Molate
photographs by Lech Naumovich
This is the story of a sleepy place nestled in a quiet corner of the bustling Bay Area. This is Point Molate. Once a fishing village, winery, fuel depot and now a breath of renewal for Richmond and beyond.
The human elements are critical to the nature of this place. The layers of human use and reuse have created a unique opportunity for nature to rebound.

Point Molate is the East Bay's little, private headlands. The sweeping coastal prairie and gnarly toyons and wetland seeps and rock-bound dudleya are a taste of wilderness that exists nowhere else on the San Francisco Bay.
The only reason this place still exists in its wonderful dichotomous state of wildland and urban decay is because a dedicated group of people believed that they could defeat an extremely well-funded proposal to plague this quiet peninsula with a casino... and they did.
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I often wonder about the value of these small places. And time and time again I realize there are few places more important for conservation than Point Molate. All of the histories, conflicts, and hopes that have shaped this entity are a most accurate reflection of humanity. The fact that this place still exists is a celebration of human spirit.
This is Point Molate.

It is alive.
Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

-Saint Francis of Assisi
Lech Naumovich is a botanist and photographer who has been able to experience Point Molate through both the quietness of a lens and a spirited public conservation battle which saved this site from becoming a Las Vegas style casino. He strives to photograph powerful conservation stories which celebrate engaged humans creating meaningful solutions to difficult problems.

The Point Molate story is truly a miracle.

More of Lech's work is found at www.lechphoto.com.