



WILDFLOWERS
OF RANCHO LA PUERTA



Wildflowers

OF RANCHO LA PUERTA

Long ago, the first seeds arrived on Mt. Kuchumaa, painting her rocky slopes and surrounding valleys with blooms bold and subtle, big and small, long-lived or lasting only hours. After your hikes, let this guide help you enjoy and identify the mountain's ever-changing palette.



AN INVITATION TO OUR GUESTS

The compilation of this book is ongoing. It is created for you, and by you as well. As you hike Rancho La Puerta's mountain trails, you may spot wildflowers we've missed. If so, we salute you, and welcome your input—and your photos. There is a lot of variation in the plant world, and the chaparral of Mount Kuchumaa offers delightful discoveries. Please share yours with us!

red and orange flowers



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers

RED & ORANGE

APRICOT MALLOW

(Sphaeralcea ambigua)

Malvaceae (Mallow Family)

Also called Desert Hollyhock. Grows 3 to 4 feet tall and 2 or 3 feet wide, with multiple branching stems covered in white or yellowish down. Stems bear many blooms, each about an inch wide.

Plant Type: Perennial

Blooms: March - June

Habitat: Dry rocky slopes and canyons, in creosote bush scrub and pinyon-juniper woodlands, to 4,000 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers

RED & ORANGE

CALIFORNIA POPPY

(Eschscholzia californica)

Papaveraceae (Poppy Family)

California's state flower is much beloved for its satiny orange blooms. Petals fold in dim light, and flowers may not open at all on cloudy days.



Plant type: Annual

Blooms: February - September

Habitat: Found in grassy and open places in cismontane plant communities, to 6,500 feet.



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PARRY'S TETRACOCCLUS

(*Tetracoccus dioicus*)

Euphorbiaceae (Spurge Family)

Also known as San Diego Button Bush.

This wildflower is rare and endangered, and is gradually disappearing from chaparral areas.

Plant type: Shrubby perennial

Blooms: April - May

Habitat: Dry, stony slopes in coastal and foothill chaparral, to 2,500 feet.



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SCARLET MONKEY FLOWER

(*Mimulus cardinalis*)

Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)

Leaves are bright green and sticky; stems are covered with fine hairs. Grows to about 3 feet high, from a rhizome. Hummingbirds feast on the nectar.



Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: June - September

Habitat: Look for this alongside running streams and seasonal water courses, in full shade. Found in coastal sage scrub and montane coniferous forests, to 8,000 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers

RED & ORANGE

SCARLET LARKSPUR

(Delphinium cardinale)

Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family)

The brilliant orange trumpet-shaped blooms of this wildflower are a delight to behold in the wild, as well as in cultivated gardens. Should you want to grow it

yourself, seed packets are available from Thompson & Morgan.



Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: June - July

Habitat: Dry, open areas in chaparral and woods, to 5,000 feet.



RAY EUBANKS

wildflowers

RED & ORANGE

SWEET PEA

(Lathyrus splendens)

Fabaceae (Pea Family)

Also called Pride of California.

Flowers of this fragrant, twining legume are followed by long, thin seed pods.

Plant type: Annual

Blooms: March - June

Habitat: Common in chaparral and sage scrub in cismontane areas of Baja and Southern California, including Catalina Island.

yellow flowers



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers YELLOW

BUSH POPPY

(Dendromecon rigida)

Papaveraceae (Poppy Family)

An erect, slender-stemmed shrub that grows 6 to 10 feet tall. Dotted with sulphur-yellow flowers, 2 inches across, in spring and summer. Leaves are gray-green.

Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: April - July

Habitat: Common on dry slopes and stony washes, to about 5,000 feet, in cismontane California.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers YELLOW

DEERWEED

(Lotus scoparius)

Fabaceae (Pea Family)

Also called California Broom. Bushy shrub grows to about 4 feet tall. Especially abundant in areas recently burned by wildfire.



Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: March - August

Habitat: Dry slopes, flats and washes below 5,000 feet in coastal sage scrub and chaparral.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers YELLOW

GOLDEN YARROW

(Eriophyllum confertiflorum)
Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)

Vivid yellow blooms blaze atop slender, minimally branching stems. Foliage is gray-green, delicate and ferny. Grows 1 to 2 feet tall.



Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: March - July

Habitat: Dry slopes and washes in coastal sage scrub, chaparral and montane coniferous forest.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers YELLOW

YELLOW MONKEY FLOWER

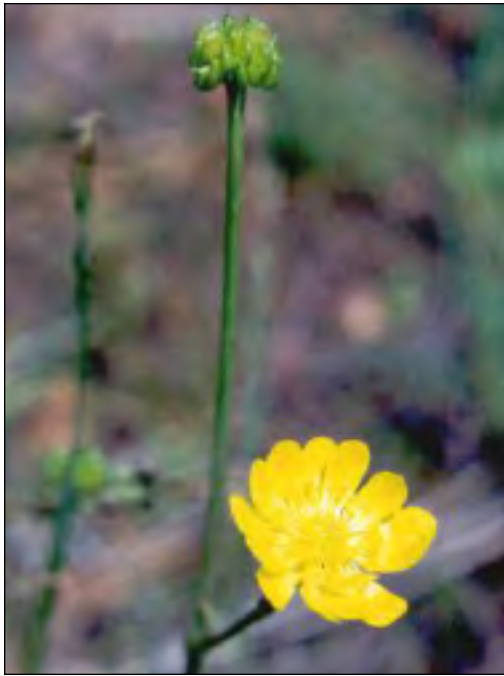
(Mimulus brevipes)
Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)

Slender stems support funnel-shaped, two-lipped flowers that supposedly resemble a grinning monkey's face. Also called Slope Semaphore.

Plant type: Annual

Blooms: April - June

Habitat: Open slopes and dry, bare or exposed areas in chaparral or coastal sage scrub, to 5,000 feet. Found as far north as Santa Barbara.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers YELLOW

CALIFORNIA BUTTERCUP

(Ranunculus californicus)

Ranunculaceae (Buttercup or Crowfoot Family)

Brightens sheltered glades and meadows in early spring. Thrives in heavy clay soil.

Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: February - April

Habitat: Moist soil, in foothills, grasslands, oak woodlands and mixed evergreen forests, to 3,000 feet.



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wildflowers YELLOW

CANYON SUNFLOWER

(Venegasia carpesioides)

Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)

Also called Jesuit Flower. Leafy, wide-branching stems rise from a woody base. Grows to about 5 feet tall.



Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: March - May

Habitat: Canyons, moist slopes and stream banks in oak woodland, chaparral and coastal sage scrub.

Ranges from Baja to central California, to 3,000 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers YELLOW

COAST PRICKLY PEAR

(*Opuntia littoralis*)

Cactaceae (Cactus Family)

So named for its barbed, pear-shaped fruit. A beautiful plant, especially when back-lit by early morning or late afternoon sun, but don't touch it; its spines cause intense skin irritation.



Plant type: Cactus

Blooms: May - June

Habitat: Found at low elevations from Baja California to Santa Barbara, along the coast and as far as 40 miles inland.



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wildflowers YELLOW

COFFEEBERRY

(*Rhamnus californica*)

Rhamnaceae

(Buckthorn Family)

A lush green shrub (to 15 feet tall) so named because its berries turn from green to red to black as they ripen. Inedible.



Plant type: Evergreen shrub

Blooms: May - July

Habitat: Commonly found on slopes in chaparral and coastal sage scrub below 3,500 feet. Thrives in shade and alongside streams.



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wildflowers YELLOW

SAWTOOTH GOLDENBUSH

(*Hazardia squarrosa*)

Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)

This member of the sunflower family has rigid stems that are wooly near the flower heads. Leaves are stiff and papery, with serrated edges.

Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: July - October

Habitat: Common on dry slopes below 4,500 feet in coastal sage scrub and chaparral, from Baja California to Santa Barbara.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

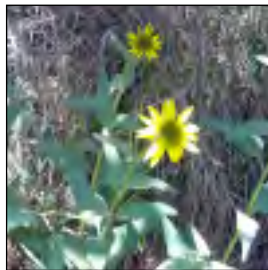
wildflowers YELLOW

SLENDER-LEAVED SUNFLOWER

(*Helianthus gracilentus*)

Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)

The yellow flowers of this summer-bloomer are a real stand-out, and their centers have an intriguing geometry. Stems, covered with rough, stiff hairs, grow 3 to 6 feet tall.



Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: May - September

Habitat: Dry slopes, openings in chaparral, and along roadsides, to 6,000 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers YELLOW

CALIFORNIA GOLDFIELDS

(Lasthenia californica)

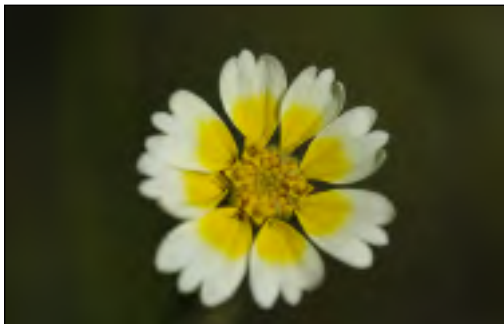
Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)

This bushy annual grows to about 12 inches tall. In spring, in undisturbed areas of its native habitat, it carpets foothills and valleys in bright golden yellow.

Plant Type: Annual

Blooms: March - May

Habitat: Exposed areas of sunny slopes below 4,500 feet, in untouched backcountry areas, to the western edge of the desert.



RAY EUBANKS

wildflowers YELLOW

TIDYTIPS

(Layia platyglossa)

Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)

These yellow-and-white daisies are known for their glorious spring show. Both single- and double-petalled varieties grow rapidly to about 16 inches tall; flowers are 2 inches across.

Plant type: Annual

Blooms: March - May

Habitat: Grassy slopes in costal sage scrub and chaparral below 6,000 feet.



RAY EUBANKS

wildflowers YELLOW

SILVER PUFFS

(*Uropappus lindleyi*)

Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)

Long, slender green buds open to dime-sized yellow blooms, which in turn become spiky white seed pods—hence the name.



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Plant type: Annual

Blooms: April -- June

Habitat: Open grasslands, woods, chaparral, cismontane and desert (in loose soil), to 6,000 feet.



RAY EUBANKS

wildflowers YELLOW

SUN CUP

(*Camissonia sp.*)

Onagraceae (Evening Primrose Family)

Orange buds unfurl into sunny yellow, four-petaled flowers. Leaves and stems are covered by silvery hairs. When backlit by low-angled sun, these fuzzy plants glow.

Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: March -- August

Habitat: Shrubby slopes, especially burns and disturbed areas in chaparral, to 2,500 feet. Found from Baja to central California.

blue and purple flowers



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers

BLUE & PURPLE



BABY BLUE EYES

(Nemophila menziesii)

Hydrophyllaceae
(Waterleaf Family)

A low-growing (to 12 inches), slender, spreading plant with slightly succulent stems. A favorite with horticulturalists and hikers alike.

Plant type: Annual

Blooms: April - June

Habitat: Shady flats and slopes throughout cismontane California. Found in coastal sage scrub, chaparral, valley grassland and oak woodland, below 5,000 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers

BLUE & PURPLE

BLACK SAGE

(Salvia mellifera)

Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

An important food source for wildlife; butterflies and hummingbirds drink the nectar, and quail eat the seed. Pick a leaf, crush it and enjoy its intense herbal scent.

Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: April - July

Habitat: Common on dry slopes, in coastal sage scrub and open chaparral, to 2,000 feet. Often forms dense thickets.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers

BLUE & PURPLE

BLUE-EYED GRASS

(Sisyrinchium bellum)
Iridaceae (Iris Family)

So named because of its upright, strappy leaves and tendency to populate grassy meadows. Widely distributed among Southern and Baja California

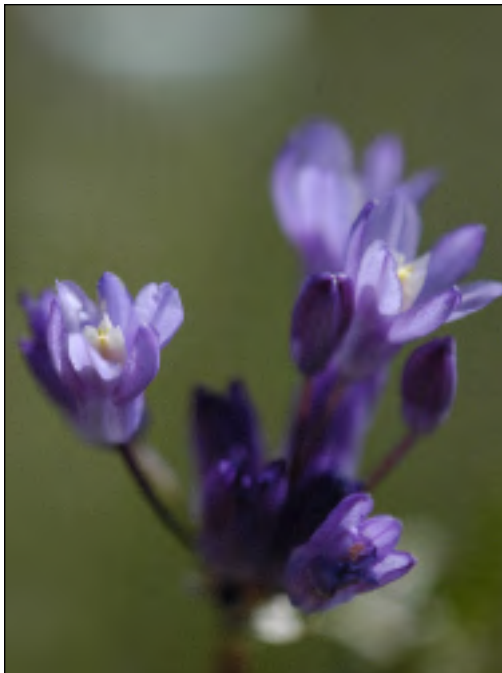
native plant communities. Also does well in cultivated gardens.



Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: April - June

Habitat: Open slopes in chaparral and coastal sage scrub, to about 3,000 feet.



RAY EUBANKS

wildflowers

BLUE & PURPLE

BLUE DICKS

(Dichelostemma capitatum)
Liliaceae (Lily Family)

A spring-flowering bulb that produces clusters of flowers on leafless stems. Grows 12 to 24 inches high.

Plant type: Perennials from bulbs

Blooms: March - May

Habitat: Abundant in grassy areas, cismontane plains, hillsides and open woodlands, to about 6,000 feet.



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wildflowers

BLUE & PURPLE

COLLAR LUPINE

(*Lupinus truncatus*)

Fabaceae (Pea Family)

Lupine flowers are shaped like sweet peas; their leaves spread out like the fingers of a hand. Quail eat the seeds.

Plant type: Annual

Blooms: March - May

Habitat: Common on grassy slopes, openings in woodlands, coastal sage scrub and chaparral. To 3,000 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers

BLUE & PURPLE

HAIRYLEAF CEANOTHUS

(*Ceanothus oliganthus*)

Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn Family)

One of many varieties of wild lilac indigenous to Southern and Baja California. Stunning in spring, when blossoms turn entire hillsides blue. Fragrant.

Plant type: Evergreen shrub.

Blooms: March - April

Habitat: Found on dry, north-facing slopes to 4,500 feet, in chaparral and montane coniferous forests.

wildflowers

BLUE & PURPLE



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SHOWY PENSTEMON

(*Penstemon spectabilis*)

Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)

Also known as Royal Beard Tongue. Grows to 3 feet tall. An important food source for hummingbirds and butterflies.



Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: April - June

Habitat: Banks of dry washes, gravelly and sandy slopes, and recently disturbed places. Grows in coastal sage scrub, chaparral and oak woodlands, to 6,000 feet.

wildflowers

BLUE & PURPLE



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SPREADING LARKSPUR

(*Delphinium patens*)

Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family)

Also called Liver-Leaf Larkspur. Slender stems grow to about 2 feet tall. Its cousin, desert larkspur, is a lighter blue.



Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: March - May

Habitat: Shaded canyons below 5,000 feet, in or at the edges of grasslands, oak woodlands and mountain chaparral.

wildflowers

BLUE & PURPLE



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STINGING LUPINE

(*Lupinus hirsutissimus*)

Fabaceae (Pea Family)

Lupines are among the showiest wildflowers to grace the Southern and Baja California backcountry. This abundant variety has hairy stems that can irritate skin.

Plant type: Annual

Blooms: March - May

Habitat: Sandy places, dry rocky areas, open wooded or brushy areas to 4,000 feet, in coastal sage scrub and chaparral.

wildflowers

BLUE & PURPLE



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WOOLY BLUE CURLS

(*Trichostema lanatum*)

Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

A 3- to 4-foot bush with fuzzy bloom spikes that make good cut flowers. Foliage has a sweet fragrance that suggests cedar or lavender.

Plant type: Evergreen shrub

Blooms: May - August

Habitat: Dry slopes in coastal sage scrub and chaparral, to 4,500 feet.



RAY EUBANKS

wildflowers

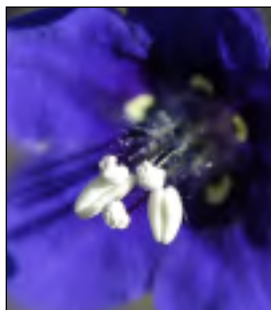
BLUE & PURPLE

PHACELIA

(*Phacelia sp.*)

Hydrophyllaceae (Waterleaf Family)

This dainty, lavender-blue wildflower is a delight. The deep purple variety is one of many native plants (including the Torrey Pine) discovered by botanist and physician Charles C. Parry, during the late 1800s.



Plant type: Annual

Blooms: March - May

Habitat: Burned areas, slopes, coastal sage scrub and chaparral, to the western edge of the Colorado desert, to 4,000 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers

BLUE & PURPLE

WILD PEONY

(*Paeonia californica*)

Paeoniaceae (Peony Family)

The delicate appearance of this perennial belies its toughness; it prefers no summer water (its yam-like roots will rot), and is unfazed by snow. Yet like many wildflowers, it's difficult to cultivate in a garden.

Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: January - March

Habitat: Brushy places in coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and southern oak woodland, along the coast and foothills, to 4,500 feet, from northern Mexico to Monterey, Ca.

pink flowers



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers PINK

EASTWOOD MANZANITA

(Arctostaphylos glandulosa)
Ericaceae (Heath Family)

These tree-like shrubs are prized for their picturesque, crooked branches and purple-red bark. Sprays of pinkish-white flowers turn into clusters of red berries.

Plant Type: Evergreen shrub

Blooms: January - April

Habitat: Frequent in chaparral and montane coniferous gravelly areas, to 6,000 feet.



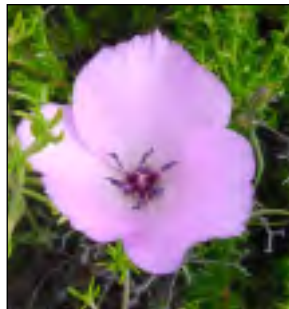
MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers PINK

LILAC MARIPOSA LILY

(Calochortus splendens)
Liliaceae (Lily Family)

As lovely as these are, they don't transplant well into gardens; mariposa lilies require the long, hot, dry summers of their native habitat.



Plant type: Perennials from bulbs

Blooms: May - June

Habitat: Dry slopes in grassland and chaparral plant communities, to an elevation of 7,000 feet.

white flowers



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BUCKBRUSH

(*Ceanothus cuneatus*)

Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn Family)

A white variety of wild lilac. Flowers are intensely fragrant.

Plant type: Evergreen shrub

Blooms: March - May

Habitat: Dry fans, slopes and ridges, in chaparral, to 6,000 feet. Found as far north as Oregon.



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CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT

(*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)

Polygonaceae

(Buckwheat Family)

One of the most widespread plants indigenous to the Southern and Baja California backcountry. Cream-

colored flowers dry to a rich rust color. This is the host plant for the Behr's Metalmark butterfly.



Plant type: Shrubby perennial

Blooms: May - October

Habitat: Well-drained, loose, gravelly soil, in coastal sage scrub and chaparral.



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wildflowers WHITE

CALIFORNIA MILKWEED

(Asclepias californica)

Asclepiadaceae (Milkweed Family)

This plant is a pit stop for monarch butterflies as they migrate from Canada to Baja California. Milkweed is an important food source along the California Flyway.

Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: April - July

Habitat: Dry slopes, flats, grassy areas and brushy hillsides. Grows in chaparral, to 7,000 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers WHITE

CALIFORNIA SAGEBRUSH

(Artemisia californica)

Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)

A plant prized by early Spanish Californians for its herbal properties. Despite its name and pungent fragrance, it is not a sage. Like other artemisias, leaves are silvery gray and feathery.

Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: November - December

Habitat: Abundant in dry foothills, in coastal sage scrub and chaparral, to 2,500 feet.



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wildflowers WHITE

CHAMISE

(Adenostoma fasciculatum)

Rosaceae (Rose Family)

Chamise burns intensely and contributes to the spread of brush fires. Also called Greasewood, due to its high resin content.



Plant type: Evergreen shrub

Blooms: May - June

Habitat: Prevalent in chaparral, often forming pure, dense stands. Thrives in rocky soil on dry slopes below 5,000 feet. Found as far north as the Sierra foothills.



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wildflowers WHITE

MOHAVE YUCCA

(Yucca schidigera)

Liliaceae (Lily Family)

Also known as Our Lord's Candle. This dense, trunkless shrub, which resembles a bouquet of swords, dies after it blooms. Flower spikes, 3 to 6 feet tall, are massed with waxy white flowers.



Plant type: Evergreen shrub

Blooms: April - May

Habitat: Common on dry, exposed slopes in coastal sage scrub and chaparral, to 4,000 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers WHITE

CHAPARRAL WHITETHORN

(*Ceanothus leucodermis*)

Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn Family)

Also called Whitebark Lilac. One of many varieties of wild lilac; produces cloud-like masses of fragrant flowers in spring.

Plant type: Evergreen shrub

Blooms: April - June

Habitat: Dry, rocky or sandy slopes below 6,000 feet. Common in chaparral, montane and foothill plant communities.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers WHITE

COYOTE BRUSH

(*Baccharis pilularis*)

Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)

Also called Chaparral Broom. These dense, billowy, bright green shrubs are male or female; the latter produces masses of cottony blooms.



Plant type: Evergreen shrub

Blooms: August - December

Habitat: Hillsides and in canyons, in coastal sage scrub and chaparral. Grows from San Diego County to Oregon, at elevations below 2,500 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers WHITE

CREAM CUPS

(Platystemon californicus)

Papaveraceae (Poppy Family)

A many-branched wildflower that sprouts from seed. Prefers full sun and fertile, well-drained soil.

Plant type: Annual

Blooms: April - May

Habitat: Grassy slopes, valleys, chaparral and oak woodland. Found in much of cismontane California to the western edge of the deserts, at elevations below 3,000 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers WHITE

DAVIDSON'S BUCKWHEAT

(Eriogonum davidsonii)

Polygonaceae (Buckwheat Family)

A branching shrub with slender, airy stems that produce clusters of tiny (1/8-inch) pale pink-and-white flowers.



Plant type: Annual

Blooms: June - September

Habitat: Dry slopes, in foothills and mountains, to an elevation of 8,000 feet. Grows as far north as Ventura county.

wildflowers

WHITE



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FAIRY LANTERN

(*Calochortus albus*)
Liliaceae (Lily Family)

Also called Globe Lily. Pendant white flowers resemble dollops of meringue. Loosely branching stems have narrow, gray-green leaves.

Plant type: Perennials from bulbs

Blooms: April - June

Habitat: Sheltered, rocky areas of brush, chaparral, oak woodlands and plant communities, to 6,000 feet.

wildflowers

WHITE



MICHAEL CHARTERS

LAUREL-LEAF SUMAC

(*Malosma laurina*)
Anacardiaceae (Sumac Family)

An aromatic, treelike shrub with distinctive red branches. Glossy green leaves resemble those of laurel trees.



Plant type: Evergreen shrub

Blooms: June - July

Habitat: Common on slopes, dry ridges and canyons, below 3,000 feet, in chaparral and coastal sage scrub.

wildflowers

WHITE



MICHAEL CHARTERS

MATILIJA POPPY

(Romneya coulteri)

Papaveraceae (Poppy Family)

These showy white flowers, which resemble fried eggs, are the largest of any plant native to California. The name Matilija (pronounced “mah-TILL-ah-ha”) is likely of Chumash Indian origin.



Plant type: Shrubby perennial

Blooms: May - July

Habitat: Dry washes and canyons away from the immediate coast. Grows in coastal sage scrub and chaparral, below 4,000 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers

WHITE

MEADOW RUE

(Thalictrum fendleri)

Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family)

A 2-foot-tall shrub with foliage similar to that of its cousin, the columbine. Delicate flower clusters resemble silk tassels.

Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: May - August

Habitat: Moist, shaded stream banks and meadows, to 10,000 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers

WHITE



MEXICAN ELDERBERRY

(Sambucus mexicana)

Caprifoliaceae

(Honeysuckle Family)

Also called Blue Elderberry and Desert Elderberry. Produces

clusters of flat-topped, cream-colored flowers that mature into sprays of deep blue berries. An important habitat for butterflies, chipmunks, hummingbirds and blue jays.

Plant type: Deciduous shrub

Blooms: March - September

Habitat: Common in open areas, valleys and canyons, along stream banks and dry open places, below 4,500 feet. Found throughout cismontane Southern and Baja CA.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers

WHITE

POISON OAK

(Toxicodendron diversilobum)

Anacardiaceae (Sumac)

Unfortunately, all too common, especially in the most appealing areas of the backcountry—alongside streams and in shady glades. Often twines around trees. All parts of the plant are a skin irritant. Leaves turn magenta-red in fall.

Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: April

Habitat: Widespread in brushy places, wooded slopes, canyons, chaparral, oak woodlands and coastal sage scrub, to about 5,000 feet.

wildflowers

WHITE



MICHAEL CHARTERS

VIRGATE WREATH PLANT

(*Stephanomeria virgata*)
Asteraceae (Sunflower Family)

The airy white blooms of this member of the sunflower family are spaced widely along tall, rigid stems.



Plant type: Perennial
Blooms: August - November
Habitat: Grows in open areas, in coastal sage scrub, chaparral and grasslands, to 2,000 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

wildflowers

WHITE

STAR LILY

(*Zigadenus fremontii*)
Liliaceae (Lily Family)

This member of the lily family has shiny green leaves, and produces a single large flower spike covered with star-shaped blossoms. The entire plant is poisonous.

Blooms: April - May
Plant type: Perennials from bulbs
Habitat: Rocky outcroppings; dry, grassy and wooded slopes. Found in coastal sage scrub and chaparral below 3,000 feet.

wildflowers

WHITE



MICHAEL CHARTERS

SUGAR BUSH

(*Rhus ovata*)

Anacardiaceae (Sumac Family)

This member of the sumac family typically grows to 10 feet tall and 4 feet wide. Glossy leaves feel like leather. Clusters of flowers are followed by small, red fruits coated with a sugary secretion.

Plant type: Evergreen shrub

Blooms: March - May

Habitat: Common in coastal sage scrub, chaparral and oak woodlands. Generally found on south-facing slopes below 4,000 feet, from Baja California to Santa Barbara.

wildflowers

WHITE



MICHAEL CHARTERS

TOYON

(*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)

Rosaceae (Rose Family)

Also known as California Holly and Hollywood. Toyon grows abundantly on the dry hills behind Hollywood, California. White flowers are followed by pea-sized red berries.



Plant type: Evergreen shrub

Blooms: June - July

Habitat: Semi-dry brushy slopes and canyons, in chaparral, oak woodland and mixed evergreen forests, to 4,000 feet.

wildflowers WHITE



MICHAEL CHARTERS

WILLOW-HERB CLARKIA

(*Clarkia epilobioides*)

Onagraceae (Evening Primrose Family)

Also called Canyon Godetia. Flowers resemble poppies; slender stems grow 1 to 2 feet tall.

Plant type: Annual

Blooms: March - May

Habitat: Shady areas of coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands and chaparral, to 2,500 feet. Grows from Baja California to San Francisco.

wildflowers WHITE



MICHAEL CHARTERS

WHITE SAGE

(*Salvia apiana*)

Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

Also known as Bee Sage; popular with hummingbirds and butterflies as well. Grows 3 to 5 feet tall and wide. Silver-gray leaves are aromatic, and look beautiful in moonlight.

Plant type: Perennial

Blooms: April - July

Habitat: Abundant on dry, open slopes in coastal sage scrub and chaparral, to 5,000 feet.



MICHAEL CHARTERS

POPCORN FLOWER

(Cryptantha intermedia)

Boraginaceae (Borage Family)

Crypantha is Greek for “hidden flower”. Look closely: The dainty white flowers of each popcorn-like cluster resemble forget-me-nots.



RAY EUBANKS

Plant type: Annual

Blooms: March to July

Habitat: Sandy to rocky soils in coastal sage scrub, chaparral, foothill oak woodlands, desert margins and pine forests, to 7,000 feet.

Rancho La Puerta Wildflowers includes common native plants (those with noteworthy blooms) found in the Ranch's chaparral, coastal sage scrub, montane, cismontane, oak woodland and/or grassland plant communities, between 1,700 and 2,200 feet. Botanists describe each of the plants in this guide as prevalent, common, abundant, or frequent. Some plants appear sporadically because of the timing and amount of each year's rainfall, or because of other factors such as the need for wildfire to spur germination. A wildflower that might show in abundance one year may be all but missing from the slopes of Mt. Kuchumaa the next. If you see a wildflower not in this guide, please let one of your hike leaders know so that we can photograph it immediately and continue to update this resource.

Wildflowers was prepared by Debra Lee Baldwin, with graphic design by Laurie Dietter. Photographs are by Ray Eubanks, and Michael Charters, whose remarkable website (www.calflora.net) is the online bible of California beauty. Other sources include *A Flora of San Diego County* by R. Mitchel Beauchamp, the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, and the *AHS Encyclopedia of Plants & Flowers*, as well as the online catalog of Las Pilitas nursery, a supplier of California native plants (www.laspilitas.com).