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 29, 2015**. This is the last report of the 2015 season.

We are coming to the end of the wild flower season. I sincerely hope you have been able to get out and enjoy the rare sightings of wild flowers this year. Check out the reports below for trails in the local San Gabriel, Santa Ana and San Jacinto mountains and two urban gardens for a final outing this weekend.

The field reporter who sent this in decided to be smart and study precipitation maps, looking for wet spots in a generally dry region before going on a hike. They ended up going to the part of the Pacific Crest Trail that winds around the Angeles Crest Highway (Route 2) near Mount Waterman in the [San Gabriel Mountains](http://www.sanembassy.com). North of Rt. 2, on the cooler, shadier side of the crest of the mountain range, and hiking up the Pacific Crest Trail, close to a barely existent creek, you may encounter, yes(!), a snow plant (**Sarcodes sanguinea**), San Gabriel linanthus (**Linanthus cocinnus**), and patches of baby-blue eyes (**Nemophila menzeisii**).

Snow plant (**Sarcodes sanguinea**) above and San Gabriel linanthus (**Linanthus cocinnus**) below. Photos by Irina Shchipanova.
Upper Trabuco Canyon Trail in the **Santa Ana Mountains** has some splendid blooms now. East of the community of El Cariso along Ortega Highway (State Route 74) turn onto North Main Divide Road. This road is paved as it travels and meets Long Canyon Road, which travels by Falcon Group Camp and Blue Jay Campground, then makes a steep descent and returns to Ortega Highway. At the junction of North Main Divide and Long Canyon Roads, North Main Divide continues as an unpaved, rutted, truck trail that is impassable by standard passenger vehicles. One needs a bit of clearance, tires with good traction, and some low-gear power to successfully make it to the trailhead. On the paved North Main Divide Road, you can see slender-leaf sunflower (*Helianthus gracilentus*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), morning glory (*Calystegia macrostegia*), bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*), and chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*). Also punctuating the route is monkeyflower (*Diplacus longiflorus*), a pale yellow to yellow-orange-flowered monkeyflower. There are also Indian pink (*Silene laciniata*) and golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*). Just before the junction with Long Canyon Road is a roadside seep, thick with peak-flowering stream orchid (*Epipactis gigantea*). After leaving the pavement and driving up unpaved North Main Divide Road, the adjacent south-facing slopes normally thick with lupines, such as grape soda lupine (*Lupinus excubitus*) and assorted annual species, was dry. Park at the trailhead for Trabuco and Los Pinos Trails. At the trailhead, there is a small stand of showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*). Heading downhill along the Trabuco Canyon Trail which is largely shaded by Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*), canyon oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), and big cone Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*) you will notice numerous individuals of Eastwood manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa*) in fruit. Sticky cinquefoil (*Drymocallis glandulosa*) is abundant along the trail, as was heart-leaf bush snapdragon (*Keckiella cordifolia*). In two places were small patches of many-flowered linanthus (*Leptosiphon floribundus ssp. floribundus*), known for its lovely white flowers with an unpleasant scent.

At the mouth of a small side canyon is a dense population of Shelton’s violet (*Viola sheltonii*), the lowest-elevation site for it in this range. It undergoes in-bud fertilization (cleistogamy) and the plants there had produced several fruits on their way to burst with seeds. At a sunny elbow of the first switchback, there is a patch of California