



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 **April 7, 2017**. New reports will be posted each Friday through the end of May.

We'll take a break from the deep Eastern and Southern California deserts this week (although they are still looking great) and focus on Carrizo Plain and the Antelope Valley, where one can experience a glut of flowers!

"I've never seen it like this before!" "An embarrassment of floral riches!" "Savor the overdose of flowers that was your day!" Just a few exclamations from recent visitors to the [Carrizo Plain National Monument](#), which started peaking last week and is now absolutely stunning! Peak bloom will likely last for at least the next few weeks, depending on weather conditions, of course. Around Soda Lake there are robust patches of valley phacelia (*Phacelia ciliata*), owl's clover (*Castilleja exerta*)—don't forget to seek out the albino owl's clover— and orange fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.) with a good display, too, of baby-blue-eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) on Overlook Hill. On the road to the Goodwin Education Center, there are patches of phacelia, goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*), and hillside daisy (*Monolopia lanceolata*). Daisies so dense, a visitor claims, "it's like looking into the sun." South of the Education Center on Soda Lake Road, there are large patches of hillside daisy and goldfields in full yellow-orange bloom. This colorful scene is repeated on the way to the Selby Campground along with large patches of goldenbush (*Ericarmeria* sp.), and the electric blue-purple bush lupine (*Lupinus* sp.). At the south end of Soda Lake Road, the famous "purple patch" of bush lupine is back in full swing. Elkhorn Road has been a closed county road but should be open at this time. There are reports of widespread desert candle (*Caulanthus inflatus*), along with the ubiquitous hillside daisy in the Temblor Range. On Simmler Road, there are great spots for tidy-tips and tick seed (*Coreopsis*), and throughout the Monument, other displays of tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), red maids (*Calindrinia menziesii*), blazing star (*Mentzelia pectinata*), and cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*) in showy huge splashes of color. Also look for the pink crinkled onion (*Allium crispum*), Parry's mallow (*Eremalche parryi*), also pink sky lupine (*Lupinus nanus*) and recurved larkspur (*Delphinium recurvatum*). Many rare and endangered species are doing well this year, such as the California jewel flower (*Caulanthus californicus*). When visiting Carrizo Plain National Monument, please remember to bring plenty of food, water, gas, and clothes for changing weather conditions. There are some private property in-holdings in the monument. When exploring the Monument respect private property. Elkhorn Road is not recommended for low clearance vehicles and crosses a more remote section of the Monument, so please be prepared. Please keep in mind: Panorama is a closed road, and Simmler road is impassable when wet (potential rain next weekend) and not great for passenger cars.



Carrizo Plain National Monument. Photos by George Nanoski.

Visit anywhere in the Western Mojave and be impressed with the colorful palette of wildflowers. Stopping on highways and going on unpaved roads can be hazardous though. So please take caution. Enjoy, but be prepared for any eventuality--especially getting stuck in soft sand or soil.

At the [Antelope Valley California Poppy State Natural Reserve](#), the poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) are blooming well on the east half of the park! They suddenly exploded into color and can even be seen from across the valley! The fantastic bloom

has spilled over into many nearby areas outside the park and into the entire valley; and north into Kern County around Kernville and east to [Red Rock Canyon State Park](#), which is wildly colorful with a spectacular wildflower bloom and awesome landscape features.



Desert candle (*Caulanthus inflatus*). Photo by George Nanoski.

Desert candle (*Caulanthus inflatus*) is out in full force in California City, and can easily be seen in the desert on both sides of the road. Their name desert candle describes them perfectly! The tallest seen so far are claimed to be seen on California City Blvd. More can be found on the way to the Desert Tortoise Reserve. Goldfields (*Lasthenia* sp.) are in carpets throughout the desert. These are dispersed among more carpets of coreopsis (*Leptosyne bigelovii*), Parry's linanthus (*Linanthus parryae*), and thistle sage (*Salvia carduacea*). Dotted throughout are thousands of wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*). Drive to Ridgecrest via California City, Red Rock/Randsburg Cutoff (runs into SR 14, Garlock, and 395), and the entire drive is flecked with patches of goldfields, Fremont pincushion (*Chaenactis fremontii*), desert trumpet (*Eriogonum inflatum*), indigo bush (*Psoralea sp.*), Mojave aster (*Xylorhiza*

tortifolia), desert chicory (*Rafinesquia neomexicana*), notchleaf phacelia (*Phacelia crenulata*), and desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*). This landscape flows from hillsides that have a yellow hue. Once on 395, one field reporter says, “the yellow on the landscape is splashed, running, and covering as if yellow paint buckets had been thrown down and about from the heavens.”

While poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) are in full bloom just about everywhere in the Antelope Valley, they are barely starting at [Hungry Valley SVRA](#) with just a few random plants here and there. **But** there is still really good stuff to see! Within the park, the grasslands are beginning to show some color with spotty patches of baby blue-eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) and lupine (*Lupinus* sp.). The valley phacelia (*Phacelia ciliata*) is still impressive along Spaghetti Pass, behind Sterling Campground and in Redtail Canyon with large purple areas quite visible from a distance. In the south, the Mojave yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) is beginning to sprout and should be quite showy in a few weeks. Paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.) is also just starting to bloom, so watch for the red-tipped bushes as you explore. The goldenbush (*Ericameria* sp.) and bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*) are adding yellow splotches all over most of the park, and there are still large swaths of goldfields (*Lasthenia* sp.) throughout the landscape, but the patch near the south entrance glows in the distance. Nearby Tejon Pass is continuing to color up with a mosaic of yellow and purple on the hillsides. Please remember that the warm weather that brings out the flowers also brings out the rattlesnakes, so watch where you walk. As the grass gets taller, the rattlesnakes are especially hard to see, so please use caution when walking through tall, thick grass.



Goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*) at Hungry Valley SVRA. Photo by Margaret Hurley

Over at [Placerita Canyon Natural Area](#), the stately coast live oaks (*Quercus californica*) are displaying new pinkish-green foliage and dangling flower catkins. With those trees shading the trails, look for the next layer of shrubs—ceanothus (*Ceanothus oliganthus* and *C. crassifolius*), Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*), holly-leaf cherry (*Prunus illicifolia*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and southern honeysuckle (*Lonicera*). The ground layer of color consists of popcorn flowers (*Cryptantha muricata*), purple nightshade (*Solanum xanthii*), common phacelia (*Phacelia distans*), wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*), and the striking (but deadly) Fremont's star lily (*Toxicoscordion fremontii*).

Check out Highways 138, 14, 58, 48, 178 for little side trips to wildflower paradise! Lots of reports of good viewing, *but you must drive carefully* to enjoy carpet-making species like poppies, owl's clover (*Castilleja* spp.), goldfields (*Lasthenia* sp), coreopsis (*Leptosyne* sp.), baby blue-eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), and bird's-eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*). There are many, many more little belly flowers that do not make carpets, but are little jewels. *Watch too, for rattlesnakes hiding among those jewels!*



Fields of California poppies and other wildflowers in Antelope Valley. Photo by R.T. Hawke

The north side of San Bernardino Mountains from Landers through Lucerne Valley to Victorville along highway 247-18 and/or 247 to Barstow is also nice with many of the desert species already mentioned.

Go to the beach for a change of scenery! The popular Guy Fleming Trail at [Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve](#) has some great flowers and ocean vistas. After looking at wildflowers, go surfing. Your day just doesn't get any better than that! Look for sand verbena (*Abronia umbellulatum*), bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*), paintbrush (*Castilleja*

sp.), phacelia (*Phacelia* sp.) and lots of poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*). Plenty of little white popcorn flowers and forget-me-nots (*Plagiobothrys* spp. and *Cryptantha* spp.), sun cups (*Camissoniopsis bistorta*), wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*) too. Take in the views, but don't miss the sweet little fringed linanthus (*Linanthus dianthiflorus*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), Nuttall's snapdragon (*Antirrhinum nuttallianum*), red bush monkey flower (*Mimulus puniceus*), and paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.). Three more awesome plants here, sea dahlia (*Leptosyne maritima*), the little mousetail (*Myosurus minimus*) and the grand Torrey Pine (*Pinus torreyana* ssp. *torreyana*).



Sea dahlia (*Leptosyne maritima*) at Torre Pines. Photo by David Stith.

If you are a little burned out on annual wildflowers, the [Environmental Nature Center](#) in Newport Beach can help you recover. Their displays of handsome shrubs and colorful perennials will cure your back from being bent over looking at small things on the ground. The pathways that guide you through the different plant habitats of Southern California display Western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*), flannel bush (*Fremontodendron* sp.), Island bush poppy (*Dendromecon harfordii*), sugarbush (*Rhus ovata*), both coastal and desert brittlebushes (*Encelia californica* and *E. farinosa*) and giant coreopsis (*Coreopsis gigantea*). Also looking good right now are woolly blue-curls (*Trichostema lanatum*), desert mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), Baja desert rose, (*Rosa minutiflora*), and purple and black sages (*Salvia leucophylla* and *S. mellifera*). Showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*) is all around as well. Don't forget to take a peek at the odd-looking Yerba Mansa (*Anemopsis californica*) over in the marsh habitat garden.

Over in Long Beach [Prisk Native Garden](#) (school garden) is having its annual Open House, *part 2*, on Sunday, April 9, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The second date was added in response to requests from those enthusiasts who could not make last week's event. Because of abundant rains this year, there is a robust display of annual and perennial color. In the desert section, Mojave aster (*Xylorhiza tortifolia*), apricot mallow of many colors (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), Baja fairy duster (*C. californica*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), penstemons (*Penstemon incertus*, *P. eatonii*), and desert marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*). In the chaparral area, there are elegant clarkia (*Clarkia unguiculata*), woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) royal penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*), meadow foam (*Limnanthes douglasii*), red thistle (*Cirsium occidentale*), and

wind poppy (*Stylomecon heterophylla*), among many others. See details in event section at the end of this report.



Wind poppy (*Stylomecon heterophylla*) at Prisk. Photo by George Nanoski. Prisk Native Garden. "Oh, just give rocks to play with." Photo by Mike Letteriello.

Elizabeth Learning Center has blooming beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*) prickly poppy (*Argemone munita*), heart-leaved primrose (*Chylismia cardiophylla*), whispering bells (*Emmenanthe penduliflora*), the "bells" (*Phacelia campanularia*, *P. minor*), cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*), birds-eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*), desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*), Mojave lupine (*Lupinus sparsiflorus*), pygmy poppy (*Eschscholzia minutiflora*), apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), Spanish needle (*Palafoxia arida*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), fishhook cactus (*Mammillaria dioica*), desert marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*), and Emory's rock daisy (*Perityle emoryi*). Moist vernal pool basins are showing off Hoover's calicoflower (*Downingia bella*), Otay Mesa mint (*Pogogyne nudiuscula*), thread-leaf brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*), San Diego mesa mint (*Pogogyne abramsii*) and many more. Lindley's blazing star (*Mentzelia lindleyi*) is AMAZING right now in their Chaparral Garden along Coulter's Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), Island bush poppy (*Dendromecon harfordii*), owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*), blue palo verde (*Cercidium floridum*), baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), woolly paintbrush (*Castilleja foliolosa*), arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*) tidy-tips (*Layia platyglossa*), poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*). Elizabeth Learning Center is on Elizabeth Street in Cudahy between Atlantic Ave and Wilcox Ave. and open to the public during school hours. Check in at the Main Office.

In the [Santa Monica Mountains](#), go and see the post fire (2013) recovery of Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa Native American Natural Area. There is more purple nightshade (*Solanum xantii*) than you can imagine! California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) and Parry's phacelia (*Phacelia parryi*) are putting on a show as well. The part of the Boney Mountain Trail that goes down to the waterfall (see park map) is the best place to see lots of flowers. The Hidden Valley Overlook Trail is also nice, as is the Stream Side Trail. Flowers seen include Parry's Phacelia, California golden poppy, morning glory (*Calystegia macrostegia*), purple nightshade, annual coreopsis (*Leptosyne* sp.), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), canyon sunflower (*Venegasia carpesoides*), bush

sunflower (*Encelia californica*), wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*), pitcher sage (*Lepechinia* sp.) Mariposa lily (*Calochortus* sp.), popcorn flower (*Cryptantha* spp.), stinging lupine (*Lupinus hirsutissima*), wishbone bush (*Mirabilis laevis*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), purple larkspur (*Delphinium* sp.), and collarless California poppy (*Eschscholzia lemmonii*).

That's it for this week. Look for our next report on **Friday, April 14th** and check back each week 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:

Jackrabbit Flat Sanctuary, Pearblossom. Wildflower Naturalist-Guided Tour.
Sunday, April 9th, 10:00 am – noon. Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation. Hwy 14 to exit 30, Pearblossom Hwy. Ave. T and 116th street in Pearblossom. Bring water, sun protection. Wear good walking shoes. Questions? Call Debbie Pepe, 661.803.1546.

Annual Open House, part 2 - Prisk Native Garden

Sunday, April 9, 1-4 pm; Admission free, donations accepted.

Prisk Native Garden is located near the intersection of San Vicente and Los Arcos Streets in Long Beach. (Across from Stanford Middle School; the school address is 2375 Fanwood, Long Beach CA 90815.) Only partially wheelchair accessible. For more info, call Mike at 562-439-6002, or email letteriello@charter.net.

Elizabeth Learning Center Habitat Gardens

You can visit the Vernal Pool and Desert gardens anytime as they are in front of the school. Mr. Nanoski, the Habitat Gardens coordinator is available for a more "hands-on" botanical visit during his conference period in the mornings from 7:30am to 9:00am. Send him an email (on website) a day or two before your visit.

California Native Plant Society Hikes & Events

Riverside-San Bernardino Chapter

Saturday, April 8, 2017, 9:00 am to noon – Lake Skinner Multi-Species Reserve - For more information go to <http://riverside-sanbernardino.cnps.org> or call Arlee, 951.640.9549

Sunday, April 9, 2017, 9:00 am to noon – Mission Creek Preserve
For more information go to <http://riverside-sanbernardino.cnps.org> or call Kate, 760.217.0121

San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of CNPS annual desert field trip.

**Saturday, April 8, 2017, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon Saddleback Butte
State Park, Antelope Valley.**

Difficulty: easy to moderate

Leader: Mickey Long

Further information: See this web site -

http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=618