



# COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL  
Published since 2013

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

## Chairman's Message

CGCI's California Consultants Council, formed in 2013, is proud to present its first refresher event. NGC's Multiple Refresher Chairman approved the proposed agenda of programs and tours in November. Attached to this eNewsletter is the flyer with details including registration form. Please note that you must register for both the tri-refresher and separately for the Convention and tour to attend and complete all eight hours required. The June 6 convention tour to Forest Lawn Memorial Park promises to be fabulous as does the June 9 tram tour of Descanso Gardens. The instructors for the three one-hour lectures scheduled are working on their outlines as this goes to press. This tri-refresher is open to everyone and is an opportunity for Garden, Landscape Design and Environmental Consultants to refresh their credentials. We hope you will join us to learn how *Together Our Choices Matter*.

Please remit your nomination for Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultant of the Year awards. The deadline has been extended to February 10, 2014.

Membership in the CCC has grown since the last issue of the *Council Thymes*. We welcome eleven new members for a total of 47 CCC members to date. Not a member? The 2013-2015 Council Dues form is included for your convenience. We look forward to seeing you at the CCC meeting scheduled for CGCI's Winter Board Meeting.

## Next Meeting



The next CCC meeting will be held at the CGCI Winter Board Meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Glendale on Thursday, February 13 at 8:00 p.m. in Salon I and II. Discussion of the Tri-

Refresher will be on the agenda. Your input is invaluable to the success of the CCC. We hope to see you there!

All are welcome to attend the Council meeting.

## Member News

By Shane Looper, Council Treasurer

### We're glad you've joined us!

Current Membership: 47

Pay your council dues so we can keep  
this number growing!

## NGC Schools News

By Greg Pokorski, NGC ES, GS, and LD Schools Coordinator



Make a world of difference to your members, your clubs and your communities by planning schools and refresher events.

Effective January 1, 2014, the **NGC requirement to collect *The National Gardener* labels** for all NGC school courses and refreshers **is eliminated**. This does not change the requirement to subscribe to and read *The National Gardener*, the official source of news about our school programs.

## A Free Mini-Greenhouse

By Lee Bathgate, NGC Gardening Consultant



Save that large clear plastic lettuce box and lid you get at the market or Costco. It makes a great "mini greenhouse." After cleaning, punch or burn several holes in the bottom of the box for drainage. Soak a block of

floral foam and cut into 1" x 1-1/2" cubes. You may use as many as you wish or cover the bottom of the box. If you prefer mix equal parts peat and perlite and moisten. Firm 1' to 1- 1/2" into the bottom. Now prepare the cuttings of the plants you wish to propagate. Cuttings of most plants should be 2" to 4" long. A cutting much longer will lose too much vigor in the long stem. Plant material should be of firm strength, either dormant material in winter or mature growth later in the season. Cut just below a node

(where a leaf grew). Plant one or more nodes above and below the planting level, depending on the spacing between the nodes. Remove all leaves except the top two or three. If the leaves are large, you might cut them in half to prevent too much moisture loss. If you are doing a large number of cuttings, it is advantageous to prepare them all at once and drop them into a container of water. This will prevent wilting of the cuttings before you get them planted. Dip the bottom tip of the cutting into a rooting hormone such as "Rootone." Make a hole in each oasis block or in the soil mix with a knitting needle, chopstick, etc. and insert the cutting to about 1/3 to 1/2 its length. Be careful not to rub the hormone off the tip. After your cuttings are inserted, replace the lid on the box snugly. Make a label with the name of each kind of material and the date. Some cuttings may root in a couple of weeks. Some may take 6 months, so be patient. Place in a warm lit place but not in direct sun. Open the box weekly to let in fresh air and add water if needed. A diluted solution of "Superthrive" may encourage rooting. You may give a few gentle tugs to see if they are rooting. Some resistance is a good sign, but don't pull them out. You should soon see some white roots growing from the sides and bottom of the oasis blocks. Then it is time to put the cuttings and oasis into 4" pots of soil. Cover the oasis blocks with soil to prevent drying out. Plants in soil can carefully be teased out and planted the same. Protect the plantings for a few days in a bright area. When you see new growth appearing, gradually move them to brighter light and fertilize as needed to promote growth. Not all cuttings may be ready to plant out at the same time but you should be rewarded with plants for your garden or containers and maybe some to share with your club or neighbors. What is better than "Plants for Free"?

### CCC Awards Reminder



#### LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Certificate may be awarded to an individual  
*Sponsor: California Consultants Council*  
 Submit recommendations by February 10 to California Consultants Council Chairman, Julie West  
 The Landscape Design Consultant of the Year may be awarded annually at the CGCI Convention to a Consultant

or Master Landscape Design Consultant in recognition of non-professional achievement, involvement and/or service as a landscape design consultant in either the community or the NGC Landscape Design program.

#### GARDENING CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Certificate may be awarded to an individual  
*Sponsor: California Consultants Council*  
 Submit recommendations by February 10 to California Consultants Council Chairman, Julie West  
 The Gardening Consultant of the Year may be awarded annually at the CGCI Convention to a Consultant or Master Gardening Consultant in recognition of non-professional achievement, involvement and/or service as a gardening consultant in either the community or the NGC Gardening Study program.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Certificate may be awarded to an individual  
*Sponsor: California Consultants Council*  
 Submit recommendations by February 10 to California Consultants Council Chairman, Julie West  
 The Environmental Consultant of the Year may be awarded annually at the CGCI Convention, to a Consultant or Master Environmental Consultant in recognition of non-professional achievement, involvement and/or service as an environmental consultant in either the community or the NGC Environmental Studies program.

### NABA's Butterfly Garden Certification Program

By Julie A. West, NGC NABA Liaison and 4-Star Member



A butterfly garden supplies food and shelter for all stages of a butterfly's life. Providing larval plants for caterpillars, nectar plants for a variety of adult butterflies and half a day's worth of sun are the basic elements of a butterfly garden.

As part of their butterfly garden and habitat program, the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) has developed a Butterfly Garden Certification program. When you certify your butterfly garden with NABA you demonstrate your commitment to promoting habitat for butterflies as well as other pollinators. In the five years since its inception, NABA's Butterfly Garden Certification program has attracted more than 900 people interested in increasing habitat for butterflies. Posting a NABA butterfly garden certification sign as depicted in photo helps to open conversations about the importance of butterfly habitat and increase public awareness about the needs of butterflies. To join NABA's Butterfly Garden Certification program, you need to meet the following requirements:

- Caterpillars require specific host plants for growth. A minimum of three different caterpillar food plants native to your location must be grown, preferably more than one plant of each selected species.
- Butterflies require nectar for energy and reproduction. At least three different native butterfly nectar sources must be grown, preferably more than one plant of each selected species.

- Management of butterfly gardens/habitats is similar to practices used for general gardening. Good management of your garden/habitat will improve the quality of the soil, air and habitat for butterflies as well as other wildlife. Mulching around garden plants to conserve moisture and decrease erosion, eliminating pesticides/herbicides since the use of pesticides can kill butterflies as well as other important pollinators, water conservation techniques, choosing plant species native to your location and eliminating invasive plant species, are all garden/habitat management techniques that improve the likelihood that your garden will thrive and provide an inviting butterfly habitat. NOTE: Reporting of your garden/habitat management methods is optional for certification.

Visit NABA's website at [www.naba.org](http://www.naba.org) to download the Butterfly Garden Certification application or apply for garden certification online. A certification fee of \$15 is required for each individual garden, \$25 for an institution garden. Upon completion, you will receive a NABA Butterfly Garden and Habitat Certificate (suitable for framing) along with the most recent issue of NABA's publication, *Butterfly Gardener*. Once certified, the outdoor Certified Butterfly Garden sign is optional for \$25 and is available only to those applying for garden certification. NABA butterfly garden certification is valid for five years. NABA encourages everyone to plant a garden that will enrich the native habitat for butterflies and other important pollinators. No matter how small your location, it can help provide important butterfly habitat. By starting out with a few basic butterfly garden plants, everyone can certify a butterfly garden regardless where they live or how much garden space they have. It is that easy!

### **Success in the Landscape Design Process**

*By Alexis Slafer, Landscape Design Schools Chairman*

Design is as individualistic as the person who does the design. Landscape design combines the elements of art & science to create a functional, aesthetically pleasing design, often acting as a link or an extension of indoor living to the outdoors.

The elements and principles of design are the means through which a designer evaluates the effectiveness and success of a project. The elements and principles act as the tools and guidelines for developing the design.

One purpose of landscape design is to blend the buildings into the natural surroundings. The elements of design (color, line, form, texture, and scale) are never used independently of each other. The

elements (unity, balance, transition, focalization, proportion, rhythm, repetition, and simplicity) are the tools used in combination to adjust the design principles. These principles interact to create the intended design.

#### Steps in Developing a Landscape Design –

First visualize your design to scale on paper. It is important to think with drawings and sketches so your mistakes are made on paper, not in reality -- on the landscape site.

1. Develop a plot plan
2. Conduct a site analysis
3. Assess client needs and wishes
4. Locate activity areas
5. Design activity areas
6. Design planting (selection & placement of materials)

A systematic approach should be taken in landscape design. First determine the objective of your design and then establish the general type of plan, whether it should be formal or natural.

Consider balance or imbalance. Imbalance is uncomfortable & not desirable.

- *Symmetrical balance* - Formal & has bi-lateral symmetry or is identical on each side
- *Asymmetrical balance* - Informal & equal weights on each side, but not exactly the same
- *Radial balance* - Works in a circular pattern from a center point

#### Order and Unity

Order and unity are emotional and visual reactions to the overall organization of the design elements within the existing site conditions. It is the organization and structure of a design, acting as the basic scheme or "skeleton" of the design. Order might be achieved by symmetrical or asymmetrical balance or by having a formal or natural arrangement.



Unity is the harmonious relationship among all the elements and characteristics of a design; established by staying simple and minimizing differences. Too many components and materials and the complex use of elements create competitiveness and the resulting lack of integration within the design prevents unity.

#### Address the Design Requirements

1. Plan for structural needs (buildings & their uses)
2. Consider land forms (slopes, erosion, flat areas, cliffs)
3. Determine traffic flow (vehicular, service, pedestrian, entrance, parking; including transitions and linkages)
4. Consider the public area (which is different from the client's needs), including:
  - Adjacencies to other properties (screening or enhancing views)
  - Entrance area (including traffic flow, linking the outside areas to the site)
  - Landscape face to neighbors
  - Comfortable access and "way-finding" to the entrance

The design should consider areas with a feeling of privacy and comfort, as well as provide limited exposure for security. A private area might be for reading or meditation that might be next to a building or in an isolated corner of the landscape.

#### Traffic Flow and Circulation

When designing for traffic flow and circulation each unit on the site should be part of the whole and contribute to the overall circulation pattern. Circulation refers to the movement of people's eyes (towards a focal point) and then their bodies follow through a specific pattern in the landscape.

#### Definition & Separation of Areas

A designer should clearly define and separate the activity areas once the ideas for their design have been determined. Sometimes space between areas or objects act in this way, other times a fence or plant materials will do. Consider a visual screen that can be added without creating an actual physical barrier. Often plant materials can provide an inexpensive screen, adding both color & interest.

#### Summary

Remember, every design a designer creates is unique. Using the basic principles of landscape design will ensure the creation of a functional and beautiful garden and landscape.

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### **Council Thymes**

This is YOUR newsletter, everyone is encouraged to submit articles of interest to the editor on any subject of horticulture, landscape design or environmental topics.

Series 24 of Gardening Study School concluded with Course IV in Nevada City in October. Thanks and congratulations to Colfax Garden Club and Local Chairman Myrtle Findley for making it happen.

Thanks to the conclusion of that school, we have six new Gardening Consultants:

Anne Barrett	Krystal Migliore
Ilene Herringer	Susan Quilici
Lynn MacFarland	Barbara Todd

And 10 new Provisional Gardening Consultants:

Erin Angulo	Maddy Deaton
Cathi Barber	Renee Deaton
Jo Cleaver	Deborah Gilcrest
Stephanie Curin	Stephanie Gunton
Jeff Deaton	Mary Schueler

Congratulations to all the new Consultants and Provisional Consultants and thank you for supporting our schools and the local chairmen and sponsoring organizations who expend so much effort to make each school series an informative, interesting and useful educational opportunity for all involved.

Unfortunately, these Gardening Consultants did not refresh on a timely basis and therefore lapsed as of 12/31/13:

Kay Burdick, Channel Islands District  
 Michael Habib, Palomar District  
 Rosalie Hooper, Valley Lode District  
 Maryanne Lucas, Channel Islands District  
 Arlene Rauen, Greater Los Angeles District  
 Cathy Rios, Cascade District  
 Doris Rivas-Brekke, Palomar District

CGCI had a frenzy of Gardening Study School activity in 2012 and 2013 with twelve courses (three complete series) taking place over a 16-month period – almost too much activity in a short timeframe for some of us involved in the administration of the program. But sadly there are no further schools currently scheduled. Which club or district will be next to sponsor this worthwhile program? Please contact this chairman for information about how to proceed.

With no further schools scheduled, the only refresher opportunity now scheduled in 2014 in California for Gardening Consultants is the CGCI Convention Tri-Refresher in Glendale in June. The following Consultants must refresh or request and be granted extensions in 2014 or their Gardening Consultant status will lapse as of 12/31/14:

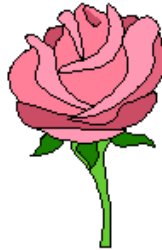
BJ Boland	Geneva Martin
Patricia Clayes	Arthur Loesch
Michelyn Devine	Nancy Lee Loesch
Kris Ethington	Paddee Neff
Kay Havens	Lyndsay Pasarow

Many of the above completed Series 20, sponsored by Orange County District, which completed in 2009, and have never refreshed (Consultants must refresh at least once by the end of the fifth calendar year after their last course or refresher). Perhaps Orange County District can encourage them to refresh in Glendale in June and/or consider sponsoring a local refresher event so that we do not lose these Consultants from our ranks.

### ***This Spud's for You***



For easy rooting of rose cuttings, stick the end into a potato and then plant it, potato and all.



### ***Recycling Ideas***



Recycling a plastic bottle to create a sub-irrigated system, in which the plants are watered from below rather than above.

1. Drill several holes in the neck of the bottle just below the mouth. This will be for drainage.
2. Cut the bottle cross-wise approximately 2/3 the way from the mouth.
3. Insert a wad of cotton in the mouth of the bottle. The cotton serves as a wick that will allow water to soak up.
4. Turn the bottle mouth upside down and fill with soil, leaving approximately half an inch from the opening.
5. Fit the mouth snugly into the bottom part of the bottle.
6. Fill the base with ¼ inch of water.
7. Fit the soil-filled bottle top upside down into the base. The cotton wick should touch the water.
8. Plant a few seeds or a small plant into the soil.

Linda Nelson, NGC President, has made environmental issues a priority for her term "making a world of difference – choices matter." Both state and club grants are available and awards will be given.

One of her projects is "BeeGAP: the Mason Bee Project", a partnership with Crown Bees to learn more about Mason Bees and how we can encourage them in our gardens. They are non-aggressive and excellent pollinators and through this program we can participate in growth of this new resource.

BeeGAP stands for "Bee Gardener Adding Pollinators". It is to encourage gardeners to change their yards into bee havens and a garden oasis. This can be for use in your own garden or to nurture bees that can be sold through a buy-back program and provided to farmers for commercial use.

Some facts about Mason Bees:

- Highly energetic, pollinates 99.7% of flower parts.
- Pollinates 100 times more than honeybees.
- Lands with a "belly flop" for efficient pollination of about 2,000 blossoms per day.
- Non-competitive with other pollinators.
- Gentle, friendly: no swarming, rarely stings and doesn't mind human observation.
- Solitary: does not need social network.
- No honey production.
- Native to California.
- Life span 6 to 8 weeks.

For more information contact Debbie Skow at [d.sk.1159@gmail.com](mailto:d.sk.1159@gmail.com) or go to [www.crownbees.com](http://www.crownbees.com)

### ***School Daze***

#### **Landscape Design Schools**

October 23-24, Course I, Santa Rosa  
Contact: Mary Ann Swanson,  
707-762-3118 [emswanson@comcast.net](mailto:emswanson@comcast.net)  
See flyer attached.

Course II, April 23-24, 2015  
Course III, October 22-23, 2015  
Course IV, April 28-29, 2016

### ***Calendar of Events***

Feb 13 CCC Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Glendale  
June 6, 9 Tri-Refresher (held in conjunction with the CGCI Convention in Glendale) – flyer attached

Deadline for next issue: April 25, 2014