



DECEMBER 2016

The Bay Leaf

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY + EAST BAY CHAPTER
ALAMEDA & CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES

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LETTER FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

The East Bay Chapter is the oldest and largest chapter of the California Native Plant Society, with a deep and lasting commitment to the protection and appreciation of native plants, especially in the East Bay. We encourage the appreciation of native plants in their local habitats – through field trips and restoration projects – and throughout the state – through our fascinating membership programs. Another form of appreciation is our vibrant native plant growing program, Native Here Nursery. This unique nursery grows only ethically collected seed and cuttings from native East Bay plants, and makes them available to restorationists, landscapers, and home gardeners.

We seek to deepen our understanding of native plants and to share this knowledge with others – through surveys and monitoring of our rare plants, developing and maintaining our innovative database of unusual and significant plants in the East Bay, and through studies of the structure and relationships of natural communities. CNPS is widely regarded as the primary source for objective, science-based knowledge about native plants in California. We take this reputation seriously, and strive always to be accurate, complete and generous with our knowledge.

The third element of our chapter activities is conservation. One might say this is the meeting place of heart and mind.

Plant science provides the knowledge and understanding. Concern for the future of our natural environment and future generations provides the spark, the passion to speak out. We advocate for protection of native plants during the environmental review process, resource planning review, at environmental forums of all kinds. We seek to form alliances with organizations who value native plants and their habitats, and who rely on our expertise. When necessary we remind agencies of their obligations to protect natural resources, even when short-term gains would have them do otherwise. In the long run, what's good for native plants is good for people too.

In the articles that follow, leaders of various programs in our chapter describe their activities and how you can participate. I hope you will find something here that interests you, and that brings you closer to appreciating and protecting our native plants. Please consider joining us – for a field trip; following a conservation issue that's important to you; lending a hand on a restoration project; or volunteering at Native Here Nursery. Some of our activities require knowledge of native plants, but most ask only that you give some time, a willingness to learn, and a little of your heart.

Barbara Leitner
President, East Bay Chapter
California Native Plant Society



Conservation Committee meeting November 2016 L to R Marcia Kolb, Beth Wurzburg, Karen Whitestone, Jean Robertson, David Bigham, Peter Rauch, Judy Schwartz, Janet Gawthrop. Photo by Barbara Leitner.

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

East Bay CNPS Members' Meetings are great for:

- * Learning about native plants (and wildlife) and their habitats
- * Virtually visiting beautiful and interesting places
- * Being inspired by conservation challenges and success stories
- * Meeting nice people who share your interests

Our meetings are always free and open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike. We meet at 7:30 pm on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month in January-May and September-November, with a slight adjustment in the schedule to avoid Thanksgiving week. Most of our meetings take place at the Orinda Library or Orinda Community Center, which are centrally located in our big, two-county chapter area.

We welcome your ideas for topics or speakers (some of our best programs have come from members' suggestions), so please feel free to contact Programs chair Sue Rosenthal with your ideas (programs@ebcnps.org or 510-496-6016).

Here's what's coming up in the next few months:

December: No meeting (happy holidays!)

January 25, 7:30 pm Orinda Library Garden Room: Photo Sharing Night!

East Bay CNPS photo sharing nights are eye-popping, educational, and just plain fun. Everyone is invited to share photos or video of hikes, trips and adventures, gardens, landscapes, work parties, flora, fauna, plant art, you name it! Come to share your images or just to enjoy those that others bring. Nonmembers are welcome to present and/or enjoy, and both

amateur and pro photographers are invited and appreciated.

Guidelines:

1. **IMPORTANT:** Contact Sue Rosenthal at programs@ebcnps.org or 510-496-6016 by January 18 if you want to show photos or video.

2. Each presenter will have time for up to 20 images (or up to 7 minutes of video). Bring photos you think will appeal to native plant and nature lovers.

Provide your images in advance so we can save time during the meeting:

* Prior to the meeting date, upload your digital images, PowerPoint, or video to an online Dropbox set up especially for this meeting. This will reduce the time needed for transferring photos on the night of the meeting. Dropbox can accommodate large file sizes.

* When you contact Sue (by January 18), you'll receive a link to the Dropbox and instructions on how to upload your photos or video. If you haven't used Dropbox before, rest assured that it's easy to upload images (and less stressful than trying to do it via flash drive on the night of the meeting).

* Prints are also welcome: We'll have a table on which you can display them.

February 22, 7:30 pm, Orinda Library Garden Room

Camille Nowell: North American Redbuds: a study of evolution and adaptation.

UNUSUAL PLANTS COMMITTEE

The Unusual Plants Committee's crowning achievement has been the on-line launch this year of its database *Rare, Unusual, and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties*. When it started tracking its locally rare plants way back in the 1980's the East Bay Chapter was the first to do so. Its database was begun in the early 1990's and finally became available for public access in March of 2016. Our members and the general public can now search for the rare and locally rare plants that occur in our two counties. The database has already proved very helpful in several conservation issues, and it also enables botanists, CNPS members, students, volunteers, and other

interested people to learn more about our locally rare plants and to determine where to focus monitoring and research efforts. The database can be accessed from the Chapter website, www.ebcnps.org, under the Plant Science & Conservation tab.

Dianne Lake

Chair, Unusual Plants Committee
East Bay Chapter CNPS
diannelake@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEER FROM HOME FOR NATIVE HERE

You can set your own hours. You can even work in your pajamas!

We need a person who will coordinate Native Here volunteers for our occasional sale weekends. This can be done from your home computer. We have email addresses of people who are interested in volunteering as well as a sample email and tally sheet. What is needed is someone who can send out email

requests, receive replies and let our manager, Amy, know who is available.

If this interests you, please contact Steve Toby at stevetoby@comcast.net.

I promise lots of support!

THE PULSE OF NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Thanks to a dedicated collecting team a wealth of seeds and cuttings are available to work with. This means that new plants are constantly available for sale; Native Here Nursery is truly a living entity, with a pulse unique to each species we propagate.

Partly due to so much collection, when we sow seeds (usually a few days each month) smaller batches of each species are used, reserving more seed for future months. As the seeds germinate, teams of volunteers pot them into small containers, carefully recording the date last handled. After six weeks or so in small containers plants are ready either to be put out for sale or potted into larger containers. In turn, after six weeks in the larger containers, plants can be put out for sale. By that time, another round of seeds has been sown, generating a “pulse” for each species.

Let’s look at the status of one favorite plant, *Sidalcea malviflora*: As of the middle of October, there are still some seeds unown, other seeds germinating, plants with two or more true leaves being potted into 4” containers, and more mature plants in one- and two-gallon containers. Some of the one-gallon and two-gallon plants are on the sales floor, while others are developing stronger root systems. After the October 22-23 sale, there were one-gallon plants ready to restock the sales floor for November.

FIELD TRIP TO SEE FETID ADDER’S TONGUE

Sunday, January 8, 2017, 2:00 pm, field trip to Huddart County Park to see Fetid Adder’s Tongue

Location: Huddart County Park, 1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside (San Mateo County) California.

Meet in the parking lot just past the pay station. David Margolies (510-393-1858 cell, divaricatum@gmail.com) will lead a hike on the Crystal Springs Trail where fetid adder’s tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii*, Liliaceae) usually blooms in early January.

MYRTLE WOLF SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

The chapter has an educational grant fund named in honor of the late Myrtle Wolf, a long time member and supporter of the CNPS. The chapter just made two grants for student research. One goes to Will Freyman and Isaac H. Lichter-Marck, both of

So if you are looking for a particular plant keep checking our online inventory, which is updated as often as possible, at least monthly. Just because a plant has “sold out” when you visit, does not mean it won’t be available the next month or season. You can also ask staffers to check the inventory of “coming attractions” to estimate when specific taxa will likely be available for purchase.

Want to learn more and be part of this Pulse? Volunteers are always needed to keep this process going. No experience necessary. Just log on to NativeHere.org and look for the Volunteer tab.

Collection team: John Danielsen, Lisa Lackey, Jane Kelly, Dave Caniglia, Staci Hobbet, Jennifer Roe, Margot Cunningham, Gudrun Kleist, Beth Keer, Barbara Leitner, Lesley Hunt.

Potting and seed sowing volunteers: Sara Goolsby, Nancy Marriner, Marilyn Reynolds, Jane Kelly, Claudia, Nikki, Courtney, and the energetic student volunteers from Maybeck, Campolindo, Miramonte, Albany and Berkeley High Schools.

Charli Danielsen, Production Manager

(In most locations outside botanical gardens it blooms in late January or early February. We have seen it here most every year except 2013 and 2016.) This is a gentle trail, losing about 200 feet over about 1/2 mile to the creek. We will walk to the creek and then return the same way. It is unlikely that there will be any other flowers out this early, but the fetid adder’s tongue’s presence tells us that the new flower season has started. (Other plants out of flower will also be identified.) The area is second growth redwood and mixed evergreen forest.

UC Berkeley, to study the phylogenomics of the rock daisies (tribe Perityleae). The other to Adam Schneider and Yun Jee Lee, also of Berkeley, to study the molecular systematics and evolution of *Arceuthobium* (a genus in the mistletoe family).

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Our 2016 outreach activities focused on native plant gardening and conservation. We tabled at one new venue (Rossmoor) and gave talks at the Dublin Library, Rossmoor, and the Pleasant Hill Instructional Garden. We also led a wildflower walk in Rossmoor for the new people we had signed up.

Helping at an outreach event is a great way to share your enthusiasm for native plants and CNPS. You don’t need

to know all the answers – experienced people will be there to help. Events occur all over our two counties, so there will be something near you, and of course there’s no requirement to attend them all. If you’re interested in participating, write to me at ldhunt@astound.net or phone 925-937-6791.

Lesley Hunt
Outreach Chair

A MESSAGE FROM THE CONSERVATION CHAIR

I've been thinking on the topic of public service, of what motivates us to volunteer, why we contribute our time and attention, our energy, our money to causes we believe in.

One friend and fellow Conservation Committee member said simply that he was raised in a tradition of public service. "It's part of my family culture, it's what you do". He elaborated by adding that "there are happy side benefits, like making the acquaintance of good people..."

For me it always circles back to wanting to put some of my particular gifts towards benefitting the whole; it is about the fabric of life, the fabric of community, the health of the planet. For me it is about weaving a beautiful tapestry by threading one strand, one tiny, modest strand at a time. I think volunteer contributions can be symbolic as well as practical. If I chip in to this cause, say monetarily, (even when I personally do not have the bandwidth to more actively engage), I am throwing my lot in with that effort. I am expanding my reach by aligning myself with a project that is meaningful to me, or that I wish to be a part of, or that I think is pretty great.

And though very few of us will accomplish huge changes on our own, on a regional, national or planetary scale, many of us working together can accomplish much of great significance. It is not enough to wish for things to be better while quietly crying into one's soup. In my view, public service, volunteering is a lot like love. Most everyone wants love in their lives, yet the actual power of love is most deeply felt when we love, when we are active channels for love and for goodness to flow through us.

Volunteering seems to work much the same way. When we are actively engaged in contributing something we believe is beneficial to the whole, then we uplift ourselves, which in turn uplifts the whole, and round it goes. We all want things to be better in one realm or another, but when we actively participate, including in the tiniest, most modest, even ordinary ways, then we benefit doubly – first from simply contributing to the greater good (however we see it), and secondly from the results of our collective actions, which are not always predictable but are often beneficial).

And of course we gain many side benefits such as making friends, learning and honing skills such as computer use, communicating effectively, and practicing creative problem solving.)

Speaking of uplifting, I have been listening to an audio book called "Notorious RBG", about Ruth Bader Ginsburg, one of our eminent Supreme Court justices. Ginsburg has seen much injustice in the world and she has used her abilities (specifically hard work and a brilliant mind), to help change things. She encourages people to "work for what you believe in". She also says: "although the forces of apathy, selfishness, or anxiety that one is already over-extended, are not easy to surmount", RBG urges us "to repair tears in the fabric wherever we can".

I love that phrase "repairing tears in the fabric". We can all be weavers of the fabric and repairers of the fabric.

In my day to day actions with CNPS, I am often doing things I do not particularly love: being online, reading documents, attending meetings, talking on the phone, responding to emails. Sometimes these tasks are just fine and perfectly enjoyable. But often they seem inconvenient, tedious. However, I do like the results of these efforts: that we have spread relevant information to a bunch of folks who have then contacted their planning commissioners, and that in turn has led to re-thinking of plans which in turn perhaps saves dozens or hundreds of native oak trees in urban Oakland (for example). Or perhaps we are working on a 10 or 20 year project of preserving 3,000 acres of open space in eastern Alameda County. Think of special and even ordinary open spaces that you go to now: Mt. Diablo State Park, Pt. Isabel, Eastshore/McLaughlin State Park (formerly the funky bits of shoreline along the Berkeley/Albany edges). Those places have been set aside for nature and for the public because of efforts of many people coming together to make it happen. Quite often, CNPS has been a key player in these efforts! Sometimes we invest a lot of energy and passion and do not end up preserving the plant life and the open space. Sometimes what we end up with is very discouraging. But we learn from these efforts, and the next time we take on a conservation project, or contribute to an effort, we may very well have success and make marvelous gains.

There are decisions we make every day that do not necessarily reflect our desire to be a part of the greater good or to chip in to things we believe in. How wonderful then, that there are many actions and organizations and efforts that we can align ourselves with. How great that there are things we can chip in to, that truly reflect our desires to do some good, to bring some benefit to our world. This is the power of the group. This is why I am so grateful for the opportunity to be part of CNPS's amazing efforts and good works.

Jean Robertson
Conservation Chair
East Bay Chapter, CNPS
conservation-chair@ebcnps.org



Conservation Analyst Karen Whitestone and Conservation Chair Jean Robertson.

CANDIDATES FOR CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There are five elected officers on the Board of Directors: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary. As often happens, there is just one candidate for each position but please do vote! Voting

Beth Wurzburg, candidate for chapter President. As a child Beth Wurzburg fell in love with nature and decided that the best way to study it was to become a scientist. After a career in basic research, she is delighted to be spending more time in the outdoors again, exploring California's wild places. She moved to California and became a member of CNPS in 2008, and started doing conservation work in East Bay parks. She was active in the effort to save Knowland Park and continues to advocate for saving our wild places. She has served as the EBCNPS's Vice President for the past two years.

David Bigham, candidate for chapter Vice President, was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1950. His family moved to Fair Oaks, California in 1957. He moved to Berkeley in 1967 to attend UC Berkeley and graduated with a BA in Landscape Architecture. He became a Licensed LA in 1986. He is in private design practice with a mostly residential clientele. He joined CNPS in 1968. He has long been an active hiker and wild places enthusiast. Over the years he has served in various roles in local and State CNPS.

David Margolies, candidate for chapter Treasurer, was born in Washington DC and moved to California in 1970 to attend graduate school at UC Berkeley, where he was awarded a PhD in Mathematics in 1977. After working at a government lab for some years, in 1985 he joined Franz Inc., a local software company, where he has worked ever since. He became interested in plants as an adult and learned about them from Glenn Keator, taking courses at the California Academy of Sciences. He is an active volunteer at the Jepson/UC Herbaria and regularly takes Jepson courses. He joined CNPS in the 1990s, and soon started giving field trips for the chapter. He has been assistant editor of the *Bay Leaf* for some years and treasurer of the chapter since 2010. He lives in Oakland.

Sue Duckles, candidate for chapter Recording Secretary, a biomedical scientist, grew up in Oakland, close to Redwood Park, where she developed a life-long love of wild places. After a career as a medical school Professor, Sue and her husband returned to Oakland, where she spends her time maintaining a large native plant garden reclaimed from an ivy covered hillside, volunteering at Native Here Nursery, with Friends of Joaquin Miller Park, and as a Weed Warrior in Regional Parks. Sue has served as EBCNPS Recording Secretary for the last three years.

Clara Gerdes, candidate for chapter Corresponding Secretary, has been a member of the California Native Plant Society for a number of years and the Corresponding Secretary since 2014. Clara has been a dedicated volunteer for restoration projects in Redwood Regional, Huckleberry and Sibley regional parks, where she wields her weed wrench with enthusiasm. Clara gained her appreciation for the outdoors and the environment from her mother, taking long walks along the paths and woodlands of western Michigan.

indicates your support for the direction and efforts of the chapter. (You may also write in other candidates if desired.) The candidates are listed below along with brief biographies.



NEW CNPS FELLOW DIANNE LAKE

Two New CNPS Fellows from East Bay Chapter

We are pleased to announce that two of our members have been awarded the highest honor of the California Native Plant Society. Dianne Lake and Joe Willingham have been named as Fellows in appreciation of their extraordinary accomplishments towards understanding, appreciation and preservation of California Native Plants.

Dianne Lake –a Pioneer in the Locally Rare Plant Concept

As a member of CNPS for more decades than she can remember and of the East Bay Chapter for 28 years, you may be surprised to know that Dianne is a self-taught botanist. She has a BA degree in journalism from St. Bonaventure University in New York. But the academic rigor required prepared her for life-long learning. She gained her knowledge of the East Bay flora from chapter field trips, classes from Peralta and Merritt College, conversations with botanists, a lot of keying, and hikes with her children to wherever the bus would take her.

By the late 1980's Dianne was Co-Chair of the Chapter's Rare Plant Committee and participating in rare plant surveys every Sunday year around. She and her cohorts started noticing that certain native plants were common, others seen only occasionally, and others very rarely. She decided that a list should be made of the plants that were known in five or fewer locations. There was a collaborative effort to find more information from the Chapter plant lists, East Bay Regional

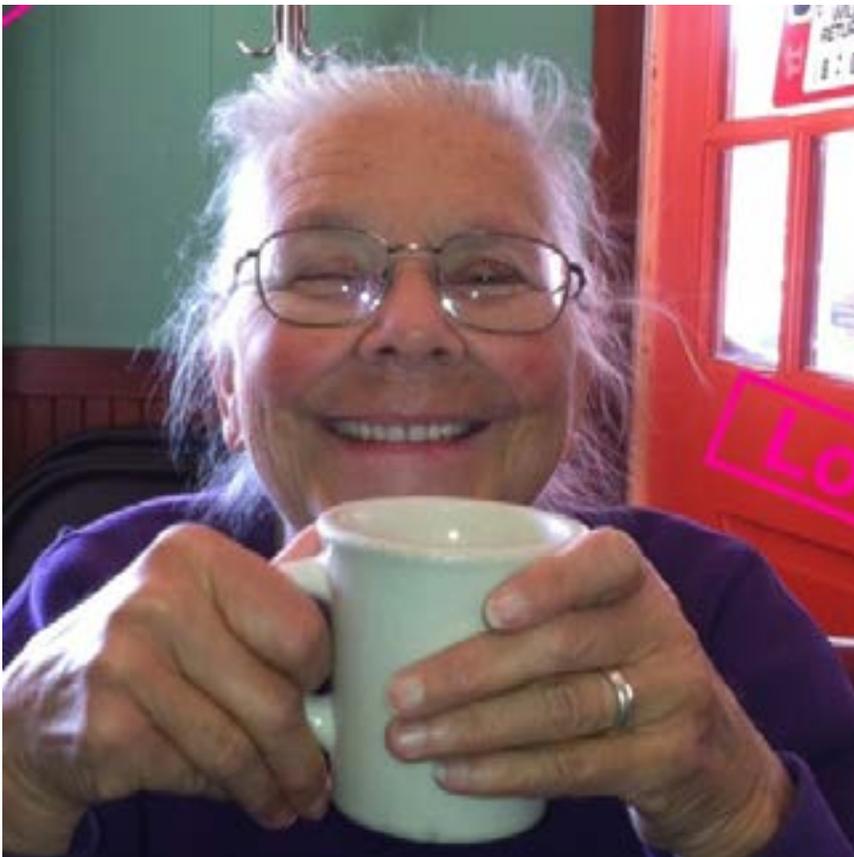
Parks, Environmental Impact Reports, field notes, herbarium vouchers, and conversations with other botanists. There were 861 plants on the first locally rare plant list. The effort was the very first in California, a decade before anyone else in California.

In order to make the list manageable and meaningful, Dianne, after much research and many consultations, developed a ranking system and placed them within 40 botanical regions in our two counties. The information was converted into a database, and eight hardcopy editions of *Unusual and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties* were produced between 1992 and 2010. In 2016, Gregg Weber converted the database to an online form and made it available through the ebcnps.org website. Dianne and Gregg monitor its use and continue to make updates.

The lists have proved to be invaluable for conservation efforts, consultants, land managers, municipal and county governments, and amateur botanists. Our Chapter uses the lists to define botanically rich areas, and therefore areas that should remain undeveloped. The City of Richmond added Dianne's locally rare plant species to their General Plan to be considered as priorities for protection, importantly for Point Molate which is currently threatened by massive development.

Since 1988, Dianne has tracked approximately 1014 plant taxa, made at least 4000 observations, and compiled 18,000 observations from 1050 people. She has made numerous discoveries of plant populations. She did this largely on her own, with some assistance from the East Bay Chapter and her husband Michael. She has inspired others in the field of locally rare plants, and created a guiding document titled "Establishing a Locally Rare Plants Program for Your Chapter" which is available on the state CNPS website. Dianne led numerous field surveys over the years, served on the Chapter Board for 28 years, and participated in local conservation efforts such as the successful campaign to save Franklin Canyon, where there are nine locally rare plants.

Dianne's indefatigable interest in improving the quantity and quality of data for her East Bay locally rare plant program is an inspiration to us all. She is a humble hero of the East Bay flora. Through her work our knowledge of the East Bay flora has been enriched exponentially. No one knows the secret nooks and hallowed hollows where our most beloved floral denizens reside better than Dianne Lake.



Diane Lake. Photo by Michael Lake.

NEW CNPS FELLOW JOE WILLINGHAM

Joe Willingham – Plantsman and Tech Guru

How did Joe, who grew up in Macon, Georgia, whose summer jobs were at Willingham Sash and Door Company where architectural woodwork was milled on site, who majored in philosophy, minored in French and English at Tulane, end up loving California native plants?

It has to begin with Joe meeting Doris, a German citizen, at the Sorbonne in Paris. They were 20 years old. There was a long distance romance, a summer at the Goethe Institute after graduation, marriage in Macon and on to New York City for Joe to study philosophy. These were the unsettled times of the late 60's and early 70's, there was a lot of demonstrating, Joe found it hard to keep on the PhD track and besides, they really didn't like living in New York. So, what would a good radical do? Move to Berkeley and live in a commune! And that is what they did. But commune life didn't work out the way they hoped, so they moved to an apartment. Doris got a job as a legal secretary. Doris' and Joe's friend Dodge Ely and Joe decided to go into the landscaping business together. At that time, the hottest trend in landscaping was to use California natives. So Joe took a class through University Extension called "Landscaping with California Natives" taught by David Bigham in 1977. And that is where Joe learned about CNPS and began his deep interest California native plants.

Joe continued his landscaping business after the partners went their separate ways. A garden in Piedmont shows what Joe loves to do. When he started, there was good oak woodland but many Black Acacias, ivy, and weeds over several acres.

The oak woodland remained, un-watered of course, and local understory plants were added from Native Here Nursery. Over time, all of the acacias, ivy and weeds were removed, and nine pounds of Judith Lerner wildflower seeds were sown, making a spectacular spring show. Joe joined CNPS in 1977 and began his rambles in the local parks, especially Las Trampas and Black Diamond Mines. In 1987 he joined the East Bay Chapter Board of Directors and has been active ever since holding just about every position--President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Rare Plants Chair, Conservation Chair. He also served on the State CNPS board and Chapter Council. In 2002 he became the co-editor of the *Bay Leaf* newsletter, and since 2003 he has been the editor. Converting newsletter contributions from email to print was a learning experience. Phoebe Watts and Brett Boltz helped as well as the printers and their customers. In 2005, Joe created the Chapter's website and then a website for Native Here Nursery. Joe continues to serve the Chapter as web master and editor of the newsletter with able assistance from David Margolies.

The Chapter is very grateful for Joe's continuous dedication to the newsletter and website, keeping up the quality and trying his best to meet the deadlines, and his forgiveness when contributions come in late. We are also grateful for his ability to change with the times and technology. Joe and Doris have been gracious hosts for countless mailing parties and meetings in the Willingham's lovely home, always providing delicious wine and treats for the volunteers. Everyone loves Joe!

Heath Bartosh and Delia Taylor



Joe and Doris Willingham. Photo by Delia Taylor.

CONSERVATION ANALYST APPEAL MAKES PROGRESS

We are doing really well with our 2017 appeal but we need \$8000 more to meet our goal of \$40,000, enough to pay Karen's half-time salary. We need to keep our professional Conservation Analyst, Karen Whitestone, on our team!

Please join the generous members and friends below by writing a check to CNPS, and mail to: EBCNPS, Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley, CA 94705 or go to the chapter website (www.ebcnps.org) and contribute via PayPal. We are a 501 (c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible! Thank you!

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

Ann Adams, John Alcorn, Howard Arendtson, Laura Baker, Stephen Batchelder, David Bigham, Terry Blair, Barbara and Robert Brandriff, Shelagh and Bob Broderson, Loretta Brooks, Margaret Brostrom, Bennett Burke, Brenda Buxton, Bob Case, Carmen Castain, Albert Chung, Patricia Coffey, Carol and Robert Coon, Margot Cunningham, Frances Dahlquist, Linda and Tom Dalton, Charli and John Danielsen, Elizabeth Davidson, William Davis, Adrienne Debisschop, Barbara Dengler, Mark Detterman, Linda Downing, Lisa and John Doyen, Leesa Evans, Theo Fitanides, Holly Forbes, Gerald Ford, Norman Frank, Gordon and Jutta Frankie, Jane Freeman, Christopher and Christine Gaber, David Gilpin, Sara Goolsby, The Greenberg Family Trust, Ann Gurbaxani, Michele Hammond, Jim Hanson,

Miao He, Ellen and Barry Hecht, Charles Heimstadt, Daniel Hill, Ann Holzhueter, Russell Huddleston, Robin Hunter, Ashok Jethanandani, Robert Jolda, Nicole Jurjavcic, Jane and Tom Kelly, John Kenny, Brian and Gail Kerss, Arti Kirch, Gudrun Kleist, Marcia Kolb, Arvind Kumar, Eve Lednický, Frankie Lee, Barbara and Phil Leitner, Evelyne and David Lennette, Ed Leong, Vera Lis, David Loeb, Lewis Lubin, Cinda MacKinnon, Matthew Madison, Tamia Marg, David Margolies, Jo McCondochie, Shirley McPheeters, Liza and Nicholas Mealy, Jon Merkle, Louise Miller, Lynn and Eric Miller, Caroline Moyer, Sheldon Nelson, Linda Newton, Roberta O'Grady, Elizabeth O'Shea, Hazel Olbrich, Jana Olson, Sharon Orderman, Patricia Overshiner, Anita Pearson, Sandia Pearson, Mildred Petersen, Donna Preece, Genevieve Prlain, Douglas and Alma Raymond, Jean Robertson, Sue Rosenthal, Judy Schwartz, Brenda Senturia, Mardi Sicular-Mertens, Jake Sigg, Shirleymae and Igor Skaredoff, Karen Smith, Robert Sorenson, Linda Spahr, Nicki Spillane, Alfred Stansbury, Emilie Strauss, John Sutake, Sylvia Sykora, Delia and John Taylor, Scott Taylor, Laurie Umeh, John Underhill, Elizabeth Varnhagen, Mardi and Michael Veiluva, Jeanne Walpole, Steven Walsh, Alison and Dale Webber, Karen Wetherell, Shirley White, Susan Wickham, Doris and Joe Willingham, Elaine Worthington-Jackson, Suk-Ann Yee, David Zippin, Roberta Zorzynski

Organizations:

California Wildlife Foundation
Hillside Gardeners of Montclair



Point Isabel photos: buckeye (upper left), oak fasciation (lower left), *Salix lasiolepis* (right). Photos by Jane Kelly.

POINT ISABEL RESTORATION IN NOVEMBER

The photo of the first leaves on a buckeye we planted at Pt. Isabel several years ago reminds us that nature (and life) work in cycles. Many of us are deeply unsettled by what we are seeing emerge from Washington DC and are looking for ways to assure ourselves that our worst fears will not be realized. Our best antidote to that concern is to become more deeply engaged in making the planet a better place for all its inhabitants. While we realize that we won't have much luck in influencing those coming into power, we know that we can make a difference here. It is our sincerest hope that our engaged and diverse East Bay community will work with friends, family, and colleagues to make our cities and neighborhoods oases of love, kindness, and generosity. We experience those feelings and characteristics every time we come together with our stewards and volunteers at Point Isabel. And like the buckeye we will emerge, stronger and more resolute than ever!

Along the trail we are focused now on removing those persistent radish sprouts and other weeds to provide space for the masses of tansy-leaf phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*) and California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) seedlings that are appearing. California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), coyote

brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), and purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*) are also springing up. We are gearing up for late fall/early winter planting and this month we added 4 beautiful arroyo willows (*Salix lasiolepis*) donated to the project by the Watershed Nursery in Richmond.

Fascinating moments for our crew are how we continue to learn about our native plants. This month, some of us hiked in one of our EBRPD parks and came across a stand of poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) growing amidst monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*). The distorted stems of the poison oak looked like monster faces with teeth and we were bewildered. Many thanks to our friend, Sue Rosenthal, for explaining that this is a case of "fasciation", or abnormal growth. Wikipedia states "Any occurrence of fasciation has several possible causes, including hormonal, genetic, bacterial, fungal, viral and environmental causes."

We hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you'll join us for our December work parties, which will be held on December 3 and December 17.

Jane and Tom Kelly



Core Point Isabel volunteer Luciano. Photo by Jane Kelly.

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

Tesla, Carnegie SVRA General Plan & Final EIR update

The Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area's (SVRA) proposed expansion parcel of more than 3000 acres, otherwise known as Tesla Park, is not yet safe from the impacts of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation. On October 21, 2016, the OHMVR Commission convened in Sacramento to approve the General Plan and certify the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), despite its many flaws. Our organization has long contended that the plan lacks admission of the significant impacts of OHV recreation on biotic resources, adequate mitigation measures incorporated into this EIR, and, most importantly, adequate plant surveys.

Think of this: A programmatic EIR is the last and only environmental analysis document that looks at the development of trails, buildings, and infrastructure for off highway use at Carnegie SVRA and Tesla as a whole. That document was rubber stamped in October. Carnegie SVRA's only recognized significant impact in these reports were those to air quality? In the coming months, look for updates on the status of the ill-conceived Carnegie SVRA Tesla expansion project.

EBCNPS has spoken with several local entities, seeking to file petitions to challenge the approved Carnegie SVRA General Plan & EIR. The deadline for mounting this type of challenge, is 30 days following the lead agency filing a Notice of Determination (NOD), which is a public notice declaring the official acceptance of the approved General Plan & EIR. The NOD has been filed, and petitioners have followed with filing their/our challenges. These entities are challenging many aspects, the details of which will be clear in due time. EBCNPS has assisted with summarizing the native plant concerns from our history of submitted letters.

Also upcoming in 2017, is the related topic of possible renewal of funding for the OHMVR Division. EBCNPS is depending on our state office and alliances formed with other statewide environmental groups. There is much overlap with parties interested in the outcome of Tesla. We will continue working with the state office and these groups, and I will continue to clarify the many details of this separate but related venture.

See the Conservation blog: <https://ebcnps.wordpress.com/2016/10/26/carnegie-svra-approves-general-plan-and-final-eir-october-21-2016/>

Antioch's Sand Creek Focus Area, overlapping with Four Valleys BPPA

Antioch has very few open spaces left, and certainly none as expansive and beautiful as the rolling hills and wide flat bottomland of the Sand Creek Focus Area. This is a dry but not barren landscape, currently grazed by cattle or left alone entirely. Walking along Empire Mine Road shows the enormous continuity of a whole landscape in the balance.

Certainly the City of Antioch struggles with balancing its economic concerns with citizens' desire to maintain and preserve open space. Many folks live there specifically for the wide open spaces. The last general plan allowed Antioch to plop 4000 low density luxury homes, a golf course, and more on top of all this beautiful open space. A revision of this plan was desperately needed and we applaud the city in taking this step.

The Four Valleys Botanical Priority Protection Area includes Briones, Horse, Lone tree and Deer Valleys. Our BPPA guidebook says: These valleys create a transition zone between the eastern flanks of the northern Diablo Range, the San Joaquin Valley and the Los Medanos Hills, where both sandy and alkaline soil hotspots produce wildflower fields with spring-time riots of color.

Antioch would suffer the loss of an amazing asset if all four square miles of this Sand Creek Focus Area were to be built out. Combining the majority of the Sand Creek Focus area with existing nearby preserves, while keeping regional conservation objectives in mind, makes a lot of sense.

The City of Antioch Planning Commission considered an almost final administrative draft of the Sand Creek Focus Area at their most recent meeting on November 16, 2016. Unfortunately, this draft needs a lot more work in order to incorporate more native and rare plant conservation. The commission's decision to continue discussion of this draft in order to include more input from members of the public and from local organizations was excellent news. The planning commission passed a motion (4:1) to direct staff to continue discussion in January 2017 regarding Sand Creek Focus Area. The commission will not make a decision before then to finalize the administrative draft. Staff indicated its readiness to present a final draft for CEQA review in February 2017.

Staff is seeking more public input, but may rely heavily on local organizations to organize their own forums and present information gained from these forums back to the City of Antioch. Just a few months ago several environmental groups arranged a successful city council and mayoral candidate's forum. That allowed public input and framed core environmental issues for the public to better understand and support. EBCNPS was able to voice often-glossed-over native plant considerations.

Here is a sketch of our organization's priorities in the Antioch area. Sand Creek Focus Area is an approximate rectangle of four square miles within the City of Antioch, and completely overlaps with a large portion of the Four Valleys BPPA. The western/southwestern end is bordered by Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, and other conservation easements. The area is named for Sand Creek, which bisects on an east/west divide most of the focus area. As seen on the BPPA map, sandy soils and alkaline soils feature in this area. The Sand Creek Area likely contains rare plants and communities nearly

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT CONTINUED

impossible to replace and mitigate elsewhere, since these soils are extirpated in much of Contra Costa County. The current zoning map does not account for this botanically rich land. Additionally, the current zoning allows for isolation of hilltops areas into open space islands, (with luxury housing developments in between). These natural hilltop areas often harbor small populations of rare or unusual plants not found elsewhere. Plant species on these hilltops do not benefit from further fragmentation, but would instead benefit from a connected open space corridor between the hilltops.

The buffer around Sand Creek needs to be expanded, and hillside open space protections need to be more specifically called out. Even though 30% of Sand Creek Focus Area acreage is slated for conservation, the continuity with neighboring conservation easements needs expansion and strengthening, and total conservation acreage should also consider detrimental impacts of fragmentation. More protections are needed for sensitive natural communities and rare and native plants like rosinweed, hansen's larkspur, showy madia, adobe navarretia, and big tarplant.

The planning commission in Antioch is at a crossroads of understanding and owning its role in applying environmentally responsible policy. On the plus side, they have come a long way compared to the original General Plan layout for Sand Creek Focus Area.

A future related topic to look out for in Antioch is a city-wide Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), which is in the works. Antioch opted out of the opportunity to work within the East Contra Costa County HCP/ NCCP, but has now recognized the value of such a plan, with regards to future development. And Antioch is planning lots of development. The Antioch HCP may be delayed, but check back for updates.

Tassajara Parks, the Urban Limit Line (ULL), and alkaline wetlands

This proposed project has garnered most attention under different names over the years (you may remember the New Farms project proposal), all with one objection in common: building urban development on the wrong side of a city's Urban Limit Line. It is near the intersection of Camino Tassajara and Highland Road in Contra Costa County. As a reminder, CNPS's main concern with this issue is significant damage to alkali wetlands, which contain sensitive rare natural communities. In this case, these alkali wetlands contain San Joaquin spearscale and Congdon's tarplant (both CNPS Rare Plant Rank 1B native plants) within the residential housing footprint. Delineating the boundaries of these wetlands with a fence supposedly protecting the area does not address changes to the unique hydrology and drainage patterns that make this type of wetland possible in the first place.

Tassajara Parks is currently re-circulating their Draft EIR, with a public comment deadline of November 30, 2016. We are

examining this EIR for positive changes and anticipate still having much to say to advocate for native plant values there. A new enticement has presented itself to conservation advocacy groups: the new document proposes an additional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for 17000 acres protected under the title of "Tassajara Valley Agricultural Enhancement Area" in the area near the proposed project. The binding force of such an agreement is unclear, but optimistically, this adds great value for land conservation objectives, though unprotected native plant communities are vulnerable to agricultural uses such as vineyard and orchard development.

General Plans: what's the big deal? A contextual note

I have been considering this question after speaking with our state CNPS office, and with other chapter conservation representatives throughout the state, and with core volunteers here in East Bay. Is incorporation of native, rare, and locally rare plant considerations into a city's (or agency's) General Plan update vital to future conservation work in that jurisdiction? Like a strong bone in the body of evidence required for proactive arguments for conserving California's flora and the land on which it resides, the General Plan is the first reference for all proposed developments. If a proposed project does not fit with the General Plan, justification must be provided by the lead agency. If a priority like the how and why of native plant protection is not mentioned in a General Plan, a developer or lead agency for a proposed project is much less likely to incorporate attention to these protections, beyond the barest minimums. In a sense, nudging language that recognizes native plants into these documents "normalizes" the expectation that our native environments should and must be appropriately conserved and stewarded.

Stepping back for a minute, this general plan update phase is an excellent opportunity to re-evaluate what is important. Conservation work sometimes gets stuck somewhere in a flood of many important issues demanding input *right now!* We should snag every opportunity to go farther upstream in planning processes, in order to influence the conservation discussion. Don't get me wrong, reading these General Plans can get dreary. But notice, these types of updates feature large in several of our conservation project updates this year for a reason. General Plans are updated about every 20 to 30 years. I am sure I do not need to tell you that we have greater knowledge available to us now on how at-risk these native plants are in every corner of each local ecosystem. If you hear of a General Plan update coming comb it for language on native plants, and find how we can insert phrases to underline the importance of conservation to make the future fight easier.

I received some excellent advice: ask for *all* of what you want, and *more* than you expect to get. Please keep up with our conservation blog where these topics and more are discussed: <https://ebcnps.wordpress.com/>.

Karen Whitestone, East Bay Chapter Conservation Analyst

A DECADE OF RARE PLANT SCIENCE IN THE EAST BAY

In 2002, I had just moved from Humboldt County, via my hometown of Ventura, and quickly got an introduction to the East Bay botanical community through my longtime friend and colleague Christopher Thayer. An expert in the East Bay flora, Chris is an exemplar of botanical mentors, a quality friend, and perennially enthusiastic about all things natural history. Through our ramblings Chris introduced me to a great many people in the local botanical community at special venues, like the Wayne Roderick Lecture Series at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, and far afield on Jepson Herbarium Weekend workshops.

In 2004, after I was not selected for the first Conservation Analyst position with the chapter, Charli Danielsen offered me a position on the Chapter Board as corresponding secretary. Gladly accepting the position for the term starting in 2005, I routinely drove from my home in Walnut Creek to collect the



Heath Bartosh and Chris Thayer.. Photo by Jepson Herbaria Workshop Program.

mail at Elmwood Station that usually contained important correspondence related to conservation actions of interest to the Chapter. During this time of introduction to the Chapter Chris had introduced me to Jeff Greenhouse and John Game, most likely during a Jepson Herbarium Weekend Workshop.



John Game and Jeff Greenhouse..Photo by Heath Bartosh.

This introduction has not only led to a longtime friendship with Jeff and John, but it was also John who offered me the position of Rare Plant Chair after he had manned that post for a couple of years. It was in 2006 that I began my tenure as Chairman of the East Bay Chapter's Rare Plant Committee.

Over the next 10 years, the Rare Plant Committee undertook a large variety of activities. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the volunteer work that has been accomplished during this time.

2006-2007: First, it was important to get a better idea of the abundance and distribution of specialized habitats in the Chapter so we conducted a mapping exercise whereby all of the alkaline and serpentine substrates were located. This was especially important at this time because of small developments, like Crestmont Drive, were occurring in the

Oakland Hills and impacting urban populations of *Presidio clarkia* (*Clarkia franciscana*). The serpentine data were combined with city streets to know where to look for pocket serpentine habitat. Gregg Weber was a big part of the on-the-ground survey effort for this project.

2007: The heightened attention to *Presidio clarkia* at this time brought to light the fact it was being sold commercially at a local nursery. With the Yerba Buena Chapter's Rare Plant Committee Co-Chair, Michael Wood, we wrote a letter to a local reporter elucidating concerns over selling state or federally listed species for use in home gardens and commercial landscapes. This letter covered topics such as potential genetic contamination

of wild populations, seed bank depletion, and planting for unscrupulous purposes. This letter, and then California Department of Fish and Game botanist Mary Ann Showers, helped stop this local nursery from selling the endangered *Presidio clarkia*.

2007: The initial work on the Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals project (see <http://www.bayarealands.org/>), led by the Bay Area Open Space Council, began to gain steam at this time. This project's purpose was to create a collaborative, science-based vision for conserving the region's irreplaceable landscapes. In collaboration with then Conservation Analyst Lech Naumovich the Rare Plant Committee helped identify rare plant species of the East Bay to serve as "fine filter" conservation targets that would capture specialized habitat as a goal for preservation as a part of this project.

2008: It had been less than a year since local carpenter turned botanist David Gowen had published a new species (*Navarretia gowenii*) he had found in Walnut Creek's Lime Ridge Open Space. The Conservation and Rare Plant

A decade of East Bay plant science continued:

committees co-authored an article highlighting David and his accomplishment, which led to a press release collaboration between EBCNPS, Save Mount Diablo, and the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation. This also led to the addition of *N. gowenii*, named in David's honor, to the CNPS *Inventory of Rare Plants* as a Rank 1B. This extremely rare plant is only known from less than five locations between Stanislaus and Contra Costa counties.



Navarretia gowenii. Photo by Heath Bartosh.

2009: While exploring the park and protected land around the Sunol area the Rare Plant Committee made key observations of what was thought to be Diablo helianthella (*Helianthella castanea*) in the southern part of the chapter area. Over the years many rare plant reports noted Diablo helianthella in this region, however Diablo helianthella is only described as having yellow anthers but upon closer inspection the plants in the Sunol region had black anthers. Black anthered *Helianthella* in this area would key to California helianthella (*H. californica* var. *californica*). Specimens were taken to Dr. John Strother, expert in Asteraceae at the UC and Jepson Herbaria, and he confirmed these plants to be California helianthella and not Diablo helianthella. This is an important story because sometimes rare plant science also includes addressing misidentifications, thereby reducing the number of plant populations identified as rare.

2009: Also this year, a regional planning effort was being considered known as the Altamont Pass Wind Resources Area NCCP/HCP. In the early stages of this Habitat Conservation Plan, which was never actually implemented, the committee helped guide the plan related to activities and species it covered as well as how habitats were mapped in the East Bay. Their initial maps missed a large block of Sargent cypress (*Hesperocyparis sargentii*) supporting serpentine and Alkali Sink Scrub, which is dominated by iodine bush (*Allenrolfea occidentalis*). Mapping these habitats correctly isn't only important because they are considered sensitive but also due to the fact they are used to model rare and endangered species habitat within any habitat conservation plan area.

2010: The *Guidebook to Botanical Priority Protection Areas* (BPPA) was published. The committee had the pleasure and privilege

to put the guidebook together with Conservation Committee chair Laura Baker and Conservation Analyst Lech Naumovich. This effort took many years, lots of meetings, and cooperation from all of the wonderful and talented contributors and guest authors. This book has served the Chapter well both by identifying important plant species habitat in the Chapter's area and by directing Chapter conservation actions toward issues that lie within BPPA boundaries.

2010: In collaboration with Chris Thayer the committee helped a local land owner relocate a population of oval-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum ellipticum*). A population of this species had been last collected by Mary Bowerman, of Diablo Flora fame, in the 1930s on the south east side of Mount Diablo. This was a plant that Mary had always asked the landowner if he had seen in his travels, but he always replied "no". We were invited, as botanical bounty hunters, to help find his long lost viburnum. After hours of searching, without luck, we decided to look at the details of Mary's record. Amazingly, despite the lack of a GPS unit in the 1930s Mary's locality information, especially the elevation, were spot on.

2011: The Adopt-A-Rare-Plant Program had its inaugural year. The purpose of this program is to build a local volunteer group of species-specific experts or "citizen scientists" to collect rare plant information such as existing literature and population occurrence information in the field, and to provide stewardship recommendations based on their observations. Since 2011 this program has attracted nearly 50 volunteers and updated the information on almost 75 known rare plant occurrences in the Chapter. Over the years there have been so many great volunteers but the ones who get hall of fame status include Bob and Martha Sikora, Diana Wahl, Michael and Ellen Uhler, Janet Barton, and Judy Schwartz. All of the volunteers that have participated in this program are incredible people who care about the mission of CNPS and our local rare plant denizens. Thank you very much for



Martha and Bob Sikora. Photo by Heath Bartosh..

A decade of East Bay plant science continued: all your service. The excellent Danny Slakey, whom I've recommended to replace me as Rare Plant Chair, intends to keep this program alive.

2011: Once again the committee collaborated with Chris Thayer, this time to raise the awareness of an understudied and fast disappearing habitat in East Contra Costa, the Oakley Sand Mounds. Some of the objectives associated with this effort include the identification of the dune habitat by



Heath Bartosh appreciating one of the last intact areas of Oakley Sand Mound habitat (2011). Photo by Chris

the recognition of native plants characteristic of the sands, the hope of encouraging an effort to locate and inventory remaining stands. However, the ultimate goal is not only to raise awareness of this rare local botanical treasure, but also to explore the possibility of protecting, preserving, and potentially restoring suitable remnants for public education and enjoyment.



Vegetation Chair Erin McDermott and a local junior high student conducting the Livermore tarplant census (2009). Photo by Heath Bartosh.

2014: Starting in 2009, preparations began on a petition to list the Livermore tarplant (*Deinandra bacigalupii*) as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. The first step was collecting solid baseline data on population size at the largest occurrence of this species located at the Springtown

Wetlands Preserve. Vegetation Committee Chair Erin McDermott helped with designing a sampling protocol to take a census of this population. This census, which was conducted by many local volunteers in the Livermore Valley, resulted in a count of an estimated 350,000 individuals at this location. Although that sounds like a lot, this is all we had in the world that year. Following the census the petition was written and reviewed. Thanks to Bruce Baldwin and Sue Bainbridge for helping review this important petition, it was submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife with an endorsement from the State Office of CNPS. Thankfully, in August of 2016, two years after submission the Livermore tarplant was listed as Endangered.

2015-2016: Most recently the committee's efforts have been focused on looking at plant species with few populations throughout their range and determining if they are worthy of rarity status. In general there are population thresholds for how plant species get added to the *CNPS Rare Plant Inventory*. Plants with fewer than 50 populations might be considered for a Rank 1B or 2B, while plants with more populations might make Rank 4. The most recent plant species that was added to the CNPS Inventory was Jepson's coyote thistle (*Eryngium jepsonii*), which was assigned a rank of 1B after going through the CNPS status review process, as it currently has less than 15 occurrences statewide. Known as "spiny bastards" because of their sharp and finely pointed bracts, coyote thistles mostly grow in wetland habitats but our local species is found in uplands on heavy clay soils. This type of work is ongoing, as populations of plants fluctuate based on expansion or extirpation as well as the fact that new species are still being discovered here in the East Bay.

If there were more space it would be a joy to share the details of so many positive and effective collaborations between East Bay plant science and conservation committees. The other primary and equally important role of the Rare Plant Committee is to provide rare plant information to conservation staff and volunteers to advocate for our native plants where they are being threatened. It has been an honor to work with such a diligent and capable group of conservation folks, especially Laura Baker, Lesley Hunt, Jean Robertson, David Bigham, Jim Hanson, Lech Naumovich, Mack Casterman, and Karen Whitestone. These individuals fight the good fight. The Chapter is lucky to have (or have had) them. Most of all I'd like to thank and recognize Dianne Lake for her decades worth of energy developing and maintaining the Unusual Plants program. She is such an inspiring person who through her work has not only has elevated the concept of locally rare plants statewide but is also a shining example of a selfless and steadfast CNPS volunteer.

Now it is time to say farewell. Thank you East Bay Chapter for believing in a young CNPS member to chair the committee for ten wonderful years. Taking part in the chapter's work with such a delightful group of individuals has been one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life.

Heath Bartosh

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, December 3 and Saturday, December 17, Pt. Isabel 9:30-2 pm at the end of Rydin Road in Eastshore State Park

Saturday, December 3, 9:30 am, Redwood Regional Park
Meet park staff at the Canyon Meadows picnic area to continue with this campaign to remove French broom, now entering the 12th year of operation. If the park kiosk is staffed when you enter from Redwood Road be sure to tell them that you are volunteering to pull French broom so you are not charged for parking. Once past the kiosk continue driving most of the access road until you see the Canyon Meadows sign on the right side. You can e-mail questions to redwood@ebparks.org.

Saturday, December 3, 2016, 9 am-noon Sabercat Creek Habitat Restoration, Site 5 (Becado Place). Registration is required. Please visit 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 or call 510-494-4570. Thank you!

Sunday, December 4, 10 am, Schoolhouse Creek at Eastshore State Park

Meet volunteers at the creek outlet to San Francisco Bay, on the bay side of the road on the north side of the fenced nesting area at the Berkeley Marina. Schoolhouse Creek runs mostly through culverts in north Berkeley, but reaches salt water as an uncovered creek at the bend where the landfill peninsula drops back. You can volunteer to weed or plant with this group (or both), but be sure to bring tools, gloves and water. Address questions to johnkenny54@yahoo.com.

Saturday, December 10, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve

Meet us at the parking lot, where we will decide where to work in light of soil conditions and recent weather. November volunteers made tremendous progress in removing sprouts of Italian thistle, poison hemlock and young French broom, which sprang up in the October rains. Park staff will meet us at the lot, where you can pick up loaner gloves, tools, and water.

Sunday, December 11, 9:30 am, Redwood Regional Park, Canyon Meadows picnic area

The meeting time and location remain the same. See December 3 listing.

Saturday, December 17, 10 am-1:00 pm, Garber Park Interpretive Map Potluck

Join us for our last volunteer workday of 2016. We will celebrate the holidays, thank our many dedicated volunteers, and review the much anticipated interpretive map and brochure of Garber Park. We are looking for community input on content and accuracy of information before we finalize and print the brochure. Lech Naumovich will be on hand to guide us through this final process and answer any questions you may have. Please come with a dish or treat to share. We will provide drinks. Wear layers for the changing weather and shoes with good tread.

Meet at Fire Place Plaza (if it's raining we will meet at the home of Shelagh Brodersen near the Evergreen Lane Entrance to Garber). Many of you have your favorite way of getting to the park. If you are driving we recommend the Evergreen Lane Entrance or the Claremont Ave entrance. Map and Directions: <http://garberparkstewards.blogspot.cm/p/directions.html>.

For more information and to RSVP contact Shelagh at garberparkstewards@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 18, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park

We meet at the Oakland-side parking lot, just a few hundred meters on Skyline north of the Huckleberry Park lot. However, you may also enter Sibley Park from the Old Tunnel Road staging area, and then walk south to the work site. You may find the Old Tunnel Road entrance more convenient if you come from either north or east of the park. However, this second option requires that you bring your tools and gloves, or take your chances with what's in the toolbox by the notorious wall of broom. If you have questions you can e-mail either sibley@ebparks.org or janetgawthrop47@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 31, 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. Free t-shirts. Heavy rain cancels. For more info: friendsalbanyhill@gmail.com, friendsofalbanyhill.org

VEGETATION COMMITTEE

The goal of the EBCNPS Vegetation Committee is to inventory vegetation types within the East Bay, with a particular interest in documenting rare vegetation communities in the area. We have developed a priority list that includes (1) areas that may be threatened by development and (2) areas that are of general scientific interest or may be hot spots for rare communities, etc. A lot of our priorities are linked to the Botanical Priority Protection Areas (BPPA) that the chapter developed: <http://ebcnps.org/guide-botanical-priority-protection-areas-east-bay/botanical-priority-guidebook-mashup/>

Please contact us if you have experience using *The Manual of California Vegetation* (2nd edition) to type vegetation com-

munities and would like to collect data in the areas we have identified as priorities. Data collection should include a minimum of a GPS point, completed rapid assessment form, and a photo for each sample location.

Nicole Jurjavic
Co-chair Vegetation Committee
Botanist/Plant Ecologist, Stillwater Sciences
nicole@stillwatersci.com

SOME PICTURES FROM CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS



Photos from chapter field trips. Rein orchid by Debbie (upper left). Five spot from the desert (lower left). *Collinsia tinctoria* (above) and *Brodiaea* sp. (below), from Mount Diablo, both by Ling He.



See www.ebcnps.org for information on the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and its officers and staff. Chapter President Barbara Leitner. Bay Leaf Editor Joe Willingham.