

October 2018



The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnps.org

www.nativeherenursery.org

MEMBERS' MEETING

Tree Ecology: The Rhizosphere – Tree Anatomy Below Ground

Speaker: Ted Kipping

Wednesday, October 24, 7:30 pm

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

Ted Kipping will share the amazing insights and lab work of the late Dr. Alex Shigo, a giant in tree research, and some of his colleagues worldwide. Shigo-devotee Kipping will be “channeling” Dr. Shigo’s discoveries with images that will blow your mind and improve your understanding and success with trees.

Ted Kipping grew up roaming the wild places in San Francisco and San Mateo counties, and he studied natural history at Columbia University. He was privileged to work at San Francisco Botanical Garden/Strybing Arboretum caring for California native plants before starting his own tree shaping company in the Bay Area four decades ago. Ted has consulted for seven botanic gardens and lectured at thirteen, and he has presented many times to enthusiastic East Bay CNPS audiences. He has been published widely,



Images from the rhizosphere collage by Ted Kipping.

has led over one hundred field trips, and is a life member of many organizations, including CNPS.

East Bay CNPS members’ 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 26 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. Email programs@ebcnps.org or call 510-496-6016 if you have questions.

Next Month’s Program

November 28, 7:30 pm, Orinda Library

Speaker: Saxon Holt, award winning garden photographer

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 26 Orinda Way

DRIVING: 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.

VIA 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.

CONSERVATION FUND APPEAL

Our Chapter's Conservation program inspires the admiration of all the other 34 CNPS chapters. This is because our chapter members and friends have supported a professional half-time Conservation Analyst since 2004 to assist our all-volunteer Conservation Committee. This is the main reason we need to raise about \$40,000 this year.

Conservation Analyst is a technical position which combines ecology, advocacy and exposition. With the Analyst's help, our ability to confront threats to our most valuable native plant habitat has become increasingly effective over the years.

Another reason we are effective is that our plant scientists identified the fifteen most valuable remaining unprotected native plant habitats in our two counties in 2006. You can see these places on the chapter's website, under Publications. It's called the Guidebook to the Botanical Priority Protection Areas. They used the data collected over decades by plant scientists in our chapter to demand protection of these areas. Needless to say, new threats are constantly coming up.

With the invaluable help of the Conservation Analyst the East Bay Chapter has maintained a consistent, well-informed presence in matters that concern the native plants in our two counties. The work entails the review of environmental impact reports, letters to and appearances before city councils, the regional parks boards, state agencies, and Sacramento.

We help with petition drives, organize field trips, and help local citizens with science-based information. We have forged

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

Sunday, October 21, 2018, 9:45 am, Mount Diablo, Back Canyon, Meridian Point, hosted by Gregg Weber

Let's carpool from Orinda BART. Leave Orinda BART at 9:20. This is a moderate round trip of 5 miles, with a 1200 feet elevation gain on the way out. It will be mostly downhill on the return trip. Trip will take 5-6 hours. Bring lunch and at least 1 L. water. We will take Back Canyon Trail, Meridian Point Trail, Meridian Ridge Road, Donner Canyon Road.

CNPS ED DAN GLUESENKAMP TO SPEAK AT 5 CREEKS

Tuesday, October 9, free Bay Currents talk by CNPS Executive Director Dan Gluesenkamp on "Mathematics, Magic, and Meaning -- Saving California's Native Plants, Healing our Community"

What does it mean to live in one of earth's biodiversity "hot spots"? In this beautifully illustrated talk Dan Gluesenkamp, executive director of the California Native Plant Society, presents an inspiring talk on how local nature can help us - and how we can help maintain its variety and vitality in the Bay Area and statewide.

strong ties with local agencies and other conservation groups. And we have had many significant victories.

Your contribution to the East Bay Chapter's Conservation Fund goes solely to support the Conservation Analyst and other necessary expenses of the conservation Committee.

The annual dues and donations to the state office in Sacramento are not directed to the Chapters. They support the state organization as a whole and its many projects. The chapters must raise their own funds.

If you choose to contribute to the East Bay Chapter Conservation Fund through the State office in Sacramento, be sure to identify your donation for use by our Chapter. The State office will get it to us.

Donate at our website, <https://ebcnps.org/about-us/donations/> or mail a check made out to CNPS to:

California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597

Berkeley, CA 94705

If you donate by check please note that your donation is for the Conservation Analyst Fund.

Thank you in advance for your generous contributions to the East Bay Chapter's Conservation Fund.

Delia Taylor, Funds Development Chair

We will see some late flowering species and lots of plants fruiting. We should arrive back at the parking lot around 4 pm. Directions: Take 24 or 680 to Ygnacio Valley Road. Continue on Ygnacio Valley Road into City of Clayton, turn right on Clayton Road. Take Clayton Road past the first intersection with Marsh Creek Road. In about a mile, it becomes Marsh Creek Road.

Continue straight on Marsh Creek Road. Turn right on Regency Drive. Go to the end of Regency. Do not turn onto Rialto Drive, that is for a different trail.

Bay Currents talks, sponsored by Friends of Five Creeks, are on the second Tuesday of the month at St. Alban's Parish Hall, 1501 Washington (at Curtis) in Albany. Refreshments 7 pm, talks 7:30 pm. Talks are free but seating is limited.

Friends of Five Creeks, Judy Schwartz, President

510 848 9358 f5creeks@gmail.com

www.fivecreeks.org

Full fall schedule at <http://www.fivecreeks.org/baycurrents/BayCurrentsFall2018.pdf>

Third Annual Manzanita Day at Native Here

Saturday, October 20, 2018
10 am - 2 pm



Our new crop of manzanitas will be available!
Five local species will be offered

Talk at 11:00 am – John Danielsen
“How to Take Care of Manzanitas in Your Garden”

Native Here Nursery
101 Golf Course Drive, Tilden Park
Berkeley, CA

Many other species also available as we move into the winter planting season. Check our online inventory at <http://nativeherenursery.org/>
Some plants are half price, as noted.

CONSERVATION REPORT

CNPS Chapter Board supports Yes on FF Regional Parks Measure

Measure FF on the November 6 ballot asks voters in Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond, Alameda, San Pablo, El Cerrito, Albany, Emeryville, and Piedmont to fund improvements in the East Bay Regional Parks over the next twenty years.

Measure FF would continue a \$12 dollar annual parcel tax, replacing Measure CC, which is due to expire. This amounts to \$3.3 million annually to help fund wildfire protection, public access, trails, visitor use facilities, and natural resources stewardship in nineteen heavily used regional parks from Oakland to San Pablo. The measure requires a 2/3 vote to pass, so every vote counts.

Under this measure trail repairs would be completed in hillside parks, creek banks would be stabilized to improve water quality, and natural systems in shoreline parks would be reconstructed or enhanced to adapt to sea level rise. Interpretive centers and visitor facilities would be improved at several parks. Reducing fire hazards and managing sustainable vegetation under the approved Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan would be a top priority. Consistent with the District's wildfire plan, \$1.4 million is included for management of natural vegetation to improve forest health. Measure FF would also help fund removal of French broom and other invasive plants at Richmond's Miller/Knox Park, enhancement of native grassland prairie at Pt. Pinole, and management of threatened pallid manzanita populations at Huckleberry and Sobrante Ridge Preserves. (For a list of projects by park or city, search online under "EBRPD Measure FF.")

Native plant diversity is central to the natural beauty that draws thousands of people every week to the regional parks. Stewardship of the Park District's rich native plant diversity has been and will remain a major priority of East Bay CNPS. The East Bay Chapter Board urges a "yes" vote for Measure FF.

Consider putting up a yard sign or volunteering for a few hours to help pass this measure. Contact Jim Hanson soon at conservation@ebcnps.org.

Other Conservation News:

Save Sand Creek Initiative Adopted by Antioch City Council

On August 28th, a voter initiative to save Sand Creek, "Let Antioch Voters Decide", was adopted by the Antioch City Council on a 3-1 vote. The month before, the Council also adopted a competing, but similar, measure by the Richland Communities, a Newport Beach-based real estate investment company.

Several square miles of gently rolling hills bisected by ephemeral Sand Creek make up the portion of the City's "Sand Creek Focus Area" west of Deer Creek Road. The

"Let Antioch Voters Decide" initiative dedicates 1,850 acres west of Deer Valley Road for rural residential, agricultural and open space. The Richland initiative also allows a large portion west of Deer Valley Road to be zoned for rural residential, agricultural and open space (1,244 acres), but also sets aside approximately 608 acres in the western section of the Sand Creek Focus Area for "The Ranch," a development of 1,177 homes. Prior to passage of the initiatives, the Antioch General Plan would have allowed up to 4,000 homes to be built in the area. ("Antioch: Dueling Open Space Initiatives Go Before Council," *East Bay Times*, Judith Prieve, 7-11-18). Similarities and differences between the two competing initiatives will now be worked out by the two parties.

Antioch residents working with Save Mount Diablo, the Sierra Club, Greenbelt Alliance, and CNPS received signatures for "Let Antioch Voters Decide" from over 5,000 residents at shopping centers, events, and door-to-door in neighborhoods. EBCNPS Conservation Analyst Karen Whitestone described the area's native plants at resident forums and City meetings earlier in the year, and Chapter members answered the call from Lesley Hunt to volunteer for signature gathering over the spring and early summer.

Legislation to preserve Livermore's TESLA progresses, but stopped in key Assembly committee

Thank you to the many Chapter members who wrote to key State Assembly and Senate committee members to ask that they advance Senate Bill 1316 this year. State CNPS supported the bill and Chapter President Beth Wurzburg attended Sacramento committee meetings. The report below of the year's legislative progress and ongoing work comes from Friends of TESLA Park.

"SB 1316 (Glazer) - Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area passed the Senate and made it through two Assembly Committees, but was not released from "suspense" by the final committee, the Assembly Appropriations Committee, in late August. Therefore, SB 1316 is considered dead for this session. In the final stages California State Parks OHMVR Division communicated their opposition to the bill. We do not yet know exactly what happened in the internal workings of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, but it appears the opposition by State Parks and presumably the Administration stalled the bill and prevented it from being released to be voted on by the full Assembly.

"Although SB 1316 did not make it through the Legislature this session, we remain committed to permanently protecting Tesla. We will continue to advocate for a change in state policy and work to open new opportunities in the new year. Hopefully, the election will bring a new administration that is more supportive of preservation of rare and irreplaceable natural and cultural resources, particularly when specifically identified by local agencies. We will need your help to try again.

"In the meantime, the litigation challenging the OHMVR plan to expand Carnegie SVRA and open Tesla to damaging OHV recreation continues, so we move forward on all fronts."

CONSERVATION REPORT CONTINUED

To keep posted, see <http://www.teslapark.org/>

EBCNPS Board supports Point Molate Alliance goals; City advised to follow open government laws

Chapter board members have voted to support the key goals of the Pt. Molate Alliance. The Alliance is made up of organizations and Richmond residents working to make environmental, economic, and equity gains central to the vision and zoning for Point Molate. A 270 acre former WWII navy fuel depot on the Richmond shoreline, this city-owned land is now being considered for housing development following a closed door settlement agreement between the City Council and Upstream development's Jim Levine and the Ukiah Guideville tribe.

The goals of the Point Molate Alliance are as follows:

- Stop the secret deals. Conduct a truly meaningful, open public planning process with broad and significant community input.
- Restore Winehaven Village as a vibrant commercial, educational, and historic destination that can provide jobs for Richmond residents.
- Respect the environment and preserve the shoreline and our public lands in the South Valley and Bluffs as a magnificent, accessible public park that includes many recreational opportunities.
- Move housing Downtown where it is needed and where essential public transportation and infrastructure already exists.

The Alliance goals were published to coincide with three City-sponsored "visioning" workshops over the summer to guide land use zoning of Pt. Molate. The community planning process was recommended to the Council by Councilmembers Melvin Willis and Ben Choi. At the second City-sponsored community planning workshop in July most participants reported back that Winehaven should be primarily repurposed for various commercial and educational uses, and some housing in Winehaven's north valley was suggested by a few. What stood out is that seven of the ten assembled groups of participants wanted the remarkable natural beauty of the south valley and the bluffs held for outdoor recreational and cultural activities for all. (At this time it is not clear if the City's consultant and Planning staff will be taking the workshop

majority's recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council since, as relayed by one City staff member, the public's preferences don't adequately line up with the settlement agreement requirement to fit in a minimum of 670 or more housing units at Pt. Molate).

Although not officially recorded in public session, it's understood that Mayor Butt and Councilmembers Myrick, Recinos, and Choi voted for the settlement agreement. Since then, and setting aside numerous comments that putting housing next to the nearby Chevron Refinery is unwise, consultants hired by the City report that building intensive shoreline housing at Point Molate would require \$100-130 million just to install basic infrastructure. These reports raise further concerns that the City's current agreement with Upstream would support high-end shoreline development for a wealthy few. It is unknown what effect this new information will have on this Council or on candidates vying for council and mayor seats. As with most Bay Area cities, there is insufficient housing for both moderate and limited income families.

Point Molate is part of the East Bay CNPS Chapter's Richmond shoreline "Botanical Priority Protection Area" where, especially in the south valley section, ridge top native coastal prairie and coastal scrub connects to riparian willows that filter the winter storms flowing to the rare and sensitive eel grass beds in the Bay shallows. This summer's community planning workshops brought young and adult residents to Pt. Molate, many for the first time. The beauty of Pt. Molate's south valley and bluffs continues to inspire residents and visitors to say that special places, especially publicly owned ones, deserve to be enjoyed by all.

Side note: Although Richmond Mayor Tom Butt had called a suit over City violations of open government laws "nonsense" ("Battle over fate of Pt. Molate Continues," Richmond Confidential, 9-11-18), the City failed in its attempt to dismiss the lawsuit in federal court. The Brown Act lawsuit was brought by SPRAWLDEF, Citizen's for East Shore State Parks, and joined by four Richmond residents (including the present writer), saying a vote on any settlement had to be conducted in the open with public input, and that selection of Pt. Molate land uses had to follow the public process for planning and zoning decisions under State law.

A big note of thanks for each of you who have responded, and who are planning to respond, to the annual Conservation appeal. There's lots for us to do!

Jim Hanson, Conservation Committee Chair

POINT ISABEL IN SEPTEMBER

California mugwort, or dream plant, or Douglas sagewort (*Artemisia douglasiana*) was named for the Scottish botanist David Douglas. It is said to have a wide range of medicinal properties although we understand that the plant should be used as a medicine only under supervision of an experienced herbalist. Mugwort is said to lessen the inflammation of poison oak. We know firsthand how magical it can be in eliminating the pain of stinging nettle. One of us fell into a patch of stinging nettle earlier this year and the sting came right through several layers of clothing. Charli Danielsen from our Native Here Nursery in Tilden gave us some mugwort and as soon as we rubbed the leaves on our stinging skin the pain disappeared! We have used it since upon inadvertently touching a stinging nettle that had grown alongside a potted *Ribes sanguineum* in a nursery. The sting was intense but the mugwort cure was instantaneous.

In September we planted out nineteen donated California mugwort plants at Point Isabel and on the Adopt-a-Spot at Central Avenue/Rydin Road. So if you're looking to relieve a stinging nettle tingle, feel free to take **one** leaf from our mugwort.

The donated mugwort came from The Watershed Nursery (TWN) on Canal Street in Richmond. If you are part of a school or non-profit group and you need plants, TWN always has a

bunch of overstock that they give away to local community groups and others. Check them out. TWN has lots of California natives (that's all they sell) and have a well informed and friendly staff

And while we're on the subject of native plant nurseries. We have been volunteering at [Native Here Nursery \(NHN\)](#) up in Tilden Park. Native Here provides native plants from Contra Costa and Alameda Counties only. It's run by the East Bay Chapter of CNPS. It's a great place to volunteer and to learn about native plants. Let us or NHN know if you're interested in learning more.

Finally, hats off to Ghilotti Brothers, Inc., the firm that has been installing the new traffic lights on Central Avenue and that used a portion of the Adopt-a-Spot to store and stage their equipment. Our contact there, Brandon Bell, worked with us from the beginning to make sure that their work did not interfere with or impede our efforts to clear and revegetate the Adopt-a-Spot. Brandon was always responsive and creative. It turned out to be a great short term partnership!

Jane and Tom Kelly



MORE POINT ISABEL PICTURES



Previous page: Sue, Tom, and Snowy plant mugwort. Left: California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*). Right: John removes pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*). Photos by Jane Kelly.

RESTORATION IN OCTOBER

Sunday, October 7, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, the monthly North Basin restoration meets at McLaughlin Eastshore State Park in Berkeley, on the bay shoreline south of Tom Bates soccer fields. A map of the area can be found at <https://goo.gl/rqdZQW>. For directions to the work site or more information about this project, contact John Kenny (johnkenny54@yahoo.com).

**Saturday, October 13, 2018, 9:30 am
Help Restore Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve -- Oakland Hills**

Hosted by Janet Gawthrop
Meet at Huckleberry Parking lot
6934 Skyline Boulevard · Oakland
<http://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-East-Bay-Chapter/photos/10662812/226066492/>

Saturday October 20 Garber Park Stewards Workday
Join us in Garber Park as we continue our fall clean-up. Meet at the Claremont Avenue entrance at 10 am. We will work till noon. You can start attacking the Algerian ivy just above the Claremont Avenue entrance, or walk a short distance to beautiful Fern Glade, where we have ongoing work removing

the ivy to give the ferns a chance to grow once the rains come. Or join us at the Evergreen Lane Entrance where we will be cutting and pulling the invasive weeds from the hillside above Fire Place Plaza. The trail crew will be clearing the trail and making improvements and needs your help.

We provide tools, gloves, water, and snacks. Dress in layers for the changing weather and wear boots with good tread. Directions: At the intersection of Ashby Avenue and Claremont Avenue go 0.4 miles up Claremont Avenue towards Grizzly Peak to the Claremont Avenue entrance. A map and directions can be found at our website, garberparkstewards.org. For more information contact Shelagh at garberparkstewards@gmail.com.

October 27, 9:30 am-11:30 am TASH (Tending the Ancient Shoreline Hill), last Saturday of the month work party. Email for location – tashorehill@gmail.com. Gloves and tools provided. Wear sturdy shoes and clothes that can get dirty. For more information visit www.tendancienthill.org.
Margot Cunningham
Tending the Ancient Shoreline Hill
www.tendancienthill.org

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East Bay Chapter News list

Emailed announcements of upcoming EBCNPS events
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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

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