Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour™

Online, instead of in-person.
Three days, instead of one. Free.

a virtual tour of 43 Alameda and Contra Costa County gardens

Sundays • 10am-3pm
April 26, May 3, and May 10, 2020
Eric Grijalva and Lainie Acacio’s Alameda garden contains a delightful array of spring wildflowers. Photo © Eric Grijalva

Anita Pereira’s Richmond garden contains numerous lupines—a keystone plant upon which seventy-five species of butterflies and moths can lay eggs. Photo © Kathy Kramer

The rectangular courtyard in Nancy Niemeyer’s Clayton garden is planted with a riot of colorful natives that attract native bees, ladybugs, butterflies, finches, and quail.

Cover Photo: Monarch butterfly on hummingbird sage. Photo © Pauline Cheng
Will You Help Support the Tour?

In the last wild and crazy year we have coordinated two Tours; coordination for the usual one, that didn’t take place, started in the spring of 2019. It was formally cancelled in March, along with the workshops and Native Plant Extravaganzas.

A massive effort has gone into the creation of Sundays in the Gardens with the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour’s on line, live virtual tour of native plant gardens that will take place this year on April 26, May 3, and May 10.

We hope you enjoy this event, and that you will help us raise the funds needed to cover the cost of coordinating the original Tour, and putting this one on.

There is no required registration fee; however, we are counting on our registrants and supporters to help us keep the tour going. If you have not donated already, please help support the Tour now. You can donate here, contribute to our “GoFundMe” campaign, or send a check to:

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour  
1718 Hillcrest Road, San Pablo, CA 94806

Whether you have enjoyed the Tour many times in the past, or you are attending for the first time this year, we hope you will join your fellow Tour-goers in supporting this event.

Thank you for your help!

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour Staff
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Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

**California Poppy—$4,500**  
Contra Costa Water District

**Manzanita—$3,250**  
East Bay Municipal Utility District

**Sage—$2,000**  
Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency

**Douglas Iris—$1,500**  
City of El Cerrito  
City of Pittsburg

**Penstemon—$1,350**  
California Native Plant Society  
(East Bay Chapter)

**Sage—$1,000**  
City of Antioch  
City of Walnut Creek  
RecycleSmart

**Fuchsia—$750**  
Zone 7 Water Agency

**Wild Lilac—$500**  
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**Blue-Eyed Grass—$250**  
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**Lupine—$100**  
Vicky Bowen  
Anne Chambers  
Clytia and Joe Curley  
Jim Fisher  
Marilyn Goldhaber  
Melvin Ho  
Barbara Leitner  
Sue Mellers

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**Special Additional Thanks are gratefully given to:**

**Michael May** (of May Technology Consulting, [www.MayTC.com](http://www.MayTC.com)) for designing the website and managing all of the computer portions of the Tour; **Monica Alatorre**, (510) 932-1702, garden guide layout maven, who is ever a delight to work with; and **Nora Harlow**, garden guide editor extraordinaire.
Welcome to the 16th Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

I’m hoping you and your loved ones are doing well in this tumultuous and worrying time. My family and I are all well.

From the Tour’s perspective (and my own), it was disappointing (to say the least!) to have to cancel a year’s worth of work and plans involving forty-three gardens, fifty talks, one hundred fifty volunteers, a dozen landscape designers, nine workshops, a handful of native plant nurseries, and three plant sales.

However, it was fortuitous that a few weeks ago the Theodore Payne Foundation—a Los Angeles-based non-profit that educates the public about the beauty and ecological benefits of California native plants—saw their annual native plant garden tour heading for the cliff, leapt into action, and turned their tour into a virtual, live, online event. Their amazing, trail-blazing example was our guide. I take my hat off to the Theodore Payne staff for their boldness and creativity, and thank them for their help.

What’s happening this year, then?

This year, for the first time, the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour will be online, instead of in-person. Three days, instead of one. And free. (Though we are asking for donations.)

This year’s garden guide, which contains descriptions of forty-three beautiful native plant gardens that provide habitat for wildlife, and flourish without the use of pesticides and with a minimum of water, is being sent out as an electronic file, instead of a printed piece. One nice aspect of this format is that we were able to link the garden descriptions to the website (so you can see multiple photographs of the garden and its plant list), and also to include a photograph of every garden after its description in this PDF. (I hope you enjoy these features!)

This year’s Tour, which will take place over the course of three weeks, is a series of livestreamed Sunday garden visits with the passionate garden owners and the talented designers of twenty-five of the Bay Area’s most beautiful and inspiring landscapes. These dedicated gardeners will show us what’s happening in their gardens now, feature their favorite natives, describe the native plant gardening resources they use most, and provide tips for those just getting started.
Inspiring speaker and best-selling author Douglas Tallamy (*Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* and *Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard*) will kick off this event at 10 a.m. April 26. His talk will be followed by a series of garden visits that will be hosted on Zoom and livestreamed on YouTube. These free, online events will be held on the following Sundays:

- April 26 | 10:00 – 3:00
- May 3 | 10:00 – 3:00
- May 10 | 10:00 – 3:00

Preregistration is required at [BringingBacktheNatives.net](http://BringingBacktheNatives.net), where a schedule of garden visits is also available. You will need to register for this event, even if you already registered for the Tour earlier this year.

*Some things don’t change.*

Visit [BringingBacktheNatives.net](http://BringingBacktheNatives.net) to see photographs of each garden, read extensive garden descriptions, and download plant lists. On the website you can also find contact information for native plant landscape designers, locate nurseries that carry natives, and obtain a list of easy-to-grow East Bay natives, among other information.

The garden descriptions in this guide still, nostalgically, contain the garden talks, music and art in the garden, and plant sale information. Though, of course, none of those things are happening. We just didn’t have either the heart or the time to strip that information out of the garden pages. So, as you peruse these descriptions, you can imagine how lovely it would have been to take part in the actual Tour this year, visiting these inspiring gardens, choosing what talks to attend, enjoying Mexican food at San Leandro High, purchasing handcrafted soaps made by hosts Eugene Shubelyanau and Danny Galindo, and enjoying the delightful four-part harmonizing vocals of the Infusions in Stefanie Preugel’s garden.

**Restoring the Little Things That Run the World: Why It Matters and What We Can Do**

You have likely heard that bird populations have plummeted over the last five decades, with a decline of nearly three billion birds across North America in that time period. The causes of this decline are habitat loss, non-native ornamental plants, outdoor cats, roadside mortality, climate change, and security lights (which disrupt bird migrations and reduce birds’ food supply when moths exhaust themselves by battering themselves on outdoor lights and die).
How to reverse this trend? Wildlife ecologist Douglas Tallamy writes,

“We must abandon the notion that humans and nature cannot live together. Though vital as short-term refuges, nature preserves are not large enough to meet our ecological needs—we must restore the natural world where we live, work, and play. Because nearly 85% of the U.S. is privately owned, our private properties are an opportunity for long-term conservation if we design them to meet the needs of the life around us.

In order to have functioning ecosystems we need to redesign residential landscapes to support diverse pollinator populations and complex food webs by replacing half of the area dedicated to lawn or non-native ornamental plants with diverse plantings of native woody and herbaceous species. Plants differ widely in how well they support wildlife. Native plants support pollinators and food webs far better than introduced ornamentals, and some native plants support much more life than others. Choosing the best plants for your area is the key to success.

In the past we have designed our landscapes strictly for our own pleasure, with no thought to how they might impact the natural world around us. Such landscapes do not contribute much to local ecosystem function and support little life.”

Tallamy goes on to say,

“With property ownership comes the responsibility to choose plants wisely. The days when we could choose a plant just because it is pretty in the garden are over. When we make that choice, we choose ecological destruction. Native plants are bird feeders. If we plant natives, we’ll have birds, butterflies, and native bees in our gardens.”

The backstory behind the natives/ornamental non-natives issue is that while in the nest, and even after they leave it, almost all baby birds feed primarily on caterpillars. Baby birds do not live on seeds, or berries, or sugar water. Caterpillars are not optional for baby birds. If we don’t have caterpillars, we won’t have baby birds.
As an example, it takes 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars, collected by both busy chickadee parents over the course of sixteen days, to raise a clutch of chickadee babies. And chickadees are tiny birds; just a third of an ounce. How many caterpillars does it take to raise a woodpecker, a bird about eight times heavier?

So, where do these caterpillars come from? They hatch from the eggs of butterflies and moths. However, butterflies and moths have specialized so that they generally lay their eggs on just one or two kinds of host plants. If we don’t have those native host plants, there will be no caterpillars, and thus no baby birds.

Native plants—and lots of them—are what’s required to restore bird populations. To give some examples, here is a comparison of how many species of caterpillars are attracted to native and non-native plants:
The good news is that we can reverse these depressing trends by changing the way we manage our own gardens and homes.

Here are the things you can do to help create the world we want to live in and leave for our children:

1) Remove at least half of your lawn and non-native ornamentals and replace them with California native plants: 70% is better. The higher percentage of natives is a requirement for some birds before they will nest in a garden; otherwise they have to fly too far to find enough caterpillars for their chicks.

2) Remove weeds and invasive species from your property.

3) Preserve leaf litter under trees, as this is where many caterpillars spend time as pupa.

4) Incorporate native “keystone species plants” into your garden. These are species with the greatest habitat value to wildlife. Examples are oaks, willow, California lilac, lupine, sages, manzanita, native strawberry, goldenrod, and many more. You can find a list of natives that have the highest value to wildlife in the center of the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour’s home page.

5) Eliminate insecticide use. Homeowners use more insecticides than agriculture does.

6) Put motion sensors on your outdoor lights to protect birds and moths. (Moths exhaust themselves around outdoor lights.)

7) Keep your cats indoors, or confined within a catio.

I would like to thank the team that has worked hard to bring this virtual tour to you. First, thanks are due to my beloved husband, Mike May. Without his help, I would be coordinating the Tour with a pencil and paper.

Monica Alatorre did a fabulous job of designing and laying out the printed version of the garden guide—as she always does—and then, when our Tour world came crashing down in March, she quickly and graciously turned the guide into this beautiful PDF. Nora Harlow has patiently edited the guide for many years now, for which I am endlessly grateful.
In March tour registrant Ethan Bodnar emailed me suggesting that the Tour be turned into an online event, and then, when I finally came on-board he jumped in, patiently guided me through the confusing morass of webinars and online streaming, coached our hosts on how to best Zoom through their gardens, and more. This event could not have taken place without his help.

As we have planned and coordinated this event, garden tour host Stefanie Preugel has been a constant source of good cheer, enthusiastic support, and skillful assistance with promotion. I have enjoyed getting to know Stefanie better.

As always, it has been a pleasure working on this virtual tour with long-time colleagues Kelly Marshall and Chris Dundon; two people I can always count on.

All of us who have worked hard to bring you Sundays in the Gardens with the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour hope that this year’s event inspires, informs, and motivates you to include native plants in your own garden, if you don’t currently have them, and to add more natives to your garden if you do.

If not you, who? If not now, when?

Sincerely,

Kathy Kramer
Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour Coordinator
OXFORD, Pa. — I GREW up thinking little of plants. I was interested in snakes and turtles, then insects and, eventually, birds. Now I like plants. But I still like the life they create even more.

Plants are as close to biological miracles as a scientist could dare admit. After all, they allow us, and nearly every other species, to eat sunlight, by creating the nourishment that drives food webs on this planet. As if that weren’t enough, plants also produce oxygen, build topsoil and hold it in place, prevent floods, sequester carbon dioxide, buffer extreme weather and clean our water. Considering all this, you might think we gardeners would value plants for what they do. Instead, we value them for what they look like.

When we design our home landscapes, too many of us choose beautiful plants from all over the world, without considering their ability to support life within our local ecosystems.

Last summer I did a simple experiment at home to measure just how different the plants we use for landscaping can be in supporting local animals. I compared a young white oak in my yard with one of the Bradford pears in my neighbor’s yard. Both trees are the same size, but Bradford pears are ornamentals from Asia, while white oaks are native to eastern North America. I walked around each tree and counted the caterpillars on their leaves at head height. I found 410 caterpillars on the white oak (comprising 19 different species), and only one caterpillar (an inchworm) on the Bradford pear.

Was this a fluke? Hardly. The next day I repeated my survey on a different white oak and Bradford pear. This time I found 233 caterpillars on the white oak (comprising 15 species) and, again, only one on the Bradford pear.

Why such huge differences? It’s simple: Plants don’t want to be eaten, so they have loaded their tissues with nasty chemicals that would kill most insects if eaten. Insects do eat plants, though, and they achieve this by adapting to the chemical defenses of just one or two plant lineages. So some have evolved to eat oak trees without dying, while others have specialized in native cherries or ashes and so on.

But local insects have only just met Bradford pears, in an evolutionary sense, and have not had the time — millennia — required to adapt to their chemical defenses. And so Bradford pears stand virtually
untouched in my neighbor’s yard. In the past, we thought this was a good thing. After all, Asian ornamentals were planted to look pretty, and we certainly didn’t want insects eating them. We were happy with our perfect pears, burning bushes, Japanese barberries, porcelain berries, golden rain trees, crape myrtles, privets, bush honeysuckles and all the other foreign ornamentals.

But there are serious ecological consequences to such choices, and another exercise you can do at home makes them clear. This spring, if you live in North America, put up a chickadee nest box in your yard. If you are lucky, a pair of chickadees will move in and raise a family. While they are feeding their young, watch what the chickadees bring to the nest: mostly caterpillars. Both parents take turns feeding the chicks, enabling them to bring a caterpillar to the nest once every three minutes. And they do this from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. for each of the 16 to 18 days it takes the chicks to fledge. That’s a total of 350 to 570 caterpillars every day, depending on how many chicks they have. So, an incredible 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars are required to make one clutch of chickadees.

And chickadees are tiny birds: just a third of an ounce. What if you wanted to support red-bellied woodpeckers in your yard, a bird that is about eight times heavier than a chickadee? How many caterpillars would that take?

What we plant in our landscapes determines what can live in our landscapes. Controlling what grows in our yards is like playing God. By favoring productive species, we can create life, and by using nonnative plants, we can prevent it.

An American yard dominated by Asian ornamentals does not produce nearly the quantity and diversity of insects needed for birds to reproduce. Some might argue that we should just let those birds breed “in nature.” That worked in the past, but now there simply is not enough “nature” left. And it shows. Many bird species in North America have declined drastically in the past 40 years.

Fortunately, more and more gardeners are realizing that their yards offer one of the most empowering conservation options we have, and are sharing their properties with the nature around them.

By the way, you might assume that my oak was riddled with unsightly caterpillar holes, but not so. Since birds eat most of the caterpillars before they get very large, from 10 feet away the oak looked as perfect as a Bradford pear.

Douglas W. Tallamy, a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, is the author of “Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife With Native Plants.”
**Garden Resources**

**Resources for gardening with natives, for wildlife, and without pesticides, while using a minimum of water**

Visit the Bringing Back the Garden Tour’s Facebook page to find out what to do in your native plant garden each month, what’s blooming now, read about behind-the-scenes details on the Tour, and receive up-to-the-minute information about Tour gardens.

Visit the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour website at [www.BringingBackTheNatives.net](http://www.BringingBackTheNatives.net) to find out:

- Where can I buy natives? See “Find a Nursery.”
- Where can I find a designer, or just get advice on how to get started in my own garden? See “Find a Designer.”

Also at [www.BringingBackTheNatives.net](http://www.BringingBackTheNatives.net) look under “Gardening Info” to find out:

- How do I begin? See “Getting Started with California Natives.”
- How can I learn more? See “Hands-on Learning Opportunities for Gardening With Natives.”
- What plants will do well in my garden? See “Easy-to-Grow East Bay Natives.”

Here are a few more resources:

- Best article: Google “NY Times Chickadees Guide to Gardening”
- Best YouTube video: Google “Speaker Video CNPS Doug Tallamy Conservation Conference”
- Join the California Native Plant Society: Google “CNPS State Office” or call (916) 447-2677.
- Purchase “California Native Plants for the Garden” by Carol Bornstein, et al.
- Choosing new native plants for your garden? Visit the California Native Plant Society’s terrific website [www.CalScape.org](http://www.CalScape.org) to find out which plants are native to your area, where to buy them, how to grow them and more. You can also to see a great collection of photographs of each plant.
- Visit [www.LasPilitas.com](http://www.LasPilitas.com) for great information on native plants.
- Don’t plant a pest! For more information on invasive plants visit [www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org), or call (510) 843-3902.
- For information on Sudden Oak Death visit the California Oak Mortality Task Force’s website at [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org).
How to Choose Which Gardens to Visit

www.BringingBackTheNatives.net

So much to see; so little time! Below are some things to keep in mind when choosing which gardens to visit.

1. Gardens closest to your home will contain plants best suited for your growing conditions. Visit the “View the 2020 Gardens” section of the website to see gardens in or near your city. Browse the photos and look at the age and size of the garden, and review the plant lists of the gardens you selected. These factors will help you decide whether or not a garden is a good fit for you.

2. If you are primarily interested in design, visit the “Find a Designer” section of the website. Check out various designers’ work to see which gardens appeal most to you, then visit those gardens.

3. If you are interested in designing and installing your own garden, you might want to visit gardens created by other do-it-yourselfers. These hardworking gardeners are intimately familiar with lawn removal processes, the costs of materials, plant selection, local nurseries, and more. Don’t be shy: ask these homeowners how they went about it! Peruse the “Gardens at a Glance” matrix at the back of the garden guide to see which gardens were professionally designed, and which were designed and installed by homeowners.

4. Both the age and the size of the garden are included in each garden description; choose carefully so that you can see mature or new gardens, or large or modest ones, as suits your interest.

5. The “Gardens at a Glance” matrix on pages 102 can help you to make good choices. Hillside, woodland, wheelchair accessible, native plants sold, music in the garden—these are just a few of the factors listed in the matrix.

6. No matter which gardens you choose, on behalf of the hosts and volunteers who have worked so hard to make this tour available to you, we hope you enjoy your day!
Bringing Back the Natives 2020 Gardens

Alameda
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Albany
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43. Nancy Wenninger—page 100
Showcase Feature  
Erik, an ecologist, wanted his front garden to be a “patch of land in the urban desert” that would provide food, shelter, and nesting areas for insects, and he and his wife, Lainie, wanted their back garden to be an inviting haven for the family. Come see how their efforts were successful on both counts. Come see how his efforts were successful on both counts. The diminutive front garden contains two redbuds, whose spectacular magenta blossoms attract a plethora of native bees, birds, and butterflies in spring. Wildflowers such as clarkia, Chinese houses, fivespot, and poppies brighten the garden between February and June. A large manzanita, with its beautiful, smooth, red bark, has grown up around the Little Free Library. Wander around to the attractive back garden, with its raised bed—created from the former driveway—of vegetables, herbs, and ornamentals, happy flock of chickens (longtime stars of the Tour de Coop), and attractive seating area. Drop down at the shaded table and rest a while; you won’t want to leave.

Other Garden Attractions

- Check out the insect collection; many of them have been seen in this small garden.

Gardening for Wildlife  
Monarchs and skippers, carpenter, honey, yellow-faced and beautiful iridescent green bees, black phoebes, finches, and hummingbirds frequent the garden. Salamanders have been found in the cool, shady areas of the garden.

Garden Talks  
11:00 and 1:00 “How to raise chickens” • 11:30 and 1:30 “Garden like life depends on it” all by Erik Grijalva

Plants for Sale  
A selection of native plants will be available. These will most likely include purple needlegrass, clarkias, redbuds, nettles, the lovely bee plant, our local native strawberry, and perhaps a few others.

Garden was installed in 2005.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: New this year!
Visit this garden online!

Erik Grijalva and Lainie Acacio’s garden
**Showcase Feature**    Inspired by the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, Jennifer and Dan tackled their oxalis- and crabgrass-engulfed back yard—and conquered it. (Go ahead—ask how!) This hard-working couple obtained design and plant selection guidance from Todd Gilens and Sandra Nevala-Lee, but did the installation of this attractive and inviting garden themselves. Jennifer and Dan’s passion is to attract butterflies—they now delight in watching beautiful lepidopterans lay eggs, hatch as caterpillars, form their chrysalises, and emerge as winged adults to begin the cycle again.

**Other Garden Attractions**

Interested in attracting butterflies to your own garden? Check out the information on native plants that attract and provide food for butterflies and their larvae, such as mallow and pearly everlasting (painted lady butterflies); Dutchman’s pipevine (pipevine swallowtails); monkeyflowers (common checkerspot, buckeye, and field crescent); buckwheat (gray hairstreak); California false indigo (California dogface—our state butterfly); native sages (which provide nectar for all butterflies); and more.

Don’t miss the before, during, and after photos.

**Gardening for Wildlife**    Larval host plants are those on which butterflies and moths can lay their eggs. The larval host plants in this lepidoptera-friendly garden include manzanita, California lilac, coffee berry, currants, milkweed, yarrow, buckwheat, Dutchman’s pipevine, yampah, monkeyflowers, coyote mint, pearly everlasting, and California false indigo. Butterfly nectar plants include lavatera, lilac verbena, milkweed, yarrow, buckwheat, and seaside daisies. Fallen logs create shady and cool homes for salamanders. Oak titmice and bees also frequent this wildlife haven.

**Garden Talks**    11:00 “Starting your DIY native plant garden: how to get rid of oxalis, sheet mulch, and attract butterflies” by Dan Gaff

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Garden was installed in stages, beginning in 2015.

Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 2
Visit this garden online!

Jennifer Hurley and Dan Gaff’s garden
Showcase Feature  This shady garden started as solid lawn bisected by a straight concrete path. After Michelle took Glen Keator’s class on how to design a native plant garden, out went the lawn and in came the natives and Mediterranean climate drought-tolerant plants. Michelle’s goal was to “bring the garden into the living room.” In order to bring the outdoors inside, a beautiful glazed pot was turned into a burbling fountain and placed near the living room window, in one of the wide, curving garden beds. Riparian plants were planted in the deep shade next to the house; sturdy chaparral plants that needed more sun, such as penstemon and fuchsia, were placed closer to the sidewalk. Hardy coffeeberry was recently added along the fenceline. This attractive, low-maintenance garden was designed by Michelle; installation was a family affair.

Other Garden Attractions

- The spacious “flagstone” path is really the former driveway, cut, stained, and artfully laid by Kohi Moa of K. Construction.

- In spring the garden is abloom with blue flax, orange poppies and monkeyflower, pink alum root, and cream-colored milkweed.

- Don’t miss the “before” photos!

Gardening for Wildlife  Bees adore the lavender blossoms on the creeping sage and the sweetly scented, purple-blue flowers on the California lilac. Hummingbirds are drawn to the red, tubular blooms of the fuchsia and the electric blue petals of the penstemon. Butterflies love the large, cream-colored, nectar-filled landing pads (aka flowers) on the buckwheat.

Garden Talk  11:00 “How to build, power, and light your own fountain” and 2:00 “How to save water with smart irrigation” by Milton Friedman.

Garden was installed in the fall of 2008.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 4
Visit this garden online!

Michelle Minor and Milt Friedman’s garden
Showcase Feature  Long-time Tour attendees Natalie and Armand had tried to design their garden themselves but weren’t happy with the outcome, and finally realized they needed help from a professional. The resulting beautiful garden, designed and installed by Pete Veilleux of East Bay Wilds, is a delightful example of how a small garden can be transformed into an attractive space that invites both people and pollinators to linger. Year-round color begins with the nine (!) species of manzanitas in winter, brightens with California lilac and sages in spring, and continues with buckwheats and fuchsia in the summer and fall.

Other Garden Attractions

- The pink concrete driveway and a brick wall were removed and partially re-used in the recently installed hand-set driveway strips and in the curvaceous back patio.
- Removing the driveway allows rainwater to drain naturally into the soil, providing a prolonged drink to the garden's plants.
- Watch your step in the back garden, near the stairway.

Gardening for Wildlife  This garden is attractive year-round; it is especially vibrant in summer—and the visual appeal does not go unnoticed by the pollinators! Hummingbirds sip nectar from the red fuchsias, electric purple-blue penstemon, and red and yellow monkeyflowers. Butterflies adore the red flowers of the rosy, and the cream-colored blossoms of the Santa Cruz Island and naked stem buckwheats. Bees gather pollen from, and happily buzz, the purple sages and orange poppies.

Garden Talks  11:00 “How to make the most of your small garden space” by Natalie

Art in the Garden  Bird vs Bird will sell hand-crafted note cards, coasters, magnets and pins, pouches, wallets, and illustrations for bird watchers and nature lovers.

Garden was installed in 2016.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 3
Natalie and Armand’s garden

Visit this garden online!
Showcase Feature  Gretchen, who has been on almost every Tour since it began in 2005, “was tired of wasting water and trying to grow a lawn on sand.” Through the Tour she found Lois Simonds of Gardening by Nature’s Design, who sheet mulched away the lawn, and designed and installed this peaceful and serene garden. In the front garden, orange poppies, deep purple blue witch, and yellow monkeyflower and goldenrod welcome visitors. In the tranquil back garden plants of varying heights and textures, and a gracefully curving moss rock wall, contribute to the visual appeal. The fence line is softened by a medley of Island tree mallow, chaparral mallow, and the California lilacs ‘Snow Flurry’, ‘Wheeler Canyon’, and ‘Dark Star’. A rebate from the East Bay Municipal Utility District helped to pay for this project.

Other Garden Attractions

In the front garden prostrate chamise, manzanita, sage, and coyote brush function as evergreen groundcovers. Carpenteria and coffeeberry will create privacy screens when mature.

Restrooms are available at nearby Tillman Park.

Gardening for Wildlife  The back garden was designed to attract birds. In addition to feathered visitors, skippers delight in chasing each other through the white sage; anise swallowtail butterflies flutter more gracefully through the garden. Bees buzz the sages.

Garden Talks  12:00 “How to design a garden and attract birds to your garden” by Lois Simonds

Garden was installed in 2017.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 2
Visit this garden online!

Gretchen Pivonka’s garden

Photo © Tam Sarita
Showcase Feature  The kids had grown up and no longer played on the lawn (“which had never looked particularly good,” observed Bjorn), a large, diseased tree had recently been removed, and the garden clearly needed a do-over. Fortunately, Beatrice and Bjorn found long-time Tour attendee and landscape designer Miri Malmquist, who sheet mulched the lawn and designed and installed this low-maintenance, water-conserving garden. Three types of California lilac (the upright indigo-flowered ‘Julia Phelps’, the more compact deep-blue flowering ‘Concha,’ and the groundcover ‘San Simeon’), two kinds of manzanita (the tallish ‘Densiflora Sentinel’ and the low-growing ‘Uva-ursi’), and the hardy foothill sedge provide structure and greenery throughout the year.

Other Garden Attractions

- Flagstone paths wend through the garden. La Paz pebbles line the walkway. Moss rock boulders add visual interest.
- Raised planting mounds provide the drainage most natives need.
- No herbicides are use in this—or any!—Tour garden. Weeds are pulled by hand.

Gardening for Wildlife  In December and January native bees and hummingbirds are attracted to the delicate, urn-shaped blossoms of the manzanita. Between January and March the beautiful pink clusters of flowers on the pink flowering currant attract insects and birds. From February through May the spectacular California lilacs and western redbud attract native bees, butterflies, bushtits, finches, and more.

Garden Talk  11:00 “How to select California native plants for your garden” by Miri Malmquist

Garden was installed in stages, beginning in 2017.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: New this year!
Beatrice and Bjorn Hori’s garden

Visit this garden online!

Photo © Miri Malmquist
Showcase Feature  Sue read Douglas Tellamy’s charming NY Times Op Ed piece, “The Chickadee’s Guide to Gardening: In Your Garden Choose Plants That Help the Environment,” (Google it!) and Sarah Stein’s inspiring, “Noah’s Garden” and knew that she wanted a native plant garden that would provide food, shelter, and nesting areas for birds, bees, and butterflies. More than $1,000 in rebates from the East Bay Municipal Utility District and Save Our Water helped pay to have the Bermuda grass dug out, the lawn sheet mulched, and a drip system and plants purchased. Kelly Marshall of Kelly Marshall Garden Design initially designed the garden; Sue and her husband installed the plants and drip lines.

Other Garden Attractions

This garden is in transition, as some plants were out of scale in this small garden; others were lost to children and balls.

No pesticides are used in this—or any!—Tour garden.

Gardening for Wildlife  Manzanita provide nectar to hummingbirds and native bees in the winter and early spring; later in the year other birds visit the manzanita for seeds and fruit. Adding a bird bath greatly increased the number of birds that visit. In summer clarkia brighten the garden with their bright pink blossoms, while also attracting native bees. The long, tubular blossoms on the penstemon and monkeyflower invite visits from hummingbirds. The beautiful perennial seaside daisy and two types of buckwheat are great butterfly plants.

Garden was installed in the spring of 2017.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 2
Visit this garden online!

Sue Mellers’ garden
Showcase Feature  As a child working in his parents’ native plant garden, Scott was not drawn to the idea of gardening with nature. But as a new homeowner faced with a yard full of ice plant, roses and camellias, natives were what he chose for the garden he designed and installed—“Thanks, Mom!” This typically petite, densely planted and vibrantly colorful Albany garden contains a potpourri of natives. It is anchored by evergreen manzanita and California lilacs, sweetly scented by five types of sages (white, black, Cleveland, hummingbird, and California), and brightened by a plethora of wildflowers, including yellow tidy tips, blue flax, purple gilia, pink clarkia, and orange poppies. In summer the pinkish red flowers of the rosy buckwheat mingle with the cream-colored blossoms of the naked buckwheat and the red flowers of our native fuchsia.

Other Garden Attractions

- Bring your children! They can crawl through the toddlers’ tunnel (planted with checkerbloom, with its inviting pink blossoms at the entrance) and play on the enviable play structure Scott designed and constructed.
- Scott hand-waters the new plants that need it.
- No pesticides are use in this—or any!—Tour garden.

Gardening for Wildlife  Scott’s garden has something in bloom nearly all year, providing nectar and pollen for hummingbirds, butterflies and bees throughout the seasons. The colorfest begins in January when the manzanita blooms. Wildflowers and California lilac burst into color in spring, and the delectables for wildlife continue to be offered with the onset of flowers on buckwheats in the summer and fuchsia into the fall.

Garden was installed in stages, beginning in the spring of 2016.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: New this year!
Visit this garden online!

Scott Richerson’s garden

Photo © Scott Richerson
Showcase Feature  This small Albany garden, which contained Bermuda grass, rosemary, and a holly tree when Debra bought the house in 2012, was designed by Debra, who has long had a passion for California native plants. Over time the Bermuda grass was hand-weeded (yes—you can do it!), the rest of the non-native plants removed, and a plethora of natives brought in. This garden has something blooming much of the year. The flower season starts in January, when the manzanitas delight native bees with their urn-shaped, creamy pink blossoms. In spring the seaside daisies produce abundant lavender flowers with yellow centers, which complement the lavender-to-blue sprays of the ‘Winifred Gilman’ sage and the showy violet flowers of the Canyon gooseberry. Summertime finds the garden brightened with the violet blossoms of the wooly blue curl and the bright red California fuchsia.

Other Garden Attractions

Public restrooms are available at Terrace Park, just two blocks away.

Gardening for Wildlife  In spring the cheerfully glossy, bright yellow buttercups and the blue blossoms of the California lilac attract native bees, while the long, tubular electric blue blossoms on the penstemon bring in hummingbirds.

Garden Talk  11:00 “How to design your own native plant garden” by Debra Shushan

Music in the Garden  Musician and songwriter David Franklin will play acoustic guitar from 10:00-11:00

Art in the Garden  Calling all artists! Come draw California native plants, bees, butterflies and other critters. We’ll have chalk available for a small donation and homemade lemonade, baked goods and crafts for sale to help fuel your creativity.

Garden was installed in stages, beginning in 2012.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: New this year!
Debra Shushan’s garden

Visit this garden online!
Leslie Zander’s garden
650 sq. ft. front garden, 95% native • 800 sq. ft. back garden, 65% native

Showcase Feature  Leslie’s small, sunny front garden is a mixture of evergreen and deciduous shrubs and trees that create a delightfully changing landscape throughout the year. In spring the garden is awash in color, from the abundant white blooms of the California buckeye to the exuberant mosaic of yellow, blue, and orange in the annual wildflower understory. In winter, the elegant structure and silvery bare branches of the buckeye are the garden’s works of art. In the back garden native shade-tolerant vegetation has been placed along the south fence and a combination of fruit trees and California native grassland species flourish in the open, sun-drenched areas. This garden is an inspiration for converting a small yard into an interesting, low-maintenance wildlife habitat.

Other Garden Attractions

During WWII this home was one of twenty million Victory Gardens. Leslie is renewing the tradition of growing vegetables at home; note the raised planter beds running up the center of the driveway.

Don’t miss the “before” photos!

Gardening for Wildlife  The diversity of plant heights, from trees to shrubs to low-growing groundcovers, provides shelter for wildlife. Native plants provide berries, seeds, and nectar for goldfinches, white-crowned sparrows, doves, orioles, and hummingbirds. The avian action attracts Cooper’s hawks. Bumblebees, honeybees, and buckeye and painted lady butterflies are frequent visitors.

Front garden was installed in 2005; the back garden was installed in stages, beginning in 2006.

Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 7
Leslie Zander’s garden

Visit this garden online!
**Showcase Feature**  Twenty years ago out went four tons of concrete and railroad ties, and in came plants from the Mediterranean, Australia, and South Africa. When the drought killed most of those non-natives, Sally visited gardens on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour and became convinced that gardening for wildlife with California native plants was the way to go. The remnants of the non-natives that had fared poorly in the drought were removed, and Sally brought in more native plants that attract birds, bees, and butterflies.

**Other Garden Attractions**

- Relax on the peaceful stone bench tucked next to the waterfall; you won’t want to leave.

**Gardening for Wildlife**  Sallie’s garden contains wood piles, bird houses, a native bee nesting box, and a pond and waterfall. Bewick’s wrens nest in the swan gourd near the front walkway. Oak titmice, bushtits, and woodpeckers frequent the garden. Fox stroll through. Salamanders live in shady, damp areas. Bare patches of earth are left for ground-nesting bees. A flow hive houses honey bees. The larval host plants found in this garden (on which butterflies and moths lay their eggs), include coyote brush, goldenrod, pink flowering currant, California lilac, and manzanita, among others. Did you know that butterflies and moths require specific plants in order to lay their eggs—which turn into caterpillars? And that almost all baby birds must have caterpillars—thousands of them—while they are in the nest? If we don’t have caterpillars, we won’t have baby birds!

**Garden Talk**  1:00 “How to create a wildlife habitat garden and bring in the birds, bees, and butterflies” by Sallie Bryan

**Music in the Garden**  11:00 -1:00 Enjoy bluegrass music performed by Bammer Grass, a quintet of Berkeley High School seniors

**Art in the Garden**  Whimsical hand-made ceramics, including animals and masks, created by Susie Howell of Garden Faces, will be available for sale.
Sallie Bryan’s garden

Visit this garden online!
Showcase Feature  Leslie is an aesthetic pruner and the author of the engaging garden memoir *Cutting Back: My Apprenticeship in the Gardens of Kyoto*, which tells the story of how she trained with traditional gardeners of Japan, working in some of the most naturally designed native gardens in the world. Leslie’s own back garden, ringed by trees surrounding a blue-eyed grass and lupine meadow, was designed to create the atmosphere and beauty found in nature, and to look like a piece of forest left behind in the city. The garden, with its restrained plant palette of natives that are naturally found in Tilden Park, can be enjoyed from the veranda, with its eclectic collection of found furniture (check out the gorgeous hand-carved chest), by relaxing near the pond, or by strolling on the woodchip path. The front garden has the natural atmosphere of a native coastal scene.

Other Garden Attractions
- Calling all book lovers! Purchase at the garden, or bring your own copy of *Cutting Back*, and ask Leslie to sign it.
- Enjoy hot tea and homemade scones in the garden (while supplies last), in exchange for a donation.
- Native plant pruning experts will be available all day to answer your pruning questions.

Gardening for Wildlife  Berry-bearing plants such as the toyon, pink-flowering currant, and coffeeberry attract birds. The sage, monkeyflower, buckwheat, and poppies in the riotously colorful front garden attract hummingbirds, native bees, and butterflies. Pacific chorus frogs found the pond on their own.

Garden was installed in stages, beginning in 2015. Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 2
Visit this garden online!

*Leslie Buck’s garden*

Photo © Leslie Buck
Showcase Feature  Seventeen oaks and three large groups of boulders provide the framework for this lovely hillside garden, which was designed and installed by Rosemary Zappulla of Wild Rose Gardens Sustainable Landscaping and the owners. A former tangle of blackberry, broom, ivy, and juniper, the garden was redesigned to attract birds, conserve water, and take a minimum of time to maintain. A long flight of stairs leads up to an expansive deck, designed to accommodate several huge oak trees, which grow through it.

Other Garden Attractions
- A diversity of native plants stabilize these slopes.
- A plethora of Douglas iris bloom in the spring.
- Look for the oaks and toyon growing from cracks in the boulders.
- Seven-foot-long lying Buddha rests among plants from the oak woodland plant community. All of the plants in this area of the garden come from the local gene pool: Kensington, Pt. Molate, Oakland, and Berkeley.
- Enjoy the splendid view of Mount Tamalpais from the upper deck.

Gardening for Wildlife  Shade-loving native shrubs attract wildlife. Birds seen in the garden include chickadees, titmice, bushtits, juncos, brown towhees, Allen’s hummingbirds, downy woodpeckers, stellar and scrub jays, mourning doves, nuthatches, and Townsend or other western warblers. After rains, flocks of cedar waxwings stop by to visit. Deer, raccoon, skunk, opossum, and salamanders also call this garden home.

Garden was installed in stages, beginning in 2000.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 6
Mary Ford and Rob Lewis’ garden

Visit this garden online!

Photo © Rosemary Zappulla
**Showcase Feature**  Inspired by the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, long-time Tour attendees and volunteers Carol Bier and Jana Olson eyed the large juniper hedge, agapanthus, and holly in front of the nearly hundred-year-old Maybeck-designed Hillside Club (which was founded in 1898 by women intent on preserving the natural beauty of the Berkeley hills), and they and other Hillside Club volunteers replaced the exotics with an inviting mix of elegant, shade-loving native azaleas, currants, ferns, and more. Manzanita delight hummingbirds, which sip nectar from their lovely creamy-pink blossoms in winter, and California lilac brighten the garden in spring, with their beautiful purple blossoms.

**Other Garden Attractions**

- Children’s seed planting and native plant coloring stations will be available from 12:00-4:00.
- The redwood bench was designed by the architect Julia Morgan and created using her molds.
- Bicyclists can lock their bikes against the custom-made hand-wrought bike racks.
- This garden is watered once every two weeks in the summer.
- Restrooms will be available all day.

**Gardening for Wildlife**  The native plants in this garden provide nectar, seeds, and berries for butterflies, bees, and birds. Native bees adore the California lilac, which also creates a screen from the street and thrives on the sunny edge of the garden.

**Tours of the Hillside Club’s historic hall**  Tours of the historic Hillside Club will be offered at 10:00 and 11:00.

**Plants for Sale**  Seeds of native wildflowers and other native plants, *propagated from Club member’s gardens*, will be available in exchange for donations.

Garden was installed in 2010.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 2
Visit this garden online!

The Hillside Club
Showcase Feature  In 2019 Mardi planted more than one hundred species of California natives in the garden she designed jointly with Andy Liu. In spring the front garden contains a heady mix of colorful flowers, including glossy, bright yellow buttercups, deep blue California lilac, purple Verbena lilacina ‘De La Mina’, and pink checkerbloom, among others. Behind the house is a shady woodland garden. Birds, native bees and butterflies find food, shelter, and nesting areas in this peaceful, wildlife-friendly haven.

Other Garden Attractions

Birds, native bees and butterflies find food, shelter, and nesting areas in this peaceful, wildlife-friendly haven.

Gardening for Wildlife  More than thirty species of birds have been seen in or above the garden. They are attracted to the sound of water dropping into four birdbaths, and also to the mature giant sequoia, Douglas fir and pine trees, the berry-bearing shrubs (toyop, manzanita, snowberry), and more. Host larval plants, on which butterflies and moths will lay their eggs, include wild cherry, currant, sagebrush, lupine, and manzanita, to name a few. The caterpillars on these plants provide food for baby birds, which must have caterpillars—thousands of them—while in the nest. (Baby birds do not eat seeds, berries, or sugar water: check out the many butterfly and moth host larval plants in this garden!)

Garden Talks  12:00 and 3:00 “Gardening for wildlife” by Mardi Mertens

Music in the Garden  Baroque music will be played in the garden throughout the day

Garden was started in 2002, with most of the plants installed in 2019.

Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: New this year!
Mardi Sicular-Mertens’ garden

Visit this garden online!
Garden #16  Glen Schneider’s garden  
5,200 sq. ft. lot • 99% native (except for vegetables and fruit trees)

**Showcase Feature**  Glen has been bringing nature home for two decades. In that time, a buckeye seed he collected from Mt. Diablo has grown to a spreading, lichened tree. The garden has gradually taken on the very look and feel of the hills and woods beyond town, yet it was consciously planned, designed to provide places for people and places for other creatures. Places for people include wood chip paths that wend through the garden, benches (one placed in the welcoming shade of the buckeye), a ramada with a picnic table, and a cornucopia of fruits and vegetables. Places for other creatures include woodland and meadowland plant communities, created from scratch from over seventy species of local native plants, grown from local seeds and cuttings. They flourish here, in their native soil, watered by rainfall only. The veil between “garden” and “nature” is dissolving. The plants grow over and into each other, seeding about and finding where they are most happy.

**Other Garden Attractions**

- Ask Glen about the Skyline Gardens restoration project in the Berkeley Hills and find out how you can learn about native plants, restore the earth, and have fun doing so! Congratulations to Glen and crew, who recently received the prestigious Jefferson Public Service Award for their efforts.

- To Glen’s delight, over forty species of lichens, from spores in the wind, have come home to grow in the garden. Glen calls them wildlife, too.

**Gardening for Wildlife**  Flowers, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds, and brush provide wildlife with food and shelter; as a result, Glen has seen forty-six bird species, twelve types of butterflies, and over two hundred kinds of insects and spiders. Spent flowers are not deadheaded, as birds search the dried blossoms for seeds, and insects lay eggs in the stems. Larval host plants (plants that butterflies and moths will lay their eggs on) include oak, California rose, aster, lilac, and strawberry, coyote brush, toyon, hedge nettle, yampah, bee plant, honeysuckle, and Dutchman’s pipevine, among others. On summer nights, crickets sound again; give them the habitat and they will return!

**Garden Talks**  11:00 and 2:00 “How to create a wildlife habitat garden using local native plants” by Glen Schneider

Native garden was installed in 1998.  
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 15
Glen Schneider’s garden

Visit this garden online!
Mary Cooper’s garden
1,100 sq. ft. front garden • 99% native

Showcase Feature  Mary, who wanted to get rid of that ‘50s landscape look, and was inspired to plant natives by the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, hired Pete Veilleux of East Bay Wilds to design and install a garden with boulders, berms, and year-round color. Out went the junipers, and in went an artistic and fun front garden containing undulating and meandering raised planting areas that provide drainage, Sonoma basalt boulders, mixed yellow and blue decomposed granite, driftwood, and a variety of attractive drought-resistant native plants selected to provide color throughout the year.

Other Garden Attractions
- Don’t miss the low-tech, inexpensive gravity-fed water feature (check out the one-gallon bottle tucked behind the California lilac).
- Currants and a redbud soften the lines of the house, and a flannel bush functions as a privacy screen.

Gardening for Wildlife  The native plants, water feature, and bird feeder attract white-crowned sparrows, house finches, and scrub jays. Recently a bluebird (not a jay—the bluebird is a cavity-nesting bird that is declining in population) was seen bathing in the fountain. Bees love the sages and hummingbirds adore the California fuchsia. Salamanders hide in the leaf litter that is left to compost under the trees. Two gravity-fed drip fountains provide water for wildlife.

Garden Talks  11:00 and 2:00 “How to make a gravity-fed drip fountain” by Mary Cooper

Native garden was installed in January, 2007.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 6
Mary Cooper’s garden

Photo © Pete Veilleux

Visit this garden online!
Showcase Feature  
When Danny and Eugene moved into this house they knew the lawns and junipers had to go. In their place a series of moss-rock lined garden beds were installed and planted with a cheerful array of natives and edibles. (Many of the plants in this garden were grown from seed by Danny; ask him how, if you are interested in propagation.) Check out the *Lippia repens* (*Phyla nodiflora*) native “lawn;” it is water-conserving, evergreen, spreads vigorously, bears lavender-pink flower clusters, attracts butterflies and bees, takes foot traffic, and only grows to a few inches tall.

Other Garden Attractions

- The sound of water splashing into the fountains in the front garden—and the back—attracts people as well as wildlife.
- Check out the Japanese quail that are raised in the back garden; quail eggs will be available for sale while they last.
- Take a gander at the bountiful vegetable garden.
- Danny and Eugene’s efforts have inspired two neighbors to remove their lawns!

Gardening for Wildlife  
Nocturnal gray foxes have been seen in the garden. Anise swallowtail butterflies lay eggs on the yampah, their native host plant; mason bees nest here. (Danny notes that he is astonished by how many pollinators are attracted to the yampah and buckwheats.)

Plants for Sale  
Native seeds will be given away or sold while supplies last.

Art in the Garden  
Purchase soap handmade by Eugene from the garden’s flowers and leaves, and loofahs, grown in the garden and filled with handmade soap. Rosa Di Zeo Bazzani will sell local nature photographs and handmade household items.

Garden was installed in 2016.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 2
Danny Galindo and Eugene Shabelyanau’s garden
Dale Wolford’s garden
2,500 sq. ft. front garden, 250 sq. ft. side garden • 95% native

Showcase Feature  Dale, a long-time Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour participant, was ready for the lawn and junipers to be replaced by a garden that would conserve water, be colorful, attract bees and butterflies—and have a more formal look than one often sees with native plant gardens. Dale began the transformation by attending the Tour’s “How to sheet mulch your lawn away (and get paid for it, too!)” workshop, then came home and covered his lawn with cardboard and wood chips. A rebate from the East Bay Municipal Utility District, native plant garden design by Alrie Middlebrook, and installation from Middlebrook Gardens completed the job. In summer, heady drifts of red fuchsia, purple lilac verbena ‘De la Mina’, aromatic purple-blue Cleveland sage and coyote mint, and pink rosy buckwheats both complement each other and delight the pollinators.

Other Garden Attractions
- Raised planting areas retain rainwater on site, keeping Dale’s garden green longer, and providing the drainage most natives need.
- The dry creek bed and a variety of boulders provide visual interest.
- A restroom is available! If you would like to powder your nose, this is the stop for you.

Gardening for Wildlife  Hummingbirds are attracted to the fuchsia and sages; butterflies flutter about the lilac verbena; bees are happy everywhere in this garden.

Garden was installed in March of 2016.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 3
Dale Wolford’s garden
Showcase Feature  This low-maintenance, drought-tolerant woodland garden, designed by Donna and installed by Donna and her husband, Jim, features many of their favorite plants, some of which are from the local watershed. Slow-growing perennials and shrubs are now beginning to form the structure of the garden as they mature. At the same time, natural succession and self-sowing wildflowers and bunchgrasses bring an element of surprise, create an ever-changing landscape, and provide opportunities to learn new things about the garden. Rooftop downspouts discharge into a decomposed granite pathway, which overflows into the garden. This retains rainwater onsite, protecting the local creek by reducing the erosive impact of stormwater. Soil removed for path construction was used to create mounds, which increases water infiltration and adds depth to the garden.

Other Garden Attractions

- Year-round interest is provided by a variety of bunchgrasses, perennials, shrubs, and wildflowers.

- Plants with fragrant flowers or foliage, such as native rose, coyote mint, and pitcher sage, appeal to the senses.

- The garden’s rock-bordered design reflects an appreciation of California’s geology (and provides a place for Donna’s rock collection).

Gardening for Wildlife  Fescues, rushes, flowering currants, monkeyflower, hummingbird sage, buckwheat, bee plant, gilia, and phacelia provide seeds, nectar, and nesting materials for a variety of birds (including flocks of oak titmice, which are on the Audubon Society’s WatchList, meaning they are in need of immediate conservation help) and native bees. Watering the garden by hand (about once a month in the summer) provides the opportunity to look for sleeping bees.

Garden was installed in 2008.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 5
Donna Bodine's garden

Visit this garden online!
Showcase Feature  Created and planted by Idell to provide food for people, and food, shelter and nesting areas for insects and wildlife, this garden has succeeded admirably on all counts. Near the house is an astonishing variety of fruits and other edibles. A profuse array of native plants grows throughout this large, eclectic garden. Idell has had to overcome a steep slope, very shallow soil, a lot of wind, and a plague of gophers.

Other Garden Attractions

- Clarkias, gillas, and buckwheat reseed gaily, as do oaks, toyon, and currants. Succulent dudleyas are massed in several areas.
- A Pt. Molate red fescue summer dormant lawn stitches together a children’s play area.
- Check out on the Tour’s website the fabulous reference lists of mammals, birds, butterflies, reptiles, amphibians and mushrooms in this garden.

Gardening for Wildlife  Trays of water attract more than fifty species of birds, as do brush piles, bird houses, fruit, nuts, berries and insects. A succession of flowering plants attracts hummingbirds, bees, and many species of butterflies. The beautiful pipevine swallowtail butterfly is a common sight, both fluttering through the garden and caterpillaring about in a large patch of Dutchman’s pipevine. Nine species of amphibians and reptiles have been seen in the garden.

Garden Talks  10:30 and 2:00 “How to attract birds to your garden” 1:00 “How to attract butterflies to your garden” and 4:15 “How to grow organic fruit and flowers for birds, butterflies, and people” all by Idell Weydemeyer

Plants for Sale  Native succulents, Dutchman’s pipevine, hummingbird sage, manzanita, wild edible red currant coyote brush, coffee berry, giant sea dahlia, toyon, and clarkias will be for sale.

Native garden was installed in stages, beginning in 1975.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 5
Visit this garden online!

Idell Weydemeyer’s garden

Photo © Idell Weydemeyer
Showcase Feature  
Ed, a long-time Tour attendee and volunteer, was inspired by the Tour and ecologist Douglas Tallamy to create a haven for wildlife in his garden—and did he! Ed’s front garden, once planted with junipers and the traditional resource- and time-consuming lawn, is now an inviting meadow, containing a delightful potpourri of lush native sedges, wildflowers, and perennials that attract wildlife. In the wide planting strip separating their driveways Ed and his neighbor comingled their properties to create an exquisite garden with layers of colorful wildflowers, buckwheats, and sages. On the fence about converting your lawn into a garden? If so, this garden, designed and installed by Ed, is a must-see; you’ll be convinced that gardening for wildlife with California native plants is the way to go.

Other Garden Attractions

- Five types of manzanita line the walkway.
- Rainwater is collected from the roof and released into the garden through perforated pipes; this keeps the garden green longer, replenishes the groundwater, and helps to keep the local creek from scouring.

Gardening for Wildlife  
This garden attracts Anna’s and Allen’s hummingbirds, songbirds, and raptors, who eye the action from above. Bumble, cuckoo, and carpenter bees, the beautiful, diminutive metallic green sweat bee, honeybees, and more, delight in the pollen and nectar provided for them. Anise swallowtail butterflies lay their eggs on the yampah; monarchs lay theirs on the milkweed. Salamanders dwell in shady areas; lizards bask in the sun.

Garden Talks  
11:00 “Why and how to include beautiful native plants that attract birds, bees, and butterflies in your garden” by Ed Ellebracht

Garden was installed in stages, beginning in 2014.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: New this year!
Ed Ellebracht’s garden
Showcase Feature  Prior to its transformation this very steep hillside garden had a failing wooden deck, and was both difficult to access and overgrown with eucalyptus trees, swaths of ivy, and patches of other non-natives. Undaunted, Mariposa Gardening & Design, which designed and installed this unique and tranquil garden, brought about an amazing transformation. The most eye-catching feature is the spectacular, sinuous, dry-stacked Connecticut bluestone and Arizona flagstone retaining wall, with its sunrise theme and bird silhouettes, which shelters a meadow of sun-loving, low-growing sedges and grasses. Note that this Tour stop is not for those with balance issues; comfortable walking shoes and some stamina will be needed to access this garden.

Other Garden Attractions

Drop down into one of the multiple seating areas in the dry laid flagstone patios that overlook the attractive native meadows; you won’t want to leave.

Gardening for Wildlife  A diversity of native plants provide nectar, seeds, berries and pollen that attract native songbirds, bees, and butterflies. Six varieties of California lilac provide places on which the California tortoiseshell butterfly can lay its eggs, and lupines are one of the few plants on which the silvery blue butterfly can reproduce. Sedges and native grasses provide food, shelter and nesting areas for skippers and ringlets.

Garden Talks  12:30 “Come learn about lithohydrology, the art of water-harvesting using dry-stacked stone techniques, and incorporating stonework into the ecological garden” by Andrea Hurd from Mariposa

Garden was installed in the winter of 2018 and spring of 2019. Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: New this year!
Visit this garden online!

Gary and Jamie Bramwell’s garden

Photo © Mariposa Gardening & Design
Showcase Feature  Bob wanted his garden to be reflective of the natural world—and also a productive source of edibles. The most recent garden incarnation, designed and installed by Pete Veilleux of East Bay Wilds, is delightfully pleasing to wildlife and people alike. Nine types of manzanitas adorn the front garden, where their evergreen leaves and shiny mahogany colored bark keep the garden attractive throughout the year. Creamy and pink buckwheats, purple penstemons, and fire-engine red fuchsia brighten the walkway in spring and summer.

Other Garden Attractions

In the back garden the gnarled remnants of an old orchard are reminiscent of the early fruit-growing days of Fruit Vale, as this area was called in the mid-1800s. Four kinds of heirloom apple tree, three types of pear, and two figs, among others, still bear fruit.

Weeds are persistently pulled by hand; weedy areas are sheet mulched (meaning, covered with cardboard and wood chips, which kills weeds and improves the soil); and sprayed with vinegar. No herbicides are used in this—or any!—Tour garden.

Gardening for Wildlife  The manzanitas provide nectar for butterflies and hummingbirds. A large stand of narrow-leafed milkweed—the only plant on which monarch butterflies will lay their eggs—invites this lovely lepidopteran to visit. Warblers and robins frequent the garden. Western fence lizards sun themselves on the rocks.

Garden Talk  12:00 “The evolution a garden” by Robert Finkel

Garden was installed in stages, beginning in the 1990s.

Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: New this year!
Robert Finkel’s garden

Visit this garden online!

Photo © Pete Veilleux
Carolyn and Scott were ready to change out their lawn and brick patio for a garden that would have a natural look that better fit their Oakland hills location, and also provide food, shelter, and nesting areas for wildlife. The team at Mariposa Gardening & Design designed and installed this peaceful garden, which does just that. Bricks that form the former path and wall were repurposed to create gently sloping mounds, which soften the incline of the hill. A dry-stacked flagstone stairway wends through this inviting garden, from the meadow on the top of the sunny hillside down to the shady canopy of a stately redwood near the bottom. Meadow plants selected for their appeal to butterflies were chosen for the sunny areas.

Other Garden Attractions

- Toyon, coffeeberry, ironwood, wax myrtle and other natives soften the fence line, and create a privacy screen from the street.
- A beautiful dry-stacked retaining wall, with an interesting built-in bench, creates an inviting seating area near the house.
- The slatted wood fence and gate evoke a sense of openness, while still separating the garden from the street.
- Shade-loving huckleberries, salal, Douglas iris, and woodland strawberry nestle around Adirondack chairs under the redwood.

Gardening for Wildlife

Orange poppies and pink rosy buckwheat brighten the garden in spring, attracting winged and two-legged visitors alike. The cream-colored clustered flowers of the yarrow are inviting landing pads for butterflies and moths, and the purple blue blossoms of the California lilac draw in native bees.

Garden Talks

2:30 “Brick mounds, and how to build butterfly meadow gardens” by Andrea Hurd of Mariposa Gardening & Design

Garden was installed in 2017.

Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: New this year!
Carolyn Rashby and Scott Flicker’s garden

Visit this garden online!

Photo © Mariposa Gardening & Design
**Garden #26 Barbara Gansmiller’s garden**

1,500 sq. ft. • 75% native

**Showcase Feature**  When long-time Tour participant Barbara bought the house, it came with a garden—full of ivy and acacia—that had been abandoned for decades. An avid hiker, Barbara designed a “garden on the wild side,” where plants move about the garden at will, finding places where they feel happy. This hillside garden contains many irregular steps; wear good walking shoes and watch your footing.

**Other Garden Attractions**

- In spring the vernal pool is surrounded by masses of white and lemon-yellow blossoms of the sweetly scented meadowfoam.

- Persistent weeds are removed by persistent hand-pulling; no herbicides are used in this—or any!—Tour garden.

- Much of this garden is not watered at all; some areas are watered a couple of times in the summer.

**Gardening for Wildlife**  A birdbath, small natural spring, brush and compost piles, boulders, and a variety of native plants provide berries, nectar, pollen, shelter, and nest-making materials for wildlife. Innumerable butterflies flutter through the garden, including the large iridescent blue-black pipevine swallowtail—which is drawn in by the stand of Dutchman’s pipevine, the only host plant for this beautiful butterfly. A field of poppies, our State flower, delights native bees. Carpenter bees love the clarkia. No dead-heading is done in this wildlife oasis; this leaves seeds for the birds to glean, and places for insects to shelter. Salamanders dwell in cool, shady nooks.

**Garden Talks**  12:00 “The intelligence of the purple flower: flowers get the party started by attracting pollinators” by Barbara Gansmiller

Garden was installed in stages, beginning in 2015.

Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: *New this year!*
Barbara Gansmiller’s garden

Visit this garden online!

Photo © Barbara Gansmiller
**Showcase Feature**  The local native plants in this large garden have created a wildlife haven. Jeff, interested in what the landscape was like prior to the arrival of Europeans, wanted a garden that was on the wild side, didn’t need much attention, and would attract birds, native bees and butterflies. Four legged friends love this garden as well. Adorable, big eared, tree-climbing, rodent and fruit-consuming gray foxes frolic in the garden, foraging for manzanita berries, watched over from above by soaring hawks. The garden was designed by Glen Schneider and installed by Glen and Jeff.

**Other Garden Attractions**

- Calling all rock hounds and roller coaster lovers! Check out the rocks Jeff has collected from throughout the western states, and the fully operational roller coaster in the back garden.
- Fruit tree lovers should not miss Jeff’s home orchard, with its apple, plum, pear, apricot, and pomegranate trees.
- Only new plants, edibles, and plants near the pond receive supplemental water in the spring and summer; the rest of the garden is not watered at all.
- Jeff and Kim own The Pedaler bike shop in El Sobrante—stop by and peruse the native plant garden at the store!

**Gardening for Wildlife**  The local native plants provide a haven for wildlife, as do the pond and birdbath. Boulders create shelter for the smaller creatures. Pacific chorus frogs, fence and alligator lizards, salamanders, ring-neck, gopher and king snakes, kestrels, and bats are occasionally seen in or around the garden. More commonly seen are a plethora of bees and butterflies, finches, and hummingbirds.

**Garden Talks**  11:00 and 2:00 “Garden like life depends on it: Keystone plants everyone should have in their garden” by Jeff Jerge

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Garden was installed in 2016.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 7
**Showcase Feature**  
Anita’s passion is the preservation of native species, both plants and animals. She takes her cues from nature and gardens “on the wild side.” Her minimally manicured garden, which contains over one hundred species of native plants, is lush, unmulched, and irresistible to wildlife. Bushtits and scrub jays nest in the trees. Hummingbirds perform dizzying aerial stunts from above. Acmon blue and swallowtail butterflies flutter from flower to flower, as do an abundance of carpenter, sweat, and leafcutter bees. Slender salamanders sleep under fallen leaves. Timid (and harmless) gopher snakes visit occasionally. Anita says, “It’s like living in Paradise!”

**Other Garden Attractions**

- The steep slope was once covered with decades-old ivy.
- Only new plants and seedlings are watered; this conscientious couple used less than 40 gallons of water a day last summer.
- As they are gardening for wildlife, no pesticides are used in this—or any—Tour garden.
- Since becoming friends with her native plant gardening neighbors, Anita feels a real sense of community—Anita, Dave, Margot and their partners have barbecues, socialize at wine-and-cheeses, share seeds, plants, and advice, and encourage and help other neighbors transform their gardens.
- Stroll across the street and note the neighbor’s formerly ivy-covered parking strips, which now contain native wildflowers and perennials.

**Gardening for Wildlife**  
Plants are allowed to go to seed, and berries to ripen, to provide food for birds. The birdbath and rock piles attract birds, salamanders, and lizards. Soil is left unmulched to provide nesting areas for native bees.

Garden was installed in stages, beginning in 2007.  
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 4
Anita Pereira's garden

Visit this garden online!

Photo © Anita Pereira
Showcase Feature  This small, charming garden, designed and installed by Debbie, is a riot of color in the spring. Creamy milkweed and yarrow, pink clarkias, and bright orange poppies reseed and move about the garden at will, creating changes Debbie hadn’t expected. This pleases Debbie, who “didn’t want a lawn, and did want plants that would grow with little attention paid to them.” Three varieties of manzanita (Vine Hill, Monterey, and glossy leaf) and two types of California lilac (maritime and blue blossom) provide structure and greenery throughout the year. A lush California grape climbs gracefully up the porch rail and across the front of the house.

Other Garden Attractions

- Debbie removed the lawn and planted in a small berm, which provides the drainage most natives need.
- Check out the great “before“ photos.
- Sacrificial milkweed plants are left for the aphids (which bring in birds).
- The scents of four types of sages waft through the garden on warm days.

Gardening for Wildlife  Debbie reports an invasion of butterflies—buckeye, skipper, and painted lady; they are attracted to the vibrant abundance of blossoms in her flower-filled front garden. Monarch butterflies lay eggs on the milkweed. Hummingbirds love the fuchsias. Leafcutter bees visit the parking strip to nosh on the redbud leaves. A variety of native bees visit the coyote mint and California lilac. In the morning, flocks of sparrows chatter in the closely woven branches of sages.

Native garden was installed in 2002.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 6
Debbie Rheuark’s garden

Visit this garden online!
Showcase Feature  This creekside neighborhood, with its one-lane bridge, venerable oaks and bays, and woodsy atmosphere, evokes a different time. Jocelyn and Peter, owner of LandSpaces: Sustainable Landscape Architecture and Construction, who designed and installed the garden, wanted a garden that was reflective of Wildcat Canyon—the natural environment around them. After sheetmulching their lawn they planted native trees and shrubs, including buckeye, toyon, coast silktassel and coffeeberry. The back garden contains a Point Molate red fescue bunchgrass lawn and a living wall planted with a variety of native plants. The side garden is home to a cheerful array of easy-to-grow natives, such as deergrass, sedges, sages, fuchsia, and blue-eyed grass.

Other Garden Attractions

A rain garden planted with rushes and bunchgrasses allows rainwater to be naturally absorbed into the soil, protecting nearby Wildcat Creek from scouring and cleaning pollutants from the water.

A laundry-to-landscape graywater system is used to irrigate the natives.

Gardening for Wildlife  Hawks soar overhead; kites can be seen hovering while searching for prey. Owls hoot in the trees at night. Woodpeckers flit through the garden. Pipevine swallowtail butterflies lay their eggs on the Dutchman’s pipevine—the only host plant for this beautiful, large, black and iridescent blue butterfly. Garter snakes and newts call the garden home. A coyote has been spotted in the driveway, and a few years ago a mountain lion was seen in the street!

Garden Talk  11:00 and 2:00 “How to build a living retaining wall” • 12:00 and 3:00 “How to install a rainwater catchment system that will keep your garden green longer and lower your water bill” both by Peter Rohan

Garden was installed in stages beginning in 2008.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 4
Jocelyn and Peter Rohan’s garden

Visit this garden online!
Showcase Feature  This large corner lot contained an enormous lawn when Stefanie bought it; and this was exactly what she wanted. Stefanie, who has been attending the Tour since its inception in 2005, yearned to buy a home where she could turn an ecological wasteland of a lawn into an oasis for wildlife. In 2016 her dream came true; she purchased the house, sheet mulched the lawn away, and in its place installed a colorful selection of plants that delight people and wildlife alike (and inspired a neighbor to remove his lawn as well!).

Other Garden Attractions

- Three 1,000-gallon cisterns collect rainwater from the roof.
- Free mulch was provided by Chip Drop. (“Helping arborists get rid of wood chips. Helping gardeners get cheap mulch.”)
- $2,250 in lawn removal rebates from Save Our Water and EBMUD helped to fund this lawn-to-garden conversion.
- Interested in creek restoration? Ask Stefanie, an active member of the Friends of San Leandro Creek, how you can get involved.

Gardening for Wildlife  More than 100 species of natives, plants of varying heights, a fountain, and a plethora of seed- and berry-bearing plants, as well as nectar- and pollen-providing flowers, have attracted orioles, warblers, bushtits, wrens, finches, bumblebees, skippers, hairstreaks, Acmon blue, Gulf fritillary, and orange sulfur butterflies. Stefanie reports that coyote brush and buckwheats are great pollinator attractors.

Garden Talks  12:00 “How to lose your lawn and get a garden that will attract birds, bees, and butterflies” by Stefanie Pruegel

Music in the Garden  12:30-1:30 and 2:00-3:00 Come and hear the Infusions, a quartet of guitars, bass, and delightful four-part harmonizing vocals.

Garden was installed in stages, beginning in 2016.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 2
Stefanie Pruegel’s garden

Visit this garden online!

Photo © Stefanie Pruegel
San Lorenzo High School’s garden & Native Plant Nursery
1-acre native plant garden & nursery • 99% native

**Showcase Feature**  Visit San Lorenzo High School’s one-acre native plant garden, created and tended by students who propagate more than eighty species of plants in their productive native plant nursery. Proceeds from the plant sale support the environmental program. Come for the plants; stay for the students!

**Other Garden Attractions**
- Bring your children! They can play Native American games, do arts and crafts, pound acorns, enjoy the East Bay Regional Park District’s Mobile Visitor Center with its accompanying, engaging naturalist, tour the vegetable garden, and view the transparent beehive of Joe’s Honey.
- Make this your lunchtime stop; delicious Mexican food will available for purchase from 11:00–3:00.
- Restrooms are available.
- Numerous community groups will staff tables; see the Tour website for details.

**Gardening for Wildlife**  Cedar waxwings, chestnut-backed chickadees, and finches visit the garden. Cooper’s hawks soar overhead

**Garden Talks**  10:30-4:00 Continuous garden tours led by members of the Druids Environmental Club • 12:30 “How to replace your lawn with natives the cheap and easy way, and get an EBMUD rebate for doing so” by the Druids • 1:00 “How to attract birds to your garden with native plants” by Phil and Pat Gordon, Ohlone Audubon Society • 2:00 “Climate change and your garden: how you can make seasonal observations about nature’s calendar and have your data used by scientists who are researching climate change” by the Druids

**Plants for Sale**  More than eighty species of native plants, including monkeyflowers, flowering currants, yerba buena, buckwheats, manzanitas, ferns, and fuchsia will be available in exchange for donations. Cash and checks only.

Garden was installed in stages, beginning in 1996.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 9
San Lorenzo High School's garden

Visit this garden online!

Photo © Pete Veilleux
Lauren Kindorf’s garden

2,800 sq. ft. front garden • 75% native

Showcase Feature  The drought was on (is it ever really over, in California?) and Lauren was ready for the thirsty lawn to go. Longtime friend Anna Wendorf of Anna Wendorf Design designed the new garden, and a $1,000 rebate from the Contra Costa Water District helped pay for the transformation. The open arrangement of this garden reflects the natural look of Marsh Creek, which is right across the street. Five types of manzanita—the groundcover ‘Emerald Carpet’, low growing gray-green ‘Pacific Mist’, mid-sized ‘Sunset’, the stately ‘Dr. Hurd’ and Point Arena—provide structure and greenery throughout the year.

Other Garden Attractions

Stormwater from the roof is retained on-site in the cobblestone-lined dry streambed that wends through the garden. Keeping rainwater on the property allows the water to slowly filter into the ground, rather than running off to a storm drain. This helps protect the creek from eroding, provides a deep drink to the garden’s plants, and recharges the groundwater reserve.

The massed wheat-colored flowers of the Mendocino reed grass provide visual interest in the summer.

Gardening for Wildlife  Bees are attracted to the aptly named ‘Bee’s Bliss’ sage. In the winter and spring manzanitas delight the hummingbirds and native bees that visit their beautiful urn-shaped pink to cream-colored flowers for pollen and nectar.

Garden Talks  12:00 “Native Curb Appeal: Plant Selections for Bay Area Gardens” by Anna Wendorf

Music in the Garden:  10:00-11:45 Mother/daughter duo Deborah Kuhl Wendt and Linda Benyahia will perform an eclectic mix of bluegrass, jazz standards, Americana and French songs on guitar, banjo, accordion, mandolin and fiddle.

Garden was installed in stages, beginning in 2015.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 3
Lauren Kindorf's garden

Visit this garden online!

Photo © Anna Wendorf
Showcase Feature  In 2007, Kelly, owner of Kelly Marshall Garden Design, and her husband, Mike, wanted to transform their dull front lawn into a native plant haven for wildlife. Kelly selected a hardy and colorful array of natives that could take Clayton’s hot summers, added a fountain, strategically placed seating areas and paths, and the front garden became a lovely place enjoyed by the family, and even the neighbors. Finally, Kelly and Mike decided to let the back lawn go as well—in its place Kelly created a drought-tolerant meadow of bunchgrasses and flowering native perennials, along with a small waterfall and shallow bog that provides water to a variety of garden creatures.

Other Garden Attractions

Snacks will be available for purchase.

Gardening for Wildlife  A variety of song birds, butterflies, and bees are drawn to this garden by the sound of splashing water, the pond, and the diversity of native seed-, berry-, and pollen-bearing plants. Soon after the garden was transformed a pair of bluebirds raised their chicks in the nest box that had gone unnoticed for years! A bevy of quail forage happily in the back garden. Other visitors include orioles, fox, and Pacific chorus frogs. Bats swoop overhead in the evening, noshing on mosquitoes. To keep birds safe, the family cat is kept indoors.

Back garden was installed in stages, beginning in 2005.
Front garden was installed in the fall of 2007.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 6
Kelly Marshall and Mike Weidner’s garden

Visit this garden online!

Photo © Gerry Kiffe
Showcase Feature  Nancy is passionate about both nature and archaeology; these interests intertwined in the development of the garden she designed and installed, which was modeled on ancient Roman gardens. The rectangular courtyard, planted with a riot of colorful natives, leads past art pieces, such as the captivating sculpture of a woman with flowing robes and thick, wavy hair; a black-on-white geometric patterned mosaic (designed and created by Nancy); a fountain; and pedestals that both frame the garden beds and function as seats. The plants in the wide, densely planted beds were installed in choreographed, semi-formal groups in order to create a sense of symmetry in this collector’s garden, which contains more than one hundred varieties of native plants.

Other Garden Attractions

- The fluted fountain provides water for wildlife.
- The beautiful garden nymph sculpture faces the street, to provide enjoyment for passersby.
- Check out the photographs of the frescoes found on the walls, and mosaics found on the floors, of excavated Roman buildings; these guided Nancy as she designed her garden.
- This garden was, until recently, a large lawn; water use has dropped by 75% since the garden was transformed.
- After strolling down the paved paths, take a seat in the shade of the porch and enjoy this delicious combination of art and nature; you won’t want to leave.

Gardening for Wildlife  Native bees, ladybugs, butterflies, finches, and quail have been seen in the garden. Rock piles provide homes for fence and alligator lizards.

Garden was installed in stages, beginning in the spring of 2016.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 4
Nancy Niemeyer’s garden
Showcase Feature  This shady garden, once home to a large lawn, ivy (which was engulfing the oaks), and privets, was redesigned by Julie Lienert of Roxy Designs, and installed by Roxy Designs. The resulting water-conserving garden, paid for in part by a $2,600 rebate from the East Bay Municipal Utility District, now features a reduced lawn (half of it was removed) bordered by raised, wide garden beds that both provide the drainage most natives need and contain a blend of native and Mediterranean-climate plants.

Other Garden Attractions

- No pesticides are used in this—or any!—Tour garden.
- The garden is heavily mulched to discourage weeds; those that get through are hand-pulled.
- The East branch of Green Valley Creek borders the back of the garden.
- Moss rock boulders provide visual interest.
- Drop down in one of the many seating areas in the garden and enjoy this peaceful oasis.

Gardening for Wildlife  Hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies are attracted by the sound of falling water in the pondless fountain, and the diversity of plant heights—from towering old walnuts and oaks to medium height redbuds, silk tassel, and Pacific wax myrtle, to large shrubs, such as bush anemone and coffeeflour, and on down to the smaller hummingbird sage, coral bells, woodland strawberry, and more.

Garden Talks  “Practical tips for installing drip irrigation in native plant gardens: Curious about how you can conserve water in your own garden? This is the right place—bring your questions!” by Roxy Wolosenko

Garden was installed in the fall of 2017.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: New this year!
Helen Gustafson’s garden
Showcase Feature  Maria, who grew up in this house, felt it was time for a change. She was ready for the lawn, pyracantha and tired groundcover to go. After hearing Pete Veilleux of East Bay Wilds give a talk on gardening with native plants, she was sold. An $800 lawn conversion rebate from the East Bay Municipal Utility District made the project that much more doable. This beautiful front garden, designed and installed by Pete and his efficient crew, contains seventy species of native plants, which thrive on the attractive undulating raised beds that flow across the garden. Ten species of manzanita and five different types of California lilac provide structure and greenery throughout the year.

Other Garden Attractions

The garden now uses less than half the water it once did.

A gracefully curving raised path, made of tumbled mahogany flagstone, edged with a custom mix of decomposed granite and lined with small stones already on the property, provides access to the back yard.

The mulch came from a tree that was removed in order to bring more light onto the property.

Gardening for Wildlife  Birds and bees sip water from the birdbath (which was made by Maria). Four kinds of buckwheat (California, Santa Cruz, Shasta and rosy) provide great landing pads (aka clustered blossoms) and nectar for butterflies. Three types of sages (‘Bee’s Bliss’, ‘Whirly Blue’, and ‘Shirley’s Creeper’), and coyote mint delight native bees. California fuchsia and native penstemon attract hummingbirds.

Music in the Garden  11:00-1:00 Mike Thelen will play acoustic guitar and sing songs from the ‘60s and ‘70s.

Garden was installed in the spring of 2015.

Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 4
Visit this garden online!

Maria Sargent’s garden
Showcase Feature  This large back garden, designed by Roxy Designs and Kelly Marshall of Kelly Marshall Garden Design, contains something for everyone. Two fountains were placed near the house—delighting walking and winged visitors alike. The herb garden and blueberry patch are within each reach of the patio. An orchard (apple, cherry, pluot, persimmon, apricot, nectarine, peach, plum, aprium, and citrus) is on the second level, near the splashing stream. Chickens are off to the right, in the shade. The extensive vineyard flows down the slope. Planted under and around these various garden features are a wide variety of native plants. A dozen Pacific wax myrtle, six types of manzanita (‘Austin Griffiths’, ‘Big Sur’, ‘Dr. Hurd’, ‘Emerald Carpet’, ‘John Dourley’, and ‘Louis Edmunds’), California lilac, and Mendocino reed, Pacific reed, and deer grass anchor the garden. Near the house, rosy buckwheat fills one border bed, and California fuchsia another.

Other Garden Attractions

Drop down into one of the many seating areas and rest; you won’t want to leave.

Gardening for Wildlife  The winning combination of water tumbling down the twenty-five-foot hillside stream and into the peaceful pond, two burbling fountains, five hummingbird, two oriole, and one finch feeder, and plants of various heights (from mature redwood and oak trees to groundcovers, and everything in between) has attracted more than fifty species of birds. Frogs found the pond on their own, and can now be heard croaking cheerily in the evenings. Foxes and coyotes have been spotted in the back garden, searching for snacks of insects, fruit, or rodents.

Garden Talks  11:00 “How to work California natives into any garden” by Kelly Marshall

Garden was installed in 2014.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: New this year!
Visit this garden online!

Gail and Alan Tryhorn’s garden
Showcase Feature  Over the last forty-five years, Al, a fly fishing author and educator, converted his typical suburban lot into a lovely, low-maintenance, park-like landscape. In the beautiful front garden, a streambed located between exquisite vine maples provides shaded riparian access to a walk-through chaparral area graced by mature manzanitas. The back garden contains trails that wind through open areas of wildflowers, which give way to a mixed woodland of tall shrubs and small trees such as shore pines, mountain mahogany, and madrone, and finally to tall conifers. An inviting stream wends its way through offset falls, a meander, and a shallow “birdbath” riffle and into a fish and turtle pond.

Other Garden Attractions

This spectacular garden contains over two hundred species of California natives. Most of the established plants receive no summer water.

Gardening for Wildlife  Bird baths and feeders, nesting houses, a shallow stream riffle, brush piles, dust bath areas, and abundant plant cover have attracted over ninety species of birds, including thrashers, tanagers, and black-throated gray warblers. Eighteen species of bees have been seen in the garden. Rock outcroppings, wood piles, and sandy areas add habitat for resident sharp-tailed snakes and fence and alligator lizards. Recent plantings and landscape changes are attracting additional butterfly and native bee species.

Garden Talks  11:00 and 12:00 “Gardening for native bees” by Elsa Zisook  •  1:00 and 3:00 “Al’s best tips from forty-five years of planting and growing California natives: a sit-down discussion” by Al Kyte

Art in the Garden  Award-winning photographer Alan Krakauer will sell note cards and prints of vibrant natural landscapes, wildlife and plants.

This garden was planted in stages, beginning in the early 1970s. Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 14
Al and Barbara Kyte’s garden

Visit this garden online!
Garden #40 Gaston and Ariane Habets’ garden
6,000 sq. ft. back garden, 60% native
2,400 sq. ft. front garden, 50% native

Showcase Feature  Inspired by the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, Gaston and Ariane worked with Liz Simpson of Liz Simpson Garden Design to create this beautiful, water-conserving, bird- and bee-friendly garden. Among the plethora of inviting and functional features included in this expansive garden are a drilled rock fountain, breakfast nook, custom-made stone benches, and a hidden petanque court. You’ll enjoy discovering the intimate “rooms” that are revealed as you move through the garden. Plants serve as walls, and the rooms are connected with curving pathways that lead one onward and provide a sense of mystery. Drop down in one of the many seating areas in this spectacular garden and enjoy it; you won’t want to leave.

Other Garden Attractions

The front garden swale catches rainwater, allowing it to percolate naturally into the water table.

A 500-gallon rainwater catchment is used to water the garden.

Gardening for Wildlife  Many beneficial insects began visiting the garden when the lawns were removed and California natives planted. Now butterflies and carpenter, bumble, and other native bees are common sights. Woodpeckers have nested in the garden; nest boxes are provided for other avian species. Plants that butterflies and moths can lay their eggs on (‘larval host plants’) include oaks, lupine, manzanitas, currants, sages and more. Did you know that the babies of most birds require caterpillars while in the nest? Baby birds do not eat seeds, or berries, or sugar water. Butterflies and moths will only lay their eggs on a very few types of plants—without those plants we won’t have butterflies—or baby birds. Check out the list of larval host plants on the Tour’s website, plant some in your garden, and rejoice when you see caterpillars.

Garden Talks  11:00, 12:00, 1:00, and 2:00 “Practical tips for installing drip irrigation in native plant gardens” by Seth Wright

Seeds for Sale  Wild Jules Crafted Seed Balls will sell a variety of wildflower and grass seeds, including lupine, meadowfoam, Chinese houses, milkweed, monkey flower, and more

Back garden was installed in 2012; front garden was installed in 2014.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 3
Gaston and Ariane Habets’ garden

Visit this garden online!
**Showcase Feature**  
Susan loves the sustainable nature of California native plant gardens—how they are alive with birds, bees and butterflies, don’t require the use of pesticides, and need little water. The garden she designed contains a mélange of plants that bloom cheerfully throughout the year. The show begins in winter, when the manzanita’s pink-to-white urn-shaped flowers draw in native bees and butterflies. In spring, the flowers of the electric purple-blue penstemon mingle with creamy yarrow, orange poppies, and pink clarkias. Summertime finds the garden enlivened by red native fuchsias and hummingbird sage, purple coyote mint, and the creamy white-to-pink blossoms of the buckwheat.

**Other Garden Attractions**
- A downspout directs roofwater to the dry streambed. Retaining rainwater on-site gives the trees and other plants greater access to water, replenishes the groundwater supply, and protects San Catania creek from the sudden, high flows that cause erosion.
- The plants in this garden are hand-watered. Even with a beautiful native front garden and a large backyard, this conscientious couple uses only 50 gallons of water a day on their one third acre property in the heat of summer.

**Gardening for Wildlife**  
Hummingbirds are attracted by the long, tubular flowers of the madrone, penstemon, and monkeyflower. A variety of birds, including our state bird, the California quail, glean seeds from the plethora of native plants in this garden. Bees busily gather pollen from the numerous poppies and abundant blossoms on the rosy buckwheat. Lizards bask in the sun and find refuge under plants and in the dry-stacked moss rock retaining wall. Owls hoot overhead at night, and hawks hunt during the day.

**Garden Talks**  
11:00 “A new living landscape; inviting biodiversity to your own front yard” by Susan Friedman

Garden was installed in 2017.
Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: New this year!
Susan Friedman’s garden

Visit this garden online!
Showcase Feature  This tranquil garden, designed by the team at Susan Friedman Landscape Architecture, with supplemental planting and care by Pete Veilleux of East Bay Wilds, blends beautifully with the adjacent oak-studded hills of the Bishop Ranch Regional Preserve. Dry stream beds lined with naturally smooth Noiya cobblestones and small, rounded Lodi pebbles, and studded with yellow moss rock and Calistoga boulders, are focal points in both the front and back gardens. The potpourri of native grasses in the back garden and the proximity to the open space—there is no fence—create an unparalleled feeling of openness. Take a seat and enjoy the amazing.

Other Garden Attractions

- The Kalichs received over $1,000 in rebates from the East Bay Municipal Utility District.
- Weeds are hand-pulled; no pesticides are used in this—or any—Tour garden.

Gardening for Wildlife  A bubbling yellow moss rock boulder fountain enhances the peaceful feeling of this garden. Nestled under a large maple, this living birdbath provides a water source not only to our avian friends but also to visiting coyote. The native plants provide a natural food source for nectar-lovers and seed-eaters alike, while hedges and boulders provide shelter and nesting spaces. Take a seat and watch for butterflies, red-tailed hawks, quail, and hummingbirds.

Garden was installed in 2015.

Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 2
Visit this garden online!

Lorraine Kalich’s garden
Showcase Feature  This beautiful garden was created to provide food, shelter, and nesting areas for birds—and has it! More than ninety species of birds have been drawn in by the butterfly and moth attracting plants (which produce the caterpillars that almost all baby birds must have while in the nest), water features, and the bounty of nectar, seed, and fruit-bearing native plants. The sloping front garden, browsed by deer, contains plants that have survived their grazing. The inviting, sunny side patio is replete with wildflowers and happy bumblebees; take a seat in one of the Adirondack chairs and enjoy the view. Nancy’s steep back garden is a luscious mixture of ferns and currants, coral bells, redwood sorrel, and other shade-loving natives. Nancy says that she “prefers the subtle tastefulness of natives,” as opposed to introduced plants. And she loves the wildlife habitat they provide.

Other Garden Attractions

委组织No pesticides are used in this—or any!—Tour garden. Nancy relies on the birds to keep pests under control.

Gardening for Wildlife  Numerous plants that attract caterpillar-producing butterflies and moths—without which there would be no baby birds—can be found in this garden. These lepidopteran-friendly plants include oaks, maples, currants, native rose and strawberry, manzanitas, California lilac, ocean spray, sages, and more. As the seasons turn, downy and Nuttall’s woodpeckers, bluebirds, sapsuckers, flickers, and varied, Swainson’s and hermit thrushes flit through the garden. In the evenings western screech owls call from their perches in the tall trees.

Garden was installed in stages, beginning in 2010.

Years on the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: 4
Visit this garden online!

Nancy Wenninger’s garden
Gardens at a Glance

Bringing Back the Natives, 2020

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<td>43. Nancy Wenninger</td>
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The following is contact information for native plant landscape designers whose gardens have been showcased on this or previous Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tours. Having a designer spend a couple of hours talking with you at your garden is a wonderful—and inexpensive—way to get started gardening with natives! Consider having one of these designers come over to your garden for a one-hour consultation. An asterisk (*) denotes designers who are offering discount consultations to Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour participants. Just mention the Tour to receive your discount.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designer</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Rick Alatorre                     | Alatorre Garden Design  
(510) 932-9913  
alatorregardens@sbcglobal.net  |
| Cindy Angers                      | EcoFolia Design  
(925) 323-5696  |
| Alexandra Ashton                  | Urban Flora Landscape Design  
(510) 612-0639  |
| Ethan Bodnar                      | Plantkind  
(203) 808-8178  
ethan@plantkind.co  |
| Four Dimensions Landscape Company |  
(510) 893-1999  |
| Susan Friedman                    | Susan Friedman Landscape Architecture  
(925) 806-0643  |
| Todd Gilens                       | Todd Gilens Design  
(415) 309-3584  
todd@toddgilens.com  |
| Corinne Louise Greenberg, MA      | Corinne Louise Design  
(510) 526-3593  |
(510) 299-4529  |
| Miri Malmquist                    | Beauty and the Feast Landscaping  
(510) 866-3325  
mirileore@yahoo.com  |
| Mariposa Gardening & Design       | Mariposa Gardening & Design  
(510) 891-1835  
info@MariposaGardening.com  |
| Kelly Marshall                    | Kelly Marshall Garden Design  
(925) 914-0327  |
| Peter Rohan                       | LandSpaces  
(510) 672-1642  
peter@landspaces.com  |
| Lois Simonds                      | Gardening by Nature’s Design  
(510) 501-0243  |
| Pete Veilleux                     | East Bay Wilds  
(510) 409-5858  |
| Kat Weiss                         | Kat Weiss Landscape Design  
(925) 518-9083  |
| Kathy Crane and David Weise       | Yerba Buena Nursery  
(650) 851-1668  
inquiry@yerbabuenanursery.com  |
| Anna Wendorf                      | Anna Wendorf Design  
(925) 300-5786  |
Native Plant Nurseries

Annie’s Annuals and Perennials
(Richmond)
anniesannuals.com
9:00-5:00 every day
(510) 215-3301 or (888) 266-4370

California Flora (Fulton)
calfloranursery.com
hours vary by season; see website
(707) 528-8813

Central Coast Wilds Ecological Concerns, Inc. (Santa Cruz)
centralcoastwilds.com
Mon.-Fri. 10:00-3:00, or by appointment
(831) 459-0656

East Bay Wilds Native Plant Nursery (Oakland)
eastbaywilds.com
hours vary; see website or call for an appointment
(510) 409-5858

Native Here Nursery
(Berkeley)
nativeherenursery.org
Tues. 12:00-3:00; Fri. 9:00-1200
Sat. 10:00-2:00
(510) 549-0211

Native Sons Nursery
(Arroyo Grande)
nativeson.com
Mon.-Fri. 7:30-4:30
(805) 481-5996

Ploughshares Nursery
(Alameda)
ploughsharesnursery.com
Weds.-Sun. 10:00-5:00
(510) 755-1102

Rana Creek Wholesale Nursery
(Carmel)
ranacreekdesign.com
Mon.-Fri. 8:00-3:00
Sat. by appointment
(831) 659-2830

The Watershed Nursery
(Richmond)
watershednursery.com
Tues.-Sun. 10:00-4:00
(510) 234-2222

Yerba Buena Nursery
(Half Moon Bay)
Yerbabuenanursery.com
Tues.-Sat. 9:00-5:00
closed Sun./Mon.
(650) 851-1668

Oaktown Native Plant Nursery (Berkeley)
oaktownnursery.com
Thu. through Sun. 10:00-5:00
(510) 387-9744
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Be sure to ask about our Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour New Client Discount on design services.

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info@susanfriedmanlandscape.com

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www.nativeplants.org
Riverdog Farm
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Guinda, CA 95637
(530) 796-3802
csa@riverdogfarm.com
www.riverdogfarm.com

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510.830.8852 INFO@WATERSERVICE-CA.COM
WWW.WATERSERVICE-CA.COM
Calscape.org

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Create a personal plant list for your yard
Search by water needs, pollinators, flower color, and more!
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Photo: Dennis Mudd
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A Project of East Bay CNPS

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(510) 549-0211 • email: nativehere@ebcnps.org
www.nativeherenursery.org

Open: Tuesdays noon to 3 PM
Fridays 9 AM to noon
Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM

Photo by Bill Hunt | Aquilegia formosa
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Nancy Niemeyer’s garden is ablaze with colorful natives in spring. Photo © Nancy Niemeyer

The evergreen bush anemone, or Carpenteria, bears large, sweetly-scented flowers in summer in Gretchen Pivonka’s Alameda garden.

Cream-colored buckwheats and firecracker red fuchsia brighten Bob Finkel’s garden in summer. Photo © Page Veilleux