

Most Views

- 11 men arrested in Hawthorne prostitution sting
- Albertsons grocery store chain sold to investment group, future unknown
- What if 'The Tonight Show' leaves Burbank?
- Arrest made in attempted murder of Long Beach police officer
- Carmen Trutanich seeks to remove 100 digital billboards
- Bobcat attacks 3-year-old boy at Carlsbad's Living Desert Zoo
- Redondo Beach woman awarded \$4 million in Edison lawsuit over stray electricity
- \$1 million Christopher Dorner manhunt reward to be paid in mid-April
- L.A. wildflower hikes are at Mother Nature's mercy: Interactive
- Fired Hawthorne

L.A. wildflower hikes are at Mother Nature's mercy: Interactive

By **Stephanie Cary**, Staff Writer
Posted: 03/21/2013 03:29:50 PM PDT
Updated: 03/22/2013 07:49:03 AM PDT

Where the wildflowers are

Select a wildflower location on the map below for more information.

Main map

Stephanie Cary/Staff Writer Paul Penzella/Staff Artist

L.A. wildflower hikes are at Mother Nature's mercy: Interactive

By **Stephanie Cary**, Staff Writer
Posted: 03/21/2013 03:29:50 PM PDT
Updated: 03/22/2013 07:49:03 AM PDT

WILDFLOWER HIKE PHONE APPS

These phone apps might enhance your wildflower hike experience.

Audubon Wildflowers App(audubonguides.com/field-guides/wildflowers-north-america.html)

This reference app has information on more than 1,600 North American flowers and helps you identify them in the field by browsing by shape, size, leaf arrangement, region, color, habitat and more. The Life List and Sighting feature allows you to record your field experiences and track your sightings. It is available in the Apple App Store for \$9.99 and Google Play for \$4.99.

SMM Wildflowers (appato.com/tony-valois/smm-wildflowers/)

If you're visiting the Santa Monica Mountains in search of wildflowers, this is the app for you. Showcasing more than 1,000

plants, the app helps visitors identify plants in the area by searching various categories. The app is free and only available on iPhone and iPad.

Project BudBurst App(networkednaturalist.org/budburstmobile/)

This app allows you to become a scientist through your phone. Project BudBurst is a citizen science and education campaign aimed at studying the life-cycle of plants. With the app, you collect information about the plants around you. That information is gathered and used by scientists and educators participating in the Project BudBurst network. The app is free and available for Android only.

SGMPlants - Plants of the San Gabriel Mountains(itunes.apple.com/us/app/sgmplants-san-gabriel/id356087205?mt=8)

This app is described as a detailed interactive field guide to plants of the San Gabriel Valley Mountains. It features 1,800 photos, search functions to help you identify specific flowers, information on the geology and geography of the San Gabriel Valley Mountains, and much more. The app costs \$12.99 in the Apple App Store only.

CalParks (calparks.org/app/)

With detailed information on all California State Parks, this app will help ensure you don't get lost on all those wildflower hikes. The app gives tips on the best hikes in each park and how to navigate them with maps, points of interest, photos and audio. It features more than 250 State Park descriptions and 50 trail guides. The app is free for both iPhone and Android.

Photo Gallery: [Wildflower hikes in Rancho Palos Verdes](#)

Related Story: [Huntington Library exhibit captures wildness of California's wildflowers](#)

It's the time of year for beautiful wildflowers to spring up in fields and valleys all over the Los Angeles area.

But if you're of the thousands of Southern



Wildflowers are in bloom along hiking trails within the Upper Filiorum Reserve in Rancho Palos Verdes. Arroyo Lupine lines the Zotes Cut Across trail near Vanderlip Canyon. (Steve McCrank/Staff Photographer)

Californians planning a hike to see the show, consider that Mother Nature can be fickle.

While some areas are seeing unexpectedly good seasons, including the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, others are not so lucky.

"It's not looking that good this year," says Jean Rhyne, an interpreter at the Antelope Valley California Poppy Preserve.

"We're looking at a late season, but we're not sure how good it's going to be."

Though Southern California hasn't seen a lot of rain the past two years, March was a wet month that prompted late germination, says Rhyne. The seeds might not survive.

According to the Theodore Payne Foundation's Wildflower Hotline, poppies are coming to life in large patches on the hillsides of the Harford Springs Preserve in Western Riverside County.

Though the area is well-known for its poppies, the Antelope Valley preserve is seeing their few Joshua Trees blooming significantly this year, as well as their grape soda lupine.

Lorrae Fuentes, the producer of the Theodore Payne wildflower hotline, says it's a hard season to predict.

"I can't predict where (it will bloom) because it all depends on the weather," Fuentes says. "Some places aren't ready yet, and some places will never happen."

She explains that hikers could even see a difference in blooms within a mile of each other - with one area full of bright, lively crops of flowers, and another dry and dead.

Currently, she recommends the Santa Monica Mountains as a go-to location.

Related Story: [Wildflower hikes in Southern California: 5 apps to download before you go](#)

So far, Fuentes has not received any reports from the San Gabriel Mountains, but she predicts there may be a late season for the higher elevations.

Ann Croissant, president of the board of directors for the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy, has a much more positive outlook.

"The best place and time this year is everywhere. (This year) started with very unusual seasonal blooming patterns - some plants bursting into bloom from the get-go and others hesitating to even break dormancy," Croissant says.

"Some of the blooms started in January. There will be many surprises as to what is in bloom and when this year. Timing will be everything instead of the usual predictability of blooming patterns."

Also optimistic about this year's wildflower season is Ann Dalkey, a stewardship associate with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy.

Though rainfall has been sparse, Dalkey says she's surprised by the floral abundance on the Peninsula.

"The humidity allowed the flowers to hold on to the moisture from the rain," Dalkey says. "Given we only got six inches of rain, it's doing remarkably well."

On the Peninsula, Dalkey recommends taking hikes at Three Sisters Reserve to see blue dicks, Forrestal Reserve for paintbrush flowers and Linden H. Chandler Preserve to see western tansey mustards.

"Some are smack-you-in-the-face kind of blooms, others are more subtle," Dalkey says. "Just find a nice spot, find a plant in bloom and just sit and watch what happens."

stephanie.cary@dailybreeze.com

twitter.com/stephieary



Wildflowers are in bloom along hiking trails within the Upper Filliorum Reserve in Rancho Palos Verdes. California bush sunflowers are in bloom now, but quickly disappearing. They are growing dense in canyons such as Altamira. (Steve McCrank/Staff Photographer)

[↑ Return to Top](#)