TPF Spring Events

ANNUAL THEODORE PAYNE NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR
Saturday & Sunday, April 2 & 3, 10:00am-5:00pm

A two-day, self-guided county-wide journey through 41 public and private gardens, including 16 gardens new to the tour. Our annual garden tour, showcasing native flora and beautiful gardens from the Transverse Ranges and inland valleys to the Pacific Coast, is a regional tradition since 2003.

The tour provides new and experienced home gardeners and landscape professionals with inspiration and ideas for creating and maintaining sustainable, water-conserving landscapes that enhance the urban environment, provide color and fragrance, and attract and support monarchs, birds and other welcome wildlife. At each site, you’ll gather experience and knowledge from garden hosts, designers and TPF docents.

Gardens are divided into two groups by location and open only on specific days:
Saturday, April 2: Coastal and Mid-city gardens
Saturday, April 3: San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys

The garden tour is self-driven. Most people visit 4-7 gardens each day at a leisurely pace. To select locations and plan your personal excursion, go to nativeplantgardentour.org for descriptions, photos and plant lists for each garden.

This year, attendees will receive the full-color 32-page tour guide with addresses, a map, and key features for each location—as well as a keepsake garden tour button that acts as your ticket!

Drought Special! Since it looks like we are headed into a fifth year of drought, it’s important that everyone gets the chance to be inspired by low-water beauty! We’ve lowered the price $5 per person. Buy a pair and save even more.

Garden 22, Joyce
Planted in 2013, this back yard is a soft and natural open space with a slender sedge meadow surrounded by native habitat plants.

Garden 28, Browder/Anderson
The front yard garden achieves a tidy look with a natural feel, mixing California natives with other drought-tolerant plants.

Tickets (good for both days)
TPF Members: $25 per person or $40/pair
Non-members: $30/per person or $50/pair

Purchase at TPF headquarters in Sun Valley, by phone to 818-768-1802 or online at nativeplantgardentour.org; or at Potted, 3158 Los Feliz Blvd., Los Angeles (Atwater Village) 90039, Monday-Saturday, 10:00am-6:00pm, or Sunday, 10:00am-5:00pm.

We encourage garden tour veterans—many thousands of you have attended over the years—to bring a friend or budding gardener and help them discover the versatility and beauty of native plants.

Proceeds from the tour benefit the Foundation’s non-profit native plant education and horticulture programs.

We thank these major garden tour sponsors.
See a complete list of sponsors at nativeplantgardentour.org.
For the fifth year, TPF is proud to partner with the CNPS, Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter for this free annual event to celebrate the State of California’s official Native Plant Week. Activities—all held at the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino—include speakers, exhibits, demonstrations, and sales of great books AND plants and seed from the Theodore Payne Nursery and Store.

The wild flower show, with colorful displays of native wild flower cuttings from home gardens and TPF grounds, is always a symposium highlight—leave time to observe these colorful spring treasures up close! (Contributions from home gardeners are welcome; please contact Snowdy Dodson at snowdy.dodson@csun.edu).

Parking is ample and free. Kids are welcome!

Symposium presentations (all free):
10:00-11:30am Wildflowers of the Backbone Trail with photographer and author Jim Kenney
Noon-1:30pm Lawn Gone and Loving It with home gardener and TPF garden tour host Kathy Sturdevant
2:00-3:30pm The History, Mystery and Material Culture of the Chaparral, an interactive program with longtime Santa Monica Mountains interpreter Peter Rice

Both days: Members receive 15% all day; Non-members 10% after 11:00am. (Not yet a member? Join at the door!)

In the Sales Yard
This year, our big spring sale includes easy natives that belong in every garden (think toyon); plants for erosion control, dry shade and containers; heat-tolerant beauties; handsome trees; and collector’s items (shop early for best selection!). Expect a wide array of hummingbird, songbird, bee and butterfly magnets, plus flowering perennials and groundcovers.

In the Store
Check out the TPF gear, including new styles of t-shirts for adults, kids and infants and our sturdy totes. Explore the historic seed drawers (dating back to Mr. Payne’s 1903 shop in downtown L.A.) and interpretive seed displays. April is the perfect time to sow an assortment of native plants from seed, including warm-season grasses, many perennials, and Asclepias spp. (milkweed) for monarch and striated queen butterflies! Seed and TPF gear are discounted during the sale.

Make your list before you shop: See our Poppy Day inventory, to be posted Thursday, April 14, at theodorepayne.org/nursery inventory.
Growth Continues at TPF

Lately it seems that everything at the Foundation is new: new buildings, new gardens and new programs. Thanks to the support of our donors, members and visitors, these signs of success keep multiplying. Well, we’ve got a lot more news to share!

I’m pleased to announce that our new Director of Horticulture is our very own Tim Becker, formerly the Nursery Manager. Tim has been with TPF for five years, during which he revolutionized the production nursery. Through improvements in the facilities and processes, he increased our plant production by almost 60%. Now Tim is going to be bringing his positive energy and expertise to a wider range of programs, including oversight of the sales yard, seed and conservation programs, public and stock gardens, and professional development.

We are also adding new staff positions in the sales yard and bookstore, and bringing on a Seed Program Assistant and a Horticulturist, and refilling the Production Manager position. You’re sure to see new faces around the Foundation so please say “Welcome!”

You may even notice some changes to The Poppy Print itself. Last fall, we developed a strategic communications plan and, with the help of the Sanders Family Foundation, we are starting to update our look. Keep your eye on the website for changes there, as well.

This spring, we are thrilled to kick off our professional development initiative with a horticultural internship program. The Ahmanson Foundation provided very generous support of $75,000 for twelve interns over the course of 2016. We’ll recruit interns from current students and recent graduates of environmental horticulture programs at community colleges, universities and extension programs around Southern California. We couldn’t be more pleased that new professionals will be developing their native plant knowledge and skills here at TPF, then spreading their experiences to nurseries around the region.

Happy Spring!

Kitty Connolly

Meet Your New Board Member

Renee Ordeneaux joins the Board as a novice gardener but long-time nonprofit enthusiast. Renee is a partner in the audit practice at Armanino, LLP, the largest public accounting firm in California. She works with a variety of companies and has a specialization in nonprofit organizations. She has worked in public accounting for more than 15 years and has also worked on both the program and finance sides of not-for-profit organizations. She is currently chairing TPF’s finance committee.

Renee lives in West Los Angeles on a very hilly lot almost entirely shaded by live oak trees, so slope and shade gardening tips are welcome.

The Poppy Print is the membership newsletter of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the understanding, preservation and use of California native plants. The Theodore Payne Nursery and Store are open to the public year round. We offer classes and field trips for adults and children. Learn more about the Foundation and gardening with native plants at theodorepayne.org.

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MARCH

NEW! School Native Plant Gardens with Lisa Novick
Tuesday, March 22, 9:00am-1:00pm
$50 members, $60 non-members
This hands-on class for teachers covers planning, design, plant palettes, and installation and maintenance practices for native plant school gardens, and includes practical do’s and don’ts, as well as ways to use the garden in conjunction with Common Core Standards. Lisa is a credentialed K-8 teacher. As TPF’s Director of Outreach and former Director of K-12 Education, she has designed and helped install dozens of school gardens.

APRIL

Annual Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour
Saturday & Sunday, April 2-3, 10:00am-5:00pm
A self-guided journey through 41 beautiful and inspiring Los Angeles County gardens and TPF’s biggest outreach event of the year. For details, see page 1.

First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland
Thursday, April 7, 8:00-10:00am
Free—RSVP to programs@theodorepayne.org
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 binoculars, hat and water. Ken is an accomplished birdwatcher and avian artist (empken.com) and former TPF webmaster.

First Saturday: Volunteer Day at TPF
Saturday, April 9, 9:00am-noon
RSVP to andrew@theodorepayne.org
This month on the second Saturday! 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.

California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer
Saturday, April 9, 8:30am-12:30pm
$40 members, $50 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.

Irrigation Practices for Native Plant Gardens with Kelley Hanna
Saturday, April 9, 1:00-3:30pm
$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. Kelley has worked as a conservation-oriented California-licensed landscape contractor for more than 15 years. A San Gabriel Valley native, she is also co-founder of Water Wise Now, a firm that provides information and advice on efficient irrigation and low-water plants to homeowners and professionals.

Poppy Day Spring Plant Sale
Friday & Saturday, April 15-16, 8:30am-4:30pm
The region’s best selection of natives—plants for every corner of the garden—with discounts to all! For details, see page 2.

Native Plant Week Symposium, Wildflower Show & Plant and Book Sale
Saturday, April 16, 2016, 9:00am-4:00pm
At Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino
Cosponsored by the TPF and the LA/Santa Monica Mountains chapter of the California Native Plant Society. For details, see page 2.

Beyond the Barrel: Practical Rainwater Harvesting with Andreas Hessing
Thursday, April 21, 2:00-3:30pm
$25 members, $35 non-members
When precious rain falls, keep it on your property! This class offers timely sound advice on harvesting and using rainwater, including reservoir types, system requirements and how much you’re likely to catch, with helpful suggestions on what to water and why. Andreas is an artist and landscape designer and contractor (scrubjaystudios.com).

NEW! Welcoming Wildlife into the Native Garden with Carol Bornstein
Saturday, April 23, 10:00am-noon
$30 members, $40 non-members
Build it, and they will come! Learn how easy it can be to attract a variety of critters—including hummingbirds, song birds, insects, reptiles, even salamanders—to your garden with California native plants. A portion of the class will be spent outdoors. Children 8 and up are welcome! Carol is Director of the Nature Gardens at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and co-author of two books, the award-winning California Native Plants for the Garden and Reimagining the California Lawn, and, for nearly 30 years, she was the horticulturist at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Steve Gerischer
Saturday, April 23, 1:30-3:30pm
$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. Steve divides his time between creating award-winning landscapes with his company, Larkspur Garden Design, and lecturing on a wide variety of topics relating to gardening in Southern California.

School Native Plant Gardens with Lisa Novick
Saturday, April 30, 9:00am-1:00pm
For details, see March 22.

NEW! Your Native Garden's First Year with Lili Singer
Saturday, April 30, 1:30-3:30pm
$25 members, $35 non-members
Get your beautiful garden off to a good start! This overview of the first twelve months in a newly installed native plant landscape provides practical tips on getting plants established, including what to do and what to expect from your developing garden. For instructor bio, see April 9.

See more classes, as well as details on our Three-Part California Native Garden Design course at theodorepayne.org.

MAY

First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland
Thursday, May 5, 8:00-10:00am
For details, see April 7.

First Saturday: Volunteer Day at TPF
Saturday, May 7, 9:00am-noon
For details, see April 9.

Birding at Quail Hollow, a Special BirdLA Day 2016 Event
Saturday, May 7, 9:00am-noon
Free-space is limited—first come, first served!
RSVP to programs@theodorepayne.org
Spend the morning at Quail Hollow, a bird-filled native plant garden in Tujunga! Some 108 species have been sighted on this property by owners Ken and Rhonda Gilliland, who will share their deep knowledge of birding and native flora. Learn more about Quail Hollow and its bird list at empk.com/quailhollow. Bring binoculars and your water bottle. Limit: 20.
Discover more BirdLA Day activities (all free) at birdla.org.

Propagating Native Plants with Tim Becker
Saturday, May 7, 9:00am-noon
$50 members, $60 non-members
Learn basic skills of vegetative propagation with TPF's Director of Horticulture! 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 starts for your own garden. Limit: 10.

California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer
Saturday, May 14, 8:30am-12:30pm
For details, see April 9.

Native Bees and Native Plants with Hartmut Wisch
Saturday, May 21, 9:00-11:00am
$25 members, $35 non-members
Back by popular demand with many new images! This beautifully illustrated program explores the great diversity of California native bees—approximately 1600 species!—that co-evolved with our native flora. All six recognized families of bees will be discussed. Hartmut discovered a love for macro photography and a fascination with our insect fauna after working for 35 years as a naturalist-guide, taking European visitors through western North America. His special interest is in observing and identifying our native bees.

Hypertufa Container Workshop with Steve Gerischer
Saturday, May 21, 1:30-3:30pm
$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. For instructor bio, see April 23.

NEW! How to Attract Wild Birds into your Garden with Scott Logan
Saturday, May 28, 9:00-11:00am
$25 members, $35 non-members
Wild birds add beauty, color and song to our yards and our lives, as well as some of the best organic pest control. Learn how to draw an amazing variety of local birds into your personal space. Scott is an inspiring lecturer, lifelong birder and co-owner of Wild Wings Backyard Nature Store in Sherman Oaks (wildwingsla.com).

Your Native Garden's First Year with Lili Singer
Saturday, May 28, 1:30-3:30pm
For details, see April 30.

JUNE

First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland
Thursday, June 2, 8:00-10:00am
The last First Thursday Bird Walk of the season. Walks will resume in October. For details, see April 7.

California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer
Saturday, June 4, 8:30am-12:30pm
For details, see April 9.

First Saturday: Volunteer Day at TPF
Saturday, June 4, 9:00am-noon
The last First Saturday of the season. This activity will resume in October. For details, see April 9.

NEW! Baja California Plants for California Gardens with Bart O'Brien
Saturday, June 4, 1:30-3:30pm
$30 members, $35 non-members
This brand new illustrated talk by one of California's most respected native plant experts will focus on California Floristic Province plants of Baja California, Mexico—unique, diverse and beautiful flora well-suited to home landscapes in our region. Many of these plants are sold at TPF and many others should be in the trade! Bart is the Director/Manager of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Regional Park in the Berkeley Hills. He is co-author of three important books: California Native Plants for the Garden, Reimagining the California Lawn and Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens. He worked at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden for 24 years.

NEW! Garden-Worthy Native Grasses with Carol Bornstein
Saturday, June 11, 10:00am-noon
$25 members, $35 non-members
There are more than 10,000 species of grasses worldwide. We eat and drink them, build with them, and play on them. This class reveals California grasses for garden use as low-care alternatives to a water-guzzling lawn, as valuable wildlife habitat, or simply to add movement and texture to the landscape. Class includes an exploration of grasses and grass-like plants in TPF's new demonstration gardens. For instructor bio, see April 23.

Poppy Print, Spring 2016 5
The Foundation welcomes Christine Nguyen as our seventh Artist-in-Residence. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally in private and university galleries, and she is a 2015-2016 C.O.L.A. (City of Los Angeles) Individual Artist Fellowship recipient. To learn more about the artist and her work, visit her website at lephant.com.

During her residency, Christine will produce a fall exhibition for the Theodore Payne Gallery and teach a workshop at the Foundation. She was interviewed by Allan Roman Reyes, chair of the TPF Arts Council.

**Where does your passion for art come from?** My art revolves around nature and my love for the environment. I was exposed to things from the ocean by my father, who was a commercial fisherman along the coast of California. My practice is devoted to the natural world and the cosmos. It has been my inspiration and a place I find meditative, complex but also mysterious, and has allowed me to continuously discover the world we live in.

**Describe your evolution as an artist.** My work draws upon the imagery of science, but it is not limited to technologies of the present. It imagines that the depths of the ocean reaching into outer space, and that through an organic prism, vision can fluctuate between the micro- and macroscopic. I have been developing a personal cosmology in which commonalities among species, forms and environment become visible and expressive, suggesting past narratives and possible futures. The forms and environs in my work sometimes migrate into new pieces, establishing new systems. These systems imagine modes of transportation, communication and regeneration. There are no waste materials in these worlds: vision is a renewable resource.

I’ve been drawn to 19th Century naturalists, including biologist, philosopher, physician and artist Ernst Haeckel; writer, conservationist and advocate for preservation of the wilderness John Muir; botanist and photographer Anna Atkins; and astronomer William Herschel.

**Describe your artistic process.** My work embodies various mediums, materials and processes. It ranges from drawing, painting, photographic process, and sculpture, such as growing salt crystal on collected vegetation, cut and folded paper, and, more recently ceramics and glass.

**What appeals to you about our native flora?** My natural surroundings and our native flora have always brought inspiration to my practice. The varied terrain that surrounds Los Angeles has so much to offer: ocean, desert and mountains. I’m always trying to find a way to head to one of these destinations to clear my mind and to take a breath of inspirational fresh air.

**How did you connect to TPF?** I was invited to participate in the “Inspired: L.A. Artists Respond to California Native Plant Gardens” exhibition that was part of the 11th Annual Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour in 2014. I was paired up with the Shields residence in Del Rey and incorporated their garden into my work.

**Please describe your 2016 Artist-in-Residence project.** I will create a limited edition artist book comprised of cyanotypes of California native plants from the TPF gardens, trail, etc. I am moved by Anna Atkins, who made the first illustrated book of cyanotypes in 1843, using this early photographic process to document seaweeds and other plants. Her book will be used as a reference in style, and I will be labeling each plant accordingly.

This autumn, Christine will conduct a cyanotype workshop at TPF, where students will create prints using the sun’s UV rays and the primitive photographic process—a technique used to document early botanical collections! Watch for details in The Poppy Print and online at theodorepayne.org.
Fruiting Plants for Habitat: Summer Bounty
By Genevieve Arnold, Seed Program Manager

California’s spectacular cast of fruit-bearing shrubs challenge the concept of an “off season” in the native garden. Certain species set their seed during our hottest and driest season, providing color and artistic form through the summer months.

As the backdrop of the garden sanctuary stage, these plants also draw a diversity of birds who depend on their nutrition-packed fruits and seeds for sustenance. It is hard to match the experience of sitting quietly in a shaded garden alcove and watching scenes of southern California’s natural habitat unfold. Read on to discover two garden performers that simultaneously offer visual elements and boost backyard habitat. Enjoy the show...

*Berberis nevinii* (Nevin’s barberry), an evergreen shrub from the Los Angeles Basin now seriously endangered in the wild, grows 6’-10’ tall and wide and was introduced into the horticultural trade in the 1920s by Theodore Payne. This species is well equipped to handle full sun in a dry garden. Its dusty-green, very spiky foliage is tinged red when young and makes it an ideal candidate for an impenetrable hedge. From late winter to mid-spring, rigid branches support arcs of profuse yellow blooms that attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Come summer, these boughs are laden with a riotous explosion of bright red berries favored by birds. The berries are also edible to humans (Theodore Payne indicated that they make a good jelly). Note that you should wear thick gloves when harvesting from your Nevin’s barberry. Some say its prickly leaves make it both deer and cat resistant, creating a safe haven for the birds it attracts. Just some of the species you might see frequenting this fabulous shrub: western bluebird, wrentit and California thrasher.

*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *ilicifolia* (holly-leaved cherry) is a captivating surprise when encountered in wild chaparral areas in the dizzying heat of summer and early fall. Its large cherries (fructing bodies known as drupes) exhibit an elegant and beautiful range of muted-to-deep red tones, and are a welcome reminder that our native shrubs provide ample habitat for wildlife, even when weather conditions seem particularly inhospitable. Watch for such winged visitors as finches, robins and towhees.

Its drought-adapted evergreen leaves are curved with serrated margins reminiscent of holly, and maintain a thick, glossy and lush appearance year round. Easy to cultivate in a garden setting, this local species thrives in well-drained soil but is adaptable. It grows to 15’ high and wide and can function as a screen or hedge in full sun to part shade (note that the fruit may stain concrete, so plan accordingly).

Preceding its summer bounty, the holly-leaved cherry is a larval food source for the pale swallowtail butterfly and invites bees with its white 3”-6” long flower clusters that first appear in early spring. The summer cherries can also be eaten by humans; though the stone is large and the fleshy part of the fruit is thin, sampling these delicacies is well worth the effort for their unique, slightly tart and floral taste. However, they are so beloved by birds that you will have stiff competition for the ripest fruits!

Photos: Genevieve Arnold

*Berberis nevinii* (Nevin’s barberry)
(above) flowers; (below) fruit

*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *ilicifolia* (holly-leaved cherry)
(above) flowers; (below) fruit
What to Do in the Garden Now

**PLANT** The best subjects for warm-weather planting are natives that are used to moist conditions in summer: Try riparian plants, such as *Platanus racemosa* (western sycamore), *Artemisia californica* (mugwort) and *Juncus* spp. (rush)—these have constant or intermittent access to water; and desert species, including *Chilopsis* (desert willow), *Abutilon palmeri* (Indian mallow) and *Sphaeralcea ambigua* (apricot mallow)—they receive summer monsoons in the wild; warm-season grasses; and many shade lovers (ferns and more). Coastal gardeners have plenty of leeway, as the soil stays cooler there than inland. Consult our nursery sales associates for more recommendations.

Berries provide sustenance to local birds. Learn more about summer-fruiting native plants in Seed Room Chaff, Page 7. For greatest success and fastest growth, buy the smallest plants you can find and space them—even those in 4” or 1 gallon containers—according to mature dimensions. Cover bare soil between plants with mulch.

**SOW** For a wild meadow-y look, try *Achillea millefolium* (common yarrow) or *Festuca rubra* 'Molate' (Molate creeping red fescue)—both are easy from seed. Start warm-season grasses, such as *Bouteloua gracilis* (blue grama grass), other individual species, or our Warm-season Grass Mixture. As seed germinates and seedlings develop, keep the soil moist but not soggy. When you visit the store, be sure to pick up a copy of our free handout, “Sowing California Native Wild Flowers.”

**WATER** As days grow longer and warmer, soil dries out more quickly. New transplants require frequent attention and regular irrigation for one or more years, until they’re established. Check soil moisture often and water only when the top 3”-4” are dry. Soak thoroughly, wetting both the original rootball and surrounding soil.

Established plants need less frequent but deep irrigation. Check frequency on your plant labels, TPF nursery signage or our online Native Plant Database.

**MULCH** A 3”-4” deep layer of mulch—either organic matter (including leaves and chipped materials from your own garden) or inorganic decorative rock or gravel—does a lot more than help you save water. It moderates soil temperatures, protecting plants from root, stem and crown rot during the warm months; suppresses weeds, prevents runoff, and beautifies the garden. As they decompose, organic mulches also add nutrients to the soil. No mulch should touch the crowns, trunks or stems of plants.

Note: To provide habitat for ground-nesting native bees and wasps (both highly beneficial), leave some sunny areas mulch free.

**PEST MANAGEMENT** Watch juicy spring growth for aphids! Dislodge these tiny insects with a strong stream of water; those you miss will be found and devoured by beneficial insects.

Powdery mildew is a fungus disease that develops as white “powdery” patches on leaf surfaces and buds, causing leaf drop and distortion. It typically occurs in spring, especially on plants growing in too much shade or with poor air circulation. Non-chemical management techniques: 1) plant in spots with adequate light and air movement; 2) improve light penetration and air circulation; and dislodge white spots/spores on leaves with a strong stream of water. Susceptible natives include: *Salvia spathacea* (hummingbird sage), *Acer macrophyllum* (big leaf maple), *Heuchera* spp. and cvs. (coral bells), and *Aquilegia formosa* (western columbine).

Eradicate newly sprouted, warm-season, annual broadleaf and grassy weeds, such as lamb’s quarters, crabgrass and veldt grass—before they flower and set and distribute seed. Dandelion, filaree, cheeseweed and other deep-rooted perennial weeds require careful deep excision.

**PRUNE** Pinch or tip-prune young *Adenostema* (chamise), *Salvia* (sage) and *Encelia californica* (bush sunflower) to encourage dense growth and flower production. Best times are early spring (when new growth is vigorous but before flower buds form) or after spring flowering. Prune spring-flowering shrubs, including *Ceanothus* (California lilac), *Cercis occidentalis* (western redbud) and *Arctostaphylos* (manzanita), after flowers fade and before the onset of summer.

Leave spent inflorescences on annual wildflowers, buckwheat and sage—you may want to harvest some ripe seed or leave it all for hungry birds.

**READ** Sit down or curl up with a familiar reference or find a new favorite in the TPF Store. Our recently remodeled light-filled bookshelves feature many interesting and inspiring new and classic titles.

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The Foundation appreciates and values the following donations:

$75,000
The Ahmanson Foundation

29,095
LADWP/City of Los Angeles Outreach and Community Partnerships Trust Fund

1,000
Abraham & Melissa Lugo

250
Jay Lieske (match by Google corporate)

200
Margaret Steele

100
Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy

**ALSO**
Clif Bar and Company: 1,000 sample bars for staff and volunteers
Navigating the Theodore Payne Nursery

By Flora Ito, Nursery Sales Manager

When I hear a customer say “this is overwhelming,” I recall the first time I stepped foot in the Theodore Payne Nursery as an eager, novice, wannabe gardener. It was 2010. A class was unexpectedly cancelled, so, as an olive branch (Forestiera pubescens?) offering, students were given a 4” plant of one’s choice. A smiling TPF staff member with long hair and black-framed sunglasses escorted us to the sales yard. Excitedly, she talked non-stop about our options and plant information. Between listening to her and seeing hundreds of neatly arranged plants, each lined up behind a tall skinny stand with a white vertical card towering above them, I was overwhelmed—but in a good way.

Fast forward six years, and now I am on the other side, a staffer myself guiding customers through the ins-and-outs of the nursery from plant selection to our check-out system—a.k.a. the “exercise” policy—and still sharing lessons learned from my first visit.

The Theodore Payne Nursery is an outdoor classroom—without desks or chairs—that cultivates an active learning experience. And what better place to apply that learning than in your own garden? We’re here to assist, but you can help us personalize your experience, ease the “overwhelm,” and lead you to the best choices for your landscape by asking yourself these questions before you come.

- Is there a special type plant that I need? Tree, slope holder, container plant?
- How many hours of sun and at what time of day does my planting area receive?
- How often will I water, once the plants are established? Be realistic.
- How does my soil drain? If you don’t know, dig a 1’ x 1’ hole, fill it with water and see how long it takes to empty.
- How much space do I have? Be realistic.

This knowledge will help you navigate the nursery’s plant placards—those white cards in front of each block of plants. They offer a lot of great information! (For more about our placards, please see Nursery News on page 9 of the Fall 2015 issue of The Poppy Print.)

When you visit the nursery, look for a staff member or volunteer. Need a map that gives you the lay of the land? Pick up a copy at the sales booth, where you’ll also find other free helpful handouts, including the new Getting Started with Native Plants. It’s a step-by-step checklist for gathering information about your site and aligning your environmental conditions with the plant’s preferences. Remember, it’s all about the plants.

The Theodore Payne Nursery is interconnected with programs at the Foundation, in particular our classes and workshops that support our belief that gardening is a lifelong learning experience. In fact, that Getting Started guide recommends taking a class. I did and have been hooked ever since. Oh, by the way, that smiling, non-stop talking TPF staff member was our one and only Director of Special Projects and Adult Education Lili Singer.

We look forward to seeing you at our Poppy Day Spring Sale (April 15-16) and assisting you again and again throughout the life of your garden.

plants

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

APRIL Koeleria macrantha—Prairie Junegrass (Poaceae)
A widely distributed, perennial cool-season bunchgrass with attractive late spring/summer, tan-to-purplish flower spikes. Tufting 2’ high x 1’ wide plants are especially pretty when planted in masses. Tolerates periodic inundation; excellent choice for rain gardens. Occasional to regular irrigation; full to part sun; accepts all soils; summer dormant; hardy to 0°F. Attracts songbirds and butterflies.

MAY Dudleya brittonii—Britton’s Dudleya, Giant Chalk Dudleya (Crassulaceae)
This beautiful succulent from coastal cliffs of Baja California forms a 12”-18” wide rosette of dusty chalk white leaves, coated with a wax-like substance that imparts one of the highest ultraviolet reflectivity levels of any plant! Yellow spring-into-early summer flowers are borne on upright silvery stems that blush red as the blossoms mature. Plant in a wall crack or angled against a rock; excellent container subject. Drought-tolerant (best with infrequent to no summer water); full sun on the coast, part sun inland; hardy to at least 15°F.

JUNE Ribes aureum var. gracillimum—Golden Currant (Grossulariaceae)
A showy, fast-growing Los Angeles basin native that sports upright, arching branches to 6’ high and 2’-3’ wide and spreads to form a thicket. Small, bright yellow winter/spring flowers yield colorful edible berries. Drought-tolerant to moderate water; full to part sun; tolerates clay soil; summer deciduous; provides erosion control; hardy to 15°F. Superior bird habitat (pollinated by hummers) and forage source for Cooper and Anglewing butterflies.
Volunteer Profile

Julie Takayama

On Friday mornings, you’ll find Julie Takayama carefully minding the TPF store, greeting visitors, ringing up sales, arranging books and generally keeping the shop presentable. Her calm nature and attention to detail are valuable assets to an often hectic front office environment. Julie is interviewed here by Andrew Chaves, Manager of Operations and Volunteer Engagement.

**Have you always been interested in gardening?** I have always appreciated gardening. It is so much more than just sticking plants into the ground and adding water. It’s a skill that requires one to juggle and balance a myriad of variables, from plant colors and textures to soil and sun/shade requirements to blooming time, etc. If it was easy, it probably wouldn’t be so satisfying.

**What sparked your interest in California native plants and TPF?** For a number of years, I commuted through the Sepulveda Pass on the 405. Sitting in traffic afforded me time to take in the beauty of the lush mosaic of natives on the Santa Monica Mountains. I wanted to know their names, and so I found TPF through my search.

**Do you have a favorite California native plant?** My favorite wild flower is *Helianthus annuus* (annual sunflower). I look at them and always see something smiling and waving back at me. My favorite shrub is *Artemisia californica* (California sagebrush). Its soft, feathery unoffending foliage graciously offers a sweet scent with a berry-like undertone.

**How were you introduced to the Foundation and the volunteer program at TPF?** I found TPF and its volunteer program online. Yay technology!

**Which volunteer activities do you look forward to?** I enjoy working in the office and interacting with TPF’s customers. But I also love hands-on activities. Working with plants or seeds, getting to know them intimately, and becoming muddied all the while truly suit my palate.

**What keeps you coming back?** The staff at TPF is such an eclectic group of intelligent and interesting people. From the office to the sales yard, seed room to propagation—each is an expert at what they do. I love being in their company!

**What do you find most challenging about gardening with natives?** I think it is seeing the big picture in the grand scheme of things. It’s not about instant aesthetic gratification. Plants take time to establish themselves and fill out. So patience is the hardest bit!

**What would you tell someone who is thinking about volunteering?** Do it! Really, there’s nothing to lose, only something to gain. Whatever personal satisfaction you get from volunteering is enhanced by the fact that what you are doing is for a greater good.

**What do you do when you aren’t volunteering?** Chasing around my four-year-old daughter, going on hikes with my dog, cooking and listening to music.

**What might someone be surprised to know about you?** I am a bona fide bibliophile. I love reading and collecting books, particularly older cloth or leather-bound volumes. I would happily sit and read a dictionary from start to end if I had the time.

**Are there any other thoughts you’d like to share?** Some words I strive to live by: Protect the things that cannot protect themselves from the detrimental byproducts of our privileged lifestyles. We all have just one Earth and each just one evanescent life. We can make the most of it by redefining our riches. Turn away from the gloss and gleam of disposable material goods and instead be a glutton for nature’s beauty. We’ve got to start somewhere and having an interest in California native plants is a great step in the right direction toward preserving our indigenous flora and fauna and their natural habitat.
I’m writing from my office in TPF’s HQ. Just outside the window, I can see the impressive result of recent remodeling and garden installations. Walking around, I see plants carefully planted by volunteers. Also, a new building and bathrooms painted and worked on by volunteers. How thrilling is it to be a part of a new facility that for many years to come will be a place of inspiration and education to all who visit? In the midst of life’s daily challenges, there remain places like TPF that provide a retreat and place to learn.

We eagerly welcome new volunteers. First Saturday, our ongoing volunteer work day, is held October to June. First Saturday volunteers are essential! Their assistance with planting and grounds maintenance supports our staff and reduces overhead, saving money that can be spent on improving programs. TPF’s demonstration gardens are a source of beauty and delight to visitors, and our new gardens will mature into a humming oasis of color, texture and fragrance...but this will not happen on its own. Learn how you can help and be part of TPF’s legacy: visit theodorepayne.org/support/volunteer/.

Thus begins a new and exciting journey to see what the future holds for TPF...

First Saturday Alan Duke, Kathleen Grantham, Jeff Jamison, Sierra Lee, Cindy Park, Lucille Park, Chuck Petithomme, Jessica Sanchez, Jay Schoenau, Jack Schooley, Duncan Sinclair

Hollywood Farmers’ Market Carol Armour Aronson, Mardi Caruso, Richard Carlos, Carlos Flores, Frances McAdam, Iain McConnell, Steve Singer

Outreach Kyle Hiskey Adams, Alan Duke, Kathy Tardy

Office/Bookstore Katherine Hashimoto, Sarah Heysel, Deb Hill, Mercy Lambert, Barbara Quesada, Julie Takayama

Sales Yard Brandi Anderson, Ted Bruins, Alan Duke, Joe Grant, Jack Schooley

Seed Room Conley Day, Katherine Hashimoto, Petra Nichols, Louise Olson, Margaret Steele, Kathy Tardy

Theodore Payne Arts Council Allan Roman Reyes (Chair), Janet Blank, Andrew Chaves, Beverly Crist, Snowdy Dodson, Joan M. Harrison, Michael Lewis Miller Advisory Members Pamela Burgess, Weina Dinata, Kristina Newhouse John Wickham

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION
Wild Flower Online Hotline
MARCH THROUGH MAY
New reports posted each Friday at theodorepayne.org

WHAT’S BLOOMING WHERE?
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Theodore Payne Foundation

SPRING EVENTS

Annual Theodore Payne
Native Plant Garden Tour
Saturday & Sunday, April 2 & 3

Poppy Day Plant Sale
Friday & Saturday, April 15 & 16

Native Plant Week Symposium,
Wildflower Show &
Plant and Book Sale
Saturday, April 15

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Blue Elderberry illustration © Gene Bauer