the Brief

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WATER WISE CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT: JOAN AND JOHN CALDER



Joan and John transformed their landscape into a beautiful water wise paradise.

On a lovely weekday afternoon, we sat down with Joan and John Calder at their home in the Samarkand neighborhood of Santa Barbara. On such a sunny day, it was easy to dig in to their story of transforming their landscape into a water wise paradise. Joan's enthusiasm for landscaping was obvious from the outset.

The Calders were inspired to install their first water wise landscaping project nine years ago during a remodel of their home. They decided to strip their water-guzzling lawn and start fresh. Today their yard is full of pollinator plants, natives, and fruit trees. Walking around the yard with the Calders, we came across a food forest of avocado, persimmon, cherimoya, orange, and plum trees,

while birds and insects enjoyed California fuschia, milkweed and sages.

In the spring of 2014, the Calders hosted a workshop with the nonprofit Sweetwater Collaborative, and installed a laundry-to-landscape graywater system on their property. Some of their fruit trees are served by graywater while others are hand watered.

Joan's favorite part of their water wise landscape? "The sitting areas, so I can watch the bees and pollinators," Joan said, referring to the arbor sitting areas where vines weave through trellised arches and one can sit on any evening and see birds and insects buzzing about.

Reviewing the lessons they've learned over the years, John has noticed that while this water wise landscape style does require a bit more trimming, it is preferable to the constant requirement to water and mow the lawn. Their passion for water conservation even led them to install four 250-gallon water catchment tanks underneath their deck to capture rainwater runoff. This catchment system feeds their landscape and replenishes groundwater.

After nine years the Calders have cut their water use dramatically, captured and reused thousands of gallons of water every year and provided a lovely habitat for both themselves and the critters living amongst them. If you are interested in learning more about stories like this or how you can reduce water use at your home or business, please visit **SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterWise** or call 564-5460.

Cash for Making Your Garden More Water Wise!

Get a rebate of up to 50% of the material costs of pre-approved irrigation equipment, water wise plants and mulch, laundry to landscape graywater materials, and smart

irrigation controllers.

Any combination of irrigation equipment and planting costs may qualify for a one-time, maximum rebate of \$1,000 for homes and \$4,000 for businesses. Rebates are not retroactive and a pre-inspection is required.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: call 564-5460, or visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterWise



THE PARC FOUNDATION'S

MAGIC on the Urban Wine Trail

PRESENTED BY MISSION LINEN SUPPLY

An afternoon of wine tasting, art, music, and great food benefitting Parks & Recreation youth programs.

\$45 IN ADVANCE / \$60 DOOR

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2015 | 3-6PM PARCSB.ORG | 805.564.5425