

Some of My Favorite Things about Native Plant Gardening - Al Kyte 2017

1. I love...
 - ...the feel of walking out the door into natural-looking habitat rather than a typical garden
 - ...the sensations of walking up a stream bed, through a manzanita chaparral, and into a pine woodland
 - ...the sights, smells and tastes I find there.
2. I love...
 - ...the artistic side of working with plants, soil, rocks, and water to form the most beautiful, natural-looking landscape I can create
 - ...the entire landscaping process, from the initial planning to the final analysis of results.
3. I love...
 - ...communicating my ideas to garden visitors
 - ...learning something new and exciting from someone else
 - ...knowing I have inspired other people in their gardening.
4. I love...
 - ...attracting animals and bird species to our garden, particularly those we see here for the first time (i.e. foxes, thrashers, tanagers, ash-throated fly catchers, pipe vine swallowtails, and various other butterflies and native bees)
 - ...seeing animals and birds enjoy “natural elements” I have added specifically for them.
5. I love...
 - ...seeing a plant species I am unfamiliar with blooming in our garden for the first time and later coming upon that species unexpectedly in its natural setting and habitat.
6. I love...
 - ...knowing I have done things to protect animals, restore habitat, and conserve water.
7. I love...
 - ...watching children find various ways to use the “natural elements” of our garden in their “discovery” play.
8. I love...
 - ...reflecting quietly with only the sounds of singing birds and gently cascading water as a background.

“These are a few of my favorite things.”