

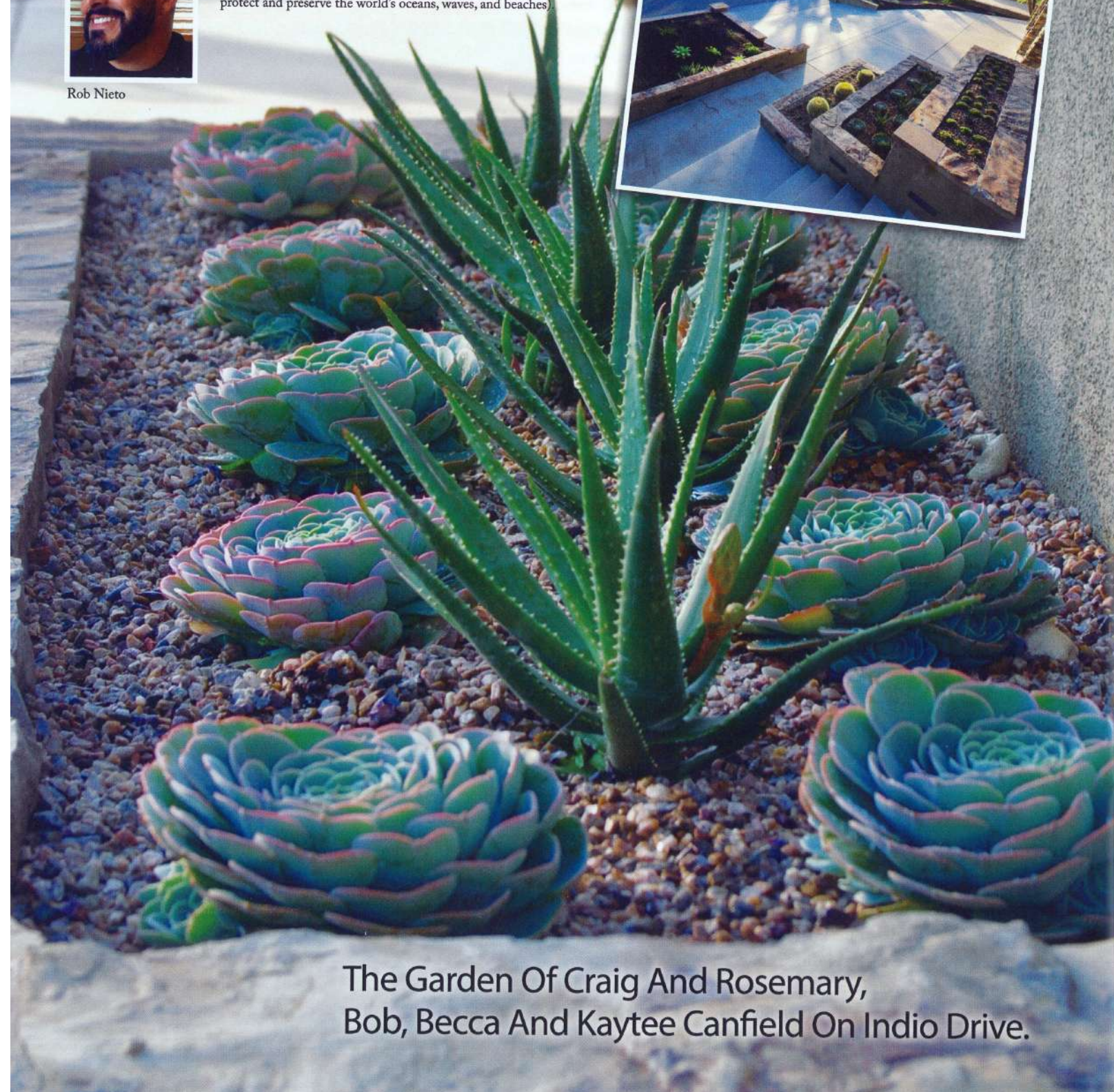
OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDEN

of the month



Rob Nieto

Photos by Rob Nieto (Rob lives on Indio Drive and, along with your Publisher, is an active supporter of The Surfrider Foundation, a grassroots non-profit environmental organization that works to protect and preserve the world's oceans, waves, and beaches).



The Garden Of Craig And Rosemary, Bob, Becca And Kaytee Canfield On Indio Drive.



The smaller raised planters were filled with petite varieties of agave and aloe, echeverias, senecio, sempervivum and barrel cactus. Leucadendrons, ceanothus "Julia Phelps" and arctostaphylos "sentinel," a smaller form of manzanita, will provide height along the perimeter of the garden. The palette was rounded out with beautiful burgundy aeonium

"Blackbeard," agave "Kara's stripes" and a variety of other drought-tolerant plantings that add texture and seasonal color. Look for the leucospermums and aloes to bloom yellow and orange in early winter and the red and yellow-tipped leucadendron varieties to light up late in the afternoon, as the sun begins to swing low on the horizon.

If you have a garden you would like featured, check out the Ocean Friendly Gardens criteria list at <http://www.surfrider.org>, then contact Robert Nieto at robert@robertnietodesigns.com. For more info about the OFG program, contact ofg@slo.surfrider.org.

Another lawn bites the dust. A few months before this ocean-friendly garden was installed in August of this year at the home of the Canfields on Indio Drive, several hundred square feet of lawn was removed using a process called sheet mulching. The lawn was mowed close to the ground, clippings left in place and a thin layer of compost was installed. The entire area was covered with cardboard, soaked, then blanketed with a thick layer of organic mushroom compost which introduced beneficial bacteria, fungi and other microbes into the soil. A few months later, voila! The grass was gone, having decomposed along with some of the cardboard, all without the use of herbicides or chemicals. Soil microbes are still feasting on the organic matter and will provide aeration and fertilization for months, even years.

Unlike compacted soil in lawn areas, these areas will allow hundreds of gallons of water, which will flow through the garden from downspouts directed into the planting areas, to be captured in the soil. All of the planting areas will provide filtration as the soil immobilizes and breaks down pollutants that would otherwise run directly into our fragile coastal ecosystem.

OCEAN
FRIENDLY GARDEN

CONSERVATION
of water, energy and habitat

PERMEABILITY
of soil and surfaces lets water slow down and sink

RETENTION
of rainwater and prevention of wet weather runoff




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