

Native Plant Landscape *of* Apricot Lane Farms

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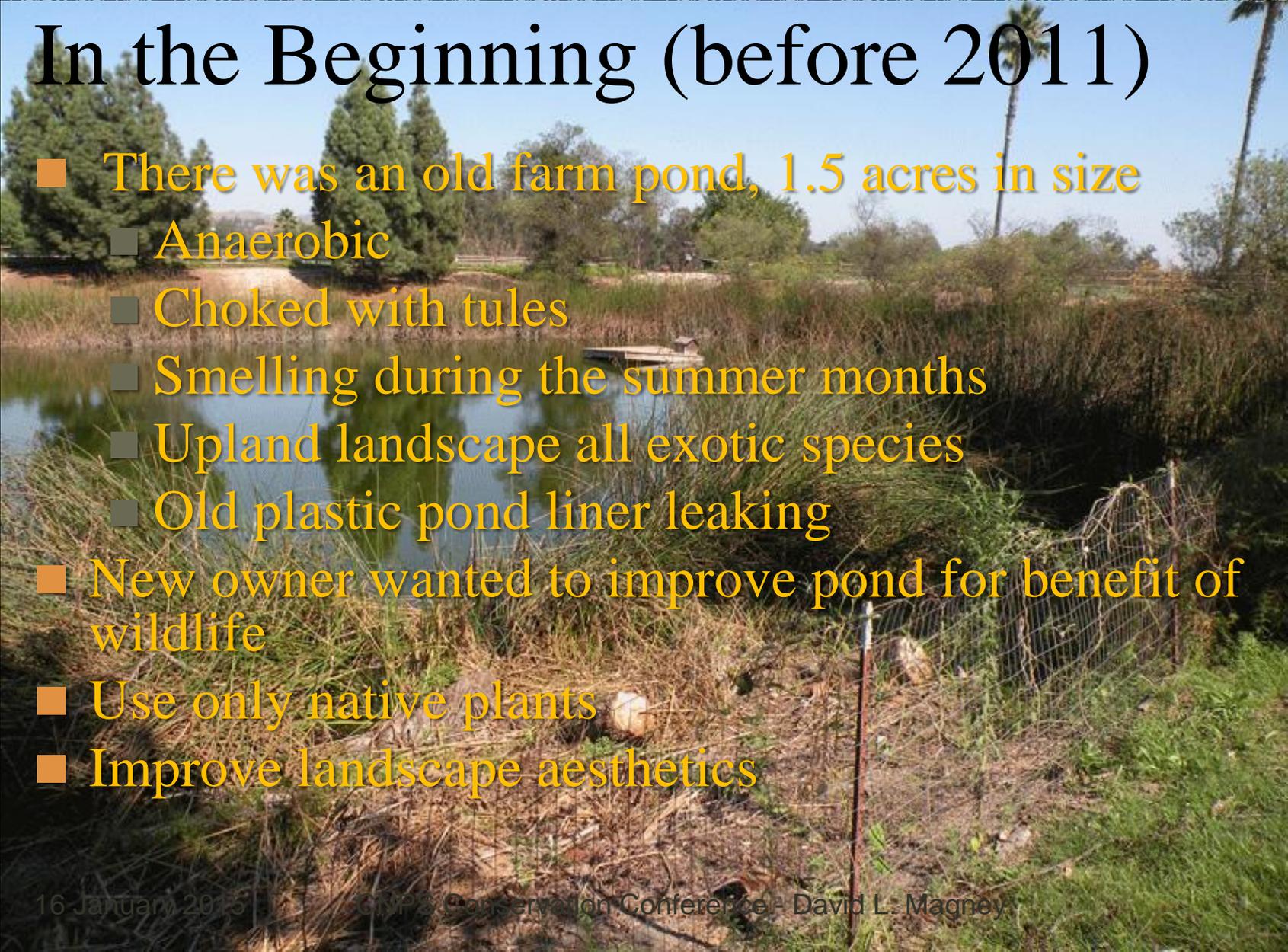


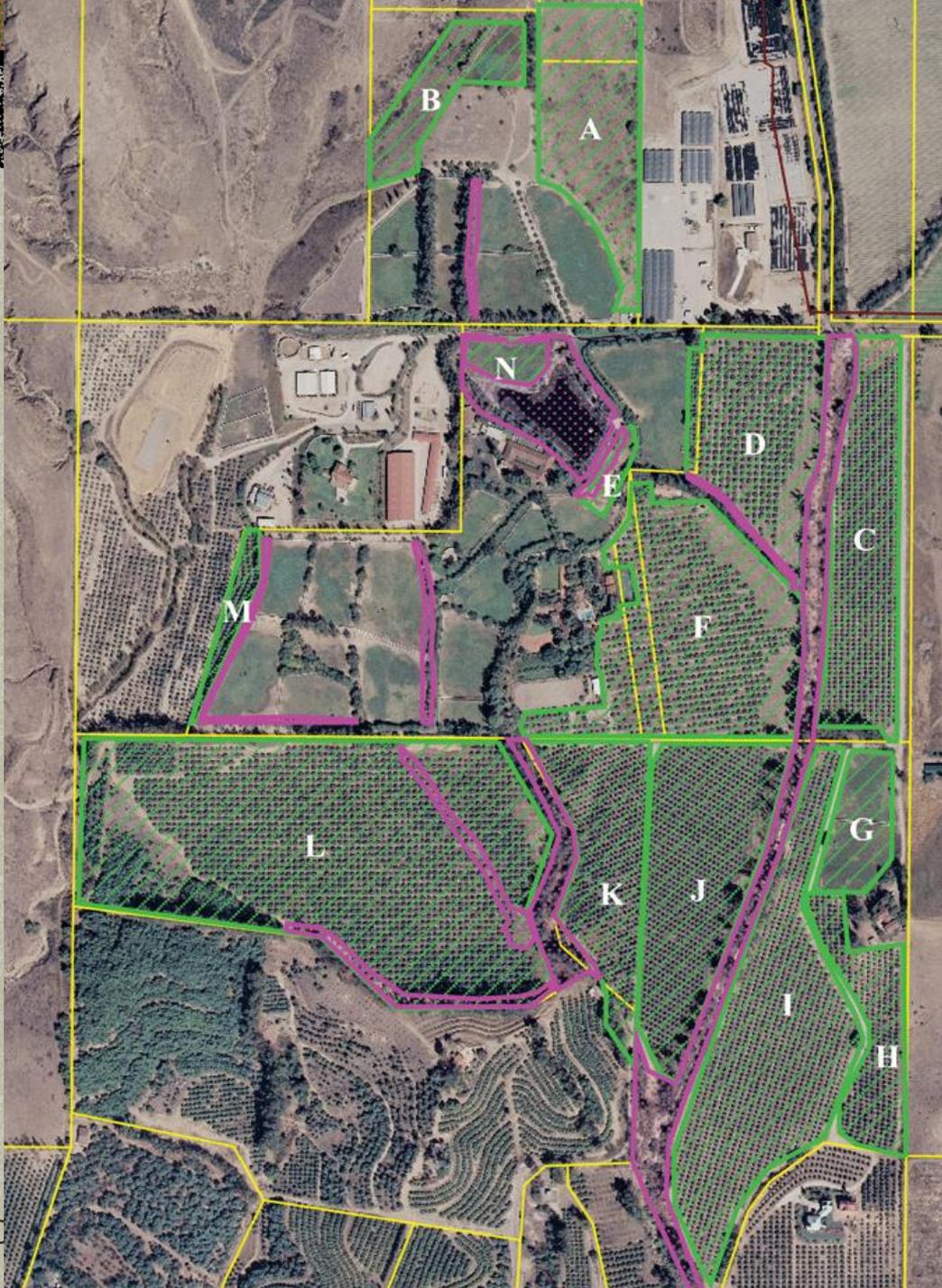
History of Apricot Lane Farms

- Previously owned and developed by a farming family who developed as avocado and citrus orchards
 - New owners purchased old orchard farm in early 2011, located near Moorpark, Ventura County
 - Hired farm managers, Molly and John Chester
 - Decided to operate farm following biodynamic principles and practices (organic and everything recycled)
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In the Beginning (before 2011)

- There was an old farm pond, 1.5 acres in size
 - Anaerobic
 - Choked with tules
 - Smelling during the summer months
 - Upland landscape all exotic species
 - Old plastic pond liner leaking
 - New owner wanted to improve pond for benefit of wildlife
 - Use only native plants
 - Improve landscape aesthetics
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16 January 20

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Pre-Restoration Condition



16 Jan



Restoration Team Selected

- DMEC to manage restoration project
- Rob Maday Landscape Architect to draft plans/design
- Channel Islands Excavation to perform major grading
- B&C Tree Service to remove tules and some trees
- Plowboy to install irrigation system and landscaping, and maintain plantings



Project Steps

- Develop concept design components
 - Determine bounds of project (1.5-acre pond and surrounding uplands)
 - Identify specific elements to include
 - Plant palettes (all native – containers and seeds)
 - Hardscape components (walkways, dock, stairs)
 - WQ maintenance (avoid anaerobic conditions)
 - Pond access (need access to water for people and fowl)
- Installation (mass grading, removal of unwanted plants & structures, soil prep., irrigation, planting, etc.)
- Maintenance (no pesticides or artificial fertilizers)



Pond

■ Old Pond

- Old pond had deteriorating plastic liner
- Pond surrounded by thick/dense tules
- Pond with about 3-4 feet thick layer of muck

■ New Pond

- Remove muck
- Remove and compost tules (salvage some for replanting)
- Replace old liner with natural clay liner
- Seal clay liner with ESS-13 polymer
- Add back native soil
- Plant with natives and allow natural recruitment



Upland Areas

- Original Conditions
 - South side of ornamental trees, shrubs, and lawn (Bermuda Grass)
 - West side of trash and weedy forbs and grasses
 - North side of weedy forbs and grasses
 - East side of ornamental trees and groundcovers
- Determine areas for design features and treatments
 - Passive recreation
 - Wildlife habitats
 - Environmental education





Construction Begins





Grading Completed/Add Water



New Conditions

- Native plantings in and around pond
- Access to and around pond for
 - Passive recreation
 - Environmental education
- Habitat for beneficial insects
- Habitat for native wildlife





Plant Palettes

- 92 species listed initially
 - Many not available commercially, such as *Calochortus* species
- Nursery-grown container stock and seeds
 - Vendors
 - Matilija Nursery
 - El Nativo Nursery
 - Tree of Life
 - Santa Barbara Natives
 - S&S Seeds



Plant Palettes

- Goal – improve wildlife habitat
- Goal – use only locally native species (Calleguas Creek watershed portion of Ventura County)
- Goal - minimize long-term maintenance
- Include color for aesthetics
- Planting subareas identified
 - Pond and margin
 - Floating islands
 - Lawn
 - Upland slopes
 - Pasture



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Landscape Maintenance

- Mostly weeding
- Replacing container plantings that didn't survive
- Battle of the Triffids
 - Annual Sunflower **dominated upland areas** (was included in seed mix)
- Supplemental plantings to fill gaps





Environmental Education

- Durable panel designed and mounted to provide brief description of the project
- Plant profiles written and printed for most of the plants in the new landscape.
 - One page for each species
 - Included botanical name, common name, family name, brief description (in layman's terms), beneficial uses, how it benefits the farm operations, and photographs
 - Placed in plastic sleeves and put into a 3-ring binder.
- Facilities open to public, primarily groups, and tours provided upon request.

