



# COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL  
Published since 2013

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

## Chairman's Message

Following the successful launching of the CCC in the last term by sponsoring a tri-refresher, CCC members-only tour and workshop, what would you like to see the CCC do in the 2015-2017 term? Your suggestions and ideas are welcome so please don't be shy.

It has been a busy summer with several CCC certificates issued that you can read about on the last page. Please remember applications are limited to four (4) pages including captioned photographs and we need both an electronic copy followed by a hard copy sent by U.S. mail. Allow a minimum of four weeks for processing time including approval.

It is an honor to continue to serve as the CCC Chairman. We hope you will join us at our next meeting scheduled at CGCI's Fall Board meeting in Concord!

## The ABCs of NGC Schools

By Julie West, CCC Chairman

The CCC hosted a workshop at CGCI's convention in Reno, NV held June 10, 2015. Greg Pokorski, Gardening Study Schools; Alexis Slafer, Landscape Design Schools and Julie West (with vocal assistance from Robin Pokorski) comprised the panel to answer questions from 20 attendees interested in sponsoring any of the three disciplines that comprise the CCC. We will know the workshop's success when a new Environmental Studies, Gardening Study or Landscape Design School begins. We hope all districts consider hosting one of these three schools as it brings comradery among members of the host district as well as among those who attend the school. Don't miss this inexpensive educational opportunity!



## Next Meeting



The next CCC meeting will be held at the CGCI Fall Board Meeting at the Hilton in Concord on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 8:15 p.m. in Club Room 1. Your input is invaluable to the success of the CCC. We hope to see you there!

All are welcome to attend the Council meeting.

## 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 Julie West, CCC Chairman by **December 15, 2015**.

## 2015 - 2017 Council Officers

Chairman: Julie West, [julieawest@aol.com](mailto:julieawest@aol.com)  
Secretary: Judy Powers, [judyap45@yahoo.com](mailto:judyap45@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer: Shane Looper, [Slooper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Slooper@sbcglobal.net)  
Parliamentarian: Robin Pokorski, [RobinP@juno.com](mailto:RobinP@juno.com)  
Vice Chairmen:  
Environmental Consultants:  
Dave West, [JDavidWest@aol.com](mailto:JDavidWest@aol.com)  
Gardening Consultants:  
Josie Goodenow, [JosieGoodenow@gmail.com](mailto:JosieGoodenow@gmail.com)  
Landscape Design Consultants:  
Carolyn Villi, [caronv39@yahoo.com](mailto:caronv39@yahoo.com)

## School Daze

### Landscape Design School

October 22-23, Course III, Santa Rosa

Contact: Mary Ann Swanson,  
707-762-3118 [emswanson@comcast.net](mailto:emswanson@comcast.net)

Flyer is available on CGCI's website under NGC Schools Calendar.

Course IV, April 28-29, 2016

**Tri-Refresher**: "Ditch Your Lawn," Encino, October 29-30. Contact: Robin Pokorski, [RobinP@juno.com](mailto:RobinP@juno.com)

## Consultant of the Year Awards

By Julie West, CCC Chairman

Congratulations to the following CCC members honored at CGCI's Awards Banquet held during Convention in Reno, NV on June 9, 2015.

Gardening Consultant of the Year:  
Maria Krenek

Environmental Consultant of the Year:  
Robin Pokorski

Landscape Design Consultant of the Year:  
Alexis Slafer

The CCC appreciates their volunteer service and dedication demonstrated throughout 2014.

## Series 26, Course III Landscape Design School

By Julie West, CCC Chairman

Do you need to refresh your Landscape Design credentials? Are you interested in learning the concepts of landscape design for your own garden? Three newly NGC accredited Landscape Design School instructors are returning from Course II for Course III scheduled October 22-23, 2015 sponsored by Luther Burbank District in Santa Rosa, CA. You will find all the details including registration form on the NGC Schools Calendar posted on CGCI's website:

<http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/NGCSchools/LDS%20Flier%2C%20Course%203.pdf>

We expect Course III to fill up quickly so don't procrastinate and end up on a waiting list. The class is limited to 46 participants. We hope you will join us!

## CCC Membership Dues for 2015 - 2017

By Julie West, CCC Chairman

Thank you to the 36 CCC members who have paid their dues for this term. It's not too late to join! Simply complete the CCC Dues form posted on CGCI's website:

<http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/Forms/Dues/2015-2017DuesInvoiceforCCC.pdf>

Send your \$20 payable to CGCI with the completed dues form to CCC Treasurer, Shane Looper and you are instantly a member of the CCC. That's how easy it is to join! Our goal is to have 50+ CCC members by June 2017.

## Gardener's Tip



Use a clothespin, or for a longer reach barbecue tongs, to grab and/or steady thorny stems.

—Jody Gilbert  
Garden Gossip

## Ditch Your Lawn! Workshop – October 29-30

Ditch Your Lawn! Workshop: October 29-30, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. – NGC Tri-Refresher

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS), in conjunction with Southern California Garden Club (SCGC), will present a two-day workshop at the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino on replacing a lawn with low-water California native plants. This workshop will provide step-by-step information on how to plan a new native plant garden, remove existing lawn, and install and maintain native plants. No prior knowledge or experience is required.

Whether or not you have a lawn or might consider replacing one, **this event has been approved by National Garden Clubs as a Tri-Refresher.** Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants who are eligible to refresh may receive NGC refresher credit by attending the full session. All Consultants in good standing who have not already refreshed in a school this year are eligible to receive credit. If one is a Master Consultant in more than one school they can obtain simultaneous multiple refresher credits for all schools in which they have Master status. Questions regarding your eligibility should be directed to CGCI's School Chairmen (Shane Looper for Environmental Studies, Greg Pokorski for Gardening Study and Alexis Slafer for Landscape Design). NGC refresher fee of \$5.00 will be required for each school in which you are refreshing.

To register for the workshop, visit [www.cnps.org/workshops](http://www.cnps.org/workshops). The cost for CNPS or Southern California Garden Club members is \$75.00; non-members pay \$95.00. The class **is limited to 60 participants.** Lunch and light breakfast will be provided. Info may be found on the CGCI website.

The last day to register is **October 22.**

If you have questions about this workshop, please contact Chairman Robin Pokorski of SCGC or Becky Reilly, CNPS Events Coordinator, at 916-447-2677 x207 or [breilly@cnps.org](mailto:breilly@cnps.org).

## Going Green



Get rid of your unwanted paints, cleaners, pesticides, batteries, and more at FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event in your area.

For info: [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/)

By Greg Pokorski, GSS Chairman

We peaked at 145 Gardening Consultants a year ago. Sadly, we have lost Consultants due to death and lapses in Consultant status. We now have 131 Gardening Consultants (78 Consultants, 14 Masters, 33 Provisionals and 6 Emeriti). Without any school courses in almost two years, we are not adding any new Consultants or providing an opportunity for Provisional Consultants to complete their courses.

The following Consultants must attend the October Tri-Refresher or attend a refresher in another state or request and be granted an extension in 2015 or their Gardening Consultant status will lapse as of 12/31/15: Harriet Behrens, Nadine Cano, Darcey Lober, Victoria Lucido and Sharon Swildens.

**Clubs or districts are needed to develop and sponsor CGCI's next series of Gardening Study Schools.** This four-course (six classes and ten hours of instruction per course) program can help fulfill CGCI's and NGC's education mission. The Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska is halfway through its first GSS, and its president says, "I can already heartily recommend it to any gardener who wants to sharpen their gardening skills, add to the depth of their horticultural understanding, and engage with other gardeners in a friendly social setting that encourages an exchange of knowledge and fosters questions common to gardeners." Interested clubs or districts should contact this chairman.

## NGC Schools News

By Greg Pokorski, NGC Schools Coordinator



Curricula and interactive forms for Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design Schools (including the brochures detailing school requirements: ESS Brochure, GSS Form 05-21 and LDS 16) are available at the NGC website

(GardenClub.org) – listed under "Schools." Instructions and forms for Multiple Refreshers are also posted there.

*The National Gardener* is the official source of news about NGC's schools. Students and Consultants should be reading the schools-related articles in each issue, available by subscription or on the NGC website. Schools-related information is also contained in all issues of NGC's *Keeping in Touch*, available through your club president and at the NGC and CGCI websites.

By Cynthia Shafer, Lincoln County GC, New Mexico

Basil is native to India, the Middle East and some Pacific Islands. It has been cultivated in the Mediterranean for thousands of years, but the herb only came to Western Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> century with the spice traders, and to America and Australia with the early European settlers.

All basil plants can be grown from seed. Sow directly into pots or plug trays in early spring and germinate with warmth. Avoid using seed trays because basil has a long tap root and dislikes being transplanted. Plugs also help minimize damping off, to which all basil plants are prone. Water well at midday in dry weather even when transplanted into pots or containers; basil hates going to bed wet. This minimizes the chances of damping off and will prevent root rot, a hazard when air temperature is still dropping at night.

Plant seedlings when large enough to handle and the danger of frost has passed. The soil needs to be rich and well drained, and the situation warm and sheltered, preferably with sun at midday. Plant between tomato plants as basil will help to repel flying insects and may help to keep tomatoes pest-free.

**Medicinal Uses:** Once prescribed as a sedative against gastric spasms and as an expectorant and laxative, basil is rarely used in herbal medicines today. However, leaves added to food are an aid to digestion and if you put a few drops of basil's essential oil on a sleeve and inhale, it can allay mental fatigue. For those that need a zing it can be used to make a refreshing bath vinegar, which also acts as an antiseptic.

### Other Uses:

- Keep in a pot in the kitchen to act as a fly repellent.
- Crush a leaf and rub on your skin, the juice repels mosquitoes.

### Hints & Ideas:

- Tear leaves rather than chop. Sprinkle over green salads or sliced tomatoes.
- Add to cold rice or pasta salads.
- Sprinkle on fried or grilled tomatoes while they are still hot.
- Basil does not combine well with strong meats such as goat or venison.
- Aniseed basil is very good with stir-fry pork.
- Use lemon basil to accompany a fish dish.
- Heat some olive oil in a saucepan, remove from heat, add some torn purple basil leaves, toss with pasta or rice and serve.



By Greg Pokorski, GSS Chairman

Annual updates to the CGCI *Yearbook, Manual & Roster* have just been completed. Look for updated information when the 2015-2016 yearbooks are distributed at the Fall Board Meeting. Provisional Consultants, Consultants and Master Consultants are listed by district for each school. The dates shown next to the Consultants' names indicate the date by which Provisional Consultants must complete all four courses in that school, or the date by which Consultants and Master Consultants must refresh their credentials so their consultant status does not lapse. Emeritus Consultants are also listed for each school.

Consultants are encouraged to use the knowledge gained from these schools by participating in the CCC, by supporting schools and refreshers and by using your knowledge to benefit your clubs and districts.

### **Outstanding Private Garden Certificates of Recognition Awarded**

An application for Outstanding Private Garden Certificate of Recognition was received from South Coast Cacti & Succulent Society and approved by three Gardening Consultants at the CCC meeting in June. Gary Duke in Long Beach, California was honored for designing his front yard with mounds of soil, dry river beds and rock gardens as an example of how plants can survive an arid climate and thrive with little attention or water in a garden setting. Gary's generous donation of volunteer time and sharing of knowledge and expertise with the public and fellow members was also recognized and appreciated.

A second application for Outstanding Private Garden Certificate of Recognition was received from the Organic Gardening Club of Sacramento County from Golden Foothills District. Pauline and Irv Faria in Carmichael, California were recognized for their outstanding woodland garden highlighting Japanese maples, ferns, dogwoods, native plants, fountains and ponds under a canopy of Oak trees to create a garden sanctuary and Certified National Wildlife Habitat. Sharing their garden seasonally with the public was also recognized and appreciated.

### **Landscape Design Certificate of Appreciation, Recognition and/or Achievement Awarded**

An application for the above CCC award was received from South Coast Cacti & Succulent Society and approved by three Landscape Design Consultants at the CCC meeting in June. Phyllis DeCrescenzo of Torrance, California was recognized for her leaderships coordinating volunteer efforts, landscape design and donation of succulents to replace two barren parcels of land within El Retiro Park in Redondo Beach for community enjoyment plus her continued weekly maintenance.

### **Landscape Design Commendations Awarded**

The Heather Enthusiasts of the Redwood Empire submitted an application to honor Geoff and Carol Duncan in Eureka, California to be presented at their August 15<sup>th</sup> garden tour in Humboldt District. The submission was approved electronically commending the Duncans for their creatively designed hillside garden featuring pathways of stone pavers throughout the garden planted with heather, rosemary, hebe, ornamental grasses, *Agapanthus*, shore pine, *Pieris japonica*, New Zealand flax, junipers, *Euonymus* and other plant material demonstrating good land use.



**Front yard of Geoff & Carol Duncan**



**Hillside backyard of the Duncans**

Humboldt District submitted a Landscape Design Commendation application on behalf of Charlotte and Mike Simpson in Fortuna, California to be presented at the district's August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting when CGCI President Sue Bennett visits. The application was approved electronically for the Simpsons creatively designed ten-year old showplace garden of river rock forming a stream with a small pond, surrounded by a large variety of drought tolerant trees, shrubs and flowers.

**Congratulations** to all those honored by these CCC Certificates of Recognition and Commendation.