



March 27, 2020

Theodore Payne Foundation's Wild Flower Hotline is made possible by [donations](#), [memberships](#) and sponsors. You can support TPF by shopping the online store as well. A new, pay by phone, contactless plant pickup system is now available. [Details here](#).

Out of caution, Theodore Payne Foundation is closed to the public. When we emerge at the other side of this national crisis, we will bring our TPF community and supporters back together to celebrate our strength and resilience.

This past week has seen closures of parking lots, restrooms, picnic areas and some trails in addition to Visitor Centers and campgrounds at National, State and County parks and reserves. In most cases you need to be a pretty hardy soul to hike or bicycle to some trails & trailheads that are still open. If you are out on trails, please practice social distancing precautions. Situations change quickly, so it is advised that you check on websites before venturing out. A list of some web links appears at the end of the report.

Down in Orange County, the ridges of [Caspers Wilderness Park](#) provide spectacular vistas and some good wildflowers. Passive walk-through pedestrian, cycling and equestrian activity is permitted. Try the Dick Loskorn Trail to West Ridge Trail, or the Sun Rise to East Ridge Trail. Flowering deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*) covers trail edges and lower slopes with yellow. Our Lord's Candle (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*) or chaparral yucca is particularly beautiful with tall spikes of large creamy white blossoms. Catalina mariposa lilies (*Calochortus catalinae*), San Diego Jewel flower (*Caulanthus heterophyllus*), butterweed (*Senecio californicus*), lupines (*Lupinus bicolor*, *L. truncatus* and *L. succulentus*), wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*), narrow-leaved bedstraw (*Galium angustifolium*) and popcorn flower (*Cryptantha* spp.) occupy the hillsides as well. Again, check OC Parks website before visiting.

In the [Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area](#), parking lots and other amenities at trailheads are closed, but the park remains open to day-use walkers, hikers and bicyclists. The National Park Service urges all visitors to follow social distancing protocols. At Corral Canyon Park, the Sara Wan Trail is still recovering from the Woolsey Fire. The invasive mustard has come back with a vengeance, but there are also wonderful native wild flowers lurking among those mustard plants. There are large patches of bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*) and wild morning glory (*Calystegia macrostegia*) is climbing and rambling all over everything. Areas of the rare Hubby's phacelia (*Phacelia hubbyi*) have returned this year and the hillside is dotted with butterfly mariposa lilies (*Calochortus venustus*). Wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.) and

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lovely lupines (*Lupinus* spp.). are scattered about and commanding their own attention as well.

Early bloomers in the Sierra Foothill Woodland region east of Visalia and in Three Rivers include Eastwood's fiddleneck (*Amsinckia eastwoodii*), rusty popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys nothofulvus*), silver leaf bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*), buck brush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*), red maids (*Calandrinia ciliata*), miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*), and fringe pod (*Thysanocarpus curvipes*) continue to bloom along the Foothill Woodland trails and roads. Coming into peak bloom are Western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*), miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), and Johnny tuck or butter 'n' eggs (*Triphysaria eriantha*). Starting to show color are wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*) and Eastwood's baby blue eyes (*Nemophila pulchella*), baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), hillside woodland star (*Lithophragma heterophyllum*), caraway leaved lomatium (*Lomatium caruifolium*), Western hounds tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*), Henderson's shooting star (*Dodecatheon hendersonii*), and foothill poppy (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*).



Eastwood's baby blue eyes (*Nemophila pulchella*). Photos by Mike Wall.

Reporting from Long Beach, there are many blooming wild flowers at [Colorado Lagoon](#) and Jack Dunster Marine Biological Reserve. At the lagoon, look for a colorful array of lovely flowers. Among those will be baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), blue eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*) and wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*). Flowers in shades of pink to purple, include owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*), elegant clarkia (*Clarkia unguiculata*), Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*), five spot (*Nemophila maculata*) and California four o' clock (*Mirabilis laevis* ssp. *crassifolia*). The yellow flowers compete for attention with the flashy orange California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*). They include tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*), encelia (*Encelia californica*), giant

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coreopsis (*Leptosyne gigantea*), and golden bush (*Isocoma* sp.); while the Santa Barbra milkvetch (*Astragalus trichopodus*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), display subtle creamy white flowers.



Five-spot (*Nemophila maculata*), blue eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*). Photos by George Nanoski.

At [Jack Dunster Marine Biological Reserve](#), enjoy the perennials that paint a handsome portrait of color. There is giant coreopsis, beach evening-primrose (*Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia*), chalk dudleya (*Dudleya pulverulenta*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), St. Catherine's lace (*Eriogonum giganteum*), and Island snapdragon (*Galvesia speciosa*) outstanding among the several sage (*Salvia* spp.) species. The spiny Coast prickly pear (*Opuntia littoralis*) and coastal cholla (*Cylindropuntia prolifera*) keep a safe distance from the pathways, but within reach of a camera shot! Admire the California poppies and stately Catalina cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *lyonii*) as well. Keep a watchful eye on the water for sea lions, ospreys, and great blue herons! Enjoy all the nature paths at these Long Beach locations by practicing proper social distancing!



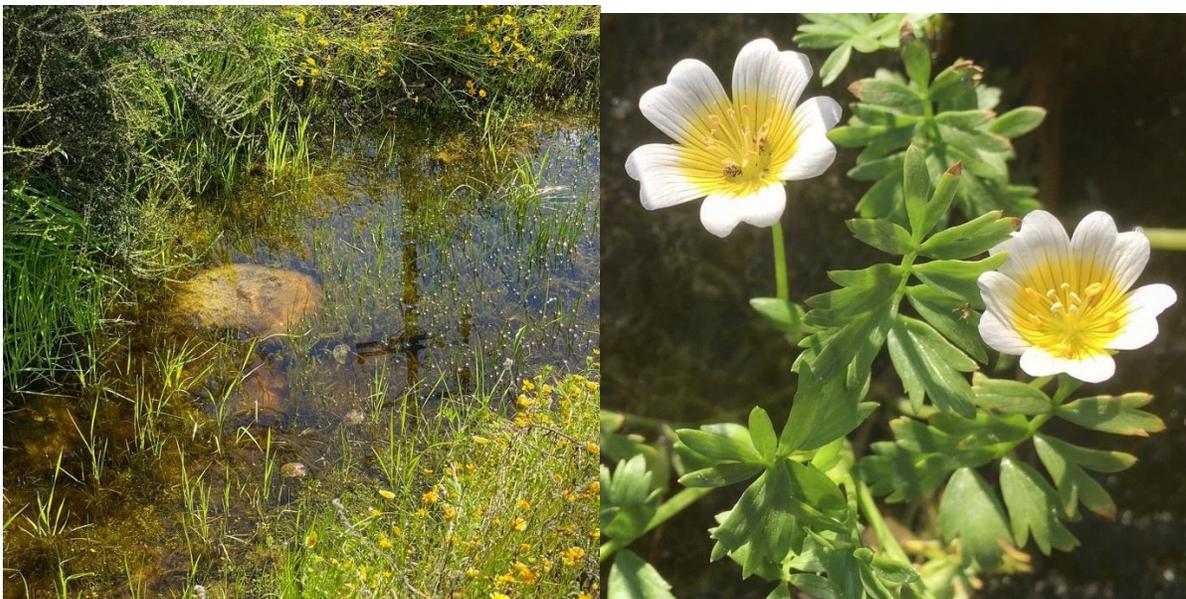
Coast prickly pear (*Opuntia littoralis*). Photo by George Nanoski

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If you find yourself trapped in the metro LA area, take a short trip to Cudahy to view the display of desert and vernal pool wild flowers at the [Elizabeth Learning Center](#). The school is closed of course, but most of the wild flower show at Elizabeth Learning Center can be seen from the sidewalk on Elizabeth Street in front of the campus.

Explore the Desert Habitat Garden to find cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), desert holly (*Atriplex hymenelytra*), jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*), desert marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*), broad-fruited combseed (*Pectorcarya platycarpa*), silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*), brown-eyed primrose (*Chylismia claviformis* ssp. *claviformis*), showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*), catsclaw (*Senegalia greggii*), desert lavender (*Condea emoryi*), apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*), Spanish needle (*Palafoxia arida*), cryptantha (*Cryptantha* sp.), desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*), fish hook cactus (*Mammillaria dioica*), skeleton milkweed (*Asclepias subulata*), brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*), five needle prickly leaf (*Thymophylla pentachaeta*), blue bells (*Phacelia campanularia*), woolly sunflower (*Ericophyllum ambiguum*), Arizona four nerve daisy (*Tetraneris acaulis* var. *arizonica*), miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), and Coulter's lupine (*Lupinus sparsiflorus*).

For vernal pool aficionados, the Vernal Pool Habitat Garden is a special place for rare plants newly replenished with recent rains! Look here for calico monkeyflower (*Diplacus pictus*), Menzies' fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*), globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*), truncate-leaved lupine (*Lupinus truncates*), miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), sawtooth golden bush (*Hazardia squarrosa*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), spinescrub (*Adolphia californica*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), boxthorn (*Lycium californicum*), goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata*), Douglas' meadowfoam (*Limnanthes douglasii*), woolly marbles (*Psilocarphus brevissimus*), California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*), Otay mesa mint (*Pogogyne nudiuscula*), and blue dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*). Elizabeth Learning Center is located off Elizabeth Street between Atlantic and Wilcox Avenues in Cudahy.



Vernal Pool Habitat, Douglas' meadowfoam (*Limnanthes douglasii*). Photos by George Nanoski

That's it for this week. Look for our next report on **Friday, April 3rd** and check back each week for the most up to date information on southland central California wildflowers.

Below is a short list of web links for local parks for access information and current conditions.

[Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.](#)
[Santa Monica Mountains,](#)
[Antelope Valley State Poppy Reserve.](#)
[Joshua Tree National Park](#)
[Carrizo Plain National Monument](#)
[Death Valley National Park](#)
[LA County Parks](#)
[Placerita Canyon Nature Center](#)

NATIVE PLANT AND WILD FLOWER EVENTS

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

For the sake of public health and safety, Theodore Payne Foundation is temporarily closed to the public. A new, pay by phone, contactless plant pickup system is now available. A silver lining to this crisis is that you'll be able to put extra time into your garden, and plants will be available for pickup. [Details here.](#)

2020 THEODORE PAYNE NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR

Saturday & Sunday, March 28 & 29, 10:00am-5:00pm. **Due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), the 2020 Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour will be a virtual/online journey through the Los Angeles region's most beautiful and inspiring landscapes.** Forty-two gardens, including 21 new to the tour. Details, photos, at nativeplantgardentour.org .