May 1, 2020

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

Widespread closures remain in place. If you find an accessible trail, please practice social distancing. The purpose for the Wild Flower Hotline now is NOT to send you to localities for wild flower viewing, but to post photos that assure you—virtually—that California’s wild spaces are still open for business for flowers and their pollinators.

The Devil’s Punchbowl County Park is still closed to the public, however some LA County wildlife sanctuaries in the high desert area are open now for wildflower viewing! The best sites to visit are Jackrabbit Flats Wildlife Sanctuary and Theodore Payne Wildflower Sanctuary. Jackrabbit Flats offers a good variety of flowers and is easily accessible in the town of Littlerock. Parry’s linanthus (Linanthus parryae) is covering the ground as well as a great splash of yellow Bigelow’s coreopsis (Leptosyne bigelovii), goldfields (Lasthenia californica), and Mojave sun cups (Camissonia campestris). Sprinkled amongst those fields are Pringle’s woolly sunflower (Eriophyllum pringlei), evening snow (Linanthus dichotomus), white tidy tips (Layia glandulosa), and lupines (Lupinus sp.). To fully appreciate the evening snow bloom, visit late in the day. Seeking shade and moisture under creosote bushes, you will find lacy phacelia, (Phacelia tanacetifolia), desert dandelion (Malacothrix glabrata), and an occasional brown-eyed primrose (Chylismia claviformis). Nearby Theodore Payne Wildflower Sanctuary displays these diverse flowers and includes vibrant patches of purple mat (Nama demissa) and sand verbena (Abronia sp.) as well. Best to visit soon before the heat makes these lovely blooms to disappear.
In the Sierra foothills east of Visalia, the foothill poppy (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*) bloom is in full swing. Lovely spring-flowering madia (*Madia elegans*) are carpeting many hillsides and dotted with blue spider lupine (*Lupinus benthamii*). Narrow leaved owl's clover (*Castilleja attenuata*) is rather abundant this year - more so than typical. If you are a fan of the “pop-up-out-of-no-where” bulb plants, they have definitely “popped-up” and are fabulous! Included are the gorgeous pink fairy lanterns (*Calochortus amoenus*), golden pretty face (*Triteleia ixioides*), vivid blue Ithuriel's spear (*Triteleia laxa*), pink twining brodiaea (*Dichelostemma volubile*) and lavender-blue wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*). Mid-spring bloomers like purple Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*) and fiesta flower (*Pholistoma auritum*) are in full bloom along with the sunny balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza deltoidei*), a locally uncommon plant.
Along the drive from Fallbrook to Carrizo Road on State Route 74 just east of Pinyon Pines, flowers line almost the entire route. Just east of Temecula, the sunny yellow brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*) is in full bloom accompanied by robust plants of deer weed (*Acmispon glabra*), yellow bush penstemon (*Keckiella antirrhinoides*) and golden

chaenactis (*Chaenactis glabriuscula*). Immediately after cresting the summit near the Lake Riverside development, there are large robust patches of goldfields (*Lasthenia* sp.) and of thistle sage (*Salvia carduacea*). The roadcuts just west of Anza are stunning with very large bush lupine (*Lupinus excubitus hallii*) in full bloom. Looking east of Anza, the landscape is dominated by cup leaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus perplexans*). Roll down your windows to take in the heady scent of lupine and ceanothus. Descending Highway 74 toward Palm Desert, the north side of the road near Horse Creek was lined with white-whorled lupine (*Lupinus microcarpus*) in full bloom. The roadsides then begin to become ablaze with red scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*), and east of Pinyon Pines, the red was mixed a cool blue-lavender of Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii connatus*). The coral colored apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*) and it’s cousin the rose mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua rosacea*), appears in mass at the Carrizo Rd. junction. In that area you will find Fremont’s phacelia (*Phacelia fremontii*), desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*), and desert sage (*Salvia eremostachya*) showing off their blooms as well.

The Prisk Native Garden in Long Beach at Prisk School is an awesome treat for hunkered-down urban dwellers. The Garden isn’t open, of course, but people CAN see flowers and the New Creek area from the sidewalk. On the other side of the fence you can find beautiful stands of clarkias (*Clarkia unguiculata*) in several shades of pink. Also visible are blue globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*), golden banner lupine (*Lupinus microcarpus ‘Ed Gelding’*), showy royal penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*) and the large pinkish-purple flowers of Island mallow (*Lavatera assurgentiflora*). The garden is crazy with colorful characters vying for your attention like tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), bird’s-eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), sun cups (*Camissoniopsis bistorta*), monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), fairy duster (*Calliandra sp.*) and apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*). Peer deep inside and maybe glimpse the fiery-red Eaton’s penstemon (*penstemon eatonii*) and the prickly cobweb thistle (*Cirsium occidentale*) as well. The good news is that you can see photos on the Prisk Native Garden facebook page. [https://www.facebook.com/prisknativegarden/](https://www.facebook.com/prisknativegarden/).
The Habitat Gardens at Elizabeth Learning Center continue to dazzle as cool weather fades. Most of the wildflowers can be seen from Elizabeth Street in front of campus. Explore the Desert Habitat Garden to find cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridenata*), 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*), beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), skeleton milkweed (*Asclepias subulata*), brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*), chuparosa (*Justicia californica*), desert marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*), silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*), blue bells (*Phacelia campanularia*), bird’s eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*), owl’s clover (*Castilleja exserta*), and Coulter’s lupine (*Lupinus sparsiflorus*). The Vernal Pool Habitat Garden still has three pools in glorious wet phase, alive with fairy shrimp, clam shrimp and many other vernal pool endemics! Look here also Douglas’ meadowfoam (*Limnanthes douglasii*), San Diego button celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*), woolly marbles (*Psilocarphus brevissimus*), California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*), Otay mesa mint (*Pogogyne nudiuscula*), blue dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*), Otay mountain lotus (*Hosackia crassifolia*), calico monkeyflower (*Diplacus pictus*), fringed-pod (*Thysanocarpus curvipes*), Menzies’ fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*), globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), California sage (*Salvia...*)
californica), chia (Salvia columbariae), chamise (Adenostoma fasciculatum), boxthorn (Lycium californicum), and a beautiful blanket of goldfields (Lasthenia glabrata). Some additional species in the Chaparral Habitat Garden include woolly Indian paintbrush (Castilleja foliolosa), Baja bird bush (Ornithostaphylos oppositifolia), apache plume (Fallugia paradoxa), black sage (Salvia mellifera), pink fairy duster (Calliandra eriophylla), torhleaf goldeneye (Viguiera lacinia), sugar bush (Rhus ovata), Santa Cruz island buckwheat (Eriogonum arborescens), channel island tree poppy (Dendromecon harfordii) and matilija poppy (Romneya coulteri). 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, May 8th** 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](#).

**TPF POPPY HOUR - FRIDAYS, 5:30-6:30 PST**

Join the online community as Theodore Payne Foundation hosts a one-hour celebration of California native plants via either Zoom or Youtube.

Episode 5, May 8: This Friday, at 5:30 pm, we’ll begin with Genny Arnold, Seed Program Manager at Theodore Payne Foundation, and discuss TPF’s role in preserving genetic plant diversity in the urban environment. The second half of the show is dedicated to the memory of Lewis MacAdams, and explores the urban wild and LA River with Lila Higgins, Senior Manager of Community Science at Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and Kat Superfisky, Urban Ecologist with City of Los Angeles.