BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Largely owing to the efforts of one man, California wild flowers are found in gardens all over the world. This man was Theodore Payne in whose honor a California native plant foundation was established in 1960. The Theodore Payne Foundation operates a nursery, art gallery, and library on twenty-two acres at 10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley, California.

When Theodore Payne was a young lad hunting wild flowers in the hills around Northamptonshire, England, an event occurred at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew which was to shape his entire life. An exhibit of plants collected by Archibald Menzies in far-off California drew large crowds and captured the hearts of avid English gardeners. When he was twenty-one Payne headed for California where he found the people largely unaware of the bountiful floral array nature had bestowed. He immediately set about collecting seeds and heralding the native flora.

Theodore Payne brought some 430 native species into cultivation and through his efforts seed was sent throughout the world. Many native plantings, including Exposition Park in Los Angeles, were done by Payne. He was much interested in Ralph Cornell's development of Torrey Pines Park and the campus of Pomona College. Payne selected the original site of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and inspired the establishment of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Many honors came to Theodore Payne before his death in 1963. The world has benefited from his contributions to gardens.

Theodore Payne