



June 2019

The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnps.org

www.nativeherenursery.org

MEMBERS' MEETINGS ON HIATUS UNTIL SEPTEMBER

East Bay CNPS Members' Meetings will take a summer break during the months of June, July, and August. Watch for announcements of our next meeting, which will take place on September 25, in the *Bay Leaf*, on the chapter website (<http://ebcnps.org/chapter-events-initiatives/members-meetings/>), and

on our East Bay CNPS Meetup page (<https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/>). As always, please share your ideas for program topics or speakers at programs@ebcnps.org. Your ideas are always welcome.

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, June 1, Sabercat Creek restoration with City of Fremont. Please note that this group is phasing out use of Eventbrite. For this month and for the July 6 restoration, please e-mail sabrina.siebert@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 1 and Saturday, June 15 at 9:30 am, Point Isabel at Eastshore State Park. Meet at the end of Rydin Road for a variety of weeding and watering until 1 pm.

Saturday, June 1st we will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Canyon meadow staging area. We will head up Canyon trail and make a left on Eastridge. We will be pulling near the EBMUD gate. There's plenty of small to medium broom and thistle to work on.

Sunday, June 9th we will meet at 9:30 a.m. at Pinehurst gate and continue pulling broom there. We provide tools and snacks. I look forward to seeing you!

Ranger Monica

East Bay Regional Park District

Redwood Operations

Operations staff | Park Operations

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, June 2 at 10:00 am, field trip to Pt. San Pablo area of Pt. Molate. Theo Fitanides and Jim Hanson will lead this half-day visit to a remnant coastal prairie in an encroaching urban environment. The trip will start from the Pt. San Pablo harbor, at the end of Stenmark Drive in Richmond. Click on this link for more information: <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/261153215/> | TFitanides@ebparks.org | www.ebparks.org

Saturday, June 8 at 9:45 am, Redwood Regional Park. Gregg Weber will lead this trip along Redwood Peak, French and

7867 Redwood Road, Oakland, CA 94619
510-544-3127 redwood@ebparks.org | www.ebparks.org

Sunday, June 2 at 10 am, Northshore Basin in Berkeley. Meet next to the mouth of Schoolhouse Creek for maintenance and weeding at this ongoing project. E-mail johnkenny54@yahoo.com with questions.

Saturday, June 8 at 9:30 am, Sibley Park. We'll start from the Old Tunnel Road staging and attack the shadiest side of the wall of broom. Loaner gloves, tools and water are available.

Saturday, June 15 at 10 am, Garber Park Stewards in Oakland. Meet at the Claremont Avenue trailhead for restoration in this shadiest of open space parks. For details, go to Garber Park Stewards on www.Meetup.com.

Sunday, June 16 at 9:30 am, Huckleberry Park. Meet at the parking lot, where we'll decide on the work site depending on soil and weather conditions. Latecomers should know that we're most likely going downhill into the park to work on *Vinca*.

Starflower trails to introduce sedge species now in flower, and perhaps a view of *Clintonia*, and some late flowers thanks to the rains. Click on this link for more information: <https://www.meetup.com/ebcnps/events/wdhvglyzjblb/>

Saturday, June 22 at 10:30 am, Oro Loma/ San Lorenzo horizontal levee project. Donna Ball of Save the Bay will guide us through the plantings and wetland preservation designed to preserve both the Bay shoreline flora and the uplands behind it. This half-day tour will end around noon, but bring mud shoes if you want to view more of the wetlands.

SKYLINE GARDENS REPORT

How about these late season rains? We've had nearly four inches at Skyline in the last week! With this long, cool spring and now good rain, it all still looks great.

Our biggest nemesis, Italian thistles, are now up tall and just in flower. We're keeping up, but barely. If we cut them soon they won't seed, so we're waiting for a big thistle-catching push this Memorial Day weekend. We'll be out as usual on 9:30 Sunday morning. On Monday, we'll go out late afternoon, at 4 pm. If you could fit in a shift at Skyline in the next month, this would be the time to do it.

As to the other animals, they are very out and about, too. Let's start with the insects. Here's a shot of Yellow-faced Bumblebee on silver lupine:

Bumblebees, with their long tongues, are specially adapted to nectar on plants of the pea family. Unlike the non-native



We call these the flying mice! They are the new crop of gravid (pregnant) queens, searching for a hole or crack in which to burrow down and sleep for the dry season - and most of the rainy season. They will emerge with the first wildflowers next spring, and build a new colony of up to a thousand workers -- all from pollen, nectar, and tons of work.



Speaking of nests, look what we found while weeding geraniums on the trail shoulder above the Slide area (picture above)

The tip off was that Mom flew out from the bank when I got to about a foot away. I've seen this before and it's the sure sign to look for a nest. And there it was, on a nearly vertical slope tucked under a rock. OK, birders, what species is this? Hint - they are ground nesters. This is a Junco's nest. The eggs are a light powder blue with purple speckles on the fat end. Juncos are ground nesters, and if there's one thing I would not want to be in this world, it's a ground nesting bird. Just think of all the creatures who would just love to find and eat your eggs and babies. In this case, Mom Junco was doing her very best to cluck, tweet, and harass me away, so I left as soon as I was done.

honeybees, Bumblebees build a new colony each spring. They are the true workers of the world. They nest in abandoned rodent holes. Two days ago, I found the entrance to a colony in an old vole hole, in the midst of a patch of fiddlenecks. We make the best discoveries while weeding. These days, you may see a few giant Yellow-facers flying around, really huge, about four times the size of the worker in this photo.

50 feet south of the same Slide area. I was in the lead, and saw a snake at the edge of the trail ahead. We both stopped. A Whipsnake? I've seen only one of them in three years at Skyline, and that one was off in a flash. But this one, now clearly an Alameda Whipsnake, began to move towards us, slowly, by which time Cynthia had her phone ready:

SKYLINE GARDENS REPORT (CONT.)



This was a really long one, over four feet! Alameda Whipsnakes are a big deal in our area. They are rare and endangered, and Federally listed as a protected species. At first glance, they may look like garter snakes, but on closer look, these Whipsnakes have just two yellow stripes going down their sides. Garter snakes would have a third, often orange stripe, going right down the backbone. EBMUD biologists have done extensive monitoring of Alameda Whipsnakes in the Skyline Gardens area, its prime habitat. Whipsnakes eat mostly Western Fence Lizards, and boy, do we have a lot of lizards at Skyline.

Anyway, Whipsnake did not seem to be at all bothered by us humans standing there. In fact, this snake slid right past the

toes of our boots, no more than nine inches away. Whipsnake continued up the trail and then raised up his or her head to look around (picture on bottom of page).

Amazing, just amazing!! What was going on? A moment later, about two yards up the trail, a second Whipsnake slides out from the brush and heads down the path towards all of us: Yes, this shot is of a second, different Whipsnake. In and out of the plants and brush they went, and then eventually out



of sight. Our best guess is that they were courting, and so lit up with that drama that they couldn't care less about the humans taking pictures. If so, which was the male and which was the female? We couldn't tell.

Not to worry, they can. Happy Trails,

Glen Schneider

POINT ISABEL AND MORE IN MAY

Copious amounts of rainfall caused this May to be a special month at Point Isabel in terms of rapid weed growth and the advent of beautiful blooms. Our awesome volunteers carried out numerous plant rescue work parties, removing the invading ripgut brome, oat grass, foxtails, pepper weed, fennel, and seemingly countless infestations of vetch covering the native plants. (Vetch is the predominant weed this year at Point Isabel.) The plants we worked around and that are now free and clear from weeds include all the narrow leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*), native blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), California rose (*Rosa californica*), bee plant (*Scrophularia californica*), lizard tail (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*), winecup clarkia (*Clarkia purpurea*), sticky monkey flower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*), big saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), the various bunch grasses and, of course, all the California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*). Bumblebees (*Bombus vosnesenskii*) are everywhere, hummingbirds are here and there, and we spotted a pair of geese and their 3 goslings in Hoffman Marsh.

On the May 5th “Bringing Back the Natives” event, we staffed a CNPS table at Oaktown Native Plant

Nursery in Berkeley and signed up nine new members for CNPS. The nursery, run by Kristen Hopper, looked terrific and the visitors, many of whom bought plants, told us how impressed they were with the selection and health of the plants.

On May 8th, Tom attended a “Non-chemical Control Methods Workshop for Northern California” at the Trudeau Center in Oakland. The event was put on by California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), and University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR). The purpose was to collect “feedback from land managers, experienced field personnel, and volunteers about various non-chemical control techniques” in order to draft “best management practices and an online decision support tool.” Following the successful lawsuits brought against Monsanto/Bayer for cancers caused by the Roundup pesticide, it appears that others are beginning to look more seriously into non-chemical weed control methods. Effective today, three of the lawsuits have been decided in favor of the plaintiffs and there are currently some 13,000 lawsuits pending.



POINT ISABEL IN MAY (CONT.)



Previous page: some of the May 4 Crew. Above: Ian, Jean + the final fennel! Below left: Rescued *Clarkia purpurea*. Below right: Rescued lizard tail (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*). Photos by Jane Kelly.



POINT ISABEL IN MAY (CONT.)



Above: Bumblebee (*Bombus vosnesenskii*), photo by Jane Kelly. Below: flannelbush (*Fremontedendron*) painting by Susie Wallenstein.



POINT ISABEL IN MAY (CONT.)



Above: Rescued coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*). Below left: Rescued California rose (*Rosa californica*). Below right: Rescued native blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) on the Woodpile. Photos by Jane Kelly.



Jane and Tom Kelly

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

Vacant

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

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

Vacant

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

Vacant

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**