Sustainable Gardening with California Natives

Presented by
Mahala Guggino
Flourish

EL DORADO CHAPTER CNPS PROGRAM
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The Basics

- Drought tolerant vs. water wise
- Watering for establishment
- Mulch and fertilizer
- Pruning
- Deer resistance
Garden Design & Setting

- Oak woodland
- Meadows
- Chaparral
- Montane forest
- Subalpine rock garden
- Desert
Support Biodiversity

- Simple to do:
  - Diverse floral architectures = diverse community of wildlife and insects
  - Variety of herbs, grasses, and shrubs ranging from dense to open

- Benefits:
  - Improved natural pest control in your gardens,
  - Less maintenance, AND
  - The splendor of watching nature unfold throughout the seasons
Hedgerows
aka Living Fences
Planning your Hedgerow

- Build a plant palette that provides a succession of bloom times, texture, and structure throughout the year
- Select plants with similar requirements (e.g., drought tolerant vs. periodic watering)
Shrubs are the Backbone

- Coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis)
- California lilac (Ceanothus spp.)
- Redbud (Cercis occidentalis)
- Flannel bush (Fremontodendron spp.)
- California buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum)
- Sage (Salvia spp.) - so many!
- Coffeeberry (Frangula [Rhamnus] spp.)
- Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia)
Coyote brush

Blooms in winter – makes lots of fluffy white seed heads
Wild lilac

‘Dark star’ has small, leathery leaves - better deer resistance
Redbud

Eye-catching in both spring and fall
Flannel bush

‘Ken Taylor’ is a lower-growing variety
California buckwheat

Butterflies love this small shrub, so many flowers to visit!
Sages

Many long-blooming flowers - nice aromatics
Coffeeberry

Beautiful dark blue berries, for the birds
Toyon

aka Christmas berry – hardy evergreen shrub tolerant of both full sun and shade
Intersperse Perennials

- California poppy (Eschscholzia californica)
- Coyote mint (Monardella villosa)
- Yarrow (Achillea millefolium)
- Milkweeds (Asclepias spp.)
- Foothill penstemon (Penstemon heterophyllus)
- California fuchsia (Epilobium canum)
- California goldenrod (Solidago velutina ssp. californica)
Coyote mint

Aromatic, low-growing and spreading, nectar source
Yarrow

Pollinators flock to these flowers, spreading ground cover
Milkweeds

Showy milkweed (Asclepias speciosa) for Monarchs
Foothill penstemon

Hummingbirds and other pollinators appreciate penstemons
California fuchsia

the quintessential hummingbird plant, often used for ground cover
California goldenrod

Profuse spikes of golden-yellow flowers in late summer when nectar sources are limited.
Perennial Grasses

- Purple needlegrass (Stipa [Nassella] pulchra)
- California melic (Melica califomica)
- Idaho fescue (Festuca idahoensis)
- Blue wildrye (Elymus glaucus)
- Deergrass (Muhlenbergia rigens)
Permaculture Gardening
Natives for Permaculture

- California bay (Umbellularia californica)
- Blue elderberry (Sambucus nigra ssp. cerulea)
- Wild lilac (Ceanothus spp.)
- Manzanita (Arctostaphylos spp.)
- California rose (Rosa californica)
- Currants & Gooseberries (Ribes spp.)
- Sages (Salvia & Artemisia spp.)
- Yerba buena (Satureja douglasii)
- Wild strawberry (Fragaria vesca)
California bay laurel

Leaves are used in cooking, cleaning products
Blue elderberry

Large, deciduous shrub – flowers and berries used medicinally
Wild lilac

Ceanothus thrysiflorus, larger leaves, lighter bloom
Ceanothus are nitrogen fixers and attract pollinators
Manzanita

Howard McMinn, garden tolerant, early blooms feed hummingbirds, berries make a pleasant drink
California rose

Rose buds and hips gathered to make tea
Deciduous shrubs, attractive flowers and foliage, edible leaves and berries...watch out for the spines on gooseberries
White sage

Salvia apiana, leaves burned as a cleansing ritual
Mountain sage

Artemisia tridentata, leaves used medicinally
Yerba buena

the good herb, tasty tea
Wild strawberry

Spreads quickly with some shade and regular water
small edible berries
Resources

• El Dorado Chapter California Native Plant Society – Spring and Fall Plant Sales (usually first Sat. in Apr. & Oct.)
• Steve Dowty Nursery - Placerville
• Floral Native Nursery – Chico
• Hedgerow Farms – Winters
• Cornflower Farms Nursery – Elk Grove (wholesale)
• Book table for gardening advice
• Chapter website: www.eldoradocnps.org
• UC Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden
• Calscape: enter your address for a list of plants - calscape.org
Thank You!

Mahala Guggino
Flourish
www.flourishontheweb.com
mahala@flourishontheweb.com
530.919.1478