April 5, 2019

Theodore Payne Foundation’s Wild Flower Hotline is made possible by donations, memberships, and the generous support of S&S Seeds. Please support the hotline today.

For a super bloom in town, Theodore Payne’s 16th annual Native Plant Garden Tour is this weekend, April 6 & 7. This year’s event showcases 29 inspiring gardens, including 14 new to the tour. Tickets are on sale now.

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 outings, and do use your best flower viewing etiquette. Drive and park safely. Do not pick flowers or harm the plants. Thank you, and a friend reminded me of this quote that has been widely used by botanists and naturalists.

"No poet has yet sung the full beauty of our poppy. No painter has successfully portrayed the satiny sheen of its lustrous petals. In its abundance, this colorful plant should not be slighted: cherish it and be ever thankful that so rare a flower is common."
—John Thomas Howell.

**Prisk Native Garden** in Long Beach is having their Open House(s) on TWO successive Sundays, April 7 and April 14, from 1:00–4:00 pm. About 30 species of flowering shrubs, perennials and annuals on colorful display. 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 cvs.), 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 (*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 monkeyflowers (*Diplacus* spp. and cvs.) 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 (Penstemon incertus), California wild lilac (Ceanothus spp. and cvs.), and sage (Salvia ‘Dara’s Choice’, Salvia clevelandii ‘Winnifred 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.

“Wow” is the only word that you can manage when you see the peak bloom at Carrizo Plain National Monument. Best viewing locations are along Soda Lake Road where hillside daisies (Monolopia lanceolata), Valley phacelia (Phacelia ciliata), and goldfields (Lasthenia sp.) spread to the horizon. At Overlook Hill, baby blue eyes (Nemophila menziesii) dominate and along Simmler Road, coreopsis (Leptosyne sp.), tidy tips (Layia platyglossa), more hillside daisies, and Lemmon’s mustard form waves of color before you, with desert candle (Caulanthus inflatus) woven in at the Temblor Mountains.

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Even old-school film photographers are grateful for digital technology here. High clearance vehicles recommended for Elkhorn Road and access to the Temblors. 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.

The Antelope Valley California State Poppy Reserve is in “peak” bloom with poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) and goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*) dominating the rolling hills landscape. The sea of orange and gold is punctuated here and there by 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*), hairy lotus (*Acmispon strigosus*), evening snow (*Linanthus dichotomus*), cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*), freckled milk vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *nigricalycis*), and silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*).
The Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) at the adjacent Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland State Park are in varying states of bloom from bud to full open flower. Outside of Joshua Tree National Park, this is the best place to see these magnificent plants.

Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation maintains a little group of fascinating wildlife sanctuaries in the high desert region. These are little jewels for wildflower viewing. Devil’s Punchbowl is just starting to bloom with lovely Fremont’s phacelia (*Phacelia fremontii*). Many other species will soon follow, so plan a day trip there in the near future. Alpine Butte Wildlife Sanctuary offers up a variety of blooming annuals including fiddleneck (Amsinckia sp.), Bigelow’s coreopsis (*Leptosyne bigelovii*) and California goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*). Around the buttes are Wallace’s woolly daisy (*Eriophyllum wallacei*), white-stem blazing star (*Mentzelia albicaulis*), broad-flowered gilia (*Gilia latiflora*), dune evening primrose (*Oenothera deltoids*), and an occasional patch of desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*). Jackrabbit Flat Wildlife Sanctuary has a variety of flowers starting to bloom. There are scattered patches of Bigelow’s coreopsis (*Leptosyne bigelovii*), goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*), Mojave sun cups (*Camissonia campestris*), and evening snow (*Linanthus dichotomus*) scattered in between the creosote bushes with lacy phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*) hiding under the creosote. Parry’s linanthus (*Linanthus parryae*) should be opening this week. Also found are white tidy tips (*Layia glandulosa*), golden linanthus (*Leptosiphon aureus*), desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*), lupines (*Lupinus* spp.) and purple owl’s clover (*Castilleja exserta*). George R. Bones Wildlife Sanctuary and Phacelia Wildlife Sanctuary are blooming with similar species as well. Parks & Recreation staff are
hosting two guided wildflower walks at Jackrabbit Flat Sanctuary for the next two Saturdays. Details are below in the events section.

Our first report from Descanso Gardens in La Cañada Flintridge tells us that the Native Garden section 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 treesized 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. Golden Abundance Oregon grape (Berberis aquifolium ‘Golden Abundance), Nevin’s barberry (Berberis nevinii), bladderpod (Peritoma arborea), and various flannel bushes (Fremontodendron spp. and cvs.) represent the yellow spectrum. Lilac verbena (Verben la lilicina), 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 (Dichelostemma 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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Great Egret stopping to get a “bird’s eye view” on the Diamond Valley Lake Lake View Trail. Photos by Bill Wagner.

At the **Harford Springs Reserve** in Riverside, there are large patches of poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*), cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*), and royal goldfields (*Lasthenia coronaria*) posed just right among the juniper trees waiting to be photographed by you. Baby blue eyes (*Nemphoria menziesii*), ground pinks (*Linanthus dianthiflorus*), popcorn flowers, chia (*Salvia columbariae*) and California blue bells (*Phacelia minor*) make up a colorful confetti of blue, pink, purple and white among the golden canvas in this bloom, as well.

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The bloom at Anza Borrego Desert State Park is winding down on the valley floor. The flowers that made headlines in the past few weeks are still there, but fading and include desert dandelion (Malacothrix glabrata), desert bluebells phacelia (Phacelia minor), desert sunflower (Gerea canescens) and many others. Ocotillo (Fouquieria splendens) and chuparosa (Justicia californica) with their flaming red flowers are attracting both hummingbirds and visitors! Fortunately, just about any canyon within the park below 2000 ft is good for a diversity of lovely flowers. For hikers, trekking up Hellhole Canyon is an excellent wildflower experience. See washes full of common phacelia (Phacelia distans) and wild Canterbury bells (Phacelia minor). Belly flowers carpet the washes, including Bigelow monkey flower (Diplacus bigelovii), purplemat (Nama demissa), desert star (Monoptilon belloides) and threadstem (Nemacladus glanduliferus). Parish's poppy (Eschscholzia parishii) is growing in every available section of space on rocky slopes everywhere. Borrego Badlands and Ocotillo Wells are mostly done. Check out the website posted by the Anza Borrego Desert Natural History Association for complete wild flower updates. They have excellent wildflower viewing maps available online or at their visitor center in Borrego Springs. They are well prepared for visitors.

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

At Red Rock Canyon State Park a huge variety of flowers are blooming. Look for masses of the endemic Red Rock monkeyflower (Erythranthe rhodopetra) at the "Red Rooster" area near the Tamarisk Grove at the Park. Other endemics, such as Red Rock Poppy (Eschscholzia minutaflora var. twisselmanii) and Red Rock tar plant (Hemizonia arida) can be found, as well. Nearby, desert candles (Caulanthus inflatus) line the sides of the Mojave-Randsburg Road to the Tortoise Preserve.

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The second report of the season has been received 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 *Plagiobothrys* 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.

**Placerita Canyon Nature Center** is suspended in time. After finally starting to bloom, they are reporting that because of mild weather, the bloom is coming on slowly and not much has changed since last week. Having said that, what is blooming now on the Ecology Trail is gorgeous. The buds of California peonies (*Paeonia californica*) finally decided to open along with little white popcorn flowers (*Plagiobothrys* spp. and *Cryptantha* spp.), yellow California sun cups (*Camissoniopsis bistorta*), fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.) and Fremont’s star lily. (*Toxicoscordion fremontii*). Look for the dainty eucrypta (*Eucrypta chrysanthemifolia*) growing near the hoary ceanothus (*Ceanothus crassifolius*), fuchsia-flowered gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*) and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*). Miner’s lettuce (*Claytonia* sp.) hairy ceanothus (*Ceanothus oliganthus*) and lanceleaf dudleya (*Dudleya lanceolata*) can be found along the Hillside Trail.

Just strolling around the “mesa” at **Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden** is a walk in floral paradise! There are some lovely ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp. and cvs.) in shades of blue and creamy white along the pathways. Another spectacular flowering shrub is the flannel bush (*Fremontodendron* spp. and cvs.) with its large golden yellow flowers. Other colorful flowering perennials that can be seen along the pathways include apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), fragrant pitcher sage (*Lepechinia fragrans*), yellow bush penstemon (*Keckiella antirrhinoides*) and verbena (*Verbena* sp.). Blue-eyed grass
(Sisyrinchium bellum), California poppies (Eschscholzia californica). chia (Salvia columbariae), and buttercups (Ranunculus californicus) are scattered around too. BUT! The most awesome display is the swathes of Douglas iris and Pacific Coast iris hybrids (Iris spp. and cvs.). The waves of blues, purples and lavender are truly amazing.

Iris cultivar at RSABG. Photo by Deb Woo

The Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach has blooming ceanothus (Ceanothus spp. abnd cvs.) dressing up multiple plant communities with California poppies (Eschscholzia californica) and tansy-leaved phacelia (Phacelia tanacetafolia) accessorizing the ceanothus. In the scrub communities, look for sugar bush (Rhus ovata), California bush sunflower (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.

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), cat’s claw (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), brittlebush (Encelia...
farinosa), chuparosa (Justicia californica), desert blue bells (Phacelia campanularia), bird’s eye gilia (Gilia tricolor) and Coulter’s lupine (Lupinus sparsiflorus).

Also at ELC: 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 (Omithostaphyllos oppositifolia), black sage (Salvia mellifera), pink fairy duster (Calliandra eriophylla), tornleaf 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.
‘Siempre Blue’); pink and maroon monkeyflowers, golden yellow California bush sunflower (Encelia californica), pink Baja spurge (Euphorbia xanti), rare and endangered red sumac (Rhus lentii), and more. Assorted spring wild flowers – poppies, lupines, and many others – embellish the rainbow of color.


That’s it for this week. Look for our next report on Friday, April 12th 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
16th Annual Native Plant Garden Tour
Saturday & Sunday, April 6 & 7
10:00am – 5:00 pm
Tickets and more information at www.theodorepayne.org

Prisk Native Garden Open House(s)
TWO successive Sundays, April 7th and 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](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://www.ecnca.org)

**Monday, April 15**  
Monday stroll Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area, Irwindale  
More information: contact [gabi.mclean@verizon.net](mailto:gabi.mclean@verizon.net)

**Saturday, April 20, 8:30am**  
Saddleback Butte State Park, Antelope Valley  
Fee: $6/car  

**County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks & Recreation**  
**Jackrabbit Flat Sanctuary Guided Wildflower Walks**  
Saturdays, April 6 & 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, and sunscreen.

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