



May 2004

The Bay Leaf

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Native Here Nursery p. 4

Saturdays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Native Here Nursery open 10-1

Tuesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25, Seed forays leave nursery at 9 am

Fridays, May 7, 14, 21, 28, nursery open 9-noon

Field Trips p. 2

Sunday, May 2, 2:00 pm, Bird Trail, Chabot Regional Park

Saturday, May 8, 9:00 am, Mount Diablo State Park

Sunday, May 9, field trip to Mount Hamilton

Saturday, May 15 10:00 am, Mines Road in eastern Alameda County

Saturday, May 22, 10:00 am, Sierra Foothills

Sunday, May 23, 2:30 pm, Los Trancos Open Space

Plant Sale Activities p. 4

Tuesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25, 9 am to 2 pm, Merritt College, Oakland

Garden Tours p. 5

The enchanting Moseley Garden at 6322 Contra Costa Road in Oakland will open to the public on May 15, 2004 from 10 am to 4 pm to benefit the California Native Plant Society and the Garden Conservancy.

Wildflower and Art Show p. 4

Sunday, May 16, 2004, 10 am to 4 pm, Historical Niles District, Fremont

Membership Meeting see below

Wednesday, May 26, 2004, 7:30 pm

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Speaker: **Alan Kaplan**

Four and A Half Billion Years of History in Ninety Minutes (or Less!)

Wednesday, May 26, 2004, 7:30

Conference Center, University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley (directions below)

Earth's history began about 5 billion years ago (5 Ga) as the Sun and solar system coalesced from a nebular cloud. The Hadean Eon began at 4.6 Ga when the Earth formed; the Moon resulted from the collision of the Earth with a Mars-sized impactor, recently named Theia, after the mother of Selene (the ancient Greek name for the Moon). This happened about 4.4 Ga. Life arose in the Archaen Eon (4.0 to 2.5 Ga). Earliest fossils of life forms closely resemble blue-green bacteria still extant today. In the Proterozoic Eon (from 2.5 Ga to 543 million years ago) oxygen increased in the atmosphere and mitochondrial bacteria came into cells to manage this poison gas. The eukaryotic cell resulted from mergers and acquisitions: flagella, chloroplasts and (perhaps) nuclei and other cell organelles have symbiotic origins. A supercontinent formed near the

equator about 1 Ga and multicellular life arose along its shores. After a period now known as "Snowball Earth," by 600 million years ago, animal life evolved, and animals got "hard bodies" in response to the appearance of predators at the end of the "preCambrian". The Earth is about one-third through its 12 billion year life span. This is a report on how things have gone so far.

Alan Kaplan is a Naturalist with the East Bay Regional Park District at the Tilden Nature Area in Berkeley. Alan's interest in "Deep Time" and "Big History" was sparked by a visit to www.scotese.com, which displays maps of the Earth's continent's positions through time. His interests in entomology, plant evolution, and microbes intersected with geology and astronomy, and the rest is (4.5 billion years of) history.

East Bay Chapter CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting will take place in the Conference Center of the University of California Botanical Garden on Centennial Drive, east of Memorial Stadium and west of the Lawrence Hall of Science, above the main campus of the University of California in Berkeley. The Garden gate will open

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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at 7:00; the meeting begins at 7:30. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornica@earthlink.net, if you have any questions.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings will be on summer recess during the months of June, July, and August, and will resume in September.

Sue Rosenthal

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, May 2, 2:00 pm, **Bird Trail**. This short trail (about 1/2 mile, with insignificant elevation gain) is a botanically interesting transition zone between redwood forest and mixed evergreen forest (mostly oak/bay). There will be columbine, solomon's seal, fritillary, trillium, and many different shrubs.

The trail starts close to the MacDonald Staging Area in **Chabot Regional Park** off Redwood Road in Oakland.

Directions: from San Francisco, take the Bay Bridge, staying to the right (but **do not go to San Jose**). Take 580 East, and then 24 East (towards Walnut Creek). Take the 13 South exit from 24. From the East Bay, get on 13 South. Take the Redwood Road exit. On Redwood Road, go east (uphill). At the top of the hill you will cross Skyline Boulevard and pass various equestrian facilities. Go down into the valley. About two miles from Skyline Boulevard, turn right into the MacDonald Staging Area parking lot. (It is a large lot and you cross a bridge over a creek; there is a small lot about 1/4 mile to the north which is not the correct place; if coming from the north you reach the entrance to Redwood Regional Park on the left, you have gone about 1/4 mile too far.)

Please contact David Margolies (510-654-0283, divaricatum@aol.com) if you need further information.

Saturday, May 8, 9:00 am, Michael Park will lead a trip from the southern entrance of Riggs Canyon to Jackass Canyon and up to Oyster Ridge in **Mount Diablo State Park**. This field trip will last all day to allow time to botanize, but those wishing to bypass the hike to Oyster Point from Jackass Canyon may do so when we adjourn for lunch around noon. The

hike will start through the grazed lands to the south of the park entrance, heading north and entering a bay/mixed oak/maple riparian zone with some contact with coastal scrub/chaparral. This gradually opens up into a disturbed grassland. We will then turn west and pass through a similar mosaic of riparian woods and open grasslands into Jackass Canyon. Legend has it that bootleg distilleries were in operation here during Prohibition. This mosaic is nestled between two dramatic ridges--Oyster Ridge to the south, and Cave Point Ridge to the north. We will take lunch here before winding up a relatively steep trail to Oyster Ridge. There will be much to see along the climb. We will go slowly, so as not to exhaust ourselves and maximize the pleasure of spring wildflowers. If time permits, we will attempt to traverse Oyster Ridge to the head of Alamo Canyon. The grasslands between Oyster Point and Alamo Canyon are characterized as a nearly pristine grassland, in a vegetation survey led by Sue Bainbridge. This will be an opportunity to contrast with the formerly grazed and highly disturbed grasslands at the foot of the canyon. The south face of Oyster Ridge is characterized by nearly impenetrable chaparral, grasslands, and mixed hardwood woodlands. We'll see *Clarkia unguiculata*, *Calochortus* spp., *Nemophila menziesii*, perhaps *Trillium*, *Fritillaria affinis*, and much, much more.

There is no water at the public facilities or restrooms. Bring at least 1 quart of water, but 2 quarts is advised. Also bring lunch and munchies to share for later.

Directions: Go south on 680 from Walnut Creek, and exit at Sycamore Valley Road. Take Sycamore Valley Road east 1.5 miles and continue on Camino Tassajara (no turns indicated). Continue for 6.1 miles, past Crow Canyon Road and the community of Blackhawk. Just after the road narrows to a two-lane road, be on the lookout for Finley Road on the left. There will be 1.1 miles, where Camino Tassajara narrows at Blackhawk Road. Continue on Finley Road for 1.3 miles and park on the wide turnout.

Sunday, May 9, field trip to **Mount Hamilton** area (courtesy of Santa Clara CNPS). Lee Ellis will lead an all-day trip, starting from the Orchard Supply Hardware on Alum Rock Road in San Jose. This trip is by reservation. To reserve, send Lee Ellis an e-mail: l.p.ellis@worldnet.att.net

Saturday, May 15 10:00 am, David Margolies will lead an all-day field trip along **Mines Road** in eastern Alameda County. Meet at the Pleasanton BART station parking lot to organize into car pools. We will return to the meeting point around 5:00 pm. Bring lunch and fluids. Please sign up for the trip by contacting David

Margolies (see the May 2 trip above). Twenty people are the maximum number on this trip.

Saturday, May 22, 10:00 am, Bob Case will lead a field trip to the **Sierra Foothills** via Route 88, with an emphasis on *Calochortus*. This will be primarily a driving trip with a number of stops and short walks along and near Route 88 at different elevations to explore spring vegetation. We hope to see 5-7 species of *Calochortus* in bloom and numerous other Sierran foothill flowers. Bring lunch and liquids. Cameras are encouraged - Bob will be taking photos, too. Dress for hiking on uneven slopes. Optional gear are hand lenses and Toni Fauver's book *Wildflower Walks and Roads of Sierra Gold Country*. The limit is 20-25 people, depending on how many will carpool to very limited parking areas. To reserve a spot (and get a map), e-mail Bob Case at bobcase@astound.net or call 925-689-6528. Meet at the Safeway parking lot at the intersection of Highway 88 and Highway 49 in Jackson. We will travel east towards Carson Pass all day, but you can turn back

early at any time. Bob Case will leave from Pleasant Hill BART at 7:40 a.m. and can take 3 people (his vehicle will probably return the BART station about 10:30 or 11:00 pm).

Sunday, May 23, 2:30 pm, David Margolies will lead a field trip to **Los Trancos Open Space**--a botanically interesting area, with coralroot orchids and much else. The trail is about one mile long, and we will visit some other parks in the area after we finish the trail.

Directions: Take 280 south from San Francisco to Highway 84/Woodside Road. Take 84/Woodside Road west (uphill) through Woodside to Skyline Boulevard. Turn left (south) on Skyline and go to Page Mill. Turn left (east) on Page Mill. The park is about 1/2 mile on the left, before any steep downhill. Notice columbines on the left in the wooded area on the left. Contact David if you need further information.

Janet Gawthrop

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The chapter conservation committee will have met again by the time you receive this issue of the *Bay Leaf*. The committee stays in fairly constant e-mail contact and meets three or four times a year to re-examine priorities. If you missed the meeting, but would like to become involved in our efforts to preserve native plants and plant habitat in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, contact the committee's chair, Charli Danielsen by e-mail or phone as shown below.

A number of development and planning projects are requiring the committee's attention. Matching the plant science that has been done by our chapter volunteers to the political realities of saving plant habitats is a challenge. The conservation committee and chapter board are convinced that we need to hire someone to help with this. The position will be Conservation Analyst.

Land use decisions are being made which threaten critical habitats. We need to be able to respond quickly. A fund has been established and pledges have been received that are adequate to fund the search and first two months of the job. Applications are being made to foundations, but the need is truly urgent. Expect a letter in June from the chapter giving you the opportunity to contribute. If you wish to contribute sooner, send a check made out to CNPS with a notation "for East Bay Conservation Analyst" to 2707 K St, Ste.1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Please advise anyone interested in the position to check our chapter web site www.ebcnps.org for the job description and statement of desired qualifications.

Charli Danielsen, Conservation Coordinator
510-549-0211, charlid@pacbell.net

Weaving together the large and small fragments of natural habitat on both public and private lands is the only way to fully protect America's natural heritage. Even an acre of old timber, a remnant wetland, or an isolated spring often harbors hundreds of species, including many of threatened status. By inventing new economic incentives for conserving these special places on private lands, the spirit of wilderness can be taken literally to the grassroots and made more fully part of the national passion. Recognition and reward can engage the attention and win the support of landowners and local communities. These are the practical steps we must take to join our daily lives more fully with the natural world.

E.O. Wilson, *The Diversity of Life*

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Thanks to all the helpers for the Sunol Wildflower Festival (Elaine Jackson and Janet Gawthrop), and the Oakland Museum Wildflower Show (Carol Castro, Phoebe Watts, Cathleen Caffrey, Staci Marcos, Nancy Leite, Janet Gawthrop, Dorothy Frantz, and again to Janet who took two shifts!)

Wildflower and Art Show

Sunday, May 16, 2004, 10 am to 4 pm, Historical Niles District, Fremont. This festival is sponsored by the Niles Main Street Association. We were invited to have an information table at this family event. We may also sell posters and books. Come and join me as I will need lots of help! Call Delia Taylor 510-527-3912 or email at deliataylor@mac.com

How to make cloth leaf poundings

This was the project at last fall's East Bay Chapter picnic. I have had a request for the directions from one of our members but I can't remember who asked. So here are the directions for all to see in the *Bay Leaf*.

Materials: Pieces of cotton or muslin fabric, freshly collected leaves, hard wooden mallet or hammer, non-reactive (enamel) container, pickling alum (available from pharmacy or grocery store), washing or sal soda (available in grocery store, optional), clothes iron (optional)

1. On a large piece of paper arrange leaf or leaves with the vein side up. Put the piece of cotton or muslin on top. Hold the fabric in place and pound the leaf all over with a wooden mallet until its complete impression comes through the cloth.

2. Peel or flake off bits of leaf that remain on the cloth and immerse the cloth in a solution of pickling alum and water (3Tbbs./gallon). Let it sit for a few minutes. The longer it sits the darker the leaf image will be.

3. Rinse the fabric thoroughly under running water or immerse the fabric in a washing soda after bath (1 cup soda /gallon water) for a minute or two. This will further darken the colors. Rinse again under running water. This will fix the images and the fabric is ready to dry and press.

Use the fabric pieces for placemats, napkins, or a quilt.

Project Seasons: Hands-On Activities for Discovering the Wonders of the World, by Deborah Parella, published by Shelburne Farms

Delia Taylor

PLANT SALE ACTIVITIES

Propagating and Potting Sessions:



Tuesdays
May 4, 11, 18, 25
9 am to 2 pm
Merritt College, Oakland
Landscape Horticulture
Parking fee: 50 cents

Our May work sessions will keep us busy potting into soil the cuttings of shrubs rooted in the greenhouse. Taking their places inside will be the new cuttings of perennials we do this month.

Join us. Everyone is welcome for all or part of the morning.

Bring a bag lunch if you can stay for the noon break.

For more information: 925-376-4095

Shirley McPheeters

DFG'S NEW QUAD VIEWER

Did you ever wish you could just go online to see what the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) has for a particular topographic quadrangle, including occurrences that have been reported but haven't yet been entered into the CNDDDB (the "data backlog")? Well, now you can.

The CNDDDB has recently developed an online Quad Viewer. The Quad Viewer allows the user to generate lists of rare plants, animals and natural communities by USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle. To use the viewer, go to www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab/ and click on the left link "Quad Viewer." Follow the instructions that come up when you first launch the program or by clicking the Help tab once the viewer is open. There are separate buttons for the data already processed in the CNDDDB and for data still to be processed. In addition, there are tools that generate lists from a nine-quad area (the quad you pick plus the eight surrounding quads) for CNDDDB data and the backlog, respectively. These data will be updated monthly.

Roxanne Bittman
Lead Botanist
California Natural Diversity Database
California Department of Fish and Game

Mosley Garden

The **Moseley Garden** will be open to benefit the **California Native Plant Society** and the **Garden Conservancy**.

The enchanting Moseley Garden at 6322 Contra Costa Road in Oakland will open to the public on May 15, 2004 from 10 am to 4 pm to benefit the California Native Plant Society and the Garden Conservancy. Four other outstanding private gardens in the East Bay will also be open on the same day. Call 1-888-842-2442 for more information.

Native plants abound at the Moseley Garden, which was re-established in 1991 after a fire destroyed the garden and home. The ridge top site provides a variety of exposures and supports a diversity of natives drawn from many California coastal environments and chosen by landscape architect David Bigham. The cover and food available draws many birds. A water source created in a natural rock basin allows the enjoyment of daily avian activity.

The Moseley Garden will open under the auspices of the Open Days Program of the Garden Conservancy, the only national garden visiting program of its kind which has welcomed visitors to peek behind the gates of America's most captivating private gardens for the past eight years.

In 2004, more than 450 gardens in 22 states and British Columbia will open on select weekends from March through October. All are listed in the Open Days Directory, a guide that includes maps, driving directions, photographs and detailed descriptions written by each owner. The 2004 edition costs \$15.95 (\$10.95 for Garden Conservancy members), plus \$4.50 for shipping. Discount coupons are available as well through advance mail order only. Also available is the West Edition of the Directory, which lists alluring private gardens in Arizona, California, Colorado, Oregon, Texas, Washington and British Columbia. The cost for this regional edition is only \$5.00 (plus \$1.50 for shipping) and comes with one free garden admission offer. The Western gardens are listed in the national edition as well. Call the Garden Conservancy toll free at 1-888-842-2442, or order with a Visa or MasterCard, or send a check or money order to: The Garden Conservancy, PO. Box 219, Cold Spring, N.Y. 10516

The Garden Conservancy is the only national not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of American gardens. By inviting the public to visit private gardens through its Open Days Program, the Conservancy strives to strengthen the public's commitment to garden preservation and encourage the appreciation of gardens as living works of art. You can visit them online at www.gardenconservancy.org.

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

Join the **Friends of Alhambra Creek** and others for the spring native restoration planting on Strenzel Lane at Strain Meadow in Martinez. Sunday, May 2, 9:30 am 'til? We will also be placing drip irrigation to help the plantings through the warm months. Bring a tool and gloves. For more information email friendsofac@california.com or call 925-372-0687.

The Friends of Sausal Creek hold a morning restoration program (9 am-12 noon) in the Sausal Creek watershed and an afternoon native plant propagation program (1:30 pm-4 pm) three Saturdays per month. To get details on upcoming events check the calendar on the sausalcreek.org web site. Of special note this month, on **May 8** work on the manzanita site from 9 am-12 noon. Help reduce wild fire fuel load while protecting the endangered pallid manzanita. Meet at Yellow Fire Gate on the right, one mile up Skyline Boulevard from Joaquin Miller Road in Oakland.

Friends of Orinda Creeks and the Wagner Nature Area raised locally native plants for a revegetation

project along San Pablo Creek in 2002-2003. Hundreds of linear feet of blackberry, ivy and broom were removed and the two areas were heavily mulched.

Plants raised from cuttings, seeds etc. include big leaf maple, oaks, sycamore, buckeye, hazelnut, grasses, Douglas iris, snowberry, ninebark and creek dogwood. The new plants were installed over the winter months and a drip irrigation system was added in April to see the plants through the next couple of dry seasons.

Help is needed to care for this riparian area on a monthly or casual basis.

Contact: cinda.mackinnon@attbi.com.

The revegetation areas are located between Camino Pablo and Orinda Way in Orinda Village. Turn right at 21 Orinda Way and drive behind the Chevron station to see the first revegetation site. Turn right at 28 Orinda Way and drive behind the Bank of America building to see the second site.

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Activities of Others

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Saturday, May 8, 10 am – 11 am, Spring in Bloom, **Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge**, Antioch

Did you know there's a National Wildlife Refuge in Antioch? Well, here's your chance to explore this refuge that is usually closed to the public. This guided tour (1-1.5 mile) will focus on native wildflowers in bloom, highlighting the endangered Antioch Dunes evening primrose. Wear sturdy shoes for the sandy hike along the dunes. All ages welcome. No reservations required. Contact 510-521-9624 for additional information and directions.

Have you ever wanted to lead tours or educate the public? Do you have a few free Saturdays that you'd like to spend outside enjoying nature? Here's your chance. Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge has started a docent program and would love to have you join. After obtaining a manual and some on-site training, you will lead tours. Tours are scheduled for 10 am on the second Saturday of every month. Docents need only sign up for weekends they are available. If interested, meet at the entrance to the Stamm Unit at 10 am on the second Saturday of the month and tag along on a tour. Call 510-521-9624 for more information.

Spring Garden Tour and Faire

On Saturday, May 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., The Athenian School in Danville will sponsor its second annual self-guided Garden Tour and Faire showcasing some of the finest gardens in the East Bay. "Feedback from last year's event was incredibly positive and enthusiastic. Many attendees told us it was the best ever Mother's Day weekend activity," says coordinator Maria Streifer. The theme, Art in the Garden, is reflected in the variety of styles and composition seen throughout all of the gardens, with each offering visitors not only a glimpse of natural works of art but also ideas to bring home to their own gardens.

Featured on the tour is a large woodland property near Mt. Diablo that is sprinkled with park-like vignettes and meandering paths bordered by an old stone wall along the natural contours of the site. In

Danville, visitors can enjoy a certified wildlife garden, which includes a potpourri of native plants, fruit trees, roses, perennials and a small vineyard wandering through the uphill slope. A Lafayette home on the tour is bordered by a large creek in the back and a bucolic trail in the front with seasonal plants artfully inserted everywhere. From a dazzling display of roses adorning a Victorian setting to the meditative calm of a forested retreat complete with pool and artist's studio, the tour offers a feast for the senses.

The Faire, which is being held on the beautiful 75-acre campus of The Athenian School, is open to the public at no charge in conjunction with the tour. Visitors can shop for unique art, crafts and plants or attend informative lectures, while enjoying the glorious outdoor setting.

Tickets for the tour are limited and are \$35 each. A box lunch, prepared by the ever-popular Domenico's in Danville, is available for pre-purchase at \$10 and can be picked up at the school and enjoyed at the Faire or taken on the tour. For more information or to order tickets, log on to www.athenian.org or call The Athenian Parent Association at 925-362-7275.

All proceeds from the event benefit The Athenian School's environmental education programs.

On June 12th and 13th join a group of fellow rare plant lovers for our sixth "Rare Plant-A-Thon" at **Point Reyes National Seashore**. For those of you who have never attended this event, the Rare-Plant-A-Thon is an effort to inventory unrecorded rare plant populations throughout the Seashore. With almost 50 threatened or endangered plant species, this can be quite a daunting task. We welcome all levels of botanical experience. Join us for one or both days. Free overnight accommodations are available at the Point Reyes Historic Lifesaving Station at Chimney Rock so RSVP to reserve a space. For more information please call Michelle Coppoletta or John O'Brien at 415-464-5195.

No poet has yet sung the full beauty of our poppy, no painter has successfully portrayed the satiny sheen of its lustrous petals, no scientist has satisfactorily diagnosed the vagaries of its variations and adaptability. In its abundance, this colorful plant should not be slighted: cherish it and be ever thankful that so rare a flower is common!

John Thomas Howell, Marin Flora

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Vacant

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Plant Sale Publicity:

Elaine Jackson, 3311 Estudillo St., Martinez 94553, 925-372-0687,
elainejx@mindspring.com

Posters:

Vacant

Programs:

Sue Rosenthal, P.O. Box 20489, Oakland 94620, 496-6016,
rosacalifornica@earthlink.net

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John Game, 1155 Spruce St., Berkeley 94707, 527-7855,
jcgame@lbl.gov

Regional Parks Botanic Garden Liaison:

Sue Rosenthal, P.O. Box 20489, Oakland 94620, 496-6016,
rosacalifornica@earthlink.net

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Dianne Lake, 1050 Bayview Farm Rd. #121, Pinole 94564, 741-8066,
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Recorded Chapter Information: 464-4977

CNPS Home Page: www.cnps.org

East Bay Chapter CNPS Home Page:
www.ebcnps.org

Bay Leaf & Board meeting minutes online

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, Retired, Limited income, \$20

Individual, Library, \$35

Household, Family, or Group, \$45

Supporting, \$75

Plant lover, \$100

Benefactor, \$500

Life, \$1000

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



Volunteers organized by East Bay Chapter member Celia Zavatsky at work assisting East Bay Regional Park Botanist Wilde Legard in flagging and monitoring *Fritillaria agrestis* at Brushy Peak Regional Park. *F. agrestis*, which is rare in our Chapter area, is a CNPS List 4 species. List 4 species are those which are not listed as rare but which CNPS has determined to be uncommon enough that their status should be monitored regularly.

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705**

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**Time Value
May 2004 issue**