



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 **March 2nd, 2018**. New reports will be posted each Friday through the end of May. This is the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the Wildflower Hotline!

A Note from Lorrae Fuentes, the Wild Flower Hotline Producer: Due to our dry winter throughout the SoCal region, it will be challenging to find showy displays of wildflowers. We *will* find scattered patches and pockets to view flowers, but don't expect masses of blooms in one place. Wildflowers are finicky and ephemeral, so depending on the weather and species of plant, they can flower, peak and decline within 7-10 days. For this reason I try to keep the time I get an original report to the time it is posted on the hotline to within 7-10 days. I strongly suggest that before you make an extensive trip with high expectations, check out websites or phone your destination to get an update. The site info is on most of the links we provide. Remember that the hunt is often more fun than the find!

For the first time in a couple of years, I've received a report from personnel working at [Pinnacles National Park](#). Although the rainfall in Northern California has been below normal as well, it has been more seasonally wet (during winter months) than rain falling in Southern California. The larger perennial natives benefit most. Big berry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*), bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*), hillside gooseberry (*Ribes californicum*) and the wildly red orange of woolly paintbrush (*Castilleja foliolosa*) and warrior's plume (*Pedicularis densiflora*) are among those beneficiaries. The pretty little milk maids (*Cardamine californica*), an early blooming annual, is also showing up along the trails. The splashes of color against the awesome landscape of the Pinnacles is a must-see experience.



**Big berry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*), bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*)  
Photos from Pinnacles National Monument media.**

News from the [Carrizo Plain National Monument](#) is “Not looking like a good year for wildflowers at this point.” Again, if the recent rainfall is significant and reoccurring over the next few weeks, future reports may be more promising.

Too dry and cool for much to be happening at the [Antelope Valley Poppy Preserve SRA](#). If the recent rains are substantial enough, the hardy California poppies may make a show for visitors yet. Stay tuned.

At the [Elizabeth Learning Center](#), the Habitat Gardens are re-wilding the city of Cudahy with their chaparral, desert, and vernal pool ecosystems; and despite the dry winter many species are beginning to flower! Desert species include cat’sclaw (*Senegalia greggii*), desert lavender (*Condea emoryi*), apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*), Spanish needle (*Palafoxia arida*), desert marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*), brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*), chuparosa (*Justicia californica*), blue bells (*Phacelia campanularia*), bird’s eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*) and Coulter’s lupine (*Lupinus sparsiflorus*). Their vernal pool area contains Menzies’ fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), wart-stemmed ceanothus (*Ceanothus verrucosus*), sawtooth goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), boxthorn (*Lycium californicum*), woolly marbles (*Psilocarphus brevissimus*), and vernal popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys undulatus*). Some additional species in the chaparral garden include woolly Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja foliolosa*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), pink fairy duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*), arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*), 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. Most gardens can be seen from the sidewalk in front of the school without having to check in at the Main Office.



**Pink fairy duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*)  
Photos by George Nanoski**

That's it for this week. Look for our next report on **Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**, 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**

**Poppy Day Spring Plant Sale** *Saturday, March 24, 8:30 am-4:30 pm*

An annual celebration of our State flower and huge native plant sale, offering the region's largest and most interesting selection of California native plants.

#### **15th Annual Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour**

*Saturday & Sunday, April 14 & 15, 2018, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm*

[Tickets on Sale Now](#)

Full details at <http://theodorepayne.org/calendar/annual-garden-tour/>

### **California Native Plant Society Hikes & Events**

Always read the trip outlines for meeting/gathering places, parking/entrance fees or pass requirements and be sure the trips fit your physical abilities. **Trips change. Always check the web page for current information.**

#### [Riverside-San Bernardino Chapter](#)

**Saturday, March 17, 2017, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm – Elizabeth Learning Center, Cudahy. Field Trip-** Take this special opportunity to explore these beautiful Habitat Gardens. Lots of variety of natives from all over Southern California. Many rare species as well. <http://riverside-sanbernardino.cnps.org>

#### [Orange County Chapter](#)

**Casper's Wilderness Park, Sunday, March 11, 8:00 – 11:00 am**

### **Los Angeles County Natural History Museum**

#### **SATURDAY STROLLS IN THE NATURE GARDENS**

**Sat. March 10 & April 14 (second Saturdays, Feb.-July, 2018)  
9:30-11 am**

The theme will be plant selection and appreciation with an emphasis on attracting garden wildlife. Free with Museum entrance. Register via 213-763-3499 Nature Gardens Director, Carol Bornstein, will lead walks with a view to plant selection and wildlife attraction.