

# FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

By Mary Wilson

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## Horseback Ride Above Tomo Kahni

I want to thank Phyllis Comstock for introducing me to Tomo Kahni Docent, Joyce Wilson, who graciously let me use some of her photos of the beautiful wildflowers while she was on horseback this spring. She was riding in Sand Canyon on Tranquillity Road which goes up to Tomo Kahni. The flowers you see in the photos are pale yellow layias, fiddle-neck, common phacelia (wild heliotrope), Desert paintbrush along with tumble mustard, buckwheat and grasses.





Photos by Joyce Wilson—Thank you so much for sharing this beautiful experience.

**Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland State Park**—you can walk the trails but observe social distancing and wear a mask if you see other visitors. There is a good showing of California buckwheat, Acton daisy, there are a few gold-fields going to the cone stage, four o'clocks, and desert straw in bloom. Linear-leaved goldenbush has gone to the seed puff stage and the scarlet bugler are finishing up for the season.



M. Wilson

Joshua trees and California buckwheat



M. Wilson

Joshua trees and Acton Daisy



**Devil's Punch Bowl** - is open but you will have to social distance and wear a mask if you see other visitors. The area has a nice showing of flannel bush, California buckwheat, and the Lord's candles are starting to bloom.



M. Wilson

◀ Flannel Bush

Paperbag Bush on Mt. Emma Road ▶



M. Wilson

**Bouquet Canyon Road**—There are a lot of elderberry trees in bloom, the Yucca Lord’s candles are also making a good showing. There is deer weed, tamarisk, jimson weed, monkey flowers, red ribbons, thistle, mountain lilac, golden yarrow, live-forever, bind weed, Hooker primrose and farewell-to-spring in bloom.



◀ **Hooker Primrose**— (*Oenothera elata*). A perennial herb that is native to California and blooms from May through September. It is found in seasonally wet areas, however it is not found in standing water but nearby. The flowers open in the evening and wither the following morning. It is primarily pollinated at night by sphinx moth, but may be visited by other insects near dawn and dusk, such as bees. They are edible – raw or cooked young leaves, cooked young seedpods, and the boiled roots are edible but have a mucilaginous (gelatinous) texture.

**Farewell-to-spring**—*Clarkia cylindrica* ▶

This species of flowering plant is in the evening primrose family known by the common name of speckled fairyfan or speckled clarkia. It is endemic to California. Each flower is a bowl of four fan-shaped petals with integrating shades of lavender, white, and magenta and they are often speckled with purple or pink. The name Clarkia comes from William Clark of the expeditioners Lewis and Clark. Native peoples farmed this plant by sowing seeds in areas close to where they lived and burning areas after harvest to increase yields. The seeds were gathered from this plant and crushed into food.



## Signs of the Times



◀ Seen on Munz Ranch Road



◀ Where for art thou? Shelves are empty!



**THANK YOU TO ALL THE HEALTH CARE WORKERS, FIRST RESPONDERS AND ESSENTIAL SERVICE WORKERS!** ▶