



the Poppy Print

Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Inc.

GARDEN TOUR BIGGER, BETTER THAN EVER

Save the date: our third annual garden tours on April 1 and 2 will feature 31 private and public gardens across the Los Angeles area. Go at your own pace on this self-guided tour, which includes both well-known botanic gardens and small, hidden gems. It's a fun way to discover the beauty and practicality of California native plants.

Each garden on the tour is a creative expression built around specific site conditions and the gardener's personal vision. Some gardens focus on quality bird habitat; others are "collector's" gardens full of fascinating cultivars. Some gardens follow a formal design; others allow natives to reach their wild potential.

At each stop you'll meet garden owners and docents eager to answer your questions and share their experiences. Get inspiration from their clever design solutions, unexpected plant combinations, and creative art and water features.

Here's another thing that makes the Theodore Payne Garden Tour special: it's the only garden tour in Southern California devoted to native plants, and only one of four in the whole state. You'll have to travel 400 miles for the other three: Bringing Back The Natives in the East Bay, the Going Native Garden Tour in the Bay Area, and the Mother's Day Tour in San Francisco.

This year we've made it easy to buy tour tickets at our Web site, www.theodorepayne.org. We've also posted plant lists and photos to help you make the most of the tour. You can also book tickets by phone at (818) 768-1802.

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Photograph © Ken Gilliland

Third Annual Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour

Saturday and Sunday, April 1 and 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets \$10 per person

Information and tickets at www.theodorepayne.org or (818) 768-1802

Over the past two years we've made tremendous progress in evaluating and conserving Theodore Payne's personal papers and the Foundation's archives. We received a generous grant from the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation to begin cataloging and conserving the collection. Work has begun on this project, with many pleasant surprises.

Payne was something of a photo buff, snapping pictures of street trees, gardens, and landscapes across Southern California. Among the finds are photos of Ralph Cornell, of parks and homes that Payne designed, and of his nursery in Atwater Village. (See a photo of Payne at the Atwater Village nursery on the facing page.)

We have also processed the Foundation's slide collection, which includes special collections of photos by photographers Dede Gilman and John Reed, as well as hundreds of images of individual plant species, amazing landscapes in full bloom, and the Foundation's grounds.



There is also a terrific collection of glass slides and lantern slides depicting plant specimens. Many of these pictures were used throughout Payne's annual catalogs.

We've made the greatest progress on the print collection, organizing, cataloging, and digitizing all our prints of flowers, gardens, and Foundation events. Archivist Ken McGuire (above) is helping us to pull together and organize our treasures and to place our photos, prints, and slides in protective sleeves and boxes.

Once cataloging is complete, we will digitize the entire collection to make a record of Payne's work accessible to researchers and the public. As this project unfolds, Payne's legacy as a horticulturist will become more broadly understood. His dedication to learning and teaching about plants, in particular California's native flora, is a story that is yet to be fully told. 🌸

Garden Tour

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Exciting news: this year tickets are only \$10 per person. We are able to offer this great deal thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Metropolitan Water District and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.



Want to get involved? Join a great cause and have a day of fun with other native plant lovers by signing up to help out. We have a growing list of volunteers to help out on the day of the tour, but more are needed.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Theodore Payne office at (818) 768-1802 or e-mail us at programs@theodorepayne.org 🌸

The *Poppy Print* is the membership newsletter of the *Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Inc.*, a nonpro t organization. The Foundation's mission is to promote and restore California landscapes and habitats, to propagate and make available California native plants and wild owers, and to educate and acquire knowledge about California ora and natural history. In keeping with this purpose, the Foundation operates a nonpro t nursery where native plants are grown and sold. Wild ower and native plant seeds as well as a full range of horticultural and botanical books and information are available at our Sun Valley headquarters and by mail.

Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Inc.,
10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352 • www.theodorepayne.org

Tel: (818) 768-1802 • E-mail: info@theodorepayne.org

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Letter from the President

As members of the Theodore Payne Foundation, you know how native plants can dramatically save water and reduce pollution and green waste. You were probably drawn to natives because they create habitat for birds, butterflies, native pollinators, and other critters—and because they are beautiful. Here's what we're doing now to spread the word.

Continuing Theodore Payne's Work

Theodore Payne worked tirelessly for 60 years to help people see the beauty and utility of native plants. He witnessed the loss of wildflowers throughout California and made promoting the flora of his adopted home his life's work. The Foundation seeks to continue his work by providing educational opportunities, beautiful gardens, and access to the plant material he so admired.



Building Our Education Programs

We are adding to the Foundation's education programs with more classes and events. Our goal is to help everyone learn more about our native flora and be successful as native plant gardeners. Surprise events always come up, so watch our Web site. If you have ideas for classes or programs, please contact Keith Malone at programs@theodorepayne.org. We want to make sure our programs meet your needs.

Creating a New Teaching Center

We are also looking at ways to create a small education center with classrooms or labs that will facilitate the learning process. An education center will help focus our efforts and provide an exceptional opportunity for a positive learning experience. We have a spot in mind, but need funding to make this happen. Substantial structural repairs and renovations are needed to make this facility usable.

Transforming the Grounds

Our gardens also play an important part in our mission, helping the reluctant gardener appreciate what natives have to offer and serving as hands-on training opportunities. Our First Saturday projects have begun to transform the Foundation's grounds. Even the most mundane tasks, like weeding and raking, make a big difference. And there's always something special, like a pruning or propagation demonstration. By helping in our gardens, you can learn what to expect in yours.



Modeling Green Building

We also want to turn the Foundation's property into a model for green building solutions. One of our first projects is to conduct a stormwater management plan for the property. We have retained Brown and Caldwell to help find solutions for our flooded and dusty road, improve access to the nursery, and resolve concerns raised by our neighbors. These solutions will show how California native plants can help improve water quality and reduce flooding.

Doing More with Your Help

The Theodore Payne Foundation thrives only with your support. When you renew your membership or purchase plants, seeds, or books, we can continue growing uncommon species and cultivars not available anywhere else. Your gifts help make real, tangible improvements at the Foundation, whether it's a new roof on the bookstore, a new education center, or beautiful gardens. And if you have a few hours to volunteer one Saturday a month, you can help others discover the beauty of California native plants, too. Thank you for your support and have a wonderful spring!

John Wickham, President of the Board

Spring Garden Guide

What to do in March, April, and May

Welcome to “the show.” It’s been a dry winter, but you’ll still get a good display of flowers this spring. Enjoy your hard work, the visiting hummers, and the admiration of your friends and neighbors.

Seed

You sowed your annual seeds months ago, right? If not, never fear. You can still sow California poppies and clarkias for a nice display—you’ll just have to water a bit.

You can also start a **yarrow meadow** from seed now or just about any time. Yarrow is one of the easiest natives to sow and grow.

Prepare the soil first by removing as many weeds as possible. Disarm weed seeds by watering to sprout them and pulling the seedlings. Level the soil gently. Broadcast, add a thin coating of mulch, then water and wait.

Plant

It’s not too late to plant **perennials, grasses, riparian plants, and desert dwellers**, which are willing to take an extra drink in the summer months.

The perfect hole for new plantings is as deep as the soil in the pot and twice as wide. Fill the hole with water and let it drain completely. Backfill the hole, tamp gently, mulch, and water again. Make sure the crown of the plant is just above the soil level so it won’t sit in water and rot.

Prune

Prune and shape your California lilac, manzanita, bush anemone, and other large flowering shrubs *lightly* once they’ve finished blooming. Don’t prune spent flowers if you want your plants to produce fruit for wildlife or for seed collection. And hold off on serious pruning until next fall and winter when they are dormant again.

Many evergreen perennials and subshrubs, such as sages, verbenas, and mallows, will bloom again if you shear to **remove spent blooms**.

Water

We seem to be in for a dry season this year. That means your new plantings will need periodic watering to make it through the summer. Don’t water often, but **water deeply**, letting the soil dry out between waterings.

Weed

Last but not least—keep on top of those weeds. Every weed you pull now saves you hundreds of weed seeds later. 🌿

Nursery Report

Global warming? Warm weather has spurred many plants to develop new growth ahead of schedule. If this trend continues, your garden—and the Foundation nursery—may no longer be able to sustain plants from cooler areas. But we won’t let you down. Plants from hotter, drier areas may become our new “cast iron” plants. The coming years will be interesting!

Going High Tech with Data Loggers

In the past, nursery managers used seat-of-the-pants reckoning to figure out where particular plants grew best. But with more chaotic weather coming, we are now using data loggers to measure the temperature, humidity, and light of the growing and sales areas. Soon we’ll be able to match each species to its ideal spot, and even modify the environment to improve growth.

Four Volunteers, 1,500 Irises

The Foundation’s nursery program has gotten a shot of adrenalin this season: three new recruits to join our one steady, fabulous volunteer! Vast numbers of plants are now parading through their hands. Don’t mention the word *Iris* in their presence—they just finished potting up 40 different varieties totaling 1,500 plants.

Love Plants? Join Us!

If you enjoy handling plants and soil and are willing to commit to Thursday or Saturday (or both!) from 9 a.m.–12:00 noon, we would love to have you. We are starting with the *Heuchera* soon...

Web Site *NEWS*

If you haven't visited the Foundation's Web site lately, you're missing out on Webmaster Ken Gilliland's incredible efforts. Over the last few months, Ken has vastly expanded the Plant Library, added new themed lists, and refined and revised the pages for easier navigation.

The Plant Library now includes over 500 species and cultivars. Each plant includes photos and detailed information such as horticultural requirements and botanical information. Ken's exceptional photography includes views of the flowers, foliage, and sometimes seeds or bulbs.

If you ever wanted to take one of the placards from our sales yard home with you, you don't have to worry any more.

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Calendar of Events and Classes April to June 2006

To RSVP or for more information, please call (818) 768-1802 or visit www.theodorepayne.org.

Native Plant Horticulture classes and Garden Design Workshops are being scheduled as of this printing. Please call us or visit our Web site for updates to the events and classes schedule.

March through May

Wildflower
Hotline
2006

www.theodorepayne.org

April 2006

CANCELLED—First Saturday Garden Project

Due to a conflict with our annual garden tour, this month's project is cancelled. Your volunteer spirit and assistance with the garden tour would be greatly appreciated.

Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour—\$10 per Person

Saturday and Sunday, April 1 and 2, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Online registration is strongly encouraged.

Poppy Day—Free

Saturday, April 8, 2006, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Join us for our annual Poppy Day and plant sale! Enjoy free classes and demonstrations and browse our sale of native plant-related products.

Native Plant Photography—Members \$20, General Public \$30

Saturday, April 22, 2006 (Earth Day), 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Theodore Payne Webmaster and resident photographer Ken Gilliland will show you how to photograph native plants in unique ways. Class will focus more on composition skills, subject selection, and lighting than on camera mechanics. Class members will tour the nursery and Wildflower Hill photographing natives. Ken's native plant digital photography work has been published by the Metropolitan Water District and the Cal-Flora native plant database and exhibited in gallery shows. He is also a published author of several works on composition mechanics and theory.

May 2006

Field Sketching (3-class series)—Members \$30 per class (\$75 for all three), General Public \$35 per class (\$90 for all three)

Fridays, May 5, 12, and 19, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Instructor and artist Melanie Symonds holds a diploma of higher education from Wimbledon School of Art in London and a bachelor's degree in fine arts from California Institute of the Arts. She is a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists and The Guild of Natural Science Illustrators. Each class may be taken separately.

May 2006

First Saturday Garden Project—Free

Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m.–12:00 noon

Join the Theodore Payne family of volunteers the first Saturday of each month as we improve and care for our gardens. We will clear, clean, plant, mulch, prune, and do anything else needed to tend the gardens. Help us show how beautiful native plants are in the garden. Theodore Payne will provide shovels, trowels, rakes, loppers, hoes, pruners, plants, and other tools needed. Bring gloves, knee pads, or other tools for your personal use. We'll also have coffee, juice and bagels, doughnuts, or other similar refreshments.

Seed Collection Workshop—Members \$20, General Public \$30

Saturday, May 20, 2006, 9 a.m.–11 a.m.

Join Holliday Wagner, Theodore Payne nursery manager who holds a doctorate in plant ecology, for an introduction to seed collection practices and procedures. The workshop includes an opportunity to collect seed from the Theodore Payne grounds. Dr. Wagner has been a member of our seed collection team for more than 14 years. She trained under the late Ed Peterson, one of Theodore Payne's founding board members.

June 2006

First Saturday Garden Project—Free

Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m.–12:00 noon

Summer Sale—Free

Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Talk to Us!

Have a class in mind that you don't see here? Send your ideas and suggestions to programs@theodorepayne.org.

Spring in the Art Gallery

Victorian-era watercolors showcase native blooms

Alice Brown Chittenden, Lillian Howard, and Eloise Baldwin painted lush, romantic portraits of many California native plants between the late 1890s and the mid-1920s. An exhibit of their rarely seen watercolors will be on display in the Foundation's Art Gallery from April 1 through June 30.

Alice Brown Chittenden is the most widely known of these artists, having taught at the San Francisco School of Design. Her longtime friend Alice Eastwood, the prominent botanist who directed the botany department at the California Academy of Sciences, convinced her to apply her artistic skills to the subject of native botanicals. Chittenden eventually produced nearly 300 paintings of native plants.

Lillian Howard was active in Santa Cruz, living and painting in the area for more than 40 years before returning to her home state of Indiana. For many years, she taught art, botany, and English at Santa Cruz High School.

Eloise Baldwin was a New York watercolorist who lived in San Francisco from 1880 to 1896. Her watercolors in this exhibit are from a sketchbook she kept while living out west.

The gallery is open during regular business hours, Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 🌸

Mountain lady slipper (*Cypripedium montanum*) by Eloise Baldwin

Web Site News

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Now you can look up the information you swore you'd remember, like plant height or water needs.

Theme lists are another great new resource on the site. They provide suggestions for the best plants for birds, slopes, and other common gardening goals or situations. With so many species to choose from, these lists can help you identify species that best fit your gardening and landscaping needs.

The Web site will also soon provide an availability list indicating the species and cultivars currently in the nursery. The list will be accurate as of the date posted, so we can't promise that every plant will be in the nursery when you get there. But if you like to plan ahead, you'll find the ultimate native plant shopping list on our site.

And there's more. Beginning this March, Ken will once again post each weekly Wildflower Hotline update to the Web site, making it easier than ever to stay up to date on the latest hot spots.

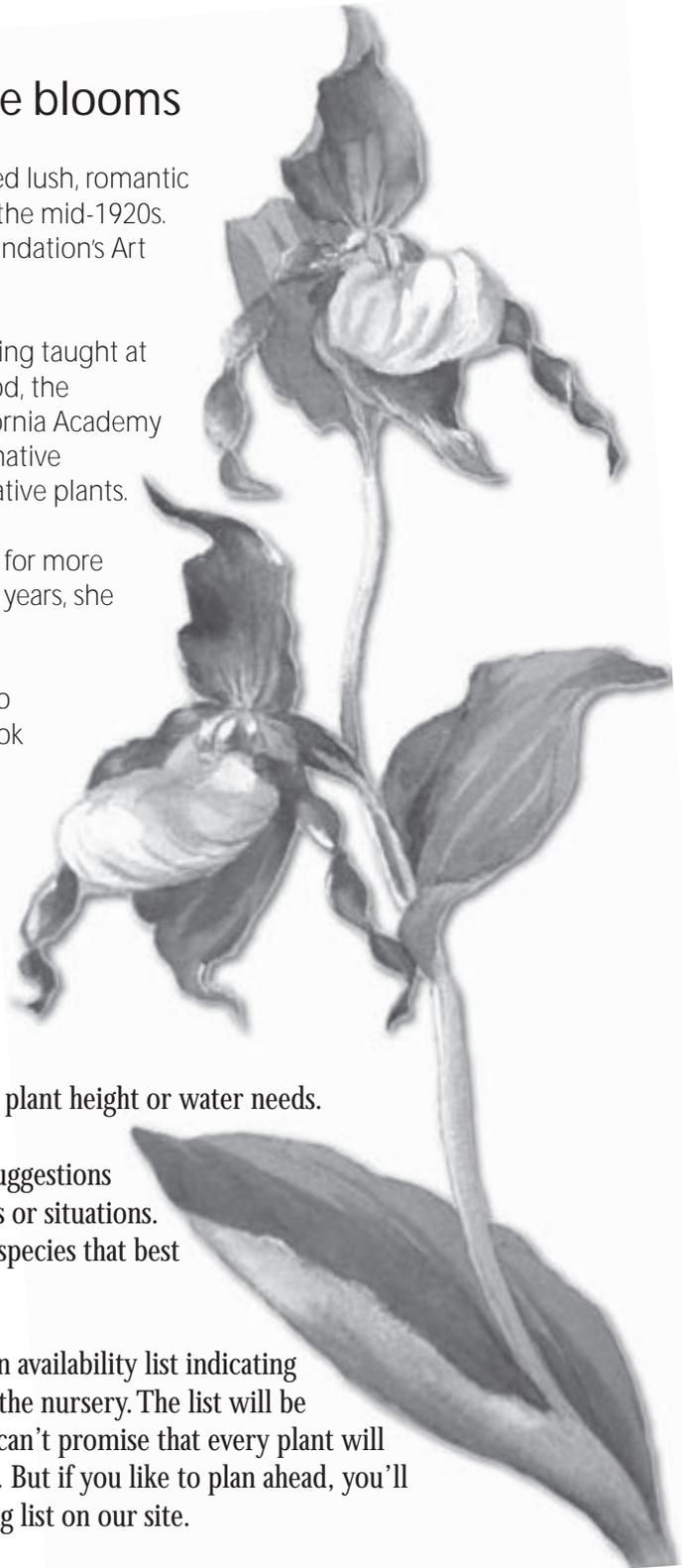
Ken has volunteered hundreds of hours putting together the Foundation's Web site. These additions to the site provide important information that should help your native plant garden. Special thanks to Ken for his hard work and terrific contributions to informing the world about California native plants. 🌸

March through May

Wildflower
Hotline
2006

(818) 768-3533

www.theodorepayne.org



Memorial Contributions

We thank all those who have recently made memorial gifts to the Foundation.

In memory of **Doris McWhorter Shepard** from John B. Shepard and Mildred Wiles.

In memory of **Ed Peterson** from Kay Onderdonk, Tucker Adams, Eliza and Timothy Earle, Tom Nuccio, Daniel Fink, M.D., Shirley and Richard Docter, James Campbell, Karla Butler, and Therese Thompson.

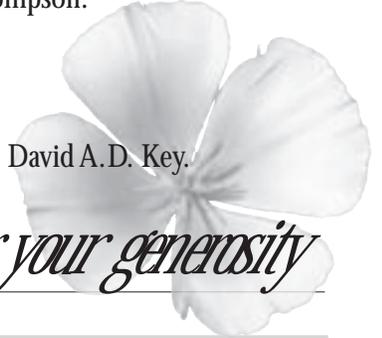
In memory of **Herminia Navarro** from Lori Paul and Rob Staehle.

In memory of **Henry Wiedenheft** from Janet Gelfman.

In memory of **Nancy Key** from Mary Jo Winder & coworkers, Michael and Alice Sterling, and David A. D. Key.

In memory of **Gail Cox** from Jeanie Stillwell Haye and Stan Haye.

Thank you for your generosity



VOLUNTEER REPORT

Our exceptional volunteers continue to help the Foundation in many ways. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work.

Propagation Team: Mary Brooks, Leslie Carothers-Aromaa, Judy Crammer, and Vicente have made great progress on next year's nursery orderings. Thank you!

First Saturday Volunteers: Joe Grant, Dori Lehner, Carol Stein, Tammie Sisson, Phyl Van Ammers, Deborah Perrin, Fred and Kathy Heslep, Leslie Carothers Aromaa, and Laura Bauer have done a great job on completing a new project each month.

Regulars: Eddie Condit, Gregory Maltby, Cynthia Guthrie, Betty Markowitz, Orchid Black, Katie Galang, Ollie La Plant, Kristin Contreras, and Janice Kuch help each week in the seed room and data entry, grounds maintenance, archive processing, and sales assistance. We are so grateful for our regulars!

Montrose Harvest Market Booth: Janice Kuch and family, Eddie Condit, Roxanne Correa, Beth Fabinski, and Keith Malone are successfully reaching out to future native gardeners in the area. Additional help comes from local high school volunteers assisting with the children's activities. Come visit and lend your support, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. the third Sunday of the month through May.

Webmasters: Ken and Rhonda Gilliland. What can we say? We have the greatest Web site thanks to their patience and conscientious hard work.

These are but a few of the volunteer opportunities available. Please come visit and see what may appeal to you as a volunteer.

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Yes! I would like to support the work of the Theodore Payne Foundation with a tax-deductible contribution of:

- \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other _____

Please designate my gift to support:

- Area of Greatest Need Education Programs Facility Improvements
 Seed Program Oral History Project Archives Project Endowment
 Ed Peterson Fund for Native Plant Education
 My employer, _____, will match my gift. My employer's matching gift form is enclosed.
(company name)
 I would like more information about making a bequest. Please contact me.

IMPORTANT: Please complete name, address, and payment information on the reverse side of this form.

Thank you for your support!

**Theodore Payne Foundation
for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Inc.**

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 Theodore Payne Foundation
for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Inc.

Membership Card Issued Spring 2006
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PLANT OF THE MONTH PROGRAM

Each month we feature a different species and offer a 20% discount to members.



Arctostaphylos densiflora
'Howard McMinn'

- April** *Arctostaphylos densiflora* 'Howard McMinn'—Howard McMinn's Manzanita
May *Festuca rubra* 'Molate'—Molate Red Fescue
June *Rosa woodsii ultramontana*—Interior Rose

Please note: We reserve the right to make changes. Offer is good while supplies last—sorry, no rain checks or holds. We may need to limit quantities. Please check our Web site for more information on the plants listed here.

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

Yes! I would like to become a member:

- \$20 Student/Senior \$30 Regular \$65 Friend \$100 Supporting/Membership Org
 \$150 Hort./Prof./Bus. \$250 Patron \$500 Golden Poppy \$1,000 Life Member

I would like to support the Theodore Payne Foundation by making a tax-deductible gift. *(Please complete reverse side.)*

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail address _____

My check in the amount of \$ _____, payable to Theodore Payne Foundation, is enclosed.

Please charge \$ _____ to my Visa Mastercard Credit Card No: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Cardholder Signature: _____

Credit card membership orders and gifts may also be phoned in at (818) 768-1802.

Membership contribution and gifts are tax deductible within the limits allowed by law. 501(c)(3) EIN 95-6095398



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