

**Lupine, poppies and buttercups – it's that time of year.**

If you've been out on Coal Mine Ridge or visited Edgewood lately, you've noticed the hillsides waking up. Lupine, California poppies, buttercups — April is when Portola Valley puts on one of its best shows, and it happens almost entirely on the strength of native plants.



April is California Native Plant Month, and the Conservation Committee wanted to take the occasion to share why these plants matter so much--not just for the scenery, but for the wildlife that depends on them.

**Here's something worth knowing: California fuchsia is a primary nectar source for hummingbirds and long-tongued bees and provides bright red flowers in late summer/fall when most other plants have finished blooming.**

It works at every scale. Native plants are the only ones that many of our local insects can eat and reproduce on, because they've evolved together over thousands of years. Those insects feed the birds. The birds disperse seeds and manage pests. It's an intricate system, and native plants are the foundation of all of it.

The good news is that any resident can strengthen this web. Even a few native plants in your garden, whether it is a coffeeberry hedge, a patch of California fuchsia, or some blue-eyed grass along a walkway, means less watering for you and more habitat for the wildlife we share this valley with.

All month long, the Conservation Committee will be sharing resources to help you get started, from plant recommendations to local nursery guides. And if you'd like to talk native plants in

person, come find us at the **Farmers' Market (765 Portola Road)** on **Thursday, April 2nd or April 9th**. We'll have a wildflower display table and plenty of information to take home.

Helpful Native Plant Lists for Portola Valley <https://portolavalley.cc/plants>

We'd love to see more native plants blooming across town. If you're already growing them, let us know what's working! We're always learning from our neighbors.

— The Portola Valley Conservation Committee