

September 2014



The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

Please take a look at the new Web version of the *Bay Leaf* at <http://bayleafnewsletter.org/wp/>. It has all the same articles in a convenient and easy to read html format.

MEMBERS MEETING

The Oakley Sand Mounds: Imperiled East Bay Ecosystem
Speakers: Heath Bartosh and Christopher Thayer

Wednesday, September 24, 7:30 pm

Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (directions below)

John Marsh's Rancho Los Meganos, "the dunes," along Marsh Creek was named for the extensive sand mounds in the region from what is now Antioch through Oakley and south to Brentwood. These scattered deposits of wind-blown sands near the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers harbor an assemblage of unusual plants that constitute a vegetation community unique to this region and largely unnoticed by the scientific community. While much of the dune area and attendant plants have been lost to development, significant pockets of intact habitat remain.

Contra Costa-based botanists Heath Bartosh and Christopher Thayer have been studying and inventorying the "Oakley dune" flora for many years. Their presentation will focus on identification of the dune habitat by recognition of native plants characteristic of the sands, with the hope of encouraging an effort to locate and inventory remaining stands. The ultimate goal is not only to raise awareness of this rare, local botanical treasure, but to explore the possibility of protecting, preserving, and potentially restoring suitable remnants for public education and enjoyment.

Heath Bartosh is chair of the Rare Plant Committee of East Bay CNPS and serves on the state CNPS Rare Plant Program Committee. He is also a Research Associate at the University and Jepson Herbaria at UC Berkeley and a Principal and Senior Botanist at Nomad Ecology.

Christopher Thayer is a California botanist and naturalist based in the East Bay, where he has lived and explored since

a young age. He works independently as a biological consultant, with an emphasis on field studies of rare plants, animals, wetlands, and other habitats.

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. Call 510-496-6016 or email sr0433@yahoo.com 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. 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.

Nature will bear the closest inspection; she invites us to lay our eye level with the smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plain.

Henry David Thoreau

How cunningly nature hides every wrinkle of her inconceivable antiquity under roses and violets and morning dew.

Ralph Waldo Emerson "The Progress of Culture"

EBCNPS LOGO GEAR

We are putting in an order for EBCNPS apparel such as shirts and hats. The chapter logo is embroidered by a company in Las Vegas. Polo shirts, sweatshirts and sun hats and ball caps have been ordered in the past and have worked well for volunteers, field trip leaders, outreach events, testimonials, and everyday.

Paper catalogue and order forms are at Native Here until September 10.

Catalogue website: <http://www.foractivewear.com/>

You can also give me a favorite item, such as a fleece vest, to have embroidered, or buy your own. The best colors to show off the logo are light colors such as light green, peach, tan.

Deadline to order is September 10.

To add the embroidered logo will be about \$10 each. The more we have the less expensive it will be. I can get exact costs if needed.

Any questions, contact me, I'm happy to help out.

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



NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR SOLANO STROLL, SEPTEMBER 14

Help is needed for the Solano Stroll, September 14. East Bay Chapter will have a booth at 1744 Solano Avenue, next to Pharmaca. Helpers are needed for an enjoyable time – no experience necessary. Hours are 10 am to 6 pm. We have two-hour shifts in mind, which means we hope for 4 people.

Either Delia Taylor and Janet Gawthrop, old hands at this, will be there the whole time.

Please contact Delia at deliataylor@mac.com if you can help. Thank you!

CONSERVATION CONFERENCE PREVIEW

We are inviting all Bay Area and beyond chapter members for a one hour tour of the site of our Conservation Conference and 50th anniversary kick-off, at 5:30 pm on Thursday, October 2, at the San Jose DoubleTree by Hilton. We'll show you where all the events will take place, where Chapter posters will be displayed, the leopard skin mosh pits in the disco bar and let you know about all the ways you could participate in this major CNPS event, January 13-17, 2015. It will be a one-hour tour followed by an optional social hour.

This should be a fun event at the San Jose DoubleTree at 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose 95110.

Josie Crawford
Education Program Director
California Native Plant Society
2707 K St, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113
(916) 447-2677 ext 205
jcrawford@cnps.org

*Once in his life a man ought to concentrate his mind upon the remembered earth.
He ought to give himself up to a particular landscape in his experience, to look at it from as many angles as he can, to wonder upon it, to dwell upon it.
He ought to imagine that he touches it with his hands at every season and listens to the sounds that are made upon it.
He ought to imagine the creatures there and all the faintest motions of the wind.*

N. Scott Momaday

2014 NATIVE HERE PLANT FAIR: OCTOBER 4 AND 5

It's the moment we've all been waiting for: the 9th Annual Plant Fair is almost here! On Saturday, October 4th and Sunday, October 5th, join East Bay Chapter volunteers, community members, and backyard restorationists at Native Here Nursery. Fair hours are Saturday 10 am to 3 pm and Sunday 12 pm to 4 pm.

In addition to the more than 20,000 plants on offer we will have local artists selling their plant and ecology-themed wares on both days.

For plant collectors and nerds, we will be augmenting our normal offerings with Douglas iris, wild ginger, stream violets, and lady fern, polypody fern, plus a few leather ferns. We

will also have a buy one, get one free sale on pink-flowering currant – a gardener and hummingbird favorite – (“East Bay” and Wildcat stock only), as well as desert olive from Mt. Diablo.

This year Sunday will be a family-oriented day with the Possum Family Singers playing acoustic Americana and Bluegrass at the Native Here amphitheater. Family-friendly activities such as face painting, native plant coloring, animal masks, and a treasure hunt will take place around the Nursery during the Fair.

Theo Fitanides

PLANT FAIR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Let me give a shout out to all you wonderful people who have volunteered for past Plant Fairs and are already signed up for this year: you make it possible to promote the planting of local natives and play a key role in introducing people to the beauty of our native flora. If you haven't signed up yet, please consider doing so: folks who have volunteered in the past have found the fair to be a fun and educational experience.

We will have three volunteer shifts available, with positions for all levels of experience, including complete novices. Shifts are 9-12 Saturday morning and 12-3 Saturday afternoon on Oct 4th, and 12-4 Sunday afternoon, Oct 5th. For more information, please contact volunteer coordinator, Steve Toby at stevetoby@comcast.net. If you are a plant expert, and can cover a geographical area during one of the shifts please con-

tact our new staff member Adam Huggins (adamthuggins@gmail.com) who is serving as assistant volunteer coordinator for the Plant Fair.

If you'd like to help us get the Nursery into shape in advance of the Fair, so that our supporters and potential new supporters have the best possible experience during their visit, here's a sampling of tasks that await you: weeding pots, dead-heading flower stalks, raking cages, spreading wood chips, pruning along walkways, writing plant tags, re-taping and hanging location signs, and helping to print and laminate new plant cards. For more information please contact Theo at nativehere@ebcnps.org.

Theo Fitanides

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, September 7, 2014, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Briones Road Trailhead <http://tinyurl.com/mqdpnsy>

Briones Road, Martinez

We will walk through some meadows at the top of the park, where there are sometimes an abundance of fragrant tarplants. Always meadowlarks and bluebirds. Distance will be about three miles. Mostly level, some short up and down sections. Bring lunch, since we plan on getting back to the cars about 2 pm. Bring water, and be prepared for the forecast temperature. Depending on the wind direction, it may be hot.

Directions: From west of the Bay hills, go east on 24 and exit at Pleasant Hill Road. Go north on Pleasant Hill Road 0.5 mile

and then turn left onto Reliez Valley Road. Go 4-5 miles on Reliez Valley Road to its end at the junction with Alhambra Valley Road. Ignore the entrance signs on Reliez Valley Road and continue straight on Alhambra Valley Road to the first left turn, which is Briones Road. Go about 1.5 miles to the end of Briones Road and park on either side of the road. For the Pinole/Martinez area, just proceed down Alhambra Valley Road and follow the directions to the end of Briones Road.

Gregg Weber will lead.

For spoilers, here is a link to last year's photos:
<http://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/photos/17206462/>

*And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.*

William Shakespeare, As You Like It

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12
11 AM - 4 PM**

GOURMET GREENS AND BEASTS FEAST

A FAMILY-FRIENDLY POTLUCK PICNIC

for **EAST BAY CNPS**

and the **SF BAY CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

PADRE PICNIC AREA
in **TILDEN REGIONAL PARK**

\$3 adults | \$2 students | \$1 children

Delicious food and drink:

“Wild food” potluck dishes are encouraged (but *all* dishes are welcome)
Beverages will be provided

Fun games and activities for all ages:

- ❖ Wild food potluck dish raffle (for a \$50 gift card)
- ❖ Bioblitz of the Padre Picnic Area
- ❖ Native plant raffle
- ❖ Trivia contest
- ❖ Scavenger hunt
- ❖ Tug-of-War
- ❖ Three-legged foot races
- ❖ Twister
- ❖ And more

Get to know your fellow CNPS members and our wildlife counterparts!

For more information, directions, and questions:

<http://gourmetgreensandbeastsfeast.wordpress.com/>
gourmet.feast@yahoo.com
510-496-6016

California Native Plant Society East Bay Chapter



NATIVE PLANT FAIR



2014



Garrya elliptical

Native Here Nursery

101 Golf Course Drive, Tilden Park Berkeley
{Across the street from Tilden Golf Course}

Sat. Oct. 4th 10am - 3pm
Sun. Oct. 5th Noon - 4pm

www.ebcnps.org



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Cash, checks, VISA, M/C, Amex accepted

Also Saturday October 4th Friends of Regional Parks Botanic Garden

Native Plant Sale At the Regional Parks Botanic Garden



Selling all-California native plants

Wildcat Canyon Road (between Anza View Rd and South Park Dr, near Brazil Bldg.) in Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley Hills

9 am-3pm for Friends of Regional Parks Botanic Gardens (arrive 8:30-9:00 to become a member)

10 am-3 pm Public sale



Bring boxes to carry your treasures



Expert advice available at both sales

POINT ISABEL RESTORATION REPORT

The summer doldrums were nowhere to be seen or felt at Pt. Isabel on Saturday, August 2, as a fit group of yoga instructors-in-training came out in force to move our project closer to the end of Hoffman Marsh! Addy and her [corepower yoga](#) volunteers worked with our stewards and core team, to remove oat grass between the Bay Trail and the marsh, to cut off fennel flowers (removing the seed threat, but allowing the Anise Swallowtail larvae to continue feeding), and to assist steward Margot in weeding her City of Richmond site at the corner of Central Avenue and Rydin Road. Delia took on the task of removing tough invasive pea and dug deep to get out its roots and prevent it from encroaching on native plants. Volunteer Manish found a patch of Russian thistle (*Salsola soda*) and carefully removed it all from along the edge of the marsh.

The marsh plants are in their glory now. Sea lavender (*Limonium californicum*), marsh jaumea (*Jaumea carnosa*), and alkali heath (*Frankenia salina*) are widespread at Hoffman Marsh and they are in full bloom and covered in insects. Beautiful pickleweed (*Salicornia virginica*) complements the site. As we remove the oat grass from the lower banks, we find gumweed (*Grindelia stricta*) and salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*) colonizing the area.

We came across nine praying mantises on marsh plants, oat grass, and on California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and noted that eight of them were light brown while one was green. They are able to adapt their coloring to their

surroundings as a means of camouflage. We also spotted a Gray Hairstreak butterfly resting on California sagebrush and many bumblebees harvesting pollen from the lizard tail (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*).

We held a second monthly work party on August 16 and will continue to do so to fulfill our promise to Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife, which gave us a small grant to purchase materials and plants. One key request we made for the grant was for a large nursery cart that allows us now to transport a 60-gallon water barrel along the trail to irrigate new plantings. Huge thanks to The Wooden Duck company, which is allowing us to store the trolley + barrel in their warehouse space at Pt. Isabel.

Our thanks to Bruce Adams from the East Bay Regional Park District for his continued and enthusiastic support of this project.

The Pt. Isabel Restoration Team holds work parties the first and third Saturdays of every month from 9:30 am to 2 pm. Contact Tom Kelly at kyotousa@sbcglobal.net for details.

Jane and Tom Kelly

Photos (by Jane Kelly, clockwise from top left): a bumble bee on *Eriophyllum*, a hairstreak butterfly on *Artemisia*, and the volunteers.



RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, September 6, 10 am to 2 pm, Point Isabel
Saturday, September 20, 10 am to 2 pm, Point Isabel

We remove invasive plants and re-vegetate with native plants grown from plants found at the site. We are located at the end of Rydin Road just off the I-580 next to Hoffman Marsh. Note there are two work days this month rather than the usual one.

Contact info: e-mail: kyotousa@sbcglobal.net, 510- 684-6484

Saturday, September 13, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park

This is the ongoing restoration crew described on Meetup.com. Last month we went back to pull *Vinca* and discovered there is still plenty for everyone to rip out. We will decide where and on what we will work when we meet in the parking lot to get water, gloves and tools.

Saturday, September 13, 9:00 am, Redwood Park

Sunday, September 14, 9:30 am, Redwood Park

The starting place for official monthly French broom rip returns to Canyon Meadows picnic area and will likely stay there for several months. Go in the main entrance at Redwood Road; if anyone is in the entry kiosk, then tell them you are volunteering. Proceed straight on the access road to Canyon Meadows parking.

Saturday, September 20, 9 am-noon. Creek to Bay Day in Garber Park

Please join us for our 5th year in participating in the City of Oakland's Creek to Bay Day (CTBD). We will be working along Harwood Creek, pulling invasive weeds that keep wanting to invade this lovely Restoration Site. The natives are making a tremendous recovery (even in these drought

NATIVE HERE SUMMER VOLUNTEERS

In addition to all of our wonderful regular volunteers (veterans and newbies), Native Here Nursery benefited from a fantastic group of unpaid summer interns who joined our cause while also fertilizing their own budding careers. Matt Dombrowski, who put in over 100 hours, has gone back up to Humboldt to begin his second year of plant science studies. Jose Ortega has so far put in over 50 hours, and will continue volunteering while also leading the new community garden space at Chabot College with the Passion and Purpose Initiative. Jaclyn Lim, who is investigating a career in restoration nurseries, and previously completed the Friends of Sausal Creek nursery and habitat restoration internship, also interned at Native Here and filled in for Adam Huggins as a part-time employee, while he was away on vacation. I am thrilled that Native Here continues to have a direct educational impact on our East Bay community.

Even the upper end of the river believes in the ocean.

William Stafford

conditions) but we need to clear the invasives so we can continue our winter planting later this year. Five years ago the Harwood Creek Restoration Area was covered in Himalayan blackberries and Cape ivy. Today, the natives are now dominating and include willow, snowberry, thimbleberry, and milkweed (an important plant for bees).

Meet at Fireplace Plaza at 9 am for drinks and snacks before we walk to Harwood Creek to admire the restoration progress and begin our work.

Wear long sleeves and pants, and shoes with good tread. Tools, gloves, drinks, and snacks are provided, but do bring your own gloves and water bottle if you have them.

For more information, a map and directions go to www.garberparkstewards.org or contact Shelagh Brodersen garberparkstewards@gmail.com or 510-517-1918.

Sunday, September 21, 9:00 am, Sibley Park

Meet at the Oakland-side parking lot to pick gloves, tools and water, and we will decide on our work site and invasive plant species to attack. If you plan to hike in from the Old Tunnel Road staging area, please e-mail in advance to coordinate to either janetgawthrop47@gmail.com or sibley@ebparks.org.

Sabrina Siebert has been organizing volunteer crews to plant and weed restoration areas along Sabercat Creek in Fremont. Sabercat Creek drains the west side of Mission Peak, and is now receiving mitigation efforts from Fremont city government. If you wish to volunteer at Sabercat Creek, please e-mail sabrina.siebert@gmail.com.

<https://sites.google.com/site/sabercatcreekrestoration/>

Each of the six Sense of Place talks have been wonderful, and were generally well-attended. Thank you to our vibrant Meetup.com community and the Regional Parks Botanic Garden for helping connect local people with local ecology. We will have a final talk at 10:30 am on Saturday, September 6th. Margot Cunningham, Anita Pereira, and Dave Drummond will share their experience with using California native plants in home gardens for habitat restoration. Look forward to fall and winter trainings for nursery volunteers, followed by the return of horticulture and taxonomy classes in the spring.

Theo Fitanides

CONSERVATION ANALYST APPEAL! TENTH YEAR!

Members and Friends of the East Bay Chapter will soon receive a request in the mail to support our Conservation Analyst.



Below are five actions by our Conservation Analyst, Mack Casterman (above, in Knowland Park), to protect our local native plants—just a sample of what he has done for us so far this last year.

1. Organizes and runs meetings of the East Bay Chapter's Conservation Committee
2. Edits the East Bay Chapter's Conservation Blog.
3. Represents EBCNPS at public meetings and various committees.
4. Attended forum on revitalizing Contra Costa's Northern Waterfront in Antioch—i.e. development along 50 miles of northern shoreline.
5. Attended Leona Creek Cleanup Scoping Meeting and commented on project's environmental review.

CONSERVATION ANALYST'S REPORT

EBCNPS Submits Comments on Bay Delta Conservation Plan

On Tuesday, July 29th, the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (EBCNPS) submitted comments on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and its accompanying Environmental Impact Report. This plan is a statewide process that is exploring options for conservation and mitigation during the construction of two new water delivery projects that will transport water from the Delta to areas of the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. EBCNPS's letter focused on the need for the plan to study and mitigate for any growth-inducing impacts it may have. The letter also spoke to the need to avoid and protect areas with alkaline soils in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

The draft BDCP can be viewed here: <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/PublicReview/PublicReviewDraftBDCP.aspx>. Information about the EIR for the plan can be viewed at this link: <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com/Home.aspx>

He also wrote letters to officials and organizations:

1. to oppose the Creekside Cemetery proposal, sited within our Tassajara Botanical Priority Protection Area, that would deplete scarce water resources, fragment rare wildlife habitat and destroy rare plants
2. to keep Tesla Park in the East Bay Regional Park District's Master Plan, and to alert the City of Livermore, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors about State Park's plans to develop OHV recreation on Tesla Park (Corral Hollow Botanical Priority Protection Area).
3. to City of Oakland regarding policy recommendations and best practices for fuels management in the Oakland Hills
4. to Dublin City Council and active petitioning for Dublin Open Space Initiative (Dublin Urban Limit Line), resulting in the initiative being unanimously adopted by Dublin City Council
5. to regulatory agencies concerning Oakland Zoo's proposed mitigations at Knowland Park
6. to planners of the Richmond Bay Campus opposing plans to destroy the rare Coastal Prairie
7. concerning FEMA Fuels Management to East Bay Regional Park District
8. to Pt Molate Community Advisory Board and Richmond City Council, attended South Richmond Plan Study Session

Please support our Conservation Analyst by making a generous donation! Click on the Paypal button on ebcnps.org or mail a check made out to "CNPS" to: East Bay Chapter CNPS, PO Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley CA 94705.

Carnegie - Tesla Park Update

As the summer transitions into fall, EBCNPS is working with our allies in the Friends of Tesla Park Coalition to strategize and prepare for the release of the Carnegie General Plan and its corresponding Environmental Impact Report. The general plan and EIR are due to come out in late 2014 or early 2015. The State Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division has already published its "preferred alternatives" for the project all of which include opening the 3,400 acre Tesla Park Parcel for off road vehicle recreation. We are building a record of documents to review and are anticipating being well prepared to make strong comments in support of preservation of Tesla Park as a preserve for low-impact (non-OHV) recreation and education. Stay tuned for more updates on this major project as winter approaches.

Volunteering: The Conservation Committee is always looking for new volunteers to get involved in our many projects. If you are interested in working with me on any of the projects 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 visit the Conservation Blog at <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com/>.

Mack Casterman

KNOWLAND PARK REPORT: A FRESHWATER SEEP

For years the site lay abandoned, weedy, choked with junk – oil drums, automotive parts, construction debris. True, it perked up in winter when it ponded with rainwater, attracting Pacific chorus frogs. But the truth is, we didn't pay much attention to it, we were so transfixed by the native grasslands, the maritime chaparral, and other rare gems that Knowland Park offered up. Then a few months ago we read a document from 1996 – the first biotic survey of Knowland Park done for the East Bay Zoological Society in anticipation of building their expansion in the park. The survey mentioned rare freshwater seeps in the park, considered sensitive natural communities by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. We took a second look.

It turns out that a prolonged drought is an excellent time to discover a seep. That surface water contributes to it is of no doubt. There are two deeply incised channels from the north and east that lead to the seep but there hasn't been precipitation of any note for a very long time. So there's no surface water to confuse the picture. In May while the rest of the park appeared sere and brown, meadow barley and iris-leaved juncus were growing in mad profusion at the site. The redwood trees just upslope that had been planted decades before by the Boy Scouts – incongruous in the area – didn't appear drought stressed and in fact were downright lush. Where was the water source to support this growth? Could it be that there was a perennial wetland at the site?

We called in CNPS vegetation ecologists, Todd Keeler-Wolf, Megan Keever, and Nicole Jurvavic who mapped and classified the vegetation and pronounced the wetland as a freshwater seep. They submitted three separate California

Natural Diversity Database records that described three alliances, two dominated by natives, *Juncus phaeocephalus* and *Hordeum brachyantherum*. The third alliance is dominated by invasive velvet grass (*Holcus lanatus*). The team ranked the seep provisionally as S3, rare statewide.

While the seep is a natural sensitive community in its own right, we wondered whether it might also be protected as a wetland by the US Army Corps of Engineers if it proved to be a jurisdictional wetland. In order to qualify as jurisdictional, a wetland has to be connected hydrologically to a navigable waterway. The Oakland Public Works Agency provided us with a stormwater map that showed that the drain at the lowest point of the seep emptied into a pipe connected to a storm drain emptying into the San Leandro Creek stormwater system. The ultimate destination of water flowing from the seep is San Leandro Bay. In fact, San Leandro Creek enters the bay just a little south of where Damon Slough (aka Arroyo Viejo Creek) pours into the bay at the Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline. Hydrological connection? Check!

As a final step, we brought a consulting wetland delineator out to the site. We had two of the three necessary components of a wetland: hydrology and vegetation. What about the soil? She dug a pit at the area in the seep where there is standing water in wet winters, and sure enough, there was the red-orange iron oxide covering the clumps of soil, evidence of the reduction/oxidation reactions that take place when soil undergoes prolonged saturation. She dug other pits upslope to the north. Although there was no iron oxide in the soil, there was moisture at a depth of 10 inches, indicating that [continued on next page]



Seep facing north. Photo by Bonnie McManis.

KNOWLAND PARK SEEP (CONTINUED)

groundwater is finding its way to the surface through capillary action. Her conclusion is that the seep is definitely a jurisdictional wetland. We submitted a report to the Army Corps along with a legal letter so that it becomes part of the record, helping to protect it from any future development (see East Bay California Native Plant Society (EBCNPS) conservation web page).

In celebration of this wonderful new discovery, a work party of CNPS and Friends of Knowland Park gathered at the seep, removed all of the debris and rebuilt the low check dam at the entrance to the drain. We hope to create a restoration plan that will gradually reduce the weeds and foster the native plants. Even in a dry year such as this without a drop of water in sight, there are numerous plants supporting an amazing array of insects at the seep. This beautiful feature is an ideal place to bring school children to witness the transformation of the seep through the seasons and learn more about the ecology of Knowland Park.

In other Knowland Park news, we submitted a legal letter to the regulatory agencies arguing that the zoo's plan to mitigate its impacts to Alameda whipsnake from the proposed expansion project and the regulatory agencies' acceptance of the plan violate the Endangered Species Act and the provisions of the Deed of Transfer of the park (see EBCNPS conservation web page). The zoo is seeking to place a conservation easement over 52 acres of the park, closing it to public access. The Oakland City Council will be deciding whether to approve or reject this plan some time this fall. The Sierra Club has stepped up pressure against the development with a hard-hitting letter in the *Yodeler* (<http://theyodeler/?p=9688>) and several letters to the City Council. The Fund for Wild Nature awarded a grant to the Friends of Knowland Park to support the fight to protect the park. Stay tuned.

The Knowland Park Team

TWO CHANCES TO BUY NATIVES ON OCTOBER 4!

Fall in love with California Native Plants

2 venues, 2-minute drive from each other!

Saturday, October 4, 2014, 10 am-3 pm First Fall Plant Sale at Regional Parks Botanic Garden

Friends of RPBG get to shop an hour early at 9:00am! <http://nativeplants.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Regional-Parks-Botanic-Garden/111573845550809>

Plus

Saturday & Sunday, October 4th and 5th CNPS's Native Plant Fair at the Native Here Nursery in Tilden Regional Park,

Berkeley. Specializing in Alameda & Contra Costa County natives

Saturday 10 am-3 pm

Sunday noon - 4 pm will be Family Day with local plant-themed art vendors, activities for children, and live music.

<http://ebcnps.org> and <http://nativeherenursery.org>

Please support both the Regional Parks Botanic Garden and CNPS Native Here Nursery and have fun!

Teresa LeYung-Ryan

Regional Parks Botanic Garden

510-544-3165

Tryan@ebparks.org

LIVERMORE TARPLANT

At long last I've finally secured the endorsement for the Livermore tarplant petition from the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Their response is reproduced below. I have been seeking the endorsement for about one and a half years. So I'll be submitting the petition in about two weeks, first to the City of Livermore and then to the Fish and Game Commission. I'll pass it along to the East Bay Chapter Board at that time too.

Keep your fingers crossed that it goes through - a process I hear only takes 2 years.

With this the first petition to go through a formal CNPS review process we should encourage other chapters to move forward with other petitions for plants in need.

Heath Bartosh

Rare Plant Committee Chair

From: Aaron E. Sims

Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2014 11:24 AM

To: Heath Bartosh

Subject: CNPS Cover Letter for *Deinandra* Petition

Dear Heath,

I am happy to inform you that your petition has been reviewed by the CNPS Rare Plant Program and Conservation Program Committees and is found to be satisfactory for submission to the Fish and Game Commission. Please find attached the version of the *Deinandra* petition that has been reviewed, along with a signed cover letter that can be submitted with your petition to the Commission.

Thank you for your time and dedication towards the preservation of California's native flora!

Aaron

MYRTLE WOLF SCHOLARSHIPS

Myrtle Wolf Scholarship Fund of the California Native Plant Society, East Bay Chapter: Application Notice and Guidelines for Grant Proposals

The Myrtle Wolf Scholarship Fund honors the late Myrtle Wolf (1913-2012), a longtime Oakland teacher, who on retirement, devoted herself to California's native flora. She was a member of the California Native Plant Society for over 30 years, where she worked on the fundraising annual plant sales and promoted the use of native plants in the California landscape. She was made a Fellow of CNPS in 1987. She was also a supporter of the UC Botanical Garden, where the library was named for her in 2000.

The review committee will consider proposals from students at East Bay colleges and universities for the study of California native plants. Projects may involve taxa from anywhere in the state, but all else being equal, preference will be given to projects involving taxa that are native to the East Bay. Both biological and horticulture projects will be considered. ("East Bay" means Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.)

Funds may be requested for research, travel, supplies, and minor equipment. Requests for major equipment (>\$500) will not be considered. The proposed budget should not exceed \$1,000 and applicants are encouraged to prioritize budget items as only partial funding may be available.

Applicants must be registered students at an accredited East Bay college, or university. The proposed project must be supervised by a faculty advisor.

To apply, send a resume and 1-2 page description of the goals, methods, and significance of the proposed project, detailing its connection to California native flora. Proposals must be accompanied by a letter from the faculty advisor approving the project. Proposals should also include a budget and budget justification that detail what the grant funds will be used for. Applicants should also provide evidence that required permits will be obtained before the grant is awarded.

Requests for travel funding should adhere to the following guidelines: land transportation in private vehicles should be stated in mileage, using the rate of \$0.565/mile. For travel within the U. S., estimates for actual expenses should be made (meal allowance may not exceed \$50 / day).

Recipients of grants should acknowledge the Myrtle Wolf Scholarship Fund in any publications that resulted from research, travel, or equipment supported by the grant. When the grant period is over, recipients must send a report on what they accomplished to the California Native Plant Society, East Bay Chapter:

Please address any questions regarding the Myrtle Wolf Scholarship Fund, and mail or email all applications to:

Myrtle Wolf Scholarship Fund
California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705
wolf-scholarship@ebcnps.org



Corn spider (*Argiope aurantia*) on California grey rush (*Juncus patens*) in Knowland Park. Photo by Laura Baker.

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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

510-549-0211
Manager—Theo Fitanides
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Native Here inventory specialist
Adam Huggins

Plant Fair

vacant

Restoration Huckleberry Regional Preserve

Janet Gawthrop, leader
janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

Point Isabel

Tom and Jane Kelly, leaders
510-704-8628 (w)
510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net

Marsh Creek

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

John Muir NHS (Martinez)

Elaine Jackson, leader
925-372-0687
elaiejx@att.net

Walnut Creek

Lesley Hunt, leader
925-937-6791
ldhunt@astound.net

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

**Sudden Oak Death Field Treatment Workshop
Garber Park**

(Near the Claremont Hotel in Claremont Canyon)

Date: Saturday, October 4 Time: 10 am – noon

Where: Garber Park's Fireplace Plaza

Attend a 2-hour field treatment session offered by Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, UCCE Specialist in Forest Pathology and Mycology, UC Berkeley.

Dr. Garbelotto will present and demonstrate the latest methods aimed at the prevention and spread of the SOD pathogen.

In addition he will discuss the selection of ideal candidate trees for treatment, when and how to treat individual trees, and the many factors to consider to insure effective treatment. Dr. Garbelotto will also address fire issues such as how and when to protect your home and property from SOD-related risk, when to perform yard work so as not to increase the risk of infection, and how to safely dispose of infected plant material.

In order for treatments to be effective a number of factors need to be considered. Dr. Garbelotto will address these factors and demonstrate application techniques in an outdoor setting.

Map and Directions: www.garberparkstewards.org. From the intersection of Claremont/Ashby Avenue go up Claremont Avenue .4 miles to a parking turn-out just beyond 7340 Claremont Avenue. Look for the Garber Park Stewards sign. Fireplace Plaza is a short walk up the trail.

For more information contact Shelagh garberparkstewards@gmail.com.

Dr. Garbelotto recommends that you attend the results meeting (below) prior to the field meeting.

East Bay SOD Blitz Results Meeting

Date: Monday, September, 22 Time: 7-8 pm

Where: 159 Mulford Hall, UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley

Come hear the results from the SOD Blitz from April, 2014. The meeting will last about one hour and will include: 1) the results of SOD Blitz testing from April 2014 in our local communities 2) The latest information and recommendations for SOD management. 3) Treatment options and strategies for your area. You will also learn about the SODMAP, the most comprehensive map of SOD in North America showing the spread of the Sudden Oak Death pathogen.

Can't attend this workshop? Dr. Garbelotto will be presenting this same field treatment workshop at other East Bay locations: UC Berkeley Campus on Wednesday, October 22, and Sonoma on November 23.

SAVING KNOWLAND PARK

Today's issue of the *East Bay Express* contains a dynamite article on the fight to protect Knowland Park from the zoo expansion. It's an in-depth story, deeply researched, and very well written--by far the best article to date on the subject. These articles generally have legs for a few days to a week at most. In order to maximize the impact, we need to have lots of comments submitted online. That's how the Express (and the general public) know that this is an issue of key importance. Here's the link to the article:
<http://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/zoo-gone-wild/Content?oid=4059113>

Please let your family and friends know about it, please submit a comment, tweet, put it on Facebook, and get the word out any way you can. One of the nicest aspects to the article

is the fact that the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is featured, and there's a killer quote from the CNPS East Bay Chapter Conservation Analyst, Mack Casterman. What a way to launch the Conservation Analyst's Fund drive!

Laura Baker

Editor's note: Laura Baker is a long time conservation activist with the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. The *East Bay Express* article has an extensive interview with Laura.

To learn more about the fight to save the natural treasures in Knowland Park visit <http://www.saveknowland.org/>

