

June 2017

VALLEY VIEWS

California Landscape Contractors Association

Kern County Chapter



JULY 7

Chapter Board Meeting. 3 p.m. Bootleggers Craft Pub and Eatery, 955 Oak St., Bakersfield. All welcome.

JULY 20

Chapter Dinner Meeting. Kern Machinery, 520 S Mt Vernon Ave, Bakersfield.

AUGUST 4

Chapter Board Meeting. 3 p.m. Bootleggers Craft Pub and Eatery, 955 Oak St., Bakersfield. All welcome.

SEPTEMBER 1

Chapter Board Meeting. 3 p.m. Bootleggers Craft Pub and Eatery, 955 Oak St., Bakersfield. All welcome.

Annual Convention

Plan to join friends and colleagues in Scottsdale, Arizona November 15-18 for the CLCA 2017 Annual Convention.

Scottsdale is the perfect setting for networking with friends and colleagues while relaxing in a beautiful desert setting. The remarkable clarity of light, exotic cactus blossoms and lush desert landscape create an environment that will leave you inspired.

Our host hotel is the Scott Resort & Spa. CLCA members will enjoy the lush, secluded grounds that showcase colorfully landscaped gardens, a tropical courtyard, a sandy-beach pool and a pool lagoon.

Reservations

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Room rate: \$175 single or double room/\$15 resort fee*

Combating a Leaking Pressure Vacuum Breaker

By Mark Heaps, marketing communications coordinator for Ewing Irrigation

It's like clockwork. At the end of winter, contractors turn on water at the main valve and experience problems with water gushing out of breaker valves. The culprit is often a leaking pressure vacuum breaker (PVB).

Local building codes, established for safety measures, require backflow devices be used on all watering systems.

"Local codes should always be followed," said Robert Manko, an 11 year Ewing Service Professional.

Because there's usually only one water system at a property—for purposes of consumption, household use and irrigation use—the risk of cross-connection contamination is high. Protecting against the backflow of water, a PVB's purpose is to prevent non-potable water from entering into the water supply through the irrigation system's outlets.

Damage to a PVB's internal components may occur from either the normal use of pressure over time, debris working its way under the canopy, or freezing conditions. Leaks are detected from underneath the bonnet assembly of the valve.

If the source of the leaking PVB is a faulty poppet seal, then 15 minutes is approximately the time needed to repair it. Manko suggested allowing for an hour's worth of time if the entire body needs to be replaced.

While installing a whole new valve is an option, there's another way to fix the leak. Rebuild kits—individual repair parts for the valve—are available at Ewing and are specific to each PVB model.

First, begin by removing the canopy by unthreading the three screws that hold the canopy in place. When the bonnet is unscrewed from the body, remove the poppet assembly. Now the poppet assemble is ready to be rebuilt.

You'll want to then remove the nut from the poppet guide, as well as the washer and seal. Remove the check spring after you reassemble the poppet assembly. Once the spring is out, remove the spider assembly and replace the seal. Check for wear or cracking along the valve seat. If there are any problems with the body or the seat, the whole unit should be replaced, according to Manko. Finally, reassemble in reverse order.

To save time on the job site, be proactive and use preventative measures. Blow out the underground sprinkler lines right before winter. To do this, shut off the irrigation isolation valve and use compressed air to blow out the water in the lines.

"An air valve—or Shrader valve—can be plumbed in using a tee fitting, which is placed between the isolation valve and the PVB," Manko said.

By doing this, compressed air is blown into the lines through the PVB and out the heads.

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At the Long Beach Convention Center,

Peer Consulting

One of the most valuable aspects of membership in the California Landscape Contractors Association is access to pertinent information.

- What do I have to do to find and retain good employees?
- How do I bid on a public works project?
- How can I better market the fact that I have practiced Feng Shui for a dozen years?

For the answers to these questions and more, CLCA members can turn to the association's Peer Consulting Service. This valuable service links members with experts in designated areas and facilitates a sharing of information and insights about the challenges and problems we all face.

CLCA's Peer Consultants are experienced contractors who have "been there, done that," and they offer practical, common sense advice to help you develop a solution. Depending on the complexity of your situation, you may want to supplement their input by consulting with a certified financial professional or attorney.

Sponsor Spotlight: Live Earth Products

Located in Emery, Utah, Live Earth Products, Inc. mines and manufactures humic acid and fulvic acid based products. The humic based ingredients manufactured by Live Earth are used in the following industries: agriculture, animal feeds, cosmetics, dietary supplements, balneotherapy, bioremediation, organic gardening, and lawn care.

Humate fertilizers in Live Earth products introduce a high-energy carbon food source into plants, turf and soil that may balance nitrogen levels for efficient uptake of already-present nitrogen.

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Live Earth products are rich in fulvic acid. This allows plants to easily assimilate those nutrients that are being introduced, as well as those already in the soil. The energy saved in this process may then be redirected to enhanced growth, and production of proteins and carbohydrates.

Todd Burns represents Live Earth Products in the Bakersfield area.



There may be an easier way.

Do you have questions about green industry topics, but are not quite sure who to ask? If so, check out the California Landscape Contractors Association's **Peer Consulting Service**.

Participants have agreed to share their knowledge and experience with fellow members in specific subject areas. They may have an answer or solution you can apply to your own situation.

Also, if you would like to be a Peer Consultant, please email johnsassaman@clca.org.

clca.org/peer-consulting



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DBW Provides Survival Guide for Summer

The Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) urges recreational boaters and water enthusiasts to take the necessary precautions this summer, starting with life jacket wear, to keep themselves and their loved ones safe. This summer season begins with some of the highest water levels and coldest water seen or felt in many years. Swift and cold water can create treacherous conditions for everyone, including experienced swimmers.

Do not enter the water if it's too cold. The average body temperature is 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. The average pool temperature is 84 to 86 degrees. Some of California's rivers are currently running at temperatures between 30 to 40 degrees. Such cold temperatures can literally take your breath away.

Control breathing, don't gasp. A sudden unexpected fall into cold water causes an involuntary gasp (or torso) reflex. It takes less than 1/2 cup of water in a person's

lungs to drown. Remain calm for a greater chance of self-rescue.

Don't panic if you fall into the water. Stay afloat with the help of a life jacket, regain control of breathing, and keep head above water in view of rescuers. If possible, look for ways to increase buoyancy. If in the water with others, huddle together with everyone facing inwards to help everyone stay afloat and keep warm.

Don't apply heat to extremities of rescued victims. This sudden change in temperature could cause cardiac arrest.

Do make sure everyone is wearing a properly-fitted life jacket. Life jackets that are too big will ride up around your face. If it's too small, it will not be able to keep your body afloat. Life jackets designed for adults will not work for children.

Do file a float plan with someone trusted that includes details about the trip, launch area, marina, boat, passengers, towing or trailer vehicle, communication equipment and emergency contacts.

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