

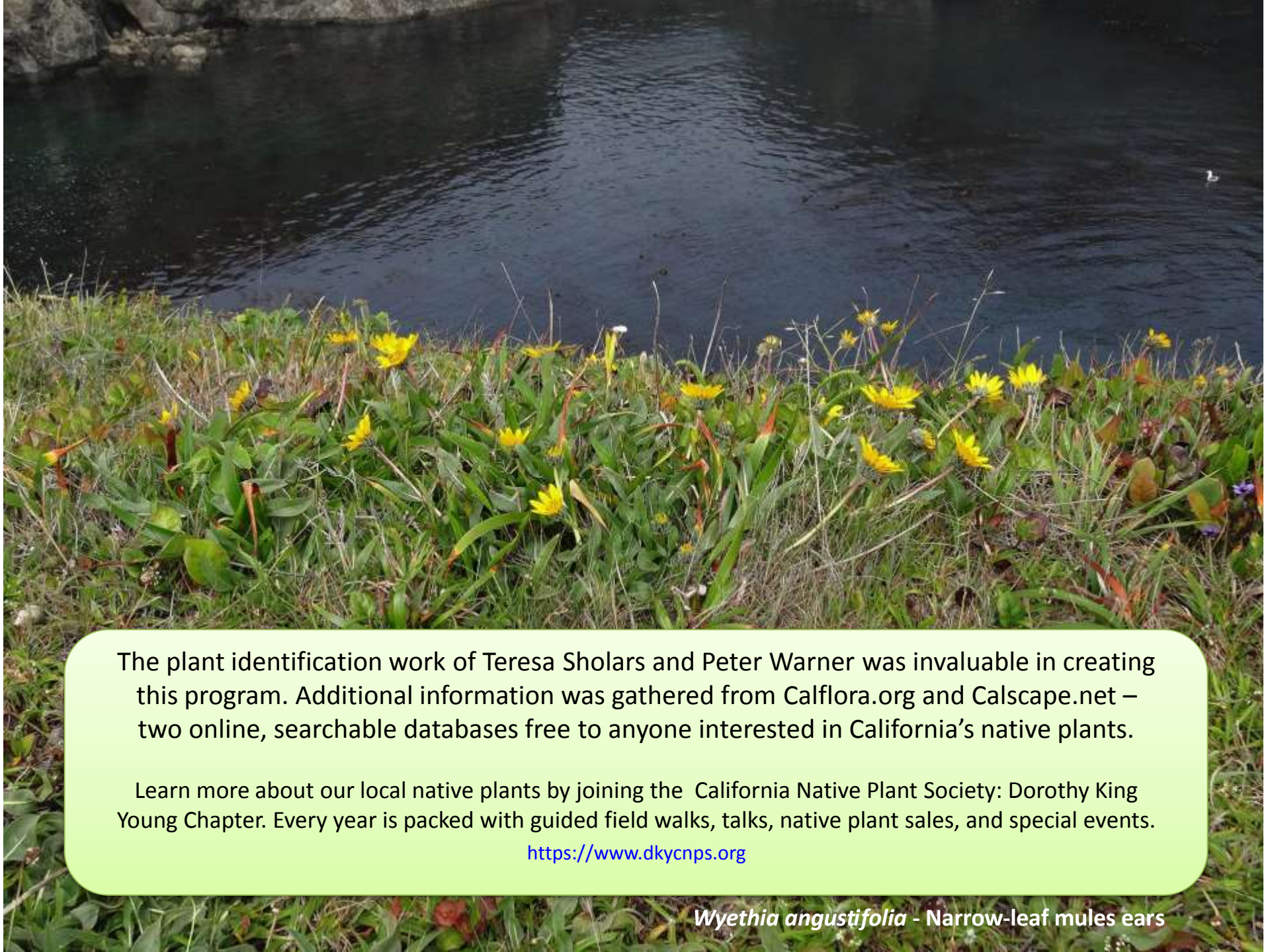
Point Cabrillo Lightstation State Historic Park



DKY: Virtual Spring Wildflower Walk

<https://www.dkycnps.org/>

Presenter: Katy Pye



The plant identification work of Teresa Sholars and Peter Warner was invaluable in creating this program. Additional information was gathered from Calflora.org and Calscape.net – two online, searchable databases free to anyone interested in California's native plants.

Learn more about our local native plants by joining the California Native Plant Society: Dorothy King Young Chapter. Every year is packed with guided field walks, talks, native plant sales, and special events.

<https://www.dkycnps.org>

Wyethia angustifolia - Narrow-leaf mules ears



POINT CABRILLO LIGHTSTATION STATE HISTORIC PARK - SPRING WILDFLOWER VIRTUAL TOUR - CNPS: DOROTHY KING YOUNG

VIEWING AREAS FROM EXISTING TRAILS

Map areas

- 1 Asphalt road (Park and walk down. Vehicle access is otherwise limited to handicapped, vacation rental and volunteer vehicles).
- 2 Begins at gravel road to the Lighthouse and trails south and west of the Lighthouse
- 3 Trails east of the Smithy, heading north along the bluffs until the trail curves east overlooking entrance to Frolic Cove.
- 4 Northern bluffs to trail that heads south, terminating at East/West gravel trail connecting the parking lot to the western bluffs.
- 5 Continuing east of the south trail marker to bluff above Frolic Cove.
- 6 East/West gravel trail from parking lot to the bluffs above the Pacific.
- 7 East/West continuation of gravel trail past the North/South trail
- 8 North/South trail off the asphalt road across from the light keepers' houses.

POINT CABRILLO LIGHTSTATION STATE HISTORIC PARK

8 SPRING WILDFLOWER VIEWING AREAS

Wildflowers visible from trails. Be mindful to stay on trails. Stay off bluff edges that can be unstable.

Patches of **poison oak** grow near edges in areas 2 and 8

Plant locations are based on personal photos and memory. Blooms may or may not appear in different locations or years. by Katy Pye

Area	Plant names	Early Spring Feb-Mar	Mid-Spring Apr-mid-May	Late Spring mid-May to mid-June
ubiquitous	<i>Iris douglasiana</i> - Douglas Iris		x	x
1	<i>Rubus ursinus</i> - California blackberry	x	x	x
1	<i>Hosackia gracilis</i> - Harlequin lotus or Seaside Bird's-foot trefoil			x
1	<i>Ranunculus californicus</i> - California buttercup	x	x	
2	<i>Erysimum menziesii</i> ssp. <i>concinnum</i> - Curly Wallflower	x	x	x
2, 3, 4	<i>Erigeron glaucus</i> - Seaside daisy (or fleabane)		x	x
2	<i>Nemophila menziesii</i> - Baby Blue Eyes	x		
2 & 8	<i>Astragalus nuttallii</i> var. <i>virgatus</i> - Nuttall's or Ocean Bluff Milkvetch			x
3 & 6	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i> - California poppy	x	x	x
3 & 6	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i> - Beach strawberry	x	x	
3	<i>Lasthenia</i> - Goldfields (3 species: <i>Lasthenia californica</i> ; <i>L. ssp. macrantha</i> ; <i>L. minor</i>)	x	x	x
3	<i>Sanicula arctopoides</i> - Footsteps of Spring		x	x
3 & 4	<i>Castilleja mendocinensis</i> - Mendocino Paintbrush			x
3	<i>Armeria maritima</i> ssp. <i>californica</i> - sea thrift; sea pink		x	x
3	<i>Sidalcea malviflora</i> ssp. <i>malviflora</i> - Checkerbloom			x
3	<i>Vicia americana</i> - American vetch	x	x	x
3	<i>Cardamine californica</i> - Milk maids; bitter cress	x		
3	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i> - blue-eyed grass			x
4	<i>Delphinium nudicaule</i> - Scarlet larkspur	x		
4	<i>Plantago erecta</i> - Dotseed plantain	x	x	
4	<i>Viola adunca</i> - Dog violet	x		
4	<i>Brodiaea terrestris</i> ssp. <i>terrestris</i> - Dwarf or ground Brodiaea		x	x
5	<i>Trifolium wormskioldii</i> - cow clover		x	x
6 & 7	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i> - Huckleberry	x	x	

Area - ubiquitous

Iris Douglasiana – Douglas Iris



Iris Family

Grasslands near coast; variable flower color; single plants or large clumps.

Likely host to two moth species.

Area 1

Rubus ursinus - California blackberry



Rose Family.

Likely host to 67 species of butterflies & moths.

Spring and summer food for bees and other insects, mammals, and birds. Berries provide food for birds in fall and winter when insect resources are fewer.

Habitat: secure hiding places from predators, storms, and overwintering litter for insects. Broken canes as nests for some bee species.

Hosackia gracilis – Harlequin Lotus or Seaside Bird's-foot Trefoil



Acmon Blue

Lotis blue photos: USFWS

Legume Family. Perennial.

Moist grasslands along both sides of the asphalt road to the Lighthouse.

Likely host to 24 butterflies and moths (6 here), including **Acmon Blue**, the federally endangered **Lotis blue** and rare **Silvery blue** butterflies. Limited distribution. California Rare Plant Rank: 4.2.



Male Lotis

Female Lotis



Ranunculus californicus – California Buttercup



Buttercup Family.

Perennial. moist grasslands (tall geranium-like leaves) near the Smithy. Flowers 9-17 petals.

Attractive to, and pollinated by, native bees. Food for other insects.

Area 2

Erysimum menziesii ssp. *concinnum* – Curly wallflower



Mustard Family.

Biennial/perennial; Grasslands.

California rare plant - 1B.2
1B Rare or endangered in
California and elsewhere
.2: Fairly endangered in
California.

<http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/>

Erigeron glaucus – Seaside daisy or fleabane

(also found in [Areas 3 & 4](#))



Foraging, solitary type native bee

Sunflower Family.

Perennial. Bluffs, dunes and beaches, ocean facing ravines above the beach, clay soils, part of coastal strand or coastal scrub vegetation.

Hosts 13 butterfly and moth species. Used by native bees and other insects.



Platform for mating pair

Nemophila menziesii – Baby Blue Eyes



Waterleaf Family.
Annual.

Grassland.

Confirmed host to one
moth. Likely host to 4
butterfly and moth
species and other insects.

Early spring. Was
common north of the
Lighthouse, now hard to
find.

Astragalus nuttallii var. *virgatus* – Nuttall's or Ocean Bluff Milkvetch

(also found in [Area 8](#))



Legume Family. Perennial.

Sandy soils, coastal strand, scrub, bluffs.

Host to 1 confirmed butterfly (**Western Tailed-Blue**) and likely 18 other butterfly & moth species.

Area 3 & 6

Eschscholzia californica – California Poppy



Poppy Family. Perennial and annual. Blooms year-round in milder climates.

“Nyctinastic” (flowers open during the day, close at night or in cloudy weather.)

Grassy, open areas. Fairly ubiquitous.

Host to two moths and used by numerous pollinators and insects.

Areas 3 & 6

Fragaria chiloensis – Beach strawberry



Rose Family. Perennial (trailing). Beach, dunes, grassland, scrub.

Host to 3 confirmed moths and 32 likely moths and one butterfly. Food source for many beneficial insects.

Two-banded checkered skipper



Two-banded Checkered Skipper
photo by Sam
Retrieved <https://www.insectarium.org/species/4246/>

Lasthenia – Goldfields (3 species)



L. californica ssp. *macrantha*

3 species: *Lasthenia californica*; *L. californica* ssp. *macrantha*; *L. minor*
Perennial - Sunflower Family.

Coastal prairie, meadows, flats, native grasslands, damp areas, woodland understory, along the immediate coast.

Likely host to 1 moth species. Also attracts bees and other insects.

Sanicula arctopoides – Footsteps of Spring



Figwort Family. Perennial

Coastal bluffs; grasslands.

Protected in some areas.

Confirmed host to 1 and likely host to another moth species.

Castilleja mendocinensis – Mendocino Coast Indian Paintbrush

(also in [Area 4](#))



Broomrape Family.
Perennial/Annual

Coastal sage scrub. Assumed to be a hemiparasite. California Rare Plant Rank: 1B.2
Imperiled.

Likely host to 6 butterfly and moth species, including Common buckeye, several checkerspots.

Armeria maritima – Sea thrift, Sea pink



Leadwort Family. Perennial.

Coastal bluffs and grasslands.

Attractive to numerous insects, including bees.

Sidalcea malviflora ssp malviflora - Checkerbloom



Mallow Family. Perennial.

Grassland, dry, open spaces.

Host to 6 butterfly and moth species, including the West Coast Lady, Grey Hairstreak, Common and Two-banded Checkered Skipper



West Coast
Lady

Vicia americana – American vetch



Legume Family - Perennial.

Grassland; woodland understory. Can be hard to see. Look for little bits of pink among the grasses.

Host to 22 species of butterflies and moths.



Rare Silvery blue
butterfly

Cardamine californica – Milk maids



Mustard Family. Perennial.

Grassland, wet places.

Also “nyctinastic.”

Hosts 2 butterfly species, Sara Orangetip and Margined White.



Margined White

Sisyrinchium bellum – Blue-eyed grass



Iris Family. Perennial (rhizome).

Grassland, open woodland
Also “nyctinastic.”

Attractive to insects.

Area 4

Delphinium nudicaule – Scarlet larkspur



Buttercup Family.

Perennial. Coastal bluffs.
Hosts 2 moth species and
hummingbirds.



Plantago erecta– dotseed plantain



Plantain family. Annual;
grasslands.

Primary host plant for the
endangered Bay Checkerspot
butterfly, also host for Edith's
and Variable Checkerspot and
the Common Buckeye.

25 other butterfly and moth
species likely rely on *Plantago
erecta* as a host plant.



Variable
Checkerspot

Viola adunca – Dog violet



Zerene Fritillary

Violet Family - Perennial.

Host to four confirmed butterfly species and likely for 17 butterfly and moth species.



Area 4

Brodiaea terrestris ssp. *terrestris* – Dwarf or ground brodiaea



Lily Family.

Perennial (corm).

Grassland, open woodland;

Areas 4 & 5

Trifolium wormskioldii – cow clover



Clover Family. Perennial.

Grassland, moist sites.
Winter deciduous.

Confirmed host to 3
butterflies or moths and 19
likely. Also important food
source for bees and other
insects.

Areas 6 & 7

Vaccinium ovatum – Huckleberry



New growth on windswept huckleberry bushes

Heather Family. Shrub. woodland, forest, scrub.

Hosts 54 species of butterflies & moths, including an occurrence here of a Brown elfin. Huckleberry flowers are a food source for bees, berries for birds and mammals.



A trip to the Lighthouse isn't all about wildflowers.



Long-tailed weasel



Oyster catcher pair



History, special events, gift shop



Spring & fall are grey whale
migration periods



Saltwater intertidal tank , abalone,
and whale displays in the Smithy