



COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL
Published since 2013

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

Chairman's Message

Did you take advantage of the educational opportunities presented January 21-24, 2019 in Chula Vista and March 30, 2019 in Colfax? 'Thank you' to the members of Chula Vista Garden Club and Colfax Garden Club for their generous donation of time and hospitality for sponsoring these events!

- Courses 1 and 2 of the Environmental School held at The Living Coast Discovery Center in Chula Vista were fabulous with 22 Provisional Environmental Consultants as a result. You have another opportunity to sign up for Course 3 July 15-16, 2019 and Course 4 July 17-18, 2019. You will find the Registration form on CGCI's official calendar posted on CGCI's website.
- The tri-refresher on March 30 in Colfax was well attended with twenty Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants refreshing their credentials and eight individuals attending for the opportunity to expend their education on a variety of subjects. Highlights included hands-on propagation plus grafting as part of the curriculum. Robert Littlepage taught "Trees of the Sierras" and "Basics of Landscape Design" and promptly sold out of the books he authored: *A Field Guide to the Native Conifers and Shrubs of Placer County* and *Fundamentals of Garden Design*.

Congratulations to the two recipients of the CCC Outstanding Private Garden Certificates of Recognition recently awarded. As with all CCC special awards, the applications were recommended, reviewed and approved by CCC members.

- March 10, 2019 - David Hodgson in San Pedro has an outstanding display of succulents with use of rocks and pottery as a beautiful example of the use of water-wise plants to create a magnificent home landscape as an alternative to the traditional lawn. The sloped landscaping and dry creek bed facilitates drainage providing additional interest.
- April 6, 2019 - Gail and Hank Vanderhorst in Van Nuys have an outstanding garden design featuring "landscaped rooms" highlighting activity areas including wildlife and pollinator habitats.

Special garden elements provide focal points for visual interest and unify the garden that highlights the scale and design changes that occur throughout the seasons.

The CCC now sponsors five special awards for people to consider honoring both garden club members and non-members posted on the following links on CGCI's website:

- Outstanding Private Garden Award (<http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/Awards/Applications/OutstandingPrivateGardenCertificateofRecognition2018-19.pdf>),
- Award of Merit in Landscape Architecture (<http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/Awards/Applications/AwardofMerit2018-19.pdf>),
- Landscape Design Commendation (<http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/Awards/Applications/LandscapeDesignCommendation2018-19.pdf>),
- Landscape Design Certificate of Appreciation/Recognition/Achievement (<http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/Awards/Applications/CertificateofAppreciation2018-2019.pdf>) and
- Certificate of Recognition for an Environmental-Friendly Commendation (NEW) (<http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/Awards/Applications/Environmental-FriendlyGardenCertificateofRecognition2018-19%20FinalRevised.pdf>).

It's been an honor to serve as the CCC Chairman this past year. A special 'thanks' to Robin Pokorski who has generously donated her time serving the CCC as both Editor of the *Council Thymes* and Parliamentarian. In addition, 'thank you' to Sue Bennett who has served as the CCC Awards Chairman, coordinating the applications and approval process.

With the beginning of a new term, CCC dues in the amount of \$20 are due for 2019-2021. What ideas do you have as a member of the CCC for the new CCC Chairman to consider? Please welcome and congratulate Sue Bennett as the 2019-2021 CCC Chairman!

Julie A. West



CCC Business Meeting -
 CCC Members only
 Monday, June 3, 2019
 6:45 - 8:15 p.m.
 Concorde I, Airtel Plaza
 Hotel, Van Nuys, CA

The CCC Nominating Committee elected at the 2018 September fall board meeting will present a slate of candidates to serve with Sue Bennett for the 2019-2021 term. Election of CCC officers include Vice Chairmen for Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. Additional nominations may be made from the floor immediately followed by election of officers.

Proposed Budget for 2019-2021 approval
 CGCI School Chairmen Reports
 Unfinished Business
 New Business
 Organizational meeting with new Chairman and elected officers
 Payment of CCC dues for 2019-2021 membership
 Please join us for this final CCC meeting for 2017-2019 and assist planning the CCC's future for 2019-2021. Your participation and support is crucial for CCC success!

2018 – 2019 Council Officers

Chairman: Julie West, julieawest@aol.com
 Secretary: Shane Looper, 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:
 Dave West, JDavidWest@aol.com
 Landscape Design Consultants:
 Carolyn Villi, caronv39@yahoo.com
 Newsletter Editor: Robin Pokorski,
cgcirobin@gmail.com

**Deadline for next
 issue August 15, 2019**

**Frog Parking –
 all others will be toad!**

Environmental School

Course 3 July 15-16, 2019
 Course 4 July 17-18, 2019
 Sponsor: Chula Vista Garden Club
 Details are available on CGCI's Calendar of
 Events: <http://californiagardenclubs.com/calendar>
 Contact: Michael Biedenbender- papa2j2@cox.net

Gardening School

Course 1 January 20-21, 2020
 Course 2 January 22-23, 2020
 Course 3 July 13-14, 2020
 Course 4 July 15-16, 2020
 Sponsor: Chula Vista Garden Club
 Contact: Michael Biedenbender- papa2j2@cox.net

NGC Landscape Design Schools

By Greg Pokorski, NGC Landscape Design Schools Chairman

A former state garden club president from our Pacific Region recently advised that "Newscape is the best advertisement for Landscape Design Schools that I have ever seen." Newscape is the colorful twice-yearly newsletter about NGC's Landscape Design Schools and Councils. It is available on the NGC LD Schools page – scroll towards the bottom. Issues back to 2011 are available. Share them with others.

And remember to read the Landscape Design feature article in almost every issue of *The National Gardener*, available by subscription and online.

As mentioned in the last issue, new curriculum is effective for all new Landscape Design Schools beginning after July 1.

Gardening Schools

By Greg Pokorski, CGCI Gardening Schools Chairman

Chula Vista Garden Club has responded to my pleas. They are planning California Series 26 of Gardening Schools in Chula Vista. The entire school is scheduled to be completed in 2020. Course 1 – January 20 & 21; Course 2 – January 22 & 23; Course 3 – July 13 & 14; Course 4 – 15 & 16. Mark your calendars.

Sadly, eighteen of our California Gardening Consultants lapsed as of December 31, 2018 for failing to refresh their certificates within the required five-year period. On a happier note, fourteen Gardening Consultants refreshed at Colfax Garden Club's March 30 Tri-Refresher. Congratulations for maintaining your Consultant status, and thanks for supporting this event.

No other Gardening School refresher opportunities are scheduled in California this year. Those six

By Shane Looper, CGCI Environmental Schools Chairman

Consultants who will lapse December 31, 2019 should request extensions before then and plan to refresh in Chula Vista in January.

Jane Troutman is now an Emeritus Gardening Consultant. We thank her for her years of active support.

Please contact me with questions about your Gardening Consultant status and for information about holding a Gardening School in your area.

CGCI Schools News

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



Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultant information listed on pages 52 and 56 to 61 of the 2017-2019 CGCI Yearbook, Manual & Roster will soon be updated for the

new yearbook which will be printed this summer. If any of your information is incorrect, please advise your CGCI Schools Chairmen (Environmental – Shane Looper; Gardening – Greg Pokorski; Landscape Design – Alexis Slafer) as soon as possible.

NGC Schools News

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

The long-awaited Common Handbook for Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools is posted on the NGC website as of April 13. It is on the general Schools page and the page for each of these schools. The Common Handbook includes the Common Forms for all three schools. Our own Julie West led the NGC project to develop one set of forms that can be used in the administration of all three schools. The forms are also posted separately on each of these School pages and are intended to be downloadable, fillable forms. At this time there is a glitch with their functionality which we hope will be resolved by the time you read this.

Old forms for each school have been removed from the website. The new Handbook replaces the old Environmental Schools Handbook, the old Gardening Schools Handbook and the old Landscape Design Schools Operations Guide.

A new Guide for Students and Consultants that is applicable to all three schools is available near the bottom of the Schools page. It replaces the three guides that were applicable to each individual school.

Courses 1 and 2 held January 21-24, 2019 were FABULOUS! A big 'thank you' to members of Chula Vista Garden Club for their generous hospitality! The *Living Coast Discovery Center* was a perfect location and attended by more than 30 people from California, Arizona and North Carolina. The instructor was exceptional and class attendees were treated to a raptor lecture, sea turtle feeding, etc. on site.

Don't miss your opportunity to attend Course 3 scheduled July 15-16 and Course 4 scheduled July 17-18, 2019 sponsored by Chula Vista Garden Club. You need not take courses in order to become an Environmental Consultant so sign up TODAY: <http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/NGCSchools/2019ENVIRONMENTAL%20SCHOOL%20REGISTRATION%20Form.pdf>



Course II attendees



Turtle art display filled with plastic from ocean

Whoever said money can't buy happiness has clearly never been to a garden center!

Tired of Breathing Dirty Air? Part II

By Carolyn Villi, CGCI 2007-2009 Air Chairman and Current
CCC LD Vice-Chairman

50 Things you can do..."

(Continued from previous issue)

26. Add insulation to your home
27. Use a programmable thermostat that turns off the air conditioner or heater when not needed
28. Use a fan instead of air conditioning
29. Use an EPA approved wood burning stove
30. Microwave small meals
31. Insulate your water heater
32. Install low-flow shower heads
33. Choose recycled products
34. Choose products with recyclable packaging
35. Reuse paper bags
36. Recycle paper, plastics, glass and metals
37. Print, paint and photocopy using both sides of paper
38. Don't use your wood stove or fireplace on days with unhealthy air ("spare the air" days)
39. Avoid using leaf blowers and equipment that raise a lot of dust
40. Drive slowly on unpaved roads
41. Drive less, particularly on days with unhealthy air
42. Avoid vigorous physical activity on bad air days
43. Don't smoke
44. Use cleaning agents, paints, glues, etc. outdoors
45. Use safer products, such as baking soda
46. Don't heat your home with a gas cooking stove
47. Have gas appliances inspected regularly
48. Clean frequently to remove dust and molds
49. Write to your local paper - support clean air
50. Let your elected representative know you support action for cleaner air

Remember, drive smart, drive less, choose air-friendly products, save energy, waste not, watch out for the small stuff, know the inside story and speak up for clean air.

What Can You Do?

By Alexis Slafer, CGCI Landscape Design Schools Chairman

The last issue of *Council Thymes* asked the questions: Why did you attend a Landscape Design School? Why did you become a Landscape Design Consultant? Have you given any thought to these questions and developed answers? This chairman would be interested in your answers.

This chairman has also asked (perhaps *implored*) our Landscape Design Consultants to act as the local chairman for your club or district to sponsor a Landscape Design School...after all, you are the ones with the knowledge and background pertaining to attending the schools. While there are several who have begun discussions, there have not been the responses that reflect a healthy interest in fostering this school. Please take another minute and tell this

chairman what you feel is the obstacle to pursuing this educational opportunity for your garden club community. As mentioned several times, not only does sponsoring this school provide wonderful education for the attendees, it also can increase your membership and (while not an actual goal) could also be profitable.

Please make note of your credentials status? Do you have plans to refresh your credentials? It is a great idea to refresh as opportunities arise -- to prevent running into a situation where there are not any opportunities to refresh prior to the expiry date of your credentials. Contact this chairman if you have questions or concerns about your current status. If you are unable to refresh this year, you can request an extension of one year. Please complete the new *NGC Form 9-2019 Application for Extension* (that can be found on the NGC website) and send it to this chairman for review and approval BEFORE your credentials lapse.

There were nine Master Consultants and Consultants who refreshed at the recent Tri-Refresher held in Colfax on March 30. The current records show that the following LD Consultants will lapse on December 31, 2019 (please contact this chairman if you think this information is in error):

B.J. Boland	Linda Shuler
Melvin Gaines	Sharon Swildens
Martha Hunt	George Unrine
Gwen Lewis	Judy Unrine
Sue Nolan	Anne Van Zandt
Michelle Phillips	Carolyn Villi

Please take a minute to send your answers to the above questions to this chairman at aslafer@ca.rr.com. Sometimes we don't have enough time at our CCC meetings to delve into these discussions and these answers are so very important to make our California Landscape Design Consultants and our CCC both vital and viable.

This chairman is also interested in starting discussions on sponsoring a Landscape Design School or refresher.

Flutter-By Event

By Julie A. West

The *Los Angeles Times* reported March 11 that a "massive swarm of at least 1 **billion** butterflies is traveling across Los Angeles and neighboring counties at a breathtaking speed of almost 20 miles an hour." They're in a "rush to reach their breeding areas in Oregon."

March 12 email from CCC members George and Judy Unrine: "What are those butterflies flying through our yard in Torrance? There are large numbers flying through and they do not land. We continued

By Julie A. West, CCC Chairman

to see them a mile from our house. They are smaller than a viceroy and not as colorful - dull orange-brown on top and dusky underneath. Any idea what this butterfly might be?"

"The orange butterflies, called painted ladies, are known to travel annually from the deserts of Southern California to the Pacific Northwest," wrote *New York Times* reporter Julia Jacobs in a March 17 piece. "This month, people are taking notice because of the sheer size of the migration: Scientists estimate the teeming painted ladies number in the millions."

"Substantial rainfall in the deserts near the Mexican border, where the North American painted ladies lay their eggs, is the reason for the unusually large swarms," Jacobs pointed out. "The rain caused plants to thrive, giving the painted lady caterpillars plenty of food to fuel their transformation, said Art Shapiro, a professor of evolution and ecology at the University of California, Davis."

Shapiro told the *New York Times* that "the striking thing is they're moving very rapidly and directionally. So it's almost like being in a hail of bullets."

Yes, it's been a big year for painted ladies, thanks to the heavy rainfall and super blooms in the deserts near the Mexican border. And, as Shapiro says, tremendous wildflower blooms are typically great years for the painted ladies.

Have you had the good fortune to witness this phenomenon? Traveling to the Tri-Refresher in Colfax we saw several cross our path as well as on I-5 to/from southern California. Keep your eyes open for these beautiful migratory butterflies as they pass through California heading for the Pacific Northwest.



You will find the history between CGCI and the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve beginning on page 112 in *The Diamond Years* on CGCI's website:

<http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/Publications/TheDiamondYearsOnline.pdf>

The 'super bloom' is **spectacular** this year and pictures do not capture the beauty of this unique event. When CGCI visited here during the Wildflower Conference in 2012, we were lucky to see a poppy or two. Here are photos of what it looks like when we visited April 3, 2019.

The Poppy Reserve is located 15 miles west of Lancaster at 15101 Lancaster Road, Lancaster. The duration and intensity of color varies depending upon the amount of rainfall received and most of California received above average precipitation this past winter. The reserve is 1,760 acres with seven miles of easy trails where poppies, lupine, owl's clover, fiddlenecks, goldfields and cream cups spread their color along the way. The park is open year-round from sunrise to sunset but the Jane S. Pinheiro Interpretive Center is open only in spring.



Thanks to You

and other gardeners just like you, in only three years 1,040,000 gardens were registered with the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge (MPGC). Some are tiny yards, and others public gardens, but together they have amounted to approximately five million acres of enhanced or new pollinator habitat across the globe.

Think What a Difference This has Made!

With 40% of all invertebrate pollinator species – particularly bees and butterflies – at risk of extinction (National Research Council, 2007), “Together, through collaborative conservation, we are restoring pollinator populations that provide the foundation of our ecosystems and our food supply” said Collin O’Mara, President and CEO of National Wildlife Federation. “When we save wildlife, we save ourselves.”

You Have...

- Planted pollinator friendly plants,
- Shared the need with your friends and neighbors,
- Purchased pollinator-friendly plants from your garden centers/greenhouses, and they have increased their supply, and the education to go with it, to the public.
- You now practice more sustainable gardening practices that support habitat.
- You should be so proud of yourself and those who are standing beside you!

So, What’s Next?

To ensure that our Pollinators will thrive, we need to plant at least three different pollinator-friendly plants that bloom in three different seasons (spring, summer and fall) to help ensure a consistent food supply.

“Let’s encourage the 35 million Americans who garden with flowers to each put in one new pollinator friendly plant per season each year. Imagine the transformation!”

For more information, visit

www.millionpollinatorgardens.org/news/

You have made such a difference in our world!

Congratulations!

**We have so much more
we can do!**

Here's a list of plants to consider adding to your garden that like hot, dry sites once established:

Perennials: Rudbeckia, yarrow, milkweeds, tickseed, coreopsis, coneflower, Joe-pye weed, candy tuft, goldenrod, sedums, sunflowers, Stokes' aster, verbena, lantana, canna lilies, daylilies, torch lilies and most herbs. NOTE: When herbs are in bloom, it is impossible to keep butterflies away. Many caterpillars find our herbs as appetizing as we do. Yet butterflies and herbs can co-exist by simply planting more of everything. See photo of Anise Swallowtail caterpillar (below) on its host larval herb plant, fennel.

Trees/Shrubs: Cotoneaster, nandina, butterfly bush, Japanese barberry, glossy abelia, forsythia, pyracantha, pittosporum, fatsia japonica, Indian hawthorns, beauty berry, crape myrtle, redbud, golden rain tree, ginkgo, Japanese black pine and live oaks. NOTE: Trees and shrubs producing berries are a natural food source for a variety of birds including cedar waxwings.

Annuals: Gloriosa daisy, salvia and scaevola.

Vines: Carolina yellow jessamine, coral passion vine, purple hyacinth bean and Lady Bank roses.

Ground-covers: Sedums and creeping thymes.



**Gardening begins at daybreak
and ends at back break!**