

February 2017



# The Bay Leaf

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

[www.ebcnps.org](http://www.ebcnps.org) [www.nativeherenursery.org](http://www.nativeherenursery.org)

## MEMBERS MEETING FEB. 22: CERCIS (REDBUD)

**North American *Cercis* (redbud): a study of evolution and adaptation**

**Speaker: Camille Nowell, MSc**

**Wednesday, February 22, 7:30 pm**

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

For many centuries *Cercis*, a genus of attractive woody plants that includes our native western redbud, has been a focus of botanical study and appreciation. The first recorded mention of the group was by the ancient Greek philosopher Theophrastus, circa 325 BC. Native Americans, distinguished botanists, and eminent statesmen have also taken an interest in *Cercis*, including Carl Linnaeus, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Edward Lee Greene, Milton Hopkins, and Duane Isley.

More recently scientists have been investigating this group to better define its species and to understand its global patterns of distribution. The traditional taxonomic treatment of *Cercis* described two species in North America: the eastern species *C. canadensis* and the western species *C. occidentalis* (western redbud). In her master's research on *Cercis*, Camille found through DNA analysis that *Cercis* in the Colorado River drainage may in fact be a different species. In her presentation, Camille will introduce the redbud genus and explain how she determined there could be a "cryptic" third species in North America.



Camille Nowell with a redbud. Photo by Diana Gamba.

Camille Nowell has conducted detailed botanical surveys in the Mojave Desert, the Sierra Nevada, and the San Joaquin Valley. She recently earned her M.S. degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology, with an emphasis on California native flora. Her research on *Cercis* took her on expeditions throughout montane California and the Colorado Plateau. She has also enjoyed working on barn owl, golden eagle, and prairie falcon studies for the East Bay Regional Park District.

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 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](mailto:programs@ebcnps.org) or call 510-496-6016 if you have questions.

### Directions to Orinda Public Library at 26 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.

### Next Month's Program (note new location):

March 22, 7:30 pm, Albany Library, Edith Stone Room  
Glen Schneider – Skyline Gardens: The East Bay's Richest Botanical Hotspot

## CONSERVATION ANALYST'S REPORT

**Successful communications with East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) through the Safe Trails, Environmental Protection (STEP) alliance**

Efforts to preserve narrow (single-track) hiking trails on EBMUD land for just hikers and horse riders has produced a strong alliance group with a clear platform. The STEP (Safe Trails, Environmental Protection) alliance of environmental organizations and equestrians formed in August 2016, and includes EBCNPS, the Sierra Club, and the Audubon Society as the major environmental players. We originally gathered in response to a proposal to open four specific trails to mountain bikes. (Bikes are currently not allowed on EBMUD property except a few paved paths.) Our clear advocacy for safe trails has influenced the EBMUD Board and staff. We all agree that a trial program for introducing mountain bikes requires robust analysis and preparation in order to avoid significant environmental damage.

Without our attention and advocacy this mountain bike addition proposal would have passed as a benign addition to EBMUD's scheduled Watershed Master Plan update. Our group's "statement of goal" focuses on "supporting the continued safe and enjoyable use of EBMUD trails... while protecting water quality and the watershed's diverse plants and wildlife." You can read our organization's September 2016 comment letter, under Conservation Analyst Reports: <https://ebcnps.wordpress.com/conservationanalystreports/>. We encouraged the district to examine impacts of trail use changes as part of this two-year trial proposal allowing mountain bikes, as well as to perform baseline studies, which may include analysis in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Connecting narrow trail segments into protected areas like El Sobrante Preserve and Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve was proposed originally but seems to be off the table now.

Regular stakeholder meetings between EBMUD and STEP will continue considering the pilot program if it moves forward. Within STEP, we are also outlining suggested enforcement recommendations and sensitive species protection guidelines for presentation to the district. Another major concern has been for the importance of establishing guidelines able to evaluate the proposed pilot project, clearly defining markers of success or failure of the pilot. STEP reported on difficult experiences we heard of from Marin Municipal Water District and Mount Tamalpais State Park, where creation of rogue trails has caused major adverse environmental impact.

Esteemed volunteer Glen Schneider has been leading regular hikes at Skyline Gardens, a stretch of trail starting near Tilden Park Steam Train in Oakland. Glen is the leader of a restoration project along this trail, including regularly removing nonnative plants and even rebuilding trail, all of which encourages native plants in the area. Sometime soon we hope to establish a designation with EBMUD to recognize the uniqueness of Skyline Gardens. Blooming now in January and February are Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*,

CNPS RPR 1B.2), currants and gooseberries (*Ribes* spp.), and Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*). Many grasses will probably continue to leaf out after the recent storms.

Next time you go for a walk, hike, or trot on EBMUD lands (with a permit, of course, <https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/buy-trail-permit/>), you can relax into your preferred nature-loving routines, knowing that a mountain biker will not barrel around that blind curve ahead, crushing vegetation and maybe even you.

Involved from EBCNPS: Glen Schneider, Jim Hansen, Karen Whitestone, Peter Rauch

**New 2017 Richmond City Council favors open space, adopts General Plan Amendments**

At the City Council meeting on January 24, 2017 two agenda items favoring open space in Richmond received unanimous Council approval as additions to the city's General Plan. Our organization delivered a letter as well as spoken comments on both items. Council heard from more than 20 public speakers for each item during the Study and Action Session. Did you know that Richmond has more than 30 miles of shoreline, the most of any San Francisco Bay Area city?

**Passing the Richmond Hills Initiative, preserving 430 acres near Wildcat Canyon**

We received news in late 2016 from the Richmond Registrar of Voters that the Richmond Hills Initiative had enough verified signatures (out of more than 6500) to qualify it for the 2018 General Election ballot. EBCNPS contributed to natural resource knowledge for initiative language and both our Conservation Committee and Board endorsed the final text as early as April of last year. The Richmond Hills Initiative Area is 430 acres partly overlapping with our Sobrante Ridge Botanical Priority Protection Area (BPPA), located between San Pablo Dam Road and Wildcat Canyon Regional Park <https://ebcnps.wordpress.com/2016/09/22/sign-the-richmond-hills-initiative/>.

Rare plant species and communities exist within this ridgetop native plant landscape between Richmond and El Sobrante. There are seasonal wetlands there and west of San Pablo Ridge, with vernal pool species such as small rushes (*Eleocharis*) and little white buttercups (rare *Ranunculus lobbii*) blooming now in Wildcat Regional Park. Federally threatened and state endangered pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*) are also found here within pockets of maritime chaparral. All these resources would be affected by urbanization. Others have found that the initiative area touches multiple water-courses and is geologically unstable for building.

Initiative organizers submitted the "sufficiency of the petition" to the City Council, which quietly accepted the petition with its certification at the January 17 meeting with the promise of further discussion. At the January 24 Council meeting

## CONSERVATION ANALYST'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

it was a pleasure to witness the Councilmembers' eagerness to adopt the initiative.

**Changing the North Shoreline land use designation from Industrial to Open Space**

Since at least 2011 the North Shoreline area between Point Pinole and Point Molate has been a concern to our organization. Encompassed by the Richmond Shoreline BPPA, this overall span contains 500 acres of tidal marshes, 800 acres of mudflats, several estuaries of local creeks, and coastal prairie grassland, as well as extensive alkaline soils. The Richmond shoreline is known for eelgrass beds (*Zostera marina*) in subtidal zones, healthy shoreline mudflat flora, and as a California Audubon Society Designated Important Bird Area. Our archive showed continued EBCNPS recommendations for better General Plan protections during the update process, to no avail until now. Potentially recovering some lost time by re-zoning the land as open space, the Council combined this with an emergency ordinance "temporarily prohibiting land uses conflicting

## PLANT SALE AT NATIVE HERE 2/25-26

The chapter's Native Here Nursery will hold the last sale of the winter planting season on Saturday and Sunday, February 25-26 from 10-2 both days. *Sidalcea* (Brooks Island only) and huckleberries (*Vaccinium*) will be half price on that weekend.

A variety of local annuals will be available in pots with multiple seedlings. Local bulb plants including zygadene and trillium will be offered. Of course, there will be a wide selection of native plants from all parts of the East Bay for both gardening and restoration purposes.

If there's something special you've been looking for, check the inventory online at [www.nativeherenursery.org](http://www.nativeherenursery.org). It is current as of mid January. As plants become rooted or emerge from

## NEW NATIVE HERE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

I have been volunteer coordinator for special events at the nursery for about 7 years. In the meantime I have become a member of the board of directors and joined the Nursery Planning Committee. As a result, I decided to seek a new volunteer coordinator. I am very happy to announce that Ruth Ann Pearsons has stepped up to the plate. I have met twice with Ruth Ann and she is very enthusiastic and eager to get started. I asked her for a brief bio and this is what she told me:

Ruth Ann Pearsons is a native plant garden enthusiast, iPhonographer, blogger and credentialed Child Development Master Teacher. She currently volunteers with the curation department at UC Botanical Garden and serves as a garden ambassador.

She received her bachelors degree in botany from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She has previously

with the contemplated General Plan Amendment." This item passed, which means conservation for maximum area acreage and removal of worst-case industrial land use scenarios from the North Shoreline equation. Study of the current state of the uplands here may reveal a need for restoration. Protection of wetlands and uplands areas as open space land would ensure that the natural communities of these dwindling ecosystems remain protected. Council took strong action in line with their existing policies for natural habitat protection.

We hope that native habitat protection and restoration in this area create opportunities for even greater public shoreline access.

Involved from EBCNPS: Karen Whitestone, Gregg Weber, Barbara Leitner, Jim Hansen.

*Karen Whitestone*, East Bay Chapter Conservation Analyst

dormancy (or if they sell out) the inventory will be updated. Currently the goal is to have an update posted by mid-month each month, so check the week before the sale.

Volunteers and customers are always welcome during regular nursery hours: noon-3pm on Tuesdays, 9-noon Fridays, 10-2 Saturdays.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the sale weekend, please send an e-mail to Ruth Ann Pearsons [rapearsons1@mac.com](mailto:rapearsons1@mac.com) East Bay CNPS Native Here Nursery

served on the Board of Directors for Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association and created and edited the Mt. Diablo Review. As VIP Coordinator for Mt. Diablo State Park she staffed and managed the visitor center and developed the State Park Volunteers in Parks Manual.

Ruth Ann enjoys camping and road cycling. She is married and has two adult daughters.

She is thrilled to have found an opportunity where she can support the East Bay Chapter CNPS and Native Here Nursery, using her knowledge of California native plants and skills for working with people.

Ruth Ann can be reached at [rapearsons1@mac.com](mailto:rapearsons1@mac.com)

*Steve Toby*

## POINT ISABEL RESTORATION

A king tide of 7.1 feet came to Hoffman marsh at Point Isabel on January 11 and we went out to record it. The marsh turned into a crystalline lake with birds huddled on the only small piece of land that was still able to sustain them. The berm covering the Stege pipe was completely submerged and the geese were swimming over it. Water came up so high that it flooded a couple of the newly planted buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) saplings. They seem to have weathered the flood but we are keeping a close eye on them to see if they need to be moved. Speaking of plants, 'tis the (planting) season! On Christmas Day/1<sup>st</sup> Day of Chanukah we worked with Steward Lewis and planted his site with 2 toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), 4 lizard tail (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*), 10 yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), 2 bee plant (*Scrophularia californica*), and 3 purple clarkia (*Clarkia purpurea*). On New Year's Eve, we planted 6 farewell-to-spring (*Clarkia amoena*) on Tom's site.

Stewards Sue and (now 11-year-old) Oliver Schoening moved about 20 purple needle grass (*Stipa pulchra*) clumps that had been planted before their stewardship commenced and that were being overgrown by nearby *Artemisia californica*. The transplanted grasses are now in more open areas and, with the recent rains, they are doing well. New plants for 2017 on Sue and Oliver's site include big saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), *Scrophularia californica*, *Achillea millefolium*, lippia (*Phyla nodiflora*), California oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*), and various bulbs.

We were rained out for our 1<sup>st</sup> work party in January so we held it on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month and accomplished an incredible amount of work thanks to the stellar Stewards and volunteers who showed up. We were very happy to welcome back Steward Nina who is sporting a new knee. Core volunteers Gudrun and Nancy worked with Nina all day, heads down, soil knives in hand, meticulously removing countless bunches of invasive oat grass and oxalis from

the established plants and the masses of poppies on her site. The transformation of the site in just this one work party is remarkable.

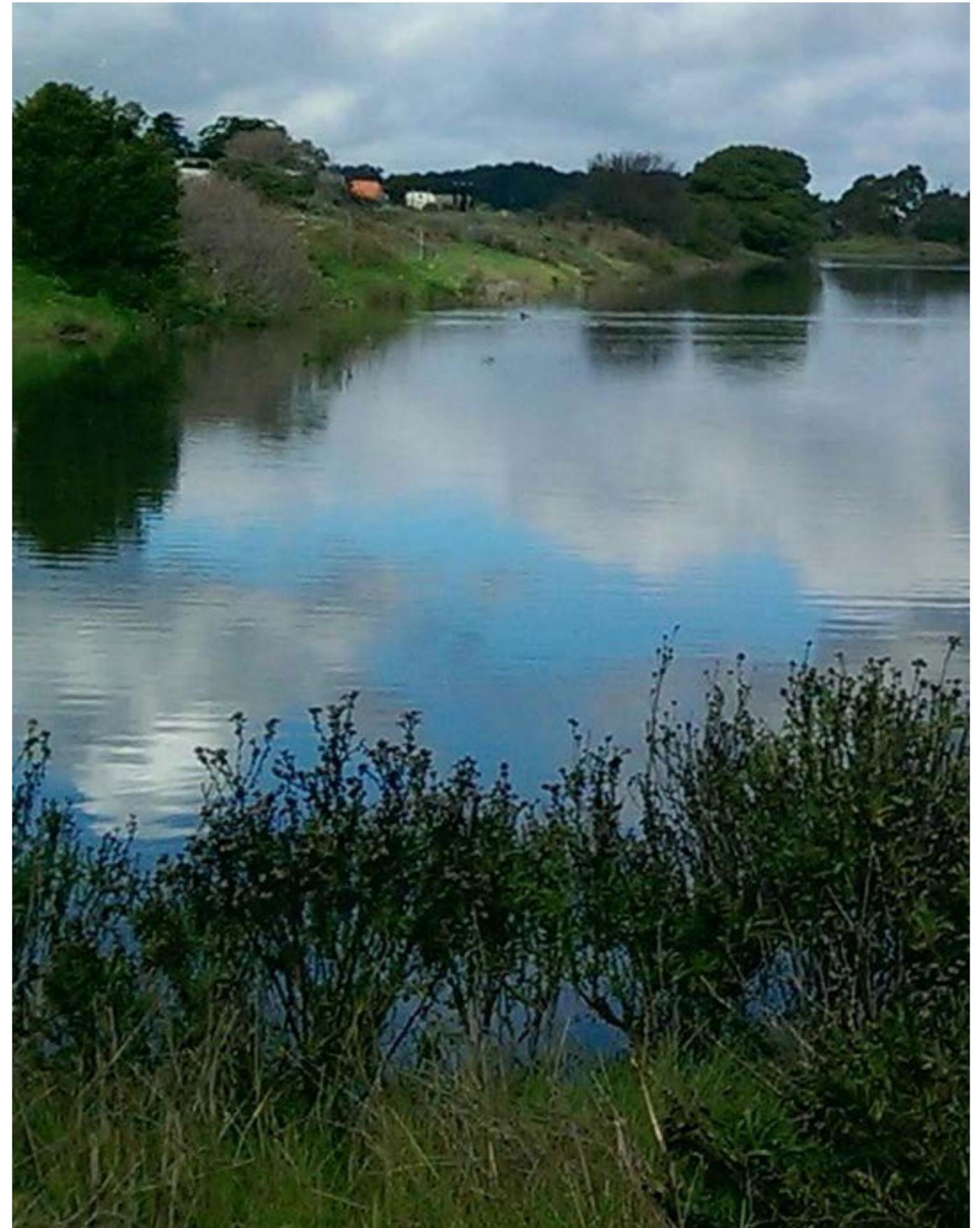
Tom joined Steward Lewis at his site planting three yampah (*Perideridia kelloggii*), and three *Phyla nodiflora* adding to the 21 plants we put in on December 25<sup>th</sup>. This new site is thriving.

Steward Ivy brought along two friends (Jessica and Shannon). This super energetic and young crew of three cleared loads of weeds on Ivy's site before planting two bee plants and four *Perideridia kelloggii*. The day after the work party we spotted an anise swallowtail butterfly checking out the yampah. It looks like Ivy will see their caterpillars on her site later this year.

Our nearly final planting for this season took place on January 15<sup>th</sup> when we put in the last *Scrophularia californica* and seven lippia.

Hoffman marsh is a busy Point Isabel Restoration Project place now. Over the past few weeks we have spotted Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes, American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Canada Geese, Northern Shovelers, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Mallards, Willets, and Egrets. Thanks to Core Volunteer John Kenny for helping ID a number of these. Special thanks this month go to American Soil and their Manager, Donna Capozzi, who helped us resolve a problem due to a mislaid invoice. Donna worked with us and arranged for us to pick up the remaining 3 bags of soil we had pre-purchased to slightly amend the soils out at Point Isabel before planting. Thanks as always to the EBRPD and to our ranger Bruce.

*Jane and Tom Kelly*



Birds looking for dry land at Point Isabel (left) and king tide at Hoffman Marsh. Photos by Jane Kelly.

## RESTORATION PROJECTS

**Saturday, February 4 and Saturday, February 18, Pt. Isabel restoration in McLaughlin Eastshore State Park.** Just off I-580 (take Central to the bottom of the I-580 overpass). At the stop sign (Rydin Road) turn right and come down to the end of the street. If you pass Costco on your right, you've gone too far. You'll find us on the trail.

Tom Kelly

KyotoUSA

[www.kyotousa.org](http://www.kyotousa.org)

[www.heliosproject.org](http://www.heliosproject.org)

Phone and Fax: (510) 704-8628

Cell: (510) 684-6484

[tkelly@kyotousa.org](mailto:tkelly@kyotousa.org)

**Saturday, February 4, 2017, 9 am-noon Sabercat Creek Habitat Restoration, Site 5 (Becado Place)**

Registration is required. Please visit

[www.fremont.gov/SabercatRestoration](http://www.fremont.gov/SabercatRestoration). Click on the "Eventbrite" hyperlink to find the pages for upcoming events. Heavy rain cancels the event.

No experience is necessary. All ages are welcome, but children under 12 years must be accompanied by an adult. Come dressed for the weather and prepared to get dirty (sturdy closed-toe shoes/boots, long pants, hat, sunscreen, and long-sleeved shirt recommended). Bring a signed waiver form, a reusable water bottle, and community service hours forms, if applicable. We'll provide tools, some gloves, and water to refill bottles. If you wish to bring your own gloves or tools, please label them.

For more questions or comments, please contact Sabrina Siebert at [ssiebert@fremont.gov](mailto:ssiebert@fremont.gov) or call 510-494-4570.

Sabrina Siebert

Special Assistant

City of Fremont Environmental Services Division

**Saturday, February 4, 10 am -1:00 pm, rain date for Garber Park Stewards Fern Glade Workshop with Lech Naumovich.**

This is a great hands-on class to identify native ferns that you may find amid the French broom and Algerian ivy and an opportunity to help expand this successful restoration area. Dress in layers for the changing weather and shoes with good tread. We provide tools, snacks and water. Meet at the Claremont Avenue entrance to Garber. See January *Bay Leaf* for the original announcement or [www.garberparkstewards.org](http://www.garberparkstewards.org), or email Shelagh [garberparkstewards@gmail.com](mailto:garberparkstewards@gmail.com).

**Sunday, February 5, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, the monthly North Basin restoration meets at Eastshore State Park, on the bay shoreline south of Tom Bates soccer fields, to continue clearing radish and other invasives from around the native plants.** 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](mailto:johnkenny54@yahoo.com)).

**Saturday, February 11, 9 am -12 pm, PAL Camp, 10100 Skyline Boulevard (address not posted at location)** Please join us for a volunteer work party at the open space surrounding the Police Activities League's "PAL Camp" to pull French broom and other invasive weeds. Due to lack of city money, it has been un-maintained and overgrown. We will simultaneously help restore native vegetation, protect the pallid manzanita on site, reduce the hazardous fuel load in an area close to homes, and make PAL Camp more attractive and fire safe for the inner city kids who use the park.

Meet at the yellow gate on the east side of Skyline Boulevard across from Big Trees Trailhead in Joaquin Miller Park. This is south of Chabot Observatory; about a block and a half south of the Metropolitan Horseman's Association at 10060 Skyline and the Redwood Bowl Parking lot, and north of Roberts Regional Park.

Wendy Tokuda

**Saturday, February 11, 10 am -12:30 pm, help plant natives on beautiful Cerrito Creek at Albany Hill**

With welcome rains, this is a great time to help resilient and beautiful native plants get established on Cerrito Creek at Albany Hill. Learn about the history of this fascinating urban oasis! Tools, gloves, water, and snacks provided. Wear closed-toe shoes with good traction and dress in layers, prepared for changing weather. All ages welcome -- there's a climbing structure for the very young. Meet at El Cerrito's Creekside Park, south end of Santa Clara Avenue (3488 Santa Clara on Internet maps). We work in a drizzle, but heavy rain moves to Sat., Feb. 18.

Groups of 10 or more please RSVP. Otherwise, just show up! Questions? Email Friends of Five Creeks, [f5creeks@gmail.com](mailto:f5creeks@gmail.com), or check our web site at [www.fivecreeks.org](http://www.fivecreeks.org).

Susan Schwartz, President, Friends of Five Creeks

510 848 9358

[f5creeks@gmail.com](mailto:f5creeks@gmail.com)

[www.fivecreeks.org](http://www.fivecreeks.org)

**Saturday, February 11 at 9:30 a.m. Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve.**

This botanic preserve almost always has something in bloom, but early February this year should provide unusually abundant manzanitas and western leath-erwoods in flower. Not to mention that the rain has finally softened the ground and made pulling weeds much easier. Join us at the parking lot at 9:30 am to get gloves, tools and snacks, but come early or stay late to take in the flowers. **Directions:** From Highway 13, exit at Park, cross 13 going uphill from the ramp, and then turn left onto Mountain. Follow Mountain to the traffic light at Snake, and then turn right (uphill) on Snake and follow it all the way to its other end at the intersection of Snake and Skyline, roughly 2 miles. Turn left onto Skyline, and follow it several hundred meters to find the Huckleberry parking lot on the right side.

## RESTORATION PROJECTS CONTINUED

**Saturday, February 18, 10 am-noon, Garber Park.** Please join us as we continue pulling invasive weeds and planting seedlings we have grown from our own Garber Park seeds. Meet at the Claremont Avenue entrance. We provide tools, snacks and water. Everyone welcome. For more information and directions: [www.garberparkstewards.org](http://www.garberparkstewards.org) or contact Shelagh [garberparkstewards@gmail.com](mailto:garberparkstewards@gmail.com).



Broom at Sibley, ripe for removal! Photo by Wendy Tokuda.

**Sunday, February 19 at 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park.** Join us to push back the notorious wall of broom from some otherwise healthy oak woodland and purple needlegrass prairie on the Sibley-to-Tilden trail. If you are arriving from Oakland or points south, you can meet us at the Skyline parking lot, about 1/3 mile north of the Huckleberry parking lot. If you are coming from Berkeley, Orinda, or points further east, you can park at the Old Tunnel Road staging area, but e-mail [janetgawthrop47@gmail.com](mailto:janetgawthrop47@gmail.com) or [sibley@ebparks.org](mailto:sibley@ebparks.org) so we know to expect you. The last several months have featured increasing amounts of water in a creek that ran dry last summer, with choruses of frogs in the background.

**Saturday, February 25, 9:30-11:30 am** join Friends of Albany Hill for the last **Saturday** of the month work party, location to be announced. Gloves and tools provided but bring a favorite weeding tool if you like. Wear closed-toed shoes with good traction and clothes that can get dirty. Long pants and long sleeves recommended. Heavy rain cancels. For more info: [friendsalbanhill@gmail.com](mailto:friendsalbanhill@gmail.com).

Margot Cunningham

Wishing everyone a turn of luck for the better with the start of the lunar new year.

Janet Gawthrop



The January 14 Pt. Isabel team. Photo by Jane Kelly.

# February Sale

50% off

Sidalcea from Brooks Island  
Huckleberries

February 25-26  
Saturday - Sunday  
10:00am - 2:00pm  
both days

Native Here Nursery  
101 Golf Course Rd.  
in Tilden Park  
Berkeley

510-549-0211  
nativeherenursery.org  
for current inventory

Also featuring  
spring annuals  
zygadene and other  
local bulbs



## Brown Bag Speakers Forum

Monday, February 6 at 12:30pm

### *Reflections on Albany Hill:*

*An Island in an Urban Sea*

Dr. Barbara Ertter



Does the preservation and appreciation of the natural world only happen in large faraway wilderness areas, or are pockets of wildland in our backyards just as important (and possibly more so)? And what is the reciprocal value for those of us fortunate enough to have ready access to such "islands in an urban sea"? Join biologist Barbara Ertter, one of the original members of Friends of Albany Hill, for a discussion on the ecologically unique features of Albany Hill and the site stewardship program that developed to protect them.

Barbara Ertter is Curator of Western North American Botany at the University and Jepson Herbaria, University of California, Berkeley. Primary research interests include western floristics (including the East Bay), systematics of several members of the rose family (e.g., *Potentilla*, *Ivesia*, *Rosa*), and the history of western botany. Significant publications include an updated edition of *The Flowering Plants and Ferns of Mount Diablo, California* (2002), *Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora* (2013), and treatments of *Potentilla*, *Ivesia*, *Horkelia*, *Rosa*, and related genera for *The Jepson Manual, Vascular Plants of California* (2012) and *Flora of North America* (2015). She currently lives in Boise, Idaho.



Albany Library 1247 Marin Ave.

A presentation of the Albany YMCA and the Albany Library  
For more information please contact Albany Library at 510-526-3720



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## FIELD TRIPS

### Go see Mount Diablo manzanita in flower

Saturday, February 4, 2017, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Curry Point on Mt. Diablo.

We will walk 4 miles round trip, from Curry point to Balancing rock, via the Knobcone point Road. 30 ft elevation gain, with 300 ft of ups and downs. Optional extra mile and one hour, returning via bootleg trail, and Blackhawk Ridge Road. Bring food for short lunch break.

We will go through woodland, non-native grasslands, chaparral areas, with Chaparral pea, Black sage, Manzanitas, Silk-tassle trees. We should see Mount Diablo manzanita, and Contra Costa Manzanita in flower, and maybe some Eastwood manzanita in flower, and Knobcone pines.

**Directions:** Take 680 to the Diablo Road exit, and go east on Diablo Road. At Green Valley Road, only one lane goes straight ahead. After Green Valley Road, go past and do not turn at the Diablo Country Club sign. In about a mile, turn left at the Mt. Diablo State Park sign. Continue to the end of Mt. Diablo Scenic Boulevard, which becomes South Gate Road as it enters the park. Be prepared to pay the fee

(now \$10?) at the main entrance station, or have your state parks pass ready. Continue for about a mile, and park at the large parking area at Curry Point, where we will meet. Remember to factor in about 20 minutes driving time from the base of the mountain to Curry point. Pet dogs, cats, pigs, tapirs, hedgehogs, and mongeese are not permitted at Mount Diablo State Park. Here is the link to the entry on Meetup with links, graphics, signup options and comments: <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/232135385/>

**Sunday, February 19, 2:00 pm, MacDonald Fire Road in Chabot Regional Park.** Meet at the MacDonald Staging Area on Redwood Road in Chabot Regional Park. Take Highway 13 south to Redwood Road exit, turn left onto Redwood Road after exiting, go over the hill. The MacDonald Staging Area is on the right about one mile into the valley. If you come to the entrance to Redwood Regional Park on the left or to Pinehurst Road, you have gone too far. We will look for woody plants, many of which should be in bloom, including western leatherwood. An uphill walk but not too strenuous. Meet at 2:00 pm. (We are walking south southeast towards Castro Valley, so if you are late, just catch p.) Trip leader: David Margolies (divaricatum@gmail.com, 510-393-1858).

## MORE PT. ISABEL PHOTOS BY JANE KELLY



Flooded berm and geese (left) and Ivy, Jessica, Shannon and the girls.

## DIRECTORY OF CHAPTER LEADERS

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president@ebcnps.org

Vice-President  
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david@hjulienidesigns.com

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Sue Duckles  
spduckle@uci.edu

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corresponding-secretary@ebcnps.org

Treasurer  
David Margolies  
510-654-0283  
treasurer@ebcnps.com

### Committees

Bay Leaf Newsletter  
Bay Leaf Editor and Webmaster  
Joe Willingham  
510-705-1798  
bayleaf@ebcnps.org  
webmaster@ebcnps.org

Bay Leaf Assistant Editor  
David Margolies  
510-654-0283  
dm@franz.com

Bay Leaf Mailing  
Holly Forbes  
510-234-2913 h  
510-643-8040 w

Bryophytes  
John Game, Bryophyte Liaison  
510-527-7855  
johngame34@gmail.com

Conservation  
Jean Robertson, Chair  
conservation-chair@

ebcnps.org  
Conservation Analyst  
Karen Whitestone  
conservation@ebcnps.org

Field Trips  
Janet Gawthrop, Chair  
janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

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funds-development-chair@ebcnps.org

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mtcatt@gmail.com

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info-infra-comm-chair@ebcnps.org

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Sally de Becker  
ebcnps-membership@ebcnps.org

Native Here Nursery Liaison  
Steve Toby  
plantfair@ebcnps.org

Outreach  
Lesley Hunt  
ldhunt@astound.net

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Sue Rosenthal, Chair  
510-496-6016  
programs@ebcnps.org

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dslakey@cnps.org

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Megan Keever, Co-Chair  
megan@stillwatersci.com

Nicole Jurjavcic, Co-Chair  
nicole@stillwatersci.com

Volunteer Coordinator  
Ruth Ann Pearsons  
rapearsons1@mac.com

### 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  
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Charli Danielsen, production manager  
charlid@pacbell.net

Penny Spear, infrastructure

Gudrun Kleist, bulbs

John Danielsen, propagule collection  
dnlsen@pacbell.net

Saige White, Nursery assistant  
swhite@cnps.com

Restoration Projects  
Leaders:  
Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve  
Janet Gawthrop, leader  
janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

John Muir NHS (Martinez)

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

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

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

Skyline Gardens  
Glen Schneider, leader  
skylinegardens@ebcnps.org

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

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*