



THE PAINTBRUSH

FALL 2001 NEWSLETTER

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

IN THIS ISSUE:

Under the Oaks	1
Native.net	2
Chapter Events	2
Other Events	3
From the Field: Mt. Hillyer	4
Plant Profile: Black Oak	5
The Gifts of Manisar	6
Native Bookshelf	7
New Members	7
Chapter Information & Map	8



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sun., Sept. 9, 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Eva Morgan
- Thurs. Sept. 27, 7:30 pm:** *Creating a "Native" Native Garden* with Mark Acuña
- Sun., Oct. 14, 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Harry Spilman
- Thurs., Oct. 25, 7:30 pm:** *The LA Coastal Prairie: Only a Memory* with Rudi Mattoni
- Sat., Oct. 27, 9:30 am - 2 pm:** *Under the Oaks: Native Plants for Foothill Gardens* at Eaton Canyon Nature Center
- Sun., Nov. 11, 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Rick Fisher
- Thurs., Nov. 29, 7:30 pm:** *Of Mice and Men: Biological Consultants and the Not-always Tight Rope They Walk* with Frank Hovore
- Sun., Dec. 9, 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Gabi & Cliff McLean



UNDER THE OAKS

Native Plants for Foothill Gardens

Sat., Oct. 27, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm

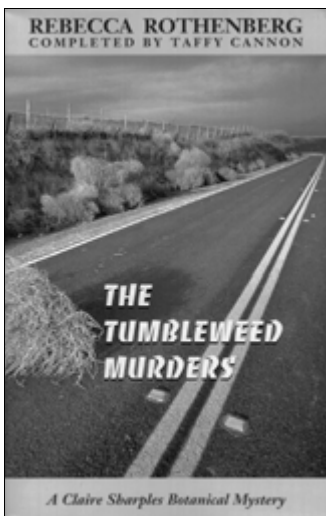
Eaton Canyon Nature Center
(map on back cover)



Plant & Seed Sale California natives appropriate for gardens in the Los Angeles basin. Knowledgeable Chapter members will be on hand to answer your questions. Printed materials on gardening with natives also for sale. *Cash or personal checks only please.* 9:30 am – 2:00 pm.

Landscaping Under the Oaks Informal talk by Steve Fischer, Chapter member and landscape consultant; 9:30 & 11:30 am in the auditorium.

Nature's Way: Attracting Birds and Butterflies to Your Garden with Native Plants Informal stroll around the Nature Center with Jane Strong, Chapter member and "b & b" enthusiast; 10:00 am & 12:00 noon; meet under the oaks in front of the Nature Center.



The Tumbleweed Murders Book signing of the last in the series of botanical mysteries featuring Claire Sharples. Becky Rothenberg, Charter Chapter member and past President, wrote the first three books in the series and at her death in 1998 left a uncompleted manuscript for a fourth book. Taffy Cannon, friend and fellow mystery writer, has completed the book (published by Perseverance Press) and will be on hand to sign your copy (bring your own copy if you can't wait to purchase one at this event). We will also have CDs of Becky's lovely songs for sale. You can read about Becky at the website created by her family: www.rebeccarothenberg.com. 10:30 am – 12:00 noon in the auditorium.

"Rebecca Rothenberg remains with us, her many fans, in appreciation and memory. She has left both the mystery novel and California much better off than when she first found and fused them together in the alembic of first-rate detective fiction." –Dr. Kevin Starr, State Librarian of California

And she remains with us, her friends in the California Native Plant Society.

NATIVE.NET

www.sgm-cnps.org

San Gabriel Mtns. CNPS

Thanks to Web-savvy Jane Strong, our Chapter now has a presence on the internet at the address above. When you visit you'll find up-to-date information on Chapter activities, a link to the PDF online version of the newsletter (in case you've misplaced your printed copy), e-mail links to contact various Chapter Board members, links to other native planted-related websites, and interesting feature articles (with more being added, as Jane has time and inspiration). Jane's current articles are *Botany on the Web: W. H. Brewer and His Plants* and *Chapter Logo; Mt. Gleason Paintbrush* (with a stunning photograph by Rick Fisher). There's even a "name this plant" quiz at the bottom of the page.

The site debuted this summer, shortly after our Chapter outing to Mt. Hillyer, so there's a write-up, accompanied by photos and plant checklist. It was a great morning and I hope reading about it will make you want to join a future field trip.

The Chapter Board is most grateful to Jane for bringing us into the 21st century in such a stylish, useful, fun manner. Check the site often for the latest information. Please show your appreciation too. And I'm sure Jane would welcome suggestions and contributions.

HELP WANTED!!

For our Fall fund raiser, *Under the Oaks: Native Plants for Foothill Gardens* to be a rousing success, the Chapter Board will need extra bodies to help with various tasks on Oct. 27. If you're good with money, how about serving as cashier for a couple of hours? If you go to the gym a lot, how about helping load plants into happy customer's cars? If you like to tell people what to do, how about directing traffic to the pick-up area? To volunteer for these or other jobs, please contact event Chair, Kathy LaShure at

562-693-5717 or encelia@gte.net.

2 It should be a fun day!

CHAPTER EVENTS

Meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (map on back cover) on the fourth Thursday of the month with the exception of Nov. (5th Thurs.).

Informal plant identification and social time from 7:00 to 7:30 pm; programs start promptly at 7:30 pm. No meeting in December.

PROGRAMS

Thurs., Sept. 27, 7:30 pm: *Creating a "Native" Native Garden* with Mark Acuña, Tongva tribal member. The world of the Gabrieleno-Tongva, the indigenous people of the Los Angeles/Orange County Basin, was a world filled with beauty and joy as well as a cornucopia of foods and game. Join in the fun of creating a Gabrieleno-Tongva garden. Let your garden reflect the indigenous Indian use and love of our native flora: a garden of spiritual values, a garden of food and drink, a garden of medicine and healing plants, a garden of shelter. Reclaim a bit of pre-European Los Angeles in your own backyard.

Thurs., Oct. 25, 7:30 pm: *The LA Coastal Prairie: Only a Memory* with Rudi Mattoni. With only a few disturbed remnants, would any of us even recognize Southern California's coastal prairie? What were the unique flora and fauna that were eliminated when this plant community was destroyed? What are the lessons to be learned from this situation? Can we apply them to other threatened habitats?

Thurs., Nov. 29, 7:30 pm: *Of Mice and Men: Biological Consultants and the Not-always Tight Rope They Walk* with Frank Hovore, Biological Consultant. Every development project, of any size, exacts some toll on natural resources. Depending upon the type of project, and where it lies, it may forever alter its landscape and surrounding environment. Most major developments are required to disclose their potential impacts to the public and resource agencies through the tenets of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Part of such disclosure is a determination of biological impacts, specifically, what is there, and what will remain if the project is approved and developed. And, if appropriate, how best to avoid or mitigate significant impacts to natural resources. This is where the biological consultants come in, to first discover and document the state of nature on the site, then to explain what the project will do, and what that all means, and then to propose ways of avoiding direct harm to sensitive resources. Of course, it's never that simple....

OUTINGS

Sun., Sept. 9, 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Eva Morgan

Sun., Oct. 14, 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Harry Spilman

Sun., Nov. 11, 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Rick Fisher

Sun., Dec. 9, 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Gabi & Cliff McLean

CHAPTER SPECIAL EVENT

Sat., Oct. 27, 9:30 am — 2:00 pm: *Under the Oaks: Native Plants for Foothill Gardens* at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Details on front page. Please come!

SHIFTING SANDS

Conservation and Biology of California's Dune Habitats

October 20, 2001, Ruby Gerontology Center - Cal State Fullerton

Registration 8 am-9 am. Symposium 9 am-5 pm, with a lunch break.

Early Registration \$35.00 (by 10/15/01); \$45.00 at the door

The symposium fee includes a 1-year membership in SCB (2001 year for new members, 2002 year for current members). Includes 6 issues of Leaflets and 2 issues of Crossosoma.

Registration fee should be sent to: Southern California Botanists, Dept. of Biology, Cal State University Fullerton, Fullerton, CA 92834.

Make your check payable to SCB. Additional information may be obtained from Susan Hobbs (Secretary) at (949) 597-1581 or slhobbs@home.com.

Co-sponsored by Southern California Botanists and CNPS

Symposium Presentations:

Tales of the Gritty: Desert Dunes in California and Beyond

Dr. Bruce Pavlik, Professor of Biology at Mills College

Off-Road Vehicles vs. Dune Habitats

Howard Wilshire, Chair, Bd. of Directors, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

Monitoring of Special Status Plants in the Algodones Dunes, Imperial County, California (1977, 1998, 1999, and 2000)

John W. Willoughby, State Botanist, BLM, Calif. State Office

Lessons Learned in the Coachella Valley: Protecting Sand Dunes and the Species that Depend on Them

Cameron Barrows, Regional Director, Center for Natural Lands Management

California Coastal Sand Dunes: A World Class Conservation Biology Case Study

Rudi Mattoni, Dept. of Geography, University of California at Los Angeles

Wildlife of the Algodones Dunes, California

Debbie Sebesta, Forest Biologist, Coronado Natl. Forest, AZ (formerly Natural Resource Specialist for the Bureau of Land Management, El Centro)

Dynamics of Sand Dune Systems in the Mojave Desert

Nicholas Lancaster, Research Professor, Division of Earth and Ecosystem Sciences, Desert Research Institute, Reno, Nevada

Northern California Coastal Dunes: History of Restoration and Recent Advances

Andrea Pickart, Ecologist, Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

Annual Plant Sale

Over 10,000 native, drought tolerant, and exotic plants for sale

Sat. Nov. 3: Member's Sale, 8 am - 11 am; General Public Sale, 11 am - 4 pm

Sun. Nov. 4: General Public Sale, 9 am - 1 pm

Memberships available at sale entrance. Members entitled to a 10% discount on plant and garden shop purchases.

This event is proudly sponsored by Monrovia Nursery Company

FALL CLASSES & LECTURES

Rancho Santa Ana Bot. Garden

Listed below are samples of their offerings.

For a complete listing please contact

RSABG at 909-625-8767 x224

or www.rsabg.org.

Garden Groundcovers using

California Native Plants with Rick Fisher (Chapter member) Landscape Architect and Native Plant specialist
Thurs., Oct. 11, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
\$5 (\$7 nonmember)

The Challenges of Keeping Natural Southern California Natural with Allan Schoenherr, Ph.D., Professor of Ecology, Fullerton College
Tues., Oct. 16, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
\$5 (\$7 nonmembers)

Introductory Botany with Patrick Griffith, Ph.D. candidate, RSABG
Sat., Oct. 20 & Sun., Oct. 21
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
\$95 (\$104 nonmembers)

Top 40 Plants for Southern California Gardens: A Plant Sale Preview with Bart O'Brien, Director of Horticulture, RSABG
Thurs., Nov. 1, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
\$8 (\$11 nonmember)
Limit: 12 participants

California's Flora Since the Last Glacial Maximum with Richard Minnich, Ph.D., Professor of Geography, Univ. of California, Riverside
Thurs., Nov. 15, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
\$5 (\$7 nonmembers)

In Search of New Plant-Derived Medicines: The Life of a Globe-Trotting BioProspector with James Miller, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Missouri Botanical Garden
Thurs., Dec. 13, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
\$5 (\$7 nonmembers)

Happy Holidays! Christmas Trees and Menorahs with Taylor Ingebretsen, Owner, Glendora Florist
Thurs., Dec. 6, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
\$5 (\$7 nonmember)

CHECKLIST FOR MT. HILLYER

San Gabriel Mountains, 6162',
Los Angeles County, California
May 19, 2001

Anacardiaceae

Rhus trilobata, squawbush

Agavaceae

Yucca whipplei, multiheaded yucca,
caespitosa

Apiaceae

Lomatium nevadense var. *parishii*, Parish's
lomatium

Tauschia parishii, Parish's tauschia

Asteraceae

Agoseris grandiflora, mountain dandelion

Agoseris retrorsa, spear-leaved mountain
dandelion

Antennaria dimorpha, low pussytoes

Artemisia tridentata, Great Basin
sagebrush

Chaenactis santolinoides, dusty maiden

Chrysothamnus nauseosus, rabbitbrush

Cirsium occidentale (?), western thistle

Layia glandulosa, desert or white tidy tips

Lessingia filaginifolia, California aster

Erigeron foliosus, leafy daisy, fleabane aster

Eriophyllum confertiflorum, golden yarrow

Hulsea vestitus var. *gabrielensis*, San

Gabriel Mtns. hulsea

Madia exigua, pygmy madia

Wyethia ovata, southern mules' ears

Brassicaceae

Arabis sparsiflora, rock cress

Erysimum capitatum, wallflower

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera subspicata var. *subspicata*,

southern or chaparral honeysuckle

Caryophyllaceae

Minuartia douglasii, Douglas' sandwort

Cupressaceae

Calocedrus decurrens, incense cedar

Ericaceae

Arctostaphylos parryana, Parry manzanita

Sarcodes sanguinea, snow plant

Fabaceae

Lotus crassifolius, buck lotus

Lotus nevadensis

Lotus strigosus

Lupinus excubitus, grape soda lupine

Lupinus concinnus, bajada lupine

FROM THE FIELD

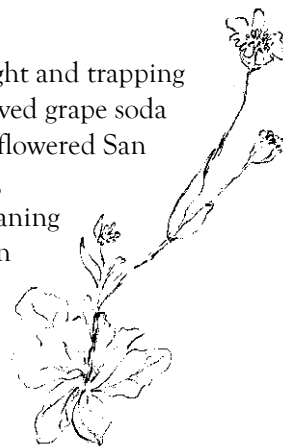
Tall Trees and Fragile Flowers: Mt. Hillyer, 5/19/01

By Jane Strong with field sketch by Christine Kiphart

Being located on the intersection of four watersheds and at more than 6000 feet elevation, Mt. Hillyer is influenced by a wide variety of conditions resulting in a wide variety of plants. The watersheds are the Santa Clara River to the north-west, the Mojave/Great Basin to the north and northeast, the San Gabriel River via Devils Canyon and the West Fork to the southeast, and the Los Angeles River via Big Tujunga Creek to the southwest. Thus, there are desert, coastal, as well as high elevation, factors at work. Plants living successfully in this mountain environment have made interesting adaptations.

Short stature to reduce water and heat loss is one of them. We saw dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium campylopodum*), low pussytoes (*Antennaria dimorpha*), and common pussypaws (*Calyptidium monandrum*). Toes and paws. Low to the ground. [What's a mistle, that it has toes, too?] We found a plant that uses the same strategy, but a different tactic: Burlew's onion (*Allium burlewii*). It is buried in the granitic sand up to the top of its stem with only the flower showing.

Fuzzy, furry or hairy leaves protect plants by reflecting light and trapping air. The best examples we saw here being the silvery-leaved grape soda lupine (*Lupinus excubitus*) and the bright, red-and-yellow flowered San Gabriel Mountain hulsea (*Hulsea vestitus* var. *gabrielensis*), illustrated to the right. Its specific name is "vestitus" meaning "clothed" as in "covered with hairs". Another "dressed in hair" plant we saw on the mountain was the fragrant, white-flowered desert ceanothus (*Ceanothus greggii* ssp. *vestitus*).



Getting down our hands and knees, close, like pollinating insects, revealed the intense colors of the small belly flowers.....neon-pink gilia, *Gilia* sp., magenta monkeyflower (*Mimulus johnstonii*), purplish-blue skullcap (*Scutellaria siphocampyloides*), purple-and-white Davidson's phacelia (*Phacelia davidsonii*), and many intense white flowers, *Linanthus*, *Gayophytum*, *Cryptantha* spp. Some of these flowers even have specific names indicating their small size: *parviflor*-us or -um [*linanthus* and *gayophytum*].

In the opposite position, standing up and tilting our heads back, we were awed by the majesty of the tall trees which have survived many generations on the mountain: the pyramidal-shaped Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*) with the world's heaviest pine cones; the long-armed sugar pine with the world's longest cones (*Pinus lambertiana*); the resinous Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*); the raggedy-silhouetted bigcone spruce (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*); the symmetrical, stately white fir (*Abies concolor*); and the stringy, red-barked incense-cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*).

And, finally, we saw a quartet of plants guaranteed to warm the hearts of mountain lovers everywhere: brilliant red snowplant (*Sarcodes sanguinea*), beacon of early spring on the forest floor; fun-to-touch southern mules' ears (*Wyethia ovata*), emerging with felty green leaves and buried yellow flowers from last year's tan skeletal remains; green-and-white striped, square-flowered pine-green gentian (*Swertia neglecta*); and our own chapter emblem, the enigmatic Mt. Gleason paintbrush.

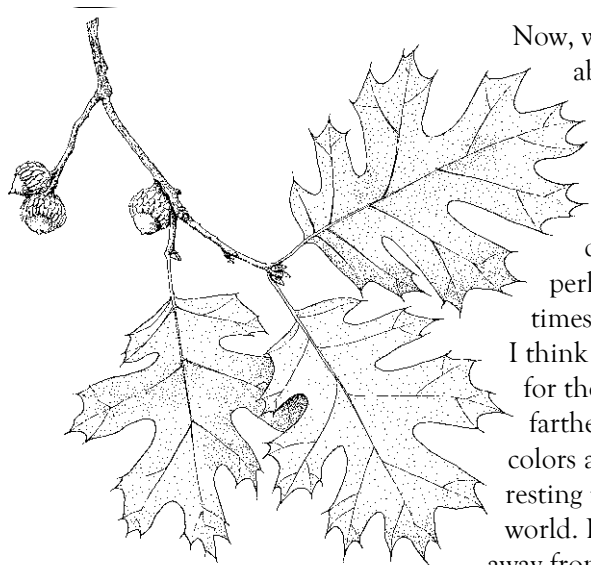
4 (continued on page 5)

PLANT PROFILE:

Quercus kelloggii, Black Oak

Fagaceae; Oak Family (group Erythrobalanus)

Text by Kathy LaShure, Illustration by Marianne Wallace



Now, we've all heard the old saw about Southern California not having seasons. Well, I'll admit that our seasons are not like New England's or the Midwest's, but we do have them, more subtle perhaps and at slightly different times—to be enjoyed nevertheless. I think Fall is particularly difficult for those folks transplanted from farther east; they miss the blazing colors and crisp air that signal the resting time of year for the natural world. But, in October, if you travel away from the LA Basin into the San

Gabriel mountains, you'll find those cooler temperatures and signal colors. I'm thinking particularly of the russet and yellow leaves worn by the black oaks that grace either end of the mountains (near Wrightwood on the east and Liebre Mountain to the west).

Black oaks are colorful in other seasons too: fuschia- and pale rose-tipped leaves and gold-green catkins in spring; the deep green foliage of summer; the stunning black trunks and branches etched against winter's snows. And these trees often sport yellow-green clumps of mistletoe.

Black oak is a tall, winter-deciduous tree with an open crown, often growing to 70-80 feet. In Placer County there is an individual with a trunk 9.4 feet across that may be 450 years old. Its bristled leaves have angular lobes, are deep green and 2-6" long. Its oblong acorns are 1-1½" and have deep cups covered with thin scales. Immature bark is smooth grey, becoming the rough and black.

This oak's acorns were prized by native peoples as the best-tasting in the state, providing mush and pudding throughout the cold months (they stored particularly well). Both Indians and European settlers used the strong wood for a variety of tools. The crooked trunks and branches could not be milled for lumber however.

Besides our local mountains, black oaks are found throughout the state (away from the coast) at elevations of 2000 to 6000 feet. Perhaps the finest stands are found in the Central Sierra (the Yosemite Valley trees are famous from Ansel Adams' striking winter photographs), where they occur with ponderosa pine, white fir, Douglas fir and incense cedar. The common understory companions are well-known for their spring beauty: dogwood, hazelnut, and western azalea.

If you haven't made the acquaintance of this handsome tree, I invite you to take a drive along the Angeles Crest Highway to Wrightwood this October to experience Fall Southern California-style.

CHECKLIST FOR MT. HILLYER

(continued from page 4)

Fagaceae

Quercus chrysolepis, canyon oak

Quercus wislizeni var. *frutescens*, shrub interior live oak

Garryaceae

Garrya flavescens, ashy silk tassel

Gentianaceae

Swertia neglecta, pine green-gentian

Hydrophyllaceae

Eriodictyon trichocalyx, yerba santa

Phacelia davidsonii, Davidson's phacelia

Phacelia curvipes

Phacelia imbricata, mountain phacelia

Lamiaceae

Scutellaria siphocampyloides, skullcap

Liliaceae

Allium burlewii, Burlew's onion

Calochortus invenustus, mariposa lily

Dichelostemma capitatum, blue dicks

Muilla maritima, muilla

Loasaceae

Mentzelia sp. like *albicaulis*, blazing star

Onagraceae

Epilobium canum ssp. *latifolium*,

mountain California fuchsia

Gayophytum diffusum var. *parviflorum*,

happy plant

Poaceae

Bromus tectorum

Bromus diandrus

Poa wheeleri (*Poa nervosa*)

Pinaceae

Abies concolor, white fir

Pinus coulteri, Coulter pine

Pinus jeffreyi, Jeffrey pine

Pinus lambertiana, sugar pine

Pseudotsuga macrocarpa, bigcone spruce

Polemoniaceae

Eriastrum densifolium var.

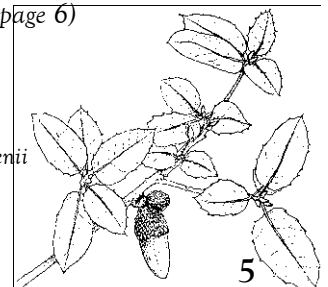
austromontanum, woolstar

Leptodactylon pungens, granite gilia

Linanthus parviflorus, common linanthus

(continued on page 6)

Quercus wislizenii
by Marianne
Wallace



CHECKLIST FOR MT. HILLYER

(continued from page 5)

Polygonaceae

Eriogonum saxatile, rock buckwheat

Eriogonum umbellatum, sulphur
buckwheat

Eriogonum wrightii, Wright's buckwheat

Portulacaceae

Calyptidium monandrum

Claytonia perfoliata, miner's lettuce

Ranunculaceae

Delphinium parishii, Parish's larkspur

Rhamnaceae

Ceanothus greggii var. *vestitus*, desert
ceanothus

Ceanothus intergerrimus, deerbrush

Ceanothus leucodermis, chaparral
whitethorn

Rosaceae

Cercocarpus betuloides, birchleaf
mountain mahogany

Rubiaceae

Galium johnstonii, Johnston's bedstraw

Scrophulariaceae

Castilleja gleasonii, Mt. Gleason Indian
paintbrush

Mimulus brevipes, wide-mouthed
monkeyflower

Mimulus johnstonii, Johnston's
monkeyflower

Penstemon centranthifolius, scarlet bugler

Penstemon grinnellii, Grinnell's
penstemon

Steruliaceae

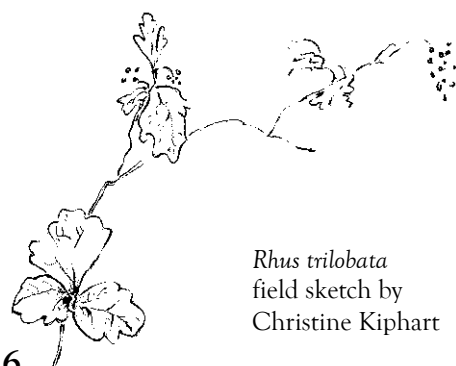
Fremontodendron californicum,
flannelbush

Violaceae

Viola purpurea, mountain violet

Viscaceae

Arceuthobium campylopodum, western
dwarf mistletoe



Rhus trilobata
field sketch by
Christine Kiphart

A Sky Filled With the Gifts of Manisar Avakhat "Cottonwood"

By Mark F. Acuña, Gabrieleno-Tongva

Illustration from Trees of California by Willis Linn Jepson (1923)

Manisar is the Tongva goddess of plenty, fertility, and the harvest. She insures that the people will have the foods they need to maintain their complex lives in the Los Angeles Basin world of *Tovangar*. Along the streams and rivers the rich green heart-shaped leaves of the *Avakhat* trees dance in the breeze. *Manisar* twists the blossoms from March to April and in late May through June, she sends out her gifts to remind the *Tongva* of her abundance. On the winds of May and June she floats out the 'Cottonwood' fluff, filling the skies, clogging the streambeds, carpeting the hillsides. The *Tongva* gathered the fluff and lined cradleboards to soften the beds of infants.

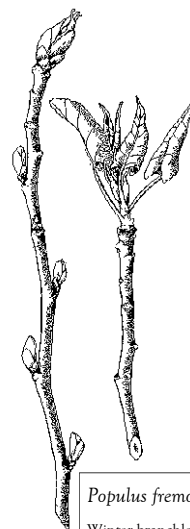
In one of the many stories of *Itar* the coyote, *Itar* hears the leaves of the *Avakhat* tree singing in the wind. He believes that they are singing his name, so he tries to imitate the song but runs out of breath and faints. He awakens having learned not to try to imitate the songs of others.

Avakhat leaves and bark were boiled into a poultice and applied to swellings, cuts, wounds, and insect bites. The poultice was also applied to strained muscles and to the head for the relief of headaches. Sprains were washed in a dilution of *Avakhat*'s green leaves.

The flower buds were dried and made into a salve for burns and skin irritations, and the roots were made into a general tonic drunk in late spring. Even *Avakhat*'s catkins were used; they were boiled with pronghorn antelope meat. Antelope was one of the major meat sources in the pre-Spanish world of *Tovangar*. The catkins added a fine flavoring to the delicate meat of *Tonar*, the antelope.

The inner bark was pounded and shredded to make women's skirts and also for the making of cordage. *Avakhat* rises at times to 90 feet and can be found in moist places below 6500 ft. it is found in several plant communities and also on the islands of Santa Catalina and San Nicolas.

Remember *Avakhat*'s lesson, and sing your own song and recall that *Manisar* feeds us all.



Populus fremontii
Winter branchlets
with bursting buds
and unfolding leaves



The Newsletter of the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter
of the California Native Plant Society is published bi-monthly
and is free to Chapter members. Non-member subscription is \$5.00.

To join the California Native Plant Society, write to
CNPS, 909 Twelfth St., Suite 116, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Please specify San Gabriel Mountains Chapter. Enclose check payable to CNPS.
Membership categories: Individual/Library - \$35; Student/Retired/Limited Income - \$20;
Family/Group - \$45; Supporting - \$75; Plant Lover - \$100; Patron - \$250.00; Life - \$1000.

NATIVE BOOKSHELF

Trees and Shrubs of California

John D. Stuart and John O. Sawyer; Illustrated by Andrea J. Pickart
2001, Univ. of Calif. Press, 467 pp., 40 color illustrations,
212 line illustrations, 314 maps, 3 tables. cloth: \$45.00, paper: \$ 22.50.

Reviewed by Mickey Long

This brand new book from U.C. Press was anxiously awaited by those who saw notices of its pending publication. It is the first attempt to put both trees and shrubs of this big State into one text. The format is small, designed to be a compact field guide. The plants covered are arranged in two sections in the book. Conifers are separated first then Broadleaved Trees and Shrubs make up the bulk of the book. In the front of the book are keys to genera of Conifers and a key to groups and genus and/or species for Broadleaved Trees and Shrubs. The user then pages forward through genera alphabetically to find additional keys or further information. The introductory keys are "artificial" using general features and characters for user friendliness, but plants in the same family thus key out in different places. There is no learning of family characteristics and genera within families. There is an Appendix list, however, arranged by Family of all plants covered in the book. The emphasis in this guide is on "forests and woodlands" and the authors (Humboldt State professors) state there is "less complete coverage of the desert scrubs."

Range maps included utilize "Ecological Units of California: Subsections" base map from the U.S. Forest Service and broadly shade in the geographic units of occurrence. The small format of the book dictates that these maps be small (ca. 1½" high). Species accounts include a brief description of the plant, its leaves, inflorescences, flowers, fruits, twigs and/or branches, habitat and range and Remarks. I like the inclusion in the remarks section of the location and size of the largest specimen for most trees and large shrubs. Other interesting notes on wildlife or human uses are included here.

My biggest problem with this book is its incomplete coverage. I know it's very difficult to create a book that will totally please both amateurs and professionals. Amateur botanists demand simplicity ("Don't show me too many plants, just the one in my hand"). Professionals want complete coverage and detail. I guess I thought this was going to be a larger format, not-so-field-guide-sized, text to replace earlier works. Let me cite some specifics. Having just returned from a field trip to the desert slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains, and wanting to see an illustration of a desert olive (*Forestiera*) we'd encountered, I grabbed the new book and went for the index. It wasn't there. Not by genus, not by common name. Sure, desert olive is a rather uncommon shrub of scattered distribution and I've only encountered it four or five times, but *that's the kind of plant I need to look up*, to confirm identification with a drawing or description.

For a book called *Trees and Shrubs of California*, many species are simply left out. Many others included are not illustrated. For example, only six *Ceanothus* are illustrated of 17 covered, of 43 in California. Things are even worse for the willows, just 3 illustrated of 13 covered of 30 in the state and just 2 *Salvias* get drawings of the 8 covered, of 17 statewide. Just two more examples will suffice; only one *Eriogonum (fasciculatum)* is treated and when I went to check some info on our common *Ribes malwaceum* it wasn't there either. The line drawing illustrations are generally of adequate quality and are attractive, although all plants seem to have rather thin-looking leaves, even when they should be thicker. The

color photographs, 40 in all, in the center of the book are sharp and colorful, but most plant photos are small, to fit the page.

A more difficult problem in the long run, is that without explanation or any warning, the Keys to species within each genus only key out the species covered in the book. Sometimes just two of them. If you have one of the others in hand you will be forced to key it incorrectly. I fear many beginners will place the wrong name on their shrub. The trees are better covered, with all 18 pines of California included, for example.

This book must be compared with McMinn's *An Illustrated Manual of California Shrubs* and, for southern California, Dole and Rose's two newer, user-friendly Shrub and Tree guides for Coast and Deserts. There are many other tree books available, like the older McMinn and Maino *Manual of Pacific Coast Trees* to compare with. Newer botanists will say the older books are out of date; older botanists know better. I know we have too many species to cover them all in a small field guide. I would have preferred a larger format, more complete book. We probably need one for trees, one for shrubs.

At \$22.50 for the paperback, these field guides are getting pricey. My advice is find the book in your bookstore and look it over to see if it's for you before you buy. I borrowed mine and, for now, returned it.



WELCOME! New members

Arbortender

John Gamon

Susan Immer

Beth Lindauer

Bernardine Mateer

Ne'ayuh

Jane Strong

Amber Young

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

PRESIDENT: Lyn McAfee
626-359-5278 or LynMcAfee@aol.com

VICE-PRESIDENT: Cliff McLean
626-966-0580 or cliff.mclean@worldnet.att.net

SECRETARY: Steve Fischer
323-254-0690 or habitathome@msn.com

TREASURER: Virginia Iser, 626-573-0390

PROGRAMS: Gary Wallace & Mickey Long, 626-398-5420
gdwallace@earthlink.net or mlongbird@aol.com

MEMBER SERVICES: Gabi & Cliff McLean
626-966-0580 or gabi.mclean@worldnet.att.net

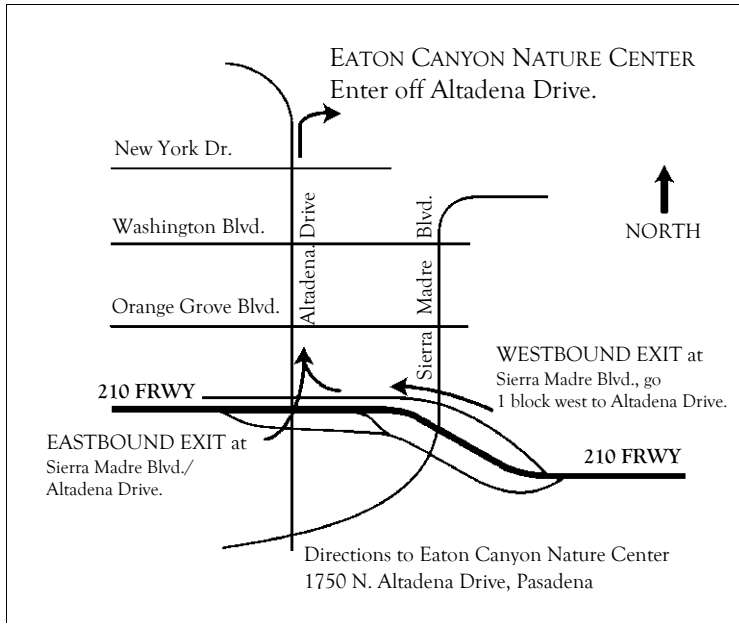
NEWSLETTER: Kathy LaShure
562-693-5717 or encelia@gte.net

MEMBERSHIP: Kathy LaShure
562-693-5717 or encelia@gte.net

PUBLIC INFORMATION: Lyn McAfee
626-359-5278 or LynMcAfee@aol.com

PLANT WALKS: Eva Morgan, 626-284-0029

FIELD TRIPS: Harry Spilman
626-799-9486 or nochalkbets@juno.com



Dedicated to the Preservation of the California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide nonprofit organization of amateurs & professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The mission of the Society is to increase understanding & appreciation of California's native plants & to conserve them and their natural habitats, through education, science, horticulture & advocacy. Membership is open to all.

Membership includes the quarterly journal Fremontia, the quarterly Bulletin which gives statewide news & announcements of Society activities & conservation issues, & the chapter newsletter.



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Gabriel Mountains Chapter
1750 North Altadena Drive
Pasadena, California 91107

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 164
Pasadena, CA

TIME VALUE

Sept. 2001 Issue