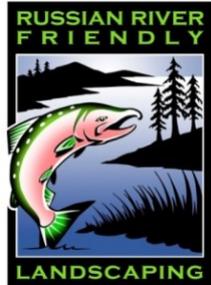




THE GARDEN SINK: PRACTICAL PRACTICES TO CAPTURE RAINWATER AND CARBON IN AN URBAN SETTING

February 7, 2023
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Utilities Field Operations
35 Stony Point Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95401



Bios

Welcome



Andy Rodgers
RRWA Executive Director

Mr. Rodgers is a consulting geologist, environmental scientist, and serial volunteer. He has lived and worked in the North Bay for 30+ years and has focused his career on public agency projects and programs. Prior to becoming the Executive Director of the RRWA, he participated for years in representing local businesses and local NGOs. His North Bay collaboration inspired his involvement with the North Bay Watershed Association, San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, Petaluma Basin Flood Control District and other watershed and basin-defined organizations such as the Petaluma Valley and Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.



Sean McNeil
Deputy Direct of Environmental Services,
Santa Rosa Water

Mr. McNeil is the Deputy Director of Environmental Services for the City of Santa Rosa. He received his undergraduate degree in Botany from the University of California at Davis and a Masters in Biology from Sonoma State University. Over the past 25 years he has devoted his career to working to develop and promote solutions to environmental issues. He has worked as a biologist, environmental educator, riparian restoration project manager, water use efficiency practitioner, and a storm water specialist before leading the City's Environmental Services Division

Introductions / Opening Address



Obi Kaufmann
American Naturalist, Author, and Illustrator

Mr. Kaufmann is a poet, painter, and naturalist. He is on the board of Directors of the California Wilderness Coalition, a recipient of the 2019 Mark Dubois River Protection Award as presented by Friends of the River. He regularly travels around the state, presenting his work and vision to such groups as the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildland center, Pacific Forest Trust, Mechanics Institute of San Francisco, University of California at Davis Plant Sciences Department, University of California Santa Barbara Department of Water Sciences, California Native Plant Society, Wilderness Society, Stanford University's Department of Botany, and the Audubon Society.

Session 1



Rebecca Burgess
Executive Director of
Fibershed

Ms. Burgess is the Executive Director of Fibershed and a Board member of the Carbon Cycle Institute. She has two decades of experience working at the intersection of ecology, fiber systems, and regional economic development. She is the author of the best-selling book *Harvesting Color, a bioregional look into the natural dye traditions of North America*, and *Fibershed: Growing a Movement of Farmers, Fashion Activists, and Makers for a New Textile Economy* released in 2019.

Local Resources - lightning talks



Xinci Tan
Organics Program Manager
Zero Waste Sonoma

Ms. Tan is the Organics Program Manager for Zero Waste Sonoma. She oversees contracts, education, and policies related to composting in Sonoma County, CA, and assists the Cities and Sonoma County in implementing new zero waste programs such as the state law Senate Bill (SB) 1383: Short-lived Climate Pollutants. Prior to her current position, she worked in Minnesota developing educational recycling programs for multifamily residential communities. Her degree is in Biology, and her background is in academic research, working on various projects in soil science, animal behavior, and ecology.



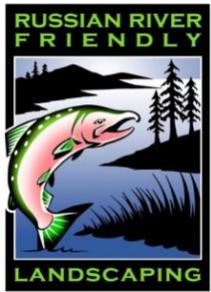
Jessica Pollitz
Sonoma Resource Conservation District

Ms. Pollitz has been working as a civil engineer for fifteen years both in California and internationally. Her experience consists of site design, grading and drainage, erosion and sediment control, rainwater catchment, flood studies, creek restoration, and stormwater management across a wide variety of projects including residential and commercial development, wineries and vineyards, schools, and public parks. She has been working in Sonoma County for the past ten years. At the Resource Conservation District, she manages and designs a multitude of projects requiring professional engineering design and expertise.



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Bios



Session 2 KEYNOTE

Mr. Lancaster is the author of the award-winning Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond and co-founder of Neighborhood Foresters. Since 1993 he has run a successful permaculture education, design, and consultation business focused on integrated regenerative approaches to landscape design, planning, and living. In the Sonoran Desert, with just 11 inches (280 mm) of average annual rainfall, he and his brother's family harvest about 100,000 gallons (378,000 liters) of rainwater a year on an eighth-acre (0.05 ha) urban lot and adjoining right-of-way. This harvested water is then turned into living air conditioners of food-bearing shade trees, abundant gardens, and a thriving landscape incorporating wildlife habitat, beauty, medicinal plants, and more. The goal of his book series and overall work is to empower his clients and community to make positive change in their own lives and neighborhoods—by harvesting and enhancing free on-site resources such as water, sun, wind, shade, community, and more. It's catching on, as evidenced by tens of thousands of practitioners and demand for Brad's work around the world.



Brad Lancaster
American
Naturalist, Author,
and Illustrator

Panel – Where the shovel meets the soil: Best Practical Practices

Mr. Picard is a Bay-Friendly Qualified Landscaper who is certified in Permaculture Design and Landscape Water Efficiency. He founded Equinox Landscape, a state-awarded, design, build and organic maintenance company, 30 years ago. Throughout the Bay Area he is known for pioneering ecological landscape practices and changing the way landscapers in the Bay Area do business. Patrick has spoken on sustainability panels for the North Coast Chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association and the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, has taught classes for the Bay-Friendly Qualified Landscaper Program, and has led workshops in Sonoma County, for Daily Acts, converting public lawns into neighborhood food forests.



Patrick Picard
CEO/Owner of Equinox
Landscape and Equinox H2O

Ms. Hart earned a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She then headed south to work on experimental farm programs in Costa Rica. After returning to the US and working at a children's camp for environmental education, she stepped into the world of Landscape Architecture and design, a field that encompasses her experience and passion for sustainable agriculture and ecological design. Now with over 20 years in the field of landscape design, she uses her talent to enrich various community projects and volunteer endeavors.



Sierra Hart
General Manager & Director of Design
Allen Land Design

Mr. Bertsch has been designing water systems in the north bay since 2015 with a focus in rainwater harvesting, greywater irrigation and ecological stormwater management. Sebastian began his career as a metal fabricator, shop foreman, high-school engineering instructor, then as a mechanical designer and technician doing radar terrain mapping, before receiving his Permaculture Design Certificate and working as a landscape designer and project manager for Permaculture Artisans. He leads project strategy for the Petaluma office of Sherwood Design Engineers, an international civil engineering firm.



Sebastian Bertsch
Sherwood Engineers