



Texas Ranger
(leucophyllum candidum)



Payne's Hybrid
(thryptomene saxicola)

February in the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

Texas Rangers and Payne's Hybrids in Bloom

“White leaf” is the translation of **Texas Ranger's** scientific name leucophyllum. Aptly named, many varieties of the fast growing evergreen shrub are densely clothed in tiny leaves, each covered in a fine down that gives them a silvery sheen. These are tiny leaves and slightly cupped—all common adaptations for plants native to hot, sunny and dry habitats. These are good sized shrubs, some with leaves that are greener and others with leaves that are grayer. Flower color too differs, depending on variety. Texas Ranger has 1 inch summertime flowers ranging from a deep purple to pale purple to white and sometimes pink. In the main garden, you will find two **Texas Rangers** (leucophyllum candidum) in bloom growing between the Herb Garden and the Bird Habitat, just off the path, a couple of feet.

Attractive low growing shrub with profuse tiny pink flowers and fine foliage most of the year. Will take summer water in California. Fast growing. **Payne's Hybrid** is located in the main garden, in the Australian Section, bordering the main trail. A MUST SEE!!!!

-Jean Reiley-

What's In a Name?

The Kids' Adventure Garden is open to families on Sundays, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the afternoon. While engaged in play, children are learning about plants that they might have never come into contact with otherwise. School tours are led here, birthdays celebrated, and games played in the bright red treehouse.

One of the children's all-time favorite plants has the funny name of **'Hot Lips.'** Take a look at the photo and see if it's name makes sense. It is a cultivar of the Salvia genus (from the Latin, meaning 'saving or healing') and microphylla species (L. meaning 'small-leafed'). **Salvias** are the largest genus in the Mint family (lamiaceae) with over 900 species throughout the world, and we have a beautiful representation of them in our garden; come and see how many you can spot! There are many different **Salvias** available for purchase at the Sunday Plant Sale, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (next to the Kids' Adventure Garden). See you there!

-Diane Conejo-



Salvia microphylla 'Hot Lips'

Make a New Year's Resolution to Visit the Bird Habitat at the CVBG

The newly renovated and reconfigured waterfall in the Bird Habitat is absolutely fabulous! There is not a bird alive that will want for anything more in this spa save additional landscape planting which will soon be installed. Gary Gunn has not only artistically restored the original design, he has upgraded the mechanics to provide sound and splash and concealment from view as well.

-Barbara Song-



Renovated waterfall in the Bird Habitat



California Quail

CVBG in Winter

Do you think the Botanic Garden would be boring in the Winter? Take a walk through the Garden and see for yourself. I went with my camera this first week of January. It was fascinating and I found a lot of photo material. Work was going on in several places. The concrete floor is in place for the new greenhouse and the water feature in the Bird Habitat has been restored. I found several plants with large blooms in the Australian Garden. A **Banksia** or a **Grevillea** bloom is amazing to see. Another Australian, **Leucodendron** is showing color on the Service Road. Next to that are **Red Hot Pokers** and bright blooms of **Crocosmia**.

Some trees are beginning to leaf out, the **Fig tree** and the **Ginko** will catch your eye, along with red berries and colorful new leaves of the **Chinese Pistache**. Continue on up to the top of the hill to see what is happening in the Desert. This is a great place to view the mountains in the distance. **Aloes** are blooming with tall orange torches. The **Toyons** are loaded with bright berries for the birds.

I walked through the Salvia Garden, not expecting to see any blooms. To my surprise, there were blue, red and yellow blooms. So, to enjoy the Garden, take a hike!

-Pat Carlson-



Narcissus



Crococsmia



Aloes in the Desert Garden

-Photos by Pat Carlson-

Community Outreach and Fundraising

Pat Brubaker will be leading the garden in community outreach and fundraising. We need ideas on developing community outreach programs and fundraising. Any ideas that you may have to get our name out into the community email Pat at PatBrubaker2010@gmail.com. Let's get the word out. More visitors, volunteers and members.

Want to Help us Grow?

Do you love Conejo Valley Botanic Garden and would like to help, but just don't have the time to volunteer? Even though much of the work you see going on in the garden is done by volunteers, we still have expenses for planting, heavy pruning and new improvements. These projects are funded through grants and donations from the community. If you would like to help us grow, tax deductible donations are always welcome and may be made out and sent to Conejo Valley Botanic Garden, PO Box 6614, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359. Thanks for all your support!

Conejo Valley Botanic Garden Needs You!

The Garden is managed and maintained by community volunteers. Without your help, the garden cannot thrive. None of the volunteer positions at CVBG has a minimum number of volunteer hours attached. If you can help for a few hours a month, great! For more information on any of our volunteer opportunities, please go to our web site at www.conejogarden.org and click "Volunteers."

WE CURRENTLY NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

Assistant to the Volunteer Coordinator: Help recruit new volunteers and match them with garden jobs they might enjoy.

Adopt A Garden: We have an ongoing need for volunteers to join the teams working in our theme gardens.

Days and hours are flexible so give us a call.

Garden Nursery: There is no better way to learn about California native and water wise plants than to join the teams working in the propagation and sales nurseries.

The Kids Adventure Garden: KAG is open from 11:00 to 3:00 each Sunday. Docents welcome families to the garden, answer questions and ensure everyone is safe and has fun. You will train with an experienced Docent. You can sign up for one shift a month or as many as you want. Contact Jean Reiley at 805 374 8255.

For information and directions to the garden, visit our web site at www.conejogarden.org.

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