



COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL
Published since 2013

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

Chairman's Message

When I went looking for articles on how the Coronavirus has impacted the environment, titles ranged from "Will Covid-19 have a lasting impact on the environment ...", "A Brief Look at the Environmental Impacts of COVID-19," Wikipedia "Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the environment." What was disappointing they were all written around March or April when the virus was announced in the USA.

The coronavirus is upending everything from aviation to the economy — and it's also having a big impact on the environment.

Some of those are positive — a big (albeit likely temporary) drop in CO2 emissions as factories shutter and the economy sputters — while others are negative — growing piles of possibly infected waste like tissues and old face masks.

Here are six ways coronavirus is already having an effect. (written 3/18/2020)

1. Improvements in air quality

A drop in air pollution was first observed by NASA in China's Hubei province, where the coronavirus outbreak began in December. The Chinese government on January 23 put Wuhan and other cities on lockdown to contain the virus, leading to a standstill for normal life.

Marshall Burke, a researcher at Stanford University, calculated the improvements in air quality recorded in China may have saved the lives of 4,000 children under 5 years old and 73,000 adults over 70. Even more conservative estimates [would put the](#) number of lives saved at roughly 20 times the number of deaths from the virus directly.

"It seems clearly incorrect and foolhardy to conclude that pandemics are good for health ... But the calculation is perhaps a useful reminder of the often-hidden health consequences of the status quo," Burke [wrote in a blog post](#).

Meeting Our Next Meeting



Due to circumstances beyond our control the CCC meeting for the CGCI Fall Board Meeting August 31 – September 2 was cancelled.

2019–2021 CCC Officers

Chairman: Sue Bennett
sue_c_bennett@att.net

Secretary: Pat Clayes
patclayes@aol.com

Treasurer: Nina Bilonski
nblonski@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: Greg Pokorski
gregpokorski@earthlink.net

Vice Chairmen:
Environmental Consultants:
Julie West julieawest@aol.com
Gardening Consultants:
David West j davidwest@aol.com
Landscape Design Consultants:
Carolyn Villi CaRonV39@yahoo.com

Thank you to the consultants who contributed articles for this issue of *Council Thymes*, and thanks to Julie West, assistant editor. If you have a topic or article you would like to include in our next edition, feel free to send it to me for consideration to include it.

DEADLINE: November 30, 2020.

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NGC Landscape Design School

Alexis Slafer, CGCI LDS Chairman

What's All This Excitement?

When the last CCC *Council Thymes* Landscape Design Schools (LDS) article came out, who would have thought that we'd still be in the throes of this pandemic or be practicing "Safer at Home" protocols? While our personal, community and garden club lives have been turned upside-down...it is gratifying to see what a resourceful bunch we are -- as we hold our educational events in creative ways. There have been virtual schools and refreshers held in lieu of in-person, "on the ground" events. And more creative opportunities to continue LDS and refresher events are currently being planned. Although we certainly enjoy getting together in person to visit, network, and learn...we are now operating under a most interesting alternative plan.

Isn't it exciting to see that the new NGC website will be up and running by the beginning of August! Our own Greg Pokorski has worked diligently with other members of the NGC Schools Committee to make improvements to the 2019 Landscape Design School curriculum. You will find these updates exciting and to your liking. There will be easier to use common forms and an updated *Landscape Design Schools Handbook*. Be sure to visit the NGC website and look for these exciting improvements. There are also several changes to the curriculum that are based on comments and suggestions from consultants and the LDS comment sheets. As LD Consultants or Students, it is important for you to be aware of these changes and adhere to any new requirements. Plan on attending a LD school and since this is a new curriculum you will not be hearing the "same old information" -- especially if you have been a LD Consultant for some time. It will be interesting for us to learn what you perceive as the improvements created by these changes to the curriculum. Why not consider writing a brief article to share your assessment after your next refresher?

The new curriculum has slightly shifted its focus to include more small-scale residential design. As we are now spending more time at home, consider how you might want to redesign your own garden. How can we take advantage of this opportunity to create a beautiful environment, plant a vegetable garden, design an orchard and/or invite pollinators (and other critters) to our homes? And, once our ideas are finalized, get some exercise through the implementation of the design!

More *Zoom* refreshers and courses in Landscape Design are anticipated before the end of the year. Be sure to check the NGC website for dates, venues, and registration information. Distance doesn't matter for a *Zoom* meeting, so there will be wonderful opportunities to complete a school and become a Landscape Design Consultant or

refresh your credentials. There may be restrictions (especially limited space) so don't wait too long before registering. Since there are several refreshing opportunities on the horizon, there shouldn't be too many requests from LD Consultants to extend their credentials. But if your credentials will lapse on December 31, 2020 and you are not able to refresh by that date, you must request an extension from this Chairman before December 31. Our consultants have been doing well in the "refreshing department" with only three whose credentials could lapse at the end 2020. In case you were wondering, the following consultants must refresh by the end of the year: Glyndis Jael Dean, Brenda Leal, and Anne Lohmann. However, there are several who will need to refresh by December 31, 2021. Why not refresh this year when there will be so many opportunities?! Please feel free to check with this chairman to confirm your current credentials status.

In closing, consider how rewarding it would be to host a Landscape Design School. You could reach out to a whole classroom full of interested students at one time. And, you could include those who want to become NGC Landscape Design Consultants or garden club members (as well as the public) who are just interested in gaining knowledge for their own personal enrichment. Let's hope that our next CGCI LD Schools are not too far off. But, in any case, it is not too early to begin planning. This Chairman is happy to chat with you about planning a Landscape Design School.

Take care and stay safe!

Council – FUTURE SUCCESS?

Sue Bennett, CCC Chair

Please take the time to consider

- Being part of the nominating team.
- Better yet, are you interested in being one of the Vice Chairman?

The positions don't start until June 2021; you have time to think; however, we need to be able to fill the positions.

Article VII – Nominations and Elections

Section 1. A nominating committee of three (3) members shall be elected at the Council Meeting held at the CGCI Winter Board Meeting in the even-numbered year.

Article IV—Officers – Duties

Section 2. All members of CCC are eligible to serve as officers.

Section 3. The term of office shall be two years or until their successors are elected or appointed. No officer may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in any one position with the exception of the Chairman.



Gardening Schools

By: Greg Pokorski,
CGCI Gardening Schools Chairman

Because of virtual NGC Gardening School courses being offered on Zoom, California Gardening Consultants have additional opportunities to refresh this year.

Tours of Longwood Gardens were an interesting component of Pennsylvania's recent virtual Gardening School Course 3, as was a Container Gardening workshop in which students and refreshing consultants planted containers and showed their work and explained what they had done and what plants they used. A tour of Bellevue Botanical Garden will be featured in Washington's upcoming virtual course.

Consider attending a virtual Gardening School course to refresh or just to spend a couple of days of gardening activity while you cannot attend such courses in person and to break up the monotony of your home confinement.

Please contact me for information about your Gardening Consultant status and about holding a Gardening School in your area.



CGCI Schools

Greg Pokorski, CGCI Gardening Schools Chairman

Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants are reminded that Consultant information (including your Good Standing Date – the date to which your credits remain active) is listed in CGCI's *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*. Although the printing of the new CGCI YMR is delayed because of cancellation of the CGCI Fall Board Meeting, now is the time to contact your CGCI Schools Chairmen (Environmental – Michael & Leticia Biedenbender; Gardening – Greg Pokorski; Landscape Design – Alexis Slafer) to advise if any of your information is incorrect.

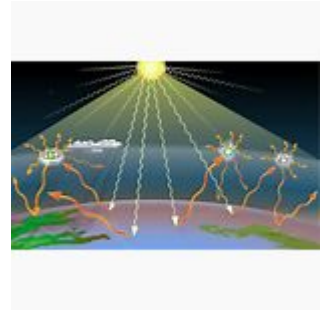
Any Consultants who need to refresh by the end of this year who are not able to participate in a refresher this year should request an extension from your CGCI Schools Chairman **before December 31**.

What do Consultants do with the information obtained in NGC Schools? How can they use this information? Please share your ideas and news of your projects and activities with us so that we can share with Consultants in California and nationally. All Consultants are invited to write articles and submit photos about your experiences related to taking NGC Schools and how you have used information contained in these schools. We would love to include your stories in state and national publications.

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2. Greenhouse gas emissions

Slowing economic activity also drives down emissions — if only temporarily. As countries order the closedown of schools, shops and factories, emissions are expected to fall. The last time carbon emissions fell was during the



economic crisis in 2008-2009. But as the economy picked up, so did demand for coal and other fossil fuels — especially in China, the world's largest emitter.

But as more people choose to stay at home, demand for home entertainment could soar, driving up energy use.

3. Mountains of waste

Coffee chain Starbucks [decided](#) to stop accepting reusable cups from its customers — only serving drinks in disposable single-use cups that are [not yet](#) recyclable in a bid to prevent the spread of the virus.

4. More room on the metro

Madrid's metro operator said ridership fell 35.8 percent on Wednesday compared to the week before. The Belgian government also advised people to avoid peak-hour travel, although Brussels' STIB said it doesn't yet have data available on any drop in riders.

A surge in working from home may lead to changes in people's long-term habits or a loss of services in some (relatively) cleaner forms of transport.

At least those who do take public transport should find it cleaner. Berlin's BVG won't allow riders [to buy tickets on-board](#) its buses in a bid to reduce spread of germs; STIB promised cleaners will give special attention to handles and buttons, and Transport for London announced plans to roll out extra-strong anti-viral cleaning liquids.

5. Stalled airline emissions

Air traffic has taken a nosedive since the virus spread to Europe. Despite previous projections of growth, 67 million [fewer passengers flew](#) in the first three months of 2020 compared to the year before.

Policymakers and industry are still trying to figure out how much worse it will get, but airlines are canceling an

NGC SCHOOLS

Greg Pokorski.

NGC Landscape Design Schools Chairman &
NGC Gardening Schools Advisor

The delayed launch of the new NGC website is now scheduled for August 3. This NGC Chairman has continued to work with members of the other NGC Schools committees to revise the common forms and handbook for Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools. Revised fillable forms which are more user-friendly and eliminate tabbing problems and font inconsistencies are to be posted with the implementation of the new website. The updated handbook will be posted soon after that.

NGC Schools committees continue to develop guidelines for Zoom courses to enable schools to take place during this time of coronavirus restrictions. This chairman has "attended" the recent virtual Michigan Tri-Refresher and a virtual Pennsylvania Gardening School course and will serve as a proctor at Washington's virtual Gardening School course in August. Ohio also has an upcoming test Zoom Gardening School course and Connecticut will have a test Zoom Environmental School. Additional Zoom courses in all three schools are anticipated after that. Ohio is planning on a September Zoom Tri-Refresher. Arizona is planning a Zoom Landscape Design School course for late October. California consultants can register to refresh at these events and California students can take these courses for credit toward becoming a Consultant. These courses first offer registration to local students and then open registration to out of state participants if space is still available. Check with me for more information.

Some changes have been made to the new (2019) Landscape Design (LD) School curriculum, primarily to clarify and simplify Courses 3 and 4. These changes will be published in the common handbook revision. Watch for the September issue of *Newscape*, NGC's colorful newsletter about LD Schools and Councils. It is posted on the LD School page of the NGC website.

All consultants and NGC School students should read schools articles in *The National Gardener* (quarterly) and *Keeping in Touch* (bi-monthly). Both publications are available for free in the Member section of the NGC website. Username member; password conserve.

increasing number of flights as the virus continues to spread and countries introduce travel restrictions.

6. Climate is no longer the crisis

With the virus consuming everybody's attention, the climate issue has been crowded off the agenda. On Monday, the European Parliament opted to forgo a debate on the EU's new Climate Law after the plenary session was shortened to minimize people's exposure. Parliament President David Sassoli then [quarantined](#) himself for two weeks.

"Meetings are being canceled but important decisions should not be delayed," said Anton Lazarus of the European Environmental Bureau. "The corona crisis cannot be allowed to slow down action to tackle climate and ecological crises."

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg on Wednesday urged her followers via [Instagram](#) to shift the ongoing Fridays for Future protests into cyberspace.

When it comes to coronavirus, "We can't solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis and we must unite behind experts and science," she wrote.

"This of course goes for all crises."

This article is part of POLITICO's Sustainability Pro service, which dives deep into sustainability issues across all sectors, including circular economy, waste and the plastics strategy, chemicals and more. For a complimentary trial, email pro@politico.eu mentioning Sustainability.

In addition, what affect will the wildfires have on the environment?



My heart goes out to those dealing with the wild fires and loss of loved ones.

Susan C. Bennett, CQCI CCCC

(California Consultants Council Chair)

I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow. — **David Hobson**

NGC FREE Youth Publications

By Julie A. West,
CCC Environmental Consultants Vice-Chairman

NGC FREE Youth Publications

Are you looking for items of interest to spend time with children and help educate them during this pandemic? Physically returning to school this fall appears questionable. I was recently reminded of two publications that are FREE to download and assist educating our youth. As the NGC website states: *Education is the key for making responsible decisions for today and tomorrow.* Both publications were researched, written and compiled by members of NGC's Environmental Concerns and Conservation Committee as a component of the 2015-2017 NGC President's Project: Pollinators. They provide opportunities for creative learning and focus on the natural resources found on earth.

Ecology Warriors is a 13-page workbook geared toward younger students and can be found on this link: <http://gardenclub.org/resources/ngc-ecology-warriors-workbook-101614.pdf>

One-page topics to study include air, bees, birds, butterflies, energy, forests, invasive plants, land conservation, recycling, water and wildlife. You can print the entire workbook or one page of interest.



 **ecology**

WARRIORS

An Educational Publication of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.




Pollinator Power

An Educational Publication of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Pollinator Power is for older children with a variety of subjects including bats, bees, beetles, butterflies, flies, hummingbirds, moths, wasps plus pollinator habitats, pollinators in peril, pollinator seed sources, websites and apps for pollinators as well as houses for pollinators. You may print all 23 pages or just subjects of interest and you will find it on this link to download: <http://gardenclub.org/resources/ngc-mpgc/ngc-pollinator-power.pdf>

Both these youth-oriented publications expose children to gardening, conservation, protection of wildlife as well as a love and appreciation for nature. Educated citizens are responsible stewards who make wise choices conserving and protecting earth's natural resources. Help the youth in our world learn that choices matter!



*Little things
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air. .*

GEORGES BERNANOS

Photo by NGA member, "ktbodin"

