



# the Poppy Print

Quarterly Newsletter of the Theodore Payne Foundation

## Letting Wildflowers Take Over My Front Lawn

*I Volunteered to Tear Up the Grass and Turn My Home into a Piece of Public Art*

By Jennifer Mandel

It is early July. As I look through my front window, I can see what's left of the spring blooms that only months ago covered our front yard. The tall dried stems of wildflowers cling stubbornly to the parched soil. Dotted here and there are orange California poppies, which are inexplicably thriving in the heat, and the long legs of a few tenacious pink clarkia rise from the sea of hay. I'm reminded of hikes in the Santa Monica Mountains, camping in the Sierras, and old postcards from the '70s of a girl walking in a field, the sunlight glinting in her hair. A bit of old California has been growing in our yard.

A little over two months ago, the flowers were at their peak and swaying in the breeze: bright yellow tidy tips, purple, pink, and white clarkia, and tiny cornflower-blue bird's eye gilia. Bright sunlight reflected a rainbow of colors through our living room window like nature's spin art. Bees and butterflies converged on the yard, eating hungrily from the blooms, and birds danced on the stems and rummaged in the dirt for bugs.

All of this happened in my yard because of Wildflowering L.A., a unique living work of art that grew in 50 yards across Los Angeles County this spring. Wildflowering – a project encompassing art, nature, and community-building – was masterminded by artist Fritz Haeg, who worked with the Theodore Payne Foundation and the nonprofit LAND (Los Angeles Nomadic Division).

I learned about the project last fall when I happened to pass a stall at the Hollywood Farmers' Market. A postcard caught my eye, and I stopped to find out more. I learned that anyone could participate as long as you had a yard that was visible from the street.

My husband and I had just bought a house in Lincoln Heights that needed a lot of work. We'd planned on eventually taking out the 40-year-old thatched grass clinging stubbornly to the ground around our house; it just wasn't at the top of our list.

Wildflowering L.A. seemed like a perfect opportunity to expedite removal of the eyesore that was our front lawn. It would also allow us to take advantage of the LADWP turf removal program, in which L.A. County residents receive \$3 per square foot to replace their lawns with drought-tolerant landscaping.



So we submitted photos and a description of our yard, and a few weeks later, I received an e-mail welcoming us to the program. We attended a workshop where a group of folks from Theodore Payne handed out bags of seed mix and explained the planting technique (no fertilizer or mulch; spread the seed evenly but don't dig in; water regularly until the plants are established). We received the Flatlands Mix based on the micro-climate and elevation of our yard.

A landscaping consultant informed us that our lawn was kikuyu grass, which would be very difficult to remove. He was right, of course. Removing the grass involved renting a very large sod-cutting machine that didn't even make a dent in the lawn.

*continues on p. 2*

### fall plant sale

The region's best selection of native plants, seeds and bulbs.

#### Member Days:

Friday & Saturday, October 10 & 11,  
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Members 15% off plants, seed and bulbs.

Not yet a member? Join at the door!

#### Discounts to All:

Friday & Saturday, October 17 & 18,  
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Members 15% off plants, seed and bulbs.

Non-members 10% off plants, seed and bulbs.

### october

10 & 11

17 & 18

continued from p. 1



The lawn after the grass was removed and before the flowers bloomed.

When that didn't work, we had our contractors hire a few guys to dig it out with pickaxes over the better part of a hot November weekend.

With the yard finally cleared, we sprinkled the seed, watered – and waited. A team came by with a beautiful sign made especially for Wildflowering L.A. that included our site number (44) and the specialized seed mix we had planted.

Our bare dirt yard with its sign resembling the kind you see in a national park was a curious sight. Neighbors stopped to ask: Was the sign put there by the city? What would we be growing? Why did we take out the lawn? Some people seemed a bit disappointed that we had removed a perfectly good lawn, so carefully tended for many years by the house's well-loved previous owners. But they brightened when we explained what would be growing in its place.

It felt great to engage with people face to face, and to have a reason to meet and talk to our new neighbors. And over the course of the dry winter, as dirt gave way to a lush meadow, our yard became a destination. On many occasions, we looked out the window to see kids looking at our yard and the description of the flowers in our seed mix, which we had laminated and hung on our fence. Neighbors who were previously skeptical waved and nodded their approval. In fact, whenever people stopped at our gate, we invited them in. It was lovely to see the smiles on their faces and their reactions both to our hospitality and to the abundant flora and fauna.

To build a wider community, we were encouraged to tweet photos and commentary to #WildfloweringLA. A neighbor we haven't met tweeted a photo of our yard and wrote: "This house make me so happy whenever I pass by."

Mornings brought our own personal nature show, viewed with coffee cup in hand through the large picture window. In the late afternoons, golden sunsets set the yard aglow. As the flowers began to grow, colorful birds flocked to the yard, perching on the fence and stems, rolling in the dirt, and feasting on the plentiful insects that found an enticing habitat among the nascent plant life. Multitudes of bees and butterflies happily drank nectar from the upturned yellow tidy tips.

Photographers came by to capture this unique site, and we were even visited by a group from nonprofit organization De Lab (Design East of La Brea), who came by to experience the flowers at their peak and learn about the project.



Wildflowers at their peak.

In April, there was a culminating Wildflowering event in which all the project participants brought cuttings from their sites and placed them on a giant map created with masking tape. It was interesting to compare our experience with those of others—we bonded over what grew and what didn't, and over how much weeding and watering we had to do. Many of us came away with a feeling of camaraderie in having been part of this experiment.

A few weeks ago, a guy from Wildflowering L.A. came to take away the sign; we had him take one last picture of us with it in our scraggly and faun-colored yard. We were sad to see it go. The few flowers that are still blooming miraculously from the scorched earth are proof that native plants can hold their own in this dry climate.

Now that there is a seed bank dormant in the soil of our yard, many flowers will return next spring as long as there's a bit of winter rain. In the meantime, to augment the wildflowers, we're planning a perennial California native garden that will include salvia, buckwheat, and possibly even an oak tree. Perhaps then we'll have done our part to revive a bit of Old California in our neighborhood.

*Jennifer Mandel is a California native who was born and raised in the greater Los Angeles area. She is a music supervisor by trade, a singer-songwriter, and a lover of all things wild.*

Photo credits: Page 1 and page 2, top, Fritz Haeg, Wildflowering L.A.: Site 44, 2013-1014. A LAND (Los Angeles Nomadic Division) Exhibition. Photos by Isabel Avila. Page 2, bottom, Jennifer Mandel and Timothy Wager.

This piece originally appeared at Zocalo Public Square.



Homeowners Jennifer Mandel and Timothy Wager in their front yard after the flowers finished blooming.

## Meet Our New Board Members

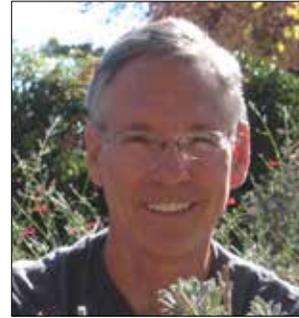
We're pleased to introduce four new board members. Each one brings fresh energy, experience and expertise to our organization.

### ERIC CALLOW

Eric has been a Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch for 31 years. He majored in Philosophy at Pomona College and received his MBA from the UCLA Graduate School of Management. Eric has served on numerous and diverse non-profit boards (Child Education Center in La Cañada, Pasadena Casting Club, Armory Center for the Arts, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and California Trout), where he focused on finance and board governance. His involvement in conservation stays active through the sport of fly fishing, having found that teaching someone to fly fish is to also create a committed conservationist.



### JEFF JAMISON



Jeff is a VP of Sales and Administration for Occidental Studios and manages 12 soundstages in Echo Park, Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley. He has worked in the entertainment business as a line producer, production manager and general manager for Fox, Warner Bros. and the Paley Center for Media in Beverly Hills. He has a BA in Theater from Macalester College and a MA in Communications from Regent University. An avid hiker and backpacker, Jeff is a longtime volunteer at TPF and on the Channel Islands with the National Park Service.

### MICHAEL HAMILTON

As Equity Partner and Attorney with DLA Piper US LLP in Los Angeles, Mike's practice area is business transactions with emphasis in finance and real estate. After earning an AB in Geology from Hamilton College and an MA in Geology and Geophysics from Rice University, he worked as an environmental geologist. In 1999, he received his JD from University of Oregon. Mike is a highly regarded lawyer, speaker, author and editor, and the recipient of national and international accolades. His passions include family, exercise, early U.S. history and horticulture. His current gardening goal is to assemble in his home garden every species and subspecies of manzanita (all 110 or so of them!).



### STEPHANIE PINCETL



Water and urban land use issues are the focus of Stephanie's academic work. She is Founding Director of the California Center for Sustainable Communities and Professor in Residence at the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA. Stephanie received a BA with honors in Land Ethics and an MA in Anthropology from UC Davis, and a PhD in Urban Planning from UCLA. Her research, teaching and writing on such topics as urban forestry, environmental politics and public land management have garnered numerous honors and awards. She is an avid native plant gardener with home landscapes in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties.

*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, and horticultural and botanical books 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  
[theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org) | Tel: 818-768-1802 | Email: [info@theodorepayne.org](mailto:info@theodorepayne.org)

Executive Director: **Kitty Connolly**  
 Director of Horticulture: **Madena Asbell**  
 Seed Program Manager: **Genevieve Arnold**  
 Nursery Manager: **Tim Becker**  
 Production Foreman: **Francisco Rosales**  
 Nursery Production: **Elmer Luna, Antonio Velasquez**  
 Nursery Sales Manager: **Flora Ito**  
 Nursery Sales: **Shayla Allen, Katherine Pakradouni**  
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 Director of Outreach and K-12 Education: **Lisa Novick**  
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#### BOARD

## Growing Wild in the City

By Kitty Connolly, Executive Director



*A new road has been cut between the headquarters and new classrooms.*

Daily operations at the Foundation are as busy as ever. The pictures here show some of the construction activity. Outreach is also going strong. Volunteers are helping out everywhere, it's seed-collection time, and, of course, the nursery is gearing up for the fall planting season.

But I'd like to step back from the day-to-day for a moment to take a broader look at what we do here and why.

At one time, the highest calling in environmentalism was setting aside wilderness areas. The wilderness movement was based on the idea that wild lands were a place of unsullied nature, in contrast with the 'unnatural' places humans had altered. This divide was highlighted in the Wilderness Act of 1964: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Though the Wilderness Act was very successful (9.1 million acres have been preserved so far) and wild lands are an irreplaceable treasure we should strive to protect, the concept of true wilderness itself gradually came into question.

In 1994, the environmental historian and geographer William Cronon wrote an influential essay "The Trouble with Wilderness, or Getting Back to the Wrong Nature." Cronon proposed that by identifying nature as separate from people, we distanced ourselves from our day-to-day responsibility to care for nature. If we set aside wild lands, our work was done, and we were free to abuse urban landscapes as we saw fit.

As you can imagine, this position generated a lot of discussion and, although you may have never heard of Cronon's piece, you have probably felt its impact. Environmentalists such as Michael Pollan and Gary Snyder have turned their attention away from the idea of wilderness (and nature) as being apart from humans toward a more inclusive view of nature that recognizes the wildness in cities, in the places where most people live and work.

Working hand and hand with efforts to preserve and restore natural areas is the movement to bring ecological functions back to urban and suburban sites, to live local. This is where the Theodore Payne Foundation and its members are very effective.

TPF's efforts are focused on converting the landscape of Los Angeles into one that is both beautiful and sustainable, home to human beings as well wild plants and wild animals. The example set by you, native plant gardeners and advocates, is vital to our goal of transformation.

Fifty years after the passage of the Wilderness Act, native plant lovers are bridging the wilderness/urban divide by growing wild plants here among us. You bring nature into the city while simultaneously connecting urban dwellers with surrounding wild lands. Through city gardens, you are building a community that cares for wild not-so-distant lands that need our attention.

Every native plant garden is influential. Your example (and that of Jen Mandel in our cover story) can move others to develop a conservation ethic that spans both wild and urban lands. Our collaborative actions make a difference. The Theodore Payne Foundation is proud to work alongside you.



*The foundation has been laid for our new multipurpose room.*



*Old restrooms have been demolished to make way for new expanded ones.*

# What to Do in the Garden Now

# Fall

**PLANT** Fall is planting time! The selection is never better in our nursery – and young plants are ready to root and grow. Cool temperatures and short days reduce transplant shock and we just might get some rain...

Don't miss TPF's annual FALL PLANT SALE

*Member Days:* Fri-Sat, Oct 10–11 – Members 15% off plants, seed and bulbs. Memberships available at the door.

*Discounts to All:* Fri-Sat, Oct 17-18 – Members 15% off plants, seed and bulbs; Non-members 10% off plants, seed and bulbs.

Trust the dimensions on our plant tags and space transplants widely, according to mature sizes – your new plants will grow!

Before you shop, check our online nursery inventory at [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org). It's updated every Thursday morning. Detailed information on each species and cultivar can be found in our website's Native Plant Database and on our nursery placards.

**SOW** For spring color, start annual and perennial wildflowers from seed. Try one or more of our seed mixes or individual species (you can't go wrong with California poppy) or specific color ranges (perhaps blue/purple or yellow/orange/red).

Also ready for sowing: seed for native shrubs, trees, groundcovers, grasses and more.

Start cool-season grasses from seed. Consider individual species or TPF's Cool Season Grass Mix.

Before sowing, 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 bring them out of dormancy, deepsoak summer-dry *Fremontodendron* (flannel bush), *Trichostema* (woolly blue curls) and native bulbs. Water summer-deciduous *Ribes* (currant, gooseberry); *Salvia* (sage, certain species, e.g. *S. apiana*, white sage, and *S. leucophylla*, purple sage), and *Artemisia californica* (California sagebrush); they will quickly produce new leaves.

Always check soil moisture before watering and water only when the top few inches are dry. Soak the soil thoroughly – never a little bit.

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 well, as needed.

Container plants need more frequent watering than the same plants in the ground. Check soil moisture often (daily during warm or windy weather) and soak, as needed, until water drains from the holes; empty excess water from saucers, if used.

**WEED** Annual bluegrass, shepherd's purse, chickweed and other cool-season annual weeds sprout in autumn. Knock seedlings down with a hoe or cultivator – before they flower and set and distribute seed!

Use a trowel or Cobra Head (available in the TPF store) to excise dandelion and other deep-rooted perennial weeds.

**PRUNE** Remove dead or broken branches from young and newly planted trees. For plant health and your own protection, keep cutting tools clean and sharp. At three years, prune for good shape and structure.

Every few years, to renew compact growth, cut these back by one third to one half: *Encelia californica* (bush sunflower), *Eriogonum* (buckwheat), *Keckiella cordifolia* (climbing penstemon), *Malacothamnus* (mallow), and *Venegasia carpesioides* (canyon sunflower).

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

**PROPAGATE** In late fall, divide *Heuchera*, Iris and other clumping perennials. Replant divisions as quickly as possible and water them regularly until new growth appears. Share extras with a fellow gardener!

**MULCH** Both new and established native gardens need a 3"–4" layer of leaves, bark and wood fibers (fresh chippings are okay), or gravel or decorative rock to help retain soil moisture, moderate soil temperatures and suppress weeds. Keep all mulches away from stems, crowns and trunks – and leave a few sunny patches of soil unmulched to provide habitat for ground-nesting native bees and wasps.



*Trichostema lanatum*  
(Woolly Blue Curls, Romero)

# FALL 2014 EVENTS AND CLASSES

Register on-line at [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org) or call (818) 768-1802 or in person at our Sun Valley headquarters.

Visit our website, [theodorepayne.org](http://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 and in-classroom visits for K-12** students are also available.

Contact: Lisa Novick, [lisa@theodorepayne.org](mailto:lisa@theodorepayne.org).

MORE ONLINE  
THEODOREPAYNE.ORG @

## OCTOBER

### First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland

Thursday, October 2, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Free – reservations requested to [info@theodorepayne.org](mailto:info@theodorepayne.org). Ken's popular 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](http://empken.com)) and former TPF webmaster. Repeats first Thursdays through June.

### California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer

Friday, October 3, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

\$40 members, \$50 non-members

The basics on gardening with California flora: why natives are valuable, about plant communities, plus planting techniques, establishment, irrigation, pruning and ongoing maintenance. Recommended for beginners; prerequisite to our Three-Part California Native Plant Garden Design course. Lili is TPF's Director of Special Projects and Adult Education, an L.A. native and an award-winning horticulturist and garden writer.

### First Saturday: Volunteer Day at TPF

Saturday, October 4, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Reservations requested to [andrew@theodorepayne.org](mailto:andrew@theodorepayne.org). Back from summer hiatus! Join the Theodore Payne Foundation family of volunteers to improve and care for our gardens. We will clear, clean, plant, mulch, prune and do other tasks to spruce up the grounds and show how beautiful native plant gardens can be. Bring hat, gloves, knee pads and other tools for personal use. TPF will provide shovels, trowels, rakes, loppers, hoes, pruners and refreshments. Repeats first Saturdays through June.

### **NEW!** Mariposa Lilies of Southern California with Fred Roberts

Saturday, October 4, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

\$20 members, \$25 non-members

A richly illustrated talk focusing on the 15 species of mariposa lilies (genus *Calochortus*) native to the mountains, foothills and coastal regions of southwestern California. These bulb-forming perennial wildflowers – some widespread, some rare – display an assortment of beautiful colors and forms. Fred is an independent botanical consultant and artist with more than 30 years of experience with native plants. He specializes in the flora of Orange County and rare plants, oaks and lilies of our region. He is co-author of *Wildflowers of Orange County* and the *Santa Ana Mountains* (2013); and is currently writing a guide, *The lilies and their relatives of the southern Californian Floristic Province*.

### FALL PLANT SALE

The region's best selection of native plants, seed and bulbs.

Member Days:

Friday & Saturday, October 10 & 11, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Members: 15% off plants, seed and bulbs.

Not yet a member? Join at the door!

Discounts to All:

Friday & Saturday, October 17 & 18, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Members: 15% off plants, seed and bulbs.

Non-members 10% off plants, seed and bulbs.

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

Wednesday, October 22, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

Are you ready to lose the lawn? We'll explain how to take it out and offer alternatives for the space – specifically low-care native plants that need no fertilizer and use a fraction of the water required for turf. For instructor bio, see October 3.

### Wild by Nature: Sowing Seeds for Spring Wildflowers with Genevieve Arnold

Saturday, October 25, 9:00-11:00am

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

In Southern California, fall is the prime time for sowing wildflower seed in the garden. Our State's famed spring-blooming annuals provide an array of colors and forms – and perform well in many garden spaces, from meadows to mixed beds and borders to containers. This class offers tips and tricks on soil preparation and sowing techniques, and an illustrated overview of the instructor's most-beloved species. Genevieve is TPF's Seed Program Manager and has worked with California native seeds for more than a decade. She enjoys the beauty of the native garden in all its phases, including the magical stage of fruit and seed development.

### **NEW!** Growing California Native Plants for Tortoises with Michael Tuma

Saturday, October 25, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

This course for keepers of desert tortoises and other species presents the basic biology of tortoises and their requirements in captivity – with in-depth information on selecting and growing native plant species for their food and shelter. Class includes an illustrated lecture and a tour of TPF grounds. Michael is a professional wildlife biologist and environmental consultant, and a Ph.D. Candidate at USC. He is an avid collector of captive-bred tortoises and a dedicated native plant gardener.

### Native Seed-Starting Workshop with Madena Asbell and Genevieve Arnold

Friday, October 31, 9:00 a.m.-noon

\$45 members, \$60 non-members

Learn the ins and outs (and ups and downs) of propagating

native plants from seed. This hands-on class covers: basic seed physiology, seed viability, germination cues and pretreatments; and sowing and aftercare. Each student will take home a flat of seeds they've sown. All materials provided. Madena is TPF's Director of Horticulture. Genevieve is our Seed Program Manager. Limit: 8.

## NOVEMBER

### First Saturday: Volunteer Day at TPF

Saturday, November 1, 9:00 a.m.-noon

For details, see October 4.

### Special Event: Hike & Learn with Cassy Aoyagi

Saturday, November 1, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

\$65 members, \$85 non-members

Support TPF while enjoying our local wilderness with TPF's Board President! This easy-to-moderate hike in the San Gabriel Mountains highlights native plants that work well in the garden, including ornamentals and edibles used by Native Americans. Expect beautiful vistas and gorgeous plants, as well as insights from Cassy on how nature designs itself for success and ways to emulate that design at home. Exact location, plant list and other details will be provided the week before the hike. Cassy is founder and president of FormLA Landscaping (formlainc.com), a recognized expert in sustainable landscaping and president of the Theodore Payne Foundation.

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

Saturday, November 1, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

For details, see October 22.

### First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland

Thursday, November 6, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

For details, see October 2.

### Third Annual Gathering of Friends: Brewing Up Support for TPF!

Friday, November 7, 7:00-11:00 p.m.

A fundraising party at Golden Road Brewing. Join like-minded people for great food, craft beer, entertainment, and live music by Dustbowl Revival. Details on page 8.



### California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer

Saturday, November 8, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

\$40 members, \$50 non-members

For details, see October 3.

### No Plants! Hardscape Materials & Techniques with Andreas Hessing

Saturday, November 8, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$30 members, \$40 non-members

How do you build the bones of a garden? This class surveys standard and alternative building techniques and materials for walls, walks, fences and seats – and shows many innovative examples of hardscape. Andreas is an artist, landscape designer and licensed contractor (scrubjaystudios.com). For more than 20 years, his site-specific installations have celebrated regional biodiversity while focusing on the philosophical, political and social implications of California's indigenous flora.

### NEW! Irrigation Practices for Native Plant Gardens with Tim Becker

Saturday, November 15, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$30 members, \$40 non-members

This new class for home gardeners discusses irrigation principles, techniques and equipment best suited for native plant landscapes – with practical examples and plenty of time for questions. As TPF's Nursery Manager, Tim oversees our growing operations from plant propagation to retail sales. He holds a BA in environmental studies and a certificate in ecological horticulture from UC Santa Cruz.

### THREE-PART CALIFORNIA NATIVE GARDEN DESIGN

#### Choose one of these three-session series:

- Fridays, November 21, December 5 & 19, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. with Steve Gerischer
- Saturdays, December 6 & 20, and January 3, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with Anna Armstrong & Richard Walker
- Fridays, January 23, February 6 & 20, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., with Orchid Black
- Thursdays, February 5 & 19, and March 5, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., with Amy Nettleton
- Saturdays, February 7 & 21, and March 7, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., with Anna Armstrong & Richard Walker
- Saturdays, March 21 and April 11 & 25, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., with Andreas Hessing

\$220 members, \$265 non-members

\$275 member couples, \$335 non-member couples

This comprehensive course for home gardeners offers a sound foundation in design styles and processes, sustainable landscape practices, and how to model a garden after patterns in nature. **Prerequisite: our California Native Plant Horticulture class.** Enrollment is limited to eight projects to ensure individual attention. Complete details and instructor bios at [theodorepayne.org/calendar.html](http://theodorepayne.org/calendar.html).

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

Friday, November 21, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

For details, see October 22.

### Perfect Partners: Gardening with Natives and All Sorts of Edibles with Lili Singer

Saturday, November 22, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

Gardening with natives and growing our own food are two wonderful activities that help us connect with nature and use our land in positive ways. This class discusses how best to combine natives and edibles in the home garden, why this partnership is so rewarding for both the gardener/chef and wildlife, and which plants make the best companions. For instructor bio, see October 3.

### Holiday Card Workshop with Flora Ito

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

A totally fun class for adults or adult/child (age 6 and up) pairs! Create unique holiday cards featuring native plant shapes and contours using a sustainable technique, while learning how to grow these beautiful plants in the garden! Each student will craft a set of cards in class! No experience necessary; all material provided. Flora is TPF's Nursery Sales Manager and a dedicated native plant advocate. She also holds a degree in the visual arts. Limit: 16.

continues on p. 8

continued from p. 7

## DECEMBER

### First Thursday Bird Walk with Ken Gilliland

Thursday, December 4, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

For details, see October 2.

### Four Seasons of Color with California Natives with Lili Singer

Friday, December 5, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

Your native plant garden can be a seasonal showcase of flowers, seed, fruit and foliage. This program showcases trees, shrubs, vines, perennials and grasses that will ensure year-round color and includes a short walk on TPF grounds. For instructor bio, see October 3.

### First Saturday: Volunteer Day at TPF

Saturday, December 6, 9:00 a.m.-noon

For details, see October 4.

### **NEW!** Addressing Imported Insect Threats – Pruning Techniques for the New Paradigm with Rebecca Latta

Saturday, December 6, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

\$30 members, \$40 non-members

The Center for Invasive Species reports that every 60 days a potentially damaging exotic insect makes Southern California its new home, and some of these insects carry fungi that can damage or kill valuable landscape specimens. This class teaches basic pruning techniques, as well as methods to reduce the spread of disease on pruning tools and in wood/debris from pruning activities. Rebecca is owner of Rebecca Latta Consulting, a firm specializing in arboriculture, horticulture and locally native plants and wildlife. She is an ISA Certified Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor.

### California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer

Saturday, December 13, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

\$40 members, \$50 non-members

For details, see October 3.

### **NEW!** When the Lawn is Gone: Design Ideas for the New California Landscape with Joshua Link

Saturday, December 13, 1:30-3:00pm

\$25 members, \$35 non-members

A recent groundswell of awareness has prompted home gardeners to set aside the lawn mower and seek out vibrant, previously marginalized places for inspiration. With a rich, compelling natural heritage at hand, Southern California is ripe for such a movement, a thoughtful celebration of the true California landscape. Learn more at this inspiring illustrated talk. Josh is a registered landscape architect (ecotonestudios.com), urban designer, graphic artist and writer. His work includes a broad range of projects, including greenways, parks, campuses, streetscapes, regional plans, public art installations, and residential gardens.

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

Saturday, December 20, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

For details, see October 22.

THIRD ANNUAL

*gathering of friends*



### Brewing Up Support for the Theodore Payne Foundation! Friday, November 7, 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Spend the evening with like-minded people supporting a cause you love! TPF is holding a fundraising party at Golden Road Brewing, complete with live music by Dustbowl Revival, a rockin' Americana Swing group that LA Weekly called the best live band of 2013.

We'll have great food, craft beer, and entertainment!

**Admission: \$60** (includes a buffet dinner, two drink tickets, entertainment and a commemorative beer glass). **Reserve your space at [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org).**

Bring your checkbooks and credit cards! All sponsorships and donations help us build our new education facilities. For sponsorship information, contact Kitty Connolly, [kitty@theodorepayne.org](mailto:kitty@theodorepayne.org).

*We look forward to welcoming new friends as well as old to this event!*



## Join the Arts Council

The Theodore Payne Arts Council is a volunteer group. Membership is open to anyone interested in art, nature and the Foundation.

This is a relaxed and fun group. All efforts and contributions – large and small – are valued, and members are not expected to do any more than they have time for. There is no fee to join and any expenses are reimbursed by the Foundation.

We review artwork and artist proposals; select topics and artists for quarterly shows and the annual Artist-in-Residence; curate and install exhibitions, which may include simple framing, wall prep and spot painting; provide snacks for opening receptions; and write articles for The Poppy Print newsletter. Monthly meetings are usually held on 3rd or 4th Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to noon. We also communicate by e-mail.

Current Arts Council members are: Janet Blank, Miyoshi Barosh, Pamela Burgess, Andrew Chaves, Snowdy Dodson, Joan Harrison, Vilma Mendillo, Michael Lewis Miller, Ellen Steel, Kristina Newhouse and Laura Stickney

To learn more, please contact [pamela@pamelaburgess.com](mailto:pamela@pamelaburgess.com).



Photo © Vilma Mendillo

## IN THE ART GALLERY

Due to construction at TPF, the Theodore Payne Gallery will be dark through Fall 2014 and Winter 2015. A new exhibition of work by Mara Lonner, TPF's 2013 Artist in Residence, will open March 14, 2015.

By Genevieve Arnold, Seed Program Manager

**Many thanks to the following generous seed donors who harvested and contributed seed from their home gardens:**

**Madena Asbell** *Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *lanosissimus*, *Calliandra californica* **Connie Brown** *Yucca brevifolia* **Robert Conner** *Juglans californica* **Kitty Connolly** *Aquilegia formosa* **Dave Daniels** *Aquilegia* sp. **Jenny Garcia** *Salvia spathacea* **Snowdy Dodson** *Achillea millefolium*, *Monardella* sp. **Ken & Rhonda Gilliland** *Ribes aureum*, *Ribes aureum* var. *gracillimum* **Joe Grant** *Abutilon palmeri* **Steve Hartman** *Clarkia unguiculata*, *C. purpurea*, *Encelia farinosa*, *Gilia capitata* **Andreas Hessing** *Monardella crispera* **Alfred Hockenmaier** *Cirsium occidentale* **Lynnette Kampe** *Juglans californica*, *Marah macrocarpus*, *Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea* **Roger Klemm** *Malacothamnus davidsonii*, *Phacelia tanacetifolia*, *Salvia apiana*, *S. columbariae* **Donna Lauber** *Peritoma arborea* **Keith Malone** *Juglans californica* **Matt Natalizio** *Hibiscus lasiocarpus* **Lisa Novick** *Marah macrocarpus* **Louise Olson** *Baileya multiradiata*, *Cassia purpusii*, *Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens*, *Justicia californica*, *Leptosyne gigantea*, *Linum lewisii*, *Marah macrocarpus*, *Salvia clevelandii*, *Trichostema lanatum* **Kathleen Orth** *Penstemon clevelandii* **Katherine Pakradouni** *Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens*, *Salvia apiana*, *Trichostema lanatum* **Douglas Pollack** *Trichostema lanatum* **Suzanne Robinson** *Eriogonum ovalifolium* **John Wickham** *Dudleya nesiotica*, *D. verityi*, *Senecio* sp.



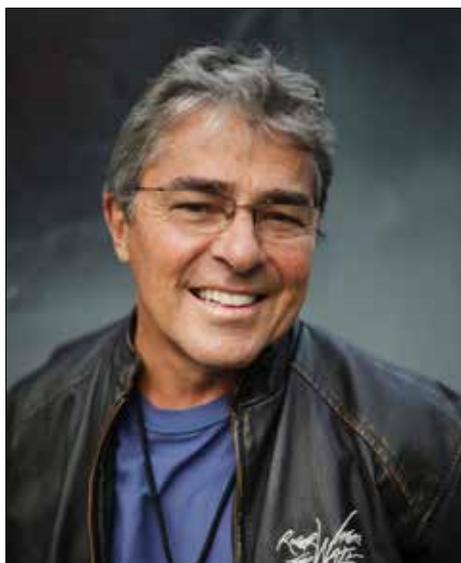
**The Seed Program would also like to extend thanks for the following contributions:**

**Dave Daniels** Slides featuring native plant and wild flower images **Anonymous** Zoom stereo microscope

## Jon Joyce

By Andrew Chaves, Manager of Operations and Volunteer Engagement

Photo © Sean Evans



**Have you always been interested in gardening?** No, I came to the realization that I had to think differently about living and gardening in the San Fernando Valley when watering a huge lawn in our back yard.

**What sparked your interest in California native plants?** A 2005 visit to the Theodore Payne Foundation the realization that my garden could become a habitat for native wildlife. opened my eyes to the possibilities for my back yard. Not only the variety of plants but the realization that my garden could become a habitat for native wildlife.

**How were you introduced to the Foundation?** My wife, Susan, took California native plant horticulture and the design class. When I visited the nursery with her, I was hooked.

**Do you have a favorite California Native Plant?** With all their variety, my favorite are the Manzanitas. They're hardy and so beautiful.

**Which volunteer activities do you look forward to?** Besides the hands-on maintenance in the nursery, I enjoy engaging with the public at native garden events. TPF's annual Garden Tour each spring is my favorite activity and time of year.

**What keeps you coming back?** There is such a cooperative ethic among the staff and volunteers here. Something tells me it's not about the money! Especially

with the new drought consciousness, I enjoy the realization that this is the tipping point for a new attitude about our Southern California homes.

**What did you find most challenging about gardening with natives?** Aw come on, everyone know it's the water! It's taken me a long time to change my thinking about the use of water with natives. I've killed so many *Sphaeralcea ambigua* that I now admire it only in other people's gardens. (Editor's note: this plant is generally easy to grow; it apparently doesn't like the conditions in Jon's yard.)

**What would you tell someone who is thinking about volunteering?** The nursery grounds are an infinite source of amazement for me. Every time I come, I learn something new. And working together with other native plant enthusiasts is very inspiring.

**What do you do when you aren't volunteering?** My life and career have been centered in music. Being mostly retired now, I read, do some trail running, enjoy my grandchildren, and work in the garden.

**What might someone be surprised to know about you?** I'm a second generation leader in my union, now SAG-AFTRA, trying to organize and negotiate contracts for performers for the past 40 years.

**Are there any other thoughts you'd like to share?** Working in a native garden has taught me patience. Sometimes it's just the tiny shoots of new growth that brighten up my walk in the garden. And I'm proud to see the interest my granddaughter has shown in our time together in the yard.

*Feeling inspired? Want to try your hand at volunteering or just want to know more about what is involved?  
Email Andrew at [andrew@theodorepayne.org](mailto:andrew@theodorepayne.org).*

The Foundation appreciates and values the following donations:

*thank you*

- \$1500** DJ Peterson
- \$1250** Elisa & Eric Callow
- \$ 500** FormLA Landscaping, Marcia Ann Good, Stephanie Pincetl, Sheldon Lisker, Jon & Susan Joyce
- \$ 250** Shelley Powsner, Sharon Franklin, Tucker Adams, Albert & Myra Rosen, Hannah Dvorak-Carbone, Fred & Judith Hoeptner, Ann Jopling, Charles & Betty McKenny, Stonebridge International, Inc.
- \$ 200** Westlake Village Garden Club, Margaret Steele, Chevy Chase Estates Garden Club, Debbie Spinelli, Ilona & James Kendall, Hermosa Garden Club, William & Joan Smith
- \$ 125** Ronald Fagan, Karen Hoffman
- \$ 120** Barbara Almario
- \$ 100** Fran Woods, Margaret Quigley, Richard Schulhof, Walter Eugene Stern, Libby Motika, Arnold Friedman, Janelle Blanco, Sandra Cutuli, Howard London, Poppy Kwong, Chuck Pettihomme, Helen Lott, Daniel Cavanaugh, Agnes Garr, Tamara Loperfито, Kathleen Linowski, Richard Frank

# CELEBRATING OUR *volunteers*

We're pleased to recognize volunteers who were inducted as Blazing Stars this summer: Carol Aronson, Alan Duke, Katherine Hashimoto, Jon Joyce, Iain McConnell, Louise Olson, Joya Salas and Mike Sovich. We also acknowledged Tyler Crissman and Quincy French (our canine mascot) as Honorary Blazing Stars. All TPF volunteers start out as "Poppies," and then become "Sun Cups" after contributing volunteer time and taking classes at the Foundation. Blazing Stars are volunteers who have attained the skills and knowledge to act as the face of the Foundation and earned opportunities to work on unique projects with staff.

To begin your journey on becoming a Blazing Star and a valuable member of the TPF family of volunteers, contact [andrew@theodorepayne.org](mailto:andrew@theodorepayne.org).

**Archives, Library and Bulb Collection** John Wickham

**Bat Boxes** Ben Thomsy

**Bulb Collection** Tyler Crissman, Joe Grant

**Educational Facilities Groundbreaking** Brandi Anderson, Carol Aronson, Richard Carlos, Paula Delfosse, Joe Grant, Joan Harrison, Katherine Hashimoto, Deb Hill, Jon Joyce, Cynthia Martin, Jade Nguyen, Allan Reyes

**First Saturday** Shayla Allen, Shakiba Ali, Kristen Brown, Paula Brown, Lin Cher, Scott Cher, Tyler Crissman, Erin Dalleska, Alan Duke, Dee Farnsworth, Jeyla Fendi, Joe Grant, Kathleen Grantham, Farhan Hossain, Jeff Jamison, Louise Olson, Chuck Petithomme, Pyre, Jack Schooley, Steve Singer, Janet Soohoo

**Grounds** Tyler Crissman, Ray DiCandito, Jose Palomino, Maria Serna

**Hollywood Farmers' Market** Carol Aronson, Richard Carlos, Mardi Caruso, Carlos Flores, Jenny Garcia, Joya Salas, Steve Singer

**L.A. Arboretum Plant Sales** Shayla Allen, Richard Carlos, Frances McAdam, Jade Nguyen, Kathleen Orth, Duncan Sinclair

**Office/Bookstore** Richard Carlos, Tyler Crissman, Olivia Chambliss, Lin Cher, Jeyla Fendi, Steve Hartman, Katherine Hashimoto, Deb Hill, Nina Kuruvilla, Deanna Lynn, Barbara Quesada, Margaret Steele

**Outreach** Curt Hill, Deb Hill, Jeff Jamison, Mike Sovich

**Propagation** Carol Aronson, Mike Sovich



Photo: Andrew Chaves

*Blazing Stars induction, August 2014. Top row, from left: Kitty Connolly, Iain McConnell, Alan Duke, Andrew Chaves, Katherine Hashimoto. Bottom row, from left: Joya Salas, Mike Sovich, Carol Aronson, Louise Olson. Front row: Quincy French.*

**Retaining Wall for New Stock Gardens** Scouts Ethan Angold and Noah Goldstein, and scouts and family members of JPL Troop 509

**Sales Yard** Brandi Anderson, Susanna Barron, Ted Bruins, Bernadette Clougherty, Tyler Crissman\*, Alan Duke, Louise Olson, Kathleen Orth, Jon Joyce, Deanna Lynn, Jade Nguyen, Pyre, Steve Singer, Mike Sovich, Allison Tokunaga, Tim Wilson  
\* Tyler contributed more than 75 hours of his time over the summer. He's currently a freshman at the University of Oregon...Go Ducks!

**Seed Room** Petra Nichols, Pyre, Margaret Steele, Kathy Tardy

**Trenching Project** Shayla Allen, Alan Duke, Kathleen Grantham, Jon Joyce, Frances McAdam, Kathleen Orth, Chuck Petithomme, Jack Schooley

**Trenching and Hardware Installation for WiFi access** Scout Spencer Sibbrel and scouts of Altadena Troop 1

**Store and Wild Flower Hill Informational Signage** Olivia Chambliss\*

\* Olivia is starting her senior year at Santa Clara University, majoring in Environmental Science...Go Broncos!

– AC

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

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Letting Wildflowers Take Over My Lawn...p. 1  
Growing Wild in the City...p. 4  
The Annual Gathering of Friends...p. 8

*plants* OF THE MONTH

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

Photo © Oregon State University



**OCTOBER**

*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* var. *griseus* 'Yankee Point' – Yankee Point California Lilac (Rhamnaceae)

A fast-growing large-scale groundcover, this venerable selection is one of the easiest and most popular California natives in cultivation and much-admired for its dark, shiny evergreen foliage and early spring clusters of fragrant pale blue flowers. Give transplants a lot of space – each one will grow 2-3' high and 10-12' wide! Tolerates heat, drought and heavy soils; full sun to light shade; excellent erosion control; attracts songbirds, hummers, butterflies and other wildlife. Hardy to 20°F.

Photo: Creative Commons/  
Kurt Stüber



**NOVEMBER**

*Sedum stenopetalum* – Narrow-leaf Stonecrop (Crassulaceae)

This pretty succulent groundcover stays low at 2" high by 12" wide with tiny bright green leaves and star-shaped yellow blossoms in late spring and early summer. Best with afternoon shade, moderate water and fast draining soil. Moderate growth rate; good container plant; supports butterflies and hummingbirds. Hardy to 0°F.

Photo: Flora Ito



**DECEMBER**

*Salvia mellifera* 'Jade Carpet' – Jade Carpet Black Sage (Lamiaceae)

A low mounding groundcover that grows rapidly to 1-2' high and 6' wide with aromatic green foliage and pale lavender spring-into-summer flowers. Accepts full to part sun; prefers moderate irrigation and fast-draining soil; excellent erosion control; attracts birds, butterflies and native bees. Leaves can be used in the kitchen. Hardy to 25°F.

