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## **Final Report**

### **Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour Sunday May 6, 2007**

#### **Why a Native Plant Garden Tour?**

The Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which was sponsored by Kathy Kramer Consulting, the Urban Creeks Council, and the Friends of Sausal Creek, was held in order to showcase pesticide-free, water-conserving gardens that provide habitat for wildlife and contain 30% or more native plants.

The tour enlists local residents to demonstrate by example that seasoned and novice gardeners can garden with good results without the use of synthetic chemicals, and with minimal supplemental water, while providing food, shelter, and nesting areas for wildlife. Garden hosts demonstrate that they can successfully implement sustainable garden practices and still have beautiful places for people to relax in and enjoy. The ultimate goal of the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is to motivate attendees to eliminate pesticide use, reduce water use, and provide habitat for wildlife in their own gardens.

Local California native plants survive naturally with only fall-to-spring rainfall. Once established in the garden setting, these plants need little or no summer water. In addition, California natives are hardy; they do not require the use of pesticides and fertilizers, as many non-natives do. Natives also provide the best habitat for birds, butterflies, beneficial insects and other forms of wildlife.

Tour gardens contain minimal or no lawn. This is of particular value since the majority of the chemicals purchased by homeowners support lawn care, and the majority of water used by in home gardens is applied to lawns. According to the 2000 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Environmental Contaminants publication, "Homeowner's Guide to Protecting Frogs—Lawn and Garden Care," homeowners use up to 10 times more chemical pesticides per acre on their lawns than farmers use on crops. In addition, half of the water used by the average household is applied to the landscape—with most of that water being used to keep turf green. Seventy-seven percent of the gardens included on the tour had no lawn, and the rest had lawns that were reduced in size to 3% - 50% of the gardened area.

#### **2007 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour Summary**

The third annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which took place on Sunday, May 6, 2007, showcased sixty one gardens located in twenty-two cities in Alameda

and Contra Costa counties (Alameda, Berkeley, Castro Valley, Clayton, Danville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Hercules, Lafayette, Livermore, Martinez, Moraga, Oakland, Orinda, Pinole, Pleasant Hill, Richmond, San Leandro, and Walnut Creek).

The tour received overwhelming interest from the public; more than 5,000 people registered for this event. This includes 4,718 on-line registrants (the highest number of on-line registrants so far) and more than 500 same-day registrants. (This number is still being tallied.) In order to accommodate walk-in registrants, ten same-day walk-in registration sites were set up in Alameda, Berkeley, Castro Valley, El Cerrito, Livermore, Martinez, Moraga, Oakland, Richmond, and Walnut Creek. More than one hundred and seventy volunteers either worked at gardens for a half-day shift or helped with tour preparation and clean-up, contributing more than 1,000 hours of time to the tour. There were 13,330 garden visits.

A variety of gardens were featured on the tour. The gardens ranged from Jenny and Scott Fleming's 50 year old collector's garden to a number that had been recently installed, from five-acre lots to small front gardens in the flats, from 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. Several gardens had creeks flowing through them, some were landscaped on slopes, a few contained large quantities of fruit trees. The majority of the gardens (75%) were landscaped with 60 to 100% native plants.

The nine nurseries on the tour sold more than \$20,000 worth of native plants; natives were sold or given away natives at an additional 12 gardens. Native plant reference books and posters were sold at 5 gardens.

In addition to the nurseries, 46 private and a variety of public gardens were included in the tour. The public gardens included the attractively landscaped parking lot of a commercial business, a butterfly garden adjacent to an elementary school, UC Berkeley's California Native Bee research garden, a church, a community center, and a sanitary district.

While all of the tour gardens attract wildlife, seventeen of the gardens were certified by the National Wildlife Federation as Backyard Wildlife Habitat Gardens.

Nearly 60 garden talks were given throughout the day on a plethora of subjects. Talk topics included how to: garden for native bees, birds, butterflies, amphibians, reptiles and mammals; select, plant, and care for natives; design a simple, low-maintenance native plant garden; remove a lawn; propagate natives; control weeds without the use of herbicides; create a garden using local native plants; set up and maintain a worm bin; and get started creating a native plant garden, among other topics.

The number of visits to each garden varied from a low of 43 visitors at the Castro Valley Sanitary District to a high of nearly 700 at the Fleming garden in Berkeley. (See the end

of this report for a list of the number of visitors counted at each garden). Private gardens generally received higher numbers of visitors than public gardens.

The website, [www.BringingBackTheNatives.net](http://www.BringingBackTheNatives.net), was extremely popular. The website received nearly 300,000 page requests between July 2006 and July, 2007. The site receives the bulk of its visits in April and May (100,000), with approximately 20,000 page requests each month between June and March. The site contains numerous photographs of each of the 61 gardens on the tour, extensive garden descriptions, plant lists, and some garden-specific bird, butterfly, mammal, reptile, and amphibian lists, as well as resource information on how to garden with California natives. The resource information includes contact information for landscapers with gardens on the tour, a list of Easy-to-Grow East Bay Natives, lists of nurseries that carry native plants, lists of reference books, "How I got started gardening with native plants" essays by several of the host gardeners, and more.

In order to attract hosts and volunteers, and to thank them for their time, a series of Garden Soirees, free, private tours of native plant gardens, were held intermittently throughout the year. Soirees offer host gardeners and volunteers the opportunity to see tour gardens that they would otherwise miss. They also create a feeling of camaraderie between hosts and volunteers, and provide a venue for people who are both knowledgeable and passionate about gardening with natives to meet and exchange information.

### **Carpooling and Gardener's Match**

A new Carpooling area on the website encouraged registrants to sign up to carpool to the main tour and Select Tours. The Gardener's Match component of the website invites people to provide some information about their gardening interests, in hopes of matching them up with neighbors with similar interests.

### **Select Tours**

This year, for the first time, a series of small, guided Select Tours were offered for a fee. The Select Tours offered registrants who wished to see more gardens the opportunity to do so; they also provided people with detailed information on certain subjects, such as gardening for wildlife, or design and plant selection ideas. The Select Tours were held on Saturday, April 29, and Saturday, May 5. (The main, free tour took place on Sunday, May 6.)

The Select Tours offered this year were: Gardening for Birds; Gardening for Native Bees and Butterflies; Meet the Designer: Kat Weiss (Livermore gardens); Meet the Designer: Michael Thilgen (Oakland and San Leandro gardens); Meet the Designer: Alrie Middlebrook (South Bay gardens); and School Gardens. These tours were very popular; the first four of these tours filled, with 30 people in each. The last two had 20 registrants in each.

- What an incredible two days!! What an extraordinary experience to have the [Select] tour with Michael Thilgen on Saturday and then the grand tour Sunday!! And how polite, friendly, and informative everyone was!! How well organized!!

You did such a great job, Kathy, I can't say enough to thank you and all the volunteers who made it possible.

Select Tour Participant on Meet the Designer: Michael Thilgen's tour

- Thought I'd let you know that I found this [Kat Weiss' Select Tour] to be particularly meaningful. First, the gardens are excellent examples of what regular people can do with regular yards (vs. beautiful but massive and massively costly landscaping of large properties with water features, etc.) Second, Kat [Weiss, the landscape designer leading the tour] is not only knowledgeable but warm, easy going, practical and skilled at making getting started accessible in addition to addressing issues and questions posed by more experienced gardeners. The combination of Kat's personality and experience plus realistic gardens was especially helpful. I also felt that the event was positively received by the group. I was sorry that carpooling was not adopted but I'm as guilty as the rest and appreciate your effort. As always, your thoughtful, thorough and organized material was also extremely helpful, handy and useful.

Select Tour Participant on Meet the Designer: Kat Weiss' tour

- First, let me tell you that I was exhausted, yet absolutely delighted with yesterday's garden tour. As you know, this is my first year of touring. I loved it! I also attended two of the special [Select] tours. Alrie Middlebrook (April 28th) and Michael Thilgen (May 5th). They were spectacular! They have very different styles and philosophies, but they're both extremely knowledgeable and well versed. It is obvious that they are passionate about their work. The gardens included in their tours were exceptional visual and spiritual treats. I couldn't have made better choices on which tours to select.

Select Tour Participant on Meet the Designer: Michael Thilgen's and Alrie Middlebrook's tours

### **Native Plant Sale Extravaganza**

Also, this year for the first time, a Native Plant Sale Extravaganza was added to the tour. Many native plant nurseries normally have limited hours; in order to make selecting and shopping for natives easier, on Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6, nine nurseries that specialized in natives, or that had an extensive selection of natives, were open from 9 - 5. These nurseries sold over \$20,000 of native plants over the course of the week-end.

- We had an excellent day up in Tilden, at The Native Here Nursery. Many people came, practically with shovel in hand, shouting, "Show me the natives", which we certainly accommodated! We answered hundreds of native plant and general gardening questions, pointed out which native plants would do well in specific locales, and even had time to pot up a few plants for the nursery, too! A fabulous time was had by all. And we are looking forward to Bringing Back the Natives 2008!

Nursery Volunteer

## **Tour Partnerships**

The Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour created partnerships with a variety of organizations that share common values—that chemical-free and water conserving gardening preserve water quality and quantity, and create wildlife habitat. The list of major sponsors and supporters includes stormwater programs, water-, sanitary-, flood control districts, a solid waste agency, five cities, nurseries, a non-profit, private businesses, several individuals, and landscape designers and contractors. The list of tour sponsors, who were credited on the fliers, evaluation forms, website, and in the printed garden guide, is provided below.

### **Major sponsors of the 2007 tour contributing between \$10,000 and \$12,000**

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District  
Contra Costa Clean Water Program

### **Sponsors contributing between \$3,000 and \$5,000**

Alameda County Clean Water Program (unincorporated area)  
Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program (a consortium of local agencies)  
City of Walnut Creek  
Contra Costa Clean Water Program (unincorporated area)  
West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority

### **Sponsors contributing between \$200 and \$2,000**

Alatorre Garden Design  
Armstrong Painting, Roofing, and Windows  
Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency  
California Native Plant Society (East Bay Chapter)  
Contra Costa Water District  
City of Antioch  
City of Danville  
City of El Cerrito  
City of Pittsburg  
City of Richmond  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Gail Giffen  
Glen Schneider Landscape Design and Installation  
Middlebrook Gardens  
Native Sage Landscape Design  
Olga Jane Rotermund  
Wildrose Gardens Sustainable Landscape Design

Numerous, smaller donations were received from individuals and private businesses.

### **Host Gardeners**

The gardens selected to take part in the tour are excellent examples of chemical-free and water-conserving gardens that provide habitat for wildlife. Hosts were chosen because of their willingness to be on site on the day of the tour to explain first-hand the techniques they use in their gardens, and their enthusiasm for and commitment to educating others about how to garden in environmentally sensitive ways.

Host gardener recruitment began in the spring of 2006 for the 2007 tour. Potential candidates completed an application, and applicants who met the criteria were scheduled for a site visit. Host criteria were as follows:

- Gardener must reside in Alameda or Contra Costa County
- Gardener must use organic and/or natural techniques for pest control rather than synthetic pesticides
- Garden must demonstrate water conservation techniques. Examples include mulches, groundcover plants, drip or soaker hose irrigation, and the use of plants that do not require excessive watering during the dry part of the growing season.
- Gardener must be a good ambassador for chemical-free, water-conserving gardening: enjoy educating the public; and have the knowledge base to employ natural gardening techniques and share this information with the public.
- Garden must provide food, shelter and nesting areas for wildlife.
- Garden must contain 30% or more California native plants.
- No invasive plants are found in the garden.

Host's gardening experience ranged from native plant novices to professional landscape designers. All of the host gardeners were good ambassadors for natural gardening techniques.

### **Host Comments:**

- Attendance was impressive! There was a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. Visitors were very courteous and friendly and gracious. The volunteers were excellent – I really appreciated their help! The website was well-advertised, and well-used. People really appreciated the beautiful and comprehensive brochure and website. Having talks is great—we got big groups at those times. Great organization, great planning, great turnout. It was a huge success and lots of fun to meet people who really appreciate plants.
- Excellent communication, publicity, signage, and supplies. The visitors were all polite, inquisitive, and appreciative.

### **Tour Participants**

This year’s tour had more than 5,000 registrants. The majority of them (4,718) registered on the website, and more than 500 registered at one of the walk-in registration sites on the day of the tour.

Two surveys were offered to tour participants. The first was on the website, and it was made available as part of the registration process to those who wished to fill out the form. A surprising 87% of on-line registrants completed the survey.

Fifty-five percent of those who filled out this survey had been on the tour before, 45% had not.

Their familiarity with gardening with *native* plants was:

- 55% some knowledge
- 38% - a beginner
- 22% - an old hand

The 2007 tour attendees were highly motivated to learn new gardening techniques – more so than in 2006. When asked what they would like to learn from the tour the majority of 2007 respondents (87%) wanted to learn how to select native plants. More than half (63% and 62%, respectively) wanted to learn how to garden for wildlife or conserve water. Forty-one percent wanted to learn how to reduce pesticide use, 36% wanted to learn how to remove their lawns, and 24% wished to learn about composting. A comparison of the 2007 and 2006 responses is found below.

<b>What do you want to learn from the tour?</b>	<b>2007 Responses</b>	<b>2006 Responses</b>
How to select native plants	87%	75%
How to garden for wildlife	63%	51%
How to reduce water use	62%	54%
How to reduce or eliminate pesticide use	41%	39%
How to replace a lawn with a garden	36%	28%
How to compost	24%	19%
Other	11%	11%

### **Evaluations**

In order to increase the number of evaluations returned a drawing was offered. Those submitting evaluations (including hosts and volunteers) would be eligible to win one of six free landscape consultations offered by noted local native plant landscapers. There was a return of 412 registrant evaluations, 30 host evaluations, and 78 volunteer evaluations, for a total of 520.

General information was asked on the first page: 33% of attendees brought friends who had not attended before. Most people traveled in groups of two, and

visited between 4 and 6 gardens. 37% attended garden talks. 97% rated the tour “Excellent” or “Very Good.”

The back side of the evaluation sought to obtain information on gardening practices currently used, and behavior change brought about as a result of the tour.

### Motivation and Behavior Change

The registrant evaluations were split up into two groups—those who had attended the tour before, and those who had not. The tour was highly motivating to first time registrants; nearly half (47%) of those who completed the evaluation responded that they planned to increase the density of plants, thus helping to out compete weeds and reduce water use. 45% planned to incorporate natives into their gardens, thus reducing pesticide and water use, and reducing the amount of green waste generated in their gardens. About 40% of first time registrants planned to group plants by water needs (42%) and incorporate drought-resistant plants (39%). 27% planned to reduce the size of their lawns, to mulch, and to minimize hardscapes. 26% of first time registrants planned to tolerate some plant damage, and 19% planned to reduce pesticide use. 22% planned to compost, and 12% to grasscycle.

2007 tour evaluations **for first time registrants** (n = 125)

	Didn't answer	Already did	began after tour	plan to	don't plan to
planning to reduce pesticide use	5%	74%	0%	19%	2%
planning to increase density of plants (outcompeting weeds and conserving water)	25%	23%	0%	47%	5%
planning to encourage birds and insects (pesticide-free gardening)	15%	41%	0%	41%	1%
planning to tolerate plant damage	9%	65%	0%	26%	1%
planning to incorporate natives	16%	36%	0%	45%	0%
planning to group plants by water needs	21%	33%	0%	42%	1%
planning to incorporate drought-resistant plants	20%	38%	0%	39%	1%
planning to install efficient irrigation	10%	42%	0%	31%	16%



planning to grasscycle	12%	51%	0%	12%	26%
planning to reduce the size of their lawns	18%	35%	0%	27%	11%
planning to mulch	17%	51%	0%	27%	2%
planning to amend soil	18%	54%	5%	17%	3%
planning to minimize hardscapes	9%	41%	0%	27%	23%
planning to compost	8%	54%	0%	22%	17%

75% of registrants who had attended a previous Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, and who filled out the evaluation form, said they had changed their gardening practices because of their participation in the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.

Evaluations of repeat registrants showed that after attending a prior Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour 18% of respondents had incorporated natives into their gardens, and 17% had increased the density of their plantings (thus reducing pesticide and water use); 15% had grouped plants by water needs and incorporated drought-resistant plants; 11% were encouraging wildlife; 11% were tolerating plant damage and 9% had reduced their pesticide use, 8% were mulching, 7% were composting, 6% had installed efficient irrigation, and 4% were amending their soil and minimizing hardscapes.

	Didn't answer	Already did	began after tour	plan to	don't plan to
<b>2007 Evaluations from Repeat Registrants</b> (n = 125)					
planning to reduce pesticide use	17%	70%	9%	3%	2%
planning to increase density of plants (outcompeting weeds and conserving water)	11%	34%	17%	31%	8%
planning to encourage birds and insects (pesticide-free gardening)	3%	61%	11%	21%	3%
planning to tolerate plant damage	16%	62%	11%	10%	1%
planning to incorporate natives	14%	55%	18%	12%	1%
planning to group plants by water needs	17%	40%	15%	26%	3%

planning to incorporate drought-resistant plants	17%	52%	15%	11%	4%
planning to install efficient irrigation	17%	40%	6%	21%	17%
planning to grasscycle	26%	37%	3%	11%	23%
planning to reduce the size of their lawns	24%	34%	4%	19%	19%
planning to mulch	17%	57%	8%	17%	2%
planning to amend soil	26%	57%	4%	11%	2%
planning to minimize hardscapes	26%	36%	4%	14%	20%
planning to compost	20%	54%	7%	11%	8%

Below are representative comments from garden tour attendees either taken from registrant evaluation forms or received via e-mail.

- I just wanted to let you know how much my wife and I enjoyed the native garden tour. We were in Danville, Pleasant Hill, and Walnut Creek, and found the volunteers and hosts to be kind and very generous with their time in answering garden questions. Also, the gardens were absolutely beautiful. Hopefully this excellent tour not only educates the visitors, but also native gardeners' neighbors who still have massive lawns with sprinklers going all day. I think the more awareness events like this provide the more attitudes will shift. So we really appreciate all your immense effort to make it a great annual event!
- This was a great tour. My family and I really enjoyed ourselves and we greatly appreciated your efforts. We saw many gardens that inspired and motivated us to tackle our large yard with fresh eyes.
- Great job. We really appreciated the website and the easy-to-read plant labels. The volunteers were very helpful and enthusiastic!

### Number of Visitors at Each Garden, and Total Number of Garden Visits Made

2007 Garden Tour List	AM Visitors	PM Visitors	Total Visitors
<b>BAYSIDE CITIES</b>			
<b>Alameda</b>			
Alameda Butterfly Habitat	90	61	151
Nursery Marketplace			135

Christopher Richard	35	38	73
<b>Berkeley</b>			
California Native Bee Garden	159	219	378
Catherine and Brett DeSchepper	146	127	273
Jenny and Scott Fleming	321	372	693
David Loeb	216	218	434
Christine Meuris	167	137	304
Native Here Nursery	42	47	89
Christine Schneider	224	214	438
Glen Schneider	142	376	518
Richard Thomason and Heidi Goldstein	131	140	271
The Watershed Nursery	81	133	214
University of California Botanical Garden			179
<b>Castro Valley</b>			
Castro Valley Center for the Arts	53	39	92
Castro Valley Sanitary District	15	15	43
<b>Crockett</b>			
CREEC Nursery			
<b>El Cerrito</b>			
Michael Graf			276
Keith Hamby	97	113	210
John Latto	215	266	481
Nathan Smith	166	132	298
Debra Shushan and Matt Humphrey	114	122	226
<b>El Sobrante</b>			
El Centro Gardens	74	70	144
John Conry	75	44	119
Idell Weydemeyer	103	172	275
<b>Emeryville</b>			
Temescal Farm Gardens	34	35	94
<b>Fremont</b>			
Kathleen McCabe-Martin	40	32	72
Iain Milnes	33	34	67
<b>Hercules</b>			
Shirley McDonald	49	29	78
<b>Oakland</b>			
Carol Baird and Alan Harper	122	171	293

Bishop O’Dowd High School	24	24	48
Kate and Harry Dobbins	131	101	132
Sue Duckles and Cherie Donahue	112	127	239
Christine Erskine	43	114	157
Diane Fagan	142	148	290
Rolland Mathers and Jennifer Adler	65	66	131
Joaquin Miller Park Native Plant Nursery			215
St. John’s Episcopal Church			78
<b>Pinole</b>			
Kim and Jeff Jerge	66	54	120
<b>Richmond</b>			
Rick and Monica Alatorre	161	111	272
Annie’s Annuals			170
Rick Goodwin	114	93	207
Jesse Merjil	106	87	193
Debbie Rheuark	68	55	123
<b>San Leandro</b>			
Kevin Callahan	68	47	115
Gail Schino	56	74	130
<b>INLAND CITIES</b>			
<b>Clayton</b>			
June Chambers	67	62	129
<b>Danville</b>			
Carol Moore	61	35	96
<b>Lafayette</b>			
Gail Giffen	305	273	578
<b>Livermore</b>			
John Hobson	30	35	65
Ann and Paul Kasameyer	63	61	124
Jeff and Jacque Kixmiller	72	60	132
Anne and Ed Severs	48	51	99
<b>Martinez</b>			
Mary Lu and Bob Burchard	94	97	191
Sue Hammond	103	60	163
Merry West	98	74	162
<b>Moraga</b>			
Al Kyte	176	220	396

<b>Orinda</b>			
Genevieve Prlain	152	221	373
<b>Pleasant Hill</b>			
Jan Enderle	80	130	210
<b>Walnut Creek</b>			
Ruth Bancroft Garden	162	174	336
Michael Escobar	130	175	305
Meg McShannic and David Wallace	215	218	433
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,895</b>	<b>6,368</b>	<b>13,330</b>

*When planning for a year, plant corn. When planning for a decade, plant trees.  
When planning for life, train and educate people. (Chinese proverb)*



*Welcome*  
to the 3rd Annual

*Saturdays April 28 & May 5  
Select (Guided) Tours*

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

*Bringing  
Back  
the*

*Natives*

*Garden Tour™*



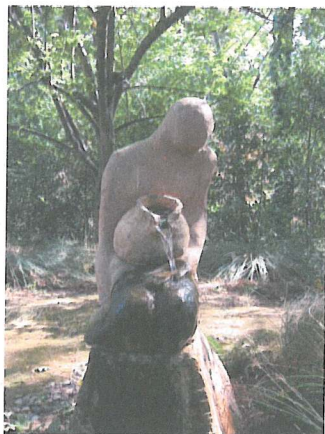
*a free, self-guided tour of  
61 Alameda and Contra Costa County gardens*

*Sunday  
May 6, 2007  
10 am-5 pm*



**Diane Fagan's garden  
Oakland**

Diane Fagan's lovely front garden in the Oakland flats provides color throughout the year, and visual appeal from every angle. You won't want to miss this garden, which shows how a small, drab area can be transformed into a beautiful entry garden in which every space is used to advantage. See garden #29 on page 51 for more delightful details.



**Gail Giffen's garden  
Lafayette**

Plants, sculptures and architecture play equal parts in Gail Giffen's drought-tolerant garden, which reflects its owners' unique artistic sensibility and wonderful sense of humor. Tranquil, whimsical, and full of surprises, this eclectic garden is sure to please. See garden #50 on page 72 for more delightful details.



**Kate and Harry  
Dobbins' garden  
Oakland**

The Dobbins' garden, a visual delight from the sunny border along the street to the shaded areas under the decks, shows what can be accomplished with a series of small spaces. This intimate and cheerful garden abounds with diverse and attractive plantings. See garden #31 on page 53 for more delightful details.



**John Latto's garden  
El Cerrito**

The unrepressed riot of wildflowers in this garden may make it easy to miss the perennials that keep it looking great throughout the year. The extensive and creative use of recycled materials is inspiring. See garden #15 on page 37 for more delightful details.

Special thanks to Saxon Holt Photography, [www.saxonholt.com](http://www.saxonholt.com). Front cover photos, from top to bottom: 1. Rick and Monica Alatorre's Richmond garden, Photo@Rick Alatorre. 2. California Native Bee Garden, Photo@D. Ross Cameron Photography, [www.photo.net/photos/D. Ross Cameron](http://www.photo.net/photos/D. Ross Cameron) 3. Kat Weiss's Livermore garden (on Select Tour #2) Photo@GardenSoft, [www.gardensoft.com](http://www.gardensoft.com). 4. Kim and Jeff Jerge's Pinole garden. Back cover photo: Photo@Saxon Holt Photography, [www.saxonholt.com](http://www.saxonholt.com).

## *The Garden Tour needs your help!*

As you can imagine, it is expensive to produce and mail the beautiful keepsake garden guide, and to coordinate a tour of this size. In order to keep the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour™ both running and free, this year we need to raise \$20,000 in donations from people like you.

Expenses must be met if the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour™ is to continue—while there is no fee required in order to attend the tour, each garden guide costs \$5.00 to print and mail; the actual cost for each person to attend the tour is \$16.

If you have not contributed to the tour yet, we hope you take this opportunity to do so. You can: mail a check today to the address at the bottom of the page; pay at [www.BringingBackTheNatives.net](http://www.BringingBackTheNatives.net) with a credit card or PayPal; leave your contribution in the donations jars that will be located at the ticket-taking tables at each garden on the day of the tour; or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 am and 9 pm to make your contribution over the phone.

To those of you who have attended the tour previously and enjoyed it, we hope you contribute generously. If you have not yet attended the tour but think that supporting a native plant garden tour is a worthy effort, we would appreciate your assistance also.

If you wish to contribute through the mail, please make your check payable to the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour™ and mail it to:

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour™  
c/o Kathy Kramer Consulting  
1718 Hillcrest Road  
San Pablo CA 94806

*Thank you!*