

# Native Plants of Patterson Point and Villa Grande

# Big Leaf Maple

## *Acer macrophyllum*

- The Big Leaf Maple is a deciduous tree that can grow up 35 meters tall.
- It is host to many moths and butterflies including the Maple Seed Caterpillar and the Western Tiger Swallowtail.
- It is deer resistant and prefers moderate to high quantities of water.
- The tree will flower in the Spring, usually April and May, with yellow and pink flowers.
- The heartwood is light, reddish brown and moderately hard and strong.
- Native Americans use the wood to make canoe paddles.



# Box Elder

## *Acer Negundo*

- Box Elder's can grow from 35-60 feet tall and have a fast growth rate.
- It is a deciduous tree that has leaves that turn yellow in the fall and has beautiful pink flowers in the spring.
- The tree is deer resistant and hosts many moth species including Polyphemus moth Speckled Green Fruitworm Moth.
- Some native tribes use the wood to make charcoal which was utilized in ceremonial painting and tattooing.
- The seeds contain an amino acid that is toxic when ingested.



# Dutchman's Pipevine

## *Aristolochia californica*

- Also known as the California pipevine, it is a deciduous vine with purple-striped curving pipe shaped flowers that turn into winged capsular green fruits.
- The flowers bloom in early spring which then prompt the plant to send out new green heart shaped leaves.
- The vines is rhizomatous and can reach over 20 ft in length.
- It is the only host plant of the pipevine swallowtail butterfly.
- The flowers have an unpleasant odor.



# Wild Ginger

## *Asarum caudatum*

- A perennial with large dark green heart shaped leaves.
- The rootstock can be used as ginger (but please don't harvest in the Preserve)
- The leaves are deer resistant and omit a ginger smell when rubbed.
- The plant spreads through rhizomes and the leaves are found in clusters or mats.
- The plant flowers in the spring with maroon colored flowers.
- Native people use the root to make a tea.



# Stream Dogwood

## *Cornus sericea*

- A medium to tall sized deciduous tree that is common in riparian and wetland ecosystems.
- They can grow from 4-13 feet tall and grow rapidly to often form dense thickets
- In the summertime this tree has small clusters of white flowers.
- It forms white berries that ripen between August and September.
- The tree is a host to many butterfly and moth species.
- Often called red twig dogwood because of the color of the stems and branches although not all display the red color.
- There were many ways this tree is used by native people including boiling the bark to make a tea for coughs and fevers, and the sap was used on arrowheads to poison animals.



# Hazelnut

## *Corylus cornuta*

- This Western hazelnut or beaked hazelnut is an open, multi-trunked shrub that forms dangling catkins in the late winter.
- It can grow from 4-18 feet tall and tolerates fairly dry conditions once it is established.
- The soft, fuzzy, green leaves turn yellow in the fall and small amounts of nuts are produced in late summer.
- Many animals eat the nuts including Steller's Jays, Douglas squirrels, and Golden Mantled Ground squirrels.
- The shrub is great cover and used for many birds nesting sites.
- Native tribes use the stems to weave baskets and fish traps, the nuts were eaten or buried to be stored, and straight stems were used for arrows.



# Giant Horsetail

## *Equisetum telmateia*

- The horsetail is a perennial plant with two different types of stems that are made. One of the stems is a green photosynthetic stem that is sterile which starts growing in late spring. The other stem is a pale, yellowish non-photosynthetic stem that produces spores to reproduce which grow in early spring.
- The horsetail is a fern.
- It is used by native tribes as an astringent and diuretic. A poultice of the rough leaves and stems are also applied to cuts and sores.



# Western Goldenrod

## *Euthamia occidentalis*

- Also known as western goldentop, this perennial plant has many green stems.
- It is very common to be found in marshes and streambanks.
- It can grow up to 4 feet tall.
- The yellow flowers that bloom from summer to fall and attract many pollinators.
- It spreads via rhizomes and is tolerant to salinity and clay soils which make it ideal for stream stabilization.
- Native tribes use the root to treat chest pain and lung trouble.



# Oregon Ash

## *Fraxinus latifolia*

- The Oregon Ash can grow up to 75 feet tall and can live to 250 years old.
- Latifolia means “wide leaves,” and this ash has compound leaves that oppositely arranged.
- The flowers are small but the seeds have long wings that form is large, drooping clusters.
- The seeds are eaten by birds and small mammals and the foliage is food for butterfly larvae.
- Native people use the wood for canoe paddles and digging sticks.
- The wood is also used for tool handles, furniture, and firewood.



# California Black Walnut

## *Juglans californica*

- Also called the California Walnut, this small tree can grow up to 30 feet tall and is endemic to California.
- The tree forms a small hard nut in a shallowly grooved thick shell that is difficult to remove.
- Native tribes harvest and eat the nuts but they are not grown commercially.
- Many birds eat the nuts and use the branches to nest, including owls. .
- Ground squirrels and Western Grey squirrels also utilize the food from this tree.
- Native tribes use the shells of the nuts to play a dice game.



# Redwood Sorrel

## *Oxalis oregana*

- The Redwood Sorrel is a perennial herb that produces from rhizomes.
- It is adapted to grow in shady environments so it is capable of photosynthesis at low light levels.
- The plant has 3 heart shaped leaflets and forms 1 funnel shaped white or rose-pink flower at the end of each stalk.
- Leaves of the sorrel are edible raw or cooked but are toxic in large quantities.
- Native tribes use the sorrel to make poultices that are applied to boils or and sores and to draw out infection.



# Twinberry

## *Lonicera involucrata ledebourii*

- Twinberry is a species in the Honeysuckle family and this variation ledebourii is found on the California coast.
- It has dark green foliage and orange-red flowers that bloom from March- to July.
- It tolerate air pollution and can survive with very little water.
- The flowers attract hummingbirds along with many butterflies and other pollinators.
- Birds will eat the berries that ripen mid to late summer. They should not be consumed by humans.
- The berries were used to black pigment and hair dye and the bark was used to weave clothing.



# Ninebark

## *Physocarpus capitatus*

- Also known as Pacific Ninebark, this large shrub can grow up to 18 feet high.
- It has brown shredding bark on the branches and toothed leaves that are 3-5 lobed.
- It blooms from April to June and produces white flower clusters.
- The red fruit ripens from September to October and
- The wood is used to make children's bows and knitting needles.
- A tea made from the bark was used as a laxative or to induce vomiting but it not recommended.
- The flowers attract many native bees and butterflies.



# Western Sword Fern

## *Polystichum munitum*

- Sword Fern fronds can grow quite long and a mature plant can have a height and width of 3 to 6 feet.
- The Sword Fern reproduces with spores that are located under each of the fronds, their spores are light yellow in color.
- The fossil record of ferns starts almost 400 million years ago.
- They are the most abundant fern growing along the Pacific coast.
- Native tribes use the leaves to cure sore throats and rubbing them on nettle stings.



# Bracken Fern

## *Pteridium aquilinum*

- The Bracken Fern has fronds that spread out instead of being clumped
- It rapidly spreads through rhizomes and the fronds will turn brown in fall and then become dormant.
- Young bracken fiddleheads are gathered in many parts of the world as a vegetable but need to be properly cooked to remove the toxins.



# Sandbar Willow

## *Salix exigua*

- This willow is a deciduous shrub that can reach heights from 13-23 feet.
- It spreads through basal shoots to form dense large clonal colonies.
- Flowers are produced in catkins in late spring after the leaves appear.
- It is a host to many butterflies and moths including the Tiger Western Swallowtail.
- Birds like the Least Bell's Vireo and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher prefer to nest in large, dense willow thickets.
- Native tribes have many uses for willow including making baskets, bark used for cord and string, and making a tea for sore throats and colds.



# Red Willow

## *Salix laevigata*

- This is an extremely fast growing tree that grow up to 50 feet tall.
- The bark is ridged and grayish and can sometimes turn reddish with age.
- Its form is variable and can often have many winding trunks.
- It is host to many butterflies including the Western Tiger Swallowtail and Lorquin's Admiral.
- Native tribes used the red branches to make baskets. The bark was also used to make tea to help with coughs and fevers.



# Blue Elderberry

## *Sambucus mexicana*

- Also known as Mexican Elderberry or Tapiro, it is a deciduous shrub that can grow up to 30 feet tall
- In the spring it produces cream or yellow flowers and purple berries arrive in the fall.
- The berries are a very important food source to birds.
- They can grow very rapidly in wet conditions but can also tolerate drought conditions.
- The berries are edible for humans and can be made into jellies, juices, wines, or syrups.
- The leaves, stems, and bark are poisonous.
- Native tribes use the flowers and fruit for a variety of medicinal purposes.



# Coast Redwood

## *Sequoia sempervirens*

- Coast Redwoods are the tallest trees on the planet and can grow over 300 feet tall.
- They have been on earth for about 240 millions years and in California for at least 20 millions years.
- They can live for thousands of years and their thick bark helps them survive many hardships, it can be at least one foot thick.
- Coast Redwoods can make it rain by condensing fog into drops and rain them down to the soil around them.
- They can also release terpenes from their leaves which condense moisture in the air into clouds that help cool the forest.
- Native tribes used the wood to build homes and canoes.
- Many species rely on redwood forest including coho salmon and marbled murrelet.



# Fringe Cups

## *Tellima grandiflora*

- Fringe cups have fuzzy heart shaped leaves and can grow from 16-32 inches.
- They produce 10-35 green white flowers on tall stalks. The flowers turn pink-red as the blossom ages.
- It does best in partial sun to light shade.
- The flowers attract hummingbirds and many other pollinators.
- They spread through rhizomes and self-seeding.
- Natives tribes have used the plant for various medicinal purposes.



# Mugwort

## *Artemisia douglasiana*

- Mugwort is an aromatic shrub that grows in every county of California and is in the Sunflower family.
- It's native to the western United States and into Baja California.
- The flowers are small and white, often not producing viable seed. It usually spreads by rhizomes especially in damp areas.
- It has been used in many Native American cultures as a ceremonial plant and can also be used to make tea.
- It is useful in restoration projects and for erosion control.



# Western Spicebush

## *Calycanthus occidentalis*

- Spicebush is a deciduous shrub that varies in size from 3 feet wide/tall to 13 feet wide/tall.
- The bright green leaves are opposite, long, and broad.
- The bark has a strong camphor smell that is released when stems are scraped.
- The strongly scented, dark red to purplish brown flowers are produced from late spring through early autumn.
- They are pollinated by beetles in the Nitidulidae family.
- Spicebush tolerates sand, clay, no drainage and seasonal flooding.



# Milkmaids

## *Cardamine californica*

- Milkmaids are a flowering plant in the family Brassicaceae or mustard family.
- In the San Francisco Bay Area, it is one of the first wildflowers to bloom, with blossoms from January to May.
- The flowers are produced on a spike, each flower about 1/2 inch in diameter with four white petals.
- The flower closes its petals in late afternoon as the sun goes down and nods its pedicel before a rain, protecting the pollen.



# Basket Sedge

## *Carex barbarae*

- Basket sedge has bright green sharp blades growing in clumps of 1-3 feet tall.
- They grow oval-shaped tufts of small reddish-brown flowers on spikes at the tip of the flowering stems.
- As the common name suggests, it has a rich history in being used to make baskets.
- It is often used in bioswales and riparian restoration.
- It can be an aggressive spreader wherever there is moisture.



# Miner's Lettuce

## *Claytonia pertoliata*

- Mature leaves are round, succulent and edible, leading to the common name.
- The small white or pink flowers have five petals 2-6 millimeter long, appearing from February to May or Jun.
- This plant tends to be more drought tolerant near the coast or in other cool weather areas.
- The leaves and stems are edible, a great source of vitamin C.
- Miner's during the Gold Rush were happy to find and eat this plant to prevent scurvy.



# Pacific Bleeding Heart

## *Dicentra formosa*

- Pacific bleeding heart grows 10 to 20 inches tall in full to part shade.
- The leaves often go dormant in the winter and emerge from the ground from February to March, and it starts to bloom in late March.
- The pink, red, or white heart shape of the flowers are formed by its two outer petals, which form a pouch at the base and curve outwards at the tips.
- Hummingbirds will visit its dangling flowers for nectar, and it's a food plant for butterfly larvae.
- The black seeds of Pacific bleeding heart are 1-2 inch long, pods. On each seed, that small white bit is actually made up of fat which ants love, helping to spread the seeds.



# Wild Cucumber

## *Marah oregana*

- Wild cucumber grows as a vine and the leaves are big, glossy, and nearly hairless.
- Vines can climb and spread up to 6 meters long.
- Flowers can vary in color from yellowish green to cream to white.
- The “cucumber” or fruit is spherical about 4-5 cm in diameter and covered in prickles.
- Unripe fruit are bright green, ripening to yellow. The fruit swells as it ripens until finally rupturing and releasing the large seeds. Fruit begin to form in spring and ripen in summer.
- The fruit is poisonous and not to be eaten by people. The leaves are also toxic and should not be consumed.



# Fairy Bells

## *Prosartes hookeri*

- Fairy Bells is a perennial that can grow up to 2 feet tall, spreading rhizomally.
- Its narrow, fuzzy stems bear wide, oval-shaped, pointed leaves up to 15 centimeters long and hairless to hairy, often with hairs along the edges and on the veins underneath.
- The flower is bell-shaped with six white to green veiny tepals and six protruding stamens with large anthers.
- The fruit is an orange to bright red berry just under a centimeter wide which birds love.



# Pink-Flowering Currant

## *Ribes sanguineum*

- Pink Flowering currant is a five foot deciduous shrub with long showy pink flower clusters that cover the plant in January to March.
- The fruit is a dark purple oval berry 1 centimeter long, edible but with an insipid taste, best left for the birds.
- Many insects and hummingbirds are attracted to the flowers.
- The flowers can be used to infuse beverages, especially spirits.



# California Blackberry

## *Rubus ursinus*

- California Blackberry is a wide spreading shrub or vine-bearing bush with prickly spines and fuzzy leaves.
- They produce white flowers and edible fruit that starts green/red and turns black when ripe.
- The plant is a vigorous spreader that needs cool temperatures and high amounts of moisture to set large fruit.
- Blackberry is attractive to a wide ranges of wildlife, from butterflies to birds to bears.
- *Rubus* means bramble and *ursinus* means bear.



# Thimbleberry

## *Rubus parviflorus*

- Thimbleberry is in the Rose family and grows as a dense shrub up to 8 feet tall.
- The large, soft, fuzzy leaves have 5 lobes.
- The small white flowers have 5 petals and numerous pale yellow stamens.
- The fruit ripen red in mid to late summer and are edible with a slightly sweet and tart flavor.
- Many birds love eating the berries.
- They can be used as hedges or erosion control on steep banks and stream banks.
- It is a host plant for the Yellow-Banded Sphinx moth.



# Arroyo Willow

## *Salix lasiolepis*

- The Arroyo Willow is a shrub or tree that grows in marshes or other wet areas. It is an indicator species for a freshwater marsh.
- It spreads by root runners and will tend to fill in moist areas.
- The flower is a yellowish catkin that is important to many insects and birds. The catkins are also a food source for small game and songbirds in the spring.
- It is a host plant for the Lorquin's admiral, mourning cloak, and western tiger swallowtail butterflies.
- It is used most often for restoration projects.



# Pacific/Yellow Willow

## *Salix lasiandra*

- Yellow Willow is a tree that is fast growing and short-lived.
- They can grow up to 45 feet tall.
- The leaves are deciduous and green, flowers are also green and bloom in the spring.
- It's a host for many butterflies, insects, and moths.
- This willow is an important species in riparian ecosystems, the leaves are eaten by many animals, it provides habitat to birds and small mammals, the branches shade the water cooling the temperature for fish species and beavers use the wood to build homes and dams.



# Bee Plant

## *Scrophularia californica*

- Bee plant is a plant with triangular, toothed, blue-green leaves in pairs opposite of each other on a spindly, squared stem.
- The brownish-magenta flowers are rounded, hollow buds about a centimeter long with two long upper lobes.
- As the name suggests this species is a strong bee attractant.
- Bee Plant also attracts hummingbirds, and a species of small wasp and is a host plant for the butterfly larvae of Common Buckeye.



# California Hedgenettle

## *Stachys Ajugoides*

- Hedgenettle is a flowering plant in the mint family and the leaves are aromatic with serrated leaves.
- The pink flowers bloom in clusters off of a common stem.
- Both butterflies and hummingbirds will use the flowers for nectar.
- Checkerspot larvae will use the foliage for food.



# Snowberry

## *Symphoricarpos albus*

- Snowberry is a rounded and bushy shrub with small leaves.
- The slender, wiry twigs bear small, opposite leaves and inconspicuous white and pink flower clusters followed by large, snow white berries which eventually turn brown.
- It spreads by suckering rhizomes to form a colony.
- Snowberry provides brushy habitat to birds and a food source later in the season.
- It is a larval host plant for the Vashti Sphinx and the Snowberry Clearwing moth among others.



# Poison Oak

## *Toxicodendron diversilobum*

- Poison Oak can grow as a woody vine, shrub, or tree. It can thrive in a variety of ecosystems ranging from riparian to dry chaparral and shady to full sun.
- The plant is winter deciduous and leaves turn from an oily bright green to oranges and reds.
- Poison oak is known for causing itching and allergic rashes in many humans after contact by touch or smoke inhalation
- A variety of mammals feed on the leaves of the plant. It is rich in phosphorus, calcium, and sulfur.
- Bird species use the berries for food, and utilize the plant structure for shelter.



# Bay Laurel

## *Umbellularia californica*

- The Bay Laurel is an evergreen tree that can range greatly in size from 6 to 60 feet tall but usually in the 20 to 45 feet range.
- Its bark has a color range from maple blonde to walnut brown. It releases terpenes that kill off competing plants which can somewhat limit understory planting.
- Leaves are oblong, smooth-edged and have a peppery aroma, and are often used as a cooking spice.
- Flowers are small, white, yellow or yellowish green, and open in late winter and early spring.
- The fruit “bay nut” is a round green berry lightly spotted with yellow and purple.
- The nut is edible and can be eaten roasted or made into a powder and made into a drink.



# Stinging Nettle

## *Urtica dioica*

- Stinging Nettle is an herbaceous perennial flowering plant.
- It has widely spreading rhizomes and stolons which are bright yellow.
- The long green leaves are serrated and contain small hairs that cause a sting sensation when they come in contact with skin. The hair becomes a small needle that injects several chemicals.
- Nettles can be eaten when properly processed to remove the stinging hairs. They can also be used to make a tea which has many medicinal uses.
- They are a larval food plant for several species of butterflies and moths.



# Stream Violet

## *Viola glabella*

- Stream Violet is a low lying deciduous plant that dies back completely in the autumn.
- The green heart or kidney shaped leaves are toothed and have sharply-pointed tips.
- The small yellow flowers have purple lines on the lower 3 of 5 petals.
- Young leaves and flower buds are edible, raw or cooked, but the yellow flowers can cause diarrhoea.

