

Chaparral is California's most extensive ecosystem.

Composed of beautiful shrubs like the iconic manzanita with its burgundy-colored bark, chaparral can be found in every county in the state. Once home to the now extinct California Grizzly Bear, chaparral offers the closest place most Californians can enjoy and reconnect with Nature.

Reconnecting with Nature Through the Chaparral

Nature provides the space and clarity that allow us to experience the vastness, the texture of life that is difficult to find anywhere else. It reaches out to us to reconnect with our innocent, younger, unvarnished selves without bias, without shame, without all the layers of our ego that we have developed to survive our childhood and the society we live in.

Nature doesn't care whether we think we are imperfect. Nature defines acceptance. All have an equal chance to enjoy a cool stream, to feel the green moss, or fall into a rocky ravine. The rhythms of life continue to flow regardless of our age, wealth, or identity. We become beautiful in Nature because we are allowed to define ourselves, by ourselves.

We don't get things from Nature, we are Nature. Nature is our family. It has nourished us for millions of years. Nurture your spirit – explore & enjoy the chaparral.



Manzanita

Wrentit

The Chaparral Primer

1. Chaparral plant communities **naturally cover large areas** with rich, dense shrublands that provide habitat for a wide diversity of species.
2. Chaparral thrives in a **Mediterranean-type climate** with hot dry summers and mild, wet winters.
3. **Old-growth chaparral** (over 60 years old) is an increasingly rare plant community that contributes to California's priceless biodiversity.
4. Large, high-intensity **fires 30 – 150 years apart** are the natural pattern in chaparral. More frequent fire can completely eliminate chaparral, converting it to weedy, non-native grassland.
5. There are **many types of chaparral** depending on the dominant shrub present, location, or soil type.

Please Join Us to discover fascinating, new ways to enjoy Nature, support our efforts to share Nature with others, and to celebrate California's most characteristic wilderness, ***the chaparral!***

___ **\$42 Student Naturalist:** Receive "Fire, Chaparral and Survival in Southern California" 2nd Edition.

___ **\$75 Chaparralian:** Receive book plus the DVD "Living with Fire."

___ **\$120 California Grizzly Bear:** All the above plus a special chaparral edition of the Journal *Fremontia*.

___ **\$240 Manzanita:** All above plus 1 ticket to our annual Iconoclastic Explorers event.

___ **\$600 Chaparral Guardian:** All above plus a second ticket to the Iconoclastic Explorers event.

Your Name: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please write your check to: California Chaparral Institute Mail to: CCI, P.O. Box 545, Escondido, CA, 92033



Nature is an incomparable guide if you know how to follow her.

- Carl Jung