



COUNCIL THYMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL
Published since 2013

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

Chairman's Message

Hello Everyone,

We are meeting in person, yeah! The last time the Council met in person was at the Winter Board meeting. To quote Alexis Slafer (6/2020 Council Thymes),

"A Tri-Refresher was offered in conjunction with the recent 2020 Winter Board Meeting, hosted by Costa Verde District, held on the Queen Mary Hotel in Long Beach. The intent was to save time and cost by holding the Tri-Refresher in conjunction with the winter board meeting -- held early February 2020.

Following the California Consultants Council business meeting, the CCC sponsored two hours of Tri-Refresher lectures by Price Sheppy. Four hours of refresher lectures were planned for the board meeting lunch-programs and workshops. With the final two hours of lecture on Thursday."

It seems so long ago. I became a Master Gardening Consultant after that meeting. And since then, I have also become a Landscape Design Consultant...just waiting for my "official id card".

See WANTED POSTER on page 3!

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, CGCI CCCC

(2019-2023, California Consultants Council Chair)

Our Next Meeting/Speaker

Save the dates:

Wednesday, June 8 at 12:00 – 1:45 p.m.

Speaker/Luncheon: Hosted by CCC

Speaker: Bob Lutticken-- See Bob's bio on next page.

Program: EDUCATE. "Gardening Program at Abraxas High School"

Location: Crystal Ballroom

Thursday, June 9 at 3:15 p.m.

Business meeting

Location: Presidio Ballroom

Remember you must register to attend.

OPENED TO ALL

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Bob Luticken

Bob is currently in his 21st year as a teacher at Abraxas Continuation High School. He teaches Biology, Agriculture, Aquaponics and runs the Abraxas Garden.

Bob started the Abraxas Garden with two colleagues back in 2015 but now runs the garden himself with his students and other volunteers. To date the Abraxas Garden has donated over 12 thousand pounds of fresh produce to needy families in our community.

Bob was born in San Francisco and lived in the Bay Area until his early 20's. He attended Serra High School, in San Mateo, California where he developed his baseball skills that led him to a seven-year career with the San Diego Padres. After retiring from professional baseball Bob finished a degree in Biology and earned a Masters in Teaching.

After a brief stint at Poway High School, Bob realized that it was the At-Risk student that he could have a much larger impact on, so he applied to Abraxas and never looked back.

There couldn't be a better match than the one between Bob and his students. He wants to keep growing the Abraxas agriculture program and teach as many students as he can the importance of growing food.

We are delighted Bob will be speaking to us today about his accomplishments at the school.



TREES ARE IMPORTANT

By Patricia Clayes, CGCI Five-Star Member,
CCC Secretary

Below are just a few reasons why trees are important:

- ❖ Reduce air pollution by absorbing pollutant gases (e.g., carbon dioxide, ozone, etc.)
- ❖ Release oxygen into the air
- ❖ Lower summer air temperatures and supply shade by intercepting light
- ❖ Transpire water vapor into the air
- ❖ Stabilize the soil (preventing mud slides, etc.)
- ❖ Filter the ground water
- ❖ Stop harmful wind -- windbreaks
- ❖ Help to control noise pollution
- ❖ Provide home to hundreds of species of insect, Produce food (e.g., nuts, fruit, etc.)
- ❖ Furnish timber for building, heating, etc.
- ❖ Supply important ingredients for certain medicine
- ❖ Help people connect with nature

Happy World Water Day! Happy Earth Day!

Cynthia Jackson, CCC, Vice Chairman,
Environmental Consultants

On March 22nd we celebrated World Water Day and on April 22nd, we get to celebrate Earth Day. This planet and water are absolutely vital to this ecosystem we call life. First of all, let's be mindful of them. Be grateful for all that these critical support systems do. They are so intrinsically entwined that I'd like to offer some tidbits for thought on both areas in this writing.

Landscaping usually accounts for the largest residential water consumption usage. Fix those leaky sprinklers! I can't tell you how many times I've seen more water being put on the sidewalk or out in the street than on any plants. Speaking of plants, go native! They are better equipped to thrive on less water and handle our changing climate. Also consider weather based (aka smart) sprinkler controllers which moderate the amount of water based on plant type, soil type, slope, and weather conditions. Our storm drain systems move a lot of water away and out to the ocean. Retain and absorb as much rainwater on your site as possible, which will nourish your plants and also help recharge the groundwater. Direct down spouts to planted areas in a rain garden. Put those buckets out to capture the rainwater! Consider installing a greywater system, if viable for you.

So far, I've only been discussing things that individuals can do. On a larger scale we need to enact modifications in some areas. I think that our plumbing systems should be redesigned so that they utilize recycled water instead of potable water to flush toilets and irrigate landscapes. The largest commercial user of water is agriculture. A lot of this goes to producing feed for livestock. Climate change is necessitating a change in current practices. We will need to reallocate that water (and that land) to growing food to feed people directly, thereby increasing yield. We will need to also rethink the type of crops grown. It is irresponsible and counterproductive to try and grow crops requiring a high level of irrigation in an increasing arid environment.

'Reduce, Recycle, Repurpose, Reconsider' is a phrase familiar to many of you. It encourages you to give

conscious thought to the acquisition and disposal of your "stuff". Do you really need to own the newest, latest, fanciest thingamajig? Can you repair or repurpose the old one? If that's not possible and a new one is absolutely necessary, can the old one be recycled? Can the new one be sourced sustainably? We've recently seen significant disruptions in the supply chain which has highlighted the problems with sourcing and distribution methodologies that are not based on sustainability."

The other end of the product lifecycle is the disposition (aka it's grave). Have you given any consideration to where our trash goes? Our landfills are at &/or near capacity. We used to have the luxury of shipping it overseas, but not so much now. Solid Waste Disposal Management is a huge topic, which I'm not going into here. The point I'm trying to make is to make an effort to embrace zero waste concepts to the best of your ability."

If we all just take action in these areas our Water and our Earth ecosystems will benefit. And so will we. "



BOOK REVIEW:

"50 WAYS TO HELP SAVE THE BEES"

By Patricia Clayes, CGCI Five-Star Member,
CCC Secretary

This little wonder of a book by Sally Coulthard is filled with a wealth of information about bees and why they are important to us. Chapters include:

- * What's happening to bees?
- * Why are bees important?
- * Are bees in trouble?
- * Different kinds of bees.
- * What bees eat.
- * How to help bees.
- * 50 ways to help bees.
- * Bee directory.

The book includes advice and tips for gardeners to help save our bees survive. For example, on page 75, the author recommends that gardeners stop watering their gardens in full sun. Most gardeners already know to water their gardens in the mornings or evenings, but the author explains how this practice of not watering our gardens in full sun helps the bees. The author says that "bees tend to fly during the warmest hours of the day," but they can get caught in the steam of a sprinkler or a hose spray that "can be lethal" to bees. It would best to irrigate with a watering can or drip system if one must water during the warmest parts of the day.

If you want to help our bees survive, this little book will give you 50 ways to help save the bees!

