



# COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL  
Published since 2013

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

## Chairman's Message

I hope you all enjoyed your summer!

As your new CCC Chairman I would like to express my appreciation for all of the members' support. I especially want to convey my thanks to the previous term's Council Officers. All of their efforts were greatly appreciated! Now, it is time to move forward with new ideas with a fresh approach. I sincerely hope that each and every CCC member participates in making this newsletter interesting, educational and entertaining. We all need to add our own special touch to reflect our diversity and passion in our gardening endeavors and interests.

I read in the August edition of "Keeping in Touch" that over the past few years National Garden Clubs' membership has declined in all 50 states. The CCC membership is also down at this time. So, what are we as garden club members and consultants going to do about this? What can each one of us do to spark the interest of others in their quest to learn more about gardening, helping the environment, and gaining landscape design skills? How can we, as a group of devoted garden club members, engage our fellow gardeners into actively pursuing their gardening passions and goals? Please give these thoughts your careful consideration and let the rest of us know your ideas!

As our Pacific Region Director, Peggy Olin stated in the WACONIAH, "Over the next two years let's share our knowledge of gardening and plant our plants - the ones that make the birds sing and the butterflies flit."

Our very own Alexis Slafer, Landscape Architect, Master Landscape Design Consultant, Gardening Consultant, CGCI Landscape Design Schools Chairman, CCC and CGCI Board of Trustees member has generously accepted my invitation to give a program on her passion, Landscape Design at our next meeting! You definitely don't want to miss her dynamic presentation!

## Our Next Meeting



Everyone is invited to attend!

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

4:30 pm to 5:30 pm in Room B  
Gold Country Casino and Hotel,  
4020 Olive Highway, Oroville,  
CA 95966

A few items of business for the Agenda include:

- Awards sponsored by CCC given at our Convention in San Luis Obispo
- CGCI School Chairmen reports
- Program on Landscape Design titled - Maintenance: Friend or Foe?

## 2015 - 2017 Council Officers

**Chairman:** Josephine Goodenow,  
beechairman@cagardenclubs.org

**Secretary:** Shane Loooper,  
Slooper@sbcglobal.net

**Treasurer:** Sue Bennett,  
Sue\_c\_bennett@att.net

**Parliamentarian:** Greg Pokorski,  
gregpokorski@earthlink.net

### Vice Chairmen:

Environmental Consultants: Julie West,  
julieawest@aol.com

Gardening Consultants: David West,  
jdavidwest@aol.com

Landscape Design Consultants: Carolyn Villi,  
CaRonV39@yahoo.com

## ***Your Suggestions for CCC***

*By Josephine Goodenow, CCC Chairman*

I have received some great ideas as a result of my inquiry for suggestions from members. Thank you!

Here is a start but please continue to submit your own ideas!

- Special speakers at the CCC meetings
- Speakers, including CCC members, may be paid for presenting their program
- Programs about a garden or park local to the meeting venue
- After CGCI meetings, members could be invited to gardens or parks talked about in our CCC program. These can be visited on our way home!
- More Horticulture programs
- More Educational programs and workshops
- More local garden and nursery tours, arranged by members living near CGCI meeting venue
- More nominations from more consultants to honor individuals
- More CCC awards
- Have a local landscape architect or landscaper talk about the local area and the site problems they encounter
- Make presentation of certificates during CGCI luncheon meetings so that all CGCI members can see the person being honored for their garden
- Budget funds to pay for lunch for honorees attending CGCI luncheon
- Budget funds to reimburse CCC Chairman for administrative expenses such as; postage, envelopes, travel to see some gardens being honored, expenses for a CCC display unit to be shown at each CGCI meeting
- Have 3 consultants volunteer to review Commendation Applications. If more than 3 consultants volunteer, rotate submissions amongst the volunteers

Let me know what you would like to see in return for your dues paid as well as your responses to these suggestions already made!

## ***NGC Schools News***

*By Greg Pokorski, NGC Landscape Design Schools Chairman & Gardening School Advisor*



All who are involved with NGC's Schools need to know that the NGC board of directors approved the following

changes at the board meeting in Richmond, Virginia on May 18, 2017:

That all educational schools' names be consistent by only having a subject name before "schools." Environmental Studies Schools are now Environmental Schools. Gardening Study Schools are now Gardening Schools. There is no change to the names of Landscape Design Schools or Flower Show Schools. Because of cost factors, we do not expect to see these name changes on the NGC website for some time. Please continue to use the existing forms, we will go forward with the changes, not change what exists on the website.

\$5.00 registration fees for all (Environmental, Flower Show, Gardening and Landscape Design) school courses, symposia, refreshers and multiple refreshers are eliminated as of July 1, 2017. There is no change in fees for testing or refreshing.

Please contact the applicable NGC School Chairman with any questions you have about these changes.

Remember to read NGC's *The National Gardener, Keeping in Touch* and the Landscape Design Schools' *Newscape* and Pacific Region's *WACONIAH* for articles and information about NGC Schools.

## ***CGCI Schools News***

*By Greg Pokorski, GS Chairman*

Annual updates to the *CGCI Yearbook, Manual & Roster* were submitted in July. Look for updated information about Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants when the 2017-2018 yearbooks are distributed at the Fall Board Meeting in Oroville. Provisional Consultants, Consultants and Master Consultants are listed by district for each school. The dates shown next to the Consultants' names indicate the date by which Provisional Consultants must complete all four courses in that school (you have until the end of the seventh calendar year after beginning a school), or the date by which Consultants and Master Consultants must refresh their credentials so their consultant status does not lapse (you have until the end of the fifth calendar year after becoming a Consultant or after your last refresher). Those on approved extensions are also shown. Emeritus Consultants, who no longer need to refresh, are listed separately for each school.

Consultants are encouraged to use the knowledge gained from these schools by participating in the CCC, by supporting schools and refreshers and by using your knowledge to benefit your clubs and districts. Clubs and districts are encouraged to recognize and acknowledge the Consultants within their clubs and districts for their achievement and to utilize their knowledge by involving them in local activities.

Long Beach Garden Club is sponsoring a Tri-Refresher in Long Beach on October 27 & 28. Hold the dates and watch for the registration form to be posted on the CGCI website. This is the only California opportunity for Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants (in good standing) to refresh for the remainder of this year. Check with your CGCI schools chairmen, Shane Looper (ES), Alexis Slafer (LDS) and me (GS) about your status and eligibility to refresh.



## **Gardening Schools**

*By Greg Pokorski, CGCI Gardening Schools Chairman*

Per the related article, we are now Gardening Schools rather than Gardening Study Schools.

Despite the addition of several new Gardening Consultants from Series 25 in Colfax last Fall, our numbers are sadly decreased (due to lapses and deaths) from 134 a year ago to 119 now (71 Consultants, 13 Masters, 27 Provisionals and 8 Emeriti). We can do better than that!

Have you made plans in the new garden club year to begin a Gardening School (GS)? GS addresses all aspects of gardening. NGC provides the infrastructure with this well-established educational program for you to provide education to your members and to the public. **You and your district or club are needed to begin one (or more) new schools.** 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). Contact this chairman for details – [GregPokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:GregPokorski@earthlink.net), 818-361-7873.

A second reminder that these Gardening Consultants must refresh this year or request and receive extensions by December 31: Beverly Brune, Margaret Strachan and Sharon Thorne. These Gardening Consultants are on extensions and must refresh by December 31: Teresa Kilroy, Darcey Lober, George Speer and Sharon Swildens. **Don't lapse. There is always something new to learn.**

This Chairman increasingly feels like he is lost in the desert. Not only are pleas for new schools ignored but so are the requests for information about schools and consultant activities for use in various garden club publications. Other states are continually running schools and California has had a vibrant history of conducting NGC schools which can be a key component of carrying out our organization's educational mission. What has changed? Aside from the useful information obtained

in these schools and the beneficial social interactions experienced in attending these schools, for years members, especially club and district leaders, viewed completing these schools as acquiring garden club "merit badges." Does that no longer call to any of our members?

## **Environmental Schools**

*Shane Looper, Chairman*



Why should a district or club host a **NGC Environmental School?**

**And the Answer is to educate your members on their environment!**

**Here are few subjects that are studied in the Environmental Schools.**

- Gardening with Nature
- Wildlife-Animals
- Insects
- Coastal Zone Management
- Plants
- Ecology
- Pollution
- Earth Stewardship
- Nature Field Trips

These exciting subjects are geared towards the individual's environment and how each person affects their environment and the environment around them.

**Want** your club to grow in membership? Host an Environmental School. Invite the public to the school and then give them the opportunity to join your garden club.

**Want** your club to have younger members? Host an Environmental School. Our youth today are very interested in the environment. This educational school may attract those young people to the garden club.

**Here are the requirements to become an Environmental Consultant.**

There are four courses to attend and study to become an environmental consultant. The text book is *The Living Earth.* Each course is a two day study of environmental issues. Instructors are chosen from professional instructors at the college level or professional level. Each course includes a nature discovery field trip.

Please consider this school as your next educational school for your members!

Contact: Shane Looper, CGCI Environmental Schools Chairman- [slooper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slooper@sbcglobal.net), 650 871 0172

## ***Landscape Design Schools***

*by Alexis Slafer, CGCI LDS Chairman*

Welcome to our new 2017-2019 term. A new Landscape Design School (LDS) is on the horizon. Upon ratification at the CGCI Fall Board Meeting, LDS Series 27 will become official. This Landscape Design School, sponsored by Colfax Garden Club, will be completed on a 'fast track' – that is within 5 weeks. The local chairman is Ingrid Elsel. You can reach her for more information at [ielsel8888@gmail.com](mailto:ielsel8888@gmail.com). The proposed dates are:

- Course 1 – February 3-4, 2018
- Course 2 – February 10-11, 2018
- Course 3 – March 3-4, 2018
- Course 4 – March 10-11, 2018

We are also pleased to include a reminder of our upcoming Tri-refresher being sponsored by the Long Beach Garden Club. The dates are October 27-28, 2017. This refresher is important to all consultants, but especially to those whose credentials are due to lapse on December 31, 2017. There are 9 Landscape Design Consultants who have requested an extension on the date their credentials will lapse. As a reminder, the approval of those requests is ONLY for one year. So, if they have not refreshed by the end of the year, their credentials will lapse...they cannot receive another extension.

We saw 18 Landscape Design Consultant credentials lapse last year and have 9 California Landscape Design Consultants whose credentials will lapse at the end of 2017... Look for your names here and plan on attending the Tri-refresher in Long Beach:

- Nina Bionski
- Cheryl Burns
- Linda Doran
- Joye Gephart
- Launa Gould
- Gudy Kimmel
- Emily Lacina
- Sharon Ratterree
- Darcey Lober

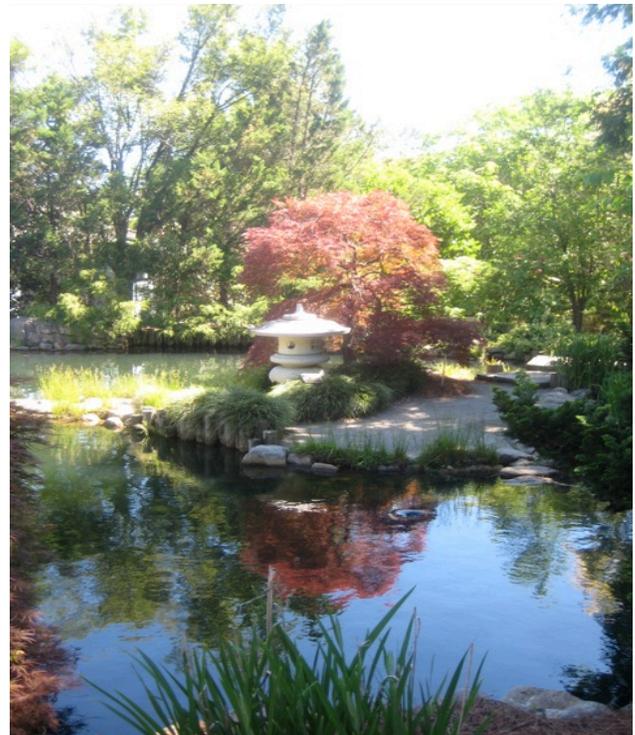
Please contact this Chairman to verify your current status, for more information on these upcoming events or just to discuss the Landscape Design Schools. And, be sure to read the articles written by NGC Landscape Design Schools Chairman, Greg Pokorski, in this issue of the Council Thymes.

Just 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.

We encourage you to become active members of the CCC and to think about the opportunities that are available as a Landscape Design Consultant. One opportunity that should not be missed is to become involved as the local chairman of a Landscape Design School!



Pond with Bridge at Ginter Gardens, Richmond, VA



Japanese gardens at Ginter Botanical Gardens



Blue Jug at Chautauqua Hall of Christ

- #4. Horticulture Excellence in Gardening
- #5. Landscape Design Advocate
- #6. Memorial Planting
- #13. Club Touring
- #14. Home Garden Tour
- #29. Backyard habitat
- #21. Conservation Project
- #22. Home Garden
- #24. Horticulture
- #25. Operation Wildflower
- #27. Unique Backyard Enhancement

## ***Leadership Workshop***

*By Chuck Goodwin, Humboldt District Treasurer*

October 20 Leadership Workshop: "Seeding the Future." This action-packed Workshop will help you and your members sharpen the skills needed to carry on the leadership of your organizations, whether garden clubs or any other non-profit. Attendance is not restricted to garden club members.

The Registration Form can be filled out online, downloaded and mailed with your check to ensure your place at this special event. Registration includes a Reference Booklet and lunch. Seating is limited.

I have learned that at least one Club is offering scholarships to its members, totaling \$300 so that as many members as possible can attend.

Please share this opportunity with all non-profit groups in your area.

### **Leadership: Seeding the Future**

What do **YOU** need to know to be a presiding officer or treasurer or secretary? What do **YOU** need to know to handle difficult members? What do **YOU** need to know to increase membership or motivate your current members to participate? Come to the Leadership Forum – five hours long – but it's action-packed! You'll learn lots and have a good time learning it. Bring a pencil to take notes, there'll be oodles of ideas to share with your club or district.

As a serving Officer, you will refresh your leadership skills while learning some new tricks. As a future Officer, you will receive a sound foundation in the basics of becoming an effective leader!

### **Leadership is ...**

Rewarding, fun, interesting ..... make the most of your position!

## ***Southern California Garden Club's Signature Plant***

*By Robin Pokorski, CGCI Five-Star Member*

Our Signature Plant Program started in September 2000 at the encouragement of then Pacific Region Director Lisa Stephens of Arizona. Each Pacific

## ***Awards***

*by Mary Lou Goodwin, Gardening Consultant Emeritus and  
Landscape Design Consultant Emeritus*

Here is a listing of awards that the California Consultants Council sponsors or provides judges for. All Consultants are encouraged to participate in the Awards Program. This is a great way to show that you are putting into practice what you have learned from attending the NGC Schools!

### California Consultants Council Awards

1. Award of Merit in Landscape Architecture to a Landscape Architect
2. Landscape Design Commendation to individuals or groups
3. Landscape Design Certificate of Appreciation/Recognition/Achievement to individuals or groups.
4. Outstanding Private Garden Award to an individual.

All of above can be downloaded from the CGCI website and submitted year-round.

CGCI, INC., 2017-2018 Awards. Deadline is December 1st in most cases. Application form and award evaluation forms are on the CGCI Website. The following awards require some landscape design, gardening, or environmental work.

- #1. Community Impact
- #2. Blue Star Memorial Site Beautification
- #3. Civic Development

Region Director selects a Director's Special Project in which all the states in the region may participate for the two years of their term. Our Pacific Region is the most climatically diverse, covering the eight western states of **Washington, Arizona, California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Alaska, and Hawaii**. If you take the first letter of each state in this order you have the name of the Pacific Region newsletter: **WACONIAH**. It's cock-full of garden club news and floral design and horticulture articles from around the region. An online subscription is free.

Our club enjoyed studying one specific plant so much we continued the program beyond the first two year. Since 2000 we have studied geraniums, roses, irises, tulips, orchids, ferns, azaleas, African violets, and tomatoes last year, among others. Each year at the April or May board meeting, the Signature Plant for the following year is selected. One or more programs each year are devoted to our Signature Plant and at least one workshop has to do with our Signature Plant. This year Southern California Garden Club is looking forward to studying spices – our president's theme is "Spice Up Your Life with Garden Club."

## **Gardening for Wildlife**

*By Julie West, Environmental Consultants Vice-Chairman*

It is possible to transform any small garden space into a refuge many species can use and enjoy. You, the gardener, can choose practices that encourage the balance of nature as well as eliminate practices that upset that balance. As a wildlife garden matures, it becomes more interesting to watch, complete with a variety of birds, butterflies and pollinators plus less work to maintain. A wildlife garden can also be a place for each of us to reflect on our relationship with nature.

- **Think diversity.** Choose species that flower and fruit at different times providing year-round pollen, nectar, seeds and fruit of one sort or another.
- Include several deciduous plants: their yearly abundance of tender new growth and decaying plant parts provide sustenance for many creatures.
- Include perennial bunch grasses that provide shelter and hunting ground for many insects and seeds for the birds.
- **Think insects.** Many interesting backyard wildlife species rely heavily on insects for food. Their beauty and diversity are never-ending sources of wonder.
- Think insects again. Insects are the balance in the balance of nature. Pesticides destroy the food chain in the garden balance of nature so avoid using them.

- **Think natives.** Local California native plants are best adapted to our climate. Most are drought tolerant and fit best into a wildlife garden as they support local insect populations.
- **Water** features are invaluable in wildlife gardens.
- Taking notes and making species lists may add to your pleasure and facilitate the sharing of your observations with fellow Environmental Consultants.

Remember the five basic elements of a Certified Wildlife Habitat from the *National Wildlife Federation* are food, water, cover including shelter from bad weather and for hiding, places to raise young and sustainable gardening. How you manage your garden has an effect on the health of the soil, air, water and habitat for native wildlife as well as the human community. Give it a try – it's easier than you might think!



## **San Pedro Garden Club Landscape Design Awards Program**

*By Josephine Goodenow, California Consultants Council Chairman*

Here's a club that has started a Landscape Design award program of their own! The San Pedro Garden Club of Costa Verde District started their award program in 2012 after a club member noticed a landscape award sign on a Balboa Island property. After getting the approval of the board, the club member made arrangements to design and purchase two landscape design award signs that they present to the winners of their awards.

To determine the winners, a group of six garden club members were assembled and each was assigned an area of San Pedro to cover. When a residential or commercial garden is found that they deem worthy, they email the information to the

committee chairman. The chairman sends this information to each person on the committee and after looking at the possible landscape design award winners, they each send in their vote for the winner to the chairman.

The chairman then visits the designated addresses and asks the owners if they would like to receive the certificates and landscape design award signs for their property. If they agree, they are presented with a beautiful framed certificate and the landscape design award sign, which is displayed in their garden. This process is done every three months, at which time the landscape design award signs are retrieved and moved on to the next winners. They had three landscape design award signs "lost" at commercial properties, so the club decided that the commercial winners would just receive a framed certificate.

Photos are taken of the winning gardens which are put in a Garden Club notebook. The notebook is passed around at their membership meetings each month for all to see. The winning gardens addresses and homeowners/business names are listed in their garden club monthly newsletter. What a great program for a garden club to start, and with so little effort! I encourage every club to consider starting their own landscape design award program and look into CGCI award #5, Landscape Design Advocate Award!

The photo album of winning landscapes

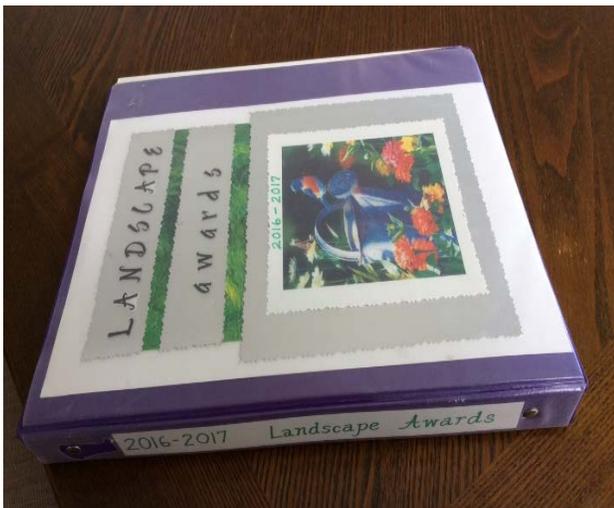


Photo of their beautiful certificate



Photo of their attractive yard sign



Photo of a winning home owner with the yard sign

**Does your club have a project or program that brings attention to a local landscape or other aspect of gardening, landscape design or environmental interest? Please share with us if you do! We all would love to hear about your club's activities!**

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## ***National Consultants Day in Florida***

*Florida Federated Gardening Club*

As part of a NGC's new initiative to feature National Consultants Day during National Garden Week, the four Councils of FFGC presented a program at Headquarters on June 7. Titled "Water, Water Everywhere, Will there be enough to drink?", the event drew over 50 participants from 7 of our 12 Districts. Participants began the day with a tour of Leu Gardens led by director Robert Bowden and one of his horticulturists and sponsored by the Gardening Consultants Council. The rains held off and all were able to reconvene at Headquarters for a presentation by Teresa Watkins, author and recognized leader on environmentally-friendly landscapes. Sponsored by the Landscape Design Council, attendees received much valuable information for their own "water-wise" gardening efforts and then were able to purchase many of the plants they had just seen at a plant sale set up by Marge Hendon, FFGC 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. and nursery owner. Following lunch, the Environmental Consultants Council introduced Drew Martin, an NGC Environmental Course instructor and active member of the Sierra club who challenged the group with "Water is a Many Faceted Issue—Where do we go from here?". And to complete the day, all enjoyed the floral design interpretations of Cascade by Betty Moore, Barbara Willey and Margaret Kirkpatrick sponsored by the Judges Council. Two guests—potential members—attended and the day was not only a big success but hopefully a prototype for these kinds of events around the state.

***Hey, California consultants, this is a sample of an awesome way to get NGC consultants and non-consultants together to celebrate next year's National Consultants Day! Think about it!***

***Gardening tips*** - An easy solution for pests in your yard: combine a tablespoon of canola oil and a little liquid dish soap in a quart of water, shake well until completely mixed. Put in a spray bottle and generously spray the plants, including under the leaves. It's a great way to deter pests while keeping your pets and children safe!

## California Consultants Council Awards

### CCC Landscape Design Commendations Awarded

Congratulations to the two recipients of the CCC Landscape Design Commendations awarded since the June 2017 issue of the *Council Thymes*. Each application was recommended by a CCC member plus reviewed and approved by three CCC Landscape Design Consultant members. Brief descriptions of each:

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, The Hydrangea Inn located in Eureka, CA was commended for their outstanding use of hedges surrounding groups of lace cap hydrangeas and other planting which frame the 1930's home. Two of the photographs received are shown below.



*View of welcoming front yard*



*Spacious seating area in back yard*

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Michael Tiller & Jeff Hutchins were awarded a Landscape Design Commendation for their entertaining garden designed to accommodate 125 friends and to showcase the beautiful begonias, hydrangeas and dahlias against the back drop of a lush green lawn. Photos below are examples of the beautiful yard.



*Tuberous Begonias hanging in front of window*



*A place to relax amongst the flowers*

During the CGCI Fall Board meeting a third commendation will be awarded to City of Oroville Mayor Linda Dahlmaier for the Centennial Plaza. The plaza is located within easy walking distance from the historic downtown area. The plaza has environmentally friendly walkways, ten interpretative panels mad of porcelain enamel steel containing historical information about the creation of Oroville. Native plants and daphne trees, Nine chrome plated bronze fish sculptures, and decorative night lighting makes this a special place. The plaza was designed in honor of the City's Centennial and revitalization of the historic downtown area and is ADA accessible.



*Atomically correct chrome plated bronze fish sculpture*



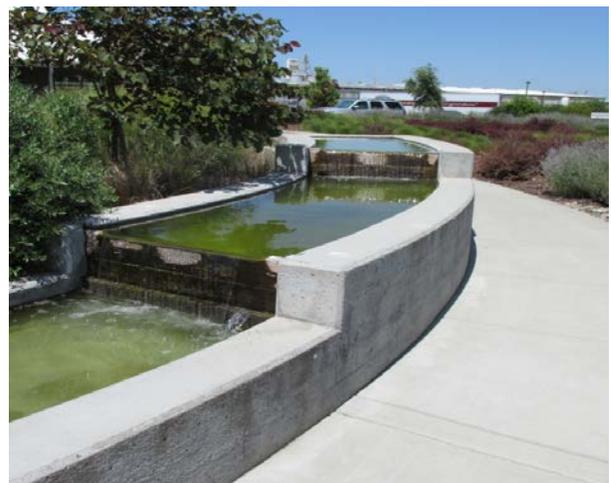
*ADA accessible walkways and benches*

The Lundberg Family Farms will receive a landscape design commendation during the CGCI Fall Board tour on October 6<sup>th</sup>. This garden was planted in 2012 and was landscaped with drought tolerant plants used to exemplify the family's creed of sustainable farming. "Leave the land better than you found it" *Albert Lundberg*

A waterway follows the lines of the path. Water spilling over the planks that control the water level depicts the method of controlling water entering rice fields from a canal for irrigation. The area along the way is planted with Russian olive, redbud, smoke trees, roses, English lavender, salvia, a variety of barberis and much more.



*Dustbowl era Farmall tractor brought from Nebraska surrounded by Black Eyed Susans*



*Waterway with redbud, Russian olive and grasses*

The Lake Oroville Garden Club will be awarded a Landscape Design Commendation after supper on October 4, 2017.

The Lake Oroville Garden Club Committee drew up a scope of work and an agreement was made with the County Atrium Committee for the club members to care for the atrium two times a month. Butte County would provide all of the materials and they would adjust and maintain the drip irrigation system agreement with the Club Committee. trees were topped so that 1) they did not touch the green house style ceiling and 2) it allowed more light to come in for the other plants. Most of the soil in the concrete planters was replaced with a new, enriched product. The azaleas, hydrangeas and camellias were trimmed. Flowering perennials, shrubs, baby tears, ferns and ivy were given compost tea to revive their growth. Japanese maple trees, philodendrons and hostas were cleaned and pruned. The Stag horn ferns on the wall beside the pond were improved.

The plant life exhibits seasonal changes and year-round interest. The evergreen azaleas, hydrangeas, and impatiens provide a lot of spring and summer color, and the red "Yuletide" camellias bloom at Christmas time. The placement of Feather River rocks and boulders serve as accents throughout the landscape.

Many members of the community visit this public building, as do school children from the junior gardening club. Members of other garden clubs have taken tours conducted by the Lake Oroville Area Garden Club members. Visitors comment on the beautiful, tropical feel of the atrium. Everyone enjoys the banana trees and the seasonal blooms. Two signs in the flower beds provide information about the Lake Oroville Area Garden Club. They state that the club members care for the atrium with "TLC".



Looking down on the spring blooms



Maple tree and impatiens brighten a winter day