



# COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL  
Published since 2013

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

## Chairman's Message

Please take advantage of the educational opportunities currently on CGCI's official calendar posted on CGCI's website.

- An **Environmental School** is being hosted by Chula Vista Garden Club with courses 1 and 2 January 21-22 and January 23-24, 2019 followed by courses 3 and 4 July 15-16 and July 17-18, 2019. You have the chance to become an accredited Environmental Consultant in 2019 upon passing all four courses. Click here to register **TODAY:**  
<http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/NGCSchools/2019ENVIRONMENTAL%20SCHOOL%20REGISTRATION%20Form.pdf>
- A **Tri-Refresher** is scheduled for March 30, 2019 sponsored by Colfax Garden Club. This educational event is open to everyone but only NGC Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design consultants may receive refresher credit. Click here for form:  
<http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/NGCSchools/2019TriRefresherReg%20Form.pdf>

The **CCC Nominating Committee** was elected at September's fall board meeting:

Robin Pokorski ([cgcirobin@gmail.com](mailto:cgcirobin@gmail.com)), Judy Powers ([judyap45@yahoo.com](mailto:judyap45@yahoo.com)) and Nina Blonski ([nblonski@gmail.com](mailto:nblonski@gmail.com)) are looking for Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Vice-Chairmen, Recording Secretary and Treasurer to serve on the CCC for the 2019-2021 term. The slate of officers will be presented at Convention and additional nominations may be made from the floor. Election of officers immediately follows. Please say 'YES' if asked to serve - serving as an officer of the CCC is FUN and rewarding in several ways!

NOTE: CGCI's President appoints the CCC Chairman.

**Deadline for next issue April 1, 2019**

## Next Meeting



Tuesday, January 29, 2019  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, San Diego, CA

**Business meeting** - 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.

**Program:** *Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose* 8:15 – 9:00 p.m.

**Speaker:** George Speer, NGC Gardening Consultant

Join us for an educational, inspirational and entertaining program presented by CCC member, George Speer, who will share the above concepts in floral design. George is an accredited NGC Gardening Consultant and Life Flower Show Judge. George will create three creative designs that will go home with three lucky attendees as door prizes. Each attendee will receive a ticket and three tickets will be drawn upon conclusion of this unique and FUN program that is open to all. On behalf of the CCC, special 'thanks' to George for volunteering to share his talents with us in San Diego! We hope to see you there!

## 2018 – 2019 Council Officers

Chairman: Julie West, [julieawest@aol.com](mailto:julieawest@aol.com)  
Secretary: Shane Looper, [SLooper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:SLooper@sbcglobal.net)  
Treasurer: Sue Bennett, [sue\\_c\\_bennett@att.net](mailto:sue_c_bennett@att.net)  
Parliamentarian: Greg Pokorski, [GregPokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:GregPokorski@earthlink.net)

Vice Chairmen:

Environmental Consultants:

Julie West, [JulieAWest@aol.com](mailto:JulieAWest@aol.com)

Gardening Consultants:

Dave West, [JDavidWest@aol.com](mailto:JDavidWest@aol.com)

Landscape Design Consultants:

Carolyn Villi, [caronv39@yahoo.com](mailto:caronv39@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editor: Robin Pokorski,  
[cgcirobin@gmail.com](mailto:cgcirobin@gmail.com)

**Environmental School**

Course 1 January 21-22, 2019  
 Course 2 January 23-24, 2019  
 Sponsor: Chula Vista Garden Club  
 Details are available on CGCI's Calendar of  
 Events: <http://californiagardenclubs.com/calendar>

**NGC Tri-Refresher**

March 30, 2019  
 Sponsor: Colfax Garden Club  
 Details are available on CGCI's Calendar of Events:  
<http://californiagardenclubs.com/calendar>

**NGC Schools News**

By Greg Pokorski, NGC LD Schools Chairman & Gardening Schools Advisor



Changes are coming to NGC's Landscape Design School. New school series beginning on and after July 1, 2019 will no longer utilize a required textbook and will incorporate revised curriculum approved at NGC's Fall Board Meeting in Orlando, Florida. When the new curriculum is implemented it will be up to each instructor to expand on the required topics. New school series beginning before July 1 will continue to utilize the current curriculum (posted on the NGC website) and the textbook *Stewards of the Land* (available from NGC Member Services).

**New Certificate of Recognition Debuts**

Attached to this newsletter is the new CCC Certificate of Recognition for an Environmental-Friendly Commendation. It may be awarded to individuals who are not Environmental Consultants who have demonstrated outstanding skills as evidenced by their garden which supports the principles of the Environmental Schools program of NGC/CGCI.

Examples that come to mind are a garden utilizing California Native plants, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), water conservation, attracts birds, bees, butterflies and other pollinators, etc. Is the garden designated as a *Certified Wildlife Habitat* by National Wildlife Federation; *Certified Butterfly Garden* with North American Butterfly Association or *Monarch Waystation* with Monarch Watch? Any of these gardens are eligible to be recognized by this new Environmental-Friendly Commendation. Who do you know to recognize? It may be awarded to recognize the person who owns, designs or maintains the garden. Check it out!

By Greg Pokorski, CGCI Gardening Schools Chairman



I am waiting to work on California Gardening School Series 26. Interest in holding a school has recently been expressed by Chicago Park Garden Club and Valley Lode District, but I await instructions to move forward. If we do not begin a new series by the end of the 2017-2019 administration, this will be the first CGCI term without a Gardening School Course since CGCI began its first Gardening School during the 1978-80 administration of Mrs. Robert Busher. We can do better than this. We are the largest state garden club in the country. Come on, clubs and districts, let's provide some education opportunities to our members and to the public. We are supposed to be an educational organization! Twenty-four of these popular courses are currently scheduled in 15 states. Isn't it time for your club or district to see why so many find the program to be valuable?

Since there are no further refresher opportunities in California this year, the Gardening Consultant status of the following will lapse if they do not request (contact this chairman) extensions by December 31.

Anne Barrett  
 Jeannine Bentley  
 Candice Boggs  
 Susan Carmona  
 Jean Crail  
 Jewell DeLapp  
 Eva Frontz  
 Janean Guest  
 Becky Hall  
 Teresa Kilroy  
 Sandy Konow  
 Lenora Lee  
 Carole Lung  
 Serena Meadows  
 Alexa Moss  
 Sue Nolan  
 Susan Quilici  
 Christine Stabile  
 Rebecca Valentine  
 Gretchen Zeigler

***We would hate to lose you.*** If you obtain extensions, you can refresh at the Tri-Refresher in Colfax in March.

## Circle the Date for NGC Tri-Refresher

By Julie West, CCC Chairman

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

Are you one of the three types of Consultants that needs to refresh your credentials before they expire? Here is an opportunity to do just that! Colfax GC is sponsoring a tri-refresher for Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants on March

30, 2019. Maybe you are not sure of when your credentials expire? Contact Shane Looper for Environmental Consultants, Greg Pokorski for Gardening Consultants and Alexis Slafer for Landscape Design Consultants who maintain credentials for each discipline. You will find their email addresses on page 1 to contact.

Educational topics include botany, water issues, no-till gardening, grafting, school gardens, trees of the Sierras, landscape design and propagation. The event flyer is posted on CGCI's official calendar: <http://californiagardenclubs.com/calendar>.

**Circle March 30, 2019 to attend this educational opportunity in Colfax, CA!**

## Environmental School on the Docket

By Shane Looper, CGCI Environmental Schools Chairman

**Chula Vista Garden Club is hosting an NGC Environmental School in Chula Vista.** Registration forms and information are available on the CGCI website.

Course 1 January 21-22, 2019; Course 2 January 23-24, 2019; Course 3 July 15-16, 2019 and Course 4 July 17-18, 2019. Come join us!

Contact: Michael Biedenbender- [papa2j2@cox.net](mailto:papa2j2@cox.net)  
Note that Course 1 and Course 2 will be held back to back as well as Course 3 and Course 4.

**Here is your opportunity to attend the entire school courses in less than one year and become an Environmental Consultant. I'll be there. How about YOU?**

## Recycle Your Garden

By Janet Eyre, Garden Art & Craft Chairman Report from 1984

When you go out in your garden to cutback, prune, thin or pinch back, think twice before you throw out. This is where your garden art and craft starts. Even better when you plan your garden, plant a variety of shrubs, vines, flowers and trees that are useful to bring in the house to enjoy in a craft or an artistic design that you create. Here is one such project you can easily make and enjoy:

## Grapevine (or vine of any kind) Wreaths

Make your wreath any size you wish out of any types of vines that grow for you. They all turn out pretty.



Start your wreath using vines that are still bendable, not dry. Bend vine around to desired size circle and twist with floral wire to secure. Continue to add vines to circle to desired thickness. Secure circle with wire and decorate with dried flowers, herbs, leaves and ribbons. It's that easy!

## Tired of Breathing Dirty Air?

By Carolyn Villi, CGCI 2007-2009 Air Chairman and Current CCC LD Vice-Chairman

### 50 Things you can do...

1. Carpool
2. Walk or ride a bike
3. Shop by phone or mail (*NOTE from Environmental Consultants Vice-Chairman: add online shopping for today's world*)
4. Ride public transit
5. Telecommute
6. Accelerate gradually
7. Use cruise control on highway
8. Obey speed limit
9. Combine errands into one trip
10. Keep your car tuned and support smog check program
11. Don't top off at gas pump
12. Replace your car's air filter
13. Keep your tires properly inflated
14. Report smoking vehicles
15. Look for most efficient zero polluting cars
16. Drive your newest car - new cars pollute less
17. Select products that are water-based or have low amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOC's)
18. Use water-based paints (zero-VOC)
19. Paint with a brush, not a sprayer
20. Store solvents in air-tight containers
21. Use a push or electric lawn mower
22. Start barbecue briquettes with an electric probe, or use propane/natural gas
23. Turn off lights when you leave a room
24. Replace incandescent lights with energy-saving fluorescent lighting or LED bulbs
25. Check with your utility company for energy conservation tips

It may be 10 years later but majority of these tips serve as reminders that are still relevant today. Remaining tips to be continued in next issue of *Council Thymes*.

## Consultant of the Year

By Julie West, CCC Chairman

**Consultant of the Year deadline has been extended to March 1, 2019.** Consider nominating an Environmental, Gardening or Landscape Design Consultant in recognition of non-professional achievement, involvement and/or service in either the community or the NGC schools program for any of the three disciplines. Submit on a current CGCI Award Application form [californiagardenclubs.com/awards](http://californiagardenclubs.com/awards) completing only the following: Award Name, Date, Name of Candidate and Submitted by; limit to three pages including the application form. Submit your nomination for Consultant of the Year to CCC Chairman, Julie A. West, 850 Grandview Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472-2930 or email to [julieawest@aol.com](mailto:julieawest@aol.com).

## Have You Taken Advantage of Being a Landscape Design Consultant?

By Alexis Slafer, CGCI Landscape Design Schools Chairman

You have probably seen the handout titled: "Why Attend A Landscape Design School?" The answer is contained in five bullet points

- To acquire the tools necessary for making gardens more beautiful and easier to maintain
- To become better educated to make changes in our surroundings so that they will be more beautiful, useful, convenient and ecologically sound
- To develop a greater appreciation, pride and knowledge about private and public gardens
- To stimulate interest in all phases of landscape design, including community planning
- To join a cadre of qualified Landscape Design Consultants to serve in such decision-making areas of public life as providing leadership, educational programs, awards and promoting better landscape design

Why did you attend a Landscape Design School? Why did you become a Landscape Design Consultant? Have you implemented any of the aforementioned goals? What impact have you had on your own home landscape and community? Have you nominated a worthy landscape for an award or been an advocate for good land use? Do you feel that your credentials are valuable enough for your self-enrichment to remain active by refreshing your credentials? Think about how these questions apply to you.

These are questions that might not really have answers, perhaps you could become an active leader and serve as the local chairman of a Landscape Design School! As a Landscape Design Consultant, who has taken the courses, you understand the processes and you can explain the value of the school, the knowledge gained, the friendships that can develop, as well as other benefits to your sponsoring club and/or district.

Please make note of *your* credentials status? Do you have plans to refresh your credentials? It is a great idea to refresh as opportunities arise to prevent running into a situation where there are not any opportunities to refresh prior to the expiry date of your credentials. Contact this chairman if you have questions or concerns about your current status. If you are unable to refresh this year – remember that for good cause, you can request an extension of one year. Please complete *NGC LDS Form 9: Extension Request* and send it to this chairman for review and approval BEFORE your credentials lapse.

We are pleased to report that there is a refreshing opportunity on the CGCI calendar.

Colfax GC, Golden Foothills District will be holding a Multiple Refresher on March 30, 2019. Look for more information about this refresher on the NGC and CGCI website and sign up early to make sure you have a space. When determining when your credentials will lapse, look at your calendar and see if there is a slot where your club or district can sponsor a Landscape Design School. It is rewarding...and you, our current Landscape Design Consultants are the best ones to help host the event. We must provide opportunities for refreshing so our California LD Consultants can maintain their credentials.

Contact this chairman at [aslafer@ca.rr.com](mailto:aslafer@ca.rr.com), -- to discuss on sponsoring a Landscape Design School or refresher.

## Horticulture

Excerpts from Wikipedia

A **catkin** or **ament** is a slim, cylindrical flower cluster, with inconspicuous or no petals, usually wind-pollinated (anemophilous) but sometimes insect pollinated (as in *Salix*). They contain many, usually unisexual flowers, arranged closely along a central stem which is often drooping.



(Picture left: male catkins of *Ostrya carpinifolia*) In many of these plants only the male flowers form catkins, and the female flowers are single (hazel, oak), a cone (alder) or other types (mulberry). In

other plants (such as poplar) both male and female flowers are borne in catkins.

Catkin-bearing plants include many other trees or shrubs such as birch, willow, hickory, sweet chestnut and sweetfern (*Comptonia*), and also some herbaceous plants such as nettle.

The word *catkin* is derived from the Dutch *katje*, meaning "kitten," on account of the resemblance to a kitten's tail. *Ament* is from the Latin *amentum*, meaning "thong" or "strap."

Below: Male catkin on a willow (*Salix* sp.)



Right: Male [Hazel](#) catkins (*Corylus avellana*)

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### In Memoriam

**Sandra Miracle,**  
Gardening Consultant



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### Good news reported for bees this past year

By Josie Goodenow

Just over a decade ago, beekeepers began reporting disturbing declines in honeybee populations. Bees were reportedly leaving the hive and not returning. Known as colony collapse disorder, this issue was alarming not only because of the central role bees play in life around the world, but also because no one knew why this was happening. Several possible causes have since been identified, but that hasn't prevented the disappearances.

Now, according to a USDA report released December 4, 2018, honeybee populations are on the rise again. As of April 2018, an estimated 2.89 million bee colonies existed across the U.S., reflecting a 3 percent increase from April 2016.

Colony collapse disorder, the combination of the events leading to the death of a hive, makes sustaining a hive difficult. When worker bees abruptly leave, the queen bee is left with just a few

nurse bees to raise the remaining immature larvae. Although the colony may be left with ample food following the disappearance of the workers, the hive cannot survive without the worker bees' contributions.

Several years ago, beekeepers began noticing diminishing numbers of colonies surviving the winter. Typically, hives that survived the winter months averaged at 28.7 percent. However, the number dropped to 23.1 percent for the 2014-2015 winter and has remained relatively low since.

But newly released figures from the USDA indicate a break in that trend. Fewer colonies were lost during the first quarter of 2017. That lost figure is 27 percent less than the number of colonies reported lost for the first quarter of 2016.

Of course, it is still too early to know if more colonies will survive through this winter but the numbers look promising so far!

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### Lilac Verbena (*Verbena Lilacina*)

By Margaret Strachan

This perennial woody-based evergreen is a native of Isla Cedros, off Baja California. It blooms for months on end from early spring through the summer. It may bloom also through a mild winter. It will probably die down in a cold winter but will re-sprout from the roots if the cold is not prolonged. It is hardy to 20 degrees.

This plant can grow 2 to 3 feet high and about 4 feet wide, in sun or part shade and is fast growing. It should be grown in well drained, poor to average soils, but it is a tough plant and can also grow in clay soils as long as it isn't overwatered. Its natural habitat includes sandy washes, canyons, slopes, cliffs and hillsides. It will look great in a border or as ground cover on a slope.

It has small pinnately lobed leaves (many lobes arranged along the mid-rib) and fragrant heads of lavender flowers. Tip pruning will keep it bushy but do not prune excessively and never cut into old wood. It propagates well from softwood cuttings.

Butterflies love it and it will also attract bees and hummingbirds.





# California Garden Clubs, Inc.

## California Consultants Council

### Environmental-Friendly Commendation

## Certificate of Recognition

**Awarded to Individuals who have demonstrated outstanding skill in environmental-friendly gardening as evidenced by their garden which supports the principles of the Environmental Schools Program of CGCI/NGC.**

A Certificate of Recognition may be given to an individual who is not an Environmental Consultant but has demonstrated outstanding skill in gardening as evidenced by their environmental practices which support the principles of the Environmental Schools Program of CGCI/NGC. This award may be given at the discretion of the California Consultants Council (CCC) Awards Chairman or upon the written recommendation of any Consultant or garden club member. A brief description of the garden should state the name, address and owner of the garden and include photographs. See additional information required on application form.

To nominate an individual or group for this award, complete the application form with the required attachments listed and forward to the CCC Awards Chairman. Submit the application with supporting justification or concurrence with the nomination directly to the CCC Awards Chairman. NOTE: photos and/or site plan or drawing are not returned. **Maximum four (4) pages including captioned photos.**

Please submit request at least one month prior to the desired presentation date. For award to be presented at convention, the request must be received by February 1. Please do not schedule an award presentation or publicize the proposed award until the CCC Awards Chairman advises that the requested award has been approved by the Council.

Sue Bennett, CCC Awards Chairman  
7560 Shelborne Drive, Granite Bay, CA 95746-8617  
916-791-9459 /sue\_c\_bennett@att.net

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## APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL-FRIENDLY GARDEN CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

**Awarded to Individuals who have demonstrated outstanding skill in environmental-friendly gardening as evidenced by their garden which supports the principles of the Environmental Schools Program of CGCI/NGC.**

If unable to complete this form electronically, insert "see attached" and include all information on a separate piece of paper with supporting documentation. Complete application must be sent via e-mail followed by printed copy in U.S. Mail. Please caption each photograph. **Maximum 4 pages.**

Name of Person(s) whose garden is to be recognized:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address if different from physical address:

Location: (Physical Address):

(Continued on next page)

Name of Garden Club and District where located (include address, Email and phone number):

Brief Written Description/History:

Reason(s) that recognition is warranted:

Attach several photos with captions. **Maximum four (4) pages including captioned photos.**

Date/time/location proposed for presentation of award:

Name of person and mailing address where award is to be sent for presentation:

Submitted by:

Date:

Title:

Address:

Telephone Number with area code:

Email Address:

**Instructions:** After completing the application form above, attach several photographs (may be actual photographs; jpg, etc. photographs printed onto paper; photocopies; and/or newspaper article photographs) of the private garden (caption each photograph), optional plot plan of the garden, or a drawing of the garden (NOTE: photos and/or plot plan or drawing are not returned) and **mail both electronically and U.S. mail** to the California Consultants Council Awards Chairman, Sue Bennett, 7560 Shelborne Drive, Granite Bay, CA 95746-8617. Note that additional photographs or documentation in support of the application will be accepted for consideration, but at least one of the above items must be submitted with the application form. **Maximum four (4) pages including captioned photos.**

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**For CCC Use Only:**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Three Environmental Consultant CCC Members who Reviewed Application:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Notified: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Certificate Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

*West 2018*