

**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**  
**Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mts. Chapter**

**CHATSWORTH RESERVOIR**  
**PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF VEGETATION**  
**August 24, 1999**

The Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mts. Chapter of the California Native Plant Society conducted three field surveys of Chatsworth Reservoir: November 14, 1998, December 30, 1998, and May 23, 1999. Because plant surveys tend to be very time-consuming, the entire area was not surveyed. We hope to do more surveys in 2000 to cover the areas we were unable to cover before and to recheck some areas at different flowering seasons.

The dominant plants in each of the habitats shown are:

- 1. CSS (Coastal Sage Scrub):** California Sagebrush, Deerweed, California Buckwheat. Also various mustards, Golden Yarrow, Needlegrass, Bush Sunflower.
- 2. SAGEBRUSH SCRUB:** California Sagebrush, various mustards, Deerweed, Western Ragweed, Cocklebur, Rumex. Within the SAGEBRUSH SCRUB areas were openings that were bare or were covered with one or two species of Verbenas and little else. In fact, the vegetation tends to occur in belts within the reservoir with one or two species predominating. At the eastern end of the reservoir, Coyote Bush becomes a dominant species in the SAGEBRUSH SCRUB.
- 3. GRASS:** Non-native grasses, non-native mustards, non-native thistles, Narrow-leaf Milkweed, Dove Weed, Spike Moss, Four O'Clocks, Tarweed, Clarkia, several species of Phacelia, Sunflower.
- 4. CHAPARRAL:** Laurel Sumac, Sugar Bush, Redberry or Hollyleaf Redberry, Poison Oak. Also Coast Live Oak, Valley Oak, Ceanothus, Toyon, Elderberry, two species of Sage, two species of Monkeyflowers, California Buckwheat, two species of Everlastings, three species of native grasses, four species of fern, Brickellbush, Goldenbush, Dudleyas.
- 5. LIVE OAK AND VALLEY OAK:** This is a mixed woodland of Live Oak (AKA Coast Live Oak) and Valley Oak. The canopy is open and the main understory is non-native grasses, mustards and thistles.
- 6. VALLEY OAK SAVANNA:** This is a very open woodland, with an understory of non-native grasses, mustards and thistles. The only young Valley Oaks were observed near the POND in a mixed woodland with Coast Live Oak.
- 7. COTTONWOOD, WILLOW, MULEFAT RIPARIAN:** Fremont's Cottonwood, Red Willow, Arroyo Willow, Mulefat and in the drainage channels with water: Kelp Smartweed and Loosestrife. One RIPARIAN area on the western side of the reservoir property has Sycamores as well as Willows. Mulefat is the dominant plant along most of the drainage channels.
- 8. WETLAND:** Cattails and Spikerush. Rimmed around the berm with Red Willow and Arroyo Willow.
- 9. MUD FLATS:** Clover Fern, Rabbit's Foot Grass, annual Epilobium, Mulefat and algal mats.



**CHATSWORTH RESERVOIR PLANT LIST, August 22, 1999**  
**(from 3 field surveys by Calif. Native Plant Society)**

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| Amaranthus blitoides (Prostrate Pigweed)                 | Epilobium californicum (California Fuchsia)            |
| Ambrosia psilostachya (Western Ragweed)                  | Epilobium pygmaeum (Annual Epilobium)                  |
| Ammania robusta (Loosestrife)                            | Eremocarpus setigerus (Dove Weed, Turkey<br>Mullein)   |
| Amsinckia intermedia (Common Fiddleneck)                 | Ericameria pinifolia (Pinebush)                        |
| Apiastrum angustifolium (Wild Celery)                    | Eriogonum fasciculatum (California Buckwheat)          |
| Artemisia californica (Sagebrush)                        | Eriophyllum confertiflorum (Golden Yarrow)             |
| Artemisia douglasiana (Mugwort)                          | Erodium botrys (Long-beaked Filaree) *                 |
| Asclepias eriocarpa (Indian Milkweed)                    | Erodium cicutarium (Red-stem Filaree) *                |
| Asclepias fascicularis (Narrow-leaved Milkweed)          | Eucrypta chrysanthemifolia (Eucrypta)                  |
| Aspidotis californica (California Lace Fern)             | Fraxinus uhdei (Mexican Ash) *                         |
| Aster subulatus (Slim Aster)                             | Galium angustifolium (Narrow-leaved Bedstraw)          |
| Atriplex rosea or A. triangularis (Saltbush)             | Galium aparine (Annual Bedstraw)                       |
| Avena sp (Wild Oats) *                                   | Gilia angelensis (Angel's Gilia)                       |
| Baccharis pilularis (Coyote Brush)                       | Gnaphalium bicolor (Bicolor Everlasting)               |
| Baccharis salicifolia (Mulefat)                          | Gnaphalium californicum (California Everlasting)       |
| Bowlesia incana (Bowlesia)                               | Gnaphalium palustre (Cudweed Aster)                    |
| Brassica rapa (Field Mustard) *                          | Hazardia squarrosa (Goldenbush)                        |
| Brickellia californica (Brickellbush)                    | Helianthus sp (Sunflower)                              |
| Calochortus venustus (Butterfly Mariposa Lily) #         | Heliotropium curassavicum (Wild Heliotrope)            |
| Camissonia sp (Primrose)                                 | Hemizonia minthornii (Santa Susana Tarweed) #          |
| Centaurea melitensis (Tocalote) *                        | Heteromeles arbutifolia (Toyon)                        |
| Chenopodium californicum (California Goosefoot)          | Heterotheca grandiflora (Telegraph Weed)               |
| Chlorogalum pomeridianum (Soap Plant)                    | Hirschfeldia incana (Mediterranean Mustard)*           |
| Chrysothamnus nauseus (Rubber Rabbitbrush)               | Lactuca serriola (Prickly Lettuce) *                   |
| Cirsium vulgare (Bull Thistle) *                         | Lessingia filaginifolia (California Aster)             |
| Cirsium occidentale (Cobweb Thistle)                     | Leymus condensatus (Giant Wild Rye)                    |
| Clarkia elegans (Elegant Clarkia)                        | Lotus argophyllus (Silver Lotus)                       |
| Clarkia purpurea (Purple Clarkia)                        | Lotus purshianus (Spanish Clover)                      |
| Claytonia perfoliata (Miner's Lettuce)                   | Lotus scoparius (Deerweed)                             |
| Conyza canadensis (Horseweed)                            | Lotus strigosus (Strigose Lotus)                       |
| Conyza coulteri  | Lupinus bicolor (Dove Lupine)                          |
| Corethrogyne filaginifolia (Woolly Aster)                | Lupinus concinnus (Bajada Lupine)                      |
| Cotula australis (Australian Brass Button) *             | Lupinus truncatus (Collar Lupine)                      |
| Cotula coronopifolia (Brass Button) *                    | Malacothamnus fasciculatus (Bush Mallow)               |
| Crassula connata (Pygmyweed)                             | Malacothrix saxatilis (Cliff Aster)                    |
| Crypsis vaginiflora (Pricklegrass) *                     | Malosma laurina (Laurel Sumac)                         |
| Cryptantha intermedia (Large-flowered Popcorn<br>Flower) | Malvella leprosa (Alkali Mallow, White Weed)           |
| Cucurbita foetidissima (Calabazilla)                     | Marah macrocarpus (Wild Cucumber)                      |
| Datura wrightii (Jimson Weed)                            | Marrubium vulgare (Horehound) *                        |
| Daucus pucillus (Rattlesnake Weed)                       | Marsilea vestita (Clover Fern)                         |
| Dichelostemma capitatum (Blue Dicks)                     | Melica imperfecta (Chaparral Melic)                    |
| Dipsacus sativus (Fuller's Teasel) *                     | Mimulus longiflorus (Sticky Monkeyflower)              |
| Dudleya cymosa (needs to be confirmed) #                 | Mimulus longiflorus var. rutilus (Red<br>Monkeyflower) |
| Dudleya lanceolata                                       | Mirabilis californica (Four O'Clock, Wishbone)         |
| Dudleya multicaulis #                                    | Nassella sp (Needlegrass)                              |
| Eleocharis parvula (Spikerush)                           | Navarretia hamata (Hooked Navarretia)                  |
| Encelia californica (Bush Sunflower)                     |  |

*Nicotiana glauca* (Tree Tobacco) \*  
*Oxalis albicans* (Oxalis)  
*Parietaria hespera* (Pellitory)  
*Pectocarya* sp  
*Pellaea andromedifolia* (Coffee Fern)  
*Pennisetum setaceum* (Fountain Grass) \*  
*Phacelia circuitaria* (Caterpillar Phacelia)  
*Phacelia distans* (Fernleaf Phacelia)  
*Phacelia ramosissima* (Branching Phacelia)  
*Phoenix canariensis* (Date Palm) \*  
*Pholistoma auritum* (Fiesta Flower)  
*Phyla nodiflora* var. *incisa* (White Verbena)  
*Picus echioides* (Bristly Ox Tongue)\*  
*Piptatherum miliaceum* (Smilo Grass)\*  
*Pityrogramma triangularis* (Goldback Fern)  
*Plagiobothrys nothofulvus* (Popcorn Flower)  
*Poa secunda* (Bluegrass)  
*Polygonum amphibium emersum* (Kelp Smartweed)  
*Polypodium californicum* (Calif. Polypody Fern)  
*Polypogon monspeliensis* (Rabbit's Foot Grass) \*  
*Populus fremontii* (Fremont's Cottonwood)  
*Prunus ilicifolia* (Hollyleaf Cherry)  
*Pterostegia drymarioides* (Thread Stem)  
*Quercus agrifolia* (Coast Live Oak)  
*Quercus lobata* (Valley Oak)  
*Rhamnus crocea* (Redberry)  
*Rhamnus ilicifolia* (Hollyleaf Redberry)  
*Ribes indecorum* (White Currant)  
*Rumex* sp (Curly Dock \* + others)  
*Salix exigua* (Arroyo Willow)  
*Salix laevigata* (Red Willow)  
*Salvia apiana* (White Sage)  
*Salvia mellifera* (Black Sage)  
*Sambucus mexicana* (Elderberry)  
*Scirpus maritimus* (Scirpus)  
*Selaginella biglovii* (Spike Moss)  
*Senecio douglasii* (Bush Senecio)  
*Shinus molle* (California Pepper) \*  
*Silene gallica* (Windmill Pink) \*  
*Solanum douglasii* (White Nightshade)  
*Solanum xanti* (Purple Nightshade)  
*Sonchus asper* (Sow Thistle) \*  
*Stellaria media* (Chickweed) \*  
*Stephanomeria exigua coronaria*  
*Tamarix chinensis* (Tamarisk) \*  
*Toxicodendron diversilobum* (Poison Oak)  
*Trichostema lanceolatum* (Vinegar Weed)  
*Trifolium willdenovii* (Tomcat Clover)  
*Typha domingensis* or *T. angustifolia* (Cattails)  
*Uropappus lindleyi* (Aster)  
*Verbena bracteata* (Verbena)

*Viola pedunculata* (Johnny Jump-up)  
*Xanthium strumarium* (Cockle Bur)

# = SPECIES LISTED IN CNPS INVENTORY OF RARE & ENDANGERED VASCULAR PLANTS

\* = WEED

121 species are native plants out of 146 species noted on the field surveys. 25 are non-native species, mostly invasive pest plants.

In terms of biodiversity 83% of the species we observed were native plants. In terms of area covered by native vs. non-native plants, in the reservoir itself probably 60 % to 70% is native plant cover. The worst weed problem is in the Valley Oak Savanna (an endangered habitat according to the Natural Heritage Division of State Fish and Game) outside the bermed reservoir. The disking of non-native grasses and weeds under the Valley Oaks is preventing young oaks from growing and is disturbing the soil to such an extent that more nutritious native grasses and ground cover cannot become established.