Ditch your Lawn!

Sponsored by the Department of Water Resources
Housekeeping

• **Bathrooms – behind you**
• **Snacks and beverages**
• **Passing the can for copies, etc.**
• **Books and other resources**
• **Upcoming events: http://sanhedrin.cnps.org/**
  
  – **March 25 - Low Gap Park: An Early Spring Walk**
  – **April 1 - Low Gap Park Annual Botanical Inventory**
  – **April 9 - Little Darby Walk, Willits**
  – **April 15 - Twining Ranch Flower Walk**
  – **May 13 to 14 - Walker Ridge, Eastern Lake/Western Colusa Counties**
  – **May 28 - Lost Valley, Cow Mountain**
  – **Class: June 2 - Introduction to Grasses**
  – **June 3 - McLaughlin Reserve**
  – **July 6 to 10 - Plaskett Meadows, Mendocino National Forest**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Coffee &amp; Tea, Greet &amp; Meet</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:40 –10:05</td>
<td>Sanhedrin Welcome &amp; Program Introduction</td>
<td>Jen Riddell</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:10-10:45</td>
<td>Site Analysis, Design &amp; Sense of Place</td>
<td>Andrea Davis</td>
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<td>10:50-11:05</td>
<td>[15 min] Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:10-11:45</td>
<td>Plant Selection</td>
<td>Jim Xerogeanes</td>
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<td>11:50-12:25</td>
<td>Lawn Removal</td>
<td>Diana Jeffery</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Finish up</td>
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Workshop Objectives

Empower homeowners to conserve water
Explore the benefits of lawn conversion
Provide knowledge and resources
California’s hotter future

Climate change caused by carbon emissions is projected to increase the amount of air conditioning needed in California.

Historical
1981-2010

Future
2080-2099

Average degrees of cooling needed each day.

Source: Carnegie Institution for Science
Gardening with California Native Plants

Bring the beauty of California into your own landscape and create a sense of place that is uniquely Californian.

~6,000 unique, attractive California plants adapted to our soils and climate.

California’s wild gardens - immensely diverse, beautiful, awe-inspiring.

Few landscapes designers utilize California’s wonderful natural designs (lots of reasons....)
Native vs. Non Native

California climate enables cultivation of “exotic” or “non-native” ornamentals

- but not without additions of fertilizer, water, and constant care.

• Exotics “Mediterranean” plants viable water-wise options
  - characteristics are adaptable to CA climate

NATIVE PLANTS:

➤ In sync with our soil, climate, and wildlife

➤ Allow for resource and habitat conservation in the garden
More Native Plant Garden Benefits

Pollinator Conservation

Urban corridors between natural and agricultural areas.

Invite Wildlife

Lower Maintenance

Spend your time enjoying your garden - not mowing and blowing

Reduce Pesticides

Most pesticides kill indiscriminately → beneficial insects become secondary targets

Support Local Ecology

Restore nature one garden at a time

Photo credit: Margo Bors

Photo credit: John Whittlesey
Native Plants Save Water

• Established native plants can tolerate little or no watering and can rely on rainfall alone

• Reduce landscape H$_2$O use up to 60% by replacing high maintenance, H$_2$O intensive landscapes

• Rain gardens, swales, other drainage-control techniques = more H$_2$O savings

Photo credit: Grow Water
Understanding the Bigger Picture

California is one of only 25 GLOBAL biodiversity hot spots

At our rate of ecosystems conversion into monocrop farms, lawns, hardscapes, developments, and human biomass, we are quickly taking ourselves out of a very unique honor.
FACT
CALIFORNIA IS THE MOST HYDROLOGICALLY ALTERED LANDMASS ON THE PLANET

Wetlands: > 90% are gone
Riparian Woodlands: 1% still considered intact
Vernal Pools: 66% have been destroyed
Freshwater Marshlands: <6% remain
CA Native Grasslands: 2-3% remain

Converting sterile suburban gardens to rich natural habitat using local native plants can help bolster biodiversity
How we can address this at the home level...

What we currently do

What we should be doing

Think like a watershed

Photo credit: Grow Water