

March 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

Wednesday, March 22, 7:30 pm

**Skyline Gardens: The East Bay's Richest Botanical Hotspot**

**Speaker: Glen Schneider**

Location: Edith Stone Room, Albany Library and Community Center (directions below)

Skyline Gardens is the section of East Bay MUD land between Tilden Park's Steam Train and the Caldecott Tunnel (Hwy 24). Along this 1,600-foot-elevation volcanic ridge and adjacent valleys—where the fog meets the heat—237 native plant species have been identified so far. Over the last year, the EBCNPS-sponsored Skyline Gardens Project has established that this area is the most botanically diverse area of its size (about 250 acres) in the entire East Bay. And as a result of recent invasive removals in the area (eucalyptus, thistles, hemlock, etc.), natives are regenerating in amazing numbers. Plants not seen in 100 years are popping up.

In addition to the botanical survey, the project holds restoration workdays on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings under permit from EBMUD. The project's volunteers have developed exciting new tools and mass techniques for removing invasives with the goal of eradicating all invasives (including the invasive seed bank in the soil) in this area.



Skyline Gardens and trilliums. Photos by G. Schneider

Glen will introduce us to this botanically rich and beautiful area and describe the project's methods and results. Glen will also lead a follow-up field trip to Skyline Gardens on April 1; see [meetup.com/ebcnps](http://meetup.com/ebcnps) for details.

Glen Schneider is an East Bay native and long-time CNPS member. His family farmed pears in the Martinez area and founded Orchard Nursery in Lafayette. He has been a native plant garden landscape designer/builder for over 40 years. His own garden of local native plants in Berkeley is on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour every year. For more information about the Skyline Gardens Project or to volunteer, contact [skylinegardens@ebcnps.org](mailto:skylinegardens@ebcnps.org).

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Edith Stone Room of the Albany Library and Community Center at 1249 Marin Ave. The Edith Stone Room is on the first floor of the building, accessible through the main lobby or from the parking lot behind the building. The Edith Stone 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 the Albany Library and Community Center at 1249 Marin Ave, Albany 94706:**

The Albany Library and Community Center is located on Marin Ave. six blocks east of San Pablo Ave. From I-80 or I-580, take the Buchanan St. exit and proceed east as Buchanan St. turns into Marin Ave. There is free parking in a small parking lot behind the library/community center building as well as free parking on the street.



## FIELD TRIPS

These tours have been rescheduled. Here are the new dates.

**Monvero Dunes Wildflower Tour - Saturday, March 11, 2017**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/monvero-dunes-wildflower-tour-tickets-31844988217>

**Right Angle Canyon Moreno Shale Wildflower Tour - Sunday, March 12, 2017**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/right-angle-canyon-moreno-shale-wildflower-tour-tickets-31848142652>

All tickets are free for these wildflower tours. Adults only need a ticket, children do not need a ticket.

Ryan E. O'Dell  
Natural Resource Specialist - Ecology:  
Bureau of Land Management, Central Coast Field Office,  
940 2nd Avenue, Marina, CA 93933  
(831) 582-2224  
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**Sunday, March 12, 9:30-noon**  
**Monday, March 13, 9:30-noon**  
**Wildflowers and Unusual Habitats of the Byron Area**  
Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wildflowers-and-unusual-habitats-of-the-byron-area-registration-32094151471>

Join us for this opportunity to hike and explore one of the newest additions to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy's Preserve System. This property was acquired in December 2016 in partnership with the East Bay Regional Park District. The property's alkali soils support populations of rare plants and the wetlands provide habitat for Fairy Shrimp and California Tiger Salamanders. Our hike will start along an old (under-maintained) ranch road for the first 1/2 mile and then continue along a typical ranch road. We will also have the opportunity to hike off-trail to get a closer look at some of the unusual features of the property.

This property is so new that we aren't sure what we will find blooming, though we are hopeful that our wet winter will result in beautiful spring displays. Distance: minimum 2+ miles round trip. Option to extend the hike based on pace and interest of group up to 4 miles round trip.

Difficulty: easy, generally flat terrain. Ground may be uneven, and depending on weather, a little muddy.

This hike is limited to 25 participants (all participants must register in advance.) If you are confirmed to participate, and then are not able to join us, please let us know so we can make your spot available to someone else. This docent led hike is

## BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES EVENTS

Follow this link to find out about spring workshops at Bringing Back the Natives on growing California native plants:

open to all ages and members of the public. Participants need to be comfortable walking on uneven ranch roads. This hike is not open to dogs (or other pets).

There are no facilities available at the hike start or during the hike. Bring everything you need to be safe and comfortable. Suggested items to bring include: water, snack, waterproof clothes (if rain is predicted), sturdy closed-toe shoes, sun protection (sunscreen, hat, etc), camera, binoculars (if you are a birder) and anything else you would bring on a hike. Trip leaders: Heath Bartosh, Senior Botanist, Nomad Ecology, Abby Fateman, Executive Director, East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy

NOTE: Directions to the hike start will be emailed to registered participants.

**Sunday March 12, 11:00 am, Bridgeview Trailhead into Dimond Canyon.** In the heart of Oakland, we will walk through Redwood Forests and into an oak and bay woodland overlooking Palo Seco Creek. We will see lush early spring displays of mosses, lichens, liverworts, and four species of fern. In addition to the trees we will see 20 to 30 species of native plants. Wear good hiking shoes and bring water and a light lunch or snack.

Meet at the Bridgeview Trailhead into Dimond Canyon. The Bridgeview Trailhead is on the west side of Monterey Blvd., about 1,500 feet south of Park Blvd. and just south of the Montclair Golf Course. Parking is free and unmetered on Monterey Blvd. The trip will cover about 2 miles. The path includes a portion going into and out of the canyon with steps and steep inclines. The other portion of the path is flat but the terrain can be uneven and rocky. Rain will cancel. Trip leader: Camille Nowell ([camille\\_fawne@hotmail.com](mailto:camille_fawne@hotmail.com), 510-295-9231)

**Sunday March 26, 2:00 pm, San Pedro County Park, Pacifica.** David Margolies will lead a walk at this park on the side of Montara Mountain. There should be plenty of flowers in bloom as well as shrubs, including coast silk tassel (*Garrya elliptica*) and California burning bush. Meet in the main parking lot near the visitor's center (be sure to pay the entrance fee). To get to the park, take highway 1 south from San Francisco to the south side of Pacifica. Turn east onto Linda Mar Blvd. and take it to the end. Turn right onto Oddstad Blvd. and go one block to the park entrance.

**Sunday, April 2 9:30 am**  
**First public hike on the Dainty Ranch, see separate article.**

[www.bringingbackthenatives.net/spring-2017-workshops](http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/spring-2017-workshops)

## ADOPT A RARE PLANT KICKOFF MARCH 18

**Adopt a Rare Plant Program 2017 Kickoff Meeting**  
**Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Wildcat Canyon Rd., Berkeley, CA 94708**  
**Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 12 pm**

The East Bay Chapter's Adopt a Rare Plant Program is holding its annual kickoff meeting this year at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, an appropriate location given that CNPS was founded at this garden. Both returning and new rare plant adopters are invited to attend but at least some previous plant ID experience is required. In this program, participants are asked to search for and document historical occurrences of their adopted rare plant (or plants) over the course of at least a year. In this way adopters are able to become experts on their adopted plants and gain important insights into the habitats where they occur as well as the threats to their long term survival. The Adopt a Rare Plant Program is a successful chapter-level effort of the larger statewide Rare Plant Treasure Hunt program run by CNPS, and has been providing important data to the California Natural Diversity Database since its inception by former rare plant chair Heath Bartosh several

## PLANT HIKE AT DAINTY RANCH SUNDAY APRIL 2

Join us on the first-ever public hike to explore Dainty Ranch in Briones Valley. Dainty Ranch was acquired in July 2014 by the East Bay Regional Park District and the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy. Briones Valley is an important wildlife corridor that provides a connection from Cowell Ranch/John Marsh State Park to Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve. The hike will be on the valley floor and follow Briones Valley Creek from one end of the property to the other.

### Hike details

**Date:** Sunday, April 2 at 9:30

**Distance:** Minimum 2+ miles round trip. Option to extend the hike based on pace and interest of group to explore other areas of the property accessible by fire road.

**Difficulty:** Easy, Generally flat terrain, fire road.



years ago. More information on the program is available at <http://ebcnps.org/native-plants/rare-plants/>

The meeting will include an overview of some of the East Bay region's rare plant flora, including a review of the species most in need of updated documentation. We will also go over some tools to help in both planning rare plant outings and documenting rare plants when out in the field. Perhaps more important, it will be a chance to meet some other rare plant adopters that participants can team up with. If you are interested in attending the meeting or want to join the group but can't attend, **RSVP to rare-plant-chair@ebcnps.org** (tentative RSVPs are fine if you are not sure you can attend). Coffee, pastries, and snacks will be provided for all participants, and rare plant adopters are welcome to check out the garden after the meeting

*Danny Slakey*  
East Bay Chapter Rare Plants Chair

**Capacity:** This hike is limited to the first 25 participants who register. If you are confirmed to participate and then are not able to join us, please let us know so we can make your spot available to someone else.

Trip leaders: David Margolies and Lesley Hunt, EBCNPS  
Abby Fateman, Executive Director, East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy

Directions to the hike start (vicinity of the intersection of Deer Valley Road and Marsh Creek Road) will be emailed to registered participants. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/explore-dainty-ranch-briones-valley-tickets-32340525382>

Dainty Ranch from adjacent property. We will be hiking on the valley floor.

## RESTORATION PROJECTS

**Saturday, March 4 and Saturday, March 18, 9:30 am, 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, [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

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

**Saturday, March 11, 2017, 9 am-noon Sabercat Creek Habitat Restoration, Site 3.**

If taking the trailhead from Via Orinda, go down the hill to the main trail (site 2 will be just in front of you) and turn left (head east) until you see another site to your right with cages and a mulch pile. If taking the trailhead at Quema Drive and Paseo Padre Pkwy, go down the slope to the main trail and turn right (head west) until you see a site to your left with cages and a mulch pile.

With the recent rains the soil is moist and soft, perfect for removing invasive plants, planting new native trees and shrubs, and caring for previously planted ones. Our work will help stabilize soils and creek banks, filter pollutants, increase native plant diversity, and improve food and shelter for wildlife. 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

Office phone #: 510-494-4589

**Sunday, March 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)).

**Sunday, March 5 and Sunday March 12, 9:00 am, Genista rip, Redwood Regional Park, Canyon Meadows picnic area**

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

The rain has 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.

**Saturday, March 18, 2017, 9:30 am-12:30, pm, Garber Park Workshop: The Waters of Garber Park. Presented by Lech Naumovich, Golden Hour Restoration Institute.** This springtime workshop will focus on creek stabilization techniques around waterways and drainages that can maintain the soil integrity. Join us and learn techniques - in the field e- that include an analysis of soil erosion, spiling, willow staking, and living fascines. We will focus on the Creek on the Claremont Avenue Trail, where we can see successes and discuss "lessons learned" from past erosion control efforts. We will also head over to Harwood Creek to examine several past efforts at erosion control on Upper Harwood Creek and take a look at the eroding Lower Harwood slope - suggestions for stabilization?

Dress in layers for the changing weather, wear boots or good sturdy shoes, and be ready to have fun while Learning with Lech about erosion control. Coffee, tea, and breakfast rolls will be ready by 9:15 am (under Shelagh's carport at the Evergreen Lane Entrance to Garber). Workshop begins at 9:30.

What to bring: We provide gloves, tools, and snacks, but if you have a sharp tool such as a hori hori, trowel, or clippers please bring them Also bring a water bottle to fill up from our water container. For more information and to RSVP contact Shelagh [garberparkstewards@gmail.com](mailto:garberparkstewards@gmail.com).

Directions: Many of you have been to Garber before and have your own favorite way of getting there, but for those who aren't familiar with the park directions can be found on our website [www.garberparkstewards.org](http://www.garberparkstewards.org). Click on Directions in the Menu Bar at the top. I recommend parking at the Claremont Avenue Entrance and walking up the trail, which takes you past Fern Glade and Fireplace Plaza to the Evergreen Lane Hillside.

*Shelagh Brodersen*

Volunteer Coordinator, Garber Park Stewards

Email: [garberparkstewards@gmail.com](mailto:garberparkstewards@gmail.com)

Blog: [www.garberparkstewards.org](http://www.garberparkstewards.org)

## RESTORATION PROJECTS CONTINUED

**Sunday, March 19, 9 am, Sibley Regional Park** Meet us at the Oakland side parking lot off the right side of Skyline, a few hundred meters north of the Huckleberry lot. There we will look at the Sibley-to-Tilden trail and decide if we should walk to the worksite or carpool to the Old Tunnel Road staging area. This rainy winter has made for easy removal of French broom but sometimes also reduces the trails to a deep clay slurry. You can park at Old Tunnel Road staging area and walk to the worksite if you already have your own gloves, tools and water. However, if you are new to this worksite please email either [janetgawthrop47@gmail.com](mailto:janetgawthrop47@gmail.com) or [sibley@ebparks.org](mailto:sibley@ebparks.org) so that we know where and when to expect you. If you walk in on the asphalt path from the parking lot, be sure to turn off to the worksite before the pavement turns left and uphill, away from the patch of milk thistles and young coast live oaks. Send an e-mail if these directions do not make sense.

## CONSERVATION ANALYST APPEAL: OUR GOAL IS MET!

Our generous members and friends have donated over \$40,000 to sustain our Conservation Analyst for the year 2017!

We also received donations specified to support other Chapter activities which are very much appreciated and needed.

Heartfelt thanks to all below for your donations received since September 2016:

Ann Adams, John Alcorn, Mary Alderson, Patrice Anderson, Stephen Asztalos, Laura Baker and Lewis Lubin, James Barse, Stephen Batchelder, Laura Beckett, Judy Bendix, Bennett Berke, David Bigham and Howard Arendtson, Terry Blair, Elinor Blake, Peter Boffey, Fred Booker, Barbara and Robert Brandriff, Leslie Brandt, Shelagh and Bob Brodersen, Zelda Bronstein, Margaret Brostrom, Brenda Buxton and Stephen Walsh, California Wildlife Foundation, Bob Case, Carmen Castain, Albert Chung, Jean Circiello, Patricia Coffey, Carol and Robert Coon, Rosemary Corbin, Margot Cunningham, Frances Dahlquist, Linda and Tom Dalton, Charli and John Danielsen, Elizabeth Davidson, William Davis, Sally de Becker, Adrienne Debisschop, Barbara Dengler, Mark Detterman, Linda Downing, Lisa and John Doyen, Frances Dupont, Chris Erickson, Barbara Errter, Leesa Evans, Ron-

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**Saturday, March 25, Friends of Albany Hill** March 25 join Friends of Albany Hill for the last Saturday of the month work party, 9:30-11:30am. 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. Free t-shirts for participants. For more info: [friendsalbanhill@gmail.com](mailto:friendsalbanhill@gmail.com)

*Margot Cunningham*

Friends of Albany Hill

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

Nielsen, Camille Nowell, Roberta O'Grady, Christine O'Rourke Gaber, Elizabeth O'Shea, Hazel Olbrich, Jana Olson, Sharon Orderman, Patricia Overshiner, Carol Pacht, Lisa and Andy Paterson, Karen Paulsell, Anita Pearson, Sandia Pearson, Mildred Petersen, Jerry Powell, Donna Preece, Genevieve Prlain, Karen Putz, Douglas and Alma Raymond, Krehe and Katherine Ritter, Jean Robertson, Jean Rochlin, Sue Rosenthal, Dick Schneider and Schneider Foundation, Judy Schwartz, Susan Schwartz, Brenda Senturia, Mardí Sicular-Mertens, Jake Sigg, Shirleymae and Igor Skaredoff, Doris Sloan, Karen Smith, Elizabeth Sojourner, Robert Sorenson, Linda Spahr, Nicki Spillane, Alfred Stansbury, Emilie Strauss, John Sutake, Sylvia Sykora, Sylvia Sykora Associates, Delia and John Taylor, Scott Taylor, Jean Thomas, Steve Toby, Laurie Umeh, John Underhill, Elizabeth Varnhagen, Mardi and Michael Veiluva, Elizabeth and Craig Wahl, Jeanne Walpole, Joyce Walton, Phoebe Watts, Alison and Dale Webber, Karen Wetherell, Shirley White, Kitty Whiteside, Susan Wickham, Doris and Joe Willingham, Christina Wistrom, Elaine Worthington-Jackson, Suk-Ann Yee, Bill and Mary Alice Yund, David Zippin, Roberta Zorzynski

## POINT ISABEL RESTORATION

It has been raining. But you know that. The reservoirs are filling, but we've still got a way to go to fill the aquifers. The California Department of Water Resources – about which we've been hearing a lot as a result of concerns about the condition of California's dams (1,400) and reservoirs (1,300) – also keeps track of groundwater which is also re-charging, albeit more slowly. If you like maps, check out DWR's groundwater status maps – here's how it looks for 2014-15: [http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/maps\\_and\\_reports/MAPS\\_CHANGE/DOTMAP\\_F2015-F2014.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/maps_and_reports/MAPS_CHANGE/DOTMAP_F2015-F2014.pdf)

All good, of course, for our native plants but the rain is like a steroid for the non-native plants that we are trying to cull at Pt. Isabel. Our strategy at this point is to clear the weeds away from the new plantings so that we don't lose track of them. Speaking of keeping things clear – it's time for a shout out for Rob Kirby, Jr. our own "waste management" volunteer extraordinaire! Rob keeps Rydin Road and that part of the Bay Trail spotless which is an incredible achievement. Strangely, we still have folks who come out and find it hard to get their litter into a garbage can. We do have "campers" who do not always pick up after themselves, and truckers waiting to haul mail who forget to take their truck part replacements and food containers back home with them. Even so, Rob and his "picker" can be seen out on Rydin Road regularly hauling away just about everything that gets left behind. His efforts have been an important element in keeping the area attractive to both humans and wildlife. By keeping the trash out of Hoffman Marsh, we can be assured that the marsh remains an important habitat for the animals that rely on it.

Apropos the impacts of trash on habitat, we were lucky to have our excellent Park Ranger, Bruce Adams, nearby when a



Horned Grebe became trapped in discarded fish netting in the Hoffman Channel. Bruce rescued the Grebe and took her/him to Wildcare in San Rafael which handled the initial intake and stabilization. The patient chart at Wildcare recorded that our Grebe was "super stabby" when they examined it. That made us proud! Wildcare transferred our Grebe to the International Bird Rescue in Fairfield that specializes in shore birds and has a pool in which the birds can swim while recuperating. In Fairfield, our Grebe buddied up with another Horned Grebe that had arrived for treatment and we saw them both happily swimming around on the webcam <https://www.bird-rescue.org/birdcams/live-san-francisco-bay-center.aspx>. Our Grebe had minor injuries on its legs and on a wing and Bird Rescue will decide where to release it once it is healed. Wildcare and International Bird Rescue are fabulous organizations.

Kudos to our youngest Steward, Oliver Schoening, for his energetic and consistent support and thanks to all the amazing volunteers without whom the project would not succeed. We thank EBRPD Ranger Andrew Derrer, who is always encouraging of our efforts and who brought us a slew of tools for our rescheduled work party on February 11. We'd also like to acknowledge the City of Richmond and staffers Greg Hardesty and Shannon Elliott for their prompt response to a Caltrans error in mowing our Adopt-a-Spot at the corner of Rydin Road and Central Avenue. Some plants survived the well intentioned clean up, but a lot of the plants and wildflowers were lost. Greg got Caltrans out there promptly to assess the damage and agree to replace the plants.

*Jane and Tom Kelly*

The youngest Point Isabel steward, Oliver Schoening. Photo by Jane Kelly.

## MORE POINT ISABEL PHOTOS



Above, volunteer Rob Kirby. Photo by Jane Kelly.



Above right, Ranger Adams with a horned grebe. Right: a close-up of the horned grebe. Photos by Lewis Payne.



## A NOTE FROM THE UNUSUAL PLANTS CHAIR

As we get into the blooming season after this very wet winter I would like to encourage everyone to make good use of our Chapter database, Rare, Unusual, and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, now that it is online.

You can use it to find what rare and unusual plants occur in your area or along your favorite trails and help us monitor those plants. You can also look up historical populations that have not been seen or reported for 25 years or more and help us look for and update them. Or if you have a favorite rare or unusual species you can find where it occurs in our two counties and help us monitor those populations.

The status and knowledge of our rare and locally rare plants depend on the data we receive from our members and other plant enthusiasts and professionals. We need input on your observations and the results of your monitoring efforts of these rare and unusual populations so that we can continue to update the database and keep it useful as a tool for land management and planning agencies, conser-

vationists, academics, and researchers, as well as the casual hiker.

Monitoring and knowing the state of our local flora is more important now than ever before, given the dire situation in Washington and its attitude towards the health of our natural resources and environment.

The database is accessible through the Chapter website under the Plant Sciences tab. There is a user agreement and short registration form, and you can also request an "Add Observations" form that just requires a few extra questions so we can assess your plant identification skills. When you first access the database there is a Documentation tab that will help you understand how the database works and how to use it. It also explains the concept of "unusual" plants and why they are important; our Chapter ranking system and criteria; a map; and descriptions of our region and location systems.

*Dianne Lake*



Tidytips (*Layia* sp). Photo taken near Byron in east Contra Costa County. See field trips article on page 2.

## DIRECTORY OF CHAPTER LEADERS

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### EBCNPS sponsored activities

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*