

# Chatsworth Native Plants

**Seated  
Wildflower  
Hike  
Presentation**

Poppy Photo:  
Maureen Finan



Prepared for the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains and the  
Santa Susana Mountain Park Association April 2017

# **This presentation will cover the following topics**

- Trees (oaks, sycamores etc.)
- Bushes (sages, etc.)
- Flowering exotic springtime plants
- Native weeds (horehound, nettles)
- Invasive Plants (tree tobacco, castor bean)
- Seeds
- References and Resources





# Trees

(oaks, sycamores etc.)



John Luker at the  
Chatsworth Nature  
Preserve April 2017





# Lilac Trees

**Lilac** aka **Greenbark Ceanothus**  
aka *Ceanothus spinosus*

*Has deep purple/blue flowers that fade to white when mature*

Photo: Ann  
Vincent





**Oak tree blooms appear like tassels all over the tree dropping tiny flower debris**

# Coast Live Oak

Photo: Ann Vincent



# Valley Oaks and Coast Live Oaks



**The Valley Oaks....aka White Oaks  
have a broad flat leaf**



**Coast Live Oaks have a smaller  
rounded leaf with sharp points**

Photo: Ann Vincent



# California Sycamore

Spanish name is Aliso; leaves are shaped like a hand. Leaves show fall colors and drop in Nov/Dec

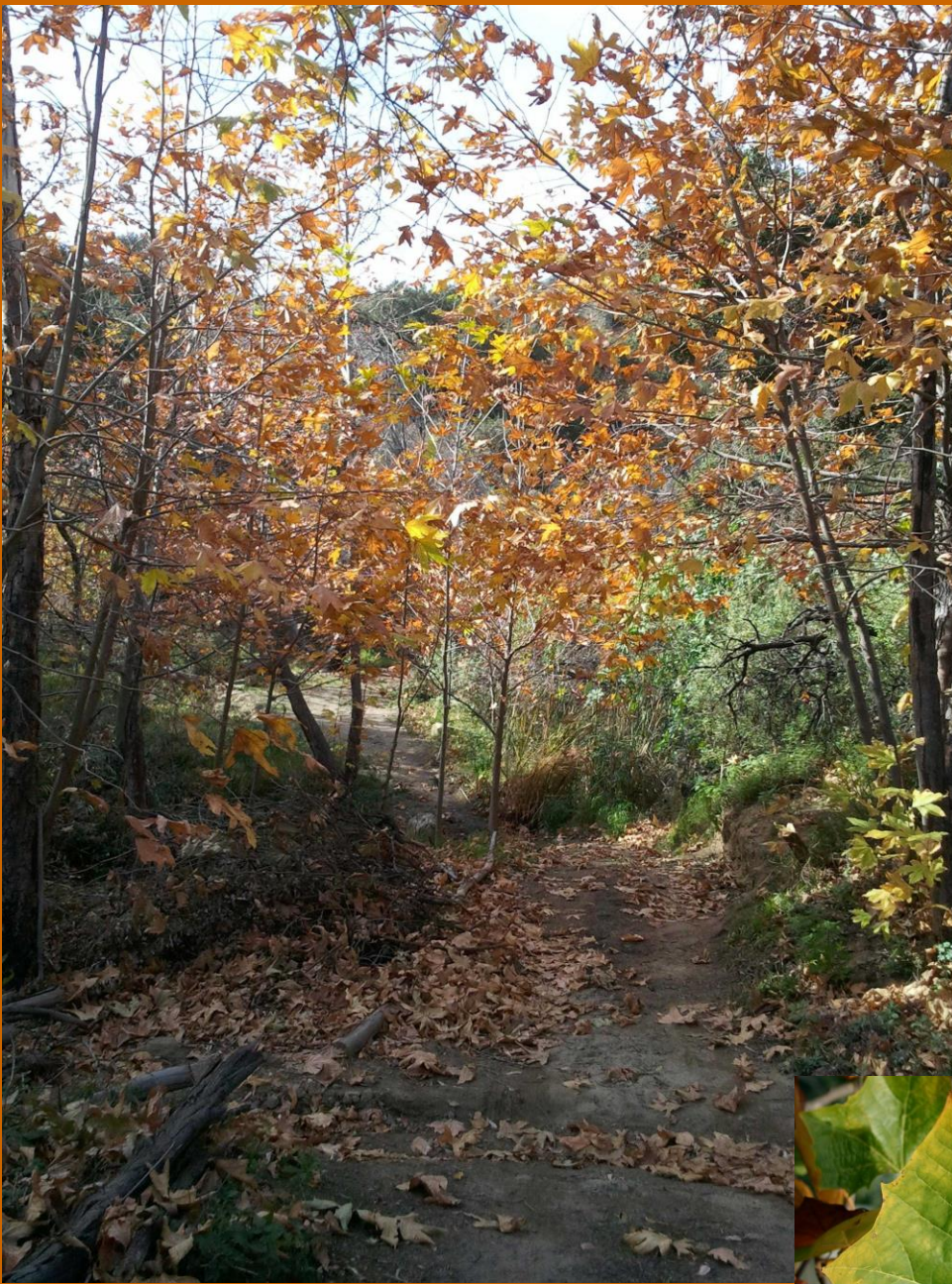


Photo: Ann Vincent



Photo: Teena Takata



# Southern California Black Walnut



**A large shrub or small tree in SSPSHP**

Photo: Teena Takata



# Scrub Oaks and Coast Live Oaks



**Scrub Oaks have a rounder acorn and a rounder flatter leaf. Coast Live Oak leaves are slightly curled and the acorns are long.**

Photo: Ann Vincent



# Mexican Elderberries



**Mexican elderberry is a deciduous shrub to tree with white-creamy flowers in Apr.-Jul. followed by purple berries that are edible.**



Photo: Ann Vincent



# Bushes (sages, etc.)





# Black Sage



**Attracts Hummingbirds and Honeybees**

Photo: Ann Vincent



# Coastal Sagebrush



Photo: Ann Vincent





# Deerweed

Photo: Ann Vincent



# TOYON

Long leaves...

The leaf color ranges from a gray green to bright green.



Also known as the  
Christmas Berry  
since they bloom  
close to the holiday

How Hollywood got  
its Name

Photo: Ann Vincent





# Buckwheat

## California Buckwheat

Green all year round  
with  
white flowers that  
bloom in  
April through July  
turning  
rusty brown in the fall.  
Found on slopes



Photo: Ann  
Vincent



# Bush Mallow

A fire follower



© Joseph Dougherty  
Ecology.org



# Brickle Bush



Photo: Ann Vincent



# Currant

*Ribes indecorum*,  
White-flowered currant



Photo: Ann  
Vincent



# Coyote Brush



Photo: Ann Vincent



# Chamise



## Chamise

Aka

## Greasewood

Aka

*Adenostoma  
fasciculatum*

**Green all year.  
Bright green tips  
that become white  
flowers, bloom in  
April through July  
turning rusty brown  
in the fall.**

Photo: Ann Vincent





**Chamise in bloom along rocky slope in Chatsworth**

Photo: Ann Vincent



# White Sage

*Salvia apiana*, White sage is a five foot evergreen perennial. The flowers emerge in summer and are white with a little lavender.

Smudging is a cleansing ritual where the leaves of the Sage plant are burned.



Photo: Ann Vincent





Photo: John Luker

# Yerba Santa

The leaves have historically been used to treat asthma, upper respiratory infections and allergic rhinitis. The Chumash used it as a poultice for wounds, insect bites, broken bones, and sores.







# Hollyleaf Red Berry

Looks like small live oak leaves  
has small berries



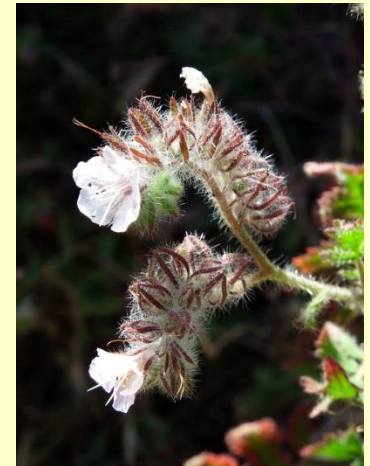
# Hollyleaf Cherry

Looks like small live oak leaves but shiny  
Fruit hangs from the branch like a cherry.

Photo: Ann Vincent



# Flowering exotic springtime plants





**April 15, 2017**  
**Miranda**  
**Loop**  
**SSPSHP**

Photos: Dottie Acker



**Blue  
Larkspur**



**Butterfly  
Mariposa Lily**



**Caterpillar  
Phacelia**



**Elegant  
Clarkia**



**Whispering  
Bells**



**White  
Snapdragon**



# Sunflowers



## Common Sunflower

aka

*Helianthus annuus*

Common Sunflower is the origin of the cultivated sunflower seed



Photo: Ann Vincent



# Sunflowers

**Encelia;**  
**Bush Sunflower**  
aka  
*Encelia Californica*

It blooms from  
February to June,  
and attracts  
butterflies, bees,  
and other insects.



Photo: Ann  
Vincent





# Canyon Sunflower



Fire Follower

Photo: Ann  
Vincent





# Desert Marigold

Photo: Ann  
Vincent





# Wild Peony

One of the  
earliest  
flowers;  
very low to  
the ground



Photo: Teena  
Takata



# Cobweb Thistle

At the SSFL



Photos: John Luker



# Sticky Monkeyflower

Photos: Lorie Lussier-Lawrence and Ann Vincent

**Red Monkeyflower is found primarily in the Santa Susana Mountains**

**The yellow is more common and has been used along freeway slopes as native plant reseedling.**

**The leaves feel sticky**





# Creek Monkeyflower

Found along  
the creek where  
mossy and  
moist.

*Flowers look  
similar but leaves  
are a different  
shape.*



Photos: Ann  
Vincent





# Scarlet Monkeyflower



**NOT Sticky  
Monkeyflower.  
Found along the  
creek where mossy  
and moist.**

*Flowers look similar  
but leaves are a  
different shape.*

Photo: Ann  
Vincent





# Stinging Lupine

**Don't touch !  
Less  
common  
than bush  
lupine**



Photo: Teena Takata



# Jimson Weed / Datura

Photos: Teena Takata  
and Ann Vincent



Used carefully by Native Americans in rituals; we should simply consider it poisonous. Large white flowers, avoid touching the plant!



# California Everlasting



Leaves  
smell like  
maple  
syrup

Photo: Ann  
Vincent



# Santa Susana Tarplant



Endangered, lives in sandstone rocks usually over 1000 feet elevation, Chatsworth to Malibu only; blooms near August.

Photo: Ann Vincent



# Slender Tarplant



Photo: Ann Vincent



# Showy Penstemon

Colors range from pink to blue.



Photo: Ann Vincent





# Elegant Clarkia

Late Spring,  
very complex flowers

Photo: Teena Takata



# Heart-leaved Penstemon



Found near the  
creek



Dark green leaves with orange/red flowers...

Photo: Ann Vincent



# Prickly Phlox

Early spring, see on Miranda  
Loop or Devils Slide



Photo: Teena Takata



# Wild Hyacinth

more commonly,  
Blue Dick

Early Spring,  
can fill a field with their nodding  
tops

*Dichelostemma capitatum*



Photo: Teena Takata



Photo: John Luker



# Padres Shooting Star



- Early spring, normally in a damp meadow; out 2-4 weeks after good rains.

Photo: Teena Takata



# Miner's Lettuce



The common name miner's lettuce refers to its use by California Gold Rush miners who ate it to get their vitamin C to prevent scurvy.

Photo: John Luker



# Dudlea Chalk Live Forever



During the spring following the rains with fresh growth they appear green as they pull water from the rocks, but turn gray-blue and the outer leaves dry and appear pink.

Photo: Ann  
Vincent



# Humboldt Lily (not in SSPSHP)



- Found in Riparian areas, in deep shade, generally near oak trees; flowers 2 to 4 inches, stalks to 6 feet high. Striking. (Found in Devil's Canyon about two miles north of SSPSHP, and in Malibu).

Photo: Teena Takata



# Hummingbird Sage



Photo: John Luker

- Found Riparian areas, in Sage Ranch, at SSFL and in lower Topanga Canyon / Malibu area.
- Flower stalk can be a foot or so long.

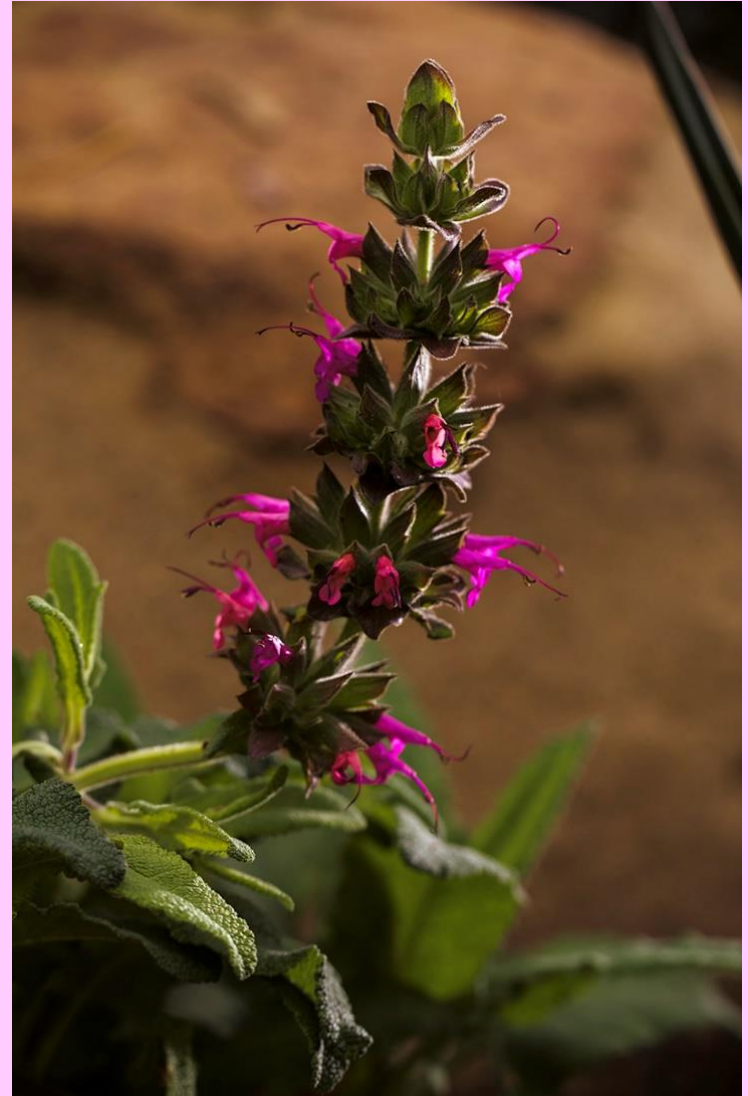


Photo: Teena Takata



# Larkspur



- Larkspur (*Delphinium consolida*) belongs to the buttercup family - Ranunculaceae.
- Larkspur flowers are almost as complex as the Orchids.

Photos: John Luker





# Nightshade



Photo: Ann Vincent



Purple Nightshade



White Nightshade



# Plummers Mariposa Lily

Rare, Striking, blooms late spring



Photo: Teena Takata



# Golden Yarrow

Good Mini Wildlife plant



Photo: Teena Takata

Photos above from  
Las Pilitas Nursery



# Mariposa Lilies

Late spring,  
pictured is a  
Catalina  
Mariposa Lily  
and we also  
have Yellow  
Mariposa  
Lilies.



Photo: Teena Takata





# Owls Clover

**An annual about 3 to 6 inches tall with a hairy stem covered in thready leaves.**

**Its common names include purple owl's clover, escobita, and exserted Indian paintbrush.**

Photo: John Luker



# Native weeds

(Turkey mullein, stinging nettles)





# Stinging Nettles

- Hairy needles on the stem and leaves
- If you touch them put water on your skin to relieve the stinging.



Photo: Ann Vincent



# Indian Tobacco

used by the Indians as a narcotic.



Photo: Ann Vincent



# Poison Oak



**LEAVES OF  
THREE...  
LET IT BE**

**Shiny green leaves in clusters of three. Leaves start out bright green adding some red on the edges through the fall. Once the leaves have fallen, the tall woody stems can still cause a reaction.**



Photo: Ann Vincent



# Wild Cucumber aka Manroot



Photo: Ann  
Vincent



# Turkey Mullein, Doveweed



**Grows in mounds spreading out as it gets larger. Can grow to two feet in diameter, but stays low to the ground.**

Photo: Ann Vincent



# Invasive Plants

(tree tobacco, castor bean)





# Tree Tobacco (non-native from South America)

Grows where the ground has been disturbed on hills and roadsides



Photo: Ann  
Vincent



# Castor Bean

non-native weed grows where the ground has been disturbed



**Seed pods scatter hundreds of seeds. Small plants grow quickly into small trees. Seeds are poisonous**



Photo: Ann Vincent



# Spanish Broom



**Non-Native Found on canyon slopes along highways**



**Invasive and considered a fire hazard. Targeted for removal by State Park weed abatement.**

**Grows to 5 feet tall with bright yellow flowers.**

Photo: Ann Vincent



# Common Mallow

## Buttonweed, Cheeseweed

- Seeds are in cheese shaped disks.
- They have a deep thick root and they can grow to be 3 feet tall in fields and disturbed areas.
- Non native from Africa and Eurasia



Photo: Ann Vincent



# Red Stem Filaree



- Not native to California, from Eurasia
- Seed stems curl up and get stuck in your socks



Photos: Teena Takata



# White Horehound

- Seeds commonly found stuck to your socks...
- From the mint family, can be made into hard candy cough drops.
- Native to Europe.

Photo: Ann Vincent





# Seeds

(showy penstemon, wild cucumber)





# References and Resources

## **Online resources for wildflowers:**

Superb flower identification is <http://smmflowers.org/> This is for Santa Monica Mountains Flowers, you can search by color, size, bloom season, and it's very local, very cell phone friendly - put a link on your phone

See also, <http://calflora.net/> Southern California flowers

Berkeley has a very good site at <http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/>

In spring blooming season use google and search for southern California wildflowers to find suggestions for good sites

## **Books and other resources:**

California Native Plant Society <http://cnps.org/> - go to Chapters, then usually choose Los Angeles-Santa Monica Mountains for local news "Toyon" and events. They also have a bookstore, go to Shop to locate books for sale.

Books are sold at the Santa Monica Mountains Visitor Center at King Gillette Ranch (Malibu Canyon/ Mulholland)

Flowering Plants of the Santa Monica Mountains. Nancy Dale- now older. Organized by plant family, includes some uses of plants

Wildflowers of the Santa Monica Mountains. Milt McAuly. Organized by plant color (out of print)

Chumash Ethnobotany. Jan Timbrook. Plant knowledge among the Chumash People of Southern California.

Basic native shrubs and their historic uses are in our plant brochure

Santa Susana Plant List from State Parks (not online)

## **Nursery for Native Plants:**

Theodore Payne in Sun Valley - extensive education programs, wide variety of plants.