

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SANTA MONICA MTNS. CHAPTER

MAY 2, 1981

The upper reaches of Zuma Canyon burned totally during the Agoura-Malibu fire of October 23, 1978. Today we will see the 3rd season of post-fire growth. Post-fire recovery of the larger chaparral shrubs is primarily by stump-sprouting, though some such as *Ceanothus megacarpus* and Bigberry Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) recover by seed germination. Some, such as Chamise, recover in both ways. The most commonly seen recovering larger shrubs in Zuma Canyon will be:

<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	ELDERBERRY	<i>Rhus ovata</i>	SUGAR BUSH
<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>	MTN. MAHOGANY	<i>Rhus laurina</i>	LAUREL SUMAC
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	HOLLYLEAF CHERRY	<i>Rhamnus ilicifolia</i>	REDBERRY
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	TOYON	<i>Ceanothus spinosus</i>	
<i>Adenostema fasciculatum</i>	CHAMISE	<i>Ceanothus megacarpus</i>	
<i>Adenostema sparsifolium</i>	RED-SHANKS	<i>Quercus dumosa</i>	SCRUB OAK

Because of minimal rains this past season and virtually none until January of 1981, blooming time for wildflowers of the Santa Monicas is about two weeks later than usual. Zuma Canyon has most of the local habitats with the exception of direct ocean proximity. Characteristic of the 2nd through 8th or 9th post-fire years is the dominance of the smaller shrubs, those that in mature plant communities are more often found in coastal sage associations, rather than in chaparral. These include *Lotus scoparius* (DEERWEED), *Malacothamnus fasciculatus* (BUSH MALLOW), *Solanum xanthii* (NIGHTSHADE), *Eriogonum fasciculatum* (BUCKWHEAT), and many more that will be seen in abundance. Along with herbaceous plants such as *Venegasia* (CANYON SUNFLOWER), these shrubs fill in the otherwise vacant areas as the years pass until they are crowded out by the larger shrubs that make up the true chaparral community. Finally, when Zuma Canyon has again matured, it will be ready and waiting for another fire.

The dominant and most showy wildflower today will probably be *Phacelia parryi*. It is rarely seen in the Topanga-Palisades section of the Mtms. This weeks blooms will be followed in late May and June by others such as *Delphinium cardinale* (SCARLET LARKSPUR), and *Calochortus clavatus* (YELLOW MARIPOSA). The following list includes those flowers seen already in Zuma Canyon this week. It is not complete, so you may make your own discoveries.

Lasthenia chrysostoma: GOLDFIELDS, *Helianthus gracilentus*: SUNFLOWER,
Eriophyllum confertiflorum: GOLDEN YARROW, *Microseris linearis*,
Gnaphalium californicum, *G. bicolor*, *Amsinckia intermedia*: FIDDLENECK,
Platystemon californica: CREAM-CUPS, *Eschscholtzia caespitosa*: CAL. POPPY,
Lithophragma affine: WOODLAND STAR, *Cryptantha intermedia*: POPCORN FLOWER,
Claytonia perfoliata: MINERS' LETTUCE, *Delphinium patens*: BLUE LARKSPUR,
Camissonia californica, *C. micrantha*, *Sidalcea malvaflora*: CHECKERBLOOM,
Thalictrum polycarpum: MEADOW-RUE, *Gilia capitata*, *Stachys rigida*: HEDGE-
NETTLE, *Phacelia distans*, *P. grandiflora*, *P. cicutaria*, *P. parryi*,
Pholistoma auritum: FIESTA FLOWER, *Collinsia heterophylla*: CHINESE HOUSES,
Lupinus truncatus, *L. succulentus*, *L. hirsutissimus*, *L. latifolius*,
Lotus strigosus, *Pedicularis densiflora*: INDIAN WARRIOR, *Diplacus longi-*
florus: BUSH MONKEYFLOWER, *Mimulus guttatus*, *M. brevipes*: MONKEYFLOWERS,
Castilleja foliosus: INDIAN PAINTBRUSH, *Linanthus androsaceus*.

Look for: HUGE *Dudleya pulverulenta*