



COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL
Published since 2013

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

Chairman's Message

This is the last issue of *Council Thymes* for the 2019-2021 term. A time to reflect on the past two years. I want to start out by saying thank you to all who have made my term as CCC Chairman interesting. How does one keep the Council moving, getting folks to write articles, and having to have bylaws that should have been approved at the beginning of the term, to be on the May 2021 agenda for approval when the world stops meeting! Well, I have agreed to remain the CCC Chairman during Lynne Batchelor's term, 2021-2023.

I hope the next term brings us together once again and lots and lots of Certificate of Recognitions are handed out. My goal was (is) to have at least 2 per topic/per year ([see California Consultants Council Awards page 6](#)). Sad to say, we had none in the 2019-2021 term. The world is opening, now is your time to get out there, get some pictures and nominate someone, some club, some neighbor.

Member participation is critical to making this council work. Please share your ideas and accomplishments, both individual and club related, with other CCC members. Remember, this is **your council!**

With the beginning of a new term, CCC dues in the amount of \$20 are due for 2021-2023 (form is attached). What ideas do you have as a member of the CCC for the new CCC Chairman to consider?

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!

Susan C. Bennett, CGCI CCCC

(2019-2023, California Consultants Council Chair)

Our Next Meeting



You must register for the CGCI MEETING to attend the CCC meeting and Workshop.

Our next CCC meeting*

Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM.

***COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY**

Workshop #3: Roses - Show and Tell**

Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. via ZOOM

****OPENED TO EVERYONE**



We are honored to have Jolene Adams, who is a former President of the American Rose Society, former CGCI Chairman, Master Rosarian and Master Gardener who will talk about how to Prep and Show roses at a Rose show.

Do you have a favorite rose growing in your garden, but don't know its name? Cut the rose and show it so Jolene can identify it.

Please complete the online form. Registrar, Nancy McDougal, will acknowledge your registration. The Online Registration Form must be completed by **May 19, 2021.**

Remember - Online registration only - no mailing.

[2021 CGCI Convention Registration Form](#)

Continued on next page.

Adele Kelly, 3rd VP, akelly@san.rr.com or Carol Vallens, 2nd VP, (CGCI2ndVP@cagardenclubs.org) will be sending out the ZOOM invitation to join. Make sure you receive it, and it doesn't go to SPAM.

You will be receiving two emails giving you the link to the Zoom meetings at least two days before the meeting, however **you must register for the meeting to receive the links.**

Note: There will be two different logins. One for the meeting and another for the Workshop

A few items of business for the Agenda include:

- Unfinished business
 - Recommended Bylaw Change
- CGCI School Chairmen report
- Nominations
- 2021-2023 Budget

The agenda and minutes will be sent in a separate message to Council Members only.

2019 – 2021 CCC Officers

Chairman: Sue Bennett
sue_c_bennett@att.net

Secretary: Pat Clayes
patclayes@aol.com

Treasurer: Nina Bilonski
nblonski@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: Greg Pokorski
gregpokorski@earthlink.net

Vice Chairmen:
Environmental Consultants:
Julie West julieawest@aol.com

Gardening Consultants:
David West jdavidwest@aol.com

Landscape Design Consultants:
CaRonV39@yahoo.com



Landscape Design School

Alexis Slafer, CGCI LDS Chairman

What Excitement Lies Ahead!?

There are two exciting events on the horizon. The first is *Olmsted 200* -- and the second is a new Landscape Design School.

As a member of the California Consultants Council -- you are familiar with Frederick Law Olmsted (FLO), his work and his legacy. Next year, 2022, marks the 200th anniversary of his birth -- who was a social reformer and founder of American landscape architecture. He is best known for his designs of many well-known urban parks, the most famous being Central Park. *Olmsted 200 (National Association for Olmsted Parks -- managing partner) began their* bicentennial celebration on his 199th birthday, April 26, 2021, by presenting a wonderful film, *Olmsted and America's Urban Parks*, which can still be viewed on You Tube.

Check out the *Olmsted 200* year of local and national events and programming, offering a variety of opportunities to learn more about the Olmsted legacy and how it impacts us today. You will find a list of local and virtual events on their website at www.olmsted200.com.



Frederick Law Olmsted
illustration by David LeeCsicsko
Conservationist (1822-1903)
Landscape Architect, Author,

During this recent past there have been virtual schools and refreshers held in lieu of in-person, "on the ground" events. While these will continue, it is

Gardening Schools

certainly a pleasure to announce that a new in-the-classroom LDS is being planned -- where you can continue with or complete your Landscape Design School and Refresher events. Series 27 is being hosted by Valley Lode District and will be held in Turlock, California. The dates (please be sure to jot them down on your calendar) for this LD School are:



- Course 1 - January 15 & 16, 2022
- Course 2 - February 12 & 13, 2022
- Course 3 - February 26 & 27, 2022
- Course 4 - March 12 & 13, 2022

We are looking forward to a year without Covid restrictions... As I mentioned in the last issue of *Council Thymes*: "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..."

However, an unexpected benefit during this pandemic has been to see more virtual (Zoom) refreshers and courses in Landscape Design and more are anticipated for the coming year. Why not take one of these LDS Zoom Courses. Look for a refresher opportunity on the NGC website. Attendance at a virtual event means that you won't need to travel or dress-up. As a reminder, if your credentials will lapse at the end of 2021... and you have not been able to refresh, you must request an extension from this Chairman before December 31. 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. This Chairman is happy to chat with you about planning a Landscape Design School.

Take care and stay safe!

The greatest fine art of the future will be the making of a comfortable living from a small piece of land.

— Abraham Lincoln

Greg Pokorski, CGCI Gardening Schools Chairman



No Gardening Schools or Refreshers are currently scheduled in California. Contact this chairman for information about sponsoring and conducting a Gardening School in your area. Filling in the gap, virtual NGC Gardening School courses offered on Zoom provide 2021 opportunities for California students to complete the courses and become Gardening Consultants and opportunities for California Gardening Consultants to refresh. Several courses have recently been completed. More will be scheduled. Check the NGC website for details. Oregon is planning on presenting Courses 2, 3 and 4 by Zoom. Dates to be determined. Please advise this chairman if you are going to attend any Gardening School course for credit. You will need to submit a Consultant Accreditation Application or Refresher Accreditation Application for any course you attend.

Congratulations to:

1. Nancy Compton who became a Gardening Consultant by attending a Massachusetts Zoom course
2. Ana Muir who refreshed by attending a Florida Zoom course
3. Lynn MacFarland who became a Master Consultant by refreshing at a National Capital Area Zoom course
4. Marybeth Muir who became a Master Consultant by refreshing at a Washington Zoom course.



See the article on Washington's recent Zoom Gardening School course in the May issue of *WACONIAH*, the Pacific Region publication.

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

These Gardening Consultants lapsed as of December 31, 2020: Albert Chang, Mary Fleeer, Ilene Herringer and Krystal Migliore. Several Provisional Gardening Consultants also lapsed at that time.

CGCI Schools

Greg Pokorski, CGCI Gardening Schools Chairman

A new 2021-2022 CGCI *Yearbook, Manual & Roster* will be printed this summer. Consultant information, including Good Standing Dates, is contained in the yearbook (refer to pages 45-46 and pages 49-53 of the 2020-2021 yearbook. Please advise your CGCI School Chairmen if any of your information is incorrect. Environmental – Michael & Leticia Biedenbender; Gardening – Greg Pokorski; Landscape Design – Alexis Slafer.

NGC SCHOOLS

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

The spring issue of *Newscape*, NGC's colorful newsletter about Landscape Design Schools and Councils features an article by our own Alexis Slafer and articles from Landscape Design Consultants from all over the country.

The spring issue of *The National Gardener* was the last print issue of NGC's flagship publication. It will continue to be published in a digital format and posted on the NGC website where you can find archived issues dating back to summer 2011. You can now subscribe (free) to have this quarterly publication sent directly to your inbox. *The National Gardener* continues to be required reading for NGC School students and consultants. It contains official news and updates about these education programs. Many issues contain

the "Happy Gardener's Guide," a feature begun by a Gardening Consultant upon completion of Gardening School, and Landscape Design feature articles that are used as part of the exams for every Landscape Design School course.

When you look for NGC School courses on the NGC website, remember that for each school you must click on the separate tabs for each Course (1, 2, 3, 4) to see information about all scheduled courses.

Container Fairy Gardens for the Young & Young at Heart

by Pat Claves, Gardening Consultant Emeritus

Throughout the history of civilization, cultures have used some sort of magical being to worship or to blame for the unexplainable events in their lives. "Fairies" appeared centuries ago in early European cultures. In 1902, J.M. Barrie, the author of *Peter Pan*, wrote "When the first baby laughed for the first time, his laugh broke into a million pieces, and they all went skipping about. That was the beginning of fairies." Often dismissed by "serious" gardeners as too whimsical, perhaps a fairy



Five fairies playing in their succulent garden. *Crassula ovata* (Jade Plant), *Sedum adolphii* (Golden Sedum), *Sedum pachyphyllum* (Jelly Beans) and

garden should be reconsidered. Children love the activity of creating a miniature world because their imaginations can run wild! For adults, creating a living garden can bring the benefit of nature to any space, however small. Learning about the care of plants, their preferred environment and their cultural needs is an

additional benefit for old and young garden artists.

A fairy garden can be realistic or magical, created in miniature as the home of the fairy. It needs a dwelling of some sort, but the fairy may or may not be present. The garden scene is energized by the suggestion of some sort of action that has happened or is about to happen.

To create a fairy garden, you will need a theme; a container with drainage; and plants which adapt to miniaturization. Important: The key to a successful container fairy garden is SCALE (the relationship of one object to another).



Three fairies playing in their garden in front of their gourd home. *Dracaena Marginata* (Madagascar Dragon), two varieties of *Hedera helix* (ivy), *Dryopteris erythrosora* (Japanese Shield Fern) and moss.

Steps to create a fairy garden in a container:

- Choose a suitable container with proper drainage.
- Select the proper plants with the same growing conditions.
- Plant the plants.
- Place the accessories (houses, figures (fairies, gnomes, trolls, etc.), tables & chairs, etc.).
- Water & maintenance — water as needed. Prune as needed. Replace overgrown plants.



Two trolls watching their pet duck swim in the pool. Two *Hedera helix* varieties (ivy), *Dracaena Marginata* (Madagascar Dragon), and *Pteris cretica* (Brake Fern).

Containers most often used:

- Dish gardens — open low-volume shallow containers with groupings of plants.
- Planters — containers with groupings of plants for indoor or outdoor.
- Troughs — naturalistic containers designed to withstand year-around conditions.
- Terrariums — container with high transparent sides (top may be closed or open).
- Some also use woven baskets and garden hats.

Accessories — All types of accessories may be included: miniature houses, furniture, figures, bridges, gates, stepping stones, bird houses, small rocks, colored glass. Handmade accessories are all the rage right now — you can make your own.

Proper drainage and soil — The container should include a drainage hole in the bottom of a small container. If using a larger container, there should be several drainage holes. Soil: some experts call for the use of two parts commercial soil and one part peat moss or compost. Fill the container halfway with the soil mixture and you are ready to plant. If using cacti and succulents, use a good cacti mix.



Two gnomes enjoying themselves after gardening and playing with their pet chickens. *Crassula ovata* (Jade Plant), *Sedum adolphii* (Golden Sedum) and moss.

Plants — A container garden relies on the use of miniature and dwarf plants. Choose ones that will thrive in a container. Remember, "Right plant, right place." Succulents and houseplants are usually used. Very Important: All plants should have the same growing conditions: the same sun, soil, food and water requirements. Add the focal plantings first — remove enough potting soil from the container to accommodate a tree or two so that, when planted, the tops of the root balls are about an inch from the top of the pot. Gently tease the roots apart, plant, and firm the soil around the roots. Then, plant the moss and other plants.



Two gnomes are looking over their garden of succulents. *Kalanchoe tomentosa* (Panda Plant) and *Sedum adolphii* (Golden Sedum).

The fun items — Add these next, e.g., the house (if Council Thymes, Vol. V, No. 6

you want one), furniture and décor. Dribble small pebbles onto the soil to make a path. Add colored stones for a stream. Add the fairies, gnomes, etc.

Care and Maintenance — To care for your fairy garden, be sure to water it regularly. But do not overwater! Prune any plantings that seem to outgrow their spaces. If you happen to lose a plant or if the plant is not doing well, just gently remove it and replace it with something similar. **Remember that these gardens are always growing, changing and evolving.**

Sources: National Garden Clubs, Inc. *Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017*; Julie Bawden-Davis & Beverly Turner, *Fairy Gardening, 2013*; Liza Gardner Walsh, *Fairy Garden Handbook, 2013*; Fiona McDonald, *Fairy Gardening 101, 2014*.

California Consultants Council Awards

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITIONS are not date driven: Send to Sue Bennett, 7560 Shelborne Drive, Granite Bay 95746-8617

California Consultants Council

This Certificate of Recognition is awarded to
(your local store, friend, neighbor, etc)

**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.

Grass, Dry Creek, Drought and Roses

By Sue Bennett, CCC Chair
Master Gardening Consultant,
Consulting Rosarian

Thought I would share a story about my yard. In 2000 we moved to Granite Bay. Here is what a part of the backyard looked like then:



The front yard had a dry creek that did not connect to the back yard, thus we extended it. Issue – how does one get the lawn mower across the creek?

Bill, my husband, and I talked about what we could do. His thought was to get rid of the grass in this area, there is enough grass areas elsewhere in the

yard that the dogs could run in. I thought, a rose garden!

Here is a snippet of some of the processes we did:

- ❖ Removed all the grass.



We added cinder blocks to keep the new soil out



of the dry creek. Plants were included to make the area attractive.

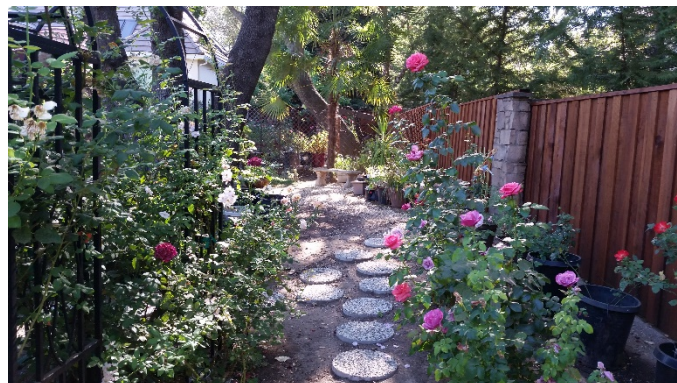


The area is starting to take shape. An actual rose garden.



Adding the details now; arbors and stepping stones to make it easy to walk around it.

In the meantime, we had a new fence installed. The fence is an entire other story... it was locally milled from local redwood trees. What a difference a new fence made.



Ten years later we are revamping this area. Replacing the stepping stones with crushed granite (easier to walk on and stays level), creating a "stand" for the roses in the pots so the gophers stay out of them. Perhaps a topic for next *Council Thymes*.

And as always, don't forget to stop and smell the roses.

P.S. This area is called Boris' Corner. In memory of our first dog, who loved to always sit in a corner, whether it be the house or the yard. It makes it a lot easier to have 'named' areas so that I can tell my husband there is an issue with the watering in Boris' Corner. Yes, we have a Natasha's Garden as well, in memory of our first female dog.

CGCI California Consultants Council



2021-2023 COUNCIL DUES
\$20.00 INVOICE Payable upon Receipt

June 2021,

It's time to remit CCC membership dues. If you are not part of the California Consultants Council, please think about it and the impact you can make.

The objectives of the California Consultants Council (CCC) are to protect the environment, to increase knowledge in horticulture and to promote excellence in landscape design. Members may act in an advisory capacity serving on local and state committees in addition to promoting the study of the environment, gardening and landscape design by encouraging and promoting sponsorship and attendance at NGC Environmental Schools, Gardening Schools, Landscape Design Schools and refreshers.

Remit your \$20 dues, payable to CGCI. Note on the Memo line: CCC for the 2019-2021 term along with this completed form and send to: CGCI California Consultants Council Treasurer noted at bottom of this form. Be sure to include your email address* below to receive the *Council Thymes* eNewsletter issued three times a year, a benefit of membership. Additional benefits may include a special tour restricted to CCC members only, tri-refresher opportunities, workshops, etc. Please join us!

Thank you in advance for your support of the California Consultants Council!

Name _____

Address _____

Garden Club _____

District _____

Telephone including area code _____

Email address* _____

Please check the following that apply to you:

Environmental Consultant:

Provisional ___ Accredited ___ Master ___ Emeritus ___

Gardening Consultant:

Provisional ___ Accredited ___ Master ___ Emeritus ___

Landscape Design Consultant:

Provisional ___ Accredited ___ Master ___ Emeritus ___

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Dues Rec'd: _____

Cash or Check #: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Remit your California Consultants Council membership dues (payable to CGCI) to CCC Treasurer:
Nina Blonski, 5050 Traverse Creek Rd., Garden Valley, CA 95633-9425