Dear Friend,

California experienced its worst drought ever recorded in 2014. However, there is good news. By Landscaping Lightly, you can help conserve water and energy and care for the planet. Did you know…

- Replacing your lawn with beautiful, drought-tolerant California native plants can save thousands of gallons of water each month. There are natives that thrive in every site and condition. Plant native plants and the bees, birds and butterflies will come!

- Building water-catching rain gardens into your landscape can prevent runoff from polluting streams and the ocean.

To help inspire you to make small changes in your yard that have big benefits, the Council for Watershed Health, with support from our partners listed below, developed this informative 2015 Landscaping Lightly calendar. Inside you will find fun new illustrations and useful tips, websites, books, and other references to inspire you to create beautiful and sustainable yards and gardens.

We hope you’ll make 2015 a year of Landscaping Lightly by putting these inspiring suggestions into practice. Have fun and we wish you all the very best in the year ahead!

Sincerely,

Nancy L.C. Steele, D. Env.
Executive Director | Council for Watershed Health
CASH IN YOUR GRASS

WATERWISE GARDENS SAVE WATER AND MONEY
If you must keep a little grass, good low water alternatives include UC Verde buffalograss and Kurapia, or create a native grass meadow and add some native bulbs and wildflowers. For more great plants visit www.plantbook.com.

For more great tips pick up a copy of Reimagining the California Lawn: Water-conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs. And when you are ready to pick out your plants, no book provides better information than Landscape Plants for California Gardens. Happy planting!

More than half of potable water is used in your yard. Take advantage of “cash for grass” rebates and replace your lawn with low water California native groundcovers and shrubs. To learn about rebates available in your area visit www.socalwatersmart.com.

Sheet mulching is an effective way to kill stubborn grasses over time. For sheet mulching instructions and videos plus more lawn conversion tips visit bayfriendlycoalition.org/LYL.shtml.
WORK WITH WATER
MAKE SURFACES PERMEABLE
To minimize the pollution of our rivers and beaches, keep as much rainwater on your property as possible. For a How-to Guide, List of Rain Barrel Manufacturers, and a Tool Check List, visit www.larainwaterharvesting.org.

Create depressions filled with vegetation or rain gardens, and redirect your downspouts into these areas. A great resource for redesigning your landscape to catch rainfall is Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond by Brad Lancaster. It is available at www.harvestingrainwater.com.

Replace concrete with gravel paths and permeable pavement to allow water to soak in. For great examples and sample plans visit www.h2ouse.net.

Sweep brick, pavers, and pavement regularly and keep them clear of weeds to maintain maximum permeability.

Swales, rain gardens, and permeable pavers not only provide environmental benefits, they can add beauty and value to your home.
BEES ARE BENEFICIAL

HONEY BEES NEED OUR HELP
Create spaces for bees. There are over 4,000 species of native bees in North America. Learn about the native bees in your area and help them thrive.

Support your local beekeeper! About one third of all the fruits and vegetables Americans eat is a result of honeybee and native bee pollination. Purchasing honey from local beekeepers supports a local industry and native plant pollination.

More bees results in more fruits and seeds. Bees pollinate garden plants and wildflowers, too. You can support bees by planting native annual and perennial flowering plants.

Make your yard safe for bees. Avoid using pesticides and never spray blooming flowers when bees are visiting. There are many non-toxic, safe alternatives to pesticides. If you must use a pesticide, only apply when there is no wind and only when temperatures are cooler as bees are less active then.

Sponsored by

Council For Watershed Health | www.watershedhealth.org

March 2015

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Daylight Savings

Mardi Gras
St. Patrick’s Day
First Day of Spring

Cesar Chavez Day

FEB 2015 | APR 2015

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WATER WISELY

WATER EARLY AND EFFICIENTLY
Be smart and reduce your water use by watering in the early morning when evaporation rates are low.

Keep valuable water on your property where it is needed. Mosquitoes thrive in runoff that collects in gutters and underground storm drains, risking public health. Visit the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District’s website for more information: www.glacvcd.org.

Lawns require significantly more water than most other garden plants. Take part in lawn-to-garden incentive programs where you can receive a rebate for each square foot of lawn you replace. Visit www.socalwatersmart.com for current rebates.

Use weather based irrigation controllers, rotor sprinkler heads, drip and micro-emitters to increase water efficiency and save money.

Use the Watering Index to estimate the amount of water your plants need and set your controller accordingly. This can save hundreds of gallons in the summer months. See the index at: www.bewaterwise.com.

April 2015

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Easter Sunday

Tax Day

Earth Day

Sponsored by

Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District

Council For Watershed Health | www.watershedhealth.org
INVITE NATURE

CREATE GARDEN HABITATS
Install water features to attract wildlife. Use a small pump to gently recirculate the water; this will make it inviting for a diversity of birds.

Plant native shrubs like currant, toyon, and coffeeberry and enjoy the bees, butterflies, and berry loving birds that visit.

Honey bees and hummingbirds are attracted to colorful tubular-shaped flowers. Keep them buzzing and humming right along by planting California fuchsias, penstemons, and coral bells.

Harmful pesticides can persist in the environment for a long time. Consider nontoxic alternatives like those found at the following website: www.ipm.ucdavis.edu.

Encourage lizards, frogs, newts, and salamanders by incorporating rocks and logs, raised potted plants, or even a shallow pond into your garden. Your local vector control agency can provide free mosquito-eating fish.

Sponsored by Forest Lawn

Funerals • Cremations • Cemeteries
REUSE YOUR WATER

INSTALL A GREYWATER SYSTEM
Save water and money by using greywater to irrigate trees, shrubs, groundcovers and flower beds. Greywater is “wash water” from bathroom sinks, showers and washing machines.

Participate in a local workshop to learn about how to set up safe and approved greywater reuse systems. Visit www.greywateraction.org for more information.

Check current California Plumbing Code before moving forward with your plans. Permits are needed for some types of greywater systems.

The current greywater code, Title 24, Part 5, Chapter 16A, Part 1, can be found at www.hcd.ca.gov. Other greywater policy information can be found at www.greywateralliance.org.

Pay special attention to what’s going down the drain! Use only detergents and cleaning products formulated for greywater systems. Your plants will thank you for it!

Sponsored by

SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
INVEST IN TREES

HIRE A CERTIFIED ARBORIST
Entrust the health and safety of your trees to certified arborists. Pruning or removing trees can be dangerous and should be done only by those trained and equipped to work safely in trees.

Good tree care is an investment that has many benefits that can add significant value to your property. The following link has more great tree care tips: www.isa-arbor.com.

Some trees, especially native oaks, are protected and permits are required for pruning and removal. Check your local ordinances before you work in native trees.

With more frequent droughts and new tree pests, good tree care has never been more important than it is today. By hiring a certified arborist you can ensure that your trees will provide benefits for many generations.

Trees should never be topped! Topping stresses trees, facilitates decay in branches, and creates significant hazards that could cause great harm to life and property. For more info visit www.urban-tree.org/topping.asp.
STAY FIRE SAFE

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRES
If you live in a fire hazard area, learn how to create fire resistant structures and maintain a defensible space around your home. Visit www.ucanr.org/sites/SAFELandscapes for more info.

When landscaping, consult with your local fire department to make sure that your plant selection and spacing are fire safe.

Regularly clean debris from your roof and gutters to keep blowing embers from igniting structures.

Minimize flammable plants from within 30 feet of your house. Maintain individual trees and shrubs to keep them free of dead wood.

Create space between trees and shrubs located within 30-100 feet of your structure (200 feet if your local fire department requires it). Visit firecenter.berkeley.edu resources for more tips.

Start a local Fire Safe Council for your community to educate residents on how to protect their homes and neighborhoods from wildfire. Learn more about how you can join the over 100 Fire Safe Councils at www.cafiresafecouncil.org.

Sponsored by
SHARE THE HARVEST

GARDENS CREATE COMMUNITY
Buy local California produce when possible. Shipping food great distances has significant costs to the environment. A great way to support local agriculture is to patronize your local farmers market, visit localharvest.org to find the closest one to you!

Plant hardy fruit trees requiring less than three hundred chill hours to ensure a bountiful harvest. Visit davewilson.com for more information.

Replace unused lawn with planter beds or an orchard for growing fresh fruit and vegetables. If you live in an apartment or have limited space, find a community garden. For a list of community gardens in your area, visit the Los Angeles Community Garden Council website: www.lagardencouncil.org.

Share and trade your harvest with neighbors. Contact groups like Food Forward to donate surplus fruits and make a tax deductible donation. Visit www.foodforward.org for more information.

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- Labor Day
- Rosh Hashanah
- Yom Kippur
- First Day of Autumn

Council For Watershed Health | www.watershedhealth.org
Plant California native and drought resistant trees, such as beautiful coast live oaks. Fall is an especially good time to plant native trees.

Large native trees reduce your energy use when planted on the west and south sides of your home. Cool your house with shade trees!

Nurture young trees! The first few years of a tree’s life are critical to the future of a healthy tree. Young trees need a deep watering once a week and mature trees every couple of weeks during the dry season. Some trees, however, go dormant in the summer and like reduced summer water. For more information on tree water needs visit: www.selectree.com.

A properly planted and cared for tree will live for many years, some for over 100 years. Visit the Urban Tree Foundation for more info and tree care tips at www.urbantree.org.

Sponsored by

CITY PLANTS

LOS ANGELES CENTER FOR URBAN NATURAL RESOURCES SUSTAINABILITY
CONSERVE OUR WATER
GROW HEALTHY GARDENS
Water is a precious resource, so don’t spray your pavement and always use a broom. Fix leaky faucets and always use a shut-off nozzle attachment on hoses.

You can save on watering in your garden by redirecting your rain gutter downspouts into your garden or into cisterns. Properly stored rainwater can be used to water your garden after the rains stop.

Your lawn might be your biggest water-waster so consider taking advantage of rebates and replacing your lawn. There are many beautiful alternatives that use much less water, such as drought-tolerant trees and shrubs. Visit www.plantbook.com for a great list of sustainable plants.

When properly used, mulch and compost will reduce the need to water. Mulch or compost fallen leaves also to control weeds and provide nutrients to your plants.

Grow fruits and vegetables for edible landscaping. And use mulch and micro irrigation to reduce the amount of water that fruit and vegetables require.
Attract bees, birds, and butterflies using native plants. Pollinators love natives like California buckwheat and coyote brush. Native oaks can attract the beautiful California sister butterfly (pictured) and California lilacs will entice swallowtails.

Consider replacing unused lawn with low-growing native grasses and groundcovers, some of which can be mowed to look and function like a lawn.

Most California native plants require little supplemental water, attract beneficial wildlife, and quite a few are easy to purchase at your local nursery! For more information be sure to visit www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative.

Purchase and plant native plants between November and February. This will enable them to develop strong roots before harsh summer conditions.
RECYCLE THE RAIN

SLOW IT, SPREAD IT, SINK IT
Slow it down, spread it out, and sink it in! Keep storm water from polluting streams and the ocean by creating areas where rainwater can soak into your landscape.

Swales are u-shaped basins in your landscape that capture rain, preventing it from flowing down streets and picking up pollution. Visit the Council for Watershed Health’s demonstration green street and alley at Elmer Avenue for ideas (tinyurl.com/was-elmer-ave).

The first step is to find out if your soils allow water to quickly soak in as you don’t want to create areas of standing water that will breed mosquitoes. TreePeople’s website (www.treepeople.org/which-practices-are-you) tells you how.

Be sure to plant your swale with deep-rooted native plants and make sure to apply mulch frequently to build your soil and keep weeds at bay. Once plants have matured, keep them trimmed away from the ground and do your best not to disturb or compact the soils.
**JANUARY - TRADE IN YOUR TURF**

Edible Landscaping by Rosalind Creasy
surfriderfoundation.org/programs/atnight/ocean-friendly-gardens

Landscape Plants for California Gardens
www.landdesignpublishing.com

Reimagining the California Lawn: Water-conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs
www.cachumapress.com/catalog/california-lawn.html

Surfrider – Ocean Friendly Gardens
www.surfrider.org

**FEBRUARY - WORK WITH WATER**

Brad Lancaster – Rainwater Harvesting
www.harvestingrainwater.com

Chance of Rain, Emily Green’s Water & Gardening Blog
www.chanceofrain.com

City of Los Angeles Rain Water Harvesting and Low Impact Development Programs
www.lastormwater.org

Green Gardens Group (G3) Los Angeles – Homeowner Programs
www.greengardensgroup.com/programs

Natural Resources Defense Council – Rooftops to Rivers
www.nrdc.org/water

Paver Products and Resources
www.paversearch.com

Tree People – Breaking Up is Easy to Do
www.treepeople.org/sustainable-solutions-0

**MARCH - PLANT TREES**

California ReLeaf
www.californiareleaf.org

Los Angeles “City Plants” Tree Program
www.cityplants.org

National Arbor Day Foundation
www.treesaregood.com

TreePeople
www.treepeople.org

US Forest Service Urban Ecosystems Program
www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/uesd

**APRIL - WATER WISELY**

H20House – Smart from the Start
www.h2ouse.org

Metropolitan Water District - Watering Index and Calculator
www.bewaterwise.com

TreePeople – Sustainable Solutions, Sprinklers 101
www.treepeople.org/sustainable-solutions-0

WaterSense – EPA Partnership Program
www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor/index.html

**MAY - INVITE NATURE**

Attracting Native Pollinators by the Xerces Society
www.xerces.org

Audubon – Healthy Yards
athome.audubon.org/healthy-yards

California Native Plant Society – Grow Native Program
www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative

Las Pilitas Nursery – Birds and Native Plants
www.laspilitas.com/bird.htm

National Wildlife Foundation – Garden for Wildlife
www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife

**JUNE - REUSE YOUR WATER**

CA Plumbing Code (Title 24, Part 5, Ch. 16A, Part I)
www.hcd.ca.gov

Greywater Action
www.greywateraction.org

Greywater Harvesting – Brad Landcaster
www.harvestingrainwater.com/greywater-harvesting

Oasis Design
www.oasisdesign.net

**JULY - INVEST IN TREES**

ANSI Standards for Tree Care
www.tcia.org/business/ansi-a300-standards

California Urban Forest Council
www.investfromthegroundup.org

International Society of Arboriculture “Find an Arborist”
www.isa-arbor.com

West Coast Arborists
www.westcoastarborists.com
ARTIST PROFILE

Edward Lum

Ed Lum is a talented illustrator and painter whose work is reminiscent of early 20th Century travel posters and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) art of the 1930’s. He was born in 1966, is a fourth generation Chinese-American, and works out of his studio at the historic Monterey Trailer Park in Los Angeles.

Check out www.funkyjunkfarms.com to see more of his work. Contact Ed: Edlum711@yahoo.com.
To print this calendar and pass it onto a friend visit www.landscapinglight.ly.com.
Questions and correspondence can be sent to info@watershedhealth.org.