March 25, 2022

Theodore Payne Foundation’s Wild Flower Hotline is made possible by donations, and memberships. Please support the Hotline today!

The Theodore Payne Wild Flower Hotline offers free weekly on-line and recorded updates on the best locations for viewing spring wild flowers in Southern and Central California. All locations are on easily accessible public lands and range from urban to wild, distant to right here in L.A.

Mother Nature has turned up the heat this week, so be sure to visit wildflowers before they fade for the year.

In the report last week, we spoke of the excellent flowering status at Pinnacles National Park north of King City. The highlight plants are still outstanding and include bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigidas*), silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albilfrons*), tufted poppy (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*), red paintbrush (*Castilleja foliosa*) and many colorful annual species, The flowering spectacle is well worth visiting. Another location mentioned was the southern Sierra foothill region east of and Visalia and Fresno where swaths of foothill poppies (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*), California goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*), spider lupine (*Lupinus benthamii*) and now Western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) trees stand out in the landscape.

The live stream PoppyCam at the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve, is still showing orange patches covering the hillsides. California poppies (Eschscholzia californica) are in bloom but will fade if hot dry winds persist. The time to visit is NOW! If visiting the Reserve, hike to the north loop of the Antelope Trail for a good display of poppies. Lupines (Lupinus sp.) can be seen blooming on the Tehachapi Vista Trail. Fiddlenecks (Amsinckia sp.) and patches of goldfields (Lasthenia sp.) are flowering throughout the Reserve. If visiting, check the weather forecast before leaving. The weather can change suddenly, and it is frequently windy there during the spring.

At Placerita Canyon Nature Center in Newhall, walk any trail to enjoy the diversity of native California plants in flower or fruit. The Ecology has surprises in the form of lingering winter and early spring flowering natives. The two ceanothus cousins, hairy and hoary ceanothus (Ceanothus crassifolius and C. oliganthus) are still in bloom and grace the trail. The fuchsia-flowering gooseberry (Ribes speciosum), in sheltered areas under large oaks (Quercus agrifolia), are still putting out red blossoms and are a-buzz with nectar seeking hummingbirds. Flowering ash (Fraxinus dipetela) is splendid with creamy-white blossoms dancing in afternoon breezes. Other handsome shrubs seen along the trail include Yerba Santa (Eriodictyon crassifolium), sugar bush (Rhus ovata) and mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus betuloides). Sunnier places display red flowers of scarlet bugler (Penstemon centranthifolius) and colorful annuals taking advantage of spring season soil moisture. Sun-cups (Camissoniopsis intermedia), popcorn flowers (Plagiobothrys sp.) and blue dicks (Dipterospermon capitatus) cluster at the trail edges.
In Claremont, visit the California Botanic Garden (formerly Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden) to see their spectacular annual flowering of the flannel bushes (*Fremontodendron* species and cultivars). The snowdrop bush (*Styrax redivivus*) is equally spectacular for the short time it is displaying its lovely white flowers. Look for it in sheltered shady places. California wild rose (*Rosa* species and cultivars) can be seen on the Mesa trails climbing along the fences. Scattered throughout the native habitat gardens, the elderberry trees (*Sambucus nigra*) just started blooming and are splendidly decked out in clusters of creamy-white blossoms. Sun yellow flowers of California brittlebush (*Encelia californica*) and desert marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*) are greeting you in large numbers near the entrance. Patches of Douglas Iris (*Iris* species and cultivars) in shades of purple, blue and lavender grow in the shelter of large oaks (*Quercus* spp.), producing an impressionist painting. Fragrant sages (*Salvia* spp. and cultivars) and woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) are in bloom and attracting many pollinators. Be sure to look for them on the Mesa trails. Along the Desert pathways, Mojave Yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) are showing spikes of white flowers poking out of...

sword-like leaves and red flowering chuparosa (*Justicia californica*) signaling to hummingbirds to visit. Cheerful California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) can be seen all around the garden.

In coastal Newport Beach, at the Environmental Nature Center, the moderate temperatures are favorable for spring flowering plants and the visitors observing them. The Nature Center is a pleasant locality to experience many southern California habitats in one place. Resident plants in the desert section of the nature center display sunny pastel colors like golden-flowered Indian mallow (*Abutilon palmeri*), sunny yellow desert encelia (*Encelia farinosa*) and pink fairy duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*). Visitors can also see flowering natives that reside in natural habitats along the coast. Colors represented in these species include blues of ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp.) blossoms, yellow bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*), red monkeyflower (*Diplacus puniceus*), fuchsia-pink hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*), lavender tansy-leaf phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*), and sapphire blue Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*). Orange poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) shouting “Eureka California” are the found everywhere in the garden.
Red monkeyflower (Diplacus puniceus, pink fairy duster (Calliandra eriophylla). Photos by Michael Charters

The Habitat Gardens at Elizabeth Learning Center are still wowing with a kaleidoscope of colors! Desert species include thistle sage (Salvia carduacea), catclaw (Senegalia greggii), jojoba (Simmondsia chinensis), sweet bush (Bebbia juncea), creosote bush (Larrea tridentata), showy penstemon (Penstemon spectabilis), desert lavender (Condea emoryi), apricot mallow (Sphaeralcea ambigua), cryptantha (Cryptantha sp.), bladderpod (Peritoma arboarea), brittle bush (Encelia farinosa), fiveneedle pricklyleaf (Thymophylla pentachaeta), wishbone bush (Mirabilis laevis var. villosa), climbing milkweed (Funastrum cynanchoïdes var. hartwegii), silver puffs (Uropappus lindleyi), blue bells (Phacelia campanulica), bird's eye gilia (Gilia tricolor) and coulter's lupine (Lupinus sparsiflorus). The vernal pool area contains Menzies' fiddleneck (Amsinckia menziesii), California sage (Salvia californica), owl's clover (Castilleja exserta), tidy tips (Layia platyglossa), fringe-pod (Thysanocarpus curvipes), deerweed (Acmispon glaber), wart stemmed ceanothus (Ceanothus verrucosus), school bells, a.k.a. blue dicks (Dipterostemon capitatus) golden spined cereus (Bergerocactus emoryi), sawtooth goldenbush (Hazardia squarrosa), california poppy (Eschscholzia californica), yellow-rayed goldfields (Lasthenia glabrata), cliff spurge (Euphorbia misera), spinescrub (Adolphia californica), chia (Salvia columbariae), boxthorn (Lycium californicum), woolly marbles (Psilocarphus brevissimus), California Orcutt grass (Orcuttia californica), vernal popcorn flower (Plagiobothrys undulatus) and Orcutt's quillwort (Isoetes orcuttii). Some additional species in the chaparral garden include woolly paintbrush (Castilleja foliopina), splendid mariposa lily (Calochortus splendens), southern mountain misery (Chamaebatia australis), purple nightshade (Solanum xanti), Nevin's barberry (Berberis nevini), pink fairy duster (Calliandra eriophylla), black sage (Salvia mellifera), arroyo lupine (Lupinus suculentus), miner's lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata), giant coreopsis (Leptosyne gigantea), sugar bush (Rhus ovata), Santa Cruz Island buckwheat (Eriogonum arborescens) 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.

That’s it for this week. Look for our next report on Friday, April 1st and check back each week for the most up to date information on southland central California wildflowers.

NATIVE PLANT AND WILD FLOWER EVENTS

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

- **POPPY DAY SPRING PLANT SALE, April 1-2**

  Create an at home superbloom! TPF will have a great selection of colorful annuals and other beautiful Spring wildflowers. Sign up for a shopping time slot at: [bit.ly/PoppyDaysSpringSale2022](http://bit.ly/PoppyDaysSpringSale2022).

- **2022 THEODORE PAYNE NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR**
  April 23-24

  After two years of virtual tours, we’re thrilled to announce that the 2022 Native Plant Garden Tour will be back in-person on April 23 & 24. Highlights include 10+ new gardens, a new stylized tour guide filled with vivid stories and interviews, and an after-party at L.A. State Historic Park. Visit [nativeplantgardentour.org](http://nativeplantgardentour.org) for more details.

PLACERITA CANYON NATURE CENTER

- **Blooms of the Season Hikes**
  4th Saturday of each month at 9:30, (March 26)
  Meet at the front steps of the Nature Center. Open House is May 14 from 10-2

- **Prisk Native Garden’s Open House**
  Sunday, April 3, 1-4 pm; Sunday, April 10, 1-4 pm.
  At Prisk Elementary School, San Vicente & Los Arcos, Long Beach.
  Admission Free; donations accepted.
  For more information, contact letteriello@charter.net
