



LOCAL COLOR

Natural and Cultural Landscapes in the Santa Monica Mountains

Surrounding suburban Agoura, Calabasas, and the Malibu Canyons, the Santa Monica Mountains are a priceless educational and recreational resource. Three hundred years ago, the Chumash Indians depended on the abundant wildlife found here. The Chumash were at the top of a food pyramid - near the base of the pyramid, a lush garden of plant life provided a refuge for survival.

Many of the native wildflowers are now in peak bloom. In addition to the great aesthetic value of nature's garden (we've spotted purple *Lupin*, delicate *California Poppies*, bright *Indian Paint*), eighty percent of all medicinal drugs originate in wild plants. A promising anti-cancer drug is taxol, derived from the *Pacific Yew*. The Chumash Indians used a homeopathic solution of *Detura* as an analgesic. In higher concentrations, the trumpet shaped white blooms (spotted along the creek crossings to the Chesebro trail) were used in initiation rites, since the seeds and roots are hallucinogenic and sometimes deadly. *Nightshade* is the same family of plants and is addictive to horses. It is wise to remove the tomato-like plant from your pasture, especially if your horses seem extremely lethargic or spastic. Locoweed, poison oak, hemlock, wild cucumber and tarweed (a sticky yellow flowering shrub spotted throughout Charmlee park) are also dangerous to horses.

The air and water quality here can be greatly influenced by plants. Vegetation can restrict the movement of dust and pollutants, filter sediments from water, and through their intake of carbon dioxide, can moderate the greenhouse effect. On the trail, the fragrance of the *Sagebrush*, *Sweet Fennel*, *Soap Plant* (a white and mauve striped lily spotted in Chesebro and Malibu Creek), and *Southern Honeysuckle* fill the air with their fresh scents.

The delicate wildflowers that dot the hillsides through spring and summer protect the soil from rampaging rains. This season

Wanda Smith
Custom and Horse Property
Specialist

(818) 879-9100 Ext: #2431
(818) 991-2589 residence

Nona Green
Associate Broker
(818) 879-9100 Ext: #2416
(818) 226-8182 pager

Fred Sands

5875 Kanan Road.
Agoura, Calif. 91301

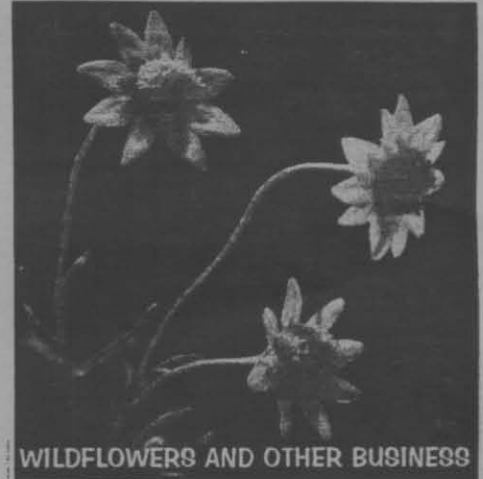


has produced many of the "fire-chaser" species in the location of the recent Calabasas blaze that burned through the canyon near Monte Nido to the coast. Many seeds lie dormant year after year until a fire sears their protective pods and leaves nutrient-rich ashes in place of the grasses that would compete for water. *Giant Phacelia* (a showy, deep lavender bloom), the tall *Tree Poppy*, and several species of *Ceanothus* (aka purple lilac) are making a rare appearance now. This perennial lasts several years, filling a valuable niche in Mother Nature's plan, maintaining stability and protection of the sloping hillside until other chaparral plants can take over permanently.

As described above, diverse plant communities are extremely important for sustaining healthy ecosystems. Every species counts. Many species are critically endangered. Thus, it is illegal to pick flowers or trample plant life on public property.

[see "COLOR" on page 3]

Common Goldfield
Lepidotea (Rosaceae) F. & M. J. Green
Sunflower Family: ASTERACEAE (COMPOSITAE)



WILDFLOWERS AND OTHER BUSINESS

The custom real estate market in Agoura couldn't be hotter. From the rustic seclusion of Malibu Lake, and the casual elegance of Medea Valley, to the charming countryside of Old Agoura, the qualities that impress visitors to the area make them want to call it home. The demand for reasonably priced horse property far exceeds supply at this time.

We love living here too and we want to do what we can to preserve the quality of life in the canyons. So we may write about wildflowers and sometimes more controversial issues to raise consciousness about our environment. We welcome your comments and ideas for future issues of this newsletter.

All the best,

NEIGH...BORHOOD NEWS CIRCULATION

• Directly sent to approximately 1900 property owners, agents, and Select Equestrian Property Network members.
• Available at finer feed and tack stores in L.A. and Ventura counties.

Let NEIGH...BORHOOD NEWS help market your horse property in the next issue!

This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another broker.

NEW SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER ...

NEW LISTINGS

Address	Current List Price	List Date	Bdrm/Bath	Lot Size (approx. sqft)
28933 CRAGS	299,000	1/14/97	3/2	15000
28005 BALKINS	399,000	2/11/97	3/2	61855
29138 BORG	395,000	1/3/97	3/2.5	10803+
1522 LOOKOUT	475,000	2/12/97	3/2	54014
25580 MAYNARD	499,000	1/14/97	3/2.5	304000+
30360 MULHOLLAND	479,000	3/13/97	2/2	57063
25630 EDENWILD	539,000	3/7/97	4/2.5	251600
26039 MULHOLLAND	617,000	3/22/97	4/3.5	45302
25736 PUNTA DE VISTA	695,000	3/20/97	4/3	43560
25832 PIUMA	789,000	3/7/97	4/3.5	43560
2575 HIERRO WAY	829,000	2/26/97	4/4.5	43560
6139 CHESEBRO	849,000	3/12/97	4/3.5	43560+
28860 COUNTRYSIDE	979,000	3/12/97	3/4	54000
29575 MULHOLLAND	1,670,000	3/17/97	7/7.5	8003492003

NEW ESCROWS PENDING

Address	Final List Price	Comments
5949 COLODNY	589,000	Light and bright one story ranch on a full acre. Nicely landscaped and maintained. Sold in less than 2 weeks.
5662 LEWIS	449,950	1/2 acre lot at end of street. 3400+ square ft. plus pool/spa, corral.
28241 FOOTHILL	675,000	Elegant England custom home with a New facilities. Full acre with horse
28310 FOOTHILL	465,000	3500+ sqft detached traditional home featured a guesthouse/studio.
1843 LOOKOUT	359,000	Charming separate mountain and cabin an extra large lot.
29535 MULHOLLAND	1,125,000	7450 sqft. on over 2 acres.
30954 LOBO CANYON	595,000	Over 4000 sqft contemporary

NEW CLOSED ESCROWS

Address	Final ListPrice	Sale Price	Sale Date	Comments
5548DEVORE	407,000	375,000	2/17/97	Bank foreclosure. 1/2 acre, pool/spa.
24619MULHOLLAND	549,950	525,000	1/8/97	Custom horse property on over 1 acre.
5566LEWIS	439,000	410,000	2/5/97	Lovely decor, pool/spa on 1/2 acre.

Data obtained from DataQuick information reporting services and C.R.I.S. multiple listing service - it is not guaranteed.

COLOR...[cont. from page 1]

Sources

For more information please contact:
 California State Park - 818/706-1310
 National Park Service - 818/597-9192
 Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy - 213/456-5046
 WildFlower Hot Line 1-800-354-4595

Thank You to Milt McAuley author of several books including Wildflowers of the Santa Monica Mountains. McAuley is leading a series of wildflower expeditions on consecutive Sundays in May offered through the Learning Tree University 818/882-5599.

Tom Maxwell, professor of Archaeology - formerly taught at Cal Luthran Univ. also contributed to this article.



SPRING CALENDER

April 12th & 13th

UCLA Extension interdisciplinary lecture and field course: Santa Monica Maintains -Natural, Cultural, and Political Landscapes 310/825-7093

April 19th

Old Agoura Rangers Vet Clinic DMV Beth Stolzey will treat local horses at the Wild Rose Saloon, 5312 Chesebro RSVP by April 12: 818/889-6736

Date To be Announced

Wanda Smith and Nona Green will be hosting a Home Buying/Exchanging Workshop at Fred Sands Realtors 5875 Kanan Rd. A CPA and Mortgage Banker will be consulting. 818/879-9100 Ext: 2416

May 4th

Old Agoura 4H Scholarship Committee - OPEN HORSE SHOW Old Agoura Park 818/879-0032

May 18th

March for Parks - A Music, Dance, Crafts, and Parklands Festival Paramount Ranch 818/382-4817



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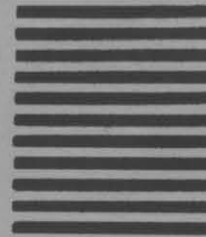
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Fred Sands Realtors

5875 Kanan Road
Agoura Hills, CA
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Attn: Wanda or Nona



Featured New Listings

Please contact me:

- I am interested in knowing what my home is worth in today's market.
- I am interested in the purchase of real estate.
- Other _____

Name _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____



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