

Common Los Vaqueros Wildflowers



Brother Alfred Brousseau, St. Mary's College

Wally Baskets



Robert Potts, California Academy of Sciences

Scarlet Pimpernel



Brother Alfred Brousseau, St. Mary's College

Owl Clover

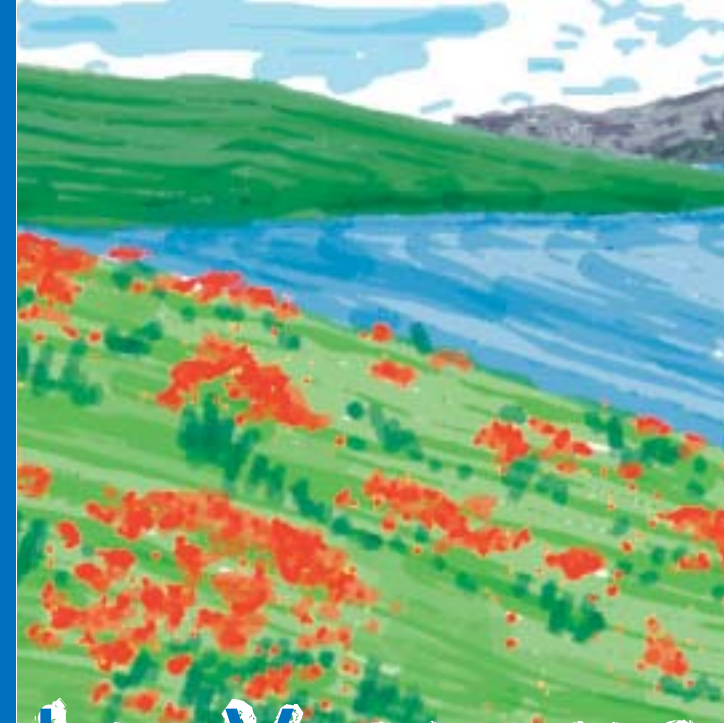
use animals and insects to accomplish the same feat. Flowers have evolved many “lures” to entice bees, flies, butterflies, moths, beetles, hummingbirds, and even bats to this all important job of reproduction. These pollinator lures are the beautiful designs, colors, and scents we get to enjoy each spring.

Watching Pollinators

The relationship between plants and their pollinators is complex and scientists are still unraveling many aspects of the puzzle. But for the amateur naturalist just catching a glimpse of an Anna’s hummingbird sipping nectar from an Owl clover, or a bumblebee alighting on a Mariposa lily is a joy to remember.

REMEMBER — There is no collecting of any kind in the watershed. Please leave wildflowers where you find them so that next year’s wildflower display will be as beautiful as the last!

GUIDE TO WILDFLOWERS



Los Vaqueros watershed



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Viewing Wildflowers

Nothing heralds the arrival of spring in the East Bay like the first appearance of a hillside wildflower bloom. From the deep blues and purples of lupines and irises to the rich brilliance of golden poppies, California wildflowers can dazzle and inspire even the most casual of spectators.

The Los Vaqueros Watershed is a wonderful place to begin a lifetime pursuit of enjoying and understanding the beauty and mystery of our local wildflowers. Early Spring (March to early May) is the best time of year to see wildflowers in the watershed. During a typical spring, you can expect to find a variety of beautiful blossoms scattered across the emerald green hillsides, thanks to winter rains. The Cañada Trail in the southern watershed is an excellent, moderately difficult trail for wildflower viewing. For easier hiking with a good display of wildflowers, try the Kellogg Creek and Interpretive Trail, both of which start at the Dam Staging Area in the northern watershed.

Why Do Plants Have Flowers?

Although it is tempting to believe that flowers exist for our delight, their real job is to produce seeds, thus enabling plants to reproduce. Before a seed can be made, a flower must be pollinated. This happens when pollen from the stamen (the male reproductive organ) is transferred to the pistil (the female reproductive organ) of the same or different plant.

Oak trees and many grasses use the wind to scatter their pollen while other plants

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William R. Hewlett, California Academy of Sciences

Yellow Sticky Monkeyflower



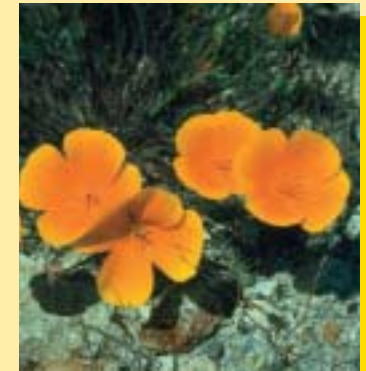
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Lupine (can be blue, white or yellow)



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Mariposa Lily



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California Poppy



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Purple Vetch



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Buttercup