Davis Botanical Society Spring Field Trip

Trees and Shrubs of Huckleberry Preserve

Sunday, February 26, 2012, 9 am to 5 pm

Trip leader: Ellen Dean

Sponsored by the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity

Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve is an ecological jewel. The native plant community represents a relict plant association found only in certain areas along California’s coast where ideal soil and climatic conditions exist. The plants originated in the distant past along the southern coast of California when the climate was more humid and tempered by the cool coastal fog. The rock strata exposed in the Preserve were laid down in a deep ocean basin and contain the remains of microscopic diatoms. Through time these beds have been subjected to uplift and folding and stand exposed as hard, brittle bands of chert and shale. The resulting soil is very low in nutritional value and favors pioneering chaparral species that tolerate harshness and colonize the most sterile, rocky knolls. It is on these barrens that the rare and endangered Alameda manzanita survives. In other parts of the preserve, the very rare shrub leatherwood occurs. We are hoping to see a number of woody plants in flower, including leatherwood, California hazelnut and currant. We will learn many other woody species along the way, including several genera and species in the heath and oak families.

Details: We will carpool. Meet at the parking lot across from the Arboretum headquarters at 9:00 am. Wear shoes comfortable for walking 2 miles in uneven, muddy, sloped and slippery terrain. Drive time is a bit over 1.5 hours. Bring fluids, lunch, snacks, hat, and a camera! Wear long pants and sleeves — there is poison oak at this location. The Huckleberry Trail loop is ca. 1.7 miles and covers shaded coastal forest as well as open chaparral. We will hike slowly, discussing the trees and shrubs and rare plants that we encounter. We will eat lunch along the loop.

Cost: $15.00 Davis Botanical Society members; $20.00 for non-members. Please contribute gas money if you ride in another’s car! Please indicate on this form if you can provide transportation.

Reservations made at the time payment is received: Call (530) 752 1091 (email eadean@ucdavis.edu) for more information. Due to the narrow trail, this trip is limited to 15 people. Please reserve a space by February 17.

Please make your check payable to “UC Regents” and mail to the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity, Plant Sciences Mail Stop 7, One Shields Ave., UC Davis, Davis, CA 95616. Please fill out the form below and return with your check.

Name(s):___________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address:____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone/email:______________________________________________________________ Amount enclosed:____________

Can you drive a car? If so, how many passengers can you take? ____________________________________________