



March 2019

The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnps.org

www.nativeherenursery.org

MARCH MEMBERS' MEETING

Restoring Unlikely Urban Environments

Speaker: Ann Riley, PhD

Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 pm

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (location info below)

In the past 30 years a movement to restore very degraded riparian corridors, including digging up streams buried underground in culverts, was pioneered in the San Francisco Bay Area and spread through the country. These neighborhood-scale projects have produced unlikely wild areas in densely populated cities, and monitoring of these reach-level projects

shows remarkable fish, bird, and wildlife use. The projects serve as evidence that very degraded stream environments, such as creeks in culverts and ditches, can be restored to ecologically functioning environments even in unusually constrained circumstances. Central to the restoration methods is the resurrection of soil bioengineering technology that uses bundled native plants instead of concrete and rock riprap to stabilize channels. Dr. Riley will discuss 20 to 30 years of experience with East Bay native plants in stream restoration and the valuable information that experience has produced about plant selection and the best long-term planting strategies.

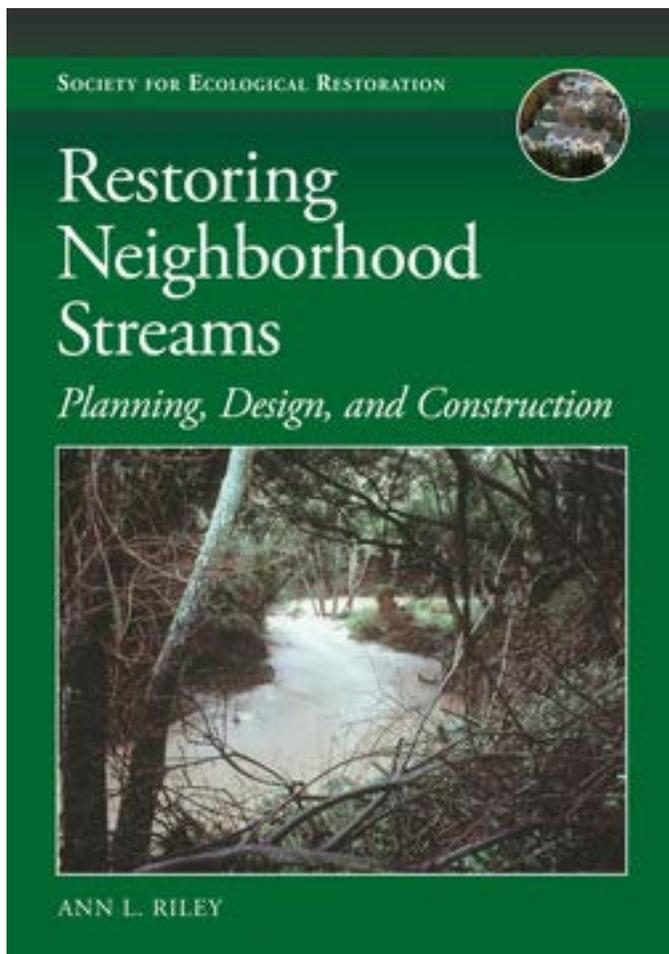
Dr. Ann Riley is the author of *Restoring Neighborhood Streams* (2016) and *Restoring Streams in Cities* (1998), and in the past year was featured on the PBS TV show *Urban Nature*. She has worked as a river scientist for state agencies for over 25 years and has been involved in the nonprofit sector since the early 1980s as a cofounder of the Urban Creeks Council and California Urban Streams Partnership.

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, Orinda 94563, a few blocks from the Orinda BART station. 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.

Upcoming Programs

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

May 22, 7:30 pm, Orinda Library Garden Room
Michael Uhler: Botanical Gems in the Ruby Mountains



NATIVE HERE NURSERY

We have a new nursery assistant! Tara Parker-Essig joined us on February 1. She graduated from UC Davis last spring with a degree in design but soon began to rethink what she really wanted to do. In October she came to Native Here as a volunteer. She's passionate about native plants and soaks up information like a sponge. In addition to her primary duties supporting the potters and keeping the inventory up to date, she waits on customers and rings up sales. Come on up and meet her!

The second new development at the nursery is that our soil sterilizer arrived last week and the electrician upgraded our service yesterday morning so we could start to use it. We immediately loaded it with soil and got it going, although the cryptic instructions were a challenge. It was nowhere close to the temperature required to kill the *Phytophthora*

when the nursery closed for the day, so Barbara came back at dinner time to check on it. Lo and behold, we had our first load of soil! We still have things to learn about how to use the sterilizer most effectively, but we are off and running. We bought the soil sterilizer as part of the State *Phytophthora* Committee grant that we applied for last fall.

The last piece of news from the nursery this month is that we've had to postpone our Flowering Annuals special event for a month because February's cold weather has delayed the plants' growth and they won't be ready. It's now scheduled for Saturday, April 13. We have good supplies of wind poppies, lupines, clarkia, and other favorites.

Lesley Hunt
NHN Committee



Save the (New) Date!
April 13 ~ 11 am

**Flowering Annuals
and
Associated Plants**
John Danielsen
at
Native Here Nursery
101 Golf Course Rd., Berkeley

Wind poppy

CHAPTER VISION AND VALUES STATEMENT

In last month's *Bay Leaf*, we introduced the strategic planning process that the East Bay Chapter of CNPS embarked upon last year. First steps involved creating Mission, Vision and Values statements. Our Mission statement expresses the Chapter's purpose, its reason for being; the Vision clarifies what the Chapter aspires to achieve, and the Values identify its principles.

On February 19th, the Board approved the Vision and Values statements, companions to the previously approved Mission, all stated below. We appreciate the contributions many of you made to their crafting. Together they serve as the guiding light for all that we do, touchstones we look to in decision making.

The next step in the strategic planning process is to appreciatively assess our organization by identifying its strengths, opportunities and vulnerabilities. We're now planning how to include those of you with the knowledge and willingness to participate. The assessment will help the Board to chart the waters ahead, to specify clear objectives for the coming years.

Mission, Vision and Values of the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

Mission

To conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, and to increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.

Vision:

The East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society envisions a future where all people know and value native plants, especially in their native habitats.

Values:

1. Science-based: Science-based information about native plants is the basis of good public policy and promotes widespread understanding and support for protecting native plants and their habitats.

2. Inclusive: Membership and leadership are open to all. Realizing that the future of native plants rests with a diverse and growing human population, we aim to facilitate the understanding and appreciation of native plants among all people.

3. Collaborative: We collaborate with individuals and organizations by freely and mutually sharing information and perspectives to support understanding, protection, and enhancement of native plants. We form alliances with others to advance common goals.

4. Ethical: We act with responsibility and integrity within our organization, toward others, and toward the environment.

5. Connected to Nature: We provide opportunities for people to connect with native plants and the wildlife they support - in the wild, in their communities, and around their homes.

The Strategic Planning Committee (in alphabetical order): Sally de Becker, Judith Frank, Lesley Hunt, Barbara Leitner, Judy Schwartz, Beth Wurzburg

RESTORATION PROJECTS IN MARCH

Greens at Work meets at Point Isabel on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 9:30 am to 2 pm. Our March work parties are scheduled for March 2 and March 16. For more information, please contact Tom Kelly at tkelly@kyotousa.org

Sunday March 3 at 10 am Northshore Basin in Berkeley. Meet John Kenny to weed radish and perhaps plant in what will still be wet soil. Loaner gloves and tools provided.

Saturday March 9 at 9 am Sibley Park restoration. Meet at the Old Tunnel Road staging area to attack French broom. Park staff will be on hand to provide loaner gloves, tools and water. Same directions as for March 3 field trip.

Saturday March 16 at 10 am Garber Park Stewards. Meet at the Claremont Ave. trailhead above Claremont Hotel for

some planting but also to weed cape ivy and other common invasives.

Sunday March 17 at 9:30 am Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve. Meet at the Huckleberry parking lot to decide the worksite for the day. If you have questions, e-mail janet-gawthrop47@gmail.com.

Saturday March 23 Albany Hill. Join Margot Cunningham to continue work on removing invasives in this botanic island of native plants in the City of Albany. You can find more information at TendingAncientShoreline.org

POINT ISABEL IN FEBRUARY

Begin at the beginning and go on till you come to the end: then stop.

Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

It has been both delightful and a relief to see the winter rains nurture all the new plantings at Point Isabel. Every one of the 130 new plants is already showing its gratitude for the sustenance by quickly producing new growth which gives us some assurance that the plants are happy in their new environment. Of course, the rain has also encouraged all the non-native seeds in the soil to sprout and grow so much more quickly than their California native relatives. This month we conducted multiple work parties of anywhere between 30 minutes-3 hours in length when the rains briefly ceased allowing us to swoop in and remove the oat grass growing in and around seedlings of California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) and farewell to spring (*Clarkia*), as well as the newly planted toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), wax myrtle (*Morella californica*) California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California melic (*Melica californica*), blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*) and more. It seemed daunting but we began at the beginning and have made great headway. It is a serene and immensely enjoyable

task gently pulling the short-rooted grass out of the soft earth and liberating the beautiful CA native seedlings and plants. We will stop when the area is cleared.

Hoffman Marsh continues to charm us with the wide variety and large number of birds benefitting from it including Buffleheads, Willets, Mallards, Western Sandpipers, Great Blue Heron and more. One afternoon, we saw some 25 Snowy Egrets feeding together in the marsh. Members of our crew also spotted an American Kestrel and a young Red-tailed Hawk perched just a few feet away from us.

Our special thanks this month to Steward Nancy Leibowitz who comes out regularly to the Point Isabel spit of land that juts across Hoffman Marsh to remove invasive lavender plants while collecting trash including the tennis balls that float across from the dog park. Nancy is also clearing a couple of large patches of Lippia (*Phyla nodiflora*) whose blooms attract swarms of insects including the tiniest of bees. Thanks also to all our volunteers and, of course, to Mother Nature.

Jane and Tom Kelly



February volunteers. Photo by Jane Kelly.

PICTURES FROM POINT ISABEL IN FEBRUARY



Above: February volunteers. Photo by Jane Kelly. Below: Snowy Egrets in the Bay. Photo by Lewis Payne.



FROM THE UNUSUAL PLANTS CHAIR

After all the February rain, it looks like this should be a great blooming season! So I would like to urge everyone to visit our online Chapter database, *Rare, Unusual and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties*, to choose a plant(s) or place to monitor this spring. If every member did just one survey, we could update a sizable portion of the database.

If you are not already signed up for access to the database, you can do so by going to the Chapter website, ebcnps.org, and clicking on the Plant Sciences tab.

I am not making a list of priorities to monitor this spring, as I usually do, but am leaving it up to everyone to pick a plant or area that interests them from the database. Check for both historical and current populations, and choose the populations you want to survey. If you can't decide, last year's priority is still a good choice, namely populations that have not been updated since the 1990's. Unfortunately, only a few of them were surveyed last year.

When monitoring, remember to record the size of population (number of plants and/or area covered), location description and GPS coordinates if available, habitat, date observed, health of population, and threats.

Although not as much data was reported last year as I had hoped, we did have two very exciting rediscoveries of populations that had not been seen for some time, even though they had been looked for constantly at those sites for many years.

FIELDS TRIPS IN MARCH

March 16, 10 am, Fern Ravine in Joaquin Miller Park (no rain date). Meet Karen Paulsell and Beth Keer for this tour of second growth redwood forest, oak/bay woodland, and freshwater wetland. If time and weather permit, we may also see trillium and perhaps late manzanita blooms. Bring water and lunch if desired, and be prepared for some vertical gain on the trail. **Directions:** From Highway 13 exit at Joaquin Miller Road and proceed uphill to the other end of Joaquin Miller at the stoplight with its intersection with Skyline. Turn left at the traffic light onto Skyline and follow switchbacks north to the Sequoia Arena parking lot, to the left of Skyline Boulevard just south of the Chabot Space Science Center.

Sunday, March 17, 2 pm, David Margolies will lead a nature walk in Samuel Taylor State Park in Marin County. We will walk the Pioneer Tree Trail, through old and new growth redwood groves and mixed evergreen forest. Numerous flowers of redwood forests should be in bloom, including fairybells, fetid adder's tongue, false solomon's seal, and trillium. There are many species of trees besides redwood, including Douglas fir and California nutmeg. **Directions** From the East Bay: take the Richmond-San Rafael bridge westbound. Once in Marin, take the second exit, Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Stay on the

Lupinus affinis was found along Grizzly Peak Boulevard in the Berkeley Hills after not being seen in the area since 1935!

Triphysaria versicolor subsp. *faucibarbata* was rediscovered along Franklin Canyon Road near Martinez after not having been seen at that site since 2000!

Although I said I was not setting any priorities this year, I would like to mention one place: Bald Ridge on Mt. Diablo, from Prospector's Gap to Murchio Gap. This is a popular and botanically rich trail, but, surprisingly, very little data has been reported since the early 1990's! To see what populations occur there and when they were last monitored, go to the search page in the database and set the Results field for "Observation Records", and enter "Bald Ridge" into the Location Description field in the Location section. 127 records will be retrieved but some of them will be for the same population monitored over a number of years. You will also notice that, in addition to needing updated data, many of the populations need much better location descriptions.

Monitoring results can be entered directly into the database (contact me for an application form to do so), or sent to me and I can enter them into the database myself.

Happy botanizing to everyone, and let's hope for a beautiful spring and a wealth of updated data!

boulevard across the county. You will pass through Fairfax and over the hill into the San Geronimo valley. When you pass the village of Lagunitas you will enter the state park. The picnic area is a mile or so on the left. Enter there, pay the entrance fee and park in the picnic area. Cross the stream on the bridge and meet in the group picnic area parking lot, where the Pioneer Tree Trail starts. The walk is two miles, with an elevation change of a couple of hundred feet. David Margolies can be contacted at 510-393-1858, divaricatum@gmail.com. See also meetup.com/ebcnps.

Saturday, March 23, 10 am, Sibley Regional Park (2-3 Hours). Join Camille Nowell and Liz Bitner at the Old Tunnel Road staging area to explore this less disturbed side of a popular regional park. Bring water, mud clothes, and any questions you might have about oak/bay woodlands, creekside riparian vegetation and native grassland.

Directions: From Highway 24, exit at Fish Ranch Road, which is the exit just east of the Caldecott Tunnel. Follow Fish Ranch Road to turn left onto Old Tunnel Road a few hundred meters past the ramp; look for the Sibley Park sign. There is a small parking lot next to the paved bicycle path, but also more parking around the corner nearer to the end of the road.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Plant Conservation Snapshot - 2019 offers new opportunities to protect local native plant diversity

Plans in place for recovery of the magnificent Pallid Manzanita

Often towering over 10' high, the pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*) is unique and magnificent, but under threat. Chapter members have been actively working for years to assist the Regional Park District with the recovery of this remarkable plant.

For years, Chapter President Judy Schwartz has collected observations on the pallid manzanita populations. CNPS members Marcia Kolb and Janet Gawthrop organize volunteer stewardship days to keep invasive weed competition at bay at the Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve.

In 2017 the East Bay Regional Park District prepared a "Pallid Manzanita Management Plan" to guide adaptive management for the pallid manzanita that occur on District lands. The largest current populations of these rare and endangered plants are found on cherts and shales at the Huckleberry and Sobrante Ridge Preserves. Also, Tilden, Sibley, and Redwood Parks support some plants that appear to be outplantings. The plan addresses the stresses on these remaining populations.

Recently, Judy Schwartz, Beth Wurzburg, and Jim Hanson joined long time stewardship and nursery volunteer, Gudrun Kleist, to walk the Sobrante Ridge pallid manzanita loop trail. Many of the plants were in full bloom. We also noted that most mature plants were cloaked in shade. When the District Stewardship unit released a regeneration plan for the pallid manzanita at Huckleberry Preserve, Chapter President Judy Schwartz responded with several comments, including that plants begin to be released from excessive shade. With both the management plan and regeneration plans in place, we look forward to working with the District on regeneration of the pallid manzanita.



Judy and Beth view a mature pallid mananita reaching for sunlight at Sobrante Ridge.

NOTE: As in this and the other active conservation projects below, please send an email to conservation@ebcnps.org if you'd like more information on how you can get involved.

Mayor opens Pt. Molate's environmentally sensitive south watershed to condo development; community members continue to call for a sensible Pt. Molate plan

At a February 12 special meeting of the Richmond City Council, four developers presented proposal options for housing and commercial development at Pt. Molate. The month before, a council motion by Mayor Tom Butt removed a stipulation requiring developer proposals to locate commercial and any housing development in Point Molate's north watershed around the early 1900's Winehaven building. In community planning meetings held over the summer, many residents asked the City to keep the ecologically sensitive south watershed as a public resource for community outdoor uses. However, after passing on a 4/3 vote, the mayor's motion wiped out these land use stipulations.

Thirty seven people spoke at the February 12 special council meeting. Nearly all speakers asked for a more sensible plan for Point Molate....one that protects the south watershed, that does not place housing next to the Chevron refinery (where there is only one road in and out), and that does not have Richmond taxpayers subsidize high end housing there. Many in Richmond believe that the City needs to direct housing development downtown where infrastructure and transit already exist. CNPS supports this approach.

Opportunities to comment on several important Regional Park Plans

The East Bay Regional Park District uses a "land use plan amendment (LUPA)" process to outline development for trails, facilities, and park management when new land is added to an existing park, or when updated park plans are needed. "LUPAs" and the associated Draft Environmental Impact Reports (DEIR) are underway on several important parks. The plans will be open for public comment during 2019. If you are familiar with these parks, the trails, needs, or areas of rich native plant diversity, please consider contacting the Conservation Committee at conservation@ebcnps.org. Your intimate knowledge of a favorite park can be very helpful when the Conservation Committee prepares comments on the plans and Draft EIRs.

- Implementation of the **Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve** land use plan amendment (LUPA) would open nearly 5,000 additional acres of land, bringing the total land in the Preserve to just under 10,000 acres. In addition to new staging areas, the Park District proposes to open more than 40 miles of trails including

more than 28 miles of existing drivable ranch roads and trails; several miles of narrow “single-track” trails; and 12 miles of new trail, including a 6.3 mile segment of the Black Diamond Mines to Round Valley Regional Trail.

- Park District board adoption of the **Miller Knox “LUPA”** would result in invasive plant removal and trail repair in the upland hills, expanded parking and staging areas, and enhanced picnic areas. The LUPA also recommends implementation of the Lagoon Enhancement Project. The upland hills of Miller Knox support a rich native coastal prairie, however pine trees and invasive French broom have encroached into the prairie. EBCNPS previously submitted comments supporting invasive weed removal and coastal prairie enhancement. The plan will be reviewed by the District Board on March 19.
- The **Southern Las Trampas Wilderness Land Use Plan Amendment** would add about 760 acres to the southern portion of Las Trampas, including 7.1 miles of public trail connections. The draft Environmental Impact Report and LUPA are expected to be released later in 2019. Details on proposed uses for narrow trails and biological assessments for new construction will be available at that time.
- Among other improvements the **Concord Hills “LUPA”** (the former Concord Naval Weapons Station) would provide a trail system consisting of both paved and unpaved trails for bikers, hikers, equestrians, joggers and others. The trails would connect to a regional network linking to parks and trails, such as Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, Mt. Diablo State Park, the Iron Horse Trail, and the Delta DeAnza Trail. The DEIR and LUPA are expected to be released in early/mid 2019 (however property transfer from the Navy to EBRPD will need to be completed).
- A **Coyote Hills LUPA** and DEIR is expected for release in early 2019. It focuses on the nearly 300-acre Patterson Ranch property on the eastern side of the Park. The District’s Planning website states that the parcel will allow new opportunities for public access and habitat improvement.

- **Oak protection measures during Mountain View Cemetery Expansion** The expansion of the Mountain View Cemetery (MVC) approved by the Oakland Planning Commission is well underway. In line with the settlement agreement between the Cemetery and CNPS, the Cemetery has an oversight arborist regularly on site to review compliance with the tree protection measures in the Oakland Tree Removal permit and in the settlement agreement. The Conservation Committee has developed guidelines for the Oak Fund arising out of the settlement agreement and is evaluating projects to conserve and restore oaks within those guidelines.
- Tesla - A State Senate bill (named SB 676) allowing the **Livermore TESLA property** to be sold by the State Parks Off-Road Vehicle program to a public agency for use as a park has been reintroduced by Senator **Steve Glazer**. There are several co-authors, including Senator **Scott Wiener** from San Francisco, and Senator **Bob Wieckowski** from Fremont.

This is just a snapshot of several of the conservation projects during 2019. There are many ways members can help advance native plant protection and care if attending Conservation Committee meetings is not possible. Sharing your knowledge of how trails are used in your park, where areas of plant diversity are, how fuel management areas are managed (such as goat grazing or hazard tree thinning) all contribute to the Chapter’s work to advocate to conserve native plants and their natural habitats. Drop a line.

Jim Hanson, Conservation Committee Chair

DIRECTORY

Officers

President

Judy Schwartz
president@ebcnps.org

Vice President

Sally de Becker
vice-president@ebcnps.org

Corresponding Secretary

Clara Gerdes
corresponding-secretary@ebcnps.org

Recording Secretary

Sue Duckles
recording-secretary@ebcnps.org

Treasurer

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

Committees

Bay Leaf Newsletter

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

Bay Leaf Assistant Editor

David Margolies
510-654-0283
dm@franz.com

Bay Leaf Mailing

Holly Forbes
510-234-2913 h
510-643-8040 w

Bryophytes

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

Conservation

Jim Hanson, Chair
conservation-chair@ebcnps.org

Field Trips

Janet Gawthrop, Chair
janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

Funds Development

Delia Taylor, Chair
funds-development-chair@ebcnps.org

Hospitality

Marilyn Catterton, Chair
mtcatt@gmail.com

Information Infrastructure

Peter Rauch, Chair
info-infra-comm-chair@ebcnps.org

Membership

Sally de Becker
ebcnps-membership@ebcnps.org

Native Here Nursery Liaison

Steve Toby
stevetoby@comcast.net

Outreach

Lesley Hunt
ldhunt@astound.net

Programs

Programs (Lecture Series)
programs@ebcnps.org

Publicity

Vacant

Rare Plants

Danny Slakey
dslakey@cnps.org

Unusual Plants

Dianne Lake, Chair
510-691-1428
unusual-plants-admin@ebcnps.org

Restoration Chair

Vacant

Vegetation

Megan Kever, Co-Chair
megan@stillwatersci.com

Nicole Jurjavic, Co-Chair

nicole@stillwatersci.com

EBCNPS sponsored activities

East Bay Chapter News list

Emailed announcements of upcoming EBCNPS events
Robin Mitchell
eccommunitygarden@gmail.com

Native Here Nursery

510-549-0211
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Charli Danielsen, production manager
charlid@pacbell.net

Volunteer Coordinator
Ruth Ann Pearsons
rapearsons1@mac.com

Penny Spear, infrastructure
510-549-0211

Gudrun Kleist, bulbs
510-549-0211

John Danielsen, propagule collection
dnlsen@pacbell.net
510-549-0211

Restoration Projects Leaders

Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve
Janet Gawthrop, leader
janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

John Muir NHS (Martinez)
Elaine Jackson, leader
925-372-0687
elainejx@att.net

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

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

Skyline Gardens
Glen Schneider, leader
skylinegardens@ebcnps.org

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

Officers and Committee Chairs serve on the Board

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

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
PO Box 5597
Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705**