

# Mountain Mama

Judy Adler

Walnut Creek, California

I've taught ecology of the Diablo Region for 3 decades, providing demonstration gardens, outdoor education field trips for thousands of students, in-school environmental education curriculum, private and small class ecology consultations, and special projects. I've brought together groups and individuals to lead in San Francisco Bay Area's effort toward good land management practice and climate change awareness.

Being a horticultural/natural history book junkie and life-long student led me to become a naturalist educator and passionate sustainable gardener. It all started with being a Campfire Girl, attending summer camps and taking horseback riding lessons. In addition, I had the privilege and thrill of hiking with Edgar Wayburn (legendary director of the Sierra Club in San Francisco and major environmental leader), and his family in Muir Woods and Tuolumne Meadows.

As I continued to educate myself, I began to apply my wide-ranging experience to developing curriculum and supervising educational programs, planning community events, acting as director for non-profit organizations including my own, and writing articles, nature guidebooks and blogs - thereby establishing a small business with a big purpose!

## **EDUCATION**

BA Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, 1970

MBA Armstrong College, Berkeley, California, 1972

Post Graduate Classes and workshops in Horticulture, Geology, Environmental Education  
Aquatic Biology, Watershed Management and Grant Writing

Organic Seed Alliance Conference and Seed School

Docent training classes at the Ruth Bancroft Garden, Walnut Creek, CA

Docent training in Natural Sciences at Oakland Museum

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **JUDITH F. ADLER & ASSOCIATES 1994-Present**

- Environmental Education Consulting
- Diablo Nature Adventures
  - Led nature field trips for K-12 students in Mt. Diablo State Park that fostered stewardship
  - Served over 30,000 students from Alameda and Contra Costa Counties
  - Designed curriculum to experience the park's natural and cultural history,
  - Recruited and supervised team of naturalists to teach curriculum on site
  - Expanded venues for ecology-based trips in Contra Costa to create new programs
- Shell Ridge Open Space Program
- City Creeks Watershed Education Program
  - Science-based field experiences for middle schoolers
  - Published a Creek Guide used by students during these field trips

### **WATER CONSERVATION/ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP**

- 2009 - Installed Rain Harvesting System that sustains backyard wildlife pond
- Participated in Contra Costa Watershed Forum and its stream monitoring program
- Wrote proposal that gave legitimacy to rain harvesting as a water conservation measure in California. RESULT: Prop 72 passed by voters, 2018

### **GRANT WRITING**

- Gardens at Heather Farms
- Walnut Creek School District
- Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association
- Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden
- LifeGarden

### **NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

- Coordinator/trainer for Habitat Steward's Program

### **CONTRA COSTA FARMERS MARKET**

- Board President
- Vendor

### **IRON HORSE CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- Board Member
- Developed signage and volunteer restoration program

LIFEGARDEN 2001-2007

- Co-founder and Executive Director of Contra Costa County non-profit promoting sustainable land use

STRYBING ARBORETUM 1998

- Instructor, Interpretive Techniques

MT. DIABLO INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION 1989-1996

- Executive Director
- Published *PLANTS OF THE EAST BAY PARKS*
- Worked with UC Berkeley on *TRAIL THROUGH TIME* project
- Assisted in the development and opening of Mt. Diablo State Park Summit Museum
- Initiated a trail signage program, family campouts and school programs
- Created a docent training program

SHELL RIDGE OPEN SPACE FOUNDATION, WALNUT CREEK

- Board Member

WALNUT CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT 1985-1990

- Supervisor of Environmental Education for the District
- Oversight and promotion of 3-acre district nature area and science center
- Fundraising and allocation of revenues to operate programs
- Naturalist at Pt. Reyes 5th grade outdoor education program
- Logistics Coordinator for Marin County field trips

BAY AREA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RESOURCE FAIR 1984

- Coordinator

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## HONORS AND AWARDS

Lifetime Achievement Award by Sustainable Contra Costa County, September 2018  
State of California Resolution honoring contribution to Environmental Education

Sustainable Contra Costa Award Nominee (2015)

Honored in the Contra Costa Times “The Monday Profile” (2007)

Diablo Magazine’s “Threads of Hope” Honoree for restoration work along the Iron Horse Trail. (2006)

Hall of Fame Honoree for environmental preservation, Contra Costa County Commission for Women (2003)

Mountain Star Award from Save Mt. Diablo for contribution to park preservation through education (2001)

Contra Costa County Woman of Achievement Award for contribution to the quality of life in Contra Costa County (1997)

Walnut Heights Elementary School PTA Honorary Achievement Award (1985, 1990)

## GARDEN RECOGNITION

- Certified as Backyard Wildlife Habitat by National Wildlife Federation
- Certified as a Pollinator Friendly Garden by Xerces Society
- Garden featured on Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour (2005 and 2006)
- Garden featured on Urban Farm Tour

## ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

- Articles written by Judy Adler
  - Ecologist's Garden, *Pacific Horticulture*, October, 1997
  - Natural Inspirations: California, *The American Gardener*, March/April 2000
- Advocacy Features
  - Free Rain, *Valley Sentinel*
  - Gone to Seed, *Valley Sentinel*
  - No Rain Insight. *Planet Experts* Blog post
- Publications Highlighting Judy's Garden
  - *Sunset Magazine*, November 2002
  - *Diablo Magazine*, April 2004
  - *Garden Design*, Spring 2017
- Book Features
  - *The Backyard Wildlife Habitat Garden* by Nancy Bauer
  - *The California Landscape Garden* by Francis & Reiman
  - *Plants and Landscape for Summer-Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region*, East Bay Municipal Utility District

