



the Poppy Print

Quarterly Newsletter of the Theodore Payne Foundation

Fall Planting Time Is Here!

by Lili Singer, Director of Special Projects and Adult Education

If you garden, you love to plant—certainly from nursery containers and, we hope, from seed and bulbs. For native plant gardeners, fall is a most precious season when all of the above can be started. Come autumn, native plants are raring to go. It's their natural time to grow.

The Theodore Payne Foundation, now in its 52nd year, is a native gardener's paradise, a place for inspiration and learning, and the region's finest and most diverse source for California native plants, common and hard-to-find seed and exquisite flowering bulbs.

2012 FALL FESTIVAL AND PLANT SALE You're invited to Fall Festival, our biggest plant sale of the year! Sale hours are: Friday–Saturday, October 12–13 (member days, 15% off plants; 10% off seed; memberships sold at the door); and Friday–Saturday, October 19–20 (members 15% off plants, non-members 10%; 10% off seed to all!).

TPF staff and volunteers will be on hand for expert guidance with selection and planting. We want you to succeed and your garden to thrive!

PLANTS At Fall Festival and throughout the fall planting season, the Theodore Payne Nursery will entice gardeners with close to 600 different species and cultivars—a diverse and exciting assortment of native plants. On sale days, members receive a 15% discount on plants—a savings that now applies to all pot sizes, 4" and up!

Seize the season! In autumn, when days shorten and temperatures drop, young plants are ready to root and grow. Soil-borne diseases are less of a threat than in summer, plants experience less transplant shock, you'll need to water less often, and if we're gifted with rain, your job will be even simpler.

Two iconic groups of California flora—*Arctostaphylos* (manzanita) and *Ceanothus* (California lilac)—respond especially well to fall planting, and we'll have an extensive selection, including many in 5-gallon containers.

This year, Nursery Manager Madena Asbell and her staff have propagated dozens of unique and hard-to-find California plants to be offered at Fall Festival. Be on the look out for *Salvia pachyphylla* (rose sage), *Eriogonum arborescens* (Santa Cruz Island buckwheat), *Heliotropium curassavicum* (salt heliotrope) and more!

Some quantities will be limited. Shop early for best selection!

SEED Seeds are miraculous bundles of life. Most California native seeds mature in summer or fall and naturally sprout from

mid-fall to winter, encouraged by cool weather and seasonal rain. Success in a garden setting depends largely on careful watering, especially if rain is scarce. Growing native plants from seed isn't difficult—and nothing equals the experience. At Fall Festival, save 10% on seed!

In the TPF store, you'll find seed for scores of different native wildflowers, as well as trees, shrubs, perennials and more.

Seed Program Manager Genevieve Arnold suggests the Rainbow Mix, our most popular sampler of sun-loving annual wildflowers. "The assortment is really pretty with a long succession of bloom," Genevieve says, "and gardeners can discover which ones do best in their conditions and sow more of those in the future." She also likes our Roadside Mix of especially tough annuals. "It's a very good choice for disturbed or depleted soils."

Most annual wildflowers are easy from seed, with *Clarkia* spp. (farewell to spring), *Eschscholzia californica* (California poppy)

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Ceanothus and manzanita do best when planted in the fall. Pictured, blooms of *Ceanothus thursiflorus*.

Planting Season Begins

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and *Gilia capitata* (globe gilia) topping the trouble-free list for full to part sun areas. Genevieve notes that *Salvia columbariae* (chia) does particularly well in a large pot with fast-draining soil. Shade gardeners may want to try quick-sprouting *Nemophila menziesii* (baby blue eyes), *Nemophila maculata* (five-spot) and *Collinsia heterophylla* (Chinese houses).

Achillea millefolium (common yarrow) and *Penstemon spectabilis* (showy penstemon) are two of many perennials that start easily from seed. Though seeds of *Lupinus paynei* (Payne's tree lupine) need simple pre-treatment before sowing, this beautiful shrub is quite uncommon and a TPF exclusive! It's most practical to start native grasses from seed, especially when planting large areas, alone or as part of a meadow that incorporates wildflowers and bulbs.

A tip: Sow some of your seed in a pot, so you'll know what the seedlings look like—and not confuse them with unwanted weeds that sprout in the garden!

BULBS Throughout the month of October, our store shelves will hold colorfully packaged native bulbs—little brown wonders that will, come spring, yield some of the world's most beautiful blossoms! Expect bulbs selected for Southern California gardeners, including species and cultivars from the Theodore Payne collection.

Most native bulbs need fast-draining soil and many—especially *Calochortus*—require spots that stay dry all summer. If such conditions are not possible in your garden, try growing them in pots.

Calochortus venustus 'Burgundy' is a favorite of John Wickham, former board president and curator of the TPF bulb collection. "Those rich reds are very striking," John says, "and it seems to be reliable in a dry garden, blooming every year and producing

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Clarkia amoena (farewell to spring) is beautiful and easy to grow from seed; bulbs such as *Dichelostemma ida-maia* (firecracker flower, facing page) yield spectacular blossoms.

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.

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What to Plant This Fall

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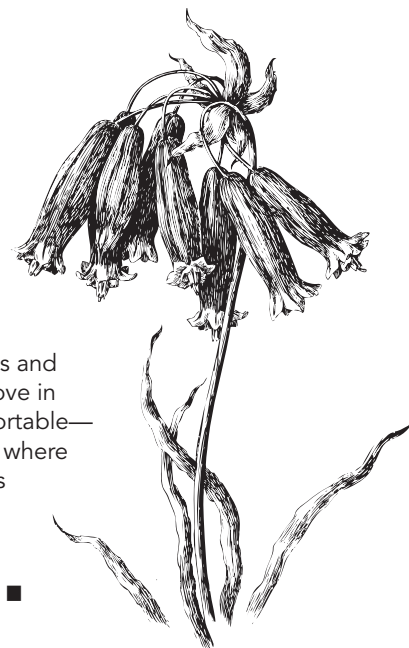
one or two stem bulbils to plant elsewhere in the garden.” To learn more, attend John’s class, Gardening with California Native Bulbs, September 29 (for details, see Events, pages 4–5).

Consider these bulbs for your landscape. For any soil type: *Allium unifolium* (one-leaf onion) and *Dichelostemma congestum* (ookow). For moist spots: *Erythronium* ‘White Beauty’ (White Beauty fawn lily). For hummingbirds: *Dichelostemma ida-maia* (firecracker flower). For garden color and cut bouquets: *Triteleia* and *Brodiaea* species and cultivars. For pretty blossoms and edible bulbs: *Fritillaria pudica* (yellow fritillary).

CONTAINER GARDENING Potted plants expand a gardener’s possibilities, and many natives thrive in containers. Please ask for our guide “Native Plants for Container Gardens” and visit the Potting Station in our sales yard for ceramic containers, TPF’s custom potting soil and decorative rocks to embellish your containerized creations!

RESULTS What happens when autumn arrives and you fill your garden with native plants, seed and bulbs? In short order, your landscape will virtually explode with color, texture and fragrance. Birds, butterflies, lizards, bees and other native creatures will move in and makes themselves comfortable—creating a vibrant ecosystem where plants, wildlife and gardeners co-exist and find sustenance year after year.

We’ll see you at Fall Festival! ■



FOUNDATION NEWS

Generous Grants Help TPF Grow

We’re pleased to announce that the Theodore Payne Foundation has been awarded two significant grants that will help us better fulfill our mission. TPF is experiencing a wonderful growth surge and contributions such as these are extremely important to our success.

A grant of \$50,000 was received from the Metabolic Studio on behalf of Director Lauren Bon. The donation was made in memory of the late Cecilia Garcia, Chumash medicine woman and teacher, and will be used to support the education, outreach and nursery programs of the Theodore Payne Foundation.

“This is an amazing time when both the Theodore Payne Foundation’s impact and the need for preserving native plants are greater than ever,” says TPF Board President Cassy Aoyagi. “Lauren’s contribution to honor Cecilia is profound and our gratitude is immeasurable.”

Garcia passed away in May 2012. For many years, she and her associate James Adams, PhD, taught classes in traditional Chumash healing with native plants at Theodore Payne headquarters in Sun Valley, CA. They also co-authored the book *Healing with Medicinal Plants of the West* (Abedus Press).

To celebrate Cecilia’s work, mentorship and spirit, we are planning a display garden of healing plants used by Chumash and other local indigenous peoples.

METABOLIC STUDIO

The Metabolic Studio is a direct charitable activity of the Annenberg Foundation. Derived from the Greek word for change, metabolism is the process that maintains life. In

continuous cycles of creation and destruction, metabolism transforms nutrients into energy and matter. Working to sustain these cycles, the Metabolic Studio aims to transform resources into energy, actions and objects that nurture life.

A grant of \$10,000 was also awarded to TPF by the Community Foundation of the Verdugos. These funds will supplement the Educational Facilities grant we received from the State of California and help meet the costs of building two outdoor classrooms that will greatly enhance TPF’s capacity for school field trips and classes and programs for adults and children.

The Community Foundation of the Verdugos, a publicly supported charitable endowment with approximately \$8 million in assets, makes grants from the earnings of its invested contributions to local non-profit organizations in the greater Verdugo area. In advance of this grant, members of their board toured TPF headquarters and were especially impressed by our vision and optimism, as well as our outreach and educational programs.



“Education is a huge component of our mission,” says TPF Executive Director Kampe. “Reaching all members of our community is crucial and this donation will go a long way toward reaching our fundraising goals for the Education Facilities project.”

Groundbreaking is scheduled for Summer 2013. Additional support is critically needed to complete this worthy project. Please visit our website, theodorepayne.org, to donate—or contact lynette@theodorepayne.org to learn more. ■

FALL EVENTS AND CLASSES



Autumn is an excellent season to become a better native plant gardener, improve your photographic skills, attend an art workshop, go birding with an expert and volunteer on a First Saturday!

To register for classes, call (818) 768-1802. 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 for K-12 and in-classroom visits** for 3rd and 4th grade students are also available. Contact: Director of Outreach Lisa Novick, lisa@theodorepayne.org.

**MORE ONLINE @
THEODOREPAYNE.ORG**

SEPTEMBER

NEW! **Artist's Book Workshop (for Adults) with Laura Stickney**

Saturday, September 29, 10:00 a.m.–noon

\$20 members, \$25 non-members (includes materials fee)

Make your own accordion-folded book with decorative covers! Create carved stamps to print the interior pages! An easy and fun project—no art experience necessary. Laura is a visual artist and poet—and TPF's 2012 Artist in Residence. Limit: 12.

Gardening with California Native Bulbs with John Wickham

Saturday, September 29, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$20 members, \$25 non-members

The California flora is rich with flowering bulbs—beautiful plants that enhance the native garden. Learn which are best for shade or sun, dry spots or moist places, in the ground and in containers. The best time to plant native bulbs? Early autumn—and we'll have a great selection for sale in the TPF bookstore and in our e-store! John is past president of the Theodore Payne Foundation and curator of TPF's bulb collection.

OCTOBER

First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland

Thursday, October 4, 8:00–10:00 a.m.

Free—Reservations requested

Ken's popular Thursday 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. This class repeats on the first Thursday of each month through June.

First Saturday: Volunteer Day at TPF

Saturday, October 6, 9:00 a.m.–noon

Back from summer hiatus! Join the Theodore Payne Foundation family of volunteers to improve and care for our gardens—and, this month, help us get ready for Fall Festival. 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.

Growing Spring Wildflowers from Seed with Genevieve Arnold

Saturday, October 6, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

\$20 members, \$25 non-members

Late fall is the prime time for sowing annual native wildflower seed—colorful spring-flowering beauties that perform well in a variety of garden spaces, from open areas to borders and containers. Join TPF's Seed Program Manager for an overview of beloved annuals and tips on soil prep and sowing techniques. Genevieve has worked with California native seeds for more than a decade and enjoys the beauty of the native garden in all its phases.

Twelve Months of Color with California Natives with Lili Singer

Friday, October 12, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

At The G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice 90291

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

Your native plant garden can be a seasonal showcase of flowers, seed, fruit and foliage. This illustrated program showcases trees, shrubs, vines, perennials and grasses that will ensure year-round color, as well as attracting beneficial wildlife! Lili is TPF's director of special projects and adult education, a Los Angeles native, and an award-winning horticulturist and garden writer.

NEW! **Basic Garden Photography Workshop with John MacDonald**

Three Saturdays: October 27, November 3 and 10, 8:30–11:30 a.m.

\$100 members, \$125 non-members

This in-depth workshop familiarizes students with the basic process of taking garden photographs using a digital camera. Session 1 covers camera basics, including lenses, shutter speed, and aperture. Session 2 considers composition and camera equipment and includes photo-taking in the garden.

native plant sale & fall festival

**Fridays & Saturdays, October 12 & 13 and 19 & 20
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. all four days**

Our **biggest sale of the year** offering the best and most interesting selection of California natives in the region—save on plants and seed! Enjoy expert advice, vendors and more!

During **member days on Oct 12 & 13**, members receive 15% off plants and 10% off seed (memberships available at the door). On Oct 19 & 20, members receive 15% off plants, non-members 10%. Everyone receives 10% off seed.

Session 3 looks at adjusting photos on a computer. John is an accomplished photographer whose amazing photos of seeds have been published in two books. For complete details, see our online event calendar at theodorepayne.org. Limit: 12.

California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer

Saturday, October 27, noon–4:00 p.m.

\$40 members, \$50 non-members

The basics on gardening with California flora: the definition of “native plant,” why natives are valuable, about plant communities, plus planting techniques, establishment, irrigation, pruning and aintenance. Recommended for beginners; required prerequisite to our three-part California Native Plant Garden Design course. For instructor bio, see October 12.

NOVEMBER

First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland

Thursday, November 1, 8:00–10:00 a.m.

For details, see October 4.

First Saturday: Volunteer Day at TPF

Saturday, November 3, 9:00 a.m.–noon

For details, see October 6.

NEW! Bookmaking and Stamping Workshop for Children (ages 7–11) with Laura Stickney

Saturday, November 3, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Free*—Pre-registration required

Create your own one-of-a-kind accordion book using beautiful papers and colorful inks. Learn book-making techniques for folding pages and covering book-boards. Decorate your book with stamped patterns and collages inspired by the TPF landscape. For instructor bio, see September 29. Limit: 15.

*Thanks to a generous gift from Susan and Dan Gottlieb and the G2 Gallery, Venice.



Container Gardening with Native Plants with Steve Gerischer

Saturday, November 3, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

Containers filled with native plants are beautiful, versatile and can enhance any garden – and also provide habitat for birds, butterflies and other welcome wildlife. Steve divides his time between his award-winning company, Larkspur Garden Design; serving as president of the Southern California Horticultural Society; and lecturing on a wide variety of topics relating to gardening in Southern California.

Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Lili Singer

Saturday, November 10, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

\$30 members, \$40 non-members

Are you ready to lose the lawn? We’ll explain how to take it out and offer alternatives for the space—low-care native plants that need no fertilizers, pesticides or mowing; use a fraction of the water required for turf; and guarantee color, texture and seasonal interest. For instructor bio, see October 12.

California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer

Saturday, November 17, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

At Scrub Jay Studios, Altadena

\$40 members, \$50 non-members

For details, see October 27.

Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Lili Singer

Friday, November 30, 6:30–8:30pm

At the G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice 90291

\$30 members, \$40 non-members

For details, see November 10.

DECEMBER

First Saturday: Volunteer Day at TPF

Saturday, December 1, 9:00 a.m.–noon

For details, see October 6.

Fire in Mediterranean Ecosystems: Ecology, Evolution and Management, A Talk and Book-Signing with Jon E. Keeley, PhD

Saturday, December 1, 1:30–3:00 p.m.

\$20 members, \$25 non-members

This important program for homeowners, landscape pros, researchers and fire managers explores the role of fire in each of the world’s five Mediterranean climates and offers a unique view of the evolution of fire-adapted traits and the role of fire in shaping Earth’s ecosystems. Jon is a research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA.

First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland

Thursday, December 6, 8:00–10:00 a.m.

For details, see October 4.

Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Antonio Sanchez

Saturday, December 8, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

\$35 members, \$35 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 co-founder of Proyecto Nativo, a movement to create green jobs and promote sustainable landscaping and farming in Coastal California. He also co-founded Nopalito Native Plant Nursery (now closed) in Ventura and is a former TPF staff member.

Propagating California Native Plants with Madena Asbell and Tim Becker

Saturday, December 8, 9:00 a.m.–noon

\$35 members, \$45 non-members

Learn basic skills of vegetative propagation with TPF nursery staff! Various species of native plants will be discussed and started from cuttings in this hands-on session, and you’ll leave with cuttings for your own garden! Limit: 8.

NEW! Winter Foods from the Native Garden with Antonio Sanchez

Saturday, December 8, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

\$20 members, \$25 non-members

Discover a seasonal menu of delicious food prepared with California natives. Winter dishes to be sampled include Miner’s Lettuce Soup and Mesquite and Native Walnut Bread. Class includes a lecture and short walk, as well as recipes, general tips on native plant gardening and Antonio’s Top Ten Native Plant Foods for Beginners. For instructor bio, see December 8.

California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer

Saturday, December 22, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

For details, see October 27.

What to Do in the Garden Now

Call it “autumn” or call it “fall”—this is the season to plant and plant and plant! Visit TPF for the region’s finest array of California native plants and seed, plus expert advice on selection and care. See our cover story for more information on fall planting.

PLANT Don’t miss Fall Festival, our biggest plant sale of the year, Friday–Saturday, October 12–13 (members only) and 19–20 (discounts to all!).

At seasonal sales and throughout the year, our nursery staff can help you make the best selections, based on your individual garden conditions. When you come, they’ll need to know: Where you live, what kind of soil you have, how many hours of sun a plant will receive and how much space is available. We suggest that you borrow from nature and group plants from the same plant communities—that is, plants with similar needs.

Small plants in 4" or 1-gallon pots are easy to transplant and establish more readily than plants from larger containers. Trust the dimensions on our plant tags and space transplants according to mature sizes—they will grow!

SOW Save 10% on seed at Fall Festival!

Start annual and perennial wildflowers from seed for a floral rainbow in spring! In addition to wildflower seeds, TPF offers an wide selection of seed for native shrubs, trees, groundcovers, vines and perennials.

Before sowing seed, clear weeds from the area to be planted. Rough up the soil surface, sprinkle lightly with water, and sow according to directions. Keep the bed moist (but not soggy) as seed germinates and seedlings become established. Most seed will germinate in 7 to 30 days, depending on the species.

WATER To help bring them out of dormancy, deep-soak summer-dry native bulbs (e.g. *Calochortus*, *Fritillaria*, *Dichelostemma*), summer-dry shrubs (e.g. *Fremontodendron*, *Trichostema*), and summer-deciduous plants (e.g. *Artemisia*, *Ribes*).

Always check soil moisture before watering—and water only when the top 3"–4" are dry. Soak deeply to encourage and support deep root systems; never water a little bit (this only encourages soil-borne diseases).

Even the most drought-tolerant natives are not drought-tolerant until they’re established, which will take a year or more. During that period, new transplants require frequent attention and regular deep irrigation. Be sure to check both the original root ball and the surrounding soil, and water thoroughly, as needed.

Native plants in containers will always need more frequent watering than the same plants in the ground. Check soil moisture frequently (daily is not too often, especially during warm or windy spells). Water thoroughly, as needed, until water drains from the holes; empty excess water from saucers, if used.

WEED Winter annual weeds, such as shepherd’s purse and annual rye, sprout in the fall. As they germinate, knock them down with a hoe or cultivator.

Deep-rooted perennial invaders, including dandelion and field bindweed, require careful pulling and deep digging for thorough removal.

PRUNE AND CUT BACK Prune young and newly planted trees and shrubs to remove broken and dead branches. At three years, prune for good shape and structure. (Do not prune live wood on manzanita or ceanothus now, as you will remove buds of winter and spring flowers.)

Deadhead and lightly shear *Eriogonum* (buckwheat), once birds are done with the seed. For compact growth, cut leggy *Artemisia californica* (California sagebrush), *Keckiella* (climbing penstemon), *Mimulus* (monkey flower) and *Monardella* (coyote mint) back by one-half. Prune shrubby *Salvia* (sage) by one-third to one-half; do not cut into old wood.

Remove old canes on *Rosa* (rose), *Rubus* (blackberry, thimbleberry, etc.) and *Berberis* (mahonia, barberry). Long sleeves and gloves are recommended!

Come November or December, cut *Romneya coulteri* (Matilija poppy) stems down to 2"–4" stubs.



Photos © Ken Gilliland

Deadhead native buckweats (left) once they have shed their seed, but wait to prune manzanitas (right) until after flowering.

PROPAGATE Dig and divide native iris (both species and Pacific Coast hybrids) in late November or early December. Or leave clumps in place and cut sections from the edges. Replant divisions as soon as possible and water them regularly until new growth appears. Share your extras with a fellow gardener!

Divide *Heuchera*, *Potentilla*, *Horkelia* and other clumping perennials. Learn vegetative propagation from TPF pros! Attend the class Propagating California Native Plants, Saturday, December 8. See Events, pages 4–5.

MULCH Refresh your mulches to a 3"–4" level. They beautify the garden and are essential to plant health. A thick layer of organic matter (leaves, bark and wood fibers; fresh chippings are okay), gravel or decorative rock helps retain soil moisture, moderate soil temperatures and suppress weeds. Keep all mulches away from stems, crowns and trunks of plants, and leave a few sunny spots un-mulched to provide habitat for ground-nesting native bees and wasps. ■

Laura Stickney: Aspects of TPF in Line and Color

October 12–December 29, 2012

by Pamela Burgess, Arts Council Member

Reception at Fall Festival

Saturday, October 13, 2:00–4:30 p.m.

Artist Talk at 3:00 p.m.

The Theodore Payne Foundation proudly presents an exhibition of work by Laura Stickney, our 2012 Artist-in-Residence.

This remarkable show includes a range of media: luminous watercolors, richly colored oil paintings and intimate seed-packet artist's books.

Created over the course of her residency, each piece was inspired by the TPF site: the nursery and gardens, dried seed pods, detritus found on the ground. "My show is about looking and painting and drawing," Laura says. Visitors to the gallery will find that her vision and point of view are unique.

STILL LIFE WATERCOLORS Laura's iridescent watercolors capture, she says, "the beauty of sunlight and the colors of TPF." Conceptually layered, they focus on the place where nature and culture collide, where the nursery plants and the evidence of their caretakers intersect: a plant cart, a plant pot, a secluded corner of the garden. "All of my work is about still life," Laura says. One could call these watercolors of nature and culture "environmental still lifes."

Like many artists today, Laura's watercolors are painted from photographs that she took on site. Her painting process is directly related to her printmaking experience. For example, she uses liquid latex "frisket" to mask off areas that she wishes to remain white. Removal of the dried latex becomes a magical surprise event, as some layers of color always seep under the edge to create unpredictable batik-like textures. Look for the fine, spider-like white lines in several of Laura's works.

Each watercolor is framed in custom-designed knotty pine by Vilma Mendillo. Their raw untreated wood recalls the colors of light and materials at TPF.

POD PAINTINGS Painted from life, Laura's series of small oil paintings of found native seed pods from TPF are densely packed with information, texture and color. In the artist's words, these thick opaque images "capture the essence of the unique fantastic pod forms." Though these pod images are larger than life, the paintings call to mind Persian miniatures.

The oils are painted on repurposed, rectangular Polaroid metal film canisters, which are mounted on thick wood to create shallow wall reliefs. Using the Polaroid box as a ground is similar to the tradition of painting on cigar boxes. But here the use of discarded film containers is linked and refers back to Laura's concept of light. In some way, the paintings refill those empty Polaroid

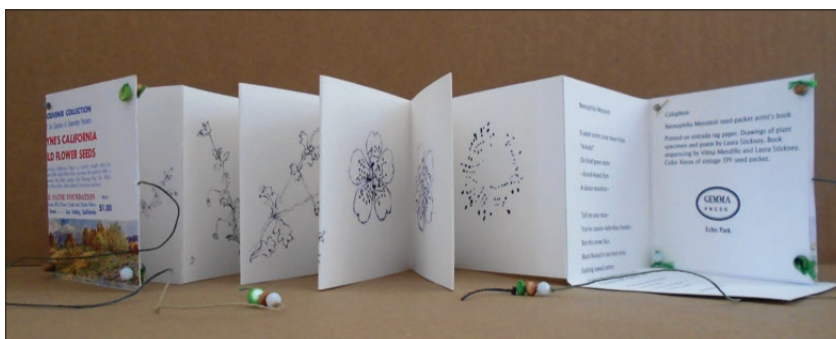
vessels with new memories.

SEED PACKET ARTIST'S BOOKS Laura's accordion-folded artist's books are based on Theodore Payne seed packets and delicate drawings of selected native plants. At the start of the "story," each book includes a tiny clear bag of seeds. Printed on a panel near the end is a poem written by Laura and inspired by that plant.

The *Nemophila menziesii* (baby blue eyes) seed packet book pays homage to a plant that Laura purchased at TPF and planted in her studio garden. The book includes seeds collected from that plant.

The books are embellished with colored fibers and beads. Seeds and beads: an oblique reference to historical native tribes? For display, the books are expanded on long shelves of knotty pine that match the frames of the watercolors, adding to the continuity of the exhibition.

Meet Laura at the opening reception, Saturday, October 13, 2:00–4:00 p.m., with free artist talk at 3:00 p.m. Sign up for her art workshops at TPF: September 29 (for adults) and November 3 (for children). For details, see Events, pages 4–5. ■



Artworks by Laura Stickney. Clockwise from top: *Seed Packet Artist's Book*, 2012, mixed media, 3 3/4" x 4" x 3/4" (closed), 3 3/4" x 43" (expanded); *Plant Cart*, 2012, watercolor on archival paper, 8" x 8"; *Matilija Pod*, 2012, oil paint on Polaroid metal film canister, 5 1/4" x 3 1/2" x 1/2"

Longtime Supporters Gather at TPF

On a warm Saturday afternoon in July, a small group of longtime supporters met in the Picnic Area beneath the western sycamore trees to feast on delicious Mexican fare and relate memories about the Foundation to the TPF staff and board. We now share some of their stories with you.

I came to L.A. in 1960 and married in '62. I took a gardening class in the evening at University High and the instructor spoke of the Payne Foundation. In 1968 or so, **I volunteered for a few months and was given the cold, wet task of potting seedlings. Perhaps some of those plants or descendants flourish today.** We bought a house with a yard in La Crescenta in 1970. My husband said he'd like to plant digger pines [*Pinus sabiniana*, aka gray or foothill pine] and I knew just where to buy them. —Judith Hoepfner

I first started coming to TPF in the '70s. On one trip, I purchased a few plants and installed them in my mother's yard. Eventually they disappeared because of her penchant for pulling out anything deciduous. To my surprise, I recently discovered one remained! It's a beautiful survivor just like all native plants. It is called a squaw bush [*Rhus trilobata*, a.k.a. basket bush and skunk bush.] —Elin M. Furry

My first visits here were in the late 1980s and early '90s, when Melanie Baer and Jan Busco were running the place. At some time in that period, **I remember a celebration when the property's mortgage was paid off.**

Other memories: Exchanging plants, both when I was still at Yerba Buena Nursery and then from 1990 onward at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Working with John Provine, Elizabeth Schwartz, Madeleine Landry, Ellen Mackey, Steve Hartman, John Wickham and others over the years. **Through it all, there have always been the staff and the plants that are the real heart of the place.** —Bart O'Brien

I first came to TPF in 1993 or 1994. **Dennis Bryson was working here then and he was always full of wonderful information.** I'll never forget his comment on the cold hardiness of *Ribes thacherianum* (Santa Cruz Island gooseberry):

"That plant has not experienced a frosty day in its whole evolutionary history." —Roger Klemm

I first came in the 1990s as a volunteer, then was on staff doing the Wild Flower Hotline and working in the nursery. **It's inspiring to see how TPF has grown and thrived.** So many young new faces and so many volunteers! The diversity in age and background gives you so much hope. —Annelisa Stephan

During the time I worked as program director for the Foundation, my legally blind mother laid the tile in the kitchen. **This is a place for people of all ages.** —Lori Paul

When my husband Steve was alive, we used to hike a lot in the San Gabriels, and so I got interested in the plants and trees along the trail. Someone told me about TPF and so I began to hang out here, off and on. **Sometimes I would come here during my lunch hours for a serene interlude** back in the early 1990s, when I worked in Northridge. — Kathleen Linowski

When we bought the land next door, we wanted natural open space but didn't know then that natives would be best. We heard about TPF from our realtor! We loved birds. Quail would come in occasionally and we wanted to know what to plant for the quail. Our garden is now 10 years old and covers 10,000 sq. ft. We went from almost no garden to big trees! We grow natives for the birds, to give them safe haven and nesting sites. **We're giving back. Humans take so much. We want to share the planet rather than own it.** —Ken and Rhonda Gilliland

More events such as this one are being planned. If you are a longtime supporter of TPF, we'd love to hear from you, too. Please contact Lili Singer, lili@theodorepayne.org. ■

“This is a place for people of all ages.”



Theodore Payne in the '50s: Rod Jones Remembers

Earlier this year, Lisa Novick, Director of Outreach and K–12 Education, interviewed longtime member and supporter George “Rod” Jones about his relationship with Theodore Payne. Here we share some of his rich memories with you.

I became interested in native plants after the war when I was in college. I went to Cal State Los Angeles and was an education major with a composite minor in natural history and recreation, and was planning to be a school teacher. The course that got me interested in native plants was taught by Roland Moss, and he was the one responsible for me meeting Theodore Payne.

Mr. Moss said that Mr. Payne was looking for some help during the summer. Being a veteran and newly married, I needed the money. It turned out to be a good job and a good place to be. I really enjoyed working there. Mr. Payne’s nursery was located on Los Feliz Boulevard and right next door was the big Gladding, McBean pottery factory. The plants were in gallon tin cans, like cans for bulk foods from the market, and had holes punched in them that looked like they were done with a beer can opener. When we sold plants to people, we had to cut the plants out of the can. We would take lopping shears and cut down the sides of the can. Then the people would take the plants away. I’m sure it made a big mess in their cars, but we didn’t worry about that too much!

In the 1950s, we were selling mostly native plants. Mr. Payne wasn’t a stickler for employees to know all the scientific names of the plants. It was good enough for him if you knew the difference between lemonadeberry and serviceberry.

Mr. Payne used to kind of laugh when we would do hillside landscaping because the bulldozers would take out all the native plants and people would pay us to put them back in. If

they had done the grading correctly, people wouldn’t have had to pay us to do so much native landscaping.

One of the things that came up was an estate adjacent to the north boundary of Griffith Park—the Hollingsworth Estate. The property was offered to the City of Los Angeles so that they could make it part of Griffith Park. Mr. Payne was really excited about that because he knew all about the terrain and decided it would be a perfect place to put in a botanic garden similar to the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. The terrain had all different kinds of exposures to grow native plants and show people what they could do in different situations. Well, the City Council of Los Angeles, in their infinite wisdom, decided they didn’t want the property. It was offered to them for a dollar, just to change the title. The Council voted not to accept the property, and it was immediately sold to Forest Lawn, which had already buried three people on the property. And when citizens asked the City Council why they hadn’t accepted the property, the City Council, of course, by then couldn’t do anything because people had been buried there—it was hallowed ground and couldn’t be disturbed. Mr. Payne was terrifically upset about the loss of that property. He talked a lot about that and was very disgusted with the whole thing.

I never heard Theodore Payne swear, ever. And there were a lot of things he could swear about in the nursery business: a hundred plants would just die overnight or a whole list of things just wouldn’t seem to work out too well. The only time I ever saw him really angry was over the Hollingsworth Estate affair, but he realized that politicians are politicians and that he couldn’t do anything about it. He was a kind man and treated everybody well and was very respectful.

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Theodore Payne beneath the western sycamores at his nursery on Los Feliz Boulevard in Atwater Village, 1952

Remembering Theodore Payne

continued from p. 9

He was very soft spoken and patient. He wasn't a big man. He was an average-sized man. He was wiry. He could really work, and he worked hard. He always seemed to be in good health. Or if he didn't feel well, he certainly didn't let you know. I think that's probably his British ancestry. Stiff upper lip and all that.

Theodore Payne thought the work he was doing was very important. Probably today you would call him a crusader. He really believed in using native plants in California because it's a unique place. He really believed it was his mission. His whole life was his mission, to propagate native plants and get people interested enough so that they would propagate native plants themselves. He made a real believer out of you.

He wasn't aggressive, but he got a lot of things done. He wasn't pushy. He was very patient. He always managed to make you believe in what he wanted you to do. He always managed to make you see the worth of it.

We never talked about the big changes he'd witnessed. On the hillsides, we'd talk about putting the land back together like it was. He talked about local sites and how to make them better.

My fondest memory of him was when my wife and I were going to take a vacation. I was leaving the job a couple of weeks early, before going back to college. My last day there, Mr. Payne handed me a twenty-dollar bill and said, "Have a good time." In that period, twenty dollars was really a lot of money. That's one of my fondest memories of what a kind guy he was and how he really related to people.



Leslie and Rod Jones under the sycamores at TPF in Sun Valley, July 2012

Rod Jones had a long career as an elementary school teacher and principal in the Burbank and Los Angeles school districts. He and his wife, Leslie, are now retired and tending a native plant garden at their home in Juniper Hills, CA.

If you or someone you know worked with or knew Theodore Payne, we'd like to record your experiences and memories. Please contact the Foundation to arrange for an interview. ■



by Genevieve Arnold, Seed Program Manager

Many thanks to the following donors who generously shared their seed harvests with TPF!

Greg and Anita Arnold: *Erysimum capitatum* | **Jean and Tony Arnold:** *Erysimum capitatum*, *Penstemon* sp. | **Justine Black:** *Lavatera assurgentiflora*, *Munzothamnus blairii* | **Ken and Rhonda Gilliland:** *Abutilon palmeri*, *Berberis fremontii*, *Carpenteria californica*, *Keckiella antirrhinoides*, *Keckiella cordifolia*, *Koeleria macrantha*, *Malacothamnus palmeri* var. *involuta*, *Malacothrix glabrata*, *Monardella antonina* ssp. *antonina*, *Monardella linoides* ssp. *viminea*, *Philadelphus lewisii*, *Ribes indecorum*, *Salvia pachyphylla*, *Scrophularia californica*, *Thermopsis macrophylla*, *Zigadenus fremontii* | **Joe Grant:** *Eriogonum crocatum* | **Steve Hartman:** *Abutilon palmeri*, *Clarkia purpurea*, *Clarkia unguiculata*, *Dudleya brittonii*, *Encelia farinosa*, *Gilia capitata*, *Lupinus succulentus* | **Robert Hughes:** *Datura wrightii* | **Roger Klemm:** *Arctostaphylos*

glauca, *Iris douglasiana* (medium lavender form) | **Ariana Nolan:** *Artemesia tridentata* | **Louise Olson:** *Coreopsis gigantea*, *Dendromecon harfordii*, *Erysimum menziesii* ssp. *concinnum*, *Linum lewisii*, *Lotus scoparius*, *Salvia clevelandii*, *Triteleia hyacinthina* | **Rick Rogers:** *Dendromecon rigida*, *Trichostema lanatum* | **Kathy Sturdevant:** *Abutilon palmeri*, *Allium unifolium*, *Clarkia amoena*, *Gilia capitata*, *Gilia tricolor*, *Linum lewisii* | **John Wickham:** *Calochortus venustus* (red form), *Caulanthus inflatus*, *Clarkia davyi*, *Clarkia williamsonii*, *Hemizonia corymbosa*, *Lupinus paynei*, *Mimulus guttatus* | **Felicia Williams:** *Clarkia unguiculata*

The Seed Program appreciates jar donations from Sima Bernstein, Robert Hughes, Susan Steadman and Kathy Sturdevant.

Thanks to Jensen's Market in Wrightwood for donating quality handled grocery bags for seed collection and to John Wickham for providing rolls of plastic sheeting for solarization projects on the TPF grounds. ■

Summer Dormancy? Not at TPF!

by Margaret Oakley, Volunteer Coordinator

Despite the intense heat of summer, our indomitable volunteers have been steadfastly working on behalf of California's natural heritage. Whether helping out at the Foundation headquarters, offering weed removal guidance to the community volunteers of Bimini Slough, or selling plants and giving advice to the shoppers at the Hollywood Farmer's Market, our TPF volunteers never seem to go summer-dormant—even though many of our native plants do!

BIMINI SLOUGH ECOLOGY PARK Amy Sims, Theresa Truenfels

FACEBOOK Peggy Dunn, Keith Malone

HOLLYWOOD FARMERS' MARKET Richard Carlos, Mardi Caruso, Jenny Garcia, Kieanna Joliae, Iain McConnell, Joya Salas, Chanta Wilson

LONGTIME SUPPORTERS DINNER Sima Bernstein, Peggy Dunn, Joe Grant, Iain McConnell

NURSERY/SALES YARD Peggy Dunn, Joe Grant, Ken Matley

OFFICE Laurice Becker, Sima Bernstein, Peggy Dunn, Kathleen Linowski, Michael Summe

PROPAGATION Mary Brooks, Roxanne Correa, Nancy Edwards, Andrew Peck

SEED REGENERATION BED SOLARIZATION PROJECT Joe Grant, Ken Matley, John Wickham

SEED ROOM Sima Bernstein, Peggy Dunn, Joe Grant, Marcus Klemm, Roger Klemm, Ken Matley, Gloria Plaza

TECHNICAL SUPPORT Steve Hunt

THEODORE PAYNE ART GALLERY Pamela Burgess, Joan Harrison, Michael Lewis Miller

WATERING Michael Summe

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Janica Jones

by Margaret Oakley, Volunteer Coordinator

As a child, Janica Jones moved all over the world with her Navy family, finally settling around the age of 12 in Anaheim. Her librarian mother became curator of the local history program, and Janica hiked Modjeska Canyon and heard about Madame Modjeska's famous British gardener, Theodore Payne, who had moved to Los Angeles and written a book about his life.

All of this seems uncanny, considering that Janica is now a Theodore Payne board member—and one of our most valued volunteers. A regular attendee at First Saturdays, she also assists customers during Fall Festival and Poppy Day plant sales, and is an enthusiastic Garden Tour docent. Janica was part of the team that repainted the Education Center and helped install the native sod in front of the building.

Her path to the Foundation was a circuitous one, starting with a career in urban planning. She went on to study horticulture and arboriculture. Today she is lead gardener at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

Janica's position as horticulturist with the zoo began in 1999. She purchased her home, adjacent to the Angeles National Forest, in 2001 after being hired full time as zoo gardener. As someone who appreciates a well-placed exotic, Janica quickly recognized that her quarter acre on a hot, west-facing slope was truly meant for California chaparral. In

the mid-1990s, Janica became an active TPF volunteer to learn more about natives and to enjoy the fellowship of like-minded people.

Today, Janica's property includes a "lawn" of *Achillea millefolium* (common yarrow) and a stunning manzanita collection. She has also planted *Pinus sabiniana* (foothill pine); *Quercus lobata* (valley oak); *Sambucus mexicana* (Mexican elderberry); several *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (toyon); *Eriogonum giganteum* (St. Catherine's lace) and other buckwheats; and various *Artemisia* (sagebrush) and *Salvia* (sage). A woodland area includes *Cupressus macnabiana* (McNab's cypress) and several species of *Ceanothus* (California lilac).



Photo by Philip Otto

Janica possesses a wealth of information and is a great person with whom to have philosophical discussions about the big environmental challenges of our time. In addition to her work at TPF, she is a member of the Southern California Horticultural Society and frequently attends Habitat Works expeditions to remove invasive plants from the wilderness. We are grateful for Janica's tremendous energy, enthusiasm and talents—and all that she does on behalf of the Foundation and our natural heritage! ■

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Fall is **planting time**...p. 1
Seed pods become **art**...p. 7
Theodore Payne in the '50s...p. 9

plants OF THE MONTH

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

Photo © Cactus Jungle



OCTOBER *Arcto. rudis* 'Vandenberg'—Vandenberg Sand Mesa Manzanita (Ericaceae)

A medium-sized shrub that is slow-growing to 7' high by 10' wide with shaggy bark and leathery evergreen leaves. White-to-pale-pink, urn-shaped winter flowers attract hummingbirds, songbirds and butterflies and are followed by small red manzanitas (Spanish for "little apples"). Part sun inland, full sun along the coast; prefers fast-draining soil; occasional to moderate water; hardy to 15°F. Use as a screen or informal hedge; a great choice for slopes.



NOVEMBER *Iva hayesiana*—San Diego Marsh Elder (Asteraceae)

This low dense shrub (to 2' high and spreading) is fast-growing with fragrant evergreen foliage. Inconspicuous yellow summer flowers attract songbirds. Though endangered in its natural range (SW San Diego County, Baja CA), this species is easy to grow and provides excellent erosion control. Full to part sun; adapts to all soils; drought-tolerant but accepts regular water; hardy to 15°F.

Photo © Ken Gilliland



DECEMBER *Quercus chrysolepis*—Canyon Live Oak or Maul Oak (Fagaceae)

This small to medium-sized evergreen oak was introduced into cultivation in California by Theodore Payne. Growth rate is moderate to 15–70' high (smaller in gardens) and 15' wide. Full sun to shade; infrequent to occasional irrigation; prefers good drainage but tolerates clay soil; cold hardy to 9000'; provides habitat for birds and butterflies.

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.

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