

Wildflower Report: March 6, 2010

Photos from South end of Bear Valley.



Douglas' violet, *Viola douglasii*



Adobe lily, *Fritillaria pluriflora*

Wildflower Report: March 13, 2010

Adobe lilies at Bear Valley are nearly in full bloom. About three-quarters of the flowers are open. This next week will be the best time to see them. The large populations are on the flat, clay soils adjacent to Bear Creek at the south end of the valley. There are smaller populations scattered nearby in the low hills; those plants are generally smaller and flower a few days earlier.

The adobe lilies are not the earliest flowers. Shining peppergrass is an inconspicuous annual that is abundant and widespread in Bear Valley. Most plants have already set seed and are past flowering. Redmaids are also widespread though not nearly as abundant as pepper-grass. They began flowering earlier than the adobe lilies and will continue to flower into summer. Redmaids are sometimes extremely abundant in agricultural fields on the floodplain soils along the Sacramento River. There are currently fields south of Princeton on Highway 45 and north of Colusa on River Road that look as though they have been planted to redmaids. In Bear Valley the redmaids do not form such pure stands probably in part because the soil is not tilled. Oddly, to me, two of the earliest flowers occur in the cool shade of canyons and north facing slopes. The western buttercup and Henderson's shootingstar are still flowering in the canyons along Bear Valley Road.

Most of the annuals flower later than the adobe lilies, and there are few to be seen now. The earliest tidytips have started to flower at the corral on Bear Valley Road near Highway 20. There are a few California goldfields and California creamcups flowering in the very gravelly roadside soil near the bridge at the south end of Bear Valley.

Scroll down to view the photos...





Adobe lily, *Fritillaria pluriflora*



**Shining peppergrass, *Lepidium nitidum* (left);
Henderson's shootingstar, *Dodecatheon hendersonii* (right)**



Redmaids, *Calandrinia ciliata*



Smooth tidytips, *Layia chrysanthemoides*



California goldfields, *Lasthenia californica*

Wildflower Report: March 19, 2010

Silver bush lupine is flowering in the low hills throughout most of the county. Probably the best place to see it is on Sand Creek Road about one mile west of Cortina School Road. It forms stands on the gravel terraces adjacent to the channel. Two other lupines are flowering here. The arroyo lupine grows along the edge of the active channel. It is common in the gravel-bed creeks around Arbuckle and on roadside gravel shoulders. It is also flowering in long strands along Lonestar Road. The bicolored lupine is common in the grasslands. It is a small lupine, but can be very abundant. At Sand Creek it is scattered through the grass stands higher in the landscape than the Silver bush lupine.

Buckbrush is very common in the hills. It too is flowering now. Although there are only a few shrubs on the gravel terraces at Sand Creek, they are uncrowded and exceptionally robust. California plantain, a diminutive annual, is very abundant on the gravel terraces. The small native annual fescue is also common. California poppies and woolly sunflowers are more easily spotted, but not nearly as abundant.

Scroll down to view the photos...



Silver bush lupine, *Lupinus albifrons*



Arroyo lupine, *Lupinus succulentus*



Bicolored lupine, *Lupinus bicolor*



Buckbrush, *Ceanothus cuneatus*



California plantain: *Plantago erecta* (left); Annual fescue, *Vulpia microstachys* (right)

Wildflower Report: March 21, 2010

Redbuds have started to flower. On Highway 20 through Salt Creek Canyon they are almost all roadside plants. Right now their pattern of flowering maps the microclimate of the canyon. Flowering is most advanced on the two ends of the canyon where the hills become lower. Within the canyon, the bloom is more advanced on plants on the north, sunny, side of the road than on plants on the south side. Buckbrush and silver bush lupine are also flowering in the canyon. Bluedicks, Ithuriel's spear, and common fiddleneck are flowering in open sites with

deeper soils. On the canyon sides Indian paintbrush and California saxifrage are on the south side and chia, imbricate phacelia, and foothill penstemon on the north side.

At Bear Valley the adobe lily flowers are beginning to fade. Fremont's zigadene, another geophyte of the clay soils, will start to flower in the coming week. There are many annuals in flower. Johnnytuck and bicolored linanthus are small plants on the grassland soils. The flowers in large masses on the gravelly fans are primarily California creamcups, California goldfields and bird's eye gillia. The white patches visible on the hills on the west side of the valley are popcorn flowers. Buttercups are flowering in the wetlands. They will be in flower for months. Most of the open flowers are at the south end of Bear Valley. Later, as the season ends, there will be more flowers at the north end.

Scroll down to view the photos...



Bear Valley Annuals



**Johnnytuck, *Tryphisaria eriantha* (left);
Bicolored linanthus, *Linanthus bicolor* (center & right)**



**California creamcups, *Platystemon californicus* (left); Bird's eye gilia, *Gilia tricolor*
(center); California creamcups, California goldfields, bird's eye gilia, and redmaids (right)**

Wildflower Report: March 28, 2010

Leesville Road

Leesville Road is another good place to see redbuds in bloom; they follow both the road and Freshwater Creek. West of Venado along the same road there are impressive stands of Ithuriel's spear on a clay hillside between the road and the fence. Royal larkspurs are scattered along the road from the flats to the Leesville summit. The long-flowering western buttercup is abundant beneath blue oaks on a north facing hillslope. Variable leaved nemophila and few flowered collinsia are also flowering in the shade. Chia is very common on the sunny, raveling slopes of the Leesville Grade. Jewel flower grows with it near the bottom of the grade. Foothill lotus is everywhere in the sun along the grade. Western wallflowers are in bloom on the upper grade. The earliest slender clarkias are here too. At the end of the Leesville Road popcorn flowers form white patches along the base of the hills to the west.

Scroll down to view photos from Leesville Road...

[Click here to view photos from Bear Valley \(3.28.10\)](#)



Popcorn flower, *Plagiobothrys* sp.



Royal larkspur, *Delphinium variegatum*



Western wallflower, *Erysimum capitatum*



**Slender clarkia, *Clarkia gracilis* (left);
Western buttercup, *Ranunculus occidentalis* (right)**

Wildflower Report: April 5, 2010 Bear Valley Road & Bear Valley

Year after year one of the most intense flower displays occurs in a corral just beyond Highway 20 on Bear Valley Road. The flowers are mostly smooth tidy tips. The annual cycle of protection

during flowering and extreme disturbance leaving nearly bare ground after seed set favors this species. The tidy tips here flower a little before those in Bear Valley; they are in full flower now. On the adjacent hillside, the plants are not so dense, but still numerous. Smooth tidy tips grow on the deeper soils at the base of the hill, and California goldfields grow higher up on shallower soils. The best time to see the most color is on a warm, sunny day. Some flowers, such as poppies, close at night and on cloudy days. Frying pans, a smaller poppy than the California poppy is flowering on the cut slopes along Bear Valley Road. It was closed when I was there on a cloudy day.

Scroll down to view photos from Bear Valley Road and Bear Valley...

Bear Valley Road



Smooth tidy tips, *Layia chrysanthemoides*



Hillside with smooth tidy tips, *Layia chrysanthemoides* in foreground, California goldfields, *Lasthenia californica*, in background (left); Frying pans, *Eschscholzia caespitosa* (right)

Bear Valley

Creamcups are also in the poppy family, and they too close when the light is low. Still, they are beautiful. There are two tidy tips in Bear Valley; one, smooth tidy tips, has white tips and the other, common tidy tips, is all yellow. The common names are misnomers in Bear Valley since the smooth tidy tips are much more common.



Creamcups, *Platystemon californicus* (left); California goldfields, *Lasthenia californica* (right)



Common tidy tips, *Layia platyglossa*

Wildflower Report: April 5, 2010 Highway 20 through Salt Creek Canyon and Stonyford

There is still time to see redbuds though some are past flowering. The canyon dudleya, which already had flower stalks a couple of weeks ago, still has not flowered. Although I think the simple rosette is more attractive than the flowering plant, I am determined to photograph it with open flowers. A second *Collinsia*, Chinese houses, is in flower now. It generally grows on north facing hillslopes. Gold-backed fern is the most common fern of these shady, moist habitats.

Although I was there too late in the evening for good photos, the best flower display in the county appears to be along the Lodoga-Stonyford Road.

Scroll down to view photos from Highway 20 through Salt Creek Canyon and Stonyford...

[Click here to view photos from Bear Valley\(4.5.10\)](#)



Canyon dudleya, *Dudleya cymosa*



Chinese houses, *Collinsia heterophylla*



Gold-backed fern, *Pentagramma triangularis*

Stonyford



Annuals



Hillside with Smooth tidy tips, *Layia chrysanthemoides*, in foreground, goldfields, *Lasthenia* sp, in background

Wildflower Report: April 13, 2010

Maxwell to Stonyford

Maxwell-Sites Road

The hillside across from the old quarry has four lupines in flower: silver bush lupine, arroyo lupine, bicolored lupine, and white-whorled lupine. At the start of flowering the inflorescence of the white-whorled lupine is upright and radially symmetrical. As the seed pods develop, the flower stock bends into a nearly horizontal position and the pedicels of the developing seed pods that would be facing the ground curve up to bring all of the seed pods to the upper half of the stem where they form a crowded mass quite different from the earlier neatly spaced whorls. Other flowers on the hillside include foothill poppy, silver puffs, wooly sunflower and a white and a blue phacelia. The silver puffs are more striking as seed heads than as flowers. They are common, but short lived, in the rangelands. The white phacelia is imbricate phacelia, the same one that is flowering in Salt Creek Canyon and through the canyon along Bear Valley Road. The blue one is Tansy phacelia. Hairy flowered buckwheat is common on the hillside, but it is not yet in flower; last year's flower stalks are distinctive. The large masses of pink-flowering shrubs in the channel of Stone Corral Creek are tamarisk, a non-native species that is competing with elderberry and California rose for space on the bank.



Foothill poppy, *Eschscholzia caespitosa* (left); Silver puffs, *Uropappus lindleyi* (right)



White-whorled lupine, *Lupinus microcarpus* var *densiflorus*



Woolly sunflower, *Eriophyllum lanatum* (right)



Tansy phacelia, *Phacelia tanacetifolia*

Sites-Lodoga Road

Woolly sunflower, foothill poppy, and arroyo lupine are on the raveling hillsides of the grade too, but these drier, south-facing slopes have a much less dense cover and an even shallower soil than the slope by the quarry. Chia, chapparal buckwheat, foothill lotus, and the white-and-yellow-flowered woolly malacothrix are common. Indian paintbrush is at the top of the grade.



Chia, *Salvia columbariae*, and chapparal buckwheat, *Eriogonum dasyanthemum*

Lodoga-Stonyford Road

Golden fleece is the bright yellow-flowered shrub on road cuts near Goat Mountain Road. There are only a few plants here, but it becomes very common farther north between Stonyford and Elk Creek.

California poppies are larger and more orange than the foothill poppy. They are common along the roadside in many parts of the county. Near Stonyford, they are flowering in large patches beyond the road.

The hill and swale topography just south of Stonyford is bright yellow. California goldfields is flowering on the hills along with bicolored lupine and tricolored gilia. Yellow-rayed goldfields, which has a larger flower, is flowering in the swales with smooth tidy tips and Sacramento Valley buttercups.



Chapparal buckwheat, *Eriogonum dasyanthemum* (left); Golden fleece, *Ericameria arborescens* (right)



California poppy, *Eschscholzia californica* (left)



Smooth tidy tips, *Layia chrysanthemoides*, yellow-rayed goldfields, *Lasthenia glabrata*, and California goldfields, *Lasthenia californica*

Wildflower Report: April 17, 2010

Highway 20, Salt Creek Canyon, Bear Valley Road, Bear Valley

Highway 20, Salt Creek Canyon

Canyon dudleya has started to flower. Look for it on rock faces in the canyons around the county. California bee plant, an unusually large perennial herb with small flowers, is flowering in shaded areas with deep soils.



Canyon dudleya, *Dudleya cymosa* (left); California bee plant, *Scrophularia californica* (right)

Bear Valley Road

Two native dandelions, the large California dandelion and the smaller annual mountain dandelion, are flowering with the tidy tips and goldfields on Bear Valley Road. A third, woolly dandelion, grows on harsh sites often with chia. It is flowering on raveling shale slopes. These native dandelions share the flower structure and familiar seed head architecture of the common lawn weed, but they are not in the same genus. Seep monkey flower is very common about springs and seeps; it is widespread but confined to these moist, low energy habitats. It is flowering now on seeps on the slopes above the road. Just south of Bear Valley, the road passes through a gentler topography. The vegetation is oak woodland and annual grassland. Common lomatium and purple sanicle are two perennials from the carrot family that grow in these habitats. Blow wives, in the sunflower family, is one of the later flowering annuals of spring.



Smooth tidy tips, *Layia chrysanthemoides*, and California dandelion, *Agoseris grandiflora*, California goldfields, *Lasthenia californica*



Annual mountain dandelion, *Agoseris heterophylla* (left); Seep monkey flower, *Mimulus guttatus* (right)



Woolly dandelion, *Malacothrix floccifera* (left); Chia, *Salvia columbariae* (right)



Common lomatium, *Lomatium utriculatum* (left); Purple sanicle, *Sanicula bipinnatifida* (right)



Blow wives, *Achyrachaena mollis*

Bear Valley

There is a bright patch of common tidy tips and popcorn flower in a drying clay pool at the south end of Bear Valley. The adobe lilies now have well developed seed capsules. Death camas is flowering in abundance on the wetter soils along the west side of the road. Star tulip, blue eyed grass and sour clover have just started to flower in the wet meadows. The flowers in Bear Valley form distinct patterns. Soils and hydrology are strong influences. On the east side of Bear Creek

gravelly soils of the alluvial fans cut through the more widespread clay soils. The alluvial fans are typically slightly higher than the surrounding areas. The brightest flower displays are on the coarser, drier alluvial fan soils. In places there are distinct bands of color at the transition from wet clay soils to drier gravelly soils. These can be seen even from the top of Walker Ridge two miles to the west.



Common tidy tips, *Layia platyglossa*, and popcorn flower, *Plagiobothrys* sp (left); Adobe lily, *Fritillaria pluriflora* (right)



Death camas, *Zigadensu fremontii* (left); Large-flowered star tulip, *Calochortus uniflorus* (right)



Sacramento valley buttercup, *Ranunculus canus*



Bird's eye gilia, *Gilia tricolor*, bicolored lupine, *Lupinus bicolor*, purple owl's clover, *Castilleja exserta*, creamcups, *Platystemon californicus*, common tidy tips, *Layia platyglossa*, and California goldfields, *Lasthenia californica*



Blue eyed grass, *Sisyrinchium bellum* (left); Sour clover, *Trifolium fucatum* (right)

Wildflower Report: April 18, 2010

Brim Road to Walker Ridge

Brim Road

Brim Road climbs from Bear Valley to Walker Ridge. A field of common tidy tips is flowering at the base of the ridge. The road crosses an unnamed channel about a half mile up the slope. The woody vegetation here is particularly rich. Amongst the rocks and clearings are Indian paintbrush, golden globe lily, annual mountain dandelion and red larkspur. Chaparral clematis, a vine climbing on the trees and shrubs, has large white flowers with yellow centers. California snowbell, a shrub with large white flowers has not yet bloomed. The small white plectritis is flowering on the thin soils of the hillslope. Much of Walker Ridge is serpentine, a geology that has a strong influence on vegetation. Some plants such as foothill pine, toyon, yerba santa and chamise grow on the serpentine of the ridge and on the sedimentary rocks to the east of Bear Valley, but there are also plants that don't grow on the serpentine and plants that only grow on the serpentine. The blue oak does not grow on serpentine, but the endemic leather oak does. Big manzanita, a common plant of the foothills, is absent, but viscid manzanita, which does not grow in the foothills, is common on the serpentine. McNab and Sargent cypress grow only on the serpentine. Buckbrush, a widespread species of ceanothus, grows both in the foothills and on serpentine. Along Brim Road it grows adjacent to the serpentine endemic Jepson ceanothus. Whiskerbrush, ground iris, and wavy leaf soap plant are not restricted to serpentine, but scytheleaf onion and Hoover's lomatium are.

Scroll all the way down to see the photos, and description of Walker Ridge:



Common tidy tips, *Layia platyglossa*



Indian paintbrush, *Castilleja applegatei*, and golden globe lily, *Calochortus amabilis*



Golden globe lily, *Calochortus amabilis* (left); Annual mountain dandelion, *Agoseris heterophylla* (right)



White plectritis, *Plectritis macrocera* (left); Red larkspur, *Delphinium nudicaule* (right)



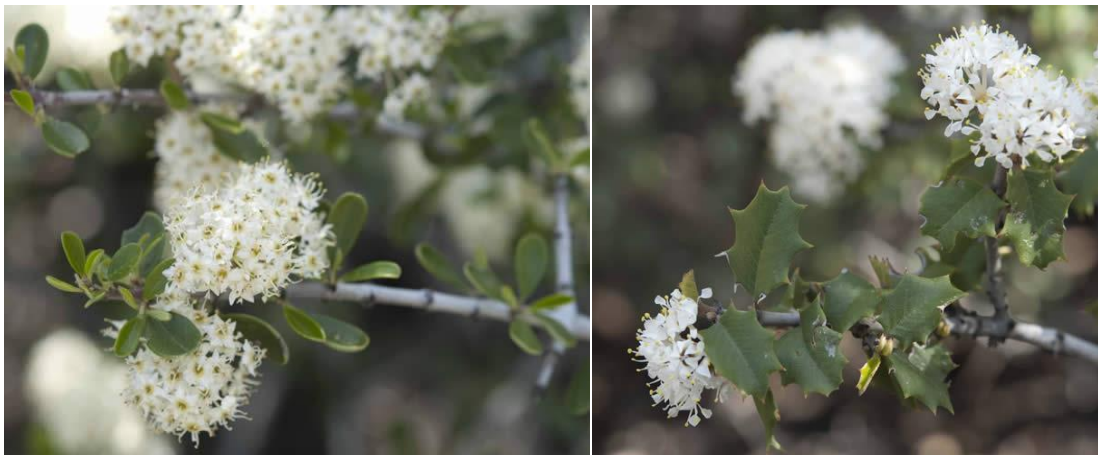
Ground iris, *Iris macrosiphon* (left); Chaparral clematis, *Clematis lasiantha* (right)



Wavy leaf soap plant, *Chlorogalum pomeridianum* (left); Whiskerbrush, *Leptosiphon (Linanathus) ciliates* (right)



Scytheleaf onion, *Allium falcifolium* (left); Hoover's Lomatium, *Lomatium hooveri* (right)



Buck brush, *Ceanothus cuneatus* (left); Jepson ceanothus, *Ceanothus jepsonii* (right)

Walker Ridge

From Walker Ridge there is a view across Bear Valley and the foothills to the Sacramento Valley and the Sutter Buttes. Along the ridge top Cascade onion, little spring beauty and bitter root are growing on sparsely vegetated serpentine gravels. A fire burned on the south end of Walker Ridge in June 2008. Hillsides of chamise skeletons have tufts of new growth sprouting from the base. Little spring beauty and narrow leaved miner's lettuce form dense patches of groundcover in this regenerating shrubland. Cypress does not resprout. Yerba santa is the most common plant beneath the skeletons, but there are small cypress seedlings as well. Eventually they will shade out the yerba santa.



Cascade onion, *Allium cratericola*



Little spring beauty, *Claytonia exigua* (left); Bitter root, *Lewisia* sp (right)



Narrow leaved miner's lettuce, *Claytonia parviflora*

Wildflower Report, April 24, 2010
Highway 20: Salt Creek Canyon, Oak Woodlands,
Botanical Management Area

Scroll all the way down to see the photos and descriptions:

Highway 20, Salt Creek Canyon

The long flowering perennials of Salt Creek Canyon, woolly sunflower, foothill penstemon, Indian paintbrush, canyon dudleya, make it a colorful route through most of spring. Another, Venus thistle, has started to bloom. Although it has the form of some of the common weedy thistles, it is a native that easily distinguished by its grayish color and red flowers. California figwort is a beautiful plant, but not so obvious. Although it is a big plant, it grows in the shade and its flowers are small.



California figwort, *Scrophularia californica* (left); Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium* (right)



Venus thistle, *Cirsium occidentale* (left); Foothill penstemon, *Pentstemon heterophylus*: (right)

Highway 20, Oak Woodlands

Past the Salt Creek Canyon, Highway 20 crosses the south end of Antelope Valley and then passes through oak woodlands before reaching Bear Creek. The flowers are not as striking as in the canyons or the wet grasslands. There are patches of jeweled onion and pale western larkspur that stand out. Yarrow is just starting to flower. Blow wives is common, but not obvious from a distance. It has seed heads that are more evident than the flowers. Micropus is very common and very undistinguished. It is a small plant with light, fuzzy inflorescences. Slender tarweed is bright, but small. The yellow-flowered foothill lomatium has started to form seed pods.



Jeweled onion, *Allium serra* (left); Blow wives, *Achyrachaena mollis* (right)



Pale western larkspur, *Delphinium hesperium* ssp *pallescens* (left); Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium* (right)



Slender tarweed, *Madia gracilis* (left); Foothill lomatium, *Lomatium utriculatum* (right)



Micropus, *Micropus californicus*

Highway 20, Botanical Management Area and Bear Creek Ranch

The Highway 20 roadside just beyond Bear Creek is a Caltrans Botanical Management Area. To the south of the road is Bear Creek Ranch, a part of the BLM's Cache Creek Natural Area. The low areas just west of Bear Creek have many of the same flowers that occur in Bear Valley. There is a spectacular stand of sour clover on a slope as the road begins to climb. It is on serpentine soil.



Smooth tidy tips, *Layia chrysanthemoides*, California dandelion, *Agoseris grandiflora*, and California goldfields, *Lasthenia californica*



Smooth tidy tips, *Layia chrysanthemoides*, California dandelion, *Agoseris grandiflora*, California goldfields, *Lasthenia californica*, and common tidy tips, *Layia platyglossa*, in swale; California poppy, *Eschscholzia californica*, on knoll



California poppy, *Eschscholzia californica*, California dandelion, *Agoseris grandiflora*, and bird's eye gilia, *Gilia tricolor*



Small-flowered stalked popcorn flower, *Plagiobothrys stipitatus* var *micranthus*



Sour clover, *Trifolium fucatum*



Chinese houses, *Collinsia heterophylla*

Wildflower Report, May 5, 2010

Bear Valley

The large flower displays on the gravelly soils at the south end of the valley are almost completely gone, but there are now good flower displays at the north end of Bear Valley. These are mainly on deep clay soils. California poppies, royal larkspurs and purple owl's clover are flowering together on the drier sites. Combinations of common tidy tips, smooth tidy tips and California dandelion form large yellow drifts on sites that are wetter later into the season, but not as wet as the wet meadows. These same flowers, which have only begun here in the last week or two, were flowering more than a month ago at the corral on Bear Valley Road where they have now faded. Now is the time to see the last of the large spring flower displays.



Common tidy tips, *Layia platyglossa*, Smooth tidy tips, *Layia chrysanthemoides*, and California dandelion, *Agoseris grandiflora*



Purple owl's clover, *Castilleja exserta*, royal larkspur, *Delphinium variegatum*, and California poppy, *Eschscholzia californica*



California poppy, *Eschscholzia californica*

Bear Valley Road – corral



Common tidy tips, *Layia platyglossa*, Smooth tidy tips, *Layia chrysanthemoides*, and California dandelion, *Agoseris grandiflora*

Wildflower Report, May 8, 2010

Maxwell-Sites Road, Sites-Ladoga Road, Lower Goat Mountain Road

Scroll all the way down to see the photos and descriptions:

Maxwell-Sites Road

There are large patches of blue elderberry and California wildrose on the banks of Stone Corral Creek near the quarry. Both are in flower. This is also a place to see the effects of an invasive species on the native flora. It is evident that tamarisk has displaced wild rose on some areas of the bank. The process is probably continuing. Twining snakelily is not as easily seen, but it is growing along the creek upstream of the quarry.



Blue elderberry, *Sambucus mexicana* (left); California wildrose, *Rosa californica* (rt)



Twining snakelily, *Dichelostemma volubile*

Sites-Lodoga Road

Wooly sunflowers and white-whorled lupines, both with bright yellow flowers, are easily spotted all along the road. Narrow leaf mules ear has even larger yellow flowers, but is not so common. Many of the flowering stalks on the lupines have bent into a nearly horizontal position and the pedicels of the flowers and developing seed pods have elongated to bring them into alignment with the upward facing flowers. This is common for this variety, densiflorus, of this species, *Lupinus microcarpus*. Another variety, *microcarpus*, is also flowering along the road. It has purple flowers and the inflorescences maintain their vertical growth and radial symmetry. Winecup clarkia and jeweled onion are two of the flowers that have only recently started to bloom. They are plants of the oak woodlands and open grasslands. Yerba santa is common along the road. It is shrub that is favored by disturbance. Mulefat is growing in Grapevine Creek. It is most commonly seen growing in the gravel and rocks of creekbeds. Buckeye is also flowering on Grapevine Creek. It grows on shady hillsides too, but is not yet flowering in those less exposed locations.



**Winecup clarkia, *Clarkia purpurea* (left);
White-whorled lupine, *Lupinus microcarpus* var *densiflorus* (right)**



Narrow leaf mule ears, *Wyethia angustifolia*



**Valley lupine, *Lupinus microcarpus* var *microcarpus* (left);
Jeweled onion, *Allium serra* (right)**



**Yerba santa, *Eriodictyon californicum* (left);
California buckeye, *Aesculus californica* (right)**



Mule fat, *Baccharis salicifolia*: 104

Lower Goat Mountain Road

Traveling uphill from the Lodoga-Stonyford Road, Goat Mountain Road passes through soils that have weathered from the sandstones and shales typical of the lower hills, then through soils that have developed on basalts of the Stonyford volcanic complex, and on into the serpentine soils. The vegetation changes are quite evident. Bluehead gilia, the tiny Bolander's linanthus, forest clarkia, and whiskerbrush were growing only on the volcanic soils. Chaparral clarkia, yellow Mariposa lily, hayfield tarweed, and wooly sunflower were on serpentine alluvium. Snowbell and mulefat were along the creek. Red ribbons and long tubed iris were growing on steep serpentine road cuts. Mariposa lilies and tarweeds are widespread in the grasslands; they are just now starting to flower.



Forest clarkia, *Clarkia rhomboidea* (left); Bluehead gilia, *Gilia capitata* (right)



**Bolander's linanthus, *Linanthus bolanderi* (left);
Yellow mariposa lily, *Calochortus luteus* (right)**



**Evening snow, *Linanthus dichotomus* (left); Chaparral clarkia, *Clarkia affinis* (center);
Whiskerbrush, *Linanthus ciliatus* (right)**



Hayfield tarweed, *Hemizonia congesta* (left); Woolly sunflower, *Eriophyllum lanatum* (center); Mule fat, *Baccharis salicifolia* (right)



California snowbell, *Styrax redivivus* (left, center); Red ribbons, *Clarkia concinna* (rt)



Long tubed iris, *Iris macrosiphon* (left); Red ribbons, *Clarkia concinna*, and Long tubed iris, *Iris macrosiphon* (right)

Wildflower Report, May 15, 2010

Maxwell Road, Maxwell-Sites Road, Sites-Ladoga Road

Scroll all the way down to see the photos and descriptions:

Maxwell Road

Downingias are vernal pool plants. They grow in very restricted conditions, often in mass. A large population is flowering on the north side of the Maxwell Road just east of the Colusa Basin Drain.



Downigia insignis

Maxwell-Sites Road

Yellow mariposa lilies are widespread on clay soil grasslands of the low hills. They often occur as a few plants here and there. In places they may be locally abundant. There is a large population on the north side of the Maxwell-Sites Road in the rolling hills just east of the quarry.



Yellow mariposa lily, *Calochortus luteus*

Sites-Lodoga Road

Fringed sidalcea, like the mariposa lily, is widespread, and, like the lily, it flowers as the annual grasses are dying out. It is growing on the slopes along the Sites Lodoga Road. Navarretias are also late spring plants. At least three are flowering in the hills: Downy navarretia (blue to purple), Tehama navarretia (white to light blue with purple in the throat), and adobe navarretia (yellow). They are small plants with finely shaped leaves. The flowers too are small, but large in relation to the plant.



Fringed sidalcea, *Sidalcea diploscypha*



Downy navarretia, *Navarretia pubescens*

Wildflower Report, May 21, 2010 Sand Creek Road

Scroll all the way down to see the photos and descriptions:

Sand Creek Road

Sticky monkey flower is a small shrub with vibrant orange flowers. It is common and widespread in Northern California, but not so common in Colusa County. It does grow on the sandy

floodplains along Sand Creek beyond Green Road. Western morning glory, a native, grows there too. California rose grows along the channel, abundantly in some areas. Several of the widespread lilies are flowering along the road including twining snake lily, yellow mariposa lily, superb mariposa lily, and harvest brodiaea. Harvest brodiaea, one of the latest lilies, is in full flower along Sand Creek, but has not yet started to flower in other areas. Fork toothed ookow, a lily related to blue dicks and twining snake lily, is also flowering along the road. It is not common in the county. Fringed sidalcea is common as scattered plants, and in more dense populations in a few areas. Woolly sunflower, foothill penstemmon, and Indian paintbrush are common here as along many of the foothill roads. The paintbrush is woolly paintbrush; wavy leaved paintbrush is also common in the county. Away from the creek much of the area is dominated by chamise. It has started to flower. Parish's nightshade and pacific pea are a couple of chaparral plants along the road that are not so common.



Fringed sidalcea, *Sidalcea diploscypha*



Sticky monkey flower: *Mimulus aurantiacus* (left); Western morning glory, *Calystegia occidentalis* (right)



Parish's nightshade, *Solanum parishii* (left); Pacific pea, *Lathyrus vestitus* (right)



Fork toothed ookow, *Dichelostemma congestum* (left); Harvest brodiaea, *Brodiaea elegans*

**Wildflower Report, May 22, 2010
Sites-Ladoga Road, Leesville-Ladoga Road, Bear Valley**

Scroll all the way down to see the photos and descriptions:

Sites-Lodoga Road

Buckeyes are flowering along the Sites-Lodoga Road. Just west of the top of the grade, there are small dense patches of red ribbons.



Forest clarkia, *Clarkia rhomboidea*

Leesville-Lodoga Road

The superb lily is a widespread plant. The Leesville-Lodoga Road is a good place to see it. Jeweled onions are common too; many have begun to fade. The valley oak regeneration along the road is remarkable.



Superb mariposa lily, *Calochortus superbus*



Jeweld onion, *Allium serra*

Bear Valley

Many of the flowers in Bear Valley have gone to seed and died. Others are now hidden by the late growth of grasses. Seep monkey flower is the most noticeable flower in any abundance.

Ithuriel's spear is still flowering here on the wet soils. Two related lilies, white brodiaea and long rayed brodiaea, have just recently begun to flower. One of the more colorful grasses, meadow barley, has headed out in the wetlands. There will be more plants come into flower throughout the summer, particularly in the wetlands, but spring is over.



**White brodiaea, *Triteleia hyacinthina* (left);
Long rayed brodiaea, *Triteleia peduncularis* (right)**



Ithuriel's spear, *Triteleia laxa* (left); Meadow barley, *Hordeum brachyantherum* (right)



Seep monkey flower, *Mimulus guttatus*