



California Garden Clubs, Inc. **CONSULTANTS eNEWSLETTER**

**NGC Environmental, Gardening &
Landscape Design Consultants**

National Garden Clubs, Inc., Pacific Region

May 2012 Vol. 2-2



Welcome to the CGCI Consultants eNewsletter

The three groups of NGC consultants (Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design) in California are pleased to bring this issue of our joint eNewsletter to you -- all who have subscribed to receive it. All consultants, garden club members and the public are welcome to subscribe. See bottom of eNewsletter for links to manage your subscription (unsubscribe) and to forward the eNewsletter. Please do not forward using your server as the eNewsletter could be construed and reported as spam. If you would like to contribute articles for future newsletters, [click here](#) to send articles to the [Editor](#).

Comments from people across the country about our Consultants eNewsletter:

"I would very much like to receive future e-editions of your newsletter. Receiving this email from you brought back lots of happy memories you provided when the Executive Committee met in California. Thank you."

Shirley Nicolai, President, National Garden Clubs, Inc.

"Vickie Godwin, NCAGC President, forwarded your newsletter to me. As a member of all three councils here in the National Capital Area, and current Landscape Design School Co-Chair, I would like to receive the joint newsletter on a regular basis. Thank you."

Paula Knepper, National Capital Area

"Please add me to the list. Ask Greg Pokorski about sending this issue to each State President, as encouragement for their states to do likewise. It is a superb newsletter! Please, may I share it with the Connecticut Councils? I would love for us to do the same. Congratulations on an excellent eNewsletter!"

Helen Pritchard, Connecticut

"Please add my email address to your list of subscribers. Wish all states would combine their councils--they would get so much more interesting information. Thanks."

Libby Coffey, NGC Multiple Refreshers Chairman

In this Issue:

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Councils' Meetings at 2012 CGCI Convention

Gardening & Landscape Design Consultants will meet during the CGCI Convention at the Doubletree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, as follows (**and all Environmental Consultants are invited to attend**):

- Gardening Consultants Council: Tuesday, June 5, 2012, 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Capital Salon D
- Landscape Design Council: Wednesday, June 6, 2012, 7:30 am to 8:15 am, Maxi's



News from NGC

Q & A - NGC Schools News

By Schools Coordinator [Greg Pokorski](#)

Q: I am the President of the Garden Club Federation of XYZ and this question arises many times. How many refreshers must you attend in Garden Studies, Landscape Design and Environment Studies to obtain your master status in each.

A: It's Gardening (not Garden) Study (not Studies) School - a pet peeve of mine because so many get it wrong. And it is Environmental (not Environment).

Your question is not new, but it is still disconcerting that many people/Consultants apparently do not know this. **The answer is the same for all three schools** - and has been the same answer for many years: **After becoming a Consultant, one must complete four refreshers in order to become a Master Consultant.**

This information is contained in the NGC Handbooks for all three schools, has been publicized a number of times in *The National Gardener*, is available from NGC Schools Committees chairmen, and should be available from State Schools Chairmen. There are at least a couple references to this requirement on the NGC website: LD Form 15 (Mini-Guide for Students and Consultants) and Page 2 of Multiple Refresher Form 1-11. GSS Form 05-21 (Guide for Students and Consultants, the counterpart to LD Form 15) also indicates the requirement to complete four refreshers. These forms are part of the NGC Handbooks. All State Chairmen and anyone chairing a school should have the appropriate Handbook, available from NGC Member Services.

All State Schools Chairmen who are involved in conducting schools or refreshers should be in touch with NGC Accrediting Chairmen who have and share the correct information. I (and other Schools Committees members) encourage that the mini-guides be given to all students at every course - especially at Course I (when there are typically many new students) and at Course IV (when typically many students are becoming Consultants) and to all refreshing Consultants at any school or refresher event.

News from Environmental Consultants

CGCI Environmental Studies School Chairman: [Shane Looper](#)

Invitation to all Environmental Consultants

All NGC Environmental Consultants are welcome to attend the Landscape Design Council & Gardening Consultants Council Meetings. Environmental Consultants who are not members of the Gardening Consultants Council may pay \$5.00 to join the Gardening Consultants Council for the remainder of the 2011-2013 term.



USGS: "Climate Change Projections for California's Bay Delta System: Five Things Resource Managers Should Know"

Excerpt from CGCI Natural Resources Chairman [Dwight Holford](#)'s report at CGCI Winter Board Meeting. [Click here](#) to read full USGS report.

Bay Delta system provides:

1. Essential habitat for aquatic species, including Pacific salmon, steelhead trout, and delta smelt.
2. Irrigation water to millions of acres of farmland that produce crops valued at \$36 billion a year.
3. Water to 25 million people.

Five conclusions:

1. There is uncertainty about how the Bay Delta System will evolve in the future (flexibility and adaptability will be necessary for effective adaption strategies).
2. Today's extremes could become tomorrow's norms.
3. It's not just climate change (it's also land-use change).
4. Biological community changes are inevitable.
5. The challenge of meeting California's water demand will intensify.

Inspired Little Acts Can Change Our World

Reprinted from *Goodhousekeeping Magazine*, March 2012, from P&G [Future Friendly](#) Ad Eat Seasonally - check out your local farmers markets for the best of in-season produce that has been grown nearby. Eating locally grown food is good for the planet and can be a lot more affordable than the alternative.

Skip the Hose, Opt for Rainwater - Gardening with your children is a fun activity, and a small step that can help make the earth greener is to set out rain barrels or any other kind of bucket, to collect rainwater from your roof; then you can use it to water your garden. It will save money on your water bill, too.

Turn Off, Tune In - Dedicate one night a week to TV screen-free entertainment for the whole

family. Enjoy each other's company the old fashioned way -- by playing cards or a board game.



News from Gardening Consultants

Council Officers for 2011-2013 term

Chairman: [Myrtle Findley](#) / Asst. Chairman: [Pat Clayes](#)
Secretary: [Mary Lou Goodwin](#) / Treasurer: [Sue Bennett](#)

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, June 5, 2012, 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm, Capital Salon C, DoubleTree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento. [Click here](#) for the draft agenda.

[Click here](#) to view the draft minutes from the last regular council meeting.
[Click here](#) to view the draft minutes from the April 4, 2012 Special Meeting.

REMINDER: June 3-9 is National Garden Week!

Message from the CGCI Gardening Consultants Council Chairman, [Myrtle Findley](#)

What a winter/spring we are having in Golden Foothills District, especially where I live. As I was growing up I heard farmers say "planting is a gamble." This is one of those years!

How is your garden growing? Do you have a warm 70 degree day, and the next is freezing or even snowing?



This chairman has planted [pelleted carrot seed](#). Found it at Johnny's Seeds. You may look on my Facebook page for pictures of how I make sure every seed germinates. This year with the pelleted seed, I should have the best success ever.

Since I live at 2700 feet and in the northern Sierras, the nights are cool giving tomato plants problems in producing. I found a cold night tomato at Johnny Seeds called *Heirloom tall vine Moskvich*. Planted the seed weeks ago ... have it in the ground surrounded with rice straw waiting for the spring/summer to come. A photo of that will be on my [Facebook page](#). Am eating sugar snap pole peas, tops of my cole crops, spinach, lettuce, dill, etc. and enjoying the early crop. How about you? Let this chairman know what your activities are as a Gardening Consultant!

You can contact Myrtle Findley by [clicking here](#) or telephone Myrtle at 530-346-2450.

Finding the Best Plants

Check out [Sunset Magazine's Plant Finder site](#) to find the best plants for your climate, your yard and your personal gardening style.

News from Gardening Study Schools Chairman

[Greg Pokorski's Report at Winter Board Meeting](#)

Since Fall Board Meeting: Golden Foothills District completed Gardening Study School (GSS) Series 21 in Loomis/Citrus Heights with Course IV in late September. Ten students tested. Eight have completed the series and graduated from Provisional Consultants to become full-fledged Consultants. One Consultant refreshed.

Dos Valles Garden Club in Palomar District presented an excellent Bi-Refresher (GSS and Landscape Design) in late October. Twenty-two, including this chairman, attended. Seven Gardening Consultants refreshed.

Sadly, another 12 Consultants lapsed (despite many reminders and a number of opportunities to refresh) as of 12/31/11 and will be removed from the next CGCI Yearbook. Southern California Garden Club, my club, is sponsoring Series 22. Course I is July 2 & 3, 2012. Course II will be held August 30 & 31, 2012. Course III will take place January 30 & 31, 2013, and the Series will conclude with Course IV on March 28 & 29, 2013.

A full day of schools meetings took place at the National Garden Clubs Fall Board Meeting in late September. Several resulting changes in the schools programs have been reported in *The National Gardener* and *Keeping in Touch*. Changing Environmental Interns to Provisional Consultants was an idea born at one of our California Council meetings. The NGC committees are exploring the possibility of a new text for GSS.

As NGC GSS Chairman, this Chairman keeps busy writing for *The National Gardener* and *Keeping in Touch* and encourages all to read and share these articles.

Message from [Greg Pokorski](#), CGCI & NGC GSS Chairman

Greetings Gardening Consultants,

Remember that you (and Consultants from all NGC Schools) must refresh your certificates at least once every five calendar years in order to avoid a lapse in status. We have ten more Gardening Consultants who will lapse if they do not refresh (or request and receive an extension) by 12/31/2012. Most of these became Consultants at the Santa Rosa school which was completed in 2007 and have never attended a refresher event.

We do have more schools on the horizon - and Consultants may refresh for credit by attending one Course of a School. See information in this newsletter about Series 22 in Encino - with courses being held in July and August. We now have tentative dates for another school to be held in Eureka beginning in October (and continuing next January, April and July). Gardening Study students who are missing one or more classes needed to complete your studies are welcome to use these opportunities to complete your courses. Are you reading your garden club publications? There is an article on Gardening Study Schools in the current (Spring 2012) issue of *Golden Gardens* (pages 18-19). *The National Gardener* has long featured the *Landscape Design Angle* related to Landscape Design School and published news about the other schools from time to time. However, over the last three years there has been a concerted effort to include news about all schools in every issue. There is also news about Gardening Study and other schools in most issues of NGC's *Keeping in Touch*. Club presidents receive that publication by email. Is your president sharing the information with your club? If not, ask.

Please let me know if you have questions about Gardening Study School or about your Consultant status. See you in school.

The New *Sunset Western Garden Book*

The new Ninth Edition represents a major makeover in 768 pages that include many "firsts."

- New climate zone maps
- An all-new Plant Finder section - which lists plants for particular uses including attracting wildlife/pollinators, creating a waterwise, energywise garden or raising edibles.
- Information on the best 9,000 plants in the West (many new).
- Vivid color photographs for all plant groups listed in the encyclopedia.
- An easier-to-use, more visual practical gardening section, Gardening Start to Finish. Everything you need to know to make a garden is here, from starting seeds to using the harvest, and from growing annuals and native plants to perennials, succulents, trees vegetables, wildlife gardens and more. Plus design tips and inspiring color photographs.

Other changes will reveal themselves as you browse:

- Surprising tips and secrets about many of the plants listed. Learn how to combine plants in habitats or communities of different species that belong together.
- Gardening advice geared to climate change and making the most of your microclimate.
- Be resourceful and sustainable by learning to plant natives and smart shade trees, protect wildlife habitat, harvest the rain, avoid chemicals and rely on compost to feed the soil.
- Take your edible gardening to the next level. Edible gardens feature unique heirloom varieties and unusual plants that are easy to cultivate in your own backyard.
- Digital references to Sunset's online how-to-videos and to its new mobile Plant Finder which allows you to search climate zones by zip code.

As with previous editions, this new ninth edition stays true to its core mission: to dispense timely, regional gardening advice.



News from Landscape Design Consultants

Council Officers for 2011-2013 Term

Chairman: Pat Clayes / Asst. Chairman: Myrtle Findley
Secretary: David West / Treasurer: Mary Lou Goodwin

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, June 6, 2012, 7:30 am to 8:15 am, Maxi's, DoubleTree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento. [Click here](#) for the draft agenda.

[Click here](#) for the DRAFT Council Minutes from February 2012.

[Click here](#) to view the DRAFT minutes from the Special April 4, 2012 Meeting.

Message from the Landscape Design Council Chairman, [Pat Clayes](#)

The council now has 85 paid Council members! To see the current list of council members, [click here](#). The council was fortunate to receive many new consultants from the courses held last fall. [Alexis Slafer](#) and [Myrtle Findley](#) were great recruiters. Invitation letters were mailed a few months ago to all new provisional consultants and consultants who took courses last fall who did not previously join the council.



Please continue to submit applications for our council awards. I commend [Mary Lou Goodwin](#) for being the number one consultant (in fact she is a master consultant) who has submitted award applications during my term as your chairman.

Have you read the spring issue of [Newsclapes](#) from NGC? If not, there are two articles from California (written by Alexis Slafer and me) in this issue and an article from me as an NGC LDS Accrediting Chairman. [Click here](#) to read it.

The Council held a special 1 1/2 hour meeting at the Wildflower Conference last month. The purpose of the meeting was to review the bylaws and standing rules. One bylaw amendment was proposed. See further information below regarding this proposed amendment.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws

To be presented for adoption our June 6, 2012 LDC Meeting.

Article IV: Dues and Finances

Sec. 1. The fiscal year shall be from [June 1] July 1 to [May 31] June 30.

Rationale: Same as CGCI

Items in brackets to be deleted / items underlined to be inserted.

Awards

Recent Award of Merit Approved by Council Members:

- [Jack Dangermond](#), Landscape Architect for the campus grounds of the [Esri Corporate Headquarters](#), 380 New York Street, Redlands - recommended by Landscape Design Consultant [Pat Clayes](#).

Recent Landscape Design Commendations Approved by Council Members:

- Dr. Rollin C. Richmond, President, [Humboldt State University](#) - recommended by Master Landscape Design Consultant [Mary Lou Goodwin](#).
- Doug Kokesh, Plant Operations, Ground and Landscape Manager, Humboldt State University - recommended by Master Landscape Design Consultant [Mary Lou Goodwin](#).
- Traci Ferdolage, Director of Facilities, Planning and Design, Humboldt State University - recommended by Master Landscape Design Consultant [Mary Lou Goodwin](#).



- Jack and Laura Dangermond (owners of Esri) for the campus grounds of the Esri Corporate Headquarters, 380 New York Street, Redlands. See photo to right of the newest building to be added to the Esri Campus - recommended by Landscape Design Consultant Pat Clayes.
- Pete Kight, Owner, Quivira Vineyard & Winery - recommended by Master Landscape Design Consultant Mary Lou Goodwin.



Awards to be Presented During CGCI Convention Tour on Tuesday, June 5, 2012:

Landscape Design Commendation: Kathleen Socolofsky, Director, Arboretum, University of California, Davis - recommended by Master Landscape Design Consultant Mary Lou Goodwin. [Click here](#) for the registration form to register for the tour. If you are not going on the tour, please stop by the Arboretum on your way to or from the CGCI Convention in Sacramento. [Click here](#) for driving directions.



All LD consultants are urged to recommend recipients for these awards to the Council for consideration. [Click here](#) for more information and application forms.

- **Landscape Design Commendation** - Awarded to individuals and groups by the CGCI Landscape Design Council for good land use. The Commendation may be presented at any CGCI, club or district meeting (please allow at least one month for processing). A council member must recommend nominee, but others may propose candidates to council members.
- **Award of Merit in Landscape Architecture** - Awarded to landscape architects by the CGCI Landscape Design Council in recognition of excellence in land use on a commercial, public or residential project. Award may be given at any CGCI, club or district meeting (allow at least one month for processing). A council member must recommend nominee, but others may propose candidates to council members.
- **Certificate of Appreciation, Recognition and/or Achievement** - May be given to an individual or group who is neither a LD Consultant or landscape architect but has demonstrated outstanding skill in managing land use or has enthusiastically supported the Landscape Design Program of CGCI/NGC. These Certificates may be given at the discretion of the LDC Chairman or upon the written recommendation of any consultant.

Why Landscape Design School?

By Barbara Shepard, Garden Club of Ohio, LDS
Reprinted from Spring 2012 *Newsclapes*

Many people ask me, "What benefits will I get from this course?"

- An in-depth study of landscape design.
- A comprehensive understanding for creating and evaluating your own landscape.
- Insights to help with design for your club's civic projects.
- Skills to judge completed landscapes for awards and contests.
- Knowledge to assist with the preparation of landscape council award application forms.*

- Confidence to serve as guardians and consultants of land use and outdoor beauty.
- Ideas to present landscape design presentations to instruct and encourage others in good landscape practice.
- Knowledge to serve and assist on civic boards for parks, tree commissions, planning, and zoning.
- After passing two courses, an invitation to become a provisional member of a Landscape Design Consultant Council which enables you to: attend special educational programs presented by professionals; tour public and private gardens, practice evaluation of landscape designs; support profession of landscape design through scholarships.**
- Most of all, fun and life-long friendships with wonderful like-minded people.

*Wording modified to fit CGCI's LDC award process.

**California LDC does not currently give scholarships.

Conservation of Rare Native Plants in Your Landscape

by [Donna Thomas](#), Conservation Feature Editor for *Golden Gardens*

Several of California's best known native plants have a restricted range and are threatened or endangered in their native habitat. In the past these native plants were abundant; but, due to urban growth, agricultural development and other impacts, many natural plant communities have been eliminated or drastically altered. One of the most important reasons to landscape in our home gardens and communities using native plants is to repair some of the habitat loss and habitat alteration by developing landscape plantings that conserve threatened and endangered species. "Nativescaping" or "wildscaping" are terms sometimes used to describe the use of native plants in our home and commercial landscape plantings.

These forms of landscaping lessen the impacts of habitat loss by preserving and conserving as much of the indigenous plant community as possible. They also provide connectivity between our residential areas and natural areas that are near our property by helping to create corridors of native plants.



Three native plants that are part of our natural heritage and that have been subject to near extirpation (defined as local extinction) in some places include Nevin's barberry (*Mahonia nevinii* - sometimes also listed as *Berberis nevinii*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) and bush anemone (*Carpenteria californica*). [Nevin's Barberry](#) (see photo by Chris Wagner, San Bernardino National Forest) is a rare endemic plant that is now federally listed as an endangered species. It has been practically eliminated from most of its original natural range. However, due to the ability of California propagators, many crosses and cultivars of native

barberry species have been developed. Nevin's Barberry is an adaptable shrub that does well in most California gardens. It can be planted as a specimen plant or used as a barrier or security plant because of its prickly holly shaped leaves. It has prolific fragrant yellow flowers in spring with red berrylike fruits that develop later in the season. It provides excellent songbird habitat.

Hollywood was known and named for toyons. The toyon was once abundant in the hills of Southern California. It bears a resemblance to European holly. It is adaptable, easy to grow, and is a beautiful shrub and wildlife habitat plant for the garden.

Bush anemone is a very showy flowering evergreen shrub with slightly fragrant camellia-like white flowers with yellow centers. Despite losing much of its native territory, it has a long history of cultivation. It was grown in England as early as 1880.

Arboretums, nature centers, botanical gardens and native plant societies often sponsor seasonal native plant sales where rare but wonderful natives can be purchased to plant in your garden. Look for these specialized sales. Wholesale growers, such as [Las Pilitas Nursery](#) and [El Nativo Growers](#), now propagate natives in large quantities to meet the growing demand for home and commercial landscaping. Check their websites. The three natives listed above can be found among plants being offered for sale on wholesalers' availability lists. Perhaps your garden club will obtain a re-sale certificate or seller's permit from the California Board of Equalization, or work with another organization that has a seller's permit, so that you can sponsor a sale to make these rare native plants available for your local gardens and communities. Help conserve our natural heritage. Celebrate a rare plant by planting it in your own garden.

Back to School - Schools & Refreshers

Gardening Study Schools

Series 22 - Location: Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino. Sponsor: Southern California Garden Club. Chairman: [Robin Pokorski](#)

Course I: July 2-3, 2012 / Course II: August 30-31, 2012

Course III: January 30-31, 2013 / Course IV: March 28-29, 2013

[Click here](#) for registration form for Course I

TO BE RATIFIED AT CONVENTION:

Series 23 - Location: University of California Agriculture Extension Building, 5630 South Broadway, Eureka, CA 95503. Chairman: [Mary Lou Goodwin](#)

Course I: October 12-13, 2012 / Course II: January 4-5, 2013

Course III: April 5-6, 2013 / Course IV: July 12-13, 2013

[Click here](#) for flyer for Course 1

Check the [NGC website](#) for courses in other states.

Contacts

Environmental Studies School Chairman: [Shane Looper](#)

Gardening Consultants Council Chairman: [Myrtle Findley](#)

Gardening Studies School Chairman: [Greg Pokorski](#)

Landscape Design Council Chairman: [Patricia Claves](#)

Landscape Design Study School Chairman: [Alexis Slafer](#)

CGCI eNewsletter Editor: [Patricia Claves](#)

California Garden Clubs, Inc.

a member of [Pacific Region,
National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)

[Julie A. West](#), CGCI President 2011-2013

www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org

Email: cagardenclubs@aol.com

Toll Free Number: 888-702-2075

