

# The Franciscan Flora

From afar, many people don't realize that San Bruno Mountain is a botanical wonderland. Its diverse mosaic of native plant communities makes it the most significant and intact remnant of the Franciscan Bioregion. Those who take a walk on the mountain are captivated by the beauty of its native flora—those who live on the mountain are intertwined in its plant-powered web of life.



*Western Sword Fern*



*Hedge Nettle*



*Creek Dogwood*



*California Hazelnut*



*California Buckeye*



*Coast Live Oak*



The undulating topography of the mountain channels water through a network of lushly vegetated creeks and wet meadows.



Woodlands shade the cool depths of the mountain's north-facing canyons.



*Toyon*



*Hummingbird Sage*



*Poison Oak*



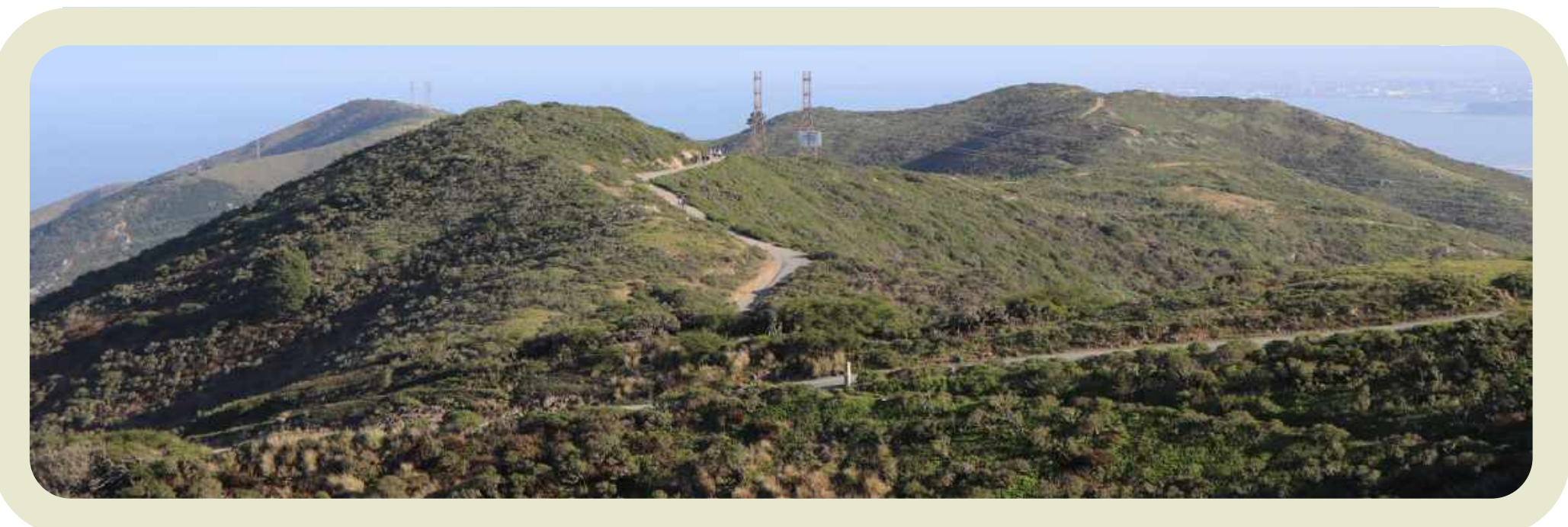
*Wild Hyacinth*



*Yarrow*



*Farewell to Spring*



Coastal scrub provides wildlife with abundant food—leaves, seeds, berries and blossoms.



Grasslands, while golden during the dry season, abound with masses of wildflowers in the spring.



*Beach Blue Lupine*



*Seaside Buckwheat*



*Sea Pink*



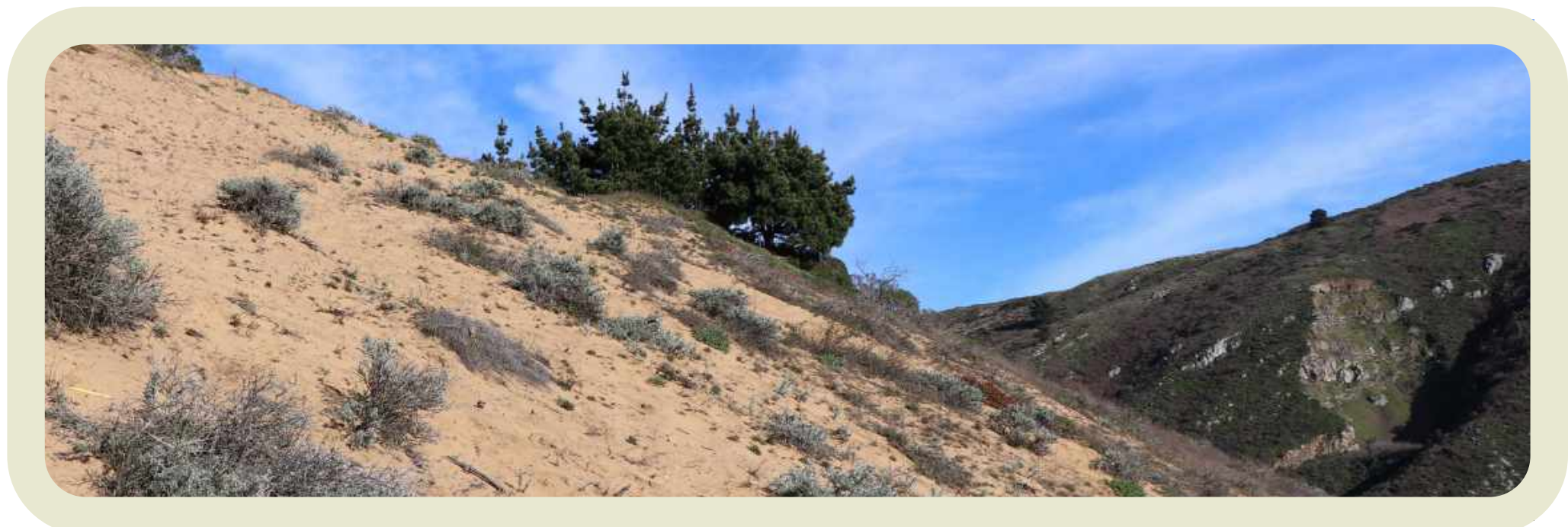
*California Huckleberry*



*San Bruno Mountain Manzanita*



*Blue Blossom Ceanothus*



Over 100,000 years ago, during an interglacial period, high sea levels lapped against the mountain—dune vegetation grows on the sandy deposits left behind when the water receded.



Fog from the Pacific Ocean gushes over the ridges of San Bruno Mountain. Maritime chaparral survives on the extra moisture provided by this wet sea breeze.

*All photographs by Ariel Cherbowsky Corkidi*