



COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL
Published since 2013

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

Chairman's Message

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and
Welcome to the 2021-2023 Term!

No, you are not going crazy--the last *Council Thymes* was sent in May 2021.

Recap from CCC Meeting held Oct. 22, 2021

- Meetings & Programs will be OPEN to everyone.
- Vice Chairmen's will be in charge of the Awards as per the bylaws (not Sue Bennett).
- Still looking for a *Council Thymes* Editor.
- Reminder: Educational/information programs will be focused on a topic related to one or all of the 3 schools, as well as information to obtain members
- Educational/ informational program. Due to a conflict in schedule Jolene Adams was not available; however, Sue Bennett did a Show and Tell about her yard and what her and husband had done over the past twenty years.

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! We would all love to read about what you and/or your club is doing!

Susan C. Bennett, CCCI CCCC

(2019-2023, California Consultants Council Chair)

Congrats to Greg!

Just before the Pacific Region Convention Greg accepted the additional position of Pacific Region Educational Schools Chairman. His official title: Pacific Region rep for ES, GS, and LDS.

Our Next Meeting

Safe the date: February 9, 2022 @2:30 p.m.
Business & educational/ informational meetings will be via ZOOM.

We will let you know the specific date, time, and speaker and topic Remember you must register to attend.

It is with heavy heart we announce the passing of Mary Lou Goodwin.

Mary Lou was an Emeritus Gardening and LD Consultant – and has been a member of the CCC off and on since its inception. She served as Landscape Design Council Chairman (for at least two terms, I think) just before the CCC was formed. Mary Lou promoted Landscape Design and LD awards as well as was instrumental in Humboldt District conducting one or more Gardening Schools.

Chairman: Sue Bennett
sue_c_bennett@att.net

Secretary: Pat Claves
patclaves@aol.com

Treasurer: Nina Bilonski
nblonski@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: Greg Pokorski
gregpokorski@earthlink.net

Vice Chairmen:
Environmental Consultants:
Cynthia Jackson
cynthiajackson322@yahoo.com

Gardening Consultants:
Launa Gould
launag@cox.net

Landscape Design Consultants:
Carolyn Villi
CaRonV39@yahoo.com



CGCI Schools

The new 2021-2022 CGCI *Yearbook, Manual & Roster* has been published and has been mailed to CGCI board members, including District Directors who are responsible for getting yearbooks to each club president. Consultant information, including Good Standing Dates, is contained on pages 53-54 and 57-61. Please advise your CGCI School Chairmen if any of your information is incorrect and ask them any questions about your Consultant status:

Environmental – Nancy Compton;
Gardening – Greg Pokorski;
Landscape Design – Alexis Slafer.

Any Environmental, Gardening or Landscape Design Consultants who need to refresh by the end of this year and who are not able to participate in a refresher this year should request an extension from your CGCI Schools Chairman **before December 31**. Consultants may refresh in each school for which they are a Consultant as often as once per calendar year, and they must refresh by the end of the fifth calendar year after becoming a Consultant or last refreshing.

Landscape Design School

Alexis Slafer, CGCI LDS Chairman

Have you signed up for the latest LDS – There are still openings: [registration and presenter information attached to end of Council Thymes.](#)

Landscape Design School

The Fine Art of Design in Landscape Series 27

Course 1 January 15, 16, 2022
Course 2 February 12, 13, 2022
Course 3 February 26, 27, 2022
Course 4 March 12, 13, 2022

Sponsored by Valley Lode District Serving the counties of Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, Alpine, and Mono.

CONTACT:

Berni Hendrix, Schools Chairman, VLD
209-402-2351
Email: schoolsvld@gmail.com

Gardening School

Greg Pokorski, CGCI Gardening Schools Chairman



Congratulations to Geneva Martin who became a Master Consultant by refreshing at a New York virtual course in June.

To remain in Good Standing, these Gardening Consultants need to refresh in 2021: Annette Choate, Stephanie Curin, Patsy Jeffery, and Maria Orefice. If you cannot refresh and wish to maintain your NGC Gardening Consultant status, please contact this chairman to request an extension.

CGCI currently has 92 Gardening Consultants

16 Provisionals,
52 Consultants,
16 Master Consultants and
8 Emeritus Consultants.

Unfortunately, no Gardening Schools or Refreshers are currently scheduled in California. Contact this chairman for information about sponsoring and conducting a Gardening School in your area. This can be a wonderful project for a garden club or district.

Change

Cynthia Jackson, CCC, Vice Chairman,
Environmental Consultants

Since I am new to this position, I thought it would be appropriate to have the topic of my first article be 'change'. It is a concept that most, if not all of us, have become very familiar with recently!

I'd like to give you an update on some of what is happening at the State level regarding change, specifically climate change. In October 2020 Gov. Newsom signed an executive order declaring that the State of California is committing to protect 30 percent of the state's land and coastal waters by 2030, with a long-term goal of 50% by 2050, in an effort to fight against climate change. This issue obviously expands well beyond gardening, but I decided to write about it because, politics aside, gardening and gardeners being stewards of both private and public lands, can potentially have a huge impact - in my humble opinion, anyway.

Some of the stated reasons for the State's actions are:

- California's long-term vitality is threatened by the loss of biodiversity - the variety and variability of plant and animal life in our State and the impacts of climate change
- California is home to more species of plants and animals than any other state, and this biodiversity accounts for about one third of all species found in the nation
- The climate change crisis is impacting California in unprecedented ways including intensifying wildfires, mud slides, floods and drought, sea level rise and extreme heat, that threaten our economy, communities, public safety, and cultural and natural resources
- We must work to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions; accelerate actions to enable the State to adapt and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change, including expanding nature-based solutions – the use of sustainable land management practices to tackle environmental, social, and economic challenges

As of this writing, outreach meetings are being held to present to the public the preliminary reports from the

advisory panels and to receive public input in specific topical areas such as using nature-based solutions to protect biodiversity and advance equity, conservation of land and coastal waters. Details can be found at www.Californianature.ca.gov.

What can we do in support of this? Some of the comments that I heard voiced during these meetings provide some guidance. Some of the items can apply equally to private or public gardens.

1. Protection of wildlife corridors, connectivity is of utmost importance;
2. Expansion of urban green areas, especially in underserved, park poor areas (to reduce heat islands and warming);
3. Wild/native planting included on agricultural sites - farms, wineries, etc. (many of us do this anyway e.g., flowers in our veggie beds);
4. Protection of marshlands;
5. Remediation of degraded urban areas (vacant lots, land adjacent to oil drilling, etc.);
6. Incorporating practices utilized by Native Americans to manage the land (wildfire mitigation seemed to be the main topic).

Another idea which has recently come into favor is to let a portion of your garden go wild to support habitat i.e., 'Rewilding'. This may be one of the simplest things to do in an area farthest away from the house/building and/or water source with native plantings. Water conservation, always a good idea, is a bonus with this concept!

Yet another idea which is promoted by Doug Tallamy is that of a home-grown National Park. Hmm, I like the sound of that! No drive, no entry fee, no crowds.... Well, maybe to be continued~

Sue sent out a reminder and asked the CCC board to let folks know how they got started in gardening and with NGC Schools; Here are two of the CCC board.

Let me introduce **Cynthia Jackson**:

I recently became an Environmental consultant in 2019, however my interest in the environment, conservation and gardening began long before then. I strive to live the lifestyle of an environmental naturalist to encourage others to do likewise.

Memberships:

- *Culver City Garden Club* - served as Treasurer 2013-2019
- *California Native Plant Society-Los Angeles Santa Monica Mountains chapter* - currently serving as Board member Horticulture section
- *Sierra Club-Angeles chapter* - currently serving on Water Committee, Clean Break committee and 30x30 committee

Service as a Docent:

On each of my local community garden tours for the last two decades; except for the year when my garden was on the tour

Theodore Payne native plant tours.

Here is How I got started with NGC Schools by **Greg Pokorski**

I first attended an NGC School in 1993 (Golden Foothills District in Rocklin – Landscape Design School – I’m sure Myrtle was there) because Robin had attended one course (it was considered the thing to do for CGCI board members) and thought I would find it interesting. We stayed with former CGCI President Gladys Nielsen for each course.

So, I took the next two courses in 1994, and by then the club (Southern California GC) was holding a Gardening School (because Robin was club president, and it was considered the thing to do for clubs or districts to hold schools). So, I attended all four courses of GS and took all the exams; but I needed to join a garden club to get the Gardening Consultant title. So that is why and how I officially joined garden club in 1996. Active member of Southern California Garden Club.

I then had to finish LDS Course 1 in another series.

The next thing I knew Harriet Behrens resigned as CGCI LD Council Chairman mid-term in 1998. CGCI President Beverly Brune asked if I would replace her. So, I served more than 1 year of that term and then served as LD Council Chairman in CGCI President Dorothy Roton’s term.

Thus commenced my attendance at CGCI meetings – starting with the 1998 convention, I have been to

- every convention (22 + 2 virtual) and
- every FBM and WBM (22 each + 3 virtual),

leading to some wonderful travels, producing newsletters, conducting meetings, attending Environmental School, attending, and holding schools and refreshers, proctoring schools etc.

I’ve now been to

- 18 GS refreshers for credit (in 7 states),
- 16 ES refreshers (in 8 states) and
- 18 LDS Refreshers (in 6 states)

plus, other events without credit.

In 2003, at the beginning of CGCI President Bob Gordon’s term I became CGCI GS. In this capacity, I have helped facilitate 10 CGCI Gardening School series (two more conducted by my club), the last of which introduced Zoom School courses to NGC, and numerous refreshers.

This led to joining the Pacific Region board as Gardening Consultants Council Chairman, joining the NGC board as a GS Accrediting Chairman, then GS Chairman, ES/GS/LDS Schools Coordinator and LDS Schools Chairman.

Robin and I wrote a version of the NGC GS Handbook in 2005. I was a co-author on NGC’s first Common Schools Handbook in 2019 and the revision in 2020.

I write about Schools for *The National Gardener*, *Keeping In Touch*, *Newscape*, *WACONIAH* and *Golden Gardens eNews*.

I could go on and on about my Schools history and activity. Maybe there is something in the above that would be of interest to the readers.

Newscape **NGC Landscape Design Newsletter**

Do you read *Newscape*? Do you know that it exists? *Newscape* is the colorful NGC Landscape Design newsletter which has been published twice annually for many years (around February/March and August/September). It contains news and photos about Landscape Design Schools and the activities of Landscape Design Councils and Tri-Councils all over the country. News of Environmental and Gardening Schools and Councils has recently been added.

Those involved in NGC School administration often hear the question “what can I do as a Consultant?” The articles in *Newscape* about council projects, tours and educational events provide ideas.

Newscape is distributed to NGC and State Schools Chairmen, who are asked to share it with all of the Consultants in each of their states, and to NGC Executive Committee members and state presidents. CGCI references *Newscape* on its website and directs readers to the NGC website to find this publication. *Newscape* is available and free to everyone on the NGC website. Click on Member Resources, then click on the tab for *Newscape* and find issues dating back to Fall 2011.

Newscape invites Consultants and NGC School students to **contribute to the publication** with your articles and photos.

A former state president said *Newscape* is the best advertisement ever seen for Landscape Design Schools. Check it out and share it with others.

A repeated and ongoing invitation to everyone who is reading this including all CCC members and to all Consultants):

Greg Pokorski is always looking for info/ stories/ photos for NGC's *Newscape* (comes out twice a year – next deadline is February – not too early to be receiving input) and news items/ questions/ suggested topics/ articles/photos for *The National Gardener* – four times a year.

California Consultants Council Awards

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITIONS are not date driven: Send to information has changed. Refer to each Award as to whom the information is to be sent to.

California Consultants Council

This Certificate of Recognition is awarded to
(your local store, friend, neighbor, etc)

**Environmental Consultants Award
CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION
FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL-FRIENDLY
COMMENDATION**

Recommendations should be sent to

CCC Vice Chairmen: Environmental Consultants
Cynthia Jackson, 5026 Escalon Ave., View Park CA
90043-1646

Questions email: cynthiajackson322@yahoo.com

This Certificate of Recognition may be given to an individual who is not an Environmental Consultant but who has demonstrated outstanding skills as evidenced by their garden which supports the principles of the Environmental Schools program of NGC/CGCI. It may be awarded to recognize the person who owns, designs, or maintains the garden and upon the written recommendation of any consultant or garden club member. A brief description of the garden should include the name, address and location of the garden as well as include photographs. See additional information required on application.

**Gardening Consultants Award
OUTSTANDING PRIVATE GARDEN AWARD**

Recommendations should be sent to

CCC Vice Chairmen: Gardening Consultants
Launa Gould 1212 Avenida Buena Suerte.,
San Clemente CA 92672-2348

Questions email: launag@cox.net

A Certificate of Recognition may be given to an individual who is not a Gardening Consultant but who has demonstrated outstanding skill in gardening, as demonstrated by their private garden, and supported the Gardening School Program of CGCI/NGC. This award may be given at the discretion of the CCC Chairman or upon the written recommendation of any consultant or garden club member. A brief description of the garden should state name, address and owner of the garden and include photographs. See additional information required on application form.

Landscape Design Awards

Recommendations should be sent to

CCC Vice Chairmen: Landscape Design
Consultants: Carolyn Villi

41849 John Muir Dr., Coarsegold CA 93614-9215

Questions email: CaRonV39@yahoo.com

**- AWARD OF MERIT IN LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE**

The Award of Merit in Landscape Architecture is presented by the California Consultants Council in recognition of excellence in land use on a commercial, public, or residential project. This award is given only to landscape architects upon the recommendation of a council member (but other garden club members may propose candidates to council members). A brief description of the project should state the name, address and owner of the project and include photographs and/or site plan (NOTE: photos and/or site plan or drawing are not returned). See additional information required on application form. Maximum four (4) pages including captioned photos.

- LANDSCAPE DESIGN COMMENDATION

The Landscape Design Commendation is presented by the California Consultants Council in recognition of good land use. This award is given only to individuals or groups upon the recommendation of individual council members, clubs or districts. A brief description of the project should state the name, address and owner of the project and include photographs and/or site plan (NOTE: photos and/or site plan or drawing are not returned.) See additional information required on application form. Maximum four (4) pages including captioned photos.

- LANDSCAPE DESIGN CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION/RECOGNITION/ACHIEVEMENT

A Landscape Design Certificate of Appreciation, Recognition and/or Achievement may be given to an individual or group who is neither a Landscape Design Consultant nor landscape architect but has demonstrated outstanding skill in managing land use or has enthusiastically supported the Landscape Design Program of CGCI/NGC. This award may be given at the discretion of the California Consultants Council Chairman or upon the written recommendation of any Landscape Design Consultant. A brief description of the project should state the name, address and owner of the project and include photographs and/or site plan (NOTE: photos and/or site plan or drawing are not returned). See additional information required on application form. Maximum four (4) pages including captioned photos.

Launa Gould, CCC, Vice Chairman,
Gardening Consultants

Critters were about to win when I found a way around them with a *Casa Verde*.

Living on Verde Canyon, in San Clemente, CA, one deals with typical rodents and birds. Regular sightings of squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, bobcats, and coyotes got this gardener to start thinking about growing vegetables and living with rodents a bit differently.

Over the past few years my attempt to grow tomatoes and start seedlings were met with devastation by the canyon wildlife. Despite bird netting, tomato plants caged so tight it was almost impossible to harvest, a motion activated water device (not good when trying to conserve water), the struggle became more intense than the pleasure of picking and eating a tomato ripe and warmed by the sun.

In my garden dream time, a thought occurred, how about a greenhouse to protect my plants from the critters! After researching online and getting input from other gardeners, the *Casa Verde* was ordered. The FLAT boxes arrived indicating assembly required. The existing 4' by 8' raised bed was removed, ground leveled, tapped into a nearby water line, then it was time to assemble.

Family visiting from afar, with teenage grandchildren, arrived just in time. Unbeknown to them, the task of assembly was our family project for the day. *Casa Verde*, my new (6'x8'x7') Green House came to life. Welcome to my playhouse, *Casa Verde*.

I am having fun nurturing plants and harvesting veggies and not worrying about the critters.



View of my *Casa Verde*, compost bin and herb garden from the kitchen window and a favorite garden spot for morning coffee.

Check out the shelving and the crops growing.



WESTERN MONARCH DAY

When is Western Monarch Day? Western Monarch Day is celebrated annually on February 5th. It is a day to celebrate the western Monarch butterfly that overwinters along the California coast. We have a lot to celebrate this winter with the population from the Thanksgiving Monarch Count conducted by the Xerces Society increase from 2,000 last year to 200,000 this year! Read more about this exciting news posted on the "Bug Squad Blog" from UC Davis (<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=51079>):



A male monarch nectaring on a Mexican sunflower, *Tithonia rotundifolia*, on a warm sunny day in Vacaville, Calif. (Photo by Kathy Keatley Garvey)

NOTE: You can identify a male monarch by the two visible black scent glands on their hind wings and they are usually smaller in size from female monarchs.

How can you help create, conserve, and protect monarch habitats? Create a Monarch Waystation in your garden and/or community! By creating and maintaining a Monarch Waystation you are contributing to monarch butterfly conservation. Your efforts will ensure the preservation of the species and continuation of the spectacular monarch migration phenomenon.

To show your support of monarch conservation, you can have your monarch habitat certified as an official Monarch Waystation by Monarch Watch. For complete information about monarchs and the educational, conservation and research projects managed by Monarch Watch, visit <https://monarchwatch.org/>

Celebrate Western Monarch Day and visit any of the Monarch overwintering sites that include Natural Bridges State Park in Santa Cruz; Pacific Grove; the Butterfly Grove at Pismo State Beach and more listed on this link:

<https://www.themonarchprogram.org/where-to-see-overwintering-monarchs/>

Learn Principles of Landscape Design

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Accredited School of Landscape Design
www.gardenclub.org

4 WEEKEND COURSES

Course 1: Jan 15-16, 2022

Course 2: Feb 12-13, 2022

Course 3: Feb 26-27, 2022

Course 4: Mar 12-13, 2022

StanCo Fairgrounds, Turlock



Create your
happy place.
Your home
your oasis.

Design done
right saves
time and
money.

Instructor: Course 1, 2, 3

Dale Pollard, Professor

Modesto Junior College, retired
Environmental Horticulture,
Board Member Dir Hughson Arboretum
Landscape Design & Maintenance

Instructor: Course 4

Elias Armenta, Professor

Merced Community College
School of Landscape Horticulture
Landscape Design, Landscape Construction
Landscape Maintenance
Elements of Horticulture

Register early. Space is limited. For more information: schoolsvld@gmail.com

*Sponsored by: Valley Lode District, California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Berni Hendrix, District Director: 209-402-2351*

LODGING

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
3001 Hotel Drive, Turlock 95380
209-664-9999

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott
3301 Countryside Drive, Turlock 95380
209-668-3800

Candlewood Suites
1000 Powers Court, Turlock 95380
209-250-1501

RV Campground, StanCo Fairgrounds
\$35/night. Full hook-ups.
Reservations: 209-668-1333

Pictured right: NGC
Landscape Design Consultant
pin \$24. Available online:
www.gardenclub.org



CERTIFICATION

The **Consultant Certification Card** is issued by *National Garden Clubs, Inc.* to garden club members after completion of the Landscape Design School Courses 1, 2, 3, 4 with a passing grade of 70% or more on each course exam.

After passing two courses, a student becomes a **Provisional Consultant** and may join a Consultants Council. For information go to:
<http://gardenclub.org/resources/ngc-es-gs-ld-schools-guide-for-students-and-consultants.pdf>.

To remain in good standing, Consultants must continue their education by attending a Refresher or a Landscape Design School course by the end of 5 calendar years after becoming a Consultant or last Refreshing. No exam is required. After the fourth Refresher, the Consultant becomes a Master Consultant. Refresher credit can be earned only once within a calendar year.

Berni Hendrix, School Chairman
Valley Lode District
P O Box 1234, Ceres, CA 95307



Landscape Design School

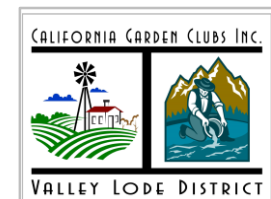
*The Fine Art of
Design in Landscape*

Series 27 Courses 1, 2, 3, 4

January, February, March 2022

Sponsored by
Valley Lode District

*Serving the counties of
Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Tuolumne, Calaveras,
Amador, Alpine, Mono*



California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Area Code/Telephone

Email

Garden Club name

State where school records are held

Check all that apply. Fee includes NGC Certification

- ☐ Course 1 January 15, 16, 2022 \$ 75.00
☐ Course 2 February 12, 13, 2022 \$ 75.00
☐ Course 3 February 26, 27, 2022 \$ 75.00
☐ Course 4 March 12, 13, 2022 \$ 75.00

Total Remittance \$ _____

Registration includes complimentary refreshments and lunches. Special dietary requests cannot be accommodated.

For Course credit complete and send NGC schools form 6-2020 (or form 7-2020 to Refresh) electronically to registrar Barbara Hawkins at: cgcbh@att.net.

Registration with payment and Form 6 or 7 MUST be received at least two weeks prior to Course start date.

NO refund for cancellation received within one week of Course start date.

Credit/Debit Card accepted – PayPal

_____ exp: _____

Make checks payable to: Valley Lode District

Mail registration and payment to:

Berni Hendrix
P O Box 1234
Ceres, CA 95307

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL DATES

Course 1 Januray 15, 16, 2022

Course 2 February 12, 13, 2022

Course 3 February 26, 27, 2022

Course 4 March 12, 13, 2022

**Note: Those refreshing or those not wishing to become a NGC Landscape Design Consultant need not take the course exams.*

8:30 a.m. Registration (check-in)

8:45 a.m. Announcements / Introductions

9:00 a.m. Class begins

3:00-4:00 p.m. Class ends

Required Reading: *The National Gardener* magazine available online only.
"A Brief History of Urban Garden Programs In the United States" by Laura Lawson. (This is reference for Course 4, History and Development of Community Gardens).
"Guide for Students and Consultants", NGC

SCHOOL LOCATION & DIRECTIONS

StanCo Fairgrounds Floriculture Building
900 North Broadway, Turlock, CA 95380

From Hwy 99, take Fulkerth Road exit, turn east; continue to Golden State Blvd; turn right; StanCo Fairgrounds is on the right. Enter through the arch entrance.
Free parking.

CONTACT:

Berni Hendrix, Schools Chairman, VLD
209-402-2351
Email: schoolsvld@gmail.com

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

OBJECTIVES:

National Garden Clubs, Inc. has created the Landscape Design School Courses - a series of four courses designed to:

- Develop a greater sense of appreciation, pride and knowledge about our private, public and historical gardens.
- Become better informed in order to promote positive changes in our surroundings to encourage beauty, utility, convenience, sound ecological practice and ease of maintenance.
- Encourage a better understanding of the landscape design process to promote landscapes that will sustain sound management.
- Stimulate interest in all phases of landscape design, including community planning.
- Develop a contingent of qualified Landscape Design Consultants to serve in such decision-making areas of public life as providing leadership, educational programs, scholarships, awards and promoting better landscape design.

The Landscape Design School curriculum has been developed by *National Garden Clubs, Inc.* and is then customized by the course instructors.

Classes are open to the public as well as to garden club members. The program consists of a series of four 2-day courses. Each course is 10 hours long.

Alexis Slafer, CGCI LDS Chairman
email: aslafer@ca.rr.com