



# COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL  
Published since 2013

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

## Chairman's Message

CGCI and the CCC are fortunate to have three fabulous school chairmen: **Shane Looper**, ESS; **Greg Pokorski**, GSS and **Alexis Slafer**, LDS. Each of these individuals provided articles for this issue of the *Council Thymes* for you. A special "thanks" to our Editor, Robin Pokorski, for the GREAT job she does putting it all together. **We hope the next issue will include an article from YOU** on any topic of interest related to Environmental, Gardening or Landscape Design subjects. The deadline is July 1, 2016 so you have lots of time between now and then to compose it, take photos, etc. You need not wait until the deadline to submit it. We are happy to accept your input anytime between now and July 1, 2016. As stated elsewhere, this is YOUR newsletter!

Are you a provisional or accredited consultant in any of the three disciplines and not a member of the CCC? It's not too late to join us! You will find the 2015-2017 dues form on CGCI's website link: <http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/Forms/Dues/2015-2017DuesInvoiceforCCC.pdf>

A potential program is still in the discussion stage for the CCC meeting May 18. If it works out, it will be announced in the Convention program. The business meeting will include the proposed CCC budget for 2016-2017. Please join us in Irvine!

Join us in Irvine!

## Sad News

We are sad to report that Rowena Goodner of Cascade District passed away. Rowena was an Emeritus Landscape Design Consultant and a former Gardening Consultant. She was elected LD Council Assistant Chairman in 2001 and stepped up to serve as LD Council Chairman when Mollie Apple had to resign due to illness.

## 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 **July 1, 2016**.

## Next Meeting



The next CCC meeting will be held at the CGCI Convention on Wednesday, May 18, at Hotel Irvine at 6:30 p.m. Your input is invaluable to the success of the CCC. We hope to see you there!

All are welcome to attend the Council meeting.

## 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, [JosephineGoodenow@gmail.com](mailto:JosephineGoodenow@gmail.com)  
Landscape Design Consultants:  
Carolyn Villi, [caronv39@yahoo.com](mailto:caronv39@yahoo.com)

## School Daze

### Landscape Design School

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

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

### Gardening Study School

Course III, May 14-15, Colfax  
Contact: Myrtle Findley, Chairman  
530-346-2450 or [Myrtle@exwire.com](mailto:Myrtle@exwire.com)  
Course IV, September 17-18, Colfax

By Julie West, CCC Chairman

It's not too late to register for your last chance to refresh your Landscape Design credentials currently scheduled for April 28-29, 2016 and sponsored by the Luther Burbank District in Santa Rosa, CA. A preview of the private garden not open to the public is the featured field trip for this course and may be seen in this issue under California Consultants Council Awards.

Three fabulous NGC accredited Landscape Design instructors return to teach this last course and remember, you need not take them in order if you are interested in learning the concepts of landscape design for your own garden. Don't miss this last opportunity currently scheduled on CGCI's calendar. You will find all the details including registration form on the NGC Schools Calendar posted on CGCI's **website:** <http://californiagardenclubs.com/calendar>

**Bi-Refresher – Heathers in the Redwoods**

By Greg Pokorski, NGC Schools Coordinator

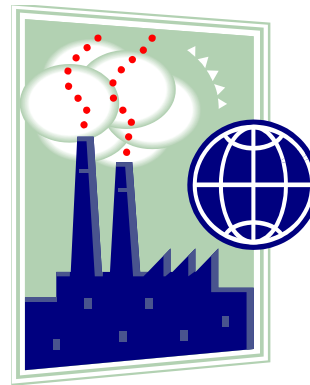
National Garden Clubs has approved the August 11 & 12 components (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day) of the Heather Enthusiasts of the Redwood Empire Conference in Eureka to provide refresher credit for Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants.

Topics that will be covered include: Organic Soils, Miniature Gardens, Weather/Climate/Changing Gardens, information about the Humboldt Botanical Garden and a tour of it with a design discussion, Why is a Heather not a Rose?, Plants of Connemara, Ireland, Designing with Heaths and Heathers, and Creating and Caring for the Heather Garden. Speakers/Instructors are Giselle Schoniger (a favored speaker at southern California garden club meetings), Anne Schellman, Nancy Dean, Mary Lou Goodwin, Bruce Palmer, Richard Canovan, Maria Krenek and Don Jewett.

Those who are Master Consultants in both Gardening Study and Landscape Design may be eligible (depending on their good standing and last refresher status) to simultaneously refresh in both subjects.

Watch the CGCI website or contact event chairmen Mary Lou Goodwin ([MLGoodwin@outlook.com](mailto:MLGoodwin@outlook.com), 707.442.1387) and Maria Krenek for more information. Check with Greg Pokorski (Gardening Study) or Alexis Slafer (Landscape Design) about consultant status and eligibility to refresh.

By Shane Loooper, Environmental Studies Schools Chairman



The mission statement of the NGC Environmental Studies School is to "teach environmental literacy to cherish, protect and conserve the living earth."

Participants learn environmental literacy, appreciation of the natural world, actions

needed for sustainable development and appreciation for the interrelation of all natural things. Particular emphasis is presently placed on land conservation, water conservation and air quality. These are all subjects that you can learn to apply to improve your own garden environment. Every course includes a field trip which makes this the **MOST FUN SCHOOL** to sponsor and attend.

Who wants to host an Environmental Studies

School? **You DO!!!**

Districts and Clubs: How can you assist your members to become accomplished

environmental consultants? **Sponsor Schools in your district and/or club!!!**

Want to know how to organize your school?

**Contact Shane Loooper, your CGCI Environmental Studies School Chairman!!! It's EASY!**

Email: [slooper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slooper@sbcglobal.net)

Telephone: 650 871 0172

**Gardener's Tip**



To get rid of weeds and grass in cracks and sidewalks, pour boiling hot water on the plant and the plant will die.

—The Oak Leaf  
Sherman Oaks GC newsletter

## Gardening Study Schools

Greg Pokorski, CGCI Gardening Study Schools Chairman

As of 12/31/15, the credits of six Provisional Consultants expired, Master Consultant Victoria Lucido took Emeritus status, two Consultants received extensions and one (Nadine Cano) lapsed. The following thirteen Consultants must refresh this year or request and receive extensions or request Emeritus status (if they already have Master status): Nancy Abernethy, Dana Behymer, Mary Francis, Tammy Granados, Teresa Kilroy, Darcey Lober, Hoberley Schuler, Robert Schuler, George Speer, Mary Ann Swanson, Sharon Swildens, Barbara Watzke and Gret Bili Winter

Colfax Garden Club in Golden Foothills District has already completed the first two Courses of Series 25. Course I took place in January with 23 attending, 16 testing and 6 refreshing. Instructor Lyn Muth posted on Facebook "I had the honor and privilege to be the speaker/teacher for the National Garden Clubs' school, California chapter, with 20+ lovely, geeky gardeners like me! My subjects were Growing Outdoor Flowers and Plant Propagation, with a hands-on workshop. A great day! With the rain pounding down outside we talked about my most favorite subject....gardening! Thank you, Myrtle Findley for this opportunity! I'm looking forward to the next classes in March." A student reported, "Wow two 10-hour days of Gardening School. Lots of notes. Learned lots of new and some old ideas that people are reinventing because the new ways are natural and no herbicides, pesticides, GMO seeds. Met some nice folks too." Chairman Myrtle Findley advised, "We are making gardeners in this class, not just students."

Course II took place in March with 19 attending, 14 testing and 1 refreshing. Congratulations to Josie Goodenow and Dave West who have become Master Gardening Consultants by completing their fourth refreshers. **Register as soon as possible to attend Course III at the Shady Glen Recreation Hall in Colfax on May 14 & 15.** The registration form is posted on the CGCI website under the CGCI NGC Schools Calendar – <http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/NGCSchools/GSSSchool%203%20BrochureMay2016.pdf>. Contact Chairman Myrtle Findley for more information (530-346-2450 – [Myrtle@exwire.com](mailto:Myrtle@exwire.com)). Mark your calendar to attend Course IV (September 17 & 18).

Attend Gardening Study School to learn about all aspects of gardening – from the perspective of both the novice and the experienced gardener. Course III includes factors that influence plant growth, new plant development and evaluation, container gardening, houseplant basics, a teaching tour of a botanical garden and the special supplemental subject is growing/cultivating iris.

All Gardening Consultants in good standing – that is all Gardening Consultants in the state except for the seven Consultants who have already refreshed this year at Courses I and II – are eligible to refresh their certificates at one of these 2016 courses or at the August Bi-Refresher in Eureka, which are currently the only scheduled GSS refreshers for 2016.

## Landscape Design Schools – What Have YOU Done?

Alexis Slafer, CGCI Landscape Design Schools Chairman

Landscape Design Consultants: *What have you done?* You attended four courses of a Landscape Design School and passed all of the exams. Perhaps you refreshed your credentials – and perhaps you are a Landscape Design Master Consultant. But, *what have you done* to use your credentials?

Think about what opportunities are available to a LD Consultant. They are so numerous: be a speaker at a club or district meeting, participate in local community events, present



positions on good land use at civic meetings, submit award applications, mentor a youth group, become an active member of your local community to ensure good landscape design. There is one more opportunity that should not be missed: become involved as the local chairman of a Landscape Design School! ...and I am happy to assist you.

With the conclusion of the LDS in Santa Rosa, our calendar is bare. While there are some preliminary discussions regarding hosting a school or refresher, there aren't any LD Schools or Refreshers actually being planned. It is rewarding to sponsor a Landscape Design School or Refresher...and you, our current Landscape Design Consultants are the best ones to help host the event. We must provide opportunities for refreshing because we have over 30 California LD Consultants who will see their credentials lapse at the end of 2016.

It is with sadness we tell you of the passing of three CA Landscape Design Consultants: Marcha Grant, Harriet Behrens (Master & CGCI Five-Star Member) and Valarie Bonilla. You might recall that Valarie was scheduled to speak at our last CCC meeting, but was unable to attend due to illness. Her husband, Mark, graciously attended and distributed seed balls for her. They will be missed...



*Robin Pokorski, somebody that likes pelargoniums*

Pelargoniums are closely related to geraniums, which are hardy herbaceous perennials. The name 'geranium,' is what most people call pelargoniums, and though technically incorrect, the name stands.

When they were introduced into Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, botanists thought they were another species of the genus geranium, the perennial plant we commonly call cranesbill, and an established garden plant in Europe since Roman times.

When the mistake was discovered several decades later, the plants were renamed to the right genus, pelargonium. By that time, however, people were so used to calling them geraniums that the name stuck.

Geraniums are South African in origin and the earliest known variety in Europe was grown in the 17<sup>th</sup> century garden of the famous English plant collector, John Tradescant. Later in 1700, the Dutch Governor of Cape Town sent a species to Holland and thereafter more species were introduced. Geraniums reached the U.S., possibly via the West Indies, in the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

*Excerpts from The Complete Geranium by Susan Conder*



Cranesbill – a true geranium



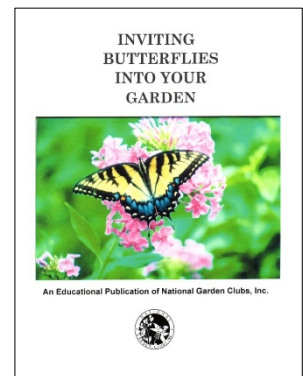
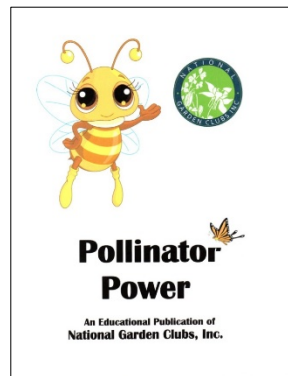
*Pelargonium hortorum*

NGC has published a new educational publication "Pollinator Power" that was researched, written and compiled by members of the NGC Environmental Concerns Committee as a component of the 2015-2017 NGC President's Project: Pollinators. It is available for free download at the following link:

<http://gardenclub.org/resources/ngc-mpgc/ngc-pollinator-power.pdf>

This newest publication is geared toward youth in middle school. It includes bats, bees, beetles, butterflies, flies, hummingbirds, moths and wasps in addition to sources for seeds, websites and apps for pollinator information plus houses for pollinators. Habitat conservation and protection for pollinators as well as pollinators in peril are also included in the 23 page electronic pamphlet.

Adults will appreciate the information provided, too. You don't need to be in middle school to learn from NGC's newest publication!



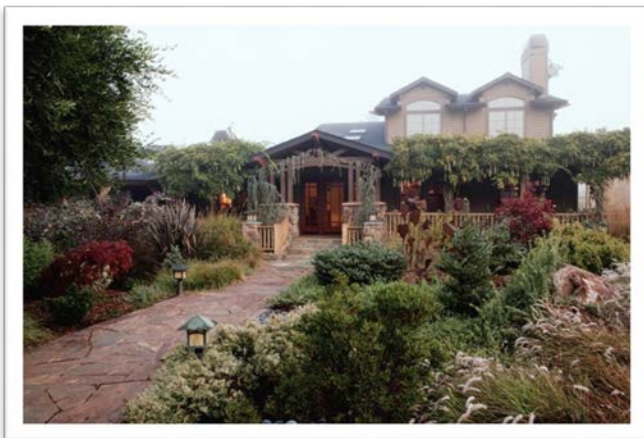
Check out NGC's "Inviting Butterflies into Your Garden" publication also available for free download from NGC's website: <http://gardenclub.org/resources/projects/ngc-inviting-butterflies-into-your-garden.pdf>. It updates and replaces the 1986 publication "Butterfly Gardening" with an emphasis on monarch butterflies. Information includes butterfly conservation, plants and practices to attract butterflies, butterfly anatomy, seed and plants sources, butterfly gardens, houses or vivariums to visit, etc. The adult publication was researched, written and compiled by the NGC President's Special Projects: 2015-2017 Monarch Watch Committee. Take advantage of these two free benefits of membership in NGC and helpful to all Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design consultants!

### Landscape Design Commendation

An application for the above CCC award was received honoring Sara Malone in East Petaluma for good land use and approved by three Landscape Design Consultants. Since 1997, Sara has developed a unique style of gardening that emphasizes the use of shrubs and trees rather than herbaceous perennials. The gardens at Circle Oak Ranch primarily feature woody plants: both shrubs and trees, deciduous and evergreen, broad-leaved and conifer. Plants selected produce four seasons of color, texture and structure. Rather than relying on flowers for beauty and interest, focal points are colorful ornate cones, textured bark and berries.

Her garden has been the site of numerous tours (**including Course IV of LDS Series 26**) and workshops to benefit local nonprofits, held classes and has been featured in *Fine Gardening* and *Garden Design* magazines. Sara has given numerous lectures on how to select, plant, cultivate and prune a variety of drought-tolerant conifers that thrive in the San Francisco Bay Area for year-round color, structure and interest with minimal care.

The gardens at Circle Oak Ranch demonstrate good land use and are irrigated almost exclusively with in-line tubing. The use of different planting techniques allows plants with different water needs to live harmoniously. The soil is primarily adobe and many of the plantings are on mounds constructed of 1/3 native soil, 1/3 amended loam and 1/3 ¼" lava pebbles. The four acres of landscaped gardens are covered with a 2-3" layer of wood chip mulch conserving moisture and weed prevention.



Entrance to Sara Malone's garden and home in Petaluma



*Acer campestre* 'Compacta' with *Helictotrichon sempervirens* with *Berberis thunbergii* and *Nyssa sylvatica* turning colors in background.



A variety of colorful conifers dominate the landscape for fall and winter appeal.



Color on a foggy winter morning in Sara Malone's garden.