



# 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 Josie Goodenow for serving as CCC Chairman this past year. We wish her success in her new garden club and home in Missouri!

Please support the *Council Thymes* with **YOUR ARTICLES of interest** related to Environmental, Gardening or Landscape Design subjects. The *Council Thymes* provides opportunities to share knowledge and learn from each other. Let's take advantage of that! Don't be shy! Send your articles by the **December 1, 2018 deadline** to include in the January 2019 issue. Your input is valuable and appreciated!

The CCC currently has 32 members. If you're not a member, please consider joining the CCC. Any provisional or accredited consultant in any of the three disciplines is eligible to join. You may join at any time during the term so it's not too late. Click here for the 2017-2019 CCC Dues form:

<http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/ConsultantsCouncil/CCC2017-2019DuesInvoice.pdf>

A Nominating Committee will be formed when the CCC meets September 11. They will be looking for Vice Chairmen, Secretary and Treasurer candidates. Serving as an officer of the CCC can be rewarding in many ways! Please consider saying 'YES' if contacted.

We hope you will join us when the CCC meets at the Holiday Inn in Auburn on September 11, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. The business meeting is 4:30 - 5:15 followed by our program speaker, Ed Dempsey, 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. Thanks to Sue Bennett who handled the program arrangements and see her article on the details. We hope to see you there!



In Memoriam – **Ronni Dale**, Landscape Design Consultant Emeritus

## Next Meeting



Tuesday, September 11, 2018  
Holiday Inn Auburn, Auburn, CA

**Business meeting-** 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

**Program:** *Wild on Watersheds* 5:15 – 6:00 p.m.

Speaker: Ed Dempsey, Gardening Consultant

Come listen and learn about watersheds and how the Folsom Dam plays a huge part in this area. Ed will be sharing knowledge from his 18 years of experience working at the Folsom Dam. He served as Treasurer for California Garden Clubs, Inc and Golden Foothills District. He and his wife Dorothy are currently members of the Roseville Better Gardens Club.

## 2018 – 2019 Council Officers

Chairman: Julie West, [julieawest@aol.com](mailto:julieawest@aol.com)  
Secretary: Shane Looper, [SLooper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:SLooper@sbcglobal.net)  
Treasurer: Sue Bennett, [sue\\_c\\_bennett@att.net](mailto:sue_c_bennett@att.net)  
Parliamentarian: Greg Pokorski, [GregPokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:GregPokorski@earthlink.net)

Vice Chairmen:

Environmental Consultants:

Julie West, [JulieAWest@aol.com](mailto:JulieAWest@aol.com)

Gardening Consultants:

Dave West, [JDavidWest@aol.com](mailto:JDavidWest@aol.com)

Landscape Design Consultants:

Carolyn Villi, [caronv39@yahoo.com](mailto:caronv39@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editor: Robin Pokorski, [cgcirobin@gmail.com](mailto:cgcirobin@gmail.com)

## School Daze

### Environmental School

Course 1 January 21-22, 2019

Course 2 January 23-24, 2019

Sponsor: Chula Vista Garden Club

Watch for details on CGCI's Calendar of

Events: <http://californiagardenclubs.com/calendar>

By Greg Pokorski, NGC LD Schools Chairman & Gardening Schools Advisor



Since CGCI is using a two-year yearbook for the current administration, there are no annual updates this year to the Consultant information listed on pages 52 and 56 to 61 of the 2017-

2019 CGCI *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*. Check with your CGCI Schools Chairmen (Environmental – Shane Looper; Gardening – Greg Pokorski; Landscape Design – Alexis Slafer) for updates or questions on your status.

Official information about NGC Schools is always published in *The National Gardener*, NGC's official publication, available quarterly online or by subscription. Each issue contains information about each School and listings of upcoming Courses and Refreshers. Most issues contain a Landscape Design feature article that is also used as the basis for a reading exam in each LD School Course. Additional information about NGC's Schools can be found on the CGCI, Pacific Region and NGC websites and in CGCI's *Golden Gardens eNews*, Pacific Region's *WACONIAH* and NGC's *Keeping in Touch*.

There are no Schools currently taking place in CGCI (fortunately an Environmental School is scheduled for next year). We need your help to promote and sponsor and schedule these schools for the benefit of our members and to attract new members. As you make plans for a new garden club year, plan to begin a School.

**Consultant of the Year Reminder**

By Julie West, CCC Chairman



The above award may be awarded annually at the Convention to an environmental, gardening or landscape design consultant in recognition of non-professional achievement, involvement

and/or service as an environmental, gardening or landscape design consultant in either the community or the NGC schools program for any of the three disciplines. Submit on a current CGCI Award Application Form completing only the following: Award Name, Date, Name of Candidate and Submitted by. Do not exceed three pages, including the application form. Nominations are needed by **December 1** to CCC Chairman, Julie A. West, 850 Grandview Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472-2930.

By Greg Pokorski, CGCI Gardening Schools Chairman



As I write this, 34 Courses of this popular NGC School are scheduled in 16 states (and probably more are planned that are just not yet listed on the NGC website), but where is California and where is the Pacific Region in these listings? No Course is listed

west of New Mexico. A couple of clubs have made noises about holding Gardening Schools, but when and where will Series 26 really begin? It all depends on your club or district. Consultants, you can help interest your club or district in sponsoring a school and you can help put it on. You can be the local chairman or the proctor or the registrar or ...

This four-course (six classes and ten hours of instruction per course) program can help fulfill CGCI's and NGC's education mission. It is intended to help novice and experienced gardeners become accomplished horticulturists. Classes cover basic botany, soils, plant propagation, diseases and pests, growing flowers, fruits, vegetables, trees, lawns and lawn alternatives, and each course includes one supplemental subject which can specifically cover local interests.

By sponsoring a school, you should be able to increase the visibility of your garden club, district and CGCI and the good works they do while attracting some new members, encouraging future gardeners, and hopefully making a little money – while developing teamwork and cooperation among those who perform the work of conducting the school. I can assure you that holding a school can bring you new members and can make money because my club, Southern California Garden Club, has sponsored three of the 25 Gardening School series that have been held in California from 1979 to 2016.

One state garden club president recently said about this school, "I can already heartily recommend it to any gardener who wants to sharpen their gardening skills, add to the depth of their horticultural understanding, and engage with other gardeners in a friendly social setting that encourages an exchange of knowledge and fosters questions common to gardeners."

One of our Gardening Consultants (who was our recent CCC Chairman), Josie Goodenow, has moved to Missouri and her Gardening Consultant records have been transferred there. But we will continue to hear from her in the Consultant world as she has accepted a position on the NGC Gardening Schools Committee, and is the new Accrediting Chairman for the South Central Region and for our Pacific Region.

Refresher reminders have been sent to all California Gardening Consultants. Congratulations to the eighteen Gardening Consultants who refreshed their certificates at the June 25 Tri-Refresher in Encino. These Consultants will lapse if they do not refresh or request extensions by December 31:

Anne Barrett  
Jeannine Bentley  
Candice Boggs  
Susan Carmona  
Jean Crail  
Jewell DeLapp  
Eva Frontz  
Janean Guest  
Becky Hall  
Ilene Herringer  
Teresa Kilroy  
Sandy Konow  
Lenora Lee  
Carole Lung  
Serena Meadows  
Krystal Migliore  
Sandra Miracle  
Alexa Moss  
Sue Nolan  
Susan Quilici  
Christine Stabile  
Rebecca Valentine  
Gretchen Zeigler



***We would hate to lose you.***

***Environmental School on the Docket***

*By Shane Looper, ES Chairman*

**Believe it or Not!!!** An NGC Environmental School has not been held since 2011! **Chula Vista Garden Club is going to host a NGC Environmental School in 2019.** Registration form will soon be available on the CGCI website.

Course 1 January 21-22, 2019; Course 2 January 23-24, 2019; Course 3 July 15-16, 2019 and Course 4 July 17-18, 2019. Mark your calendars!

Contact: Michael Biedenbender- [papa2j2@cox.net](mailto:papa2j2@cox.net)

Note that Course 1 and Course 2 will be held back to back as well as Course 3 and Course 4.

**Here is your opportunity to attend the entire school courses in less than one year and become an Environmental Consultant. I'll be there. How about YOU?**



Recycle a plastic bottle to create a sub-irrigated system, in which the plants are watered from below rather than above.

1. Drill several holes in the neck of the bottle just below the mouth. This will be for drainage.
2. Cut the bottle cross-wise, approximately 2/3 the way from the mouth.
3. Insert a wad of cotton in the mouth of the bottle. The cotton serves as a wick that will allow water to soak up.
4. Turn the bottle mouth upside down and fill with soil, leaving approximately half an inch from the opening.
5. Fit the soil-filled bottle top upside down into the base, fitting the mouth snugly into the bottom part of the bottle. The cotton wick should touch the water.
6. Fill the base with ¼ inch of water.
7. Plant a few seeds or a small plant into the soil.

***Japanese Maples in Containers***

*By Carolyn Villi, CCC LD Vice-Chairman*

When the scorching temperatures of summer have wilted and faded your Landscape, trees in pots (containers) is a Quick Fix to transform, inject color and give a fresh form to your landscape. Containers are available in many different colors, shapes, sizes and materials. Or build your own from items from your garden, a redwood box is very attractive and will last for years. Choosing a container that suits your garden will first depend on the size of your tree. For good health and root growth from a young tree, choose a pot size by doubling the volume of soil. For a tree in a one-gallon pot, choose a container that will hold two or three gallons of soil. When the tree outgrows the pot (container), double the size of the new pot or use root pruning to maintain its size.

*I must admit my favorite tree for a container is the Japanese maple, I love, love, love these trees. They are beautiful, come in amazing colors and seem to truly enjoy living their life in a pot. It's very important to make the right selection of your tree and container. Growing trees in containers is a long-term project, maples can live to be more than a 100 years old.*

*By Greg Pokorski, Southern California GC President*

Choose a container that you can move with little effort and will hold up to the elements in your area.

**LIST OF SOME OF THE MAPLES FOR CONTAINERS**

**UPRIGHT:** Tsukushigata, Shigtatsu sawa, Orange Dream, Koto no Ito, Bonfire, Beni Maiko **WIDE SPREADING:** Omurayama, Kasagi yama, Oshu shiare, Sister Ghost, Orange Sunset **DWARF:** Kuro Hime, Mikawa Yatsubusa, Sharps Pygmy, Shishio hime, Shiava Gold **WEeping/CASCADING:** Omatum, Red Dragon, Spring Delight, Green Mist, Beni kumo no sa

I have a maple that's been in a redwood box planter, 24x18x10" deep for 7 years (see photo below). It's planted 3 inches from the top of the planter, this enables me to tuck in small pots of annuals to add seasonal color. This maple has been moved dozens of times from under large trees, to patios and flower beds to a deck for the winter; and now resides in the corner of our entrance way with pots of begonias tucked around for color. It's watered by a drip system and seems very happy, still giving us enjoyment after all these years.

I ❤️ maples, Carolyn Villi



Southern California Garden Club held an Educational Event, open to all, but also approved by NGC as a Tri-Refresher on June 25 in Encino. 21 Consultants attended, coming from as far away as Humboldt District in the north and Palomar district in the South. Because those who are Master Consultants in more than one school may simultaneously refresh in more than one school, 26 refresher credits were granted: 2 in Environmental School, 18 in Gardening School and 6 in Landscape Design School. In addition, 12 club, district and neighboring district members attended for the education and/or to support the event. Because we budgeted for 22 and had a better turnout, we made money.

Eight hours of instruction are required for Consultants to be able to obtain refresher credit. Adding time for check-in, lunch and breaks, this makes for a long day and many refreshers are held over a two-day period. However, our club members voted to do this all in one day. To keep attendees engaged, six instructors were assigned eight subjects. Each hour of instruction was to include an interactive component so that this was not just eight hours of lecture. We felt that the overall mission was successful based on observation of student engagement throughout the day, positive comments at the end of the day and a number of thank you notes received after the event.



Highlights and tips from the educational presentations:

Sustainable garden practices include capturing roof rainwater, mulching, composting, using California natives, removing invasives, integrated pest management, no chemical fertilizers.

Chumash remedies using native plants were demonstrated with some students indicating that they experienced relief of various symptoms.

Major forms of tree failure are uprooting, trunk failure and major limb failure and many of the remedies we

attempt contribute to failure. We do not give most trees enough room and we do not put the right tree in the right place. Many trees native to the east coast live half the life here that they would have in the east due to lack of winter.

Google Image Search is the best tool for identifying unidentified plants.

Community gardens are not as much about gardening as about community – how to be part of a community, how to grow your own food, cleaning up abused parcels of land, creating greenway, creating community pride, gathering seeds for seed banks.



In the case of school gardens, the younger the student, the more willing they are to learn. An enthusiastic teacher is needed and needs to be backed up by the school principal.

Bird ranges are tending to move north. Of 588 North American bird species, 314 are threatened. Some species can adapt.

We may be able to grow almost anything in California, but we shouldn't. Right plant, right place.

If you change  
Nothing,  
nothing will  
change.

## Have you wondered about what YOU can do?

By Alexis Slafer, LD Chairman



What is it that we are asking about? It is time for our Landscape Design Consultants to encourage their clubs and districts to sponsor a Landscape Design School. What would be the best way to promote this educational opportunity? Perhaps the

answer is to take the reins of leadership and serve as the local chairman of a Landscape Design School near you! *Landscape Design Consultants are the "YOU" in the above question...* Landscape Design Consultants are the best people to take on that role because you have taken the courses and understand the processes. Besides, you can explain the value of the school, the knowledge gained, the friendships that can develop, and the benefits to your sponsoring club and/or district.

Have you made a note of when your credentials will lapse? Do you have plans to refresh your credentials? Perhaps you attended four courses of a Landscape Design School and passed all of the exams. Perhaps you refreshed your credentials – and perhaps you are a Landscape Design Master Consultant. But, have you tracked when your credentials will lapse now? While several Landscape Design Consultants refreshed at the recent Tri-refresher sponsored by Southern California Garden Club in Encino, there are several Landscape Design Consultants whose credentials will lapse on December 31, 2018, if they are not refreshed. Are your credentials going to lapse at the end of this year? Or perhaps they'll lapse at the end of next year. Contact this chairman if you have questions or concerns about your current status. If you are unable to refresh this year – remember that for good cause, you can request an extension of one year (until December 31, 2019). Please complete *NGC LDS Form 9: Extension Request* and send it to this chairman for review and approval BEFORE your credentials lapse (December 31, 2018).

Currently there are no Landscape Design Schools on the CGCI calendar. When determining when your credentials will lapse, look at your calendar and see if there is a slot where your club or district can sponsor a Landscape Design School. It is rewarding...and you, our current Landscape Design Consultants are the best ones to help host the event. We must provide opportunities for refreshing so our California LD Consultants can maintain their credentials.

Please feel free to contact this chairman to start discussions on sponsoring a Landscape Design School or refresher.

**May 2018 Tropical Milkweed Article Rebuttal**

By Julie West, CCC Chairman and noted Butterfly Expert

Contrary to the *Tropical Milkweed Alert!* article that appeared in the May 2018 issue of the *Council Thymes* from unknown sources, please read the article by North American Butterfly Association (NABA) President, Jeffrey Glassberg, *Tropical Milkweed and the injurious effects of well-meaning people*. You will find it posted on CGCI's website by clicking on the following link:

<http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/Publications/Tropical-Milkweed.pdf>

The article was originally printed in the 2014 Winter issue of NABA's publication, *American Butterflies* but is still applicable today. Be sure to read the last page with the answer to the question: *Can well-meaning people sometimes make matters worse?* The author's conclusion indicates "that those who have claimed, as a fact, that planting Tropical Milkweeds harms Monarchs, may have themselves harmed Monarchs by discouraging people from becoming involved and from creating more habitat for Monarchs."

With the dwindling Monarch population, is this a good time to eliminate some of their favorite milkweed species from our gardens? Monarch expert Karen Oberhauser from the University of Minnesota reported in 2016 that with more gardeners planting Tropical Milkweed, the overwintering population in Mexico grew from 57 million monarchs to 200 million! Gardeners in tropical milkweed perennial regions (USDA plant hardiness zones 8-11) can cut it back to the ground a couple times each season. This will allow fresh, healthy foliage to emerge for new generations of monarchs. By growing Tropical Milkweed **responsibly**, you'll be helping more monarchs in a time when monarch support is crucial to the survival of their species and migration.



The following are excerpts from *The Home Depot Garden Club's* January 2018 issue of their eNewsletter you

may find interesting as I did:

- **Gardening for wellness**

Amid the mayhem, we're all looking for a little breathing room. Gardens can provide just that: oxygen-rich spaces for unwinding or focused activities like meditation and yoga. Like spaces filled with indoor vines, these "green rooms" fill your home with fresh air and a sense of calmness.

- **Gardening with purpose**

Gardeners today seek to dig in the garden with a specific purpose in mind. You'll see a greater number of gardeners planting to attract pollinators or cut flowers for endless bouquets, for example. You'll also see planting for other purposes, too, such as eating homegrown organic food. You can design and plant your garden with a single purpose or several in mind.

- **The color purple**

As people seek tranquility and serenity yet crave the boldness of color, it should be no surprise that the color purple will continue making its way into our gardens. Purple signifies peace, mystery, magic and ambition. Garden offerings in purple will include everything from blackberries to cabbages and beans to basil.

- **Extreme weather gardening**

From mild winters to extreme heat in summer and wildfires to excessive rain, our weather is reaching extremes. In turn, extreme weather stresses plants, including trees.

Gardeners will continue to seek ways to plant gardens that can fight back Mother Nature's stresses. They're turning to climate-controlled gardening, such as wind-worthy ornamental grasses and other weather-resilient plants.

- **One pot wonders**

Due to limited time, gardeners of all levels desire easy and instant gardens. They're turning to gardening in large containers as statement pieces.

To be part of the trend, think containers filled with boxwood, compact hydrangeas, lavender, roses, berry plants or a combination of edibles, annuals and perennials that are easy to grow, low maintenance and provide fragrance and beauty.

## CCC Commendations Issued Last Year

By Sue Bennett, CCC Treasurer & Awards Chairman



Thank you to the members who submitted CCC Applications for Commendations. This CCC Awards Chairman is happy to report that six certificates were presented during the 2017/2018 year. I look forward to receiving Applications for the 2018/2019 year. Here is a list of who won, the

date presented and a snippet of why.

An Award of Merit in Landscape Architecture was presented to Tom Hagey, Landscape Architect, The Black Oak Casino & Resort, Tuolumne, CA; June 7, 2018; For excellence in land use on a difficult to landscape area with severe climate and severe slope..... The landscape fits harmoniously with the surrounding Sierra mountains,

Five Landscape Design Commendations were awarded to

1) Lake Oroville Area Garden Club, Oroville, CA; June 4, 2017; For the rejuvenation, replanting and TLC maintenance of what is now a beautifully landscaped Atrium...enjoyed by many members of the community as well as visitors to Butte County Administration Center.

2) Lundberg Family Farms, Richvale, CA; October 6, 2017 - beautiful landscape of drought tolerant plants and creative waterway...An outstanding design exemplifying the family's creed of sustainable farming.

3) California Centennial Plaza, Oroville, CA; October 3, 2017 - outstanding plaza designed in honor of the City's Centennial and revitalization of the historic downtown area...

4) Michael Tiller & Jeff Hutchins, Eureka, CA; September 15, 2017 - outstanding showcase of beautiful begonias, hydrangeas, and dahlias...

5) The Hydrangea Inn, Eureka, CA; September 15, 2017 - outstanding use of privet hedges surrounding groups of blue lace cap hydrangeas...CA Lilac trees which came from the 1930s home.

## Genus *Ceanothus*: California Wild Lilacs

by Margaret Strachan, 2011-13 Native Plants Chairman

### (Family Rhamnaceae: Buckthorn)

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