



COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL
Published since 2013

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

Chairman's Message

A big 'Thank You' to **Alexis Slafer**, CCC member AND Winter Board 2016 Co-Chairman, who has arranged a special program for the upcoming CCC meeting. Valarie Butte-Bonilla is an NGC Accredited Landscape Design Consultant and member of the local Costa Verde District hosting CGCI's Winter Board Meeting. "Herbs with a California Twist" promises to be of educational interest to all consultants. The program is open to all CCC members. Non-members are welcome to attend.

Please remember to allow a minimum of four weeks for processing time including approval for all the following CCC Awards: Outstanding Private Garden Award, Award of Merit in Landscape Architecture, Landscape Design Commendation and Landscape Design Certificate of Appreciation/Recognition/Achievement. Applications are available from CGCI's website and may be given at any CGCI, garden club or district meeting. Maximum four (4) pages, including captioned photographs. Congratulations to the recipients featured in this issue.

I am looking forward to receiving recommendations for the Consultant of the Year Award. See details on page 61 of the 2015-2016 *CGCI Yearbook, Manual & Roster* as well as on page 2 of this issue of the *Council Thymes*. The deadline is January 10, 2016.

Join us in San Pedro!

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 **March 31, 2016**.

The average size for a California native plant is 25 square feet. Pay attention to the size the plant will get to be.

Next Meeting



The next CCC meeting will be held at the CGCI Winter Board Meeting on Sunday, January 31, at Doubletree by Hilton in San Pedro. Your input is invaluable to the success of the

CCC. We hope to see you there!

Valarie Bonilla, our CCC program speaker, is a member of the Hermosa Garden Club in Costa Verde District. She is an NGC Accredited Landscape Design Consultant. Valarie's family has a long history and love of the landscape and gardening and plants are a life-long passion.

All are welcome to attend the Council meeting.

Herbs with a California Twist

By Valarie Bonilla, Landscape Design Consultant

Herbs, an amazing array of plants credited with everything from enhancing the culinary taste of our food to improving the health and quality of our lives. Even though California has diverse planting zones, from the southern and central coastal regions to the southern deserts, central valleys and northern coastal and inland regions, we all can grow our own herb gardens as well as take advantage of herbs that are uniquely native to our state and have been used for hundreds of years to benefit and treat those who live here.

2015 - 2017 Council Officers

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

Landscape Design School

Course IV, April 28-29, Santa Rosa
Contact: Mary Ann Swanson,
707-762-3118 emswanson@comcast.net

The registration flyer is available at:
californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/NGCSchools/LDS%20Flier%2C%20Course%204-Apr2016.pdf

Gardening Study School

Course I, January 16-17, Colfax
Contact: Myrtle Findley, Chairman
530-346-2450 or Myrtle@exwire.com

Course II, March 5-6, Colfax
Course III, May 14-15, Colfax
Course IV, September 17-18, Colfax

Consultant of the Year Awards

By Julie West, CCC Chairman

The three previous Consultant of the Year awards have been combined into one award in the spirit of the combined council representing all three disciplines. The **deadline of January 10, 2016** for recommendations is rapidly approaching. This award sponsored by the CCC may be awarded annually at the convention to an environmental, gardening or landscape design consultant or master consultant in recognition of non-professional achievement, involvement and/or service as an environmental, gardening or landscape design consultant in either the community or the NGC Environmental Studies, Gardening Study or Landscape Design program. Please send your recommendation to CCC Chairman, Julie A. West, 850 Grandview Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472-2930 or email it to julieawest@aol.com. Who will the lucky recipient be of this updated CCC award for 2016?

**Series 26, Course IV
Landscape Design School**

By Julie West, CCC Chairman

This is your last chance to refresh your Landscape Design credentials currently scheduled on CGCI's calendar. Are you interested in learning the concepts of landscape design for your own garden? Do you enjoy seeing a private garden not open to the public as the featured field trip scheduled in Course IV? Three fabulous NGC accredited Landscape Design School instructors are on board to teach the last course in Series 26 scheduled April 28-29, sponsored by Luther Burbank District in Santa Rosa, California. You will find all the details including registration form on the NGC Schools Calendar posted on CGCI's website.

Class size is limited to 46 participants. Don't procrastinate and miss the last opportunity to join us!

CCC Membership Dues for 2015 - 2017

By Julie West, CCC Chairman

Thank you to the 39 CCC members who have paid their dues 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 Loooper and you are instantly a member of the CCC. That's how easy it is to join! Remember, our goal is to have 50+ members by June 2017. With your support, the CCC can easily reach this goal along with its educational objectives!

Environmental Studies Schools

By Shane Loooper, Environmental Studies Schools Chairman

It is time to plan an environmental studies school in your area. Your district or garden club can sponsor the school. Here are just a few of the many benefits why...



- The school can show attendees how to develop respect and appreciation of plants, their roles in our life and activities.
- Learn about "THE 3 R'S" - *Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose*.
- The school offers clubs and districts a foundation of environmental-related education to members and the public.
- Local instructors can be utilized to conduct courses.
- Provides clubs with an opportunity to recruit new members.
- \$250 Educational Grants are available to help if financial assistance is needed.
- Sponsoring clubs and districts may sponsor the school as a fundraiser.
- Why Environmental Studies? Because it is about YOU, garden club members, and your relationship with the environment!
- Anyone can attend these schools, however to become an accredited Environmental Consultant, you must be a member of a NGC/CGCI garden club.
- Every course includes a field trip.
- And, simply put, **IT IS FUN...**

Please contact this chairman for details: CGCI Environmental Studies School Chairman, Shane Loooper at slooper@sbcglobal.net or 650-871-0172.

Tri-Refresher Held in October

Greg Pokorski, CGCI Gardening Study Schools Chairman

Ellen Mackey, Senior Ecologist with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and co-author (with Bart O'Brien and Betsey Landis) of Care & Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens, was the instructor for Ditch Your Lawn! Beautiful Landscapes for a Water-Wise Future, the workshop presented by California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and Southern California Garden Club at the Sepulveda Garden Center on October 29 & 30. The workshop was approved by National Garden Clubs (NGC) as a Tri-Refresher, providing refresher credit for NGC Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants.

The workshop addressed gardening with natives, site analysis, designing a plan, removing a lawn, installing new landscape and maintaining the garden. Replacing traditional landscapes and lawn with California native plants can reduce average homeowners' water consumption by 60% - even more when using locally native plants. To meet the eight-hour education requirement for refreshing consultants, the additional topic of backyard horticulture in the wildlife/urban interface was covered. Part of water conservation is learning what fruits and vegetables grow successfully in any given area and making sure that we plant crops that we are really going to eat and in quantities that we can eat. A lot of water is wasted when we have too much of a harvest all at one time and do not consume all of the produce.



Workshop evaluations were shared with CNPS. They included constructive suggestions for future courses. CNPS is interested in working with CGCI's clubs or districts to offer similar educational events which could be less than eight hours (as a general education event) or at least eight hours (if the host wants to seek NGC approval to use the event as a refresher for NGC Consultants).

Five Gardening Consultants and five Landscape Design Consultants (from as far away as the Fresno area) refreshed their credentials. Congratulations to

Gardening Consultants **Pat Clayes** and **Pat Zarnowski** who became Master Gardening Consultants upon completion of this workshop which was the fourth refresher for each of them. Thanks to Southern California Garden Club and to event chairman **Robin Pokorski** for offering this educational opportunity to club members, consultants and the public.

Series 25, Gardening Study School

Greg Pokorski, CGCI Gardening Study Schools Chairman

Colfax Garden Club in Golden Foothills District is sponsoring Series 25 of Gardening Study School (GSS) beginning in January. And they sponsored California's last GSS, Series 24, in 2013! This should tell you that sponsoring an NGC school can be a worthwhile endeavor and if you do it once, you may do it again.

Register as soon as possible to attend Course I at the Shady Glen Recreation Hall in Colfax on January 16 & 17. The registration form is posted on the CGCI website under the CGCI NGC Schools Calendar – <http://californiagardenclubs.com/calendar>. Contact Chairman Myrtle Findley for more information (530-346-2450 – Myrtle@exwire.com). Mark your calendar to attend Courses II (March 5 & 6), III (May 14 & 15) and IV (September 17 & 18).

Attend Gardening Study School to learn about all aspects of gardening. Course I addresses basic botany, soils, plant propagation and growing outdoor flowers. The special supplemental subject is grafting. This is the first California GSS to use NGC's new GSS curricula. Those who complete all four courses (and pass exams and belong to a garden club) will become NGC Gardening Consultants. All Gardening Consultants in good standing are eligible to refresh their certificates at one of these 2016 courses which are currently the only scheduled GSS refreshers for 2016.

Harriet Behrens

We are sad to report that Harriet Behrens of Orange County District, one of CGCI's two NGC Five-Star Members (achieved Master status in all four NGC schools), passed away on October 11. Harriet was a long-time supporter of many CGCI schools, served as a past Landscape Design Council Chairman and has been recognized as a Consultant of the Year.

Gardener's Tip



With regard to fruit trees: Prune lightly after a heavy crop. Prune heavily after a light crop. Attend Gardening Study Schools, which is where this tip was obtained.

Landscape Design School

Alexis Slafer, CGCI Landscape Design Schools Chairman

Landscape Design Consultants, please encourage your club or district to sponsor a Landscape Design School. As previously reported, at the end of 2014, over 30 consultants saw their credentials lapse. Fifteen consultants need to refresh by the end of 2015. And, 36 consultant credentials will lapse at the end of 2016.

To ease the stress of sponsorship and to ensure the success of the school, a current Landscape Design Consultant should be the local chair. The members of this Council are the perfect people to act as local chairs. I will help in any way that I can to make sure that the process is pain-free and a lot of fun!

California Consultants Council Awards

Award of Merit in Landscape Architecture Awarded

CCC member, BJ Boland recommended landscape architects, Cindy Benoit and Chris Drayer, for their design to update and refurbish the landscape of two of the most viewed gardens in Balboa Park for the 2015 Balboa Park Centennial. It was approved by three Master Landscape Design Consultants and will be presented January 11, 2016. Colorful succulents, bromeliads and low-water shrubs create a contemporary landscape while maintaining the classical appearance of the park. Partnering with San Diego Horticultural Society, a colorful, low-maintenance and water-wise landscape was installed to show off the highly visible gardens around the Timken Museum and Casa del Prado. In addition to the landscape plan pictured, the Balboa Park Plant Legend and color plant list were included with the submission.



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

An application for the above CCC award was received honoring San Diego Horticultural Society (SDHS) and approved by three Landscape Design Consultants. SDHS is recognized for their various project(s) for the Friends of Balboa Park "Adopt a Plot" program. It was the first project implemented and became the model for updating plantings of other garden plot areas within Balboa Park. Working with landscape architects, Cindy Benoit and Chris Drayer, who created the landscape design planting plan, SDHS purchased the plants and SDHS volunteers installed them. SDHS went on to also replant the formal rose garden at the historic Marston House, the main Promenade in the middle of Balboa Park, the Children's Garden and the Natural History Museum. San Diego Horticultural Society continues to support the project with ongoing weeding, mulching and financial support.



Congratulations to all those honored by these CCC Certificates for excellence in land use on a public project and demonstrating outstanding Landscape Design skills!

NOTE: All CCC Awards and Commendations issued including applications and supporting data are available for viewing at each CCC meeting.