



March 6, 2020

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Theodore Payne Foundation celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. Watch our [website](#), Facebook and Instagram pages for details on upcoming 60th events.

Let's begin our journey south in the desert not far from the Mexican border. There we find a nice display of white desert evening-primrose (*Oenothera deltoides*) and pink sand verbena (*Abronia villosa*) blooming in the [North Algodones Dunes Wilderness Area](#). Driving Highway 78, which bisects the Dune Wilderness, take in the heady fragrance triggered by the mass bloom of these flowers. A real treat for the senses! Stopping is prohibited on the highway margin, but you can pull over at the overlooks.



Ghost flower (*Mohavea confertiflora*). Photo by George Nanoski.

Continuing north west on Hwy 78 to [Anza-Borrego Desert State Park](#) visitors can now see scattered areas of flowers blooming throughout the park. The Park has not received enough rainfall for a "super bloom", but if you venture away from paved roads, you'll be treated to patches of wild flowers mostly throughout the Park. The bloom is at peak now, but fading, so don't wait much longer to visit. Entering the Park from the west, the Montezuma Grade, State Highway-22, lights up with profuse yellow flowers of desert brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) and guides you into the valley. Scattered about are lupines (*Lupinus* sp.), and desert chicory (*Rafinesquia neomexicana*) pokes up through the various

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desert shrubs. The popular DiGiorgio Road north of Borrego Springs has a decent display of desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*), some phacelia (*Phacelia* sp.), pincushion (*Chaenactis fremontii*), desert sand verbena (*Abronia villosa*) and chuparosa (*Justicia californica*) at the end of the pavement and at the mouth of Coyote Canyon. Best to walk the canyons and trails to see the greatest diversity of flowers. Along Carrizo Creek wash at the State Highway-2 crossing, there are some fun little belly flowers—Bigelow's monkeyflower (*Mimulus bigelovii*), desert star (*Monoptilon belliodes*), Wallace's woolly daisy (*Eriophyllum wallacei*), purple mat (*Nama demissum*) and sand blazing star (*Mentzelia involucreta*). Up a small canyon wash near Bow Willows Campground you'll see a great concentration of the ethereal ghost flower (*Mohavea confertiflora*). Entire canyon walls were carpeted with this beauty! The hike up the wash of nearby Carrizo Canyon yields hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus engelmannii*), desert lily (*Hesperocallis undulata*), desert five-spot (*Eremalche rotundifolia*) beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), Emory's rock daisy (*Perityle emoryi*), whispering bells (*Emmenanthe penduliflora*), fish hook cactus (*Mammillaria dioica*), Parish's poppy (*Eschscholzia parishii*), and brown-eyed primrose (*Chylismia claviformis*)!



Desert lily (*Hesperocallis undulata*), brown-eyed primrose (*Chylismia claviformis*).

Photos by George Nanoski

Farther north in the desert, [Joshua Tree National Park](#) seems to be popping with the chartreuse yellow bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*) everywhere. Enjoy the colorful combos too of the electric blue chia sage (*Salvia columbariae*), golden Parish's poppy (*Eschscholzia parishii*), pink desert five-spot (*Eremalche rotundifolia*) and yellow desert dandelion (*Malacothrix glabrata*), growing alongside the bladderpod.



Desert five-spot (*Eremalche rotundifolia*).. Photo by George Nanoski

[Death Valley National Park](#) is not expecting a super bloom this year but should have a good variety of wild flowers in different areas of the park. From now until mid-April the lower elevations on alluvial fans and foothills should be able to find desert gold (*Geraea canescens*), notch-leaf phacelia (*Phacelia crenulata*), yellow cups (*Chylismia brevipes*), gravel ghost (*Atrichoseris platyphylla*), Bigelow monkeyflower (*Mimulus bigelovii*) and desert five-spot (*Eremalche rotundifolia*).

There are many poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) and other lovely desert wild flowers in bloom now at the [Antelope Valley State Poppy Reserve](#). The warm weather has encouraged the poppies to open by mid-morning; but they hide their pretty faces in the late afternoon or if it's cold and windy. Check the weather forecast before leaving. Don't forget to note all the dainty white forget-me-nots too. Check out the Reserve's NEW PoppyCam live feed camera at their website. Please remember, visitors must stay on the official trails. Photos out in the flower fields are not allowed as that activity creates much damage.

Before the annual wild flowers come into bloom, winter flowering shrubs put on their show at [Placerita Canyon Nature Center](#). Look for the currants and gooseberries—golden currant (*Ribes aureum*), chaparral currant (*Ribes malvaceum*) and fuchsia-flowering gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*). Just follow the hummingbirds! The stately white flowered hoary ceanothus (*Ceanothus crassifolius*) is everywhere on the trails. Look for the California peony (*Paeonia californica*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* sp.), nightshade (*Solanum xantii*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) and locoweed (*Astragalus* sp.) tucked in among the Chaparral understory. The wild cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*) is vining up the trees and shrubs trying to reach the sun. Along the stream, look for the cottony flowers of Arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and the scent of California

sage brush (*Artemisia californica*) is stirred up if you brush past it.

Dead Horse Canyon in the [Santa Monica Mountains](#) is a trail between Trippet Ranch and the Dead Horse Parking lot. The trail takes you through both sunny chaparral and patches of woodland. In the coming weeks, there should be a variety of flowering annuals in these diverse habitats. For now, enjoy seeing miner's lettuce (*Claytonia* sp.) in the shady woodlands under tree canopies. Walk out into the chaparral areas to find blooming Eastwood manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa*), a fair amount of flowering wild cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*), nightshade (*Solanum* sp.) and fuchsia-flowering gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*). Just above the bridge are blooming California peonies (*Paeonia californica*).

Driving north through the pass. looks like Gorman will have something to show in the next couple of weeks. There is a blush of bright yellow and blue flowers of yet unknown species covering the hills. Do not try "drive-by" plant ID at 70mph though. Pull off the freeway at safe, appropriate places and take a hike.

It's been a dry winter at [Carrizo Plain National Monument](#) and they are not expecting a good bloom year, but they do have a few patches of goldfields (*Lasthenia* sp.) right now. The best area is between Panorama Road and KCL campground on Soda Lake Road.

This season's early rainfall resulted in a prolific germination event in the Sierra Foothill Woodland region east of Visalia and in Three Rivers. Wildflower seedlings are growing in abundance. However, if no further rainfall happens, it is possible that the show may be short lived. Presently great masses of Eastwood's fiddleneck (*Amsinckia eastwoodiae*) and rusty haired popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys nothofulvus*) cover many of the hillsides. Also making a nice display is miner's lettuce (*Claytonia* sp.). Red maids (*Calandrinia menziesii*), fringe pod (*Thysanocarpus* sp.) and woodland poppies (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*) are beginning to bloom as are silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*) and buck brush (*Ceanothus cuneatus* var. *cuneatus*). Everywhere redbuds (*Cercis occidentalis*) have their branches swathed in bright pink blossoms. The blue oaks (*Quercus douglasii*) are leafing out and mountain blue penstemon (*Penstemon laetus*), soap plant (*Chlorogalum* sp.), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*) and wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*) are beginning to show color.

At the [Environmental Nature Center](#) in Newport Beach *Ceanothus* (*Ceanothus* spp.), California encelia (*Encelia californica*), and California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) are blooming happily on most trails in the Center. In the Chaparral Garden, California primrose (*Eulobus californicus*), fuchsia flowering gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*), Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*), Arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*) and stinging lupine (*Lupinus hirsutissimus*) can be seen flowering. Inviting you to visit the Channel Islands section are chaparral mallow (*Malacothamnus fasciculatus*), San Clemente Island mallow (*Malacothamnus clemintinus*), and Island snapdragon (*Galvesia speciosa*) while Western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) and hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*) tease you into the Oak Woodlands. Meanwhile, Indian mallow (*Abutilon palmeri*), Baja desert rose (*Rosa minutifolia*), and desert mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*) are also offering up irresistible blossoms.

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The Habitat Gardens at [Elizabeth Learning Center](#) are outdoor ecological learning spaces where the students of AP Environmental Science and Biology have endeavored to rewild neglected areas of campus with native flora and fauna! Most of their wild flower show can be seen from the sidewalk on Elizabeth Street in front of the campus without having to check in at the Main Office!

Explore the Desert Habitat Garden to find cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*), desert marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*), 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*), blue bells (*Phacelia campanularia*), woolly sunflower (*Ericophyllum ambiguum*), Arizona four nerve daisy (*Tetranneuris acaulis* var. *arizonica*), miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), and Coulter's lupine (*Lupinus sparsiflorus*).



Silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*). Photo by George Nanoski

For vernal pool aficionados, the Vernal Pool Habitat Garden is a special place! 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*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata*), Douglas' meadowfoam (*Limnanthes douglasii*), woolly marbles (*Psilocarphus brevissimus*), Otay mesa mint (*Pogogyne nudiuscula*), and blue dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*).

Some additional species in the Chaparral Habitat Garden include woolly Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja foliolosa*), miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*), Stebbin's morning glory (*Calystegia stebbinsii*), apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), pink fairy duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*), torhleaf goldeneye (*Viguiera laciniata*), sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*), Santa Cruz Island buckwheat (*Eriogonum arborescens*), giant coreopsis (*Leptosyne gigantea*), Channel Island tree poppy (*Dendromecon harfordii*), Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*), and blue paloverde (*Parkinsonia florida*).

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Elizabeth Learning Center is located off Elizabeth Street between Atlantic and Wilcox Avenues in Cudahy. Please email George Nanoski, the Habitat Gardens Coordinator at gtn5586@lausd.net for further inquiries.

That's it for this week. Look for our next report on **Friday, March 13**, and check back each week for the most up-to-date information on southern and central California wild flowers.

NATIVE PLANT AND WILD FLOWER EVENTS

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

POPPY DAY SPRING PLANT SALE

One day only: Saturday, March 21, 8:30am-4:30pm. Discounts to all on plants, seed, and TPF gear! TPF Members: 15% off; Non-members: 10% off. **PLUS** 20% discount to all on 4" California poppies and other spring annuals. Shop early for best selection!

2020 THEODORE PAYNE NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR

Saturday & Sunday, March 28 & 29, 10:00am-5:00pm. A two-day, self-guided journey through the Los Angeles region's most beautiful and inspiring private and public landscapes. Forty-two gardens, including 21 new to the tour. Details, photos, and tickets at nativeplantgarden.org.

CNPS - SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

ARTFUL CALIFORNIA NATIVE GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, April 4, 9:00am-4:00pm. The tour will highlight artists in select gardens and focus on the inland native gardens of San Diego East County. Details and tickets at <https://www.cnps.org/event/2020-sd-garden-tour>.

