THE COAST RANGES

Depending on the trail you choose, early spring flowers can be seen throughout Pinnacles National Park. Entering the park at the Eastern portal, you can’t help but notice the large perennial silver bush lupines (Lupinus albifrons) peppering the landscape. Pinnacles has more than 30 miles of trails that showcase the beauty of the park and accommodates hikers of different abilities and experience levels. Along the Condor Gulch Trail for instance, the blue-purple blue witch (Solanum umbelliferum) and yellow California buttercups (Ranunculus californicus) are very showy. Fiddlenecks, uncoiling their orange flowers on top of bristly stems and goldfields (Lasthenia gracilis) can be found in grassy open spaces. Vernal meadows like those along the Rim, Balconies and Blue Oak Trails serve as good habitat for low growing mats of baby blue eyes (Nemophila menziesii) and stands of seep monkeyflower (Erythranthe gutta). On the dry slopes of High Peaks Trail, look for bush poppy (Dendromecon rigida), and closer to the ground, magenta colored warrior’s plume (Pedicularis densiflora) and patches of yellow tufted poppies (Eschscholzia caespitosa). Old Pinnacles and Bench Trails host mission bells (Fritillaria affinis), California poppies (Eschscholzia californica) and goldfields (Lasthenia gracilis). Tiny white fiesta flowers (Pholistoma membranaceum) are abundant in shady areas on those trails as well. Finally, on the west side of the park, you will likely encounter cheery yellow Johnny-jump-ups (Viola pedunculata) springing up everywhere.

Always check on road or trail closures before visiting the Park. Closures protect wildlife, especially raptors, during breeding season. Park staff thank climbers and hikers for their support of our efforts to protect the spectacular birds of prey at Pinnacles. For more information about raptors at the park, please refer to the Raptors page.
California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica* with matching pollinators!), Johnny-jump-ups (*Viola pedunculata*), silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*). Photos by Holly Eichrodt.

THE CARRIZO PLAIN

There is an increase in color and continued improvement of the wildflower display at [Carrizo Plain National Monument](https://www.nps.gov/carr/index.htm), especially on the low Plain, including around Soda Lake and the gentle slopes of the Temblor Range. Patches of color other than yellow are appearing; most notably the magenta owl’s clover (*Castilleja exerta*), the sky-blue baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) and Great Valley phacelia (*Phacelia ciliata*) and the orange blazing star (*Mentzelia* sp.) has been reported in the Temblors. Of course the bright yellows of the hillside daisies (*Monolopia lanceolata*), goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*) fiddlenecks (*Amsinckia furcata*) continue to dazzle the landscape just in
sheer numbers and color. Two recent rainfall events have kept the soils in Carrizo moist and given a boost to the late season wildflowers, so it is expected that the peak season is still slightly ahead of us. If you plan to visit, always check out the area's weather report and road conditions. Visit on a weekday if possible. Also, please continue to be cautious on the back roads; the recent rains have kept the wet spots in the roads wet, and it is a long wait for towing help if you get stuck! And stay on the trails; things are warming up and the rattlesnakes are coming out. Leave them alone and they will leave you alone. Enjoy your outing to Carrizo Plain, and be sure to add your voice to those speaking out for more protection for this special place!
Driving Figueroa Mountain Road from Los Olivos, good flower displays start to appear at the first cattle guard (about 11 miles from Los Olivos). As you climb the mountain, a wild blue and white display of fiesta flowers (*Polistoma auritum*), white Chinese houses (*Collinsia bartsiiifolia*), white blow wives (*Achyrachaena mollis*) and blue and white sky lupine (*Lupinus nanus*) is dominating the roadsides. Mid way up in serpentine rocky areas there are many crinkled onion (*Allium crispum*), Catalina Mariposa lily (*Calochortus catalinae*), common baby stars (*Linanthus parviflora*) and Big Berry Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*). The famous Poppy Hill known for a quilt of sky lupines (*Lupinus nanus*) and California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) is mostly composed of lupines this year. Continuing to Ranger Peak and through to Sunset Valley you will find a plethora of color from manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigid*a), paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.) and bush lupine (*Lupinus* sp.) foothill poppies (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys* sp.), goldfields (*Lasthenia* sp.), and chia (*Salvia columbariae*)
Crinkled onion (*Allium crispum*), Catalina Mariposa lily (*Calochortus catalinae*), white Chinese houses (*Collinsia bartsii*), baby stars (*Linanthus parviflora*).
SOUTHERN SIERRA FOOTHILLS

There are many areas in the state with spectacular wildflower displays which are perfectly enjoyable from along the road or turnout. Most of the Sierra Foothill region is private property (no access except with permission) and gorgeous right now. For “drive-by petal peepers” one of these special places is Dry Creek Road West of Lake Kaweah off Hwy 198 leading to Sequoia National Park. Dry Creek Road is just northwest of the junction of Highway 198 and 216. The best displays do not come into view until you are about seven miles in. Dry Creek is famous for its foothill poppy (Eschscholzia californica) displays. They are just now coming into full bloom and the cool weather and extra rain should keep them coming well into spring. Deep yellow Eastwood’s fiddlenecks (Amsinckia eastwoodiae) are still prominent along with its seasonal cohort, rusty popcorn (Plagiobothrys nothofulvus) flower. Along Dry Creek, which is anything but dry this time of the year, are especially nice displays of California goldfields (Lasthenia californica) and bird’s-eye gilia (Gilia tricolor). Wild hyacinths or blue dicks
(Dipterostemon capitatus) are abundant along with an especially high number of woodland stars (Lithophragma heterophyllum). Other bulb species are also coming into bloom now including mountain pretty face (Triteleia ixioides), pink fairy lanterns (Calochortus ameonus), and Ithuriel’s spear (Triteleia laxa). While they are beginning to fade, higher up in elevation the redbuds (Cercis occidentalis) are still in mid peak bloom. Visitors will also notice fiesta flower (Pholistoma auritum), foothill sunburst (Pseudobahia heermannii), creek monkey flower (Erythranthe guttata), several lupine species (Lupinus spp.), red maids (Calandrinia menziesii), clematis (Clematis sp.) and caterpillar phacelia (Phacelia cicutaria). This is cattle country and there are also many picturesque ranches along the way. Respect should be given when driving these roads as cowboys doing business, and in a hurry, may not appreciate tourists gawking at the wildflowers driving twenty miles per hour. There are occasional turnouts providing opportunities to safely get out of the way and enjoy a closer look at nature’s bounty in this region.
Foothill poppy (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*) and hillside display. Photos by Mike Wall.
Woodland stars (*Lithophragma heterophyllum*), foothill sunburst (*Pseudobahia heermannii*), bird’s-eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*). Photos by Mike Wall.
Mountain pretty face (*Triteleia ixioides*), pink fairy lanterns (*Calochortus ameonus*), blue dicks (*Dipterostemon capitatus*). Photo by Mike Wall.

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAIN REGION**

From the lower parking lot at *Malibu Creek State Park*, walk down the trail marked “To All Backcountry Trails”. At Crags Road, immediately on the right is a hillside completely covered in blooming chia (*Salvia columbariae*), globe gilia (*Gilia capitatum*), fern leaf phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*), miniature sun cups (*Camissoniopsis intermedia*), dove lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*) and wild morning glory (*Calystegia macrostegia*). These flowers are all small and low, it would be easy to walk by them. But if you look down and pay attention you will find a wonderland of flowers. On the left is Malibu Creek. Oak trees have their tassel-like catkins of flowers. Continuing down the road are California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) and the occasional bush poppy (*Dendromecon*).
rigida). Cross the pedestrian bridge and turn left onto Mott Road and continue a short distance to the Chaparral Trail that winds up and around the hill until returning to Mott Rd. On the Chaparral Trail you will find purple nightshade (Solanum xanti), wild cucumber (Marah macrocarpa), prickly phlox (Linanthus californicus), flowering ash (Fraxinus dipetala), virgin’s bower (Clematis sp.) and lemonade berry (Rhus integrifolia). There were several varieties of ceanothus (Ceanothus spp,) and a hillside covered in owl’s clover (Castilleja exserta). It was the best part of the hike. The trail returns you to Mott Rd. and from there, retrace your steps.
In the Santa Monica Mountains. Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), owl’s clover (*Castilleja exerta*). Photos by Dorothy Steinicke. Eastwood manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa*). Photo by Michael Charters.

After the rain a week ago, many trails at Topanga State Park were rutted with mud hollows that were difficult to navigate. Until the trail dries somewhat, the most passable path is the Dead Horse Trail. It connects the Dead Horse parking lot off Entrada Road with the Trippet Ranch area. If you start from the Trippet parking lot walk on the paved road/trail by the pond. Just past the pond turn left onto the Dead Horse Trail. For the first bit you will have woodlands on your left and a meadow on your right. The oak trees are covered in flowering catkins. There are a lot of lovely spring flowers in bloom including big clumps of blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), buttercups (*Ranunculus californicus*), hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*), miner’s lettuce (*Claytonia* sp.), dove lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*), Pacific sanicle (*Sanicula crassicaulis*), and blue dicks (*Dipterostemon capitatus*). Entering the chaparral habitat, there is blooming black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), sticky monkey flower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), wild cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaberi*), popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys* sp.), chamise (*Adenosperm fasciculatum*) and California everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*). Some of the most spectacular sights are the blooming Eastwood manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa*)—large, handsome shrubs covered in tiny, white, bell-shaped flowers. Hikers may find these shrubs were alive with bees and great quantities of painted lady butterflies. For the length of the trail the habitat will alternate between woodland and chaparral. In the woodland areas there is purple nightshade (*Solanum xanti*), canyon sunflower (*Venegasia carpesium*), fiesta flower (*Pholistoma auritum*), elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), holly leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), basket bush (*Rhus aromatica*), and chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*). The smaller but more colorful perennials accompanying the shrubs are scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*), monkeyflowers (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), purple nightshade (*Solanum xanti*), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*).

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAIN REGION

The warmer weather is finally launching a respectable bloom at Placerita Canyon Nature Center. The Ecology Trail is still the best to explore since the creek is still running briskly and the crossings are tricky to navigate along the Canyon Trail. A cadre of handsome shrubs are beginning to flower including mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*), sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*), flowering ash (*Fraxinus dipetala*), Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*), holly leaf redberry (*Rhamnus ilicifolia*), elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), holly leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), basket bush (*Rhus aromatica*), and chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*). The smaller but more colorful perennials accompanying the shrubs are scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*), monkeyflowers (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), purple nightshade (*Solanum xanti*), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*).

Annuals include popcorn flowers (*Plagiobothrys* sp.), cobweb thistle (*Cirsium occidentale*), blue dicks (*Dipterostemon capitatus*) and sun cups (*Camissoniopsis*).
intermedia). Wild sweet pea (*Lathyrus vestitus*) crawls up into neighboring plants to reach sunlight. Oaks (*Quercus* spp.) and cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) have their flowers hanging in tassel-like catkins in the canopy above.

The plants at the Theodore Payne Foundation have been freshened by recent spring showers and have ignited an amazing array of color along the demonstration garden pathways. You will be greeted by the bright yellow faces of desert marigolds (*Baileya multiradiata*) and California sun cups (*Camissoniopsis bistorta*), interspersed with the hot pink flowers of Mojave beardtongue (*Penstemon pseudospectabilis*) and the tiny purple flowers of chia (*Salvia columbariae*). California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) are still ablaze in the garden as well. The first creamy blossoms of Catalina cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia subsp. lyonii*) have opened, backdropped by their shimmering green leaves. The flower stalks of cobweb thistle (*Cirsium occidentale var. occidentale*) poke up their brightly colored heads revealing the vivid magenta center of their downy inflorescences (but there are spines underneath those soft looking, cobwebby phyllaries!). Crossing into the sales yard, the handsome Channel Islands bush poppy (*Dendromecon harfordii*) is packed with large yellow flowers. The woolly brushes of purple and blue blossoms from woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) are true eye candy. If you happen upon one, be sure to pause to take in their pungent fragrance. Another fragrant bloom you are sure not to miss is the distinctive aroma of maple syrup wafting from the California cudweeds (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*).

One of the signature flower displays at Caspers Wilderness Park is happening now on the 2.5 mile long East Ridge Trail and other park locations. Chaparral Yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*) blooms are abundant and impressive this year. In one panorama view a visitor counted over 60 flower stalks! The East Ridge Trail is reachable from the East Ridge trailhead or Bell trailhead via Quail Run, and there is a climb up to the ridge. Hikers are rewarded with great views on both sides of the ridge and of the Saddleback peaks. Along with the chapparal yucca, splendid Mariposa lilies (*Calochortus* spp.) are just getting started, and multi-colored sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*), and many other beautiful coastal sage scrub species are now or will soon-to-be flowering. The farther you go on East Ridge the more flowers and views you can see.
Chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*), sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.). Photos by Laura Camp.

Ribbons of purple, blue, and white Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*) grow in dappled shade under oaks and pines on the Mesa area at the California Botanic Garden. In sunnier locations on the Mesa, look for sages (*Salvia* spp. and their cultivars) dressed in varying pinks and purples joined by lavender, blue or white California lilacs.
(Ceanothus spp.), pink Western redbuds (Cercis occidentalis), and peachy-orange bush monkeyflowers (Diplacus aurantiacus). Baby blue eyes (Nemophila menziesii) and blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium bellum) are lining many Mesa paths. North of the Mesa gardens follow the pathway into the “Communities” section of the botanic garden. Multiple species of lupines are flowering including the grape soda lupine (Lupinus excubitus) and the silver bush lupine (Lupinus albifrons). Those interested in unusual flowers can find the Dutchman's pipevine (Aristolochia macrophylla) under the oaks in the Channel Island Garden south of the forest pavilion. California poppies (Eschscholzia californica) grace the landscape everywhere in the garden.

Silver bush lupine (Lupinus albifrons), Dutchman's pipevine (Aristolochia macrophylla), blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium bellum). Photos courtesy of CalBG.

ORANGE COUNTY

The confetti of colors that greet you at The Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach will put a smile on your face immediately upon entering the garden. There are “put-your-sunglasses-on” sunny yellows of brittlebush (Encelia farinosa), California encelia (Encelia californica), giant coreopsis (Coreopsis gigantea) and evening primrose (Oenothera elata). The peachy orange monkeyflowers (Diplacus aurantiacus), the iconic orangeness of California poppies (Eschscholzia californica), the golden Indian mallows (Abutilon palmeri) and flannel bushes (Fremontodendron californicum and F. mexicanum) will warm you heart. Vibrant magentas, purples, lavenders, and pinks hail
from Island bush mallow (*Malva assurgentiflora*), hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathaceae*), fairy duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*), pitcher sage (*Lepechinia fragrans*), showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*), California wild rose (*Rosa californica*), and Southern hedge nettle (*Stachys bullata*). Shades of blue can be seen in the cadre of fragrant sages in purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and Munz’s sage (*Salvia munzii*).


**Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary** is also under the stewardship of the Environmental Nature Center. Tucker is a 12-acre wildlife sanctuary located in Modjeska Canyon in the Santa Ana Mountains. It includes a natural history museum, trails, a bird observation deck and
a native plant demonstration garden. The garden has many specimens of bird and insect pollinator friendly plants now blooming and include common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), false indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*), which is a host plant for California’s state butterfly, the Pacific Dogface butterfly, morning glory (*Calyxtegia macrostegia*), greenbark ceanothus (*Ceanothus spinosus*), chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*), bladderpod (*Cleomella arborea*), lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), and Mojave yucca (*Yucca schidigera*).

**NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL GARDENS – L.A. REGION.**

The wildflower show continues at Elizabeth Learning Center’s Habitat Gardens! Colorful beauties in the Desert Habitat Garden include desert beardtongue (*Penstemon fruticiformis* var. *fruticiformis*), desert tobacco (*Nicotiana obtusifolia*), desert wishbone bush (*Mirabilis laevis*), catclaw (*Senegalia greggii*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), desert lavender (*Condea emoryi*), apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), bladderpod (*Cleomella arborea*), brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*), five needle 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 wows with golden spined cactus (*Bergerocactus emoryi*), sacred datura (*Datura wrightii*), truncate leaf lupine (*Lupinus truncatus*), Menzies’ fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*), owl’s clover (*Castilleja exserta*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), fringe-pod (*Thysanocarpus curvipes*), arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), “chocolate chip” stemmed ceanothus (*Ceanothus verrucosus*), school bells (*Dipterostemon capitatus*), sawtooth goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), yellow-rayed goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata*), cliff spurge (*Euphorbia misera*), spine shrub (*Adolphia californica*), and Del Mar manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *crassifolia*). Additional species in their Chaparral Habitat Garden include fairy lantern (*Calochortus albus*), island pitcher sage (*Lepechinia fragrans*), chaparral brodiaea (*Brodiaea jolonensis*), southern mountain misery (*Chamaebatia australis*), Peirson’s morning glory (*Calyxtegia peirsonii*), matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), woolly paintbrush (*Castilleja foliolosa*), Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), Nevin’s barberry (*Berberis nevini*), 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*). The Habitat Gardens will be 18 years old on Earth Day.

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 Monday - Friday (no Tuesdays), contact George Nanoski, the Habitat Gardens coordinator via email: gtn5586@lausd.net. His conference period is 10:30am - 12:20pm on Mondays and Thursdays, 9:00am - 10:15am on Wednesdays and Fridays. Or a visit can be arranged after 3:30 when school is out.
Desert beardtongue (*Penstemon fruticformis* var. *fruticformis*), fairy lantern (*Calochortus albus*), California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), Photos by George Nanoski.

That’s it for this week. Look for our next report on Friday, April 26th and check back each week for the most up to date information on southern California wildflower regions to visit.

EVENTS
Arroyo Seco Woodland & Wildlife Nature Park
Earth Day is every day! Saturday, April 20 from 9 am to noon at the Arroyo Seco Woodland & Wildlife Nature Park in South Pasadena. Celebrate as we work stewarding our little piece of wild in urban Southern California. We will weed, clean up litter, and tidy up paths. (Click here for more information on Friends of South Pasadena Nature Park activities.)

California Native Plant Society Earth Day Events
8 Days of Action and other local CNPS Chapter events here.

EARTH DAY AT EATON CANYON
Saturday April 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
San Gabriel Mountains Chapter, CNPS celebrates Earth Day and California Native Plant Week at Eaton Canyon. Activities include:
• hosting a poppy planting activity for kids
• selling four-inch pots of native plants, as well as seeds
• selling CNPS T-shirts

Riverside-San Bernardino Chapter
California Native Plant Society
April 20, 2024 Program at 10 a.m.

In Person & Online Meeting & Program: THE PROPOSED CHUCKWALLA NATIONAL MONUMENT & EXPANSION OF JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK
Live link to register for online attendance: https://bit.ly/rsbchuckwalla
Live Link for Map to in-person meeting: https://www.rcrcd.org/district-map
Visit our website for more info, a pdf of flyer, and our upcoming schedule: https://riverside-sanbernardino.cnps.org/

THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY – WHITEWATER CANYON
Wildflower Walk
April 25 | 9 am - 11 am
Join our knowledgeable preserve staff for a guided wildflower walk at Whitewater Preserve. Plan for a relaxed, easy pace spanning approximately 1.5 miles. All ages welcome.
Free event, register HERE