

Gardening with Natives: Helping our Foothill Gardens Survive the Drought

Saturday, September 12, 2015

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Creekside Building, Mother Lode Fairgrounds,
Stockton Street at Southgate Drive, Sonoma, CA

With California in the fourth year of unprecedented drought, all Californians have been called upon to make sacrifices, reducing water use everywhere possible. The impacts of drought on our foothill landscapes have been substantial, and in some cases, devastating. We are challenged with keeping our trees healthy and our yards attractive while minimizing our water use. Many of California's native plants are drought tolerant and can be used to create beautiful and resilient landscapes.

Our two keynote speakers are Janet Cobb and Arlie Middlebrook.

Schedule

9:00-9:15a.m. Introductions, housekeeping items

9:15-10:00a.m. **Janet Cobb**, *Mobilizing to Conserve the Oak Ecosystem for California's Future*. California Oaks, an organization founded by Janet Cobb, initiated AB 242 which required Counties to inventory their oak natural capital and have the Supervisors approve a conservation resolution before State funds through the Wildlife Conservation Board could be spent to purchase or place conservation easements on private lands. California Oaks initiated SB 1334, which placed oaks into the California Environmental Quality Act for the first time in State's history. Now, it has proposed new regulatory legislation – Oak Woodland Conservation Act of 2015 – which is searching for an author.

In 2008, California Oaks became a fund within California Wildlife Foundation. It continues to speak up on behalf of oaks throughout the State. It continues to publish books, curricula and materials about the importance of oak ecosystems for schools and community groups about the necessity of protecting oaks if the State is to achieve sustainable wildlife habitat, healthy watersheds sufficient to meet drought conditions, and a stable climate going forward.

Janet Cobb is the Executive Officer of the California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks. Since 1988, she has been advocating for and pursuing the preservation of oak woodlands, speaking up about the importance of California oak ecosystems. One of her early projects with the California Oak Foundation was to oversee the 1993 publication of *Oaks of California* by Bruce Pavlik, Pamela Muick, Sharon Johnson and Marjorie Popper.

10:00-10:30a.m. **Scott Oneto**, *Don't be Fooled by Unwise Water-Wise Plant Choices*. California's drought is popularizing low-water landscaping; lawns are coming out, xeriscaping is going in. Fortunately, water agencies, nurseries and garden centers are all promoting drought tolerant plant lists to guide purchasing decisions and deduce water usage. Unfortunately, in this rush for water conservation, invasive plants are creeping onto some of these lists!

Scott Oneto is the Director and Farm Advisor for the U.C. Cooperative Extension, Central Sierra. Covering El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties, Scott helps local farmers, ranchers and residents with agricultural questions and natural resources issues. Scott has a Master's degree from U.C. Davis in Horticulture and Agronomy with an emphasis in Weed Science.

10:30-10:45a.m. Break, refreshments served

10:45-11:30a.m. **Susie Kocher**, *The Effects of the Current Drought on Sierran Conifers*. Susie will explain the many ways that drought is affecting our conifers and some ways that we can increase the chance that the conifers in our home landscapes can make it through these dry times.

Susie Kocher is a forestry advisor for the U.C. Cooperative Extension, Central Sierra. She does outreach and education about managing forest lands for private and public owners in El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. She is a registered professional forester.

11:30-11:45a.m. **Steve Bickford**, *Our Oldest Trees Can't Be Replaced: Easing the Drought Stress on our Native Oaks*. Steve will provide tips on how to help our native oaks be more resilient against the effects of drought.

Steve Bickford, a local certified arborist, has been working with trees since 1972. He believes in offering a program of knowledgeable and skilled tree care, not just tree work. He is passionate about native oaks and providing sound advice about the care and maintenance of them.

11:45a.m.-12:45p.m. Lunch (provided)

12:45-1:00p.m. Announcements, Introductions

1:00-2:00p.m. **Alrie Middlebrook**, *Gardening Solutions in the Sierra Foothills that Address Drought, Climate, Biodiversity and Nutrition*. Alrie will talk about gardening for drought, climate change, biodiversity, and nutrition. She will include habitat plants and food plants local to the Sierra region (cattail, black oak, yampah, and *Calochortus* bulbs).

Alrie Middlebrook is the founder and President of California Native Garden Foundations and her award winning design and build company Middlebrook Gardens, which has built over 500 gardens. She co-authored with Dr. Glenn Keator the book "Designing California Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens."

2:00-2:15p.m. Break, refreshments served.

2:15-2:30p.m. **Marlys Bell**. *Survival Strategies for Favorite California Native Plants*. Marlys will share her experiences and survival strategies for using native plants in the landscape including: best plants for various locations, complimentary plant combinations, planting and watering tips and the water needs of various specific California native plants.

Marlys Bell has been experimenting with California native plants since moving to Tuolumne County ten years ago. On her property, she has created an extensive demonstration garden showcasing many varieties of California natives. She is a published author and garden writer as well as a garden designer and coach focusing on issues related to sustainable living.

2:30-2:45p.m. **Judy Dean**, *Homegrown Tips for Gardening with Natives*. Over her fifty years of gardening, Judy has developed some useful techniques and tips which she will share with you that have made establishing natives more successful and fun for her through weather extremes including drought.

Judy Dean grows hundreds of California and North American native plants in her garden located in the Sierran foothills of Calaveras County. Her eight acre garden features both dryland and woodland native trees, shrubs and perennials, many of which she has grown from seeds she collected herself.

2:45-3:30p.m. Panel Discussion: *Native Plants for Foothill Gardens* with Alrie Middlebrook, Marlys Bell and Judy Dean.

Registration Fee

Registration includes lunch (choice of sandwich, potato salad and beverage) and refreshments.

Before Sept. 1.....\$25.00
After Sept. 1\$30.00

For more information contact us at
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209-962-4759

Registration forms are available at www.sierrafoothillscnps.org
or by contacting us by e-mail or phone.