



RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach, California 90807 (562) 570-1755

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Stop Date: February 8, 2012

Contact: Ellen Calomiris
(562) 570-1755

The Joys of Gardening with Native Plants

(Long Beach, CA) California's native plants offer gardeners many pleasures – from fragrances and texture, to glorious bird and butterfly activity, to ease of care and low water bills!! Lili Singer, director of special projects and adult education at the Theodore Payne Foundation, will speak on Wednesday, February 8 at Rancho Los Cerritos on “The Joys of Gardening with Native Plants.” The program begins at 7 PM and costs \$5, \$3 for full-time students. Please call (562) 570-1755 to reserve a seat.

Singer has spent nearly four decades teaching about gardens in Southern California, contributing to the rise of the Theodore Payne Foundation, and sharing her knowledge and talents with the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden, the Southern California Horticultural Society, the city of Santa Monica's sustainable landscape program, and many independent nurseries and private gardens. From 1991 to 1999 she co-founded the magazine, *Southern California Gardener*. She was the star of “The Garden Show,” public radio broadcasts on KCRW between 1982 and 1996, where she chatted with gardeners who called the station with questions. In 1997 the Southern California Horticultural Society named Singer horticulturist of the year.

Singer joined the staff at the Theodore Payne Foundation in 2007, where she manages two dozen arboretum talks annually on subjects from edibles to beneficial insects to natives to garden design and runs their popular education programs with a colleague. The mission of the Theodore Payne Foundation is to preserve, propagate and promote California native plants and wild flowers because they provide beauty, habitat for wildlife and water savings. The Foundation operates a year-round California native plant nursery and education center in Sun Valley with classes and field trips for all ages.

“The Joys of Gardening with Native Plants” is the first in a four-part lecture series offered at Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site this winter/spring. All talks celebrate “The Year of the Ranchos” in Long Beach and completion of several enhancements at Rancho Los Cerritos including a new visitor center, restored arroyo with California native plants and attractive entryway. Additional talks in the series will explore the site's Native American and Hispanic heritage, and look at the role of the Ranchos in California history.

--continued--

Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site
The Joys of Gardening with Native Plants
February 8, 2012, page 2

Additional lectures include:

March 7: California's Ranchos: Building the Hispanic Legacy

Speaker: Dr. Miroslava Chavez-Garcia

April 11: Living off the Land: Then and Now Through the Eyes of the Tongva

Speaker: Craig Torres

May 9: Rancho Life, Rancho Lives

Speaker: Dr. William Deverell

Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site is located at 4600 Virginia Road in Long Beach, northwest of the intersection of Long Beach Boulevard and San Antonio Drive. Built in 1844, the adobe home and grounds echo with the rich history of Spanish, Mexican, and American California and with the families who helped transform Southern California from its ranching beginnings to a modern, urban society. The site, a National, State and Long Beach Historic Landmark, also includes historic gardens and a research library and archives. Owned by the City of Long Beach and operated through the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, the museum offers free public tours Wednesday-Sunday from 1-5 p.m. For additional information, please call (562) 570-1755 or check our website at www.rancholoscerritos.org

#####