

# 2016 Smart Gardening Conference Schedule

## Opening Keynote

### **Nicholas Staddon – *Gardening in a Changing Climate: Regional and Global Impacts***

Climate change is here! Join Nicholas Staddon as he navigates through many of the issues and opportunities surrounding how plants are produced and how we need to garden going forward. And it's not just about the plants. How are birds, bees, butterflies and a host of beneficial insects going to be able to survive as farming continues to become more intensive? What does the future hold? Where do plants and gardening fit into society going forward? So be on the edge of your seat as he is liable to ask you what you are doing to foster positive environmental change in your garden.

## 10:00 Breakout Sessions

### **Designing for the Drought with Succulents and Climate Appropriate Plants**

#### **Ernesto Sandoval, Collections Manager, UC Davis Botanical Conservatory**

Take a tour of various gardens, large & small as well as public and private, that Ernesto has installed in Northern California to minimize or mitigate water use whilst increasing diversity. He's been promoting lawn removal for years and will share what he's learned to successfully transition away from water hungry horticulture!

### **Using Reclaimed Water (including Graywater) for Landscape Irrigation**

#### **Janet Hartin, UCCE Environmental Horticulture Advisor, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties**

Use of graywater and other non-potable water sources for landscape irrigation conserves water and is an eco-friendly way to keep plants healthy whether under drought and water restrictions or not. Fortunately, simple 'laundry to landscape' graywater systems no longer require a permit from the state (although local jurisdictions may still require one). However, precautions should be taken when using graywater and other types of reclaimed water since some sources contain chemicals that may prove harmful to plants, the environment, and/or humans and pets. These issues will be covered in the presentation

### **Succulents in Your Garden**

#### **Roz Tampone & Wanda Addison, UC Master Gardeners, Fresno County**

Succulents are beautiful in your garden. They can be placed in containers to create mini landscapes on your patio, entryways, or in special areas of your garden. They are drought tolerant and require little watering. Learn how to care for your succulents and how to create succulent planters.

### **Citrus: Best Choices & Care in a Changing Climate**

#### **Lance Walheim**

Learn how to select and grow citrus in the San Joaquin Valley and surrounding areas.

### **Look to Lavender for Drought Tolerance!**

#### **Valerie Kissler, UC Master Gardener, Fresno County**

Adding another D to this seminar's title -- Drainage! Learn the most successful varieties of lavender for the Valley. How to plant, grow, harvest and utilize this very versatile herb will all be discussed!

## **11:00 Breakout Sessions**

### **Plant Hormones Explained**

**Ernesto Sandoval, Collections Manager, UC Davis Botanical Conservatory**

Learn how your plants manage their growth and how you can and do regulate plants via their hormones. What's the difference between a tree and a shrub?

### **Watering Wisely to Conserve and Reduce Water Waste in the Landscape**

**Janet Hartin, UCCE Environmental Horticulture Advisor, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties**

Keeping plants alive under drought and water restrictions does not necessarily mean removing your current landscape. What it does entail is gardening smarter: scheduling irrigations based on plant water needs; fixing malfunctioning irrigation systems to increase their distribution uniformity; using mulch; controlling weeds; and using alternative water sources for non-edibles whenever feasible.

### **Saving Our Urban Forest**

**Elinor Teague, UC Master Gardener, Sacramento County**

How many trees do we need in our cities and why? How should we best preserve existing mature trees and how should we plant to ensure that our urban forests survive for generation.

### **Designs for Drama and Drought**

**Jody Palmer, UC Master Gardener, Fresno County**

Our drought is forcing us to think differently, and it can be much more interesting than lawns! This workshop will give you design ideas in which to incorporate resilient and beautiful plant choices.

### **Growing Vegetables & Conserving Water: It Can Be Done**

**Carolyn Unruh, UC Master Gardener, Fresno County**

Home food production is increasing in popularity, but requires water to be successful! This presentation will offer practical strategies for conserving water while growing fruit and vegetables at home.

## **1:00 Breakout Sessions**

### **Attracting Good Bugs to Your Garden, Even in a Time of Drought**

**Ruth Dahlquist-Willard, UCCE Small Farms and Specialty Crops Farm Advisor, Fresno and Tulare Counties**

Providing habitat and resources for beneficial insects can enhance natural biological control in your garden. This includes choosing flowering plants that attract predators and parasitoids and provide food resources for these beneficial insects. Including a diversity of flowering plants and planning for a succession of blooms over the growing season will improve habitat for them. Drought-tolerant California native plants that attract native beneficials are also recommended.

### **Drip Irrigation in the Home Garden: Benefits, Installation & Maintenance**

**John Kincade, UC Master Gardener, Fresno County**

Discover the benefits and rewards of installing drip irrigation in your home garden. Save water, money and time.

### **Lawns & Groundcover in a Drought: What's In, What's Out**

**Susan Stiltz, Owner, Susan Stiltz Landscape Design & Consulting**

Lawns can still be a viable component of Central Valley landscapes by choosing appropriate species, size, placement & irrigation. There are many attractive ground covers that can also play in an important role in creating a cool and welcoming landscape.

### **The New American Garden**

**Nicholas Staddon**

Gardening is on the precipice of opportunity. There is more interest in plants and the act of gardening today than there has been in 100 years. Join Nicholas Staddon as he takes us on a journey of discovery in this new dawn of working in the soil in our changing climate. It doesn't matter if you have a patch the size of a postage stamp or that large garden we all lie in bed at night dreaming about. There is something here for everyone: trends, new plants, forgotten favorites, organic gardening, plants for the wildlife we must embrace, water-wise gardening, edible gardening, container gardening, and the list goes on. A presentation not to be missed as it will put the P back in your passion for plants.

### **Useful Plants and You, Herbs in a Low Water Garden**

**Robbie Cranch, UC Master Gardener, Fresno County**

Herbs, those useful plants, can be the backbone of your landscaping, potager or special herb garden. Many originate in Mediterranean climate zones, making them some of the best choices as we adapt our gardening to prolonged drought. Learn herb habits, needs, and best variety picks for our area.

## **2:00 Breakout Sessions**

### **Tree Fruit Growing in the Valley**

**Maxwell Norton, UCCE Farm Advisor, Emeritus**

Maxwell will give a complete overview of tree fruit practices in the Valley. He will give special attention to managing with limited water.

### **New Irrigation Technology: Review and How-To**

**Tim Sullivan, UC Master Gardener, Fresno County**

New technology is now available to the home gardener. Smart Controllers, Wi-Fi Controllers, soil sensors and more, are tools to help you irrigate more efficiently. Also learn about rain water management to help save every drop of this precious resource—water.

### **Creating a Pollinator Garden**

**Jackie Bradley, UC Master Gardener, Fresno County**

Pollinators are essential to many of our flowers, fruits and veggies. Discover how to encourage bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators by creating a welcoming habitat using specific plants and garden features to bring them in! Get tips on maintaining your pollinator garden with less water and fewer pesticides.

### **Winning the War on Weeds**

**Maggie Courtis, UC Master Gardener, Fresno County**

There's no need to be a slave to weeds. Learn how to eradicate weeds from your landscape using a variety of non-chemical and chemical controls. Learn techniques to prevent them from even getting started. Save time and money using the IPM techniques. Learn how to use the wonderful resources available on-line.

### **Soils, Soils, Soils**

**Michael Harman, UC Master Gardener, Fresno County**

Sand, clay or hard pan these are valley soils. What are our options to improve them while conserving water and still having a healthy landscape.

## **Closing Keynote Speaker**

### **Beautiful Plants for a Changing Climate: The UC Arboretum All-Stars and More**

**Ellen Zagory, Director of Public Horticulture, UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden**

The drought in 2015 has awakened many of us from a dream of a cheap and copious water supply. How can we create beautiful landscapes and still be prudent with the water we have in uncertain times? Designing with plants able to thrive with little irrigation is the new paradigm and we must look to other dry regions for a new plant vernacular from which we can create beauty, augment sustainability, and develop our own style of uniquely California landscapes.