

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF GARDEN DESIGN Robert Littlepage, APLD

Spring 2009 Newsletter Volume Ten

### Course Schedule

**SketchUp Training—See our website for dates and details—there is also more information within this newsletter**

**Fall 2009 4 week Beginning Course:  
Sept. 14—Oct. 7**

**Fall 2009 5 week Advanced Course:  
Oct. 19—Nov. 18**

### Exciting New Class!!!

**Director Rob Littlepage is now offering SKETCH UP ESSENTIALS 1 Training. The first class will be offered on Friday, May 22, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Cold Spring Ranch in Newcastle. Sketch Up is a great presentation tool for landscape designers. Learn the basics in just a few hours for only \$200. Call 530 885-1625 or e-mail for more info.**

**Note: for this class only, past students of CSGD Advanced 5-Week classes can attend for a special introductory price of \$100 (plus \$10 for materials). This special will cover the May 22nd, June 12 or June 13, 2009 Sketch Up Essentials 1 class only.**



### **Spring 2009 Beginning Class Graduation**

**Katie, Lisa, Lisa, Laurie, Gene, and Rob  
in front**

10240 Ophir Road  
Newcastle, CA. 95658  
Registered as Short-Term Career Training  
Bureau of Post Secondary & Vocational Education

**530 885 1625**  
[www.csgd.net](http://www.csgd.net)

# DESIGN TIP.....



## *Setting the Stage....*

*Tucked away in a corner of our vegetable garden is this inviting little sitting area, one of many such places in our garden. A bench, some colorful cushions, some groupings of plants in pots is all it takes to create an interesting place to sit and watch the garden grow. Even fairly small gardens can accommodate something like this, if carefully planned. If space and your client's budget allow, the inclusion of a quietly burbling pot fountain or a simple birdbath, a windchime, a tiny bistro table to sit a drink on can transform an ignored area of the garden into an inviting hideaway. Sometimes, it really does help to think of garden spaces as if you were designing a stage set!*

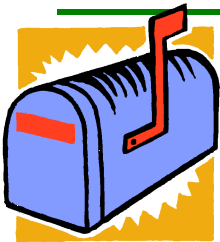
## An Announcement regarding the Advanced 5-Week Design Course:

Beginning with the Fall 2009 class dates, we are raising the rate for the 5-Week Advanced Garden Design course from \$2,000 to \$2,500. This is the first rate increase since the CSGD was founded.

However, we will now be offering Sketch-up Essentials 1 and 2 as part of the Advanced course curriculum.

This additional 2 days will take place the 2 days prior to the advanced course commencement, and be included in the \$2,500 price. This is so that students taking the Advanced course can use Sketch-up for their presentation at the end of the course.

Any graduates of the CSGD Beginning 4-week courses are welcome, and we also accept landscape designers who feel they are able to take the Advanced Course without taking the Beginning course first (this requires approval by the director based on seeing examples of their work).



## STUDENT NEWS:



Landscape Designer and graduate of the CSGD Spring 2005 class is now a part of the DIY network program “Yard Crashers” on HGTV. Her first show aired recently, and she informs us that her next program will air during the holidays. Congratulations, Lorena, being a regular on a gardening TV show is quite an accomplishment!



Michelle Helzer, is a 2004 CSGD graduate and owner/principal designer of landscape firm Lotus Designs, Inc. based in Sacramento. One of her garden designs was featured in “Home Outside, Creating the Landscape You Love”, by Julie Moir Messervy. Michelle’s design was for a “California Pleasure Ground” and included outdoor spaces such as a livingroom, bar, dining area and pool/spa. The book is published by Taunton Press and is available at Amazon.com. Great work, Michelle!



Uwe (pronounced UVA) and I graduated from CSGD in spring 2006 and moved from Oregon to the harsher climate of the Okanagan valley in British Columbia, Canada. In order to become familiar with and educated in the local landscape and business climate I attended a five-month intensive course at a local college in Landscape Horticulture. It provided the knowledge base I needed and helped to establish some valuable “green” connections in the local landscape industry. In fact my instructor was so impressed with the design skills I had learned from Rob that he hired me to do some of his design jobs. (continued on next page)

In order to promote our company we began in late winter and visited building sites, land developers, nurseries, landscape supply companies and anyone else we could think of. One person Uwe spoke with is the site superintendent for a large residential property developer who referred us to the development manager at head office. That person was very interested in our design-only services. He needed planting and irrigation plans prepared for a large upscale townhouse development. Uwe, with all his sales panache, told him “no problem”, we submitted a bid for our design services and got the job!

I should add that so far this development manager has been delighted with our work. He is already talking about using us on future projects and has been promoting our services to friends and colleagues alike. If there were a moral to this story, it would be something like “never under estimate the power of word of mouth promotion”!

Thank you so much Rob for opening the door to this challenging and rewarding career!

Brenda Zundel