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Traversing Swanton Road  
(revised 01/16/2011)  

By James A. West

Abstract: Situated at the northwest end of Santa Cruz County and occupying circa 30 square miles of sharply contrasted terrain, the Scotts Creek Watershed concentrates within its geomorphological boundaries, 10-12% of California’s flora, both native and introduced. Paradoxically, the use/abuse that the watershed has sustained over the past 140+ years, has not necessarily diminished the biodiversity and perhaps parallels the naturally disruptive but biologically energizing processes (fire, flooding, landslides and erosion), which have also been historically documented for the area. With such a comprehensive and diverse assemblage of floristic elements present, this topographically complex but relatively accessible watershed warrants utilization as a living laboratory, offering major taxonomic challenges within the *Agrostis, Arctostaphylos, Carex, Castilleja, Pinus* and *Quercus* genera plus ample opportunities to study the significant role of landslides (both historical and contemporary) with the corresponding habitat adaptations/modifications. Of paramount importance, is the distinct possibility of a paradigm being developed from said studies, which underscores the seeming contradiction of human activity and biodiversity within the same environment as not being mutually exclusive and understanding/clarifying the range of choices available in the planning of future land use activities, both within in and outside of Swanton.

Although synthetic in origin, Swanton Road, like its fluid counterpart Scotts Creek, traverses a substantial part of the watershed and reveals an informative cross-section of the region’s flora. Without leaving the tarmac, one can journey the entire length of “Old Highway One” and observe/study some of Santa Cruz County’s rarest, most horticulturally desirable, and just plain overlooked plant life! The Scotts Creek Watershed is more than an aggregation of 600+ native species (subspecies, varieties and forms), representing 282+ genera and 90+ families: it is that rare occurrence, a living window into California’s evolutionary past, still relatively undeveloped by human activity and spared the habitat degradation that has befallen much of the coastal ecology elsewhere in our state.  

Momentarily putting aside the nostalgic and visually arresting aspect of the watershed, it is paradoxical that an area logged, ranched/grazed and farmed for the past 130+ years, could still yield species new to science and sustain habitats that serve as refugia for taxa rare elsewhere in the state. Because there is such a high percentage of the Golden State’s native flora, at least (10-12%) and still counting, concentrated within 30 square miles, this area is perhaps the ideal primer for students investigating, for example: (1) the underlying evolutionary mechanisms, which from an ecological perspective, define the interrelationships between four taxa within one genus (*Stachys*) sharing the same watershed, ranging from site specific, (a) *Stachys chamissonis* /China Ladder Marsh, (b) *Stachys ajugoides* /seasonally wet, often poorly drained depressions, (c) *Stachys rigida* var. *quer cetorum* /mesic to xeric (edge of chaparral) habitats and (d)
Stachys bullata, highly adaptive, ranging from coastal marshes, coniferous/oak woodlands, riparian corridor and occasionally extending up to chaparral..... (2) reproductive isolating mechanisms and native versus introduced species of Hymenoptera, comparing their overall versatility as pollinating vectors..... (3) the roles of mammals, birds and insects, intentional or otherwise, as dispersers of seeds and the co-evolutionary mechanisms involved..... (4) chemical signatures (foliage and floral scents) as taxonomic markers, used in conjunction with other morphological features to differentiate related taxa (e.g., locally problematic species of Castilleja (Orthocarpus nocturnus), Layia, Madia, Mimulus, Monardella, Pseudognaphalium, Sanicula and Stachys)..... (5) creating a digital library/herbarium documenting the watershed’s flora at all stages of development (e.g., cotyledon configuration, seed structure and patterning), note: CalPoly/Swanton Pacific Ranch has implemented this concept and its ongoing development can be viewed on the Ranch’s website..... (6) habitat stability versus human induced disruptions and the resulting increase/decrease in patterns of biodiversity..... (7) palynological (pollen) studies involving core samplings taken throughout the watershed to ascertain historic changes within the local species composition..... specifically, from a hydrological, palynological and ecological perspective, do a comparative study of the benched/perched marshes at the sw edge of the Western Terrace aka coastal prairie, between the Cowboy Shack Gulch and Lasher Marsh Gulch drainages to: (a) to determine, if possible, the age(s) of the marshes which act as "islands of biological diversity", (b) differences between current and pre-european occupancy native species composition, (c) doing an inventory of shared and marsh specific taxa, (d) role, if any, the underlying syncline plays in water storage/distribution patterns within this section of the Western Terrace, (e) what influence, has the eolian sand deposits played in shaping the vegetational mosaics throughout this portion of the coastal prairie, (f) the culmative impact of agriculture, both grazing and row crops, have played in modifying/fragmenting the "native vegetation", its persistence along the non-cultivated margins and the repository capacity of Juncus tussocks to act as mini-refugia and (g) the ecological importance from a biodiversity perspective, of the east/west alignment of the lower portions of the marsh draining gulches between the coastal prairie and highway 1, having mesic and xeric biotic profiles mirroring each other, (8) the geomorphic origins of the “vertical grasslands” and their value as refugia for rare taxa and holding succession in abeyance..... (9) slope orientation and the resulting changes in vegetation patterns within the same drainage system..... (10) the importance of cyclical riparian scouring to reinvigorate the established, long-lived vegetation and increase species diversity by uncovering seeds deposited and buried decades before in sandbars and adjacent stream banks paralleling the co-evolutional value of fire within the chaparral ecosystem..... (11) study gene flow patterns between a given species, e.g., coyote mint (Monardella villosa, sensu lato), which ranges elevationally from the coastal bluffs up to the chaparral and is represented in the watershed, by two well defined subspecies..... (a) map the distribution patterns of subsp. villosa and subsp. franciscana and the areas where their populations overlap, (b) what are the underlying ecological conditions that allow the two subspecies to maintain their distinctive phenotypes and where their ranges overlap, is there a breakdown in those distinctions (c) in terms of speciation, is subsp. franciscana more recently derived, and are there any mechanical or genetic barriers evolving or in place, save physical proximity, to prevent the exchange of genetic material between the two taxa?..... (12) the flowers of Clarkia purpurea subsp. purpurea and subsp. quadrivulnera vary both within and between populations as to contrasting pigment patterns and their placement/dimensions: in terms of uv radiation absorbed or reflected and the ability of members of the Hymenoptera to perceive this part of the spectrum, is one pattern preferred over another by the prospective pollinators and how does this affect both the variability within and sustainability of the populations as a whole in a changing environment..... (13) undertake a study
(a) documenting the primary hybrids locally of *Lupinus arboreus* with *Lupinus formosus* and *Lupinus varicolor* and the relationship of the stabilized taxon tentatively designated *Lupinus propinquus* to both *Lupinus arboreus* and *Lupinus latifolius*, (b) what role, if any, have the primary hybrids played in the variability of the contributing parents through backcrossing and (c) what evolutionary advantages/disadvantages are conferred where sympatric interfertile taxa are both perennial, but either evergreen or seasonal above ground and shrub-like versus decumbent in mode of growth?..... (14) the role of bryophytes: in (a) providing a favorable micro-habitat for seed germination, (b) creating a buffer zone between exposed rock formations with their potentially less than optimal pH and (c) through their hygroscopic capabilities, capturing atmospheric moisture, particularly between dusk and dawn..... (15) the comparative value of dissimilar types of recent and accumulated leaf litter (e.g., *Lithocarpus densiflorus var. densiflorus = Notholithocarpus densiflorus var. densiflorus*, *Arbutus menziesii*, *Sequoia sempervirens*) in mitigating the erosive power of heavy and often prolonged rainfall in unstable areas..... (16) the cumulative capacity of seasonally shed foliage from deciduous streamside trees and shrubs (e.g., *Alnus rubra*, *Sambucus racemosa*, *Salix lasiandra* var. *lasiandra*, *Rubus spectabilis*, *Acer negundo* var. *californicum*) in conjunction with exposed rocky debris, to influence flow patterns and act as catchbasins for particles in suspension..... (17) what isolating mechanisms, if any, allow two closely related species of Collinsia..... namely *C. heterophylla* and *C. multicolor*, to co-exist proximal to each other, along Swanton and Purdy Roads, without producing apparent hybrids even though visited by at least two shared pollinating vectors, both members of the genus Bombus, and what co-evolutionary factors are in play, causing the *C. heterophylla* populations to be overwhelmingly pale-flowered, while sister species *C. multicolor*, remains basically uniform in coloration throughout its range?..... (18) do long-lived fire responsive taxa, such as burl-forming members of the genus *Arctostaphylos*, maintain the integrity of their genome or does each episode of physiological trauma (fire), give rise to new growth, some/all of which display subtle modifications on a chromosomal level?..... (19) examine the evolutionary values conferred upon both native (*Camissonia ovata*, *Sanicula arctopoides*) and introduced (*Plantago lanceolata*, *Hypochaeris radicata*) taxa, where emerging foliage forms horizontally aligned rosettes initiated from fleshy, water-retaining root stocks, in a post-fire but pre-rainy season scenario.... with an emphasis on the rosette pattern: (a) securing valuable surface space from competition, (b) maximizing photosynthesis capabilities and (c) mitigating subsurface loss of moisture and the fleshy taproots: (a) having ample dormant buds to offset damage from the effects of fire plus potential for subsequent herbivory and (b) possessing sufficient stored water to bridge temporal gap until beginning of Fall rains..... (20) compare the net genetic gain/loss from a heterozygous/homozygous perspective, in a long-lived native grass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*), whose basic mode of reproduction is asexual/vegetative (from extensive clonal colonies growing within mixed conifer/oak woodlands) and typically produces inflorescences, only when disturbed by fire, landslides or through canopy removal (with the corresponding change in the light/temperature regimen) and when inflorescences are produced, how successful is seed set and to what extent, with the colonies being principally clonal, is new genetic material being introduced into the existing gene pool?..... (21) do a comparative analysis of the watershed’s oracle oaks (*Quercus x morechus*): focusing on (1) ecological (parental association, habitat preferences and role of disturbance in the broaching of reproductive isolating mechanisms), (2) physiological (bark topography, underlying vascular and epidermal patterns in foliage), (3) morphological (metabolism and growth rate behavior) and (4) molecular (chromosome numbers, mutation rates at specific gene loci, putative gene flow patterns and degree of pollen fertility and whether selfing, outcrossing and/or backcrossing are possible and historically can partially account for variability within the local forest live-oak (*Quercus pareula* var. *shrevei*).
An extensive, in depth investigation of the variable taxon, Douglas’s nightshade (Solanum douglasii), needs to be undertaken, sampling a wide range of habitats from the coastal bluffs up to the chaparral to determine, if all the forms in the watershed and its environs are indeed Solanum douglasii, and do those plants with lilac suffused corollas found on the immediate coast, represent past hybridization with the sympatric Solanum umbelliferum or is the distinctive anthocyanic pigmentation found on stem, foliage and flowers, a physiological response to the stressful, unshaded headland habitat? (22) In a post-fire scenario, where weathered (both consolidated and in places fragmented) Santa Cruz Mudstone (the “Chalks”) is the principal substrate and organic material (duff) is minimal at best, (a) what is the viability status of the mature fruit (drupes and stones) in the non-burl forming Schreiber’s manzanita (Arctostaphylos glutinosa) populations when compared with its burl-forming relative, Arctostaphylos crustaceae sensu lato, which by occupying the lower ridge tops and interfacing with the oak/conifer woodlands, has accumulated several centimeters of protective leaf litter? (b) when the temporal length between fires exceeds 60+ years and the seasonal deposition of manzanita “fruits” encased within the duff can be profiled vertically, have the “oldest” stones via the action of humic acid been rendered inviable? are the most recently deposited mature fruits, lacking the insulatory protection afforded by the deeper layers of organic material destroyed by the “sustained” intensity of the fire, thereby leaving the “middle” layers of stones, the opportunity to germinate in a seedbed of ash-converted duff? (c) where the duff layer, as in the “Chalks”, is sparse or absent and the triggering effects of smoke for germination not or minimally present, can the cracks/fissures in the mudstone act as refugia for replacement seedlings and are the presence of light, sustained moisture and mineral soil, sufficient to initiate germination and facilitate growth? (24) Do an in depth analysis, between those sub-populations of Pinus radiata (coastal bluffs/headlands) outside of the direct influence of Pinus attenuata (via wind referenced pollen) and the sympatric sub-populations dominating the conifer/oak woodland interface with the chaparral, focusing on (a) bark topography, branch alignment and overall growth structure, (b) leaf morphology, coloration, stomatal distribution, (c) cone structure..... color, size, profile/angle of attachment to branch, with particular emphasis on apophysis and umbo gestalt..... the macro points back down towards the base (point of attachment) of the ovulate cones in Pinus radiata, is dominant in hybrid, miniscule in stature and after a few seasons reduced to a basal scar thru weathering, while in Pinus attenuata, the macro is orientated apically, claw-like, long persisting and recessive in the hybrid, (d) seed and wing morphology and (e) postulate the potential role of outlying individuals representing a hybrid population, removed from parental influence thru isolation, creating new resegregates via selfing and thru time, establishing a highly reticulate pattern of heterozygosity. (25) Do a comparative analysis of the two coastal forms of Triteleia laxa..... form #1 with laterally symmetrical stamens, whitish anthers and filaments of unequal length and form #2 with radially symmetrical stamens, darker and narrower flowers, short, equal filaments and blue anthers that turn brown..... to determine if there are two different breeding systems at play, with the regionally wide spread form #1 representing an outbreeding strategy while the immediate coastal headland form #2, in response to prevailing wind patterns, has developed an inbreeding, and consequently less variable from a morphological standpoint, reproductive system. (26) Examine Corallorhiza maculata forma immaculata from an ecological, morphological and molecular perspective, to determine whether local forma immaculata, warrants variety, subspecies or species status and is referable to var. occidentalis. (27) From a reproductive isolating mechanism perspective, study the following (often) sympatric pairs of related species found within the watershed and determine, (a) if gene flow (uni- or bi-directional) is possible and (b) if ecologically disruptive events (fire, mass wasting, cyclical flooding) can broach, otherwise well-established barriers to
gene exchange: *Baccharis douglasii* = *Baccharis glutinosa* and *Baccharis pilularis*..... *Stachys bullata* and *Stachys rigida*..... *Eriophyllum confertiflorum* and *Eriophyllum staechadifolium*..... *Epilobium ciliatum* and *Epilobium hallianum*..... *Trillium chloropetalum* and *Trillium ovatum*..... *Smilacina racemosa* and *Smilacina stellata*..... *Festuca elmeri* and *Festuca occidentalis*..... *Cryptantha clevelandii* and *Cryptantha micromeres*..... (28) with a substantial representation of both native (*Agoseris, Hieracium, Malacothrix, Microseris, Rafinesquia, Stebbinsoseris, Stephanomeria and Uropappus*) and introduced (*Crepis, Hedy pneumis, Hypochaeris, Lataca, Lapsana, Leontodon, Picris, Sonchus and Taraxacum*) members of the Asteraceae, subfamily *Cichorioidae* occurring within the area covered by this essay: do a comparative study/analysis (a) from a structural/engineering perspective of the wind dispersed (anemochory) cypselae via pappus, (b) the efficiency of the native versus introduced species dispersal strategies, (c) the effect of disturbance (fire, mass wasting, cyclical flooding patterns, agricultural practices) in maximizing these delivery systems/strategies and (d) map within area of discussion, the native versus introduced taxa populations and ecological behavior (persistent versus ephemeral) over time..... (29) staying within the Asteraceae but this time the subfamily *Carduoideae*, focusing on the genus *Cirsium*: compare the behavior (population demographics and habitat preferences/response to disturbance and competition/genetic variability between populations) of Indian thistle (*Cirsium brevistylum*), Venus thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* var. *venustum*) and brownie thistle (*Cirsium quercetorum*), all native taxa, with the introduced bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*). (30) do an in depth study of the genus *Quercus*, subgenus *Erythrobalanus*, as it progresses up the Schoolhouse Ridge complex from the riparian corridor to the top of the watershed and determine: (a) where coast live-oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*) and forest live-oak (*Quercus parvula* var. *shrevei*) are sympatric, is the foliar variability of both taxa due, in part, to past hybridization, (b) is there any reduction in fertility for those trees which show some degree of intermediacy between the parental types, (c) in those areas where both taxa are growing intermixed, is there any evidence on a molecular level that shows inheritance of hybrid genes, even though from a morphological perspective, traits specific to one parent but not the other (stellate pubescence in abaxial vein-axils, number and alignment of foliar venation) are not apparent, (d) where forest live-oak (*Quercus parvula* var. *shrevei*) enters the chaparral and undergoes both a reduction in stature and change in foliar morphology, is this still the same taxon exhibiting an ecotypic response to a pronounced xeric environment or related chaparral live-oak (*Quercus wislizeni* var. *frutescens*) and (e) are there intergrades where these two related taxa meet and if so, is the gene flow uni- or bidirectional?, (31) with five native species of *Pseudognaphalium* and one putative natural hybrid..... fragrant everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium beneolens*), Bioletti's cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium bioletti*), California cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*), Gianone's everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium xgianonei*, pro sp nov.), pink everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum*) and cotton batting plant (*Pseudognaphalium straminicum*)...... residing within the watershed and in varying combinations, sharing the same habitat, often to the extent that they are growing intermixed: (a) with *P. xgianonei* (*P. californicum* x *P. straminicum*) being the most obvious (sharing an intermediacy in overall morphology and chemical signature) fertile hybrid combination observed, study this taxon's gene flow potential (selfing, sib-crossing and backcrossing to either/or both parents), habitat preference/adaptability for colonizing new environments and is this “new” taxon, a successful chance occurrence or where the parental species ranges overlap, sporadic?, (b) since *P. californicum* and *P. ramosissimum* are often found growing together and blooming concurrently, are the occasional plants of *P. californicum* with pinkish-tinged phyllaries, the result of hybridization or natural variation within the species? and (c) since the native *Pseudognaphalium* species, have distinct chemical signatures besides differences in foliar and floral morphology, do these species specific "scents" (when warmed by the sun and
begin to vaporize) act like pheromones and aid in attracting pollinating vectors and effectively allowing sympatrically related taxa to maintain their genetic integrity?, (32) Where populations of introduced bull thistle (Cirsium vulgare) and native coast tarweed (Madia sativa) grow sympatrically: (a) what role does the glandular/viscid stems and herbage of the tarweed play in trapping (like flypaper) the airborne cypselae of the thistle and concentrating an otherwise wind-dispersed taxon within a localized area and thereby increasing the invasive potential/recruitment for future generations?, (b) study the post-fire ecological impacts of this native/exotic species interaction, where the ash-enhanced growth resulted in both taxa achieving heights/biomass in the 1.5-2(+) meters range and forming, on the Madia sativa, pappus cloaked barriers (visually akin to walls of down), (33) Do an in depth study of the California nutmeg (Torreya californica) found within the watershed (circa 2,000+ all age category individuals): (a) map and profile population sizes, habitat preferences, associate species and age/stature, (b) document recruitment patterns throughout watershed, (c) from an evolutionary and ecological perspective, analyze the post 2009 Lockhead and historical (if possible) fire responses and subsequent regenerative capabilities, (d) since this taxon is exceedingly long-lived and can perpetuate itself both sexually and asexually, map the genetic diversity within and between populations, clarifying what proportion is clonal versus seed derived in origin, (e) study the number of male to female adults in any given area and see what ratio is needed to establish successful fruit set, (f) do the resinous components found in the aril enclosing the seed, change from protective (when seed is mature and ready to dispersal) and are the clues cueing in the dispersing vector(s), visual (color change) and/or olfactory?, (g) does the aril protect the seed from dessication until suitable germinating conditions occur, does the aril have to be ruptured first to allow the mature seed to imbibe the necessary water to initiate germination and is darkness or light needed to initiate germination? and (h) since the majority of seedlings and immature adults are found growing as understory constituents, under shaded or dappled light conditions...... is the reduction of aerial stature offset by the establishment of an extensive root system, which when a break in the canopy cover by storm damage or the senescence of adjacent trees occurs, allows the "waiting-in-the-wings" young adults to quickly take advantage of the change in light regime and "bolt"?, (34) Distribution patterns and ecological constraints: (a) Why does crinkle-awn fescue (Festuca subuliflora) follow the coast redwood (Sequoia sempervirens) downstream of the Scotts Creek Bridge (albeit sporadically), while associate species further upstream...... red clintonia (Clintonia andrewsiana), slink pod (Scilciopsis bigelovii), brook foam (Boykinia occidentalis), sugar-scoop (Tiarella trifoliata var. unifoliata), vanilla grass (Hierochloe occidentalis = Anthoxanthum occidentale), two-eyed violet (Viola ocellata), redwood violet (Viola sempervirens), yerba de selva (Whipplea modesta) and deer fern (Blechnum spicant)..... have not expanded their ranges downstream, eventhough in varying combinations, this native species combo also occurs in the other sub-watersheds feeding into Scotts Creek proper?, (b) going from the moist and semi-shaded riparian corridor to the decidedly xeric chaparral and coastal scrub..... what ecological preferences confine the bird’s-foot fern (Pellaea mucronata var. mucronata) to the upper reaches of the watershed (principally the “Chalks”) while sister species, coffee fern (Pellaea andromedifolia), extends its range all the way down to the coastal headlands?, (35) Using GIS, LIDAR and other related mapping tools, see if there is a correlation between topography, geomorphology and biodiversity, using the following areas within the Scotts Creek Watershed and the in situ documentation for those areas found within this essay..... area #1: Schoolhouse Ridge complex, between Scotts and Mill Creeks, extending from Swanton Road up to the “Chalks”, area #2: Old Schoolhouse Road, between Little and Winters Creek drainages, from Swanton Road to top of ridge/Cemex property boundary, area #3: Laird Gulch complex, from Last Chance Road down to entrance into Scotts Creek, area #4: Magic Triangle Ridge/Synform drainage complex and the
attendant 7+ "gulchlets" which coalesce into one narrow stem that enters Scotts Creek just below the Scotts Creek Bridge, area #5: the e/ne oriented drainage system, beginning near the Mt. Cook area and entering into Scotts Creek, between the confluences of Big and Little Creeks;...
also contains isolated chaparral disjunct, worthy of a study unto itself!, area #6: the complex series of landslide derived, hydrologically active, bench marshes, beginning with "Beaver Flat" and stepwise, descending southward down to the "Martis' Park Marsh" and area #7: the west facing, descending grassland/chaparral mosaic;... beginning at the top of the Seymore Hill and flanked by Calf Gulch to the south and Bettecourt Gulch on the northwest, including the "bowl area" and basally demarcated by Purdy Road, (36) Study the isolated populations of locally uncommon summer lupine (Lupinus formosus var. formusus) and (a) note the extreme variability in seed coat patterning within a given population.... is this the result, from an evolutionary perspective, of generating multiple series of seed coats varying in their surface coloration, allowing some seeds to blend into the surrounding dry grasses, exposed rocky debris, etc., and by cryptsis (camouflage), offsetting predation for at least some of the season's mature seeds?, (b) compare the recruitment success between more or less uniformly patterned yellow bush lupine (Lupinus arboresus) seeds with those of the sympatric summer lupine (Lupinus formosus) and (c) do populations of the summer lupine (Lupinus formosus), both locally and elsewhere, succeed best in grasslands where the textural variability of the surrounding vegetation can be correlated with seasonal rainfall and consequent changes in frequency/timing from year to year?, (37) Using the two visually distinctive Laird Gulch populations as a base line, do an in depth study comparing the riparian corridor and chaparral populations of the coast redwood (Sequoia sempervirens), to determine: (a) if there are genetic differences between the two ecotypes, (b) if so, are there physiological and metabolic differences correlative to their mesic versus xeric habitats, (c) are the differences in stature and foliar pigmentation genetically fixed and transmittable via seed, (d) are there temporal differences in achieving reproductive maturity and any measurable deviations in ovulate cone size, quantity and size of seed produced and fertility..... both as to pollen and seed, (e) using chloroplast DNA and other genetic markers (as per differences in mutation rates), is there any correlation from a geomorphological perspective, between uplift and downcutting thru erosive action, which theoretically over time, could have separated what originally was one population into two? and (f) do an comparative study with the chaparral ecotype growing on the "chalks", between Bettecourt Gulch and the Seymore Hill, (38) Along Swanton Road, between Scotts and Big Creek Bridges, several native taxa can be observed during the Fall season, producing ripe fruit, which in varying degrees, is both fleshy (baccate) and/or in the red to orange color range..... approaching this subject from a co-evolutionary viewpoint, (a) is fruit color falling within the red to orange end of the spectrum vector specific relating to dispersal?, (b) can color and the ability of the epidermal surface of the ripe fruit to refract or reflect light, act both as an enticement and/or warning..... hairy honeysuckle (Lonicera hispidula) with intensely colored but not lustrous fruits versus baneberry (Actaea rubra) with nitid, as if varnished, fruits which contain a glycoside, ranunculin?, (c) with pendant, semi-glossy oblate-spheroid reddish-orange fruits looking like reduced-in-scale cherry tomatoes, Hooker's fairy bells (Proscartes hookeri) presents an interesting contradiction..... the habitat for this monocot is usually the mixed conifer/hardwood semi-shaded understory and the ripe fruits as well as the preceeding the greenish-white flowers, are pendant and for the most part, hidden from aerial viewing..... even though the over-arching foliage of this species is deciduous, what role does color play in fruit dispersal when it is so cryptically displayed and is there an olfactory component involved?, (d) also possessing pendant flowers and fruits but this time suspended by hair thin peduncles and having the exposed seed enclosed in a reddish-orange aril, the seasonally deciduous 2-4 meters in height shrub, western burning bush (Euonymus occidentalis var. occidentalis),
presents yet another question of fruit/seed dispersal, (e) two related and often sympatric growing species with fruits an aggregate of orange/red/pink colored druplets, thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*) and salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) margin both the roadside and adjacent stream banks, (f) horticulturally desirable California wild rose (*Rosa californica*), with fleshy reddish-orange "hips" aka ripened flower-tubes was observed 10/29/10 growing with both hairy honeysuckle and blue elderberry, their fleshy fruits a study in contrasting colors, (g) staying within the Rosaceae and adding visual warmth during the advent of the winter season, with scarlet pomes on terminal corymbose panicles, the toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) offers birdlife nourishment during the bleakest time of the year, (h) another related species duo, fat Solomon's seal (*Smilacina racemosa*) and slim Solomon's seal (*Smilacina stellata*), both sport succulent berries colored reddish-orange thru reddish-purple..... red being the operative word, (i) accenting the wooded slopes overlooking the riparian corridor, Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) gives the toyon competition, with an the end-of-season display of panicles laden with berries the color of blood oranges, (j) finally, and still staying within the warm end of the visible light spectrum, the cymose panicles of the red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa*) present a visual feast for end-of-season avians and is this a generalist banquet or are certain bird species targeted?, (j) if the co-evolutionary value of color coded/vector dispersed fruits, is the establishing of new populations which are not competitive with the seed producing parent and thereby insuring outbreeding and the potential for increased genetic diversity, how successful within the Scotts Creek Watershed is this strategy, particularly when several of the taxa involved are also long lived and expand their biomass, asexually, through rhizomes?..... along this relatively short section of Swanton Road, are several other plant species with fruting bodies possessing varying degrees of succulence and coloration: can a pattern of coevolution be established, based on fruit color and secondarily, odor, for these taxa and are the dispersal vectors, species specific or generalist in nature? Here is a partial listing, which ultimately could be extended to cover the entire watershed, of native taxa to study for their seed dispersal strategies and to what extent, coevolution is a key component..... (1) fruit baccate and translucent, California bedstraw (*Galium californicum* subsp. *californicum*), (2) fruit a drupe and dark purplish-brown, California coffeeberry (*Frangula californica* subsp. *californica*), (3) fruit a drupe, blackish coated with a glaucous bloom, blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* subsp. *canadensis*), (4) fruit a berry, purplish densely covered with stiff hairs some of which are gland-tipped, canyon gooseberry (*Ribes menziesii*), (5) fruit a drupe, greenish suffused with purple turning milky-white at maturity, creek dogwood (*Cornus sericea* subsp. *sericea*), (6) fruit a drupe, blue-glaucous, oso berry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), (7) fruit an aggregate of blackish-purple druplets, California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) and (8) the watershed's two native nightshades, Douglas's nightshade (*Solanum douglasii*) with black berries and blue witch (*Solanum umbelliferum*), with ripe fruits colored an off-white with basal portion greenish, (39) Does a coating of dust (mudstone, in part, reduced to powder) on the adaxial foliar surface of Agrostis hallii and related species, act as a barrier, to the establishment/development of fungal pathogens (e.g., rusts) during the summer months, as observed along the upper section of dirt road which enters into and parallels Little Creek? Study the various taxa within a given area, where the fungal pathogens are known to occur and analyze, from a foliar topography perspective, what conditions have to be met, in order for the fungal spores to become attached and subsequently germinate..... (a) are foliar surfaces with recessed stomatal pits, impressed veinal patterns and various trichome modifications, more susceptible than leaves with stomata only on the abaxial surface, adaxial surfaces which are plane and/or coated with a waxy bloom or thickened cuticle?, (b) what role does exposure to the elements (sunlight, wind and moisture laden riparian air movement patterns) as opposed to tree trunk/canopy induced shade and the concomitant light reduction/air
flow restriction play, in conjunction with the aforementioned physical conditions defining the foliar surfaces? (40) Study the local populations of Fritillaria affinis, from both an ecological and molecular angle. (a) are the immediate coastal bluff populations, with their larger in size, thicker in texture and darker in coloration flowers, distinct from the watershed/riparian corridor populations, both as to genetic makeup and pollinating vector/reproductive behavior? (b) are the "intermediate phases", found where the Western Terrace is bisected by the lower section of Big Willow Gulch, a subspecies in the making (with the gene flow isolation being complete in the coastal bluff population(s) and (c) can one make a determination, from both morphological and molecular studies, the transition from an outbreeding series of overlapping populations within the Scotts Creek Watershed proper (forma typica) through the distinctive/isolated coastal bluff taxon and what is its relationship with the analogous north coast subspecies tristulis? (41) Do a botanical distributional analysis of the Scotts Creek Watershed and its environs, showing familial representation broken down by genera and species (e.g., APIACEAE, Sanicula, Sanicula hoffmannii) and (a) using this relatively small (30 square miles) but species rich (10-12%+ of California's flora) coastal watershed as a base line, do a comparative profile of the watersheds to the north and south, (b) within the Scotts creek Watershed, is there any correlation between species distribution and habitat specificity, (c) examine the human footprint within the watershed where there is a known timeline (e.g., coastal prairie/Western Terrace), and determine what is the ratio of native to introduced taxa and can any trends be observed, such as (1) native taxa peripheral to areas formerly under cultivation recolonizing the fallow fields, (2) other native taxa, being marginalized/isolated by newly introduced and more aggressive species and (3) sympatric related taxa which may or may not be genetically compatible (e.g., Agrostis, Carex) having their reproductive isolating mechanisms broached by the disturbance regimes (punctuated equilibrium) and new "hybrids" or genetically "enriched" species emerging. (42) Analyze from morphological, molecular, reproductive, ecological and biogeographical frames of reference, the distinctive open-paniculate "form" of Juncus occidentalis, which occurs in Beaver Flat and has been observed in situ for the past 30+ years, as well as documented by herbarium pressings (UC Berkeley/Jepson Herbarium) and is represented by living material and seeds at the UCSC Arboretum..... (1) since the forma typica for Juncus occidentalis in Beaver Flat and the rest of the Scotts Creek Watershed, has a loose to densely capitale inflorescence, is the open-paniculate "form" (simulating the sympatric Juncus bufonius) an extreme variation of the type or is it indicative of a shared lineage with Juncus tenuis?, (2) What accounts for the persistent/localized occurrence of the open-paniculate "form" in Beaver Flat but not elsewhere in the watershed and could this be due to isolation/inbreeding of a population referencing Juncus tenuis genes?, (3) is the open-paniculate "form" reproductively isolated from the sympatric forma typica of Juncus occidentalis and if selfed or sib-crossed, would the F1 offspring be uniformly the open-paniculate "form" or reflect the overall Beaver Flat population in the ratio of plants with open-paniculate to closed(capitate) inflorescences? and (4) is there an efficiency differential, in terms of successful pollination/fertilization, between the open-paniculate and congested(capitate) inflorescence plants?

With the distribution patterns of the coast redwood (Sequoia sempervirens) limited principally to tributaries and the upper-central portion of the Scotts Creek riparian corridor and not presently found proximal to the Scotts Creek Marsh environs, what factors can be marshalled to explain this conspicuous absence? Excluding human activity, one possible scenario involves the mycorrhizal associations between fungi, roots and seed germination. With shallow fungi-hosting root systems that can extend for hundreds of feet from the tree base and the capability of even
relatively young trees producing thousands of seeds, there may be an advantage for the parent
trees to establish outbreeding satellite colonies which are sympatric with but not directly
competitive for light and subsistence, while retaining the ability to produce asexually, clonal
facsimilies. The success of establishing satellite colonies may be offset by the increased seed
production and corresponding over-utilization of fungal reserves in the sub-surface root systems,
leading to cyclic periods of poor germination and subsequent production of weak, unhealthy
seedlings. In the lower portion of the watershed (flood plain area), seasonal/cyclical periods of
flooding may upset the balance between beneficial and pathogenic fungi, thereby creating a
hostile environment for the long-term establishment of redwood colonies!

Before beginning our traversal, here are some background statistics relating to the flora of
Swanton and its environs:

Of the 1,448 species (native and introduced) listed in the recently published *An Annotated
Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County, California* by Randall Morgan, et al
(2005), in excess of 55% occur within the area defined by our traversal! With reference to those
native taxa designated as locally rare, 123+ are known to have occurred or currently reside within
the watershed and its surroundings.

Since much of the published literature dealing with the taxa discussed within this text does
not reflect the most recent nomenclatural changes made due to ongoing molecular work, both
the superceded and current names are used throughout this botanical overview of the Scotts
Creek Watershed and its immediate environs.

Representing the “Dicots”, the Asteraceae (a family undergoing extensive nomenclatural
changes due to recent and ongoing molecular studies) scores big with 43+ genera containing
species native to the area (Achillea, Adenocaulon, Agoseris, Ambrosia, Anaphalis, Arnica, Artemisia,
Aster*, Baccharis, Cirsium, Conyza, Erigeron, Eriophyllum, Euthamia, Filago*, Gnaphalium*,
Grindelia, Helianthemum, Hemizonia*, Heterotheca, Hieracium, Jaumea, Lasthenia, Layia, Lessingia*, Madia*,
Malacothrix, Micropus, Microseris, Pentachaeta, Petasites, Psilocarphus, Rafinesquia, Senecio, Solidago*,
Stebbinsoseris*, Stephanomeria, Symphyotrichum, Uropappus, Wyethia and Xanthium).

* Aster chilense = Symphyotrichum chilense
* Aster subspicatus = Symphyotrichum subspicatum
* Aster radulinus = Eurybia radulina
* Filago californica = Logia filaginoides
* Gnaphalium bicolor = Pseudognaphalium biolettii
* Gnaphalium californicum = Pseudognaphalium californicum
* Gnaphalium canescens ssp. beneolens = Pseudognaphalium beneolens
* Gnaphalium gianonei, pro.sp.nov. = Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro.sp.nov.
* Gnaphalium ramosissimum = Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum
* Gnaphalium stramineum = Pseudognaphalium stramineum
* Gnaphalium purpureum = Gamochaeta ustulata
* Hemizonia corymbosa = Deinandra corymbosa
* Lessingia filaginifolia var. californica = Corethrogyne filaginifolia
* Microseris decpiens = Stebbinsoseris decpiens
* Madia madioides = Anisocarpus madioides
*Solidago californica = Solidago velutina subsp. californica
*Solidago canadensis subsp. elongata = Solidago elongata

Representing the “Monocots”, the Poaceae comes in with 19 genera containing species native to the area (Agrostis, Bromus, Calamagrostis, Danthonia, Deschampsia, Distichlis, Elymus, Festuca, Hierochloe*, Hordeum, Koeleria, Leymus*, Melica, Nassella*, Panicum, Phalaris, Poa, Trisetum and Vulpia) and the Liliaceae (sensu lato) following up with an additional 15 genera (Allium*, Brodiaea*, Calochortus, Chlorogalum*, Clintonia, Dicholostemma**, Disporum*, Fritillaria, Lilium, Scoliopus, Smilacinia*, Trillium*, Trieleia*, Xerophyllum* and Zigadenus*). With a combined total of 34 genera, the two largest “Monocot” families contributing to the area’s biodiversity are still outnumbered by the “Dicots” largest contributor, the Asteraceae, even with the removal of the cosmopolitan genus Xanthium, which has populations showing founder effects. Reflecting the recent changes taking place, both within genera and families due to studies based on molecular data, the above statistical assessments no longer hold true!!

Disporum hookeri = Prosartes hookeri
Zigadenus fremontii = Toxicoscordion fremontii

*Allium placed in Alliaceae
*Brodiaea, *Dicholostemma and *Triteleia placed in Themidaceae
*Chlorogalum placed in Agavaceae
*Prosartes (Disporum) placed in Colchicaceae
*Smilacinia moved to Maianthemum and placed in Ruscaceae
*Toxicoscordion (Zigadenus), *Trillium and *Xerophyllum placed in Melanthiaceae

*Hierochloe occidentalis = Anthoxanthum occidentale
*Leymus triticioides = Elymus triticioides subsp. triticioides
*Leymus x vancouverensis = Elymus x vancouverensis
*Nassella lepida = Stipa lepida
*Nassella pulchra = Stipa pulchra


*Hydrocotyle now placed in the family Araliaceae


*Potentilla glandulosa = Drymocallis glandulosa var. glandulosa

*The following taxa, formerly placed in the genus *Lotus*, are now called: *Lotus benthamii* = *Acmispon cytisoides*, *Lotus heermannii var. orbicularis* = *Acmispon heermannii var. orbicularis*, *Lotus humistratus* = *Acmispon brachycarpus*, *Lotus junceus var. juncus* and var. *bioletti* = *Acmispon junceus var*. *bioletti*, *Lotus micranthus* = *Acmispon parviflorus*, *Lotus purshianus var. purshianus* = *Acmispon americanus var. americanus*, *Lotus salsuginosus* var. *salsuginosus* = *Acmispon maritimus var. maritimus*, *Lotus scoparius* var. *scoparius* = *Acmispon glaber var. glaber*, *Lotus strigosus* = *Acmispon strigosus* and *Lotus wrangelianus* = *Acmispon wrangelianus*.

*The following taxa, formerly placed in the genus *Lotus*, are now called: *Lotus formosissimus* = *Hosackia gracilis*, *Lotus oblongifolius var. oblongifolius* = *Hosackia oblongifolia* (according to J.H. Thomas: Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains, *Lotus oblongifolius var. nevadensis* occurred in Swanton), *Lotus stipularis var. stipularis* = *Hosackia stipularis var. stipularis* (note: the isolated populations found on the Laird Gulch Ridge, having foliage and inflorescences covered with basalmic scented glands, fall within the circumscription of *Hosackia balsamifera* Kell.).

The Scrophulariaceae formerly contributed 10 genera: *Antirrhinum*, *Castilleja*, *Collinsia*, *Keckiella*, *Linaria*, *Mimulus*, *Pedicularis*, *Scrophularia*, *Triphysaria* and *Veronica*.

*Antirrhinum, Collinsia, Keckiella, Linaria and Veronica now placed in family *Plantaginaceae*, along with locally rare mare’s tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*)

*Castilleja, Pedicularis and Triphysaria now placed in family *Orobanchaceae*

*Mimulus now placed in family *Phrymaceae*

The Brassicaceae contributes 9 genera: *Arabis, Athysanus, Barbarea, Cardamine, Caulanthus, Erysimum, Lepidium, Rorippa* and *Thysanocarpus*.

The Boraginaceae contributes 9 genera: *Amsinckia, Cryptantha, Cynoglossum, Emmananthe, Eriodictyon, Heliotropium, Nemophila, Phacelia and Plagiobothrys*.

The Lamiaceae contributes 8 genera: *Lepechinia, Monardella, Pogogyne, Prunella, Salvia, Satureja*, *Scutellaria and Stachys*.

*Satureja douglasii = Clinopodium douglasii*

The Ranunculaceae contributes 7 genera: *Actaea, Anemone, Aquilegia, Clematis, Delphinium, Ranunculus* and *Thalictrum*.

The Plantaginaceae contributes 7 genera: *Antirrhinum, Collinsia, Hippuris, Keckiella, Linaria*, *Plantago* and *Veronica*.

*Linaria canadensis = Nuttallanthus texanus*

The Caryophyllaceae contributes 6 genera: *Cardionema, Minuartia, Sagina, Silene, Spargularia* and *Stellaria*.

The Saxifragaceae contributes 6 genera: *Boykinia, Heuchera, Lithophragma, Saxifraga*, *Tellima* and *Tiarella*.

*Saxifraga californica = Micranthes californica*
The Ericaceae contributes 5 genera: *Arbutus, Arctostaphylos, Gaultheria, Rhododendron* and *Vaccinium*.

The Polemoniaceae contributes 5 genera: *Allophyllum, Collomia, Gilia, Linanthus* and *Navarretia*.

*Linanthus androsaceus* = *Leptosiphon androsaceus*
*Linanthus bicolor* = *Leptosiphon bicolor*

Five of the ten described species for the orchid genus *Piperia* occur within the area under discussion, coast rein orchid (*Piperia elegans* = *Piperia elegans* subsp. *elegans*), dense-flowered rein orchid (*Piperia elongata*), Michael’s rein orchid (*Piperia michaelii*), royal rein orchid (*Piperia transversa*), including a coastal form of Alaska rein orchid (*Piperia unalascensis*), which matches only the type collection from Unalaska Island!

Scattered throughout the watershed, four representatives of the Willow Family (Salicaceae) occur, three often growing intermixed but in the case of Scouler’s willow (*Salix scouleriana*), usually preferring its own company: the three considerably more gregarious family members are, arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), yellow willow (*Salix lucida* subsp. *lasiandra* = *Salix lasiandra* var. *lasiandra*) and velvet willow (*Salix sitchensis*). Since willows are dioecious, finding a large old specimen of arroyo willow in the upper portion of “Cookhouse Gulch” some thirty years ago producing several bisexual catkins (aments), definitely raised questions about the evolutionary scenario which gave rise to the dioecy of this globally widespread genus!

Since the early 1970’s, two “new to science” clovers (genus *Trifolium*) have been discovered and documented for the Swanton area. One species, *Santa Cruz clover (Trifolium buckwestiorum)*, has already been published and is listed FSC/1B while the second taxon, *headland clover (Trifolium physanthum ssp.?)*, is as yet, unpublished. Staying with the Legume Family (Fabaceae), there are 18+ native species of Clover (genus *Trifolium*), 13+ native species of Trefoil (genus *Lotus*) and 11+ native species of Lupine (genus *Lupinus*) calling the Swanton area home.

*Note: due to the misapplication of the name *Trifolium physanthum* to a taxon originally given the working name of *Trifolium “pseudo-barbigerum”* and documented from the coastal prairie of the Old H-H Ranch circa 25 years ago, a different name will have to be proposed before this new and valid species is published! From a biogeographical perspective, this taxon has also been documented from the lower portion of Whitehouse Canyon in southern San Mateo County.

Two endemic manzanitas, Schreiber’s manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glutinosa* Schreiber) and a recently described and published taxon (*Arctostaphylos ohloneana* M.C.Vasey & V.T.Parker), possibly related to *Arctostaphylos manzanita* subsp. *laevigata* on Mt. Diablo, are not known to occur outside of the Scotts Creek Watershed!

Note: an insular disjunct, *Arctostaphylos crustacea* subsp. *subcordata*, occurs in one isolated population on the Schoolhouse Ridge and has been documented by herbarium pressings (UC Berkeley/Jepson), digital images and cuttings deposited with the UCSC Arboretum for propagation.
Here is a condensed listing of native taxa, found within the Swanton area, that due to rarity, uncertain taxonomic status and/or horticultural value, merit study: mare’s tail (Hippuris vulgaris)**, beargrass (Xerophyllum tenax)**, oracle oak (Quercus emarginata)**, Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov. /Carex nitidicaarpa, pro. sp. nov. complexes*, Kellogg’s horkelia (Horkelia cuneata subsp. sericea)*, San Francisco collinsia (Collinsia multicolor)*, California lace fern (Aspidotis californica)**, California sword fern (Polystichum californicum)**, Schreiber’s manzanita (Arctostaphylos glutinosa)*, bent-flowered fiddleneck (Amsinskia lunaris)*, purple godetia (Clarkia purpurea subsp. purpurea)*, Gianone’s everlastling (Gnaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov. = Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov.)*, marsh microseris (Microseris paludosa)*, lovage (Ligusticum apiolium)*, bitter cherry (Prunus emarginata)**, Alaska rein orchid (Piperia unalascensis)*, service berry (Amelanchier utahensis)*, spotted coralroot (Corallorhiza maculata and forma immaculata)*, Santa Cruz microseris (Microseris (Stebbinsoseris) decipiens)*, Blasdale’s bent grass (Agrostis blasdalei)*, banded owl’s clover (Castilleja exserta subsp. latifolia)*, owl’s clover (Castilleja densiflora subsp. “?”/Orthocarpus noctinus analog)*, purple-beaked owl’s clover (Triphysaria micrantha)*, San Francisco popcorn-flower (Plagiobothrys diffusius/reticulatus = Plagiobothrys diffusius)*, San Francisco wallflower (Erysimum franciscanum)*, bouquet clover (Trifolium grayi)*, Santa Cruz clover (Trifolium buckwesterium)*, headland clover (Trifolium “pseudo-barbigerum”)*, Hoffman’s sanicle (Sanicula hoffmannii)*, Gianone’s sanicle (Sanicula gianonei, pro. sp. nov.)*, green cottonweed (Microps californicus var. subestititu)*, harvest brodiaea (Brodiaea elegans subsp. elegans)**, Hall’s willow herb (Epilobium hallianum)* and Fremont’s nemophilia (Nemophila pulchella var. fremontii)*.

Note: As of 2007, curatorial action by R.B. Kelley, has reinstated the original diagnosis for Scotts Creek Watershed herbarium specimens tentatively labeled as the rare San Francisco popcorn-flower (Plagiobothrys diffusius) but interpreted by some students of the genus, more broadly..... including it within the circumscription of the Plagiobothrys recticulatus complex.

Note: Much work remains yet to be done in the way of documenting the flora and fauna, both native and exotic, within the Scotts Creek Watershed and its surrounding environs. During the early 1980s, herbarium pressings numbering in the high hundreds, were made of key elements of the area’s flora, specifically those taxa which were (a) putatively “new to science”, (b) rare throughout their documented range, (c) represented disjuncts and/or potentially misdiagnosed components of wide ranging or highly localized taxa and (d) offered frames of reference towards the clarification of taxonomic problems found locally within “difficult” genera such as Agoseris, Agrostis, Arctostaphylos, Bromus, Carex, Castilleja, Clarkia, Claytonia, Dudleya, Festuca, Grindelia, Juncus, Melica, Microseris, Mimulus, Monardella, Nemophila, Pinus, Piperia, Pseudognaphalium, Quercus, Sanicula, Trifolium and Trillium. Between 2007 and 2009, in excess of 1,000 envelopes of in situ collected seed plus several hundred living collections (cuttings, divisions and entire plants) from the watershed, were deposited at the USCS Arboretum, with the ultimate goal: (1) to stock the newly expanded section featuring native taxa representing the biodiversity of the Central Coastal California ecosystem and (2) provide a comprehensive living data base for pursuing physiological, biochemical and genetic analyses, complementing the extensive herbarium documentation. Also noteworthy, are the ongoing photo-documentation projects, begun in the 1970’s by the late Mike Perkins (the localized and possibly extinct coastal populations of Piperia unalascensis survive via his 35mm slides), greatly expanded by Dylan Neubauer and more recently, Brett Hall, and culminating with an ongoing digital library, set up by the CalPoly/Swanton Pacific Ranch (one of the few digital
images of a local *Lupinus arboreus* x *Lupinus formosus* hybrid, taken in situ, resides in their collection. In the above condensed listing of native taxa, those species followed by an asterisk have been documented by pressings deposited in the Jepson Herbarium at UC Berkeley; the species with two asterisks following their Latin names have been validated by in situ study but need to be pressed and consigned to major herbaria; and finally, the taxa in boldface represent either new species or hybrid complexes yet to be published but given comprehensive documentation in the form of herbarium pressings which now reside in the Jepson Herbarium, UC Berkeley. During the course of the past three decades, beginning with the early 1970s, three first class scientists/naturalists, all past or present associates with and products of the UC educational system, have added immeasurably to the understanding of what defines the Scotts Creek Watershed and its place relative to the other ecological “hot spots” within California. Randall Morgan/research associate with the California Academy of Sciences, Roy Buck, Ph.D./botanist and Grey Hayes, Ph.D./ecologist, with combined expertise in botany, ecology, taxonomy, entomology and ornithology, have synergistically created a base line that allows future students clearly defined directions of research to pursue. Equally important in the ongoing clarification of the watershed’s natural history, have been the contributions of five established scientists/teachers with broadbased research backgrounds, namely Roberta Smith, Ph.D./geologist (the geomorphology of the watershed), John Bulger, Ph.D./biologist (amphibians and birds, endangered or otherwise), Walter Mark, Ph.D./dendrologist (plant pathology and silviculture), Brian Dietterick, Ph.D./hydrology (watershed infrastructure) and Sean Hayes, Ph.D./biologist (the endangered salmonids). Those of us who reside within the watershed and take pleasure from its unique biological and aesthetic attributes, owe a profound debt of gratitude to the aforementioned scholars/scientists and by extension, the parade of notables made aware through their researches, who also have visited the area and unanimously validated its worth.

**By just traversing the Scotts Creek Watershed via Swanton Road, in excess of 267 native plant taxa have been visually documented, conservatively accounting for more than one third of the total native flora validated for the entire watershed!**

### The North Entrance to Last Chance Road

Between the north entrance to Swanton Road and its contact point with Last Chance Road, the following high-profile “rarities”, “uncommoners” and “fascinating juxtapositions”, can be found growing specifically (1) on exposed, often fractured, bedding planes, (2) in the localized grasslands above them, or (3) along the moist ditches at their bases and their often drier mirror-imaged counterparts framing the outside edge of the roadbed:

Welcoming eager students/explorers of things botanical, red maids (*Calandrinia ciliata*) adorns the north entrance to Swanton Road with prostrate plants displaying satiny reddish-pink flowers circa 15-20 mm. across, while further along our route, half-hidden within a brush covered south-facing slope, minute-flowered cryptantha (*Cryptantha micromeres*) presents in contrary fashion, self-pollinating white flowers with corollas 0.5-1 mm. wide, these ultimately developing into a quartet of microscopic nutlets, three with backs fine-tubercled and the fourth larger in size and smooth surfaced! Sharing the same habitat and often growing cheek by jowl, Cleveland’s cryptantha (*Cryptantha clevelandii*), displays corollas 1.5-2.5+ mm. wide with 2-4 flat backed, smooth, mottled, gray brown nutlets. Joining the cryptantha duo and representing the Bellflower Family (Campanulaceae), Venus’s looking-glass (*Triodanus biflora*) merges with the surrounding
greenery, its cleistogamous flowers virtually indistinguishable from the subtending leaves, with only the terminal blue-violet flowers visible. Giving contrast with prostrate mats of cinereous foliage, which carpet the roadside edge, Heerman’s trefoil (*Lotus heermannii* var. *orbicularis = Acmispon heermannii* var. *orbicularis*), offers the aesthetically motivated landscaper a choice perennial to incorporate into the native rockery. Half-hidden within the roadside grasses and widespread throughout the watershed, Ithuriel’s spear (*Triteleia laxa*) displays considerable variation both as to stature and flower color. Two distinct forms occur within the watershed: form (a) with laterally symmetrical stamens, whitish anthers and filaments of unequal length while form (b) has radially symmetrical stamens, darker and narrower flowers with short, equal filaments and blue anthers aging brown. Imparting, both color and seductive fragrance, California wild rose (*Rosa californica*), less refractory than its horticulturally manipulated relatives, offers the native gardener a diverse series of variants from just within the Swanton area..... while further along, a solitary specimen of Michael’s rein orchid (*Piperia michaelii*), introduces to the biogeographer and jaded orchid fancier, the **first of three native species of** *Piperia* **to be encountered as our journey unfolds.**

Rare statewide, San Francisco campion (*Silene vasicenta* subsp. *vericentm*) and Santa Cruz microseris (*Stebbinsoseris decipiens*), **both FSC/1B agency-listed taxa,** bookend the frozen stream of asphalt. The Santa Cruz microseris, is an allo-tetraploid species derived from coast microseris (*Microseris bigelovii*) and silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*), and exists in at least twenty reproductively isolated populations within the watershed, each exhibiting different recombinations of parental traits, making an ideal living laboratory for the study of species formation and the dynamics of population biology. Also along this stretch of road, a small population of coast microseris (*Microseris bigelovii*), one half of the diploid team responsible for parent the Santa Cruz microseris, occupies a narrow and exposed 1-2 meter long slice of road bank, vulnerable like its rare offspring, to potential traffic abuse. More generously distributed, silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*), the other diploid component in the hybrid equation, not only shares the occupancy of its celebrated offspring’s precarious niche but also resides more securely on the grassy slopes overlooking the diploid/tetraploid intrigues.

**A** Since *Stebbinsoseris decipiens* is an allo-tetraploid (2n=36), derived from two diploid species, *Microseris bigelovii* (2n=18) x *Uropappus lindleyi* (2n=18), is the gene flow between the diploid species uni- or bi-directional? Can *S. decipiens* arise equally from *M. bigelovii* x *U. lindleyi* and *U. lindleyi* x *M. bigelovii* combinations?

**B** What is the pollinating vector and do all pollinations result in successful fertilizations and subsequent production of allo-tetraploid *S. decipiens* or is this a rare occurrence?

**C** Are there diploid *S. decipiens* and if so, are they interfertile with either of their diploid parents?

**D** Can backcrosses between allo-tetraploid *S. decipiens* and either of its diploid parents occur and do these, if possible, result in sterile triploids?

**E** When *Uropappus* consisted of two species (Jepson Manual, 1925), *U. linearifolia* with blackish achenes/deciduous silvery pappus and *U. lindleyi* with tannish achenes/♂ persistent dull brown pappus, was *U. linearifolia* the true species and *U. lindleyi* (in part) what is now considered *S. decipiens* or is there still an unnamed taxon out there?

**F** Since *Stebbinsoseris decipiens* and its half-sister species *S. heterocarpa* are both allo-tetraploids, sharing *U. lindleyi* as a common parent, are they interfertile should their populations overlap?

**G** With at least **20 documented populations** of *Stebbinsoseris decipiens* found in the watershed and its surrounding environs..... (a) is there gene flow between sympatric populations,
(b) are the more isolated populations thru inbreeding, diverging from the common genotype in response to localized ecological pressures, (c) do larger populations, comprising 200+ individuals dispersed over a topographically diverse area, display more heterozygosity than smaller, concentrated ones and (d) what survival strategies has this allo-tetraploid taxon developed, in response to prolonged drought, successional behavior of surrounding vegetation, herbivory and infrequent but often devastating fires..... how many seasons, once the mature cypselae have been dispersed, can they persist in the surrounding environment before they start losing their viability and is substrate low in organic content versus one rich in accumulated duff, a significant factor influencing the long-term survival of a given population?

The recently described *Festuca roemeri*, densely caespitose and basally circumscribed by vole runs, shares the tilted grassland with a perversely erect clarkia, aff. *Clarkia davyi*, displaying bicolored flowers and gray-encrusted seeds, which may prove to be a normally erect “new” species and along with blue toadflax (*Linaria canadensis* = *Nuttallanthus texanus*), junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), footsteps-of-spring (*Sanicula arctopoides*) and saw-toothed spurge (*Euphorbia spathulata*), can be viewed with 20/20 vision or a pair of binoculars, overlooking the road cut. One of five native species of violets found within the watershed, Johnny jump-up (*Viola pedunculata*), with deep-seated rootstocks and pumpkin colored flowers circa 3-3.5 cm. across, can easily hold its own against the extensively hybridized European violets (*Pansies*) while coast larkspur (*Delphinium decorum* subsp. *decorum*), sharing the same botanically diverse environment with a small colony of white globe lily (*Calochortus albus*), spills down the bank, yielding up flowers colored a vibrant bluish-purple. Beginning and ending our botanical quest as subsp. *franciscana*, with thick, sub-orbicular, tomentose leaves, coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*) between Scotts Creek and Big Creek Bridges, undergoes a nomenclatural change, becoming subsp. *villosa*, with thin, sparsely pubescent ovate leaves and a different chemical signature. Growing on exposed slopes throughout the length of our survey and acting as an important soil stabilizer, Torrey’s melic (*Melica torreyana*), varies considerably as to length and openness of inflorescence, one isolated population overlooking the lower portion of Schoolhouse Gulch averaging 35-40 centimeters between lowest flowering branch and apex. This grass species displays numerous forms throughout the watershed and with so much material available, warrants an in depth investigation into: (1) which forms are genetically fixed regardless of habitat as opposed to those forms, whose overall gestalt are the result of environmental vagaries (light/shade conditions, vertical/horizontal orientation, presence/absence of continual moisture, competing vegetation pressures, etc.), (2) are there different breeding systems in play, obligate selfing versus outbreeding patterns which correlate with inflorescence configurations, (3) how do any/all of these forms behave when raised under uniform controlled conditions and in a broader sense, do any of these local forms appear, with some consistency, elsewhere within the known range of the species.

The Davy’s clarkia (*Clarkia davyi*) and prostrate clarkia (*Clarkia prostrata*) issue stills remains unresolved taxonomically, at least as far as the north end of Santa Cruz County (the Swanton area) is concerned. Within the purview of our traversal, what appears to be prostrate clarkia (*Clarkia prostrata*) favors a prostrate to ascending mode of growth, generally prefers siliceous terrace deposits on the coastal prairie, displays concolored flowers, distinctly pedicellate mature capsules and dark brown unadorned seeds; the defiantly erect Davy’s clarkia (*Clarkia davyi*), overlooking the north end of Swanton Road is found growing in grasslands whose underpinnings are derived from mudstone, exhibits a consistently erect mode of growth, flaunts bicolored flowers which when successfully fertilized, yield capsules, sub sessile through
pedicellate, housing distinctly gray-encrusted seeds. These two, decidedly uncommon species of Clarkia, are rarely found growing sympatrically but when they occasionally overlap in habitat preferences, no intermediates have been found. When raised together in an open breeding situation, again no hybrids and each “species” as per flower color/seed type, consistently perpetuates itself. The type specimens for both Davy’s clarkia (Clarkia davyi) and prostrate clarkia (Clarkia prostrata) need to be studied and compared with our local taxa and chromosome determinations made. With three disjunct viable populations of rare purple godetia (Clarkia purpurea subsp. purpurea) occurring in the Swanton area, a biogeographical investigation into the evolutionary origins of this horticulturally desirable and amenable to cultivation taxon should be undertaken. Are the Swanton populations related genetically to those documented for the Great Central Valley or are they independently derived, an evolutionary response to the prevailing coastal wind patterns and competition from the surrounding grassland vegetation, resulting in reduced stems and inflorescence axes with corresponding density of flower heads and enlargement of floral parts (reduction/augmentation)? Do a comparative analysis between the three local populations with emphasis on edaphic/habitat preferences, sympathy (if any) with related four-spotted godetia (Clarkia purpurea subsp. quadrivulnera) examining the potential for/direction of interspecific gene flow, and specificity of pollinating vector(s), differences in stature, variability in floral coloration/patterning, capsule and seed size, etc., between coastal Lasher Marsh and inland Seymore Hill populations.

Two distinct components of the *Mimulus guttatus* complex occupy moist zones above and below the southeast-facing hairpin turn overlooking Harry Wain’s Arroyo. First, is a reduced, inodorous form of var. arvensis, with truncate calyces and a deep, open throat with suppressed longitudinal folds that can be found growing on seasonally moist rock faces. Second, is a rare, immaculate variant of var. grandis, with corollas wholly lacking the maroon spotting immortalized in its species name; it grows intermixed with the honey-scented forma typica, amongst Pacific bog-rush (*Juncus effusus var. pacificus*) and brown bog-rush (*Juncus effusus var. bruneus = Juncus hesperius*) tussocks. Vegetatively resembling a blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), which is found growing roadside further along on our journey, brown-headed rush (*Juncus phaeocephalus var. phaeocephalus*), rhizomatously weaves its way through the densely packed culms of its towering relatives, lost to all but the discerning eye. Sharing this already bursting bunchgrass with reduced stems, variability in floral coloration/patterning, capsule and seed size, etc., between coastal Lasher Marsh and inland Seymore Hill populations.

The *Mimulus guttatus* complex presents manifold challenges for the taxonomist, not the least being, whether it is prudent to follow the “lumper” or “splitter” path and justifying the rationale
behind making that decision. Within the boundaries of our traversal, there are several reoccurring phases found, that when growing sympatrically, display no evidence of gene exchange. Such is the case with var. arvensis and var. grandis, one appearing scentless while the other, in bright light, emitting a melliferous odor. Other local members of this complex are:

(a) **Mimulus nasutus:** formerly considered a valid species and alternately called *Mimulus guttatus* var. gracilis, usually found growing on sandbars along the riparian corridor and distinguished by calyces with upper middle lobe + 3-times as long and forward pointing, the lower lip of corolla with a distinctive, centrally located, red-brown blotch and deeply lacerate leaves with velvety patches, adaxially. May be obligate selfer in spite of open flowers, as no intermediates found when growing sympatrically on sandbars with out-breeding common monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus* sensu lato). A concentrated population, with the majority of plants exceeding a meter in heigth, was observed post-Lockheed 2009 Fire (05/2010), margining the moisture saturated banks of a near-vertical gulchlet draining down into Little Creek.

(b) **Mimulus, aff. nasutus:** a nanistic ecotype, restricted to seasonally wet, exposed bedding planes, growing out of patches of moss, both on the immediate coast and inland (upper portion of Calf Gulch). Flowers cleistogamous, corollas not opening and expelled from calyces as pale-yellow sausage casings. Quadrature stems can be clothed with short trichomes or be glabrous, but not in the same population. Plants raised from seed in a controlled environment with a continuous supply of water, upon reaching anthesis, transition from cleistogamous stage to one in which flowers open, showing lower lip with centrally positioned maroon blotch, but still appear to be self-pollinating.

(c) **Mimulus, guttatus complex:** an isolated population growing in a permanently wet seep, lower Seymore Field, under a redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) grove along with scattered plants of floriferous monkeyflower (*Mimulus floribundus*). Possible affinities with *M. nasutus,* (1) lower leaves widely rounded, shallowly dentate to irregularly lacerate/lobed, particularly near base, unmarked and uniformly green on adaxial surface with distinctive erect trichomes looking like hypodermic syringes with attenuate apices (result of aging?), (2) pedicels with short gland-tipped trichomes near base, bases of upper subtending leaves viniferous or not, this coloration also extending in varying degrees to petioles, plicate ribs of calyces and their apices, with/without scattering of like-colored inter-costal dots, (3) observed flowers, 10/13/06, cleistogamous, corollas not opening and expelled from calyces as pale-yellow sausage casings (correlation with late-in-season flowering?), (4) sharing habitat with these late-flowering cleistogamous plants, were spent remnants of the current season’s earliest bloomers and a new generation of recently germinated seedlings of this annual component of the *Mimulus guttatus* complex!

(d) **Mimulus, aff. guttatus complex:** a distinctive taxon with + glaucous stems and leaves, upper leaves connate-perfoliate and flowers pale yellow and scentless, was discovered more than two decades ago growing on a sandbar in the upper Scotts Creek Watershed, indicating a possible affinity with *Mimulus glaucescens*.

Several years ago, while studying the behavior and breeding potential of *Mimulus guttatus* var. grandis, I decided to see how my emasculated plants would react when pollen from sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), scarlet monkeyflower (*Mimulus cardinalis*), floriferous monkeyflower (*Mimulus floribundus*) and musk monkeyflower (*Mimulus moschatus*) was placed on their receptive stigmas. To my surprise, rather than reject the foreign pollen and dry up, all of the pollinated flowers started to initiate swollen ovaries, these ultimately developing into capsules filled with viable seed. Equally surprising, was the result of the several flats sown, all
the seedlings ultimately turned out to be perfect replicas of their *Mimulus guttatus var. grandis* parent. Apparently the placement of foreign pollen on the stigmas of my *Mimulus guttatus var. grandis* plants induced apomixis, or in the vernacular, having your cake and eating it too. If not an isolated and aberrational event, then a fascinating evolutionary strategy: when your genetic integrity is inadvertently or otherwise challenged, overwhelm the potential threat with numerous replicas of yourself!

As our journey of botanical discovery unfolds, it is of paramount importance to realize that outside of the constraints imposed by being restricted to the road proper, areas with a complex assemblage of “rare and unusual” taxa abound, within view but not physically accessible! Two such “hot zones”, comprising the headlands overlooking/bookending the north-west and south-east edges of Greyhound Rock State Beach in orientation, concentrate a multitude of rare and site-specific species into relatively narrow strips of coastal habitat, squeezed between Highway 1 and a vertical drop in excess of 80 feet. Looking up, we see the near-vertical, perpetually exfoliating cliffs, with their seasonal waterfalls and perennial seeps..... here common monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*) cloaks the weathered face of the dampened mudstone, displaying sun drenched corollas redolent of honey. Vying for attention on the precarious wind-buffeted exposures and held hostage by the ever-changing hydrology, Watson’s willow herb (*Epilobium ciliatum subsp. watsonii*) in a reduced stature, shows off intensely pigmented cerise flowers looking like miniature pin-wheels. Sharing this specialized habitat, are distinctive micro-populations of small-leaved bentgrass (*Agrostis microphylla*), needing to be analyzed and carefully compared with the type..... from both a taxonomic and ecological perspective, two questions need aswering: (1) since the taxon in question possesses a palea and the overall description for *Agrostis microphylla* states palea wanting/none, what taxonomic value can be assigned to the presence/absence of such an organ? and (2) what breeding systems are in play within these isolated populations..... are these obligate selfers, creating in effect, a constellation of microspecies, occupying proximal but separate vertical niches? A momentary detour to a unique habitat between the cliff bases and primary dunes yields several species losing ground along the immediate coast: fragrant cousin of the horticulturally manipulated bougainvillaea, yellow sand-verbena (*Abronia latifolia*) survives the punishing winter storms by anchoring itself with extensive, cord-like root systems, as does sympatric beach morning glory (*Calystegia soldanella*), Vancouver’s rye grass (*Leymus x vancouverensis = Elymus x vancouverensis*), and sand-dune bluegrass (*Poa douglasii*). In the seasonally moist depressions behind the dunes, another “native” plantain luxuriates, this inconspicuous annual species, the decidedly uncommon California coast plantain (*Plantago elongata*), superficially looking like its omnipresent relative California plantain (*Plantago erecta*). Sharing this seasonally reconfigured environment, are beach bur (*Ambrosia chamissonis*), mock heather (*Ericameria ericoides*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius var. scoparius = Acmispon glaber var. glaber*), stephanomeria (*Stephanomeria aff. virgata* subsp. pleurocarpa..... in light of recent molecular based taxonomic work on this and related species of Stephanomeria, a revisiting and thorough exploration of this maritime population’s habitat should be undertaken, since a major landslide buried the originally observed colony and as of 08/10/2010, no trace of this taxon was found) with outer phyllaries appressed, achene clavate, tannish, 5-sided with each facet lined from top to bottom with two rows of slightly raised verrucosities, pappus white and plumose throughout, leatherleaf dock (*Rumex salicifolius* var. *crassus = Rumex crassus*), coast buckwheat (*Eriogonum latifolium*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), morning glory (*Calystegia purpurea subsp. purpurea*), sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), yellow bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*), California figwort (*Scrophularia californica*), California cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*), pink everlasting
associated interdigitating shrubbery, mainly California sagebrush, structural support by inflorescences of gold, Bolander's golden aster. Aromatic herbage but this time clothed with a silky indument topped with contrasting leaves horkelia with foliage saturating the surrounding like a “new” species, California plantain pendant flowers simulating Tiffany lampshades colored an opalescent mar.

Hill morning glory. Diverse assemblage of uncommon forms of widespread taxa and unexpected juxtapositions, are depressions and meriting horticultural consideration, is the rare local form of San Francisco wallflower (Bromus carinatus subsp. persisting despite the unrelenting exposure to sun and westerly winds: wild rye (Bromus carinatus var. subsp. canescens), meadow barley (Elymus glaucus var. subacaulis), a visually arresting and eminently-reduced in stature form with abbreviate -parsnip (Heracleum maximum), sea lettuce (Dudleya caespitosa), oso-berry (Oenothera ericoides), bracken (Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens), Cleveland’s cryptantha (Cryptantha clevelandii) and Monterey pine (Pinus radiata).

In spite of human activity, encompassing both vehicular and foot traffic, numerous micro-habitats, featuring concentrated species diversity can still be found within this unique environment, where earth, sky and sea meet! Half hidden within the coastal scrub, purple-suffused California broomrape (Orobanche californica subsp. californica), a species complex unresolved taxonomically, parasitizes Pacific gumplant (Grindelia stricta var. platypylla), ironically belonging to another genus with poorly defined elements locally. Sharing this wind-buffeted perch, eight members of the Sunflower Family (Asteraceae), when not in flower, would leave most observers hard pressed to see the familial connection: the octet being mock heather (Ericameria ericoides), coast sagewort (Artemisia pycnocephala), western goldenrod (Euthamia occidentalis), coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis, sensu lato), seaside daisy (Erigeron glaucus), brownie thistle (Cirsium quercetorum), cotton batting plant (Pseudognaphalium stramineum) and Eastwood’s dandelion (Agoseris apargioides var. eastwoodiae = Agoseris apargioides var. apargioides). Drawing from the Grass Family (Poaceae), diversity also prevails, with the following quintet of species persisting despite the unrelenting exposure to sun and westerly winds: wild rye (Elymus glaucus subsp. virens), meadow barley (Hordeum brachyantherum subsp. brachyantherum), seaside brome (Bromus carinatus var. maritimus), Torrey’s melic (Melica torreyana) and an isolated reduced-in-stature variant of tall trisetum (Trisetum canescens). Sheltered within a few brush-cloaked depressions and meriting horticultural consideration, is the rare local form of San Francisco wallflower (Erysimum franciscanum var. crassifolium), suffrutescent in mode of growth, with fleshy leaves and intensely fragrant yellowish flowers. Other species adding to this texturally diverse assemblage of widespread taxa and unexpected juxtapositions, are hill morning glory (Calystegia subacaulis subsp. subacaulis), a visually arresting and eminently-worth-of-cultivation form of checker lily (Fritillaria affinis, aff. var. tristulis), displaying outsized pendant flowers simulating Tiffany lampshades colored an opalescent maroon, the ubiquitous California plantain (Plantago erecta), represented by a particularly robust ecotype looking more like a “new” species, while offering competition in the olfactory arena, a member of the Rosaceae with foliage saturating the surrounding environment with an unforgettable pungency, wedge-leaved horkelia (Horkelia cuneata var. cuneata) sharing a low-to-the-ground status and also with aromatic herbage but this time clothed with a silky indument topped with contrasting inflorescences of gold, Bolander’s golden aster (Heterotheca sessiliflora subsp. bolanderi). Given structural support by the extensive colonies of poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum) and associated interdigitating shrubbery, mainly California sagebrush (Artemisia californica) and
coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis* subsp. *consanguinea*), two native species of nightshade, Douglas’s nightshade (*Solanum douglasii*) and blue witch (*Solanum umbelliferum*) afford the observant sleuth contrast in floral gestalt, color and presence/absence of scent.

Segueing back to the bluffs, where sufficient moisture is present, western dock (*Rumex occidentalis*), a visually arresting taxon reaching 2+ meters in height, displays mature stems and inflorescences pigmented a luminous reddish-pink and sports a hefty chromosome count of 2n=140, 200! A small drainage depression perched high on the bluffs overlooking the northwest end of Greyhound Rock State Beach and part of a fragmented marsh of unknown age, no more than 10 meters square and buffered from unwarranted human intrusion by an acre or so of poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), is home to Blasdale's bent grass (*Agrostis blasdalei*), one of California's rarest grasses and Michael's rein orchid (*Piperia michaelii*), an orchid of uncommon occurrence. Unexpectedly, two more frequently encountered relatives of the aforementioned duo also occur within this “pocket of diversity”, namely California bent grass (*Agrostis densiflora*) and coast rein orchid (*Piperia elegans* subsp. *elegans*). This juxtaposing of rare and common members of the same genus occurs throughout the Scotts Creek Watershed and the areas bordering it, providing an abundance of material to predicate an ecological inquiry into the mechanics of reproductive barriers and their effectiveness. Surrounding and nestled within this “congregation of rarities” are one-leaved onion (*Allium unifolium*), a descriptive name at odds with this species actual foliar status, Wight’s paintbrush (*Castilleja wightii*), reduced in stature with pale yellow flowers and crowded glandular-puberulent stems, Mexican plantain (*Plantago subnuda*), a stately native representative of a genus known principally for its weedy and invasive members, plus selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris* var. *lanecolata*), an inodorus member of the Lamiaceae with lilac-purple flowers simulating a terrestrial orchid species, artist’s popcorn-flower (*Plagiobothrys chorisanus*), favoring moist depressions and often hidden within the undergrowth, low club rush (*Scirpus cernuus* = *Isolepis cernua*), behaving as a perennial in spite of references in literature to the contrary, harlequin lotus (*Lotus formosissimus* = *Hosackia gracilis*), a perennial pea with flowers colored yellow and cerise, possessing a fragrance rivaling the best French perfumes, California canary grass (*Phalaris californica*), with stems and leaves mimicking the stylized bamboo of the classic Chinese landscapes, large-flowered sand-spurrey (*Spergularia macrotheca* var. *macrotheca*), an ideal candidate for miniature rock gardens, bugle hedge-nettle (*Stachys ajugoides* var. *ajugoides*), with pale pink flowers and sweetly scented herbage and marsh microseris (*Microseris paludosa*), a rarely seen relative of the dandelion and culinary lettuce.

Reconnecting with our asphalt underpinnings, allows one to visually note that sharing the “hairpin turn” locale but growing on exposed mudstone and siliceous terrace deposits, a diverse assemblage of “natives” can be tallied up: a nod to the Rose Family (Rosaceae) yields sticky cinquefoil (*Potentilla glandulosa* subsp. *glandulosa* = *Drymocallis glandulosa* var. *glandulosa*), wedge-leaved horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *cuneata*) and sinuously weaving a gauntlet of formidable thorns, California wild rose (*Rosa californica*), co-exists in both in adjacent moist drainage ditches and seemingly arid embankments; a cursory survey for representatives of the Legume Family (Fabaceae) produces purple sack clover (*Trifolium depauperatum* var. *truncatum*), pin-point clover (*Trifolium gracilentum*), double-headed clover (*Trifolium macraei*), maiden clover (*Trifolium microcephalum*), tomcat clover (*Trifolium willdenovii*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius* var. *scoparius* = *Acmispon glaber* var. *glaber*), small-flowered trefoil (*Lotus micranthus* = *Acmispon purpureiflorus*), Chilean trefoil (*Lotus wrangelianus* = *Acmispon wrangelianus*), Lindley’s varied lupine (*Lupinus parvicolour*), and sky lupine (*Lupinus nanus*); dueling members of the Stonecrop Family (Crassulaceae), literally on opposite sides of the roadbed, are sea lettuce (*Dudleya*).
caespitosa), whose extreme foliar variability makes it an ideal candidate for the rock garden, and pygmyweed (Crassula connata), a micro-miniature which when mature looks like a carpet of reddish-orange moss. Staying with the diminutive, California plantain (Plantago erecta), when scrutinized with a hand-lens, reveals fascinating structural details of foliage and flowers, missed when casually viewed from above; shifting the focus to the olfactory, Bioletti's cudweed (Pseudognaphalium biolettii), with its unexpected and hauntingly distinctive chemical signature and glandular indument, and pink everlasting (Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum), different in gestalt and scent but no less enjoyable, brings into focus the realization that to fully appreciate the natural world around us, full utilization of our sensory resources is demanded.

Within the Swanton area, occurring throughout the coastal prairie/headlands to the top of the Seymour Hill, golden aster (Heterotheca sessiliflora) manifests a complex assemblage of forms: variable as to foliar color and shape, type of indument/trichomes, glandulosity and chemical signatures and ranging in gestalt, from Bolander's golden aster (Heterotheca sessiliflora subsp. bolanderi) thru bristly golden aster (Heterotheca sessiliflora subsp. echoides), with some of the higher elevation populations possessing a distinct odor of camphor. To what extent has intraspecific hybridization influenced the readily observable variability between/within each of the local populations and has periodic habitat disruptions, both natural and man-made, played key roles? Can the chemical signatures be linked to specific genotypes and utilized to determine where subspecies variability ends and gene exchange between sympatric populations begins? With numerous populations readily available and occupying, both edaphically and elevationally, a wide range of habitats, a living laboratory to study species formation, reproductive isolating mechanisms and the value of periodic gene exchange in maintaining population adaptability, is available to the student of ecology and population biology.

Adding visual spice to the Juncus mix are a pair of ubiquitous species, both densely caespitose, with leafless cylindrical culms—bog rush (Juncus effusus), with culms various shades of green, formerly represented by two varieties often sharing the same permanently moist habitat, var. bruneus (=Juncus hesperius) acting like an anorexic version of var. pacificus and recently given a taxonomic divorce with an accompanying name change! Superficially resembling Juncus effusus is common rush (Juncus patens), with culms a bluish cast and mature inflorescences displaying pinkish-tan sub-globose capsules, these when opened and exposed to moisture, producing a mucilaginous mass, which encases the seeds, creating a visual effect not unlike a misplaced cluster of minuscule frog eggs. Common rush (Juncus patens), is the only representative of this genus in the watershed which behaves in this fashion, and going even further to establish its reputation as an iconoclast, forms sexual alliances with brown bog rush (Juncus effusus var. bruneus = Juncus hesperius), the skinny one, producing offspring* of dubious fertility but unchallenged longevity, giving validation to the adage hope springs eternal!

*Note: superficially simulating brown bog rush (Juncus effusus var. bruneus = Juncus hesperius) but culms often with a bluish cast, inflorescences compact to open with elongate branches, number of stamens 3-6, and the capsules, while + quadrate, having apices partially attached rather than opening fully and conspicuously exceeded by mature perianth parts. Fertile seed is produced, and varies from plant to plant, often seasonally, but is statistically very low per individual. Second generation hybrids have been raised under controlled circumstances, opening up a frame of reference to further study the potential role of periodic interspecific hybridization as a component in the adaptive evolution of taxa in a changing environment or one subject to ongoing patterns of disruption, either due to natural or human induced causation.
When fertile seed is produced, morphologically it can range from one parental extreme to the other!

Prostrate in growth patterns and forming sympatric horizontal patches subject to vehicular and foot-traffic abuse, sand mat (Cardionema ramosissimum) and California aster (Lessingia filaginifolia var. californica = Corethrogyne filaginifolia), are two exceedingly long lived and resilient prospects for innovative xeriscaping. Cosmopolitan toad rush (Juncus bufonius) is often found in a depauperate state, circumscribing the fluid boundaries of roadside ditches, tinged red and adhering to the desiccative edges like a monoculture of alien moss. Eyeballing each other across Swanton Road are two native species of strawberry that usually occupy markedly different habitats: forming horizontal mats on the ocean side of the roadway is beach strawberry (Fragaria chiloensis), often dioecious, with dark green nitid foliage and contrasting reddish stolons, while perched on a near-vertical bank with a southerly orientation is wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca), leaflets thin in texture and due to adaxial surface trichomes, dull in appearance. By presenting 4-merous yellow flowers on what appears to be elongate peduncles, sun cups (Camissonia ovata) plays a visual joke on the unaware observer—the circa 3-18 cm. long structures supporting the solitary flowers are technically the sterile tips of the ovaries, which upon closer examination, are found buried deep within the basal rosette of leaves!

Tenaciously clinging to a highly unstable bank and observed for more than a decade, an isolated burl-forming manzanita (Arctostaphylos crustacea, sensu lato) was regrettably done in, not by old age or slope failure, but overzealous road maintenance. Recently, during the course of walking Swanton Road in preparation for this essay, a second specimen of hairy manzanita was located, growing roadside circa 1/8 mile before Big Creek Bridge (sharing edge of bank with a specimen of oracle oak aka Quercus x morehus), and either seeded originally from coyote scat or representing the end result of successional processes. Articulating a plausible scenario for the current evolutionary status of the burl-forming manzanitas found within the watershed, is to enter into a scientific debate of gladiatorial proportions—but signposts, even flawed ones, are a navigational necessity in this ecological arena! The origins of the Arctostaphylos crustacea complex may be polyphyletic: its burl putatively derived from ancient hybridization between a horizontally aligned, nodal-rooting diploid species (aff. A. uva-ursi) and a vertically aligned, auriculate-leaved diploid species (aff. A. andersonii). Subsequent reduction and coalescence of the node-rooting axis may have occurred through selective evolutionary pressures imposed by seasonal fires and the concurrent/succeeding assimilation of genetic material from sympatric species, ultimately producing an exceedingly long-lived fire-regenerative “genetic sponge”. Based on an in depth study of the “extreme” variability displayed by the thousands of specimens located within the watershed’s well-defined chaparral, this a biologically sound theory and one worth investigating on molecular (DNA sites), morphological (establish a linkage between specific foliar and floral traits and isolate/identify, if possible, their ancestral contributors), ecological (specificity of fungal associates) and structural (examination of misplaced burls = epicormic burls, the possible results of incomplete dominance) grounds.

Occasionally, two related but physically dissimilar taxa share the same habitat, the differences so manifest that without knowledge of the systematics of the family in question, one would not link the two. Such is the case with creeping hearts (Pierostegia drymarioides), an annual prostrate herb with bilobed leaves looking as if they had escaped from a Calder mobile, which upon reaching maturity turn an incandescent reddish-pink, and coast buckwheat (Eriogonum latifolium), a
suffrutescent perennial, clothed with a white felt-like indument that when viewed from afar, gives the impression of a recent dusting of snow. As members in good standing of the Buckwheat Family (Polygonaceae), their shared heritage is demonstrated by the production of trigonous achenes.

Presenting taxonomic problems yet to be fully resolved, California aster (*Symphyotrichum chilense*) shadows the observer from one end of Swanton Road to the other, happily ensconced on road-banks, in drainage ditches and peering out from the impenetrable margins of the coastal scrub. Although extremely variable as to *phenology*, overall stature, foliar morphology, and flower color, the real problem resides in what value to assign the extremes found within the involucral bract (phyllaries) configuration and orientation: these ranging from strongly graduate (formerly *Aster chilensis*) to foliaceous and sub-equal (*Aster subspicatus*). Should *Aster subspicatus* be resurrected from synonymy, if *indeed it ever existed in the State*, and treated along with California aster (*Symphyotrichum chilense*) as co-participant in the production of a polymorphic hybrid complex or is California aster (*Symphyotrichum chilense*) an ecologically adaptive species with several phenotypes? Are the foliaceous phyllaries independently derived or do they reflect a possible ancestral connection with *Aster eatonii*, since *Aster subspicatus* is now regarded as not occurring in California? The stem leaves while variable, tend to have expanded bases, these somewhat auriculate and clasping, with the marginal trichomes scabrous-ciliolate and decurrent down the stem as whitish lines, akin to those found on common chickweed (*Stellaria media*).

Note: *Aster subspicatus = Symphyotrichum subspicatum*, has been retrieved from synonymy under *Symphyotrichum chilense* by John Strother, 2009 and one documented specimen (residing in the Jepson Herbarium, UC Berkeley) for the Swanton area, originally collected from the Allium Marsh (on Western Terrace, southeast of the Lasher Marsh)..... JEPS 83107/JAMES A. WEST, 351, JUN 11 1983

Growing in sandy soil along and spilling down the west facing edge of the Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) grove, which mirrors in part, the “hairpin turn,” a diffuse, loosely rhizomatous phase of red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) creates a visual effect akin to a vaporous green gas hovering over the weathered pine needles. Sharing this acidic environment and sheltered within the irregular drifts of pine needles, coast rein orchid (*Piperia elegans*), one of five species of this genus found within the watershed, seasonally rewards the respectful observer with dozens of fragrant inflorescences, which in their early stages of development, look like stalks of asparagus ready to harvest. Staying with the Orchid Family (Orchidaceae), one of the three documented occurrences for the watershed of calypso orchid (*Calypso bulbosa*), was within this pine grove, while directly across the road, hooded lady’s tresses (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*) graced a seasonally wet depression flanked by wind buffering common rush (*Juncus patens*) tufts. In the 1970’s, several small isolated patches of holly-leaved navarretia (*Navarretia atractyloides*) were discovered, growing in undisturbed habitat, which was being encroached upon by ever-expanding populations of poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) and coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis subsp. consanguinea*). Passing a roadside meadow abounding in rain stimulated vegetative growth, one’s attention is immediately drawn to the yellow-petaled flowers glistening in the sun as if lacquered and appearing to be suspended in a sea of chlorophyll: California buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus*), although common in status and numerically plentiful, never fails to deliver visual magic heralding the arrival of Spring.
Either growing separately or cheek-to-jowl, lizard tail (Eriophyllum staechadifolium) and golden yarrow (Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum) secure the roadside banks from one end of Swanton Road to the other. Where they grow together, particularly in those areas that are periodically disturbed, a broader range of foliar variation occurs, either underscoring each species’ inherent plasticity or warranting investigation into sympathy and interspecific hybridization, with an emphasis on examining the chemical signatures of each species and the variants appearing within the shared habitats. Staying within the Sunflower Family (Asteraceae) and the probable results of interspecific hybridization (both current and ancestral) coupled with selfing, backcrossing, and outcrossing patterns, the Gianone everlasting complex (Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov.) is the putative result of hybridization between California cudweed (Pseudognaphalium californicum) and cotton batting plant (Pseudognaphalium stramineum). The primary crosses possess chemical signatures intermediate between the parents, but subsequent backcrossing often results in populations closer in scent to the California cudweed parent but displaying stem and foliar indument of the cotton batting plant parent! Suffice to say, this delightful mess also occurs throughout our biological excursion, often in association with the previously mentioned Eriophyllum duo.

Found within this section of our traversal and representing a genus notorious for taxonomic problems are five generally well-behaved species and a polyphyletic hybrid complex of sedges: Taking the straightforward first, slough sedge (Carex obtusata) favors and often outlines seasonally wet drainage areas, short-stemmed sedge (Carex brevicaulis) prefers the edges of grasslands and coastal prairies, dense sedge (Carex densa) with some pistillate scales conspicuously awned but perigynia ovate in outline, one small patch located along a seasonally moist edge of drainage ditch, small-bracted sedge (Carex subbracteata), some specimens tending towards Carex nitidicarpa, pro. sp. nov., scattered along the roadside edge, while foothill sedge (Carex tumulicola) can be found growing on brushy slopes. The problem child within this sextet is Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov., a taxon putatively derived from at least three different sections of the genus and so fluid in distinguishing characters that five concurrently flowering culms on the same plant, when separately pressed, could be viewed as five separate species, closely related or not! To make matters worse, it can be found in all the aforementioned habitats varying seasonally which key traits it would like to display. With a basic gestalt mirroring Harford’s sedge (Carex harfordii), Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov., differs radically from its analog by having inflorescences: (a) with the lower 1-5+ spikelets being compound-congested and androgynous, gynecandrous or mixed, (b) the terminal spikelet, being androgyneous or gynecandrous, occasionally with a pronounced clavate base, (c) the lowermost spikelets proximal or conspicuously distant, and on some specimens, subtended/enfolded by foliaceous bracts up to 30 cm in length, (d) producing spikelets, usually 1-2, occasionally 3 or 4, on elongate, filiform stalks (reduced panicle branches?) from near the base of the principal flowering culms, partially fused or free, the lower portion often enclosed in a tubular hyaline sheath, (e) perigynia extremely variable, dull, + thin walled, inner face flat, with/without conspicuous venation and outer convex and distinctly veined, orbicular to broadly lanceolate and rounded basally, winged, becoming pronounced below beak*, (f) producing “keikis”, asexual nodal proliferations, from both spent flowering-culms and non-flowering innovations. This singular mode of asexual reproduction does not occur with either Carex nitidicarpa, pro. sp. nov. or the Carex “imperfecta” phase and most likely evolved in response to extended periods of soil aridity coupled with elevated levels of atmospheric moisture. Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov., is often found growing up through the coastal scrub, particularly coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), and is associated with another nodally proliferous
monocot and putative hybrid complex, namely the Hall’s bent grass (*Agrostis hallii*)/leafy bent grass (*Agrostis pallens*) intergradations!

*Note: the perigynia of *Carex gianonei*, pro. sp. nov., are variable to an extreme degree, not only within a defined population but also on individual specimens, in all probability, reflecting the polyphyletic origins of this “difficult” taxon! An in depth analysis should be undertaken, defining the various perigynia morphologies which occur within a given population of *Carex gianonei*, pro. sp. nov., and then comparing them with perigynia of *Carex tumulicola* (sect. Bracteosae), *Carex brevicaulis* (sect. Montanae) and *Carex densa* (sect. Multiflorae), representing, in varying degrees, the putative ancestors of the Gianone’s sedge complex.

Note: the *Carex gianonei*, pro. sp. nov./*Carex nitidicarpa*, pro. sp. nov. complexes, can produce inflorescences, at any time during the blooming season but more often than not as the season is winding down, that: (1) have only the terminal spikelet functional, it being either gynecandrous or androgynous, the remaining spikelets suppressed, replaced by their subtending bractlets clothing the rachis, (2) have all or some of the lower spikelets functional, with the terminal one either sterile and reduced to a bractlet clothed rachis or producing exserted stamens apically, (3) have the inflorescence reduced to a non-functional bractlet clothed rachis, (4) have all spikelets functional, tightly clustered but not on same plane and subtended by conspicuous acicular bracts, unequal in length, simulating a western rush (*Juncus occidentalis*) inflorescence and (5) have lowermost spikelets of principal inflorescence, discreet-congested or simple, stalked, terminating in a sterile or functionally staminate spikelet and subtended by a foliaceous bract. As with the highly variable perigynia, a comprehensive analysis of all the inflorescence permutations should be undertaken and see what correlations can be made relative to (a) intersectional hybridization, (b) currently existing sympatric species exhibiting analogous traits and (c) how these species specific characteristics sort out under controlled breeding experiments. The gynecandrous/androgynous and functional/sterile spikelet patterns that these inter-related hybrid complexes display, appear to represent varying degrees of incompatibility, derived from both ancestral and current intersectional hybridization, and can exist concurrently on the same plant!

An examination of the specimens found growing within this section of our floral sleuthing, could initiate an investigation into the polyphyletic origins of the *Carex gianonei*/*Carex nitidicarpa* complex, with emphasis on intersectional gene flow, both ancient and current, and the attendant non-mendelian resegregation of key characters. Since the *Carex gianonei*/*Carex nitidicarpa* complex is basically Harford’s sedge (*Carex harfordii*) and small-bracted sedge (*Carex subbracteata*) matrices, both section Ovales, exhibiting traits specific to other sections, isolate and define these discordant elements.

(1) Traits, which suggest a hybrid connection with *Carex brevicaulis*, section Montanae:
   (a) Basal spikelets on elongate, filiform stalks, with the lower portion often enclosed in a hyaline tubular sheath.
   (b) Foliaceous bracts 20-25+ cm. in length, enclosing/sheathing lower spikelets, which are often discrete-distant.
   (c) Occasional terminal spikelet linear in gestalt, staminate or imperfect and rachis aligned off-center.

(2) Traits, which suggest a hybrid connection with *Carex densa*, section Multiflorae.
   (a) Lower 1-5+ spikelets compound-congested, these can be androgynous,
gynaecandrous and/or mixed with pistillate flower bracts often awned.

(b) Opaque part of leaf sheaths transversely rugulose.

(c) Flowering culms sharply triangular, marginally scabrous, prostrate thru erect-ascending in alignment, with rachis often elongate.

(3) Traits, which suggest a hybrid connection with Carex tumulicola, section Bracteosae.

(a) Inflorescences with lower portion of rachis often bending abruptly at right angle above 1st spikelet, the presentation of spikelets + fractiflex and moniliform, some inflorescences with terminal spikelets tending towards androgyn.

(b) Perigynia stipitate and cymbidiform, with margins often infolding, attenuate beaks occasionally displaying modified bifid apices.

(c) Leaves narrow, 1.5-3.0 mm. wide, with flowering culms + filiform and conspicuously elongate with age.

Note: examples repeatedly occur within this highly reticulate hybrid complex that superficially resemble members of the section Stellulatae, with lower spikelets separate and upper approximate, the terminal spikelet distinctly clavate, perigynia often spreading at maturity, somewhat spongy-thickened basally.

While variable in overall gestalt, specimens of Carex nitidicarpa, pro. sp. nov., are quite consistent throughout their studied range in several features: (a) the flowering culms, which start out in an ascending trajectory, soon become arcuate in mode of growth, assuming a prostrate status at maturity, (b) some inflorescences, whether on first-blooming seedlings or mature plants, with axis bent circa 80-90 degrees above subtending foliaceous bract, (c) the perigynia thick-walled, often + cymbiform and varnished in appearance, (d) asexual nodal proliferations, “keikis”, never produced, even with plants found growing under/up through coastal scrub.

When originally studied and documented by herbarium pressings in the 1970’s, this complex hybrid taxon was given the working name of Carex “super-subbracteata” with the subsequent proposed name, Carex nitidicarpa, pro. sp. nov., referring to the shiny, varnished status of the mature perigynia.

Study the influence/effect of light versus deep shade on the expression and/or suppression of non-ovales derived traits.

Note: Plants observed for several seasons growing in shaded canyon bottoms, which morphologically fit the Carex harfordii profile, when placed in a private botanical garden and grown in full sun, over the course of 2-3 years, started exhibiting non-ovales traits, such as inflorescences with androgynous compound-congested lower spikelets and basal spikelets on elongate filiform stalks!

Examine the ecological role of habitat disturbance in the broaching of reproductive isolating mechanisms between sympatric Carex species from different sections of the genus.

Note: Examine the foliar epidermis, its underlying cellular structure and veining, of short-stemmed sedge (Carex brevicaulis), dense sedge (Carex densa) and foothill sedge (Carex tumulicola), to determine if there are recognizable differences, which are section specific, and that occur within the Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov. and Carex nitidicarpa, pro. sp. nov. complexes,
independent of traits attributable only to the section Ovales.

Note: Are the non-Ovales traits (e.g. androgynous spikelets, compound-congested lower spikelets, basal (1-4) spikelets on elongated stalks which are often sheathed with a tubular hyaline prophyll) the result of gene fragments (from centromeric fission/fusion), which do not behave in a Mendelian fashion but still reflect (and are transmitted sexually), in an Ovales gestalt, inter-sectional hybridization?

Carex “imperfecta” appears to be the evolutionary “Rosetta Stone”, linking section Ovales to both the Multiflorae and Montanae sections in this reticulate patterned hybrid syngameon. This scattered and locally not uncommon taxon, often found in habitat of recent disturbance (past 50-60 years), suggests that Carex “imperfecta” is the product of current intersectional hybridization. Gene flow appears to be uni-directional, with anthers producing pollen but with pistils non-functional. Lower 1-5+ spikelets compound-congested, the inflorescences infrequently dense and abbreviated but usually displaying a conspicuously elongate rachis, with the occasional presence of 1-2 basal spikelets on filiform stalks as per Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov. and Carex nitidicarpa, pro. sp. nov., either free to base or some fused, in varying degrees, to the main inflorescence culm.

(a) Stain pollen for viability and see if it varies from plant to plant.
(b) Unlike with Carex gianonei/Carex nitidicarpa, the pistillate flower bracts of Carex “imperfecta” occasionally are conspicuously awned, showing a key trait derived from Carex densa/Carex dudleyi, section Multiflorae. Why is this distinctive trait, present in Carex “imperfecta” but not found in any Carex gianonei/Carex nitidicarpa plants studied to date, considering all three taxa share a putative Carex densa/Carex dudleyi heritage?
(c) To determine if Carex “imperfecta” is indeed an aneuploid derivative of intersectional hybridization, with the non-functional pistillate flowers a byproduct of chromosomal incompatibility, do an in depth analysis of Carex “imperfecta” from morphological, chromosomal and habitat/ecological perspectives.
(d) What role has Carex “imperfecta” played in the formation of the Carex gianonei/Carex nitidicarpa complex, and does the fertility of Carex “imperfecta” pollen vary from plant to plant and also with seasonal conditions, age/biomass of plant and the stability of the ecosystem in which it resides?

Large mature plants of Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov., often display concurrent flowering culms that are markedly dissimilar to each other in gestalt, often to such an extent, that 5-6 of these “inflos” could be pressed on separate herbarium sheets and when shown to knowledgeable observers, convince them that they are looking at 5-6 different species, some closely related others not! ARE THESE DISSIMILARITIES LIMITED TO FOLIAR AND FLORAL MORPHOLOGIES OR DO THE DIFFERENCES EXTEND TO POLLEN AND OVULES AS WELL?

Within the Scotts Creek Watershed, other notable anomalies within the genus Carex also occur:

(1) Populations of Bolander’s sedge (Carex bolanderi), sect. Deweyanae, produce inflos with the lower 1-5+ spikelets compound-congested, any or all of the spikelets being androgynous, gynaecandrous and/or mixed. Basal spikelets can also be produced, with the opaque part of the leaf sheaths, on occasion, transversely rugulose.
Plants of foothill sedge (*Carex tumulicola*), sect. Bracteosae, were observed with flwng-culms producing 1-2 basal spikelets on elongate, filiform stalks. Pressings were made and deposited with the Jepson Herbarium, U.C. Berkeley.

On the coastal prairies flanking the central portion of “Big Willow Gulch”, several specimens of dense sedge (*Carex densa*), sect. Multiflorae, were found producing flwng-culms with 1-2 basal spikelets on elongate stalks, these not filiform but markedly thinner than the principal flwng-culms. Pressings were made and deposited with the Jepson Herbarium, U.C. Berkeley.

One specimen of *Carex gianonei*, *pro. sp. nov.* found growing up through coastal scrub overlooking “Lasher Marsh”, produced flwng-culms, which displayed 1-2 basal spikelets on elongate stalks, but in two instances, 3 & 4!

Extremes in habitat preferences also characterize the Carex within the watershed proper: finding “wet feet” abhorrent, round-fruited sedge (*Carex globosa*) resides on well-drained, dry summer/fall, wooded slopes while torrent sedge (*Carex nudata*), prefers stream beds and succeeds where few other species can, firmly anchored by tenacious rhizomes in mid-stream rock crevices!

Another family with members that either drive the literal-minded to the brink of frustration or give unalloyed joy to the discriminating pursuer of variety is the Grass Family (Poaceae). Looking down into Harry Wain’s Arroyo, a large isolated population of Pacific reed grass (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*) thrives, sharing habitat with a rare form of western bent grass (*Agrostis exarata*), 1-2 meters in height with awnless spikelets condensed in glomerate verticils, these conspicuously separate. Farther along on our ascending tour, an extensive, long persisting colony of Hall’s bent grass (*Agrostis hallii*), perhaps tainted with genetic material contributed long ago by leafy bent grass (*Agrostis pallens*), shares a roadbank, this time flanking Harry Wain’s driveway, with a singularly robust form of California wild rye (*Elymus glaucus* subsp. *glaucus*), some inflorescences seasonally paniculate (a certain percentage of this form appears consistently in hand sown populations raised from locally collected native material, establishing a genetic basis for the elongate flowering branches on inflorescences), sporting leaves 26+ cm. in length and 2.5+ cm. in width and overpowering scattered specimens of native meadow barley (*Hordeum brachyantherum* subsp. *brachyantherum*). For many years, scattered populations of western bent grass (*Agrostis exarata* var. *exarata*) were established along this and other sections of Swanton Road but recently, due to the habitat encroaching non-native panic veldt grass (*Ehrharta erecta*), velvet grass (*Holcus lanatus*) and Italian rye grass (*Lolium multiflorum*), this less common awnless variety is becoming scarce. Mimicking a perennial caespitose Grass Family (Poaceae) constituent, western rush (*Juncus occidentalis*) cryptically resides amongst the bona fide grasses, daring a savvy viewer to unmask this consummate poseur. Rigid hedge-nettle (*Stachys ajugoides* var. *rigida* = *Stachys rigida* var. *quercetorum*), one of two native members of this aromatic genus occurring within this section of our botanical sleuthing, can be readily distinguished by its chemical signature, lower corolla lip alignment and strongly oblique ring of hairs distending lower part of the corolla tube. Occupying an unstable slope across the current replacement for the original Swanton Road/Highway 1, whose outline can still be discerned some thirty feet below, a scattered population of American vetch (*Vicia americana* subsp. *americana*) blends in with and is vastly outnumbered by the European introduction, narrow-leaved vetch (*Vicia sativa* subsp. *nigra*).

Looking downward in a southerly direction, the coastal prairie comes into view: an ecological continuum that parallels Highway 1, from the north end of Swanton Road (where it becomes
fragmented) with its isolated populations of Kellogg’s horkelia (Horkelia cuneata var. sericea) and purple godetia (Clarkia purpurea subsp. purpurea) to the California sagebrush (Artemisia californica) margined terrace edge overlooking Scotts Creek Marsh proper. Providing habitat for a diverse aggregation of rare and unusual plant species, this horizontal ribbon of terrain, is punctuated with seeps, perennially watered micro-marshes, “vertical” grasslands bounded by coastal scrub and bisected by transverse gulches terminating in varying series of waterfalls before entering the ocean. A substantial part of this ecologically complex series of interrupted grasslands is defined by a triad of monocot families, namely the Sedge Family (Cyperaceae), the Rush Family (Juncaceae) and the Grass Family (Poaceae) and was extensively documented by herbarium pressings during the early 1980’s. Of particular interest were the disjunct populations of Blasdale’s bent grass (Agrostis balsdalei), a rare FSC/1B listed taxon previously known from a narrow coastal zone north of the Golden Gate, and displaying a wide range of growth patterns and inflorescence configurations locally. It would be of considerable interest, both ecologically and biogeographically, to determine on a molecular level, if the Santa Cruz County populations and the populations of Marin County are of the same age and if the documented examples of hybridization with sympatric California bent grass (Agrostis densiflora) and western bent grass (Agrostis exarata) locally, have played a role in this taxon’s polymorphism?

One member of the Primrose Family (Primulaceae) plus three members of the Gentian Family (Gentianaceae) find suitable habitat in the prairie, both in areas that remain damp after seasonal rainfall and in the drier transitional zones defined by the coastal scrub: favoring the scattered, poorly drained quasi vernal pool patches are Centunculus minimus = Anagallis minima, an inconspicuous sister species of the introduced scarlet pimpernel (Anagallis arvensis), timwort (Cicendia quadrangularis), often barely 2 cm. in height with solitary butter-yellow cruciform corollas markedly contrasting with its less picky and more ruderal relative, Monterey centaury (Centaurium muehlenbergii = Zeltnera muehlenbergii), exceeding 30 cm. in height, inflorescences dense, flat-topped with pink corollas and greatly expanding its local range over the past two decades and in some places actually becoming weedy and finishing up with Davy’s centaury (Centaurium davyi) or Zeltnera davyi according to the most recent nomenclatural changes, a worthy addition to any wildflower garden, often found growing half-hidden under California sagebrush (Artemisia californica), with flowers pink or white, and occasionally “hybrids” between those two polarities which are an unusual tannish-lilac in coloration! California gilia (Gilia achilleifolia) and grassland gilia (Gilia clivorum) occupy quasi-vertical niches, ranging from shaded slopes to exposed cliff faces throughout the watershed and varying considerably as to inflorescence configuration, hairiness, glandulosity and flower coloration. Growing within the confines of “Allium Marsh”, so named because it contained scattered plants of one-leaved onion (Allium unifolium), a disjunct population of locally rare Hall’s willow herb (Epilobium hallianum) was documented during the early 1980s. Ensnconed in the lower portion of the marsh before it transitions into “Gulch 2” and decidedly uncommon in the Swanton area, cow clover (Trifolium wormskjoldii) is a rarity amongst our local native clovers, in being perennial, while nearby overlooking the mouth of “Gulch 1”, the more frequently encountered strigose trefoil (Acmispon strigosus), is annual and proud of it! Occasionally gracing the moist vertical banks adjacent to the seasonal waterfalls draining the prairie, are scattered colonies of western pearlwort (Sagina decumbens subsp. occidentalis), deftly camouflaged from all but the most diligent of observers and paralleling its relative, shining chickweed (Stellaria nitens), in the art of concealment.

Still within the confines of the coastal prairie and more or less midway between Greyhound Rock and Scotts Creek Beaches, Big Willow Gulch meanders down from the inner grassland, crosses the prairie and drains into a bifurcate canyon (west fork draining Pumpkin Field Marsh and...
surrounding area), creating a watershed which is home to more than 200 species, sub-species, varieties and forms of native plants, several of extreme rarity. The best way to describe Big Willow Gulch ecologically, is as follows: imagine taking floristic elements from all of the habitats within the Scotts Creek Watershed, place them in a giant blender, add water, liquefy, then spill the contents randomly throughout the entire drainage area. Here is an introduction to some of the key players participating in this botanical drama and the unusual juxtapositions in which they present themselves: favoring seasonally wet depressions, coyote thistle (Eryngium armatum) and bugle hedge-nettle (Stachys ajugoides) thrive amongst hybrids between Blasdale’s bent grass (Agrostis blasdalei) x western bent grass (Agrostis exarata) and common rush (Juncus patens) x brown bog-rush (Juncus effusus var. brunnexus = Juncus hesperius); hidden deep within the Juncus clumps that define Big Willow Marsh and further obscured from view by California blackberry (Rubus ursinus) canes, one-leaved onion (Allium unifolium) and Canada goldenrod (Solidago canadensis subsp. elongata = Solidago elongata) add contrasting color to the prevailing shades of green, while in a seasonally filled pond within the shadow of the “Big Willow” (Salix lasiolepis), California water starwort (Callitriche marginata), mat-forming with pedicellate fruit often buried deep within the moist substrate, Bolander’s water starwort (Callitriche heterophylla var. bolanderi), displaying its foliar rosettes on the water’s surface while flowers and sessile fruits are sequestered in the aqueous depths, shares its fluid habitat with common spikerush (Eleocharis macrostachya) cleverly mimicking sympatric Mexican rush (Juncus mexicanus) with rhizomatous, tortile-compressed culms and is joined by another lookalike (at least from a distance), flowering quillwort (Lilaea sciiloides); scattered forest live-oaks (Quercus parvula var. shrevei), representing shrub through arboreal status categories, ecologically enrich the central portion of this complex watershed with their evergreen status while blue elderberry (Sambucus mexicana = Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis) and red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa) shed their seasonal foliage in the fall, allowing needed light to penetrate the deeper recesses of the gulch and enriching the soil with their copious leaf litter; held hostage by poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum) and apparently the lone representative of its kind in this all inclusive “mini-hotspot”, Pacific madrone (Arbutus menziesii) stands out in its singularity, a welcome byproduct of some adventurous coyote or flock of robins; growing within an ecologically distinct “island” composed of California hairgrass (Deschampsia cespitosa subsp. holciformis), brown-headed rush (Juncus phaeoccephalus var. phaeoccephalus), western rush (Juncus occidentalis), toad rush (Juncus bufonius), common rush (Juncus patens), brown bog-rush (Juncus effusus var. brunnexus = Juncus hesperius), dwarf club rush (Isolepis carinata), low club rush (Isolepis cernua), chaffweed (Anagallis minima), California brome (Bromus carinatus var. carinatus), California oat grass (Danthonia californica sensu lato), narrow-leaved mule ears (Wyethia angustifolia), harlequin lotus (Lotus formosissimus) and tinker’s penny (Hypericum angaloides), one of the two isolated populations of Gairdner’s yampah (Perideridia gairdneri subsp. gairdneri) found within this “repository of biodiversity” exists, easily distinguished from sister species, Kellogg’s yampah (Perideridia kelloggii), by possessing a flowering stem readily detachable from the fleshy tuberous root and a concave mature inflorescence.

Growing out of the weathered lichenous mudstone and overlooking the central portion of Big Willow Gulch as it crosses the prairie proper, California fuchsia (Epilobium canum) and California aster (Corethrogyne filaginifolia) soften the harshness of their exposed surroundings with shared canescent herbage but as to flowers, contrasting muted lilac daisy facsimilies with 3-4 cm long glowing red-orange salverform hummingbird enticements.... of particular note, the taxon referred to as California aster, is of the type formerly given the appellation Corethrogyne californica, with large solitary heads and five "alba" flowered individuals were recently
discovered, anchored firmly to the fractured shale and spilling down the gulch complex’s western flank (cuttings and cypselae are now being raised at the UCSC Arboretum); the color blue, is often absent or rarely manifests itself in many plant families. Fortunately, the Ranunculaceae as represented by the genus Delphinium locally, has generously given the watershed two species with the rarest of this duo, coast larkspur (Delphinium decorum subsp. decorum), vibrantly standing out against the surrounding verdancy; scattered colonies of California wild rose (Rosa californica), unlike many of its domesticated relatives, thriving in moist habitats and perfuming the surrounding area with flowers the size of silver dollars arrayed on complex cymes displaying up to 40 flowers; two morphologically dissimilar species of Baccharis, coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), with woody stems and branches, and marsh baccharis (Baccharis douglasii = Baccharis glutinosa), herbaceous with glutinous herbage, share a mesic niche along the prairie’s edge, while directly below on perpetually moistened bedding planes, common monkeyflower (Mimulus guttatus) defies gravity and mortality with rope-like stolons; seemingly out-of-place tan-oaks (Lithocarpus densiflorus var. densiflorus) co-mingle with California sagebrush (Artemisia californica), while on the opposite side of the gulch, wind-sculpted Douglas-firs (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii) cling precariously to near vertical slopes overlooking colonies of thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus) and fraternize with pearly everlasting (Anaphalis margaritacea), hazelnut ( Corylus cornuta subsp. californica), California goldenrod (Solidago californica = Solidago velutina subsp. californica) and sea lettuce (Dudleya caespitosa), the latter a xeriscaper’s dream plant with vibrant red stems and contrasting yellow-orange flowers; an ornamentally striking form of giant trillium (Trillium chloropetalum) was collected from this area thirty years ago, with texturally thick, broadly obovate cream-colored petals and like-colored anthers, the flowers exuding a distinct lemony scent. This taxon was also observed in the Gazos Creek Watershed in southern San Mateo County and perhaps should be nomenclaturally referred to white trillium (Trillium albidum); isolated colonies of leathery-leaved salal (Gaultheria shallon) and coast barberry (Berberis pinnata subsp. pinnata) are a stone’s throw from a darkly colored large-flowered variant of checker lily (Fritillaria affinis), sea pink (Armeria maritima subsp. californica), Monterey pine (Pinus radiata), California acaena (Acaena pinnatifida var. californica), short-stemmed sedge (Carex brevicaulis), prostrate clarkia (Clarkia prostrata), with concolored flowers producing dark brown unadorned seeds, scattered patches of Bolander’s golden aster (Heterotheca sessiliflora subsp. bolanderi) variable both as to color and scent of foliage, and further along with its rootstocks deeply embedded in the mudstone fractures, San Francisco campion (Silene virecunda subsp. virecunda = Silene virecunda?); sheltered within the protective embrace of the coastal scrub, an isolated population of California mustard (Caulanthus lasiophyllus) was documented for this “watershed within a watershed” three decades ago and recently rediscovered (10/18/06) growing in the gulch bottom along the edge of a seasonal watercourse, the nearly spent plants a meter in height with conspicuously reflexed siliques; perhaps the only surviving colony of banded owl’s clover (Castilleja exserta subsp. latifolia) in the county, with its cobwebby indument, sharing the same exposed grass-contoured terrace with the vanilla scented cream-colored form of owl’s clover (Castilleja densiflora, aff. Orthocarpus noctuninus) and the myriad polychromatic forms of Indian paint-brush (Castilleja affinis subsp. affinis), red alder (Alnus rubra), creek dogwood (Cornus sericea subsp. sericea), California buckeye (Aesculus californica) which from an aerial perspective gives the impression of verdant brain coral, so coalesced are the individual crowns; wax myrtle (Myrica californica = Morella californica) and Utah service-berry (Amelanchier utahensis), oversee ancient clumps of giant chain fern (Woodwardia frondata), tussocks of California fescue (Festuca californica), Franciscan coyote mint (Monardella villosa subsp. franciscana) at its most diverse morphologically, a localized nanistic race of white globe lily (Calochortus albus), California huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum), variable populations of
wedge-leaved horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata var. cuneata*)... the adaxial foliar surface ranging from a glandular coated grass green to a cinerous indument possibly representing subsp. *sericea* influence; a pair of caespitose members of the Poaceae, junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*) and ocean-bluff bluegrass (*Poa unilateralis*) with common woodrush (*Luzula comosa*) often favoring moisture retentive pockets on the west-facing slopes, while high above this botanical fray, one of the five documented populations for the county of chia (*Salvia columbariae*) co-exists in a parched abode of fractured mudstone with the uncommon Mt. Diablo cottonweed (*Microps amphibolus*), the rare Santa Cruz microseris (*Stebbinsoseris decipiens*) sharing habitat with co-parent *Microseris bigelovii*, California filago (*Filago californica = Logfia filaginoides*) and slender goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*).

**Note:** Within the Big Willow Gulch drainage system, slender goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*) exists in two forms..... growing on an exposed fractured mudstone slope which drops down towards Highway 1, is a population with **cypselae lacking pappus**, while in an analogous environment, higher up in elevation and overlooking the coastal prairie between the east end of the Pumpkin Field and the Frog Pond, is a remnant colony producing **pappus-crowned cypselae**. Both of these populations have been documented with "achene" collections, these deposited at the UCSC Arboretum for future study. **It is possible that Lasthenia gracilis may occur within this area and one or more of these populations, upon further study, may be included within the circumscription for that taxon.**

**Note:** Franciscan coyote mint (*Monardella villosa subsp. franciscana*), just within Big Willow Gulch, constitutes a complex array of forms, with variations in **foliar morphology** and **indument**, differing **chemical signatures** of individual plants and **inflorescence configurations**: concerning the latter, a specific trait that occurs with some frequency throughout this population and elsewhere in the adjacent coastal gulches, is the production of sessile whorls within the existing flower heads and **do these constitute condensed verticals or reduced branches?**

**Note:** Scattered throughout the prairie’s edge and ocean facing coastal scrub are representatives of the genus *Grindelia* (Family Asteraceae), problematic in their taxonomy and behaving as intergrades between what were formerly designated *Grindelia hirsutula* subsp. *rubricaulis* and *Grindelia stricta* subsp. *venulosa*. Standing on the east-facing synform and looking west towards Greyhound Rock State Beach where *Grindelia stricta* var. *angustifolia* resides behind the primary dunes, moving up to the benched tops of the seabluffs viewing what purports to be *Grindelia stricta* var. *platyphylla* hugging the ground with prostrate stems radiating out from a central woody caudex, then glancing northwest towards Last Chance Road and Laguna de las Trancas, home to what is now called *Gridelia hirsutula var. hirsutula = Grindelia hirsutula* and without inducing vertigo, focusing upwards in an northeasterly direction to the Seymour Hill, colonized by a subglabrous stramineous form of *Grindelia hirsutula* simulating *Grindelia camporum* var. *camporum* **and one has a perfect living laboratory to study on both a macro and micro level, the evolution of this ubiquitous yet imperfectly understood genus!**

As an addendum to the previously discussed overview documenting the botanical diversity of Big Willow Gulch and its surrounding watershed, here is a partial but substantial listing of other native taxa, both locally rare and common species plus two diagnostically challenging hybrid complexes, which help to define this area of special interest. The *Carex gianonei/nitidicarpa/imperfecta* syngameon and the *Agrostis hallii/pallens* intergrades are amply represented, sharing habitat with some of the following “locals”: toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*),
western lady's mantle (Aphanes occidentalis), California coffeeberry (Frangula californica subsp. californica), cow-parsnip (Heracleum maximum), straggly gooseberry (Ribes divaricatum var. pubiflorum), California vervain (Verbena lasiostachys var. lasiostachys), tiny pentacheta (Pentacheta alsinooides), threadstem madia (Madia exigua), dwarf locoweed (Astragalus gambelianus), purple sack clover (Trifolium depauperatum var. truncatum), slough sedge (Carex obtusa), foothill sedge (Carex tenuicola), small-bracted sedge (Carex subbracteata), dense sedge (Carex densa), umbrella sedge (Cyperus eragrostis), panicked bulrush (Scirpus microcarpus), Pacific oenanthe (Oenanthe sarmentosa), Pacific bog-rush (Juncus effusus var. pacificus = Juncus effusus subsp. pacificus), California man root (Marah fabaceus), California horkelia (Horkelia californica var. californica), Johnny jump-up (Viola pedunculata), purple cudweed (Gamochaeta ustulata), footsteps-of-spring (Sanicula arctopoides), caraway-leaved lomatium (Lomatium carifolium var. carifolium), rattlesnake weed (Daucus pellisius), Chinese houses (Collinsia heterophylla), sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), California hedge-parsley (Yabea microcarpa), American winter cress (Barbarea orthoceras), watercress (Nasturtium officinale), stinging phacelia (Phacelia malvifolia), California plantain (Plantago erecta), pelican flower (Triphysaria eriantha subsp. rosea), flower color off-white thru pale yellow), dwarf orthocarpus (Triphysaria pusilla), blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium bellum), snowberry (Symphoricarpus albus var. laevigatus), hairy wood sorrel (Oxalis corniculata subsp. pilosa = Oxalis pilosa), sweet cicy (Osmorhiza heterotox), shining peppergrass (Lepidium nitidium), Watson's willow herb (Epilobium ciliatum subsp. watsonii), giant horsetail (Equisetum telmateia subsp. braunii), oso berry (Oemleria cerasiformis), sneezeweed (Helenium puberulum), yarrow (Achillea millefolium), golden yarrow (Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum), lizard tail (Eriophyllum stachadifolium), California maidenhair (Adiantum jordanii), coffee fern (Pellaea andromedifolia), California polyody (Polypodium californicum var. kaufussii), goldback fern (Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis), wood fern (Dryopteris arguta), western sword fern (Polystichum munitum), lady fern (Athyrium felix-femina var. cyclosorus), bracken (Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens), Davy's clarkia (aff. Clarkia davyi), erect mode of growth, flowers bicolored, seeds gray-encrusted, transition zone between Pumpkin Field Marsh and Frog Pond, farewell-to-spring (Clarkia rubicunda), thyme-leaved pogogyne (Pogogyne serpilloides), checkerbloom (Sidalcea malviflora subsp. malviflora), blue witch (Solanum umbelliferum), California buttercup (Ranunculus californicus), downy buttercup (Ranunculus hebecarpus), Gianone's sanicle (Sanicula gianonei, pro. sp. nov.), Gianone's gnaphalium (Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov.), California cudweed (Pseudognaphalium californicum), cotton batting plant (Pseudognaphalium stramineum), pink everlasting (Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum), Bioletti's cudweed (Pseudognaphalium bioletti), red fescue (Festuca rubra), California canary grass (Phalaris californica), Pacific reed grass (Calamagrostis nutkaensis), slender hairgrass (Deschampsia elongata), foothill needleglass (Nassella lepida = Stipa lepida), purple needleglass (Nassella pulchra = Stipa pulchra), California wild rye (Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus), California melic (Melica californica), California saxifrage (Saxifraga californica = Micranthes californica), rigid hedge-nettle (Stachys ajugoides var. rigida = Stachys rigida var. quercetorum), California hedge-nettle (Stachys bullata), yerba buena (Satureja douglasii = Clinopodium douglasii), slender miner's lettuce (Claytonia parviflora subsp. parviflora), miner's lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata), California poppy (Eschscholzia californica), slim Solomon's seal (Smilacina stellata = Maianthemum stellatum), American brooklime (Veronica americana), red maids (Calandra ciliata), climbing bedstraw (Galium portogens var. portogens), blue dicks (Dichelostemma capitatum subsp. capitatum), soap plant (Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum and var. divaricatum), Indian thistle (Cirsium brevistylum), wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca), sticky cinquefoil (Potentilla glandulosa subsp. glandulosa = Drymocallis glandulosa var. glandulosa), coast buckwheat (Eriogonum latifolium), creeping hearts (Pterostegia drymarioidea), small-flowered trefoil (Lotus
micanthus = Acmispon parviflorus), deerweed (Lotus scoparius var. scoparius = Acmispon glaber var. glaber,... some plants prostrate and referable to var. prostratus), Chilean trefoil (Lotus wrangelianus = Acmispon wrangelianus), American vetch (Vicia americana var. americana), sky lupine (Lupinus nanus), Lindley's varied lupine (Lupinus varicolor), woolly marbles (Psilocarphus tenellus var. tenellus), western nettle (Hesperocnide tenella), coast nettle (Rhus dioca subsp. gracilis), sun cup (Camissonia ovata = Taraxia ovata), California milkwort (Polygala californica) and California figwort (Scrophularia californica).

Further along in a southerly direction one encounters Morehus Arroyo, named for the juvenile oracle oak (Quercus x morehus) found growing there circa 30 years ago. As with other edge-of-terrace perennial seeps that punctuate the coastal prairie from Lasher’s Marsh (overlooking Greyhound Rock State Beach) to China Ladder Marsh and beyond, shared species abound: but some native taxa are marsh and/or drainage area specific and highly localized even within these sub-watersheds, making each one of the superficially akin permanent seeps, proximal to the ocean with its attendant influence on localized atmospheric moisture, unique and valuable biological resources! The drainage system defining Morehus Arroyo is more reticulate that linear (except where it crosses the Western Terrace..... and even there, it drains a fan shaped complex of gently sloped seasonal wetlands..... marshlike in all but name), with the primary source originating, as a spring, midway up the coastal scrub covered face of the eastward dipping synform. From a hydrological perspective, the lower portion of the arroyo (as it leaves the coastal prairie) is equally complex, with a permanently draining bench marsh to the west and a seasonally draining gulchlet to the east, which is topped by a hydrologically active seep and before the cumulative water course dives under Highway 1, it is bookended by two more drainages, with origins proximal to China Ladder Gulch on the southeast flank and Big Willow Gulch in a northwesterly direction. The upper half..... of this perpendicular to Highway 1 self-contained watershed..... from the tilted slopes with their marshy vegetative skins down on to the Western Terrace with its mosaic of Juncus islands juxtaposed with coyote brush scrub, is well represented by all phases of the Carex gianonei/imperfecta/nittidicarpa complexes, perhaps underscoring the concept that disruptive events, both natural and manmade, can result in the broaching of reproductive isolating mechanisms that usually prevent the exchange of genetic material between sympatric taxa, closely related or not. While arroyo willow (Salix lasiolepis) defines the Big Willow and China Ladder watersheds, Morehus Arroyo midway between the two, also plays host to several examples of shining willow (Salix lucida subsp. lasioandra = Salix lasioandra var. lasioandra), these concentrated around the principal edge-of-prairie waterfall, with one old reclining furrowed-bark example dominating the landscape and possessing leaves unusually thick in texture and leathery to the touch! Where the prairie bounds the willow dominated edge of the terrace and during the rainy season, water often pools in depressions before draining into the gulch proper, specialized micro-habitats occur, acting as repositories for uncommon species locally. A specific example, of these physically enduring but ephemeral as to water content sites, is as follows: within a rectilinear depression circa 3 meters wide x 6 meters long, containing concentrated populations of California oat grass (Danthonia californica), California hairgrass (Deschampsia cespitosa subsp. holciformis), western rush (Juncus occidentalis) and brown-headed rush (Juncus phaeocapillus var. phaeocapillus), an isolated population of perennial harlequin lotus (Lotus formosissimus = Hosackia gracilis) was discovered in the early 1970s and persisted for many years. Although the drainage area between the coastal prairie and the terminus of the Morehus Arroyo is relatively short, it receives multiple feeds, at least three continually active hydrologically and two only seasonal at best, making for a botanically diverse complex of near vertical habitats. Where water, to some degree is continually
present, indicator species such as common monkeyflower (Mimulus guttatus), hugging the moist ground and forming intricate mats of stolons tinted a reddish-purple, the ubiquitous duo of Pacific bog-rush (Juncus effusus var. pacificus) and brown bog rush (Juncus hesperius), one appearing to be a reduced facsimile of the other, paniced bulrush (Scirpus microcarpus) and wax myrtle (Myrica californica = Morella californica) create verdant backdrops of varying heights and profiles, while their mesic counterparts, poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum) and coast barberry (Berberis pinnata subsp. pinnata) offer the viewer fall tapestries threaded with varied patches of red, orange and purple. Giving muted contrast, with subtle shadings of gray and silver, California sagebrush (Artemisia californica) and California fescue (Festuca californica) define the west facing, species rich slopes where biodiversity runs rampant. A crossection of taxa inhabiting this wind-sculpted environment includes, near its summit, reduced in stature colonies of farewell-to-spring (Clarkia rubicunda), with thick stems and shortened internodes, basically hugging the terrain and covered with large flowers in shades of pink (whether this mode of growth is wholly environmental in response to the prevailing wind patterns or there is a genetic component involved is a project worth exploring); also sharing this exposed-to-the-elements abode are Franciscan coyote mint (Monardella villosa subsp. franciscana), seaside daisy (Erigeron glaucus), coastal rein orchid (Piperia elegans), Lindley's varied lupine (Lupinus varicolor), two sanicles, gambleweed (Sanicula cressicaulis) and footsteps-of-spring (Sanicula arctopoides), California plantain (Plantago erecta), tomatclover (Trifolium wildeonii), Indian paintbrush (Castilleja affinis subsp. affinis), rattlesnake weed (Daucus pusillus), white globe lily (Calochortus albus), California aster (Lessingia filaginifolia var. californica = Corethrogynne filaginifolia), Gianone's cudweed (Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov.), hairy honeysuckle (Lonicera hispidula), deerweed (Acmispon glaber..... prostrate coastal headlands form aka var. prostratus), ocean-bluff bluegrass (Poa unilatralis), sea lettuce (Dudleya caespitosa), oso berry (Oemleria cerasiformis), coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis, with subsp. pilularis and consanguinea both represented plus intergrades between the two) and cow-parsnip (Heracleum maximum). Deep within the arroyo bottom, rich in alluvium and not far from where it drains under Highway 1, a small colony of giant trillium (Trillium chloropetalum) was discovered in the late 1970s, displaying two distinct sympatric forms: form (a) had unsullied white petals, thin in texture while form (b) had rose-pink petals, also thin in texture, both types emitting a spicy scent reminiscent of cinnamon. This same combo was also found growing in the lower Gazos Creek riparian corridor (San Mateo County) along with the lemon-scented “albidum” taxon of Big Willow Gulch, but in true contrarian fashion, showing an ecological preference for the moist recesses above the dirt road, happily enseeded within a colony of bleeding heart (Dicentra formosa). Clinical studies need to be done, testing the connections between flower color, scent, pollinating vectors, sympatry and reproductive isolating mechanisms within the genus Trillium, and with perhaps more forms present within the Scotts Creek Watershed than any place else in Santa Cruz County, Swanton would be a good place to start!

Note: Grouped by families, the following list supplements the previously discussed native taxa, which have been documented/studied within the area defining the Morehus Arroyo watershed...... California coffeeberry (Frangula californica subsp. californica)..... Monterey pine (Pinus radiata)..... forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrizzy)..... bracken (Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens), Blasdale's bent grass (Agrostis blasdalei), western bent grass (Agrostis exarata var. monolepis), Hall's and leafy bent grass intergrades (Agrostis hallii/Agrostis pallens), Pacific reed grass (Calamagrostis nutkaensis), California wild rye (Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus), red fescue (Festuca rubra), foothill needlegrass (Nasella lepida), California canary grass (Phalaris californica)..... yarrow (Achillea millefolium), mugwort (Artemisia douglasiana), marsh baccharis (Baccharis
glutinosus), lizard tail (Eriophyllum stachadifolium), hirsute gumplant (Grindelia hirsutula sensu lato), sneezeweed (Helenium puberulum), pink everlasting (Pseudognaphali um ramosissimum). Canada goldenrod (Solidago elongata), California aster (Symphyotrichum chilense)..... wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca), California blackberry (Rubus ursinus)..... toad rush (Juncus bufonius)..... variable as to stature and inflorescence gestalt), Mexican rush (Juncus mexicanus sensu lato)..... several populations occur within this drainage system as well as neighboring ones, differing in stature, culm color and diameter, open or compact inflorescences, pale or dark perianth parts, length of mature perianth from base to apex but all having, in varying degrees, tortile and laterally compressed culms but without upper sheaths bearing blades), common rush (Juncus patens)..... Davy's centaury (Zeltnera davyi)..... dense sedge (Carex densa), slough sedge (Carex obnupta)..... straggly gooseberry (Ribes diversicatum var. pubiflorum)..... sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus)..... California poppy (Eschscholzia californica)..... willow herb (Epilobium ciliatum) sensu lato..... within the area under discussion, forms with condensed inflorescences and upper stem leaves little reduced = subsp. Watsonii and open inflorescences with reduced upper stem leaves = subsp. ciliatum, both occur)..... California figwort (Scrophularia californica subsp. californica)..... yerba buena (Satureja douglasii), California hedge-nettle (Stachys bullata).

Upon entering China Ladder Marsh, although relatively small in stature, definitely home to several species warranting consideration, both taxonomically and for potential horticultural merit. Often reaching 2+ meters in height and towering over the supporting vegetation, swamp hedge-nettle (Stachys chamissonis) with its cerise, 2-3 cm. long pendent tubular corollas, would provide a visually arresting accent to the wild garden, edging a seep or small stream. In this particular instance, an ideal companion and visual foil is also found growing within the marsh, namely Pacific reed grass (Calamagrostis nutkaensis), a long-lived stately native, nearing the southernmost edge of its range and offering multiple uses in the landscaper’s arsenal, including visual screening and erosion abatement. Two other attention getting “native” inhabitants of this isolated ecosystem perched on the ocean-facing edge of the prairie are Canada goldenrod (Solidago canadensis subsp. elongata = Solidago elongata) and the titan of docks, western dock (Rumex occidentalis), when seen growing together never failing to elicit a sense of awe, the golden plumes of the Solidago creating the perfect chromatic counterpoint to the physically imposing, circa 2+ meters in height, Rumex, with mature stems and inflorescences pigmented an intense psychedelic reddish-pink. Growing either as a monoculture or intermixed with the other botanical denizens of the marsh such as tussocks of slough sedge (Carex obnupta) with foliar margins emulating a newly minted bread knife and variable inflorescences exceeding 2 meters in height with spikelets either pendant or stiffly erect, giant chain fern (Woodwardia fimbriata) bringing a primeval element to the proceedings, salt rush (Juncus lesueurii) stands apart from its sympatric cespitose relatives, flaunting a rhizomatous growth habit and tortile, laterally compressed culms circa 1-2 meters in height..... within the marsh proper and the surrounding prairie, this taxon is represented by several phases, ranging from 30cm in height to 2m as found within the marsh itself and all forms have tortile, laterally compressed grass to dark green culms, some of which can exceed 6mm in diameter and generally lack leaf blades, with the inflorescences ranging from compact to open and multi-branched, perianth segments 4-6(+mm in length ..... this variable taxon appears to combine aspects of Juncus brevirei, Juncus lesueurii and Juncus mexicanus and warrants a study unto itself). Representing the cespitose contingent of the genus, both Pacific bog-rush (Juncus effusus var. pacificus) and brown bog-rush (Juncus hesperius) offer a verdant counterpoint to the autumnal shadings of reds and maroons which defines the scandent presence of the California blackberry (Rubus ursinus). Deep down within the human scale barrier of seemingly impenetrable marsh vegetation and out of view to
the indifferent passer-by, colonies of low club rush (*Scirpus cernuus = Isolepis cernua*), standing 5-8 centimeters tall in comparison with their gargantuan cousin slough sedge (*Carex aquatilis*), margin the edges of the invisible watercourse that threads its way through the gauntlet of rhizomes..... also sharing the moist crannies of this lilliputian world and sporting bilaterally symmetrical flowers, vibrant yellow in coloring and exuding a fragrance reminiscent of honey, is the common monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus var. grandis*). Securing the ocean facing edge of the marsh and forming a wind break from the everpresent northwesterlies, the intermeshing canopies of the arroyo willows (*Salix lasiolepis*), create an understory environment dictated by the dappled light and moisture retentive shaded zones marginaling the streamlets draining the marsh proper..... in this restrictive habitat, the light seeking stems of the *Stachys chamissonis* population can exceed 2.5 meters and share habitat with straggly gooseberry (*Ribes divaricatum var. pubiflorum*), marsh baccharis (*Baccharis glutinosa*), lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina var. cyclosorum*), water smartweed (*Persicaria punctata*), slender hairgrass (*Deschampsia elongata*) and Pacific oenanthe (*Oenanthe sarmentosa*). The northern portion of China Ladder Marsh experienced a major disturbance during the 2005 season, opening up this hitherto relatively unmolested and highly specialized environment to a reshuffling of native versus “introduced” components with some unforeseen and intriguing consequences: a species usually occurring as scattered individuals within a larger aggregation of moisture loving taxa, sneezeweed (*Helenium puberulum*), formed pure stands on the disturbed ground, showing an aesthetic potential for this overlooked and undervalued annual/biennial member of the Sunflower Family (*Asteraceae*), with upright posture, strongly decurrent leaves and well-presented globose, many-flowered heads. Also benefiting from and thriving in this scenario of disruption, two phases of western bent grass (*Agrostis exarata*), vigorous colonies of the awned form historically known as var. *monolepis*, co-existing and not forming intermediates with the locally uncommon awnless form, aff. var. *exarata*, presenting spikelets condensed into glomerate verticals, these decidedly separate, clearly showing off the main axis (rachis) of the inflorescence.

**Note:** The watershed defining China Ladder Gulch, of which China Ladder Marsh is a central component, contains a diverse assemblage of native plant life, some quite rare and in the case of the *Carex gianonei* complex, offering much material of interest in the study of this polyphyletic syngameon reflecting non-mendelian genetics..... here is an overview of the native taxa, grouped by familial alliances, that populate this drainage system, including its oceanside terminus: oracle oak (*Quercus x morphus*..... one sub-shrub, circa 30cm in heigh, growing on grassy knoll overlooking China Ladder Marsh, discovered 25 years ago and stature has remained constant, semi deciduous), forest live-oak (*Quercus parvula var. shrevei*..... Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*..... satellite population derived from ancient hybrid swarm between *Pinus attenuata* x *Pinus radiata*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii*..... red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*..... California coffeeberry (*Frangula californica* subsp. *californica*..... tinker’s penny (*Hypericum anagalloides*..... sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*..... poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*..... hoary nettle (*Urtica dioica* subsp. *holosericea*..... populations within China Ladder drainage system variable, with some displaying predominately stinging hairs on both stems and foliage = subsp. *gracilis* and others with soft, non-stinging hairs particularly on abaxial foliar surfaces = subsp. *holosericea*..... California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*..... yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis* subsp. *consanguinea*), California aster (*Corethrogyne filaginifolia var. *californica*), lizard tail (*Eriophyllum stachadifolium*), purple cudweed (*Ganochaeta ustulata*), Bioletti’s cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium bioletti*) California cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*), Gianone everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium gianonei*,)
pro sp. nov.), California aster (Symphyotrichum chilense) - bent grass (Agrostis hallii/pallens intergrades), California oat grass (Danthonia californica sensu lato), California wild rye (Elymus glaucus) - specimens growing on exposed bluffs overlooking Highway 1, compact with shorter awns and tending towards subsp. virens), California fescue (Festuca californica), red fescue (Festuca rubra), junegrass (Koeleria macrantha), Torrey's melic (Melica torreyana), foothill needlegrass (Nassella lepida = Stipa lepida), ocean-bluff bluegrass (Poa unilateralis subsp. unilateralis) - California plantain (Plantago erecta), American brooklime (Veronica americana) - Franciscan coyote mint (Monardella villosa subsp. franciscana), yerba buena (Satureja douglasii = Clinopodium douglasii), California hedge-nettle (Stachys bullata) - farewell-to-spring (Clarkia rubicunda) - reduced in stature coastal bluff form with large flowers), willow herb (Epilobium ciliatum subsp. ciliatum - one exceedingly robust specimen growing on western edge of marsh, 2 meters in height, inflorescence open with reduced leaves) - skunkweed (Navarretia squarrosa) - Indian paintbrush (Castilleja affinis subsp. affinis) - California maidenhair (Adiantum jordani) - goldback fern (Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis) - bracken (Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens) - wood fern (Dryopteris arguta) - toad rush (Juncus bufonius sensu lato), western rush (Juncus occidentalis), common rush (Juncus patens), brown-headed rush (Juncus phaeocephalus var. phaeocephalus) - few capitula each with numerous florets - broad-leaved cattail (Typha latifolia) - miniscule duckweed (Lemna minuscula), water fern (Azolla filiculoides) - rattlesnake weed (Daucus pusillus), floating pennywort (Hydrocotyle ranunculoides), footsteps-of-spring (Sanicula arctopoides), gambleweed (Sanicula crassicaulis) - short-stemmed sedge (Carex brevicaulis), small-bracted sedge (Carex subbracteata) - deerweed (Acmispon glaber var. glaber - prostrate, mat-forming coastal bluff ecotype), yellow bush lupine (Lupinus arboresus), arroyo lupine (Lupinus succulentus), Lindley's varied lupine (Lupinus varicolor) - sea lettuce (Dudleva caespitosa), coast buckwheat (Eriogonum nudum/latifolium intergrades) - shining willow (Salix lasiandra var. lasiandra) - wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca) - California poppy (Eschscholzia californica).

Returning to and approaching the northwesterly summit of Swanton Road, just below the Last Chance entrance, a near vertical tapestry of interdigitating shrubbery and herbaceous flora, comprising coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum), lizard tail (Erionychum stachadifolium), California figwort (Scrophularia californica - including one of three known specimens for the watershed, of the flavistic form, with greenish-yellow flowers), California manroot (Marah fabaceus), climbing bedstraw (Galium portuginum var. portuginum), California hedge-nettle (Stachys bullata), yerba buena (Satureja douglasii = Clinopodium douglasii), stinging phacelia (Phacelia malvifolia), wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca) and California brome (Bromus carinatus var. carinatus), a robust form with leaves 2+ cm. in diameter, compliment a long-established population of California horkelia (Horkelia californica subsp. californica). At least one plant of this sporadically occurring member of the Rose Family (Rosaceae) exceeded a meter in diameter and when last inspected, was welcoming the mutually beneficial ministrations of bumble-bees (genus Bombus).

In addition to the species already discussed, here are some others, briefly noted, that within this area, warrant further study: California oat grass (Danthonia californica sensu lato), yarrow (Achillea millefolium), checkerbloom (Sidalcea malvaeflora subsp. malvaeflora), skunkweed (Navarretia squarrosa), footsteps-of-spring (Sanicula arctopoides), wooly marbles (Psilocarphus tenellus var. tenellus), hirsute gumpaint (Grindelia hirsutula sensu lato), coast tarplant (Hemizonia corymbosa subsp. corymbosa = Deinandra corymbosa), blue dicks (Dichelostemma capitatum subsp. capitatum), California goldenrod (Solidago californica = Solidago velutina subsp. californica),
marsh baccharis (Baccharis douglasii = Baccharis glutinosa), and soap plant (Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum).

Note: select herbarium specimens of horticulturally meritorious, locally uncommon, rare county wide and agency listed species referred to in this section of the Traversal, collected and pressed, with noted exceptions, by Roy Buck and/or James West within the Scotts Creek Watershed and environs, then deposited in the Jepson Herbarium, U.C. Berkeley, are as follows:

Abronia latifolia/accession number SJSU10582/Coy, 10/04/70
Acaena pinnatifida var. californica/accession number JEPS82616/Buck & West #250
Agoseris apargioides var. eastwoodiae = Agoseris apargioides var. apargioides/accession number JEPS82557/West #167
Agrostis blasdalei/accession number JEPS82927/Buck & West #177
Agrostis blasdalei/accession number JEPS82924/Buck & West #178
Agrostis blasdalei/accession number JEPS83603/Buck & West #370
Agrostis blasdalei/accession number RSA502388/D.W. Taylor, Roy Buck, Jim West, Glenn Clifton, #9675, 05 22 1988
Agrostis blasdalei/accession number UCR70879/D.W. Taylor, Roy Buck, Jim West, Glenn Clifton, #9675, May 22, 1988
Agrostis, "Agrostis blasdalei x Agrostis exarata var. monolepis hybrid complex"/accession number JEPS81525/Roy E. Buck, James A. West and Tom Hawke #4, May 24 1982
Agrostis, aff. Agrostis blasdalei/accession number JEPS82929/West #271
Agrostis, aff. Agrostis blasdalei/accession number JEPS82830/West #270
Agrostis, aff. Agrostis blasdalei/accession number JEPS82931/West #269
Agrostis, aff. Agrostis blasdalei/accession number JEPS82932/West #268
Agrostis, aff. Agrostis blasdalei/accession number JEPS82933/West #266
Agrostis, aff. Agrostis blasdalei/accession number JEPS82934/West #266
Agrostis, aff. Agrostis blasdalei/accession number JEPS82935/West #266
Agrostis, aff. Agrostis blasdalei/accession number JEPS82938/West #262
Agrostis densiflora/accession number JEPS82925/Buck & West #179
Agrostis densiflora/accession number JEPS82937/West #263
Agrostis microphylla/accession number JEPS100279/Dean Wm. Taylor #9307, Aug 20 1987
Allium unifolium/accession number JEPS83120/Buck & West #328
Allium unifolium/accession number JEPS82582/West #118
Amelanchier utahensis/accession number JEPS81565/Buck & West #81
Berberis pinnata subsp. pinnata/accession number JEPS83474/Buck & West #473
Calamagrostis nutkaensis/accession number JEPS83103/Buck & West #457
Calochortus albus/accession number JEPS82618/Buck & West #248
Camissonia ovata/accession number JEPS81992/Buck & West #161
Cardionema ramosissima/accession number SJSU10202/Sharsmith #8783, May 15 1983
Carex densa/accession number SJSU10204/C.W. Sharsmith #8785, May 15 1983
Carex densa/accession number JEPS83083/West #367
Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS82956/West #46.1
Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS82940/West #16
Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS82941/Buck & West #17.1
Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS82942/Buck & West #19.1
Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS82943/Buck & West #22.1
Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS82951/West #35.1
Carex tumulicola/accession number JEPS82596/West #206
Carex tumulicola/accession number JEPS82607/West #212
Carex tumulicola/accession number JEPS85182/Buck & West #488
Carex tumulicola/accession number JEPS85185/Buck & West #490
Castilleja "sp"/accession number UCSC5621/Randall Morgan, Dec 8 1976
Castilleja exserta subsp. latifolia/accession number JEPS82594/West #165
Castilleja exserta subsp. latifolia/accession number UC1736314/Taylor #9580
Castilleja exserta subsp. latifolia/accession number UC1736279/Taylor #9666
Centaurium davyi = Zeltnera davyi/accession number JEPS81517/Buck & West #12
Centaurium davyi = Zeltnera davyi/accession number JEPS82575/Buck & West #140
Centaurium muehlenbergii = Zeltnera muehlenbergii/accession number JEPS83097/Buck & West #438
Centaurium floribundum = Zeltnera muehlenbergii/accession number JEPS82574/West #123.1
Centunculus minimus = Anagallis minima/accession number JEPS814941/Buck & West #45
Centunculus minimus = Anagallis minima/accession number SJSU10206/Sharsmith #8787
Clarkia prostrata/accession number JEPS83077/Buck & West #423
Clarkia prostrata/accession number JEPS82555/West #93
Clarkia prostrata/accession number JEPS81509/Buck & West #17
Clarkia prostrata/accession number JEPS83118/Buck & West #330
Clarkia purpurea subsp. purpurea/accession number JEPS81519/Buck & West #10
Clarkia purpurea subsp. purpurea/accession number JEPS81520/Buck & West #9
Clarkia purpurea subsp. purpurea/accession number JEPS82579/West #125
Clarkia purpurea subsp. purpurea/accession number JEPS83091/Buck & West #378
Corallorhiza maculata/accession number JEPS82633/Buck & West #229
Corallorhiza maculata/accession number JEPS82635/Buck & West #227
Crassula connata/accession number UCSC6147/R. Morgan, Apr 18 1986
Cryptantha clevelandii/accession number JEPS85187/Buck & West #493
Cryptantha clevelandii/accession number JEPS85192/Buck & West #518
Delphinium decorum subsp. decorum/accession number JEPS81984/Buck & West #185
Deschampsia cespitosa subsp. holciformis/accession number JEPS83108/Buck & West #350
Elymus glaucus subsp. virescens/accession number JEPS81505/Buck & West #21
Ericameria ericoides/accession number JEPS89555/Taylor #9308
Eriophyllum staechadifolium/accession number JEPS81488/Buck & West #60
Euphorbia spathulata/accession number JEPS82654/Buck & West #207
 Festuca roemeri/accession number JEPS82399/Buck & West #265
Filago californica/accession number JEPS81588/Buck & West #513
Fragaria vesca/accession number UC1543251/Nelson #598
Fritillaria affinis/accession number JEPS82022/Buck & West #190
Gaultheria shallon/accession number JEPS81981/Buck, West & Morgan #189
Gilia achilleifolia subsp. achilleifolia/accession number JEPS82761/West #60
Gilia achilleifolia subsp. achilleifolia/accession number JEPS82646/Buck & West #214
Gilia achilleifolia subsp. achilleifolia/accession number JEPS85190/Buck & West #515
Gilia clivorum/accession number JEPS82960/West #53.1
Gilia clivorum/accession number JEPS81535/Buck, West & Stone #463.1
Gilia clivorum/accession number JEPS81982/Buck, West & Morgan #187
Gnaphalium bicolor = Pseudognaphalium bioletti/accession number JEPS85162/Buck & West
Gnaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov. = Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS82653/Buck & West #206
Gnaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov. = Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS82801/Buck & West #293
Gnaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov. = Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS82802/Buck & West #293
Gnaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov. = Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS81533/Stone, Buck & West #461
Grindelia/accession number JEPS82624/Buck & West #241
Grindelia/accession number JEPS83128/Buck & West #352
Heterotheca sessiliflora subsp. bolanderi/accession number JEPS81545/Buck & West #111
Heterotheca sessiliflora subsp. bolanderi/accession number JEPS81546/Buck & West #110
Hordeum brachyantherum subsp. brachyantherum/accession number JEPS81515/Buck & West #14
Horkelia cuneata subsp. cuneata/accession number JEPS82781/Buck & West #323
Horkelia cuneata subsp. sericea/accession number JEPS82782/Buck & West #322
Hypericum anagalloides/accession number JEPS83112/Buck & West #346
Juncus hesperius x Juncus patens/accession number JEPS81543/Buck & West #114
Juncus hesperius x Juncus patens/accession number JEPS83075/Buck & West #407
Juncus mexicanus/accession number UCSC6016/R. Morgan, Apr 8 1982
Lasthenia californica/accession number JEPS82917/Buck & West #242
Linaria canadensis/accession number JEPS82661/Buck & West #268
Lotus formosissimus = Hosackia gracilis/accession number JEPS81916/Buck, West & Stone #199
Lotus heermannii var. orbicularis = Acmispon heermannii var. orbicularis/accession number JEPS83049/Buck & West #418
Lotus strigosus = Acmispon strigosus/accession number JEPS81917/Buck, West & Stone #198
Lotus wrangelianus = Acmispon wrangelianus/accession number JEPS82619/Buck & West #247
Melica torreyana/accession number SBBG95746/Keil #20630
Melica torreyana/accession number UCR67850/Keil #20630
Microseris paludosa/accession number JEPS82597/West #214
Microseris amphibolus/accession number JEPS82634/Buck & West #243
Microseris amphibolus/accession number UCSC4599/Randall Morgan, Apr 18 1986
Microseris paludosa/accession number JEPS82401/Buck & West #269
Minulus guttatus/accession number JEPS82966/West #79
Minulus guttatus/accession number JEPS82565/West #200
Minulus guttatus/accession number JEPS82564/West #201
Montia fontana/accession number JEPS89199/Buck & West #329
Navarretia atractyloides/accession number JEPS82577/West #163
Nemophila heterophylla = Nemophila aff. pulchella var. fremontii/accession number JEPS82017/Buck, West & Stone #191
Nemophila heterophylla = Nemophila aff. pulchella var. fremontii/accession number JEPS82573/Buck & West #208
Nemophila heterophylla = Nemophila aff. pulchella var. fremontii/accession number JEPS100958/Taylor #9652
Nemophila heterophylla = Nemophila aff. pulchella var. fremontii/accession number JEPS100959/Taylor #9653
Nemophila aff. pulchella var. fremontii/accession number JEPS82959/West #52.1
Nemophila aff. pulchella var. fremontii/accession number JEPS83082/West #335.1
Nemophila aff. pulchella var. fremontii/accession number JEPS82946/West #30.2
Nemophila aff. pulchella var. fremontii/accession number JEPS82949/West #33.2
Perideridia gairdneri subsp. gairdneri/accession number JEPS81492/Buck & West #56
Perideridia gairdneri subsp. gairdneri/accession number JEPS81491/Buck & West #57
Piperia elegans/accession number JEPS83102/Buck & West #456
Piperia elegans/accession number UCSC4562/Randall Morgan, Jan 1 1987
Piperia elegans/accession number UCSC4563/Randall Morgan, Jan 1 1987
Piperia michaelii/accession number JEPS81490/Buck & West #58
Piperia michaelii/accession number UCSC4679/Randall Morgan, Dec 30 1980
Piperia unalascensis/accession number JEPS81531/Stone #459
Plantago subnuda/accession number JEPS83094/Buck & West #395
Plantago erecta/accession number JEPS81987/Buck & West #184
Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus/accession number JEPS82766/West #69
Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus/accession number UC1561092/Taylor, Buck, West & Clifton #9651
Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus/accession number RSA502387/Taylor #9651
Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus/accession number UC1576781/Taylor #10193
Poa douglasii/accession number SJSU10473/S.C. Beedle #189, May 4 1964
Prunella vulgaris var. lanceolata/accession number JEPS83109/Buck & West #349
Pterostegia drymaroides/accession number JEPS 82620/Buck & West #246
Rumex occidentalis/accession number JEPS81577/Buck & West #105
Sagina decumbens subsp. occidentalis/accession number JEPS82623/Buck & West #243
Salix lasiolepis/accession number UC1736169/Taylor #10196
Salix scouleriana/accession number JEPS82637/Buck & West #225
Salvia columbariae/accession number JEPS81989/Buck & West #180
Salvia columbariae/accession number JEPS83124/Buck & West #357
Sidalcea malviflora var. celata/accession number UCSC5412/Randall Morgan, Jul 2 1999
Silene verecunda (subsp. verecunda)/accession number JEPS82771/Buck & West #43
Silene verecunda (subsp. verecunda)/accession number JEPS82615/Buck & West #251
Silene verecunda (subsp. verecunda)/accession number JEPS81534/Stone, Buck & West #462
Silene verecunda (subsp. verecunda)/accession number JEPS82662/Buck & West #262
Silene verecunda (subsp. verecunda)/accession number JEPS82663/Buck & West #262
Silene verecunda (subsp. verecunda)/accession number JEPS90792/Taylor #9617
Silene verecunda (subsp. verecunda)/accession number RSA502348/Taylor #9617
Silene verecunda (subsp. verecunda)/accession number JEPS97527/Stone #678
Silene verecunda (subsp. verecunda)/accession number JEPS82967/West #80
Solanum douglasii/accession number JEPS101222/Dean Wm. Taylor #10194, Mar 30 1989
Solidago canadensis subsp. elongata = Solidago elongata/accession number JEPS81556/Buck #106
Stachys ajugoides/accession number UCR67852/Keil #20594
Stachys chamissonis/accession number JEPS81507/Buck & West #16
Stachys chamissonis/accession number JEPS81508/Buck & West #16
Stebbinsoseris decipiens/accession number JEPS82648/Buck & West #211
Stebbinsoseris decipiens/accession number JEPS85645/Buck, West & Hawke #235
Stebbinsoseris decipiens/accession number JEPS82652/Buck, West & Hawke #235
Stebbinsoseris decipiens/accession number JEPS81532/Stone, Buck & West #460
Stebbinsoseris decipiens/accession number JEPS13995/Chambers #670
Stebbinsoseris decipiens/accession number UC1561075/Taylor, Buck, West & Clifton #9656

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Stebbinsoseris decipiens/accession number UCSC4622/Randall Morgan, Apr 18 1986
Trifolium “pseudo-barbigerum”/accession number JEPS85165/Buck & West #270
Trifolium “pseudo-barbigerum”/accession number JEPS85166/Buck & West #223
Trifolium wilddenovii/accession number JEPS82613/Buck & West #253
Trifolium wormskioldii/accession number JEPS83115/Buck & West #342
Triodanus biflora/accession number JEPS83122/Buck & West #374
Triteleia laxa/accession number JEPS83106/West #354
Triteleia laxa/accession number JEPS83117/West #331
Wyethia angustifolia/accession number JEPS82805/Buck & West #290

Last Chance Road to the Old Seaside Schoolhouse

Beginning our descent and looking eastward, we view the gauntlet of burl-forming manzanitas (Arctostaphylos crustacea, sensu lato) and knobcone pines (Pinus attenuata) which characterize the upper Schoolhouse Ridge/Seymore Hill complex, and experience the panoramic view of the watershed, its vastness and topographical complexity, giving one insight, an epiphany if you like, into the evolutionary dynamics, both geological and biological, which have given rise to the biodiversity that is the hallmark of this ecological “hot spot”!

The uppermost reaches of the Scotts Creek Watershed and its principal tributaries, center around Eagle Rock and the Locatelli/Lockheed Martin holdings, with their constituent drainages, namely Little Basin, Bannister and Bettencourt Gulches, plus the sources for the Mill, Big and Little Creek Watersheds. A number of rare, uncommon and/or sporadic in occurrence taxa have been documented for this infrequently studied area, some of which are: round-leaved hoita (Hoita orbicularis), California rose-bay (Rhododendron macrophyllum), canyon liveforever (Dudleya cymosa subsp. cymosa), false lupine (Thermopsis macrophylla var. macrophylla), Pacific marsh purslane (Ludwigia palustris), Harford’s melic (Melica harfordii), rush rose (Helianthemum scoparium), redwood penstemon (Keckiella corymbosa) and rough bent grass (Agrostis scabra).

The summit of the Seymore Hill is ringed with grasslands sheltering scattered clusters of California fuchsia (Epilobium canum), displaying cinereous foliage framing tubular scarlet flowers that glow like hidden caches of rubies when backlit by the setting sun. A quintet of Aster kin, punctuate the weathered mudstone and offer students of systematics and ecology a unique opportunity to study reproductive isolating strategies between sympatric related taxa: hirsute gumplant (Grindelia hirsutula var. hirsutula), a glandular ecotype of Bolander’s golden aster (Heterotheca sessiliflora subsp. bolanderi) which approaches ssp. echioides and exudes an odor of camphor...biochemically distinct from its coastal prairie analogue, California goldenrod (Solidago velutina subsp. californica), coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis) and California aster (Lessingia filaginifolia var. filaginifolia = Corethrogyne filaginifolia). Staying within the Asteraceae but belonging to the Sunflower Tribe (Heliantheae), an isolated colony of mules ears (Wyethia glabra) occupied a semi-sheltered niche just below the crest of the ridgetop and may have perished in the 2009 fire.... revisiting the area after the Spring(2010) rains may offer a more optimistic scenario but fortunately, collected seed from this lone local population has germinated and is growing up at the UCSC Arboretum.Two of the three documented clarkias for the immediate area manage to stake out territories along the wind-buffeted margin of the exposed ridge top: farewell-to-spring (Clarkia rubicunda) and four-spotted godetia (Clarkia purpurea subsp. quadrivulnera), the seeming fragility of their lilac/lavender flowers offset by the production of numerous capsules yielding
viable seed and remarkably stable population sizes. Responding to the prevailing winds out of the northwest, Spanish trefoil (Lotus purshianus var. purshianus = Acmispon americanus var. americanus), radically altered its erect-ascending mode of growth by lowering its profile and becoming a visually attractive mat and retaining this prostrate status when raised from seed elsewhere. Visually obscured by the burnished end-of-season tangle of grass stalks, harvest brodiaea (Brodiaea elegans subsp. elegans), a range extending species in need of further taxonomic clarification, leaves a trail of amethyst dust when viewed from afar, while Kellogg’s yampah (Perideridia kelloggii), the more common of the two species of this genus to be found within the watershed, plays sentinel to the proceedings.

Located between the uppermost limits of the Schoolhouse Ridge and the emergence of the “Chalks”, the Seymore Hill presents two radically differing profiles: facing eastward towards the upper Mill Creek Watershed and dropping off precipitously is an interrupted series of near-vertical grasslands. Finding sanctuary in this most precarious of habitats, the families Boraginaceae and Ranunculaceae contribute two members each---nievitas (Cryptantha flaccida), stems and calyces clothed with glistening encrusted trichomes and rusty popcorn-flower (Plagiobothrys nothofulvus), staining hands and herbarium sheets purple with anthocyanin colored sap, occupying separate niches from two sympatric species of Delphinium, western larkspur (Delphinium hesperium subsp. hesperium), extremely rare within the watershed and woodland larkspur (Delphinium patens subsp. patens), departing from the forma typica locally, with some plants pubescent not glabrous. Contrasting exerted reddish corollas with a densely cobwebby indument, Venus thistle (Cirsium occidentale var. venustum) makes scattered appearances, its sparsity offset by the Faberge indument, Venus t...

...an amazing assemblage of taxa, considering the entire area was burned in the 08/2009 Lockheed fire: Lathyrus vestitus sensu lato, Lotus humistratus, Lotus junceus var. juncceus, Lotus micranthus, Lotus purshianus var. purshianus, Lotus salsuginosus var. salsuginosus, Lotus scoparius, Lotus strigosus, Lotus wrangelianus, Lupinus albifrons var. albifrons, Lupinus bicolor, Lupinus latifolius var. latifolius, Lupinus nanus, Lupinus succulentus, Pickeringia montana var. montana, Trifolium albopurpureum var. albopurpureum, Trifolium ciliolatum, Trifolium gracilentum var. gracilentum, Trifolium microcephalum, Trifolium microdon, Trifolium wildenovii, Vicia americana var. americana..... Heracleum maximum, Osmorhiza berteroii, Sanicula arctopoides, Sanicula bipinnatifida, Sanicula crassicaulis, Sanicula Gianonei, pro.sp.nov., Sanicula “pseudo-laciniiata”..... Eriogonum nudum sensu lato, Pterostegia drymarioidei..... Achillea millefolium, Agoseris grandiflora, Anaphalis margaritacea, Anisocarpus madioides, Artemisia douglasiana, Baccharis pilularis, Cirsium occidentale var. venustum, Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum, Gamochaeta ustulata, Grindelia hirsutula var. hirsutula, Madia gracilis, Madia sativa, Malacothrix floccifera, Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum, Rafinesquia californica, Solidago velutina subsp. californica, Symphyotrichum chilense, Uropappus lindleyi..... Delphinium
hesperium subsp. hesperium, Delphinium patens..... Castilleja affinis subsp. affinis, Castilleja foliolosa..... Polygala californica..... Galium californicum subsp. californicum, Galium porrigens var. porrigens..... Adiantum jordanii, Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis..... Polypodium californicum..... Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens..... Dryopteris arguta..... Toxicodendron diversilobum..... Sequoia sempervirens..... Pinus attenuata, Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii..... Marah fabaceus..... Caulanthus lasiophyllus, Thysanocarpus curvipes..... Bromus carinatus var. carinatus, Calamagrostis rubescens, Melica californica, Melica torreyana, Nassella lepida, Poa howellii..... Arbutus menziesii, Arctostaphylos crustacea sensu lato, Vaccinium ovatum..... Oxalis strictifolia subsp. pilosa..... Mimulus aurantiacus..... Iris douglasiana, Sisyrinchium bellum..... Umbellularia californica..... Chrysolepis chrysophylla var. minor, Quercus agrifolia, Quercus chrysolepis..... Adenostoma fasciculatum, Fragaria vesca, Heteromeles arbutifolia, Rosa spithamea (NEW ADDITION TO WATERSHED’S NATIVE SPECIES ROSTER..... grown within exposed ridgetop/chaparral interface, dwarf stature circa 30cm in heigh, rhizomatous, stems prickles straight and viniferous in coloration, hypanthium clothed with stalked glands, sepals persistent and pistils 10+ ), Rubus ursinus..... Verbena lasiostachys var. lasiostachys..... Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis..... Camissonia ovata, Clarkia rubicunda..... Monardella villosa sensu lato, Satureja douglasii, Stachys ajugoides var. rigida, Stachys bullata..... Salanum umbelliferum..... Carex tumulicola..... Juncus patens..... Toxicoscordion fremontii, Trillium chloropetalum, Trillium ovatum..... Smilacina stellata..... Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum..... Cryptantha clevelandii, Cryptantha micromeres..... Emmanenthe penduliflora, Eriodictyon californicum, Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora, Plagiobothrys nothofolius..... Antirrhinum kelloggii..... Euphorbia crenulata..... Dendromecon rigida, Eschscholzia californica..... Urtica dioica subsp. holosericea..... Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata..... Calochortus albus..... Dickostemma capitatum subsp. capitatum..... Gilia achilleifolia sensu lato, Leptosiphon androsaceus..... Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata..... Scrophularia californica subsp. californica..... Frangula californica subsp. californica..... Lithophragma heterophyllum..... and Lonicera hispidula.

Separating the Seymour Field from the Mill Creek riparian corridor is an intricate series of south-facing ridges, their intervening gulches ultimately draining down into Mill Creek. Basically comprising large expanses of weathered and fractured mudstone, this is an arid environment to be sure, but nonetheless home to extensive populations of a polymorphic tetraploid burl-forming manzanita complex (Arctostaphylos crustacea, sensu lato) and endemic to the watershed, the diploid non-burl forming Schreiber’s manzanita (Arctostaphylos glutinosa). To demonstrate that with the “Arctos”, what you see is not necessarily what you get (this caveat also applies to local members of the genus Carex as well), I will recount an experience with a “burl-forming” component of this particular manzanita population that took place some twenty-five years ago. While exploring this exposed ridge top and scanning the near-vertical slopes trailing off beneath my feet, three mature “arctos” caught my eye, standing out from the rest of their brethren with the following two distinguishing characteristics: the circa 1.5 meters wide x 2 meters high shrubs possessed stems colored a tannish-brown rather than the conspicuously darker reddish-brown of the general population and the smallish lanceolate-ovate shaped leaves were a vibrant grass-green, contrasting with the darker and often duller foliage of their neighboring relatives. Working my way down to examine these “stand-outs” a third factor came into play, namely when the adaxial surfaces of the leaves were viewed under a hand-lens, a scattering of stomata could be seen, albeit far fewer than what existed on the abaxial sides. A well-rooted lower branch from one of the specimens was excised and dispatched to a private botanical garden where it thrived, morphing during its third year of residency into something quite different in gestalt,
compared to its in situ origins--- the leaves had trebled in size and were conspicuously auriculate/cordate at base! Representing a family and genus well distributed throughout the watershed, woolly Indian paintbrush (Castilleja foliolosa) lays claim to the upper reaches of the chaparral (generally growing in association with Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum), and the specimens growing in amongst the manzanitas on this particular ridge were producing yellow pigmented inflorescences. Of major biogeographical interest, considering the fact that most, if not all, of the upper watershed’s populations of Arctostaphylos glutinosa were destroyed by the 2009 Lockheed Fire..... an isolated population of this rare endemic manzanita, occurs across Scotts Creek, on a southern facing ridge-top which initiates the Laird Gulch drainage system. Sharing this isolated portion Lower Last Chance Ridge chaparral, with its interdigitating oak/conifer woodlands, are two equally rare but for differing reasons, native taxa..... Hoffmann’s sanicle (Sanicula hoffmannii), disjunct populations of a species originally described from coastal San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties and the locally distinctive stipulate trefoil (Lotus stipularis var. stipularis), which is densely clothed with basalmic-scented glandular trichomes and historically in the literature, has been referred to as Lotus balsamifera (Kell.) Greene. The fire of 2009 had a major impact, population wise, on another even rarer endemic manzanita...... namely, Arctostaphylos ohloneana M.C. Vasey & V.T. Parker. This recently discovered and described non-burl former, had its main population centered within the Boyer Creek Dam area, which took a major hit from the fire. Like its sister endemic, Arctostaphylos glutinosa, a disjunct population exists.... in this case, the upper reaches of the Bannister Gulch sub-watershed!!!

During 07/2010, I revisited the arid expanse of mudstone separating the upper Seymore Field from the Mill Creek Watershed proper on three separate occasions and was pleasantly surprised to find, that 10-20% of the Schreiber’s manzanita population (Arctostaphylos glutinosa) occupying that area had survived the 2009 Lockheed Fire, either wholly intact or where sections of the cambium was spared, producing vigorous new growth surrounded by charred and non-viable branches..... also present, were scattered seedlings of this localized endemic, having germinated in the mudstone fragments with taproots circa 7cm deep and aerial stems of comparable heigh, already displaying a tendency for basal branching, with stems and petioles clothed with gland-tipped trichomes (note: the aridity of the habitat and intense late summer heat, one year post 2009 lockheed Fire, impacted the nascent population, resulting in substantial seedling mortality). The Arctostaphylos glutinosa populations on this isolated ridge, lacking a basal burl and being obligate seeders, present an interesting gene flow scenario..... with the surviving specimens referencing one (persisting) genetic pattern and the seedling recruitment, representing a new resegregation of the parental genotype. The post fire "natives" sharing this exposed, minimalist environment constitute a botanical mosaic of extremes...... a juxtaposing of the common with the rarely seen, and in the case of the latter, usually only after a major fire, the last being in 1948. Here is a preliminary inventory of what has flourished in this lunar landscape, following the mild but protracted rainy season of 2010: rayless arnica (Arnica discoidea), slender fescue (Vulpia octoflora), wooly malacothrix (Malacothrix floccifera), whispering bells (Emmenanthe penduliflora), bird’s-foot fern (Pellaea mucronata var. mucronata), Cleveland’s cryptantha (Cryptantha clevelandii), minute-flowered cryptantha (Cryptantha micromeres), bush poppy (Dendromecon rigida), twining snapdragon (Antirrhinum kelloggii), California mustard (Caulanthus lasiophyllus), rush trefoil (Acmispon junceus sensu lato), California huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum), canyon live-oak (Quercus chrysolepis), chamise (Adenostema fasciculatum), brittle-leaf manzanita (Arctostaphylos crustacea sensu lato), deerweed (Acmispon glaber var. glaber), woolly Indian paintbrush (Castilleja foliolosa), sleepy catchfly (Silene
.... observed sharing this habitat, was Silene multinervia, new for the watershed and considered a native taxon in the Jepson Manual, 1993, but now considered conspecific with Silene coniflora, a taxon naturalized in California), rush rose (Helianthemum scoparium), morning glory (Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata), Brewer’s calandrina (Calandrina breweri), blue toadflax (Linaria canadensis), knobcone pine (Pinus attenuata), golden yarrow (Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum) and stephanomeria (Stephanomeria aff. clata.... some plants 1.5+ meters high x 1 meter wide overall, flowering branches wand-like and spreading between 45 and 90 degrees from main axis, florets 9+, calyculi with apices spreading/reflexed, cypselae 3-4 mm in length with faces tuberculate and grooved logitudinally, pappus plumose throughout). Other native taxa growing sympatrically with the emergent fire-followers, are as follows: Bioletti’s cudweed (Pseudognaphalium biolettii), California cudweed (Pseudognaphalium californicum), pink everlasting (Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum), California poppy (Eschscholzia californica), yerbs santa (Eriodictyon californicum), California bedstraw (Galium californicum subsp. californicum .... forming cespitose tufts on the exposed fractured mudstone and clothed with stiffer trichomes than forms found further down the ridge growing in the mixed conifer/hardwood understory, climbing bedstraw (Galium porrigens var. porrigens), toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia), Pacific madrone (Arbutus menziesii), sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), sea lettuce (Dudleya caespitosa.... its roots embedded within small fractures of the exposed mudstone, this population may be the watershed’s furthest inland population, for this complex, polyphyletic/polyploid taxon..... the majority of the colony, have rosettes with chalky leaves and the apices of the unopened corollas, have a reddish-orange blush, which contrasts with the darker yellow corolla proper and anthocyanic tinted stems), blue blossom (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus...... a copious reseeder following 2009 fire), Torrey’s melic (Melica torreyana), small-flowered trefoil (Acmispon parviflorus) and minute willow herb (Epilobium minutum..... leaves plane not folded along midrib, seeds circa 1mm), also within this relatively narrow zone, ascending from the riparian to chaparral, two other species of Epilobium occur: namely, panicked willow herb (Epilobium brachycarpum) and willow herb (Epilobium ciliatum subsp. ciliatum).

Topographically complex and botanically diverse, the Scotts Creek aspect of the Seymore Hill is bounded by a series of interrupted, asymmetrical grasslands, flanked and bisected lengthwise by Bettencourt and Calf Gulches, and margined by a mosaic of mixed evergreen/coniferous stands and disjunct manzanita populations. Within an area circa 300 meters x 50 meters, aligned along a north/south axis and abutting the source of Calf Gulch, four valid and two recognized but unpublished taxa within the genus Sanicula (family Apiaceae) have been documented. Growing vertically on a grassy slope and sympatrically with but reproductively isolated from the common gambleweed (Sanicula crassicaulis), is Sanicula “pseudo-laciniata”, differing consistently from Sanicula crassicaulis sensu strictu, in foliar morphology, the possession of bright clear-yellow flowers with large like-colored conspicuously exerted anthers and a distinct chemical signature. Occupying a transitional zone between the exposed, more mesic slopes and oak woodland, footsteps-of-spring (Sanicula arctopoides) and purple sanicle (Sanicula bipinnatifida) are often obscured from direct viewing by the competing grasses. Located deep within the oak understory, where light is subdued and less moisture is given up due to the actions of sun and wind, the rare Hoffmann’s sanicle (Sanicula hoffmannii) shares its domain with the common yet new to science Gianone’s sanicle (Sanicula gianonei, pro. sp. nov.). Within the watershed, purple sanicle (Sanicula bipinnatifida) occasionally produces plants with yellow flowers and regardless of floral coloration, the stems when broken and the oozing sap exposed to air, turns milky-white in color, a distinctive characteristic it shares with close relative, Hoffmann’s sanicle
Staying within and adjacent to the “Sanicula Rectangle”, several “pairs” of related species have been observed, these juxtapositions rarely or never encountered elsewhere within the watershed. Sharing a narrow near-perpendicular exposure of moss-bedecked mudstone, woodland star (*Lithophragma affine*) and hill star (*Lithophragma heterophyllum*) grow overlooking the steep and tortuous drop characterizing the upper reach of Calf Gulch..... also choosing to colonize this moisture-retentive “micro habitat”, is a locally uncommon, reduced in stature component of the *Mimulus guttatus* complex, with fugacious cleistogamous flowers readily passing for pale yellow miniaturized sausage casings (JEPS82565/WEST#200). Cloistered within the upper recesses of this “pinched off” nascent gulch, which rapidly in its precipitous descent evolves into a hydrologically active sub-watershed, is an extensive colony of crinkle-awn fescue (*Festuca subuliflora*)..... its inflorescences, delicate traceries hovering in midair, appear detached from foliage and rhizomes anchored to near-vertical slopes. Preferring the open and consequently far drier vertical grassland habitat, purple godetia (*Clarkia purpurea* subsp. *purpurea*) and four-spotted godetia (*Clarkia purpurea* subsp. *quadriovulnera*) represent two extremes in population demographics, subsp. *purpurea* being rare or extirpated throughout its known range and subsp. *quadriovulnera*, widespread, extremely variable and as to status, common. Sharing this open grassland but choosing a considerably more horizontal perspective, another locally uncommon species, valley tassels (*Castilleja attenuata*), was documented for the watershed in 1983 as *Orthocarpus attenuatus*, a pressing deposited in the Jepson Herbarium at UC Berkeley and as of 04/03/10, is still a viable population. A variation on the *Clarkia purpurea* paradigm is the relatively common/rare pairing of slender cottonweed (*Micropus californicus* var. *californicus*) and green cottonweed (*Micropus californicus* var. *subvestitus*). Growing sympatrically with purple godetia (*Clarkia purpurea* subsp. *purpurea*) and documented by herbarium pressings, green cottonweed (*Micropus californicus* var. *subvestitus*) has not been placed elsewhere in Santa Cruz County! If two rare taxa sharing the same localized niche isn’t intriguing enough, the more frequently encountered slender cottonweed (*Micropus californicus* var. *californicus*) was discovered circa 300 meters lower down the slope overlooking a transversely cut roadbed, which formerly descended into the depths of Bettencourt Gulch and provided habitat by way of another narrowly delimited grassland edge for the hopefully settled from a taxonomic perspective, San Francisco popcorn-flower (*Plagiobothrys diffusus*) and favoring moisture-retentive pockets roadside, our very own FSC/1B listed Santa Cruz clover (*Trifolium buckwestiorum*)! Further up the ridge and growing on a brush and oak shaded slope overlooking a rotational slump/pull apart landslide derived semilunate depression known as the “Bowl”, the only validated population for the Swanton area of honey-scented navarretia (*Navarretia mellita*) was discovered in the 1970’s: a widespread and relatively common species elsewhere but not, to date, in the Scotts Creek Watershed. A recently bulldozed access road, circa 2008, paralleling and overlooking this area of considerable geomorphic interest, in the process of cutting through the chaparral duff and exposing a considerable amount of bare mineral soil, stimulated the germination of several “fire-following” species, encountered only sporadically in the senescent chaparral. In the process of disturbing the 60+ years of accumulated organic debris and exposing dormant seed beds to the pulverized shale, a scenario analogous to a fire disturbance regime took place....with the embankments and road bed displaying extensive populations of Brewer’s calandrina (*Calandrinia breweri*), California mustard (*Guillenia lasiophylla* var. *lasiophylla* = *Caulanthus lasiophyllus*), with some individuals 2 meters in height, vigorous sympatric colonies of Cleveland’s cryptantha (*Cryptantha clevelandii*) and minute-flowered cryptantha (*Cryptantha micromeres*), the visually cryptic twining snapdragon (*Antirrhinum kelloggii*), with violet-purple
flowers attached to thread-like elongated pedicels, giving the flowers an impression of being suspended in mid-air, plus scattered tufts of slender fescue (Vulpia octoflora) sharing a horizontal alignment with miniature lupine (Lupinus bicolor) and rancheria clover (Trifolium albopurpureum var. albopurpureum) and making a not totally unexpected appearance, one plant of honey-scented navarretia (Navarretia mellita)!!. Returning to the aforementioned “vertical grasslands”, this one located nearer to the summit of the Seymore Hill, two sister species of Agoseris occur, their differences manifested in growth habits and conspicuously dissimilar presentation of the mature flower heads and achene morphologies: mountain dandelion (Agoseris grandiflora), a robust perennial with stout naked stems supporting the outsized fruiting heads looking ever so much like an aggregation of snowflakes held high above the surrounding grasses and annual agoseris (Agoseris heterophylla), a diminutive and delicate annual, usually overtopped by the competing seasonal vegetation and possessing polymorphic achenes, variable both as to color, tan through white and purple, and structure, ribbed or inflated.

Calf Gulch is a complex bifurcate drainage system with several ancillary gulchlets feeding into it..... beginning near the summit of the Seymore Hill and ultimately emptying into Scotts Creek. Like its oceanside analog, Big Willow Gulch, what it lacks in length is compensated for by a complex topography, much of which is vertical in orientation. While the final count for native species has yet to be achieved, the current (04/2010) in situ documentation, strongly suggests a biodiversity comparable to that found within the Big Willow Gulch. Here is a preliminary (post 2009 Lockheed Fire) inventory, grouped by familial affinities, of the native plant taxa found within the Calf Gulch subwatershed: Arbutus menziesii, Arctostaphylos crustacea sensu lato, Vaccinium ovatum..... Amsinckia menziesii var. intermedia, Cryptantha clevelandii, Cryptantha micromera, Cynoglossum grande, Eriodictyon californicum, Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora, Phacelia malvifolia..... Notholithocarpus densiflorus var. densiflorus, Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia, Quercus x chasei, Quercus parvula var. shrevei..... Pinus attenuata, Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii..... Bowlesia incana, Daucus pusillus, Heracleum maximum, Osmorhiza berteroii, Perideridia kelloggii, Sanicula arctopoides, Sanicula bipinnatifida, Sanicula cassinicaulis, Sanicula gianonei, pro.sp.nov., Sanicula hoffmannii, Sanicula “pseudo-lacinia”..... Equisetum telmateia subsp. braunii..... Athyrium filix-femina var. cyclocorum, Dryopteris arguta, Polystichum munitum, Polypodium calhiza, Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens, Adiantum jordanii, Woodwardia fimbriata, Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis..... Sequoia sempervirens..... Umbellularia californica..... Calystraea purpurata subsp. purpurata, Dichondra donnelliana (stems 2+ mm in diameter, growing in lower portion of gulch where meadow interfaces with redwood groves as per Seymour Field population)..... Lathyrus vestitus sensu latu, Lotus junci, Lotus micranthus, Lotus scoparius var. scoparius, Lotus strigosus, Lotus wrangelianus, Lupinus bicolor, Lupinus nanus, Trifolium barbigerum var. barbigerum, Trifolium buckwesterorum, Trifolium microcephalum, Trifolium microdon, Trifolium oliganthum, Trifolium aff. variegatum (plants growing in lower section of gulch, in open meadow, reduced in stature with involucre cut 1/2-3/4 to base, calyx lobes longer than tube, entire and not splitting as fruit matures), Trifolium willdenovii..... Acer negundo var. californicum..... Toxicodendron diversilobum..... Verbena lasiostachys var. lasiostachys.... Adenocaulon bicolor, Anisocarpus madioides, Artemisia douglasiana, Baccharis pilularis, Cirsium brevistylum, Deinandra corymbosa, Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum, Eurybia radulina, Gamochaeta ustulata, Hieracium albilorum, Layia platyglossa, Madia gracilis (gland-tipped trichomes from midway up stem to apex of inflorescence emitting a cherry-syrup scent), Madia sativa (clothed with gland-tipped trichomes from near base of stem..... scent varies between different populations and may

Demarcated by Last Chance Road, Laird Gulch, the Scotts Creek riparian corridor and Gianone Barn Gulch, a series of hydrologically active, landslide derived “marshes”, beginning topographically at Beaver Flat and terminating with Marti’s Park, act as repositories for rare, often localized species. Associated with old bogs and marsh-like habitats, Hall’s willow herb (*Epilobium hallianum*), a locally rare turion-forming species, was discovered in Beaver Flat in the mid-1970s. Growing sympatrically with two relatives, willow herb (*Epilobium ciliatum subsp. ciliatum*), with some plants tending towards *subsp. watsonii*) and dense-flowered boisduvalia (*Epilobium densiflorum*), this serendipitous discovery was documented with several pressings that now reside in the Jepson Herbarium at UC Berkeley. Gaining structural support from the sympatric poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), an isolated colony of California fescue (*Elymus californicus*) with flowering culms approaching 2.5 meters in height, thrives upslope in a more mesic environment.... while tracing the perennial streamlet that defines the marsh proper, two robust forms of western bent grass (*Agrostis exarata*) co-exist: a distinctly verticillate form lacking awns, secures the upper reaches and its mirror albeit awned twin, has established itself down in the bottoms.... whether these two morphologically self-maintaining taxa are reproductively isolated, is a subject worth exploring!!! Growing under three different ecological regimes, albeit proximal to each other, the genus *Triteleia* diversifies in this secluded environment: when studied at length and in depth during the 1970s, white brodiaea (*Triteleia hyacinthina*) occupied the lower and wettest part of the “marsh”, while Ithuriel’s spear (*Triteleia laxa*) chose the higher and drier grasslands overlooking the wet zone and staking out the middle ground, growing up out of a patch of California blackberries (*Rubus ursinus*), was a small colony of golden brodiaea...
(Triteleia ixioides subsp. ixioides). Favoring long established "ancient" marshes, the locally uncommon trifid bedstraw (Galium trifidum var. pacificum) makes its home growing up through old expansive clumps of Juncus effusus var. pacificus, its root systems secure from seasonal hydrological changes and its scendent stems protected from herbivory. Scattered throughout the marsh proper and its periphery are colonies of Gianone sedge (Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov.), while growing more or less restricted to the marsh’s lower east-facing section, are individual plants of the "imperfecta" phase. Growing in a seasonally wet pond at the head of Beaver Flat within a dense colony of common spikerush (Eleocharis macrostachya), two county-wide rarities were observed and documented, namely narrow canary grass (Phalaris angusta) and smooth goldfields (Lasthenia glaberrima). Several decades ago, the decidedly uncommon western inflated sedge (Carex vesicaria var. major = Carex exsiccat a) was found, both in this seasonal pond draining into Beaver Flat and along the east facing edge of Last Chance Lagoon..... recent efforts to rediscover both populations have resulted in failure! Two monocots not found elsewhere within the watershed were also studied, pressed and dispatched to the Jepson, the duo being annual hairgrass (Deschampsia danthonioides) and what appears to be an isolated colony of slender rush (Juncus tenuis), specimens pressed and deposited in the Jepson Herbarium, U.C. Berkeley (accession number JEPS82593, James A. West, 101, May 26 1983)....this distinctive taxon, which consistently displays a very open inflorescence, not unlike that of Juncus tenuis, may in fact be an extreme local phase of western rush (Juncus occidentalis)..... as of 07/09, a sexually reproducing sub-population of this taxon still exists and select plants have been collected and are being raised at the UCSC Arboretum for study. Two members of the common monkeyflower complex (Minulus guttatus, var. guttatus and var. arvensis) grew sympatrically without displaying any signs of intermediacy..... (note: the var. arvensis is inodorus and this trait, in conjuction with differences in the patterning of the lower corolla lip and whether the palate creates an open or nearly closed throat, could be the mechanism(s) maintaining the reproductive isolation between the two sympatric varieties)..... while threading their way through the basal seepage, extensive colonies of artist’s popcorn-flower (Plagiobothrys chorizianus var. chorizianus) luxuriated, carpeting the wet spots and perfuming the surrounding area with fragrant white and yellow flowers and virtually invisible due to its diminutive stature, timwort (Cicendia quadrangularis) would pass unnoticed, were it not for the eye-catching cruciferous yellow corollas, acting as points of light against the verdancy of the peripheral grassland but even more inconspicuous, is chaffweed (Anagallis minima), recently removed from Primulaceae and nested within the Myrsinaceae.

Laird Gulch, like several other morphologically complex sub-watersheds draining into Scotts Creek, can be viewed as a "living laboratory": where the adaptive plasticity of residing taxa and extremes of habitat available within a confined zone, interact to produce ecotypes of the same species varying widely in gestals. A cogent example is found in two forms of the coast redwood (Sequoia semperevirens)..... the forma typica residing deep within the gulch bottom and adjacent forested slopes, while the golden-hued reduced-in-stature chaparral form exists in a markedly xeric and exposed environment, which it shares with knobcone pine (Pinus attenuata), hairy manzanita (Arctostaphylos crustacea sensu lato), Schreiber's manzanita (Arctostaphylos glutinosa..... disjunct population which survived 2009 Lockheed Fire), California huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum..... another taxon, like the redwood, adapting to habitat extremes), chaparral pea (Pickeringia montana var. montana), chamise (Adenostoma fasciculatum), toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia), canyon live-oak (Quercus chrysolepis), forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei), golden chinquapin (Chrysolepis chrysophylla var. minor), Pacific madrone (Arbutus menziesii), Bioletti's trefoil (Lotus junceus var. biolettii..... variable as to length of peduncle) and stipulate
trefoil (Lotus stipularis).... isolated populations are uniformly clothed with resinous glands, sweetly fragrant and possibly referable to Lotus balsamiferus (Kell.)Greene. Due to the near vertical topography which defines much of this drainage system, a full accounting of all “native” taxa residing within its mapped boundaries may never be fully realized but the following species list, grouped by familial affinities, sets the groundwork/creates a baseline for future such endeavors: California brome (Bromus carinatus var. carinatus), nodding brome (Bromus vulgaris), pine grass (Calamagrostis rubescens), California bottlebrush grass (Elymus californica), California wild rye (Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus), California fescue (Festuca californica), western fescue (Festuca occidentalis), crinkle-awn fescue (Festuca subuliflora), vanilla grass (Hierochloe occidentalis), Alaska onion grass (Melica subulata), Torrey’s melic (Melica torreyana), California canary grass (Phalaris californica), Howell’s bluegrass (Pea howellii), tall trisetum (Trisetum canescens).... chamise (Adenostoma fasciculatum), western lady’s mantle (Aphanes occidentalis), wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca), toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia), ocean spray (Holodiscus discolor), wood rose (Rosa gymnocarpa), black-cap raspberry (Rubus leucodermis), thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus), California blackberry (Rubus ursinus).... pitcher sage (Lepechinia calycina), coyote mint (Monardella villosa sensu lato), populations variable, ranging from subsp. villosa thru subsp. franciscana), yerba buena (Satureja douglasii), California hedge-nettle (Stachys bullata).... yarrow (Achillea millefolium), trail plant (Adenocaulon bicolor), mountain dandelion (Agoseris grandiflora), woodland madia (Anisocarpus madioides), mugwort (Artemisia douglasiana), coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), Indian thistle (Cirsium brevistylum), golden yarrow (Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum), broad-leaved aster (Eurybia radulina), purple cudweed (Camachaeta ustulata), white hawkweed (Hieracium albiglorum), California cudweed (Pseudognaphalium californicum), pink everlasting (Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum), woolly marbles (Psilocarphus tenellus var. tenellus), California chicory (Rafinesquia californica).... cowparsnip (Heracleum maximum), sweet cicely (Osmorhiza berteri), gambleweed (Sanicula crassicalis), Gianone sanicle (Sanicula gianonei, pro sp. nov.), Hoffmann’s sanicle (Sanicula hoffmannii).... baneberry (Actaea rubra), pipestems (Clematis lasiantha).... California bay laurel (Umbellularia californica).... California nutmeg (Torreya californica).... bush poppy (Dendromecon rigida).... Pacific starflower (Trientalis latifolia).... morning glory (Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata).... Douglas’s nightshade (Solanum douglasii), blue witch (Solanum umbelliferum).... brown bog-rush (Juncus hesperus), common rush (Juncus patens), common wood rush (Luzula comosa).... Pacific pea (Lathyrus vestitus sensu lato), rush trefoil (Lotus juncus sensu lato).... erect to prostrate in mode of growth, with peduncles abbreviated to conspicuously elongate, small-flowered trefoil (Lotus micranthus), deerweed (Lotus scoparius var. scoparius), stipulate trefoil (Lotus stipularis, aff. Lotus balsamiferus), strigose trefoil (Lotus strigosus), chaparral pea (Pickeringia montana var. montana), few-flowered clover (Trifolium oliganthum), American vetch (Vicia americana var. americana), giant vetch (Vicia gigantea), Hasse’s vetch (Vicia hassei).... golden chinquapin (Chrysolepis chrysophylla var. minor), tan-oak (Notholithocarpus densiflorus var. densiflorus), coast live-oak (Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia), canyon live-oak (Quercus chrysolepis), forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei).... bracken (Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens).... lady fern (Athyrium filix-femina var. cyclosorum), wood fern (Dryopteris arguta), western sword fern (Polystichum munitum).... five-finger fern (Adiantum aleuticum), goldback fern (Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis).... deer fern (Blechnum spicant), giant chain fern (Woodwardia fimbriata)....nested polyody (Polypodium calihriza).... growing as an epiphyte, with lowermost 1-3 sets of pinna shorter than succeeding ones).... giant horsetail (Equisetum telmateia subsp. braunii).... knobcone pine (Pinus attenuata), Monterey pine (Pinus radiata).... reflecting the Pinus attenuata gestalt in branching pattern, open gray-green needle morphology and often angled umbo, the Last Chance Ridge populations may be closer to the original primary cross, with

**note:** streamside in the lower portion of Laird Gulch, the following six species of ferns were observed growing sympatrically within a three square meter area, deer fern (*Blechnum spicant*), giant chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*), lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina* var. *cyclosum*), five-finger fern (*Adiantum aleuticum*), wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*), and western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*).

**note:** regarding the two ecotypes of *Sequoia sempervirens* occurring within the Laird Gulch sub-watershed, the following studies could be initiated: (1) Study the second growth populations within the canyon bottoms and determine if the ploidy levels are hexaploid and
compare with the reduced-in-stature unharvested chaparral ecotype (technically old growth, at least in origin and age if not stature) and see if those populations are triploid (n=33), (2) where these two putatively different, *both in ecological preferences and ploidy levels*, populations are proximal to each other, *are there any reproductive barriers preventing gene exchange?*, (3) what are the evolutionary implications in terms of population variability and the subsequent tolerance/adaptive capabilities of the offspring from this theoretical gene exchange relative to future challenges such as global warming? and (4) are the post 2009 Lockheed Fire chaparral populations of *Sequoia sempervirens*, growing in the transitional zone between the Seymore Hill, upper Bettencourt Gulch and the “chalks” and *vigorously coppicing*, converted to hexaploid status or are they, in part due to the 1948 fire, resprounting second growth?

Viewed from an aerial perspective, West’s Spring and Marti’s Park Marshes appear as a series of ever descending self-contained wetlands, spring fed year round. What they do or do not share in the way of native taxa, with the adjacent Last Chance Lagoon, Rosetta Stone Pine Marsh and Beaver Flat, is intriguing from a biogeographical frame-of-reference..... artist’s popcorn-flower (*Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *chorisianus*) forms hidden colonies beneath the Juncus tussocks and often grows up and through their supportive stems, this rare borage’s furtive presence revealed by the intoxicating vanilla scent of its flowers yet it is absent from Laguna de las trancas while forming stable populations in all the above sympatric habitats!!! The behemoth of native docks, decidedly uncommon western dock (*Rumex occidentalis*), misses the Rosetta Stone Pine Marsh but has representatives in the other three named marshes plus the nearby "lagoon". Distinctive and phylogenetically significant, *Carex “imperfecta"*, is well established in all of the previously described hydrologically influenced refugia but refuses to take up residence with its relatives surrounding the 55,000+ years old palustrine wetland. The rare, turion forming Hall’s willow herb (*Epilobium halleanum*), first discovered adjacent to the West Spring Marsh also occurs in Beaver Flat, where it continues to thrive sharing habitat with its variable sister species, *Epilobium ciliatum* sensu lato, while Pacific reed grass (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*), nearing the southern end of its range, defines West’s Spring Marsh, Marti’s Park Marsh and the Last Chance lagoon, with its outsized tussocks.....perhaps the prevailing wind direction, out of the northwest, and first hitting the "laguna", has played a role historically, in referencing the airborn achenes eastward. Canada goldenrod (*Solidago elongata*), a long lived *Aster* kin and having merit as a wild garden introduction, resides within the soggy confines of Beaver Flat, West’s Spring Marsh and Marti’s Park Marsh leaving the south end of Laguna de las trancas to its cousin, western goldenrod (*Euthamia occidentalis*). Within the Poaceae, the gigas form of western bent grass (*Agrostis exarata*, sensu lato), locally rare and morphologically distinctive, acts like a set of bookends..... with one population found in the Marti’s Park Marsh and the other, conspicuously present in Beaver Flat. This "in your face" ecotype, can exceed 2 meters in heigth and has two phases, with both exhibiting elongate, verticillate inflorescences comprising distinctly separate glomerules: phase one possesses awned lemmas while phase two, acts like *Agrostis exarata var. exarata* on steroids..... within the confines of Beaver Flat, the awnless variant secures the upper third of the marsh leaving the lower two-thirds to its awned analog. Collected material of both types with mature seed heads (2008-2009), now reside at the UCSC Arboretum’s seed repository, awaiting growing out and resolving the conundrum, as to whether both taxa are reproductively isolated or are each capable of producing both phases and/or are inter-fertile!!! Finally, the West’s Spring Marsh can lay claim to sheltering the only known population to date, within the watershed at least, of whorled pennywort (*Hydrocotyle verticillata*), its sister species, floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*), a vigorous member of long standing within the Last Chance Lagoon’s aquatic repertoire..... note: both of these species, formerly placed in the Apiaceae, are now ensconced
within the Araliaceae.

Due west, across Last Chance Road from Laguna de las Trancas, is a relatively short but deep, narrow and complex in configuration drainage area, aptly named Arroyo de las Trancas. Margining the lower half of the gulch on its eastern flank and overlooking the northern entrance/exit of Swanton Road, an extensive but isolated population of *Arctostaphylos crustacea, sensu lato*, cloaks the weathered, exfoliating mudstone. In keeping with the expected polymorphism displayed by the Scotts Creek “burl-former”, one is not disappointed: displaying growth patterns ranging from prostrate through erect, leaves short-petioled with cordate/auriculate bases at one end of the foliar spectrum and long-petioled with rounded or cuneate bases at the other, enough variability in indument, tomentum and trichomes plus presence/absense of glands to perplex all but the most seasoned taxonomist and several plants referencing sensitive manzanita (*Arctostaphylos nummularia* = *Arctostaphylos sensitiva*) genes, with sub-quadrate, apically emarginated leaves and inflorescences, often downward-appressed, displaying both 4- and 5-merous corollas! Also ensconced in this island of diversity, a long-established population of coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), closer to the oceanic influences than anywhere else in the north county and exhibiting no signs of foliar distress but reduced in stature, due to the fast-draining substrate, prevailing westerly winds and reliance on seasonal rainfall/fog induced condensation for its principal water sources. Other plant taxa of interest, occurring on the upper grasslands which drain down into the arroyo from the Laguna de las Trancas side, the narrow strips of grassland paralleling the lower portion of the arroyo, on the steep soil-poor exposed habitats down slope from the bordering oak woodlands or the wind-referenced dune systems inland from Highway 1, are: a localized colony of small-flowered primrose (*Camissonia micrantha*) discovered circa twenty-five years ago..... an uncommon member of the Apiaceae in the county, wild celery (*Apiumstrum angustifolium*)..... a concentrated population of the uncommon marsh microseris (*Microseris paludosa*) growing sympatrically with the rare Santa Cruz microseris (*Microseris decipiens*) and distant cousin, mountain dandelion (*Agoseris grandiflora*)...... California mustard (*Caulanthus lasiophyllus*)..... Michael’s rein orchid (*Piperia michaelii*)...... the yet-to-be-defined clarkia with a defiantly erect posture, bicolored flowers and gray-encrusted seeds, provisionally given the appellation, Davy’s clarkia (*Clarkia davyi*)..... and one large plant of broad-leaved lupine (*Lupinus latifolius aff. var. dudleyi*), stems and herbage densely clothed with stiff dark hairs, first discovered in the late 1970s and persisting for several years afterwards but now apparently lost! Documented in the 1980s with herbarium pressings, an isolated population of San Francisco wallflower (*Erysimum franciscanum, formerly classified as var. crassifolium*) shared a semi-stabilized sand dune with a densely glandular form of grassland gilia (*Gilia clivorum*): a distinctive variant with dark purplish corollas, which if it still exists in situ, warrants further study, comparing the living material with that of *Gilia millefoliata*! Finally, marching down the spine of the ridge, and even closer to the ocean than the aforementioned redwoods, stands of canyon live-oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), reduced in stature and taking on an eldritch status. The Arroyo de las Trancas, draining both chaparral and westward dipping grasslands, is in reality, two sub-watersheds that converge before crossing under Highway 1 and emptying into the Pacific Ocean, via waterfall, near Post Rock..... an in depth botanical overview is warranted, for other undocumented native taxa may still exist on steep out of reach slopes or moist crevices deep within the recesses of this understudied coastal drainage system. Arranged in familial groupings, the following native taxa help to define this westernmost watershed component of our Traversal: dense sedge (*Carex densa*), Gianone sedge (*Carex gianonei, pro sp. nov.* (plants studied over the past few years producing some inflorescences with compound-congested lower spikelets), Carex “imperfecta” (putative
aneuploid derivative from *Carex nitidicarpa* complex), *Carex nitidicarpa* (hybrid complex, derived in part, from *Carex densa* x *Carex subbracteata*), small-bracted sedge (*Carex subbracteata*),... Juncus aff. breweri (rhizomatous, culms dk green, robust, some twisted/flattened... inflos lateral, compact, perianth parts dark brown, 5-6mm long... no upper leaf blade present as per *Juncus mexicanus* and differs consistently from that taxon as found growing on coastal slopes and prairie, between China Ladder Marsh and Morehus Arroyo), toad rush (*Juncus bufonius*), Pacific bog-rush (*Juncus effusus* var. *pacificus*), brown bog-rush (*Juncus hesperius*), *Juncus hesperius* x *patens* hybrid, western rush (*Juncus occidentalis*), brown-headed rush (*Juncus phaeocephalus* var. *phaeochelous*..... plants with few, many-flowered heads).... yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), woodland madia (*Anisocarpus madiodes*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), California corethogyne (*Corethogyne filaginifolia* var. *californica*), common corethogyne (*Corethogyne filaginifolia* var. *filaginifolia*), lizard tail (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*), broad-leaved aster (*Eurybia radulina*), hirsute gumnplant (*Gindelia hirsutula* var. *hirsutula*), white hawkweed (*Hieracium albiflorum*), coast tarweed (*Mada sativa*..... clothed with gland-tipped trichomes, from base of stem up thru inflorescence), Bioletti's cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium biolettii*), California cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*), pink everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum*), cotton batting plant (*Pseudognaphalium stramineum*), California chicory (*Rafinesquia californica*), Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*..... part of complex, highly reticulate ancient hybrid swarm with *Pinus attenuata*, and showing recombinant characteristics in both gross morphology and ovulate cone gestalt), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*), chamise (*Adenostema fasciculatum*), wood strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*), osoberry (*Oenothera graminiflora*), wood rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*), thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), Hall's/leafy bentgrass intergrades (*Agrostis hallii* x *pallescens*..... throughout the Scotts Creek Watershed, numerous populations of these "native" *Agrostis* exist, that combine in varying ways, traits specific to either putative parent), California bluegrass (*Bromus carinatus* var. *carinatus*), nodding brome (*Bromus vulgaris*), pine grass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*), California oat grass (*Danthania californica* sensu latu..... forms attributable, to both var. *americana* and var. *californica*, are present), California wild rye (*Elymus glaucus* subsp. *glaucus*), California fescue (*Festuca californica*), western fescue (*Festuca occidentalis*), junegrass ( *Koelria macrantha*), Alaska onion grass (*Melica subulata*), Torrey's melic (*Melica torreyana*), foothill needlegrass (*Nassella lepida*), California canary grass (*Phalaris californica*), tall trisetum (*Trisetum canescens*..... reduced in stature form, morphologically akin to *taxon found growing on Santa Cruz Terrace overlooking south end of Greyhound Rock State Beach*..... hairy honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus* var. *laevigatus*..... sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), coyote mint (*Monardella villosa* sensu latu..... within area under discussion, both subsp. *villosa* and subsp. *franciscana* occur, plus intermediate forms), yerba buena (*Satureja douglasii*), California hedge-nettle (*Stachys bullata*), Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), California huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*), California milkwort (*Polygala californica*), Bioletti's trefoil (*Acmisspon junceus* var. *biolettii*), deerweed (*Acmisspon glaber* var. *glaber*), Pacific pea (*Lathyrus vestitus* var. *vestitus*), yellow bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*), giant vetch (*Vicia gigantea*), giant yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversiorbubum*), Douglas's iris (*Iris douglasiana*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrrinchium bellum*), soap plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum* var. *pomeridianum*), tan-oak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus* var. *densiflorus*), coast live-oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*), forest live-oak (*Quercus parvula* var. *shrevei*), lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina* var. *cyclosorum*), wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*), western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum* var. *pubescens*), giant chain fern
California maidenhair (Adiantum jordanii), goldback fern (Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis), Douglas’s nightshade (Solanum douglasii), Pacific starflower (Trientalis latifolia), baneberry (Actaea rubra), western nettle (Hesperocnide tenella), coast nettle (Urtica dioica subsp. gracilis), small-flowered alum root (Heuchera micrantha), red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa), cow-parsnip (Heracleum maximum), sweet cicely (Osmorhiza berteroi), gambleweed (Sanicula crassicaulis), blue blossom (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus), California coffeeberry (Frangula californica subsp. californica), blue dicks (Dichelostemma capitatum subsp. capitatum), Thuierl’s spear (Triteleia laxa), **forma typica**, with laterally symmetrical stamens, whitish anthers, and filaments of unequal length, California bedstraw (Galium californicum subsp. californicum), climbing bedstraw (Galium porrigens var. porrigens), hound’s tongue (Cynoglossum grande), Watson’s willow herb (Epilobium ciliatum subsp. watsonii), giant horsetail (Equisetum telmateia subsp. braunii), slim Solomon’s seal (Smilacing stellata), miner’s lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata), straggly gooseberry (Ribes diversicatum var. pubiflorum), California figwort (Scrophularia californica subsp. californica), yellow willow (Salix lasiandra var. lasiandra), arroyo willow (Salix lasiolepis), water smartweed (Persicaria punctata), broad-leaved cattail (Typha latifolia), mare’s tail (Hippuris vulgaris), **one of two populations to be found within the watershed sensu lato, AND THE ONLY POPULATIONS, to date, documented for Santa Cruz County**, farewell-to-spring (Clarkia rubicunda), stinging phacelia (Phacelia malvifolia).

**note:** After crossing under Highway 1 and dropping over a circa 6 meter high waterfall, Arroyo de las Trancas crosses the seasonally shifting beach and enters the Pacific Ocean, even at the end of this botanically diverse drainage system, native species of interest can be found! Here is a partial inventory and several of these taxa appear to have a high tolerance for wind

Situated along the lower section of Last Chance Road and seasonally draining into a gulch that parallels this portion of our traversal before emptying into Scotts Creek, **Laguna de las Trancas** (Last Chance Lagoon) is a “must see” repository for studying rare and uncommon native plants, growing in isolation, sharing both a terrestrial and aquatic habitat, which seasonally is in a state of hydrological flux. Tephrachronological studies have placed this ancient “pond” (**technically a palustrine wetland**) at 55,000+ years in age and the following native species, meriting study, reside here. Home to one of the two known populations in the county of mare’s tail (Hippuris vulgaris), which shared habitat with the infrequently encountered (**last observed in the "marsh" in the early 1980's**), western inflated sedge (Carex vesicaria var. major), bog yellow cress (Rorippa palustris var. occidentalis = Rorippa palustris subsp. palustris) and its locally uncommon sister species, western yellow cress (Rorippa curvisiliqua) hidden from sight, its semi-prostrate stems overtopped by an extensive colony of western goldenrod (Euthamia occidentalis), flowering quillwort (Lilaea scilloides = Triglochin scilloides), a locally rare liverwort (Ricciocarpus natans), water fern (Azolla filiculoides) forming irregular pinkish-red patches akin to an intricate jigsaw puzzle and a visually striking clover with cerise flower heads circa 3-4 cm. in diameter, bouquet
clover (*Trifolium græyi*), documented as an herbarium specimen in 1983 and deposited in Jepson Herbarium, UC Berkeley (note. six flowering plants observed on 06/09/09). The preferred habitat of western dock (*Rumex occidentalis*) appears to be old marshes and this landslide derived repository of aquatic and ecologically related vegetation is no exception.... this uncommon native “giant” can also be found in adjacent Beaver Flat, West Spring Marsh and Marti’s Park Marsh, often towering over the long established native grass clumps. The trifid bedstraw (*Galium trifidum var. pacificum = Galium trifidum subsp. columbianum*) is found growing within the protective embrace of Pacific bog-rush (*Juncus effusus var. pacificus*), which along with robust tussocks of Pacific reed grass (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*), California hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa subsp. holciformis*) and slough sedge (*Carex obturata*), margin the water’s edge and overlook floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*), Bolander’s water starwort (*Callitriche heterophylla var. bolanderi*) forming clustered rosettes floating on the surface of the water or diffuse prostrate patches on the moist bank..... but both phases with sessile fruit sporting styles double its body length, common spikerush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*), inconspicuous patches of water buttercup (*Ranunculus aquatilis var. capillaceus*) with thread-like submerged foliage and ephemeral flowers and equally diffuse in mode of growth, fennel-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus = Stuckenia pectinata*) sharing habitat with a morphologically dissimilar sister species, which appears to be long-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton nodosus*?). Cloistered between the edge of the grassland and the water’s edge, lowland cudweed (*Gnaphalium palustre*), artfully makes its presence known through ground-hugging, scattered patches of reflective foliage clothed with a silvery indument and like a taxonomically displaced orphan, appears to be the only valid native member of the genus Gnaphalium now residing within the watershed! Creating a centrally positioned island of densely packed, vertically aligned, overarching culms/stems, common tule (*Scirpus acutus var. occidentalis = Schoenoplectus acutus var. occidentalis*) and broad-leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*) help to bookend the aqueous corridor that defines the pond proper and provide shelter for the bur-reed (*Sparganium eurycarpum subsp. eurycarpum*), flaunting fruiting capitula looking ever-so-much as if a mad scientist had crossed a hedgehog with a golf ball and added chloroplasts for coloration. A brown bog-rush (*Juncus effusus var. brunnus = Juncus hesperius*) x common rush (*Juncus patens*) hybrid, whose clonal expansiveness superficially suggesting a long established colony, secures the northwestern edge of the pond, while a trio of rare clarkias: purple clarkia (*Clarkia purpurea subsp. purpurea*), prostrate clarkia (*Clarkia prostrata*) and an erect growing “species” with bicolored flowers and gray-encrusted seeds, aff. Davy’s clarkia (*Clarkia davyi*), have been observed growing, over the past three decades, in the siliceous soil defining a narrow arc-like zone overlooking the eastern edge of the pond. Creating a visual counterpart of pink and yellow, checkerbloom (*Sidalcea malvaeflora ssp. malvaeflora*) and California buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus*) create vibrant drifts of color, while scattered plants of sympatric hirsute gumplant (*Grindelia hirsutula var. hirsutula*) up the ante by displaying vibrant reddish-purple stems with intense butter-yellow rayed heads......playing the game with a subtle touch, ground-hugging rosettes of suncups (*Camissonia ovata*) throw consistency out the window and contrast golden-yellow flowers with foliage, either totally green or with claret-colored veins. Varying radically in stature and mode of growth, several members of the Rose Family (*Rosaceae*) can be sleuthed out, starting with a true micro-species, western lady’s mantle (*Aphanes occidentalis*), which even when mature and in flower, can be small enough to look like moss to the casual viewer......sister species but differing in foliar aroma, are wedge-leaved horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata var. cuneata*), whose prostrate rosettes glisten in the sunlight due to the presence of a glandular exudate coating the adaxial surface of its leaflets and California horkelia (*Horkelia californica var. californica*), sheltered by the brambles of its ubiquitous cousin, California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*).....with drupes for fruit in spite of its colloquial name to the contrary, oso berry (*Oemleria*...
crasiformis) provides food for birds, while hidden within the moist recesses between grass tussocks is the only yellow-flowered relative sporting bicolored leaves, green adaxially/silver abaxially, Pacific cinquefoil (Potentilla anserina subsp. pacifica), and finally, along the marsh’s southeastern edge and thriving in the organically rich muck, a vigorous population of wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca). Scattered on the seasonally watered grassy slopes which surround this “ancient” body of water but distaining "wet feet", are two taxa of interest: an isolated colony of brownie thistle (Cirsium quercetorum), unique for our area, being a combination of native, perennial, rhizomatous and conspicuously low growing and having florets the color of muddy water to boot (biennial native sister species, Cirsium brevistylum aka Indian thistle, favors the palustrine’s moist sheltered margins) and a solitary hybrid between the yellow bush lupine (Lupinus arboreus) and Lindley’s varied lupine (Lupinus varicolor), with both proud parents present and the lone offspring being intermediate between the two, as to stature, foliar gestalt and coloration of flowers. note: a supplemental native species inventory (07/05/10) for the Laguna de las Trancas and the area immediately circumscribing it, is as follows: sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), common monkeyflower (Mimulus guttatus var. grandis), tinker’s penny (Hypericum anagalloides), miniscule duckweed (Lemna minuscula), California coffeeberry (Frangula californica subsp. californica), western sword fern (Polystichum munitum), yerba buena (Satureja douglasii), purple cudweed (Ganochaeta ustulata), Watson’s willow herb (Epilobium ciliatum subsp. watsonii), hoary nettle (Urtica dioica subsp. holosericea), western rush (Juncus occidentalis), meadow barley (Hordeum brachyantherum subsp. brachyantherum), California oat grass (Danthonia californica var. californica), Monterey pine (Pinus radiata),..... representatives of an ancient hybrid swarm between Pinus attenuata and Pinus radiata, reticulate in its gene flow patterns and and showing parental intermediacy, in overall gestalt and ovulate cone morphology, coast live-oak (Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia), straggly gooseberry (Ribes divaricatum var. pubiflorum), gambleweed (Sanicula crassicaulis), California man root (Marah fabaceus), poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum), coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), American winter cress (Barbarea orthoceras) and California figwort (Scrophularia californica subsp. californica).

The deeply incised Gianone Barn Gulch, which drains the overflow of Laguna de las Trancas and the seasonally saturated bunched grasslands to the southeast, can be viewed roadside during this part of our botanical exploration, containing throughout its course, several intergrading habitats with their constituent species of interest: surrounding the permanent spring which is the principal water source for the upper drainage area feeding into the gulch are seven components of the genus Juncus, an amazing concentration for so small an area--- toad rush (Juncus bufonius), brown bog-rush (Juncus effusus var. brunneus = Juncus hesperius), Pacific bog-rush (Juncus effusus var. pacificus), a robust form of Mexican rush (Juncus mexicanus) with dark green tortile-compressed culms, these often arcuate, compact inflorescences with perianth parts 5-6 mm in length, showing possibly a closer affinity with Juncus breweri or Juncus lesueurii, western rush (Juncus occidentalis), common rush (Juncus patens) and brown-headed rush (Juncus phaeocephalus var. phaeocephalus) plus scattered colonies of locally uncommon and unrelated dwarf club rush (Scirpus koilolepis = Isolepis carinata); further along but still in the upper drainage area, some displaced specimens of knobcone pine (Pinus attenuata) look woefully out of place, the closest chaparral some distance away but genuine knobcones, none the less, with the thickened/flattened incurved prickles of the elevated cone scales aligned apically; an amazing number of tree species and arboreal wannabes defines this abbreviated but hydrologically complex watershed--- big-leaf maple (Acer macrophyllum), California buckeye (Aesculus californica), Pacific madrone (Arbutus menziesii), blue blossom (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus), hazelnut (Corylus cornuta var. californica), one specimen near mouth of gulch circa 7-8 meters in height, tan-
California brome (Bromus carinatus var. carinatus), nodding brome (Bromus vulgaris), California wild rye (Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus), Elmer’s fescue (Festuca elmeri), Torrey’s melic (Melica torreyana), California canary grass (Phalaris californica) and tall trisetum (Trisetum canescens); finally, the gulch fans out into the Scotts Creek riparian corridor and paralleling Swanton Road in a southerly direction for circa 200 meters as a seasonally wet marsh, creates favorable habitat for the infrequently encountered artist’s popcorn-flower (Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus) obscured from view by expanding populations of brown bog-rush (Juncus effusus var. brunnus = Juncus hesperius), Pacific bog-rush (Juncus effusus var. pacificus), common rush (Juncus patens), California canary grass (Phalaris californica) and Gianone’s sedge (Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov.).

The topography of this water-retentive habitat, coupled with the well defined drainage patterns of two gulches entering it at either end plus the current mosaic of vegetation, strongly suggests that this was at one time a much larger marsh, historically modified by human land use practices—the drainage course of the lower section is deflected eastward into Scotts Creek, by what could be the remnants of an ancient landslide. Deep within the heart of the remaining marsh, colonies of water-loving Pacific oenanthe (Oenanthe sarmentosa) abide, overtopped by box elder (Acer negundo var. californicum) and sharing this seasonally inundated environment with water smartweed (Polygonum punctatum), willow herb (Epilobium ciliatum subsp. ciliatum), California vervain (Verbena lasiostachus var. lasiostachus), robust forms of western bent grass (Agrostis exarata) and slender hairgrass (Deschampsia elongata), both exceeding 1.5 meters in height, plus straggly gooseberry (Ribes divaricatum var. pubiflorum). This isolated basin warrants the same palynological studies accorded Laguna de las Trancas, which ironically represents the alpha and omega of one continuous, albeit seasonal, drainage course. A rare assemblage of nemophila species can also be found growing within the transitional zone where Gianone Barn Gulch enters the flood plain: the sympatric trio consisting of small-flowered nemophila (Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora), meadow nemophila (Nemophila pedunculata) and a recent addition to the watershed’s flora, a taxon sharing affinities with Fremont’s nemophila (Nemophila pulchella var. fremontii)!

Parenthetically, molecular studies done on the Waterleaf Family (Hydrophyllaceae) have resulted in segregating several key genera, including Eriodictyon, Nemophila and Phacelia, and embedding them in the Borage Family (Boraginaceae)!

Entering Swanton Road from a southerly direction, “Back Ranch Road” allows one an unrestricted access, both visually and physically, to the inner grasslands, with their deeply incised forested gulches draining down into Scotts Creek and forming a mirror-image compliment to the prairie proper, from which they are separated by an elevated ridge which
gently dips eastward. The number of native species documented for this sinuous corridor and their unusual concentration within specific sites, are impressive both as to diversity and rarity status, several not known from or uncommon elsewhere in Santa Cruz County. Rare species and hybrid complexes abound within and peripheral to this faux-prairie: on the monocot side of the aisle, at least twenty documented specimens of hooded lady’s tresses (Spiranthes romanoffiana) have been discovered over the past decade, plus interspecific crosses occurring between Blasdale’s bent grass (Agrostis blasdalei) and western bent grass (Agrostis exarata), brown bog-rush (Juncus effusus var. brunnneus = Juncus hesperiu) and common rush (Juncus patens), and a mind- boggling hybrid complex involving at least three sections within the genus Carex (Montanae, Multiflorae and Ovales). Giving the dicots equal time, with less emphasis on sex and more on species diversity, a potentially new species of Nemophila (aff. N. pulchella var. fremontii) shares growing space with a dioecious shrub pretending to be an oak with opposite leaves, silk tassel (Garrya elliptica) and an easily overlooked, even in flower, member of the Bellflower Family (Campanulaceae), common bluecup (Githopsis specularioides). As the grassland peters out and the dirt road ascends towards Mt. Cook, a scattered population of skunkweed (Navarretia squarrosa) was studied for several seasons, producing a disproportionately large number of plants, circa 20- 30%, with white flowers. The white-flowered specimens were distributed throughout the entire population, which comprised an estimated 120+ reduced in stature, mephitic-scented individuals. In the 1970’s, an analogous occurrence was observed at Harris Flat, along upper Scotts Creek, but differing in that the population consisted of plants 40-60 cm. + in height with thick, spinescent herbage, still possessing the “odor of skunk” but looking like they had acquired some genetic material from the holly-leaved navarretia (Navarretia atractyloides). Sandwiched between the “Solar-panel Hotspot” and Scotts Creek Marsh, with Mt. Cook squarely in the middle, are two major sub-watersheds..... both are characterized by deeply incised gulches flanked with steep slopes, losing their verticality when crossing the Western Terrace aka coastal prairie and return to gulch status prior to draining under Highway 1. For future reference, the main watershed to the west of Mt. Cook is given the designation Cowboy Shack Gulch and its southeastern counterpart will be called Prairie Overlook Gulch, with one smaller unnamed drainage system between the aforementioned “main” gulches and two increasingly reduced-in-stature and less botanically diverse (at least in their upper sections) subsidiary systems, flanking the southeastern edge of the Mt. Cook ridge system. While basically sharing the same alignment/overall length and having the upper portions of their w-facing slopes defined by condensed conifer “woodlands”, the distribution patterns for several rare native species are anything but predictable! For starters, the conifer populations inhabiting the upper half of the Cowboy Shack Gulch, consist of a 60/40 ratio of Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii) to the “hybrid swarm” Monterey pine (Pinus radiata), interspersed with both coast live-oak (Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia) and forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei), while the analogous forested portion of Prairie Overlook Gulch, consists of just a highly variable and densely concentrated population of mature Pinus radiata, with a younger generation of replacement trees, in a seemingly haphazard fashion, scattered along the lower portions of the drainage system! An ecological constant, characterizing the west-facing slopes of the coastal gulches between Scotts Creek Marsh and Las Trancas Arroyo, are the extensive, often near vertical populations of California fescue (Festuca californica)..... the interstices between the long-lived tussocks of this highly decorous grass and valued erosion abater, providing shelter for a number of refractory moisture-loving annuals and low-growing herbaceous perennials. Within the west-facing conifer shrouded slopes of the Cowboy Shack Gulch, a veritable treasure-trove of native taxa is concentrated..... conspicuous by their absence in the adjacent gulches to the south-east, are the following rarities and uncommoners..... an extensive scattering (more than 100
plants observed) of lovage (Ligusticum apitfolium) co-existing in the semi-shaded habitat with
coast barberry (Berberis pinnata subsp. pinnata), mosquito bills (Dodecatheon hendersonii..... 4-
merous ssp. cruciatum) and **two highly localized taxa**, both discovered and studied in situ 30
years ago but as of this writing (02/18/2010) not yet refound, namely the Utah service-berry
(Amelanchier utahensis) and **rarest of the rare**, the coastal genotype of Alaska rein orchid (Piperia
unalascensis). While sharing perhaps 90% of its native flora (100+ species) with the two adjacent
gulches to the northwest, the **Prairie Overlook Gulch**, can claim a few "uncommoners" for its
own..... bent-flowered fiddleneck (Amsinckia lunaris), narrow-leaved fringepod (Thysanocarpus
laciniatus), coast larkspur (Delphinium decorum subsp. decorum), San Francisco collinsia (Collinsia
multicolor) and Santa Cruz microseris (Microseris decipiens = Stebbinsoseris decipiens). Several
species and one putative natural hybrid, either locally uncommon or in need of further study,
which thread their way through this complex maritime ecosystem are as follows: Gianone
everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro sp. nov.*), Gianone sanicle (*Sanicula gianonei,
pro sp. nov.*), brownie thistle (*Cirsium quercetorum*), cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*),
checkerbloom (*Sidalcea malvaeflora subsp. malvaeflora*), tall layia (*Layia hieracioides*), California
goosefoot (*Chenopodium californicum*), hoary bowliesia (*Bawlesia incana*) and Dannie’s skullcap
(*Scutellaria tuberosa*). Two variable species in the foliar department, occupying the wind-buffeted
ridge tops and worthy of being included within an artfully designed "native garden", are
California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum subsp. canum*) and California goldenrod (*Solidago velutina
subsp. californica*). The former displaying foliage that in the same population can be green or
cinerous while the latter goes the structural route and presents, in separate populations, basal
leaves that range from oblanceolate to **one population carpeting the near-vertical slope with
sub-orbicular leaves**, akin to silver dollars in outline.

**note:** Both **Solar Panel** and **Cowboy Shack Gulches** merge near the edge of the
Western Terrace, drop down over a waterfall and cross under Highway 1, only to exit the Santa
Cruz Terrace and enter, via an 80+ foot drop, the Pacific Ocean. Here is a **supplemental listing of
native taxa**, arranged by families, **that occur specifically**, within this ecologically diverse
drainage system: Davy’s Clarkia (*Clarkia dasyi..... mode of growth erect, flowers bicolored and
seeds gray-encrusted*), farewell-to-spring (*Clarkia rubicunda*), California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum
subsp. canum*), willow herb (*Epilobium ciliatum* sensu lato..... **variable throughout area under
discussion**, with both subsp. ciliatum [open inflorescences/leaves conspicuously reduced
upwards] and subsp. watsonii [inflorescences congested/leaves barely reduced upwards]
present, with subsp. watsonii tending to favor perennial seeps/marshes on the exposed coastal
headlands..... Blasdale’s bent grass (*Agrostis blasdalei*), Hall’s/leafy bent grass intergrades (*Agrostis
hallii/Agrostis pallens*..... **throughout Scotts Creek Watershed proper and its environs**,
populations of these two taxa show introgression and with combined characters, make
**absolute separation at a species level difficult, at best**, Pacific reed grass (*Calamagrostis
nuttalensis*), California wild rye (*Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus*), creeping wild rye (*Leptos
triticoides*..... **prevalent on Western Terrace**, where aeolian sand deposits define the coastal
**prairie soil composition**), Torrey’s melic (*Melica torreyana*), foothill needlegrass (*Nassella lepida*),
California canary grass (*Phalaris californica*), ocean-bluff bluegrass (*Poa unilateralis*..... **pearly
everlasting** (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), mugwort
(*Artemisia douglasiana*), marsh barcharis (*Baccharis glutinosa*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis
subsp. consanguinea*), California corethrogynie (*Corethrogynie filaginifolia var. californica*), golden
yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum*), lizard tail (*Eriophyllum stachydominosum*),
broad-leaved aster (*Eurybia radulina*), western goldenrod (*Euthamia occidentalis*), sneezeweed
(*Helenium puberulum*), coast tarweed (*Madia sativa*), California cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium*
Highway 1, are a series of exposed, remnant eastward bog-rush (Juncus effusus var. pacificus), brown bog-rush (Juncus hesperius), Mexican rush (Juncus aff. mexicanus),.... rhizomatous, tortile-compressed dark green culms lacking upper leaf blades), western rush (Juncus occidentalis), common rush (Juncus patens), Juncus hesperius x Juncus patens hybrids.... division of one large specimen growing at UCSC Arboretum, brown-headed rush (Juncus phaeocephalus var. phaeocephalus).... water fern (Azolla filiculoides).... California poppy (Eschscholzia californica).... arroyo willow (Salix lasioplepis), shining willow (Salix lasiandra subsp. lasiandra).... red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa).... deerweed (Acmispon glaber var. glaber), Pacific pea (Lathyrus vestitus sensu lato,... variable as to foliar indument and overall morphology), yellow bush lupine (Lupinus arboresus), giant vetch (Vicia gigantea).... short-stemmed sedge (Carex breviculuis), dense sedge (Carex densa), Carex gymnocarpa complex.... nodal proliferations, inflorescences with compound-congested lower 1-5(+) spikelets, gynaecandrous, androgynous and/or mixed, Carex nitidicarpa complex, slough sedge (Carex obtusa), small-bracted sedge (Carex subbracteata), umbrella sedge (Cyperus eragrostis), low club rush (Isolapis cerna), California tule (Schoenoplectus californicus), panicled bulrush (Scirpus microcarpus).... California plantain (Plantago erecta), Mexican plantain (Plantago subnuda), American brooklime (Veronica americana).... coast barberry (Berberis pinnata subsp. pinnata).... Indian paintbrush (Castilleja affinis subsp. affinis).... wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca), oso berry (Oemleria cerasiformis), Pacific cinquefoil (Potentilla anserina subsp. pacifica), wood rose (Rosa gymnocarpa), California blackberry (Rubus ursinus).... morning glory (Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata).... California man root (Marah fabaceus).... sea lettuce (Dudleya caespitosa).... soap plant (Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum).... California figwort (Scrophularia californica subsp. californica).... stinging phacelia (Phacelia malvifolia).... miniscule duckweed (Lemna minuscula).... tinker's penny (Hypericum angelloides).... Douglas's nightshade (Solanium douglasii).... California vervain (Verbena lasiostachys var. lasiostachys).... sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), common monkeyflower (Mimulus guttatus var. grandis).... yerba buena (Satureja douglasii), California hedge-nettle (Stachys buhleata).... California bedstraw (Galium californicum subsp. californicum), climbing bedstraw (Galium porrigenes var. porrigenes).... snowberry (Symphoricarpus albus var. laevigatus).... western sword fern (Polystichum munitum).... lady fern (Athyrium filix-femina var. cyclosorum).... bracken (Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens).... watercress (Nasturtium officinale).... coast nettle (Urtica dioica subsp. gracilis).... populations variable as to proportion of stinging to non-stinging hairs on stems and abaxial surface of leaves, with some plants tending towards subsp. holosericea).... giant horsetail (Equisetum telmateia subsp. braunii).... California poppy (Eschscholzia californica).... poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum).... coast buckwheat (Eriogonum latifolium/nudum) intergrades.... red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa).... coast live-oak (Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia), forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei).... Monterey pine (Pinus radiata), Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii).... mosquito bills (Dodecatheon hendersonii).

Bounded on the west by Cowboy Shack Gulch and the east with Prairie Overlook Gulch and bookended north and south by the edge of the coastal prairie (aka Western Terrace) and Highway 1, are a series of exposed, remnant eastward-dipping bedding planes, reminiscent of the mesas of the southwest albeit greatly reduced in stature. Each of these "mesitas", is a micro-
ecosystem unto itself and interface with the various sized drainage systems that have their origins northeast of and overlooking the prairie grasslands. Included within the aforementioned parameters, is the lower drainage of **Prairie Overlook Gulch** giving the following native taxa refuge: *Rumex occidentalis*, with overarching leaves reminiscent of a banana relative growing vertically adjacent to small waterfall, an apetalous/dioecious member of the Ranunculaceae *Thalictrum polycarpum*, a quartet of Rosaceae members growing intermixed:... *Rosa gymnocarpa* var. *gymnocarpa*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Potentilla glandulosa* subsp. *glandulosa* = *Drymocallis glandulosa* var. *glandulosa* and *Aphanes occidentalis*, polyphyletic *Castilleja affinis* subsp. *affinis* with a scattered population displaying extreme ancestral resegregation and looking ever-so-much like a dozen different species, *Dudleya caespitosa*, *Berberis pinnata* subsp. *pinnata*, an indorus *Dichelostemma capitatum* subsp. capitatum sharing the monocot stage with a near-vertical population of *Smilacina racemosa* = *Maianthemum racemosum*... displaying more than 100 inflorescences discharging an intoxicating fragrance olfactorially perceived long before seen, while *Solanum umbelliferum* gives competition from the dicot side of the aisle. A virtual kaleidoscope of "natives", create a visual tapestry of color and texture, showing the infinite variations in structure and form that Nature is capable of conjuring up: *Lotus irangelianus*, *Trifolium bifidum*, *Vicia americana* var. *americana*, *Vicia gigantea*, *Vicia hassei*, *Phacelia multiformia*, *Carex rufa*, *Cyperus eragrostis*, *Baccharis douglasii*, *Holodiscus discolor*, *Oenanthe sarmentosa*, *Polypodium californicum* aff. var. *kaufussii*, *Athyrium filix-femina* var. *cyclesorus*, *Polystichum munitum*, *Epilobium ciliatum* subsp. *watsonii*, *Phalaris californica*..... often producing asexual nodal propagules on old flowering culms, *Bromus carinatus* var. *carinatus*, *Nasella lepida*, *Festuca californica*, *Poa unilateralis*, *Melica torreyana*, *Claytonia parviflora* subsp. *parviflora*, *Saxifraga californica* = *Micranthes californica*..... sadly, the sole representative of this ornamentally valuable genus in the watershed (now bereft of even its genus tag), *Juncus hesperus*, *Luzula comosa*, *Galium porrigens* var. *porrigens*, *Calystegia purpurata* subsp. *purpurata*...climbing 10(+) feet into a robust *Frangula californica* subsp. *californica*, *Barbarea orthoceras*, *Stachys ajugoides* var. *rigida*, *Stachys bullata*, *Verbena lasiostachys* var. *lasiostachys*, *Mimulus guttatus*... var. *grandis* coastal form, *Layia hieracioides*, *Pterocephila drymarioides*, an Apiaceae trio..... *Apiastrum angustifolium*, *Daucus pusillus*, *Yabea microcarpa* and *Oxalis corniculata* subsp. *pilosa* = *Oxalis pilosa*.

Further expounding on the concentrated and diverse "native" flora within this general area..... the western facing slopes (from ridge top to canyon bottom) of the last sub-watershed draining under Highway 1, before the Western Terrace drops off into the Scotts Creek Marsh proper, contains an extraordinary representation of coastal taxa for an area subjected to human disturbance over the course of more than 150 years! As with the analogous gulches bisecting the coastal prairie, the near vertical nature of the terrain may be one of the contributing factors that has turned these mesic habitats into refugia for biodiversity..... being outside the reach of traditional agricultural practices. Eschewing the colloquial names, here is a documentation-in-progress, for the species confined to this micro hot-spot, further validating the premise that human presence and biodiversity are not incompatible: *Pseudognaphalium gianonei*, *pro.sp.nov.* (note: this taxon of putative hybrid origin, is relatively common within area under discussion), *Erigeron glaucus*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Castilleja affinis* subsp. *affinis* (complex series of resegregates validating the polyphyletic origins of this locally wide spread taxon), *Eriophyllum staechadifolium*, *Sanicula crassicaulis*, *Baccharis pilularis*, *Mimulus aurantiacus*, *Cardamine oligosperma*, *Chlorogalum pomeridianum* sensu lat., *Toxicodendron diversilobum*, *Claytonia parviflora* var. *parviflora*, *Claytonia perfoliata* sensu lat., *Rubus ursinus*, *Satureja douglasii*, *Galium porrigens* var. *porrigens*, *Polypodium californicum*, *Artemisia californica*, *Dudleya caespitosa*, *Apiastrum angustifolium*, *Pterocephila drymarioides*, *Layia hieracioides*, *Melica...
torreyana, Fritillaria affinis aff. var. affinis, Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis, Scrophularia californica subsp. californica, Daucus pusillus, Adiantum jordantii, Phacelia malvifolia, Crassula connata, Cryptantha micromeres, Artemisia douglasiana, Pseudognaphalium californicum, Piperia michaelii, Solidago velutina subsp. californica, Achillea millefolium, Oemleria cerasiformis, Deschampsia elongata, Nasella lepida, Sagina apetala, Trifolium microdon, Trifolium willdenovii (occasionally, a nanistic phase, with long-pedunculate reduced-in-stature inflorescences and some calyx-lobes displaying vestigial teeth can be found growing sympatrically with the forma typica..... note: this taxon may prove to be a variant of Trifolium oliganthum), Sanicula gianonei, pro.sp.nov., Stachys bullata, Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens, Festuca californica, Berberis pinnata subsp. pinnata, Triteleia laxa (rare coastal headland form with radially symmetrical stamens, darker and narrower flowers, short, equal filaments and blue anthers that turn brown), Lathyrus vestitus sensu lato, Potentilla glandulosa subsp. glandulosa, Urtica dioica subsp. gracilis, Anaphalis margaritacea, Gamochaeta ustulata, Silmacina stellata, Dryopteris arguta, Saxifraga californica, Luzula comosa, Lithophragma affine, Cardamine californica var. californica, Eriogonum latifolium sensu lato, Calochortus albus, Frangula californica subsp. californica, Salix lasiandra var. lasiandra, Sidalcea malvaeflora subsp. malvaeflora, Horkelia californica subsp. californica, Heracleum maximum, Symphyotrichum chilense, Bromus carinatus sensu lato, Marah fabaceus, Solanum umbrelliferum, Yabea microcarpa, Cirsiurn brevistylum, Vicia americana var. americana), Vicia gigantea, Polystichum nudum, Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis, Delphinium decorum subsp. decorum, Pseudognaphalium stramineum, Barbarea orthoceras, Solanum douglasii, Ribes divaricatum var. pubiflorum, Amsinckia menziesii var. intermedia, Salix lasiolepis, Lotus juncus var. bioletii (peduncles of mature inflorescences 15-25 mm long), Lotus wrangelianus and Plectritis brachystemon (convex side of fruit body distinctly keeled, flowers circa 3.35 mm and pale pink).

While 150+ years of agricultural based land use, coupled with the attendant invasion/entrenchment of European non-native taxa, should render the existence of "native" biodiversity moot..... a small section of the Western Terrace, overlooking the Highway 1 entrance to CalPoly’s Swanton Pacific Ranch (circa 1/8 mile east of Agrostis Rectangle) and the lower drainage system of Cowboy Shack Gulch, tosses that assumption out the-window and forces us to re-examine habitats with an extensive history of "human induced" disturbance and our accrued perceptions/biases of said areas, with a fresh perspective! This mini-refugium, consisting of an eastward-dipping (due to an underlying syncline) isolated portion of exposed bedding plane, topped with and surrounded by grassland modified by a long history of grazing, supports an amazing albeit concentrated rolecall of native species, which warrants listing in full. Measuring circa 30 meters along an east/west axis, at least three ecological profiles can be drawn to support the degree of biodiversity present: (1) the east/south facing bedding planes are exposed to the early morning sun plus the relentless winds and their concomitant desiccating effects, (2) the west/north aspects are caked in shadow for much of the morning and during the winter/spring months, stay damp throughout the day and (3) the top and periphery of the remnant terrace are circumscribed by a matrix of grasses and forbs, which form a moisture retentive skin. As of 04/22/10, here are the "legitimate stakeholders" in this microcosm of coastline: footsteps-of-spring (Sanicula arctopoides), checkerbloom (Sidalcea malvaeflora ssp. malvaeflora), California aster (Corethrogyne filaginifolia..... var. californica), miner’s lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata, sensu lato), grassland gilia (Gilia clivorum), California hedge-nettle (Stachys bullata), stinging phacelia (Phacelia malvifolia), lizard tail (Eriophyllum stachadiformium), hoary bowlesia (Bowlesia incana), rattlesnake weed (Daucus pusillus), seaside daisy (Erigeron glaucus), popweed
(Cardamine oligosperma), dwarf orthocarpus (Triphysaria pusilla), yellow bush lupine (Lupinus arboresus), morning glory (Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata), coast buckwheat (Eriogonum latifolium, sensu latu), purple sack clover (Trifolium depauperatum var. truncatum), pin-point clover (Trifolium gracilentum var. gracilentum), double-headed clover (Trifolium macraei), soap plant (Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. divaricatum), California poppy (Eschscholzia californica), sea lettuce (Dudleya caespitosa), ocean-bluff bluegrass (Poa unilateralis), purple needlegrass (Nasella pulchra), California brome (Bromus carinatus var. carinatus), California polypody (Polypodium californicum), yarrow (Achillea millefolium), California man root (Marah fabaeus), California blackberry (Rubus ursinus), pygmyweed (Crassula connata), California mustard (Caulanthus lasiophyllus), red maids (Calandrinia ciliata), shining peppergrass (Lepidium nitidum var. nitidum), western lady’s mantle (Aphanes occidentalis), sky lupine (Lupinus nanus), Gianone everlasting (Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro sp. nov.), cotton batting plant (Pseudognaphalium stramineum), California figwort (Scrophularia californica subsp. californica), California goosefoot (Chenopodium californicum), osso berry (Oemleria cerasiformis), deerweed (Lotus scoparius var. scoparius), California plantain (Plantago erecta) and California sagebrush (Artemisia californica).

One relatively small area, literally designated “Solar-panel Hotspot”........ is principally vertical in orientation and capped with an exposed, sinuous grassland...... faces west/northwest overlooking Cal Poly’s metal gate cum solar panel and supports an intensely concentrated, highly diverse “native” flora. Paralleling the “Magic Triangle”, not only in alignment but also sharing species of considerable rarity, this “micro-refugium” is a case study unto itself, being home to more than 100 native plant taxa! Two species rare within the county, which occur on both sites, are lovage (Ligusticum apiifolium) and the Santa Cruz microseris (Sstbbinoseris decipiens), chaperoned by both of its diploid parents..... coast microseris (Microseris bigelovii) and silver puffs (Uropappus lindleyi). Another shared species is mosquito bills (Dodecatheon hendersonii): a small population was discovered growing on the “Solar-panel Hotspot” circa 30 years ago (in actuality, long before the existence of the solar panel), which individual plants had either 4-merous or 5-merous flowers, raising taxonomic questions about the validity of subsp. cruciatum..... pressings were made, documenting both the subsp. hendersonii and subsp. cruciatum forms, and dispatched to the Jepson Herbarium, UC Berkeley...... as of 02/13/10, a small (circa 25 plants) population still exists, with at least one 4-merous representative flowering early. Easily overlooked when out-of-flower and often failing to complete its seasonal reproductive cycle due to lack of sufficient water, leafy daisy (Erigeron foliosus var. franciscensis), to date with only two populations documented for the watershed, maintains a precarious foothold within this dynamic area of concentrated biodiversity, its narrowly defined habitat shrinking due to competing vegetation. Easy to overlook when in flower, defines the following four natives, widespread to the degree that the status of their nativity is sometimes questioned..... pygmyweed (Crassula connata), California plantain (Plantago erecta), western lady’s mantle (Aphanes occidentalis) and shining peppergrass (Lepidium nitidum var. nitidum), play hide-and-go seek in the narrow strip of grassland, their adult stature ranging from 0.5-5.5cm in height!!! Dominating the moist understory pockets of soil rich in organic material, Gianone’s sanicle (Sanicula gianonei, pro sp. nov.) stands out just by virtue of its yellow-green foliage and where it co-exists with its darker-hued relative, gambleweed (Sanicula crassicaulis), the visual contrast is so marked that diagnosis from a distance is easily accomplished..... another member of the Carrot Family (Apiaceae), not so readily discerned from the surrounding vegetation, hoary bowliesia (Bowlesia incana), further compounds its taxonomic status by superficially mimicing a sympatric non-relative, downy buttercup (Ranunculus hebecarpus). Not willing to be left out of the proceedings, the Madder Family (Rubiaceae) contributes two members to this diverse assemblage of natives,
California bedstraw (*Galium californicum* subsp. *californicum*) and climbing bedstraw (*Galium porrigens* var. *porrigens*) and complementing this duo and raising the ante by adding olfactory stimulation to the mix, California hedge-nettle (*Stachys bullata*) and yerba buena (*Satureja douglasii*), are notable representatives of the Mint Family (Lamiaceae). Extending the pairing concept a bit further, two local relatives of the domestic sweet pea, both visually attractive but lacking any noticeable fragrance, Pacific pea (*Lathyrus vestitus* var. *vestitus*) and American vetch (*Vicia americana* var. *americana*), make their presence felt by scaling up through and over any adjacent shrubbery. So far, by itemizing less than one fifth of the “natives” occupying this elevated transitional zone, between coastal prairie and inner grassland, the biogeographical implications alone, should convince the skeptics, that even the *most prosaic of habitats from a distance should not be dismissed out-of-hand without a closer look*! From an ecological perspective, this refugium is a valuable laboratory for the study of interconnected micro-habitats..... influenced by such factors as (a) slope orientation, (b) wind patterns, (c) proximity to the ocean, (d) canopy diversity with the contrasting dynamics of evergreen versus deciduous behavior, (e) long term impact of introduced herbivory, (f) pollen and seed dispersal vectors, (g) changes in soil behavior and associated flora along a vertical cline, (h) corresponding diversity in the faunal representation .....to further emphasize the unifying botanical thread holding this biologically diverse microcosm together, in the *form of an addendum*, the following native taxa interact to form a complex interdigitating mosaic: California aster (*Lessingia filaginifolia* var. *californica* = *Corethrogyne filaginifolia*), oso berry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), coast live-oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*), forest live-oak (*Quercus parvula* var. *shrevei*), California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*), Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*), Ithuriel's spear (*Triteleia laxa*..... *forma typica*, with laterally symmetrical stamens, whitish anthers and filaments of unequal length), rattlesnake weed (*Daucus pusillus*), cow-parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum* = *Heracleum maximum*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), pale plectritis (*Plectritis brachystemon*), ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*), coast buckwheat (*Eriogonum latifolium*/*nudum* intergrades), California wild rye (*Elymus glaucus* subsp. *glaucus*), Roemer's fescue (*Festuca roemeri*), junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), Torrey's melic (*Melica torreyana*), ocean-bluff bluegrass (*Poa unilateralis*), California fescue (*Festuca californica*), California man root (*Marah fabaceus*), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis* subsp. *affinis*), California maidenhair (*Adiantum jordanii*), western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*), California polypody (*Polypodium californicum*..... *lithophyte, lowest sets of pinna longer than succeeding ones*), footsteps-of-spring (*Sanicula arctopoides*), western nettle (*Hesperocnide tenella*), coast nettle (*Urtica dioica* subsp. *gracilis*), sticky cinquefoil (*Potentilla glandulosa* subsp. *glandulosa*), wood strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), California cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*), purple cudweed (*Camochaeta ustulata*), creeping hearts (*Pterostegia drymarioides*), tall layia (*Layia hieracioides*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus* var. *laevisitus*), slender hairgrass (*Deschampsia elongata*), goldback fern (*Pentagranum triangularis* subsp. *triangularis*), Valparaiso clover (*Trifolium microdon*), tomat clover (*Trifolium wildenowii*), common wood rush (*Luella comosa*), common rush (*Juncus patens*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and Franciscan coyote mint (*Monardella villosa* subsp. *franciscana*).

Visible from Swanton Road, the “Magic Triangle” is a deltoid near-vertical refugium for 120+ native taxa, one of which constituted the *only known documentation for the county* of Franciscan paintbrush (*Castilleja subinclusa* subsp. *franciscana*), discovered circa 30 years ago and specimens later pressed and deposited in the Jepson Herbarium (UC Berkeley). This isolated population was different in the type in that the inflorescences were covered with gland-tipped...
trichomes. A hummingbird pollinated paintbrush species of great beauty, with flowers superficially resembling a tropical Heliconia, it was growing sympatriically with another co-evolved taxon, this time with pendant orange nectareous flowers, crimson columbine (Aquilegia formosa). Still heading in a southward bearing along the grass-cloaked synform, one encounters a nonet of native clovers: long-keeled clover (Trifolium appendiculatum), bearded clover (Trifolium barbigerum var. barbigerum), purple sack clover (Trifolium depauperatum var. truncatum), pin-point clover (Trifolium gracilentum var. gracilentum), double-headed clover (Trifolium macroae), maiden clover (Trifolium microcephalum), Valparaiso clover (Trifolium microdon), white-tipped clover (Trifolium variegatum) and tomcat clover (Trifolium wilddenovii). This constellation of clover species was sharing habitat with unrelated owl’s clover (Castilleja densiflora, aff. Orthocarpus noctinus), the coastal headland race displaying cream-colored vanilla scented flowers, Johnny jump-up (Viola pedunculata), with a subterranean root system that would seem commensurate with an adult oak rather than an herbaceous perennial circa 10-20 cm. in height, an isolated colony of coast dandelion (Agoseris apargioides var. apargioides = Agoseris hirsuta) and distantly related sky lupine (Lupinus nanus), exhibiting flowers ranging in color from white fading tan through pink, lavender, pale blue and finally the traditional dark blue. Adding visual spice to the proceedings, a trio of paintbrush relatives and a sporadic natural hybrid between two of them: butter-and-eggs (Triphysaria eriantha subsp. eriantha), dwarf orthocarpus (Triphysaria pusilla) and purple-beaked owl’s clover (Triphysaria micrantha); the documented hybrids are between Triphysaria eriantha subsp. eriantha x Triphysaria pusilla, with the latter existing in two forms, one with anthocyanic-pigmented foliage and maroon-brown colored flowers, the other with green herbage and pale yellow flowers.

Hugging this wind-swept ascending mosaic of reduced-in-stature vegetation, two members of the Carrot Family (Apiaceae) warrant close study: caraway-leaved lomatium (Lomatium caruifolium var. caruifolium), with extremely variable foliage ranging from glabrous through densely pubescent and footsteps-of-spring (Sanicula arcticoides), with radially aligned, horizontal, yellow-green foliage looking like a surreal sun-dial. Scattered across this tilted grassland, tidytips (Layia platyglossa) perfumes the warm summer days with a memorable scent redolent of cinnamon. Lastly, a species for years thought to be extinct, the San Francisco popcorn-flower (Plagiobothrys diffusus/reticulatus = Plagiobothrys diffusus), creates isolated tapestries of miniature white-and-yellow flowers on prostrate plants referenced millimeters above a thin skin composed of grass and moss, which covers the exposed geometry of the fractured coastal terraces. The ultimate taxonomic status of this resurrected taxon is still unresolved, strongly suggesting the need for work on the molecular level to determine its place within the Plagiobothrys reticulatus complex! (note: as of 2007, the appellation Plagiobothrys diffusus, has been reinstated for the aforementioned taxon, resurrecting from extinction, a coastal California native).

Although it encompasses less than a sixth of the roadside tour, the descending stretch between the Last Chance turnoff and the “Old Seaside School” contains 15 tree and 4 sub-tree species native to the watershed, a remarkable tally for a mere blip on the pedometer. Mature specimens of coast live-oak (Quercus agrifolia) and forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei), plus related tan-oak (Lithocarpus densiflorus var. densiflorus = Notholithocarpus densiflorus), grow side by side..... their differences in branching patterns, leaf morphologies, fruit maturation times, and bark topographies are easily observed. Presenting a fall display in gold, big-leaf maple (Acer macrophyllum) brightens the deep canyon recesses as the shorter days herald the onset of winter, while sister species, box elder (Acer negundo var. californicum), margins the alluvium-rich flood plains and during the overheated and brightly lit summer months, provides a canopy of soft, diffused light. A sinus clearing aroma, pungent to some and headache inducing to others, is
exuded from the crushed leaves of California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*), country cousin to the domestic avocado (*Persea americana*) and offers olfactory counterpoint to the overpowering sweetness released by the California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), whose nectar and pollen are toxic to honeybees! Sharing familial connections with such local natives as the inimitably fragrant western azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*), the endemic Schreiber’s manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glutinosa*), and the delectable California huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*), the Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) is by far, aesthetically, our noblest arboreal resident..... the fluid curvature and lacquered sheen of its trunk bring to mind the otherworldly sculptures of Brancusi. Exceeding sub-tree status, toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)..... one specimen inhabiting the conifer/oak woodland above the road may exceed 10 meters in height, with the trunk six feet above ground level measuring 30+ cm in diameter, blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana = Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis*)..... a sure sign of aboreal status is when nested polypody (*Polypodium calirhiza*) colonizes the braided bark cloaking your 5+ meter high trunk, California coffeeberry (*Frangula californica subsp. californica*) and its cousin blue blossom (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*), are each represented along this particular segment of our walk by individuals exceeding five meters in height. One arboreal species that occasionally strays out of its preferred habitat, margining streams and colonizing sand-bars with replacements of itself, is the red alder (*Alnus rubra*)..... a scattering of young trees overlooking the lower portion of our down slope journey, most likely are the result of updrafts from the riparian corridor below, occurring as the narrowly winged nutlets are being shed from the coniferous pistillate catkins. A ubiquitous presence along much of our watershed tour, aboreal by inclination and within touching distance as we approach Scotts Creek Bridge and The Old Seaside School, arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) has established residence throughout the watershed, wherever sufficient moisture is present. Sharing this aqueous ecosystem, with rhizomes, tenacious root systems and a tolerance for wet feet, are an unusual trio, often found growing sympatrically along the riparian corridors..... in descending order by virtue of stature, red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), and blue creek-sedge (*Carex amplifolia*).  

**note:** Without leaving the tarmac, between the entrance to Back Ranch Road and the Archibald Creek’s interface with Swanton Road, one can encounter/observe *Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia* and *Quercus parvula* var. *shrevei*, displaying a wide range of intraspecific foliar variability and where interdigitation between the two taxa occurs, a complex series of morphological templates..... some of which, are manifesting F1 intermediacy, while others may be reticulate recombinants, with gene flow reflecting both ancestral and contemporary hybridization. What role does the accumulation of understory debris and ground-hugging vegetation play in the prevention of fertile acorns from germinating and in areas where putative interspecific hybridization could occur due to sympatry, are a substantial number of hybrids destined to be trapped in a limbo between being potentially fertile and unable to secure an favorable habitat conducive for germination? Are more hybrids, F1 and above, successfully produced at the pollination/fertilization stage than are ever observed in situ, simply because the transition from acorn to developing seedling is derailed by understory debris? How critical is the periodic disruption thru natural processes such as fire and geomorphological disturbances such as landslides, in maintaining a genetic variability in the local *Quercus* populations by exposing the mineral rich substrate beneath the leaf litter and what role can human disturbance, intentional or inadvertant, such as road/trail building play in being a proxy to the naturally occurring disruptions?  

Overlooking Swanton Road, between the Brown/West driveway and the interface with the “Old
Road”, a sinuous ribbon of conifer/oak woodland, often no more than 350-400 feet in width, affords the serious ecologist a treasure trove of diverse "natives". Starting at its western edge and moving in a southeast then southerly direction, the following native botanical residents can be encountered while exploring this verdant tapestry of biodiversity: Monterey pine (Pinus radiata), descents of a complex and highly reticulate hybrid swarm between Pinus attenuata and Pinus radiata), Pacific madrone (Arbutus menziesii), Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii), common rush (Juncus patens), poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum, major provider of the watershed’s most vibrant fall colors), California wild rye (Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus), California bedstraw (Galium californicum subsp. californicum), California brome (Bromus carinatus var. carinatus), woodland madia (Anisocarpus madioides), gallowweed (Sanicula crassicaulis), California blackberry (Rubus ursinus), California coffeeberry (Frangula californica subsp. californica), forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei), California bay laurel (Umbellularia californica), nodding brome (Bromus vulgaris), coast live-oak (Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia), oracle oak (Quercus x morech..... a decade ago, five juvenile examples of this misdiagnosed non-F1 hybrid, were removed from their localized habitat under a Quercus parvula var. shrevei colony and transplanted to the neighboring property of the late Harry Wain..... over the intervening years, the majority of transplants have continued to survive, showing a remarkable variation in growth patterns and foliar gestalt, while the remaining scattered examples continue to survive and have been digitally documented in situ), yerba buena (Satureja douglasii), wood fern (Dryopteris arguta), blue blossom (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus, of the several mature sub-trees present, one stands out with an estimated 30’ heignh and a lower trunk that is circa 1’ in diameter at 6’ above ground level), hairy honeysuckle (Lonicera hispidula), sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), California hedge nettle (Stachys bullata), tan-oak (Notholithocarpus densiflorus var. densiflorus), Alaska onion grass (Melica subulata), Pacific pea (Lathyrus vestitus var. vestitus), Douglas’s iris (Iris douglasiana), sweet cicely (Osmorhiza belter), California maidenhair (Adiantum jordanii), spotted coralroot (Corallorhiza maculata sensu lato, the taxon in question lacks any spotting on the labellum, which at best, shows a pale pink suffusion post-anthesis plus other structural differences from the type..... whether the designation forma immaculata is an accurate biological definition or the current appellation, var. occidentalis best applies to the local populations under discussion, reflects the need for an in depth examination from a combined ecological, morphological and molecular perspective), coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), mugwort (Artemisia douglasiana), American vetch (Vicia americana var. americana), hound’s tongue (Cynoglossum grande), Gianone sedge complex (Carex gianonei, pro sp. nov.), California aster (Symphyotrichum chilense), pine grass (Calamagrostis rubescens), broad-leaved aster (Eurybia radulina), Hall’s/leafy bent grass intergrades (Agrostis hallii/pallens complex), foothill needlegrass (Nassella lepida), tall trisetum (Trisetum aff. canescens), coast redwood (Sequoia sempervirens), toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia, one asymmetrical "old" specimen possibly exceeds 30’ in height, with the trunk 6’ from ground level, measuring 12+” in diameter), western sword fern (Polystichum munitum), Torrey’s melic (Melica torreyana, perhaps the most polymorphic member of the Poaceae in the watershed), Hooker’s fairy bells (Prosartes hookeri), wood rose (Rosa gymnocarpa), ground rose (Rosa spithamea, uncommon in watershed), hazelnut (Corylus cornuta subsp. californica), Pacific starflower (Tridentis latifolia), wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca), blue elderberry (Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis), Indian thistle (Cirsium brevistylum), California man root (Marah fabaceus), Elmer’s fleece (Festuca elmeri), western fence (Festuca occidentalis), oso berry (Oemleria cerasiformis), blue witch (Solanum umbelliferum), coast tarweed (Madia sativa), coyote mint (Monardella villosa subsp. villosa), goldback fern (Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis), California figwort (Scrophularia californica subsp. californica), climbing bedstraw (Galium porrigens var. porrigens), bracken (Pteridium aquinimum var. pubescens),

Occupying the steep slopes, which flank the outer edge of Swanton Road and drain down into Scotts Creek, is a quartet of gymnosperms: Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), California nutmeg (*Torreya californica*), and coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). Drawing from both the monocots and dicots, a varied tapestry of understory associates can be identified by the seasoned observer, although when out of flower and lost in the welter of poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), in addition to shifting patterns of sunlight and shadow, can challenge even the most experienced naturalist. On occasion reaching two to three meters in height, bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens*) joins thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), wood rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*), oso berry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), Douglas's nightshade (*Solanum douglasii*), cow-parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), and straggly gooseberry (*Ribes divaricatum* var. *pubiflorum*) in providing a further, albeit lower layer of canopy overtopping sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza chilensis* = *Osmorhiza berteroii*), woodland madia (*Madia madioides* = *Anisocarpus madioides*), wood strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), the "fat" and "slim" Solomon's seals (*Smilacina racemosa* and *Smilacina stellata*), white hawkweeds (*Hieracium alibiflorum*), a taxon second only to the previously noted poison oak for being a dispenser of fear and discomfort.....coast nettle (*Urtica dioica subsp. gracilis*), broad-leaved aster (*Aster radulinus* = *Eurybia radulina*), hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*), hairy honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula var. *pacillans*) along with its cousin snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus var. laevigatus*), and California man root (*Marah fabaceus*). the man root, out of spite, will seasonally attempt to smother any shrub within reach of its tendrils!

The alternation of common Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*) with rare San Francisco collinsia (*Collinsia multicolor*), both sharing a preference for mudstone debris.....presents an intriguing distributional pattern, further complicated by the fact that the inflorescences of both species possess gland-tipped trichomes, which when pressed firmly leave an iodine-colored stain on some, but not all, hands! This rare/common combination, was previously placed in the Figwort Family (*Scrophulariaceae*), but now, due to molecular studies, resides within the *Plantaginaceae* and shares reorganized familial linkages with several other species occurring within our specifically defined viewshed, namely Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis* subsp. *affinis*), family *Orobanchaceae*, sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), family *Phrymaceae*, American brooklime (*Veronica americana*), family *Plantaginaceae* and California figwort (*Scrophularia californica* subsp. *californica*), including *its uncommon flavistic* (yellow-flowered) *form* and staying put within its namesake family, the *Scrophulariaceae*!!! *Castilleja affinis* subsp. *affinis* constitutes an extremely variable complex, with putative elements of *Castilleja latifolia* (leaves oblong-orbicular and entire), *Castilleja applegatei* (wavy leaf margins), *Castilleja subinclusa* subsp. *franciscana* (exserted lower lip, forward-pointed galea, upthrusted calyces and distinctly pedicellate flowers), *Castilleja wightii* (yellow flowers, more or less included galea, glandular indument and numerous short axillary shoots below the inflorescence) and *Castilleja foliolosa* or *Castilleja mollis* (occasional branched/forked trichomes). An uncommon and
perhaps endemic component of the *Castilleja densiflora* complex occurs on a few coastal headlands, with creamy-white flowers exuding a vanilla-like scent. Plants of owl’s clover (*Castilleja densiflora*) away from the immediate coast (Schoolhouse Ridge) have rose-purple flowers with a spicy cinnamon scent and most likely adapted locally (the *Orthocarpus noctuinus* analogue) to a vespertine pollinating vector in response to the prevailing diurnal coastal wind patterns. One exposed and isolated coastal grassland, hosted sympatric populations of the extremely rare banded owl’s clover (*Castilleja exserta subsp. latifolia*) and the vanilla-scented form of owl’s clover (*Castilleja densiflora*), which were observed and studied for several seasons.

From a floristic perspective, one of the values derived from the watershed’s biodiversity is the study of contrasts: the variety and plasticity of morphological templates within a specific family, occupying different niches in the same ecosystem.

(a) Unless one is versed in Apiaceae taxonomy and has fruiting plants at hand with their highly dissimilar schizocarps, it would be difficult to connect water hemlock (*Cicuta douglasii*), Pacific oenanthe (*Oenanthe sarmentosa*), California angelica (*Angelica tomentosa*), hoary bowlesia (*Bowlesia incana*), California hedge-parsley (*Yabea microcarpa*), lovage (*Ligusticum apiifolium*) and rattlesnake weed (*Daucus pusillus*) with cow-parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum = Heracleum maximum*), sweet cicyl (*Osmorhiza chilensis = Osmorhiza berteroi*), footsteps-of-spring (*Sanicula arctopoides*), wild celery (*Apiastrum angustifolium*), caraway-leaved lomatium (*Lomatium caruifolium var. caruifolium*), coyote thistle (*Eryngium armatum*) and Gairdner’s yampah (*Perideridia gairdneri subsp. gairdneri*). A diverse family indeed, but the constituent taxa are united by the structure of their fruits, these when mature splitting into two halves, each containing one seed and temporarily remaining attached to a portion of the central axis known as a carpophore.

(b) What is found growing on sandbars along Scotts Creek’s riparian corridor, is a monocot, vegetatively simulates an *Iris* but is not one? Excluding flowers and fruits, the genus *Juncus* affords the student of form and function, a rare opportunity to observe a bewildering array of variations on a theme, often approaching a sophisticated level of mimicry that can seduce the uninitiated into making a hastily arrived misdiagnosis! The aforementioned “*Iris* poseur” is none other than the iris-leaved rush (*Juncus xiphioides*). On the coastal prairies another foliar chameleon can be found, brown-headed rush (*Juncus phaeocephalus var. phaeocephalus*), which often grows with and masquerades as the blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*)* and occasionally forming a threesome is western rush (*Juncus occidentalis*), producing caespitose tufts with leaves and nascent culms acting like counterfeit California hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa subsp. holciformis*) plants, which to confuse matters even further, can be found growing synergistically!

*Note: blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), while common throughout the watershed and elsewhere, behaves in a decidedly uncommon fashion locally when it comes to the range of colors exhibited and the concomitant variability of the perianth parts, both as to dimensions and overall gestalt. During the past 30+ years, specimens have been collected and raised, either in containers or naturally in the ground, which produced (a) unblemished white flowers, white flowers with pink or blue pheasant eyes, white flowers veined pink or bluish-purple, (b) pale pink flowers, (c) pale blue flowers, (d) flowers in various shades of blue, violet and purple and (e) rarest of all, purple flowers with the adaxial surface of the perianth parts speckled with pigment free, transparent patches which glistened like mica. The equally, as to configuration, variable perianth divisions, range from stellate with parts separate through
flowers with parts so broadly drawn that they ± overlap and appear rotate.

Locally, taxonomic conundrums abound within the Rush Family (Juncaceae), namely reconciling morphological differences within one circumscription for a “variable” species. Such a species, with a decidedly schizophrenic nature, is Mexican rush (*Juncus mexicanus*). At least two taxa, scattered in marsh-like areas within/bordering the coastal prairies and adjacent grasslands, which due to the possession of tortile-compressed culms and basal bracts occasionally displaying conspicuous blades, are referable to the *Juncus balticus* complex, aff. *Juncus mexicanus*:

**Taxon 1**: culms dark green, stout, often arcuate, inflorescences **compact** with perianth parts **dark brown and nitid**, 5-6 mm. long, in overall gestalt, simulating a nanistic phase of salt rush (*Juncus lesueurii*) or possibly referable to *Juncus breweri* but on occasion producing basal bracts with readily identifiable blades.

**Taxon 2**: culms light green, sometimes with a bluish cast, usually erect, **slender**, tortile-compressed, inflorescences **open**, perianth parts **pale**, 3-5 mm. long, basal bracts sporadically displaying culm-like blades. The **aerial portion of the seasonal culms behaves in a strictly annual fashion**, turning tannish-brown and rapidly become desiccated with the approach of fall.

Just when you have brought the *Juncus* to heel and feel secure in possessing skills of discernment, a roadside discovery runs your ship of confidence aground: scattered colonies of an unknown grass appear on the upper slopes—perennial, with basally sheathing plane leaves, these margined with conspicuous filiform whitish hairs unlike any local member of the Poaceae you have seen! A few remnant inflorescences, holdovers from last season are found, these displaying in a very un-grasslike fashion, partially disintegrated one-chambered capsules. Thus common wood rush (*Luzula comosa*) enters the scene, a sister genus to *Juncus*, their foliar disparities overshadowing the shared anatomical structuring of their reproductive organs.

If certain character traits can be ascribed to a specific group of plants within our “green” sightseeing jaunt, then “not knowing their place,” fits the ferns perfectly.

1 Updraft-borne spores of the lady fern (*Athyrium felix-femina* var. *cyclosorum*) from adjacent Scott’s Creek create a nascent colony in a shaded but only seasonally damp roadside ditch.

2 Periodic slope failure transports Western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*) and wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*) from their woodland habitat to near-vertical positions of long-term uncertainty.

3 California maidenhair (*Adiantum jordanii*) beats the summer heat by going dormant and leaving discreet traces of its existence with papery dried pinna and wiry varnished black petioles, while the goldback fern (*Pentagramma triangularis* subsp. *triangularis*) twists and contorts its basically deltoid-in-silhouette blades into a gold-dusted Mobius Loop.

4 And finally, nested polypody (*Polypodium calirhiza*)....an allotetraploid derivative of California polypody (*Polypodium californicum*) and the licorice fern (*Polypodium glycyrrhiza*)....decides that living the high life of an epiphyte on long-lived oaks and California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) is preferable to the terrestrial uncertainties of its brethren.
Adding contrast to the mix, with extremes of stature and overall gestalt, are western burning bush (*Euonymus occidentalis var. occidentalis*), displaying fleshy flowers suspended on thread-like stalks and looking as if they escaped from a tidepool and shining chickweed (*Stellaria nitens*), so delicate and finely drawn in stature as to be invisible unless properly backlit. From a purely horticultural perspective, it would be very difficult to best the foliar display put on by small-flowered alum root (*Heuchera micrantha*), with leaves exceedingly variable, both as to pigmentation and adaxial surface patterns, rivaling those found on Rex begonias.

Sadly, not all native species persist in a specific site within a given area and such is the case with Torrey’s cryptantha (*Cryptantha torreyana*). This locally uncommon borage, in past years appeared seasonally, restricted to certain east-facing road banks, often concentrated in small groupings and as such, was vulnerable to natural extirpation. When massive sliding, the result of El Nino driven weather patterns, radically changed this species preferred habitat, no replacement seeds were apparently available to reestablish the total population loss for that site. Also factoring into this survival equation, is the longevity of some seeds, actually nutlets in this case, and if short-lived, one or two seasons, even if present may not have been viable when actually needed!

Many observers, encountering California bedstraw (*Galium californicum subsp. californicum*), climbing bedstraw (*Galium porrigens var. porrigens*), and sweet-scented bedstraw (*Galium triflorum*) would be surprised to learn that this low-profile trio of “locals” belonging to the Madder Family (Rubiaceae), is in fact related to the exotic genera *Cichona* (Quinine), * Coffea* (Coffee), and *Gardenia* (Gardenia)!

Again, the mixing of the widespread with the locally uncommon defines some of the native grasses found growing along this singled-out portion of our botanical survey, with Elmer’s fescue (*Festuca elmeri*) leading the pack in the uncommon category (plants vary throughout the watershed as to stature, ca. 0.5-2 m. in height, number of florets per spikelet and anther color, yellow or purple), followed in frequency of occurrence by tall trisetum (*Trisetum canescens = Trisetum cernuum subsp. canescens*), Alaska onion grass (*Melica subulata*), Howell’s bluegrass (*Poa howellii*), Western fescue (*Festuca occidentalis*), slender hairgrass (*Deschampsia elongata*), pine grass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*), California wild rye (*Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus*) extremely variable with some populations displaying “branched” inflorescences, polymorphic Torrey’s melic (*Melica torreyana*), California brome (*Bromus carinatus var. carinatus*), and nodding brome (*Bromus vulgaris*). *Bromus carinatus var. carinatus* constitutes a complex assemblage of “microspecies”, some self-pollinating/cleistogamous (stamens included), others out-breeding (stamens exerted). Plants with broad leaves and large inflorescences, these sometimes displaying drooping branches with few spikelets, may represent ancient hybridization with *Bromus sitchensis*. Less than ¼ mile from the tarmac but out of viewing range, one of the rarest grasses found within the riparian corridor, crinkle-awn fescue (*Festuca subuliflora*), resides as a component of the redwood under story, visually looking like its sister species, Elmer’s fescue (*Festuca elmeri*), but possessing long-stipitate florets and conspicuous awns.

Mimicry and shared habitat provide food for thought, as one peruses the damp banks with their moss covered rocks and exposed root systems: here, varied-leaved collomia (*Collomia heterophylla*), popweed (*Cardamine oligosperma*), and small-flowered nemophila (*Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora*), three unrelated annual species, play out their seed-to-seed life cycles,
featuring overlapping juvenile growth patterns of basal rosettes with pinnatifid leaves. Do all three species merely prefer the same ecological conditions, or does one of the three possess chemical constituents that repel predation, insect or otherwise, thereby bestowing protection on the other two imitators? Pacific starflower (Trillium latifolia) also engages in a form of mimicry, perhaps more from this observers perspective than any co-evolutionary causation....but not only, when still in foliar mode and growing in dappled light, does it superficially look like an anorexic version of the often sympatric western trillium (Trillium ovatum) but like that unrelated taxon, also possesses a thickened rootstock. Parenthetically, both Trillium and Centunculus have now been removed from the family Primulaceae and resettled within the Myrsinaceae.

A brief notice to the unfortunate passing of an uncommon and controversial taxon which, with its scattered brethren, occupy the mixed coniferous/hardwood tract overshadowing this installment of our walk: I am making reference to the oracle oak (Quercus x morehus), which in the case of our local specimens, represent in my opinion, the highly localized manifestation of ancient hybridization between the black oak (Quercus kelloggi) and forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei). Throughout the watershed, certain “mother trees” (Quercus parvula var. shrevei) produce, within a population of “normal” offspring, a percentage reflecting Quercus kelloggi influence, perhaps acquired during an earlier time frame when the two taxa grew sympatrically and the forest live-oak, as it expanded its coastal range, carried the recessive “hybrid genes” with it. Since the oracle oak specimens are site specific and are always in association with a population or individual specimen of the forest live-oak, in theory the production of Quercus x morehus may need two proximal Quercus parvula var. shrevei trees carrying the recessive “hybrid genes” to produce the oracle oaks! The hybrid offspring are readily distinguished from the surrounding oaks by their slower rate of growth and plane, sinately-lobulate, semi-deciduous foliage. The taxon in question, was perched on the forested edge overlooking Swanton Road and early into the rainy season, had its root system undercut by slope failure and slowly starved to death by desiccation—an ignoble ending for a noble tree in the making! Offsetting the demise of one oracle oak along this particular stretch of viewshed are two healthy specimens, growing proximal to each other and within viewing range from the tarmac..... but to the untrained eye, so integrated within the surrounding oak woodland as to be rendered indistinguishable (save for a few yellowing leaves of a deciduous nature) from their parental stock, the forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei)! Incidentally, both of these specimens of Quercus x morehus have been digitally documented along with several other examples found growing throughout the Scotts Creek Watershed and with much other material of a documentary nature, deposited at the UCSC Arboretum for future study.

Before moving on to the next leg of our rural trek, here is a mini-survey that underscores the diversity of the native flora found bordering this small section of country road: spotted coralroot (Corallorhiza maculata..... immaculata form, lip unblemished but occasionally during the post-anthesis stage, the lip aging with a pale pink suffusion and possibly the best name, to assign this morphologically uniform taxon, should be var. occidentalis), royal rein orchid (Piperia transversa), cream cups (Platystemon californicus), Hasse’s vetch (Vicia hassei), checker lily (Eritrichium affinis var. affinis), American winter cress (Barbarca orthoceras), downy buttercup (Ranunculus hebearpus), hairy wood sorrel (Oxalis corniculata subsp. pilosa), brown bog rush (Juncus hesperius), common rush (Juncus patens), western nettle (Hesperocnide tenella), canyon gooseberry (Ribes menziesii), Pacific pea (Lathyrus vestitus var. vestitus), ground rose (Rosa spithamea, new addition to Scotts Creek Watershed native species checklist), Hooker’s fairy bells (Disporum hookeri = Prosartes hookeri), bleeding heart (Dicentra formosa), Douglas’s iris (Iris
douglasiana), intermediate fiddleneck (Amsinckia menziesii var. intermedia), Pacific starflower (Trientalis latifolia), willow herb (Epilobium ciliatum sensu lato), hazelnut (Corylus cornuta var. californica), hill star (Lithophragma heterophyllum), California canary grass (Phalaris californica), gambleweed (Sanicula crassicaulis), giant trillium (Trillium chloropetalum), broad-leaved lupine (Lupinus latifolius var. latifolius), yerba buena (Satureja douglasii) and Indian thistle (Cirsium brevistylum).

One of the hidden or illusory aspects of journeying down Swanton Road, is that several of the smaller sub-watersheds feeding into Scotts Creek, while seeming relatively mundane at their terminus often begin from complex, multi-branched albeit abbreviated drainage systems. One of these highly reticulate assemblages of "gulchlets", encompasses an arc-like swath of acreage..... which includes at its head, the entire east dipping Magic Triangle Synform and within its legitimate boundaries, evolves via erosion, into the Old Road, Magic Triangle, Bifurcate, Dump, Haybarn, Buckeye Grove and Bulb Field "Gulches", before coalesing into a surprisingly narrow exit just below the Scotts Creek Bridge and parallels the final 200+ feet of this segment of our traversal. The number and variety of "natives" documented for this relatively small component of the Scotts Creek Watershed over the past four decades, are as follows..... arranged by families, many which are undergoing nomenclatural changes resulting from molecular based systematics: intermediate fiddleneck (aff. Amsinckia menziesii var. intermedia), bent-flowered fiddleneck (Amsinckia lunaris), hound's tongue (Cynoglossum grande), white baby-blue-eyes (Nemophila menziesii var. atomaria)..... geneti cally complex populations, with some plants gynodioecious and others tending towards var. menziesii in floral coloration and extremely variable as to corolla size and shape), small-flowered nemphila (Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora), Fremont's nemphila (Nemophila pulchella var. fremontii)..... this taxon, either represents a disjunct series of populations within the Scotts Creek Watershed of an interior non-coastal ranging species or a related but new entity!), stinging phacelia (Phacelia malvifolia), bracted popcorn-flower (Plagiobothrys bracteatus), artist's popcorn-flower (Plagiobothrys chorismianus var. chorismianus, San Francisco popcorn-flower (Plagiobothrys diffusus)..... western burning bush (Euonymus occidentalis var. occidentalis)..... Monterey pine (Pinus radiata)..... extensive representation of a morphologically variable sub-population derivative of ancient hybridization between Pinus attenuata and Pinus radiata), Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii)..... Pacific madrone (Arbutus menziesii), brittletle manzanita (Arctostaphylos crustacea sensu lato)..... oak/conifer woodland succession, has reduced once viable colonies on the ocean side of Scotts Creek to skeletal remnants, with few if any now showing signs of life), California huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum)..... coast barberry (Berberis pinnata subsp. pinnata)..... straggly gooseberry (Ribes divaricatum var. pubiflorum), canyon gooseberry (Ribes menziesii)..... creek dogwood (Cornus sericea subsp. sericea)..... arroyo willow (Salix lasiolepis), Scouler's willow (Salix scouleriana)..... one small tree with conspicuously oblancoate leaves, growing on brushy slope overlooking lower portion of gulch complex)..... redwood Sequoia sempervirens)..... big-leaf maple (Acer macrophyllum), California buckeye (Aesculus californica)..... the genera Acer and Aesculus have now been placed together within the Sapindaceae)..... bleeding heart (Dicentra formosa), California poppy (Eschscholzia californica)..... California nutmeg (Torreya californica)..... silk tassel (Garrya elliptica)..... California bedstraw (Galium californicum subsp. californicum), climbing bedstraw (Galium portoriius var. portoriius), sweet-scented bedstraw (Galium triflorum)..... red alder (Alnus rubra)..... California bay laurel (Umbellularia californica)..... poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum)..... common bluecup (Githopsis speculareae)..... hoary bowlsia (Boulesia incana), rattlesnake weed (Daucus pusillus), cow-parsnip (Heracleum maximum), lovage (Ligusticum apiifolium)..... rare for county, localized populations within Swanton area, are the only known
and documented ones to date), caraway-leaved lomatium (Lomatium caruifolium var. caruifolium), sweet cicely (Osmorhiza berteroii), footsteps-of-spring (Sanicula arctopoides), purple sanicle (Sanicula bipinnatifida...... a yellow flowered form of this taxon was found several years ago growing in the upper part of the Magic Triangle Gulch), gambelweed (Sanicula crassicaulis), Gianone’s sanicle (Sanicula gianonei, pro.sp.nov.)...... fat Solomon’s seal (Smilacina racemosa), slim Solomon’s seal (Smilacina stellata)...... Hooker’s fairy bells (Prosartes hookeri)...... Pacific starflower (Trientalis latifolia)...... western trillium (Trillium ovatum subsp. ovatum)...... sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), musk monkeyflower (Mimulus moschatus...... circa three decades ago, an extensive population of this rhizomatous perennial was observed growing where the two main stems of this drainage system converge...... only to be buried and extirpated by a substantial debris flow during the 1982-83 rainy season)...... California maidenhair (Adiantum jordaniaii), coffee fern (Pellaea andromedifolia), goldback fern (Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis)...... wood fern (Dryopteris arguta), western sword fern (Polystichum munitum)...... lady fern (Athryrium flex-femina var. cyclosorum)...... bracken (Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens)...... nested polypody (Polypodium calirhiza...... lowest sets of pinna shorter than succeeding ones)...... Douglas’s iris (Iris douglasiana)...... hairy honeysuckle (Lonicera hispidula)...... Blasdale’s bent grass (Agrostis blasdalei)...... localized disjunct populations, highly variable as to overall gestalt and showing, on occasion, introgression from sympatric California bent grass (Agrostis densiflora) and western bent grass (Agrostis exarata sensu lato), Hall’s/leafy bent grass intergrades (Agrostis hallii/pallens), California brome (Bromus carinatus var. carinatus), nodding brome (Bromus vulgaris), pine grass (Calamagrostis rubescens), California oat grass (Danthania californica sensu lato), California hairgrass (Deschampsia cespitosa subsp. holciformis), California wild rye (Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus), California fescue (Festuca californica)...... adaxial surfaces of leaves clothed with a cinerous indument akin to fine velvet in texture but not mentioned in the literature), Elmer’s fescue (Festuca elmeri), western fescue (Festuca occidentalis), red fescue (Festuca rubra), junegrass (Koelera macrantha), California melic (Melica californica), Alaska onion grass (Melica subulata), Torrey’s melic (Melica torreyana), purple needlegrass (Nassella pulchra), California canary grass (Phalaris californica)...... western lady’s mantle (Aphanocephalus occidentalis), wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca), toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia), ocean spray (Holodiscus discolor), California horkelia (Horkelia californica subsp. californica), oso berry (Oemleria cerasiformis), California wild rose (Rosa californica), wood rose (Rosa gymnocarpa), thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus), salmonberry (Rubus spectabilis), California blackberry (Rubus ursinus)...... yarrow (Achillea millefolium), mountain dandelion (Agoseris grandiflora), coast dandelion (Agoseris hirsuta), woodland madia (Anisocarpus madioides), California sagebrush (Artemisia californica), coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), Indian thistle (Cirsium brevistylum), California aster (Corethrogne filagoifolia...... var. californica), golden yarrow (Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum), broad-leaved aster (Eurybia radulina), purple cudweed (Gamochacta ustulata), sneezeweed (Helenium puberulum), white hawkweed (Hieracium albidum), tall layia (Layia hieracioides), tidytips (Layia platyglossa), slender tarweed (Madia gracilis...... scattered populations attributable to this taxon are often reduced in stature, with few heads on branches which are positioned in a somewhat flexuous pattern, and the gland-tipped trichomes are redolent of an odor reminiscent of cherry syrup...... the aforementioned traits possibly derived from past hybridization with Madia exigua?)...... coast tarweed (Madia sativa), slender cottonweed (Micropus californicus var. californicus), Santa Cruz microseris (Microseris decipiens), marsh microseris (Microseris paludosa...... uncommon in Santa Cruz County, this population from the upper section of the "Old Road" documented with pressings and deposited in the Jepson Herbarium at UC Berkeley), California cudweed (Pseudognaphalium californicum...... one plant observed, 06/2010, with pink-tinged phyllaries), Gianone everlasting (Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro.sp.nov.), pink everlasting (Pseudognaphalium
ramossissimum), cotton batting plant (Pseudognaphalium stramineum), woolly marbles (Psilocarpus tenellus var. tenellus), California goldenrod (Solidago velutina subsp. californica), stephanomeria (Stephanomeria virgata [?]).

... several years ago, I found a localized population growing on the lower east facing edge of Buckeye Grove Ridge, with flowers colored an apricot suffused pink... small population rediscovered 10/1010 in analogous habitat on adjacent Haybarn Gulch Ridge, and based on the possession of longitudinal grooves on cypselae and pappus plumose throughout, possibly referable to Stephanomeria aff. elata), California aster (Symphyotrichum chilense).... small-flowered alum root (Heuchera micrantha).... white globe lily (Calochortus albus), checker lily (Fritillaria affinis var. affinis).... giant horsetail (Equisetum telmateia subsp. braunii).... blue elderberry (Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis), red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa subsp. racemosa).... coast nettle (Urtica dioica subsp. gracilis).... some plants tending towards and intermediate with subsp. holosericea, specifically the ratio of stinging to non-stinging hairs on leaves and stems).... blue blossom (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus), California coffeeberry (Frangula californica subsp. californica).... California man root (Marah fabaceus).... tan-oak (Notholithocarpus densiflorus var. densiflorus), coast live-oak (Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia), forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei).... sea lettuce (Dudleya caespitosa).... scattered and isolated populations, growing on near-vertical, exposed bedding planes, usually east facing in orientation).... Gianone sedge complex (Carex gianonei, pro sp. nov.), “imperfect” sedge (Carex imperfectorum).... this taxon occurs with some frequency on coastal prairie and to a lesser degree, within the Beaver Flat and West Spring Marshes.... pistillate flowers non-functioning and infertile fruits often hosting a whitish fungus, while some plants have functioning stamens which produce pollen and other plants are apparently, wholly sterile), slough sedge (Carex obtusata), small-bracted sedge (Carex subbracteata), foothill sedge (Carex tumulicola).... dwarf brodiaea (Brodiaea terrestris subsp. terrestris), blue dicks ( Dichlostemma capitatum subsp. capitatum), Ithuriel’s spear (Triteleia laxa).... typical form with laterally symmetrical stamens, whitish anthers and filaments of unequal length).... Pacific pea (Lathyrus vestitus var. vestitus), small-flowered trefoil (Lotus micranthus = Acmispon parviflorus), yellow bush lupine (Lupinus arboresus), sky lupine (Lupinus nanus), Lindley’s varied lupine (Lupinus varicolore), long-keeled clover (Trifolium appendiculatum), bearded clover (Trifolium barbigerum var. barbigerum), purple sack clover (Trifolium depauperatum var. truncatum), pin-point clover (Trifolium gracilens var. gracilens), double-headed clover (Trifolium macræi), maiden clover (Trifolium microcephalum), Valparaiso clover (Trifolium microdon), white-tipped clover (Trifolium variegatum), tomcat clover (Trifolium willdenovii), American vetch (Vicia americana var. americana).... California figwort (Scrophularia californica subsp. californica).... spotted coralroot (Corallorhiza maculata forma immaculata).... several hundred plants of this taxon have been studied this season (2010), growing throughout this subwatershed under the mixed conifer/oak woodlands, and all the observed specimens lack the maculate lips.... some post-anthesis plants, have the lip lightly flushed with a pale pink suffusion but nothing remotely resembling the labellum gestalt or maculations of the forma typica and perhaps best referable to Corallorhiza maculata var. occidentalis), hooded lady’s tresses (Spiranthes romanzoffiana).... growing on exposed slope overlooking grassy ridge separating Haybarn and Buckeye Grove “gulches”.... growing sympatrically with Agrostis blasdalei).... Indian paintbrush (Castilleja affinis subsp. affinis), owl’s clover (Castilleja densiflora sensu lato).... aff. Orthocarpus noctuninus, with white bract tips and flowers exuding a vanilla scent), Franciscan paintbrush (Castilleja subinclusa subsp. franciscana).... only known population for Santa Cruz County, growing at eastern base of "Magic Triangle" and documented by herbarium pressings for the Jepson Herbarium, UC Berkeley in 04/17/85), butter-and-eggs (Triphysaria eriantha subsp. eriantha), purple-beaked owl’s clover (Triphysaria micrantha).... only documented populations for Santa Cruz County, with

**Note:** select herbarium specimens of horticulturally meritorious, locally uncommon, rare county wide and agency listed species referred to in this section of the Traversal, collected and pressed, with noted exceptions, by Roy Buck and/or James West within the Scotts Creek Watershed and environs, then deposited in the Jepson Herbarium, U.C. Berkeley, are as follows:

- *Adiatum jordani* \(\text{accession number UC1583770/Keil, Holland \\& Kelly #20580}\)
- *Agoseris apargioides = Agoseris hirsuta* \(\text{accession number JEPS83123/Buck \\& West #375}\)
- *Agoseris grandiflora* \(\text{accession number JEPS83090/Buck \\& West #376}\)
- *Agoseris heterophylla* \(\text{accession number JEPS82556/West #108}\)
- *Agrostis blasdalei ("pseudo-densiflora")* \(\text{accession number JEPS82926/Buck \\& West #182}\)
- *Agrostis blasdalei ("pseudo-densiflora")* \(\text{accession number JEPS82923/Buck \\& West #184}\)
- *Agrostis blasdalei ("pseudo-densiflora")* \(\text{accession number JEPS82922/West #192}\)
- *Arctostaphylos "sp"* \(\text{accession number UCSC4633/Randall Morgan, Oct 1 1977}\)
- *Arctostaphylos "sp"* \(\text{accession number UCSC4798/Randall Morgan, Oct 1 1977}\)
- *Arctostaphylos "sp"* \(\text{accession number UCSC5772/R. Morgan, Oct 2 1977}\)
- *Arctostaphylos "sp"* \(\text{accession number UCSC6208/R. Morgan, Feb 1977}\)
- *Arctostaphylos glutinosa* \(\text{accession number JEPS81979/Buck \\& West #153}\)
- *Arctostaphylos glutinosa* \(\text{accession number JEPS81980/Buck \\& West #152}\)
- *Arctostaphylos sensitivum* \(\text{accession number UCSC5566/Randall Morgan, Dec 22 1976}\)
- *Arctostaphylos tomentosa* subsp. *crinita = Arctostaphylos crustacea subsp. crinita* \(\text{accession number UCSC4775/Randall Morgan, Dec 26 1976}\)
- *Arctostaphylos tomentosa* subsp. *crinita = Arctostaphylos crustacea subsp. crinita* \(\text{accession number UCSC4776/Randall Morgan, Dec 21 1976}\)
- *Arctostaphylos tomentosa* subsp. *crinita = Arctostaphylos crustacea subsp. crinita* \(\text{accession number UCSC4777/Randall Morgan, Feb 1 1977}\)
- *Arctostaphylos tomentosa* subsp. *crinita = Arctostaphylos crustacea subsp. crinita* \(\text{accession number UCSC4789/Randall Morgan, Mar 1 1977}\)
Barbarea orthoceras/accession number UCSC3123/Randall Morgan, Apr 9 2002
Cardamine californica var. integrifolia/accession number UCSC3529/Randall Morgan, Apr 9 2002
Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS82955/West #42.2
Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS82968/West #207.1
Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS82969/West #213.1
Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS82970/West #216.1
Castilleja affinis subsp. affinis/accession number JEPS82898/Buck & West #377
Castilleja affinis subsp. affinis/accession number JEPS81908/Buck & West # (?)
Castilleja affinis subsp. affinis/accession number JEPS82585/West #109
Castilleja attenuata/accession number JEPS82768/West #74
Castilleja densiflora subsp. densiflora/accession number UCSC6161/R. Morgan, May 7 1981
Castilleja densiflora subsp. densiflora/accession number JEPS82563/West #94
Castilleja densiflora subsp. densiflora/accession number JEPS82962/West #55
Castilleja densiflora subsp. densiflora/accession number JEPS82396/Buck & West #264
Castilleja densiflora subsp. densiflora/accession number JEPS82561/Buck & West #231
Castilleja densiflora subsp. densiflora/accession number JEPS82562/Buck & West #230
Castilleja densiflora subsp. densiflora/accession number JEPS81529/Buck, West & Stone #465
Castilleja densiflora subsp. densiflora/accession number JEPS90563/Taylor #9465
Castilleja subinclusa subsp. franciscana/accession number JEPS83086/West #372
Castilleja subinclusa subsp. franciscana/accession number JEPS81530/Stone, Buck & West #458
Castilleja subinclusa subsp. franciscana/accession number UCSC6143/R. Morgan, Jun 12 1978
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus/accession number JEPS82636/Buck & West #226
Cirsium occidentale var. occidentale/accession number JEPS83125/Buck & West #373
Collinsia heterophylla/accession number JEPS82803/Buck & West #492
Collinsia heterophylla/accession number JEPS85161/Buck & West #492
Collinsia heterophylla/accession number SBBG95540/Keil #20618
Collinsia multicolor/accession number JEPS81542/Stone & West #467
Collinsia multicolor/accession number SJSU9542/Myatt, 05/02/81
Cryptantha flaccida/accession number JEPS82587/West #97
Daucus pusillus/accession number JEPS81518/Buck & West #11
Delphinium hesperium subsp. hesperium/accession number JEPS82604/West #98
Delphinium patens subsp. patens/accession number JEPS82765/West #63
Delphinium patens subsp. patens/accession number JEPS82642/Buck & West #218
Deschampsia dianthidioides/accession number JEPS82589/West #99
Deschampsia dianthidioides/accession number JEPS82590/West #99.1
Deschampsia elongata/accession number UCR67855/Keil #20601
Dicentra formosa/accession number JEPS81502/Buck & West #24
Disporum hookeri = Prosartes hookeri/accession number JEPS83469/Buck & West #478
Dodecatheon hendersonii/accession number JEPS83088/West #347
Epilobium hallianum/accession number JEPS82591/West #100
Epilobium hallianum/accession number JEPS83116/Buck & West #341
Erysimum franciscanum/accession number JEPS82773/West #38.2
Festuca elmeri/accession number JEPS81500/Buck & West #26
Festuca howellii = Festuca elmeri/accession number JEPS81499/Buck & West #27
Festuca subuliflora/accession number JEPS83045/Buck & West #421
Garrya elliptica/accession number JEPS82649/Buck & West #205
Githopsis specularioides / accession number JEPS83465 / Buck & West #528
Hesperocnide tenella / accession number JEPS81501 / Buck & West #25
Heuchera micrantha / accession number UCR67971 / Keil #20573
Juncus mexicanus / accession number JEPS81506 / Buck & West #15
Juncus xiphioides / accession number JEPS83061 / Buck & West #453
Lasthenia glaberrima / accession number JEPS82599 / Buck & West #104
Layia platyglossa / accession number JEPS82806 / Buck & West #289
Ligusticum apifolium / accession number JEPS81521 / Buck & West #8
Lupinus latifolius var. latifolius / accession number UCR67868 / Keil #20655
Lupinus nanus / accession number JEPS82769 / West #59
Lupinus succulentus / accession number JEPS83472 / Buck & West #475
Melica subulata / accession number JEPS82786 / Buck & West #305
Micropus californicus var. californicus / accession number JEPS82586 / West #95
Micropus californicus var. subvestitus / accession number JEPS82588 / West #96
Montia fontana / accession number UCSC3458 / Randall Morgan, Apr 9 2002
Osmorhiza chilensis = Osmorhiza berteroi / accession number UC1583617 / Keil, Holland & Kelly #20584
Phalaris californica / accession number JEPS83114 / Buck & West #343
Plagiobothrys diffusus / accession number JEPS83121 / Buck & West #317
Plagiobothrys nothofulvus / accession number JEPS82764 / West #62
Platystemon californicus / accession number JEPS82808 / Buck & West #287
Poa howellii / accession number JEPS85127 / Buck & West #530
Poa unilateralis / accession number JEPS82617 / Buck & West #249
Polypodium californicum / accession number SBBG95532 / Keil #20579
Polypodium calirhiza / accession number JEPS81993 / Buck & West #158
Quercus chrysolepis / accession number JEPS81489 / Buck & West #59
Quercus parvula var. shrevei / accession number SBBG96047 / Keil #20641
Sanicula arctopoides / accession number JEPS82013 / Buck & West #151
Sanicula arctopoides ("pseudo-laciniata") / accession number JEPS82959 / West #403
Sanicula bipinnatifida / accession number JEPS83475 / Buck & West #472
Sanicula bipinnatifida / accession number UCSC6030 / R. Morgan, Apr 8 1982
Sanicula hoffmannii / accession number UCSC6024 / R. Morgan, Mar 23 1982
Sanicula hoffmannii / accession number UCSC6174 / R. Morgan, Mar 23 1982
Sanicula hoffmannii / accession number UCSC6175 / R. Morgan, Mar 23 1982
Scrophularia californica / accession number JEPS82630 / Buck, West & Hawke #236
Solanum douglasii / accession number UCSC4621 / Randall Morgan, Oct 27 1976
Spiranthes romanzoffiana / accession number JEPS81566 / Buck & West #75
Trifolium barbigerum var. andrewsii = Trifolium grayi / accession number JEPS101723 / Taylor, Buck, West & Clifton #9671
Trifolium barbigerum var. barbigerum / accession number JEPS85128 / Buck & West #224
Trifolium barbigerum var. barbigerum / accession number JEPS83085 / West #370
Trifolium barbigerum / accession number UCSC5356 / Randall Morgan, May 30 1981
Trifolium buckwestiorum / accession number JEPS82502 / West #110
Trifolium buckwestiorum / accession number JEPS83454 / Morgan & West #3
Trifolium buckwestiorum / accession number JEPS81528 / Buck, West, Hawke & Vigno #1
Trifolium buckwestiorum / accession number JEPS82767 / West #73
Trifolium depauperatum var. depauperatum/accession number JEPS81915/Buck & West #200
Trifolium grayi/accession number JEPS82603/West #103.1
Trifolium aff. grayi/accession number UCSC5626/Randall Morgan, May 26 1981
Trifolium aff. grayi/accession number UCSC5355/Randall Morgan, May 30 1981
Trifolium microdon/accession number JEPS81914/Buck & West #201
Trifolium variegatum var. melananthum (= Trifolium appendiculatum)/accession number JEPS82762/West #56
Trifolium variegatum var. melananthum (= Trifolium appendiculatum)/accession number JEPS83084/West #369
Trifolium variegatum var. melananthum (= Trifolium appendiculatum)/accession number JEPS82640/Buck & West #220
Triphysaria eriantha subsp. eriantha/accession number JEPS82002/Buck & West #159
Triphysaria eriantha subsp. eriantha/accession number JEPS82004/Buck & West #160
Triphysaria micrantha/accession number JEPS825841/West #198
Triphysaria micrantha/accession number JEPS89206/West #28
Triphysaria pusilla/accession number JEPS82638/Buck & West #222
Triphysaria pusilla/accession number JEPS82639/Buck & West #221
Vicia hassei/accession number JEPS82627/Buck & West #239

Scotts Creek Bridge to Big Creek Bridge

The next phase of our watershed perambulation, situated between Scotts Creek and Big Creek Bridges, takes place on a relatively horizontal plane and affects the sinuosity of a real-time stream course. Sheltered within an intricately branched and indirectly lit box elder (*Acer negundo var. californicum*) and arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) grove, a flourishing colony of Gianone’s sanicle (*Sanicula gianonei, pro.sp.nov.*), welcomes the attention of the taxonomically inclined. The criteria used to define this widespread but repeatedly misdiagnosed taxon center on ecology and habitat preference, biochemical signature, foliar/bract morphology and cellular structure/behavior of marginal trichomes (becoming indurate and forming callosities in *S. crassicaulis* versus caducous.....withering and detaching....with *S. gianonei, pro.sp.nov.*), flower color, an unblemished epignous disc, mature schizocarp configuration, color and alignment of the uncinate bristles. Comparison studies with the related, and where grassland meets woodland understory, sympatric species gambleweed (*Sanicula crassicaulis*), should be undertaken: with emphasis on chromosome counts, biochemical (alkaloids, et al.) analysis.... using gel electrophoresis techniques, a histological investigation of the foliar trichomes, below ground stem and root structures and breeding systems (obligate selfer versus out-breeder) with emphasis on reproductive isolation mechanisms versus potential for reciprocal/unidirectional gene flow.

*formerly placed in Family Aceraceae, now placed in Family Sapindaceae, along with the local genus Aesculus.*

Momentarily trading asphalt for the au natural ambience of the Purdy Road, allows one to peruse new habitats roadside for several miles into the heart of the Scotts Creek Watershed and throw into relief, the botanical riches that await the serious student of ecology when leaving the superabundance already present along Swanton Road. Underlying the trajectory towards Eagle Rock is the counterpoint of Scotts Creek proper, a descending journey from Little Basin to the Pacific Ocean that is defined, in part, by the complex sinuosity of the watershed. A cross section
of “native” taxa encountered without leaving the reticulate pattern of dirt roads shadowing both sides of the riparian corridor deep into the upper reaches of Scotts Creek and ascending, as old logging roads, into the flanking ridges, is as follows: brook foam (Boykinia occidentalis), aptly demonstrating its aesthetic value for landscaping shaded stream banks and moss surmounted, water-splattered rocks; western azalea (Rhododendron occidentale), prior to the 1960’s, an extensive colony, some individual shrubs exceeding 6 meters in height, lined the lower portion of Lair Gulch where it enters Scotts Creek; leopard lily (Lilium pardalinum), scattered populations still existing throughout the upper portion of the watershed in spite of cyclical scouring, often found growing in alluvium filled recesses proximal to the stream course; and along a still negotiable road bed which threads its way up the west-facing, near-vertical canyon slope into a bench depression of considerable size and overlooked by chaparral, several species of considerable interest make their appearance--- starting near the canyon bottom and working upward, crinkle-awn fescue (Festuca subuliflora), rarest of the six species of Festuca native to area, bicolored linanthus (Linanthus bicolor = Leptosiphon bicolor), only one small population discovered to date, minute willow herb (Epilobium minutum), royal rein orchid (Piperia transversa), with its elongate, horizontally aligned spurs looking like a collection of knitting needles and giving off a spicy scent at dusk, golden fleece (Ericameria arborescens), beargrass (Xerophyllum tenax), sheltered within an impenetrable tangle of huckleberries and oaks, vegetatively this locally rare monocot could easily be mistaken as a depauperate example of pampas grass, rayless arnica (Arnica discoidea), pussy ears (Calochortus tolmiei), an uncommon species locally, when compared to the widespread and variable white globe lily (Calochortus albus), buckbrush (Ceanothus cuneatus var. cuneatus) and sensitive manzanita (Arctostaphylos nummularia = A. sensitiva), this distinctive species contributing its genes for virgate positioned stems, quadrate leaves with impressed veins and 4-merous flowers on branched inflorescences that often align themselves in a downward appressed fashion, to the ubiquitous “local” burl-former (Arctostaphylos crustacea, sensu lato). On the west-facing ridge complex, which separates Bannister and Bettencourt Gulches and bored the initial brunt of the 2009 Lockheed Fire, Pacific stonecrop (Sedum spathulifolium), favors moss-lined depressions in the weathered mudstone and displays grass-green rosettes tinted orange through purple, these often frosted with a glaucous bloom. Directly across the upper Scotts Creek riparian corridor and facing southeast, Pine Mountain hosts scattered populations of Indian warrior (Pedicularis densiflora), growing in the chaparral understory and the uncommon chaparral broomrape (Orobanche bulbosa), while back down in the riparian corridor, another jetisoned genus from the Scrophulariaceae, Veronica serpyllifolia subsp. humifusa, luxuriates in the dappled light provided by overtopping conifers and the adjacent spring-fed micro-marsh, which quite possibly is landslide derived and offers sanctuary to an assortment of native Carex, Cyperus and Scirpus and their moisture loving friends. On 05/20/10, over the course of three hours, I walked the dirt road from the bridge across lower Bettencourt Gulch (Purdy Barnyard) up into the landslide derived “perched marsh”, which feeds the unnamed gulch between Bannister and Bettencourt Gulches and made the loop back down to the beginning of my post 2009 Lockheed Fire botanical exploration..... while a substantial part of this traversal had been impacted by the fire with some areas remaining untouched, the sheer number of native species observed and thriving, reminded me of the importance of various disturbance regimes, both natural and human induced, needed to maintain a high degree of biodiversity within a given environment, specifically where the human footprint has an extensive history. The following list of “native” taxa, is recorded as I encountered each species (without leaving the dirt road)..... a botanical narrative, in which the plants speak for themselves via documentation: white globe lily (Calochortus albus), California huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum), two-eyed violet (Viola ocellata), woodland madia (Anisocarpus radioides), California milkwort Polygala californica, western fescue

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Retracing our steps back to a point less than a mile in from Swanton Road, one periodically

(Festuca occidentalis), crinkle-awn fescue (Festuca subuliflora), Hooker's fairy bells (Prosartes
hookeri), Douglas's iris (Iris douglasiana), yerba buena (Satureja douglasii), sweet cicely (Osmorhiza
berteroii), bracken (Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens), tan-oak (Notholithocarpus densiflorus var.
densiflorus), redwood (Sequoia sempervirens), sweet-scented bedstraw (Galium trilobum), California
bedstraw (Galium californicum subsp. californicum), wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca), poison oak
(Toxicodendron diversilobum), gambleweed (Sanicula crassicaulis), common milkmaids (Cardamine
californica var. californica), round-fruited sedge (Carex globosa), redwood violet (Viola sempervirens),
varied-leaved collomia (Collomia heterophylla), California bay laurel (Umbellularia californica),
Pacific pea (Lathyrus pustitus sensu lato), hairy honesuckle (Lonicer hispidula), California water
starwort (Callitriche marginata), leopard lily (Lilium pardalinum subsp. pardalinum), black-cap
raspberry (Rubus leucoderms), small-flowered nemaphila (Nemaphila parviflora var. parviflora),
hazelnut (Corylus cornuta subsp. californica), miner's lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata),
western sword fern (Polystichum munitum), redwood sorrel (Oxalis oregeana), elk-clover (Aralia
californica), Alaska onion grass (Melica subulata), fat Solomon's seal (Smilacina racemosa), goldback
fern (Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis), windflower (Anemone oregana), Pacific
starflower (Trientalis latifolia), western trillium (Trillium ovatum subsp. ovatum), slink pod
(Scoloporus bigelovii), red clintonia (Clintonia Andrewsiana), California hedge nettle (Stachys bullata),
sedge (Carex aff. Carex gianonei complex, some inflorescences with lowermost
spikelets compound-congested), nodding brome (Bromus vulgaris), slender hairgrass
(Deschampsia clyngata), Howell's bluegrass (Poa howellii), vanilla grass (Hierochloe occidentalis =
Anthoxanthum occidentale), small-flowered alpine root (Heuchera micrantha), Torrey's melic
(Melica torreyana), white hawkweed (Hieracium albiflorum), wood rose (Rosa gymnocarpus), slender
tarweed (Madia gracilis), canyon gooseberry (Ribes menziesii), Santa Cruz clover (Trifolium
buckweystorium), few-flowered clover (Trifolium oliganthum), tomat clover (Trifolium wildeniovi),
maiden clover (Trifolium microcephalum), common wood rush (Luzula comosa), small-flowered
trefoil (Lotus micranthus), blue blossom (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus), golden yarrow (Eriophyllum
confertiflorum var. confertiflorum), coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), California nutmeg (Torreya
californica), sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), Fremont's star lily (Toxicosordion
fremontii), morning glory (Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata), Venus's looking-glass (Triodanis
biflora), tall trisetum (Trisetum canescens), California polypody (Polypodium californicum.....
lithophyte, with lower sets of pinna longer than upper), big-leaf maple (Acer macrophyllum),
forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrueba), wood fern (Dryopteris arguta), toyon (Heteromeles
arbutifolia), red larkspur (Delphinium nudicaule), Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii),
Pacific madrone (Arbutus menziesii), deerweed (Lotus scoparius var. scoparius), hound's tongue
(Cynoglossum grande), purple cudweed (Gamochaeta ustulata), cotton batting plant
(Pseudognaphalium stramineum), pine grass (Calamagrostis rubescens), royal rein orchid (Piperia
transversa), beargrass (Xerophyllum tenax), pussy ears (Calochortus tolmiei), common rush (Juncus
patens), willow herb (Epilobium ciliatum subsp. ciliatum), slender miner's lettuce (Claytonia
parviflora subsp. parviflora), brittle-leaf manzanita (Arctostaphlos crustacea sensu lato), pink
everlasting (Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum), pineo clover (Trifolium bifidum var. bifidum),
selfheal (Prunella vulgaris var. lanceolata), bright-blue speedwell (Veronica serpyllifolia subsp.
humifusa), Bolander's sedge (Carex bolanderi), California brome (Bromus carinatus var. carinatus),
popweed (Cardamine oligosperma), red alder (Alnus rubra), lady fern (Athyrium filix-femina var.
ciclosorus), panicked bulrush (Scirpus microcarpus), western azalea (Rhododendron occidentale),
yellow willow (Salix lasiandra var. lasiandra) and hairy wood sorrel (Oxalis corniculata subsp. pilosa
= Oxalis pilosa).

Retracing our steps back to a point less than a mile in from Swanton Road, one periodically
reactivated slide area overlooking Purdy Road, studied and observed for more than 40 years, accommodates common linanthus (*Linanthus androsaceus = Leptosiphon androsaceus*), with flowers ranging in color from white through deep lavender, favoring “vertical grasslands” which mask landslide debris and associated with a species of *Adela*, a genus of locally uncommon diurnal Fairy Moths (Family Adelidae), with gossamer antennae that are nearly double the body length in size; also concentrated within this narrow zone of vertical instability are naked-stemmed buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum* sensu lato), woodland larkspur (*Delphinium patens* subsp. *patens*) with glabrous stems and inflorescence branches, pale plectritis (*Plectritis brachystemon*), hairy fringepod (*Thysanocarpus curvipes*) with lower portion of stems hirsute, **drying with maroon-brown blotches** and cauline leaves sagittate-clasping growing sympatrichly with narrow-leaved fringepod (*Thysanocarpus laciniatus*) displaying glabrous/glaucous lower stems and cauline leaves lacking basal auricles extending across stem axis, **the taxonomically perplexing gynoecious form of white baby-blue-eyes** (*Nemophila menziesii var. atomaria*), *California hedge-parsley* (*Yabaea microcarpa*), a former population of bent-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia lunaris*), an extremely rare CNPS-listed 1B cousin of our beloved hound’s tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*) but not seen in recent years, and a vegetatively robust, pale pink, large-flowered variant of farewell-to-spring (*Clarkia rubicunda*), looking more like the San Gregorio (San Mateo County) populations; playing ecological leapfrog along this section of Purdy Road, the pale-flowered form of Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*) and San Francisco collinsia (*Collinsia multicolor*) repeat their alternating status that conspicuously occurs along Swanton Road, culminating with an extensive population of *Collinsia heterophylla* occupying the aforementioned slide area and within view of Old Seaside School, a sheltered near-vertical portion of the lower Schoolhouse Ridge blanketed with a shimmering violet haze of *Collinsia multicolor!* Though small in stature, circa 40’ long x 25’ high, and seasonally rendered unstable by the vagaries of Winter rains, an amazing number of “natives”, both rare and common, co-exist within the the fluid boundaries of the “Cattleguard Slide”.....snowberry (*Symphoricarpus albus var. laevigatus*), displaying long after the shedding of its seasonal foliage, small white orbicular fruits, texturally simulating Christmas tree ornaments made out of styrofoam and coinciding with the advent of this almost universal holiday; achieving sub-shrub status and retaining their foliage during the “sunless” months, between Fall and Spring, coyote mint (*Monardella villosa sensu lato*) and golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum*) share textural contrast with five Pteridophytes with differing gestalts..... seasonally deciduous California maidenhair (*Adiantum jordani*); the ubiquitous woodland understory duo, wood fern (*Dryopteris argula*) and western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*); a confirmed alpinist, at least where rock outcroppings and tree trunks are concerned, *Polypodium calirhiza* (an allotetraploid derived from *Polypodium californicum* x *Polypodium glycyrrhiza*) which luxuriates on the bark of the overhanging California buckeyes (*Aesculus californica*) and goldback fern (*Pentagramma triangularis* subsp. *triangularis*), when in active growth and ready to shed its reproductive spores, more than willing to make an artistic impression on the back of an observer’s hand and during its dormant period, looking ever so much like a tortured piece of origami. When removed from the dessicating impacts of wind and sun, that the fractured mudstone experiences throughout the higher elevation “Chalks”, it is amazing how much retained moisture this medium provides various taxa deep down within the riparian corridor proper..... both California saxifrage (*Saxifraga californica*) and broad-leaved lupine (*Lupinus latifolius var. latifolius*) maximize their growth potential, sharing this seasonally renewed micro-habitat with two aromatic members of the Carrot Family (Apiaceae): sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza berteri*) and gambleweed (*Sanicula crassicaulis*),..... the former imparting a licorice scent when its foliage and schizocarps are crushed and the latter, an odor reminiscent of its European cousin, celery (*Apium graveolens*). Scattered across the ever-changing face of this biologically
active unstable slope, are two native early "risers" or more appropriate in designation, "bloomers", and both belonging to the Mustard Family (Brassicaceae), known locally more for its weedy, non-native, members.... common milkmaids (Cardamine californica var. californica), standing out from all the local "crucifiers" by possessing tuberous rhizomes and popweed (Cardamine oligosperma), daring the unsuspecting observer to massage its ripe siliques and get an explosive burst of seed in the face!!!

A checklist of additional "native" taxa occurring on this slide-face, a virtual botanical feast for the eyes, includes: checker lily (Fritillaria affinis var. affinis), blue dicks (Dichelostemma capitatum subsp. capitatum), coast tarweed (Madia sativa..... variable as to stature, stems clothed with gland-tipped trichomes from base and lacking cherry-syrup scent), California brome (Bromus carinatus var. carinatus), Torrey's melic (Melica torreyana), Howell's bluegrass (Poa howellii), Pacific fescue (Vulpia microstachys var. pauciflora), varied-leaved colomia (Colomia heterophylla), California glilia (Gilia achilleifolia subsp. achilleifolia..... with some plants falling within the circumscription of subsp. multicaulis), Pacific pea (Lathyrus vestitus var. vestitus), miniature lupine (Lupinus bicolor), pinole clover (Trifolium bifidum var. decipiens), maiden clover (Trifolium microcephalum), few-flowered clover (Trifolium oliganthum), tomatclover (Trifolium willdenovii..... at least one off-white variant has been seasonally observed occuring within this landslide defined population), Hasse's vetch (Vicia hassei), woodland star (Lithophragma affine), hill star (Lithophragma heterophyllum), common wood rush (Luzula comosa), California man root (Marah fabaceus), miner's lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata), California blackberry (Rubus ursinus), yarrow (Achillea millefolium), Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii), California coffeeberry (Frangula californica subsp. californica), small-flowered nemophila (Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora) and poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum).

Not extending below the confluences of Laird and Calf Gulches with Scotts Creek proper but sharing and peripheral to the redwood understory, are the rare Hoffmann’s sanicle (Sanicula hoffmannii), the aptly named sinkl pod (Scoliopus bigelovii)..... an unusual lilioid with maroon mottled leaves and flowers smelling like dead fish, and the fetching but inodorous two-eyed-violet (Viola ocellata), one of five “native” species of violets found within the watershed. Growing roadside, between the south edge of Squirrel Flat and the cattleguard, both in ditches and on overhanging banks, several native “taxa” of interest present themselves..... tree clover (Trifolium ciliolatum), the sporadically encountered Chinese caps (Euphorbia crenulata), a surprise to the botanically uninitiated, being a visually low-keyed sister species of Mexico's gift for the holidays, the poinsettia (Euphorbia pulcherrima), both legitimate members of a genus containing 1,500+ other species and taking top honors in the fragrance catagory, a long established plant of fat Solomon's seal (Smilacina racemosa), surviving the recent holocaust and currently, (02/2010), initiating at least thirty new growths. An often overlooked and misdiagnosed species, lowland cudweed (Gnaphalium palustre), favors the margins of poorly drained areas with pooled water, sharing this preference with the near-endemic artist's popcorn-flower (Plagiobothrys chorisianus sensu lato) and opting for more rapidly draining underpinnings, two site specific taxa documented three decades ago for the area but not seen recently..... leather fern (Polypodium scouleri) and tower mustard (Arabis glabra var. glabra). Retaining a foothold on the seasonally unstable road banks, several monocots make their presence felt, namely blue dicks (Dichelostemma capitatum subsp. capitatum) and foothill sedge (Carex tumulicola), while Elmer's fescue (Festuca elmeri) and Howell's bluegrass (Poa howellii) flourish, the former uncommon county-wide and the latter forming scattered populations which depending on the locale, can be highly variable as to stature. Following the 2009 fire and subsequent early Winter rains, the scorched slopes overlooking the lower portion of Purdy Road have brought forth some interesting ecological responses: two examples of the
rare oracle oak (*Quercus x morehus*), both rendered null and void as far as aerial stems and foliage are concerned, are resprouting with a multiplicity of new growths. A solitary specimen of Fremont's nemophila (*Nemophila pulchella var. fremontii*) or a "new" species related to this inner valley taxon, exploits the rosette pattern of growth along with several sympatric specimens of downy buttercup (*Ranunculus hebecarpus*). Following the variations on a theme concept but raising the complexity threshold, the 1-2 pinnately lobed horizontally positioned basal leaves of the California gilia (*Gilia achilleifolia sensu lato*), rival the Irish-lace doilies of yesteryear and perhaps due to the residual ash or lack of competition, are putting on a vigorous growth display!

Note: the steep west-facing slopes making up the lower part of the Schoolhouse Ridge Complex (down to the Purdy Road) and directly overlooking Squirrel Flat (Swanton Pacific Ranch/CalPoly holdings), were severely impacted by the 2009 Lockheed Fire and contained several taxa of both special interest and documented rarity. Here is a post-fire (04/07/2010) survey of the area in question and the native species (arranged by familial relationships) present: *Lathyrus vestitus sensu lato*, *Lotus micranthus*, *Lotus wrangelianus*, *Lupinus bicolor sensu lato*, *Lupinus hirsutissimus*, *Lupinus latifolius var. latifolius*, *Lupinus namus*, *Trifolium barbigerum var. barbigerum*, *Trifolium bifidum var. decipiens*, *Trifolium ciliolatum*, *Trifolium gracilentum var. gracilentum*, *Trifolium microcephalum*, *Trifolium microdon*, *Trifolium oliganthum*, *Trifolium wildenowii*, *Vicia americana var. americana*, and *Vicia hasei*.

Further inland along Purdy Road, another near vertical area of concentrated biodiversity remains hidden to all but the most intrepid botanist. Starting at the cattleguard and using the dirt road as the base line for our botanical sleuthing, for the next 250 meters or so, one encounters directly upslope to the top of the ridge, a series of "vertical grasslands" framed by conifer/oak woodlands and exposed rock outcroppings, which act as mini-refugia for a number of uncommon taxa. Although forming a continuous zone of steeply inclined slopes, beginning at the mouth of Schoolhouse gulch and extending along Purdy Road to a "nameless drainage system" just south of Calf Gulch (aka the Scotts Creek side of Schoolhouse Ridge Complex), the native species distribution within this relatively short distance is anything but predictable. Here is an partial inventory of the rare and common "native" taxa which were observed just within this fire scarred area during the month of May/2010:

- **Dryopteris arguta**, Polystichum munitum, Adiantum jordanii, Pellaea andromedifolia, Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis, Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens, Bromus carinatus var. carinatus, Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus, Festuca elmeri, Melica californica, Melica subulata, Melica torreyana, Trisetum canescens sensu lato.
- **Toxicodendron diversilobum**, Pinus attenuata, Pinus radiata (interface of ancient hybrid swarm between knobcone and Monterey pines). Initial gene flow unidirectional, from knobcone into Monterey, with branch patterns, needle and ovulate cone gestalts strongly influenced by knobcone but alignment and shape of mucro on knobcone's umbo, recessive.
- **Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii**, Euphorbia crenulata, Euphorbia spathulata, Lathyrus vestitus var. vestitus (variable as to follic indument), Lupinus latifolius var. latifolius, Lupinus nanus, Rubus ursinus, Trifolium bifidum var. decipiens (some plants observed, within area under discussion, displaying narrow shallowly-notched leaflets, referable to var. bifidum).
- **Trifolium gracilentum** var. gracilentum, Trifolium microcephalum, Trifolium microdon, Trifolium oliganthum, Trifolium willdenovii, Vicia hassei, Aesculus californica, Torreya californica.
- **Monardella vilosa** sensu lato, Satureja douglasii, Stachys bullata, Smilacina stellata, Corylus cornuta var. californica, Scrophularia californica subsp. californica, Galium californicum subsp. californicum, Galium triflorum, Sequoia sempervirens, Cynoglossum grande, Phacelia malvifolia.
- Nemophila menziesii var. atomaria, (scattered population displaying flowers variable as to both coloration and patterning), Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora, Achillea millefolium, Agoseris grandiflora, Anisocarpus madioides, Artemisia douglasiana, Cirsium brevitumulum, Cirsium occidentale var. venustum, Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum, Eurybia radulina, Layia gaillardioides.
- (extremely rare in county and within Scotts Creek Watershed, restricted to highly localized section of "vertical grassland" overlooking Purdy Road... herbage redolent of a citrus-based fragrance and ray-flowers concolored yellow), **Madia gracilis** (throughout watershed, extremely variable as to overall gestalt and biochemical signature, possibly the result of past hybridization with Madia exigua and Madia sativa).
- Microseris decipiens, Pseudognaphalium californicum, Pseudognaphalium stramineum, Rafinesquia californica, Symphyotrichum chilense, Dicholostemma capitatum subsp. capitatum, Trillium ovatum, Marah fabaceus, Daucus pusillus, Osmorhiza herteroi, Sanicula crassicaulis, Heteromeles arbutifolia, Oenothera cerasiformis, Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia, Quercus parvula var. shrevei, Umbellularia californica, Fritillaria affinis var. affinis, Clarkia rubicunda, Epilobium ciliatum, aff. subsp. watsonii (inflorescence dense, leafy and glandular, flowers dark pink with petals 7+ mm. in length), Crassula connata, Dudleya caespitosa, (colonies growing on west facing exposed near-vertical bedding planes, may be furthest inland for watershed and genetically isolated from populations on immediate coastal headlands). Interior populations, in the Scotts, Mill, Big and Little Creek sub-watersheds, have paler more elongate yellow corollas, which differ from the darker, more intensely
pigmented "stouter" corollas of their coastal brethren). ..... _Hesperocnide tenella_. ..... _Claytonia perfoliata_ subsp. _perfoliata_. ..... _Eschscholzia californica_. ..... _Gilia achilleifolia_ subsp. _multicaulis_. _Leptosiphon androsaceus_. ..... _Eriogonum nudum_. _Pterostegia drymarioides_. ..... _Minulus aurantiacus_. ..... _Plectritis brachystemon_ (fruit with keeled back), _Collinsia heterophylla_ (variable as to flower color but generally off-white to pale lilac with contrasting veinal patterning). ..... _Frangula californica_ subsp. _californica_. ..... _Stellaria nitens_ (since the local populations are few and isolated from each other and the populations appear to be self-pollinating, are there any measurable genetic differences between them?) ..... _Sambucus nigra_ subsp. _canadensis_. ..... _Lonicera hispida_. ..... _Cardamine oligosperma_. _Thysanocarpus laciniatus_ and _Delphinium patens_.

Separating the Mill Creek and Scotts Creek drainages from Swanton Road to the summit of the Seymour Hill, and extending up into the “Chalks”, with mudstone so bleached by the elements that from a distance it simulates snow, the Schoolhouse Ridge complex is an extraordinarily rich series of benched grasslands, mixed hardwood/coniferous woodlands, deeply incised, often branched, gulches and chaparral, both horizontal and vertical in inclination. Within this one geomorphically defined area, a lifetime could be spent just studying (1) the widespread burl-forming manzanita (_Arctostaphylos crustacea_, sensu lato) and its evolutionary origins, (2) the role of hybridization, both ancient and modern, within the oak (_Quercus_) subgenus Erythrobalanus, (3) if the isolated populations of sea lettuce (_Dudleya caespitosa_), with their narrow, elongate, pale-yellow corollas are genetically distinct from the coastal bluff populations, (4) the role of fire, both ancient and modern, in the broaching of reproductive isolating mechanisms within the sympatric populations of knobcone pine (_Pinus attenuata_) and Monterey pine (_Pinus radiata_) and the subsequent gene flow patterns (outcrossing versus selfing, coupled with the prevailing wind patterns as pollen delivery vectors) with their corresponding changes in the hybrid population's gross morphology, and measured in part, by ovulate cone gestalt, (5) the impact of herbivory in the shrinking/expansion of the benched grasslands and how this correlates with the associated species diversity, (6) what has been the net result, ecologically, with the current policies of fire suppression, the 2009 Lockheed Fire and the balance between beneficial and pathogenic fungi/bacteria plus the rampant colonization of invasive exotics? and (7) investigate the post 2009 Lockheed Fire impact on local populations of pine grass (_Calamagrostis rubescens_) and what percentage of the inflorescences have yielded fertile caryopsis and with the clonally established parental source regenerating, how successful is the recruitment of new and potentially competitive seedlings?

Whether one ventures up or down the access trail along the Mill Creek side of the ridge, the panorama of this ecological journey is a metaphorical overview, an interlocking chain of biological events that stretches from the bone-chilling ocean’s edge to the desiccated ridges that reference the top of the world for the Scotts Creek Watershed. Passing by mudstone so weathered that it has been reduced to powder-like fragments, these artfully reconfigured into miniature dunes, reminiscent of a Zen garden, one becomes immediately aware of one genus of related taxa, besides the knobcone pine (_Pinus attenuata_) and chamise (_Adenostema fasciculatum_), that defines this harsh and unyielding environment, the pioneering manzanitas: while Santa Cruz manzanita (_Arctostaphylos andersonii_), sensitive manzanita (_Arctostaphylos nummularia = A. sensitiva_), endemic Schreiber's manzanita (_Arctostaphylos glutinosa_), and a recently discovered localized species (aff. _Arctostaphylos manzanita_ subsp. _laevigata_ = _Arctostaphylos ohloneana_ M.C.Vasey & V.T.Parker), reside for the most part, in the upper reaches of the watershed, their genetic fingerprints manifest themselves throughout the extensive range of the Burl-forming manzanita (_Arctostaphylos crustacea_, sensu lato). This phoenix-like fire-regenerative taxon, a
undulate (frutescens) sharing its arid aerie with what purports to be chaparral live festooned with reduced thickened leaves contrasting with the production of outsized acorns, also associates of distantly scattered specimens of golden chinquapin watershed’s canyon bottoms and soil restrictions on the growth potential of tr intense exposure to sun and wind, and rapidly draining fractured substrate, places severe the upper parts of the watershed ).

A vigorous flowering specimen of and nascent dendritic trichomes indument over glaucous coating, stomata isofacial, and stems with eglandular, gland ground level, leaves elliptic/oblanceolate and irregularly denticulate on upper half, ciner "Chalks", during the seedling stage, conspicuous lateral branching takes place, just above growth and inflorescences glandular-pubescent---height, auriculations and glandulosity an inheritance from the Santa Cruz manzanita (Arctostaphylos andersonii)\[ note: while doing a post-fire review (08/15/10) of this satellite Arctostaphylos glutinosa population, some seedling recruitment is beginning to take place, with two examples observes and studied..... again like their counterparts higher up in the "Chalks", during the seedling stage, conspicuous lateral branching takes place, just above ground level, leaves elliptic/oblanceolate and irregularly denticulate on upper half, cinerous indument over glaucous coating, stomata isofacial, and stems with eglandular, gland-tipped and nascent dendritic trichomes..... also discovered concurrent with studying the “arctos”, was a vigorous flowering specimen of Pseudognaphalium beneolens, new to this locale but found in the upper parts of the watershed ). Working backwards, from top to bottom, the paucity of soil, intense exposure to sun and wind, and rapidly draining fractured substrate, places severe restrictions on the growth potential of trees and woody shrubs, which luxuriate in the watershed’s canyon bottoms and soil-retentive, often benched, slopes: behaving as shrubs, scattered specimens of golden chinquapin (Chrysolepis chrysophylla var. minor), act as understory associates of distantly related maul oaks (Quercus chrysolepis), subgenus Protobalanus, lichen-festooned with reduced thickened leaves contrasting with the production of outsized acorns, also sharing its arid aerie with what purports to be chaparral live-oak (Quercus wislizeni var. frutescens), displaying small, holly-like leaves and possibly a chaparral ecotype of forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei), with foliar margins running the gamut from entire through undulate-spinescent. Adding spice to the oak stew, scattered specimens of oracle oak (Quercus x
morehus) and in the upper reaches of Calf Gulch, at least one mature example of Quercus x chasei, have been observed!

A tantalizing overview of the species diversity found within this geomorphically complex slice of the Scotts Creek Watershed is as follows: padre’s shooting star (Dodecatheon clevelandii subsp. sanctarum), a genus highly vulnerable to overgrazing, its shallowly embedded rootstocks easily ripped from their moorings and potential for seed production lost; Dannie’s skullcap (Scutellaria tuberosa), an odorless member of the Mint Family (Lamiaceae), with rootstocks terminating in tubers, often found growing under chamise and manzanitas, with bilaterally symmetrical pale blue flowers contrasting with the green or bronze-tinted foliage; A monocot with an attitude, Fremont’s star lily or chaparral deathcamas (Zigadenus fremontii = Toxicoscordion fremontii), with all plant parts toxic, particularly the bulbs, the principal toxin being zygadenine, an alkaloid, favoring brush-covered rocky slopes; twining snapdragon (Antirrhinum kelloggi), a unique native “scroph” with violet-purple flowers on elongate pedicels, which readily attach themselves by coiling as they ascend up through the surrounding shrubbery; growing within the distinct “vertical grassland” habitat, either on the partially colonized mudstone debris or appearing to defy gravity securing the near-vertical exposed mudstone “in place”, such species of interest as Douglas’s sandwort (Minuartia douglasii), clustered broomrape (Orobanche fasciculata), bird’s-foot fern (Pellaea mucronata var. mucronata), dwarf athysanus (Athysanus pusillus), few-flowered clover (Trifolium oliganthum) and grassland gilia (Gilia clivorum) make themselves at home; found along the access trail’s margin, either under or emerging through the canopy of the drought-resistant thickets, one can find bush poppy (Dendromecon rigida), pipestems (Clematis lasiantha), western pearlwort (Sagina decumbens subsp. occidentalis), pitcher sage (Lepechinia calycina), California chicory (Rafinesquia californica), rare woodland layia (Layia gaillardioides) with concolor yellow rays and tall layia (Layia hieracioides) with a somewhat different chemical signature from its coastal scrub counterparts, yerba santa (Eriodictyon californicum) and rush trefoil (Lotus junceus var. junceus = Acmispon junceus var. junceus)....growing on the exposed ridge-top overlooking Mill Creek, the violet pigmented flowers of blue toadflax (Linaria canadensis) are awash in a sea of mauve, generously provided by a concentrated population of blue dicks (Dichelostemma capitatum subsp. capitatum). Some of the less common species found within this area under discussion, often occur as small isolated colonies, disjunct in range but favoring analogous sites within the Schoolhouse Ridge environs: some examples are wooly malacothrix (Malacothrix floccifera) and stinging lupine (Lupinus hirsutissimus), found together or growing separately on the bare, exposed, fragmented mudstone; where the densely-wooded slopes transition up into the fingers of chaparral, locally rare sleepy catchfly (Silene antirrhina) has been documented; favoring the oak understory with its complex admixture of coniferous, hardwood and deciduous arboreal associates, one can find three orchid species, dense-flowered rein orchid (Piperia elongata), documented during the late 1970s and revisited in pre-fire 2009, growing on the west-facing slopes overlooking “Squirrel Flat” sharing habitat with sister species, royal rein orchid (Piperia transversa) and deep within the converging drainages that define the lower portion of Schoolhouse Gulch, striped coralroot (Corallorhiza striata), variable as to coloration with a rare flavistic form, also observed and photographed in the late 1970s. As Schoolhouse Gulch intersects the Purdy Road, an extensive population of bracted popcorn-flower (Plagiobothrys bracteatus), prostrate in mode of growth, occupies a fan-like section of the roadbed. Documented for this general area but not seen by the author of this text, Plagiobothrys hispidulus/accession number UCR67980/Kiel #20636, if not mis-identified, would add a new species to the watershed! Half-hidden in the benched grasslands that constitute the lower section of the ridge-complex, dwarf brodiaea (Brodiaea terrestris subsp. terrestris), our visual/aesthetic equivalent of the European
crocus, co-exists with the cinnamon-scented owl’s clover (*Castilleja densiflora* subsp. *densiflora*) and a species uncommon countywide, caraway-leaved lomatium (*Lomatium caruifolium* var. *caruifolium*). Perhaps most remarkable in the way of concentrated rarity, is the distribution pattern found within the lower portion of the Schoolhouse Ridge complex for the rare Santa Cruz microseris (*Microseris decipiens* = *Stebbinsoseris decipiens*). Six separate populations exist: the largest, which at one time contained in excess of 1,000 plants, overlooks Scotts Creek/Squirrel Flat on a very steep “vertical grassland” and shares this botanically rich hillside with related silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*), woolly malacothrix (*Malacothrix floccifera*) and California chicory (*Rafinesquia californica*). Facing southeast also on a “vertical grassland” and looking down into the Mill Creek drainage, is a smaller population of circa 100-150 plants; on the benched grassland which comprises the backbone of the upper Pozzi Meadow, a concentrated population of 150-200 plants occupy the transitional grassland/woodland zone, sharing habitat with one parental species, coast microseris (*Microseris bigelovii*).Segueing back to the Scotts Creek side, Beehive Hill, midway between the entrance to Purdy Road and the mouth of Schoolhouse Gulch, maintains a small but stable population (circa 50-60 plants) and sharing a habitat of fractured and fragmented mudstone with a long-established colony of sea lettuce (*Dudleya caespitosa*) and an uncommon constituent of the Phlox Family, grassland gilia (*Gilia clivorum*). Most recently, (08/2010), a small colony was discovered growing on a oak-canopied slope comprised mainly of mudstone debris which overlooks the Harvey Field and Mill Creek Bridge... while saving the best for last, flanking the incipient portion of a gulch which drains the upper Pozzi meadow and empties into Mill Creek, are two opposite facing steep grassy slopes, studded with fractured mudstone fragments and acting as a "magnet," attracting not only *Stebbinsoseris decipiens*, but three related members of the Cichorieae... mountain dandelion (*Agoseris heterophylla*), annual agoseris (*Agoseris heterophylia*) and coast microseris (*Microseris bigelovii*)!!! The 2009 Lockheed Fire moved through all six *Stebbinsoseris decipiens* populations and it will be of considerable interest to see how fragmented the post-fire germination of this unique allotetraploid near-endemic will be..... comprehensive achene collections have been made for all six populations and their sympatric relatives and were deposited with the UCSC Arboretum.

Note: One native species that, post fire (2009/2010), has asserted itself to the point of becoming a dominant understory "germinator", is the native morning glory (*Calystegia purpurea* subsp. *purpurea*). In some areas, particularly within the oak/conifer woodlands that define much of the Schoolhouse Ridge complex, solid sheets of seedlings define the understory!!!

Note: The lower portion of Schoolhouse Ridge consists of two benches, elevationally 200(+) feet apart, which possibly are unmapped terrace remnants whose eastwardly aligned halves, drain into Mill Creek via two "gulchlets"... the upper one, deep and steep, demonstrating the long term erosive power of water on mudstone, while the lower one, is abbreviated, shallower and drains directly into the Harvey Field. The following, is a botanical overview of the Mill Creek side of this ecological equation (which bore the full brunt of the 2009 Lockheed Fire), with the documented native taxa arranged by family: *Clarkia purpurea* subsp. *quadriovulnera* (two separate populations, each with its own distinctive floral color/patterning), *Clarkia rubicunda*... *Helianthemum scoparium*... *Daucus pusillus*, *Heracleum maximum*, *Osmorhiza berteroi*, *Sanicula arctopoides*, *Sanicula bipinnatifida*, *Sanicula crassicaulis*, *Sanicula gianonei*, *pro.sp.nov.*... *Marah fabaceus*... *Adenostema fasciculatum*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Holodiscus discolor*, *Rubus parviflorus*, *Rubus ursinus*... *Antirrhinum kelloggii*... *Toxicoscordion fremontii*... *Cardamine californica* var. *californica*, *Cardamine oligosperma*, *Caulanthus lasiophyllus* (*siliques reflexed*)... *Toxicodendron diversilobum*... *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*, *Frangula californica* subsp. *californica*... *Achillea millefolium*, *Agoseris*
grandiflora, Anisocarpus madioides, Baccharis pilularis, Artemisia douglasiana, Cirsium brevistylum, Corethrogynie filago, Eurybia radulina, Camochaeta ustrulata, Madia gracilis (stems generally slender with narrow leaves, glandular in upper half and possessing a chemical signature akin to that of cherry syrup, a trait shared with Madia exigua, inflorescences variable, racemose or paniculate, with lowest branches not overtopping terminal), Madia sativa/capitata (plants often robust, densely glandular from base to apex, inflorescences consisting of cymose glomerules or open and paniculate, with differing chemical signatures present). Microseris decipiens, Pseudognaphalium californicum, Pseudognaphalium aff. gianonei, pro sp. nov., Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum, Pseudognaphalium stramineum, Rafinesquia californica, Solidago velutina subsp. californica, Symphyotrichum chilense, Lathyrus clevelandii (area where type specimen for Santa Cruz clover was collected), Trifolium ciliolatum, Trifolium gracilentum var. gracilentum, Trifolium microcephalum, Trifolium microdon, Trifolium willdenovii, Vicia americana var. americana, Vicia hasselii, Pinus radiata (subpopulation reflecting intermediacy of key character traits of both Pinus attenuata and Pinus radiata and perhaps other in overall gestalt to original hybrid population rather than specimens on the coastal headlands, which are byproduct of a high riculate pattern of selfing, backcrossing and isolation from direct reproduction of Pinus attenuata genes), Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii, Umbellularia californica, Arbutus menziesii, Arctostaphylos crustacea sensu lato, Cardamine oligosperma, Caulanthus lasiophyllus, Cryptantha clevelandii, Cryptantha micromeres, Emmenanthe penduliflora, Nemophila parviflora, Agrostis hallii/pallens intergrades, Bromus carinatus var. carinatus, Bromus vulgaris, Danthonia californica sensu lato, Elymus glaucus sensu lato, glaucus, Festuca occidentalis, Festuca subuliflora, Melica californica, Melica subulata, Melica torreyana, Nassella pulchra, Poa hovellii, Vulpia octoflora var. octoflora, Eschscholzia californica, Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia, Monardella villosa sensu lato (Schoolhouse Ridge is home to a complex assemblage of forms, which range from Monardella villosa subsp. villosa thru Monardella villosa subsp. franciscana), Satureja douglasii, Scutellaria tuberosa, Stachys bullata, Stachys rigida sensu lato (where both species form interdigitating populations, there appears to be gene exchange/flow between the two, with some plants showing intermediacy in chemical signatures, foliage, and the two, with some plants showing intermediacy in chemical signatures, foliage, and veinal patterning, alignment of internal ring of hairs in corolla tube and expression of external saccate base of corolla), [lucus bufonius sensu lato, [lucus patens, [hichelostemma capitatum var. capitatum, [Calandrinia brevior, Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata, [Verbenas lasiostachys var. lasiostachys, [Veronica serpyllifolia subsp. humifusa, [Euphorbia crenulata, [Sequoia sempervirens, [Aesculus californica, [Acer macrophyllum, [Galium californicum subsp. californicum, [Galium porrigens var. porrigens, [Galium triflorum, [Hesperocnide tenella, [Urtica dioica subsp. gracilis, [Urtica dioica subsp. holoserica (populations along Mill Creek riparian corridor/low Schoolhouse ridge interface, are variable in ratio of stinging versus non-stinging trichomes on stems and leaves), [Alnus rubra, [Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa, [Calystegia purpurata, [Purpurea, [Navarretia squarrosa, [Scrophularia californica subsp. californica, [Lonicera hispida, [Dudleya gaepitosa, [Mimulus aurantiacus, [Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum, [Plectritis bractystemon (both winged and wingless fruit populations present, but not mixed), [Castilleja densiflora subsp. densiflora (yellow pouch, lilac-purple galea, off-white bract tips), [Actaea rubra, [Adiantum jordanii, [Dryopteris arguta, [Polyetum menziesii, [Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens, [Polypodium calirrhiza (lithophyte, lowest sets pinna shorter than succeeding ones), [Epilobium ciliatum sensu lato (within this area under discussion, forms which can be
assigned to subsp. ciliatum and subsp. watsonii, occur) and Sisyrinchium bellum.

Doing a post-fire vegetation response analysis on the near-vertical Beehive Hill mini-refugium (03/10), has resulted in the following "native" taxa being documented for the burned area, which begins along the inner edge of Purdy Road and extends upward to a narrow, west-facing grassland extension of the Upper Pozzi Meadow.... flanked on the north by the mouth of Schoolhouse Gulch and to the south by a nameless "micro" drainage system that with time, could evolve into a small gulch. Although restricted in size, at least four specific habitat subsets exist... central to and readily seen from a distance, is the "vertical grassland" component, which most likely is the byproduct of an ancient landslide and is bounded at its base by a zone of fire-responsive, deciduous and evergreen shrubs, flanked by mixed coniferous/oak woodlands, overlooked by an exposed terrace face which is capped with a gently sloping meadow: Pinus radiata, Sequoia sempervirens, Smilacina stellata, Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata, Lathyrus vestitus sensu lato, Oemleria cerasiformis, Pentagrama triangularis subsp. triangularis, Nephrilopa peregrina var. peregrina, Quercus parva var. shrevei, Sanicula crassicaulis, Anisocarpus madioides, Dryopteris arguta, Marah fabaceus, Adiantum jordani, Rubus ursinus, Umbellularia californica, Baccharis pilularis, Iris douglasiana, Satureja douglasii, Toxicodendron diversilobum, Fragaria vesca, Lonicera hispidula, Scrophularia californica subsp. californica, Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens, Frangula californica subsp. californica, Galium porrigenus var. porrigenus, Artemisia douglasiana, Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis, Anaphalis margaritacea, Galium californicum subsp. californicum, Oxalis corniculata subsp. pilosa, Stachys bullata, Claytonia perfoliata, Leptosiphon androsacus, Nephrilopa menziesii sensu lato, Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii, Agoseris grandiflora, Lupinus nanus, Madia gracilis, Osmorhiza berteroii, Aesculus californica, Clarkia rubicunda, Achillea millefolium, Eschscholzia californica, Lotus wrangelianus, Trifolium ciliatum, Dudleya caespitosa, Thysanocarpus aff. lacinatus (stems glabrous and glaucous, leaves not conspicuously sagittate-auriculate and extending beyond other side of stem, style conspicuously exerted), Crassula connata, Gilia florum, Dicholestemma capitatum subsp. capitatum, Polypodium aff. californicum (growing as lithophyte), Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum, Phacelia distans, Quercus agrifolia, Cardamine oligosperma, Cardamine californica var. californica, Vicia americana, Sanicula gianonei, pro.sp.nov., Fritillaria affinis var. affinis, Cynoglossum grande, Juncus patens, Cirium brevistylum, Heracleum maximum, Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum, Mimulus aurantiacus, Hesperocnide tenella, Trillium chloropetalum, Actaea rubra, Monardella villosa subsp. villosa, Solanum douglasii, Euonymus occidentalis var. occidentalis, Polystichum munitum, Epilobium ciliatum sensu lato, Ceanothus thyrsiflorus, Galium triflorum, Festuca elmeri, Melica torreyana, Calandrinia ciliata, Sanicula arctopoides, Ranunculus californicus, Plectritis aff. brachystemon, Lomatin cumulofolium var. carufolium, Solidago velutina subsp. californica, Brunus carinatus, Trisetum canescens, Camissonia ovata, Oxalis corniculata subsp. pilosa, Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus, Poa howelli and Quercus × morehus.

Returning back to Swanton Road and the centenarian duo, blue elderberry (Sambucus mexicana = Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis) “trees,” (circa 7-8 meters in height and trunks circa 2 meters in circumference at 1.8 meters from ground level), their furrowed bark replicating the patterning of desiccated mud flats, we pass through a zone of Rosaceae diversity. Presenting themselves are California wild rose (Rosa californica), California blackberry (Rubus ursinus), wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca), oso berry (Oemleria cerasiformis), and California horkelia (Horkelia californica
subsp. californica). Easily lost on the disinterested viewer and in plain sight for the botanically curious, are scattered representatives of the hybrid Gianone everlasting (Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro.sp. nov.) and one of its putative parents, cotton batting plant (Pseudognaphalium stramineum). Like another hybrid-derived member of the Asteraceae, Santa Cruz microseris (Microseris decipiens = Stebbinsoseris decipiens), the presence of one or both parents is not necessary for the continued existence of the fertile offspring, the main difference being, that the diploid Gianone everlasting can backcross with either diploid parent producing a complex and variable series of intermediates and the Santa Cruz microseris, being an allotetraploid, is interfertile with its siblings but not with its diploid parents. The presence of two oaks, both members of the section Erythrobalanus, coast live-oak (Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia) and forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei), growing so close together that from a distance they can be perceived as a single entity, allows for the serious viewer all the diagnostic tools necessary to separate these related taxa in the field.

A given throughout the watershed and the habitat buffering it, are the isolated pockets of concentrated biodiversity, these often found at the backs of landslides, ancient or modern. Facing east/northeast and overlooking the convergence of Mill Creek with the watershed’s namesake, Scotts Creek, one such botanical aggregation, wholly hidden from view, warrants discussion. Occupying a benched, bowl-shaped depression, comprising circa 1.5 acres, with the surrounding forested slopes fan-shaped in contour and centrally incised by seasonal drainage, this concealed environment showcases an extensive population of western azalea (Rhododendron occidentale), variable both as to flower size and color! Complementing the aesthetic values, both visual and olfactory, that this sequestered component of the Heath Family (Ericaceae) offers the intrepid naturalist, is a diverse assemblage of “natives”, a comprehensive cross-section of the watershed’s flora contained within a metaphorical pinprick on the local topographical map! The tally for arboreal associates within this compressed ecosystem is a veritable who’s who: Monterey pine (Pinus radiata), Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii), California nutmeg (Torreya californica), redwood (Sequoia sempervirens), tan-oak (Notholithocarpus densiflorus var. densiflorus), forest live-oak (Quercus agrifolia var. shrevei), some trees showing the influence of coast live-oak (Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia) with leaves concave-convex and the axils of some abaxial veins with scattered tufts of stellate pubescence, California bay laurel (Umbellularia californica), arroyo willow (Salix lasiolepis), big-leaf maple (Acer macrophyllum), and California buckeye (Aesculus californica). Less elevated in stature, but often conspicuously ligneous, evergreen or deciduous and varied in gestalt, the shrubs weigh in significantly, both in number and variety: blue elderberry (Sambucus mexicana = Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis), not acquiring tree status like its brethren along Swanton Road, red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa), coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), one individual studied two decades ago south of Mill Creek Bridge exceeded 6 meters in height, the gooseberry duo, straggly gooseberry (Ribes divaricatum var. pubiflorum) and canyon gooseberry (Ribes menziesii), the latter with memorably aromatic glandular herbage, hazelnut (Corylus cornuta var. californica), two members of the Buckthorn Family (Rhamnaceae), blue blossom (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus) and California coffeeberry (Frangula californica subsp. californica), blue witch (Solanum umbelliferum) and sub-shrub sister species, Douglas’s nightshade (Solanum douglasii), os oso berry (Oemleria cerasiformis), its fruit a drupe not a berry, and depending on the circumstances, a woody shrub or vine, poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum). Creating an understory tapestry, ranging from the prostrate stems of sweet-scented bedstraw (Galium triflorum) and California bedstraw (Galium californicum subsp. californicum) to the virgate stramineous canes of thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus) and the 2.5+ meter high fistulous stems of cow-parsnip (Heracleum maximum) are a host of “locals”: California hedge-
nettle (*Stachys bullata*), hound’s tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*), California figwort (*Scrophularia californica* subsp. *californica*), small-flowered nemophila (*Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora*), baneberry (*Actaea rubra*), two scendent members of the Legume Family (Fabaceae), Pacific pea (*Lathyrus vestitus var. vestitus*) and giant vetch (*Vicia gigantea*), a robust form of California man root (*Marah fabaceae*) growing in an exposed sunny niche with leaves 25+ centimeters wide x 21+ centimeters long, coast tarweed (*Madia sativa*), cotton batting plant (*Gnaphalium stramineum*) along with sibling species pink everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum*), a colony of slough sedge (*Carex obturata*) fulfilling its mandate as erosion abater plus its diagnostically challenging relative, the Gianone sedge (*Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov.*) as unrepentant as ever and sharing habitat with two diplomats from the Carrot Family (Apiaceae), sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza berteroii*) and gambleweed (*Sanicula crassicaulis*) and the ubiquitous California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*). Other monocots besides the *Carex* demand recognition, namely common rush (*Juncus patens*) and brown bog-rush (*Juncus effusus var. brunnus = Juncus hesperius*), Hooker’s fairy bells (*Disporum hookeri = Prosartes hookeri*), slim Solomon’s seal (*Smilacina stellata*), western trillium (*Trillium ovatum subsp. ovatum*) and a quintet of grasses: Hall’s bent grass (*Agrostis hallii*), California brome (*Bromus carinatus var. carinatus*), nodding brome (*Bromus vulgaris*), California wild rye (*Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus*) and Alaska onion grass (*Melica subulata*). Rounding out this mini-survey with the vascular challenged ferns, present and accounted for, are wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*), western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*) and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens*).

Perhaps the narrowest of the secondary drainage systems entering into Scotts Creek, Mill Creek, in spite of the near-vertical severity of its upper watershed, rewards the intrepid plant-hunter with botanical novelties uncommon or rare elsewhere in the county. Without straying more than 5-6 meters from the banks of Mill Creek, one can encounter long established colonies of leopard lily (*Lilium pardalinum*), perhaps the most amenable to cultivation of the North American lilies, sharing the riparian habitat with robust specimens of western azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*), seasonally inundated tussocks of torrent sedge (*Carex nudata*), dimorphic Coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus var. palmatus*) with its + dioecious, bracted, vanilla-scented inflorescences appearing before the stalked palmate leaves, these looking ever so much like they were purloined from symatric big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), impenetrable colonies of another admirer of the foliar gestalt displayed by maples, thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), extensive monocultures of giant horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia var. braunii*) and in apparent defiance of gravity, five-finger fern (*Adiantum aleuticum*) and western burning bush (*Euonymus occidentalis var. occidentalis*), growing out of the overtopping moist banks that appear to reach skyward. Imparting an exotic mien to the streamside ambience, elk-clover (*Aralia californica*) acts as a perfect foil to the more prosaic red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa*), both deciduous with distinctively textured stems and sporting contrasting clusters of miniature fruits attractive to birds. Other riparian inhabitants sharing the leafless syndrome during the winter months that add an aesthetic richness to the proceedings, whether naked or not, are red elderberry’s cousin, snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus var. laevigatus*) and kin to the previously noted thimbleberry, ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*). As with other ancillary roads branching off from Swanton Road and accessing the various sub-watersheds en route, the circa half-mile journey into the lower Mill Creek drainage and terminating at the one-lane bridge, yields the following windfall of native plant species..... all of which can be seen without leaving the dirt road: small-flowered nemophila (*Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora*), stinging phacelia (*Phacelia malvifolia*), nested polypody (*Polypodium calirhiza*), wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*), goldback fern (*Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis*), California maidenhair (*Adiantum*...

Still streamside, two members of the Poaceae appear: one species notable for its aromatic foliage and widespread throughout the upper drainage systems of the Scotts Creek Watershed, vanilla grass (*Hierochloe occidentalis*), generally prefers dry feet and perfect drainage while the other species, uncommon to rare elsewhere in the county, but represented by substantial numbers in Swanton, crinkle-awn fescue (*Festuca subuliflora*), can often be found growing at the water’s edge. A quartet of *Rubus* reside within the riparian corridor: the least common being black-cap raspberry (*Rubus leucodermis*), favoring moist semi-shaded slopes in the redwood-Douglas fir woodlands along with red clintonia (*Clintonia andrewsiana*), while its omnipresent sister species, California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) is not finicky in habitat preference and exceedingly variable as to foliar gestalt; of the remaining two species which can be found together securing the stream banks, salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) does not stray to far from the alluvium-rich bottomlands, contrasting with thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), a valuable indicator species for the presence of water, often found growing around hillside seeps contrasting with the adjacent scrub. As Spillway Gulch enters Mill Creek from the east, it forms an alluvial fan, providing habitat for two unrelated species, windflower (*Anemone oregana*), decidedly uncommon within the watershed and Pacific starflower (*Trientalis latifolia*), in leaf looking like an aberrant, slightly undernourished
member of the genus *Trillium*, found throughout the watershed, even growing on seasonally disturbed embankments along Swanton Road. Also taking up residence in this cyclically scoured transitional zone are California harebell (*Campanula prenanthoides*), redwood violet (*Viola sempervirens*), trail plant (*Adenocaulon bicolor*) and California milkwort (*Polygala californica*). Several decades ago, a colony of calypso orchid (*Calypso bulbosa*) was discovered in the upper part of Spillway Gulch, growing within a grove of redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*), making it the third known site for this rarely seen orchid in the watershed. Revisiting **(08/2010)** the lower 100 meters of Spillway Gulch, as it interfaces with Mill Creek proper..... an area severely impacted by the 2009 Lockheed Fire..... demonstrated the resiliency and co-evolved adaptive mechanisms that the various native taxa have developed in response to periodic fire disturbances.


**note:** While doing post-Lockheed Fire exploration **(08/2010)** in the upper reaches of the Mill Creek riparian corridor, the following taxa were observed growing streamside or proximal to it..... *Mimulus cardinalis*, *Hierochloe occidentalis*, *Juncus effusus* var. *pacificus* and *Montia parvifolia* (making infrequent appearances on moss-buffered boulders).

The chaparral surrounding and overlooking the upper section of the Mill Creek Watershed is both topographically and ecologically complex, with the west facing ridge slopes extending up towards Mill Creek Dam, the subject of a major forest fire in 1948, leaving in its wake an extensive zone of mature knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*). This area, along with its east facing counterparts, is the domain of *Arctostaphylos crustacea*, sensu lato, a polyphyletic taxon that morphologically displays recombined traits attributable to at least six different species and natural hybrids: sympatric with the burl-forming tetraploid, are interdigitating colonies of Schreiber's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glutinoso*) and sensitive manzanita (*Arctostaphylos nummularia*), chaparral pea (*Pickeringia montana* var. *montana*), knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*), golden chinquapin (*Chrysolepis chrysophylla* var. *minor*) and an assortment of shrubby to sub-arboreal oaks, section Erythrobalanus, possibly representing a transitional zone where forest live-oak (*Quercus parvula* var. *shrevei*) and chaparral live-oak (*Quercus wislizeni* var. *frutescens*) co-exist. Further down the fingers of mudstone that anchor the xeric fire-responsive vegetation, new
additions to the flora appear: some like the pitcher sage (*Lepechinia calycina*), during the heat of mid-day make their presence known through the volatile oils in their herbage, others like the chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) and bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*) by their distinctive heather-like foliage or delicate yellow flowers seemingly out-of-place in such an arid environment. Often growing around the bases of these resilient shrubs, sheltered from both the moisture stealing wind and desiccating effects of the sun are unnoticed annuals, such as Cleveland’s cryptantha (*Cryptantha clevelandii*) and minute-flowered cryptantha (*Cryptantha micromeres*). Hardy perennials also share this specialized habitat, with its water-retentive carpeting of moss and leaf-litter, prime examples being California bedstraw (*Galium californicum* subsp. *californicum*), Dannie’s skullcap (*Scutellaria tuberosa*) and California milkwort (*Polygala californica*). Secured to an exposed section of bedding plane by several small patches of moss, an isolated population of small-leaved bent grass (*Agrostis microphylla*) stands out in its singularity but considered from an ecological perspective, replicates the far more extensive populations found growing, on the seasonally moist vertical cliff faces, overlooking Greyhound Rock State Beach! Sparadically distributed throughout the understory and often overlooked due to its nondescript floral presentation, rayless arnica (*Arnica deltoidea*) rewards the olfactorally curious with a glandular indument, which is both distinctive and somewhat unpleasant! A reintroduction to the native species list for the watershed occurred recently (10/06) and post 2009 fire (07/10) while exploring the lower portion of this ridge, the species in question being Torrey’s cryptantha (*Cryptantha torreyana*): to further sweeten the Boraginaceae pot, nievitas (*Cryptantha flaccida*) was documented in the early 1980’s by herbarium pressings, growing on the east facing slope of the Seymore Hill and overlooking the very same site that the rediscovered Torrey’s cryptantha was found, making a total of four *Cryptantha* species existing within an area less than a mile square! Two days prior to the Lockheed Fire, 08/10/09, while exploring the coast redwood margined spring that separates the upper and lower portions of the Seymore Field, another rare and new to the watershed native was discovered, mat-forming and superficially resembling the redwood violet (*Viola sempereirens*): namely, *Dichondra donelliana*. I revisited this ecologically diverse continuum, unified geologically by the underlying Santa Cruz Mudstone, almost one year (07/10) after the 2009 conflagration, and found little loss in the way of native species composition (but a numerically increased representation of rarely seen firefollowing species). With leaf litter converted to ash and a decidedly changed light regime, at least two of the locally common native Madieae, slender tarweed (*Madia gracilis*) and coast tarweed (*Madia sativa*), were behaving as ruderals..... agressive in their colonization and outsized, some attaining two meters in height status (although this essay/discussion is focused primarily on native taxa, numerous non-native species were behaving in a similar fashion). As this narrow slice of ridge dips downward towards Mill Creek and with both the gulchlet derived incising and mixed hardwood/conifer canopy cover increasing, so does the species diversity. Grouped by families, here is an preliminary overview of the native taxa found within this transitional zone, between chaparral and riparian corridor: lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina* var. *cyclosorum*),..... five-finger fern (*Adiantum aleuticum*), goldback fern (*Pentagramma triangularis* subsp. *triangularis*),..... wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*), western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*),..... California brone (*Bromus carinatus* var. *carinatus*), nodding brone (*Bromus vulgaris*), pine grass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*), slender hairgrass (*Deschampsia elongata*), California wild rye (*Elymus glaucus* subsp. *glaucus*), western fescue (*Festuca occidentalis*), Alaska onion grass (*Melica subulata*), Torrey’s melic (*Melica torreyana*),..... canyon gooseberry (*Ribes menziesii*),..... slink pod (*Scoliopus bigelovii*),..... trail plant (*Adenocaulon bicolor*), rayless arnica (*Arnica discoidea*), broad-leaved aster (*Eurybia radulina*), purple cudweed (*Gamochaeta ustulata*), white hawkweed (*Hieracium albiflorum*), slender tarweed (*Madia gracilis*), coast tarweed (*Madia sativa*), Bioletti’s cudweed
(Pseudognaphalium biolettii), cotton batting plant (Pseudognaphalium stramineum), California chicory (Rafnesquia californica), Pacific starflower (Trientalis latifolia), bush poppy (Dendromecon rigida), sticky monkeyflower (Minulus aurantiacus), morning glory (Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurea), varied-leaved collomia (Collomia heterophylla), hairy honeysuckle (Lonicera hispidula), rattlesnake weed (Daucus pusillus), sweet cicely (Osmorhiza berteroi), gambleweed (Sanicula brasiliensis), California bay laurel (Umbellularia californica), Pacific madrone (Arbutus menziesii), hairy manzanita (Arctostaphylos cristaeca, sensu lato), California huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum), deerweed (Acmispon glaber var. glaber), Bioletti's trefoil (Acmispon junceus var. biolettii), rush trefoil (Acmispon junceus var. junceus), coastal trefoil (Acmispon maritimus var. maritimus), small-flowered trefoil (Acmispon parviflorus), Pacific pea (Lathyrus vestitius), maiden clover (Trifolium microcephalum), giant vetch (Vicia gigantea), tan-oak (Notholithocarpus densiflorus var. densiflorus), coast live-oak (Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia), canyon live-oak (Quercus chrysolepis), forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei), California milkwort (Polygala californica), wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca), ocean spray (Holodiscus discolor), thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus), redwood sorrel (Oxalis oregana), California bedstraw (Galium californicum subsp. californicum), sweet-scented bedstraw (Galium triflorum), Cleveland's cryptantha (Cryptantha clevelandii), minute-flowered cryptantha (Cryptantha micromera), yerba santa (Eriodictyon californicum), small-flowered nemophila (Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora), foothill sedge (Carex tunnicliff), white globe lily (Calochortus albus), checker lily (Fritillaria affinis var. affinis), soap plant (Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum), California nutmeg (Torreya californica), elk-clover (Aralia californica), Douglass's iris (Iris douglasiana), common milkmaids (Cardamine californica var. californica), California mustard (Caulanthus lasiophyllus), sleepy catchfly (Silene antirrhina), miner's lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata), Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii), redwood (Sequoia sempervirens), Hooker's fairy bells (Prosartes hookeri), western trillium (Trillium ovatum subsp. ovatum), blue witch (Solanium umbelliferum), panicked willow herb (Epilobium brachycarpum), willow herb (Epilobium ciliatum subsp. ciliatum), yerba buena (Satureja douglasii), California figwort (Scrophularia californica subsp. californica), blue blossom (Ceanothus thrysiflorus), California manroot (Marah fabaceus), royal rein orchid (Piperia transversa).

Growing in alluvium south of Mill Creek Bridge surrounded by red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa), are salmonberry (Rubus spectabilis) and coast nettle (Urtica dioica subsp. gracilis) with red alder (Alnus rubra) and arroyo willow (Salix lasioplepis) giving vertical contrast. Sequestered within this organic latticework of interwoven branches, a magnificent specimen of giant chain fern (Woodwardia fimbriata) visually impacts the roadside observer, its nearly 2.5 meters-high stature simulating a short-trunked tree fern. Scattered throughout this seasonal umbrella of light modifying foliage, robust examples of lady fern (Athyrium filix-femina var. cyclosorum) and western sword fern (Polystichum munitum) can be discerned and wood fern (Dryopteris arguta) reluctantly adjusts to an environment wetter than the nearby well-drained slopes that it calls home. Paralleling the 2.5 meters-high Woodwardia fimbriata as to stature, circa 300 meters below Scotts Creek Bridge, growing in alluvium and set back from the creek by 5-6 meters, a magnificent specimen of lady fern (Athyrium filix-femina var. cyclosorum), easily topped 2 meters in height and at least, 1.5 meters across at the maximum spread of its fronds.

The riparian corridor between Scotts and Big Creek Bridges (on the Scotts Creek side of Swanton Road), features a mixture of deciduous/evergreen trees and shrubs, that from an ecological perspective, warrant a study unto itself. Besides providing shade during the hottest months of the year and mitigating water temperatures of the shallower and slower moving
streams, the arboreal and sub-arboreal vegetation that define this segment of Scotts Creek's sinuous journey to the ocean, also act as moderators for air movement, recycle valuable nutrients through their seasonal or periodic foliar replacement and with extensive root systems, help to stabilize the stream banks during periods of high water flow. Here is a listing of the native components of this complex ecological drama and following their latin names, in bractets, (D) signifies seasonally deciduous, (P) perennial, usually from below ground root systems but with aerial flowering stems being seasonal and (E) represents those taxa that maintain their foliage for several continuous seasons..... while the principals in this equation are arboreal, I have also included those associate species, with both subshrub and herbaceous characteristics, which play supportive roles in both the understory and streamside composition. The seasonal shedding of foliage is not an abrupt, simultaneous occurrence but a staggered pattern that can extend into mid-winter but is initially is triggered by shortening of day length and a drop in temperature..... concurrent with the annual leaf loss by the deciduous components of the riparian corridor, is the every 3-5(+) years foliar replacement by the constituent evergreens, which add a different textural/chemical component to the leaf litter and this litter enhancement is often exacerbated by the severity of the Winter storms. Are there qualitative/quantitative differences in seasonal leaf drop and litter composition between El Nino and La Nina weather cycles and how does this affect the litter accumulation/breakdown and nutrient recycling patterns? What is the impact from a net loss/gain perspective, where periodic outbreaks of insect (tent caterpillar infestation) predation, causes substantial defoliation to evergreen coast live-oak (Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia) and forest live-oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei) populations?

Acer macrophyllum (D)
Acer negundo var. californicum (D)
Aesculus californica (D)
Alnus rubra (D)
Aralia californica (D)
Althyrium filix-femina var. cyclosorum (D) ..... important streambank stabilizer
Carex amplifolia (E) ..... important sandbar stabilizer
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus (E)
Cornus sericea subsp. sericea (D)
Corylus cornuta var. californica (D)
Dryopteris arguta (E) ..... slope stabilizer
Euonymus occidentalis var. occidentalis (D)
Frangula (Rhamnus) californica subsp. californica (E)
Juncus hesperius (E) ..... important stabilizer for stream margins and sand bars
Juncus patens (E) ..... important stabilizer for both dry and seasonally inundated soils
Oemleria cerasiformis (D)
Pinus radiata (E) ..... variable and highly adaptive endemic component derived from a highly reticulate pattern of hybridization between Pinus attenuata and Pinus radiata
Petasites frigidus var. palatus (D) ..... important sandbar and streambed component
Polystichum munitum (E) ..... important slope stabilizer
Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii (E)
Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens (D)
Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia (E)
Quercus parvula var. shrevei (E)
Ribes divaricatum var. pubiflorum) (D)
Ribes menziesii (D)
Rubus parviflorus (D)
Rubus spectabilis (D) ..... all three species of Rubus valuable erosion abaters with their clonal expansivity and bird referenced seed dispersal
Rubus ursinus (D)
Salix lasiandra subsp. lasiandra (D)
Salix lasiophila (D) ..... these three species of Salix constitute one of the most important erosion control/habitat modifiers native to the in the watershed
Salix sitchensis (D)
Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis (D)
Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa (D) ..... along with Alnus rubra, Rubus spectabilis and the Salix trio, these two species, particularly var. racemosa, act as stream bank buffers in mitigating erosion
Sequoia sempervirens (E) ..... in terms of permanent canopy/shade provider, sheer biomass plus major water consumer, the coast redwood is in a class by itself
Torreya californica (E)
Toxicodendron diversilobum (D) ..... very important erosion control, particularly on slopes dipping down into riparian corridor
Umbellularia californica (E)
Urtica dioica subsp. gracilis and subsp. holoSericea (E) ..... extensive root systems important stream bank and sandbar protectors
Woodwardia fimbriata (E) ..... evergreen analog of seasonally deciduous Athyrium filix-femina var. cyclosorum

Minor "native" contributors in terms of biomass, but present throughout the area under discussion and distinctly rhizomatous, are as follows:

Artemisia douglasiana (D) ..... perennial below ground, flowering stems usually seasonal in duration
Asarum caudatum (E)
Cyperis eragrostis (E)
Equisetum arvense (D/E) ..... fertile stems short lived/sterile stems chlorophyllous and persisting for several seasons
Equisetum telmateia subsp. braunii (D/E) ..... fertile stems short lived/sterile stems chlorophyllous and persisting for several seasons
Oenanthe sarmentosa (E)
Oxalis oregana (E)
Persicaria punctata (E)
Scirpus microcarpus (E) ..... when present in sufficient numbers, important colonizer/stabilizer of saturated soils adjacent to streams and ponds
Scrophularia californica subsp. californica (P) ..... perennial by rootstocks with flowering stems seasonal
Stachys bullata (E)
Symphyotrichum chilense (E)
Veronica americana (E) ..... often stoloniferous where moist substrate is present

Included within this overview, are other "native" taxa, principally perennial (P) with some annuals (A) also present, which play various supporting roles in this ecological drama:
Actaea rubra (P)
Bromus carinatus var. carinatus (P)..... short-lived perennial with flowering stems seasonal
Bromus vulgaris (P)..... perennial with seasonal flowering stems
Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata (P)..... scendent stems often covering sympatric shrubs and
sub-trees (e.g., Ceanothus thyrsiflorus)
Carex bolanderi (P)
Deschampsia elongata (P)
Dicentra formosa (P)
Elymus californicus (P)
Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus (P)..... semi-deciduous, with old flowering stems often producing
nodal/adventitious proliferations
Epilobium ciliatum (P)..... perennial by basal rosettes and flowering stems usually seasonal in
duration
Festuca elmeri (P)..... uncommon but well represented within watershed proper and scattered
on mixed coniferous/hardwood dominated slopes margining riparian corridor
Festuca subuliflora (P)..... uncommon within Santa Cruz County and usually restricted to interior
portions of sub-watersheds draining into Scotts Creek
Galium triflorum (P)
Heracleum maximum (P)..... perennial by rootstocks with flowering stems seasonal in duration
Lathyrus vestitus var. vestitus (P)..... perennial by rhizomes with scendent stems usually
seasonal with flowering stems drying brown and leaves shed as Fall approaches
Lemna minor (P)..... during summer months often forming verdant sheets on surface of ponds,
backwaters and slow moving streams
Marah fabaceus (P)..... perennial from massive tuber with extensive scendent aerial stems
seasonal in duration
Melia torreyana (P)..... often going dormant in Fall, with dry foliage and spent inflorescences
covering exposed road banks and rocky slopes
Mimulus floribundus (A)..... both Mimulus floribundus and Mimulus moschatus are principally
sandbar occupants
Mimulus moschatus (P)
Osmorhiza beteri (P)..... perennial with flowering stems seasonal in duration
Phalaris californica (P)..... semi-deciduous, with old flowering stems often producing nodal
proliferations aka asexual propagules
Sanicula crassicaulis (P)..... short-lived perennial with flowering stems seasonal in duration
Sanicula gianonei, pro sp. nov. (P)..... short-lived perennial with flowering stems seasonal in
duration
Solanum douglasii (P)
Symphoricarpos albus var. laevigatus (D)..... long-lived deciduous shrub, sporadic in occurrence
but where established, often forming extensive colonies
Thalictrum polycarpum (P)..... perennial from roostock and flowering stems seasonal in duration

In a blatant case of familiarity breeds contempt, miner’s lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata), is a botanical leitmotiv, accompanying and rewarding the perspicacious observer with structural nuances missed when viewed hastily or from afar. Categorized by stature, this “species” exhibits environmental plasticity to an extreme degree, ranging from diminutive to exceedingly robust with stems and leaves varying in coloration from green to bronze and reddish-pink. The fused cauline leaves, taking the shape of an orbicular or angled disc, when thin
are like sheets of paper but in some populations can exhibit thickness in the 1-2 millimeter range! A varied constellation of characters greets one when cataloguing the inflorescences, both as to gestalt and pigmentation: displaying a full spectrum from stalked thru sessile, open or condensed, with calyces concolored green thru chocolate, uniformly viniferous or bicolored with bases and apices pigmented differently from the main body..... some populations distinguished by vertical barring analogous to those found on a bird cage. Flowers can vary not only in size but color, with white predominant but some populations suffused with pink and even the shiny black seeds refusing to be held hostage to one particular measurement. Paradoxically, as widespread and variable miner’s lettuce is within the watershed, its sister species candy flower (*Claytonia sibirica*), currently exists only in the lower portion of the Little Creek Watershed, is relatively uniform in gross morphology and where populations of the two species overlap, no evidence of interspecific hybridization has been observed. Other family members documented as residing within our “ecological hot spot”, are serpentine miner’s lettuce (*Claytonia exigua* subsp. *exigua*), slender miner’s lettuce (*Claytonia parviflora* subsp. *parviflora*) and little-leaf montia (*Montia parvifolia*). During the summer of 2005, a small population of what purported to be red-stemmed miner’s lettuce (*Claytonia rubra* subsp. *depressa*) was digitally photographed growing on a north-facing ridge connecting the “Bulb Field” with Swanton Road. Using this relatively small (thirty square miles) but topographically complex watershed as a living laboratory to investigate, on several fronts, the causal factors underlying the polymorphism inherent in the local populations of miner’s lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata* subsp. *perfoliata*), is a research project eminently worth considering. Lines of inquiry should include, the interplay between environmental and genetic factors, ploidy levels and direction of gene flow, out-breeding versus obligate selfing patterns, pollination and seed dispersal vectors and the potential for cryptic species/endemism with the mapping of local morphologies occurring outside of the watershed. The following genera, *Caladrinia, Claytonia and Montia*, formerly placed within the Portulacaceae have been given their own family..... the Montiaceae.

Within the Scotts Creek Watershed, several populations of white baby blue-eyes (*Nemophila menziesii* var. *atomaria*) have been found, combining traits of both var. *menziesii* and var. *atomaria*: the taxa in question produce polymorphic flowers, ranging from 3-25+ mm. in diameter, highly variable as to coloration and a certain percentage, producing 1-5 non-functional stamens with pinkish-tan anthers on reduced filaments but with functional stigmas, making the plants ± gynodioecious! The high degree of variability, as to both foliar and floral morphologies, coloration and 10-20% occurrence of imperfect androecia, may be the result of past hybridization between populations of both var. *menziesii* and var. *atomaria*, some of which exhibit in varying degrees, reproductive isolating mechanisms, which range from partial through total incompatibility. Further work needs to be done clarifying these morphological anomalies and their evolutionary significance.

Locally, the native tarweeds form a complex series of intergrades: some are sporadic and highly localized, *threadstem madia* (*Madia exigua*) x slender tarweed (*Madia gracilis*) with its distinctive zigzag growth pattern and cherry-syrup aroma, while along the roadbanks and their highly disturbed bases, *coast tarweed* (*Madia sativa/capitata*) x slender tarweed (*Madia gracilis*) gives rise to an often bewildering assemblage of forms differing in stature, glandulosity/chemical signatures and foliar/floral morphologies. There may even be an unrecognized or unnamed species hiding within this taxonomic free-for-all! Threadstem madia (*Madia exigua*), slender tarweed (*Madia gracilis*) and coast tarweed (*Madia sativa/capitata*) are in varying degrees clothed with gland-tipped trichomes, each species defined by a specific
chemical signature, with the hybrids displaying scents ± intermediate between the putative parents.

The forested tracts margining the central portion of our passage through Swanton Valley collectively act as a refugium for at least 2,000 all-age category California nutmegs (*Torreya californica*). Claiming ecological association with this lone local member of the Yew Family (Taxaceae) is a most diverse cast of characters. Sampling those species visible from our rigidly defined viewing area, several intergrading habitats give the discerning observer a virtual smorgasbord of biota to study:

1. The richly vegetated slopes, ascending from road embankment to ridge top, offer sanctuary to hairy honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula var. vacillans* = *Lonicera hispidula*) and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus var. laevigatus*), which although dissimilar in overall appearance are both members of the Honeysuckle Family (Caprifoliaceae). Two other occasionally sympatric members of this family famed for its often-scented ornamental vines, are blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana* = *Sambucus nigra* subsp. *canadensis*) and red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa*).

   **note:** due to recent molecular studies, the genus *Sambucus* is now placed in the family ADOXACEAE.

2. Giving the Nightshade Family (Solanaceae) its due, a set of unlike species, with careful scrutiny, can be ferreted out from the brushy margins on either side of the roadway. Scentless, deeply-lobed, white corollas with basal greenish blotches characterize Douglas’s nightshade (*Solanum douglasii*) while blue witch (*Solanum umbelliferum*) wins over even the most insensitive of observers with exceedingly fragrant, shallowly-lobed, bluish-purple corollas, eminently deserving a place of honor in any wild garden.

3. Formerly representing the Waterleaf Family (Hydrophyllaceae) but now ensconced within the Borage Family (Boraginaceae), are small-flowered nemophila (*Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora*), extremely variable as to foliar gestalt but fairly uniform in floral configuration, and stinging phacelia (*Phacelia malvifolia*), the stiff, pustulate-based trichomes on leaves and stems packing a wallop when inadvertently squeezed and the plants, when growing in a suitable environment forming a monoculture, aggressively colonizing a sunny slope often at the expense of neighboring species.

Several unrelated species sharing this environment are intrinsically fascinating just because of their foliar polymorphism. Besides the aforementioned species of *Nemophila*, included in this group are California figwort (*Scrophularia californica* subsp. *californica*), which includes rare individuals with flavistic flowers; common milkmaids (*Cardamine californica var. californica*), variable as to both floral and foliar pigmentation; Pacific pea (*Lathyrus vestitus var. vestitus*), some road bank populations combining aspects of formerly recognized subsp. *puberulus* and subsp. *bolanderi*, with herbage glabrous or pubescent and stipules ranging from narrow and entire through broad with undulate margins and when found growing intermixed with American vetch (*Vicia americana* var. *americana*) in a non-flowering state, can challenge all but the most seasoned observer; and finally ubiquitous mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), adjacent populations often looking like separate species, exceedingly variable as to stature, chemical signature, foliar morphology and indument.
Adding an olfactory component to the observational mix are three members of the Mint Family (Lamiaceae): coyote mint (*Monardella villosa* subsp. *villosa*), yerba buena (*Satureja douglasii*), and California hedge nettle (*Stachys bullata*), differing in modes of growth and scents released from their crushed herbage. Blending into the roadside banks already brimming with visual and olfactory treats, a visually unpretentious member of the Legume Family (Fabaceae), California tea (*Rupertia physodes*), startling and rewards the scent-driven connoisseur with gland-stippled foliage that aromatically lingers both on the hands and in the memory.

The presence of Scotts Creek, even when outside of direct viewing, makes itself known by the arborous mosaic that lines and secures the streambanks. During the winter months, the leafless red alder (*Alnus rubra*) becomes a ghostly procession of interlocking skeletal branches, ashen and lichen dappled. When bathed in rising mist, they attain a fluidity that rivals the headlong rush of the water they overarch. Entering the creek, between spring and summer, at any point along its 6+ mile journey to the ocean and merely wading some 50 meters, in either direction, can yield unexpected botanical treasures, in some cases just the number of species representing one genus and collectively occupying a sandbar or stream bank. One sandbar observed circa 25 years ago, above the confluence of Schoolhouse Gulch with Scotts Creek, hosted scarlet monkeyflower (*Mimulus cardinalis*), floriferous monkeyflower (*Mimulus floribundus*), Snouted monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus* var. *gracilis* = *Mimulus nasutus*), musk monkeyflower (*Mimulus moschatus*) and downy monkeyflower (*Mimulus pilosus*!). Also during this time frame, a gigas (giant) form of common rush (*Juncus patens*) was discovered growing on sandbars scattered throughout the watershed. Robust in stature, with glaucous-blue culms circa 1-1.5+ meters in height and 2-4+ mm. in diameter, these topped off with spreading inflorescences 10-12+ cm. across, offered the creative landscaper a superb accent plant to utilize in the water garden or seasonally wet areas in need of stabilization. Regrettably, several seasons of high winter flow, eradicated or reconfigured the sand bars in question, virtually eliminating this highly distinctive form from the riparian corridor. Parenthetically, somewhat less robust individuals have been observed in recent years, growing in the upper Scotts Creek Watershed and possibly representing the source material for the original find. Two species that also grace the streamside margins are the relatively common, common horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) looking like a malnourished variant of the giant horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia* subsp. *braunii*) and the decidedly uncommon clammy clover (*Trifolium obtusiflorum*), subtly passing for an overtly glandular version of tomat clover (*Trifolium pallescens*). Another legume, an infrequently encountered sandbar/stream bank denizen, coastal trefoil (*Lotus salsuginosus* var. *salsuginosus* = *Acmispon maritimus* var. *maritimus*), was found growing down stream below the entrance of Mill Creek into Scotts Creek and disappeared following the “El Nino” scouring (this population was fortunately documented by a seed collection deposited at the UCSC Arboretum..... during a post 2009 Lockheed Fire botanical review of the upper/central portion of the Schoolhouse Ridge, which took place in early spring of 2010, more than 1,000 plants of this previously rare to the watershed taxon, were observed, rendering the rarity status moot!).

Sharing habitat and foliar nakedness, salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) sports muted-gold stems, which contrast with the glossy, vinaceous twigs of creek dogwood (*Cornus sericea* subsp. *sericea*) and the gnarled asymmetry of the red elderberry. Hugging the moist leaf litter, and visible from our perspective only in winter due to the deciduous nature of the understory shrubbery, wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*), with brownish-maroon flowers, sporting attenuate calyx lobes and pungently aromatic, sub-surface rhizomes topped with cordate leaves, gives a first impression of being more animal than plant. Occupying the same relatively narrow zone between road bed and
stream bed, semi-dormant during Winter when viewing from tarmac is possible and screened by leafed-out bushes from Spring through Summer, renders from our traversal point-of-view, a peek at uncommon California bottlebrush grass (*Elymus californicus*), a logistical nightmare!

A sigmoid pattern to the roadbed affords the botanically immersed statistician a chance to observe along the creek two sets of three: (1) arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), yellow willow (*Salix lucida* subsp. *lasiandra = Salix lasiandra var. lasiandra*), and velvet willow (*Salix sitchensis*), sharing a bend in the watercourse with (2) representatives of the Sedge Family (*Cyperaceae*), namely blue creek-sedge (*Carex amplifolia*), its glaucous-blue, v-shaped in cross-section foliage contrasting with the surrounding greenery, Bolander’s sedge (*Carex bolanderi*), a distinctive taxon locally, with inflorescences displaying 1-5+ compound-congested lower spikelets, these often androgyneous, and cousin panicked bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpus*), luxuriant during the growing season but dying back annually to long-lived, soil-binding rhizomes. Varying from several hundred to less than 5 meters in width, the area between road edge and stream bank is ecologically complex, in part due to cyclical hydrological disruptions.

One of the ecological values of sandbars within a watershed is the capturing via seed or asexual division, of floristic components, that by their nature are often uncommon and restricted to specific sites overlooking but not actually belonging to the riparian corridor proper. Such is the case with sharp-fruited rush (*Juncus acuminatus*), historically recorded as occurring along the edges of the pond behind Mill Creek Dam and recently (2003-2004) found growing circa 1/8 mile below the confluence of Mill Creek with Scotts Creek. Some other displaced native species, which occasionally crop up on Scotts Creek sandbars and normally frequent more mesic habitats which are higher in elevation, are Brewer’s calandrinia (*Calandrinia breweri*), straggling gilia (*Allophyllum divaricatum*), coast whitethorn (*Ceanothus incanus*), wartleaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus papillosus var. papillosus*), fragrant everlasting (*Gnaphalium canescens* ssp. *beneolens = Pseudognaphalium beneolens*), stipulate trefoil (*Lotus stipularis/balsamiferus*), silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons* var. *albifrons*), downy monkeyflower (*Mimulus pilosus*) and Pacific panic grass (*Panicum acuminatum var. acuminatum*). Although transitory by nature, sandbars can concentrate disparate elements of a watershed, creating a point of departure to study biodiversity, distribution mechanisms and adaptation strategies.

Along the Scotts Creek riparian corridor during the Summer/Fall transitional period when water levels drop and flow rates are often greatly reduced, the thalli of the smaller duckweed (*Lemna minor*), a monocot with minuscule flowers, often form extensive mat-like colonies, covering pools and stream margins. Do these clonal aggregations have a salutary value within the aquatic environment?

1. Do the verdant sheets of *Lemna minor* afford a visual protection for the young salmonids from aerial predators such as the Belted Kingfishers?
2. Do the *Lemna minor* colonies mitigate water temperatures by directly absorbing the radiant energy of the midday sun?
3. Do the photosynthesizing thalli increase oxygen levels in the aqueous environment, thereby benefiting the associate biota?

Appearing sporadically throughout our botanical quest, intermediate fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii var. intermedia*), carries with it a history of more than one hundred described variants. Self-pollination allows several forms to co-exist within a shared habitat and a least two distinct phases of this highly variable taxon occur locally, either growing separately or sympatrically.
Phase #1 is early blooming, delicate in stature with linear ascending leaves clothed with appressed, soft to the touch, hairs and simple stems terminating in unbranched scorioid spikes, the entire plant, save the orange salverform corollas, lost in the surrounding wash of green, while Phase #2 is robust with hispid pustulate hairs and branched spreading stems above, often still in or emerging from the basal rosette stage while Phase #1, is in full flower. A unique sister species, rare statewide and existing in a few isolated colonies locally, is bent-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia lunaris*), either a relic or ahead of its time, choosing near-vertical, often exfoliating shale banks to call home. How ironic, that a species with the lowest chromosome number (n=4) in the genus, has undergone the most radical change in floral morphology, going from being radially to bilaterally symmetrical! Bringing the total number of resident “native” fiddleneck taxa to four, seaside fiddleneck (*Amsinckia spectabilis*) stakes out the coastal headlands as its home, often half-hidden within the California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) understory.

Two members of the Buttercup Family (Ranunculaceae), dissimilar in reproductive mechanisms and foliar patterns but sharing the same environment, are baneberry (*Actaea rubra*) with toxic, nitid red berries, leaves cauline, bi- or tri-ternately compound and meadow rue (*Thalictrum fendleri* var. *polycarpum* = *Thalictrum polycarpum*), dioecious and apetalous, pistillate plants with reddish-purple stigmas looking like miniature sea anemones and the male counterpart with bronze, pendant stamens mimicking tassels on an old-fashion lampshade, the fruit a laterally compressed achene, with emerging seasonal foliage readily passing for an undescribed species of maidenhair fern (genus *Adiantum*). Another pairing, this time within a genus, is that of fat Solomon’s seal (*Smilacina racemosa*) and slim Solomon’s seal (*Smilacina stellata*), the singular fragrance of the the “fat” one an elusive blending of violets and narcissi.

Sticking with the monocots are four more “treasures” that present themselves artfully along the roadside. Starting off with checker lily (*Fritillaria affinis* var. *affinis*)—occasional robust individuals can produce racemes with 10 or more Tiffany-like, pendant flowers, varying in size and ranging from chartreuse thru maroon in coloration. The second is giant trillium (*Trillium chloropetalum*), which presents a fascinating case study in the linkage between flower color, scent, habitat, and pollinating vectors—and ultimately, how does one define a species? Entering third in this ecological drama is western wake robin (*Trillium ovatum* subsp. *ovatum*), morphologically fairly consistent with pedicellate flowers, usually white drying a pinkish-lavender and fragrant of honey. At home in several moist habitats, ranging from isolated marshes to shaded woodland margins, number four is California canary grass (*Phalaris californica*), while caespitose in habit, gives the impression of being distinctly rhizomatous by producing asexual nodal propagules, which when touching the damp earth, root some distance from the origins of parent culms. Sharing this distinctive mode of replication and in some local forms, vegetatively mimicking the canary grass, is California wild rye (*Elymus glaucus* subsp. *glaucus*): focusing on blade and ligule differences, when inflorescences are not available, quickly separates the two genera.

Adding visual spice to our botanical sleuthing, a disparate trio of unrelated “dicots”, punctuate the verdancy that frames our southward journey: hound’s tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*), a stately native embarrassed by the aggressive colonization of its upstart European cousin, forget-me-not (*Myosotis latifolia*); American winter cress (*Barbarea orthoceras*), usually encountered as individual specimens or a scattering, unless growing in a recently disturbed environment and then sometimes behaving in a ruderal fashion; and Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis* subsp. *elongata* = *Solidago elongata*), which of all our goldenrods is the least common and is usually
restricted to old coastal marshes. Three “disjuncts” have been documented along Swanton Road, between Mill Creek and Big Creek Bridges, raising questions about the overall distribution pattern for this horticulturally desirable species within the watershed!

Situated between pavement and bank, drainage ditches are often mere slivers of habitat, subject to the vagaries of both nature and man—transient catchalls for a diverse assemblage of flora, usually naturalized exotics but some uncommon, localized and native! Sharing this micro-habitat of concentrated moisture, uncommon meadow nemophila (*Nemophila pedunculata*) can be found with stems intertwined, snuggling with its ubiquitous relative, small-flowered nemophila (*Nemophila parvflora var. parvflora*). Usually found growing in moist shaded spots within the riparian corridor, fringe cups (*Tellima grandiflora*) makes a brief appearance roadside, its pendulous flowers changing from green to rose during maturation. Growing intermixed with brown bog-rush (*Juncus effusus var. brunneus*), Gianone’s sedge (*Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov.*) and willow herb (*Epilobium ciliatum subsp. ciliatum*) is bracted popcorn-flower (*Plagiobothrys bracteatus*): Beginning as a small rosette hidden deep within the shadows of its robust brethren and stimulated by and drawn to the higher light intensities reaching down through breaks in the vegetation, it sends out lateral stems, these branching and threading their way through the adjacent foliage, often some distance from its anchoring annual root system. Persisting in place through the seasonal production of seed (nutlets) gives the popcorn-flower an illusion of permanence. At the other extreme, underground rhizomes of the neighboring giant horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia subsp. braunii*) may persist for centuries, in spite of the abuse piled on them, literally, in the form of asphalt! Perennial status also grants the California dock (*Rumex salicifolius var. denticulatus = Rumex californicus*) a secure tenure, albeit a punctuated one, along our meandering route.

A Lilliputian world of flowering plants, wholly missed by weekend vehicular botanists and, in general, overlooked by the casual explorers of the coastal prairies, interior grasslands and riparian meadows, can be readily encountered by just getting down on “all fours” and sleuthing with a hand lens. Here is a tantalizing introduction into the world of “minimalist botany”: occasionally found growing together in moist ditches and the adjoining grassland, dwarf club rush (*Scirpus koilelepis = Isolepis carinata*) and timwort (*Cicendia quadrangularis*) make for a visually accommodating duo, the timwort with 4-merous yellow corollas passing for a dwarf “crucifer”, but in reality, a bona fide member of the Gentian Family (Gentianaceae); another habitat sharing pair, this time within the “Sandy-bottom Reservoir”, are water pygmyweed (*Crassula aquatica*), a micro-miniature when compared with the rosettes of its cousin, sea lettuce (*Dudleya caespitosa*), and thyme-leaved pogogyne (*Pogogyne serpylloides*), a native mint so diminutive in stature that an adult plant can be accommodated on the head of a dime but possessing a scent so penetrating that one’s first introduction is made through smell rather than sight; their root systems embedded within a water retentive skin composed of grass detritus and moss, which partially obscures the exposed angularity of the weathered mudstone, dwarf locoweed (*Astragalus gambelianus*), strigose trefoil (*Lotus strigosus*), tiny pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta alsinoides*), San Francisco popcorn-flower (*Plagiobothrys diffusus/reticulatus*), shining peppergrass (*Lepidium nitidum var. nitidum*), purple-beaked owl’s clover (*Triphysaria micrantha*), Mt. Diablo cottonweed (*Micropus amphibolus*) and slender goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*), to introduce just a small part of an extraordinary cast of players inhabiting a “world within a world” and more apt to be crushed underfoot than perused. To legitimately embrace and lay claim to the title of naturalist, demands that any traversal, whether on tarmac or naturally occurring terrain, should be leisurely, in order to savor the less conspicuous but not insignificant constituents of the plant.
world and recognize that ultimately it is only a matter of scale.

Whether common or otherwise, the following “legitimate” residents along this stretch of watershed add variety to the proceedings: purple cudweed (Gnaphalium purpureum = *Gamochaeta ustulata*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), hairy wood sorrel (*Oxalis albicans* subsp. *pilosa*), pinole clover (*Trifolium bifidum var. decipiens*), pin-point clover (*Trifolium gracilentum var. gracilentum*), Valparaiso clover (*Trifolium microdon*), Spanish trefoil (*Lotus purshianus var. purshianus = *Acmispon americanus var. americanus*), gambleweed (*Sanicula crassicaulis*), mountain dandelion (*Agoseris grandiflora*), morning glory (*Calystegia occidentalis* subsp. *occidentalis = Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), rattlesnake weed (*Daucus pusillus*), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris* subsp. *lanecolata*), and canyon gooseberry (*Ribes menziesii*).

**Note:** Select herbarium specimens of horticulturally meritorious, locally uncommon, rare county wide and agency listed *species referred to in this section* of the Traversal, collected and pressed, with noted exceptions, by Roy Buck and/or James West within the Scotts Creek Watershed and environs, then deposited in the Jepson Herbarium, U.C. Berkeley, are as follows:

*Acer negundo var. californicum*/accession number JEPS42732/Jepson #4168  
*Allophyllum divaricatum*/accession number JEPS81555/Buck & West #108  
*Amsinckia lunaris*/accession number JEPS81537/Buck, West & Stone #466  
*Amsinckia lunaris*/accession number UC1561077/Taylor, Buck, West & Clifton #9659  
*Antirrhinum kelloggii*/accession number JEPS82645/Buck & West #215  
*Antirrhinum kelloggii*/accession number JEPS85163/Buck & West #516  
*Arctostaphylos "sp"*/accession number UCSC4784/Randall Morgan, Dec 22 1976  
*Arctostaphylos "sp"*/accession number UCSC4785/Randall Morgan, Dec 22 1976  
*Arctostaphylos "sp"*/accession number UCSC5684/R. Morgan, Jan 31 1977  
*Arctostaphylos "sp"*/accession number UCSC5723/Randall Morgan, Jan 19 1977  
*Arctostaphylos "sp"*/accession number UCSC5727/Randall Morgan, Dec 21 1976  
*Arctostaphylos "sp"*/accession number UCSC5738/Randall Morgan, Dec 21 1976  
*Arctostaphylos "sp"*/accession number UCSC5814/R. Morgan, Dec 26 1976  
*Arctostaphylos "sp"*/accession number UCSC6152/R. Morgan, Jan 1979  
*Arctostaphylos "sp"*/accession number UCSC6180/R. Morgan, Jan 1979  
*Arctostaphylos "sp"*/accession number UCSC6181/R. Morgan, Jan 1979  
*Arctostaphylos crustacea, sensu lato*/accession number JEPS82578/West #204.1  
*Arctostaphylos crustacea, sensu lato*/accession number JEPS81974/Buck & West #212  
*Arctostaphylos crustacea, sensu lato*/accession number JEPS81975/Buck & West #157  
*Arctostaphylos crustacea, sensu lato*/accession number JEPS81976/Buck & West #156  
*Arctostaphylos crustacea, sensu lato*/accession number JEPS81978/Buck & West #154  
*Arctostaphylos "glandulosa"*/accession number UCSC5796/R. Morgan, Jan 1977  
*Arctostaphylos "glandulosa"*/accession number UCSC5805/R. Morgan, Jan 17 1977  
*Arctostaphylos tomentosa subsp. subcordata* = *Arctostaphylos crustacea subsp. subcordata*/accession number JEPS81977/Buck & West #155  
*Arctostaphylos tomentosa subsp. subcordata* = *Arctostaphylos crustacea subsp. subcordata*/accession number UCSC5812/Randall Morgan, Dec 26 1976  
*Arnica discoida*/accession number JEPS30906/Thomas #4089  
*Astragalus gambelianus*/accession number JEPS82614/Buck & West #252  
*Athysanus pusillus*/accession number JEPS82961/West #54.1
Brodiaea terrestris subsp. terrestris/accession number JEPS82807/Buck & West #288
Carex bolanderi/accession number JEPS82963/West #76.1
Carex bolanderi/accession number JEPS82964/West #77
Carex bolanderi/accession number JEPS83452/Morgan & West #1
Carex bolanderi/accession number JEPS82778/Buck & West #306
Carex bolanderi/accession number JEPS83060/Buck #454
Carex bolanderi/accession number JEPS101037/Taylor #9649
Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS83042/West #296
Carex gianonei, pro. sp. nov./accession number JEPS85180/Buck & West #487
Claytonia exigua subsp. exigua/accession number JEPS81986/Buck & West #35
Claytonia parviflora ssp. parviflora/accession number JEPS82772/West #39
Clematis lasiantha/accession number JEPS83087/West #345
Corallorrhiza striata/accession number JEPS89230/Buck & West #228
Elymus californicus/accession number JEPS81548/Buck & West #109
Epilobium ciliatum/accession number JEPS 83119/Buck & West #348
Epilobium ciliatum/accession number JEPS83098/Buck & West #439
Epilobium minutum/accession number JEPS85126/Buck & West #529
Equisetum arvense/accession number JEPS81561/Buck & West #86
Eriogonum nudum/accession number JEPS83099/Buck & West #441
Eriogonum nudum/accession number JEPS83100/Buck & West #442
Gilia clivorum/accession number JEPS82958/West #51.1
Gilia clivorum/accession number JEPS82571/Buck & West #210
Gnaphalium purpureum = Gamochaeta ustulata/accession number SJSU10203/Sharsmith #8784
Juncus "sp"/accession number UCSC4804/Randall Morgan, Oct 27 1976
Juncus acuminatus/accession number UC1009585/Hesse #1318
Juncus acuminatus/accession number JEPS6052/Hesse #1318
Linanthus androsaceus = Leptosiphon androsaceus/accession number JEPS82809/Buck & West #286
Lotus stipularis var. stipularis (balsamiferus)/accession number JEPS83126/Buck & West #372
Madia exigua/accession number JEPS83093/Buck & West #380
Madia exigua/accession number JEPS82580/West #114
Madia gracilis/accession number JEPS82629/Buck & West #237
Malacothrix floccifera/accession number JEPS82788/Buck & West #308
Mimulus cardinalis/accession number JEPS83050/Buck & West #417
Mimulus floribundus/accession number JEPS81562/Buck & West #85
Mimulus floribundus/accession number JEPS82875/Buck & West #416
Mimulus moschatus/accession number JEPS81560/Buck & West #87
Minuartia douglasii/accession number JEPS82647/Buck & West #213
Nemophila menziesii/accession number JEPS81922/Buck, West & Stone #192
Nemophila menziesii/accession number JEPS82016/Buck, West & Stone #135
Nemophila menziesii/accession number JEPS882018/Buck & West #162
Nemophila menziesii/accession number JEPS82019/Buck & West #163
Nemophila menziesii/accession number JEPS82020/Buck & West #164
Nemophila menziesii/accession number JEPS82021/Buck & West #165
Nemophila pedunculata/accession number JEPS82775/West #57
Nemophila pedunculata/accession number JEPS82776/West #31
Oemleria cerasiformis/accession number JEPS81994/Buck & West #150
Between Big Creek and Little Creek Bridges

Leaving Swanton Road for a brief detour into the Big Creek riparian corridor via an unpaved road affords us the luxury, of viewing five species not encountered on our primary traversal but still conforming to the protocol of not departing the road, dirt or otherwise! The quintet of “locals”, consists of sugar-scoop (*Tiarella trifoliata* var. *unifoliata*), with an apt colloquial name in view of its unequal 2-valved mature carpels, water hemlock (*Cicuta douglasii*), one of the most toxic native California plants that a bipedal clothed mammal can encounter, durango root (*Datisca glomerata*).... outside of an isolated plant found a few years back growing down stream from the confluence of Archibald and Scotts Creeks, this 2 meters high sandbar anchored goliath, was the only other representative of this locally uncommon taxon observed and its parental source/origins a mystery..... until early in 2009, pre-Lockheed Fire, while visiting upper Dead Man’s Gulch, an extensive population of this toxic native was discovered..... its
use as a fish poison by California Indians is well documented), Dudley’s sword fern (Polystichum dudleyi), an uncommon fern species locally and co-parent of the rarer, California sword fern (Polystichum californicum), which also occurs within the Scotts Creek Watershed, and sticking with the ferns and found growing in the weathered/decomposed granite along lower “Powerhouse Grade”, California lace fern (Aspidotis californica). Bending the rules ever so slightly and moving up Big Creek a short distance, a fern-like plant is found growing in the shadowy recesses of the stream bank and if not in flower, could cause some consternation: the perpetrator in this case of botanical fraud is redwood ivy (Vancouveria planipetala), a member of the Barberry Family (Berberidaceae) and related to two other native taxa found in the watershed, barberry (Berberis nervosa) and coast barberry (Berberis pinnata subsp. pinnata). Still within our riparian detour and gracing the sculpted moist face of lower Big Creek Falls, is arguably our most beautiful larkspur, red larkspur (Delphinium nuditcaule), hummingbird pollinated, a vector it shares with its cousin, crimson columbine (Aquilegia formosa) and non-relative, California fuchsia (Epilobium canum subsp. canum), both taxa sporadically occurring within the watershed. The Santa Cruz manzanita (Arctostaphylos andersonii), in species form rather than as a contributor to the polyphyletic burl-forming Arctostaphylos crustacea complex, makes an appearance near the top of Powerhouse Grade..... perhaps the lowest elevational point within the Scotts Creek Watershed that this occurs and going in the opposite direction from an ecological perspective, sea lettuce (Dudleya caespitosa) has been documented growing on the near-vertical banks above the lower Big Creek Falls..... note: this particular observation was made circa 30 years ago, and due to the severity of the El Nino driven winterstorms since then, whether the aforementioned Dudleya population still exists is uncertain. On 06/03/10, a two hour post fire exploration of the riparian corridor between the Fish Hatchery and below the first falls, yielded the following "legitimate” residents aka native taxa (listed more or less in order of appearance)..... in an area that was extensively burnt on both sides of the creek: Stachys bullata, Athyrium filix-femina var. cyclosorum, Juncus hesperius, Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa, Rubus parviflorus, Rubus ursinus, Carex bolanderi (form with compound-congested lower spikelets), Sequoia sempervirens, Alnus rubra, Acer macrophyllum, Melica subulata, Hierochloe occidentalis, Epilobium ciliatum sensu lato, Solanum douglasii, Notholithocarpus densiflorus var. densiflorus, Woodwardia fimbriata, Umbellularia californica, Cynoglossum grande, Collomia heterophylla, Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata, Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora, Frangula californica subsp. californica, Melica torreyana, Scrophularia californica subsp. californica, Lavathera vestitus sensu lato, Vicia gigantea, Phacelia californica (leaves, stems and inflorescences clothed with stiff, pustulate-based eglandular trichomes), Deschampsia elongata, Petasites frigidas var. palmatus, Carex amplifolia, Scirpus microcarpus, Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii, Oxalis oregana, Gaulium triflorum, Cardamine californica var. californica, Smilacina stellata, Bromus carinatus var. carinatus, Urtica dioica subsp. gracilis, Minimus guttatus complex, aff. Minimus nasutus, Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens, Poa howellii, Cyperus eragrostis, Aralia californica, Torreya californica, Equisetum telmateia subsp. braunii, Tiarella trifoliata var. unifoliata, Trillium ovatum, Cicuta douglasii, Callitriche marginata, Veronica americana, Juncus patens, Sanicula crassicaulis, Thalictrum canescens, Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus, Carex sect. Ovales, aff. Carex gianonei, pro sp nov., Osmorhiza berteroii, Rumex salicifolius complex, Trifolium microcephalum, Iris douglasiana, Polypodium californicum (lithophyte, lower sets of pinna longer than succeeding ones), Prosera hookeri, Ribes menziesii, Vaccinium ovatum..... concentrated within an area of circa 15 meters x 7 meters, on both sides of the dirt road, the following fern species were noted: Polypodium calithiza (growing on stumps, lower sets of pinna shorter than succeeding ones), Woodwardia fimbriata, Athyrium filix-femina var. cyclosorum and Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens (growing in alluvial deposits proximal to Big Creek), Polystichum dudleyi, Polystichum munitum, Dryopteris arguta, Adiantum aleuticum and Polypodium sp.(the
quintet occupying a near vertical slope where the Santa Margarita Sandstone underlying the Santa Cruz Mudstone pinches out), *Hesperocodium tenella*, *Dicentra formosa*, *Lilium pardalinum* subsp. *pardalinum*, *Scoliopus bigelovii*, *Calystegia purpurata* subsp. *purpurata*, *Pentagranum triangularis* subsp. *triangularis*, *Asyneuma prenantioides*, *Festuca occidentalis*, *Carex globosa*, *Smilacina racemosa*, *Fritillaria affinis* var. *affinis*, *Heuchera micrantha*, *Mimulus aurantiacus*, *Festuca elmeri*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Oxalis corniculata* subsp. *pilosa*, *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*, *Trifolium willdenovii*, *Cirsium brevistylum*, *Anisocarpus madioides*, *Salix sitchensis*, *Calamagrostis rubescens*, *Holodiscus discolor*, *Festuca subuliflora*, *Delphinium nudicaule* (growing on "granitics" aka quartz diorite cliff face and base, where quarrying took place historically), along with *Calochortus albus*, *Eriophyllum confertiflorum* and robust pendant clumps of *Heuchera micrantha*. ... moving further upstream and framed on both sides of the watercourse by ever-steepening banks, one encounters *Lonicera hispidula*, *Boykinia occidentalis*, *Veronica americana*, *Carex nudata*, *Mimulus cardinalis*, *Adiantum jordanii*, *Helenium puberulum* and *Montia parvifolia* (growing streamside on moss-covered boulders.... with compact colonizing rosettes and chartaceous white flowers, aesthetically holding its own when compared to florally vibrant cousins, the Lewisias).

While passing through Swanton, framed by pastures populated with cattle, horses, bobcats, coyotes, and an occasional great blue heron, the prospects for encountering even remnants of the native flora seem dim. A stretch of west-facing hillside, circa 60 meters in length and located near the end stage to this section of our journey rectifies the problem, producing a host of surprises! Only one addition to the observable native species list was recorded while crossing Big Creek Bridge, growing midstream with its rhizomes securely embedded in a cluster of mudstone fragments, coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus* var. *palmatus*) proudly displayed its maple-like leaves on erect stalks.

Entering Scotts Creek more or less midway between the confluences of Big and Little Creeks and oriented in an easterly direction, an unnamed gulch, which extends up to Mt. Cook and drains the brush covered slopes and adjacent grasslands, contains a remnant chaparral component with extensive, albeit fragmented, burl-forming manzanita (*Arctostaphylos crassipes, sensu latu*) populations. Mirroring each other across the deep but narrow in profile gulch, both “arcto” colonies are, for this watershed, typically perverse: displaying misplaced burls, isofacial or bifacial leaves with or without cordate bases and auriculations, a smorgasbord of trichomes, simple through dendritic, glandular or not, and inflorescences ranging from compact through open and intricately branched! Isolated from the chaparral fires that historically shaped the patterns of vegetation defining the ridges across the Scotts Creek riparian corridor, succession in the form of mixed coniferous/hardwood stands are overtopping and gradually shading out the pioneer “ericoids” and their unique genetic legacy! Sharing this habitat in transition, an extensive population of California tea (*Rupertia physodes*), randomly dispersed plants of Elmer’s fescue (*Festuca elmeri*), near the head of the gulch an oracle oak (*Quercus x morehus*), 3+ meters in height and growing with sympatric forest live-oak (*Quercus parvula* var. *shrevei*), also two reliable indicators of hillside moisture and constituents of the Rose Family (Rosaceae), ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*) and thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), long established hazelnut shrubs (*Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*), plus a scattering of sleepy catchfly (*Silene antirrhina*), which was observed, during the late 1970s-early 1980s, growing on the south facing steep slope supporting the larger of the two manzanita populations. As with the majority of secondary gulches feeding into Scotts Creek, the “Mt. Cook Gulch” is a diverse self-contained ecosystem representing a microcosm, both in habitat and representative species, of the watershed as a whole. The relictual
manzanita populations, mirroring their Schoolhouse Ridge counterparts, are growing, for the most part, on exposed/weathered mudstone modified by the accumulated detritus formed by their leaf litter and that derived from the ever encroaching coast live-oak (*Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia*) and forest live-oak (*Quercus pubescens var. shrevei*) populations, which in terms foliar variability, give the “arctos” a definite run for their money! The shaded and moisture retentive west facing slopes are fast losing their remaining manzanitas and within this decade will remain only as memories for those few observers fortunate enough to have studied them! Several of the species sharing the “disjunct chaparral” element of this ecologically complex gulch are also associated with the extensive “burl-forming” manzanita populations that define the ridges overlooking the upper watersheds of Scotts, Mill, Big and Little Creeks: bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*), pitcher sage (*Lepechinia calycina*), pine grass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*), California bedstraw (*Galium californicum subsp. californicum*), rush trefoil (*Lotus juncus var. juncus*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius var. scoparius*), hairy honeysuckle (*Loniceria hispidula*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), pink everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum*) and scattered along the upper margins of an adjacent slope growing in coastal scrub, yerba santa (*California beds*), California bedstraw (*Galium californicum*), upper margins of an adjacent slope growing in coastal scrub, yerba santa (*California beds*). During 05-06/10, preliminary exploration within this ancillary component of the Scotts Creek Watershed, yielded the following native taxa in addition to those previously discussed..... these grouped by familial alliances: yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), mountain dandelion (*Agoseris grandiflora*), woodland madia (*Anisocarpos madioides*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum*), purple cudweed (*Gamochaeta ustulata*), white hawkweed (*Hieracium albilorum*), Bioletti’s cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium bioletti*), California cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*), Gianone everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov.*), woolly marbles (*Psilocarphus tenellus var. tenellus*), California chicory (*Rafinesquia californica*),.... chaffweed (*Anagallis minima*), Pacific starflower (*Trientalis latifolia*.... one white flowered plant observed)..... California water starwort (*Callitriche marginata*.... fruit, both aquatic and terrestrial, distinctly pedicellate), California plantain (*Plantago erecta*.... while appearing as strange bedfellows, on a molecular level, the Water-Starwort clan has found a new home, nested within the Plantaginaceae).... toad rush (*Juncus bufonius sensu lato*), brown bog-rush (*Juncus hesperius*), western rush (*Juncus occidentalis*), common rush (*Juncus patens*), brown-headed rush (*Juncus phaeocephalus var. pharocephalus*),.... bent grass hybrid complex (*Agrostis hallii x Agrostis pallen* putative intergrades), California brome (*Bromus carinatus var. carinatus*), nodding brome (*Bromus vulgaris*), California oat grass (*Dianthonia californica sensu lato*), California fescue (*Festuca californica*), western fescue (*Festuca occidentalis*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*.... localized population at top of gulch, nativity uncertain), California wild rye (*Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus*), Torrey’s melic (*Melica torreyana*), foothill needlegrass (*Nassella lepida*), purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*), Howell’s bluegrass (*Poa howellii*),.... California maidenhair (*Adiantum jordanii*), coffee fern (*Pellaea andromedifolia*), goldenback fern (*Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis*),.... wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*), western swordfern (*Polystichum munitum*),.... bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens*),.... nested polypody (*Polypodium calirhiza*),.... Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*),.... population of ancient hybrid swarm, with *Pinus attenuata* being other species component), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii*),.... big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*),.... a magnificent old specimen, with five divergent ascending trunks, was observed high up on the west facing side of the gulch, growing in what appears to be a landslide derived draw).... redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*),.... California nutmeg (*Torreya californica*),.... California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*),.... California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*),.... coyote mint (*Monardella vullosa sensu lato*),.... variable as to stature and foliar morphology), yerba buena (*Satureja douglasii*), California hedge-nettle (*Stachys bullata*),.... putative intergrades with *Stachys rigida*.
based on vestigial saccate base of corolla tube with corresponding positioning of internal ring of hairs found on some plants, plus biochemical signature differences and corolla alignment within calyx and corolla shape and coloration). short-stemmed sedge (Carex brevicaulis), dense sedge (Carex densa), Gianone sedge complex (Carex gianonei, pro sp. nov.…… lower 1-3 spikelets compound-congested), slough sedge (Carex obtusa), small-bracted sedge (Carex subbracteata), dwarf club rush (Isoplepis carinata), red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa), sweet-scented bedstraw (Galium triflorum), sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum), blue blossom (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus), California coffeeberry (Fragula californica subsp. californica), California man root (Marah fabaceus), dwarf brodiaea (Brodiaea terrestris subsp. terrestris), blue dicks (Dickelostemma capitatum subsp. capitatum). 

Ithuriel's spear (Triteleia laxa), lovage (Ligusticum apiifolium), scattered population, of this rare for SC County taxon, growing on west facing slope overlooking upper potion of gulch, sweet cicely (Osmorhiza berteroii), gambleweed (Sanicula crassicaulis), Gianone sanicle (Sanicula gianonei, pro sp. nov.), wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca), oso berry (Oemleria cerasiformis), ground rose (Rosa spithamei), isolated population, growing on upper part of north/northwest facing ridge top overlooking lower portion of gulch, dwarf in stature, rhizomatous, with hypanthium covered with stalked glands and sepals persistent on fruit, habitat, unlike its south facing "displaced chaparral" counterpart directly across gulch, modified by succession, with wind-sculpted oak woodland overtopping former Arcostaphylos cristaeflort sensu lato population, leaving a graveyard of lifeless trunks and branches anchored in non-viable burs. California blackberry (Rubus ursinus), slim Solomon's seal (Smilacina stellata), giant trillium (Trillium chloropetalum), western trillium (Trillium ovatum subsp. ovatum), canyon gooseberry (Ribes menziesii), California figwort (Scrophularia californica subsp. californica), hound's tongue (Cynoglossum grande), small-flowered nemophila (Nemophila parviflora), stinging phacelia (Phacelia malvifolia), soap plant (Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum), Douglas's iris (Iris douglasiana), blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium bellum), American winter cress (Barbarea orthoceras), popweed (Cardamine oligosperma), checker lily (Fritillaria affinis var. affinis), coast nettle (Urtica dioica subsp. gracilis), some plants tending towards subsp. holosericea, with more non-stinging hairs on stems and abaxial surface of leaves. Douglas's nightshade (Solanum douglasii), blue witch (Solanum umbelliferum), Hooker's fairy bells (Prosartes hookeri), Pacific pea (Lathyrus vestitus var. vestitus, variable as to foliar indument), yellow bush lupine (Lupinus arboresus), checkerbloom (Sidiea malvaeflora subsp. malvaeflora), small-flowered alum root (Heuchera micrantha), stripped coralroot (Corallorhiza striata), rein orchid (Piperia species, still in foliar stage), hairy wood sorrel (Oxalis corniculata subsp. pilosa), dwarf orthocarpus (Triphysaria pusilla), and California buttercup (Ranunculus californicus).

Back along Swanton Road, a sedge new to our inventory, round-fruited sedge (Carex globosa), displays antronally scabridulous culms and leaves with fibrous basal sheaths tinted reddish-purple, these configured into matted patches overlooking the edge of the bank. Sharing this condensed habitat and also representing the monocot camp are Torrey's melic (Melica torreyana), California brome (Bromus carinatus var. carinatus), nodding brome (Bromus vulgaris), foothill needlegrass ( Nasella lepida), California wild rye (Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus), and Douglas's iris (Iris douglasiana). Contributing a disproportionate share of the botanical bounty, the herbaceous and low center-of-gravity suffrutescent dicots go extra mile with the following diverse assemblage: poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum), sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), California hedge-nettle (Stachys bullata), and its polymorphic cousin coyote mint (Monardella villosa subsp. villosa) with some plants tending towards subsp. franciscana in foliar outline; hairy honeysuckle (Lonicer a hispidula) along with morning glory (Calystegia occidentalis subsp.
occidentalis), California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) and Pacific pea (*Lathyrus vestitus var. vestitus*), scandent in behavior, often leaving traces of past season’s growth covering the understory shrubbery, and gambleweed (*Sanicula crassicalulis*), possessing a chemical signature somewhat reminiscent of its prized culinary cousin, celery (*Apium graveolens*); speaking up for the Madder Family (Rubiaceae) are California bedstraw (*Galium californicum* subsp. *californicum*) and climbing bedstraw (*Galium porrigens var. porrigens*), while the Sunflower Family (Asteraceae), extremely variable in gestalt, is exemplified by California aster (*Symphyotrichum chilense*), Gianone everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov.*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*); within the Rose Family (Rosaceae), two stature extremes can be observed, one often found growing under the other, these being wood strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*).

Residing in the moisture-retentive roadside drainage ditch, small-flowered nemophila (*Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora*) and miner’s lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata* subsp. *perfoliata*) luxuriate, while hairy wood sorrel (*Oxalis albicans* subsp. *pilosa = Oxalis corniculata* subsp. *pilosa*) holds steadfast to the slope’s near-vertical profile. Not being particularly fussy as to choice of habitat but a fervent forty-niner, California figwort (*Scrophularia californica* subsp. *californica*) can be found growing in association with California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), California coffeeberry (*Prunella californica* subsp. *californica*), and California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*). With foliage variable as to color, size, shape and margins (entire through spinescent), forest live-oak (*Quercus palustris var. shrevei*) dominates the proceedings, even managing to produce one oracle oak (*Quercus x morehus*), invisible to all but the most observant. Rounding out the arboreal contingent, are two Gymnosperms: both being members of the Pine Family (Pinaceae), with Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*) ranging widely as to nativity and Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) highly localized (Ano Nuevo Population) and reaching the southern limits of its range near the Molino Creek watershed. This northernmost living population of a geographically disjunct endemic conifer is unique in at least two ways: it grows sympatrically, in part, with the related knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*) and in the opinion of this author, represents an ancient hybrid swarm which now appears to be reproductively isolated from its knobcone co-parent but continues to resegregate definable knobcone traits throughout the Scotts Creek population, demonstrated by growth patterns, branch configurations, foliar and cone morphologies and a high degree of heterosis (hybrid vigor). Finally, giving the precursors to flowering plants their due, scattered within the canopied slope with its dappled light and acidic duff, goldback fern (*Pteridium esculentum* subsp. *tridentatum*) and wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*) remain terrestrial while nested polypody (*Polypodium calirhiza*), prefers the vertical topography of live oaks and bay laurels! Upon reaching Little Creek Bridge and looking upstream, a cloistered population of the locally rare candy flower (*Claytonia sibirica*) can barely be seen due to the suffocating nature of the non-native forget-me-not population while shifting our attention to the opposite side of the bridge and looking downstream, a native member of the Ginseng Family (Araliaceae), elk-clover (*Aralia californica*) lends an exotic mien to the riparian corridor.

As with most of the ancillary watersheds emptying into Scotts Creek, Little Creek can be accessed via an unpaved but maintained road paralleling the stream course for several miles and giving the alert naturalist an in-depth representation of the residing flora. Reiterating the underlying premise of this Traversal, one can explore a substantial part of the Little Creek drainage without leaving the dirt road and witness in excess of 150 native plant species, several of which are absent.
from the Swanton Road survey. While exploring the Little Creek Watershed, the following “natives” were encountered roadside, some of which, have not been observed along or from Swanton Road: crimson columbine (Aquilegia formosa), California harebell (Campanula" prenanthoides = Asyneuma prenanthoides), redwood violet (Viola sempervirens), varied-leaved collomia (Collomia heterophylla).... a distinctive population of circa 50 plants discovered displaying a circa 5 to 1 ratio of plants with white flowers, the typical pink-flowered form definitely in the minority, straggly gooseberry (Ribes divaricatum var. pubiflorum), black-cap raspberry (Rubus leucodermis) sharing locale with thimbleberry (Rubus parviflorus) and California blackberry (Rubus ursinus), redwood sorrel (Oxalis oregana), sneezeweed (Helenium puberulum), western burning bush (Euonymus ocidentalis var. occidentalis), trail plant (Adenocaulon bicolor), white-tipped clover (Trifolium variegatum), five-finger fern (Adiantum aleuticum), stephanomeria (Stephanomeria aff. elata), California phacelia (Phacelia californica) with multiple spreading to erect stems, along with the inflorescences, clothed with stiff pustulate-based eglandular trichomes, the dingy white flowers with hirsute exserted styles, California gilia (Gilia achilleifolia sensu lato), mountain iris (Iris fernaldii) with narrow grayish-green leaves tannish at base and sister species Douglas’s iris (Iris douglasiana) with greenish tinted leaves distinctly pinkish basally, pipestems (Clematis lasiantha), California huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum), wax myrtle (Myrica californica = Morella californica) and vanilla grass (Hierochloe occidentalis) both possessing foliage that rewards the olfactorily curious, small-flowered melic (Melica imperfecta), rancher’s fiddleneck (Amsinckia menziesii var. menziesii) with corolla pale yellow, 2-3 mm. wide at top, limb without red-orange markings, “kissing cousins” hairy honeysuckle (Lonicera hispidula var. vacillans = Lonicera hispidula) and snowberry (Symphoricarpos albus var. laevigatus), yerba de selva (Whipplea modesta) a distant cousin of the cultivated Hydrangea (Hydrangea macrophylla), a papilionaceous mimic California milkwort (Polygala californica) and Lupinus sp. (aff., L. propinquus), a putative hybrid derived from yellow bush lupine (Lupinus arboresus) x broad-leaved lupine (Lupinus latifolius var. latifolius).

A conspicuous component of the Grass Family (Poaceae) within the Scotts Creek Watershed proper but uncommon throughout the county, Elmer’s fescue (Festuca elmeri), luxuriates roadside in the Little Creek drainage, producing vigorous stands containing individuals 1-2 meters in height and variable both as to number of florets and anther pigmentation! Other native members of the Poaceae, sharing both habitat and a penchant for structural variability, include: western fescue (Festuca occidentalis), California fescue (Festuca californica) with localized colonies persisting high up on the south-facing forested ridge top in proximity to the General Smith Redwood, growing sympathetically with one isolated colony of Harford’s melic (Melica harfordii) that appears to be healthy and well established..... rare county wide, crinkle-awn fescue (Festuca subuliflora), displaying shiny, plane, dark-green leaves at a time when sister species, Elmer’s fescue (Festuca elmeri), is usually defined by sterile inflorescences and basally desiccated foliage..... the ubiquitous brome duo, California brome (Bromus carinatus), a complex unto itself, and nodding brome (Bromus vulgaris), often growing together and to the botanically informed, representing two distinct sections within the genus Bromus, which ranges worldwide in the temperate climes..... with foliage possessing a scent redolent of vanilla and on a hot summer’s day, smelt before being seen, vanilla grass (Hierochloe occidentalis = Anthoxanathum occidentale) rewards the horticulturally inclined with a worthy but rarely seen addition to the native rock garden..... the polymorphic California wild rye (Elymus glauces subsp. glauces) sharing habitat with the omnipresent yet imperfectly understood Hall’s bent grass (Agrostis hallii)/leafy bent grass (Agrostis pallens) intergrades, Torrey’s melic (Melica torreyana), chameleon-like in gestalt and along one part of the roadbank, growing sympathetically with small-flowered melic (Melica
imperfecta) and possibly exchanging genetic material plus scattered colonies of tall trisetum (Trisetum canescens = *Trisetum cernuum* subsp. *canescens*), Howell’s bluegrass (*Poa howellii*) and a valuable provider of ground cover, pine grass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*) round off a diverse assemblage of wind pollinated monocots, waiting to be discovered and appreciated by serious students of both biodiversity and biogeography.

Out of viewing range and perched high above the Little Creek riparian corridor, growing sporadically on west-facing slopes cloaked with mixed coniferous/oak woodlands, three species infrequently encountered within Scotts Creek Watershed occur, namely rayless arnica (*Arnica discoidea*.... note: more prevalent in chaparral since 2009 Lockhead Fire), windflower (*Anemone oregana*) and salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), while across the watershed growing on weathered mudstone within the chaparral zone one can occasionally encounter an uncommon local “borage”, namely Torrey’s cryptantha (*Cryptantha torreyana*).... on 08/18/2010, while exploring these steep and fire scarred slopes, another addition to the “native” species inventory for the Little Creek subwatershed was added, namely golden fleece (*Ericameria arborescens*). Going from the visually obscure to the olfactorily bewitching, one can be led blindfolded on a “scentual” journey into the watershed, brushing against, trodding on, being impaled by and tactually caressing native vegetation that act as chemical factories for oils, resins and terpenes. To experience the natural world through senses other than sight can broaden ones awareness as to the significance of co-evolution in the biodiversity surrounding us even under the most mundane of circumstances and emphatically should be practiced by all budding naturalists. An abbreviated listing of readily accessible aromatic biota encountered along this mutual exploration of self and watershed is as follows: sweet-scented bedstraw (*Galium triflorum*), California hedge-nettle (*Stachys bullata*), California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*), vanilla grass (*Hierochloe occidentalis*), yerba buena (*Satureja douglasii*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), California nutmeg (*Torreya californica*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum*), wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*), blue blossom (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*), sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza beteroi*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*), canyon gooseberry (*Ribes menziesii*), coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus var. *palmatus*) and pink everlasting (*Pseudoegnaphalium ramosissimum*). A variation on this exercise of non-visual awareness can be applied to the tactile arena by exploring the various foliar topographies presenting themselves roadside and familiarizing oneself with the scientific terminology that describes each characteristic, such as glabrous, coriaceous, spinose, hispid, papillate, chartaceous, pilose, serrate, pungent, rugose, scabrous and viscid. An introductory sampling of leaves conforming to the previously mentioned descriptive terms could include thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbuitolia*), round-fruited sedge (*Carex globosa*), hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* subsp. *californica*), Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), tan-oak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*), Heermann’s trefoil (*Lotus heermannii* var. *orbicularis*), coast nettle (*Urtica dioica* ssp. *gracilis*), redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), forest live-oak (*Quercus pubula* var. *shrevei*) and California phacelia (*Phacelia californica*). Groupings of morphologically dissimilar taxa belonging to the same family occur with some frequency throughout the Scotts Creek Watershed, giving one pause to ponder the mechanics underlying the ecology of such interactions: one such example observed along the dirt road traversing the interior of Little Creek included toyon (*Heteromeles arbuitolia*), thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*), oso berry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), wood strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) and wood rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*), all bona fide members of the Rose Family (Rosaceae).... conspicuously absent from lower Little Creek’s riparian corridor is salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) but encountered in Scotts Creek proper and lower Big and Mill Creeks and
whether or not this taxon ever occurred in the Little Creek Watershed, or during some past extreme flooding event (1955) which severely scoured the watershed's lower portion removed the population, remains unknown.

While not exactly common along Swanton Road proper, the following species contribute to the 150+ checklist of indigenous taxa accessible for viewing along/from the dirt road threading its way into the heart of the Little Creek sub-watershed: three native representatives of the Family: Asteraeae, Tribe: Cichorieae,... mountain dandelion (Agoseris grandiflora var. grandiflora), California chicory (Rafinesquia californica) and stephanomeria (Stephanomeria aff. elata) sharing a geologically unstable, seasonally watered hillside, with scattered clumps of sea lettuce (Dudleya caespitosa), corollas colored a greenish-yellow with margins overlapping and apices spreading, some long established plants with 8-12 rosettes underpinned by elongate caudices, their replacement seedlings germinating within patches of moss secured to the bare rock surface, toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia) sub-trees barely anchored to the near-vertical substrate with their ash bark and contorted growth patterns lending an alien air to the proceedings and visually complimented by the intricate branching patterns of golden yarrow (Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum), clothed with a cottony tomentum and seasonally terminating in flat-topped clusters of yellow-orange heads sharing space with fellow perennial sub-shrub sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus). At the opposite extreme along the same road, several species which luxuriate along perennial hillside seeps feeding into Little Creek and can also be found margining Little Creek itself are giant chain fern (Woodwardia fimbriata), lady fern (Athyrium filix-femina var. cyclosorum), red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa) and elk-clover (Aralia californica), these “natives” in concert establishing a “forest primeval” atmosphere particularly when provided with a backdrop of moist vertical banks of fractured mudstone covered with colonies of western sword fern (Polystichum munitum) and five-finger fern (Adiantum aleuticum) supplemented by our most exotic indigenous willow, velvet willow (Salix sitchensis), sporting foliage clothed with a silvery indument akin to finely spun aluminum. Since the 2009 Lockheed Fire had a major ecological impact on this sub-watershed, a (05/2010) followup documenting the status of which “native” plant taxa have rebounded along the dirt road (from Swanton Road entrance to gauging station between north and south forks of Little Creek), with the observed taxa grouped by their familial alliances: Daucus pusillus, Heracleum maximum, Osmorhiza berteroii, Sanicula crassicaulis,... Carex amplifolia, Carex bolanderi, Carex globosa, Cyperus eragrostis,... Achillea millefolium, Adenocaulon bicolor, Agoseris grandiflora, Anisocarpus madioides, Artemisia californica, Artemisia douglasiana, Baccharis pilularis, Cirsium brevistylum, Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum, Gamochaeta ustulata, Hieracium albiflorum, Layia hieracioides, Petasites frigidus var. palmatus, Pseudognaphalium californicum, Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum, Pseudognaphalium stramineum, Rafinesquia californica, Solidago velutina subsp. californica, Stephanomeria aff. elata (plants 1-2 meters in heigh, consisting of one central axis with numerous alternate lateral branches, these ascending at circa a 45 degree angle..... stem leaves auriculate and clasping, retrorsely toothed basally, sub-entire, linear, attenuate apically..... calyculi with apices spreading/recurved, florets 9-15, cypselae 3-4mm long, faces tuberculate with longitudinal grooves, pappus plumose entire length).... Agrostis hallii/pallen intergrades, Bromus carinatus var. carinatus, Bromus vulgaris, Calamagrostis rubescens, Deschampsia elongata, Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus (one localized population producing inflorescences with racemose/compound branching, branches 4-5cm in length), Festuca elmeri, Festuca occidentalis, Hierochloe occidentalis, Melica imperfecta, Melica subulata, Melica torreyana, Poa howellii, Trisetum canecens..... Oxalis corniculata subsp. pilosa, Oxalis oregana..... Polygala
californica..... Viola ocellata, Viola sempervirens..... Asyneuma prenanthoides, Triodanis biflora..... Ribes menziesii..... Iris douglasiana, Iris fernaldii..... Calochortus albus, Fritillaria affinis..... Trillium ovatum..... Aralia californica..... Torreya californica..... Alnus rubra, Corylus cornuta var. californica..... Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata, Claytonia siberica..... Lathyrus vestitus sensu lato, Lotus hermannii var. orbicularis, Lotus micranthus, Lotus scoparius var. scoparius, Lotus wrangelianus, Lupinus aff. propinquus E. Greene, Trifolium bifidum var. decipiens, Trifolium ciliatum, Trifolium gracilentum var. gracilentum, Trifolium microcephalum, Trifolium obtusiflorum (growing roadside overlooking drainage system for small, near vertical gulchlet which feeds into Little Creek and in upper part of gulchlet, adjacent to small waterfall and persisting as an annual longer, due to the presence of continual moisture..... not previously seen locally since 1983, when discovered growing on sandbar below Scotts Creek Bridge and documented via pressing for the Jepson Herbarium), Trifolium oliganthum, Trifolium wildenovii, Vicia gigantea, Vicia hassei..... Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum..... Callitriche marginata..... Corallorhiza striata..... Fragaria vesca, Heteromeles arbutifolia, Holodiscus discolor, Oenothera cerasiformis, Potentilla glandulosa subsp. glandulosa, Rosa gymnocarpa, Rubus leucodermis, Rubus parviflorus, Rubus ursinus..... Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata..... Arbutus menziesii, Vaccinium ovatum..... Asarum caudatum..... Aesculus californica..... Hesperocnide tenella, Urtica dioica subsp. holosericea..... Notholithocarpus densiflorus, Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia, Quercus parvula var. shrevei..... Ceanothus thyrsiflorus, Fragaria californica subsp. californica..... Sequoia sempervirens..... Pinus radiata (isolated population near southern end of its naturally occurring range, representing an ancient hybrid swarm between Pinus attenuata and Pinus radiata), Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii..... Acer macrophyllum..... Monardella villosa sensu lato, Satureja douglasii, Stachys bullata..... Oxalis corniculata subsp. pilosa..... Collomia heterophylla, Gilia achilleifolia (scattered but concentrated populations, with both subsp. achilleifolia and subsp. multicaulis represented)..... Heuchera micrantha, Lithophragma heterophyllum..... Smilacina racemosa, Smilacina stellata..... Trientalis latifolia..... Aquilegia formosa, Clematis lasiantha, Ranunculus hebecarpus..... Amsinckia menziesii var. intermedia, Cryptantha clevelandii, Cryptantha micromeres, Cynoglossum grande, Emmenanthe penduliflora, Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora, Phacelia aff. californica (stems and herbage clothed with stiff pustulate-based eglandular trichomes, calyx lobes not overlapping and flowers a dingy off-white..... further along on our botanical exploration, a second component of the perennial Phacelia californica complex appears, this time having inflorescences clothed with short, gland-tipped trichomes interspersed amongst the much larger and rigid glandless ones..... the presence of glandular hairs, suggests possible introgression from Phacelia imbricata genes), Phacelia malvifolia..... Morella californica..... Epilobium ciliatum..... Juncus bufonius, Juncus patens..... Galium californicum subsp. californicum, Galium parviflorum var. parviflorum, Galium triflorum..... Mimulus aurantiacus, Mimulus guttatus aff. Mimulus nasutus Greene (localized population growing on south facing, moisture saturated banks, of near-vertical streamlet circa 40+ meters above Little Creek..... plants 1(+) meters in height, nascent inflorescence scropid with upper calyx-tooth conspicuously exceeding the others in length and lower corolla lip marked centrally with a maroon blotch)..... Dudleya caespitosa (isolated populations persisting on near vertical mudstone outcroppings, with corollas tending towards a greenish-yellow and apices of nascent buds lacking a pinkish suffusion)..... Solanum douglasii, Solanum umbelliferum..... Umbellularia californica..... Collinsia heterophylla..... Salix sitchensis..... Cardamine californica var. californica, Cardamine oligosperma..... Gaultheria lasiophylla = Calanthus lasiophyllus..... Scrophularia californica subsp. californica..... Marah fabaceus..... Lonicera hispidula, Symphoricarpos albus var. laevigatus..... Toxicodendron diversilobum..... Sambucus racemosa
var. racemosa (now placed in family Adoxaceae)..... Dryopteris arguta, Polystichum munitum.....

Arthrium filix-femina var. cyclosorum..... Polypondium calirhiza/californicum complex (variable as to substrate preference.....soil, rock or bark, length of lowermost sets of pinna relative to those above, shape and elevation of sori, and as epiphytes, luxuriating on Acer macrophyllum and Umbellaria californica trunks and branches)..... Adiantum aleuticum, Adiantum jordanii,
Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis..... Woodwardia fimbriata..... Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens..... Eschscholzia californica..... Pterostegia drymariooides.....

Note: select herbarium specimens of horticulturally meritorious, locally uncommon, rare county wide and agency listed species referred to in this section of the Traversal, collected and pressed, with noted exceptions, by Roy Buck and/or James West within the Scotts Creek Watershed and environs, then deposited in the Jepson Herbarium, U.C. Berkeley, are as follows:

Arctostaphylos andersonii/accession number UCSC4778/R. Morgan, Jun 4 1977
Arctostaphylos tomentosa subsp. crustacea = Arctostaphylos crustacea subsp. crustacea/accession number UCSC6184/R. Morgan, Feb 1977
Aster subspicatus = Symphyotrichum subspicatum/accession number JEPS83107/West #351

Bromus carinatus var. carinatus/accession number JEPS83046/West #420

Bromus carinatus var. carinatus/accession number JEPS83047/West #420

Calamagrostis rubescens/accession number JEPS83101/Buck & West #452

Campanula prenanthoides = Asyneuma prenanthoides/accession number JEPS83048/Buck & West #419

Claytonia siberica/accession number UCSC545/R. Morgan, Jul 26 2004

Disporum hookeri = Prosartes hookeri/accession number SJSU9926/M.B. Wood, Oct 4 1964

Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum/accession number JEPS81513/Buck & West #20

Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum/accession number JEPS81514/Buck & West #20

Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum/accession number JEPS81510/Buck & West #18

Galium californicum subsp. californicum/accession number JEPS83072/Buck & West #426

Galium portrignus var. portrignus/accession number UC1583603/Keil, Holland & Kelly #20608

Galium sp. = aff. Galium portrignus var. portrignus/accession number JEPS83071/West #344

Galium sp. = aff. Galium portrignus var. portrignus/accession number JEPS83073/West #344a

Gnaphalium ramosissimum = Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum/accession number JEPS81544/Buck & West #113

Lepechinia calycina/accession number JEPS83079/Buck & West #427

Lomatium carnifolium/accession number UCSC6128/R. Morgan, Apr 27 1995

Lotus scoparius var. scoparius = Acmispon glaber var. glaber/accession number JEPS82800/Buck & West #295

Melica imperfecta/accession number JEPS8183/Buck & West #489

Minimus aurantiacus var. aurantiacus/accession number UCR67974/Keil #20574

Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora/accession number JEPS82954/West #41.2

Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora = Nemophila aff. pulchella var. fremontii/accession number JEPS8186/Buck & West #173

Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora/accession number JEPS81538/Buck, West & Stone #471

Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora = Nemophila aff. pulchella var. fremontii/accession number JEPS81539/Buck, West & Stone #470
**Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora** = *Nemophila aff. pulchella var. fremontii*/accession number JEPS85181/Buck, West & Stone #138

*Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora*/accession number JEPS85184/Buck, West & Stone #143

*Phacelia californica*/accession number JEPS82792/Buck & West #304

*Pinus radiata*/accession number JEPS83129/Buck & West #440

*Polygala californica*/accession number JEPS83127/Buck & West #353

*Quercus x morehus*/accession number JEPS81522/Buck & West #7

*Ribes* "sp"*/accession number UCSC5358/Randall Morgan, Nov 10 1976

*Silene antirrhina*/accession number JEPS85191/Buck & West #517

**Between Little Creek and the Southern Edge of the Watershed**

Growing on a west facing rocky slope situated between Little Creek and Winter Creek, one of three localized populations within our viewshed of hoary bowlesia (*Bowlesia incana*), herbage and stems clothed with distinctive stellate hairs, resides with two foliar counterparts: in outline, the (3-5)-lobed leaves of downy buttercup (*Ranunculus hebecarpus*) and hill star (*Lithophagma heterophyllum*), when growing intermixed with the previously mentioned member of the Carrot Family (*Apiaceae*), present a fascinating study of sympathy between unrelated species and variations on a shared leaf pattern. Scattered within and adjacent to this mini-congregation of leafy mimics, California chicory (*Rafinesquia californica*) displays foliage, that when crushed, exudes an acrid smell reminiscent of domestic lettuce (genus *Latuca*), a European cousin. Concentrated within a 10’ x 8’ near-vertical grassy slope and virtually lost from view within the competitive tangle of vegetation, the attentive observer is introduced to a locally uncommon member of the Phlox Family (*Polemoniaceae*), many-stemmed gilia (*Gilia achilleifolia* subsp. *multicaulis*). Restricted to one embankment, an isolated colony of California tea (*Rupertia physodes*) stands out from other proximal members of the Legume Family (*Fabaceae*), with punctate-dotted trifoliolate herbage that when rubbed between the fingers releases a distinctive fragrance, while on the opposite side of the road and lost in a welter of brumes and fescues, native and otherwise, tall trisetum (*Trisetum canescens* = *Trisetum cernuum* subsp. *canescens*) makes a welcome addition to the native grass species check-list.

The relatively short distance between Little Creek Bridge and the entrance to Old Schoolhouse Gulch Road, affords the observant pedestrian an interesting concentration of local flora.... unusual, because one has to visit several different and often not contiguous habitats to observe the taxa in question. All of the following "natives" can be viewed without leaving the tarmac..... growing on the west facing roadbank, the slope above and within the centrally positioned, landslide derived drainage system aka “mini-gulch”, which is now blocked by Swanton Road: wood strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), goldback fern (*Pentagramma triangularis* subsp. *triangularis*), wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum* var. *pubescens*), western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), nested polypody (*Polypodium calirhiza*). lowermost pairs of pinna shorter than succeeding ones, California maidenhair (*Adiantum jordanii*), Torrey’s melic (*Melica torreyana*), California wild rye (*Elymus glaucus* subsp. *glaucus*), California brome (*Bromus carinatus* var. *carinatus*), nodding brome (*Bromus vulgaris*), Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), box elder (*Acer negundo* var. *californicum*), coast live-oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*), forest live-oak (*Quercus parvula* var. *shrevei*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), red alder (*Alnus rubra*), California bay laurel
(Umbellularia californica), tan-oak (Notholithocarpus densiflorus var. densiflorus), California nutmeg (Torreyana californica), Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii), arroyo willow (Salix lasirolepis), poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum), coast nettle (Urtica dioica subsp. gracilis), western nettle (Hesperocnide tenella), hound’s tongue (Cynoglossum grande), blue blossom (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus), California chestnut (Frangula californica subsp. californica), western burning bush (Euonymus occidentalis var. occidentalis), blue elderberry (Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis), red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa), hairy honeysuckle (Lonicera hirsuta), striped coralroot (Corallorhiza striata), checker lily (Fritillaria affinis var. affinis), western trillium (Trillium ovatum subsp. ovatum), slim Solomon’s seal (Smilacina stellata), Douglas’s iris (Iris douglasiana), common wood rush (Luzula comosa), willow dock complex (Rumex salicifolius sensu lato), California bedstraw (Galium californicum subsp. californicum), sweet-scented bedstraw (Galium triflorum), gambleweed (Sanicula crassicaulis), cow-parsnip (Heracleum maximum), sweet cicely (Osmorhiza berteroii), coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), mugwort (Artemisia douglasiana), woodland madia (Anisocarpus madioides), California hedge-nettle (Stachys bullata), small-flowered alum root (Heuchera micrantha), canyon gooseberry (Ribes menziesii), California man root (Marah fabaceus), small-flowered nemophila (Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora), miner’s lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata), common milkmaids (Cardamine californica var. californica), popweed (Cardamine oligosperma), California figwort (Scrophularia californica subsp. californica), sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), Pacific pea (Lathyrus vestitus sensu lato), small-flowered trefoil (Lotus micranthus), sky lupine (Lupinus nanus), California tea (Kupertia physodes), morning glory (Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata) and California poppy (Eschscholzia californica).

Upon entering Old Schoolhouse Gulch Road, one encounters topographically, a complex series of ancient landslides..... rotational slumps and pull-aparts, re-activations, water course blockages with their marshy backings, transverse incisions..... all of which create an Escher-like environment that is inordinately rich in native biota. Addressing the botanical component of this equation, immediately upon leaving Swanton Road and proceeding up to where the ancillary Al Smith House driveway begins, the following arboreal and suffrutescent taxa margin our ascending journey: Torreyana californica, Aesculus californica, Umbellularia californica, Pinus radiata, Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii, Notholithocarpus densiflorus, Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia, Quercus parryi var. shrevei, Arbutus menziesii, Sequoia sempervirens, Heteromeles arbutifolia, Ceanothus thyrsiflorus, Frangula californica subsp. californica, Vaccinium ovatum, Ribes menziesii, Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis, Holodiscus discolor, Baccharis pilularis, Toxicodendron diversilobum, Rubus parviflorus, Mimulus aurantiacus and Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum. Complementing their overtopping brethrens, the following annuals and herbaceous perennials, plus one quasi-woody vine (Loniceris hirsula) and a gravity-defying adventuous fern (Polypodium calihriza), turn the understory into a texturally complex botanical tapestry: Fritillaria affinis, Galium californicum, Galium porrigens var. porrigens, Galium triflorum, Pseudognaphalium californicum, Laythrus vestitus, Stachys bullata (possible intergrades with Stachys ajuoides var. rigida = Stachys rigida var. quercetorum..... variations in ring-of-hairs alignment in corolla tube and positioning of corolla within calyx), Fragaria vesca, Rubus ursinus, Cynoglossum grande, Cardamine californica var. californica, Cardamine oligosperma, Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora, Satureja douglasii, Artemisia douglasiana, Ranunculus californicus, Ranunculus hebecarpus, Melica torreyana, Melica subulata, Deschampsia elongata, Festuca occidentalis, Bromus carinatus, Bromus vulgaris, Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus, Solanum douglasii, Iris douglasiana, Marah fabaceus, Iuncus patens, Scrophularia californica subsp. californica, Heracleum maximum, Urtica dioica subsp. gracilis, Hesperocnide tenella, Luzula comosa, Anisocarpus madioides, Adiantum jordanii, Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens, Dryopteris arguta, Polystichum munitum, Pentagramma triangularis, Osmorhiza...
berteroii, Rafnesquia californica, Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata, Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora, Phacelia malvifolia, Oxalis corniculata subsp. pilosa, Galochaeta ustulata, Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata, Carex aff. subbracteata, Sisyrinchium bellum, Smilacina racemosa, Corallorhiza striata, Dichondra capilosa subsp. capitatum and Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum. As a biodiversity control/baseline, note that this lower section of a highly reticulate landslide influenced drainage system, was spared the trauma of the 2009 Lockheed Fire..... but passing thru the CalPoly Games Area, which shows attributes of once being a marsh-like catchbasin, possibly carved out by a debris flow from further upslope and/or the result of a rotational slump and pull apart activity..... we now enter the post-fire zone. Forming an sinuous arc across the face of this slope for circa 100 meters and perpendicular in orientation to the prevailing drainage patterns, is a dirt road whose west-facing upper bank was directly impacted by the fire's ascending trajectory..... yet, as of 03/15/10, this area is revegetating with a degree of botanical diversity that compares favorably, with the lower and much longer unburned stretch of road! Restricting the heigth of the transect from the dirt road's inner edge and going directly upslope for 7 meters, yields the following native taxa: Sanicula gianonei, pro. sp. nov., Sanicula crassicaulis, Cynoglossum grande, Arbutus menziesii, Marah fabaceus, Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata, Claytonia parviflora subsp. parviflora, Trifolium willdenovii, Psilostrophe tenellus var. tenellus, Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata, Galium californicum, Galium triflorum, Epilobium ciliatum, Hesperocnide tenella, Anisocarpus madioides, Cirsium brevistylum, Lithophragma heterophyllum, Phacelia malvifolia, Cardamine californica var. californica, Cardamine oligosperma, Ranunculus hebecarpus, Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia, Quercus parvula var. shrevei, Thalictrum polycarpum, Bromus carinatus var. carinatus, Deschampsia elongata, Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus, Festuca elmeri, Melica torreyana, Nassella pulchra, Poa howellii, Juncus bufonius sensu lato, Juncus patens, Luzula comosa, Stachys ajugoides var. rigida, Stachus bullata, Holodiscus discolor, Rubus ursinus, Laythrus vestitus var. vestitus, Vicia americana var. americana, Actaea rubra, Smilacina stellata, Dichondra capilosa subsp. capitatum, Lonicer hispidula, Navarretia squarrosa, Scrophularia californica (one specimen with flavistic flowers observed, making it the third such discovery of this uncommon forma for the watershed), Fragaria vesca, Frangula californica subsp. californica, Oemleria cerasiformis, Minulus aurantiacus, Dryopteris arguta, Polystichum munitum, Adiantum jordani, Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens, Heracleum maximum, Toxicodendron diversilobum, Nemophila parviflora, Aphanes occidentalis, Rubus ursinus, Heteromeles arbutifolia, Pseudotsuga menziesii and Notholithocarpus densiflorus.

Directly above the area encompassing the transect and extending upslope for circa 700(+), meters, are a complex series of exposed, interrupted grass dominated slopes, which are bookended by mixed conifer/oak woodlands and incipient chaparral (with Little Creek sub-watershed to the west and the upper parts of Winter and Archibald Creek drainage systems to the south)..... these supporting, in a series of isolated, near-vertical “perched meadows”, a concentrated and diverse assemblage of “native” taxa, some of which are listed as rare within Santa Cruz County. These grassland dominated slopes, are plagued with numerous "non-native" species of European origin but still contain remnants of the original pre-european "native" flora, while some of the "hidden-from-view" meadows in counterpoint, go to the other extreme, being populated by a high percentage of "native" species!!! Grouped by families, here is a comprehensive overview of the "native" species found within this area which was completely burned by the 2009 Lockheed Fire: Pacific pea (Lathyrus vestitus sensu lato), short-podded trefoil (Lotus humistratus = Acmispon brachycarpus), small-flowered trefoil (Lotus micranthus = Acmispon parviflorus), strigose trefoil (Lotus strigosus = Acmispon strigosus), Chilean trefoil (Lotus wrangelianus = Acmispon wrangelianus), yellow bush lupine (Lupinus arboreus), miniature lupine (Lupinus bicolor), sky
lupine (*Lupinus nanus*), bearded clover (*Trifolium barbigerum* var. *barbigerum*), pinole clover (*Trifolium bifidum* var. *decipiens*), purple sack clover (*Trifolium depauperatum* var. *truncatum*), pin-point clover (*Trifolium gracilentum* var. *gracilentum*), double-headed clover (*Trifolium macracel*), maiden clover (*Trifolium microcephal*), Valparaiso clover (*Trifolium microdon*), few-flowered clover (*Trifolium oliganthem*), Santa Cruz clover (*Trifolium buckwheatform*... a recently described clover species, the TYPE SPECIMEN originating on the lower portion of the Schoolhouse Ridge aka Upper Pozzi Meadow), tomat clover (*Trifolium wilddenovii*), American vetch (*Vicia americana* var. *americana*), Hasse's vetch (*Vicia hassei*). Johnny jump-up (*Viola pedunculata*). California man root (*Marah fabaceae*). morning glory (*Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata*). common linanthus (*Leptosiphon androsaceus*). concentrated population of 300-400 plants dominating isolated "mini-meadow" perched on steep west-facing slope. owl's clover (*Castilleja densiflora sensu lato*). an intermediate form, between the rose-purple, cinnamon-scented forma typica and the vanilla-scented *Orthocarpus nocturnus* Eastwood analog of the Magic Triangle Ridge, was discovered growing in scattered drifts on the west-facing grass dominated slopes (04/24/10). the linear-lobed bracts were basically greenish with the apices faintly colored an off-white and circa 1/2 the length of the mature flowers, with the calyces same-colored and the corollas also an off-white, the beak straight, purplish and pubescent... the post-anthesis flowers colored a pale pink and one potential pollinating vector observed, namely a *Bombus* sp. sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*). rattlesnake weed (*Daucus pusillus*). cow-parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*). sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza bertero*). footstep-of-spring (*Sanicula arctopoides*). gambleweed (*Sanicula crassicaulis*). Gianone's sanicle (*Sanicula gianonei pro sp nov*). coyote mint (*Monardella villosa sensu lato*). yerba buena (*Satureja douglasii*). rigid hedge-nettle (*Stachys aiugoides var. rigida*). creeping hearts (*Pierostegia drymarioides*). chamois (*Adenostema fasciculatum*). western lady's mantle (*Aphanes occidentalis*). wood strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*). toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*). oso berry (*Oenothera cerasiformis*). wood rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*). California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*). yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*). coast dandelion (*Agoseris grandiflora*). California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*). mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*). coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*). Indian thistle (*Cirsium brevistylum*). California aster (*Corethogynne filaginifolia*). golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum*). broad-leaved aster (*Eurybia radulina*). purple cudweed (*Gomocheta ustulata*). sneezeweed (*Helenium puberulum*). coast tarplant (*Hemiziona corymbosa subsp. corymbosa*). threadstem madia (*Madia exigua*). slender tarweed (*Madia gracill*). coast tarweed (*Madia sativa*). green cottonweed (*Micropus californicus var. subvestitus*). the second documented population locally for this very rare taxon. Santa Cruz microseris (*Microseris decipiens*). California cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*). pink everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum*). cotton batting plant (*Pseudognaphalium stramineum*). woolly marbles (*Psilocardus tenellus* var. *tenellus*). California aster (*Symphyotrichum chilense*). red maids (*Calandrinia ciliata*). California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*). cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*). American winter cress (*Barbarea orthoceras*). common milkmaids (*Cardamine californica var. californica*). popweed (*Cardamine oligosperma*). narrow-leaved fringepod (*Thysanocarpus laciniatus*). the miner's lettuce aka *Claytonia perfoliata* complex, is represented within this post-burn environment by a vast array of forms ascribable in varying degrees to: slender miner's lettuce (*Claytonia parviflora subsp. parviflora*). miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata*) and red-stemmed miner's lettuce (*Claytonia rubra subsp. depressa*). hairy honeysuckle (*Lonicera hiedipulida*). snowberry (*Symphoricarpus albus* var. *laevigatus*). blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* subsp. *canadensis*). recently removed from the Caprifoliaceae and placed in the ADOXACEAE. California verbena (*Verbena lasiostachys var. lasiostachys*). Douglas's iris (*Iris douglasiana*). blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*). Pacific madrone (*Arbutus*).
California maidenhair (Adiantum ramosissimum var. menziesii), brittle-leaf manzanita (Arctostaphylos crustacea sensu lato).... California brome (Bromus carinatus var. carinatus), pine grass (Calamagrostis rubescens), California oat grass (Danthonia californica sensu lato).... variable taxon, with forms representing both var. americana and var. californica present), slender hairgrass (Deschampsia elongata), California wild rye (Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus), junegrass (Koeleria macrantha), California melic (Melica californica), Torrey's melic (Melica torreyana), foothill needlegrass (Nassella lepida), purple needlegrass (Nassella pulchra), pine bluegrass (Poa secunda subsp. secunda), tall trisetum (Trisetum canescens).... Hooker's fairy bells (Proserae hookeri).... soap plant (Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum).... white globe lily (Calochortus albus).... dwarf brodiaea (Brodiaea terrestris subsp. terrestris), blue dicks (Dichelostemma capitatum subsp. capitatum).... poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum)....

Cleveland's cryptantha (Cryptantha clevelandii), minute-flowered cryptantha (Cryptantha micromeres), hound's tongue (Cynoglossum grandale), whispering bells (Emmenanthe penduliflora), white baby-blue-eyes (Nemophila menziesii var. atomaria), small-flowered nemophila (Nemophila parvisella var. parvisella), stinging phacelia (Phacelia malviflora).... coast live-oak (Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia), forest live-oak (Quercus parcelata var. shrevei).... sun cup (Camissonia ovata), four-spotted godetia (Clarkia purpurea subsp. quadriudnelera), farewell-to-spring (Clarkia rubicunda).... California bedstraw (Galium californicum subsp. californicum), climbing bedstraw (Galium porrigena var. porrigena), sweet-scented bedstraw (Galium triflorum)..... common wood rush (Luzula comosa).... rein orchid (Piperia sp.).... shooting star (Dodecatheon sp.).... pale plectritis (Plectritis brachystemon).... at least two forms of this taxon occur within area under discussion and both have flowers measuring between 1.5-3.5 mm in width and are pale pink in coloration: population #1 has achenes winged and population #2 has achenes lacking wings and smaller flowers).... piper stems (Clematis lasiantha), California buttercup (Ranunculus californicus).... woodland star (Lithophragma affine).... bracken (Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens).... California maidenhair (Adiantum jordanii).... wood fern (Dryopteris arguta).... toad rush (Lunca bufo).... extremely variable as to stature, and how much is due to environmental factors needs to be studied locally).... common rush (Lunca patens).... knobby pine (Pinus attenuata), Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii).... heterocodon (Heterocodon rariiflorum).... California water starwort (Callitriche marginata).... chaffweed (Anagallis minima).... now placed in the family MYRSINACEAE).... California plantain (Plantago erecta).... one population growing on post-burn grassy slope producing flowering stems 26 cm in height).... big-leaf maple (Acer macrophylla).... dwarf pearlwort (Sagina apetala) and Fremont's star lily (Toxicosordion fremontii).

While the utilization of terms and phrases like "biodiversity" and "areas of botanical richness" are usually applied to scenarios where the human impact has been minimally felt, just perusing a small section of Swanton Road can yield quite the opposite result..... in this particular case, the west-facing inner roadbank extending upslope circa 10 meters from the tarmac's edge, and stretching ribbon-like between Winter and Archibald Creeks. Here is a comprehensive review of the native taxa found growing within this narrowly defined section of our botanical journey, illustrating on the micro level what surprises await the botanical sleuth elsewhere in remoter parts of the watershed: hoary bowlesia (Bowlesia incana), California figwort (Scrophularia californica subsp. californica), morning glory (Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata), wood strawberry (Fragaria vesca), California blackberry (Rubus ursinus), coyote mint (Monardella villosa sensu lato), mountain dandelion (Agoseris grandiflora), coast live-oak (Quercus agrifolia), forest live-oak (Quercus parcelata var. shrevei), toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia), golden yarrow (Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum), yarrow (Achillea millefolium), poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum), climbing bedstraw (Galium porrigena var. porrigena), wood fern (Dryopteris arguta), California maidenhair (Adiantum jordanii), California buckeye (Aesculus californica), mugwort...
(Artemisia douglasiana), California man root (Marah fabaceus), stinging phacelia (Phacelia malvifolia), California aster (Symphyotrichum chilense), California hedge-nettle (Stachys bullata), California bay laurel (Umbellularia californica), hound’s tongue (Cynoglossum grande), Pacific pea (Lathyrus vestitus sensu lato), miner’s lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata sensu lato), western nettle (Hesperocnide tenella), goldback fern (Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis), California polypody (Polypodium californicum. sensu lato), popweed (Cardamine oligosperma), Torrey’s melic (Melica torreyana), California larkspur (Delphinium californicum subsp. californicum), giant trillium (Trillium chloropetalum), bracken (Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens), slim Solomon’s seal (Smilacina stellata), Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii), oso berry (Oemleria cerasiformis), American winter cress (Barbarea orthoceras), Gianone’s sanicle (Sanicula gianonei, pro sp. nov.), Douglas’s nightshade (Solanium douglasii), redwood (Sequoia sempervirens), western sword fern (Polystichum munitum), checker lily (Fritillaria affinis var. affinis), cow-parsnip (Heracleum maximum), blue elderberry (Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis), California coffeeberry (Rhamnus californica subsp. californica), coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), soap plant (Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum), straggly gooseberry (Ribes divaricatum var. pubiflorum), California wild rye (Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus), California sagebrush (Artemisia californica), Gianone everlasting (Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro sp. nov.), hairy honeysuckle (Lonicera hispida), giant vetch (Vicia gigantea), California bedstraw (Galium californicum subsp. californicum), gamblereweed (Sanicula crassicalis), narrow-leaved fringepod (Thysanocarpus laciniatus), nodding brome (Bromus vulgaris), sweet cicely (Osmorhiza bertroi), small-flowered nemophila (Nemophila parviflora var. parviflora), creeping hearts (Pterostegia drymarioides) and yerba buena (Satureja douglasii).

A Rosaceae is a Rosaceae or the case of the ant and the elephant! In terms of stature extremes, it is hard to imagine two more polar opposites, than the western lady’s mantle (Aphanes occidentalis), a diminutive annual whose adult biomass often can fit, with room to spare, on the nail of one’s little finger and the toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia), a 6+ meters high sub-tree with ash-gray bark and fruiting panicles of luminous scarlet pomes. Even roadside pull-offs can create micro-habitats that concentrate native species within a narrowly defined, repeatedly disturbed area. **Depressions left from tire tracks can act as vernal pool facsimiles with the elevated horizontal zones in between functioning as micro-meadows.** One such quasi-natural environment within this section of our botanical purview contains the following mélange of locals: bracted popcorn-flower (Plagiobothrys bracteatus), western lady’s mantle (Aphanes occidentalis), woolly marbles (Psilocarphus tenellus var. tenellus), California water starwort (Callitriche marginata), dwarf pearlwort (Sagina apetala) and a variant of toad rush (Juncus bufonius) with filiform flowering culms.

Within and contiguous to the Scotts Creek Watershed, the genus Agrostis (family Poaceae) is represented by several species complexes. These need to have comprehensive studies done to clarify their component taxa, several of which have been given but not currently recognized species, subspecies and varietal status.

**The Agrostis blasdalei complex:**

1. Document all local populations and **collate with the extensive local collections made circa twenty-five years ago and deposited at the Jepson Herbarium, UC Berkeley.**

2. Are the populations south of the Golden Gate sufficiently distinct genetically to warrant subspecies status? Comparative studies on a molecular level need to be undertaken plus
a detailed examination (a) on foliar morphology and epidermal coloration, (b) caespitose versus distinctly rhizomatous mode of growth as displayed in seasonally unstable micro-dune habitat, (c) stature: prostrate through erect-ascending, (d) open or closed breeding systems, (e) anther length and color both fresh and dry, (f) palea gestalt and venation or lack thereof plus ratio of palea length to that of lemma, (g) presence or absence of callus hairs, (h) tardily deciduous or caducous mature spikelet behavior and (i) do statistical analysis of caryopsis morphology and a comparison study with *Agrostis densiflora* and *Agrostis exarata*.

(3) Study sympatric associations with related native species and the putative role of introgressive hybridization in population variability:

(A) Coastal headland population designated “Agrostis Rectangle”, southeast of “China Ladder Gulch”, circa twenty-five years ago comprised in excess of 1,000 extremely variable taxa growing intermixed with and proximal to *Agrostis densiflora* and *Agrostis exarata* var. *exarata*.

(B) The interior grasslands between the east-fork of “Cookhouse Gulch” and the former “H-H Ranch” hay barn, have yielded up four separate sites, where *Agrostis blasdalei* x *Agrostis exarata* var. *monolepis* hybrids have been observed. One site designated “Sandy-bottom Reservoir”, contained 30-40 prostrate taxa (growing sympatrically with a prostrate *Agrostis blasdalei* and an erect *Agrostis exarata* var. *monolepis*) which due to their superficial resemblance to *Agrostis densiflora*, were given the working name of *Agrostis “pseudo-densiflora”*. These + stable (persistent) taxa appear to be crossing amongst themselves and possibly backcrossing (receiving genetic material) from an erect *Agrostis exarata* var. *monolepis*.

(4) Endosperm: liquid or solid at maturity and not only pertaining to *Agrostis blasdalei* but other native species of *Agrostis* in the watershed as well.

(5) Is the gene flow principally unidirectional when the growth pattern of one hybrid complex constituent is erect and the other is + prostrate, with wind being the specific vector for pollen conveyance (anemophily)?

(6) Since fertile hybrids are produced with both *Agrostis densiflora* and *Agrostis exarata* var. *monolepis*, a phylogenetic analysis needs to be undertaken. Does *Agrostis blasdalei* share a common ancestor with the *Agrostis densiflora/exarata* alliance, is it derived from one of these two species or does it represent an end product of a parallel relictual line?

(7) Where is the evolutionary point of origin, biogeographically speaking for *Agrostis blasdalei*, and what affinities, if any, does it have with *Agrostis breviculmis* Hitchc. of Peru? Chloroplast and other DNA site studies need to be done for the entire disjunctive range of *Agrostis blasdalei*, from Mendocino to Monterey Counties, to see what gene flow and corresponding mutation rate patterns occur.

Encompassing most of the area viewed within this traversal, including the coastal sage scrub and the mixed evergreen/coniferous woodlands that insinuate themselves into the chaparral, colonies of native bent grass (genus *Agrostis*) occur, which combine key characters (in the literature at least) of both Hall’s bent grass (*Agrostis hallii*) and leafy bent grass (*Agrostis pallens*) and possibly represent a long-term reticulate pattern of hybridization, with each recombination of genetic material stabilized by isolation and asexual (vegetative) colonization. In determining boundaries between naturally occurring variations attributable to each species and the expression of traits resulting from interspecific gene flow, study and compare the various populations using the type descriptions and the following key characters based on “in situ” observations:

(a) **Stature**: culms growing up through shrubbery often display a totally different gestalt
than free standing adjacent innovations of the same plant.

(b) **Ligules** (specifically those of upper leaves): 2-3(5) mm. long, sub-entire and ± truncate (*A. pallens* influence) versus 5-7(10+) mm. long, acuminate and often deeply lacerate (*A. hallii* influence).

(c) **Inflorescences**: length, measured from lowest branch to apex, can exceed 30+ cm. in putative intergrades/hybrids.

(d) **Glumes**: length, between the various populations within the watershed tends to be fluid, ranging from (2)2.5-3.0 mm. long (*A. pallens* influence) through 5-6 mm. long (*A. hallii* influence).

(e) **Lemmas**: in the majority of populations studied, they averaged out at 3.0 mm. long.

(f) **Awns**: when present, they ranged in length from 1.5-3+ mm., straight or bent, often conspicuously exceeding the glumes. In some populations, where awned lemmas were present (*A. pallens* influence), all other visible traits reflected *A. hallii* influence. Study placement and point of attachment on back of lemma.

(g) **Callus-hairs**: variable, ranging from 0.5-2.1 mm. in length, but not necessarily correlating with other features used in keys to separate *A. hallii* from *A. pallens*.

(h) **Anthers**: study color and length when fresh and length when dry.

(i) **Palea**: presence/absence, length ratio to lemma, entire or marginally modified, with or without venation.

(j) **Endosperm**: semi-liquid or solid at maturity.

The *Agrostis microphylla* complex:

1. Plants growing on seasonally moist cliff faces overlooking the southern half of Greyhound Rock State Beach (pressed and deposited at the Jepson Herbarium, UC Berkeley), need to be analyzed and carefully compared with the type of *Agrostis microphylla*. Since the taxa in question possess a palea and the overall descriptions for *Agrostis microphylla* state palea wanting/none, what taxonomic value can be assigned to the presence/absence of such an organ? What breeding systems are at play within these isolated populations? Are these obligate selfers, creating in effect, a constellation of “micro-species”, occupying proximal but separate vertical niches?

2. Less than ½ mile due east of the “Greyhound Rock” populations, on the inland side of Highway 1 (growing on exposed mudstone), was a singular colony of what in gross morphology, appeared to be a facsimile of *Agrostis aristiglumis* Swallen. This highly localized member of the *Agrostis microphylla* retinue was described from an isolated population growing on an outcrop of diatomaceous shale (Monterey Series) in Marin County on the Point Reyes Peninsula. Several pressings of the “aristiglumis” analogue were made and deposited at the Jepson Herbarium, UC Berkeley. The distinctive lateral nerves of the lemma, which are excurrent as conspicuous awns, coupled with the presence of a palea, the overall glumes to lemma length ratio plus awn placement on glumes and back of lemma, makes this biotype along with the “Greyhound Rock” colonies, candidates for an in-depth study of the mechanics underlying speciation, distribution patterns and maintenance of genetic integrity.

A roadside assemblage of intermediate fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii* var. *intermedia*), stinging phacelia (*Phacelia malvifolia*), slender tarweed (*Madia gracilis*), soap plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum* var. *pomeridianum*), gambleweed (*Sanicula crassicaulis*), miner’s lettuce (*Claytonia*...
**perfoliata** *subsp. perfoliata*) and California man root (*Marah fabaceus*), could be easily passed by and casually viewed as “more of the same” but within this snapshot of local biodiversity, a concentrated population of *Plectritis ciliosa* *subsp. insignis* = *Plectritis ciliosa* resides. Belonging to the Valerian Family (*Valerianaceae*), *Plectritis ciliosa* can be distinguished from other *Plectritis* species encountered within the watershed, by possessing pink corollas, circa 1.5-3.5 mm long with two reddish spots at the juncture between the upper and lower lips and having a spur shorter than the ovary. Since this species occurrence within Santa Cruz County has not been noted in Randall Morgan’s recent (2005) “An Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County, California”, in situ seed collections have been made and deposited at the UCSC Arboretum.

Several species historically documented as occurring within the watershed and its environs, remain to be rediscovered and may still exist in some isolated and overlooked niche: a listing of some of those “neither here nor there” taxa would include alkaline marsh butterweed (*Senecio hydrophilus*), white-rayed pentactaeta (*Pentactaeta bellidiflora*), varnish leaf (*Ceanothus velutinus var. hookeri*), purslane speedwell (*Veronica peregrina* *subsp. xalapensis*), marsh trefoil (*Lotus oblongifolius var. oblongifolius*), Bentham’s trefoil (*Lotus benthamii*), swamp thistle (*Cirsium douglasii var. douglasii*), San Francisco gumplant (*Grindelia hirsutula var. maritima*), rough bent grass (*Agrostis scabra*) and pink sand-verbena (*Abronia umbellata* *subsp. umbellata*).

Between Little Creek Bridge and the ridge separating the Molino Creek drainage, several additional species are visibly captured, identified, and added to the checklist of encountered roadside natives. Growing in a sheltered gulchlet, perpendicular to the roadway, ocean spray (*Holocidiscus discolor*) is a member in good standing of a group of local shrubs that when leafless are rendered invisible to the unfocused viewer. **Notorious for disrespecting the genetic integrity of its relatives, yellow bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*), has formed discrete alliances in the watershed, with both summer lupine (*Lupinus formosus var. formosus*) and Lindley’s varied lupine (*Lupinus varicolor*) and most likely, with broad-leaved lupine (*Lupinus latifolius var. latifolius*), the last-named resulting in a distinctive local taxon tentatively referable to (*Lupinus propinquus*) described by E. L. Greene in 1893. Half hidden by the roadside grasses, miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*) tries valiantly to elevate its flower heads above the competing greenery. Upon closer inspection, the overlooked basal rosettes, with opposite, glabrous, twice ternately dissected leaves featuring petiole bases with expanded hyaline margins and found growing beneath California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), prove to be the locally uncommon wild celery (*Apiastrum angustifolium*). Accenting the deep drainage ditch, between the roadbank and adjacent cultivated fields, broad-leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*) shares its sinuous habitat with various species of waterfowl, the most likely seed conveyors of this cosmopolitan species, which forms extensive colonies in nearby Scotts Creek Marsh. Growing roadside in sandy soil and superficially passing for a narrow-leaved variant of its cousin California aster, western goldenrod (*Euthamia occidentalis*) also aggressively colonizes alluvium-rich areas both within and adjacent to the Scotts Creek Marsh. Shadowing the lower portion of Swanton Road and threading its way through other native and introduced grass species, creeping rye (*Leymus triticoides*), luxuriates within the western confines of the Scotts Creek Marsh and forms diffuse scatterings on the coastal prairie where siliceous terrace deposits prevail.

Some seasons, farewell-to-spring (*Clarkia rubicunda*), replaces the chlorophyll saturated vernal lushness with slopes a shimmering wall of mauve, while another representative of the Evening
Primrose Family (Onagraceae), paniced willow herb (*Epilobium brachycarpum*), nearing the closure of our journey, recedes into the background vegetation with its naked, exfoliating stems, diffuse, attenuate branches, and numerous but diminutive flowers. With linear non-auriculate cauline leaves and delicate inflorescences with filiform pedicels supporting crenulate silicles, narrow-leaved fringepod (*Thysanocarpus laciniatus*), a rare species within the county, is visually lost within a rank population of miner’s lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata* subsp. *perfoliata*), distinguished from the typical white-flowered forms by its pink tinged flowers. Sporadically occurring California larkspur (*Delphinium californicum* subsp. *californicum*), nestled within and occasionally rising above the hillside shrubbery, has traded eye-catching coloration for inflorescence size and number of flowers, these often exceeding fifty!

With rhizomes precariously embedded in rock outcroppings and often shaded by suffrutescent members of the coastal scrub, coffee fern (*Pellaea andromedifolia*) imparts an exotic impression to a parched, wind-buffeted exposure. Encountering a concentrated population of variable California melic (*Melica californica*), displaying parchment-textured florets akin to miniaturized Japanese paper laterns, purple needlegrass (*Nasella pulchra*), with bent and twisted persistent awns, 7-9 times the lemma length and sister species foothill needlegrass (*Nasella lepida*), possessing half the stature of its anthocyanic infused sibling species, gives the traveler a cumulative awareness of the richness and diversity of the Grass Family (Poaceae) found within the Scotts Creek environs. Adding structural contrast to the vertical array of surrounding vegetation, eleven members of the morphologically diverse Asteraceae.....Bioletti’s cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium biolettii*), California cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*), Gianone everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro sp. nov.*), pink everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum*), California goldenrod (*Solidago velutina subsp. californica*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum*), California aster (*Symphyotrichum chilense*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) challenge the passing observer to connect the phylogenetic dots and discern the familial relationship between this native nonet. An aesthetically fascinating, genetically complex and amenable to cultivation succulent, that both greets and bids farewell to us on this eco-tour, is sea lettuce (*Dudleya caespitosa*)......while variable in leaf morphology, the preponderance of plants encountered share a vibrant, grass-green coloration with a minority colored a dull gray (inherited from diploid ancestor *Dudleya farinosa*), but sharing the base of this ancient landslide with our Poaceae trio and the aforementioned Asteraceae quartet, is a small population with uniformly chalky-gray herbage and eminently worthy of cultivation (both divisions and seed repose up at the UCSC Arboretum). Getting up close and personal with select taxa growing on this humogenous rotational slump/pull apart (guiding Swanton Road in a westerly direction then abruptly turning northward) can yield some fascinating results: from a purely olfactory perspective, two plant families offer up a banquet of foliar scents that would be missed from just visually perusing the road bank with a quick drive/walk by.....representing the Asteraceae: *Achillea millefolium, Artemisia californica, Artemisia douglasiana, Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum, Pseudognaphalium biolettii, Pseudognaphalium californicum, Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro sp. nov., Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum* and *Symphyotrichum chilense*.....while fewer numerically, the Lamiaceae's contributions are no less rewarding, with *Monardella villosa* sensu lato displaying remarkable variation throughout the watershed, *Satureja douglasii* and *Stachys ajugoides var. rigida* = *Stachys rigida* exuding a pungency not to everyones liking!

Marching down the steep, topographically irregular slopes of tributary gulches feeding into the
flood plain of the lower Scotts Creek and reveling in the alluvium rich bottoms, California buckeye (Aesculus californica) rivals the red alder (Alnus rubra) during the dormant season for the intricacy of its branching patterns and easily bests all competition save the Pacific madrone (Arbutus menziesii) in inflorescence presentation and fragrance, not to mention toxicity of nectar! Several long established specimens of Aesculus californica been have observed within the watershed, producing seasonally, a certain percentage of seedlings displaying a chlorophyll deficit, with foliage ranging from a muted gold to off-white with a pinkish cast and like colored veining! Sister species to previously encountered hill star (Lithophragma heterophyllum), with a campanulate, basally truncate hypanthium and axillary bulblets in upper bracts of inflorescence, woodland star (Lithophragma affine), forming scattered colonies along the terminal portion of our traversal, resists the adornment of asexual propagules and sports an obconic hypanthium instead.

Although artificially straightened more than a century ago, Archibald Creek’s original course, based on existing distribution patterns of vegetation, apparently veered sharply in a southwesterly orientation, where water still flows..... overlooking this agriculturally modified drainage system, an extensive population of California buckeye (Aesculus californica) obscures the downslope's topography, by forming a seamless tapestry of interwoven canopies and taking on the appearance of a gargantuan colony of brain coral. Sheltered within a grove of shining (Salix lucida subsp. lasiandra = Salix lasiandra var. lasiandra) and arroyo (Salix lasiolepis) willows, red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa var. racemosa), straggly gooseberry (Ribes divaricatum var. pubiflorum), giant vetch (Vicia gigantea), and cow-parsnip (Heracleum lanatum) luxuriate, while the drainage ditch abutting Swanton Road hosts umbrella sedge (Cyperus eragrostis), watercress (Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum = Nasturtium officinale), flowering quillwort (Lilaea scilloides) and forming a green skin on the water’s surface, smaller duckweed (Lemna minor) and directly across the tarmac, colonies of California wild rose (Rosa californica) and California aster (Symphyotrichum chilense) weave tapestries tinted mauve and pink against the backdrop of a red alder (Alnus rubra) lined Scotts Creek. The upper portion of the Archibald Creek sub-watershed, is defined in part, by south facing near-vertical cliff faces shaped by landslides, capped with exposed grasslands interfacing with mixed oak/coniferous woodlands and margining manzanita-defined zones of chaparral.... these often spilling downwards, softening the verticality of the slopes, basally being less severe in inclination but treacherous to navigate because of loose rocky debris. Along this narrow strip, when earth and sky abruptly meet, a well-defined example of "disjunctive chaparral" can be found, in full post-fire (03/15/10) botanical display. As with the watershed in general, even this exposed aerie hosts a diverse and in one case, new species for the area, namely whispering bells (Emmenanthe penduliflora). Here is a partial listing of the native species concentrated within this isolated island of chaparral, which was totally burned in the 2009 fire: yerba santa (Eriodictyon californicum), coyote mint (Monardella villosa sensu lato), broad-leaved aster (Eurybia radulina), white globe lily (Calochortus albus), California tea (Rupertia physodes), brittle-leaf manzanita (Arctostaphylos crustacea sensu lato), chamise (Adenostema fasciculatum), California huckleberry (Vaccinium ovatum), golden chinquapin (Chrysolepis chrysophylla var. minor), pine grass (Calamagrostis rubescens), stinging lupine (Lupinus hirsutissimus), sky lupine (Lupinus nanus), Cleveland's cryptantha (Cryptantha clevelandii), minute-flowered cryptantha (Cryptantha micromeres), yarrow (Achillea millefolium), tall layia (Layia hieracioides), Torrey’s melic (Melica torreyana), slender fescue (Vulpia octoflora var. octoflora), California bedstraw (Galium californicum), climbing bedstraw (Galium porrigens var. porrigens), California brome (Bromus carinatus var. carinatus), California wild rye (Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus), Hasse’s vetch (Vicia hassei), small-flowered nemophila (Nemophila...

Between Archibald and Queseria Creeks, two small but botanically diverse west-facing watersheds exist, drained by seasonal streamlets emptying into the bottomland paralleling Scotts Creek. From Swanton Road these two neglected areas appear as narrow, deeply incised gullies flanked by steep, often near-vertical slopes, terminating in broad alluvial fans as they approach the flood plain. As with the complex of gullies perpendicular to Highway 1, which drain the coastal prairie between Greyhound Rock and Scotts Creek Beaches, slope orientation often markedly determines the vegetation patterns present. The gulch closest to Queseria Creek, which I will call **George Valentine Gulch** after an eccentric hermit who lived there during the post WWII years, hosts an extensive population of bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata*), the second recently discovered site within the Scotts Creek Watershed for this decidedly uncommon species county wide! In terms of slope orientation and this drupaceous member of the Rose Family (Rosaceae), the population found growing along the lower portion of Queseria Creek is established on the moist northwest facing slopes (in part, directly overlooking Swanton Road), while the George Valentine Gulch counterpart is growing within the moist gulch bottom and also more extensively, on the wind-buffed west facing slopes, in association with California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), stinging phacelia (*Phacelia malvifolia*), yellow bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), lizard tail (*Eriophyllum stachadifolium*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius var. scoparius*), climbing bedstraw (*Galium porrigens var. porrigens*), intermediate fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii var. intermedia*), gambleweed (*Sanicula crassicaulis*), coffee fern (*Pellaea andromedifolia*), grassland gilia (*Gilia divorum*), *Eriogonum latifolium/nudum* intergrades (attaining shrub-like status circa 1 meter in height, coyote mint (*Monardella villosa sensu lato*) and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). Ironically, three deciduous members of the rose family (Rosaceae) can be found growing sympatrically on this slope, and when in full-leaf mode and flowering, showing no apparent relationship to each other..... the shrubs in question being *Holodiscus discolor*, *Oenothera cerasiformis* and *Prunus emarginata*. Apparently, both populations of bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata*) are expanding their range clonally as well as by dispersed fruits, those within lower Queseria Creek varying considerably as to stature, foliar morphology and inflorescence gestalt. Other species of interest, both uncommon and widespread, that populate the George Valentine Gulch, are: (1) scattered colonies of wild celery (*Apiastrum angustifolium*), forming delicate traceries hidden from view within the coastal scrub, often growing at the bases of coyote
brush and California sagebrush, (2) adorning exposed but moisture retentive rocky slopes, their seasonal rosettes held steadfast by slender rhizomes, fragmentary patches of California saxifrage (*Saxifraga californica*) plus two cousins..... woodland star (*Lithophagma affine*) and hill star (*Lithophagma heterophyllum*), (3) lost in the welter of competing vegetation and fractured mudstone, clusters of sea lettuce (*Dudleya caespitosa*) approach the year’s end with their biomass often radically reduced through herbivory, (4) **four aromatically distinct** species of native cudweed: Bioletti’s cudweed (*Gnaphalium bicolor = Pseudognaphalium biolettii*), California cudweed (*Gnaphalium californicum = Pseudognaphalium californicum*), pink everlasting (*Gnaphalium ramosissimum = Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum*) and scattered plants of Gianone everlasting (*Gnaphalium gianonei*), pro. sp. nov. = *Pseudognaphalium gianonei*, pro. sp. nov.), (5) grass species galore: *Agrostis hallii/pallens* intergrades, foothill needlegrass (*Nasella lepida*), California brome (*Bromus carinatus var. carinatus*), California fescue (*Festuca californica*), Howell’s bluegrass (*Poa howelli*), pine bluegrass (*Poa secunda subsp. secunda*), California wild rye (*Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus*) and Torrey’s melic (*Melica torreyana*), (6) a ground-hugging sanicle (*Sanicula archipoides*) and Paul Bunyanesque larkspur (*Delphinium californicum subsp. californicum*), while (7) overlooking the upper reaches of this abbreviated gulch and exposed to the unrelenting forces of the offshore winds, **isolated specimens** of California huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*) and maid oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) have adjusted by reducing their vertical status, in the maul oak’s case, with one old specimen hugging the hillside with a copycat coast live-oak (*Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia*). Acting as an environmental modifier, a wind sculpted Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii*) colony shades the west facing central portion of the gulch, creating a moisture-retentive habitat favored by ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*), osoberry (*Oenothera carlosimna*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and, surprisingly, a small population of tan-oak (*Listrocarpus densiflorus var. densiflorus = Notholithocarpus densiflorus*) with reduced leaves, which from a distance, simulate the nearby coast live-oaks!

This is an addendum, further elaborating on the native species diversity found within the "micro" sub-watershed given the appellation of George Valentine Gulch: Gianone sanicle (*Sanicula gianonei, pro. sp. nov.*), western lady’s mantle (*Aphanes occidentalis*), goldback fern (*Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis*), wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*), California maidenhair (*Adiantum jordanii*), western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), California polypody (*aff. Polypodium californicum*), morning glory (*Calystegia purpurata subsp. purpurata*), downy buttercup (*Ranunculus suberatus*), tall layia (*Layia hieracioides*), California bedstraw (*Galium californicum subsp. californicum*), Douglas’s nightshade (*Salvia douglasii*), soap plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum*), blue dicks (*Dicentra capitatum subsp. capitatum*), California figwort (*Scrophularia californica subsp. californica*), western nettle (*Hesperocnide tenella*), woolly marbles (*Psilochorus tenellus var. tenuellus*), wood strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), western rush (*Juncus occidentalis*), common rush (*Juncus patens*), purple cudweed (*Gamochaeta ustulata*), hairy honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispida*), sun cup (*Camissonia ovata*), hairy wood sorrel (*Oxalis corniculata subsp. pilosa*), California vervain (*Verbena lasiostachys var. lasiostachys*) and common corethrogynhe (*Corethrogynhe laginifolia*).

The "Unnamed Gulch" appearing to the casual traveler along Swanton Road, as: (a) one more over-grazed grassy meadow populated with noxious aliens, (b) backed by precipitously descending brush cloaked slopes with poison-oak appearing to be the principal inhabitant and (c) the principal source (a complex series of feeder gulchlets) of the gulch proper being obscured by a somewhat generic woodland.....**but upon closer examination, reveals quite the opposite, in terms of “native” residents!** This "nameless" drainage system, wedged in between George
Valentine Gulch and the expansive lower Archibald Creek sub-watershed, offers the following botanical inventory.....surprisingly diverse in species represented, for so prosaic a setting! As of 03/20/10, here is a preliminary listing of "native" taxa to be found, in an inconspicuous, overlooked and shamefully ignored but hardly remote, part of the Scotts Creek Watershed:

_Prunus emarginata_ (new population and range extension), _Sanicula crassicaulis_, _Sanicula gianonei_ pro.sp.nov. (extensive colonies scattered on moist slopes), _Marah fabaeus_, _Sambucus nigra_ subsp. _canadensis_, _Baccharis pilularis_, _Toxicodendron diversilobum_, _Claytonia perfoliata_ subsp. _perfoliata_, _Fragaria vesca_, _Stachys bullata_, _Hesperocnide tenella_, _Heracleum maximum_, _Lithophragma affine_ (hypanthium conical basally), _Lithophragma heterophyllum_ (hypanthium truncate basally), _Plectritis brachystemon_, _Frangula californica_ subsp. _californica_, _Pseudotsuga menziesii_ var. _menziesii_, _Scrophularia californica_ subsp. _californica_, _Galium porrigen var. porrigen_, _Galium californicum_ subsp. _californicum_, _Trillium chloropetalum_ (several color phases present), _Oenothera cerasiformis_, _Monardella villosa sensu latu_, _Calystegia purpurata_ subsp. _purpurata_, _Nasella lepida_, _Nasella pulchra_, _Bromus carinatus sensu latu_, _Festuca californica_, _Melica torreyana_ (extensive colonies scattered throughout micro-watershed), _Pseudognaphalium californicum_ (some plants showing influences of _Pseudognaphalium gianonei_, pro.sp.nov.), _Pseudognaphalium stramineum_, _Holodiscus discolor_, _Aphanes occidentalis_, _Lupinus arboreus_, _Artemisia californica_, _Artemisia douglasiana_, _Solanium douglasii_, _Solanium umbelliferum_, _Apastrum angustifolium_ (extensive colonies occurring in both shaded and exposed locations), _Bowlesia incana_, _Nemophila menziesii_ (variable but basically var. atomaria), _Nemophila parviflora_ var. _parviflora_, _Cynoglossum grande_, _Madia gracilis_, _Solidago velutina_ subsp. _californica_, _Saxifraga californica_, _Phacelia malvifolia_, _Chlorogalum pomeridianum_ var. _pomeridianum_, _Achillea millefolium_, _Lathyrus vestitus_ var. _vestitus_, _Vicia americana_ var. _americana_, _Fritillaria affinis_ var. _affinis_, _Clarkia ru bicunda_, _Eschscholzia californica_, _Adiantum jordanii_, _Polystichum munitum_, _Pentagramma triangularis_ subsp. _triangularis_, _Dryopteris arguta_, _Pteridium aquilinum_ var. _pubescens_, _Polypodium californicum_ (growing as lithophyte)?, _Polypodium calirhiza_ (growing as epiphyte)?, _Mimulus aurantiacus_, _Rubus ursinus_, _Cirsium brevistylum_, _Aesculus californica_ (one golden-leaved seedling observed), _Osmorhiza berteroi_, _Smilacina stellata_, _Quercus agrifolia_ var. _agrifolia_, _Umbellularia californica_, _Corylus cornuta_ var. _californica_, _Corylus californica_ var. _californica_, _Cardamine oligosperma_, _Anaphalis margaritacea_, _Cruptantha micromeres_, _Urtica dioica_ subsp. _gracilis_, _Symphyotrichum chilense_, _Satureja douglasii_, _Angelica tomentosa_ (second population discovered within watershed), _Erigeron folius var. franciscensis_ (second population discovered within watershed), _Pinus attenuata_, _Arbutus menziesii_, _Juncus bufonius_, _Juncus occidentalis_, _Juncus patens_, _Ceanothus thyrsiflorus_, _Agrostis hallii/pallens_ intergrades, _Galium triflorum_, _Sequoia sempervirens_, _Psilocarphus tenellus_ var. _tenellus_, _Dudleya caespitosa_, _Carex brevicaulis_, _Carex tumulicola_, _Heteromeles arbutifolia_, _Calochortus albus_, _Castilleja affinis_ subsp. _affinis_, _Sisyrischium bellum_, _Eriogonum latifolium/nudum_ intergrades, _Oxalis corniculata_ subsp. _pilosula_, _Ranunculus californicus_, _Stachys ajugoides_ var. _rigida_, _Ericophyllum stachadifolium_, _Crassula connata_, _Dichelostemma intergrades_, _Lotus scoparius_, _Ribes menziesii_, _Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum_, _Potentilla glandulosa_, _Heterotheca sessiliflora_ subsp. _bolannderi_, _Epilobium canum_ subsp. _canum_, _Camissonia ovata_, _Corallorhiza striata_, _Barbara orthoceras_, _Iris douglasiana_, _Verbena lasiostachys_ var. _lasiostachys_ and _Gamochaeta ustulata_.

As our botanical exploration through the Scotts Creek Watershed draws to a close and we approach the ridge that defines the lower Molino Creek drainage, an amazing visual recapitulation takes place: the hydrologically active, landslide benched slopes overlooking
Swanton Road from Queseria Creek to the terminus of our traversal, *support conservatively 28% of the flora noted since beginning our tour*. Only recently discovered and behaving more like a malodorous dwarf willow, bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata*) resists easy detection by being deciduous part of the year and growing intermixed, if not wholly engulfed, by the surrounding suffrutescence vegetation. On these west-facing slopes, rare San Francisco collinsia (*Collinsia multicolor*) gives its last hurrah while California saxifrage (*Saxifraga californica*) graces the moist recesses with nascent rosettes simulating a hairy sundew (genus *Drosera*) and willow dock (*Rumex salicifolius var. transitoris = *Rumex transitoris*), with three callous grains per flower, resides contentedly in the ditch between slope base and road edge, unless pummeled and buried by mudstone debris. Staking out the wettest portion of the drainage ditch and conspicuous by virtue of its anthocyanin pigmented stems and foliage, Watson’s will herb (*Epilobium ciliatum* subsp. *watsonii*) generously rewards the viewer with flowers colored an intense reddish-purple, worthy of a selective breeding program to enhance that permanently moist section of the wild garden. Growing in close proximity to its pestiferous European relatives, Pacific fescue (*Vulpia microstachys var. pauciflora*) is readily identifiable by the lower glume being more than half the length of the upper, florets less than five and spikelets subglabrous with lowest branches reflexed, while the densely cespitose clumps of fellow Poaceae traveler, California fescue (*Festuca californica*), visually define the moist parts of the hillside with their grayish culms and stramineous mature inflorescences.

Ensoanced within a moist, west-facing slope dominated by coastal scrub and concealed from all but the most observant eyes, California angelica (*Angelica tomentosa*) or a reasonable facsimile thereof, makes a welcome addition to the watershed’s ongoing native species check list. Rankly odorous, fistulose stems and glaucous foliage clothed with both simple and forked hairs, readily separate this taxon from all other sympatric Apiaceae, which includes California hedge-parsley (*Yabea microcarpa*), a species rare county wide. A scattered population of pine bluegrass (*Poa secunda* subsp. *secunda*), with purple suffused spikelets and like colored anthers, holds steadfast to a less than stable mudstone perch, while a small colony growing on the lower portion of the Schoolhouse Ridge has green spikelets with yellow anthers. Adding color, with a purplish-maroon sunscreen, and making up through visual contrast what it lacks in stature, dwarf orthocarpus (*Triphysaria pusilla*), occupies the roadside edges, caught between tire burn and suffocation from displaced shale. With yellow ligules 5-6 mm long, disk fruit with circa 20 pappus bristles and herbage distinctively scented, a variable population of tall layia (*Layia ciliata*) boosts the number of rare/uncommon/widely scattered “natives” concentrated within this zone of plant diversity at the southern edge of the watershed.

bullata), slim Solomon's seal (Smilacina stellata), wood fern (Dryopteris arguta), goldback fern (Pentagramma triangularis subsp. triangularis), California maidenhair (Adiantum jordanii), California polypody (Polypodium californicum, in part approaching var. kaufl Cassi), western sword fern (Polystichum munitum), bracken (Pteridium aquilinum var. pubescens), California brome (Bromus carinatus var. carinatus), California wild rye (Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus), Torrey's melic (Melica torreyana), sea lettuce (Dudleya caespitosa), arroyo willow (Salix lasiolepis), blue witch (Salanum umbrelliferum), coyote mint (Monardella pilosa sensu lato), Pacific pea (Lathyrus vestitus var. vestitus), coast nettle (Urtica dioica subsp. gracilis), blue elderberry (Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis), California aster (Symphyotrichum chilense), western lady's mantle (Aphanes occidentalis), oso berry (Oenothera cerasiformis), Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii), mugwort (Artemisia douglasiana), poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum), brown bog-rush (Juncus hesperus), common wood rush (Luzula comosa), sticky monkeyflower (Mimulus aurantiacus), popweed (Cardamine oligosperma) and woodland star (Lithophragma affine).

Ending our traversal with a subtle but noteworthy native, California goosefoot (Chenopodium californicum), a relative of the culinary beet (Beta vulgaris), positions itself within a remnant portion of coastal scrub overlooking the southern limits of the watershed which encompasses the Scotts Creek Marsh, and when viewed from Swanton Road in a westerly arc, takes on the attributes of an abstract Diebenkorn landscape. Each chromatic zone can be defined botanically by a particular plant species or the interdigitation of one taxon into a long established colony of another. Centrally positioned within the marsh proper is pickleweed (Salicornia virginica = Salicornia pacifica), a salt tolerant native changing color from grayish-green through pink and as the season progresses becoming a vibrant reddish orange, and like its cousin California goosefoot, once belonging to the Goosefoot Family (Chenopodiaceae, now placed in Amaranthaceae). Sharing habitat with pickleweed, are fleshy jaumea (Jaumea carnosa), a representative of the Sunflower Family (Asteraceae) superficially passing for a non-native member of the Fig-Marigold Family (Aizoaceae) with succulent foliage bedecked with orange flowers, Pacific cenanth (Oenanthe sarmentosa) a locally common member of the Apiaceae of unknown toxicity, western yellow cress (Rorippa curvisiliqua), fat hen (Atriplex triangularis), like Chenopodium and Salicornia, formerly registered as a member of the goosefoot alliance, Pacific cinquefoil (Potentilla anserina subsp. pacifica) and alkali heath (Frankenia salina), displaying grayish-green foliage and lavender flowers often growing intermixed with two native grass constituents of the marsh, saltgrass (Distichlis spicata) and creeping wild rye (Lepturus triticoides = Elymus triticoides subsp. triticoides), colonies of both species forming distinctive textural patterns when viewed from afar. In terms of height and density, three species in particular characterize the vertical components of the marsh: broad-leaved cattail (Typha latifolia), possibly forming hybrids with sister species narrow-leaved cattail (Typha angustifolia) and California tule (Scirpus californicus = Schoenoplectus californicus), imposing in stature with distinguishing deltoid apices and paniculate inflorescences overtopping all competing vegetation; while subordinate to but yielding nothing in the way of structural contrast, salt rush (Juncus lesueurii), its tortile-compressed dark green culms 1-2 meters in height with condensed or open inflorescences, some branches 15+ cm. in length, bearing dark brown nitid flowers, forms dark-green ribbons, these free standing or commingling with western goldenrod (Euthamia occidentalis), which adds a dusting of yellow when in full flower and three additional, lower in stature, members of the Sedge Family (Cyperaceae), three square (Scirpus americanus = Schoenoplectus americanus), paniced bulrush (Scirpus microcarpus) and umbrella sedge (Cyperus eragrostis). Within the seasonally inundated northwestern portion of the marsh, two native species of Polygonum grow sympatriically, both taxa now placed in the genus Persicaria:
widespread throughout the watershed, water smartweed (*Polygonum punctatum* = *Persicaria punctata*) with its gland-stippled foliage exuding a fragrance of freshly cut green apples dramatically contrasts with sister species, swamp knotweed (*Polygonum amphibium* var. *emersum* = *Persicaria amphibia* var. *emersa*), the latter apparently restricted only to this section of the marsh, a perennial with terrestrial stems nodally clothed with a membranous ocrea displaying a combination of short gland-tipped and longer eglanular trichomes, terminating in a conspicuous bristly collar spreading at an oblique angle. Along the transitional zone between grassland and marsh proper, growing in amongst poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) and California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), adjacent populations of Santa Barbara sedge (*Carex barbarae*) and slough sedge (*Carex obnupta*) occur, sharing space with a dissimilar sibling duo, marsh baccharis (*Baccharis douglasii* = *Baccharis glutinosa*) and coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis* subsp. *consanguinea*). An Asteraceae foursome also contributes to the diversity of marsh inhabitants, one enjoying wet feet, another flexible as to soil saturation while the remaining two preferring the higher and drier banks: in the order stated, the quartet consisting of sneezeweed (*Helenium puberulum*), California aster (*Aster chilensis* = *Symphyotrichum chilense*), lizard tail (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*) and pink everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium ramosissimum*). Further back on the southward facing slopes which overlook the marsh, in hydrologically active zones and spilling out onto the drier adjacent habitat, extensive colonies of Gianone’s sedge (*Carex gianonei*, pro. sp. nov.) can be observed, growing up through the rushes and coyote brush. Where the formerly cultivated fields abut the vertical walls of coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), scattered plants of *Carex “imperfecta”* occur, lending further support to the correlation between periodically disturbed habitat and broaching of reproductive isolating mechanisms.

As a botanical denouement for the entire watershed, the perpetually exfoliating mudstone cliff faces, with their perennial seepages overlooking the south end of Scotts Creek Beach, act as vertical mini-refugia for an assortment of rare, unique and outright ubiquitous native species. Concentrated in these hanging or perched gardens, an uncommon member of the Pink Family (Caryophyllaceae), beach pearlwort (*Sagina maxima* subsp. *crassicaulis*) threads its way through three rosette forming species, which when not in flower, look ever so much like exotic relatives of the sea lettuce (*Dudleya caespitosa*): making up this triad of mimics, are cotton batting plant (*Gnaphalium stramineum*), seaside plantain (*Plantago maritima*) and with a little stretching of the imagination, seaside daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*). While beach pearlwort is the rarity in this gathering, a unique form of California bent grass (*Agrostis densiflora*) definitely holds center stage for being visually striking. This distinctive ecotype, growing on permanently moist near-vertical shale outcroppings has leaves 20+ cm. long and 2.5+ cm. wide, pigmented an intense blue-green with a glaucous overlay; the inflorescences are 20-25+ cm. in length, 3-5+ cm. in width, golden in hue, and in overall gestalt mimicking Powell’s amaranth (*Amaranthus powellii*); from a diagnostic perspective, the florets possess a distinctly lacerate palea; pressings were made and deposited some two decades ago with the Jepson Herbarium, UC Berkeley.

**Note:** select herbarium specimens of horticulturally meritorious, locally uncommon, rare county wide and agency listed species referred to in this section of the Traversal, collected and pressed, with noted exceptions, by Roy Buck and James West within the Scotts Creek Watershed and environs, then deposited in the Jepson Herbarium, U.C. Berkeley, are as follows:

*Achillea millefolium* var. *californicum*/accession number UCSC5700/M.F. Wilson, Apr 26 1985
*Aesculus californica*/accession number JEPS85125/Buck & West #521
*Agrostis blasdalei*/accession number JEPS81559/Buck & West #102
Agrostis blasdalei/accession number JEPS82919/Buck & West #369
Agrostis blasphalei/accession number JEPS82920/Buck & West #368
Agrostis blasphalei/accession number JEPS82926/Buck & West #182
Agrostis blasphalei/accession number JEPS82936/West #264
Agrostis densiflora/accession number JEPS82595/West #170
Agrostis densiflora/accession number JEPS82899/Buck & West #371
Agrostis microphylla/accession number JEPS82598/West #218
Agrostis microphylla/accession number JEPS82606/West #210
Apiastrum angustifolium/accession number JEPS85193/Buck & West #519
Bowlesia incana/accession number JEPS81913/Buck & West #203
Carex gianonei, pro, sp. nov./accession number JEPS82957/West #48.1
Carex gianonei, pro, sp. nov./accession number JEPS82939/West #11.2
Carex gianonei, pro, sp. nov./accession number JEPS82944/West #23.1
Carex gianonei, pro, sp. nov./accession number JEPS82945/West #26.1
Carex gianonei, pro, sp. nov./accession number JEPS82950/West #34.1
Carex obturata/accession number UC1561094/Taylor, Buck, West & Clifton #9679
Chenopodium californicum/accession number JEPS85151/Buck & West #520
Clarkia rubicunda/accession number JEPS83076/Buck & West #422
Clarkia rubicunda/accession number JEPS82779/Buck & West #326
Clarkia rubicunda/accession number JEPS81511/Buck & West #19
Clarkia rubicunda/accession number JEPS90016/Taylor, Buck, West & Clifton #9655
Collinsia multicolor/accession number SBBG95535/Keil #20619
Delphinium californicum subsp. californicum/accession number JEPS81497/Buck & West #28
Delphinium californicum subsp. californicum/accession number JEPS81498/Buck & West #28
Festuca californica/accession number JEPS81997/Buck & West #175
Festuca californica/accession number JEPS81912/Buck, West & Stone #196
Gilia achilleifolia subsp. multicaulis/accession number JEPS82621/Buck & West #245
Gilia achilleifolia subsp. multicaulis/accession number UC1561076/Taylor, Buck, West & Clifton #9657
Juncus lesueurii/accession number JEPS81547/Buck & West #112
Juncus lesueurii/accession number JEPS81563/West #83
Juncus lesueurii/accession number JEPS88968/West #196
Lilaea scilloides/accession number JEPS81516/Buck & West #13
Lupinus arboreus/accession number JEPS81495/Buck, West & Stone #40
Lupinus arboreus/accession number JEPS82783/Buck & West #315
Lupinus bicolor/accession number JEPS82655/Buck & West #209
Lupinus bicolor/accession number JEPS82656/Buck & West #209
Lupinus formosus var. formosus/accession number JEPS83096/Buck & West #437
Lupinus varicolor/accession number JEPS82804/Buck & West #291
Melica californica/accession number JEPS81995/Buck & West #181
Nasella lepida/accession number JEPS83471/Buck & West #476
Nasella pulchra/accession number JEPS83470/Buck & West #477
Pellaea andromedifolia/accession number JEPS85189/Buck & West #514
Pentachaeta bellidiflora/accession number JEPS21642/Thomas #4031
Piperia michaelii/accession number UCSC4699/Randall Morgan, Jan 6 1981
Poa secunda subsp. secunda/accession number JEPS82650/Buck & West #204
Potentilla anserina subsp. pacifica/accession number JEPS83095/Buck & West #401
Psilocarphus tenellus var. tenellus/accession number JEPS83111/Buck & West #347
Rafinesquia californica/accession number JEPS83078/Buck & West #425
Ranunculus hebescarpus/accession number JEPS81919/Buck & West #197
Ribes divaricatum var. pubiflorum/accession number JEPS81920/Buck & West #195
Ribes divaricatum var. pubiflorum/accession number JEPS81923/Buck & West #166
Saxifraga californica/accession number JEPS81990/Buck & West #174
Thysanocarpus lacinatus/accession number JEPS81985/Buck & West #183
Trisetum canescens = Trisetum cernuum subsp. canescens?/accession number JEPS82810/Buck & West #285
Vicia gigantea/accession number UCR67982/Keil #20570
Vulpia microstachys var. pauciflora/accession number JEPS82628/Buck, West & Hawke #238
Yabea microcarpa/accession number JEPS81910/Buck & West #202

Here is a recapitulation of the extraordinary depth and diversity of the native flora, both current and historical, defining the Scotts Creek Watershed and its environs, this time by enumerating those genera represented by 5 or more documented species.


The genus Lupinus with 11+ species, excluding documented hybrids between (L. arboreus x L. formosus) and (L. arboreus x L. varicola): L. albilons var. albilons, L. arboreus, L. bicolor, L. chamissonis (according to J.H. Thomas: Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains), L. formosus var. formosus, L. hirsutissimus, L. latifolius var. latifolius, L. nanus, L. propinquus, L. succulentus and L. varicola.

The genus Acmispon with 10+ species: A. americanus var. americanus, A. brachycarpus, A. cytisoides (Flora of the Santa Cruz Mountains by J. H. Thomas places this taxon in Swanton), A. glaber var. glaber, A. heermanii var. orbiculairis, A. juncus var. juncus and var. bioletii, A. maritimus var. maritimus, A. parviflorus, A. strigosus and A. wrangelianus.


Note: a species related to and possibly confused with J. lesueurii, J. breviari may also occur with the Scotts Creek Watershed, two of the criteria used to distinguish it, being inflorescence configuration and placement!
The genus *Gnaphalium* with 7+ species, excluding *G. gianonei*, **pro. sp. nov.** = *Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro. sp. nov.*, a putative hybrid between *G. californicum* x *G. stramineum*: *G. bicolor*, *G. californicum*, *G. canescens* subsp. *beneolens*, *G. palustre*, *G. purpureum*, *G. ramosissimum* and *G. stramineum*.

Note: with the exception of *Gnaphalium palustre* and *Gnaphalium purpureum*, the remaining species of *Gnaphalium* have been transferred to the genus *Pseudognaphalium*.

*Gnaphalium purpureum* = *Gamochaeta ustulata*

The genus *Castilleja* with 7+ species, not including the *Orthocarpus noctuinus* analog: *Castilleja affinis* subsp. *affinis*, *C. attenuata*, *C. densiflora* subsp. *densiflora*, *C. exserta* subsp. *latifolia*, *C. foliolosa*, *C. subinclusa* subsp. *franciscana* and *C. wightii*.

The genus *Mimulus* with 7+ species: *M. aurantiacus*, *M. cardinalis*, *M. floribundus*, *M. guttatus* complex, *M. moschatus*, *M. nasutus* (valid species in own right versus component of *Mimulus guttatus* complex) and *M. pilosus*.

The genus *Agrostis* with 7+ species, not including documented hybrids between (*A. blasdalei* x *A. densiflora*) and (*A. blasdalei* x *A. exarata*) plus the *A. hallii/pallens* intergrades: *A. blasdalei*, *A. densiflora*, *A. exarata*, *A. hallii*, *A. microphylla*, *A. pallens* and *A. scabra*.

The genus *Festuca* with 6 possibly 7 species found in the watershed: *F. californica*, *F. elmeri*, *F. occidentalis*, *F. roemerii*, *F. rubra*, *F. subulata* and *F. subuliflora*.

Note: An herbarium pressing, Buck & West #307, from the Scotts Creek riparian corridor and designated *Festuca subulata**, was made on 05/29/83 and deposited in the Jepson Herbarium at UC Berkeley with the accession number, JEPS82787. *F. subulata* differs from related *F. elmeri* by having a lemma which is sparsely scabrous, the awn terminal, not from a bifid apex and differs from *F. subuliflora*, in having florets sessile not long-stipitate. Within the watershed, *F. elmeri* is variable as to **stature, number of florets** and **anther color**--- whether the latter two traits, separate or combined, have taxonomic significance above the forma designation is an issue worth investigating!


The genus *Viola* with 5 species: *Viola adunca*, *V. glabella*, *V. ocellata*, *V. pedunculata* and *V. sempervirens*.

Supplementing the extensive herbarium documentation found throughout this essay, is a partial listing of the seed (achene, cypsela, nutlet, etc) collections, representing rare, uncommon, taxonomically problematic and horticulturally valuable native taxa, that have been deposited with and accessioned by the UCSC Arboretum:

*Agoseris apargioides* var. *eastwoodiae* = *Agoseris apargioides* var. *apargioides* (one population documented)
Agoseris grandiflora var. grandiflora (several putative ecotypes documented)
Agoseris heterophylla var. heterophylla
Agrostis blasdalei (comprehensive collections representing all local morphological
variants of this rare coastal California endemic, including putative hybrids with both Agrostis
densiflora and Agrostis exarata)
Agrostis densiflora (+ gigas phase from s-end of Scotts Creek Beach)
Agrostis microphylla
Amelanchier utahensis (one population documented)
Amsinckia lunaris
Antirrhinum kelloggi
Apiastrum angustifolium (several collections made)
Arabis glabra = Turritis glabra (one collection made circa 30 years ago..... this taxon has
not been seen in the watershed since original discoverey and the collected seed is no longer
viable)
Arctostaphylos glutinosa (several collections made, including "green glut" of
Schoolhouse Ridge)
Arctostaphylos crustacea subsp. subcordata (one population)
Astragalus gambelianus
Athyrsus pusillus (one population)
Bowlesia incana
Bromus carinatus var. carinatus (comprehensive documentation of the distinctive
ecotypes found within watershed)
Bromus carinatus var. maritimus = Bromus maritimus
Calandrinia breviflora (one population)
Carex gianonei complex (comprehensive documentation)
Carex nitidicarpa complex (comprehensive documentation)
Castilleja exserta subsp. latifolia
Chenopodium californicum
Clarkia aff. davyi (all local populations documented)
Clarkia aff. prostrata (all local populations documented)
Clarkia purpurea subsp. quadriculosa (several local populations with flower
color/patterning documented)
Clarkia purpurea subsp. purpurea (all local populations documented)
Claytonia sibirica
Collinsia multicolor (several populations documented for watershed)
Corethrogyne filaginifolia (var. californica..... alba form)
Cryptantha torreyana
Delphinium californicum subsp. californicum
Deschampsia cespitosa subsp. holciformis
Dichondra donelliana (one population)
Elymus californicus (comprehensive collections)
Elymus glaucus subsp. glaucus (type with racemose/compound inflorescences)
Elymus glaucus subsp. virescens (coastal bluff ecotype)
Epilobium hallianum (recollected from Beaver Flat in 2009)
Eryngium armatum
Euphorbia crenulata
Festuca californica
Festuca elmeri (comprehensive collections)
Festuca idahoensis subsp. roemeri = Festuca roemeri? 
Festuca subuliflora (several collections made of this locally uncommon fescue) 
Filago californica = Logfia filaginoides 
Galium trifidum var. pacificum = Galium trifidum subsp. columbianum 
Garrya elliptica 
Gilia achilleifolia subsp. multicaulis 
Gilia clivorum (comprehensive collections) 
Gnaphalium palustre 
Guillenia lasiophylla = Caulanthus lasiophyllus 
Heterotheca sessiliflora subsp. bolanderi (comprehensive collections, including Seymore Hill populations, which approach subsp. echioide in bristly indument and herbage exuding scent of camphor) 

Hippuris vulgaris 
Horkelia californica var. californica 
Horkelia cuneata aff. var. sericea 
Hydrocotyle verticillata 
Juncus acuminatus (one collection) 
Lasthenia californica complex (types with/without pappus) 
Layia gaillardioides (one population, concolor yellow rays) 
Ligusticum apiifolium 
Lomatium carufolium var. carufolium 
Lotus salsuginosus var. salsuginosus = Acmispon maritimus var. maritimus 
Lotus stipularis aff. Lotus balsamiferus = Hosackia stipularis var. stipularis 
Lupinus arboreus x Lupinus varicolor 
Lupinus formosus var. formosus 
Lupinus hirsutissimus 
Lupinus aff. propinquus 
Lupinus succulentus 
Melica californica (collections made for several different ecotypes, including form found growing in coastal sage scrub overlooking lower Big Willow Gulch) 
Melica harfordii 
Melica imperfecta (collections from ridge complex separating Big and Little Creek sub-watersheds variable and possibly reflect introgression of Melica torreyana genes) 
Melica subulata (several populations documented with caryopsis collections) 
Melica torreyana (one of the most morphologically plastic native grass species in the watershed...... several phases documented with caryopsis collections) 

Micropus amphibolus (several populations documented with cypselae collections) 
Micropus californicus var. suboestitus (rare..... two populations documented) 
Microseris (Stebbinsoseris) decipiens (12+ separate populations documented) 
Microseris paludosus (Arroyo de las trancas population documented) 
Mimulus cardinalis (several color variants, orange throughred, documented by seed collections..... from Big and Scotts Creeks) 
Mimulus floribundus 
Mimulus guttatus complex 
Nemophila pedunculata 
Nemophila aff. pulchella var. fremontii (comprehensive collections) 
Perideridia gairdneri subsp. gairdneri 
Plagiobothrys bracteatus
Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus (comprehensive collections)

Plagiobothrys diffusus

Plantago erecta (exceedingly robust ecotype from exposed headlands overlooking s-end of Greyhound Rock State Beach)

Plantago maritima

Plantago subnuda

Plectritis ciliosa (subsp. insignis) (one population documented)

Poa unilateralis subsp. unilateralis

Pseudognaphalium gianonei, pro.sp.nov.

Rafinesquia californica

Ronippa curvisilqua

Rumex occidentalis

Rumex salicifolius complex (Rumex californicus, Rumex crassus and Rumex transitorius)

Sagina maxima subsp. crassicaulis (one population documented)

Salvia columbariae

Sanicula gianonei, pro.sp.nov.

Sanicula hoffmannii (comprehensive documentation)

Sanicula “pseudo-laciniata” (one population documented)

Scrophularia californica (flavistic form.....seed collected from one large plant growing bankside along north end of Swanton Road)

Silene antirrhina

Silene verecunda (subsp. verecunda) (comprehensive documentation)

Stachys chamissonis (one population documented)

Thysanocarpus laciniatus var. laciniatus

Trifolium buckwheatorum (several collections, including original population)

Triphysaria eriantha subsp. rosea

Trisetum canescens (reduced in stature form from coastal bluffs overlooking Greyhound Rock State Beach and south facing slope overlooking north end of Swanton Road)

Vicia hassen

Wyethia angustifolia (three populations documented)

Wyethia glabra (only known population in watershed..... Scotts Creek side of upper Seymore Hill)

Yabea microcarpa

Regardless of which direction one takes the Swanton Road Botanical Journey, the in depth representation, of “natives” via genera and species of key families, is remarkable. Without leaving the tarmac, here are some of the families with the largest numerical representation within viewing range:

Asteraceae.... Achillea millefolium, Agoseris grandiflora, Anisocarpus madioides, Artemisia californica, Artemisia douglasiana, Baccharis glutinosa, Baccharis pilularis, Cirsium brevistylum, Corethrogynne filaginifolia (var. californica), Deinandra corymbosa, Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum, Eriophyllum stackchadifolium, Euthamia occidentalis, Gamochaeta ustulata, Grindelia hirsutula var. hirsutula, Hieracium albiflorum, Layia hieracioides, Madia gracilis, Madia sativa, Microseris bigelovii, Petasites frigidus var. palmatus, Psilocarphus tenellus, Pseudognaphalium bieletii, Pseudognaphalium californicum, Pseudognaphalium x gianonei, pro.sp.nov. (P. californicum x P. stramineum), Pseudognaphalium ramossissimum, Pseudognaphalium stramineum, Rafinesquia californica, Solidago elongata, Solidago velutina subsp. californica, Stebbinsoseris (Microseris) decipiens and Uropappus lindleyi.
Poaceae..... *Agrostis exarata* (var. *exarata*), *Agrostis hallii*, *Agrostis pallens* (plus a complex series of hybrid resegregates between *A. hallii* and *A. pallens*), *Bromus carinatus* var. *carinatus* (several forms of this exceedingly variable taxon exist within viewing range of the tarmac), *Bromus vulgaris*, *Calamagrostis nutkaensis*, *Calamagrostis rubescens*, *Danthonia californica sensu lato*, *Deschampsia elongata*, *Elymus glaucus* subsp. *glaucus* (exceedingly variable as to overall gestalt, with occasional plants seasonally producing branched inflorescences), *Festuca californica*, *Festuca elmeri*, *Festuca occidentalis*, *Festuca roemeriana* = *Festuca idahoensis* subsp. *roemeriana*?, *Festuca rubra* (diffuse mode-of-growth ecotype growing proximal to Harry Wain’s pine grove), *Festuca subuliflora*, *Hordeum brachyantherum* subsp. *brachyantherum*, *Koeleria macrantha*, *Leymus triticoides* = *Elymus triticoides* subsp. *triticoides*, *Melica californica*, *Melica subulata*, *Melica torreyana*, *Nassella lepida* = *Stipa lepida*, *Nassella pulchra* = *Stipa pulchra*, *Phalaris californica*, *Poa howellii*, *Poa secunda* subsp. *secunda*, *Trisetum aff. canescens*, *Vulpia microstachys* var. *pauciflora*.


Rosaceae..... *Aphanes occidentalis*, *Fragaria chiloensis*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, *Holodiscus discolor*, *Horkelia californica* var. *californica*, *Horkelia cuneata* var. *cuneata*, *Oemleria cerasiformis*, *Potentilla glandulosa* subsp. *glandulosa* = *Drymocallis glandulosa* var. *glandulosa*, *Prunus emarginata* (rare in Santa Cruz County..... three populations in southern half of watershed, with one observable from the tarmac, this overlooking the Casa verde), *Rosa californica*, *Rosa gymnocaarpa*, *Rosa spithamea*, *Rubus parviflorus*, *Rubus spectabilis* and *Rubus ursinus*.

Apiaceae..... *Angelica tomentosa*, *Apiastrum angustifolium*, *Bowlesia incana*, *Daucus pusillus*, *Heracleum maximum*, *Osmorhiza berteroi*, *Sanicula arctopoides*, *Sanicula cassinoidis*, *Sanicula gianonei*, pro.sp.nov. and *Yabnea microcarpa*.

Boraginaceae..... *Amsinckia menziesii* var. *intermedia*, *Cryptantha clevelandii*, *Cryptantha micromeres*, *Cryptantha torreyana* (one population occurred along Swanton Road but was lost during a severe El Nino weather system in the early 1980's), *Cynoglossum grande*, *Nemophila parviflora* var. *parviflora*, *Nemophila pedunculata*, *Phacelia malvifolia* and *Plagiobothrys bracteatus*.

By way of an ecological epilogue, here are 14 native species that welcomed us during the first 100 meters of our circa 6-mile traversal and bid us farewell exiting the final 100 meters: lizard tail (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum* var. *confertiflorum*), cow-parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum* = *Heracleum maximum*), sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), California figwort (*Scrophularia californica* subsp. *californica*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), stinging phacelia (*Phacelia malvifolia*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), oso berry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), California wild rye (*Elymus glaucus* subsp. *glaucus*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), California aster (*Symphyotrichum chilense*), common rush (*Juncus patens*), California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), and mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*).
Note: the author has personally observed examples of all underlined taxa in this text without leaving the tarmac, which defines Swanton Road!

For additional data and photos pertaining to the Scotts Creek Watershed and its environs, go to www.scottscreekwatershed.org and www.spranch.org