



COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL
Published since 2013

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

Chairman's Message

As chairman of the California Consultants Council, I am proud to report that the CCC successfully met one of the Council's objectives by sponsoring the June 2014 Tri-Refresher held in conjunction with CGCI's convention in Glendale. The NGC paperwork has now been filed with the NGC Multiple Refresher Chairman and each school's Accrediting Chairman for the consultants seeking refreshing credit who attended. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We are hoping to have a special CCC members-only tour at CGCI's winter board meeting in Fresno. Details are in the process of being worked out. We are keeping our fingers crossed that it will be successful with winter board scheduling, carpooling, etc. that will be revealed in the 2015 winter issue of the *Council Thymes*.

The CCC has been asked to sponsor and give a workshop at the CGCI Convention scheduled for June 8-12, 2015 in Reno, NV. Is there a member of the CCC who would like to provide this educational opportunity for convention attendees? A final decision needs to be made at our September meeting. Contact this chairman if interested in volunteering.

Thank you for supporting the CCC endeavors. We look forward to seeing you at the next CCC meeting at the Holiday Inn in Redding on September 3rd!

Next Meeting



The next CCC meeting will be held at the CGCI Fall Board Meeting at the Holiday Inn in Redding on Wednesday, September 3 at 8:00 - 9:00 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.

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 Robin Pokorski, RobinP@juno.com. Deadline for next issue: December 15, 2014.

Member News

By Shane Looper, Council Treasurer

We're glad you've joined us!

Current Membership: 47

Pay your council dues so we can keep
this number growing!

Council Officers

Chairman: Julie West, JulieAWest@aol.com

Secretary: Pat Clayes, PatClayes@aol.com

Treasurer: Shane Looper, Slopper@sbcglobal.net

Parliamentarian:

Robin Pokorski, RobinP@juno.com

Vice Chairmen:

Environmental Consultants:

Dave West, JDavidWest@aol.com

Gardening Consultants:

Carole Lung, CKLung@verizon.net

Landscape Design Consultants:

Josie Goodenow, JosieGoodenow@wildblue.net

School Daze

Landscape Design Schools

October 23-24, Course I, Santa Rosa

Contact: Mary Ann Swanson,
707-762-3118 emswanson@comcast.net

See flyer attached.

Course II, April 23-24, 2015

Course III, October 22-23, 2015

Course IV, April 28-29, 2016

By Julie West, Tri-Refresher Chairman

The first Tri-Refresher, *Together Our Choices Matter*, sponsored by the CCC included 39 attendees held June 6 & 9, 2014. NGC member refreshers included four Environmental Studies Consultants; twenty-three Gardening Study Consultants and eleven Landscape Design Consultants of which two were multiple refresher consultants.

The Forest Lawn bus tour included instruction on the bus as well as information at each stop. Descanso Gardens had two docent-led tours based upon physical ability to navigate flat pathways vs. stairs and hilltop destinations. Each consultant had an Opinion paper to complete and turn in for each tour that included the following observations:

- Positive and Negative Environmental Choices made by Forest Lawn and Descanso Gardens
- Positive and Negative Horticulture Choices made by Forest Lawn and Descanso Gardens
- Positive and Negative Landscape Choices made by Forest Lawn and Descanso Gardens

In addition to the two fabulous tours, lectures were held at the hotel and Descanso Gardens on all three disciplines. Instructors included David King, Don Marquardt and Steve Lang. A big 'Thank you' to Robin Pokorski and Alexis Slafer who provided valuable assistance with various challenges and 'kudos' to everyone who attended for their flexibility to make this tri-refresher an educational and memorable success!

See photo gallery on page 6.

Surprise at Convention in Glendale



Taken by surprise, CCC Chairman Julie West was awarded Consultant of the Year in all three disciplines that includes the first Environmental Consultant of the Year. Thanks for everyone's support with the CCC endeavors.

By Margaret Strachan, Gardening Consultant

Fall is the ideal time to plant native plants, and the genus *Ceanothus* is one to consider for your garden. The genus is confined to North America and has forty three species in California. It is most often an evergreen and the species range in size from creeping or low mounding to medium sized shrubs to multi-trunked trees up to twenty-five feet tall. They grow at many elevations but are most concentrated in foothill regions, and usually grow at a rapid rate. Depending on the variety they flower in late spring or mid to late summer. The foliage varies widely and ranges from linear to nearly round, and tends to be small to medium in size. The flowers are abundant and are usually deep blue but can be pink or white. Because the flowers of some varieties are similar to the Lilac Bush they are often called California Lilacs.

Ceanothus can be propagated by seed but because the seeds generally have hard coats they need pre-treatment with immersion in hot water followed by soaking overnight. They can be planted outside in pots or flats in late fall. Cuttings taken during the cooler months and dipped in a rooting hormone are a successful method of propagation. These can then be placed in a sheltered spot in pots, either outside or in a heated greenhouse.

Ceanothus grows in drought-like conditions in their native habitat and require similar conditions in your garden. You can expect a 20-25 year life if the plants are treated as drought tolerant. Always plant them in a sunny spot. Once well-established water should be withheld in late summer and early fall and they must have good drainage from the soil. They can develop chlorosis (yellowing of leaf tissue due to lack of chlorophyll) in alkaline soils but usually grow out of it. The best time to prune is after the plants have finished flowering.

Some butterflies like the Pale Tiger Swallowtail, Brown Elfin, California Hairstreak and Spring Azure will use *Ceanothus* as their larval plant. In addition, it is a good nectar source for a variety of adult butterflies and the species is certain to attract bees. You will have a beautiful addition to your garden, and remember these plants thrive on neglect.



Ceanothus in CCC Chairman's butterfly habitat garden.

Descanso Gardens Commended

By Julie West, Council Chairman

Congratulations to Descanso Gardens which was awarded a Landscape Design Commendation by the CCC on June 9, 2014. Executive Director David R. Brown and Director of Horticulture & Gardening Operations Rachel Young received the honors for good land use including botanic collections of historical significance, a variety of gardens providing year-round natural beauty and specialized areas for multiple uses. David Brown gave those attending the tri-refresher tour a brief history of the 150-acre botanical garden. Descanso as stated (and fulfilled) in their mission statement, practices "exemplary stewardship of their distinctive character and assets; offer people an experience close to nature; and cultivate an understanding of the natural world and people's place in it through inspiration, education and example."



Nature's Table Garden



Executive Director David R. Brown with Landscape Commendation



Oak Forest



Two people fill in to accept the Landscape Commendation for Rachel Young, Director of Horticulture and Gardening Operations



Japanese Garden

Gardening is cheaper than therapy and you get tomatoes.

~Author Unknown



Humboldt Botanical Garden

By Mary Lou Goodwin, Gardening & LD Consultant Emeritus

Congratulations to Humboldt Botanical Garden Foundation who was awarded a Landscape Design Commendation by the CCC on June 13, 2014 at the Humboldt District Meeting. Chairman Evelyn Giddings accepted the honor for good land use including trails, resting areas, viewpoints and variety of gardens. The 44.5-acre botanical garden located adjacent to the College of the Redwoods (south of Eureka) showcases native plants, woodland gardens with rhododendrons and a large section of perennials. Humboldt Botanical Garden's motto is "Inspire - Educate - Grow." CGCI President Rita Desilets was in attendance for the presentation.



Photo (left to right): Terry Kramer, Head Gardener, Humboldt Botanical Gardens; Mary Lou Goodwin, LD Consultant, Emeritus; Evelyn Giddings, Chairman, Humboldt Botanical Gardens; CGCI President, Rita Desilets and Janean Guest, Humboldt District Director.



Club members visiting Humboldt Botanical Garden.



Humboldt Botanical Garden – Perennial Display

Landscape Design School – Santa Rosa

The only NGC school currently on CGCI's official calendar for this Fall is Course I of Landscape Design School, Series 26 hosted by the Luther Burbank District. Circle the dates, **October 23-24, 2014** and come to Santa Rosa for the event. New students interested in learning about landscape design for their home gardens are welcome as are existing Landscape Design Consultants who wish to refresh their credentials. The flyer with registration form is attached to this issue of the *Council Thymes*. Contact Chairman Mary Ann Swanson, 707-762-3118 or email her at emswanson@comcast.net for additional information.

Landscape Design Schools

By Alexis Slafer, LD Schools Chairman

This has been a very active time for our 124 CGCI Landscape Design Consultants.

Great success was seen with 20 LD Consultants refreshing at the Landscape Design Refresher sponsored by the Colfax Garden Club and the CCC sponsored Tri-Refresher at the 2014 CGCI Convention in Glendale. And there is still another opportunity for consultants to refresh their credentials this year at the first course of the Landscape Design School being sponsored by the Luther Burbank District in Santa Rosa in October.

While having 20 LD Consultants refresh in the first half of this year is wonderful news, unfortunately 11 consultants lapsed at the end of 2013. And, even worse is announcing the possibility that 37 Landscape Design Consultants' credentials are in danger of lapsing on December 31 of this year. Please check your status and be sure to refresh before your credentials lapse. The next opportunity to refresh (or become a LD Consultant) is at the school being held in northern California or look at the NGC website for a refresher in another state.

If you have been unable to refresh due to illness or other significant reason, you may apply for an extension. Please remember that the CGCI LDS Chairman must receive your request for an extension **before** your credentials lapse (12/31/14). If you have any questions about your current status please contact Alexis Slafer, CGCI Landscape Design Schools Chairman at aslafer@ca.rr.com.

Calendar of Events

Sep 3 CCC Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Redding

Gardening Study Schools

By Greg Pokorski, GSS Chairman

Gardening Study Schools still wanted! We need clubs or districts to develop and sponsor CGCI's next series of Gardening Study Schools. There have been a few inquiries, but no specific progress. See the Gardening Study Schools page at the CGCI website for curriculum and general information. Contact this chairman for more information. CGCI and NGC always have education as part of their missions and especially in this term we have been asked to *Make a World of Difference* by providing education about good gardening and conservation choices and to *Plant Seeds of Knowledge and Stewardship*. Sponsoring a Gardening Study School is a great way to accomplish these goals.

Congratulations to 23 Gardening Consultants who refreshed their certificates at our recent CCC Tri-Refresher and are now in good standing until 12/31/2019.

Belated congratulations to Patsy Jeffery and Shane Looper who became Master Consultants during the Nevada City school.

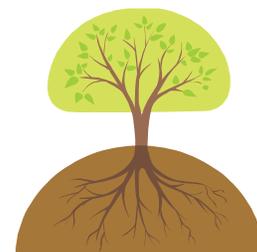
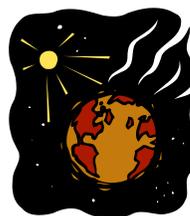
Annual updates to the CGCI *Yearbook, Manual & Roster* have just been completed. We now have 145 Gardening Consultants (91 Consultants, 14 Masters, 33 Provisionals and 7 Emeriti). The new edition will be available at Fall Board Meeting. Club presidents and District Directors should know who their Consultants are, congratulate them for their accomplishment and utilize them in club and district programs and projects.

Twelve Consultants will lapse 12/31/14. Request an extension before that date if you do not want to lapse.

WANTED



AN NGC ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOOL IN CALIFORNIA.



These are a few of the subjects that you can hear about in **ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOOL**. Plan a school and learn how you connect with the environment. Plus it's loads of fun!

CONTACT: Shane Looper, CGCI Environmental Studies Schools Chairman, 650 871 0172 or SLooper@sbcglobal.net

2014 Tri-Refresher Memorable Moments

Forest Lawn Tour June 6, 2014



Lectures and Descanso Gardens Tour June 9, 2014

