



June 2006

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
www.ebcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Native Here p. 4

Open June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Fridays 9 am to noon
June 3, 10, 17, 24, Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm
June 6, 13, 20, 27, Tuesdays, Seed Collecting trip
leaves Native Here at 9 am

Field Trips p. 2

Sunday, June 4, 9:30 am, **Lime Ridge Open Space**
Saturday, June 10, **Maguire Peak Loop Trail**

Sunday, June 11, **Mount Diablo: North Peak Trail from Devil's Elbow to North Peak**
June 18, **Mount Diablo, Falls Trail, Middle Trail, Bruce Lee Spring Trail, Wasserman Trail**

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 7, 7:30 pm, home of Charli Danielsen, 10 Kerr Avenue, Kensington

ALAMEDA COUNTY RIPARIAN CORRIDORS

On May 4th, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, after hearing comment by CNPS, the Sierra Club, and local creek groups, passed a 45-day moratorium on new development within riparian corridors on unincorporated County land. The moratorium was enacted to address the County's failure to enforce a 29-year old Specific Plan for Areas of Environmental Significance (SPAES) that outlines several important steps in studying, prioritizing, and protecting these areas. This visionary document from 1976 includes not only streams ("blue lines") but floodplains and riparian corridors as defined by the riparian vegetation.

The East Bay Chapter presented detailed commentary on the extensive native plant resources that would be affected and requested that the Supervisors take adequate time to find ways to protect the sensitive plant communities that serve as critical habitat along the remaining streams in Alameda County, including Alameda, Arroyo Mocho, Altamont, Tassajara and other creeks. In the years since the Plan was first approved, a great deal more has been learned about the individual creeks, their watersheds, and the value of the corridors. Some of the plant communities, such as those containing sycamores, have become increasingly rare.

On June 13th the Supervisors will hear the County Planning Commission's plans for addressing the SPAES. One possibility is to extend the moratorium for up to 2 years to give the County time to come into com-

pliance with the SPAES. The Conservation Committee urges CNPS members to contact their Supervisors in support of this moratorium. Please see the conservation link on the EBCNPS website at www.ebcnps.org for more information on this issue, including whom to contact with your letters and phone calls. This is an extremely important conservation opportunity, and the supervisors do pay attention to the comments of their constituents.

Lech Naumovich, East Bay Chapter Conservation Analyst

HOSPITALITY

Help the Chapter with Hospitality

Do you enjoy attending the speaker programs at our chapter membership meetings? Or do you want to attend the meetings but find you need an extra little motivator to get you out of the house? We have been without a chapter Hospitality Chair for the past several months and could really use your help if you'd like to become more active in the chapter. It's a great way to combine volunteer work with personal enrichment through the universally appreciated medium of food.

The Hospitality Chair is the person who provides refreshments at membership meetings. Our membership meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the

continued on page 2

HOSPITALITY

month at 7:30 pm during the months of January, February, March, April, May, September, and October. In November, we move the meeting date one week earlier or later to avoid Thanksgiving week. There is no meeting in December and we take a break for three months during the summer. The April, May, and September meetings are usually held at the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden; the rest are held at the Orinda Library.

The Hospitality Chair also coordinates lunches for the volunteers at our annual October plant sale and helps with refreshments for special events like the annual chapter picnic in late summer. Of course, there is also room to expand this position to include other aspects

continued from page 1

of hospitality and planning. All of this involves only a few hours of “work” a month. Also, this position can be shared by more than one individual, so no one person will have to attend all of the events.

Irene Wilkinson kept us well-fed for years, but she decided it was time to retire and let someone else have an opportunity to get involved. If you are interested or would like to know more, please call Sue Rosenthal 510-496-6016 or send a message to rosacalifornica@earthlink.net.

Sue Rosenthal

NEW STATE CNPS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Amanda Jorgenson Photo by Jeff Jorgenson

Amanda Jorgenson comes to CNPS with over five years of executive experience and 15 years of experience in design and implementation of conservation programs in Latin America.

In her most recent position prior to CNPS, she was the Wildlife Conservation Society's Country Program Coordinator in Ecuador. She built the office from the ground up— signing a cooperative agreement with the government, hiring staff, and raising funds. Working with the Ministry of the Environment, she led the establishment of an inter-institutional committee for the management of the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve in the Amazon, which included local government agencies, national conser-

vation groups, indigenous organizations, universities, and oil companies. Amanda has also worked for Fundación Natura in Colombia, Tropical Research and Development, Inc. in Florida, and World Wildlife Fund-US in Washington, D.C.

Amanda started her career with a BS in Biology from George Mason University, Fairfax, VA and a MA in Latin American Studies, Tropical Conservation and Development from the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. She conducted her thesis research on the socio-economic importance of the extraction of the latex of *Manilkara zapota* by Maya Indians in Quintana Roo, Mexico.

Amanda Jorgenson can be reached at the CNPS Sacramento office, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816, 916-447-2677, ajorgenson@cnps.org.

Diana Hickson

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, June 4, 9:30 am, **Lime Ridge Open Space**
We will hike about six miles to see several plants that are unusual in our area, and also enjoy more common late blooms for Mount Diablo foothills that hold over in this odd spring. None of the unusual species are very showy, but we will see several kinds of *Navaretia*, including a new species. There is also an unusual *Eriastrum* on the ridge, as well as *Lastarriaea coriacea* (a member of the buckwheat family), *Pectocarya*, *Lessingia* and *Deinandra*. Bring adequate water for a day hike, and protection from the sun.

Directions: From Highway 24 east, take 680 north but then take the very first exit on Ygnacio Valley Road. Continue east from Walnut Creek on Ygnacio Valley

Road and meet David Gowan, the trip leader, at the small parking lot at the corner of Ygnacio Valley Road and Cowell Road. This intersection is on the hill that is between Walnut Creek and Clayton.

Saturday, June 10, **Maguire Peak Loop Trail**, Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness
Meet at 9 am in front of the Visitor Center (the Old Green Barn). We will carpool to the trail head on Welch Creek Road. Parking is very limited on Welch Creek Road. This is an opportunity to see Apperson Ridge and the area of the proposed quarry. If we have enough interest, we can hike to the top of Maguire Peak to see Palmer oaks, *Penstemon centranthifolius*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *polyfolium* and *Amelanchier utahensis*.

The first part of the trail is single track in a canyon that drains into Welch Creek. There is an elevation gain of about 800 ft (if we go to the top), 4-5 miles. Defend against poison oak and ticks. Bring water and snacks. There is a parking fee of \$5.00 per car.

Directions

From the Fremont area, drive north on I-680 and exit at Calaveras Road. Turn right on Calaveras and proceed to Geary Road, which leads directly into the park.

From the Oakland/Berkeley area, drive east on I-580 to the junction with I-680 in Pleasanton. At the junction, go south on I-680 and exit at Calaveras Road/Highway 84 just south of the town of Pleasanton. Turn left onto Calaveras Road and proceed to Geary Road, which leads directly into the park.

From the Walnut Creek/Danville area, go south on I-680 and exit at Calaveras Road/Highway 84 just south of the town of Pleasanton. Turn left onto Calaveras Road and proceed to Geary Road, which leads directly into the park.

Trip leader: Mary Ann Hannon, 925-443-5588, hannonma@comcast.net.

Sunday, June 11, Mount Diablo, North Peak Trail from Devil's Elbow to North Peak

Meet at Devil's Elbow parking lot at 10 am. This trail is packed with native plants and relatively few alien species. On June 4, 2005 there were almost continuous plentiful *Calochortus venustus* for over a mile. Hopefully 2006 will be a good year for them also. In addition there are lots of *Calochortus pulchellus*, *Chorizanthe membranacea*, one *Hydrophyllum occidentale*, *Arnica discoidea*, a few areas of *Collinsia tinctoria*, several *Lupinus* sp., *Cirsium* sp., *Clarkia concinna*, *Lomatium* sp., and many more common species. There are large areas of *Quercus chrysolepsis*. The trail loses 400 ft elevation to Prospectors Gap, then goes up 400 ft to North Peak. Bring lunch and water. We should arrive back at the parking lot around 2 pm. Gray sky or light rain (we had rain twice in June 2005) will not cancel. The trip leader is Gregg Weber; call 510-223-3310 if there are questions.

Directions

Take I-680 to Diablo Road. Go east on Diablo Road. At Green Valley Road, only one lane goes straight ahead. After Green Valley Road, go past and do not turn at the Diablo Country Club sign. In about a mile, turn left at the Mount Diablo State Park sign. Continue to the end of Mount Diablo Scenic Boulevard. It becomes South Gate Road as it enters the Park. Pay the \$5 fee at the main entrance station. Continue to the Junction Ranger Station and make a right. About 3/4 mile past

Juniper Camp's large parking area is a small parking area at Devil's Elbow. That is where we will meet at 10 am.

Sunday, June 18, **Mount Diablo, Falls Trail, Middle Trail, Bruce Lee Spring Trail, Wasserman Trail**. Meet at the end of Rialto Drive at 9:30 am.

This is a moderate round trip of 5 miles with 1200 feet elevation gain on the way out. It will be mostly downhill on the return trip. The trip will take 3-5 hours. Bring lunch and water. We will take Clayton Oaks Trail, Bruce Lee Spring Trail, Lower Donner Trail, Wasserman Trail, Falls Trail, and Middle Trail.

Expect to see *Monardella douglasii*, several *Castilleja* spp., *Clarkia biloba*, *Parvisedum pentandrum*, *Campanula exigua*, *Silene californica*, *Pickeringia* in flower and fruit, and lots of common native plants. Bring lunch and water. We should arrive back at the parking lot around 2 pm. Gray sky or light rain (we had rain twice in June 2005) will not cancel. Trip leader is Gregg Weber; call 510-223-3310 if there are questions.

Directions

Take 24 or I-680 to Ignacio Valley Road. Continue on Ignacio Valley Road into the City of Clayton, turn right on Clayton Road. Take Clayton Road past the first intersection with Marsh Creek Road. In about a mile, it becomes Marsh Creek Road. Continue straight on Marsh Creek Road. Turn right on Regency Drive. Go 3 blocks, turn left on Rialto Drive. Go to the end of Rialto Drive and park.

Sunday, June 25, Mount Diablo, Knobcone Point Road, Blackhawk Ridge Road

Meet at the Curry Point parking lot at 10 am. We will go through woodlands, grasslands, and chaparral areas with *Pickeringia*, *Salvias*, *Arctostaphylos*, *Quercus*, *Garrya*. We may see a population of about 40 *Calochortus splendens* in bloom. Possibly we may see the first known population of *Clarkia rubicunda* on Mount Diablo. This can be a very hot walk, so dress for heat and bring at least 1.5 liters of water, and lunch. The road loses about 300 ft elevation down to a creek, then we gain 500 feet to the top of the ridge and reverse on the way back. We should arrive back at the parking lot around 3 pm. Gray sky or light rain (we had rain twice in June 2005) will not cancel. Trip leader is Gregg Weber; call 510-223-3310 if there are questions.

Directions

Take I-680 to Diablo Road. Go east on Diablo Road. At Green Valley Road, only one lane goes straight ahead. After Green Valley Road, go past and do not turn at the Diablo Country Club sign. In about a mile, turn left at the Mount Diablo State Park sign. Continue to

continued on page 4

FIELD TRIPS

continued from page 3

the end of Mount Diablo Scenic Boulevard. It becomes South Gate Road as it enters the Park. Pay the \$5 fee at the main entrance station. Continue for about a mile and park at the large parking area at Curry Point. That is where we will meet at 10 am.

Janet Gawthrop

EDUCATION

As the new Education Coordinator I am pleased to represent EBCNPS and work with our greater community. I am presently developing a number of presentations for schools, museums, garden clubs and other organizations that seek information or advice about California native plants and invite you to contact me at any time with questions or to schedule a visit. This spring I have worked with two schools in developing their native plant gardens, and I hope to continue with them next fall. The students have been very enthusiastic, and it has been exciting to work on these projects.

Linda Hill

NATIVE HERE

Open June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Fridays 9 am to noon
June 3, 10, 17, 24, Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm

June 6, 13, 20, 27, Tuesdays, Seed Collecting trip leaves Native Here at 9 am

June ends a cool, wet spring. Depending on how hot the last part of May was, things may still be blooming. Some annuals germinated late and may still be available. *Tritelaea* may still be in bloom, too.

While June isn't a good time to be planting, it is a good time to plan for the late fall planting. Come in and select the plants you want before someone else takes them. In pots, they can be moved to afternoon shady spots so they will not need too much watering. Avoid watering in the heat of the day.

There are many tasks for volunteers in the nursery this time of year. We try to get plants into larger pots to give the roots some insulation for the hot weather ahead. Weeding is important now, too, and there are always bits of construction to be done, and plants to move within the nursery. Volunteers are welcome whenever the nursery is open. There is also a need for a volunteer to assist Janice with mid-week watering tasks. Now that the nursery has expanded, so has the task of watering all the plants.

Our Tuesday morning seed hikes usually take until 1 pm, but sometimes are longer. We will try to post the destination and a time estimate on the voice mail, 510-549-0211. These walks are a great way to see some interesting spots and to learn to recognize our native plants in fruit rather than flower.

The nursery is located at 101 Golf Course Drive in Tilden Park, across the street from the entrance to the Tilden Golf Course.

Charli Danielsen, Native Here Nursery

PLANT SALE ACTIVITIES



Delia Taylor and Shirley McPheeters organized successful CNPS sales of native plants and books at six of the gardens on the May 7 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. Many other people helped—with propagating and procuring the plants, with ordering and organizing the book sales, with staging and housing the plants before and after the sale, with transporting all the goods to and from the sales, and, last but not least, with staffing the sales themselves. Delia and Charli Danielsen also hosted a special sale of plants left over after the tour for Bringing Back the Natives volunteers. This sale was held at Native Here and introduced many enthusiastic native plant gardeners to our nursery for the first time. Many, many thanks to all who helped make these sales happen so successfully.

Our efforts to relocate our plant sale are proceeding and our negotiations for space at the Dunsmuir Estate are now with the Oakland Parks and Recreation Department, which has overall jurisdiction over that property. Our hope is to be able to hold a plant sale at the new site on our regular plant sale weekend at the beginning of October.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments about our plant sale: rosacalifornica@earthlink.net or 510-496-6016.

Sue Rosenthal

If I were to name the three most precious resources of life, I should say books, friends, and nature; and the greatest of these, at least the most constant and always at hand, is nature. Nature we have always with us, an inexhaustible store-house of that which moves the heart, appeals to the mind and fires the imagination -- health to the body, a stimulus to the intellect, and joy to the soul.

John Burroughs, Leaf and Tendril

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Open

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Chapter web site
www.ebcnps.org

Recorded Chapter Information
510-464-4977

State CNPS web site
www.cnps.org

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

___ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

___ Other _____

E-mail _____
(optional)

Membership category:

- ___ Student, Limited income, \$25
___ Individual, Library, \$45
___ Household, Family, or Group, \$75
___ Supporting, \$75
___ Plant lover, \$100
___ Patron, \$300
___ Benefactor, \$600
___ Mariposa Lily, \$1500

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

Save the Date!

ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC for the EAST BAY CHAPTER of CNPS

**Saturday, September 23, 2006,
beginning at 2:00 p.m.**

**At the beautiful
Regional Parks Botanic Garden
(Intersection of South Park Drive and Wildcat Canyon Road
in Tilden Park, Berkeley)**

All are welcome—bring your family and friends and a dish to share. Enjoy the company of fellow native plant enthusiasts along with great food and drink, a native plant raffle, a garden tour, and much more, including some fun new activities!

Details in the *July Bay Leaf*
For more information: 510-496-6016 or
rosacalifornica@earthlink.net

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East Bay Chapter
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