



North Coast Journal

CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



October Dinner Meeting

Tuesday October 15th

6:00 PM

social

@

McNEAR'S
Saloon & Dining
in historic downtown

Petaluma

23 Petaluma Blvd North

**We have reserved the upstairs space
with our own bar and pool tables!!!**

This dinner is to celebrate the end of summer, have some beer and pub food together, elect our 2020 BOD & give thanks to all the 2019 trainers.

COME AND ENJOY THE UPSTAIRS PUB, A BUFFET DINNER AND SHOOT SOME POOL
RSVP to Connie @ heyconniesalinas@hotmail.com or (707) 217-2139

NORTH COAST CHAPTER EVENTS

October 15thSocial Event @ McNear's – BOD Election & Trainer Thank You & Carousing
December 7thHoliday Party @ Suite D in Sonoma (back by popular demand)

CLCA North Coast Chapter

www.clcanc.org

October 2019



SUMMER Training

It was another great year of North Coast Training sessions!! There were over 150 students enrolled over the course of the spring & summer . HUGE appreciation to **Tony & Kim Bertotti** for the use of Buckeye Ranch and **Henry Buder** for spearheading the program coordination again this year! **Thanks to all the trainers** who gave up their Saturdays to share their knowledge with the students. Our chapter is the only one in the state that offers this training!



John Buchholz of Garden Builders trained students on instrument, grading and drainage.



Will Jenkel of Garton Tractor brought 4 pieces of heavy equipment for the students to train on.



Lou Penning of Lou Penning Landscape and current North Coast President trains students on plan reading & layout.



Eduardo Vigil of Horizon Irrigation is seen here training students on pavers.



Bert Bonilla of Sonsray Machinery oversees training on the heavy equipment.



Reyes de Lopez of De Lopez Landscaping also trained the students on pavers.



President's Message

Vision (From the State Mission and Vision Statement)

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

Happy fall weather to all!

We are having our elections for 2019 officers a month early this year at our October General Membership meeting. Nominations are now open, and I would like to encourage members to join the board. The CLCA was organized to support contractors and printed here are the objectives of the North Coast Chapter.

From the North Coast Bylaws:

Article II Objectives: The objectives of this chapter are: to further and promote general business interests of landscape contractors through advertising, publicity and public relations; to foster and maintain high standards and ethical practices among landscape contractors; to encourage and maintain a spirit of harmony and cooperation among its members; to help and assist its members in their labor relations; to support legislation deemed beneficial and to oppose legislation deemed detrimental to the welfare of its members; to encourage a continued improvement in the skills, materials, and tools employed in landscape construction; to provide a legally constituted medium through which its members may direct and coordinate their collective efforts and ideas, and by mutual endeavor to promote and inspire equitable working relations with other contractors and trades, by or through educational programs.

If you can support these objectives and want to help advance the profession and the industry, come be on the board. You will be; learning much more about the industry, working with a group of equal professionals and developing your own management skills.

Another objective at the General Membership Meeting is to thank the trainers from the training sessions we had over the summer. The North Coast Chapter is the only group that has continued to do this and members from other chapters come to take advantage of our training program. Thank you, trainers, and enjoy a complimentary dinner on the Chapter.



Lou Penning – *President, North Coast Chapter of CLCA*
Lou Penning Landscape

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North Coast CLCA Executive Director & Journal Editor

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Organics Recycling and Healthy Soils: Landscapers can lead in carbon sequestration

by Will Bakx – Renewable Sonoma

In 2016 [SB 1383 \(Lara, Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016\)](#) was signed into effect to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP). As a result, California is required to reduce organics going to a landfill by 50% in 2020 and by 75% in 2025. Yard debris and food scraps are becoming the big targets for diversion. In Sonoma County alone about 10,000 tons of yard debris and almost 50,000 tons of food scraps are being landfilled annually. Commercial facilities, including multi-family dwellings must now recycle their organics. While this effort will reduce methane emissions from landfills, it will also make more compost and mulch available to improve soil health by increasing soil organic matter.



Organics in landfills produce methane. Methane has a global warming potential (GWP) of 86 times more potent than CO₂ over a 20 year period (GWP20). Landfills are responsible for 21% of the state’s methane emissions. Diverting organics from landfills is an important step in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

These organics can be composted on-site or at a central facility. Sonoma County is in the process of bringing back a state-of-the-art compost facility through a contract with Renewable Sonoma. The facility proposes to include an enclosed, negative air receiving/processing building, an anaerobic digestion facility for green energy and a covered aerated static pile (CASP) compost system. The facility also intends to go all electric, with the exception of rolling stock, and use solar energy. As a result, the facility will reduce emissions by about 85% compared to conventional turned windrow composting and be a carbon negative organics processing facility.

Recognizing that California soils need to be sustainable and climate change resilient, Governor Brown signed in 2015 California’s Healthy Soils Initiative. The initiative promotes farm and land management that will contribute to building soil organic matter that can foster carbon sequestration and reduce overall greenhouse gases.

Healthy soils through increased soil organic matter helps to improve soil structure by fostering soil

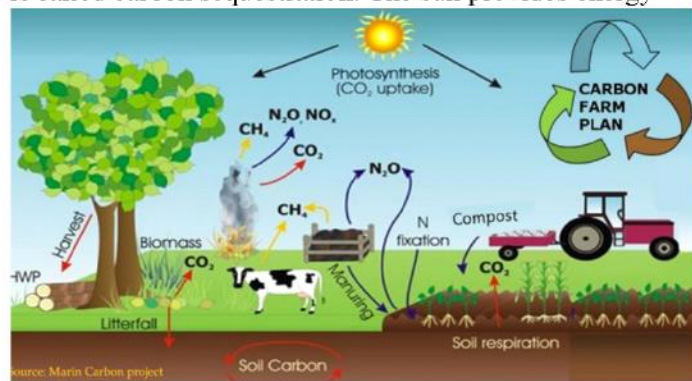
Soil Health	Benefits of Compost
1. promotes a resilient population of soil organisms	1. Diversity of microorganisms
2. has a symbiotic relationship with plant roots	2. Promotes healthy plant growth
3. is in balance with plant pathogens, insect and weed infestations	3. Tool in IPM
4. recycles, conserves and fix nutrients	4. Nutrient management
5. provides good soil structure to maximize root penetration	5. Improves soil structure
6. improves soil water management	6. Soil moisture management
7. 'maximizes' crop production	

aggregation. This ‘clumping’ of soil particles, strengthened by a network of fungal hyphae, helps clay soils to drain better, sandy soils to hold more water while also reducing erosion potential. A well-structured soil also allows for the plant roots to develop a larger root structure which leads to healthier plant growth. Healthier plant growth makes the plant more resistant to disease attack. Since a teaspoon of soil organic matter (SOM) holds millions of microorganisms, SOM is a tool in IPM. The microbes keep the site clean of easily digestible organic matter so that pest do not find a banquet to feed and multiply on.

Continued on next page...

In addition, the microbes provide site occupation that makes it harder for pests to set up camp and some of the microorganisms are predators to pests, keeping them under control. The microbial community may also contain nitrogen fixers, which can take nitrogen out of the soil atmosphere and upon their death provide free nitrogen to the plants. Lastly, organic matter together with soil microbes help to manage and conserve soil nutrients. Of fertilizer applied to the landscape 40-60% is never used by plants, but rather leaches out. Since organic matter contains nutrients less fertilizer is required. The microorganisms consume water soluble nutrients and incorporate them into their bodies, immobilizing the nutrients. As the bodies of the microbes decompose, these nutrients are now once again available to plants and microorganisms. As such, organic matter acts as a slow release fertilizer. Organic matter has a charge on its surface, just like some clay soils due, which is referred to as cation exchange capacity (CEC). The CEC of organic matter is much higher than that of soil and therefore has the ability to much more effectively hold on to and conserve cations nutrients in the soil such as ammonium (NH_4^+), Potassium (K^+), Calcium (Ca^{++}) and magnesium (Mg^{++}).

It is clear then that increasing soil organic matter is a beneficial practice in landscape management. Since the beginning of agriculture, we have mined organic matter from our soils. It is estimated that in the past century alone we lost 150-200 billion tons of organic matter. Recent studies, that started with the Marin Carbon Project MCP) and now have gone well beyond that, have shown that with carefully designed land management we can take atmospheric carbon and lock it up in the soil as SOM, which can last there for hundreds of years. That process is called carbon sequestration. The sun provides energy for the plants to turn atmospheric carbon into simple sugars that become building blocks for plant various plant parts. The plant also exudes food from its root zone to feed the microorganisms. As plants reach their end of life cycle, they, together with the microbes, build organic matter in the soil. The MCP showed that with just one application of $\frac{1}{2}$ " of compost as a catalyst the soil would start to build organic matter and will continue to do so for the next 30 years.



Based on the research findings of the MCP carbon farming/gardening plans are being developed. These plans “differ from other approaches to land use planning by focusing on increasing the capacity of the working farm/ranch/landscape to capture carbon and to store it beneficially; in the crop, as standing carbon stocks in permanent vegetation, and/or as soil organic matter” (From: Carbon Cycle Institute). Guidelines to achieve this are to keep the soil covered (Plants, tarps, mulch, etc.). Practice low- or no-till, since soil disturbance will have the adverse effect of loss of old carbon sites. Use stable, mature compost and leave it on the surface of the soil when possible. Test your soil to get a baseline of SOM and then monitor it over time. Also, planting trees, hedges and deep-rooted plants will contribute to carbon sequestration. Specific carbon gardening protocols should be available in the near future as a working group is currently focused on that development.

The landscape industry can play an important role in mitigating climate change by recycling organics to avoid methane emissions and building SOM to move CO_2 from the atmosphere into the soil. The landscape industry together with agriculture has the potential to sequester carbon and thereby to restore atmospheric carbon levels back to where the planet will support life that includes us.

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Eco-FRIENDLY GARDEN TOUR

SONOMA & MARIN COUNTIES



www.savingwaterpartnership.org



The Eco-Friendly Garden Tour Call for Gardens!

The Eco-Friendly Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, May 2nd, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The 2020 tour marks the 10th anniversary as it continues to be a wonderful community event focused around sustainable landscaping practices in Sonoma and Marin counties.

The Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership is still looking for inspiring low water use gardens to include on the Tour. Now through the end of December, nominate a garden! We are looking for a variety of environmentally friendly gardens throughout Sonoma and Marin counties, both homegrown and professionally designed and maintained, that incorporate sustainable elements such as low-water-use or native plants, edibles, rain catchment, composting, lawn conversions, graywater systems and more.

If you would like to nominate a garden for the 2020 Tour, contact Chad Singleton at chad.singleton@scwa.ca.gov or call (707) 547-1923.

Climate Quote Gems:

“We are the first generation to feel the sting of climate change, and we are the last generation that can do something about it.”
~ Jay Inslee

We really need to kick the carbon habit and stop making our energy from burning things.
~David Attenborough



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October 15, 2019 - 8:00AM

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CLCA Legislative Lobbyist Update

Bills Supported by CLCA



AB 203 (Salas): Occupational safety and health: Valley Fever.

Would require construction employers engaging in specified work activities, or vehicle operation in counties where Valley Fever is endemic, to provide effective awareness training on Valley Fever to all potentially exposed employees annually and before an employee begins work that is reasonably anticipated to cause substantial dust disturbance. The bill would require the training to cover specific topics and would authorize the training to be included in the employer's injury and illness prevention program training or as a standalone training program.

This bill returned to the Assembly floor for a concurrence vote and passed 79-0.

Position: Support 2

AB 1296 (Gonzalez): Tax Recovery in the Underground Economy Criminal Enforcement Program.

Would establish the Tax Recovery in the Underground Economy Criminal Enforcement Program in the Department of Justice to combat underground economic activities through a multiagency collaboration to, among other things, pool resources, collaborate and share data, prosecute violations, and recover state revenue lost to the underground economy, as specified. The bill would require Tax Recovery in the Underground Economy Criminal Enforcement Program teams to be in Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Diego, the San Francisco Bay area, and Fresno.

This bill was sent to the Governor after an Assembly concurrence vote of 78-0.

Position: Support 2

AB 1564 (Berman): Consumer privacy: consumer request for disclosure methods.

Revises an existing provision in the California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018 (CCPA) governing the methods that must be made available to consumers for making CCPA-related requests to specify that a business which operates exclusively online and has a direct relationship with a consumer from whom it collects personal information (PI) is only required to provide an email address for submitting requests for purposes of submitting certain consumer requests for information disclosures required under the CCPA. This bill also clarifies that if the business maintains an internet website, the business must make the internet website available to consumers to submit requests for those CCPA information disclosures.

This bill was sent to the Governor after an Assembly concurrence vote of 78-0.

Position: Support 3

Bill Opposed by CLCA

AB 1788 (Bloom): Pesticides: use of anticoagulants.

Existing law prohibits the use of any pesticide that contains one or more of specified anticoagulants in wildlife habitat areas, as defined. This bill would expand this prohibition to the entire state effectively making a complete ban on anticoagulant rat poison in CA.

This bill was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee where it never had a hearing. It will likely be taken up next year, possibly with additional amendments.

Position: Oppose 3



CLCA MEMBER ADVANTAGE

Looking to hire more help?

Need extra hands to get the job done? Have a specialized position you need to fill?

CLCA's **Job Search** is a great resource if you're looking to hire employees. Although anyone can view job postings, only members may post listings.

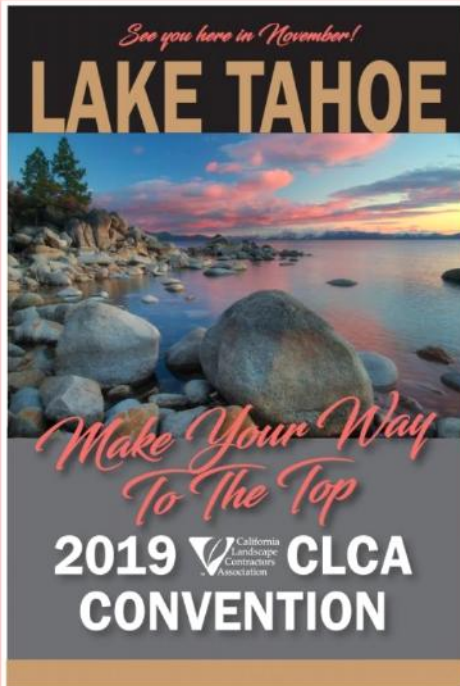
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clca.org/jobs



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GEORGE CARLIN

If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman,
"Where's the self-help section?"
She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

Is there another word for synonym?

Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do "practice"?

Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all?"

If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

Would a fly without wings be called a walk?

Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?

If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

What was the best thing before sliced bread?

One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.

How is it possible to have a civil war?

If you ate pasta and antipasto, would you still be hungry?

If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?

Whose cruel idea was it for the word "lisp" to have an "S" in it?

Why is the alphabet in that order? Is it because of that song?

Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?

Why do they put Braille on the drive-through bank machines?

If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest drown, too?



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