Highlights of Super Bloom 2023: A Photo Journal
by Nancy Nies

While walking in our Northeast-Bakersfield neighborhood in late March, Paul and I were amazed to find a seep monkeyflower (*Erythranthe guttata*) growing wild in what had earlier been a muddy gutter. Appropriately enough, both the species name “guttata” (for the flower’s droplet-shaped red spots) and the English word “gutter” (a channel for collecting and carrying off raindrops) both come from the Latin *gutta* (drop). With no fewer than two dozen delicate flowers, the monkeyflower was a harbinger of the late — but remarkable — spring to come. Since record rainfall and cool weather had been with us through March, most wild-flowers bloomed later than usual. When they did, however, the results were worth the wait. For us, this spring’s botanical highlights included:

April 2-6: A Desert Getaway

On our way to Palm Springs via the desert route, we stopped to stretch our legs and made a discovery. Around the perimeter of a rock outcropping were plants with purplish-blue flowers — *Phacelia campanularia* (desert bluebells). As we approached Palm Springs, we were greeted by a stunning sight. Against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains stood thousands of wind turbines, with a spectacular display of *Malacothrix glabrata* (desert dandelion) blanketing the sandy desert floor. We would see much more of the pale-yellow desert annual, along with the purplish-pink *Abronia villosa* (desert sand verbena) — in the city itself, gracing roadides and vacant lots.
April 13:  
A Foothill Walk

On this spring morning we visited Lucy Clark and Clyde Golden to see what was blooming at their place near Woody. Here, in past years, we had seen what we had thought were impressive displays of the rare Diplacus pictus (calico monkeyflower), our chapter’s logo flower. However, even our hosts had never seen anything to equal this year’s blooms. In one corner of their land, surrounded by a thicket of Ribes quercetorum (chaparral gooseberry), we witnessed a dense growth of Diplacus pictus that covered an area of roughly 150 square feet and produced hundreds of flowers. Continuing our walk, we were treated to a second thrilling sight — hillsides abloom with the blue Lupinus benthamii.

April 19:  
A Treasure Hunt

Having been told that the “Mother Lode” of the rare Phacelia nashiana (Charlotte’s phacelia) was to be seen this spring in the Short Canyon area, we set off to find it — and were not disappointed. Arriving at the base of a steep hillside full of poppies, phacelia, pincushion, and coreopsis, we headed for the granite outcrops far above. There, we found the large, thriv-
ing colony of Charlotte’s phacelia we had heard about. Its vibrant, deep-blue flowers, sometimes ten or fifteen to a plant, stood out against the decomposed white granite, beautifully complementing the yellows and oranges of neighboring blooms. Charlotte’s phacelia, however, was the star of the show.

April 24: An Artist’s Palette

It was our first hike on the Cannell Meadow trail, which begins just north of Kernville, and it was a memorable one. Starting up the trail, we passed large numbers of *Dipterostemon capitatus* (blue dicks). With hillsides splashed with the purplish-red of *Castilleja exserta* (owl’s clover), the pale lavender of *Gilia tricolor* (bird’s-eye gilia), and the golden yellow of *Eschscholzia sp.* (poppies) and *Leptosyne bigelovii* (coreopsis), the landscape was like an Impressionist canvas, its various colors shimmering in the sunlight. Reaching the first pass, we were rewarded with a breathtaking panoramic view that reminded us of the Artist’s Palette overlook in Death Valley. Here, however, the colors were due not to minerals, but to flowers!

May 1: The Colors of the Carrizo

May Day found us among the few visitors at Carrizo Plain National Monument, where landscapes still exhibited eye-catching displays of color. First, we stopped to admire a hillside of the low-growing *Chaenactis glabriuscula* (yellow pincushion), interspersed with tall stands of the lavender-flowered *Salvia carduacea* (thistle sage) and the white *Delphinium gypsophilum* (gypsum-loving larkspur). Next we headed west, where the vivid magenta of owl’s clover stood out against a vast mustard-yellow “moonscape” of fading *Lasthenia sp.* (goldfields). Exploring further, we came upon a large meadow turned bluish-lavender by *Lupinus albifrons* (silver bush lupine). Finally, driving east, we were surrounded by a landscape of bright-yellow *Monolopia lanceolata* (valley daisy), as far as the eye could see.

I’ll close with an image from our day in the Short Canyon area. As we were leaving, we happened upon an incredible sight — *Linanthus parryae* (sand blossoms), covering large swathes of sandy desert with both white and purple blooms. From a distance, it looked as if, in celebration of Super Bloom 2023, the desert had been strewn with Nature’s own confetti! ✿
President’s Message:
Eriophyllum jepsonii and E. confertiflorum var. laxiflorum in Kern County
by Rich Spjut

The illustration on the left, above is from W. L. Jepson (1925) Manual of the Flowering Plants of California. It shows:

(a) “habit of plant” of Eriophyllum confertiflorum (DeCandolle 1833) var. confertiflorum,
(b) disk flower with young fruit at base bristly at its tip, and
(c) one ray flower of 5-6 ray flowers per flower head.

To the botanically untrained eye, each ray flower might appear to be one of 5-6 petals. But these are the ray flowers encircling many disk flowers (10 -35, JM2 – The Jepson Manual 2nd ed.). At the end of each leafy stem appears to be 10 flower heads tightly crowded together, each slightly elevated at the base by a very short peduncle, best seen on the far-right stem.

The illustration, above right, was extracted from Jaeger’s (1940) Desert Wildflowers that he identified as E. confertiflorum var. laxiflorum. As one can easily see, the flower heads of var. laxiflorum are on longer peduncles.

Recently, I received comments through Calflora questioning my identification of E. jepsonii that I reported on Calflora from Cerro Noroeste (Mt. Abel) near the Ventura County line, accompanied by images of the plant in the field and the specimen I collected at that time. My report references an area south of the JM2 eflora-reported geographic range of the species, mainly found along the Inner Coast Ranges. The comments and my rebuttal to those comments are also on Calflora, Observation of Eriophyllum jepsonii — Calflora.

The following key was extracted from the JM2 eflora for those character features applied to distinguish E. jepsonii from E. confertiflorum and its varieties.

Heads 1–5; peduncle 5–10(14) cm; ray flowers 5–8, ray 6–10 mm – SnFrB, SCoRI ................. E. jepsonii
Heads 3–30+; peduncle 0–2.5(9) cm; ray flowers (0)4–6(8), ray 2–5 mm ...................... E. confertiflorum
Heads 10–30+; peduncle 0–1(2) cm .... var. confertiflorum
Heads 3–10; peduncle 0.5–2.5(9) cm .... var. tanacetiflorum

An image of the Mt. Abel specimen (below, top) and plant I photographed on Piute Mountain (below, bottom) are shown below. The relatively long peduncles and fewer flower heads per peduncle distinguishes E. jepsonii from E. confertiflorum. These features agree with JM2 key characters given.

In my draft the Trees and Shrubs of Kern County, I also recognize E. confertiflorum var. laxiflorum (Gray 1883) in Kern County. Photos of this plant can be seen on World Botanical Associates webpage, Eriophyllum (worldbotanical.com). This variety was also recognized by Jepson (1925) and by others while
the name has not always been accounted for in later floras. An illustration can be found in Jaeger’s (1940) *Desert Wildflowers*. This variety differs in its shorter peduncles in an umbrella (umbel-like) arrangement. *Eriophyllum confertiflorum* var. *tanacetiflorum*, described by Greene in 1891 as a species, is of limited geographical range in the central Sierra Nevada. The type specimen lacks ray flowers.

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**Cactus and Oak Workparty: Flood Damage Control & Seed Collection**

*by Lucy Clark*

On September 1st, 8 HARDY KERN CNPS-ERS joined 3 people from The Nature Conservancy’s Randall Preserve staff: our friend Rachel Mason, her boss, our older friend, Zach Principe, and the new biologist, Maria Viteri, for an amazing day near Caliente. The Caliente Creek had flooded, and all of our oaks inside their green tubes were surrounded by grass, weeds, and MUD! These were swept by floodwater to form a miniature ‘house’ for each plant, and had to be removed by hand. The leaves were washed with creek water, and stone edgings were reset.

After this work, we collected seeds to be planted at Keene’s Tweedy Creek location. Zach, Clyde, and Lucy collected seeds from *Encelia actoni* (brittlebush), *Lepidospartum squamatum* (scale-broom), *Asclepias erosa* (milkweed), *Peritoma arborea* (bladderpod), and a few more species along the road. Gene, Claudia, Bill, Fred, and Paul searched the side of the creek for cones of *Pinus sabiniana* (Grey Pine), and banged them around to retrieve their seeds. I understand there were many pricked fingers!

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The weather was lovely, and the signs of the flood were impressive. The fact that our little trees survived was amazing!

Next work morning is Saturday, September 23rd. If you want details, please contact me at lucyg391@gmail.com. We would enjoy your company and efforts!
Upcoming Events — 2023

Monday, September 18 to Saturday, September 30, 2023
ON-LINE PLANT SALE
Order your plants on chapter website and pick up your plants October 21, 2023. See page 7 for plant list.

Saturday, September 23, 2023 - 9am–Noon
Watering Bakersfield Cactus and Valley Oaks
Location: Nature Conservancy Properties near Caliente, California.
Contact: Lucy Clark (lucyg391@gmail.com) for details.

Saturday, September 23, 2023 - 9am–Noon
Volunteer Oak Tree Watering
Location: Hot Springs Valley Wetlands
Join Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation for a maintenance day. We will be re-planting and weed- ing on the restoration site, clearing tumbleweeds, and removing trash. Please bring water, gloves, and a digging/weeding tool or pitchfork for tumbleweeds. Also, if you would like, please bring a food or drink item to share.
Directions: Traveling southbound on Lake Isabella Blvd. turn right on Crestview Ave. (at CarQuest Auto Parts); take the next right onto Mayfair Rd., which leads to the gate to Hot Springs Valley Wetlands.
Contact: Kathy Dwyer (todwyergm@gmail.com) to let her know you are coming.

Tuesday, October 14, 2023 - 9am–3pm
Desert Tortoise Preserve Work Party
Location: The Desert Tortoise Preserve near California City
Contact: Lucy Clark (lucyg391@gmail.com) for details.

Chapter Meetings
upcoming TOPICS

Thursday, September 21, 2023 - 7 pm
Presenter: Katherine Winters
Topic: Camp Okihi - Restoration Plans

Thursday, October 19, 2023 - 7 pm
Presenter: Rich Spjut,
Topic: The Birds & the Bees, the Flowers & Then Here Come the Fruits

Thursday, November 16, 2023 - 7 pm
Presenter: Greg Warrick, CNLM
Topic: Sand Ridge Update

December 2023
NO MEETING

Thursday, January 18, 2024 - 7 pm
ANNUAL POTLUCK,
Presenter: Courtney Matzke,
Topic: Flora of Paiute Mountain

Thursday, February 15, 2024 - 7 pm
Presenter: Tammie Meyers,
California Water Service
Topic: Water-wise Planting

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All in-person chapter meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Place: Most 3rd Thursday meetings will be held in the Larry E Reider Bldg., 2000 K St. Park in the parking structure east of the building and enter from doors on that side. Front doors lock at 5 pm. Check for signs indicating in which room meeting will be.

Meeting times: 6 –8:30 pm:
6 pm - Socializing, plant ID and gardening discussion groups; bring snacks
7 pm - Program presentation and a short business meeting. Ideas for speakers are welcome. Contact Paul Gipe (pgipe@igc.org) ✨

Removing invasive plants at the Desert Tortoise Preserve.
Kern CNPS Plant Sale Offerings

See photos of these plants available to order Sept 18 through Sept. 30 at https://cnps-kern-plant-sale.square.site/. Plant pick-up date is Oct. 21

**Achillea millefolium**
- Common yarrow ........................................ 1 gal ....... $10
- Island Pink ................................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Asclepias fascicularis**
- Narrow leaf milkweed .................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Asclepias speciosa**
- Showy milkweed ........................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Calystegia macrostegio**
- Santa Cruz Island morning glory ... 1 gal ........ $10

**Ceanothus concha**
- CA Lilac Concha .......................................... 1 gal ....... $10
- CA rose ...................................................... 1 gal ....... $25

**Ceanothys Wheeler Cyn**
- Wheeler Canyon California lilac .... 1 gal ........ $10

**Cercis occidentalis**
- Western redbud ............................................ 1 gal ....... $10

**Chilopsis linearis**
- Desert willow dark purple ..................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Encelia farinosa**
- Desert sunflower .......................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Eriogonum fasciculatum**
- Buckwheat ................................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Eriogonum giganteum**
- St. Cath. Lace/Giant Buck .......... 1 gal ........ $10

**Festuca Idahoensis**
- Idaho fescue ................................................ 1 gal ....... $10

**Galvezia speciosa**
- Island snapdragon .......................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Heromerenee arbutifolia**
- Toyon .................................................................. 1 gal ....... $10
- 'Winifred Gilman' ........................................ 1 gal ....... $8

**Isomeris arbores**
- Bladderpod ..................................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Iris Pacific Coast Hybrid - mixed**
- Iris .................................................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Monardella odoratissima**
- Montain mint .................................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Monardella villosa**
- Coyote mint ...................................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Muhlenbergia rigens**
- Deer grass ...................................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Penstemon pseudospectabilis**
- Desert penstemon ............................................ 1 gal ....... $10

**Penstemon centranthifolius**
- Scarlet bugler .................................................. 1 gal ....... $10

**Quercus lobata**
- Valley oak ...................................................... tree pot .... $8

**Quercus douglasii**
- Blue oak ......................................................... tree pot .... $8

**Ribes aureum**
- Golden currant ................................................ 1 gal ....... $10

**Ribes vibernifolium**
- Perfume currant ............................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Ribes sangunium**
- Red flowering currant ...................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Romneya coulteri**
- Matilija poppy ................................................ 1 gal ....... $10

**Rosa california**
- CA rose ......................................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Salvia Allen Chickering**
- Allen Chickering sage ..................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Salvia Bees Bliss**
- Bees Bliss sage ................................................ 1 gal ....... $10

**Salvia clevelandii ‘Winifred Gilman’**
- Cleveland sage ............................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Salvia apiana**
- White sage ....................................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Salvia spathacea**
- Hummingbird sage .......................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Sambucus mexicana**
- Mexican elderberry ......................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Sisyrinchium bellium**
- Blue-eyed grass ............................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Sphaerlcea ambiguus**
- Desert mallow ................................................ 1 gal ....... $10

**Sphaerlcea Matilija Red**
- Matilija red desert mallow ..................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Sphaerlcea ‘Sergio’s Pink’**
- Pink /Orange desert mallow ........ 1 gal ........ $10

**Epilobium californica**
- California fuchsia ......................................... 1 gal ....... $10

**Epilobium cana**
- Cana fuchsia .................................................. 1 gal ....... $10

**Epilobium catalina**
- Catalina fuchsia .............................................. 1 gal ....... $10
The California Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of California native plants and their natural habitats, and to increasing the understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.

CNPS has 31 chapters throughout the state and membership is open to all persons – professional and amateur – with an interest in California’s native plants. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking and gardening. As a Kern County resident, your membership includes Flora Magazine, a quarterly journal with interviews, conservation updates, gardening advice. Artemesia, CNPS’s scientific journal and The Mimulus Memo, the Kern Chapter newsletter published quarterly.

Join CNPS or renew your membership online at cnps.org. Membership levels: $25, $50, $120, $500 ($25 minimum) Go Perennial at $5/month

To unsubscribe/subscribe to Kern CNPS email communications members should contact: membership@cnps.org (916) 738-7604