

the Poppy Print

News for Members of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Inc.

Summer

Create an Edible Native Garden

by Carmen Wolf

If you've never snacked on freshly plucked golden currants, you're missing one of the joys of growing California native plants at home.

More and more gardeners are turning to edible landscaping to create beautiful gardens that provide fruits, nuts, and herbs and welcome wildlife. Yet our native fruiting plants—like golden currant (*Ribes aureum*)—are rarely included in the palette of these enticing gardens. It's time to change that.

Long before the arrival of Europeans, Native Americans lived off the bounty of California flora in a balanced way, maintaining the land that provided long-term sustenance. "Edible landscapes" were everywhere. Though that is no longer the case, each of us can create something similar at home with our many food-rich native plants.

For Berry Lovers

Come summertime, abundant clusters of berries cascade along branches of blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), a large shrub that does equally well in full sun or part shade and can take garden water or drought after it's established.

Birds will compete for the fruit, which is delicious in muffins, pies, jam, or wine. Elderberries usually reach 10 or 12 feet in the wild, but in the right garden spot they can rocket up to 30 feet.



Summer bounty! Blue elderberry is just one of the many native California plants with edible fruit. One shrub provides enough berries for birds and human gardeners alike.

For a yard with lots of space to fill, consider California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), a sprawling, deciduous, and thorny shrubby vine that makes a good barrier along a property's perimeter. White flowers in February to June are followed by red fruit that ripens to black from July to August. Berries are delicious raw or in baked goods. Expect a mature blackberry to reach six feet high and three times as wide.

A Well-Behaved Mint

If you enjoy mint but dread its invasive behavior, try the dainty native herb yerba buena (*Satureja douglasii*). Delicate leaves on this six-inch-tall, filtered-shade-loving groundcover are so coolly aromatic that you'll

long for it in lemonade, iced tea, or in a pot of hot water on a nippy night. It spreads to about three feet wide via soft, rooting stems that produce sweet little white flowers in spring and summer. A little summer water for established yerba buena should suffice.

continued on page 2

Photograph © Carmen Wolf

Edible Natives

continued from page 1

Create a Mini-Vineyard

Oenophiles and grape lovers alike will delight in discovering garden-friendly California native grape vines with gorgeous globes of juicy goodness—especially the beautiful ‘Roger’s Red’ cultivar of our own California grape (*Vitis californica*). It is a robust rambler reaching about 40 feet in width. Train it over an arbor and fence or use as a groundcover. Fruit of late summer is quite tasty, and fall foliage color is a fiery crimson. After the leaves drop, the plant sports rustic gnarled branches. It grows well in sun, part sun, or filtered shade and needs only intermittent irrigation once established.



Edible natives provide beauty as well as food. Hummingbirds flock to the tubular flowers of golden currant, which turn into smooth, tasty berries in early summer.

An Edible Groundcover

Rounding out this select gastronomic group is woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca* ssp. *californica*). Cheery yellow-centered white flowers precede small, flavorful red berries in July on this excellent groundcover, which is good on slopes, too. It does best in part sun with occasional water after becoming established.

Inspired? Do some research to find more edible natives—and to check that the ones you want to grow are safe to eat. You’ll enjoy the satisfaction not only of spontaneously snipping a strawberry out of your own yard, but also of bringing back a little bit of what used to be. 🌱

Opinions Wanted!

The Poppy Print is your newsletter. How can we make it better? What would you like to see more of—or less of—in these pages? All letters, photos, and submissions are warmly welcomed.

Write to us at poppyprint@theodorepayne.org.

The *Poppy Print* is the membership newsletter of the *Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Inc.*, a nonprofit organization. The Foundation’s mission is to promote and restore California landscapes and habitats, to propagate and make available California native plants and wildflowers, and to educate and acquire knowledge about California flora and natural history. In keeping with this purpose, the Foundation operates a nonprofit nursery where native plants are grown and sold. Wildflower 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

STAFF Office Manager/Bookkeeper: **Margaret Robison**
Seed Room Sales Supervisor: **Kathy Parenteau**
Nursery Manager: **Holliday Wagner**
Nursery Production: **Rob Galbraith, Francisco Rosales,**
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Newsletter Editing/Design: **Acorn Publishing**

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Nursery News

by Holliday Wagner

Exciting news: you'll soon see lots of new seed-grown plants for sale, including species that have never been available before. This is due to the efforts of our volunteer seed collectors and to your ongoing support, which has allowed us to buy new rolling benches for the Seed House that provide double the space for germinating seed.

We are focusing more and more on growing plants from seed. Why? Plants grown from divisions or cuttings are clones, with the same genetic information as the mother plant. Seed-propagated plants are genetically diverse. Propagating by seed from locally collected species also helps insure that the plants you buy from us are able to adapt to southern California's changing climate regimes.

The Romance and Glamour of Seed Collecting

Getting seed from particular species on a regular basis is crucial to our growing efforts. Our volunteer seed collectors—luckily for us—are caught up in the romance of collecting. They are willing to spend their weekends in broiling heat, driving 15 miles per hour, stopping on a dime, and sometimes never even getting to their goal. They cheerfully overcome the challenges of variable rains and temperatures and an ever-changing landscape, and think nothing of spending hours fighting their way through *The Jepson Manual* to make sure they have correctly identified the subspecies. As you can imagine, seed collectors are even scarcer than good seed.

We Need You to Become a Volunteer Seed Collector

There is one solution to this scarcity in slightly crazed seed volunteers—you. Do you know plants and hike often? Do you live close to a population of a particularly luscious ceanothus or another fabulous native plant? If so, would you be willing to capture its ripe seed for us?

Common-sense rules apply, of course—you'll need a permit to collect on public land and permission from owners to collect on private land. And naturally, we never collect seed from plants listed as sensitive, threatened, or endangered. Interested? Call us at (818) 768-1802 or e-mail us at info@theodorepayne.org to get involved. 🌸



Theodore Payne member Maia Channell, 3, enjoys the scent of a bush lupine. Help us keep native plants going strong for her generation by becoming a seed collector!

2007 Theodore Payne Garden Tour

We've started planning for the 2007 Theodore Payne Garden Tour! If you are interested in showing off your hard work and beautiful California native plant garden, please give us a call. Gardens must devote at least 50% of the plants to natives. All types of gardens are needed, though: young gardens or old, wild or formal. Next year's tour will be held on April 28 and 29, at the peak of the wild flower bloom. If your garden isn't ready yet, maybe you'd be interested in being a docent.

Please contact Carmen Wolf if you'd like to participate in the 2007 Theodore Payne Garden Tour. Call Carmen at (818) 768-1802 or e-mail her at programs@theodorepayne.org.

Calendar of Events and Classes

Summer 2006

Want to start a native garden or perfect the one you already have? This summer, it's time to plan! Seize the many ripe opportunities at Theodore Payne to learn about horticulture, design, and more. To RSVP or for more information about the following events or classes, as well as classes that are currently in development, please call (818) 768-1802 or visit www.theodorepayne.org.

Have an idea for a class or event not listed here? Contact Carmen Wolf at (818) 768-1802 or programs@theodorepayne.org. We look forward to hearing from you!



JUNE

Summer Sale

Friday, June 23, and Saturday, June 24, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Members receive a 15% discount on plants, nonmembers 10%. This is a great chance to grab some choice plants for summer native gardening.

What's Up With Water?

Friday, June 23, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Ever wonder where water comes from, how it gets to you, or how much there is? Learn all about current and historical issues related to water in this free talk by David Gould and Christy Scott of Crescenta Valley Water District. They'll have coloring books and activities for kids!

JULY

Summer Hours Begin

From July 1 through September 30, we will be open Thursday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

First Saturday Volunteer Project

Saturday, July 1, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Join our family of volunteers as we improve and care for our gardens. Learn how to properly clean, clear, plant, mulch, and prune a native landscape. We will provide the tools; please bring gloves, knee pads, sunscreen, a hat, and any tools for your personal use. Coffee, juice, bagels, and doughnuts for all hard-working souls!

Getting Started With Natives: Native Planting Basics

Saturday, July 1, 1:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.
\$20 members, \$30 non-members
Learn about native plants from the ground up! Ken and Rhonda Gilliland, Theodore Payne Webmasters and Garden Tour hosts, teach this introductory course on incorporating California native plants into a home garden. You'll learn about California's geographic diversity, benefits of native plants, site assessment, and much more. Includes a field trip to the instructors' garden in Tujunga.

Introduction to *The Jepson Manual*

Saturday, July 8, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
\$10 members, \$20 non-members
The Jepson Manual is your entry into identifying California's native plants. Dr. Holliday Wagner, Theodore Payne nursery manager and plant ecologist, shows you how to weave your way through its labyrinth of plant keys. Novices and experienced botanists welcome.

Native Plant Horticulture

Saturday, July 8, 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
\$50 members, \$65 non-members
Landscape designer Katja Perrey teaches the basics of gardening with California native plants, including pruning, watering, soil analysis, location evaluation, and the fundamentals of garden design.

On The Cutting Edge: The Care and Feeding of Your Garden Tools

Saturday, July 15, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Fee to be announced
David King, Gardenmaster for The Learning Garden at Venice High School, takes us on a journey of the world through the eyes of our tools. Starting from selecting the right tool to buy and use, and moving on to caring for wood and metal for maximum life of the tool, ease of use, and the best interaction with our plants, this will be a comprehensive and fun morning filled with humor as we learn how tools can help us have the gardens of our dreams!

Native Garden Design Workshop

Saturday, July 22, 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
\$90 members, \$120 non-members (fee includes Native Plant Horticulture class on July 8—mandatory prerequisite)
Landscape Designer Katja Perrey gives you hands-on experience and expert guidance in designing your own native plant garden. Bring your garden design plans and photos of your garden or the area requiring landscaping, along with your ideas and questions about "nativescaping." Limited to 8 participants.

AUGUST

First Saturday Volunteer Project

Saturday, August 5, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
See July 1 listing for details.

Getting Started With Natives: New and Established Plants Surviving the Summer Heat

Saturday, August 5, 1:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.
\$20 members, \$30 non-members
See July 1 listing for details. This month's class focuses on how new and established plants survive the summer heat.

Gardening with Native Bulbs

Saturday, August 12, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
\$10 members, \$20 non-members
John Wickham, president of the Theodore Payne board, demonstrates propagating and gardening with native bulbs, including onions, wild hyacinths, mariposa tulips, and lilies.

Native Plant Horticulture

Saturday, August 12, 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
\$50 members, \$65 non-members
See July 8 listing for details. Your instructor this month is landscape designer and Theodore Payne board member Stephanie Wilson Blanc.

Ecology of the California Native Plants in Your Yard

Saturday, August 26, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

\$10 for members, \$20 for non-members

Dr. Holliday Wagner, Theodore Payne Nursery Manager and plant ecologist, discusses adaptations that plants have made to survive in their southern California environments and how those adaptations affect their survival in your garden. Bring a jar filled about 2/3 full with a mixture of equal parts water and soil from your garden.

Native Garden Design Workshop

Saturday, August 26, 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

\$90 members, \$120 non-members (fee includes Native Plant Horticulture class on August 12—mandatory prerequisite)

Horticulture class on August 12—mandatory prerequisite)

See July 22 listing for details.

SEPTEMBER

No First Saturday Volunteer Project

Saturday, September 2

Happy Labor Day!

Native Plant Horticulture

Saturday, September 9, 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

\$50 members, \$65 non-members

See August 12 listing for details.

Getting Started With Natives: Natives and Hardscape Solutions

Saturday, September 16, 1:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

\$20 members, \$30 non-members

See July 1 listing for details. This month's class focuses on hardscaping for the native plant garden.

Native Garden Design Workshop

Saturday, September 23, 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

\$90 members, \$120 non-members (fee includes Native Plant Horticulture class on September 9—mandatory prerequisite)

See July 22 listing for details.

OCTOBER

Regular Hours Resume

From October 2 until the end of June 2007, we will be open Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Fall Festival

Friday, October 13, Saturday, October 14, and Sunday, October 15, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars for our annual celebration featuring three days of demonstrations, classes, vendors, and food! Members receive 15% off plants, non-members 10%.

Summer Garden Guide

by John Wickham

The blooming season is quickly fading and the big planting season is still a few months away. That makes it **planning season**, the time of year to dream about the new possibilities in your garden and to **get organized** with lists and drawings. Pull out the garden guides, **take a class with us**, and enjoy your summer garden work:

Save Seeds

Fruits ripen during the summer. To **collect seeds** from your plants, keep an eye out for brown, dried capsules. Store seed in paper envelopes or bags and keep dry. Some capsules, like lupines and poppies, pop open and throw their seeds when they're ready. To capture these seeds, **wrap capsules in cheesecloth** before they open.

Sow Seeds

This is the perfect time to **sow warm season grasses**—check our Web site for examples. You can also try another round of poppies, as well as *Clarkia botata*, *Phacelia tanacetifolia*, and *Phacelia campanulata* if you're adventurous. They'll need supplemental water to get them to bloom in late summer or early fall.

Plant

In hot gardens, you can **plant riparian species and desert species** from spring through summer. They will take the extra water you'll need to provide through the warm season. Desert plants are accustomed to rain this time of year. In cooler gardens, you can plant just about anything!

Water

Give new plantings an occasional **deep soak**. Check first to make sure the soil is dry by poking your finger about two inches into the soil. Water the broad area around the plant to encourage the plant's roots to grow out from the container rootball. Don't let water gather at the base of chaparral plants, though, to prevent mold. **Water early in the day** to avoid the day's heat, and remember that many shrubs don't like overhead watering.

Prune

Deadhead salvia and penstemon flower stalks as they finish up, unless you're looking to collect the seed. When your sages have finished their bloom, **cut plants back** by a third. Shear cool season grasses to a height of two inches or so, and prune and shape any shrubs that are top-heavy with new growth. 🌿

Summer in the Art Gallery

Ken Gilliland, Photographer

See the vivid colors and striking forms of our native flora in this exhibit of large format photography by Ken Gilliland. Ken's portraits of California native flowers and plants have graced our Web site for the last five years, most notably in the Plant Library. It's your chance to see Ken's very best photos, including images he has never exhibited before.

A fine artist, Ken had long exhibited his oil paintings, landscape drawings, and digital artwork. He got his start in the photography of native plants with the Theodore Payne Web site. He simply needed images to illustrate the plants and show their beauty. This modest project quickly spiraled into the California Native Plant Library, a resource of horticulture information on over 500 species and cultivars.



Photograph © Ken Gilliland

Moonglow celebrates the intense purples and ruffled edges of this spectacular native iris cultivar. See this and more of Gilliland's large format photographs through September 30.

Ken's photography has been featured in publications and Web sites across the world, from the the Cal-Flora database to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

The exhibit runs from July 1 through September 30, 2006, in the Theodore Payne Art Gallery, open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday through Saturday. A limited number of signed prints will be available for purchase in the bookstore. Ken is represented by the Orlando Gallery, and we thank them for their support with this exhibit.

Coming in fall 2006: recent works by botanical and wildlife artists from the Botanical Artists Guild of Southern California and the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators. 🌸

Financial Report

Less picturesque but equally important—the numbers. Thanks to your support, the Theodore Payne Foundation entered 2006 on solid financial footing.

Statement of Financial Activities

Revenue and Other Support	Fiscal Year ending 6/30/05	Fiscal Year ending 6/30/04
Direct Public Support	\$118,128	\$115,477
Programs	\$15,241	\$13,244
Interest and Dividends	\$3,494	\$3,361
Rent	\$9,600	\$9,600
Net Sales	\$33,783	\$139,601
Grants	-	\$8,000
	<u>\$180,246</u>	<u>\$281,283</u>
Expenses		
Program Services	\$130,763	\$110,819
Management and General	\$37,896	\$45,682
Fundraising	\$7,866	\$8,123
	<u>\$176,525</u>	<u>\$164,624</u>
Total Revenue Less Total Expenses	\$3,721	\$116,659

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	as of 6/30/2005	as of 6/30/2004
Cash	\$104,906	\$51,978
Savings	\$159,113	\$195,246
Inventories	\$173,189	\$203,098
Investments—Securities	\$71,768	\$65,157
Land, buildings and equipment	\$212,577	\$188,889
Other	\$10,306	\$8,413
	<u>\$731,859</u>	<u>\$712,781</u>
Liabilities & Net Assets		
<i>Current Liabilities</i>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$20,363	\$12,585
Deferred Revenue	\$3,914	\$3,084
Net Assets	<u>\$707,582</u>	<u>\$697,112</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$731,859	\$712,781

The Statement of Financial Activities and Position above represents the Foundation's fiscal year (July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005) as stated in tax returns prepared by the accounting firm Lucas, Horsfall, Murphy & Pindroh, LLP. If you have questions, please contact Steven Hartman, Treasurer, at naturebase@aol.com.

VOLUNTEER REPORT

We had a great spring, and our volunteers made it all possible. Their tireless efforts, enthusiasm, and good cheer not only help us accomplish our mission, but make Theodore Payne a friendly and positive place to work and visit.

Web Site

Endless thanks to Webmasters Ken and Rhonda Gilliland for creating, maintaining, and constantly improving our outstanding Web site.

Third Annual Garden Tour

It couldn't have happened without all the volunteers. Heading up the Tour was our coordinator, Keith Malone, and his volunteer coordinator, Debbie Taylor. Your hard work and dedication made this our most successful tour yet.

We are extremely grateful to the following people, who opened up their gorgeous gardens to the public: Amy Nettleton, Andreas Hessing and Karen Bonfigli, Patty Sun of the Audubon Center, Barbara Beckner, Bill and Cara Entz, Catherine and Robert Waters, Chris and Trish Meyer, Dan and Susan Gottlieb, Deb and Robert Benada, Debbie Taylor, Ellen Mackey, Eric and Elisa Callow, Bob Galbreath of Garden/Garden, Garry George and Joseph Brooks, Glenna Citron, Jean Andresen, Ken and Rhonda Gilliland, Doug Morrow of Kidspace, Laura Bauer, Lisa Ceazan, Lori and Den Len, Tracy Drake of Madrona Marsh Preserve, Ann Barklow and Julie Gonella of Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden, Michael Lewis Miller and Kenneth Coon, Mike Scanlon, Aisling Farrell of the Page Museum Pleistocene Garden, Randi and Ray Swedenberg, Jerry Schneider of Temple Beth Israel, Tony Beauvy and Anne Traynor, and, last but not least, the Zinner Family.

The gardens wouldn't have been tour-worthy without the assistance of our volunteer docents—Steve Hernandez, Christopher Stevenson, Jeff Chapman, Taya Cummins, Mary Brooks, Eddie Condit, Roxanne Correa, Debbie Taylor, Dan Fink, Frances Liau, Orchid Black, Barbara Eisenstein, Janet Nickerman, Kathy Parenteau, Susan Shum, Leslie Carothers-Aromaa, Tamara Payton, Cynthia Guthrie, Elizabeth Miles, Mike Mersola, Janice Kuch, Rick Laezman, Rob Galbraith, Laura Huntley, Carol Norcross, Alexis Nollman, Melanie Symonds, Michelle Cummins, Tim Stirton, Willie Arste, Leslie Dixon, and Yvonne LeGrice. We immensely appreciate the time and knowledge all of you donated to make this a great year for the Tour.

And that's not all! Our volunteers continue to generously give of their time in so many other places and ways too.

Montrose Farmer's Market—thanks to Janice Kuch, Roxanne Correa, and Eddie Condit

Weeding—thanks to Cynthia Guthrie, Janice Kuch, Jakub Gawronski, Julia Posey, and her son Owen Thomason

Library—thanks to Barbara Booth and Chris Murphy for their extensive work creating an index

Pruning, Wild Flower Hill and Handyman Help—more thanks to Eddie Condit

Seed Room—thanks to Greg Maltby and Debbie Taylor

Propagation and Potting—thanks to Judy Cammer, Mary Brooks, Leslie Carothers-Aromaa, Andrew Peck, and Tamara Payton

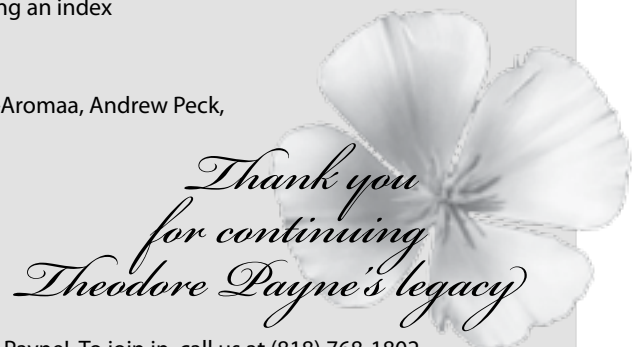
Office Help and Outreach—thanks to Debbie Taylor

Data Entry—thanks to Katie Galang

Plant ID—thanks to Ron Clark

Nursery Sales—thanks to Janice Kuch, Michael Mersola, and Ollie LaPlant

Access Programming—thanks to Ernest Chi



Heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers for helping us carry on the legacy of Theodore Payne! To join in, call us at (818) 768-1802.

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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.**

10459 Tuxford Street
Sun Valley, California 91352-2126

Tel: (818) 768-1802 Fax: (818) 768-5215
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PLANT OF THE MONTH PROGRAM

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



Photograph © Ken Gilliland

- July *Ceanothus impressus nipomoensis*—Nipomo ceanothus
- August *Atriplex canescens*—four-winged saltbush
- September *Sisyrrinchium bellum* 'Rocky Point'—dwarf blue-eyed grass

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.

Sisyrrinchium bellum 'Rocky Point'



MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM



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

10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352

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

