

in this issue >>>

FREE Home Water Survey Program

June Watering Guidelines

What's Growing on at the Colony House

Sustainable Landscape Workshops



www.amwc.us

Atascadero Mutual Water Company

May 2010



# Water Watch

**MAY IS  
WATER AWARENESS  
MONTH.**

*Remember to use our  
water wisely,  
it's a way of life!*

## June Watering Guidelines

Irrigation Type	June		
	Min	Cycles*	Days
Pop-up Spray	5	3	3
Rotor Spray	10	3	3
Drip Irrigation	45-60	1	1

\*Cycle Duration - how many minutes each station is programmed to water to maximize soil water absorption and minimize water run-off. Typical pop-up spray heads should water 3-5 minutes, and rotary/impacts from 6-14 minutes.



**FREE**

## Home Water Surveys

*Helping you manage your water use*

Summer is the best time to think about the watering needs of your landscape. Did you know that outdoor water use accounts for over 50% of the total usage at your home? Evaluating and modifying irrigation schedules and checking for irrigation leaks can result in significant water savings, which saves you money.

AMWC customers are invited to participate in our highly successful Home Water Survey Program. The program is free of charge and is designed to help our customers conserve water and manage their landscape irrigation more efficiently. Since 1997, over 990 residents have participated in this beneficial program.

During your survey, AMWC's water conservation staff will:

- Inspect each irrigation station
- Create a site-specific irrigation schedule
- Provide you with a checklist of improvements for your irrigation system
- Demonstrate how to read your water meter
- Show you how to program your irrigation controller, and
- Qualify you for appropriate landscape rebates

Each appointment is tailored to meet your needs; a typical appointment takes 90 minutes.

We encourage you to take advantage of this free program by calling 461-7217, extension 22, or email [conservation1@amwc.us](mailto:conservation1@amwc.us).

# What's Growing on at the Colony House

**Coral bells, Bush anemone, Blue oat grass, Hummingbird sage, and Jerusalem sage are just a few of the California native and Mediterranean plants flowering in the Colony House Water-Conserving Landscape this month.**

Atascadero's Historic Colony House, built in 1919, underwent landscape installation in 1994 as a joint effort between the Atascadero Historical Society and the Atascadero Mutual Water Company. The landscape was designed to serve as a living example to the community how they can incorporate drought tolerant plants into their own gardens.

Fourteen years later, the trees had matured, casting shade into areas that were once sunny and hot, resulting in "sun-loving" plants struggling to survive. In addition many of the plants had reached stages in which they were no longer performing as originally intended.

In 2007, Katy Moore and Toni Maloon re-designed the Colony House Landscape as their Cal Poly Senior Project. Katy, an

Atascadero resident, continues to oversee the installation and maintenance of the landscape; her enthusiasm and commitment has brought forth a group of dedicated volunteers who continue the restoration and maintenance.

Today the landscape is an excellent example of how landscapes evolve. It showcases a colorful collection of plants that thrive in dry, shaded areas. The landscape is open to the public sunrise to sunset, at the Atascadero Historical Society Museum, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1–4pm, excluding holidays.



**The Colony House Landscape has evolved from a full-sun to a dry-shade garden.**

## Sustainable Landscape Workshop Series

AMWC is partnering with the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden to bring you this series of five free workshops where residents will learn how to maximize outdoor water efficiency and prevent high summer water bills. Come to one workshop or take them all.

**Register early...seating is limited.**

For more information, please contact Dave at (805) 541-1400 x 304, or email [dsetterlund@slobg.org](mailto:dsetterlund@slobg.org).

<b>Location:</b>	<b>SLO Botanical Garden</b>	<b>Atascadero</b>
<b>Room:</b>	Oak Glen Pavilion	Lake Pavilion Gronstrand Room
<b>Time:</b>	7:00 - 8:30 pm	7:00 - 8:30 pm



SLO Botanical Garden Dates	Atascadero Lake Pavilion Dates	Topic	Speaker
Monday, June 07	Monday, June 21	Arm Chair Tour of Sustainable Landscapes	Jaime Lien, Conservation Manager, Atascadero Mutual Water Company
Monday, June 14	Monday, June 28	Landscape Design	Christy Edstrom-O'Hara, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture, Cal Poly
Monday, July 12	Monday, July 19	Drip Irrigation	Aaron Huxley, Manager, Ewing Irrigation
Monday, July 26	Monday, August 02	Appropriate Irrigation for SLO County Landscapes	Suzanne Morrison, Owner, Earthscapes Landscape Design, Installation, & Maintenance
Monday, August 09	Monday, August 16	Selecting Plants for Our Mediterranean Climate	Todd Davidson, Owner, Sage Ecological Landscapes, Eco Gardens, & Nursery