



COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL
Published since 2013

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

Chairman's Message

The May 10, 2014 deadline to register for the June CCC Tri-Refresher is rapidly approaching. Our first refresher event promises to be educational, **exciting** and fun! Whether you are a Landscape Design, Gardening or Environmental Consultant, this is your opportunity to refresh your credentials. Please join us to learn how *Together Our Choices Matter* by completing the Registration form and NGC Multiple Refresher form 2-14 attached to this issue.

Do you have suggestions and/or ideas for future CCC events and/or educational opportunities? If so, we want to hear from you! Please feel free to contact this chairman or any officer of the CCC to share your suggestions or ideas.

Look forward to seeing you at the next CCC meeting at the Glendale Hilton on June 8 as well as the Tri-Refresher event.

Next Meeting



The next CCC meeting will be held at the CGCI Convention at the Hilton Hotel in Glendale on Sunday, June 8 at 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. in Salon VI. 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!

Consultant News

Eileen Fiumara, former Gardening Consultants Council Chairman, passed away in March. Eileen was a superb horticulturist and her passion and enthusiasm for all things garden-y and floral design-y will be greatly missed.

School Daze

Landscape Design Schools

October 23-24, Course I, Santa Rosa
Contact: Mary Ann Swanson,
707-762-3118 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

June 6 & 9 Tri-Refresher (held in conjunction with the CGCI Convention in Glendale) – flyer attached
June 8 CCC Meeting, 4:45 p.m., Salon VI

Council Officers

Chairman: Julie West, JulieAWest@aol.com
Secretary: Pat Clayes, PatClayes@aol.com
Treasurer: Shane Looper, Slopper@sbcglobal.net
Parliamentarian:
Greg Pokorski, GregPokorski@earthlink.net
Vice Chairmen:
Environmental Consultants:
Dave West, JDavidWest@aol.com
Gardening Consultants:
Carole Lung, CKLung@verizon.net
Landscape Consultants:
Josie Goodenow, JosieGoodenow@wildblue.net

By Jill Coleman

Talk about APHIDS! This spring (as in springs of yesteryear), I had a terrible infestation of aphids on my *scabiosa* plants. I have a couple of large areas with *scabiosa* and every single plant had aphids along about 3-5 inches of the stem (GROSS!). Anyway, I also happened to notice a few lady bugs on the plants and even better, the lady bug larvae (nymphs). Both the lady bug and the larvae love to feast on aphids and the larvae have even more voracious appetites than the adults. At any rate, I decided to leave well enough alone for about a week and see if these little bugs were up to the task of such a large infestation. Sure enough, about one week later there was not an aphid in sight!! This is one reason that I rarely use any kind of chemical pesticide in the garden because, as we all know, these pesticides kill the good bugs as well as the bad...and if you want to attract the good bugs (and the birds), you have to provide a little something for them to eat. The lady bug lays its eggs on the underside of a leaf near a food source. The eggs look like tiny yellow jelly beans, they hatch into nymphs which eat until they pupate (forming the pupa) which again becomes a lady bug. Following is a picture of the lady bug larvae in case you are not familiar with it. They vary somewhat depending on the type of lady bug, but are all very similar in appearance.



Left is the pupa stage which looks like a dried up lady bug. Don't disturb it for it turns into the adult and the cycle starts all over again.

Another garden helper in the plant-sucking insect department is the hover fly (flower fly or serphid fly); they are tiny, bee-like but harmless, and hover like tiny helicopters above infested plants. Their larvae, which resemble tiny worm-like caterpillars are also the ones with the big appetites. The hover fly is the picture at the right.



By Myrtle Findley, Home Grown Chairman

HOME GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD HT-4
\$50; \$30; \$20 to Individuals



Let garden clubs know earlypass the word:

Spring is the time to start! Take those photos before to show the whole plot plan, and what you plan to do. It makes for a better Book of Evidence. Plan ahead.

Yard-Garden Jewel Certificate Program

By Mary Lou Goodwin, Eureka Sequoia GC

The Eureka Sequoia Garden Club Front Yard-Garden Jewel Certificate program has been running for 16 months. Ten winners each month. We have evaluated 6000 homes and have judged about 90% of the city. Now we will start in the adjoining county homes. Twenty-two (22) garden club members have learned to appreciate the landscapes by being on the judging committee. We receive a full page of our pictures and descriptions once each month in the local newspaper.

The club has increased from 15 to 50 members all because of our interest in landscape design.

So the CGCI educational schools really can help to increase club membership.

Huntington Beach's Approach to Water Conservation

By Carole Lung, Vice-Chairman, Gardening Consultants



The City of Huntington Beach is taking an active stand on water conservation. The Shipley Nature Center offers free workshops on installing and using rain barrels. The nature center has water-wise gardens featuring native plants and plants that flourish with small amounts of water. They sell water-wise plants which helps to fund the center. The nature center's director organizes volunteers and local clubs that make up an army of folks that plant, weed and care for the gardens. Occasionally the city provides assistance with projects that require heavy work. The nature center serves as a resource not only for Huntington Beach but for citizens in Orange County.

The City of Huntington Beach (HB) offers:

-  Free Rainwater Harvesting Classes along with rebates for purchasing rain barrels
-  Free California friendly landscape classes

By Greg Pokorski, GSS Chairman

 Golden West College located in HB maintains a wonderful California Native Garden open to the public

The HB website contains information on irrigation, including reference sources for manufacturers and a rebate program for purchase of rain barrels.

Search for additional ideas: Huntington Beach Water Conservation. For Northern California check your local water agencies or UC Davis water conservation.

Don't Wait Until the Last Minute (Year) to Refresh

By Greg Pokorski, NGC Schools Coordinator

All NGC Consultants (from all NGC Schools) must refresh their certificates by the end of the fifth calendar year following the completion of their last course or refresher in order to maintain good standing. However, they may refresh as often as once each calendar year. Each refresher for which credit is received pushes your good standing date forward. Refresher due dates are updated annually and listed in the CGCI *Yearbook, Manual & Roster* (all club presidents and all CGCI board members have a copy). You can also check your status by contacting the State School Chairman for the school in question.

Because schools and refreshers may not be available every year, Consultants who wish to maintain good standing are strongly encouraged to refresh whenever an opportunity presents itself. Too many Consultants do not refresh when they can, saying "I do not have to refresh this year," then wind up in their fifth year, on the verge of lapsing, without a scheduled refresher opportunity. Don't let that happen to you.

Consultants who complete four refreshers in any NGC school become Master Consultants in that school. There are a couple of incentives to become a Master. If you are a Consultant in more than one school, becoming a Master in each school allows you to receive simultaneous multiple credit for each school when attending an NGC Multiple Refresher. Additionally, Master Consultants never have to allow their Consultant status to lapse. If a Master Consultant is unable to continue refreshing by the end of the fifth calendar year after the last refresher she/he is eligible to request Emeritus status rather than just letting their credential lapse.

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. Send articles to Robin Pokorski, RobinP@juno.com. Deadline for next issue: July 20, 2014.

Gardening Study Schools wanted! We need a club or district (or more than one) to develop and sponsor CGCI's next series of Gardening Study Schools. This can be a wonderful team experience, providing interesting and useful information to your members and to the public (perhaps bringing you some new members and raising some funds). Contact this chairman for information.

With no Gardening Study Schools currently scheduled, **the only refresher opportunity for Gardening Consultants now scheduled in 2014 in California is the CGCI Convention Tri-Refresher in Glendale in June.** This chairman is pleased to see that 15 of the 25 already signed up to attend the Tri-Refresher will be refreshing their Gardening Consultant Certificates. However, this chairman is sorry to note that only three of the Gardening Consultants who must refresh in 2014 are signed up for this refresher.

The following Consultants must attend the June Tri-Refresher or attend a Refresher in another state or request and be granted an extension in 2014 or their Gardening Consultant status will lapse as of 12/31/14:

Michelyn Devine	Nancy Lee Loesch
Kris Ethington	Paddee Neff
Kay Havens	Lyndsay Pasarow
Jack Jewell	Jane Strait
Chris Lutz	Jean Van Derford
Arthur Loesch	

Tri-Refresher Event June 6 & 9, Glendale

By Robin Pokorski, Tri-Refresher Registrar

The CCC's first major activity is the sponsorship of a Tri-Refresher at the 2014 CGCI Convention to be held on June 6 and 9. Join us in Glendale and refresh your school credentials! Contact the school chairman for information or to verify your current status.

To be eligible to refresh, you must attend the bus tour to Forest Lawn on Friday, June 6 and the full day of lectures and tours on Monday, June 9.

Schools Information

By Greg Pokorski, NGC Schools Coordinator

Keep up to date with news about NGC schools. Look for information in each issue of *The National Gardener* and *Keeping in Touch*.

You may ONLY refresh in multiple schools if you are a Master in that school.

To register, complete the registration form and form 2-14, sign up for convention (at least the bus tour) and enjoy a super line-up of instructors and tours!

Here's a picture of Descanso Gardens taken by Alexis Slafer.



Landscape Design Schools

By Alexis Slafer, LD Schools Chairman

California Garden Clubs, Inc. Landscape Design Schools were fairly quiet during 2013. But the Landscape Design Consultants were very busy with their Landscape Design Council. While it took quite some time...actually over 12 years of proposals, discussions and pondering... CGCI consultants have formed the California Consultants Council. This new council merged the Gardening and Landscape Design Councils and includes environmental, gardening, and landscape design consultants. Of course a lot of discussion revolved around the creation and approval of the new bylaws that will govern the council.

"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 Studies Schools, Gardening Study Schools, Landscape Design Schools and refreshers." We have 47 charter members and are looking forward to that number increasing and developing into an enthusiastic, productive, supportive and fun council.

With this copy, the CCC has now published the third issue of its newsletter, *Council Thymes*. This primarily electronic newsletter will be the main method of meeting our goal of increased communication; with announcements and articles of interest to all three groups of consultants. As an example, the first issue announced that in addition to the already established Gardening Consultant of the Year and the Landscape Design Consultant of the Year Awards, the CCC has created a new award for the Environmental

Consultant of the Year. As a LD Consultant you can nominate a Consultant for the Landscape Design Consultant of the Year Award. Don't you know someone who would be a worthy recipient?! These awards are presented annually at the CGCI Annual Convention.

Luther Burbank District in northern California is currently planning our next LD School -- Series 26, with the first course scheduled for October 23-24, 2014, in Santa Rosa. Courses II and III will be held on April 23-24 and October 22-23, 2015, respectively, and will be followed by Course IV on April 28-29, 2016.

Check out the CGCI website, CAGardenClubs.com, for more information about the CCC, the Landscape Design Schools, or any of these events.

National Garden Week June 1 – 7, 2014

By Julie A. West, NGC 4-Star Member

As a Consultant, plan an exciting event to celebrate National Garden Week in your community! Here are some possibilities to explore...

- Sponsor a hands-on "How Do You Select Flowers/Shrubs for Your Garden?" workshop at a local nursery.
- Select a manageable blighted area with the cooperative efforts of another group and beautify it together.
- Have some of your members conduct a garden tour that week - include a water-wise garden, a vegetable garden, a native plant garden - just to name a few.
- Sponsor a "water-wise" event at the public library and include tips in addition to drought-tolerant plants and California natives.

Whatever you do, publicize the activity so you get maximum visibility of the garden club, the benefits of being a member and as an NGC Consultant. Utilize the education you received by becoming a Consultant, whether it is Environmental, Gardening or Landscape.



Visit NGC's website, gardenclub.org/projects/ongoing-projects/national-garden-week.aspx to download the National Garden Week Proclamation. You may also download National Garden Week poster.