



January 2019

The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnps.org

www.nativeherenursery.org

MEMBERS' MEETING AND ASSOCIATED FIELD TRIP

New Calflora Tools for CNPS Users

Speaker: Cynthia Powell, Executive Director of Calflora

Wednesday, January 23, 7:30 p.m.

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

Join Calflora's Executive Director Cynthia Powell to learn about several exciting new Calflora tools. Calflora's plant database hosts over two million plant occurrences, some of which come directly from [East Bay CNPS members](#). Cynthia will go over Calflora's new plant photo project, planting guide, population monitoring tools, and email alerts, and she will speak more generally about the uses of Calflora for CNPS chapters. She would also like to know your thoughts about how Calflora can better serve the East Bay CNPS Chapter and answer any of your questions.

After three years as Calflora's GIS Project Manager, Cynthia is now Calflora's Executive Director. She graduated with her MS in GIS in 2010, forecasting Mokelumne River water supply based on remote-sensing snowpack images. She's been examining what was under that snow – plants – ever since. She now coordinates all Calflora programs, research, outreach, and advocacy, as well as fundraising and management.

East Bay CNPS members' meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 26 Orinda Way. The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room opens at 7 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Email programs@ebcnps.org if you have questions.

Calflora-CNPS Field Trip, Saturday, January 26, 10 am-1pm

All who attend the members' meeting are invited to try out their plant reporting skills with Cynthia Powell on a field trip to record plants in Huckleberry, and maybe Sibley, regional preserves. We will start from the Huckleberry park-

ing lot ([on Skyline Blvd. south of Elverton Dr. in Oakland](#)), with the route to be decided based on trail and weather conditions. We will hike three miles on the downhill portion of the Huckleberry Loop Trail and the Huckleberry-to-Sibley portion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, finishing at the Skyline Blvd. parking lot for Sibley preserve. We are requiring attendance at the chapter meeting before the trip to avoid repetition of instructions for using Calflora while we are in the field. Here are [blooming plants we may find](#).

If it rains on January 26, the field trip will be rescheduled to February 2 at 10 am. For questions about the field trip, contact Cynthia Powell at cpowell@calflora.org.

Upcoming Presentations

February 27, 7:30 pm, Orinda Library Garden Room: TBA

March 27, 7:30 pm: Ann Riley – Restoring Unlikely Urban Environments

April 24, 7:30 pm: Camille Nowell – The Kaweah River: Botany, Biology and Human Interactions

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 26 Orinda Way

DRIVING: From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way. From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way. Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

VIA BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.



Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*)
Photo by John Game

RESTORATION

Saturday, January 12, 9:30 am-12:30 pm. Garber Park Workshop with Lech Naumovich, Managing a Changing Oak Woodland: Oak Woodland Restoration Post-Climax.

In June, a beautiful coast live oak that graced the Evergreen Lane Entrance to Garber Park died. It quickly became a hazard to people and property so it had to be removed. Lech Naumovich, Golden Hour Restoration Institute, will be leading a workshop on the changing ecology on the hillside. Then we will remove non-natives, plant grass plugs, move transplants from the lower site, and plant cuttings directly into the soil. Lech has taught passive restoration for many years – learn about restoration clustering, habitat islands, direct acorn seeding techniques, cuttings and proper rooting, and transplanting while helping increase the ecological resilience of a site that is in transition. Come learn about what we can do, including the newest method of renewing forests with direct acorn seeding. Meet at the Evergreen Lane Entrance to Garber Park. Directions: From Ashby/Tunnel Road, take Alvarado Road, then left onto Slater Lane, then right onto Evergreen Lane. The entrance is at the end of the road. Directions and a map can also be found at www.garberparkstewards.org. Please bring work clothes, any gloves, water bottle, and hand

tools you may have. Limit: 20 participants. Please register at Eventbrite: <https://garber2019oak.eventbrite.com>.

Saturday, January 19, 10 am-noon, Garber Park Volunteer Work Day. Please join us to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. We have projects for everyone – easy weeding in beautiful Fern Glade to the more difficult tasks of trail maintenance. Meet at the Claremont Avenue Entrance to Garber. Directions: from the Ashby Avenue/Claremont Avenue intersection, go up 0.4 miles to the Garber Park sign and parking turnout. We provide gloves, tools, water and snacks. Wear clothes for the changing weather, shoes or boots with good tread (the trails are steep and rugged in some places), and bring a water bottle. For more information contact Shelagh garberparkstewards@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 20, 2019, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, help restore Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve, 6934 Skyline Boulevard, Oakland. Meet at the main Huckleberry parking lot. Click on this link for more information: <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/dqwtthyzcbqb/>

FIELD TRIP

Sunday, January 6, 2:00 pm, field trip to Huddart County Park to see fetid adder's tongue

Leader: David Margolies

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 will lead a hike on the Crystal Springs Trail where fetid adder's tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii*, Liliaceae) usually blooms in early January. (In most locations outside botanical gardens,

it blooms in late January or early February. We have seen it here every year except 2013.)

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.

CELEBRATING 2018 CNPS FELLOW BART O'BRIEN

Celebrating 2018 CNPS Fellow Bart O'Brien

Bart O'Brien, Manager of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden (RPBG), was named a CNPS Fellow in 2018. "Becoming a Fellow is the highest recognition CNPS awards its members. These members have accumulated extraordinary accomplishments towards the understanding, appreciation, and preservation of California native plants." cnps.org, March 29, 2018

This honor was celebrated during the RPBG Wayne Roderick Lecture on December 15, 2018. CNPS Executive Director Dan Gluesenkamp presented Bart O'Brien with the award. Also present was Ken Himes, one of the nominators who is an ac-

tive member with the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS, and a 2006 CNPS Fellow. Bart is recognized as being one of the leading experts in native plant horticulture, and for playing a significant role in raising awareness of the beauty of California native plants in home gardens.

Regional Parks Botanical Garden friends and staff honored the event with a celebratory cake cutting.

Here's to you, Bart!

Liz Bittner



Dan Gluesenkamp presenting CNPS fellow award to Bart O'Brien Photo by Judy Schwartz



Bart O'Brien sitting with many of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden staff
Photo by Judy Schwartz

**On Saturday, January 26 at 11 am
Native Here Nursery presents
"Native Plants for upper creek banks
and other partly shady locations"**

**Jim Hanson
Bay Area landscape architect
Conservation Committee Chair East Bay Chapter CNPS
Jim is active in the California Native Grasslands
Association**

Some creek oriented plants will be on sale for half price.

**Native Here Nursery
101 Golf Course Drive
Tilden Park**

THREE VALUABLE WEBSITES FOR CA NATIVE PLANT LOVERS

The UC Berkeley Forest Pathology and Mycology Lab hosts a website with a link to TreeFAQs.

Here you can ask the experts about tree health, get answers and contribute to the public database of California tree problems

<https://nature.berkeley.edu/matteolab>

The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium, University of California, Berkeley, offer excellent workshops on plant identification and field trips all around California.

The workshop schedule is announced around the end of November for the next year. They can fill up quickly so the

best way is to subscribe to the mailing list at <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops>

Check out iNaturalist, a citizen scientist project and online social network of naturalists. Users upload photos of plants, animals and evidence of animals, the time and location is recorded, identifications can be made by the community of users.

<https://www.inaturalist.org>

Delia Taylor

NEWS FROM CAL-IPC

In November 2018 I represented EBCNPS at the Cal-IPC symposium in Monterey. This symposium brought together industry leaders and plant enthusiasts to discuss the latest research and findings related to invasive plants. The California Invasive Plant Council's (Cal-IPC) mission is "to protect California's lands and waters from ecologically damaging invasive plants through science, education, and policy."

This year's theme for the symposium was "Biodiversity: Expanding our Vision." Many other chapters of CNPS were also present at the conference to represent regional enthusiasm for all things native plant related. CNPS's mission to "conserve California native plants and their natural habitats" is intrinsically tied to Cal-IPC's mission, since both organizations are routinely involved in restoration efforts across the state.

This symposium discussed a number of ways to increase biodiversity by ensuring successful native habitat restoration. A handful of discussions covered biological controls like goats, wasps, or ants as part of an integrated pest management (IPM) program to curtail or eradicate aggressive weedy species. One presentation discussed the release of the arundo wasp (*Tetramesa romana*) and arundo armored scale (*Rhizaspidiotus donacis*) as biological controls for *Arundo donax*, a grass rated as

highly invasive according to Cal-IPC. *A. donax* grows in dense stands resembling bamboo up to nine to 30 feet tall, and it is threatening California's riparian ecosystems by outcompeting other native riparian species. The release of the arundo wasp and arundo armored scale, which are host-specific to *A. donax*, enable them to stunt and reduce the biomass for *A. donax*. Where these insects were released in Texas, field studies show that the live biomass for *A. donax* shoots have been reduced by 30-40%, and have promoted the revegetation of other native plants. However, additional management actions are needed in California, such as cutting the *A. donax* to about 1 meter to encourage the growth of side shoots, which leads to a more favorable environment for the reproduction of these insects. Other fun and informative activities included a photo contest that showcased restoration practitioners hard at work, workshops to learn the latest management tools, and a discussion of how to integrate equity, diversity, and inclusion into conservation.

All talks and posters that were presented at the conference are posted on Cal-IPC's website: www.cal-ipc.org/resources/symposium.

Ivy Poisson

WAYNE RODERICK LECTURES

Upcoming speakers at Wayne Roderick Lectures, Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Park

Meet at the Visitor Center at 10:30 am. Lectures are free and open to the public.

January 5 - Michael Uhler: A trip in search of floral gems in Nevada's Ruby Mountains. A photographic recount of a knapsack trip high in the Rubies

January 12: Steve Schoenig: Monkeyflowers in Flux - Focusing on Northern California

January 19 - Bob Case: Exploring Interesting Plants of Iowa,

Missouri, and Nebraska on the Lewis and Clark Trail and Badlands National Park, South Dakota

January 26 - Greti Sequin: Carolus Linnaeus - or Carl von Linne - and the Naming of Everything. An illustrated story of Linne's life and work and a look at his botanical garden in Uppsala, Sweden

BECOME A DOCENT/SALESPERSON AT NATIVE HERE NURSERY

This is a great opportunity to learn about growing locally native plants from the people who know them best.

You can become a docent/salesperson at Native Here Nursery. Learn the basics of how the Nursery is organized and operates, informational resources about native plants, and the cultural needs of the most popular species grown at Native Here. Some classes will be held at the Nursery; others will be tours of Alameda and Contra Costa County gardens featuring local native plants, and walks in parks to visit native plants in their natural homes.

Registration is \$20 for a six class series beginning Saturday, January 26 at Native Here Nursery, 10-2. We will take a brief tour of the Nursery, learn the basics of being a docent/salesperson and attend a special event on growing creek plants, presented by our very own Conservation Committee chair and former landscape architect, Jim Hanson. Please bring a calendar so we can plan the next several training dates.

Your commitment to the Nursery is to attend at least four training sessions, then help with sales once monthly on Saturdays during open hours (10 am-2 pm). Scheduling is flexible. When you complete 12 volunteer hours you will receive a gift certificate for \$20 to be used at Native Here.

To start, all you need is a willingness to learn and a desire to help customers with their native plant needs.

Native Here Nursery is located in Tilden Regional Park at 101 Golf Course Drive.

To sign up or get more information, contact Barbara Leitner at bleitner@pacbell.net.

NATIVE HERE NEWS

Focus on Creek Plants at NHN

After several substantial sales to customers who were planting in their backyard creeks, we decided other folks might also be thinking of doing this. Our next Special Event on January 26 will focus on plants for upper creek banks and other shady places (so everyone can participate). Some appropriate plants will be on sale. See the flyer on page 4 in this newsletter.

In other NHN news, we're making progress on all the projects we have underway. The trash pile in the back has been cleared out and is ready to load into a dumpster. We have saved what we could still use and given away other items to people who could use them for other environmental nonprofit projects. The pine trees have been

cut down, the back corner of the nursery is sunnier, and the plants should do better as a result.

We are interviewing new nursery assistants. The volunteers decided to start writing more information on the plant ID tags to help us track inventory and we are developing "best seller" lists to help us decide what to plant this year. The bench-raising project continues.

Lesley Hunt
NHN Committee Chair

HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH EBCNPS

The *Bay Leaf*, which is the chapter newsletter, goes out to all members FOR WHOM WE HAVE EMAIL ADDRESSES via a link in an email from the chapter, except the December issue, which we send to you in paper format via US Postal Service. If you don't think you are receiving those emailed links please send email to ebcnps-membership@ebcnps.org with *Bay Leaf* in the subject line and we will sort it out.

EBCNPS News List: Members are not automatically added to this list, as a result of the robust CNPS privacy policy. Please sign yourself up at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/ebcnps> (and here are instructions for signing up: [\[port.google.com/groups/answer/1067205?hl=en\]\(https://groups.google.com/groups/answer/1067205?hl=en\) \) OR send an email to \[ebcnps-membership@ebcnps.org\]\(mailto:ebcnps-membership@ebcnps.org\) with "EBCNPS News List" in the subject line. You can visit this URL anytime for announcements:](https://sup-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Our Meetup (<https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/>) group is called **California Native Plant Society- East Bay Chapter**

Facebook: The chapter's Native Here Nursery and the state organization both have pages.

Sally deBecker

REDWOOD PARK BROOM BASH

Saturday, January 5 and Sunday, January, 13 from 9:30 to 1:30, Redwood Regional Park, meet at Pinehurst Gate. After the rains broom pulling should be easy. Rain cancels.

Tools and snacks provided. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Ranger Monica
redwood@ebparks.org
www.ebparks.org

POINT ISABEL RESTORATION

The end of the year is an opportunity to think about all the things for which we are grateful. High on that list are all the wonderful people we've come across in our work at Pt. Isabel. So many give so generously of their time and good spirits – it is one of the main reasons we've continued this work for so many years. We also want to give a big shout-out to the editors of the *Bay Leaf* who have worked our monthly reports into the Chapter newsletter. Our heartfelt thanks go to Joe Willingham and David Margolies for their consistent support.

It's a lot of fun meeting people on the trail who occasionally get involved in some way. Just recently we met Bart B. (and his dog Cody) who works at American Soil and who, without prompting, said his company would donate soil to help us get this year's plants well situated. This was a grand offer as the landfill soils at Point Isabel are generally poor and even the minor amendments we make give the plants a good start. At Ace Hardware, we met Chris G. who very kindly gave us a nice discount on the many flags we purchased to mark the new plantings this month.

We also met Bong-Gyoon Han, a researcher from South Korea who showed us his spectacular photos of the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) in the Point Isabel dog park and gave us permission to publish one. We asked EBRPD Supervisor Scott Possin if he could protect the owl and Scott immediately arranged to fence off the area to safeguard this small raptor.

Our plans to raincheck the December 1st work party were "rain checked" when 9 volunteers showed up in the rain and asked us to put them to work! This resulted in a productive day working outside of our revegetation area with Cal student Ian weed wrenching French broom from within the dog park before joining forces with the other crew. Star Scout Nicholas, Ian and his mother Jennifer, along with the other volunteers pulled out piles of ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) west of the Hoffman Channel and removed a lot of African asparagus fern (*Asparagus asparagoides*) that is invad-

ing large stands of coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*). Further down the Trail, Steward Nina planted goldenrod (*Solidago velutina*) donated by the Watershed Nursery and we scattered California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) and yampah (*Perideridia kelloggii*) seeds collected from Point Isabel in fall.

On December 7, Stewards Nina and Sue helped us pick up 127 healthy plants, funded by the EBRPD, and grown for us by The Watershed Nursery in Richmond. They include: yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), narrow leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*), great saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), lizard tail (*Eriophyllum stachaeifolium*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*), California melicgrass (*Melica californica*), sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*), wax myrtle (*Morella californica*), black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), California rose (*Rosa californica*), blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), goldenrod (*Solidago velutina* spp. *californica*). Andrew Derrer from EBRPD kindly brought us mulch and tools for our work and, with heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped with this demanding work, all these precious plants were safely tucked into the soil at Point Isabel.

Our sincere thanks this month go to: Scott Possin, Bruce Adams, and Andrew Derrer from EBRPD, American Soil & Stone, Ace Hardware, Bong-Gyoon Han, Cal Student Ian and his parents Jean and Juri, Star Scout Nicholas and his mother Jennifer, Vincent, Mariko, Ivy, Stan, Willie, Anushka, the Point Isabel Stewards and the Core Volunteers.

Our next work parties will be held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in January and February 2019. Contact tkelly@kyotousa.org.

All of the Pt. Isabel photos below are by Jane Kelly except that of the Burrowing Owl.

Jane and Tom Kelly

POINT ISABEL PHOTOS (1)



Burowing owl. Photo by Bong-Gyoon Han



Star Scout Nicholas and his stockpile

POINT ISABEL PHOTOS (2)



Ice plant crew



Vincent plants a buckeye seed



Mariko plants goldenrod



Ivy, Tom, Stan plant 48 plants



Willie moves the weed pile



Jean plants honeysuckle and blackberry

POINT ISABEL PHOTOS (3)



Ian plants wax myrtle



Tom and Nancy plant coast live oak



Scout and Illy dug the hole for the monkey flower



December 15 crew



Planted site

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Officers and Committee Chairs serve on the Board

Committees are formed based on chapter needs and the interests of volunteers. Proposals for committees and projects are welcome and will be considered by the Board

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