

Thirteenth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour
Sunday, May 7, 2017

Companion Events:

Native Plant Sale Extravaganza
Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7, 2017

Workshops are held throughout the year

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Digital photographs available

CALENDAR LISTING:

Thirteenth Annual **Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour**: Registration for the **Thirteenth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour**, which will take place on Sunday, May 7, 2017 from 10:00 to 5:00, is now open. This free, award-winning tour features forty Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, water conserving, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60% or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from wooded lots in the hills to small parcels in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Bluegrass, blues, Renaissance music and more will be performed at various gardens; children's activities will be offered at two gardens. Pre-registration for the Tour is required. This tour will fill; register early to ensure a place. **Volunteers are needed.**

Companion events: The Native Plant Sale Extravaganza will take throughout the weekend of May 6 and 7.

Workshops will take place throughout the year.

PRESS RELEASE

Registration is now open for the free **Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour**, which will take place Sunday, May 7, 2017, from 10:00–5:00 at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Participants on the thirteenth annual, free, self-guided Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour can visit any of forty showcase native plant gardens. Registrants 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. Fifty talks will be offered throughout the day. More than 5,000 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 wooded lots in the hills to small gardens in the flats, and from professionally designed gardens 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 to gardens containing a mixture of natives and Mediterranean climate plants.

In the “[View the Gardens](#)” section of the website are photographs of each garden, and extensive garden descriptions and plant lists. The website also contains [a list of nurseries that sell native plants](#), as well as a [list of landscape designers familiar with designing with native plants](#). 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 6 and 7. This exclusive sale features a number of native plant nurseries which carry large quantities of hard-to-find California natives, and offers native plant fans both a good selection of native plants and 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 7, during the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.

In addition, [a series of workshops](#) (\$35 per person) will be held between April and June. Participants can learn how to remove and replace their lawns, design native plant gardens for color and interest throughout the year, install a drip irrigation system, and garden sustainably (think chickens, rainwater harvesting, and creating pollinator gardens.) Details can be found on the website.

What’s special about California native plants? They are adapted to our soil and climate, and they are easy to care for. Native plants are naturally drought tolerant. They are the best for attracting 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, though donations are requested. This tour will fill; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed. Registration will close on April 29 or when the tour is full, whichever ever comes first. Register or volunteer at <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/>.

For more information, contact Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Sidebar

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

What: Thirteenth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour
www.bringingbackthenatives.net.

When: Sunday, May 7, 2017

Where: This award-winning, self-guided tour showcases forty beautiful Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, water-conserving, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60 percent or more native plants. Garden addresses are mailed to registrants in April.

Cost: Free, but donations are requested. Preregistration is required. Registration will close when the tour reaches capacity, or on April 29, whichever comes first.

More: Native Plant Sale Extravaganza takes place May 6 and 7. Visit [View the Gardens](#) to read garden descriptions, view photos, and download plant lists. Volunteers are needed. [Workshops](#) are offered throughout the spring. See www.bringingbackthenatives.net for details.

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