



California Garden Clubs, Inc.

CONSULTANTS eNEWSLETTER

NGC Environmental, Gardening & Landscape Design Consultants

National Garden Clubs, Inc., Pacific Region

January 2012 Vol. 2-1



Welcome to the CGCI Consultants eNewsletter

The three groups of NGC consultants (Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design) in California are pleased to bring this second issue of our joint eNewsletter to you -- all who have subscribed to receive it. All consultants, garden club members and the public are welcome to subscribe. See bottom of eNewsletter for links to manage your subscription (unsubscribe) and to forward the eNewsletter. Please do not forward using your server as the eNewsletter could be construed and reported as spam. If you would like to contribute articles for future newsletters, [click here](#) to send articles to the [Editor](#).

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Councils' Meetings at 2012 CGCI Winter Board

Gardening & Landscape Design Consultants will meet during the Winter Board Meeting at The Cliff's Resort, Pismo Beach, as follows (**and all Environmental Consultants are invited to attend**):

- Gardening Consultants Council: Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 9:00 pm to 9:30 pm.
- Landscape Design Council: Thursday, February 9, 2012, 8:00 am to 9:30 am.



CGCI Wildflower Conference 2012

April 4-6, 2012

Palmdale, California

Be sure not to miss this great opportunity! [Click here](#) for more information. The registration form can be found on the [CGCI Calender](#) under April. The hotel requests that you make your reservations ASAP, and the deadline is **March 23, 2012**. The deadline to register for the conference is also **March 23, 2012**. Questions: Contact [Donna Thomas](#) or [Merrilee Ray](#).



News from NGC

NGC Schools News

By [Greg Pokorski](#), ES, GS & LD Schools Coordinator

The following recommendations (applicable to Environmental Studies (ES), Gardening Study (GS) Schools and Landscape Design (LD) Schools) were adopted at the May 27, 2011 Pre-Convention NGC Board Meeting:

1. ES, GS and LD Schools held back-to-back must consist of at least a two (2) day minimum for each course.
2. All requirements as stated in the ES, GS and LD Handbooks/Operations Guide must be maintained; i.e., number of subjects and time allotment for each subject - ten (10) hours per course - exclusive of the examination time allotment.
3. Unless these requirements are met, the NGC Schools Chairmen have the final authority to grant or not grant approval or accreditation for a state school course or event.

This action taken by the NGC Executive Committee at its Winter Board Meeting in January 2011 was ratified by the Board of Directors at the May 27, 2011 Board Meeting: That ES, GS and LD Schools/Refreshers held without prior NGC accreditation be disqualified, and the establishment of a six-week time line for ES, GS and LD School chairmen to submit rosters following the conclusion of a course, refresher or multiple refreshers be ratified. (This ruling applies to state, regional and NGC sponsored courses/events.) Any questions? Contact the Educational Opportunity/NGC Schools Team, led by the following for the 2011-2013 term:

Environmental Studies School: [Judy Newman](#) / Gardening Study School: [Greg Pokorski](#) / Landscape Design School: [Jane Bersch](#)

Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems

Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems is one of NGC's Special Projects for 2011 - 2013. This project recognizes that it is of utmost importance and urgency that members of NGC identify and address critical water issues at local, state, regional, national and international levels because water equals life. Aquatic Ecosystems include rivers; lakes & ponds; streams & creeks; marshes & bogs; wetlands; coastal estuaries; aquifers; floodplains; and springs.

NGC believes it is imperative that we support and undertake proactive initiatives for the protection, conservation and restoration of the quality of the nation's coastal waters, wetlands, aquifers, watersheds, lakes, rivers and streams through educational programs,



conservation efforts, increased advocacy and partnerships with related government agencies and state and national grassroots water coalitions. For more information, [click here](#). For more information about the NGC award, [click here](#).

Protection of the Clean Water Act

Congress enacted the [Clean Water Act](#) "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's waters." According to [Marion Hilliard](#), NGC Environmental Concerns & Legislation Chairman, "Over the past decade interpretations of Supreme Court rulings (SWANNCC 2003 & Rapanos 2008) removed some critical waters from Federal protection and caused confusion about which waters and wetlands are protected under the Clean Water Act (CWA). As a result, important waters now lack clear protection under the law. The EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers developed a draft guidance for determining which waterway, water body or wetland is protected by the CWA. This guidance would replace all previous guidance . . . public comments on the proposed document were sought. The EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers will finalize the document once comments are received and analyzed." Hilliard reports that NGC President Shirley Nicolai submitted comments in support of the draft guidance document. To read more about this subject, see page 4 of the August-October 2011 *Keeping in Touch*. [Click here](#).

If you are interested in legislation advocacy and receive legislation information from NGC, send your name, state and email address to [Marion Hilliard](#) via [email](#) or 904-264-6619.

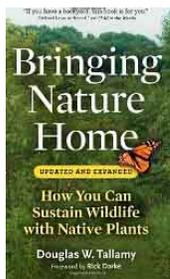
News from Environmental Consultants

CGCI Environmental Studies School Chairman: [Shane Looper](#)

Invitation to all Environmental Consultants

All NGC Environmental Consultants are welcome to attend the Landscape Design Council & Gardening Consultants Council Meetings.

AND GREAT NEWS, at the last meeting of the Gardening Consultants Council, the following action was taken: **It was moved and seconded to invite the Environmental Consultants to become members of the Gardening Consultants Council. It will be a new standing rule. Motion passed.**



Environmental Studies Schools Update

NGC advises that there is a NEW ESS brochure available at NGC Headquarters which includes subjects taught at each of the four courses.

Also approved by the NGC Board of Directors last May was the addition of a second required reading text book, [Bringing Nature Home -- How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants](#) by Douglas W. Tallamy. This text is filled with insights about the relationship between plants, insects, butterflies, spiders, birds and animals which relates to "Gardening with Nature," one of the subjects taught in Course 1.

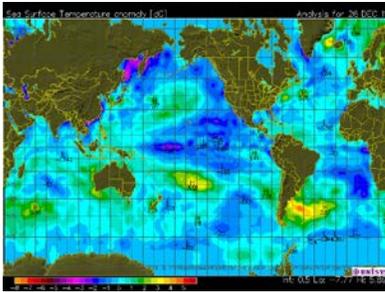
Oil (HazMat) Disposal & Recycling

By [Carole K. Lung](#), NGC Environmental Consultant

The oil from a single oil change (1 gallon) can ruin the taste of a million gallons of drinking water (enough water to supply 50 people for one year). A film of oil on the surface of water blocks sunlight and prevents oxygen from dissolving in the water, which impairs photosynthesis processes in plants and kills fish and other aquatic life. Oil dumped on land reduces soil productivity and can cause expensive clean-up problems. Concentrations of 50 to 100 parts per million of used oil can foul sewage treatment processes.



So, if you have any used motor oil to dispose of, call your local county/city for advice. Carole's local trash agency in Huntington Beach offers free residential used oil disposal. Most community trash services do not accept tires, electronic waste or hazardous waste but have HazMat disposal locations. Most trash agencies accept the following for recycling (but check with your local agency for specifics in your area): Aluminum cans; aerosol cans (must be empty); brochures; cardboard; cereal boxes (remove wax paper lining); clothes hangers; computer paper; coupons; envelopes (includes plastic windows); frozen food boxes and trays; glass bottles/jars; glass cosmetic bottles; junk mail; laundry bottles; magazines/catalogs; newspapers; paper; paper tubes; phone books; pizza boxes; plastic containers (#1-#7); plastic milk jugs; tin cans; tissue boxes; wrapping paper.



The New El Nino

El Nino Modoki (*modoki* is Japanese for "similar but different") emerges every few years, along with the more known El Nino and La Nina. According to *National Geographic*, "A Modoki cycle triggers more landfalling storms in the Gulf of Mexico and the western Caribbean than normal and more tropical storms and hurricanes in the Atlantic than El Nino does." Also, "Modoki's precipitation patterns are the reverse of El Nino's -- making the American West, for instance, drier than wetter." [Click here](#) to read

more about El Nino Modoki. [Click here](#) to read about El Ninos in general. Map: [UNISYS Current Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly Plot](#)

News from Gardening Consultants

Council Officers for 2011-2013 term

Chairman: [Myrtle Findley](#) / Vice Chairman: [Pat Clayes](#)
Secretary: [Mary Lou Goodwin](#) / Treasurer: [Sue Bennett](#)

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 9:00 to 9:30 pm - see information above. If time permits, a short video will be shown from a garden tour in 2011 in California. [Click here](#) to view the draft minutes from the September 2011 meeting. And please particularly note: **It was moved and seconded to invite the Environmental Consultants to become members of the Gardening Consultants Council. It will be a new standing rule. Motion passed.**



[Click here](#) to view the recent report from the Special Committee of Gardening Consultants Council to Investigate Possible California Consultants Council (combined council of Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants). The report was read at our last council meeting. Please bring a copy of this report with you to the next council meeting.



Message from the CGCI Gardening Consultants Council Chairman, [Myrtle Findley](#)

After you finish the four sessions of the Gardening Study School, what comes next? Hopefully, after you have completed the school, you become excited and want to use what you have learned. Sharing with others gives the greatest of rewards. Besides just improving your own backyard, why not share your knowledge with others?

Your club and district need programs which specialize in some aspect of gardening. Create a great program with the knowledge you have learned from GSS (Gardening Study School); and then let your club, district director and other groups in your area know about your program. Often, other service organizations welcome programs and hunt for them. Graduates from our Gardening Study Schools have received schooling and training and are qualified to use that training. Please do and let us know how you are using your knowledge and training.

Also, If you are a Gardening Consultant and a state board meeting or convention is being held in or near your location, your help is needed. The Gardening Consultants Council would like to present a Certificate to an "Outstanding Private Garden" at each CGCI meeting. Find a garden in your area. Download the application for this award from the CGCI website. Fill it out and then forward it to the Chairman of the Gardening Consultants Council. Help us find private gardens to recognize at our state meetings (then follow up with publicity in your area).

Finally, our Consultants eNewsletter needs articles written by our Consultants. *Golden Gardens* needs articles as well. Local newspapers in smaller communities also welcome articles, as do many magazines, such as *Organic Gardening*, etc. So, for those consultants who like to write, let's hear from you!

Home Grown

Vegetables, fruits, melons, nuts, animals, etc., raised and grown on the soil near where one is living, is what "home grown" is all about. "Home grown" encourages club members to know where produce is grown. **Use fresh produce.** Better yet, if you have space on your deck or in your yard, grow something yourself! Experience the reward of picking your own herb, pepper, tomato or potato. In rural areas, there is the reward of raising **chickens -- eggs!** Most supply stores in all areas carry cages for chickens; so anyone can raise chickens if there is a bit of space and local laws permit.



- **Trees** - If a home has room for trees, plant a tree that produces a fruit or nut. These trees give shade plus the bonus of having something to eat.
- **Tuck in Plants** - Tuck in a few onion plants amongst your blooms; and then tuck a few parsley plants here and there. All types of thyme can be added as borders for a neat finish. Corsican mint is a wonderful ground cover and can be harvested as well (and a great smell on which to walk).
- **New Southern blueberry shrubs** thrive in the heat and sun; and they can be interplanted with your blooms. While gardening, snack on a few blueberries! Think useful plants amongst your beautiful flower blooms.
- Another good home garden plant is the **raspberry**. There are many different kinds.

Plant them at the back of your garden along a sunny fence and keep their feet moist and mulched. Some varieties produce all summer long; others in the spring and fall. Shop around for different varieties.

You can contact Myrtle Findley by [clicking here](#) or telephone Myrtle at 530-346-2450.

Tips for Storing Herbs

From Newsletter of Chicago Park Garden Club



Herbs are best used in season, but there are some which are hard to do without. Here are some tips to store them for winter use:

- **Chives** - Chop finely and place in ice cube trays (with no water) and freeze. Once frozen, the chive cubes can be stored in a plastic bag in the freezer to be used later.
- **Parsley & Dill** - Shake off pests (don't wash unless you have to), place in a plastic bag and freeze. Crush while frozen to get perfectly chopped herbs.
- **Mint** - Chop finely and mix well with a pat of room temperature butter so oils blend. Roll into a patty, wrap in cling film and freeze (it makes delicious mint butter for topping your veggies or chops).
- **Tarragon** - Remove 1-1/2 inches of vinegar from a bottle of white wine vinegar; stuff the bottle with tarragon leaves. In about six weeks, you will have tarragon vinegar.
- **Lemon Verbena** - Tie small bunches with string and hang upside down in a dry spot (not kitchen). After four days, leaves will be dried and can be sealed in a jar. Use crushed for Lemon Verbena cookies or for tea.



Did you Know?

You can use safflower seeds, instead of sunflower seeds, in your bird feeders. Squirrels, grackles and blackbirds do not like the bitter taste. Chickadees, finches, titmice and nuthatches love it. Switch over gradually by offering a mix of whatever you have been feeding, and the birds will adjust.

You can water your houseplants with leftover water after steaming your vegetables? Of course, let the water cool first! The water will be full of vitamins that will make your plants flourish and smile.



News from Landscape Design Consultants

Council Officers for 2011-2013 Term

Chairman: [Pat Clayes](#) / Vice Chairman: [Myrtle Findley](#)
Secretary: [David West](#) / Treasurer: [Mary Lou Goodwin](#)

[Click here](#) for the DRAFT Council Minutes from September 2011.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2012, 8:00 am to 9:30 am. See information above. If time permits, a short video will be shown from a garden tour in 2011 in California.

Report Read at Last Council Meeting

[Click here](#) to view the September 2011 report from the Special Committee of Gardening Consultants Council to Investigate Possible California Consultants Council (combined council of Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants). The report was

read at our last council meeting.

Message from the Landscape Design Council Chairman, [Pat Clayes](#)

The council now has 84 paid Council members! Plus, since last summer, the California LDC awarded eight Landscape Design Commendations, one Award of Merit in Landscape Architecture and three Certificates of Appreciation for various landscape projects throughout California. More awards are in the works which will be given at CGCI's Winter Board Meeting in Pismo Beach where our council will meet.



Particularly of interest, two Los Angeles County police officers were given Certificates of Appreciation (recommended by [Martha Hunt](#)) in recognition of their outstanding skill in managing good land use at the 101 Hollywood Freeway tunnel and embankment at Lemon Grove Avenue and Kingsley Drive, Los Angeles. The sides of the Kingsley tunnel had always been plagued with gang tagging and illegal dumping of trash, etc., so the officers wanted to improve the landscape around the tunnel (as this area was part of their patrol).

These Los Angeles County police officers brought the community together via a town hall meeting and expressed their need for support of their plan: To rid the area of graffiti and develop a simple beautification project to bring beauty to the community so that community would respect the land around the tunnel and make it their own. With the help of the community, Cal-Trans and the [Assistance League of Southern California](#), phase 1 of the project was completed. Phase 1 included installing anti-weed barriers, placing mulch on top of the barriers, fencing of the tunnel entry and placing plantings of *Bougainvillea spinosa* (Fragrant Bougainvillea) for vertical trellis installations and/or vine arrangements for aesthetics and/or ornamental installations. Shrubs were also planted: *Thevetia peruviana* (Yellow Oleander) plants were selected for the green belt as the plants' root systems will prevent erosion on the slopes. According to Cal-Trans, both plants are drought-resistant.

So, keep those recommendations and award applications coming to me. The council wants to give awards, and it wants to know what you, your club, your district, etc. have been doing with regard to landscaping.

Forms for Council's Awards

All LD consultants are urged to recommend recipients for these awards to the Council for consideration. [Click here](#) for more information and application forms.

- **Landscape Design Commendation** - Awarded to individuals and groups by the CGCI Landscape Design Council for good land use. The Commendation may be presented at any CGCI, club or district meeting (please allow at least one month for processing). A council member must recommend nominee, but others may propose candidates to council members.
- **Award of Merit in Landscape Architecture** - Awarded to landscape architects by the CGCI Landscape Design Council in recognition of excellence in land use on a commercial, public or residential project. Award may be given at any CGCI, club or district meeting (allow at least one month for processing). A council member must recommend nominee, but others may propose candidates to council members.
- **Certificate of Appreciation, Recognition and/or Achievement** - May be given to an individual or group who is neither a LD Consultant or landscape architect but has demonstrated outstanding skill in managing land use or has enthusiastically supported the Landscape Design Program of CGCI/NGC. These Certificates may be given at the discretion of the LDC Chairman or upon the written recommendation of any consultant.

NGC Award #40 - Landscape Design Consultants

Our council submitted a three page NGC application form for this award to NGC again this year. Keep your fingers crossed that we receive this award again this year! Our council received the first place award last year.

Council Awards

Since the 2011 CGCI Fall Board Meeting, the Council has awarded the following awards:

- **Certificates of Appreciation** - Senior Lead Officer Julie Nony and Senior Lead Officer Brenda Rimerez, Los Angeles County Police Department, for outstanding skill in managing good land use at the Hollywood 101 Freeway tunnel & embankment, Lemon Grove Avenue at Kingsley Drive, Los Angeles, California.

More awards are in the works - The LDC Chairman is working with Chairman of the 2012 CGCI Winter Board Meeting and Bob Gordon for LDC awards (Landscape Design Commendations, Certificates of Appreciation and Awards of Merit in Landscape Architecture) to be presented at Winter Board.

Landscape Design Consultant of the Year Award

Please submit recommendations for this award to the LDC Chairman [Pat Clayes](#).

Message from CGCI LDS Chairman, [Alexis Slafer](#)

This past year was an incredible time for the NGC Landscape Design Schools in California. Congratulations are due to the 40 new Landscape Design consultants who completed all four courses of the two schools offered in 2011. Taking advantage of the new requirements for the scheduling of courses, these two schools were completed in less than the previous two year requirement. CGCI LDS Series 24, sponsored by the Costa Verde District, was completed in less than one year. While the 25th Series, a fast tracked "noble experiment," sponsored by Colfax Garden Club, was successfully completed in 6 weeks.



The Costa Verde District was pleased to sponsor Series 24, held at the South Coast Botanic Garden in Palos Verdes Peninsula, with an incredible high course attendance of 43, 41, 43, and 45, respectively. While the school added 22 new Landscape Design consultants, it also provided an opportunity for 5 consultants to refresh their credentials.

Holding the Landscape Design School at the [South Coast Botanic Garden](#) provided unique opportunities for refreshing lunch breaks and inspiring landscape design evaluations.

During the fourth course, a California Landscape Design Council's Landscape Design Commendation was presented to the South Coast Botanic Garden (SCBG) in recognition of good land use. SCBG is a realized vision through the cooperative efforts of Los Angeles County, the SCBG Foundation and the community. It is a public botanic garden containing over 200,000 species of plants from around the world. The 87-acre public garden is one of the world's first botanical gardens to be developed over a sanitary landfill. The success of this reclamation effort is apparent in the peaceful shady groves and gardens of spectacular color enjoyed by visitors throughout the year. The presentation of this award during a Landscape Design School is particularly appropriate because, as members of the CGCI Landscape Design



Council, these new consultants are encouraged to recognize and honor good landscape designs and land use.



Colfax Garden Club was the dedicated and energetic sponsor of Series 25, held in Colfax. Kudos go to the school co-chairs, **Myrtle Findley** and **Bili Winter**, as well as the rest of their committee for their dedication and efforts in

successfully organizing and completing this school. All four courses were completed within 2 months. An attendance of 34, 30, 25 and 29 during each course, respectively, resulted in 18 new Landscape Design consultants. In addition to these new consultants, two consultants were able to refresh their credentials.

Holding these two schools close together -- in both the north and south of the state -- allowed those missing a course to complete the requirements necessary to become a Landscape Design Consultant or to refresh their credentials. While there are no new Landscape Design Schools currently being planned, discussions are underway regarding the possibility of holding Series 26 & 27.

Consider the opportunity for your district or club to sponsor a school to fulfill the objectives of:

- developing a sense of appreciation, pride and knowledge about both private and public gardens
- becoming better educated to make changes in the landscape so they will be more beautiful, useful, convenient, ecologically sound and easily maintained
- stimulating interest in all phases of landscape design
- developing a contingent of qualified Landscape Design Consultants to serve in decision-making areas of public life.

Sponsoring a school or attending one or more courses not only meets the objectives of National Garden Clubs, Inc., but also provides an opportunity to get together with others of like interests, make new friends, hear from knowledgeable experts, and just have fun! For more information about sponsoring a Landscape Design School, please contact [Alexis Slafer](#), CGCI LDS Chair, at (323) 292-6657 or [email](#).



Designing Residential Outdoor Rooms

By [Yvonne English](#), L.A.

(Excerpts from handout at the NGC/CGCI Bi-Refresher, Dos Valles, CA, October 2011)

Consider the client's needs/goals/priorities and learn the importance of landscape elements to the client (pool and spa; outdoor kitchen; outdoor family room; meandering walk around property). What needs is the client trying to satisfy? Entertainment? What is the client's style? What is the client's budget? Determine maintenance commitment early.

Take inventory and collect data: boundary conditions; regulations & setback requirements; existing landscape, hardscape, buildings & interior rooms; views; climate, sun position at various times of the day.



Back to School - Schools & Refreshers

No current courses have been ratified by CGCI. Think about sponsoring an upcoming Environmental Studies School, Gardening Study School or a Landscape Design School.

You can also check the [NGC website](#) for courses in other states.

Events of Interest Around California & Beyond

- February 24-26, 2012. Pacific Orchid Expo, San Francisco, CA. [Click here](#) for more information.
- March 21-25, 2012. [San Francisco Flower & Garden Show](#). [Click here](#) for the reduced ticket information for CGCI club members.
- March 30, 2012. Landscape Architects Expo in Long Beach. [Click here](#) for more information.
- April 4-6, 2012, CGCI Wildflower Conference, Palmdale. See information above.
- April 12-20, 2012 - Holland in Tulip Time Plus Floriade – CGCI Sponsored Tour. Check [CGCI Calendar](#) for more information.
- April 27-29, 2012, [California State Home & Garden Show](#), Sacramento.
- Flower Shows - Check the [CGCI website calendar](#) for local flower shows, home and garden tours, and plant sales.

The Living Desert University in Palm Desert/Indian Wells, CA is offering Environmental Education. [Click here](#). Please note that these courses are not associated with NGC's Environmental Study School.

AHS is offering three new exciting destinations as part of the AHS **Travel-Study program**. First up, **San Diego County** from **March 21 to 25** promises to be a mesmerizing experience as AHS explores the area's exuberant springtime landscapes, including a sneak peek at new plant introductions at the California Spring Trials. Next, AHS heads to Sweden from **June 26 to July 6** to enjoy its midsummer gardens and castles. The final trip of the year will be to Southern Spain from **October 26 to November 5**, where participants will soak up the Andalusian heritage and gardens of Cordoba, Seville and Granada.

Contacts

Environmental Studies School Chairman: [Shane Loooper](#)
Gardening Consultants Council Chairman: [Myrtle Findley](#)
Gardening Studies School Chairman: [Greg Pokorski](#)
Landscape Design Council Chairman: [Patricia Claves](#)
Landscape Design Study School Chairman: [Alexis Slafer](#)
CGCI eNewsletter Editor: [Patricia Claves](#)

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