



Welcome to the **32nd Annual Wild Flower Hotline**, brought to you by the Theodore Payne Foundation, a non-profit plant nursery, seed source, book store, and education center dedicated to the preservation of wild flowers and California native plants. This a report for **May 23, 2014**. New reports will be posted each Friday through the end of May.

It is Memorial Day weekend. Let's all get outdoors and see some of the season's last blooming beauties!

If you are planning to stick close to home this weekend, hike some of the trails in [Griffith Park](#) to enjoy some of the local wild flower favorites. Along Zoo drive, some California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) are still popping alongside a few remaining Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*) and farewell to spring (*Clarkia unguiculata*). The Zoo parking lot is full of blooming California bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*) and a variety of salvias, including white sage (*Salvia apiana*) and Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*), which are particularly aromatic right now. The hillsides around the zoo are splashed with the orange of monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*) and showy white and creamy sprays of California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) and Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*).



Elegant Clarkia (*Clarkia unguiculata*) Photo by Michael Charters

The Canyon View Trail at Circle X Ranch in the [Santa Monica Mountains](#) has some late blooming annual wild flowers and some of our glorious bulbs (*Calochortus* sp.)

A report from a couple who drove Hwy 33, from Hwy 166 south to Ojai this week reported a great variety of blooming flowers and shrubs. Seems to be a little pocket of lush greenery and bloom in dry Southern California.

If you want to take a little hike on a cool morning, [Stough Canyon Nature Center](#) is a nice environment to do just that. Along your walk, you will see bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*), sticky-leaf monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*), and Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) just beginning to bloom. Right now the copious white flowers of California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) splashes the gentle slopes like sea foam.

The best bloom along the Angeles Crest Hwy, Big and Little Tujunga Canyon Roads in the [Angeles National Forest](#), is above 4,000 ft. in elevation. Chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*) are showy with their tall spires of white flowers towering above the vegetation. There are still ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp.) and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* spp.) flowering around 5,000 ft. You will see honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata*) branches cascading out between the other shrubby species. Patches of the Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*) are spectacular in places. Bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*), scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*), sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), dudleya (*Dudleya* sp.) and bright pink prickly phlox (*Leptodactylon californicum*) also can be seen along the roadsides and rocky outcrops.

[Placerita Canyon Nature Center](#) is a great get-away for the family. The Ecology Trail holds quite a display of blooming chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*). The woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) are abundant and there are numerous bright yellow slender stem sunflowers (*Helianthus gracilentus*). The holly leaf cherries (*Prunus illicifolia*) are beginning to form their cherry-like fruit. Hillsides are covered with the lavender flowering yerba santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolius*) and common phacelia (*Phacelia distans*). Branches of the heart-leaf penstemon (*Keckiella cordifolia*) drape over the trail. Scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*), monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), and golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*) are bright yellow and red. California wild rose (*Rosa californica*), cliff aster (*Malacothrix saxatilis*), and dudleyas (*Dudleya* sp.) are now just starting to bloom.

At [Hungry Valley SVRA](#), some of the best poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) viewing can be found via Badger trail, Power Line Road and Stipa Trail. Grape soda lupine (*Lupinus excubitus*) shows up sporadically with the poppies creating a feast for the eyes. One of the standouts this year is Spencer primrose (*Camissonia ignota*). This bright yellow flower covers large sections of the hillside along Powerline Rd. Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja chromosa*), Davy's gilia (*Gilia latiflora* ssp. *davyi*) and chia (*Salvia columbariae*) grow alongside Condor trail with beautiful blue-purple areas consisting entirely of chia and globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*). A few Mariposa lilies (*Calochortus venustus*) can be found as you head

up to Condor Mesa. On the mesa, more Spencer primrose and poppies are found with a light sprinkling of chia and wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitata*). Turning west on Power Line from Wheatfield Trail areas of desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*), desert tidy tips (*Layia glandulosa*), coreopsis (*Leptosyne californica*) and Fremont pincushion (*Chaenactis fremontii*) are fading, but still around. Lacy phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*) is seen throughout the southern grasslands and beautiful when mixed with the poppies. Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja chromosa*), prickly poppy (*Argemone corymbosa*), thistle sage (*Salvia carduaceae*) and tidy tips can be found along Schmidt Ranch Road, and after the turn on to Maxey Ranch Rd. desert Mariposa (*Calochortus kennedyi*) stand out with their intense orange red color. More are found beside Maxey Ranch Rd. en route to the Oak Woodland Natural Preserve. The preserve is a serene place to walk and commune with ancient Oak trees. With a natural spring nearby and shade from the oaks, wildlife or their tracks can often be found here. Scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*) fans will find quite a few of these along the wood rail fence at the entrance to Smithforks Campground from Gold Hill Rd. Free guide brochures are provided at kiosks as you enter the park, be sure to ask for one. This self-guided tour begins at the north entrance area Visitor's Center. Golden Poppies on pale blue signs mark the route. The brochure provides a map to help you stay on track and information on our most prevalent wildflowers. OHV traffic on the trails can be busy on spring weekends. Weekdays are recommended for leisurely viewing of the colorful flower displays. The district office phone line can give you updated information at (661) 248-7007 or check this web page before visiting the park. Admission to the park is \$5



Scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*). Photo by David Stith

There is a wild flower show and festival in Idyllwild this weekend. In the [San Jacinto Mountains](#) there is a trail that is in some areas not well maintained, but passable with care. Go for the interesting flora and be rewarded. The trail is the Webster Trail west of Pine Cove. At the trail head there are some very photogenic fields of scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*) in full bloom. You will be delighted by the number of hummingbirds seen here. Baby blue-eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) are quite pretty in patches along the trail. The dainty woodland star (*Lithophragma affine*) is also very nice in spots. You will be surprised at the thickets of California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) as well. Along a coupe of spots, the air is saturated with aroma of the surrounding California bay trees (*Umbellularia californica*). And finally, you will be rewarded with a peak bloom of blue larkspur (*Delphinium parryi* ssp. *parryi*).

[Descanso Gardens](#), Around the El Portal structure and entrance to the Native Garden look for California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), brittlebush (*Encelia californica*), coral bells (*Heuchera* spp. and cultivars),. In the desert section of the native plant displays look for these lovely flowering plants: Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), sages (*Salvia* spp.) and woolly blue-curls (*Trichostema lanatum*), Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), . Throughout the garden, look for lilac verbena (*Verbena lilacina*), and monkeyflower cultivars in red, pink, yellow orange. (*Mimulus* spp.) Also photo-worthy with mom nearby are Island mallow (*Lavatera assurgentiflora*), bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*), mock orange (*Philadelphus lewsi*), firecracker penstemon (*Penstemon eatonii*), foothill penstemon (*Penstemon heterophylla*) and showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*).

Mock orange (*Philadelphus lewsi*) disperses a wonderful fragrance along the trails at Rancho [Santa Ana Botanic Garden](#). The Humboldt lilies (*Lilium humboldtii*) are also lighting up the dark shade under oaks. Heart-leaf penstemon (*Keckiella cordifolia*) and bush penstemon (*Keckiella antirrhnoildes*) are flowering along side many woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*). Don't forget to visit the Butterfly Pavilion at the garden as well.



Owl's clover (*Castilleja* sp) at ELC. Photo by George Nanoski

The Vernal Pool Complex Garden at [Elizabeth Learning Center](#) is just glorious now with a full complement of rare flowers. Look for prostrate navarretia (*Navarretia prostrata*) and Otay Mesa mint (*Pogogyne nudiscula*). owl's clover (*Castilleja* sp). Around the pools are gum plant (*Grindelia* sp.), sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), Arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*). The school's desert and chaparral habitat gardens also have dozens of flowering species including chia (*Salvia columbariae*), milkweed (*Asclepias* sp.), apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), and bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*). The pretty desert lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*) and blue palo verde (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) stand above these desert beauties. Look for the spectacular Matilija poppies (*Romneya coulteri*), desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), and white sage (*Salvia apiana*). There are many other flowering species. Try to visit this school garden before the end of the academic year. Visitors are welcome weekdays from 8am - 4:30pm. The school is located on Elizabeth Street in Cudahy between Atlantic and Wilcox. Park in the teacher parking lot and check in as a guest at the Main Office.

That's it for this week. Look for our next report on **Friday, May 30** and check back next week for the last report of the season.

NATIVE PLANT & WILD FLOWER EVENTS:

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont (rsabg.org) **Weekend Wildflower Walks** Meet us at the Admission Kiosk for guided walking tour with nature interpreters. Tours begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Placerita Canyon Nature Center The Blooms of the Season hike is Saturday, May 24, 9:30 am.

Wildflower Show in Idyllwild, San Jacinto Mountains. Many events over the weekend. May 34-26.