California’s Annual Wildflowers
by Dylan P. Hannon

Each spring across the landscape of southern California, we are treated to displays of native annual wildflowers that are the hallmarks of the season. Some are flamboyant, others delicate and shy, and each is dedicated to its place in a rhythmic pattern that repeats without fail. The same sequence of flowering occurs annually, whether the rains have started early or late. Within this general scheme, there is tremendous variation in levels of abundance from year to year.

Often it is the pattern of rainfall, rather than the total amount of rain, that determines the outcome in a given season. From this information, one may deduce that growing these plants in the garden is an inherently unpredictable endeavor. If you delight in surprises and randomness, this is the group of natives for you.

There are two basic approaches to enjoying native annuals in the cultivated garden. One is to incorporate them into existing settings, as between shrubs, amongst grasses or as accents in rockscapes. The other, perhaps more familiar idea is to create a wildflower garden using only annuals in the design. In either case, the ideal situation is one in which most or all of the plants reseed themselves without your help. Nonetheless, some meddling will likely be required to move different species around or thin others that have become too successful.

As with gardening in general, the desired results will not be obtained in one season. Planning should include introducing new elements annually over a period of several years. It is also well to remember that, as in nature, where spectacular displays are seen perhaps only once every seven to ten years, results in the garden may be only occasionally breathtaking. In cultivation, supplemental irrigation helps offset scant rainfall, but results still pale in comparison to the stunning array that may follow a season of generous precipitation. The inevitable waxing and waning of these charming plants leads to new ideas and different ways to best use them, whether from the perspective of the gardener or to better accommodate the plants.

Growing Tips

Wherever annuals are to be sown, the small fragile seedlings need protection from a variety of obstacles. By fortuitous circumstance, at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden it was discovered that a light covering of gravel helps young plants flourish. A thin layer (one to two stones in thickness) of pebbles (about one centimeter in diameter) is sufficient. Commonly available “pea gravel” or more ornamental rocks may be utilized. Seeds are sown after this layer has been put down and will fall into the spaces to find homes. The microenvironment created by the gravel helps conserve moisture and protects developing seedlings from temperature stress, erosion and bird pecking. Thanks to the pebbles, the need for “scratching-in” the seeds and concern about washing them away are eliminated. At the same time, the rocks help suppress weeds and also lend a decorative tidy effect to the area.

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Native Wildflowers

continued from p. 1

Most native annuals have produced their seed by early summer. For maintenance, dried stalks may be either cut down or left to stand (to attract and nourish native birds).

Keep the soil dry until autumn or early winter rains usher in another growing season. During dry years, irrigation may also be applied. Dense clumps of small plants should be thinned early on, and ongoing vigilant weeding is essential.

A Wealth of Choices

It is a curious thing that so many Californians enjoy annual wildflower displays, yet few stop to think that they could also enjoy these plants in their home gardens. No such cultural gap exists in Britain and France, where many California native plants have been grown and admired for over 150 years. Glancing through catalogues, both old and new, from Europe, it seems as though we have been sleeping while they have been busy “improving” such genera as Eschscholzia, Linanthus, Clarkia and others. Some of these European selections have made it back across the pond, and their beauty inspires us.

If you’re new to growing native annuals, start with Eschscholzia, Clarkia and Gilia, all admired for their ease of cultivation and high-impact displays of color. Most produce seeds that germinate readily. They bloom mainly in mid- to late spring (April–May) in showy hues of red, pink, orange and occasionally yellow, purple or white. Eschscholzia californica (California poppy) is especially hardy in every sense of the word and can be cut back hard for repeat bloom in late spring or early summer; it is perennial under favorable conditions. Cultivars of this poppy come in cream, yellow, red and even double forms, to name a few. Clarkia species range from robust to positively gaudy (forms of C. amoena [pictured on page 10], C. unguiculata) to small and elegant such as C. bottae, C. gracilis and C. purpurea. Gilia tricolor (bird’s eye gilia) and G. capitata (globe gilia) are among the more vigorous and frequently encountered species in this large western genus.

Somewhat more erratic in their germination are members of the genera Lupinus, Phacelia and Linanthus, along with Layia platyglossa (tidy tips) and Lasthenia californica (goldfields). The latter two species belong to the sunflower family, and their telltale flower shapes help balance other annuals. Notable annual lupines for the garden include bluish Lupinus suculentus (CalTrans

FROM THE editor

This spring, upon visiting the Theodore Payne Foundation for the first time in years, garden writer Josh Siskin was impressed—so impressed that, in his Daily News column, he called us a “destination nursery.” We were tickled. We’ve worked hard to earn that moniker and fulfill Mr. Payne’s mission to educate the public and make native plants available to gardeners.

It’s autumn, and our nursery is plump with well-grown plants, ready for planting out in the garden. So flush are we that a new section of land was recently leveled, expanding our sales yard to accommodate an ever-expanding inventory.

Why? Because word is out that natives are in—and gardeners like you have discovered all that TPF has to offer: great plants, wonderful seed, swell bookstore, beautiful grounds, excellent classes and sage advice from dedicated staff and volunteers.

This issue of The Poppy Print highlights wildflowers, a particular love of Theodore Payne. We hope you’ll try growing them from seed, with guidance from guest contributor Dylan Hannon (page 1). The rewards include spring color, pretty bouquets and legions of happy insects and birds.

For three years running, a raucous pair of Cooper’s hawks has made TPF their destination, raising their young in the tall pines and sycamores behind our headquarters. In fact, many wild creatures make their homes here, as witnessed in Animal Report (page 7), a new column by multi-talented nursery staffer Madena Asbell.

Every Saturday, when our parking lot brims with cars and the Education Center fills with students, we know Theodore Payne himself would be pleased—with us, and with each and every one of you! —Lili Singer

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, horticultural and botanical books and information are available at our Sun Valley headquarters and by mail.

Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Inc.
10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352 | www.theodorepayne.org
Tel: (818) 768-1802 | E-mail: info@theodorepayne.org

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm pleased to announce that Liz Johnson and Cassy Aoyagi have joined the Foundation’s Board of Directors. The Board is an all-volunteer group that provides management and policy oversight for the Foundation. Each member of the Board offers a unique set of skills and experience that bring perspective necessary to negotiate the issues that arise.

Liz is a real estate agent focused on the communities of Mount Washington, Eagle Rock and Pasadena, among others. She is very active in Mount Washington, including volunteer work on the many native plant landscaping and maintenance improvement projects in that community.

Cassy is an accomplished landscape designer and co-owner, with her husband Kirk, of C&K Landscape Design. Cassy’s designs have appeared on our annual Theodore Payne Garden Tour, and she has taught our very successful Garden Design class. She is focused on sustainable landscape design methods and materials, including the use of California native plants.

I am also pleased to report that Daniel Fink, Lynnette Kampe and Stephanie Wilson Blanc will return to serve another term on the Board. They have each made wonderful contributions to the Foundation’s continued growth and success these last three years, and are valued members of the Board.

Finally, our deepest gratitude is extended to Nate West who has completed his term on the Board. Nate’s hard work, from connecting computers to wiring light fixtures to his tremendous good sense, were critical to so many projects in the last few years.

yours,
John Wickham
President of the Board of Directors

“The pleasures of autumn—cool nights, short and relatively mild days, the possibility of seasonal sprinkles—invite eager gardeners back to the garden and wake native plants from their summer sleep. Grab your spades and dig in!”

Plant, Plant, Plant Yes! Plant just about any native plant now, but plan first. Assess your site and each of its microclimates, then pick and group plants best-suited to those conditions. Start with small plants (in 1-gallon or 4” nursery containers); they’re easier to work with, transplant more readily and establish more quickly than larger plants. Space transplants according to mature dimensions and cover bare soil between plants with mulch (see below).

Plant geophytes (from the Greek meaning “earth plant”), including bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes. Look for species and cultivars of Calochortus, Dichelostemma, Triteleia and Allium in varied colors and fascinating forms. Some native bulbs are easier to grow than others; most require fast-draining soil and spots that receive no summer water. Triteleia laxa and Calochortus venustus are great for grassy zones. Use Calochortus splendens and Dichelostemma volubile around low shrubs, as these will flower high above the foliage. Try Allium unifolium, A. validum and Triteleia peduncularis in areas that are watered year round. (To learn more about California native bulbs, see Wild Irises, Lilies, and Grasses: Gardening with California Monocots [UC Press, 2004], available in our bookstore.)

Sow, Sow, Sow Start annual and perennial wildflowers from seed. Select one of our special mixes or create your own. Make sure the area to be planted is free of weeds and unwanted grasses. Rough up the soil surface, sprinkle lightly, sow seed according to directions, and water gently. Keep the bed moist continues on p. 5

many thanks

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Norcross Foundation for their recent grant award to the Theodore Payne Foundation. This grant will allow the Foundation to upgrade our phone system. A growing staff has more people to talk to, and a growing interest in native plants means more people want to talk to us. With this timely grant, the Norcross Foundation is helping facilitate those communications.

We would also like to thank Elizabeth Ames and Phil and Janie Kincaid for each donating a Jane Pinheiro painting to the Foundation’s collection. Pinheiro’s unique talent captured the native flora of the Antelope Valley in exceptional detail. The Foundation has been working to build its collection of these fine works, and we are grateful for these gifts of fine art.
Calendar of Events and Classes | Fall 2008

You and your garden have made it through another hot summer. Now it’s time for playing outdoors, planting more natives and learning more about California’s fantastic flora. Don’t miss Fall Festival in early October—our biggest plant sale of the year—offering hundreds of different species and cultivars at discounted prices. Visit our website for program updates and information on our well-subscribed three-part California Native Plant Garden Design course. Design classes are very limited in size to ensure individual attention, and they fill almost immediately. If you’re interested, please call to add your name to the waiting list.

Check in at the Bookstore on the day of the class or event. Please note our class cancellation policy: For one-part classes, no refunds for cancellations made within 7 days of the class date. For the three-part design class, full refunds will be given if the cancellation is made more than 7 days before the first class. If a cancellation is requested 7 days or less before the first class, only a postponement will be given, with the following fees attached: $105 for members, $150 for non-members, $165 for member couples, $225 for non-member couples. No refunds will be given within 7 days of the first class, and postponements will only be given within 7 days of the first class.

SEPTEMBER

Outreach Training
Saturday, September 27, 10:00–11:00 a.m.
See page 11 for details.

OCTOBER

Fall Festival

October 3–4
October 10–11

Plant and Seed Sale
Friday–Saturday, October 3–4, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Discount to Members Only
Friday–Saturday, October 10–11, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Discounts to All
Our biggest sale of the year—just in time for fall planting! Hundreds of different trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, perennials, shade plants, desert plants and more! Members receive 15% off all plants, 1-gallon and up. Non-members receive 10% off plants. (No discounts on 4” plants.) Everyone receives a 10% discount on seed!

FREE LECTURE! The Secrets of Landscaping with California Natives with Greg Rubin
Saturday, October 4, 6:30 p.m.
At: North Valley City Hall Auditorium (rear of building), 7747 Foothill Blvd. (east of Mt. Gleason Ave.), Tujunga 91042—No reservations needed
This special presentation reveals most of the how-tos of native landscaping, while dispelling many of the myths, such as no summer planting, that natives look awful in summer and fall, and no overhead watering. Greg is a former aerospace engineer turned native landscape contractor who has been developing California gardens since the mid-80s. He has installed nearly 500 landscapes in Southern California. Expect inspiration from this dynamic speaker! The event also features a Silent Auction—another way to support TPF! Great stuff for gardeners and native plant lovers. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for bidding!

Shadow Drawing with Pamela Burgess
Saturday, October 11, 1:00–3:00 p.m.
$20 members, $30 non-members
A casual art workshop with Theodore Payne Foundation’s first Artist in Residence! Each student will capture the transitory spirit of a native plant by outlining its shadow. There is no “right way”—this class is for people who don’t know how to draw and those who do but want to try something different. The session begins in the Art Gallery, where Pamela’s work is on view October 1–December 31, then moves outdoors for drawing in the field, and ends with more drawing and discussion in the Education Center. Each student will leave with their own original “shadow drawing.” All materials provided.

Autumn in the Native Garden with Louise Gonzalez
Saturday, October 18, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
$30 members, $40 non-members
Learn what to expect when autumn arrives and your native garden responds to short days, long nights and relatively cool temperatures. This new class with TPF’s nursery manager begins with a lecture on how native plants function and ends with a walk through the grounds for close examination of trees, shrubs, perennials and more. Wear comfortable shoes, a hat and sunscreen.

Gardening with California Native Grasses with Connie Vadheim
Saturday, October 5, :00–4:00 p.m.
$0 members, $30 non-members
California has been blessed with a number of wonderful native grasses. This class explores some of the most useful—and showy—native alternatives to exotic species. Why plant invasive alien grasses when we have so many great native species? A walk through the nursery is included. Connie is adjunct professor of biology at CSU Dominguez Hills and a key figure in restoration at Madrona Marsh Preserve in Torrance.

NOVEMBER

First Saturdays
Saturday, November 1, 9:00 a.m.–noon
Join the Theodore Payne Foundation family of volunteers on the first Saturday of each month as we improve and care for our gardens. We will clear, clean, plant, mulch, prune and do anything else needed to 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.

Container Gardening with California Native Plants with Carmen Wolf
Saturday, November 1, 1:00–3:00 p.m.
$25 members, $35 non-members
Learn all about gardening above ground. Container gardens are
Prune young and newly planted shrubs. Make space for fall and winter growth. Remove dead, weak and crossing wood to accommodate new growth.

**Prune and Cut Back**
Groom summer-blooming perennials and shrubs such as *Salvia, Eriogonum* and *Monardella* species. Remove dead, weak and crossing wood to make space for fall and winter growth.

**Prune young and newly planted shrubs**

**Propagating California Native Plants with Louise Gonzalez and Antonio Sanchez**
Saturday, November 8, 9:00 a.m.–noon
$35 members, $45 non-members
Discover the basics of propagating California native plants! The class is part of an ongoing series with TPF nursery staff. Different techniques will be learned and various species of plants will be propagated and shared by each participant. Each class is limited to eight participants, so early registration is advised!

**Fire-wise Landscaping with Owen Dell**
Saturday, November 8, 1:00–3:00 p.m.
$20 members, $30 non-members
Southern Californians live in the most flammable place on earth. Whether your house is surrounded by chaparral or non-native landscape plantings, you need to consider the safety of your home in a wildfire. Everyone is potentially at risk, even those who don’t live in a so-called “high fire hazard area.” Through lecture, video and handouts, this class discusses how to prepare for a wildfire by evaluating and making changes in your landscaping and its management. Owen is a landscape architect and contractor, owner of County Landscape and Design in Santa Barbara, and a nationally recognized expert in firescaping.

**Autumn in the Native Garden with Louise Gonzalez**
Saturday, November 15, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
$30 members, $40 non-members
See Saturday, October 18 for details.

**Last Saturdays**
Saturday, November 29, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
Help stop the spread of invasive non-native plants on Foundation grounds. For two hours at a time, volunteers will fan out across the grounds, pulling up and ripping out nasty weeds so that California’s own perfectly adapted plants can flourish. Bring hat and gloves, and wear long pants. TPF will be ready with refreshments!

**DECEMBER**

**First Saturdays**
Saturday, December 6, 9:00 a.m.–noon
See Saturday, November 1 for details.

**Autumn in the Native Garden with Louise Gonzalez**
Saturday, December 13, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
$30 members, $40 non-members
See Saturday, October 18 for details.

**Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer**
Saturday, December 13, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
$35 members, $45 non-members
This class offers the basics on gardening with California flora. You’ll discover what a “native plant” is and why natives are valuable, and learn about plant communities, planting techniques, establishment, irrigation, pruning, ongoing maintenance and where to see and buy native plants. Recommended for beginners; a required prerequisite to our California Native Plant Garden Design course. Lili is a horticulturist and garden writer, and TPF Special Projects Coordinator.

**Last Saturdays**
Saturday, December 27, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
See Saturday, November 29 for details.

**Last Saturdays**
Saturday, December 7, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
Autumn in the Native Garden with Louise Gonzalez
$30 members, $40 non-members
See Saturday, November 1 for details.

**Last Saturdays**
Saturday, December 13, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
Autumn in the Native Garden with Louise Gonzalez
$30 members, $40 non-members
See Saturday, November 1 for details.

**FALL GARDEN CARE**

(continued)

**Water**
Start watering again—always deeply and only when the top few inches of soil are dry. Deep soak summer-deciduous plants, such as *Ribes* species (gooseberries and currants), to bring them out of dormancy. Irrigate areas kept bone dry during summer to protect native bulbs (they’ll accept water now).

**Weed**
Rainwater and garden irrigation bring up annual and perennial invaders. Remove them as they sprout! Dig deeply to control perennial weeds with tough specialized roots (e.g. taproots, rhizomes and stolons).

**Prune and Cut Back**
Groom summer-blooming perennials and shrubs such as *Salvia, Eriogonum* and *Monardella* species. Remove dead, weak and crossing wood to make space for fall and winter growth.

Prune young and newly planted shrubs and trees for good shape and strong structure. Do not prune mature manzanita and ceanothus. Fresh cuts invite disease and, at this time, the plants are developing buds for next year’s flowers.

Come late fall, cut stems of *Romneya coulteri* (Matilija poppy) down to one or two inches from the base.

**Divide**
Dig and divide cool season grasses, such as *Festuca, Nassella, Leymus, Calamagrostis* and *Melica*, as well as *Carex tumulicola* (foothill sedge). Make sure each new clump has ample roots; water well after replanting. Divide *Heuchera, Potentilla, Horkelia* and other clumping perennials.

Divide native iris in late November and early December. Dig large clumps and split them into smaller ones (each with good roots) or leave in place and cut sections from the edges. Plant divisions and water regularly until new growth appears. Short on space? Share your extras!

**Mulch**
A 3-to-4-inch layer of organic matter (leaves, bark, wood fibers) or decorative rock helps retain soil moisture, moderate soil temperatures, suppress weeds and beautify the garden. To prevent disease, keep all mulches away from stems, crowns and trunks.
IN THE ART GALLERY

Pamela Burgess
Radiant Light—Shadow Drawings of California Native Plants

by John Wickham

Many small things happen at the Foundation throughout the year, where a chance meeting and a random idea lead to something truly amazing. Such is the case with this season’s exhibit by Pamela Burgess. Lili Singer suggested that Pamela bring some of her work by the Foundation. We are always interested in new artists who work with the California flora. Pamela’s long-standing fascination with botanical subjects, going back to her days at Carnegie Mellon University and the Hunt Institute, and her current interest in horticulture through the Southern California Horticultural Society, resulted in a number of botanical drawings, including several of native plants.

Pamela’s shadow drawings are unique, evocative and mysterious. She had been working with found materials, locating branches, leaves and other plant parts, then drawing not the plant itself but its shadow. Each work portrays an image of the plant, and yet not. We see the captured outline of leaf or branch. In particular, a large-scale drawing of an ocotillo (Fouquieria splendens) caught my attention.

In that get-to-know-you meeting, I happened to mention that the Foundation has been interested in developing an artist-in-residence program. Before the day was done, Pamela was our first artist-in-residence. We discussed some of the things we could do, such as classes or discussions. But most important was an exhibition of works created during the residency, an opportunity for Pamela to show what she’s accomplished and a chance for all of us to experience her work.

Beginning October 1 and continuing through December 31, the Theodore Payne Gallery will feature Pamela’s one-person show, Radiant Light—Shadow Drawings of California Native Plants. Please visit the gallery and enjoy these wonderful works of art.

Join us for a special reception on Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. to celebrate Pamela Burgess’ tenure as Theodore Payne’s first artist-in-residence. Her spectacular shadow drawings, journals and sculptural works—inspired by California flora and the Foundation’s gardens—will be unveiled in time for Fall Festival. Pamela will be available to discuss her distinctive body of work. Light refreshments will be provided.

For details on the upcoming workshop, Shadow Drawing with Pamela Burgess, Saturday, October 11, see Events and Classes, page 4.

Friends of the Theodore Payne Gallery

Over the last five years, the Theodore Payne Gallery has grown from the occasional display of artworks from the Foundation’s collection to a regular exhibition program, highlighting fine art and photography from the past, as well as new works created for show in the Gallery. We would like to continue the expansion of our art program and request your help in doing so through the creation of a volunteer arts council.

“Friends of the Theodore Payne Gallery” would develop the art program and the Foundation’s collection, work with the artist-in-residence, and advise the Board of Directors on the art program.

An organizational meeting for the Friends will be held in the Gallery on Saturday, October 25, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in and passionate about art and its ability to inspire appreciation of the beauty of the California flora, please join us. This is an opportunity to help plan and guide the future of the Foundation’s art program.

For more information, please contact John Wickham at jwickham@sbcglobal.net or stop by and visit him at the Foundation, most Saturdays (call first to confirm).
Wildlife Observed at TPF
by Madena Asbell, Assistant Sales Manager

TPF is not only home to hundreds of species of native plants, but also provides shelter for a variety of animals. Since the onset of warm weather in March, our resident California striped racer has been spotted around the nursery, sometimes cruising along fence lines of the sales yard, under the cover of grasses and sages. TPF staff and customers were recently treated to an unusual event (pictured, below) when the 4-foot-long snake caught and ate a lizard under the Palo Verde tree just inside the sales yard gates. Visitors need not worry: As with most snakes found in Southern California, the California striped racer is harmless to humans and need not be feared. (Of California’s 33 snake species, only six are venomous; all six are rattlesnakes.)

The shy, quiet California striped racer is long, slender and clearly identified by the pale yellow stripe down each side. Most active in spring and summer, it forages during the day, especially in morning and late afternoon hours. Hunting by sight rather than smell, it extends its head above ground as it looks for food.

Note: non-venomous snakes can be easily distinguished from rattlesnakes by the shape of their heads and the pupils of their eyes. A non-venomous snake, such as California striped racer, has a smoothly tapered head and large round pupils. Rattlesnakes have a broad, triangle-shaped head and elliptical pupils similar to those of a cat.

**Calif. Striped Racer**

- **Scientific Name**: *Masticophis (=Coluber) lateralis*
- **Common Name**: California Striped Racer or Chaparral Coachwhip
- **Description**: Black or dark brown, dull not glossy, with a pale yellow or cream stripe down each side. Long and thin, with an average length of 30-48 inches (although adults can reach 60 inches). Underside is also pale yellow, and pinker near the tail. Eyes are large and bright; vision is acute. Though diurnal and often seen foraging in the daytime, this species is fast-moving and elusive, and it can be difficult to get a close look at this snake. Though non-venomous and harmless to humans, individuals will bite only if threatened or handled.
- **Diet**: Lizards, small rodents, small birds, frogs, salamanders; young snakes will eat large insects.
- **Habitat**: Chaparral, coastal sage scrub, open woodland, brushy areas, ponds, stream courses.
- **Range**: Near Dunsmuir in Siskiyou Co. east of the crest of the Sierra Nevada mountains, south along the Sierra foothills to southern California and south along the coast to near sea level, to northern Baja California. Occurs east in Southern California to the desert foothills. Absent from the far north coast, Great Valley, deserts and elevations over 7400 ft.
- **Reproduction**: Lays 5-10 eggs in spring or early summer; eggs hatch in 2-3 months.
- **Lifespan/Hibernation**: 6-15 years; hibernation begins when night temperatures drop below 45°F for ten days and continues until temperatures go above 45°F for 10 days or more.
- **Sources**: [www.californiaherps.com](http://www.californiaherps.com) (an independent website)

The author thanks Jarron Lucas of the Southwestern Herpetologists Society for his input.
by Kathy Parenteau, Seed Room Supervisor

For me, the joy in growing wildflowers is the serendipity of it all. In fall, you just throw seed onto bare, sunny spots in the garden and wait to see what you get. Use no control, let it happen and delight in the wonder of nature. Then, next year do nothing and see what crops up. Each year offers different surprises!

Thanks to the following members for collecting and donating seed.

Amanda Mainzer  Lupinus albifrons
Louise Olson  Coreopsis gigantea, Lupinus succulentus, Sisyrinchium bellum, Trichostema lanatum
Dawn Greene  Abutilon palmeri
Douglas Pollock  Trichostema lanatum
Jill Thraves  Iris douglasiana, Juglans californica, Salvia spathacea

Thanks also to Lisa Novick for donation of a blender, which will be used to separate seed from "meaty" fruit.

WANTED! A volunteer who can identify plants, using The Jepson Manual to key them out. Can you teach me how to do it?
Contact Kathy at (818) 768-1802 or info@theodorepayne.org.

ABOUT THEODORE PAYNE AND THE FOUNDATION

Who Was Ed Peterson?

Visitors to the Foundation often ask about the name—Edward L. Peterson—on the plaque on the door leading to our seed room. Our seed program is one of many unique services offered by the Foundation, and volunteers scour local wild lands, collecting seed and fruit of native plants for your use and for propagation in the nursery. During his career, Theodore Payne achieved an international reputation for collecting seed in the wild, and Ed Peterson was the man who continued that tradition.

In the late 1950s, when the establishment of a foundation to continue Payne's work was initiated, the chancellor of East Los Angeles College invited Ed Peterson (then a groundsman at Los Angeles City College) to participate. Ed joined with a who's who of Los Angeles horticulture at these meetings and, in 1960, became a member of the first Board of Directors. Until his passing, Ed remained the heart of the Foundation, accumulating knowledge, developing the seed program, and guiding and training volunteers in this fascinating activity.

Ed was an extremely humble and quiet man with a wry sense of humor. As he approached his 100th birthday, he reminded people that he had a 99-year lease, and would be on a year-to-year renewal thereafter. Ed would remind seed collectors that their job is to search, then "re-search," as beautiful flowers soon become brown twigs that can be difficult to find. In 1978, the Los Angeles Times magazine ran an article on the 75 most important people that you didn't know. The list included many local citizens who went on to become major business leaders, politicians, artists and actors. However, the man at the top of the list was Ed, complete with an extensive article concerning his seed collecting work.

Though Ed lost his eyesight late in life, he still enjoyed going on collection trips. With some prompting, he was still able to tell fellow seed collectors what they could expect to find after the next turn in the road, and, with minimal description, he could tell someone which plant they held in their hands.

Naming the seed room in recognition of Ed Peterson's contributions was a very modest honor for someone who played such an extraordinary role in the growth of the Foundation. We are pleased to announce that the Ed Peterson Seed Room is being renovated this year, with significant wall repairs, a new coat of paint, new shelving and other amenities to improve the seed program. To help support our seed room renovation, please use the form on page 11.

In 2005, the Board created the Ed Peterson Native Plant Education Revolving Fund. Donations are accepted to fund internships and other educational opportunities for young people interested in working with the California flora. To make a donation, please contact the Foundation at (818) 768-1802.

For this issue of The Poppy Print, we were asked to write about wildflowers. This got me thinking about the term "wildflower." Most people relate the word to annuals—plants that germinate, bloom, set seed and die, all in one year. California poppy is one of our best known annuals. According to Webster's New World Dictionary, a wildflower is: "any flowering plant growing wild in fields, etc." No mention about being an annual. This matches my interpretation, leaning more toward the "wild" in wildflower. When I think of wildflowers, I reflect on specific plants and the areas where they naturally occur. Or, truth told, I think of my favorite plants and where I go to experience them. So, I decided to write about two of the wildflowers I love most: Artemisia and Penstemon.

Artemisia douglasiana (mugwort) is a riparian species, found growing along watercourses and areas near seeps or drains. Its tall stems hold large deeply cut leaves that are dark green above, silvery below and shimmer when touched by a breeze. You can be hiking or driving through a very dry area and come across a patch of this plant. Its presence tells you there is water there, even if you can't see it. Once I discovered which plants were linked to the scents of my childhood camping memories, there was no going back—and mugwort is one of the culprits. How wonderfully aromatic it is! A. douglasiana is used medicinally and spiritually. In Chinese medicine, mugwort (or "moxa") is used for moxibustion, a therapy to stimulate circulation. I met a woman at TPF who was a healer working with native plants. She told me that if you have trouble dealing with society, place mugwort next to your front door, as the plant's energy will help to soothe. I expect you all will be taking a few plants home from the nursery, hmmm? The Chumash use this species to make a mild tea that calms and replenishes the body. And if you have trouble sleeping, a few mugwort leaves tucked into your pillowcase just may float you away to dreamland.

I don't have a favorite Penstemon. This admirable genus is distributed throughout California, with species occurring from near sea level to 10,000 feet, with heights ranging from 6 inches to 4 feet. Penstemon is the ultimate hummingbird plant, with tubular flowers in a range of colors! You'll find several species locally in the wild. When hiking in the Big Bear area, you may discover P. grinnellii (Grinnell's penstemon), with its large lavender flowers, tucked up into the boulders. P. centranthifolius (scarlet bugler, pictured) grows right here in our Angeles National Forest; its blossoms range from salmon-red to scarlet. I have also seen single populations of this species growing alongside the I-5 freeway heading to Gorman. P. spectabilis (showy penstemon) is one of the tallest penstemons, to 4 feet high when in bloom. To get near its flowers, you will risk getting dive-bombed by hummingbirds. Showy penstemon is a very prolific re-seeder, so there is a good chance you will end up with many baby penstemons in your garden. Should you be wandering the Mojave Desert, you just might run into P. palmeri, another tall species that can reach 4 feet. This lovely penstemon has blue green leaves and large, fragrant pink flowers.

In search of wildflowers, I have traveled from the Santa Monica Mountains all the way up to Big Bear, following these plants alone. I wonder if I could keep an Artemisia douglasiana alive in my car.

“The rapidity with which the wild flowers are decreasing is most damming. If we do not begin to preserve them, the time will come when they will become extinct and live only in history.” —Theodore Payne, 1916

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The bonus: a container of colorful spring flowers to brighten your landscape!
Native Wildflowers

continued from p. 2

lupine) and yellow to white forms of *L. microcarpus* var. *densiflorus* (chick or popcorn lupine). *Phacelia tanacetifolia* is a dependable reseeder, with tall stems of ferny foliage and purplish flowers held on “scorpion tail” stalks.

Other well-known phacelias, such as *P. campanularia* and *P. minor*, exhibit large royal purple to bluish purple flowers of exquisite individual form.

Keep in mind that “erratic germination” often means that some seeds will germinate the first year after sowing, while others may lie dormant for years before sprouting. This “offset” strategy helps ensure that all seeds (and thus a whole population) do not germinate at once, and then expire before flowering in an unfavorably dry year. It is also an adaptation to plant communities that are subject to periodic fires. For some California annuals, fire disturbance is a favorable, if not crucial, event in their ecological cycle.

Most native annuals appreciate as much sun as you can give them. A smaller number will grow well under shady or partly shady situations. Two of the best choices for shady conditions are *Collinsia heterophylla* and other species of Chinese houses and *Nemophila menziesii* (baby blue eyes, pictured on page 1). These are physically delicate, slightly rambling plants that need a quiet place in the garden where they can grow undisturbed. *Stylomecon heterophylla* (wind poppy) is a boldly colored candidate for the shade, with its large, bright orange poppy flowers, each with a burgundy or green “eye.”

Where soil conditions remain moist well into summer, *Limnanthes douglasii* (meadow foam) will put on a brilliant mid-spring show of yellow or yellow-and-white. This low-growing annual from vernally moist areas in California’s Central Valley thrives in full sun and reseeds well.

Though the summer dry spell required by the often ephemeral wildflowers of California may relegate them to a marginal place in the garden, these unique plants can provide some of our most vivid and emotive gardening memories.

Dylan is curator of the Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory for Botanical Science at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino. For nearly a decade, he was plant propagator at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont.

A version of this article was first published in The Gardener’s Companion, Vol. 3, No. 2, November–December 2002.

IN THE BOOKSTORE

Let these wonderful books about California native wildflowers guide and inspire you.

- Gardener’s Guide to California Wildflowers

- Hardy Californians: A Woman’s Life with Native Plants (new, expanded edition)
  edited by Lester B. Rowntree, University of California Press, 2006. A classic masterwork on California’s wildflowers by pioneering botanist, garden writer and native plant advocate Lester Rowntree, often called “the female John Muir.” This new edition, edited by her grandson Lester B. Rowntree, includes an expanded biography, vintage photos, updated taxonomy and a bibliography of Lester’s writings. Delightful and informative!
Summer Isn’t Slow for TPF Volunteers
by Lisa Novick, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator

In May, June and July, volunteers donated their time and good humor both on and off site. In addition to their vital contributions in the propagation house, sales yard and (very aromatic) seed room, volunteers supported our efforts at the Country Garden Faire at Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino; Hollywood Farmers’ Market; and Kill Your Lawn class, held at the historic La Crescenta Woman’s Club.

As the Foundation expands its presence on the road and holds classes in different venues around town, we hope that more and more TPF members will be inspired to join our cadres of volunteers that are doing so much to promote the benefits of California’s native plants. So, a big round of applause for:

**Garden Tour Wrap**  Ken Gilliland, Keith Malone, Kathy Parenteau


**Kill Your Lawn Class**  Willie Arste, Weina Dinata, Susana Ethial, Larry Gabriel, Jenny Garcia, Dawn Greene, Loretta Leiker, Sandy Masuo, So Yuon & Iain McConnell, Will McConnell

**Office**  Steve Hartman, Marilynn Hildebrandt

**Propagation**  Mary Brooks, Roxanne Correa, Andrew Peck, John Wickham

**Sales Yard Training**  Rosamaria Aguilar, Marilynn Hildebrandt, Jeremy Moreno-Gershman

**Seed Room**  Christian Cummings, Susana Ethial, Ken Gilliland, Marilynn Hildebrandt, Marie Johnston, Greg Maltby, Jeremy Moreno-Gershman

**Country Garden Faire**  Michelle Auchterlonie, Larry Gabriel

Many hands make light work! To volunteer, please contact Lisa Novick at lisa@theodorepayne.org.

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HELP US RENOVATE THE ED PETERSON SEED ROOM!

Our old Ranch-style house was converted in 1967 to serve as the Foundation’s headquarters. Its garage was turned into a seed room, where we clean and store the wild-collected seed used in propagation and made available to the public and restoration projects. However, time has not been kind to our seed room. In particular, the framing and drywall at the old garage door are now in need of extensive repair and replacement, at a cost of $3,400.

Please make a contribution today.

**Name ____________________________________________________________**

**Address _________________________________________________________**

**City _____________________________  State ________  Zip  ________________**

**Phone (________) ______________________________  E-Mail Address ______________**

**My check for: [ ] $20  [ ] $50  [ ] $100  [ ] Other: $ ____________, payable to Theodore Payne Foundation, is enclosed.**

**[ ] Please charge $ ______________ to my [ ] Visa  [ ] Mastercard  Credit Card No: ______________________________**

**Expiration Date: _____________  Cardholder Signature: ____________________________**

**Mail to:**  Theodore Payne Foundation, c/o Ed Peterson Seed Room Renovation, 10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352

Credit card donations may also be phoned in at (818) 768-1802 or submitted online at www.theodorepayne.org

Membership contribution and gifts are tax deductible within the limits allowed by law. 501(c)(3) EIN 95-6095398  Thank you for your support!
Each month we feature a different species and offer a 20% discount to members.

October  *Eriogonum fasciculatum*—California buckwheat (Polygonaceae)

This evergreen butterfly, bird and bee magnet is sun-loving, drought-tolerant and fast-growing to 3–4 feet high by 4 feet wide. Flat-topped cream (sometimes pinkish) flower clusters appear in summer, age to rust brown and persist into winter and spring. Durable and adaptable; excellent for erosion control.

November *Cercocarpus betuloides*—mountain mahogany (Rosaceae)

A drought-tolerant evergreen shrub or small tree with silver-gray bark; grows quickly to 10–15 feet in height and half as wide. Ideal hedge or screen plant. Tiny whitish flowers are followed by seeds with silky plumes that sparkle when backlit. Sun to part shade; adapts to most soils and all areas but the deserts.

December *Rosa californica*—California wild rose (Rosaceae)

This winter-deciduous thicket former spreads widely, with almost thorn-free or very thorny 5-foot-high stems. Excellent for erosion control or as a barrier plant, hedgerow and cover for birds. Fragrant, pink 5-petaled flowers in spring and early summer; orange hips make a wonderful tea. Full sun along coast, part-shade inland; drought-tolerant to moderate water; easy, even in clay soil.

*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 website for more information on the plants listed here.