

# RIVER REACH

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



## WATERSHED CALENDAR

QUARTERLY WATER QUALITY MONITORING  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2012

WATCH FOR DETAILS ON WATERSHED PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIVITIES NOW BEING PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR.

EXPERIENCE YOUR WATERSHED!

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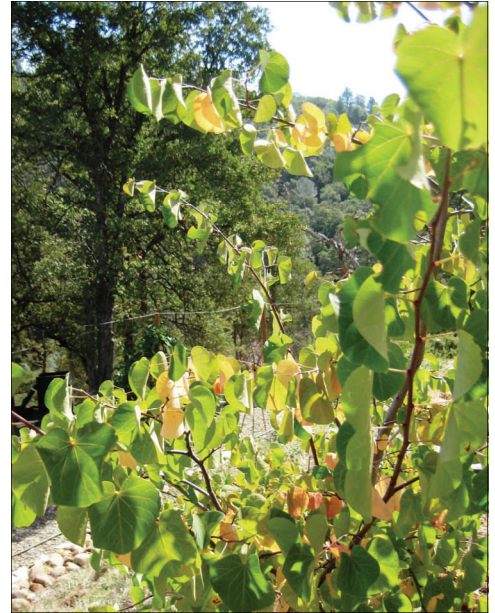
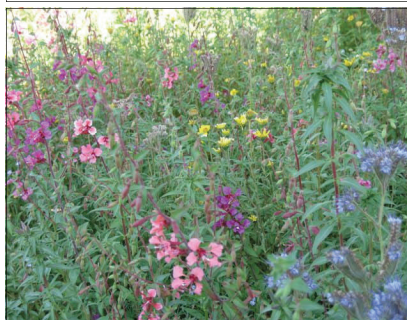
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a project of the  
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## HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

In October of 2010, several community members attended a workshop sponsored by the UMRWC and Mariposa County Master Gardeners to view and learn about the advantages of an array of native plants and those adapted to California's Mediterranean-like climate. Participants developed plans and many purchased plants to incorporate in their yards. Recently we followed up to learn how some of those home landscapes were coming along a year later.

Annette Catamec says, "During the workshop, I purchased *Epilobium* or *Zauschneria californica* (California Fuchsia) and non-native *Salvia greggii* 'Flame' which are doing great. Since the workshop, I've added more native plants such as *Rosa californica* (California Wild Rose) and *Ribes aureum* (Golden Currant) to my garden. As a gardener, nothing is more satisfying to me than to watch a plant grow and a hummingbird or butterflies at a plant like a Penstemon, and know that in a small way I am doing something good for and on Earth."

Robert Elliot's yard, featured in the Winter 2011 *River Reach*, later produced a dazzling spring display of wildflowers, shown below, from a native seed mix.



Morning sun highlights  
Annette Catamec's *Cercis occidentalis*  
(Western Redbud)



Natives need not replace all of your other favorite plants. Many gardeners we spoke with agree that a gradual introduction of natives is a very satisfying beginning, as demonstrated above right in Connie Nielson's yard, where *Zauschneria californica* (California Fuchsia), left of center in the photo on the right, complements established non-native annuals and perennials. It's showy even after its flowers have faded. Thyme, in the lower left corner, thrives under conditions favorable to natives.

# WATERSHED COUNCIL JOINS THE YOSEMITE-MARIPOSA REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP



The Merced River is a water resource in Mariposa County that is shared by many for a variety of uses. This black bear was photographed along the Merced River by José Lopez.

The Watershed Council is one of over a dozen members of the newly-formed Yosemite-Mariposa Regional Water Management Group with an interest in water resources in the Yosemite-Mariposa Region, defined by the boundaries of Mariposa County. Other members include: Mariposa County Water Agency, Fire Safe Council, Lake Don Pedro Community Services District, Coulterville Community Club, Mariposa County Water Agency Advisory Board, Mariposa Public Utility District, Mariposa County Resource Conservation District, Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter, Yosemite Area Audubon Society, Mariposans for the Environment & Responsible Government (MERG), Merced IRWM/Merced Irrigation Dist. Other partners include: USDA Forest Service-Sierra National Forest, USDA Forest Service-Stanislaus National Forest, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and National Park Service-Yosemite National Park.

A number of entities in a region can be responsible for different actions that affect shared water resources. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is a collaborative effort to manage all aspects of a region’s water supply, water quality, waste water treatment, and flood and storm water management to the benefit of the entire region. IRWM crosses jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries. It involves multiple agencies, stakeholders, individuals and groups.

IRWM is non-regulatory and based on consensus. It attempts to address the issues and differing perspectives of all entities involved through mutually benefiting solutions. The results are sustainable, efficient water management, reduced conflict, streamlined use of funds, and development of beneficial projects.

In November 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act. Prop 84 provided \$1 billion for IRWM Planning and Implementation for Regional Water Management Groups (RWMGs). The Yosemite-Mariposa RWMG is now preparing to apply to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for funds to develop an IRWMP (Integrated Regional Water Management Plan). Future DWR funding for water projects in California will be limited to designated groups with IRWMPs in place.

Anyone is welcome to attend meetings of the Yosemite-Mariposa RWMG. To receive updates and notices of meetings, contact Mariposa Resource Conservation District at [mrcrd@sti.net](mailto:mrcrd@sti.net) or (209) 966-3431.

## MEMBER RESPONSE FORM

*If you're not already a member, won't you join the Upper Merced River Watershed Council and support education and resource protection in our watershed? Please mail this form with your check to:*

Upper Merced River Watershed Council, P O Box 5008-201, Mariposa, CA 95338. *Thank you!*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



### Annual Membership Level:

- \$25 (wet feet)    \$50 (waist deep)    \$100 (just ducky)    \$250 (in the swim)
- \$500 (webbed feet)    \$1,000 (gills)

- Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I'd like to volunteer

*The Upper Merced River Watershed Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*