



Winter 2015

Where There is **Water**, There is **Life!**

Doheny Park Interpreter, Vicki Wiker

They say water is life. Be it salt, fresh, flowing, trickling, or merely a muddy puddle. For where there is water, there is life and it's this exchange of energy that sustains multi-faceted living organisms on planet Earth.

It seems as though the lack of water is a hot topic these days (pardon the pun!). Right of ways, restrictions, and regulations have taken the reins of our water flow. No longer do you see green lush lawns, exotic trees and flowers are fading, and most people are driving dirty vehicles. On a larger scale, various cities and counties around the Golden State of California are converting to reclaimed irrigation systems as an organized effort to maintain thousands of dollars worth of landscape.

Alas, the moment has arrived for conservation of this crucial component of life. I must say, it must be quite the daunting and overwhelming effort to eliminate those drops when we live in a semi-desert environment. However, there are little shifts and adjustments in everyday living that will allow us humans to keep those flowers blooming and summertime fruits and veggies producing!

My daughter, Brezy May, and I set up an educational outreach booth for the 2-day Blues Music Festival last month. Our theme was the glory of California native flora and fauna as sadly these beauties are

painfully misunderstood. Most people look at the barren, brown hills and think native vegetation is not showy enough for their gardens. Mike Evans, from local Tree of Life native nursery off Ortega Highway, was supportive of our education and donated an assortment of plants to help us change that perspective (thanks, Mike!). So, this was the beginning of the baby-step shifts to help not only inspire our guests, but also ourselves!



Step One: Gradually and gently replace those ornamental plants, trees, and shrubs with natives! Tree of Life Native Nursery has plentiful information and wonderful staff to help direct you for a dazzling garden. **Water Tip:** You can conserve water by giving that garden a once a week good soaking for all colors of the rainbow!

Step Two: Now that you have planted that native garden, it's time to irrigate it with your very own reclaimed water! **Water Tip:** You've heard that expression shower with a friend? Well, how about making that bucket your buddy? Brezy and I heard multiple visitors at the Blues booth share stories of bringing a bucket in the shower to collect water for their gardens. If that's not your drip, how about a catch basin for your dishwasher? Just think of all of the hidden benefits associated with that dish soap to eco-eliminate pests in your gardens?



Step Three: What about that ice? **Water Tip:** Don't let a single cube fall along the wayside....give it a toss into your garden, your neighbors' greenery, or even

your neighborhood's parklands. After all, we are all in it together!

Step Four: Pack it in! **Water Tip:** Recycle those gallon jugs, fill them with that precious H₂O, pack it in your vehicle, and then rinse those sandy toes and bodies with your homemade showers! Better yet, position yourself on a planter or lawn at Doheny to give them an extra drop, or two...please

help us keep it green and clean!

Final Step: Spread the love! Share some of these water tips that may have inspired you or perhaps muster up a few of your own. Truly, water is life and without it we could not survive on such a bountiful, brilliant, and blue planet Earth!

