

## Joshua Tree National Park

Last week I went to Yucca Valley to visit my daughter who lives and makes [pottery](#) there. Check out her website, [zzieeceramics](#), and [Etsy site](#) to see or purchase her pieces. On June 8th and 9th she will be selling her work at the [West Coast Craft Fair](#), so unless you can visit her in SF, you may have to wait a few weeks to get an online response.

Cottage Cheese Vase from [zzieeceramics](#)

She took a break from throwing, glazing and firing to join me on a botanical foray in [Joshua Tree National Park](#). There were a surprising number of wildflowers still blooming. The spiny senna (*Senna armata*) was finishing up after a spectacular display. But even without the exuberance of peak wildflower displays, the desert was glorious. Rain clouds over the distant mountains were both ominous and awe-inspiring.

Some of the plants and flowers that we saw are uploaded on [iNaturalist](#). These include a couple of grasses, big galleta and desert needle grass. Also, we saw some nice blooms and pods on paperbag bush (yes, isn't that a great name!). Other little pretties include San Felipe dogwood,

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prince's plume, small wire lettuce, rabbitbush, white bursage, and even a spectacular desert mariposa lily.

As an aside, if any of you can distinguish – from my [not-so-great photo of rabbitbush](#) – whether the plant is yellow rabbitbush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*) or rubber rabbitbush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), please comment below. These NYCs ("damn-yellow-composites" for the non-botanists) are tricky!

Hope you enjoy the pictures, or better yet, go to the desert and experience the glory for yourself.