CalNat Assignment ~ Class 4

Chapter 4 – Plants

1. Plant forms: What distinguishes a tree from a shrub, and an herbaceous plant from trees and shrubs? What is a liana?

2. Draw a generic plant with the following parts:

a. Stem

b. Buds

c. Bracts

d. Leaves

e. Generic flower, with labeled parts.

3. Pollination and seeds:

a. What ways do plants transfer pollen from one plant to another?

b. What are four ways that plants disperse their seeds to new locations?

4. “Plant communities” are a human construct, but useful because we lump plants by general habitat requirements, and are able to expect a generic set of plants under given conditions.

a. What factors influence habitat types?

b. What are the generalized characteristics of and threats to the following community types?

i. Grasslands

ii. Freshwater marshes

iii. Oak woodlands

iv. Coniferous forests

5. How do plants adapt to deal with the drought conditions of the Mediterranean climate off CA?

6. What are two key adaptations some California plants have to fires?

7. What makes invasive species problematic to California landscapes? What are some examples of problem species?

8. Explore your yard. What Mediterranean or CA native plants do you have?

On-going evaluation:

• What has worked well so far in the California Naturalist course at SSI?

• Opportunities for change?

• Anything else?