

George F Canyon - Nature Walk (ask about the name!)

Location: Park along Palos Verdes Drive East, just up the hill from the southwest corner with Palos Verdes Drive North. There is an information center located there. Buy Donald or Dan(?) Gale's book on the plants of Palos Verdes Peninsula. Cost(?). The walk is a gradual uphill, about a mile(?), gets steeper at the end but is all downhill on the return hike back down the way one goes up.

(1) alfalfa (2) cliff astor with white flowers (3) end of the season (August) for mallow or cheese weed, a little purple flower and breaking open the flower one can see a "cheese wheel" (4) mustard (5) wild radish, check the seedpod and the seed (6) Be very careful for poison oak (7) also watch out for the stinging nettle (8) of course don't eat the castor bean - by the way the castor bean and poison oak are the same family as mangoes, cashews, and pataschio nuts(?) (9) lemondade berry (10) milk thistle (11) star thistle (12) willows in the riparian habitat (13) milkweed which the monarch butterfly likes (14) giant rye grass - look for a tiny clump on the left! indicating a water seepage(?) (15) Indian tree tobacco or nicotina(?) with the long, narrow trumpet-shaped flowers, one can pull off the trumpet to get one drop of nectar if the hummingbirds haven't gotten it.

Timeout for: tiger swallowtail and red skimmer butterflies and birds, Anna's hummingbird and the California towhee.

(16) Blackberry a member of the rose family (17) wild rose hip, look for the apple fruit, a 5-5-10 plant, meaning a pistil with 5 points (see the fruit, a ripened ovary, like the 5 sections of an apple) 5 pedals and 10 stamen. (18) the conservancy is trying to eradicate anis or sweet fennel or finnicula vulgar, notice it is edible! leaves, stalk, seeds, root (19) are they trying to get rid of the ice plant also? (20) bristley oxtongue only looks like a dandelion

The stream is orange or rust colored, iron. The water is tested every 6 months for ecoli, the standard test for human waste. gelardia (?), soapy bubbles? of the three types of altimera shale, one is phosporitic and the test here goes off the scale, hmm. Stop and notice the tracks placed in the concrete. Fox tracks are like dog tracks but have tiny hairs in the track, the bird track is 2-and-2 not 3-and-1 indicating a tree climbing bird. Possum tracks look like an elongated human hand vs a racoon's elongated paw.

(21) notice the ton of poison oak to the left up the hill and some red-leafed poison oak also. (22) See the peach tree? (23) the California pepper tree is really from Peru (24) mule fat was named such because earlier settlers found that their mules (not horses) could sustain themselves on it. (25) vetch (?) pea-shaped flower, beautiful 2-toned lavender, member of the sweetpea family (26) Joseph Bayer invented aspirin in 1897, earlier people used to chew the bark of (?!?) to relieve headaches, this plant's scientific name is aspirina (sp?) (willow?) 2

Catalina schist, a metamorphic rock has three types (1) blue - chrysotic schist (?) (2) green - quartz-talc (3) mica schist - quartz s(XXX) (sp?) 100-160 million years old? Jurassic or older from the Franciscan formation. See a 1940's book, The Geology and Paleontology of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Up the canyon one finds the best exposure or outcropping of Catalina Schist or Palos Verdes Stone. The LA basin is the deepest in the world with 10km depth of sediment. Look for Valmonte dolomite, Lomita marl (sp?), Malaga mudstone, etc Chandler Sand and Gravel company has a history on the eastern side of the hill(?).

(27) notice a plant from the mint family with a square stem with opposite pairs of leaves, the roots are also square. (28) Catalina Island Cherry with waxy leaves, the cherries are ripe when black. The problem is that the pit is almost as big as the cherry and the skin is bitter! (29) mint -= remember horehound candy (sp? i don't!) very small seeds (30) chia grows wild on the peninsula and also has small seeds, 5/100,000 of an inch! about! (31) at post #8 we can see a cactus, the prickly pear cactus perhaps (?) (32) note the elderberry has small bluish berries and makes good jam, notice the pretty yellow flower (33) anis has compound umbrellas (sp?) (34) buckhorn plantain (locally called common plantain is a weed but a certain butterfly loves it (?) (35) sour doc (sp?), locally called curly doc is a member of the sumac (?) family (36) nasturtiums (37) Jimson weed has a long, beautiful, big, white flower which only lasts a day! it is extremely narcotic (38) there is also a true sage, not a brush, called artemisia (sp?) in the coastal sage habitat (39) coyote bush (40) wild oats (genus vena (sp?)) same genus and species as breakfast oats.

Western fence lizard. RH Estates stops at #12 but the path goes higher to 2 plateaus and even winds up to a street (which one?) The land was dedicated in the 1980's. Look for orioles and hummingbirds...

(41) pearly everlasting just looks related to something in your garden (what?) (42) cockle burr is where velcro got his idea! note the little hooks, and how the plant grows quickly upon recently man-disturbed land. (43) Christmas berry or Poiyon (sp?) only looks like a holly.