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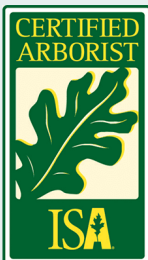
MONARCH ENVIRONMENTAL



Monarch provides unbiased, expert consulting for all things landscape. We are an unaffiliated third-party working with homeowners' associations, commercial projects, and nonprofits to support landscapes and the people who care for them.

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT · WATER MANAGEMENT · ISA ARBORIST SERVICES

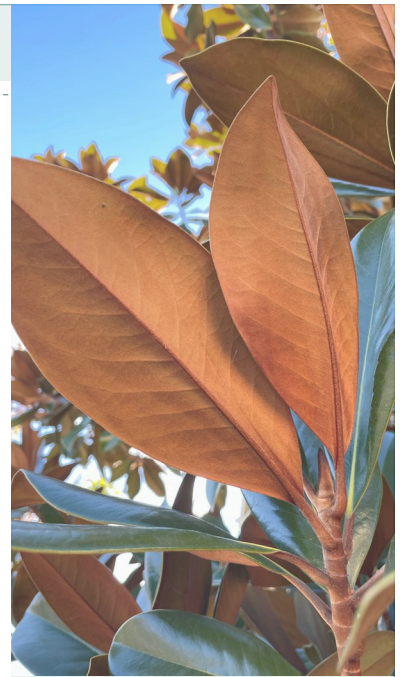
PROJECT MANAGEMENT · NON-SYNTHETICS





Monarch Environmental
Propagating Plant Propaganda
Since 2008

Winter 2021-22
Volume 1, Issue 4



Pollen Press

REFRESH

Hello, 2022! Like many of us, the landscape has had a tough 2021. Starting fresh has never felt so...refreshing. While we still have the same demons to battle (climate change, drought, fire, weeds, discontent!) and it's up to us to find new energy to keep fighting.

It's time to take stock of what works in your landscape and what needs to change. As consultants, we take this moment in the landscape's lifecycle to pause and view a community in its entirety. Have we met our goals? Have we changed priorities? Where do we start?

In this issue of *Pollen Press*, we explore new beginnings and adjusting old biases. Come with us to conquer your fear of tree management, learn from industry lifers, and maybe see California natives in technicolor.

Jen Wilson

Director of Horticulture

Editor in Chief



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Tree inventories 101: you can manage an urban forest
- Inside Monarch's pressed plant gallery
- Erosion control and fire damage put to the test
- California native plants: a color story



TREE INVENTORIES 101

What it is and how it can support your community

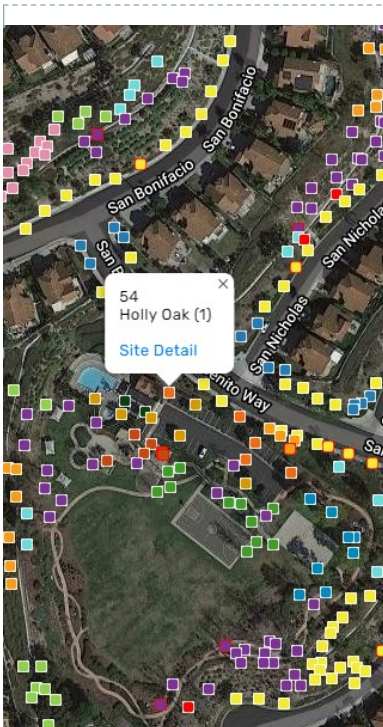
A tree inventory is exactly as it sounds – a record of all trees in your community. This living document is a permanent and accurate resource for everyone involved in tree management, from developing a pruning schedule to fit a budget or planning a renovation project.

on an individual and group basis. Notes on overall structure, pests and disease, pruning cycles, and other concerns are available for the life of your tree (and beyond!) and may divert future issues.

How they're made

With boots on the ground and necks craned up to the trees! Each tree is visually inspected for species identification, size (approximate height and trunk diameter),

Each tree entered into the inventory is given a “digital birth certificate” for life long tracking and clear communication



The tree population at a glance. Each color represents a specific species. From here, we can also view by objectives, height, vacancies, or other data.

An inventory aids in communication with managers, HOA board members, contractors, and the community at large. Understanding the community's assets helps us track and address multiple aspects of tree health care and keeps everyone on the same page.

A thorough inventory of a community's urban forest sets the foundation of a comprehensive management plan for what can often be a very diverse tree population. Data collected for each tree is tied to a unique ID number, assigned during mapping. This “digital birth certificate” allows for better, more concise communication and efficiency in care. Much like a physician evaluating a new patient, the arborist records a baseline of the overall vitality and condition of each tree. From this initial impression, your arbor team can manage trees

general health, and potential issues.

Monarch uses the best industry technology to support our communities and in this case that means ArborNote, an arbor inventory and management app. This software documents trees with a color-coded geolocation pin representing location and species. These pins are superimposed on a satellite image of the community (*see left panel*). At a glance, you can visualize population density, distribution of species, and vacant sites.

The inventory process can range from concise to complex depending on the size of the tree population, the status of tree health, and accessibility of each specimen. Your arbor team can then update the inventory easily, either by targeted groups or changes in individuals.



Site Details

Schinus molle

California Pepper Tree

ID #: 1952

Tag #:

Quantity: 1

Tag Date: November 21, 2018

Height:

DBH: 19"-24"

Health: 40% - Poor

Objective: Monitor

Location: John Muir

Note: Declining - monitor

View specific tree details in the field, especially helpful on an inspection walk!

Putting inventories to work

Users assigned to the project/community map can login from their mobile devices and enjoy a walk in their community or property inspection while having the location and species of trees at their fingertips. From the field, a user can view their geolocation in relation to any tree and view the species name, details, objectives, and photographs taken during the inventory process. This is an added benefit to both community leaders and managers to consider having a tree inventory produced by the Monarch team. This inventory is an asset owned by your community in perpetuity, instead of becoming the property of your tree care vendor.

The tree information can also be used for allowing consultants (such as Monarch Environmental) to create a pruning schedule for trees with a scope of work for vendors to follow. Reports can be generated for various purposes from removal permits to reforestation plans for a community looking to diversify their aging tree inventory. Identification of trees possibly causing hardscape

damage to private homeowner properties or causing a hazard in common areas can be documented and grouped for mitigating hazards and liabilities for communities and properties.

Straightforward yet effective, tree IDs, documentation, and geotagging bridges the gap for managers and board members to communicate at a higher level of efficacy. The parties are no longer confined to communicating by utilizing only cross streets or a building number and vague description of a tree. This effective communication can assist with community members at large in flyers or work orders assigned to vendors to perform work on trees for trimming or inspection.

As they say, you can't manage what you can't see! For any size of tree population, an inventory is recommended to manage your urban forest with ease.

Angel Cabral
Arbor Care Consultant

ARBOR SERVICES

Once your inventory is in place, you can start addressing tree care issues head-on. Here are some of the arborist services Monarch provides:

- ◇ Tree Health Assessments
- ◇ Insect & Disease Diagnostics
- ◇ Tree Risk Assessments
- ◇ Advanced Assessments (Resistograph and Sonic Tomograph)
- ◇ Arborist Reports
- ◇ Pre-Construction Tree Protection Plans
- ◇ Tree Palette Development
- ◇ Landscape Plan Review
- ◇ Multi-Year Pruning Plans
- ◇ Removal Plans
- ◇ RFP & Bid Process
- ◇ Contractor Oversight





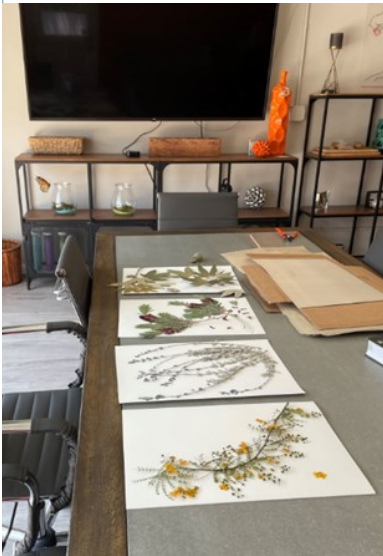
Ceanothus (CA lilac) keeps its amazing color once preserved!

SAVORING THE MOMENT

An herbarium is a collection of pressed plant specimens that serves as a resource for study. Collection data from the field coupled with physical botanical observations and preserved tissue are invaluable snapshots of living plants. This record can contribute to understanding taxonomy, botany, climatology, entomology, extinction, genetics, and so many more fields of research.

While you may not be saving plants to save the planet, you can still enjoy a pressed specimen. The Monarch team has our own plant press (okay, very heavy books) to capture the day-to-day enjoyment that makes our job beautiful. All you need to preserve

your own landscape moment is some paper and weight. Specimens should be clean and dry (and free of insects). Lay them out on newspaper or newsprint, add a few layers of blotting paper (cardboard works well), and carefully place your weight on top (we used a large stack of heavy books but any evenly-distributed weight will work). Check in every few days and change paper to avoid fungus and assess your progress. In about two weeks, your specimen should be ready! Spray adhesive and strips of linen tape are perfect for mounting onto a firm paper and framing will keep your creation safe for years to come. Don't forget to add the date and collection site for your records.



Treat specimens gently. A paintbrush is a good tool to remove debris and a small knife can help separate leaves, stems, or petals. Layered material is more likely to rot instead of drying. Try to display a natural habit to best capture the character of your plant.



Eschscholzia californica (California poppy) graces the cover of Pollen Press. This specimen was collected from Ranch Mission Viejo's hydroseeded area along Los Patrones Blvd.



Monarch's office in Dana Point, CA is a far cry from Matt's original work space—his garage!

THE END IS ALWAYS A BEGINNING

Recently, I had the privilege of listening to a friend reflect on how rejection can lead to new direction. This rang true for me as I realized that rejection acted as the launching pad for my current trajectory. As for many in this industry, landscape has a way of choosing you rather than you choosing landscape.

After college, I worked at the mall. The reality is I was disenfranchised after being cut by the Pittsburgh Steelers which effectively meant my childhood dream was out of reach. As a young person in need of opportunity, the mall was a great place to experience low-risk failure. After a few months, I was craving Vitamin D and learning what was important in my work life.

In my pursuit of sunshine and fresh air, a friend from church fortuitously offered me a position at a landscape company. I spent 9 years at that company, going back to school to become a horticulturist and arborist and learning what it takes to run a business.

Avoidance of rejection is avoidance of exploration, whether personal or professional. Had I not been rejected by the NFL and sent floundering to the mall, I may never have discovered a love of landscape. The truth is that the familiar path can feel comfortable and steady, but the constant pacing is causing erosion beneath our feet. It's hard when your dreams aren't what you expected but sometimes to find a new path you must either be rejected or do some rejecting.

All great people through history have failed. Not just failed but monumentally, historically, and all-time failed. These are the heroes we admire for their perseverance, the ability to see a new way out when the door closes behind them. They failed because they tried, they risked, they pivoted. If you want to do great things in your life, you will fail. And you will win.

2022 has risk and rejection written all over it. 2022 has risk and rejection written all over it. Embrace the turbulence because you are about to reach new heights.

Matt Davenport

CEO

SIMPLE TRUTHS

A few classic guiding principles that have kept me anchored in these tumultuous times:

Treat others how you want to be treated. That principle doesn't always get reciprocated but that's not the point. Whether it's coworkers, clients, or acquaintances, putting the other person first makes a life-changing difference in you and eventually them.

Build a company that you would want to work for. My dad told me this after starting Monarch. Every decision at Monarch goes through this crucible and it has kept things light and fun even in the tough times.

You need the right team. As an Entrepreneur, the fact that you need others to succeed is a hard lesson that comes from delegation and trust. I've learned that you don't just need a team you need the right people on your team.

Optimism costs the same as pessimism. I decided years ago that I would be optimistic about the future. That decision changes your mood, your relationships and ultimately the level at which you succeed.



Providing a path to success and having some fun along the way!

CONVERSATIONS WITH...

BILL ARMAN

Bill has spent decades in the landscape industry in many roles and is currently “Head Harvester” at The Harvest Group.

How did you get started in the industry?

Once upon a time in 1966, I get a call from a buddy asked I wanted to take his spot on a route while he was on vacation. His boss liked what I did so much that he offered me my friend’s job. My friend didn’t care for plants too much, so it worked out for both of us. I spent 9 summers do that that job! After that, I went to Pasadena City College and later enrolled Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with the intent of becoming a forest ranger. Once I saw the Horticulture program, I was all in. I fell in love with being outdoors and being physically involved with my profession. I loved that I could make the world a better place over time and the idea that if I do my job right, I can have a dramatic effect on peoples lives.

What career did you see for yourself as a kid?

I wanted to be a Dentist. I ultimately decided that I loved being outdoors and didn’t want to work inside an office.

What did you do after graduation?

I started with Valley Crest in 1976 as a gardener. I was feeling proud of myself as having a degree in Horticulture and telling my boss all the things I could do. My boss told me to follow around the 21” lawn mowers with a blower and disperse the clumps of grass that were left behind. We used to call them turf turds. I designated myself Chief Turf Turd Disperser (CTTD)! Eventually, I worked my way up to crew lead, supervisor, operations manager, sales manager, branch manager and ultimately regional manager. I oversaw 500 employees from the Mexican bor-

der to Santa Barbara. I spent 30 years at Valley Crest.

How do you manage to keep it fun?

We decided we wanted to be like Ace Hardware. “We have been in your boots, we screwed up more than you have” approach. I heard Rick Warren speak one time about successful leadership. He said there are 3 keys: integrity, humility and generosity. We have really tried to be generous with our time. I have spent a lot of free consultancies to get people down the road. We want to make sure we are providing a path to success and have some fun along the way.

Where do you think the industry is headed?

When I was at Cal Poly there were 800 Horticulture students. Today there are 50. I think perception from parents and kids is, *Why spend all that money to learn to be a gardener?* People are not seeing it as viable career. I can tell you that we facilitate the sale of landscape companies and the owners become millionaires.

The challenge is that we need to broaden our recruiting strategy. We need to search for people that want to be outdoors and are hungry, humble, and smart. I think landscape companies are going to have to get good at recruiting and retention. We need service-oriented people that are hands-on and mechanically inclined.

The Harvest Group helps companies recruit. If you had two qualified candidates and could only hire one, what would be the differentiator?

I would look for the person that likes to be outdoors. Do they hunt, fish, camp? I like people that are involved, scouts, sports, FFA things like that. I look for positivity and someone that is energetic. Someone with a little bit of burn in the belly.



"Harvester Bill" fell in love with being outdoors and having a physical connection to his work

Do you think you can redirect or train people from the bad habits that have developed along the way?

The job is not hard. The functions of the job are easy to teach. The soft skills require a different level. How will this person respond when this or that happens? You can have highly skilled people who get good results but the behaviors aren't there. It's hard to change behaviors. Companies need to hold onto core values and mission while expecting results.

What accomplishments are you most proud of?

If people are enjoying success and can link a little bit to Harvester Bill in coaching them or mentoring along the path. Then when they recognize it and come back and say hey thank you for doing that... That's worth more than all the money. Well, you need a little money but that's the greatest thing is to know you made a positive impact. That really rocks my boat.

Who do you admire?

The people in our history that have had major adversity. People like Abraham Lincoln. Can you imagine dealing with what he dealt with over several major issues that we are still dealing with today? People like that who put everything on the line. All the small business owners out there that are cleaning the restrooms, opening the office, barely making payroll etc. I admire that. I worked for a big corporation, and I knew I was getting paid every time. If I need a truck or a tracker, I pushed a button, and it was at my door. I was spoiled; I wasn't a risk taker that gambled everything they had. So, I really admire people who risk everything.

I would like to personally thank Bill for his mentorship, coaching and friendship over the years. You have been extraordinarily generous with your time. That time has made a tremendous difference in my life, my family's life and now those working alongside me at Monarch Environmental.

Thanks, Bill!

Matt Davenport

CORE VALUES



Bill values the outdoors and the effect the environment has on our lives. He believes the industry needs service-oriented, hands-on people.



PUT DOWN ROOTS

Some of our favorite plants pull double duty, combatting erosion while looking gorgeous. And these are all California natives!

GROUNDCOVERS

Baccharis pilularis (coyote bush) - This classic can take pruning abuse and grows quickly.

Ceanothus thyrsiflorus (CA lilac) - Ethereal blue flowers, dense coverage, and many hybrids to choose from.

SHRUBS

Heteromeles arbutifolia (toyon) - Tolerant of so many adverse conditions, there is always space to include a toyon.

Romneya coulteri (fried egg poppy) - This stunning poppy has a strong root system and spreads by rhizomes, giving you good coverage in neglected spots.

TREES

Cercis occidentalis (Western redbud) - The small stature of *Cercis* make it a good choice for view issues.

Quercus agrifolia (coast live oak) - Majestic oaks elevate any landscape.



Oak and coyote bush

CHECKING IN: FOOTHILL RANCH

Let's catch up with a community that survived fire, drought, and storms in recent years.

Monarch has partnered with Foothill Ranch since 2019 in improving and managing their landscape. This community is special as it is surrounded by naturalized wilderness. With this beautiful landscape comes a vulnerability to the environmental changes we face as Californians. Immense heat and prolonged drought, devastating fires and subsequent flooding, and habitat destruction are always part of our conversations in the landscape industry.

CAPP Consultant Aleece Langlois attended a Foothill Ranch fire debris flow inspec-

tion meeting with the City of Lake Forest, OC Parks, FirstService Residential, O'Connell Landscape Maintenance and geological technical experts. The group reviewed several areas where the fire burned most intently, destroying plant life and leaving areas open to erosion from undirected rainfall. Hay bales, straw wattle and gravel bags were installed to prevent erosion and redirect water to appropriate drainage. These measures performed exactly as intended and overall the burn scars have fared very well. Plants are growing back in, too, especially natives. Foothill Ranch is looking forward to a healthy 2022!



Burn scars are healing at Foothill Ranch, a 2700-acre community in Lake Forest, CA. Surrounded by miles of wilderness, this community is recovering from extensive fires in 2020.



Sand and gravel bags are a great option for controlling water and sediment. Tough and long-lasting, this option is great if you aren't looking to replace it often. The drawback is removal can be a nuisance and sand won't necessarily improve your soil as the material enters the landscape over time.

LANDSCAPE COMMUNICATION

As a leader in your community, you understand the concerns of your residents, especially when it comes to the overwhelming complexity of a landscape. This is a big ticket item where the majority of HOA funds are allotted. More importantly, landscape effects every person in the community on a daily basis.

To help demystify nuanced subjects (such as erosion control measures), Monarch provides single-page answers to the most common HOA questions. Written as an advice column, *Dear Monarch* breaks down landscape topics in an accessible, clear format. Our team develops a simple answer and provides expert industry knowledge for more in-depth details and context.

Our archive of *Dear Monarch* (and *Pollen Press!*) can be found in our digital library on our website. Subscribing will ensure your inbox gets the latest release every time.

Visit our digital library
monarchu.com/monarchu

Reach out to jen@monarchu.com to suggest a question from your community.

EROSION CONTROL SHOPPING LIST

Protecting your landscape from erosion is all about controlling water. Look for ways to slow water down, encourage it to spread out, and direct it where it should go.

Here are common types of temporary erosion control:

GRAVEL

Gravel can be incorporated right into landscape designs. A wide band of gravel at edge of small, sloped planters can keep soil in place and prevent runoff onto hardscape.

HAY BALES

Hay bales have the bulk to really hold off flooding water, mud, and debris. Once they have served their purpose, they can be used in mulching projects (especially in areas of low visibility).

COIR, BURLAP, AND JUTE NETS

Netting made from natural materials such as coir (coconut fiber), burlap, or jute is a great solution for bare slopes. These can be used to protect areas with no root support and will degrade over time or can be easily removed for planting.

STRAW WATTLE

As rainwater sluices down slopes, a low barrier of bundled straw slows the flow and keeps sediment from being carried to drains.



Oregon is lucky to get this SoCal arborist. A dyed-in-the-wool nature fan, John spends his days romping in the wilderness and sampling wineries.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

JOHN GERMER

Beloved Monarch alum John Germer served as Senior Consultant and Vice President before his retirement in 2021. With a rich background in landscaping, John provided horticultural wisdom coupled with dry wit and natural leadership.

What's your Monarch story?

After all the rest, I finished with the best!

It must have been divine intervention that brought Matt and I together. Timing is everything and in this case the timing was perfect. I believe Monarch had a need for my skills and I know I certainly needed a place to share. I know its an overused expression but the Monarch staff was my second family, with all the shared laughs, challenges, support and drama that comes with that family dynamic.

I can't step outside without putting on my Arborist cap. Although now it just reinforces my love and appreciation for all that nature has to offer.

CHEERS!



Saying goodbye to our VP in 2021 was not easy. We celebrated with social distance, fresh air, and plenty of toasting! We are all grateful for John's legacy of professionalism, generosity, and unrivaled charm.

Where are you now?

Retired and living in Salem Oregon, just minutes from open space, farmland, wineries, golf courses, hiking trails, wineries, lakes, rivers, oh and wineries. So much to see and do and all of it for the first time.

How does your Monarch background inform your new role?

I can't step outside without putting on my Arborist cap. Although now it just reinforces my love and appreciation for all that nature has to offer.

What are you most proud of in your professional life?

In reflection, it's that I selected a career that allowed me an amazing amount of time to spend with my family.

What are your greatest learning moments of your career?

My greatest learning moment is a culmination of my experience as a public park caretaker, a landscape department head for a planned community developer, a business owner/landscape contractor and a consultant - Landscape has a value to everyone, but the source of that value varies tremendously, based on your needs, perspective and situation. Learn to appreciate and respect that, along with the love of plants and "keeping things green"

That's what Monarch does so well!

John in the early days of running his landscape company, Westbrook (mid 1990's) at his desk in Laguna Niguel. Note the styling Apple LC computer!





John Germer and Mike Perez hang out with celebrity forest advocate Smokey the Bear at an open house for our local Orange County Fire Authority. Outreach and continuing education are strong foundations at Monarch to give our clients the latest industry developments and support our landscapes. Connecting with people (and bears) through a love of plants and respect for nature is a lifelong calling for us at Monarch.

50-YEAR RIDE

On January 1, 2021, my amazing 50-year ride though the landscape industry is coming to an end. It began in the early 1970's fixing sprinklers, mowing grass and trimming trees, as a groundsman for the City of La Habra Parks Department, while at the same time taking night courses to earn my Associates Degree in Ornamental Horticulture at Fullerton Community College. I ended the decade at Cal Poly Pomona, where I earned my bachelors degree. I was growing in my learning, while learning how to grow. In 1979 I became a more "sophisticated landscaper" when I began managing the landscape construction department of the Mission Viejo Company. It was a rare and treasured experience to help create a master planned community for an industry innovator and leader. Things like hydroseeding and soil moisture sensing devices were in their infancy. Drought tolerant plantings, drip irrigation and the use of 'recycled water' was becoming a thing. I was able to work with some of the area's best landscape architects, engineers and contractors. It was a wonderful experience and great preparation for what became the focus of the next 28 years of my life.

From 1988 - 2016 I owned and operated Westbrooke Landscape, Inc., providing landscape maintenance services to cities, homeowner associations and commercial centers all over Orange County. I became an ISA Certified Arborist in the

mid 90's, as I continued to grow and learn. These years were the most challenging and exciting part of my ride. Yes, these were exciting times, but the best was yet to come.

The last four years as a Senior Landscape Consultant and eventual Vice President at Monarch Environmental were a blessing in every sense of the word. I cannot begin to explain what a wonderful experience it has been. I was gifted with a job that allowed me to put to use all my years of experience, while surrounded by a work environment second to none. And with that, I would like to say thank you to the landscape industry in Orange County and all the people I've met, worked with, who have helped me and supported me along the way.

Now as I ride off into retirement, with the requisite golf bag over my shoulder, I would like to particularly recognize a few people that made this special career of mine possible: Michael Imlay, Bill Thornton, Susan Herigstad, Jeremy Andre and Matt Davenport, thank you. And thank you to the entire staff at Monarch Environmental, most notably Jen Wilson and Evin Lambert, for your professionalism, grit, joyfulness, quick wit and laughter. I will remember it all with a huge smile!

My ride is now an easy glide downhill.

Sincerely,
John Germer



MEET MATT DAVENPORT

Monarch President Matt Davenport was raised in Mission Viejo, California, where he enjoyed playing sports and hanging out with friends and family. Matt attended University of Wisconsin Madison and was the starting place kicker for the Rose Bowl Champion Badgers in 1999. While in Wisconsin, Matt met his amazing wife, Heather, the first and best Monarch advocate.

consulting. After four years of working out of his garage, Monarch branched out, moved into a real office and began to grow. Today, Monarch employs a dozen experts in the fields of horticulture, arboriculture, irrigation, landscape design and project management.

Matt holds numerous trademarks and patents but his most recent, Chief Encouragement Officer, best sums up the vision he has for his role in Monarch and the landscape industry. Encouraging staff and colleagues to strive for themselves and their clients, develop deep and lasting relationships, and to grow with purpose are his motivators.

We enjoy Matt for his humor, empathy, and vision. Working with Matt means hearing *Okay, let's try!* instead of *No*. Partnering with Monarch is an adventure where no one is left behind.

After graduation, Matt began his career in landscape maintenance, managing crews, learning design, installation, sales, and the finer points of growing a company. Through practice in the field Matt developed his leadership skills, noted by the National Organization of Landscape professionals where he was recognized as a top 35 leader under 35.

August 1, 2008, Matt founded Monarch Environmental to answer a need in the industry: qualified, third-party



ISA Arborist, Tree Risk Assessment Qualified



Chief Encouragement Officer



CLIA, CWM, and EPA Water Sense Partner



MEET JEN WILSON

Hello, treasured readers! As your Editor in Chief of *Pollen Press* and Monarch's Director of Horticulture, I'm pleased to introduce myself here. My place in the plant world seems inevitable considering an early life spent exploring gardens, nurseries, and rarely leaving the backyard.

and (of course) superb design! From mounting epiphytes and propagating endangered species to reimagining a greenhouse and designing seasonal beds, my experience here ran the gamut of horticultural skills and botanical creativity. Not to mention learning from and collaborating with some of the most talented, dedicated plantsfolk around.

My love of art, design, and landscaping led to degrees in Environmental Horticulture and Studio Art. Beginning an exploration of how gardens are made and how humans value plants, I trekked through the plant trade in retail, wholesale, and freelancing on residential and commercial projects.

With a move to Orange County, I joined Monarch in 2019 as a Landscape Consultant. My current role as Director allows me to advocate Monarch's standard of best practices in both horticulture and consulting. Through our publications and relationships, my goal is to establish a strong point of view in respecting plants and creating rich environments. *Immeasurable thanks to my extended plant family, past and current, in supporting my career as professional plant nerd.*

I owe the bulk of my formative career to The Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, CA. This was a prime training ground for specialized subjects such as curation and collecting, conservation, greenhouse management, outreach programs and communications,



Environmental horticulture, ISA certified arborist, QWEL certified



Landscape design and renovation specialist



Monarch communications and publications

OBITUARIES



Farewell, 2021. In a last effort to destroy morale, you gave us a rough December of heavy rain and wind for which we can never fully prepare. This obituary is for all the trees and plants lost to rough weather.

Although we have lost many trees, we have gained an real appreciation for those who have weathered the storm. Being able to conduct a post mortem gives us insight on why failures happen. Junior arborist Luna Lambert (above) investigates a fallen *Koelrueteria* and a discovers minimal root structure. Understanding why this tree was unable to flourish may help us support its replacement.



Let us take this moment to thank our fallen trees for their shade and beauty and get to the very important work of checking support systems and ordering replacements!

SUPPORTING TREES

- ◇ Stakes and ties should be strong enough to keep growing trees in place but loose enough to allow for movement. If young trees do not move, they are unable to develop resistance and root strength in their maturity.
- ◇ Typically, support systems are only needed for the first three years of a tree's establishment.
- ◇ Check in regularly for friction. Stakes rubbing against limbs and ties girdling trunk bark can cause permanent damage or eventual demise.



CALIFORNIA COLOR

Suggesting that communities embrace more California native plants in their landscape palette is often met with terror. Are we trying to turn a lush landscape into a dry, colorless hellscape?

As horticulturists, we are people *who love plants*. While we are mindful of the environment and responsibly managing our resources, we are unwilling to compromise on spectacular botanicals. We want colors and drama and greenery every bit as much as homeowners.

The best part is that we can achieve this with our native plants and hybrids. California is large and diverse, so naturally not all “native” plants will work for your micro-climate. However, there is likely a local solution!

These plants are adapted not only for our climate but our unique soils, water requirements, and beneficial wildlife. This means the plants will be successful in many subtle ways—appealing to local pollinators and predators will lead to fewer pest problems and

fewer chemicals used; being content with poor soil will mean you spend less on fertilizers, meaning less cost and pollution. Working with the natural environment supports our ecosystem and creates a more sustainable and resilient landscape.

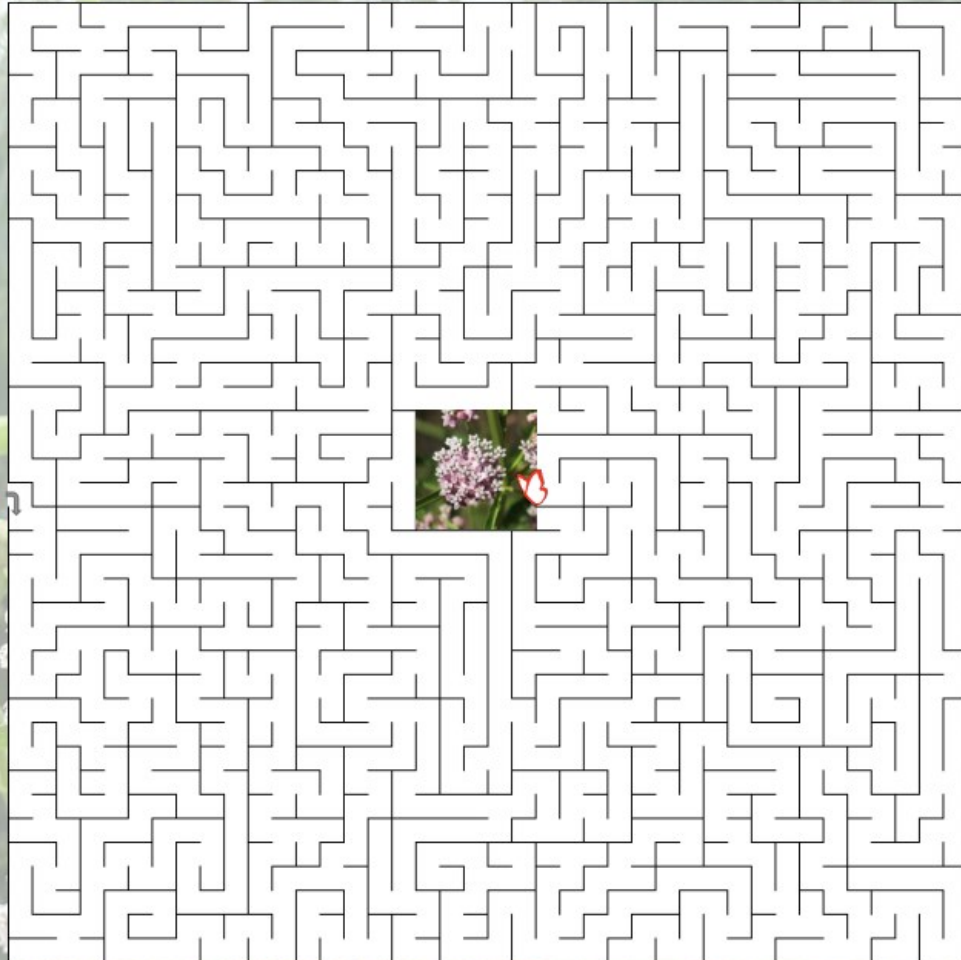
Monarch would like to take you by the frond and lead you towards a colorful relationship with indigenous flora. Our team includes experts in California-based design and maintenance. Reach out to see what natives you can befriend.



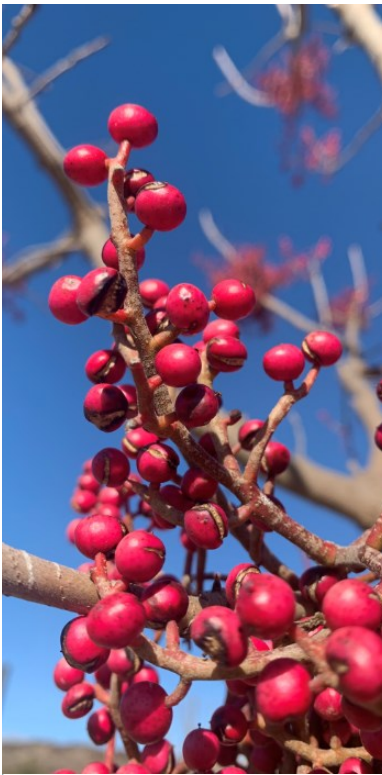
Yes, these are all CA natives and hybrids in Orange County!

Help the Monarch butterfly find a native *Asclepias*

(also called Milkweed, this plant is the only food source for Monarchs)



Take a picture of your completed puzzle and either tag us on social or send to Jen@MonarchU.com. The first five readers who submit their completed puzzle will win a very good but undisclosed prize. 😊



CALENDAR

WINTER TO SPRING

From winter to spring, the landscape changes very gradually. With many false starts, we're often tempted to push forth into spring while soil is still cold and daylight is short. Consider taking this time to wrap up detailed winter projects and plan for spring planting!

- ◇ It's time to get to work on those roses. January and February are perfect for pinching back carpet roses and hard pruning upright species. Cool season care will give you warm season performance.
- ◇ Frost warning: monitor for frost damage and plan on replacements
- ◇ Think about Fuel Modification maintenance now before things are growing quickly and maintenance is needed elsewhere. Pay attention to OCFA guidelines for separation pruning before plants get out of control.
- ◇ Don't give up on clearing V-ditches and other drainage. Prepare for intermittent rains through spring and regularly check in on the condition of your erosion control materials like straw wattle and sandbags.
- ◇ Warm season turf grasses are still in dormancy. Schedule Feb/Mar low mowing and aeration for thatch control
- ◇ If you're worried about suppressing fireblight (especially on pears), plan your sanitation pruning and trunk injections before blooming

GLOSSARY

Asclepias—milkweed! This genus contains species native to California and will help support target pollinators like monarch butterflies and other beneficial insects.

California native plants—Plants that grew in our area before introductions from other countries, primarily from European contact. California is a huge area and plants grow in ranges that do not conform to human-centric mapping. An expert can help you find what plants work in your specific ecosystem.

DBH—Diameter at Breast Height, a measurement taken approx. 4-feet from the ground to determine a tree's diameter. Useful metric in inventories and understanding the size and age of a tree.

Herbarium—a collection of pressed plant specimens and collections data that serves as a resource for study.

RFP—Request for Proposal. A service that Monarch can provide to solicit tailored bids from contractors.



PLANT PROFILE

PYRACANTHA KOIDZUMII 'SANTA CRUZ'

AKA Firethorn

HEIGHT Up to 6' but generally maintained below 3' to conform to OCFA standards; spread can easily reach 10' or more in maturity so be sure to give them room to reduce competition and keep maintenance easy

WATER Average to low water and drought tolerant

CARE If using as a groundcover, repeatedly cut back bolts for the first few years to encourage a horizontal habit. Also useful as a large shrub or screen and can be grown as an espalier with training.

BLOOM Warm season flowers in creamy-white

FEATURES

- ◇ Dense, evergreen coverage that is well suited to slopes for erosion control and maximum weed suppression
- ◇ Tolerant of reflected heat, this plant can be used alongside hardscape in unforgiving conditions
- ◇ Bright, fiery red berries that birds adore in late fall through winter
- ◇ Thorny! Cut down on foot traffic with subtle but serious thorns.



Monarch Environmental

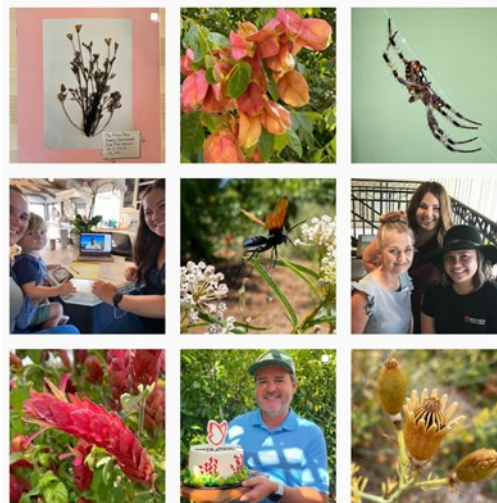
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