RECAPTURING CALIFORNIA’S WILDFLOWER HERITAGE

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
March 9–June 10, 2013 | MaryLou and George Boone Gallery
A collaborative project of The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens; Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden; and the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, “When They Were Wild: Recapturing California’s Wildflower Heritage” interprets the unique diversity of California flora from its origins to its current popularity. With more than 300 objects drawn from the archives of all three partner institutions, along with loans from several other collections, this major exhibition tells the story of the iconic beauty of California plants and teaches about the botanical, ecological, and horticultural nature of native flowers.

COMPANION EXHIBITIONS

“Jane Pinheiro Remixed: Reprints of Rare, Midcentury Wood Blocks in the Theodore Payne Foundation Collection”
March 15–June 22, 2013
The Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants
10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley, Calif.
theodorepayne.org

“Where They Grow Wild”
March 9–June 9, 2013
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
1500 N. College Ave, Claremont, Calif.
rsabg.org
About 50 original works by artists featured in “When They Were Wild: Recapturing California’s Wildflower Heritage.”

“A Celebration of California Wildflowers: Art from the Blaksley Library”
April 1–30, 2013
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Blaksley Library
1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, Calif.
sbbg.org
A celebration of California wildflowers featuring several examples of botanical art from the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden’s Blaksley Library Special Collections.

RELATED PROGRAMS

At The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

ADULT WORKSHOP
Wildflowers at Home
March 16 (Saturday) 9:30 a.m.–noon
Join award-winning floral designer Carolyn Bennett in creating works of art with fresh and dried wildflowers. Huntington Members: $70; Non-Members: $75. Registration through brownpapertickets.com.

LECTURE
California Wildflowers and Early California Nurseries
March 23 (Saturday) 2:30–3:30 p.m.
Bart O’Brien, director of special projects at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, talks about the unusual journey that California wildflowers took into California gardens. Book signing follows. Free; no reservations required.

ADULT WORKSHOP
Herbarium Tour and Pressed Flower Workshop
March 23 (Saturday) 9 a.m.–noon
Learn about The Huntington’s herbarium (a reference collection of preserved plant specimens) on a tour with Paul Meyers. See some of the plants and the art that supports scientific research, then create your own herbarium specimen. Huntington Members: $40; Non-Members: $45. Registration through brownpapertickets.com.

PRESCHOOL SERIES
Wild about Flowers
March 27, April 3, 10, and 17 (Wednesdays) 10 a.m.–noon
Explore the gardens and the exhibition with instructor Laura Moede. Each class includes garden and art projects, stories, and more. Fee includes one accompanying adult. Ages 3–4. Huntington Members: $85; Non-Members: $95. Registration: 626-405-2128.

AFTER-SCHOOL ADVENTURES
Pressing Flowers
April 10 (Wednesday) 3:30–4:30 p.m.
What’s so wild about wildflowers? Instructor Laura Moede leads youngsters into the garden to explore these fascinating flora. Students make their own pressed flowers to take home as cards or mini masterpieces. Ages 5–6. Fee includes one accompanying adult. Huntington Members: $15; Non-Members: $20. Registration: 626-405-2128.

SECOND THURSDAY GARDEN TALK
California Wildflowers for the Home Garden
April 11 (Thursday) 2:30 p.m.
Bart O’Brien of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden discusses how to select, grow, and care for California native annuals in the home garden. After the program, the audience is invited to self-tour the exhibition. Free; no reservations required.

LECTURE
Beauty Within and Beauty Without: California’s Native Peoples and Wildflower Fields
April 19 (Friday) 2:30–3:30 p.m.
M. Kat Anderson, botanist and author of Tending the Wild, looks back at the tremendous diversity of California’s wildflower fields and how deeply intertwined wildflowers were with California Indian culture. In exchange for benefits like food, medicine, and ornamentation, indigenous people employed judicious gathering strategies and stewardship of the landscape. Book signing follows. Free; no reservations required.

SECOND THURSDAY GARDEN TALK
Gene Bauer: Paper, Paint, and Postage
May 9 (Thursday) 2:30–3:30 p.m.
Gardener, artist, and author of Botanical Serigraphs: The Gene Bauer Collection, Gene Bauer tells the story behind her Golden Native serigraphs of the 1970s, some of which are included in “When They Were Wild.” Book signing follows. Free; no reservations required.

LECTURE
California’s Wildflower Artists
May 18 (Saturday) 2:30–3:30 p.m.
For more than 100 years, artists have documented the California flora for science, education, and conservation. John Wickham, former president of the Theodore Payne Foundation, discusses the work of a wide range of artists, their stories, and their drive to record this extraordinary flora. Free; no reservations required.

At Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
NATURE WALK
Wildflower Walks
March 23–June 9 (Saturdays and Sundays) 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Guided walking tours with RSABG nature interpreters feature beautiful California wildflowers and seasonal highlights. General admission.

PLANT SHOW
California Wildflower Show
March 30–31 and April 1 (Saturday, Sunday, and Monday) 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
A special exhibition of wildflowers from across the region brought indoors for an intimate viewing. Monday, April 1, is Wildflower Show Senior Day, offering free garden admission and tram tours for visitors over 65. General admission.

FIELD TRIP
Blooms and Beauty of Bighorn Mountain
April 7 (Sunday) 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Naomi Fraga, RSABG conservation botanist and Eric Garton, RSABG director of visitor services, lead this fascinating and beautiful outing to Bighorn Mountain Wilderness in San Bernardino County. The trip highlights a rare transition zone between the mountain regions and Mojave and Sonoran deserts. Roundtrip transportation and lunch are provided. RSABG Members: $65; Non-Members: $95. Limited to 10 participants. Registration: 909-625-8767, ext. 224, or registrar@rsabg.org.
LECTURE
Clara Mason Fox: Pioneer, Painter, and Poet
April 20 (Saturday) 11 a.m.
Clara Mason Fox, one of the featured artists in the exhibition, is the great aunt of Jon Seeman, co-author with his wife, Lorraine Passero, of *Clara Mason Fox: Pioneer, Painter, and Poet of Orange County, California*, a book about Clara’s life in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Book signing follows. General admission.

LECTURE
California Wildflowers and Early California Nurseries
April 21 (Sunday) 2:30–3:30 p.m.
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden’s Grow Native Nursery in the Veterans Garden
Bart O’Brien, RSABG director of special projects, talks about the unusual journey that California wildflowers took into California gardens. Book signing follows. General admission.

LECTURE
California Wildflowers and Early California Nurseries
May 11 (Saturday) 1–2 p.m.
[See listing above.]

At the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants

Poppy Day Plant Sale & Spring Festival
March 23 (Saturday) 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
A seasonal celebration of California’s state flower with a large native plant sale, expert advice, vendors and more. TPF Members receive 15% off plants; Non-Members 10%; Memberships available at the door. Registration: 818-768-1802.

GARDEN TOUR
10th Annual Theodore Payne Native Plant Garden Tour
April 6 and 7 (Saturday and Sunday) 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Showcasing more than 40 gardens in the Los Angeles area, each planted with at least 50% California natives, this special 10-year anniversary tour celebrates native landscapes of the past, present, and future! TPF Members: $10 per person for both days; Non-Members: $15. Available at www.theodorepayne.org or by phone: 818-768-1802.

FIELD TRIP
Wildflower Chase in the San Gabriel Mountains
April 13 (Saturday) 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
In this all-day excursion to view spring-blooming annuals and perennials in local mountains, participants meet at TPF and travel by van to the most superb flower-filled sites. Lorrae Fuentes is a botanical educator, native plant advocate, and producer of the Theodore Payne Wild Flower Hotline. TPF Members: $75; Non-Members: $100. Registration: 818-768-1802.

ADULT AND FAMILY WORKSHOP
Wildflower Watercolor
April 20 (Saturday) 10 a.m.–noon
Capture the beauty of native spring wildflowers in this hands-on class for budding artists of all ages. No experience necessary. Bring your own hat and water but all other materials provided. Instructor Laura Stickney was TPF’s 2012 Artist in Residence. Free, thanks to a generous gift from Susan & Dan Gottlieb and The G2 Gallery, Venice. Pre-registration is limited and required. Registration: 818-768-1802.

LECTURE AND NATURE WALK
An Introduction to California Native Bees
May 4 (Saturday) 9–11 a.m.
Approximately 1,600 types of bees are native to California—and all have co-evolved with the native flora. This introduction includes an illustrated talk covering bees’ great diversity followed by a bee walk on TPF grounds. Led by Hartmut Wisch, whose fascination with insects comes from working for 35 years as a naturalist-guide. TPF Members: $20; Non-Members: $25. Registration: 909-625-8767, ext. 224.
RESOURCES

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino Calif.
huntington.org
To supplement “When They Were Wild,” The Huntington has produced an online database to allow the public to explore in greater detail the rich legacy of illustrations of California flora produced by amateur naturalists. Available at huntington.org.

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
1500 N. College Ave, Claremont, Calif.
rsabg.org
Promotes botany, conservation, and horticulture to inspire, inform, and educate the public and the scientific community about California’s native flora.

Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants
10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley, Calif.
theodorepayne.org
Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants is a non-profit California native plant nursery, seed source, bookstore, and educational center.

Theodore Payne Foundation Wild Flower Hotline
818-768-3533 or theodorepayne.org/hotline.html
Now in its 31st year, provides weekly updates March through May on where to see the best spring wildflower displays in Southern California.

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
1212 Mission Canyon Rd, Santa Barbara, Calif.
sbbg.org
The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden fosters the conservation of California’s native plants through its gardens, research, and education, and serves as a role model of sustainable practices.

California Native Plant Society
cnps.org
Works to protect California’s native plant heritage and preserve it for future generations. Its nearly 10,000 members promote native plant appreciation, research, education, and conservation.

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