (one week's salary)	___ \$_____	Other

Please make your check payable to: California Native Plant Society
CNPS is a non-profit corporation. Your donation is tax deductible per IRC § 501(c)(3)

Helianthella castanea "Diablo sunflower"
Photo courtesy James Gaither

We have included an envelope for your convenience. Please mail to:
California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter, Conservation Analyst Fund
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley, CA 94705

FIELD TRIPS

There will be an autumn field trip to the Vaqueros Farms property recently acquired by East Bay Regional Parks, for a treasure hunt of alkaline vegetation. This land is still closed to public access. If you are interested, RSVP to janetgawthrop47@gmail.com. If you are not already signed up for the East Bay listserv, you can do so by e-mailing Martha Booz at mlbooz@calnatives.com to receive further updates about this trip.

Saturdays, September 11 and October 9, 9:30 am, Restoration crew at Huckleberry Regional Preserve

We will revisit the knoll and canyon near the entrance, to keep several invasive species in check over this cool, moist summer. Volunteers can work in one of several locations near the entrance. If you want to go further into the preserve to pull cape ivy or veldt grass, then be sure to take a bag so the weed seeds do not stay behind. There will be large plastic bags, water and snacks, and some tools available at the entrance. Bring gloves, or send an e-mail to janetgawthrop47@gmail.com if you need to borrow a pair.

Directions: Exit Highway 13 at either Park (from the south) or Moraga/Thornhill (from the north). From Park, turn left over 13 and left again onto Mountain. Turn left at the stoplight for Mountain and Snake, and turn right (uphill) on Snake. After a very short distance, Snake will split, with the left-hand fork keeping the same name and winding hard to the left. Stay on the left fork--the right side is Shepherd Canyon Road. Follow Snake uphill until it ends at the stop sign at Skyline Blvd. Turn left onto Skyline and follow it a short

distance to the Huckleberry parking lot on the right. From Moraga/Thornhill, proceed straight through the traffic light on Moraga. Moraga runs south parallel to 13 and changes its name to Mountain. Turn left (uphill) onto Snake at the traffic light for Mountain and Snake, and follow the previous directions to Huckleberry.

Saturday, September 4, at 9:00 am, Skyline Gate at Redwood Regional Park

Join the park staff to remove *Genista*, but also to monitor habitat changes since the trails and roads crew widened the East Ridge Trail in mid-August. All are welcome, but anyone with previous experience on East Ridge Trail can contribute memories or photos of vegetation to keep track of machine grading on the surrounding parkland. Bring gloves and tools, or park staff can loan those to you.

Directions: From Highway 13, exit at Park and turn left at both the traffic light at the exit ramp and again at the traffic light for Mountain and Park. Follow Mountain northwest for several blocks to the traffic light for Mountain and Snake. Turn right (uphill) onto Snake. In one short block, you will reach a fork where Shepherd Canyon Road goes straight uphill and Snake turns left. Follow Shepherd Canyon Road uphill to its end at the intersection with Skyline. Turn right onto Skyline and follow it south; turn off at the Skyline parking lot on the left.

RESTORATION

Our chilly summer seems to be helping the new plantings at Pt. Isabel. Except for a young bunchgrass or two, which seem to have been carried off by moles, the newly planted shrubs and grasses are all thriving along the trail. The restoration team held a work party on August 7 and tackled a myriad of tasks. Nel removed a large infestation of invasive pea that was creeping up on the coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) and we took out the remaining few mustard plants in the area. Doris inspected every inch of a large section where she had previously removed countless young radish plants and found only a few small resprouts. That entire stretch is now invasive free and contains only sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*), June grass (*Koeleria macrantha*), farewell-to-spring (*Clarkia amoena*), and California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) full of popping seed pods. On the northern stretch of the trail, Calvin and Tom picked up huge piles of invasive plant debris (radish, mustard, exotic grasses, fennel and ice plant) that we had stacked up at previous work parties and piled it into a dump truck that the District provided. Most of the ice plant had decomposed into a dark,

earth-like material which we spread over the area where it had been left. We pulled out a number of newly growing fennel plants (watching carefully for anise swallowtail caterpillars) and added them to the dumpster stash.

The six California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) saplings, which we grew from seed harvested at the site, are losing their leaves on schedule. We grew three of the saplings at home and three of them by pushing the seeds into the earth. The latter three saplings look a little stronger than the ones grown in pots.

At a mini work party a few weeks ago, we discovered a massive pile of car battery pieces right along the marsh and our young volunteer, Michelle, helped us collect and dispose of 4 large bags of this material. Doris and Jane removed another 7 full bags at today's work party, carefully picking up hundreds of large and small pieces lodged amongst the pickleweed (*Salicornia virginica*) and saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*). Our reward was the discovery of a beautiful patch of sea lavender (*Limonium californicum*) in full bloom and covered in visiting

Continued on page 4

RESTORATION Continued from page 3

insects. There are a lot of battery pieces left but we intend to remove them all during subsequent work parties.

The Pt. Isabel Restoration Team counts itself lucky to be supported by Kevin Takei and Bruce Adams from the EBRPD.

Both of them provide us with their unfailingly cheerful and valuable support.

Jane and Tom Kelly



Doris at marsh side collecting battery pieces



Nel pulling out invasive pea Photos by Jane Kelly

NATIVE HERE

September is a great month for

- purchasing large plant orders so that the volume discount applies (no volume discounts at the Plant Fair)
- taking one watering stint (one to two hours) each week to get to know a section so that you can be an informed salesperson at the Plant Fair
- planning your fall planting and lining up the plants you'd like before they are all "snapped up"
- buying books from CNPS
- joining a Tuesday seed collection trip. E-mail native-here@ebcnps and ask to be put on the distribution list for information about upcoming trips.
- letting your friends and neighbors know about the Plant Fair, October 16th and 17th at Native Here!

Although we had some hot days, there was a lot of fog as well, which meant the plants didn't dry out as much as in past summers. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped with watering this summer.

Keeping basins filled with water all year for our water-thirsty plants, such as creek monkeyflower, cardinal monkeyflower, and sedges and rushes attracted frogs. Pacific treefrogs laid their eggs in the plastic basins in the winter and spring and we had tadpoles and then little frogs in summer. We also saw several garter snakes slithering around pots.

We posted an updated inventory on our web page, www.ebcnps.org/nativehere.html.

This is a less detailed inventory than last year, with species and location. During the summer we need to pot plants into a container large enough to insulate roots so it is hard to predict the size and thus the price of each offering. Having the list posted now avoids literal headaches putting it together the week before the Fair.

Margot and Charli

MEMERSHIP NOTES



Linda with her beautiful *Carpenteria*. Photo by Phred Jackson.

Meet Linda Newton here, and at our Plant Fair on October 16th and 17th.

My conscious interest in the natural world began when I was six years old and hiked with my older sister's Girl Scout troop in Griffith Park in Los Angeles. Slathered in green soap to protect against poison oak, I was, my mother said, the best hiker of the bunch. I became a Girl Scout myself and loved all the outdoor activities. As I moved on to junior high and high school, my old troops disbanded because the girls were getting to be too sophisticated for *Girl Scouts*. I was fortunate to find new troops for me to join in both schools. My high school troop was perfect for me since we went camping at least during the summer. We also took an extended camping trip in my senior year to many of our western national parks.

This love of the out-of-doors didn't translate into love of native plants until I became an elementary teacher and moved to the Bay Area in 1967. Living in San Francisco and being so close to open space like Mt. Tam, I was out in nature as a regular course. Another teacher introduced me to the BAEER Fair, Audubon and CNPS. CNPS just made so much sense to me. *Of course we should support our native flora to go along with our native fauna.* So I paid my dues and bought plant books for identifying and drawing flowers on hikes.

When I exposed my classes to Mrs. Terwilliger and Slide Ranch, I learned a few plants. I cut out articles about plant families from the old CNPS newsletters. But it wasn't until I bought my first house in 1991 that I went to the CNPS plant sale and bought natives for my garden. My backyard had an established big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) that dominated our view. I bought, planted, pulled out, mourned and was smitten.

Only then did I respond to Shirley McPheeter's postcards to help at a plant sale. She assigned me to work in the book booth with Elly Bade. I volunteered every year after that spending more and more time selling books with Elly. Then I volunteered during my summer vacations to help propagate on Tuesday mornings.

Upon retiring from teaching in 2001 I became a year round Tuesday propagator. My education in native plants really began then. How patient John Rusk and others were with me as I asked repeatedly what plant we were potting, where it grew and what its habits were. Coincidentally, I eventually took over the book booth, selling the books that Elly ordered. In addition, I did a few odd volunteering jobs for CNPS and attended a few meetings.

When Merritt closed our growing grounds, I stepped back from being actively involved as other demands in life took center stage. Now I have new gardens and much more experience with the natives. My goal is to have my gardens on the Bringing Back the Natives tour in another couple of years.

Linda Newton

New Members

Please join us in welcoming our new members for the May/June time frame, Karen Chu, Sasha Harris-Lovett, Patricia Moore, and Laura Tudor

As always, a huge thank you to our renewing members.

Think Globally, Volunteer locally

Native Plant Fair, **October 16th and 17th** www.ebcnps.org
Plants from Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. Find your city and then your plants collected and grown right here at our EBCNPS Native Here Nursery.

Vendors, membership items and more, free admittance!

Elaine Jackson and Carol Castro

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter**

2010 NATIVE PLANT FAIR

Plants native to Alameda and Contra Costa counties

Saturday, October 16, 10 am to 3 pm

Sunday, October 17, noon to 3 pm

Native Here Nursery

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

Native Plants, Lectures, Books, Posters, Gifts

This year only! Book closeout sale! Deeply discounted botanical and garden books for the plant lover and book collector!

Vendors of photography, seeds & bulbs, garden arts & crafts
Exhibits on native bees, invasive plants, Native Plant Society benefits

Special exhibitor/vendor: Laura Cunningham, Celebrated Artist and Naturalist,
with her new book, ***A State of Change*** from Heyday Press

Educational Speakers (1 pm each day)

Saturday: Barbara Deutsch, "Let's Entwine Ourselves with Pipevines and Adorn Our Gardens with Butterflies"

Sunday: Lisa Owens Viani, "From Gray to Green: How Green Streets and Residential Rain Gardens Can Help San Francisco Bay"

Specialties for fall planting: ferns, Douglas iris, dutchman's pipe

Beautiful Oaks at Half-Price: Plant a Tree and Reduce Your Carbon Footprint!

For Your Shopping Convenience, Golf Course Parking, Plant Hold Area and Shuttle. Handicapped parking and parking for pick-up of plants is available on the nursery level. Other parking is across the road at the golf course lot.

Checks or Cash Only (Sorry, No Credit Cards)

Please bring your own boxes for plants and other purchases

We appreciate Carpoolers and Public Transit Users! A map to Native Here Nursery and public transit suggestions are on the Native Here website at www.ebcnps.org/nativehere.html

Chapter Directory

Officers

President

Delia Barnes Taylor
510-527-3912
deliataylor@mac.com

Vice President and Chapter Council Delegate

Bill Hunt
wjhunt@astound.net

Recording Secretary

Carol Castro
510-352-2382
carollbcastro@hotmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Janet Gawthrop
janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

Treasurer

David Margolies
510-654-0283
dm@franz.com

Committees

Bayleaf Newsletter

Bay Leaf Editor and Webmaster

Joe Willingham, Chair
510-841-4681
pepe1066@comcast.net
Bay Leaf Assistant Editor
David Margolies
510-654-0283
dm@franz.com
Bayleaf Mailing
Holly Forbes
hforbes@berkeley.edu
h 510--234-2913
w 510-643-8040

Conservation

Laura Baker, Chair
510-849-1409
Lbake66@aol.com
Conservation analyst
Lech Naumovich
conservation@ebcnps.org

Field Trips

Janet Gawthrop, Chair

Funds Development

Carol Castro, Chair
Grant Management
Sally de Becker
510-841-6613
sallydebecker@comcast.net

Information Infrastructure

Peter Rauch, Chair
peterar@berkeley.edu

Membership

Elaine Jackson, Carol Castro
Co-Chairs
Volunteer coordinator
Delia Taylor
volunteer@ebcnps.org

Programs

Sue Rosenthal, Chair
rosacalifornica@earthlink.net

Publicity

Beverly Powell (<http://www.linkedin.com/bg-powell>), blog Greening California Roofs www.greenroofscs.com), beverly.g.powell@gmail.com

Rare Plants

Heath Bartosh, Chair
925-957-0069
hbartosh@nomadecology.com

Bryophytes

John Game
510-527-7855
jgame@stanford.edu

Unusual Plants

Dianne Lake, Chair
510-741-8066

diannelake@yahoo.com

Vegetation

Erin McDermott, Chair
erinmcd2004@yahoo.com

Outreach

(vacant)

Education

(vacant)

EBCNPS Sponsored

Activities

Book & Poster Sales

Joanne Orenge
greenheglobe@juno.com

Grant Awards

Sandy McCoy
sandymccoy@mindspring.com

Native Here Nursery

510-549-0211
Manager—Charli Daniels
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.

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

Lange's Metalmark Butterfly counts at Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge

Join the refuge staff and help count butterflies for several weeks on Wednesdays and Thursdays in September. We are changing the count strategy this year in the hope of finding the butterflies at their peak activity time. Instead of surveying on one very long day per week, we will be surveying on two short days per week. Our counts will start at 11 am and go until 3 pm, the times in which our butterflies are most active.

The dates for the butterfly counts will all be on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The weekly count dates will be September 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23 and we will be conducting counts until 0 butterflies are seen, whenever that may be in September. You'll be briefed on what to do and what to look for on each day of the count, so first-timers are welcome.

As you might guess, Antioch in summer can be challenging. Temperatures can range from very warm to hot, but often with a nice breeze. The terrain can be uneven and sometimes steep. There are many plants to step over, under and around, as well as plant parts that want to go home with you.

However, if you are of the hardy variety (or are tired of coastal fog), the payoff is fabulous and worth it! Lange's Metalmark butterflies are found nowhere else in the world, except at the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge. Don't miss this opportunity to see this endangered species.

Volunteers will need to wear sturdy shoes/boots, long pants (star thistle smarts), and bring sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, lunch and lots of water. Short gaiters can be provided, but bring your own long pair of gaiters, if you want them. They help to keep weeds out of shoes and socks.

If you are interested in volunteering for September counts, please contact Louis Terrazas by e-mail at Louis_Terrazas@fws.gov or by phone at 510-377-1233. If you leave a message, please leave your name, telephone number and e-mail, and Louis will contact you as soon as possible.

California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Time Value
September 2010 issue

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Native Here Nursery (see page 4)
Tuesday mornings—seed collection, usually leaving from road below Native Here Nursery at 9 am. Length of trips varies.
Tuesday afternoons—nursery open noon to 3 pm
Friday mornings—nursery open 9 am to noon
Saturdays—nursery open 10 am to 2 pm.

Field Trips (see page 3)
There will be an autumn field trip to the Vaqueros Farms property recently acquired by East Bay Regional Parks

Saturdays, September 11 and October 9, 9:30 am, Restoration crew at Huckleberry Regional Preserve
Saturday, September 4, at 9:00 am, Skyline Gate at Redwood Regional Park

Plant Fair (see enclosed poster)
Saturday, October 16, 10 am to 3 pm
Sunday, October 17, noon to 3 pm

For late breaking news and events, join the chapter announcement mailing list by visiting <http://groups.google.com/group/ebcnps> and clicking on *Join this group*. Email traffic is low and limited to official chapter announcements.

For the latest activities of the Conservation Committee check out <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com/>.

You can add yourself to the CNPS eNewsletter mailing list for current news about CNPS. The mailings are approximately monthly. Look under Publications on the cnps.org website or go to <https://cnps.org/cnps/publications/news/index.php>.

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, \$100.00
 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