



# COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL  
Published since 2013

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC. - NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

## Chairman's Message

Happy New Year! 2020 was a year that some would like to consider non-existent I am sorry to say that 2021 hasn't started out much better.... life continues.

Thank you to all those who stated they liked the article regarding "six ways coronavirus is already having an effect." written in last issue of *Council Thymes*. Our CGCI President, Shane stated she would like to have an article based on the state of CA. Thus, included is such an article.

I am happy to announce that we will be having a CCC meeting, via ZOOM, on Thursday, January 21. Log on instructions will be sent to all CCC members at least two days prior to the meeting. I thought it would be a good idea to start logging in around 1:30 p.m. to say hello to folks we haven't seen in about a year.

You will be receiving emails giving you the links to the Zoom meetings at least two days before the meeting, however **you must register for the meeting to receive the links**. To confirm your registration **please send an email to Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian, [cgciparliamentarian@cagardenclubs.org](mailto:cgciparliamentarian@cagardenclubs.org)** by January 15, 2021.

The agenda and minutes will be sent in a separate message.

Please support the *Council Thymes* with YOUR ARTICLES of Interest related to Environmental, Gardening or Landscape Design subjects. The *Council Thymes* provides opportunities to share knowledge and learn from each other. Let's take advantage of that! Don't be shy! We would all love to read about what you and/or your club is doing!

It is with heavy heart we announce the passing of Gardening Consultant Pat Zarnowski.

## Our Next Meeting



**Our next CCC meeting will be Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via ZOOM.**

**Adele Kelly, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, [akelly@san.rr.com](mailto:akelly@san.rr.com) will be sending out the ZOOM invitation to join. Make sure you receive it, and it doesn't go to SPAM.**

## 2019 – 2021 CCC Officers

**Chairman:** Sue Bennett  
[sue\\_c\\_bennett@att.net](mailto:sue_c_bennett@att.net)

**Secretary:** Pat Clayes  
[patclayes@aol.com](mailto:patclayes@aol.com)

**Treasurer:** Nina Blonski  
[nblonski@gmail.com](mailto:nblonski@gmail.com)

**Parliamentarian:** Greg Pokorski  
[gregpokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:gregpokorski@earthlink.net)

**Vice Chairmen:**  
Environmental Consultants:  
Julie West [julieawest@aol.com](mailto:julieawest@aol.com)  
Gardening Consultants:  
David West [jdavidwest@aol.com](mailto:jdavidwest@aol.com)

Landscape Design Consultants:  
Carolyn Villi [CaRonV39@yahoo.com](mailto:CaRonV39@yahoo.com)

Thank you to the consultants who contributed articles for this issue of *Council Thymes*, and thanks to Julie West, assistant editor.

**DEADLINE for next issue: May 15, 2021**

## NGC Landscape Design School

Alexis Slafer, CGCI LDS Chairman

enrichment. This Chairman is happy to chat with you about planning a Landscape Design School. Take care and stay safe!

### The Name of the Game!

Here we are the beginning of the year... who would have thought that we'd still be in the throes of this pandemic or be practicing "Safer at Home" protocols? The name of the game is "RESILIENCE"! Our spirits have not been dampened, we have demonstrated a strength of spirit and our creativity seems to know no bounds. While our personal, community and garden club lives are still turned upside-down...it is gratifying to see what a resourceful group we are -- as we hold our educational events in creative ways. There have been virtual schools and refreshers held in lieu of in-person, "on the ground" events. Opportunities to continue LDS and refresher events are currently being planned. Although we certainly enjoy getting together in person to visit, network, and learn...we are now operating under the most interesting alternative plans.

It is disappointing to report that California does not have a Landscape Design School on the calendar or even have one being planned. However, more virtual (Zoom) refreshers and courses in Landscape Design are anticipated for the coming year. Why not take the LDS Zoom Course offered in Phoenix, Arizona? It is scheduled for Friday, January 29 to Saturday, January 30, 2021...and you won't even need to travel or dress-up to attend. Be sure to check the NGC website for this or other upcoming opportunities (dates, venues, and registration information) to complete a school and become a Landscape Design Consultant or refresh your credentials. If your credentials lapsed on December 31, 2020 and you have not able to refresh this year, hopefully you requested an extension from this Chairman as the deadline was December 31. Our consultants have been doing well in the "refreshing department however, there are several who will need to refresh by December 31, 2021. Why not refresh at an upcoming virtual event?! Please feel free to check with this chairman to confirm your current credentials status.

In closing, consider how rewarding it would be to host a Landscape Design School. You could reach out to a whole classroom full of interested students at one time. And you could include those who want to become NGC Landscape Design Consultants or garden club members (as well as the public) who are just interested in gaining knowledge for their own personal

## Do's and Don'ts of Making Your Own Suet for Birds

Julie A. West  
CCC Environmental Consultants Vice-Chairman

Suet provides the perfect winter substitute for birds that normally feast on insects that include wrens, chickadees, woodpeckers, northern flicker, tufted titmouse, and white-breasted nuthatches. This lipid-rich treat can help prepare year-round bird residents for the long winter. Suet is a great source of fat for the birds and helps them refuel after cold nights when they've used all their energy to stay warm. If you can't enjoy human company due to the pandemic, enjoy the variety of birds that may visit your suet feeder!



Check out this easy recipe recently shared by the Audubon Society.

### **Ingredients:**

- 1 1/2 cups shortening or lard
- 3/4 cup nut butter (any kind)
- 3 1/2 cups wild bird seed
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1/2 cup corn meal

Ice cube tray or empty cat food or tuna cans

### **Instructions:**

1. Mix the dry ingredients of bird seed, oats, and corn meal together and set aside.

2. Combine the shortening and nut butter in a separate bowl and melt. Stir until completely combined.
3. Pour the melted mixture into the dry ingredients and stir until combined.
4. Spoon mixture into the ice cube tray or cans.
5. Freeze for two hours or until solid and place in your suet feeder.

**CAUTION:** Ingredients such as corn and peanuts sometimes foster a dangerous bacterium so be sure to keep the suet refrigerated until you're ready to use it. Not recommended for outdoor temperatures above 50 degrees.

Be sure to avoid these ingredients:  
 Bacon drippings, bread, sugar, salted-items, leftovers, and meat.

**All gardeners know better  
 than other gardeners.**

**— Chinese proverb**

***CGCI Environmental School***

Leticia & Mike Beidenbender,  
 Environmental Schools Chairmen

**SUSTAINABILITY DURING COVID**

2020 has presented us with many challenges and life changes. Though we are all still trying to understand and work through these life changes, one challenge we can continue to work on is taking daily steps to become sustainable. Many environmental laws and ordinances are currently being passed to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce the impact on our environment, however, with Covid, these laws are not being implemented. Once such ordinance is the single-use plastics ban. This ban is intended to keep single-use plastics such as plastic utensils, Styrofoam, straws, and bags out of our landfill as well as our waterways and oceans.

Over the last year, we have all been supporting restaurants by purchasing take home food. For health reasons, Covid has brought single-use plastic utensils, straws, bags, and condiment packets back into each take out or delivery order. These items can be useful

when eating at a non-home environment, but when eating at home, these items are unnecessary and become trash.



When placing a take-out or delivery order, let us be conscious of our environment and practice sustainability by asking the restaurant to **not include** these single-use plastics in the order. We are calling this the “Opt Out Campaign”, OOC. This will not only help to reduce single-use plastics into our landfill but will also cut restaurant expenses by not having to provide these plastics. It is time we make daily choices to become sustainable and it all starts with us.

Most people do not realize we are in a climate crisis, with changing weather patterns all over the world causing horrific deaths and destruction. A closer look at some of the causes, leads us to carbon dioxide and methane admissions. Many know that carbon dioxide is largely produced from car admissions, but what many do not know is that methane in California is largely produced by organics in the landfill. 40 percent of our landfill waste consist of organics that can be composted and made into amendment for our landscapes and gardens as well as mulch for our soil tops. Landfills are filling at an alarming rate, our local landfill in Chula Vista, CA is predicted to close in 8 years if we continue to fill at the current rate.

With South Bay Sustainable Communities Network, sustainability isn’t just something we talk about now and again—it’s at the heart of everything we do. We understand how critical it is that all of us learn how to live our lives in a way that cares for our community and the environment we all share. We are teaching neighborhoods how to lower their daily waste by reducing, reusing, repurposing, and recycling. Their

education involves participating in a unique neighborhood composting program which involves the collection of kitchen food scraps being dropped off at a resident neighborhood collection house who then turns the organics into a compost bin. When the compost bin is harvested, the neighborhood gets to pick up the mature compost for their gardens and yards. We make it as simple as possible for everyone's busy lives. The house who collects the compost is not responsible to turn the compost. Our program has lead volunteer composters and Master Composters who turn the compost. The Master Composters and leads also host workshops during the compost turnings to educate on the importance of composting in the community and to train new volunteer compost leads.

Permission is granted for use in other newsletters if desired  
Thank You!!



## NGC SCHOOLS



Greg Pokorski,  
NGC Landscape Design Schools Chairman &  
NGC Gardening Schools Advisor

The new NGC website was finally implemented on August 6. NGC Schools Chairmen were disappointed with the Schools pages and the initial emphasis on accessing forms and Handbook rather than finding information about scheduled courses. Many changes have been made to the website since then and it continues to be a work in progress. If you found something in one place in recent months, chances are it will be somewhere else when you visit the site again. This chairman will be glad to try to direct you if you are looking for specific information.

A 2020 revised Schools Handbook is now posted along with 2020 forms revisions and Zoom course guidelines.

NGC publications are now available in Member Resources, accessible at the bottom of any page on the website. The website no longer contains a separate Member section and you therefore do not need a password to access this information. These publications include *The National Gardener* (required reading for all students and Consultants), *Keeping in Touch* and *Newscape*, the twice-yearly newsletter about Landscape Design Schools and Councils NOTE: *Newscape* will also contain news about NGC's Environmental and Gardening Schools.



We began a 1-year pilot program in our cul-de-sac which consisted of 10 residents, who during that year, composted over 2,900 lbs. of food scraps. We have learned that this program also brings neighborhoods together, especially during this challenging Covid year by growing and sharing crops, baked goods, and treats. As the South Bay Sustainable Communities Network, a young nonprofit, we are averaging over 1,100 lbs. of food scraps being collected among 4 neighborhoods. Over the next year, our expansion throughout the South Bay will help to lessen the impact on our environment and landfills creating a healthy and sustainable future. Check out our website at [www.southbaysustainablecommunities.org](http://www.southbaysustainablecommunities.org)

## WATERING TIP

Submitted by Pat Claves,

Did you know that when you boil eggs, the calcium from the shell's seeps into the boiling water? Once the water is cooled to room temperature, you can use the water to water your plants! Plants need calcium for cell wall development and growth.



## Gardening Schools

Greg Pokorski,  
CGCI Gardening Schools Chairman

Although no Gardening Schools or Refreshers are currently scheduled in California, virtual NGC Gardening School courses being offered on Zoom provide 2021 opportunities for California students to complete Course 3 (Massachusetts – April 8-10) or Course 4 (Washington – January 12-13; Florida – January 26-27) and opportunities for California Gardening Consultants to refresh. Check the NGC website for details. Additional courses are anticipated during 2021. Please advise this chairman if you are going to attend any Gardening School course for credit.

To remain in Good Standing, these Gardening Consultants need to refresh in 2021: Annette Choate, Stephanie Curin, Dorothy Dempsey, Ed Dempsey, Patsy Jeffery and Ana Muir.

If you have a 2020-2021 CGCI *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*, please make these corrections: Linda Smith's refresher due date is 2022 (Sequoia Foothills District, page 51).

Contact this chairman with any questions about your Gardening Consultant status and to obtain information

regarding sponsoring and conducting a Gardening School in your area. This can be a great four-part club or district project providing gardening information to club members and the public, can bring you new members and can serve as a fundraiser when carefully planned.

## CGCI Schools

Greg Pokorski, CGCI Gardening Schools Chairman Any Environmental, Gardening or Landscape Design Consultants who need to refresh by the end of this year and who are not able to participate in a refresher this year should have requested an extension from your CGCI Schools Chairman (Environmental – Michael & Leticia Biedenbender; Gardening – Greg Pokorski; Landscape Design – Alexis Slafer) **before December 31.**

Consultants may refresh in each school for which they are a Consultant as often as once per calendar year, and they must refresh by the end of the fifth calendar year after becoming a Consultant or last refreshing.

A new 2020-2021 CGCI *Yearbook, Manual & Roster* has just been printed and is being mailed to CGCI board members and club presidents. Updated Consultant information, including Good Standing Date, is contained on pages 45-46 and pages 49-53. Hopefully, this information is also shared in club and district yearbooks. We hope that clubs and districts acknowledge their members who have completed NGC Schools and we hope that Consultants use the information obtained in these schools to contribute to their clubs, districts, and communities.

The first supermarket supposedly appeared on the American landscape in 1946. That is not very long ago. Until then, where was all the food? Dear folks, the food was in homes, gardens, local fields, and forests. It was near kitchens, near tables, near bedsides. It was in the pantry, the cellar, the backyard.

— Joel Salatin



## Asian Giant Hornet

Julie A. West  
CCC Environmental Consultants Vice-Chairman

Should California worry about the Asian giant hornets becoming residents of our Golden State? No, says entomologist Lynn Kimsey, director of the Bohart Museum of Entomology and professor of entomology at University of California in Davis. The hornet won't like California's hot, dry summers and lack of rainfall.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture announced in October that a nest was discovered and destroyed in a tree cavity near Blaine, WA. This marked Washington's first known nest. North America's first detected colony of the giant hornets was destroyed in September 2019 on Vancouver, Island, British Columbia.

Washington State University entomologists found that "Asian giant hornets" are most likely to thrive in places with war summers, mild winters, and high rainfall. Based on those factors, suitable habitat for these creatures exists along much of the U.S. west and east coasts. However, much of the interior of the U.S. is inhospitable to the hornet due to extremes of heat, cold and low rainfall."

Scientists dislike the sensationalized name "murder hornets" so named because the insects can quickly destroy a honey bee colony. The insects defend their colony when it is threatened. The Asian giant hornet measures a little less than two inches long and their stinger is longer than that of a honeybee with their venom being more toxic. They can also sting repeatedly.

For more information, visit the Washington State Council Thymes, Vol. V, No. 5

University Extension website and read their publication, *The Asian Giant Hornet - What the Public and Beekeepers Need to Know*

(<https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/the-asian-giant-hornet-what-the-public-and-beekeepers-need-to-know>)

## CCC Awards Reminder



All awards sponsored by the CCC the date has been extended. I will accept application until March 1, 2021. (This has been discussed with Pat Claves, Awards Chairman)

### CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR

Certificate may be awarded to an individual garden club member Sponsor: California Consultants Council **NOMINATIONS BY JANUARY 10 March 1, 2021 TO CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN Sue Bennett, 7560 Shelborne Drive, Granite Bay 95746-8617** May be awarded annually at the convention to an environmental, gardening or landscape design consultant or master consultant in recognition of non-professional achievement, involvement and/or service as an environmental, gardening or landscape design consultant in either the community or the NGC Environmental, Gardening or Landscape Design schools.

### Award # 4 HORTICULTURE EXCELLENCE IN GARDENING

1st \$50, 2nd \$35, 3rd \$15. To clubs or districts Sponsor: California Consultants Council **SUBMIT BY JANUARY 10 March 1, 2021 TO CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN Sue Bennett, 7560 Shelborne Drive, Granite Bay 95746-8617** For planting or maintaining a public or private garden exemplifying horticultural excellence. A minimum of 25 square feet encompassing vegetable or ornamental plantings. Submit photographs of a section or specific area of the garden, or an entire garden; also, closeups of irrigation and mulching techniques. Identify major plants with botanical names. Provide plot plan and give details of exposure.

### Award #24. HORTICULTURE AWARD

1st \$50. To a club Sponsor: California Consultants Council **SUBMIT BY JANUARY 10 March 1, 2021 TO CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN: Sue Bennett, 7560 Shelborne Drive, Granite Bay 95746-8617** For the study

of horticulture and/or the dissemination of horticultural knowledge to the public in two or more of the following: workshops, horticulture exhibits at club meetings, flower shows, fairs, all-horticulture shows, study classes, sponsored youth groups etc.

**REMINDER:** California Consultants Council Awards Recommendations for all California Consultants Council Awards that **are not date driven:** Send to Sue Bennett, 7560 Shelborne Drive, Granite Bay 95746-8617

**Environmental Consultants Award  
CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION  
FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL-FRIENDLY  
COMMENDATION**

This Certificate of Recognition may be given to an individual who is not an Environmental Consultant but who has demonstrated outstanding skills as evidenced by their garden which supports the principles of the Environmental Schools program of NGC/ CGCI. It may be awarded to recognize the person who owns, designs, or maintains the garden and upon the written recommendation of any consultant or garden club member. A brief description of the garden should include the name, address and location of the garden as well as include photographs. See additional information required on application.

**Gardening Consultants Award  
OUTSTANDING PRIVATE GARDEN AWARD**

A Certificate of Recognition may be given to an individual who is not a Gardening Consultant but who has demonstrated outstanding skill in gardening, as demonstrated by their private garden, and supported the Gardening School Program of CGCI/NGC. This award may be given at the discretion of the CCC Chairman or upon the written recommendation of any consultant or garden club member. A brief description of the garden should state name, address and owner of the garden and include photographs. See additional information required on application form.

**Landscape Design Awards**

- **AWARD OF MERIT IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**

The Award of Merit in Landscape Architecture is presented by the California Consultants Council in recognition of excellence in land use on a commercial, public, or residential project. This award is given only to landscape architects upon

the recommendation of a council member (but other garden club members may propose candidates to council members). A brief description of the project should state the name, address and owner of the project and include photographs and/or site plan (NOTE: photos and/or site plan or drawing are not returned). See additional information required on application form. Maximum four (4) pages including captioned photos.

- **LANDSCAPE DESIGN COMMENDATION**

The Landscape Design Commendation is presented by the California Consultants Council in recognition of good land use. This award is given only to individuals or groups upon the recommendation of individual council members, clubs or districts. A brief description of the project should state the name, address and owner of the project and include photographs and/or site plan (NOTE: photos and/or site plan or drawing are not returned.) See additional information required on application form. Maximum four (4) pages including captioned photos.

- **LANDSCAPE DESIGN CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION/RECOGNITION/ ACHIEVEMENT**

A Landscape Design Certificate of Appreciation, Recognition and/or Achievement may be given to an individual or group who is neither a Landscape Design Consultant nor landscape architect but has demonstrated outstanding skill in managing land use or has 20 enthusiastically supported the Landscape Design Program of CGCI/NGC. This award may be given at the discretion of the California Consultants Council Chairman or upon the written recommendation of any Landscape Design Consultant. A brief description of the project should state the name, address and owner of the project and include photographs and/or site plan (NOTE: photos and/or site plan or drawing are not returned). See additional information required on application form. Maximum four (4) pages including captioned photos.

Gardening simply does not allow one to be mentally old, because too many hopes and dreams are yet to be realized.  
— Allan Armitage

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- **Jot down ideas for articles of interest to you.**
  - o Related to Environmental, Gardening or Landscape Design subjects.
- **Send in your article(s) to include in the *Council Thymes*.**

The *Council Thymes* provides opportunities to **share knowledge and learn from each other**. Let's take advantage of that! Don't be shy! We would all love to read about what you and/or your club is doing!

**DEADLINE for next issue: May 15, 2021**