

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.

JUNE 2, 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

With the "June Gloom" of low clouds hanging around for the past several days, you may not be thinking about warm summers. But the sun is shining above 4500 feet, so rise above the gloom to hunt for wildflowers. The high elevation trails of the Southern Sierra, San Gabriel, San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains offer many good wildflower areas to check out.

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.).



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.

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 most visits in the late spring-early summer are Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), purple nightshade (*Solanum xanti*), sticky monkeyflowers (*Diplacus longiflorus*) and golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*). Elegant clarkias (*Clarkia unguiculata*) and silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*) remain visitors' favorites. The perennials scattered about include scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) and lance-leaf dudleya (*Dudleya lanceolata*). There are still many but

fading flowers on the Ecology Trail. 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, but could be fading at lower elevations, 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. *hepaticoideum*) 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*).



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

Many more blooming species have joined the colorful late spring flora this week at the [California Botanic Garden](#)! As you walk in the California Communities section of the garden, you will notice the most iconic harbinger of summer—the California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)—in full bloom. Like most buckwheats, you never extol the beauty of just a single flower, but applaud the multitude of tiny, delicate pink and white blossoms clustered on stems rising above the foliage. Another buckwheat member called St. Catherine’s lace (*Eriogonum giganteum*) is also starting its seasonal bloom. This very large buckwheat is adorned with massive umbrella shaped clusters of tiny white flowers. It looks like fine lace is covering the large velvety grey leaves. In the SoCal Gardens, three plants opening their white flowers at dusk for their moth pollinators are Indian tobacco (*Nicotiana quadrivalvis*), soaproot (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*), and Jimsonweed (*Datura wrightii*). The jimsonweed unfurls its tightly pleated buds to expose trumpet shaped white flowers tinged with purple. All these beacons of white are very appealing to passing moths! Find the Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*) in the SoCal Garden section. It is between flowering and fruiting phases, showing off how it can look lovely both ways! Lastly, a flower everyone looks forward to blooming in is Davy’s centaurly (*Zeltnera davyi*), also know 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.



Above: Jimsonweed (*Datura wrightii*) in bud and open flower, Indian tobacco (*Nicotiana quadrivalvis*), soaproot, (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*). Below: Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*) flower and fruit, St. Catherine’s lace (*Eriogonum giganteum*). Jimsonweed in bud photo by Ron Vanderhoff. All other photos courtesy of CalBG.

INLAND EMPIRE

Hiking the [Ramona Trail](#) from the bottom of Garner Valley to the ridgeline of Thomas Mountain in the San Jacinto Mountains is a special treat. The Ramona Trail is a moderate 7 mile out and back trip. Trailhead parking is off highway 74 near Mountain Center. It may look a little bleak at the trailhead parking lot as little is in bloom there. But things will change suddenly within the first few hundred feet. A diversity of flowers starts appearing! The trail is essentially in full bloom over most of its length, despite what you see near the parking area. You can spend considerable time exploring and taking photos along the first mile of the trail. First noticed will be a lovely stand of blue Lewis's flax (*Linum lewisii*), with baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), owl's clover (*Castilleja exerta*), Chinese houses (*Collinsia concolor*), penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*) and others. You will be trekking through a stretch of familiar chaparral and come across the first large golden flowers of the flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californicum*). Apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), bajada lupine (*Lupinus concinnus*), silver bush lupine (*Lupinus excubitus austromontanus*) and the delicate southern gilia (*Saltugilia australis*) are lining the trail. It is early days at the uppermost section of the trail, with violets (*Viola pedunculata*) and manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos* spp.) blooming still. Golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*) is gorgeous the entire way, hugging a large portion of the trail with its brilliant yellow flowers. The trail has loads of Parry's larkspurs (*Delphinium parryi*) and woodland stars as well. If you complete your hike in late afternoon, very appropriately, the California evening primrose (*Oenothera californica*) will open its blooms near the parking area to say good-bye to you, as you return to the car at sunset.



Above: Parry's larkspur (*Delphinium parryi*), Lewis's flax (*Linum lewisii*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*).
Below: Flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californicum*), Garner Valley from Thomas Mt. crest. 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.



Spearleaved mountain dandelion (*Agoseris retrorsa*), cupped leaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus perplexans*), silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*). Photos by Don Rideout.

URBAN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

As spring winds down at the Elizabeth Learning Center, [\[CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO!\]](#) new species continue to carry on the wildflower show into summer! The Desert Habitat Garden impresses us with desert senna (*Senna armata*), paper bag bush (*Scutellaria mexicana*), wine-cup clarkia (*Clarkia purpurea*), beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *basilaris*), 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*), 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 button celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*), 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 nuttalianum*), truncate-leaf lupine (*Lupinus truncatus*), 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 the Chaparral Habitat Garden include Douglas Iris (*Iris douglasiana*), mesa harelip (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*), 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*).

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.



Douglas Iris (*Iris douglasiana*), California coastal poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), fairy duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*). Photos by George Nanoski.

That's it for this season! Look for our Wildflower Hotline Reports again in spring 2024.

NATIVE PLANT AND WILD FLOWER EVENTS

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

PANEL DISCUSSION: THE SUPERBLOOM ERA | JUNE 21 | 6 PM - 7:30 PM | FREE, ONLINE

2023 will go down in the history books as an incredible year for California wildflowers. 'Superblooms' germinated throughout the state, capturing the attention of the world while flower fanatics traveled far and wide to find the best blooms, guided by social media and articles from major news outlets. The vast displays of floral abundance inspired nature lovers, but also drew attention to the threats that California native plants face. Habitat loss, climate change, invasive species and massive, uncoordinated crowds at well-known wildflower hotspots tempered the beauty with a sense of worry about the future of these fragile ecosystems. We'll hear about the panelists' 2023 wildflower experiences, and dig into a complex and passionate conversation that is ongoing: how best to protect and conserve wildflowers in a time of great environmental change. This event is free and will be hosted on Zoom as well as livestreamed on YouTube

superbloomera.eventbrite.com

LANDSCAPING FOR WILDFIRE RESILIENCE | JUNE 30 | 10 AM - 11:30 AM | FREE, IN PERSON

Wildfire is an inherent part of life in Southern California. Learn how garden design and maintenance can help protect homes in high-risk fire areas. This program will introduce you to the basics of wildfire in Southern California through the lens of California native plants and offer easy actions you can take at home to create and maintain a beautiful landscape that is both wildfire-resilient and habitat rich. This in-person event will include a short walk and talk around the Theodore Payne Foundation grounds. This an introductory level program for audiences living in the wildland-urban interface in Southern California that will address the region's native habitats and fire history. This program was made possible in part by Edison International.

landscapingforwildfireresilience.eventbrite.com

IDYLLWILD NATURE CENTER

LEMON LILY FESTIVAL | JULY 15

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. Consequently, the festival may be scheduled on July 15 instead of the June 24 date that was first reported.