

REPORT FROM THE FIELD

By Mary Wilson

April 8, 2015

POPPY RESERVE

Lightning Bolt Trail – Lupine have finished flowering and are going to seed. The green bushes you see in the Reserve are Rubber Rabbitbrush and they will bloom around November. Four O’Clock/Wishbone Bush are struggling to produce the flowers. The buds and leaves are drying up. As you get closer to the Kitanemuk Vista Point in the area of the California Buckwheat there were a few bushes there that had nice looking flowers. This area also has cacti plants that are blooming and the California Buckwheat is forming its white to pink clusters of flowers. You will see a few poppies along the sides of the trails. Some of the plants still have flowers with the calyx, there are a few flowers and the seedpods are forming. The wind has blown some of the seedpods off the plants and they did not have a chance to mature, however, there are still a lot left on the plants that are green and have not matured as yet. Also observed some young or immature plants that are green and have not produced any flowers and some have produced only one or two flowers. The mature plants are starting to get the yellow color in their petals. The lighter gray-green plants are producing leaves are an aster and they will bloom around September. The Desert Straw is starting to form the stalk that just has leaves.

Kitanemuk Vista Point – the Acton Encelia (Brittlebush) are starting to bloom.

RIPLEY DESERT WOODLAND STATE PARK

Flowers in bloom are: Comet Blazing Star, Mustard, Tiny Tips, Goldfields with petals and there were a lot of Painted Lady Butterflies going from flower to flower, Beavertail Cacti are in bloom, the Blue Sage is going to seed, Silver Puffs are mostly in the puff stage, Elderberry tree still has flowers but is starting to produce the berries, Forget-me-nots, Linear-leafed Goldenbush still has some flowers but they are going to the puff seed stage, Scarlet Bugler is in bloom, Chia, is just starting to form their flowers and Acton Encelia. Joshua trees have the seedpods forming . The male Juniper trees still have their small cones and the female trees are full of berries.



Silver Puff—bud and seed puff



Scarlet Bugler

WILDFLOWER SIGHTINGS:

- There are Poppies in bloom on Lancaster Road at 170th to about 190th St. West. A lot of these are perennial poppies – they look like flowering bouquets.
- 210th St. West between Lancaster Road and Avenue D (Hwy 138) has California Primrose blooming on the side of the road.

Angeles Forest Highway

The A.V. Press stated there will be roadwork that will cause delays on the Angeles Forest Highway at the end of April until around November. They were already setting up cones and roadwork signs but there were few delays.

Flowers in bloom: Bush Poppies, Monkey Flowers, Scarlet Bugler, Linear-leafed Goldenbush, Chia, Woolly Paint Brush, Lupine, Spanish Broom, Forget-me-nots, a few Purple Nightshade and Elderberry Trees are starting to bloom

Angeles Crest Highway

Flowers in bloom: Bush Poppies, Lupine, and Yerba Santa is starting to bloom. Past the Woodwardia Canyon Bridge there is a turnout on the right side of the road and this is a good place to stop. I found: Pink Rock Roses, Black Sage, Monkey Flower, Thistle, Tobacco trees in bloom, Purple Nightshade and Yerba Santa.



Pink Rock Rose



Monkey Flower

At higher elevations up to the Chilao Visitor Center there were: Mountain Lilac, Spanish Broom, Bush Poppies, Monkey Flowers, Manzanita was still in bloom, Penstemon, Scarlet Bugler, Bush Poppies, Spanish Broom, Mountain Lilac, Indian Paint Brush and Lupine.