



Wildflower Hotline

Every Weekend March through May

(818) 768-3533

Welcome to the **28th Annual Wildflower Hotline**, brought to you by the Theodore Payne Foundation, a non-profit plant nursery, seed source, book store and education center, dedicated to the preservation of wildflowers and native California plants. This is our second report of the year, and new reports will be posted each Friday through May.

With the rains and cooler temperatures continuing in many locations, wildflowers are still appearing as promising buds, while in warmer regions we are already seeing great displays of color.

Things are really popping at [Anza-Borrego Desert State Park](#) where an amazing array of blooms can now be appreciated. Our journey begins along State Route 78 heading east past the Tamarisk Grove Campground, where the roadside is glowing yellow from copious bladderpod (*Isomeris arborea*). At Ocotillo Wells head south on Split Mountain Road and explore the radiant area of Elephant Tree which is decorated with common phacelia (*Phacelia distans*), desert chicory (*Rafinesquia neomexicana*), little gold poppy (*Eschscholzia minutiflora* ssp. *minutiflora*), desert poppy (*Eschscholzia parishii*), datura (*Datura discolor*), rock daisy (*Perityle emoryi*), and desert needle (*Palafoxia arida* var. *arida*). For more rainbows, head to Coyote Canyon where the end of DiGiorgio Road is teaming with spectacle pod (*Dithyrea californica*) and brown-eyed primrose (*Camissonia claviformis*) along with a few dune primrose (*Oenothera deltoids*) and desert sand verbena (*Abronia villosa*).

The [Coachella Valley Preserve](#) is starting to show a dazzling assortment of wildflower color. Hike the Pushwalla and Willis Trails to experience the rainbow of brown-eyed primrose (*Camissonia claviformis*), desert pincushion (*Chaenactis stevioides*), yellow head (*Trichoptilium incisum*), sand blazing star (*Mentzelia involucreta*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), wishbone bush (*Mirabilis bigelovii*), desert poppy (*Eschscholzia parishii*), fagonia (*Fagonia laevis*), sand verbena (*Abronia villosa*), bladderpod (*Isomeris arborea*), and many more!

In Palm Desert, east of HWY 74 and south of I-10, the [Living Desert](#) offers views of wildlife and wildflowers. Trek along the Living Desert Nature Trail to enjoy sightings of brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), desert tobacco (*Nicotiana obtusifolia*), Fremont pincushion (*Chaenactis fremontii*), desert trumpet (*Eriogonum inflatum*), pale primrose (*Camissonia pallida*), California fagonia (*Fagonia laevis*), and carpets of red pygmy weed (*Crassula connata*). Sprinkled along the trail also look for ground cherry (*Physalis crassifolia*), apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), notch leaved phacelia (*Phacelia crenulata*), and many more.

For a fun adventure in [Whitewater Canyon](#), head west along I-10 and take the Whitewater exit, near the junction with HWY 111, and turn left onto Whitewater Canyon Road. Head up the canyon and park near the lone fan palms along the east end of the canyon, still near the mouth, and take the trail that leads into the canyon nearest the fan palms. This challenging hike will reward you with abundant blooms including devil's lettuce (*Amsinckia tessellata*), Bigelow's four o'clock (*Mirabilis laevis* var. *retrorsa*), wild cucumber (*Marah macrocarpus* var. *macrocarpus*), orange flowered Menzies' fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii* var. *intermedia*), white fiesta flower (*Pholistoma membranaceum*), and bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus strigosus*), to name a few.

Approaching Big Bear Lake, a drive along HWY 38 delights with views of hoaryleaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus crassifolius*), southern woolly leaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus tomentosus* var. *olivaceus*), and big berry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) in peak bloom in areas below 3,500 ft.

For a view of several California plant communities, take a trip to the [Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden](#), in Claremont and meander through the Island garden to discover blooming Island bush poppy (*Dendromecon harfordii*), giant coreopsis (*Coreopsis gigantea*), Island shooting star (*Dodecatheon clevelandii* ssp. *insulare*), Antioch Dunes evening primrose (*Oenothera deltoides* ssp. *howellii*), crownbeard (*Verbesina dissita*), Shaw's agave (*Agave shawii*), and Island ceanothus (*Ceanothus arboreus*). In the desert garden look for desert thorn (*Lycium brevipes*), Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), and bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*). Throughout the grounds also enjoy forget-me-not (*Cryptantha* spp.), common fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii* var. *intermedia*), desert marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*), Baja sage (*Salvia chionocephala*), and white tidy tips (*Layia glandulosa*).

Blooms are really picking up at the [Eaton Canyon Natural Area](#) in Pasadena. Plan a visit here and take a moment to enjoy the demonstration gardens around the Nature Center where golden currant (*Ribes aureum*), fuchsia flowering gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*), bush monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), lilac verbena (*Verbena lilacina*), bladderpod (*Isomeris arborea*), coral bells (*Heuchera* spp.), pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), and globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*) are in full bloom.

Blue bells (*Phacelia campanularia*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), and five spots (*Nemophila maculata*) are unfurling at [Descanso Gardens'](#) California Garden. Also in the native area, discover California lilacs (*Ceanothus* spp.), flannel bushes (*Fremontodendron* sp.), Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*), and golden currant (*Ribes aureum*).

In Burbank's Verdugo Mountain Range, park at the [Stough Canyon Nature Center](#) and take a hike along Stough Fire Road for colorful delights including golden currant (*Ribes aureum*), wild cucumber (*Marah macrocarpus*), and bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*). For sightings of wishbone bush (*Mirabilis californica*) park off Harvard Road and explore Wildwood Canyon.

For wildlife and wildflowers in Hollywood take a trip to the [Los Angeles Zoo](#) in Griffith Park where Zoo Drive is decorated with California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*), pink and white yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*), lupine (*Lupinus* spp.), bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*), monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), and ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp.).

The [Cornfields State Park](#) in downtown Los Angeles is bursting with arroyo lupine (*Lupinus succulentus*) and western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*).

In Murrieta, the [Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve](#) has a lovely showing of chocolate lilies (*Fritillaria biflora* var. *biflora*) along the South Trans Preserve and Vernal Pool Trails as well as along the Waterline/Faultline road area. Hiking from the Vernal Pool Trail to Ranch Road rewards with sightings of red maids (*Calandrinia ciliata*), ground pinks (*Linanthus dianthiflorus*), pygmy-weed (*Crassula connata*), blue dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum* ssp. *capitatum*), Johnny jump-up (*Viola pedunculata*), common lomatium (*Lomatium utriculatum*), sharp-toothed sanicle (*Sanicula arguta*), shooting stars (*Dodecatheon clevelandii* ssp. *clevelandii*), yellow carpet (*Blennosperma nanum* var. *nanum*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), and many more!

The sweet scent of ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp.) in peak bloom still permeates the air at the [Environmental Nature Center](#) in Newport Beach, and exploring the different plant communities reveals Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*), bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*), Island snapdragon (*Galvezia speciosa*), Island mallow (*Lavatera assurgentiflora*), Catalina Island currant (*Ribes viburnifolium*), fremontia (*Fremontodendron californicum*), and blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*).

The [Madrona Marsh Preserve](#), north of Sepulveda Blvd. in Torrance is starting its blooms with blunt leaved lupine (*Lupinus truncates*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), and dune lupine (*Lupinus chamissonis*).

Heading into the Santa Monica Mountains, [Topanga State Park](#) is sparkling pink with prickly phlox (*Leptodactylon californicum*) along East Topanga Fire Road from Trippet Ranch.

For coastal views bedecked with giant coreopsis (*Coreopsis gigantea*, pictured) head to [Point Dume](#) in Malibu.



Giant coreopsis at Point Dume
Photo courtesy of and © Jean McBride



Miner's lettuce at Placerita Canyon
Photo courtesy of and © Ron Kraus

On the eastern boundary of the Angeles National Forest off HWY 14, the [Placerita Canyon Natural Area](#) is showing some new blooms along Canyon Trail including blue larkspur (*Delphinium patens*), miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*, pictured), red berry (*Rhamnus ilicifolia*), and blue dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*). Hiking the Ecology Trail is still a treat with blooming elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and hoaryleaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus crassifolius*).

The [Carrizo Plain National Monument](#), located south of HWY 58 and north of HWY 166, is starting to show sizable patches of yellow hillside daisy (*Monolopia lanceolata*) and golden fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.) off Elkhorn Road at Wallace Creek. Along Soda Lake Road, look for goldfields (*Lasthenia* sp.) near the KCL Campground and near the MU Ranch baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) are making an appearance. Remember to check road conditions before driving here as muddy roads are making several areas inaccessible.

Head east to **Kern County** where a little bit of driving reaps a bountiful bloom. Driving east along HWY 223 reveals beautiful stands of popcorn flower (*Cryptantha* spp. and/or *Plagiobothrys* spp.), fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.), and lupine (*Lupinus* sp.). As you approach HWY 58 poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) are starting and along the east side of the road look for blue field gilia (*Gilia capitata*) and cream-colored milkvetch (*Astragalus* sp.). Continue north to Glennville, just south of the Sequoia National Forest off HWY 155, and drive northwest along Old Stage Road towards Fountain Springs to discover Sierra foothills dotted with California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*, pictured) and more.



Hillside view along Old Stage Road, Kern County
Photo courtesy of and © JR Steel

Driving along I-5 between Buttonwillow and Santa Nella offers carpets of orange fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.).



Hillside view at Panoche Hills
Photo courtesy of and © Mike Westphal, BLM Hollister Field Office

Continuing along I-5 in San Benito County, take the Mercy Hot Springs exit to enjoy a brilliant swath of orange poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*, pictured) and lavender phacelia (*Phacelia* sp., pictured) across the BLM-[Panoche Hills](#).



Shooting stars at Pinnacles National Monument
Photo courtesy of and © Tammi Skalitzky

The [Pinnacles National Monument](#) continues to offer a cornucopia of wildflower color. Breathtaking swaths of fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii* var. *intermedia*), popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys nothofulvus*), milkmaids (*Cardamine californica*), white fiesta flower (*Pholistoma membranaceum*), miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata* ssp. *perfoliata*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon clevelandii* ssp. *patulum*, pictured), Indian warrior (*Pedicularis densiflora*), and blue witch (*Solanum umbelliferum*) can be found along the High Peaks, Old Pinnacles, Bear Gulch, Bench, Rim, Balconies, and Moses Spring Trails.

Just south of the motels of **San Simeon**, look for thousands of tiny chocolate lilies (*Fritillaria biflora*) on the sea bluff. When approaching San Simeon from the south, turn left at the beginning of the town and

look for the entrance through the fence on the south side of the street just before it dead ends at the bluff.

Continuing along the coast south of Morro Bay, explore [Montaña De Oro State Park](#), which delights visitors with sightings of California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), morning glory (*Calystegia* sp.), sharp toothed snakeroot (*Sanicula arguta*), and lesser Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja minor* ssp. *spiralis*) along Pecho Ranch Road.

Just north of Guadalupe, visit [Oso Flaco Lake](#) where the boardwalk is decorated with coast twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata* var. *ledebourii*), silver dune lupine (*Lupinus chamissonis*), jaumea (*Jaumea carnosa*), dunes paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis* ssp. *affinis*), and seaside fiddleneck (*Amsinckia spectabilis*).

California's wildflowers are indeed a precious legacy. To ensure that flowers return each year, remember to ***stay on designated trails*** and please ***don't pick the flowers!***

That's it for this week. Look for our next report on **Friday, March 19th** and check back each week for the most up to date information on southern and central California wildflowers.

If you would like to be a wildflower reporter send your information about wildflower blooms and their location to flowerhotline@theodorepayne.org by Wednesday of each week when blooms of note occur.

NATIVE PLANT & WILDFLOWER EVENTS:

Theodore Payne Foundation

- **Annual Poppy Day** on **Saturday, March 27th** from 8:30am – 4:30pm featuring a native plant sale, exhibits, and vendors, including Judy Howard, a gourd artist, Susan Wells, a painted silk artist, Leslie Jones, of "Silver Sparkle" jewelry, and Jack Fenn, of "Worth Having" woodcrafts and jewelry. Members receive a 15% discount on plant purchases one-gallon-and-up and the general public receives a 10% discount. There will be.
- **7th Annual Native Plant Garden Tour**, Saturday & Sunday, **April 10 & 11** from 10:00am – 4:00pm. For tickets (Cost \$20 for two days) and more information on this self-guided journey through 50 (in honor of the Foundation's 50th Anniversary) of the most beautiful and inspiring native landscapes in the Los Angeles, visit our [webpage](#).

Antelope Valley California Poppy Preserve

- Jane S. Pinheiro Interpretive Center opens on **Saturday, March 13th** from 10am - 4pm weekdays and 9am – 5pm weekends for the duration of the wildflower season. Some wildflower species have started to bloom here, but the cooler temperatures have kept the big poppy bloom at bay. Flower buds are beginning to form so watch this location as temperatures warm.

Charmlee Wilderness Park

- *Wildflower Walk* on Sunday, **March 21st** at **10:00am**. Winter rains bring spring wildflowers! Learn the names and fun facts about our native beauties. Meet at upper parking lot. **Reservations required:** 310-317-1364. \$4 parking fee. Duration: 2hrs.

Circle X Ranch – Mishe Mokwa Trailhead

- On Saturday, **March 27th** at **10:00am** enjoy some *Mountain Top Views*. Join a ranger for a 6-mile hike on the Mishe Mokwa loop trail. Enjoy pristine canyons and native plants while hiking to the highest point in the Santa Monica Mountains. Bring lunch and water. Duration: 5hrs.

Condor's Hope Vineyard (Northern Santa Barbara County)

- Spring Wildflower Festival and Wine Tasting on **Saturday, March 20th** from 12:00 – 5:00pm, including a botanical tour of Cottonwood Canyon's wildflowers led by vineyard owner and California plant expert, Steve Gliessman. The festival also includes a wine tasting, a complimentary Condor's Hope wine glass, a glass of wine, and a barbecue lunch and dessert. To make a **reservation** (*required*) and for more information visit www.condorshope.com or email condor@condorshope.com. Cost: \$35/person (Wine Club Members) or \$50/person (non-members) – payment due by March 15th.

Diamond Valley Lake

- Seasonal Wildflower Trail ***NOW OPEN***. This 1.3-mile loop trail extends from the Lakeview Trail and is rated as an easy-to-moderate hike, with some rugged terrain. Open from sunrise to sunset. Parking is \$7 and a \$2/person Lakeview Trail fee includes a map of the wildflower trail.

Environmental Nature Center

- Wildflower Walk on Thursday, **April 1st** starting at 1:00pm. Join Environmental Nature Center Grounds Coordinator Mike Swingholm for a walk through the Center in search of flowering native plants. Call 949-645-8489 to **RSVP**.

Leo Carrillo State Park

- *What's Blooming at Leo?* on Saturday, **March 20th** at **10:00am**. Discover coastal wildflowers and native grassland on a moderate 2-mile roundtrip hike to an ocean overlook. Rain cancels. For more information call the National Park Service at 805-370-2301 or 805-488-1827 x106 or the California State Parks at 818-880-0363. Meet at entrance station.

Los Angeles State Historic Park

- Go wild for wildflowers on Saturday, **March 20th**! Take a 30 min. walk with park staff and learn about all the beautiful wildflowers in bloom at Los Angeles State Historic Park. Meet at 2pm in the main parking lot (1245 N. Spring St.). This event is free. For more information contact Thomas at 323-441-8819.

Topanga State Park

- *Early Spring Walk* on Sunday, **March 14th** and Sunday, **March 21st**, both starting at **1:00pm**. Join a docent naturalist in viewing emerging wildflowers and other signs of spring. Duration: 2hrs. For more information call the Topanga Canyon Docents at 310-455-1696.

Wildlands Conservancy's: Whitewater Preserve

- On Saturday, March 13th at 9:00am go on a wildflower walk with author Philip Ferranti and admire the beauty of Whitewater canyon in bloom. This event is free but reservations are required. Please call 760-325-7222 to make a reservation or for more information.

California Native Plant Society- Chapters

CNPS-San Diego Chapter

- Field trips and events include:
 - Sat., **March 13**: *Rueda Canyon (10:00am – noon)*
(<http://www.cnpsd.org/field.html#mar13>)
 - Sat., **March 20**: *Buchanan Canyon (10:00am – noon)*
(<http://www.cnpsd.org/field.html#mar20>)

CNPS-Orange County Chapter

- Field trips and walks include:
 - Sat., **March 20** (*postponed from March 6*): *San Mateo Marsh (10:00am)*. This fresh-water marsh is a now-rare habitat at the mouth of one of Southern California's very few remaining free-running watersheds. Meet at the junction of Cristianitos Road & El Camino Real (old HWY 101). There are no fees for nature walks or field trips. Questions, email Rich Schilk, birdguy@naturalista.net.

- Sat., **March 27:** *Ronald W. Caspers Wilderness Park (9:00am)*. Meet at the entry parking area (33401 Ortega Hwy) and then caravan to trailhead parking. Duration: 2+ hours. Hike will be about a mile and is mostly level.

CNPS-Los Angeles/Santa Monica Chapter

- Field trips include:
 - Sat., **March 20:** *Chaparral Chatter Hike* at Caballero Canyon starting at **8:30am**. Bring hat, water, and snacks (boots are recommended). Duration: 3 hours. For more information and to **RSVP** call 818-782-9346.
 - Sun., **March 28:** *Malibu Bluffs Park: Bluffs Ramble to the Sea (10:00am)* Duration: 2 hours. For more information call 818-782-9346.

CNPS-San Gabriel Mountain Chapter

- Field trips include:
 - *Eaton Canyon Plant Walks:* Meet in front of [Eaton Canyon Nature Center](#) at **9:00am**. Then go on a leisurely walk, about 2 hours, through the native plant garden that surrounds the Center and into the nearby wild areas.
Sun., **March 14**, leader Cynthia Null
Sun., **April 11**, leader Rick Fisher
Sun., **May 9**, leaders Gabi and Cliff McLean
 - Sun., **March 14:** *South Hills Park in Glendora*. Meet at **1:00pm**. Directions: from Claremont, exit the I-210 on Sunflower and go south to Gladstone, turn right on Gladstone to Bonnie Cove, turn right and drive north. Park under I-210. Group will be meeting under I-210 at Bonnie Cove. South Hills Wilderness Area Trail maps will be provided. Total distance less than a mile. Leader: Dick Swinney.
 - Sat., **April 24:** *Desert Pines Wildlife Sanctuary Tour*. Meet at **9:00am**. at the [Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve](#), from where we will convoy to Desert Pines under Mickey Long's direction. This location is one of the best of the Los Angeles County Wildlife and Wildflower Sanctuaries and the least known, [Desert Pines Wildlife Sanctuary](#), at the north edge of the Liebre Mountains.

CNPS-San Luis Obispo Chapter

- Field trips include:
 - Sat., **April 3:** *Annual Malcolm McLeod Memorial Field Trip Meeting to Shell Creek* led by Dirk Walters and David Chipping. Meet at the SLO Vets Hall (801 Grand Ave) at **8:30am** and Santa Margarita Park and Ride, on the south side of Hwy 58, just east of Hwy 101, at **9:00am**. Our first stop will be at the Santa Margarita Park to use the bathrooms, there will be no other bathrooms available after that point. We will then drive east on Hwy 58, about 18.5 miles, and make a left hand turn on to Shell Creek Road. Park there and the group will meet somewhere near the windmill. We will walk along both sides of Shell Creek Road looking at wildflowers. We will also visit spots with shell fossils, which give this area its name. We will meet as a group for lunch somewhere along Shell Creek Road. This will end the morning part of the trip. In the afternoon some people may wish to explore other spots in the area, while others may want to return to town. Consider the afternoon options when making travel arrangements. Bring water, lunch, dress in layers and don't forget your *Wildflowers of Highway 58* plant guide by Dr. Malcolm McLeod or plan to purchase one on the trip. For more information call Dirk Walters at 543-7051 or Mardi Niles at 489-9274.

CNPS-Bristlecone Chapter

- Field trips include:
 - Sun., **March 14 (postponed from March 6): Comanche Point**, Tejon Ranch. Leader: Ellen Cypher. [Creosote Ring Sub-Chapter Field Trip](#)
The Tejon Ranch Conservancy has invited CNPS back to the Ranch for what we hope will be an outstanding spring bloom! The first of 2 trips will be to Comanche Point (600'-1,200' elevation). On these joint trips with the Kern County CNPS Chapter we'll work on creating plant lists, so come prepared to key. Ellen Cypher will assist with plant identification. Bring lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, layers of clothing, and wear sturdy boots. Pets and smoking are not allowed on Tejon Ranch. ***If you plan to attend, please notify Kathy LaShure (760-377-4541; desert_encelia@verizon.net) by 5pm on Saturday, March 13.***

Those coming from the Indian Wells Valley or points north should meet at the Inyokern Post Office at **7:00am** to carpool to the site. If coming from the south or west, just meet at **8:30am** at the site entrance (see following). Please be prompt, as the gates must be locked once everyone arrives for the group to start. Directions to the site: we will enter at the Tejon Ranch gate at the end of Comanche Point Road. To get there, take Hwy 223 east to Arvin and turn south on South Derby Road/Tejon Highway. Tejon Highway dead ends into Herring Road/Comanche Point Road. Turn left (east) on Comanche Point Road follow it around to the Tejon Ranch gate.

- Sat. – Sun., **March 20 -21: Death Valley**. Leader: Mark Bagley.
Trip details will depend on flower blooms. The group will meet at **9am** on Saturday morning in the parking lot of the Furnace Creek Visitor's Center and Museum (the center opens at 8 am). People should be gassed up and ready to go at 9:00 with food and water for the weekend and ready to camp (optional). Be prepared for dry camping if necessary. The trip will go until about **5pm** on Saturday when we should be arriving at our camping place. On Sunday the trip will end at about 2 or 3pm.