



# the Poppy Print

*News for Members of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Inc.*

## Garden Tour Showcases the Beauty and Versatility of California Native Plants

by Carmen Wolf, Garden Tour Coordinator

We're thrilled to bring you the fourth annual Native Plant Garden Tour on April 28 and 29, featuring 30 gardens across Los Angeles, including 13 that are new to the tour and 17 that are returning.

### **Wetlands, Hillsides, Cottage Gardens, and More**

Some of the highlights this year include large non-private gardens that have never been on the Tour before. Two areas of the Ballona wetlands in Playa del Rey, a private area of El Dorado Nature Center in Long Beach, and Tillman Berm in Van Nuys provide shining examples of the value of habitat restoration and creation. And, even if you don't have acres of your own to landscape, there are many inspirational elements in all four spaces that can be applied to even a small home garden. Don't miss these special gardens, which are not normally easy to visit. Plus, you'll enjoy invaluable guidance from knowledgeable docents.

Other new additions include:

- a sloping hillside garden in Topanga with rambling trails and mature specimens of manzanita, toyon, pine, and California lilac;
- a welcoming, cottage-style garden beneath a large western sycamore in Westchester;
- an innovative, eclectic garden in Santa Monica with multiple artistic elements, including handmade grapevine iron fencing, fountains, a recycled concrete bench, antique manhole covers, and a flowing "stream" next to a teepee for camping;
- the garden of an environmentally sound Brentwood home that hugs a ridge overlooking the city;
- a hidden haven of native habitat in Altadena;
- ... and many more!

Our returning gardens are crowd pleasers, enriched by another year of growth and time for their owners to refine what works and improve what doesn't.

*continued on page 2*



Sages and monkeyflowers bloom in profusion in this 4,500-square-foot native plant paradise, one of 30 gardens in this year's Native Plant Garden Tour

## Native Plant Garden Tour

*continued from page 1*

Each of gardens on the Tour offers something to appeal to people of all tastes. Whether you've attended every year or are joining the Tour for the first time, you're sure to find something fresh and educational within the paths of these beautiful botanical creations.

Homeowners and docents will be on hand at Tour gardens to answer questions and chat about plants.

### Plan Your Tour with Our 16-Page Guide

Because we know it isn't humanly possible to see every garden, we've included icons within the garden descriptions in the 16-page Tour brochure—a guide and admission ticket in one that we'll mail to you when you sign up—that points out key features of each garden, including bird- and butterfly-friendly features, slopes, National Wildlife Federation Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat, and more.

Also in the brochure are directions to each garden, Thomas Guide coordinates, and information on which locations are accessible to wheelchairs, which have bathrooms, and which allow photography. Plan your route ahead of time to get from garden to garden smoothly.

### Just \$20 for Two Days of Exploration

Admission is \$20 per person, a steal in comparison to other garden tours in Los Angeles! Tickets can be purchased on our Web site, [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org). For more information and to see pictures of the gardens, please see the Garden Tour section of our site. You can also give us a call at (818) 768-1802 during our open hours: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

We are offering a special price of \$10 for physically disabled attendees in wheelchairs. Please call us before the Tour to make arrangements ahead of time.

Thanks to our sponsors, the Metropolitan Water District and the Crescenta Valley Water District, for making the Tour possible.



### Butterfly Gardening Presentation for Ticket Holders

On the evening of Saturday, April 28, Tour ticket holders will be treated to a free lecture about host plants for butterflies by butterfly-friendly gardeners and Wildscaping.com proprietors Chris and Trish Meyer. The presentation takes place at 6:30 p.m. at Barnsdall Gallery Theatre at 4800 Hollywood Boulevard in Hollywood. Parking is free, too.

See you on the Tour!



This beautiful habitat restoration garden overlooking the Ballona Wetlands is one of the 13 gardens new to this year's Tour

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. In keeping with this purpose, the Foundation operates a nonprofit nursery where native plants are grown and sold. Wildflower and native plant seeds as well as well as a full range of 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.,  
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# a tribute to the *California Poppy*

by John Wickham

By the time Adelbert von Chamisso stepped ashore in San Francisco Bay in 1816, Spanish explorers and settlers were already familiar with the *copa de oro*, the stunning orange wildflower that from a distance resembled lava flows spilling across the spring hillsides.

Chamisso was one of several naturalists assigned to Otto von Kotzebue's exploratory voyage of the Pacific, including Hawaii and California. It was he who first described that wildflower in the European scientific manner, naming the stunning California poppy in honor of his friend Johann Friedrich von Eschscholtz, who was also on the Kotzebue voyage.

*Eschscholzia californica* was named state flower in 1903, beating out the Mariposa lily and California's other great poppy, the Matilija, in a public competition. The legislature also designated April 6 as "Poppy Day," a day on which to celebrate our state flower.

## Celebrate Poppy Day with Us on April 7!

For years, the Theodore Payne Foundation has celebrated Poppy Day with a plant sale, wildflower tours, and classes and demonstrations. Come join us! Members receive a 15% discount

and nonmembers receive a 10% discount on plants. Plus, enjoy exhibits from vendors and special workshops.

## In the Art Gallery: Poppy Portraits

To celebrate Poppy Day, the Theodore Payne Art Gallery will exhibit works by contemporary artists, as well as works by the great Henry Evans and Jane Pinheiro. Henry Evans produced more than 40 linoleum-cut prints of the poppy, exhibiting a particularly fine approach to the flower's foliage. The delicate, blue-green leaves and stems are equals with the showier golden orange petals in Evans' prints.

Of particular note in our spring exhibit, Richard Dickey will show one of his extraordinary panorama landscapes. Richard's large-format photos show why the Spanish thought they were witnessing lava flows.

The art gallery is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Our show of California poppies in paintings, prints, and photographs will be on view through June 30, 2007.

Celebrate Poppy Day with us! Our new exhibit of poppy portraits features Henry Evans' bold prints that capture the feathery foliage and bold petals of our state flower.



# Calendar of Events and Classes

## Spring 2007

Please call (818) 768-1802 to reserve your space for classes. Check in at the bookstore on the day of the class or volunteer activity. More classes to come! Our Web site, [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org), is updated regularly. Feel free to e-mail class ideas to Carmen Wolf, program director, at [programs@theodorepayne.org](mailto:programs@theodorepayne.org).

Please note our **class cancellation policy**: for one-part classes, no refunds will be issued for cancellations made within seven days of the class date; for three-part design series, no refunds will be issued for cancellations made within seven days of the first class. There will be an additional fee (\$105 for members, \$150 for nonmembers, \$165 for member couples, and \$225 for nonmember couples) for postponements made within seven days of the first class.



Twenty-four hours a day, March through May, the Theodore Payne Wildflower Hotline, at (818) 768-3533 and online at [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org), has the latest information on the best places to view wildflowers throughout California. The hotline message is narrated by Emmy Award-winning actor Joe Spano (*Hill Street Blues*, *Apollo 13*, and *NYPD Blue*) and is updated every Thursday evening with new information from more than 90 wildflower sites throughout Southern

California. Our Web site features more detailed reports covering the entire state, as well as links to dozens of flower-watching destinations. It also lists both the common and botanical name of each flower mentioned and where and when it is blooming.

## MARCH

### California Native Plant Horticulture with Landscape Designer and Theodore Payne Board Member Stephanie Wilson Blanc

Saturday, March 24, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

\$35 members, \$45 nonmembers

This class will cover a wide range of topics, including the true definition of a native plant, why natives are valuable, plant communities, plant requirements, establishment, planting details, pruning, irrigation, maintenance, and where to see and buy native plants. We recommend this class for anyone just getting started with natives and as a precursor to our California Native Plant Garden Design Course.

## APRIL

### Poppy Day—Annual Spring Sale

Saturday, April 7, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Help us celebrate spring! Members receive a 15% discount on 1-gallon size and larger plants and nonmembers receive a 10% discount. We will hold workshops and host special vendors, too. Check our Web site, [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org), for details.

### 4th Annual Native Plant Garden Tour

Saturday, April 28, and Sunday, April 29, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Don't miss the annual Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour, a self-guided journey through 30 of the most beautiful gardens in Los Angeles. Admission is \$20 per person (\$10 for persons with physical disabilities in wheelchairs) and includes a lecture on the evening of Saturday, April 28, about butterfly gardening by Chris and Trish Meyer of [Wildscaping.com](http://Wildscaping.com) at Barnsdall Gallery Theatre in Hollywood. The article on the front cover of this newsletter has more details. See you on the Tour!

## MAY

### First Saturday Volunteer Project

Saturday, May 5, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Come help us beautify an area of our 22-acre property. We will clean, clear, plant, prune, mulch and do anything else that needs to be done. Tools are provided. Please bring gloves, knee pads, sunscreen, a hat and any clean tools for your personal use. Coffee, juice, and baked goods for all hard-working souls! Don't forget to sign in and out!

### California Native Plant Garden Design Course—A Three-Part Series of Classes with Landscape Architects Anna Armstrong and Richard Walker (limited to 12 students)

*Part 1: Intro to Design/Designing with Native Plants:*

Saturday, May 5, 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

*Part 2: Review of Diagrams and Maps, More about the Design Process:*

Saturday, May 19, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

*Part 3: Design Presentations and Instructor Feedback:*

Saturday, June 2, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

\$135 members, \$180 nonmembers. *Special price for couples working on one design: \$195 members, \$255 nonmembers*

Obtain a sound foundation in design as you learn the steps in the design process and the importance of sustainability. Explore design styles and discover how to model a garden after patterns in nature, devise a base/plot plan, choose hardscape materials, set up irrigation, manage various soils, and more. All students must have a workable understanding of natives. Beginners, take our Native Plant Horticulture class on March 24 first. Please register and pay in advance.

## JUNE

### First Saturday Volunteer Project

Saturday, June 2, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

See May 5 listing for details.

### California Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Laura Bauer

Saturday, June 9, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

\$35 members, \$45 nonmembers

This class will cover the science and art of garden maintenance—how to keep your garden healthy and looking good. We'll discuss how, when, and why we prune most native plants. We'll also discuss how to diagnose cultural issues (too much water, or not enough?) as well as how to identify some common pests and diseases.

### Cooking with Native Acorns with Orchid Black

Saturday June 16, 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

\$35 members \$45 for nonmembers

A cooking class at Theodore Payne?! Yes, with an emphasis on the historical and cultural uses of acorns and their importance to native peoples. Lecture is followed by preparation of acorn goodies to be enjoyed at the end of class.

# Nursery News

## Improvements in the Growing Areas Mean Healthier Plants for Your Garden

by Holliday Wagner

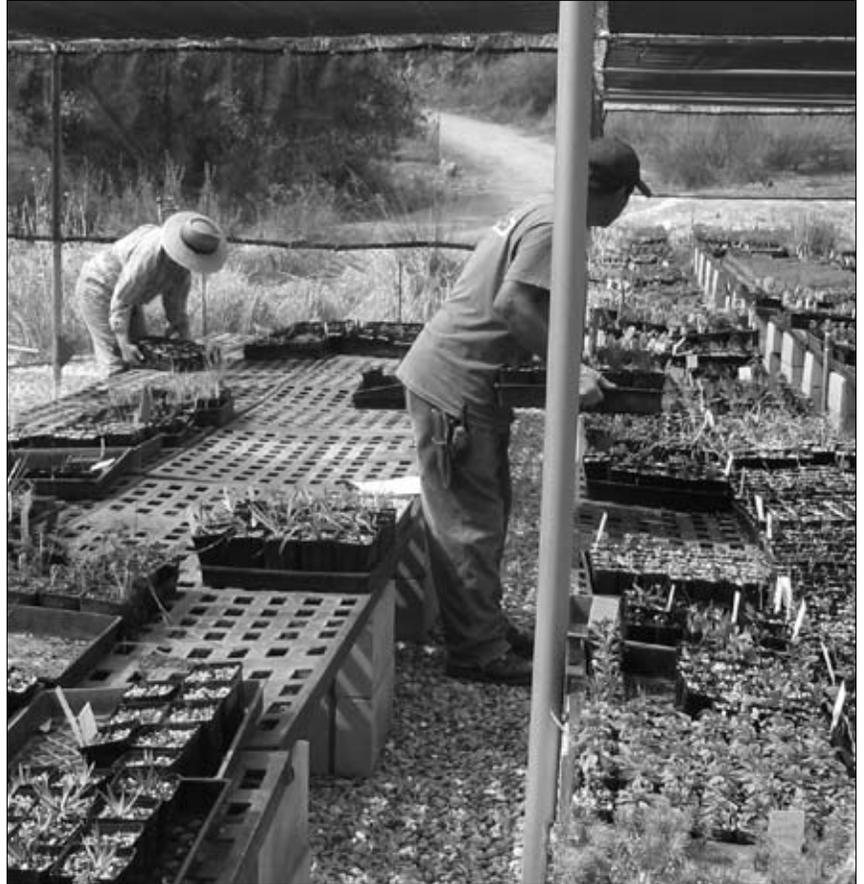
Although no one could call the Foundation plant nursery state of the art—yet!—we are leaping ahead toward a healthier, more efficient environment for both plants and staff with wonderful improvements to the growing areas.

### **Automatic Mist System Just in Time for Hotter Weather**

The Seed House, built in 1992, acquired over the years a cement floor and galvanized expanded metal greenhouse benches. Recently, when we came to need more space for germinating seed, we installed rolling benches, increasing the area available for seed flats by half.

For fifteen years, seeds and seedlings have been watered and misted—carefully—by hand. During the summer, it was difficult to mist the seedlings enough to keep them from baking in the heat.

But now, by the end of March, a new automatic mist system will be installed. Bulb seedlings will have the dry summer and wet winter they need to thrive, while the chaparral seedlings will get a wet winter and an occasional taste of cooling fog. And the nursery team will no longer have to frequently run down to the Seed House to mist on hot days.



Members of our hardworking nursery team tend flats of cuttings in the Liner House. Automatic mist systems are being installed here and in the Seed House just in time for hotter weather.

### **New Irrigation System Helps Cutting-Propagated Plants Thrive**

The Liner House, home to flats of cuttings and 2- and 4-inch pots, began life as a wood beam and shade cloth structure. The structure became a bit perilous for the nursery team as the beams were gradually decimated by termites, and in 2002 it was replaced by a much sturdier construction of steel tubing and shade cloth.

The cuttings have been under an automatic mist system for many years, but the 2- and 4-inch pots have always been hand-watered. By April we'll have automatic watering in place for the entire Liner House, including a rebuilt mist system for the cuttings. Used with care, the automatic watering system will see these plants through the hottest and coldest months.

### **New Benches Bring Plants Within Closer Reach**

The plant benches in the Liner House were installed in the days of the wood beam structure. They deteriorated slowly and are only now cracking under the weight of many, many years of heavy flats of young plants. We are replacing them with galvanized expanded metal greenhouse benches similar to those in the Seed House. Those of you who have weeded in this growing house as a volunteer will be happy to know that the new benches will be waist-high, rather than knee-high as before. Your back has been saved!

The new automatic irrigation in the Seed and Liner Houses will save 10 hours of staff time per week during the summer months. We are looking forward to using that time to grow even more plants for your gardens.

*A note of thanks to Tony La Fetra and Smith Pipe and Supply for the resources to build the current additions and renovations. Earlier construction and renovation was supported by the California Garden Clubs and member contributions.*

# Build New Skills as a Theodore Payne Volunteer!

Learn about natives and meet fellow plant lovers in these important roles

Do you have a few hours each week to volunteer with us at Theodore Payne? Maybe a few hours each month? We could use your help! Here are a few projects and programs that we're hard at work on right now. To learn more and get involved, please contact us at (818) 768-1802.

<b>Plant Propagation</b>	<b>Mother Stock Care and Maintenance</b>	<b>Bulb Program Assistance</b>	<b>Garden Records Management</b>
<p>Help our nursery grow! If you have experience with plant propagation, we need you to help with seeds, cuttings, and divisions. Volunteer propagators meet every Saturday at 9:00 a.m. for about three hours. Additional spots may be available during the week. You'll meet fellow volunteers with green thumbs and work alongside our nursery team.</p>	<p>Tenders are needed to help care for our mother stock plants—the precious specimens we use to create plants for the future. Do you have experience with plant care, potting, pruning, feeding, and organization? Are you detail-oriented? Come spend three to four hours a week working with our nursery team and board members on this critical project.</p>	<p>Be the Guardian of the Bulbs! Devote four hours a week to helping sift, pot, feed, and otherwise maintain our growing California native bulb collection and mother stock. We need a bulb lover year-round, but especially from July through October. Come join us and work side by side with our nursery team and board members.</p>	<p>Are you detail-oriented and plant-savvy? Help us get organized! For three to four hours a week, you'll help gather information about the plants in our gardens, label plants, and maintain records about the gardens. You'll work closely with our sales staff and board members.</p>

## Two New Funds Help Your Contributions Go Farther

You now have two more options for your generous support of our operations and programs: the Ed Peterson Fund and the Endowment Fund.

### Ed Peterson Fund Assists Budding Botanists, Horticulturists

In honor of Ed Peterson's 100th birthday, the board established a fund to provide educational opportunities to young people starting studies and careers in botany and horticulture. Donations to the fund help support salaries for students interested in learning about California native plants, their ecology, and their care. Last year, we were able to provide a summer internship to Ron Clark, who is working on a botany degree at Humboldt and has a deep interest in California native plants. Providing professional experience to young people so they can continue the work of people like Ed is a central goal of this fund.

### Foundation Endowment Fund Makes Long-Term Projects Possible

We have also established the Endowment Fund. An endowment provides long-term financial support, because the principal earns revenues that are available to pay for program costs. A strong endowment allows the Foundation to count on a steady stream of income, rather than revenues that are cyclical or variable. Since principal is never touched, the endowment provides financial support in perpetuity.

Your gifts to the Ed Peterson Fund and the Endowment Fund support the future of the Foundation, both in providing educational opportunities for the next generation of horticulturists and botanists and in providing financial strength for decades to come. To contribute to either fund, call us at (818) 768-1802. Thank you!



© Mimi Kamp

# A World of Thanks!

## Volunteers Help Keep Theodore Payne Running Smoothly

by Carmen Wolf

We can't say it enough: our volunteers are the best! We owe them a debt of gratitude, and this is but one small way we can recognize those who freely give of their time to make this organization grow and thrive!

There has been a great turnout at our recent First Saturdays, our monthly group activity run by one of our board members, usually president John Wickham, who is also one of our most dedicated volunteers. On the first Saturday of every month (with a few exceptions like Labor Day and Poppy Day), hardworking, determined people show up to help improve the grounds at Theodore Payne. Over the past few months, they have completed numerous projects, such as pruning and planting.

We also salute all the others who come when they can make time in their busy schedules and those who show up on a weekly basis. We recognize the generosity of your commitments and we appreciate all that you do for Theodore Payne!

What visitors to the inimitable Theodore Payne Web site may not realize are the hours and hours of work that go into creating and maintaining the Internet's premier source of information on California native plants. Ken Gilliland is the man responsible for this enormous resource. In addition to keeping people informed about the weekly sales yard plant inventory, event and class information, and more, Ken has worked wonders with the Garden Tour section of the site. He has created slide shows for both the front page and the individual gardens. His creativity brings still photos to life and provides a tantalizing teaser of the beauty to be found within the Tour gardens. Check it out at [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org)! Thanks to Ken (and Rhonda!) Gilliland for everything they do!

Praise and applause goes to the following individuals and groups for their contributions—Orchid Black, Mary Brooks, Monica Chon, Edward Condit, Roxanne Correa, Josh Dingman, Todd Doherty, Kevin Elam, Environmental Charter High School, PJ Fink, Amy Frame, Jakub Gawronski, Joe Grant, Milan Jani, Ahra Kim, Natalie Krah, Janice Kuch, Ollie La Plant, Keith Malone, Greg Maltby, Elizabeth Miles, Andrew Peck, Michael Pickett, Dennis Pitts, and Tierra Del Sol.

If you don't find your name here and you have volunteered with us this winter, please call Carmen at (818) 768-1802 and give her your name, the date you were here, and the activity you performed. Then, next time you come in to volunteer, please be sure to sign in inside the office at the clipboard on the desk in the Art Gallery. It's important that you do this so we can thank you and keep track of all the projects going on here.

For anyone who wants to start volunteering at Theodore Payne, please e-mail Carmen at [programs@theodorepayne.org](mailto:programs@theodorepayne.org) and request a volunteer application and fact sheet. There's plenty to be done and we would love to welcome you!

### We Need You for the Garden Tour!

We'd like to take this opportunity to ask anyone who volunteers or has volunteered at Theodore Payne for help during our 4th Annual Native Plant Garden Tour on April 28 and 29.

We need docents on those days to guide visitors through the gardens and talk to them about California native plants.

It's a lot of fun. Give us  
a call to sign up.  
Thanks!



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**Yes! I would like to support the work of the Theodore Payne Foundation with a tax-deductible contribution of:**

- \$25       \$50       \$100       \$250       \$500       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please designate my gift to support:

- Area of Greatest Need       Education Programs       Facility Improvements  
 Seed Program       Oral History Project       Archives Project  
 Ed Peterson Fund for Native Plant Education       Endowment Fund

My employer, \_\_\_\_\_, will match my gift. My employer's matching gift form is enclosed.  
(company name)

I would like more information about making a bequest. Please contact me.

**IMPORTANT:** Please complete name, address, and payment information on the reverse side of this form.

**Thank you for your support!**

**Theodore Payne Foundation  
for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Inc.**

10459 Tuxford Street  
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*Don't Miss Our Spring Programs!*

- Native Plant Garden Tour—page 1
- Poppy Day—page 3
- Wildflower Hotline—page 4

## PLANT OF THE MONTH PROGRAM

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

© Br. Alfred Brousseau, Saint Mary's College



*Encelia californica*

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| April | <i>Quercus berberidifolia</i> —inland scrub oak       |
| May   | <i>Encelia californica</i> —California bush sunflower |
| June  | <i>Carex lemmonii</i> —Lemmon's sedge                 |

**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 Web site for more information on the plants listed here.



### MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

**Yes! I would like to become a member:**

- |   |                                       |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Student/Senior    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Regular | <input type="checkbox"/> \$65 Friend        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Supporting/Membership Org. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Hort./Prof./Bus. | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Golden Poppy | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Life Member              |

I would like to support the Theodore Payne Foundation by making a tax-deductible gift. *(Please complete reverse side.)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

My check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, payable to Theodore Payne Foundation, is enclosed.

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my  Visa  Mastercard Credit Card No: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card membership orders and gifts may also be phoned in at (818) 768-1802.

Membership contribution and gifts are tax deductible within the limits allowed by law. 501(c)(3) EIN 95-6095398



**Theodore Payne Foundation  
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10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352



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