

**Eighth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour  
Sunday, May 6, 2012**

**Companion Event:**

**Native Plant Sale Extravaganza  
Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and May 6, 2012**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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<http://www.BringingBackTheNatives.net>

Digital photographs available at <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/press/garden-photos>

**CALENDAR LISTING:**

Eighth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: Registration for the **Eighth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour**, which will take place on Sunday, May 6, 2012 from 10 to 5, is now open. This free, award-winning tour features 50 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 50% or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from large parcels in the hills to small lots in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Space is limited and registration is required. This tour will fill; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed. Please register or volunteer at <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/>

A companion event, the Native Plant Sale Extravaganza, will take place throughout the weekend of April 30 and May 1. Please go here for details:  
<http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/native-plant-sale-extravaganza-2012>

**PRESS RELEASE**

Registration is now open for the free Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place Sunday, May 6, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Participants on the eighth annual, free, self-guided Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour can choose from fifty showcase native plant gardens. They will have the opportunity to learn how select and care for California native plants, lower their water bills, design a low-maintenance garden, attract butterflies, birds, and bees, and garden without using pesticides. More than 50 talks will be offered throughout the day. More than 7,000 people are expected to register for this annual event, which will fill; early registration is suggested to ensure a place.

The delightful collection of gardens offered this year range from large in the hills lots to small front gardens in the flats, and from those professionally designed to those designed by homeowners. Garden styles run the gamut—from restoration gardens containing local native plants to the

horticulturally available suite of natives from throughout California, and from gardens designed and installed by owners to those designed and installed by professionals.

In the “Preview the Gardens” section at <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/> are photographs of each garden, and extensive garden descriptions and plant lists, as well as a list of nurseries that sell native plants. Landscape designers familiar with designing with natives can also be located on the website; many of these designers offer discount consultations to tour participants.

A companion feature, the Native Plant Sale Extravaganza, will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6. This exclusive sale features a number of native plant nurseries which carry large quantities of hard-to-find California natives. This two-day shopping opportunity offers native plant fans a good selection of native plants and provide a relaxed shopping experience. Knowledgeable staff will be on hand to help shoppers select the right plants for their gardens, and Saturday shoppers will have time to visit more showcase native plant gardens on Sunday, May 6, during the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.

What’s special about California native plants? They are adapted to our soil and climate and are easy to care for. Native plants are naturally drought tolerant. They attract native birds, butterflies, and other forms of wildlife. And, as the gardens on the Tour show, California native plants are beautiful; these lovely gardens display a sense of place that is uniquely Californian.

Admission to the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is free. Registration prior to April 25 is required and can be completed at <http://www.BringingBackTheNatives.net>.

For more information, contact [Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net](mailto:Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net) or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

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