



May 2019

The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnps.org

www.nativeherenursery.org

MAY MEMBERS' MEETING

In Search of Floral Treasures in the Ruby Mountains of Nevada

Speaker: Michael Uhler

Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 pm

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

The Ruby Mountains of northeastern Nevada are a fascinating range that together with the adjacent East Humboldt Range spans 100 miles in length and 8 to 15 miles in width. Michael Uhler has long known of this range's distinctive flora, which has many species in common with his beloved Sierra Nevada. Join Michael on a photographic journey through the most remote and wild part of the range known to those who love it as "The Rubies."

For the past fourteen years, Michael Uhler has been the gardener in the Regional Parks Botanic Garden's Sierra Nevada

and Sea Bluff sections. He is responsible for stewarding the largest collection of wild-collected Sierra Nevada plant species to be found anywhere. In his spare time he visits the wildest parts of our state and beyond.

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. Email programs@ebcnps.org if you have questions.

This May meeting is the last until the Fall. Keep an eye out for the announcement for the September meeting later in the Summer.

Below: Michael Uhler in the Ruby Mountains. Photo by Ellen Uhler.



CONSERVATION REPORT

Richmond to negotiate with SunCal for Point Molate shoreline condo project; Residents and EB CNPS say there's a better way:

On a 5-1-0 vote, the Richmond City Council recently approved an "Exclusive Right to Negotiate" with Irvine's SunCal Company for development of Point Molate. This 400 acre former World War II navy ship fueling base supports a rare natural landscape linking together upland native coastal prairie and shrublands, ephemeral water ways, a coastal strand beach, and rare eel grass beds.

The City plans to negotiate the final terms for the property sale over the next six months. Following a series of closed session meetings, the City Council released the opening sale price...just \$45 million, although the City would only see half - \$22.5 million - of that amount. The other half would be split with former casino developer Jim Levine to satisfy last year's closed session settlement agreement. Under the agreement, up to 1,200 condos could be built along the shoreline.

The opening agreement states that only 67 units would be set aside for "affordable housing" even though a majority of Richmond residents rent. Many are economically stressed by rising rents and housing prices.

At the insistence of the former City Council, community planning meetings were held last summer to hear what the Richmond public wanted for Point Molate. In a public workshop approximately 70% of the participants said that they wanted a mixed use project that centered development in the north watershed (around Winehaven), while the ecologically diverse south watershed would be conserved for its natural beauty and recreational opportunities. Developers were asked to submit proposals along these lines, however a subsequent motion by Mayor Butt on January 15, 2019 subsequently removed conditions that encouraged developers to keep the south watershed a public resource (4-3 vote).

East Bay CNPS supports the mixed-used plan put forth by the Point Molate Alliance that would also center development around Winehaven, protect the south watershed, and build mixed-income housing in the long-time depressed, but now reawakening, downtown.

The Alliance will be holding a forum on the latest developments with Point Molate on **Sunday, May 19th** at the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts. 11-noon - Music and lunch!, 12-2 pm - Informational panels, 2-3:30 pm - Post-panel Workshops. The Center is in downtown Richmond at 339 11th Street, walking distance from Richmond BART. There is no charge for the event.

EB CNPS travels to Sacramento to support Livermore TESLA bill

On Tuesday, April 23, 2018, Senate Bill 767 passed out the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization (GO) on a 10-3-3 vote after earlier passing out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on a 6-2-1 vote.

This bill would authorize State Parks to sell the portion of the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area known as the "Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area" to permanently preserve that land for conservation purposes. The bill would require that the land only be sold to a local agency or nonprofit organization for use as a park or other open-space purpose and require that any revenue from sale be deposited in the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund.

Of the sixteen speakers who attended the first Committee meeting in Sacramento in support of SB 767 one was Conservation Committee member Beth Wurzburg.

EB CNPS is an active member of Friends of Tesla Park. For more info see: <https://www.teslapark.org/>

In other news....

The Conservation Committee submitted comments on the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Coyote Hills land use plan amendment. The land use plan covers 300 acres that have been added to the existing Coyote Hills park and would restore grasslands and wetlands, build trails, and retain the farmland. The Conservation Committee lauded the goals of the project and also commented on the need for up to date, comprehensive botanical survey information prior to any construction work. New conservation committee members Ivy Poisson and Tri Do led the preparation of comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

Also, the members of the Conservation Committee are following Governor Newsom's recent approval of an 11 mile fuel break through the East Bay hills.

Jim Hanson



A native bulb - a *Dichelostemma* - announces its presence from the bluffs of Point Molate with the south valley watershed in the background. Photo by Jim Hanson.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUDDEN OAK DEATH BLITZES

Special Program for Arborists

**Important monitoring of the disease spread in a rainy year! Be on the lookout for new dangerous strains
Test oaks for SOD, thanks to OakSTeP**

Californians do things differently. When the devastating forest disease known as Sudden Oak Death (aka SOD) became established across much of the coastal forests of Northern California, local residents together with environmental leaders and U.C Berkeley scientists decided to close ranks and fight back. They started what has become one of the oldest tree health Citizen Science programs in the world: the SOD Blitzes. Over 500 citizens per year volunteer their time to survey their local neighborhoods for the presence of SOD, and results are made public in real time on www.sodmap.org and SODmap mobile, two of the largest databases on distribution of a forest disease ever created by man. Thanks to this knowledge, most Californians will be informed on how close SOD is to their oaks and determine whether it is time to protect them.

This year, local volunteer-led surveys will be organized throughout the State starting on March 30th (Marin County) and ending in Northern Humboldt County on June 15th. Go to www.sodblitz.org for a list of dates and venues: participation in a SOD blitz is 100% free, but requires attendance at a 1-hour training meeting. SOD spreads with rainfall, so this wet year may be yet another critical one for California forests, but there are several other **new reasons** to attend

the 2019 Blitzes. SOD Blitzes traditionally focus on collections of California bay laurel and tanoak leaves, since these are responsible for most, if not all, of the spread of SOD.

ARBORISTS! This year we will launch the program **OakSTeP (Oak Sod Testing Program www.oakstep.org)** that will allow licensed arborists, preserve managers, and qualified government employees to team up with U.C. Berkeley to test oaks for SOD infection. Registration to **OakSTeP** will be available at each SOD Blitz training, and within a couple of weeks you could have a precise diagnosis of possible SOD infection in oaks. In addition to **OakSTeP**, all samples collected by volunteers will be tested to ensure the new and aggressive EU1 strain of the pathogen found in Oregon has not arrived in California.

Finally, if you are thinking of doing something or you have done something to control SOD in the past, we will have a questionnaire and some important information and tips for you at the trainings. So 2019 offers many reasons to come to the **BLITZes**, and remember SOD blitzes do provide a nice opportunity to be strolling through the marvelous California landscape with the entire family.

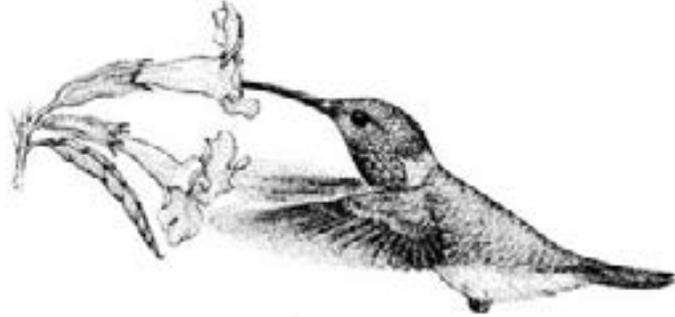
Matteo Garbelotto
contact@matteolab.org



BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

Tour of Showcase Native Plant Gardens

Sunday
May 5, 2019
10 am-5 pm



Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Companion event

Native Plant Sale Extravaganza
Saturday and Sunday May 4 & May 5

A self-guided tour of 35 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens

This delightful collection of native plant gardens ranges from Al Kyte's 40-year-old wildlife oasis to brand new installations, from large lots in the hills to small front-yard gardens, from local native plants to natives from throughout California, and from gardens designed and installed by owners to those designed and installed by professionals.

10 am-5 pm Sunday, May 5: A self-guided tour of 35 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens. Visit www.BringingBackTheNatives.net to register for the tour, view photos of the gardens, read garden descriptions, download plant lists for each garden, obtain contact information for landscapers that specialize in native plant gardens, and more.

VOLUNTOURISM TO HUMBOLDT COUNTY

In April, ten enthusiastic volunteers from the East Bay spent a week in McKinleyville on this year's "Voluntourism" trip. In our case, we spend a week volunteering with local environmental groups and tour the area in our free time.

We worked in Redwood National and State Parks with Biotechnician Laura Julian and her colleagues weed-wrenching Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) from the beautiful Dolason Prairie on Bald Hills Road. The views were stunning and the clouds floated by all day. While there we spotted blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), annual lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), white pussy ears (*Calochortus tolmiei*), and blue dicks (*Dichelostemma capi-*

tatum). The Scotch broom had previously been cut and part of the plants sometimes snapped off so, on occasion, we had to duplicate our efforts to ensure the entire root system was pulled out. Laura told us they now have the broom under control and that it has been wonderful for her to inherit such a successful program. Thousands of hours were spent in the early years to manually remove the broom, but in the last few years they have been able to visit, monitor and treat in one season all 314 occurrences spread over 275 acres. Dolason Prairie is no longer a prairie in name only!

VOLUNTOURISM TO HUMBOLDT COUNTY (CONT.)

Our second work party was held with Friends of the Dunes at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center in Manila. Before setting to work, our contact, Ashley Hansen, arranged for their stellar volunteer, naturalist Jenny Hanson, to give us a guided tour of the dunes. Jenny started by having us touch the soft leaves of coast buckwheat (*Eriogonum latifolium*), describing wool-carder bees and how they scrape hair from such plants for nest lining. Jenny also showed us a protected dune area where native silver bees are nesting. She explained that the females excavate nests in the sand to lay their eggs and that the sand has to be the right density as nests can be as deep as 20 inches. Jenny described how the dunes form and change when winds sweep the sand from the beach and re-arrange sand among the dunes. The dunes were covered with a myriad of native plants including sand mat (*Cardionema ramosissimum*), beach knotweed (*Polygonum paronychia*), sea thrift (*Armeria maritima*), and cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*) that were brilliant yellow instead of cream. We admired the beautiful coastal willow (*Salix hookeriana*) and were delighted when Jenny showed us two federally listed endangered plant species - the Humboldt Bay wallflower (*Erysimum menziesii eurekaensis*) that apparently may take 7 years to come to flower (!) and the beach layia (*Layia carnosa*). After a picnic lunch, we pulled out a small patch of ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) and a lot of ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*) from the living roof as well as from the front and back gardens of the Nature Center.

Our third and fourth work parties were held with the inspirational leaders (Kim Tays and Stan Binnie) and their crew from the Humboldt No Ivy League (HNIL) at Trinidad State Beach. We were warmly welcomed by Michelle Forys, Environmental Scientist-North Coast Redwoods District (California Dept. of Parks and Recreation) and learned from Kim and Stan that HNIL has restored 8-10 acres in this 165 acre site by manually removing masses of ivy that covered every inch of the ground and that were climbing up the trees. We saw the results of their amazing work and admired the Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), trailing black currant (*Ribes laxiflorum*), various ferns, candy flower (*Claytonia sibirica*), western wakerobin (*Trillium ovatum*), false lily of the valley (*Maianthemum dilatatum*), redwood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*), and Pacific bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*). Kim and Stan tell us it seems these native plants appear the moment the ivy is gone and that they certainly have no need to replant the areas. Our crew holds Humboldt No Ivy League in great admiration! Kim and Stan led us on a short hike to Elk Head ending at the Pacific Ocean where seals and sea lions were resting on the rocks. The trail was lined with California native plants including thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), coast silk tassel (*Garrya elliptica*),

coast red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), and many redwood violets (*Viola sempervirens*).

We organized this voluntourism trip with the assistance of the non-profit Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) in Arcata. In the 1990s, EPIC played a pivotal role in protecting Headwaters Forest and, led by their Executive Director Tom Wheeler, they continue their important work on behalf of imperiled species and their habitat. EPIC connected us with the Humboldt No Ivy League who in turn put us in touch with Redwood National and State Parks and thus the trip came together. EPIC's California Forest and Wildlife Advocate, Rob DiPerna, led us on a magical hike through old growth redwoods to Fern Canyon in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. We know that Rob has special leadership qualities as we hiked with him that day for nearly 12 miles and 2000 ft. elevation gain, all in continuous light rain, and we loved every step of it.

We are very grateful to the fantastic environmentalists who hosted us on this trip to beautiful Humboldt County.

Jane and Tom Kelly on behalf of the Voluntourism Crew (Anushka Drescher, Miriam Joscelyn, John Kenny, Rob Kirby, Gudrun Kleist, Kimberly Moses, Margaret Norman, Lewis Payne)

VOLUNTOURISM TO HUMBOLDT COUNTY (CONT.)



Above: ready to Pull Scotch broom, photo by Jane Kelly. Below left: salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), photo by Gudrun Kleist. Below right: Siberian candy flower (*Claytonia sibirica*), photo by Gudrun Kleist.



ADDITIONAL PICTURES FROM VOLUNTOURISM



Above: Human tree (Anushka) saved from Ivy, photo by Jane Kelly. Below left: wallflower (*Erysimum menziesii eurekaensis*), photo by Jane Kelly. Below right: Tom rolls up the ivy (much cropped), photo by Stan Tays.



ADDITIONAL PICTURES FROM VOLUNTOURISM



Above: With Friends of the Dunes, photo by Jane Kelly. Below: Ready to remove ivy, photo by Jane Kelly.



RESTORATION PROJECTS IN MAY

Saturday, May 4 and Saturday, May 18 at 9:30 am, Pt Isabel restoration, weeding and planting until about 1:30 pm. For details, e-mail kyotousa@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, May 5 at 10 am, Northshore Basin at the mouth of Schoolhouse Creek. For details, e-mail johnkenny54@yahoo.com

Saturday, May 11 at 9:30 am, Sibley Park restoration, starting from the Old Tunnel Road staging area. For details, e-mail janetgawthrop47@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 12, Redwood Park, e-mail redwood@ebparks.org for location, start time and confirmation.

Saturday, May 18 at 9:30 am, Garber Park Stewards, starting from the Claremont Avenue trailhead above the Claremont Hotel

Sunday May 19 at 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve. For details, go to <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/dqwtthyzhbpb/>

Saturday, May 25 at 9:30 am Albany Hill with Tending Ancient Shoreline, until 11:30 am

FIELDS TRIPS IN MAY

Saturday, May 4 at 4 pm, Hillside Natural Area in El Cerrito, Janet Gawthrop will lead. Click on <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/259956720/> for details.

Sunday, May 5 at 9 am, Shell Ridge Open Space. Bill & Lesley Hunt's field trip with a photography emphasis. This is listed on the Walnut Creek Open Space Meetup <https://www.meetup.com/I-Love-WC-Open-Space/events/260787885/> with map, directions, etc.

Sunday, May 19 at 9:45 am, Briones Regional Park at 9:45 am Gregg Weber's field trip along Blue Oak & Spengler trails. Complete description at <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/qkscljyzhbzb/>

Sunday, June 2, Theo Fitanides field trip. For information about this field trip contact Theo at theomeister@gmail.com.

CORRECTIONS TO THE EAST BAY FLORA CHECKLIST

East Bay Checklist—Do you have additions, corrections?

If you are a regular user of the *Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora*, Second Edition by Barbara Ertter and Lech Naumovich, this message is for you.

Lech is working on a revision and welcomes any additions or corrections you may have from your ramblings. This has been an especially good year for plants so there are some new ranges, or maybe new listings!

Send new locations or new taxa with taxon name, location, degree of certainty of ID, collection date.

Please send your notes to Lech at:

lech@goldenhour.org

Delia Taylor



Photo from voluntourism in Humboldt County. Left: Wet Bumblebees on *Trillium ovatum*, photo by Gudrun Kleist. Right: *Ribes laxiflorum*, photo by Gudrun Kleist.

SKYLINE GARDENS RESTORATION

It's been way too long since the last report, mostly because we've been so busy. A special highlight this year has been doing a class on Restoration Ecology with UC Berkeley through the DeCal program. The 2 unit class has 13 students and we meet on Wednesday afternoons at Skyline Gardens for 3 and 1/2 hours of nature study and restoration work. Each week has a theme. There is a course syllabus, which I'd be happy to share, with readings focused on our local natural history. As for the volunteers, we go out every Sunday morning at 9:30, and most Thursday afternoons at 3 pm. Please let me know if you can make it.

As for the wildflowers we're having our own version of superbloom at Skyline Gardens. Partly it's the weather, and partly it's our removal of invasive plants to create space for the natives to increase. Here's the view from Diablo Bend:

for the photo, which EBMUD Downtown now wants to use in their publicity!)

The off-trail areas along the ridge are also lovely right now. Here's a shot approaching the ridge-top:

It's a five-color symphony! The red flowers are Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis*) and the blue are blue dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*). The big yellow sunflowers are mule's ears (*Wyethia helenoides*). I can also see bisquit root (yellow) and a few fiddlenecks (orange).

And here's the cap of Barberry Peak, where we've spent over 120 hours on our knees, hand weeding in the last three years removing Italian thistle, wild oats, and the biggest nemesis of all, false brome (*Brachypodium distachyon*).



This shot is trailside, looking out to Mt. Diablo in the distance. Three years ago, this trail shoulder was solid Italian thistle with a few California poppies and less than ten popcorn flower plants struggling in the weeds. These were so few that we considered them rare here. For three seasons now we have diligently prevented the invasive thistles from making seeds by cutting off the flower stalks, by spraying young seedlings with vinegar, and by hand weeding. Now the thistles are nearly gone, and just look at the increase in native wildflowers. Results like this keep us coming back. (Thanks to Meredith

Every plant you see in this shot is now a native one, from the California poppies and lupine to wild cucumber, goldenrod, *Phacelia* and three species of native grasses. We've catalogued over 25 native species right in this spot alone. The lovely red cobweb thistle (*Cirsium occidentale*), which grows here, will bloom again this year in late May. And most exciting of all these are now seeding freely throughout this spot.

Anyway, that's the headlines. Come on out!

"Our hands imbibe like roots, and so I place them on what is beautiful in this world" -Francis of Assisi



Here's a shot approaching the ridge top. It's a five-color symphony! The red flowers are Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis*) and the blue are blue dicks (*Dicholostemma capitatum*). The big yellow sunflowers are mule's ears (*Wyethia helenoides*). I can also see biscuit root (yellow) and a few fiddlenecks (orange).

Glen Schneider, Slyline Gardens Restoration

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

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 Keever, Co-Chair
megan@stillwatersci.com

Nicole Jurjavcic, 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

Native Here Nursery
510-549-0211
nativehere@ebcnps.org
Lesley Hunt, chair
John Danielsen
Sue Duckles
Barbara Leitner
Ruth Ann Pearsons
Steve Toby
Beth Wurzburg

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

El Cerrito Recycling Center
Tom and Jane Kelly, leaders

510-684-6484 (c)
tkelly@kyotousa.org

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**

