

# Gardening Consultants Council

## National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Autumn 2016, No. 1

# GCC 2016

First issue - October/November 2016

Membership requirements for joining a Gardening Consultants Council can vary from state to state. Generally the rules are the same for most of the councils. In the National Capital Area membership requirements are: Any NCAGC garden club member who has taken all four



Gardening Study courses and passed the exams with a score of at least 70% may join GCC. Students who complete any two course are eligible to join the Council as provisional members while they complete the final two courses. To retain membership, consultants must complete at least one refresher GSS course at least once every five years. Members may also refresh by taking an approved (NGC sanctioned) trip/tour.

Goals can be different for each council too. The NCAGC goals are: To stimulate interest in gardening and horticulture to encourage growing plants to their peak of perfection, to keep members and the public informed about advanced gardening techniques, to assist garden clubs by giving programs that promote gardening and horticultural excellence, and to support the Gardening Study School program.

Information and articles on your Gardening Consultants Council and your Gardening Study School is greatly appreciated. Please contact - Cathy Felton, GCC Chairman.  
([camafelton@comcast.net](mailto:camafelton@comcast.net))

The beginnings of a GCC Council - my story - Cathy Felton

I took my first GSS course in Massachusetts a long time ago. One of my mentors, Betty Johnson, was an enthusiastic cheerleader for getting garden club members to get involved in Gardening Study School. My first class was at Weston Nurseries in Massachusetts



and it was a hands-on class in a greenhouse with excellent teaching from the staff at Weston Nurseries. After completing my four courses I really wanted to belong to a Gardening Consultants Council and tried for a number of years to get one started. We began with a small number of interested members with a first meeting in my own back yard. That first year we held a

second meeting and that was the beginning of our GCC. We started slowly, bylaws were written later and dues were only \$5. Today the Massachusetts GCC has grown, has bylaws and has an enthusiastic membership.

EXCITING NEWS !!!!

## Announcing National Consultants Day

NGC National Garden Week and Schools Chairmen are collaborating to challenge all NGC Consultants to celebrate their consultant status and use and share knowledge gained in NGC schools during National Garden Week, June 4-10, 2017. The idea of NGC Gardening Consultants Councils Chairman Cathy Felton is to make NGC's Consultants more visible and vibrant, to give them a stronger purpose and a national purpose and to give them an opportunity to give back by observing a National Consultants Day during National Garden Week. States with Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants could coordinate activities of the three groups on one day throughout the state. Or each group of Consultants might embrace activities related to that specific school so that Environmental Consultants have activities one day, Gardening Consultants another day and Landscape Design Consultants on still another day. The second approach might be the way to go for states that are not represented by Consultants in all disciplines. This can be handled any way you want in your club or state. We just want you to recognize your achievement in completing an NGC school and we want you to share the information you have obtained while letting others know about NGC and your state garden club organizations. (from Greg Pokorski, ES, GS, LD Schools Coordinator)

Things that a Consultants Council can do during National Garden Week:

1. Organize a program open to the public - educational
2. Promote an environmental, gardening or landscape workshop for consultants and members of the state garden clubs
3. Collaborate with a school (young or older students) - either teaching some aspect of good environmental, gardening or landscape practices etc., presenting a program, or giving plants or information sheets away to students & teachers
4. Have a program and invite other gardening-related organizations to participate in a program
5. Have an open garden day of members with teaching at each garden
6. Plan a work day (outdoors) at a non-profit center - Audubon, land trust, AMC/Sierra Club etc.

Things that an individual Consultant can do during National Garden Week:

1. Volunteer at a Habitat for Humanity house (or similar non-profit) to do some outdoor cleanup/planting
2. Present an environmental, gardening or landscape program at a school or nursing home
3. Give a program/workshop at your local library
4. Invite gardening friends - (not necessarily NGC members) to your own garden and teach them about how your garden works - or does not work - problems and good environmental, gardening and landscape solutions etc.
5. Write an article on any of these NGC school subjects for your local newspaper
6. Help a neighbor/friend who needs guidance or help in their own garden or yard.

## New England Region

### Connecticut

Growing Together - Tiny Acorns to Mighty Oaks

GSS Course III, Series 7 - September 13-15, 2016 (CT Agricultural Station - New Haven)

(This course was organized by a committee and not by a chairman. Twenty-two students enrolled in the course and two students came from Maryland and Virginia. Subjects included 'Pruning Techniques' and 'Micro Environments in the Garden.')

Love-ly garden award 2015- given by GCC of Connecticut to Patricia Dun of the Green Fingers Garden Club of Greenwich. "This Love-ly Garden presents the challenge of gardening along the ledges of a 20-25 foot rock formation at one end of the property.

GSS Chairman - Ellie Tessmer [swcd43emt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swcd43emt@sbcglobal.net)

GCC Chairman - Mary Sullivan [msullivan3766@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msullivan3766@sbcglobal.net)

## Maine

An NGC Tri-Refresher was held on Sept. 25-27, 2016 after the NGC, Inc. FBM. Participants traveled from Portland, Maine to Bar Harbor, Maine visiting gardens and a botanic garden.

## Massachusetts

"The Council meets three or more times a year and offers day trips to regional gardens and nurseries in the New England states, as well as lectures and other learning opportunities from professional and amateur horticulturists."

"Volunteer officers generally serve on the board for two-year terms, and the annual meeting for election of officers is held in the spring. The Council is an excellent venue for novices and experienced gardeners to enrich their gardening experience." (Pat Artis)

GCC Fall Meeting was held on Sept. 29, 2016 . A Propagation workshop will be held on October 24, 2016 for learning about taking hardwood cuttings.

The GCC newsletter is e-mailed to members Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. The GCC funded the horticulture speaker at the GCFM 2015 Fall Meeting and will donate \$500 to the GCFM's Horticulture Mornings - a lecture series.

Gardening Study School Course IV Series 10, April 4 - 6, 2017 - GSS Chairman - Linda Jean Smith ([lindajean.smith@comcast.net](mailto:lindajean.smith@comcast.net)) Location - Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA

GCC Chairman - Pat Artis [bijou357@aol.com](mailto:bijou357@aol.com)

GCC Spring Meeting April 27, 2017 - Botanical Drawing of Spring Florals - Workshop

GCC Annual Meeting June 15, 2017 - Beaver Brook Assoc. Nature Education Center

## Vermont

VT Credentials Chairman - all school records - Pamela C. Hebert  
[pchebert90@gmail.com](mailto:pchebert90@gmail.com)

# New England Region GSS Chairman

Helen Pritchard (CT) [dpritchard@ashlarvlg.org](mailto:dpritchard@ashlarvlg.org)

## Central Atlantic

### Maryland

GSS Course II, November 15-16, 2016, Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore, MD (Registrar, Susie Middleton [smiddleton1@verizon.net](mailto:smiddleton1@verizon.net)) (sponsored by the GCC of Maryland)

GSS Chairman Susan Somerville-Hawes

GCC schedules two meetings/trips per year. Dues: \$10 paid annually by May 1. A fall business meeting will be held on October 20, 2016 followed by a program on Succulents.

GSS & GCC Chairman - Marion DeGroff [mpdegroff@comcast.net](mailto:mpdegroff@comcast.net)

### National Capital Area

GSS & GCC - President - Joyce Skoglund [Jeskog612@gmail.com](mailto:Jeskog612@gmail.com)

GSS Course IV, Series IX, June 1-2, 2016

Gardening Consultants Council

GCC has 35 members and 5 provisional members who will graduate in 2016. On the NCA GCC website they encourage new members with these words - "If you enjoy digging in the dirt, come join us! All gardeners can become accomplished horticulturists! Join the Gardening Study School and become inspired to take some gardening risks!" 'Seeds for Thoughts' is the name of their newsletter.

On April 27, 2016 members visited the Prince George's County Organics Composting Facility which makes mulch from waste. The next meeting is October 19, 2016 - speaker - Mary Van Dyke, Environmental Educator at the U.S. National Arboretum.

### New Jersey

GSS Course III, October 4-5 & 7, 2016, East Brunswick, New Jersey

GSS Course IV, October 3-4 & 6, 2017

GSS Chairman - Beverly Kazickas [kazickass55@aol.com](mailto:kazickass55@aol.com)

GCC Chairman - Kay McCormack (732) 548-1976

## New York

GSS Chairman - Victoria Bellias [vikibellias@gmail.com](mailto:vikibellias@gmail.com)

Gardening Consultants Council - Marjorie Losen

## Ohio

GSS Course IV, September 6-7, 2016, Harrison, Ohio Gardening Study Schools

Chairman - Carol Johnson ([wildflowerclj@gmail.com](mailto:wildflowerclj@gmail.com))

## Pennsylvania

GSS Course IV, Series XI, April 26-27, 2016, Harrison, Ohio

GSS Chairman - Barbara Dempsey [firefly3@ptd.net](mailto:firefly3@ptd.net)

## Central Atlantic Region GSS Chairman

Joyce Skoglund [Jeskog612@gmail.com](mailto:Jeskog612@gmail.com)

## Central Region

## Illinois

GSS Chairman - Kathleen O'Brien [kathy.obrien07@comcast.net](mailto:kathy.obrien07@comcast.net)

## Indiana

GSS Chairman & GCC Chairman - Edie Dyer-Wilson [wowedie@aol.com](mailto:wowedie@aol.com)

## Iowa

GCC Fall Meeting Sept. 29, 2016

Gardening Study School , April 20-21, 2017 (Iowa Arboretum, Madrid, Iowa)

Gardening Study School Course IV Series II, September 21-22, 2017 (Iowa Arboretum , Madrid, Iowa)

GSS Chairman - AdaMae Lewis [adamaelewis@gmail.com](mailto:adamaelewis@gmail.com)

## Michigan

Gardening Study School Course IV, April 11-12, 2016 (Traverse City, Michigan) Co-chairman - Nancy Collard ([handymama@chartermi.net](mailto:handymama@chartermi.net))

GSS Chairman - Janet Hickman ([jchickman@charter.net](mailto:jchickman@charter.net))

Michigan Consultants Council (Tri-Council) - Lynn Dinvald [YDoubleLNE@aol.com](mailto:YDoubleLNE@aol.com)  
(Formed in June, 2007) Two meetings a year are held - summer tour with speakers, garden tours and interactive luncheons for members.

Objectives - To protect the environment, to increase knowledge in horticulture and to promote excellence in landscape design. To advance and continue the study of the earth, gardening and landscape design. Encouraging and promoting attendance at Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Study Schools of NGC. Serving on local and state committees concerned with civic beautification projects. Continuing study through lectures, workshops and tours to private and public gardens. Assisting garden clubs when requested by giving information to promote MCC objectives.

MCC Garden Walk Award - Three \$100 awards are given by the MCC.

## Missouri

Gardening Study School Course II, Series X, June 6-8, 2016 (Springfield Botanical Center, Springfield, Missouri)

GSS Course III, October 3-5, 2016 (Springfield Botanical Center)

GSS Chairman - Pat Schnarr [WPWPat@yahoo.com](mailto:WPWPat@yahoo.com)

## Ohio

GSS Chairman - Carol Johnson [wildflowerclj@gmail.com](mailto:wildflowerclj@gmail.com)

GSS, ESS, LDS Coordinator - Karen Hovey [karenhovey@aol.com](mailto:karenhovey@aol.com)

## Wisconsin

Gardening Study School Course I, Series VIII, April 8-9, 2016

GSS Course II, September 9-10, 2016

GSS Course III, April 21-22, 2017 GSS Course IV, September 8-9, 2017 (All courses for Series VIII are held at Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton, WI)

The school is open to all WGCF members and the public. Master Gardeners often attend to get credit for their required 10 hours of continuing education.

GSS Chairman - Lucy Valitchka [lmvalitchka@new.rr.com](mailto:lmvalitchka@new.rr.com)

WGCF Tri-Council - To provide continuing education to WGCF members in fields directly related to the mission of WGCF and NGC. To enable our members to demonstrate sound practices in gardening, landscape design and protection of the environment. To be strong advocates for these practices throughout our communities. Tri-Council meets twice annually and provides seminars and tours of interest to its members. All garden club members are welcome to attend the tours and seminars. The Tri-Council meets at the WGCF Annual Convention in spring and in the summer/fall for a tour related to one or more of the disciplines.

Tri-Council Chairman - Vern Lowell [vlowell@mhtc.net](mailto:vlowell@mhtc.net)

## Central Region GSS Chairman

Julie Schoenike (WI) [jwschoenike@gmail.com](mailto:jwschoenike@gmail.com)

## South Atlantic

### Kentucky

GSS Chairman (Kentucky) & South Atlantic Region GCC Chairman - Jo Jean Scott  
[jojogarden@aol.com](mailto:jojogarden@aol.com)

GCC - Becky Oliver [beckyolivertrigg@hotmail.com](mailto:beckyolivertrigg@hotmail.com)

## North Carolina

GSS Chairman - Barbara Walters [barbie@ec.rr.com](mailto:barbie@ec.rr.com)

## Deep South Region

### Florida

Gardening Study School Course III, November 26-27, 2017 (Marylou Ruiz, Chairman -  
305-822-2717 [hazeleyes58@comcast.net](mailto:hazeleyes58@comcast.net))

Short Course North - Bi Refresher (LDS, GSS) - August 11-12, 2016, District I,  
Pensacola, - Anatomy of a Garden

Tri-Council News - Chairman, Inger Jones ( Summer 2016 - GCC article on Vegetable Gardening)



GSS Chairman - Barbara Hadsell [barbarahadsell@cs.com](mailto:barbarahadsell@cs.com)  
GCC President - Maida Atkins [maidaatkins2103@gmail.com](mailto:maidaatkins2103@gmail.com)  
Tri-Council President - Inger Jones [mjinger@att.net](mailto:mjinger@att.net)

## Georgia

Gardening Study School , March 1-3, 2016 - Rome, Georgia  
Gardening Study School, June 6-7, 2016  
GSS Chairmen -Rebecca McNeill, [rrdmcneill@live.com](mailto:rrdmcneill@live.com) & Faye Frazier,  
[fayefrazier33@gmail.com](mailto:fayefrazier33@gmail.com)  
GCC President - Sally Holcombe [smholcombe@hotmail.com](mailto:smholcombe@hotmail.com)  
Tri-refresher - Augusta, Georgia - April 22-24, 2016

## Louisiana

Tri-Refresher (Deep South/Louisiana Garden Club Federation Conventions) will be held on March 29, 2017 at City Park Botanical Gardens, Longue Vue House and Gardens and Couturie Forest in New Orleans. Contact JoAnn Christopher (504) 737-2320 ([ptajc@att.net](mailto:ptajc@att.net)) or Mary Ellen Miller, LGCF Convention Chairman.

GSS Chairmen - Linda Brashier [lbrashier@bellsouth.net](mailto:lbrashier@bellsouth.net)  
Beth Erwin [kcrew@ne-tel-net](mailto:kcrew@ne-tel-net)

## Mississippi

GSS Chairman - Melanie Gusset [mgousset@cableone.net](mailto:mgousset@cableone.net)

## Tennessee

Gardening Study School Course II, September 27-28, 2016 - Reflection Riding Arboretum, Chattanooga, TN (Chairman - Maggi Burns)  
Course III, February 7-8, 2017, Reflection Riding Arboretum, Chattanooga, TN  
GSS Chairman & (Deep South Region GSS Chairman) - Maggi Burns 423-499-9751 or [MaggiTFGC@epbfi.com](mailto:MaggiTFGC@epbfi.com)

## South Central Region

### Arkansas

NGC Schools Chairman - Mimi Cox (870) 932-3661

Gardening Consultants Council - President - Keith Jones [Keith\\_jones7@yahoo.com](mailto:Keith_jones7@yahoo.com)

### Texas

Gardening Study School Course III, January 24-26, 2017, Mercer Botanic Gardens, Humble, TX

GSS Chairman Cheryl Lenert [ilenert@flash.net](mailto:ilenert@flash.net)

## South Central Region GSS Chairman

Italia Aguilar (TX) [idaliaaguilarv@hotmail.com](mailto:idaliaaguilarv@hotmail.com)

## Pacific Region

### Alaska

GSS Chairman, Carol Norquist (907) 248-99563 [norquist@alaska.net](mailto:norquist@alaska.net)

### California

Gardening Study School Course IV, September 17-18, Colfax, CA

CGCI has completed 25 Series of GSS, beginning in 1979, in all parts of California.

California Consultants Council (Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants) organized on June 7, 2013. Objectives - to protect the environment, to increase knowledge in horticulture and to promote excellence in landscape design. The Council meets three times each year during regularly scheduled CGCI meetings. Their newsletter Council Thymes is published 3 times per year.

GSS Chairman, Greg Pokorski [gregpokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:gregpokorski@earthlink.net)

CCC (California Consultants Council) Chairman Julie A. West [julieawest@aol.com](mailto:julieawest@aol.com)

CCC Vice Chairman for Gardening Consultants - Josie Goodenow

Council Thymes (<http://californiagardenclubs.com/sites/default/files/Newsletters?CouncilThymes/CT2016August.pdf>)

## Idaho

GSS Chairman - Allen Deitz    allen\_deitz@hotmail.com

## Washington

Helping members become accomplished horticulturists.

GSS Series XI, Course 1, October 26-27, 2016, Ridgefield, WA

GSS Chairman & (Pacific Region GSS Chairman) - Sally Priebe    [rpriebe2@comcast.net](mailto:rpriebe2@comcast.net)

Washington Consultants Council Chairman - Bonnie McEachern

[bomceachern@yahoo.com](mailto:bomceachern@yahoo.com)

## Rocky Mountain Region

## Colorado

Gardening Study School Course I, Series XIII, September 14 -15, 2016, Colorado Springs

GSS Chairman    Margie Soileau    [margie.soileau@gmail.com](mailto:margie.soileau@gmail.com)

## Montana

Gardening Study School Course IV, April 9-30, 2016

GSS Chairman - Ruth Layton, 235 Brown St., Toston, MT    59643-9700

## Gardening Study Schools (GSS) Committee

Chairman    Barbara Hadsell    (561) 439-4607    [BarbaraHadsell@cs.com](mailto:BarbaraHadsell@cs.com)

Vice-Chairman    Carol Yee    (708) 246-6704    [mscyee@hotmail.com](mailto:mscyee@hotmail.com)

GSS Accrediting (C, SC)    Bonni L. Dinneen    (978) 455-0875    [bonni.dinneen@gmail.com](mailto:bonni.dinneen@gmail.com)

GSS Accrediting (CA, SA)    Brynn Tavasci    (253) 813-9678    [brynn-tavasci@comcast.net](mailto:brynn-tavasci@comcast.net)

GSS Accrediting (NE, P)    Inger Jones    (954) 649-9310    [mjinger@att.net](mailto:mjinger@att.net)

GSS Accrediting    Judy Pitcher (DS, RM)    (715) 359-0291    [wgcfcjudy@aol.com](mailto:wgcfcjudy@aol.com)

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GSS Advisor    Greg Pokorski    (818) 361-7873    [GregPokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:GregPokorski@earthlink.net)

GSS IA Patricia M. de Nasrallah patricia\_maron@yahoo.com.mx

## The End

Catherine Felton, GSS Chairman. (all photos property of C. Felton)

Photo below - 2016 meeting of Massachusetts GCC at Weston Nursery.

