

The Seascape

Newsletter of the Central Coast Chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association

SEPTEMBER 2007



11th Annual Golf Tournament Coming to San Juan Oaks on September 12

Join us for the 11th Annual Central Coast Chapter Golf Tournament on Wednesday, September 12, at San Juan Oaks Golf Course. The fun begins with check in at 11:30 a.m. and a 12:30 p.m. tee off. The \$125 fee includes green fees, box lunch and a sit

down dinner, plus a bag full of goodies.

Hole sponsorships are available for \$125. The event is open to everyone, especially those interested in CLCA.

See the insert in this issue for more information and a sign up form.

Water Wizardry: What's New in Water Conservation on September 18

Join us on September 18, for a discussion on water conservation in the landscape. We'll look at the water situation and new technology available to help us in our efforts to conserve this precious resource.

The meeting will be held at the Seascape Golf Course, 610 Clubhouse Drive in Aptos - (831) 688-3263. No-host

cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the program at 6:00 p.m. The menu includes grilled chicken, tri-tip, green salad, pasta salad, dinner rolls, coffee and dessert. The cost is \$35 per person. RSVP to Kelly Shaeffer at (408) 314-2668 or kelly@plantproviders.net

See page 7 for details.



It's Time for the Green Industry to Think Green

The green roof at the Welcoming Center at The Presentation Center on Bear Creek Road in Los Gatos. Plant Providers supplied approximately 2,700 plugs and 2" pots for this living roof two years ago. See President's Message, p. 3.



SAVE THE DATE: October 30 Native Plants and Sustainable Landscaping Dinner Meeting.

Watch for details.

INSIDE

Chapter & State Directory	2
President's Message	3
How to Greenscape	4
Are you Green Conscious?	4
New Members	6
Designer/Contractor Mixer	6
Treasurer's Report	8
Board Minutes	8
Cabrillo College Lectures	11
Enviro-Friendly Events	12
How to Design Native Garden	13
Water Manager Certification	14
Chapter Partners	15
Calendar of Events	16

2007 CLCA Central Coast Chapter Directory

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CLCA Mission Statement

The California Landscape Contractors Association serves the interests of its members, promotes professionalism, and advances public awareness of the landscape industry.

CLCA Vision Statement

The California Landscape Contractors Association members will be recognized by the public as the best qualified professionals of the landscape industry.

The CLCA Central Coast Chapter newsletter is published 10 times a year. Copy and advertising deadlines are the 10th of the month preceding publication. Send all copy, photos and ad materials to: Jerrie Beard & Associates, 1024 Simon Dr., Ste. F, Placerville, CA 95667. Emailed submissions also welcome at jsb@beardassociates.com. For information on advertising and rates, contact Jerrie Beard at (800) 605-1701.

2007 CLCA State Executive Board

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Jon Robert Alsdorf (559) 276-1726

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Tom Delany (559) 453-1670

Director of Resource Mngmt

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Chapter Presidents Council No

Cathy Gurney (530) 895-0263

Associate Member Director

Heath Bedal (916) 457-5925

CLCA Central Coast Chapter Past Presidents

2006 – Nikos Lynch
2005 – Nikos Lynch
2004 – Tom Reily
2003 – Tom Reily
2002 – Peter Gluhaich
2001 – Peter Gluhaich
2000 – Steve McDonald, CLT-C
1999 – Steve McDonald, CLT-C
1998 – Christopher Elliott, CLT
1997 – Christopher Elliott, CLT
1996 – Paul Iwanaga
1995 – Paul Iwanaga
1994 – Jerry Allison
1993 – Jerry Allison
1992 – Patty Dunks
1991 – Patty Dunks
1990 – Brian Bisnett
1989 – Brian Bisnett
1988 – John Battaglia
1987 – Irving K. Tamura
1986 – John David, CLT
1985 – John David, CLT
1984 – James Mendleski
1983 – Roy Pina
1982 – Craig E. Rogers
1981 – Ron Mendleski
1980 – Ron Mendleski
1979 – George Depesco
1978 – John Brauns
1977 – J. Chris McIntyre
1976 – J. Chris McIntyre
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1973 – Henry Yaminishi

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President's Message

Going Green. Are you Practicing Sustainable Landscaping?

by Kelly Shaeffer, Plant Providers,
Broker of Quality Plants and Specimen Trees

You've heard the terms Going Green and Sustainable Landscaping and you've thought about your impact on the environment but are you doing anything about it? Simple changes make a big difference. Are you recycling planting containers, using permeable materials or recommending drought-tolerant plants that require less water? See pages 4-5 for a list of ideas that you can implement right away to reduce your carbon footprint on the environment.

A few weeks ago, I took a tour with Alrie Middlebrook from Middlebrook Gardens of the Green Welcoming Center at The Presentation Center on Bear Creek Road in Los Gatos. This \$6 million dollar LEED Gold Certified building was the first of its kind to be built in Santa Clara County in 2005. For those of you not familiar with LEED, it's a national rating system for high performance green buildings. The Gold designation that this building received is quite rare. With recycled blue jeans and straw bales in the walls, recycled newspaper on the ceiling, and sunflower seed countertops, it is quite worth your time to get educated on what 'green' really means. The Center's main focus is to provide hospitality and spiritual support and act as a teaching tool about our dependence on the earth, our interconnectedness with all creation, and our responsibility to preserve the environment.

Here are a few of the attributes of the 10,170 square foot building which includes a living roof, bookstore, an eco display, and state-of-the art kitchen which uses food from their on-site organic garden maintained by the US Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County.

• **A Living Roof with native plants and grasses** – Plant Providers supplied

approximately 2,700 plugs and 2" pots for this living roof two years ago. The roof is completely grown in and contains various native grasses and succulents. In fact, we have arranged the first volunteer weeding day on this living roof on September 18, from 10 am to 12 pm, with a free organic lunch from 12:00 – 12:30 pm. Register early by contacting kelly@plant-providers.net as only six people can attend this event.

• **Energy consumption is reduced by at least 50%** thanks to the use of photovoltaic and solar panels to harness the sun's energy. Straw bale walls hold the temperature even. These straw walls save timber, are non-combustible, will last one hundred years and will be safely recycled into the earth. The new kitchen features energy efficient appliances with - Energy-Star ratings. The overall design and placement of the building takes the best possible advantage of natural light and heat.

• **Water consumption is being reduced by at least 30%** with water conservation fixtures, sinks, and toilets. Non-potable water will be used for irrigation of landscaping and the Organic Garden of the

The green roof at the Green Welcoming Center at The Presentation Center on Bear Creek Road in Los Gatos. Plant Providers supplied approximately 2,700 plugs and 2" pots for this living roof two years ago.



University of California Agricultural Extension Master Gardeners.

• **Resources have been saved at every opportunity.** Certified wood (non-old growth) makes up the frame of the building including trees lost in winter storms on Presentation Center property. Recycled newspaper insulates the roof while cotton from old blue jeans insulates the walls. Recycled ceramic tiles cover the kitchen floor and recycled metal, plastic, wood, shopping bags (polyethylene) and sunflower seeds make up countertops. Fly ash, a waste product of coal-burning power plants, strengthens concrete and reduces cement needs by 30 to 50 percent.

• The health of guests and staff is protected by the use of low VOC paints, and the high amount of recycled products, all of which emit fewer gasses and toxins into the indoor air.

This tour got me thinking about my personal impact as well as the impact of my business on our environment and what I can do to make a difference. Educate yourself and get more involved. See the list of upcoming green events on page 12 of this newsletter and then attend.

As individuals and as landscape professionals, we have a common purpose: to care for this green earth and those who live upon it. If you haven't seen Al Gore's award-winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, I highly recommend it. Whether hype or fact, it will stir you up.



How to GreenScape

Reprinted from the US Environmental Protection Agency 'Greenscapes' website

<http://www.epa.gov/greenscapes/>

Think about the millions of tons of waste materials that are hauled away, buried, or burned each day from landscaping and grounds keeping operations—trees, shrubs, brush, lumber, asphalt, and concrete, just to name a few. Also, consider the millions of gallons of water, pesticides, fuels, and oils in use each and every day. The costs of these materials—both economic and environmental—can be easily reduced or eliminated with updated landscaping methods. Think how you might be able to incorporate the following elements into your daily operations:

Reduce

Reducing the production of waste is the first and most important step toward efficient material use. When planning a new landscape design or updating a current

one, avoid products that require frequent replacement or regular maintenance to reduce future waste.

Reuse

Reuse serves as the second key component to environmentally beneficial landscaping. Reuse of products prolongs the useful life of these materials, thus delaying final disposal or recycling. Many items can be reused effectively without adding much time or energy.

Recycle

Recycling is the segregation, collection, storage, and removal of recyclable or compostable materials from the municipal solid waste stream. Recycling minimizes waste generation by recovering and reprocessing usable products that might other-

wise be disposed of (e.g., plastics, green trimmings, food waste).

Rebuy

Rebuying means re-thinking your purchasing habits. Look for products that meet your needs but have a better environmental profile than your current product purchases. Consider biobased, recycled content, and other environmentally preferable aspects in your purchasing decisions. Recycled products, for example, are often more durable than those made with virgin materials, saving money and raw materials over time.

Rebuying is key to sustaining recycling markets, and it aids in the development of technology that conserves resources and prevents waste. You can work with your managers, clients, suppliers, and vendors to identify and establish specifications to purchase various environmentally preferable products.

Are You GreenScape Conscious?

Reprinted from the US Environmental Protection Agency 'Greenscapes' website <http://www.epa.gov/greenscapes/>

The GreenScapes program provides cost-efficient and environmentally friendly solutions for landscaping which is designed to help preserve natural resources and prevent waste and pollution. Learn how to GreenScape and preserve natural resources by following some tips and suggested activities:

Waste

- Recycle bedding trays and plant containers from annuals and other greenery.
- Triple rinse and recycle plastic commercial containers.
- Recycle used oil and tires from your vehicles and equipment.
- Provide recycling receptacles next to trash receptacles.
- Send green waste and food waste that cannot be composted on site to a local composting facility.
- Reclaim land - turn waste land into usable property and a valuable asset.

Water

- Recycle gray water for irrigation and equipment wash downs.
- Buy hoses, tubing, trickle irrigation systems made from recovered plastic and old tires.
- Use biobased¹ cleaners and solvents for equipment.
- Install a green vegetated roof to reduce or eliminate stormwater and "heat island" effect. See EPA's Stormwater Management page for more information.
- Purchase and incorporate plants that require minimal or no supplemental watering.

Air/Energy

- Purchase biodiesel and biobased¹ lubricants for your equipment.
- Compost makes an excellent air filter media for volatile organic compounds (VOCs).
- Specify Green Buildings requirements for

building structures.

- Plant trees to replace those removed or damaged during construction.
- Buy locally produced goods and services whenever possible to reduce transportation emissions and costs.
- Purchase or rent fuel efficient vehicles for your fleet.
- Use high efficiency lighting for roadways, parking lots, security, and landscaping.
- Use solar powered lighting and signage wherever possible.
- Utilize solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources. Purchase "green power" from renewable energy sources if available.

Fertilizers and Pesticides

- Purchase organic, biobased¹, or slow-release fertilizers.
- Use biopesticides instead of conventional pesticides.

(continued on next page)

Reduce Waste

- Select low maintenance/slow growing plants and grasses.
- Reduce or eliminate plastic silt fencing and substitute with blankets, berms, and filtersocks made of compost for erosion control.
- Switch from pressure-treated wood to plastic lumber for decks, benches, and signs.
- Return wooden pallets and other shipping materials to your supplier whenever possible.
- When replacing an existing hardscape or structure, deconstruct, reuse and recycle all possible materials such as metal, wood, shingles, concrete, and pavement.
- Minimize site and soil disruptions to the maximum extent possible.
- Cluster structures to maximize open space.
- Minimize turf grass and paved areas - keep as much natural area as possible.

Reduce Water

- Conserve water through xeriscaping.
- Incorporate compost into the soil to help improve water absorption and retention.
- Top-dress your turf with compost.
- Reduce non-permeable hardscape where ever possible.
- Place mulch over a plant's root zone to reduce moisture evaporation and conserve water.
- Install drip irrigation systems.
- Install composting toilets in remote locations to reduce water and servicing requirements.
- Clean equipment with compressed air whenever possible. Grass clippings and

debris should be collected and composted.

Reduce Air/Energy

- Strategically plant vegetation outside and around buildings to reduce indoor heating and cooling needs.
- Use hand or electric equipment where ever feasible to reduce emissions.
- Use biobased¹ fuels and lubricants in place of petroleum.
- Implement scheduled equipment maintenance programs for increased efficiency and reduced emissions.

Reduce Fertilizers and Pesticides

- Use compost as a soil amendment to help reduce the need for chemical fertilizers or pesticides.
- Incorporate native plants in your landscape— they generally require less fertilizers and pesticides.
- Implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program.
- Spot treat whenever possible.
- Set mower blades higher to fight weeds and diseases without pesticides.
- Grasscycle—leave grass clippings in place (don't bag) when mowing.
- Produce less green waste by limiting fertilizer and water use.
- Use mulch around trees and in flowering beds as weed prevention.
- Purchase only what you need and can use for a specific treatment.
- Return unused excess product to supplier if possible.
- If you cannot return excess product, contact your local solid waste agency and your state pesticide disposal program to determine if a waste or pesticide program

now commonly called "Clean Sweep" is available. These efforts by state and local governments typically focus on agricultural pesticides, but may also include other pesticides used by homeowners, golf courses, and highway departments.

- Compost organic waste in lieu of burning or burying.

Reduce Climate Change

- Plant trees to shade paved areas and help reduce the summer "heat-island" effect.
- Compost organic waste in lieu of burning or burying.

CLCA Announces Future Destinations - Plan to Attend!

Start planning! Here are possible locations for upcoming State events which afford you the opportunity to meet like-minded people, gain a friend, gain a mentor, create fun memories and learn the great things CLCA is doing as an organization and for our industry.

- Fall Convention 2008
Hawaii (big island)
- Summer Meeting 2009
Lake Tahoe
- Fall Convention 2009
Las Vegas, Nevada
- Summer Meeting 2010
San Francisco
- Fall Convention 2010
Phoenix/Scottsdale, Arizona

Visit the state website at www.clca.org often for updates on events and other issues.

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Welcome New Members

Join us in welcoming the following new members to our chapter.

- Laurie Wafer
Gardens Alive Landscape
489 Country Estates Terrace
Santa Cruz • (831) 818-1589

We'd like to get to know you...

Members are encouraged to submit a profile on their business so we can introduce you to the membership. Email to Jerrie Beard at jsb@beardassociates.com.

Stay Informed About Chapter Happenings

We have created an email database for our chapter which will be used to keep you informed about upcoming events and chapter happenings. Please update your information for this new chapter service by sending your email address to Steve McDonald at clca@charter.net.

Back by Popular Demand! Designer/Contractor Networking Mixer

Due to the popularity and great reviews from our May Designer/Contractor Mixer, we have decided to do it again!

The Central Coast chapter will again team up with the Landscape Designer's Guild of Santa Cruz for a Landscape Contractor/ Designer Mixer on November 27, at Green Valley Grill, 40 Penny Lane, Watsonville, (831) 728-0644. No host cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. The mixer will start at 6:30 p.m. Similar to our May meeting, the meeting will be run with a speed-networking format where you have 5-6 minutes of one on one time with each contractor/designer before moving on to the next person. Suppliers welcome. To RSVP, contact Natalain@aol.com.

CLCA Leadership Nominations Sought

Nominations are now being accepted for several positions on the CLCA 2008 Board of Directors. Members interested in serving should contact Executive Director Sharon McGuire at CLCA HQ, sharonmcguire@clca.org or (800) 448-2522. The following board positions are open for the year 2008:

- President
- President-Elect
- Director of Chapter Services
- Director of Communications
- Director of Education
- Director of Legislation
- Director of Resource Management
- Chapter Presidents Council/North - Elected by the chapter presidents
- Associate Member Representative - Elected by the associate members



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Water Wizardry: What's New in Water Conservation?

By Stacey Hart, Hart Landscaping

Come on out to the Seascope Golf Resort in Aptos on September 18th to find out.

Central Coast CLCA urges our local contractors to be leaders and not followers in the water conservation movement. How can we help our homeowners and business people have more sustainable and efficient landscapes? The wizard hat has chosen four wise ones to enlighten us.

First of all, we will be visited by Scott McGilvray, CLCA Resource Management Committee Chair, who will present the Water Management Certification Program. This program includes a written test and monitoring of an irrigation system for a year before certification is awarded. Learn why it is to our benefit as contractors to consider becoming a part of this program.

Next we will have a speaker from the

Soquel Water District. I am excited to hear from these folks. At the recent chapter board meeting, Leslie Jaquith of Deva Gardens let us know about the great rebate programs this forward thinking water district offers. I looked them up on the web and found some great incentives I can now offer my valued customers to update and improve their landscapes and irrigation systems. If a washing machine needs replacement, why not a thoughtfully designed, drought tolerant landscape? I hope to hear comments from these folks about how we can inspire other water districts in the tri-county area to offer similar programs.

Finally, representatives of both Ewing and Hydroturf have graciously offered to bring us lots of products to pass around and inspect, along with presentations

about the newest features of controllers and how we can wisely use what they have to offer for the residential homeowner.

Have you actually seen a rain sensor or taken a gander at an MP rotator? Do you know how to reboot a frozen controller? How popular is the satellite weather integration of controllers going to be? How can these experts help us to be magicians in the landscape, saving water wherever we work? Where do they foresee our industry going in the next decade of continuing water usage issues?

For a mere \$35 dollars you will enjoy the company of your peers for a lighthearted evening of good food, valuable information, and the opportunity to look forward to serving our community with continuing confidence. No host cocktails at 5:30p.m. followed by dinner and speakers at 6p.m.

New Two-Day CLT Training

The Certified Landscape Technician test will be held at American River College in Sacramento on September 29 and 30. More and more, plans are calling for a CLT to be on site. Do you have a CLT on staff? Maybe it's time to get one.

Don't take this test lightly. Without the proper preparation, this test is rarely passed on the first try. CLCA SFBA Chapter would like to help you or your staff prepare with two full days of training.

September 15

CLT orientation (common core and safety)

Breakout training sessions

Set training groups for Day 2

September 22

Custom training groups for accelerated learning. You must be registered and have attended Day 1 to attend this training day.

Training will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days at Foothill College,

Environmental Horticulture Science Unit,

12345 El Monte Rd., Los Altos. Please follow the signs to the parking area, and bring 8 quarters for the parking permit.

Registration is \$60 per person and includes lunch and a study guide. See insert this issue to register.

Volunteers Needed

Even if you are not planning to take the CLT test in September, you can help with our training days. We are looking for volunteers to help as instructors and/or administrators on one or both of these training days. Contact Evan Barrows at (650) 853-0430.

About the CLT Test

Certification is an international hands-on testing program administered by the CLCA that seeks to recognize proficiency in the landscape workforce, upgrade the status of the landscape professional and provide the public with a means of identifying qualified landscape professionals.

To become a Certified Landscape

Technician, an applicant must pass the Common Elements plus a Core test.

The Core tests are in Installation, Maintenance and Irrigation in addition to Advanced Specialties.

Testing includes both written exams and field tests. The applicant rotates through timed field problems which are supervised by one or more judges, and require applicants to install or maintain sample landscape projects.

For more information or an application, visit www.clca.org or call (800) 448-2522.

Did you know...

You can check the status of an operators license at www.cslb.ca.gov? You can find out if they are licensed, if they have the proper insurance coverages and if there have been any actions against the license. Do you know how your report reads?



Board Minutes

Reported by Jessica Petrini

August 7, 2007

Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were Kelly Shaeffer, Tish

O'Reilly, Jessica Petrini, Laurie Reily, Natalain Schwartz, Chris Elliott, Dave Baxter, Alex Ramirez, Steve McDonald, Leslie Jaquith and Stacey Hart. Guests included Mike Ruscoe from Ewing Irrigation, David Piper from JR Simplot and Dennis Coates from Hydroturf.

Topics Discussed

- 1) The Board reviewed the radio spot that the CLCA-Central Coast Chapter co-sponsored with the Soquel Water District and the Green Gardener Program. Kelly presented prize give-aways that will be awarded to listeners on KPIG and KWAV radio stations. Ewing Irrigation donated an ET irrigation controller, Hydroturf has donated a Smartline irrigation controller and weather monitor, Valley Crest has donated a 24" box Quercus agrifolia and the CLCA is donating three water-wise garden consultations by members of our chapter.
- 2) Steve McDonald presented attendance for the upcoming golf tournament. As of the beginning of August, there were 19 sponsors, 29 paid golfers and 10 pending golfers.
- 3) Dennis is upgrading the Partners for Success benefits and price sheet. We discussed ideas for newsletter advertising for potential Partners for Success members and agreed to keep the rates the same for 2008.
- 4) Dave and Alex reported a new member for the Central Coast chapter: Laurie Wafer of Gardens Alive Landscape, Santa Cruz.
- 5) Leslie created an insert for the August Seascope on the Beautification Awards Banquet. She also accepted the Board Position of Beautification Awards organizer for 2008. Leslie discussed CLCA's Water Management Certification Program. Anyone interested in this program can go the CLCA website or contact Leslie at (831) 247-6900 or info@devagardens.com.
- 6) Natalain has provided an article for the newsletter on the



Treasurer's Report

by Laurie Reily, Treasurer

July 2007

Opening Checking Balance: \$28,835.30
Income: \$0.00

Disbursements:	
Board Meeting	\$187.36
Other Publishing/Banner	\$750.00
Office	\$169.36
Awards	\$3,721.76
Awards Dinner	\$232.02
Seminars/Trade Shows	\$900.02
Ending Checking Balance:	\$22,874.78

results of the Landscaper/Designer mixer dinner meeting held in May. The board is attempting to have another mixer dinner meeting in the near future. Natalain will pursue scheduling a class/seminar on water issues which may be in conjunction with the Soquel Water District.

- 7) Mike Ruscoe, Ewing Irrigation, is a state board representative for associate members. The '08 Leadership Conference will be held at the Oakland Hilton. CLCA State is also trying to plan state events three years in advance. Mike presented the idea of having an event next year where Central Coast members can tour the Sunset Magazine Demonstration Home in Monterey.
- 8) Laurie presented the treasurer's report. Please see above.
- 9) A new board position has been created: Public Relations Representative for the Central Coast Chapter. Stacey Hart has agreed to fill this new position and will be responsible for informing the public and our industry about CLCA.
- 10) Kelly encouraged board members to become familiar with the Water Management Certification Program and consider becoming certified. Brochures to sign up were distributed to all board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm

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Soquel Creek Water District Offers Incentives to Replace Lawn Areas

Replace existing high water use lawn with low-water use grass or plants and receive \$2 per square foot of turf replaced. Pre and post installation surveys are required to qualify for this rebate. Call 831-475-8501 ext. 146 to schedule a site visit.

Program requirements

- Must replace existing turf with low-water use grass or plants.
- Pre and post site inspection. (e-mail to set up an appointment)
- Complete rebate credit application with attached original receipts of plants and related costs. The approved costs include labor costs, plant and mulch purchases.
- Note: on your water bill you will be credited up to \$2 per square foot. If your costs are below \$2 a square foot, you will be credited for actual costs.

Applying for rebates

1. Contact the Water Conservation Specialist at 831 475-8500 ext. 146 before

you begin work.

2. Schedule a post-installation inspection.
3. Complete rebate application (download a copy at http://www.soquelcreekwater.com/Rebate_Grass.htm) and mail to the Soquel Creek Water District with original sales receipts for plants purchased.
4. Receive approved credit on water bill.

Why replace typical grass with waterwise grass?

To save water, money and to have a beautiful lower maintenance and more ecologically sound landscape. Since information on water-wise grasses is more difficult to find than for water-wise plants, this web page focuses on grasses. For a list of appropriate varieties and locations where they can be purchased, visit

http://www.soquelcreekwater.com/Rebate_Grass.htm

Water savings

Typical grass or lawn uses about 27 gallons per square foot per year in this region. A water-wise grass needs only about 25% or less of typical grass, once they are established. Some of the low-water grasses require no irrigation once they are established. A normal 500 square foot lawn that is replaced with a water-wise grass or plants can expect to save at least 8,000 gallons per year. Water-wise grasses also usually require less maintenance and chemical application (i.e., fertilizers, pesticides, etc.).

Rebate amount

The rebate is \$2 per square foot for replacing typical turf with water-wise grass or water-wise plants. The rebate amount depends on the square footage of turf removed and replanted with low water use grass or plants. Under no circumstance can the rebate amount exceed the cost of the labor, plant and mulch material.

Information

Call the District's Water Conservation Manager (Ron Duncan) at 831 475-8501 ext. 144.

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Cabrillo College Offers Water Use in the Landscape Series

Join us for this five lecture series on Water Use in the Landscape. Water is a critical natural resource that must be protected and used wisely. We will follow waters flow into our environment and see how it is used. Who is using the water and what are they using it for? Can you garden with limited water? Can you harvest the water that naturally falls on your property and use it later? What are the tools we can use to reduce your water application? And can this be done and still have all the coolest plants in your yard?

The series will take place on Thursday evenings, 7:00 to 8:30 pm, at the Cabrillo College Environmental Horticulture Center, Room 5005, "Top of the Campus"

The series of five lectures is \$40 when purchased as a group; or \$10 per lecture if attended individually.

September 27th

The New Urban Watershed, with Paul Kephart (Rana Creek)

October 4th

Landscapes and the Water Industry, with Toby Goddard (City of Santa Cruz Water Department)

October 18th

Rain Water Harvesting: Design and Integration for a Sustainable Landscape, with Bobby Markowitz (Earthcraft Landscape Design)

November 1st

Irrigation Equipment and Overcoming Design Problems, with Bowen Genkins-Warrick (Lynn Jackson Landscaping)

November 15th

Cool Plants for a Hot and Dry Landscape, with Lynn Jackson (Lynn Jackson Landscaping)

For more information about the Horticulture program and its facilities, please go to www.cabrillo.edu/academics/horticulture/

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Environmentally Friendly Events & Resources

•Living Roof Tour of Presentation Center

- Includes a little weeding of the rooftop garden (in exchange for a free organic lunch). Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007; Los Gatos, Tour/Weeding 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Lunch 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. Room for 6 people. Call Kelly Shaeffer at (408) 314-2668 or kelly@plantproviders.net.

•Graniterock's Green Building Expo 2007

- October 11, 2007. 10am - 6pm. Location: 1505 South De Anza, Cupertino. 15 speakers throughout the day speaking on various green topics of interest to the landscape industry. Free. RSVP (408) 966-4500.

•Green Business Conference - November 7-9, Hotel Whitcomb, San Francisco.

Finding inspiration from a strong green business community and conspiring to create a more sustainable future. www.coopamerica.biz

•Green Festival - November 9-11,

Concourse Exhibition Center, San Francisco. Celebrating what's working in our communities, for people, for businesses and for the environment. <http://www.greenfestivals.org>

•Soquel Water District Technology presentation: Below turf rainwater collection systems.

September 12, from 10 am -12 pm at the Capitola City Council Chambers. Two presentations about rainwater collection systems that drain and store water for irrigation below playing fields and other landscaping to provide irrigation water for use in the summer. The first presenter will be Bruce Arthur

with Ponds Away Inc. talking about the Atlantis D-Raintank Stormwater System. The second presenter will be Jonas Sipaila from Rehbein Environmental Solutions talking about the EPIC (Environmental Passive Integrated Chamber) System. Contact Vai Campbell at Soquel Creek Water District at 831-475-8500 ext. 142.

•How To Design and Build Your Own

Native Garden. Saturday, September 8, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Designing a California Native Garden, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Discussion and Q&A. Sunday, September 9, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Garden Tour of private native gardens in San Jose. For more information please contact: The California Native Garden Foundation, 76 Race Street San Jose, CA 95126. (408) 292-9993, info@cngf.org, www.cngf.org

•Creating Outdoor Rooms with Marcia

Bloom. Saturday, September 15, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Learn how you too can create a beautiful Outdoor Room for your home with Marcia Bloom of InBloom Garden Design, an award winning designer. All classes are free to the public. Please call ahead to register for a seating space.

Garden Accents, 11155 Lena Avenue, Gilroy, CA. 95020, (408) 846-4555

•**Restorative Environments.** 10th Annual Meeting of the American Horticultural Therapy Association. November 11, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Huntington Library and Gardens, San Marino CA. Explore the role of various restorative programs in Southern California that employ horticultural

therapy in their programs. Contact patty Dunks (831) 476-7070 or PattyDunks@aol.com.

•CLCA Sunset 'Green House' Tour,

Monterey - Summer 2008 - Monterra's exclusive gated community was selected as the location for the 2008 Sunset Magazine Idea House - A Stylish and Eco-Friendly Monterey-Style House.

Landscape Architect: Bernard Trainor and Associates (Monterey, California).

<http://monterra-monterey.com/articles/sunset.php>

Helpful resources:

•CLCA Water Management Certification -

Become a leader in your industry by becoming a Certified Water Manager. Test dates are September, October, December and January (see below). Test fee is \$100 for members; \$200 for non-members. Must manage water to a budget on at least one site for 12 months. Visit the website at

www.clca.us/w2/memOnly/mem.html for more information or contact Scott McGilvray, CLCA Resource Management Committee Chair, at (408) 446-1118.

Test Dates:

- September 11, San Jose - 10 a.m.
- September 19, Los Angeles - 10 a.m.
- September 28, Santa Rosa - 10 a.m.
- December 11, San Diego - 10 a.m.
- January 26, San Luis Obispo - 10 a.m.

•**Green Gardener Program** - www.greengardener.com. The Monterey Bay Green Gardener Program provides professional training and certification in ecological landscaping. The program goals are to reduce reliance on synthetic fertilizers



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and pesticides, reduce water pollution and encourage water conservation. Clients using Green Gardening services benefit from improved landscape health, appearance and value.

- Lose the Lawn** - www.losethelawn.com. A public outreach and advocacy campaign run by Middlebrook Gardens to promote sustainable landscaping in urban, suburban, and rural areas. We aim to convince local governments, businesses, and the general public that lawns are detrimental to wildlife, clean water supplies, individuality, the climate, artistic expression, children, and the pocketbook!
- ELA** - <http://www.ela-ecolandscaping.org/>. The Ecological Landscaping Association is a nonprofit, member-based organization of landscape professionals, homeowners, and community groups who believe in using landscape practices that are environmentally safe.
- Home Composting** - www.compostsan-tacruzcounty.org. The Santa Cruz County Public Works Department funds an excellent program with regular training events, including the Certified Master Composter Program where you can learn techniques to convert food and yard waste into a valuable soil amendment.

How To Design and Build Your Own Native Garden

The California Native Garden Foundation is offering the first in a series of classes on how to Design, Build, and Maintain a California Native Garden yourself. These classes will introduce you to creating a sustainable, low-maintenance, and water conserving garden around your home.

In "Designing a California Native Garden" you will learn how to start visualizing your native garden, learn how to incorporate native plants, learn which native plants are right for your yard, and get many design ideas for your project. This class will be taught by Alrie Middlebrook who has more than 30 years experience as a professional landscaper and author.

The Garden Tour will feature three private gardens in the San Jose area where you see hands on how each garden reflects the natural environment around it, and learn from the designer first hand about garden styles and construction.

The seminar will be held Saturday, September 8, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Designing a California Native Garden, with discus-

sion and Q&A from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Garden Tour of private gardens in San Jose will be held Sunday, September 9, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cost

One or more classes and/or Garden Tour: \$40 for members, \$60 for non-members.

All proceeds support the work of CNGF.

About The California Native Garden Foundation

The purpose of the California Native Garden Foundation is to change the way Californians garden to be more sustainable. We teach Californians how to use native plants to create a garden that mimics the natural environment, saves water and energy, and creates wildlife habitat. We work with local schools in the creation of native demonstration gardens, and teach young people about ecology.

For more information please contact: The California Native Garden Foundation
76 Race St., San Jose, CA 95126
(408) 292-9993 , info@cngf.org
www.cngf.org

Immigration Reform Still Alive

Although the Senate could not agree on and pass an Immigration Reform Bill, the issue is still alive. Senators continue to debate the key issues of immigration reform and are trying to tack portions of the failed legislation onto other bills.

Recently, Senate Republicans, led by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), introduced the "Border Security First Act of 2007" as an amendment to the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill. In response to the continued effort to secure America's borders, the Act provides \$3 billion in emergency funding to hire more border patrol agents, purchase equipment and vehicles to patrol along 100% of the southern border, and generally tough-

ens enforcement of existing immigration law.

While discussing the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill, Senators Craig (Idaho), Boxer and Feinstein (Calif.) lobbied passionately for a guest worker program to allow immigrants to work in agriculture.

"The fact of the matter is," said Senator Feinstein, "90 percent of agriculture is undocumented labor. Why doesn't the Senate recognize that? Why doesn't the Senate recognize you cannot get Americans to do this work?"

It appears that our Senators from California have heard the message from the green and agriculture industries and

are coming around to the fact that there is a labor shortage in these industries. Let's keep the letters, emails and phone calls flowing to reinforce this message.

Since the Senate has not been able to come up with a solution, but all the debate has stirred the pot, the battle for immigration reform is now moving to the state level. Many states are considering legislation that would toughen enforcement on businesses who hire undocumented workers and/or make it illegal to do business with them.

Keep in contact with your state and federal legislators on this important issue. Go to the CLCA website at www.clca.org and click on Legislation/ Write Your Lawmakers.

Water Management Certification Test Comes to San Jose September 11

Certification Program helps industry professionals meet new market demands due to water restrictions and skyrocketing water prices

Homeowners and businesses alike are feeling the pinch more than ever from increased water rates, and now with fines for water waste (especially from noticeable runoff). The demand on landscape contractors to provide more efficient water management is the highest it's ever been.

To help landscape contractors and other green industry professionals meet this growing demand, CLCA introduced its new Water Management Certification Program in the summer of 2007. This program is designed as a practical, profitable solution with simple goals: to train water managers to provide customers with good to excellent landscape appearance using the right amount of water based on plant needs.

Profits from Water Management

The results are tangible (not theoretical) for the contractors who are applying the principles right now on their job sites. Some of the financial rewards you can expect as a CLCA-certified water manager include:

- Lower labor costs due to improved landscapes (faster to maintain per visit).
- Profits from irrigation system repairs, upgrades, and retrofits (a higher per-hour labor rate than landscape maintenance alone).
- Additional service charges for the water management itself (savvy clients would rather pay landscape contractors \$750 for

saved water than \$1200 to their water districts for wasted water).

- Added value to your overall services, which results in satisfied clients who are more likely to retain your company for years to come.

Certification Program Description

CLCA offers two levels of certification:

- Full Certification: CLCA Water Manager. Pass the certification test and maintain at least one property for one year at or below the landscape water budget established by the CLCA Water Management Performance program.
- Expert Certification: CLCA Expert Water Manager. Pass the advanced certification test and successfully manage at least five properties in compliance with the established water budget.

Certification is open to anyone in the landscape industry. Once you pass the written test, you are provisionally certified until completing the one-year performance requirement for full certification.

Upon achieving certification, you will be listed on CLCA's website. Water districts throughout California are expected to provide links to this information.

How to obtain certification

The written Water Manager Certification test will be given in San Jose on September 11, in Los Angeles on September 19 and in San Diego on December 9-11. Contact

CLCA HQ for times and locations.

- Register for the Performance Test by contacting John Moore by email at h2omanager@charter.net, or by phone: (775) 225-7346.
- Download the study guide for the written test from the CLCA website at www.clca.us/water2/studyguide.pdf
- Apply to take the written test online at www.clca.org/index.php?v=sgn2.


Important: You don't need to wait for the next test date to begin the one-year Performance Test cycle. You can get started on the performance requirement TODAY!

Shindaiwa Inc. Announces Recall of Backpack Blowers

This recall involves Shindaiwa Models EB630 and EB630RT. All models up to serial #7025018 are included. After serial number 7025018, the leaf blower has been upgraded with stainless steel muffler shells. The backpack blowers weight approximately 24 pounds and include Serial Numbers through February 2007 production (S/N 702XXXX) which are located on the side label. These machines are blue with a red label that reads, Shindaiwa.

The muffler's outer shell can melt allowing exhaust gas to exit from the bottom or back side of the muffler. The exhaust gas may cause damage to the fuel tank creating a possible fire hazard.

Consumers should stop using the backpack blowers immediately and contact Shindaiwa for the closest dealer location to schedule a free muffler replacement.



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Calendar of Events

September 4, 6:00 p.m., Chapter Board Meeting, Sestris Restaurant, 655 Capitola Rd., Santa Cruz (831) 479-0200.

September 8, How to Design and Build Your Own Native Garden. 4:30-6:00 p.m. Contact the California Native Garden Foundation (408) 292-9993.

September 12, Chapter Golf Tournament. See flyer in this issue.

September 12, Soquel Water District Technical Seminar: Below Turf Rainwater Collection Systems seminar. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Capitola City Council chambers. Call Soquel Creek Water District (831) 475-8500 x 142.

September 15, Creating Outdoor Rooms with Marcia Bloom. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Contact Garden Accents (408) 846-4555.

September 18, Living Roof Tour of Presentation Center, Los Gatos. 10 a.m.

to 12 p.m., Includes lunch. Contact Kelly Shaeffer at (408) 314-2668 or email kelly@plantproviders.net.

September 18, Water Wizardry: What's New in Water Conservation. Seascope Golf Course, 610 Clubhouse Drive in Aptos - (831) 688-3263. No-host cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the program at 6:00 p.m. See page 1.

September 29 and 30, Certified Landscape Technician (CLT) testing, American River College, Sacramento. For info or to apply, contact CLCA at (800) 448-2522 or visit www.clca.org.

October 2, 6:00 p.m., Chapter Board Meeting, Sestris Restaurant, 655 Capitola Rd., Santa Cruz (831) 479-0200.

October 11, 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Graniterock's Green Building Expo, 1505 South De Anza, Cupertino. RSVP to (408) 966-4500.

October 30, Native Plants and

Sustainable Landscaping dinner meeting. Details TBA.

November 6, 6:00 p.m., Chapter Board Meeting, Sestris Restaurant, 655 Capitola Rd., Santa Cruz (831) 479-0200.

November 7-11, CLCA Annual Convention, Nashville, Tennessee. Contact CLCA at (800) 448-2522 or visit www.clca.org.

November 27, Landscape Contractor/ Designer Mixer at Green Valley Grill, 40 Penny Lane, Watsonville (831) 728-0644. No host cocktails to begin at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. Mixer at 6:30 p.m. To RSVP, contact Natalain Schwartz at (831) 763-2002 or natalain@aol.com

December 4, 6:00 p.m., Chapter Board Meeting, Sestris Restaurant, 655 Capitola Rd., Santa Cruz (831) 479-0200.

December, Chapter Holiday Party. Date, time and place to be determined.



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