



NEWSCAPE



A serene landscape in Pat Sabosik's garden, Hamden, CT.

OBJECTIVES OF THE LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

- ★ Develop a greater sense of appreciation, pride, and knowledge about our private and public gardens.
- ★ Become better educated to make changes in our surroundings so that they will be more beautiful, useful, convenient, ecologically sound and easily maintained.
- ★ Stimulate interest in all phases of landscape design, including community planning that will affect all of our lives.
- ★ Develop a contingent of qualified Landscape Design Consultants to serve in such decision-making areas of public life as providing leadership, educational programs, scholarships, awards and promoting better landscape design.

From the Editor:

Welcome to our readers! You are a busy group dealing with schools, tours and events during challenging times. Please take care and stay safe.

Please forward Newscape to your Consultants.

Please send me information about your projects, meetings and schools by February 1, 2026 for inclusion in our Spring 2026 issue of *Newscape*. I look forward to including articles and photos about your events.

All submissions must be original material. Photos are welcome! Please send articles in Word format and photos to the Editor at CSCarbaugh@verizon.net.

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NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CHAIRMEN:

From the Landscape Design School Chairman

Greetings,

Greetings Students, School Chairmen and Garden Club members!

The Schools Policies for Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design Schools comprised of Coordinator Terri Ewers, Environmental Schools Chairman Roxanne Champagne, Gardening Schools Chairman Sarah McReynolds, and this Landscape Design School Chairman have been working on updating the NGC Schools Handbook. The update is truly needed as there have been many changes to school procedure since 2021 that should have been reflected in a Handbook update. Thank you to everyone who has helped with the process with your comments and suggestions. Once approved, the Handbook will be available on the NGC website: gardenclub.org. (Please note that every club member must obtain their own account by using their email and setting up a password to access Schools information and forms).

Once the updated Handbook is online, we welcome your comments for yearly updates that are planned.



This is a new term! Thank you to returning NGC Landscape Design School Accrediting Chairmen: **Anna O'Kelly** (Central and South Atlantic Regions) and **Terri Ewers** (Pacific and South Central Regions). Thank you to new NGC LDS Accrediting Chairmen: **Margaret Graham** (Central Atlantic and New England Regions) and **Karen Prewitt** (Deep South and Rocky Mountain Regions) and **Cristina Griffa**, International Affiliates Landscape Schools. They are all listed on the NGC Board Directory and will be on the revised (coming

soon) NGC Landscape Design School Directory which also will include state LDS school or credentials chairmen where available. Thank you also to **Caroline Carbaugh** who returns as LDS Consultants Council Chair as well as editor of this Schools (ES, GS, LDS) publication *Newscape*. Please submit articles to her. We can all learn and benefit from what your councils, schools, and clubs are doing!

It's now easier to attain consultant status! There are no time limits between courses taken.



There are often in-person (take a vacation outside your state!) and zoom classes in each course. Students are allowed 7 years to attain consultant after one of each Course (1,2,3,4).

There is more information on The *Guide for Students and Consultants: Maintaining Certification* available on the Schools Forms and Resources page of the NGC website.

Consultants (those who have successfully completed all four courses) must refresh every 5 years and can only refresh for credit once a year. More information is available on the guide mentioned above.

And don't forget to keep your own records! Make sure that you receive your Form 6 or 7 for any course you take. At the very least, keep track of the courses you've taken (when, where, which Course # or Multiple Refresher).

We encourage local clubs/states to organize a school. NGC Landscape Design School Accrediting Chairmen for your region are available to help. I will also be glad to answer any questions you have.

Carol Yee,
NGC Landscape Design School Chairman



***From the School Policies for
Environmental School, Gardening
School, & Landscape Design
School Coordinator***

Greetings all! It's been a whirlwind of a summer, and I know we're all ready to think fall!

The Policies for ES, GS, and LDS Executive Committee (Roxanna Champagne – ES, Sarah McReynolds – GS, Carol Yee – LDS, and Terri Ewers – School Policies Coordinator) want to thank all of you who contributed your thoughts and ideas for the newly revised Schools Handbook. It currently has been sent on to the NGC Executive Board for approval. We hope to have the 2025 revised Schools (ES, GS, & LDS) Handbook on the NGC website by the end of fall. Your input was invaluable toward getting this tweaked and ready to go.

Moving forward, the plan is to gather and discuss with each of the areas changes that need to still be made to strengthen the Handbook and the current forms. We ask that each of the three areas send requests, suggestions, and/or issues to their respective NGC Schools Chairman. The goal for this is to have all requests in place by July 1st of each year so that possible changes could be made to a revised handbook in time to be reviewed by the NGC Executive Committee. We do know we will be working on a Zoom section of the Handbook for the next revision.

National Garden Clubs provide education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility. This is the mission statement for our organization and as we all can see—schools are the key components tying it all together as we do all parts of this mission!

Keep up the great work you've all been doing! It is worth it and it is important!

Carpe' Diem!

Terri Ewers,
NGC Schools Policy and Procedure Coordinator



***From the Environmental School
Chairman***

Twenty-nine Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. members attended NGC Gardening School, Course 4, the last of Series 11, on August 26-27, 2025. The school was held both in Lafayette and Abbeville with Lafayette Garden Club and Abbeville Garden Club hosting the school. Roxanna Champagne, LGCF State School Chairman, served as chairman for the school and Patsy Hebert was the Local Chairman.

The first day of the course was held at the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center on the campus of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The horticulture center includes nearly 17,000 square feet of greenhouse space which houses a decades-old to recently acquired diverse collection of plants from throughout the world. A special exhibit in the tropical greenhouse is a red passion vine, *Passiflora coccinea*, that was collected by Professor Ira S. Nelson on a special expedition to South America in August 1954.



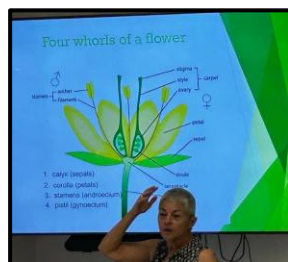
Class Photo by Noreen Bienvenu

The first session of the morning given by Instructor Heather Warner-Finley, a Louisiana Master Gardener and former ULL Professor, was Outdoor Plant Identification. After a PowerPoint on Plant Identification the group visited the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens for a hands-on outdoor Plant Identification session. Next the students toured the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center's greenhouses. After the tour, the Plant Classification and Nomenclature class was presented by Ms. Warner-Finley.

Hands on Plant Identification



Studying pruning



Parts of a flower

Photos by Babette Werner

The second day was held at the LSU AgCenter Extension Service in Abbeville. Dan Devenport, retired LSU AgCenter agent, presented Pruning Techniques followed by an outdoor demonstration on pruning trees and shrubs. The supplemental subject, "Success with Succulents" was given by Tina Jumonville, Licensed

Landscape Horticulturist and Louisiana Master Gardener. LSU AgCenter agent, Maddox Miller, presented "Techniques for Growing Woody Ornamentals." The course ended with Nicole Johnson, founder of L4S Farms and Fightingville Fresh Market and Louisiana Master Gardener, presenting "Healing Gardens from the Ground Up: A South Louisiana Guide to Backyard Botanicals". Students sampled lemonade made with herbs and lemons as well as golden milk, a special mixture with healing and rejuvenating herbs and spices.

Upon completion of Course 4, four students achieved Gardening School Consultant status; Debbie Grissom, Nessie Laviolette, Becky Lege, and Joyce Thibodeaux. Consultants who achieved Master Consultant status were Versa Dore, Pam Langley, and Tricia Ortalano.

***Roxanna Champagne,
NGC Regional Environmental Chairman,
NGC Environmental School Chairman***



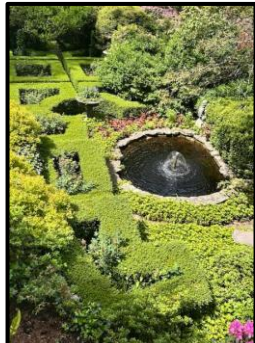
***NEWS FROM LANDSCAPE
DESIGN CONSULTANTS
FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY***

Connecticut

The Connecticut Landscape Design Council members enjoyed having the Environmental and Gardening Councils join us. We loved having the camaraderie! Below are some photos of our adventures.

**Blau House, an arboretum
in Westport, CT:**

*Statue of man - A
delightful surprise at
the end of a side path.*



*Oval pond - View from the
terrace above prompted
more exploration.*

Little Island, New York City: Little Island at Pier 55 is an artificial island and a public park within Hudson River Park, just off the western coast of Manhattan in New York City.

*Close up of tulip
"containers" - The views
from on top are amazing!*



*Distant view -
This is a true
architectural
wonder!*



High Line, New York City: The High Line is a 1.45-mile-long elevated linear park, greenway, and rail trail created on a former New York Central Railroad spur on the West Side of Manhattan in New York City:

*Pigeon -
Statues are
cycled through
the High Line
each year.*



*Photos by
Susan Laursen*



Pigeon claw - Eye level details!

Private Garden, Hamden, CT:



*A clever organic use of branches to keep the predators
away.*

*Susan Larsen, President,
Tri-Council of Federated Garden Clubs of CT*

Florida

FFGC Landscape Design School

I am pleased to announce that LDS Series 39 is the process of becoming registered with the National Garden Clubs. The date has been tentatively set for the week of February 2, 2026. Course 1 in this Series will be held in a succession of three mornings via zoom.

As this Course has now been approved on the local level, the Form can be submitted to NGC, and once acknowledged, will be posted on their website. Following this approval, the Course will be recognized on the state calendar and registered with the FFGC Tri-Council.

We look forward to participation in this Course from our state students and refreshers as well as those from out of state.

**Susan MacPherson, Chair,
FFGC State Landscape Design School**

Kentucky

For the first time in seven years, the Kentucky Council of Landscape Design Consultants held Landscape Design Course 1 on 26 & 27 August. With 62 registered attendees the classroom was filled with students eager to learn from our instructor, Dennis Karem. Dennis is a registered landscape architect in both Kentucky and Ohio. The course covered topics like principles and elements of landscape design, developing your garden plan and basics of a site plan. To ensure all elements of the class were covered our class proctors were Judy Ferrell and Ann Fiel. We had delicious box lunches and wonderful snacks provided by Judy Quire and helpers Connie Vincent and Joanna Kirby. The course registrar was Debbie Skaggs.



Class Photo Landscape Design Course 1

Attendees represented 19 garden clubs including 3 out-of-state garden club members (Indiana, Tennessee and Florida) and 44 Kentucky garden club members. We were honored to have as students, the state president, the state 3rd vice president, 2 district directors, and 3 garden club presidents. There were 15 nongarden club members attending. We travelled to Pritchard Community Center for a guided tour of the Arboretum

and Botanical Gardens led by Joni House-Webb, head gardener. Many of the concepts introduced during the course were on display in the gorgeous gardens. What a perfect way to end our course! We are planning to conduct Course 2 but no date has been set.



**Dennis Karem and
Debbie Skaggs, KY LDC
President**



**KY LD Consultants, Judy
Ferrell and Ann Fiel seated,
standing, Connie Vincent,
Debbie Skaggs, Joanna Kirby
and Judy Quire**



**Field Trip
Participants**

Classroom

**Photos by
Debbie Skaggs**



**Debbie Skaggs, President,
Kentucky Council of Landscape Design Consultants,
Kentucky State Landscape Design School Chairman**

Ladew in Maryland

Located in the countryside of Monkton, MD, in northern Harford County is the world's renowned, hidden gem, Ladew Gardens. Created without professional help by Harvey Ladew is one of the outstanding topiary gardens in the country. In 1925, Mr. Ladew purchased 250 acres

with 22 acres of formal gardens, including 15 themed garden rooms, a Nature Walk and a native Butterfly House.



There are over 100 living topiary sculptures throughout the different garden rooms. The Manor House incorporates Harvey Ladew's love of architecture designs. The Oval Library contains the Georgian craftsmanship that was imported from England and contains a collection of over 2,500 books, and is listed as one of the "One Hundred Most Beautiful Rooms in America" by Helen Comstock.



The Manor House & Gardens are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For hours and information go to: www.LadewGardens.com

**Betty Reeves, Chairman
Federated Garden Club of Maryland,
Landscape Design Council**

National Capital Area

Our next Landscape Design School will be held on Oct. 27-28, 2025 (in person & virtual). This will be Course 3 and will be held in the City of Fairfax, VA. We are excited and our new LDS Chair has everything under control. Check the NGC website for more information.

We are all set for our first trip and tour on Sept. 10th to Hillwood Gardens, the Estate of Marjorie Merriweather-Post, which is now a museum with lovely gardens. Hillwood, set on twenty-five acres of land adjacent to Rock Creek Park, is located in the heart of DC where art, nature and history come together beautifully. Hillwood's gardens offer something of beauty and interest in every season. The Museum and Gardens is the vision of Marjorie Merriweather-Post when she was building the estate in the 1950s. She designed gardens for flowers in the spring and fall when she was in residence at Hillwood.



**Front
entrance**



**Rear –
Lunar
Lawn**

**French
Parterre**



**Photos from
Hillwood
museum.org**

We continue to review our Bylaws for a new Tri Council which will encompass Landscape Design Council, and Gardening and Environmental Councils. We hope to have everything approved by early 2026 when we will begin to focus on electing new officers for the new NCA Tri Council for 2027-2029.

**Joyce Skoglund, President
National Capital Area Garden Clubs,
Landscape Design Council**

Dahlias by Sharon Richardson



North Carolina

My name is Sandy Anastasio, and I am honored to serve as the North Carolina Landscape Design School Chair. I am thrilled to share that the Landscape Design School classes are returning to North Carolina! This means you won't need to travel to another state to attend and earn your certification.

Classes are planned to begin in 2026, with the hopeful location being the JC Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh—a truly inspiring setting for learning.

I look forward to welcoming new prospective consultants, those who need just a course or two to complete their certification, and those who wish to refresh their knowledge and skills.

Together, we will continue to grow a strong foundation in landscape design here in North Carolina!

***Sandy Anastasio, Chair
North Carolina Landscape Design School***

Pennsylvania

One of Nature's Many Surprises: The Secret Helpers in the Tomato Garden

A few summers ago, my grandson noticed that all the leaves on one branch of a tomato plant had disappeared. Who could the culprit be? On closer inspection, we found the answer—a very large caterpillar with a horn-like tail: the tomato hornworm.

My grandson was thrilled by this strange creature and wanted to observe it indoors. We clipped off its branch,

gave it some extra leaves, and soon discovered a funny truth—we had mixed up which end eats and which end poops! Before long, the hornworm was devouring leaves and leaving behind little pellets every few seconds, much to my grandson's delight. After some time, we returned it to the garden.



Weeks later, while harvesting tomatoes, I spotted another hornworm—this one oddly decorated with rows of white projections. A quick google search revealed the surprise: those “decorations” were wasp cocoons from a braconid wasp. My first reaction was horror—who wants wasps in their garden? I quickly cut the branch and dropped the hornworm into alcohol, only to discover afterward that these parasitic braconid wasps are actually *beneficial*. They keep tomato hornworm populations in check by using their proboscis to lay their eggs inside the hornworm and letting the eggs begin feeding on the worm from the inside out.



Fascinated, I began to observe and photograph the process. Over several days, the once-bright-green hornworm grew darker, shriveled, and eventually dropped away, lifeless. Meanwhile, I learned that if you want to attract these helpful wasps, you should plant nectar sources nearby—parsley, dill, yarrow, or mustard—and provide water. Coincidentally, my raised tomato beds were already full of dill and parsley. By accident, I had created an ecologically balanced garden—no pesticides required.

Fast forward to this summer: I discovered yet another tomato hornworm in my new community garden plot—one of more than 200 at Hershey’s Mill, an independent senior community. I was delighted to learn that I have moved into a neighborhood that also values ecological principles. If my neighbors had been using pesticides regularly, I don’t think I would have found my infested tomato hornworm! I’m delighted to have joined a community that values letting nature keep its own balance!



*Sharon Richardson,
Central Area PA LDC Chair*

South Carolina

The Garden Club of South Carolina welcomes you to Historic Charleston, South Carolina for Landscape Design School Course 4 on Tuesday, November 11 to Wednesday, November 12, 2025

We are very pleased to hold LDS at Founders Hall located at Charles Towne Landing once again. Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site sits on a marshy point, located off of the Ashley River, where a group of English settlers landed in 1670 and established what would become the birthplace of the Carolina colony. The grounds include 80 acres of gardens, with an elegant live oak allée and the Legare-Waring House. Founders Hall is a state-of-the-art facility and LEED certified building with ample parking on site.

Topics we will cover in this year’s program include **Contemporary Trends in Landscape Design, Suburban Residential Design, Water Resources: Design & Conservation, Guidelines for Evaluating Landscape Designs, Community Participation in Landscaping Projects and the Development of Community Gardens.**

In addition, we will be visiting three public gardens in downtown Charleston to conduct on-site evaluations of

each garden’s design. We will introduce and utilize the National Garden Clubs’ Evaluation Guidelines to quantify the various landscape design components that should be considered in evaluating a property. A Landscape Designer will be present at each site to discuss the principles and elements of good design along with how they have or have not been met.

Additional information is available at the link below:

[2025 South Carolina LDS Course 4](#)

Prospective students who wish to enroll and reserve a seat should complete the registration form found at this link and mail it along with a check to the indicated post office box.

*Paul Gilson, Chairman,
South Carolina Landscape Design School*

Texas

Environmental School

The Environmental School here in Texas has an active consultant council.

We will make centerpieces for our fall convention at the Environmental School and will provide the speaker as well. Will write this up and send pictures as soon as this happens in September and October.

*Sarah McReynolds, Chair,
TX Environmental School,
NGC Gardening School Chair*



Parterre at Museum of the Shenandoah Valley

Photo by Caroline Carbaugh

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS SCHOOLS

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS/REFRESHERS

Louisiana

September 29 – 30, 2025.

Baton Rouge. Course 2. (In-Person)

Contact: Gail Lonibos
glonibos@yahoo.com

Massachusetts

October 28 - 29, 2025.

Waltham. Course 4. (Virtual)

Contact: Beate Bolen
Beatebolen@gmail.com

Michigan

September 22 - 23, 2025.

Lansing. Course 4. (In-Person)

Contact: Ronalee Polad
rpolad@migardenclubs.org

Mississippi

December 11 – 12, 2025.

Starkville. Course 3. (In-Person)

Contact: Mary Lynn Powers
mlpowers43@gmail.com

South Carolina

November. 11 – 12, 2025.

Charleston. Course 4. (In-Person)

Contact: Paul Gilson
pgilson@verizon.net

Texas

September 29 – 30, 2025.

College Station. Course 1. (In-Person)

Contact: Michele Wehrheim
texaslandscapedesignschool@gmail.com

Virginia

October 13 – 14, 2025.

Richmond. Course 1. (In-Person)

Contact: Glenda Knowles,
ggknowles6@gmail.com

October 27 – 28, 2025.

Fairfax. Course 3. (Hybrid)

Contact: Jennifer Francois
lds@ncagardenclubs.org

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS/REFRESHERS

Connecticut

September 18 - 19, 2025

Derby. Course 4. (Zoom)

Contact: Virginia Cassanova
ginny.cassanova@ctgardenclubs.org

Florida

November 20 – 21, 2025.

Fort Myers. Course 4. (Virtual)

Contact: Judy Francino
jfrancino@att.net

January 13 – 15, 2026.

St. Augustine. Course 1. (Zoom)

Contact: Beverly Williams
bevthepatriot@gmail.com

Kentucky

October 22- 23, 2025.

Bowling Green. Course 3.

Contact: Carrie Morgan
morgance49@icloud.com

Michigan

November 3 – 4, 2025.

Augusta. Course 2. (In-Person)

Contact: Beth Markowski
bmarkowski@migardenclubs.org

April 6 – 7, 2026.

Augusta. Course 3. (In-Person)

Contact: Beth Markowski
See above.

November 2 – 3, 2026.

Augusta. Course 4. (In-Person)

Contact: Beth Markowski
See above.

Missouri

March 16 – 19, 2026.

St. Louis. Course 3. (Virtual)

Contact: Jan Conant
djconant@msn.com

Texas

September 19 – 21, 2025.

Mexia. Course 4. (In-Person)

Contact: Sarah McReynolds
esarabeth@aol.com

Wisconsin

September 26 – 27, 2025.

Sheboygan. Course 3. (In-Person)

Contact: Karen Merlau
kmerlau@tds.net

GARDENING SCHOOLS/REFRESHERS

California

September 25 – 26, 2025.

Encino . Course 3. In-Person.

Contact: Robin Pokorski
CGCIRobin@gmail.com

October 23 - 24, 2025.

Encino . Course 4. In-Person.

Contact: Robin Pokorski
CGCIRobin@gmail.com

Connecticut

September 25 – 26, 2025.

New Haven. Course 2. (Virtual)

Contact: Cindy Eadie,
cindy.eadie@ctgardenclubs.org

Florida

September 28 – Oct. 1, 2025.

New Smyrna Beach. Course 3.
(Zoom)

Contact: Sally Flanagan,
sfflan@aol.com

February 9 – 11, 2026.

New Smyrna Beach. Course 4.
(Zoom)

Contact: Sally Flanagan,
sfflan@aol.com

Massachusetts

April 9 – 11, 2026.

Chelmsford. Course 4.
Contact: Linda Jean Smith,
lindajeane.smith@comcast.net

Michigan

September 12 – 13, 2025.

Sawyer. Course 2. (In-Person)
Contact: Michelle Armstrong,
marmstrong@migardenclubs.org

April 17 – 18, 2026.

Sawyer. Course 3. (In-Person)
Contact: Michelle Armstrong,
See above.

Sept. 18 – 19, 2026.

Sawyer. Course 4. (In-Person)
Contact: Michelle Armstrong,
See above.

Virginia

November 17 – 18, 2025.

Fairfax, VA. Course 1. Hybrid
Contact: Melanie Dann,
gs@ncagardenclubs.org

Washington

October 29- 20, 2025.

Tacoma. Course 4. (In-Person)
Contact Person: Kathy Johnson
Kathyj16@msn.com

NGC MULTIPLE REFRESHERS

October 15 – 16, 2025.

Westerville, Ohio. Zoom.
Tri-Refresher in Environmental,
Landscape Design, and Gardening
Schools.
Contact: Pat Rupiper,
patrupiper@gmail.com

**October 19 – 22, 2025. Cambridge,
MD.**

Tri-Refresher in Environmental,
Landscape Design, and Gardening
Schools
Contact: Central Atlantic Region -
Hosted by the 2025 CAR-SGC
Conference in Maryland

NGC SYMPOSIUMS

September 16 – 17, 2025.

Bethesda, MD.
Contact: Jo Sellers
josellers@cox.net

October 16 – 17, 2025.

Rocky Hill, CT.
Contact: Cindy Marien
cstarmien@aol.com

October 27 – 28, 2025.

Elkhart Lake, WI.
Contact: Liz Murken,
lizmurken@gmail.com.

October 27 – 28, 2025.

Raleigh, NC.
Contact: Connie Goodson,
conniejog@gmail.com

November 3 - 4, 2025.

Richmond, VA.
Contact Person: Dianna Busch
diannabusch@comcast.net

November 18 - 19, 2025.

Stuart, FL
Contact Person: Nancy Binger
Nancybinger6@gmail.com

Newscape Editor:

Caroline Carbaugh -
cscarbaugh@verizon.net



*From the garden of
Shirley Nicolai*

Previous Issues of Newscape and the Directory of LD Schools and Councils

Previous issues of *Newscape* can
be accessed in the Publications
area of the NGC website at
[https://gardenclub.org/
newscape](https://gardenclub.org/newscape).

The Directory of Landscape
Design Schools and Councils
Chairs is now located on the
Schools Resources page, at the
bottom under School Chairmen
Directories at
[https://www.gardenclub.org/sc
hool/schools-resources](https://www.gardenclub.org/school/schools-resources)



Jamie Nick's garden



Kaki Power's garden