GARDEN DESIGN WITH NATIVES – THE BASICS

Whether your garden needs a complete overhaul or it is time to replace that water hogging front lawn, designing in the summer and planting in the fall (with plants from our fall plant sale) will maximize your chances for a successful California native plant garden. It takes about four steps:

1. Measure out the space you plan to design, study what is going on in that part of your garden (wind, sun, soil, etc...), decide what that space needs in terms of uses and structure (seating, paths, etc...) and select your plants choosing from the plant community that best suits your taste and site.

Base Plan

In order to create a base plan, either draw out your garden in a rough sketch or measure the space you want to design and create a scaled drawing to work with. This is a bird’s eye view of your garden. A scale of ¼” = 1 foot works best. For an average sized lot use graph paper. For a large property, consider hiring a surveyor to create this plan. Art supply stores carry rolls of sketch or trace paper. This is a cheap and easy medium to use since it is transparent and can be layered over the base plan. Use of a mechanical or #2 pencil and eraser, and an architect’s scale and drafting tape will be handy. However complex you choose to be to execute this process, you will end up with what we call a base plan.

Site Analysis

Place a piece of trace paper over that base plan and sketch the elements affecting the area. Identify areas affected by sun, shade and wind. Are there views you want to screen or preserve? What type of soil do you have and how does it drain? Identify the plants you want to keep. Use these elements to match your garden with a plant community. Is your garden shady and irrigated? Use the redwood plant community. Is your garden hot and you are conserving water? (go to page 3 – The Basics)
Summer in Solano County

- **King-Swett Ranches Docent-led Hikes**
  August 2 and September 6, 2008
  9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Free
  Staff or docent-led activities only. Long pants, water, snacks and good boots are recommended. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Park-and-Ride lot at Hiddenbrook/American Canyon exit off I-80. For more information contact Teri Engbring at 432-0150 x200 or teri@solanolandtrust.org

- **Lynch Canyon Docent-led Hikes**
  July 26 and August 3, 2008, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Free
  Open to the public Wednesday through Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to posted closing time. $5 per day, per vehicle parking fee. Docent-led hikes are moderate difficult. No potable water on site, so bring your own. Meet at the parking area. Contact Teri Engbring, 432-0150, x200, teri@solanolandtrust.org.

- **Night Hike at Rockville Hills Regional Park**
  August 15, 2008, 8 to 10 p.m. Registration required. Fees:- Adult $9, Senior/Child $6
  Ages five and up. Fee includes day admission to the Park. Keep your receipt and I.D. with you while in the Park. Bring water, mosquito repellant, and flashlight. Contact Administration: (707) 428-7714.

- **Mare Faire at Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve**, Friday August 8 and Saturday August 9, 2008.
  Friday: outings, 10am-5pm; program and potluck/barbecue, 5-8pm; stargazing guided outing, 8-9:30pm. Saturday: outings, exhibits and programs, 9am-6pm. Meet at Park Headquarters and Visitor Center, Building A-167. Enter through entrance gate at end of Railroad Ave. Cost: FREE. Call 707-557-9816 or 707-649-9464, www.mareislandpreserve.org

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**WILLIS LINN JEPSON CHAPTER ROSTER**

We are available to answer your questions and listen to your ideas of what membership in the Jepson Chapter can mean to you.

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**“Eating California” Banquet**

Eating California is a fundraiser of the California Native Garden Foundation. It occurs August 2, 2008 at the Palo Alto Art Center at 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. The banquet, which features a tasting menu of over 25 California native foods, is the culmination of a series of classes taught this spring by John Farais, a chef who specializes in indigenous edible. A no-host cocktail bar featuring local, organic wines and prickly pear margaritas will open at 5:30 PM. The seven-course banquet begins at 6:15 and ends at 9:00 PM. Between courses recipients of the Foundation's services will describe their native garden projects and show photos of their progress. Funds from this event will be used for the CNGF's Garden Designer Scholarship Fund and grants for native garden construction, which are available to California schools and non-profit organizations. Tickets are $150.00 each and can be purchased online at www.cngf.org
CHAPTER UPDATES
BOTANIC GARDEN VOLUNTEERS
The Forrest Deener Native Plant Botanic Garden is hosting two volunteer projects. Eagle Scout Candidate, Steven Thomas, will be staking out the new trails planned for the Riparian and Meadow areas. He also will be pre-assembling about (40) sleeves that will conduct the drip irrigation lines under the new trails. The second project is sponsored by the Valero Volunteer Council, which consists of community-minded Valero employees. The will be laying three rolls of weedblock in the Chaparral plant community. One roll covers approximately 1,800 square feet. Thank you volunteers!

FALL PLANT SALE ON OCTOBER 4
Planning has begun for our fall Native Plant sale. It will take place again at Heritage Presbyterian Church in Benicia. Mark your calendars, tell all your friends, and volunteer for a few hours! No experience is necessary.

At this time we need volunteers to help with plant propagation, watering, and transplanting. Closer to the event we'll need volunteers to help with publicity and plant transportation. On the day of the sale we'll need volunteers to help with sales, cashiering, and book/poster sales.

This is our biggest fund raiser for the year. To help out please contact Becky Mannion. 429-2494 rfivem@pacbell.net

BOARD SUBMITS GRANT PROPOSAL
In July, the Jepson Chapter Board of Directors authorized the Botanic Garden Committee to prepare a funding proposal to the Delta Protection Commission. Our proposal will be part of a larger grant sponsored by the Commission to protect fish and wildlife along the Solano County shoreline within the Delta. We are requesting $96,000 for the educational elements of the Forrest Deener Native Plant Botanic Garden. These include the education assembly area, the garden shelter, and 12 interpretive panels. The Commission will choose from a number of proposals by agencies and organizations who were invited to participate.

THE BASICS – CONTINUED
Look at the chaparral and desert plants. Are you toward the coast? Look at the coastal scrub plants. These plants are already adapted to the conditions of your site. For more information on our diverse plant communities look at the CNPS website: cnps.org.

The Big Picture Place a piece of trace paper over the site analysis. Step back and get creative. Don't worry about being perfect, creativity is what trace paper is for. Are you filling in an existing garden? Is your garden lacking a structure? Do you need some large or small shrubs that pull the garden together? Think about the style you want for your garden, such as cottage garden or contemporary. Native gardens don’t have to look like nature. Think about practical needs you have for your garden such as: outdoor dining, a water feature. This is your big idea plan. Stay loose and make several big idea plans.

There are some basic design principles that may help. Use odd numbers. Use more than one of most plants to create masses. Think about the plant at its mature size. Create the bones of the garden using shrubs and trees for structure. Think of where you would like your attention to move throughout the garden and place interesting art pieces or specimen plants that attract attention in those spaces.

The Plants Gather some resources to help select plants. Use the internet or leaf through a couple of books. Books for inspiration include Gardening with a Wild Heart and The Landscaping Ideas of Jays. For design concepts and plant materials, try Designing California Native Gardens, and California Native Plants for the Garden. These are just a few great books on the subject of California native plants and sustainable design. You can purchase these books by contacting a Jepson Board member.

Once you have researched plants, think about how you might use them in your yard. Overlay more trace paper and lay them out as best you can. If you have a scaled drawing, look up the size of a mature plant and make a circle that size. Otherwise, estimate the plant count and adjust when you are planting.

Salvias and Deer grass are sturdy and adaptable sun lovers. The combine well with monkeyflower, a perennial that blooms beautifully without much

(go to page 4, The Basics)
THE BASICS – CONTINUED

water. In the shade, a good combination is Philadelphus (Mock orange), Bleeding hearts and Alum root. Manzanita and coffeeberry are reliable foundation shrubs. They are available in many cultivars from big to small. Shrubs like Toyon and Pacific Wax Myrtle are good as screening plants. For plant ideas and availability, see the plant list for our fall plant sale on our website www.cnpsjepsonchapter.org

The benefits of using California natives are different for each gardener: to promote habitat and biodiversity in your yard, to save California’s precious resources and to educate your family with nature. Whatever the reason, there is much to enjoy with this spectacular group of plants in your garden.

(Adapted from an article by April Owens of the Milo Baker Chapter in Sonoma County - ed.)

CNPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: ________________________________________________
Address:_______________________________________________
City/Zip: _______________________________________________
Telephone:_____________________________________________
Email (optional):_________________________________________

I wish to affiliate with: ___ Jepson Chapter – Solano County
___ Other ________________________

Membership Category: ___ Student/Retired/Limited Income, $25
___ Individual, $45
___ Family/Group/Library, $75
___ Plant Lover, $100
___ Patron, $300
___ Benefactor, $600
___ Mariposa Lily, $1500

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816

CNPS Jepson Chapter
P.O. Box 2212
Benicia, CA 94510
www.cnpsjepsonchapter.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED