

annoyances were that the legends for the photographs are at the bottom of the pages and that many garden photos show interesting plants that are not identified. However, the authors have met their stated goals of informing readers about plant communities that are native to different areas, of describing plants along with their requirements and means of propagation, and of providing sample plans. This book helps to fill a need both for the amateur and professional gardener and would be a useful addition to anyone's horticultural library.

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Introduction to California Chaparral, by Ronald D. Quinn and Sterling C. Keeley with Line Drawings by Marianne D. Wallace. 2006. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles. 344 pp., 338 color illustrations, 89 line drawings, 15 tables. (ISBN 24885-4 cloth \$60.00, ISBN 24886-1 \$24.95 paper)

Well, it is about time. Not since Francis Fultz wrote *The Elfin Forest of California* in 1927 has an entire book, published by a major publisher, been devoted entirely to chaparral. Richard Halsey came close in 2005 with a self-published book entitled, *Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California* (Sunbelt Publishers, San Diego), and Rundel and Gustafson came close with *Introduction to the Plant Life of Southern California* (UC Press, 2005). What makes this chaparral book different is that it covers plants AND animals, as well as chapters on Mediterranean climate, fire, and living with chaparral. It's all here in one book.

In Chapter One the location and characteristics of chaparral are covered. It describes what chaparral is and what it isn't. For example coastal sage scrub is not chaparral. This is an introductory chapter that includes a brief introduction to chaparral adaptations, including those associated with drought and fire.

The Mediterranean climate is very well explained in Chapter Two. In fact it is a good primer on climate in California in general. In a section on microclimates the importance of slope exposure, steepness, and herbaceous cover are discussed. The section entitled "Convergence" draws comparisons to other places in the world where Mediterranean climate has caused similar communities to develop. Finally, as an example of animal life and its survival in a Mediterranean climate, the life of rain beetles is described.

Chapter Three is devoted entirely to the subject of fire. It describes the nature of the fire cycle and how plants and animals cope with it. Particularly valuable is the discussion of the history of fire in California including causes and sources of ignition. A particularly sensitive topic, that of the controversy between two points of view on large fires, is well handled. Whether large fires are a consequence of fire suppression, Santa Ana winds, or both is aptly discussed without taking sides.

Chapters Four and Five include the discussions of plants and animals. Every single plant and every single animal is not described. As such this book is not really a field guide; it is more of a natural history. The organisms are treated within groups, and the major plants and animals within each group are discussed. Here is where excellent line drawings and photographs help with identification. In the plant portion, the plants are arranged in family groupings, in order of dominance as perceived by the authors. Rosaceae and

chamise come first. Probably an irritation to some taxonomists, the Scrophulariaceae remains intact, in the manner to which we are accustomed. Interestingly, a number of coastal sage scrub species are included in a section entitled, "Other chaparral herbs and subshrubs." Finally, introduced weeds get a page. In the animal chapter there is, likewise, a taxonomic grouping, including common mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and arachnids. There is a wealth of interesting material on each of the animals that is discussed. If I had written this book, however, I would have included more animals. The rodents are fairly well covered, although pocket mice and pocket gophers inexplicably are omitted. Predatory birds are fairly important, but only three hawks are mentioned. Owls got a quarter page. Important reptiles (except skinks) are covered, but only two amphibians. There are so many insects and arachnids in chaparral that it would be inappropriate to attempt thorough coverage, but those that are included are well done. I do believe that spiders other than tarantulas and trap door spiders could have been discussed.

The final chapter, "Living with Chaparral," is a compendium of risks and remedies. Fire, flood, and other risks are described along with attempts by public agencies to reduce or mitigate for the risks. Fire and flood case histories are presented. This chapter includes the threats to chaparral such as shortened fire frequency, invasive plants, and climate change, and it provides a discussion of public and private land management priorities. Finally, it concludes with a section on the value of chaparral as a community, and why we should care about it.

For someone living in southern California, this is a book worth owning. It is well written and it is amply illustrated with line drawings and color photographs. While it is not a thorough compendium of all the plants and animals of chaparral, it covers all the important ones with natural history tidbits to embellish the descriptions.

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