



March 2012

LandGab

California Landscape Contractors Association • Sacramento Valley Chapter • 58 No. 3
www.clcasacramentochapter.org • promoting professionalism and advancing awareness of the landscape industry

March 29: APLD/CLCA Mixer at Myu-wa-en Japanese Garden, Loomis

Tour and mixer at the fabulous Myo-wa-en Japanese Garden in Loomis followed a mixer at the beautiful Flower Farm.

2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. See page 3.

March 20 Meeting: What CLCA Can Do for You.

Join us at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 731 Sunrise Blvd., in Roseville for an informal dinner meeting to learn how to Maximize Your CLCA Membership.

John Sassaman, CLCA State Communications Manager, will conduct an informative presentation and open discussion on the resources available through CLCA to solve common business problems and boost your professionalism.

The cost is \$17.50 per person (payable at door, RSVP requested) and includes a complete meal including soup or salad, fresh baked bread, extensive dinner selections, milk, coffee or iced tea, and vanilla or spumoni ice cream.


Current members will receive a complimentary copy of the CLCA publication "How Much Money Do I Need To Make?" (workbook and cd / non-member price \$75) as an introduction to the five part series "How To Make Money In A Landscape Business."

Non-Members are invited to join us to learn about CLCA membership. RSVP to Tim Crowley, timcrowley@pacbell.net by March 17.

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Sharon Yon, Redi-Gro, Chapter President



EcoLandscape California is a Sacramento based association founded by CLCA Sacramento Chapter member Dave Roberts. The mission of EcoLandscape California is "To Provide Education and Advocacy for Ecologically Sustainable Landscaping." I was privileged to attend the EcoLandscape Conference held in Woodland on January 28. WOW! Speakers came from as far away as Alaska and Maine to discuss things like the Soil Food Web and pesticide reduction strategies.

Did you know that a new Kingdom (yes Kingdom like plant vs. animal) known as Archaea was identified in the early 1970s. These were once called extremophiles and were thought to be a separate type of bacteria found in areas such as hot springs or in the arctic under miles of ice. Turns out that Archaea play a major role in the soil food web. They participate in the nitrogen cycle and are termed decomposers, breaking down inorganic and organic materials sort of like tiny little extreme biological recycling machines. They didn't teach us about Archaea when I took soil science in college years and years, and years ago when organic gardening seemed to be just a fad.

There lies a whole world of biological activity under our feet that we are just recently learning to understand and appreciate. As members of the landscape industry, we all need to know about this stuff if for no other reason than to learn to co-exist and do no harm to this invisible part of our world. A good place to start is to think about fertilizing the soil and not plants.

Take a look at the calendar for upcoming CLCA Sacramento Chapter events. Don't forget to check out Bloomin' Crazy at the Sacramento Zoo on March 3. You can shop for all sorts of gardening related items and check out the animals, too. Our Chapter Immediate Past President, Steve Moodey, will be there representing our chapter.

The State Legislative Conference will be held on May 22 and 23. It is your opportunity to meet fellow CLCA members and your state representatives and really make a difference. Contact State Headquarters or go to the CLCA website at www.clca.org for details.

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CLCA Sacramento Chapter Business Meeting

January 11, 2012 6:00 pm. Straw Hat Pizza, 3327 Watt Ave., Sac.

Members Present: Sharon Yon, Steve Moodey, Rick Abalos, Bob Melville, Billy Montesclaros, Alex Gutierrez, Matt Trenary, Veronica Ah-Mann, Beth Abalos, Janet Gerland and Tim Crowley.

Others Present: Jerrie Beard, Gil Gonzalez and Rob Krikourian.

President's Report: Sharon Yon presented the current bylaws and general CLCA information to the new board members.

Treasurer's report: Bob Melville presented Sept., Oct. and Nov. 2011 treasurer's reports. Motion to approve Alex Gutierrez, second Billy Montesclaros. Passed. Bob presented the 2012 chapter budget. Motion to approve Steve Moodey, second Alex Gutierrez. Passed.

Secretary's report: Rick Abalos presented November 2011 minutes. Motion to approve Bob Melville, second Alex Gutierrez. Passed.

Events Committee Report: Janet Gerland suggested having an event with the APLD in July. Janet Gerland, Steve Moodey, Tim Crowley, Alex Gutierrez and Beth Abalos will be helping at the Expo. Steve Moodey and Matt Trenary will help at the EcoLandscape Conference.

Education Committee Report: Tim Crowley discussed the March dinner meeting with guest speaker John Sassaman from CLCA HQ. The May dinner meeting topic will be "Systematic Problem Solving."

Communications Committee: Sharon Yon recommended member profile articles for the LandGab at 500 words. Rick Abalos will develop deadlines for articles. Beth Abalos requested setting up PayPal for event registration and payment.

Student Member Committee: Veronica Ah-Mann requested more information on scholarships and the LEAF program.

New Business: Laura Leuer has offered her services as a paid assistant for the Sacramento Valley CLCA. Rick Lamantain will be researching a new site for the 2013 Landscape Expo. Rick Abalos will chair the 2012 Fall Golf Tournament.

P.R. Committee Report: Alex Gutierrez is working on PR strategies. Meeting adjourned 7:57 p.m.

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Ecolandscape Conference Speaks to the Business of Being Eco-Responsible

By Ed Laivo, Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery

The 2012 Ecolandscape Conference was held on January 28, in Woodland and attended by a variety of Ag and landscape professionals from around the state. Noted CLCA Sacramento chapter members in attendance were, Sharon Yon, Matt Treany and Janet Gerland.

Keynote speaker Jeff Lowenfel's views on knowing why your soils microbiology is important left many reconsidering older ideas. Paul Tukey's talk had a personal message that enlightened and educated.

All of the presenters shared valuable information about the business of being ecologically responsible. Jim Borneman (Ewing Irrigation) gave examples of the urgency throughout the state to conserve water. David Abl's (Oregon Tilth) discussion on creating compost and Pam Berstler's (APLD) landscape design challenges and solutions were both information packed.

Ed Lavio, Devil Mountain Nursery, moderated the panel discussion which featured Dave Phelps (Cagwin & Dorward), Daniel Levy (Gardeners Guild), and Brent Bucknum (Hyphae Design) who shared information and answered questions on the challenges of running a successful ecologically responsible small, medium or large business.

Thirty tradeshow vendors highlighted their products and services amidst historic farm equipment at the Heidrick Ag History Center and Museum in Woodland. The building was a bit cold, but the facility was awe inspiring none the less. Thank you to our attendees.

Upcoming Events

- Mar 14 Chapter Board meeting. 6 p.m. Straw Hat Pizza, 3327 Watt Ave., Sacramento.
- Mar 20 Educational Dinner meeting: "What CLCA Can Do for YOU!" Old Spaghetti Factory, 731 Sunrise Ave., Roseville. John Sassaman from CLCA HQ will provide information on making the most of CLCA products, programs, and technology available to members. Please R.S.V.P. to Tim Crowley at timcrowley@pacbell.net by March 17. See front cover.
- Mar 22 Water Management Certification Workshop and Written Test. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Presented by John Deere Landscapes and CLCA. Roseville Utility Exploration Center, 1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd, Roseville. For more information: www.clca.us/water-pro
- Mar 29 APLD/CLCA Mixer. Myo-wa-en Japanese Garden/The Flower Farm in Loomis. See page 3.
- Apr 11 Chapter Board meeting. 6 p.m. Straw Hat Pizza, 3327 Watt Ave., Sacramento.
- May 9 Chapter Board meeting. 6 p.m. Straw Hat Pizza, 3327 Watt Ave., Sacramento.
- May 9 Systematic Problem Solving. This four-hour course is for anyone who solves workplace problems, especially on teams. Conducted by Dennis Wade, of People Development Systems. Watch for details next month.

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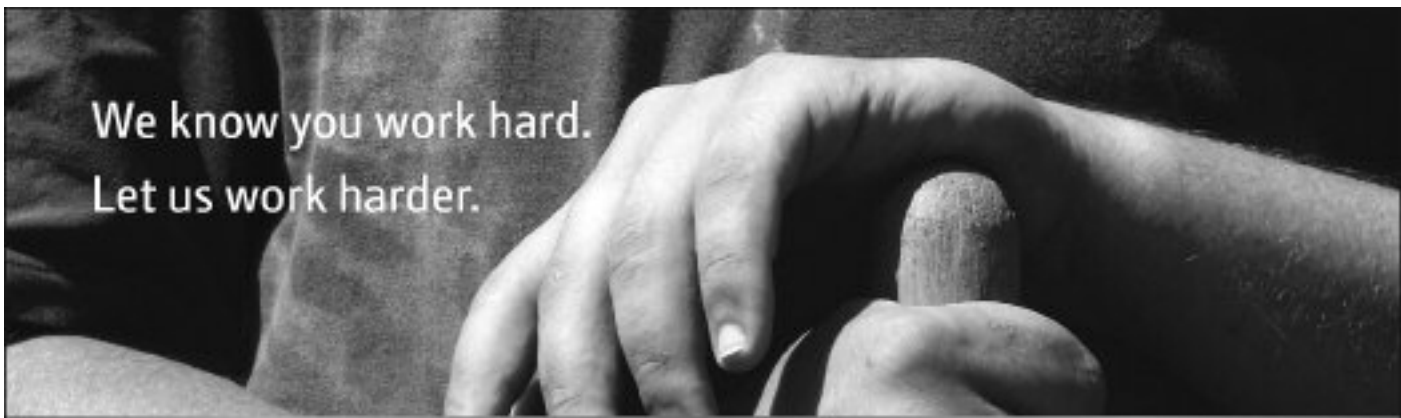
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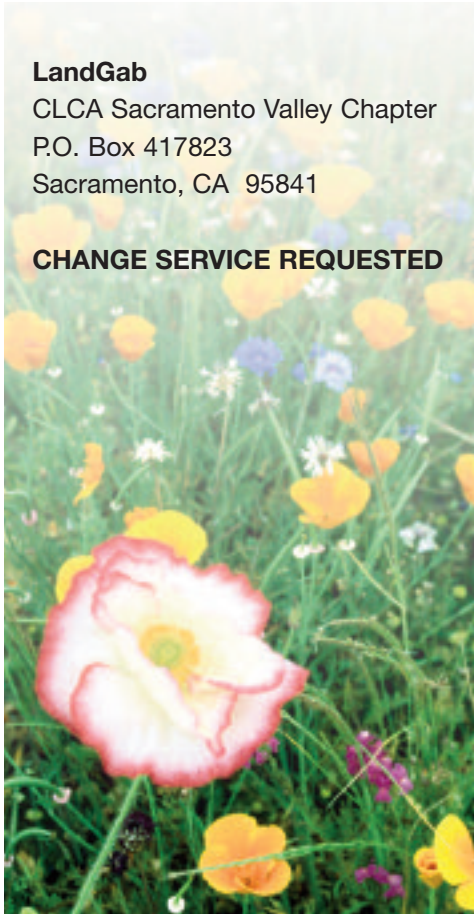
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