

## Homegrown Habitat Host: Chris



**Location:** Carmichael, 95608

**Front Yard size:** 56' wide, 30' deep

**Garden Age:** Transformation *began* in 1980 (Backyard); Frontyard: 1998

**Description:** North facing, filtered sun, trees, bushes, perennials and annuals attract birds, pollinators and butterflies and more! My yard is slightly below street level, so there had always been standing water after a rain storm. Now I know the advantages of having a natural “rain garden”. Growing up my only gardening experience had been mowing, including under Oleander and thorny roses. I was not a fan! I didn’t develop an interest in gardening until at 30 I went on my first backpacking trip and decided I wanted to have plants that grew in my area before the housing development, so that the critters that live in my area would have a home and I wouldn’t be chained to a lawnmower, leaf blower or pesticides. When I could afford it, I started transforming my yard. Now I have a huge collection of plants that are native to our region. I confess to being a plant hugger!

### Features:

- 80% Local Native Plants
- Rain Garden – concentrates roof run off to a basin which is also ideal for a small Willow tree and Butterfly puddler
- There is also irrigation set to spray for a minute daily
- Pleasant seating area to connect with wildlife and plants!
- No pesticides are used in this garden!

- Installed an irrigation line around much of the yard in order to give supplemental water.
- I see my garden as Interactive Visual Art. I can watch the plants transform through the seasons and observe the birds, bees, and butterflies!
- The garden is for wildlife, not for domestic cats. This keeps cats safe from the road and the cats can't use wildlife as toys. Sweetheart and Charlie can often be found transfixed by wildlife from indoors.



### Inspired by:

In 2009, my friend Julie Serences told me about Doug Tallamy work and his book [Bringing Nature Home](#). I was immediately convinced of the crucial importance of native plants and the insects these plants support and how we have the power to increase native plant habitat within our reach. We can create habitat that supports these insects in our own backyards and communities, and we can spread the word to others to do the same.

### Front Yard Plant List (highlight equals newly planted)

COMMON NAME	BOTANIC NAME	Plant Form	YEAR PLANTED
<a href="#">California Buckeye</a>	<i>Aesculus californica</i>	Tree	1998
<a href="#">Western Columbine</a>	<i>Aquilegia Formosa</i>	Perennial	2022
<a href="#">Whiteleaf manzanita</a>	<i>Arctostaphylos viscida</i>	Medium Shrub	1998
<a href="#">Dutchmans Pipe</a>	<i>Aristolochia californica</i>	Vine	2011
California <a href="#">Mugwort</a>	<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	Shrub	2022
<a href="#">Narrowleaf Milkweed</a>	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	Perennial	2009
<a href="#">Spice Bush</a>	<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>	Large Shrub	1998
<a href="#">Ceanothus 'Anchor Bay'</a>	<i>Ceanothus 'Anchor Bay'</i>	Low shrub	2020
<a href="#">Ceanothus 'Joyce Coulter'</a>	<i>Ceanothus 'Joyce Coulter'</i>	Low shrub	2020
<a href="#">Deerbrush</a>	<i>Ceanothus integerrimus</i>	Shrub	2020
<a href="#">Ceanothus Ray Hartman</a>	<i>Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'</i>	Shrub/Sm Tree	2022
<a href="#">Western Redbud</a>	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Tree	1998 - 2014
<a href="#">Elegant Clarkia</a>	<i>Clarkia unguiculata</i>	Annual	2019
<a href="#">Miners Lettuce</a>	<i>Claytonia perfoliata</i>	Annual	1998
<a href="#">Yerba Buena</a>	<i>Clinopodium douglasii</i>	Perennial	2021
<a href="#">California Fuchsia</a>	<i>Epilobium canum</i>	Perennial	2000
<a href="#">St Catherine's Lace</a>	<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>	Perennial	2021
<a href="#">Seep Monkeyflower</a>	<i>Erythranthe guttatus</i>	Annual	1998, 2017
<a href="#">California Poppy</a>	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	Annual	1998
<a href="#">Siskiyou Blue Idaho fescue</a>	<i>Festuca idahoensis 'Siskiyou Blue'</i>		
<a href="#">Toyon/ Christmas Berry Bush</a>	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Large Shrub	1998, 2018
<a href="#">Island Alum Root</a>	<i>Heuchera maxima</i>	Perennial	2017
<a href="#">Crevice Alumroot</a>	<i>Heuchera micrantha</i>	Perennial	2017
<a href="#">Foothill Iris</a>	<i>Iris macrosiphon</i>	Perennial	2011
<a href="#">June Grass</a>	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Grass	2020
<a href="#">Pitcher Sage</a>	<i>Lepechinia calycina</i>	Small Shrub	2014

<a href="#">Melica torreyana</a>	<i>Melica torreyana</i>	Grass	2019
<a href="#">Deergrass</a>	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Grass	2022
<a href="#">Evening Primrose</a>	<i>Oenothera elata</i>	Biennial	2018
<a href="#">Foothill Penstemon</a>	<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	Perennial	2012
<a href="#">Pine Bee Flower</a>	<i>Phacelia imbricata</i>	Perennial	2021
<a href="#">Lacy Phacelia</a>	<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	Annual	2019
<a href="#">Western Chokecherry</a>	<i>Prunus virginiana var. demissa</i>	Tree	2021
<a href="#">California Everlasting</a>	<i>Pseudognaphalium californicum</i>	Perennial	2020
<a href="#">Blue Oak, Valley Oak, Live Oak</a>	<i>Quercus douglasii, lobata, wislizenii</i>	Trees	1998, 2005
<a href="#">Hollyleaf Redberry</a>	<i>Rhamnus ilicifolia</i>	Medium Shrub	2009- 2021
<a href="#">Sandbar Willow</a>	<i>Salix exigua</i>	Tree	2021
<a href="#">California Goldenrod</a>	<i>Solidago velutina ssp. californica</i>	Perennial	2018
<a href="#">Snowberry</a>	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Medium Shrub	2012
<a href="#">California Aster</a>	<i>Symphyotrichum chilense</i>	Perennial	2000
<a href="#">Vervain</a>	<i>Verbena lasiostachys</i>	Perennial	2021
<a href="#">Rogers Red CA Grape</a>	<i>Vitis californica, RR</i>	Vine	2018

Western Redbud with Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly



Hollyleaf Redberry with Hummingbird



Buckeye with Western Tiger Swallowtail



California Poppy with Bumble Bee



**Pitcher Sage with a Miridae (a cool plant bug!)**



**Toyon (Christmas Berry Bush) with a Honey Bee**

