Dear Friend,

Inside this 2014 Landscaping Lightly calendar you will find fun illustrations, useful tips, and resources to inspire you to create and maintain landscapes that conserve water, protect open space, and even save you money.

California is truly a special place, with beautiful mountains, beaches, and incomparable scenic views. The tips inside this calendar will help you to protect the natural resources that make this place so special.

Did you know?

• More than 60% of residential water is used on lawns and landscapes.
• Much of your water is imported from hundreds of miles away, which uses lots of energy.
• People apply far more pesticides and fertilizers than needed, polluting rivers and the ocean, and endangering human health.
• Some plants we grow in our gardens and landscapes invade wildlife habitat, displacing unique and beautiful native plants, increasing wildfire and flood danger, and degrading our trails and open spaces.

Here’s the good news: “landscaping lightly” helps you to care for the planet. This calendar was developed for you by the Council for Watershed Health with support from our partners listed below. We hope you enjoy the artwork and tips, but even more importantly, we hope you put the tips into good practice. We wish you all the very best in the year ahead!

Sincerely,

Nancy L.C. Steele, D. Env.
Executive Director | Council for Watershed Health
RECYCLE THE RAIN

SLOW IT, SPREAD IT, SINK IT
**Tips**

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, do your best not to disturb or compact the soils.

*Sponsored by Glaser Weil Fink Jacobs Howard Avchen & Shapiro LLP*

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New Year’s Day

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Chinese New Year

Council For Watershed Health | www.watershedhealth.org
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.
PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS
Most plants don’t escape our gardens but the handful that do can displace native vegetation and greatly reduce biodiversity. When purchasing plants at the nursery make sure they are not the invasive type that can spread and cause problems. Visit www.plantright.org and www.weedwatch.org for more information.

Remove invasive weeds like mustard and thistles (pictured). Also control large, billowy invasive grasses, such as fountain grass and pampas grass; they are highly flammable and can quickly spread fire.

Visit www.cal-ipc.org/landscaping and www.weedwatch.org for the names and photos of plants that are invasive in your area.

Use a string trimmer (aka weedwacker) to cut invasive weeds to the ground before they flower and produce seed. This may take two or three trimmings in spring and summer each year.

Join volunteer efforts to control invasive plants in local parks and wildland areas. Visit www.volunteermatch.org to find events in your area.
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.

Help bees increase in numbers. Honeybees swarm when their hives are too crowded in spring and summer. Swarming helps bees to increase their numbers. Don’t disturb or spray a swarm as it is rarely dangerous and will usually leave within a few days. If a swarm doesn’t leave, call a bee removal company.

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.

### April Fool’s Day

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### April 2014

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April Fool’s Day

Tax Day

First Day of Passover

Good Friday
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 information.

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

Remove shrubs from under eaves and decks and trim tree branches at least 10 feet away from your rooftop. Move woodpiles and construction materials so they are further than 30 feet from all 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 helpful tips.

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

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.

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

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.

Sponsored by

Council For Watershed Health | www.watershedhealth.org
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!

**July 2014**

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Independence Day
SAVE THE SALAMANDERS

OUR HOME IS THEIR HABITAT
2014 is the Year of the Salamander! Habitat loss, pesticide use, and disease threaten more than one third of the world’s frogs, toads, newts, and salamanders with extinction. Here are some things you can do to help.

Native plants, woodpiles, rocks and mulch can provide necessary cover for frogs, toads, and salamanders. Create small ponds which provide places for amphibians to breed. Visit treewalkers.org/operation-frog-pond for pond building tips.

Keep pet cats indoors as they are predators of reptiles and amphibians.

Pesticides travel well beyond our yards and have been found in frogs in remote wilderness areas. Practice integrated pest management and minimize or eliminate pesticide use around your home. Visit ipm.ucdavis.edu to learn how.

Avoid using bug-zappers or other devices that kill moths and small harmless insects that provide important food sources for amphibians. If mosquitos are a problem, make sure there is no standing water in your landscape. If mosquitos persist, your county agricultural commissioner can help determine and remove the source.
KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

DON'T FEED WILD ANIMALS
Do not leave pet food outside, especially overnight. Unwanted scavengers will become accustomed to the food source.

Never feed or try to tame wild animals like squirrels, skunks, raccoons, deer, coyotes, or bears. Dangerous or even deadly conflicts can occur.

Only use trashcans with locking lids. Large animals can tip trashcans, so keep them secure until collection days.

Deer-proof your garden by fencing your yard and by growing plants deer don’t like to eat.

If you live near a wildland area, do not leave cats and small dogs outside on their own.

If confronted by a coyote, bear, or mountain lion don’t run. Make noise, try to look bigger, and fight back if necessary.
TURN BROWN INTO GOLD

COMPOST GREEN WASTE
Keep your yard waste on site! Leaves, grass clippings, vegetables, and kitchen waste can be composted and spread in your garden creating healthy soils and supplying food for your plants.

Keep your compost piles working by regularly adding equal amounts of green and brown material. Be sure to add water and turn to aerate every couple of weeks!

In your kitchen, collect fruit, vegetable, and other compostable kitchen waste in an air-tight container to prevent flies and ants.

Two composting bins can be useful, one for early stage material (i.e., fresh kitchen scraps, leaves, and garden clippings) and one for late stage compost (i.e., almost soil).

Consider worm composting, also known as vermiculture. Visit www.wormwoman.com for more information. Also consider a compost tea brewing kit. Compost tea can add beneficial microorganisms back into the soil and help plants suppress disease.
GROW NATIVE PLANTS

CELEBRATE CALIFORNIA'S BIODIVERSITY
**Tips**

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.

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.

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

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

**Sponsored by**

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**NOVEMBER 2014**

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- **November 2**
  - Veteran’s Day
- **November 8**
  - Election Day
- **November 11**
  - Veteran’s Day
- **November 24**
  - Thanksgiving

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Council For Watershed Health | www.watershedhealth.org
WE NEED TREES
AND TREES NEED US
DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD
Many of California’s trees are being destroyed by invasive insects - threatening our air, water, and quality of life. Residents can protect the health of the nation’s trees by detecting and reporting pests in their own backyards.

Don’t Move Firewood! You can inadvertently transport tree pests by moving firewood, wood waste, or brush. Buy firewood near where you’ll burn it, or purchase certified heat treated wood before you go. Visit don’tmovefirewood.org.

Get Involved! Be observant of the trees around you. Keep your eyes open for dying branches, unfamiliar insects, and strange holes in the bark. The earlier you find a pest infestation, the easier it is to control the damage. Visit nature.org and healthytreeshealthycities.org.

Plant and Nurture Young Trees! The first few years of a tree’s life are critical to the future of a healthy tree. Plant the right tree for the right place to greatly improve the chance of a strong, mature tree for years to come.

Sponsored by The Nature Conservancy

Protecting nature. Preserving life.
PLAN FOR PLAY

PLANT TREES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
To keep our urban forests diverse and healthy, plant California native trees like the coast live oak. Large native trees provide shelter, food, and habitat for native animals; they also make great play areas for children. Plant in the late fall or winter when cool weather will help ensure proper establishment.

Hire reputable tree trimmers, and never top a tree; the resulting branches will be weak and the tree will become susceptible to high wind and pests & disease.

For a list of trees that are suitable to your region, visit the SelecTree App at selectree.calpoly.edu. If you need help identifying a tree, try out this easy-to-use app from Dr. Matt Ritter (www.baobabbotanical.com/Baobab/citytree.html).

The Council for Watershed Health and all of our partners hope you have enjoyed this calendar. We wish you the best for 2015 and hope it is another great year of Landscaping Lightly! Be sure to check out the following pages for more great resources.
JANUARY - RECYCLE THE RAIN
Elmer Avenue Demonstration Green Street
tinyurl.com/was-elmer-ave

EPA – Water Infrastructure
water.epa.gov/infrastructure

Low Impact Development Center
www.lowimpactdevelopment.org

Surfrider – Ocean Friendly Gardens
www.surfrider.org

Brad Lancaster – Rainwater Harvesting
www.harvestingrainwater.com

FEBRUARY - WORK WITH WATER
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 - PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY FROM INVASIVE PLANTS
California Invasive Plant Council
www.cal-ipc.org

California Native Plant Society
www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/weeds.php

Council for Watershed Health – WeedWatch
www.weedwatch.org

Los Angeles County Weed Management Area
www.lacountywmawma.org

Sustainable Conservation – Invasive Plants and Alternatives
www.plantright.org

APRIL - BEES ARE BENEFICIAL
American Beekeeping Federation
www.abfnet.org

UC Davis Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility
beebiology.ucdavis.edu

The Xerces Society
www.xerces.org

California State Beekeepers Association
www.californiastatebeekeepers.com

MAY - STAY FIRE SAFE
California Native Plant Society – Native Plants and Fire Safety
www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/resources.php

Center for Fire Research and Outreach
firecenter.berkeley.edu/resources

The Fire Safe Council
www.firesafecouncil.org

Los Angeles County Fire Department Forestry Division
fire.lacounty.gov/forestry/forestry.asp

UC Cooperative Extension -Sustainable and Fire Safe Landscapes
www.ucanr.org/sites/SAFELandscapes

JUNE - SHARE THE HARVEST
California Avocado Commission
www.californiaavocadogrowers.com

Food Forward
www.foodforward.org

Los Angeles County Arboretum – Events and Classes
wwwarboretum.org

Los Angeles Community Garden Council
wwwLAGardencouncil.org

Los Angeles Master Gardener Training Program
celosangeles.ucdavis.edu
**ARTIST PROFILE**

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.