

OCTOBER 2007

# The Seascape

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

## October 30 Dinner Meeting: Native Plants and Sustainable Landscaping

The October dinner meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 30, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the beautiful historical Sesnon House, 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos - across the street from the Cabrillo College campus. Dinner will be prepared and served by the Culinary Academy of Cabrillo College.

Our guest speakers for the evening will be Lisa McAndrews, Cabrillo College's Horticulture educator and Landscape Architect. Lisa is currently teaching a class on Sustainable Landscaping. In addition, Alrie Middlebrook of Middlebrook Gardens, whose design-build firm specializes in ecology-based landscaping, will speak on on native plants and sustainable landscaping. Alrie recently authored [Designing California Native Gardens](#).

The cost for the meeting and dinner is \$45.00 (beer and wine included). Please RSVP to Nikos Lynch of Terra Bella Landscaping (831) 479-1629 or [nikos\\_lynch@yahoo.com](mailto:nikos_lynch@yahoo.com). For directions visit [www.cabrillo.edu/services/sesnon](http://www.cabrillo.edu/services/sesnon) or call (831) 479-6229.

### Tentative Menu:

- Coulibiac of Salmon with Lemon Caper Sauce or Roast Filet of Beef Served with Bearnaise Sauce, carved to order
- Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- Green Beans Almandine with Glazed Red Onions
- Salad of Young Greens with Edible Flowers, Goat Cheese, Glazed Walnuts and Dijon Vinaigrette
- Freshly Baked Baguettes and Butter (Menu subject to change).



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### A big thumbs up for the Golf Tournament

*Ron Pohndorf and Terry Mahlman of Landscape Contractors Insurance Services gave the Central Coast Golf Tournament a big thumbs up! See story on page 4.*

## 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.

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## CLCA Central Coast Chapter Past Presidents

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2005 – Nikos Lynch  
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2003 – Tom Reily  
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2000 – Steve McDonald, CLT-C  
1999 – Steve McDonald, CLT-C  
1998 – Christopher Elliott, CLT  
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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  
1975 – Don Ross  
1974 – Ray Sumida  
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# Have A Green Day,

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After Day, After Day, After Day,  
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## President's Message

# Business as Usual

by Kelly Shaeffer, Plant Providers,  
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Our annual golf tournament on September 12 at San Juan Oaks Golf Club was well attended. See page 4 and 5 for photos and a list of winners and sponsors. I won't go into details about the golf tournament...you can read Mitch Arnesen's humorous and eloquent perspective below. I was Mitch's golf partner so I know all the details are accurate! Thank you to the many sponsors who make this event possible each year as well as to the organizers: Steve McDonald, Frank Halstead and Chris Elliott.

Thanks to Tish O'Reilly, your chapter Vice President, for attending a Chapter President's Council (CPC) meeting in Sacramento in September which allowed me to attend a special task force meeting at the same time on the Future Direction of CLCA. I know it takes a big chunk of time to drive up the night before and attend an all day meeting. Your time is appreciated, Tish. In November, Tish will also represent our chapter at the CLCA Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

We have two more dinner meetings this year. In October, two dynamic speakers will discuss Sustainable Landscaping and Native Plants - Lisa McAndrews, Landscape Architect and Instructor at Cabrillo College, and Alrie Middlebrook, Landscape Contractor and author of the newly released book Designing California Native Gardens. Our November meeting is a repeat performance of the popular designer/contractor speed-networking forum at the Green Valley Grill in Watsonville. See the Calendar of Events on the back of this newsletter for details.

The 2007 CLCA Membership Directory was mailed a few weeks ago. It is quite late this year, and I have heard from numerous people that their copy has not yet arrived. Contact CLCA at (800) 448-2522 to obtain your Directory.

## Taking the Scenic Route Around the Golf Course

by Mitch Arnesen

The day was fresh and young, and hope sprung eternal in the hearts and minds of the 66 athletes who took to the field at San Juan Oaks with their Big Bertha's and Snickers bars. It was a cool and overcast morning, but golfers warmed up by swinging their clubs, putting their balls and zipping up their jackets before boldly negotiating the cart path on the way to their assigned holes.

After a five minute commute, my four-some found ourselves at the 6th tee, a par 3 with water on the left, a hillside to the right and a gully between us and the fairway. We watched in respectful silence as the group in front of us teed off, mostly into the abyss. With each wayward hit, I was reminded of my mother's early advice..."If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." It's hard to contain spontaneous laughter, though, especially when you see someone trying to hit a pink golf ball.

By the time the first group left the tee, we were lithe and limber and ready for what looked to be a fun, if not interesting,

day. Swaggering up to the tee, the once-a-year golfer in our group gleefully announced that there were no out of bounds to worry about on this course. He then went on to push those boundaries to their limits. I saw golf balls fly where no balls have gone before—into and off of 200 year old oak trees, down squirrel and rodent holes, up hillsides and 90 degrees to the right and left. Amazingly, my ploy of hitting the ball straight and into the hole with the minimum number of strokes seemed to be working... when we started.

Nothing impresses landscape professionals more than parring your first hole, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time. I bogied the second hole, and by the third, I was back to my old self, hitting bad shots, pushing the boundaries to Hollister and adding colorful vocabulary to our conversations.

After a couple of hours of entertainment, we noticed, with a fine sense of pride and accomplishment, that we had completed six entire holes. A few minutes later, our crack contractor minds accurately forecast a long day ahead if we kept up

this pace, which we did. By the 12th hole, I shaved a few moments off our time by ceasing to keep score. By the 15th, I had lost the scorecard.

On the hole where you could hit to the straight-away fairway or to the one on the right, we aimed straight and went right. As the light and our wits began to dim, we had difficulty choosing which green to aim for. It finally got to the point where we were almost out of balls and the sounds of "fore!" on the horizon and to the rear became few and far between. We knew it was time to go in when the beer cart driver said goodbye.

Regrettably, there were no prizes for furthest from the hole or highest score. But we did get a chance to finally sit down, enjoy a good meal and reminisce about a very fun (and interesting) day.



*This can't be my club... hey, who gave me the "divot" wedge?!*



# Golf Tournament a Swinging Success

by Steve McDonald

It was a cool and blustery day -- one could call it a "Winnie the Pooh" sort of day -- out on the links at San Juan Oaks for the 11th Annual Central Coast Golf Tournament held on September 12. Despite the fact that, "tut, tut, it looked like rain," sixty five eager golfers were there ready to tee up for a great game.

This year, the tournament was played in a different format called a shamble, and we also had a pink ball competition. Don't ask how it works, because I am still confused. We also introduced the "Central Coast Liars Cup". It's our very own version of the "Stanly Cup". It has all the past winners listed on the cup -- except for the years 1998 and 2000, which we don't seem to have any record. If you know who won in those years, please give me a call and we will fill it in.

This year we saw a lot of new faces as well as many who have been showing up for the past eleven years. And, for the first time we had a repeat winner. The Chris Elliott group was able to defend their title and add their name to the cup for the second year in a row. The group included Chris Elliott, Mike Jones, Roger Baret, and new comer and ringer Martin Simms. Second place went to the Dreamscape Group of Bryan Garrison, Darren Garrison, Shylo Steinthal, and Andrew Barker. Dreamscape also won the pink ball competition and a nice prize of three hundred dollars.

Rusty Santee won the closest to the pin on the 8th hole, sponsored by Prime Landscape, with a shot 10 foot 4 inches from the cup (don't let Rusty tell you it was only six inches). Andrew Barker wasn't as close on the 12th at 16 feet, but won closest to the pin, sponsored by Jerry Allison Landscape, anyway.



I would like to thank Frank Halstead of Delta Bluegrass for once again putting the golf tournament together. Also thanks to Chris Elliott for being our MC and handing out the awards. And, most importantly, thanks to all our sponsors! See you all on the links next September, and let's take the "Liar's Cup" away from Chris and his merry band of ringers!



Top: 2007 winners of the CLCA Central Coast chapter Liar's Cup -- Martin Simms, Chris Elliott, Robert Baret and Mike Jones.

Above: Chris Elliott and Kelly Shaeffer christen the Central Coast "Liar's Cup."

At left: Ron Klauer won the longest drive contest and receives a golf bag from Gina Ratto of Delta Bluegrass.



Above: The team from Dreamscape came in second and also won the pink ball competition. They are Bryan Garrison, Darren Garrison, Shylo Steinthal and Andrew Barker.

**2007 CLCA Central Coast Golf Tournament Sponsors**

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**#8 Closest to the hole sponsor**

Prime Landscape

**#16 Closest to the hole sponsor**

Jerry Allison Landscape

**#17 Longest Drive sponsor**

Delta Bluegrass

Special thanks to Tractor Equipment for the donation of golf balls.

*Below: Erin Gil gets ready to tee up.*



*Above: Kelly Shaeffer, David and Natalain Schwartz.*

*Below: John Gachina and Pete Gluhaich*

*Below: Jeff Sheehan and Jim Everett await the start of the tournament.*

*Below left: Rusty Santee of Central Home Supply shows Chris Elliott just how close to the pin he was on #12 to win the Closest to the Pin contest... don't believe it Chris!*

*Below right: Tony and Adam mug it up for the camera.*



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**Welcome New Members**

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

- Jim Strickland, Strickland Design  
370 Lee St., Santa Cruz 95060  
(831) 425-8142
- Rick Cook  
Treasure Islands of Santa Cruz  
2871 B Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz 95062  
(831) 465-8509

**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](mailto: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](mailto:clca@charter.net).

**New Member Profile:**

**Treasure Islands of Santa Cruz**

Since opening on June 1, 2004, Treasure Islands of Santa Cruz has established some great relationships with local residents, landscape designers and contractors, and recently joined the CLCA to cultivate more of these long-term business relationships. The company specializes in custom out-



door kitchens, custom outdoor fireplaces, firetables, and firepits for both existing and new construction installations.

Owner Rick Cook and partner Shelly Winchell explain the company's philoso-

phy, "We firmly believe in community involvement. While we do ship product across the state, we are also very active here in Santa Cruz County. Our company does this to build relationships, gain name awareness, and support local businesses, but also to show appreciation to the community that has supported us and to help others to the best of our ability. We participate in many local nonprofit fundraising events, as well as speaking to local community college classes about landscape design".

Treasure Islands believes that customer service, quality, and following through with commitments are a key element to their success. "Although we don't mind customers calling to check the status of their order, our philosophy is to keep the customer so well informed they do not have to place that call". Because all of our products are pre-fabricated in a controlled factory environment, weather conditions

*(continued on page 13)*



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# Succulents Gardens

By Dave Walzer, Earth Art Landscape Design

I believe that there is more to a nice garden than just an assortment of pretty flowers. Contour, color, shape, and texture are all important components of a garden as well.

Succulents fit that bill quite nicely. Their foliage provides a splash of color wherever they are placed and they also provide a wide variety of textures and shapes. Many succulents have rather unusual, even bizarre forms and can add that little extra bit of pizzazz to your garden.

What is a succulent? To be brief, succulents are plants that store water in their leaves, stems, or roots, and can survive for an extended period of time without being watered. All cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti.

Succulents stand up very well in hot, windy areas and also hold up to a great deal of neglect. For almost twenty years I have been landscaping houses along the seashore just south of Moss Landing. One of the problems I have encountered over the years is that the wind and the salt air act as a desiccant, drying out the leaves of many plants and causing them to wilt and die. (That "windswept" look that one sees on Monterey cypress is actually the result of that windy salt air killing all the needles on the windward side of the tree.). But, I have observed that succulents have thrived and flourished in spots where even the hardiest plants have languished. This can be attributed to succulents' fleshy, thick leaves, which resist the travails of heat, wind and salt air.

Succulents are very low maintenance. Once established, they need little watering and there is almost no pruning to be done, except to cut off the spent flower stalks.

## Incorporating succulents into your garden design

There are several important considerations to keep in mind when planting succulents in your garden. First of all, remember that succulents do not require very much water.

In fact, probably the easiest way to kill a succulent is by over watering it. Consequently, you probably want to avoid planting succulents in an area inhabited by water-thirsty plants that are irrigated with sprinklers. In an area where you are using drip irrigation this is not as great of a concern since you can keep your succulents off the drip grid and water them by hand.

If you are a very busy person who does not foresee ever getting around to doing any hand watering, you might want to consider putting your succulents on a separate watering zone. There are two ways of doing this. One way is to weave a separate drip line throughout your garden that is strictly dedicated to watering your succulents, hooking that line up to its own valve, and putting that line on its own watering schedule. This is a solution if you are planting succulents in an existing garden where they are interspersed with other plants.

If you are planning a new garden and are starting with a blank palette, I highly recommend that you consider reserving an area just for succulents, as you can plan to put that area on its own infrequent watering schedule. Succulents are especially striking if planted in large groupings as they create a different "feel" from other plants.

One of the most helpful and knowledgeable nurserymen I know, Bryan Tabler of Far West Nursery, had some interesting insights on planning a succulent garden. Besides possessing almost a bottomless wealth of botanical knowledge, Bryan also has some very decided opinions on succulent garden design. First and foremost, some succulents are "spiney and pokey and can hurt people and animals". Specifically, many aloes, agaves and cacti have very sharp thorns and can cause serious injury if some poor unsuspecting creature or human were to brush up against, or even worse, fall into them.

This is not to say that "spiney and pokey" plants do not have their place in the landscape. Many of the sharp aloes, agaves and cacti are very striking and beautiful plants, with showy flowers and leaves. Since some of them grow to be rather large, they are really best planted in the background or on a hillside, away from pathways and play areas.

In addition, there are many succulents with shiny smooth (or fuzzy) leaves that are cute, sprawl and meander, and are excellent for softening straight edges on borders and in corners. Sedums, echeverias, sempervivum, and aeoniums are all succulents that present no prickly danger and can be used to great effect to soften your garden.

What follows is an extremely short list of notable succulents that one will find available at Far West, and other nurseries:

**Aeoniums** are really some of the most colorful succulents, specifically Aeonium decorum 'Sunburst' and 'Tricolor' both of which sport a variegated cream colored leaf and will stand out in any garden. A. atropurpureum has a bronze-purple leaf and contrasts well with 'Sunburst'. Sadly, aeoniums are amongst the more frost-tender of the succulents. You will have the most luck with aeoniums if you live close to the ocean or on a southern exposure. Low lying areas where the frost settles are not good.

**Aloes** are far hardier and do well in the Santa Cruz area. Aloe Vera is, of course, widely used for medicinal and cosmetic purposes, but personally I enjoy aloes for their beauty. Many aloes have toothy leaves. The teeth might lead to an occasional "ouch", but are far more benign than say an agave spine or a thorny rose. The colors of the leaves vary -- some have stripes, some have spots -- and the leaf formations are fascinating. Aloes also have colorful flowers which rise in multiple stalks, and many species bloom in mid-winter. One of

*(continued on page 14)*

# Court Says Workers' Comp Insurance Essential to Contractor Payments

By Kevin Jeffery, Graniterock's Assistant General Counsel

Reprinted from the August 2007 issue of Graniterock's Construction Update newsletter.

In the November 2005 Construction Update, we reported on an important California Supreme Court decision concerning unlicensed contractors – *MW Erectors v. Niederhauser Ornamental and Metal Works Company*.

The *MW Erectors* case clarified the law in this area. The court held that contractors who do not have a proper license at all times during performance of their work cannot recover payment for that work. Period. This result stands, regardless of how unfair the result may seem to the contractor. After *MW Erectors*, not only did unlicensed contractors lose their right to sue customers for nonpayment, those contractors could also be forced to disgorge any payments previously received. The lone exception to this rule is a narrow one built into the Contractor's License Law, which applies only when a contractor had a license at the outset of a job, had the license lapse during performance for innocent reasons (such as bureaucratic delay), and then took prompt action to get the license reinstated.

In the two years since the *MW Erectors* decision, lower courts in California have been applying this unlicensed contractor rule. Until recently, there wasn't a single published court decision that interpreted or built upon the rule. That changed in April 2007, with a published ruling by the Sixth District of the Court of Appeal in the case

of *Wright v. Issak*.

The *Wright* court's holding was a simple but important extension of the *MW Erectors* rule. The *Wright* court held that since all employees of contractors in California are required to be covered by workers' compensation insurance, a contractor's failure to maintain workers' compensation insurance results in an automatic suspension of his contractor's license. When such an automatic suspension occurs during a job, a contractor (i) is unable to sue the customer for money still due for the job, and (ii) has to repay the customer all money previously paid.

The *Wright* case involved a contractor, *Wright*, who performed home remodeling work for a homeowner, *Issak*, during a four-month period in 2004. Despite the fact *Wright* had a crew of three to five employees doing the work at *Issak's* home, records from the State Compensation Insurance Fund showed that *Wright* reported zero or next to zero payroll for every payroll period between mid-2002 and the end of 2004. The court found that *Wright's* consistent pattern and practice of under-reporting payroll was intentional.

The consequence of this under-reporting was that *Wright* failed to have sufficient workers' compensation insurance coverage during this entire period – which included the period in which *Wright* performed work on *Issak's* home. The

Contractor's License Law provides that a contractor's license is automatically suspended as of the date a contractor was required to obtain workers' compensation insurance but did not. "This language," said the court, "could not be clearer."

*Wright's* contractor's license was deemed to be suspended before, during, and after he performed the work on *Issak's* home. Following the approach of *MW Erectors*, the trial court dismissed *Wright's* suit to collect additional payment from *Issak*, and ordered *Wright* to return the entire \$27,000 *Issak* had already paid for the remodel. In addition, the trial court ordered *Wright* to pay *Issak* \$10,000 in punitive damages and nearly \$100,000 more in attorney fees and costs.

The Court of Appeal's decision upheld this entire trial court result. In doing so, it put California contractors on notice that a failure to maintain workers' compensation insurance equates to an automatic suspension of your contractor's license. And, in California, an unlicensed contractor – even one whose license has been suspended automatically, without notice – has no right to payment for work performed.

No matter how harsh this result may seem to the unlicensed contractor, the court held it is mandated by the Contractor's License Law. That law, the court said, "represents a legislative determination that the importance of deterring unlicensed persons from engaging in the contracting business outweighs any harshness between the parties, and that such deterrence can best be realized" by denying violators the right to compensation.

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## Board Minutes

Reported by Jessica Petrini

**August 7, 2007**

### Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. In attendance were Kelly Shaeffer, Nikos

Lynch, Tish O'Reilly, Jessica Petrini, Laurie Reily, Dennis Rabe, Steve McDonald and Stacey Hart.

### Dinner Meeting Report:

Natalain has been working on two more dinner meetings for the remainder of the year. October 30th there will be a meeting on Sustainable Landscaping. The dinner and meeting will be held at the Sesnon House on the Cabrillo College Campus and will feature food prepared by students of Cabrillo's Culinary Arts Program. The featured speakers will be Lisa McAndrews and Alrie Middlebrook. November's meeting will be a second landscape contractor/landscape designer mixer at the Green Valley Grill in Watsonville. Please see the announcements in the newsletter and RSVP to Natalain Schwartz at natalain@aol.com.

### Public Relations/Legislative Report:

Stacey Hart passed out templates for letters that can be sent to legislation reps on immigration reform. Stacey has been working on getting new advertisers for our newsletter and proposed the idea of having a monthly article where associate members can feature their products and services.



## Treasurer's Report

by Laurie Reily, Treasurer

**August 2007**

Opening Checking Balance: \$22,874.78

Income: \$391.66

Newsletter advertising \$391.66

Disbursements: \$1,271.61

Board Meeting \$444.20

Treasury \$310.50

Office \$16.91

State Meetings/seminars \$500.00

Ending Checking Balance: \$21,994.83

### Golf Tournament Report:

Steve is wrapping up the last of the details for this year's tournament. The tournament is Sept. 12th.

### Associate Member Report:

Dennis reviewed the new rates for the Partners for Success for 2008. There have been a few changes in prices and benefits, so please review the promotion package in the newsletter for details. Dennis discussed details for next year's supplier's night. He is planning to provide a larger area for vendors to have their displays. Supplier's Night is scheduled for the last Tuesday in March 2008 at the Seascope Golf Course.

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## What Has CLCA Done For Me Lately?

CLCA provides a host of benefits to its members... everything from the Human Resources Hotline, to insurance, to educational seminars, to the LIS and other great events. But, what can you do in return?

First and foremost, you can take advantage of the great events CLCA sponsors both at the chapter level and at the state level. Participation is key to the success of any organization and also key to you getting all you can from the association.

Through participation at events, you will have ample opportunities to network with fellow members and your peers. And, through participation on the various boards and committees you will have the opportunity to hone your leadership skills.

Part of the new member packet we all receive has CLCA decals to put on our office windows and company vehicles. Do you proudly display your association's decals? This may seem like a small, insignificant thing to do, but it helps the association tremendously in getting name recognition and positioning our members as THE landscape professionals. If you need more decals, CLCA State will be happy to send them. Call (800) 448-2522.

Remember the days when we didn't worry about water conservation? Those days are gone. Now, water management is of prime concern to the landscape industry. As professionals in the landscape industry, we need to take a proactive role in water management in the landscape. CLCA has been working on your behalf on water conservation legislation and a water management certification. Now it's your turn. Learn about the new irrigation technology available and educate your clients on the benefits of using it. Become certified through CLCA's water management program. This will help your business and help CLCA in becoming the industry leader in water conservation.

For more information, visit [www.clca.org](http://www.clca.org) or call (800) 448-2522.

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# Ewing Offers More Pond-Build Courses in California

Following the successful conclusion of Ewing's Summer 2007 water gardening course offerings in California, Ewing will begin offering additional "Build-a-Pond" day seminars.

Over 180 landscape experts attended Ewing's series of California "Build-a-Pond" and "Build-a-Pondless Water Feature" seminars this summer to participate in a hands-on experience of building an actual pond from start to finish.

In partnership with Aquascape, Inc., Ewing's next "Build-A-Pond" event will be held this October in Chico, California. Additional "Build-a-Pond" events will soon be scheduled in select California cities. "Build-a-Pond" days aim to educate landscape contractors on building water features that promote the restoration and enhancement of natural habitats.

Water features, according to PK data, are the fastest growing trend nationally in landscaping today. The goal of the "Build-A-Pond" day is to make sure that landscapers who build them know the importance of building a beautiful environmentally friendly pond that will leave their customers feeling inspired by nature.

The AquascapePRO™ line is the industry's largest and most popular line of water gardening products and includes

components for ponds of all sizes and types. In select stores, Ewing will stock a complete selection of the AquascapePRO™ line including the new PRO-Fit™ Systems that simplify the installation of residential and small commercial water gardens.

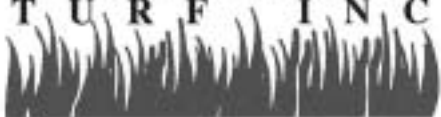
For more information about Ewing's "Build-A-Pond" event in Chico, please contact Barry Elder at 559.906.9532, or Gary Wheeler at 530.894.5900.

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(continued from page 6)

and missed appointments by other contractors do not affect delivery dates that were established when the original order was placed.

"In most cases our products are ready to be delivered well before the contractor is ready to receive them" Rick explains.

Treasure Islands of Santa Cruz has already worked with several current members of the CLCA on custom backyard requirements. All of their products can withstand the tests of time and can survive some of the harshest weather conditions. All of their outdoor kitchens, outdoor fireplaces, and firetables are built to last. All units are framed with 25 gauge galvanized studs on 12 inch centers (the standard for the industry is 16 inch centers). Boxed in with Hardibacker cement board, all seams are mesh taped, finished off with cement, and coated with a silicone based stucco for maximum protection. Every unit that we build also has a "Trex" decking base to make sure moisture and water runoff never damage your Outdoor Kitchen, Fireplace,

or Firetable.

The shop has the unique ability to build a custom pre-fabricated product from your blueprints or drawings. They can build a finished unit that you can integrate into your backyard design, or an unfinished unit that can be finished with stone veneer by the contractor on the customer's property for a more built-in look. If you are building your own outdoor kitchen or firepit, they can help with those requirements too. From custom doors, drawers, and burners, to gas and charcoal grills, Treasure Islands of Santa Cruz can help you find what you need. Even if they don't supply it, they will do their best to help you find it.

If you would like to see dozens of examples of Treasure Islands products, or a little more history on the company please visit their virtual showroom at [www.treasureislandsofsantacruz.com](http://www.treasureislandsofsantacruz.com)

Treasure Islands of Santa Cruz is located at 2871 Soquel Ave #B, Santa Cruz, CA 95062.

For more information about the shop or products, call (831) 465-8509.

## 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](http://www.clca.org) often for updates on events and other issues.

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(continued from page 7)

my favorite aloes is *A. plicatilis*, commonly called the 'Fan Aloe'. Its leaves look like a series of tongues all sticking out at you in a slightly comical way. *A. striata* is a popular variety that has abundant showy coral-red flowers.

**Sedums** are another popular and widely available succulent and come in many shapes and sizes. Some are evergreen and some are deciduous. The common name for sedum is "stonecrop", and many varieties grow wild all over the U.S. Some varieties are even edible. I remember foraging for stonecrop in an alpine meadow in the Rocky Mountains when I was on a wilderness survival trip at age 13. It took about an hour to pick about a cup of stonecrop but I was glad for the nourishment. There are over 800 sedums in cultivation and they range from groundcovers (*S. guatemalense* 'pork & beans') to hanging clusters (*S. morganiatum*, 'burro's tail').

**Agaves** are spectacular plants, but with only a few exceptions, they are to be han-

dled with extreme care as they can cause injury to you or your loved ones. Agaves are known for their magnificent flowers, which attract nectar-gathering birds. The drawback is that many agaves take years to bloom, hence their name "Century Plants". One species of agave is used to make tequila and several other varieties are used for their fibers and medicinal uses. Far West Nursery carries a rather unusual looking plant; *A. vilmoriniana* the 'Octopus Agave'

**Echeverias** are almost guaranteed to grab the attention of any visitor to your garden. Their leaf formations are often described as "frilly" or "fluted" and, when planted in close formation, can give an undersea coral garden effect. Some have fuzzy leaves, and many sport brilliant flower clusters. These succulents also fall into that category of succulents commonly called "hens & chicks". One particularly attractive *Echeveria* is 'Topsy Turvy'.

Other succulents of note include *Graftopodium*, *Crassula*, *Sempervivum*, *Kalanchoe*, *Dudleya*, and *Euphorbias*.

Bryan at Far West Nursery felt that I should mention *Ephyphylums* since they are a shade loving, flowering succulent.

Succulents require well draining soil. I recommend a mixture of sand, organic material and small lava rock or gravel. Many succulents can be periodically divided or are easily rooted from cuttings or leaves. Bryan Tabler recommends leaving your cutting unplanted for a week or two to allow any open wound to dry out and callous over. This prevents the newly planted cutting from developing a rot.

Far West Nursery, with its wide selection of plants and helpful staff, is located at 2669 Mattison Lane in Santa Cruz, and is open seven days a week.

David Walzer is the owner of Earth Art Landscape Design and can be contacted at (831) 234-9472 or visit his website, [www.Earth2art.com](http://www.Earth2art.com).

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## Calendar of Events

**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. See page 1 for details.

**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](http://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](mailto: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.

### Did you know...

You can check the status of a contractor's license at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://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?

## 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, located at 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](mailto:Natalain@aol.com).



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