

**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 and texture of life that is impossible to find anywhere else. Nature reaches out to help us rediscover our inner, undisguised selves without judgement.

Nature defines acceptance. Nature doesn't care about our looks or backgrounds. All have an equal chance to enjoy life, to hear the sounds, to smell the fragrances, to feel the gentle breeze. The rhythms of life continue to flow regardless of our age, wealth, or identity. We are beautiful in Nature because we are allowed the freedom to define ourselves rather than being defined by societal expectations.

Nature has nourished us for millions of years. Nature feels good because it's where we came from, where we evolved, where our senses emerged. Nature is our home, our hearth. Nurture yourself – 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 or more years apart** are the natural pattern in chaparral. More frequent fire can eliminate chaparral, converting it to a more flammable, weedy, non-native environment.
5. There are **many types of chaparral** depending on the dominant shrub present, the location, or type of soil.

**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” 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 the above plus a signed photo of a beautiful chaparral landscape.

\_\_\_ **\$600 Chaparral Guardian:** All the above plus one ticket to our annual 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