

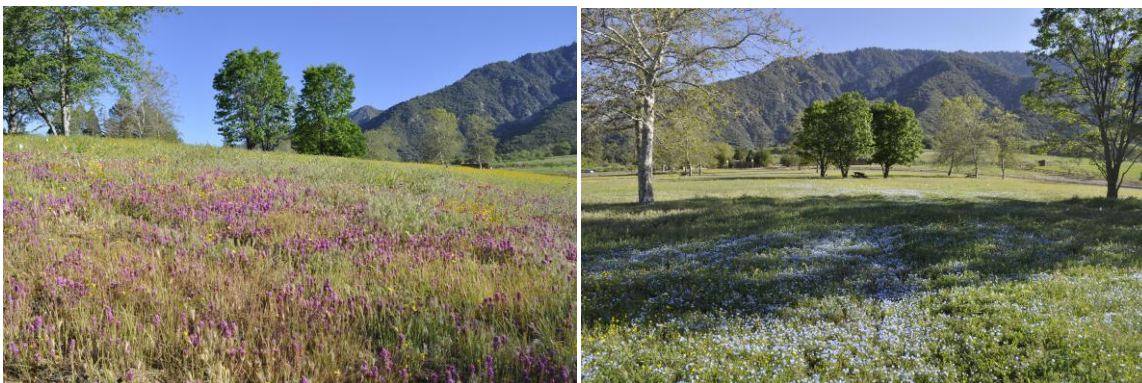


May 10, 2019

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

Mother's Day is Sunday so here are a couple of suggestions for an outing.

It's late spring, but it's going to be a super bloom at Oak Glen Preserve! Situated at 5,000 feet in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains, the bloom comes later there than down in the valleys. The [Southern California Montane Botanic Garden](#) at the Oak Glen Preserve comprises 200 acres of native garden venues and several miles of trails through mixed conifers, black oak and box elder woodlands. Six species of currants and gooseberries (*Ribes* spp.) are already in full bloom and five species of Penstemons (*Penstemon* spp.) are just beginning to pop. But the real treat this year will be "the Artist's Palette." Conceived together among the Wildlands Conservancy staff, they took an actual photograph of French Impressionist painter, Claude Monet's paint palette and digitally overlaid the photo on an aerial image of a six acre hill at the garden entrance. Garden director Dr. Tim Krantz took his own palette of 20 native wildflower species, separated them by color, spray painted lines on the ground and the Wildlands team sowed the seeds by hand to recreate Monet's palette on six acres with wildflowers. This year they got down the seed just before the rain and snow and germination has been very good. Because of slow snow melt and cool weather, the bloom is later than in past years, but the purple owl's clover (*Castilleja* sp.), phacelias (*Phacelia* spp.) and fiddlenecks (*Amsinckia* spp.) are already up, baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) and poppies (*Eschscholzia* spp.), lupines (*Lupinus* spp.) and goldfields (*Lasthenia* spp.) are all filling in. It should be in full bloom for Mother's Day and last through mid-June.



Southern California Montane Botanic Garden. Photos by Tim Krantz

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Late season wildflowers are popping up at [Figueroa Mountain in the Los Padres National Forest](#). Take mom on a road trip to this area and see lovely blooms like fairy lanterns pictured below. Start from Figueroa Mountain Road, 4 miles from the town of Los Olivos. As you cross the first cattle guard and continue from the base of the mountain up to the oak tree canopy, look for the pinkish purple of Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*), fuchsia colored flowers of hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathaceae*), patches of wine cup clarkias (*Clarkia purpurea*) and golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*). As you drive further up, California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) are still in bloom along the road and rocky hillsides. Still further, wall flowers (*Erysium sp.*), butter lupine (*Lupinus luteolus*) and blow wives (*Achyrachaena mollis*) are showing up. Look for Catalina mariposa lilies (*Calochortus catalinae*) in the grasslands too. Flowers at the Vista Point turnout are mostly gone but across from the turnout, look for lots of poppies, purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), and caterpillar phacelia (*Phacelia cicutaria*). Camped out around the Ranger Station, the elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*) is gorgeous and engulfed in large sprays of creamy white flowers. Approaching the Tunnel Road, look for hillsides covered with bush lupine. Stop and take a few moments to smell the heavenly aroma of lupines (*Lupinus sp.*). Along the road also see wallflowers, blue eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), wild onion (*Allium sp.*) and golden yarrow. From this point to the Davy Brown Trailhead, here there many more of the wildflowers already noted along plus chia sage (*Salvia columbariae*), globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*), and fiesta flowers (*Philostoma aurea*) as well. Continuing down the road along a rusty pipe fence, goldfields, wild onion, tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), and Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja sp.*) await to be spotted by you. The road between Ranger Peak and Cachuma Peak is quite lovely, colored with bush lupines, bush poppies (*Dendromecon rigida*), monkey flowers (*Diplacus sp.*), elderberries and purple sage and scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*). Sunset Valley has newcomers starting to pop along with earlier party favors. Celebrate the butter lupine, pink prickly phlox, lavender globe gilia, deep blue Nuttlel's larkspur, purple chia sage, orange California poppies, goldfields (*Lasthenia sp.*), fiesta flowers and wild canyon pea (*Lathyrus sp.*). Coming to the party too are the three clarkia sisters, wine cup clarkia, farewell to spring clarkia and elegant clarkia (*Clarkia unquiculata*). The late season bloomers are also taking over Happy Canyon and in addition look for red paintbrush (*Castilleja sp.*), golden yarrow, fairy lanterns (*Calochortus albus*) and various cactus flowers.

Fairy lanterns (*Calochortus albus*). Photo by Helen Tarbet



The weather has become

warmer at [Hungry Valley State](#)

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[Vehicle Recreation Area](#). The higher elevations in the northern section of the park have the most wildflowers blooming. Noticeably the purple bush lupines (*Lupinus excubitus*) are in full bloom, and there are some California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*). Watch for the sunflower-like balsam root (*Balsamorhiza* sp.) blooming along Spaghetti Pass and in the grasslands. Stipa Trail and Powerline Road have a variety of flowers not seen elsewhere in the park. Watch for globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*), chia sage (*Salvia columbariae*) and desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*) blanketing the hillside. Pygmy lupine (*Lupinus* sp.) mixed with poppies and sun cups (*Camissoniopsis* sp.) cover the slopes at the junction of Powerline and Stipa. Patches of little pink and white Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*), white tidy tips (*Layia glandulosa*), lavender Davy's gilia, and bush lupine (*Lupinus excubitus*) are eye catching at the Condor Trail turn-off. You will also come upon sky blue globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*), chia sage (*Salvia columbariae*), and white pincushion flowers (*Chaenactis* sp.). At the bottom of Powerline, look for scattered bright pink-purple owl's clover (*Castilleja exerta*). At the junction of Maxey Road and Schmidt Ranch Road there is a pastel quilt sewn by the colors of purple chia sage, bush lupine, pink rock cress, red-tipped paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.) and lavender thistle sage (*Salvia carduaceae*). At Oak Grove there is a stunning mix of bright red paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.) and goldenbush (*Ericameria linearifolia*). Scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*) is now blooming in many spots along Gold Hill Road. Purple sage (*Salvia dorii*) with its grey foliage and dense whorls of deep purple blue flowers is in full bloom mixed with goldenbush (*Ericameria linearifolia*) is along the S curves at Smith Forks Campground. Plan to visit hungry Valley to see one of the last and best poppy displays in So Cal. For passenger car driving flower viewers, remember this is a park established for off highway vehicles, so be cautious when driving and park only in turnouts. Park fees apply.

The Butterfly Garden on the Heritage Trail at [Placerita Canyon Nature Center](#) is stunning. Watch the butterflies skitter around scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), elegant clarkia (*Clarkia unquiculata*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), monkey flower (*Diplacus* sp.) and golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*). Continuing on the Heritage Trail, you will come upon black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), holly leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), Parish's purple nightshade (*Solanum parishii*) an morning glory vines (*Calystegia macrostegia*) covering the area. Walking the Hillside trail, you will notice the California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) in peak bloom and serving up plenty of nectar for the birds and the bees. Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), Yerba santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*) are just starting their annual flowering. Little wildflowers like golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*), popcorn flowers (*Cryptantha* sp.) cliff aster (*Malacothrix saxatilis*), common phacelia (*Phacelia distans*), wild sweet pea (*Lathyrus* sp.) and goldfields paint the trail with a bouquet of pastel colors. Finally the chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*) has shot up its tall flowering stalk with large white flowers like a flag.

[Pinnacles National Park](#) which we have mentioned before in these reports is in beautiful bloom. The bonus to visiting is that you may spy a California Condor as well! Located in the Diablo Range in San Benito County, the trails have their own personality reflecting the unusual blooms found along them. Along the Old Pinnacles Trail for example, you can see Mule's ears (*Wyethia helenioides*) named for the big floppy leaves that resemble "ears." In © Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants, Inc. No reproduction of any kind without written permission.

the cool, shady areas on Old Pinnacles look for the pretty little woodland star (*Lithophragma affine*) as well. A pink/purple darling also found along the Old Pinnacles Trail in abundance is elegant clarkia (*Clarkia unguiculata*). The Condor Gulch Trail offers up purple pagodas or Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*) and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*). On Bear Gulch Trail try to locate the large seed heads of silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*) in the grasslands and California hedge nettle (*Stachys bullata*) in the woodlands. Other seasonal blossoms include owl's clover (*Castilleja exerta*), purple mouse ears (*Diplacus douglasii*) yellow pincushion (*Chaenactis glabriuscula*) and evening snow (*Linanthus dichotomus*). Springing up for Spring are the perennial bulbs like yellow pretty face (*Tritelia lugens*) and wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*). In the fields between piles of boulders find patches of cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*), goldfields (*Lasthenia gracilis*), and baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*). In dry areas look for the small blue flowers of California gilia (*Gilia achilleifolia* ssp. *achilleifolia*), bright pink phlox (*Microsteris gracilis*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), sky lupine (*Lupinus nanus*) and California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*). The showy yellow blossoms of bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*) can be found as beacons in the landscape.

While the LA County wildlife sanctuaries in Antelope Valley are now pretty dry, the [Devil's Punchbowl County Park](#) at 4,700 ft elevation is blooming well. Color is tucked in among the rocks and boulders in scattered patches. You will find Fremont's phacelia (*Phacelia fremontii*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), Bigelow's monkeyflower (*Mimulus bigelovii*), Western wallflowers (*Erysimum capitatum*), common muilla (*Muilla maritima*) and chia sage (*Salvia columbariae*). The muilla is a perennial bulb flowering in spring. Look closely in the tiny white flowers and notice it has blue pollen instead of the usual yellow or gold. There is also narrow leaf golden bush (*Ericameria linearifolia*) which serves as a dramatic backdrop for the little jewels of wildflowers. Soon the red paintbrush and flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californicum*) will be joining the golden bush for a spectacular red and gold landscape.

This is the last report from the [Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve](#). It's been an incredible super bloom year. There are still patches of California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) in bloom, but fading. Goldenbush (*Ericameria linearifolia*) and beavertail cactus (*Optunia basilaris*) are just beginning to bloom. Visit before the poppies disappear for another year. Mother's Day would be a nice outing. The Interpretive Center that has natural history displays is open through Mother's Day. The seven miles of trails and the Poppy Reserve will continue to be open from sunrise to sunset daily year round.

Just west of the poppy reserve is the scenic [Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland State Park](#). The female California Juniper (*Juniperus californica*) trees have pretty gray "berries." (The fruits that look like berries actually are fleshy cones that when dry, are woody.) The Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) still have the flowers and some are forming seedpods. Most wildflowers are still blooming throughout the park are fading but you can still see goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), linear-leaf goldenbush (*Ericameria linearifolia*), comb-bur (*Pectocarya* sp.), comet blazing star (*Mentzelia albicaulis*), blue sage (*Salvia dorii*), desert sun cups (*Camissonia palmeri*), Mojave sun cup (*Camissonia campestris*), bladder pod (*Peritoma arborea*), rock cress (*Arabis pulchra*) and scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*).

Near the main entrance to [Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden](#) in Claremont is a stand of Matilija poppies (*Romneya coulteri*) welcoming visitors and waving their large white flowers. Throughout the garden colorful monkey flowers (*Diplacus* sp. and cultivars) are blooming showing reds, yellows, oranges, pinks and white colors. Showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*) is outrageous dressed in its neon-like purple-blue color. In the desert section, the cacti are starting to flower nicely, There is beavertail cactus, hedgehog cactus, grizzleybear prickley pear cactus and Mojave mound cactus blooming red, yellow, and pink, under the regal watch of the blooming white flowering Chaparral Yucca,



Swallowtail on sage (*Salvia* sp.) at RSABG. Photo by Deb Woo

Instead of buying mom perfume for her Mother's Day gift, take her to enjoy the fragrance of the California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*) black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*) and purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*) at the [Environmental Nature Center](#) in Newport Beach. It will be a delightful sensory experience for her. California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*), California encelia (*Encelia californica*) and brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) along with the yellow, orange and red monkeyflowers (*Diplacus aurantiacus*) light up the pathways with their cheery warm colors. Appearing in the desert section is the coral colored desert mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*) accompanied by the Baja desert rose (*Rosa minutiflora*) and scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*). This is a really nice place to visit with mom on Mother's Day.



Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*) at ENC Butterfly House. Photo by Lori Whalen

The Habitat Gardens at [Elizabeth Learning Center](#) are resplendent with wildflowers of all kinds. Most of them can be observed from Elizabeth Street in front of the campus. Anyone who would like access to the gardens for a more in-depth tour can 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 the Desert Habitat Garden, you will find whispering bells (*Emmenanthe penduliflora*), silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*), showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*), browneyes (*Chylismia claviformis* ssp. *claviformis*), owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*), desert plantain (*Plantago ovata*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), sticky teucrium (*Teucrium glandulosum*), catsclaw (*Senegalia greggii*), desert lavender (*Condea emoryi*), apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), bladderpod (*Peritoma*

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arborea), desert holly (*Atriplex hymenelytra*), spanish needle (*Palafoxia arida*), bearded cryptantha (*Cryptantha barbiger* var. *barbiger*), desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*), fish hook cactus (*Mammillaria dioica*), beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), skeleton milkweed (*Asclepias subulata*), brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*), fiveneedle pricklyleaf (*Thymophylla pentachaeta*), 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 spadefoot toad and baja tree frog tadpoles, clam shrimp and other vernal pool endemics! Look here for toothed calicoflower (*Downingia cuspidata*), Farnsworth's jewelflower (*Streptanthus farnsworthianus*), calico monkeyflower (*Diplacus pictus*), Douglas' meadowfoam (*Limnanthes douglasii*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), clustered tarweed (*Deinandra fasciculata*), Otay mountain lotus (*Hosackia crassifolia*), fringed-pod (*Thysanocarpus curvipes*) menzies' fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*), globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*), truncate-leafed lupine (*Lupinus truncatus*), miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), sawtooth goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*), california poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), spinescrub (*Adolphia californica*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), boxthorn (*Lycium californicum*), and goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata*). Additional species in the Chaparral Habitat Garden include Guadalupe Island senecio (*Senecio palmeri*), purple chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*), red maids (*Calandrinia menziesii*), matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), woolly Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja foliolosa*), Baja bird bush (*Ornithostaphylos oppositifolia*), mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata puberula*), 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*), chaparral tree poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*), caterpillar phacelia (*Phacelia cicutaria*), and Orcutt's hazardia (*Hazardia orcuttii*). Elizabeth Learning Center is located off Elizabeth Street between Atlantic and Wilcox Avenues in Cudahy.



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Santa Cruz Island buckwheat (*Eriogonum arborescens*). Photo by George Nanoski

That's it for this week. Look for our next report on **Friday, May 17th** and check back each week for the most up to date information on southern and central California wildflowers.

NATIVE PLANT & WILDFLOWER EVENTS:

[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.

Los Padres National Forest

Santa Lucia Ranger District Spring Tour

Figueroa Wildflower Tour

May 11, 2019, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Meet in front gate of the Gigueroa Station at 9:00 am

More information email htarbet@fs.fed.us

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

The Butterfly Pavilion at RSABG will open this Saturday May 11. (open until August 3, 2019). <https://www.rsabg.org/events-programs/exhibitions>