



December 2014

The Bay Leaf

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

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERS' MEETING

December 2014

No meeting (happy holidays!)

January 28, 2015

Diversification of the California Lilacs (*Ceanothus*) in Western North America

Dylan Burge, Assistant Curator, Department of Botany, California Academy of Sciences

Watch for announcements of future membership meeting presentations at ebcnps.org. If you haven't yet done so, sign up to receive the *Bay Leaf* via email:

Go to <http://cnps.org>

Click on "Member Login" in the upper left part of the home page.

Click on "New User Registration" to set up an account. In the "Chapter Newsletter" line, select "E-mailed Newsletter."

And while you're at it, sign up to receive email announcements of programs, field trips, restoration work days, and other East Bay chapter activities at <http://ebcnps.org> (enter your email address in the box next to "Subscribe" at the top of the right column on the home page).

CHAPTER BOARD ELECTION

The East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society has five elected officers: President, Vice President, Corresponding secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. These five officers will appoint committee chairs who will then become board members. If you received a printed *Bay Leaf* you will find your ballot enclosed. If you have opted to receive the *Bay Leaf* online even when there is a printed version, you will receive a ballot in the mail (in a regular legal envelope). There is no online ballot or online voting. Even though each position has only one candidate, please do vote as doing so indicates your support of the organization. There is space on the ballot for comments, which are very welcome. Here are brief biographies of many of the candidates.

Nominees for Officers of the East Bay Chapter California Native Plant Society

President – Barbara Leitner

Barbara writes: I have been a member of CNPS most of my life. I served as the first chair of our chapter's rare plant committee as recording secretary, a member of the nominating committee, conservation committee, and other assignments. I also served on the statewide board as vice president for conservation, on the membership services committee and publications committee.



Barbara Leitner

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CHAPTER BOARD ELECTION

CNPS has been intertwined with my professional work as a plant ecologist, especially when I served as land steward for the California Nature Conservancy. Since then, I have worked as an independent environmental consultant. CNPS has unbelievable assets — an incredibly knowledgeable and dedicated membership base, and remarkable employees who support our work. Our chapter does amazing work, and I hope we will share our love of native plants with an ever-wider circle of friends and allies.

Vice President – Beth Wurzburg

Beth has been a key member of Save Knowland Park. She will continue her conservation efforts as Chapter Vice President.

Recording Secretary - Sue Duckles

Sue Duckles has already served one year as recording secretary. Sue is a retired biomedical scientist. She grew up in Oakland, close to Redwood Park, where she developed a lifelong love of wild places. Her biomedical career was in research and teaching as a medical school professor, most recently at University of California, Irvine. Sue spends her time as a weed warrior in Joaquin Miller Park and East Bay Regional Parks, and maintains a large native plant garden reclaimed from an ivy-covered hillside in Oakland above Butters Canyon. Her garden has been on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour five times since 2006. Over the years she has benefitted

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from resources provided by EBCNPS, most notably Native Here Nursery and restoration projects.

Corresponding Secretary - Clara Gerdes

Clara Gerdes has been a member of the East Bay Chapter of CNPS for many years. She regularly volunteers for restoration and invasive plant removal in Redwood, Huckleberry and Sibley regional parks. She supports many environmental groups, and she believes CNPS offers the opportunity to make a difference at the local and personal level. Clara was born in rural Michigan where her mother gave her an appreciation for the natural world at an early age. She has been an Oakland resident for over 30 years.

Treasurer – David Margolies

David has been treasurer since 2010. He 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 joined CNPS in the 90s, and soon started giving field trips for the chapter. He has been assistant editor of the Bay Leaf for some years. He lives in Oakland.



POINT ISABEL RESTORATION

Point Isabel Restoration takes place on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at Pt. Isabel. This article describes the November restoration.

Recently we were surprised and delighted by a very generous, unsolicited contribution from Nick Botaitis, the CEO of Carpet Contractors, who has a warehouse at Pt. Isabel. After we chatted with him about our work on the Bay Trail he offered to donate \$2,000 to the restoration project. The contribution, administered by Berkeley Partners for Parks, is already allowing us to purchase trees, plants, gloves, and tools and will enable us to more easily complete the restoration of the 1/3 mile section of the Bay Trail at Hoffman Marsh. We have assured Nick that we will maintain the project and perhaps even expand it in the coming year.

In late October Theo Fitanides, manager of Native Here Nursery, brought a group of home schooled children and their parents to Pt. Isabel. Tom gave the youngsters a tour of the restoration area and then put them all to work pulling oat grass and clipping fennel. The children found a skull, later identified as a skunk, and several praying mantis egg cases. Theo reports that the students had a great time and look forward to returning. The kids are in the picture below.

Thanks to the initiative of steward Nina, and with advice from volunteer Janet Gawthrop, we purchased eight arroyo willows (*Salix lasiolepis*) and a Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) from Native Here and planted them close to the marsh. We also planted three California rose bushes (*Rosa californica*) and three small areas of bee plant (*Scrophularia californica*), all of which are settling in on top of the bank. Other than buckeye trees (*Aesculus californica*) that we grew from seed found on site these are the first trees we have planted since starting the project. We can already see signs of the changes they will bring.

The November 1 work party came right after the rains and the plants looked happy and revitalized. Our newest steward, Nathan, and his colleagues worked side by side with volunteers Karen and Gudrun. Much to everyone's surprise they found, hidden beneath the oat grass, small patches of rush (*Juncus*), wildrye (*Elymus*), brome, and two other grasses (perhaps fescue and June grass). We haven't seen these plants before at Pt. Isabel so we are thrilled to have found them. In addition, Margot, assisted by Miriam and Sean, planted five coastal plantains (*Plantago subnuda* - pictured to right) in a small depression running through a City of Richmond property on Central Avenue. At the November 15 work party Margot and her crew of volunteers cleared the remaining invasive grasses and planted the depression with cluster toad rush (*Juncus bufonius* v. *congestus*), foothill sedge (*Carex tumulicola*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*), pink-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*

v. *glutinsum*), and Bigelow's sneezeweed (*Helenium bigelovii*). We're working to turn that formerly trash-strewn corner into a gateway to Pt. Isabel and the Bay Trail.

We held a second work party on November 15 and were joined by an amazing group of yoga-teachers-in-training from CorePower Yoga in Berkeley. Led by their instructor, Sharon, they brought a lot of enthusiasm and energy helping Margot at her site and clearing a lot of weeds from the area now managed by Nathan and his team. With a bit of luck we will be able to make their participation a more regular event

Special kudos to the East Bay Regional Park District for not only providing us with a large waste dumpster but for also doing all the work filling it to the brim with the weeds removed by our volunteers.

Jane and Tom Kelly



CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

Knowland Park Update – Oakland City Council Votes to Approve Zoo Expansion Plan

On November 18th, the Oakland City council voted 6-2 to approve the Oakland Zoo's proposed conservation easement – taking the final step in approval for the Zoo's proposed expansion project that would remove public access to roughly 77 acres of public wildland in Knowland Park. With this vote, the Oakland City Council sent a message that public land in Oakland is up for grabs to any private entity that wants to profit from it.

The most heartening part of the challenging night was that supporters of the park packed the council chambers and were eloquent to a person in their support for protecting the park. It was clear that had the audience voted, the easement would have been crushed. And the divide between what the public wants and what it got from this city council is manifest. On the zoo's side I can recall only zoo staff, a few zoo volunteers, and zoo board members speaking. We also know that hundreds of e-mails were sent to City Council members, and one of our petitions had 17,000 signatures. So the outpouring for the park, for the native plant and wildlife resources was overwhelming. Four representatives from Sierra Club spoke, one from Defense of Place, and letters came in from the Center for Biological Diversity and other environmental organizations. Not a single local environmental organization supports the Zoo's project.

Councilmembers Rebecca Kaplan and Dan Kalb were the dissenting votes. Kaplan gave no reasons for her vote (although we know from our talks with her that she is a park user and that she was deeply offended by the removal of public access to benefit a private entity). The person who nailed the reasons for opposing the conservation easement was Councilmember Kalb, who made it clear that the easement on already pro-

tected public park land is double-dipping – regardless of what the zoo's paid biological consultant said – and that easements like these shouldn't be used. He also made plain that the city should have required the Zoo to complete a full EIR, with the implication that the mess that the city is facing is because it never did the Alternatives Analysis, which would have been required in an EIR document. Although Dan doesn't lose his temper, he scolded the city and the Zoo for dodging this critical step. "It's not something that a good nonprofit should've done," Kalb said to Zoo representatives, adding, "The city made a mistake in not pushing you to do it." You can watch a video of Councilmember Kalb's comments at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/ntfbm8q>.

While we obviously failed to win the vote (which we knew was a long shot), we succeeded in getting this issue out in front of the public after a long uphill fight. Those of us who remember the meetings in 2011 recall the challenging efforts to inform decision makers and the public about the native plant species and communities in the park. The California Native Plant Society was often cited in the discussions and certainly vilified by the opposition, which if anything has helped us in the eyes of the public. I don't think we've ever had more media attention, and the environmental community did join our cause in full force.

The Knowland Park Team will be de-briefing and assessing the next steps, so stay tuned. The final vote on this issue will happen on December 9th. We will attend that meeting and evaluate our options after that.

We cannot adequately thank those who have poured their hearts into this effort. For now, let's get out to the park and continue to enjoy and learn from it while we can. Click the following link to see a beautiful video reminder of the spectacular park that we have been working so hard to protect:



Tesla Park Update

We are still awaiting the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the State Parks Off Highway Motor Vehicular Recreation Division's proposed expansion into Tesla Park in eastern Alameda County. As of the writing of this article, there is still no word from State Parks about when to expect the document besides "fall 2014". Stay tuned for information on how you can get involved with the extensive review that this document will require in advance of the public comment deadline.

The East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (EBCNPS) and its Allies Defeat Developer-backed Measure T in Dublin!

Dublin voters made their voices heard in November's election. Measure T, written and supported by developers, was defeated in a landslide of more than 4 to 1 with 83% of voters voting **No** to development outside of Dublin's Urban Limit Line.

The defeat of this measure ensures continued protection for Doolan Canyon (part of EBCNPS's East Dublin and Tassajara Botanical Priority Protection Area), and sends a strong signal to developers that Dublin residents value their open space areas and deem them worthy of protection.

Thanks to the many residents of Dublin who volunteered their time and energy to ensure that this misleading measure was soundly defeated. Thanks also to the local environmental groups who joined EBCNPS in opposing this measure: Tri-Valley Conservancy, Save Mt. Diablo, the Sierra Club, Friends

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, January 4, 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 (*Scolioopus 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.

of the Vineyards, Greenbelt Alliance, Alameda Creek Alliance, and Ohlone Audubon.

Earlier this year, the Dublin City Council unanimously voted to adopt the Dublin Open Space Initiative. This initiative, created by Dublin Citizens with the help of local environmental organizations including EBCNPS, created a permanent urban limit line at the City's existing eastern edge and made permanent a previously approved western urban limit line.

EBCNPS Submits Comments for Albany Beach SEIR NOP

On November 14th, EBCNPS submitted comments to the East Bay Regional Park District regarding their Notice of Preparation for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for their Albany Beach Restoration and Public Access Project. Our comments focused on the importance of making sure the eelgrass beds that exist just offshore of the project area are protected both during construction and during recreational use of the beach after the project is completed. A copy of our letter can be viewed on the Conservation Blog: <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com> .

Volunteering: The Conservation Committee is always looking for new volunteers to get involved in our many projects. If you are interested in working with me on any of the projects that you have read about on our blog or in past Conservation Analyst Updates, please feel free to contact me by phone at 510-734-0335 or by email at conservation@ebcnps.org. And as always, for more detailed updates on all of our conservation projects please visit the Conservation Blog at <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com/> .



Fetid adder's tongue (*Scolioopus bigelovii*). Photo (copyright © 2004) by Aaron Schusteff. Used with permission.

RESTORATION

Saturday, December 6, 10 am, Point Isabel at Eastshore State Park

Meet at the Eastshore State Park lot at the end of Rydin Road next to Hoffman Marsh. We remove invasive plants and revegetate with natives grown from plants found at the site.

Saturday, December 13, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park

Join us at the Huckleberry parking lot, where we will decide on the weeds and location depending on the weather and soil. You may bring your own tools and gloves, but park staff will provide loaner gloves, tools, and water. Heavy rain will cancel, because the soil will become too soft.

Sunday, December 21, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park

Join volunteers and Sibley Park staff at the Skyline parking lot, where you can sign in and pick up tools and gloves before hiking out to take on the notorious wall of broom. Recent rains will likely keep the soil workable for weeding.

Winter Restoration Workshops in Garber Park

(near the Claremont Hotel in Claremont Canyon)

Workshop Leader - Lech Naumovich

(Golden Hour Restoration Institute)

The Garber Park Stewards are pleased to be partnering with the Claremont Canyon Conservancy to once again offer a Restoration Planting Series throughout the winter season. Lech Naumovich, botanist and Executive Director of Golden Hour Restoration Institute, will lead the workshops, which will highlight the ongoing restoration efforts in Garber Park. Come learn about the incredible progress that has been made by a fantastic group of volunteers to restore the native oak woodland understory in Garber Park.



Saturday, December 6. Restoring and Maintaining Diversity of the Oak Understory: Implications on Woodland Health. Help plant native grass plugs on the hill behind the 1920's Fireplace for erosion control – and in the gently sloping oak woodland meadow below the Fireplace. We will discuss “lessons learned” from the past 4 years of plantings, and set up a monitoring protocol for the hillside. Other topics include soils and soil amendments, including mycorrhiza.

Saturday, January 24. Passive Restoration Workshop: Using Available Materials on-Site for Restoration. Help us expand the lovely restoration area near the restored drainage of Harwood Creek. All materials for restoration will originate from onsite and will include the basics of monitoring. Learn about in situ propagation techniques for a number of native plants – techniques that are powerful tools for habitat restoration.

Saturday, February 21. Fern ID and Fern Glade Expansion.

Garber is home to many beautiful native ferns, including our well known Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*) and beautiful Wood Fern (*Dryopteris arguta*). We will continue expanding our newest restoration site, Fern Glade, begun only last year, and an incredible success story!

MORE POINT ISABEL PICTURES



Top: planting Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*).
Bottom left: Margot weeding; bottom right: rush (*Juncus*) planted. All photos by Jane Kelly.

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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

East Bay Chapter News list Emailed announcements of upcoming EBCNPS events

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Native Here Nursery

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Manager—Theo Fitanides
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Native Here inventory specialist
Adam Huggins

Plant Fair

vacant

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Walnut Creek

Lesley Hunt, leader
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Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other _____

Membership category:

Individual, \$45

Family, Library, Group or International, \$75

Plant lover, \$100

Patron, \$300

Benefactor, \$600

Mariposa Lily, \$1500

Limited Income or student, \$25.00

Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento CA 95816