

MORE MESA PRESERVATION COALITION



MMPC e-Update

November 2016

You Can Help

Our base of supporters is approaching 900. let's try for an even 1000!



You can help by encouraging your relatives, family and friends to join this impressive group of people who fervently care about the last remaining coastal open space in urban Santa Barbara.

Send these folks a copy of this newsletter. They can click [here](#) to fill out the required information.

Please know that all contact information supplied to MMPC has always been, and will always be, held in the strictest of confidence

What's Happening With Potential Development?

All our sources seem to indicate that no development is currently being planned.

This Month on More Mesa

Coyote Bush ... A Generous Host

Amidst the brown and relatively barren plants suffering from our historic drought are several native plants that are doing remarkably well. These hardy natives are well adapted to our regularly occurring drought cycles, and have been for centuries. In addition to the Seacliff Buckwheat featured [this summer's issue](#), we present another native that is coping well ... the modest and unassuming Coyote Bush.

Coyote Bush is also known as Chaparral Broom, and Bush Baccharis. It grows throughout California's coastal ranges and Sierra Nevada foothills in several different habitats. Especially important for chaparral environments, this evergreen provides food, shelter and erosion control in scrubby areas with few large trees. *Sound like More Mesa?* Also, because of its large tap root system, it readily grows back, a feature especially important after a fire or flood. In fact, Coyote Bush is one of the first shrubs to reappear after other plants have disappeared, and for that reason, it is called a "pioneer" species.

Coyote Bush, a member of the sunflower family, is "leggy", in that its leaves are clustered at the ends of long, bare stems and branches. However this ordinary looking species is unlike most plants because it is dioecious; that is, male flowers (yellow) and female flowers (white) are

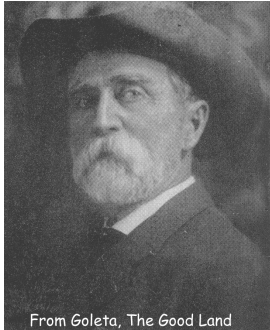


strictest of confidence

Thanks so much!

Valerie Olson
President, MMPC

It is the mission of the More Mesa Preservation Coalition, to preserve More Mesa, in its entirety, for all times. We've been at it since 2000.



From *Goleta, The Good Land*
John Findley More
... A Real Character

on separate plants. More importantly however, blooming occurs late in the season, generally from August through December, with plants all over More Mesa either recently bloomed or currently in bloom.



Female Coyote Bush in Bloom

Why is this important? Even though its flowers are relatively small, with its fall and winter blooming period, Coyote Bush provides important late-season nectar and nutrient sources for over-wintering insects. In fact, a famous and monumental 1951 study of this shrub identified over 291 species dependent upon Coyote Bush. **What a host!**

Finally, while filling the important role described above, the humble and unassuming Coyote Bush manages to flourish and thrive in a wide range of challenging conditions, including poor soil and little water. To top it all Coyote Bush is best suited to areas with full sun. In other words, **"It's perfect for More Mesa!"**

We are indebted to Jim Adams and the Granada Native Garden in Livermore California for information on the Coyote Bush. For more fun facts about this important native, visit the February 2014 [Granada Native Gardens Newsletter](#).

[The Past - More on John Findley More ... a Real Character!](#)

Last month we talked about the various legends and stories surrounding the opinionated, irascible and eccentric John Findley More, the last owner of More Mesa with the name "More". The story below is also courtesy of "Goleta, the Good Land" by Walker Tompkins.

A local handyman was seeking work on the More Ranch and on his way to ask for a job, when he encountered an unshaven, poorly dressed man pulling turnips from a More Ranch vegetable patch. This was not an unusual occurrence, as in the "old days". the Southern Pacific Railroad crossed the More Ranch and the "knights of the road" were often tempted to hop off the cars to pilfer the vegetables, fruit, eggs and chickens that were so readily accessible on the ranch. Thinking that perhaps the hobo might also be looking for work, the handyman mentioned that Mr. More was hiring. However, he added that Mr. More was thought to be a tough S.O.B. (Surly Old Buzzard) who never told you what your wages would be, but did pay generously. The tramp agreed the John More had a reputation for being a cranky S.O.B but did not seem interested in a job. They each went their separate ways.



"Old" Southern Pacific Tracks Went Thru the More Ranch

Later that day, after the handyman had been hired, he saw the turnip-stealing hobo coming out of one of the Ranch's poultry houses with a fat chicken. Outraged, the new employee marched the hobo to the ranch foreman, told of the theft and offered to take the thief to the Constable. The ranch foreman was aghast, "He's not a hobo, he's your boss, John More!"

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