

WILD FLOWER HOTLINE

MARCH – MAY 2023

Celebrating
40
Years



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.

MAY 26, 2023

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY

While super blooms are a beautiful and awe-inspiring natural phenomenon, they are also delicate and are easily damaged by human activity, so it is important to enjoy them responsibly and minimize the impact on fragile ecosystems. Please...

- ✿ Stay on designated trails
- ✿ Share the trails; be respectful of others
- ✿ Visit on weekdays and/or off-peak hours, if possible
- ✿ Do not collect or trample wildflowers
- ✿ Remember your experience(s) through photos

Get out this Memorial Day weekend and enjoy the final bloom of annual wildflowers and the beginning of summer flowering perennials. It's time for our native Chaparral communities along trails at mid and upper elevations to start exhibiting their annual splendor.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST RANGES

North Wilderness Trail in [Pinnacles National Park](#), look for the Coast Range triplet lily (*Triteleia lugens*). It is endemic to California and is a bulb plant that prefers forest and chaparral habitats. The flowers have six yellow rounded petals each with a dark center vein. Another beautiful bulb that has popped up along the same trail is the crinkled onion (*Allium crispum*). The crinkled onion is distinguished from other onion species in the park by its inner flower petals which are wavy (crinkled!) on the margins. The butterfly Mariposa lily (*Calochortus venustus*), like many Mariposa lilies, can be variable in color but all are extremely attractive! Most in the park are white with maroon-colored centers, brushed with maroon spots on the petals and 6 golden stamens. The lilies can be found along the Condor Gulch Trail. Two late spring clarkia species can be found in open areas and woodlands in the park. The elegant clarkia (*Clarkia unguiculata*) is dressed in shades of pink, lavender, maroon, red, and white. It has distinct spreading "clawed" petals. Chaparral clarkia (*Clarkia affinis*) sports pink petals that have small red spots that vary from flower to flower. Scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*) has tubular red flowers and is predominantly pollinated by

hummingbirds, but it also attracts bees and butterflies. It has attractive waxy stems and leaves and can be found growing in dry open and disturbed areas. Woolly pod milkweed (*Asclepias eriocarpa*) is also found in dry open areas. The foliage is felty green gray. The flowers are white or blush pink and grow in large clusters. This species, like other milkweeds, is an important food plant for the monarch butterfly caterpillar. Two typical “fire followers” can be seen blooming now. One is the annual wind poppy (*Papaver heterophyllum*). Look for it in open grassy areas. It is in the poppy family and has bright orange petals and a several maroon stamens. This plant’s seeds require fire to germinate, and its flowers are self-pollinating. Woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) is a perennial that grows in woodlands and chaparral habitat and is considered a “fire follower” as well. Blue curls often begin growth soon after a fire. The flowers grow in clusters along the stem and the entire plant is fragrant like many species in the mint family. The Venus thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* var. *venustum*) can grow up to 6 feet tall and have several bright red flower heads. The red blooms are a food source for hummingbirds and swallowtail butterflies. You can’t miss it! Venus thistle can be found throughout the park.



Above: Woolly pod milkweed (*Asclepias eriocarpa*), chaparral clarkia (*Clarkia affinis*), wind poppy (*Papaver heterophyllum*). Below: Butterfly Mariposa lily (*Calochortus venustus*), Venus thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* var. *venustum*), crinkled onion (*Allium crispum*). Photos by Andrew Harmon except for *A. crispum* which is by William Dornbach.

SOUTHERN SIERRA FOOTHILLS

Spring came in with lots of promise and it was floriferous and beautiful in the foothill woodlands east of Visalia. However, what promised to be a terrific mid to late spring with huge swaths of mustang clover (*Leptosiphon montanus*), vibrant patches of purple Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*), and white tip clover (*Trifolium variegatum*), was short-lived after a 10-day

heat wave with temperatures in the 90's. These wildflowers set seed quickly in the heat. As spring annuals fade, perennials and woody trees and shrubs are decorating the woodland hillsides now in this part of California. Like its pretty face cousin (*Triteleia ixioides*), harvest brodiaea (*Brodiaea elegans*) is having a banner year standing out bright and blue in the now dry grasslands.

Right on cue with the drying grasses, the local speckled clarkia (*Clarkia cylindrica* ssp. *callicarpa*), is putting on a pretty good show accompanied by patches of sunburst yellow madia (*Madia elegans*) which are still quite prolific. It is always fun to find something novel. A white form of the speckled clarkia showed up amidst a large patch of its normal pink cohorts. As the annual and perennials begin to shift into summer mode it is the shrubs and trees turn to shine as they begin putting out their blossoms. Presently California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), Chaparral honeysuckle (*Lonicera interrupta*), the local beard tongue, (*Keckiella breviflora*), California Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*) and rock bush monkeyflower (*Diplacus calycinus*) are in full fragrant bloom with many others. Next, as we move into summer, will be the flowering of local milkweeds (*Asclepius* spp.), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), spicebush (*Calacanthus occidentalis*), willows (*Salix* spp.) and ash (*Fraxinus* sp.).



Above: Rock bush monkeyflower (*Diplacus calycinus*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*). Below: Chaparral honeysuckle (*Lonicera interrupta*), purple Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*), speckled clarkia (*Clarkia cylindrica* ssp. *callicarpa*), accompanied by patches of sunburst yellow madia (*Madia elegans*). Photos by Mike Wall.

THE VALLEY

Visit the [Tujunga Wash/Oro Vista Park](#) area and explore the 1.5-mile loop trail near Sunland, California. Generally considered an easy route, this trail is great for displays of yellow pincushion (*Chaenactis glabriuscula*), chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), Coulter's snapdragon (*Antirrhinum coulteri*) and thicketleaf Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*) plus smaller numbers of about 50 other Coastal Sage Scrub and Chaparral plant species. Look for the endemic Davidson's bush mallow (*Malacothamnus davidsonii*) too.



Sacapellote (*Acourtia microcephala*), golden stars (*Bloomeria crocea*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). Photos by Michael Charters.

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

A visit to [Placerita Canyon Nature Center](#) to hike chaparral trails is a treat for your senses this time of year. After a stroll or hike, have a picnic under the cool shaded oak groves surrounding the Nature Center. Several trails extend out from the Nature Center and vary in length. The main trail is closed because of running water in the creek, but all other trails welcome visitors. A popular route is the hike from Heritage Trail to Hillside Trail. There is a wonderful variety annuals and perennials. It is a joy to walk the trail. Common to see on any visit and any trail, but always beautiful are Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*) and purple nightshade (*Solanum xanti*). Yellow pincushion (*Chaenactis glabriuscula*) is flowering in huge numbers accompanied by other yellow-gold hues of flowering goldfields (*Lasthenia* sp.), Southern sun cups (*Camissoniopsis* sp.), sticky monkey flowers (*Diplacus longiflorus*) and golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*). White popcorn flowers (*Plagiobothrys* sp.), elegant clarkias (*Clarkia unguiculata*) and silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*) remain visitors' favorites. The perennials scattered about include scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), holly leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*) and lance-leaf dudleya (*Dudleya lanceolata*).

There are still many flowers on Ecology Trail including massive numbers of yellow pincushion flowers. Visit that trail too if you

have time.

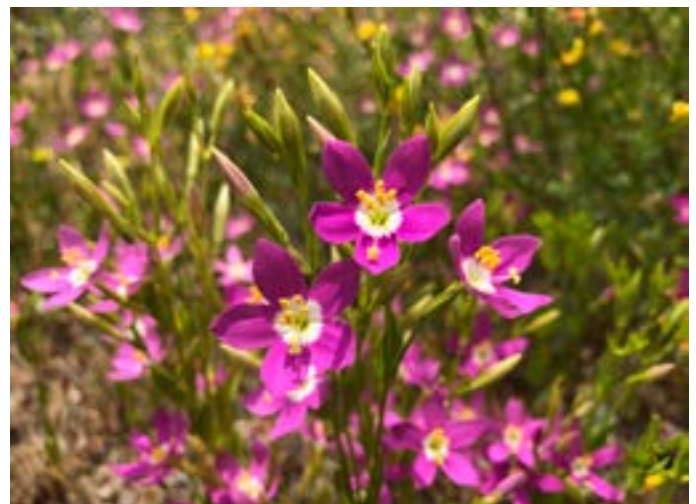
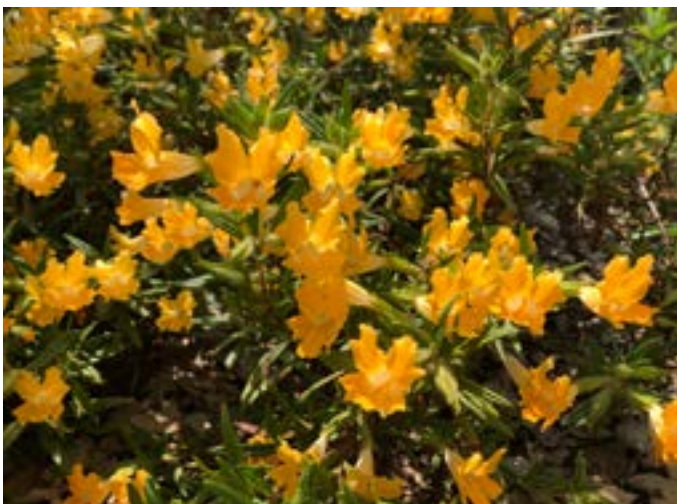
The [Mt. Wilson trail](#) above Sierra Madre is awash in flowers right now. Mt. Wilson Trail is 7.5 miles from the bottom to the top at Mt. Wilson with a 4500' elevation differential that displays a tremendous diversity of plants. Most people hike as far as First Water and turn around, but there are those that enjoy hiking to the top and back. Depending how far up one treks, a hiker will be rewarded by seeing some of Southern California's most iconic trees. These include big cone Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), three species of oaks (*Quercus* spp.), big leaf maple (*Acer macrophylla*), walnut (*Juglans californica*), bay (*Umbellularia californica*) and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*). Shrubs and woody perennials encountered along the way are sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus longiflorus*), rock goldenbush (*Ericameria cuneata* var. *cuneata*), coffeeberry (*Frangula californica* ssp. *californica*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), holly leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *ilicifolia*), and heartleaf penstemon (*Keckiella cordifolia*). These beauties are frolicking with attractive bright pink prickly phlox (*Linanthus californicus*), southern honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata* var. *denudata*), laural sumac (*Malosma laurina*), scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*), Grinnell's (*Penstemon grinnellii* var. *grinnellii*), showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*), the sage sisters— black (*Salvia mellifera*), white (*Salvia apiana*) and Cleveland sages (*Salvia clevelandii*), buckwheats (*Eriogonum* spp.) and nightshades (*Solanum* spp.). Stop to admire the California false indigo bush (*Amorpha californica* var. *californica*). It is the host plant for the Pacific Dogface butterfly, California's state butterfly. Other colorful characters you'll notice include yarrows (*Achillea* spp.), pincushions (*Chaenactis* spp.), fairy lanterns (*Calochortus albus*), a variety of mariposa lilies (*Calochortus* spp.), sun cups (*Camissoniopsis confusa*), clarkias (*Clarkia* spp.), Martin's paint brush (*Castilleja applegatei* ssp. *martini*), and both scarlet (*Delphinium cardinale*) and spreading (*Delphinium patens* ssp. *hepaticoides*) larkspurs. It is customary to witness the seasonal flowering of canyon dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *pumila*), whispering bells (*Emmenanthe penduliflora* var. *penduliflora*), everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*), many phacelia species (*Phacelia* spp.), twining snapdragon (*Antirrhinum kelloggii*), splendid gilia (*Gilia splendens*) and chaparral gilia (*Gilia angelensis*) and three species of poppies (*Eschscholzia* spp.) including small flowered meconella (*Meconella denticulate*)— a white poppy. Always be on the lookout for poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) and poodle-dog bush (*Eriodictyon parryi*). Both are skin irritants but are usually found off trail. (Note: Trail will be closed May 27 for the annual trail race).





Small flowered meconella (*Meconella denticulate*), false indigo (*Amorpha californica* var. *californica*), big cone Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*). Photos by Michael Charters.

While sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*) has been flowering for the last couple of months, during this past week, these perennials have been exploding with flowers at the [California Botanic Garden](#)! As you walk along the Mesa and California Communities, you can see patches of the creamy-orange flowering shrubs. On the East Mesa pathway, find the appropriately named 'mules' ears' (*Wyethia elata*) with its large fuzzy green leaves. Also up on the Mesa is the California Cultivar Garden where the Jock Brydon rhododendron (*Rhododendron* 'Jock Brydon') is drawing in visitors with its orange-streaked flowers. A new addition along the Mesa pathways is the farewell-to-spring (*Clarkia amoena*) with its four pink petals flecked with red spots. An iconic harbinger of spring in the California chaparral community is chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*). It can be found throughout the garden and recognized by its clusters of tiny white rose-like flowers. Lastly, a flower everyone looks forward to blooming in the garden is Davy's centaury (*Zeltnera davyi*), also known as canchalagua. Look for neon magenta-pink flowers blanketing large areas in the California Communities section of the garden. Look closer at the yellow corkscrew stamens. Very unusual and very cute.



Sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), Davy's centaury (*Zeltnera davyi*), Photos courtesy of CalBG

INLAND EMPIRE

The Inland Empire offers a special treat for wildflower hunters along Bautista Road between Hemet and Anza, including the burn area from the Fairview Fire of September, last year. It is fabulous! You can see a diversity of flowering plants just walking very short distances from the car, almost entirely along the road. But really, what fun is that? Hike a little farther at two stops mentioned here and experience the full beauty of spring in both the mature chaparral and post fire chaparral. The first stop is just southeast of Hemet at Stetson and Fairview Avenues. About 3 miles south on Fairview Ave, the road becomes Bautista Canyon Road. The first stop has at least 20 species in bloom, including gorgeous fields of Parry's larkspur (*Delphinium parryi*) many pinkish-purple Mexican onion (*Allium peninsulare*), globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*), showy yellow sun cups (*Camissoniopsis bistorta*) and, dotting the landscape, white cryptantha (*Cryptantha intermedia*). Chaparral gilia (*Gilia angelensis*), whispering bells (*Emmenanthe penduliflora*), canterbury bells (*Phacelia minor*), splendid mariposa lily (*Calochortus splendens*) and orange fire poppies (*Papaver heterophyllum*) are blooming profusely as well. This burn area continues for another 4.5 miles. Along the way there are fields of Coulter's snapdragon (*Antirrhinum coulteri*) each with many white flowers on a tall stalk; fields of pink splendid mariposa lilies (*Calochortus splendens*), wide throated yellow monkeyflower (*Diplacus brevipes*); swathes of prickly poppy (*Argemone munita*), yellow pincushion (*Chaenactis glabriuscula*), and short lobed phacelia (*Phacelia brachyloba*). You can spend hours making multiple stops along the road, feasting on beautiful plants in bloom. Bautista Canyon Road is paved almost to the end of the burn area, which is just past the Bautista Conservation Camp #36. The show of wildflowers continues up the unpaved, but good, road in the unburned landscape. That unpaved road can be traversed by any passenger car since it is well graded, with no difficult places. Immediately on entering this unburned mature chaparral, there is a large display of Parish's woolly blue curls (*Trichostema parishii*) making purple patches throughout the chaparral. A blue haze of Chinese houses (*Collinsia* spp.) and larkspurs (*Delphinium patens*) is covering one large area, and the bushy western lupine (*Lupinus formosus*) was in good bloom in two spots. Yellow bush penstemon (*Keckelia antirrhinoides*) is in full bloom and splattered throughout the blue-purple canvas of flowers.



Parish's woolly blue curls (*Trichostema parishii*), short lobed phacelia (*Phacelia brachyloba*), Mexican onion (*Allium peninsulare*). Photos by Don Rideout.

The bloom on the [Cedar Spring Trail](#) / PCT in the San Jacinto Mountains is at full bloom. [A running spring](#) about one mile from the trailhead, where the trail leaves the drainage, is still flowing well (Note that this spring is not THE Cedar spring on the other side of the Desert Divide.) Some plant highlights include Johnston's rockcress (*Boechea johnstonii*), silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*), spearleaved mountain dandelion (*Agoseris retrorsa*), a type of buckwheat called oxytheca (*Sidotheca emarginata*), cupped leaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus perplexans*) and the parasitic aphyllon (*Aphyllon franciscanum*) popping up near its host plant, the sagebrush. On the drive to the trailhead, there is bountiful, blooming splendid mariposa lilies (*Calochortus splendens*) growing among the roadside's drying grasses. Most can be seen on SR79 just east of Temecula and along SR79 most of the way to Aguanga.



Above: Oxytheca (*Sidotheca emarginata*), Johnston's rockcress (*Boechea johnstonii*), aphyllon (*Aphyllon franciscanum*).
Below: Spearleaved mountain dandelion (*Agoseris retrorsa*), silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*), cupped leaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus perplexans*). Photos by Don Rideout.

URBAN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Spring just gets better and better at [\[CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO!\]](#), Elizabeth Learning Center! The Desert Habitat Garden impresses with paper bag bush (*Scutellaria mexicana*), wine-cup clarkia (*Clarkia purpurea*), beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *basilaris*), desert lily (*Hesperocallis undulata*), desert paintbrush (*Castilleja chromosa*), owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*), silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*), miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), wishbone bush (*Mirabilis laevis* var. *villosa*), catclaw (*Senegalia greggii*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), desert lavender (*Condea emoryi*), apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), Emory's globe mallow (*Sphaeralcea emoryi*), bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*), brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*), fiveneedle pricklyleaf (*Thymophylla pentachaeta*), climbing milkweed (*Funastrum cynanchoides* var. *hartwegii*), jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*), blue bells (*Phacelia campanularia*), bird's eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*) and Coulter's lupine (*Lupinus sparsiflorus*). The Vernal Pools Habitat Garden delights with alkali mariposa lily (*Calochortus striatus*), San Diego mesa mint (*Pogogyne abramsii*), woolly marbles (*Psilocarphus brevissimus*), toothed calicoflower (*Downingia cuspidata*), thread leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), chaparral prickly pear (*Opuntia oricola*), gum plant (*Grindelia camporum*), San Diego ceanothus (*Ceanothus cyaneus*), golden-spined cereus (*Bergerocactus emoryi*), Nuttall's snapdragon (*Antirrhinum nuttallianum*), truncate-leaf lupine (*Lupinus truncatus*), Menzies' fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*), owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*), Otay mountain lotus (*Hosackia crassifolia* var. *otayensis*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), Arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*), coastal cholla (*Cylindropuntia prolifera*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), school bells (*Dipterostemon capitatus*), sawtooth goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), yellow-rayed goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata*), and cliff spurge (*Euphorbia misera*).

Additional species in their Chaparral Habitat Garden include Mormon tea (*Ephedra viridis*), fairy lantern (*Calochortus albus*), splendid mariposa lily (*Calochortus splendens*), Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), chaparral brodiaea (*Brodiaea jolonensis*), island barberry (*Berberis pinnata* ssp. *insularis*), southern mountain misery (*Chamaebatia australis*), southern california black walnut (*Juglans californica*), matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), stinging lupine (*Lupinus hirsutissimus*), woolly paintbrush (*Castilleja foliolosa*), Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*), pink fairy duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*), Santa Rosa Island sage (*Salvia brandegeei*), red-skinned onion (*Allium haematochiton*), sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*), Santa Cruz Island buckwheat (*Eriogonum arborescens*), and blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*).



Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), paper bag bush (*Scutellaria mexicana*). Photos by George Nanoski.

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. For a more immersive visit Tuesday - Friday, contact George Nanoski, the Habitat Gardens coordinator via email: gtn5586@lausd.net . His conference period is 10:30am - 12:20pm. Or a visit can be arranged after 3:30 when school is out.

That's it for this week. Look for our last report of 2023 on Friday June 2nd.

NATIVE PLANT AND WILD FLOWER EVENTS

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION WITH DIEGO | 10 AM - 11:30 AM | JUNE 2

Join TPF Administrative Assistant Diego Blanco for a guided tour of the nursery grounds and areas not usually open to the public. Visit our plant propagation and seed conservation facilities, and learn more about our work to make a wide selection of California native plants available to gardeners.

behindthescenesTPF.eventbrite.com

NATIVE PLANT WATER GARDENING IN CONTAINERS WITH ANDREW CHAVES | 1 PM - 3 PM | JUNE 3

In this class, we will explore the world of small-scale water gardening, focusing on how to create and maintain a beautiful and sustainable water garden using native California plants. Water gardening is a unique and rewarding way to add natural beauty and serenity to any outdoor space, and it is an excellent way to incorporate both native plants and water sources for wildlife. With the use of containers, we can create water gardens in small spaces, patios, and even on balconies.

nativeplantwatergardens.eventbrite.com

IDYLLWILD NATURE CENTER

LEMON LILY FESTIVAL | JUNE 24 or JULY 15

Something to look forward to this summer ! Predicting when the lemon lilies will bloom in the San Jacinto Mountains and scheduling the festival to correspond with that bloom is always a tough call. The lilies have appeared later this year, so it is presumed that they will bloom later as well. As a consequence, the festival may be scheduled on July 15 instead of the June 24 date that was first reported.