



the Poppy Print

Quarterly Newsletter of the Theodore Payne Foundation

winter

Local Source Initiative: Building Biodiversity in Los Angeles

Have you ever wondered where that plant you brought home from the Theodore Payne Nursery came from? Sure, it may have been "locally grown," or possibly shipped as a starter plant from the Central Valley or propagated from seed right here at TPF. But where did that seed, cutting or parent stock actually come from?

And have you wondered if familiar local species – *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (toyon), *Frangula californica* (coffeeberry), *Mimulus aurantiacus* (sticky monkeyflower) – differ genetically from populations growing in other regions of California? Does it matter?

These are the driving issues behind TPF's Local Source Initiative (LSI), a program launched in 2013 to conserve our natural heritage and raise public awareness of the importance of protecting local biodiversity.

How we go about this is important. As growers, we are often faced with multiple options for obtaining plant material. Depending on availability, some plants may be acquired locally and others from more distant populations. A "plant population" is defined by the U.S. Forest Service as a "local breeding unit." USFS goes on to explain that these populations may differ genetically across a species' native range and reflect local adaptations. Bringing in plants from non-local populations carries with it the risk of introducing maladaptive traits into the ecosystem. By offering locally sourced plant material, TPF hopes to support our local ecosystems and expand their range into urban and suburban areas.

From Idea to Practice

Requests from a small (but vocal) core of TPF members inspired staff to put the idea of offering local native plants into practice. In doing so, we continue the legacy of Theodore Payne and Ed Peterson, a Southern California botanist who collaborated with Mr. Payne to initiate the Foundation's first seed-collecting program in 1962. These men were at the forefront of valuing and preserving our botanical heritage.



Photo: Genevieve Arnold

A hillside ecosystem in nearby La Tuna Canyon sports local chaparral vegetation, including *Adenostema fasciculatum* var. *fasciculatum* (chamise) and *Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *foliolosum* (flat-topped buckwheat).

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12TH ANNUAL THEODORE PAYNE NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR

Saturday & Sunday, March 21 & 22, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

POPPY DAYS SPRING PLANT SALE

Two sale days - Special member hours!

Friday & Saturday, March 27 & 28, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

See
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for
details

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The LSI is a collaboration between TPF's Nursery and Seed programs to grow plants from seed (and, in specific cases, cuttings) harvested within our region. With permission from landowners, TPF staff collect seed in areas that are local to the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River watersheds. Plants grown from these propagules (material used for the purpose of propagating) are then made available to the public in the retail nursery. Some second-generation plants are kept onsite as parent stock for gathering additional seeds and cuttings. Throughout this process, data is compiled on all local source collections, including fruiting and seeding habits, seed viability, and germination and propagation techniques.

Local source offerings are now identified on our weekly online inventory, as well in the sales yard, where these plants are indicated by purple placards and tags. The tags contain both a seed lot number and the watershed or mountain range from which the propagules originated.

Impacts on Wild Lands

The LSI goal is to support and preserve local genetic diversity, both in plant and animal populations. Therefore, the LSI has been thoughtfully designed to have minimal impact on local ecosystems. All seed collections are conducted by trained staff in an ethical manner that is not destructive to the plants or their habitats. Quantities harvested are small and obtained only under official permit, memorandum of understanding or with written permission from the landowner. TPF does not condone the unpermitted (illegal) harvesting of seed or plant material in wild areas or on private property.

Owing to TPF's unique location on 22 mostly undeveloped acres in La Tuna Canyon in the rugged Verdugo Hills, many local species are found and harvested on site, including *Acmispon glaber* (deerweed), *Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *foliolosum* (flat-topped buckwheat), *Rhamnus crocea* (redberry), *Artemisia californica* (California sagebrush), *Hesperoyucca whipplei* (chaparral yucca) and *Salvia mellifera* (black sage). In addition, through TPF's Seed Regeneration Program, some local source plants not found on site are kept in the Living Collection.

Rethinking Conservation in Los Angeles

The LSI program is rooted in the belief that nature isn't something to be protected or restored only when it's "out there." We must conserve the wilderness areas that surround us and weave through our cities and towns. The Verdugo Hills and the Santa Monica, and San Gabriel mountains are truly treasures in our midst. They contain resources (i.e. genetic material) that can and should be used responsibly to restore our gardens and communities with the plants of our region.

Since its inception, the LSI has added 15 local source species to TPF's nursery offerings. We hope to expand this list as public interest grows. Together, through the dissemination of local source plants – from collection to propagation to planting in your gardens – we are making real and positive changes to the landscape of Los Angeles.



Photo: Genevieve Arnold

Mimulus aurantiacus (sticky monkeyflower) in full bloom in La Tuna Canyon.

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. The Foundation operates a nonprofit nursery where native plants are grown and sold to the public year round. Wildflower and native plant seeds, and horticultural and botanical books 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
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BOARD

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A Focus on Propagation

Propagation is at the core of the Theodore Payne Foundation. You've probably visited our nursery and gardens. You may own and care for plants grown either by our talented horticulturists or by yourself from TPF seeds.

We concentrate our efforts on ensuring that a wide range of native flora is available to interested gardeners, and propagation will always remain central to our mission, but plants aren't the only things that grow at TPF: we also cultivate friends.

On November 7, we held our Third Annual Gathering of Friends: Brewing up Support – a rollicking fundraiser at Golden Road Brewing. The Americana music of Dustbowl Revival was incredibly fun, and Keith Malone, our Master of Ceremonies, kept things lively in between sets. It was a sell-out night with around 175 new and old friends eating, drinking, dancing and, above all, talking! That evening, we raised more than \$23,700 for the new nature education facilities. My heartfelt thanks to all you who donated, sponsored the event, volunteered or just added your energy to the evening. Keep your eyes open for a similar event next year.

TPF also strives to propagate awareness by spreading California native plant knowledge and skills through our educational programs, and critical to those programs is space for teaching. You've been hearing about the new education center for a while now. At last, the project is close to being a reality. Though permit delays have put us temporarily on hold, we expect to finish construction this winter.

For our expanded facilities, we've planned a new suite of adult classes and K-12 school programs, and are creating new professional development courses. The future is bright for native plant education! At this critical point, we still need to raise more support for the open-air pavilion, demonstration gardens, interpretative signage and a few finishing touches. Below are concrete ways to help us grow and leave your mark on the Foundation. Please consider a donation before year's end.

We wish you a great growing season, happy holidays, and plenty of winter rains!

– Kitty Connolly, Executive Director



TPF Board President Cassy Aoyagi (left) and Executive Director Kitty Connolly (right) greeted attendees and solicited contributions at our Third Annual Gathering of Friends.



A celebratory crowd of TPF friends, board and staff, viewed from above at Golden Road Brewing.

NATURE EDUCATION FACILITIES FUND

add your support

- \$ 100** 10 plants for fire management & demonstration gardens (25 needed)
- \$ 175** Rain barrels & footings (8 needed)
- \$ 250** Large-container trees for demonstration gardens (20 needed)
- \$ 500** Classroom microscopes (20 needed)
- \$ 650** Equipment & supplies for horticultural how-to signs
- \$ 750** Window coverings
- \$ 850** Rain gardens (5 needed)
- \$ 900** 100 plant ID tags (12 needed)
- \$1,200** High-efficiency lighting
- \$2,500** Heat-reducing aluminum awnings
- \$2,500** Informational signs (10 needed)
- \$3,800** Dual-pane heat-shield windows
- \$4,500** Mulch for demonstration gardens
- \$4,600** Curved seating & recognition bench
- \$4,800** Footings for pavilion
- \$5,000** Paint for exterior of classroom
- \$5,000** Paint for interior of classroom
- \$5,000** Classroom presentation technology

Please contact Kitty Connolly about naming opportunities at 818-768-1802 ext. 16.

Third Annual Gathering of Friends

In one word, the night was a **blast!** On Friday, November 7, a full house of TPF admirers plus board members, staff and volunteers raised their glasses at the Third Annual Gathering of Friends: Brewing up Support at Golden Road Brewing in L.A. The evening couldn't have been better: an exciting venue, craft beer, delicious food – and plenty of generous donations to help TPF build its new educational facilities.

The festivities also included a slide show of event sponsors and colorful native plants, two floors of rooms to explore, spaces for socializing and games (Aaron beat out Corinne for the Pool Shark Award), entertainment by the amazing Dustbowl Revival – we want you back!). Cool perks, too: everyone went home with a TPF glass emblazoned with the words **California Plants for California Gardens** and a cork coaster with the TPF logo!

Special appreciation to Kate Mrgudic for coordinating the entire event – she did an astonishing job! Thanks also to the volunteers who schlepped and shepherded and collected contributions – and to all who sponsored and donated (see page 5). The Foundation's growth and success depends on your ongoing generosity.



Left to right: Mark Kampe, retired Executive Director Lynnette Kampe, retired Board Member Steve Hartman and Board President Cassy Aoyagi



Master of Ceremonies Keith Malone with Board President Cassy Aoyagi



Volunteer Jessica Kaczmarek (left) and Event Coordinator Kate Mrgudic (right) in their brand-new TPF Western Redbud t-shirts



Board Member Jeff Jamison (left) with supporters Daniel Allen and Julia Hejl



Board Member Janica Jones (center), flanked by supporters Dee Farnsworth (left) and Martha Clark (right)

All photos © Orly Olivier Photography

The Foundation appreciates and values the following contributions:

thank you



- \$10000 Lynnette & Mark Kampe
- \$ 1170 Michael & Megan Hamilton
- \$ 1300 Kathleen & Donald Orth
- \$ 1000 Daniel Fink, Arthur & Sarah Ludwick (in honor of Michael W. La Fetra), DJ Peterson
- \$ 780 Snowdy Dodson
- \$ 700 Steven & Leslie Hartman, Janica Jones
- \$ 675 Independent Charities of America
- \$ 500 Weina Dinata, Danielle Killian, Allen & Ruth Potts Foundation, Jerry & Gloria Schneider, Robert Southworth, Andrea Ursillo
- \$ 300 Lorraine Jones
- \$ 250 Cassy & Kirk Aoyagi, Kitty Connolly & Terence Young, Sandra Greenstein, Jeff & Sparky Jamison, Karen Layfield, Dan Nadeau, James Thiking
- \$ 200 Tim Becker, Eric & Elisa Callow, Mardi Caruso, Kathy Linowski, Debe Loxton
- \$ 120 David & Mary Elizabeth Redding
- \$ 100 Polly Anderson, David Callow, Michelle Mueller, Keith Senechal

IN MEMORY OF ERIC VOLLRATH Susan Sprouse, Patricia Thompson, Daisy Vollrath
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THIRD ANNUAL *gathering of friends* SPONSORS

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- Stover Seed Company



In-kind: Michael Hamilton, Orly Olivier Photography, Golden Road Brewing, Patagonia, Rain Barrels Intl.
Ticket sponsors: Avril Martin, Cassy Aoyagi, DJ Peterson, Eric Callow, Janica Jones, Jeff Jamison, Melina Kiely, Michael Hamilton, Snowdy Dodson, Kathy Tardy

WINTER 2015 EVENTS AND CLASSES

Register on-line at theodorepayne.org or call (818) 768-1802 or in person at our Sun Valley headquarters.

Visit our website, theodorepayne.org, for complete information on classes and instructors.

Cancellation policy: No refunds for cancellations made within seven days of the class date.

The **TPF Speakers Bureau** offers presentations for community groups, garden clubs and public agencies.

Field trips and visits for K-12 students are also available.

Contact: Lisa Novick, lisa@theodorepayne.org.

MORE ONLINE
THEODOREPAYNE.ORG @

JANUARY

First Saturday: Volunteer Day at TPF

Saturday, January 3, 9:00 a.m.-noon

RSVP to andrew@theodorepayne.org

Join the Theodore Payne Foundation family of volunteers to improve and care for our gardens. Bring hat, gloves, knee pads and other tools for personal use. TPF will provide shovels, trowels, rakes, loppers, hoes, pruners and refreshments. Repeats first Saturdays through June.

First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland

Thursday, January 8, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Free. RSVP to info@theodorepayne.org.

This month, on the Second Thursday! An easy morning ramble on TPF's scenic canyon land, where more than 50 different species of birds have been seen. Bring your own binoculars, hat and water. Ken is an accomplished birdwatcher and avian artist (empken.com) and former TPF webmaster. Repeats first Thursdays through June.

California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer

Saturday, January 10, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

\$45 members, \$55 non-members

The basics on gardening with California flora: why natives are valuable, about plant communities, plus planting techniques, establishment, irrigation, pruning and ongoing maintenance. Recommended for beginners; prerequisite to our Three-Part California Native Plant Garden Design course. Lili is TPF's Director of Special Projects and Adult Education, and an award-winning horticulturalist and garden writer.

NEW! Botanical Discoveries and Insights in Urban Los Angeles with Dan Cooper

Saturday, January 10, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

Explore overlooked and surprising habitat relicts on the floor of the L.A. Basin from the Valley to the coast, based on recent research and survey work. Get to know species and habitats that make this region a biodiversity hotspot, and learn how these areas are being protected and restored (some of them, at least). Dan is an authority on bird identification and distribution in Southern California. His environmental consulting business (cooperecological.com) has overseen numerous studies documenting the flora and fauna of this area.

The Small Native Garden: Creating Cozy Outdoor Spaces with Steve Gerischer

Saturday, January 17, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

Learn how to create a pocket-sized personal oasis with attractive hardscape, comfortable seating, a fire pit or bird bath or water feature, and, of course, California plants to add color, fragrance, texture and wildlife habitat. Steve is the owner of Larkspur Garden Design and a popular teacher on subjects related to gardening in this region.

THREE-PART CALIFORNIA NATIVE GARDEN DESIGN

Choose one of these three-session series:

- Fridays, January 23, February 6 & 20, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. with Orchid Black
- Thursdays, February 5 & 19, and March 5, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. with Amy Nettleton
- Saturdays, February 7 & 21, and March 7, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., with Armstrong & Walker
- Fridays, April 10 & 24, and May 8, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., with Joshua Link
- Saturdays, April 11 & 25, and May 9, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., with Andreas Hessing

\$220 members, \$265 non-members

\$275 member couples, \$335 non-member couples

This comprehensive course for home gardeners offers a sound foundation in design styles and processes, sustainable landscape practices, and how to model a garden after patterns in nature. **Required prerequisite: our California Native Plant Horticulture class.**

Complete details and instructor bios at theodorepayne.org/calendar.html.

Basic Botany with Lorrae Fuentes

Saturday, January 24, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

\$45 members, \$55 non-members

This introductory course in botany for the non-scientist and specifically for amateur plant enthusiasts includes an overview of general botany topics. Students will begin to master the terminology associated with botany and plant identification. Instruction is informal and hands-on, with dissection and examination of fresh and dried plant material, and a walk on TPF grounds. If possible, bring *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* to class; hand lenses will be provided. Lorrae is a botanical educator and native plant advocate, and producer of our Wild Flower Hotline. Limit: 12.

Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Lili Singer

Saturday, January 24, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

Are you ready to lose the lawn? We'll explain how to take it out and offer alternatives for the space – specifically low-care native plants that need no fertilizer and use a fraction of the water required for turf. For instructor bio, see Jan 10.

Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Antonio Sanchez

Thursday, January 29, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

\$45 members, \$55 non-members

Subjects covered include watering, fertilizing (or not), pruning, grooming, mulching and other aspects of garden maintenance. Antonio is propagation manager at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and a former TPF staff member.

Propagating California Native Plants with Tim Becker

Saturday, January 31, 9:00 a.m.-noon

\$50 members, \$60 non-members

Learn basic skills of vegetative propagation with TPF's Nursery Manager! Various species of native plants will be started from cuttings or divisions in this hands-on session, and you'll leave with a flat of new starts for your own garden! Tim oversees TPF's growing operations from plant propagation to retail sales. He holds a BA in environmental studies and a certificate in ecological horticulture from UC Santa Cruz. Limit: 8.

Irrigation Practices for Native Plant Gardens with Tim Becker

Saturday, January 31, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$30 members, \$40 non-members

This class for home gardeners discusses irrigation principles, techniques and equipment best suited for native plant landscapes – with practical examples and plenty of time for questions. For instructor bio, see previous listing.

FEBRUARY

First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland

Thursday, February 5, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

For details, see January 8.

First Saturday: Volunteer Day at TPF

Saturday, February 7, 9:00 a.m.-noon

For details, see January 3.

NEW! Grass, Not Lawn: California Native Grasses in the Garden with Barbara Eisenstein

Saturday, February 7, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

Learn about garden use of this fascinating but under-utilized group of plants, with images of grassy landscapes for ideas and inspiration. Barbara is a native plant gardener, horticulturist and blogger (weedingwildsuburbia.com), and a research associate at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. She founded and runs Friends of South Pasadena Nature Park and is Horticulture Chair for her local chapter of California Native Plant Society.

California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer

Saturday, February 14, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For details, see January 10.

NEW! Wild Flora and Fauna of Griffith Park with Jorge Ochoa

Saturday, February 14, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

An armchair tour of Griffith Park – site of a major fire in 2007. The fire provided the opportunity to survey native flora long-hidden by invasive vegetation native species not seen for years, and discovery of previously unrecorded plants. These plants and various associated animals are showcased in the talk. Jorge is the lead instructor for the Long Beach City College horticulture program. While working for the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, he helped study and catalogue the native flora of Griffith Park.

Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Lili Singer

Saturday, February 21, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

For details, see January 24.

Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Antonio Sanchez

Saturday, February 28, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For details, see January 29.

NEW! Native Groundcovers, Hedges and Screens with Orchid Black

Saturday, February 28, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

\$30 members, \$40 non-members

A designer's palette of native plants that serve specific purposes: groundcovers for small or large spaces on flat land or slopes, and tall plants that provide privacy, define property lines or block an unsightly view. Orchid is the owner of Native Sanctuary (nativesanctuary.wordpress.com), a firm offering native plant consulting, habitat creation and sustainable garden design services to the greater Los Angeles area.

MARCH

First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland

Thursday, March 5, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

For details, see January 8.

First Saturday: Volunteer Day at TPF

Saturday, March 7, 9:00 a.m.-noon

For details, see January 3.

Propagating California Native Plants with Tim Becker

Saturday, March 7, 9:00 a.m.-noon

For details, see January 31.

Irrigation Practices for Native Plant Gardens with Tim Becker

Saturday, March 7, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

For details, see January 31.

California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer

Saturday, March 14, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For details, see January 10.

Design Fundamentals: Looking at Space with Amy Nettleton

Saturday, March 14, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

This illustrated talk reveals elements that define landscape space and how they interact to affect physical and emotional qualities of an area – information that lets us look at gardens with new eyes and shape satisfying spaces that emulate powerful native landscapes. Amy is a CA-licensed landscape architect (elemental-landscapes.net). She also teaches our Three-Part Native Garden Design course.

12th Annual THEODORE PAYNE

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR

Saturday & Sunday, March 21 & 22, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

A two-day self-guided journey through more than 35 of the Los Angeles region's most beautiful and inspiring home landscapes.

TICKETS

Until Mar 1: Early Bird Member \$25; Non-Member \$30

After Mar 1: Member \$30; Non-Member \$35

Purchase at theodorepayne.org, by phone to 818-768-1802, or at TPF headquarters.

POPPY DAYS SPRING PLANT SALE

Two sale days – special member hours!

Friday & Saturday, March 27 & 28, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Both days: **Members-only discounts 8:30 am -11:00 am;** discounts to all after 11:00 am. Members 15% off plants and seed; Non-Members 10% off plants and seed



What to Do in the Garden Now

winter

PLANT Continue planting new areas and filling in bare spots. Space plants according to their mature dimensions (indicated on TPF plant tags, nursery signage and our website).

Following a good rain (yes, it may come!), do not walk on or dig in your soil – it will compact. After a week or so of clear weather, the soil will be dry enough to be worked.

SOW Start annual wildflowers from seed no later than the end of January. Before sowing, clear the area of weeds and unwanted grasses; rough up the soil surface and sprinkle lightly with water; sow seed and then water gently with a “shower” nozzle or sprinkler. Keep the soil moist (but not soggy) as seed germinates and seedlings become established.

Also ready for sowing: cool-season grasses, plus trees, shrubs and flowering perennials. Purchase seed at theodorepayne.org or at our Sun Valley headquarters. Horticultural sand (available in the TPF store), mixed three parts sand to one part seed, helps with even seed distribution.

WATER If winter rains are light or scarce, soak established plants deeply every couple of weeks. Do not depend on the rain – your garden needs water in winter!

New transplants require frequent attention and regular deep watering for one or more years, until they’re established. Before you water, check both the original root ball and surrounding soil; soak thoroughly when the top 3”-4” are dry.

WEED Eliminate cool-season annuals when plants are small and before they flower and set and distribute seed. Deep-rooted perennials (such as dandelion) require deep digging for effective removal.

MULCH For both new and established gardens, maintain a 3”-4” layer of either organic matter (leaves, bark, wood fibers; freshly chipped materials are okay) or decorative rock or gravel. Keep all mulches away from stems, crowns and trunks. To support ground-nesting native bees and wasps, leave a good portion un-mulched (bee experts advise up to 50% mulch free).

PROPAGATE Divide clumping perennials (e.g. *Iris*, *Heuchera*, *Sisyrinchium*); and cool-season grasses and grass-like plants (e.g. *Calamagrostis*, *Carex*, *Juncus*, *Muhlenbergia*, *Stipa*). Each division should have its own good root system. Replant as quickly as possible – and share your extras!

PRUNE AND CUT BACK As needed, prune, trim and train winter-deciduous trees such as *Acer* (maple), *Amelanchier* (serviceberry), *Betula* (birch), *Juglans* (walnut) and *Sambucus* (elderberry); and vines, including *Clematis* (virgin’s bower, pipestems) and *Vitis* (wild grape).

Cut *Epilobium* (*Zauschneria*, California fuchsia) back to 2”-3” inch stubs, taking care to avoid new sprouting growth.

Wearing thick gloves, long sleeves and eye protection, remove old canes on well-armed *Berberis* (Mahonia or Oregon grape), *Rosa* (rose) and *Rubus* (blackberry, thimbleberry, salmonberry).

Prune these late winter/early spring bloomers only after they flower: *Cercis occidentalis* (western redbud), *Fremontodendron* (flannel bush), *Philadelphus* (mock orange), *Arctostaphylos* (manzanita) and *Ceanothus* (California lilac).

AFTER A FROST If plants are hit by winter cold, leave them untouched and in place. Wait until new growth appears, showing you what to remove and where to cut.



Photo: Tim Becker

FRANCISCO ROSALES MASTER PROPAGATOR

Our special issue on propagation had to include a nod to Production Foreman Francisco Rosales, on staff for nearly 25 years. Francisco possesses an exceptional talent for making things grow and, at some point, his caring hands have touched virtually every plant offered to you in the Theodore Payne Nursery. He is a California native treasure, a great guy with a joyful attitude, and a lover of plants, animals, books, music and dance. We’re so fortunate to be working alongside him.



Photo: Tim Becker

Volunteer Mike Sovich (left) and Production Foreman Francisco Rosales (right) clean used pots with our new automatic pot washer.

By Tim Becker, Nursery Manager

Managing a nursery is all about efficiency, planning and prevention. That said, our ability to manage plants and space as effectively as possible is, in large part, directly related to available capital resources. Last spring, our Production Department received a very generous donation from TPF member and volunteer Kathleen Orth – a contribution that has had a huge and direct impact on our capacity to grow healthy retail-quality plants in the most efficient manner.

Integral to growing healthy plants is having an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program in place. Among other things, IPM practices require clean tools, clean soil and clean pots. But how do you clean a nursery pot that is only 2 1/2 inches wide and 3 inches deep? Answer: with a bar glass automatic washer, and Kathleen's donation was used to purchase one! This motorized submersible cleaner is well-known in the beer world as a way to clean pint glasses, but it also happens to be the perfect tool for washing hard-to-get-to spots in small containers we call "rose

pots" or "liners." This piece of equipment helps tremendously in implementing IPM – and also in conserving several different and limited resources.

This machine cleans better than doing the job by hand. Cleaner pots means fewer diseases, and fewer diseases mean more plants can be sold, thereby bringing in more money to support and grow the Foundation. The benefits don't stop there. Buying in new liners costs the Foundation 10 cents per pot, whereas the labor, time and materials needed to clean used pots "as-good-as-new" runs about five cents each. We are on track to grow about 88,000 liners this year and, thanks to Kathleen's contribution, TPF will be saving more than \$4,000 in expenses – and lessening the need for more plastic.

Although we grow and sell plants that save thousands of gallons of water over their lifetimes, these plants – for a good portion of their youth – are showered with not just love, but lots and lots of water. To optimize efficiency, we use an array of sprinklers, drip systems and rotors for irrigation. However, for the past few years, Horticultural Technician Elmer Luna has been hand-watering our 4" plants two or three times each week. This consumes time (4-6 hours/week...we are talking thousands of plants) and vastly greater quantities of water than a properly designed and installed irrigation system. Fortunately for us, Kathleen's donation also funded the installation of a 130-head system that covers hundreds of square feet of growing grounds, and saves countless hours of staff time and thousands of gallons of precious water.

So here is a big thank you to Kathleen Orth for providing us with the resources to do our jobs to the best of our ability, and to bring you, our supporters and customers, the best California native plants that can be grown. And here also are thanks to all of our future donors who make what we do possible.

By Genevieve Arnold, Seed Program Manager

The Seed Program is ever-grateful for its generous donors. It's a delight to interact with and learn from you, our supporters! We would like to thank the following who contributed seed from their home gardens:

Shayla Allen *Larrea tridentata* **Jean and Tony Arnold** *Penstemon* sp. **Madena Asbell** *Astragalus pycnostachys* var. *lanosissimus*, *Ericameria cuneata*, *Eriogonum arborescens*, *Isocoma menziesii*, *Senecio flaccidus* var. *douglasii*; **Connie Brown** *Yucca brevifolia* **Chris Elwell** *Calochortus albus*, *C. albus* var. *albus*, *C. amabilis*, *C. amoenus*, *C. argillosus*, *C. catalinae*, *C. clavatus* var. *clavatus*, *C. luteus*, *C. splendens*, *C. striatus*, *C. superbus*, *C. uniflorus*, *C. venustus*; *C. venustus* var. *sanguineus* **Lorraine Jones** *Lupinus albifrons* **Tim Jones** *Acacia* sp. **Lynnette Kampe** *Calochortus catalinae*, *Clematis ligusticifolia*, *Cornus nuttallii* **Roger Klemm** *Peritoma arborea*, *Salvia spathacea* **Donna & Tim Lauber** *Peritoma arborea* **Matt Natalizio** *Hibiscus lasiocarpus* **Bart O'Brien** *Andropogon glomeratus* **Louise Olson** *Baileya multiradiata*, *Cassia purpusii*, *Dendromecon harfordii*, *Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens*, *Juglans californica*, *Marah macrocarpa*, *Trichostema lanatum* **Kathleen Orth** *Penstemon clevelandii* **Katherine Pakradouni** *Calliandra californica*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *E. giganteum*, *Juglans californica*, *Penstemon spectabilis*, *Venegasia carpesioides* **Kate Schulz** *Baccharis sarothroides* **Mike Sovich** *Balsamorhiza sagittata*, *Purshia tridentata* **Pam Wagner (Pasadena Casting Club)** *Iris douglasiana* **John Wickham** *Centaurium muehlenbergii*, *Eriogonum giganteum*, *Helianthus gracilentus* **Hartmut Wisch** *Hibiscus lasiocarpus*

Also, thank you to Susan Gottlieb and Susan Steadman for donating seed storage jars.



Alan Duke

By Andrew Chaves, Manager of Operations and Volunteer Engagement

Photo: Andrew Chaves



Alan is one of our exceptional and dedicated volunteers at TPF. Since 2013, he has been offering his time to help make the Foundation a better place. Although Alan spends most of his time assisting in time in the Sales Yard, he never fails to step up to the plate and put in extra hours for special projects and events (One example: he helped gather donations during our recent Gathering of Friends).

Many of our volunteers care about our programs as Alan does, and commit to being here week after week. They become a part of the TPF family, sometimes becoming indistinguishable from the staff.

Thanks to our volunteers, we can offer more to the community, and we greatly appreciate each volunteer's commitment. To learn more about volunteering, visit theodorepayne.org/support/volunteer/

Have you always been interested in gardening?

Yes and no. I have always been interested in wilderness and art, but in suburban Houston, where I grew up, I didn't know that these two elements could add up to gardening.

What sparked your interest in California native plants?

My favorite plants are those that make me look good as a gardener without needing a lot from me. I have a one-year-old apricot mallow on a slope and in full sun. I water it deeply once every few weeks, and it rewards me by being six feet across and perpetually covered in flowers.

No fertilizer, no pesticide, no amendments, no problems. Not all California native plants will work in my Eagle Rock garden, but the ones that do look great.

Do you have a favorite California native plant?

I don't have a specific favorite. I like manzanitas, toyon, mountain mahogany, oaks, deergrass, sagebrush, *Ceanothus*, and buckwheats.

How were you introduced to the Foundation? How were you introduced to the volunteer program at TPF?

A friend from the permaculture community in the Bay Area recommended TPF when I first moved to Los Angeles in 2008. After visiting the native plant nursery a few times and recognizing how much I enjoyed being there, I inquired about volunteering.

Which volunteer activities do you look forward to?

The First Saturday events are fun, social and usually involve large-scale projects. The volunteers who show up regularly are a diverse, dedicated mix of knowledgeable and hard-working gardeners who all want to help, and it's a pleasure to work with them. On a weekly basis, I also enjoy assisting the nursery staff in the sales yard and supporting customers as they plan their own gardens.

What keeps you coming back?

I recently saw from the World Wildlife Fund that since the 1970s, the world has lost half of its population of wildlife. Since species diversity correlates to the size of suitable habitat, then native plant gardening in cities and suburban spaces acts to counter that loss. I keep coming back because I am an advocate for the environmental preservation and restoration movement.

What do you find most challenging about gardening with natives?

Accepting that I will lose plants to a combination of under-watering, watering and overwatering. Also, in my garden, I am weeding *Oxalis* from October until March.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about volunteering?

Get in touch with Andrew, the volunteer coordinator, to fill out an application or just come to a First Saturday event to see what it is like. The staff are wonderful, accommodating and appreciative people, and TPF has many opportunities for all skill levels and time commitments in the areas of propagation, seed cataloging, the sales yard and the bookstore. The organization itself is growing, and it is an exciting time to be a part of it.

What do you do when you aren't volunteering?

I am seeking other opportunities to learn more about native plants, sustainable landscape design, and art. I also design, work in and obsess over my own garden and, as an artist, I make videos and photographs. My wife and I also volunteer for another non-profit called Kitten Rescue.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

Each year a friend and I go on a baseball safari to see a few games in a different part of the country. It's been a great way to visit communities and cities that I probably wouldn't otherwise have gotten to.

Are there any other thoughts you'd like to share?

Two of the most inspirational garden and design books I've come across are *The Landscaping Ideas of Jays* by Judith Larner Lowry and *Derek Jarman's Garden* (available in the TPF bookstore). It is your balcony, your yard and your city, so make it a good one.

CELEBRATING OUR *volunteers*

Since 1960, when TPF was established, volunteers have helped the Foundation function, thrive and grow! This fall, our volunteers contributed hundreds of hours, caring for our grounds, answering phones, assisting at our very successful fall plant sale and fundraiser and much more – and we thank each and every one of you for sharing your talents and energy on behalf of TPF and California native plants.

To join the TPF family of volunteers, contact Andrew Chaves, andrew@theodorepayne.org. Opportunities are varied – and your volunteer hours will be rewarded with free classes at the Foundation!

Archives, Library and Bulb Collection John Wickham

Fall Plant Sale Brandi Anderson, Carol Aronson, Orchid Black, Mary Brooks, Britt Browne, Ted Bruins, Elizabeth Birggeli, Eric Callow, Richard Carlos, Leslie Carothers-Aromaa, Mardi Caruso, Lin Cher, Alan Duke, Paula Delfosse, Snowdy Dodson, Dee Farnsworth, Jeyla Fendi, Vivien Fortunaso, Corinne Frymire, Mary Glazer, Joe Grant, Grace Hernandez, Marilyn Hildebrandt, Curt Hill, Deb Hill, Janica Jones, Jon Joyce, Lynnette Kampe, Rachel Knotz, Daniel Kurtz, Sheldon Lisker, Debe Loxton, Deanna Lynn, Kate Mrgudic, Scott Munroe, Carol Norcross, Petra Nichols, Tricia O’Connell, Louise Olson, Kathleen Orth, Heather Patton, Dawn Petersen-Amend, Alicia Peterson, DJ Peterson, Pyre, Barbara Quesada, Sylvia Robinson, Joya Salas, Jay Schoenau, Jack Schooley, Anita Sheridan, Mike Sovich, Bryan Sibbrel, Spencer Sibbrel, Steven Singer, Joe Stauffer, Kathy Tardy, Allison Tokunaga, Harriet Torosyan, Mark Uhlmann

First Saturday Lin Cher, Scott Cher, Jin Choung, Alan Duke, Dee Farnsworth, Jon Joyce, Yerim Park, Yewon Park, Heather Patton, Jay Schoenau, Jack Schooley, Duncan Sinclair, Steven Singer

Third Annual Gathering of Friends: Brewing Up Support Alan Duke, Corinne Frymire, Kate Mrgudic*, Petra Nichols, Alicia Peterson, Joya Salas, Spencer Sibbrel, Mike Sovich, Joe Stauffer *Kate was event coordinator for the fundraiser. Thanks, Kate!

Hollywood Farmers’ Market Carol Aronson, Mardi Caruso, Richard Carlos, Jenny Garcia, Joya Salas, Steve Singer, Mitzi Zack Walters



Photo: Andrew Chaves

Band members (left to right) Wendy Sue Rosloff, Lance Billitzer, Dee Farnsworth, Alper Akture and Cindy Bell volunteered their musical talents at the Fall Plant Sale.

How Dry...Cocktail Party for Drought Awareness & Relief/ Slow Food Los Angeles Mardi Caruso, Steve Singer

K-12 Programs Katherine Hashimoto, Terri Mando, Kathy Tardy

L.A. Arboretum Plant Sales Richard Carlos, Frances McAdam, Kathleen Orth, Duncan Sinclair

Office/Bookstore Corinne Frymire, Katherine Hashimoto, Deb Hill, Barbara Quesada, Margaret Steele

Proofreading Snowdy Dodson

Propagation Mike Sovich

Sales Yard Ted Bruins, Alan Duke, Joe Grant, Mary Glazer, Mercy Lambert, Kathleen Orth, Allison Tokunaga

Seed Room Petra Nichols, Kathleen Orth, Kathy Tardy

Tree Doctor Lynnette Kampe

– A.C.

FROM THE ARTS COUNCIL

Due to ongoing construction at TPF, the Theodore Payne Gallery will be dark through Winter 2015. A new exhibition of work by Mara Lonner, TPF 2013 Artist in Residence, will open March 14, 2015.

The Theodore Payne Arts Council is a volunteer group. Membership is open to anyone interested in art, nature and the Foundation. Monthly meetings are usually held on 3rd or 4th Sundays from 10:00 a.m.-noon. We also communicate by e-mail. There is no fee to join the Arts Council, and all expenses are reimbursed by the Foundation. A relaxed and fun group, we review artwork and proposals; select topics and artists for quarterly shows and the annual Artist in Residence, curate and install exhibitions, provide snacks for opening receptions, and write articles for The Poppy Print.

Current Arts Council members are: Miyoshi Barosh, Janet Blank, Pamela Burgess, Andrew Chaves, Snowdy Dodson, Joan Harrison, Vilma Mendillo, Michael Lewis Miller, Ellen Steel, Kristina Newhouse, Allan Roman Reyes, and Laura Stickney.

To learn more, please contact pamela@pamelaburgess.com.

**Theodore Payne Foundation
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Gathering of Friends Wrapup...p. 4
Francisco Rosales, Master Propagator...p. 8

plants OF THE MONTH

Each month we feature a different species or cultivar and offer it at a 20% discount to members.

Photo: Tim Becker



JANUARY

Arctostaphylos manzanita 'St Helena' – St. Helena Common Manzanita (Ericaceae)

A relatively fast-growing manzanita selected for its gray-green foliage, disease resistance and beautiful tree-like habit. Mature plants reach 10 by 10 feet with smooth cinnamon-red bark. Winter/spring flowers are urn-shaped, white, borne in profusion and a food source for hummingbirds and other wildlife. Prefers full sun and fast-draining soil; very drought tolerant. Handsome container plant. Hardy to 10°F.

Photo: Tim Becker



FEBRUARY

Festuca idahoensis 'Moody Blue' – Moody Blue Idaho Fescue (Poaceae)

A compact cool-season bunchgrass (to 1' x 1') with beautiful, narrow gray-blue foliage and pretty spring seed heads. Use as an accent, in masses or in containers. Full sun along the coast; part shade inland; drought tolerant to moderate irrigation. Naturally summer dormant but evergreen with occasional summer water. Good erosion control; bird- and butterfly-friendly. Hardy to 25°F.

Photo: Creative Commons/
Bouba



MARCH

Eschscholzia californica – California Poppy (Papaveraceae)

Our State flower belongs in every native garden. Sun-loving, deep-rooted, free-blooming and unparticular about soil, this golden orange annual was featured on the cover of Theodore Payne's first catalog of California Native Flower Seeds, published 1906. Plants are fast growing to 1-2' high and 1' wide. Full sun; drought-tolerant; attracts bees and other beneficial insects. Hardy to 20°F.

Newsletter Design: andie zelhio design

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks

