



# the Poppy Print

Quarterly Newsletter of the Theodore Payne Foundation

## Fall Festival Is Here—Come See Why We're Best of LA!

*Annual sale on Oct 9–10 and 16–17 features fantastic selection, plus discounts, music and more*

by Lili Singer, Special Projects Coordinator

**H**ow we love autumn at Theodore Payne! Summer-dormant plants revive, many sporting fresh new foliage. Native bulbs and wildflowers begin to emerge, suggesting the colorful glory of spring. And cool weather signals our best planting time and Theodore Payne's famous Fall Festival—our biggest sale of the year with discounts to all on plants and seed! This year, we're especially excited to have been named **Best of LA®** by *Los Angeles* magazine. Come see why!

Our four-day Fall Festival takes place Friday–Saturday, October 9–10 (discounts to members only, with memberships sold at the door); and Friday–Saturday, October 16–17 (discounts to all). During Fall Festival, TPF members receive 15% off all plants (1 gallon and up); non-members receive 10% off. All shoppers receive 10% discount on seed.

As always, Fall Festival will offer the best selection of California native plants in the Los Angeles region, including hundreds of different common and unusual shrubs, trees, vines, perennials, groundcovers, grasses, shade lovers and desert plants. Our nursery staff and dedicated volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and help with selection.



Time to fill up your cart with fall bounty! Here, nursery staffer Mary Brooks writes a sales ticket for a sage-loving customer.

Our store shelves and drawers are already packed with seed for annual and perennial wildflowers (including our custom mixes), and shrubs, perennials, grasses and more.

Shoppers will find more in the store:

- choice ready-for-planting California native **bulbs**,
- **books** for adults and children,
- handmade **ceramics** by Marjorie Mannos,
- nature **photographs** by Dave Daniels,
- organic **honey** from Honey Pacifica,
- aromatic **soaps, tea and incense** from Juniper Ridge,
- gorgeous **greeting cards**,
- roomy TPF **totes**, and
- stylish TPF **t-shirts and hats**.

Also this year: a **used-book sale**, with all proceeds benefiting the Foundation. (Note: book donations are still being accepted—see page 2 for details!)

On Saturdays, October 10 and 17, you'll be treated to bluegrass song and finger-picking by the Fair Market Band (our talented neighbors at the Sunday Hollywood Farmers' Market). Outdoor vendors and exhibitors will include:

- **Wild Birds Unlimited**, Torrance,
- **textile artist** Susan Wells,
- **UCCE Master Gardeners** of Los Angeles County,
- **hand-printed graphics** from Krank Press,
- **soaps and scrubs** from The Soap Kitchen, Pasadena,
- **rainwater storage tanks** from Bushman,
- live **honeybee display**, and
- Steven Kutcher, **Bugs Are My Business**.

Our annual Fall Festival is always fun and offers many opportunities. Turn your garden plans into reality or augment your established landscape, while saving on plants and seed! Gather holiday gifts before the rush. Stroll the Foundation's grounds, take in the fragrance and birdsong, and join us as we celebrate the season! ■

'BEST NATIVE PLANTS'

**BEST OF LA 2009**  
*Los Angeles*  
MAGAZINE

## TPF at 50: Share Your Stories!

The Theodore Payne Foundation is buzzing with excitement! On March 30, 2010, we celebrate our golden anniversary—50 years of carrying on the work of Theodore Payne, serving the community by growing the best native plants for the garden and offering a place for learning and inspiration.

Preparations are underway for twelve full months of festivities, featuring special programs and gatherings, including a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary kick-off party, the evening of Friday, March 26; commemorative publications; and a beautiful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Garden that you'll be able to plant at home!



**You Can Participate** We're seeking oral histories and anecdotes from customers, gardeners and members of the horticultural and natural science communities. When did you first discover TPF? How has the Foundation influenced your life, career and gardening practices? Did you ever meet Theodore Payne or his colleagues Ed Peterson or Eddie Merrill? *We want to hear your stories!* Please contact Lili Singer ASAP to share at [lili@theodorepayne.org](mailto:lili@theodorepayne.org) or (818) 768-1802.

Watch for more information about our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in upcoming issues of *The Poppy Print*. ■

## Book Donations Needed

In conjunction with Fall Festival, Friday–Saturday, October 9–10 and 16–17, we're holding a used-book sale of garden- and nature-related titles for adults and children. To make this happen, we need your books—used, new, rare, classic—and we need them soon.

Please drop off your book donations at the Foundation during business hours, Thursday–Saturday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

All profits from the book sale benefit the Foundation! ■

## FROM THE *editor*

The summer months in Sun Valley were dry, hot and, at times, very smoky as the huge Station Fire blackened the nearby San Gabriel Mountains. Rest assured, though, that TPF was never in danger. An eerie hush enveloped our canyon for days, the sky took on a sickly tan and ash fell on just about everything—but we were okay.

The Foundation's board and staff send well wishes to residents who suffered during the fire, and we are concerned about the future. You've, no doubt, heard that burned land recovers, fire is part of the chaparral's natural ecology and more fires will certainly occur. You've also encountered varying opinions regarding the intensity and increased occurrence of fires.



The importance of this issue and its effect on every citizen in the region, as well as native animals and plants, must be addressed rationally and scientifically. Toward that end, we are sponsoring a free public program, Southern California Wildfires: Protecting Our Homes and the Natural Environment, with Richard Halsey of the Chaparral Institute and Jon E. Keeley, research ecologist with USGS. The evening will include plenty of time for discussion and questions!

Please save the date—Saturday, November 7, 6:30–8:30 p.m.—and tell your neighbors. The location is not yet confirmed; for updates, please check our online calendar at [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org). See you there! ■

—Lili Singer

*The Poppy Print* is the membership newsletter of the *Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Inc.*, a nonprofit organization. The Foundation's mission is to promote and restore California landscapes and habitats, to propagate and make available California native plants and wildflowers and to educate and acquire knowledge about California flora and natural history. The Foundation operates a nonprofit nursery where native plants are grown and sold to the public year round. Wildflower and native plant seeds, horticultural and botanical books and information are available at our Sun Valley headquarters and by mail.

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

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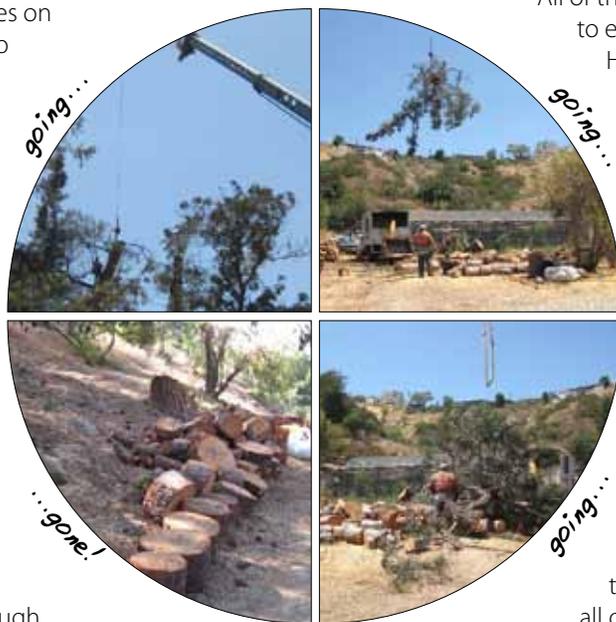
# Major Tree Removal Project Completed

by Steven Hartman, TPF Treasurer

There is something about “sense of place” that I find very important. So to me, the large, non-native pine and eucalyptus trees growing in the canyon above the Foundation’s sales yard have always looked alien and out of place (and, in my opinion, were huge fire hazards).

For decades, the Canary Island pines on the east side of the road leading up to the growing grounds had been shading and stunting the growth of a grove of native oaks (at the base of the trail leading up to Wildflower Hill); the leaning eucalyptus overhanging the potting shed threatened to crash down at any time; and the pine trees surrounding the newly refurbished Education Center rained flammable needles and also leaned over the building. At the top of the dirt road leading to the upper growing grounds, another eucalyptus shaded much of one area, and a cottonwood tree, although native, was just in the wrong place, casting

shade where it wasn’t needed and sending up suckers that were a constant maintenance problem. In addition, there were a few outlier pine trees on the property, along with a couple of palm trees.



All of these trees were removed in July, thanks to excellent work performed by North Hills Landscape and Tree Care, Inc. Now you can see sky when walking up the canyon and the sense of open chaparral scrub is very apparent. An added bonus of the tree removal was that, except for the non-native eucalyptus and palms, most tree trimmings were reduced to mulch and left on site (we now have a huge supply), and trunks were cut into two-foot sections that will be used on site for various improvement projects.

All in all, this was another great stride in the ongoing renovation of the Foundation’s property. Thanks to all of the members for their contributions that make these projects feasible. ■

# California Native Plant Wiki Launches

There’s a new, up-to-the-minute resource for native plant gardeners: TPF’s new California Native Plant Wiki. A wiki is an easy-to-update Web site that allows many people to collaborate.

Browse the wiki to find a growing library of information about California native shrubs, trees, perennials, and annuals. Select from hundreds of plant profiles featuring information on mature size, growth habit, flower color, sun and water needs, hardiness, wildlife value and more. The wiki includes every native plant we’ve offered in the nursery—and even a few more.

The wiki also features lists of top picks for specific garden needs, such as stabilizing slopes, coping with heavy soils, and attracting birds and butterflies. You’ll find advice on planting, watering and weeding your native plant garden, too.

Webmaster and talented photographer Ken Gilliland has enhanced these pages with beautiful images of flowers, leaves and bulbs. We’re now working to supplement the plant profiles with additional information, such as web links, specific care and maintenance, and Theodore Payne’s own experiences.

Anyone can visit the wiki without logging in, but you’ll need



to set up a free account to edit pages or upload photos. We’re hoping you’ll register so you can share your know-how with other members of the native plant community.

The California Native Plant Wiki is another step in our mission to promote the use and understanding of California native plants in the garden. To visit the California Native Plant Wiki, go to [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org) and click on “Gardening with Natives” in the bar at the top of the page, then click on the Wiki link. ■

# Calendar of Events and Classes | Fall 2009

*Abundant learning opportunities for native plant gardeners of all experience levels.*

Classes fill quickly; please reserve early! To enroll, call (818) 768-1802. Visit our website for updates, and details on our three-part California Native Plant Garden Design course. Design classes are limited in size to ensure individual attention, and they fill almost immediately. If you're interested, please call to add your name to the waiting list.

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

## OCTOBER

### **Native Trees for Home Gardens with Jan Scow**

Saturday, October 3, 1:30–3:30pm

\$20 members, \$30 non-members

Native trees provide beauty, color, fragrance and shade, as well as wildlife habitat. Learn which species are best for your garden's conditions! A superb selection of native trees will be available at Fall Festival. Jan is a registered consulting arborist and licensed landscape contractor. His firm, Sustainable Gardens ([sustainablegardens.us](http://sustainablegardens.us)), offers services that can help you live more sustainably.

### **Waterwise Gardening with Succulents of Baja California with Joe Clements**

Saturday, October 24, 10:00–11:30 a.m.

\$20 members, \$30 non-members

Explorers and travelers know Baja California as a wonderful finger of land defined by its plant life, including many species that grow there and nowhere else in the world. Learn how to use Baja's diverse drought-tolerant flora in home gardens—and why we need to preserve these plants in the wild. Expect inspiring photos and a passion for succulents! Joe is manager of the John R. Rodman Arboretum at Pitzer College in Claremont and former curator of the Huntington's Desert Garden.

#### DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS FOR NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

### **A Landscaper's Transformation with Laura Morton**

Saturday, October 24, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

\$20 members, \$30 non-members

Join an award-winning landscape designer on a journey of transformation. Witness the process as she converts a traditional Los Angeles home garden with classic lawn and foundation plantings into a stunning exterior of usable spaces, incorporating California natives and a meadow. Laura's holistic approach to landscape design considers all aspects of sustainability without compromising on ambiance or beauty.

### **Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer**

Saturday, October 31, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

\$35 members, \$45 non-members



#### REGULAR HOURS RESUME OCT. 13

Beginning Oct. 13, we will again be open Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

This class offers the basics on gardening with California flora. You'll learn what a "native plant" is and why natives are valuable, and learn about plant communities, planting techniques, establishment, irrigation, pruning, ongoing maintenance and where to see and buy native plants. Recommended for beginners; a required prerequisite to our California Native Plant Garden Design course. Lili is a horticulturist and garden writer and TPF's special projects coordinator.

## NOVEMBER

### **First Saturdays**

Saturday, November 7, 9:00 a.m.–noon

Join the Theodore Payne Foundation family of volunteers on the first Saturday of each month to improve and care for our gardens. We will clear, clean, plant, mulch, prune and do anything else 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.

### **Propagating California Native Plants with Louise Gonzalez and Brendan Galipeau**

Saturday, November 7, 9:00 a.m.–noon

\$35 members, \$45 non-members

Discover the basics of propagating California native plants! The class is part of an ongoing series with TPF nursery staff. Different techniques will be learned and various species propagated in each hands-on session. Limited to eight participants; early registration advised!

#### DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS FOR NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

### **Better than Gold: The Alchemy of Native Plants with Bob Perry**

Saturday, November 7, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

\$20 members, \$30 non-members

An overview of how native plants have successfully transformed Southern California gardens over the past 30 years. Throughout his career, Bob has focused on the study of plants and water conservation. He is the author of the valuable references *Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes* (1980), *Landscape Plants for Western Regions* (1992), and the forthcoming *Landscape Plants for California Gardens*.



VAST SELECTION OF SEEDS AND BULBS  
DISCOUNTS • USED BOOKS • GIFT ITEMS  
OUR BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR!

FRIDAY–SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9–10, 8:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M.

Members receive 15% off plants (1 gal. and up) and 10% off seed.  
Memberships available at the door.

FRIDAY–SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16–17, 8:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M.

Members receive 15% off plants; non-members receive 10%.  
All shoppers receive 10% off seed.



## SPECIAL EVENT

### **Southern California Wildfires: Protecting Our Homes and the Natural Environment**

**A special program with Richard Halsey and Jon Keeley**

Saturday, November 7, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

FREE—first come, first seated

Location to be determined; for updates, please check the events calendar on our website, [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org).

Join two of the region's most respected experts on fire, local ecology and post-fire regeneration for an evening of information and interchange. An important and timely program.

### **The Southern California Woodland Garden with Rebecca Latta**

Saturday, November 14, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

\$20 members, \$30 non-members

This class describes how to evaluate your site, soils and climate for a region-appropriate woodland garden—and includes an overview of design, plant selection, preservation of existing trees, when to plant, and planting and watering. Rebecca has worked as a consulting arborist, water manager and horticultural consultant for more than 20 years in both the public and private sectors.

### **Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Barbara Eisenstein**

Saturday, November 21, 9:00 a.m.–noon

\$30 members, \$40 non-members

Subjects covered include watering, fertilizing, pruning, grooming, mulching and other aspects of garden maintenance. You'll also discover how plants respond to pruning cuts (good and bad), what we trigger with our gardening activities, and how to develop good maintenance goals. Barbara is an avid native plant gardener, garden writer and consultant ([wildsuburbia.blogspot.com](http://wildsuburbia.blogspot.com)), and former horticultural outreach coordinator at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

### **Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer**

Saturday, November 21, 12:30–3:30 p.m.

\$35 members, \$45 non-members

For details, see October 31 listing.

## DECEMBER

### **First Saturdays**

Saturday, December 5, 9:00 a.m.–noon

For details, see November 7 listing.

### **Native Plant Garden Maintenance with Jan Scow**

Saturday, December 5, 9:00 a.m.–noon

\$30 members, \$40 non-members

For details, see November 21 listing.

### DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS FOR NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

#### **A Simplified Approach with Steve Gerischer**

Saturday, December 5, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

\$20 members, \$30 non-members

Each garden presents challenges and opportunities unique to the site. Learn how to simplify the approach to garden design by keeping the focus on the important things...the fun is in the details. 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.

### **Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer**

Saturday, December 12, 9:00 a.m.–noon

\$35 members, \$45 non-members

For details, see October 31 listing.

### **Waterwise Irrigation for Native Plants with Bob Galbreath**

Saturday, December 12, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

Essential information for every native plant gardener! This class offers the basics on techniques and equipment for water-efficient irrigation in urban landscapes. You'll learn what to use, when, and where to use it. Bob is an irrigation consultant with 30 years of experience in landscape water conservation. A former certified irrigation designer and landscape contractor, he recently retired from a position as a Landscape Water Resources Manager with the Environmental Programs Division of the City of Santa Monica.

### **A Bird's Eye View of Native Plants with Ken Gilliland**

Saturday, December 19, 8:00 a.m.–noon

\$35 members, \$45 non-members

Become familiar with local birds, bird identification skills and native plants that will attract birds to your garden. The class begins at Quail Hollow—the instructor's home, which attracts close to 100 different species of resident and visiting birds—with bird watching, plant viewing and discussion. The class then moves to the Foundation grounds for more observation. Ken is a noted photographer, 3-D digital bird artist and webmaster for TPF. Please bring your own binoculars. Class size limited to 12. Address of Quail Hollow will be given at signup.

### **Ethical Tree Pruning and Management Workshop with Gary Knowlton**

Saturday, December 19, 9:00–11:00 a.m.

\$20 members, \$30 non-members

Learn all aspects of tree pruning through a lecture and demonstration of techniques, both emphasizing a holistic approach to tree management. Gary is a La Crescenta-based certified arborist and oak specialist. Class size limited to 12.

## CLASSES IN CALABASAS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE MOUNTAINS RESTORATION TRUST

*Classes held at Headwaters Corner, Masson House, 23075 Mulholland Hwy., 91302. Preregistration required; to enroll, call (818) 768-1802.*

### **Pine Needle Basketry with Leigh Adams**

Saturday, October 24, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | \$45

Learn how to prepare and use pine needles to coil and create a lovely one-of-a-kind basket. No experience necessary! All materials provided. Class size limited to 10. Leigh, an "adult child" who works in fiber, glass and other media, is artist-in-residence at the LA County Arboretum & Botanic Garden in Arcadia.

### **Look, Ma, No Lawn! with Lili Singer**

Saturday, November 14, 9:00–11:30 a.m. | \$40

Are you ready to lose the lawn? We'll explain how to take out your turf and offer alternatives for the space – specifically low-care native plants that need no fertilizer and use a fraction of the water required for turf. Lili is a horticulturist and garden writer and TPF's special projects coordinator.

## What to Do in the Garden Now

*It's time to plant and plant and plant! Take advantage of autumn's cool nights, shorter days and the chance of seasonal rain.*

**Plant** Before you buy, assess your site (think climate, soil, sunlight and predominant winds), then pick and group plants that accept those conditions. Young, small plants (in 4" or 1-gallon pots) are easy to transplant and establish more quickly than larger plants. Space transplants according to mature sizes and cover bare soil between plants with mulch.

Fall is bulb-planting time, too. California geophytes include species and cultivars of *Calochortus*, *Dichelostemma*, *Triteleia* and *Allium* in varied colors and fascinating forms. Some native bulbs are easier to grow than others; most require fast-draining soil and spots with zero summer irrigation.

Try *Allium unifolium*, *A. validum* and *Triteleia peduncularis* in areas that are watered year round. (To learn more, see *Wild Irises, Lilies, and Grasses: Gardening with California Monocots* (UC Press, 2004), available in our bookstore.)



**Sow** Start annual and perennial wildflowers from seed. First, clear the area of weeds and unwanted grasses. Rough up the soil surface, sprinkle lightly, sow seed according to directions, and water gently. Keep the bed moist (but not soggy) as seed germinates and seedlings become established.

Native shrubs, trees, vines, groundcovers, perennials and succulents can also grown now from seed (TPF carries a wide selection).

**Water** Deep soak summer-dry native bulbs and summer-deciduous plants (e.g. *Artemisia*, *Ribes*, *Salvia*) to bring them out of dormancy. Check soil moisture first and water only when the top few inches are dry. Always water deeply—never a little bit (this only encourages soil-



borne diseases). New plantings require frequent attention and regular irrigation for at least one year, until they're established. To encourage root development, soak the original root ball and surrounding soil thoroughly.

**Weed** Remove winter annual weeds as they sprout. Dig deeply to control perennial invaders with tough, deep specialized roots.

**Prune and Cut Back** Prune young and newly planted shrubs and trees for good shape and strong structure. Remove dead, weak and crossing wood on established shrubs and trees to make space for fall and winter growth. Do not prune manzanita and ceanothus; pruning cuts invite disease and, at this time, these plants are carrying or developing buds for next year's flowers.



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

**Divide** Divide native iris in late November and early December. Dig and split large clumps or leave them in place and cut sections from the edges. Replant divisions and water regularly until new growth appears.

Dig and divide cool season grasses (e.g. *Festuca*, *Nassella*, *Leymus*, *Calamagrostis* and *Melica*). Make sure each new clump has ample roots; water well after replanting.

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

*Photographs courtesy of Ken Gilliland for the California Native Plant Wiki (for more information on the wiki, see page 3).*

**The Theodore Payne Foundation is thriving and growing**, with new and veteran customers visiting regularly to buy plants, books and seed; attend classes; view the art gallery; or rest under the sycamore trees. We appreciate your support and your desire to better your gardens and the world they occupy. Please spread the word! Two comments heard recently at the Foundation:

*“It's not Saturday if you're not at Theodore Payne. —William, TPF member*

*This place is a hidden treasure, but news travels fast by word of mouth. —Stephanie, TPF Office Assistant*

*overheard*

# The Art of Seeds

by John Wickham

Fall arrives at Theodore Payne, and everyone is thinking about seed—those little capsules of genetic data that carry the promise of beautiful spring gardens.

To honor the seed-sowing season, the Theodore Payne Art Gallery has gathered an eclectic collection of seed-related art and artifacts. Our multi-media exhibit includes paintings, prints, drawings, photographs and assemblages by various artists, as well as historical items from Theodore Payne's seed operations.

Though native wildflowers and plants may sport dazzling colors, their fruit, pods and seed tend toward brown, are not particularly showy and are often camouflaged by foliage. The work in our autumn show exposes native seed and their distinctive characteristics.

**In the Show** Traditional botanical art, such as featured watercolors by Sophie Fauntleroy, depicts all parts of a plant throughout its life cycle: flowers, stems, leaves, roots, fruit and seed. Henry Evans' linoleum block, "Pods," is inspired solely by seedpods. Shadow drawings and assemblages by Pamela Burgess, TPF's artist-in-residence emerita, offer many perspectives on the acorn. Melanie Symonds' pencil drawings depict seed pod and fruit, respectively, of *Marah macrocarpa* (manroot or wild cucumber) and *Berberis nevinii* (Nevin's barberry). At press time, other artists were being added to the show, including Jane Pinheiro and Allison Starcher.

John MacDonald's photographs of seeds are a revelation. Most seed are so small that the human eye misses surprising details—dimples and spots, vivid colors, flattened wings, tufts of fuzz—shown clearly in these images. Upon retirement from the California Highway Patrol, MacDonald began photographing wildflowers. An interest in native flora led him to the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. As a volunteer in their seed program he has, to date, produced more than 1,700 photos of seeds. These extraordinary shots reveal exquisite beauty in a

most utilitarian package.

Finally, a dip into the Theodore Payne archives yields seed-related treasures and underscores Payne as a preeminent California seedsman. For decades he produced detailed seed packets and illustrated catalogs advertising his uncommon horticultural offerings. You'll find many of these objects in the show, along with unusual contraptions used by Payne for cleaning and processing wild-collected seeds.

**View and Plant** Please enjoy the art of seeds in our gallery, and may the exhibit inspire your imagination and encourage you to sow native plant seed in your garden.

The Theodore Payne Gallery is open (beginning October 13) Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The "Seeds" exhibit will be on view through December 31, 2009. ■



Clockwise from top: Theodore Payne's 1927 seed catalog featuring the newly introduced barberry *Mahonia nevinii*; an artful ad for Payne seeds entices customers to capture the "vivid beauty of the wild Spring"; Sophie Fauntleroy's watercolor of *Prunus virginiana* var. *demissa* (Western chokecherry) features seed-laden fruit.

## Cooking with California Natives

Native plant gardeners are often interested in growing natives that can be used in the kitchen. Our favorite recommendations include berry-bearing *Ribes* spp. (currant) and *Sambucus* spp. (elderberry). *Umbellularia californica* (California bay laurel), *Salvia* spp. (sages) and other species are valued for their aromatic foliage.

This summer, Connie Vadheim taught a wonderful class, California Native Seasonings and Condiments, and we thought you'd enjoy a couple of her recipes! ■

### Seasoned Vinegar

8 oz. **vinegar**—use white wine vinegar for California tarragon; use red wine or rice vinegar for stronger-flavored seasonings, such as sage, California sagebrush and California bay  
2 sprigs fresh **seasoning herb** (about 6 inches long, washed)

- Place sprigs of seasoning in a glass container. Cover with vinegar.
- Let steep until flavor is to your liking (about 2–14 days). Remove sprigs; strain vinegar to remove any plant material.
- Use as marinade, in salad dressings or any other place you'd use a flavored vinegar.

### Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) Relish

4 cups ripe **serviceberries**  
1/4 cup cold **water**  
1/4 cup **cider vinegar**  
6 cups **sugar**  
1 tsp. ground **cinnamon**  
6 whole **cinnamon**  
3 oz. liquid **pectin**

*try it on  
grilled  
cheese!*

- Wash and stem berries. Place into a deep saucepan and crush with a potato masher.
- Add spices, water, and vinegar. Bring to a boil and stir constantly. Reduce to low heat and simmer for 10 minutes, keeping pan covered.
- Remove from heat and recover 4 cups of the mixture. Place in saucepan, add sugar, and mix well.
- Place over high heat and bring to a boil. Add pectin and mix thoroughly. Bring to a boil for one full minute.
- Skim off foam and allow to sit for 3 to 5 minutes.
- Spoon or pour into hot, sterile jelly jars and seal.



Thank you for the donations:

**Ken and Kay Hoevel** for a collection of varied-size tins

**Cliff and Ellen Holliday** for 24 large tins all the way from Mesquite, Nevada, and **Everett and Shirley Lahmann**, who helped deliver them!

We extend a special thank you to the member who dropped off a box of jars but whose name we did not get.

And thank you for the donated seed:

**Louise Olson** for *Lupinus succulentus*, *Baileya multiradata*, *Coreopsis gigantea* and *Salvia clevelandii*

**Monica Griffin** for *Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens* and *Heteromeles arbutifolia*.

**Seed collection and donation guidelines:** We accept seed collected from home gardens only (please do not take seed from wild plants). Enclose seed in a brown paper bag, marked with botanical name (genus and species); collection date; address of collection site; and your name. Seed can be mailed to the Foundation or dropped off during business hours. ■

—Kathy Parenteau, Seed Room Sales Supervisor



## Wildlife Observed at TPF: Fascinating and Beneficial Spiders

by Madena Asbell, Assistant Sales Manager

Fall seems to be spider season, and not just because it's time for Halloween. We've recently noticed some amazing spider webs at the Foundation. According to Jan Kempf, a volunteer in the Entomology Section of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, certain spiders—in particular, orb weavers—mature in late summer and fall and, as larger, older creatures, they spin larger, more dramatic, more conspicuous webs.

Many different kinds of spiders inhabit the Los Angeles area. An ongoing spider survey being conducted by the Natural History Museum has documented approximately 210 species of spider in 38 families and 127 genera—and Kempf says there are probably many more. Three TPF residents are detailed here.

Some spiders do bite, and care should always be taken. However, most garden spiders are highly beneficial and should be considered harmless.

**California Trapdoor Spider (*Bothriocyrtum californicum*)** Just beyond one of our growing areas, out of sight of most visitors, is a ridge that may seem uninteresting to the untrained eye. However, upon close inspection and with a little guidance from our intrepid nursery manager, Louise Gonzalez, I spied several well-camouflaged, quarter-size, slightly concave circles of soil on the embankment. We lifted the edge of one circle, actually the hinged door to a trapdoor spider's nest. It opened easily to reveal a long dark tunnel. The spider, which most certainly felt us coming, was hiding deep inside the silk-lined burrow and nowhere to be seen.

To catch prey, trapdoor spiders set booby traps of silk thread that are tripped by passing insects. Trapdoor spiders, in turn, are hunted by the tarantula hawk wasp (*Pepsis chrysothymus*), another autumnal visitor to the Foundation.

There are six species of trapdoor spiders in the Los Angeles area. *Bothriocyrtum californicum* is the largest: females are up to one inch long; males are smaller and more slender. Both sexes are black, resemble tarantulas and would stop anyone in their tracks. However, trapdoor spiders are considered non-venomous and stay hidden most of the day. After a rain, males are frequently seen wandering in search of females.

Trapdoor spiders, including *B. californicum*, were once common in the Los Angeles basin but have become quite rare due to habitat loss. We feel fortunate to be able to provide a home for them here at TPF.

**Trash-web Spider (*Cyclosa turbinata*)** A master of sustainable architecture, this small (¼-inch long) orb weaver gets her name from the unique web she creates (see illustration). She first attaches strands of silk to the branches of a shrub (at TPF, she seems partial to the manzanita limbs). Then, within that web, she constructs a tubular structure of detritus and salvaged materials—everything from carcasses of past



Illustration by Madena Asbell

meals to bits of dead leaves and twigs. Each day, the outer web is dismantled and new silk is added to the still-intact structure. Good luck catching a glimpse of this tiny builder: her trash-covered tube provides shelter and camouflage while capturing prey, as well as protection from predators that eat spiders. *C. turbinata* is one of two species of trash web spider in our area; the second is *C. conica*.

**Crab Spider (*Misumenoides formosipes*)** Crab spiders do not use webs to capture prey. Instead, they hunt by sight and ambush their victims by laying in wait on flowers, leaves and stems. Named for their resemblance to crabs, these arachnids have forward-facing front legs (to grab prey) and can move quickly both sideways and backwards. Females are up to ½ inch in. long; males are smaller and longer with fine, dark markings.

Some crab spiders can slowly change color—to shades of white, yellow or pink—to match the flower they occupy. We recently spotted a yellow *Misumenoides formosipes* on a yellow-blooming *Dendromecon harfordii* (Channel Island bush poppy) flower and a pink one on a pink-flowering *Malocothamnus fasciculatus* 'Casitas' (Casitas chaparral bush mallow). *M. formosipes* feeds on flies and bees and is one of the few spiders that will catch a bee in spite of the stinger. The venom of crab spiders is toxic to insects, immobilizing them almost instantly.

Many thanks to Jan Kempf for her invaluable input. To learn more about local spiders and participate in the Los Angeles Spider Survey, go to <http://www.phorid.net/spiders/>. ■

**Recommended Reading** Available in the TPF bookstore:

- *Insects of the Los Angeles Basin*, Charles Hogue, Los Angeles Museum of Natural History, 1993
- *Insects and Gardens: In Pursuit of a Garden Ecology*, Eric Grissell with photography by Carll Goodpasture, Timber Press, 2006

# Summer Progress: New Growing Areas, New Displays, New Labels!

by Louise Gonzalez, Nursery Manager

A new season has arrived, and soon we'll return to our regular schedule and be open to the public Tuesday through Saturday.

Ever wonder what we are doing behind locked gates all summer? We are growing, growing, growing, in more ways than one. Though the sales yard is open only three days a week in summer, we maintain a busy nursery operation five days a week, propagating new stock and caring for the plants.

This year, we were very fortunate to receive a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust that enabled the construction of two new growing areas. *Wow!* One area measures about 2,500 square feet and is already filling with newly potted plants. The other section comprises two terraces, including one that is completely secure—meaning hungry critters cannot get in, and we can house plants that usually get eaten.

Ooh, the economy. For years, we have kept our prices down. But we've had to make a few adjustments due, in part, to cost increases from our suppliers. In fact, we've increased the price of certain plants—and reduced the price of others. We really gave this a lot of thought and only raised prices on slow-growing plants that take especially long to produce. So, if you purchase a plant that costs a bit more, you'll know it was cared for and loved by us for a longer period than its mates.

**New in the Sales Yard** California Floristic *what?* The California Floristic Province is a zone that runs from parts of southern Oregon into Northern Baja. The climate is mediterranean, characterized by cool, wet winters and hot, dry summers. We consider plants that naturally occur within this province to be native.

A new educational display in the sales yard combines plants from Baja with a new line of pottery from Tecate, Mexico. Come meet some amazing Baja flora and take home a pot or two for your garden! To learn more about the plants of Baja, attend the lecture *Waterwise Gardening with Succulents of Baja* on Saturday, October 24. (See Events, page 4.)

**Signage and Plant Information** Part of our mission at TPF is to educate customers about the native flora of California. One way we do this is through detailed plant placards in front of every group of plants in our sales yard. Reading the information on these signs is the next best thing to talking with one of our

knowledgeable sales staff. Among other data, you'll find the height and width of the plant, its flowering season, cultural requirements, wildlife value, natural habitat and counties where it can be found growing wild.

Knowing habitat and counties of origin can help you to determine if a plant is right for the area you live in and what care it will require. For example, plants from areas of high rainfall and foggy summers may not do well in hot interior gardens and may need some shade or frequent watering in Southern California.

A placard's detailed description may also reveal whether the plant you're considering can be invasive. "Spreads by rhizomes" is one telling phrase that may prevent unwanted surprises. If you're familiar with *Romneya coulteri* (Matilija poppy), you know exactly what I mean!

In the past year, many of you have shown interest in the sources of our plants. In response, we are creating additional labels to be placed in containers, along with a plant info tag. These new labels specify the origin of the propagule material for a particular plant. Some examples: A penstemon tag reading "San Gabriel Mountains" tells you that seed or cuttings were collected in the San Gabriel Mountains; "Plumas Co." indicates material from that county; and "TPF" means the source was our Sun Valley property. This information hints at a plant's cultural needs and assists gardeners seeking plant material native to their specific ecosystem. The crops we've been tracking in this manner are just beginning to be ready for sale. Watch for an increasing number of plant source labels in the upcoming seasons. ■



◀ Sturdy, shady, and critterproof: our spiffy new growing area for plants in one-gallon containers.

Nursery staffer Brendan Galipeau shows off one of our detailed plant placards. ▶



# CELEBRATING OUR *volunteers*

## Volunteer Presence Strong All Summer

by Lisa Novick, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator

TPF volunteers came out in droves this summer. Seed collecting and cleaning have been favorite tasks—if the bookstore smells particularly aromatic, we know that Seed Room volunteers are at work! Thank you, volunteers, for making so much happen at the Foundation and beyond. Due to your dedication and support, the Foundation is able to be a real presence in and around L.A.

**Art Gallery** Pamela Burgess, Anne Eli Kershner, Ellen Steel

**Bookstore Planting Beds Maintenance** Jeremy Moreno-Gershman

**California Landscape Contractors Association Event, Beverly Hills** Janica Jones, Kathy Mainzer, Sandy Masuo, Fredric Maupin, Beatrice Olsen, Anita Sheridan, Peter Stern, Debbie Taylor, Antonia Warner

**Classroom Program** Debbie Taylor

**Discovery Garden Maintenance** Jakub Gawronski, Alixan Gorman

**Field Trip Program** Joan Harrison, Sally Roberts

**First Saturdays** Dee Farnsworth, Kelly Flores, Janica Jones, Joe Grant, Suzanne Maese, Beatrice Olsen, Anita Sheridan, Kathy Sturdevant

**Graphic Design** John Vega

**Hollywood Farmers' Market** Michelle Auchterlonie, Gail Butensky, Sue Cisneros, Toni Coombs, Helen Duncan, Carlos Flores, Larry Gabriel, Jenny Garcia, Kathleen Johnson, Ari Kletzky, Loretta Leiker, Kathy Mainzer, Iain McConnell, Jared Nielsen, Martha Oaklander, Philip Otto, Peter Stern, John Vega, Mitzi Zack Walters

**Look, Ma, No Lawn! Class, Tujunga** Carlos Flores, Beatrice Olsen, Anita Sheridan

**Media Project/Writing** Mike Brown, Debbie Taylor

**Nursery** Jeremy Moreno-Gershman

**Propagation** Mary Brooks, Shirley Chung, Nancy Edwards, Andrew Peck

**Rancho Los Alamitos Event, Long Beach** Kathy Mainzer, Peter Stern, Debbie Taylor

**Sales Yard** Marie Massa

**Seed Room** Sima Bernstein, Toni Coombs, Markus Klemm, Roger Klemm, Sharon Levine, Jeremy Moreno-Gershman, Jane Tsong

**Stock Garden Paths** Matthew Kelly and other members of Boy Scout Troup 50 of Sun Valley

**TPF/MRT Classes, Calabasas** Jenny Garcia, Margaret Oakley, Philip Otto, Mitzi Zack Walters, Sarah Wilson

**Wise Water Use Expo, Mar Vista** Lisa Fimiani, Kathy Mainzer, Peter Stern

**Weeding** Toni Coombs, Tierra del Sol

And many thanks, as always, to our **webmasters, Ken and Ron Gilliland**; and to our **President, John Wickham**, and all of our **Board Members** for the invisible-but-necessary tasks they perform to keep the Foundation running.

*become a volunteer!*

VOLUNTEERS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FOUNDATION!

TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE CONTACT LISA NOVICK AT

LISA@THEODOREPAYNE.ORG. ■

## Basketry Garden To Complement Exhibit at the Autry

The world's largest collection of Native American baskets, representing eleven regions and more than 100 cultural groups, will be revealed to the public for the first time when *The Art of Native American Basketry: A Living Tradition* opens on November 7 at the Autry National Center in Los Angeles. These historical and contemporary pieces highlight one of the innumerable artistic expressions known to Native peoples.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Theodore Payne Foundation is designing and helping install a California Native Basketry Landscape, a permanent display of plant materials used by California basket makers. The planting, located in the Autry's South Court, will include *Cercis occidentalis* (Western redbud), *Muhlenbergia rigens* (deergrass), *Juncus* spp. (rush) and other species from southern, central and northern regions of the state. Don't miss this extraordinary exhibit and the new California Native Basketry Landscape! ■

Pomo feathered basket, early 20th century. Gift of Mrs. Mary D. Greble. Southwest Museum of the American Indian, Autry National Center; 5.G.69

### IN THE COMMUNITY



# plants OF THE MONTH

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



© Ken Gilliland

**October** *Galvezia speciosa* 'Firecracker'—Firecracker Island Bush Snapdragon (Scrophulariaceae)

This arching evergreen shrub accepts full sun or part shade and infrequent to occasional irrigation. Mature size: 2 to 3 feet high by 3 to 4 feet wide. Tubular bright red blossoms are borne spring and summer, much to the delight of hummingbirds. Dense foliage provides cover for other birds. Tolerates clay, salt and wind; frost tender. Handsome in containers.



Madena Asbell

**November** *Arctostaphylos* 'Emerald Carpet'—Emerald Carpet Manzanita (Ericaceae)

This manzanita hybrid is an excellent lawn substitute for areas where no traffic is expected. Pink winter/spring flowers embellish dense, dark green foliage on spreading growth to 1 foot high and 6 feet wide. Accepts heavy soils; best with occasional to moderate watering, particularly inland; prefers full sun along the coast and part shade inland. Flowers attract hummers and butterflies; birds take cover in the foliage; roots provide erosion control.



Gladys Lucille Smith © California Academy of Sciences

**December** *Umbellularia californica*—California Bay (Lauraceae)

In cultivation, this handsome tree grows slowly at first, then more quickly to 50 feet high and half as wide with dense evergreen foliage and smooth gray bark. Very aromatic leaves may be substituted (sparingly) for Grecian or sweet bay laurel in cooking. Small yellowish flowers produce rounded green-to-purple seed pods. Thrives with good drainage and regular irrigation; tolerates heat and drought. Good container plant.

**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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**fall festival** is Oct 9-10 and 16-17...  
**our native plant wiki** launches...  
**recipes** featuring native plants...  
**spider IQ**...

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