



COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL
Published since 2013

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

Chairman's Message

'Thank you' to CCC member, Maria Krenek, who presented the fabulous program, "Color your Garden with Heathers" at the CCC meeting September 7, 2016. The plants Maria had available for sale propagated by the Heather Enthusiasts of the Redwood Empire (H.E.R.E.) went home throughout California with several of the attendees.

A reminder that the *Council Thymes* needs YOUR articles of interest related to any of the three disciplines: Environmental, Gardening or Landscape Design subjects. The deadline is April 1, 2017 for the next issue. Your input is valuable and appreciated so please don't be shy!

Another 'thank you' to Kathy Bramhall, 2017 Winter Board Co-Chairman who made the arrangements and obtained John Whittlesey from Chico to speak at the January 30, 2017 CCC meeting. His book, *The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias* is part of the Plant Lover's Guide series by Timber Press on important ornamental plant groups. The guides offer a great education in ornamental gardening with inspiring photography of both plants and gardens that feature them. You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn everything you need to know about growing and designing with *Salvias*! We hope you will join us in Anderson!

Sad News

We are sorry to report the passing of these Consultants since the last issue:

Gardening Consultant and CCC member **Mary Francis**, Roseville;

Provisional Gardening Consultant **Grace Marton**, Eureka;

Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultant **Robert Schuler**, Brookings, Oregon.

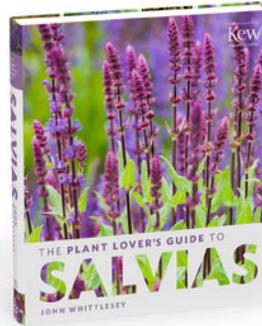
Next Meeting



CCC Business Meeting - CCC members only
Monday, January 30, 2017
6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Mount Shasta Room
Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson, CA

7:15 - 8:30 p.m.

Program is open to all CGCI attendees: *The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias* by John Whittlesey



Salvias have long been among John's favorites and he incorporates them generously into his garden designs. John is owner of Canyon Creek Nursery & Design, author, garden designer, landscape contractor and avid amateur photographer. His goal as a designer is to use regionally adapted plants to create attractive, drought-tolerant gardens that provide sustainable, welcoming habitat for both people and wildlife. John's book, *The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias*, has 266 colorful photographs on 150 varieties of *Salvias* including design tips, growing and propagating *Salvias* and lots of additional educational information. It will be available for purchase following his presentation.

2015 - 2017 Council Officers

Chairman: Julie West, julieawest@aol.com

Secretary: open

Treasurer: Shane Looper, Slooper@sbcglobal.net

Parliamentarian: Robin Pokorski, RobinP@juno.com

Vice Chairmen:

Environmental Consultants:

Dave West, JDavidWest@aol.com

Gardening Consultants:

Josie Goodenow,

JosephineGoodenow@gmail.com

Landscape Design Consultants:

Carolyn Villi, caronv39@yahoo.com

By Greg Pokorski, GSS Chairman



Will your Consultant status lapse December 31, 2016? If you don't know, check with your State Schools Chairman (Shane Looper for Environmental

Studies, Greg Pokorski for Gardening Study, Alexis Slafer for Landscape Design). If your good standing expires December 31 and you might take advantage of an opportunity to refresh in 2017, request an **extension of time to refresh** from your State Schools Chairman. **We don't want to lose you as a Consultant!**

NGC National Garden Week and Schools Chairmen are collaborating to challenge all NGC Consultants to celebrate their consultant status and use and share knowledge gained in NGC schools during National Garden Week, June 4-10, 2017. The idea is to make NGC's Consultants more visible and vibrant, to give them a stronger purpose and a national purpose and to give them an opportunity to give back by observing a **National Consultants Day during National Garden Week**. We want you to recognize your achievement in completing an NGC school and we want you to share the information you have obtained while letting others know about NGC, CGCI and your local garden club. Start planning what you or a group of Consultants in your club and/or district can do – and share that information with us so we can publicize it in this newsletter.

Read articles about NGC Schools in *Keeping in Touch* and *The National Gardener*. Both publications are available on the NGC website – Login Member, Username *Member*, Password *Flight*. Publications are listed under Member Section Menu. NGC's *Newscaper* about Landscape Design Schools is available at the bottom of the NGC Landscape Design Schools web page. The Fall issue features California news. A new NGC Gardening Consultants Council Newsletter was launched in November. It is available at the bottom of the NGC Gardening Study Schools web page.

Tri-Refresher

Those who are Master Consultants in Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design may be eligible (depending on their good standing and last refresher status) to simultaneously refresh in two or three subjects at the February Tri-Refresher.

Check with Shane Looper (Environmental Studies), Greg Pokorski (Gardening Study) or Alexis Slafer (Landscape Design) about consultant status and eligibility to refresh.

CCC Landscape Design Commendation Awarded

The Fortuna garden of Don and Sheri Jewett is what a suburban garden can be with great design, thoughtful and intelligent planning, broad plant knowledge and meticulous care and culture. The garden is compartmentalized into a series of garden rooms, which do not reveal themselves all at once, but with a new delight at every step taken, every gate passed through or every corner turned. Hardscapes such as the walkways, fences, arbors and sitting walls define the sense of space, privacy and mystery drawing us ever forward. The broad range of materials used to create the floors and walls of these spaces include stone, colored concrete, wood and metal. It even includes a raised vegetable and herb garden as well as an espaliered apple tree with a mason bee house nestled in its branches.

The plants include heaths and heathers, conifers, succulents, ornamental grasses, trees, perennials and vegetables in abundant varieties, colors and textures that maintain an all-season, perpetually changing kaleidoscope of colors and textures for enjoying the garden any time of day or year. It is people-friendly inviting conversation, strolling and a reprieve from the outside world with beautiful vignettes and destinations. Arrangements that include benches, tables, fountains, art, colorful vases, and bird and bee houses pull the eye through the garden. One's attention is rewarded by the plants and shrubs happily growing in every part of the garden and the many points of interest beg a closer look. It is a quiet garden that creates a pleasing composition filled with many details that enhance, not distract, from the overall elegance it communicates.



Heathers and Conifers

The garden is a low-maintenance, drought-tolerant garden in the use of plant material and hardscapes that minimize lawn and water use. Bees, birds and

other beneficial visitors to the garden are welcome and well provided and cared for. It is an example of how lush, beautiful and functional a garden can be while being respectful of earth-friendly principles and practices. It is a garden with elements that reflect what make a garden healthy and enjoyable for people and plants alike engaging our senses and sense of place, enticing us into and around the garden.

Congratulations to Don and Sheri Jewett who attended the CCC meeting September 7, 2016 in Loleta, California and received the CCC Landscape Design Commendation demonstrating good land use for their Fortuna garden.



Stacked Succulents



Raised Vegetable and Herb Garden



Long View in a Small Garden

THE THRILL AND CHALLENGES OF CREATING A POLLINATOR GARDEN

By CCC Landscape Design Vice-Chairman, Carolyn Villi

We moved to the Sierra foothills about three years ago and for some reason I was never happy with our backyard - something didn't feel right. Our property dropped off the rocky bluff we live on into an endless view of oak trees, weeds and blooming-weeds, otherwise known as wildflowers. Our landscaping lessons always spoke of focal points and borders to create a space where we could feel secure and comfortable.



We were missing a border and I also wanted a pollinator garden. So with that in mind, I analyzed our property from every angle. Then I saw it right on the edge of our fire-break, hanging on for dear life to keep from tumbling down into the canyon below was my spot. A piece of granite surrounded by scrub oaks covered by thistle, fiddle neck, dove weed, foxtails, poison oak and rocks; but the perfect place for a garden to border our property and turn our vision back from the endless hills into our backyard.

I grabbed my tools and garden cart and went to work. I knew I must work hard to get everything cleared off this rocky patch if it was to become anything worthwhile. See photo of the work-in-progress!

Next, what to plant? Yes, I wanted it to become the border of our property and I wanted to attract the pollinators, butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and wildlife. I also wanted it to be something I would love. I started at a nearby iris farm where I chose five bright-colored irises to be anchor plants at the entrance to the garden. Next, for height in back and to close the space, I planted the taller of the milkweed plants (*Asclepias tuberosa*) with masses of orange and red flowers that bloom from June to fall. I also planted another milkweed but smaller *Asclepias curassavica* 'Silky Red'. To add additional height, I planted a tall sage (*Salvia guaranitica* 'Black and Blue'), Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*) and the four-foot *Verbena bonariensis*.



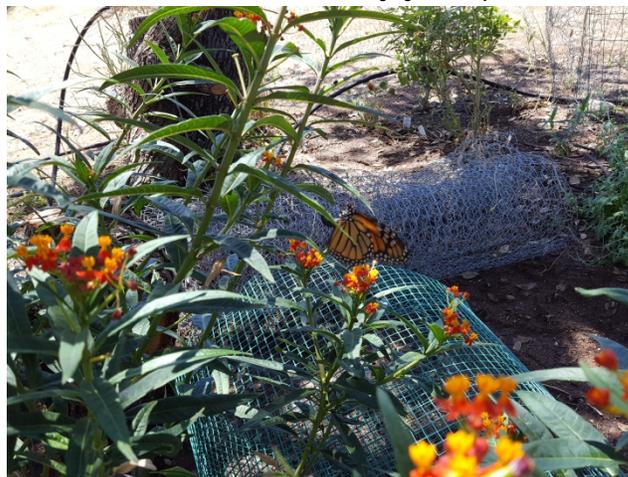
Now it was time to fill in with flowers to attract pollinating insects and wildlife; but not our local herd of deer. I planted my favorite common biennial foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and the exciting new long-blooming hybrid *Digiplexis x hybrid* PPAF, a non-stop spring through fall bloom, both 'Raspberry' and 'Foxlight Ruby Glow'. Additional pollinator flowers planted included cornflowers (*Centaurea cyanus*), *Gaillardia*, *Rudbeckia* commonly known as black-eyed Susan, *Nasturtium*, Sage (*Salvia species*) and *Lobelia*.

I added a few woody perennials that I love and was confident the deer would not eat: Lavender (*Lavandula sp.*), Mexican Sage (*Salvia leucantha*), Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) and Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) - all producing great fall color. I threw in lots of wildflower seeds, hung a metal flying butterfly sculpture and called it a day.

The good news is that everything bloomed! The bunnies, quail, squirrels, hummingbirds and several kinds of bees all visited, but no butterflies. I kept a careful watch all summer; and then late August I spotted a pair of Monarchs flying through the garden. A few days later as I was checking the plants, there they were - seven fat beautiful Monarch caterpillars chewing away on the milkweed. I grabbed my camera and ran to take pictures and sent them to friends and neighbors - my pollinator garden was now a complete success!



Three days later, as I did every morning, I walked down to check on our caterpillars. THEY WERE GONE, vanished; only three tiny caterpillars were sighted. I was standing there in shock when a huge wasp with a black body and orange wings flew down out of the sky. It dove right into the butterfly milkweed and carried off one of the caterpillars. I rushed and picked off the remaining two babies and took them into the house where they remained under protective eyes, in their little butterfly-net house. Then they turned into a chrysalis, waiting for the perfect time to burst forth into beautiful Monarch butterflies. And they did! We had a grand release day back into our garden with them circling over our heads - it was a wonderful and joyful experience.



My idea of a pollinator garden was providing nectar for a variety of our pollinators. I now realize it's also a hunting ground for predators. Our fall herd of deer

came and ate most of the garden. Will I do it again? Absolutely – I'm just waiting for fall planting and springtime to repeat the process and enjoy our garden for pollinators. A true habitat for all wildlife...

Gardening Study School

By Greg Pokorski, CGCI Gardening Study Schools Chairman



Thanks to Colfax Garden Club and Chairman Myrtle Findley for completion of Series 25 in September. Seven students tested and four consultants refreshed. Congratulations to four new Gardening

Consultants: Annette Choate, Ana Muir, Caron Outman and Cheryl Ann Vander Werf. It was reported that the instructors were great and enjoyed their participation in the school and that the club added some new members.

We say good-bye to these Gardening Consultants who will lapse December 31 unless they contact me immediately to request extensions: **Nancy Abernethy, Dana Behymer, Tammy Granados, Teresa Kilroy, George Speer, Mary Ann Swanson, Barbara Watzke and Gret Bili Winter.** We thank them for their past participation in the Gardening Study School program. **But you can still get an extension and refresh in Long Beach in February.** All Gardening Consultants in good standing will be eligible to refresh in Long Beach.



IT'S TIME!

It is time to plan a Gardening Study School (or refresher) in your area. Your district or club can sponsor these events utilizing local instructors and providing an opportunity to attract new members. Each School

contains four two-day courses. Each course includes five required subjects and one supplemental subject for a total of ten hours of instruction that cover gardening from soils to harvest (fruits, vegetables, flowers). Think of how rewarding it would be to sponsor a Landscape Design School or Refresher...and you, our Gardening Consultant members of the CCC are the best ones to help host the school. Contact this chairman for details – GregPokorski@earthlink.net, 818-361-7873.

School Daze

Tri-Refresher

February 24 – 25, Long Beach
Contact: Jane Kaylor, Chairman
562-496-2670 or kaylor_jane@yahoo.com
Registration flyer will be available on the CGCI website soon.

A Refresher Opportunity is on the Horizon

By Alexis Slafer, CGCI Landscape Design Schools Chairman

We are pleased to announce the newest NGC Tri-Refresher being held in California...and you won't want to miss this opportunity to refresh your Landscape Design Credentials! While still in the planning stages, this Tri-Refresher is being sponsored by Long Beach Garden Club of Costa Verde District. Mark your calendars and save the date. The event will be held on February 24-25, 2017 at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church on Willow Street in Long Beach.



A good example of a re-imagined garden space.

The two-day refresher course is open to everyone, not just consultants. This is a wonderful way to check out the NGC Schools and become inspired to sponsor your own Landscape Design School. The focus will be on "*Reimagining the Existing Garden.*" The intent is to look at good design, maintenance issues, sustainability concerns, and user desires and needs as they change over time. As a tri-refresher, all three of the NGC Consultant areas (Landscape Design, Environmental Studies, and Gardening Study) will be addressed. We look forward to the two-hour tour to three residential gardens being planned for the first day. And, to ease your test-taking anxieties, please be aware that because this is a refresher and not a course, there will not be any exams.

Think of how rewarding it would be to sponsor a Landscape Design School or Refresher...and you, our Landscape Design Consultant members of the CCC are the best ones to help host the school. Please contact Alexis Slafer, CGCI LDS Chairman (aslafer@ca.rr.com) to sponsor and plan our next Landscape Design School.

