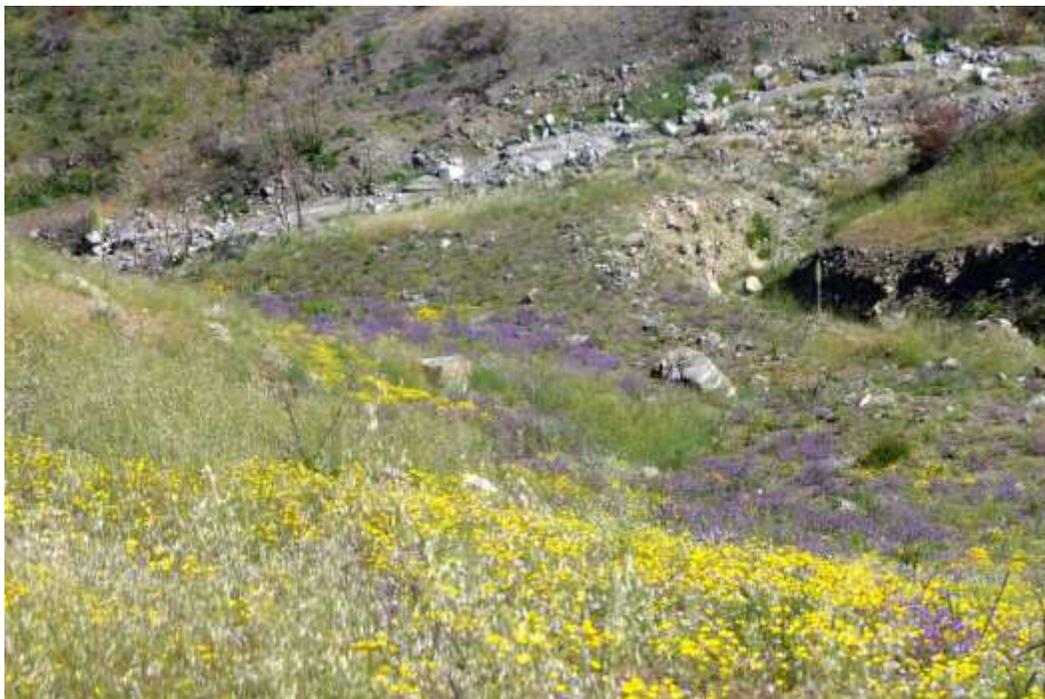




Theodore Payne Foundation, a non-profit plant nursery, seed source, book store, and education center dedicated to the preservation of wild flowers and California native plants. This is a report for **April 28th, 2017**. New reports will be posted each Friday through the end of May.

Start getting in shape. You will now have to hike at elevations above 4000 ft. to get to the good stuff! The deserts and lowlands are drying or done, but there is still a lot of flowering occurring in our chaparral and mountain forests.

In the Cajon Pass region, southeast of Wrightwood, there is a burn area from Lost Lake up Swarthout Canyon to the National Forest. Walk along a Forest Service road and you will see a recovering chaparral. Among the many resprouting chaparral shrubs are chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon trichocalyx*), bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), holly-leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *ilicifolia*), scrub oak (*Quercus john-tuckeri*), basket bush (*Rhus aromatica*) and riparian trees sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), and Arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*). Only the bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*) was in glorious bloom. Many common perennials and annuals are blooming in good stands and include wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitata*), three phacelias—common phacelia, caterpillar phacelia, and California bluebells (*Phacelia distans*, *P. cicutaria*, *P. minor*), common and prickly cryptanthas (*Cryptantha intermedia*, *C. muricata*), and a little blazing star (*Mentzelia* sp.). Especially nice are Coulter's snapdragon (*Antirrhinum coulterianum*) and scattered Martin's paintbrush (*Castellja applegatei* ssp. *martinii*), and some hillsides are covered with blooming foothill poppy (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*). Nice recovery!





Lone Pine Canyon burn site. Photos by Tom Chester.

In the front range of the [San Gabriel Mountains](#), just north of Sierra Madre and Arcadia, there is the 9.5 mile Zion loop (out of Chantry Flat) with a lovely diversity of flowers. Wild Canterbury bells are in great masses, along with branching phacelia and large-flowered phacelia (*Phacelia minor*, *P. ramosissima*, *P. grandiflora*). Yellow and sticky monkeyflowers (*Diplacus* [*Mimulus*] *brevipes*, *D. aurantiacus*), are among the yellow beacons, and milkmaids (*Cardamine californica*) are still in flower in protected areas. Other white flowers that brighten the landscape include woodland stars (*Lithophragma affine*), popcorn flowers (*Cryptantha* spp.), California chicory (*Rafinesquia californica*), wild cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*), and California everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*). All sorts of color is splashed around as well; blue larkspur (*Delphinium parishii*), the golden-orange western wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*), yellow California sun cups and intermediate sun cups (*Camissoniopsis bistorta*, *C. intermedia*), poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*), golden stars (*Bloomeria crocea*), and baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*). Pink canyon sweet pea (*Lathyrus vestitus*) climbs on and among various shrubs like chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) and holly-leaf cherry (*Prunus illicifolia*). The color purple is represented by nightshade (*Solanum* sp.), wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*), rock-cress (*Arabis* sp.) and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*).



Woodland star (*Lithophragma affine*). Photo by Michael Charters.

The Mishe Mokwa loop at Circle X Ranch in the [Santa Monica Mountains NRA](#) is a nice hike that takes you through different habitats and the plants that inhabit them. From the Mishe Mokwa trailhead to the Backbone Trail, then to Sandstone Peak and Split Rock, returning to the parking lot, is about 6 miles. At the trailhead, one is immediately struck by the number of butterfly Mariposa lilies (*Calochortus venustus*), along trail edges and grassy patches. Contrasting to the delicate flowers is the bold blooming Chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*). The familiar chaparral beauties are also decked out in colorful blossoms, and include yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), popcorn flower (*Cryptantha* sp.), California chicory (*Rafenesquia californica*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), star lily (*Toxicoscordion fremontii*), climbing snapdragon (*Antirrhinum kelloggii*) and yellow monkey flower (*Diplacus [Mimulus] brevipes*). Toward Sandstone Peak, the chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) is in bloom, along with sticky monkey flower (*Diplacus [Mimulus] aurantiacus*), collarless poppies (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*), and beautiful bush lupines (*Lupinus excubitus*). On the trail up to Sandstone Peak, there are bright displays of blooming phlox (*Linanthus californicus*). Walking from Sandstone Peak to Split Rock there are blooming globe gilia (*Gilia capitatum*), larkspur (*Delphinium* sp.), yellow pin cushion (*Chaenactis glabriuscula*) and owl's clover (*Castilleja erecta*). Approaching Split Rock, you might still find some flowering ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp.), and returning back to the trailhead you will find pretty little woodland star (*Lithophragma affine*), Parry's phacelia (*Phacelia parryi*), shiny lomatium (*Lomatium lucidum*), masses of wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*) and maybe even a chocolate lily (*Fritillaria biflora*).



Prickly phlox (*Linanthus californicus*). Photo by Dorothy Steinicke

On [Figueroa Mt. Road in the Los Padres National Forest](#), starting at the first cattle guard to the Davy Brown trailhead, many of the flowers are dwindling, but the few that are still in bloom include Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*), chalk dudley (*Dudleya pulverulenta*), wallflowers (*Erysimum capitatum*) a handful of mariposa lilies (*Calochortus* sp.), California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*), sky lupine (*Lupinus nanus*), globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), and wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitata*). From Ranger Peak to Cachuma Saddle, the chaparral-covered slopes are in bloom with bush lupine (*Lupinus excubitus*)—spectacular by the way—and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*), bush poppies (*Dendromecon rigida*) and monkeyflowers (*Diplacus [Mimulus] aurantiacus*). Look for patches of bright red paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.) and scarlet bugler

(*Penstemon centranthifolius*). Black sage (*Salvia mellifera*) is in full bloom as you continue along this area. Sunset Valley still has goldfields (*Lasthenia* sp.), yellow poppies (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*), popcorn flower (*Cryptantha* spp.), coreopsis (*Leptosyne* sp.), and Chinese houses. As you start going down the hill toward Davy Brown, the bush poppies continue to paint the hilltops in yellow, along with sticky leaf monkeyflowers. Bright pink prickly phlox (*Linanthus californicus*) dots the slopes and rocky outcrops, along with Mexican elderberry, globe gilia and scarlet bugler. From the Davy Brown Campground to NIRA Campground, add the lovely Nuttall's larkspur (*Delphinium nuttallii*) and elegant clarkia and wine cup clarkia (*Clarkia unguiculata*, *C. purpurea*) to your flower checklist. Returning from Sunset Valley and continuing on Happy Canyon Road, look for Coulter lupine (*Lupinus coulteri*), poppies, globe gilia, Nuttall's and Parish's larkspur, golden yarrow, sticky leaf monkeyflower, and bush poppy. On some of the rocky walls, you will also see whimsical fairy lanterns (*Calochortus albus*).

The super bloom at [Carrizo Plain National Monument](#) is done or will be very soon. There are still a few spotty but faded slopes of hillside daisy (*Monolopia lanceolata*) along with a few patches of later blooming species; and some special gypsum-loving larkspur (*Delphinium gypsophilum*) on Overlook Hill. If you want to come for big wild flower displays, best to wait until next year. But if you are a focused botany enthusiast able to find interesting things without the distraction of the knock-your-socks-off color in the landscape, then there might be something of interest to you still. It was wonderful while it lasted.



Gypsum-loving larkspur (*Delphinium gypsophilum*). Photo by Michael Charters

A few more poppies are being seen at [Hungry Valley SVRA](#) in the grasslands near the north entrance and along the freeway frontage road between Gorman and Quail Lake

Road .Heading into the park from the north will take you past some nice bush lupine (*Lupinus excubitus*) and the sunflower-looking balsam root (*Balsamorhiza* sp.). The fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.) that have faded in the grasslands are still in much of the valley floor, adding a golden hue to the yellow landscape. The desert lantern (*Oenothera deltoides*) is making a show with their big white flowers mostly fully open at dawn and dusk. The desert sage (*Salvia dorrii*) is in full bloom along the S curves near Smith Forks and on the road toward Piru Creek, along with the bright red scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*) are being seen. More and more of the yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) are blooming and are starting to put on a show between Aliklik and Lane Ranch campgrounds. Come out for the last Red Sticker week to get your rides in, and enjoy the wildflowers while you are here!

The trails winding through the [Placerita Canyon Natural Area](#) are in full, native chaparral glory. You really shouldn't miss seeing the vegetation that makes Southern California unique. Blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*), flowering ash (*Fraxinus dipetela*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), deerweed (*Acmispon glabra*), holly-leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), sugarbush (*Rhus ovata*), Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon* sp.) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) are in various stages of bloom. The fragrance of black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) and Southern honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata*) fill the warm air. Sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus [Mimulus] aurantiacus*), purple nightshade (*Solanum xantii*), common phacelia (*Phacelia distans*), yellow pincushion (*Chaenactis glabriuscula*), whispering bells (*Emmenanthe penduliflora*), scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*) and wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*) add color to the chaparral palette.

At [Joshua Tree National Park](#), there are regions within the vast landscape, especially in the northern portion, that are really good for wildflower viewing. Check out the areas around Skull Rock, Keys View, Hidden Valley, Indian Cove and Wilson Campground. In the southern portion off the I-10, the carpets of annual wildflowers are gone, but for a few pockets of them in the washes. However, the sunny desert brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), red hot flowering ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*), creosote (*Larrea tridentata*) and various cacti are still brilliant. One can find a great diversity of flowering plants, if you are willing to hike a little to get close and enjoy. They include: desert senna (*Senna armata*), scale bud (*Anisocoma acaulis*), sand blazing star (*Mentzelia involucreta*), wishbone bush (*Mirabilis* sp.), pincushion (*Chaenactis* sp.), Canterbury bells (*Phacelia campanularia*), and in sandy spots, purple mat (*Nama demissum*), desert star (*Monoptilon bellioides*), Schott's calico (*Loeseliastrum schottii*), woolly eriophyllum (*Eriophyllum wallacei*). Mojave yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) and many, many cacti are looking especially nice now.

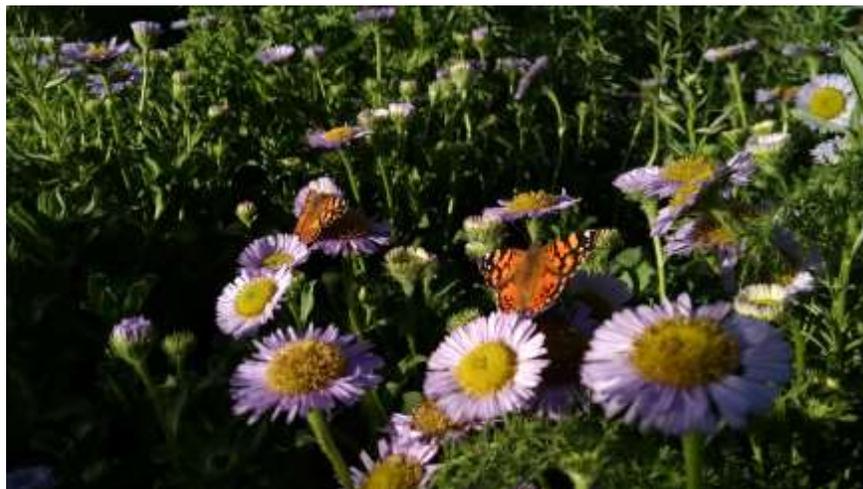
[Descanso Gardens](#) in La Canada Flintridge is awash in sensory delights. California buckeye trees (*Aesculus californica*) are heavy with fragrant flowers throughout the native garden area along with an understory of beautiful blooming Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*). The scent of sweet sage fills the air as you walk by the pitcher sage (*Lepechinia fragrans*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*) and white sage (*Salvia apiana*). Monkeyflowers (*Diplacus [Mimulus] aurantiacus* and *D puniceus*), desert marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*), and apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*) are flashing their yellow, orange and red colors everywhere. The Oak Woodland garden is blanketed still

with California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), with globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*) and birds-eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*) popping up among them.



California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*). Photo by Michael Viramontes

At the [Environmental Nature Center](#) in Newport Beach, the California buckeye trees (*Aesculus californica*) are blooming and they are stunning! The pathways that guide you through the different plant habitats of Southern California display equally stunning flannel bush (*Fremontodendron* sp.), woolly blue-curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) and the very fragrant mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*). Other fragrant and colorful beauties dotting the grounds are desert mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), Baja desert rose (*Rosa minutiflora*), and purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*). Showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*) is living up to its name with its neon blues, along with its cousin foothill penstemon (*Penstemon heterophyllus*). Seaside daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*) joins the showy-blue club. California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) are everywhere and the lovely, chaparral mallow (*Malacothamnus fasciculatus*) decorates the pathways with subtle lavender and grey colors. Nice visit. Lots to see.



Seaside daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*). Photo by Michael Viramontes

Elizabeth Learning Center continues to offer up a kaleidoscope of rare beauties! Look for Hoover's calicoflower (*Downingia bella*), toothed calicoflower (*Downingia cuspidata*), vernal popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys undulatus*), Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*), San Diego button celery (*Eryngium aristulatum parishii*), spreading navarratia (*Navarretia fossalis*), hairy waterclover (*Marsilea vestita*), woolly marbles (*Psilocarphus brevissimus*), Otay Mesa mint (*Pogogyne nudiuscula*), San Diego mesa mint (*Pogogyne abramsii*), thread-leaf brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*), dense-flowered spike primrose (*Epilobium densiflorum*) and Sanford's arrowhead (*Sagittaria sanfordii*). Blooming in the uplands are Lindley's blazing star (*Mentzelia lindleyi*), Mojave tarplant (*Deinandra mohavensis*), bluehead gilia (*Gilia capitata*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), clustered tarweed (*Deinandra fasciculata*), owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*), Orcutt's birdbeak (*Dicranostegia orcuttiana*), saw-toothed goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*) and lots of california poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*). In their Desert garden, catsclaw (*Senegalia greggii*) is especially showy!

Other blooms at Elizabeth Learning Center include Baja vizcaino (*Viscainoa geniculata*), prince's plume (*Stanleya pinnata*), apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), desert lavender (*Condea [Hyptis] emoryi*), wishbone bush (*Mirabilis laevis villosa*), showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*), Emory's rock daisy (*Perityle emoryi*), Spanish needle (*Palafoxia arida*), birds-eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*), beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*), Mojave suncups (*Camissonia campestris*), desert plantain (*Plantago ovata*), skeleton milkweed (*Asclepias subulata*), desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*), desert marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*), five-needle pricklyleaf (*Thymophylla pentachaeta*), red and yellow flowering chuparosa (*Justicia californica*) and climbing milkweed (*Funastrum cynanchoides hartwegii*). As there is no such thing as too many wildflowers, E.L.C.'s Chaparral Garden adds to the show with prolific Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), San Diego thornleaf goldeneye (*Viguiera laciniata*) woolly Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja foliolosa*), Orcutt's hazardia (*Hazardia orcuttii*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), sacred thorn apple (*Datura wrightii*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), blue palo verde (*Cercidium floridum*), chaparral honeysuckle (*Lonicera interrupta*), Santa Cruz Island buckwheat (*Eriogonum arborescens*), Santa Barbara Island live-forever (*Dudleya traskiae*), Island bush poppy (*Dendromecon harfordii*), desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), palo blanco (Baja) (*Lysiloma candidum*), Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), wine cup clarkia (*Clarkia purpurea*) and pink fairyduster (*Calliandra eriophylla*)! Visit Elizabeth Learning Center during school hours by checking in at the Main Office. The school is located on Elizabeth Street between Atlantic and Wilcox Avenues in Cudahy.



San Diego mesa mint (*Pogogyne abramsii*). Photo by George Nanoski

That's it for this week. Look for our next report on **Friday, May 5th** and check back each Friday for the most up to date information on southern and central California wildflowers.

If you would like to be a wildflower reporter send your information about wildflower blooms and their location to flowerhotline@theodorepayne.org by Tuesday of each week when blooms of note occur.

NATIVE PLANT & WILDFLOWER EVENTS:

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, www.rsabg.org

Wildflower Walks, Weekends through April 30

Saturdays, 10 am; Sundays, 1 pm; free with admission or membership

Bird LA Day, www.birdla.org. Saturday, May 6. Dozens of activities, most free and family friendly, including four free events at Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley, www.theodorepayne.org – RSVPs requested at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/theodore-payne-foundation-6606817237>

Environmental Nature Center, Newport Beach.

Spring Faire, May 7, 10 am – 3 pm.