



April 12, 2019

Theodore Payne Foundation's Wild Flower Hotline is made possible by donations, memberships, and the generous support of [S&S Seeds](#).

Spring weather changes rapidly from day to day and can affect the bloom at any of these locations from time of reporting to time of posting. It's always good to call or check the location's website if you can, and adjust your expectations accordingly before heading out. **Please enjoy your outing, and please use your best flower viewing etiquette.** Drive and park safely.

In 2010, the California legislature declared the third week of April to be "California Native Plant Week," to encourage Californians to "undertake appropriate activities to promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of California's native plants." So, by law, get yourself outside this week to enjoy our legally recognized floral heritage!

Some SoCal areas like the Anza Borrego desert and low elevation inland valleys are fading in their super bloom. The place to go this week will be anywhere in the Antelope Valley.

Last week we introduced you to the group of wildlife sanctuaries in the high desert region maintained by [Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation](#). These little jewels for desert wild flower viewing include **Alpine Butte, Jackrabbit Flat, George Bones, Phacelia**, and this week we can add **Theodore Payne** to the cadre of wildlife sanctuaries. You may reliably see patches of Bigelow's coreopsis (*Leptosyne bigelovii*), goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*), desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*), and lacy phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*) at all the sanctuaries. Most sites will also have broad-flowered gilia (*Gilia latiflora*), fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.), Mojave sun cups (*Camissonia campestris*), Parry's linanthus (*Linanthus parryae*), purple owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*), tidy tips (*Layia glandulosa*), and lupines (*Lupinus* spp.) as well. **Jackrabbit Flat** has evening snow (*Linanthus dichotomus*) in patches between creosote bushes and the **Theodore Payne Sanctuary** has sand verbena (*Abronia* sp.), scale bud (*Anisocoma acaulis*), Wallace's woolly daisy (*Eriophyllum wallacei*), purple mat (*Nama demissa*), and golden linanthus (*Leptosiphon aureus*) that are not found at the other sites.

The rolling hills of [the Antelope Valley California State Poppy Reserve](#) are orange and gold with poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) and goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*). Claiming their own outstanding status among the poppies are the lovely and fragrant

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grape soda lupines (*Lupinus excubitus*). The golden landscape is also speckled with blue, white and yellow polka-dots of pygmy leaf lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), desert parsley (*Lomatium nevadense*), blue dicks/wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*), forget-me-nots (*Cryptantha pterocarya*), lacy phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*), cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*), owl's clover (*Castellja* sp.) and silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*). If it windy this weekend at the Reserve, poppies may be closed, so check with local weather reports before heading out.



Poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) and goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*) at the Antelope Valley State Poppy Reserve. Photo by Dan Pierce

At [Saddleback Butte State Park](#), look for goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*), California coreopsis (*Leptosyne californica*), lacy phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*), field sun cups (*Camissonia campestris*), broad flowered gilia (*Gilia latiflora* ssp. *davyi*), desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*), and Fremont's pincushion (*Chaenactis fremontii*).



Saddleback Butte State Park. Photo by Mary Wilson

Scattered blooms are showing up in many areas of [Hungry Valley State Park](#). There is a huge, showy display of coreopsis turning the hillsides yellow behind Lane Ranch Campground. If you come into the park at the south entrance, there are some wild hyacinth and goldfields beginning to bloom near the South Grove oaks. White daisy-like tidy tips and more goldfields are blooming in concentrated patches among the yuccas between Lane Ranch and Aliklik Campgrounds. The cheerful yellow blossoms on goldenbush and bladderpod brighten up the park's scenery as well. There are hillsides flaunting the bright purple phacelia like a signal flag in the north part of the park. Wild parsley is starting to show their lacy yellow flowers, and baby blue eyes have popped up along Spaghetti Pass. There is a turnout where Gorman Trail starts if you want to stop and admire this display. The Gorman Hills are getting quite colorful with large patches of yellow from the coreopsis. The golden-orange fiddleneck, purple lupine and phacelia are starting to add to their paint-by-number colors to the landscape as well. The masses of poppies are just starting to show on the hills. Hungry Valley is an Off Highway Vehicle state recreation park, so watch for motorized traffic like dirt bikes on the roads and trails. Please use turnouts to view flower displays. Park fees apply.

Flowers are still good at [Carrizo Plain National Monument](#), but just past peak bloom and starting to fade. However, they are beginning to see a variety of later blooming species, just as showy, but not as plentiful. Now is the time to go before flowers are done for the season. Best viewing locations are along Soda Lake Road just south of the Visitor Center. There are hillside daisies (*Monolopia lanceolata*), Valley phacillia (*Phacelia ciliata*) and showy purple-pink owl's clover (*Castilleja* sp.). Near Traver Ranch find more of the dynamic duo of phacelia and hillside daisies. Simmler Road takes you coreopsis (*Leptosyne* sp.), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), more hillside daisies, and Lemmon's mustard (*Caulanthus anceps*) and in the Temblor Mountain Range find even more hillside daisies, Valley phacilla, and desert candle (*Caulanthus inflatus*).

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High clearance vehicles recommended for Elkhorn Road and access to the Temblors. Much of the northern Temblors is private property. Make certain to avoid private property, have food and water for the day and a full tank of gas. The valley floor is home to sensitive species habitat, so be respectful please.

Many folks visit [Pinnacles National Park](#) in the Coast Ranges of Central California for the beautiful rock formations for which Pinnacles is named; or perhaps to get a glimpse of a California Condor. The untamed landscape however harbors a diversity of habitats, both wet and dry. Seasonal blossoms include some pretty “wild” characters like tomcat clover, blue witch, warrior’s plume, buck brush, owl’s clover, purple mouse ears and bitterroot. Springing up for Spring are the perennial bulbs like yellow pretty face, creamy Fremont’s star lily and blue wild hyacinth. In the fields between piles of boulders find patches of cream cups goldfields and baby blue eyes. In dry areas, look for the small blue flowers of California gilia, bright pink phlox, chia, and sky lupine and California poppy. The showy yellow blossoms of bush poppy can be found as beacons in the landscape. Another plant, the white tufted flowers of the pipestem are often mistaken as flowering shrubs, but in fact are vines climbing over shrubs. Pretty showy

[Descanso Gardens](#) in La Canada-Flintridge displays an impressive Native Garden section and it is really starting to take off in Technicolor bloom. But before you get to the Native Garden, you must first enter the El Portal where you are greeted by a tree-sized ceanothus (*Ceanothus* ‘Ray Hartman’) in a spectacular bloom of blue blossoms. But don’t miss the unusual flower of the Dutchman’s pipe vine (*Aristolochia californica*) growing along the El Portal structure. And that is only the entrance! Get into the Native Garden and find yellows and blues of every shade. Oregon grape (*Berberis aquifolium* ‘Golden Abundance), Nevin’s barberry (*Berberis nevadensis*), bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*), and varieties of flannel bush (*Fremontodendron* spp.) represent the yellow spectrum. Lilac verbena (*Verbena lillcina*), Dara’s Choice’ sage (*Salvia* ‘Dara’s Choice’) and a spectacular display of baby blue-eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) color the landscape of the Native Garden blue.

Some of the larger patches of poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) are starting to show some sign of fading on [Diamond Valley Lake](#) trails. However, the hillsides are still aglow with color. Hopefully this fantastic bloom will last another week or more. The diversity of wildflowers along both the Lakeview and Wildflower Trails is amazing. The yellow California goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*) continue to blanket the hillsides and slopes. Varying shades of blue are sprinkled throughout, and include Arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*), wild canterbury bells (*Phacelia minor*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), caterpillar phacelia (*Phacelia cicutaria*), wild hyacinth (*Dicelostemma capitatum*) and baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*). The California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) are in scattered pockets on hillsides and along the trail edges. Accompanying you along the trails are hairy lotus (*Lotus strigosus*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), wishbone bush (*Mirabilis laevis*) and Rancher’s fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*). Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) is beginning to bloom as well. Please note, the DVL facility is open Wednesday through Sunday only, and there is a fee. Check the website for more information.

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The sites/facilities below do not have large, spectacular fields of flowers, but DO have an amazing variety of native flowering trees, shrubs perennials as well as annual wildflowers.

The second report of the season comes from [Figueroa Mountain in the Los Padres National Forest](#). Start from Figueroa Mountain Road, 4 miles from the town of Los Olivos. The first cattle guard crossing from the base of the mountain through the oak tree canopy has buttercups (*Ranunculus californica*), blue dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*), fiesta flowers (*Pholistoma auritum*), milk maids (*Cardamine californica*), miniature and sky lupines (*Lupinus bicolor* and *L. nanus*) and California golden violet (*Viola pedunculata*). Dainty little shooting stars (*Primula clevelandii*) are also starting to show. Continuing up the mountain, California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) are beginning to bloom on rocky slopes. Just before you get to the rusty gate at the road, you will spot adorable little cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*), a poppy cousin.

Still on Figueroa Mountain: Driving on, Grass Mountain is coloring up with an extravaganza of poppies. Lupines are weaving patches of purple in the poppy orange carpet. At Vista Point, about 11 miles from the start point, enjoy an opportunity to get out of the car to see patches of goldfields (*Lasthenia* sp.) mixed with chocolate lilies (*Fritillaria bicolor*), buttercups, and more shooting stars. There is spacious pull out parking at Grass Mountain and Vista Point. Continuing for a mile past the ranger station, more poppies and sky lupine can be seen in various areas leading to the Figueroa Campground. From the campground until the descent into Sunset Valley there is not much to see yet because of the high elevation cool temperatures. In Sunset Valley however, the show of color picks up again. Yellow tufted poppies (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*) are carpeting the hillsides and slopes. Popcorn flowers (*Cryptantha* sp. and *Plagioboyhrys* sp.) and blue dicks can also be seen, and further on, Happy Canyon is just starting to bloom. A couple of reminders to all wildflower viewers. When stopping to take pictures or to take a hike, please do not block the road or double park at any time. If the weather is cloudy, rainy or cold, the poppies wrap themselves up and do not open. Pick a sunny, warm day for your visit.

The bloom along the Ecology Trail at [Placerita Canyon Nature Center](#) is gorgeous with California herbaceous and woody perennials. California peony (*Paeonia californica*), Fremont's star lily (*Toxicoscordion fremontii*), hoary ceanothus (*Ceanothus crassifolius*), hairy ceanothus (*Ceanothus oliganthus*) are fading as black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), scarlet buglers (*Penstemon centranthifolius*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), CA Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*) are coming on strong with their bloom. Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) dangling catkins and pinkish new growth of branchlets should be noticed.

The trails and pathways around the "mesa" at [Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden](#) is a walk in floral paradise! The most awesome display is the swathes of Douglas iris and Pacific Coast iris hybrids (*Iris* spp. and cultivars). The waves of blues, purples and lavender are truly amazing. California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) and blue eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) add to this lovely scene.

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The [Environmental Nature Center](#) in Newport Beach has blooming ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp. and cvs.) dressing up multiple plant communities with California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) and tansy leaved phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*) accessorizing the ceanothus. In the scrub communities look for sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*), California encelia (*Encelia californica*) and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*) appearing with the glorious flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californicum*). Walking through the Channel Islands plantings, the bright yellow flowering Island bush poppy (*Dendromecon harfordii*), the large lavender-purple flowers of Island mallow (*Lavatera assurgentiflora*) and creamy white floral sprays of the Island cherry (*Prunus illicifolia* ssp. *lyonii*) will delight you.

When you visit the [Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley](#), park your car and follow your nose to the garden's perennial lupines that offer a delight of color and smell. Be sure to check out the grape soda lupine (*Lupinus excubitus* var. *hallii*) near the horticulture building to get a whiff. Poppy family annuals include wind poppy (*Papaver heterophyllum*) and tufted poppy (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*), and they are doing really well on Wild Flower Hill and should not be missed. Also, off Wild Flower Hill Trail is banana yucca (*Yucca baccata* var. *baccata*), chaparral snapdragon (*Keckiella antirrhinoides*), showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*), and woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*). Throughout the garden, sages (*Salvia* spp.) and sage cultivars are going strong as well. One interesting centerpiece in the demonstration gardens is pink-flowering sumac (*Rhus lentii*). Cultivars of monkeyflowers (*Diplacus* cvs.) are blooming in various locations on the grounds. Don't miss the owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*) and desert marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*) that are still blooming in the desert garden.

[Prisk Native Garden](#) in Long Beach is having their 2nd Sunday of Open House from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. There are about 30 species of flowering shrubs, perennials and annuals on colorful display at Prisk Native Garden in Long Beach. Here is what to expect in rainbow color blooms for the two-week period. Reds and pinks include, Eaton's penstemon (*Penstemon eatonii*), elegant Clarkia (*Clarkia unguiculata*), coral bells varieties (*Heuchera* spp. and cultivars), punch bowl clarkia (*Clarkia bottae*) and fragrant evening primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*). Oranges, golds and yellows have California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), wind poppy (*Papaver heterophylla*), apricot mallow varieties (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), Indian mallow (*Abutilon palmeri*), blazing star (*Mentzelia lindleyi*), Butano Ridge flannel bush (*Fremontodendron* 'Butano Ridge'), Chick lupine (*Lupinus microcarpus* var. *densiflorus*), beach evening primrose (*Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia*), giant coreopsis (*Leptosyne gigantea*), meadow foam (*Limnanthes douglasii*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*) and some of the monkeyflower varieties (*Diplacus* spp. and cultivars) in their color group. Green includes everything! Blues and violets include, chia (*Salvia columbariae*), Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*), bird's eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*), globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*), desert bluebells (*Phacelia campanularia*), baby blue-eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*), Western Mojave penstemon (*Pestemon incertus*), California wild lilac varieties (*Ceanothus* spp. and cultivars), and sage varieties (*Salvia* 'Dara's Choice,' *Salvia clevelandii* 'Winifred Gilman,' *Salvia* 'Bee's Bliss'). This is a

“must see” and “must experience” garden. Mike Letteriello, the steward of this long established native garden will be on hand to answer questions.

At the [Elizabeth Learning Center](#) the wildflowers continue to come on strong! Most of them can be observed from Elizabeth Street in front of the campus. Anyone who would like access to the gardens from within needs to arrange a visit with Mr. Nanoski, the Habitat Gardens coordinator. His email is gtn5586@lausd.net and his conference period is 11:15 to 12:45. Exploring their Desert Habitat Garden, you will find cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*), sticky teucrium (*Teucrium glandulosum*), catsclaw (*Senegalia greggii*), desert lavender (*Condea emoryi*), apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*), desert holly (*Atriplex hymenelytra*), Spanish needle (*Palafoxia arida*), desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*), brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*), chuparosa (*Justicia californica*), blue bells (*Phacelia campanularia*), bird's eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*) and Coulter's lupine (*Lupinus sparsiflorus*). Most of the vernal pools STILL contain water, alive with fairy shrimp, clam shrimp and other vernal pool endemics! Look here also for Douglas' meadowfoam (*Limnanthes douglasii*), Otay mountain lotus (*Hosackia crassifolia*), owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*), fringed-pod (*Thysanocarpus curvipes*) menzies' fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*), globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*), truncate-leafed lupine (*Lupinus truncatus*), miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), Arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), california poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), and a beautiful blanket of goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata*). Additional species in the Chaparral Habitat Garden include Guadalupe island senecio (*Senecio palmeri*), red maids (*Calandrinia menziesii*), matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), woolly Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja foliolosa*), Baja bird bush (*Ornithostaphylos oppositifolia*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), pink fairy duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*), torhleaf goldeneye (*Viguiera laciniata*), sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*), santa cruz island buckwheat (*Eriogonum arborescens*), channel island tree poppy (*Dendromecon harfordii*) and Orcutt's hazardia (*Hazardia orcuttii*). Elizabeth Learning Center is located off Elizabeth Street between Atlantic and Wilcox Avenues in Cudahy.

That's it for this week. Look for our next report on **Friday, April 19th** and check back each week for the most up to date information on southern and central California wildflowers.

NATIVE PLANT & WILDFLOWER EVENTS:

[Theodore Payne Foundation](#)

Free Native Plant Week Talks with TPF staff, all 11:00am-noon

Tues, April 16, TPF Archives with Jordan Isken or Lili Singer

Wed, April 17, Native Plants for Western Monarchs with Erin Johnson and Lili Singer

Thurs, April 18, Native Sages with Steve Singer

Fri, April 19, Spring Wild Flowers with Genevieve Arnold

All free – no RSVPs required. Just come!

Prisk Native Garden Open House

Sunday, **April 14th**, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm.

Admission free. Donations accepted.

For further info: Mike Letteriello at letteriello@charter.net or 562-826-9266.

No bathrooms. Palo Verde turnoff in Long Beach off the 405 Freeway.

Placerita Canyon Nature Center

Wildflower hike at Placerita every 4th Saturday.

“Blooms of the Season” walk, 9:30 – 10:30

We always find something interesting to see.

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden will have many activities during **Wildflower Week April 13-21, 2019:**

Wildflower Happy Hour, Wildflower Show, The Art of the Wildflower, Wildflower Trails, Tram Tours, and a Field Trip to Sand to Snow National Monument

For details see: www.rsabg.org/events-programs/wildflower-week

Cambria Wildflower Show

Saturday, April 13, 12 – 5pm; Sunday 10 4pm

Cambria Vet's Hall

www.ffrpcambria.org

California Native Plant Society Chapters – Field Trips

Riverside-San Bernardino Chapter

Field Trip – Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Preserve

Saturday April 13, 9:00am – 1:00 pm Fee:\$4

Directions & more information: www.rivcoparks.org/santa-rosa-plateau-ecological-reserve/

San Gabriel Mountains Chapter

Eaton Canyon Plant Walk

Sunday, April 14, 9:00 am.

www.ecnca.org

Monday, April 15

Monday stroll Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area, Irwindale

More information: contact gabi.mclean@verizon.net

Saturday, April 20, 8:30am

Saddleback Butte State Park, Antelope Valley

Fee: \$6/car

www.cnps-sgm.org/showevent.php?id=243&ty=2&ri=1

County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks & Recreation

Jackrabbit Flat Sanctuary Guided Wildflower Walks

Saturday April 13, 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Meet at corner of Avenue T and 116th St. in Pearblossom.

Call Devil's Punchbowl at (661) 944 2743 for more info.

Bring water, hat, walking shoes, sunscreen.