



the Poppy Print

Quarterly Newsletter of the Theodore Payne Foundation

Summer

The Theodore Payne Collection at Moulton College

By Lili Singer, Director of Special Projects and Adult Education



On September 12, 2013, the Theodore Payne Collection – a garden of California plants – was officially opened in the heart of England at Moulton College in the village of Moulton, Northampton. It was an auspicious occasion, honoring a native son whose life's work celebrated the indigenous flora of a region far across the sea.

The honoree, Theodore Payne, was born June 19, 1872, at Manor Farm, Church Brampton, Northamptonshire. He emigrated to America in 1893 and established a seed and nursery business in Los Angeles where he introduced more than 430 California natives into cultivation. Owing to the emphasis he placed on biodiversity and conservation, Mr. Payne is widely considered the father of the native plant movement in California. (And, to the Foundation that bears his name, he remains an enduring inspiration.)

On hand for the British festivities was John Wickham, past president of the Theodore Payne Foundation and curator of the Theodore Payne Archives. "It's crazy," he wrote in an e-mail from England, "to see so many California wild flowers blooming in mid September." Among the colorful annuals on view were *Eschscholzia californica* (California poppy), *Limnanthes douglasii* (meadow foam) and *Gilia tricolor* (bird's eye gilia).



The Theodore Payne Collection, a garden of California native plants, at Moulton College, Northamptonshire, England, September 2013.



Moulton College Principal Steve Davies being presented a Theodore Payne portrait by John Wickham on behalf of the Theodore Payne Foundation.

John cut the ribbon and celebrated the achievements of Mr. Payne with Moulton College horticulture students, Principal Steve Davies and teachers, including senior lecturer and project head Adrian Stockdale.

On opening day, the Theodore Payne Collection held 40 taxa – all species introduced by Mr. Payne – with plans to increase the number each year. A decomposed granite path loops through the garden and its chaparral habitat.

The garden's focus is on research into plant adaptability (which California natives will thrive in the relatively cold and moist East Midlands of England?) and as an educational resource for students. The Honorary Theodore Payne Research Assistant, recruited from Moulton College students on an annual basis, will assist with record-keeping, maintenance and upkeep of the garden. Last year, the position was held by recent graduate Jill Stewart; Andrea Hughes is currently responsible for the garden.

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In August 2013, Moulton student Marie Dale traveled to L.A. and interned at the Foundation for a month. Guided by TPF's Nursery Manager Tim Becker, Director of Horticulture Madena Asbell, Nursery Sales Manager Flora Ito and Seed Program Manager Genevieve Arnold, Marie developed her skills in native plant propagation, retail nursery and seed room practices. She experienced native plants in their natural environments while taking part in field work. According to Adrian Stockdale, Marie very much enjoyed and valued her time at the Foundation.

The garden is open to the public via the Moulton College Garden Centre where, in the future, plants propagated by students from the collection will be offered for sale. To learn more about the Theodore Payne Collection, visit the website at www.moulton.ac.uk/business/enterprise-at-moulton/garden-centre/theodore-payne-collection.



Photo © Adrian Stockdale

John Wickham, center, with Moulton College horticulture students who built the garden.



Goodbye Lawn – Get Cash for Grass!

The Theodore Payne Foundation is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. We are teaming up on educational programs that encourage home gardeners to take out their turfgrass and plant California natives: LADWP will distribute \$10 TPF coupons to people who attend their California Friendly Landscape Training (learn more at www.LADWP.com/CF), and participants in TPF's Look Ma, No Lawn! classes will learn about the LADWP's Cash for Grass program. Stop by the TPF bookstore to pick up more information about LADWP's lawn replacement incentive program. It's a win-win!



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.

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GROUNDBREAKING

By Kitty Connolly, Executive Director

When your work is centered on plants, you expect a dynamic environment. Plants themselves are always in flux – as are the people who care for them and respond to their changing needs and growth. At present, the Theodore Payne Foundation is experiencing a period of revolutionary change as TPF’s site and programs are transformed by the construction of our new educational facilities.

On May 8, we celebrated our physical growth with a groundbreaking ceremony. TPF was honored that Councilman Filipe Fuentes (District 7) spoke about the importance of the Foundation’s work, especially in water-conservation education. “It is crucial,” he told attendees, “that organizations like yours have the resources to educate the public and inform them of how they can help.”

TPF Board President Cassy Aoyagi addressed the work, planning and vision required to bring this project into being. Cassy singled out Lynnette Kampe, Lisa Novick, Deborah Wittwer, Ron Maben and John Wickham for special thanks. Students from L.A.’s BEST After School Enrichment Program pitched in to move some earth.

Former, current and future TPF board members and staff joined us in celebrating this momentous event. Outgoing

Board Member Daniel Fink served as master of ceremonies. We were also honored by the presence of Theresa Lamb Simpson, District Representative of Congressman Adam Schiff; Vickere Murphy, District Representative of Senator Carol Liu; Marcos Sanchez from the office of Assembly Member Raul Bocanegra; and Carolyn Schaffer of the Metropolitan Water District. Ms. Murphy presented a certificate to the Foundation on behalf of Senator Liu.

Since the groundbreaking, construction has progressed at a breakneck speed. The site has been cleared and grading and foundations are well underway. New parking arrangements are emerging, and old restrooms have been completely removed. We look forward to expanded parking; brand new restrooms; two large, modern classrooms; and improved accessibility to all these facilities.

The new and increased adult and K-12 programming made possible by these facilities will amplify the Foundation’s effect on Los Angeles. This expansion provides TPF with the impetus to transform our local landscape into a sustainable habitat for indigenous plants and animals, and a place of beauty and respite for human inhabitants. Join us in realizing that goal. Your support is essential.



Photo © Orly Olivier

Students from L.A.’s BEST After School Enrichment Program, Euclid Avenue Elementary School, learn about butterfly-attracting plants at the groundbreaking.



Photo © Orly Olivier

Breaking ground for our new educational facilities, left to right: Lynnette Kampe, Kitty Connolly, Cassy Aoyagi, Lisa Novick, Rick Mayer and Felipe Fuentes

THINKING ABOUT GETTING RID OF YOUR OLD VEHICLE?

Donate it to TPF and support a cause that's close to your heart!



- Get rid of an unwanted vehicle whether it runs or not.
- Donation is a quick, friendly, hassle- and stress-free alternative to trading-in or selling.
- You can donate your vehicle on the internet via theodorepayne.org or by phone at 877-999-8322.
- You get a substantial tax deduction for the full sale price of the vehicle.
- Donate today and support the Foundation!

SUMMER 2014 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, and details on our three-part California Native Plant Garden Design course.

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 in-classroom visits for K-12 students are also available.

Contact: Lisa Novick, lisa@theodorepayne.org.

MORE ONLINE @
THEODOREPAYNE.ORG

AUGUST

No Plants! Hardscape Materials & Techniques with Andreas Hessing

Saturday, August 9, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$30 members, \$40 non-members

How do you build the bones of a garden? This class surveys standard and alternative building techniques and materials for walls, walks, fences and seats – and shows many innovative examples of hardscape. Andreas is an artist, landscape designer and licensed contractor (scrubjaystudios.com). For more than 20 years, his site-specific installations have celebrated regional biodiversity while focusing on the philosophical, political and social implications of California's indigenous flora.

Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Antonio Sanchez

Friday, August 15, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

\$45 members, \$55 non-members

Subjects covered include watering, fertilizing (or not), pruning, grooming, mulching and other aspects of garden maintenance. You'll also discover how native plants respond to pruning cuts (good and bad), what we trigger with our gardening activities, and how to develop good maintenance goals. Antonio is Propagation Manager at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and a former TPF staff member.

Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Lili Singer

Saturday, August 16, 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. Lili is TPF's Director of Special Projects and Adult Education, a Los Angeles native and an award-winning horticulturist and garden writer.

NEW! Best Books of the L.A. Arboretum's Reading the Western Landscape Book Club with Susan C. Eubank

Saturday, August 23, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Free to TPF members; \$10 non-members

The L.A. Arboretum's book club focuses on portrayals of the western landscape in fiction and non-fiction. This talk discusses the 12 best books of the 4+ years the group has been reading together. Susan is Arboretum Librarian at the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden in Arcadia.

NEW! Two-Part Sketching from Nature Workshop with TPF Artist-in-Residence Mara Lonner

Two Saturdays: August 30, and September 6, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

\$60 members, \$80 non-members (materials included)

Develop your drawing and observation skills in this low-key two-session class for people with little or no drawing experience. You'll learn the basics of materials and practice drawing indoors and outdoors in your own sketchbook. All materials provided. Mara is a widely exhibited local artist, a lecturer at UC Irvine, and has taught at CalArts and Long Beach City College. She is TPF's 2014 Artist-in-Residence; her new body of work will be shown next spring in the Theodore Payne Gallery.

SEPTEMBER

California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer

Saturday, September 6, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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. For instructor bio, see August 16.

THREE-PART CALIFORNIA NATIVE GARDEN DESIGN

Choose one of these three-session series:

- Three Fridays: September 12 & 26, and October 10, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., with Orchid Black
- Three Saturdays, November 1, 15 & 29, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., with Joshua Link
- Three Fridays: November 21, December 5 & 19, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., with Steve Gerischer
- Three Saturdays, December 6 & 20, and January 3, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., with Anna Armstrong and Richard Walker

\$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. **Prerequisite: our California Native Plant Horticulture class.** Enrollment is limited to eight projects to ensure individual attention. Complete details and instructor bios at theodorepayne.org/calendar.html.

Hypertufa Container Workshop with Steve Gerischer

Saturday, September 13, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$30 members, \$40 non-members

A super-fun, hands-on messy activity for grown-ups! Using cement, perlite and coir, each attendee will make a relatively lightweight container that resembles a time-weathered stone trough. Wear old clothes and shoes. All materials provided. Steve creates award-winning landscapes with his company, Larkspur Garden Design, and lectures on a wide variety of topics relating to gardening in this region. He also serves as president of the Southern California Horticultural Society and Pacific Horticulture Society.

Four Seasons of Color with California Natives with Lili Singer

Saturday, September 20, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

Your native plant garden can be a seasonal showcase of flowers, seed, fruit and foliage. This program showcases trees, shrubs, vines, perennials and grasses that will ensure year-round color and includes a short walk on TPF grounds. For instructor bio, see August 16.

Native Seed-Starting Workshop with Madena Asbell and Genevieve Arnold

Saturday, September 27, 9:00 a.m.-noon

\$45 members, \$60 non-members

Learn the ins and outs (and ups and downs) of propagating native plants from seed. This hands-on class covers: basic seed physiology, seed viability, germination cues and pretreatments; and sowing and aftercare. Each student will take home a flat of seeds they've sown. All materials provided. Madena is TPF's Director of Horticulture. Genevieve is our Seed Program Manager. Limit: 8.

California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer

Saturday, September 27, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

For details, see September 6.

OCTOBER

First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland

Thursday, October 2, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Free – reservations requested to info@theodorepayne.org. Ken's popular bird walk returns after a summer break! Join a passionate local birder for an easy morning ramble on the Foundation'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.

First Saturday: Volunteer Day at TPF

Saturday, October 4, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Reservations requested to andrew@theodorepayne.org. Back from summer hiatus! Join the Theodore Payne Foundation family of volunteers to improve and care for our gardens. We will clear, clean, plant, mulch, prune and do other tasks to spruce up the grounds and show how beautiful native plant gardens can be. 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

fall plant sale

OUR BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR –
SAVE ON PLANTS AND SEED!

Member Days

Friday & Saturday, October 10 & 11, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

- 15% off plants; 10% off seed; memberships available at the door

Discounts to All

Friday & Saturday, October 17 & 18, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

- Members 15% off plants, non-members 10%; 10% off seed to all

october 10, 11, 17 & 18

NEW! Mariposa Lilies of Southern California with Fred Roberts

Saturday, October 4, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

\$20 members, \$25 non-members

This richly illustrated talk focuses on the 15 species of mariposa lilies (genus *Calochortus*) native to the mountains, foothills and coastal regions of southwestern California. These bulb-forming perennial wildflowers – some widespread, some rare – display an assortment of beautiful colors and forms.

Fred is an independent botanical consultant and artist with more than 30 years of experience with native plants. He is co-author of *Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains* (2013); and is currently writing a guide, *The lilies and their relatives of the southern Californian Floristic Province*.



Calochortus venustus
(Butterfly Mariposa Lily)

Wild by Nature: Sowing Seeds for Spring Wildflowers with Genevieve Arnold

Saturday, October 25, 9:00-11:00am

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

In Southern California, fall is the prime time for sowing wildflower seed in the garden. Our State's famed spring-blooming annuals provide an array of colors and forms – and perform well in many garden spaces, from meadows to mixed beds and borders to containers. This class offers tips and tricks on soil preparation and sowing techniques, and an illustrated overview of the instructor's most-beloved species. Genevieve is TPF's Seed Program Manager and has worked with California native seeds for more than a decade. She enjoys the beauty of the native garden in all its phases, including the magical stage of fruit and seed development.



thank you

The Foundation appreciates and values the following donations:

RECENT GRANTS

Ahmanson Foundation
\$50,000 for Nature Education Facilities
Steinmetz Foundation
\$25,000 for Education Programs
Oyakata Corporation
\$23,000 for Computer Networking Project
William Bannerman Foundation
\$10,000 for Nature Education Facilities
Marisla Foundation
\$10,000 for Operations

DONATIONS

\$5,000 **Ruth Borun** – Archive Upgrade Project
\$2,000 **Elizabeth Ames** - Unrestricted
\$1,500 **Kathleen and Donald Orth** – Nursery
\$1,000 **Lynnette & Mark Kampe**- Nature Education Facilities
\$1,000 **Daniel Fink** – Ed Center
\$1,000 **Diggers Garden Club** – Unrestricted
\$500 **Kay & Steve Onderdonk** – Unrestricted
\$300 **Margaret Steele**
\$300 **Reseda Women's Club** – Unrestricted
\$200 **Pasadena Garden Club**
\$100 **Theodore Nickerson** – Unrestricted
\$100 **Richard N. Frank** – Unrestricted
\$100 **Kathleen Linowski** – Unrestricted
\$100 **Philip and Penny Moynihan** – Unrestricted

IN MEMORY OF STEVEN HERNANDEZ

Sydelle & Walter Bloch
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Angelica Reyna
William & Joan Smith
June Traweek

IN MEMORY OF KATHLEEN RUSSELL

Barbara Almario
Jackie Barton
The Cohen Family
Jane Marlis
Marge Robinson

Thanks also to **Crown Disposal** for the use of three 40 cu. yd. roll-offs to help us keep our grounds clean and fire safe.

in memoriam

Two admired supporters passed away recently and will be missed.

Kathleen Russell, a longtime native plant gardener and fan of TPF, passed away earlier this year. Her son, Doug, and father, Andrew, have requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in her name to TPF.

We also lost **Steve Hernandez**, a native plant advocate, landscape professional and former TPF staff member whose kind demeanor, hunger for learning and love of nature enlivened our nursery and sales yard. Steve's family has requested that donations in his name be made to the Theodore Payne Foundation.

Plein Air Painting of Theodore Payne Foundation by the San Fernando Valley Art Club July 3 - August 16, 2014

The Theodore Payne Foundation is pleased to present a summer show of *plein air* painting of the TPF site by members of the San Fernando Valley Art Club (SFVAC).

Since 1943, The San Fernando Valley Art Club has provided a continuing forum for artists of all skill levels working in most art mediums. Guests are welcome to attend monthly meetings and demonstrations. Additional information can be found on the club's website at sfvartclub.org.

In early April, 16 members of SFVAC gathered at the Foundation for three days of on-site sketching in preparation for the exhibition. Their presence at TPF gave visitors a chance to observe the creative process and talk to artists about their work.

En plein air is a French expression meaning "in the open air," and is used to describe the act of painting outdoors. Artists have long painted outside. However, in the mid-19th century, working in natural light became increasingly important to multiple schools of art, including the Impressionists, whose work focused on ordinary subject matter and the changing qualities of light.

The popularity of *plein air* painting increased in the 1870s with the introduction of paint in tubes, which replaced the task of grinding and mixing dry pigment powders with linseed oil. The box easel was invented during this period, increasing the ease and portability of art supplies. In the mid-20th century, the invention of fast-drying, water-based acrylic paint added yet another convenience.

Interest in *plein air* painting continues today. There is something profoundly satisfying, even meditative, about working outdoors. The artist is inseparable from the environment. Birds sing and insects buzz, as the painter works to capture the ever-changing sunlight and shadows.

With this exhibition, the Foundation continues its support and outreach to local art groups.



Morning Light (Theodore Payne Headquarters Building), 2014
Frank Lennartz
Oil

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

Work has begun on our new educational facilities!

- Nursery and store are open during construction
- Picnic area has been relocated to north of the tree yard
- Port-a-potties are north of the tree yard
- North parking lot is open
- Please do not park on the easement access road
- Take a peek at the progress, but please stay out of the construction zone



What to Do in the Garden Now

summer

Do what most native plants do in summer: slow down, accept the heat and take a rest. Of course, there's always some weeding and watering to be done...

PLANT Consider adding riparian (river- and creek-side) and desert plants to your garden. These natives don't mind being watered when it's warm – in fact, they require it! Riparian species include: *Platanus racemosa* (Western sycamore), *Betula occidentalis* (river birch), *Rosa californica* (California wild rose), and *Epipactis gigantea* (stream orchid, pictured below). Garden-worthy desert beauties include: *Sphaeralcea ambigua* (apricot mallow), *Abutilon palmeri* (Indian mallow), *Parkinsonia florida* (palo verde), and *Calliandra* spp. (fairy duster).



Epipactis gigantea (Stream Orchid)

stated on our tags – the plants will grow!

SOW Start warm-season grasses (e.g. *Aristida*, *Agrostis*, *Bouteloua*, *Sporobolus*) from seed, as well as easy-to-grow *Achillea millefolium* (common yarrow) and heat-tolerant *Eschscholzia californica* (California poppy).

Attend our **Native Seed-Starting Workshop with Madena Asbell and Genevieve Arnold**, Saturday, September 27 (see page 5).

WEED Hand pull or hoe annual weeds before they flower and set seed. Dig deeply to remove perennial invaders (inc. dandelion, cheeseweed and filaree).

SOLARIZE Over the summer, inland gardeners can solarize their soil by clearing and leveling an area, watering it deeply and covering it *tightly* with clear plastic for four to six weeks. This non-chemical means of pest management uses the sun's rays to control weeds, plant pathogens and other soil-borne pests. (Unfortunately, this technique is less effective along the coast). To learn more, see ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74145.html – and attend **Look Ma, No Lawn!, with Lili Singer**, Saturday, August 16 (see page 4).

WATER New transplants need regular irrigation for one or more years, until they're established. Check soil moisture often and water when the top few inches are dry. Always check the original root ball and surrounding native soil (the original root ball may dry out first). To encourage deep extensive roots, water deeply – never a little bit (this only encourages soil-borne diseases).

Established plants – especially when stressed by dry winters – need water, too. Even the most drought-tolerant natives appreciate a thorough soak or two during the warm months. Exceptions: *Fremontodendron* (flannel bush) and most native bulbs. They prefer bone-dry soil over the summer.

Container-grown plants need more frequent irrigation than those growing in the ground. Always soak thoroughly, until water drains from the holes. Decorative rocks, available in the TPF Potting Station, help conserve moisture and look pretty, too. To slow evaporation and keep containerized roots cool, cluster pots together or double-pot them, slipping smaller pots into larger ones for insulation.

PRUNE To encourage compact growth, cut back sages by one-third to one-half. *Leggy Mimulus* and *Encelia* can also be whacked back now for tighter habit and another round of color in the fall. Shear spent blooms from *Corethrogyne* (Lessingia, common sandaster) – your groundcover may flower again!

Come late summer, trim cool-season grasses (e.g. *Aristida*, *Fesctuca*, *Melica*, *Stipa*, *Sporobolus*) to a few inches above the crown. They will resprout readily in autumn. Pruning is a science and an art – and can be a lot of fun!

MULCH Mulch is a native garden's best friend. A 3"-4" layer insulates the root zone (averting disease), keeps weeds at bay (saving you time!) and helps retain soil moisture (saving you money!). Use either organic matter (leaves, bark, wood fibers – freshly chipped materials are okay) or decorative rocks or gravel. Both new and established gardens need mulch between plants all year, every year.

Leave several square meters of soil mulch-free to invite ground-nesting native bees and wasps (both very beneficial).

HARVEST SEED Gather home-grown native plant seed when brown and dry (and birds have had their fill). Store in paper bags in a cool dry location until fall-planting time – or donate some or all of your seed to the Foundation. Seed collection and donation guidelines and a special form are available at theodorepayne.org/support/seed-donations/. To learn more, attend the class **Seeds, Please: Collecting, Processing and Storing Native Plant Seed from Home Gardens**, Saturday, August 2 (see page 4).

PEST MANAGEMENT Once or twice over the summer – on a day that you also irrigate the soil – hose off foliage to dislodge dust, pollution, insects and mites.

To prevent disease, keep all mulches off crowns, trunks and stems of plants.

In Memory of Bert Wilson

By Madena Asbell, Director of Horticulture

Photo © Ken Gilliland



Salvia 'Pozo Blue' (Pozo Blue Sage)

In March, California's native plant community lost one of its pioneers with the passing of Bert Wilson, founder of Las Pilitas Nursery.

Though many people had the opportunity to meet Bert in person, most knew him well through his elaborate and endlessly informative website, laspilitas.com. Wilson was passionate about the natural world and recognized early on that the internet was a valuable tool for disseminating information to people hungry for knowledge about native plants. Anyone who has visited the site knows how it feels to enter an almost disorienting maze where one quickly loses track of time in a swirl of images, information and opinion. Fifteen years ago, when I began my own journey with native plants, I stumbled upon the Las Pilitas site and spent what probably amounted to days of my life poring over pages and pages of plant descriptions and advice – advice I still use to this day.

As part of his legacy, Bert has also given us many plants, including some of the most popular selections in the native plant industry. He's perhaps best known for *Penstemon 'Margarita BOP'* (Margarita BOP foothill penstemon), *Salvia spathacea 'Powerline Pink'* (Powerline Pink hummingbird sage) and *Salvia 'Pozo Blue'* (Pozo Blue sage) – all mainstays of the native plant trade. His introductions have a reputation for being attractive to wildlife, as well as tough, rugged and likely to thrive when you get them in the ground. Both of Bert's nurseries – one in Santa Margarita (where he was based) and the other in Escondido – are still in operation and open to the public.

In the words of his daughter Penny Nyunt, Bert always did things his own way. "He thought differently than everyone else. His mentor was Mother Nature." Speaking as both a gardener and as a professional grower, teacher and horticulturist, I continue to be inspired by Bert's insights, vision and fearlessness. By sharing his wisdom and enthusiasm, he succeeded in teaching many of us not to be afraid of our soil or our climate, to trust the plants' innate abilities to survive conditions they are adapted to, and how to garden with, instead of against, nature. The information and advice he imparted to so many will be his lasting legacy as we share his knowledge with the next generation of native plant gardeners.

SEED ROOM CHAFF

By Genevieve Arnold, Seed Program Manager

Thank you to the following seed donors. Donations of seed from home gardens are always appreciated; visit theodorepayne.org for Seed Donation Guidelines.

Genevieve Arnold: *Helianthus annuus* **Madena Asbell:** *Calliandra californica* **Jenny Garcia:** *Abutilon palmeri*, *Calystegia macrostegia* **Roger Klemm:** *Chaenactis artemisiifolia*, *Heuchera maxima*, *Phacelia tanacetifolia*, *Salvia columbariae*, *Thalictrum fendleri* var. *polycarpum* **Donna Lauber:** *Peritoma arborea* **Steve McCarty:** *Pholistoma auritum* **Katherine Pakradouni:** *Clarkia unguiculata* **Nancy Vandermeij:** *Datura wrightii*

And **our thanks** to other donors.

Dave Daniels: botanical reference books **Roger Klemm, Susan Steadman:** seed storage jars

SPEAKING OF THINGS SEEDY, IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR...

Warm summer weather induces a unique cycle in your garden: seeding season!

Members of different plant families exhibit a fascinating range of forms in the fruiting bodies containing their seed. For example, *Eschscholzia californica* (California poppy), a member of the *Papaveraceae* or poppy family, produces a dehiscent capsule – a dry capsulate fruit that holds its many seeds within fused sections that dehisce, or split apart, to release the seeds when they are ripe.

California poppies are vigorous re-seeders, so letting them go to seed naturally in your garden will ensure their increased presence next year. But it can also be fun to harvest and share seed with friends and neighbors.

Poppy seed is mature when the outside of the capsule is anywhere from yellowish to tan and the surface feels hard and its ridges become pronounced. If the capsule is harvested when green and soft, you will most likely have unripe seed. The tricky part can be catching it somewhere between too green and "too late!"; cut-off nylon stockings or cheesecloth bags applied carefully over ripening capsules will hold the seeds as they pop out.

Now that you have some "encapsulated" information on the seeding habits of our State flower, you can try out some of your own creative ideas for making the harvest more effective.

Did you know? California poppies can be encouraged to put out a new flush of growth after one cycle of flowering and seeding? Simply cut spent stems to the base of the plant where leaves remain and, with a little water, you may get a second bloom!

Katherine Hashimoto

By Andrew Chaves, Volunteer Coordinator

Have you always been interested in gardening?

Well, not really...I liked to play in the yard and dissect plants when I was a kid, then didn't have anything to do with yards or gardening for 25 years, I went to school and worked in offices. When I had my first child, I found myself hanging out outside, noticing plants and wanting to do something with them.

What sparked your interest in California native plants?

A couple of things: When I bought my first house, I had a problem with oak root fungus. In the yard, there were impatiens and a big lawn and automatic sprinklers that came on every day. I hired an arborist to help with the fungus problem, and he recommended that I do less watering. I did some reading and found out oaks don't like being in a lawn and watered everyday! So, in 2005, I took out my lawn and re-landscaped, mostly with Mediterranean-region plants. The one California native was *Ribes viburnifolium* under the oak. To this day, it's great; it has berries and is still beautiful! Bit by bit, I began transitioning to California natives. I enjoy the outdoors and had an "Aha!" moment upon discovering I could bring the outdoors home. I live in the Arroyo in Pasadena, so it's tantalizing to see, not too far away, what the whole area used to look like.



Photo: Lewis Hashimoto

Do you have a favorite California native plant?

That's a very difficult question. Toyon, *Ribes viburnifolium*, *Penstemon* 'Margarita BOP', California fuchsias, Canyon sunflower, *Venegasia carpesioides*, does really well at my house, and I've seen some pretty nice ones in the mountains.

How were you introduced to the Foundation?

I may have gone on the first garden tour, and attended the three-part design class a few years ago, which was very helpful. I also took the UCLA Gardening and Horticulture Certificate Program, which was very good and spoke a little about natives.

Which volunteer activities do you look forward to?

Working in the office! I enjoy interacting with the public and learning by listening to staff answering obscure questions from the public. I also like to work outside in the gardens, want to get my daughters involved and sometimes bring them.

What keeps you coming back?

I really like the atmosphere. The people at TPF are tuned into nature and the environment. It's a nice change from the atmosphere of "conspicuous consumption" that's so prevalent in everyday life. Planting natives is a reasonable way of taking care of our surroundings.

What do you find most challenging about gardening with natives?

Initially, sources of information. You have to dig a little more, as info is scarcer than for "Home Depot" plants. And it's hard for some people to accept natives – they make remarks. I choose not to take them head-on at this point but try to correct what I view as misconceptions.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about volunteering at TPF?

I would encourage them. If someone's even thinking about it, they have values that would be consistent with the mission. There are a lot of different things to do – come and get your feet wet and see what you like!

What do you do when you aren't volunteering?

I'm a stay-at-home mom with three kids. I'm also a contract attorney, that is, when I get gigs doing civil litigation.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

I spend many years as a "capitalist tool," meaning I worked in big law firms for 10 years. When I met my husband, we were never outside...we were office people. Today, we're both community activists and have a native garden!

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

I think everyone should get more involved in native plants and get their kids involved, too. Kids relate well to nature.

CELEBRATING OUR *volunteers*

Not only do our volunteers help garden on TPF grounds, they assist customers in the Sales Yard, act as docents for the garden tour and represent the Foundation at outreach events. And hard-working volunteers were vital to this spring's very booming Poppy Day plant sale. Thank you all!

To become a member of the TPF family of volunteers, contact Andrew Chaves at andrew@theodorepayne.org. Opportunities are varied, from weeding to data entry to outreach activities – and your volunteer hours will be rewarded with free classes at the Foundation!

2014 GARDEN TOUR DOCENTS Amadeus Alaniz, Brandi Anderson, Judy Bass, Laurice Becker, Sima Bernstein, Orchid Black, Gail Butensky, Richard Carlos, Julie Deamer, Snowy Dodson, Alan Duke, Mardi Caruso, John Edwards Marquis, Fatima Elreda, Ken Eskenazi, Dee Farnsworth, Carlos Flores, Vivien Fortunaso, Bruce Goss, Kathleen Grantham, Joan Harrison, Katherine Hashimoto, Greg Henry, Marilyn Hildebrandt, Curt Hill, Deb Hill, Jeff Jamison, Liz Johnson, Pati Johnson, Janica Jones, Luis Leon, Brenda Maloo, Marina Maloo, Nari Maloo, Terri Mando, Suzanna Mast, Sandy Masuo, Frances McAdam, Joanne Millius, Ken Millius, George Nanowski, Richard Navarro, January Nordman, Brian Nunez, Tricia O'Connell, Kathleen Orth, Ben Oswald, Kimberly Parker, Iran Parker, Chuck Petithomme, Ty Prestien, Yessenia Ramirez, Pam Rank, Marilyn Rubin, Liz Schiller, Anita Sheridan, Duncan Sinclair, Halle Singer, Steve Singer, Lynn Spanovich, Karola Teutla, Geetha Thomas, Carrie Tiffany, Mark Uhlmann, Mitzi Zack Walters, Gail Wesson

ARCHIVES, LIBRARY AND BULB COLLECTION John Wickham

FIRST SATURDAY Kristen Brown, Paula Brown, Lin Cher, Scott Cher, Alan Duke, Dee Farnsworth, Dennis Gaudenti, Joe Grant*, Gwen Hashimoto, Katherine Hashimoto, Jeff Jamison, Tricia O'Connell, Pyre, Alan Reyes, Anita Sheridan, Duncan Sinclair, Steve Singer, Tim Wilson, Shou Bo Wang, Zhe Wong, Zhilin Wong
*Joe led the First Saturday in April – thanks, Joe!

HOLLYWOOD FARMERS' MARKET Carol Aronson, Richard Carlos, Mardi Caruso, Jenny Garcia, Joya Salas, Steve Singer

K-12 PROGRAMS Carol Aronson, Joan Harrison, Jade Nguyen

L.A. ARBORETUM Frances McAdam, Jade Nguyen, Kathleen Orth, Duncan Sinclair

NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Brandi Anderson, Carol Aronson, Dennis Gaudenti, Alan Duke, Mykael Goff, Kelle Green, Norma Hogan, Fannie Kilian, Cynthia Marton, Jeannie Mason, Joanne Millius, Carol Sagusti, Luiz Sampaio, Allison Tokunaga, Steffanie Walk, Tim Wilson, Gail Woodward

OFFICE/BOOKSTORE Richard Carlos, Mardi Caruso, Lin Cher, Martin Green, Katherine Hashimoto, Deb Hill, Kathleen Johnson, Joya Salas, Margaret Steele

OUTREACH Carol Aronson, Sima Bernstein, Richard Carlos, Joe Grant, Alan Duke, Katherine Hashimoto, Curt Hill, Jeff Jamison, Jon Joyce, Lynnette Kampe, Jade Nguyen, Beth Miles, Halle Singer, Steve Singer, Tim Wilson

POPPY DAY PLANT SALE Brandi Anderson, Cassy Aoyagi, Carol Aronson, Orchid Black, Mary Brooks, Gail Butensky, Richard Carlos, Lin Cher, Scott Cher, Connie Day, Snowy Dodson, Alan Duke, Dee Farnsworth, Daniel Fink, Vivien Fortunaso, Dennis Gaudenti, Mykael Goff, Andreas Hessing, Marilyn Hildebrandt, Joe Grant, Curt Hill, Deb Hill, Jeff Jamison, Tricia O'Connell, Kathleen Orth, Dawn Petersen-Amend, Pyre, Alan Reyes, Miles Reyes, Halle Singer, Steve Singer, Mike Sovich, Margaret Steele, Mark Uhlmann, Steffanie Walk, Tim Wilson, Gail Woodward

PROPAGATION Nancy Edwards, Andrew Peck

SALES YARD Carol Aronson, Alan Duke, Joe Grant, Jon Joyce, Jade Nguyen, Louise Olson, Kathleen Orth, Pyre, Anita Sheridan, Steve Singer, Mike Sovich, Allison Tokunaga, Tim Wilson

SALES YARD INFORMATIONAL KIOSKS Scout Michael Glidewell, scouts and family members of La Crescenta Troop 501

SEED ROOM Sima Bernstein, Mardi Caruso, Joe Grant, Jade Nguyen, Petra Nichols, Margaret Steele, Kathy Tardy

THEODORE PAYNE ARTS COUNCIL Janet Blank, Miyoshi Barosh, Pamela Burgess, Andrew Chaves, Joan Harrison, Vilma Mendillo, Michael Lewis Miller, Ellen Steel, Kristina Newhouse, Laura Stickney

TREE DOCTOR Lynnette Kampe

WEED WARRIORS Mykael Goff, Steve Singer, Margaret Steele, Steffanie Walk

— A. C.



Tyler Crissman, one of many diligent volunteers who dug a trench to carry infrastructure for our new wireless connections.

Photo: Andrew Chaves

**Theodore Payne Foundation
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plants OF THE MONTH

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

Photo: Creative Commons/
Charles Jones



JULY *Asclepias fascicularis* – Narrow-leaf Milkweed (Asclepiadaceae)
Our Western population of monarch butterflies evolved with *A. fascicularis* and other native milkweeds. This easy-to-grow species quickly forms a colony of upright 3'-4' stems with pale green leaves for monarch larvae and clusters of beautiful white-to-pink flowers for adult monarchs, other butterflies and many other insects. Full sun to light shade; adapts to most soils; moderate water. Winter dormant.

Photo:
Madena Asbell



AUGUST *Monardella villosa* 'Russian River' – Russian River Coyote Mint (Lamiaceae)
Butterflies, bees and hummingbirds all enjoy the lavender-purple spring and summer flowers of this low, mounding evergreen perennial with pleasantly aromatic foliage. Plants reach 2' high by 3' wide at maturity. Full sun to part shade; fast drainage preferred; drought tolerant to moderate irrigation. Good choice for dry shade under trees and container culture. Frost tender

Photo ©
San Marcos Growers



SEPTEMBER *Muhlenberia rigens* – Deergrass (Poaceae)
Every native garden should have deergrass – elegant, adaptable and sturdy, it rewards the grower with a neat, rounded 2' by 4' habit and graceful 6' tall inflorescences that explode from the mound like summer fireworks. Full sun to part shade; drought tolerant to regular water, accepts clay soil; hardy to 15° F. Excellent erosion control; seeds attract birds.

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