NEWSCAPE



The Gardens at Waterperry Farm (Waterperryfarm.com)

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 15, 2027 for inclusion in our Spring 2027 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 Consultants, Students, School Chairmen and Garden Club members!

Thank you for your interest in this issue of ***Newscape*****. To obtain past issues which contain interesting reading on school and Tri-Council events throughout the nation go to: *https://gardenclub.org/newscape*.** Past issues (since 2011) have been archived.

What have you liked about ***Newscape***? Is there anything else you'd like included?

Kudos to Caroline Carbaugh, Editor, who has taken on this project for over 10 years. Please send articles on all the interesting activities, trips and projects your councils/clubs are doing: cscarbaugh@verizon.net. Do it right after you've completed an event or project when you're most enthusiastic about it! Please provide photos also. You'll help our community of gardeners share ideas and information!

The Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools Handbook was revised in 2025. It's a good time for state school chairmen and students/consultants to help review the Handbook for inconsistencies or if there is any portion that should be made clearer. We would love to hear from you with any comments/suggestions. Please email: *mscyee@hotmail.com*. We'd also appreciate feedback on the forms that are now being used.

With the opportunity of taking a course out of state (In-person or virtually), it's important that students/consultants who do take a course out of state request that their **Appropriate State School Chairman (or State President if there is no chairman)** provide a signed Form 6 or Form 7 to the registrar of the state offering the course. This informs their State School Chairman that the course is being taken so they will be able to track courses taken to keep their Forms accurate and updated.

(which includes a list of School Chairmen in the ES, GS or LDS Directory).



Vitex
Photo by Jamie NIck

Thank you, State School Chairmen, for organizing courses and helping maintain student/consultant records. Thank you, students/consultants, for your interest in our schools which keep increasing and improving because of your interest! For those who have never taken a course, this may be a good time. For those continuing, it is also a good time with so many opportunities to take courses In-Person (road trip for some!), Virtual, or Hybrid. Hope this is the year you start or continue!

Carol Yee,
NGC Landscape Design School Chairman



Rare Blue iris,
hybridized by grower friend in New York

Photo by Jamie Nick

From the Environmental School Chairman

A Must-Watch Presentation: "Homegrown National Park" by Doug Tallamy

If you are looking for practical, impactful ways to restore biodiversity and support local wildlife right in your own yard, I highly recommend watching the National Garden Clubs webinar, **"Homegrown National Park,"** hosted by renowned author and speaker **Doug Tallamy**. In this inspiring presentation, Doug shares a powerful grassroots call-to-action, showing how individual gardeners and community volunteers can collectively regenerate native ecosystems by transforming residential yards and local open spaces. Whether you missed the live event or simply want to revisit his excellent advice, you can watch the recording directly via this Homegrown National Park Video Link: *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBkUBDY5IN0*.
You can also explore additional resources and log your own planting footprints on the official Homegrown National Park Map.

If you have never attended an Environmental School, now is the perfect time to start. These courses offer incredible insights into environmental issues and provide practical knowledge on how we can become part of the solution in our own communities. Best of all, there is no strict prerequisite order, meaning you can take the courses in any sequence that fits your schedule. Currently, there is only one Virtual Course scheduled. However, if you live in or near Texas, Michigan, or Wisconsin, you are in luck, as in-person courses will be hosted in those states very soon. Attending these schools is a wonderful way to expand your gardening horizons and earn credentials as an Environmental Consultant.

Environmental School Courses offered:

Course 2

Nov 20 - Nov 22, 2026 Palestine, TX (In Person)
Register: Sarah McReynolds

Course 3

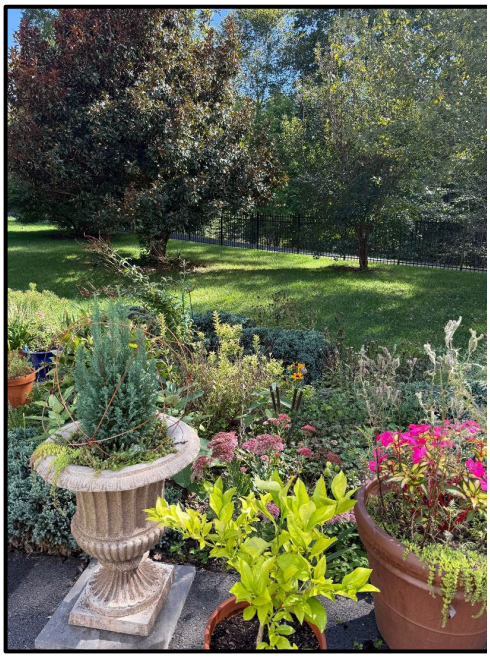
Jan 26 - Jan 28, 2027 Florida (Virtual Course)
Register: Beverly Williams

Course 4

Oct 23 - Oct 24, 2026 Sheboygan, WI (In Person)
Register: Karen Merlau

Nov 02 - Nov 03, 2026 Hickory Corners, MI (In Person)
Register: Beth Markowski

Roxanna Champagne,
NGC Environmental School Chairman



Jamie Nick's Garden
Photo by Jamie Nick



Above the Potomac at Shirley's

Photo by Shirley

NEWS FROM LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONSULTANTS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Louisiana

Louisiana is promoting their Landscape Design School, Course 3, Series 21, scheduled for October 28-29, 2026, in person at the Baton Rouge Garden Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. If interested, please see *https://www.lgcfinc.org/landscape-design-school.html* for the brochure and registration form. Registration deadline is October 14, 2026.

Our faculty includes a very active Landscape Design Architect, Dana Brown, a retired Landscape Design Architect, Charles Fryling, Jr., and two active Horticulturists, Dr. Bob Mirabello, and Lee Rouse, who have taught at LSU for 30+ years or in the LSU/AgCenter Master Gardener program. Their Master degrees are in Plant and Soil Science, with garden design experience. Our school is open to NGC members, master gardeners and the public.

For any questions, you may contact *clarae2003@yahoo.com*. Louisiana Garden Club Federation Inc., Louisiana Landscape Design Consultants Council in cooperation with the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture sponsor this NGC School.

Clara Earl, Chairman
Louisiana Landscape Design School

New Jersey

Celebrate as many clubs toasted their milestone years!

Garden Club of New Jersey turned a 100 with 100 clubs!

Shrewsbury Garden Club is in its 70th and prepare themselves dressed in "white" with creative green sash. Marching along the streets for the town's 100th year !

Garden Club of New Jersey "reflects on our growth, beauty, and community service " in a celebratory book.

The black swallowtail butterfly was awarded placement as New Jersey's emblem to our theme to protect the pollinators. Now it flies with other state emblems : oak tree; the common blue violet; blueberry; goldfinches .

In 2034, the Shrewsbury Garden Club will celebrate their anniversary of 1974 design of the Allen House Herb Garden. We celebrate this past July. Each year the event has individuals read the "Declaration of Independence."

And for all of us, our country's 250th anniversary, USA!





Our event at Monmouth Historical Association's event - Shrewsbury Garden Club designed and maintains the Herb Garden since 1974!

Photo by Teresa Blake

Photo by Fred Preissler

Teresa Blake, Landscape Design Chair,
Garden Club of New Jersey

South Carolina

Greetings from South Carolina.

I hope each of you had vacation time this summer to relax and recharge.

Our country, and the world in general, seems to have suffered greatly this summer from extreme waves of heat, fires, tornadoes and flash floods. I hope none of you have been affected severely by nature's excesses.

To update:
South Carolina will be offering Course # 1 of Landscape Design School on Tuesday October 27th and

Wednesday October 28th at Founder's Hall - CharlesTowne Landing State Park in Charleston.

We are thrilled that our distinguished guest speaker will be Dean Norton, emeritus director of Horticulture at Mount Vernon, where he served for five decades. We currently have sixty-two students registered and will need to limit attendance to eighty-five participants. If you are interested in attending you will want to quickly contact our director, Paul Gilson, to register. *(Scldsp@gmail.com*)

As a fun daytrip, on Saturday October 24, (that parallels our special speaker's participation) LDCC of SC members have been invited to re-visit "Little Mount Vernon" (LMV) here in Eutawville, SC. LMV is one of a handful of "Little Mount Vernon" houses around the country that were built from a blueprint published in a 1938 decorating magazine. The current owner of the SC LMV, built from that blueprint, has worked diligently to salvage the house, and its grounds, from years of abandonment.

Our SC-LDCC members visited Dwight several years ago when he had just started his restoration project. We have now been invited back to see all the major interior and exterior progress that has been made.

Final landscaping is still on the "finishing details" list.



Little Mount Vernon
Photo by Karen Prewitt

Landscaping on the vast scale of the original Virginia Mt. Vernon is not envisioned for the SC LMV, so SC LDCC members will have an opportunity to offer thoughts on how a smaller landscaping plan might fit the 1940's site that is already dotted with old camellias and azaleas.

It would also be of interest to us if the "other" LMV houses that were built all across the country (from this 1938 published plan) could be identified, by garden clubs or councils in other states. This could become an amazing joint project uniting all our members!

I am aware of an existing LMV that was built in Raleigh NC, by architect Thomas Wright Cooper originally sited at 901 Holt Ave. but moved to 1006 Harvey Street. It is unclear if this NC LMV used the published magazine plan, or an original plan drawn by the architect ... or if a specific landscape plan was provided with the original 1938 floor plan. Please contact me if you know of a LMV in your area. (see below)

In other news: LDCC of SC presented a $50.00 Landscape Design Award to an upstate garden club at the GCSC Convention this past May, for a small memorial garden.

We look forward to receiving more applications for our other awards next year.

Karen Padgett Prewitt, President,
Landscape Design Consultants Council of South Carolina
(843-607-7772)

Tennessee

Landscaping Surprises!

This year, many plants have been spectacular.

For decades, I have been a garden club member and collector of beautiful plants for my landscaping. I even worked two years for a Landscape Contractor and two more in a Retail Garden Center, where I learned so much - just enough to know there is so much more to learning about plants and gardening that I could ever know.

I have been growing Hostas for years and have never had a spring with so many surprises. We had cold weather - we had warm weather - we had many rain events - and behold, glorious Hostas.

My leaves range from smaller than a quarter to the size of a dinner plate. . . from 1" tall to 2 feet. They have

been marvelous, but they never fail to be attacked by snail bites and other critters. They are reproducing varieties I have never had, which I love to see. They do bloom, and this year I have every color of bloom and some blooms as tall as my 5'4 inches.

Probably 20-plus varieties of the lovely Hostas are growing near the front porch landscaping of my house. I see bees and other pollinators every day that work so hard in my garden.

Now I will admit, I have been collecting perennials as they can almost take care of themselves. At my age and abilities, that is so important.

I even grow them behind my regular landscaping, and one evening my husband Jack asked me, "Why have you planted these behind the landscaping where they cannot be seen from the street?" My answer, "These are for me!"

Carole Whited, Tennessee
Landscape Design School Consultant

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Peony by Jamie Nick

- -

For A Better Understanding Of Petites?

What is this program? Or what isn't it? It is not a program about invasive plants, or GMO plants. It is not a program about being a host plant for pollinators. These are all very important. It is instead, a program to increase understanding about the difference between a standard plant and one that grows smaller in some way. Plants I grow are used as examples and most have been planted in their place since 1984. My experience comes, not just "book learning", but being a garden club member since 1968, working in a Landscape Nursery, and taking LDS Courses offered by National Garden Clubs. There are so many plants of which I know nothing. This is designed to help you and others to be willing to grow and show petites.

Words Indicating "It Might Be Petite"

Nursery workers do not always know the correct answers to your questions; but usually signage from a grower is the best indicator and will usually have at least one word that indicates it is a smaller-growing variety than a standard: (Bonsai (created- and not an official NGC petite) Miniature – Petite – Compacta - Horizontals (creeping) - Nana (small) - Nana nana (extremely small) – Wee - Weeping - or any names like these Elf – Gem - Little – Obtusa (slow growing.)

Why Develop And/Or Select a Petite Variety?

One reason is to keep down excessive pruning to maintain a certain height and/or width of your landscape planting; another is to be able to grow standard plants just a smaller version. Ideas might be: Fairy Gardens, Pollinators Food Sources, Landscaping , Control growth, Maintenance, Limited Planting Spaces Special note: Always layer *garden front to rear.* (My exception is one side of my landscaping from my front porch – when a shrub died there I began to put wildflowers and other low-growing perennials there, behind the taller plants which face the street. When my husband Jack mentioned that no one would see these from the street, I answered, "These are for me!"

Natural Evolution – Nature has a way of "seeing a need" and answering. An example would be the Cedars of Grandfather's Mountain, N.C. The high constant winds at the high mountaintop have caused natural a Bonsai look to the plants – large round trunks, all growth to one side and very short.

Native plants such as Bleeding Heart and Columbine. There are plants made smaller by accident or on purpose and you can usually depend on the tag to let you know the expected size in 10 years. We know the very commonly used Blue Rug Juniper grows to be at least 10' across; however, we also know it is only maybe 3-4" in height….and might be considered petite in your garden because of its height.

Larger / Smaller Examples of Varieties Within a Family

Let's look at *Acer*, a very tall tree with leaves that remind you of your hand. *Acer palmatum* or Japanese Maple - no matter how tall it grows it is still no comparison to the giant maples – its leaf is tiny and so are the "airplane seeds."

The Tale Of Two Acer (Maple) Leaves



Dwarf Japanese Maple



Standard leaves from unknown variety of Maple

Another is *Buddleia davidii nanhoensis* Butterfly Bush. The total growth habit is smaller than a standard. Evergreens: Broadleaf *Ilex crenata* 'Helleri' holly (Japanese) 2' tall by 8 -10' years. *Mahonia* 'Dwarf Oregon Grape' no berries - *Nandina domestica nana* no berries **not invasive**! *Buxus* boxwood is very compact and slower growing. Conifers - *Juniperus* Juniper, Mugo Pine, Dwarf Alberta Spruce are all popular examples.

And containers are great for petite single plant or a landscape. I have a dwarf Sanseveria that is at least 15 years old. I watched it for 5-6 years and noticed nothing except I was keeping it alive and it was no more than 3" high. All the foliage was soft and not at all like the standard plant. Now it is a beautiful 9" high and has new plants forming.

Enjoy your precious petite!"

Carole Whited, Tennessee,
Landscape Design School Consultant

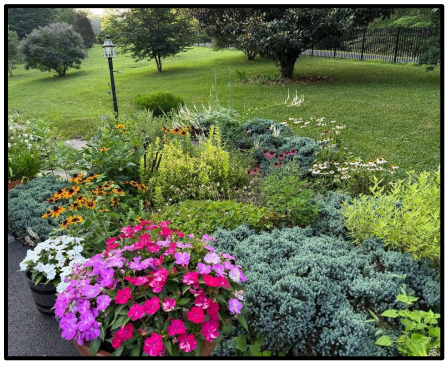


Shirley Nicolai's Pond – Photo by Shirley Nicolai

Pumpkins at the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden

Photo by Shirley Nicolai





NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS SCHOOLS

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS/REFRESHERS

Louisiana
October 28 - 29, 2026.
Columbia. Course 3. (In Person)
Register: Clara Earl
Clarae2003@yahoo.com

Massachusetts
October 28 – 30, 2026.
Waltham. Course 1. Virtual.
Register: Beate Bolen
beatebolen@gmail.com

Mississippi
December 15 – 16, 2026.
Starkville. Course 4. (In-Person)
Register: Lynda Dickerson
lwdickerson@bellsouth.att

Michigan
October 8 - 9, 2026.
Traverse City. Course 2.
Register: Ronalee Polad
rpolad@migardenclubs.org

North Carolina
October 5 – 6, 2026.
Raleigh. Course 2**.**
Register: Sandra Anastasio
Bookerpamela72@gmail.com

South Carolina
October 27 – 28, 2026.
Charleston. Course 1.
Register: Paul Gilson
pgilson@verizon.net

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOLS/REFRESHERS

Florida
January 26-28, 2027.
Course 3. (Virtual)
Register: Sadako Long
JJLSML@att.com

Michigan
November 2- 3, 2026.
Hickory Corners. Course 4. (In-Person)
Register: Beth Markowski
bmarkowski@migardenlubs.org

Texas
November 20 – 22, 2026.
Palestine. Course 2. (In person)
Register: Sarah McReynolds
esarabeth@aol.con

Wisconsin
October 23 - 24, 2026.
Sheboygan. Course 4. (In person)
Register: Karen Merlau
kmerlau@tds.net

GARDENING SCHOOLS/REFRESHERS

Georgia
November 9 – 10, 2026
Athens. Course 1. (Virtual)
Register: Gale Thomas
schoolregistrar@gardenclubofgeorgia.org

December 3- 4, 2026.
Athens. Course 2. (Virtual)
Register: Gale Thomas
schoolregistrar@gardenclubofgeorgia.org

January 21 – 22, 2027.
Athens. Course 4. (Virtual)
Register: Gale Thomas
schoolregistrar@gardenclubofgeorgia.org

NGC SYMPOSIUMS

October 13 - 15, 2026.
Houston, TX.
Register: Regena Williamson
Jmaxinewells27@gmail.com

October 27 - 28, 2026.
San Diego, CA.
Register: Nina Blonski
cgcinina@gmail.com

November 02 - 03, 2026.
Roanoke, VA.
Register: Dianna Busch
diannabusch@comcast.net

November 03 - 04, 2026.
Milford, MA.
Register: Kathy Hawes
KMH4383@gmail.com

November 04 - 05, 2026.
Albany, NY.
Register: Sue Trager
suzytrager@gmail.com

November 11 - 13, 2026.
Umatillo, FL.
Register: Joanne Mulinare
love2garden@gmail.com

Previous Issues of Newscape and theDirectory 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*.

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/school/schools-resources*