

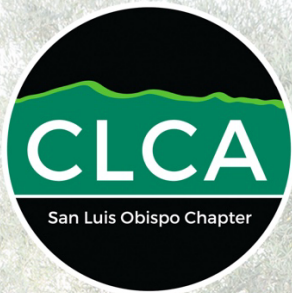


San Luis Obispo Chapter
 California Landscape Contractors Association
 Representing the Landscaping & Irrigation Industry



Volume 34, Issue 1
 February 2024

2024 calendar full of great events!



2024 Event Dates

Keep an eye out for any adjustments and additional details to these events via the monthly newsletter, website, and social media.

- **Kickoff/Board Installation – Friday JANUARY 12th**
 - SLO Brew Rock 6-8pm mixer/installation
- **Fishing Trip – Friday APRIL 26th**
 - Avila / Port San Luis (Patriot Fishing) 6am-3pm
- **Beautification Awards – Friday JULY 19th**
 - SLO Botanical Gardens 5-8pm
 - Entries due by May 31st
 - Judging to happen sometime in June, final dates TBD
- **Golf Tournament – Friday OCTOBER 18th**
 - Morro Bay Golf Course
- **Elections Dinner – Friday NOVEMBER 8th**
 - Location TBD
 - Board meeting, elections, and calendar for 2025
- **Partnership Charity Opportunity**
 - Anna's Home (Paso Robles)
 - Join the CLCA SLO and be a part of the change
- **Monthly board meetings (open to CLCA SLO members)**
 - Second Friday of each month at 12pm at the 805 West Office in SLO

In This Issue:

- Events
- Chapter Officers
- President's Message:
Brandon West
- Advertise with us!
- Legislative Update:
The good, the bad, and the ugly
- Personal Spotlight:
Pat Connelly
- Member Spotlight:
Schmiedeberg Designs

www.clcaslo.org

2024 CLCA SLO Chapter Officers

President	Brandon West	805 West Landscape	805west1@gmail.com	805.975.4761
Immediate Past President	Matt Hames	SiteOne Landscape Supply	mhames@siteone.com	805.550.2949
Secretary	Brandon Schmiedeberg	Schmiedeberg Designs	schmiedeberg15@gmail.com	858.967.6217
Treasurer	Mike Kneeskern	SiteOne Landscape Supply	mkneeskern@siteone.com	805.464.1393
Associate Member Rep	Gina Hall	Horizon / SCP Distributors	gina.hall@poolcorp.com	805.434.7382
VP Membership	Ian Parker	Madrone Landscape	ian@madroneLandscapes.com	805.466.6263
VP Legislation	Paul Wait	Zurn Wilkins	Paul.Wait@Zurn.com	-
VP Education	~vacant~			
VP Events	~vacant~			

2024 CLCA Board of Directors

President	Tom Sweeney	(925) 372-7973
President-Elect	Lindsay Ono	(661) 395-4938
Past President	Evan Moffitt	(805) 616-9858
Secretary/Treasurer	Alex Salazar	(818) 768-8594
Executive Director	Sandra Giarde	(916) 830-2780
DIRECTORS		
Education	Kristin Gallego	

Membership	Sal Hernandez	
Events	Ana Cooper	(510) 674-2300
Legislation	Jay Martinez	(916) 549-8895
Resource Management	Paul Hansen	(714) 545-1084
Associate Member	Jeff Calhoun	
Chapter Pres. Council North	Andrew Johnson	
Chapter Pres. Council South	Ian Campbell	(760) 582-5764

CLCA SLO Past President's

2020-22 Matt Hames Landscape Development, Inc.	2011 Aaron Huxley Hunter Industries	2004 John Doyle J Doyle Landscaping	1995 Danté D'Alfonso D'Alfonso's Landscape
2016-19 Evan Moffitt SiteOne LS Supply	2009-10 Erik Wolting All Seasons Gardening & Landscaping	2002-03 Pat Connelly St. Francis Landscape	1994 Duane Morris Duane Morris Landscape
2014-15 Mike Kneeskern SiteOne LS Supply	2007-08 Jim Trask California Water Shapes	1998-2001 Bruce Courter Day Star Enterprises, Inc.	1993 John Ruggiero Arcadian Gardens
2012-13 David Brown Mari Landscaping	2005-06 Erik Wolting All Seasons Gardening & Landscaping	1996-98 Lloyd Gracey Pacific Coast Landscapes	1991-92 Bruce Courter Day Star Enterprises, Inc.

President's Message



Hello fellow CLCA SLO members!

We're already off to a roaring start in 2024, and are set up to provide great content and put on some fun events for all of our members and colleagues. I encourage you all to get involved to whatever capacity you are capable. We have opportunities to join our Chapter Board, but would love to see you all attending our events as well.

Our upcoming board meeting on March 8th is going to be followed up with a mixer at SLO Brew Rock. Just like our Kickoff event in January, this will be a casual atmosphere where we get to know each other and share about what's going on in the industry.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the coming weeks. Don't forget to sign up for the fishing trip in April! Have a great month!

CLCA SAN LUIS OBISPO CHAPTER

2023 SLOXPRESS ADVERTISING RATES

Please fill out and email to Editor **Brandon Schmiedeberg, Schmiedeberg Designs**

schmiedeberg15@gmail.com • (858) 967-6217 • Call for technical info, questions, or details

COMPANY _____ PHONE _____

CONTACT _____ EMAIL _____

BILLING ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ COMPANY WEBSITE _____

I authorize to insert my ad in the SLOXPRESS on a monthly basis as specified:

YEARLY COST 12 ISSUES

- FULL PG** (8 1/2" W x 11" H – add 1/4" bleed) \$2,220/yr \$185 per newsletter
- 1/2 PAGE** (Vertical – 3 5/8" W x 9 5/8" H) \$2,100/yr \$175 per newsletter
- 1/2 PAGE** (Horizontal – 7 1/2" W x 4 5/8" H) \$2,100/yr \$175 per newsletter
- 1/4 PAGE** (3 5/8" W x 4 5/8" H) \$1,200/yr \$100 per newsletter
- 1/8 PAGE** – Business Card (3 5/8" W x 2" H) \$420/yr \$35 per newsletter

** Ad fees for partial years are prorated to end of year (see cost per newsletter)

DEADLINE for ads: 15th of the month prior to publication

START DATE _____ TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Title _____

Make checks payable to: CLCA SLO (copy mkneeskern@siteone.com on submittal)

Technical Info:

Ads must be submitted as a PDF, JPG, or PNG file. All items (logos, photos, etc.) must be 300 dpi.

Ads received outside of size requirements may be reformatted or cropped to fit as required.

**YOUR
ADVERTISEMENT
SHOULD GO HERE**

Send any inquiries via email to our
Secretary/Editor:

schmiedeberg15@gmail.com

and send payment to our Treasurer:

mkneeskern@siteone.com

We encourage our members to
call our advertisers first!



0% INTEREST
FOR 36 MONTHS
\$0 DOWN, 0 HASSLE
+ \$500 TOWARDS A CVA*
(CUSTOMER VALUE AGREEMENT)

CONTACT QUINN FOR MORE DETAILS.
888.608.5064

* Offer valid from July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023 on select new Cat machines sold by Quinn Company. Offer may change without prior notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Additional terms and conditions may apply. Contact Quinn Company or scan the QR Code for details.

Santa Maria Sales



David Needelman
(805) 310-9296

dneedelman@quinncompany.com

Quinn Company
1655 Carlotti Dr.
Santa Maria, CA 93454



QuinnCompany.com

Legislation Update: Priority Bills You Need to Know

Update provided by **Paul Wait**, VP Legislation CLCA SLO Chapter

Have something worth sharing? Send it to paul.wait@zurn.com to help spread the word!

State Budget Update

Deficit is Approximately \$73 billion. On January 10th Governor Newsom released his new state budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year. At that time, the Governor pegged the General Fund deficit at \$38 billion in contrast to the LAO estimate of \$58 billion.



Priority Bill Issues

The CLCA is currently tracking numerous legislative bills. Here are some of the most important ones and the stance CLCA is taking on each of them (supported or opposed).



AB 2011 - Small employer family leave mediation makes the Civil Rights Department small employer family leave mediation program permanent, benefiting both workers and small employers, reducing the threat of litigation for small businesses.



AB 2371 - Electrified security fences prevents local CA governments from implementing a full ban on electric security fencing on commercial or similarly designated properties as long as the fencing follows CA Civil Code 835 /1.



AB 2622 - Contractors: exemptions: advertisements Current CA Contractors State License Law exempts licensing requirements on any work or operation on one undertaking or project when the aggregate contract price does not exceed \$500. This bill increases the maximum aggregate contract price exemption to \$5,000.



SB 1116 - Unemployment insurance for union strikers authorizes striking workers to receive unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. The CA Chamber of Commerce opposes this bill. Fiscal impact adds to CA UI Fund deficit to be repaid through UI taxes on California employers.



AB 2200 - Universal single-payer health care coverage expands CA gov't control over healthcare. It eliminates private insurance and choice-based healthcare options by creating a new state-run health care system. Cal-Chamber estimates the cost to CA taxpayers at more than \$400 billion.



AB 2947 - Water Conservation: Turf Conversion Programs provides an opportunity to realize water savings on turf landscapes by installing climate appropriate turf coupled with the most efficient irrigation equipment available. This bill requires CA Department of Water resources to make available grant funds accessible for Turf Conversion rebate programs where existing turf is replaced with climate appropriate turfgrass or other groundcovers that use less water in addition to related provisions.

Personal Spotlight: In Memory: Pat Connelly

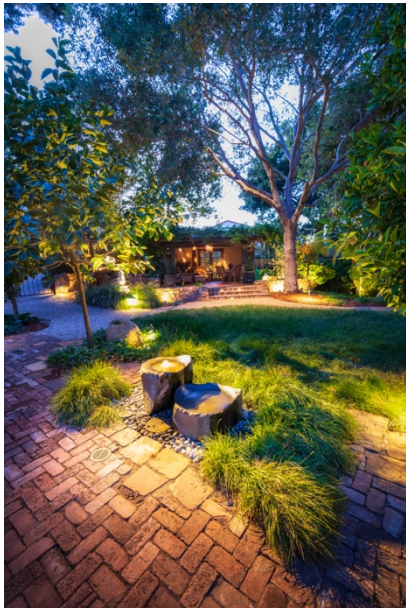
April 7, 1954 - January 1, 2024

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of long-time CLCA member Pat Connelly.

Pat was a CLCA champion and a driving force in the San Luis Obispo chapter. He served as chapter president in 2002 and 2003, and was also membership chair, treasurer and board member at large — totaling nearly 30 years of leadership. He also served on CLCA's state Ways & Means Committee and was one of the association's first Certified Water Managers.



He owned St. Francis Landscape & Gardening, an award-winning full-service landscaping company operating in the San Luis Obispo area since 1986. St. Francis offered residential and commercial landscape installation and maintenance and was noted for their installation of landscape lighting and water features.



The SLO Chapter recently re-named their sweepstakes award for craftsmanship the Pat Connelly Award.

Pat was a licensed Landscape contractor, a CLCA certified landscape water manager and a licensed pesticide applicator. More importantly, he was a mentor to aspiring green industry professionals.

Mike Kneeskern, one of Pat's protégés, presented Pat with his CLCA Life membership during the association's 2019 Annual Convention in Lake Tahoe.

In addition to his involvement with the CLCA, Pat also served on the SLO Botanical Garden Board, supported the SLO Vocal Arts Ensemble, Restorative Partners, and was a member of the SLO Rotary. He directed Rotarian work that now exists as community gardens.

Pat is survived by his mother Mary, his wife Lorrie, children Natalie, Brandon, Robin, and Brita, and his 9 beautiful grandchildren, his brother Mike, sister-in-law Pam, and their two daughters.

Please consider donating to Restorative Partners, restorativepartners.org, and/or the SLO Botanical Garden, slobg.org to show your support and contribute to Pat's legacy.

From all of us on the CLCA SLO chapter who knew and loved Pat, you will be very missed, and we all strive to execute things to the level of detail and craftsmanship that you did in all aspects of your life.

Member Spotlight: Schmiedeberg Designs

Please welcome the newest member to the CLCA SLO Chapter! We are excited to have this small team of talented professionals with a wide range of skills and experience. According to their website schmiedebergdesigns.com their mission is to "Let us design your dream landscape and connect you with the right people to make your dream a reality!" We love what we do, and we do it with passion.



Owner **Brandon Schmiedeberg** is a California-based Landscape Designer with over 13 years of experience doing professional landscape design and installation. Both he and his wife Kelsey fell in love with the Central Coast while earning their Bachelor's Degrees in Landscape Architecture from Cal Poly SLO. Growing up in Los Angeles and San Diego, they have always loved southern California landscapes, and exploring the local outdoors. They now live in Los Osos, raise their daughters, and both enjoy working in the landscape industry.

Though their main focus is on landscape design, Brandon has years of experience as a project manager and has teamed up with many local landscape contractors to create designs of all scales. Please reach out to him if you want to get more information about his services by visiting his website, sending an email at schmiedeberg15@gmail.com or via phone at (858) 967-6217.

Your company could be highlighted in a future issue of the CLCA SLO Newsletter! Interested in learning more about how to be featured? Contact our membership chair **Ian Parker** at (805) 234-5797 or via email at ian@madronelandscapes.com.

Thank you to the following companies for their generous support of the CLCA SLO Chapter. Interested in learning more about our Partners Program? Contact **Gina Hall** at (805) 434-7382 or via email at gina.hall@poolcorp.com. Your support makes a huge difference to our chapter.



Become a sponsor today! See the [sponsor packages](#) available, or click [here](#) to sign up.