



COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL
Published since 2013

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

Chairman's Message

As this is my last Council Thymes, I want to thank all of you who have made my year as CCC Chairman enjoyable. I do not know who your next CCC Chairman is going to be but I am sure there will be a CCC member that will be happy to accept the challenge!

Member participation is critical to making this council work. Please share your ideas and accomplishments, both individual and club related, with other CCC members. Remember, this is your council!

I had the pleasure of attending the Pacific Region Convention held in Alaska this April. There were numerous chairman and state presidents sharing ideas, milestones reached and accomplishments of their garden clubs' members. We all want to continue learning new methods of gardening, assisting in caring for our environment, and honing our landscape design skills so be sure to share your knowledge!

It was brought to our attention that there has been no response to the challenge to plant a state tree on public lands. Robyn McCarthy, Chairman of the Pacific Region Trees and Shrubs Project, would love to hear from you. The application was distributed at the convention and is available from your D.D. as it was emailed to all of our state presidents. I **know** that at least one of you was involved in planting a CA Redwood, either a *Sequoia sempervirens* or a *Sequoia gigantean*, this last year! Let's get an application to Robyn prior to February 1, 2019!

CCC has given several awards for outstanding landscapes during my term of office. Let's continue to submit award applications as the Council moves into a new year. Thank you!

Next Meeting



Next Meeting

CCC Business Meeting - CCC members only

Monday, June 4, 2018
7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

THE HOTEL at Black Oak Casino Resort 19400
Tuolumne Road, North Tuolumne, CA 95379

A few items of business for the Agenda include:

- Unfinished business
- CGCI School Chairmen reports

2015 – 2017 Council Officers

Chairman: Josephine Goodenow, *Through June, 2018*, beechairman@cagardenclubs.org

Secretary: Shane Looper,
Slooper@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Sue Bennett,
Sue_c_bennett@att.net

Parliamentarian: Greg Pokorski,
gregpokorski@earthlink.net

Vice Chairmen:
Environmental Consultants: Julie West,
julieawest@aol.com

Gardening Consultants: David West,
jdavidwest@aol.com

Landscape Design Consultants: Carolyn Villi,
CaRonV39@yahoo.com

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks. For going out... is really going in." – John Muir

It's Time for Summer School

by Greg Pokorski, Club President

We periodically hear "what do Consultants do?" and "what can Consultants do after completing NGC's Schools?" One thing they can do is what Consultants Alexis Slafer and Robin Pokorski have done (and are doing). Put together a Refresher Event to provide Consultants with continuing education opportunity and to enable Consultants to update and maintain their NGC Consultant status.

Alexis and Robin are members (and Education Event Co-Chairmen this term) of Southern California Garden Club, which is pleased to sponsor an Educational Event open to everyone, but which will also serve as an NGC Tri-Refresher. "It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" is intended to look at our world through the neighborhood and community frame of reference and will feature eight lectures (by six instructors) and interactive exercises covering an analytical look at our neighborhoods, including our backyards, community and school gardens and the new urban forest.

As club president, I especially wanted our club to offer such an event this year because there are 28 NGC Gardening Consultants in our district who could refresh. Many of these are "graduates" of the last Gardening School (2012-2013) conducted by our club and 12 of these Consultants will lapse this year if they do not refresh (Consultants may refresh once a year but must refresh every five years).

This is the only California opportunity to refresh in 2018 currently scheduled so we hope that some Consultants from all over the state will also attend. Check with your CGCI schools chairmen: Shane Looper (Environmental Schools), Greg Pokorski (Gardening Schools), and Alexis Slafer (Landscape Design Schools) about your Consultant status and eligibility to refresh.

We believe this will be an informative program with good speakers and will be of interest to many club members and the public – you certainly do not need to be a Consultant to attend.

This event will take place at the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino (San Fernando Valley/Los Angeles) on Monday, June 25 from 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The information/registration form is posted on the CGCI website and will be available at the CGCI Convention. Or contact Registrar Robin Pokorski, cgciRobin@gmail.com, 818-361-7873. Register by June 15.

Tropical Milkweed Alert! **Monarch Lovers Please Read!**

Tropical milkweed is a non-native milkweed that has increased in popularity in the last year as the demand for milkweed has increased. It is simple to propagate, which allows growers to produce the plants quickly for sale. The plant is attractive, to both humans and monarchs. It provides flowers and lush green foliage throughout the growing season.

This milkweed becomes a problem when it is planted in areas where it does not die back in winter. A parasite of monarch butterflies travels with monarchs visiting the plants and becomes deposited on the leaves. When the monarch caterpillars hatch and begin to eat, they ingest the parasite. *High levels of this parasite has been linked to lower migration success in monarch butterflies.*

When native milkweeds die back after blooming, the parasite dies along with them so each summer's monarch population feeds on fresh, parasite free foliage. In contrast, tropical milkweed remains evergreen through winter and this allows for the parasite population to build up on the plants to unhealthy levels.

Tropical milkweed can also interfere with the monarch migration and reproduction. When grown in northern areas, it can grow later in the year than native species. The presence of tropical milkweed may confuse monarchs into breeding at a time when they should be migrating. In California, where this milkweed is widely planted, it can be growing near overwintering sites along the coast and may spur monarchs to breed when they should be overwintering.

With tropical milkweed so available, what should you do? One option is to cut back the plants to the ground twice during the growing season to limit the spread of disease. Then

remove the plants late in summer so as not to interfere with migration.

When tropical milkweed plants are exposed to warmer temperatures, the plants produce higher cardenolide concentrations. Monarch caterpillars tolerate this chemical, and in fact, these are the very compounds that protect the monarch from predation. However, when the concentrations are too high, not even monarch caterpillars can survive them. The widely distributed native swamp milkweed has naturally lower cardenolide levels.

While milkweed is needed in large numbers to support the monarch butterfly population, do not plant tropical milkweed and do not plant milkweed of any species within 5 – 10 miles of monarch overwintering sites in California.

What can we do to help?

1. Plant milkweed that is native to your area.
2. Instead of planting tropical milkweed, plant orange butterfly weed if it is native to your area. It has a similar habit as tropical milkweed and the same bright orange colors.
3. Share this information with your garden club members and local nursery to spread the word about the dangers of planting tropical milkweed.
4. Several varieties of milkweed have become more available in nurseries in recent years but native milkweed can still be hard to find. Let your local growers and nurseries know this to encourage them to grow and sell native milkweed!

“The only people with whom you should try to get even with, are those who have helped you.” – John E. Southard

"It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" – A Tri-Refresher Educational Event

Monday, June 25, 2018

Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino, CA 91436

Sponsored by Southern California Garden Club

Morning Session

7:45 a.m. Registration
Coffee and refreshments
8:15 a.m. Welcome
8:30 a.m. **Bringing Nature to Your Backyard** – Kathy Itomura
9:30 a.m. **Chumash Neighborhood: Healing with Native Plants** – Jim Adams
10:30 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. **10 Things About Trees in Southern California that will Blow Your Mind** – Frank McDonough
11:45 a.m. **Plant Detective at Work** – Frank McDonough

Afternoon Session

12:45 p.m. Lunch
1:15 p.m. **Community Gardens** – David King
2:15 p.m. **School Gardens: The Future of Our Neighborhoods** – David King
3:15 p.m. Break
3:30 p.m. **Climate Change Impact on Birds** – David Weeshoff
4:30 p.m. **An Analytical Look at Our Neighborhoods** – Alexis Slafer
5:30 p.m. Refresher ends

Instructors:

Kathy Itomura, Landscape Architect
Jim Adams, USC Professor
Frank McDonough, Arboretum's Botanical Information Consultant
David King, Founder, The Learning Garden
David Weeshoff, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
Alexis Slafer, Landscape Architect

Co-Chairman:

Alexis Slafer
6111 S Kings Rd.
Los Angeles, CA 90056-1630
323-292-6657 323-708-4114 (c)
ASlafer@ca.rr.com

Registrar & Co-Chairman:

Robin Pokorski
512 Newton St.
San Fernando, CA 91340-2421
818-361-7873 818-425-3247 (c)
CGCIRobin@gmail.com

Ample free parking is available at the Sepulveda Garden Center.
Refunds will be given if cancellation is requested before 6/15/2018.
Registration includes handouts, snacks and lunch.

Refreshing consultants are reminded to complete NGC Form 2-14 and include with registration.

Clip and mail to registrar with payment

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Garden Club _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone (_____) _____

Event fee including lunch: \$75.00 _____

Discounted fee if you are a member of Southern California Garden Club: \$55.00 _____

NGC Refresher fee - \$5 per school: \$ _____

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TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Register on or before June 15, 2018

Make checks payable to: *Southern California Garden Club*

Send to: Robin Pokorski, Registrar
512 Newton St, San Fernando, CA 91340-2421
818-361-7873 818-425-3247 (c) CGCIRobin@gmail.com

This educational event is open to everyone but only NGC Consultants may receive refresher credit.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. offers four schools for the enrichment and educational growth of its members. Upon completion of a school, members become flower show judges or consultants. In order to maintain accreditation, judges/consultants are required to attend refresher events that enhance knowledge acquired, explore current trends, and promote interest in the school subject. Consultants of Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design Schools are encouraged to refresh in refresher events sponsored within the organization. A multiple refresher may be for two (Bi-Refresher) or three (Tri-Refresher) of these schools where subject matter oftentimes overlaps to a large degree. Flower Show School courses/symposia usually concentrate on flower shows, horticulture and design.

Educational opportunities provided by National Garden Clubs:

Environmental School – designed to train students to appreciate the natural resources of our Earth

Flower Show School – designed to accredit judges for Standard Flower Shows

Gardening School – designed to stimulate interest in many facets of gardening practices

Landscape Design School – designed to train students to recognize good land use

Consultants may refresh once per calendar year and must refresh by the end of the fifth calendar year after becoming a Consultant or last refreshing.

Southern California Garden Club

Encino, California

Is proud to sponsor

“It’s a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood”

Tri-Refresher Educational Event June 25, 2018



Greg Pokorski, President
512 Newton St.

San Fernando, CA 91340-2421
818-361-7873 GregPokorski@earthlink.net

CGCI Environmental Schools Chairman
Shane Looper SLooper@sbcglobal.net

CGCI Gardening Schools Chairman
Greg Pokorski GregPokorski@earthlink.net

CGCI Landscape Design Schools Chairman
Alexis Slafer ASlafer@ca.rr.com

Directions
to Sepulveda Garden Center

From the east: 101 (Ventura Fwy) west (or north). Exit Hayvenhurst, turn left from the right hand lane onto Hayvenhurst, turn right onto Magnolia, turn right into first driveway.

From the south: 405 (San Diego Fwy) north to 101 (Ventura Fwy) west (or north). See above.

From the north: I-5 (Golden State Fwy) to 405 (San Diego Fwy) south to 101 (Ventura Fwy) west (or north). See above.

From the west: 101 (Ventura Fwy) east (or south). Exit Balboa, turn right onto Balboa, turn left onto Magnolia, turn left into the Sepulveda Garden Center parking lot.

Southern California Garden Club is a proud member of California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI), representing more than 20,000 California gardeners; Pacific Region Garden Clubs; and National Garden Clubs, Inc., the largest volunteer non-profit gardening organization in the world.

We hope you enjoy this Refresher and we encourage you to attend all of the NGC Educational Schools to become a Consultant or Judge.

For more information on joining a garden club in your area or attending any of the educational programs, refer to a recent issue of *Golden Gardens eNews* or visit the CGCI website at www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org.